



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

December 2018

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

Pondering
THE *Incarnation*
GOD IS WITH US



For unto us a child is born...
**Christmas is a day and season
for rejoicing. We celebrate
with gifts and music, flowers
and lights, family meals and
gathering with friends and
their friends.**

However it is easy to get caught up in the secular swirl of the season and neglect its source and meaning. Doing some last minute shopping a mother suddenly realized that her three year old son had disappeared. In panic she retraced her steps and found him standing with his nose pressed against a frosty window, looking at the manger scene. Hearing his mother's hysterical call, he turned and shouted with glee, 'Look Mommy, its Jesus. Baby Jesus in the hay'. His mother jerked him away saying, 'we don't have time for that.' We need to take time for Him for He is our hope.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI a few years ago wrote an encyclical letter on hope. In it he suggested that among the reasons there is such sadness, loneliness and division in our world is that we are suffering a crisis of hope. That, he wrote, is in part because people once sought fulfillment in the kingdom of God, but now so many seek fulfillment in the kingdom of man. Fulfillment and meaning are sought in science and technology, political structures, material things and economic security. These are not bad in themselves but he noted: "Day by day, man experiences many greater or lesser hopes, different in kind according to the different periods of his life. Sometimes one of these hopes may appear to be totally satisfying without any need for other hopes. Young people can have the hope of a great and fully satisfying love; the hope of a certain position in their profession, or of some success that will prove decisive for the rest of their lives. When these hopes are fulfilled, however, it becomes clear that they were not, in reality,

the whole. It becomes evident that man has need of a hope that goes further. It becomes clear that only something infinite will suffice for him, something that will always be more than he can ever attain." I can attest to that in my own life. Worldly success did not, does not fulfill. What does?

Perhaps we can learn from Mary and Joseph. Have you ever wondered what was going through their minds that night, far from home, turned away from normal lodging, alone in the quiet pondering the angel's words to each of them? The miracle of this child's unique conception and birth must have touched them deeply, lifted their spirits, and given them hope in the midst of uncertainty.

In a new born child we all see hope. This new born child named Jesus came in poverty and inconspicuously. It was as if to say, "the kingdom of man is not enough, we need more, someone more."

One Christmas Eve a family went to Mass except grandma and her little granddaughter. Knowing the child felt left out, grandma looked at her with great love, gathered her into her arms and told her this story:

"Many years ago a man went out into the dark night to borrow live coals to kindle a fire. He went from house to house calling out, "my wife has given birth to a child. I must make a fire to warm her and the little one." But the hour was late, either no one heard him or they refused to respond. He walked and walked to no avail. Then he saw off in the distance the glimpse of a fire. He made his way there and found a fire burning brightly. Sheep were sleeping around it, an old shepherd was keeping watch and three dogs were beside him. As the man approached, the dogs stirred. They opened their mouths to bark but no sound came out. Then they ran at him, one attacking his leg, another his hand, the third his throat, but the jaws would not obey and the man was unharmed.

"As he moved forward the sheep still slept, not stirring or running as might be expected.

They were so tightly packed that he could not get through, so he walked on and over them. They neither woke nor were harmed. Then the shepherd got up, bearing a cold, hostile look. He seized his shepherd's staff which had a long spike on the end and threw it at the man. It was right on target but suddenly whizzed to the side and went around the man.

"Good fellow", the man said, "please help me. Give me a few burning coals. My wife has given birth and I must make a fire to warm her and the little one." The shepherd had a surly look and frowned, but thought about the strange goings on and was afraid to deny the request. He noted that the man had no way to carry the hot coals, so he smugly said, "take all you want." The man stooped down and gathered the coals into his bare hands without burning himself and walked away.

"The shepherd shouted after him, 'What kind of night is this, when the dogs do not bite, the sheep are not scared, the staff does not strike, or the fire scorch, what kind of night is this?'"

"The shepherd followed the man to a cave where he saw mother and child were sleeping in the cold. The shepherd suddenly felt compassion. 'That poor innocent child will freeze to death', he thought. He opened his pack and took out a soft white sheepskin and gave it to the man for the child to be warmed.

"As soon as he showed that he could love, his eyes were opened and he saw what he had not been able to see before. All around him were angels who sang, 'Tonight the Savior is born who will redeem the world.' The angels had protected the man. His skepticism and fear gone, the shepherd fell to his knees and

thanked God that he could now see what he could not see before, that the hidden was now known to him. A Savior has been born for him, for us all, and the angels rejoice.

"Grandma hugged her granddaughter closer and said, 'What the shepherd saw we might see too, for every Christmas the angels come back and sing the same song, if only we could see them. All that is needed is for us to care about one another and show it. Then we can see God's love and glory through the eyes of faith, Jesus, born in Bethlehem.' The little girl smiled and no longer felt left out, no longer alone."

God chose to show his love for us and give us hope in the gift of the Christ child. God made himself a newborn to enable us to become more perfect adults. God was wrapped in swaddling clothes to free us from the bonds of death. God came down from heaven to invite us to rise to eternal life. God had no place at the inn so that we might have a room in the Father's mansion. God became poor so that we might become spiritually rich. Do we see that, understand that, accept that, believe that?

This Christmas we have the chance to see what we could not see before; know who he was and who he is. The Word became flesh, Christ the Savior is born. Christ, our savior is born. He is the infinite hope that fulfills not just that day, but every Christmas day and every day.

May we use these days of Advent to see more clearly that for unto us a child is born.

Merry Christmas.

Editor's note: Bishop Swain is now 75 and as church law requires of all bishops, he has submitted his resignation to the Holy Father. He will continue to serve until it is accepted.

Prayer for a new bishop

Heavenly Father, you sent Jesus to shepherd your people and the Holy Spirit to make your people one. Look with favor upon those who will select our new bishop. Give them your vision and let their judgment be clear. Speak your will to them. We thank you for our past shepherds and the blessings they have been for the people of this diocese. Lord, send your Holy Spirit to anoint our new bishop that he may continue the work of renewal in the Church, and unite our parishes, priests and people in love, truth and wisdom. Give him a true shepherd's heart like that of Jesus, that he may give strength to the weak, heal the brokenhearted, console the lonely, bring back the wandering and be a power against the evil of our day. In the powerful name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

SCHEDULE

December

- 1 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 2 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 4 12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood
 - 6 11:00 Presbyteral Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
 - 8 12:00 Mass, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 9 11:00 Candidacy Mass for Permanent Diaconate, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 11 12:00 Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
 - 12 6:00 Preside at Mass and bless elevator, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sioux Falls
 - 13 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral Concert, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 14 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral Concert
 - 15 1:00 Christmas at the Cathedral Concert
 - 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral Concert
 - 16 1:00 Christmas at the Cathedral Concert
 - 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral Concert
 - 22 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 23 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 25 12:00 Mass at Night, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
 - 27 Seminarian Holiday Gathering, Mass and Dinner, The Bishop's House
 - 29 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- January
- 2-8 (Tentative) Spiritual Retreat, Bishops of the United States, Mundelein Seminary
 - 15 12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood

On a lovely November afternoon nine years ago, at the glorious age of 46, I stood in the chapel on Camp Rapid in Rapid City, raised my right hand in front of Chaplain Lynn Wilson and swore an oath. In that moment, I joined the South Dakota Army National Guard and, even more important, I became an American Soldier.

