



THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

Being nice
is not a
virtue

living out the real virtues



The future is before us and we can help shape it



The beginning of a new year is often one of anticipation of a fresh start. There is excitement about the possibilities of what is to come but also for many a relief that the difficult past year has ended. Most of us harbor both thoughts: anticipation and relief.

The past is what it is and cannot be changed. The future is before us and we can help shape it. Of course we often wish the future was laid out clearly before us.

We long for security, a safe voyage without worry or pain. Deep down we know that is not possible. We can set the best of plans, build the most useful of buildings, develop the most innovative programs, declare our sincerest resolutions and yet, in an instant, our lives can be changed. Sickness, accidents, weather, reversals of many kinds and unexpected changes both positive and not so happy can alter our plans and expectations. How can we balance the excitement of new beginnings and our desire for serenity with the reality of the unknown yet to come?

The answer as it is in all things is oneness with Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Faith and trust in Christ roots us so that whatever storms come our way, self-imposed or random, they can be weathered because he is with us in every joy and every challenge.

The poet Minnie Louise Haskins wrote, "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"

As we enter 2018 we as individuals and as the local church of Sioux Falls must through prayer and reflection place our hands and our future in the Hand of God who will provide the light and security we yearn for.

While I often encourage deepening prayer by all who I encounter, among my New Year resolutions is to become better at prayer myself.

Recently I changed my prayer routine because it had become just that, routine. It was becoming merely a check-list part of my day, something to be done rather than an opportunity to experience the presence of God.

There is an old saying often used in sports, "He doesn't have a prayer." It suggests that a person does not have much of a chance to achieve what is being sought. I am not sure where that expression came from, but it is not true. Everyone has a prayer; we just don't always use it or use it well.

It is true however that there are times when for one reason or another we may not be able to achieve or receive whatever it is we might wish. I for instance will never experience a full head of hair again. I can still pray for it but I suspect God has already answered that prayer.

Sometimes He surprises us. I had a professor in seminary who suggested that I powder my bald head to reduce the glare that might distract people at Mass. God has taken care of that. As a bishop I get to wear a zucchetto and mitre which reduce the glare. That was not in response to a prayer of mine I can assure you.

We all have a prayer. In fact we have many prayers. Some are written such as the Liturgy of the Hours or memorized over the years such as the Our Father. Some are spontaneous when we confront a particular situation for which we seek God's counsel or consolation. Some are reflective as when we contemplate the beauty of a rose, a moving passage of scripture or our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Some are in petition for the needs of others or ourselves, especially when someone close to us is suffering. Each is a beautiful expression of our belief in a loving and merciful God.

Over the years I have learned that no one prayer form is enough. I need them all. Sometimes my mind is so active that quiet meditation is hard so I turn to written prayers or familiar ones like the rosary. Other times after

enduring the noisiness of our society, I need the quiet of being alone with God in adoration or meditating on scripture or laying my concerns before the Blessed Mother. Sometimes I need to vent a bit, and lay before God my fears, my sins, my needs and my hopes. I always need the highest form of prayer in the Church, Holy Mass, to lift me beyond my self-focus, to remind me of God's saving love, and to invigorate me with the grace of the Holy Eucharist.

We all have different moods and moments. One of the treasures of the Church is the variety of prayer forms and spiritualities available to us. We must always be sure that they are truly prayers of the Church. There are many so-called spiritualities in our culture that are not healthy and can lead us astray. If a spirituality divides us or puts our wants ahead of our relationship with God, be wary.

People have said to me that they tried prayer but that it didn't work or didn't do any good. We ought not approach God like a clerk at the store with our list of needs and expect instant fulfillment. Someone wrote that God is like a Father, not a grandfather. Like any good parent who is gentle and yet demanding for their child's good, Jesus is compassionate toward us so great is his love for us, and He is demanding of us, so great is his love for us. He never gives up on us though we may wander. He prays for us still, forgives us when we ask, and he shows us the way.

As recorded in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus prayed in the Garden, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will". (Mk. 14:36)

If we approach God ready to discover what his will is for us we will always have a prayer that can be answered in a way that allows us to cope with hope the challenges that come our way.

A man told a priest that he once had a hard time praying. He said a friend told him that prayer was simply having a conversation with Jesus and suggested he place an empty chair in front of him, imagine Jesus sitting there and then speak with him or simply rest with him. The man did and it became part of his life each day.

When he died his daughter found him not on his bed but with his head resting on the empty chair. He was resting in his Lord and Savior and with his friend and companion, Jesus Christ.

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Happy New Year. May 2018 be one filled with joy, with peace and with Jesus Christ beside you.

Prayer for the Diocese of Sioux Falls

Father of mercy, justice and hope,
we the people of the
Diocese of Sioux Falls,
with humble hearts,
acknowledge your gift of life,
of creation, of the Church
and commit ourselves to use
what you have given us well;

with unworthy hearts, approach the Holy sacraments, especially our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist and

commit ourselves to reverence in liturgical prayer and sacred spaces;
with grateful hearts, remember those courageous and faith-filled men and women, clergy and consecrated,
native and immigrant, who nurtured and nourished the land and built the visible Church on the prairie and

commit ourselves to honor them by being good stewards of their legacy;
with loving hearts, recognize one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and commit ourselves
to defending life from conception to natural death and serving those
in need; and

with contrite hearts, ask your forgiveness for the sins of the past and for the sins of our day and commit ourselves to be people of reconciliation and peace.

We ask Mary our Mother, and Joseph our patron, to watch over and guide us as we seek to do your will each day.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SCHEDULE

January

- 3 SD Catholic Conference Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
- 6-12 Retreat, Bishops of Region VIII, Santa Madre, CA
- 14 1:30 Confirmation, Holy Spirit, Sioux Falls
- 16 12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood
- 17 12:30 Bless March for Life pilgrims, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 20 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 21 11:00 Confirmation, St. Mary, Sioux Falls
2:00 Confirmation, St. Michael, Sioux Falls
- 23 11:30 Diocesan Investment Committee Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
- 27 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 28 1:30 Confirmation, Christ the King, St. Lambert and St. Therese, Sioux Falls at Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls

Jan. 29 – Feb. 3

Catholic Schools Week

- 29 9:00 Mass, Immaculate Conception School, Watertown
- 31 1:30 Mass, Aberdeen Catholic Schools
- February
- 2 10:00 Sioux Falls Catholic Schools All Schools Mass, Augustana Elmen Center, Sioux Falls
- 3 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 4 10:30 Confirmation, St. Benedict, Yankton
1:00 Confirmation, Sacred Heart, Yankton



We choose whether to bring light or darkness

It was a day, it was a day like most of the days I live. I had things to do and places to go, just like most everyone.

