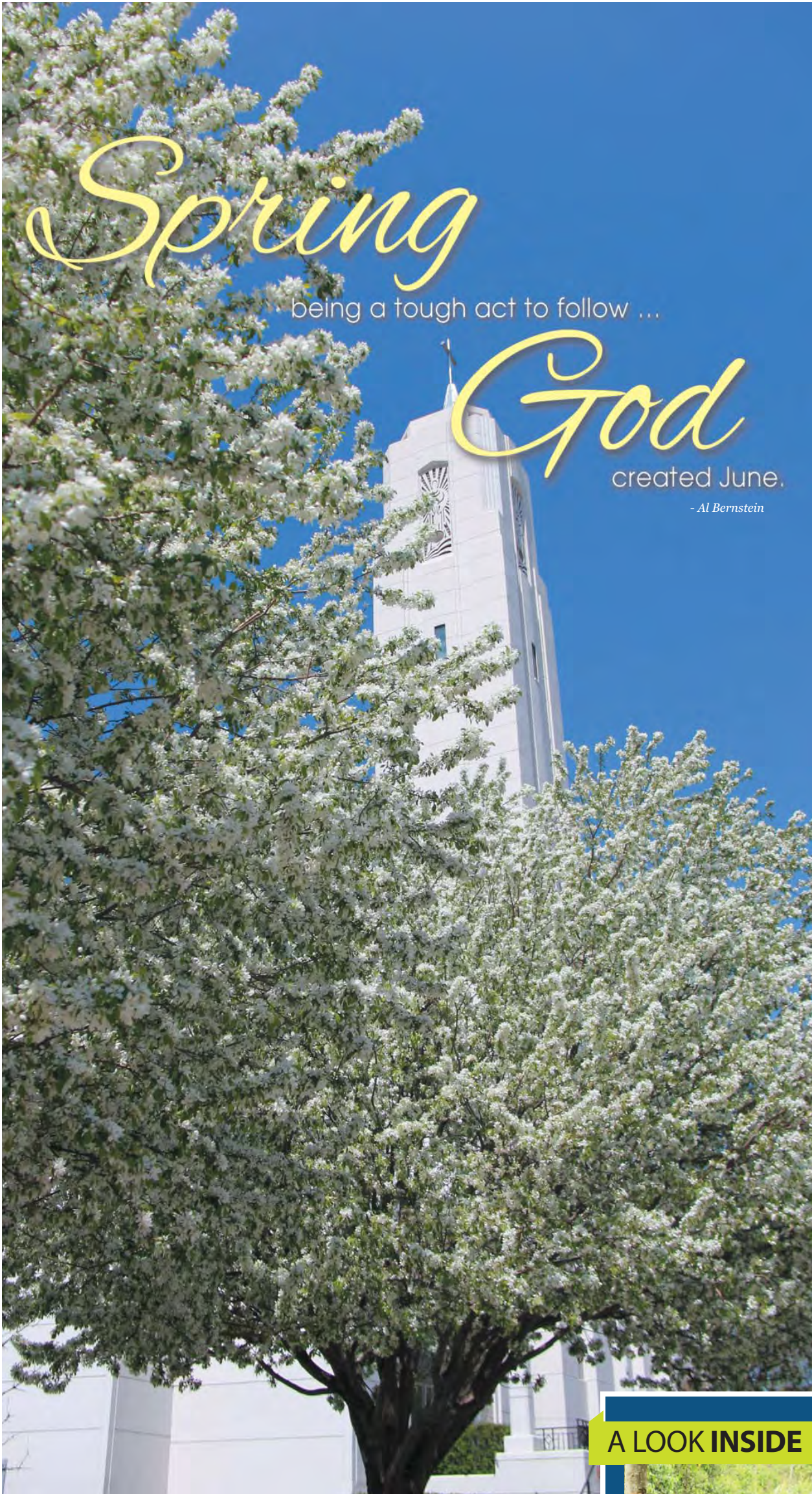




Dakota Catholic Action

Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941



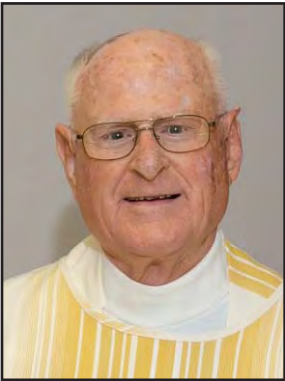
Spring
being a tough act to follow ...
God
created June.
- Al Bernstein

60 years of service

Monsignor Walsh filled many roles

By Sonia Mullally
DCA Editor

When Monsignor Walsh was ordained in 1955, he figured he'd end up as a happy pastor in some small parish. All of his classmates were getting assigned parishes, yet he remained an assistant.



After four years as an assistant pastor at St. Patrick's in Dickinson, the wait was over, but it wasn't what he'd expected. He received a letter from Bishop Hacker asking him to come to work in the chancellor's office. Being the obedient priest, he went without hesitation. "I always told my fellow priests that the voice of our bishop is the closest thing they will hear to the voice of God," he said with a smile. "You always listen to your bishop."

He worked at the chancery for more than 10 years before being assigned back to St. Patrick's for 13 years. Then came another request from another bishop. This time it was Bishop Kinney asking him to serve as vicar general.

So he returned to Bismarck to take on the new duties, as well as pastor at the parishes of New Salem and Almont. "I did whatever bishop asked," he said. "I've always said that obedience is the hardest virtue we have to practice, but it becomes easy when we are doing God's work."

During this time, Msgr. also served as vicar for presbyters as well as director of vocations from 1991-1998. "Vocations was one of the hardest assignments I've ever had to tackle in my time," he explained. "At age 63, I figured I was far too old to take that on. But it turned out to be very beautiful. It was unheard of for an older priest to be assigned this, but I loved it."

Still more responsibility, and perhaps the greatest of all, was added in 1995 when the college of consultors elected him the administrator of the diocese after Bishop Kinney left and before Bishop Zipfel was installed. "I guess they thought I didn't have enough to do," he joked. "It was very daunting, but through my work in other roles such as vicar general, vocations, I knew the people. The priests and diocese staff gave me their support. It was wonderful."

He admits 20 months was a long wait between bishops, but he cherishes

Continued on Page 4

A LOOK INSIDE



Short-term mission trips

Fr. Folorunso completed his scouting trip to the African Mission with plans to return with short-term missionariesPAGE 8



Devotion to Mary

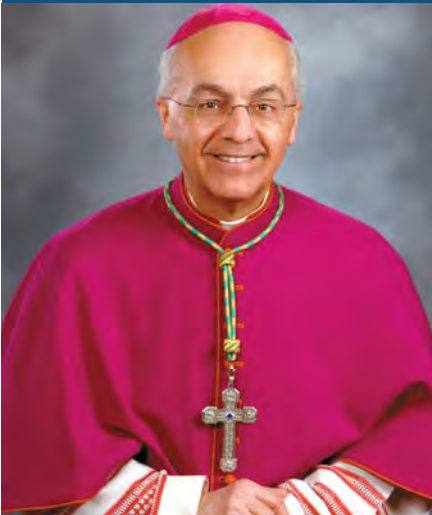
The Carmelite Nuns in rural Hague explain the roots of their love and devotion to Our Blessed Mother MaryPAGE 11

Summer filled with opportunity

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE JUNE-JULY 2015

- May 31- June 5
- Annual Clergy Retreat, Assumption Abbey, Richardton
- June 6
- Confirmation at the Church of the Sacred Heart, White Shield, 4:30 p.m.
- June 7
- Corpus Christi Mass and Procession, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 11:30 a.m.
- June 9-12
- USCCB Spring Meeting, St. Louis
- June 13
- Confirmation for the Church of St. Jerome, Mohall, St. James, Sherwood, and St. John, Lansford, at Mohall, 10:30 a.m.
- June 16
- Real Presence Radio interview, 9 a.m.
- June 18
- North Dakota Catholic Conference Meeting, Jamestown, 10 a.m.
- June 24
- Mass of Thanksgiving for Mother Mary Baptist's Silver Jubilee, Carmelite Monastery, Hague, 9 a.m.
- June 25
- Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck, 10 a.m.
- July 6
- First Annual Seminarian Golf Tournament, Prairie West, Mandan, 1 p.m.
- July 9
- Minot Deanery Seminarian Celebration, Vardon Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.
- July 12
- Annual Town and Country Celebration, Schaff Angus Valley Ranch, St. Anthony
- July 20
- Bismarck Deanery Seminarian Celebration, Apple Creek Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.
- July 21
- Real Presence Radio interview, 9 a.m.
 - Dickinson Deanery Seminarian Celebration, Elk's Club, 5:30 p.m. MDT
- July 22
- Mass for those attending Steubenville Conference, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. 9 a.m.
- July 23
- Williston Deanery Seminarian Celebration, Hampton Inn and Suites, 5:30 p.m.
- July 26
- Centennial Mass at the Church of St. Mary, Marmarth, 3 p.m. MDT
- July 28
- Guest Speaker for Ecclesia, University of Mary, 8:30 p.m.
- July 30
- Bishop Ryan Annual Board Meeting, Minot, 5:15 p.m.

FROM THE BISHOP



Bishop David D. Kagan

With the coming of the month of June so much of our daily routines change since school has recessed for the summer. We begin to take all or a part of our annual vacations and the general pace of our lives seems to slow down just a bit. I have always thought that this is not so bad as we all need a change of pace once in a while.

What should not change for any of us, however, is our lives of daily prayer, regular Mass attendance and participation, frequent use of

the sacrament of Reconciliation, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and our good works of mercy. The weather is usually nicer than at other times of the year and this is just one of the great benefits of summer. Do not let it become an excuse for not being faithful to our daily spiritual and sacramental lives. Just because it's a nice day, and we are on vacation, we still owe God our very best in our prayers, our good works and our worship.

The Church, always a good Mother to us all, keeps us focused in the summer not only with our weekly Sunday liturgies, but also with some of our yearly solemnities. The Solemnities of the Most Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi are Sunday, May 31 and Sunday, June 7 respectively. They are beautiful liturgies in which we celebrate the very heart and core of the Catholic faith, which is God as the Trinity of Persons, and the source and summit of our lives, which is the Most Holy Eucharist. We cannot live without them both!

