April, 2021 Vol. 1 | No. 4

1 April 2021, 9:00 AM

HAPPY EASTER

Didn’t you hope we’d sing Alleluia this Easter, inspired by the end of the pandemic? I did, but that hope was left bruised and bloodied, like the Huskers facing the Hawkeyes.

The pandemic has perhaps left us feeling like Jesus’ first followers after Good Friday - still fraught with fear and sunk in sadness.

Those first followers of Jesus didn’t understand that the Messiah had to suffer and die, or that he would rise from the dead; I mean, who would, who could understand that?

Eventually, they learned the important lessons of Jesus’ empty tomb, his burial cloths left behind, his entering through locked doors - suffering is not futile, death is not final.

That Easter message can help us with the pandemic. We may be horrified to hear that suffering isn’t futile, that it plays an important role in enriching our human experience.

How do we know sweet without tasting sorrow? Suffering cultivates growth in humility, empathy, kindness, and compassion. It can make us bitter or better, but we decide.

And if we believe that death isn’t final, then neither is death-dealing coronavirus; it will end, and post-pandemic life will be different, and even better, like Heaven.

We believe Heaven is living in perfect union with God. We enjoy an imperfect union now, but in Heaven it’ll be complete, like rain and ocean, breath and air.

Then we will experience the quieting our desiring, when all the good things we hanker after are satisfied all at once, completely, and forever.

That’s because the good things we desire have their origin and fulness in God; if you crave a Hostess Ho-Ho, it’s really God you desire, who is the essence of Ho-Ho-ness.

From that quieting of desiring flows eternal peace or rest (grant unto us, O Lord), which in its turn bears the fruit of a sublime bliss that is too much for words.

So, in preparation for the happy day of Heaven, and even to hasten it’s coming, say your prayers, worship at Sunday Mass, witness to the Gospel, and share with the poor.

And in preparation for the happy end of the pandemic, and even to hasten it, wash your hands, wear a mask, practice social distancing, and get vaccinated, please.

The resurrection of Jesus, the promise of eternal life, and the end of the pandemic inspires us to sing Alleluia because suffering isn’t futile, and death isn’t final.

Happy Easter!

Archbishop Michael Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque

8 April 2021, 9:00AM

2021 JUBILARIANS: WE THANK GOD FOR THEM, THEIR LIVES AND THEIR PRIESTLY MINISTRY

25 years – Father Donald Komboh and Father Dennis Quint

40 years – Archbishop Michael Jackels, Monsignor Thomas Toale, and Father Phillip Kruse

45 years – Monsignor James Miller, Father Mark Ressler, and Father Dwayne Thoman

50 years – Father John Gossman and Father Herbert Pins

55 years – Archbishop Jerome Hanus, OSB, Monsignor Lyle Wilgenbusch, Father Richard Ament, Father Donald Bakewell, Father Robert Beck, Father Dennis Colter, Father Ronald Friedell, Father Donald Klein, Father Mark Nemmers, and Father Paul Otting

60 years – Monsignor Russell Bleich, Monsignor Karl Glovich, Monsignor Carl Schmitt

65 years – Monsignor James Barta, Monsignor Walter Brunken, Father John Herzog, and Father Phillip Schmitt

70 years – Monsignor Edward Lechtenberg and Father Eugene Kutsch
**OFFICIAL MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS**

Effective 13 July 2021 (unless otherwise indicated)

**Retirement**

Father John Gossman will retire from active ministry, having reached the retirement age some years ago, after serving as Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Clear Lake, and Sacred Heart Parish in Rockwell.

Father Stephen Meyer will retire from active ministry, having reached the retirement age, after serving as Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Webster City, and St. Mary Parish in Williams, and co-Dean of the Mason City Deanery.

Father Michael Hutchison for further study, after serving as Associate Pastor of the Cathedral of Worship, after serving as Director of the archdiocesan Office of ministry as Director of the First-Five-Year Priest Program, in addition to his present duties, taking over from Father Dustin Vu, who has asked to be relieved.

Due to the departure of Father Michael Hutchison, Father Benjamin Nkrumah, a priest of the Archdiocese of Kumasi in Ghana, will be re-assigned as Pastor of St. Athanasius Parish in Jesup and St. Francis Parish in Barclay, after serving as Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Gilbert, and sacramental priest at St. Cecilia Parish in Ames and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Ames.

Due to the departure of Father Pierre Joseph, Father Dennis Conway will be re-assigned as Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Cedar Rapids and St. Wenceslaus Parish in Cedar Rapids, effective 29 March 2021, after serving as Pastor of St. Michael Parish in Belle Plaine, St. Joseph Parish in Chelsea, and St. Patrick Parish in Tama.

Due to the departure of Father Pierre Joseph, Father Dennis Conway will be re-assigned as Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Cedar Rapids and St. Wenceslaus Parish in Cedar Rapids, effective 29 March 2021, after serving as Pastor of St. Michael Parish in Belle Plaine, St. Joseph Parish in Chelsea, and St. Patrick Parish in Tama.

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Father Michael McAndrew will be re-assigned as Pastor of St. Michael Parish in Belle Plaine, St. Joseph Parish in Chelsea, and St. Patrick Parish in Tama, after serving as Associate Pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Marshalltown.

Pastoral care of Sacred Heart Parish in Oxford Junction will once again be the responsibility of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and Father Greg Bahl will be reassigned as Pastor, as well as Chaplain of Mt. Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, and continuing his ministry as Director of the archdiocesan Office of Worship, after serving as Associate Pastor of the Cathedral of St. Raphael Parish in Dubuque, and St. Patrick Parish in Dubuque.

**Renewal of term**

Father Robert Gross will have his tenure extended for a second six-year term as Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Calmar, Our Lady of Seven Dolors Parish in Festina, St. Francis de Sales Parish in Ossian, and St. Wenceslaus Parish in Spillville.

Father John Haugen will have his tenure extended for a second six-year term as Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Colesburg, St. Mark Parish in Edgewood, St. Joseph Parish in Elkader, St. Mary Parish in Strawberry Point, and Sacred Heart Parish in Volga.

**Special Assignment**

Father Frantz Augustin, a priest of the Diocese of Forte-Liberte in Haiti, will be assigned as sacramental priest of St. Mary Parish in Ackley, St. Mary Parish in Eldora, St. Patrick Parish in Hampton, and St. Mark Parish in Iowa Falls, while pursuing further studies.

Father Alan Dietzenbach will be assigned as the Director of the First-Five-Year Priest Program, in addition to his present duties, taking over from Father Dustin Vu, who has asked to be relieved.

Father Jeffrey Dole will be re-assigned to do further study, after serving as Pastor of St. Athanasius Parish in Jesup and St. Francis Parish in Barclay.