

# News for You!

**SPRING 2021**

### School

5810 Cara Carpenter Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa  
50311-2098  
515.277.0178

### Parish

1230 Merle Hay Rd  
Des Moines, Iowa  
50311-2098  
515.279.4654

### Welcome Committee Update

The St Theresa Welcome Committee continued to make calls on new members during 2020, but could not have any social activities to celebrate their arrival. This year instead of a quarterly Newcomers Brunch, new members will receive a special invite for recognition at a Coffee and Donuts of their choosing beginning in June. Tory Tyrrell is the Coffee and Donuts Coordinator for the Welcome Committee. She is point of contact for newcomer reservations, Welcome Committee host volunteers and even for managing the volunteers who serve each Sunday.

### Welcome New Members

Warm welcome to these new members of the parish:

Pam Snyder  
Anne Pederson  
Nesta Zaragoza & Maria Rodriquez



Three ways to register as a St. Theresa member:

Contact Sue Fitzpatrick, Parish Secretary, at the office 515-279-4654 x 300 or [sfitzpatrick@stsdsm.com](mailto:sfitzpatrick@stsdsm.com)

Visit the office 1230 Merle Hay Road Monday – Friday 9:00AM – 3:30 PM

Find the registration form online at the [parish website](#) on the “Join Our Parish” page.

### Call for Coffee & Donuts Helpers

We need more people to volunteer for Coffee & Donuts since COVID precautions add extra tasks to serving and cleaning. Great opportunity for friends or family to have some time together while building up the parish. Faith sharing groups, former Christ Renews His Parish teams, St Theresa School alums. Commitment is 4 to 8 times per year. Interested? Email [welcome@stsdsm.com](mailto:welcome@stsdsm.com) or call Tory Tyrrell at 319-217-9375

### Summer Road Tripping AKA St. Joseph Pilgrimage

Summer is nearly here. One of the best things about summer is the chance to go on a road trip. In this Year of St. Joseph, why not consider taking a drive to one of the five parishes in the Des Moines Diocese named in honor of St. Joseph? Make it a pilgrimage. Bring the whole family along. Make it a time of prayer, seeking the intercession and aid of St Joseph, our spiritual Father.

The five parishes named St. Joseph are located in Des Moines, Earling, Mount Ayr, Villisca and Winterset. I invite you to take a drive and visit one or more of these parishes. You can pray a rosary on the trip, a Chaplet of St. Joseph or even a St. Joseph rosary.

May your summer be richly blessed with peace, refreshment, renewal and safety.

Deacon David Schmidt



### Catholic Diocesan Mirror:

Bishop William Joensen has made the following priest appointments effective July 8: Father Raphael Assamah is moving from his role as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah and St. Mary Parish in Hamburg to become pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines. Father Assamah was born and raised in Ghana, and studied

at seminary in Ghana and Pontifical Urban University in

Rome. He holds a Master of Arts in theology and Christian Ministry from Franciscan University of Steubenville and currently is pursuing certification with The John Maxwell Leadership Team emphasizing mentoring and coaching leadership. Ordained in 2008, he served as the youth chaplain at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. In 2014, he answered a need for priests on the island of Jamaica in the Caribbean, by serving at Ss. Pius X and Peter Claver Parishes in the Archdiocese of Kingston. He came to the Diocese of Des Moines in 2016 to serve southwest Iowa.

## Better late than never! 2020 Angel Tree Report

What a challenge this past year has been. And the Angel Tree proved to be no exception. Fortunately, St. Theresa rose to the occasion and we pulled it off without too many problems. You guys are awesome!!!

From the beginning, the project had to be adapted to accommodate social distancing and health precautions, like everything else in our lives. Instead of an actual tree, we had to create a "virtual" tree so people could sign up for the gifts they wanted or make a monetary donation. This had a real advantage as we knew who had the "tag" and we could locate the gifts if they were missing. The downside was that we couldn't return the gifts to the altar for a festive holiday scene. Maybe next year!!!

This year, we had to rely heavily on "Secret Santa Shoppers" as 33 gifts were not taken. Your generous donations more than covered the shopping expenses. And as always, the remaining funds will go to St. Theresa School to assist their student needs. As always, your generosity and Christmas spirit made it possible for our Parish to provide 168 gifts to 84 children in the Des Moines/Polk County area. For these children, who have a parent in prison, we gave them gifts as well as a personal message from their incarcerated parents.