This year, June 12 is the solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as well as the World Day of Prayer for Priests. If possible, please go to Mass on

this day and offer a special prayer for your parish priest and for all of our priests. Please include a fervent prayer for vocations for our diocese as well as for the whole Church. June 13 is the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from which her unconditional "yes" to God's will emanated. Monday, June 29 is the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul and a reminder to all of us that the will of Jesus was to found His Church on the confession of faith of Peter and that its greatest missionary was, and still is, Paul. Their faith and mission are ours to live and to pass on to those who come after us.

The month of July offers us in the Diocese a wonderful opportunity to join together for prayer, to celebrate the Holy Mass and to enjoy each other's company as we celebrate our annual Town and Country Mass. This year it is Sunday, July 12 and hosted by the parishes of Spirit of Life, Mandan, St. Martin, Huff, and St. Anthony in St. Anthony at the Marty and Kelly Schaff Angus Valley Ranch in St. Anthony. The information is contained in this issue as well as on our diocesan website. Please plan to come and enjoy and thank Almighty God for His abundant blessings.

Most importantly, please be faithful to your religious obligation to participate at Mass each Sunday. That is what we Catholics do because we believe and know that this is what the Lord wants for us. Have a wonderful few months this summer and know that I continue to pray for all of you each day at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

BISHOP IN ACTION



Photo by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

During the annual pastoral visit on May 12, Bishop Kagan visited and blessed CHI St. Alexius Health's children's unit, Alex Town. Alex Town is named after the facility's mascot, Alex the Cat. This kid-friendly unit provides general and critical care services for pediatric patients up to 18 years of age.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BismarckDiocese
Get status updates, photos, videos, and links and share them with your friends.

Bismarck Diocese shared Dickinson Catholic Schools - Titans's photo.



Dickinson Catholic Schools - Titans

Demo started today on Trinity High School's former east wing. The demo will make way for construction of the new Trinity Junior and Senior High School on the same site. #GoTitans #TitanPride #ForAllSheStandsFor

Follow the Diocese on Twitter @BisDiocese and follow Bishop Kagan @VescovoDDK

Search "Bismarck Diocese" on YouTube for videos from the Church in western N.D.

Visit our website at www.bismarckdiocese.com
Get news, photos, videos and more from around the diocese.

Dakota Catholic Action

Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941

Publisher: Most Reverend David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L., Bishop of Bismarck
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www.bismarckdiocese.com

The Dakota Catholic Action (0011-5770) is published monthly except July by the Diocese of Bismarck, 420 Raymond Street, Bismarck, ND 58501-3723. Periodical postage paid at Bismarck, ND, and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to address below.
Dakota Catholic Action, PO Box 1137, Bismarck, ND 58502-1137

The Dakota Catholic Action is funded in part by the annual God's Share Appeal.

25 years of care

Cathedral daycare provider is a reliable friend

By Patti Armstrong

In early September of 1990, Angie Nesper parked her bicycle outside of Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. She had a business proposition for Fr. Thomas Kramer.

Finding volunteers to provide childcare during the 10 a.m. Mass was an ongoing problem for him. “Hire me to do it,” Angie offered. She told him that she loved watching babies and children. If Fr. Kramer would pay her, it would provide a little extra income doing something she loved. “Let me think about it,” he told her. A week later, he offered her the job.

Almost 25 years later, Cathedral has not had a problem finding a childcare provider since. In all that time, Angie has only missed about four Sundays and half were for vacation. She is reliable in all that she does. After stocking shelves for 14 years at her Stamart job, she has only called in sick four times.

Such reliability is remarkable in view of the fact that Angie has a learning disability and does not drive. She takes the transit bus to work, but on Sundays, walking, riding her bike or getting a lift from parishioners Jim and Sharon Wilson, are her modes of transportation. “We would see her walking from church in the bitter cold,” Sharon said. “So we offered her a ride and she accepted.”

The Wilsons told Angie to call on Sundays if she needed a ride to church, which she has been doing now for 15 years. But if Angie calls, it’s only because the temperature is too cold for bike riding.

Some 20 years ago when Angie’s bike was stolen, Frs. Kramer and Austin Vetter pitched in to buy her a new one. She was still using that same bike until three summers ago when Marilyn Keller took her to Scheels Sports and let her pick out a new one.

Angie’s bike is one of the ways that she has made herself a part of the Cathedral parish community. “She has more friends than anyone



Angie Nesper (right) has been providing daycare during Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit for nearly 25 years

that I know,” rector Msgr. Thomas Richter said. “It reminds us that a parish is supposed to be a source of friends, family and social life.”

Monsignor’s sister-in-law, Sarah Richter, occasionally uses the childcare during Mass when her husband Jerry is out of town. “She’s great with the kids,” Sarah said, “and she has gotten to know our whole family.” Sarah said that when Angie pulls up on her bike, the kids’ voices echo throughout their house, “Angie’s here!”

Angie always comes to visit the whole family. Jana Heen said that she often stays for dinner and will pitch in with yard work and play games with the kids. Her son Logan, a sixth-grader at Cathedral, smiled when asked about Angie and said, “She’s fun to play with because she tries to win.”

Barb and Tom Thorson used Angie’s help many years ago, whenever any of their seven children were too fidgety to sit quietly at Mass. “To this day, Angie has a connection to our family,” Barb said. “She has attended First Communions and even graduation parties.”

Youngest daughter Jenna, who is now a freshman at the University of Mary said, “Angie genuinely loved and cared for us.”

Stephen and Susan Braun brought their children to Angie for childcare her first year on the job. They moved to McVile 20 years ago, but Angie maintains the friendship. “Even though the years and a move have separated us,” Susan said, “Angie keeps in contact, calling and sending Christmas cards and wanting to know what is happening in our kids’ lives.” Their oldest daughter, Andrea, now a mother herself, has brought her children for Angie to watch when she occasionally attends Cathedral.

Parishioner Thomas Seifert does not remember going to the

nursery when he was little, but does remember helping out to earn service hours when he was in junior high. “You can tell Angie has a true love of children,” he said. “She’s always excited to see them.” Thomas said Angie is very good at remembering their names, even after they grow up and graduate. He said that if there comes a time when his five-month old son, or any future children are hard to handle in church, he wouldn’t hesitate to bring them to her.

Diane Roller said she considers Angie a good friend. “She has taught me so much about courage, perseverance, and trust,” she said. “Angie is a very happy, optimistic person who knows how to really enjoy the simple things in life. Recently, Diane helped Angie begin a new hobby of scrapbooking. “Angie jumps in without reservations at every opportunity that comes her way.”

The secret to Angie’s people skills is simple. She loves kids and getting to know their families comes naturally to her. “I have always loved kids,” she said. “I enjoy entertaining them.” Building with Legos, shooting baskets, doing puzzles and reading are some of the things she loves to do with them in the nursery. “I also like to read them stories like Mother Goose and Green Eggs and Ham,” she said. The latter book Angie said she has read hundreds of times. “I know it by heart,” she laughed.

The love that Angie gives to others, returns to her in many ways. Parishioners gave her surprise parties for her 30th birthday and another one last summer for her 50th. “Angie is a constant reminder to us that unless we become like a little child, we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven,” Msgr. Richter said. “We need to become like her—a servant leader in the simplest of ways.”

Seminarians meet Pope

Submitted photos



Diocesan Seminarians Doug Krebs and Jordan Dosch had the pleasure of meeting Pope Francis on his visit to the Pontifical North American College. At left, Doug Krebs (right) shakes Pope Francis’ hand while Jordan Dosch looks on. At right, Dosch kisses the Holy Father’s hand as a sign of respect and reverence.

Clergy anniversaries

Eleven celebrate milestones

Eleven priests serving within the diocese celebrated anniversaries of their ordination at a special Mass held on May 20. Following is information on all those marking milestones this year.

Reverend Monsignor Gerald Walsh (60)

Monsignor Walsh was born and raised in Minot as a member of St. Leo’s Parish. He completed his priestly formation years at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver and was ordained a priest in 1955. He began his service as assistant pastor at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. He served as assistant pastor at St. Patrick in Dickinson from 1955-1959. Monsignor Walsh was called to serve first as vice-chancellor and then chancellor of the diocese from 1959-1970 before returning to St. Patrick from 1970-1983. He also served as vicar general for the diocese from 1982-1993 while serving as pastor and administrator for St. Pius V in New Salem and St. Mary Queen of Peace in Almont. He also served as vicar for presbyters and director of vocations from 1991-1998. Pope John Paul II honored him with the title of monsignor in 1992. In 1995, Monsignor Walsh was elected administrator of the diocese when Bishop Kinney was transferred. He served until 1997 when Bishop Zipfel was installed. Monsignor Walsh retired in 1998.



Msgr. Gerald Walsh

Reverend Father Stephen Kranz, OSB (60)

Father Kranz was born and raised in Hastings, Minn. He made his solemn vows as a Benedictine in 1954 and was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Bismarck in 1955. Father Kranz’s assignments include Sts. Peter and Paul in Strasburg from 1955-56 and St. Mary’s in Richardton in 1956. He also served as a long-time pastor at St. Anthony in Mandaree and St. Joseph in Twin Buttes. He served in the same capacity at Sacred Heart in White Shield from 1971 until 1998 (when it became a mission of Garrison). In 1987, Father Kranz left Mandaree to study in Rome for a brief period. He also served as pastor at St. Anthony in New Town from 2001-10. He retired in 2012.

Reverend Father John Pfeifer (50)

Father Pfeifer was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wis. He was ordained into the diaconate at Assumption Abbey in Richardton in 1964 and ordained a priest in 1965 in Milwaukee. In his early years, he served at St. Joseph in Mandan, St. Bridget in Parshall and Sacred Heart in Plaza. Other assignments from 1965-73 included: Christ the King, Mandan; St. Leo, Minot; St. Joseph, Williston; and St. Anne, Bismarck. Father Pfeifer then served at St. Luke in Noonan, St.



Fr. John Pfeifer

Michael in Columbus and St. Mary in Lignite from 1973-83. From there, he served at St. Charles in Bowman, St. Mel in Rhame and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Marmarth from 1983-88. He was called to serve at Ephiphany in Watford City, Our Lady of Consolation in Alexander and St. Peter Canisius in Grassy Butte (which closed in 2007). He retired in 2012.

