



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

December 2017

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN



*Happy New
Church Year!*

A TIME FOR RENEWAL





As the theme of this edition of The Bishop's Bulletin makes clear the seasons of the Church calendar are an opportunity for us to reflect with varying emphasis on the fullness of the pascal mystery, the gift and sacrifice of Jesus in its fullness.

In December we begin with the season of Advent, a time of joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ in history over two thousand years ago, and at the end of time at the second coming which only God will determine. This month we also will enter into the season of Christmas when we with grateful hearts remember that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Advent encourages us to slow down despite the pressures of the secular culture so that we gratefully pray in anticipation of the uplifting Christmas celebration this year. One way to do so is to reflect on Christmases past and contemplate what was lasting and what left little memory.

Gift giving is a wonderful part of the season when offered for the right reasons. As I write this column "Black Friday", the day after the national holiday of Thanksgiving, is on the horizon, although early 'deals' are already being advertised. Sadly each year there are reports of shoppers being injured when the emotional and aggressive intensity of some displaces their respect for one another in order to buy that perfect or coveted item.

Gifts thoughtfully given as a way to acknowledge our love or appreciation for those who touch our lives are beautiful gestures. They can be much like the gifts of the Magi of gold, frankincense and myrrh, signifying God the Father's gift of his Son out of love and for a holy purpose, our salvation.

As I reflect on past Christmases I try to recall what I gave to others or what I received. Maybe it is my aging memory but it is often difficult to remember them. It is the gift-

giving gesture of love and appreciation that is most important, not the gift itself. Some of the most significant gifts to me have been those that were given in memory of me to worthy causes and those who have special needs.

Advent is also a time when we might pause and recall those memorable moments from Christmases past that helped shape who we are today.

Among mine are these.

My two brothers and I shared a bedroom. As the youngest of the three I was often the subject of their pranks. One Christmas Eve my brothers goaded me to go down the stairs late at night to get a glimpse of what was under the Christmas tree. That was my first encounter with Santa's helpers in the persons of my grandparents who did not seem to have the holiday spirit that night. Things received are not the most important gift of Christmas.

On a more serious note, while in high school before my conversion I would go alone to the late Christmas Eve prayer service at the Methodist church down the block. When I returned home I would then join my grandfather, a non-practicing Episcopalian, and watch midnight Mass on television from the Vatican celebrated by Pope Pius XII and then by now Saint John XXIII. This was not a planned time together but it became our Christmas tradition. Surely it had an influence in my faith journey.

I also recall my Christmas in Vietnam where I served as an air intelligence officer also before my conversion. I attended my first Midnight Mass which was celebrated by the Archbishop of New York, Terence Cook soon to be named a Cardinal. It was held in the movie theatre on an airbase. I remember my boots sticking to the floor from the remnants of sodas spilled, and I remember my first encounter with the enveloping odor and wisp of the fullness of incense. I also remember wishing I could receive Holy Communion, though I had no understanding of its significance or sacredness at the time. Surely this night too had an influence in my faith journey. Looking back I recognize how important it was and is to not trivialize the reception of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

Among my most moving memories of Christmases past is the privilege of presiding at my first Midnight Christmas Mass as Bishop of Sioux Falls in 2006. It was especially moving not only because I was doing so as bishop but also because I was in this Cathedral of Saint Joseph, our patron who humbly accepted his significant mission as protector of the Christ child and the Blessed Mother, his spouse. It also was the first time in several years that I was able to pray Christmas Mass in a Cathedral because the one in the Diocese of Madison had been destroyed by fire while I was rector while sleeping in the attached rectory.

These are a few of the memorable memories I will ponder again these Advent and Christmas

seasons.

In the midst of the busyness, the joyful gatherings with family, friends and co-workers which will create new memories, I encourage you to take some time to simply thank God for this time of year, in which we recall the truth that the song proclaims, "Love came down at Christmas", for you and for us all.

My prayerful wishes for a reflective Advent, a joyful Christmas season, and a new year filled with hope because He, Love, did come down at Christmas and remains with us today.

Prayer at Advent

Father, we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We celebrate what is past: the Word made flesh and dwelt among us. We rejoice in the present grace, that to as many who receive him he gives the power to become your children,

With steadfast hope, we look forward to that day when every tear will be wiped away, when Christ, your Son will come in glory,

Help us to remember that He is truly Emmanuel, God with us. Help us to be open to his grace in this time, so pregnant with opportunity. Help us to pray with yearning hearts, "Come, Lord Jesus." Amen. (Sacred Heart League)



Officials

Since publication of the November Bishop's Bulletin, the Most Reverend Paul J. Swain has:

in accord with the attestation of his good standing with his religious community, granted the full pagella of priestly faculties to Reverend Mark Mastin, SCJ. Father Mastin has been assigned by the Provincial of the United States Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, to the pastoral team serving the parishes of St. Joseph, Ft. Thompson, St. Catherine, Big Bend and Immaculate Conception, Stephan effective January 1, 2018.

at the direction of the religious superior of the United States Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, relieved Reverend Joseph Dean, SCJ of his pastoral assignment in the parishes of St. Joseph, Ft. Thompson, Immaculate Conception, Stephan and St. Catherine, Big Bend.

with consideration given to the limited use, relegated the St. Boniface church building in Seneca to profane but not sordid use and authorized its sale to a private owner.

with consideration given to the limited use, relegated the St. John Neumann church building (formerly St. Peter) in Farmer to profane but not sordid use and authorized its sale to a private owner.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Matthew K. Althoff
Chancellor

SCHEDULE

December

- 2 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 3 3:00 Christmas on the Prairie Concert, Hoven
- 4 5:00 Blessing of Niches, St. Michael Cemetery, Sioux Falls
- 5 12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood
- 6 12:00 Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
- 8 12:00 Mass, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 9 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 10 10:45 Listening Session, Harrisburg Catholic Community
- 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 14 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral
- 15 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral
- 16 1:00 Christmas at the Cathedral
- 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral
- 17 2:00 Christmas at the Cathedral
- 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral
- 23 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 25 12:00 Midnight Mass, Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 11:00 Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 27 Seminary Gathering, Mass and dinner, The Bishop's House
- 27-29 Seminarian Meetings
- 30 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 31 Christmas Open House after all Masses and from 2-5 p.m., The Bishop's House

January

- 1 11:00 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 5 Chancery and Cathedral staff Christmas gathering
- 6-12 Retreat, Bishops of Region VIII Province, Florida

Redfield is just like Advent



When I was a wee lad, Grandma and Grandpa Hagerty lived in White Lake and Grandma Griffin lived in Mitchell, so several times a year, the Griffin clan in Aberdeen would drive down Highway 281 to visit. Reaching the interstate at Plankinton, we would either turn left or right depending on which family was being visited first.

