Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls
February 2017

The Bishop's Bulletin

One Faith. One Family.

The 2017 Catholic Family Sharing Appeal

Bishop Paul
SWAIN

Sadly, the incivility and lack of respect both for persons and the common good has continued...

Publisher's note: *"The elections are behind us and those elected have now assumed office. Sadly the incivility and lack of respect both for persons and the common good has continued unabated to the dismay of us all which in fact could undermine our belief that we are One Nation Under God.*

Campaigns come and go, governing however is serious business because it directly affects lives and futures. Below is the article I wrote during the campaign which in many ways is more applicable to how we as Catholics and citizens respond to issues before our country and state with prayer, clear understanding and living Gospel values well."

Recent events at home and abroad have left many bewildered and dispirited. The bold acts of violence, division among peoples, harsh rhetoric and lack of respect for one another seems overwhelming. How are we to cope and live with hope in the midst of such tragedy and uncertainty?

Much is beyond our personal control of course. Thus we pray that our leaders will be granted the wisdom, patience and perseverance that will lead to more peaceful ways to resolve differences using just, fair and respectful means. That is what our system of law is charged to do. Yet this constant churning affects us all.

There are three sources of consolation that can help us during such stressful times. They include prayer, understanding today's reality as it truly is, and living Gospel values in our daily lives whatever is swirling around us.

The Prayer of Saint Francis offers us guidance and mission.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

"O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life."

For some this plea seems simplistic or impossible to achieve so grave are the times and the impact of our fallen human nature. The most important word in this prayer is the first one: "Lord". We need to strengthen our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord, to even begin to become his instrument of peace. When we are separated from Jesus even unintentionally the evil one plays to our weaknesses, raises doubts and seeks for us to despair.

What this prayer offers is turning the negative into positive: hatred to love, injury to forgiveness and mercy, doubt into trust in God's will and God's way, despair of the future into a hopeful one, darkness into light, and sadness into joy. None of this can we achieve on our own. However as Sacred Scripture notes: with God everything is possible. We need to pray: come Lord Jesus more deeply into our lives and be our rock in the midst of the world.

Secondly we need to understand the circumstances, the actual facts and not the incomplete or false conclusions some direct us to. This includes considering the source of the information to which we react.

With the new technology, most of what we know comes from brief headlines written by anonymous authors. Headlines or subject titles by their limited nature are unable to provide the fullness of the facts. Most of the blogs, e-mails, and TV "breaking news"

offer an introduction of a subject but not its fullness. They are a rich field for gossip, slander and detraction. We ought not to accept as conclusive what the brief headline suggests but rather go beyond the simplistic to discover the often more complicated truth.

We also ought to be skeptical of polls which seem to drive news coverage these days. Polls are taken on a wide range of subjects including politics, health issues, even the popularity of the Pope and adherence to Church teaching. Many are reputable but they can be skewered by the questions asked and the interpretations offered by those who may profit from them. In any case they are what some call a "snap shot" (an ancient term in our digital age), a picture even if accurate which is true only for that moment. Thus polls, though they can offer valuable insight, ought to be taken with a "grain of salt." Again we need to look beyond the surface.

The development of social media has brought forth new and instantaneous ways to share information with family, friends and others who "like" us or who we choose to "like". It has many benefits and can be a source of shared information and even recreation. However, government officials regularly warn of scams that seek to take advantage of well-meaning users of this technology. Explaining complicated subjects in 140 characters is not possible; they can only be brief introductions which require further investigation. So we should use technology in appropriate ways but also with careful eyes.

And we ought to be students of history, sadly lacking these days. For us today is the most important time in history because it is the time in which we are living. But that can be prideful and misleading. Much of the churning in our society is not new; it is only expressed in modern day ways. Thus we can learn from the lessons of the past and allow them to bring perspective to what may seem to us a new phenomenon.

Among my daily spiritual reading is "Sisterhood of Saints." (Rigney) Each day women saints are raised up. Recently the story of two family sisters, Justa and Rufina, was highlighted. They created earthenware pottery but were concerned about how it would be used. When some wanted to purchase their pottery for use in pagan ceremonies, they refused. As a result all their pottery was destroyed in retaliation. Eventually they were martyred. Sound familiar? This occurred in the 3rd century. Study world, US and church history for insights and additional perspective.

Finally we might seek to live more fully lives of virtue in our personal relationships and internal thoughts. Knowing the time honored teachings of Christ expressed through his Church and why they are so can also bring perspective. One of the challenges of our day is the rejection of God and the effort to isolate faith from faith lived in its fullness. We must reject that threat and stand up for our rights and for truth regardless of reactions of others and even personal consequences. To thyself be true can be seen as a mantra to be true to what we believe in order to be true to the one in whom we believe, Jesus Christ.

All this comes together for me by contemplating the crucifix, Our Lord on the cross. This prayer form reminds me of His loving and merciful sacrifice and how small are my concerns and crosses in comparison. It also reminds me that the cross was not the last word, the empty tomb followed which gives me hope for the future.

Yes, these are troubled times that can discourage us. Yet prayer, informed understanding and living Gospel values will offer us perspective and the strength to cope because our hope is in the name of the Lord.

Schedule

February

1	1:30	Mass, Aberdeen Catholic Schools
2	8:00	Mass, St. Joseph School, Pierre
	1:00	School Visit, John Paul II Elementary School, Mitchell
3	10:00	Sioux Falls Catholic Schools Mass, Augustana Elmen Center, Sioux Falls
	1:45	St. Mary School Mass, Dell Rapids
4	4:00	Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
5	11:00	Confirmation, St. Mary Parish, Sioux Falls
6-8		National Catholic Bioethics Center 26th Annual Workshop for Bishops, Dallas, TX
11	4:00	Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
12	10:30	Confirmation, St. Benedict Parish, Yankton
	1:00	Confirmation, Sacred Heart Parish, Yankton
14	10:00	St. Joseph Catholic Housing Board Meeting, Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
	12:00	Pray at Planned Parenthood
	1:30	City of Sioux Falls Catholic Schools Property Corporation Board Meeting, Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
15	7:00	Confirmation, St. Mary Parish, Salem
16	12:00	Diocesan Investment Committee Meeting, Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
18	4:00	Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
19	10:30	Confirmation, St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Sioux Falls
	2:00	Four Chaplains Memorial Service, Homilist, American Legion, Sioux Falls
22	7:00	Confirmation, St. Martin Parish, Emery, St. Stephen Parish, Bridgewater and St. Mary of Mercy Parish, Alexandria at Emery
23	3:00	St. John Vianney and St. Paul Seminary Board Meeting, St. Paul, MN
25	4:00	Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
26	11:00	Confirmation, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Groton and St. Joseph, Turton at Turton
	1:00	Confirmation, St. Bernard Parish, Redfield and All Saints Parish, Mellette at Redfield

March

1	12:00	Ash Wednesday Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
2	11:00	Presbyteral Council Meeting, Pastoral Center, Sioux Falls
	5:00	Shepherd's Voice LIVE, Lamb Catholic Radio, Sioux Falls
4	10:30	Confirmation, Holy Family Parish and Holy Spirit Parish, Mitchell at Holy Spirit
	4:00	Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
5	8:30	Confirmation, St. Joseph the Workman Parish, Huntimer and St. Rose of Lima Parish, Garretson at Huntimer
	1:30	Rite of Election, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
	6:00	Lenten Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls

Fr. Michael
GRIFFIN

It had been there all the time…

So, as I am sure you are aware, it rained on Christmas Day.

I know that Bing taught us to dream of a White Christmas, but none of us had any idea how to deal with a wet one. I stood in my parents' house, looking out over the deck and watched the rain fall, torrential rain, and the street slowly fill with water since the storm drains were blocked.

I was planning on staying and celebrating a bit longer than I did, but I wanted to head back home before the rain turned to the inevitable ice. It did freeze over, of course, and it was just as bad as I expected it to be; as we all did.

As the sun set and the Christmas lights in our neighborhoods slowly came on, we stood in our homes and watched the ice build and listened to the flash flood warnings which punctuated our Christmas music. It was surreal.

The next day was spent in Aberdeen, and in most of east river South Dakota, trying to get some ice melt as it was being sold out in every store. I stood, carefully stood, on the sidewalk, sprinkling the ice melt and wondering if it would make any difference.

It didn't.

The Monday after Christmas was the first day in a very long time that the dogs did not get a run, and no matter how much I tried to explain the situation to them, they didn't seem to care. So I got to face a day of ineffectual ice melt outside and cranky labs inside; an inauspicious start to the Christmas season to be sure, but I took comfort in the fact I was not suffering alone.