Those words are the first and last words of the "Soldier's Creed," a creed every soldier is challenged to live by, and it begins and ends with the same noble pronouncement: "I am an American Soldier." I am still awed by the experiences I have had, the places I have visited, the opportunities for growth that have radically changed my understanding of myself and my ministry; all of this because, for eight years, I could say: "I am an American Soldier."

A year ago this month, I ended my time serving with the SD Army National Guard. So, this past year has been spent reflecting on what it all meant. I grew a big bushy beard, because that seems to be a requirement when you leave the military, and I have tried to remain connected to my soldiers (funny...they are still "my soldiers" in my mind), I even got a haircut every month right before my unit would have a drill weekend.

I have also been asked many times, "Do you miss it?" That is a complicated question because I'm not entirely sure what "it" is. I certainly appreciate a level of freedom in schedule that I did not have for the last eight years. It is also nice not having to sit in a long line waiting to have my hearing checked or some such thing.

But the answer to the question is, absolutely I miss it.

What I miss most is the people I served with; some of the best people I have had the privilege to meet. They are focused, professional, funny, sometimes cynical, and always honorable. They see the reality around them, which can be frustrating to the extreme, and yet never lose sight of the larger purpose, the mission, what they are doing, who they are.

Another line from the Soldier's Creed says: "I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values." There are seven Army Values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage

(they are easy to remember, they spell out LDRSHIP).

Those words are, of course, just words; and they remain just words until someone begins to live them, embody them. The men and women I served with, each in their own unique and meaningful way, lived the meaning of those words.

I thought I understood what each of those words meant when I put on my uniform for the first time and stood in formation with them. I was wrong. I understood the definition of the words, but I did not learn what they truly mean until I was taught, slowly and patiently, by those with whom I stood.

I thought I knew what it meant to live those words, but I was wrong. I had to see them lived by those around me to understand what it truly means to allow those values to guide my life. That is how I learned, by being around those who understood the words and who lived the words; and that is how they learned, the exact same way.

Each of us swore an oath and each of us had to memorize the Soldier's Creed, vowing to live a life of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. In living that life, we taught one another what those values truly mean. This is incarnation, this is taking ideals and making them a reality through our lives; we embody them.

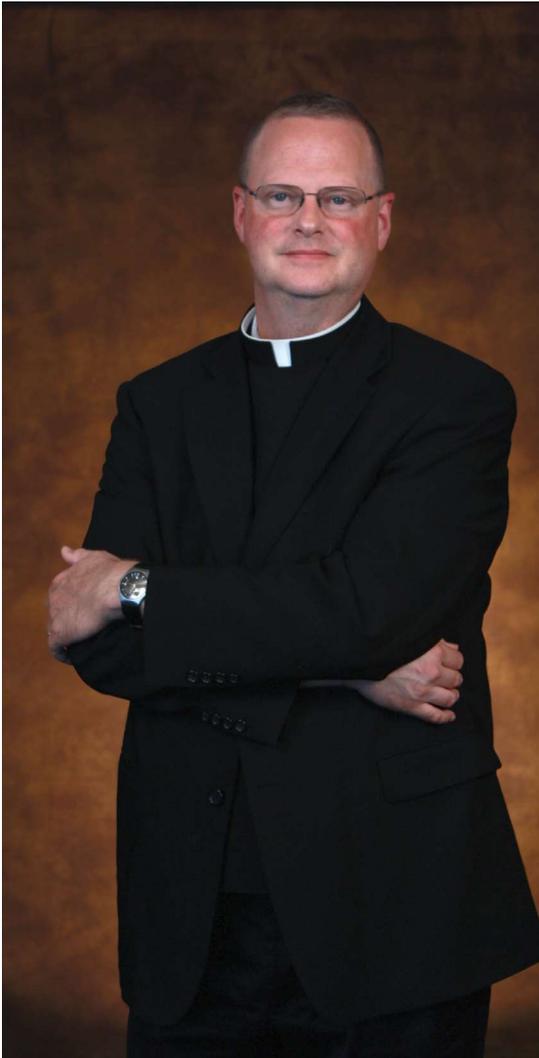
During the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas we celebrate and rejoice in the gift of the Incarnation by pondering the great mystery of God's abiding love, compassion and mercy made flesh, made a human being, in Jesus.

The incarnation of God in Jesus reminds us that we too took a vow in Baptism, we too have a creed by which we live, we too have been called to embrace the ideals which Christ embodies: love, compassion, mercy. Those words, those beautiful words; what makes them more than words is our ability to become those words made flesh.

Those around us might know the words, but they will never know what they truly mean unless they see them lived in us.

Those around us might think they know how to live, but will only know fully when they see them lived in us.

That is how we first learned, by seeing the Word made flesh in Jesus; that is how they learn, by seeing the words made flesh in us.



The Bishop's Bulletin

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At one of this year's diocesan youth rallies, Eric Gallagher, director of the Office of Youth Discipleship and Evangelization (on the stage, on the left) greets young people at the start of the rally. (Photo courtesy, Becca Ekeren, Office of Youth Discipleship and Evangelization)

26TH ANNUAL

Advent

BABY SHOWER

December 2-December 24

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

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

SUGGESTED GIFTS

(Newborn-12 months)

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



Sponsored by the Office of Family Life
www.sfcatholic.org/FamilyLife



*A*dvent is the liturgical season in the Church meant to help us prepare for the coming of Christ. The coming of Christ at Christmas is called the Incarnation – the Son of God assuming human nature and becoming a man in order to save us.

How we understand and live out this reality of faith is unique to each of us. It might depend on who God made us to be, on where we are in our faith journey, and other factors of our lives.

We hear from five of the faithful of the Diocese of Sioux Falls who offer their thoughts on what it means that God is with us.

Pondering THE *Incarnation* GOD IS WITH US



Sr. Ramona Fallon, Servant Leader, Mother of God Monastery, Watertown

GOD IS WITH US!

There is no doubt in my mind that God is with us. I am a member of Mother of God Monastery – have been for 60 plus years. Mary and her Son are watching over us and guiding us in our lives.

