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# The Catholic TIMES

Serving the Catholic Community of the Diocese of La Crosse

## Diocesan school systems to participate in voucher program

LA CROSSE – All seven school systems affiliated with the Diocese of La Crosse were among the 25 schools that will participate in the Wisconsin Parent Choice Program for the 2013-14 school year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction announced Aug. 15.

Applications were received for 2,415 students to attend 48 schools or school systems that had indicated their intent to participate in the state-wide voucher program. The 25 schools or systems with the most eligible applications will participate in the program this year.

Regis Catholic Schools, Eau Claire, had the second most applications with 120. Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School System, Appleton, had the most with 193.

Other systems within the Diocese of La Crosse that will participate in the program this school year include McDonell Area Catholic Schools, Chippewa Falls (88 applications); Aquinas Catholic Schools, La Crosse (100), Columbus Catholic Schools, Marshfield (83), Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools (106), Newman Catholic Schools, Wausau (94) and Assumption Catholic Schools, Wisconsin Rapids (109).

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program is limited to 500 students for the 2013-14 school year. Each of the 25 participating schools will have 10 applicants randomly selected to participate in the program. The other 250 spots will be selected randomly from the remaining pool of applicants statewide.

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## Finding Christ through the fog



Pilgrims for the Diocese of La Crosse attending World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, July 22-28, visit the fog-enshrouded Christ the Redeemer Statue – standing almost 100 feet tall at the top of Mt. Corcovado overlooking Guanabara Bay and Copacabana Beach, where the closing Mass with Pope Francis took place on July 28. Those pictured include (from left) Jennifer Schmitz, Charlotte Urban and Dorothy Flees, all members of St. John the Baptist Parish, Marshfield; Abigail Schreiner of St. Anthony de Padua Parish, Athens; and Katrina Weber from Christ the King Parish, Spencer. For more on World Youth Day, see page 3.

CT/contributed photo



OFFICIAL

The Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, D.D., Bishop of La Crosse, wishes to make the following announcements:

The Reverend **John Robert Alphonse**, Parochial Administrator of Saint Joseph Parish at Stratford and Saint Andrew Parish at Rozellville, is appointed Pastor, with continued residence at Saint Joseph Parish rectory in Stratford, effective August 22, 2013.

The Reverend **Michael E. Klos**, Pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish at St. Mary's Ridge, Sacred Heart Parish at Cashton and Saint Augustine of Hippo Parish at Norwalk, is to assume the ministry to those who desire to celebrate the Mass and the Sacraments in the Extraordinary Form at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church at St. Mary's Ridge, effective October 1, 2013.

The Diocese of La Crosse extends the blessings of Almighty God along with our sincere gratitude to The Institute of Christ the King-Sovereign Priest. The Institute will be discontinuing its ministry at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, St. Mary's Ridge, effective October 1, 2013.

## Madagascar archbishop confirms no contraceptives in CRS programs

By DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A Madagascar archbishop confirmed in talks with leading U.S. Church leaders that Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is not providing or facilitating access to contraceptives and abortifacients in its health care programs in his archdiocese.

The Population Research Institute (PRI) had alleged in a series of reports in July that some CRS workers were engaged in family planning programs and the widespread distribution of contraceptives and abortifacients in the island nation off the southeast coast of Africa.

But Archbishop Desire Tsarahazana of Toamasina, president of the bishops' conference of Madagascar, expressed "strong support" for CRS and told U.S. Church leaders that although "there had been some confusion in his archdiocese that was quickly resolved" in the past, CRS is "acting in accord with Catholic teaching and does not provide or facilitate access to contraception or abortion," according to a news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The archbishop spoke by phone Aug. 2 with Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., chairman of the board of directors of CRS.

Archbishop Tsarahazana said he would "confer with the other members of his episcopal conference to confirm that no such immoral activity is taking place in their dioceses," the USCCB release said.

Carolyn Woo, CRS president and CEO, told Catholic News Service in an Aug. 3 email that some reports about the controversy had confused the family planning work of community health workers in Madagascar with that of CRS workers. The community health workers, who are part of the country's public health system, had been trained by CRS on children's health and malaria prevention but are not CRS employees, she said.

John Rivera, CRS director of communications, called the PRI allegations "simply false" in a July 30 statement on the agency's website.

"As a pro-life organization, CRS programming does not include the promotion or

distribution of artificial family planning or distribution of abortifacients in any country in which we work," the statement said.

In its reports, PRI, which describes itself on its website as a "pro-life, anti-population control organization," had quoted Archbishop Tsarahazana and Archbishop Odon Razanakolona of Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, along with several priests, as expressing concerns about the nature of CRS' work in Madagascar.

