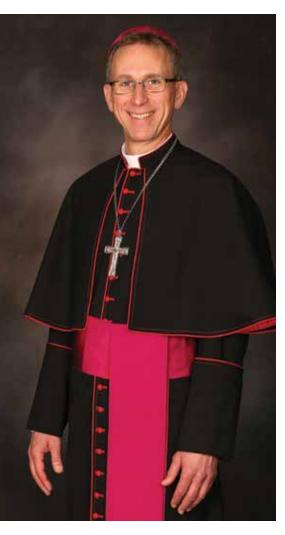


THE BISHOP'S CONTROLL THE BISHOP'S CONTROLL THE BISHOP'S THE BISHOP

Missionary DISCIPLESHIP

God's call for every Christian

God's promptings in the silence of my heart



n each of my assignments as pastor and now as your bishop, I have received a particular grace (spiritual insight from God) to provide a clear vision or focus for everyone to follow. The clear sense I got in prayer for our diocese is that God desires for everyone in our diocese to focus on lifelong missionary discipleship through God's love.

Our feature article this month is written by Fr. Scott Traynor who is working with the diocesan Discipleship and Evangelization Team so they all can support the missionary discipleship efforts of clergy, staff and parishioners in all our Catholic parishes, schools and other Catholic institutions. Here are some insights from Fr. Traynor and the team he is overseeing.

The team has been engaged in fruitful efforts around the diocese over the past several years. Emily Leedom, director of Marriage, Family and Respect Life, has experienced these fruits firsthand in her personal journey through missionary discipleship.

"If I look at my own journey, it is laced with individuals who walked with me for a period of time, mentoring me, offering friendship and challenging me to dig deeper into Jesus' love for me," she said. "The work of the Discipleship and Evangelization Team is simply to create a culture in the diocese where this is happening everywhere."

Dr. Chris Burgwald, director of Adult Discipleship and Evangelization, sees the key to missionary discipleship in the four dimensions of formation.

"The Church speaks of four dimensions of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual and apostolic. To have happy, healthy and holy missionary disciples, we need to be attentive to each of these dimensions," he explains. "We have an amazing team in the Office of Discipleship and Evangelization. Each of the four of us has

particular experience, passion and gifts in one or another of these areas of formation. We are in a great position to help every parish take the next best step they can in responding to the Great Commission."

Fr. Traynor points out that this is not a one size fits all approach. He says parishes and individual believers will be formed in their own unique way to respond to the Great Commission.

"Every parish and every person has a unique history, a unique set of needs, opportunities, relationships, resources and abilities," Fr. Traynor says. "The Discipleship and Evangelization Team treasures the relationships we have with pastors and parish leaders around the diocese. We are eager to grow those relationships so we can more fruitfully serve parishes in their efforts to advance missionary discipleship."

Eric Gallagher, director of Youth Discipleship and Evangelization, sees uniqueness as a benefit and a blessing.

"God works uniquely in individuals as well as within the various parishes and communities. Our hope is that we can discover the uniqueness of each parish community and inspire them to more generously share the gift of faith that God has bestowed on them," he says. "There are many popular models and strategies being used in the Church today. The best model and strategy is one that is built on the God-given desires of each individual and customized to the needs of the parish community."

In order to honor the unique gifts spread throughout the diocese, I will be sending out a survey to the entire diocese in July. Watch for it to arrive in your email inbox or visit our website at sfcatholic.org.

I sense God has great things in mind for us as we receive and share His love through missionary discipleship.

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE

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

July

- 6 12:00 Rite of Candidacy,
 Seminarian Gerald Thornton,
 Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 7 12:00 Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center
- 8 5:00 Solemn Vespers, Holy Cross Chapel, Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City
- 9 10:00 Episcopal Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend Peter Michael Muhich as the 10th Bishop of Rapid City, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City
- 11 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via sfcatholic.org
- 18 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via sfcatholic.ora
- 25 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via sfcatholic.org
- 26 Day of Recollection with the seminarians of the diocese, Cathedral of Saint Joseph

August

- 1 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via sfcatholic.ora
- 5 6:45 Mass and gathering with Catholic Men's Business Fraternity (morning), Cathedral of Saint Joseph

An Act of Hope

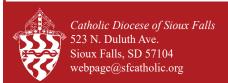
O my God, with a firm confidence I hope in thee, that Thou will grant me, through the merits of Jesus Christ, the assistance of Thy grace, and that after my keeping Thy commandments, Thou will bestow on me life everlasting, according to Thy promises, Thou who are almighty and Whose word is truth.

Safe environment commitment of the Diocese of Sioux Falls...

...in order to be effective in fulfilling her mission to evangelize and to remain true to Christ's calling for us all, the Church's ministries and institutions must be safe places for both children and adults. The Diocese, therefore, pledges to preserve safe environments in all of its facilities and catechetical programs. Those clergy, religious, diocesan, parish and school employees, and volunteers who collectively carry out the Church's ministries, remain committed to fulfilling this solemn pledge to protect those children entrusted to her for formation in the Catholic faith.

Aware that some who have ministered in the name of the Church have caused harm, the Diocese of Sioux Falls also pledges to assist any who may have been harmed. As a diocese, we desire to help individuals heal from injury that has been caused to them. If you or someone you know has been abused, regardless of who caused the harm, please contact us. We promise to cooperate with civil authorities in any investigation. We promise to do our best to help facilitate a process for healing. Whether the need is for counseling, an opportunity to tell your story or something else, as a diocese, we are ready to assist.

Our chancellor or victim assistance coordinator can be reached toll free at 1-800-700-7867 or 605-334-9861. We will do our best to help.





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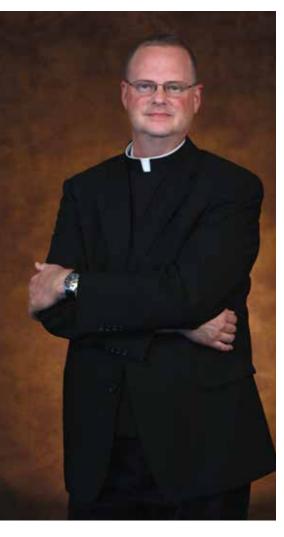
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We are truly members of one human family



e are used to having alerts and warnings in our lives because we want to be informed and warned of impending danger.

Once I slept through a tornado, and soon after bought a weather radio for my bedroom that definitely wakes me up if there is a storm or tornado warning in my area. The weather radios and warning apps, the security systems we put in, the alarms and the devices we use all serve a purpose, to keep ourselves, our families and property safe from harm.

I suppose car alarms are meant to do the same. The intention is simple: someone tries to break into your car and the alarm goes off, which either alerts others to the crime, or drives the would-be thief away.

That is the way it is supposed to work.

In all the years I have heard car alarms going off, I have thought many things while I listen to the insistent honking or screeching, and depending on the time of night, some not nice things.

