Diocesan appointments

Bishop Hurley announces several pastoral and diocesan appointments which will take effect over the next two months, including:

Rev. Michael F. Cilibraise is appointed administrator of St. Jerome Parish, Scottville and St. Mary Parish, Custer, effective July 1.

Rev. Charles D. Hall currently pastor of St. Michael Parish, Remus, is appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Holland, effective Aug. 1.

Rev. James B. Wyse is appointed canonical pastor of St. Michael Parish, Remus, effective July 1. This appointment is in addition to his role as pastor of Christ the King Parish, Howard City and St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lakeview.

Rev. Stephen S. Dudek is appointed diocesan director for The Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Missions Office effective immediately. This appointment is in addition to his role as pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Wyoming. Father Dudek replaces Rev. George J. Fekete.

Very Rev. Mark-David Janus, CSP, PhD is appointed diocesan ecumenical officer effective immediately. This appointment is in addition to his role as rector of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew Parish. Father Janus replaces Rev. Charles R. Dautremont.

Rev. Godfrey C. Onyekwere is appointed bishop's delegate for the Office of Black Catholic Ministry, effective immediately. This appointment is in addition to his role as pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Kentwood. Father Onyekwere replaces Robert Ellis.

Rev. Chris W. Rouech is appointed interim director of the Office for Worship, effective July 1. This appointment is in addition to his role as pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Grandville. Father Rouech will replace Dr. Patricia Hughes.

Love does not seek its own interest

>> Msgr. Gaspar F. Ancona is a senior priest of the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids.

last word

There are two notable times in his earthly life when Jesus is described as being tempted to seek his own interest. The first was in the wilderness, where the Spirit of God had led him before his public ministry. The last was in the garden of Gethsemane on the night before his trial and execution. In both instances, Jesus firmly and decisively put aside whatever human inclinations he may have had to seek his own satisfaction and fulfillment. Against his own feelings – whether of hunger or fear of humiliation, suffering, and death – he aligned his will with the will of his heavenly Father. When he gave his assent to his Father, he gave it fully and with love, in defiance of his own extreme anguish.

What was the will of his Father that exerted so powerful an influence on Jesus, even over his own legitimate desires and urgencies? As revealed in the Gospels, the Father's will is the determination to lift up human beings into divine life and love. This was also the supreme interest of Jesus, above and beyond all the ordinary human interests of self-preservation, human approval, and any of life's comforts and satisfactions. In serving and honoring his Father, he put himself at the service of all God's children. This brought Jesus to relieve those in pain, heal those who were in the grip of spiritual or physical illness, and give hope to the despairing.

This is why Jesus is called "the man for others." It is more than an honorary description and more than a sentimental tribute. It reveals such a generosity of spirit and such enormous self-discipline, that he could and did put aside serving his own interests. He put all his energy and devotedness to the service of God and of God's children.

In a world where seeking our own advantage and calculating our own interests are thought to be necessary survival and success skills, Jesus' way of love deserves the hymn St. Paul composed. Living that way proves to be, after all, in our own best interests.