



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

February 2021

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN



HELPING
OTHERS
GROW IN
RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

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ANSWERING THE CALL

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RETREATS
BEAR FRUIT AS
YOUNG PEOPLE
GO DEEPER
INTO THEIR
FAITH

NEXT GENERATION CATHOLIC

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CONNECTING US AS

ONE Faith, ONE Family.

Getting a glimpse of a generous diocese



In my home diocese I often wondered “what does the diocesan annual appeal really support?” This was the question I needed answered for myself as your bishop.

Frankly, as I dug into the details more, I have been struck by how many of the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal (CFSA) resources are used to help pastors, parishes and staff in parishes and Catholic schools. I have been able to get this glimpse through my questioning and observations this past year which has helped me understand more fully how many of our Chancery staff help support so many parishes, schools and other outreach ministries.

This year in our annual diocesan Catholic Family Sharing Appeal, I asked that we highlight the ministries supported so you, too, can get a clear glimpse of the many things CFSA dollars support.

Getting a full understanding of what is supported through the generosity of faith-filled people throughout the diocese is not always easy to really know. I have discovered that only as I grow older have I come to appreciate the many ways the diocesan appeal in my own diocese has helped me through the years, like paying for my seminary education to become a priest, all the support the diocese provided for my home parish, the Catholic school I attended, sacramental support, etc.

I am grateful God is calling me to grow more grateful for the many hidden generous souls in my home diocese who have helped provide what I needed to become the priest and now bishop God had planned for me long before I ever knew it.

It is in this spirit of gratitude that I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been so very generous through the years of your support for our diocesan Catholic Family Sharing Appeal. Your sacrificial offerings of the past have enabled me to be in an amazingly wonderful diocese with so many great things in place. Because of this generosity, we are poised for more great things in the future as we continue to fall more deeply in love with God, others and ourselves by receiving His love.

It is my hope that the clear grace (spiritual insight) God provided for me for a diocesan vision a few months ago will come to fullness in all of us in the diocese. The vision is: *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love*. Put simply it means we should always be striving to know, love and serve God and others by receiving God's gift of love which in turn helps us know and love God, others and ourselves as God loves us. This in turn motivates us to share God's incredible love with him and others in the same sacrificial way God loves us.

As we begin our annual diocesan Catholic Family Sharing Appeal for 2021, I want to reaffirm my gratitude for the generous sacrifices of the past so many have made, invite you to take a glimpse of the many ministries supported which you will find in the Bulletin feature article, and join me in a generous return of my many blessings by supporting the 2021 Catholic Family Sharing Appeal.

Know of my love, prayers and gratitude as your bishop.

February

- 2 10:20 Catholic Schools Week Mass,
O'Gorman High School, Sioux
Falls
- 3 8:40 Catholic Schools Week Mass:
St. Mary High School, Dell
Rapids
- 1:30 Aberdeen Catholic Schools,
Roncalli High School
- 4 8:30 Catholic Schools Week Mass:
St. Lawrence, Milbank
- 1:00 St. Thomas Aquinas, Madison
- 6 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of
Saint Joseph*
- 7 9:00 SEEK Conference Keynote,
Hilton Garden Inn, Sioux Falls
- 8 8:15 Catholic Schools Mass, St.
Michael, Sioux Falls
- 9 8:30 Catholic Schools Mass, St.
Lambert, Sioux Falls
- 10 10:20 Catholic Schools Mass:
O'Gorman High School
- 1:15 O'Gorman Junior High
- 7:00 Confirmation, St. John Paul
II, Harrisburg, St. Christina,
Parker, and St. Nicholas, Tea,
at Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 11 11:00 Presbyteral Council, Catholic
Pastoral Center
- 13 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of
Saint Joseph*
- 14 1:30 Confirmation, Holy Spirit,
Sioux Falls
- 15-18 Seminary visits
- 20 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of
Saint Joseph*
- 21 1:30 Rite of Election, Cathedral of
Saint Joseph
- 24 8:00 Catholic Schools Mass, St.
Katharine Drexel, Sioux Falls
- 7:00 Confirmation, St. Katharine
Drexel, Sioux Falls
- 25 8:30 Catholic Schools Mass, Christ
the King, Sioux Falls
- 27 10:00 Confirmation, St. Mary, Dell
Rapids, St. Rose of Lima,
Garretson, St. Joseph the
Workman, Huntimer, at St.
Mary, Dell Rapids
- 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of
Saint Joseph*
- 28 11:00 Confirmation, Cathedral of
Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls

March

- 3 7:00 Confirmation, Holy Spirit,
Mitchell, Holy Family, Mitchell,
at Holy Family, Mitchell
- 4 8:00 Catholic Schools Mass, Holy
Spirit, Sioux Falls

*Broadcast on Keloland TV or
live stream via sfcatholic.org

Officials



Since publication of the January Bishop's Bulletin:

The Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood, after receiving input from the local parish and with consideration given to its limited use, relegated the **St. John church** building in Harrold, South Dakota, to profane but not sordid use and decreed that the sanctuary and nave were no longer to be used for divine worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew K. Althoff
Chancellor

A Stewardship Prayer

Lord God,
Giver of life and all good gifts,
You anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit
who inspired him to give everything he had for our sake.
Move us by the same spirit of stewardship
to share first to the Lord, for the benefit of all.

By your grace, help us to follow in your footsteps
and become more focused on loving and caring
for our families, our neighbors and our communities.

Lead us to the awareness that everything we are
and everything we have is your gift.

Grant us the spirit of sacrifice to always seek
your will and to share our gifts with
our brothers and sisters.

May we be good stewards of all we have received
and cooperate with you in building your kingdom
of love and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

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Helping others grow in relationship with God, one small group at a time

By Wendy Royston

At the Lord's nudging, Bishop Donald DeGrood has laid out a vision for a diocesan-wide call to, essentially, embody the true meaning of Catholicism.

"Missionary discipleship is following Jesus and sharing Him with those around you," explained Dr. Chris Burgwald, director of Adult Discipleship and Evangelization. "To be Catholic has always meant to have a relationship with God, and then do what I can to help others to have a relationship with God. ... This is kind of putting a specific name to what our Catholic faith has always been about."

In his first year as the shepherd of the Sioux Falls diocese, Bishop DeGrood has sensed a need for renewed emphasis on what he has themed *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love*. As it is likely this dedication will remain the same for longer than 2021, diocesan staff are committed to helping Catholics understand the mission early this year.

"At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said, 'Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. Know I am with you always until the end of the age.' So, Jesus told us, as members of the Church

... that we're all called to make disciples based on our state in life, to the degree that we're able, our life circumstances, we're all called to do this," Burgwald explained. "A missionary disciple is somebody who follows Jesus Christ in a conscious, intentional way. They have a relationship with Jesus—that's the discipleship side—and as a missionary disciple, he or she seeks to share Jesus with others as well."

Though becoming a missionary disciple may sound like a grand undertaking, Burgwald said it really is a natural part of the process we are called to in loving God and our neighbors.

"To be a missionary disciple does not require a degree in theology, nor a minimum number of years on this earth. It really is just about a depth of faith. When you're a mature disciple, you naturally start to tell other people about your faith. You can't help it," he said. "It's like when you go to a new restaurant that you love. What do you do? You tell people about it. You go to a movie that you love, and what do you do? You tell people about it. You meet Jesus Christ in a profound way, and what do you do? You tell somebody else about it."

The first step in missionary discipleship,

according to Burgwald, is for Catholics to work on their own relationships with God.

"We talk about this, really, in a holistic way," he said. "It's about prayer, but not just about prayer. It's about knowing the Bible and Church teaching, but not just about the Bible and Church teaching. It's about growing in virtue and my ability to relate to other people, but not just that. It's about walking with others closer to Jesus, but not just that."

Those focuses help the individual mature in the four key areas of discipleship formation: spiritual, intellectual, human and apostolic. And, as one digs into learning to pray, learning what the Bible says and digging into Church teaching, they'll naturally thirst for more and their discipleship will evolve.

