



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

April 2020

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

Offer it Up

MAKING SENSE OF SUFFERING

Our Lenten trial of coronavirus



One never knows what sort of trials, sufferings, disappointments or illnesses may come our way. This year it is the coronavirus which provides us a great opportunity to turn to God, ask for His help and offer our sufferings to God as an act of love in a joyful way. How do we do this?

In this context the words written by St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians are especially striking: “I rejoice in my sufferings” (Col 1:24). He rejoices in his sufferings? For most of us, pain and suffering are things to be avoided at all costs, and yet St. Paul wrote to the Colossians in the mid-first century—and to us today—that he not only endured his sufferings for good reason, but he rejoiced in them.

Why would he say such a thing?

We find the answer in the rest of this verse: “I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church.” Here St. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, shares with us the great secret of redemptive suffering (suffering that has value and meaning), or what St. John Paul II called salvific suffering.

In his beautiful letter “On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering,” the great pope explains St. Paul’s joy:

“The joy comes from the discovery of the meaning of suffering, and this discovery, even if it is most personally shared in by Paul of Tarsus who wrote these words, is at the same time valid for others. The Apostle shares his own discovery and rejoices in it because of all those whom it can help—just as it helped him—to understand the salvific meaning of suffering.”

“The joy comes from the discovery of the meaning of suffering.” In St. Paul’s words, we find a great gift from our Heavenly Father: the truth that suffering need not be meaningless, but instead, it can have great purpose, and not just any purpose, but an eternal purpose. We, like St. Paul, are able to join our suffer-

ings with Jesus’ own sufferings. In so doing, our sufferings become what His were—saving acts of love.

When we turn to God and receive His spiritual help to offer our sufferings to God the Father, Jesus’ continuing saving work through our sufferings is accomplished. In other words, we let God into our lives to suffer with and through our sufferings so He can continue to save souls. Wow, we get to cooperate in God’s act of saving souls.

In the words of the Second Vatican Council, also quoted by John Paul II in his letter, “Through Christ and in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful.” By choosing to “offer it up,” as this month’s feature article so powerfully explains, God is able to give our sufferings the power to save and to draw others closer to Him.

How, though, do we do this? How do we “offer it up”? By recognizing that every instance of suffering is an opportunity, a chance for us to participate in Jesus’ work of saving souls. This is something that everyone can do. Nothing happens by accident, including our sorrows; God permits everything that happens to happen for a specific reason.

By accepting them with God’s help through an act of the will, a decision in our minds, and an offering of our hearts to give our sufferings to Jesus, to join ours to His. When we do so, that joining occurs, and our pain is given purpose.

May we all follow the example of Jesus and St. Paul when we experience pain, sorrow or suffering, say to the Lord, in your own way and your own words, “Jesus, I give you my sufferings. I join my pain to yours, to help save souls.” And in so doing, like St. Paul, we can find in our suffering the spiritual fruit of joy.

May all our sorrows, sufferings and trials, including the many hardships of the coronavirus, be offered to God as an act of love for His purpose of helping us all get to heaven.

April

- 4 4:00 Passion Sunday Mass,
Cathedral of Saint Joseph,
Sioux Falls
- 9 7:00 Holy Thursday, Mass of the
Lord's Supper, Cathedral
of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 10 3:00 Good Friday of the Lord's
Passion and Veneration of
the Holy Cross, Cathedral
of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 11 8:00 Easter Vigil Mass,
Cathedral of Saint Joseph,
Sioux Falls
- 12 7:30 Easter Sunday morning
Mass, Cathedral of Saint
Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 14 12:00 Investment Committee
meeting, Catholic Pastoral
Center
- 18 3:00 Serra Clubs, St. Thomas
More Parish, Brookings
- 24 6:00 Mass, Knights of
Columbus South Dakota
State Convention
- 29 2:00 CCFESD Executive Board
meeting
- 30 CCFESD Board meeting,
Yankton

Reminder: The bishop's schedule is subject to change due to current circumstances. Changes to his schedule and any Masses will be updated on the diocesan website as information is available.

To Our Lady, Health of the Sick, for Protection from COVID-19

O Mary, you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus, Who has taken upon
Himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us,
through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your patronage, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our
prayers in our necessities, but ever deliver us from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Pope Francis

On the occasion of the Day of Prayer and Fasting

*Video message delivered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love, Rome
Wednesday, March 11, 2020*

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You
sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

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The sun will rise over the Promised Land



Every year, every Lent, the Church invites us to a unique place, for a unique time. It begins every year on the First Sunday of Lent when we walk with Jesus into the desert, there for a time of testing and self-discovery.

From that moment forward, the wilderness becomes the enduring image of the season. Of course, the usual experience is that we walk out of the wilderness into the verdant garden of Easter; that is our expectation and our desire, we spend our 40 days in the wilderness and we are rewarded with light, oil, flowers and joy.

Today, we are facing a new reality, one that mocks our expectations. We face a Lent that ends, not with the luxurious joy of Easter, but of more time dealing with the new reality of these days of self-distancing and anxiety.

We know this is the right thing to do, and we are living transformed lives for the good of others, and there is courage and grace found in this realization, but that does not entirely take away the sense of loss.

Thus is the wilderness still an amazing image for us.

At the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the first reading is from Exodus and gives us the instructions the Lord gives to the people to prepare them for the passing over of the angel of death, and how to commemorate this perpetually.

At the Great Easter Vigil, the third reading completes the Passover story with the people of Israel walking through the Red Sea. On one side of the sea, they were a ragtag group of runaway slaves, but on the other side of the sea, they were a people, chosen by the Lord.

They make their way to Sinai as the Lord ratifies the chosenness given them through the waters of the sea.

It is all beautiful, but we sometimes forget what happened between the covenant on Sinai and the joy of entering into the land of promise. The people of God had to wander; they had to wander for 40 years.

This is something even Cecil B. DeMille skipped over in "The Ten Commandments." It is a natural human tendency to want to jump from the Red Sea to the River Jordan, but those years mattered to this newborn

people. It was their time to learn what it meant to be free, and to learn what really was going to matter in their lives.

The Scriptures do not present it as a particularly pleasant time, but a time of testing. There were long days of thirst, and long days of hunger, but they learned that the God who freed them could bring water from the rocks and bread from the heavens. There were long days of excruciating heat, blinding sun, endless wandering, but they learned that the Lord who freed them could guide them as well.

They learned that blind obedience is not freedom, but trust is; they learned to trust. There were deep lessons in the wilderness.

Our Lent will draw to a close, and we will celebrate a unique Easter, and instead of entering into the Promised Land of life as usual, we will spend more time in the wilderness. The difference is, we will make our way through the wilderness with a renewed sense of Easter meaning.

The people of Israel could have just mindlessly wandered for 40 years, but they had the courage to grow during this time because they let themselves be led to the spiritual depths the time in the wilderness offered. Each of us, baptized into that same covenant, are given that opportunity now.

Our time in the wilderness, living in this time of pandemic, is a struggle, painful, a time of absence and loneliness. But we are not alone, and we are invited to find and share the spiritual depths of this time.

