



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

April 2017

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

Strengthened by the
Holy Spirit



Our crosses need not be ends in themselves but rather a call to greater conversion...

*"If anyone wishes to come after me,
he must deny himself and take up
his cross daily and follow me."
Lk 9:23*

When I began my conversion journey to become Catholic, I quietly visited Catholic churches. I was intrigued by the prominence of sacred art in its many forms. I was especially taken by the fourteen artistic renderings hanging on the church walls. I had no understanding of why they were there or what they stood for. I also had no appreciation for the powerful and humbling devotion that the Stations are to so many. Now I count myself among them.

The Stations of the Cross devotion is sometimes referred to as the way of sorrows for it is a visual and spoken depiction of the passion of our Lord. When we enter into the Stations we are reminded of the suffering our Lord took upon himself for us, for our redemption. Not all the stations are scripturally based but they do touch the human heart.

Later this month during Holy Week we will walk Christ's passion especially through readings from Sacred Scripture which are essential to the moving liturgies of Passion Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. However this devotion need not be restricted to Holy Week. They can be prayed all year; they are attached to church walls all year.

One is not required to visit a Church to pray the Stations however. They can be prayed at home which becomes a spiritual pilgrimage site. Many versions of the Stations are available in prayer books and other resources.

What might we learn from following the passion of Christ one step at a time? What inspiration can lift us as we unite our crosses to the sorrows of Christ's passion?

Praying the Stations can offer perspective and instruction on how to bear our crosses well and therefore come after and follow him.

At the first station Jesus is condemned though innocent. Jesus then begins the journey to Calvary by lifting up and carrying the cross himself. He does not challenge the cross rather he envelops it and takes in on with courage and resolve. That is a model for us as his disciples.

Even when we do honestly lift up our crosses the journey is a tough one. Jesus fell three times. As we carry our own crosses we may well stumble and fall. He picked himself up in obedience to the Father and continued the journey to Calvary and beyond. So can we.

Of major importance for us along our spiritual way is the support of those who love us. Jesus met his mother who from the cross gave her to us as our mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. She loved him and loves us. She is always there to comfort, support and point us to her son.

And so we can pray, "Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Pray for us O holy mother of God." As we carry the heavy burden of our crosses may we call upon the Mother of God and our mother to pray for us that we might with courage and faith deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow her Son.

Jesus met the women of Jerusalem who wept with compassion at his sight and plight. According to the text of some Stations, Jesus offered these haunting words, "Weep not so much for me but rather for your children."

To bear our crosses daily especially when discouragement is ours, we also need the help of others. Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry the heavy cross and climbed with him up to Calvary.



Veronica rushed forward and tenderly wiped the brow of Jesus. It seems a useless act, yet it was a beautiful gesture of compassion and caring which did not lift the physical burden but lifted the Spirit.

Do we allow others into our lives to help us bear our crosses and lift our spirits?

Then the ultimate reality hit: Jesus is stripped of his clothing, nailed to the cross, raised up to hang in agony, dies and is laid in the tomb.

The heaviness is overwhelming. Yet we know the rest of the story: the tomb does not hold him; death does not prevail. Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord we will acknowledge that the cross is not the end. He is risen; he is risen indeed. It is an affirmation of what we believe in faith and that we have confidence that Jesus is with us until the end of time as he said.

Saint John Paul II offered these words to

encourage us on our journeys as we bear and confront our crosses:

“There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us. And on the far side of every cross we find the newness of life in the Holy Spirit, that new life which will reach its fulfillment in the resurrection. This is our faith. This is our witness before the world.”

Our crosses need not be ends in themselves but rather a call to greater conversion and to deepen our personal relationship with our friend and savior Jesus Christ. May we answer His call enveloping our crosses as did Jesus despite how heavy they are.

We adore you O Christ and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer before the Holy Cross:

Oh, Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me! Mary and Joseph pray for me.

Lord Jesus Christ, through Your suffering the Cross grant me strength to bear my Cross without fear or dread and give me the grace that I may follow You. Amen.

SCHEDULE

April

- | | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 1 | 11:00 | Diocesan Discipleship Day address, Ramkota, Sioux Falls |
| | 5:00 | Confirmation, Ss. Peter and Paul, Dimock and Sacred Heart, Parkston at Dimock |
| 2 | 9:00 | Confirmation, St. Peter the Apostle, Platte and St. Ann, Geddes at Platte |
| | 1:00 | Confirmation, St. Agatha, Howard and Epiphany, Epiphany at Howard |
| | 6:00 | Lenten Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| 5 | 6:30 | Confirmation, Ss. Simon and Jude, Flandreau, St. Peter, Colman, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Elkton at Flandreau |
| 6 | 5:00 | Shepherd's Voice LIVE, Lamb Catholic Radio, Sioux Falls |
| 8 | 4:00 | Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| 9 | 11:00 | Palm Sunday Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| | 6:00 | Lenten Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| 11 | 12:00 | Pray at Planned Parenthood, Sioux Falls |
| | 12:00 | Diocesan Investment Committee, Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls |
| 13 | 7:00 | Holy Thursday Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| 14 | 3:00 | Good Friday Service, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| 15 | 8:30 | Easter Vigil, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| 16 | 7:30 | Easter Sunday Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| 19 | 6:30 | Confirmation, St. Teresa of Calcutta, Dakota Dunes, St. Joseph, Elk Point, St. Peter, Jefferson at Jefferson |
| 21 | 5:00 | Mass with South Dakota Knights of Columbus, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| | 6:00 | South Dakota Knights of Columbus Banquet, Holiday Inn City Centre, Sioux Falls |
| 22 | 5:00 | Confirmation, St. Charles, Big Stone City, St. Lawrence, Milbank, Annunciation, Revillo at Milbank |
| 23 | 1:30 | Confirmation, Risen Savior, Brandon, St. Dominic, Canton, St. Magdalen, Lennox, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sioux Falls, St. Nicholas, Tea at Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| 25 | 2:00 | Diocesan Review Board, Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls |
| 26 | 7:00 | Confirmation, St. Agnes, Vermillion |
| 27 | 3:00 | St. John Vianney and St. Paul Seminary Board of Trustees, St. Paul, MN |
| 29 | 5:00 | Confirmation, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Leola, Holy Cross, Ipswich, St. Thomas, Roscoe at Ipswich |
| 30 | 10:30 | Confirmation, St. Mary, Aberdeen |
| | 1:30 | Confirmation, Sacred Heart, Aberdeen |

May

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| 2 | 4:30 | Mass with Tribunal Personnel of the Province, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls |
| 3 | | Women Religious Annual Luncheon, the Bishop's House, Sioux Falls |
| 4 | 5:00 | Shepherd's Voice LIVE, Lamb Catholic Radio, Sioux Falls |



Officials

Since publication of the March issue of The Bishop's Bulletin, the Most Reverend Paul J. Swain, Bishop of Sioux Falls:

assigned Reverend Jonathan Venner, JCL, from graduate studies to priest in-residence at Holy Family, Mitchell and to defender of the bond in the Diocesan Tribunal;

and decreed the Deconsecration of the St. Michael Church building, Mount Vernon, so that it might be relegated to profane but non-sordid use;

extended the faculty to remit an automatic penalty of excommunication in the instance of a second procured abortion to all priests entrusted with the full pagaella of faculties.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Matthew K. Althoff
Chancellor

This is our life, in its reality...how to journey in Easter

I have spent much of my life living in the northeastern part of our state, and it is wonderful place to live.

