

THE MAGAZINE  
OF THE CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
LANSING

# faith



“... AND HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT, BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US.” ROMANS 5:5



inside:  
**DSA success stories**  
from those who minister

# rejoice in hope



**H**ope can be a difficult concept to define. However, like love, hope is something that we can recognize when we see it. So it is with the hope sustained through the ministries that are made possible through our annual Diocesan Services Appeal.

**Our annual DSA makes hope real and visible for many thousands of people across the ten counties of our diocese.** By sharing our resources, we are able to accomplish together what no single individual or parish could do alone. The hope offered by the ministries supported by DSA takes many forms—from the education and formation of our clergy and lay ministers to programs that support those with physical and mental disabilities. Those struggling with poverty are given a hand up. Those who were incarcerated are assisted in making the transition back into mainstream society. Children, youth and young adults are formed in faith.

**These are a few examples of the kinds of ministries that daily seek to bring the kind of hope to which Jesus calls us.** In this Easter season of new life and hope, our combined generosity can be a source of real hope for many. And so our journey in FAITH continues.

— Father Dwight Ezop is editor of FAITH Magazine and pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Jude



**M**y dear friends in Jesus Christ, Blessings to you and your family during this joyous Easter season! Each spring, the faithful of our diocese unite to support the many ministries and agencies of the Diocese of Lansing by giving generously to our Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA). Your gifts witness to your loving commitment for the life and mission of our church.

Our DSA theme, “Rejoice in Hope,” reminds servants of hope that all we do as a faith family serves others. Together, by responding to the word we hear and rejoicing in the hope Christ gives, we can develop a network of vital support that oftentimes a parish cannot do alone.

**Our Lord blesses us with many gifts.** The Diocesan Services Appeal is one time during the year that Catholics are asked to offer a hope-filled pledge to our church — serving the needs of parishes, schools and the people throughout our diocese.

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The overwhelming response from our parishioners in many past campaigns inspires me to “Rejoice in Hope” for a blessed outcome of our 2007 DSA. Please reflect on our Lord’s generosity in your life and respond generously to the Diocesan Services Appeal, by which the church shares your gifts with many.

**Our Lord promised: “Ask and you shall receive!”** The more we turn to the Lord and ask, the more we can “Rejoice in Hope.”

— Bishop Carl F. Mengeling is the fourth bishop of Lansing.



## Diocese of Lansing facts:

**Size: 6,218 square miles** – includes 10 counties in southeastern mid-Michigan: Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Shiawassee and Washtenaw. Major cities: Lansing, Adrian, Ann Arbor, Flint, Jackson, Owosso and Ypsilanti.

<b>1.8 million</b> total population	<b>3,830</b> baptisms last year
<b>222,519</b> Catholics (approx.)	<b>4,350</b> first Communions last year
<b>95</b> parishes	<b>3,379</b> confirma- tions last year
<b>189</b> diocesan priests	<b>979</b> marriages last year
<b>91</b> deacons	<b>1,993</b> deaths last year
<b>28</b> seminarians	

## faith

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# Diocese of Lansing ministry directors share their DSA success stories



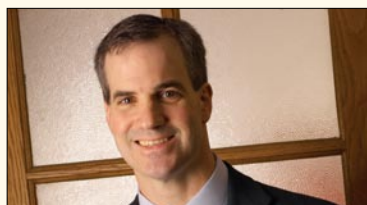
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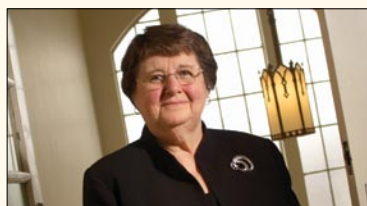
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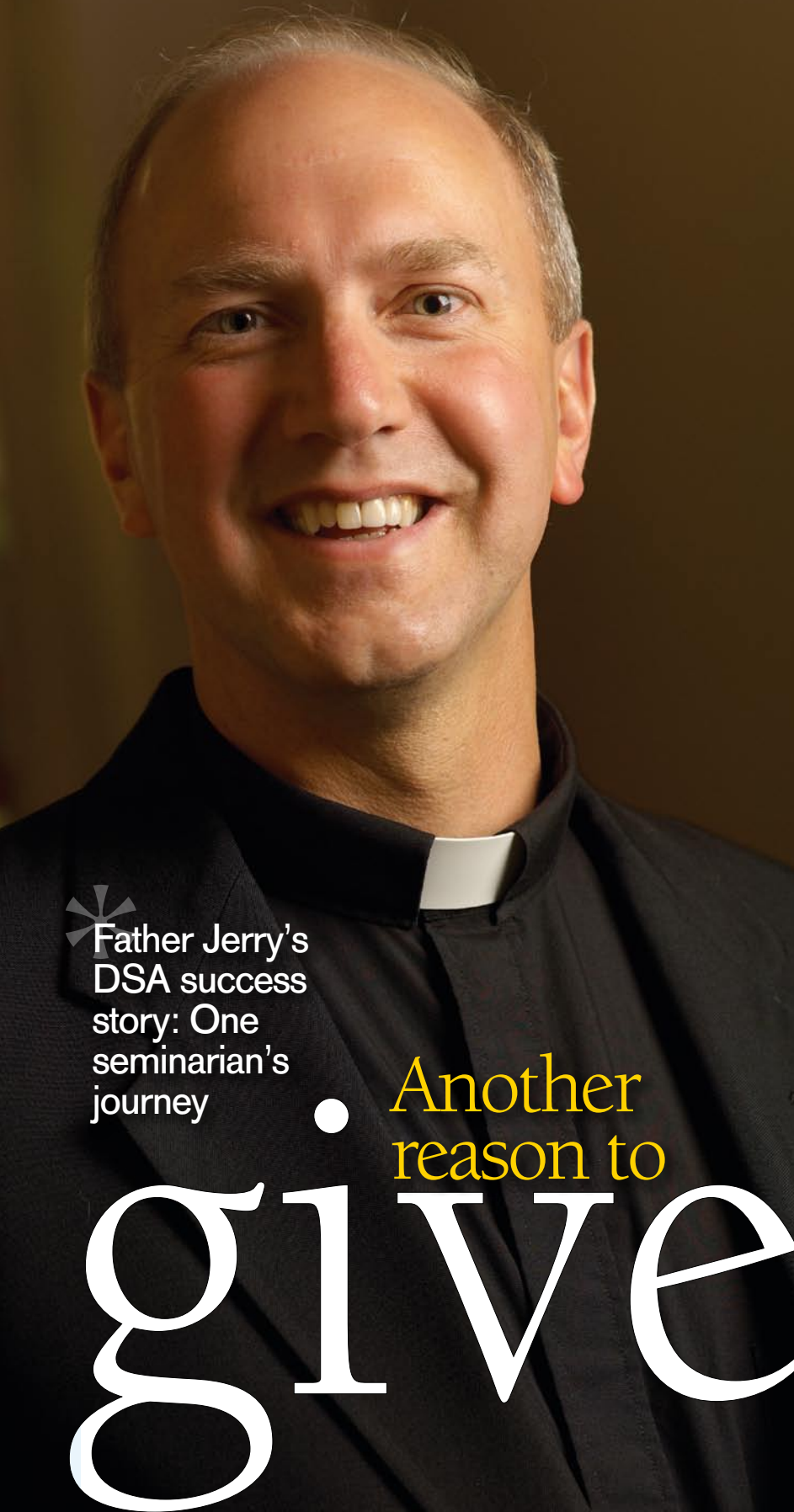
►► The Diocesan Services Appeal is our major fundraising campaign conducted every year in all 95 parishes of the Diocese of Lansing.

