



# The *Victory Voice*

Issue 2 • Summer • 2021

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## A note from Fr. Jake

I want to introduce a couple of new faces to our church community. Mark Mirr is our new church custodian and maintenance coordinator. He will generally be working Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 2:30PM, so please stop into the church during the week to welcome him to the parish.



Mark Mirr - Custodian

Fr. Scott Foley's last weekend here at OLV was June 19 and 20. Please pray for him as he transitions to being the Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Grinnell, IA. Our community also welcomed Fr. Andrew Rauenbuehler on the weekend of June 26 and June 27. He provided the following biographical information for our community:

I am looking forward to working with Fr. Jake, the staff, and all of you, the parishioners, of OLV!

I am 30 years old and was just ordained a priest by Bishop Zinkula in June of 2021 after completing my seminary studies in St. Paul, MN. But a lot happened before that, so allow me to tell you a little bit about myself.

I was born and raised in nearby Muscatine. I am the second oldest of my parents', Mark and Sharon, five children. Three of my siblings are married and have moved back to Muscatine following college to begin their careers and start their families. My youngest sister will be a junior at the University of Iowa. I have 4 nephews and a niece.

Following my graduation from Muscatine High School I spent almost two years overseas with a missionary community, both discerning the idea of priesthood and getting my hands dirty at a couple mission stations. The idea of priesthood is one that was

present even from an early age while altar serving and attending Sunday Mass at St. Mathias in Muscatine. However, discerning a lifelong vocation is a process and one that had a few twists and turns in my own life. In 2011 I decided to return to the U.S. and after studying at Conception Seminary College for one year decided to step away from formation for the priesthood. During the 4 years that followed I enrolled in college and worked fulltime at CBI Bank and Trust. Ultimately, I completed studies and certification to be an EMT which brought me here to Davenport where I worked at Medic from 2013-2015. I enjoyed working and serving in Davenport, but in 2015 the idea of priesthood came back and I started to take it more frequently to prayer. Ultimately, this led me to apply to be a seminarian for the Diocese of Davenport and enrolling in The St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, MN on the campus of The University of St. Thomas where I completed an M.Div. degree this Spring.

In my free time I enjoy reading, music, and exercising, whether it be outdoors or lifting weights. I'm looking forward to getting reacquainted with Davenport, a city whose streets I had to memorize during my days at Medic, and getting to know each of you and your families. Formation in seminary takes a long time, but it's been leading to this first assignment as a priest where I know the learning will continue to happen! Together, my prayer is that we all can grow closer to Jesus Christ and the great hope that faith in Him gives us. Please know that I will be praying for you, our parish, and I ask you to also say a prayer for me!



Fr. Andrew

Our Lady of Victory, pray for us!



## Our Lady of Victory Foundation

- Mike Lazio

### My How You've Grown!

Haven't seen that grandchild in person as often as one would like due to the pandemic? Then when you met for the first time as we begin to see the light at the end of the COVID tunnel, you remark how noticeably he/she has grown. So it is with the Foundation!

The OLV Foundation wants you to know how your generosity has contributed to your parish's financial stability. The Foundation is basically "the parish's retirement program," as one founding OLV parishioner, Al Becker stated so well. Formed in 1989, the Foundation's first year's income totaled \$7,646 received mostly from the JFK School Home and School Association in 1990. Our initial emphasis during its first eight years was to accrue \$100,000 so we could begin to return a distribution from earnings to the parish. In 1998, we surpassed the \$100,000 goal and presented our first gift to the parish coffers in the amount of \$4,212.

The Foundation's account grew gradually but steadily to \$200,00 over the next six years. Twelve years later it surpassed \$500,000 because of your continuous support. So, from its conception it took 9 years to reach \$100,00; 15 years to reach \$200,000 and 27 years to reach \$500,000. By 2009, the Foundation had presented over \$100,000 back to the parish.

Your Faith in our organization continues as the growth of the Foundation's assets reached \$1 million in 2019, its 30th year of existence. What seems remarkable about our history is that although it took 21 years to "gift" \$126,534 to the parish, the next 10 years were significant. Again, due to donations from many sources, our fund's value increased from \$295,559 in 2010 to \$560,729 in 2016 to \$1,296,236 in 2020. The Foundation grew over \$1 million in the last ten years alone!