Most Reverend Bishop David Kagan (40)

Bishop Kagan was born and raised in Illinois and ordained a priest in 1975 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Rockford, Ill. He served in many roles at different parishes and schools within the Diocese of Rockford. Pope John Paul II honored him with the title of monsignor in 1994. He was installed as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Bismarck on Nov. 30, 2011.



Bishop David Kagan

Reverend Father George Pruys (40)

Father Pruys currently serves at St. Michael (Minot) and Sts. Peter and Paul (Wilton) Ukrainian Churches. The church is within the Ukrainian Diocese of St. Nicholas of Chicago.

Reverend Father John Guthrie (25)

Father Guthrie was born and raised in Bismarck as a member of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and is a graduate of St. Mary’s Central High School (1980). He studied for the priesthood at the North American College in Rome and was ordained in 1990. His first assignment was as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit from 1990-93. Father Guthrie then served at St. Bernard in Belfield, St. Mary in Medora and St. Mary in South Heart from 1993-1999. He was assigned pastor of St. Joseph in Williston and St. John the Baptist in Trenton from 1999-2008. He returned to the Cathedral as pastor and vicar general for the diocese from 2008-2012. Then, he moved to Washington, D.C. to be the associate director, Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for a period of three years. He is currently on an approved sabbatical.



Fr. John Guthrie

Reverend Father Johnson Kuriappilly (25)

Father Johnson was born and raised in India. He was ordained there in the city of Cochin in 1990. His first assignment for the Diocese of Bismarck was as parochial vicar at St. Wenceslaus in Dickinson and Sts. Peter and Paul in New Hradec from 1999-2000. He became the administrator at St. Thomas the Apostle in Tioga, St. Michael



Fr. Johnson Kuriapplilly

in Ray and St. James in Powers Lake from 2000-05. He served as pastor at St. Joseph in Beulah and St. Martin in Hazen from 2005-12. At that time, Father Johnson became pastor at Christ the King in Mandan from 2012-14. He is currently on temporary assignment in the Diocese of Rapid City, S.D. at the Church of St. Patrick in Wall, S.D.

Reverend Father Boniface Muggli, OSB (25)

Father Muggli was born in Kansas and educated in Illinois and Indiana before attending Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1990 at the Assumption Abbey. Since 2004, he has served at St. Mary’s Parish in Richardton, St. Stephen in Stark County and St. Thomas the Apostle in Gladstone.



Fr. Boniface Muggli

Reverend John Paul Gardner (10)

Father John Paul was born in Hettinger and raised in the New England area. He graduated from NDSU, Cardinal Muench and Kenrick-Glennon Seminaries before being ordained to the priesthood in 2005. His first assignment was St. Joseph in Williston and St. John the Baptist in Trenton from 2005-08 and again in 2010. In between this time period, Father John Paul served at St. Mary in Foxholm, St. Philomena in Glenburn and St. Leo (in residence) in Minot from 2008-09. Currently, since 2013,



Rev. John Paul Gardner

he serves at St. Peter in Fort Yates, St. Elizabeth in Cannon Ball, St. James in Porcupine, St. Philomena in Selfridge and Sacred Heart in Solen.

Reverend Father Paul Eberle (10)

Father Eberle grew up near Hague and was educated in North Dakota before entering Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis graduating in 2005. He was ordained that same year at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck, which was his first assignment remaining there until 2009. He was then assigned to Sts. Peter and Paul in Strasburg, St. Mary in Hague and St. Michael in rural Linton from 2009-12. He then served as pastor at St. Anthony in Mandaree and St. Joseph in Twin Buttes from 2012-14. He is currently the spiritual director at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.



Fr. Paul Eberle

Reverend Father Manuel Silva Cely, OSB (10)

Father Manuel was born in Columbia and made his vows as a monk in 1993. He completed his seminary studies at St. John’s University and Seminary in Collegeville, Minn. and was ordained a deacon at Assumption Abbey in 2004. He was ordained to the priesthood at Monasterio Benedictino de Tibati, a Benedictine monastery in Columbia, in 2005. At present, he is chaplain to the primary school at Colegio San Carlos, a school for boys operated by the monks of Monasterio Benedictino de Tibati (an outreach of the Assumption Abbey in Richardton).

60 years of service

Continued from Page 1

that time when he basically did everything a bishop does but ordain. The one priest ordination that year of 1996 was Msgr. Tom Richter. Bishop William Treinen of the Diocese of Boise returned to the area to celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination with his classmates. While here, he agreed to ordain Msgr. Richter. Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Lawrence Welsh, came to help out ordaining the deacons that year and Bishop Kinney returned for the chrism Mass.

Monsignor Walsh was delighted to welcome Bishop Zipfel when it was announced on New Year’s Eve of 1996 that he was to become the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Bismarck.

Now at age 87, Msgr. reflects on his time and numerous jobs. “All of my assignments have been surprises to me. But turned out to be wonderful surprises,” he said. “I’ve been blessed with so many wonderful experiences.”

He notes his role as chancellor during the Second Vatican Council as a memorable time. He served as a go-between with the bishop and priests. “Bishop Hacker attended the

council meetings and would write letters back to me of all the changes. I would then make that information available to the priests keeping them informed and prepared.”

Monsignor saved those letters and they are stored in the diocese archives to preserve that historical time.

Officially retired since 1998, Msgr. still remains active and conducts Mass once a week at a parish near his house in Tucson, Ariz. For the first time in years, he returned to spend the summer on the ranch near Bismarck, the house he resided in before moving to Tucson about four years ago. He hopes to spend a relaxing summer there with his beloved rescue dog, Duffy, and reconnect with old friends from the diocese, before returning to Arizona for the winter.

After all these years he’s quick to call his life as a priest a true privilege. “I still celebrate the Eucharist every morning. That is the highlight of every priest’s life,” he notes. “Being able to serve the people is a real honor and all the lasting friendships are wonderful.”

Pilgrimage opportunity

By Joyce McDowall, Director
Office of Family Ministry

Have you considered joining the Philadelphia Pilgrimage of World Meeting of Families?

It promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all ages this September 22-28. There will be an adult congress and a youth congress for ages 6-17. There will also be a licensed daycare for children under the age of six. The adult congress, for ages 18 and older, will consist of keynote presentations and breakout sessions addressing the many ways in which families can strengthen their bonds, especially in the face of the significant challenges facing the family globally. The youth congress will provide interactive programs designed for young people to play, listen, serve, build, and embrace the mission of love in a family.

Reading over the remarkable and dynamic group of speakers for the 2015 World Meeting of Families, it will be truly an amazing learning experience. Some of the names you may recognize are Fr. Robert Barron, Dr. John Grabowski, Dr. Greg and Mrs. Lisa Popcak, Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Janet Smith. There are about 27 sessions every single day of the meetings, each one relating to the 2015 Congress’ theme, “Love is our mission: the family fully alive.”

The meeting is expected to bring together 10,000-15,000 delegates from more than 150 nations in faith and celebration. To be part of this historic faith-filled event, travelling as pilgrims together from the Diocese of Bismarck, will be so inspiring. There will be busses to meet the group at the airport and transport everyone each day to liturgy and the meetings. There will be tours of some of the historical shrines and places within Philadelphia. For example, St. Katharine Drexel is the Patron Saint of Native Americans, and displaced peoples who worked most of her life bringing the message of Christ to them. If you are part of Polish descent, the National Shrine of Poland, Our Lady of Czestochowa, will be an option as well. For a complete list of the possible shrine visits go to www.worldmeeting2015.org/plan-your-visit-/places-worship.

Have you asked your pastor to lead a group from your parish? Are you part of some of the many Catholic organizations gathering such as the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, Serra Club, Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, Marriage Encounter, Beginning Experience, World Apostolate of Fatima, Right to Life, Cursillo, Catholic Medical Association, to name a few? We need to be part of



World Meeting of Families Prayer

God and Father of us all, in Jesus, your Son and Savior, You have made us Your sons and daughters in the family of the Church. May Your grace and love help our families in every part of the world be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel. May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of Your Holy Spirit, guide all families, especially those most troubled, to be homes of communion and prayer and to always seek Your truth and live in Your love.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

this great worldwide opportunity to celebrate, study, and grow the family unit. Whether we are clergy, married, religious or single, we come from family and we are family.

Think of the many thousands of praying, singing, rejoicing pilgrims gathering to greet Pope Francis as he arrives on Saturday, and participating in the closing papal Mass on Sunday.

One of our wonderful diocesan priests will be the spiritual director to travel and lead the pilgrimage. Bishop Kagan will be part of the bishops’ meetings occurring during this time and he hopes to join the pilgrims at one of the

banquets planned for the regions. Please hurry to get reservations completed. Call Canterbury Pilgrimages & Tours, Inc. direct to register at 1-800-653-0017. You also need to register online separately at www.worldmeeting2015.org/plan-your-visit/register/ for the meetings. Purchase the BASIC Package, with welcome kit. All else is included in the pilgrimage package. It will be a glorious week in September, showing and sharing our faith in Philadelphia! In the meantime please pray for the success of this meeting and for the safety of all pilgrims.

Special celebrations

Mother Mary Baptist marks silver jubilee

The Carmel of the Holy Face of Jesus, announce the celebration of the silver jubilee of religious profession of Mother Mary Baptist of the Virgin of Carmel, OCD. All are invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving on Wednesday, June 24 at 9 a.m. at the Carmelite Monastery (2051 91st Street SE, near Hague).

The Most Rev. David D. Kagan will be the main celebrant. Priests wishing to concelebrate please bring alb and stole. Due to the smallness of the current chapel, a sound system will be set up outside so that those who do not fit into the chapel can still participate in the Mass. Those attending are asked to bring outdoor chairs and to pray for good weather. Arrangements are also being made for a tent for additional

seating. Those who wish to greet Mother Mary Baptist may do so in the monastery parlor after Mass.

Following the Mass, there will be a potluck reception at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hague, hosted by St. Mary’s Altar Society. Those who attend are asked to bring a dish for the potluck. Sandwiches, beverages and cake will be provided. Contact Laura Eberle with any questions, or to volunteer to help with the reception. Please RSVP to Laura Eberle by Friday, June 5 at lauramaeeberle@gmail.com or 701-336-7237 or 701-426-6868.