I was raised on a farm in central South Dakota, belonged to St. Michael Parish of Burdette (mission of Wessington) and attended St. Mary's School in Zell. Life circled around farm, church and school with frequent visits to Grandma Mary's cafe in Rockham.

This all included a mixture of seasonal and liturgical feasts and times. There was no doubt in my mind that we were church and God was with us. Our farm buildings were blessed with palm crosses on Palm Sunday and our fields were blessed with Easter Water. During storms Mom lit our Baptismal and First Communion candles – so no more candles!

We were church – Uncle Jim took care of the furnace, Dad took up the collection and paid the bills (light and heat), Mom did the church wash, my brothers served Mass and I played the organ. We were church and God was with us.

St. Mary's boarding school in Zell was staffed by the Benedictine Sisters from Yankton. We went on Monday morning and stayed at school until Friday afternoon. We usually had daily Mass with Fr. Durkin as celebrant; participated in three meals a day and with the usual curriculum we also experienced the arts, especially music and art appreciation. The sisters guided us through our growing years. Mom said we learned some things from the sisters that we should have learned at home. I reminded Mom we had all learned our prayers before entering school. No doubt in my mind – God was with us.

August, 1954 I entered Sacred Heart Convent and began life as a Benedictine Sister. Much of the life at Sacred Heart was similar to life at St. Mary's in Zell. However, experiencing the teen years in the convent was not always easy. Again life revolved around convent life, school at Mount Marty High School and a variety of works. St. Benedict says, "When they live by the labor of their hands, as our fathers and the apostles did, they are really monks."

For four years I was formed as a Benedictine which also included a year of college. Formation was living the life of a Benedictine, studying the Rule of Benedict, learning chant with

times for work and meditation.

I thought having spent 8 years at St. Mary's, Zell I knew all about being a Benedictine. I was wrong. Learning to be a Benedictine is a life-long process, sometimes remembering God is with me and sometimes getting so busy with the "works of the Lord" forgetting that God is present. Benedict calls us to a balanced life of prayer, work and leisure; "that in all things God may be glorified."

After the years of formation and a year of college I started my ministry of education. This time included teaching, administration and parish work in schools and parishes in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. Working with children and families has always been a joy for me. Even though there were some tough times, I believe and know that God was present. As Ireneaus said, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." Children are close to God and show that glory through their exuberance for life.

During these ministry years I was an active member of Mother of God Monastery; sometimes serving on the monastery council/board or in administration as prioress or assistant prioress. Our community started as a branch of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton in 1961. We began with 135 members and now have 47 members. We started in Pierre where we lived/ministered for six years; then moved to Watertown where we began a girl's high school. We struggled through the beginning

Sr. Ramona Fallon



years but with our strong belief in God's presence we put down our roots in Watertown and continued on with our ministries.

As I mentioned earlier, prayer is a vital part of Benedictine life. We follow the church calendar and include a monthly feast honoring Mary as well as several Benedictine feasts. We gather in chapel three times each day during which we pray the psalms and we celebrate Eucharist five times a week. Fr. Denis Meier serves as our chaplain.

St. Benedict says, "Listen readily to holy reading, and devote yourself often to prayer." God is with us.

As we prepare for the feast of the Incarnation let us always remember that Christmas doesn't come just once a year – GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US!

Fr. Ken Lulf, pastor at Holy Family, Mitchell

Everybody that knows me knows that I am a dog lover. I had the privilege to spend fourteen years with a black lab named Chloe. When Chloe was a young dog she had a mind of her own.

I was once asked, "is your dog deaf?" "No she is just spoiled!"

Chloe knew her name but she was selective as to when she would respond to it. This was the source of great frustration for me and potentially dangerous for her. Calling her name was the only way, short of restraining her freedom to roam, that I could protect her from harm.

I tried everything from positive reinforcement to negative. The positive would work as long as I had a treat in my hand and the negative reinforcement simply reinforced her fear of me. My only boundary was no corporal punishment.

The most frustrating aspect of our relationship was that she



*Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord,
and come, so that we may escape through
Thy protection and be saved by Thy help from
the dangers that threaten us because of our sins.
Who livest and reignest for ever and ever.*



Fr. Ken Lulf and his new dog Sparky

knew how important I was to her survival. For example, if she was ever scared she would look for me and run to be close to me. Not to mention the fact that I was the source of her food, water and housing comfort.

I know it sounds crazy but I thought my relationship as her master would eventually win out. You don't know how many times I tried to explain to her how important it was to come to me when I called her name. The problem was that she was a dog and I wasn't. She didn't understand the words or feel the emotion.

One day I thought "If only I were a dog and could talk to her in ways she understands. Then she would know how loved she really is."

As silly as it may seem this was an "ah ha" moment for me, the one with the rational soul. Suddenly the purpose and meaning of the Incarnation became clear.

God has always spoken in many and varied ways, but people were selective in their hearing. Even though they knew God's importance in their life they took advantage of the freedom that God gave them. They enjoyed being their own master until they needed God's protection.

Thankfully God was patient and merciful. In the fullness of time the Eternal Word took on flesh to become one like us so

that God could talk to us in ways we understand. Not only do we hear the words but we experience the great love that is behind them.

Chloe is now gone after reaching old age. She got a little better at responding to her name as she got older. I am thankful for our time together but even more thankful that God was able to use her to talk to me in ways that I would understand.

May the Incarnate Word speak to your heart in ways that you can understand so that you too feel that great love.

Chris Uhler, campus minister, Roncalli High School, Aberdeen

When I think about what the Incarnation means, it is truly too much to even comprehend. God sent His Son, in the form of a child, to Earth. Then Jesus grew up, matured and experienced life just like you and me! Minus the sin and with a perfect Mother, of course. But that is just crazy!

He is God, and the humility to do what He did is amazing! God is with us, and in the season of Advent as we prepare for Him and during Christmas as we celebrate Him, I am reminded of how God is with me and has been with me through my life so far.

I was surrounded by faith early on in my life, be it that my parents instilled within me from birth. From there, they blessed me with 12 years of Catholic education at Cathedral Elementary School and St. Mary's High School in Bismarck, North Dakota.

It was in my home, through my education, and through my parish that I came to find a deeper relationship with Christ. Of course, things were not always perfect, and I have had many times of darkness in my young life so far. It was in those moments that I often found myself asking, "Why am I here?" or "What am I supposed to do with my life?" These were the questions that often ate at me and caused me to seek out my purpose.

Through this, I decided to serve as a missionary with Hard as Nails Ministries for a year. I travelled throughout the country, spreading the Gospel, encouraging people, and growing as a man.

