



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

March 2019

# THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN



*We Do*

The Richness of Marrying in the Church



**T**he penitential season of Lent is upon us. Below are excerpts from my past columns in *The Bishop's Bulletin* encouraging taking full advantage of this special time in the Church calendar.

From March 2010:

When I was growing up I was not a Catholic and attended public schools. In my mind, there was something intriguing and mysterious about the Catholics in my class. They were special. It was especially apparent when the kids would come to school on Ash Wednesday with smudges on their foreheads. The ashes we understood, but the thought that they would go to church before school was impressive. They already had been tagged lucky because of released time. Once a week they would leave school early to go to the Catholic Church for religious education while the rest of us had to stay and study. Lunch on Fridays accommodated the fact that they could not eat meat. This blatant respect for church practices would probably be seen as unconstitutional today. But by their public witness they stood out.

After converting to the Church I talked with some Catholics who went to the public school. They did not view it as special at all. In their minds these Church practices made them stand out as strange, separated from the rest of us. The ashes on the forehead and leaving school early identified them in their minds as different. They did not want to stand out. Most of us don't.

Yet sometimes it is necessary for us to stand out from the crowd because we are Catholics. To have the willingness and ability to do so takes courage in a culture that encourages sameness and occasionally ridicules religious ritual. Lent can be a time when as we grow in faith we gain the confidence to stand out because we live what we believe.

While it is hard as kids to appreciate the value of standing out as different from others,

as Catholics and Christians that is exactly what we must do and be as sincere believers. Wouldn't it be great if because of the way in which we wear our ashes and participate in the rituals and devotions of the Church this Lent someone would find us intriguing, even special, in a way that leads them to conversion? Conversion, after all, is what Lent is all about, for all of us.

From March 2014

Among the most warm and comforting memories when growing up was that of my grandfather sitting in a rocking chair with one of his grandchildren on his lap. He was a quiet man, English reserved, with a joyful heart. He spent most of his life in greenhouses, among God's creation, helping develop new varieties of roses. Our family was blessed with having roses at home nearly year round, as they were tested for color, smell and resiliency. There was a calm and stability in his presence.

He came to mind recently when I heard once again the old country song written by the Judds, entitled "Grandpa, tell me 'bout the good old days". Among its lyrics are these: "Sometimes it feels like the world's gone crazy. Grandpa, take me back to yesterday, where the line between right and wrong didn't seem so hazy." "Was a promise really something people kept and not just something they would say and then forget?" "Did families really bow their heads and pray? Did daddies really never go away?" "Grandpa, tell me 'bout the good old days."

We always need to be careful about glamorizing the past. The good old days likely were never as good as we remember them.

Our human nature tends to filter out so much, especially the painful. Yet when we reflect on the moral haziness of our day recalling the past and evaluating why change has come can lead to a healthy examination of conscience. Lent offers us a special time to do so.

Lent is a time for honest reflection and an opportunity for putting our spiritual house in order. Let us not trivialize its importance or sleep our way through these forty days. What would grandpa (or grandma) say?

From March 2010

Some years ago, before I became a bishop, I became discouraged by a number of things. To try to remedy that down feeling, I reflected on how each day I might be more a person of hope. I do not remember whether these are original or I borrowed them, but they guide me still.

1. Each day we can identify one blessing, a gift from God that is unique to us. It might be a special person, a moving experience, a response to art or music, or a breathtaking burst in creation. There is such beauty around us, even in March. Each day is itself a gift. That genius anonymous wrote: "Look at the bright side, no matter how old you are, you are younger than you will ever be again." Sickness and accidents remind us of how fragile life can be. May we see each day as a gift to be used well for the glory of God.

2. Each day we can reflect on something wonderful that has happened at some point in our lives that we did not anticipate and that changed us forever. One of our human tendencies is to try to plan out how things should go. Prudence suggests that we do so, while always being open to God's ways. When we let go of trying to control, God's grace moves us in beautiful and often unexpected ways. For me one such moment was the discovery of the power and the presence of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, body, blood, soul, divinity. For this gift to be followed by the call to

priesthood which allows me the privilege of being Christ's instrument is awesome and humbling each day.

3. Each day we can remind ourselves of something that makes us smile. Anonymous also wrote: "it takes thirty-four muscles to frown and only thirteen to smile. Why make the extra effort?" For me the mere sight of a little baby brings a smile. The miracle of birth is a sign of hope.

4. Each day we can remember a saint whose example inspires us. They can be those known to all, such as Blessed (now Saint) Teresa of Calcutta. Or they can be those quiet saints around us who live their faith well and carry their crosses so beautifully. They exist in every parish. The Blessed Mother is the most profound example for us all.

5. Each day we can take time to pray and to rest in God. It does not take a lot of time to remind ourselves that our loving and merciful God is with us and that we need him. When we do not see God as the focus of our lives we can turn in on ourselves. When we pray with humility, we can lift our vision from the moment to the transcendent which can bring peace, perspective and hope.

As the season of Lent continues toward Easter, may we do what we can each day to assure that as Christians we are people of hope for all to see, signs of hope for one another.

## 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

March	
2	4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
3	10:30 Confirmation, All Saints, Melleite and St. Bernard, Redfield in Redfield
	2:00 Confirmation, Epiphany, Epiphany, St. Agatha, Howard and St. William of Vercelli, Ramona in Howard
6	12:00 Ash Wednesday Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
7	12:00 Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
9	5:00 Confirmation, St. Peter, Colman, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Elkton and Ss. Simon and Jude, Flandreau in Elkton
10	8:30 Confirmation, St. Rose of Lima, Garretson and St. Joseph the Workman, Huntimer in Huntimer
	1:30 Rite of Election, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
	6:00 Lenten Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
12	12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood, Sioux Falls
13	7:00 Confirmation, St. Mary, Salem
16	6:30 Confirmation, St. Boniface, Idylwilde and St. George, Scotland in Scotland
17	10:30 Confirmation, St. Benedict, Yankton
	1:00 Confirmation, Sacred Heart, Yankton
	6:00 Lenten Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
20	7:00 Confirmation, St. Nicholas, Tea
21	7:00 Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Dinner, Cathedral Parish Hall, Sioux Falls
22	12:00 Mass and Reception of Relic of St. John Vianney, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
23	3:00 Gift of Hope Concert, O'Gorman Performing Arts Center Lorang Theatre
	4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
	7:00 Gift of Hope Concert, O'Gorman Performing Arts Center Lorang Theatre
24	9:30 Confirmation, St. Lawrence, Millbank
	6:00 Lenten Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
27	7:00 Confirmation, St. Teresa of Avila, Beresford, Good Shepherd, Centerville and St. Patrick, Wakonda in Beresford
30	4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
31	9:00 Confirmation, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Groton and St. Joseph, Turton in Groton
	2:00 Confirmation, St. Mary, Highmore and St. Ann, Miller in Miller
	6:00 Lenten Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls

## An Elegy

**O**n the first day of November in the year 2006, a puppy was born. I was, of course, totally unaware of this event.

He was born, wet and blind and and whimpering for milk, beginning a life-long obsession with food. He grew as puppies do, growing into his pure puppy cuteness. I have seen, and taken, many pictures of him, but the one blurry picture of him sitting as a puppy, looking at the camera long before I would ever meet him, has always broken my heart.

I have a fleeting memory of meeting him, a few years later, grown into early doghood, but certainly not the large dog he would become. I was visiting my best friend Ted and his family, and I knew they had gotten a yellow Labrador Retriever. I remember one Saturday morning seeing him in the living room, cozying up to their youngest daughter, her arms around him as she watched cartoons.