However, when living in this part of the state, I find I must drive to Sioux Falls often for meetings, or, when I was younger, would drive to St. Paul for seminary, and that means I have to drive east on Highway 12. When I would arrive, the question would always be the same, "How was the trip?" And I answer, "It was good...well, except..."

And there was no need to go further, everyone who lives in the northeastern part of the state driving east on Highway 12 knows how the sentence ends. What we are saying is, "It was good...well, except for the Summit corridor." This is a stretch of road stretching, more or less, from Waubay to Milbank.

Now, let me be clear here, I am not mocking Summit, or the people who live there. I have found the people in that area to be kind and generous, and the people who work at the Coffee Cup, which stands at the I-29 junction, are always kind and a smiling delight when taking a driving break.

But let's be honest, the weather there is the worst.

It is kind of a running joke in this part of the state, that someone around there must have done something pretty awful to have weather like that; a person can be driving along, enjoying the weather and the beauty of the state and then, almost without warning, everything changes.

It can be 80 degrees and sunny, light breeze and springtime beautiful all the way from Aberdeen, and then you get to the interstate and for 39.2 miles, you can encounter a blizzard, and hail, and blinding fog, leading to a hydroplaning thunderstorm and two tornados. It's crazy and exhausting.

When you stop at the Coffee Cup, you can tell those who are driving east and those driving west. The western drivers look dazed from what they have experienced and the eastern drivers look terrified at what they are facing.

It makes the journey interesting, that's for sure.

Which is the way things are, a truth that we often forget. I remember, when I was an adolescent, having an issue with Easter, what it proclaimed, and what I saw around me. We gathered and, for 50 days, sang songs and

heard homilies and prayers proclaiming that Christ was risen and had conquered death.

And yet, people still died.

We heard homilies telling us that Jesus had destroyed sin, and yet, father would remind us again and again that we needed to go to confession.

For my young mind, it was difficult to reconcile these two apparent contradictions. Why was there still sin, why was there still death, when we believe and celebrate Christ's victory over both?

Of course, we have to understand what it means to say Christ has conquered, that by "dying He destroyed our death, rising He restored our life." Christ's resurrection has given us the possibility of freedom from the power of sin to rule our lives, and the ability to hope in a life that survives even death. We are not held captive by either.

It does not mean we will not sin, or that we will not die. These are aspects of our lives that will always be there; and this is not necessarily a bad thing. We tend to think that our journey through life is meant to be easy and struggle free, "smooth driving" if you will, and life is not like that, nor should it be.

The ongoing work of conversion in our lives gentles our hearts, teaches us humility and empathy and continues to move us forward. The simple knowledge that we, and everyone we love, will someday die teaches us that life is fragile and never to wait to enjoy life, to grow, to become the person we are born to be. There will always be events to attend, work to do, details to cover, schedules that groan under the weight of our obligations.

We will never have a smooth, peaceful journey that affords us the easy opportunity to do what we must do to make our lives meaningful.

This is our life, in its reality. If we think the journey should always be sunshine and peace, if we think there should never be struggle or hard priorities to set, if we think that we may somehow achieve a perfect and sinless state in life, free of the sting of death, then we will always be disappointed, and the glory of Easter will seem a sad illusion.

Easter is a time to remember the reality of who we are, and how we live, again. Easter is a time to hear the glorious song of the Easter Vigil, "O happy fault that earned for us so great, so glorious a Redeemer!"

The Bishop's Bulletin

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April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. To assure the safety of all children in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, last year 98% of adults volunteering or employed by a diocesan or parish organization completed the safe environment program; 13,800 children enrolled in a Catholic school and/or religious education program also completed an age-appropriate program. Since the August 2016 launch of the CMG Connect training/tracking platform, 4,000 adults have created a secure, online account to complete safe environments requirements. More information about the Safe Environment program, including parent resources, is available at sfcatholic.org/safe-environment. (Photo by Bill Sealey, Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls)

What you don't know can hurt you.

Are there gaps in your life insurance coverage and retirement plan? Can you spot them? Get your free, comprehensive financial needs analysis today, and be sure of your family's future.



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Strengthened by the Holy Spirit



Baylee Beaner found her Confirmation inspiration in the pious example of St. Therese of Lisieux, the 19th century French girl who became a nun at the age of 15.

The Garretson teen-ager took the saint's name, embracing St. Therese's acceptance of God's will in her life.

Bishop Paul Swain described a similar feeling of peaceful acceptance he experienced as a young adult, sitting by his grandmother's hospital bedside. Fear and despair gradually evaporated through prayer, he told Baylee and her 32 classmates from St. Joseph, Huntimer and St. Rose of Lima, Garretson at their Confirmation Mass at the Huntimer church last month.

When God challenges us, he also strengthens us, the bishop said.

That strength is courtesy of the Holy Spirit, whose presence is amplified in our spiritual lives through the sacrament of Confirmation.

Swift or gradual, peaceful or igniting, the Holy Spirit moves through our lives, providing a consistent, powerful, faith-filled boost.

Story written by Maricarrol Kueter for The Bishop's Bulletin



Bishop Swain visits with confirmation students and sponsors before Mass

It may manifest itself as a sudden burst of courage to tackle a difficult task looming in your life. It might be a long-awaited inspiration for a project you've labored over or possibly the determination to proceed with a potentially painful conversation.

"By the sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit," according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. "Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."

The sacred roots of this sacrament, traceable to the introduction of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles on Pentecost, are reinforced each year in the lives of hundreds of teen-agers across the Sioux Falls diocese.

"I've seen real change (in young people) over time," said Bishop Swain, who administers the sacrament of Confirmation. "They talk about it honestly."

The church teaches that Confirmation is one of three sacraments of Christian initiation. "Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist lay the foundation of every Christian life."

"The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace."

Father Michael Wensing, pastor of Holy Name Church in Watertown, uses an example to describe the sacrament's role in a Catholic's life:

"My brother once explained to a couple preparing for baptism that faith is like a gift, given all wrapped and beautiful. But the child and parents together must at some point open the gift and unpack the contents. Confirmation preparation is about opening and unpacking the great gift of faith already given," Father Wensing said.

