



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

December 2016

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

LIVING
ADVENT
FAITH

faith

Mary asks: "Am I not the source of your joy? Do you need something more?"



While we regularly raise up Mary for special attention in the months of May and October, December is a time when we recognize the Blessed Mother in very specific ways.

December 8 is the holy day of obligation for her Immaculate Conception under which title she is the Patron of the United States. December 12 we honor her as Our Lady of Guadalupe, under which title she is the Patron of all the Americas: North, Central and South America. Of course on December 25 we celebrate the birth of the Lord in which Mary's role is so moving as we relate to her as the loving mother of the baby Jesus born in less than an ideal environment. On December 30 we recognize the model of the Holy Family. Then as the month comes to an end we acknowledge her on January 1 as Mother of God.

I had the great opportunity on the occasion of my tenth anniversary of ordination as a bishop to go on pilgrimage to Mexico City to the site where Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego and to pray at the site at which this miracle occurred. I chose to do so because when I converted to the Catholic Church I had little understanding of her powerful presence, but over the years she has become my mother in a very personal way for which words fail me.

As I learned more about this miraculous moment in which Our Lady invited now Saint Juan Diego to carry the message of her maternal love for all peoples, that message struck me deeply. She told him as he anguished over the life threatening illness of his uncle: "Listen, put it into your heart, youngest and dearest son, that the thing that frightens you, the thing that afflicts you is nothing: do not let it disturb you; do not fear this sickness, nor any other sickness, nor any sharp or hurtful thing. Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need something more?" She then ap-

peared to his uncle and he was healed. Do I, do we, need something more than Our Lady under whose shadow and protection we are?

While the graces on this pilgrimage were many, three are of special remembrance. First is when before the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe I re-consecrated myself and my priesthood to her. I had done so some years ago but this time it was with a spiritual commitment grounded in a deepened devotion.

The traditional prayer of consecration was authored by Saint Louis de Montfort which I did pray. I also prayed the prayer of consecration authored by Saint Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish martyr during World War II, which speaks to me in a special way:

"O Immaculata. Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. I, Paul Joseph Swain, a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet humbly imploring you to take me with all that I am and have wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death, and eternity, whatever most pleases you. If it pleases you, use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of you: "She will crush your head," and , "You alone have destroyed all heresies in the whole world."

"Let me be a fit instrument of your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter you obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Allow me to praise you, O Sacred Virgin. Give me strength against your enemies."

There were many special moments during this pilgrimage; two stand out. I was overwhelmed by the invitation of so many who once knowing that I was a bishop asked for my blessing. Tears of joy and smiles of gratitude we easily expressed.

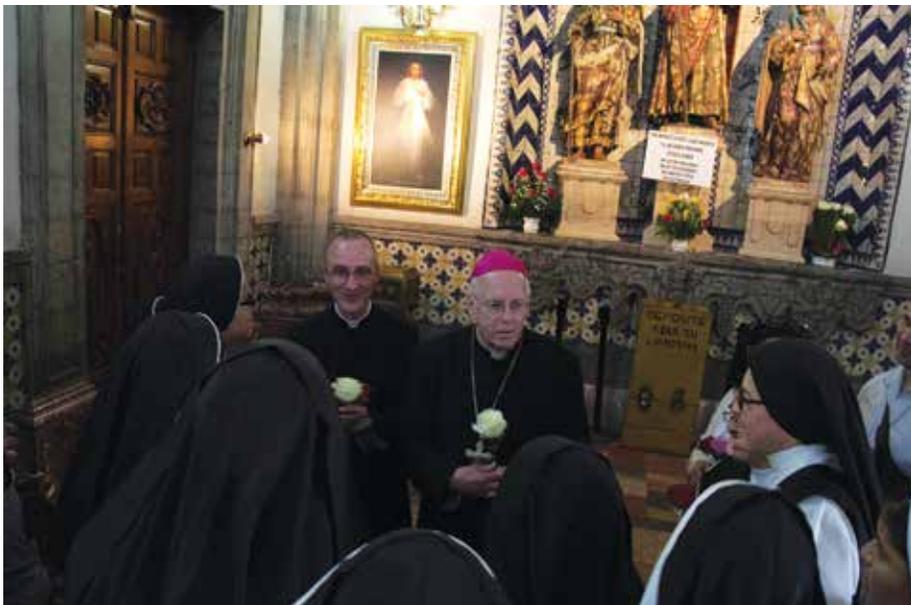


It was a humbling affirmation of their respect and love for the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church which every bishop represents. One beautiful moment was when out in the plaza before the massive Basilica I was asked to bless a young boy who had been baptized only a few mo-

ments earlier. What a privilege.

Another special experience was in the chapel built on the top of the hill where Juan Diego met the Blessed Mother and discovered roses blooming out of season. I was privileged to continue the tradition of handing out roses to pilgrims in this chapel. Roses of course are signs of life and of Mary the protector of life. When Our Lord gave us his mother as our mother from the cross with John standing in our stead, Scripture says John then took her into his home. The roses given out on this sacred spot are encouraged to be taken with us as we welcome Our Mother into our homes as well.

December is a time for us to joyfully participate in the festivities of Christmas with family and friends. May this month also be a time of reflection on the presence of the Blessed Mother, our mother, who intercedes and watches over us throughout the year and always leads us to her son. As she asks: what more do we need?



SCHEDULE

December

- 1 11:00 Presbyteral Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
- 3 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 4 11:00 Mass, Rite of Election Candidates for Permanent Diaconate, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 6 12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood
- 8 12:00 Holy Mass, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 10 9:15 Serra Club, Speaker, St. Lambert Parish, Sioux Falls
- 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 11 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 13 12:00 Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
- 15 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 16 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 17 1:00 Christmas at the Cathedral, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 18 2:00 Christmas at the Cathedral, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 2:30 Pallium Mass for Archbishop Hebda, Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul, MN
- 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 25 Midnight Holy Mass, Nativity of the Lord, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 7:30 Holy Mass, Nativity of the Lord, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 28 3:30 Seminarian Gathering, The Bishop's House
- 31 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls

January 2017

- 6 Chancery Staff Christmas Party
- 7-13 Retreat, Bishops of Region VIII Province, Florida



Something tells me that you expected it...

These past months I have been reflecting on the five regrets often felt by those who are dying as they have been identified by hospice nurses.

The first regret is: "I wish I had let myself be happier."

The second is: "I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends."

The third is: "I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings."

The fourth is: "I wish I hadn't worked so hard."

Now, to be honest, when I first began reading the list of regrets expressed by those who are dying, this is the one I expected to read.

Something tells me that you expected it as well.

I don't think I've ever met an adult who hasn't thought this, and already known this. We tell ourselves all the time that we are going to do a better job at prioritizing our lives, and make more time for family and friends and what "really matters," but then we go back to the way things were.

