

**WINTER
2021-22**

NEWS FROM AROUND
THE MONROE VICARIATE

MONROE Vicariate

VICAR

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Monroe Knights of Columbus #1266 Coats for Kids

How the Monroe community is helping to keep kids warm this winter.

Monroe Family 2 Commissioning Mass

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Disability Awareness: Celiac Disease

Creating awareness about receiving the Eucharist when one suffers from Celiac disease.

Invitation to Participate in God Works!

The continued success of God Works! Community depends greatly on those who are called to serve the hungry.

Monroe County Right to Life

Supporters focus on becoming "pro eternal life" in their quest to ban abortions in the U.S.



REV. DR. MICHAEL A. WORONIEWICZ, MONROE VICAR

With Families of Parishes on the Horizon, What is the Future of the Vicariate?

Given the major changes in parish structures these days, there's a big question on everybody's mind: What is the future of the Vicariate?

I know that "Families of Parishes" is a work in process with many unknowns. We need to rely deeply on the providence of God and the direction of the Holy Spirit to bring it all to fruition. I'm happy to say that for the time being, we will continue to have vicariates with vicars leading them in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

As the Monroe Vicar, let me give you some of my thoughts. Over the years, we have been one of the most active vicariates in the Archdiocese of Detroit, and I think that we should continue to be. The Archdiocese has dropped the requirement for a Vicariate Pastoral Council, as well as requiring monthly clergy gatherings, in favor of forming families of parishes. I would like to thank those who have served so faithfully and generously on the Monroe Vicariate Pastoral Council over the years, and ask that you now give your energy to your parish and to your forming "family of parishes."

Here is what I see continuing:

- A vicariate newsletter, published periodically with an updated format gearing us toward mission.
- Periodic clergy gatherings for prayer and fellowship, and the annual gathering for clergy and parish staff members each Advent for lunch and a speaker.
- The Vicar being available to the clergy for support.
- Continuing the Monroe Vicariate Evangelization, Peace & Justice and Vocations committees to serve as a resource for parishes and families of parishes, if these groups wish to continue.
- An annual Vicariate Mass for Vocations.

So, as I see it, the Monroe Vicariate is here to stay and work toward Unleashing the Gospel!



Submissions for the newsletter should be emailed to Crysti Esper at communications@monroevicariate.com. For more information, please visit our Facebook page @MonroeVicariate for current information.

The Monroe Vicariate newsletter is now a quarterly publication. The deadline is the Monday prior to publication date.

**Publication dates for 2021-22 are on
Friday: Dec 3, Mar. 4, June 3, & Sept. 2**

Contributing writers & photographers are members of our Monroe Vicariate parishes.

OUTREACH



PHOTO BY CRYSTLESPER

Knights pictured (l-r): Grand Knight Julian Rios, Sam Liparoto, Fred Fedorowicz, Dr. Jeff Couturier, Joe Vitale, Jim Christensen, Deacon Tracy Esper, Doug Kuras, Bob Morley, Louis Poupard, Gene Staelgraeve, and Dick Lajiness

Monroe K of C Council # 1266

KNIGHTS IN ACTION COATS FOR KIDS

By Jay Jondro

The Knights gave away more than 250 winter coats to Monroe County children on Saturday, November 20, 2021. Various fundraising efforts from community members and the K of C have made Coats for Kids a possibility since 2015. All money raised for Coats for Kids stays in Monroe County, and 100% of the money raised goes to purchase new coats. The Knights of Columbus is the worlds largest Catholic Fraternal Service Organization, Charity is their foremost principle.

To learn more visit www.kofcmonroe1266.com

GOD WORKS! FAMILY SOUP KITCHEN

Will you consider sharing your time and talent a few time during 2022?

By Lorie Bronson & Fred Fedorowicz

Monroe County churches have provided daily meals to the homeless and working poor through the God Works! Family Soup Kitchen for nearly 15 years. It is only through the generosity of many dedicated workers and donors that this Corporal Work of Mercy (Feeding the Hungry) continues its outreach mission. This effort has been successful because people like you come together as disciples of Jesus Christ to extend His mercy to those who are hungry.

The St. Mary Parish Life Center kitchen is used every Friday for preparing and serving a nutritious meal to those who come to our door seeking a well-rounded meal.

Whether you can help twice a year or 12 times a year all are welcome!

For more information, please contact Fred Fedorowicz: 734-755-4705 or fedorowicz@sbcglobal.net

Where do your gifts and talents fit with these various levels of opportunity? With whom could you partner in this effort?

- **Point People** – Those who plan the meal, obtain supplies and ingredients, manage the assigned team.
- **Team Leader** – one who invites friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors, parishioners, etc. to partner in working a God Works! meal 3-4 times each year.
- **Team Member** – people working with other generous people to prepare, serve and clean up a meal 3-4 times during the year.
- **Fruit Dessert Provider** – those who supply fresh fruit 6-7 times during the year. Fruit donations are brought to the Parish Office during office hours on Friday or to the Parish Life Center Friday afternoon (4pm-5:30pm)

AWARENESS

DISABILITY AWARENESS: CELIAC DISEASE

By Valerie Evans Tyldesley, Ph.D

In the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB, 2016) statement on "Celiac Disease, Alcohol Intolerance, and the Church's Pastoral Response," celiac disease is described as an immune system reaction to eating gluten, which is a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye. The intake of gluten triggers an immune response in the small intestine that can cause long-term intestinal damage, which can result in stomach pain, diarrhea, and weight loss as well as serious complications. The USCCB maintains that "any baptized person not prohibited by law can and must

be admitted to Holy Communion (can. 912);" therefore, it is important for every effort to be made to "accommodate and normalize the experience of Communion for the faithful, including those suffering from celiac disease."