Growing with small groups

To continue their faith journeys, many disciples turn to others. Burgwald says small groups are a great way to grow as missionary disciples. Although missionary discipleship has always been the tenet of the Catholic faith, it isn't always something that just happens on its own.

"There are a lot of Catholics who desire to grow in their faith, but they're not yet in a

place where they know how to share with those around them,” Burgwald said.

That’s where parish and diocesan staff come into play. With a vast array of resources and the wisdom of priests and the bishop, those individuals can accompany others in their journey to the next level of faith formation.

Much of the time, small group Bible or faith studies originate at the parish level.

“When you’re together on some regular basis, whether it’s weekly or every couple of weeks or maybe monthly, with a small group of peers who are all trying to grow in your faith, there’s this ‘we’re in this together’ kind of thing that happens,” Burgwald said. “The accountability, the relationships, the bonding that happens is a really powerful way—a very fruitful way—for people to grow as missionary disciples. Nobody does it alone. ... To hear how other people are growing in their faith is, oftentimes, a great way that I can grow in my faith, too.”

Often, small groups start at the urging of parish priests or directors of religious education, but sometimes they happen without formal ties to the parish.

“You want to do this with Father’s blessing, even in this situation,” he said, but “It doesn’t need to be anybody who has been formally involved in any religious programs of the parish.”

Other times, they are the result of diocesan programming, such as retreats like the Women’s Conference or Discipleship Day. As part of the new push for missionary discipleship, however, the Sioux Falls diocese is instituting more formal, in-depth programming.

Small groups already exist

Burgwald leads the three-year Equip program, which focuses on helping adults grow in prayer and learn Church teaching and Scripture, but also teaches skills about relating one’s own life, as well as Jesus’s, to others.

The program involves quarterly days of formation, monthly virtual meetings and regular contact with Burgwald. The program is selective in its participation; a recommendation is needed from a diocesan priest, and applicants are interviewed by Burgwald prior to entry into the program.

This year, Bishop DeGrood welcomed a National Evangelization Team, or NET Team, of college-aged Catholics from the Minneapolis/St. Paul archdiocese to work with teens and adults across eastern South Dakota. The team is working in various

parishes in the diocese, sharing the good news of Jesus and offering opportunities to experience Him through retreats, fun nights, discipleship groups, praise and worship.

“The role we play is being an engaging presence on the front line. We are striving to build relationships and find people where they are at, both in their parishes and in homes,” representatives of the team wrote. “We are striving also to empower and give the adults in the community the tools they need to be able to be leaders and guide the youth.”

Burgwald said that the work of the Office of Discipleship and Evangelization closely ties to the formation of missionary disciples on a regular basis.

“Many of the diocesan events, especially in our office, are about providing opportunities for people to grow as missionary disciples,” he said, adding that it isn’t about telling people how to be Christians, but

“Most of them, you don’t know who they are, but your prayers for them are a real way to practice your missionary discipleship,” Burgwald said. “But there are also the people the Lord has put more clearly in our paths that he wants us to accompany as well. That can be, if nothing else, by our prayers and by the way we live our lives that should bear witness to our faith.”

The key to missionary discipleship is meeting people where they are and showing them the light of God’s face in the midst of whatever darkness they face.

“They might know very little about God and Jesus or what it means to be a Christian. So my job is, in the way that I talk to them and in the way that I talk about religion in general, just to help them see that religious people aren’t crazy or jerks or bigots, so that the next person the Lord puts in their life is able to have that more Jesus-centered conversation,” he said. “Maybe we are the ones who are tilling the soil for someone else to be able to plant the seed.”



rather showing them. “All the different ways that we see Jesus (accompanying others) in the Gospels, we’re called to do that with the people who we interact with or we encounter on a daily basis. ... That’s the way the vast majority of us can and should be living as missionary disciples—by just being a bright beacon in the lives of those around us.”

Meet people where they are

An easy, modern day way to get started on the road to evangelization is for a Christian to simply say a prayer for each person they encounter in a day, whether they know them or not.

And, other times, the Holy Spirit may demand more.

“Maybe we’re the one who has to plant the seed in the soil that’s already been tilled by somebody else,” Burgwald said. “With (one) person, maybe I’m called to listen, but with (another) person, maybe I’m called to speak.”

Interested in starting a small group but don’t know where to begin? Dr. Burgwald has created a series of videos to help you start and lead your own small group. Find the videos at youtube.com/c/SFDiocese/playlists and click on “Small Group How To’s.”



CONNECTING US AS ONE Faith, ONE Family.

by Renae Kranz

Each year when the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal begins, many of us can probably think of one or two ways we've come into contact with some of the things offered by the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Maybe one of our children went to a youth conference or a college-aged child is involved in the Newman Center on their university campus, or maybe we attended a talk by Dr. Chris Burgwald to deepen our knowledge of our own faith.

This past year has been one where nearly every Catholic has regularly felt and seen some of the things the diocese provides for parishes and for all Catholics: Sunday TV Mass, The Bishop's Bulletin, parish websites, and online parish giving just to name a few.

These things have come into our homes when we couldn't be together and helped us stay connected with each other as one family in our one faith. They brought our beautiful Catholic faith to us when we couldn't go out to meet it in the world.

Communication is key

In past years, the Communications Office of the Diocese of Sioux Falls produced Sunday TV Mass each week so those who couldn't come to church could still take part in Mass in some way. The audience typically consisted of Catholics who were sick, cared for a sick or disabled family member, or maybe lived in a senior care facility. It may have been your own grandmother or your great aunt or uncle watching Mass on TV.

That all changed when COVID became a reality of life. Within days in the early part of last year, public Masses were canceled and all Catholics in the diocese turned to the Sunday TV Mass on KELOLAND TV or YouTube to keep some semblance of normalcy in their Sunday routine. For some Catholics, even as most have returned to in-person Mass, this option is still their only one.

Pat McGill, parishioner at St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Beresford, has been isolating herself since November of 2019 due to breathing problems. When COVID hit, she knew her isolation would last much longer. But Pat has taken it all in



PAT MCGILL

Parishioner at St. Teresa of Avila, Beresford

stride, using Sunday TV Mass to keep her connection with the Church and with our Lord strong.

"I feel a connection at 10:00 on KELO. That connection has built over the last year," Pat says. "It's a delight to have Bishop DeGrood as the celebrant. He's not always there of course, but when he is, I feel like I'm getting to know the bishop better. His messages are very important in a rural diocese. It's a very special connection for me."

Pat enjoys watching Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, but she misses the community and comfort of being in Mass with people she knows, and most of all she misses real Communion. While she's been isolating at home, she has appreciated how the volunteers filming TV Mass pan the camera during Communion to show those at home the beautiful stained glass windows or rest on the crucifix for a moment of prayer.

"I read the spiritual communion prayer and I'm so happy," Pat says. "It's a place for another connection and then for prayer. That prayer has helped me tremendously. It's taken the guilt away, the guilt of not being at Mass on Sunday."

The Eucharist is critical to Pat as a Catholic. She says it is her salvation and is the reason she is Catholic. She loves when her own priest, Father David Roehrich, visits to bring the body of Christ to her and gives her reconciliation. It's been an important part of her week.

"It's been a miracle. You look at life either with no miracles or life IS miracles and it's such a gift," Pat says.

She continues to stay in touch with fellow parishioners through calls and emails, she attends Bible studies by Zoom, and she watches homilies of priests from former parishes she has attended. They're all ways for her to maintain connections and learn more about her faith.

Pat also uses the Bishop's Bulletin to stay connected to the diocesan Church. She refers to it as "a bulletin board for the Catholic Church" and part of the brand for the diocese. She loves the color, the print and the style and feels like it's a step above other diocesan publications in the area.

"You're finding the gifts in the diocese and bringing them to print, because people still need print," Pat says. "We get ideas from what other parishes are doing, and we get to see God in other people."

The stories in the Bishop's Bulletin often tell the stories of others in our diocese and how they are living their Catholic faith. They have provided inspiration to Pat and many others and helped to point the way to a deeper faith in Christ. The Bishop's Bulletin has also been a major connecting point for those who read it.