I do it, and I'm sure you do as well.

Lately I have been asking myself, "why?" Why do we know this, but still have such a hard time living what we believe? I have been thinking a great deal about the tyranny of "busy-ness." Being busy has become for many people a way to project to the world that we have value and worth, that we are important.

Many years ago, as I was spending the last days preparing for ordination to the priesthood, my classmates and I were given some advice from Bishop Paul Dudley, advice he would often share with the priests of the diocese.

He asked us to stop talking about how busy we are, reminding us that telling others we are busy was a simple way of telling them that we just didn't have time for them, or an attempt to make them feel sorry for us. Either way, he taught us, it was not the way a priest is supposed to present himself.

I remember thinking it was good advice, and I am amazed today how little I use it. Every so often I catch myself saying the words and try to stop myself. Then I wonder what sort of emotional satisfaction I was looking for at that moment.

It is a humbling thought.

The tyranny of busy-ness leads us to believe that if we are not busy, overbooked and running from one place to the next, the next scheduled event, then we are not being who we are supposed to be. There is some emotional need being met in our endless running from one event to the next. But we lose ourselves in the running.

If we do not take time to stop, then we will never discover the self-awareness we need to be who we are called to be. If we do not take the time to pause and be renewed, then we will burn out, and every event, every encounter becomes a chore and a drudgery. If we do not occasionally step back from the burdens of life, then we will lose the glorious, subtle moments that fill our days and fill our hearts with meaning.

We are only in this world a brief amount of time, and when we forget that, when we begin to think that our lives are about the work to be done, the money to be made, that the endless schedule is what makes us valuable, then we have lost our way.

Years ago, I was bringing Holy Communion to an elderly man who began to bemoan the fact that he no longer did anything useful, had no work to do, and, in his mind, had no value or benefit to the world around him.

I reminded him that he is a prophet, a prophet who goes for walks and enjoys the changing leaves and the warm breeze. A prophet who can sit with a cup of coffee in the morning and simply enjoy the sunrise, a prophet who has the time to write a letter, make a phone call, attend the funeral. I told him he is a prophet challenging the rest of us to live life better, and not to just rush and work and miss out on what matters.

He was not comforted, and I really didn't think he would be; but I believed it, and I still do.

We are not promised a tomorrow, we are not guaranteed long and secure years after we retire to enjoy family and friends and life. We have today to do that, if we remember what matters.

So we allow those who voice the regrets of the dying remind us what matters, and to live in prophetic union with the One who still says, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

The Bishop's Bulletin

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Subscriptions

\$24 per year, or as part of each family's CFSA contribution.

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Anniversaries, copy and advertising
deadline for the January issue
is December 15.

The Bishop's Bulletin

(ISSN 0193-5089) is published monthly by the
Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, 523 N. Duluth Ave.,
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714 and entered as Periodical
Postage Paid at Aberdeen, SD, and other cities.

Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

December 2016

Volume 69, Number 12



Bishop Paul J. Swain (center) during the celebration of Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City. The celebration of Mass was part of the pilgrimage to mark the tenth anniversary of Bishop Swain's ordination as bishop of the Diocese of Sioux Falls. The bishop and a group from the diocese spent six days on the pilgrimage. (Photo courtesy, Mark Conzemius, Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota).

In Stillness of Night

JESUS, Our Light & Love

Has Been Given to Us.



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

LIVING ADVENT FAITH

Faith



Mary

Doing God's will, responding generously,
waiting in expectation



John the Baptist

Boldly proclaiming through
word and action



Joseph

Trusting, even when it doesn't
seem to make sense



Zechariah

Allowing God to teach us, to
shift our focus

Living day to day we might not always be aware of God's call or activity in our life. We may not see how these key themes and characters of Advent have any relation to the faith life we are trying to lead. That sentiment is often expressed by those who find themselves unexpectedly involved in meaningful efforts and which almost always deepen their own faith.

“Mary said, ‘Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.” Luke 1:38

When the Benedictine Monks began building Blue Cloud Abbey in the 1950s, they could not have imagined that someday they would need to determine what to do with the buildings and adjacent land. But with few vocations and aging members, the determination was made to close the Abbey.

That’s when six couples, some talking to each other, some thinking about it independently, but eventually all six together felt the call to preserve the Abbey as a place where the faith could continue to be shared and passed on.

Chad Campbell was a successful officer with the Sioux Falls Police Department. Because of his work with the homeless he got involved in the planning for what became the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House. He was surprised when he felt the nudge to apply for the job of running it.

Kris Sees did not have ministry on her mind when she completed her hospitality and food services degree at Mount Marty College, Yankton. She wanted to run a hotel. She took a route through Illinois and cancer before finding her way to Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center where she is now the administrator.

Jim Heller was trying to answer a question posed to him by his wife Michala, “what was his passion in a job or career or ministry?”

“...I felt that I had been living out this passion in my years of teaching

and coaching at Aberdeen Roncalli,” Heller said. “But after spending some time in prayer with this question I was drawn back to my formation of faith...first through my family growing up in Watertown, SD and then during my time at Northern State where I was involved with the Newman Center and a vibrant SEARCH retreat program,” he said.

“My passion and desire to continue to seek out and stay involved with retreat ministry came to the surface. My connection to these core friends from these time periods, the example and strength of their faith lives and values, and the timing of Blue Cloud closing started to form a direction for me to pursue.

He shared these thoughts with a group of friends. “Unknown to me, they also had felt the tug to look into the possibility of doing something at the Abbey,” Heller said.

Today’s Abbey of the Hills came about from that tug, felt and acted upon by Val and Paula Rausch, Wade and Cynthia Van Dover, Deacon Paul and Julie Treinen, Dan and Michelle Moberg, Roman and Carol Taffe, along with Jim and Michala Heller.

Campbell said he has always had an active faith but had to rely on spiritual guidance from others and much prayer and reflection when considering leaving the police force to run the newly created Bishop Dudley Hospitality House.

“As the process evolved I started to contemplate if I was in the right place and if I could do more. I think it was the Holy Spirit.” Once he had the job there was some anticipation and fear of what was to come.

“This is a big endeavor and it takes patience. You are dealing with people’s lives,” Campbell said. BDHH

provides overnight emergency shelter, daytime programs and serves as a connecting point for the myriad of services needed to help people struggling with homelessness.

Sees and her husband had been in Illinois for his job for seven years, always with at least some intention of returning to South Dakota. She heard about the new retreat center being built and applied to be the cook.

“Fr. (Jim) Mason walked me through the not completed building, and later hired me over the phone. Soon after I discovered I had breast cancer,” she said. Through a lumpectomy and chemotherapy, the family decided to stay the course of their plans and move back.

“It didn’t make much sense at the time,” Sees said. “We had no place to live, I had cancer and my husband had no job. But looking back now I can see God leading the way,” she said.

