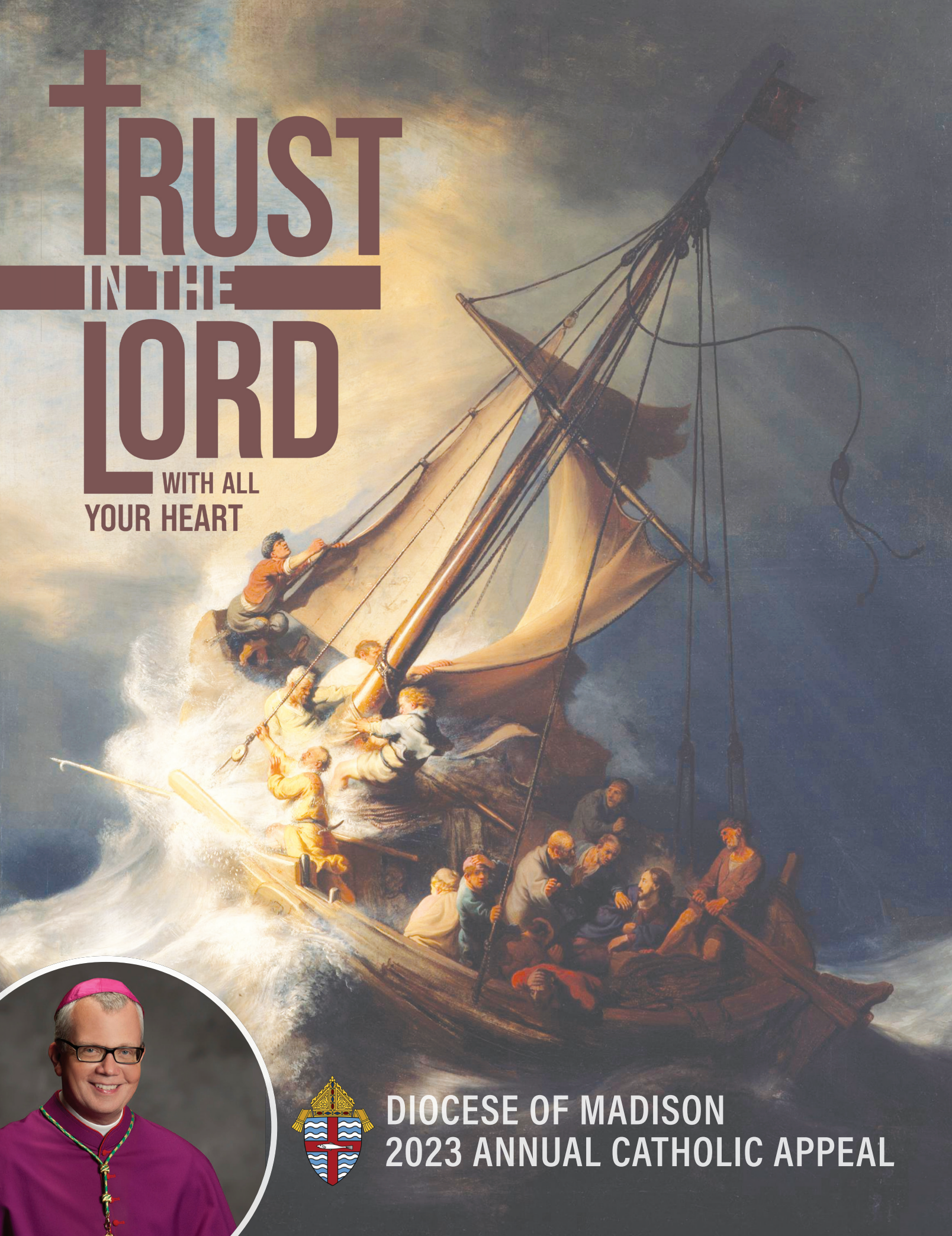


TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART



DIOCESE OF MADISON
2023 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL





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Diocese of Madison

Catholic Herald



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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The theme for the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) is *“Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart.”* Taken from the Proverbs 2:3, this biblical verse reminds us that God indeed holds us in His Heart and that we need to place our trust in Him, especially in times of difficulty and change.

When we look around it is easy to get distracted and dismayed with all the cultural, political and social unrest. The scourge of war in the Ukraine and the violence in our country is distressing. The economic instability that individuals and families face challenges all of us. The moral and spiritual confusion surrounding us can leave us downcast and even despairing at times.

Facing such trials, we must turn to the Lord with renewed trust and unwavering confidence.

The artwork that we chose to illustrate this year’s ACA theme is Rembrandt’s *“The Storm on the Sea of Galilee.”* The familiar painting shows a close-up view of Christ’s disciples struggling frantically against the heavy storm to regain control of their fishing boat.

A huge wave beats the bow and rips the sail. One of the disciples is violently seasick. Others are clinging onto parts of the boat for their dear lives. Another one, looking directly out at the viewer, is a self-portrait of the artist. Only Christ, depicted on the right, remains calm.

This story of the Storm at Sea occurs in each of the Gospels—that perilous moment when the Apostles are terrified by the wind and the waves until Jesus calms the tempest and encourages them to not be afraid.

This Scripture passage reassures us that all will be well—even in the midst of difficulties, challenges, and sorrow.

As the Diocese of Madison prepares for a time of visionary change and spiritual transformation, it is an opportune moment to deepen our trust in the Lord and to seek the graces needed to face everyday life with renewed confidence and courage.

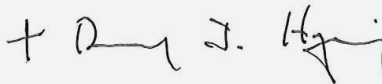
Whenever people are in need, they often look to the Church for comfort and assistance. Like the Apostle’s boat—a place of refuge, protected and guided by the Lord’s hand—the many programs, resources and services that the Diocese sponsors offer **hope, help and healing** in countless ways. In all that we do, the Gospel transforms, the Sacraments sanctify and our charity blesses.

Your generous gift to the ACA will help do just that by funding ministries that so many people in South Central and Southwest Wisconsin greatly depend on.

As you read through the many articles and inspiring reflections in this special ACA publication, I hope you realize the incredible impact that the funds collected in this annual campaign make in the lives of those in need—especially the least, the lost and the longing.

I humbly ask you to continue to support the mission of the Church by prayerfully considering a gift to the ACA spread over six months, or a perpetual monthly credit card or EFT gift with no end date. A pledge envelope is included in this publication or you can give online at MadisonDiocese.org/ch.

Grateful for your generosity and trust,

+ 
+ Donald J. Hying



*“Working with my brother priests as the Priest Chair ensures good communication on what and how the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) supports all of our parishes. I am excited to take on this opportunity, thank you for your support of the ACA. Remember to *Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart!*”*

Fr. Bart Timmerman

JOIN US IN GIVING

As Catholics, we are called to bring forth a world and live our lives in a way that reflects the truth of the Gospel. We embrace the mission of evangelization, nurturing a faith community, and serving those in struggle. We hope you will join us in supporting the Annual Catholic Appeal that supports so many important ministries of the Diocese of Madison and encourage others to do the same.

Eric and Laura teDuits

2023 ACA Chair Couple
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Madison





Go Make Disciples

Article by Amy Klarkowski and Matt Regner



When the Diocese began “Go Make Disciples” almost three years ago, it seems fair to say that, while most pastors and parish staff recognized the need for evangelization, few knew what was actually involved. All sorts of images usually come to mind, from door-to-door evangelists, to fire-and-brimstone street preachers, to people almost aggressively urging others to accept Jesus as their “personal Lord and Savior.” Jesus Christ is, of course, our Savior, and our mission is to share His Good News both in word and deed, but those stereotypes are a far cry from what evangelization can look like.

So, when we hear the “E-word,” what should we imagine? This fall, Amy Klarkowski and I when asked to step in as parish mentors, got to see firsthand how our parishes are carrying out the Lord’s command to “go and make disciples of all nations.” Asked to take on some extra responsibilities, we (and others at the office) have met with pastors and evangelization teams throughout the Diocese, and our experiences have filled us with joy and hope. By sharing a few of these stories with you, we hope to demonstrate how your support—both through prayer and financial gifts—has equipped more laborers to go out into the Lord’s vineyard.

“Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues” (1 Cor 12:28). We are all familiar with the beautiful image of the Mystical Body

described by St. Paul, and its realization has been evident in parishes throughout the Diocese, where pastors and teams are working together and using the gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit.