Jubilees at Annunciation Monastery

The Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck invites the public to praise and thank God with their jubilarians on the renewal of their monastic profession on Saturday, June 20. Eucharistic

Liturgy will be held at 1:30 p.m. in Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel, Benedictine Center for Servant Leadership (north of the Bell Tower). Those celebrating are: 50-Year Jubilarian - Sister Rosanne Zastoupil, OSB; and 75-Year Jubilarians - Sister Helen Kilzer, OSB, and Sister Elizabeth Novy, OSB. A reception will follow from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at Annunciation Monastery in the monastic dining room.

Profession for Sister DeGracia

Join the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery for the perpetual monastic profession of Sister Rosemary DeGracia, OSB on Saturday, June 27. Share in the Eucharistic celebration with the rite of profession at 1:30 p.m., Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel, Benedictine Center for Servant Leadership (north of the Bell Tower). A reception will follow

at Annunciation Monastery in the monastic dining room.

Cathedral teacher retires

Cathedral School students and staff celebrated the retirement of Mrs. Nancy Hopfauf on May 15 at their morning school Mass. Family, friends, and former students of Mrs. Hopfauf were present for Mass, and a reception that followed. Cathedral School would like to thank Mrs. Hopfauf for her many years of dedication to Catholic school students and families. Cards may be sent to her at: 2730 73rd Ave NE, Bismarck, ND 58503.



Nancy Hopfauf



Dakota **Catholic Action**

will not have an issue in July. Watch for the next issue in August.

Catholic Daughters hold state convention

The 49th Biennial North Dakota Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas was held in Fargo April 24-26. This year's Convention theme was "Guided by the Light of Christ." Approximately 125 members from across the state were in attendance. Special attendees included: Past National Regent Claudia Bosch, National Secretary-Treasurer Vickie Feist, Immediate Past State Regent Renae Sticka and State Chaplain Rev. Franklin Miller.

Previous to the start of the convention, Bishop John Folda said a Mass for vocations. Several priests from the Fargo Diocese were there to con-celebrate this Mass. Deacons from the Fargo and Bismarck Diocese assisted at this Mass and others said by Fr. Miller and Fr. James Gross.

State officers elected were State Regent Kathy Kennedy of Harvey, 1st Vice State Regent Laurel Ann Dukart of Grand Forks, 2nd Vice State Regent Mary Baer of Belfield, State Secretary Bonita Erickson, and State Treasurer Sarah Torpen of Fargo. National Supervisor Vickie Feist and State Chaplain Rev. Franklin Miller installed them at Sunday Mass.

At each state convention, Catholic Daughters in the state vote on a

project to support financially and spiritually for the next two years. This year's project is the Badlands Choice Clinic, which is just starting up in Dickinson. The Badlands Choice Clinic's goal is to empower women and families to make life-affirming pregnancy decisions through counsel, education, compassion and the aid through the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

North Dakota Catholic Daughters hold their state convention every two years with the next convention to be in Bismarck May 5-7, 2017.

—Submitted information



Submitted photo

Special guests were on hand for the 49th Biennial North Dakota Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas held in Fargo in late April.

Centralized payroll to be utilized July 1

The diocese's parishes will begin using a centralized payroll process beginning July 1. The goal for the change is to implement consistency across the diocese. Parish Resource Manager Tony Chap and Finance Officer Laura Huber addressed some of the main issues surrounding the new program.

What factors led up to implementing this program?

The Diocese conducts periodic reviews at each parish checking the parish's internal controls and

financial processes. We found that with so many payroll methods being used by all the parishes, there was a need to establish consistency related to standards. A centralized system is more sensible and ensures that all parishes are following prescribed standards and also that we are good stewards of assets entrusted to us. The diocese has recently hired a full-time employee and a portion of her responsibilities has been designated to support parishes for payroll services. This will serve as a

dedicated, consistent contact person for the program.

Why is it important for all parishes to utilize a centralized payroll program?

Our parishes are individual corporations and two thirds of them have employees. As with all employers, parishes are required to accurately withhold payroll amounts and timely pay all FICA and federal amounts. Similarly, the payroll process must accurately process benefit withholdings and employer amounts for health care and 401k benefits, which involve both pre-tax and taxable amounts. When you also consider the requirements to file monthly or quarterly 941 payments/reports along with year-end W2 reports to employees, W3 reports and regular government requirement and tax table changes, the responsibilities can be burdensome. Having a knowledgeable provider of services, common to all parishes, should reduce both the burden and the concerns of frequent and time-consuming payroll tasks.

Will this centralized program work for parishes of all sizes whether they employ one or 100?

The needs of all sizes of parishes have been considered whether they be parishes with 1 or 2 employees to those parishes who may have several parish, daycare and school employees. Each parish employer currently has a person responsible for accurate payroll time recording, and that person will likely be the designated parish person responsible to communicate employee paid time information and any other employee or benefits changes to the central payroll contact. Payroll runs are flexible (semi-monthly or monthly) as determined by each parish.

What will the general cost be to the parishes?

The cost to a parish is minimal and will be based on the number of payroll runs and the number of employees in each run. Though the cost is by payroll run, it includes all traditional payroll services such as monthly and/or annual 401k, IRS and other government reporting obligations. Another advantage to the centralized system is that those employees within the parish, who devoted time to payroll, can now be utilized to take care of other tasks of parish administration.

— Staff report

Town and Country Celebration

July 12, 2015 • St. Anthony, N.D.

Come enjoy a day of family fun, fellowship, food and Mass with Bishop Kagan

Hosted at the Marty and Kelly Schaff ranch along with Msgr. Chad Gion and the parishioners of Spirit of Life, Mandan, Church of St. Anthony, St. Anthony and St. Martin, Huff.

All are welcome—young and old, from town and country

Schaff Angus Valley Ranch
6110 County Road 81
St. Anthony, ND

From Mandan take Highway 6 south 20 miles, turn east on County Road 135 (gravel road), continue about 5 miles following the curves in the road to the entrance of the ranch. Signs will be posted along County Road 135.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. DST

Blessing of animals, land and machinery begins at Noon

Free lunch and entertainment following the blessing and Mass outdoors with Bishop Kagan will be at 2:30 p.m.

Register at bismarckdiocese.com/townandcountry or call 204-7209.

Registration required for an accurate meal count.

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, umbrellas and whatever you need to make it an enjoyable day outside.

World Day Of Prayer For Vocations observed in Minot

By Grace Fisher

In keeping with the theme of the special day, Msgr. Tom Richter told a group at Minot’s Our Lady of Grace, “The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is the church affirmation of the power of intercessory prayer; it works. God acts through intercessory prayer.”

The Serra Club of North Central North Dakota hosted the April 26 event, sponsored by Serra International. Richter, who is rector at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck, gave his remarks, along with intervals of private prayer and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Special readings were presented by Sheyenne Schmidt and T. K. Kumba, students at Bishop Ryan Catholic School in Minot. The day’s theme was “Fear and doubt in discerning the will of the Father in our vocation, and the joy that comes in doing his will.” Serra’s primary purpose is to foster vocations to the Catholic priesthood and to support priests in their work.

The reality of intercessory prayer by Serra club members and how it works is powerful, Richter said. He defined an intercessor as one who goes between God and the object of the prayer. “It opens up access to Christ on behalf of someone or something. . . . Intercessory prayer—flowing from faith—is not about getting God to act, but about removing obstacles before him so that he can bless the person.”

Richter, who served as director of vocations for the diocese for 11 years, cited events from Holy Scripture as examples of how an individual whose intercession before Christ resulted in miracles of healing in the lives of others. He also alluded to the types of prayer as defined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). They include prayers of blessing and adoration, petition, and intercession, which is a prayer of petition.

“Sometimes we are not interceding enough,” Richter observed. Yet the power of

intercessory prayer is real, he emphasized. “The heart of an intercessor can be the source of conversion for another.... Intercession is a prayer of petition which leads us to pray as Jesus did.” (CCC2634) Its power is real. . . . It is an act of faith, and there is a confidence that goes with having faith. . . . The Gospels show us that the opposite of faith is fear and doubt. Without faith, we are not open to receive God’s help. Without faith, we find our soul shrinking, holding back, doubtful, fearful of failure.”

He urged his listeners, to “Pray against fear. Pray like heck to get rid of fear. Don’t be stuck in yourselves. Have the guts to go against fear. This can be hard in a secular age. Ask God to kill in you anything that tries to make you afraid. Pray against any fear that might be in the hearts of those Christ has chosen for a priestly or religious vocation,” Richter said. This, he suggested, was what the World Day of Prayer for

Vocations was all about.

He noted that the Blessed Mother was told by an angel not to be afraid when Mary learned she was to be the mother of God. St. Joseph was told by an angel in a dream not to be afraid to take Mary in, Richter said.

Nancy Magnuson, who chairs the North Central club’s vocations committee, also chaired the World Day of Prayer for Vocations event. Her husband Thomas, a deacon at Little Flower Catholic Church in Minot, assisted Msgr. Richter in setting up exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. A picnic supper, arranged by Mike Ruelle, club president, followed the event, which was attended by some 60 people.



Msgr. Tom Richter of God. St. Joseph was told by an angel in a dream not to be afraid to take Mary in, Richter said.

Year of Consecrated Life



Photos by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

At the Celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life held at the University of Mary on April 25, those in attendance enjoyed fellowship and gained information on those living this holy life.



Working hand in hand

Short-term trips will fill a gap in missionary service work

By Sonia Mullally
DCA Editor

Father Stephen Folorunso has returned from his scouting trip to the diocese's African Mission, and he's ready to strap on his tool belt, gather a few volunteers and turn around and go back.

The pastor of parishes in the southwest N.D. towns of Hettinger, Reeder and Scranton is native African. He had never been to Kenya and the visit in February was his first to the diocese's African Mission

near the city of Kisii. "I was really impressed by how things are set up at the mission," Father Stephen said. "From my own experience with other missions, they often come in and make big promises, dump things on the local people and then leave. Not here. Here, it's a more collaborative effort where they work hand in hand."

He said the key to the mission's success is to not impose our will on them, but to help them achieve their will. In the building of a house, for instance, we provide the essential building structure and they do the rest. Jobs for short-term missionaries would be repairing buildings, preparing work sites for houses and repairs at the school all associated with the orphans served by the Mission.

It's that "help them to help themselves" commitment that Father Stephen sees as the central theme to the short-term mission trips he hopes to lead.