Deacon Treinen now serves as director for Abbey of the Hills Inn and Retreat Center, set up as a non-profit organization. How did the group know they could trust what they perceived as a call from God to get involved?

“I believe that when the unexpected happens, such as the Abbey, it involves a couple of key components,” Deacon Treinen said. “First, it is bold, it is challenging. It comes in a way that, frankly, I would not EVER have thought up. I believe God wants to challenge us in our faith—to jolt us out of our unbelief—and grow in our trust in him.”

“Second, it involves prayer to come to realize (at least partly realize) that this is of God. The prayer for the Abbey didn’t give us a sense that it would be easy, but that we should trust Him,” he said.

“Finally, I believe an absolute essential component of trusting this call; this decision was the sense of peace we had in doing it. Yes, it seemed crazy for sure, but we had peace in the end in moving it forward.”

Julie Treinen said, “Our trust in God was developed by taking baby steps in faith throughout life. I don’t think God asks us to take giant leaps.”

“At least for me it started small like using NFP and homeschooling and then the next thing He asked was a little bigger like Paul becoming a deacon and then buying an abbey. Obviously there were a lot of other things happening in between, but the idea is God leads us in our faith through baby steps, usually, so we’re ready for the next step. Each step has been scary and sacrificial and by the world’s standard a little crazy, but it has always

brought blessings too,” she said.

Because of deadlines, the group did not have much time to develop detailed plans for the future of the Abbey before completing the purchase, and Dan and Michelle Moberg got the Advent sense of waiting with expectation after the deal was done.

“The plans we had for the Abbey were not as great as God’s plan and this was a hard lesson in humility. None of the thoughts that we had for the Abbey have been born out. What has happened has been far greater than we imagined. The way the Abbey has touched so many people has been incredible,” they said.

“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.” Matthew 1:24

Both Heller, involved in the Abbey, and Campbell, running the Dudley House, said trusting, like Joseph, even when it doesn’t make sense resonates with them.

“My parish recently had a slide on the screen which said ‘let hope prevail over fear’ and I found that so meaningful. This is a key message for me. This has been a journey of faith,” Campbell said.

And joyful too, especially when people are able to move on, Campbell said, like the man who he knew from back in his police days and through the first two years of the Dudley House, who now has his own place.

“I think about that on the bad days,” he said.

Heller said “As much as I would like to say we were ready for all of this to happen I would be lying. When I was thinking that



The Abbey of the Hills board of directors, couples from left to right: Jim and Michala Heller, Dan and Michelle Moberg, Wade and Cindy Van Dover, Paul and Julie Treinen, Roman and Carol Taffe, and Val and Paula Rausch.

retreat ministry was a passion that I would like to stay connected to, never in my wildest imagination did I think that that meant that God would make an entire Benedictine Abbey available and that a group of my good friends would be part of the deal.”

“But there is no denying that God spoke and that He had asked each of us to listen and to act - I wish I could say this is how I live every day of my life (I can't) - but like Advent helps to teach us. It's all about allowing God to work -- preparing our hearts for the journey,” Heller said.

Then Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” Luke 1:18

Zechariah was already a religious man, taking his turn serving in the temple. But when told that he and Elizabeth would have a son, his questioning of Gabriel revealed his focus on himself, not God. It wasn't until after the birth of John and his muteness ended, that he was able to proclaim his great canticle, completely focused on God and which is recited daily as part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours.

“The one Advent character that resonates with us is Zechariah, because of his initial doubts,” said the Mobergs. “We had doubts and we needed to learn and listen and be willing to shift our plans to God's plans and trust that His plans are so much greater than ours.”

That shift of focus has meant “a 180 in faith life, a conversion and a deepened living out my faith in daily life,” said Sees of her experiences at Broom Tree. “We were faithful



Chad Campbell meets with a guest at the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House.

people – regular church attendance and praying the rosary, but now, you witness what happens here and you feel the Holy Spirit.”

Zechariah also has meaning for Deacon Treinen. “I suppose I relate to Zechariah in that I all-to-often have this, ‘Yes, I’ll do whatever you ask,’ but when things actually happen, I question God a little too much, instead of trusting Him. I think He’s trying to mold me more into Joseph, who I believe still didn’t understand things completely, but was so patient and trusting that he, instead of complaining or questioning, earnestly took his concerns to the Lord...trusted and acted out of faith. This Advent I’m going to pray to both of these great saints for the gift of trust and to act out of faith.”

... the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. He went throughout [the] whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Luke 3:2-3

Campbell is surprised to find himself in a bit of the John the Baptist role – often turned to as an expert and a voice for the issues surrounding homelessness.

“It’s a humbling and overwhelming experience to be able to speak about the plight of the homeless, to be listened to about issues of poverty, substance abuse, mental illness and more,” he said.

At the same time, Campbell said allowing the Spirit to continue to guide is essential, especially when dealing with people who often have been so beaten down.

“Trusting is huge. Jesus talked about the faith of a mustard seed moving mountains. Sometimes I feel I should be able to move the mountain myself – but of course I can’t without faith.”

The very presence of the Benedictines and Blue Cloud Abbey in northeastern South Dakota was a bold proclamation of the faith. Though not connected to the Benedictines or even formally to the Diocese of Sioux Falls, the stewards work hard to maintain the historical connections.

“While we are not monks, the Benedictine spirit is in the very motor of the Abbey,” said Deacon Treinen.

tradition is still available in this place. We have worked hard to stay connected to these roots and I believe



Kris Sees (left) plans events at the Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center.

“From ‘welcoming all as Christ’ to our dedication to prayer, work, and reading, the Benedictine spirit is a voice that is part of what we strive to be. Again, we don’t wear black robes, and do not try to pretend we are monks. We are different. We have spouses/families, other jobs, and we don’t live in community on site at the Abbey,” he said.

In particular, prayer remains an essential element of the work of Abbey of the Hills. It’s what led the group to act in the first place, and continues to motivate all that they do.

“We continue to pray together and there is prayer daily at the Abbey at 3 p.m. where staff and whoever is available prays in the lower chapel,” said the Mobergs.

Adds Heller, “I believe those that have come back to the Abbey to participate in retreats or events and those who have done so for the first time realize that the essence of the Benedictine

that is what is drawing more and more back to the abbey once again.”

Deacon Treinen said everyone can have a role in helping themselves and the Abbey in two ways.

“First, prayers. We would very much appreciate people remembering the work of the Abbey in their prayers. A kindly priest friend of mine once told me, ‘Every fifth decade of my rosary is lifted up on behalf of the Abbey.’ That still brings tears to my eyes,” he said.