Tuesday was much the same, with the exception that the dogs were taken out for their walks. I drove them out to the fairgrounds and it looked like the Odde Ice Center had decided to expand, stretching out the ice rink 300 yards in all directions. The roads, ditches and grounds were one sheet of ice. The dogs slipped and ran and I did a penguin walk for a while, hoping the wind didn't knock me over.

Then it was home for more ice chipping, more salting and more attempts to stay upright as I worked the sidewalks. I failed, twice. This was also the day I started praying that things would be clear enough for the weekend Masses.

Wednesday…exactly the same as Tuesday. Then on Thursday, the fifth Day of Christmas, my True Love gave me to me something spectacular. I took the dogs out earlier than usual for their walk around the fairgrounds and the sun was making its slow rise behind the trees into a clear sky. The dogs were running and I was moving a bit faster on the ice after days of practice, the air was crisp and cold, but not arctic, so the hood on my parka was back a bit more as I walked.

Then the sun rose yellow and bright over the grove of trees and it hit the ice and it took my breath away. I stopped in my ice track and leaned on my walking stick and just looked in awe as the light and the ice turned the world into crystal. The crystal world around me was blinding in its beauty and seemed so fragile, a gift only the light dancing on the ice could bring about.

As I stood there, leaning on my staff, the dogs oblivious but enjoying their run, I could not help but ponder the beauty around me. It had been there all the time of course, but I was too caught up the last days with ice melt and shovels and the problems and concerns of clearing the ice to pause and notice the beauty only the ice could bring around me.

That beauty didn't care about my problems or concerns, it didn't care that it was hard to drive, that the walks hard to keep clear, that there were power outages all over the northeast part of our state, those problems were ours; the beauty simply was, and was beyond such problems. That is the nature of beauty.

As I stood there in awe, I realized that I was given an opportunity to choose, as I always have the opportunity to choose. I could keep my eyes down and focus on what concerns me, my problems and concerns, or I could lift my eyes and see that which transcends me. The beauty reminded me that, contrary to what I may believe, my problems and concerns are not the most important things in the world; I am not the axis upon which the universe revolves.

It's hard to remember that sometimes, but when I do, the beauty around me can put everything else into perspective and simply remind me to just be, be alive, be open and transformed. I know that I will live my life back and forth, between the beauty and the mundane, and because of that, the choice will always be there; and there, in the choosing is the mystery of God.

What we choose is the difference between life and the fullness of life; and it is the first step toward holiness.

The Bishop's
Bulletin

Publisher
Most Rev. Paul J. Swain

Executive Editor
Rev. Michael L. Griffin

Managing Editor
Mr. Gene J. Young

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

Postmaster
Send address changes to:
523 N. Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714

Correspondence should be addressed to:
523 N. Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714
Phone: 605-334-9861
Fax: 605-988-3746
E-mail: gyoung@sfcatholic.org
Anniversaries, copy and advertising deadline for the March issue is February 15.

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

Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls
February 2017
Volume 70, Number 2

Bishop Paul J. Swain is pictured with many of the seminarians of the diocese at the bishop's residence during their recent semester break. Bishop Swain was joined by Father Shaun Haggerty, Director of Vocations (on the left) and a number of seminarian studying for the priesthood. The diocese presently has 31 men in seminary. (Photo by Gene Young)

It all starts with Jesus Christ.

That we are Catholics in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, that we are members of One Faith and One Family, is all because of Jesus Christ.

While we know this is true at some level in our being - whether we are living our faith passively or more actively - we might not be able to articulate the how and why.

Helping us deepen and grow that understanding is a significant part of the work of the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal and the ministries of the church made possible by the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal. (see listing from Bishop Paul Swain on page 9)

Consider the work of the Discipleship and Evangelization office. Most might be familiar with the annual events – D-camps, Totus Tuus teams, youth conferences, retreats, the Martin Marty Institute for the New Evangelization, and more.

But some of the most exciting work of Discipleship is happening in parishes large and small around the diocese with the support of the Discipleship team and it is impacting youth and adults alike.

When Father Joe Vogel was pastor at St. Katharine Drexel in Sioux Falls he became familiar with discipleship groups which created opportunities for young people who are led and mentored by adults. It's an alternative to or in addition to other religious education programs in parishes.

"So I knew the concept and I knew it worked," said Fr. Vogel, now pastor at St. Joseph, Elk Point, St. Peter, Jefferson and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Dakota Dunes and wanting to implement Discipleship at the parishes.

"I just didn't know how to make it happen so I called the diocese," Fr. Vogel said - meaning Discipleship and Evangelization focused Eric Gallagher, Chris Burgwald and Emily Leedom. "They told me 'we'll come to you and train your people'".

"And what happened is that we put the skill with the desire to make it happen through the help of the diocese," Fr. Vogel said. "One of the best descriptions of discipleship is that it meets kids where they are in their lives and builds relationships with them."

Eric Gallagher, Director of Youth Discipleship & Evangelization, leads hundreds of youth in attendance at the 2016 Youth Rally in Brookings, SD

Gallagher said the invitation to get started with a discipleship program is offered to parishes with the hope that something can always be better.

"Every parish, every person is in a different place so the way you introduce it is based on something they desire right now. It's trying to inspire them - going into a parish and helping them look at the current reality, and proposing something almost idealistic and then inviting them to journey into that – that's really discipleship," he said.

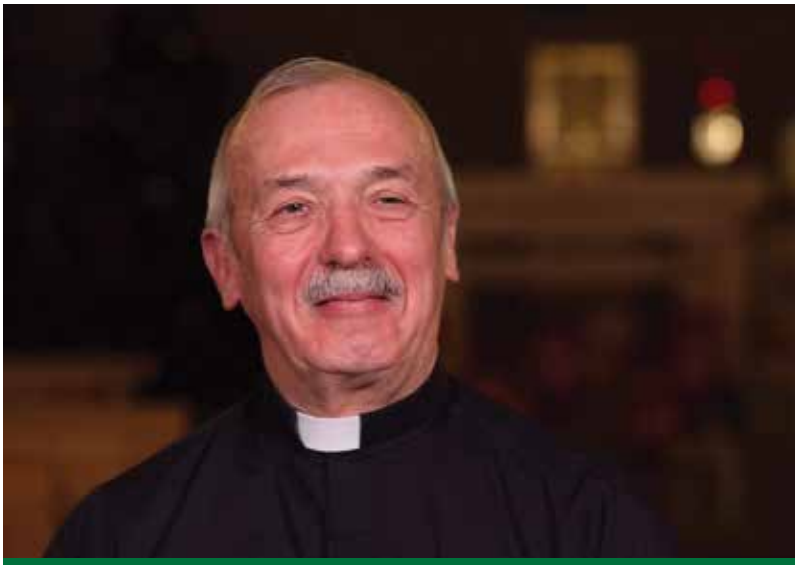
While some might think the discipleship approach is new, it actually goes right back to the way Jesus invited his disciples, developed his relationship with them and then sent them out into the world. Using four areas - spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral - it teaches the faith but allows much flexibility in how it is done.

"It ends up being this proposal that's made and the invitation to enter into that and inviting the person to follow," Gallagher said. "At the diocese, we're trying to be more present, more available to walk with the parishes … it's a gift to work with so many parishes; we get to see signs of hope and signs of life."

Amy Giorgio coordinates the discipleship program at St. Joseph, Elk Point and St. Peter, Jefferson.

Based on the number of high school students and the number of parents leading groups, 42% of parents are involved in the discipleship efforts.

"Talk about one faith, one family, that's a great testimony to the desire of the parents to connect with other kids," said Giorgio, who is also one of those involved parents who serve as group leaders and mentors to the youth who are as young as 7th grade and continuing through seniors in high school. The ripple effect impacts not just those directly involved but the entire parish.



Fr. Joe Vogel, Pastor of St. Joseph, Elk Point, St. Peter, Jefferson & St. Teresa of Calcutta, Dakota Dunes

"As adult mentors, we deepen our faith so it's not just good for the kids but good for the parents, which then becomes good for the parish, which becomes good for the community," she said.

Fr. Vogel describes himself as a big believer in the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal, and as a former Newman Center director, vocations director and pastor of parishes small and large he has seen the impact first hand.

42%

Parents involved in discipleship efforts in Elk Point

"Talk about one faith, one family,"
Amy Giorgio

Amy Giorgio, Discipleship Coordinator, St. Joseph, Elk Point and St. Peter, Jefferson

What a parish or even a group of parishes cannot do alone becomes possible thanks to the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal.