The clergymen charged that CRS was working in some dioceses without the knowledge of local church officials, that the majority of CRS staff were not Catholic and perhaps did

See MADAGASCAR on Page 15

### Relevant Radio® Chuck Neff Book Signing

Sept. 20, 2013 - 3:30-5:30 pm

By The Cross

Stevens Point, WI

Sept. 22, 2013 - 2:00-3:30 pm

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

La Crosse, WI

Download the Relevant Radio App - [www.relevantradio.com](http://www.relevantradio.com), keyword: "app"

### Part-Time Job Opening for St. Peter Parish ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Knowledge of office procedures and secretarial duties using Word and Publisher. Knowledge of accounting software programs such as Excel, and QuickBooks required. This position has an emphasis in accounting and payroll duties.

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### St. Wenceslaus Parish of Eastman Picnic & Homecoming Sunday September 1, 2013

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Cost: Adults: \$7.50  
Kids(6-12): \$3.50  
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Adult  
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\$8.00

Games,  
Bingo &  
Raffles

Come One & All!!!

## Former Viterbo president Bill Medland dies

LA CROSSE – Former Viterbo University president Bill Medland passed away Saturday, Aug. 17. Dr. Medland served for 15 years as president and subsequently, for several years as Viterbo's first and only chancellor. Medland was the longest serving president in the history of Viterbo, holding the post from 1991-2006. His list of accomplishments is both long and distinguished.

During his tenure, Viterbo underwent 13 years of record enrollment growth, major campus construction projects including the Amie L. Mathy Center for Recreation and Education, the D.B. and Marge Reinhart Center for Ethics, Science, and Technology, and the Outdoor Athletics Complex, and an increase in endowment from \$2.7 million to \$21 million.

"Hopefully people will see me as a person of integrity who tried to do his best



Bill Medland

under a variety of changing circumstances," Medland said in an interview for the February 2006 issue of Viterbo's *Strides* magazine. "That is far more important than any building, endowment, program, or materialistic achievement.

"It's not about money, titles, or anything like that... it's 'Have I lived a meaningful life?' If you can say yes to that question then I believe you have achieved all that really matters."

### PUZZLE ANSWERS

See puzzle on page 18

C	A	L	L	S	H	O	E	S	Q	U	A	W	
L	A	I	D	T	A	B	S	S	U	E	D	E	
A	R	C	S	E	N	E	S	S	E	L	E	S	
R	O	I	L	A	D	Y	B	E	S	T			
E	N	T	A	I	L	S	F	R	E	E			
			I	F	S	P	I	E	R	C	I	N	G
B	R	I	D	E	S	E	N	S	E	N	O	A	
M	A	N	A	C	O	A	C	H	L	O	A	M	
O	N	A	M	A	R	C	H	B	A	T	H	E	
C	I	N	C	T	U	R	E	D	E	M			
			U	G	L	Y	H	E	L	P	I	N	G
D	O	O	R	M	E	A	L	M	I	A			
E	S	B	A	T	L	O	A	D	O	A	H	U	
E	L	I	T	E	E	A	R	L	A	G	I	N	
M	O	T	E	L	A	T	T	I	F	E	L	T	

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# Young people from the diocese travel to World Youth Day 2013

By JOSEPH O'BRIEN  
Staff Writer

**MARSHFIELD** – The young people of the Diocese of La Crosse were well represented at the 14th World Youth Day (WYD) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 23-28.

Two groups from the diocese attended WYD 2013 – one headed by Dan Kitzhaber, Youth and Young Adult Ministry director at St. John Parish, Marshfield, and another led by Father Don Meuret, then-pastor of St. Bernard-St. Hedwig Parish, Thorp (he is now pastor of St. Mary Parish, Eau Claire).

Both diocesan groups traveled to the Catholic confab of youth and faith that drew about 3 million people to the closing Mass with Pope Francis on July 28 on Copacabana Beach. The Mass was judged to be one of the largest religious gatherings in world history.

Aside from taking part in the regular catechetical and liturgical features of the event, diocesan participants also had an opportunity to witness to and embrace the faith off the “beaten path.”

Kitzhaber’s group also traveled to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, Mexico, and put their experiences at World Youth Day to work for the orphans of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II, the diocesan-sponsored orphanage in Lurin, Peru.

Father Meuret’s group also had plenty of “unscripted moments” during their pilgrimage which allowed them to see firsthand the importance and power of their faith in action.

### Three in one

Kitzhaber said this year’s three-way pilgrimage followed the strategy he took in attending World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain – which included pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, France; the Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal; and Santiago Compostela, the shrine to the Apostle St. James the Greater, Spain.

“My disposition is always to look at maximizing a pilgrimage, and similarly when we went to Madrid we looked at what the cost if we just go to Madrid and back and began adding on other things as part of the cost,” he said.