Thank you to all who volunteered, making this another successful Angel Tree year - callers, shoppers, donors, sorters & delivery people. Even in a pandemic, you are an AWESOME parish!!!



One touching story - One day my doorbell rang & my neighbor stood there with her son & daughter. The kids had found \$100 bill in my hedge and wanted to know if I had lost it. NO! We decided that if we couldn't find the owner, we would donate it to the Angel Tree. Later that evening a woman came to my door. She had found \$200 in the street and was canvassing the neighborhood with flyers to locate the owner. I gave her my phone number also. The next day, I got a call from my next-door neighbor, John. He had lost 4 \$100 bills. He came over to collect the one that I had, but generously donated it to the Angel Tree. I, in turn gave the money to kids who found it and let them pick out 2 gifts for a boy & a girl that were their ages to shop for. The girl decided that she wanted to use her own money to buy an additional gift. Later that same day, I showed John where the kids found the bill in my hedge & we found the last missing \$100.

God works in mysterious ways & provides just what we need.

## Educational programs expanded at sister parish in Togo, West Africa

St. Theresa, Des Moines, has been offering educational assistance for orphaned and disadvantaged children in Nyasivé, Togo, West Africa, for more than 14 years. Our involvement in educational programs is making a difference in the lives of these young people. We'd like to share a letter we recently received from one of our scholarship students:

"My name is Gabriel Komlan Koudoh. Orphan of father, I was supported by the Plan d'Aide aux Enfants Dèmunis (PAED) project in my school curriculum. I was one of the beneficiary of the project due to your great generosity since 2006 when I was in the second class of the high school until I got my BA degree in contemporary history in the year 2015 at the University of Lomé. Through your help, I turned useful to my village and to my whole country, because I serve today as a volunteer teacher in one secondary school (middle school) at Lomé. Thanks to your various help, I managed one part of my studies. Actually, my target was to further my studies in political histories until my doctorate, in order to become a political scientist, but in default of this, I start by gaining my little daily food although I'm not yet included in the budget of the state. Anyhow I'm very proud anyway to give my service to all the Togolese population. Once again, I would like to thank you all for your unforgettable support that allowed me to become a teacher today.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate and to encourage you to keep on supplying PAED with your support in helping the poor as you are doing it for years, so that the needy children of our villages can find their way. I thank your church, the leaders and the donors. May our Lord Jesus Christ assist you and bless you non-stop for your kindness.

"My greetings to the commission of the mobilization and its collaborators that fight for the well-being of the needy children through the PAED project."

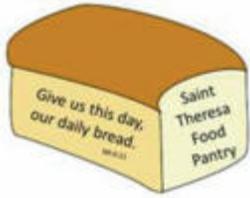
*If you are interested in learning more about the Sister Parish Committee, please contact one of the following:*

Liz Youngwirth  
[lizandmot@gmail.com](mailto:lizandmot@gmail.com)  
515-339-8936

Sergio Loch  
[sloch85@gmail.com](mailto:sloch85@gmail.com)  
515-263-2922

Kay Boisen  
[okay1951@aol.com](mailto:okay1951@aol.com)  
515-720-0923





The St Theresa Food Pantry (STFP) was awarded two grants this past month. One for \$2,000 was from Farm Credit Services. The second grant we received was from the Iowa Food Bank Association to reimburse eligible Food Bank agencies of operating expenses incurred during the pandemic. As stated on our grant award, *“On behalf of the Iowa Food Bank Association Grant Committee, it is an honor and delight to inform you that the St Theresa Food Pantry has been awarded \$5,026.22...for emergency pandemic activities relating to your pantry operations. Your grant award is based on your request with documentation submitted and*

*funds available. Thank you for the continued partnership and work your agency does to feed Iowans in need of food. Your extra effort and work throughout the pandemic is applauded. As we know, the fight to end hunger in Iowa continues and we deeply appreciate your work in the past and into the future.”*

These two grants, along with donations received from many parishioners, put the STFP in a very solid position financially. Thank you to those parishioners who have donated to help make the STFP what it is. Your generosity will help us maintain the pantry for a long time to come. Because STFP has been blessed with so much monetary support, we would like to suggest that future cash donations go to the DMARC food pantry network. You can choose DMARC Food Pantry on St Theresa’s online giving. St Theresa Church has been a member of DMARC for over 20 years. Donating to DMARC food pantry operations will achieve our common goal of fighting hunger in our local community. Throughout this past year, the STFP continued to operate with safety measures designed to keep pantry guests and volunteers safe. During the pandemic the STFP experienced a 33% increase in number of households served from the same period last year. For more information about the STFP, text/call Anita at 515-216-0908.