In the Sioux Falls diocese, the sacrament of Confirmation is usually conferred on teen-agers, though traditions elsewhere vary. Many adults also receive the sacrament each year as they join the

Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. (RCIA)

Young people undergo months of preparation leading up to their Confirmation. The process usually begins with a conversation on the sacrament's importance and the determination of a student's readiness to be confirmed.

Diocesan guidelines set expectations for Confirmation preparation, but each parish can add additional requirements. Nearly all ask students to complete some type of community service.

Bishop Swain said the sacrament confers on students a deeper tie to the Church. "It also missions them to be public witnesses of Christ to the world," he said.

In the course of preparation, Father Anthony Urban, pastor of St. Rose of Lima, Garretson, and St. Joseph the Workman, Huntimer, said he meets with each student to ask questions and offer his input to help with their studies.

"The key teachings that I hope to hand on to the students are the gifts of the



Fr. Anthony Urban, Pastor of St. Rose of Lima and St. Joseph the Workman

Holy Spirit, the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and what it looks like to live a life in the church,” he said.

Father Wensing said he begins Confirmation preparation by talking with parents and any known sponsors a year before the sacrament is to be administered.

“This meeting does not involve the youth candidates themselves, but establishes how important the whole family is in formation and preparation of the candidate,” he said.

Lessons cover church teachings on the sacraments, Mary and the beatitudes, Father Wensing said, and focus on “building the kingdom of God and remaining active, committed Catholics.”

Gaye Lynn Beaner, Garretson, mother of twins Baylee and Brayden, who were confirmed recently, said she tried to help her children in preparation by setting an example and encouraging prayer.

“We pray with them at home and encourage them to serve,” she said.

Many pastors also require students to write a letter to the bishop, asking to be confirmed. Bishop Swain said he reads every letter.

“Some are very beautiful. Some very honest,” he said. “We want to make sure the student wants to be confirmed. They will be asked to stand up and profess the faith and we want to be sure they want to make a knowing commitment.”

Father Wensing said that commitment isn’t automatic with high school students. He said teenagers often debate with parents the question of why they should receive Confirmation.

“I don’t know if I want to do that. I haven’t made up my mind if I want to be Catholic,” are common assertions, he said.

Wensing said he advises parents not to get discouraged by the questioning.

“They must still consent to the sacrament for it to be valid, but to put it in perspective, tell the young adult that the gift of Catholic faith has already been given to them in baptism. They already have been touched by the finger of God,” Father Wensing said.

He also recommends the parents relate the discussion to the reception of Holy Communion, noting how every time they go to Communion they have to give the same answer in faith as for confirmation, “Amen.”

“So they have already many times assented to being the Catholic they became in baptism. Confirmation just furthers the grace they have been participating in already,” he said.

Preparation discussions with students offer an opportunity to discuss topics prevalent



Gaye Lynn Beaner, St. Rose of Lima



Watch our interview with Gaye, Baylee and Brayden Beaner on our website

www.sfcatholic.org/bishopsbulletin

in young people's lives and to try to offer guidance, according to Father Urban.

"One of the important things is to answer questions that students have and also address topics that are difficult to discuss such as same-sex marriage, the pro-life message and others," he said.

Students select community service projects ranging from assisting at church events to volunteering for community charitable activities.

Baylee Beaner volunteered to play the piano at her church and at a local nursing home. She also volunteered to serve at The Banquet, a food ministry in Sioux Falls. Brayden Beaner assisted with snow removal and lawn work at the church.

The volunteer activities were humbling, according to Baylee Beaner. "It taught me a lot about what we are called to do," she said.

Bishop Swain said community service helps the students progress toward a deeper relationship with God and "develop a desire to help others.

"You're the hands of Christ in many ways," the bishop said.

Confirmation students also choose a saint's name and select a sponsor.

Students are asked to research the lives of saints and select someone that they can relate to, said Bishop Swain.

Brayden Beaner chose St. Gregory, whose emphasis on mission work greatly expanded the church.

Selections range from well-known saints such as Peter and Joseph to lesser-known saints such as Pier Giorgio, who fought for social reforms in Italy in the early 1900s or Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest who was martyred at Auschwitz during World War II.

be sealed with the Gift of the

Holy Spirit



The Lord God has anointed me and has sent me to bring Good News to the poor, to give them the oil of gladness.

Ezekiel 36:24-28



Bishop Swain anointing confirmation student with blessed oils

“Relating to a communion of saints is something we are all a part of,” the bishop said.

The students also select an adult sponsor to publicly support them as they are confirmed. The sponsor must be a Catholic and cannot be a parent. Most choose another family member, or an adult friend or mentor.



Rita and Michael Beaner, sponsors for their grandchildren

“A sponsor should be a person who can be a true witness, who lives out their faith and has completed the Sacraments of Initiation,” Father Urban said.

“A sponsor should be a credible witness to the faith that we express in the promises of our Baptism,” he said.

Baylee and Brayden Beaner asked their grandparents, Rita and Michael Beaner of Miller, to serve as their sponsors.

Michael Beaner said the experience of being sponsors allowed them to re-live their own Confirmation experiences. He said he could relate to his grandson the real-life importance of the sacrament.

“The Holy Spirit is alive in your life,” he said, “I know from my own experience.”

Bishop Swain said the sponsor’s role is to encourage the student and to continue with them after Confirmation day.

“We all have our ups and downs in our journey of faith,” he said. “This is someone to walk with you.”

As a sacrament experienced by most relatively early in life, confirmation and its meaning for us can slip away over time.

“Almost always I invite those who are at a confirmation to recall the date that they were confirmed,” Bishop Swain said. “That’s one way to remind ourselves on that anniversary that we received the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit in that special way.”

Calling on the Holy Spirit and saying particular prayers to the Holy Spirit “also can help us recall our confirmations and be refreshed as to the importance of it and the gift God offers to us through the sacrament of confirmation,” he said.

Rich symbolism and tradition are displayed in the administering of Confirmation. In addition to praying over the candidates with outstretched arms, the Bishop anoints each student’s forehead with Holy Chrism, and shakes his or her hand in a sign of peace.

Bishop Swain said one of the beauties of the Catholic Church is its use of all of the senses in the liturgies. In Confirmation, he said, you have the odor of the holy oil, made from olive oil and balsam, the sense of touch and the spoken words of prayer, “sealing the gift of the Holy Spirit” in the person’s life.

“I appreciate that we use all the senses to invite the transcendent in,” the bishop said.

Confirmation is one of only two sacraments administered by the bishop, although permission may be delegated to a priest by the bishop when pastoral need suggests. The other is Holy Orders.

