



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls  
January 2022

# THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

IMPACTS ENTIRE  
FAMILY'S FAITH

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

PAGE 4

## FATHER JOSEPH VOGEL

ANSWERING THE CALL

PAGE 13

ST. FRANCIS  
**DESALES**  
GUIDES DISCIPLES ON  
THE WAY TO HOLINESS

NEXT GENERATION CATHOLIC

PAGE 14

*Atrium of  
peace:*  
A beautiful way for children  
to experience God

# Many reasons to be filled with hope

**I**n this winter season, I hope we all may be filled with the gift of hope!

Our beloved Catholic faith describes hope this way: “Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the Holy Spirit. The virtue to hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men’s activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity [God’s love]” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1817, 1818).

Hope is a spiritual virtue only God can give us, and all we need to do is receive it. To receive it, we have to be cautious to stay focused on the reason for hope, even in our times of trial.



Bishop DeGrood visiting Father Dana Christensen at his home in Milbank.



Bishop Donald E. DeGrood  
Ninth Bishop of the Diocese  
of Sioux Falls

St. Paul’s inspired words in his letter to the Romans provide us some keen insight: “We even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5).

An example where I witnessed hope lived joyfully in the midst of affliction was in a visit and Mass with Father Dana Christensen, a younger priest in our diocese battling ALS. His great desire in his illness was to be able to spend his time in a chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, so some generous souls in our diocese paid for and assisted with the construction of living quarters and a chapel attached to his parents home in Milbank.

The picture included here captures so beautifully the joy, hope and love of God in Father Dana, as even the affliction of ALS did not steal away his faith, hope or love. The amazing love and generosity of those who made his housing arrangements possible, those who pray at his house each week, those who visit him and provide the sacraments, and the TLC of his sister and other family members is a reminder that any of us in any situation have reasons to be *filled* with hope, because hope, as St. Paul says, does not disappoint.

I hope the stories in this month’s Bishop’s Bulletin give us many reasons to be filled with hope in what God is doing in the hearts and lives of people in our diocese as they open their hearts and discern how to actively live our diocesan vision of *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God’s Love*.



## January

- 1 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph\*
- 4 Christmas party with diocesan staff
- 8-13 Region VIII Bishop's Retreat and Conference
- 15 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph\*
- 16 1:30 Confirmation, St. Katharine Drexel, Sioux Falls, St. Mary, Sioux Falls, at St. Katharine Drexel  
Last Collar Standing appearance
- 19 Blessing of March for Life Pilgrims
- 6:30 Confirmation, Christ the King, Sioux Falls, St. Michael, Sioux Falls, at Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 25 Episcopal ordination and installation of the Most Reverend Joseph Williams as auxiliary bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis at Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul, Minnesota
- 29 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph\*
- 30 1:30 Confirmation, St. Mary, Dell Rapids, St. Rose of Lima, Garretson, St. Joseph the Workman, Huntimer, at St. Mary, Dell Rapids

## February

- 1 8:40 Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Mary Catholic School, Dell Rapids  
Catholic Schools Week visit, Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Watertown
- 6:00 Operation Andrew Dinner, St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, Aberdeen
- 2 8:30 Catholic Schools Week Mass, Aberdeen Catholic Schools, Roncalli High School, Aberdeen
- 4 10:00 Catholic Schools Week Mass, Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools, Elmen Center, Sioux Falls
- 5 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph\*

\*Broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfcatholic.org](http://sfcatholic.org)

## Christmas on the Prairie holds sold-out performance



The 17th Annual "Christmas on the Prairie" concert was held at the national historic landmark St. Anthony of Padua Church in Hoven on December 5. The sold-out concert was performed under the direction of South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Conductor Thomas Fortner, as well as Elizabeth Bengs, Hoven, and Dr. Timothy Woods, Northern State University Chamber Singers director. The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra accompanied the singers and featured bass soloist Dirk Fried Karnath, soprano soloist Camille Fischer, tenor soloist Terry White, NSU's Chamber Singers, and the 61-member All-Faiths Regional Festival Choir. John Cassens, Aberdeen, performed narration written by Tom Roberts of Sioux Falls to provide narrative continuity throughout the production titled "Journey to Bethlehem." Proceeds from the joyous concert and gala reception that followed go to St. Anthony's Foundation for the ongoing care and restoration of St. Anthony's historic church. (Photo by Alison Simon)

## THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

January 2022 | Volume 76, Number 1

### Publisher

Most Rev. Donald E. DeGrood

### Editor

Renae Kranz

### Theological Advisor

Dr. Chris Burgwald

### Graphic Design/Web Development

Bill Sealey

### Social Media/Proofreader

Brianna Wingen

### 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

E-mail: [rkranz@sfcatholic.org](mailto:rkranz@sfcatholic.org)

Anniversaries, copy and advertising deadline for the February edition is Jan. 14.

### 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.

# Children's ministry impacts entire family's faith

*By Matthew Chicoine*

The Catholic Church strives to build up holy families who pray and learn about their faith together. Parents long for their children to grow up to know God loves them and to know they can share God's love with others. However, our noisy and busy world can make those efforts difficult for parents and parishes.

Parents need a place of quiet, calm and peace for their children and even themselves to have an encounter with the God who made them. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provides a place for this peace and encounter to happen.

## The Good Shepherd leads

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) program has popped up in several parishes in our diocese in recent years. The program's website describes what they do this way: "CGS is a common religious experience involving children and adults in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant. This experience is shared in a place particularly prepared for the religious life of children called the atrium."

Amanda and Nick Lanners, parishioners of Risen Savior Parish in Brandon, have learned a lot from their experience with CGS.

"When I entered the atrium, it had a warm and inviting atmosphere. It was a natural environment, and holy," Amanda said.

A shepherd allows his sheep to wander through the pasture while still maintaining clear borders and limits for where they can go. The CGS program takes on this quality in teaching children about the faith.

"The environment is set up to enhance the students' learning," Amanda said. "It allows them to explore on their own but with boundaries." She described how each of the stations (or works as they are called in the CGS curriculum) are detailed and life-like.

Amanda says the placement of the works is intentional, and the set-up is meant to invoke a pause or wonderment in the child when they enter the atrium. She leads a group of eight students ages 3-4 (atrium level 1) on Wednesdays.

"It's a humbling experience to teach this program," she said. "Children are calmer and in tune with what their heart is with their mind."





Amanda and Nick Lanners with kids  
Patrick, Henry and Raymond



## An environment of encountering Christ

In Matthew 16:13, Jesus asked his apostles, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” He doesn’t dictate the answer, he prompts a reply with open-ended questions and patience. This is the approach of CGS. It’s an invitation to wonder and awe, not memorization of rote facts.

CGS teaches the children to be aware and how to be mindful. The students aren’t perfectly silent, but a change occurs in them in the atrium—they are calmer, and the space inspires curiosity.

“The environment creates wondering that plants the seed of pondering,” Amanda said. “This lets the children seek God out more on their own.”

The Lanners family experienced an encounter with Christ through the CGS program. Amanda was a cradle Catholic but didn’t take her faith too seriously until she met her second husband. She received the sacrament of confirmation at age 29 and was married in 2008. She joined Risen Savior Parish a year later. Amanda was first introduced to CGS by Rachel Uhrich, director of faith formation at Risen Savior.

The program was in need of donations, so Amanda helped sew curtains and tablecloths for the atrium. Her simple gift led her more deeply to the gift of the Good Shepherd. Amanda brings the things she learns from CGS to her job as an educational aid for Holy Spirit Elementary School. Additionally, her husband helped build materials for the atrium.

“Nick made a wooden puzzle of Israel and other wood cutouts of Biblical figures for the kids to play with for CGS,” Amanda added.

## Impacting the domestic church

The Lanners’ three children enjoyed the atrium experience and started to get involved in learning about the Catholic faith. Together Amanda and Nick have three sons: Henry (age 8), Raymond (age 6), and Patrick (age 2). Amanda also has two older children from her first marriage: Matthew (age 16) and Theresa (age 20).