"I just have been enjoying the time to read like I've never read before. It's interesting in the Bulletin to see what people are reading right now (from the January 2021 issue). I found that interesting," Pat said. "I was thinking about the story on discipleship, and I remember underlining one of the paragraphs about keeping the right mindset, because I think we can be so overwhelmed with the news."

Pat has really made use of the communications from the diocese to keep her faith strong. "My faith has gotten stronger. Maybe it's because I've had more time to pray. Maybe it's because I've had more time to reflect."

Whether it's through the Sunday TV Mass, Bible studies on Zoom or the Bishop's Bulletin, Pat and others in the diocese just need ways to stay connected with their faith family.

"I still feel a connection and yet I lost a little bit of community because hearts need hearts," Pat says. "When you connect with people via the heart, it's a stronger connection than through the brain."

Catholics like Pat need those at-home outreaches provided by the Diocese of Sioux Falls and paid for by Catholic Family Sharing Appeal. They keep us together as the family of God.

Technology connects parish families

Information technology (IT) assistance provided by the diocese has also helped keep us connected. Behind the scenes, this office of only two leapt into action when Masses were canceled. They helped parishes across our diocese figure out how to stream their Masses so parishioners could still spend time with God in prayer, even if it wasn't within the parish walls. That was done on top of helping diocesan staff transition to temporarily working from home.

Father Timothy Smith, pastor at Holy Cross, Ipswich, St. Thomas the Apostle, Roscoe, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Leola, was just one of the priests impacted by the help of the IT Office. Director Dawn Wolf and technology support specialist Adam Staebell helped Father Smith begin streaming Masses, but he needed a place to put those videos. With the assistance of the IT Office, he was able to create cost effective websites for all three of his parishes.

"[Parish] members can now access the parish bulletin online and also have easy access to local online Mass and prayer services," Father Smith said. "We also have received equipment support that keeps our technology updated and our parishes on the cutting edge. Dawn and Adam are a great team and very helpful to priests."

IT help for parishes is one area where Catholic Family Sharing Appeal makes a real impact that helps parishes save money. This in turn helps those parishes stretch their dollars to their fullest potential for their parishioners and their communities. Father Smith knows how important this is.

“The cost and time it takes to find tech support from outside providers would be a huge dent to our annual parish budget,” he says. “Our parish CFSA support pays for itself. My business experience in the corporate world has taught me that we get a dollar-for-dollar benefit for the CFSA contributions we make by saving time and money.”

“Technology can be complicated and there are definitely best practices and ways to approach technology-related issues that can make parish administration much less expensive and time-consuming,” Dawn says. “We have a lot of resources for parish discounts on hardware and software, which can really maximize those parish dollars and leave more money available for ministries.”

The IT office assists 118 parishes, four Newman Centers, 11 Catholic elementary schools, all priests, deacons and religious communities, and several Catholic entities in our diocese with varying levels of technology, telecommunications support and training.

Father Smith and other priests in the diocese have had to adjust to the reality of not being able to gather for events and meetings in person as well. With online technologies like Zoom and the IT Office’s help in setting them up and providing discounts, parishes have kept Bible studies, meetings and faith-formation events going.

Zoom has been especially helpful for Father Smith’s parishioners who have used it for youth ministry, adult programs and their local group of Legion of Mary. All ages have stayed connected with each other.

“I never cease to be amazed to hear how [parish] members benefit from the technology we use,” Father Smith said. “I have a parishioner who is 101 years old and she participates in the Legion of Mary online meetings and watches streaming Mass faithfully. It means so much to her and others to see the home parish each week.”

Similar stories could be told by other priests all over the diocese. With online streaming and other technology needs, the IT Office has never felt more crucial to parishes. They were even able to make online giving easier for parishioners so parishes could continue to function during a very uncertain period. Father Smith was grateful for that option.

“Our members have adopted it (online giving) easily. We also have received online donations from people across the country who want to support the hometown parish. That has been a big surprise,” Father Smith said.

The IT Office doesn’t charge for any services provided to parishes and staff. It’s a direct benefit of appeal contributions, and Dawn says their office couldn’t exist without Catholic Family Sharing Appeal dollars.

“Everyone has gifts and talents that are God-given, and our gifts happen to be around technology and providing solutions to those

we serve,” Dawn says. “We are blessed to do what we do for diocesan organizations and people we love. Nothing gives me and my staff more satisfaction than helping our parishes and our bishop, priests, deacons and religious with technology.”

What else is supported?

As Catholics, we are called by our God to show our love of neighbor by sharing our gifts with others. Catholic Family Sharing Appeal allows us to share those gifts with others in our own diocese and in our own communities.

The list of programs, ministries and events supported by CFSA is longer than I’ve described so far, but all of them will help us implement Bishop DeGrood’s new vision for the diocese, *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God’s Love*. (For more on the Bishop’s vision, you can read the feature story in the July 2020 issue of the Bishop’s Bulletin.) This vision will allow us, God’s people, to spread His love and make Him tangible to others in our communities. It’s our calling directly from our Lord in Matthew 28:19: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Give with a generous heart

Pat and many others like her count on the ministries of the diocese at this time of challenge. She continues to have a grateful heart for all that is given through Catholic Family Sharing Appeal. But she also knows not everyone realizes the importance of this appeal. It connects the diocesan parishes and parishioners to each other in God’s love.

“We become connected through the diocese with all of these parishes,” Pat says. “And if our parishes don’t support the mother house, that’s what I call the diocese, it’s the mother house. If we don’t support that, programs die. And once a program dies, and I’ve learned this in all my years in education, you don’t get it back.”

Support for the programs and ministries of the diocese through Catholic Family Sharing Appeal will provide the path to bring Jesus to those around us through the Bishop’s vision. Please open your heart and give generously as you are able.

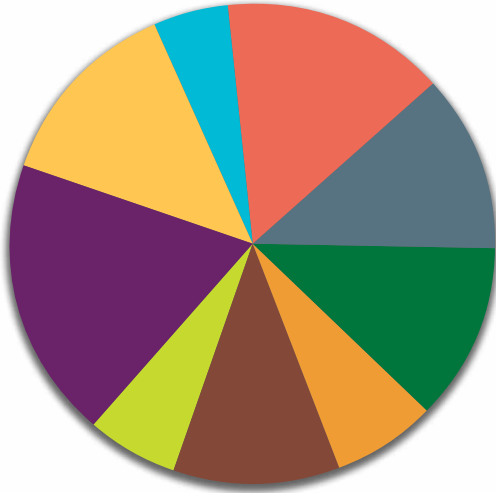
And go out and make disciples of all nations.



FR. TIM SMITH

Streaming Mass live to his parishioners in
Ipswich, Roscoe and Leola

Catholic Family Sharing Appeal Distributions



Seminarian & Priest Education	17%
Discipleship & Evangelization	13%
Catholic Family Services	5%
Pastoral Services	16%
Administration	14%
Bishop's Bulletin & Communications	11%
Education & Newman Centers	7%
Pastoral Center & Maintenance	12%
Charitable Ministries	5%

Seminarian/priest education

- Vocations recruitment and promotion
- Opportunities for permanent diaconate training and formation
- Seminarian education and formation
- Priest continuing education and sabbaticals
- Priest/religious retirement

Evangelization/discipleship

- Discipleship support for youth and adults
- Sacramental preparation support programs—baptism, Eucharist, confirmation, marriage
- Religious education support
- Conferences for women and couples
- Resources for enhancement of family life
- Special needs
- Catechists of the Good Shepherd training
- Mastermind groups—small group program for parish catechetical leaders
- Equip—a 3-year formation program for adult lay missionary discipleship
- Office of worship
- Discipleship camps
- Youth conferences
- Going Deeper, Words of Wisdom and other retreats
- Lumen Christi (Latin for Light of Christ)—children and youth program formerly called Totus Tuus
- Awareness for ways to encourage respect for the dignity of all life
- Marriage enrichment tools
- South Dakota Catholic Conference