**Lord, you filled the fisherman’s nets to bursting.  
Fill us to bursting.  
Fill us with compassion for our sisters and brothers.  
Fill us with your grace that pours forth from your loving heart.  
Fill us with obedience to your last commandment.  
To go forth into the world  
To do for others as you have done for us  
To feed your sheep.** (CRS prayer 2020)

Through the incredible generosity of St. Theresa parishioners, we have continued to collect funds to meet our monthly shelter meal commitment during the pandemic. With these funds, we provide a generous fried chicken meal, complete with sides and desserts. And due to the generosity of parishioners during this last year our parish will continue to provide the monthly meal. Many thanks to all who have donated as we move forward into the remainder of the year with Valley West HyVee and our meal providers.

In conversation with our regular meal providers, we are going to resume providing the CISS meal using a hybrid method. Meal providers can choose between providing a salad, supplies, or a cash donation to purchase the entrée. We will continue to have Valley West HyVee provide the fried chicken. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month, we will have an abbreviated intake from 4:30 -5:30 pm for providers to bring their salad/supplies using a contactless drop-off at the church kitchen. Intake workers will provide carts outside the church carport entrance for providers to drive up and place their donated items. Intake workers are also available to remove items from the cars of volunteers. Intake workers will be wearing masks, gloves and comply with social distancing.

*And a St. Theresa shout-out to:*

*Rindy Raymond for her monthly commitment to contact HyVee and making sure monies are appropriated.*

*John McMichael and Sue Fitzpatrick for their support and handling parish funds, communications and access to the kitchen.*

*Tamara Knupp, Joanne Lenox, Marcia Cohen and Jane Klemm, who have made a commitment to continue to call our meal providers to make this work.*

*Our intake team, Anne Dols, Linda Warren, Judy Cordaro, Kathy O’Neill, Rindy Raymond, Sharon Salazar, Jim and Celeste Egger, whose flexibility keeps this meal connected for transport and serving.*

*And to over 70 meal providers and servers and now transport workers that have made a commitment to this ministry to feed those in our city with dignity and large portions.*

*And finally, to St. Theresa parishioners who always rise up to help in times of need. It takes a community working together to make this ministry work and you are the best.*

Donations to purchase the entrée can be mailed, dropped off at the church office or made on-line at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stgiving> and select the fund “Central Iowa Shelter Services Meal”. Contact John McMichael at the church office with questions about donating.

Please contact Joanne Lenox [lenoxde@msn.com](mailto:lenoxde@msn.com) via email if you are interested in joining this ongoing monthly ministry through bringing supplies, food or transport. Please join our meal providers as we continue to feed those in shelter in our community.

## Baptisms



"We now ask God to give this child new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit."

### WELCOME TO THE ST. THERESA FAMILY!

Kai Robert Casber (Nicholas & Kera Casber)  
January 17, 2021

Dominic Francis Klier (James & Meghan)  
April 18, 2021

Lilly Ann Gross (Adam & Luisa)  
April 24, 2021

Isha June Dantzler (Myero Dantzler & Tiffannie Bledsoe ) April 25, 2021

Walter David Wyss (Joseph Wyss & Julia Mahlstadt)  
April 25, 2021

## Wednesday Faith Formation had an amazing year!

THANK YOU to our catechists and families! Their tremendous flexibility, understanding and support made this year's WFF program possible. Classes met weekly through Zoom.

As a final class, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades worked together on a service project. Prepared with tables and supplies, catechists set up stations for Wednesday Faith Formation students and parents to fill 100 Blessing Bags! Deacon David started the evening by blessing the hands of those who would fill the bags. When the task was done, he returned to send a blessing to each bag's recipient. Team Tough will distribute the bags to homeless individuals.



## Deaths

"May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace."



Joe Timmins January 19, 2021

Robert L. Casber February 25, 2021

Thelma Allison March 5, 2021

Detlef Friedrichsen March 24, 2021

James Alan Larson March 31, 2021

Elroy John Wingers April 7, 2021

Robert J. Trusty April 12, 2021

Mary Louise Weuve April 23, 2021

Charles (Ray) Carr April 28, 2021

Susan Brodie April 28, 2021

## Returning to Schedule:

### Mass Times

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 8:30 am

Sunday 10:30 am

These Masses will continue to be  
livestreamed until further notice.

Sunday 4:30 pm will not be  
livestreamed.