What's more astounding is our record of "gifts" back to the parish during the last decade. Despite a pandemic, your confidence and belief in OLV's future has been and remains undaunted. The Foundation Board votes annually to distribute a percentage of its earnings from investments only, according to your wishes, never touching the accounts principal. (One can designate a source to your donations from one of six listed on the monthly envelope.) In the last ten years alone, we have returned \$328,096 to the parish! In 2020 our grant is \$75,000. We are proud to state and want you to know that because of prudent decisions made by the Board and the growth of the Foundation, we have returned a total of \$454,630 to OLV!

The success of the Foundation is only possible because of all your efforts to assist us to continue to grow. It requires frequent watering, occasional fertilizer, good weather, wise management, and constant prayers. We experienced some turbulent times as 2008 & 2009 market conditions deteriorated. Yet we increased our "return" to the parish by 19% and 27% during the last two years! God has been generous blessing us with His care and oversight. All we have is a true gift from God.

We look forward with enthusiasm as we strive towards reaching \$2 million in assets so the Foundation can stretch its fortunes and return even more funds to the parish budget. Who wouldn't want to invest in an organization that has demonstrated the above returns?

We thank everyone who had faith in our lofty initial goals, who has contributed in any amount and those who so loyally support our cause.

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## Revelation the Kingdom Yet to Come

-Jennifer Wemhoff

Perhaps no book in the Bible fascinates people more than Revelation. Yet relatively few people have studied the book, especially from a Catholic perspective.

Our Lady of Victory will begin an 11-week Bible study--Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come on Thursday September 2 at 6:30pm in the Gathering Space Meeting Room. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer at [davolvaff@diodav.org](mailto:davolvaff@diodav.org) or 563-508-2346. Or if you are interested in leading your own small group with this study, also contact Jennifer and she will provide training and materials.

In this intriguing look at one of the most talked-about books in Scripture, Jeff Cavins explores Revelation to demonstrate how the kingdom established by Christ in his Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of heaven, especially through the celebration of the Mass.

You will learn what all the mysterious figures and images of Revelation present, as well as what will happen during the Second Coming of Christ, what has already happened, and what is happening now in salvation history.

## Stewardship in Action

- Judy Johnson

Too often people think that stewardship is a yearly calendar of events with ministry fairs and commitment cards as the centerpiece. Others focus heavily on the dollars that we contribute to our parish and favorite charities. But the real power of Christian stewardship lies in the little known, under the radar acts of individual service and sharing that happen every day. Zayle Snell, 2021 Assumption graduate, is a shining example of quietly serving others with time and talent.

Trained as an altar server in 4th grade, Zayle has stayed with it for nine years because of personal satisfaction and a keen appreciation of Catholic sacramental life. She is especially fond of the early morning Masses, many times arriving at church well before the start of her school day. Over the years Zayle has helped with training for aspiring servers and guided many newbies through their first Mass. Skip Schlue, Altar Server Coordinator, recalls Zayle's early ministry days when she ambitiously committed to serving Mass every day for one whole year. In the end she met that goal with a tally of 370 Masses, doubling up on days when her JFK class traveled to Ridgecrest for liturgy with the residents.

Another area of service has been greeting and welcoming people to Sunday Mass as a hospitality minister. Zayle was one of the first to return to active ministry when public Masses resumed last year after the COVID shutdown, showing up consistently for many weeks to greet, smile and support social distancing protocols. With a gift for mathematics Zayle served as a tutor at Assumption, helping classmates with their assignments. In solidarity with the least among us, she frequently solves math questions at the internet site Freerice, where correct answers generate donations for UN World Food Programs to alleviate hunger around the globe.

In the fall Zayle will head to the University of Notre Dame to begin her journey toward the goal of becoming a college math professor. She hopes to energize and inspire young adults by teaching the math that she herself has yet to learn. First stop along the way will likely be campus ministry to inquire about service opportunities. In addition, her charism of hospitality is nudging a strong interest in the role of tour guide for prospective students.