As their sons participated in the CGS program, the Lanners noticed they were more curious about God and the faith. Amanda recalls one night, close to bedtime, Raymond knelt before the Sacred Heart of Jesus at their home altar, and his eyes focused on the heart. He asked questions about the heart with thorns.

“Instead of answering him right away, I allowed him to think and wonder about the image,” Amanda said. “I asked him questions about why there were thorns around the Sacred Heart. He made the connection to the cross and continued to gaze at the image of Jesus for 20 minutes.”

Before CGS, Amanda says she would have answered those questions for him. Now she lets her boys’ minds ponder and wonder. Nick and Amanda are very grateful to have been changed by their family’s encounter with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Amanda says she would definitely recommend this program to other families. It was an emphatic and joy-filled “yes” from her family.

“This program allows the catechist to be a leader or guide while allowing Christ to come into the child’s heart and connect the child’s heart to their mind,” Amanda says.

To learn more about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, read this month’s feature story on the next pages.



Amanda’s older children Matthew  
and Theresa



# Atrium of peace:

A beautiful way for children to experience God

CGS atrium at St. Lambert Parish, Sioux Falls

By Pauline Lev

Imagine walking into a quiet, naturally lit room dotted with low shelves containing various items. Everything in the room has a place, and everything is in its place. The room has a simple beauty that alludes to peaceful order. There are 10 children in the room, all between the ages of 3 and 6.

In one corner, a child works at a small model altar, placing a model chalice, paten and crucifix on it, naming them, and prayerfully enjoying the beauty of the simple setting. At a low table a child is slowly and carefully pouring dry beans from one glass container to another. She does it again and again.

At a small rug on the floor, an adult is proclaiming the Scripture of the Annunciation to a 4-year-old. There is a lit candle, and after reading the Scripture, the adult leads the child to ponder this mother who has been given the light of the world to carry within her and share with the world. The other children are spread throughout the room, working with other various materials, and one other adult sits in a corner observing the children's work and taking notes.

A full silence emanates throughout the room. Sometimes a

quiet song is sung. Sometimes a child expresses gratitude after working and pondering something together with an adult. Often there is joy, shown through the children's smiles and exclamations of happiness that seem to erupt from their innermost self. Sometimes there is skipping and jumping with exhilaration, but a stillness and calm prevails even in their joyous proclamations.

It is a place where children can hear God in the silence. It is not a forced silence, but a chosen silence, and the silence grows as the children enter more deeply into their work, which lasts for one and a half to two hours.

If this sounds impossible, unrealistic and ridiculous to you, I'm not surprised. But it is possible, and you can find special environments such as the one described above in many places in the United States and the world, and even in our own diocese. These special environments are called atriums, and they are a part of a catechetical method called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS).



## Meeting the needs of the child

CGS was started in Italy in the 1950s by biblical scholar Sofia Cavaletti and Gianna Gobi. These women developed this method of catechesis based on what Maria Montessori had discovered about the developmental and spiritual needs of children between birth and age 12.

There are currently four nationally sanctioned levels of CGS formation available in the United States: level one, for children ages 3 to 6; level two, for children ages 6 to 9; level three, for children ages 9 to 12; and there is a toddler level for those under the age of 3. As the needs of the children change depending on their age and development, so, too, does the content of the atrium shift and deepen to meet their growing needs at each stage.

Rachel Uhrich, director of CGS at Risen Savior Parish in Brandon, says “[CGS] honors the dignity and developmental stage of children and uses what we know about the characteristics at different developmental stages to best provide them with materials and content suitable for their personal encounter with Jesus Christ.”

You can see this evidenced in many ways in an atrium. Everything is child-sized and made for them to use. There are cleaning supplies, such as a broom and duster, and trays for polishing metal and wood items within the atrium in order to allow them to partake in taking care of the beautiful environment they are a part of.

One area of the level one atrium is dedicated to practical life exercises. Trays are set up for things like pouring beans, pouring water, pouring water into a funnel, folding cloth napkins, and other such basic tasks. These basic repetitive movements and tasks honor their developmental stage. Young children have a deep desire to master their physical movements, and this desire leads them to careful concentration.

This concentration lays the foundation for contemplation, both in the immediate work at hand as it slows them down, but also in the time ahead when they will be introduced to liturgical and Scripture presentations in the other areas of the atrium. Within a few weeks, children who have engaged with the practical life works are much better able to participate in scripture proclamations and liturgical presentations because of their internalized practice of repetition and concentration.

After a child has been shown a work, they are free to go back to that work whenever they would like. It is not a free-for-all; there are well established grace and courtesy lessons that are practiced and routinely reviewed and the children desire to follow these necessary guidelines so they can all work peacefully in community.

“I cannot help but believe that they are deeply guided by the Holy Spirit ... the work that they choose often results in noticeable fruits such as joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity and self-control,” says Rachel. “The presence of these fruits in the atrium indicate the very real presence of the



CGS atrium at Sacred Heart Parish, Aberdeen

Holy Spirit working in the hearts of the children.”

The level two and three atriums include much more writing and drawing than level one. A child over the age of 6 now has what Maria Montessori called a reasoning mind—they are consciously learning and thinking. These children are aided through writing or copying what they have heard and drawing what those words mean to them. This helps them to continue to contemplate and draw out deeper meanings, as well as synthesize different concepts they have heard to reach a new depth of spiritual meaning. In this way the work of the atrium is designed to fit the needs of the child. Their work becomes prayer because they are able to engage with it in a way that fits their development.

## Catechetical pillars of CGS

Catechists who work with children in the atrium are called guides. Their role is not one of simply passing on information, but rather to remember the Holy Spirit is the ultimate catechist. The child is in need of a guide to proclaim God’s word to them and to wonder alongside them at the greatest truths of our faith. Each level of CGS takes 90-120 hours of formation in order to be a guide to children at that level.

Carolyn Kohlhass, director of CGS at Way of the Shepherd School in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, has been a formation leader since 2009 and involved in CGS since 2006. “When you step into the atrium with the children, you’re not so much reading from a script,” says Carolyn, “but you’re authoring truth to them in a way that can fit their needs. We have a banquet of truth we’ve been given,” and the guide asks: “what will fit this child in this moment?”

The guide has an arsenal of different presentations they can give to children. All of these presentations come either from Scripture or liturgy. Every CGS presentation flows from one of these two pillars. Presentations follow the liturgical seasons, introducing the children to the liturgical year and helping them to partake in the life of the Church.

# WHAT DO THE KIDS THINK OF CGS?

"The atrium is like learning about God, spending time with him and helping us live a good life so we can go to heaven with God."

- Chan Dreis, age 9, Aberdeen

"The atrium is a time to pray to Jesus and be with Jesus and help your life to be close to Jesus."

- Hannah Eskro, age 7, Aberdeen

"My favorite thing about the atrium is sitting by the prayer table and talking to Jesus."

- Charlie, age 3, Aberdeen

"My favorite part about the atrium is that it is relaxing, fun, and calm. I forget about all the other difficult things I need to do in school. I like that we get to decide how we want to learn about God. I can't wait to learn more about the Advent wreath!"

- Keagan Brua, age 9, Brandon

"My favorite project so far is making my map of Israel. I am really looking forward to mixing the wine one day!"

- Carter Brua, age 8, Brandon

"My favorite part of atrium is doing work that makes me happy. It's different than school because atrium is about God. My favorite project in the atrium is setting up the Feast with the chalice and the paten."

- Cillian Brua, age 5, Brandon



CGS atrium at Immaculate Conception Parish, Watertown

From the pillar of Scripture, the children are introduced to the incarnation of Jesus through geography presentations on the land of Israel and the infancy narratives from the Gospel of Luke. They also hear some of the prophecies from the Old Testament and several of the kingdom of God parables from the New Testament.