He explains that there isn't a "fix-it" culture in Africa. "It's

clear to see the repairs that need to be done. If your chair shakes, you fix it," Father explained. "They don't have a maintenance culture in Africa. Here in the U.S., you go to the home improvement store, get the parts, tools and follow a manual to fix it. Here, we do things to keep our possessions in working order."

Father Stephen's scouting trip to the African Mission was a precursor to gathering teams of short-term missionaries to return this winter. "Charity begins at home, so now I'm talking to my people here."

The people at home he refers to are his parishioners and others who might be interested in making a commitment of two weeks for a different style of mission work. The goals would be three-fold: first, to bring the love of Christ, then repair

the living conditions and lastly, before leaving, teach them to repair things.

The goal is to have the first group of about 10 people go at the end of November or early December. Anyone can go, but those who fit the description of a "handy-man (or woman)" would be ideal since most projects will require manual labor. Anyone with specialized skills such as a nurse, doctor or dentist is also very much needed.

The cost, Father Stephen, estimates at about \$1,000 for the flight and about \$300 for miscellaneous expenses, plus \$50 for a visa to enter the country. For the short-term stay, the plan is to live at the Mission site depending on availability at the nearby school.

Father Stephen hopes that many people will prayerfully consider a two-week commitment to the Mission. It's ideal for people who desire to help, but cannot commit for a long-term time period. He's sure that time will go by quickly, but could be very fruitful. "God created the world in seven days. We are not God, but we can do a lot of things in two weeks."

For more information on the short-term mission trips, contact Father Stephen at his parish at sfolorunso@bismarckdiocese.com or 701-567-2772.

African Safari

Another idea Father has been working on with the travel agent is to offer would-be missionaries the chance to combine volunteer work with an African safari. Many will probably view this as a "once-in-a-lifetime" trip. Why not combine the service work with an experience only available in Africa? The travel agent will work with the individual to make the transition from service work at the Mission to the safari excursion.



Teens and widows connect at annual supper

By Justyce Duffield
Bowman County
High School Senior

The seniors, juniors, and some sophomores of the Catholic Church hosted the annual widow’s supper at St. Charles Catholic Church in Bowman on March 15.

We have hosted the widow’s supper at St. Charles for three years and for some women it was the first year without their husband. It was a heartwarming experience talking to the ladies before and after the meal. We got to hear their stories and how their day was going, if they needed our prayers to help them get through a tough time, and their advice to us as we prepare to take the next step in our life and attend college. Matthew 5:4 says, “blessed are those that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” People say this annual widow’s supper is so nice for the widowed women in our parish, but in all honesty, it is a bigger blessing to us kids to be able to give back to these ladies who have shown us so much support in our lives. This supper gives us a

chance to return that support. Speaking on behalf of the young people in this parish, I am beyond grateful to have these amazing women in my life. Like I said, they have shown us so much support, from helping us continue our faith to even cheering us on at sporting events. Widows are transported to the church (if needed), and escorted to their seats by handsome young men in suits. Drivers included Skip Walby, Ron Palczewski, and Lenny Fischer. Our handsome escorts were Tel Lardy, Brayden Jorgenson, Lane Jeffers, and Kadyn Limesand. Greg and Janie Wolf prepared the meal and senior girls, Charmaine Martian and Michaela Fischer, provided entertainment. Servers included Karly Palczewski, Melissa Bucholz, Kendra Wokal, Ariana Zook, Justyce Duffield, Sarah Frietag, Kalea Hoff, Ashley Schmalz, Haley Phelps, and Haly Allen. Thanks to everyone who helped and all the ladies who attended. The night was a success, once again!



Submitted photo
Tel Lardy escorts Joyce Miller at this year's annual widow supper at the Church of St. Charles in Bowman.

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ **Corpus Christi celebration is June 7**

Rural St. Clement’s Catholic Oratory at Haymarsh, N.D., invites the public to their annual special Corpus Christi celebration on Sunday, June 7. The event will include: Holy Mass at 10:30 a.m. (central time), Benediction, and an outdoor Eucharistic procession. Following a noon picnic potluck meal, there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 1:30-3 p.m. along with a priest available for confession. Prayer petitions will include praying for a bountiful harvest and protection from storms, insects and drought. Bring a dish to share and a blanket or chairs. Directions: from I-94, take the Glen Ullin Exit 108 and drive 8 miles northwest on County Rd 88. For more information call St. Ann’s Church, Diane Wanner at 878-4658 or 260-6876 or Mary Ann Duppong at 878-4167.

■ **Seminarian golf tournament on July 6**

Golfers are welcome at the seminarian golf tournament on Monday, July 6 at the Prairie West Golf Course in Mandan. Registration begins at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Register by June 29 to participate. Cost per team is \$400 for this 18-hole scramble style tournament. Each team must have four players with a priest or seminarian added based on random drawing. Golf, dinner and two drink tickets are included in the cost. Register online at www.catholicfoundationdob.com/golf or contact Mike Bichler at mnichler6@gmail.com.

■ **Town and Country Mass on July 12**

Celebrate the Town and Country Mass on Sunday, July 12 at the Schaff Angus Valley Ranch near St. Anthony. Host parishes are Spirit of Life, Mandan, Church of St. Anthony, St. Anthony and St. Martin, Huff. Registration begins at 11 a.m. (central time) with the blessing of animals, land and machinery starting at noon. A free lunch and entertainment will be provided to follow. Mass outdoors with Bishop Kagan will be at 2:30 p.m. Register online at www.bismarckdiocese.com/townandcountry or call 204-7209. Registration is required for an accurate meal count. Directions: from Mandan take Hwy 6 south 20 miles, turn east on County Rd 135 (gravel road), and continue about 5 miles following curves in the road to the entrance of the ranch. Signs will be posted along the county road.

■ **Theology of the Body events July 23-25**

The Diocese of Bismarck Office of Family Ministry is hosting three Theology of the Body training sessions July 23-25 at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. The July 23 session will address Theology of the Body for teens-middle school training while the July 24 training features the high school version. The July 25 seminar is more general for adults on understanding the most basic truths and questions of human existence. Guest speaker is Colin MacIver, co-author of Theology of the Body for Teens: Middle School Edition, who teaches theology and serves as the religion department chair and campus ministry coordinator at Saint Scholastica Academy in Louisiana. There is a cost for each all-day session that includes training materials, breakfast and lunch. Register online at www.bismarckdiocese.com/tob. For more information on the events, contact Tara Brooke at 701-426-0746 or tbrooke@bismarckdiocese.com.

■ **Marriage encounter weekends**

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are July 17-19 in Buffalo, Minn.; September 11-13 in Irene, S.D. and International Falls, Minn.; October 9-11 in Buffalo, Minn.; and November 20-22 in Prior Lake, Minn. and Medora, N.D. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: ndwwme.org or contact Rob and Angie at Applications@ndwwme.org or 701-347-1998.

■ **St. Michael’s to celebrate centennial Sept. 20**

St. Michael’s Parish (rural Linton) will be having their centennial celebration Sunday, Sept. 20. A meal will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. followed by a program. Mass, with Bishop Kagan, will be at 3 p.m.



Submitted photo

Seminarians meet Cardinal Dolan

Mark Aune, a Bismarck Diocese seminarian studying at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, met with Cardinal Dolan in May at the Basilica Cathedral of St. Louis. Cardinal Dolan, along with five North American Cardinals, was there to celebrate Mass and take part in a fundraiser for the Catholic University of America. Pictured are (l-r): Nick Fleming (Diocese of Belleville), Cardinal Dolan, Mark Aune (Diocese of Bismarck), and Michael Kemp (Diocese of Belize).

Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions



- JUNE**
- **Universal:** That immigrants and refugees may find welcome and respect in the countries to which they come.
 - **Evangelization:** That the personal encounter with Jesus may arouse in many young people the desire to offer their own lives in priesthood or consecrated life.
- JULY**
- **Universal:** That political responsibility may be lived at all levels as a high form of charity
 - **Evangelization:** That, amid social inequalities, Latin American Christians may bear witness to love for the poor and contribute to a more fraternal society.

Without love for Mary, Carmel ceases to be Carmel

By a Carmelite Nun
Diocese of Bismarck

Hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth and that of Our Blessed Mother, Mt. Carmel was a place of solitude for many hermits. It was especially revered because of its connection with the Prophet St. Elijah and his followers. Since the first few centuries, even before the Messiah was born as related in the book, *The Institution of the First Monks*, the hermits of Mt. Carmel would gather in their caves around the “grotto of the Madonna” with great love and devotion, to venerate the Mother of God, she who was to bear the Messiah.

When the persecutions in the Holy Land forced the Carmelite Brothers to move to Europe, the General of the Order, St. Simon Stock, had a difficult time keeping the Order together. For besides meeting with much opposition from those outside the Order, who thought the Carmelites should merge with the existing religious groups, there were various opinions within the Order as to how to adapt the charism of the Order to their new circumstances. St. Simon Stock fervently petitioned Our Blessed Mother to protect her Order from being destroyed. He called upon her using the following prayer, which we continue to pray even today in our Carmel.

Flower of Carmel, Blossoming Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Mother Divine, None Like to thee, Mother of our King, peerless and fair, to thy children of Carmel favors grant ever, Star of the Sea.

Our Blessed Mother appeared to him with the child Jesus in her arms and gave him the brown scapular as a symbol of her special protection and promised that whoever will die wearing it would not suffer the pains of hell. This happened on July 16, 1251. Gradually, the favor was extended to include, not only the priests, brothers and nuns of the Order of Carmel who wear the full-length scapular that reaches almost down to their feet, but also to all the faithful. An abbreviated form of the full scapular consisting of two small squares of wool, connected by two strings that are worn over the shoulders, carries the same indulgences and privileges as the larger version.

Those who wear the brown scapular show Our Blessed Mother, by wearing it, their love and devotion to her. Whenever they kiss their scapular, it is like giving a kiss to Our Lady herself. And those who love her, she loves and cares for with particular affection and solicitude. She obtains for them all the graces necessary for their salvation and brings them closer to Jesus. It is a symbol of their consecration to her and through her to God.