Take, for example, St. Joseph in Fort Atkinson. Fr. Tim Renz has put his full administrative support behind seminarian Brad Grobbel, whose enthusiasm and zeal for evangelization are infectious, and Principal Kari Homb, who has made the Catholic faith central to the mission of the school. First starting with discipleship quads, the team has continued to fan the fire of faith through a variety of parish events, including a talk by Dcn. Bob Rice, an upcoming parish mission with Dcn. Ralph Poyo, and a “Light of the World” Retreat in March. Though each staff member has his or her own particular gifts, they have come together to further the mission of the Church, that all would come to know, love, and serve God.

Consider another St. Joseph (there must be something about his intercession, or maybe his title, Terror of Demons!), this one in Baraboo. Fr. Jay Poster and DRE Becky Thompson have set out a plan for their parishioners to grow in the four holy habits advocated by Bishop Hying, and to get more comfortable sharing their personal faith testimony about how Jesus has been Good News for them. To that end, they have asked parents of children preparing for the sacraments to share how this process has helped them to grow in their own faith journey, inviting speaker and listener alike to reflect on their relationship with Christ. Looking

at the community more broadly, they had over 100 people involved in Advent small groups, and they will be hosting a workshop in January with Kristin Bird, entitled “Unleashing the Power of the Story.” Fr. Jared Holtzhuter came in November to talk about evangelization, and Fr. Herald Brock, CFR, will lead a Lenten mission in March. Again, the Spirit gifts each member of the Body in different ways, but always for the sake of building up that Body in faith, hope, and love.

Amy, whose work spans from Marriage Preparation, to cases for the Tribunal, to everything in between, has found great joy in accompanying pastors and staff in this work. At one of her first meetings with St. Augustine and St. Paul Parish in Evansville-Footville, she was pleased to walk into a room full of smiling parishioners and their pastor, Fr. Lawrence. This was the parish “Go Make Disciples” team. Over the next hour, they shared all of the work they had begun over the past year, and she provided them with resources that would help them continue to thrive. Kari McGrath, a member of the team, commented, “There is a new buzz at our churches,” and Amy could feel it in the room. To the team’s surprise and great joy, large groups of parishioners have been attending various GMD events over the past year. The parish picnic, a Women’s Night of Reflection, and a summer book study on *Time for God* by Fr. Jacques Philippe have been received well. Following these events, parishioners have asked for more, so the team is now busy planning their next book study, and they look forward

to seeing how these seeds of faith will grow and bear fruit as they make disciples in their small town community.

As for me, although my work at the Diocese focuses on Marriage and Family, I have been grateful for the opportunity to draw on my experience at Blessed

Sacrament Parish to encourage pastors and staff in their efforts toward evangelization. Of course, beyond the stories that we have shared here, there are countless other examples of how “Go Make Disciples” has borne fruit throughout the Diocese. Without the generosity of all the faithful

in Madison, however, we would be unable to support our parishes in this work, which is the only way forward in the renewal of the Church. So, on behalf of all those involved in “Go Make Disciples,” thank you for your generosity in building up the Body of Christ here in Madison!

Into the Deep: A Seminarian’s Perspective

Article and photos by Brad Grobbel



Being a former youth minister and Catholic schoolteacher for six years in three different dioceses, I have experienced the many tensions of the good yet challenging work of the New Evangelization today. At the risk of sounding over-dramatic or ungrateful for this amazing work, I have lived and tasted the mediocrity that exists in so many crevices in our Church today. I have experienced the pain of trying to wade through the lack of clarity and competing visions of lay staff and priests throughout the United States, and have been left longing for a solution.

As a seminarian for the last three years, I have received a lot of clarity, peace, and healing as I have processed why ministry today is so challenging. One of the things I learned is that the success and long-term fruitfulness of a parish is absolutely dependent upon solid diocesan leadership. If there is not a clear direction coming from the top, all evangelizing efforts will be short-lived.

Through *Go Make Disciples* and *Into*

the Deep, the Diocese has sacrificed the status quo for a healthy and re-energized presbyterate and laity, and has given us permission to dream big. By the Diocese boldly placing a flag in the ground and naming where we stand, this ideal and heavenly dream of having more parishes full and on fire for their faith has a chance of becoming reality. By the Diocese vulnerably naming the issues that we are dealing with today, laying out the plan, and taking all the heat that comes with it, there is now a chance for priests and the laborers in the vineyard to go in the same direction as the beatific vision longs for.

Through the heroic efforts of Bishop Hying and the staff at the Diocese of Madison, they have provided us a way forward out of our current “maintenance mindset” in running our Churches. They have taken the burden off in trying to convince others of the importance of the Great Commission, for they have boldly



proclaimed that the most important need in our parish is to create people on fire for Jesus Christ and His Church, and to have our buildings and structures match this goal. At the cost of possible fallouts in finances and parishioner numbers to come in the short-term, the Diocese has fallen on the sword for us in order to address the Church’s health and mission for the long-term. For this, the feeling of safety, security, and excitement that I have for the future is palpable.

Though I am excited about becoming a priest in general, I am even more excited about how the Diocese is responding to our current crisis. More than ever, I am convinced that *Go Make Disciples* and *Into the Deep* are the perfect response to unveil and unleash what the Holy Spirit is asking the Church to do right now – and He wants you to be part of it! As Bishop Hying likes to say, when you give to the Church, you are “putting money in Jesus’ pocket”. All your support for the ACA is going to fuel the incredible plans that the Diocese of Madison has for the future. With the truly fatherly moves our Diocese is making, why not “Trust in the Lord with all Your Heart”, to whom the Diocese is allowing take the wheel in these bold and new initiatives.

Thank you Bishop Hying for not “tweaking” or putting a “Band-Aid” on our Diocese! Thank you to the *Into the Deep* planning committee for looking reality “square in the face” and providing a vision! Thank you to all those working on the front lines and encouraging “boundless hope”! Our Diocese is in good hands. Thank you for being a part of it.



Eucharistic Revival



Article and photo by Dcn. Todd Burud

You are invited to *encounter* Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and to stay with Him for an entire weekend on **Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2023, at St. John the Baptist, Waunakee.** Come to the **Madison Diocesan Eucharistic Congress!** It will be a profusion of prayer, Mass, Adoration, talks, fellowship, family, and more. Think of it as a retreat for a deeper conversion in faith and love, as a time to be with Jesus in the trusting relationship as a child of God. *We* need it; the *world* needs it!

TRUST IN GOD: JESUS IS PRESENT IN THE EUCHARIST.

Jesus taught a balanced understanding of trust when He sent out His disciples on their mission of preaching and healing. He said, “[B]e wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matt 10:16). In other words, be innocent in *seeing* goodness and in *being* good; trust, but be *discerning*. Trust stands on solid ground.

The Blessed Virgin Mary was both trusting and discerning at the Annunciation. She wisely listened and then asked a question, “*How can this be, since I have no husband?*” Gabriel’s answer helped to build trust in Mary’s heart. She knew him to be God’s messenger, and so, gave herself completely to God’s will and authority, expressed *through* Gabriel. Her trust stood on solid ground.

HIS WORD IS TRUTH

God’s authority—His Word and will—grounds all that *we* believe, too. We trust in Jesus’ words because we

believe Him to be the Son of God. So, we believe with our whole heart when He revealed the Eucharist: “*For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him*” (Jn 6:55-56).

We believe Him when, at the Last Supper, He “*took the bread, and blessed, and broke it...and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ And he took a chalice...saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood...’*” (Matt 26:26-28).

Like Mary, we ask, “*How can this be?*” Although Eucharistic truths satisfy reason, they ultimately remain within the *mystery of faith*. In fact, God’s mystery is part of His truth and part of what draws us to Him. We *seek* Him more, to *know* and *love* Him more... even though we will never know *all* of Him. In part, it’s the beauty of God *being* more and the hope of *discovering* more, that drives our desire. Our trust stands on the solid ground of Jesus’ words, the Church’s authority, and in God’s mystery.

But we haven’t come to the best part yet!

THE BEST PART...IS LOVE!

Inevitably, trust stands on *love* that draws from an encounter with Jesus *Himself*. It stands on our *relationship* as children of God living the divine life every day in prayer, in every Mass, in every Communion, and in every circumstance of life. We trust, not in a *truth*, but in *Truth Himself*, in the living *Person* we love. Trust grows stronger

as we open our hearts to a deeper conversion throughout our lives.

And *conversion* comes out of an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist. Invest yourself in the **Madison Diocesan Eucharistic Congress** next September (Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2023, St. John the Baptist, Waunakee). Stand on the solid ground of speakers like Fr. John Riccardo (Acts XXIX); Fr. Craig Vasek, a National Eucharistic Revival preacher; Helen Alvare, author and law professor; and Monsignor James Bartylla, Vicar General of the Madison Diocese, who will guide us in Eucharistic truths.