The trip down was always pretty easy and enjoyable because we had a visit with the grandparents to look forward to, and since we were usually picked up at school for the trip, we had the energy and excitement that only comes from having sat for many hours in a classroom. The time seemed to fly by.

Yet, after the visit was over, the trip back home would begin and that was another story. Packed into the back end of a wood paneled station wagon, tired, we would begin the long trip back and the excruciating pace of 55 miles per hour.

My brother and I would try to make the interstate part of the trip a bit more interesting by pretending that there were shooters on the interstate bridges, so we would duck and hide whenever we passed under one; that filled a few miles of the trip. The rest was just brutal for kids and parents alike. I envy kids today who have whole entertainment systems in the backseat; we just had siblings trying not to touch each other.

Dad tried to lighten things up a bit by always honking the car horn as we drove through Bonilla. I still have no idea why Bonilla, but it gave us something to look forward to and that was good enough for us. In fact, it is still a tradition for me to greet Bonilla with a good horn honk even today. I hope they don't mind.

Then, after an eternity of sitting, we would reach Redfield and the last 42 miles. Redfield was tricky, it was close, the last city before home. It was only 42 miles, which did not seem like a lot of miles, but it was still an hour away. Redfield played with your mind; Redfield said home was close, but it really was not.

As we drove past Redfield, heading north along the flat prairie, from the back seat you could see the lights of Aberdeen in the dis-

tance. The lights that said you were close to home, and yet never seemed to get any closer. Those final 42 miles were the longest of the entire drive, so close and yet so very, very far away.

Home did arrive, of course, after an hour that seemed like 10, the lights would grow brighter and soon we would be staggering our way through the back door. It took time, it took effort, and it took continuing the drive. If we had just stopped in the sweet temptation of Redfield and simply waited for home to come to us, we'd still be sitting there.

Drive we must and so drive we did; all the way home.

I like to think of Redfield as being an expression of our hopes and dreams for the Advent Season. Advent is about the promise of home and the possibility of its nearness. Advent reminds us that we are not in the fullness of the Kingdom yet, but we can see the lights in the distance.

So the Church bids us to watch, to pray, wait, and to cry out with joyful hope, "Adveniat regnum tuum: Thy Kingdom come!" This watching, praying, crying out is never meant to be a passive endeavor, it is meant to keep us focused on the truth: The promised coming of the Kingdom is a motivation to keep moving.

It would be easy to just sit back in the sure hope of the Lord's return and the coming of the Kingdom, just waiting. But home never arrives that way; home arrives unexpectedly and joyfully, but always as a part of the journey. While we wait, and pray and cry out, we continue to move. We go into the waiting world and we bring the light that is ours, we love, we forgive, we bring mercy, we show the way.

The world needs it, the Lord expects it, the journey demands it. We are the keepers of the vision, we are the fulfillment of the promise, we are the ones who bear the message. We are the ones who see the lights of the Kingdom in the distance, and no long how it takes, we keep moving forward.

The Lord will come. When He does, we will know with joy that we kept driving, but it is He who brought us home.

The Bishop's Bulletin

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Sarah Swafford addresses the crowd of young people attending this year's diocesan Called By Name Youth Conference in Brookings. Swafford is a Christian speaker and writer who discusses relationships with Catholics younger and older. Swafford focuses on hope and encouragement in life. Several priests of the diocese and the band "I Am They" also spoke and performed during the Youth Conference. (Photo courtesy, Office of Youth Discipleship and Evangelization, Diocese of Sioux Falls)

Presentation Sisters of Aberdeen

Not Words, But Deeds.

-Nano Nagle

In honor of our foundress, Nano Nagle's 300th birthday,
we invite you to be a spark to others and share your
acts of compassion with people most in need.

To learn more about Nano Nagle please visit our website at presentationsisters.org



Happy New Church Year!

A TIME FOR RENEWAL

Happy New Church Year. Advent, which begins this year on December 3, ushers in the new liturgical year in the Church, and offers each of us an opportunity to start fresh, make faith a more significant priority, and deepen our relationship with the One who created, saves and redeems us.

The rhythms of the liturgical year can act as a guide for us, beginning with Advent as the time to anticipate the birth and life of Jesus Christ.

“I believe the liturgical year is a wonderful way to be sensitive to the special seasons of the year,” said Julie Eakin, office administrator and director of religious education at St. Teresa of Calcutta, Dakota Dunes.

“I can remember Advent as a child in Catholic school, gathering each Monday morning as a school, lighting another candle on the advent wreath, and singing ‘Light the Advent Candle’.

“Each new season gives us an opportunity to understand our faith a little better.



Our Church gives us opportunities to celebrate and opportunities to repent. It can be easy to just go

through the motions of each season. But as with anything, you get out of it what you put into it,” she said.

“The seasons of Advent and Lent, in particular, have been fruitful in my life. I’ve tried to take advantage of special devotions or reflections during these times. Reflecting especially on Christ’s upcoming Passion during Lent has helped me appreciate his humanity. And during Advent, reflecting on Mary’s utter trust in God has helped me see clearer the ways I could trust in God more than I currently do.” Eakin said.

Jerry Johnson, St. Lambert, Sioux Falls said “The liturgical calendar of the Church brings a sense of order to my spiritual life. With each new season, the daily scripture readings take me to another place in my faith, and give me a sense of spiritual direction.

“With the three cycles of readings covering much of Sacred Scripture, they don’t allow me to neglect any particular areas of my faith, or focus solely on my own whims or desires,” he said.

“Every time I reenter a liturgical season, it’s an opportunity to go deeper in my devotion and understanding. In this way the seasons are an encouragement,



Julie Eakin and her family

or even a challenge to seek something new, something deeper or stronger, and continue to grow in my faith and discipleship,” said Johnson, who leads bible studies and small groups through the parish.

FIND THE QUIET

In truth, it is easy to not pay much mind to the Church’s liturgical seasons. There are plenty of distractions in life, with children, work, maybe sick parents or other concerns.

“I will be honest, I don’t give much thought to the church calendar until Lent,” said Mary Jo Gallagher, spiritual events coordinator at Abbey of the Hills. “Isn’t that the time of year when we start thinking about what we are going to give



Jerry Johnson (top, center) leads a bible study group at St. Lambert Parish

up, or take up, what we need to change to grow in our spiritual life? It's not, but that has probably been my mindset and I dare to think a lot of other people's too."

And yet said Gallagher, "The older I get the more I understand and the more important Advent becomes to me. When you're young and trying to raise a family, work and keeping up with everyone's activities, it's hard to find the quiet."