“In the Acts of the Apostles, some of the original Apostles were sent to Samaria to pray over and lay hands on the newly baptized to receive the Spirit. Thus Bishops, as successors to the Apostles, are sent to the parishes to pray over, lay hands upon and anoint the candidates,” Father Mike Wensing said.

“The laying on of hands is done as an ancient rich sign of imparting the grace and power and Spirit of God.”

Bishop Swain said administering the sacrament “is a great privilege.”

“They (the Confirmation students) come in as a group, but the imposition of oil is one by one. It’s very personal. ... It’s a sign of God’s love for them individually,” he said.

Officiating at 40-60 Confirmation Masses each year requires a sizable amount of travel and coordination. Bishop Swain said he tries to individualize each Confirmation homily, at times referring to the Scripture readings of the day or tying in a lesson from the parish he’s visiting.

In his homily at St. Joseph the Workman Church on March 5, Bishop Swain told the Confirmation students the sacrament would give them the “tools of how we may live out discipleship.”

He encouraged them, acknowledging that their preparations likely had been challenging, even tedious at times.



Fr. Michael Wensing, Pastor of Holy Name, Watertown, SD

“Spiritual journeys are like that,” he said “Today is a day of fulfillment in your spiritual journey, hopefully, also one of opportunity.”

“You are called to live the gospel of love and mercy – not because you have to; because you want to.”

One of the key teachings in Confirmation preparation is that the sacrament bestows and enriches the “gifts of the Holy Spirit” in those who receive it.

Bishop Swain asked the students to rely on those seven gifts - wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord - in meeting the challenges they will face.

The sacrament gives them the tools to live as disciples, but he warned them it “will not be easy.”

He asked them to hold on to fortitude and courage and “look to the saints for guidance.”

“It’s a huge step in the growth of your Catholic faith,” said Brayden Beaner, after the Mass.

Bishop Swain had reminded the students of the importance of the “great gift of this sacrament to them.”

In this ‘once-in-a-lifetime moment,’ Bishop Swain said. “It is God coming to dwell more deeply in their lives.”



During the last couple of months, I have been reading *The Priest's Way to God* by Father M. Eugene Boylan, O.C.S.O. This book intrigued me because I was familiar with the author, an Irish Trappist Abbot, and the copy I borrowed was owned by the late Msgr. John J. McEneaney.

Father Boylan pays much attention to the virtue of humility. He writes that it “means of course a life of ever-increasing dependence on God, but it also means a life of ever-increasing strength, confidence and joy” (pgs. 115-116).

I think of those who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation throughout our diocese this spring, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will give humility in abundance to them so that they will rejoice in their dependence on God and enjoy fresh strength, confidence and joy.

The year 2017 is the Centenary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. One hundred years ago, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta near the village of Fatima, Portugal. Humility is woven through the message of Our Lady and the acceptance shown by the three little shepherds.

Our world is vastly different now than in 1917. But human nature is the same. And so is our need for Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Humility lives in the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She answered God's summons, this time, to go to Fatima, but previously to Guadalupe, Mexico and Lourdes, France and a host of places. Our Lady celebrates her dependence on God. She shared with her cousin Elizabeth, “for He Who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name” (St. Luke 1:49).

Humility lives in the hearts of Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. Never for a moment did

they consider themselves suitable for a visit from Heaven. Yet, that is what happened. And they delighted in Christ and His Virgin Mother, adhering to all that Mary requested of them.

Our Lady's message at Fatima, I recently mentioned to some Catholic school teachers during their in-service, offers several important realities for our reflection. Here are a few.

1. Daily prayer is crucial. Receiving the Sacraments, especially Confession and Holy Communion, worthily and often is the best prayer “form” that I choose. Reciting the Holy Rosary as Mary asked at Fatima, reading Sacred Scripture and the lives of the Saints, praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, making the Stations of the Cross . . . the possibilities for public and private prayer are nearly endless.

2. Reverence for God bespeaks of our love for Him. Do I live in awareness of my Creator? Do I seek to understand His will for me? Do I recognize the real, true and substantial presence of Jesus Christ in the Tabernacle and on the Altar during Mass and Eucharistic Adoration? Often, my best response to His majestic, gentle presence is silence. Last year, Pope Francis canonized Discalced Carmelite Elizabeth of the Trinity, who once said, referring to God, “Silence is Your greatest praise.”

3. Doing penance for our sins and those of others is a service that we can perform. To repair for my sins and those of my neighbor is charity to a high degree. My penances, whether voluntary or involuntary, afford me the gift of consoling the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, which are offended by sin.

4. Fulfilling our “daily duty” in fidelity to our individual vocations. If I am a priest, then may I be the holiest priest that I can be. My faithfulness to my vocation pleases God and gives good example to those who encounter me. Doing my daily duty—doing the ordinary in an extraordinary way—is the warp and woof of sanctity.



Msgr. Charles Mangan
Office of the Marian Apostolate

Humility lives in each of these realities. Without this virtue, we will never obtain what God has planned for us in the Father's House in the next life. But with humility, we grasp what the Angel Gabriel communicated to Mary: “For with God nothing will be impossible” (St. Luke 1:37). Imagine the ever-increasing dependence on God and the strength, confidence and joy that await us.

May humility live in my heart and yours as we commemorate the six appearances of Mary to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta 100 years ago. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

(Please contact Msgr. Mangan for materials relating to Our Lady of Fatima: msgrmangan@sfcatholic.org or 605-521-0175.) Information about the ministries and activities of the Marian Apostolate can be found at www.sfcatholic.org/marianapostolate.



*Catholic Diocese
of Rapid City*



*Catholic Diocese
of Sioux Falls*

Roman Catholic bishops of South Dakota introduce the South Dakota Catholic Conference

The Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss, Bishop of Rapid City, and the Most Reverend Paul J. Swain, Bishop of Sioux Falls recently announced their intention to establish the South Dakota Catholic Conference (SDCC).

The Conference will serve as the official voice of the bishops of South Dakota on issues of public policy, providing explanations of Church teaching and their practical application.

A state Catholic conference, which most states have established including those in our neighboring states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Montana, monitors, responds to and educates Catholics about proposed public policies that impact life and the dignity of the human persons, religious liberty and other issues which affect the rights of Catholics to practice their faith both personally and in the public square.

The South Dakota Catholic Conference will follow the development of public policies and communicate with public officials in all branches and at all levels of governments not only during a legislative session but throughout the year. Among the tasks of the Conference will be to focus on issues that are of common concern among Catholic organizations, other faith-based communities, and secular agencies to promote the common good.

“Through advocacy and education based on Catholic moral and social teachings, the Conference will allow Catholics to become better informed about and comment on the public policy issues of the day not only before the legislature but in all of government”, said Bishop Paul Swain.