"It's so good to part of a diocese . . . someone knows this so I don't have to . . . there's a resource I can go to . . . we could not do this without the diocese," he said.

"We have also had seminarians here the last two summers and that has been a blessing, but this discipleship support from the diocese is a gift and I'm so proud of our diocese for jumping into this early and to Bishop Swain for supporting it," said Fr. Vogel.

The exposure to the seminarians, (support for the formation and education of seminarians is actually the largest beneficiary of the Catholic Family sharing Appeal), has had a lasting impact in the three parishes. The relationships built have helped parents and young men know that considering seminary is normal.

"It's the incarnation – they (the seminarians) are people in the flesh who aren't way out there because they are thinking of the seminary," Fr. Vogel said.

Relationships are key to so much about the faith – healthy relationships built through the seminarians or through discipleship efforts help us also with our relationship with God.

"You can't have one without the other. If you don't have friends you aren't going to know the Lord and if you don't know the Lord you can't have friends. And that's what kids know – they know friends," said Fr. Vogel.

Giorgio said the discipleship approach and working with the diocesan team helps the parishes get a sense "of the bigger picture and Eric (Gallagher) does a great job of rooting it in Catholic tradition."

And while parent involvement is up, so is the number of young people staying active after their confirmation. But Giorgio is quick to point out it is about much more than numbers and she encourages support of Discipleship programs by supporting the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal.

"I think if the idea for a donor is to help people become more alive in their faith this is one avenue that it certainly happens at the ground level," she said.

Bradie Timmins is one of eight senior girls and two adult leaders in a discipleship group now well into its second year together. She describes the discipleship approach as a much different experience than the years of religious education in the classroom.

"CCD is more individual learning but with discipleship we're all together learning about our faith and trying to grow in that," she said.

Senior Girls Discipleship Group at Elk Point/Jefferson

"Even just baking we are all together, all sharing things and talking and you don't really get that as a high school student very often … my relationship with my friends has definitely grown in this … and my relationship with God has become more clear through this," Timmins said.

Elena Giorgio is in the same group. "In y-disciple I've really gotten the chance to use my gifts and the faith that I have to show other people through working in the community instead of just being in a classroom," she said.

And the group recommends the discipleship approach to others as well.

"I would definitely recommend it," said Emily Mickelson, another member of the group. "The groups are based on your interests and every week … you have some control over how the program is going to work, it's personalized to you so that you have the growth you want to have … now I want to come here each week, I want to learn about God and to have a relationship (with God), " she said.

Bradie Timmins, St. Joseph Parish, Elk Point

See Bradie, Amy & Fr. Joe's testimonies at www.sfcatholic.org

A reminder from Bishop Paul Swain

Jesus taught us that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. How we love our neighbor reflects how well we love God. One way that love is expressed is in the ministries of our diocese and parishes.

One Faith, One Family is the theme of this year's Catholic Family Sharing Appeal. It underscores the truth that our shared spiritual heritage is grounded in our one faith in Jesus Christ crucified and risen. He is at the center of who we are, how we live and therefore how we love our neighbor.

We also share as one family the common responsibility to nurture that spiritual heritage with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

There is no question that Catholic moral and social teachings are under attack by the secular culture that seeks to marginalize religion and even penalize its practice. We need both to be present in the public square and to form members of our family on what the Church teaches and why which is reflective of what Jesus Christ taught and continues to teach through his Church.

The ministries that the CFSA supports are important ways we can do so together as a family of faith. When we pool our resources we can sustain current programs and adapt them to the significant challenges of our day.

Among these ministries are:

- those that invite our youth to open their hearts to Christ through discipleship programs, retreats and rallies,
- those that assure the sacraments are available through providing for those in formation in seminaries and the permanent diaconate and with support for active and retired priests,
- those that counsel those grieving or struggling in other ways with practical assistance through Catholic Family Services and outreach ministries,
- those that foster a deeper understanding of the faith through religious education, Catholic schools, retreats and a variety of communications for youth and adults including The Bishop's Bulletin, social media and the TV Mass,
- those that encourage the continued practice of the faith and provide a safe haven for college students through Newman Centers,
- those that seek to nourish healthy married life through preparation before marriage, enrichment after marriage, and through the marriage tribunal,
- those that protect the right to life and the dignity of all persons in law and in hearts and assure moral practices in health care, education and governmental policies,
- those that assist in fostering healthy parish life and assure good stewardship of your generosity,

For more information about these and other ministries of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls supported by the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal, go to www.sfcatholic.org.

What is the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal

Each year we as Catholics are called to come together as one family to give thanks to God for the many gifts we have been given. It is our opportunity to grow together in the life of the church, to support those around us as we do our family. The funds raised by Catholic Family Sharing Appeal are a critical supplement to the ministries of the diocese. These ministries are greater than what one individual parish could support and maintain. Together, as one family, we are able to fund ministries that serve the greater church.

You can learn more about each of the ministries supported by Catholic Family Sharing Appeal by reading the monthly Bishop's Bulletin or visiting www.sfcatholic.org – both of which are funded in part by your generous donation to Catholic Family Sharing Appeal.

The formula that is used to calculate each parish's share to Catholic Family Sharing Appeal was developed and approved by the Diocesan Priest Council and is based on a three-step process.

Marriage Preperation & Enrichment

Seminarian Formation & Retired Clergy

Newman Campus Ministry

Discipleship Programs for Youth & Adults

The main criteria for the parish Catholic Family Sharing Appeal formula includes:

- Number of active and registered households
- Parish income from weekly giving, events, rentals, stipends, special collections, etc.
- Deductions for payment on debt, Catholic school expenses or charitable giving

While these factors from your individual parish are important, remember that each parish is part of the larger diocesan church, and what is happening at each parish impacts all parishes in our diocese. If a parish share increases, it could mean that parish has been blessed financially or that other parishes are struggling. It could also mean that the parish census numbers, by increasing or decreasing, changed the percentage of a parish's portion of the total diocesan census.

Step 1 Using the most recent fiscal year ending reports, each parish's annual ordinary income is totaled and then calculated as percentage of the total ordinary income of all parishes in the diocese. Exclusions from ordinary income may include special offerings or other collections such as, Peter's Pence, flood relief, etc. or receipt of one-time planned gifts like bequests, memorials, etc.

Deductions from ordinary income are given for any debt payments, Catholic School expenses, tuition assistance or charitable gifts by the parish that are given from ordinary income.

Step 2 The parish census (active and registered parishioners) is totaled and then calculated as a percentage of the total number of households in the diocese. For example, if the total number of registered and active parishioners in the diocese is 34,985 and your parish has 620 active households, it would be 1.772% of the diocesan total.

Step 3 Average the percentages in steps one and two to determine the parish's percentage of the diocesan Catholic Family Sharing Appeal total or its parish share. Each year the parish share is limited to an increase or decrease of 15%.

Please prayerfully consider your participation in the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal. The success of which will be realized through our commitment to our one holy, catholic and apostolic diocesan Church. Together we continue to build the Catholic faith in the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

2017 Parish Assesments

CITY	PARISH	PLEDGE
Aberdeen	Sacred Heart	$112,400
Aberdeen	St Mary	$88,700
Alexandria	St Mary of Mercy	$19,600
Arlington	St John	$8,000
Armour	St Paul the Apostle	$24,500
Artesian	St Charles	$4,370
Beresford	St Teresa of Avila	$18,400
Big Stone City	St Charles	$11,200
Bowdle	St Augustine	$16,700
Brandon	Risen Savior	$95,100
Bridgewater	St Stephen	$12,000
Britton	St John de Britto	$16,100
Brookings	St Thomas More	$139,100
Bryant	St Mary	$7,200
Canton	St Dominic	$22,700
Castlewood	St John	$9,300
Centerville	Good Shepherd	$10,300
Chamberlain	St James	$33,200
Clark	St Michael	$16,000
Clear Lake	St Mary	$16,600
Colman	St Peter	$17,400
Dakota Dunes	St Teresa of Calcutta	$27,100
Dante	Assumption	$15,000
Dell Rapids	St Mary	$65,000
DeSmet	St Thomas Aquinas	$16,500
Dimock	SS Peter & Paul	$18,900
Eden	Sacred Heart	$16,800
Elk Point	St Joseph	$30,400
Elkton	Our Lady of Good Counsel	$24,000
Emery	St Martin	$15,000
Epiphany	Church of the Epiphany	$10,000
Estelline	St Francis de Sales	$9,000
Eureka	St Joseph	$7,400
Faulkton	St Thomas the Apostle	$31,100
Flandreau	SS Simon & Jude	$32,000
Florence	Blessed Sacrament	$11,000
Garretson	St Rose of Lima	$21,600
Gary	St Peter	$6,300
Geddes	St Ann	$11,100
Gettysburg	Sacred Heart	$31,600
Grenville	St Joseph	$9,500
Groton	St Elizabeth Ann Seton	$22,100
Hartford	St George	$54,400
Henry	St Henry	$10,400
Herreid	St Michael	$12,000
Highmore	St Mary	$14,000
Hoven	St Anthony	$29,500
Howard	St Agatha	$19,000
Humboldt	St Ann	$23,300
Huntimer	St Joseph the Workman	$24,200
Huron	Holy Trinity	$71,600
Idylwilde	St Boniface	$9,375
Ipswich	Holy Cross	$18,000
Jefferson	St Peter	$28,800
Kimball	St Margaret	$35,000
Kranzburg	Holy Rosary	$25,000
Lake Andes	St Mark	$11,000