One thing I have never thought is, "Hey, someone's car is being stolen."

Because car alarms go off all the time, and for many, many reasons, they do not really do what they are intended to do. The other day while I was celebrating Mass, someone's car alarm went off in the parking lot. We could hear it, but it was not overly distracting, and after some time, it just stopped.

To the best of my knowledge, no one in the church took out their phone and dialed 911 to report a car theft, or a car break-in. In fact, I would presume no one thought about it, thinking only about the slightly distracting honking.

We have just decided together that car alarms are not doing what they are meant to do.

Alarms are simply things, they warn, but it is up to us to decide what to do with the information. We decide whether to run to the car if the alarm goes off or not. I decide whether to get out of bed and shelter when the tornado warning goes off or not.

There is power in this, if we choose to use it. Exercising this power means being aware of our ability to choose how we will respond.

These last few months, the world has

experienced a warning. A virus has reached around the globe, affecting every one of us and transforming how we live and interact with one another. It is a warning, to be sure, of the fragility of our health and lives. It is like all viruses, silent and invisible, and this warns us to be cautious for our sake and for the sake of those we love.

We make decisions based on this warning, and our love for one another. We prudently wear masks and keep a distance. We wash our hands more and try to avoid large gatherings. The warning is out there and we really do not know where the virus might be hiding, and so we make choices, not out of fear, but for love.

Because that is our choice as well, deciding not just "how" we will heed the warning, but also "why."

The "why" can give us the ability to learn from this experience. This event is global, and it can teach us a simple truth, so simple we often forget it, we are truly members of one human family—a fragile family. We might again accept the humbling reality that we are all fellow travelers, living together on this insignificantly tiny speck of dust floating through the immense vastness of space.

From this reality, empathy is born, our ability to feel for and with one another, to share our joys and suffering, as family members do, as they must.

For a few months, we wisely spent some time separated from the physical celebration of the Eucharist, and even today, our celebrations are smaller and socially distant. This is a struggle for many of us, but also an opportunity to pause and reflect on the significance of this gift in our lives.

We can use this experience to move beyond seeing the Eucharist as an obligation, or something we just do as a part of our week, and allow it to become, again, the beating heart of our love, our lives and our joy. The desire we feel to be united again in this celebration is a gift that transforms us and our understanding of the wonder of this gift, if we receive it.

We have heard the warning, and it is real, and because of it, we may never go back to "normal," and perhaps we should not; we have the opportunity to respond in such a way that we are transformed by grace.

The choice is, as always, ours.

Virtual fishing tournament a hit, but more help is needed

The 24th Annual Bishop's Charity Fishing Tournament moved its tracking online this year to keep the fun alive and well in the midst of a pandemic.

The total individuals who participated reached 194. It was a good showing for a virtual endeavor, but more work remains to be done to reach the goal to fully fund two seminarians for the coming year. Since many pieces of the event had to be cancelled, donations are still being accepted to hit the goal for this year.

If you'd like to help fund seminarian education, please send a check to CCFESD, 523 N. Duluth Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104.





Photo left: Bishop Donald DeGrood flashes an enthusiastic thumbs up. Above: Pete, Tony and Joe DeGrood don paper bishop's miters and win the Fan Favorite Photo award. Right: Team Schlenker (Allen Schlenker, Catherine Spader and Tony Spader) won second place for Most Length Walleye Team at 112.75 inches.





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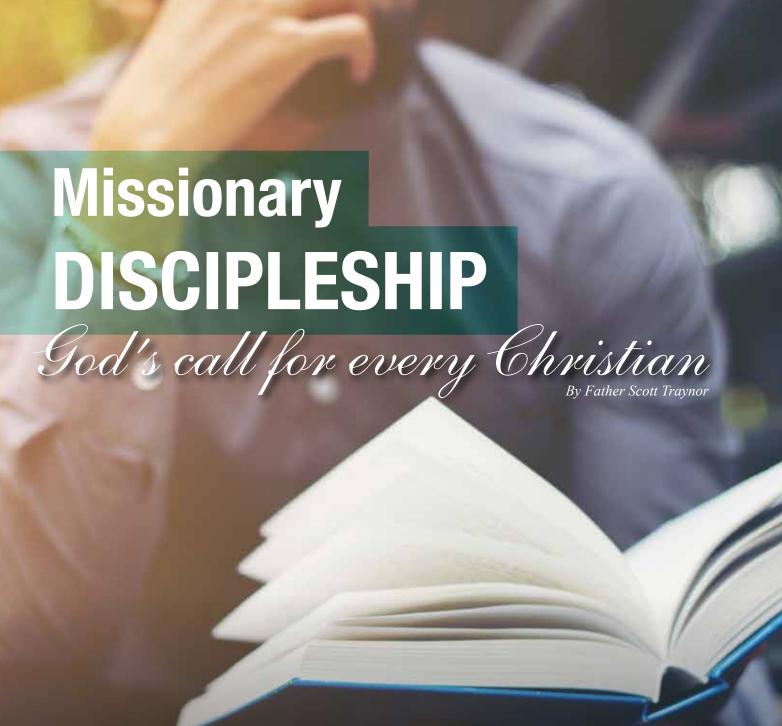
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The Gospel according to Saint Matthew concludes with the disciples receiving the Great Commission from Jesus.

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:16–20)

Each of us, by virtue of our baptism, has received this mission from Jesus. In our families, with our friends and co-workers, and in our communities, each of us is called by Jesus to be on mission to help others encounter Jesus and His love. That means we must grow step by step in our relationship with Him and His Church, to know Him, love Him and to be equipped to help others do the

And we don't do these things on our own. Jesus is with us. His power is at work in us to make a real difference in the lives of others.

Sometimes we can feel like we're imposing on others when we speak about our faith. You know, polite people don't speak about religion and politics, right? It might help to consider this passage from Pope Francis in "Joy of the Gospel":

The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. (n.1)

Do I want my family and friends to be set free from sorrow, emptiness and loneliness, to have an endless source of joy come alive in their hearts? Of course I do, and so I am motivated to take up the Great Commission of Jesus in my daily life and to live the adventure of missionary discipleship as a member of the Church.

WHAT IS MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP?

Missionary discipleship means encountering the love of Jesus Christ, growing in relationship with him, and inviting and helping others to do the same.

Missionary discipleship: a call to encounter Jesus

Pope Francis writes:

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord." The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. ("Joy of the Gospel" n.3)

What an encouraging and uplifting invitation. Every moment of our day is an opportunity to encounter Jesus. Every day I can hope for a new experience of his love. No one is left out. No one is overlooked. "No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord."

Missionary discipleship: a call to invite and help others

When I receive a blessing from God, God calls me to share that gift or blessing with others. From the day of our baptism, we are commissioned by God to proclaim His love and goodness to others.