The guide proclaims the stories straight from the Bible, and each presentation includes some sort of sensorial or visual work to aid the child's contemplation. The children listen carefully and ponder with the guide the truths about God that are revealed through his word. After meditating, children are invited to respond in some way to what they have heard. Sometimes children sit and pray in silence, sometimes they respond with a prayer of gratitude and joy, and sometimes they will write or draw a response.

In the later levels, more Scripture is presented, such as the moral parables in level two as they prepare for sacraments, and typology studies with the Old Testament in level three.

From the pillar of liturgy, children experience presentations surrounding baptism and the Eucharist. They are shown many of the articles and gestures of these two great sacraments, not just to see them, but to ponder the depths of the meanings behind them and the gift they are to us. These great sacraments are how Jesus remains with us and how we can receive his risen light, and in CGS the children respond with much joy and gratitude to these greatest of mysteries.

All of these things lead to the presentations on the paschal mystery, given during the Lenten and Easter seasons. The Easter Vigil is the pinnacle moment of the liturgical year and this is evident in CGS. You could say that every presentation is preparing the child to penetrate in a small way the deep mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Amid all of these presentations, the hearts of the children are moved not because of the information shared, but because of the relationship that is ever deepening between them and Jesus as they ponder all he has given to them through Scripture and the Church. The children have an "ability to receive



CGS atrium at Risen Savior Parish, Brandon



his love without any sort of deflection or demurement,” says Carolyn. “There’s this ability to really open and enjoy his goodness.”

In this way, the method is not trying to pass on information and definitions, but a real, lived relationship with the God who created them and loves them.

“CGS understands well that rather than focusing solely on intellectual or moral instruction, the preeminence of personally knowing and receiving the love of God must come before all else,” says Rachel. “Only resting on that foundation can moral or religious obligations be received with joy and love.”

## *A gift* for all

While CGS was developed to meet the religious needs of the child, it’s no surprise adults have been transformed by this work as well.

“It is very humbling and even convicting to walk with the little ones,” Rachel says. “My own faith, hope and charity has been strengthened by witnessing the Good Shepherd work in the hearts of the children that I serve, and their response to him of profound love and joy.”

“Being with the children in the atrium has been probably one of the greatest gifts of my life,” says Carolyn. “The atrium really seems to be this place where children of all ages, including adults in formation, can really encounter God’s love.”

Carolyn has had many adults come back to formation again and again, even repeating the same levels, because of how much formation has changed their lives and deepened their relationship with Jesus and the Church.

“They hear it in what we give to 3-year-olds,” says Carolyn. “It’s disarming, like it breaks down our own defenses as adults to hear the beauty of the truth as well.”

“Formation courses are retreat-like in nature [and] have a meditative quality that allows for prayer and deep internal transformation,” says Rachel. “Regardless of how you use the formation, I guarantee that it always has the possibility to be life-changing.”

Families of children in CGS have also been inspired by what their children have experienced in the atrium. Rachel has had so many parents ask her about what she does in the atrium with the children that last summer she put on “adult atrium sessions” for those interested to come and see what the atrium is like and to receive some of the presentations.

“In this work, I have seen so many parents draw nearer to our blessed Lord and the Church through the fruits of their child’s time in the atrium,” she says.

Father Andy Young, pastor at Risen Savior Parish in Brandon, says CGS has been a great gift to the parish.

“CGS is very hands-on teaching for the children and introduces them to themes and concepts that oftentimes our

adults struggle with understanding,” Father Young said. “When children come home and talk about the concepts they are learning, parents are often amazed. More and more families [at Risen Savior] are seeing the impacts CGS is having on their children and opting for that approach.”

Children who have spent many years in the atrium are aware of the presence of God in their life and desire to follow him. In this way, CGS also leads to discipleship. These children have fallen in love with Jesus the Good Shepherd and his Church and want to lead others to his sheepfold as well. Rachel and Carolyn both think it is a fitting method of catechesis for the apostolic times we live in.

“One reason that CGS is particularly appropriate for the apostolic times in which we live is because CGS fosters a sacramental and transformed vision of the world,” says Rachel. “Children and catechists in the atrium learn to look at the world in a way that is much different than the secular culture’s view of the world and of life.”

To really have an idea of what the atrium is and the religious life that is lived within, one must “come and see.” It is not something you can easily understand and certainly not experience without having seen and experienced it for yourself. Both Rachel and Carolyn attest that parents or interested adults would be best served to see the beauty of the method by observing an atrium session and seeing the Holy Spirit at work firsthand with the children.

“I have had many people who left the atrium in amazement and awe, never having experienced anything like it,” Rachel said.

At the end of the day, CGS is kerygmatic, meaning it speaks to the heart of the Gospel message of God and his love for each of us, and Christocentric, meaning it is focused on the means by which God shows us his love: his Son, Jesus.

“CGS aims to help foster communion and intimacy between the child and God,” says Rachel. “At the heart of CGS, as at the heart of the Gospel, we find a person, Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us and rose again to share his risen life with us.”

These deepest truths of our faith are what children and adults in the atrium ponder deeply together, and no wonder it is a place of profound peace, gratitude and joy.



LEARN MORE ABOUT  
**CATECHESIS OF THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD**  
[WWW.CGSUSA.ORG](http://WWW.CGSUSA.ORG)

# Where do I start if I want to learn more?



*Your columns have prompted me to want to study the Church's teaching more, but I'm at a bit of a loss on where to start. Can you give some advice or recommendations?*



What a great question, especially at the beginning of a New Year! Many people make resolutions at the beginning of January, so it seems fitting to think about how we can each grow in our understanding of the faith.

For those who are dipping their toe into the study of our faith, I generally encourage focusing on two areas to begin: the Bible and the Church's official teachings. Let me explain why, and then give some recommendations for specific resources.

I highly encourage people to familiarize themselves with the Bible because it is the literal Word of God, and because everything we believe as Catholics is found at least implicitly in the Bible. Especially since the worldwide gathering of bishops together with the pope at the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s, the Church has been encouraging all Catholics to read the Bible. Consider these words from the Council:

"The sacred synod also earnestly and especially urges all the Christian faithful, especially Religious, to learn by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures the 'excellent knowledge of Jesus Christ' (Phil. 3:8). 'For ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ' (St Jerome)" (Constitution on Divine Revelation, 25).

The quote from St. Jerome has been quoted often: if we want to grow in knowledge of and relationship with Jesus, we must familiarize ourselves with the Bible.

The challenge, of course, is that though certain portions of the Bible are fairly straightforward and easy to understand, others are far more difficult to understand. Hence the value of good resources to help us make sense of Scripture.

To that end, I highly recommend first learning about the "big picture" of Scripture. Among the many books of the Bible, there is a single "story of salvation" that is being told, and coming to understand the basics of that story allows us then to make sense of the many details which the Bible also provides around that story.

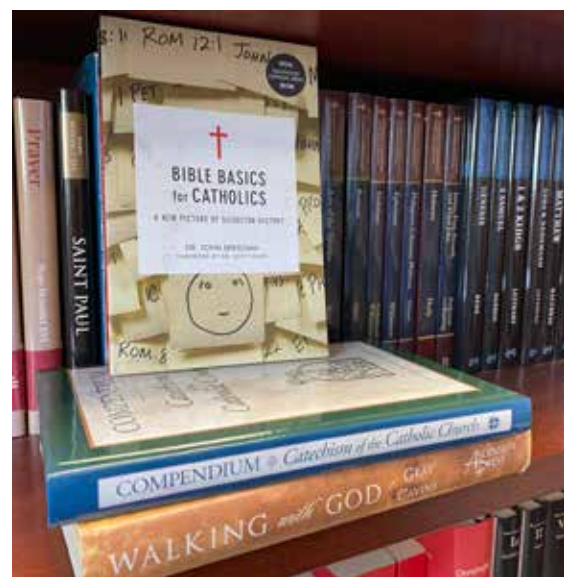
Therefore, for those just starting out on their journey into the Bible, I highly recommend John Bergsma's book, "Bible Basics for Catholics." The book lives up to its title: it's the basics of the Bible, written for Catholics. In a very engaging and lively way, Bergsma introduces the reader to that big picture of the Bible.