Carmelites, as they put on the holy scapular, not only when they first receive it as a Novice, but also every morning, are reminded of the sweet yoke of their Lord Jesus Christ and their dedication to His service. They wear their scapular over all the other parts of the holy habit. Even the mantle, which they wear for Holy Mass and other ceremonies, is left open

in the front so that the scapular is visible. In all temptations, troubles, doubts and uncertainties, it reminds them to call upon Mary for her help. It is like having our Blessed Mother’s arms around them. Those who wear the smaller version of the scapular are encouraged also to have recourse to Mary in any difficulty and when, sometimes the scapular pops out from underneath their other clothing, it is a great way to evangelize—letting people know that we love God and His Most Holy Mother. Karol Wojtyla (Pope St. John Paul II) can be seen in several of his photos as a youth, wearing the scapular. And even in the movie Karol has a scene in which his scapular is jumping around with him as he is playing soccer.

The wearing of the holy

scapular is a privilege. That is why Carmelites wear it continuously. There is a scapular for the day and one for at night, but long or short, it is a beautiful testimony of our love for the Virgin Mary and her love for us. In our holy constitution it states: “The most holy Virgin Mary, incomparable model for all souls leading a contemplative life, is especially so for Carmelites, ‘daughters of the one Order which from its beginning was formed as All Mary’s.’ For this reason, the Church has always considered Carmel as the Order dedicated in a particular way to the love and service of the Immaculate Mother of God. Its history and its traditions have been bound to Her with such sweet ties that without love for Mary, Carmel ceases to be Carmel.”

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

Please join us in praying the Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 8-16. Mary, as our good Mother, is always eager to come to our aid in any difficulty or trial. She has already shown herself to be solicitous for our spiritual welfare by giving us the holy scapular, so let us come to her with confidence in all our other needs as well.



O Glorious Queen of Angels! Most pure and ever-blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel! Powerful advocate of all those who wear thy holy scapular! Faithful protectress of all the servants of thy Son, Jesus Christ! I, an unworthy sinner, do this day, in the presence of thy beloved Son, my Savior choose thee for my patroness, that, through thy intercession, I may receive from Him whatsoever grace may be necessary and profitable for me now and at the hour of my death. Amen.

Prayer intentions and/or requests for brown scapulars may be mailed to:
Carmel of the Holy Face of Jesus,
2051 91st St. SE,
Hague, N.D. 58542
or you may also contact us by phone at 701-336-7907.

Obituary

Sister Miriam Rubel

Sister Miriam Rubel, 91, died Thursday, May 7, 2015 at Marian Residence in Alliance, Neb. Mass of Christian Burial was May 13 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Alliance with Father John Kakkuzhiyil officiating. Burial took place in Calvary Cemetery in Alliance.

Sister Miriam was born June 14, 1923 at Paxton (Dallas), S.D. to Charles and Ida (Budde) Rubel and was named Marcella Rose.

She entered Marycrest Convent in Denver on September 8, 1941 and professed her vows on August 16, 1943 as Sister Mary Miriam. She moved to Minot as a nursing student at St. Joseph’s Hospital graduating as a registered nurse in 1946. Sister Miriam then moved to Scottsbluff, Neb. where she worked at St. Mary’s Hospital



Sister Miriam Rubel

until 1955 and then returned to Minot for the next 20 years. She received her bachelor of science in 1957 from St. Mary’s College in Xavier, Kan. and her master’s degree in nursing service in 1964 from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. in 1978.

Her ministry in health care brought her to St. Joseph’s Hospital in Alliance, Neb. in 1977. In 1980, she became administrator of Marian Residence serving in that capacity until 1990. She then returned to Marycrest in Denver and for a time was a hospital administrator in Kenmare. In 1996, she moved back to Alliance to resume as administrator at Marian Residence until 2004. In recent years, she continued her ministry in service to others in Alliance, Denver, and O’Neill, Neb. and relocated to Alliance permantly in 2010.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Darlene Rubel of Bellevue, Iowa and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Vernon and Leo.

News Briefs

Home on the Range seeking executive director

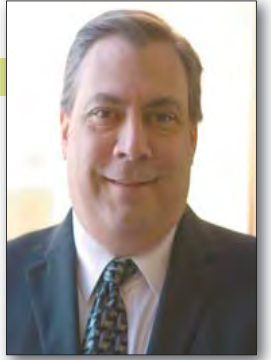
Home On The Range, a licensed and COA accredited residential treatment facility for juveniles ages 12 to 19, is accepting applications for the position of executive director. Home On The Range, which is under the auspices of the Diocese of Bismarck, is located in the Badlands of western North Dakota. Resume must be sent to Diane Taylor Szudera, Home On The Range, 16351 I 94, Sentinel Butte, ND 58654-9500, or emailed to dianes@hotrnd.com. Resumes will be accepted until June 19, 2015.

Light of Christ hiring

Light of Christ Catholic Schools (the System), a newly formed school system comprised of three elementary schools, a middle school academy and a high school, is seeking a director of mission advancement to lead the new office of mission advancement. The position is a full-time, at-will position within the office of mission advancement. Please go to www.bismarckdiocese.com/news/locs for a more detailed job description. Interested professionals may forward a letter of interest, résumé, and three professional references to: Mr. Patrick Diener, Director of Mission Advancement Search Coordinator, Light of Christ Catholic Schools at pdieners@omearaferguson.com.

Balancing Church & State

CHRISTOPHER DODSON



Legislators introduced 938 bills and resolutions

The North Dakota Legislative Assembly adjourned April 28 with only one bill unresolved. Leaving a bill unfinished is unusual, if not unprecedented. Voters should keep in mind that it is common in many other states and, unlike every other state legislature; the North Dakota legislature holds hearings on and advances every bill introduced.

Legislators introduced 938 bills and resolutions. The North Dakota Catholic Conference followed 145 of them. Only a handful of them became what most people would call “newsworthy.” Why do we follow so many bills? To begin with, consider all the institutions and missions in which the church engages. The church has schools, parishes, cemeteries, a university, Catholic Charities of North Dakota, and other charitable programs. Health care is provided through Catholic hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living centers, and more. During each session, many bills are introduced that could impact the operation of any of these programs and entities. Very often the proposed legislation does not affect the work of these ministries. Until final passage, however, a bill can change and the conference tries to monitor all the bills throughout the process.

In addition, the church is committed to ensuring that the poor, marginalized, sick, and suffering are treated with respect

and dignity. For this reason, the conference follows many bills involving the provision of human services such as abortion alternatives, adoption, medical assistance, and treatment for persons with mental illness. About one-half of all the bills followed by the conference fall within this category. These bills may not make headlines and, to be honest, can sometimes be boring. The Church, however, would not be the Church if it turned away from legislation that affected the least among us.

Here are some of the highlights of the last legislative session.

Human trafficking addressed

The legislature passed a set of bills to address the serious problem of human trafficking in North Dakota. Three bills supported by the conference were especially important. SB 2107 was the main bill. It revises and strengthens the criminal laws on human trafficking, ensures that victims of trafficking are eligible for services without regard to their immigration status, and prevents tax money for victims services from being used to refer for or counsel in favor of abortions. SB 2199 provides much needed funding for victim services. SB 2219 establishes a statewide task force to address human trafficking.

An additional bill, proposed by the North Dakota Catholic Conference, provides an enhanced criminal penalty for human traffickers who have forced or

coerced a victim to have an abortion.

School choice success and defeat

The legislature passed two bills that further parental choice in education. HB 1462 provides tax credits for contributions to private education institutions. These contributions can be used for scholarships at nonpublic schools. SB 2151 provides some funding to low-income parents to voluntarily choose an early childhood education program for their child, including a program at a nonpublic school.

The state Senate, however, narrowly defeated (22-24) a proposed income tax deduction to help low- and middle-income parents cover the cost of tuition and books at a nonpublic school. The House had passed the legislation 69-24, making HB 1254 the first school choice tax deduction bill to ever pass one of the chambers.

Religious rights protected

The North Dakota Catholic Conference successfully lobbied for amendments to bills that would have interfered with the right of churches to set their own policies on firearms and the right of private religious colleges to establish their own student disciplinary policies.

Although it was one aspect of the bill that did not get much attention in the press, SB 2279, the defeated sexual orientation non-discrimination bill, could have scaled-back religious

protections on matters that did not even involve sexual orientation. For more on SB 2279, see last month’s column.

Sexual assault nurses funded

The conference supported SB 2284, which provides much needed funding for sexual assault nurses to conduct forensic exams for victims of sexual assault. These specially trained nurses are scarce in some areas of the state. Our Catholic hospitals are among those that need access to these services.

Behavioral health and substance abuse services left wanting

When it comes to services for behavioral health and substance abuse, North Dakota is in a state of crisis. In response, legislators proposed several bills that only began to address the problems. Unfortunately, many of the bills that required funding were defeated or had the funding significantly reduced. This is a problem that will not go away and must be addressed next session.

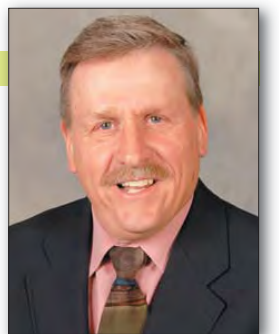
Corporate farming

The only bill opposed by the conference that passed was SB 2351, which opens up some agriculture operations to ownership by outside investors. Opponents of the legislation have launched a referral effort. The bishops support this effort.

■ Dodson serves as executive director of the N.D. Catholic Conference, the official liaison for the dioceses of Fargo and Bismarck in matters of public policy.

Ag Attitudes

JAMES ODERMANN



Trust and communication brings God closer

“How are you doing?” I asked my friend, whom I had known all my life. His wife had died unexpectedly after nearly 65 years of marriage. “Okay,” he replied. “It certainly is different.”

“Yes, I am sure your routine has changed. You have lost your connection and I am sure that is difficult,” I said as I shook his hand and placed my left hand on his shoulder.

Here was a couple that had been a mentor, perhaps unknowingly, to many within the community.

“Yes,” he replied. “It is hard, but when you say and share the things that are important when you are alive it makes it easier. We told each other what was important, how we felt and shared our

feelings. That helps ease the pain, the loss, the separation.”

Those were powerful words spoken with true love for his wife. The lesson of sacramental love was continuing, even through death. The words my friend shared were a humble reflection of faith in God.

There were no regrets for my friend. God was there, providing the love, comfort and strength to realize there is more. It was a poignant moment for me as I witnessed faith in action.

In the end, what I realized was that God was showing me the mystery of personal suffering is part of a commitment to accept and surrender to the destiny He offers. God unconditionally loves and unconditionally forgives every

person.