On this particular day, I had to drive to Sioux Falls, as happens, and so, after morning Mass, I hit the road. One of the things I find on this trip, which can be rather repetitive, the same roads, the same towns, the same stops, is that my mind just sort of wanders. I don't necessarily notice the other vehicles, or the people in them, or the people I meet at my stops.

I just stop, get gas, or water, or a candy bar, or whatever. I go to the counter and I chat a few moments with the people behind the cash register.

On this day, I was in a great mood; there is no particular reason why, I just was. The sun was shining and the weather was good for traveling. I had plenty of time to drive and was not in a great rush. I was noticing the beauty of the autumn prairie around me and the people working hard in the fields.

The news on the radio was not as bad as it could have been. It was just a good day and a good drive and I was in a good mood.

So when I made my stops to get gas, or stretch my legs, or indulge in a Snickers bar with almonds, I spent a bit more time at the counter, chatting and joking with the person checking me out, I was struck by something that was said, said twice.

On the way to Sioux Falls, I stopped at a gas station in Summit and on the way back, I stopped at one of the stations in Brookings. In both places, I walked up to the counter, whistling, in a great mood and in the middle of a great day, and made some light hearted banter with the cashiers.

At both stops, the cashier said, "Wow, someone's in a great mood." I had to agree with them, and at both places I asked, "you sound surprised that someone is in a great mood."

Both of them gave the same reply, "It's been a while since someone has come up to the counter and not been crabby." Yikes.

As I got back into my car and continued my trip, I let my mind wander to those times when I have gone up to those counters and, for whatever personal reason, I have decided to let my darker mood darken theirs as well. It was a small bit of repentance (I am usually not in too dark a mood), but then I thought about the interactions they must have every day.

People who serve us in a multitude of ways, who are simply doing their jobs, must encounter a multitude of slights as people unload the stresses of their day upon them.

I am not setting myself up as an example of how to live, it was just a good day, but I did have to think about what it means for people to encounter me as I pass through the day.

The feature story this month in "The Bishop's Bulletin" is a reflection of how "Christian virtues are more than just being nice." It is a good reflection on the great gift of the virtues in our lives, but it is not, of course, meant to be an excuse to stop being nice.

We can so easily forget that how we live makes a difference on those around us. I found it rather sad that my having a good day, and simply wanting to share the wonder of that, would be considered so rare, and perhaps so odd, that it would merit mention, not once but twice in a single day.

During this Holy Season, when we celebrate the great gift of Christ's birth, and His manifestation to the world, we sing ancient songs that speak of joy given to all the world, the tidings of comfort and joy we offer to others, of being joyful and triumphant. These are meant to be expressions of our embracing the truth of this Holy Birth, and showing that it means something to us; that it matters to us and to the world.

This entails one of the most important things we ever do...choosing. As we make our way through our day and our lives, we have the ability to choose, each moment and each encounter, how we will present ourselves. We choose whether encountering us at any given moment will be a joy or a struggle for each person we meet. We choose whether to bring light or darkness.

It is wonderful to imagine how much impact we have simply by choosing to let a little light, and joy and happiness shine.

As we begin a new calendar year, we are blessed, as every year, to begin during the celebration of Christmas. As we make our resolutions and intentions for the next 12 months, may each of us choose to let the joy of this season be a gift we give all the year. Through our small acts of kindness, of joy and of peace, hopefully cheerfulness will not be something that is considered noteworthy, but simply an expression of who we are.

We are a people transformed by the birth of God's love, and we are privileged to share this gift with everyone we meet; and we are blessed by this birth to choose to do it.

The Bishop's Bulletin

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The Homeless Jesus sculpture sits outside St. Francis House, Sioux Falls, where it was placed and unveiled recently. The sculpture was placed to remind those who see it of the reality of homelessness. The sculpture depicts Jesus as homeless and calls attention to the Lord's direction to care for the least of my brothers. A benefactor of St. Francis House made the sculpture possible. It is a fiberglass cast weighing more than a quarter-ton. (Photo courtesy, St. Francis House, Sioux Falls)



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



Encountering God Through Scripture

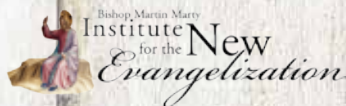
Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls

January 13, 2018

9:30am-3:30pm

Because lunch is provided, registration is required

www.sfcatholic.org/catholicconversations | 605-988-3748





Being nice is not a virtue

living out the real virtues

"The virtuous person isn't simply the person that gets the chores done, but does it with an attitude and disposition of excellence as well." - Joe Rutten

*"She is such a nice person."
"He was very nice to me."*

We are often grateful when someone treats us or someone we care about well. It's pleasant. It's nice.

But as much as we might hear about "South Dakota nice" – meaning we act kindly to friend and stranger alike, there is something only surface deep about that.

"My students often seem a bit shocked when I tell them that being nice isn't the essential part of living a Christian life," said Patricia Irvine, chair of the Theology department at O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls.

"I point to the life of Christ as proof that niceness isn't our main goal," she said. "The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus weren't centered on being nice to others. Rather, He calls us into deeper relationship with Himself and grants all the graces necessary to become saints."

Joe Rutten leads the Benedictine Leadership Institute at Mount Marty College in Yankton, as well as the Catholic Men's Business Fraternity, both of which spend considerable focus on the promotion of virtue.

"Classical virtue ethics certainly didn't have niceness on the list although our modern world has adopted it as one," Rutten said.

Virtues

“We live in a culture of moralistic therapeutic deism which is the religion of niceness, whereby we care more about how people feel versus whether they are actually good.

“I would say that the Catholic moral tradition would probably look at the virtue of justice or charity as the virtue to qualify someone’s behavior as being morally good toward another,” he said.

Fr. Andrew Dickinson, director of the Pius XII Newman Center at South Dakota State University in Brookings, points out that the background of the word nice gives some clues to the problems of how it is commonly used today.

“While ‘being nice’ is a societal norm today, nice is not a virtue because it is not an interior habit of choosing the good,” Fr. Dickinson said.

“Even as we laud and compliment people as ‘being nice’, we acknowledge that nice can be a cover for evil intentions. We can even say evil things in a pleasing manner. We can seem fair but be foul.

“The history of the word nice is rooted in the Middle English word for ‘stupid’ or ‘foolish’. And from the Latin word: ‘nescious’ for ignorant and incapable. While meanings change, still today someone who is nice is someone ‘safe to my status quo’ with little reference to actual good or evil,” he said.