More than 100 programs, services and ministries are supported by the Diocesan Services Appeal

The 2006 appeal provided the resources for approximately 60% of the diocesan central services budget.

Less than five cents of every dollar pledged is used for campaign costs and year-round administration of the DSA. The remaining 95 cents are used for the programs and services operated by the Diocese of Lansing through the Central Services Fund.

The campaign goal for 2007 is  
**\$4,950,000**  
In 2006, donors contributed  
**\$4,417,581**  
Number of donors  
**25,334**  
Average gift  
**\$174.37**



\* Father Jerry's DSA success story: One seminarian's journey

Another reason to

give

The diocese plays an integral role in the life of seminarians. Father Jerry Vincke, director of seminarians for the Office of Vocations, and his secretary, Jane Sessions, oversee the seminarians' educational and financial needs – with money coming from the DSA and other sources. They set up events to gather the Diocese of Lansing seminarians as a group for spiritual and social purposes. They keep the men informed about diocesan events and news. Father Jerry also works closely with the seminary to oversee the seminarians' formation. On occasion, Bishop Mengeling will join Father Jerry when visiting during the seminarians' semester evaluations.



Seminarian Craig Pohl

"Every seminarian has a unique story about his discernment process," Father Jerry explains. "I was in the seminary with Craig Pohl,

while he was in minor seminary at St. John Vianney in Minnesota. I asked him to share his story to offer some insight into his life as a seminarian.

"Craig took a pretty diverse path to major seminary at Sacred Heart in Detroit – where he attends now. Growing up in Westphalia, he attended Catholic school; after public high school and one year at Central Michigan University, he earned his bachelor of arts degree in philosophy and Catholic studies at St. John Vianney Seminary. Following some prayer and reflection, Craig took five years off after leaving minor seminary."

**Craig explains:** "I loved every, every aspect of the priesthood except one: celibacy. I come from a strong, loving family that gives me so much joy! I wanted to get married and live that life that had been so rich and wonderful for me.

"I feared life as a priest would be lonely without that loving family. So I took some time off to continue my discernment. I returned home to Westphalia and worked in youth ministry for a few years. I established the ARK Youth Cafe, offering Christ-centered activities from Bible studies to dances. I taught at Lansing

By Nancy Schertzing | Photography by Tom Gennara

## your gifts to DSA support these vocations



▶▶ The Department of Formation in our diocese fosters vocations in a number of ways.

- **Office of Seminarians** seeks to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. In particular, this office oversees the promotion, discernment and formation of men who feel a call to serve as diocesan priests for the Diocese of Lansing.
- **Office of Deacons** provides the formation of men called to service as permanent deacons, attends to the life and ministry of the ordained deacons of the diocese, and represents the diaconate in diocesan matters.
- **Office of Lay Ecclesial Ministry** provides initial formation experience and background for those called to service to the church as lay ecclesial ministers. This office collaborates with other diocesan departments and offices and it offers programs in conjunction with Siena Heights University and Loyola University, New Orleans.
- **Priestly Life and Ministry** implements and brings to life the total concept of ongoing priestly formation. Opportunities include a spring retreat, support program, annual convocation and sabbaticals for those who qualify.

Catholic Central High School for a couple of years. I even explored different religious orders to see whether they offered what I was looking for. In the end, I just told the Lord, ‘If you want me to be a priest, then you’ve gotta make me want every aspect of it too.’