Kitzhaber said that his group



Pilgrims from the Diocese of La Crosse – dressed in orange t-shirts – participate in the closing Papal Mass on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, joined by 3 million other faithful from around the world. Dressed in black in the center of the picture, Dan Kitzhaber, the group’s leader and a veteran of six WYDs, said that the trip to Rio was one of the most beautiful he’s ever experienced.

CT/Dorothy Flees

of 17 youth and 11 adults included Father Jesse Burish, associate pastor at St. John the Baptist Church, Marshfield; diocesan seminarian Brandon Guenther and Father Michael Becker, rector of St. John Vianney Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.; and two Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of St. Cecilia, Nashville, Tenn., Sisters Kateri Rose Masters and Peter Marie Chrismer.

“When we were in Rio, their presence was invaluable – it was like having rock stars with us in Rio,” Kitzhaber said. “We would be walking along and we’d have to always be waiting for the sisters because they’re attracting a crowd wherever they go. The habits and young vibrant sisters drew people to them.”

### Welcomed as strangers

Kitzhaber said the pilgrimage began and ended with being welcomed as strangers and guests in another’s house. In Mexico City, the group was hosted by relatives of one of the pilgrims, Jacinta Jaramillo of Holy Cross Parish, Cornell.

In Peru, the orphans of Casa Hogar opened their doors to the pilgrims.

“In the progression of our pilgrimage, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe what seemed to leave the largest impression on the lives of the young people was the incredible miracle that occurred



Pilgrims pack Copacabana beach for the World Youth Day closing Mass in Rio de Janeiro July 28. In attendance was an estimated 3 million people – one of the largest crowds in the history of World Youth Day.

CNS/Stefano Rellandini, Reuters

there,” he said, referring to Our Lady’s appearance to Mexican native St. Juan Diego in 1531 and the subsequent mass conversions to the Catholic faith that resulted. “Seeing the tilma of St. Juan Diego allowed the pilgrims to see how vibrant the miracle still is.”

Aside from seeing the work begun at Casa Hogar by Servant of God Father Joseph Walijewski, the priest who founded Casa Hogar and whose cause for sainthood is under investigation, Kitzhaber said, the pilgrims also worked with the orphans and at a soup

kitchen in neighboring Via El Salvador. Father Walijewski began his missionary work in Peru in this city, Kitzhaber pointed out.

“The one day we went there, we went to two soup kitchens, but the one we served at and encountered a lot of children,” he said. “That was a special opportunity – and the pilgrims were excited. ... I kept telling kids to get out of your box – and most of them did.”

A veteran of six WYD pilgrimages, Kitzhaber said Copacabana’s famous crescent beach was “the most beauti-

ful of any place I’d ever been” with a view of the almost 100-foot tall statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking Sugar Loaf Mountain and Guanabara Bay.

“The beach has a natural curve to it,” he said, noting that because of floods, the venue for the closing Mass was changed to Copacabana Beach. “So you get this perspective of the crowd and see the stage where Pope Francis would celebrate Mass.”

### Unscripted moments

After his experiences at WYD 2011 in Madrid, Father Meuret knew he’d be attending WYD in Rio de Janeiro. Among the places Father Meuret’s group visited was Christ the Redeemer Shrine on the granite-peaked Corcovado which features the famous towering statue of Jesus.

Their hotel was close to Copacabana Beach, Father Meuret said, giving his group

easy access to many of the events and gatherings. With 22 youth and 12 adults from Our Lady of Peace Parish, Marshfield and St. Bernard-St. Hedwig Parish, Thorp; the priest said the group did a good deal of walking because the Rio de Janeiro subway system was closed during World Youth Day. But the lack of mass transit, Father Meuret added, gave the young people a ground-level view of Brazil’s poverty.

# WYD hits the beach in Rio

Continued from Page 3

“On their walk, the kids came upon a family that was living on the street back in the corner of a building,” he said. “The kids stopped and asked what the family was doing there – and I told them they lived there. So the kids opened their bags and collected every bit of food and all their extra water bottles and everything they had and took it over to them. It was one of those times when you could tell it hit them that they had not seen that type of poverty before. I was proud of the way they responded – and they were in tears as they were collecting things to give to the family.”

The outreach among pilgrims was not restricted to the Thorp group, Father Meuret said, explaining that when one of the Thorp pilgrims heard news of a sudden death in the family, word spread fast among WYD pilgrims.

“We ran into a group from Spain,” he said, noting that when the Spanish pilgrims found out Father Meuret’s pilgrims were from Wisconsin, “they said, ‘Oh, were you the ones that had the tragedy happen? ... We heard about that and we’ve been having Mass said for your group.’ We ran into a group from Canada and from Brazil and they said the same thing – the word had just spread and there were people all over the place praying for this family.”

