



THINKING AHEAD

40 Under 40 selection committee,

I am writing to support Fr. Zach Kautzky for the “40 Under 40” class of 2019. Through my work in the Des Moines community, I have been involved with many people who have earned this designation, and Fr. Zach is an individual who possesses the character, leadership and community involvement necessary to be a recipient of this honor.

Fr. Zach and I first met back in 2010, and since then we have become great friends. This has given me a unique perspective of all that he has done for our community, and why I think he is deserving of this distinction as a “40 Under 40”. When I was named a “40 Under 40” in the class of 2015, I got to know the type of people who are deserving of this award, and Fr. Zach, without question, is one of them.

As a Catholic priest, he must make a vow of obedience to the bishop of Des Moines. Where the bishop wants him to serve, he serves. So, for as long as I have known him, his official assignment has been as associate pastor of St. Augustin Catholic Church (Des Moines) and the chaplain of Dowling Catholic High School. In addition to those roles (which are a full-time job in themselves), he serves on the board of Iowa Catholic Radio, co-hosts a weekly radio show with me, volunteered as a chaplain for the West Des Moines Police department, is involved with the marriage preparation program for the church in Des Moines, mentors small groups of high school students and serves as a spiritual director for countless people in the Des Moines community.

As a spiritual director, including for several past recipients of this award, he has fostered business successes of others. But more importantly, he has counseled and supported them through their personal and professional setbacks. The impact he has made for me, and countless other business people in Des Moines, through his ministry is hard to overstate.

During his five years of serving on the board of Iowa Catholic Radio, the station has grown significantly in terms of revenue, full time employees and its reach in central Iowa. His involvement has been paramount to this growth.

The most recent example of his character, leadership and service to others is that he will be leaving the comforts of Des Moines, and his friends and family, to serve those who serve our country as a United States Military Chaplain in the Air Force this June. In recent years, he has mentored many men and women who have come back from service overseas and heard how much they missed having a connection to their faith when they needed it most because of a lack of chaplains in the military. Now, in a testament to the kind of person he is, he is selflessly picking up everything to go help people he has never met, in a part of the world he has never been.



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Through our work together as radio hosts for the past four years, I have had the unique opportunity to see the impact he has made in all the various roles it serves in the community. For example, as a chaplain for the WDMPD, he would be on call if something tragic happened and they wanted a minister there to help. In one terrible accident, a man was struck by a car and died. Father Zach assisted the officers to the door of his wife to tell her the news and offer support. Coincidentally, the woman was a coworker of mine. When we realized our mutual connection, she throughout the days and months that followed, continually expressed her affection for Father Zach and how he didn't just help the night of the accident, but visited her many times and help her through the grieving process. She is one of numerous examples I have seen where Fr. Zach has gone way beyond the call of duty to help someone in need.

This level of care for other people and selflessness is seen in all of the work he does. I have seen Fr. Zach up close in many instances of his life of service, and in all cases he has proven himself to be leader who is dedicated to helping others and doing whatever necessary to make the world a better place. I am happy to support him for the Business Record's 2019 class of "40 Under 40".

Sincerely,

Joe Stopulos

Account Executive/Shareholder

Holmes Murphy

"40 Under 40" Class of 2015