“About a year and a half ago, it happened. I don’t know how, but I found myself truly, deeply desiring to give even celibacy to Christ and to give my whole life for his people. For the first time, I felt a profound peace, knowing that with God’s strength I could do whatever he was asking of me. It was time for me to return to seminary.

“Here at Sacred Heart, I am pursuing a Master’s of Divinity with about 100 fellow seminar-

ians. Intertwined with our theology classes, we are engaged in a life of prayer formation to help us become holy men for God and his people.

“God willing, I’ll be ordained in three years. After that, I look forward to bringing Christ and the Gospel to people. I’ll probably begin as parochial vicar at a parish in the Diocese of Lansing. In that post I’ll be doing what I was called to do.

“When I was younger, I dreamed of traveling the world and preaching the Gospel. I even visited a preaching order during my discernment. It looked glamorous, but when I sat down with them, I knew I wasn’t really called to that life. I have such strong connections with family and so many others in the Diocese of Lansing. I knew I was called to serve God’s people at home. I am prayerfully grateful to the people of our diocese for making that possible for me.” ☪

## one person’s story of being a lay minister

**T**he Office of Lay Ministry provides pastoral formation for ecclesial ministry. Ecclesial ministry is the service of church leadership usually exercised in a parish setting. Some of our formation students are called into the diaconate following their initial formation; others are called to serve the church as lay ecclesial ministers.



Nancy Joseph

An important part of ministry formation is learning to listen prayerfully to God’s call – to discern how God is asking a disciple to serve him.

**Mary is a ministry formation student who contacted my office about two years ago during the first phase of the Diocesan Vocations Campaign.** We talked about her involvement at her parish. Then we looked at her growing desire to serve God as an ecclesial minister. We also considered her current (medical) profession and practice, because sometimes God calls people to supplement their gifts in other helping professions with ministry training. And sometimes he calls people to make major changes in their vocational practice.

▶▶ The formation process offered through the Office of Lay Ministry is similar to other professional training. It involves:

- **Acquiring a base of knowledge** (Catholic theology and tradition).
- **Cultivating a professional demeanor** (spiritual and pastoral formation).
- **Integrating theory with practice** (putting it all together through a supervised internship).

The full process takes four to six years and is most fruitful when supported at both the parish and diocesan level. I encouraged Mary to connect with her pastor and the other ecclesial ministers at her parish to begin testing her call and to benefit from their experience and practical mentoring.

I also invited Mary to attend the discernment workshop offered by the formation department so that she could explore the many vocational callings and begin to see how they all fit together. Mary accepted the invitation and spoke with several of the formation department directors.

After looking at our two academic programs, Mary opted to begin ministry formation through the Siena Heights program for theological study. Today, Mary serves part-time as a parish minister, by arrangement with her pastor. She continues to discern how best to use the many gifts God has given her.

– Nancy Joseph, director of the Office of Lay Ecclesial Ministry



\* Superintendent Sister Dorita's DSA success story: St. Martha School

# A time to learn

**S**uperintendent of Catholic Schools, Sister Dorita Wotiska, chairs the Diocese of Lansing's Department of Education and Catechesis. As an Adrian Dominican with a Ph.D. in educational administration, Sister Dorita knows what educational excellence is all about. While her ministry has thousands of great programs to tout, she chose to feature St. Martha Catholic School in Okemos for this issue of *FAITH*.

"St. Martha school has a wonderful program where they choose a country or region each year for all grades to study. The students learn about that area's literature, history, culture, food, clothing, folk tales – you name it! Then, in March, the entire learning community comes together in a festival celebrating what they've learned.

**I believe academics speak to a child's mind, but the arts speak to a child's heart.**

"This year, students at St. Martha studied and celebrated Australia. Previously, they've featured the Orient, Africa, Italy, Mexico and Ireland. Each year, teachers, administrators and parents collaborate to choose a country and plan the festival.

"A high percentage of parents participate in the festival each year,

acting as tour guides and running stations on the various cultural aspects their children have been studying. Other parents help with research, cooking, set-up and cleanup – most anywhere they're needed. From foods to sporting events and folk tales to religious practices, the stations feature school projects on the region the children have completed over the course of the year.

"St. Martha principal, Francie Herring, and assistant principal, Sister Marie Pauline Skalski, are proud to point out that their students' SAT scores are 'right off the charts.' They're quick to add that St. Martha offers 200 school days, compared to the 180 days required

by law. Also, they hold classes from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to offer 150 more instructional hours than most schools. This leaves ample time for outstanding academic and religious education augmented by foreign languages, fine arts – and cultural lessons such as the foreign country festival.

“When St. Martha Parish established its school in 1993, Sister Marie Pauline was at the helm. She set out to create a Catholic school with strong academics and fine arts programs. Since then, St. Martha has grown from a pre-school program into a pre-K through eighth grade school with about 165 students.

“Its fine arts programs include music, dance and drama and incorporate student performances along with many opportunities to attend performances and concerts. Like me, Sister Marie Pauline has spent her life in education and she feels passionately about her work. ‘I’m a teacher at heart,’ she explains. ‘I believe academics speak to a child’s mind, but the arts speak to a child’s heart.’ St. Martha’s curriculum certainly testifies to her belief.

“I applaud the wonderful opportunities St. Martha affords its students and I am especially delighted they offer all this within the context of Catholic education. In addition to preparing their students mentally and emotionally, St. Martha sustains students’ spiritual growth as well.