We acknowledged each other's presence, but that was about it. I was not really a member of the pack, and I did not feed him, so I existed on the periphery of his consciousness.

A few years after this, I received a desperate phone call from Saudi Arabia where Ted was living at the time. He needed someone to take care of his dog for a year until he could come home. I already had a sweet black Lab/Golden Retriever mix living with me, so I told Ted it was up to Keisha whether another dog lived with us for a year or not.

He came home for a visit and we drove his dog from Spearfish to Pierre and Cody entered my house for the first time. He and Keisha got along, as long as Cody remembered she was in charge. So, another dog was added to the mix, with his own personality and needs and issues. I learned that Cody loved to swim and Keisha hated it; and I learned that Labs are aggressively gassy.

Cody learned some things too, he learned that Keisha was powerfully connected to me, so he gravitated towards Fr. Kristopher Cowles, and the two of them became fast friends. I learned Cody was a fantastic cuddler. Keisha learned to eat her food, because if she did not, Cody would wait five minutes, never more and never less, and then finish her food, licking the bowl for good measure.

The year ended and Ted moved to Pierre and after a bit he said, "I need to talk to you about Cody." I stopped him and said, "I'll kill you if you take my dog." He smiled, relieved, as was I. That one year stretched into seven.

While I was living in Pierre, for a few brief months out of the year, I would be able to take Cody and Keisha to the river for their daily exercise. Cody would sprint to the water, splash in and then turn towards me and begin jumping and barking. In my mind, he was saying, over and over, "Ball, Ball, Ball." I would put the tennis ball into the chucker and fling it out into the river and off he would swim, grabbing the ball, swimming back, dropping it and then, "Ball, Ball, Ball." The day before I left for Afghanistan, Fr. Kristopher and I went swimming and took turns throwing the ball for Cody, who swam for 45 minutes without touching ground. By the end, he swam as just a nose above the current. I finally had to force him to stop, to his exhausted disappointment.

Daily runs, daily meals, treats to make him happy, long rubs and a little cuddling time; it became a daily routine for him and I. Lately, a little over 12 years old, he was not able to climb the stairs to my room in the rectory, so he slept on the couch downstairs. He would climb up next to me, I would pet him and wish him a good night, and towards the end, thank him for another day.

He would stretch, yawn, rest his head on my lap and give that sigh, which he did every night I had him, the perfect expression that he had a good day.

There is not enough space for me to share the multiple times he frustrated me to the point of madness, the number of times he made me laugh at his sheer goofiness, the number of times he melted my heart with a look, or the time he made me cry when I finally had to say goodbye to him forever.

I miss him; so does Keisha, who is back to eating slower and leaving food in her bowl. I like to think she does it in the hope that the goofy yellow one will come back and finish it again.

Years ago, I read a little challenge, a small little saying which read, "Be the person your dog thinks you are." I think the Lord would agree; perhaps that is why he gave us these companions in the first place, as we domesticated them, they gentled us.

As his presence becomes memory for me now, I hope to remember the lessons he taught me; find joy in the simple things, take a good nap, don't obsess over the mistakes I make, receive treats with a grateful heart, show affection to those who care for me, love generously, and every night remember it was a good day.

He was a good boy, and he made me a better man.



# The Bishop's Bulletin

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**St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Sioux Falls, has launched its "Like & Share" project. The parish is using its social media avenues of Facebook, Instagram and its parish website ([www.stkdsfsd.org](http://www.stkdsfsd.org)) to evangelize to as many people as possible. The parish shares "you never know who needs to hear the invitation to come home."**

SAINT JEAN MARIE VIANNEY



## St. Jean Marie Vianney

### A Relic of the Heart of St. Jean Vianney

Friday, March 22 - *Cathedral of Saint Joseph Cathedral, Sioux Falls:*  
*Reception of the relic and Mass - Noon; Veneration 1-7 p.m.;*  
*Stations of the Cross - 7 p.m.*

Saturday, March 23 - *St. John the Evangelist,*  
*Fort Pierre*

Sunday, March 24 -  
*Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City*



Sponsored by Supreme and South Dakota Knights of Columbus

[kofc.org/vianney](http://kofc.org/vianney)



# We Do

## The Richness of Marrying in the Church

### **W**eddings today can get complicated.

Much time and energy often goes in to perfecting the decorations, flowers, dresses and tuxedos, receptions, dances, invitation lists and so much more.

Actually, this is not only a modern reality, as we know weddings long ago had challenges; Jesus' first miracle saved the day at the wedding feast at Cana.

Dealing with all of these things is not bad, unless it obscures the actual event: the sacrament of marriage.

As couples today consider their futures, some, perhaps having checked out divorce statistics, decide not to formally marry. Others choose a destination

wedding or a justice of the peace option.

But many continue to find great richness in making their commitment within the Church.

The wedding liturgy proclaims, "you have come together into the house of the Church so that in the presence of the Church's minister and the community your intention to enter into Marriage may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal."

Why does the Catholic Church continue to encourage the sacrament of marriage and the preparation that goes into it?

The Church views the time of preparation for the actual marriage, most often lived out through a parish and with the help of a priest or deacon, as a way to prepare the couple for their life-long commitment to each other.

“The grace of the Sacrament is real and necessary for the sole reason that God brings together two finite, rational, fallen people who have fallen in love with each other and desire to become one,” said Fr. Paul Rutten, pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish, Watertown.

“It will require sacrifice, patience, understanding, humility, forgiveness which come from God. The grace they need is the ability to find Christ and unity with the other person all the while they may be in situations in which they are struggling to like or love the other person.

“The self-sacrifice that is necessary to truly give yourself to another person is not just a human trait and thus it is when we experience God’s grace that we are able to live in a supernatural way,” he said.

The word “covenant” is often used these days in reference to legal agreements, but it is also a term found throughout the Scriptures and Church documents. In that regard, a covenant is “a solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being involving mutual commitments or guarantees.” *Glossary, Catechism of the Catholic Church*

“The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouse and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.” *CCC, 1601*

That sense of covenant, of the permanence of the bond created in the sacrament of marriage, along with the tools provided through marriage preparation, can help equip a couple for the long haul.

“In recent years I’ve noticed that many people approach marriage with an escape clause,” said Fr. Greg Tschakert, pastor of St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Sioux Falls, and judicial vicar for the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

“They desire a lifelong marriage, but they aren’t always committed to the concept of indissolubility. When they begin with an escape clause, they sometimes fail to capitalize the relationship sufficiently for it to really thrive,” he said.

“I would never advise anyone to remain in an abusive union, but sometimes people abandon a union simply because they are bored or the partner isn’t quite who he or she seemed before the wedding.

“Marriage doesn’t bloom fully on the day of the wedding, and all relationships change with the passing of seasons. Couples need a great deal of commitment to help the relationship grow, even as they grow in individual ways,” said Fr. Tschakert.

The Church, through its pastors and other ministers, has a tremendous opportunity when a couple comes seeking to be married. The first encounter can set the tone.

“When Bishop Don Kettler was a pastor in Sioux Falls, I learned a valuable tool from him at one of our pastors’ meetings,” said Fr. Charles Cimpl, pastor at Holy Spirit, Sioux Falls.

“He said, ‘When a person calls me and tells me he/she is engaged the first thing I say is congratulations’. He went on to say that sometimes we can turn a couple away quickly when the first thing we ask is, ‘are you registered?’ or ‘why do you want to get married here?’,” Fr. Cimpl said.