It was during that year that I realized a lot of the gifts that I had, and part of the question was answered. But I still felt restless. I came home and enrolled in the University of Mary as a History Education and Catholic Studies major, and that is where I found life.



Chris Uhler and bride Mariah and family

It hit me profoundly my sophomore year of college that I am loved, and that God is and has always been with me.

That answered the other part of the question of my life, I am meant to be an instrument of Christ to all I meet. I am called to carry the good news of the Incarnation with me everywhere I go and to live like Christ.

In pairing this realization of my purpose as a Christian with my gifts, I found my heart to rest in helping others in their journey as a disciple of Christ and I am now a Campus Minister at Roncalli High School in Aberdeen.

Lord, stir up our hearts
that we may prepare for
Thy only begotten Son,
that through His coming
we may be made worthy to serve
Thee with pure souls.

Through the same Christ our Lord.



Gaea Blue, retired healthcare leader, St. Joseph, Wessington Springs

The hectic rush of the Christmas season is upon us. Taking time to ponder the Incarnation – God is with us is sometimes pushed to the side. Reflection on what this means for me personally and on how my career as a health care administrator and nurse for 50 years have impacted my faith is significant. The main theme I identified when reflecting on God is with us is LOVE. How do I learn to love more? How do I accept the love of God in my life? How do I share the love of God with others?

My personal faith recognizes that God sent His Son as a baby to show us the “face of God” – the face of God’s love. Jesus experienced life as we do, complete with struggles and temptations but without sin. Jesus died for us so that we may enjoy the love of God eternally. God came down to earth for me. This is pretty mind boggling to contemplate. For me, two scripture passages that highlight this are: “God is Love” I John 4:16 and “There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love” I Corinthians 13:13.

In my work, I have certainly experienced the love of God and been able to share the love of God in so many ways. Two areas especially come to my mind, the beginning of life and the end of life. As a childbirth coach, I experienced working with laboring mothers and their significant other to coach the mom as she brought new life into the world. The miracle of birth and the love of God is overflowing as it must have been for Mary and Joseph at the birth of Jesus. Being able to experience such an intimate time with the family is such a privilege. Even when there is tragedy at birth, as sometimes happens, being able to share love with the mother and family is so important. It’s hard to comprehend that God would send His Son as a helpless, vulnerable, loveable baby. It further demonstrates God’s love for us.

At the other end of the life span, I have experienced working with hospice patients of all ages and their families as a director of a hospice program. Helping patients and families cope with death and dying as they transition into eternity is such an honor. This is again such an intimate time in the lives of people. I learned so much about living and dying from each patient and family. When the hospice team assists in that transition and demonstrates love, it helps in the process. For me personally, knowing that love is eternal gives me comfort and peace.

I was honored to be able to finish my career at Avera Wescota Memorial Hospital and Wescota Manor Avera where I was freely able to practice the values of my faith as well as have my faith enriched.

Through the same realization, I discerned the vocation of marriage and exchanged vows with my wife Mariah this June. I find Christ in loving my students and helping them come to know Jesus, I find Christ in loving my wife and offering myself up for her, and I am experiencing the excitement of the incarnation as Mariah and I prepare to welcome a child into the world this April!

God is with us, and it is only through the Incarnation that our life makes sense. We are created out of love, for love, through His example.

We humbly beg Thee, O Lord,
to listen to our prayers;
and by the grace of Thy coming
bring light into our darkened minds.
Who livest and reignest for ever and ever.

Preparing for the Incarnation – God is with Us requires that I reflect on the love God shows me and the love I show other people. May God grant me the grace to love more deeply, to show love more genuinely, and to accept the gift of love from God more completely.

Maria Braga-Henebry, St. Thomas More, Brookings and a sophomore at Thomas Aquinas College

GIVING & RECEIVING

At Christmas, we give gifts to one another as a way of showing our love and of celebrating God’s gift of His Son. We thank God for what He has given us, but what can we give to Him in return?

We receive all we have and are from God, and there is nothing we can give in return that is not already His by right. But He offers us so much, and He only asks that we receive it.

Maria Braga-Henebry



God’s greatest gift to humanity was the Incarnation. At the fall of Adam, a crime was committed for which the punishment was death. But God loved us and wanted us to live, so He gave up His only Son to pay the debt. Our God, the Creator of the Universe, lowered Himself and took on our human nature, so that He could raise our human nature to His level—to divinize us. For this reason, the Messiah, the Christ, is also Emmanuel: God is with us. Not only is God with us, He is also one of us. He is infinite and therefore incomprehensible, but He is also a relatable God, because He took on our nature and shared our weaknesses. He knew what it was to be human, so that we might know what it is to be divine. And not only is God with us and one of us; He is also with us for all ages in the Eucharist. He was not only present to us on earth at one point in time, but rather, gave us His Presence for all time. We have only to receive His gift and give Him ourselves.

One of my professors told us that one of the highest traits we have as human beings is receptivity. God made us in such a way that we can receive the Divine Being into ourselves—something even the angels can’t do.

Mary is the perfect example of receptivity: throughout her life, she was always open to receive God’s will, so much so that she received the human Person of God within her womb. And when she had finished this earthly life, God saw fit to receive her body and soul into Heaven, where she received an everlasting crown. In receiving, she gave herself to God—which is what we all must do. For we are rightly His. Jesus says to “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s” (Matt. 22:21). We belong to God; His image and inscription are on our coins (ourselves, made in His image). Thus, we render to Him what is His by right: our very selves. We receive our being from Him because of His mercy, and we offer it back to Him out of gratitude. This divine exchange is our salvation.

And so, we receive from God what He gives us, and render back to Him what is rightly His. He gave Himself to us in the Incarnation and continues to give Himself to us in the Eucharist, and the greatest thing we can do is receive Him and unite ourselves to Him. By doing this—receiving what He gives us—we are able to take on the role of the giver in a small way, and give ourselves completely to God. The more we receive, the more we have to give, and the more perfectly we receive God into ourselves, the more completely we are able to give ourselves back to Him. We “forget not all His benefits” (Ps. 103:2), for He deserves far more than we can give.

Stir up Thy might, we pray Thee, O Lord, and come; rescue us through Thy great strength so that salvation, which has been hindered by our sins, may be hastened by the grace of Thy gentle mercy. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever.



A folder was passed across the desk. It had the title “V Encuentro” on it. Bishop Paul Swain casually mentioned, “I want you to look into this. Your old mentor in the seminary, Bishop (Andrew) Cozzens of the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis, is the coordinator for our region. I would like you to represent our diocese.”