“The second, I ask folks to come back and bring their friends, their family, their church group, book club, painting group, quilt group. You get the idea. Again, the Abbey is a gift from God. For some crazy reason he’s asked these 12 stewards to step out and keep it going, but in truth, the Abbey is a gift to the people of the prairie that is intended to be used. And if it is, the gift is His peace and His holiness,” said Deacon Treinen.

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Luke 2:19

Sees said those who minister at Broom Tree remind themselves of the mission statement regularly and that it is a place where “we provide the environment and the needs find us. God does the rest. That can happen anywhere, but what we see is that the environment allows them to receive the graces and from here they go home with those graces.”

“The mission of the Abbey is unfolding,” Deacon Treinen said.

“As I said, we certainly didn’t understand it at first, and I don’t pretend to fully understand it even three years later. But God chooses the weak to allow His power to be more seen, more proclaimed.

“Perhaps it’s like Mary too, in that, while being called to be the Mother of God involved trust, it also involved a lot of sacrifice and work. Again, we’ve done nothing compared to Mary, nothing. But this call to be Stewards of the Abbey has certainly been more challenging and more work than I think any of us had imagined,” he said.

“Yet, I’m quick to add that no one can out give our Lord, and He has been so faithful--especially during the most challenging times. And this has typically come from the many, many volunteers who have stepped up at just the right time to offer their talents--and time--in ways that were ‘right on time’ and just what we needed. Pretty cool, actually,” Deacon Treinen said.

“Looking at the Abbey today, we feel God is doing great things leading people closer to Him through the Abbey and all the people who

have been and still are part of the Abbey,” said the Mobergs.

“I have realized that God is calling everyone to say ‘Yes’ to something He has in mind for us,” said Julie Treinen.

“It is almost always hard, sacrificial and scary, so most people try to ignore it. But I always think of a quote from Pope Benedict, ‘The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.’ I love that quote. I try to live by it so I don’t focus too much on doing what I want, but instead try to live a life focused on doing for others,” she said.

To learn more about these ministries, how to contribute or volunteer:

abbeyofthehills.com
broom-tree.org
bdhh.org



THE MAGNIFICAT

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for He has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His Name.*

*He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.*

*He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.*

*He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for He remembered His promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and His children forever.*

(Luke 1:46-55)

Why does it always seem that when December rolls around all we can think is, “Wow! Where did the time go?” Is it because we are rushing from event to event or focused on our never-ending “to-do” lists? I’d like to believe it’s because we are living life to the fullest, and that it just zips by, but I’m afraid that in reality I tend to keep my head down, focused and working to finish the proverbial, “to-do list.”

Looking back over this past year I realize that one conversation has made it even more memorable than most. A priest-friend of mine challenged me (actually the whole congregation, but it felt like he was talking to me) to see what would happen if we stopped focusing inward and began focusing outward. He said significantly more than that, but this was the one piece that I could not shake from my mind, or my heart.

I am a mother of four beautiful children. I see God’s blessing every day in my morning hugs and every night as I give butterfly kisses at bedtime. This caused me to believe I was always looking outward and always seeing God’s blessing and works first hand.

But what my friend said kept coming back to me. For some reason God would not let

this statement of “focus outward” leave my mind, so I took it to prayer. What He revealed to me over time was that my “outward focus” was centered on the happenings in my little world, under my roof. God was calling me to open my eyes and notice all the wonderful things He is doing outside the walls of my home. At that point I realized how narrow my focus was when counting all of God’s blessings.

Realizing how hard it is to see beyond my own walls in my personal life has helped me to realize how hard it can be to see the many great things God is accomplishing in our diocese through each of us. In my role as Director of the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal (CFSA), I find myself wishing I could somehow capture on video all the incredible things happening in our diocese and, in a sense, help others look outward.

People always ask, “What does CFSA fund? Is it really making a difference?” At times like these I wish I could pull out the magic crystal, video-playing ball to help everyone see firsthand the impact their gifts are making.

In 2016, together as one family - of 16,475 families to be exact - we came together to share our gifts through the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal.

If I had that magic crystal ball, what would it show? You would see 1,600 students and adults celebrating their faith at the Diocesan Youth Conference. You’d be able to watch these same individuals go from singing praise and worship to kneeling



Melinda North
Director
Catholic Family Sharing Appeal

on a hard cement floor in adoration of our Lord in Holy Eucharist. You would see the grieving parent, spouse, sibling or child, finding comfort in the counseling provided by Catholic Family Services. You would experience the togetherness a homebound individual feels when they participate with thousands of other people in the celebration of the Sunday TV Mass with Bishop Paul J. Swain from our Cathedral of St. Joseph. I wish I could introduce you to any and all of the 31 men discerning their call to the priesthood or the staff at the Catholic Pastoral Center who work with and for the parishes of our diocese. At this point, the magic crystal ball would start buffering because there is so much more to be seen. These services listed are only a fraction of all that CFSA supports.

Because of each gift of prayer and sacrifice someone has made to share their blessings with the Lord, our diocese has come to be as full and blessed as it is today.

In my looking outward, I have seen the impact giving can make. The fruits of our gifts are real. What I’ve listed are the many blessings we can see. More often than not, the fruits of our gifts are ones that we cannot see...yet.



Taking the next step toward a monastery for Perpetual Adoration Sisters

Local
CHURCH



A house owned by the Diocese of Sioux Falls at the corner of 4th Street and Prairie Avenue in Sioux Falls was demolished by Soukup Construction. The house was torn down to prepare the site as a potential home of a monastery dedicated to intercessory prayer for the Perpetual Adoration Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament on the campus of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Fundraising for this project is ongoing. If you would like to know more about this project or would like to request a prayer, visit www.perpetualadorationsisters.org. (Photo by Brian Cooper, Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota)

Red Mass celebrated in support of public officials, judges, and attorneys



Bishop Paul J. Swain (above) blesses the congregation in attendance at the celebration of the Red Mass for public servants and legal professionals. In his homily the bishop shared how we pray in a special way for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for those who serve in government and those who attend to our legal system. (Photo by Gene Young)

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The fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 for the Diocese of Sioux Falls was filled with remembering the history of the faith on the prairie through the series of Legacy of Faith events, including the large diocesan gathering in August 2015. The year also included a continued increase in the number of seminarians and expanding discipleship and evangelization programs.