Catholic Family Services

- Grief groups and other loss support programs
- Family and individual counseling
- Project Rachel—healing for post abortion
- Single day programs in parishes around the diocese

Pastoral ministry services

- The Bishop's ministry, including parish and school visits and confirmations
- Support for pastoral and finance councils, other parish structural needs
- Cemeteries
- Stewardship
- Marriage Tribunal
- Chaplaincy support for hospitals, prisons and other human service facilities

Communications

- The Bishop's Bulletin monthly to every household
- Sunday TV Mass broadcast and streamed each week
- Audio/video production including weekly radio programs, podcasts and videos
- Diocesan website—www.sfcatholic.org
- Social media communicating the Good News

Catholic education/Newman Centers

- Newman Catholic Campus Ministry located at four university campuses
- Office of Catholic Schools: supporting the 22 Catholic schools that carry out this important apostolate on behalf of 27 parishes in 15 different communities in the diocese

Pastoral administrative services

- Technology support
- Personnel resources through benefits administration, human resource consulting, safe environment programs and more
- Financial administrative services, including parish accounting and census and risk management

Outreach ministries

- Marriage, family and respect life initiatives
- Catholic outreach beyond the diocese
- As well as coordinated support for these separate works
- Support of feeding and shelter ministries serving people from across the diocese
- Assistance and support to military families
- Mother Teresa Fund supporting pregnant women
- St. Joseph Catholic Housing with more than 1,000 units around the diocese
- Retrouvaille peer ministry for hurting marriages



ONE Faith,
ONE Family.

2021 Parish Share

▼ CITY	PARISH	PLEDGE
Aberdeen	Sacred Heart Parish	\$122,000
Aberdeen - SM	St. Mary Parish	\$95,000
Alexandria	St. Mary of Mercy Parish	\$18,200
Arlington	St. John Parish	\$7,500
Armour	St. Paul the Apostle Parish	\$22,400
Artesian	St. Charles Parish	\$3,300
Beresford	St. Teresa of Avila Parish	\$19,400
Big Bend	St. Catherine Parish	\$200
Big Stone City	St. Charles Parish	\$11,200
Bowdle	St. Augustine Parish	\$13,000
Brandon	Risen Savior Parish	\$97,400
Bridgewater	St. Stephen Parish	\$10,600
Britton	St. John de Britto Parish	\$16,200
Brookings	St. Thomas More Parish	\$127,000
Bryant	St. Mary Parish	\$5,700
Canton	St. Dominic Parish	\$20,600
Castlewood	St. John Parish	\$11,300
Centerville	Good Shepherd Parish	\$8,200
Chamberlain	St. James Parish	\$31,200
Clark	St. Michael Parish	\$15,200
Clear Lake	St. Mary	\$17,700
Colman	St. Peter Parish	\$16,700
Dakota Dunes	St. Teresa of Calcutta	\$28,400
Dante	Assumption Parish	\$14,100
Dell Rapids	St. Mary Parish	\$66,000
DeSmet	St. Thomas Aquinas Parish	\$15,600
Dimock	SS Peter & Paul Parish	\$19,000
Eden	Sacred Heart Parish	\$16,700
Elk Point	St. Joseph Parish	\$28,600
Elkton	Our Lady of Good Counsel	\$20,500
Emery	St. Martin Parish	\$12,750
Epiphany	Parish of the Epiphany	\$12,500
Estelline	St. Francis de Sales Parish	\$8,500
Eureka	St. Joseph Parish	\$7,800
Faulton	St. Thomas the Apostle Parish	\$28,300
Flandreau	SS Simon & Jude Parish	\$30,000
Florence	Blessed Sacrament Parish	\$11,500
Fort Thompson	St. Joseph Parish	\$700
Garretson	St. Rose of Lima Parish	\$22,300
Gary	St. Peter Parish	\$7,200
Geddes	St. Ann Parish	\$11,000
Gettysburg	Sacred Heart Parish	\$30,000
Grenville	St. Joseph Parish	\$9,000
Groton	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	\$21,700
Harrisburg	St. John Paul II	\$20,000
Hartford	St. George Parish	\$54,100
Henry	St. Henry Parish	\$8,200
Herreid	St. Michael Parish	\$14,000
Highmore	St. Mary Parish	\$12,100
Hoven	St. Anthony Parish	\$30,000
Howard	St. Agatha Parish	\$19,000
Humboldt	St. Ann Parish	\$23,500
Huntimer	St. Joseph the Workman Parish	\$22,100
Huron	Holy Trinity	\$57,300
Idylwilde	St. Boniface Parish	\$10,500
Ipswich	Holy Cross Parish	\$27,500
Jefferson	St. Peter Parish	\$31,500
Kimball	St. Margaret Parish	\$34,400
Kranzburg	Holy Rosary Parish	\$26,000
Lake Andes	St. Mark Parish	\$10,100

▼ CITY	PARISH	PLEDGE
Lennox	St. Magdalen Parish	\$15,400
Leola	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	\$7,500
Lesterville	St. John the Baptist Parish	\$9,000
Madison	St. Thomas Aquinas Parish	\$55,600
Marty	St. Paul Parish	\$2,000
Mellette	All Saints Parish	\$12,900
Milbank	St. Lawrence Parish	\$50,300
Miller	St. Ann Parish	\$30,000
Mitchell - HF	Holy Family Parish	\$118,000
Mitchell - HS	Holy Spirit Parish	\$49,000
Mobridge	St. Joseph Parish	\$36,000
Montrose	St. Patrick Parish	\$30,400
Onida	St. Pius X Parish	\$14,000
Parker	St. Christina Parish	\$21,200
Parkston	Sacred Heart Parish	\$44,000
Pierre	SS Peter & Paul Parish	\$82,000
Plankinton	St. John Parish	\$17,700
Platte	St. Peter Parish	\$17,800
Polo	St. Liborius Parish	\$10,000
Ramona	St. William Parish	\$9,000
Redfield	St. Bernard Parish	\$45,000
Reville	Annunciation Parish	\$6,000
Roscoe	St. Thomas Parish	\$12,500
Rosholt	St. John the Baptist Parish	\$14,200
Salem	St. Mary Parish	\$35,000
Scotland	St. George Parish	\$14,000
Selby	St. Anthony Parish	\$10,000
Sioux Falls	Cathedral of St. Joseph	\$110,000
Sioux Falls	Holy Spirit Parish	\$228,000
Sioux Falls	St. Michael Parish	\$184,000
Sioux Falls	Christ the King Parish	\$80,000
Sioux Falls	St. Katharine Drexel	\$99,000
Sioux Falls	St. Lambert Parish	\$113,000
Sioux Falls	St. Mary Parish	\$142,000
Sioux Falls	St. Therese Parish	\$50,500
Sioux Falls - OLG	Our Lady of Guadalupe	\$9,000
Sisseton	St. Peter Parish	\$31,300
Sisseton - SKT	St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish	\$1,500
Springfield	St. Vincent Parish	\$8,000
Stephan	Immaculate Conception Parish	\$1,200
Stickney	St. Mary Parish	\$7,200
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Wakonda	St. Patrick Parish	\$9,000
Watertown	Holy Name Parish	\$101,500
Watertown	Immaculate Conception Parish	\$95,000
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White Lake	St. Peter Parish	\$16,000
Woonsocket	St. Wilfrid Church	\$15,000
Yankton	Sacred Heart Parish	\$104,000
Yankton	St. Benedict Parish	\$82,700

Does “apologetics” mean we are apologizing?



I've been reading your column, but what, exactly, does “apologetics” mean?



Thanks for this question! Frankly, it's probably a topic I should've addressed in the very first column before taking any questions. In order to answer it, I'd like to

begin by referring to Bishop DeGrood's vision for the diocese: *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love*. At the heart of this vision is missionary discipleship: the reality that we are all called not only to follow Jesus as His disciples ourselves, but to invite others to follow Him as well.

In both following Jesus more closely and helping others do the same, questions often arise, whether they be our own questions or the questions of those we are talking with. Boiling it down, we can put it this way: why do we believe what we believe and do what we do as Catholics? Answering those questions requires the craft of apologetics.