CITY	PARISH	PLEDGE
Lennox	St Magdalen	$18,900
Leola	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	$9,700
Lesterville	St John the Baptist	$9,300
Madison	St Thomas Aquinas	$54,500
Marion	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	$6,700
Mellette	All Saints	$12,100
Milbank	St Lawrence	$59,000
Miller	St Ann	$31,200
Mitchell	Holy Family	$117,000
Mitchell	Holy Spirit	$52,000
Mobridge	St Joseph	$39,000
Montrose	St Patrick	$30,500
Onida	St Pius X	$14,700
Parker	St Christina	$16,500
Parkston	Sacred Heart	$41,000
Pierre	SS Peter & Paul	$86,000
Plankinton	St John	$19,200
Platte	St Peter	$15,600
Polo	St Liborius	$8,700
Ramona	St William	$9,650
Redfield	St Bernard	$42,400
Revillo	Annunciation	$6,400
Roscoe	St Thomas	$12,700
Rosholt	St John the Baptist	$15,000
Salem	St Mary	$45,000
Scotland	St George	$13,500
Selby	St Anthony	$11,300
Sioux Falls	St Michael	$182,000
Sioux Falls	Holy Spirit	$192,000
Sioux Falls	Cathedral of St Joseph	$100,000
Sioux Falls	St Mary	$146,000
Sioux Falls	Christ the King	$82,000
Sioux Falls	St Therese	$48,000
Sioux Falls	St Lambert	$106,000
Sioux Falls	St Katharine Drexel	$90,200
Sisseton	St Peter	$30,000
Springfield	St Vincent	$8,300
Stickney	St Mary	$7,200
Tabor	St Wenceslaus	$22,200
Tea	St Nicholas	$45,500
Turton	St Joseph	$13,800
Tyndall	St Leo	$29,200
Vermillion	St Agnes	$44,000
Wagner	St John the Baptist	$28,500
Wakonda	St Patrick	$11,300
Watertown	Holy Name	$97,000
Watertown	Immaculate Conception	$98,600
Waubay	Immaculate Conception	$10,000
Webster	Christ the King	$34,500
Wessington Springs	St Joseph	$13,500
Westport	Sacred Heart	$11,000
White	St Paul	$5,700
White Lake	St Peter	$18,300
Woonsocket	St Wilfrid	$14,100
Yankton	Sacred Heart	$104,000
Yankton	St Benedict	$75,600

Discipleship, Evangelization and Parish Services

Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily.
– St. Francis de Sales

St. Francis de Sales is an inspiration for the Discipleship, Evangelization and parish services team. Serving parishes is a rewarding effort which can involve a great deal of daily work behind the scenes.

The team is made of up of staff that serve parishes and schools across the diocese every day. The goal of the work is always to support the work being done by the parishes and schools to help parishioners and students lead more faith-filled lives.

Several ministries were recently brought together with Discipleship and Evangelization by Bishop Paul J. Swain to better serve the people and parishes of the east river diocese. Adult and Young Adult Discipleship and Evangelization have been teaming up for years, but by adding marriage, family and respect life to the team we can better minister to the entire family.

In many areas the impact of these ministries overlaps. It is not unusual that children teach their parents, or that views are influenced by others that God places in our lives.

It is the intent that building on these areas of growth we will continue to evangelize and touch lives. Catholic Schools, the Marian Apostolate and the Worship Office are key ministries of the team. Each of these offices offer students, parishes and individuals unique ways to grow in faith.

All these ministries come together to offer each person an opportunity to continue to build their individual relationship with Jesus Christ. The goal is to meet people where they are on their faith journey and provide an opportunity to encounter God.

A short list of opportunities include a broad range of activities from the Youth Conference with 1,400 students, to discipleship groups in parishes around the diocese to women's faith sharing groups and confirmation programs. The team leads D-Camps, Totus Tuus, Bishop Martin Marty Institute, parish religious education support, the rosary rally, anniversary Masses, marriage preparation, natural family planning training and Retrouvaille. Each is offered to specifically serve people with the desire to grow and mature in faith.

Parish services has also been added to the team. This is an opportunity to support parishes where they need assistance. Like parishioners, every parish is on a journey and each parish is at a different place along the path. Helping parishes continue to move forward and grow in faith can be a challenge. Parish services has been created to offer assistance where needed.

Some parishes can benefit from a strong and high functioning finance or parish council or developing visionary parish goals. Sometimes parishes need help identifying their strengths or negotiating through difficult decisions. The office of parish services can act as the consultant to provide education and training for councils and boards and serve as an objective mediator.

Over the past several years the diocese has seen many changes as the pastoral plan for parishes has been implemented. New parish communities have been formed and different parishes have been linked together. This is part of the changing demographics of our state and diocese. The changes are never easy and at times it is helpful to have assistance in understanding how this fits into the greater good for the Catholic Church. Parish services will continue the process of helping build community where changes have been made.

Daryl Thuringer
Delegate, Office of Discipleship and Evangelization, Director of Parish Services

All of the services offered through the Discipleship, Evangelization and Parish Services team are small ways to serving God daily with a vision to help parishes, adults and students find the great occasions for serving God in their lives.

Mount Marty College students do good annual winter service project

During the recent winter break, 11 Mount Marty College (MMC) students and the Campus Ministry team of Sister Maribeth Wentzlaff and Jordan Foos traveled to Dallas for a service trip under the auspices of Catholic Charities of Texas. Pictured are (from left: MMC sophomores Sam Boomgarden and Maria Olsen packing 10,000 meals-worth of cans into boxes. (Photo courtesy, Mount Marty College, Yankton)

Discipleship Day 2017 provides opportunity to learn about discipleship

Discipleship Day 2017 is set for the diocese at the end of March.

The event will held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center March 30 and April 1.

The theme for the event is "The Heart of the Gospel" and it is being called a conference for adults responding to the new evangelization.

Discipleship Day is an annual conference for those adults seeking to respond to the call of the New Evangelization in their homes, workplaces and parishes. Whether a person is directly involved in parish ministry or seeking to be a disciple in their daily life, the conference is offered as a great opportunity.

The conference begins Friday evening at 7 p.m. with opening worship and will run through the celebration of Mass at 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