Encuentro, for those who aren’t familiar with Spanish, means Encounter. These encounters were Hispanic/Latino assemblies organized by the United States bishops to listen to the needs, concerns, dreams, and aspirations of the Latino people. Each of the encuentros has had a different vision and purpose. However all of them have aimed at growing Hispanic/Latino ministries and projecting into the future how Hispanics will shape and effect the Church and U.S. Society.

The first Encuentro took place in 1972, followed by the another in 1977, the 3rd in 1985, the 4th in 2000, and finally the fifth during the fall of 2018. The Encuentros began as a parish based initiative with resources available to form missionary disciples. From the parishes, diocesan then regional assemblies were held.

After an initial email to the Hispanic Ministry Office of St. Paul/Minneapolis, I began to receive a trickle of information that led to a flood. Sometimes the emails were in Spanish, sometimes in English. Finally, I received the invite to the National Encuentro. Immediately I accepted the invitation and also was accompanied by Father John Helmueller, the vicar for Hispanic Ministry in our Diocese. We made our plans to participate and began a very cozy 14 hour drive to Dallas. I praise God that we became fast friends by the end of the trip.

After arriving in Dallas, we were overwhelmed by the amount of Hispanic/Latino leaders, clerical and lay, from all dioceses and backgrounds. There was nearly 3,500

leaders in attendance, with over 100 bishops and an incredible 500 youth.

One evening, a banquet was held for the youth in which a bishop was seated with each table to hear their desires for the Church and also to hear how Latino/Hispanic youth desired to participate in the Church.

Throughout the weekend, there were keynote speeches given by bishops in a bilingual format, with bishops fluidly moving from Spanish to English and back again without batting an eye. There were round table discussions, regional meetings, and thematic sharing groups in which each region and age group was able to share their desires and input for a document that would be compiled by the U.S. bishops.

After hearing from youth ministers, diocesan directors, bishops, lay people, missionaries, and many other representatives, I was somewhat overwhelmed but came home with some major takeaways:

1. The need for Hispanic ministry in our country is only going to grow. Whether the flow of immigration continues at pace or slows, the family and culture of Latino Catholicism is now part of the United States. As of right now, more than 40 percent of the Catholic population in the United States is Latino.
2. There is an incredible need in the Latino communities. A staggering statistic was given that there have been more baptisms in the Los Angeles archdiocese than the archdioceses of Chicago and New York combined. The faith is a huge part of Hispanic life and they desire sacramental care.
3. Latinos have something to offer. With their deep faith, love of the Blessed Virgin



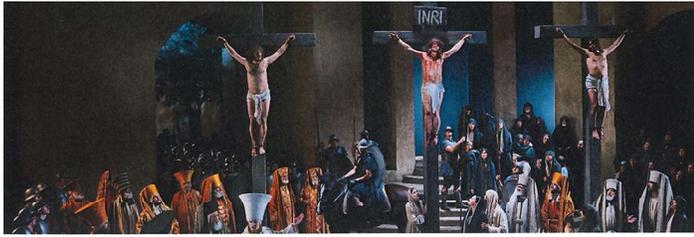
Father Kristopher Cowles (on the left) and Father John Helmueller (on the right) at the recent V Encuentro in Dallas.

Mary, deep ties to the sacraments, gift of hospitality, lively culture, hard work ethic and belief in the American Dream, they can reawaken many of our sleepy communities that have forgotten the joy of our faith.

4. All of us are called to accompany our brothers and sisters from other backgrounds and cultures who share in our faith. We need to walk hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder without fear and prejudice but openness and empathy to discover what God desires for our Church and our nation.

There are lots of other takeaways but the biggest point that reached my heart is that we need to not consider Hispanic Ministry as some side project but as an indispensable part of the Church, here and now.

Rev. Kristopher Cowles is pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sioux Falls



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The Finance Office of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls is pleased to present this annual report to the people of the diocese.

For the most recent fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, the Diocese of Sioux Falls was blessed to experience significant activity within the ministries and programs meant to support the faith-life of the people.

During this period, net revenue from operations was sound, totaling \$547,127 for the year.

With the addition of contributions of \$4,928,593 designated for the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery for the Perpetual Adoration Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, total net revenue amounted to \$5,475,720.

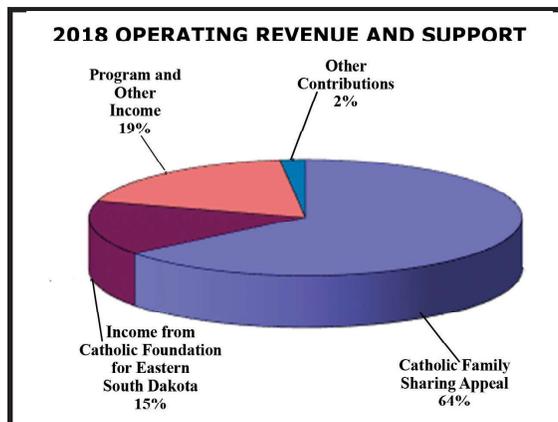
While overall contributions toward operations were below what was anticipated for the year, other income was higher and expenses slightly lower. This along with favorable experience in both the lay and clergy insurance programs resulted in the positive results.

Catholic Family Sharing Appeal remains the primary source of revenue for the Chancery supporting the various ministries offered – such as seminarian education, discipleship and evangelization programs, TV Mass and other communication efforts and all the other ministries of the diocese. In addition, revenue from endowments in the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota provides an increasing source of support. Program and other income also contributes to needed operations funding.

As mentioned in previous years, seminarian education continues to be the greatest single expenditure. The ability to support those discerning a vocation towards priesthood is an essential function of the diocesan church. In addition to programs already mentioned, the works of Catholic Family Services are supported – providing counseling, adoption services and a range of grief and loss programs around the diocese.

Total assets of the Diocese increased substantially from \$8.7 million to \$14.7 million primarily as a result of the Adoration Sisters monastery construction. Cash and investments also improved from the previous fiscal year end.