### Reconciliation

Saturday 8:30 - 9:30 am

By appointment



Saint Theresa Parish welcomes Beth O'Malley and Daniel Schnadt!

After a year of preparation in the RCIA process, Beth and Daniel professed the Catholic faith, received First Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. They are excited about becoming active in the faith.

We also thank their parish sponsors, Katie White and Aaron Friess, as well as the RCIA Team for their constant support.

If you are interested in the RCIA process, call Barb at 515-210-6649.



May Crowning with Intermediate.



Father Vince visits the classrooms.

St. Theresa Catholic School recently participated in a NASA Growing Beyond Earth Student Research Symposium. During the virtual symposium students from across the nation presented their research findings on the best pollination practices and how variables such as fertilizer, photoperiod and light spectrum influenced plant growth. The results of these experiments will help NASA discover ways to feed astronauts during long distance space travel. St. Theresa was the only school in Iowa to take part in the symposium. Way to go to the student research team - Elizabeth Melcher, Eleanor Niggemeyer and Max Stevens!

PreK enjoys class outside.



Congratulations to all of the students who have received sacraments this year. May God continue to be an important part of your life.

The staff and I feel incredibly blessed and appreciated! Thank you so very much for recognizing the efforts that everyone on staff has put in to make this year successful! We couldn't do it without you! We do have the BEST students, families, staff and parish!!

Father Vincent Rosonke, who is retired, has become the interim canonical administrator of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines from April 11 to July 9. Father Vince stated that he is "the bridge priest" between Fr. Ray Higgins and Fr. Raphael Assamah.

Father Vince wants to hear from people, and is open and available for ½ hour meetings with him. He is available 20 hours a week (plus 5 hours on the weekend for liturgy). His email is [frvincenard@gmail.com](mailto:frvincenard@gmail.com).

He is also interested on hearing from people about what the best things are about St. Theresa Parish so he can compile a feel for it. His favorite adage is: "If this isn't fun, you're not doing it right."



Congratulations to the St. Theresa Catholic Alumni Inducted into the Dowling Catholic High School National Honor Society

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Adowek Ajoung      | Christina Nguyen |
| Nicholas Alexander | Tobias Olsen     |
| Rosalyn Becicka    | Lauren Orazem    |
| Annamaria Dimon    | Julia Shonka     |
| Petra Knupp        | Ella Spanovic    |
| Lauren Linkletter  | Josephine Talley |
| Mary Melcher       |                  |



Memorial Day Mass Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated by Bishop William Joensen at St. Theresa Church on Memorial Day. Honor Guard with gun salute and taps to occur in the parking lot afterwards. We look forward to returning to Glendale Cemetery next year.



# Stay Connected with St. Theresa Youth Ministry....



<https://www.facebook.com/StTheresaYouthGroupDSM>



<https://instagram.com/stackymdsm/>



<https://twitter.com/stackymdsm>



<https://sainttheresaiowa.org/middle-and-high-school-youth-ministry/>

Megs Howes, Youth Minister Cell #: 515-720-4060

Email: [mhowes@stsdsm.com](mailto:mhowes@stsdsm.com)

## A Message from Megs, Youth Minister



I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all volunteers who have helped with Edge, Life Teen and Confirmation this year. I would also like to thank all the parents and students for another great year; we couldn't have done it without you. I am looking forward to next year as we dive deeper into the faith of our middle and high school students with these great programs.

**2021-2022 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders- Remember bring a friend to any of our service and social opportunities! Forms are required for offsite events. Check out the website for more details, contact Megs with questions.**

**Notice to middle school students: pre-Confirmation information!!!**

We are beginning to plan for the start of a new Confirmation class. If you are a middle school student anticipating Confirmation preparation your freshman year but have not been involved in faith formation for a few years, please contact Megan Howes. (515-279-4654, ext. 306). Since faith formation is an on-going process, you may have a year of catch-up before beginning the Confirmation process. We will need to set up an interview to determine what is needed for each individual.

### St. Theresa First Fruits Update

*"what so ever you do to the least of my breather that you do unto me." Matthew 25:40*

St. Theresa's First Fruits program is alive and well!

During this year of the pandemic and with all the illness and economic uncertainty, St. Theresa parishioners have stood tall and contributed \$10,588 (excluding SVDP, which is a stand alone entity) for the first nine months of the fiscal year. Below is a summary of donations and distributions.