... [T]he first proclamation must ring out over and over: "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you." This first proclamation is called "first" not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another...at every level and moment. ("Joy of the Gospel" n. 164)

Missionary discipleship: a call to every Christian

Each of us needs help from our fellow Christians to take our next step in relationship with Christ and the Church, and each of us is in a position to be that help for others.

Pope Francis writes:

"In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become **missionary disciples**. All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. ("Joy of the Gospel" n. 120)

Missionary discipleship is a call from God given to every Christian. Think of a movie or book you really enjoyed. How natural is it for us to invite others to see that movie or read that book? Since every Christian is called to missionary discipleship, we all have the responsibility to assist others to experience God's love and to help them take the next step in relationship with God and his Church. Parents have that responsibility for their children, pastors for their parishioners, teachers and catechists for their students, each one of us for our family members, friends and co-workers.

And each of us can take great leaps forward by mentoring and formation both to grow in our relationship with God and to grow in our ability to help others do the same.



How everyday missionary disciples changed my life: FATHER SCOTT TRAYNOR'S STORY

When I was in college at Iowa State University, I was blessed to become friends with some very committed Christian men and women. At the time I was quite indifferent in the practice of my Catholic faith. Well, these friends, many of whom were non-denominational Evangelical types, had a gift that really grabbed my attention. The gift was joy. Christian joy.

I mean joy that came from their faith in Jesus Christ. Real and abiding joy that wasn't just a cheery or optimistic personality, but a joy that was deeper than the ups and downs of life. It was a joy that was steady and vibrant (to borrow from marriage vows) in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer, day in and day out.

That joy grabbed my attention because it was a sharp contrast to the boredom, cynicism, aimlessness, sarcasm and insecurities I was familiar with in myself and many of my other friends. Their Christian joy was vibrant technicolor in contrast to flat gray. It got my attention.

I began to ask my Evangelical friends, "There is something different about you. Why is that? Where does that come from?" I wanted to know, because I wanted what they had.

Almost to a person, my question was met with a question, "Scott, do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?" I didn't know how to answer because at the time I didn't really have any idea what that would even look like.

Can I really have friendship with Jesus? How does that happen? How does that start, and how does that grow? I certainly had no idea as a sophomore in college. But thanks be to God for those good and faithful friends. They met me where I was and simply encouraged me to take a little step.

They suggested things like, "Take some time, talk to Jesus like you would talk to a trusted friend." "Jesus wants to speak to you! Take 10 or 15 minutes and read something from the Gospel. Ask Jesus to help you hear him speak in your heart. Tell him what you think and feel as you are reading His Word."

I started to do those things very sporadically and usually only when I was having a really bad day. But bit by bit, that habit began to grow and it started to make a real difference in my life.

The summer after my sophomore year in college, I needed something to do for the month of July. In June I was undertaking my summer training for Navy ROTC, and in August I had commitments as the president-elect of my fraternity, so July was open. I ended up volunteering at a Young Life Bible Camp called Camp Castaway in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Each week for the four weeks of July a new group of 150 juniors in high school from all over the country converged on Big Pelican Lake for an amazing experience. Camp Castaway had great camp activities: water skiing, parasailing, a zip-line tower from the bluff to the lake below, ropes courses and much more. So during the day, there was a lot of high energy fun, and in the evening was a powerful presentation of the basic Gospel message through great talks, dramas, songs and personal testimony.

The camper's week culminated in an invitation to welcome Jesus Christ into their heart as Lord and Savior in response to his great love Jesus has for them. Camp Castaway staff volunteer for a month, so we got to serve a different group of campers each week for the four weeks. My particular job as the sound and light technician allowed me to be with the campers for all of their activities each day.



Together with the program directors and the video ladies, our workgroup met for Bible study and faith sharing several times a week. We decided to work our way through Ephesians. This was a completely new experience for me to read Scripture with others and talk about our questions, insights and inspirations together. The witness of those four wonderful believers greatly increased my love for the Word of God and my desire to grow in friendship with Jesus in my daily life.

It was during the third week at Camp Castaway that I was blessed with a great grace. On a Monday morning I woke up with these exact thoughts, "God has a plan for my life. That plan is how I am going to be most happy. And I have never asked God what that plan is, and I should, and I want to."

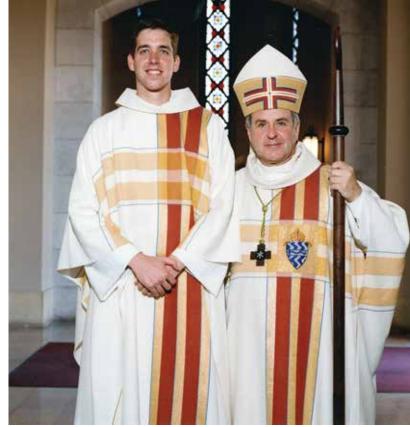
The more I thought those thoughts that morning, the more my heart was filled with real joy. By lunch I may have been levitating! When I talked to my Castaway friends about this certainty God placed on my heart, they encouraged me to take a year, do some mission work and ask God what that plan might be. By the end of the month I was convinced and joyfully eager to do just that.

With the help of those encouragements (to make a long and miraculous story short), when I got home in August, I found out about, applied to and was accepted for a year of mission work with the National Evangelization Teams (NET) Ministries. NET is a Catholic Youth Retreat Ministry which trains 18 to 30-year-olds to put on retreats for junior and senior high students in the U.S., Canada, Ireland and Australia. After five weeks of training, the NETers are formed into teams of 12 (six men, six women) and travel in a van from diocese to diocese, staying with host families and conducting retreats for the year.

NET was a transformative experience in my life. During training we had daily Mass, adoration and beautiful praise and worship together. I made my first confession since my actual first confession in second grade. I fell in love with the teachings of my Catholic faith. They came alive for me in a way that had never happened growing up. I learned so much and was so amazed to be surrounded by 120 other young adults who were on fire with their faith.

During training we were given a simple vision and good tools of how to share the faith we had with the young people we would have on retreat. I was so blessed to have wonderful teammates and grow in deep friendship with them as we traveled. And then wow!—to see how powerfully God would touch the hearts of the students on retreat as we shared our testimonies, talked about God and his merciful love, and invited those young people to open their own hearts to Jesus. It was an amazing and life changing year of grace and blessing.

In February of my year on NET, as I was praying one day after retreat that God would bless our host families with great priests, I first heard God's call in my own heart, "I want you to be my priest." With the help of my teammates, priests I met along the way, and other great disciples, I was helped to take the next steps



Fr. Scott Traynor with Bishop Robert J. Carlson, Ordination to the Priesthood, June 20, 2000

in responding to that call and last month celebrated 20 years of ordination as a Catholic priest for the great Diocese of Sioux Falls.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! I tell you those stories to try to show what missionary discipleship looks like in real life. My college friends were missionary disciples to me, witnessing to God by the joy of Christ in their hearts, and encouraging me to read Scripture and talk to God like a trusted friend.