That thought is echoed by Robert Schuchardt, vice president for student affairs at Presentation College in Aberdeen.

“Being nice is not a virtue because being nice is a superficial interaction with someone based on a selfish need to please ourselves or be perceived by others as being a nice person,” he said.

“Being nice is not wrong, just not a virtue. I think sometimes being nice is confused with being kind. Being kind can be an act of love or charity and is conducted for the relief or betterment of the recipient without concern about how others view why you are doing it (you don’t care how other people see it).”

If being nice is not a virtue, what are the real virtues?

“A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.”

- **Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1803**

“Four virtues play a pivotal role and accordingly are called ‘cardinal’; all the others are grouped around them. They are: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.”

- **CCC 1805**

In addition to the cardinal virtues, the catechism teaches about the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, calling these virtues “the foundation of Christian moral activity; they animate it and give it its special character.”

- **CCC 1813**

“Real virtues are interior habits of the soul that are good habits,” said Fr. Dickinson.

“We are familiar with the power of habit- whether it is in personal care, or work, but it also applies to prayer. I see this impact my college students all the time- they seek to build up a prayer life, and it goes well in college because it is supported by a Newman Center, by peer relationships, and good access to the Sacraments. When they go home for Christmas or summer break, they lose the support and find that the habit of prayer is not as refined or stable as they thought- it is not yet a full habit or virtue,” he said.

“Cardinal virtues can be deepened through our active choices and through education. Theological virtues are infused into our souls by God,” noted Irvine.

“Pursuing virtue, either through active practice or petition, means setting aside our own plans and seeking the Lord's plan for our lives.

“Prudence is an example of a real virtue. It uses our reason and intellect to discern our true good in every circumstance and chooses proper means to arrive at that good. It isn't, however, about simply knowing the good, but rather about doing the good, about living the good,” Irvine said.

“In pursuing the good, we are truly pursuing freedom. The grace that God pours out upon us gives us the freedom to live as sons and daughters of the Living God.

“When we embrace vice instead of virtue, we are choosing to become slaves when Christ died to set us free. As we repeatedly choose virtue, especially when faced with difficult situations, we will more naturally respond in virtuous ways. What at first was a struggle to choose, will become second nature as we embrace the freedom found in virtue,” she said.

This notion of habit forming virtue, of virtue leading to freedom and happiness is an ancient one.

“From a very human standpoint, the great philosopher Aristotle would tell us that it is in the virtuous life that happiness is attained,” Rutten said.

“If you want to be happy, live virtuously. Second, because the goal of the virtuous life is human excellence or perfection and this is the path to God. Third, to live contrary is to be filled with vice, to live like an animal, and this is not the object for which the human person was created. We were created for nobility, for the greatest, for more than this world and the life of virtue helps us attain that God-like state,” he said.

Lest you think this is a philosophical or theological conversation beyond you, there are plenty of practical applications for everyday life.

Rutten says to think about the chores we all have. Chores?

“Yes, chores. First, being virtuous isn't simply about what a person does but also about their attitude and disposition - maybe when we think about doing the dishes. We know that kids doing chores or for that matter - any of us - how many of us like to do the dishes or the laundry?



Trish Irvine

“The virtuous person isn't simply the person that gets the chores done, but does it with an attitude and disposition of excellence as well. Even as an adult we can lack the proper attitude while doing chores but certainly this is what we train up our children to do, complete the tasks well but also to do so without complaining and whining,” Rutten said.

When Aberdeen St. Mary member and Roncalli High School senior Austin Kokales was completing his Eagle Scout project a practical dilemma presented itself which illustrates the power of habit, choice and virtue.

Kokales' project was construction and installation of a little library for Aberdeen Simmons Middle School.

“I built what looks like a giant birdhouse and it is filled with books that young children can check out over the year if they live too far away from a library.

“The night I had planned to go watch football with my friends I had knew I had to work on my project to stay ahead of the work,” Kokales said.

“At first, I was going to not do my project. Then I remembered all the children that would love to check out books and the only way they could do that is if I finished my free little libraries and when I looked down at my wrist on my way out the door I

decided to stay home and work on my project,” he said.

The habit of wearing on his wrist the “what would Jesus do” band – started when he was in the 5th grade - helped him make the virtuous choice to finish the project.

“A great analogy for virtue is athletic competition,” Fr. Dickinson said. “There is a phrase you'll see on shirts in gyms: ‘hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.’ This expresses an understanding of the virtues.

“When we forget about virtues we lose track of how we grow into the habits of the heart of Jesus. Most Catholics admit that they WANT to be holy, but don't know how they become holy. How do I get from here to there? The virtues show us a path of holiness,” he said.

Schuchardt offers another practical example of making a virtuous choice.

“Say you find yourself at a tight budget spot at the end of the month. You pull out a shopping cart at the store, look down, and find a wallet.



Austin Kokales

You look inside the wallet and see that it belongs to someone that lives way across town and it contains several hundred dollars.

“You can keep the money and no one would be wiser as no one saw you find the wallet or you can return it to the individual whose ID you found inside the wallet. This is where our life choices come to a head. The choices you make define you as virtuous or not,” he said.

Doing the right thing, whether anyone else knows or not, suggests that being virtuous is as much about our relationship with God as it is with each other. But it is with each other where we actually live out that relationship with God and make a difference in the lives of others.

“We really don't speak directly about the Catholic virtues to students and parents, but I will say that the virtues are demonstrated, as much as humanly possible, at Presentation College by the way we live, work, and serve each other,” Schuchardt said.

“We are by no means perfect, but we always try to do the right thing for those in and around our college community.

Robert Schuchardt





Joe Rutten

“I am seeing that today’s students have a good heart but are still trying to find their way. I think that the potential for remarkable things exists within our students and through the grace of God we will educate them to not only be successful in their chosen career path, but on the life path that God has set out before them,” he said.

“Long term, I pray our students will take their curriculum based education, coupled with their co-curriculum based knowledge and education, in all aspects of faith to the communities in which they live and demonstrate the virtuous life,” Schuchardt said.

“This example could and should be a positive influence on their family, career, and community. If we are successful, and it is God’s will, their example may lead others to live a virtuous life as well.”

At Mount Marty, Rutten said “The Benedictine Leadership Institute is integrating virtue ethics into its curriculum and forming young leaders personally and professionally in the life of virtue.

“The heart of the college experience will be inspiring college students to live the great life and that’s a life of virtue. The college will examine ways virtue is found through the college experience outside the classroom as well.