- Join Bishop Hying at Sunday’s Mass and in a Eucharistic Procession.
- During the *Conversion Call*, choose what your soul needs—Confession, spiritual direction, intercessory prayer, small group discussions, Eucharistic workshops, Adoration.
- At midday, Saturday, enjoy faith, fellowship, and family with lunch (purchased), viewing the *Eucharistic Miracle Display*, and admiring the creative work of students who participated in the *Proclaim Your Love!* contest.

It’s a weekend to reveal what our souls need, what the world needs. For a guide, a schedule, and to pre-register, go to the revival website: **blessedbrokenandgiven.com**. See you at the Congress!

HOW YOUR ACA GIFTS ARE USED...

PASSING ON THE FAITH \$1,120,000

- Cemeteries
- Youth Ministry
- Family Ministry
- College Ministry
- Hispanic Ministry
- Camp Gray

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

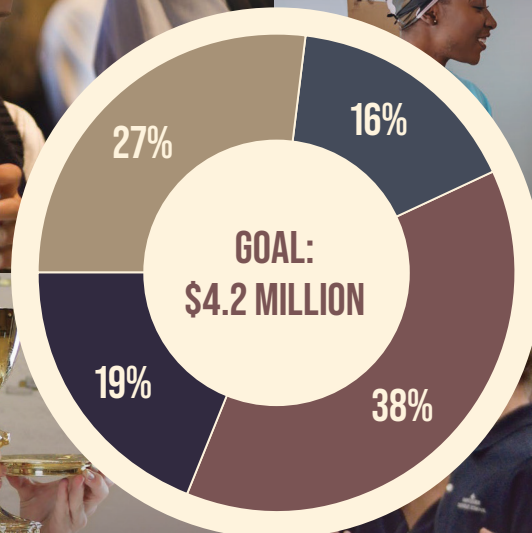
Camp Gray: Dedicated to enriching the spiritual lives of all visitors to their 225 acres of natural beauty, Camp Gray invites everyone to encounter Jesus Christ in all creation. Your support helps Camp Gray provide inspiring summer programs for students in grades 2-12 as well as year-round retreat offerings where guests of all ages can experience a fun and vibrant Catholic community, and be challenged to ever more deeply know, love, and serve God and neighbor.

CARING FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE \$680,000

- Catholic Multicultural Center
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Social Teaching

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Catholic Charities: With over 20 programs in 11 counties in Southern Wisconsin, and guided by Catholic social teaching, Catholic Charities is on the front lines in our communities helping seniors, those living with a disability, individual and family counseling, mobile food pantries in rural communities, addiction treatment, those experiencing homelessness, and more. Your support directly helps Catholic Charities provide compassionate and caring services to more than 20,000 poor and vulnerable individuals in our Diocese.



PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL \$800,000

- Worship & Liturgy
- Religious Formation
- Evangelization
- Support for Vocations
- Education for Clergy

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Evangelization: Fueling our essential mission as faithful Catholics, your support for Evangelization provides the necessary tools for spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, including much-needed support for training, resources and retreats to help all understand the truth of the Catholic Church. As an example, in 2022 Evangelization efforts continued in earnest with the Go Make Disciples initiative, providing Catholics in the Diocese with the knowledge and confidence needed to go forth as a witness of Jesus Christ.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION \$1,600,000

- Parish Services
- Support for Ministries
- Support for Teachers and Schools
- Holy Name Preservation
- Into the Deep
- ACA Expenses

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Catholic Schools: Catholic schools in our Diocese are committed to fulfilling the mission of Catholic education to form the human person in the image of Christ. Catholic schools play a critical role in passing on the faith, and forming future generations that will keep our parishes vibrant communities of faith, worship and service. Your support enables training for teachers and administration to learn new teaching methods, assist with curriculum and instruction, as well as ensuring strong Catholic identity in our schools.



Divine Worship

Article and photos by Diocese of Madison



The mission of the Diocese of Madison’s Office of Worship is to assist the Bishop in helping people encounter Jesus Christ in a life-changing way through the Liturgy, Prayer, and Sacraments. Through the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, beautiful music, workshops and other resources, the Worship Office attempts to promote the full, conscious and active participation of all Catholics in order that they may fully cooperate with God’s grace. Staff members coordinate diocesan liturgical celebrations through which the people and parishes of South Central and Southwest Wisconsin can unite their minds, hearts and voices in praise of God and be moved to do the same in their own local faith communities.

In response to the United States Catholic Bishops’ call for a National Eucharistic revival, the Madison Diocese will be sponsoring its first-ever Eucharistic Congress on September 29-October 1, 2023. It will be three days dedicated to deepening our faith in the Most Holy Eucharist--“the source and summit of the Christian life.” Please plan to join us for this diocesan-wide Eucharistic Retreat of faith, fellowship, and family that will be held at St. John the Baptist Parish in Waunakee, Wisconsin. For more information on the Eucharistic Congress, see page 6.



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Qualified Charitable Distribution: Donate all or a portion of your IRA distribution directly from your plan holder to reduce your taxable income



Campus Ministry

Article and photo by Cade Sullivan, Camp Gray Staffer + Xavier Missionary

For two college freshman twins, Christian and Ella Wirtz, the Catholic faith is central to their college experience, something they accredit to UW-Platteville's university parish, St. Augustine.

Christian and Ella grew up in Oregon, Wisconsin, attending Holy Mother of Consolation where they participated in youth ministry their entire high school career. Alongside youth ministry, they were also involved in the Diocese's Frassati Fest Planning Team and are longtime attendees of Camp Gray, having also worked there this past summer.

They were initially drawn to Platteville after witnessing the positive changes it brought to their older siblings, Max (22) and Alex Wirtz (24) who are both alumni of the University. Christian said, "They came home during breaks with a rekindled sense of joy for the Lord, and that's something many universities don't offer."

All four of the Wirtz kids majored in different branches of engineering, something for which UW-Platteville is well known. When they toured the campus in high school, they found St. Augustine to be a community of young, faithful Catholics who welcomed them in with open arms. The twins said that they'd seen a deepening of their relationship with Jesus, which they accredit to the fact that "the sacraments are so available to us." The parish hosts two Masses per day, Confession 30 minutes before every Mass, and ten-hour Adoration every single day!

Surrounding the chapel and community space is the new Newman Heights apartments, which houses many Catholic college students and contains the beloved "Frassati's

Coffeehouse" named after Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati. The Wirtzes, alongside other members of their community, can often be found studying, playing pool, attending community game/movie nights, or chatting about the faith in the coffeehouse.

Christian and Ella are extremely thankful for the work that St. Augustine's Pastor, Fr. John Del Priore, has done to enliven the campus community. A member of the Society of Jesus Christ the Priest, Fr. John was ordained in 2008 in the Diocese of Cartagena, Spain. They say that he works diligently to bring in new students and find leadership roles for members of the community. Events like Newman dinners, apologetics club, Bible studies, athletic competitions, discipleship groups, and retreats all help to bring in students from Platteville.

Having so many things going on allows the two to be disciples on campus. Ella shared that "it's so easy to invite other students to come to St. Augustine's because it feels like there's always an event to invite them to!"

The Parish also holds beautiful Eucharistic Processions around the campus in an effort to evangelize and bring Christ to the students. St. Augustine's has brought Jesus Christ into the University of Platteville, making Him accessible to students of all backgrounds. Thanks to the wonderful things going on there, the Wirtz twins have been able to fully live out their Catholic faith as college students, supported by a community that truly cares for them.

St. Augustine's is growing as well! With enough financial backing, they plan to break ground for a new Church and Student Center this summer. Thank you for your continued support of St. Augustine's through the Annual Catholic Appeal!





Hispanic Ministry

Article and photos by Lorianne Aubut



a key leader of the diocesan Hispanic Ministry, and now the diocese is opening doors for me to the permanent diaconate,” a vocational call John has had for several years.

For John, opening doors means that every time he lives out a diocesan opportunity, it directly affects his family. For John, when he serves the community through events like the first Hispanic Ministry Fair, or the Advisory Council meetings, or being an instructor for Trono de Sabiduría formation courses, he is even more encouraged and his family benefits from the sacrifice of serving the Lord.

We know that attention to the Hispanic/Latino community is an investment in the future. When Hispanic families come to the United States, they come with a strong sense of faith and they try to pass this faith onto their children. We can all learn and rekindle our faith when we see Hispanics living their lives centered on Christ, Mary, and the Catholic Church. We can all deepen our faith through Hispanic Ministry. As John looks to the future of our diocese and Hispanic Ministry, he is excited to think about young people and future vocations to the priesthood, religious life and diaconate. The Catholic faith of the United States can be strengthened through our Hispanic communities.