“It is our hope that the South Dakota Catholic Conference will help all Catholics in our state to become better informed on public policy matters and thereby be able to respond as faithful Catholics and faithful citizens,” said Bishop Robert Gruss.

Those interested in the position for the executive director are encouraged to contact the Office of Human Resources of the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Twila Roman, director of Human Resources at troman@sfcatholic.org or mail to 523 N. Duluth Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104.

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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE 2017
GIFT OF HOPE COMMITTEE**

Local CHURCH

Bishop and diocese observe Rite of Election



Bishop Paul Swain greeting catechumen Melody Bunkers and her husband LaDean during the Rite of Election at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. The Bunkers are members of St. Lawrence Parish, Milbank. (Photo by Jerome Klein, Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls)

More than 1,500 attend Gift of Hope concerts supporting Catholic Family Services



The Gift of Hope Concert, benefitting the Catholic Family Services Gift of Hope fund, drew more than 1,500 people this year. The fund supports CFS efforts to help individuals to receive services such as adoption services, grief support and other counseling services. This year, a second show was added after the first sold out. The concert featured contemporary christian musical artist Mark Schultz. Schultz himself is adopted and wrote a beautiful song to his birth mother entitled "Everything to Me." Schultz incorporated a children's choir (pictured above) as part of his performance. (Photo by Brian Cooper, Catholic Community Foundation for eastern South Dakota)

UPCOMING RETREATS

▷ **SILENT
RETREAT**

Men's 2017
August 17-20
September 21-24
November 16-19

Women's 2017
May 4-7
June 22-25
August 10-13
September 7-10
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.

April 18: The Lesson of Fatima: 100 Years Ago and Today
- with Fr. Joe Vogel

May 9: Topic TBD
- with Fr. Andrew Dickinson

June 20: Topic TBD
- with Fr. Steven Jones

▷ **SPECIAL RETREATS**

April 7-9: Couples Retreat
- with Deacon James Keating

May 12-13: Ignatian Conference
- with Jessi Kary, AO

October 13-15: Inner Healing Retreat

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Rachel's Vineyard retreats seek to help those troubled and in pain from a past abortion

Catholic Family Services staffers and other professionals and volunteers are working to prepare for the latest Rachel's Vineyard retreat being offered in May.

The retreat is a weekend opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion.

The next Rachel's Vineyard retreat will be May 12-14.

Because of the subject matter and the people the retreat seeks to help, there is absolute confidentiality connected to the retreat. Participants are notified for the location once they sign up to attend.

"Abortion is not just a woman's issue," said Margi Culhane, RN, special programs director for Catholic Family Services. The program has proved to be helpful to a range of men and women including grandparents, moms and

dads. "We know that it directly affects women in a number of ways."

Culhane points out that Rachel's Vineyard is not in any way aimed at judging others.

"We're here to help you get through the grief, the sorrow, the sadness that you are feeling," she said. "We hope to be the hands and feet of Christ for a weekend for those who attend."

The Rachel's Vineyard retreats were started in 1984 in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Since then, they have expanded to 350 sites in almost all 50 states and 70 other countries around the globe.

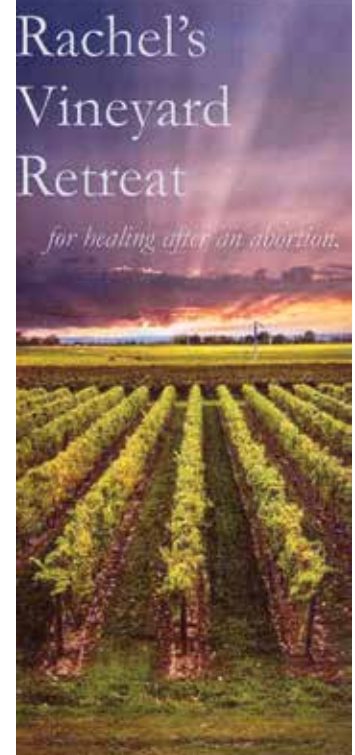
In the Diocese of Sioux Falls, Catholic Family Services hosts Rachel's Vineyard retreats twice a year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

The retreat is led by a team of trained professionals including counselors, a priest, men and women who have experienced the pain of abortion as well as other loving, caring, non-judgmental individuals.

The retreat begins on Friday evening at 7 p.m. and concludes Sunday after lunch. The weekend includes spiritually based retreat exercises, is open to men and women of all faiths and includes the sacrament of reconciliation for those Catholics attending who wish to receive the sacrament.

There is cost involved but scholarships may be available. People interested in learning more about the Rachel's Vineyard retreat or attending the next one in May should call Catholic Family Services at 605-988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867. Interested people can also e-mail cfs@sfcatholic.org to find out more.

Local CHURCH



The Presentation Sisters Invite You to Celebrate Earth Day April 22, 2017 and Every Day!

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Local CHURCH

Parish in Aberdeen works with RCIA class through Lent



Sacred Heart Parish, Aberdeen, enjoyed a good sized RCIA class this year. The class is pictured with their sponsors and Father Mark Lichter, pastor. Pictured are (front row, left to right): Jenna Dokter (sponsor), Rachael Crammond (sponsor) Beth Schwab, Mike Schwab (sponsor) and Amanda Lindner; Back row, left to right): Alex Boekelheide, Nichole Heinz, Bailey Mohr, Lance Mohr (sponsor), Father Mark Lichter, Katie Darling (sponsor) and Michala Heller (sponsor). (Photo courtesy, Michala Heller, Aberdeen Catholic School System, Aberdeen)

Sacred Heart Monastery elects new prioress



Sister Maribeth Wentzlaff, OSB, was recently elected prioress of the community of Benedictine Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton. Sister Maribeth accepted the election by the sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery and will serve a six-year term as the 14th prioress of the monastery. The election was the final step in the discernment process by the community. As prioress, Sister Maribeth becomes the spiritual and administrative leader of the 85 professed members of the monastery and the women in formation. She will guide the community in shaping a vision for the future, in setting goals according to that vision, and implementing the direction statements the community approved last August 2017. She serves as chairperson of the monastic council and president of the corporate board. Pictured are (left to right): Sister Kathy McNany, OSB, facilitator, from Emmanuel Monastery, Baltimore, MD, Sister Joella Kidwell, OSB, President of the Federation of St. Gertrude, from Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN, Sister Maribeth Wentzlaff, OSB, Prioress-Elect and Sister Kerry O'Reilly, facilitator, OSB, from St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN. (Photo courtesy, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton)

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Catholic Family Services
SCHEDULED PROGRAMS FOR 2017