"Like the changing of seasons in the calendar year, the change of seasons in the liturgical calendar offers different traditions, celebrations, and opportunities to pause, reflect, and reset," said Matt Leedom, a St. Mary Sioux Falls parishioner and a new student in the diocesan Equip program.

"For me, I find that the change in liturgical seasons offers an opportunity to reflect on my current spiritual status and assess where growth may be needed. It is helpful to have an opportunity for a periodic reset, and I believe that the seasons of the liturgical calendar offer just that," he said.

Helen Crow, business manager at Holy Trinity, Huron said being mindful of the Church's liturgical year helps her focus.

"In the last few years I have thought more

about Advent being a time of waiting in silence with hope and anticipation. This is definitely not the message in a world that has Christmas items displayed for sale earlier every year," she said.

"I remember one of our pastors saying we need to empty ourselves and not be too busy so there is room for Jesus who was not able to find room in the inn. Mother Teresa said 'In the silence of the heart, God speaks' - so if we miss out on the silence by being caught up in the hustle and bustle we may miss what God wants us to hear during this time of preparation," said Crow.

PREPARE THE WAY

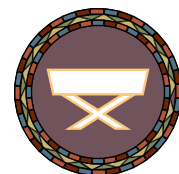
Each liturgical season in the Church can be recognized through subtle and not so subtle ways – colors of vestments, altar clothes and sometimes church decorations, different music, prayers, and scripture readings that help us prepare and celebrate whatever the season may be.

"In speaking specifically to the season of Advent, I find the penitential aspect of the season to be very helpful in counteracting the commercial and indulgent ways that our society often promotes this time of year," said Johnson.



"To prepare the way of the Lord in our lives in ways that John the Baptist preached and proclaimed, the ways of repentance, conversion, and charity, helps us to focus on what's truly important," Johnson said, who is also a master catechist.

"Taking some extra time for prayer and scripture, coupled with daily mass, whenever possible, as well as regular confession, is a great way to prepare. While this would seem to tighten our schedules and make the season even crazier, in my experience it will actually cause us to slow down and reflect more, not getting caught up in the busyness, and keeping our priorities on track.



"I especially appreciate that the Church directs us to consider Christ's final coming in glory, along with his first coming, so that we recognize what we are truly preparing for. However we use the season to lead us to the celebration of Christmas, we are reminded that our preparation continues beyond this Advent, into the advent of our own passing from this life, and the advent of the Lord's return at the end of time," he said.

"As we prepared our home and our lives for the arrival of a new baby, I couldn't help but reflect on the idea that the anxiousness and excitement I was feeling, may have also been felt by Joseph and Mary as they prepared for the arrival of the infant Jesus.

"Looking at an image of the nativity scene, I remember thinking that the painting appeared much too somber.

their vocations, most youth ministers don't get to see that fruit until years later. Now I want to know how many people will be attending a retreat weeks in advance so that I can have everything in place. I want to know that the people I'm praying with and for are experiencing God's love and healing in their lives," she said.

"God has been teaching me to wait. On my fridge I have the Divine Mercy picture and have typed across the bottom, 'Jesus I Trust in You and Surrender to Your Holy Will!' and so I will surrender my agenda and wait, most of the time impatiently," Gallagher said

"Anything that creates purposeful time spent as a family together is a wonderful way to focus on Advent," Eakin said.

"One day during the week leading up to Sunday, you could read Sunday's Mass readings as a family, and try to understand what the overall message is. I also really love the idea of lighting an Advent candle wreath.

"This is a practice that can be easily established in your own home. Each Sunday in Advent, your family can gather around the wreath and light the appropriate candle(s). Prayers for each Sunday can easily be found online to pray together. Or the 'Light the Advent Candle' song can be sung together," she said.

There is a wealth of tools for individuals and families to live deeply into whatever liturgical season is at hand.

"I like to use the Magnificat booklet/publication daily," Crow said. "This has the daily readings, prayer, and a reflection. In addition to the monthly booklet, they publish an Advent (& Lent) companion which has a little more information to reflect on during these times of the year. During Advent, these readings and prayers, along with the nativity scenes I set up each year, help me to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.



Mary Jo Gallagher and her husband Dan

ANTICIPATION

As Advent and liturgical calendar roll around year after year, each us may find that some years certain liturgical seasons are more meaningful because of where we are on the faith journey or because of something going on in our lives.

"Last Advent was special for my family," said Leedom, who is a physical therapist.

"My wife and I were anxiously awaiting the arrival of our daughter, Clare. I remember feeling very united to the nativity story during that Advent.



In reality, that rendering should have depicted the culmination of months of preparation and anticipation. I can imagine the joy and emotion that would have been expressed on Joseph's face as he welcomed into the world, this new baby, who had come to save us all." Leedom said.

"We have to wait on God," said Gallagher.

"Waiting, in silence, with hope and anticipation doesn't come naturally to me. In my ministry I have to wait, it's hard; I want to see results now! I want to see fruit from my ministry.

"When I was in youth ministry I was blessed to have some of the youth discern



Helen Crow, business manager at Holy Trinity, Huron

“We are called to be saints by the grace of God. If we prayerfully consider where we are on our journey to sainthood and open our minds and hearts to where God is drawing us throughout the year, we will be headed in the right direction,” she said.

NEW CHURCH YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Which brings us to the idea of truly celebrating Advent as the beginning of the church year – as a new year’s moment and perhaps the chance to borrow from the secular new year and make some meaningful resolutions to further our faith life.

“New Church Year resolutions can be a great way to reflect on what may be missing in your faith life, or just to help you go deeper than you have in the past,” said Eakin. “It could help us put God

where he’s supposed to be in our lives.

“A possible resolution for me may be to celebrate Christmas during the two week long Christmas season the Church provides, and to rest and reflect during Advent,” she said.

“Another potential resolution would be to make an effort to make it to Mass for all those important days that aren’t Holy Days of obligation, like December 6 - St. Nicholas, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 13 - St. Lucy, December 26 - St. Stephen, December 28 - The Feast of the Holy Innocents, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and January 8 - The Baptism of the Lord, just to name a few around Christmastime; then during ordinary time trying to make one daily Mass a month. Sometimes I tell myself I’m too busy to attend

these Masses, but I always like it when I go,” Eakin said.

Crow said her resolution involves a gift she received.

“Last year for Christmas I was given the gift of a Catholic Planner. The beginning of the calendar year, they have a ‘Path to Sainthood Exercise’. You are to reflect on the person God is calling you to be and prayerfully set goals to work toward that. This would be a good New Church Year resolution,” she said.