Category	Donations	Distributions	to Organization
Pro-Life	2,375	2,375	St Theresa Pro-Life Committee
Emergency Shelter*	2,036	1,586	St Joseph Shelter
		450	Beacon of Life
Refugee Assistance*	720	795	St Ambrose Refugee Program
Peace & Justice*	1,625	1,000	Catholic Campaign for Human Development
		80	Center for Social Ministry
		250	STCS Social Justice Week
		500	Catholic Circle-Habitat for Humanity
Community Outreach*	3,832	650	Urbandale Comm Action Network Emergency Fund
		100	St Theresa House
		500	Connection Café
		1,500	Family Promise Shelter
		500	Team Tough
		1,000	Catholic Circle-Habitat for Humanity
		250	Beacon of Life
		500	St Theresa Togo Project
		250	St Ambrose Refugee Program

*\*Disbursements more than donations due to previous year carry-over of income.*

We are humbled and heartened by our parishioner's generosity during this difficult year. For more information on First Fruits, call or text Kathy at 515-865-1590.

**St. Theresa First Fruits**  
The portion of the harvest offered in thanksgiving to God  
The choicest of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. Ex. 23:19

Please annotate the below category/categories with the amount of your donation

Peace and Justice	\$ _____	St. Vincent de Paul	\$ _____
Refugee Assistance	\$ _____	Community Outreach	\$ _____
Pro-Life	\$ _____	Emergency Shelter	\$ _____

First Fruits donations can also be done through EFT along with your regular church tithing. Contact John McMichael at 279-4654 to learn more about EFT donations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Env # \_\_\_\_\_

The St. Vincent DePaul conference met in person on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for the first time since last summer, when we met on the patio for a couple months. We were all thankful to be able to gather as a faith community and discuss our mission moving forward. Many of our conference members have been trained in Home Visits and we are implementing this practice with most of the clients that need our assistance. This builds relationships that are more valuable than the monetary assistance that helps physical needs.



During Lent one of our members led a food drive with the intermediate and middle school students at STCS. They collected peanut butter and green beans and donated them to the food pantry at the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. location and to the food pantry at St. Theresa.

We hope to grow our conference in the next six months so please feel free to call Barb Chicoine for more information if you would like to get involved. 515-979-5172



### **Knight's Express Renewed Thanks for Tremendous Lenten Meal Support – Honor Families of the Month Building the Domestic Church**

The St. Theresa Parish – Knights of Columbus Council #5389 is once again thankful for the tremendous support from the parish community and the wider neighborhood for their support of our version of “take out” Lenten Meals during the six Fridays of Lent this year.

The Holy Spirit made this all come together on short notice! We served more people than ever, raised more money than ever and generated more donations for charity than ever!

Thanks to the generosity of all those in attendance, the Council voted to support the following projects with the freewill donations collected during these “take out” meals:

Five (5) Seminarian Scholarships of \$500 each.....	\$2,500
St. Theresa School.....	\$2,500
Food for Families (directed to Meals from the Heartland) .....	\$2,000
K of C Iraq Christian Refugee Resettlement Fund .....	\$1,250
Food Bank of Iowa.....	\$500
Memorial Day Priest/Bishop Grave Flower Fund.....	\$100

Coming on June, we are seeking permission to return to hosting a pancake breakfast after the morning Masses. Once we get the green light, we will dust off the griddles and spread the word.

On Wednesday, June 8, we will be holding a packaging event at the Meals from the Heartland warehouse (south of Valley Junction in West Des Moines). We are looking for 20 volunteers to help package 10,000 meals starting at 6 p.m. Kids as young as 8 years old can help. A great way to high school students to earn service hours, along with members of the Council. The event will last until 8 p.m. If you have never participated in one of these packaging events, you need to volunteer with Knights from your council. The sign up list is available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c44a8a92ca7fe3-kofc> or contact Brian Tingleff at [tingleffbrian@gmail.com](mailto:tingleffbrian@gmail.com) to join the volunteer list.

The Council also wants to publicly recognize the Families of the Month who have been nominated by our council and in one case been further recognized by the Iowa Knights of Columbus for their efforts in our parish and our community. Families honored so far this year include:

- January 2021..... Ellen and Denny Stemler                      State Recognition for January
- February 2021.... Jane and Jim Klemm
- March 2021..... Tory and Josh Tyrrell
- April 2021..... Linda and Mike Faber
- May 2021..... Theresa and Kevin Hogan



*I am a little brush that Jesus has chosen in order to paint  
His own image in the souls...entrusted to my care.*

*St. Therese of Lisieux*

## Adult Faith Formation MOVIES!!!

During the summer the adult study groups take a break from intense study to participate in leisure study. Because of the COVID situation, we will continue our four group times: Monday 9:30 - 11:30am, 6:30 - 8:30pm and Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30am and 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The movies will be shown in the East Meeting Room unless the group size is too large. Watch the bulletin, the Friday email, or the church website for the movie titles. Join us for educational, but fun formation! Call Barb for info. (515-210-6649)



**FORMED.org**  
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

Looking for faith formation opportunities for home? Then go to Formed.org and check in as a member of the parish. They have made it real simple!