In order to find a summary answer to the question of what is apologetics, we can look to one of the writings of the first shepherd of the Church in Rome: St. Peter. In his first letter (at least in the Bible), St. Peter said this: “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence.” (1 Peter 3:15-16) Always be ready to give an explanation, an account, a defense of the hope that is in you. When someone asks us to explain our faith, Peter tells us we are to be ready to explain, to defend ourselves.

This passage is the go-to verse when it comes to apologetics, in the sense that it's the place in Scripture where we clearly see the basis for doing apologetics. In fact, the word translated as “explanation” or “account” or “defense” is *apologia*, the Greek root for the word apologetics. And this is a good point to explain a common misunderstanding: apologetics does not mean apologizing for the faith in the everyday sense. When we do apologetics, we don't say that we are sorry for what we believe! Rather, it's about explaining

our faith and answering questions about it, whether those questions are coming from ourselves or others.

It's important to note when St. Peter wrote these words, he wasn't just speaking to leaders in the Church but rather to every member of the Church. In other words, all Christians are called to be prepared to explain and defend their faith.

But how do we do this? What does apologetics entail? What is necessary for us to be able to explain or defend our faith to someone of another belief, whatever their belief is?

Here we must recognize a key aspect of our Catholic faith. The Church teaches there is no contradiction between faith and reason, that is, between what we know because God has taught it to us through the Church and what we know because we've discovered it with our human reason. In other words, we do not need to “put our brains on the shelf” when we walk into our parishes because nothing we'll be taught will contradict human reason.

This relationship between truths of faith and truths of reason means we are able to rationally demonstrate some truths of faith and refute objections to all the rest. That, in essence, is the task of apologetics: to use human reason to show what we believe is rational, either by demonstrating it as true or by refuting objections to it.

Style or tone are also important when it comes to doing apologetics well. Effective apologetics cannot be done in a defensive spirit, in which we mock, belittle or jump on those who question, challenge or even attack our beliefs.

Remember what Peter wrote: we are to explain and defend ourselves with gentleness and reverence. It's not about

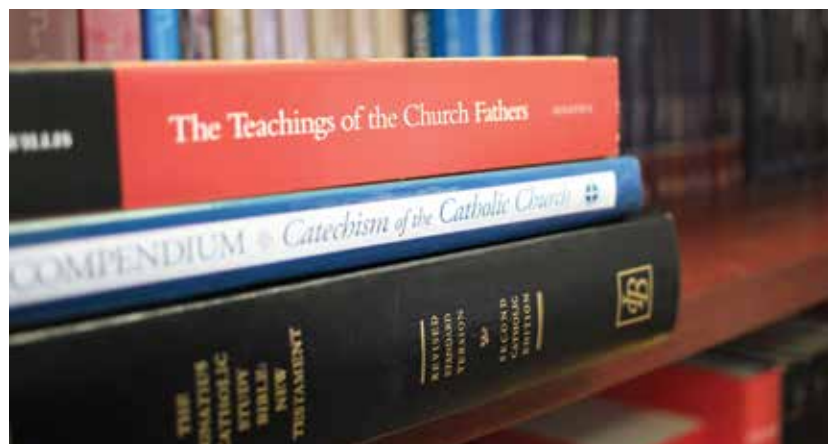
winning an argument; it's about loving someone else, the person you are in conversation with. As the saying goes, “A mind changed against its will is of the same opinion still,” and I have certainly found this to be the case in my own experience.

When we are in conversation with someone who's challenging our beliefs, our goal is to explain and share the beauty and truth of Catholicism. Our motivation, then, is our love for God and His truth and our love for our neighbor, and we need to use a style that communicates that truth and beauty and reflects our motivation. Mocking and attacking are obviously not the ways to do so, but neither is an overly aggressive, argumentative approach. Remember the saying: honey catches more flies than vinegar.

May we, with gentleness and reverence, seek answers to our own questions and to those from others, and in so doing, draw closer to Jesus as lifelong Catholic missionary disciples through God's love.

Be sure to check out the additional resources at sfcatholic.org/answer. If you have a question you need an answer to, email rkrantz@sfcatholic.org.

Chris Burgwald holds a doctorate in theology and is the director of Adult Discipleship and Evangelization for the Diocese of Sioux Falls.



Young people can make Lent full of joyful hope

By Eric Gallagher

I'm sitting down to write this column shortly after attending the funeral of Bailey Lauret, a 24-year-old son of our diocese who was serving as a FOCUS missionary in Memphis, Tennessee. He died suddenly as a result of a pulmonary embolism. The funeral was a profound moment for me as I prayed with hundreds of others, many of whom traveled from around the country to be there, in order to enter into, or rather celebrate, the death of Bailey.

Many reading this may have encountered Bailey through his service at D-Camps in the summer, as he served around the diocese as a Totus Tuus missionary, or maybe as he discerned the priesthood as a seminarian. Anyone who met Bailey would be able to immediately identify him for the "life" that he had. But where did he find this life? How could Bailey live his life so abundantly and with so much joy?

Having gotten to know Bailey and being able to walk with him through a summer of Totus Tuus, I can attest that Bailey was so full of life because he found his life in Christ. Our Catholic faith tells us that by losing our life, we will find life.

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake



Eric Gallagher, director of Youth Discipleship and Evangelization for the Diocese of Sioux Falls

will find it." (Matthew 16:25)

In a sense, during this season of Lent we are called to suffer and die as well. Why? So we can truly live!

During Lent we are given an incredible opportunity to enter into the suffering of Jesus Christ. It is one of the most profound and intimate ways we can be with Christ and follow Him in discipleship. I

wanted to offer a few ideas specifically for young adults on how you might enter more deeply into this Lenten season.

For young people, at this point in your life your vocation is to be a student, a son/daughter, a friend, etc. Consider ways you can "suffer" in order to live out your vocation better during this Lent. Maybe this means giving up technology with the intent of being more present to your parents. Consider staying home on a Friday night and instead spending time with your younger siblings. Perhaps you could commit to going to bed earlier so you can be more present at school or commit to not griping about your teachers or professors. All of these examples are ways of "suffering" in order that you can "live" more present in the life that God has called you to.

It is also important to consider how you will pray during Lent. For a high school student, it can be incredibly challenging to find some extra time in your day, but there is time. Maybe it's waking up 15 minutes earlier each day or finding an hour each week to go pray at your church. Also, consider ways you can give up certain things in order to make room for others. I love listening to podcasts when I'm in the car, but during Lent I've grown to appreciate just spending time in silent prayer.

As you prepare for Lent, start looking around at the options available to you (ask your pastor or church leader for ideas) and "suffer" something in your life in order to gain the growth and life that will come from it.

The week of Bailey's passing and his funeral was no doubt incredibly challenging and sorrowful for me and for so many. But, what seemed so right and good to me in being at Bailey's funeral was I experienced a taste of the life that is gained through death. It was incredibly profound to see so many who had been affected and changed by Bailey's witness of a life in Jesus Christ. Those who knew Bailey knew Christ through him. Bailey spent his days striving to "die," striving to enter into the life of Christ so that he might truly gain life, the gift of eternity with God.

During this time of Lent, let us rejoice through suffering with a joyful hope and anticipation of the life that is to come.



Vocations Q&A

with Father Brian Eckrich

Father Brian Eckrich is the parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls. He was ordained to the priesthood June 2, 2017, and spent the first two years of his priesthood as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Parish in Watertown.

This month, we learn a bit more about this witty, thoughtful priest.

Q. Tell us a bit about your family and where you grew up.

A. I grew up in Aberdeen and graduated from Aberdeen Roncalli. I have a younger brother who's married and lives in Sioux Falls.

Q. How did you get your call to the priesthood?

A. God called me to the priesthood through my involvement in the Pius XII Newman Center at SDSU and within that, FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). Both of these taught me the importance of prayer, that is, spending time in quiet and stillness so that we may hear God speak to us.