“People might expect areas like campus ministry to be places of collaboration, but we are also going

to work closely with areas like athletics, as athletic director Chris Kassin, coaches and I consider how virtue is found in the life of our student athletes,” Rutten said.

Long-term, forming students in virtue has significant impact not only for the students, but for the communities and jobs of their future.

“We believe that now as much as ever, employers will desire to hire students that are professionally competent, but will also place high value on their virtue. We will graduate students that are formed in those habits of excellence we call virtues, and it will be those graduates that employers will value because they are trustworthy and do the right thing,” he said.

At the same time, the work of the Catholic Men’s Business Fraternity (CMBF) is aimed at least in part towards students finding employers who are also living the virtues.

“CMBF chose to have the virtues stand as our apostolate’s values because we see the necessity of the virtuous life as the means to living the good life and the source of regulation for the ethics of business,” Rutten said.

“Business does a great amount of good for communities and it is when the people in business are virtuous that the businesses they run are truly good and truly serve. When business leaders are not virtuous then it allows greed to become the habit of mind and will that drives the company and then the business will fail to be good and serve,” he said.

When is the right time to live out the virtues? Irvine said the answer is now.

“The present moment is very important. What we do now with our lives impacts the people we will be in five or ten years. My small, daily choices and actions form my heart and my will,” she said.

“St. Maximilian Kolbe, a priest in the Auschwitz concentration camp, made the heroic decision to give his life for a stranger. That gift of self would not have been possible if he had not pursued virtue in the small and mundane events of daily life.

The same is true for us. If virtue is the habitual disposition to do the good that means we must strive to daily choose the greater good, even if it pains us.

“Athletes push themselves and strain to reach the goal, sacrificing what is unnecessary in order to be victorious. As runners in the race to Heaven, we must also train and sacrifice for the end goal.

“Yet not only with the end goal in mind - Jesus did not come and encourage us to be miserable until we reach Heaven. He said we needed to pick up our cross to follow Him, but He also said that He wanted to give us abundant life. The virtues are the way we live this abundant life,” Irvine said.

Kokales is hopeful that his age group can use the virtues to make a difference.

“I feel our generation notices problems in society and is trying to change them. They may not all be good but at least we are trying to change things rather than just let things get worse,” he said.

“Students who embrace virtues become vocations (priestly, religious, and married) who embrace vocations. They will be a bed-rock in parishes,” said Fr. Dickinson.

Fr. Andrew Dickinson



“The more we are removed from virtues as a society, the more society will depend on parishes and societies having people who deliberately cultivate virtues.”

Back to being nice – is there a problem with being nice?

“The choice is not between being nice and being mean, but about being good,” said Fr. Dickinson. “Being nice is fine but incomplete. Being nice also focuses on external appearances- how did I appear to others? Being nice keeps me beholden to others. Seeking virtue and goodness keep us directed towards God, the source of goodness and judge of souls. So being nice can lead us to be enslaved to others' opinions while, on the other hand, seeking virtue brings freedom,” he said.

Rutten said, “We know what people are trying to say when they use the word nice, but it is a good thing for us to consider, what is it that God is calling us to do? Is he calling us to be nice? I don't think so.

“Is he calling us to be just, kind, charitable? Absolutely, and if we develop those habits of excellence in justice, kindness, and charity, then we will live a fulfilled life, and eventually become like God and ultimately join him eternally in the blessed life.”

Irvine reminds us that virtuous people are free people.

“In *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis said, ‘How monotonously alike all the great tyrants and conquerors have been; how gloriously different are the saints.’

“The saints stand out by their virtue, while the vice of all the ‘great men of the world’ blends together,” she said.

“If we desire to be beacons of hope and movements of change in our schools and communities, we must be willing to sacrifice in the present to pursue lifelong virtue. Many of the problems we see in our world today are the result of a culture that focuses on themselves and doing things their own way.

“The antidote to violence, greed, poverty, despair, and hatred is a genuine, wholehearted pursuit of the virtues--starting with me.”

When Bishop Swain and Bishop Gruss asked me to begin the South Dakota Catholic Conference this last fall, the Rushmore State joined 43 other states – including our Midwest and mountain neighbors – that already have Catholic conferences.

The mission of the Catholic Conference in a nutshell is to serve as the Church's institutional ambassador to the public square, keeping the bishops of South Dakota informed on lawmaking, administrative rule-making, and judicial action at the state and federal level, and to serve as a platform for them to exercise their voice when, as happens with increasing frequency, issues arise in the civic arena that bear on the Church's social and moral teachings. As our nation's First Amendment recognizes, religious faith has a vital role to play in the health of our Republic, and the Catholic Conference is an initiative that will ensure that the Church has a voice on behalf of the common good.

Elsewhere in the nation, historically, a large wave of state Catholic conferences were born in the immediate wake of the Second Vatican Council, and state-by-state additions have been steady in the intervening decades. The Council has been described by some as a "missionary council," and I think this is important to consider in connection with the birth and growth of Catholic conferences in the post-conciliar decades. They are, in a certain sense, instruments serving the Church's missionary mandate. While my work is focused on the nuts-and-bolts of policy, on being a resource to legislators and citizens alike, there really is a missionary flavor to it, a sense that it's one way in which the Church can be a light to the nations. The New Evangelization at the capitol.

Further, there's an urgency to the work

of the Catholic Conference as a response to the signs of the times. Pope Francis, in his beautiful exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, points out that "the process of secularization tends to reduce the faith and the Church to the sphere of the private." We can certainly attest to this trend in our country. On the contrary, Pope Francis reminds us, "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation." As the U.S. Bishops tell us in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, "the Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith." There are no benchwarmers on our team, and we can't leave our faith on the sidelines.

So, at root, the fundamental purpose of the Catholic Conference is to spread forth before our fellow citizens in the public square the banquet of the Church's beautiful teachings as a witness to the truth that sets us free, and I hope to equip you to do the same. This banquet, to be clear, is not a list of "No-no's," a terse recitation of prohibitions. Rather, it's a vision for the fullness of life. As the Holy Father puts it, the "Church's social thought is primarily positive: it offers proposals, it works for change and in this sense it constantly points to the hope born of the loving heart of Jesus Christ." The dignity of the human person and respect for the family, the sanctity of life, religious freedom – all of the issues that form a firm foundation for a just society – to propose these truths is to propose a feast.

As this article goes to press, our neighbors who serve us as elected legislators are gathered in Pierre to do the heavy-lifting of political governance. They'll engage with one another on a host of issues of importance to our common life as citizens.

For their service, we thank them. It will be my task to track legislation under



Christopher Motz
Executive Director
South Dakota
Catholic Conference

consideration and to highlight for you those bills that might most benefit from a reading with the Church's social and moral teaching.