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



| | 2018 | 2017 |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 1,796,121 | \$ 590,765 |
| Cash and cash equivalents held for others | 41,741 | 41,741 |
| Receivables | 1,696,577 | 1,688,451 |
| Loans receivable | 220,081 | 146,688 |
| Assets held by others | 1,140,314 | 1,096,113 |
| Equity in insurance cooperative | 397,646 | 428,193 |
| Property and equipment | 9,360,340 | 4,610,513 |
| Other assets | 103,440 | 125,142 |
| Total Assets | \$14,756,260 | \$ 8,727,606 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$ 1,156,534 | \$ 1,186,545 |
| Custodial funds | 391,144 | 399,442 |
| Contributions payable | 506,047 | 504,260 |
| Notes Payable | 589,456 | - |
| Deposits held for others | 41,741 | 41,741 |
| Total Liabilities | 2,684,922 | 2,131,988 |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | (308,714) | (648,004) |
| Temporarily restricted | 12,380,052 | 7,243,622 |
| Total Net Assets | 12,071,338 | 6,595,618 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$ 14,756,260 | \$ 8,727,606 |

| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Total | Total |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | 2018 | | 2017 | |
| Revenue and Support | | | | |
| Catholic Family Sharing Appeal | \$ - | 4,150,735 | 4,150,735 | \$ 4,102,817 |
| Income from Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern SD | | | | |
| Contributions and events | 122,791 | 5,002,066 | 5,124,857 | 1,486,791 |
| Income from endowments | - | 773,842 | 773,842 | 729,746 |
| Loan and investment income | 6,239 | - | 6,239 | 3,154 |
| Clergy insurance program | - | 846,904 | 846,904 | 856,492 |
| Lay health insurance program | - | 4,659,540 | 4,659,540 | 4,332,887 |
| Program and other income | 1,065,303 | 133,215 | 1,198,518 | 1,352,843 |
| Other contributions | 115,474 | 6,832 | 122,306 | 1,138,255 |
| Gain(loss) on disposal of property | 700 | - | 700 | (76) |
| Net assets released from restrictions | 10,436,704 | (10,436,704) | - | - |
| Total Revenue and Support | 11,747,211 | 5,136,430 | 16,883,641 | 14,002,909 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Ministries and programs | 3,032,091 | - | 3,032,091 | 2,862,588 |
| Clergy benefits and health program | 559,868 | - | 559,868 | 896,836 |
| Lay health insurance program | 4,459,263 | - | 4,459,263 | 3,935,111 |
| Seminarian and other education | 1,414,894 | - | 1,414,894 | 1,852,905 |
| Interest paid to parishes and others | 2,879 | - | 2,879 | 2,565 |
| Pastoral services | 559,571 | - | 559,571 | 1,062,132 |
| Administrative | 1,117,062 | - | 1,117,062 | 1,047,784 |
| Depreciation | 262,293 | - | 262,293 | 274,105 |
| Total Expenses | 11,407,921 | - | 11,407,921 | 11,934,026 |
| Change in Net Assets | 339,290 | 5,136,430 | 5,475,720 | 2,068,883 |
| Net Assets-Beginning | (648,004) | 7,243,622 | 6,595,618 | 4,526,735 |
| Net Assets-Ending | \$ (308,714) | 12,380,052 | 12,071,338 | \$ 6,595,618 |

Benedictine sisters from Yankton part of International conference in Rome

Local
CHURCH



Sisters Jeanne Weber and Patricia Ann Toscano recently attended the International Communion of Benedictines Conference in Rome (above). After the conference, the sisters spent a few days at Maria Rickenbach and Marienheim Monasteries in Switzerland. The sisters also were part of a private audience with Pope Francis. Sister Patricia (pictured above right) and Sister Jeanne (pictured at right). The sisters helped plan the liturgical celebrations for the conference. (Photos courtesy, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton).



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and
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Local CHURCH

22ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL CONCERTS DRAWING NEAR



The 22nd annual "Christmas at the Cathedral" concerts will be presented on Dec. 13-16. The theme is "Unto Us." The concerts will feature tenor Mike Eldred, soprano Shelley Jennings (pictured above) and the Christmas at the Cathedral Orchestra and Choir, conducted by Dan Goeller. Tickets are available online at www.ccfesd.org or by calling 1-888-246-3386 or 1-605-988-3765. (2015 photo by Michael G. Brown Photography, Sioux Falls)



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DIOCESAN FAMILY HONORED WITH STEWARDSHIP AWARD FOR THEIR SERVICE



Family members, Bishop Paul J. Swain and Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota President, Mark Conzemius, surround Pat and Theresa Wingen, as they recently accepted the CCFESD Stewardship Award. The Stewardship Award is presented to members of the CCFESD board who exemplify what it means to be good stewards. The Wingens are members of St. Agnes, Vermillion. (Photo by Kevin Fitzgibbons, Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota)

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St. George Parish, Hartford, recently celebrated the elimination of the parish debt incurred in the building of the new church. A paper with the debt amount was burned in a fire outside the church and a prayer of thanksgiving for the generosity of the parishioners was offered along with a prayer for the deceased parishioners who had supported the parish in the building project. The evening finished with a dinner social in the parish hall. (Photo courtesy, Father Paul King, pastor, St. George Parish, Hartford)

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Local CHURCH

Students across the diocese pay tribute to the saints of the Church



The students in Mrs. Heisinger's fourth grade class at John Paul II School in Mitchell (above and above, right) researched the lives of some of the saints and in November held a "live" Saint Museum. The students dressed like their saint and shared what they learned with the entire student body, their parents and guests. (Photos courtesy, Robin Cahoy, John Paul II School, Mitchell)

At right, kindergarten and first grade students at St. Thomas More Catholic School, Brookings, also researched a saint with their parents and dressed up as that saint. The rest of that school day was spent celebrating the saints with special treats, games, and fun. (Photo at right courtesy, Mandy Entringer, St. Thomas More School, Brookings)



One Faith. One Family.

Thank you to the **15,010** families that came together, raising **\$4,231,958** to help continue God's work here in the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Funds raised through Catholic Family Sharing Appeal each year are a critical supplement to the ministries of the diocese. All of which are greater than what one individual parish could support and maintain.

Thank you!



Catholic Diocese
of Sioux Falls

UPCOMING RETREATS

SILENT RETREATS

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

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.

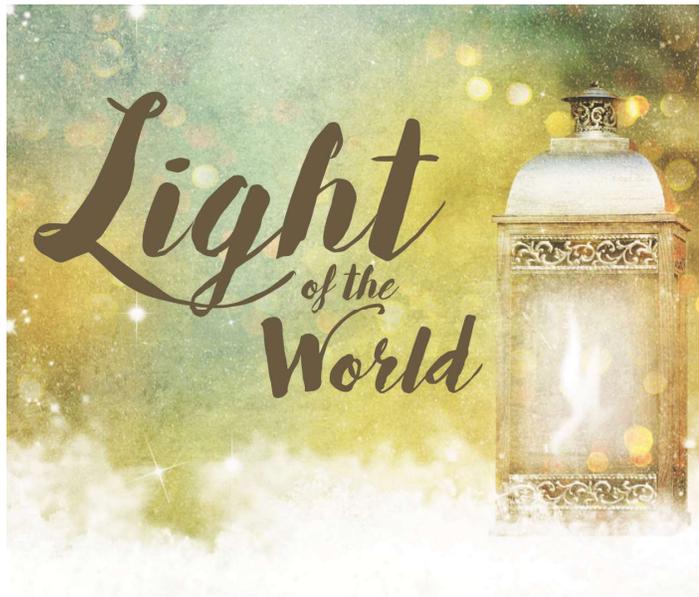
| | |
|---|---|
| December 11: Lift Up Your Hearts - directed by Fr. David Roehrich | March 12: Save the Date - directed by Fr. Anthony Urban |
| February 12: Save the Date - directed by Fr. Joe Vogel | April 9: Save the Date - directed by Msgr. Richard Mahowald |