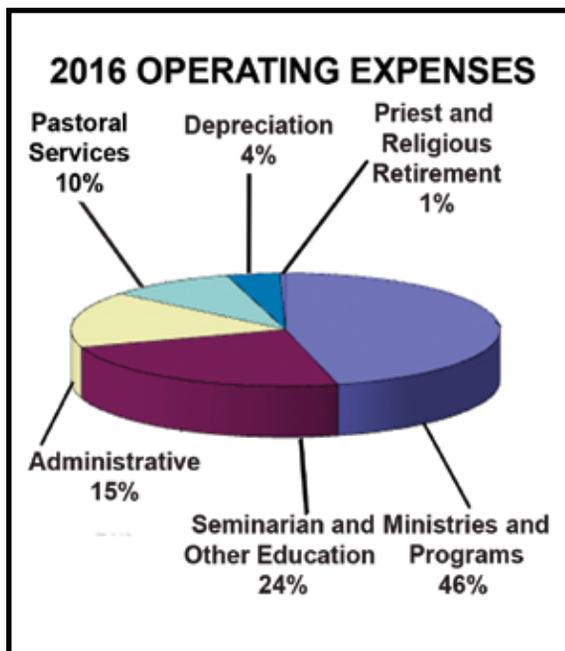
Financially, the diocese experienced a decrease in net assets of (\$700,878). While contributions were slightly lower during the year, the decrease was primarily the result of increased costs of both the lay and clergy health insurance programs.

The Catholic Family Sharing Appeal continues to be the primary source of funding for the diocese, resulting in 58% of total revenue. In addition, program and other income is essential in funding operations. Endowment revenue provided through the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota continues to grow; now providing 11% of total funding.

Total assets of the diocese decreased to \$7.9 million as of June 30, 2016. A significant change this past year was the establishment of the Parish Deposit and Loan Fund Trust for the operation of the parish deposit and loan program. This resulted in the reduction of total assets as the deposit liabilities, loans and related funds were transferred to this newly created entity.

Seminarian education remains a major portion of the operating budget as the diocese continues to be blessed with a large number of seminarians. In addition, discipleship and evangelization programs continue to grow and reach new participants. Chaplain ministry, funded in part with CFSA funds remains vital to those in health care facilities, institutions or prisons.

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



CATHOLIC CHANCERY OFFICE STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015		
	2016	2015
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 366,781	\$ 503,099
Cash and cash equivalents held for others	942,389	16,220,899
Receivables	1,116,983	1,194,217
Loans receivable	122,686	10,437,961
Assets held by others	704,799	755,093
Equity in insurance cooperative	521,320	335,234
Property and equipment	4,074,066	5,235,197
Other assets	87,219	101,718
Total Assets	\$ 7,936,243	\$34,783,418
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,614,241	\$ 1,024,677
Custodial funds	366,994	386,761
Contributions payable	485,884	489,395
Deposits held for others	942,389	27,654,972
Total Liabilities	3,409,508	29,555,805
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	(895,090)	(233,306)
Temporarily restricted	5,421,825	5,460,919
Total Net Assets	4,526,735	5,227,613
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 7,936,243	\$ 34,783,418

CATHOLIC CHANCERY OFFICE STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015				
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Total
	2016		2015	
Revenue and Support				
Catholic Family Sharing Appeal	\$ -	4,032,021	4,032,021	\$ 3,916,385
Income from Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern SD	-	-	-	-
Contributions and events	-	73,928	73,928	937,363
Income from endowments	-	673,764	673,764	613,413
Loan and investment income	372,671	-	372,671	541,367
Clergy insurance program	-	1,107,084	1,107,084	1,183,683
Lay health insurance program	-	4,235,555	4,235,555	3,842,944
Program and other income	1,055,381	178,959	1,234,340	895,625
Other contributions	647,708	-	647,708	639,218
Gain(loss) on disposal of property	305,190	-	305,190	-
Net assets released from restrictions	10,340,405	(10,340,405)	-	-
Total Revenue and Support	12,721,355	(39,094)	12,682,261	12,569,998
Expenses				
Ministries and programs	3,240,591	-	3,240,591	3,113,525
Donation to Bishop Dudley	-	-	-	1,657,505
Hospitality House ministry	-	-	-	927,545
Clergy benefits and health program	1,247,226	-	1,247,226	3,894,821
Lay health insurance program	4,759,743	-	4,759,743	1,496,427
Seminarian and other education	1,677,570	-	1,677,570	474,457
Interest paid to parishes and others	342,095	-	342,095	861,560
Pastoral services	675,268	-	675,268	1,053,158
Administrative	1,129,325	-	1,129,325	285,433
Depreciation	282,402	-	282,402	29,226
Priest and religious retirement	28,919	-	28,919	-
Total Expenses	13,383,139	-	13,383,139	13,793,657
Change in Net Assets	(661,784)	(39,094)	(700,878)	(1,223,659)
Net Assets-Beginning	(233,306)	5,460,919	5,227,613	6,451,272
Net Assets-Ending	\$ (895,090)	5,421,825	4,526,735	5,227,613

20th Annual "Christmas at the Cathedral" concerts approaching

Local
CHURCH

The 20th annual "Christmas at the Cathedral" concerts are just a couple of weeks away and tickets are selling well.

Proceeds will benefit the Cathedral of Saint Joseph and the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House ongoing care and maintenance endowments.

The six "Christmas at the Cathedral" concerts will be presented on Dec. 15-18.

The theme this year is "Re-Imagine Christmas."

You might think that after almost 20 years the production would become routine but not so says producer Mark Conzemius, "We are going to do some things that we feel are building on the story of Christmas."

This year, the concerts will feature soloists soprano Marni Raab and tenor Scott Piper.

Both of the soloists will be teamed with musical director and conductor Dan Goeller as they guide the audience on the journey to "Re-Imagine Christmas."

"We ended up selecting highlights of Christmas at the Cathedral over the past years," said Conzemius. "But it's going to be done in a unique way to any other year...It will be a different rundown, a different combination of music."

There will be six performances, scheduled for Thursday, December 15 and Friday, December 16 in the evening at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 17 at 1 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 18 at 2 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available online at www.ccfesd.org or by calling 1-888-246-3386 or 1-605-988-3765.



Tenor Scott Piper (on the left) and soprano Marni Raab (on the right) during the 2013 Christmas at the Cathedral Concerts. The two are back this year for the 20th Christmas at the Cathedral performances. This year's theme of "Re-Imagine Christmas" and will be performed December 15-18 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. (File photo by Michael G. Brown Photography, Sioux Falls)



UPCOMING RETREATS

BROOM TREE
RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

▷ SILENT RETREAT

Men's 2017
February 23-26
March 23-26
August 17-20
September 21-24
November 16-19

Women's 2017
February 16-19
March 16-19
May 4-7
June 22-25
August 10-13
September 14-17
October 19-22
November 2-5

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

December 6, 2016: Experience the 3 Comings of Christ in Advent
- with Father Steven Jones

February 21, 2017: Topic TBD

March 21, 2017: Topic TBD
- with Msgr. Richard Mahowald

▷ SPECIAL RETREATS

December 2-4: Couples Retreat
- with Ed & Jen Hogan & Father Dan Andrews

December 10: One Day Silent Retreat Introduction to Quiet Prayer
- with Father Joe Vogel