Visit www.sdatholicconference.org to stay up-to-date on what's happening during the legislative session, and if you're not sure who your district's Senator and House Representatives are, I encourage you to learn. If you'd like to receive e-mail alerts or provide feedback, send me a note through the website.

Lastly, thank you for your prayers on behalf of our elected leaders and the Catholic Conference.

"Christmas at the Cathedral" concerts fill the Cathedral of Saint Joseph

Local
CHURCH



Tenor Scott Piper (above left, in the center) and soprano Laura Cooksey (above right) perform during the 2017 Christmas at the Cathedral Concerts at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls. Above left, Scott Piper is with the Christmas at the Cathedral Choir and other performers at this year's concerts. This year's theme was "Here with Us." Proceeds will benefit the Cathedral of Saint Joseph and the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House building endowment. (Photos by Kevin Fitzgibbons, Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota)

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Local CHURCH

Catholic Schools Week 2018 provides schools across the diocese the chance to learn, serve, lead and succeed

The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Sioux Falls will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week, January 28-February 3.

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2018 is January 28 - February 3.

The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2018 is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

Schools, including those across the diocese, typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

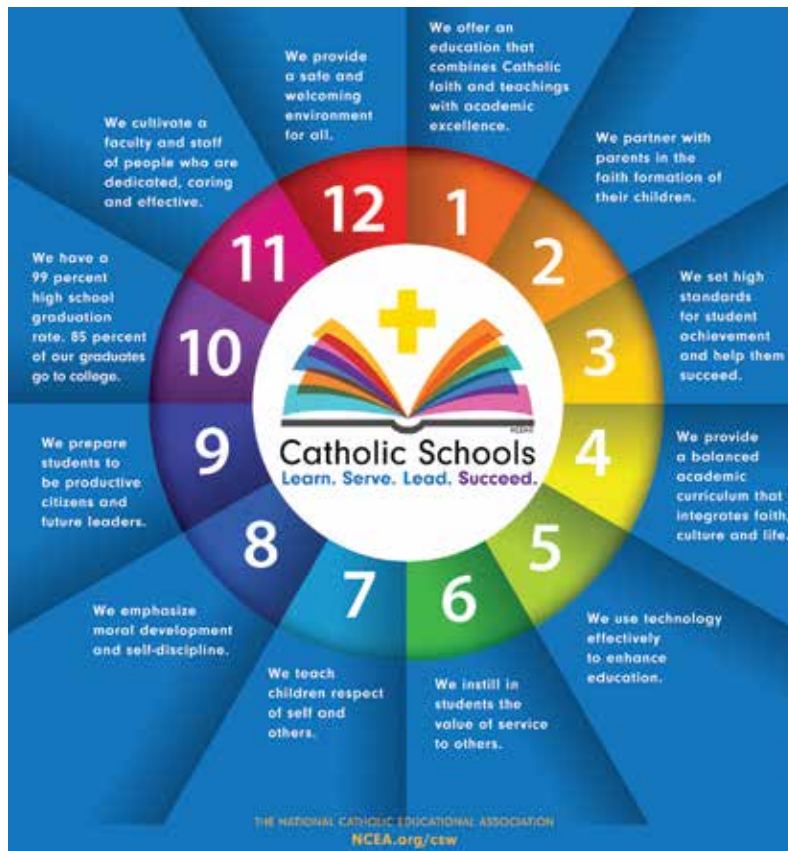
Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

Schools usually celebrate with daily themes. They celebrate the local community with service activities. Special attention is given to recognizing the contributions of faculty, staff and volunteers, the commitment of their parish, the call to discern vocations, the dedication of their families and of course, the students themselves. Katie Mellor, director of schools for the diocese said, "It's usually a very busy, fun week."

Catholic Schools Week Mass takes on special significance in several communities in the Diocese.

The largest gathering of schools is in Sioux Falls on Feb. 2 at the Elmen Center at 10 a.m. for the celebration of Mass celebrated by Bishop; Paul J. Swain.

People of the diocese are welcome to worship and rejoice with the Catholic schools of the diocese by contacting the area Catholic school closest to them for Mass times and the times and accessibility of other events during Catholic Schools Week.



Raffle raises money for eight diocesan schools

Eight Catholic schools in the Diocese of Sioux Falls will be participating in the 2018 Catholic Schools Raffle, sponsored by Catholic United Financial. Tickets will be on sale Jan. 12 through Feb. 25 with the grand prize drawing taking place on Mar. 7. The fund raiser differs from other school fund raisers in that participating schools get to keep every penny of every ticket sold. In the past eight years, the raffle has raised \$576,000 for participating schools in the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Participating schools in the Diocese of Sioux Falls include Aberdeen Catholic Schools System; Holy Trinity Catholic School, Huron; St. Lawrence School, Milbank; John Paul II School, Mitchell; Christ the King School, Sioux Falls; St. Lambert School, Sioux Falls; St. Agnes School, Vermillion and Immaculate Conception School, Watertown. (Photo courtesy, Catholic United Financial, St. Paul, MN)



UPCOMING RETREATS

BROOM TREE
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▷ 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.

February 13: The Seven Last Words of Christ
- with Dr. Teresa Kemmer

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

▷ SPECIAL RETREATS

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

March 2-4: Inner Healing Retreat
- with Jane Barz and Mike Snyder

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March for Life pilgrimage seeks to involve family, marriage and culture of life in group from the diocese

Local
CHURCH

The 45th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. is set for January 19 and the Diocese of Sioux Falls will have a group of pilgrims in the nation's capital making a statement in support of the culture of life.

Emily Leedom of the Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life for the diocese worked to put together the contingent from east river South Dakota that will attend the March for Life.

This is the sixth year the diocese has coordinated a trip to the March for Life.

The group will depart from the diocese January 17 following Bishop Paul J. Swain's blessing of the group and their buses.

The group returns to the diocese on Sunday, January 21.

Leedom says the pilgrimage is

a blessing and a challenge. "It is hard. It is truly a pilgrimage and yet ...every year I come back from the March for Life and I am changed and I am moved and I am inspired," she said.

The bus trip and participation in the march has drawn adults and young people in the past.

The pilgrimage will include participation in the March on January 19 as well as participation in the Catholic Youth Rally and some free time to visit the sites of the nation's capital.

The March marks the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the Roe V. Wade case which authorized abortion on demand across the nation.

For information about the March or other life issues, www.sfcatholic.org/respectlife.