“If we make a resolution to spend 5 minutes in silence, even if it’s just to say over and over, ‘Jesus, I give you permission to love me’, how can that not bring us into a deeper relationship with Christ?” asked Gallagher

“The same with making a retreat, taking

time away to pray and reflect, and I found that taking time to go through a spiritual inventory was so enlightening,” she said.

GET EQUIPPED

Like Leedom, Crow, Eakin and Gallagher are new participants in the Equip program which is aimed at forming lay women and men as missionary disciples. As part of the process, candidates completed a spiritual inventory.

“What a wonderful way to see the ways I’ve changed and grown in my faith life,” said Gallagher.

“What if I made a resolution to add to my inventory and reassess each Advent to see the ways I’ve grown and changed in the last year, and also to see areas where I need to grow and change?”



Equip forms lay men and women as missionary disciples, empowering them to deepen their own faith in Jesus Christ and to share Him and His teachings with others.

“What if I used Advent to make my resolutions and then used Lent to reassess? Instead of waiting for Lent to begin to even think about what I need to change in my life to grow in my faith,” Gallagher said.

“Sometimes looking back at where we’ve been we can clearly see God’s hand in our lives, the ways he’s moved us, the people he’s placed in our lives, the places we’ve grown and the places we need to grow,” she said.

The idea of the resolutions only works if one prays and asks God what areas he might want us to consider and the result will be different for each person.





Matt Leedom with his wife Emily and daughter Clare

“My New Church Year resolutions might be to reach out to those in physical need a little more through ministries such as the Banquet or Bishop Dudley House,” Johnson said. “With the comfortable life that I have, it would do me well to simplify and sacrifice more for others.

“Often my New Year’s resolutions include one or two concrete ways I hope to grow in my faith,” Leedom said.

“What a great idea to be attentive to them and begin them in Advent! God has been showing me a lot lately what it means to be truly free. He’s been doing that by asking me to simplify my life and give up some of the excess things that distract me from Him and from my family. Things like being a good steward of



the body God gave me (regular exercise, eating well), consistent prayer time with my family and regular time spent with God in nature (where I often find Him most clearly) are at the top my list this year,” he said.

FRESH START

The fresh start we might find through the liturgical calendar, and particularly with the beginning of the new liturgical year in Advent is real and hopeful.

“Every year we get another opportunity to prepare for the birth of Jesus - perhaps time spent in Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament, asking ‘How do you see me - what can I do to strengthen my relationship with you’ – and listening for the answer,” Crow suggests.

“There are so many wonderful resources available to grow closer to God in our

faith journey - books, online information, small group studies. My hope would be others would research what resource could work best for them in their life journey,” she said.

Adds Johnson, “anytime we take a serious look at our faith lives, and how we are called to live as disciples, the Lord will grace us with a deeper desire to change, and the strength to do so.”

“Just a couple years ago, I really listened to the words of the song, ‘Mary Did You Know?’ and it really struck my heart, to think of our Lord coming as a baby and that he was dependent on his mother, Mary, to care for him, feed him, and nurture him,” Eakin said.

“The line, ‘And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God’ caused me to reflect on the nature of our God. Everyone has kissed a baby- they

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can know what that's like. But Mary kissed Jesus' precious face out of instinct, as good mothers do. Did she know? Did she think about who she was kissing? Our Lord chose to come to us in this vulnerable and human way, and would go on to do such wonderful things. It's so beautiful to think about how He loves us in this way," she said.

For Leedom too, the thoughts of Advent turn to Mary, always our model when wanting to know Jesus and strengthen our own faith life.

"There's a common depiction of the Nativity in which Mary is holding some of the fabric from Jesus' swaddling clothes and gazing at Him in pure adoration. It's in our very own Cathedral," he said.

"What was going through her mind? Did she know the magnitude? Was she confused? Was she exhausted? Was she full of questions? Full of peace?"

I think if we treated advent like she did, prayerfully preparing for the coming of Christ, we might have a better understanding of what she saw when she looked at Him. If we look at Christ through her eyes, He becomes a little more clear."



DECEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 24

DECEMBER 3, 10, 17 & 24 - SUNDAYS OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 8 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
DECEMBER 12 - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 8

DECEMBER 25 - NATIVITY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 7 - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 8 - BAPTISM OF THE LORD



JANUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 13

JANUARY 22 - DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL
PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN
JANUARY 25 - THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL
FEBRUARY 2 - PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 24

FEBRUARY 14 - ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 29 - MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 30 - GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 31 - HOLY SATURDAY



APRIL 1 - MAY 20

APRIL 1 - EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 9 - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
MAY 13 - ASCENSION OF THE LORD
MAY 20 - PENTECOST SUNDAY
MAY 27 - TRINITY SUNDAY



MAY 21 - DECEMBER 1

JUNE 3 - CORPUS CHRISTI
AUGUST 6 - THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
AUGUST 15 - ASSUMPTION OF MARY
NOVEMBER 1 - ALL SAINTS
NOVEMBER 25 - CHRIST THE KING

I am a recent addition to the staff of the Marriage Tribunal in the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

Originally from Hibbing, Minnesota, I have been married for 22 years and have a daughter in university. My degree in Canon Law is from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario and initially I worked in the Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky. I quickly realized that you can take the girl out of the north, but not the north out of the girl. So when the position in the Marriage Tribunal here became available I was most willing to come to what I consider home.

I would like to share thoughts on the declaration of invalidity process and how I approach work in the Marriage Tribunal so that you, the Catholic people of the diocese, have a better understanding of this ministry in the life of the Church.

The process for a Declaration of Invalidity is among the most misunderstood aspects of the Catholic Church's life. There are several myths I would like to dispel that directly affect the work of the Marriage Tribunal.

MYTH #1: A Declaration of Invalidity is just a Catholic divorce.

FALSE – Unlike the process of civil divorce, in which a marriage is actually dissolved, a process for a Declaration of Invalidity is based upon the church finding that the marriage was never properly entered into in the first place according to how the Catholic Church understands and teaches marriage. Among the reasons - one or both partners did not understand the vows, not realizing marriage was a lifelong commitment, or not wanting to have children.

MYTH #2: A declaration of invalidity means that my marriage never existed.

FALSE – A declaration of invalidity never erases a couple's years together; it says there was something missing from the moment that "I do" was exchanged that kept it

from being a valid Sacramental bond. You were married in a good, natural law marriage; this process does not ever deny that reality. Marriage is either valid or invalid from the moment "I do" is exchanged. This is because the sacramental bond is what is examined by the Church and the sacramental bond forms when consent is exchanged.