Our time without the celebration of the Eucharist can renew in us the importance of this gift, and deepen our longing for it. Our time of social isolation can remind us how vital our relationships are. Our quiet walks outside to get some air and stretch our legs can reconnect us to the beauty that surrounds us daily. Our global experience of crisis can renew within us the truth that we really are one human family.

The simple reminder of our fragility can give us the courage to speak again our words of love and support to one another, because we need to speak them, and we need to hear them.

This is a struggle, and painful, and there will be dark days ahead, but, guided by the Lord, we learn and grow and soon the sun will rise beautifully over the Promised Land.

Resources available on sfcatholic.org make life more holy

If you haven't been to the Diocese of Sioux Falls' website lately, sfcatholic.org, check it out today. We've been working hard to keep you informed on everything happening in the life of the Church, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many resources are available there to help you during these interesting and trying times.

Much of the information you'll need can be found right on the home page of the website. You will find video messages from Bishop Donald DeGrood, links to ideas for praying at home and the Sunday TV Mass, and additional informational videos.

There is a specific link that will also give you updates on the current guidelines from the diocese concerning Masses and other church events such as funerals, confessions and other sacraments and events. These things are in flux right now, so check the website if you are looking for specific information. Here are a few things we know for sure:

- Confirmations and first holy communions currently scheduled through April will be rescheduled.
- Lenten communal penances will be cancelled.
- If the current Mass suspension continues through Holy Week, the Triduum services will be prayed with liturgical ministers only and live-streamed on YouTube.
- Sunday TV Mass will continue to be available on Keloland and the diocesan YouTube channel.

You will find these additional resources to help you sustain your faith life:

- Links to the latest Bishop's Bulletin
- Links to Sunday TV Mass
- Links to our social media pages such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube
- Parish information
- The *Can We Be Saints?* blog
- Catholic Views radio show

- Ignition podcast with Dr. Chris Burgwald

In response to Bishop Donald DeGrood's request that we unite as brothers and sisters in the Lord and have great confidence in Him, the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota has established the COVID-19 Relief Fund. Visit ccfesd.org/covid-19-relief-fund to learn more.

The staff here at the Chancery office and your bishop, priests and deacons will continue to keep you updated as things change. We will also be creating more content that we hope will be helpful to you during this time. Follow the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls on Facebook and Twitter and visit the sfcatholic.org website often for updates.

We ask that you pray for the health and well-being of everyone and for things to get back to normal soon. God is with us, especially in times like these.

Renae Kranz
Bishop's Bulletin Managing Editor

Available Online.
Follow us on social media for notifications when the Sunday TV Mass is being streamed.

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www.sfcatholic.org

Join us for Sunday TV Mass, from the
Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls, SD

Sunday Mornings on KELOLAND TV
10:00 am CT - 9:00 am MT



Offer it Up

MAKING SENSE OF SUFFERING

by Renae Kranz

Do you remember when you were young and your mother or grandmother would offer some tidbit of advice to help you through a problem? The one phrase I remember most from my own mother was “offer it up,” usually said in response to some type of suffering I was going through.

My reaction was to roll my eyes or just walk away. I remember thinking, “How is that going to help me?” I didn’t understand what “offer it up” meant and I never bothered to ask. Thinking back, I was probably a really annoying teenager.

Our moms and grandmas had only our happiness and salvation in mind. And guess what? I know now had I listened to their advice and learned more about it, it really would have helped me when life got difficult.

They were wise women, they just didn’t always know how to put into words the power of one little phrase—a phrase that can

turn the suffering in our lives into an act of love and sacrifice for those around us.

Redemptive suffering is an act of love

If you’ve lived very long, you know we all suffer in some way and will continue to suffer at different times in our lives. Our Creator knows this as well. From the beginning, He has watched his creation struggle in sin and had a plan to make our suffering mean something. His plan was the cross of Christ.

God sent his Son to die for us on the cross, clearing a way to salvation for us. He could have redeemed us in another way that involved less agony for Jesus, but the suffering was a key part of the sacrifice. Knowing how we suffered, God used the suffering of his Son as the means of our redemption so we could take part in that redemption with our own suffering.



Offering up our suffering is a powerful way to become like Christ and love others as He loves them. Becoming like Christ and loving like He does is what we were created to do. We are called to love in a radical way, like the divine Son.

We are able to love this way because of grace—the gift of Jesus in our lives. It is impossible for us to love this way on our own. It is only possible with God.

This seems fantastical, doesn't it? To help show how this gift of offering our suffering for others works, I talked to five people from our diocese who use redemptive suffering to love others in this way. I learned something crucial:

God wastes nothing.

Miracles big and small

When Audrey Anderson was young, she heard the words “offer it up” from her grandmother Lucy (affectionately known by her family as Grams) more than once. But at that time in her life, those words sounded more to her like “oh, buck up” or “get over it.” Grams was an integral part of Audrey learning the true meaning of redemptive suffering.

During her college years, Audrey watched her grandmother suffer from brain and lung cancer at the same time that she needed a hip replacement. The hip replacement had to be put off until the cancer treatments were completed, causing her terrible amounts of pain.

Grams used her suffering for the good of her family, saying a rosary as soon as she woke up every morning, offering a bead for each of her grandchildren as she went. Audrey witnessed many of her cousins come back to the Church at that time.

“I got to not only see her offering her suffering but also see the Lord’s work in that and how He helped to bring redemption to our family because my grandmother was offering her suffering for us,” Audrey said.

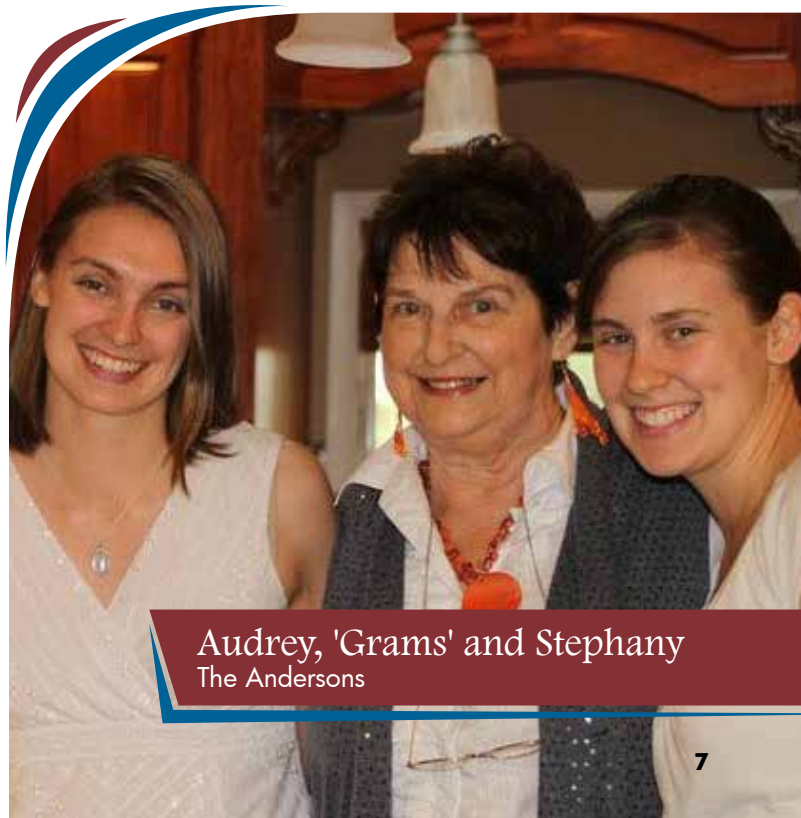
In Colossians 1:24, Paul says, “I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.”