My Camp Castaway friends were missionary disciples to me, believing in the power of Scripture, confident that God speaks to us today through the Bible, inviting me to take time to visit with them about what I experienced as I prayed with Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians and to make that a regular part of our week. To hear the great personal testimonies and effective teaching about Jesus and the basic Gospel message had a powerful effect. All these things were the work of missionary discipleship that helped me to hear and respond to the truth in my heart that God has a plan for me and following that plan would bring me much greater happiness than anything I would come up with on my own.

The NET staff and my teammates on NET showed me the clear path to the Church by sharing daily life together for a year, having the opportunity each day on retreat to give as a gift what I had received as a gift, to pray and live together for a common purpose proclaiming the Gospel, and inviting young people to trust and respond to Jesus.

These were key moments of missionary discipleship that drew me much closer to God, brought about greater conversion in my life and prepared my heart to embrace God's vocational call in my life. They equipped and motivated me to help others do the same.

These missionary disciples were just being the faithful people they were in everyday normal life but taking that extra step to invite, encourage, witness and share their faith with me. I am so grateful they took that extra step. How greatly God blessed their generosity.

Wherever you find yourself today in relationship with God, two things are certain:

- God has more for you to receive—to grow in a lived experience of His love for you, His presence with you and His power at work in you.
- And you have the opportunity to help someone around you to take a next step in their own relationship with God and His Church by giving as a gift the gift you have received. More than we imagine to receive. More than we imagine to give.

Jesus, bless each one of us to say a generous and trusting "yes" to the adventure of missionary discipleship today and every day "so that your joy may be in us and our joy may be complete." (John 15:11)



"Of course, all of us are called to mature in our work as evangelizers." We want to have better training, a deepening love and a clearer witness to the Gospel. In this sense, we ought to let others be constantly evangelizing us. But this does not mean that we should postpone the evangelizing mission; rather, each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are."

("Joy of the Gospel" n. 121)

Why do we pray for the souls in purgatory?

As a convert, I have never really understood purgatory and why we are to pray for those who are there. (submitted on Facebook)

This is an excellent question and a common one: because other Christians— Protestants, specifically—do not believe in purgatory, they often have questions about the Church's teaching, which can persist even if they become Catholic. So, thanks for asking it. Let me try to explain what the Church believes about purgatory and praying for those who are there.

In short, purgatory is the word the Church uses to describe a state of spiritual "cleansing" which occurs after we die. We are told in Scripture that nothing impure will enter into heaven (Rev. 21:27), but we are also told there are sins which we commit which are not "deadly" (or mortal) to our relationship with God, meaning, they do not completely break our relationship with Him (1 John 5:17).

Purgatory lies at the intersection of those two scriptural teachings: that we need to be completely cleansed of sin before we enter heaven, and that we can have sins on our soul when we die that do not damn us, as mortal sins do.

From the very beginning of the Church, Christians have believed that when we die, we will either go to hell, or to heaven directly, or to heaven after our soul is cleansed of any non-mortal (venial) sins. That third option is what we mean by purgatory: it is the spiritual "place" where we are cleansed of any and all spiritual flaws which remain, so that we can enter into heaven in a state of perfection, as Revelation tells us.

The existence of such a state is already found implicitly in the Old Testament, in 2 Maccabees 12, which speaks of Jews praying for the deceased. As the Church would later teach, prayer for the dead only makes sense if there is a temporary "place" after death in addition to heaven and hell. After all, our prayers are useless for anyone who's in hell, and they are unnecessary for anyone in heaven. From

very early on, then, Christians took up their Jewish ancestors' practicebolstered by what would be written down in the New Testament in places like 1 John and Revelation as well as 1 Corinthians 3:15

and 1 Peter 1:7 which speak of a cleansing fire—and prayer for the deceased. Already in the middle of the second century A.D. we find explicit reference to praying for the deceased, implying that this temporary after-death state must

Before speaking directly about praying for the souls in purgatory, I want to emphasize that purgatory is a temporary place. Sometimes people misunderstand the Church's teaching to mean that it's a permanent destination for those who go there after death, but that is most definitely not the case. Once all remaining spiritual flaws and faults have been cleansed, they will enter into the glory of heaven.

Now let's turn to the question of praying for the souls in purgatory. As we have seen, this is a practice which predates Christianity and which was taken up by the early Church. In fact, both purgatory and praying for the dead were beliefs and practices held by all Christians up until the time of the Protestant Reformation. Throughout the centuries, Christians have prayed for souls in purgatory or for "the dead," which means the same thing. We do so for the same reason that we pray for the living: because in the mystery of God's plan and of His goodness, our prayers are able to aid and benefit them.

Think about a time when you prayed for someone you knew. In so doing, you had



confidence that God would hear your prayer and give your loved one the grace they needed for whatever reason you were praying for them. The same thing applies to our prayers for the souls in purgatory: we have confidence that God will hear our prayers and give them the grace they need, which is to be cleansed of their remaining faults.

When we do so, our prayers are somehow able to shorten their time of purification. Just as God desires that we pray for the living, even though He could grant them the graces they need without our prayers, so too does He desire that we pray for the deceased, even though they will eventually get to heaven regardless. Somehow, our prayers are able to hasten that time of spiritual purification and help the deceased enter more quickly into heaven.

Be sure to check out the additional

resources at sfcatholic.org/ answer. If you have a question you need an answer to, email rkranz@ sfcatholic.org.

Chris Burgwald holds a doctorate in theology and

is the director of Adult Discipleship and Evangelization for the Diocese of Sioux

ALS diagnosis is a mysterious answer to prayer

By Father Dana Christensen

he evening of February 27, 2000, I had the immense privilege of meeting a saint. I was on pilgrimage to Rome with a group of seminarians, and we were invited to an audience with St. John Paul II.

While it was exhilarating to meet a personal hero, it was also sad to see him struggling with Parkinson's disease. He shuffled along instead of walking with a confident gait as he did when young and healthy. His speech was slurred instead of sonorous and crisp. His secretary wiped his lips because he had spittle seeping from the corner of his lips.

All this was hard to see. To many he was a weak old man, and on the outside he was. But looking into his eyes, I saw more. I saw a man of great strength, deep faith, and a dignity befitting a child of God.

Pope St. John Paul II has been one of my many saintly companions, especially since I, like him, have been diagnosed with a neurological disorder. Shortly before Christmas I was diagnosed with ALS, a disease that will slowly take away my ability to walk, talk, swallow and breathe. As of now I am much like St. John Paul was when I met him. My speech is slow and slurred, my hands and arms are weak, and I shuffle along when I walk. My body is weakening, but even as I grow weak physically, God, in His mercy, is strengthening my faith.

One of the characteristics of St. John Paul was his deep Marian devotion. My diagnosis too has a deep connection to Our Lady. It was literally on my way home from a pilgrimage to Fatima, where Our Lady appeared just over 100 years ago, when I learned that I most likely had ALS. I do not believe this was a coincidence. I had told Our Lady in Fatima that I was giving her permission to do whatever it takes to get me to heaven.