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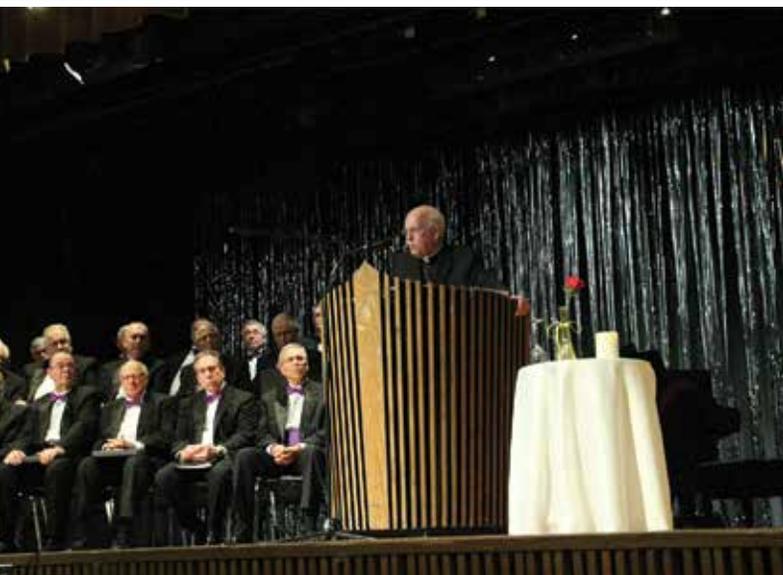
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Closing the Holy Door and closing out the Year of Mercy



Bishop Paul J. Swain closed the Holy Door at the back of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph signifying the closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy that was declared by Pope Francis. The Holy Door served as a Door of Mercy through which anyone who entered experienced the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope. (Photo by Gene Young)



Bishop Paul J. Swain, himself a U.S. military veteran, was invited to give the keynote address at the Veterans' Day Program at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls. The Veterans' Day Program is sponsored by the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. (Photo courtesy, Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce)

Light of the World



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

-JOHN 1:5

MAY YOUR

heart be filled

WITH LIGHT AND LIFE
THIS HOLY SEASON,

AS WE TRUST IN

*the Giver
of Light.*

Youth conference draws hundreds to Brookings



The annual diocesan youth conference welcomed 1,700 participants from across the diocese for a day of music, dynamic speakers, prayer and Mass with Bishop Paul J. Swain. Jason Evert, an internationally renowned speaker, captivated participants with stories of the saints and what authentic relationship truly is. Nic Davidson also had participants laughing out loud as he revealed the beauty and power of the Mass. This led directly into Holy Mass with Bishop Swain which was a highlight of the day. (Photo by Bill Sealey)

Local CHURCH



Bishop Paul J. Swain (on the left) accepts a check from Mario Sassani who is representing the Knights of Columbus from St. Michael Parish, Sioux Falls. The Knights held a baby bottle campaign around Mother's Day raising funds to support the Mother Teresa Fund which supports pregnant women in need. (Photo by Gene Young)

Shower Christ's Little Ones
Advent Baby Shower
November 27 - December 24, 2016
 Please leave unwrapped new gifts in the designated collection sites at your parish.
 Gifts will be shared with those in need.



- Suggested Gifts Newborn to 12 mos**
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Local CHURCH

CATHEDRAL FUND RAISER BRINGS TOGETHER PARISHIONERS AND OTHERS



Satires and Spires, the Cathedral of St. Joseph annual parish fundraiser, was held recently in the parish gymnasium. The event included a live and silent auction, entertainment, dinner, dancing, and more. This year's proceeds will help send the Cathedral choir on a tour of Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic next summer. In the past, money raised has also gone to benefit the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, Cathedral religious education programs and ongoing Cathedral maintenance. (Photo courtesy, Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish)

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CFSA
 Catholic Family Sharing Appeal

Thank you to the **16,475** families that came together, raising **\$4,269,272** to help continue God's work here in the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Funds raised through Catholic Family Sharing Appeal each year are a critical supplement to the ministries of the diocese. All of which are greater than what one individual parish could support and maintain.

Love never FAILS
 1 Cor. 13:8

Thank you!

Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

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NEWLY PROFESSED
SISTER JOINS
MOTHER OF GOD
MONASTERY



Barbara Younger, a California native and most recently from Valparaiso, FL, recently became a newly professed sister of Mother of God Monastery. Sister Marlene Minnaert, prioress, received novice Barb's vows during Vespers. Sister Barb along with the Benedictine Sisters of Mother of God Monastery were all present to share in her First Monastic Profession.

Benedictine sister receives
national award

Local
CHURCH



Sister Adrienne Kaufmann, OSB, Mother of God Monastery, Watertown, recently received the Vocation Ministry Recognition Award at the biannual convocation of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), in Overland Park, KS. Sister Adrienne's eleven years of service as vocation director included work at the local, regional and national level. Sister Adrienne said, "NRVC has a membership of 900 vocation ministers. To be singled out in this membership of magnificent women and men, is indeed humbling." Pictured above (left to right): Sister Hannah Vanorny, OSB, Bismarck, ND, Sister Adrienne Kaufmann, OSB and Brother Ronnie Hingle, SC, Chair of the NRVC Board, Baton Rouge, LA. (Photo courtesy, Mother of God Monastery, Watertown)

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Committed in CHRIST



GROTON – Robert and Ruth Pray will celebrate their 70th anniversary on Dec. 16. They have 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.



HENRY – Boyd and Coral Joens will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 26. They have 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Henry Parish.



HOWARD – Vince and Nila Weidler will celebrate their 65th anniversary on Dec. 27. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Agatha Parish.



HURON – Reed and Dawn McKee will celebrate their 25th anniversary on Dec. 28. They are members of Holy Trinity Parish.



MITCHELL – Bob and Pat Miller will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 26. They have 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Family Parish.



PIERRE – Orville and Mary Jo Gran will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Dec. 1. They have 6 children, 21 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



POLO – Leo and Lucy Froning celebrated their 65th anniversary Nov. 22. They have 9 children (1 deceased), 21 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Liborius Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – John and Cathy Moneke will celebrate their 45th anniversary on Dec. 28. They have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Deacon Bill and Anne Frankman will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 27. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Merle and Betty Jean Ankrum celebrated their 63rd anniversary on Oct. 24. They have 6 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – John and Betty Wallace celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov. 26. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Michael Parish.



STICKNEY – Clyde and Cheryl Dethlefsen celebrated their 25th anniversary on Nov. 22. They have 4 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



WESSINGTON SPRINGS – Lloyd and Margaret Kraft will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 29. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Joseph Parish.

MOBRIDGE – Darrel and Carol Badure will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 28. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Joseph Parish.

Correction

In the November edition of *The Bishop's Bulletin*, we incorrectly listed in the Committed in Christ section Jon and Karen Smith as Jim and Karen Smith. We regret the error.