Pilgrims from the Diocese of Sioux Falls will soon be climbing aboard buses again to travel from the diocese to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. In past years pilgrims from the diocese have shared share that it was a profound experience for them. (2016 Photo by Gene Young)

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Local CHURCH

O'GORMAN STUDENTS LEND HELPING HAND TO BISHOP DUDLEY HOSPITALITY HOUSE AND ITS GUESTS



O’Gorman High School students in Sioux Falls recently lent a very significant hand to the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House and its guests. Students and staff at O’Gorman High School spent weeks gathering items to stuff hundreds of individual stockings for the guests of the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House. The students and staff filled the stockings with basic essentials such as shampoo, conditioner, soaps, razors, toothbrushes and tooth paste, wash cloths as well as socks, hats, gloves, scarves, toys for the children and other small gifts for the teens who call the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House “home.” The students (above, right) also decorated and filled other large boxes with food and other necessities the Bishop Dudley House needs to take care of their guests. Those items included kitchen supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, bedding, towels and more. The needs of the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House are ongoing. To make a donation, volunteer or to learn more about the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, go to bdhh.org. (Photos courtesy, Sioux Falls Catholic Schools, Sioux Falls)

UPCOMING EVENTS



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Thank you for your support of the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph endowment funds

Local CHURCH

NEW COUNSELOR ADDED TO CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES

Catholic Family Services has added a new counselor to the staff. Justin Falon, MS, LPC-MH, LAC, QMHP, began work last month. Falon has provided therapy in a variety of settings and most recently served as executive director of Tallgrass Recovery and Sober Living Homes. He is available for a wide range of counseling needs and will also be involved with various Catholic Family Service programs. He and all counselors can be contacted at 800-700-7867.



Falon and his family reside in Baltic and are members of the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish.

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Local CHURCH

Students visit, sing for seniors at Prince of Peace in Sioux Falls



Students from Holy Spirit School, Sioux Falls, visit the residents of the Prince of Peace Retirement Community, Sioux Falls, each month to share a special activity. Recently, the monthly visit included third graders performing some special music for the residents. The concert for the seniors at Prince of Peace was great preparation for the students' future music programs. The musical performance was a great coming together of two generations for some fun, enjoyment and bonding. (Photo courtesy, Holy Spirit School, Sioux Falls)

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Christmas program shared and celebrated in Huntimer



Kindergarten through 6th grade students filled the sanctuary at St. Joseph the Workman Parish, Huntimer, for a Christmas program. Parents, family members and other parishioners enjoyed the program in advance of the celebration of Christmas. (Photo courtesy, Dana Theisen, St. Joseph the Workman Parish, Huntimer)

Local CHURCH

Christmas celebration comes to parish in Armour



At St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Armour, Father Cathal Gallagher, pastor, celebrated Mass with the children of the parish in advance of the arrival of Christmas. (Photo courtesy, Barb Ledebouer, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Armour)



Jody (DeVille) LeFaive



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ABERDEEN – Don and Dot Meyer will celebrate their 70th anniversary on Jan. 24. They have 10 children, 25 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and are members of Sacred Heart Parish.



ABERDEEN – Vern and Vivian Cunningham will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Jan. 18. They have 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



DANTE – Joe and Irene Krcil will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Jan. 21. They have 8 children (1 deceased), 25 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and are members of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.



FLANDREAU – Ronald and Beverly Minor will celebrate their 65th anniversary on Jan. 6. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren (1 deceased) and are members of St. Simon and Jude Parish.



GROTON – Robert and Ruth Pray, Sr. celebrated their 71st anniversary on Dec. 16. They have 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren and are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.



HARTFORD – Jim and Gladys Mead will celebrate their 65th anniversary on Jan. 12. They have 4 children (1 deceased), 8 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and are members of St. George Parish.



HURON – Kent and Sharon Hedge celebrated their 50th anniversary on Dec. 23. They have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of Holy Trinity Parish.



MADISON – Don and Michele Beck will celebrate their 30th anniversary on Jan. 16. They have 3 children and are members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.



MONTROSE – Bob and Mary Lounsbury will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Jan. 11. They have 6 children (1 deceased), 14 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Patrick Parish.



SELBY – Gerald and Elaine Kosters will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Jan. 5. They have 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Anthony Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – William and Catherine Miller celebrated their 50th anniversary on Dec. 30. They have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish.



WAGNER – Robert and Marie Soukup will celebrate their 65th anniversary on Jan. 20. They have 5 children (1 deceased), 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and are members of St. John the Baptist Parish.



YANKTON – Dick and Ellen Slowey will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Jan. 20. They have 3 children, 9 grandchildren and are members of St. Benedict Parish.

Anniversary submissions

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by January 15 for inclusion in the February 2018 edition to:

The Bishop's Bulletin
523 North Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

or e-mail to:
gyoung@sfcatholic.org.



Grandpa Jeff Reed, Brielle Reed (1st grader), Alexa Reed (preschooler) and grandma Laurie Reed, all shared a day together recently at St. Katharine Drexel School, Sioux Falls where the girls are enrolled. It was all part of Grandparents Day at the school. More than 225 grandparents and other special friends turned out for the fun and extra time with their grandchildren. Christ the King School also hosted grandparents for grandparents day at the same time. (Photo courtesy, Carol Nesbitt, Sioux Falls Catholic Schools)

Father Alex Bombera

Reverend Alex Bombera, of the Third Order Regular Franciscans (T.O.R.), died Nov. 16 at St. Francis Friary-Mt. Assisi, Loretto, Pennsylvania, after an extended illness. He was 98.

The Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Nov. 20 at St. Francis Chapel-Mt. Assisi, Loretto, PA. Internment followed at the Franciscan Friars' Cemetery, on the campus of St. Francis University, Loretto, PA.

Alexander Mary Bombera was born January 21, 1919, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, the son of the late John Bombera and Mary Somberg Bombera.

He graduated from Stevens Point High School, Stevens Point, WI, and attended St. Mary College, Orchard Lake, Michigan for two years.

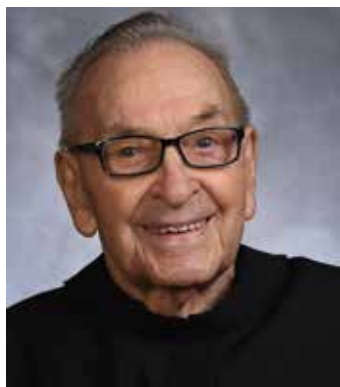
He entered the T.O.R. postulancy at Raymond Hall, St. Francis College, Loretto, PA, on September 14, 1940.

He pronounced his first vows on July 10, 1942 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Old Main, the Motherhouse of the Province; he pronounced solemn vows on July 10, 1945, at Mt. Assisi Monastery, Loretto, PA.

Father Alexander Mary was ordained to the priesthood on August 15, 1946, by the late Bishop John King Mussio, D.D., at the Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville, OH.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, from St. Francis College (University), Loretto, PA, in May, 1942. He completed Theological Studies, at St. Francis Seminary, Loretto, PA, in 1946.

During his long and very faithful Franciscan life, Father Alexander Mary shared his desire to follow the Poverello with service to the foreign missions of the



Rev. Alex Bombera, T.O.R.

Province.

He was assigned to his first mission in India in 1946, and served there until 1968. Father Alex is the last of the pioneer friars who served in India.

In 1968, he was then assigned to the missions in Brazil, and served faithfully until 1978.

Upon his return to the states, he was assigned to the home missions in South Dakota.

From September, 1978, until 1986, he was pastor of St. Joseph Church, Wessington Springs; from February 1986, to May, 2007, he was pastor of St. John Church, Plankinton.

For his exemplary service, the State of South Dakota honored him by placing his name in the state Hall of Fame.

From June 2007, until his passing, he resided at St. Francis Friary-Mt. Assisi, where he served in the ministry of prayer.

Father Alex held the honor of being the senior member of the Province, and the last friar to have lived at Old Main on the campus of St. Francis University, which was destroyed by fire in 1942.

He was predeceased by seven brothers and sisters.

He is survived by nieces and nephews, and his Franciscan brothers.

Sister Delphine Klein

Sister Delphine Klein, a Franciscan Sister of the Congregation of Our Lady of Lourdes, died Nov. 25 at Assisi Heights, Rochester, MN. She was 94.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 4 in the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes at Assisi Heights, Rochester.

Internment followed at Calvary Cemetery, Rochester.

Lucille Marie Klein was born to Joseph F. and Mary (Mossong) Klein in Dell Rapids on April 11, 1923.

She entered the Sisters of St. Francis in 1944 from St. Mary Parish, Dell Rapids.

Sister Delphine made her first vows in 1947 and perpetual vows in 1950.

For eleven years Sister Delphine served as an invaluable homemaker at several convents in Minnesota.

She then moved to Winona, MN where she served for 31 years on the housekeeping staff at the College of St. Teresa.

In 1989, Sister Delphine moved to Assisi Heights and participat-

Committed in CHRIST



Sister Delphine Klein

ed in Assisi Heights Ministries until her retirement in 1994.

She also served in child care at the Northgate Health Club in Rochester from 1992-1994.

Sister Delphine is survived by her Franciscan Congregation with whom she shared life for seventy-three years, a brother Jerome (Marilyn) Klein of Ballwin, MO, and two sisters: Sister Jeanette Klein, OSF and Sister Judine Klein, OSF of Rochester, nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death are her parents and two brothers: Norbert Klein and Harold Klein.

BISHOP HOCH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Diocese awards a \$1,000 scholarship in each of the seven deaneries, to enable a student to attend either Mount Marty College in Yankton or Presentation College in Aberdeen.

The scholarships are available to new students, students already in college and non-traditional students interested in attending or already attending Mount Marty and Presentation Colleges.

To obtain an application, contact your pastor, the Financial Aid Office at Mount Marty College or Presentation College. Applications are due March 15. Applications must be returned to the Office of Catholic Schools, 523 North Duluth Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714.

Traditional Latin Mass celebrated Sundays in Salem

The Traditional Latin Mass, also known as "The Extraordinary Form" is offered every Sunday at noon and on each Holy Day of Obligation at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church, 240 W. Vermont Avenue, Salem, SD 57058. You can find out more by calling 605-425-2600 or going on line at www.salemcatholic.org. All are welcome to attend.

Knights give aid to churches still rebuilding after hurricanes

New Haven, CT. (CNS) - The Knights of Columbus, based in New Haven, announced it is committing \$1.4 million to repair or help rebuild churches destroyed or badly damaged by the hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Knights of Columbus also has earmarked a significant amount of money for upcoming church repair efforts in Puerto Rico. The Knights earlier donated \$100,000 to the Archdiocese of San Juan and provided generators, food, water and other necessities to aid relief efforts. "Getting parish facilities up and running again does not just meet a practical need," Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights, said in a Dec. 14 statement. "The people in the affected areas see the revival of their churches as a spiritual joy and as an important signal of recovery for the larger communities that surround these churches."

Pope Francis urges Catholic groups to work together to defend human dignity

Vatican City (CNS) - Pope Francis encouraged a wide variety of Catholic organizations to work together to defend human dignity and promote the full integral development of all people. "I encourage you to work always in a spirit of communion and cooperation with other Catholic NGOs and with the representatives of the Holy See as an expression of the church's commitment to the building of a more just and fraternal world," he said in remarks to delegates taking part in the 2017 Forum of "Catholic-inspired Non-Governmental Organizations" meeting in Rome. "I express my deep appreciation for your efforts to bring the light of the Gospel to the various peripheries of our world in order to defend human dignity, to promote the integral development of peoples and to meet the material and spiritual needs of so many members of our human family," he said in remarks at the end of his general audience talk. The forum looked at how Catholic-inspired organizations, including Catholic schools, can better protect and promote the human person in a rapidly changing world.

Vatican releases new instruction on authenticating, protecting relics

Vatican City (CNS) - Only relics that have been certified as authentic can be exposed for veneration by the faithful, said a new Vatican instruction. Published by the Congregation for Saints' Causes, the instruction clarifies and details the canonical procedures to be followed by local bishops in an effort to verify the authenticity of relics and the mortal remains of saints and blessed, as well as better guarantee a relic's preservation, approve and track its movements, and promote its veneration. The instruction replaces the appendix, "Canonical Recognition of the Mortal Remains of the Servant of God," included with "Sanctorum Mater," the congregation's "Instruction for Conducting Diocesan or Eparchal Inquiries in the Causes of Saints," released in 2007. The new instruction outlined the specific procedures and personnel necessary for the canonical recognition of the authenticity of the relics or remains of a saint or anyone on the path to sainthood. It also specified that any action taken regarding the relics or remains must also conform with local government laws and have the consent of the saints' congregation and the person recognized as the deceased's "heir."