Father Dana Christensen, parochial vicar, St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria

I believe this diagnosis is her mysterious answer to my prayer. I also believe the timing was her way of telling me that she is with me, and like she did for her Son, she will stand beside me as I mount the cross chosen for me.

St. Joan of Arc is quoted as saying, "I am not afraid, I was made for this." I feel much the same way. My whole life, my priestly formation, my priesthood, my prayer, everything has prepared me for this. My whole life has mysteriously prepared me to offer this to God as my share in the crossa priestly offering. I choose to offer myself to God as a living sacrifice of praise in reparation for sin and for the conversion of sinners.

The battle for souls is real, and praise God, I have been chosen to be a warrior in the fight! I invite you all to join me by offering your own suffering, whatever form it takes, to Jesus through the hands of Mary.

At Fatima, Our Lady taught us a prayer to use when we encounter sufferings that we want to offer to God. It "Oh my Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen."

Join me in praying this prayer often.

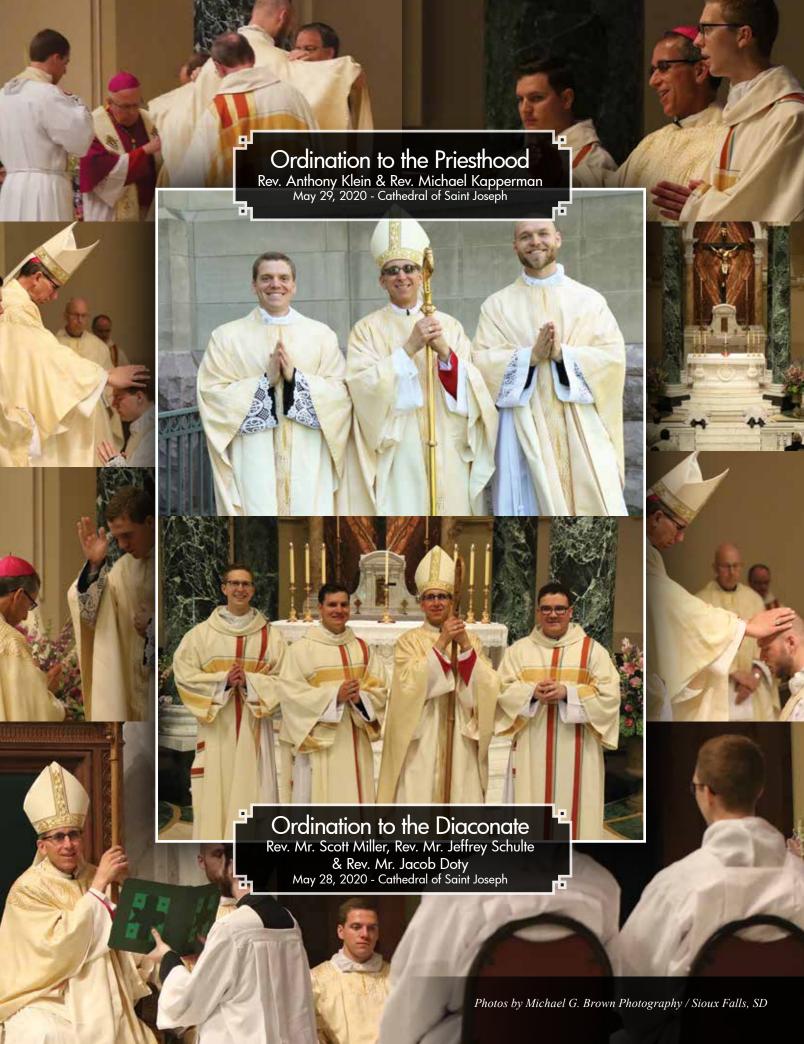
One of the many blessings that has come from my illness is time. Since I cannot work as normal, I can take up a new work-that of prayer. I am able to spend time with Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, time prayerfully meditating on the word of God, and time praying that prayer that Our Lady has over and over again begged us to pray daily, the holy rosary.

For many of you who are disabled, prayer can be our work. In many ways I am becoming a monk, something I have been prepared for by my association with the Benedictine monks who used to minister in our diocese.

For those of you who are healthy, you too can make prayer a significant part of your life. All of us can at least pray the rosary daily as Our Lady has asked. As a friend often says, "If you're not praying the rosary, you're not on the team!" Join me on "Team Mary!" Pray the rosary every day. God knows our world needs it.

Please pray for me, too, especially through the intercession of Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, that if it be God's will I may be completely healed. I am so very grateful for all who are praying for me and helping in so many ways. My family especially has been supportive, including making plans to build a handicap accessible addition to my parent's home so I can eventually live and pray there and be close to family.

From family to friends to parishioners, so many have been so generous to me. May God reward you all!



How the world's feminism fails to honor femininity

And how Natural Family Planning helps preserve it

By Renae Kranz

Women have a special vocation in the world and in the Church. Saint John Paul II understood it and called it the "feminine genius" in his exhortation "On the Dignity and Vocation of Women." But modern feminism would have us believe women should only focus on achieving equality with men, which in essence means becoming like men.

Why put women in such a narrow box, reducing their role to a competition with men? It's time for women to understand what makes them authentically female and wholly daughters of God with a role only they can fill.

John Paul II described the four aspects of the feminine genius as the key way women can affect the world around them and in turn the Church. Those four aspects-receptivity, sensitivity, generosity and maternity—put women in a firm position to help build the culture of life.

Those four aspects are mirrored in the ways various methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP) can help couples build strong marriages while simultaneously helping women unleash their feminine genius. With NFP Awareness Week happening July 19-25, it's a good time to

If you want to know more about how NFP can help you grow in your marriage and honor your femininity, contact Emily Leedom at 605-988-3766 for more information.

understand how these methods build up women and that awesome femininity God gave them.

Receptivity

Our bodies say something about who we are. The masculine nature is generative, reflecting a giver. Men provide for their families and are called to give even their own life if needed for the defense of women. Their masculinity only makes sense when paired, spiritually and physically, with woman.

Emily Leedom, director of the Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life, says the role of receiver is written in the woman's anatomy. A woman's body is built to receive new life, but it's also built to be paired with the masculine nature. to receive what the male spouse brings as the giver.

But she cautions us against seeing that nature as passive or less than the masculine nature. It's really just the other side of the same coin.

"The gift that women have to give the world is to receive people, to receive the hearts of people, the wounded, the broken," Leedom says. "It's also receiving the gift of my spouse, the gift of life and of our fertility."

It acts as the foundation of the other attributes.

Sensitivity

Because of a woman's ability to receive new life, she has a greater capacity for sensitivity toward others. A woman's nature is more sensitive to the needs of those around her. It's at the heart of her super power to see deep into another's heart and understand the other as a whole person.