After opening its doors in July of 2021, the Office of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Madison, has been busy evangelizing, serving and accompanying parishes, priests, leaders and parishioners of the 16 Hispanic communities. God, through the Holy Spirit, has breathed energy and courage into the Hispanic community, similar to the day of Pentecost. Slowly but steadily, the Lord has been working with the needs of the Hispanic community in the diocese through the V Encuentro, the arrival of Bishop Hying, and the new Hispanic Ministry office.

One of the Latino leaders, John Rojas, from Holy Family Parish in Marshall, shares his experience and his walk with the diocese as he sees the fruits of the V Encuentro. When he was asked about what surprises him the most about Hispanic Ministry, John said: “I’m still surprised to see how the V Encuentro happened. The Latino community responded to the call and today we see the fruits of the full time Hispanic Ministry, the Hispanic Advisory Council [of which he is the president], and how the support of the diocese has opened doors to the community”.

Especially for John, the Office of Hispanic Ministry has been a vehicle to be an instrument of God, to serve the community, and begin his discernment for the permanent diaconate. “I arrived from Colombia eight years ago without knowing anyone,” says John, “and in a few years I ended up representing the diocese at the National V Encuentro. I was





Después de abrir sus puertas en julio de 2021, la Oficina de Ministerio Hispano, en la Diócesis de Madison, ha estado ocupada haciendo la obra evangelizadora y misionera de atender y acompañar a las parroquias, sacerdotes, líderes y feligreses de las 16 comunidades hispanas en nuestra diócesis. Dios, a través del Espíritu Santo, ha soplado energía y valentía en la comunidad hispana, similar al día de pentecostés. Poco a poco el Señor ha estado trabajando con las necesidades de la comunidad hispana en la diócesis por medio del V Encuentro, la llegada del Obispo Hying y el nuevo Ministerio Hispano.

Uno de los líderes latinos, John Rojas, de la Parroquia Holy Family en Marshall, nos comparte su experiencia y cómo ha caminado con la diócesis para ver los frutos del V Encuentro. Al preguntarle qué es lo más que le ha sorprendido del Ministerio Hispano, John nos dice que todavía le sorprende “cómo el V Encuentro ocurrió, la comunidad latina respondió al llamado y hoy vemos el fruto de comenzar un Ministerio Hispano, tener un Consejo Asesor de Hispanos, [del cual él es el presidente], y cómo el apoyo de la diócesis a abierto puertas a la comunidad”.

En especial para John, la Oficina de Ministerio Hispano ha sido un vehículo para ser instrumento de Dios, para servir a la comunidad, y comenzar su discernimiento al diaconado permanente. “Llegué de Colombia hace 8 años sin conocer a nadie”, dice John, “y en pocos años terminé representando a la diócesis en el V Encuentro Nacional, siendo líder clave para el inicio del Ministerio Hispano, y ahora la diócesis me abre puertas para el diaconado permanente”, llamado vocacional que John ha sentido por varios años.

El abrir las puertas, para John, significa que cada vez que él vive de una oportunidad diocesana, esto afecta directamente a su familia. Para John, cuando él sirve a la comunidad a través de eventos como la primera Feria de Ministerio Hispano, o las reuniones del Consejo Asesor, o siendo instructor para los cursos de formación de Trono de Sabiduría, él se anima aún más y su familia se beneficia del sacrificio hecho para Dios.

Sabemos que la atención a la comunidad hispana/latina, no es un servicio comunitario ni social, sino una inversión en el futuro. Cuando las familias hispanas llegan a los Estados Unidos, llegan con un sentido de fe fuerte, y tratan de transmitir esta fe a sus hijos. Todos podemos aprender y reavivar nuestra fe cuando vemos a los hispanos vivir su vida centrada en Cristo, en María y en la Iglesia Católica. Todos podemos contagiarnos de la fe hispana. Cuando John mira hacia el futuro de nuestra diócesis y del Ministerio Hispano, a él le emociona pensar en los jóvenes y las futuras vocaciones al sacerdocio, la vida religiosa y al diaconado. La fe católica de los Estados Unidos se puede fortalecer a través de nuestras comunidades hispanas.

CREATE YOUR LEGACY

Remember the Diocese of Madison when creating your estate plan or establishing your will. Planned Gifts are another effective way to assist the ongoing works of the Diocese of Madison. If you are interested in learning more about how planned gifts could benefit you, your family, your parish or the diocese, please contact Jill McNally at 608-821-3039 or Jill.McNally@madisondiocese.org.

A special thanks to all of those who have remembered the Diocese of Madison in their wills, trusts or gift annuities. Your gifts will serve generations of Catholics to come.



Give Online

Scan the QR code with your phone camera





Human Life and Dignity

Article by Chris McAtee | Photos by The Catholic Herald



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Gospel of Matthew 25:35-40 (New American Bible)

Bishop Donald Hying wrote in the Catholic Herald on May 18, 2022, “The social teachings of the Catholic Church are a rich treasury of wisdom, guiding humanity to build a culture of life, love, justice, and compassion, and to seek the common good. Developed over the last century through the writings of popes, the documents of the Second Vatican Council, and the statements of various bishops’ conferences, Catholic social thought illustrates that, while the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not inherently political, it does have political, economic,

social and cultural implications.”

In order to better catechize, promote, and integrate our Catholic social teachings into our daily lives, Bishop Hying started the Office of Human Life and Dignity (OHLD) in April of 2022. It is a tremendous blessing and honor to be the director and on behalf of the office and all the many initiatives, programs, events, and gatherings that promote life and dignity through the office, THANK YOU! Your prayers, financial support, attending programs/ events/gatherings, and volunteering help bring Matthew 25:35-40 to life in a

profound way.

Our Catholic Social Teaching and seeing everyone as created in the image and likeness of God drives everything OHLD plans and does throughout our diocese. Here are just some of the things that you have helped make possible:

- Social Concerns
- Community Outreach with Religious, Civic, and Communities in the Diocese of Madison
- Ecumenical and Interreligious Outreach

Susanna Herro, the Diocese of Madison Walking with Moms In Need Coordinator, describes what your generosity has been able to do through the OHLD: “With the wide range of pro-life efforts in our far-flung diocese, it is a blessing to have the Office of Human Life and Dignity to bring us together and to inspire us to action. As a volunteer with Walking with Moms in Need, I have felt incredibly supported by both Bishop Hying’s and Dr. McAtee’s unwavering support. In discovering the myriad of ways parishes help people, it strengthens all our efforts to come together and share our ideas and dreams. It’s so helpful to find how each of us can empower the efforts of other pro-lifers, such as the anti-human trafficking initiative, the sister diocese initiatives in Haiti and Ghana and so much more

that reflect our love and caring for life in all its guises.”

Tom Nelson, the Diocese of Madison Rural Life Coordinator describes the importance of the ACA perfectly when he says, “I’m thankful for the Good Lord bringing me to reside within the Diocese of Madison whose eleven rural counties lie on top of the most productive farm land and pastures in the world, and for all our farmers, gardeners, herders, shepherds, haulers, milk carriers and all the other hard-working rural community members who live to support our food producers—thank you. I’m grateful for our Bishop Donald who has demonstrated since his arrival a great love and appreciation of our rural communities and the Catholic Parishes, their priests and lay people who live and worship within their

care. And for all who eat “the work of human hands” I give my thanks to you for considering a donation to the ACA campaign that supports the efforts of the Diocese of Madison to better address the concerns and challenges of our rural communities and all those who provide us with “Our Daily Bread” through the Rural Life Office.”

As our diocese continues to strive at better meeting the needs of Catholics and all people throughout our diocese, thank you for your prayers and financial support of our 2023 ACA. “Trust in the Lord with all your Heart” is certainly an appropriate theme for our 2023 ACA, our diocesan strategic plan, and for how we can profoundly live Matthew 25:35-40 in the world and through our Church.





Catholic Schools

Article by Michael Lancaster | Photos by The Catholic Herald



Catholic schools across the diocese offer families a high-quality educational option rooted in Christ and our Catholic faith. At the core of the Catholic school mission is forming students in both faith and knowledge by developing students' minds through high quality academics, forming them in faith and bringing them into relationship with Jesus Christ. Through this, students come to know who they truly are - precious children of God created in His own image and likeness whom He loves beyond all measure. Catholic schools view students' talents as gifts from God. Teachers, working with parents, help children develop these gifts so that they become the people Christ calls them to be, using their talents to serve God through serving others as good and productive members of the Church and society.