“We have a serious obligation to provide our students with the Catholic ideas and values they need to face the multitude of challenges that will confront them in the future. Like all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lansing, St. Martha

builds on the spiritual foundation to prepare the next generation for a bright future in an ever-expanding world.” ☩

## Youth Ministry

▶▶ Daniel and Stephanie Kanitz’s second date was the young adult conference held last year at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Ann Arbor. They went to the workshop on male/female relationships. It had a big impact on them – so much so that they ended up getting married in February at St. Thomas. They are one example of the impact our diocesan youth and young adult ministries have.

I also know students who went to our Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp as teens, and who then became so active at St. John Student Parish at Michigan State that they plan the spring-break service trips. They are a great example of how kids involved in youth ministry go on to be young adults involved in their parishes.

– Pat Rinker, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



The DSA supports educational programs in the diocese that range from elementary through high-school education, and college through young adult ministries. They include:

## Catechesis

▶▶ The Office of Catechesis forms and supports more than 3,000 catechetical leaders, who, in turn, lead catechetical programs for more than 34,000 children and adolescents in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs.

The catechetical formation program in the Diocese of Lansing is nationally renowned; catechists complete more than 22 hours of study to be certified as advanced level.

Together, our mission is to inspire each person in the Lansing Diocese to grow ever stronger in faith, and to equip them to live the Gospel message in word and action.

– Michael Andrews, director of the Office of Catechesis

### did you know?

#### Your DSA donation provides:

- Resources, education and support for the formation of catechists and teachers.
- Support for Bethany House (photo above), the diocesan retreat center for youth.
- Ministry and educational support for directors of religious education and coordinators of youth ministry.



▶▶ There are more than 11,000 students in 37 elementary schools (including Jackson Catholic Middle School) and four high schools in the Diocese of Lansing.

### Did you know?

- The Department of Education and Catechesis supports approximately 700 teachers.
- Approximately 34,000 public school students in our diocese participate in religious education programs.
- The annual Diocesan High School Jamboree was attended by more than 1,000 teens.
- The Diocesan Middle School Youth Rally was attended by more than 700 students.



**C**hris Root heads the Department of Catholic Charities, a ministry that touches many thousands of lives through programs such as St. Vincent's Home to the North End Soup Kitchen. As Chris says, "Somewhere in our diocese there is a child at risk, a breadwinner out of a job, a family seeking shelter, an elderly person who needs a helping hand. The Diocesan Services Appeal helps Catholic Charities to provide help and create hope for people in need.

"Catholic Charities supports the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program in Adrian, helping children by linking them with loving adults who guide and support them in their everyday lives. Sometimes they help children's dreams come true, as happened for Emily when she met her Big Sister, Meredith Matthews.

"Emily is the middle child of a family in poverty. In the last five years, they've moved 13 or 14 times within Lenawee County, switching schools most times. Her home life is stressful and she has so few special things. Her family lives on public assistance and can't find the money to cover many of Emily's basic needs.

"Meredith wants Emily to graduate from high school and to know she can get a job and have nice things. When Meredith got married, she wanted Emily to have a chance to be a princess once in her life.

**Meredith gets tears in her eyes when she tells the story:** "When I met Emily I had just begun to date my future husband. Within a year, Emily said, 'You guys are gonna get married.' I was surprised, and asked, 'How do you know?' She just shrugged her shoulders and I said, 'Well, if we're going to get married, are you going to be my flower girl?' And she said, 'Yes.' She was 10 years old when my husband and I got married in August 2003. Emily was absolutely a princess that day.

"In some ways our lives are the same. I'm a child of a broken home. When my parents divorced, my mother was a wreck and I often felt like the parent trying to support her. I could have gotten into trouble. By the grace of God, I knew what I wanted and I was self-motivated

*By Nancy Schertzing | Photography by Tom Gennara*

✱ Chris' DSA success story: Big Brothers/Big Sisters

What you do for the least of my children, you do for me

**Catholic Charities offers support for senior citizens and for caregivers.**

▶▶ **The Department of Catholic Charities oversees the collective work of six separate diocesan offices that operate out of the Diocesan Center in Lansing.** In addition, the department coordinates eight Catholic charities agencies that operate regional offices located throughout our diocese. These agencies are equipped to meet a wide range of needs right where senior citizens need it most.

<b>Adrian</b>	Catholic Charities of Lenawee County
<b>Ann Arbor</b>	Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County
<b>Flint and Owosso</b>	Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties, Catholic Outreach
<b>Howell</b>	Catholic Social Services of Livingston County
<b>Jackson</b>	Catholic Charities of Jackson
<b>Lansing</b>	St. Vincent Catholic Charities

enough to work for it. I put myself through school and am an accountant now.

“Even though I lived with my mom, I did have my grandma, who was very supportive. She was my lifeline – someone I could talk to and lean on. She opened my eyes to what I could be and do, and she encouraged me. Even when my parents called me stupid, Grandma helped me believe in myself.

“Once I was out of school and got my job, I thought, ‘Now it’s time to give back.’ Through my service club, I learned about Big Brothers/Big Sisters and decided to give it a try. You don’t need any qualifications – just a wish to make a difference one little person at a time. If children have someone to look up to or just to know an adult cares about them, it gives them hope and the direction they need to stay out of trouble.

“I don’t want Emily ever to feel sorry for herself or make excuses. I just want her to remember that she’s not what her family tells her or shows her. And when

she’s a parent, she can remember these things and not make the mistakes her parents do now. She can be a princess.” ☪



**Department of Finance and Administration**

**T**he Department of Finance and Administration is charged with handling the financial matters of the diocese as a whole, as well as providing support and services to parishes and diocesan agencies relating to the business aspects of their operations. In addition to managing and monitoring the day-to-day financial affairs of the diocese, **the department provides the following:**



▶▶ **An annual financial statement** that is audited in compliance with the standards set by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (and which is available by accessing the diocesan Web site, [www.dioceseoflansing.org](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org)).