According to the USCCB (2016), the most recent Church teaching on the use of low-gluten hosts at Mass is a letter from then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (2003) that was addressed to the Presidents of Conferences of Bishops. The letter reminds "pastors and the faithful that bread, which is valid matter for the Eucharist must be made solely of wheat, contain enough gluten to

have an effect on the confection of bread, be free of foreign materials, and unaffected by any preparation or baking methods which would alter its nature." The letter also stated that "the amount of gluten necessary for validity in such bread is not determined by minimum percentage or weight, though hosts which have no gluten are considered to be invalid matter for Mass." As a best practice, the USCCB (2016) recommends that individuals with gluten intolerance arrange for the purchase of low-gluten hosts through the parish.



BE 'PRO ETERNAL LIFE'

By Dean Cousino

Supporters of the pro-life movement need not only to stand up for life at all stages, but focus on becoming more loving and “pro eternal life” in their relationship with God and quest to ban abortions in the United States.

That was a key message from Leonardo Defilippis, an actor, producer and film director

who gave the main address at the annual Monroe County Right to Life benefit supper held at LaRoy’s Hall here Thursday night.

Defilippis urged his audience to remember that their bodies are not just flesh and blood, but have a divine spirit that lives within.

“Being pro eternal life is something we don’t

hear or think about,” Defilippis, 69, said. “We think we’re here for a (limited) time and our bodies may die, but we live on in Heaven or Hell. We have the intellect and ability to know God and how important that relationship is in our battle to change the culture from death to life and be an instrument of grace and mercy.”

He showed clips from one of his upcoming films about Divine Mercy and Sister Faustina and her spiritual battles with Satan and her praying for a woman who was mentally torn by an abortion.

“The beauty of healing and forgiveness... is a great work to uphold to those who are falling,” he said. The state’s website is www.rtl.org.

JOB POSITIONS OPEN

Director of Faith Formation is a part-time working with families while supporting them in their faith journey. Job duties are organizing a program and volunteers; Holding sacramental preparation meetings; working with the high school youth minister and youth ministry team. Paperwork and clerical work required. Interested individuals, please submit your cover letter and resume to St. Gabriel Parish 576 Main Street Dundee, Michigan 48131 by December 15, 2021.

Director of Maintenance is generally on call for unexpected situations and emergencies. A general knowledge of how to repair things, order/purchase maintenance supplies, take care of routine maintenance, supervise/work with outsourced repair people and coordinate repairs. Interested individuals should either submit your letter of interest to St. Gabriel Parish 576 Main Street Dundee, Michigan 48131 or call 734-529-2160 and speak with the pastor by December 15, 2021.

ST. MARY, ST. MICHAEL, ST. JOHN, ST. CHARLES, & ST. ANNE Form the First Family of Parishes in the Vicariate

By Kathrine Tibai

On Sunday, October 31, 2021, faithful gathered at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception parish in downtown Monroe to witness and celebrate the installation of the three pastors for the newly formed Monroe Vicariate Family 2.

Fr. David Burgard is the moderator and ‘first among equals,’ Fr. Hendrico Rebello SAC, and Fr. Kishore Battu SAC joined together and made a commitment to faithfully form and serve the newly formed family, and to be the best shepherds possible to the people of the five parishes: St. Anne, St. Charles Borromeo, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, and St. Michael the Archangel.

President, Bishop Gerard Battersby addressed the

purpose of Family of Parishes: “[It] is but a vehicle by which we anoint the truth of our identity... so that we might be on mission. So that we won’t keep the knowledge that we are loved to ourselves.” That is the universal call of the Church.

Bishop Battersby invited the three pastors, as well as Fr. Giancarlo Ghezzi PIME and Dcn. Mike Stewart before the congregation to solemnly install them in their new roles.

Members from the five parishes participated in the Mass by taking different roles such as lector, EMHC, presenting the offertory, altar serving, and representatives stood in support of the pastors when Bishop Battersby called upon them.

Family of parishes is new, and it will take adjustment and



Clergy for Monroe Family of Parishes 2 (l-r): Fr. Giancarlo Ghezzi, Fr. Henry Rebello, Fr. David Burgard (Moderator of the Family), Bishop Gerard Battersby, Fr. Kishore Battu, and Deacon Mike Stewart.

allowances before it is able to reach its full potential. It requires collaboration, teamwork, patience, and, as the bishop so heavily emphasized, love. The Monroe Vicariate Family 2 is just beginning their journey, along with many other new families throughout the archdiocese. Monroe Vicariate Family I and Family 3 will begin in July 2022.



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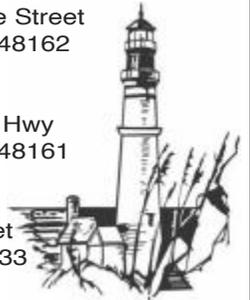
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