“Most of the couples I deal with have some sense of the sacramentality of marriage. Of course, it is on a spectrum but generally they know that there is a need for preparation for their marriage and also for a religious aspect to it.

“Certainly for all of us in our vocations, our backgrounds are important in how we view commitment, persistence and endurance,” he said.

Jordon Boe and Mary Lenards are in the preparation process for their marriage later this year. They are working with Fr. Cimpl. Both said that working towards the sacrament of marriage in the Catholic Church has always been their plan.

“I have always wanted to prepare and celebrate my marriage in the Church,” said Boe.

“I think growing up with strong Catholic values instilled from my family and then those values continued to grow through the SFCS (Sioux Falls Catholic Schools) have always led to that desire. I cannot imagine being married anywhere else,” he said.

“Getting married in the church was the only option for me,” Lenards said.

“Whenever I pictured my wedding, it was always in a church, even when my faith was not as strong. I just never had a desire for anything else. Thankfully, I found someone who wanted

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*Mary Lenards*

*“I have always wanted to prepare and celebrate my marriage in the Church.”*

*Jordon Boe*



*Jordon Boe and Mary Lenards are in the preparation process for their marriage later this year.*

the same. We actually never even talked about other sites for our wedding because not getting married in the church wasn't on his radar either,” she said.

Within the broad framework provided by the Church and in more particular using the guidelines established by the Diocese of Sioux Falls, parishes and pastors use a variety of tools as they work with each potential bride and groom.

“We have tried a variety of approaches to marriage preparation over the years – classes, inventories, individual meetings, sponsor couples, counseling, etc.,” said Fr. Tschakert.

“Any of these tools can help the couple prepare for their wedding and their marriage. One of the perennial issues with all of these is how the couple approaches these tools. Some couples see them as requirements or steps to accomplish. Others see them as opportunities to grow in their relationship,” he said.

The Diocesan Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life offers a variety of supports to pastors and to couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage.

On its website, [sfcatholic.org/family-life](http://sfcatholic.org/family-life), you will find resources for classes, Engaged Encounter weekends, the FOCCUS Inventory and Natural Family Planning information. In addition, there are recommended books as well as an extensive series of locally produced videos on all aspects of preparing for and living out the sacrament of marriage.

Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life director Emily Leedom said keeping these resources fresh, helpful and meaningful is an ongoing process.

“Pope St. John Paul II, in his letter on the family, insists that the Church, holding in the highest regard the value of the family, has a ‘pressing need’ to proclaim the gospel to all people, most especially those who are married or preparing for it,” Leedom said.

“Thus, the Church needs to take seriously the way in which she is ministering to couples as they prepare for marriage and as they seek to faithfully live out those vows. As a Diocese, we are seeking to respond to this invitation by reflecting upon our own processes and resources and naming those areas where we can better support couples in this journey,” she said.



“I generally hear good reports from couples who attended the Engaged Encounter Weekends or the Evenings for the Engaged sessions,” said Fr. Cimpl.

“They appreciate the witness talks of couples that are married and share with them the ups and down of married life. I have found sponsor couples that work one-on-one with the couples after they have completed the FOCCUS Inventory to be a valuable part of the preparation sessions. Often the couples develop a relationship between them that goes beyond the preparation period,” he said.

Boe and Lenards say their preparation and working with Fr. Cimpl has been good for them.

“It has been much easier than expected,” Lenards said.

“Fr. Cimpl has been so available and accommodating in working with our busy schedules. There are multiple options and times for marriage preparation class which is also helpful. If you want to get married in the church you will make the effort to do so,” she said.

“I have found that the Church and Fr. Cimpl are always there for you no matter what you need,” said Boe.

“Father has been very supportive and wonderful to work with. My family has known him for many years and growing up I had always wanted him to be a part of this day and it is great to have that realization. Overall the aspect to have him

around has been the most helpful because we have not felt uncomfortable to go to him for any questions,” he said.

That sense of personal connection is great, but is not practical for every situation. It’s a challenge recognized by the priests in this story.

“I do want couples to know that we are here to help them experience the most out of their lives, but that it doesn’t often come in the ways that we think it should,” said Fr. Rutten.

“Too often marriage preparation is theoretical and so they listen but do not always believe we know what we are talking about. We want to be there for them in those moments when they need and desire some help or encouragement along the way.

“We also know that none of us are perfect and many of us didn’t always start out on the right path, but the Church has helped us find our way to a deeper understanding of Christ’s love for each one of us,” he said.

Fr. Rutten said the life of a parish can have an impact on how a couple ultimately sees themselves and their role in the community.

“I do think the parish can have a great influence on couples with how marriage and family is presented and promoted,” he said.

*“The Sacrament of Matrimony is unique to us as priests for we are witnesses of the Sacrament and not officiants.”*  
*Fr. Charles Cimpl*



*Fr. Charles Cimpl leads an Engaged Encounter session.*





*Fr. Paul Rutten is working with Brennan Kranz and Amberly Allen who plan to be married later this year.*

*“The parish is an extension of our family... as we look around at the families and couples we get an idea of what life is like.”*

*Fr. Paul Rutten*

“The parish is an extension of our family and is another home for us and so as we look around at the families and couples we get an idea of what life is like. How we treat young families with kids and chaos. How we treat older couples who are slowing down and set in their ways. All reflect how we as a parish see family and married life,” said Fr. Rutten.

Fr. Cimpl said family of origin for the couple also has an impact as they approach their wedding.

“I find that most of the couples I assist have a pretty good understanding of what they want to bring from their parents and others into their marriage and what they would like to change from what they observed from others,” he said.

“Because the age of marriage is somewhat higher than it was a few decades ago, the couples are very honest about what they hope and want their relationship to be as they enter marriage,” said Fr. Cimpl.

Fr. Tschakert notes that most our lives happen not in big moments, but in the day to day.

“Most of married life will be spent as ordinary time. There are holidays, vacations and family parties, but most of marriage

is lived in the ordinary life of work, homemaking and rearing children,” he said.

“It is in ordinary time that the bonds are formed and strengthened. When couples share household tasks, like laundry, cooking, cleaning and childcare, they are building a base of mutual trust and appreciation that will see them through the bumps on the road that ultimately appear.

“If there is one word of advice I would give any couple it’s to eat at least one meal together every day, taking some time to linger at the table,” Fr. Tschakert said.

Of course each couple coming for marriage brings their own story. Some are dealing with previous marriages, difficult family history, or personal issues – and any one of these issues might require special attention or actions before the sacrament can happen.

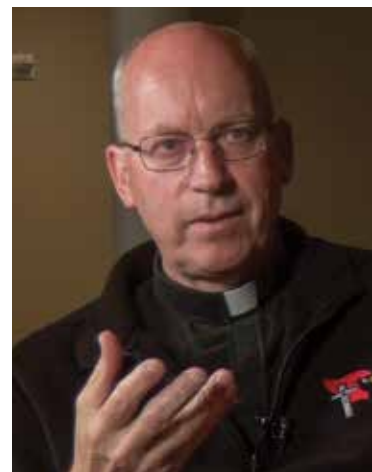
But the actual requirements for a valid marriage are pretty simple.

“I think many people are fairly unaware of the church laws concerning marriage, especially that for a marriage to be valid, it has to be witnessed by a priest or deacon and two witnesses. In previous generations these church laws were passed along by parents or grandparents,” said Fr. Tschakert.

Regarding previous marriages, though every situation is unique, Fr. Tschakert offers the following:

“The Church is very aware that sometimes marriages do fail, and sometimes examination will demonstrate that there was some flaw in the bond that prevented the marriage from succeeding. When this flaw can be demonstrated, the diocesan marriage tribunal will declare the union null. If nullity is declared, then the parties would be free to marry in the Church again.