The Annual Catholic Appeal helps support the Office of Catholic Schools which, in turn, serves and supports the

principals and teachers in our Catholic schools each and every day so they can make a difference in the lives of our students and families. Catholic schools serve a wide range of children and families, seeking to bring every child closer to Christ, and more fully develop their God given talents so that each person moves closer to becoming who God calls them to be.

According to parents across the Diocese, the two greatest benefits of sending children to Catholic school are: formation in our faith, and the sense of family that the school community provides. As one parent stated, "We love that our kids get to learn so much about our faith. They probably know more than we do, and we just love it!" When reflecting on why they chose Catholic school, another parent said, "When it comes to our kids, we want them to grow spiritually every day, so we want them surrounded by people who are letting them dive deeper and letting them grow spiritually, and living out their Catholic



faith around our kids every day.”

Through providing professional support and organizing events such as the recent Mass at which our Catholic Schools were consecrated to Our Lady of Good Help, the Office of Catholic Schools supports principals and teachers so they are able to continue and improve their work to bring students to Christ and help them live out our Catholic faith. On October 8, 2022, over 800 students, principals and teachers from all of our Catholic schools gathered at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Monona to celebrate Mass with Bishop Hying and many of the pastors who shepherd our schools. Students proclaimed the readings, sang in the choir, and served at the altar. Those in the pews prayed and sang with enthusiasm and reverence. Afterwards, students gathered in their school groups, and carried the banners they had made and prayed the Rosary, led by the Sisters of Mary Morning

Star, as they followed Bishop Hying and the Blessed Sacrament in a Eucharistic procession through the neighborhood. According to one concelebrating priest, the liturgy and event was the most beautiful he had ever seen.

Your gift to the ACA enables us to continue helping our Catholic schools lead students to Christ so that He may transform their lives and they may become the saints He calls them to be. We know accomplishing this work is a tall order. While there is always room to improve what we do, our Catholic schools have seen time and time again that great things are possible when you *“Trust in the Lord with all your Heart.”* As a current parent who himself graduated from one of our Catholic elementary schools said, “As I think about my conversion story and my

re-conversion story, and my continual conversion back to Christ, a lot of that groundwork was set by my Catholic education. When I think back and reflect about that in my story, as I keep trying to grow closer to Christ, a lot of it stems back to that beautiful groundwork that Catholic education gave to me.”

This is what Catholic schools are all about. Thank you for reading, and thank you for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal.





Camp Gray

Article by Christopher Aderhold | Photos by Camp Gray

There's an old adage at Camp Gray that reads: *Come to Camp Gray for a day, you leave a part of the Camp Gray family.*

It's not super clever - it doesn't even rhyme, after all - but a lack of a rhyme doesn't make it any less true.

As many of you know, there's something truly special about Camp Gray. For seventy years, this land in the northwest corner of the Diocese of Madison has been set aside to welcome young people of all ages to grow in their love of Jesus Christ and His Church.

Whether you're young in age or young at heart, there are opportunities for all at Camp Gray.

One such young person goes by the name of Chopper. A nickname he picked up as a youngster, the name stuck, and he's been known as Chopper ever since. If it's a formal setting, sometimes he'll introduce himself as Helicopter.

A junior at Edgewood High School in Madison, Chopper first came to Camp Gray eight or nine years ago. He and his mom attended Camp's annual Family Camp. He was

hooked immediately.

A couple years later, Chopper participated in a full week of Summer Camp where his love of Camp Gray only grew. He loved the joy during meals, couldn't get enough of capture the flag, and met too many good friends to count.

This is Chopper's first year at Edgewood High School. He was nervous to change schools after his sophomore year, but as he walked into Edgewood on the first day of school this fall, more than a dozen students greeted him by name. It took him a moment to realize that he was surrounded by old friends he'd met at his favorite place on earth, Camp Gray. You just never know where you might run into a member of the family.

But it's not all goofiness and games. When Chopper thinks back on his time at Camp Gray, what has impacted him most is the opportunity to learn about and to grow in the faith. He loves taking part in the devotions each evening with his cabin group. It's during this time each day that the Camp's counselors lead their groups in prayer and reflection. It is during these quiet times at Camp Gray that campers grow in their trust of the Lord.

While at Camp Gray a couple years ago, Chopper learned about the lives of the apostles, which inspired him to choose St. John as his confirmation saint. When asked why he chose St. John, Chopper replied, "He was a best friend to Jesus, and I want to be a best friend to Jesus, too."

Over the past several years, there has been immense growth at Camp Gray. Several new cabins have been built, which has





allowed Camp Gray to expand and welcome even more people to Camp each year. The Camp Gray family continues to grow, and more young people like Chopper are inspired to seek a friendship with Our Lord.

There are many factors that have played a role in the growth of Camp Gray over the past decade. The support of the Camp Gray family is imperative, as is the

overwhelming support by the Diocese of Madison through the Annual Catholic Appeal.

When people give to the Diocese of Madison's Annual Catholic Appeal, the various apostolates and ministries of this great Diocese grow, including Camp Gray. We thank you for your generous support, because as we grow the family, the Kingdom of God here on earth grows, as well.





Love Begins Here

Article and photos by Caroline Locke and Lindsay Finn

Spending a week in service, prayer, and community on Love Begins Here (LBH) is a beautiful thing, but is extra special when you are able to do it together with other members of your family! In fact, in 2022, nearly 30% of missionaries were joined by a fellow family member on their mission trip.

The Hendrickson family, from Our Lady of the Assumption parish in Beloit, knows this experience well! Rob (4 year adult Lead Missionary) and his two daughters Allison (high school senior; 4 year Missionary) and Rachel (high school freshman; 2 year Missionary) have attended LBH over the years, but had the opportunity for the first time this past summer to attend all together on the same week at St. Luke's in Plain! We sat down with the Hendrickson's to chat about life on the mission field together and how it has impacted their family.

They first got involved with LBH when Rob was invited to be an adult Lead Missionary 4 years ago by the youth minister at our parish, who encouraged him to sign up with his oldest daughter Allison. Reflecting on that first year, Rob said, "We loved the experience and have been attending together ever since! Our younger daughter Rachel first attended during the covid summer-at-home version and came with us in person for

the first time this year!"

While being with family is fun, the community goes well beyond that. Allison says she loves meeting new people and seeing old friends she has met over the years from LBH and Camp Gray. "I love catching up, seeing how they are doing now, and deepening our friendships while spending the week serving and praying together!"

New friendships are not only for the teens; adults also benefit greatly from meeting other adults striving to love the Lord and serve their neighbors in need. Rob says, "For me it is the family time spent with my daughters, and making friends with other adults especially at 'coffee club' in the morning before the teens wake up. Love Begins Here allows me to live out my faith in a way that takes it from maintenance to mission."

Coming with family doesn't mean that every moment is necessarily spent together. As Rachel described, "We aren't together the entire day because we are in separate car groups serving different people, but it's nice we share so much of the experience together. We eat meals together, hang out at the pool, and pray together. One of my favorite parts of LBH is parish time at the end of the night where we get to hear from each other and share stories about our day!"

Love Begins Here is a unique way to spend a week of one's year, but it's also deeply life giving. Allison shared, "I get a lot of questions from friends at school about why I give up my phone for a week and go on a mission trip to do service work. I explain to them how I am doing this with a bunch of people I love, making new friends, and truly deepening and living out my faith along the way. It is a unique opportunity to share with friends my values and what the faith teaches us!"

Rob says his coworkers "think I am crazy for taking a whole week of vacation to go on LBH and sleep on air mattresses to pull weeds and do service all day, but when I return I feel so refreshed and energized. I get to share with my coworkers how important it is to do small things with great love and serve our neighbors because that is what Jesus calls us to do."

While Anna Hendrickson (Rob's wife and mom of Allison and Rachel) has never experienced a week on the mission field with Love Begins Here, she loves the impact it has had on their family. Anna reflected, "LBH has allowed my family to see that your faith is not just inside a building at Mass on Sunday's, but truly lived out in our day to day actions. LBH has been a huge gift to our family!"

Rob, too, knows that LBH has really impacted their family's shared Catholic faith; "LBH has brought our family closer together and given us more common ground to talk openly about our faith as a family."





Evangelization and Catechesis

Article by Michelle Nilsson



The Diocese of Madison and the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis was excited to welcome Professor, author and speaker Dr. James Pauley to present in the Diocese for parish catechetical leaders, evangelization teams and all interested adults for two different events in October.