▶▶ **Workshops and seminars** for parish bookkeepers/business managers.

▶▶ **Assistance to parishes**

**and diocesan agencies**, ranging from executing simple land transactions to reviewing complex building and expansion plans through the properties office.

▶▶ **Compliance with federal, state and local laws** pertaining to employment, property ownership and environmental regulations.

▶▶ **The Diocesan Services Appeal** through the DSA Office.

**Department of Communications**

**T**he Department of Communications coordinates release of information to the various media. The director of communications serves as the official media spokesperson for Bishop Mengeling and the Diocese of Lansing. The department also oversees the internal flow of information among diocesan offices, as well as to parish staff and volunteer leaders.



**The department also provides:**

- **The televised Outreach Mass** broadcast for the homebound on FOX-66, WLAJ-53 and WHTV-18.
- **The diocesan Web site**, [www.dioceseoflansing.org](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org).

- **Video production** of major diocesan liturgies and events, training and information tapes and other videotape services.

- **The diocesan newsletter**, VOICES Alive, available on the Web site.

**did you know?**

▶▶ **One of the ministries supported by Catholic Charities is Courage**, a support group for people who are dealing with same-sex attraction. Father Steve Mattson told me about a man in Courage who said, “Courage has been invaluable to my spiritual growth. The support that I have received has strengthened my resolve to remain chaste in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church’s teaching. I am so grateful for a place to establish friendships and be able to receive encouragement in this very secular world.”

– Rory Hoipkemier, Life Justice director

 Sister Rita's  
DSA success  
story: Parish  
planning for  
Cristo Rey

# planning tomorrow's churches

**I**n her position as director of the Office of Pastoral Planning, Sister Rita Wenzlick has seen the power of pastoral planning on parishes' futures. Nowhere has this power manifested itself more clearly than at Cristo Rey Parish in Lansing.

"In 1993, Cristo Rey was a small, Hispanic/Latino parish with a parking lot that looked like a moonscape. They knew they wanted to make some changes in their operations and infrastructure but weren't sure how to go about it. When their new pastor, Father Fred Thelen, took over the reins, the parish pastoral council told him they wanted a plan.

"I had the pleasure of working with Father Fred and the pastoral council to establish a planning process for their church. They started with a process of broad consultation to develop a mission statement and followed that up with a parish-wide assembly to ask parishioners what was going well, what needed improvement and what they wanted for the future of their parish. The pastoral council used that input to create a series of parish goals.

"In June 1994, they published 12 goals, addressing areas such as youth, seniors, formation, outreach and justice. At the top of the list was establishing a building and grounds planning committee to address questions of overcrowding and maintenance. That committee's

first priority was getting the parking lot paved, which was accomplished almost immediately. Longer term, however, this committee could see the parish family was outgrowing its home. Historical analysis and future forecasting showed they needed to consider expanding their present facilities or consider new surroundings.

"During their planning process, Cristo Rey was approached by leaders of the nearby Miller Road Bible Church. The Bible Church leaders were interested in selling their building and wondered if Cristo Rey might be interested in buying it.

"Thanks to their research and planning process, Cristo Rey determined that this facility could meet their needs well into the fu-

ture. They agreed to purchase the church and began making the necessary renovations to call it home. In 1998, Father Fred and parish leaders led Cristo Rey parishioners in a one-mile procession carrying articles from the church to their new parish home.

"After the move, they needed a little time to catch their breaths but they were ready to start a second round of pastoral planning in 1999 when my office hosted the VOICES process throughout the diocese. Cristo Rey combined VOICES with the Tomorrow's Parish planning process and set seven goals that have guided them in developing their new parish home.

"Father Fred puts it beautifully when he describes pastoral planning as a discernment process. He says 'As a parish community, we ask: What is God calling us to do? What has God given us the gifts and talents to achieve? It's never exact and never without its messiness, but pastoral planning helps focus the energy of the whole community around common goals.'

"This discernment has benefited Cristo Rey both in finding new surroundings and also in achieving more spiritual growth. Their second round of pastoral planning, for example, yielded a goal to develop lay leadership formation programs in Spanish and English. Now Cristo Rey hosts the Midwest Cultural Leadership Institute program from Notre Dame. Conducted in Spanish, with a special emphasis on formation that emphasizes Hispanic culture, this three-year process prepares lay people for ministry and leadership in the growing Latino community and in the broader church.

"From a personal perspective, I feel pastoral planning is a continuing process of listening, surfacing needs, assessing resources, planning and implementing a faith-filled response. As Cristo Rey's story shows, it can open the way to great things!" ✚

**A**fter retiring from a career in law enforcement, Tim Metts now directs the Diocesan Office of Restorative Justice – a ministry heavily focused on helping prisoners and their families.

“We do mostly prison ministry here,” Tim explains. “I work with a lot of good people who help prisoners, ex-offenders and their families throughout the diocese and the state. More than 100 volunteers, in several organizations, help in a number of ways, including visiting or writing to prisoners, helping keep prisoners’ families together and supporting ex-offenders who are re-entering society. You’ll be reading more about these other organizations and their work in upcoming issues of *FAITH*.”

“We have a program we support in Jackson called Regeneration – Beginning Anew! It’s led by Jim McAllister and includes about 12 people who reach out to assist ex-offenders reintegrate into society outside prison. Regeneration is supported by a number of individuals, churches and organizations, including the diocese. This faith-based initiative serves all who are in need.