I’ve always been confused by the phrase “what is lacking” in that passage. How can anything be lacking in Christ’s perfect sacrifice on the cross? And why was Paul rejoicing about suffering?

I finally learned the thing that was lacking was me. What’s lacking is all of us. Our role is to unite our suffering with that of Jesus’s to create an eternal offering of love.

Seems like a crazy kind of love, right?

But redemptive suffering is the most beautiful and perfect love. Because while we offer our suffering for others in unity with Christ, He is with us the whole time. He walks with us in that suffering and never leaves us alone.



Audrey, 'Grams' and Stephany
The Andersons

Audrey herself became a much stronger Catholic after seeing the great faith of her beloved Grams. She became a missionary for a while and now works for the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Although she knew her grandmother was praying for all of them, several of her cousins who were very vocally against the faith and came back had no idea what Grams was doing. She was a powerful intercessor for them.

That isn't all of Grams' story. She left her doctors speechless when she was miraculously healed of her brain cancer. When the doctors gave Grams only six months to live, Audrey and her sister, Stephany, started praying to the intercession of Divine Mercy because Grams had a special devotion to it.

Just before the doctors wheeled Grams in for brain surgery to try to extend her prognosis, she told them, "I trust you and I trust my God." During surgery they found no tumors. Everything that was on her scans was gone with no medical reason.

When her doctor woke her up, he was dumbfounded. He told her what they found during surgery and said, "We don't know what happened, but your God seems to be one amazing God."

Today, Grams is healthy and continues praying for her family members, joining her suffering to Christ's for the good of their souls. And she has sparked a mission-mentality in Audrey to bring the Lord's grace to as many people as possible through her own suffering.

Audrey, a parishioner at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, has a chronic illness that changes from day to day. She feels good one day and struggles the next. She says it can be very painful and confusing. When she has a bad day, she reaches out to the people in her life to ask what they need prayers for.

"It makes the suffering I have to go through, that there is no cure for, bearable," Audrey said. "Because when I'm in those moments, I know the Lord is redeeming this thing that I can't get rid of that is plaguing my life. But He's using it for his good, and he's using it to bring goodness to others and that makes it easier and worth going through."

The meaning of that phrase, "offer it up," has completely changed for her. She's learned her suffering can have meaning and purpose when she unites it with Christ's suffering on the cross, using it as an offering to bring good to someone else. And she doesn't ask for just one thing at a time. God is bigger than that.

"I learned the Lord can stretch a grace," Audrey says. "When I ask for one thing for a grace, He'll respond. But if I ask for 20 things for that one piece of suffering, He will respond in his time to all of them. So, if I'm going to have to go through this suffering, why not make it count and reach out to as many people as I can to say, the Lord wants to bring goodness from this."

The results have been astonishing.

When Audrey went to Mayo Clinic in Rochester for testing to finally get a diagnosis for her symptoms, she knew it was going to be a tough time. She was in such an unhealthy state she could barely walk. Knowing the suffering she would endure, Audrey reached out to loved ones asking what they needed prayers for.

Her sister, who was with her for the appointments, gave Audrey five specific, very big things for her to offer up on her behalf. Over the last two years, God has responded to all of those things in some way. His responses are not always what you might expect, though.

"If He doesn't take away somebody's suffering that I've prayed for, He's still probably doing something within that suffering to help them, teach them, to bring consolation in some way, and those are still answers to my prayers," Audrey says. "Even if it isn't cured, that they still be brought closer to God in some way."

Her many visits to Mayo have proven fruitful over the last few years. During one trip, Father Jeff Norfolk asked Audrey to pray for an outpouring of grace on his students at the Newman Center at USD (where he was director at the time). When she returned home, Father Norfolk contacted her to ask if she had prayed for his students. Of course, she had offered her suffering for them on Ash Wednesday.

15 things to do in the midst of suffering

When we understand suffering, we are people who can relieve suffering.

1. When in suffering, understand we have been called to participate in the redemption of the world. It's an opportunity to become like Jesus. God causes all things to work together for good.
2. Entrust yourself to God. Since Christ suffered, he is our example of how to follow him in suffering. He had no sin, but he suffered for us. He consciously trusted in God his Father.
3. Unite your will with the will of Christ through prayer. His plans are our plans.
4. Realize Jesus will not allow you to go through something you cannot handle. My grace is sufficient for you.
5. Embrace the suffering, conscious of the fact God's grace is available, active and effective. His life is available in the midst of suffering in the sacraments.
6. Go to confession. Focus on eliminating sin which weakens our relationship with Jesus.
7. Participate during Mass. Join your sufferings during offertory and when the gifts are brought to the altar. He takes our suffering and offers it up to the Father.
8. Avoid illegitimate suffering (suffering you bring on yourself). Instead, suffer well, as Christ did.
9. Think of others and offer your suffering up for them.
10. Actively love by doing what is right according to your vocation.

In an excited voice, Father Norfolk told Audrey the Newman Center was packed to standing room only for Ash Wednesday Mass, a Mass they usually don't get a lot of students to attend. And, the priest at St. Agnes Parish in Vermillion had called him to see if he had cancelled Mass because he had so many students who came to their Ash Wednesday Mass as well.

"So there was an outpouring of these young people at USD campus who wanted to make an effort to enter into Lent and to get back to their faith for that Lenten season," Audrey said. "And I thought, 'Wow Lord! When you respond, you respond!'"

Audrey has found God responds to her needs even without her asking. When she offers her suffering for others, quite often her pain is lessened. There are even times she feels prompted to offer prayers for unknown needs.

"I will just pray, 'Lord whoever this is intended for, whoever needs it most, I'm offering this for you.' Because we never want to waste a suffering," Audrey says. "I have no idea who those people are, and I won't know until I get to heaven, but I know He is doing something. He is restoring something. He is honoring that request in some way in someone and they're receiving help because of that.

"It brings a lot of hope into your life that something so good and so beautiful is brought from something that is so hard. Jesus is the way-maker."

Bringing light into darkness

Father Norfolk, now pastor at Risen Savior Parish, Brandon, and prison chaplain, has seen a change in the meaning of suffering for himself over the years. Early on he felt a distance from God, like he was suffering here and offering it up to God up there. He realized later he was missing the fact that Christ walked in the suffering with him. There was no gap between them at all, only unity.