Again, this should not be seen as weakness. The sensitive nature of women can have deep influence on the world around

them. It is that sensitivity that helps make others aware of their humanity and the humanity of others.

Leedom expands on this idea by defining sensitivity as the ability to respond to or detect slight changes, signals or influences. The practice of NFP requires a superior sensitivity.

"NFP is the very act of detecting slight changes or signals in the human person," Leedom says. "The work of NFP for the woman is a reflection of her particular genius, highlighting her unique ability to be sensitive to her own nature."

Generosity

Women make room for their communities and families in their lives because of their generous nature. This generosity also emphasizes the social and ethical demands we must be attentive to in our world. including in our workplaces and in our families. A woman's generosity benefits all human interactions.

The ultimate example of a woman's generous nature is the welcoming of new life. Only woman has been created to bring forth the gift of new life from the Lord.

"Generosity is giving of myself as mother, as spouse, as caretaker, as prayer warrior," Leedom says. "And with NFP, absolutely the generosity of my body, to my spouse, and to my future children.

"There's a burden in pregnancy," she continues. "Our stomachs won't look the same. We might be nauseous for nine months. There's a real sacrifice required of ourselves in anything we do, but particularly I think in parenting or in motherhood or in just the generous gift of ourselves to the world."

Maternity

In his exhortation, John Paul II said, "Woman is endowed with a particular capacity for accepting the human being in



his concrete form." This is part of God's plan to prepare her for motherhood and is why He entrusts the human person to woman.

It is the maternal nature of women that helps build communities focused on a culture of life and bolsters unity and peace in families. And NFP only deepens that unity.

"At the heart of maternity is the female capacity to bring forth life," Leedom says. "When a couple uses NFP, there is a deep acknowledgement of this capacity in her each and every month. NFP is rooted in a respect for her maternal capacity—a force that doesn't need to be medicated or sedated—but a force that is inherent to her very nature.

"This capacity for motherhood is written not only in her biology but in the very depths of her heart. You see it even in a woman who will never have children but who participates deeply in this maternity by her ability to nurture life around her and receive others into her heart in a uniquely feminine way," Leedom says.

NFP honors the feminine genius

NFP honors a woman's femininity in a way that unites her with her spouse but also offers opportunities for sacrifice—sacrifice that isn't always easy. She must

sacrifice control over the process by partnering with her husband to learn the signs and rhythms of her body. It forces her to pay attention to things that are easy to let slide. Leedom struggles herself at times.

"I think there are times when I just want to be lazy and not have to worry about it, but that typically is a sign for me that my priorities are not set straight, that I'm actually not even prioritizing self-care, self-awareness or self-contemplation," she says.

Leedom says NFP requires virtue and discipline in times of abstinence and much discernment to know as a couple when to abstain and when to be more open to life. In those times of abstinence, couples should focus on ways to love their spouse in creative ways that orient them back to the higher good of putting the other's needs before their own.

Amazingly, when couples sacrifice through the use of NFP together, they come to a place of equal footing again in their relationship. One of them is not solely responsible for their fertility. Both sacrifice for each other and pick up responsibility together. It's a truly feminist idea Through all of this, Leedom says couples who sacrifice together with something like NFP often find a greater connection in their relationship. Suffering and sacrifice breed intimacy.

"People I've encountered often say that when they suffered, they felt closest to God. Think about doing that with your spouse. If you allow it to, suffering together, sacrificing together, actually becomes the very fertile ground in which deeper connection and intimacy is made," she says.

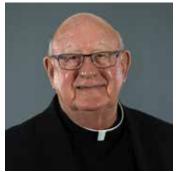
It's ultimately the pursuit of sainthood together, to pick up your cross and follow Jesus, Leedom says.

"The Christian response is not one of an easy path," she says. "It's actually one of great heroism and virtue."

It's a beautiful way to live an authentic feminism.

Three priests celebrate anniversaries

50th Anniversary



Monsignor Steve Barnett

Monsignor Steve Barnett was raised in Sioux Falls, attending Cathedral Grade schools and graduating from the first class to graduate from O'Gorman High School in 1962. He was ordained May 29, 1970. He served in high school administration and then parish ministry until retirement in 2014. He currently resides in Sioux Falls.

25th Anniversaries



Father Thomas R. Clement

Father Thomas R. Clement grew up in Orient. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served four years before entering college seminary in Winona, Minnesota. He attended major seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was ordained June 2, 1995. He now serves the parishes in Herreid, Selby and Eureka.



Father Larry Regynski

Father Larry Regynski grew up in Woonsocket. He was ordained in 1995. Fr. Regynski is currently serving as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Yankton.

Sinsinawa sister marks 60th jubilee



Sister Winifred Morgan, OP

Sister Winifred Morgan, OP, will celebrate her 60th jubilee. Her ministry has been dedicated to teaching and writing. In the Diocese of Sioux Falls, Sister Winifred taught at O'Gorman from 1965-1968. She also taught in the dioceses of Madison, Wisconsin, Dallas, Texas, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is living at the Motherhouse.



Closed 4th of July

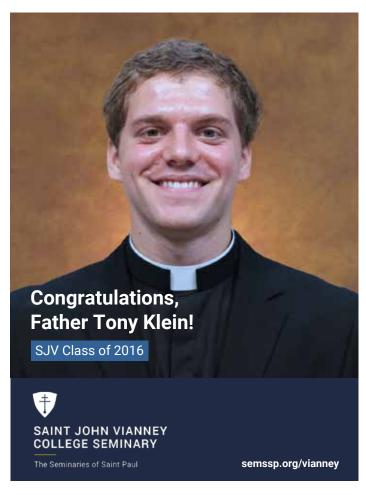
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Benedictine sisters celebrate jubilees this year

70th Jubilees



Sister Marcine Quintus, OSB

Sister Marcine Quintus will celebrate her 70th jubilee. She began her ministry in nursing as an instructor of nursing and later became director of nursing at Mount Marty College, retiring initially in 2000. She took over the baking department at Sacred Heart Monastery, retiring a second time in 2014. She remains active serving in home ministries at the monastery.



Sister Doris Oberembt, OSB

Sister Doris Oberembt will celebrate her 70th jubilee. She taught at the elementary level and at Mount Marty College prior to serving 23 years in parish adult education and faith formation ministry. She also served as formation director at the monastery. She is currently working in the Peace Center as retreat leader, spiritual director and trainer.

60th Jubilees



Sister Jacquelyn Ernster, OSB

Sister Jacquelyn Ernster will celebrate her 60th jubilee. She has taught at primary, secondary and college levels and served as president of Mount Marty College and prioress of Sacred Heart Monastery. She also served as the director of the African Sisters Education Collaborative. She remains active in a variety of ministries at the monastery.