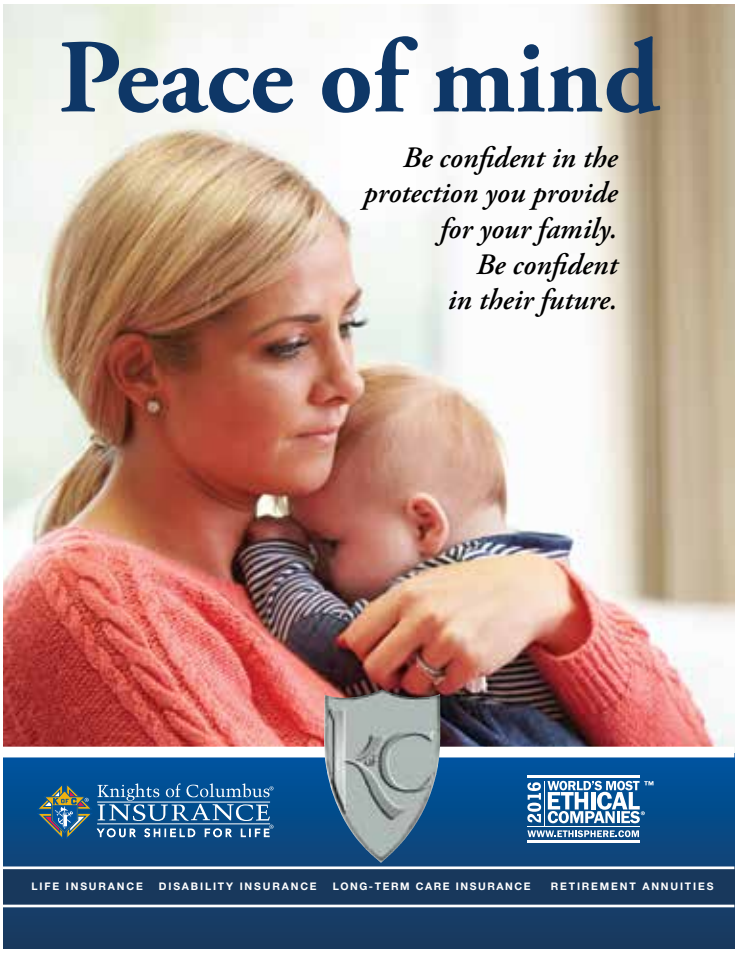
There will be time for Eucharistic Adoration, breakout sessions, hearing from Bishop Paul J. Swain and from the conference's two keynote speakers, Deacon Ralph Poyo and Bob Rice.

Deacon Ralph Poyo has many years of ministry experience and has devoted his life to the full time work of evangelization.

Bob Rice is the leading youth ministry expert at Franciscan University. He is a professor and the director of the Masters in Catechetics program at the University and has a passion for leading worship, speaking and writing.

You can find out more and register at www.discipleship.org or by contacting the diocesan Office of Discipleship & Evangelization at 605-988-3766 or via e-mail at discipleship@sfcatholic.org.

Cost of the conference is $40 plus hotel if you need lodging.



Jon Beebe
General Agent
(605) 882-8689
jon.beebe
@KOFC.org

Curtis Antony
Watertown
(605) 881-6545
curtis.antony
@KOFC.org

Phil Carlson
Brookings
(605) 695-4793
philip.carlson
@KOFC.org

Mark DiSanto
Rapid City
(605) 391-5694
mark.disanto
@KOFC.org

Heath Dickelman
Sioux Falls
(605) 351-7978
heath.dickelman
@KOFC.org

Tom Bechen
Mitchell
(605) 770-9798
thomas.bechen
@KOFC.org

Matt Weller
Redfield
(605) 450-6066
matthew.weller
@KOFC.org

Mark Hegge
Platte
(605) 207-0276
mark.hegge
@KOFC.org

Jeff Mollman
Lead
(605) 641-4690
jeff.mollman
@KOFC.org

Jason Lurz
Madison
(605) 270-3463
jason.lurz
@KOFC.org

Justin Derry
Vermillion
(605) 630-5754
justin.derry
@KOFC.org

Nate Weber
Sioux Falls
(605)661-6430
nathan.weber
@KOFC.org

Local
CHURCH

Tyndall family sees granddaughter make final profession of vows

Sister Mary Bethel, a contemplative Sister of St. Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, recently professed final vows. Sister Mary Bethel is pictured with her parents Dr. Douglas and Elizabeth (Owens) Ludens. Her grandparents are Gene and Kathryn Owens of St. Leo the Great Parish, Tyndall. (Photo courtesy, Bon Homme Knights of Columbus, Tyndall)

Two diocesan seminarians installed as lectors at North American College, Rome

His Excellency Bishop Paul Tighe, Adjunct-Secretary to the Pontifical Council for Culture, conferred the Ministry of Lector, in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State to 50 seminarians studying for ordination to the priesthood there.

The liturgy and installation included two seminarians from the Diocese of Sioux Falls, Anthony James Klein and Scott Jeffrey Miller.

The seminarians, currently in their first year of formation for the priesthood would have three additional years of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood in their home dioceses.

The Pontifical North American College serves as the American seminary in Rome. Founded in 1859 by Blessed Pius IX, the college has formed over 5000 priests near the heart of the Church for service in dioceses around the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Anthony James Klein

Scott Jeffrey Miller

BROOM TREE
RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER
1 KINGS 19:4-8

UPCOMING RETREATS

SILENT RETREAT

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

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

** Please Note- Dates have been changed*

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.

February 21: Gifting Yourself to God: A Lenten Preparation
- with Dr. Teresa Kemmer & Fr. Ken Lulf

March 21: Topic TBD
- with Msgr. Richard Mahowald

April 18: Topic TBD

May 9: Topic TBD
- with Fr. Andrew Dickinson

SPECIAL RETREATS

March 10-12: Inner Healing Retreat

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

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

123 Saint Raphael Circle • Irene, SD 57037
605-263-1040 • broomtree@sfcatholic.org
www.broom-tree.org

Stucco Repair
Masonry Cleaning
Brick Repair
Stone Repair
Caulk Replacement
Structural Concrete Repair

MCR
MID-CONTINENTAL RESTORATION CO., INC.

Mortar Joint Repair
Plaster Repair
Clear Water Repellents
Waterproof Coatings
Painting

Experts in Exterior Building Repair

800-835-3700

www.midcontinental.com

Serving You Since 1951
Hurley's
Religious Goods Inc.

Religious Gifts for All Occasions
Baptism - Communion - Confirmation
Weddings - ArtWork - Statues - Jewelry
Crucifixes - Candles - Church Supplies

Store Location
1417 S. University Dr.
Fargo, ND 58103

1-800-437-4338
www.hurleysrg.com
(full catalog available online)

The Gift of Hope concert set for March

The Gift of Hope concert, which supports the work of Catholic Family Services will be Sunday, March 19 at 2 p.m. at the O'Gorman Performing Arts Center.

This year, the Gift of Hope Concert performer is Christian music performer and Dove award winner Mark Schultz.

The concert will provide a memorable afternoon of music and stories to benefit Catholic Family Services.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 605-988-3765 or by going to any Sioux Falls Hy-Vee location.

The Gift of Hope Concert supports the Gift of Hope Fund for people of all faiths, ages and walks of life who experience grief, despair, abuse, loss or pain of separation.

Mark Schultz

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

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

Local
CHURCH

Celebration of Mass precedes opening of legislative session

Mass was celebrated at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Pierre, prior to the opening of the 2017 legislative session for South Dakota. Pictured are some of the lawmakers, legislative staff and parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul during the celebration of Mass. (Photo by Daryl Thuringer, Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls)

Recently, Father Shaun Haggerty, diocesan vocations director hosted a ski retreat inviting those in junior high and older to ski with the diocese's seminarians. A good sized group went along. The men began with the celebration of Mass before heading out on the road and the slopes (Photo courtesy, Father Shaun Haggerty, diocesan vocations director)

Cathedral Arts Series returns with special programs

The Cathedral Sacred Arts Series will present The South Dakota State University Concert Choir as its next program on February 17 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, at 7 p.m.

Admission is free.

Each year the Cathedral welcomes excellent area university ensembles to the Sacred Arts Series.

This year the South Dakota State University Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Laura Diddle, will visit the Cathedral with a wonderful program of ancient and modern choral music.

The program will include works specially commissioned for the recent SDSU choir tour of Spain.

The 70 member Concert Choir serves as the ambassadorial choral ensemble of the Music Department at South Dakota State University.

Founded in 1967, the Concert Choir is comprised of SDSU's most gifted and talented vocalists.

The choir tours widely, and has in the past several years performed in New York City, Washington D.C., Great Britain, Germany, Austria and Spain.

For more information, go to https://www.sdstate.edu/music/choirs

In March, The Cathedral Arts Series will feature The Rose Ensemble with "Musique et Masqueray" on Saturday, March 18 at 7 p.m. also at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph.

The March concert is dedicated to French music in honor of Cathedral architect Masqueray.

As part of the concert, there will be a presentation from a University of Minnesota researcher on our Cathedral, based on research he did in our archives and in the Twin Cities.

Tickets for the March program are $20 or $10 and are available at www.sfcatholic.org/SAS or the Cathedral parish office.

The South Dakota State University Concert Choir.

Candee Cloos, FICF
605-949-1248
Aberdeen, Ortonville, & NE South Dakota

Jay Fritzemeier, FIC
605-999-2705
Mitchell, Parkston, & nearby area

Angie Jorgensen
605-660-5814
Yankton, Vermillion & nearby area

David Schonhardt FICF
763-670-9058
Sioux Falls & nearby area

Catholic United Financial®
www.catholicunited.org
1-800-568-6670

Home Office: St. Paul, Minn.
© 2017 Catholic United Financial

Catholic United Financial believes in the Diocese of Sioux Falls!