"What's helped me with that is when I'm suffering, praying or fasting, Christ is with me suffering," Father Norfolk says.

11. Pray the Rosary. Mary mediates for us with her Son in the midst of our sufferings.
12. Study the saints. They were perfected by uniting their will with Christ's.
13. Rejoice that we can share in the redemption of the world.
14. Keep an eternal perspective.
15. Trust God for the fruit of your suffering. You don't need to see the results. He may allow you to, but it isn't necessary. Trust it has happened.

Attributed to Jeff Cavins, author and evangelist



Father Jeff Norfolk
Pastor Risen Savior, Brandon

"Christ is praying with me. Christ is fasting with me. Christ is in me experiencing it with me because He lives in me."

Father Norfolk says he wrestled with surrendering suffering to God for quite a while, thinking he had to "white knuckle it" and get through it on his own. He finally realized Christ was trying to teach him that surrendering would draw him closer to the Lord. He believes God allows suffering as a way to draw us back to himself. Since Jesus suffered, it's a guarantee we're going to suffer as well.

"We can make a decision, either I'm going to get angry and frustrated and even point the finger and blame God," Father Norfolk says. "Or I can use this to help me draw closer to Him, and I can allow this suffering to be a way to help others as well by offering suffering on behalf of someone, offering it as a prayer on behalf of even the person who's causing me to suffer. I can praise you and thank you that you're going to bring good out of this."

If you don't have a specific suffering to offer but have someone who needs prayers, Father Norfolk says not to forget about the power of fasting. He regularly offers prayer and fasting for his family members who are away from the Church. It has opened doors to make conversations possible with them that he didn't think would ever happen. He prays their hearts will continue to be open.

As prison chaplain, Father Norfolk works to help prisoners understand and experience Christ suffering with them during their incarceration. When they grab on to this idea, he says it blows the doors open. It's a source of freedom for them, even in a six-by-nine cell where loneliness and fear are prevalent.

"They want some kind of value to what they're experiencing," Father Norfolk says. "They want to know there's good that can come out of this, either for themselves or they can offer it for other people. They can still have hope that I'm not alone. Christ is present."

He said yes to prison ministry because he wanted to see the light of Christ “break into those walls, inside the lives of the men, the women and the staff.” The impact on his life has been huge.

“I saw Christ bring meaning and purpose through my parents’ divorce, through hardships even as a priest that I’ve experienced,” he said. “I want to share that with anybody who will listen and anybody I can help pray into their life to help them experience that light in the midst of the darkness.”

Many ways to unite with Christ

“Offer it up” can stir up different feelings in different people, but it always transforms suffering into love. For Jackie Sempek, parishioner at St. Benedict Parish in Yankton, it’s a gift to cooperate in the redemptive suffering of our Lord.

“When I can freely and intentionally turn to Jesus with something that is difficult for me to bear and give it to him with real love for another, it becomes something so much more,” Jackie says. “It brings me into union with Jesus.”

But she points out when someone is in deep suffering, telling them to offer it up can sometimes feel dismissive, so we must be

empathetic. She suggests offering it up to Jesus for them.

“We could say, ‘Dear Jesus, Jackie’s pretty upset right now about losing her keys, but I know if she were in her right mind she would give this suffering to you for (name the situation or person). Since she can’t right now, I’ll do it for her.’”

Jackie has made a practice of offering suffering for years now, but she recalls especially a time she struggled mightily with a situation in her family life. Whenever the struggle presented itself, she offered it for a particular intention. After a bit of time, she says the problem dissolved before her eyes. She was amazed at what cooperating with God could do.

“Not only was the situation rectified, but I grew in a deeper sense of hope and trust in God in the process,” Jackie says.

Even though these acts of redemptive suffering can be difficult for Jackie, they have taught her the grace of surrender and changed her life.

“So often I would prefer to spend a lot of time lamenting my circumstances and trying to fix things myself,” Jackie says. “Offering it up helps to give my suffering meaning and purpose. In the end, that’s easier. I find that my sufferings are always a great place for me to meet the Lord.”

Katie Sanchez can identify with Jackie’s struggles. She and husband Mike, parishioners at St. Magdalen Parish in Lennox, both practice offering up their suffering, and it took on a whole new meaning after their seventh child was diagnosed with a brain abnormality. She says he can do nothing for himself, but he’s a sweet soul who blesses their family.

She often prays her favorite prayer, the Universal Prayer, in the midst of their struggles with his care:

*I want whatever you want,
because you want it, the way you
want it, as long as you want it.*

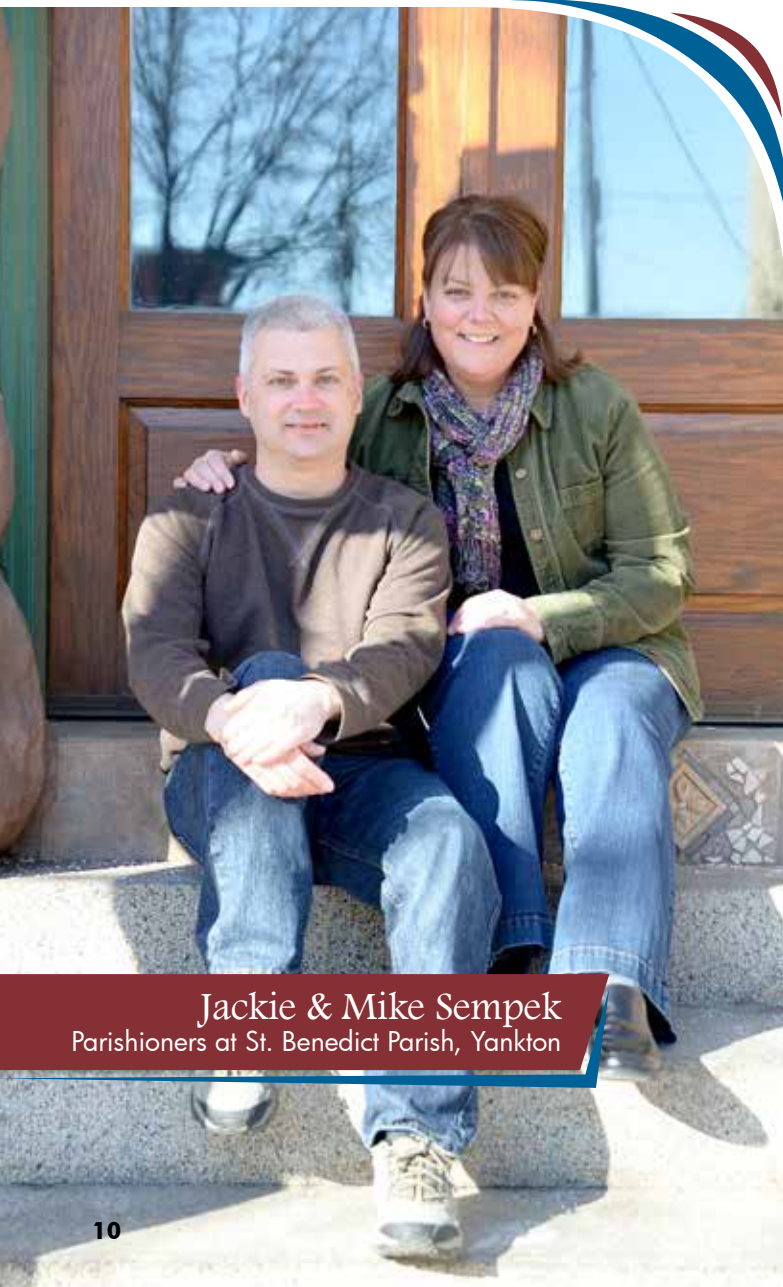
During those times it can be hard for her to pray.