“Prison almost always brainwashes prisoners, taking away their chance to do many things we take for granted. For example, buying new clothes (not prison blues with an orange stripe on the back or down the seam of the legs) can be overwhelming. Jim and his staff usually take the individuals to the store and walk them around until they have seen all of the available items. Jim says you can see their shock as they walk into the store.

“Not being told what to buy, how much to spend, what color to wear, what style to choose is something they must now deal with. They must make the choices that had been made for them during their incarceration. We call this overcoming ‘learned helplessness,’ and it is an essential step in ex-offenders’ reintegration into society.

“Getting around the community poses another challenge for ex-offenders. Regeneration – Beginning Anew! provides transportation to the various agencies in order to help the ex-offenders get the proper identification, like state ID cards or drivers’ licenses. They are required to attend group counseling of one type or another, get assessments, find housing, get a job, get clothing, food and manage their budgets. Jim’s group assists in all these.

“Jim is an ex-offender himself, so

# when I was in prison you visited me

Tim’s DSA success story: One prisoner’s second chance



he understands what these men and women need when they first come out of prison. He wrote

the following message that sums up his experience and why he is so committed to Regeneration – Beginning Anew:

**Yes, I am an ex-offender.** More than 20 years in prison opened my eyes to the terrible loneliness and sense of abandonment those who are incarcerated experience. I have witnessed firsthand how lost these men feel trying to rebuild self-esteem amid a steady stream of negative attitudes and behaviors. Yet many people manage to achieve great success.

**Changing one’s mind – and especially one’s heart – can happen only through the grace of a good and loving God.** By practicing patience in times of trial, I was

able to succeed in recognizing God in all whom I met in prison, both inmate and guard alike. By remaining steadfast in prayer and walking in faith, I was able to recognize how God was asking me to follow him. I don’t believe I ever turned away from anyone in prison that needed a kind word or a shoulder to cry on. That is what I have dedicated my life to do on the outside.

**When I left prison I was accepted by the community, the church, my wife’s friends and family and neighbors.** These people made a great difference in my life and continue to do so today. It is very important for the community to embrace these children of God. Acceptance and assistance creates support, and support creates a successful reintegration into society.

“As Jim says, ‘Love is a verb, and a verb is an action word!’” ☪

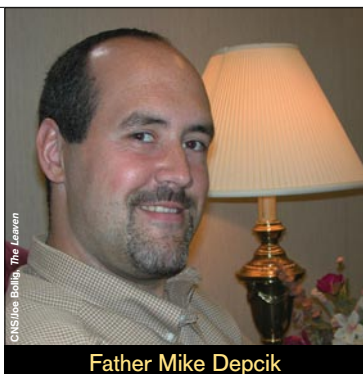




**R**ose Smith directs the diocesan Ministry to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She has seen her ministry flourish in the life of Bruce Kline, a skilled tradesman now retired from General Motors, who grew up in Flint in the 1950s and '60s. Though he lives in Coldwater now, Bruce drives to Lansing or Fenton every weekend to share his faith with other deaf people at Sunday liturgy.

Rose shares Bruce's story here:

"Bruce Kline grew up in a Catholic family with hearing parents and his sister, Delores, who, like him, was deaf. Their parents shared their strong

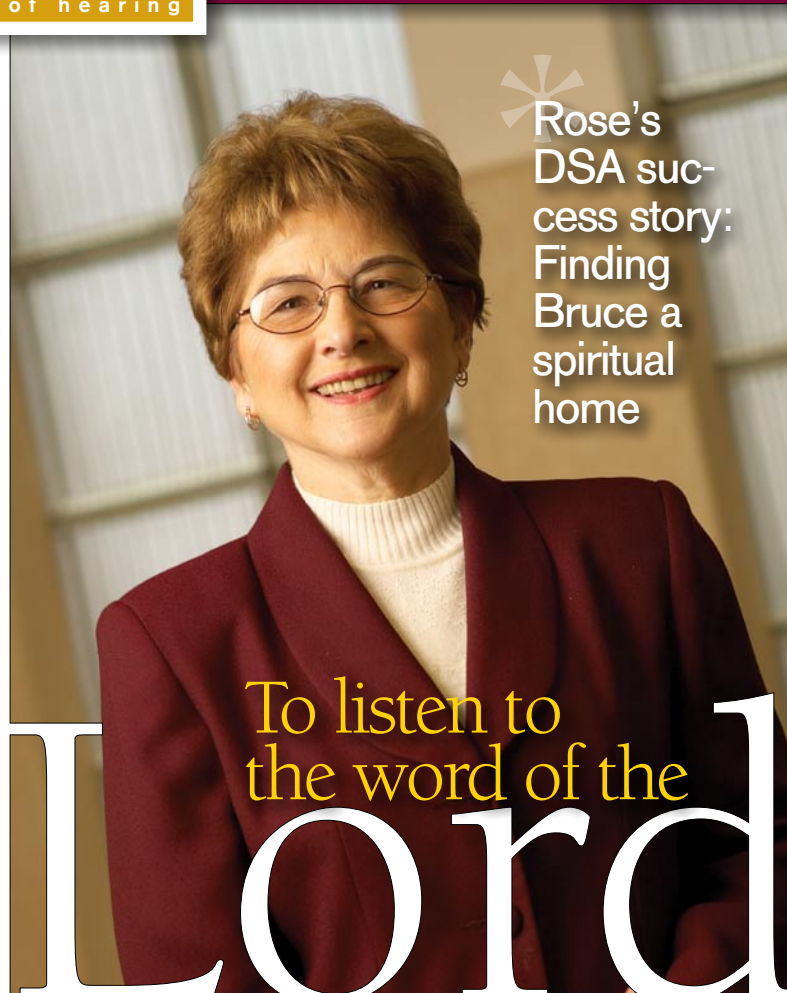


Father Mike Depcik

Catholic faith with Bruce and Delores as much as they could. At that time, however, deaf people had limited access to the Catholic Church within their language or culture. Bruce grew into adulthood, married and became a parent without organized religion playing a role in his life.