“Anyone who wishes to have a failed marriage examined by the tribunal should start this process with their local pastor. This process has often proved a healing process as parties were able to look at the reasons why a marriage failed and





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*Fr. Greg Tschakert*

how they might do better going forward,” said Fr. Tschakert, who has worked with the marriage tribunal in various capacities for 33 years.

One unique aspect of the sacrament of marriage is that the bride and groom are the actual ministers of the sacrament.

“According to the Latin tradition, the spouses as ministers of Christ’s grace mutually confer upon each other the sacrament of matrimony by expressing their consent before the Church.” *CCC 1623*

“The Sacrament of Matrimony is unique to us as priests for we are witnesses of the Sacrament and not officiants of the Sacrament,” said Fr. Cimpl.

“The couple, when they say their vows to each other, are the officiants of the Sacrament for each other. This is a powerful statement by our Church of the unique bond of marriage as a man and woman come together to form a covenant of life and love.

“It is the closest symbol on earth of the way Christ loves us. Even though I witness several marriages each year I always get a chill up and down my spine when I hear a couple say their vows to each other. It is an amazing

open-ended commitment and I feel honored to be witnessing to their vows,” he said.

That opportunity to be a minister of the sacrament and to then build upon it can set the stage for a successful marriage to follow.

“I would say that making the decision to marry in the Church is going to be the second best decision of your day, the best decision being marrying your partner,” said Boe.

“To have the foundation of the Church built into your first moments as man and wife, consider that all things through Christ are strengthened and what can be better than that?” he said.

Said Fr. Tschakert, “A number of years ago, Pope Benedict XVI wrote an encyclical on the meaning of love and how love develops in our human lives.

“As we develop in our ability to love, we are gradually drawn into the love of God and make our way to eternal life. For many, the sacrament of marriage is both a very human way to live and a source of salvation as couples learn how to give of themselves in love.”

# FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website, [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org), has in-depth sections for dating and engaged, married life, and family life and parenting.

The article on planning a Catholic wedding offers this suggestion:

“A very good way to know what the Catholic Church believes is to participate in its worship. This is especially true in the case of marriage. The Catholic wedding rite, whether it is celebrated within a Mass or not, is a powerful teaching tool. This is experienced in many ways, for example:

- in the active role taken by the couple who, in the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, are the “ministers” of the sacrament;
- in the fact that the wedding takes place in a church, signifying it is a sacred action;
- in the scriptural readings which speak of God’s plan for marriage and his presence to the couple;
- in the music which lifts our thoughts and feelings in a prayerful, joyful way;
- in the homily given by the priest or deacon addressing the couple and their guests about the meaning of marriage as well as its joys and challenges;
- in the vows and exchange of rings in which the couple express their freely-given consent, promising to create a loving and lifelong union of permanence, fidelity, and openness to children;
- in the various prayers and blessings through which the Church solemnizes and supports the journey on which the couple is embarking.”

[www.foryourmarriage.org/planning-catholic-wedding](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/planning-catholic-wedding)

**T**he incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, is coming to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Sioux Falls on March 22.

This special relic is on pilgrimage traveling to over 100 different locations throughout the United States from Nov. 2018-June 2019. This tremendous relic is normally kept in Ars, France where the saint is from. However, the Knights of Columbus have been granted the special privilege to take the relic on pilgrimage throughout the United States. We are blessed to have it come to South Dakota. After the relic leaves Sioux Falls it will then travel to Fort Pierre on March 23 and Rapid City on March 24.

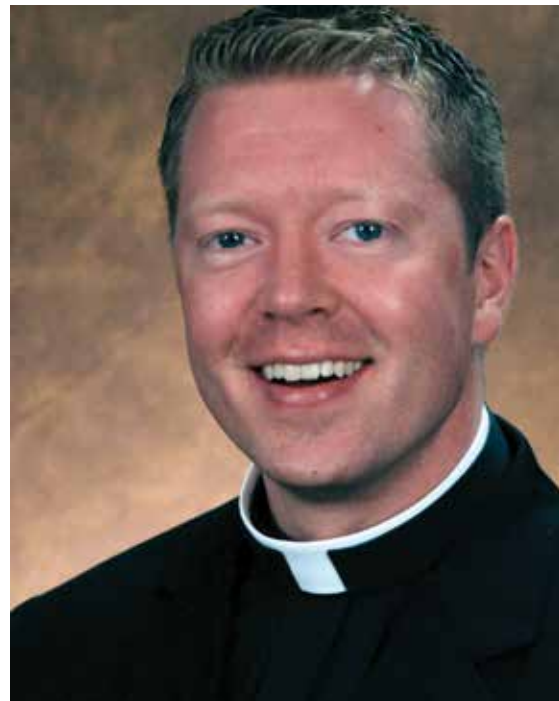
This could not come at a better time. The Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson in Washington, D.C. says St. John Vianney offers an example to help the church heal and rebuild. *"We now welcome as providential this opportunity to invoke the intercession of the patron saint of parish priests, whose holiness and integrity is a singular model for clergy."* We need holy priests, holy vocations.

We need to pray for them and ask St. John Vianney to pray for them. Let us take advantage of this opportunity. I encourage all peoples, especially priests from throughout our diocese to come in person or in spirit and to ask St. John Vianney to pray for our priests and for priestly vocations. I also invite Catholic School children, homeschoolers, and public school children to all come and pray. Lastly, I invite the Serra Club, a world-wide club dedicated to praying for vocations, which is located in our diocese, to come and pray.

Let us not only pray for our own priests and seminarians, but let us also pray for the whole United States. Recently, when I was on the seminary visit, I met with vocations directors from all around the Midwest: Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, Illinois, etc. Every diocese has been struggling with getting new seminarians this year and we are not an exception. The most recent scandals have had an impact, but not on the men entering but rather on the priests. Through the most recent CARA study, an annual study on vocations in the United States, we found the number one person that influences a young man to enter priesthood is their priest. If our priests are struggling, vocations will struggle too.

In the September 2018 edition of The Bishop's Bulletin, Bishop Swain addressed the horror and shame of the clergy sex scandal in the United States and he certainly invited us to pray for the victims of abuse, but he also invited us to pray for our priests. *"Finally pray for our priests who overwhelmingly serve you well with integrity, sacrifice and love. They are angry at their brothers who have violated their promises and hurt others, especially young people. All innocent priests bear a burden by association that they do not deserve and need your support. I thank them for their fidelity. Please support your priests, encourage them, and thank them. You can lift their spirits in these difficult times. They remain in persona Christi, instruments of Christ."*—Bishop Swain

Now is a unique time to pray for our bishop, priests, seminarians and those discerning priesthood. May this opportunity not pass us by.



Father Shaun Haggerty -  
Vocations Director and pastor,  
St. Lambert Parish, Sioux Falls

Lastly, I want to make you aware of other opportunities this summer to support vocations. We will again have our Vocations Camp at Abbey of the Hills, June 5-7. We will also be bringing back our Rocky Mountain Vocation Expedition for discernment from July 28-August 3. To learn more and sign up go to [www.sfvocations.org](http://www.sfvocations.org).