A second stop on the journey into the Bible could be Jeff Cavins' "Great Adventure Bible Study," which provides a bit more depth. Many Catholics have done this study via the video series that Ascension Press publishes ("The Great Adventure Bible Timeline"), but there's also a book version for those who are more inclined to read, "Walking with God" by Jeff Cavins and Tim Gray.

Finally, I'd recommend a good study Bible, and for the average Catholic, my easy recommendation is the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible. The only bad news is this study Bible isn't yet complete; there is a New Testament edition, and while much of the Old Testament commentary is available, not all of it is yet. Nonetheless, it remains my favorite study Bible.

The second area I encourage people to focus on when they begin their study of the Catholic faith is the official teachings of the Church. There are many, many theologians writing excellent books on the faith, but it's important to begin one's journey by understanding what the Church actually teaches, which is distinct from any given scholar's explanation of those teachings. That's in no way to discount the value of theological books, but just to emphasize that one should begin by understanding formal Church teaching before wading into the works of theologians who are explaining that teaching.

The most comprehensive summary of what the Church teaches is the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and I would highly encourage every Catholic to read the catechism, and to do so cover-to-cover. However, anyone who has seen the catechism knows it's a big book, and its size can be intimidating. Because of that,



I have two recommendations for "appetizers" to the "main course," which is the catechism. First is the "YouCat." Written as a catechism for young adults and high schoolers, I find this to be an excellent "basic" version of the catechism.

Second is the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The compendium is published by the Vatican, and essentially is the official summary of the catechism. Being both far shorter and written in a Q&A format, it is also a great resource to read before tackling the catechism.

Finally, a word of advice: baby steps! There's no need to rush through your study. In fact, taking your time and prayerfully reflecting on your reading, watching or listening will be far more fruitful. And remember: when you learn about your faith, you're not just learning about something... you're learning about someone.

Be sure to check out the additional resources at [sfcatholic.org/answer](http://sfcatholic.org/answer).

If you have a question you need an answer to, email [rkrantz@sfcatholic.org](mailto:rkrantz@sfcatholic.org).

Chris Burgwald holds a doctorate in theology and is the director of discipleship formation for the Diocese of Sioux Falls.





# Christmas at the Cathedral presents Mary's perspective of the incarnation of our Lord



Christmas at the Cathedral, produced by the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota, told the story of the Nativity through the eyes of Mary experiencing the monumental moments of Jesus' birth. **Photo right:** Shelley Jennings (female vocalist) and Apolonia Davalos (playing Mary) perform together during a musical selection. **Photo above:** Male soloist Shane McConnell.





*Thank You!*

TO OUR SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSORS






DAVID R. BILLION

FOUNDATION SPONSORS




Benefiting the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House and the Cathedral of St. Joseph ongoing care & maintenance endowments

ORCHESTRAL SPONSORS










PATRON PEW SPONSORS

Aaladin Industries, Inc  
Aspen Private Advisors  
John & Katy Billion  
Mark & Christine Buche  
Buysse Roofing Systems & Sheet Metal Inc  
Larry & Mary Canfield  
Anthony & Rosabel Christenson  
Richard & Kari Clark  
Creative Surfaces  
William & Asella Crum  
Tim & Patty Czmowski  
Daktronics  
Al & Irene Kurtenbach  
Bob & Kara Dougherty  
Dugen Sales & Service  
Marc & Teresa Dvoracek  
F & M Properties  
Ron & Mary Feterl  
Fiegen Construction Co.  
The Glenski Family  
Mike & Masako Gould  
Brian & Heidi Hagan  
Bryan Hammer  
Thomas & Diane Iacarella  
Impact Consulting, LLC  
Jarding Construction  
K & J Trucking  
Jozette Knoff Interiors  
Barb Kolb  
Krier & Blain Heating & AC  
Kronaizl Insurance  
Frank Kurtenbach

Little Village Farm  
James & Joan Lacey  
Look's Market  
The Heinemann Family  
Maguire Iron Inc & Maguire Tank Inc  
Malloy Electric & Supply  
MDS Manufacturing  
Tom & Marilyn Meyer  
Modern Woodmen  
Muth Electric Inc.  
Randy & Debbie Nehring  
Norberg Paints  
Chuck & Lois Paulson  
Marian & Andrea Petrasko  
Beverly Pins  
Prairie Hills Covenant Church  
RAS  
Robert Rickel  
Julie Rieckman  
Emmet & Mary Gayle Rogers  
Bob & Connie Scherer  
Schoenbeck & Erickson, PC  
Security National Bank  
Silver Stone Group  
Al & Judy Spencer  
Wayne & Cindy Steinhauer  
T-Brothers Logistics  
Deacon Tim & Kathy Tracy  
Paul & Julie Treinen  
Tom & Kathy Walsh  
Bruce Weller  
Whaley Trucking LLC  
Mark & Elizabeth Whaley

as of 12/9/21

# Receive like a kid on Christmas morning

By Amanda Pugh



**T**he Christmas season is that time of year that brings out our inner child. Snow is falling, Christmas music is playing, cookies are baking, and there is usually time off from school

or work to enjoy it. After a whole month of building Advent anticipation, the time has finally arrived to celebrate!

Of course, as in most things, the reality for adults is not as simple and carefree as it is for kids. The holiday season is notoriously busy, weather can be unpleasant, and family gatherings can be tense and exhausting. If you're a student, finals "crunch time" is just wrapping up, and you're entering a weird in-between time at home before the rest of the school year unfolds.

But around kids, the magic of Christmas morning is contagious. There's something about all the smells and bells of the season that can soften even the hardest of hearts—just ask Ebenezer Scrooge, the Grinch or George Bailey.

A big part of what makes Christmas special, for adults and kids alike, are the traditions and celebrations that surround the season. One family tradition I cherish to this day is our annual trip to our grandparents' house. We didn't see my grandparents very regularly, as they lived pretty far away, so this trip was special.

About once a year, my parents would get my brother and me loaded into our van to make the eight-hour drive. Looking back, I can only imagine eight hours in a car with two young kids asking "are we there yet?" was probably not the most enjoyable time for my parents, but we all survived somehow. For us kids, on the other hand, the drive was full of anticipation, knowing every second brought us closer to our destination and to Christmas.

Like a lot of families, we had plenty of Christmas traditions with our grandparents, like going to Christmas Eve Mass and having the family over for Christmas dinner. But there was one tradition that



was the most important: waiting for Santa. This was an important event, and therefore took some preparation. We would tidy up the living room and leave our notes for Santa along with a plate of cookies. Then my brother and I would retreat downstairs to our beds. We would try to stay awake as long as possible to hear the exact moment when Santa came so we could sneak upstairs to see him. Our plan was sure to work, but to our dismay, we always lost the battle against sleep.

Before we knew it, we were awake again and bolting upstairs. We didn't know how or when, but Santa had come! And Santa was always generous. Our stockings were heaped full and the tree was surrounded with shiny packages.

The Christmas experience of waiting and receiving has surprising spiritual lessons. Even though I didn't know the precise moment when or exactly how, Santa always came. And he came through in a big way. At some point, I learned that just because I couldn't stay awake to see him didn't mean he wouldn't come. If jolly old St. Nick can come through like that, how much more will our heavenly Father?

So often I am tempted to believe that God

will hold out on me, whether that's in my prayer, my relationships, or my plans for the future. I often doubt God will answer my prayers, simply because I lack the spiritual awareness to see how he is already moving right now.

I often forget that God is a personal, incarnate God. He started his life as a baby in a barn in Bethlehem. He worked with his father as a carpenter, he called each of his followers individually, and he felt every emotion to the point of Calvary. He is a personal God. He knows my weaknesses, and he comes through for me even when I'm not spiritually awake enough to know how.

This realization changes my entire outlook on life. When I can trust that God is always coming through for me in ways I may or may not understand, I am free to receive all he wants to give me. I can receive like a kid on Christmas morning.