Anniversary submissions

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, by December 15 for inclusion in the January edition to:
The Bishop's Bulletin
523 North Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
or e-mail to:
gyoung@sfcatholic.org.



St. Lawrence Parish, Milbank celebrated an All Souls Day Mass in the evening at St. Lawrence Cemetery. Mass was attended by the religious education students in grades 7-12 as well as other people of the parish. (Photo by Nolan Hanson, St. Lawrence Parish. Milbank)

NEWMAN CENTER KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GATHER IN BROOKINGS WITH BISHOP

Committed in
CHRIST



Pope Pius XII Newman Center, a Catholic mission to the campus of South Dakota State University, Brookings, recently hosted Bishop Paul J. Swain, for the celebration of Mass to mark the 5th anniversary of the establishment of a college council of the Knights of Columbus (above, left). Joining current college students and Knights were founding members of the college council. Also on hand were members of the fledgling college council of the Knights of Columbus from St. Thomas More Newman Center, a Catholic mission to the University of South Dakota, Vermillion (above, right). (Photos courtesy, Father Andrew Dickinson, director, Pius XII Newman Center, Brookings and Cailyn Schreurs, student, South Dakota State University, Brookings)



St. Mary of Mercy high school CRE of Alexandria recently conducted their annual food drive. The students went door to door and collected approximately 1,165 non-perishable food items and paper products for the local food pantry. The items will be distributed throughout the local community to people who are in need in the following weeks. (Photo courtesy, St. Mary of Mercy Parish, Alexandria)

MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE RECOGNIZES FAMILY OF THE YEAR



Mount Marty College, Yankton recently recognized the Neswick family of Sioux City, IA, as the college's Family of the Year. Pictured are: the Neswick family with Mount Marty College President, Dr. Marcus Long, Ph.D. (in the middle). Mount Marty's Family of the Year recognizes an alumni family that excels in three categories: the family's loyalty to MMC, to their church and to civic involvement. (Photo courtesy, Mount Marty College, Yankton)



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Report finds diversity abounds in U.S. church

Baltimore, MD (CNS) - The Catholic Church is one of the most culturally diverse institutions in the United States and Catholic institutions and ministries need to adapt and prepare for growing diversity, said a report presented to the country's bishops. The report, by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, was commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church in 2013 to help identify the size and distribution of ethnic communities in the country. Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio, chairman of the committee, called the study "groundbreaking" because he said it combined, for the first time, all available data from Catholic and non-Catholic sources and mapped the multicultural and ethnic diversity of the church nationwide. Of the world's estimated 1.3 billion Catholics, the study found, less than 6 percent live in the United States. Of the U.S. Catholic population: 42,512,591, are white (non-Hispanic); 29,731,302 are Hispanic or Latino; 2,905,935 are Asian, Native Hawaiian; 2,091,925 are black, African-American, African, Afro-Caribbean; and 536,601 are American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Diocese hosts marathon reading of Bible to close Year of Mercy

St. Martinville, LA (CNS) - The Diocese of Lafayette planned to hold a "Jubilee of the Word" marathon in the town square of St. Martinville as one of its events to close out the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The special year, beginning Dec. 8, 2015, and ending Nov. 20, was called by Pope Francis as a celebration of God's mercy. For the "Jubilee of the Word" marathon in St. Martinville, the Bible is to be read publicly cover to cover without pause starting Nov. 17 at 6 a.m. (local time) and ending on Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m. local time. It will be live-streamed on the web by the diocese's radio and TV outlets at www.diolaf.org. Other coverage can be found by searching Facebook for the "Fete-Dieu du Teche" page. Over 250 lectors from the Lafayette Diocese, joined by members of other faith communities, were scheduled to read for 20-minute intervals. "This celebration of the Word will bring together Catholics, Baptists, nondenominational Christians and members of the Jewish faith for the purpose of proclaiming, reflecting on and marinating in the holy word of God," said Father Michael Champagne, superior of the Community of Jesus Crucified. The religious community, based in the Lafayette Diocese, is a prime sponsor of the event.

Social justice advocates challenged to put mercy in action

Washington, DC (CNS) - Activist Lisa Sharon Harper stood before a ballroom full of young social justice advocates and told them: "All of us, every human on earth, is a representative figure of God. ... Not on our watch will the image of God be so fervently crushed. Not on our watch." Harper, chief church engagement officer for Sojourners, a Christian nonprofit that advocates for social justice, peace and the environment, challenged the crowd, "Are you ready to go to the halls of Congress, to tell Republicans and Democrats, 'Not on our watch'?" Harper gave one of three keynote speeches at the 19th annual Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice Nov. 12-14.

Bishops need shared approach to 'Amoris Laetitia,' new cardinal says

Vatican City (CNS) - Cardinal-designate Kevin J. Farrell believes the U.S. bishops as a whole should have discussed pastoral guidelines for implementing Pope Francis' exhortation on the family before individual bishops began issuing guidelines for their own dioceses. Implementing the pope's exhortation, "Amoris Laetitia," he said, "has to be done in communion with our bishops. I think that it would have been wiser to wait for the gathering of the conference of bishops where all the bishops of the United States or all the bishops of a country would sit down and discuss these things." The committee that produced the report was headed by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops' ad hoc committee for implementing "Amoris Laetitia." The archbishop attended the extraordinary and ordinary synods of bishops on the family, in 2014 and 2015. In July, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia issued its own pastoral guidelines on "Amoris Laetitia." Since then other bishops have issued guidelines on the document and pastoral discernment and accompaniment of married couples.

Archbishop Gomez brings Latino voice to new leadership role

Baltimore, MD (CNS) - Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said his election as vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops may have had more to do with his archdiocese than anything else. "I'm grateful to my brother bishops for electing me," he said, before adding that he thinks it was "also about the Archdiocese of Los Angeles" -- the largest archdiocese in the country with about 5 million Catholics, 70 percent of whom are Latino. He said the archdiocese represents the universal church because every month there are Masses in 42 languages. "Really, the presence of Catholics from all over the world is there," he said, adding that the bishops recognize that the archdiocese represents "our church in the United States is becoming more and more diverse." They are also recognizing the "reality of the Latino presence" in this country, particularly in the Catholic Church, he said.

Annual peace dinner explores responses in a world where violence abounds

Baltimore, MD (CNS) - The small group of folks gathered outside St. Vincent de Paul Church were preparing for another night on the streets. Someone was already hunkered down under a pile of blankets next to the steps leading to the church's main entrance, their few possessions at arm's length. Others who were milling about in front of the church, tucked into a corner of downtown not far from the bars, restaurants and activities that mark the city's nightlife. In an adjacent parking lot, one man, who said he was homeless, greeted visitors and then asked for a few dollars to get through the night. "Homeless people are friendly," he said. "We're good people, we're just having a hard time." The visitors to the church were encountering real life steps from where they were about to participate in the fourth annual peace dinner, which coincides with the annual fall assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Parish Dinners/Socials

Dec. 4/Risen Savior Parish, Brandon is hosting its annual cookie parade, lunch and fair from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dec. 10/St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Beresford, will host its annual cookie fair from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Cookies and candy sold by the pound. Rosettes are sold by the plate. Let us help with you holiday baking.