We've given:

- more than $1.1 million to Catholic religious education
- more than $460,000 to Catholic Schools
- more than $400,000 to Catholics in need
- more than $125,000 in college & vocational scholarships

Contact us about these programs: Catholic Schools Raffle, scholarships, R.E.new Fund, MinisTREE, Matching Grant fundraising, abstinence education grants, school technology grants and more!

Students from the diocese charge up their faith at SEEK 2017 in San Antonio

More than 150 Catholic students from South Dakota State University joined 13,000 other Catholic college students from around the country in San Antonio, TX for SEEK 2017, sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). (Photo by Imalay Rivera, Sioux Falls)

Local Church

Confirmation retreats being offered by the diocese

The Diocese of Sioux Falls is excited to be offering 3 confirmation retreat opportunities this summer.

The retreats are one day long and will staffed by approximately 12 Totus Tuus missionaries.

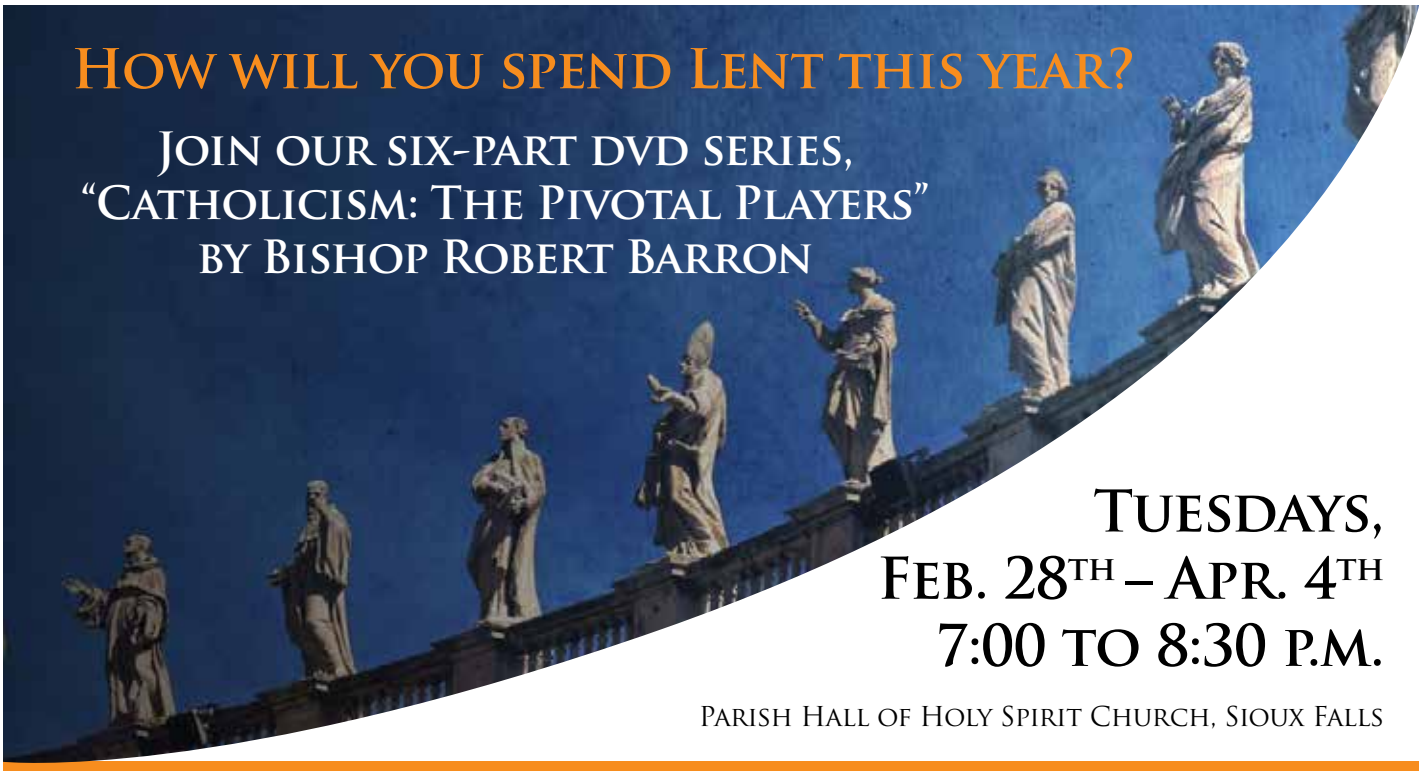
Registration will be open online February 1st.

Retreats will be filled on a first come basis.

Cost is $50 per participant.

Locations are: Mitchell - June 17th, Sioux Falls - June 24th, Britton - July 29th.

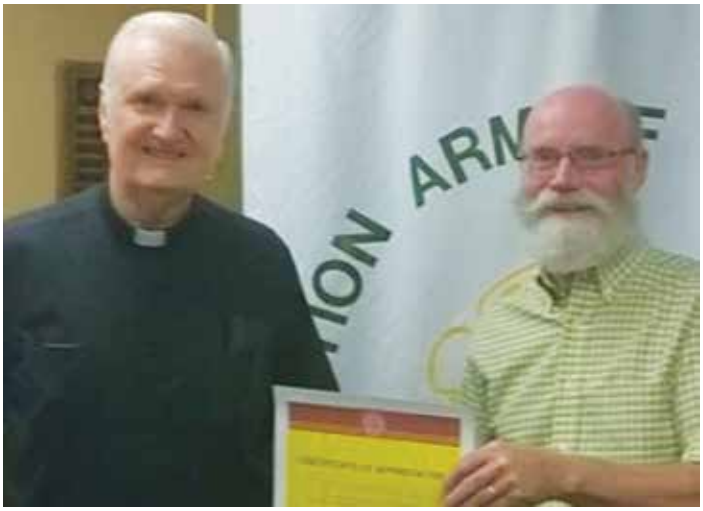
Contact Audrey with any questions at aanderson@sfcatholic.org.



Msgr. Charles Mangan will facilitate the presentations.
All are welcome. There is no fee or pre-registration.
Sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish and the Office of the Marian Apostolate (605) 521-0175

Local
Church

Serra Club recognizes priest of the diocese



The Serra Club of Sioux Falls recently recognized Father Ed Anderson for his presentation to the club. Serra Sioux Falls spiritual leader Jerry Johnson (on the right) is presenting a certificate of appreciation to Father Anderson following his presentation on "living in peace." The Serra Club and its members support and pray for religious vocations. (Photo courtesy, John Michels, president, Sioux Falls Serra Club)

Parish benefits from anonymous "Gift of the Magi"

Christ the King Parish, Sioux Falls, received an amazing surprise and a wonderful gift at the conclusion of the Christmas season. While de-decorating the church, Father Richard Fox discovered a note tucked behind the baby Jesus in the Nativity scene. Along with the note was a gift of a one ounce pure gold piece. The note shared that the proceeds of the coin should be used as "seed money" to establish a scholarship fund for Christ the King School. The note was signed "The Maji." (Photo by Gene Young)

WE CATHOLICS
BELIEVE IN FREE WILL

So exercise it: with two great choices of Catholic fraternals for competitive savings rates and financial protection for women, men, and children of the Diocese…

Catholic Financial Life

- **Competitive interest rates on savings.**
- Life insurance for families and individuals.
- Annual Retreat reimbursement benefit.
- Reimbursement for writing your will.
- Educational Scholarships-annually.
- Matching funds for fundraisers.

CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS

- **Competitive interest rates on savings.**
- Life insurance for families and individuals.
- Catholic School Student benefit.
- Prescription discount program.
- Mission trips available.
- Matching funds for fundraisers.