MYTH #3: My children will be illegitimate if my marriage is declared invalid

FALSE – a Declaration of Invalidity has nothing to do with the legality of your children either civilly or spiritually. Scriptural truth is that God does not visit upon the children the sins (or simply bad decisions) of the parents. Your children are always a gift from God and no human has the power to take from you what God has given you.

MYTH #4: I cannot receive the Sacraments because I am divorced.

NOT TRUE IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES – Divorce is not in and of itself a "grave" sin. If you are Catholic and have not remarried civilly, and are not cohabitating with someone (in a conjugal sense) then you remain in full communion with the Church and may receive the Eucharist.

A declaration of invalidity is, first and foremost, a pastoral process to give those who have suffered through a marriage that failed, the opportunity to grieve the loss of their marriage and the idea of how their marriage was supposed to be.

In offering declarations of invalidity, the Church is motivated by justice and mercy for the souls of the parties. There is no attempt by the Church to place blame on either party or to pass judgment on anyone. The process is a journey toward healing in the wake of destruction left by the civil divorce. No one comes out whole from that process.

Requesting a declaration of invalidity from the Church requires that one look honestly at their family history, their own social, emotional, and psychological development



Heather Eichholz, J.C.L.
Director
Office of Marriage Tribunal

and perhaps discover patterns that have had an effect, and may continue to affect, one's ability to enter into healthy adult interpersonal relationships. For that reason I believe it is best if an individual waits six months to a year from the finalization of a civil divorce decree to seek a Declaration of Invalidity because the statements made to the Marriage Tribunal may suffer from the emotional rawness of the divorce. Spiritually, the process helps people to move beyond a sense of guilt or a sense of failure; it can also span the chasm of a perceived rejection by the Church and bring about the warm embrace of welcoming one home.

As Pope Francis has said, "Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."

If you are in need of a declaration of invalidity or simply want to talk about it, please contact your pastor to begin.

Light of the World



"THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS,
AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT."

-JOHN 1:5

MAY YOUR

heart be filled

WITH LIGHT AND LIFE
THIS HOLY SEASON,

AS WE TRUST IN

*the Giver
of Light.*

Local CHURCH



The 21st annual "Christmas at the Cathedral" concerts theme is "Here with Us" this year. The Dec. 14-17 concerts will again feature tenor Scott Piper along with soprano Laura Cooksey. Proceeds from this year's event will go toward the Bishop Dudley Hospital-ity House building endowment and the ongoing care and maintenance of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Tickets are available online at www.ccfesd.org or by calling 1-888-246-3386 or 1-605-988-3765. (Photo by Michael G. Brown Photography, Sioux Falls)



ONE FAITH. ONE FAMILY.

Thank you to the **15,397** families that came together, raising **\$4,166,534** to help continue God's work here in the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Funds raised through Catholic Family Sharing Appeal each year are a critical supplement to the ministries of the diocese. All of which are greater than what one individual parish could support and maintain.

Thank you!



Catholic Diocese
of Sioux Falls

The Catholic Chancery Office, the official name for the operations of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, finished the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2017 on a healthy note. Financially, the year was sound resulting in an increase of net assets for the year of \$2,068,883.

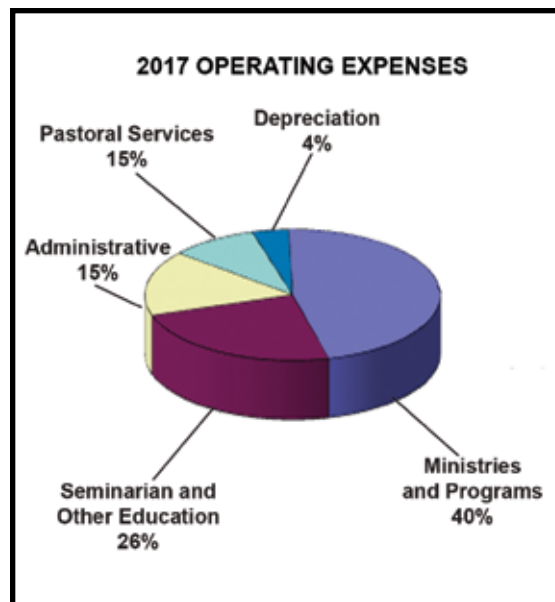
Much of the net revenue was associated with contributions directed toward the construction of the monastery for the Adoration Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, although overall contributions, primarily from estates, also increased. In addition, the lay and clergy insurance programs both completed solid years.

As an example of how to connect the numbers to the work and ministry of the diocese, the blessing and challenge of more seminarians in recent years culminated with the ordination of six men to the priesthood last June. Discipleship and evangelization efforts, the core of teaching and sharing the Good News of the Gospel, also saw increases in programs and offerings. Using all the communication tools available to reach parishioners and beyond also continued through The Bishop's Bulletin, Sunday TV Mass, as well as social media and sfcatholic.org.

While contributions were strong, the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal continues to be the primary source of funding for the diocese, resulting in 53% of the total revenue. Program and other income remains essential in funding operations. In addition, endowment and other revenue provided through the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota amounted to 15% of the total funding.

Total assets of the Diocese increased to \$8.7 million as of June 30, 2017 as a result of estate and other gifts receivable. In addition, property and equipment increased as construction began on the Adoration Sisters Monastery.

A copy of the audited financial statements is available through the Financial Administration Office of the Catholic Chancery Office.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

	2017	2016
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 590,765	\$ 366,781
Cash and cash equivalents held for others	41,741	942,389
Receivables	1,688,451	1,116,983
Loans receivable	146,688	122,686
Assets held by others	1,096,113	704,799
Equity in insurance cooperative	428,193	521,320
Property and equipment	4,610,513	4,074,066
Other assets	125,142	87,219
Total Assets	\$ 8,727,606	\$ 7,936,243
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,186,545	\$ 1,614,241
Custodial funds	399,442	366,994
Contributions payable	504,260	485,884
Deposits held for others	41,741	942,389
Total Liabilities	2,131,988	3,409,508
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	(648,004)	(895,090)
Temporarily restricted	7,243,622	5,421,825
Total Net Assets	6,595,618	4,526,735
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 8,727,606	\$ 7,936,243