One important facet of this discourse with my friend was to witness God’s infinite love. As a human being, I must absolutely and completely submit to be a disciple of Christ to earn eternal salvation.

God knows my humanity. God knows I will falter, but He also offers me opportunities to see the ways of my errors, to seek the grace and power to correct the mistakes.

The message from God was made more poignant through another human being telling me not to hold back—with my spouse, my children, my siblings, my friends. God’s word came directly to me through another.

I have reflected on this exchange for a long time, wondering if I, in my thoughts, words and deeds, have been able to help others as God had done so in this case. God is always available, sympathizing in my hopes and offering me help. Do I answer the call to help others as I was helped? I need to make sure I avail myself to God’s call. It means being vulnerable. It means helping others. It means trusting God.

I hope I am up to the task. Care to join me?

■ Odermann lives with his wife, Leona, on the family farm in Billings County. They are members of the Church of St. Patrick in Dickinson and assist with eucharistic celebrations there as well as at the Churches of St. Bernard (Belfield) and St. Mary (Medora).

Making Sense out of Bioethics

FR. TAD PACHOLCZYK



What is VSED and why should it matter to us?

More than 20 years ago, Dr. David Eddy, writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, described how his mother, though not suffering from a terminal illness, chose to end her life through VSED (voluntarily stopping eating and drinking). She was “very independent, very self-sufficient, and very content.” When she began to be afflicted by various ailments, including rectal prolapse, she talked with her physician-son about “how she could end her life gracefully.”

When she asked him, “Can I stop eating?” he told her that if it was really her intention to end her life, she could also stop drinking since, “without water, no one, not even the healthiest, can live more than a few days.” After a family bash celebrating her 85th birthday, she “relished her last piece of chocolate, and then stopped eating and drinking.” She died of dehydration six days later, with her son arranging for pain medications to be administered during her final days and hours.

Choosing not to eat or drink can be packaged as a noble and well-intentioned way to avoid intense pain and suffering, but VSED ultimately represents a flawed choice. It subtly draws us into the mistake of treating the objective good of our life as if it were an evil to be quelled or extinguished. We have a moral duty to preserve and protect our life, and to use ordinary means of doing so. Suicide, even by starvation and dehydration, is still suicide and is never morally acceptable.

For some critically-ill patients, continued attempts to ingest food and liquids may cause significant complications, including severe nausea, vomiting, or complex problems with elimination. Such patients may find themselves effectively incapable of eating or drinking. This is not VSED, but a direct manifestation of their advanced disease state, and does not raise any of the ethical concerns associated with VSED.

As disease or severe illness advances, and a patient draws near to death, various bodily systems may begin to fail, and a natural decrease in appetite can occur. This is also different from a voluntary decision to stop eating and drinking — VSED refers specifically to a conscious, elective decision on the part of a patient not to eat or drink when eating and drinking would be anticipated to provide benefit to them without undue burdens.

As people are dying, the real evil that often needs to be quelled or extinguished is pain, and severe pain is properly addressed by non-suicidal means, that is to say, through effective pain management and palliative care

strategies.

Dr. M. Scott Peck in his book Denial of the Soul argues that the “failure to treat pain is medical malpractice.... [and] one of the worst crimes in medicine today.” We live in an age that possesses a remarkable arsenal of methods and pharmaceuticals to address physical pain, depression and death-related anxiety, leaving little excuse for individuals to fear undergoing agonizing and pain-racked deaths.

Some have sought to suggest that patients who choose VSED may feel less pain because the nervous system becomes dulled and the body may end up releasing chemicals which provide natural analgesia or pain relief: “What my patients have told me over the last 25 years is that when they stop eating and drinking, there’s nothing unpleasant about it -- in fact, it can be quite blissful and euphoric,” said Dr. Perry G. Fine,

vice president of medical affairs at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in Arlington, Va. “It’s a very smooth, graceful and elegant way to go.”

Such claims, however, remain highly controversial and strain credulity.

Dehydration and starvation constitute a form of assault against the integrity of the body and the whole organism, and if the body reacts by releasing chemicals, this is a form of “shock” response to an escalating traumatic situation. As noted for Dr. Eddy’s mother, pain medications were required to control the significant suffering and discomfort that would otherwise have ensued from her dehydration/starvation.

Even those who promote VSED advocate uniformly for concurrent pain control. In fact, Helga Kuhse, a well-known advocate of assisted suicide, once argued that when people see how painful a death by

starvation and dehydration really is, then, “in the patient’s best interest,” they will soon come to accept active euthanasia through, for example, a lethal injection. Indeed, VSED is frequently promoted by right to die advocates as one method among others to carry out suicide or euthanasia.

By its nature, VSED appears to be defined by the intent to cause death by forgoing the most basic requirements to conserve human life. Intentionally engaging in such damaging and self-destructive behaviors, by foisting dehydration and starvation onto our mortal frames so as to shutter our earthly existence, can never represent an ordered kind of human choice.

■ Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.



Safe from abuse:
Tips for keeping your kids safe at summer camp

Each year around 10 million children attend summer camp, which can create lots of memories and fun, however, it can also be an ideal place for abuse to occur. No camp is immune from the possibility of abuse, no matter if it’s a Christian, sports or Scout camp. Luckily there are five important steps parents and caregivers can take to help prevent their child from becoming the victim of abuse.

- 1) Educate your child about her body parts. Teach her that her body is hers and no one can look at or touch her body unless it is for a legitimate purpose, like a doctor. Tell her it’s never OK to keep a secret about someone touching her or doing something to her that makes her uncomfortable. Let her know that if something does happen that makes her uncomfortable, tell someone and keep telling until someone helps her.
- 2) Screen the camp. Know the policies and procedures of the camp and ask questions such as if they do criminal background checks on staff, what training staff has on abuse, if campers know

what to do about abuse. You should also ask when it is appropriate for staff to be alone with a child. The answer should be never.

- 3) Recognize potential abusers. When abuse happens, 90 percent of the time it is done by someone the child knows and trusts. Sexual abusers are masters at grooming their victims. Almost one-third of children are victimized by an older child. So ask the camp what is done to supervise children between different age groups.
- 4) Know the warning signs of sexual abuse. bismarck.sanfordhealth.org/dcac/families
- 5) Know what to do if you suspect child abuse. Always support your child, explain that the abuse is never her fault, make sure she knows you believe her, and praise her for sharing. Then make sure you report it to your local social services and law enforcement.

For more information on creating a family safety plan, as well as additional prevention resources, visit stopitnow.org.

Questions I was afraid to ask

FR SHANE CAMPBELL



Q: Why does the Catholic Church believe in purgatory?

A: Not so very long ago, maybe 40-50 years, this question about purgatory would never have been raised. Everybody knew that every Catholic believed there was a purgatory. Since the '60s and '70s, purgatory has not been a very popular belief, viewed more as backwards, uneducated, and mid-evil. I am happy to report that the subject of purgatory seems to be popping up on a regular basis on EWTN, Real Presence Radio, in bookstores and was even raised at our own Lenten parish mission with evangelist Steve Ray.

Gerard J.M. Van Den Aardweg, author of "Hungry Souls" explains that the teaching of the Catholic Church on purgatory has never changed. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 1030) teaches that the souls of people who had faith and love of God and for neighbor but died in an imperfect moral and spiritual state could still be perfected after death in purgatory. Though they are "assured of their eternal salvation," they still need to "undergo purification" that makes possible "the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." These souls cannot earn any merits in purgatory, but suffer passively there. Still, the prayers and works of the living can bring them merit and benefit. From the beginning, the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead. (CCC, n. 1032)

Saint Pope John Paul II explained the necessity of purgatory for those who (at death) find themselves in a condition of being open to God, but still imperfectly. The journey towards full beatitude requires a purification, which the faith of the Church illustrates in the doctrine of purgatory. We are called to be perfect like the heavenly Father during our earthly life...sound and flawless before God the Father "at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints." (1 Thess 3:12)

Purification means atonement for our sins and their effects on the soul. It is not a painless,

automatic process of "growing" the soul, of attaining full "self-realization" through the acquisition of more insight after death, as is the theory of some spiritualists. It is not a series of reincarnations as believed by some New Age disciples. Purgatory, penance, expiation, God's holy justice have dangerously been set aside in today's culture. However, the truth remains that man has to be "sound and flawless before God the Father" when, after death, he appears before Him to render an account of his life. Only holy souls have direct access to the beatific vision where "nothing unclean shall enter." Therefore every trace of attachment to evil must be eliminated, every imperfection of the soul corrected. The place for correction is purgatory. In the final analysis, "purgatory is the mercy of Christ working through his Mystical Body, the Church."

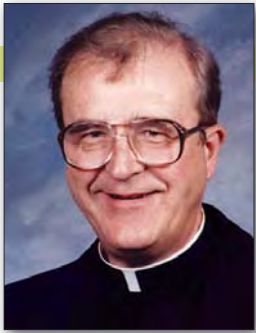
Now, what can we do here on earth? Most of us pray for the souls of our lost loved ones, or offer Masses in their memory, and they are eternally grateful for our assistance. Think of the suffering souls who have no one on earth to pray for them. Many of us have heard or used the phrase "offer it up for the souls in purgatory." This can be a wonderful way for us to remember, pray and offer up our difficulties for them. Next time you bless yourself with holy water when entering church, offer this blessing for needy souls in purgatory. There are many fascinating revelations on purgatory and visits from purgatory that mystic Saints have received; such as St. Padre Pio, St. Faustina, St. Margaret Mary of Alocque, St. Catherina of Genoa, just to mention a few. "I see that this God of love hurls upon the souls certain burning rays so penetrating that they could consume soul and body if such were God's will." (St. Catherine of Genoa)

Reflection: Make an offering of actions today. "Eternal Father, by virtue of your generosity and love, I ask that you accept all my actions, and that you multiply their value in favor of every soul in purgatory. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen"

■ Fr. Campbell is pastor of the Church of St. Joseph in Mandan. If you have a question you were afraid to ask, now is the time to ask it! Simply email your question to info@bismarckdiocese.com with the "Question Afraid to Ask" in the subject line.

Guest Column

ABBOT BRIAN WANGLER, OSB



Poverty helps center life on God

Editor's Note: In honor of the Year of Consecrated Life, this is the fourth in a series of personal perspectives from those living this holy life.