Q. Is there a particular part of Catholicism that really fascinates you? (liturgy, history, spirituality, etc.)

A. I have an interest in dogmatic theology; in other terms, understanding the fundamental truths (doctrines and dogmas) of the faith.

Q. What's your favorite part of being a priest?

A. Preaching and teaching.

Q. What's the most challenging thing?

A. Not always being able to see the fruits of my labor. Sometimes it's obvious to see how God works through me to affect the lives of others; sometimes it's not so obvious.

Q. What did you do before the priesthood? (other jobs, college major, etc.)

A. Prior to seminary, I attended South Dakota State University and received my



Father Brian Eckrich

degree in chemistry. The plan was to get a doctorate and work in the industry.

Q. Who is your go-to saint? Why?

A. St. Athanasius. During the Arian heresy of the early Church, he was the only bishop to stand up and defend the truth of Christ's divinity. Because of this, he was exiled several times, but he always defended the truth.

Q. What do you do in your spare time?

A. In the summer months, I love to ride my bicycle. I also enjoy camping and hiking, especially in the mountains.

Q. What is something most people don't know about you?

A. Prior to seminary, I worked in professional audio and lighting production. I DJed dances, theater, live bands, almost any type of event you can think of. Even now as a priest, I still do a few events in my free time.

Q. If you could have supper with anyone from history (besides Jesus), who would it be and why?

A. J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973), author of the Lord of the Rings. I want to have dinner with him at the Eagle and Child Pub (in Oxford, UK) and have a few tall, cold pints.



Retreats bear fruit as young people go deeper into their faith

By Matthew Chicoine

Total abandonment to God seems like an odd phrase, a difficult concept to grasp.

Whether we're cradle Catholics or brand new Catholics, attending Sunday Mass, praying the rosary, and being able to name the seven sacraments may not be enough to help us form a deep relationship with Jesus. A loose routine of prayer isn't always enough to sustain us through the storms of life. God is calling us to a deeper relationship with Him.

Going deeper in the faith

Two seniors at O'Gorman High School, Allison Kassing and Elaina Lubeck, lived at a surface level of their faith. They were both born and raised Catholic, and both teens said their parents never forced the Catholic faith on them. The faith was modeled through habit and nurtured by respecting their freedom and offering options to grow their faith through retreats.

Lubeck has attended a few retreats at Broom Tree Retreat Center in Irene (the first in the summer of 2015). Recently, they both attended a Going Deeper retreat put on by the Diocese of Sioux Falls, and

the experience had a profound impact on their faith lives.

"I enjoyed the community at the [Going Deeper] retreat. It was the first time I experienced eucharistic adoration and felt a deeper sense with the sacrament of confession," Lubeck said.

Kassing expressed joy and gratitude at the chance to attend retreats. Growing up she attended weekly Mass and learned the traditional Catholic prayers, but she never felt a personal connection to God until her sophomore year when she attended a small, 30-person retreat at O'Gorman.

"It was the first time I experienced the Holy Spirit in a tangible way," Kassing said.

Growing our relationship with the Lord is not just an individual pursuit. God pursues us individually but saves us as a community. Giving yourself totally to God involves a strong private prayer life but also loving your neighbors.

According to 1 Timothy 2:4: God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

The Church's mission is to bring others to Christ. As a person grows closer to Jesus and welcomes the Holy Spirit more into their heart, they become a magnet attracting others toward truth. They become



Elaina Lubeck

missionary disciples for the Lord.

That missionary discipleship that develops from a closer relationship with God has transformational power. Just as Simon was transformed into Peter and Saul into Paul, the two O’Gorman seniors experienced a transformation, too. For Lubeck the change wasn’t as drastic as Saint Paul’s.

“The change was gradual. After a couple years, I noticed a change in my family. We grew closer,” she said.

God’s mercy endures forever

Kassing remembered the change being incremental as well. “I feel the change was subtle at first. It began when I incorporated small prayers daily into my life. I started to see how God was working in other people. I saw God’s mercy in other people’s lives. And I saw his mercy for me.”



Allison Kassing

She reached out to an old friend soon after her retreat experience, someone she had been out of touch with for a while. Kassing compared it to how God reaches out to us.

God may have been a familiar part of your life, but as time goes on, relationships can drift apart slowly. The good news is God is good and loving. He welcomes you with open arms. One of the best portrayals of this is the forgiving father in the parable of the prodigal son. Saint Luke tells us, “While he was still

a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20)

The prodigal son totally abandoned himself to the mercy of his father. Jesus’ parable symbolizes God’s love for us. Saints are sinners who never forgot the love of the Father. When we strive for holiness, stumbling is going to be part of the journey. Even the greatest saints fell. Peter denied Christ three times. The key is getting up, asking for forgiveness, and then opening yourself up to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Fruits of the Spirit

A good litmus test of whether you are inviting the Holy Spirit into your life are the twelve fruits of the Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity. Both Kassing and Lubeck display many of these fruits. They both expressed joy in their voices and words as they talked about their retreat experiences.

Lubeck expressed gratitude at how the retreat actively prepared her for life in a practical sense. “God allowed me to see opportunity (in the struggle),” she said. “I saw our faith was lacking. I discovered God where I didn’t feel him right away.”

The ability to find God in our suffering is a combination of several fruits of the Holy Spirit—patience, joy, faithfulness and self-control to name a few.

Kassing noticed a change in her relationships. Her family grew closer together after the retreat experience.

“My strongest friendships are those tied to the faith,” she said.

Meeting God in the silence

When asked what specific aspect of the Going Deeper retreat they found enriching both teens mentioned the silent prayer time as rewarding.

Cardinal Robert Sarah in his book, “The Power of Silence,” wrote, “Silence is not an absence. On the contrary, it is the manifestation of a presence, the most intense of all presences. In modern society, silence has come into disrepute; this is the symptom of a serious, worrisome illness. The real questions of life are posed in silence. Our blood flows through our veins without making any noise, and we can

hear our heartbeats only in silence.”

Kassing, Lubeck, and the other Going Deeper retreat participants enjoyed the presence of God in silence. Pro-



vided with notebooks for reflection, they read the sacred Scriptures and meditated on biblical stories. There were short sessions where the silence was broken, but it was in discussion with one-on-one meetings with a spiritual mentor. Kassing found this time was quite beneficial.

“I felt they did a great job in giving us the tools to help us pray and practice reading Scripture,” she remembers.

Message for the youth today

Our world promotes loudness and chaos. Go. Go. Go. That’s the mantra. But God wanted humanity to work and rest. He created the world in six days—and rested on the seventh. The human heart, mind and soul need a break sometimes. Rest, especially rest that includes prayer, helps us recharge at the physical level, and it also replenishes us spiritually.

Kassing and Lubeck want other young people to know an important thing they learned at the Going Deeper retreat. You are loved. God loves you individually. Lubeck described this love in this way: “The God of the universe created you and wants to know you. You don’t have to earn God’s love. There is no price tag on it.”

Not only does God love you but He wills your happiness in this life on earth. Kassing said, “God pursues you in your desires, and He meets you in your desires.”

Spiritual disciplines for the Lenten season



The Christian faithful are obliged to do penance through prayer, fasting, abstinence and by performing works of piety and charity. All Fridays through the year, especially during Lent, are penitential days.

Abstinence: Everyone age 14 and older is to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday. Why meat? Over the centuries meat has been considered to be a luxury for many people and has also

been used for celebrations and feasts. At a penitential time of year, it makes sense to give up something used to mark joyful celebrations, especially on Friday, the day of our Lord's death.

Fasting: Everyone age 18 and up to their 59th birthday is to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice mirrors the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert before he was tempted by the devil. Think of it as a way to strengthen your spiritual muscles.

- Only one full meal is allowed on days of fasting. 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 fasting or abstinence should consult their priest.

Penitential acts: Many Catholics practice the penitential act of "giving something up" or doing something "extra" during lent. This is not required or regulated by the Church but is a good practice. It helps the faithful prepare their hearts for Easter by connecting with the suffering of Jesus on the cross.



Thank you!