Sister Esther Holzbauer, OSB

Sister Esther Holzbauer will celebrate her 60th jubilee. She served at Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, St. Benedict Hospital, Parkston, St. Joseph Creighton Memorial Hospital, Omaha, and Berakhah Home for persons with AIDS, Sioux Falls. In 1971 she began teaching nursing at Mount Marty College. She currently enjoys visiting the elderly at St. Benedict Parish in Yankton.

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Sister Marita Pfau, OSF

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The Catholic Community Foundation and the Bishop's The Catholic Community Foundation and the Bishop's Charity Fishing Tournament committee would like to say thank you for your generosity and support of seminarian education. Although this was an unusual year, many of you rose to the challenge and generously donated and/or participated in our virtual fishing tournament. On behalf of the 18 men that will be attending seminary this fall, we say THANK YOU!

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ABERDEEN – Stephanie and Arden Raap will celebrate their 30th anniversary on July 28, They have 4 children and are members of St. Mary Parish.



ABERDEEN – Terry and Cindy Winegar will celebrate their 25th anniversary on July 22. They have 1 child and are members of St. Mary Parish.



ALEXANDRIA – Gary and Brenda Steilen will celebrate their 40th anniversary on July 26. They have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary of Mercy Parish.



BIG STONE CITY – Anthony and Teresa Spors will celebrate their 40th anniversary on July 26. They have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of St. Charles Parish.



BROOKINGS – Gerald and Shirley Bergum will celebrate their 69th anniversary on July 12. They have 10 children (2 deceased), 12 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild and are members of St. Thomas More Parish.



CANTON – Mike and Lois Broderick will celebrate their 60th anniversary on July 9. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Dominic Parish.



COLMAN – John and RoseAnn Mousel celebrated their 55th anniversary on June 12. They have 5 children, 18 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Peter Parish.



DELL RAPIDS – Tom and Rita Berg will celebrate their 40th anniversary on July 26. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



GETTYSBURG – Rick and Imelda Simon will celebrate their 50th anniversary on July 3. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of Sacred Heart Parish.



HOWARD – Garry and Susan Zens celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 22. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren and are members of St. Agatha Parish.



IPSWICH – Marv and Judy Seyer will celebrate their 55th anniversary on July 12. They have 4 children, 15 grandchildren and are members of Holy Cross Parish.



KRANZBURG – DuWayne and Rita Mack will celebrate their 65th anniversary on July 6. They have 10 children (1 deceased), 20 grandchildren (1 deceased) and 14 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Rosary Parish.



MADISON – Bill and Jolene Johnson celebrated their 50th anniversary on April 4. They have 6 children, 13 grandchildren and are members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.



MITCHELL – Gary and Jeanice Korzan celebrated their 45th anniversary on June 28. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



MITCHELL – John and Sally Knight will celebrate their 30th anniversary on July 7. They have 2 children and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



MITCHELL – Tim and Karen Harrington will celebrate their 40th anniversary on August 2. They have 2 children, 1 grandchild and are members of Holy Family Parish.



PARKSTON – Dave and JoAnn Hoffman will celebrate their 50th anniversary on July 31. They have 4 children, 14 grandchildren and are members of Sacred Heart Parish



PIERRE – Chuck and Susan Quinn will celebrate their 45th anniversary on July 5. They have 2 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



REDFIELD – Monte and Ruth Mason celebrated their 40th anniversary on May 23. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Bernard Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – James and Mary Ysbrand will celebrate their 30th anniversary on July 7. They have 5 children and are members of St. Michael Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Bill and Joyce Kubat celebrated their 40th anniversary on June 14. They have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Mary Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Chuck and Madelyn Kirby will celebrate their 40th anniversary on July 18. They have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Joe and Arlis Fox celebrated their 65th anniversary on June 12. The have 7 children, 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren and are members of Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Tom and Kathy Magee will celebrate their 50th anniversary on July 25. They have 4 children (1 deceased), 3 grandchildren and are members of St. Lambert Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Julie and David Elson celebrated their 45th anniversary on May 31. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Larry and Diane Becker will celebrate their 50th anniversary on July 25. They have 2 children, 1 grandchild and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Cecil and Eilene McCoy will celebrate their 70th anniversary on July 5. They have 8 children (1 deceased), 25 grand-children (2 deceased) and 24 great-grandchildren (1 deceased) and are members of St. Therese Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Mike and Suzie Rierson will celebrate their 55th anniversary on July 24. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Katharine Drexel Parish



SIOUX FALLS – Dan and Donna Schneider will celebrate their 25th anniversary on July 7. They have 1 child and are members of St. Michael Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Ray and Kathy Campbell will celebrate their 40th anniversary on July 19. They have 4 children, 1 grandchild and are members of St. Katharine Drexel Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Dave and Jodi Schwab will celebrate their 50th anniversary on July 3. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Michael Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Paul and Vonnie Bangasser celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 11. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Gene and Brigitte Uher celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 27. They have 2 children (1 deceased), 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



TURTON – Joe and Betty Barrie will celebrate their 62nd anniversary on July 4. They have 4 children, 13 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Joseph Parish.



WATERTOWN – Patrick F. and Cindy Murphy will celebrate their 45th anniversary on July 24. They have 2 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.

ANNIVERSARY SUBMISSIONS

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

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



WATERTOWN – Don and Mary Tuff will celebrate their 40th anniversary on July 19. They have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



WEBSTER – Fred and Cindy Zenk will celebrate their 35th anniversary on July 27. They have 4 children, 14 grandchildren (1 deceased) and are members of Christ the King Parish.

Sister Kevin Irwin, OSB, dies at 90

Sister Kevin Irwin. OSB, 90, a Benedictine sister of Sacred Heart Monastery, died June 14, 2020.

A private Mass of Christian burial was celebrated June 17 at Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. Burial was at the monastery cemetery. Because of COVID-19, a public memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date.

Patricia Ann was born September 23, 1929, in Redfield to Bernard and Edna (Naughton) Irwin, the oldest of three daughters. She grew up on a farm south of Rockham, and went to a country school, then to boarding school in Zell and to Mount Marty High School in Yankton.

Patricia entered Sacred Heart Monastery September 1947. She became a novice on June 23, 1948, and was given the name Kevin. She made final



Sister Kevin Irwin, OSB

profession on June 29, 1952. In May 1954, she graduated from Mount Marty College with a Bachelor of music education degree, and in 1956, she earned a Masters degree from the University of South Dakota in music.

Sister Kevin taught in Dimock, Stephan and Yankton. She served as dean of students at Mount Marty, 1962-1968. From 1968-1972, she was

at the Newman Center in Vermillion and took classes in counseling. She then ministered in student life at Mount Marty until 1978 and began her work with the divorced, separated and widowed group in the Yankton area. She practiced counseling at Benedictine Family Services until it closed in 1992. Following that she ministered 15 years as volunteer coordinator and pastoral minister at Sacred Heart Parish in Yankton, retiring in 2007. She was also the director of novices from 1985 to 1986 and director of formation from 1889 to 1992.