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Rev. Mr. Thomas Rausch	Christopher Tibbetts
Michael Kapperman	Nathan Allen
Tony Klein	Tyler Pranger
Jeffrey Schulte	J.P. Thornton
Scott Miller	Alexander Cyphert
Jacob Doty	Nicholas Ahrens
Nicholas Haiar	Alexander Leschisin
Mitchell McLaughlin	Andrew Mullaney
Zachary Schaeferbauer	Nolen Langrock
Max Marko	

Please remember our seminarians  
in prayer, and visit them online  
[www.sfvocations.org](http://www.sfvocations.org)

# SOUTH DAKOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Local  
CHURCH

The South Dakota Legislature is winding up its work for the 2019 legislative session.

Executive director of the South Dakota Catholic Conference Chris Motz worked throughout the legislative session to monitor what lawmakers have been doing and the status of legislation

“To serve right and to fight against the dominion of wrong,” Pope Benedict XVI proposed to the German legislature in 2011, “is the fundamental task of the politician,” Motz shared as the session was winding down.

“At a moment in history when man has acquired previously inconceivable power, this task takes on a particular urgency. Man can destroy the world. He can manipulate himself. He can, so to speak, make human beings and he can deny them their humanity,” Motz added. “How do we recognize what is right?

How can we discern between good and evil, between what is truly right and what may appear right?”

He said the South Dakota Catholic Conference encouraged legislators and citizens to take up this mantle – to serve right and to fight against the dominion of wrong – during the 2019 state legislative session.

“Through the Catholic Conference, Bishop Paul J. Swain and Bishop Robert D. Gruss have spoken on a variety of bills,” said Motz. “That all life is sacred and must be protected in law from the moment of conception is a truth we must never tire of speaking.”

To encourage a culture of life, the Catholic Conference supported HB 1055, HB 1193, SB 71, SB 72, and SCR 9. Additionally, the Catholic Conference has addressed new ideologies

of gender being discussed in state politics, sharing the truth that human beings are created male and female. “These two distinct, complementary categories are unchangeable, and are ordered towards fruitful love in marriage and family life, which forms the secure foundation on which society is built, added Motz. “On this topic, the Catholic Conference has spoken on HB 1225, HB 1243, and SB 49.”

“As Benedict put it, ‘there’s a particular urgency to the need for the voice of truth in the world today,’” Motz shared. “With hearts converted to

Christ and minds formed by His Church, our voices as Catholics deeply matter,” he said.

Visit [www.sdccatholicconference.org](http://www.sdccatholicconference.org) to sign up for updates or learn more about the 2019 legislative session.



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## UPCOMING RETREATS

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### SILENT RETREATS

<b>Men's 2019</b>		<b>Women's 2019</b>	
March 21-24	November 21-24	March 7-10	September 5-8
September 19-22		May 16-19	October 17-20
October 24-27		June 20-23	November 7-10
		August 8-11	

---

### 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.*

<b>March 12: St. Joseph: Our Protector on Earth and Intercessor in Heaven</b> - directed by Fr. Anthony Urban	<b>April 9: What Are People Saying About Miracles</b> - directed by Msgr. Richard Mahowald
--	---

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### SPECIAL RETREATS

<b>March 15-17: Inner Healing Retreat</b> - directed by Mike Snyder & Jane Barz	<b>May 10-11: Woman's Conference</b> - directed by Father Scott Traynor
<b>April 5-7: Couples Retreat</b> - directed by Dcn. James Keating	



123 Saint Raphael Circle • Irene, SD 57037  
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[www.broom-tree.org](http://www.broom-tree.org)



Part of the congregation in attendance at All City Catholic School Mass at the Elmen Center, Sioux Falls at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week 2019. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Paul J. Swain. (Photo by Doug Basche, O’Gorman High School, Sioux Falls)



Students from at St. Mary School, Dell Rapids, participate in a bunny hop during Catholic Schools Week, among many other fun activities during the week. (Photo courtesy, Kristine Fiegen, St. Mary Catholic Schools, Dell Rapids)



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At St. Joseph School, Pierre, students held a penny war as part of Catholic Schools Week and collected \$1,801 for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Sioux Falls, as it works to rebuild after a December fire. (Photo courtesy, St. Joseph School, Pierre)

At Pope John Paul II School, Mitchell, students wrapped up Catholic Schools Week with a square dance hoe down. (Photo courtesy, Pope John Paul II School, Mitchell)

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# Local CHURCH

## LENTEN SEASON ARRIVES SOON AND HAS US PREPARING

The season of Lent will begin March 6 with Ash Wednesday.

It will give Catholics pause to reflect, pray, sacrifice and work toward the celebration and beauty of Easter.

For Father Joe Forcelle, pastor for St. Leo the Great Parish, Tyndall and St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Springfield, preparation for the Lenten season has been underway for a while as he works to inspire his parishioners to get the most from the season.

“St. Leo and St. Vincent parishes have been using a number of resources to help people have a spirit-filled Lent,” said Father Forcelle. “Right now we are collecting old blessed

palms from the people which will be burned for the ashes we will use on Ash Wednesday.”

In addition, the ashes left over in those parishes will be distributed among area farmers along with a prayer for the blessing of the soil as they prepare for spring planting.

“As in most parishes, we use the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl to collect funds and to educate folks on the needs around the globe and at home,” added Father Forcelle.

Some of those online resources are also used by elementary and high school catechists in those parishes.

Father Forcelle points out

his parishioners also pray the Stations of the Cross each week. Parish youth prepare and present a Living Stations of the Cross on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

“I’m confident that the majority of parishes in our diocese would offer some similar resources, opportunities and encouragement to the faithful,” said Father Forcelle.

But the key for him and his congregants is to often challenge them to use what they can to get the most from the Lenten season whether those options are offered by the parish or the faithful find others ways, tools and options to prayerfully ready themselves for Holy Week and the resurrection of the Lord.

## Lenten regulations for Catholics:

Lent begins March 6 with Ash Wednesday.

The Christian faithful are to do penance through prayer and fasting, abstinence and by exercising works of piety and charity.

All Fridays through the year, especially during Lent, are penitential days.

Abstinence: All who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent.

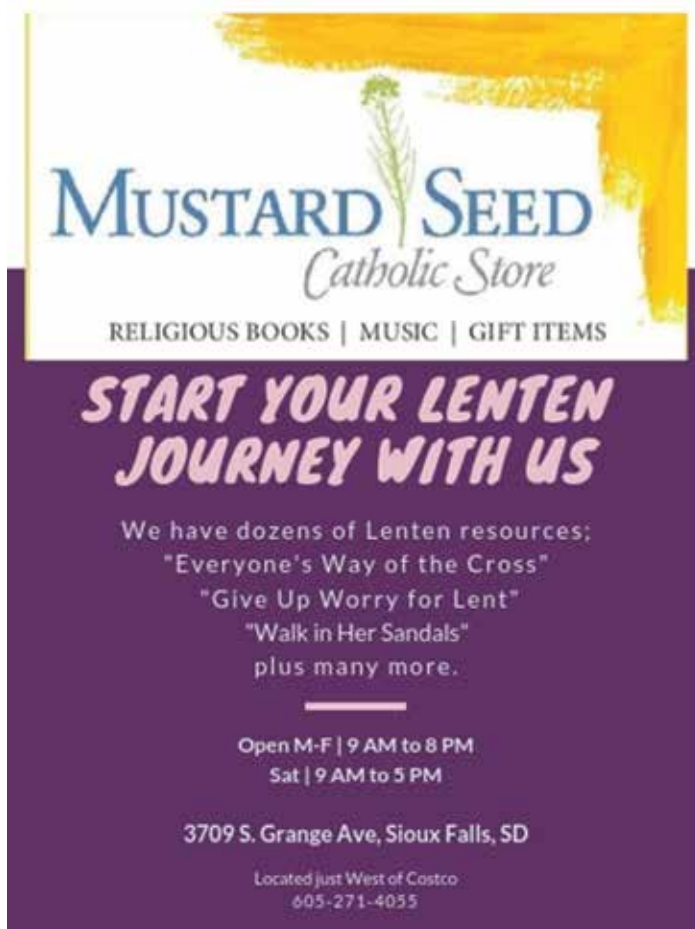
Fasting: All those who are 18 or older, until their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Only one full meal is allowed on days of fast. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one’s need; but together, they should not equal another full meal.

Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

The obligation does not apply to those whose health or ability to work would be affected seriously.

People in doubt about fast or abstinence should consult their priest.



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# SISTERS FROM THE DIOCESE HELPED SERVE MIGRANTS AT SOUTHERN BORDER

Local  
CHURCH

Sister Clarice Korger, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton and Sister Myra Remily, Presentation Convent, Aberdeen, recently spent time volunteering near the southern United States border working with and aiding refugees there.

The sisters spent two weeks helping and serving El Paso's Annunciation House.

The sisters were not alone but part of a broader group from across the nation helping out during the partial government shut down.

The sisters shared that Annunciation House was utilized due to demand.

Sister Clarice said that she usually helped out on the day shift welcoming refugees seeking asylum and residence in the United States.

The sisters helped the refugees get cleaned up, get a new clean set of donated clothes and acclimated to their new surroundings.

Sister Clarice pointed out that the usual time at Annunciation House for incoming refugees is three or four days.

Sister Clarice also helped out preparing meals when other volunteers were unable to do that. She also helped at times coordinating transportation for those in need.

She came away in amazement of her time in El Paso. She was amazed with the people of El Paso, their generosity and kindness toward the refugees.

She calls her time there helping out well worth it and a beneficial ministry for her and the other sisters she teamed with during their time in Texas.



Sister Clarice Korger, OSB, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, (on the left) Sister Myra Remily, PBVM, Presentation Convent, Aberdeen (center) and Sister Maura McCarthy, PVBVM, Dubuque, IA (on the right) helped prepare supper for migrants in El Paso, TX, in December. (Photo courtesy, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton)

She made a presentation during the Benedictine community's chapter meeting in January. Sister Clarice and the others got the opportunity to serve after

an invitation from the Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR), a group she belongs to.

United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota  
In re Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Case No. 18-33707

## DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Diocese, a parish in the Diocese, a school in the Diocese, or have any claim against the Diocese, you must file a claim by April 8, 2019.

For more information, visit [www.dowr.org](http://www.dowr.org)

For U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota information, visit [mnb.uscourts.gov](http://mnb.uscourts.gov)

For advice about your rights, contact an attorney

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# Local CHURCH

## The Gift of Hope concert happening soon

The Gift of Hope concert is set for March 23 and will include two shows at 3 and 7 p.m. this year. The shows will be hosted at the O’Gorman Performing Arts Center, Sioux Falls.

The Gift of Hope concert supports the work of Catholic Family Services.

Returning this year for the concert is Christian music performer and Dove award winner Mark Schultz.

Schultz said he is excited about returning to the diocese for the concert. “I had such a great time last time. I was honored to be invited back,” Schultz shared during an interview with Catholic Views, the diocesan radio program.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 605-988-3765, by visit-



Mark Schultz with the children’s choir during the 2017 Gift of Hope Concert. (Photo courtesy, Catholic Family Services)

ing [cfesd.org](http://cfesd.org) or at all Sioux Falls Hy-Vee locations.

The concert supports Catholic Family Services’ Gift of Hope Fund for people of all faiths, ages and walks of life who experience grief, despair, abuse, loss or pain of separation.

All can receive help, hope and healing from the ministry of Catholic Family Services.

Concert-related expenses are financially sponsored or donated, allowing 100% of all proceeds to go to the benefit of the Gift of Hope Fund.

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# Camp Sydney already on the horizon for second year thanks to Catholic Family Services

Catholic Family Services will offer a second Camp Sydney this June for children experiencing grief in their lives.

Camp Sydney will be held at Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center near Irene, June 11-13.

The camp for children, youth and their families aims to be an educational and experiential camp for coping with the death of a loved one.

It is for young people ages 7 to 17 and parents and will include discussions, fun activities and support.

Dr. Marcie Moran, director, Catholic Family Services, will be one of the presenters along with Mary Weber MS, LPC, LMFT as well as other Catholic Family Services professionals and volunteers.

Parents are instrumental in helping their children grieve, according to

Catholic Family Services. But parents may not be able to accomplish that when they are grieving themselves.

That is why Catholic Family Services wants children who are grieving to attend but their parents to be there as well.

Throughout the weekend, children and youth will learn about topics related to the grieving process.

Catholic Family Services is seeking out potential participants to attend the camp and volunteers to work with the camp in various capacities.

Camp Sydney will begin on Tuesday, June 11 with check in starting at 6 p.m. and will run through Thursday at 11 a.m.



Camp Sydney 2018 at Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center, Near Irene. (Photo courtesy, Catholic Family Services)

There are numerous volunteer positions available.

All volunteers will need to complete safe environment training, a background check and need to attend one

of three trainings offered. Those interested in signing up for the camp as a participant or a volunteer can call 1-800-700-7867 or 605-988-3775 or can email [cfs@sfcatholic.org](mailto:cfs@sfcatholic.org).

	<b>Angie Jorgensen</b> FIC <b>605-660-5814</b> <i>Yankton, Vermillion &amp; nearby</i>
	<b>Mike Ferrell</b> <b>605-954-4399</b> <i>Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings &amp; nearby</i>
	<b>Jay Fritze</b> FIC <b>605-999-2705</b> <i>Mitchell, Parkston &amp; nearby</i>
	<b>David Schonhardt</b> FIC <b>763-670-9058</b> <i>Sioux Falls &amp; nearby</i>
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# Committed in CHRIST



**MONTROSE** – Denny and Deb Vogel will celebrate their 45th anniversary on Mar. 9. They have 5 children (1 deceased), 9 grandchildren and are members of St. Patrick Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Ray and Louise Schley will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Mar. 15. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Michael Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Gary and Helen Dereu will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Mar. 6. They have 4 children, 13 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and are members of Christ the King Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Kevin and Karen O'Connor will celebrate their 30th anniversary on Mar. 17. They are members of Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish.



**WAGNER** – Tom and Vicki Studelska celebrated their 55th anniversary on Feb. 1. They have 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and are members of St. John the Baptist Parish.



**WAGNER** – Francis and Jeanette Doom celebrated their 60th anniversary on Sept. 7. They have 7 children, 19 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and are members of St. John the Baptist Parish.



**WATERTOWN** – Gary and Patty Veeder will celebrate their 40th anniversary on Apr. 7. They have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.

## Anniversary submissions

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by March 15 for inclusion in the April 2019 edition to:

The Bishop's Bulletin  
523 North Duluth Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
or e-mail to:  
gyoung@sfcatholic.org.

## 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.

You can find out more by calling 605-425-2600 or at [www.salemcatholic.org](http://www.salemcatholic.org).

## 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.

## DISC Mission Grant applications available

The DISC Mission grant application forms for 2019 are now available. Any mission or Catholic organization in the national or international community may benefit from these grants. Past grants have ranged from \$250-\$1,000.

The grant application must be submitted through a DISC member diocese. In the case of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, that DISC member is Dawn Wolf, Information Systems Director.