How have you been receiving? Have you tapped into your inner kid-on-Christmas-morning? I hope you'll take some time with me this season to reflect on where in your own life the Lord might be present and active right now in a way you've never realized before.



# Father Joe Vogel

This month we get to know Father Joe Vogel. He was ordained on May 29, 1987, and is currently the pastor at St. Joseph, Elk Point, St. Peter, Jefferson, and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Dakota Dunes. He grew up on a farm in northeastern South Dakota between Turton and Doland. He has seven brothers and sisters and 26 nieces and nephews. His mother is one of 10 and his father is one of eight, which means he has lots of cousins. That's quite all right with Father Vogel because family has been everything to him.

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

My first thought of the priesthood was not until I was 28 years old. I grew up in a very close, Catholic family, and we never missed Mass or any church activity.

After college at SDSU, I joined the Air Force and became a security police officer for over 8 years, traveling all over the world. I was once engaged to be married and always assumed I would be married and have several children.

For two or three years during my time in the Air Force, I was not attending church very much and wasn't behaving like a good little Catholic boy. Along the way, a religious sister taught me to pray and essentially how to listen to God. She recommended that for 30 days I should ask this question and be quiet for 10 minutes: "God, what do you want me to do with my life?" Much to my surprise, after three or four weeks, the thought of priesthood came up. God's ways are certainly not our ways.

## Q What did you do before the priesthood?

When I was young, I wanted to be a farmer. In college I majored in engineering but knew after a year that wasn't for me. I majored in sociology, which is the study of groups of people. I always assumed I would be married with many children because of the incredible loving family I grew up in all my life.

## Q Is there a particular part of Catholicism that really fascinates you?

I've always been drawn to learning, living and teaching about the spiritual life. I would say that along the way

the greatest gift I've ever received in the spiritual life is to know without a doubt I am loved by God, even though I am a sinner. I would also say that God has blessed me that I know another gift I received is to love people where they are. That always makes life a lot easier.

## Q Who was most influential in your life?

My parents, my family and some awesome friends. There have also been many priest mentors who have guided me along the way.

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

Being a pastor and working with youth. I've always been drawn to the sacrament of reconciliation. I've been gifted with God's incredible mercy, and it's always a joy to pass it on. I've always enjoyed presiding at Mass and in some different ways presiding at daily Mass. The pace of daily Mass is slower and people want to be there. More people should attend daily Mass and find out what I mean.

## Q What's the most challenging thing?

How to love people well who don't practice their faith anymore. It's always good for me to remember those who loved me when I wasn't active in the Church. I'll never forget those who never gave up on me.

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

Saint Joseph. I love his quiet, confident power and his ability to trust God in all ways. He would be the person I want to be by in a storm or a tragedy. I believe he would always know what to do and how to do it with great trust in God.

## Q What do you do in your spare time?

Hang around great friends and family. Sit in church, sit by the river or in the mountains and think about all the blessings I have received in my life. Ride bikes, get exercise and have too much time to have a good meal with people of God.

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

I was incredibly shy and nervous as a child. Giving a talk in speech class always made me very nervous. I really enjoyed my time in the Air Force traveling all over the world. After five years in seven, I knew I could live in South Dakota for the rest of my life and that would be awesome. The older I get the easier it is to say no.

## Q How can your parishioners and people of the diocese best help you be a great priest?

Be involved. Join a Bible study or another class and share your faith with others. Be very generous, not because we need it in the church but because that's the path to holiness and joy.

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

St. Joseph, the Blessed Mother, St. Francis and St. Isidore, the patron saint of farmers. They made being holy look easy no matter their struggles.

Curious about a particular religious vocation? Visit [sfcatholic.org/vocations](http://sfcatholic.org/vocations) to learn more about discerning God's call for your life.



# St. Francis de Sales guides disciples on the way to holiness

By Mikaela Pannell

If there is one feeling we've all had at some point over the past couple of years, it's loneliness. With forced isolation and the tumultuous political landscape, all of us have felt alone and alienated at least once. Even living out our Catholic faith can at times feel lonely these days.

But we are not alone.

We can so easily forget that many faithful people before us have walked the road we're on, and there are others living right now who can help us along our own journey. They are there to come alongside us and assist us in living the faith well.

Nobody has to walk the road to heaven alone. Eventually, the habits we have learned from those who walk with us will be passed on to others. That's what discipleship looks like, and it is a major focus for the younger generation of Catholics. We are blessed in our diocese to have opportunities to grow in discipleship without even leaving the state.

## Going Deeper in discipleship

The diocese is once again offering an intensive weekend retreat for youth looking to delve into their spiritual life, aptly named Going Deeper. This retreat, occurring in March of 2022, will focus on the teachings of St. Francis de Sales and how those teachings can be applied to everyday life. Retreats like Going Deeper are proof you are not alone in your quest for sainthood; others in your community are walking the same road you are, and there are people who want to help you.

St. Francis de Sales, the man behind the teachings the Going Deeper retreat will look into, was alive during the time of the Protestant Reformation. It was a difficult time to be Catholic. He was a busy man, but he made it a point to focus especially on one-on-one relationships with people. His way of life has become a model for discipleship around the globe.

As you might imagine, St. Francis wasn't necessarily one to catechize to a crowd. He would go door to door, spreading the good news of Jesus, bringing tens of thousands of people into the Catholic Church. He was also in frequent communication with those who were being discipled by him, using letters or spending individualized time with them. Some of those following Francis'

model of discipleship today include our very own Lumen Christi missionaries.

Lumen Christi missionaries work in parishes around the diocese, emphasizing the individualized discipleship model taught by St. Francis. They are excellent models of young people living out their faith in the Church. These young men and women are stationed throughout the diocese to help parishioners learn the model of discipleship, so they can in turn disciple others. All of the Lumen Christi missionaries have themselves had discipleship mentors to watch and follow, and they are now in a place to be mentors to others.



## Call to holiness

Another concept central to St. Francis de Sales' teachings is a universal call to holiness. There has always been a misconception among many Catholics that unless you are a priest or a nun, you can never attain holiness. Of course, this is not the case. St. Francis spent much of his life forming lay people in becoming holy in their ways of life.

Everyone in every stage of life has a calling to be holy. This includes the single life and the time in life spent discerning if you are called to the consecrated/ordained life or marriage. The Going Deeper retreat will help participants refine habits and skills necessary to living a life of holiness themselves, in addition to helping others on their faith journey.

Bishop DeGrood's vision for the Diocese of Sioux Falls, *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love*, echoes this sentiment. We are called to be disciples in the ordinariness of our everyday lives. Everyone is called to holiness, whether married, single or in religious life.

St. Francis stressed the necessity of prayer in the journey toward holiness, and Bishop DeGrood also encourages a strong prayer life. Being holy means following where the Lord calls you, but it's hard to know what he wants if you aren't communicating with him. That's why prayer is so important. Just like the original Apostles and disciples of Jesus communicated with him and listened to what he taught, we also need to do so. Having a mentor can be greatly beneficial in learning how to hear God's voice. They also offer encouragement and lead by example.

Discipleship isn't easy, but it's important to remember that you aren't alone. Going Deeper will be full of like-minded individuals striving for holiness, young Catholics looking to be discipled and to one day disciple others.

Being a disciple is a lifelong commitment, but a commitment that is worth every moment.

## Want to Go Deeper?

March 25-27, 2022

Abbey of the Hills

registration and info at

**[sfcatholic.org/deeper](https://sfcatholic.org/deeper)**



# New school offers deep formation for every Catholic

By Dr. Chris Burgwald

Are you looking for more in your faith? Do you want to know God and our Catholic faith in a deeper way? That desire—which itself is a gift from God, something he has placed in your heart—is meant to be fulfilled. But how? We have something to share that might fit the bill.