Dec. 11-12/The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Sioux Falls on Sunday. The celebration begins with a food sale from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The menu includes tamales, pozole, menudo, tacos, beverages and desserts. On Monday, Dec. 12, the celebration begins at 6 a.m. with songs for Mary and praying of the rosary followed by refreshments. The sacrifice of the Mass with mariachi will be celebrated at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Advent afternoon of reflection set

Sunday, Dec. 4 - Advent: A New Beginning is the theme of the fifth annual Advent Afternoon of Reflection to be held on Sunday from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 2109 S. 5th Ave., Sioux Falls. Monsignor Charles Mangan will be the presenter. There is no registration. Admission is free. Everyone is welcome. Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America and the Diocesan Office of the Marian Apostolate.

Advent vespers continue in Sioux Falls

Dec. 4, 11 and 18 - Bishop Paul J. Swain will lead Advent Vespers each Sunday evening leading up to Christmas. Advent Vespers will be prayed each Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph; all are welcome to attend.

S.F. parish hosting adult education

Tuesday, Dec. 6 - Holy Spirit Parish, Sioux Falls, will have adult education on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The presenter is Father Dana Christensen from the parishes of St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria, St. Stephen, Bridgewater, St. Martin in Emery and the Chaplain at the Monastery of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph in Alexandria. His presentation will be "What Do Advent and Food Have in Common?" There will be an opportunity for questions after the presentation. For more information, contact Kathy Davis at 371-2320.

Parish choir offering performances

Dec. 14 and 18 - The Risen Savior Catholic Church Choir in Brandon presents "Go Sing it on the Mountain" Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. at Risen Savior Church and at 7 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Church, Garretson. The choir will also perform at Bethany Meadows, Brandon on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. All performances are free and open to the public.

Midnight Mass in Extraordinary Form offered in Alexandria

Dec. 24-25 - Christmas Midnight Mass in the Extraordinary Form at the Monastery of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph in Alexandria. A Missa Cantata will be offered in the Monastery Chapel at midnight on Dec. 25, Christmas carols begin at 11:30 p.m. All are welcome to join the sisters to welcome the newborn King.

Skiing with seminarians planned

Thursday, Dec. 29 - Catholic men 12 and older can ski with seminarians. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. with the celebration of Mass, then skiing at Great Bear and pizza, prayer and vocation stories; the day begins and concludes at St. Lambert Parish, Sioux Falls. Cost is \$40 which covers lift ticket, rentals and supper; lessons provided. Sign up online at www.sfvocations.com or call Father Shaun Haggerty at 605-988-3772.

Catholic Family Services

Dec. 6 and Jan. 3/Catholic Family Services invites you to join the Living with Chronic Illness group, a free educational support group that meets the first Tuesday of each month, for those living with chronic illness and their care givers. St. Lambert Parish, 1000 S. Bahnson Ave., Sioux Falls. For details please call Margi at Catholic Family Services, 605-988-3775.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Madison, will host a day workshop Saturday Dec. 10 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. entitled "Grieving a Loss During the Holidays," presented by Dr. Marcie Moran. This event is open to the public and free. To register or for more information, contact the parish office at 605-256-2304 or Catholic Family Services at 800-700-7867.

Grieving the loss of a spouse will be offered on six Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 10-Feb. 14 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 offers assistance in coping with changes and making healthy readjustments. Call 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 to register.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat -January 13-15, 2017-strictly confidential; a safe, loving, non-judgmental environment. Open to men, women, mothers, fathers, grandparents who have been affected by abortion. The weekend is non-denominational. For registration materials and more information, call Margi at 605-988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 or e-mail mculhane@sfcatholic.org. Deadline for registration is Jan. 5.

Mother of God Monastery

Dec. 7-22/Christmas Nativities from Around the World are being offered by the sisters of Mother of God Monastery at the Multicultural Center in Watertown 2-4 p.m. or by appointment. The display will also be open on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. It is free and open to all ages. The Multicultural Center is located at 2500 5th Street SE, Watertown. For information or to make an appointment, call Sister Teresa Ann at 605-878-2021.

Dec. 10/"Emmanuel With Us: Advent Retreat at Mother of God Monastery. The sisters are offering an Advent retreat at Harmony Hill Hall on Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Enter into the spirit of Advent as a true preparation for Christmas. The facilitator is Sister Emily Meisel. The suggested donation is \$30 (which includes lunch) Please call Sister Emily if you are interested at 605-886-4181 ext. 1.

Sacred Heart Monastery

Dec. 3/Advent Morning of Reflection: "His Name Shall Be . . ." will be offered 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Benedictine Peace Center in Yankton. Journey through the Old Testament expectations and be with the New Testament figures as they begin to learn who this Jesus is. Presentations by Sister Mary Jo Polak OSB; quiet time for reflection and table sharing. Suggested donation is \$15. Register by calling 605-668-6292 or e-mail BenedictinePeaceCtr@mtmc.edu.

The Benedictine Peace Center, Yankton, hosts a morning of contemplative prayer on the third Saturday of every month. For more information or to get on the e-mail list, contact Sister Doris Oberembt at doberembt@mtmc.edu or call 605-668-6292.

Mount Marty College

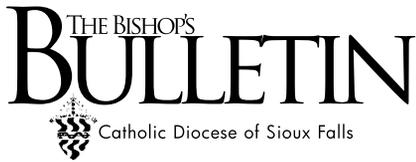
Dec. 3-4/The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery and Mount Marty College's Music Department will present their annual Vespers entitled "Angelorum Canticum", on Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. The free performances are in the beautiful Bishop Marty Chapel on the Mount Marty College campus. Tickets are available at the Sacred Heart Monastery Gift Shop or the Mount Marty College Pages bookstore.



20TH ANNUAL

DECEMBER 15-18

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MARCH FOR LIFE

PILGRIMAGE
WASHINGTON D.C.
JANUARY 25-29, 2017

"You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations.

You are called to work and pray against abortion."

- Pope Saint John Paul II -

The March for Life will take place on Friday, January 27, 2017. The Diocese of Sioux Falls will be participating in the march and invites you to come along. The pilgrimage will include participation in the March, the Catholic youth rally and some free time to visit sites at our Nation's Capital.



Catholic Diocese
of Sioux Falls
sfcatholic.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.sfcatholic.org/youth

(605) 988-3766 | discipleship@sfcatholic.org