“My mind could not settle; my thoughts would just go to trying to understand my son’s disability,” Katie said. “So, I became very grateful for the people who said they would pray for us, because my personal prayer and our family prayer were suffering. Like any never ending difficulty, it is wearing.”

She says they are sustained by the support they receive from family, friends and their parish. And she continues to offer her struggles, even when she doesn’t feel like it. Her prayer life with her husband and children offer a reprieve from the storms of life. And she continues to say to the Lord, “Yes, we will keep persevering.”

Katie’s husband Mike finds it easier to pray through the difficult times, so he becomes a great source of support for Katie. For Mike, offering up suffering gives him the grace to endure the hardships, emotions and setbacks life throws at them. He focuses on using those discomforts for the benefit of others.

“It can be very difficult to see how suffering can bring about a greater good, especially when we are smack dab in the middle of the suffering,” Mike says. “Yet, by accepting the suffering and



Jackie & Mike Sempek
Parishioners at St. Benedict Parish, Yankton



SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS OUR LORD WITH HIS CROSS - STATION 5

embracing it, we are uniting that suffering back to the suffering Jesus had while on the cross. The realization that we must get through Good Friday in order to celebrate on Easter morning.”

Mike and Katie have seen countless fruits from the prayers of others working in their lives. Everything that has happened to them over the years has prepared them for what they do now as parents.

“It is usually when I think back about how we made it through a difficult period that I realize how much we were aided by the prayers of others,” Mike says. “Therefore, I think when you offer your suffering for a greater good/purpose, you will be given the strength to handle your crosses laid before you.”

Offer it up on behalf of others

The act of redemptive suffering by Christ on the cross destroyed death and the eternal effects of sin. Our prayers and offering our suffering in unity with Christ to complete the redemptive act hold that same power. As Audrey says, don’t waste them.

“It’s always important to remember that at the end of the day, the Lord is in control and He is a loving and good God, and He knows each of us personally so He knows what is best,” she says. “So even if he doesn’t choose to answer in the time or the way in which we’re asking for, He’s still answering. That’s part of praying well is knowing He has our ultimate good in mind. And He is answering them.”



Mike & Katie Sanchez Family
Parishioners at St. Magdalen Parish, Lennox

We must pass through the cross to share in new life

One year, I told my students that Easter is the *Solemnity of Solemnities*. It is the grandest feast of the year, even bigger than Christmas. The joy of Easter is so magnificent that for an entire week we celebrate as though it is still Easter Sunday. A student looked at me and said, “Then how come we don’t get more time off of school?” Of course, the measuring stick for significance as a student is the number of days one gets away from school.

The joy of Christmas is much easier to enter into than the Easter Sunday glory that comes from passing through the grave. The world isn’t very good at Advent, but it is pretty good at impressing upon us the significance of Christmas, even if more materialistic than desired. Between a long break from school and numerous gatherings with family and friends, Christmas holds a certain place in our memories. The birth of a child is an easy and obvious thing to celebrate.

The same is not true for Lent, Holy Week and the Easter season. Lent is something our culture struggles to understand. Grocery stores and fast food chains comprehend fish sells better on Lenten Fridays. The additional prayer, fasting and almsgiving, though, isn’t very marketable. Instead, the world around us leaps from fish sandwiches to Easter bunnies, Easter lilies, and a large Easter Sunday meal.

The Catholic perspective is extraordinarily different. These days of Lent are preparation for the joy that arrives at Easter. The sacrifices are meant to create space for Christ to reign more fully in our hearts.



Patricia Irvine, theology teacher at O’Gorman High School and parishioner at St. Lambert Parish, Sioux Falls.

Holy Week comprises the final leg of the yearly purgative race. Instead of jumping ahead to the resurrection, we are asked to linger in the present and to move through the Lord’s Passion with intentionality. We can’t skip the cross in favor of the resurrection, or we risk sacrificing some of the true joy that comes with walking the Via Dolorosa.

I frequently direct my students’ attention to the *tangibility* of the Catholic faith. From being marked with ashes on Ash Wednesday to the palms we hold on Palm Sunday, our faith is one that is embedded in the concrete world. God entered into creation and thus He baptized the material world into an avenue of grace—a means to meet Him. The Sacraments embody this and during Holy Week, we lean even more into the tangible signs of God’s invisible grace.

I don’t do it every year, but one year in particular I encouraged my students to live the events of Holy Week and Easter

as though they were happening for the first time. Imagine gathering with the disciples to celebrate the Passover and finding yourself at the first Mass.

Instead of being bored by the routine, enter into Good Friday as though Jesus just died and it caused great confusion in your heart. Participate in the Passion narrative, saying with the crowd words we too often live with our lives. Allow yourself to be moved in a new way by the emptiness of the tabernacle and the nakedness of the altar.

Live Holy Saturday uncertain of what will happen as we wait near the tomb. Recall God’s providence throughout salvation history as the darkened church becomes filled with light.

Gather at Easter with indescribable joy to rejoice with the One who conquered death forever. These moments of salvation are so deep and so real that we can always find new graces in them.

Sadly, this Holy Week may be one that we experience like none other. While it makes my heart ache to think that I might have no option to gather for the sacred days of the Triduum or to enter into the joy of Easter in the darkened nave of St. Lambert, I am certain that the Lord still has something new to offer me this year. If He asks of me the great sacrifice of not living the holiest days of the year as I desire, it is because He desires to give an even greater joy, born of suffering I didn’t ask to bear.

After passing through the cross, we will share in a new life, a new joy, a new hope undimmed by anything the world can muster. Deo gratias!

Activity ideas for Holy Week and Easter

By Renae Kranz

Holy Week and the Easter season are the most holy time in the Church year. Beautiful Masses and rituals lead us on a walk with Jesus from the Last Supper, into the Garden of Gethsemane, along the Way of the Cross, to the darkness and silence of the tomb, and finally to the glory of the resurrection on Easter Morning.

It's a time to really focus in on our faith and the sacrifice Christ made for our salvation.

At the moment I'm writing this, we don't know if we'll be able to celebrate Mass together in person or only with our families in our homes. It's most unsettling to all Catholics. The Lord is asking us to trust Him and suffer along with Him once more. I'm confident we can do it with His grace and Mother Mary's care.