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Total
				2016
Revenue and Support				
Catholic Family Sharing Appeal	\$ -	4,102,817	4,102,817	\$ 4,028,509
Income from Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern SD				
Contributions and events	288,218	1,198,573	1,486,791	673,764
Income from endowments	-	729,746	729,746	680,125
Loan and investment income	3,154	-	3,154	372,671
Clergy insurance program	-	856,492	856,492	996,564
Lay health insurance program	-	4,332,887	4,332,887	4,025,013
Program and other income	1,135,905	216,938	1,352,843	1,234,340
Other contributions	530,063	608,192	1,138,255	41,511
Gain(loss) on disposal of property	(76)	-	(76)	305,190
Net assets released from restrictions	10,223,848	(10,223,848)	-	-
Total Revenue and Support	12,181,112	1,821,797	14,002,909	12,357,687
Expenses				
Ministries and programs	2,862,588	-	2,862,588	3,266,070
Clergy benefits and health program	896,836	-	896,836	1,136,705
Lay health insurance program	3,935,111	-	3,935,111	4,549,130
Seminarian and other education	1,852,905	-	1,852,905	1,677,570
Interest paid to parishes and others	2,565	-	2,565	342,095
Pastoral services	1,062,132	-	1,062,132	675,268
Administrative	1,047,784	-	1,047,784	1,129,325
Depreciation	274,105	-	274,105	282,402
Total Expenses	11,934,026	-	11,934,026	13,058,565
Change in Net Assets	247,086	1,821,797	2,068,883	(700,878)
Net Assets-Beginning	(895,090)	5,421,825	4,526,735	5,227,613
Net Assets-Ending	\$ (648,004)	7,243,622	6,595,618	\$ 4,526,735

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA MARKS THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Local
CHURCH



Above left, Jeff Fiegen, president of Fiegen Construction, leads a group of Catholic Community Foundation board members on a tour of the permanent monastery dedicated to intercessory prayer and Eucharistic Adoration on the campus of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Construction expenses have been covered by donations. Only \$180,000 remains to be raised for furnishings, furniture, and equipment for an expected summer 2018 opening. Prayer requests and donations are welcome at www.PerpetualAdorationSisters.org. Above right, Cathedral parish and St. Joseph Legacy Society members, Bill and Val Schroeder share a laugh with Bishop Paul J. Swain as he thanks them for their 20 years of volunteer service for "Christmas at the Cathedral." (Photos by Kevin Fitzgibbons, Catholic Foundation for Eastern South Dakota)



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Local CHURCH



The chancery staff of the Diocese of Sioux Falls looks on as Bishop Paul J. Swain, blesses a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, that now has a permanent spot in the chancery. Monsignor Charles Mangan, the director of the Marian Apostolate for the diocese, secured the statue in this year of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal (Photo by Gene Young)



The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery recently hosted a seasonal holiday fair at the monastery. The sisters offer jams, jellies, art and craft items. Pictured are Sister Cynthia Binder and Margretta Doyle who helped sell raffle tickets for a cross-stitch runner at the holiday fair. (Photo courtesy, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton)



**It's
Cold Out
Come in
and Warm
Up
Jan. 13**



Encountering God Through Scripture

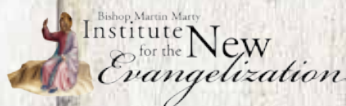
Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls

January 13, 2018

9:30am-3:30pm

Because lunch is provided, registration is required

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Students observe Veterans' Day, recognize pastor, administrators



Local CHURCH

St. Lambert School, Sioux Falls took time to recognize and honor invited veterans on Veterans' Day. The guests were invited to join the students at the celebration of Mass. Following the celebration of Mass, students read thank you letters to the veterans who were on hand. Following that, the group gathered around the flag pole for the flag raising, Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. Pictured are the students of St. Lambert School at the event are (left to right) Colleen Davis, St. Lambert School principal, Father Andrew Young, St. Lambert Parish pastor and a chaplain in the U.S. Navy and Dan Sipp, St. Lambert School band director. (Photos courtesy, Sioux Falls Catholic Schools)

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A WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



APRIL 14, 2018

SIOUX FALLS CONVENTION CENTER



registration now open



www.sfcatholic.org/WomensConference

Local CHURCH



O'Gorman High School students took note of National Teen Driver Safety Week. One activity the O'Gorman SADD (Students Against Distracted Driving) group took on to recognize the issue and the week was called "Rock The Belt." O'Gorman SADD members rewarded fellow students for wearing their seat belts to school. About 25 SADD members passed out candy to those who were wearing their seat belts when they pulled into the parking lot. (Photo courtesy, Sioux Falls Catholic Schools)



Bishop Paul J. Swain conferred the sacrament of confirmation on students at St. Joseph Parish, Mobridge. (Photo courtesy, Jackie Heil, St. Joseph Parish, Mobridge)

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BROOM TREE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

UPCOMING RETREATS

▷ SILENT RETREAT

Men's 2018

February 22-25, 2018
April 19-22, 2018
May 17-20, 2018
September 20-23, 2018
October 25-28, 2018

Women's 2018

February 15-18, 2018
March 15-18, 2018
May 3-6, 2018
June 21-24, 2018
August 9-12, 2018
September 6-9, 2018
October 18-21, 2018
November 15-18, 2018

▷ DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Broom Tree Days of Recollection begin at 10 a.m. and consist of conferences, time for Adoration, Mass, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day ends in mid-afternoon. Because lunch is also served, we ask that you please register. A prayerful donation is requested.

December 5: Entering into Advent with the Prophecies from Handel's Messiah
- with Fr. Steven Jones

February 13: Topic TBD

March 13: The Passion of God & the Passion of Man: Why Suffering, Why Me?"
- with Msgr. Richard Mahowald

▷ SPECIAL RETREATS

December 9: One Day Silent Retreat
- with Fr. Joe Vogel

February 9-11: Couples Retreat
- with Fr. Jeff Norfolk

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Alexandria students serve to feed those in need

Local
CHURCH



Religious education students from St. Mary of Mercy Parish, Alexandria, recently conducted their annual food drive. The students went door to door and collected many non-perishable food items and paper products which were then donated to the Hanson County Food Bank for distribution to families in need in the community. (Photo courtesy, Camille Davies, St. Mary of Mercy Parish, Alexandria)



Recently, the Bon Homme Knights of Columbus Council was honored with the Columbian Award for excellence in volunteer activities in the Church and community. Pictured are John Cihak, district deputy for the Knights presenting the honor to David Vellek, past Grand Knight for the council. (Photo courtesy, Bill Minow, treasurer, Bon Homme Knights of Columbus, Council #4002, St Leo Parish, Tyndall)

25TH ANNUAL

Advent

BABY SHOWER

November 27-December 24

Please leave unwrapped new gifts in the designated collection sites or bring them to the diocesan offices.

Gifts will be shared with those in need in the parish, community and diocese.