Behavioral Health Counseling For locations and appointments: (605) 988-3775	Grieving the Loss of a Spouse August 1 - September 5
Adoption Services Pregnancy Counseling Free and Confidential (800) 700-7867	Fall Grief Retreat Weekend September 15 - 17
Children Grief Programs April 6 - April 27	Grieving the Loss of a Parent or Sibling September 19 - October 24
Grieving the Loss from Suicide April 18 - May 23	Grieving a Loss During the Holidays November 7 - December 12
Catholic Divorce Survival Guide June 6 - July 12	Living with Chronic Pain and Illness For Patients and Caregivers First Tuesday of every month
Grieving the Loss from Homicide June 6 - July 18	

Catholic Family Services
 Also provides individual counseling, marriage counseling and more at offices located in Aberdeen, Brookings, Gettysburg, Pierre, Sioux Falls and Yankton. Programs for parishes also available.
 (605) 988-3775 | www.sfecatholic.org/cfs

Sioux Falls students team up to help Perpetual Adoration Sisters



As part of St. Lambert's school's Lenten journey, the school asked their families and students to pray for and participate in the fund raising efforts for the Perpetual Adoration Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and their new Monastery. When music played in the student's classrooms, it was the cue for students to come and make their donations. Hugs and high fives were shared. At the end of Lent the money will be counted and Father John Rutten, pastor, and St. Lambert Parish will match the amount for a double impact. (Photo by Katie Fritz, Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota)

Catholic school raffle brings money to number of diocesan schools



The raffle barrel rolled, the tickets were counted, the dollars collected and Catholic schools including several in the Diocese of Sioux Falls have exceeded expectations. The 82 schools participating in the 2017 Catholic Schools Raffle have raised a record total of \$1,066,450. This is the fourth year in a row that the combined effort of Catholic school students, families, and staff produced a fund raising total in ticket sales and donations exceeding one million dollars. Every dollar raised by the students stays with the schools thanks to sponsor Catholic United Financial. Participation in the raffle is free to the schools, because Catholic United covers all costs for the prizes, ticket printing and promotional materials. South Dakota participants included the Aberdeen Catholic Schools System; St. Lawrence School, Milbank; John Paul II Elementary, Mitchell; Christ the King, St. Lambert and St. Mary, Sioux Falls; St. Agnes, Vermillion; Immaculate Conception, Watertown and Sacred Heart School, Yankton. (Photo courtesy, Catholic United Financial, St. Paul, MN)



**Wishing
you a blessed
Easter
season.**

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

— GALATIANS 6:18

Avera 

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Local CHURCH

PARISH IN MADISON GENERATES BOXES FOR BABIES



St. Thomas Parish, Madison, has been working to make sure every newborn heading home from Madison Regional Health System has all they need to get a good, healthy start. Pictured are (left to right): Peggy Kayser, Father DeWayne Kayser, pastor, St. Thomas Parish and Beth Graff, director of clinics and community services at Madison Regional Health System, with one of the "Boxes for Babies" as they are called. The program began thanks to donations from St. Thomas Parish. (Photo courtesy, Michele Beck, St. Thomas Parish, Madison)

Parish students serve those alone or in nursing care



The students of St. Anthony Parish, Selby, participated in an act of charity by preparing holiday treat plates for parish members in the nursing home and for members who are living alone. The younger students made cards to go along with the treat plates. Those pictured who prepared the treat plates include (pictured, back row, left to right): Charlie Tisdall, Ben Von Wald and Father Tom Clement; (pictured, front row, left to right): Justin Goetz, Hayden Von Wald, Austin Van Well, Corey Graff, and Dawson Zabel. (Photo courtesy, Lisa Von Wald, St. Anthony Parish, Selby)



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New principal named for O'Gorman High School

Sioux Falls Catholic Schools have named a new principal for O'Gorman High School.

Longtime O'Gorman High School assistant principal Joan Mahoney has accepted the position effective July 1.

Mahoney takes over for Kyle Groos, who recently accepted the position of Sioux Falls Catholic Schools President.

Mahoney first came to O'Gorman in 1990 as an English/AP English instructor.

She was named assistant principal at O'Gorman in 2004. She has also served as interim director of Instruction for the SFCS.



Joan Mahoney

"O'Gorman is a special place, and I have been fortunate to be part of this family as a parent, teacher and administrator for more than two decades. I consider it an honor and privilege to lead O'Gorman High School," says Mahoney.

Local CHURCH

DISC Mission Grant applications available

The DISC Mission grant application forms for 2017 are now available.

Any mission or Catholic organization in the national or international community may benefit from these grants. Past grants have ranged from \$250-\$1,000.

Individual or parishes are encouraged to submit ideas.

The grant application must be submitted through a DISC member diocese.

The completed application with the description of the program or ministry for consideration must be submitted to the awards committee by April 30. You can find the application at www.sfcatholic.org.



Centenary of the
Apparitions
of
Our Lady of Fatima
1917-2017

Divine Mercy Sunday

*Divine Mercy Chaplet
to be recited with
Confessions*

**April 23, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls

All are invited.

For more information, please contact:
msgmangan@sfcatholic.org
or (605) 521-0175



Jesus told Sister Maria Faustina that on the Feast of Divine Mercy, "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." [Diary, 699]

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Committed in CHRIST



ALEXANDRIA – Charlie and Sandy Degen will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Apr. 1. They have 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mary of Mercy Parish.



BERESFORD – Bob and Marie Schumacher will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Apr. 24. They have 6 children, 20 grandchildren (3 deceased), 4 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Teresa of Avila Parish.



BRANDON – Kevin and Michelle Buehner will celebrate their 35th anniversary on Apr. 24. They have 5 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Risen Savior Parish.



BRANDON – Merlin and Leann Sawyer will celebrate their 30th anniversary on Apr. 25. They have 3 children and are members of Risen Savior Parish.



DANTE – Leonard and Marcy Bares will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Apr. 25. They have 5 children, 14 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and are members of Assumption Church at Dante.



GROTON – David and Mary Blackmun will celebrate their 50th anniversary on April 14. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.



HIGHMORE – William and Rita Kusser will celebrate their 69th anniversary on April 22. They have 7 children, 16 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



IDYLWILDE – Joseph and Barbara Healy will celebrate their 65th anniversary on April 15. They have 6 children (1 deceased), 12 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Boniface Parish.



MITCHELL – Dennis and Marty Andrzejewski will celebrate their 55th anniversary on Apr. 28. They have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of Holy Family Parish.



MITCHELL – Dave and Kay Kline will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Apr. 29. They have 2 children (1 deceased) and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



POLO – Ron and Sharon Wieseler will celebrate their 45th anniversary on Apr. 8. They have 4 children, 10 grandchildren and are members of St. Liborius Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Ron and Paula Schauer will celebrate their 40th anniversary on Apr. 16. They have 3 children, 3 grandchildren, and are members of St. Michael Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Dean and Janet Liesinger will celebrate their 40th anniversary on Apr. 23. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren, and are members of St. Michael Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Thomas and Joyce Supik will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Apr. 29. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and are members of Christ the King Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Dan and Jeanne Kangley will celebrate their 45th anniversary on Apr. 27. They have 3 children, 9 grandchildren, and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



TEA – Lawrence and Isabelle Gannon will celebrate their 70th anniversary on Apr. 14. They have 7 children, 15 grandchildren (1 deceased), 30 great-grandchildren, 7 great-great-grandchildren and are members of St. Nicholas Parish.