…from South Dakota's *Independent* Catholic Financial Planner:

Paul A. Curley, FIC
Pathway Insurance
Office: (605) 256-8286 *Cell:* (605) 270-9687
Email: paul@pathwayinvest.com
• Retirement • Estate Planning

ENTER into a World of LOVE AND DEDICATION A World of PRAYER, COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

Sister Nancy Dwyer, OSF

Contact:
SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
1417 West Ash
Mitchell, SD 57301
605-996-1410

Lenten regulations for Catholics:

Lent begins on March 1 with Ash Wednesday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

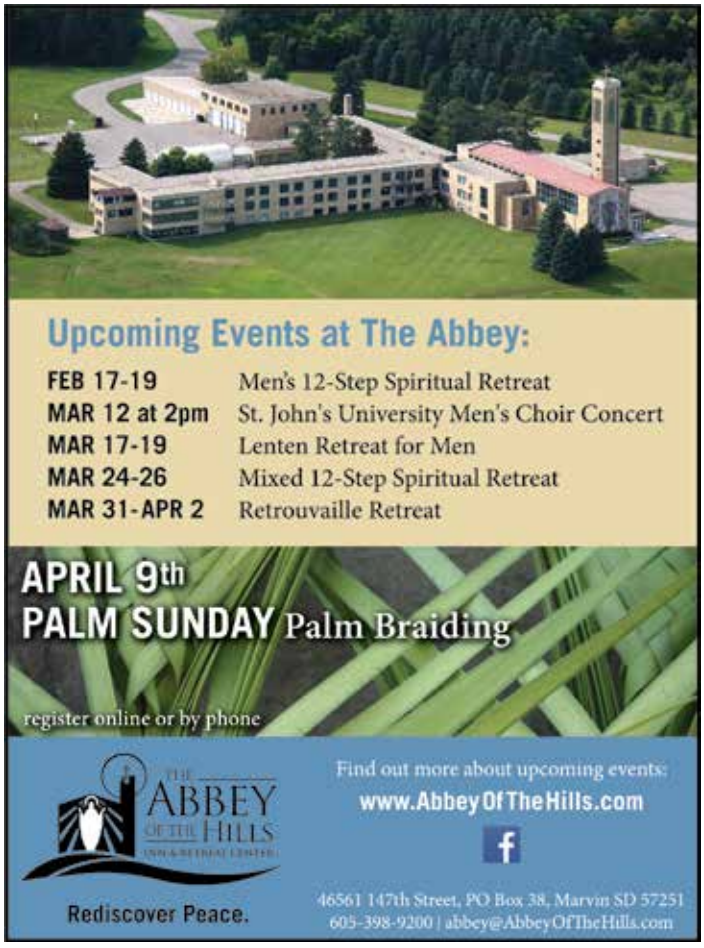
Local
CHURCH

Catholic Schools Week coverage coming

The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Sioux Falls celebrated Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 29-Feb. 4.

This year's focus for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Sioux Falls was the theme of "Catholic schools teach peace."

Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.



Committed in CHRIST

ABERDEEN – Tray and Bernice Spiering will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Feb. 4. They have 2 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.

BIG BEND – Terrance and Reita Etzkorn celebrated their 60th anniversary on Dec. 27. They have 6 children, 11 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Catherine Parish.

DANTE – Richard and Dorothy Andersh will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Feb. 25. They have 8 children (1 deceased), 21 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and are members of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

DELL RAPIDS – Ken and Marcia Siemonsma will celebrate their 40th anniversary on Feb. 12. They have 5 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.

HOWARD – LaVerne and Kathryn Kothe will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Feb. 19. They have 3 children (1 deceased), 5 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Agatha Parish.

KRANZBURG – Gerald and Janet Zaug celebrated their 40th anniversary on Jan. 21. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of Holy Rosary Parish.

MILBANK – John and Judy Loehrer will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Feb. 4. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren and are members of St. Lawrence Parish.

MONTROSE – Mike and Marlys Bartmann will celebrate their 45th anniversary on Feb. 5. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren and are members of St. Patrick Parish.

ONIDA – James and JoAnn Carter will celebrate their 40th anniversary on Feb. 19. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of St. Pius X Parish.

SIOUX FALLS – Don and Ruth Miller will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Feb. 16. They have 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Therese Parish.

SIOUX FALLS – Toby and Sheila Orlando will celebrate their 35th anniversary on Feb. 20. They have 3 children and are members of St. Lambert Parish.

TABOR – George and Agnes Kocer celebrated their 75th anniversary on Jan. 12. They have 1 child, 3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Wenceslaus Parish.

TYNDALL – Wayne and Arlo Schuurmans will celebrate their 65th anniversary on Feb. 25. They have 5 children, 14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Leo Parish.

WHITE LAKE – Wallace and Lucille Mohnen celebrated their 65th anniversary on Jan. 21. They have 12 children (1 deceased), 27 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Peter Parish.

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, Salem, SD.

Anniversary submissions

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

Bishop Hoch scholarship applications available

The Diocese awards a $1,000 scholarship in each of the seven deaneries, to enable a student to attend either Mount Marty College in Yankton or Presentation College in Aberdeen.

The scholarships are available to new students, students already in college and non-traditional students interested in attending or already attending Mount Marty and Presentation Colleges.

To obtain an application, contact your pastor, the Financial Aid Office at Mount Marty College or Presentation College. Applications are due March 15. Applications must be returned to the Office of Catholic Schools, 523 North Duluth Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714.

Bon Homme Knights of Columbus gather for annual feed

The Bon Homme Knights of Columbus Council #4002 recently gathered for the annual council feed in advance of one of their monthly meetings. In addition to council officers and knights on hand, many state, district and area officers were also in attendance. (Photo by Bill Minow, treasurer Bon Homme Knights of Columbus #4002, Tyndall)

Engaged Encounter Team celebrates decades of service

The Eastern South Dakota Engaged Encounter Team met to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of National Engaged Encounter. Both past and present team members attended the gathering in Sioux Falls. Pictured are some of those attending the gathering. (Photo courtesy, The Eastern South Dakota Engaged Encounter Team)

Committed in Christ

Sister Jeanne Flanagan

Sister Jeanne Flanagan, OP, died Jan. 14 at St. Dominic Villa, Sinsinsawa, WI. She was 91.

Sister Jeanne's religious name was Sister John Dominici and she was a member of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 23, at the Dominican mother house. Burial followed in the mother house cemetery.

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

She taught for 10 years and served as principal for eight years and dean of girls for one year.

Sister Jeanne served in South Dakota, Minnesota, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Illinois, Oklahoma and Texas.

In the Diocese of Sioux Falls, Sister Jeanne ministered as principal at St. Joseph Cathedral School, Sioux Falls, 1959-1961, and then as dean of girls at O'Gorman High School, Sioux Falls, 1961-1962.

Sister Jeanne Flanagan, OP

Sister Jeanne was born May 30, 1925, in Chicago, the daughter of John and Loretta (Gillen) Flanagan.

Her parents and a sister, MariLu Matre, preceded her in death.

Theologian: Christian unity possible but not a 'call to ignore realities'

Washington, D.C. (CNS) - Disagreements among Christians have existed from the beginning, but there is a way to live in unity until disagreements can be resolved, said a U.S. theologian speaking about the need for unity among Christian churches around the world. "We will have disagreements, that is predictable, but must we have divisions?" asked Michael Root, a member of the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue, in a reflection during a Jan. 17 prayer service in Washington on the eve of the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. "There are real disagreements among those who claim the name of Christ, disagreements about sacraments, about how we live out the Christian life, about how the church reaches decisions. Some differences may mean that we cannot do together some things Christians must do together to be one church," Root said. "The ecumenical quest is about overcoming those differences, but also about how we live with them in the meantime." Catholic Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of Springfield, Massachusetts, presided over the event attended also by Bishop Richard Graham of the Washington, D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Rozanski is chairman of the bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Congress urged to keep health care gains, protect life, conscience rights

Washington, D.C. (CNS) - The chairman of the U.S. bishops' domestic policy committee said that a repeal of the federal health care law should not take place without immediate passage of a plan that preserves people's access to adequate health care and also protects human life, conscience rights and the poor. "Important gains brought about by the Affordable Care Act must be preserved" as millions of people now rely on the law for their health care, said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. At the same time, he said, any replacement measure also must safeguard human life from conception to natural death, protect conscience rights and provide adequate health care for immigrants, the poor and others on society's margins. Bishop Dewane made the comments in a letter sent to members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

U.S. abortion rate at its lowest since 1973 Supreme Court ruling

Washington, D.C. (CNS) - The U.S. abortion rate is down to its lowest level since the Supreme Court made abortion legal virtually on demand in 1973, and the rate is half of its early-1980s peak. According to a study issued Jan. 17 by the Guttmacher Institute, the abortion rate for U.S. women ages 15-44 is 14.6 per 1,000 in 2014, the last year for which statistics are available. The figure represents a 14 percent decline from the 2011 numbers, and less than half of the 1981 rate of 29.4 abortions per 1,000 women of child-bearing age. The percentage of pregnancies ending in abortion is down to 18.8 percent, a decline of nearly two-fifths below is 1983 peak of 30.3 percent.