SUGGESTED GIFTS

(Newborn-12 months)

Sleepers	Diapers & Wipes	Bath Items
Onesies	Jackets	Blankets
Socks	Snowsuits	Bottles
Outfits	Hats & Gloves	Baby Toys



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www.sfcatholic.org/FamilyLife



Committed in CHRIST



ABERDEEN – Stephen and Lorenzia Oakes celebrated their 65th anniversary on Nov. 17. They have 5 children (2 deceased), 19 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren and are members of Sacred Heart Parish.



FLANDREAU – John and Cheryl Shaeffer will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 9. They have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Simon and Jude Parish.



GEDDES – Lawrence and Colleen Jaeger will celebrate their 40th anniversary on Dec. 3. They have 3 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Ann Parish.



HOVEN – Jack and Linda Feldmeier celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov. 24. They have 2 children (1 deceased), 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish.



HUMBOLDT – Ken and Mary Hartle will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Dec. 28. They have 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Ann Parish.



LEOLA – Richard and Susan Kolb will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 29. They have 3 children (1 deceased), 4 grandchildren and are members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.



MADISON – James and Rose Casanova will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Dec. 12. They have 5 children (3 deceased), 9 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.



MITCHELL – Jack and Lillian Munce celebrated their 60th anniversary on Nov. 30. They have 5 children, 13 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Family Parish.



MOBRIDGE – Allen and Jane Mertz will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 2. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Joseph Parish.



MONTROSE – Vernon and Julie McAreavey will celebrate their 45th anniversary on Dec. 30. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren and are members of St. Patrick Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Collin and Carol Kollars will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 27. They have 3 children (1 deceased), 4 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Marvin and Delores Scott will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Dec. 28. They have 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Bill and Carol McGreevy will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 29. They have 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Mary Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Jim and Carol Stalzer will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 30. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Jim and Peg Murtha will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 9. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Therese Parish.



TYNDALL – Joe and Marcie Becvar will celebrate their 67th anniversary on Dec. 16. They have 1 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Leo Parish.



WATERTOWN – Ernie and Carol Jerek will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Dec. 30. They have 5 children, 8 grandchildren and are members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

Anniversary submissions

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by **December 14** for inclusion in the January 2018 edition to:
The Bishop's Bulletin
523 North Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
or e-mail to:
gyoung@sfcatholic.org.

Correction

In the November edition of The Bishop's Bulletin, we incorrectly listed in the necrology the name of Daniel R. Fritz as David. The listing should have been Aberdeen, Sacred Heart Daniel R. Fritz-May 25; also in November, we accidentally omitted Clifford O'Dea from the necrology. That listing should have been Sioux Falls, Cathedral of Saint Joseph Clifford O'Dea-Aug 21. We regret the errors.

Sister Marie Celeste Sabers

Sister Marie Celeste Sabers, a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, died October 20 at the Presentation Convent, Aberdeen. She was 86.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 23 in Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Presentation Convent, Aberdeen. Burial followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Aberdeen.

Mary Joan Sabers was born October 1, 1931 in Salem to Elrena (Godfrey) and Emil Sabers. Mary Joan graduated from St. Mary High School, Salem in 1949. She entered Presentation Convent November 1, 1950 and made her first profession of vows on August 10, 1953, receiving her religious name of Sister Marie Celeste.

Sister Marie Celeste graduated from Regis College, Denver, CO in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and earned her Master's in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, Chicago



Sister Marie Celeste Sabers, PBVM IL, in 1984. She worked in the business offices of St. Joseph Hospital, Mitchell and Holy Rosary Hospital, Miles City, MT from 1953 to 1975. From 1975 to 2006 she worked as a director of Pastoral Care at Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen, (Avera) St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen and at Avera Queen of Peace Hospital, Mitchell. In 2007 she volunteered visiting the sick at Avera McKennan, Sioux Falls, and moved to Presentation Convent, Aberdeen in 2016. Sister Marie Celeste is survived by her community family of Presentation Sisters; 3 sisters: Car-

ole (William) Seymour, Karen (Frank) Dalrymple, Marjorie (Charles) Heine; and 4 brothers: Richard (Ellie), Donald (Shirley) and Keith and Darrell (Donna) Sabers. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Jean Herschman.

Sr. Margaret Muellenmeister

Sister Margaret Muellenmeister, OP, died Nov. 14, 2017, at St. Dominic Villa, Sinsinawa, WI. Her religious name was Sister Terza. She was 93.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 17 at the Dominican motherhouse, Sinsinawa. Burial followed in the Motherhouse Cemetery.

Sister Margaret was born May 24, 1924, in Faribault, MN.

She made her final profession Sept. 12, 1949.

In the Diocese of Sioux Falls, Sister Margaret ministered as

Committed in CHRIST



Sr. Margaret Muellemmeister, OP

a parish visitor at St. Joseph Parish, Sioux Falls, 1980-1984, and at Christ the King Parish, Sioux Falls, 1987-1990. She also received her Clinical Pastoral Education certificate at McKennan Hospital.

Sister Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, three sisters and two brothers.



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Yankton Benedictines
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Yankton, South Dakota

News BRIEFS

Quick fixes, denial won't stop climate change, pope says

Vatican City (CNS) - Denial or indifference when it comes to climate change will not help further honest research or facilitate finding adequate solutions, Pope Francis told government leaders attending a meeting on implementing the Paris accord. Ratified by 170 nations, the 2016 agreement marks "a shared strategy to tackle one of the most worrying phenomena our human race is experiencing -- climate change," the pope said in a written message. The message was read to those attending the COP23 session of the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany. In the message, the pope said the Paris agreement is "a clear path of transition toward a model of low- or no-carbon economic development, encouraging solidarity and emphasizing the strong links that exist between fighting climate change and fighting poverty."

Spirit of communication needed in Church, world, pope says

Vatican City (CNS) - Sincere, harmonious unity is needed in the world and in the church, Pope Francis told an international association for Catholic priests. "It's very sad when we find in a presbyterate that this unity doesn't exist," and, instead, gossip and backstabbing are the rule, he said. "Gossip destroys the diocese, destroys unity among priests -- between themselves and with the bishop," he said. The pope spoke during an audience with participants in the international assembly of the Apostolic Union of the Clergy, a global confederation of groups promoting brotherhood and mutual support among members of the diocesan clergy whether they are bishops, priests or deacons.

RESTART

January 5, 2018

God's Plan

Jeremiah 29:11





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Parish Dinners/Socials

Dec. 3/Risen Savior Parish, Brandon, will host its annual Christmas Cookie Parade from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. In addition to cookies, the events features lunch and a fair as part of the fun; Homemade soups and turkey croissants will be served in the parish hall; there will also raffle items and wine grab bags; Risen Savior Parish is located at 301 N. Splitrock Blvd.