"About five years ago, as he was nearing 50, Bruce and his wife, Linda, became interested in embracing a faith life. Friends encouraged them to join a local evangelical Bible church that had a minister who conducted services using American Sign Language (ASL). While the church welcomed Bruce and Linda warmly, the Catholic beliefs and traditions of his childhood compelled Bruce to take another look at the faith he knew best. Torn between the two church communities, Bruce and Linda went back and forth between the hearing Catholic church that did not use ASL and the Bible church that did.

"What Bruce didn't know at the time was that Father Mike Depcik had been serving as chaplain for the deaf community throughout the Diocese of Lansing. When Bruce told his sister about his struggle to choose a church, Delores told him about Father Depcik,



Rose's DSA success story: Finding Bruce a spiritual home

To listen to the word of the

# Word

a deaf man and wonderful priest who signed Mass every week at the Chapel of St. John in Fenton.

"Bruce and Linda decided to visit. At their first Mass celebrated in ASL, the penitential rite, the Gospel, homily and eucharistic prayer all came alive as the words flowed from the heart and hands of Father Depcik. Bruce's struggle ended that day. He began to attend Mass regularly.

"Soon Bruce began reading the Bible and praying the rosary in ASL at St. John. He made a Koinonia retreat, went on a pilgrimage and a deaf *Cursillo*. With diocesan support, he attends a four-year deaf ministry formation program.

"Two years ago, Linda became Catholic. Then, after both she and Bruce had their first marriages annulled, Father Depcik married them in the church.

"Shortly after the wedding, Father Depcik left St. John to

pursue a degree in mental health counseling for the deaf at Gallaudet University. When finished, he will work in his hometown of Chicago and spend summers as chaplain at DeSales Center in Brooklyn, Mich. De Sales and Holley Ear Institute host summer programs for the deaf and hard of hearing. Some of the programs attract people from across the country.

"Presently, we are blessed to have Father Bosco Padamatummal from Fenton learning ASL. He has taken over duties as chaplain for the deaf community in our diocese. In addition, Msgr. Steve Raica is fluent in ASL and occasionally celebrates the liturgy at the cathedral in Lansing.

"We treasure their ministry and the gifts they bring which open our rich faith tradition to the deaf and hard of hearing in our midst. As Bruce's story shows, their efforts can bear great fruit for us all!" ✚



**T**hrough the 2007 Diocesan Services Appeal, we have the opportunity to bring hope to those in need throughout the Diocese of Lansing. Our theme this year, "Rejoice in Hope" reminds us we are servants of hope, and as servants of hope, we do our duty in the Lord by helping provide assistance to the most vulnerable in our community.

# Rejoice in hope



**E**very gift to the Diocesan Services Appeal is important in helping us achieve our 2007 campaign goal of \$4,950,000. Whatever the size of your gift, or whatever method you choose to make your gift, we invite you to experience the deep sense of satisfaction in knowing your DSA pledge will go directly to support the good works of the church.

▶▶ **Catholic Charities:** Life Justice, Natural Family Planning, Restorative Justice, Black Catholic and Multicultural Ministry, Hispanic & Migrant Ministries, Catholic Deaf/HH Ministry, Ministry with Persons with disAbilities, Outreach, Aging

▶▶ **Catholic Charities Agencies:** Catholic Charities of Jackson, Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties, St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Catholic Charities of Lenawee, Livingston County Catholic Social Services, Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw, Catholic Outreach, Cristo Rey Community Center

▶▶ **Chancery Services:** Bishop's Office (The Curia), Diocesan Archives, Diocesan Tribunal, Council of Vicars, Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, Vicar for Religious, Scholarships for Religious

▶▶ **Communications:** Media Contact, TV Outreach Mass, Diocese of Lansing.org, video production, *Voices Alive* Newsletter, In-house Publishing

## did you know?



▶▶ Your support of DSA 2007 goes toward more than 100 ministries that help tens of thousands of people.

▶▶ **Education and Catechesis:** Catechesis, Evangelization, Family Life, Catholic Schools' central administration and instructional programs, Young Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, Campus Ministry, Office of Worship, CAFÉ (Catholic Adult Formation and Education), RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

▶▶ **Finance:** Development Office, Diocesan Property Management, Environmental Issues, Information Technology Services, Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA), Central Services Accounting, Parish Audit Services, Stewardship Initiative, Loss Prevention Services for parish maintenance staff, Workshops and seminars for parish bookkeepers/business managers, Annual Financial Report

▶▶ **Office of Pastoral Planning:** Diocesan Strategic Pastoral Planning, Diocesan Pastoral Council, Parish Pastoral Council Formation, Coordinating Commission

▶▶ **Formation:** The Office of Seminarians, Office of Deacons, Office of Lay Ecclesial Ministry, Vocation Services, Continuing Education for Priests, Priestly Life & Ministry

▶▶ **Other:** Hospital Ministry, Sacred Heart Chapel, Council of Catholic Women, Support of Infirm and Retired Priests, Presbyteral Council, St. Francis Retreat Center, Bethany House, Priests' Special Ministry Assignments

The Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) has truly transformed the programs, ministries and services through which the diocese meets the needs of our Catholics. Each year this campaign unites all 95 parishes of our diocese, drawing us together to accomplish wonderful works. Thanks to the generosity of all who support the DSA, the church is able to continue to live out our mission by providing spiritual, educational and social services to Catholics, non-Catholics, laity and clergy, as well as children and adults of all ages throughout our diocese.