SPECIAL RETREATS

| | |
|--|---|
| December 15: One Day Silent Retreat - directed by Fr. Joe Vogel | April 5-7: Couples Retreat - directed by Dcn. James Keating |
| March 15-17: Inner Healing Retreat - directed by Mike Snyder & Jane Barz | |

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Local
CHURCH



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

-JOHN 1:5

Seminary visits from diocese
draw good group and go well



Associate vocations director Father Jordan Samson recently traveled with a group of young men from the diocese on a seminary visit. The group arrived at and visited St. John Vianney Seminary, St. Paul, MN. Vocations director Father Shaun Haggerty also led a group of young men from the diocese on a seminary visit to St. John Vianney Seminary as well. (Photo courtesy, Office of Vocations, Diocese of Sioux Falls)

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Committed in CHRIST



ABERDEEN – Paul and Arlene Mardian will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Dec. 27. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



ABERDEEN – Gerald and Mary Ann Krueger will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Dec. 27. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Mary Parish.



ABERDEEN – Paul and Geri Sillman will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 28. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



ABERDEEN – James and Barbara Harr celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov. 22. They have 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of Sacred Heart Parish.



ARLINGTON – Bob and Margaret Moe will celebrate their 55th anniversary on Dec. 21. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren (1 deceased) and are members of St. John the Evangelist Parish.



ELK POINT – Russell and Muriel Hall celebrated their 70th anniversary on Nov. 27. They have 6 children (1 deceased), 12 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Joseph Parish.



ESTELLINE – LeRoy and Marj Warborg celebrated their 50th anniversary on Oct. 20. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Francis de Sales Parish.



GROTON – Robert and Ruth Pray will celebrate their 72nd anniversary on Dec. 16. They have 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.



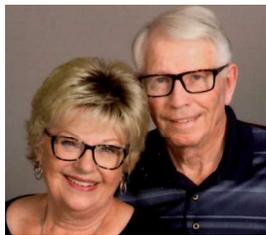
HARTFORD – Gary and Gloria Krier will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 6. They have 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and are members of St. George Parish.



LAKE ANDES – Edwin and Betty Bruner celebrated their 70th anniversary on Nov. 25. They have 4 children, 17 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mark Parish.



MITCHELL – Frank and Marlene Schafer will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 28. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of Holy Family Parish.



PIERRE – Norman and Sandra Konecne will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 28. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



PIERRE – Paul and Stephanie Coughlin will celebrate their 30th anniversary on Dec. 30. They have 3 children, 2 grandchildren (1 deceased) and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Ron and Mary Plucker will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 28. They have 2 children (1 deceased), 6 grandchildren and are members of St. Lambert Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Lonnie and Darlene Leichtnam will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 23. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



SISSETON – Gene and Joy Hmcir will celebrate their 65th anniversary on Dec. 1. They have 6 children (1 deceased) and are members of St. Peter Parish.



TYNDALL – Joseph and Marcie Becvar will celebrate their 68th anniversary on Dec. 16. They have 1 child, 2 grandchild and are members of St. Leo the Great Parish.



TYNDALL – William and Mary Minow will celebrate their 25th anniversary on Dec. 3. They have 1 child, 1 grandchild and are members of St. Leo the Great Parish.



WATERTOWN – Tom and Kathy Holmes will celebrate their 30th anniversary on Dec. 2. They have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

Anniversary submissions

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by December 14 for inclusion in the January 2019 edition to:
The Bishop's Bulletin
523 North Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
or e-mail to:
gyoung@sfcatholic.org.

Deacon Thomas Vogel

Deacon Thomas Vogel passed away on Nov. 5 at Sanford Vermillion Care Center. He was 81.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 9 at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Vermillion. Burial followed in Calvary Cemetery, Vermillion.

Thomas Vogel was born on January 3, 1937, the son of Frank and Iva (Hooker) Vogel in Montrose.

He married the love of his life, Ione Reese on December 30, 1961. They were blessed with six children.

Tom was a certified public accountant for 40 years and served as a county commissioner for Clay County for over 20 years and he was a Catholic deacon at St. Agnes Catholic Church for over 15 years.

Deacon Vogel was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved working on his acreage north of



Deacon Thomas Vogel Meckling.

He is survived by his wife, Ione; his children, Tom (Marta) of Spring Hill, TN, Jozef of Vermillion, Robert of New Brighton, MN, Ann (Jason) Wittgraf of Des Moines, IA; 8 grandchildren; 2 brothers, Paul, and Gordon Vogel; one sister Eldora Weber, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two daughters, Julie and Amy; his brothers, Frank, Dennis, Bob, and Harvey; his sister, Martha.

Committed in
CHRIST

Students in Alexandria help those in need with food



Religious education students from St. Mary of Mercy Parish, Alexandria recently conducted a food drive to help those in need. The students went door to door collecting items for the Hanson County food pantry. The end count was over 1200 items donated to the pantry. (Photo courtesy, Camille Davies, St. Mary of Mercy Parish, Alexandria)

Sioux Falls students help police generate food for needy



The O'Gorman High School, Sioux Falls, community gathered 431 jars/bottles of peanut butter and jelly to help support the Sioux Falls Police Department's drive for peanut butter and jelly donations. All the food collected was donated to Feeding South Dakota. (Photo courtesy, CarolNesbitt, Sioux Falls Catholic Schools, Sioux Falls)

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Catholic Extension gives emergency funding to help migrants at border

Chicago, IL (CNS) - Catholic Extension has given \$25,000 in emergency funding to a facility in the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, and is urging donors around the country to provide aid to meet the needs of migrants being released from detention daily. The Chicago-based national organization, which financially supports Catholic ministries among the poor and marginalized, announced the funding. It said it was just an initial amount and that it plans to make subsequent grants to other migrant ministries in the months ahead. The \$25,000 is going to Annunciation House, which has been serving migrants in the El Paso area since 1978. A news release from Catholic Extension about the funding said the facility has had to step up its efforts due to a recent increase of migrants being released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention. They are being released prior to their immigration court hearing and without places such as Annunciation House, they would "have nowhere to go for assistance," the release said.