The completed application with the description of the program or ministry for consideration must be submitted by April 30. You can find the application at <http://www.discinfo.org/membership/mission-grant/> and return it to Dawn Wolf, Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, [dwolf@sfcatholic.org](mailto:dwolf@sfcatholic.org).

## "Faith and Real Life" speaker addresses parish in Watertown

"Faith and Real Life" speaker Renae Duppong shared her story entitled "God's Ways are Not Our Ways" to a group at Immaculate Conception Parish, Watertown. Duppong spoke of her journey in supporting her sister, Michelle Duppong, through her battle of cancer. (Photo courtesy, Immaculate Conception Parish, Watertown)



## Sister Muriel Spartz

Sister Muriel Spartz, a Benedictine sister of Mother of God Monastery died Jan. 26 at Estelline Nursing and Care Center, Estelline.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 30 at the monastery chapel at Mother of God Monastery, Watertown.

She was 90.

Born Rita Mae Spartz, on January 26, 1929, in Kranzburg, Sister Muriel was one of six children of Nick and Agnes (Staudacher) Spartz.

Sister Muriel graduated from Mount Marty High School, Yankton in the spring of 1946 and then entered Sacred Heart Convent, Yankton, a few months later. She made her first monastic profession on June 24, 1948.

In 1961, Sister Muriel joined 136 other religious women from the Sacred Heart Benedictines to become a founding member of Mother of God Monastery in



Sister Muriel Spartz, OSB Pierre.

Sister Muriel attended Mount Marty College obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 1964.

She served as Director of Religious Education for 26 years at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Watertown and at St. George Parish, Hartford, before retiring to the Monastery in Watertown in 2009.

Sister Muriel was preceded in death by her parents and siblings.

## Parishioners in Harrisburg help area ministries



The parishioners of St. John Paul II in Harrisburg collected 796 diapers and 2,972 baby wipes as part of a recent diaper drive. The diapers were donated to the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry, the St. Vincent de Paul Holy Innocents diaper ministry, and Necessities for Neighbors. Pictured (l. to r.) are project coordinators Sandy Schipper, Joan Schaffer and Brianna Stearns. (Photo courtesy, St. John Paul II Parish, Harrisburg)

## Religious education students work to help the needy

Religious education students from St. Rose of Lima Parish, Garretson, recently got out early into the cold to help construct beds for those who are less fortunate. The students prepared materials for beds during their work time. (Photo courtesy, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Garretson)

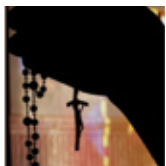


## Upcoming Spiritual Retreats



**April 5th - 7th**  
**Revitalized: A Retreat for Married Couples**

**Hosts:** Deacon Tony & Mary Grack  
*\*Freewill offering retreat that's not affiliated with Marriage Encounter*



**May 31st - June 2nd**  
**Communion of Hearts Rosary Retreat**

**Host:** Father Todd Schneider



**July 19th - 21st**  
**Discover and Unleash your Potential: Women's Silent Retreat**

**Host:** Fariba K. Roughead, PhD, RD, CPCC

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**Newman miracle depositions were 'spiritual experiences'**  
**Chicago, IL. (CNS)** - When the Vatican announced Pope Francis had signed a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed John Henry Newman, clearing the way for his canonization, there was rejoicing in Chicago. The proposed miracle that God worked through the intercession of Newman in 2013 involved a local mother who faced life-threatening complications during her pregnancy but suddenly recovered when she prayed to the English cardinal for help. The woman, who declined to comment at this time but said she will share her story with the Chicago Catholic, archdiocesan newspaper, at a later date, lives in the Diocese of Joliet, but, given the resources available in the Archdiocese of Chicago, her case was transferred to the tribunal here for investigation. Dr. Gerald Casey, the lead medical expert in the local process, said he has been forever changed by the experience. "It was the most enriching experience of my spiritual life," said Casey.

**'Faith' at core of growth of law firm that helps immigrants**  
**Washington, D.C. (CNS)** - Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew that the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed: It begins as "the smallest of all seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches." When Sister Ann Durst started a pro bono law firm for immigrants in the '90s, it was probably the smallest of all law offices in San Diego: She ran it out of a condo and had an operating budget of only \$75,000 a year. Now, Casa Cornelia sits in a well-appointed office on San Diego's Fifth Avenue, represents hundreds of unaccompanied children, asylum applicants and victims of trafficking every year, enlists the volunteer services of countless private attorneys, and last year had an operating budget of over \$2 million. It is the largest pro bono immigration law firm in San Diego County. So what allowed Casa Cornelia to blossom into the wellspring of hope it has become? Sister Durst has one answer: Faith. "We are blessed that the people supported us" through the many changes the firm has gone through over the years, she said, chalking up its continued success to prayer and generosity.

### **Welcome Christ present in migrants and refugees, pope urges**

**Vatican City (CNS)** - Even if Christians struggle to recognize him with his "torn clothes (and) dirty feet," Jesus is present in the migrants and refugees who seek safety and a dignified life in a new land, Pope Francis said. If Jesus' words, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me," are true, the pope said, then "we must begin to thank those who give us the opportunity for this encounter, namely, the 'others' who knock on our doors, giving us the possibility to overcome our fears in order to encounter, welcome and assist Jesus in person." Pope Francis spoke about overcoming fear and welcoming others during a Mass he celebrated at a church-run retreat and conference center in Sacrofano, about 15 miles north of Rome. The Mass was part of a conference titled, "Welcoming Communities: Free of Fear," which was sponsored by the Italian bishops' office for migration, Caritas Italy and Jesuit Refugee Service's Centro Astalli. The 500 participants included representatives of parishes, religious orders and Catholic-run agencies assisting migrants and refugees, as well as individual families who host newcomers.

### **Catholic Charities expects healthy housing to ease chronic homelessness**

**Washington, D.C. (CNS)** - Catholic Charities USA is partnering with five diocesan Catholic Charities agencies, local hospitals, housing developers and funders in a plan aiming to reduce chronic homelessness 20 percent by 2024. Called the Healthy Housing Initiative, the effort involves placing homeless people into stable housing and providing essential supportive services to reduce hospital readmissions while ensuring that basic needs are met. Collaboration is underway with diocesan Catholic Charities operations in Detroit; St. Louis; Las Vegas; Portland, Oregon; and Spokane, Washington, where such programs exist. "This is basically co-locating the services with the housing. We're taking a look at not only partnering with Catholic health associations but taking advantage of access to property that most of (Catholic Charities) members have," said Curtis Johnson, vice president of affordable housing at Catholic Charities USA. In some communities, structures being eyed include vacant buildings on parish land such as schools and convents that can be redeveloped into housing, Johnson told Catholic News Service.

### **Mid-Atlantic Congress offers attendees ongoing formation, fellowship**

**Baltimore, MD. (CNS)** - Spending the weekend in Baltimore was just what Elizabeth Butler needed to reinvigorate adult catechesis at her Washington parish. Butler, a parishioner of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian on Capitol Hill, called the Mid-Atlantic Congress "a good kick in the pants." She's also administrator of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program at her parish. Nearly a decade old, the congress allows leaders in Catholic ministry a regional opportunity for formation and fellowship. This year's congress had more than 1,300 registrants and included a track for Hispanic ministry. In addition to Deacon Oney, featured speakers included Sister Miriam Heidland, a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, who is a former college athlete and can be heard on her "Abiding Together" podcast, and Father Mike Schmitz, director of youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota.