WATERTOWN – Doug and Dodie Sadler will celebrate their 25th anniversary on Apr. 25. They have 4 children and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.

Anniversary submissions

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, by April 17 for inclusion in the May edition to:

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

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

Traditional Latin Mass celebrated in Salem

The traditional Latin Mass, also known as "The Extraordinary Form," is offered every Sunday at noon and on each Holy Day of Obligation at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church, 240 W. Vermont Avenue, Salem.

You can find out more by calling 605-425-2600 or going on line at www.salemccatholic.org.

Sister Mary Kathryn Guenther

Sister Mary Kathryn Guenther, a sister of the Sinsinawa Dominicans, died Mar. 4 at St. Dominic Villa, Hazel Green, WI.

Her religious name was Sister John Gualbert.

She was 87.

The funeral Mass was held at the Dominican motherhouse, Sinsinawa, WI, Mar. 10.

Burial followed in the Motherhouse Cemetery.

Mary Kathryn Guenther was born Feb. 10, 1930, in Armour, SD, the daughter of John C. and Gladys (Smith) Guenther.

Sister Mary Kathryn made her first religious profession as a Sinsinawa Dominican Aug. 5, 1949, and her final profession Aug. 5, 1952.

She taught for 24 years and served



Sister Mary Kathryn Guenther, OP

as principal for one year, activity director for seven years and in pastoral ministries for 27 years. She served in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Nebraska. Her parents; a sister, Janette Hill; and two brothers, John W. Guenther and James Guenther, preceded her in death.

Sister Mary Kathryn is survived by nieces, nephews and her Dominican Sisters with whom she shared life for 67 years.

The Cathedral Founder's Concert set

The Cathedral Arts Series will continue at the beginning of May with the Founders' Concert. The concert will be Friday, May 5 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls.

Each May, the Founder's Concert commemorates the construction of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, as well as the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, patron of the cathedral.

This year the Cathedral choir will present a "Home Concert" before traveling to Europe for a choir tour of Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic.

The program will include favorites from the liturgical year, early American gospel music, and three pieces for double choir, which our choir will perform together with the Cathedral Choir of Neuss, Germany in late May.

Tickets are \$10 or \$5 and available at the parish office or at the door. Additional information is available at 605-336-7390 or on-line at www.stjosephcathedral.net/sas/.

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6th Annual



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Youth Night Performance

Wednesday, April 12

6:00 PM | Welcome & Pizza

7:00 PM | MMC Theatre Performance

Marian Auditorium

Eucharistic Adoration to Follow

8:15 PM | Benediction

RSVP for Youth Night by:

April 7, 2017

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Vatican releases pope's schedule for Fatima visit

Vatican City (CNS) - Celebrating the 100th anniversary of apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Francis will lead the evening recitation of rosary and celebrate Mass on the anniversary at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima when he visits Portugal May 12-13. The pope will make the two-day pilgrimage to the site where Mary appeared to three shepherd children May 13, 1917. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church. During his visit, the pope also will meet with President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and have lunch with the bishops of Portugal. Pope Francis will be the fourth pontiff to visit the Marian shrine, following in the footsteps of Blessed Paul VI, St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, who each made visits on a May 13 to mark the anniversary of the first apparition.

Amid warm relations, pope to visit Egypt

Vatican City (CNS) - Accepting an invitation from Egypt's president and top religious leaders, Pope Francis will visit Cairo April 28-29. In response to an invitation from President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, the Catholic bishops in Egypt, Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II and Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar University, "Pope Francis will make an apostolic trip to the Arab Republic of Egypt," the Vatican announced. While details of the trip will be published soon, the announcement said the two-day trip would be focused on Cairo, the capital city. It will be the pope's 18th trip abroad in his four years as pope and the seventh time he visits a Muslim-majority nation. He will be the second pope to visit Egypt after St. John Paul II went to Cairo and Mount Sinai in 2000. The invitation came amid increasingly closer relations between the Vatican and al-Azhar, which is considered the most authoritative theological-academic institution of Sunni Islam. El-Tayeb visited the pope at the Vatican in May 2016 -- the first time the grand imam of al-Azhar was received by the pope in a private meeting at the Vatican.

Pope apologizes for Catholics' participation in Rwanda genocide

Vatican City (CNS) - Meeting Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Pope Francis asked God's forgiveness for the failures of the Catholic Church during the 1994 Rwanda genocide and for the hatred and violence perpetrated by some priests and religious. "He implored anew God's forgiveness for the sins and failings of the church and its members, among whom priests and religious men and women who succumbed to hatred and violence, betraying their own evangelical mission," said a Vatican statement released after the meeting of the pope and president. Some 800,000, and perhaps as many as 1 million people, most of whom belonged to the Tutsi ethnic group, died in the ferocious bloodshed carried out from April to July 1994. "In light of the recent Holy Year of Mercy and of the statement published by the Rwandan Bishops at its conclusion" in November, the Vatican said, "the pope also expressed the desire that this humble recognition of the failings of that period, which, unfortunately, disfigured the face of the church, may contribute to a 'purification of memory' and may promote, in hope and renewed trust, a future of peace, witnessing to the concrete possibility of living and working together once the dignity of the human person and the common good are put at the center."

Good Friday collection supports church in the Holy Land

Vatican City (CNS) - As Catholics commemorate Jesus' passion on Good Friday, the Vatican is asking them to support the church in the Holy Land with their prayers, financial contributions and possibly by making a pilgrimage. The global Holy Land Collection is taken up in most dioceses (including the Diocese of Sioux Falls) around the world on Good Friday, which is April 14 this year. The sites of Jesus' birth and of his death and resurrection have been undergoing restoration work and the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land announced in late March that the Vatican had pledged a further \$1 million for the second phases of projects at the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The first phase of the work in Jerusalem, which repaired damage and reinforced the Edicule of the Tomb, believed to be where Jesus was laid to rest after his crucifixion, was to be inaugurated during an ecumenical prayer service. The hoped-for second phase would seek to resolve problems due to moisture under the floor around the Edicule.