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Advent Baby Shower offers help and prayers

Donations for Advent Baby Shower have been pouring in from parishes and Catholic schools across the diocese. All kinds of baby items were collected during Advent and will be distributed throughout the year to families who need them through parishes, Birthright, Avera, the Teddy Bear Den, the 211 Hotline, and to walk-ins at the Chancery.

Emily Leedom, executive director of Catholic Family Services, says there is a wide variety of individuals who benefit from the items collected.

“Often, we see single mothers who could use the additional support. We may also see families who have recently moved to the area and don’t have jobs lined up yet but need items for their children,” she said. “We also get calls from women who delivered earlier than expected and need the items until they are well enough to go out and get them.”

Leedom is always impressed with the number of items that are donated and then to see them go out to those who need them is an extraordinary sight. It’s a great



way for people to help each other. And those who receive items are grateful and humbled.

“They are often pleasantly surprised

to find no judgement and no questions asked,” Leedom said. “Instead, they receive congratulations and a promise that we are praying for their little one.”

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ABERDEEN – Mike and Tracy Jurgens celebrated their 45th anniversary on January 31. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



BOWDLE – Norbert and Rosemarie Hoerner celebrated their 50th anniversary on January 30. They have 5 children, 8 grandchildren and are members of St. Augustine Parish.



BRANDON – Bob and Ginny Nelson will celebrate their 50th anniversary on February 6. They have 4 children, 2 grandchildren and Ginny is a member of Risen Savior Parish.



CLARK – Gary and Kathy Holdal will celebrate their 60th anniversary on February 6. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



DAKOTA DUNES – John and Patricia Bartholomew will celebrate their 60th anniversary on February 4. They have 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish.



IDYLWILDE – Bill and Peggy Werdel will celebrate their 45th anniversary February 28. They have 4 children, 15 grandchildren and are members of St. Boniface Parish.



JEFFERSON – Virgil and Marcia Mollet will celebrate their 55th anniversary on February 12. They have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Peter Parish.



MITCHELL – Jeff and Mary Lanning will celebrate their 35th anniversary on February 15. They have 2 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of Holy Family Parish.



PIERRE – Emery and Mary Byer celebrated their 60th anniversary on January 14. They have 4 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Eli and LaVonne Schmidt will celebrate their 60th anniversary on February 11. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Lambert Parish.

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Send a color photo, your anniversary information and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by **February 11** for inclusion in the March 2021 edition to:

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Benedictine Sister Naomi Roth dies at 93

Sister Naomi Roth, 93, a Benedictine sister of Mother of God Monastery in Watertown, died December 3 at Esteline Care Center, in Estelline. A private Christian Burial was held January 5 at Mother of God Monastery.

Given the name Patricia at birth, Naomi was born on October 2, 1927, in Dimock. She was the second of four children of Joseph A. and Veronica (Breckweg) Roth. She grew up on the family farm her grandparents had homesteaded.

She attended school at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School where she first came in contact with religious sisters. She had fond memories of Sister M. Clare who was her 1st and 8th grade teacher and the first one to suggest a religious vocation. She attended Ethan and Parkston public high schools.



Sister Naomi Roth

Sister Naomi entered Sacred Heart Convent in Yankton on September 2, 1950. Naomi made her first profession on June 29, 1952. In 1961, she became a founding member of Mother of God Monastery.

Sister Naomi worked in the monastery kitchen at Yankton and in Chamberlain she was the prefect for little girls. She spent six years in the kitchen at the “bishop’s house” in Sioux Falls. That was followed by St. Stephen Indian Mission and then St. Mary’s hospital in Pierre where she also worked in respiratory therapy. Serving in food and housekeeping services or in respiratory therapy in Pierre was a lifetime ministry for most of her religious life.

Sister Naomi loved fishing, a good joke, playing cards, crocheting and baking.

Sister Naomi is survived by her sisters of Mother of God Monastery, cousins, many nieces, nephews and friends. Preceding her in death were her parents and siblings.

We believe healthy people go to counseling.

Call to book an appointment with one of our counselors who are passionate about integrating the best that psychology has to offer with an authentically Catholic vision of the human person.


Catholic Family Services

Katelynn Beldin, M.A.
Clinical Mental Health Counselor
Catholic Family Services



sf catholic.org/cfs



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During the Coronavirus—Shorter Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

May God Bless Us with Wisdom and Good Health

Location:

3709 S. Grange Ave

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Just West of Costco

605-271-4055

Sister Helen Jean Washtoak dies at 90

Sister Helen Jean Washtoak, 90, a sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, died November 22 at Avera Mother Joseph Manor in Aberdeen.

A virtual prayer service and sharing of memories was held December 17. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated privately in Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Presentation Convent, December 18. Inurnment was at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Sister Helen Jean Washtoak was born May 30, 1930, in Henry to Ferne Velcie (Brando) and John Peter Washtoak. She graduated from Henry Public High School in 1948. She entered Presentation Convent, professing vows in August, 1951 and receiving her religious name, Sister Mary Carmen.

Sister Helen Jean received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Northern State University, Aberdeen,



Sister Helen Jean Washtoak

in 1967 and a master's degree in religious studies from St. Mary's University, Winona, Minnesota, in 1974.

Sister Helen Jean's ministry in education spanned from 1951 to 1986. In South Dakota, she taught at St.

Mary, Sioux Falls; Notre Dame, Mitchell; Sacred Heart and Roncalli, Aberdeen; St. Joseph, Mobridge; St. James, Chamberlain. In Minnesota, she taught at St. Stephen, Anoka; Our Lady of the Lake, Mound; St. Adrian, Adrian.

From 1986 to 2001 Sister served in pastoral care at McKennan and St. Luke's Hospitals and as director of pastoral care for Aberdeen Living Center. Later she volunteered at Avera St. Luke's and continued prayer ministry at Presentation Convent. She will be remembered for her leadership and organizational skills.

Sister Helen Jean is survived by her community family of Presentation Sisters, many nephews, nieces and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents; 4 brothers: Robert, Edward, John, Michael; and 2 sisters: Marie and Agnes.

UPCOMING RETREATS

SILENT RETREATS

Men's Silent Retreats

- February 18-21
- April 15-18
- August 19-22
- September 23-26
- October 21-24
- November 18-21

Women's Silent Retreats

- February 4-7
- March 4-7
- May 13-16
- June 17-20
- August 12-15
- September 16-19
- October 7-10
- November 4-7

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 9, 2021
"The Amazing Wonders of Lourdes"
 - directed by Fr. Mark Lichter

March 9, 2021
 - directed by Fr. Paul King

April 13, 2021
"The Reality of the Resurrection"
 - directed by Dr. Chris Burgwald

SPECIAL RETREATS

February 26-28, 2021
Couples Retreat - directed by Sean & Jen Dalton

March 12-14, 2021
Healing Retreat - directed Fr. Scott Traynor

123 Saint Raphael Circle, Irene, SD 57037
605-263-1040 | broomtree@sfcatholic.org

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A Place for Spiritual Renewal

WE ARE AVAILABLE TO SERVE YOU AND KEEP YOU SAFE

Set up a contactless meeting to get the help you need

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 605-660-5814
 Yankton, Vermillion & nearby

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 701-238-3643
 Milbank, Big Stone City & nearby

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 Regional Manager

Catholic United Financial

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Program recognizes Catholic teachers for excellence

Last year Bishop O’Gorman Catholic Schools (BOGCS) partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota (CCFESD) to recognize teachers of excellence in Catholic education. The Teacher of Excellence program celebrates excellent teachers at all levels.

This program, which kicked off its second year on January 15, was created through the generous donation of an anonymous donor family to support the hard work and dedication of outstanding teachers.

“Last year a grateful family came to the CCFESD with an idea to support the quality Catholic education that BOGCS provides by thanking the teachers who are critical to the students’ experience,” said Mark Conzemius, president of the CCFESD. “In particular, they wanted to recognize quality, high performing teachers, who go above and beyond, affirming the faith-filled, dedicated, committed, and extraordinary educators who represent the faculty at BOGCS.”