The generous sharing of your gifts from God has brought hope to the lives of so many through the services, ministries and programs supported by DSA.

▶▶ Through DSA support of the **Department of Formation**, the spiritual formation and theological education of the 30 young men studying to be priests this year will be made possible.

▶▶ Through DSA support of the **Department of Catholic Charities**, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry will be able to continue its work providing interpreters for services and functions that include deaf parishioners; the Ministry with Persons with DisAbilities will be able to continue serving the special needs of those who are sight-impaired, those who suffer with mental illness, or those who are developmentally disabled; the Restorative Justice Ministry will be able to continue its work helping the imprisoned and those coming out of prison, as well as the families and children of those in prison; and so many other services and programs.

▶▶ Through DSA support of the **Department of Education and Catechesis**, religious education programs in our parishes and schools will be able to continue;

ministry training for youth leaders, training and educational workshops for parish directors of religious education will continue; the Diocesan High School Jamboree and the Diocesan Middle School Youth Rally will continue; and through the Office of Worship, a variety of special liturgies will continue throughout the year.

▶▶ Through DSA support of the **Office of Pastoral Planning**, the Diocesan Planning Commission will be able to continue its current review of all parishes and schools to ensure that the sacramental, pastoral and leadership needs of all our people will be met.

▶▶ Your DSA contributions support hospital ministry, DuKette Catholic School, Sacred Heart Chapel, the Council of Catholic Women, the St. Francis Retreat Center and Bethany House. They provide support for infirm and retired priests as well as priests' special ministry assignments. These are just a few of the ways in which your contributions to the Diocesan Services Appeal bring hope to so many in our diocese.

In an effort to convey to our donors what their DSA contributions support, we have provided:

This special edition of *FAITH*, featuring DSA success stories, that will be mailed to all registered parish households in our diocese.

A first-ever DSA video, sent to each parish in our diocese, featuring an inspiring message from Bishop Mengeling along with insight from key individuals who work within the ministries and agencies funded by DSA.

A comprehensive DSA overview brochure, mailed to parishes in our diocese for distribution to parishioners. The brochure lists each of the ministries and services that are supported by DSA funding.

Please give to the Diocesan Services Appeal as generously as your means will allow. ☩

# Diocesan Services Appeal

## Q&A with Patricia O'Hearn, Development Director



### Use of DSA Funds

▶▶ The Diocese of Lansing classifies funds raised by the DSA as restricted revenue and these dollars are used only for their stated purpose. The Diocese of Lansing is both legally and morally bound to use these revenues only for the programs, services and ministries of the Diocese of Lansing Central Services. This money cannot be used for other purposes. An outside independent auditing firm looks at exactly how each DSA dollar is spent. We are proud of the results of our annual audit and have included a summary of it in our Annual Report. The Diocesan Annual Report, which contains a detailed accounting of funds, is sent to donors in January. This is one of the many accountability measures we are committed to providing for our donors. A copy can also be found on the diocesan Web site.

### Q. Why is our diocese conducting the Diocesan Services Appeal?

**A.** The Diocese of Lansing, and most (arch)dioceses in the United States, conducts an annual campaign to help fund the work of the church. The programs, ministries and services funded by the Diocesan Services Appeal provide educational, pastoral and charitable outreach to those living within our diocese. Much of this work would not be possible, or would not be nearly as effective, without the support provided by your generous contributions to the Diocesan Services Appeal.

### Q. Why do we need the services and ministries provided by our diocese?

**A.** Thousands of people throughout our diocese count on the services and ministries made possible through this appeal. Many of these services and ministries, such as those featured in *FAITH Magazine*, are beyond the resources of any single parish.

These works, upon which so many in need rely, are a vital part of fulfilling Christ's mission.

### Q. Why should I give to the Diocesan Services Appeal if I already give to my parish?

**A.** Every time we say the Creed we reaffirm the fact that we are members of the "One, holy, catholic and apostolic church." With those words, we are saying that every parish, every parishioner, is responsible not only for his or her parish but also for the well-being of the church throughout the diocese and the world. Since we are one community of believers, members of all parish communities throughout the Diocese of Lansing are asked to contribute to the Diocesan Services Appeal.

### Q. We are often encouraged to make a pledge. Why should I make a pledge and what happens when I do?

**A.** Making a pledge enables you to increase your generosity with modest periodic payments, spread out over a longer period of time. Your pledge can be paid in six monthly installments. To choose this method of giving to the DSA, simply indicate your wishes on the pledge envelope that will be provided by your parish.

### Q. What if my financial circumstances change after I have made a pledge? Will I still be required to pay it?

**A.** A pledge is a good-faith gesture to pay a given amount to support the services provided to the people of the Diocese of Lansing. It is NOT a bill. A pledge to DSA is not something you will be legally bound to pay, if for some reason your financial circumstances cause you to not be able to pay the pledge.

### Q. Will people in my parish benefit from the Diocesan Services Appeal?

**A.** Absolutely. Every parishioner in the diocese has access to the ministries and services that are provided by the diocesan church.

### Q. I am interested in contributing to the Diocesan Services Appeal, but I have more questions. Where can I get answers?

**A.** Patricia O'Hearn, Director of Development, welcomes your call and the opportunity to answer your questions. You can contact her at 517.342.2503 or e-mail [pohearn@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:pohearn@dioceseoflansing.org).