Dec. 9 and 10/Christ the King Parish, Sioux Falls, will host its annual cookie extravaganza on Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon and on Sunday following the parish Masses; Christ the King Parish is located at 1501 W. 26th St.

Dec. 17/St. Martin of Tours Parish, Emery, will host a soup and sandwich fund raiser and raffle to combat cystic fibrosis from, 5-7 p.m. at the parish hall; a free free offering will be accepted.

Jan. 28/St. Ann Parish, Miller, will host a "souper" Sunday celebration featuring recipes from 94 year old parishioner Leo Istas; live and silent auctions will be featured and their will be kids' activities; the event runs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Miller Community Center

Advent reflection scheduled in Sioux Falls Sunday, Dec. 3 - An Advent afternoon of Reflection will be held on Sunday from 1:30-4 p.m. at St. Lambert Parish. There is no registration or cost. Together, we will prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Brandon parish choir performs in the area Dec. 13 and Dec. 17 - The Risen Savior Parish choir from Brandon will be presenting "Christmas is Coming! Sing for Joy!"; the choir will perform the cantata on Wednesday at Bethany Meadows, 3008 E. Aspen Blvd., Brandon and on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the parish, 301 N. Splitrock Blvd. and then again on Sunday at 7 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Parish, 520 Center Ave., Garretson; a free will offering will be accepted.

Ski with the Seminarians being offered Dec. 28 - The Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls Vocations Office is hosting and coordinating this event; Catholic men 12 years of age and up can ski with seminarians; the event starts out with the celebration of Mass and continues with skiing, pizza, prayer and vocation stories; the event begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 6:30 p.m. at St. Lambert Parish, 1000 S. Bahnson Ave, Sioux Falls; the skiing will be at Great Bear in Sioux Falls; cost is \$40 for the lift ticket, ski or board rentals and supper; the event is free if you have your own lift ticket and equipment; you can sign up on line at www.sfvocations.com or call 605-988-3772 to speak with vocations director Father Shaun Haggerty.

Catholic Family Services

Dec. 5 and Jan. 9/Catholic Family Services invites you to join our Living with Chronic Illness group. This is a free educational supportive group that meets the first Tuesday of each month, for those living with chronic illness and their care givers. The group meets at Catholic Family Services 523 N. Duluth Ave. Sioux Falls. For more details please call Catholic Family Services, 605-988-3775.

Jan. 9-Feb. 13/Grieving the loss of a spouse meets for six Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Catholic Family Services, 523 N. Duluth Ave., Sioux Falls; directed by Dr. Marcie Moran, the program is for adults who have lost a spouse and are trying to cope with the pain of separation and loss. The program will offer assistance in coping with this change and making healthy readjustments. Non-denominational- Cost is a donation; call 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 to register.

Mother of God Monastery

Dec. 2/Emmanuel With Us: Advent Retreat- Enter the spirit of Advent for a day as a true preparation for Christmas. This day includes a short lesson on Advent, quiet time for prayer, reflection and sharing. The event is Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The suggested donation is \$30. Contact Sister Emily at 605-886-4181 ext. 1.

Dec. 7-21/Christmas Nativities from Around the World are on display at Mother of God Monastery community, Watertown; all are invited to stop by the Benedictine Multicultural Center to view nativities from around the world on weekdays from 2-4 p.m. or by appointment; the display will also be open on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and on Sunday, December 17 from 1:30 -4:30 p.m.; the event is free and open to all ages; the Multicultural Center is located at 2500 5th Street SE in Watertown, two miles south of Hwy. 212 on South Hwy.81.; for more information or to make an appointment, please call Sister Teresa Ann at 605-878-2021.

Jan. 6, 2018/Meeting God Within Me: Centering Prayer is being offered at Mother of God Monastery in Watertown; the workshop on Saturday, runs from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Harmony Hill Hall on the monastery campus; the facilitator is Sister Emily Meisel and the suggested donation is \$30 which includes lunch.

Sacred Heart Monastery

Sunday, Dec. 10/Eucharistic adoration is offered the first Sunday of the month from 2-4 p.m. in the upper chapel of Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel, Yankton.

Dec. 9/Benedictine Peace Center Advent Retreat entitled "The Joys of Mary." The retreat, held at the Benedictine Peace Center in Yankton, on Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, with check-in beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, go to <https://yanktonbenedictines.org/advent-retreat>. To register call 605-668-6292 or e-mail BenedictinePeaceCtr@mtmc.edu by Dec. 6

Dec. 25/The Yankton Benedictines invite you to pray with them on Christmas Day, December 25 at 10 a.m. with the celebration of Mass; a New Year's Eve Vigil for Peace at 7 p.m. and on New Year' Day, January 1 for 10 a.m. Mass; all the opportunities will be in the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel.

Contemplative Morning/ The Benedictine Peace Center, Yankton, hosts a morning of contemplative prayer, on the third Saturday of every month. For more information or to register for the Dec. 16th session, contact Sister Doris Oberembt at doberembt@mtmc.edu or call 605-668-6292

Silent Retreats/ Schedule your private retreat time at the Benedictine Peace Center. Come for the number of days that fits your schedule. Request a spiritual director and pray Liturgy of the Hours with the Sisters. Contact benedictinepeacectr@mtmc.edu or 605-668-6292 or visit us at www.yanktonbenedictines.org/Center.

Spiritual Direction/ A spiritual director is an experienced companion-guide with whom you can share your experience of God, focus on and intensify your journey with God. The schedule is flexible, typically meeting once a month. Contact BenedictinePeaceCtr@mtmc.edu or 605-668-6292 for more information.

Broom Tree Retreat Center

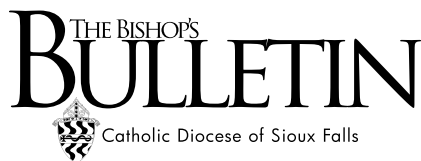
Dec. 9/One day silent retreat: directed by Father Joe Vogel; the day begins at 9 a.m. and runs through 4 p.m.; Mass will be offered as well as time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confession, the rosary and time to quiet your soul and listen for the voice of God in the silence.



21ST ANNUAL

DECEMBER 14-17

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MARCH FOR LIFE

PILGRIMAGE
WASHINGTON D.C.
JANUARY 17-21, 2018

*"You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion."
- Pope Saint John Paul II -*

The March for Life will take place on Friday, January 19, 2018.
The Diocese of Sioux Falls will be participating in the march and invites you to come along.
The pilgrimage will include participation in the March, the Catholic youth rally and some free time to visit sites at our Nation's Capital.



Catholic Diocese
of Sioux Falls
sfcatholic.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.sfcatholic.org/respectlife

(605) 988-3755 | respectlife@sfcatholic.org