Together with Father Scott Traynor and Eric Gallagher, I am excited to announce the launch of the School of Missionary Discipleship, an initiative of the Office of Discipleship & Evangelization in the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

I'll explain the nuts and bolts of the School in a bit, but I want to begin by talking about its purpose. In short, the School of Missionary Discipleship exists as a way for Catholics from around the diocese to deepen their faith in every aspect, so they can more fully and fruitfully respond to the diocesan vision of *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love*.

All three of us are deeply passionate about helping Catholics (lay, religious

and ordained alike) deepen both their own faith and their ability to share that faith with others. We have all experienced the difference that deep formation can make, and the School exists to allow Catholics anywhere in the diocese—and beyond—to experience that kind of more intensive formation for themselves.

Our goal for the School is that participants will not simply *learn* more, but they will have a deeper encounter and relationship with God as a result, *and* they will be empowered and equipped to more easily and effectively share their faith with those around them in the course of their daily lives. In other words, the goal is to allow Catholics to more fully follow the two greatest commandments: to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves by sharing with them the greatest of all gifts—a relationship with God.

The School will offer total formation for missionary discipleship, by which we mean formation in prayer (spiritual forma-

tion), knowledge of Scripture and Church teaching (intellectual formation), growth in virtue and the ability to relate to others (human formation), and the ability to accompany others closer to Jesus (apostolic formation). To be a mature and fruitful missionary disciple entails growth in all of these areas of formation: it's not enough, for example, to just know the content of Church teaching ... that teaching must be lived in a vital relationship with God through prayer and with others.

The School will offer a variety of events for people to grow as missionary disciples, but the heart of it will be a multi-year process of formation in all four areas just mentioned. And it begins with an entire year devoted to learning how to pray and how to teach others to pray. Why an entire year? St. John Paul II explains:

"The educational process of a spiritual life, seen as a relationship and communion with God, derives and develops from this fundamental and irrepressible religious need. In the light of revelation and





# SCHOOL OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

Christian experience, spiritual formation possesses the unmistakable originality which derives from evangelical 'newness.' Indeed, it is the work of the Holy Spirit and engages a person in his totality. It introduces him to a deep communion with Jesus Christ, the good shepherd, and leads to the total submission of one's life to the Spirit, in a filial attitude toward the Father and a trustful attachment to the Church. Spiritual formation has its roots in the experience of the cross, which in deep communion leads to the totality of the paschal mystery."

Again, growth in all four areas of formation is necessary for fruitful and mature missionary discipleship, but there is a certain primacy in spiritual formation which has led us to begin the formation process with a year devoted to growing in it.

In years two and three, attention to prayer will continue, but the other three areas of formation will be brought in as well: growth in self-knowledge, self-acceptance and self-possession as part of human formation; growth in understanding how to walk with others in their own journey closer to Jesus as part of apostolic formation; and a particular emphasis on growth in familiarity with Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

These first three years of the formation process are focused on "feeding" participants, nourishing their own faith life, allowing them to drink deeply from the spiritual wells of our Catholic faith. But the final stage of formation is all about equipping participants to lead others to those same wells; we are developing a variety of "tracks" for the fourth year of formation (depending on the track, there may even be a fifth year), which will help participants learn how to accompany others on their own journey closer to the Lord.

In some tracks, participants will learn skills that can be used in ordinary, everyday ways to accompany others: how to listen well, how to ask good questions, how to encourage others, etc., as well as how to answer questions and have easy conversations about the faith. While most of us are not called to "cold call" people as part of our efforts to share our faith, we

are all invited to live and speak about our faith in our everyday lives, and the goal will be to help participants do just that.

Other tracks will focus more on helping others grow in their own prayer life. Learning many of the same sorts of skills just described, participants in these tracks will be well equipped to mentor others in growing in a life of prayer.

It's important to note there is no need to choose your track before beginning the formation process. In fact, one of the gifts of beginning the process with a year focused on prayer is that participants will be better able to discern God's will in their lives, in ways both great and small, including what track to participate in for the formation process of the School of Missionary Discipleship.

The entire formation process will entail a variety of ways to grow: presentations offered both live and via the internet, regular gatherings with others involved in the formation process, opportunities to participate in retreats, and of course, personal prayer and study.

Our desire is that by means of this robust and systematic formation process, Catholics from everywhere in the diocese will be equipped with the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary to build the kingdom of God in eastern South Dakota.

The first cohort of the School is beginning later this month, but you still have time to learn more about the School and sign up. Just go to [www.sfcatholic.org/smd](http://www.sfcatholic.org/smd) and you'll find more information as well as ways to register for year one.





## THE PC PROMISE

Our promise to you is making a quality college education attainable

Now offering our largest financial aid award package ever!

**APPLY TODAY**  
**PRESENTATION.EDU**

## CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES

IS NOW OFFERING



Catholic Family Services is honored to host and facilitate St. Joseph Cathedral's GriefShare program!

**Feb 1-April 12, 2022**

GriefShare is a worldwide Christian grief program for adults. It blends faith, educational videos, a personal workbook and group discussion. The video series are 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 with 13 different topics surrounding grief being covered. GriefShare will begin again on Feb 1-April 12, 2022 from 6-8 p.m. Cost of the workbook is \$20 (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](mailto:cfs@sfcatholic.org).**  
Space is limited and pre-registration is required.



Catholic Family Services

[sfcatholic.org/cfs](http://sfcatholic.org/cfs)

800-700-7867(STOP)



**This Year, Make Protecting Your Family the First Resolution You Keep.**



**Cole Heisey**  
Sioux Falls  
605-740-0273  
[cole.heisey@kofc.org](mailto:cole.heisey@kofc.org)



**Jeff Gillen**  
Sioux Falls  
605-759-7204  
[jeff.gillen@kofc.org](mailto:jeff.gillen@kofc.org)



**Tom Bechen**  
Mitchell  
605-770-9798  
[thomas.bechen@kofc.org](mailto:thomas.bechen@kofc.org)



**Phil Carlson**  
Brookings  
605-695-4793  
[philip.carlson@kofc.org](mailto:philip.carlson@kofc.org)



**Matt Weller**  
Redfield  
605-450-6066  
[matthew.weller@kofc.org](mailto:matthew.weller@kofc.org)



**Mark DiSanto**  
Rapid City  
605-391-5694  
[mark.disanto@kofc.org](mailto:mark.disanto@kofc.org)



**Adam Werkmeister**  
Armour  
605-999-0743  
[adam.werkmeister@kofc.org](mailto:adam.werkmeister@kofc.org)



**This Could Be You!**  
Contact Jon for Career Opportunities

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



**Knights of Columbus®**

**Jon Beebe**

General Agent

(605) 882-8689

[jon.beebe@kofc.org](mailto:jon.beebe@kofc.org)

[www.kofcbeebeagency.com](http://www.kofcbeebeagency.com)



© Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510





**ARMOUR** – Larry and Clairce Kelly will celebrate their 50th anniversary on January 28. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish.



**BERESFORD** – Bruce and Mary Moore will celebrate their 55th anniversary on January 21. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and are members of St. Teresa of Avila Parish.



**FAULKTON** – Mike and Lori Kalkman will celebrate their 40th anniversary on January 29. They have 6 children, 21 grandchildren and are members of St. Thomas Parish.



**MITCHELL** – Robert and Patricia Miller celebrated their 55th anniversary on December 26. They have 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Family Parish.



**PARKER** – Robert and Bonnie Konda will celebrate their 50th anniversary on January 8. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Christina Parish.



**PIERRE** – Ken and Sharon Erlenbusch celebrated their 50th anniversary on December 28. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



**PIERRE** – Robert and Agnes Lord celebrated their 55th anniversary on December 21. They have 5 children, 18 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Ralph and Joan Schoenfelder will celebrate their 50th anniversary on January 13. They have 6 children (1 deceased), 6 grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Robert and Donna Bray will celebrate their 50th anniversary on January 15. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Ron and Nancy Seaman celebrated their 40th anniversary on December 28. They have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of St. Therese Parish.



**SISSETON** – Frank and Cheryl Karst will celebrate their 50th anniversary on January 29. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Peter Parish.