### **Bishop urges families to form deeper relationship with Christ**

**Phoenix, AZ. (CNS)** - Fathers and mothers have the ability and responsibility to lead their families to holiness, wrote Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted in an apostolic exhortation. The title of the document, "Complete My Joy," is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians when the Apostle challenges the reader to "make my joy complete." "Over these past 50 years, countless faithful Catholics have surely attained the goal of their lives -- eternal salvation," Bishop Olmsted wrote in his introduction. "Credit here is due to the rich mercy of God, to the dedicated priests and religious who have served our diocese so well, and to you and the many faithful families who have lived -- and continue to live -- your vocations with generosity and even, at times, heroism," he said. The bishop promulgated the apostolic exhortation as part of the Diocese of Phoenix's 50th anniversary Jubilee Year of the Family.

## Parish Dinners/Socials

Mar. 3/St. Peter Parish, Colman, will host a pancake breakfast at the St. Peter Parish Hall; serving will be 9-11:30 a.m.; a free will offering will be accepted with proceeds going to the St. Peter Parish youth group.

Mar. 3/Maher Council 1079 of the Knights of Columbus, Mitchell, 51st annual sausage supper; held at John Paul II School auditorium, serving 3-6:30 p.m.; tickets: \$9 for adults; \$4 for children (12 and under).

Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29 and Apr. 5, 12/St. Joseph Parish, Grenville fish fry, raffles and 50/50 drawing; 5-7:30 p.m. each Friday; adults: \$10; children (ages 6-11): \$5; children 5 and under: free.

Mar. 10/Church of the Epiphany will host its 56th annual sausage supper; serving will be from 3-7 p.m.; adults (12+): \$9; children (ages 6-11): \$4; preschool: \$1.

Mar. 17/St. Patrick Parish, Montrose will host its ham dinner with serving 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mar. 22/St. George Parish Fish Fry will be Friday from 5-7:30 p.m. at the parish center, 408 S. Western Ave., Hartford; free will offering will be accepted.

Mar. 30/Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Christina #2336 (Lennox, Canton, Worthing & Tea) presents "Grow where you are Planted" salad luncheon, card party, raffle and door prizes; Saturday from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Nicholas Parish Hall, 140 West Brian St., Tea; tickets are \$8; for reservations, call Diane Biver at 360-4679.

Mar. 31/St. Mary Parish, Dell Rapids, carnival and auction; carnival starts at 11 a.m. with live and silent auction starting at 12 p.m.

Apr. 3/Empty Bowls will be held in the O'Gorman High School cafeteria from 5-7 p.m.; cost is \$5 for meal only; \$20 for families of 4 or more and \$15 for pottery bowl and meal; proceeds will benefit local agencies that feed the poor; silent auction of student pottery as well.

Apr. 14/St. Lambert Parish, 16th and Bahnon, Sioux Falls, parish dinner; tickets available soon in the parish office or call 605-336-8808 for more information.

Apr. 28/St. Mary Parish, Sioux Falls, will host its annual turkey dinner; serving 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the church hall, 2109 S. 5th Ave.; take outs available; pre-sale cost: \$8 for adults; \$9 at the door; children 4-11: \$5; tickets on sale after all Masses Apr. 6, 7, 13, 14 and following 4 p.m. Mass only on Apr. 27; no Easter sales.

**Sioux Falls parish hosting adult education Tuesday, Mar. 5** - Holy Spirit Parish, Sioux Falls, will have adult education on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The presenter will be Father Kristopher Cowles, pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Sioux Falls. Father Cowles will discuss "Our Lady of Guadalupe and the end of the Reign of Darkness." There will be an opportunity for questions after the presentation. Contact Kathy Davis at 371-2320 for more info.

**Pax Christi meeting scheduled Saturday, Mar. 9** - The next Pax Christi meeting will be held Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. at Caminando Juntos, 617 E. 7th Street, Sioux Falls. The meeting is open to all.

**Relic of St. John Vianney coming to S.D. Mar. 22-24** - A major relic of St. John Vianney will be in Sioux Falls on Friday, Mar. 22 with reception of the relic and the celebration of Mass at noon, veneration of the relic from 1-7 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. The relic pilgrimage is being sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

**Residents Encounter Christ weekend set Apr. 5-7 (March 15 sign up deadline)** - Residents Encounter Christ (REC), a prison ministry, is looking for volunteers. As it says in Matthew 25:36 - "I was in prison and you came to visit me." No formal training necessary, just a desire to live out the Gospel and see these men for who they are: children of God. If you're interested please contact Father Jeff Norfolk at [jeff.norfolk@state.sd.us](mailto:jeff.norfolk@state.sd.us).

**Diocesan youth rally set Sunday, March 24** - Contact your parish leader to register for the Aberdeen Youth Rally on March 24. Emily Wilson, a Catholic speaker, author, and musician who travels the world sharing her faith through witness and worship will be featured. Sign up for an afternoon of fun, prayer, and a great message about becoming a witness of truth. Details can be found at [www.sf catholic.org/youth/](http://www.sf catholic.org/youth/).

## Mother of God Monastery

Mar. 9/"A day with Hildegard of Bingen" will be offered at Mother of God Monastery, Watertown, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. St. Hildegard, a Benedictine nun of the Middle Ages, had incredible insights into understanding God's work in creation and all people. For more information or to register contact Sister Emily Meisel at 605-886-4181.

Mar. 23/"God in my Paintbrush" will be offered at Mother of God Monastery, Watertown, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; No artistic talent is a requirement. All materials will be provided. Contact Sister Emily Meisel at 605-886-4181 for information or to register.

## Diocesan EVENTS

### Sacred Heart Monastery

March 9/ Lenten Retreat: "Navigating Rough Waters in a Beloved Church" Led by Peace Center staff, participants in this half-day retreat will reflect prayerfully on the suffering within the Church surrounding the sexual abuse scandal, explore historical roots of the crisis, and consider avenues of understanding and healing for victims, perpetrators, and all the faithful. Register by March 6, Ash Wednesday, at [BenedictinePeaceCtr@mtmc.edu](mailto:BenedictinePeaceCtr@mtmc.edu) or by calling 605-668-6292; a \$20 donation is requested at check-in; retreat is 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

March 16 /Contemplative Morning/ The Benedictine Peace Center, Yankton, hosts a morning of contemplative prayer, usually on the third Saturday of every month. For more information or to register for the March 16 session, contact S. Doris Oberembt at [doberembt@mtmc.edu](mailto:doberembt@mtmc.edu) or call 605-668-6292.

March 23/Spring Theology Institute, Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon, in the monastery chapter room. No charge, but registration requested for planning purposes: call 605-668-6000 or e-mail [mfrigge@mtmc.edu](mailto:mfrigge@mtmc.edu). Participants will view and discuss the film "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word," directed by noted film director, Wim Wenders.

### Catholic Family Services

Mar. 5 and Apr. 2/Catholic Family Services is hosting a 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 details please call Catholic Family Services, 605-988-3775.

Mar. 10/Surviving Divorce- begins Sunday in Watertown at Immaculate Conception Parish. Sessions are held on Sunday evenings, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Cost of \$45 per person includes refreshments and all materials for 6 weeks. For information or to register contact Sheila Grabow at [sheilagrabow@gmail.com](mailto:sheilagrabow@gmail.com). Scholarships are available.

Mar. 15-17/Grieving the loss of a loved one weekend non-denominational retreat for adults who are trying to understand and reconcile their grief. The retreat begins Friday at 7 p.m. and concludes Sunday at noon at Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center, near Irene. Directed by Dr. Marcie Moran. Call 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867. Space is limited.

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2:00-6:00 PM – Aberdeen Civic Arena

Pizza supper to follow at  
Sacred Heart Parish