Whether we are able to attend Mass this year or not, there are many ways we can increase our participation in these moments. I've gathered a variety of ideas to help you celebrate and make your Holy Week and Easter season more joyful and meaningful.

As you read through these ideas, Emily Leedom, director of Marriage, Family and Respect Life for the diocese, suggests only choosing the things that really speak to you. Don't try to do the entire list! She reminds us that part of the beauty of this season is its simplicity, so don't add to your stress by trying to do too much.

So if you're ready, here are some great lists of things to do, whether we have public Mass or not.

Mass at home ideas

- Set up a home altar and prayer space. Consider putting it near your TV or the device you would use to watch Mass on TV should that be necessary.
- Clean up and dress as though you are physically attending Mass.
- Foster quiet time before Mass just as you would as you sit in a pew in church. This allows your heart to transition from the busyness of your home to the Sacrifice of the Mass.
- Open your Bible to the readings of the day and place it on your altar.
- Light incense or candles.
- Pull kitchen chairs in to create a home pew.
- Say the responses out loud.
- Kneel, stand and sit according to the



rubrics of the Mass and as you are able.

- During Holy Communion, pray the Act of Spiritual Communion (page 3 of this issue).
- At the end of Mass, take a few minutes for quiet or prayer as a family. You could pray a Hail Mary, Glory Be, Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, etc.
- Keep holy the Sabbath. Engage with your family by having breakfast together. Call loved ones to stay connected.

Holy Week ideas

- Palm Sunday: read the Gospel account (Matthew 21:1-11) of Jesus entering Jerusalem.
- Do a processional through your home with palm branches and singing. If you don't have palms, use plants or candles. If singing feels awkward, play Matt Maher's Litany of Saints.
- Watch the movie "The Ten Commandments."
- Serve a traditional seder meal in memory of the Passover meal Jesus ate with the apostles at the Last Supper. Read the Gospel account (John 13:1-15).
- Wash the feet of your family members.
- Make unleavened bread (www.food.com/recipe/unleavened-bread-for-passover-134022).
- Attend the Mass on Holy Thursday and The Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday (if possible).
- Read accounts of the Passion of the Lord from the Gospels each day of Holy Week.

- Sing a hymn together, such as "Jesus, Remember Me" before bed.
- Watch the movie "The Passion of the Christ."
- Remove or cover artwork in your home beginning on Holy Thursday.
- Observe an hour of silence during the 3:00 hour of mercy on Good Friday.
- Consider 24 hours of silence from Good Friday to Holy Saturday.
- Go for a rosary walk or Divine Mercy Chaplet walk.
- Begin the Divine Mercy novena at 3:00 on Good Friday.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross.
- Cover your crucifix with purple cloth for Good Friday and Holy Saturday.
- Go to confession.
- Pray the sorrowful mysteries.
- Offer up your sufferings.
- Give up electronics from sundown Holy Thursday until Easter morning.

Easter Season and other ideas

- Make resurrection (empty tomb) rolls with a marshmallow in the center. After baking, the roll will be empty, signifying the empty tomb.
- Have your kids color pictures of sacred images. Brush them with vegetable oil, and they will become transparent. Hang them on a window to look like stained glass.
- Dye Easter eggs.
- Sign up for a membership to Formed.org. This website has tons of videos, movies and audio books to help you grow in your faith. It is a great resource for the entire family. You are encouraged to sign up under your home parish for no cost.
- Pray more.

Bishop Donald DeGrood takes a



Photo left: Bishop DeGrood celebrates Mass at Immaculate Conception, Watertown. Above: Bishop DeGrood explains his coat of arms to students at John Paul II school, Mitchell. Top right: Students at Sacred Heart, Yankton, bless the bishop. Bottom right: The bishop blesses a resident at Avera Majestic Bluffs, Yankton.

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tour of the Diocese of Sioux Falls



Bishop Donald DeGrood started touring his new diocese recently to get the lay of the expansive area he will shepherd. He made stops in Yankton, Mitchell, Miller, DeSmet, Huron and Watertown.

During his travels, he visited a variety of Catholic institutions including Catholic schools, parishes, Catholic hospitals and clinics, assisted living centers, monasteries and convents, and Catholic higher education institutions.

It was important to the bishop to get out right away after ordination to get to know the people of the diocese.

"I'm finding a lot of goodness, wholesomeness, in the people," Bishop DeGrood said. "People have been extremely warm and welcoming."

Photo left: Bishop DeGrood celebrated Mass at Holy Family, Mitchell. Below left: Bishop greets kids in the hall at Holy Trinity School, Huron. Below right: Mother of God Monastery, Watertown, welcomed the bishop for a visit.



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Divine Mercy Sunday provides a lifeline to the

Every year on the first Sunday after Easter we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. This year's feast will be April 19. If you've noticed this Sunday in the liturgical year but never paid much attention to it, this is a good time to take another look at this beautiful feast in the life of the Church.

The Feast of Divine Mercy is based on the private revelations of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska who had visitations from Jesus for several years during the 1930s. In those revelations, Jesus told Saint Faustina to do something very specific for him.

"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy."

The devotion to the Divine Mercy grew around the world after her revelations and was made an official feast day by Pope Saint John Paul II in 2000 when he canonized Saint Faustina.

One of the promises made by Jesus during the revelations to Saint Faustina was a special grace that is the equivalent of a complete renewal of baptismal grace for the soul. It is a complete forgiveness of sins and punishment and is separate from the plenary indulgence offered by the Church. As with many spiritualities popular with the faithful, the Church does not require belief in it as part of its doctrine but leaves it to the faithful as an option because it does not violate Catholic doctrine.

The special graces may be obtained by going to confession, receiving Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday and trusting in The Divine Mercy. The graces can only be received for oneself. For more details on these graces and how to receive

them, visit www.thedivinemercy.org.

The Church offers a plenary or partial indulgence if several conditions are met as well. They include prayer for the pope's intentions, confession, Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday, and these additional actions:

- In a church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- Or, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, pray the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus.

If you're not familiar with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, it's an easy chaplet that uses a rosary when praying. The chaplet is said beginning on Good Friday for nine days at 3 p.m. each day. A specific intention is prayed for each day:

- Day 1—All mankind, especially sinners



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the mercy of God

- Day 2—The souls of priests and religious
- Day 3—All devout and faithful souls
- Day 4—Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not know Him
- Day 5—The souls of separated brethren
- Day 6—The meek and humble souls and the souls of children
- Day 7—The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy
- Day 8—The souls who are detained in purgatory
- Day 9—The souls who have become lukewarm

This is a beautiful devotion that makes the Easter season take on new meaning and refreshes the soul. To learn how to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and for more information about the Divine Mercy devotion, visit www.thedivinemercy.org.

Photo right: Pope Francis greets a crowd after celebrating Mass marking the feast of Divine Mercy in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Divine Mercy Chaplet Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion—inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Director of Religious Education Sacred Heart Parish, Yankton

Sacred Heart Parish of Yankton, SD is seeking a full-time Director of Religious Education (DRE).