**VERMILLION** – Roger and Marlene Hauger will celebrate their 50th anniversary on January 21. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Agnes Parish.

## ANNIVERSARY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We accept anniversary submissions for the following anniversary years: 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70. We include them in the issue of the month of the anniversary or the following month's issue. Submissions received for later issues will not be included.

Send a color photo, your anniversary information and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by **January 14** for inclusion in the February 2022 edition to:

The Bishop's Bulletin  
523 North Duluth Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
or e-mail to: [bwingen@sfcatholic.org](mailto:bwingen@sfcatholic.org).



*As the weather gets colder*  
**OUR NEEDS GROW**

Thank you for all your continuing support of St. Vincent de Paul

431 N. Cliff Avenue • Sioux Falls, SD 57103 • 605-335-5823

Open Monday - Saturday | 9am - 5pm  
All donations are tax deductible.

# Sr. Mary Pius dies at 95 • Sr. Jacquelyn dies at 82

Sister Mary Pius Gutoski, 95, a sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, died November 15, 2021, at Avera Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated November 18 in the chapel at Presentation Place in Aberdeen. Burial was at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Eufryne Frances Gutoski was born August 28, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois, to Sophie (Kowolski) and August Gutoski. She graduated from Providence High School, Chicago, in 1944 and entered Presentation Convent January 22, 1944. She received the religious name of Sister Mary Pius and professed vows on August 10, 1946. Sister Mary Pius earned a bachelor's in education from Northern State University, and a master's from the University

of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. In 1991 she was certified by the School of Therapeutic Massage, Lapeer, Illinois.

Sister Mary Pius' ministry in education spanned over 40 years in Milbank, Dell Rapids, Sioux Falls, Madison, Mitchell, Aberdeen, and Flint, Michigan. She also served 11 years as a massage therapist in Flint.

She is survived by her step-brother, Mel Jozwiak, and her community family of Presentation Sisters. She is preceded in death by her parents; her sister Geraldine Iwanowicz and brother Raymond Gutoski.



Sr. Mary Pius Gutoski

Sister Jacquelyn Ernster, OSB, 82, died November 20, 2021. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated November 24 at Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel in Yankton. Burial was in the monastery cemetery.

Jacquelyn was born October 3, 1939, to Eleanor Bies in Salem. She went to Catholic school throughout her early years, graduating in 1957 from St. Mary's High School in Salem.

Jacquelyn attended Mount Marty to earn a two-year teaching certificate. She asked to join Sacred Heart Monastery after her first year and entered in August of 1958 and made first profession on June 29, 1960.

Sister Jacquelyn's first 10 years of ministry as a Benedictine were teaching grade and high school. In 1969, she went to Indiana University for a master's degree in history, and then taught at Mount Marty beginning in 1970. She earned her doctorate at Ohio State University. In 1978, she became the vice president for Academic Affairs until 1983 when she was installed as president of Mount Marty and served until 1996. In 2021, she was given an honorary doctorate and named president emeritus of Mount Marty University.

Sister Jacquelyn was



Sr. Jacquelyn Ernster

elected Prioress of Sacred Heart Monastery and served from 1997-2005. After eight years as prioress, she spent time living and working with the Missionary Benedictines in Nairobi, Kenya, and was the director of the African Sisters Education Collaborative for about five years.

In 2013, she became administrator for the Benedictines of Ridgely, Maryland, as they transitioned to a new location. She came home to Yankton in 2017 to retire and aid in the living of daily communal life.

Sister Jacquelyn is survived by her Benedictine community; her sisters, Patricia (Kent) Brandsgaard and Margie Schoeberl; her brother, Richard (Terry) Schoeberl; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her grandparents; mother; and her sister, Barbara Brajkovich.



**WE are the *only* Catholic Fraternal Insurer who offers Medicare Supplement Insurance in South Dakota**

**Catholic United Financial**

Medicare Supplement insurance\* now available. Contact your local representative for details.

 <p><b>Jay Fritzemeier, FIC</b> 605-999-2705 Mitchell, Parkston &amp; nearby</p>	 <p><b>Brian Zitzmann, FIC</b> 701-238-3643 Milbank, Big Stone City &amp; nearby</p>
 <p><b>Angie Jorgensen, FIC</b> 605-660-5814 Yankton, Vermillion &amp; nearby</p>	 <p><b>Butch Byers, FIC</b> 605-661-2437 Sioux Falls, Watertown &amp; nearby</p>

\*Neither Catholic United Financial nor its standard Medicare Supplement insurance policy are connected with or endorsed by the US government or the federal Medicare program. Plan options vary depending on where you live. This is a solicitation of insurance. © 2021 Catholic United Financial MSNA10A

*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)





# Sister Elise dies at 90

Sister Elise Haverkamp, OSB, 90, died December 4, 2021. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated December 9 at Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. Burial was in the monastery cemetery.

Rita Jane was born March 10, 1931, the second child of Hobart John and Thelma Mary (Richling) Haverkamp in Brunswick, Nebraska. She attended St. Ludger's Academy grade and high school in Creighton, Nebraska. Following graduation, she taught in a country school for two years. She answered God's call and entered Sacred Heart Monastery on August 20, 1950. She was invested as a novice on June 28, 1951, and received the name Elise.

Sister Elise made her first profession on June 29, 1952, and taught in Pueblo, Colorado, for nine years. She also taught in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Sioux Falls. During this time (1952-1962), she attended summer school at Mount Marty College for her education degree. In August 1964, she received her library science degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. She then ministered as a librarian at Mount Marty College, Av-



Sr. Elise Haverkamp

era Sacred Heart Hospital, and Sacred Heart Monastery.

Sister Elise had a natural curiosity as a child and in her adult life. This curiosity was a great asset as a librarian who was asked to assist with research projects. In her later years, she spent time praying for her family and the intentions of others.

Sister Elise is survived by her Benedictine community, her brothers Ted (Donna May), Philip, Paul (Marge), and Bill, and her sister, Mary Clare, and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Stanley, and sister-in-law, Mary Lou.

Stucco Repair

Masonry Cleaning

Brick Repair

Stone Repair

Caulk Replacement

Structural Concrete Repair



Experts in  
Exterior Building Repair

800-835-3700

Mortar Joint Repair

Plaster Repair

Clear Water Repellents

Waterproof Coatings

Painting

[www.midcontinental.com](http://www.midcontinental.com)

## UPCOMING RETREATS

### SILENT RETREATS

**Men's Silent Retreats**  
 February 17-20    September 15-18  
 March 17-20    November 17-20

**Women's Silent Retreats**  
 February 3-6    June 16-19  
 March 3-6    October 6-9  
 March 31-April 3    November 3-6

### DAY OF RECOLLECTION

**January 18, 2022**  
**"Freedom to Fail"**  
*- directed by Fr. Bob Lacey*

**February 15, 2022**  
**"The Greatest of These is Love: Cultivating the Virtue of Charity"**  
*- directed by Fr. Tony Klein*

**March 22, 2022**  
**"Saying Yes to God with Mary"**  
*- directed by Fr. Jeff Norfolk*

### SPECIAL RETREATS

**Healing Retreats**  
**February 25-27, 2022**  
*- directed by Fr. Scott Traynor*

**October 14-16, 2022**  
*- directed by Fr. Scott Traynor*

**Couples Retreat**  
**November 11-13, 2022**  
*- directed by Ed & Jen Hogan*

123 Saint Raphael Circle, Irene, SD 57037  
 605-263-1040 | [broomtree@sfcatholic.org](mailto:broomtree@sfcatholic.org)

REGISTER FOR  
RETREATS ONLINE

[broom-tree.org](http://broom-tree.org)

## MUSTARD SEED

Catholic Store

### Hours:

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

Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Location:

3709 S. Grange Ave

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Just West of Costco

605-271-4055

# Pro-life legislation likely to be high priority in 2022

By Chris Motz

It's going to be a busy legislative session, filled with legislation on a variety of topics. Pro-life legislation remains a pre-eminent priority.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of bills to watch for.