The BOGCS principals developed criteria



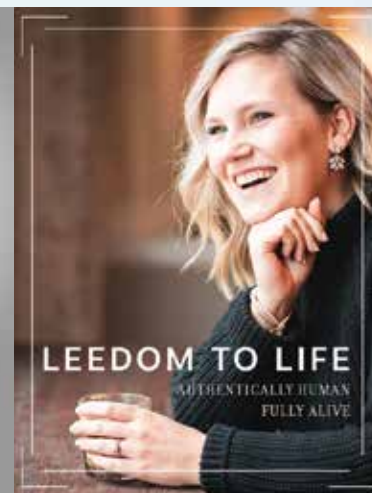
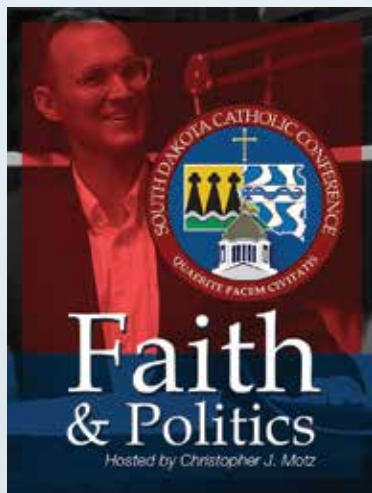
for excellence in teaching and came up with a list of eight critical attributes of excellence in Catholic education that they see within BOGCS.

- Lives our Faith-Filled Mission and Values
- Positive Relationship Builder with Students, Parents, and Staff
- Promotes Student Academic Excellence

- Selfless Team Player that Goes Above and Beyond
- Lifelong Reflective Learner
- Serves as an Educational Leader among the Staff
- Incorporates Innovative Ideas While Remaining Willing to Fail
- Dedicated to the Profession

Educators are nominated by their colleagues with the aid of others, including parents, who provide testimony of their excellence. Nominations are processed by the Office of Catholic Schools at the Diocese of Sioux Falls. From there, a selection committee made up of retired and former Catholic school faculty members and principals will select the nominees. Nominees’ names and schools are kept anonymous during the voting process so the selection committee can focus exclusively on the written content provided for each nominee. The nominees will be announced at the end of the current school year (2020-2021), and winners will be announced and awarded a \$10,000 check at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

LISTEN WHILE YOU WORK OR ON THE GO (AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD)



PODCASTS

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

Discover a wide variety of catholic podcasts, produced and available through the Communications Office of the Diocese.

sfcatholic.org/radio-podcasts



Recitation of the rosary planned

Friday, Feb. 5 - 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.

Pray at Planned Parenthood with Jericho's Wall group

Tuesday's - In Joshua 1:14 fighting-age men are called to go to Jericho's wall to fight for the women and children. Today we are called to step out for our faith. Men are meeting on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at our wall of Planned Parenthood to pray the rosary for our women and children. We are asking for men to join us. If you have questions, call Paul at 605-201-5428. Women are welcome.

Mission S.O.S. open for prayers for life

Tuesday's/Thursday's - Mission S.O.S. (Saving Others Spiritually) is for anyone interested in praying for the life of the unborn child and their mother. We are open for prayer on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at an apartment/chapel with a balcony overlooking Planned Parenthood. To set up a time to come and pray, or for more information, contact Sara at 605-421-8378 or Darlene at 605-254-0951.

Search for Christian Maturity retreat

March 5-7 - Located at Holy Spirit Church, Sioux Falls. Registration is open. This retreat is a student led, Roman Catholic retreat program featuring talks, skits, music, opportunities for confession, and celebration of Mass. All high school and college-age students and adults are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact: (605) 371-1478, SiouxFallsSearch@gmail.com, www.siouxfallssearch.org.

Traditional Latin Mass available

The Traditional Latin Mass, or the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, is offered every Sunday at 2 p.m. at St. Dominic Parish in Canton. The Latin Mass is also offered on most holy days of obligation and principal feasts of the Church Year at 7:30 p.m. St. Dominic Church is located at 800 E. Walnut Street. For more information, please call 605-764-5640 or email Father Lawrence at fmartinlawrence@sfcatholic.org.

Audio recording of Bishop's Bulletin for visually impaired

Audio recordings of The Bishop's Bulletin are available for the visually impaired each month. Deacon Roger Heidt lends his voice to bring the stories in the monthly magazine to life. If you would like to receive this recording, contact Josh Easter at josh.easter@state.sd.us.

Catholic Family Services**Catholic Family Services Counseling**

Service-During this pandemic, in addition to our current in-person counseling we are offering a HIPPA compliant tele-health format. It is user friendly and as long as you have internet availability, can be accessed by phone or computer.

GriefShare Program/Catholic Family Services will host and facilitate Saint Joseph Cathedral Parish's GriefShare program. The video series is watched as a large group followed by small group discussions according to the participant's particular loss (loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling etc.) The program will run for 11 weeks covering 13 different topics surrounding grief. GriefShare will begin again on February 2- April 13 from 6-8 p.m. Cost of the workbook is \$15 (scholarships available) and there will be an opportunity for a free will offering to help cover the additional costs. For more information about GriefShare or to register, please contact Catholic Family Services at 605-988-3775 or email cfs@sfcatholic.org. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Surviving Divorce Program/Begins

Tuesday, February 2 in Sioux Falls. Sessions are held on Tuesday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Cost of \$45 per person includes a Personal Survival Guide, refreshments and all materials for six weeks. For information, or to register contact Catholic Family Services, 605-988-3775 or cfs@sfcatholic.org. Scholarships are available.

Notices

The DISC Mission Grant application forms for 2021 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/>. Grants are typically awarded in mid June to early July.

Sacred Heart Monastery

February 5/Online Lectio Divina, Fridays, February 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 10-10:45 a.m. Meet online for *Lectio Divina*, a time for praying with the Gospel of the following Sunday. To register any time, contact group leader, Sr. Penny Bingham OSB at pbingham@yanktonbenedictines.org or 605-668-6023, include your email address.

February 20/Finding HOPE in the Deserts of Our Lives: A Lenten Retreat/ This retreat, offered via Zoom Saturday from 9:30-11:45 a.m., will include short presentations, brief silent reflection times and breakout group dialogue. Benedictine Peace Center staff will invite participants to discern the source of our hope in the midst of pandemic and chaos. To register, please e-mail BenedictinePeaceCtr@yanktonbenedictines.org by noon on Friday, Feb. 19. For more information about the retreat and appropriate donation go to <https://yanktonbenedictines.org/online-lenten-retreat/>

February 24/Scripture Study-The Book of Genesis, Part II/ New participants are welcome to join this five-week study of the Book of Genesis, reflecting on the stories of Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Meeting on Google Meet, 9:30-11 a.m. on Wednesdays. For more information go to <https://yanktonbenedictines.org/retreats-online-group/> or email doberembt@yanktonbenedictines.org. Pre-registration required by Feb. 15 so books may be ordered.

February 24/Study Group - Laudato Si/ Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment will be the topic of the evening Lenten study, meeting on Zoom, Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m., for six sessions. For more information go to <https://yanktonbenedictines.org/retreats-online-group/> or email maryjo.polak@yanktonbenedictines.org. Pre-registration required by Feb. 15 so books may be ordered.

Spiritual Direction/ Due to social distancing restrictions, we are currently offering spiritual direction online. Share your experience of God with an experienced companion-guide and intensify your spiritual journey. Scheduling is flexible, typically meeting once a month. Contact benedictinepeacectr@yanktonbenedictines.org or 605-668-6292 for more information.



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Virtual

Presentation Sisters Lenten Retreat

Featuring:

Ken Novak

Saturday, February 20, 2021

9:00 - 11:15 a.m. CST

As we work to cultivate hope in our world,
we invite everyone to join us on this journey,
as we discover ways to unite together as one.

More information about this exciting
ecumenical retreat to follow.

Contact Barb at 605-229-8391 or
bgrosz@presentationsisters.org to register
www.presentationsisters.org



Cultivating Hope as ONE