Pope makes visit to mobile clinic in St. Peter's Square

Vatican City (CNS) - Pope Francis made a surprise visit to a mobile health care facility set up in St. Peter's Square to serve the city's homeless and poor. Entering the square from under Bernini's colonnade, the pope walked to the makeshift medical center accompanied by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization. Tourists and pilgrims in the square were caught off-guard by the pope's arrival, immediately snapping pictures and reaching out to shake the pope's hand. Arriving at the mobile clinic, the pope was welcomed with applause and cheers from the doctors, medical staff and patients. The pope remained 15 minutes and was given a tour of the medical center before walking back to his residence inside the Vatican. The medical facility was part of an initiative organized by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization in conjunction with Pope Francis' celebration of the World Day of the Poor.

Ecumenical partners can help one another be accountable, pastor says

Rome (CNS) - As Christian communities and churches continue their search for full unity, they must be willing to learn from and help one another recognize ways they have not fully lived the Christian ideal, the head of the World Council of Churches said. The Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, a Norwegian Lutheran pastor and WCC general secretary, wrote his doctoral thesis on "mutual accountability" in the ecumenical movement and is the author of a book on the subject, titled "The Truth We Owe Each Other." He described mutual accountability as "a golden thread running throughout our ecumenical history," one aimed at helping Christian leaders move beyond theological agreements toward "a radical openness and accompanying humility." Speaking at Rome's Centro Pro Unione, an ecumenical center run by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, the WCC helped launch a new program known as "MAD for Ecumenism." MAD stands for Mutual Accountability Desk and is the brainchild of Teresa Rossi, the center's associate director.

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Parish Dinners/Socials

Dec. 2/Risen Savior Parish, Brandon, will host its annual Christmas Cookie Parade from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. In addition to cookies, the event features lunch and vendors as part of the fun; Risen Savior Parish is located at 301 N. Splitrock Blvd.

Dec. 8 and 9/Christ the King Parish, Sioux Falls, will host its annual cookie extravaganza on Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon and on Sunday following the parish Masses; Christ the King Parish is located at 1501 W. 26th St., Sioux Falls.

Dec. 15/St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Beresford, will host its annual cookie fair, Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. Christmas cookies, candy and holiday treats will be sold by the pound. Cookies and candy \$6/lb. Rosettes sold by the half dozen for \$3.50.

Christmas on the Prairie concert set Sunday, Dec. 2 - Christmas on the Prairie Concert will be Sunday at 3 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Hoven. For more information and tickets, call 605-948-2451, ext. 5.

Special Advent program being offered Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 - A special Advent program is being offered on two additional Tuesdays this month. "Eucharist: Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real Presence" by Bishop Robert Barron and moderated by Monsignor Charles Mangan will at 7-8 p.m. each of the Tuesdays in the Holy Spirit Parish Hall in Sioux Falls.

Brandon parish choir performs in the area Dec. 9 and Dec. 18 - The Risen Savior Parish choir from Brandon will be presenting "And It Came to Pass"; the choir will perform Sunday at 2 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima, Garretson and Sunday at 7 p.m. at Risen Savior, Brandon. The choir will also perform at Bethany Meadows in Brandon on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. All performances are free and open to the public.

"Woman of the Eucharist" event planned Saturday, Jan. 12 - The Office of the Marian Apostolate will sponsor a presentation by Annie Fulkerson entitled, "The Woman of the Eucharist" on Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Sioux Falls. Fulkerson is a wife, mother, scientist and Catholic media specialist. Admission is free and open to the public.

Sacred Arts Series event ahead Jan. 12 - The Sacred Arts Series returns Saturday Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. with the South Dakota Chorale; tickets are \$20/\$5; the Grammy-nominated South Dakota Chorale returns to the Cathedral for a performance of a beloved sacred masterwork: the Rachmaninoff Vespers.

Catholic Family Services

Dec. 4 and Jan. 8/Catholic Family Services invites you to join our Living with Chronic Illness group. This is a free educational supportive group that meets the first Tuesday of each month, for those living with chronic illness and their care givers. The group meets at Catholic Family Services 523 N. Duluth Ave. Sioux Falls. For details please call Catholic Family Services, 605-988-3775.

Jan. 8-Feb. 12/Grieving the loss of a spouse; six Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Catholic Family Services, 523 N. Duluth, Sioux Falls. Directed by Dr. Marcie Moran, this program is for adults who have lost a spouse and are trying to cope with the pain of separation and loss. Role change and loneliness are secondary losses, which can complicate the grieving process. The program will offer assistance in coping with this change and making healthy readjustments. Non-denominational; cost is a donation. Call 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 to register.

Jan. 19/Dr. Marcie Moran and Catholic Family Services staff will be presenting a "Coping with Stress and Anxiety" Retreat Day in Redfield on Saturday at St. Bernard Parish from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. This retreat is designed to help identify and understand the effects of stress on an individual and give them tools to keep them productive, energetic, happy and hopeful even with the many challenges we face. Call the parish office at 605-472-1482 to register or for more information.

Mother of God Monastery

Dec. 7-21/Christmas Nativities from Around the World featuring windmill nativities from Judy and Bill Kennedy will be on display at the Benedictine Multicultural Center, 2500 5th Street, SE, Watertown; all are invited to stop by on weekdays from 2-4 p.m.; special viewing times on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 17 from 1:30-4:30 p.m.; for more information, call 605-882-6600.

Corrections

In the November edition of The Bishop's Bulletin, we incorrectly listed in the necrology the date of death for Kathleen F. Treloar, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish. The correct date of death was Sept. 26. Also, missing from the necrology was St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Sisseton, parishioner, Nadine Anderson-Jun. 7. We regret the errors.

Sacred Heart Monastery

Dec. 15/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 Dec. 15 session, contact Sister Doris Oberembt at doberembt@mtmc.edu or call 605-668-6292.

Silent Retreats at the Benedictine Peace Center/Come for the number of days that fits your schedule. Retreatants may request a spiritual director and are welcome to join the monastic community for Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist. Contact benedictinepeacectr@mtmc.edu or 605-668-6292 or visit us at www.yanktonbenedictines.org/Center.

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

Broom Tree Retreat Center

Dec. 6-9/Couples retreat: directed by Father John Rutten; During this retreat couples will have the blessed opportunity to spend time together receiving from the heart of God.

Dec. 11/Day of Recollection: "Lift Up Your Hearts" directed by Father David Roehrich; 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.

Dec. 15/One day silent retreat: directed by Father Joe Vogel; the day begins at 9 a.m. and runs through 4 p.m.; during the retreat you will receive an orientation to silent prayer, enter into grand silence and spend the day with the Lord. Mass will be offered as well as time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, the Rosary and time to quiet your soul and listen for the voice of God.

Contact (605) 263-1040 or broomtree@sfcatholic.org to register.



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