As pope turns 81, kids entertain with song, dance

Vatican City (CNS) - Celebrating his 81st birthday, Pope Francis blew out the candles on a 13-foot long pizza after being serenaded with song and dance by children and employees from a Vatican pediatric clinic. A group of children receiving assistance from the Vatican's St. Martha Dispensary, a maternal and pediatric clinic, had given the pope a birthday party Dec. 17 marked with singing, dancing and a cake adorned with gold and white fondant decorations. They also rolled out a large pizza with a single lit candle on it. The pope was joined with several children from the clinic and counted down before blowing out the candle. "Eat the 4-meter pizza: Eat well, it will do you good and make you grow," the pope told the children. After meeting the children, Pope Francis greeted an estimated 25,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square for his Sunday Angelus address. After reciting the Angelus prayer, the pope was about to greet several individual groups present in the square before the crowd burst into song, singing "Happy Birthday." Touched by the gesture, the pope said: "Thank you. Thank you very much."

Press must be factual, free from manipulation, pope says

Vatican City (CNS) - People need factual and trustworthy news that avoids sensationalism and whipping up heated reactions, Pope Francis said. It is important the press not be "constantly at the mercy of easy slogans or improvised information campaigns, which show the intention of manipulating reality, opinions and people themselves, often creating worthless 'media dust storms,'" he told members of the press. "Your voice -- free and responsible -- is fundamental for the growth of any society that wishes to call itself a democracy, so that the continuous exchange of ideas and a fruitful debate based on real and correctly reported information may be guaranteed," he said. The pope spoke with members of the Italian Periodical Press Union and members of the Italian Federation of Catholic Weeklies, which represents nearly 200 Catholic newspapers. He praised in particular the value, necessity and effectiveness of diocesan weeklies, which he said require "a renewed commitment" from priests and the whole church community, and "kind attention from public authorities."

Bolivian president visits pope ahead of papal trip to Chile

Vatican City (CNS) - Bolivian President Evo Morales implied in a Tweet that he and Pope Francis had discussed Bolivia's territorial dispute with Chile during a meeting at the Vatican. According to the Vatican, the 30-minute private meeting "took place in a cordial atmosphere." During their conversation, the Vatican said, "appreciation was expressed for the contribution the church has given and continues to ensure in favor of the human, social and cultural progress of the population of the country, and mention was made of the updating of the framework of agreements between the Holy See and Bolivia." In his official Twitter account, President Morales said his meeting with the pope "gives me more strength and more commitment" to serving the most abandoned. The pope's "reflections on the poorest, his prayers for peace and against injustice are always for reflection," he tweeted after the meeting.

Parish Dinners/Socials

Jan. 27/St. Margaret Parish, Kimball, will host its annual Winterfest on Saturday evening. A Polka Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m.; a meal will follow consisting of pork loin sandwiches and choice of salads and desserts for a free will donation; bingo, a cake walk and a variety of games will fill the evening.

Jan. 27/St. Nicholas Parish, Tea, will host a chili cook-off and auction; the cook-off is at 6 p.m. and the auction follows at approximately 6:30 p.m.

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 there will be kids' activities; the event runs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Miller Community Center

Parents and teachers meet in Sioux Falls Wednesday, Jan. 3 - Parents and Teachers: Partners In Formation will meet Wednesday. from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at O'Gorman High School; Sister Patricia McCormack of the IHM Office of Formative Support for Parents and Teachers will present a session titled "Partners in Formation"; guiding the life-long process of soul formation is the primary responsibility of parents; both parents and teachers contribute to this formation; at this session, there will be reflection upon the core elements of development and consider practical advice from parents and teachers of children in grades K-12; all are welcome.

Presentation Sisters

Feb. 10/Gaye Lindfors, speaker and author, will be the featured speaker for the Presentation Sisters' Lenten Retreat, "Servant's Heart of Justice and Joy", will be held Saturday at St. Mary Church in Sioux Falls. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the retreat running from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Cost for the event is \$15 and those interested can register by calling 605-229-8391 or by e-mailing bgrosz@presentationsisters.org by February 8.

Broom Tree Retreat Center

Feb. 9-11/Couples Retreat: directed by Father Jeff Norfolk; during this retreat couples will have the blessed opportunity to spend time together receiving from the very heart of God; the environment at Broom Tree makes for a perfect couples get-away; no TV, no radio, no phones or computers, just beautiful, peaceful surroundings and all you need to experience renewal in your marriage. Register early by calling 605-263-1040 or on line at www.broom-tree.org.

Sacred Heart Monastery

Sunday, Jan. 7/Eucharistic adoration is offered the first Sunday of the month from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the upper chapel of Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel, Yankton.

Wednesday, Feb. 7/Lenten Scripture Studies: The Benedictine Peace Center is again offering two Scripture Study groups, using the Little Rock Scripture Study. The morning series, Women of the New Testament, is facilitated by Sister Doris Oberembt, meeting Wednesday mornings at 10-11:45 a.m. for 8 weeks beginning Feb. 7. The Book of Job, facilitated by Sister Mary Jo Polak, meets 7-8:30 on Wednesday evenings, beginning on Feb. 7 for 7 weeks. For more information on the study, costs, and registration, go to <http://yanktonbenedictines.org/center/> and then click on the scripture study page, or call 605-668-6292. The registration deadline is February 1.

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

Spiritual Direction Ministry Formation for those discerning a call to be a spiritual director is now available on a tutorial basis at the Benedictine Peace Center. Guided independent study complemented by two-day residencies permits flexibility to fit your other commitments. E-mail us at benedictine-peacectr@mtmc.edu, or call (605) 668-6292.

Mother of God Monastery

Jan. 6/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.

Jan. 6-7/Call of the Soul: The Spirituality of Soul Work: Mother of God Monastery in Watertown is offering a spiritual development retreat to be held at Harmony Hill Hall on Friday from 7-8:30 p.m. through Saturday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; prayer, mandala art, silence and sharing will be used in this retreat; the facilitator is Sister Jan LaPlante, OSB; the suggested donation is \$70 (includes room and board), commuters pay \$40.

Jan. 21/God in My Paintbrush: Experiencing God in Artistic Expression is being offered Sunday from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Harmony Hill Hall on the grounds of Mother of God Monastery, Watertown; the suggested donation is \$35 and it includes lunch; no artistic talent is required for this workshop; just come with an open desire to let Scripture and water coloring speak to your inner being; all materials will be provided.

To register for these opportunities call 605-886-4181, ext. 1.

Catholic Family Services

Jan. 9 and Feb. 6/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 caregivers. 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.

Sat. Jan. 13/Catholic Family Services is offering a one day retreat for Grieving the Loss of a Loved One, Saturday 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence Parish, Milbank; directed by Dr. Marcie Moran, this retreat is for adults who have lost a loved one and are trying to understand and reconcile their grief; the program is non-denominational and offered free of charge; to register, call St. Lawrence Parish at 605-432-9122.

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