There you will find scripture studies, lectio divina, movies for adults and children, audiobooks, daily reflections and much much more. You pick the time, the place, and the materials. They'll even pause the program so you may return days later.

Do it for yourself and/or your family! Enjoy!

## St Theresa Pro-Life News

The St. Theresa Pro-Life Committee has been busy this past year. Even with COVID restrictions, we have been able to creatively adapt normal events to keep sharing pro-life support during this difficult time.



**Pro-Life Holy Hours** – We continue to have quarterly holy hours on 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from 7-8 pm where we pray a rosary for pro-life intentions and ask for more prayer for those intentions during the quiet adoration time following. We always bring snacks to celebrate afterward too. So save the date for the ones coming up: Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 7-8 pm and Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 7-8 pm

**Spiritual Adoption Program** -- We are in our third year of the spiritual adoption program. We offer baby models and prayer cards to help you pray for an unknown baby in danger of abortion who you will spiritually adopt. Throughout the year, messages in the bulletin and e-newsletter share where your unborn baby is developmentally and how special they are at each stage of growth. At the end of nine months we host a baby shower where parishioners can donate gifts of money or baby items and those are given to two crisis pregnancy clinics, InnerVisions HealthCare and Birthright. This year because of COVID, we have to adapt the baby shower and gifts can be dropped off in the basket by the altar during the week of May.

**First Fruits Donations** -- We want to thank the wonderful people of the parish for their support through the First Fruits envelopes! During this difficult past year, many Pro-Life organizations were able to reach and support many vulnerable pregnant women. Through your generosity, we were able to support:

\$300 to Ruth Harbor, a home for pregnant women who are supported in a Christian environment.

\$500 to InnerVisions, who serves women and men with unplanned pregnancies and STDs. Their free medical clinic helps these patients make life-affirming decisions. Learn more at <https://www.ivhcare.org/> St. Theresa also did a baby bottle fundraiser that collected over **\$1,200 for InnerVisions!**

\$200 to Iowans for LIFE –an organization that is dedicated

to protecting human life by informing, educating, and inspiring society to value the sanctity of all human life from fertilization to natural death. They also reach out to young people and organize the Iowan pilgrimage to the March for Life.

\$3,300 to Prolife Across America – When funds are available, St. Theresa's purchases one or several positive, pro-life billboards. PROLIFE Across AMERICA's mission is to reach out through billboard, radio, and newspaper ads to share positive, persuasive, Pro-Life messages. Their tender and touching ads offer "hope and help to someone who may be on the brink of an abortion decision." Go to <https://prolifeacrossamerica.org/about/current-billboards/> to see these eye-catching Pro-Life billboards.

**Pro-Life Contest at St Theresa Catholic School** – During the pandemic we completed an adapted version of the annual Pro-Life Contest at STCS. We hope this year to get back to the 20+ year tradition of a full contest with students of all ages making pro-life posters, bumper stickers, and prayers. Winners in each category are given prizes and certificates and get to go to a special lunch with Mrs. Stemler, the principal, and the parish priest.

**Life Chain** -- Every October on the first Sunday, St. Theresa is one of the main hubs for the annual Life Chain. Depending on the weather, 100-200+ people participate in the quiet, peaceful prayer time. The white crosses on the hill represent those lost to abortion. Save the date for Life Chain this year on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00-3:30 pm.

**Pro-Life Blog** -- St. Theresa Pro-Life maintains a wonderful blog that comes out with information about local pro-life events and action alerts every month. <https://sainttheresaprolife.wordpress.com/> Call or text Anita at 515-216-0908 to receive an e-mail notification of each month's update.

Thank you again to St. Theresa parishioners for their generosity! You have made a difference to vulnerable pregnant women and their babies through tangible support, education, and prayer. God bless you! For more information about the St. Theresa Pro-Life Committee, e-mail Rachel at [rachel.e.egan@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.e.egan@gmail.com).