Each year the parish awards a \$1,000 college scholarship in honor of our late pastor, Msgr. James Parizek. Zayle, a teen who embodies commitment and service to the OLV community, is this year's recipient. With deep appreciation for her service and dedication, we send her forth to new endeavors, firm in the knowledge that countless acts of love, kindness and generosity will continue with Zayle and her cohorts in the Class of 2021. Our heartiest congratulations and fervent prayers go with all of them



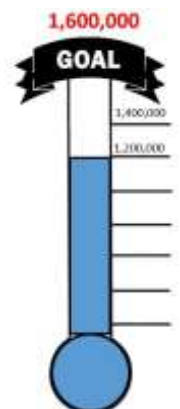
## Cultivating our Future Capital Campaign Concluding this Fall

On March 1, 2020, Our Lady of Victory officially launched a \$1.6 million capital campaign called **Cultivating Our Future**. Two weeks later, one of the worst global pandemics broke out and our lives were changed forever here in Davenport and across the country. Despite the enormous challenges that it brought to daily life, with severe illness and loss of life of some of our parishioners due to COVID-19, Our Lady of Victory parishioners and friends rose to the occasion to address the capital needs of the parish and school.

The goal of this campaign was to complete nine separate projects here in the parish, pay-off debt, and increase the ministry we offer in the parish. This campaign was definitely ambitious, but after the completion of this campaign, our community will be in a strong position as we look towards the future. As of June 30, 2021 we have raised **\$1.2 million** in pledged donations.

Your generous support of the capital campaign throughout the last 15 months was truly a sign that you want our parish to finish needed projects, pay off our debt, and grow our ministries. We have already accomplished several parts of the campaign. Our parish's debt has been paid-off. A new sound system was installed in the church after Easter. The major HVAC upgrades in the school began in June, the church HVAC system will be installed this fall and electrical upgrades have been made in the church. As 2021 progresses, we will be announcing the planning and completion of other projects associated with the capital campaign. However, we need to raise the last 25% of the \$1.6 million to make sure that we can complete all of the campaign projects.

We are nearing the end of **Cultivating Our Future** fund raising. We will officially end the campaign at the beginning of our church's year-long celebration of the 60th anniversary this fall. Thank you to everyone that has made pledges for the Campaign. We have **Provided for Our Children; Sustained Our Mission; and Built Our Community**.







We are disciples of Jesus Christ making faith matter and sharing God's love to make more disciples.

In my last Victory Voice article, I mentioned the need for help with our can fundraiser, as Randy Beyhl was stepping back after many years of service. This time I want to share with you some of the things we're hoping to accomplish in the coming year in youth ministry - with your help.

We spent 2019 and early 2020 envisioning a different youth ministry at Our Lady of Victory, wrapping up just as the pandemic shut things down made it difficult to get started on moving towards that vision. We imagine a parish community which has over 400 young people active in it every year. Feel the vibrant energy of an entire congregation inspired and infused with youthful vitality. Families lead the way, excited to grow in their faith, and comfortable with their kids' questions, because they have powerful tools for discipleship. Consider the entire Quad City community when our youth live like Catholic disciples of Jesus everywhere they go, for all their lives. Think of youth and families knowing Jesus personally and comfortably talking about Him, sharing their faith stories. Dream of the impact on young people who know that parish adults know their names, serve as mentors for them, pray for them, and care for them; and who know God will be there for them through thick and thin so they follow His will in their lives. Envision a parish that does more - for, with, and through young disciples. Think about how welcoming, warm, and inviting it would feel to all of our parishioners and to members of the community.

Compare this dream for our parish to the stark realities of 2020 and 2021 so far - empty or half empty churches, ever mounting stress and anxiety, an inability to hold most youth events, or connect in a personal way. But even before the pandemic, it was harder and harder to find times to host youth nights and other events that would work for our teens, many of whom, even now, are overscheduled and overcommitted. We're not going back to that. As we emerge from the pandemic, youth ministry invites you to look forward with us - not to a return to ministry that only stays in, but to ministry that goes out. During the pandemic, we realized that if youth couldn't come to youth events, we'd have to go out to them. So we created a care package ministry that dropped off one package per semester to every single high school youth in our parish (at least for whom we had correct address information). It was not only the best part of ministry during the pandemic, it has been one of my favorite parts of ministry since arriving at OLV. I finally felt like we were really reaching ALL of our youth. When families couldn't even come to Mass youth and parents knew we remembered them. We cared about them. We were praying for them.