Each fall, the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis hosts a formation event, Catechetical Convocation, for priests and parish catechetical leaders (Directors/coordinators of Religious education, youth ministers, principals, pastoral ministers, Deacons, etc.) in the diocese. This is an opportunity for parish catechetical leaders to be revitalized and supported in their mission and work. It also provides an opportunity for the Bishop to gather with those who are tasked with the work of leading the catechetical formation in parishes and schools. Dr. Pauley, brought a joyful and fresh perspective on how to share the Gospel through our own personal encounter with Christ.



CATECHETICAL CONVOCATION FOR PARISH CATECHETICAL LEADERS

Dr. Pauley, a Professor of Catechetics from Franciscan University in Steubenville, along with Bishop Hying, joined us for the day to speak and inspire our catechetical leaders. Dr. Pauley's most recent book inspired the theme of this year's Catechetical convocation - *An Evangelizing Catechesis: Teaching from Your Encounter with Christ*.

EVENING EVENT FOR CATECHISTS AND ALL INTERESTED ADULTS

In the evening, the Diocese hosted an additional talk and gathering for all catechists, Go Make Disciples (GMD) teams, and interested adults to a presentation entitled, *Sharing the Gospel from Your Encounter with Christ*. The evening talk was held at Holy Name Heights at 7pm and was followed by a small reception and gathering.

MORE ABOUT DR. PAULEY

Dr. Pauley is a frequent traveler/speaker; he is the esteemed author of several books and many published articles on evangelization, catechesis, and liturgy and he is the managing editor of the *Catechetical Review Magazine*- an international publication for those involved in the work of catechetics. To learn more about Dr. Pauley, visit <https://spt.franciscan.edu/faculty/pauly-james/>

LUMEN CHRISTI SOCIETY

The Lumen Christi, or "The Light of Christ" Society was established as a way to recognize and thank donors who give to the ACA in an exceptionally generous way. Membership is automatic with a yearly gift of \$1,000 or more and includes unique recognition and benefits for each of the following levels.

Bishop's Circle
\$1,000 - \$4,999

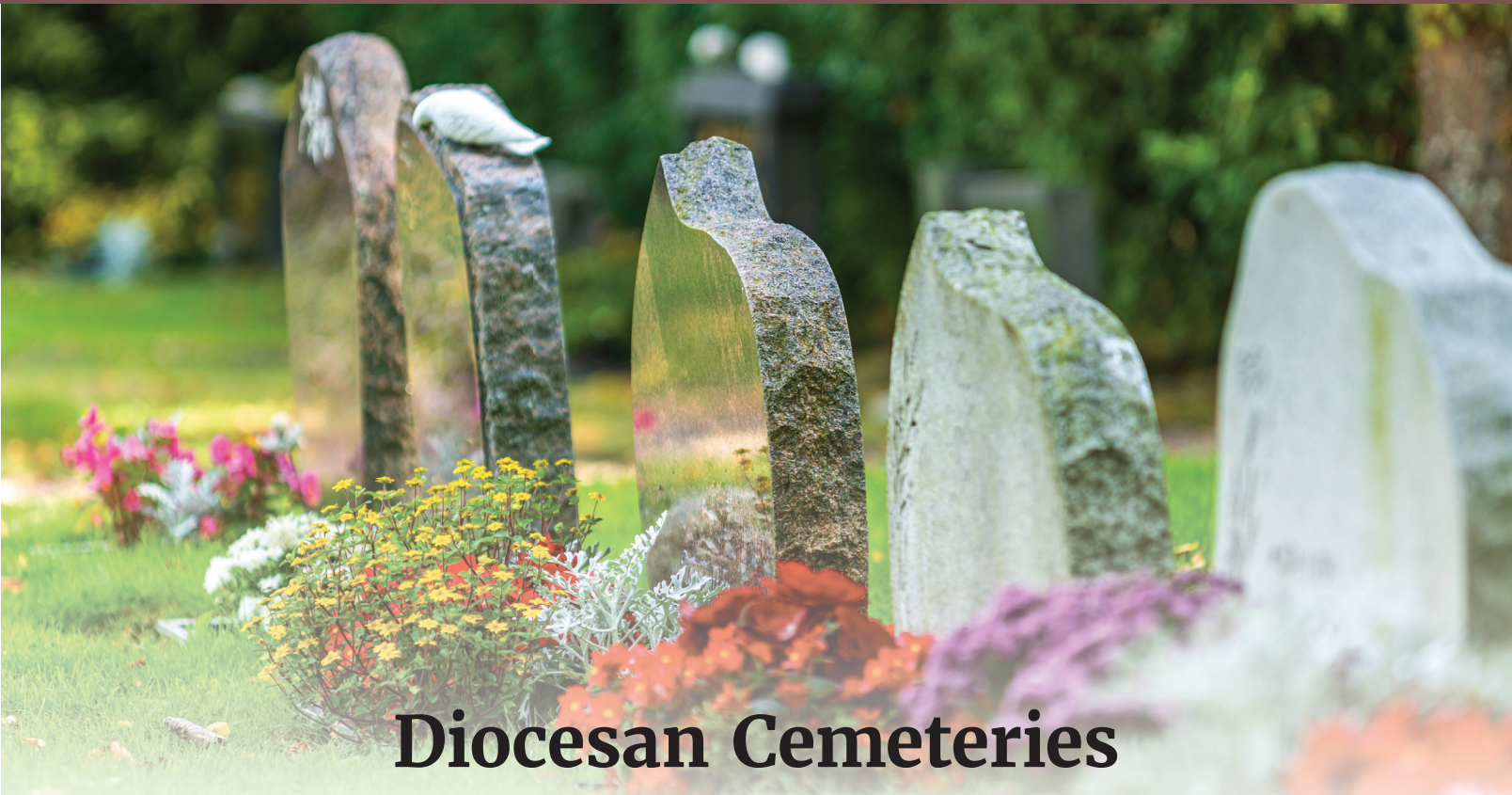
Mazzuchelli Circle
\$5,000 - \$9,999

St. Pope John Paul II Circle
\$10,000 - \$24,999

St. Raphael Circle
\$25,000 +



For a complete list of benefits included at each level, visit: madisondiocese.org/lumenchristi



Diocesan Cemeteries

Article and photo (bottom right) by Damian Lenshek

There are many connections between cemeteries and the pro-life movement. Both seek to respect and protect the bodies of people who, for one reason or another, are quite vulnerable. The unborn, frequently under-protected in law; the elderly, increasingly at risk of euthanasia; and the dead, whose remains are too often subject to neglect and disrespect.

When expectant mothers lose children earlier than 20 weeks into pregnancy, sometimes a doctor will request various tests hoping to shed light on the cause. These tests may be done in Madison, where St. Mary's Hospital has one of the largest pathology laboratories in Southwestern Wisconsin, serving surrounding communities including Janesville, Baraboo, Monroe, and Platteville. If testing is to be done, parents have the option of allowing the hospital to assume responsibility for respectful burial, choosing a funeral

home, or taking care of their child's remains themselves. Many entrust the bodies of their children to the hospital.

After the pathology lab finishes the testing, the children whose parents indicated they want respectful burial are brought to Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Madison. In late October, representatives from the Diocese of Madison's Catholic Cemeteries and St. Mary's Pathology Lab gathered with Bishop Hying at the Cemetery for a graveside committal service. On that day, 145 miscarried children were laid to rest, as those gathered prayed, "May the angels and saints lead them to the place of light and peace where one day we will be brought together again." They all fit in one small casket, and were placed in a grave dedicated for this ministry. Twice each year, this service will be repeated. The cemetery keeps a list of mother's names so that a child can be located even if the parents were unable to attend

the committal.

Pandemic restrictions limited the participation of parents in this moving ritual, which can provide healing, closure, and hope. We look forward to inviting all parents to participate when conditions allow.

There is no charge to parents for this service. Performing this final act of mercy for the mortal remains of these children is supported by St. Mary's Hospital, Resurrection Catholic Cemetery, and the many generous donors to the Annual Catholic Appeal.





Marriage Preparation

Article by Amy Klarkowski | Photo by Sam & Joel Webb

Although Sam and Joel Webb were cradle Catholics, they stopped attending Mass by the time they reached their college years. They felt certain the Catholic faith would not play a part in their lives.

The Webbs had met at a social gathering of mutual friends and had dated for one year before becoming engaged.

After the unexpected passing of Joel's mother, Joel and his father sought comfort in attending Protestant services at Blackhawk Church in Madison. Sam began to join them at the services. One day, Sam noticed there were no crosses or Christian imagery at Blackhawk Church. This simple realization catapulted Sam and Joel on a faith journey.

