



Things just clicked:
Faith-based online matchmaking helped Catholic spouses find each other | 3



Welcome home:
After attending Mass for years, 81-year-old decides to become Catholic | 5

Capuchins remember:
Friars share stories of living, serving with Venerable Solanus Casey | 9



The 144-year-old publication of the Archdiocese of Detroit



THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

www.themichigancatholic.com | February 10, 2017 | \$1.00

Archbishop: Church will continue to stand with refugees

Executive order throws Catholic Charities' refugee resettlement program into doubt

DAN MELOY
The Michigan Catholic

DETROIT — Since President Donald Trump signed an executive order barring immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries on Jan. 27, Catholic leaders across the country have spoken out over the legal and ethical implications, especially for refugees escaping war-torn countries such as Iraq and Syria.

The day after the order was issued, Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron wrote a letter to the chair of the Imams Council of Michigan, expressing his support for immigrants and refugees.

"Now that a federal government restriction has been placed upon refugees from mainly Muslim countries, I want to bring to your attention, and affirm my solidarity with, a Jan. 27 statement made in Washington, D.C., by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops stating strong disagreement with the executive order," Archbishop Vigneron's letter said.

The Catholic Church in southeast Michigan is committed to assisting the vulnerable and persecuted who are seeking refuge in the United States, regardless of religion, the archbishop's letter continued.



Khalil Ashawi | CNS photo

A Syrian girl with an amputated leg sits outside a tent Jan. 19 at Syria's Bab Al-Salam camp for displaced migrants in Azaz, near the Turkish border.

"As I said in my statement last month, 'Our local community in Metro Detroit is much richer for the contributions of our brothers and sisters from Mexico and El Salvador, from India and Pakistan, from Iraq and Syria, from China and Korea, from Ukraine and Poland, from Cameroon and Nigeria,' the archbishop wrote.

Trump's order suspends refugees



Mike Stechschulte | The Michigan Catholic

Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron speaks last year during an interfaith lunch with local Muslims at the Islamic House of Wisdom in Dearborn Heights. The Trump administration's executive order restricting refugees from seven Muslim-majority countries could complicate the resettlement efforts of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, though Archbishop Vigneron reiterated the local Church's support for all immigrants and refugees in a letter to a local imams council.

from entering the United States for 120 days, with the exception of Syrian refugees, who are suspended indefinitely. The order also bars citizens from seven majority-Muslim countries — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — from entering the U.S. for the next 90 days. Fifty-nine percent of refugees who arrived in Michigan in 2016 came from Iraq and Syria, according to the U.S. Department of State.

The executive order will have a monumental impact on Catholic

Charities of Southeast Michigan's Immigration and Refugee Resettlement Services, which relocated 730 refugees in Metro Detroit during fiscal year 2016, according to Bill Blaul, director of institutional advancement for CCSEM. This fiscal year, which began in October, Catholic Charities is projected to resettle 283 refugees in southeast Michigan.

Refugee resettlement is done through the U.S. State Department,

Please see **Refugees** | 13

Bishop Cepeda says schools must illuminate world for Christ

DAN MELOY
The Michigan Catholic

DETROIT — Standing before students and staff of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Catholic schools, Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda said Catholic schools' role consists in spreading the good news of Christ.

"Jesus is the light that illuminates all nations, and He welcomes us into that light as children of light. And by becoming Him, who is sent

by the Father, we can become light for the world," Bishop Cepeda said during the annual Catholic Schools Week liturgy at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

"Isn't that what we're asking from our Catholic schools for our students, to be able to proclaim the encounter with our Father, with our Creator, to proclaim that our Lord is real?"



Bp. Cepeda

the bishop asked. "And that we can find him in our souls and within our communities, our schools?"

Bishop Cepeda emphasized that being a witness for Christ is more than just having an encounter with Christ, but proclaiming his kingdom through words and deeds.

"If we only proclaim our encounter with God, we would not be witnesses," Bishop Cepeda

Please see **Schools** | 6