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## Deacon: Be 'Contagiously Catholic'

Catholic radio host and speaker brings his message to the McHenry County Catholic Prayer Breakfast Nov. 2.

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Observer Correspondent

CRYSTAL LAKE—A Catholic's duty is to watch for an opening, get his or her foot in the door, toss in some seeds of faith, and let God do His work. Be "contagiously Catholic."

That is the theory of Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, co-host of the EWTN's "Morning Glory" program, and the weekly broadcast "Living Stones," on Mater Dei Radio.

The deacon backs up his theory with dramatic, humorous, and sometimes startling accounts of his experiences as he travels around the country and other nations.

He gives powerful and passionate messages at conferences, workshops, retreats, parish missions, high schools and young adult events.

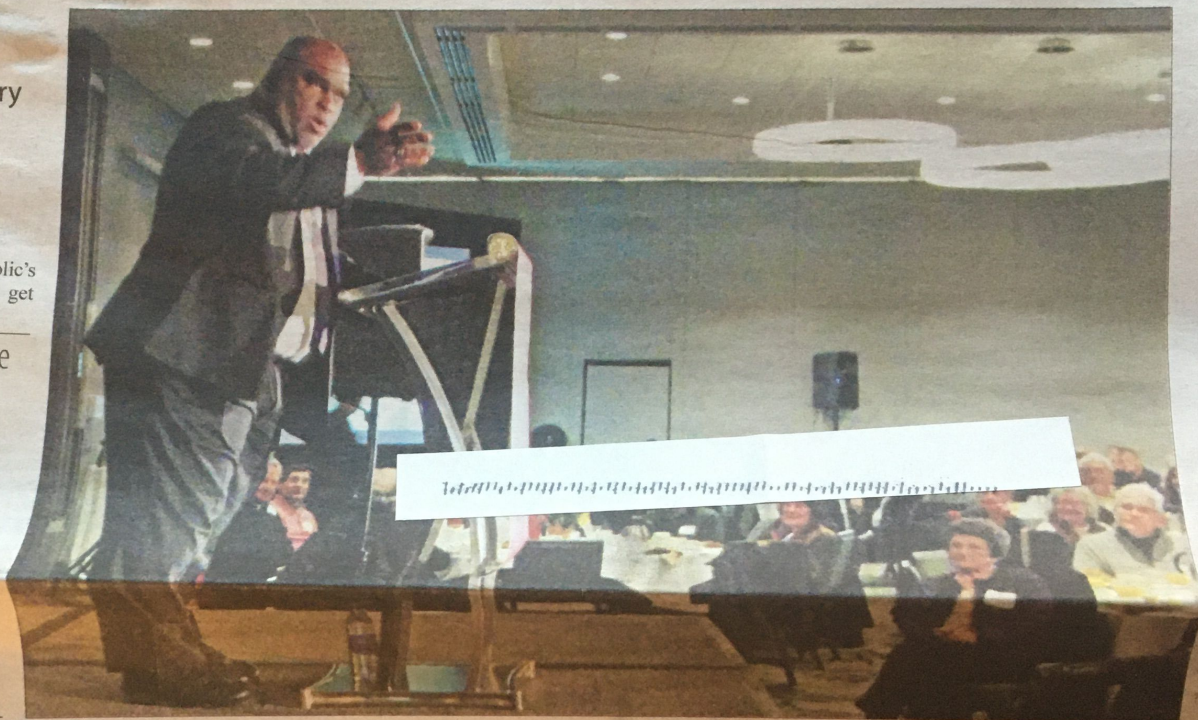
It's not necessary to memorize the whole Bible, or recite the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to people, he told the gathering at the McHenry County Catholic Prayer Breakfast, Nov. 2, at the Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake.

The breakfast for 420 people followed at 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Crystal Lake.

Just keep on loving and believing, and planting a few seeds here and there, the deacon continued. Then, let God till the ground, water it, and reap the harvest in His own good time.

'Take the love that you have been given from God and spread it like a virus.'

— Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers



(Observer photos/Louise Brass)

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers talks to the group gathered for the annual McHenry County Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Crystal Lake Nov. 2. The breakfast was preceded by a Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Crystal Lake.

"Where the seeds land is not our problem," he said. "Take the love that you have been given from God and spread it like a virus."



Keynote speaker Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers prays over a rosary for Adlyn Blakey of Christ the Teacher University Parish in DeKalb following his presentation on how to be "contagiously Catholic."

He said it's important to live the faith, demonstrate it and share it.

While out with three of his children at a fast food restaurant a few years ago, he saw some "young goths," all dressed in black, seeking scraps of food from garbage cans outside.

Deacon Burke-Sivers bought the youths each a meal because, "Jesus said we must feed the hungry," he stated.

But first he told them he is a Catholic — tossing out seeds of information. Then, acknowledging their hunger he said, "Your dinner's on me tonight."

Being like Jesus is not complicated, Burke-Sivers says.

If someone says they doubt that the Catholic Church is the Church begun by Jesus — true God and true man — the

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