In their wedding planning, Sam and Joel decided to marry in the Catholic Church given that they were both baptized Catholics. But they were young in their faith and continued to grapple with God's vision for marriage knowing the challenge that chastity and openness to life may be for them.

The couple reached out to Monsignor Holmes, the parish priest at St. Patrick Church in Madison, and were put in touch with Marc, the parish's marriage prep coordinator, to discuss marriage preparation. The Holy Spirit was at work. One thing that struck Sam and Joel is when Marc explained the grandeur of the Sacrament of Marriage. They were inspired by the beauty of all the sacraments, especially the one to which God had called them. Sam and Joel opted for the mentor-based marriage preparation program and were convicted to "take marriage preparation seriously." Before they met with the mentor couple, Sam and Joel took a FOCCUS premarital inventory. The couple found it to be a very helpful tool and it encouraged "bigger picture" conversations that they are certain they would not have had and which helped them to establish good, foundational expectations for their impending marriage.

Soon after, the couple met with their mentor couple and began to learn what the Catholic Church taught about marriage and why. "We were so inspired by the Catholic Church's design for marriage, which was to get each other to heaven." For the first time in their lives, they discovered the beauty of the Catholic Church's teachings and very simply put, "All of the teachings made sense!" Sam and Joel experienced a renewal in their Catholic faith and began attending Mass every Sunday. They also read *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, and



took a Natural Family Planning class which further helped them understand how the Church's fundamental teachings would help them to live fruitful, vibrant lives. Overall, the couple credits their marriage preparation as the engine that transformed their relationship, lit a desire in them to grow further in the Catholic faith, and helped them to make life changes to conform their actions to the Church's teachings.

The couple now lives just outside of Middleton, WI. They are parishioners at St. Peter Church in Ashton. At St. Peter Church, they have found a lively, faith-filled community of young families who support each other and seek to grow evermore in the Catholic faith. Sam participates in a small group and the weekly "Mom's Group" held at the parish. Joel has participated in Exodus 90 with a group of men there. Sam and Joel continue to "keep each other accountable" with making faith-based decisions for their marriage, and they desire to continue to grow in their faith and actively participate in community outreach programs at their parish and in the Diocese.

Now, as we at the Diocese continue to implement Witness to Love, a mentor-based marriage prep program similar to what Sam and Joel experienced at St. Patrick's, we look forward to sharing similar stories of how couples have walked alongside one another toward the fullness of marriage as articulated by the Church. Thank you for helping this ministry flourish as a result of your generosity!

If you would like more information about marriage preparation programs in the Diocese of Madison, contact the Office of Marriage and Family at ofm@madisondiocese.org 608-821-3178.

Marriage Retreats

Article and photo by Josh and Anica Taggatz



One of our primary goals has always been to have a great marriage. Eleven years ago, we started our life together with a grand vision of each other and of the journey ahead. The next decade brought great joys, including the birth of our three children, family vacations, and opportunities to serve the Church. While the goal of a great marriage remained, we knew we weren't taking enough intentional steps to strengthen our marriage on a daily basis. Amidst all the joy, we had let ourselves get distracted. We had tried various ways to deepen our relationship, but many of our approaches seemed ineffective or unsustainable long-term. When we were invited by another couple to the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, we decided to go. As we registered for the retreat, we were happy

to find out that the costs were offset.

The major takeaway from our retreat was an effective method of communication known as "daily dialogue." After each presentation, we were prompted to examine our feelings and write them down. Then, we were given a period of time in the privacy of our room for discussion. The purpose of these conversations was not to fix problems but instead to focus on the feelings of our spouse. This time was for us to connect more intimately. By the end of our weekend, these dialogues had become routine and a habit had been established. We had finally found the right tool!

Once home, we continued with the dialogue process. We conclude our dialogues in prayer and by adding a "most endearing quality" of our spouse to ensure that each day our marriage is strengthened with prayer, communication, and words of affirmation. Our daily conversations have become overwhelmingly positive and playful, rather than informative. We tend to anticipate one another's needs better, and the closeness we feel makes us more selfless and romantic with one another. Scheduled dialogues alleviate the need to discuss topics in the heat of the moment. They start with the goal of understanding our spouse's feelings and

not with an agenda of what needs to be resolved. We had gotten into the habit of trying to solve problems rather than truly listening to how that problem was affecting the other person. Now, we feel supported by one another and on the "same team" again.

It's incredible how much the simple act of taking time to understand one another's emotions affects our intimacy for the day! We know that no matter what the issue, caring for our spouse comes first. We now look forward to these conversations. They rarely become heated or heavy, and they provide the exercise our marriage needed. Since the retreat, our marriage is more intimate, more unitive, and more fruitful. The retreat put back in focus our goal of having not just a good or okay marriage but the intimate and loving relationship God desires for all marriages.



If you would like more information about marriage enrichment opportunities in the Diocese of Madison,

contact the Office of Marriage and Family at ofm@madisondiocese.org 608-821-3178.

Marriage is linked to faith, but not in a general way. Marriage, as a union of faithful and indissoluble love, is based upon the grace that comes from the triune God, who in Christ loved us with a faithful love, even to the Cross.

—Pope Benedict XVI



Catholic Charities

Article by James Debilzen | Photo by Catholic Charities/The Beacon



When Catholic Charities opened The Beacon five years ago, the goal was to create a one-stop shop to help Dane County's homeless population during the daytime hours.

The Beacon's approach to pool multiple services under one roof was life changing for Corey Brown, a combat veteran who found himself without a home.

"I served in the Marine Corps," Corey said. "I was going through some things, and I needed help, but I didn't know I needed help – PTSD, substance abuse, you know. When I came here, I never thought that I would be able to get help."

On average, more than 175 individuals and families visit The Beacon in downtown Madison every day seeking assistance meeting their essential needs – food, laundry, showers, mail service, access to computers, etc. – and to connect with more than two dozen partner agencies in one location. The partner agencies help The Beacon's guests find permanent housing, healthcare, jobs, and provide referrals to mental health counselors and caseworkers, among other services.

Catholic Charities operates The Beacon through a unique partnership with Dane County, the City of Madison and the United Way of Dane County. As the charitable arm of the Diocese of Madison, Catholic Charities relies on donations and the Annual Catholic Appeal to help fund The Beacon and its other social service programs.

Because of the services offered at The Beacon, Corey said his most important needs were met, allowing him to focus on addressing other issues in his life.



"Here I am – I mean, I got clean, I got a job," Corey said. "That was the best thing that happened to me, to be honest. They never turned me down. They didn't make me feel bad about the umpteenth time going backwards. They treated me the way I didn't know people could be treated. I've never seen people with patience like this."

MISSION ROOTED IN CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

While The Beacon is one of the better-known programs offered by Catholic Charities, the nonprofit organization serves residents throughout the Diocese in several ways. Services include day programs for people who are aging or living with disabilities, respite care for caregivers, in-home care and companionship, mental health counseling, mobile food pantries and substance use treatment.

"The mission of Catholic Charities is to respond to the call of Jesus Christ, who has asked us to take care of those who are most in need," said Shawn Carney, executive director of Catholic Charities. "We really serve everyone;

we make no judgment when they come to us. We treat them all as brothers and sisters and really try to help them, whatever their needs are."

Catholic Charities' work is grounded in the seven key principles of "Catholic Social Teaching," focusing especially on respect for the life and dignity of the human person and offering options for the poor and vulnerable. As an extension of the Diocese, Catholic Charities seeks to "go to the margins" with the eyes and the heart of Christ to look for those whose needs are not being met.

That includes offering a fresh start in many cases.

"I want to say thank you," Corey said. "I want my life to reflect the fact that anybody can have a new beginning. They say you only keep what you have by giving it away. So, I want to apply [to work at The Beacon] one day. I just feel like I want to be able to help somebody else. And this is one of the best feelings in the world is seeing all the seeds you planted finally grow."



Catholic Multicultural Center

Article and photos by Laura Green, CMC Grants & Communications Coordinator

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”
(Matthew 25:35)

The Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) in Madison works hard to create a safe, welcoming space for all who are in need of social assistance. In particular, CMC serves as a beacon of welcome for many of our immigrant brothers and sisters from around the world. In 2022, the CMC saw a noticeable increase of newly arrived immigrants seeking assistance as they strive to establish themselves in their new community.

Kenza Heddad arrived in Madison from Algeria in fall of 2022 with her husband and two children. Both she and her husband held high-level jobs in their home country, but lack of English proficiency and their professional certifications not being valid in the U.S. was preventing them from immediately continuing their careers here. After a fellow Arab woman told

with help finding available positions, advice on creating a resume, and connections with employers. In Algeria, he was an accountant, but here he is only eligible to do entry-level work. A previous heart operation prevents him from doing heavy labor, which makes his job options even more limited. CMC has been helping him find jobs that match his current abilities in order to have an income. “It’s very hard to have [professional] skills but not be able to use them here,” said Kenza.

The couple plans to continue to learn English so they may work towards re-establishing their professional careers in this new country, but learning and mastering a language certainly takes time! While they work towards their goals, the couple has been using the CMC food pantry as needed until they can get on their feet. Kenza is not currently working and her husband’s one current job at a restaurant is not enough to make ends meet for the family. Kenza explained that the CMC food pantry helps them stretch their budget in order to have what they need to get by.

Whether coming to ESL classes, the job search office, or the food pantry, Kenza and her husband have found the welcome and support they need as new immigrants at the CMC. “CMC is like a home for us,” Kenza warmly said. “The people here are very nice. They listen and give you the help that you need.” With so many negative portrayals of immigrants in the media these days, the CMC is thankful for the support from all its donors, including those who give through the Annual Catholic Appeal, so that we may follow Jesus’ teaching to welcome the stranger with open arms. CMC is grateful for immigrants like Kenza and her family who enrich us with their presence, skills, and the kindness they give back to us. Join us in offering a helping hand to the immigrants in need who find a second home at the CMC via the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal!



her that the CMC offered English classes, Kenza enrolled immediately. “When I improve my English and have a higher level, then I will continue to study law here,” she said. Kenza has a law degree in her home country, in addition to serving for 14 years as a notary. She came to the U.S. to experience a new way of life. “I wanted to come to the land of where dreams come true!” she said with a smile. “The people in Madison are so peaceful and respectful.”

Kenza (pictured, along with her husband and classmates) says she appreciates the CMC English classes because they help her improve her comprehension skills. She added that the classes offer practical learning, including language for daily life, vocabulary for going to the store, and information on how the government and voting system work in this country. Kenza plans to continue to study hard so she can have the language skills to succeed in the U.S. and fulfill her dream of practicing law here.

Kenza’s husband joins her at the CMC for the ESL classes each week. He has also been receiving support from the employment search assistance office, which provides individuals





Litany of Trust

Written by *Sisters of Life*, www.sistersoflife.org



From the belief that I have to earn Your love...

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear that I am unlovable...

From the false security that I have what it takes...

From the fear that trusting you will leave me more destitute...

From all suspicion of your words and promises...

From the rebellion against childlike dependency on You...

From refusals and reluctances in accepting Your will...

From anxiety about the future...

From resentment or excessive preoccupation with the past...

From restless self-seeking in the present moment...

From disbelief in Your love and presence...

From the fear of being asked to give more than I have...

From the belief that my life has no meaning or worth...

From the fear of what love demands...

From discouragement...

That You are continually holding me, sustaining me,
loving me...

Jesus, I trust in You.

That Your love goes deeper than my sins and failings and
transforms me...

That not knowing what tomorrow brings is an invitation to
lean on You...

That You are with me in my suffering...

That my suffering, united to Your own, will bear fruit in this
life and the next...

That You will not leave me orphan, that You are present in
Your Church...

That Your plan is better than anything else...

That You always hear me and in Your goodness always
respond to me...

That You give me the grace to accept forgiveness and to
forgive others...

That You give me all the strength I need for what is asked...

That my life is a gift...

That You will teach me to trust You...

That You are my Lord and my God...

That I am Your beloved one...

Interview with Sr. Faustina

Sr. Faustina Maria Pia Bianchi, S.V., Assistant Vocations Director for the Sisters of Life & Composer of the Litany of Trust

Interview adapted by Michael Wick | Photos by Diocese of Madison

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY BACKGROUND.

My baptismal name is Faustina. My mom grew up in Germany as a nominal Catholic. Her father left her family and so she had a lot of pain growing up. God seemed distant. She came across a pamphlet on Divine Mercy very early on. She

read one page and in this graced moment, realized that there was Someone immensely in love with her; that nothing could stop Him from loving her; and she immediately felt the love of the Father that she had never really known. Her life changed. So, I grew up in a Catholic family with a mother who loved my name and instilled good values.



HAD YOU ALWAYS FELT CALLED TO RELIGIOUS LIFE?

As a young woman, I went to school for nursing and hoped to be married someday. But there was an inner restlessness growing inside me. I got home from the hospital one night, and I fell into my bed, and just started to cry. I said, “Jesus, I feel like I’m living my life like a car going down a hill with its brakes on. I want to live, and something’s holding me back!” I soon came to realize that God had been pursuing me my whole life. In that moment of speaking honestly and vulnerably with the Lord about what I wanted, He broke in and said, “I want you for Myself.”

Suddenly, I tasted that love and that joy and peace of what His love was really like. I immediately said “yes,” to not only give up nursing — that I really loved — but to be a nurse in His eyes. To bring the healing that His love brings in the spiritual life as well as the physical.

SO HOW DID THE LITANY OF TRUST COME ABOUT?

After I made my first vows, I encountered a situation that was particularly difficult. It took me to a new frontier of trust because I didn’t know what to do. Every time I tried to pray about it, I felt blank, like there was complete darkness and insecurity about myself and about what God was asking.

When I went to prayer, I saw Jesus in the Gospels and He was asking, “Do you believe Me? Do you trust Me, that I am the Lord?” He kept showing me how crucial it was to trust Him, and yet I

didn’t know what I had to do to trust, and what was impeding me from trusting.

Jesus gently seemed to lift my chin to make me look at Him, and in an instant, there was a grace. He seemed to say, “I don’t want your ‘yes’ to go to a bunch of circumstances. I want you to give it to Me. I don’t want your trust to be in the safe realm of your understanding, but in Me.”

At that moment, I realized that Jesus was pursuing my love, this pure gift I had to give Him, which is what my heart wanted, although I didn’t recognize it.

Then I felt as if there was a billowing cloud coming up behind me, a desire not only that I would trust, but that everyone would trust, that everyone would realize that the invitation of love was for them.

As I sat there in the midst of these desires, I heard Jesus in my heart say, “Write the Litany of Trust.” I grabbed my journal and wrote: “Litany of Trust” on the top of a page. It all came so quickly!

DID YOU KNOW RIGHT AWAY THAT YOU WOULD SHARE THE LITANY WITH OTHERS?

I think deep down, I did know it was for others, but it felt so vulnerable to share that I kept it to myself for about a year. I prayed it myself. And although I had a sense it would be for others, I didn’t know it would be for this many others!

About a year later, I was at a young adult talk speaking about mercy. I decided to end my talk with the Litany of Trust, and I led them through the responses. After the talk, I had a line of people asking for the prayer, and I didn’t have copies! Two of the other sisters were there when I shared it. They asked, “Where did you get them from?” I told them that I wrote it, and that one of our sisters who is a graphic designer created a pocket-size version of it to distribute.

IS IT EASIER TO TRUST GOD SINCE YOU WROTE THIS POWERFUL LITANY PRAYER?

It’s a learning curve, I still have struggles, but the more I trust Him, the



more I desire to trust Him, and the greater my confidence to be really vulnerable with the Lord and honest with Him and myself and honest with others. He is offering everything at every moment, to really live the present moment in its integrity and there is great peace and freedom that believing that brings.

WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THOSE STILL STRUGGLING TO TRUST JESUS?

First thing, which I have seen in my own life and has been a catalyst for graces, is to have a really open dialogue with Jesus, silent prayer time where you are really speaking to Him as a friend. Don’t worry about saying things the right way. You won’t be able to move beyond it (if you don’t) because it is not healthy to swallow things. For me, what really removed the wedge between the relationship with me and the Lord, was being upfront and saying, “I really hate this.” “I feel so helpless here and I feel good for nothing.” “I have been placed in a situation that has been difficult, I have ideas and why are you not allowing any of those things to happen” or whatever it is, saying, “God, I want to believe you and trust you, but these negative thoughts are coming into my head. I want to trust You, help me to trust You.” God can handle these things and He wants to lead us from the real reality of where we are.

The second thing that I would suggest is learning from St. Thérèse and how she saw her weaknesses change the whole landscape of our encounter with God. If we experience God’s mercy then we can TRUST Him. Everything that Thérèse writes is understanding God’s mercy. A huge combo of learning about trust is between Saint Faustina and Saint Thérèse.

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+ Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison

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