In the coming year, we're not going to let this go, we're going to double down. In addition to our care package ministry team, we want to develop several other ministry teams that will go out to youth in our community. We want a cheer team who will go to sports events, drama shows, concerts, and regularly show up to support our teens on behalf of our parish. We want an evangelization team that will visit youth at home, go to the malls, the movies, the Bettplex - anywhere we can find our teens - to engage with them, or grab coffee or a meal with them. And most importantly of all, we want a prayer team that will be praying for the teens of our parish by name, and going out and praying in their neighborhoods and local communities as well. If you think you could pray for a handful of teens each day, we need your help. If you enjoy watching football games and musicals, we need your help. If you want to help make or deliver care packages to brighten someone's day, we need your help. If you're young or old, we need your help. If you're able to help, please let me know at [davolvym@diodav.org](mailto:davolvym@diodav.org). No matter your gift, there's a way for you to make a difference to youth in our parish.

Grow with God. Love your neighbor. Share your faith.





*“How precious is the family, as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!” Pope Francis*

A study completed by the Search Institute discovered that family religiousness is the most important factor in faith maturity. The *Effective Christian Education Study* tied the frequency with which an adolescent talked with parents about faith, the frequency of family devotions, and the frequency with which parents and children together were involved in efforts to help other people as the experiences that helped most to increase faith maturity. Families that express faith do these things:

- often talk about religious faith;
- often have family devotions prayer, or Bible reading at home; and
- often have family projects to help other people.

Children who are most likely to mature in faith are raised in homes where faith is an ordinary part of family life. Robert Wuthnow looked at the role of family in his study, *Growing Up Religious*. People who view themselves as “religious” indicate the prime source for their faith came through the way faith was a part of daily family life. His research showed the following as common activities:

- eating together, especially Sunday meals and holidays;
- praying: bedtime rituals and prayer, grace before meals;
- having family conversations;
- displaying sacred and religious objects and images, especially the Bible;
- celebrating holidays;
- providing moral instruction; and
- engaging in family devotions and reading the Bible.

The recurring themes found in much research on family faith practices is summarized by David Anderson and Paul Hill into what they call the “Four Keys”:

- Family Faith Conversations - Caring communication includes sharing of faith, values, and the care of others.
- Family Devotions and Prayer - A devotional life includes, public worship, bedtime prayers, Bible reading and study, table grace, evening and morning prayers, and praying alone.
- Family Service - Parents and children performing service together allows the children to see the parent’s capability, faith, and values in action. The bonding takes place in the service event, but also in the retelling of the event through the years.
- Family Rituals and Traditions - Rituals and traditions communicate meaning, values, and relationships between people and with God.

John Roberto in an article for *Lifelong Faith* addressing the “Four Keys” added a fifth:

- Family Meal - The family meal allows families to act out their concern for one another, and their need and desire to be together. Many of the family’s faith practices happen around the meal: having conversations, praying, reading the Bible, celebrating traditions. “It is a daily opportunity to discover Jesus in the midst of family life.”

In *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis calls us to keep walking together as families and remember that we are called to keep striving towards something greater than ourselves. The research shared here indicates the development of mature faith in our children is not about having a degree in theology, but about how we live. What a privilege for families to be able to give this gift to our children.

*“How precious is the family, as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!” Pope Francis*



## **“The Church Isn’t a Museum for Saints, It Is a Hospital for Sinners”**

Did you miss The 99 Experience when it was held at the parish in March of 2020? Or did you not know this was happening? Now is your opportunity to attend this powerful 3-night event! The 99 Experience is for everyone, even those who are currently not active in their faith and would need you to invite them. Prayerfully consider who you know who would benefit from attending The 99 Experience and invite them!

The 99 Experience provides many examples of how each of the speakers personally encountered Christ in their lives. So how do we learn how to comfortably share our Christ stories with others?