The DRE must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church; committed to its doctrines and moral teachings. The successful candidate will be responsible for faith formation for children PreK-12, including sacramental preparation. Duties include: providing oversight and assistance with facilitation of adult programs, recruiting and training of volunteers, and coordinating service opportunities. Position requires a BA in Religious Education or related field, or commensurate experience. For requirements and application instructions please visit: www.yanktonsacredheart.org.



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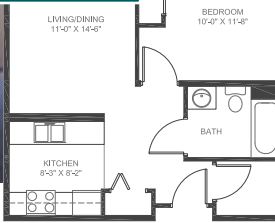
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Epiphany parishioners share annual supper



Epiphany Parish in Epiphany held their annual sausage supper for the communities of Canova, Epiphany, Farmer and Spencer and other area towns. A large crowd enjoyed food and fellowship. (Photo courtesy of Leanne Eich)

Wishing
you a *blessed*
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and Easter
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— GALATIANS 6:18

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1700 8th Street South, Brookings, SD 57006,
605-692-4361, frterenceanderson@sfcatholic.org



ABERDEEN – Tim and Michelle Schaeffer will celebrate their 25th anniversary on April 29. They have 2 children and are members of St. Mary Parish.



ABERDEEN – Jerry and Karen Hoven will celebrate their 50th anniversary on April 11. They have 4 children, 10 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



ALEXANDRIA – Jon and Kaye Smith will celebrate their 60th anniversary on April 23. They have 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mary of Mercy Parish.



DELL RAPIDS – Kevin and Renee Brown will celebrate their 40th anniversary on April 11. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



DELL RAPIDS – Dennis and Kathy Hansen will celebrate their 50th anniversary on April 18. They have 5 children, 21 grandchildren (1 deceased) and 3 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



KIMBALL – Gary and Vicky Hoing will celebrate their 40th anniversary on April 26. They have 4 children, 8 grandchildren and are members of St. Margaret Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Morris and Gloria Forsting will celebrate their 40th anniversary on April 12. They have 3 children (1 deceased) and are members of St. Michael Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Grant and Linda Geister will celebrate their 50th anniversary on April 18. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of St. Katharine Drexel Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Tom and Teresa Miller will celebrate their 40th anniversary on April 12. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Jerry and Dorene Scott celebrated their 50th anniversary on March 14. They have 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Therese Parish.



VERMILLION – Robert and Sharon Jensen will celebrate their 50th anniversary on April 11. They have 6 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of St. Agnes Parish.



WATERTOWN – Larry and Karen Fieber will celebrate their 45th anniversary on April 19. They have 4 children, 18 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



WATERTOWN – Don and Judy Becht celebrated their 60th anniversary on February 29. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren (1 deceased) and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



WATERTOWN – Mark and Kim Miller will celebrate their 35th anniversary on April 20. They have 3 children, 1 grandchild and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



WEBSTER – Benedict and Barbara Boyer will celebrate their 60th anniversary on April 23. They have 6 children, 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren and are members of Christ the King Parish.

ANNIVERSARY SUBMISSIONS

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by **April 15** for inclusion in the May 2020 edition to:

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



WEBSTER – Doug and Janet Lynch will celebrate their 40th anniversary on April 26. They have 2 children, 1 grandchild and are members of Christ the King Parish.



WHITE LAKE – Erwin and Madonna Nightingale will celebrate their 50th anniversary on April 4. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Peter Parish.

Sister Doyle dies at 85

Sister Margretta Doyle, OSB, 85, a Benedictine sister of Sacred Heart Monastery, died December 2, 2019.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated December 6 at Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel, Yankton. Burial was at Sacred Heart cemetery.

Kathleen was born November 21, 1934, to John and Irene (O'Connor). She graduated from Lennox Public School in 1952. After receiving a two-year teaching certificate, she taught at Sisseton Public School for a year. Kathleen entered Sacred Heart Monastery in 1955 and was invested as a novice in 1956, receiving the name Margretta. She graduated from Mount Marty College in 1958 and celebrated final profession on June 29, 1960.

Sister Margretta spent her first years of ministry teaching primary grades in Albion, Nebraska, Yankton, Vermillion

and Sioux Falls.

After ministering one year at Mount Marty College's Bookstore in Yankton, she worked as a pastoral minister in the newly started St. Michael Parish in Sioux Falls. She later worked as a pastoral minister at St. Mary Parish until she retired to the monastery. At the monastery, she ministered by working at the gift shop and switchboard, tutoring people with disabilities, and driving for appointments.

Sister Margretta is survived by her Benedictine community, her brother Monsignor James Doyle, and her many friends in Sioux Falls. She was preceded in death by her parents.



Sister Margretta Doyle, OSB

Benedictine sister dies at 85

Sister Matthew Wehri, OSB, 85, a Benedictine sister of Sacred Heart Monastery, died November 24, 2019.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated November 30 at Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel, Yankton. Burial was at Sacred Heart cemetery.

Carol Ann Wehri was born April 18, 1934, to Frank and Kathryn (Roether) Wehri. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in Richardton, North Dakota, and entered Sacred Heart Monastery in 1954. In 1955, she became a novice and received the name Matthew. She made her final profession of vows on June 29, 1959.

Sister Matthew was schooled daily in the Lord's service and was known by the work of her hands. She became proficient in housekeeping, drapery-making, laundry, upholstery,

growing flowers and plants, baking, Christmas decorating, and sewing for the sisters in the Care Center.



Sister Matthew Wehri, OSB

In 1969, she became the housekeeping supervisor at Mount Marty for 24 years. After stepping down from this supervisory position, she continued caring for the flower beds and plants at Mount Marty until her retirement.

Sister Matthew is survived by her Benedictine community, her brother, Frederick (Fritz) (Laura), her sister, Eileen (Larry) and several nieces and a nephew. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Fr. Francis, OSB.

UPCOMING RETREATS

SILENT RETREATS

Men's 2020

June 25-28	October 15-18
August 20-23	November 19-22
September 24-27	

Women's 2020

May 7-10	September 17-20
June 18-21	October 1-4
August 13-16	November 5-8

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 14: St. Cardinal Newman and Belief in Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist
- directed by Msgr. Richard Mahowald

May 12: Devotion to Mary: An Introduction
- directed by Dr. Teri Kemmer and guest

SPECIAL RETREATS

November 13-15: Couples Retreat
- directed by Fr. Scott Traynor

CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN
- directed by Emily Leedom
May 15-16

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Benedictine sister dies at 91

Sister Evelyn Sehn, OSB, 91, a Benedictine sister of Mother of God Monastery, died February 29.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 3 at Mother of God Monastery, Watertown.

Ida Sehn was born October 13, 1928, in Linton, North Dakota. She finished high school at Sacred Heart in Yankton and entered Sacred Heart Convent in August 1945. She made her first monastic profession in 1947. In 1961, Sister Evelyn joined 136 other religious women of the Sacred Heart Benedictines to become a founding member of Mother of God Priory in Pierre.