**Rights of conscience.** Last legislative session there was an attempt to enact important conscience protections for health-care workers into state law (HB 1247). It would have ensured that health-care workers were free to opt out of procedures that violate their convictions (e.g., abortions, sterilizations or mutilating cross-sex procedures) without fear of losing their jobs.

This state legislation is especially crucial since the Department of Health and Human Services decided not to enforce current federal protections, most notably in their decision to drop a lawsuit protecting a Vermont nurse who was forced to assist with an abortion. We can expect to see this bill again in 2022.



**Sexual identity.** Recent legislative sessions have seen attempts to align state law with the natural law on sexual identity in bathroom privacy, youth and college athletics, birth certificates, and the medicalization of children.

To be created as a male or female is a beautiful gift from God, ordered towards family, new life and complementary harmony. Though it's long been recognized that a small number of people struggle

to accept their sexual identity (a medical condition known as gender dysphoria, which historically most children out-grow), this condition was politicized by some who insist that sexual identity is changeable and not tied to one's physical body. This idea has led to serious injustice against others, and to irreversible bodily changes that the person later deeply regrets. The truth of human nature is so foundational to the common good that civic laws on this topic must conform with the natural law. We can expect to see legislation on this topic return in 2022.

**Marijuana.** The SD Catholic Conference opposed Constitutional Amendment A last year, which would have legalized "recreational" marijuana in the state constitution. Recreational marijuana use, like all drug use, is a vice, and data have shown when it's legalized, it disproportionately harms the poor and children. The state Supreme Court recently invalidated Amendment A on procedural grounds. Thus, we can expect to see a slate of marijuana-related bills this upcoming session.

## RESTART

FEBRUARY 12TH 2022 • 7:00PM

LORANG THEATRE PERFORMANCE ARTS CENTER







PERFORMANCES BY IKE NDOLO & SARA KROGER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER DOM QUAGLIA

AND SPECIAL GUEST FR. TONY KLEIN

JOIN US FOR A YOUTH AND FAMILY NIGHT OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP!

TICKET COST \$20

BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE OR AT THE HOLY SPIRIT OFFICE.

[HTTP://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/D/SD-SIOUX-FALLS/RESTART/](http://www.eventbrite.com/d/sd-sioux-falls/restart/)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT SEAN AT HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



**Recitation of the rosary**

**Friday, January 7** - 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.

**Grief retreat at Sacred Heart, Aberdeen**

**January 29** - Sacred Heart Parish in Aberdeen is hosting a Grief Retreat for all who are dealing with the loss of a loved one. The retreat starts at 9 a.m. at the parish hall. The speaker is Mary Weber from Catholic Family Services and the retreat will conclude with eucharist adoration in the church. Please join us for a special time set apart for the Lord to walk with you in your grief. For more information, please contact Chiara Wang at 605-225-7065.

**Search for Christian Maturity Retreat**

**March 4-6** - Registration is now open for the March Search for Christian Maturity Retreat held at Holy Spirit Church in Sioux Falls. Search is a student-led, Roman Catholic retreat. The weekend features talks, skits, music and opportunities to encounter Christ in the sacraments. All high school, college-age students, and adults are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact us by phone 605-371-1478 or by email [Sioux-FallsSearch@gmail.com](mailto:Sioux-FallsSearch@gmail.com). Visit the Search website for more information and to register. [www.siouxfallssearch.org](http://www.siouxfallssearch.org)

**Pray at Planned Parenthood with the Jericho Wall group**

**Tuesdays** - 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.

**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 [frmartinlawrence@sfcatholic.org](mailto:frmartinlawrence@sfcatholic.org).

**Help for parents who have lost a newborn or pre-born child**

If you've lost a child due to miscarriage, still birth or shortly after birth, The Angel Lee Cronen Memorial Fund is available to assist you in dealing with your loss by helping you secure a proper burial for your child. Most parents don't know what to do when faced with this situation and are often unable to pay for the services involved. This fund exists to help during this difficult time. For more information, contact Deacon Bill Radio at 605-336-7390 or [dcnwilliamradio@sfcatholic.org](mailto:dcnwilliamradio@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 to life the stories in the monthly magazine. If you would like to receive this recording, contact Josh Easter at [josh.easter@state.sd.us](mailto:josh.easter@state.sd.us).

**Sacred Heart Monastery**

**January 14** - Online Lectio Divina, Fridays, January 14, 21 and 28 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, S. Penny Bingham OSB at [pbingham@yanktonbenedictines.org](mailto:pbingham@yanktonbenedictines.org)/605-668-6023. Include your email address.

**January 22** - Monthly Contemplative Mornings. Meeting usually the third Saturday of the month, 9-11:15 a.m. Contact S. Doris at [doberembt@yanktonbenedictines.org](mailto:doberembt@yanktonbenedictines.org)/ 605-668-6022. [yanktonbenedictines.org/retreats-contemplative-mornings](http://yanktonbenedictines.org/retreats-contemplative-mornings).

**Silent personal retreats** - We are currently accepting fully vaccinated residential retreatants at the Peace Center. You are welcome to contact us for reservations at 605-668-6292.

**Spiritual direction** - Share your experience of God with an experienced companion-guide and intensify your spiritual journey. Scheduling is flexible, typically meeting once a month. Contact us to visit about online or in-person options at [BenedictinePeaceCtr@yanktonbenedictines.org](mailto:BenedictinePeaceCtr@yanktonbenedictines.org) or 605-668-6292.

**Catholic Family Services****Catholic Family Services Counseling**

Are you dealing with difficult events in your life? We have professional, caring counselors available to provide individual, marriage, and family counseling. Please call us at 605-988-3775 to schedule an appointment.

**GriefShare** - Catholic Family Services is honored to host and facilitate the Cathedral of Saint Joseph's GriefShare program. GriefShare is a worldwide Christian grief program for adults. It blends faith, educational videos, a personal workbook and group discussion. 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 with 13 different topics surrounding grief being covered. GriefShare will begin again on February 1 from 6-8 p.m. Cost of the workbook is \$20 (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](mailto:cfs@sfcatholic.org). Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

**Surviving Divorce Program** - This six-week program begins February 1 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 [cfs@sfcatholic.org](mailto:cfs@sfcatholic.org). Scholarships are available.



Text "Lastcollar" to 84576 for updates

**SUNDAY**  
**JANUARY 16, 2022**  
**@4 PM. ONLINE AT SFCATHOLIC.ORG/LCS**

A fun, live, online competition where priests compete in challenges and vote each other out, until there is only one priest remaining.

THE BISHOP'S  
**BULLETIN**  
Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls



BISHOP  
**O'GORMAN**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**WHERE YOU BELONG!**  
COME VISIT US!

**HIGH SCHOOL & JUNIOR HIGH  
INCOMING PARENT  
INFORMATION NIGHTS:**

**O'Gorman High School**

3201 S Kiwanis Ave

**Monday, January 31 • 7PM\***

**O'Gorman Junior High**

3100 W 41<sup>st</sup> St

**Tuesday, February 1 • 7PM\***

\*RSVP online at  
[www.ogknights.org/admissions/enroll/info-night](http://www.ogknights.org/admissions/enroll/info-night)

**INQUIRING PRESCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN & ELEMENTARY  
PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS:**

**Tuesday, February 8**

**5:30-6:30PM**

**Christ the King Elementary •**

1801 S Lake Ave • **605-338-5103**

**St. Katharine Drexel Elementary •**

1800 S Katie Ave • **605-275-6994**

**Holy Spirit Elementary •**

4309 S Bahnson Ave • **605-371-1481**

**Thursday, February 10**

**5:30-6:30PM**

**• St. Mary Elementary**

2000 S 4<sup>th</sup> Ave • **605-334-9881**

**• St. Lambert Elementary**

1000 S Bahnson Ave • **605-338-7042**

**• St. Michael Elementary**

1610 S Marion Road • **605-361-0021**

RSVP by calling **the school** to reserve your time.