Think of an experience you’ve had that you can’t wait to share with others. It might be as simple as finding a great sale at the grocery store or your favorite clothing store and you can’t wait to tell others so that they can take advantage of the same savings you did.



Just over a year ago, Bruno the black bear, made his journey across Iowa and my front yard. I’m guessing this is going to be a once in a lifetime experience for me and one that I will not soon forget. Have you experienced Christ like that? Has he wandered through your life and you’ve been challenged to see where he currently is? Or how do you recognize his presence on a daily basis? The 99 can help us to answer those questions.

Here are some thoughts from parishioners about what The 99 Experience meant to them:

“In early 2020 I participated in the 99 Experience. I loved the format and meeting new people, even in a parish where I grew up

and thought I knew a lot of people.

The 99 is a great way to learn more about your faith, learn more about yourself, and learn more about your fellow parishioners. It has a simple, yet profound, message. There is no long-term commitment, but our group ended up enjoying the Experience so much that we decided to continue on together. It has led to one of the most meaningful faith-sharing groups I have ever been involved with.” -Emily Pries

“I am so thankful I attended the 99 Experience as it helped me to both learn and grow in my relationship with Christ.”

Anita Gorzney

Join us for the The 99 Experience, a springboard for deepening our faith as we grow in identity, purpose, and community. At these powerful mission nights, our parish will come together to learn:

- the answer to the brokenness we experience in our lives;
- how to acknowledge and desire God’s love;
- how to live a life in community lead by the Holy Spirit.

This parish mission will take place over 3 nights: Sunday August 15 (3:00-4:30), Monday August 16 (6:30-8:00) and Tuesday August 17 (6:30-8:00) in the Gathering Space at church. Each evening will include 3 short videos and small group discussion and prayer. Each evening is unique and builds on the previous night, so you are encouraged to attend all three nights. For questions please email [Jennifer at davolvaff@diodav.org](mailto:Jennifer@davolvaff@diodav.org).







## Take 5 -Jean Simpson

This is the first in our Take 5 Interviews. This is a format where I ask 5 questions on housing issues to those in the frontlines in our local area. When looking at any issue, it is helpful to go local and deep for a better understanding.

The dignity of having a home is basic to ALL humans but especially children during their development. The gap in availability of affordable housing and low wages has increased significantly causing a rise in homelessness. Humility Homes and Services has been actively trying to lessen this gap for over 30 years.

I am grateful that Ryan Bobst, MSW, LMSW said “yes” to taking the first 5 questions! He is the Strategic Initiatives and Grants Manager at Humility Homes & Services, Inc . [www.humilityhomes.org](http://www.humilityhomes.org)

### 1. What is the current state of homelessness in our area?

“Coordinated Entry waitlist for housing services - 204 individuals as of this week. Between March 17, 2020 and March 17, 2021, HHSI served 1,362 unique individuals - a 33% increase compared to the 12 months prior to the start of the pandemic.

Point in Time count in Iowa was 394 in January 2021, up from 178 in January 2020, or a 121% increase”

### 2. What population demographics were hit hardest during the pandemic?

“Everyone was hit hard. Existing inequities were exploited by the pandemic. People experiencing chronic homelessness were hit hard. Also - 61% of our participants were new due to the pandemic - they lost jobs/ income and then housing because of the pandemic.”

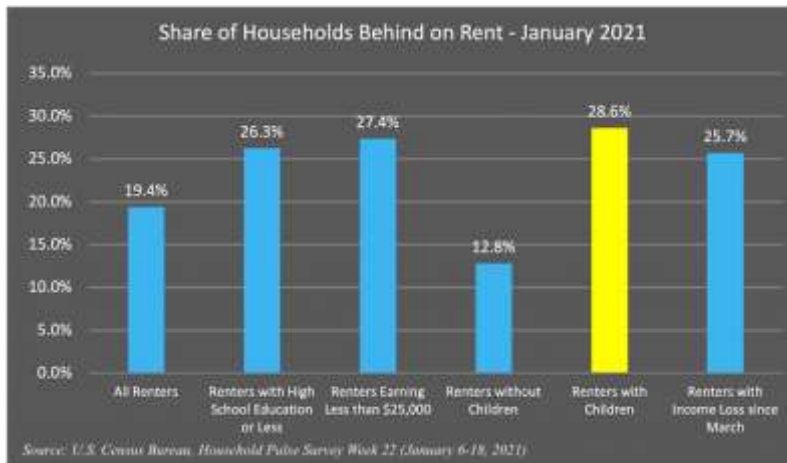
### 3. What concerns you most right now?