House bill's 'life protections' said laudable, other aspects 'troubling'

Washington, D.C. (CNS) - The inclusion of "critical life protections" in the House health care bill is laudable, but other provisions, including those related to Medicaid and tax credits, are "troubling" and "must be addressed" before the measure is passed, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' domestic policy committee. Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, who is chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, sent a letter to House members. It was released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Regarding life protections in the bill, Bishop Dewane said: "By restricting funding which flows to providers that promote abortion and prohibiting federal funding for abortion or the purchase of plans that provide abortion -- including with current and future tax credits -- the legislation honors a key moral requirement for our nation's health care policy." Among the "very troubling features" of the bill are the Medicaid-related provisions, he said. Other aspects that must be addressed before the bill is passed include the absence of "any changes" from the current law regarding conscience protections against mandates to provide certain coverage or services, Bishop Dewane said.

High-tech robotic device allows ailing student to stay connected to class

East Brunswick, N.J. (CNS) - The school and parish community of St. Bartholomew in East Brunswick recently tested the saying, "ask and you shall receive." They rallied together to raise more than \$8,000 to buy a VGo Robot to enable Tyler Knurek, a seventh-grader with Hodgkin's lymphoma, to connect virtually with his class and interact in real time while he remains at home for treatment. Ann Wierzbicki, principal of St. Bartholomew School, said Tyler's mother, Jackie, contacted her in January to ask whether the school could rent or buy the VGo Robot for him to use while he was out for the remainder of the school year. Jackie Knurek had learned about the technology from a television segment. After research and a meeting with the school's information technology consultant, Wierzbicki said they created a plan to raise the money to buy the robot, which costs about \$4,000 for a school.

Parish Dinner/Socials

Apr. 1/Catholic Daughter's Court St. Christina will hold its annual salad luncheon and card party at St. Nicholas Church, Tea at 11:30 a.m.; this year's theme is "Awake From Your Slumber, a New Day Has Dawned"; tickets are \$8 per person.

Apr. 23/St. Mary Parish, Sioux Falls, will host the its annual turkey dinner; serving will be 10:45-2:30 p.m. at the church hall, 2109 S. 5th Ave.; take outs available; pre-sale cost is \$8 for adults; \$9 at the door; children 4-11 are \$5; tickets on sale after all Masses Apr. 1 and 2 and April 8 and 9 and Apr. 22 following the 4 p.m. Mass only; no Easter Sunday sales; tickets also available at the St. Mary Parish office.

Apr. 30/Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish annual roast beef dinner; serving from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph parish hall; cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children; tickets available on the day of the dinner, following Masses and at the parish office; take outs are available.

Annual carnival, auction set in Dell Rapids Sunday, Apr. 2 - St. Mary Catholic School, Dell Rapids, will host its 44th annual carnival and auction. The event begins at 11 a.m. with the carnival and lunch. The event runs through 5 p.m. Raffle tickets can be obtained through the school.

Ministry Tech days scheduled in May May 4, 11 and 16 - Ministry Tech Days is a free workshop day for anyone interested in enhancing the ministry of Catholic churches, organizations and schools through technology; the workshop is for beginners to full fledged techies; plenty of great tips, tricks and take aways and many topics to choose from; Thursday, May 4 at Catholic Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls; Thursday, May 11 at St. Margaret Parish, Kimball and Tuesday, May 16 at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin; the workshop day will address many questions and topics; for questions or more info contact Dawn Wolf, dwolf@sfcatholic.org or 605-988-3707

S.F. parish planning parish centennial Throughout the months ahead culminating Oct. 1 - St. Therese Parish, Sioux Falls is planning its centennial celebration; the second parish in Sioux Falls was established in 1917 and is celebrating 100 years with centennial events throughout the year culminating with a feast on Sunday, Oct. 1, the Feast Day of St. Therese. Come join the parish for the celebrations; all past and present parishioners and clergy are invited. For a listing of events call 605-338-2433 or go to www.st-therese.ws.

Catholic Family Services

Apr. 4 and May 2/Living with Chronic Illness group, a free educational support group will meet 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.

Apr. 6/Children's Grief Program, directed by Mary Weber, the program begins Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Catholic Family Services, 523 N. Duluth Ave., Sioux Falls. To register for this program or for more information contact Catholic Family Services 605-988-3775.

Apr. 18-May 23/Grieving the loss from suicide from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Catholic Family Services, 523 N. Duluth Ave., Sioux Falls; a program for families who have lost a loved one from suicide; directed by Dr. Marcie Moran, the offering is non-denominational; cost is a donation; call 988-3775 or email cfs@sfcatholic.org with any questions or to register.

May 12-15/Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is being offered; strictly confidential; a safe, loving, non-judgmental environment; the retreat is open to men, women, mothers, fathers, grandparents who have been affected by abortion; the retreat is non-denominational; for registration materials and more information, call Margi at 605-988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 or email mculhane@sfcatholic.org; deadline for registration will be May 5.

Broom Tree Retreat Center

Apr. 7-9/Couples retreat; directed by Deacon James Keating; during this retreat couples will have the opportunity to spend time together receiving from the heart of God; the retreat begins Friday night with registration from 5-6:30 p.m. and runs through lunchtime on Sunday; to register or for more information please call 605-263-1040, e-mail broomtree@sfcatholic.org or visit our website www.broom-tree.org.

Tuesday, Apr. 18/Day of Recollection: The Lesson of Fatima; 100 years ago and today; directed by Father Joe Vogel; 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.

Tuesday, May 9/Day of Recollection directed by Father Andrew Dickinson.

Sacred Heart Monastery

Apr. 2 and May 7/Eucharistic Adoration is offered on the first Sunday of the month from 2-4 p.m. in the upper chapel of Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel, Yankton.

April 13-16/Paschal Triduum Retreat: Enter the silence and experience the rich liturgies of Holy Week with the monastic community of the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton. This retreat begins 4:30 p.m. April 13, Holy Thursday, and ends with noon dinner on Easter Sunday. Optional conferences explain the symbolism of each liturgical event. For more information go to www.yanktonbenedictines.org/center-events. To register, e-mail BenedictinePeaceCtr@mtmc.edu or call 605-668-6292 before April 7.

Spiritual direction and personal retreats are offered at the Benedictine Peace Center year round by arrangement. Contact us at benedictinepeacectr@mtmc.edu or 605-668-6292, or visit us at www.yanktonbenedictines.org/Center.

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

Mother of God Monastery

Apr. 4/Free movie night featuring "Priceless"; Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. at the Heritage Theatre, Watertown Event Center, Watertown; Join the Sisters for free popcorn, pop and a movie that raises awareness of the ever-growing problem of human trafficking. Discussion will follow the movie showing. For more information, contact Jennifer Vick at 605-882-6646.

Diocesan Vocations office

Jul. 30-Aug. 5/JP II Rocky Mountain Vocation Expedition being planned; vocations director, Father Shaun Haggerty, will lead the expedition, along with Father Jordan Samson, and several seminarians and a few dads. We will be tent camping and doing day excursions as well as staying at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, CO; go to www.sfvocations.com to sign-up.

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