Church leaders say Kentucky's new pro-life laws protect unborn and women

Louisville, KY. (CNS) - Louisville church leaders welcomed two state laws that place tighter restrictions on abortions, hailing the measures as lifesavers that will help parents and their children. Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville said the two pro-life laws, signed by Gov. Matt Bevin, "will provide solid pathways for commonsense protection of the child in the womb in a manner that also provides care to the mother." The archbishop also said the "passage of this legislation is the occasion for us to recommit ourselves to providing pastoral care to mothers who face problems related to their pregnancies." He said several agencies "stand ready to help," including Opportunities for Life, an agency sponsored by Kentucky's four Catholic bishops that provides a 24-hour hotline to assist women with difficulties related to pregnancy, as well as Catholic Charities and pregnancy help centers, such as the Little Way Pregnancy Resource Center in downtown Louisville.

Working with Iraqi refugees stretches, strengthens priest's faith

Marka, Jordan (CNS) - Working with displaced Iraqi Christians has stretched and strengthened the faith of a priest who came to Jordan as a refugee. Father Khalil Jaar said the Iraqi Christians, who escaped the Islamic State invasion for initial sanctuary in Jordan until they find a permanent home, have become like family for him, with some even living on the compound of his parish, Our Lady Mother of the Church, in this crowded suburb of the Jordanian capital, Amman. "I told Pope Francis that I am a privileged priest because, for me, these refugees are the saints of the 21st century," Father Jaar recently told Catholic News Service. "His secretary said the pope was very touched by this and has started to use this same terminology: 'the living saints of the 21st century.'" Some Iraqi Christians helped by Father Jaar told him that despite gains by the U.S.-led coalition pushing Islamic States militants from their villages and Mosul, they cannot think of returning home and are tired of repeatedly rebuilding their lives.

Prayer brings light of hope in dark times, pope says at audience

Vatican City (CNS) - Prayer has the power to awaken hope in men and women, even in the face of death and destruction, Pope Francis said. People often feel unworthy to turn to God when they are in need "as if it were a self-interested prayer and, thus, imperfect," the pope said Jan. 18 during his weekly general audience. "But God knows our weakness; he knows that we remember him to ask for help and, with the indulgent smile of a father, he responds graciously," he said. Greeting thousands of people in the Paul VI audience hall, the pope seemed to lose his balance several times as pilgrims clasped his hand and tried pulling him toward them, hoping for a hug or a blessing. Still, the pope took time to greet people, stopping to bless a pregnant woman's belly and embracing a young boy in tears, who was overcome with emotion at meeting him. The audience took place at the beginning of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which for 2017 had the theme: "Reconciliation: The love of Christ compels us."

Life in the Spirit retreat set in Brookings Feb. 12-Mar. 26 - The retreat will be held at St. Thomas More Parish, Brookings on seven consecutive Sundays: Feb. 12th, 19th and 26th and Mar. 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th from 2-4 p.m. The retreat is sponsored by St. Thomas More Life in the Spirit Prayer Group. For questions or to register call or e-mail: Laura Kondratuk at 605-692-4361 or Laura@stmbrookings.org.

O'Gorman Capers variety show set Monday, Feb. 13 - The event is the O'Gorman Choir's premier fundraising event, where the cast will share an exciting mix of song, dance & acting. The performance will be at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. The variety show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are $25.00 on sale through the O'Gorman Box Office from 7:30-9:30 a.m. or by calling 575-3335.

Women's morning of renewal planned Saturday, Feb. 25 - The event will be held from 9-11 a.m. at the Holy Spirit Parish Fireside Room, Sioux Falls. Call or text Julie Cady 605-521-5782 with questions or to register. The speaker will be Jane Barz on discerning God's will. Free will offering.

Parish hosting forum on end of life decisions Saturday, Mar. 25 - St. Mary Parish, Sioux Falls, will host a forum on "Catholic Teaching on End of Life Decisions" on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the parish.

Mother of God Monastery

Feb. 11/Images of Jesus in Scripture offered from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Harmony Hill Hall. Suggested donation is $30 (Includes lunch). Contact Sister Emily to register 605-886-4181.

Feb. 13/Creative Meditation With Clay offered from 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Harmony Hill Hall. No previous work with clay is required. This is a day for prayer and relaxing creativity. Suggested donation is $10. Contact Sister Emily to register 605-886-4181.

Feb. 17-18/Who Am I and Who is My Neighbor; Myers-Briggs Workshop will be offered Friday from 7-8:30 p.m. through Saturday 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. at Harmony Hill Hall. Suggested Donation is $70 (Includes room and board); $40 for commuters. Contact Sister Emily to register 605-886-4181.

Catholic Family Services

Feb. 7 and Mar. 7/Catholic Family Services invites you to join the Living with Chronic Illness group, a free educational support group that meets the first Tuesday of each month, for those living with chronic illness and their care givers. St. Lambert Parish, 1000 S. Bahnson Ave., Sioux Falls. For details please call Margi at Catholic Family Services, 605-988-3775.

Feb. 28-Apr. 4/Grieving the loss of a child will be offered on six Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Catholic Family Services, 523 N. Duluth Ave., Sioux Falls. Directed by Dr. Marcie Moran, the program is for adults who have lost a child and are trying to understand and reconcile their grief. The program is designed to be educational and will offer positive suggestions to help people to survive and learn to live fully again. Call 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 to register.

Mar. 3-5/Grieving the loss of a loved one weekend non-denominational retreat for adults who have lost a loved one and are trying to understand and reconcile their grief. The retreat begins on Friday at 7 p.m. and concludes Sunday at noon at Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center, near Irene. Directed by Dr. Marcie Moran. Call 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867. Registrations are limited.

Broom Tree Retreat Center

Tuesday, Feb. 21/"Gifting Yourself to God: A Lenten Preparation" will be directed by Dr. Teresa Kemmer with Father Ken Lulf in preparation for the Lenten season. Dr. Kemmer will help those attending to reflect on how they can lift themselves to God. Broom Tree Days of Recollection begin at 10 a.m. A prayerful donation is requested but registration is required.

Feb. 23-26/Men's silent retreat; directed by Father Joe Vogel. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, this retreat will offer you time for private prayer, conferences intended to provide instruction in the spiritual life and daily opportunities for Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all in the silent and sacred environment of Broom Tree Retreat Center. For more information or to register, 605-263-1040 or broom-tree.org.

Sacred Heart Monastery

Feb. 5/ 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.

Feb. 19/Oblate Orientation: Have you ever thought about being a Benedictine Oblate? Oblates are Christian people who associate themselves with a Benedictine community in order to enrich their Christian way of life. Oblates shape their lives by living the wisdom of Christ as interpreted by St. Benedict. Come for an hour on Sunday from 1-2 p.m. to learn about this orientation opportunity. Refreshments will be served after.

Feb. 22 and Mar. 8/Lenten Scripture Studies: The Benedictine Peace Center is hosting two Scripture Study groups, using the Little Rock Scripture Study created by the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock in Arkansas. The morning series, The Gospel of John, Part II, will be facilitated by Sister Doris Oberembt, meeting Wednesday at 10-11:45 a.m. for 7 weeks beginning Feb. 22. The Panorama of the New Testament, facilitated by Sister Mary Jo Polak, will meet 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning on March 8 for 5 weeks. For more information on the study, costs, and registration, http://yanktonbenedictines.org/center/ and then click on the Scripture Study page, or call 605-668-6292. The registration deadline is February 15 for the Gospel of John study and February 22 for the New Testament study.

Mar. 4/Lenten Morning of Reflection: "A Season for Transformation" will be offered 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Benedictine Peace Center in Yankton. Sister Jeanne Ranek is the presenter for the event, which will include short talks, prayerful silent times and reflective sharing in small groups. Suggested donation is $15. Register by Mar. 1 by e-mail BenedictinePeaceCtr@mtmc.edu or phone 605-668-6292.

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

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN
Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

Catholic Family Services

17TH ANNUAL

Gift of Hope Concert

PRESENTS

MARK SCHULTZ

SUNDAY
MARCH 19TH
2:00 PM

O'Gorman Performing Arts Center
Sioux Falls, SD

TICKETS:
(605) 988-3765
CCFESD.ORG

Also available at all Sioux Falls HyVee locations.

HyVee

"AN INSPIRING AND UPLIFTING PLATINUM-SELLING RECORDING ARTIST AND STORYTELLER."

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Avera

First PREMIER Bank
PREMIER Bankcard

Catholic COMMUNITY FOUNDATION