When I joined the monastic life, poverty was not a concern of mine. I knew how monks lived and that they ate the same food as we students did. They had the things they needed. As time went on I began to experience what poverty in religious life actually is; it is dispossession.

Poverty in religious life has two reasons, one spiritual and one practical. The spiritual point is to help the religious focus on God. By not having to focus on paying the heating bill, the grocery bill, house payments, etc., the religious is left free so they can focus more completely on God and on the conversion of their life. Poverty is the experiential base to learn to rely on God for all things. The second point of poverty is to have a community that is not divided by who has more or less money and property. Poverty puts everyone on an equal level.

I understood poverty intellectually when I entered religious life, but I did not realize what it is like to not have a personal checking account, no savings account, and no money to plan a trip, buy clothes,

etc. Everything belongs to the community. I gradually began to experience the sacrifice this meant. Even small amounts of money and possessions give one power and the ability to do what one wants.

Property is owned by the community. Someone knowledgeable from the community is appointed to be responsible for the administration of property and money. The whole religious community has to be kept informed about its financial status, and everyone assumes responsibility for the financial health of the community as well as its lifestyle.

Poverty makes the everyday life of a religious free from the concerns of resources. But it can only be lived freely when a certain death to self-will grows in a person. Religious men and women experience the sacrifice involved in not having money and in having to ask for permission for clothes, hobbies, trips, etc. A religious seeks to imitate Jesus who was personally poor. Over the years, I have discovered that poverty really is a valuable tool to help one be God centered.

■ Abbot Brian Wangler, OSB has served as the abbot of the Assumption Abbey in Rich-ardton since 2004.

Congrats & Best Wishes

Bishop Kagan and the Bismarck Diocese Staff wish

Joyce McDowell

Best Wishes on Her Retirement after 14 Years of Service in the office of family ministry

Thank you for all your hard work for the good people of the diocese



CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Test yourself!

How many days after Easter does Pentecost occur?

- A. 43
- B. 40
- C. 44
- D. 50

What was Peter's name before Jesus changed it?

- A. James
- B. Simon
- C. Cephas
- D. Judas

What color of vestments are worn for ordinary time?

- A. Purple
- B. Red
- C. White
- D. Green

1. (D) 50; 2. (B) Simon; 3. (D) Green

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The Diocese of Bismarck is firmly committed to the health and protection of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. With the hope of healing the pain and suffering from sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, we encourage anyone who has suffered from this abuse to please come forward and let us know. To report allegations of sexual abuse, please contact: Dale Eberle, Chancellor, Diocese of Bismarck, PO Box 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502-1575. Phone: 701.223.1347 or 1.877.405.7435. The complaint form and policies can be found on the diocesan web site at <http://www.bismarckdiocese.com>.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Catholic Church must be exemplary: Clergy, staff, whether diocesan or parish, and volunteers are held accountable for their behavior. To enable the highest level of accountability, there must be a clear and unambiguous definition of appropriate behavior. To this end, this Code of Conduct is defined for the Diocese of Bismarck and it provides a foundation for implementing effective and enforceable standards for all personnel. View the Code of Conduct at <http://www.bismarckdiocese.com>.

Guest Column

SISTER THOMAS WELDER, OSB



Three lessons that still give me courage and energy

It started in the first grade at Cathedral Elementary School in Bismarck. I was in love with my teacher, Sister Clement. She was small in stature, but large in the art of teaching. The Gospel stories in our “Jesus and I” catechism became more real when we saw them depicted in the colored posters at the front of the classroom. But nothing was more spellbinding than Sister Clement telling the stories of Jesus’ love for children, for the poor, and for the entire world. She was better than the Saturday matinee at the Capitol Theater!

Other transforming relationships grew from close family ties to four of my mother’s sisters who were School Sisters of Notre Dame. The Sisters didn’t travel much, but when they came to North Dakota for a home visit, it was a holiday for us that took more preparation and provided more excitement than Christmas.

Through my growing up years, I noticed my parents’ deep respect for women and men living the consecrated life. “Sister said” or “Father said” would pop up frequently at the dinner table.

The world is full of words,

viewpoints and opinions. But clear and measured voices of truth are hard to find. To the question, “Where did your vocation come from?” I think of Pope Francis’ phrase, “a culture of encounter.” He refers to the opportunities our youth have to meet and engage with credible witnesses of diverse life experiences like marriage, the single life, the priesthood or the consecrated life. Family, school, and parish created for me a culture that nourished respect for our neighbors, love of prayer and trust in God’s goodness. My world was filled with amazing witnesses to service and sacrifice, but I cling to the lessons learned from my four “aunties,” and the Benedictine Sisters who were my teachers. I should add, these lessons were also lived by my parents in simple ways with little fanfare.

The list could be much longer, but let me pull out the three lessons that still give me courage and energy: (1) Be faithful to prayer and Eucharist; (2) Be open to seeking God with others; (3) Be joyous in your response to God’s call.

Be faithful to prayer and Eucharist

As people of faith, we are all

drawn to develop a relationship with God, because it is in God that we are empowered to live fully in the Spirit and to become more and more like Jesus. It is in waking up to the marvelous works of God that we are compelled to shout out our praise and thanks. But, in that prayer of gratitude I am struck by my faulty vision and short memory. To become like Jesus is to see the goodness in every person’s heart and to lay down my life for them. To become like Jesus is to remember Sister Clement preparing us for our First Communion and my aunties making sure of Mass times during their home visits. They would remind me that Eucharist is the greatest of God’s gifts, the most sacred of events because we celebrate Jesus’ real presence, Body and Blood, in the consecrated bread and wine. Think of it, Jesus is here among us, today, every day, until He comes again.

Be open to seeking God with others

Church is that community of the baptized who commit themselves to living the life of Jesus. It was in that community and my

communities of family and school, which I heard the call to seek God in a community of Benedictine Sisters, many of whom I knew as my former teachers. Widowed early in her life, my mother was open to the idea but expressed with some passion her dream of having grandchildren. I should add that about nine years later—after my sister and brother were married—she joined our monastic community and was blessed with grandchildren.

Be joyous in your response to God’s call

St. John Paul II believed that, “We must personally invite generous young people to dedicate their lives to the service of the Lord. They must be truly attracted to the joy which we show in our lives and in our ministry.” That was the gift I received from Sister Clement and my four Notre Dame aunts. I looked to them and saw the working of God’s grace. That grace gave joy to my youth, a joy that pervades my being to this day.

■ At 31 years, Sister Thomas Welder, OSB, served the longest tenure as female president at any college or university (University of Mary) in America upon her retirement in 2009.

Guest Column

JORDAN DOSCH



Going in the right direction

When I pray, the summer before I entered seminary often comes to mind. I think of how I got into seminary, and what enabled me to make that leap of faith.

To be quite honest, I am still unsure how I was able to get where I am now. I was happy where I was, what I was studying, and where I was going. But, for some reason, I made the decision to leave NDSU after finishing a great year of studying civil engineering. It was a leap of faith into a new journey, in which I could only explain as the call of Christ, being pulled in a direction to give seminary a try.

I didn’t necessarily know what I was getting into, but what made following this path easier was that I trusted the Church. This trust I had wasn’t easily earned. In and after high school, I did a lot of searching for what I believed, and there were times when I didn’t always agree with the Church. I didn’t understand what they fully believed, or why they did some of the things they did, but through some great influences I had in my life, I came to find that the Church

has reasons for what they believe.

The conclusion I came to can be best summarized in G. K. Chesterton’s quote, “The difficulty of explaining ‘why I am a Catholic’ is that there are ten thousand reasons all amounting to one reason: that Catholicism is true.” I was far from being able to answer tough theological questions, but I knew I was in good hands with the Church Christ started.

My journey through seminary reminds me of a mountain bike trip I once took. It was a few weeks before my senior year of high school, and my father, uncle, and I decided to tackle part of the difficult, but beautiful Maah Daah Hey Trail. It is a 100+ mile dirt trail stretching through the breathtaking Badlands, which, in my opinion, is some of the most beautiful landscape in the world. Since the Maah Daah Hey Trail is nothing more than a simple dirt path, every once and awhile, the trail can become faded, and one could easily take a wrong turn, or lose their way down a cow path. Therefore, in order to know which direction to go, the park put in these large wooden posts along

the trail. From each post, you are able to see the next one in the far distance, and this was the only way to know the correct direction. If you were riding, and you haven’t seen a wooden post in awhile, then you were probably going in the wrong direction.

I use this analogy to help explain what I have experienced in prayer, especially in my decision to enter seminary, and my journey through since then. If I was standing at the start of the Maah Daah Hey Trail, it is absolutely impossible to be able to see the end; all I could see was the next post in front of me. It is the same in prayer; meaning that we are only able to see the next post God gives us.

This is tough to coincide with our tendencies of wanting to be in the driver seat. We like to know where we are going and what is happening. We start at point “A” and we expect to be able to see and understand point “Z.” When in reality, and in prayer, God leads us by small steps from “A” to “B” to “C” without necessarily having a clear understanding. Each step along the way God asks us, “Do

you trust me?”

Things may not be happening the way I want them to, or the way I expect them. Even though we may be going into a dark tunnel, would I still trust? This is how I got to where I am now. Through the grace of God, I saw the next wooden post into seminary and accepted it. Since then I have had reassurance that I am on the right path, going in the correct direction.

As I was sitting in the chapel, the summer before seminary, all I could be sure about was that the next step was clear, and I needed to make a decision either to accept or deny. I felt unequipped; unready to enter the seminary, but all I knew was my next wooden post was on the horizon. Looking back on my years in seminary, it has never been without its struggles and obstacles, but I have never been so happy, so peaceful, and so confident that this is where I am supposed to be.

■ Dosch, who grew up in Bismarck as a member of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, is a diocesan seminarian preparing for the priesthood studying in Rome at the Pontifical North American College.

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Golf Course
Monday, July 6, 2015
Reg. deadline: June 29



This is an 18-hole scramble style tournament. Each team must contain 4 players with the chance to add a 5th player. A priest or a seminarian may be added to teams based on a random drawing prior to the start of the tournament. The cost is \$400 per team and a shotgun start will begin at 1 p.m. There will be 50/50 raffles, hole prizes and competitions. The cost includes golf, dinner, two drink tickets, and great fellowship. Please register your team online at catholicfoundationdob.com/golf or contact Michael Bichler at mnbichler6@gmail.com



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