Sister Evelyn attended Mount Marty College and acquired a nursing diploma from Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing. In 1961, she received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Mary College in Omaha, Nebraska. She was a nurse at Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, before being sent to St. Mary's



Sister Evelyn Sehn, OSB

Hospital in Pierre in 1956.

At St. Mary's she was a head nurse, director of nursing, an instructor for LPN and RN students, and a member of multiple committees and boards. The Kidney Dialysis Unit is named in her honor. She helped found Countryside Hospice whose offices are in St. Benedict's House, which was constructed under Sister Evelyn's direction.

She is survived by her brother Leo Sehn and preceded in death by her parents and other siblings.

Sister of St. Francis dies at 89

Sister Coletta Dunn, OSF, PhD, 89, a sister of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, died February 14.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated February 17 at St. Francis Convent, St. Francis, Wisconsin.

A native of Farmer and the daughter of the late Lawrence and Florence Dunn, Sister Coletta (baptized Dolores) attended the community's high school, St. Mary's Academy, and entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi after graduating in 1947. She professed final vows in 1950.

Sister Coletta was a distinguished professor of theology at Cardinal Stritch University



Sister Coletta Dunn, OSF

for more than four decades, serving as chair of the religious studies department for 19 years.

She is survived by a sister, Sister Marilyn Dunn, PBVM, and a brother-in-law, Leroy Schneider.

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Recitation of the rosary planned

Friday, April 3 - The rosary is recited for the faithful departed on the first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in St. Michael Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

Spiritual Bootcamp Parish Retreat

April 3-5 - St. Benedict Parish, Yankton, and Yahweh Shalom Prayer Group are sponsoring a Spiritual Bootcamp Parish Retreat beginning Friday at 6 p.m. and concluding Sunday at noon at St. Benedict Parish. Led by Jessica Navin of Focus Ministries and Father Scott Traynor. For more information, contact the parish office at 605-664-6214 or Jane Barz at 605-940-4101.

NPM chapter meeting in Ft. Pierre

Saturday, April 18 - The spring Rapid City National Association of Pastoral Musicians chapter meeting will be held in Ft. Pierre and is open to those in the Diocese of Sioux Falls interested in attending. Held at St. John the Evangelist Parish from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with registration at 9:30 a.m. Topics for the day include rehearsal techniques, review of the Corpus Christi sequence, eucharistic considerations, and wedding considerations. Register by April 13 by contacting James Washabaugh at 605-342-6300 or email jpwasha@rushmore.com. A luncheon with freewill offering will be provided.

Divine Mercy Sunday event

Sunday, April 19 - The Office of the Marian Apostolate and Christ the King Parish, Sioux Falls, will host the commemoration of Divine Mercy Sunday at Christ the King Parish. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited at 5:30 p.m. followed by confessions.

Seminar series at St. Therese Parish

Thursday, April 23 - St. Therese Parish, Sioux Falls, is hosting a seminar series, "Created in His Image and Likeness: Living the Christian Life in the 21st Century," to discuss how we can care for the least of our brothers. April's seminar will be "Providing open doors to safety, wellness and dignity for our city's homeless" led by Madeline Shields, executive director of the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Parish, 901 N. Tahoe, Sioux Falls. Free admission.

Catholic Daughters host luncheon

Saturday, April 25 - Catholic Daughters Court St. Christina #2336 (Lennox, Canton, Worthing and Tea) present "Share the Light and Invite" salad luncheon and card party from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Nicholas Parish hall in Tea. There will be a raffle and door prizes as well. Tickets are \$10. To reserve your spot, please call Diane Biver at 360-4679.

Rural Catholic DRE Conference

Wednesday, May 20 - Join area directors of religious education for the Rural Catholic North Central SD DRE Conference to explore ways to more effectively pass on the Catholic faith in our rural parishes. Program begins at 5:30 p.m. with supper and welcome with a presentation by Fr. Tom Anderson beginning at 6 p.m. and discussion after. All Saints Parish, Mellette, 23 1st Ave. Free will offering. Call or text Laura Melius at 605-228-3945 or mellettedre@sfcatholic.org to RSVP or with questions.

Catholic Family Services

April 14-May 19/Grieving loss from suicide. A six-week non-denominational program directed by Dr. Marcie Moran held Tuesday evenings 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. The suddenness of the death, the confusion and the painful reactions are significant topics of the program. This is a time when professional support is needed. Cost is a donation. Call 988-3775 or email cfs@sfcatholic.org with questions or to register.

June 12-14/Catholic Family Services will be offering Camp Sydney: a Grief Camp for Youth and their Families at Broom Tree Retreat Center, beginning at 6:00 pm June 12 until 11:00 am June 14. This two-day camp will include fun activities, discussion and support. The Grief Camp is non-denominational and is offered free of charge. Call Catholic Family Services at 1-800-700-7867 or 605-988-3775 for more information.

Notices

The DISC Mission Grant application forms for 2020 are now available. Any mission or Catholic organization in the national or international community may apply. Past grants have ranged from \$250-\$1,000. The grant application is now an online-only application and is due April 30. Please list Dawn Wolf in the DISC Member Name field and the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls in the DISC Member (Arch)Diocese field. You can find the application at <http://www.discinfo.org/membership/bishop-richard-pates-mission-grant/>.

Parish Dinners/Socials

Fish Fry Friday's: Holy Spirit Parish (Sioux Falls) Knights of Columbus will be serving fried battered fish, potato patty, spaghetti with red sauce and cheese pizza on all Friday's during Lent. Serving from 6-7 p.m. after Stations of the Cross. Free will offering.

April 19: St. Mary Parish, Sioux Falls, will host a turkey dinner Sunday 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Take-out meals available from 10:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for kids 4-11. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time for \$8 at the church office after weekend Masses on March 28 and 29 and April 4 and 5, and after the Saturday, 4 p.m. Mass on April 18. Call Judy for extra tickets at 339-1035.

Sacred Heart Monastery

April 9-12/Paschal Triduum Retreat. Enter the silence and experience the rich liturgies of Holy Week with the monastic community of the Benedictine Sisters. This retreat begins 4:30 p.m. April 9, Holy Thursday, and ends with noon dinner on Easter Sunday. For more information visit, www.yanktonbenedictines.org/triduum-retreat/. To register, e-mail BenedictinePeaceCtr@yanktonbenedictines.org or call 605-668-6292 before April 5.

April 18/Centering Prayer, introductory workshop led by Irene Chang and Deacon Dennis Davis. Contact S. Doris Oberembt to register: doberembt@yanktonbenedictines.org or 605-668-6022.

Note: For your safety, retreats may be cancelled if pandemic conditions warrant. Please check the above websites for current information.

Silent Retreats at the Benedictine Peace Center/Come for the number of days that fit 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 www.yanktonbenedictines.org/Center.

Spiritual Direction Ministry Formation Benedictine Peace Center offers formation for those discerning a call to be a spiritual director. Guided independent study complemented by two-day residencies permits flexibility with your schedule. E-mail us at benedictinepeacectr@yanktonbenedictines.org, or call (605) 668-6292.



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April 25th, 2020