After Mass on July 29, Father Meuret said, the group donated to the parish, where the Mass was celebrated, their sleeping bags, blankets and leftover



A video still capture of Pope Francis taken by Zechariah Kitzhaber, one of the pilgrims attending World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The video of the pontiff was taken prior to the July 27 Stations of the Cross which the pope led pilgrims on as part of the activities of the week-long celebration of youth and faith.

CT/Zechariah Kitzhaber

food parcels and other items.

“We had asked the pastor if the parish would be able to use our donations,” he said. “The priest was just thrilled. So they had four big boxes that the kids filled with all their possessions that the parish would be able to use.”

### Vocational travel

Guenther, a third-year seminarian at St. John Vianney Seminary, St. Paul, and member of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Independence, said the pilgrimage provided an opportunity for further discernment to his vocation.

“We had Mass every day and an opportunity to spend time

with the Holy Eucharist,” he said.

In one of the more memorable moments on the pilgrimage, Guenther said that he and his fellow pilgrims had finished a meal at a downtown restaurant when “all of a sudden, ... the waiter shouts, ‘Papa aqui!’ (‘The pope is here!’). Everyone in the restaurant takes off and there the pope was, 20 feet away from us, driving along his route, which took him past the restaurant. Everyone was shouting and screaming, ‘Viva papa!’ (‘Long live the pope!’). It was beautiful to see everyone rally around the central figure of the Church.”

The warm welcome the

group received from the Brazilian people, Guenther said, was best captured by the rosary recital which his group and a Brazilian group shared on a bus ride.

“A Brazilian group attending WYD asked if we would pray the rosary with them,” he said. “We agreed to do the first half in English and they would do the second half in Portuguese. That too was beautiful – sharing the rosary that way.”

### Pilgrim impressions

Tori Schlagenhaft, a member of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Marshfield; and a freshman at Carroll College, Waukesha, Wis., made her pilgrimage to

Brazil as a follow up to her visit to WYD 2011. In many ways, she said, it overshadowed her first.

“There were 3 million people on the beach and we were all there for the same reason – celebrating the same faith,” she said. “It’s heartwarming because you don’t always get a chance to see that many people celebrating the Catholic faith.”

With the experience of WYD 2011 under her belt, Schlagenhaft said that she jumped into WYD 2013 feet first.

“This time I felt more at home compared to the first time,” she said. “The first time I was worried I would be judged, but this time I plunged in – and got an amazing sense of the faith out of it.”

Abby Schreiner, a member of St. Anthony Parish, Athens, was a first-time WYD pilgrim with Kitzhaber’s group. A senior at Athens High School, Schreiner said the three catechetical sessions she attended were particularly fruitful.

“During the sessions, we would find people from other countries and sit with them,” she said. “We would talk and pray with them and for them. I loved connecting with people from all these different countries – Pakistan, Qatar, Brazil, Argentina, Australia and different countries in Africa.”

Language barriers were a minor problem, Schreiner said, “and though it was difficult, we could still communicate about our faith and how we’re excited to go back home and be mis-

## La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

*Sharing our Hands in Service, Sharing our Hearts in Spirituality,  
Sharing our Minds in Leadership*

**Saturday, Sept. 14, 2013**

Hosted by: the Arcadia Deanery Council of Catholic Women and  
SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Independence, WI



**Workshop is free please mail reservation (includes free lunch) by September 3**

8:30-9:30 Holy Mass, concelebrants Fr. Eugene Wolf and Fr. Woodrow Pace

9:30-10:15 Registration, coffee, light breakfast/snack-browse displays- Deanery displays of activities they are engaged in.

10:30-11:30 Tom Thibodeau-“The Positive Power of Servant Leadership”

11:45-12:45 Lunch-Sharing of food, relationships & works, browse displays

1:00-1:45 Sr. Rosemary Rombalski-“Living Holy and Whole (Body, Mind, Spirit)”

2:00-2:45 Mr. Jeff Arrowood, “Do Not Be Afraid”. Sharing Expertise/Experience and Evolutions of Technology

2:45-Closing Prayer, Evaluations & safe trip home

**Service Project:** We ask that you bring eyeglass case/cases made out of pot holders for the Missions in Casa Hogar, Peru. This will be in conjunction with the Diocese of La Crosse Missions that provide eyeglasses and fit them for the people of Peru.

Call Judy Conner, LDCCW President at 715-743-4771 • email: [countyourblessings.conner@gmail.com](mailto:countyourblessings.conner@gmail.com)  
OR Call Natalie Goeden at 715-355-4528 • email: [nate4goe@gmail.com](mailto:nate4goe@gmail.com) • [www.ldccw.org](http://www.ldccw.org)