Sister Kevin is survived by her Benedictine community, her sisters and brothers-in-law, Sharon (Deane) Munro and Mary Dawn (Harlan) Vesely, and her nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Bishop Hoch scholarships awarded

The Bishop Hoch Scholarships have been awarded and announced for the 2020-2021 school year. They are as follows:

In the Yankton deanery, **Wesley Brandt**, Mount Marty College.

In the Mitchell deanery, **Oak-ley Jandreau**, Mount Marty College.

In the Sioux Falls deanery, **Tashlynne Badger** and **Avery Kirkey**, both Mount Marty College.

In the Aberdeen deanery, **Emily Schock**, Presentation College.

In the Watertown deanery, **Preston Jones**, Presentation College.



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



Mike Ferrell, FIC 605-954-4399 Aberdeen, Watertown, Sioux Falls & nearby



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BISHOP'S CUP

Monday, August 24

One of the area's premier golf tournaments is coming up. The Bishop's Cup, played at both Minnehaha Country Club and The Country Club of Sioux Falls, will benefit Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center in Irene.

You can choose to play in one of two different formats:

Play the Bishop's Scramble

This format is a four-person scramble with prizes awarded to the top two teams in each flight. A crystal-cup traveling trophy will be awarded to the team with the low net score.

Play the Bishop's Challenge

This format consists of a fourperson team. Each golfer plays their own ball, with the two best balls scored hole by hole. A crystal-cup traveling trophy



will be awarded to the team with the low net score.

Registration and lunch start at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon. After golf, enjoy a social and barbecue followed by an awards ceremony. There will also be a shoot out and putting contest final at 6:30 p.m.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. To find out more about those opportunities or to register, go to www.ccfesd.org or call (605) 988-3765. Don't wait! Spots are filling up fast.

Taste the Goodness Saturday, August 29

The Taste the Goodness charity event for 2020 will again be held in downtown Sioux Falls outdoors at the Avera IT building at 212 E. 11th Street.

The event runs from 5-9 p.m. Stroll from tent to tent and enjoy a variety of food, beer, wine and other beverages while listening to great music.

There will also be an auction, games and activities throughout the evening.

This summer event offers a

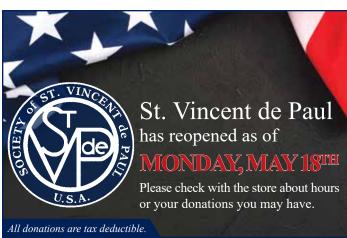
chance for fellowship and giving. All proceeds go to the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House Endowment to help the homeless in our community.

The entrance fee for Taste the Goodness is \$45 for a wristband which gets you unlimited access to food, beverages, games and more. Must be 21 to attend.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to ccfesd. org/events/taste-the-goodness.









Upcoming Spiritual Retreats



August 7th-9th, 2020 **Men's Silent Retreat**

Do not be Afraid - The Biblical Narrative of Liberation from Fear

Leader: Fr. Adrian Burke *Freewill offering with \$25 deposit



August 28th-30th, 2020 **Women's Silent Retreat**

Discovering the Heart of the Father Leader: Fr. Tyler Mattson *Freewill offering with \$25 deposit



August 31st - September 4th, 2020 **Abbey Priest Retreat**

Healing and Hope for a New Springtime of the Church - open to all Priests

Leader: Fr. Peter Anderl

To Register or Review our Health and Safety Policy: Abbeyofthehills.org or call 605-398-9200

Visit: 46561 147th Street | Marvin, SD 57251 Follow: fin



Recitation of the rosary planned

Rural Catholic DRE Conference

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

Wednesday, Aug. 12 - Join area directors of religious education for the Rural Catholic North Central SD DRE Conference to explore ways to more effectively pass on the Catholic faith in our rural parishes. Program begins at 5:30 p.m. with supper and welcome with a presentation by Fr. Tom Anderson beginning at 6 p.m. and discussion after. All Saints Parish, Mellette, 23 1st Ave. Free will offering. Call or text Laura Me-

lius at 605-228-3945 or mellettedre@sfcath-

olic.org to RSVP or with questions. Attend-

ees may join the Rural Catholic DRE Con-

ference group on Facebook for the most up-

Search for Christian Maturity retreat

to-date information.

Oct. 23-25 - 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 collegeage students and adults are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact: (605) 371-1478, SiouxFallsSearch@gmail.com, www.siouxfallssearch.org.

Confraternity of the Holy Rosary seeks new members - All are welcome to enroll in the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary, offering many spiritual benefits to its members. For information, contact Jim Miles, 605 759-2654 (dustoff1525@yahoo.com).

Applicants for permanent diaconate being accepted

Men of the diocese are invited to consider becoming a deacon. If you are thinking God may be calling you to a deeper life of service to His Church and His people, apply for the next diaconate class. The diocese is accepting applications for a formation class that will begin in the fall of 2020. Contact your pastor or Deacon John Devlin if you would like more detail. You can call 605-988-3715 or email denjohndevlin@sfcatholic.org.

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.

July 28-Sept. 1/Grieving loss of a spouse. A six-week program held every Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This program is for adults who have lost a spouse and are trying to cope with the pain of separation and loss. Role change and loneliness are secondary losses which can complicate the grieving process. The program will offer assistance in coping with this change and making healthy readjustments. Non-denominational. Cost is a donation. Located at Catholic Family Services, 523 N. Duluth Ave, Sioux Falls. Please call 605-988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 to register or with questions.

The Mother Teresa Endowment is a fund providing financial assistance to individuals or couples experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and who have considered abortion because of limited financial resources. Through Catholic Family Services, free pregnancy counseling is available and we work to determine available community resources. The Mother Teresa Endowment Fund assists with legitimate costs not covered elsewhere. Application forms are available from any CFS office, or for more information call 800-700-7867.

Sacred Heart Monastery

Sept.-May/Spiritual Enrichment Program/ A program open to men and women who desire to deepen their relationship with God through monthly gatherings, selected readings, and a silent retreat experience. Participants will meet once a month on Saturday morning 9:30-11:30 for prayer and group dialogue. Registration deadline is August 24. For more information go to https://yanktonbenedictines.org/spiritual-enrichment-program/ or contact us: benedictinepeacectr@yanktonbenedictines.org or 605-668-6292.

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.

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

Prayer for Vocations

O Father, you desire all of us to be happy. Stir up the grace of a religious vocation in the hearts of many men and women. Grant to them the willingness and generosity to give of themselves, their lives, their time and their talents to the service of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord and Savior, and to His Holy Church.

May more men and women go forth as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters to bring the truths of our Catholic faith to all others so that soon they, too, may know You better and love You more, and serving You, be truly happy. Amen.











TO REGISTER, PURCHASE TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT CCFESD.ORG OR CALL 605.988.3765





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