“The end of the eviction moratorium and the slow rollout of emergency rental assistance. Some communities could face a tsunami of evictions because people are 12+ months behind on their rent.”

### 4. What effect do you see on children who face housing instability?

“Urban Institute’s How Housing Matters 2019 analysis - children who face housing instability are statistically more likely to experience:

- higher rates of mental health problems in childhood and adulthood;
- higher lead levels and higher rates of chronic health conditions in childhood and adulthood;
- experience violence more often;
- interact with the child welfare system at higher rates;
- higher rates of asthma;
- lower educational testing scores and reading achievement;
- higher rates of school absenteeism and likelihood of dropping out of high school;
- lower annual earnings as an adult.



### 5. What practical things can concerned community members do to support housing stability? (Immediate needs to policy on local, state and national level.)

“Donate to HHSI to support households in their efforts to obtain and maintain stable housing. The demand is like nothing we have seen in our 31 year history. Educate elected officials - locally, at the county level and state level, about the importance of affordable, safe, and quality housing.”

The Social Action/Christian Service are grateful for the generosity of Our Lady of Victory in their continued donation of supplies for the immediate needs of those who are struggling to maintain stable housing.

Keep your eyes open for more interviews both written and video. God has given us everything we need but we must commit to *Thy Will be done*, so that indifference, greed or poor policy doesn’t interfere.

## OUR LADY OF VICTORY NEWSLETTER

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LISA WILLOWS

### PHOTOGRAPHY:

PARISHIONERS PHOTOS

### MISSION STATEMENT:

*Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church is a community that lives and shares the preaching, teaching, and healing of Christ."*

## COZI-TV Broadcast to continue to end of year

OLV Sunday Mass will continue on COZI-TV (KWQC-TV) July 1 through December 31, 2021 at 7:00 a.m. Your continued support of this Sunday ministry is helping our church reach thousands of viewers each week. Over the last year, this ministry has provided a personal connection every week for individuals who wanted to hear the gospel and celebrate the Eucharist. We have literally received hundreds of letters from viewers telling us about their personal experience of watching with friends and family members in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Your continued financial support is appreciated and will continue to be needed for those watching from home and are unable to attend during the second half of the year as we culminate our on-air broadcast at the end of the 2021 Advent season and Christmas. Thanks again for your support.

Donations can be made online at [www.olvjfk.com](http://www.olvjfk.com) or by sending a check to Our Lady of Victory Parish, 4105 North Division Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806.



## Silver Rose Prayer Service

-Joe Ripslinger



Join the Knights of Columbus and our parish community for a special prayer service to share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life: Thursday, July 8 from 7 PM - 8 PM at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church. We have the privilege of having this travelling rose in our possession at this service and it will be on display.

The journey of the silver rose begins each year in March and ends on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. During that time, Silver Roses travel from town to town along eight routes throughout North America. Several of those routes begin in Canada and end in Mexico. One route ends in Washington, D.C., and another ends at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT, where the Knights of Columbus was founded.

The Silver Rose Program began in 1960, when the first rose - a real, live one - was blessed by a bishop in Ontario. The rose then traveled to New York and then to Texas where it was taken across the border into Mexico. The rose ended its pilgrimage at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterrey on Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. To better ensure future annual trips, a silver rose was ultimately made. Today, due to the popularity of the program throughout the North American continent, eight silver roses travel unique routes.

In 2001, when Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, expanded the Silver Rose Program, he commented: "Through [the Silver Rose Program] we honor not only Our Lady of Guadalupe and express the unity of the [Knights of Columbus], but we also reaffirm the Order's dedication to the sanctity of human life. It is to the Blessed Mother that we turn in prayer as we work to end the Culture of Death that grips our society. As we think in terms of 'One Life, One Rose,' it is most appropriate that we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her will through Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses."