



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

May 2020

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN



Transform your *fear* into the Lord's HOPE

Hope is a gift from God



For much of my life I tried to muster up enough hope in others, myself and even God. Only after years of trying so hard the wrong way have I come to learn and appreciate that if my hope is in God I will NEVER be disappointed. St. Paul made this point explicitly when he wrote that “hope does not disappoint.” Why? He went on: “because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Rom 5:5).

A few years ago I was struggling to have hope that the challenges we were faced with in my home diocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis would turn out for the good. I remember on one of my days of recollection at my little cabin in northern Minnesota an interior grace God gave me which was difficult, but fruitful. Essentially in prayer He placed before me two options: you can choose to remain stuck in relying on your own hope or you can receive my hope.

God’s hope I wondered? Then it clicked with me. I was trying way too hard to have hope in others and myself but realized we are all so limited and broken. Whereas the gift of God’s hope never disappoints.

What it meant however was that I needed to surrender to God the way I wanted Him to fix the things I wanted fixed in my way and timeline. He invited me to surrender my failed plan of personal hope and trust Him.

Thanks be to God I eventually was able to surrender what I could not control or fix and choose to receive His gift of supernatural hope. Remember again what St. Paul says about how we receive this hope: “through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” This is not a hope that we can produce or make on

our own; instead, it comes as a pure gift from God.

For together with faith and charity, hope is one of the theological virtues, the habits of the spiritual life which we receive from God in our baptism. While faith concerns our trust in God and belief in all that He has revealed to us and charity concerns our love of God beyond all else and love of neighbor as ourselves, hope concerns our confidence that God’s promises to me and to us will in fact be fulfilled.

It is not optimism. Many saints have been both pessimistic about the human state of affairs and deeply hopeful that God’s promises will ultimately come to fruition. For our God is a God of promises, and His promises will in fact come true. Hope is the virtue by which we recognize, embrace and live this truth.

Again, hope is given to us together with faith and charity; all three need one another, just as a three-legged stool will fall if any one of the legs is removed. And all three are freely given to us by God; we do nothing to earn them. All we need to do is receive them and surrender all our fears, anxieties and false hopes trusting that His plan, even if it entails suffering and loss, will bring about great things.

Recall the words of St. John: “perfect love drives out fear” (1 John 4:18). As we grow in faith, hope and charity, our peace increases and fear disappears.

In these days of dealing with the effects of COVID 19, I encourage us all to keep our eyes focused on God and humbly ask for His gracious gifts of faith, hope and love, knowing that hope does not disappoint and God’s love casts out all fear.

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.

May

- 3 10:00 Stational Mass, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via sf catholic.org
- 10 10:00 Stational Mass, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via sf catholic.org
- 10-16 Bishop on retreat
- 24 10:00 Stational Mass, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via sf catholic.org
- 25 9:00 Memorial Day Mass, via live stream at sf catholic.org
- 28 11:00 Ordination to the transitional diaconate, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 29 11:00 Ordination to the priesthood, via live stream at sf catholic.org
- 31 10:00 Stational Mass, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via sf catholic.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pope Francis

On the occasion of the Day of Prayer and Fasting

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

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.

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

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There is a healing in returning to Mayberry



For these past weeks of social distancing, I have taken the opportunity to check in on some friends, old and new, through various means of social media and phone calls. Recently I had a friend mention to me that he thought I was probably not as busy recently as I may be used to, and I had to agree. My life, as are the lives of everyone, is vastly different than it once was, and I think about things differently than I once did.

Every day I look forward to walking the dog and I have come to deeply appreciate the chance to get outside and stretch my legs while she runs with her usual abandon through the pastures. I appreciate the little signs of spring around me and a few moments of feeling like everything is normal again. I used to consider it a chore, but now it is one of the high points of my day.

Thus do the times change the heart.

One of the things I have been thinking about on these walks is the use of this time. This is a unique time, obviously, and it is full of great sacrifices, and fear, and anxiety, but there is also time to grow and learn and experience. I was thinking about this one day, and noticed there was a sense of concern in myself that I might not come out of this with anything to show for it.

I read somewhere that William Shakespeare had to, as many did then, live through times of pandemic and quarantine. One time he was forced into isolation, and when he came out of it he had written “King Lear.”

Here is where my heart eased up and I cut myself some slack. There is no way I will produce something as grand and immortal as “Lear” during this time, so I just relaxed. I am trying to read more and I allow my mind to wander a bit while walking the dog, but creativity may or may not happen.

What I am doing is trying not to watch a lot of television, or at least no more than usual, so I have to be thoughtful and not allow myself to turn on the television until the evening. My one exception to this rule is over the lunch hour, I recently got into the habit of watching reruns of “Match Game” on the Game Show Network over lunch, and I would hate to lose that enjoyment.

In those times when I do flop down on the couch and grab the remote, I find myself

watching old shows. I am spending most of my free time in Korea with the 4077th, or on the bridge of the Enterprise, or on Gilligan’s Island, or in Mayberry. I did not consciously choose to focus on these shows from my youth, I just sort of gravitated to them.

I suppose there is a part of me that longs for the simplicity they present. I know our world today is beset with struggle, almost insurmountable problems, so there is something healing in returning to Mayberry where the only real problem is Opie killing a mother bird with his slingshot. I know the problems are still there, and will be there when I turn off the television, but those few minutes can bring great peace.

Those moments of peace are a gift; however, we are afforded an opportunity to receive even deeper peace, not in Mayberry, but in the quiet gift of prayer. These days offer a chance to be renewed in the meaning of prayer in our lives.

During normal times, we tend to pray as we normally do, we say our prayers and we offer praise and make our requests to God, but these are not normal times. We have a deeper need for the peace which this gift can bring us.

Many have found their lives to be more hectic than they could have imagined, doing their jobs, taking care of their homes and families, all while now taking the place of schools. Many have found their lives quieter than they could have imagined; everyone is experiencing separation and a sense of isolation. Prayer is a gift of peace for each heart—busy or quiet or lonely.

During these days, we should embrace the time when we can simply sit quietly in the Lord’s presence, wherever that may be, and simply be brought to life in the gentle love He will give. We do not need many words, or any at all actually, just the time, the deep breaths and the moments of peace to allow the Lord to speak and flood our hearts with Himself.

In troubled times, we find the time, and in that time, we find what we need to endure.

So, my suggestion for these days: quiet prayer every day, a trip to Mayberry every so often, and maybe a good production of “King Lear” just to be inspired.

Officials

The Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood has decreed the following priest assignment changes effective on May 1, 2020:

Reverend Dana Christensen, from pastor, St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria, St. Stephen, Bridgewater, and St. Martin, Emery, and chaplain to Mary of Mercy and St. Joseph Monastery to parochial vicar, St. Mary of Mercy Parish, Alexandria.

Reverend Kenneth Lulf, in addition to his current assignment as pastor, Holy Family Parish, Mitchell, to pastor, St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria, St. Stephen, Bridgewater, and St. Martin, Emery.

Monsignor Charles Mangan, from director of the Marian Apostolate to parochial vicar, St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria, St. Stephen, Bridgewater, and St. Martin, Emery, and chaplain to Mary of Mercy and St. Joseph Monastery.

Reverend Robert Wullweber, from leave from public ministry to parochial vicar, St. Lambert, Sioux Falls.

The Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood has decreed the following priest assignment changes to become effective on July 1, 2020:

Reverend Thomas Anderson, from pastor, All Saints, Mellette, and St. Bernard, Redfield, to pastor, St. Benedict, Yankton.

Reverend Douglas Binsfeld, from pastor, St. Peter, Colman, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Elkton, and Sts. Simon and Jude, Flandreau, to pastor, Immaculate Conception, Waubay, and Christ the King, Webster.

Reverend Andrew Dickinson, from director, Pope Pius XII Newman Center, SDSU in Brookings, and pastor, St. Paul, White, to pastor, Sacred Heart, Aberdeen.

Reverend John Fischer, from pastor, St. Agnes, Vermillion, to pastor, Holy Name of Jesus, Watertown.

Reverend Gregory Frankman, in addition to his current assignment as pastor, St. John the Baptist, Rosholt, and St. Anthony, Browns Valley, MN, to pastor, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Sisseton, and St. Peter, Sisseton.

Reverend Patrick Grode, from parochial vicar, Sacred Heart, Aberdeen, to director, Pope Pius XII Newman Center, SDSU, Brookings, and pastor, St. Paul, White.

Reverend DeWayne Kayser, from pastor, St. Thomas Aquinas, Madison, to pastor, St. Mary, Help of Christians, Salem.

Reverend Melvin Kuhn, from pastor, Immaculate Conception, Waubay, and Christ the King, Webster, to pastor, St. Peter, Colman, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Elkton, and Sts. Simon and Jude, Flandreau.

Reverend John Lantsberger, from pastor, St. Mary, Dell Rapids, to senior priest.

Reverend Martin Lawrence, from pastor, St. Mary, Help of Christians, Salem, to pastor, St. Dominic, Canton, and St. Magdalene, Lennox, while also serving as director of the Office of Liturgy and Worship.

Reverend Mark Lichter, from pastor, Sacred Heart, Aberdeen, and temporary administrator, Sacred Heart, Westport, to pastor, St. John the Baptist, Lesterville, and St. Wenceslaus, Tabor.

Reverend Kenneth Lulf, in addition to his current assignment as pastor, Holy Family Parish, Mitchell, St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria, St. Stephen, Bridgewater, and St. Martin, Emery, to pastor of Holy Spirit, Mitchell.

Reverend Tyler Mattson, in addition to his current assignment as chaplain, O’Gorman Junior High School, from parochial vicar, Holy Spirit, Sioux Falls, to parochial vicar, Christ the King, Sioux Falls, while also serving as associate vocations director and chaplain to the Newman Ministry outreach in Sioux Falls.

Reverend Paul Nereparampil CMI, at the direction of his religious superior, from priest-in-residence, St. Joseph, Wessington Springs, to ministry outside of the diocese.

Reverend Kevin O’Dell, while remaining pastor, St. Therese Parish, Sioux Falls, is to be relieved of his assignment as chaplain to the Newman Ministry outreach in Sioux Falls.

Reverend John Rader, from pastor, St. Dominic, Canton, and St. Magdalene, Lennox, to substitute sacramental minister.

Reverend Jerome Ranek, from pastor, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Sisseton, and St. Peter, Sisseton, to pastor, St. Agnes, Vermillion.

Reverend John Short, from pastor, Holy Spirit, Mitchell, to pastor, All Saints, Mellette, and St. Bernard, Redfield.

Reverend Shane Stevens, from pastoral assignments in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee to pastor, St. Mary, Dell Rapids.

Reverend Scott Traynor, from pastor, St. Benedict, Yankton, to lay and clergy formation assistant for the diocese and executive director, Broom Tree Retreat Center, Irene.

Reverend Anthony Urban, from pastor, St. John the Baptist, Lesterville, and St. Wenceslaus, Tabor, to pastor, St. Thomas Aquinas, Madison, and chaplain, Newman Ministry, DSU, Madison.

Reverend Joseph Vogel, while remaining pastor, St. Teresa of Calcutta, Dakota Dunes, St. Joseph, Elk Point, and St. Peter, Jefferson, is to be relieved of his assignment as executive director of Broom Tree Retreat Center.

Reverend Michael Wensing, from pastor, Holy Name of Jesus, Watertown, to senior priest.

And, in anticipation of their ordination to the priesthood, the Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood anticipates decreeing the following priest assignments that would become effective on July 1, 2020:

Reverend Mister Michael Kapperman, to parochial vicar, Sacred Heart, Aberdeen.

Reverend Mister Anthony Klein, to parochial vicar, Holy Spirit, Sioux Falls.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew K. Althoff
Chancellor





Cooper, Caiden, Joslyn and Theo Hermanson - Sioux Falls, SD

Transform your *fear* into the Lord's HOPE

by Renae Kranz

Many of us feel fear and uncertainty in our hearts. It's hard to tamp it down much of the time, and ignoring it isn't a long-term solution. When we let fear fester and gain a foothold, it can drown out the voice of the Lord in our lives. And a life full of fear, anxiety and worry is no way to live.

God offers us a different way, a better way—the life of hope. If we embrace this gift, we can use this time to appreciate the slowness, the family time, the time for prayer. We can find Him in the silence and let Him comfort our racing thoughts. We can let Him transform our fear into His hope.

Our HOPE is in the Lord

The evil one can use fear to lead us into despair. It's an easy trap to fall into, especially during times of great trial. So how do we overcome fear and find our way to hope? We find hope through the free gift of faith.

Faith has a connotation of trust and loyalty. If we trust God, we can have faith that he has our best interest at heart because he loves us. As we get to know him and know he loves us, we learn to trust him.

God doesn't want us to fear. Instead, he calls us out of our fear and to himself. This is where we find peace.

During confirmation, we received the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. One of those gifts, fortitude or courage, can be particularly helpful during times when we face the unknown and perhaps even feel afraid. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) describes fortitude this way:

"Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions."

Since we know we have been saved by the cross of Christ, we can use our faith and our courage to fight against fear and anxiety. We know we belong to him and believe in life with him after death. That is where our hope lives—in the promise of his presence with us now and the promise of eternal life.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in his encyclical "On Christian Hope" that "the one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life." He goes on to describe why Christians have hope.

"Here too we see as a distinguishing mark of Christians the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness."

He says our faith is the substance of our hope. We put our trust in God's will for our lives and know that all things are for our good in His time. If we then continue to learn about our Lord by spending time learning about our faith and trusting Him, fear fades away and is replaced by hope.

Everyone has different ways of learning about our faith and sharing it with others. Over the past weeks, I've received many stories from around the diocese of individuals, families, schools and parishes finding new ways to come together and grow their faith. You'll find some of those stories here and more in later pages of this issue.

They're leaving their fears and anxieties at the foot of the cross and embracing the hope we have in the salvation given to us by Christ. I hope their stories can inspire you to seek his hope and love in every difficulty you face in life.



Father Mark Lichter celebrates Mass at Sacred Heart Parish - Aberdeen, SD

Father Mark Lichter

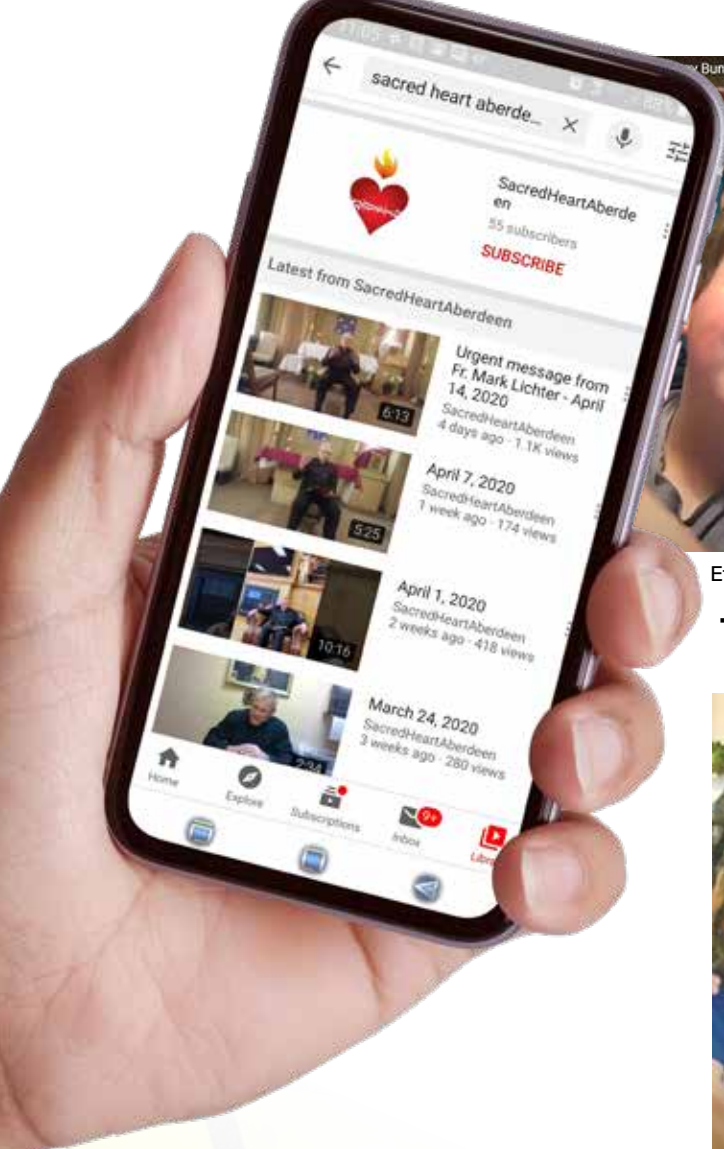
Father Mark Lichter, pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Aberdeen, says Jesus teaches us repeatedly in the Gospels to not be afraid, that love casts out all fear. In Philippians 4:4-7 we read, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in prayer and supplication in a spirit of gratitude place your needs before God and the God of all consolation will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

He reminds us to call on the Holy Spirit in our prayer to increase the gifts He gave us at baptism and confirmation (the virtues of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord) so we can combat fear and anxiety when they creep into our minds and hearts.

"Place all of your trust in God and make sure you spend time in prayer each day building your relationship with Christ," Father Lichter says.

He also says a great way to combat fear is to share your thoughts and concerns with someone else, whether that is a trusted friend, family member or even a parish priest. He has noticed how resilient his parishioners have been through the challenges of the pandemic. They've made the best of things and trust that God will get them through this.

For his part, Father Lichter has left his church open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day to offer the opportunity for a now



Ethan, Tim, David, Joanna and Abby Dingman performing "The Crazy Bunch" - Sioux Falls, SD

The Dingman family



A Sioux Falls family who are members of St. Michael Parish, the Dingman's have taken advantage of the fact they have a built-in choir in their family with a bass, tenor, alto and soprano all under one roof. And rather than keep their talents all to themselves, they're sharing their talents on Facebook by creating funny music videos to help brighten the day of anyone who stumbles upon them.

After a friend sent Joanna Dingman a video of a family singing a song about the pandemic and sheltering at home, she was inspired to put something together that the whole family could be part of. Making these videos and singing together has been a great gift for the family during this time.

steady stream of people to visit the Blessed Sacrament. He is doing what many priests are doing and jumping into live streaming daily and weekend Masses on Facebook and radio, creating YouTube videos to encourage parishioners, and hosting a live streamed Wednesday night rosary to keep everyone connected.

"They have been very creative in using technology to keep in touch with one another," Father Lichter said. "I see a great spirit of our families coming together and working this out. I think the quiet and silence has actually strengthened the faith of our people."

The best advice from Father Lichter is to bring normalcy to your day by keeping a regular schedule as much as you can. Doing things like going to bed at the same time, eating at regular hours, exercising and making prayer a part of your day can go a long way in helping to keep fear at bay.

"I encourage people to take advantage of the time. Count your blessings and enjoy your family. Pray with your family every day," he says.

"Music therapy is a thing," says Tim Dingman. "It helps anyone, but when you get four family members who love to sing and play together, it creates a huge family therapy session."

The social distancing hasn't been a problem for the family, but they miss church and school. The first week was a struggle, but by the second week, they had found a rhythm. Tim is teaching from home while Joanna still has to leave the house for her work as a sign language interpreter.

Their two older children, Ethan (freshman at SDSU) and Abby (junior at O'Gorman), are mostly self-sufficient. Their youngest, David, who has autism and developmental delays, poses a bigger challenge to the new realities of life. Tim and Joanna juggle his education at home now along with their own jobs. It's a reality many families face.

The Dingman family has actively decided not to give in to fear and anxiety. They take everything one day at a time, remember who is in charge, and find little blessings specifically in raising a child with autism.

"He forces us to step away from the world while 'letting go and letting God' in so many of life's situations," says Tim.

The kids have enjoyed the extra time with their parents and each other. But it's been the Dingman family's faith that has really made the difference. Even without public Mass, they enjoy attending TV Mass as a family and know God is the reason they will be okay.

"A nice thing about being quarantined is that your faith can still stay alive, since we can all have a personal relationship with our Lord anytime, anywhere and anyplace," says Tim.

The Mengwasser family

Cammie Mengwasser, husband Jason, and son Leo, parishioners at Immaculate Conception Parish in Watertown, have found juggling school and work at home challenging, especially since Jason works the night shift most often. They've given themselves lots of room for grace when it comes to their schedules. That allowance for grace has helped them cope and find unconventional ways to make things work.

"Having a schedule is important, but when Jason is working nights, and I still have to work through the day, it is almost impossible for us to teach Leo on a set schedule each day," Cammie says. "Being in first grade, he requires help on most things in order to stay on task. Sometimes we resort to [doing school] in between my conference calls, in the evenings, and even catching up on weekends."

Cammie says it seems easy enough to set your child up with the computer and let them go, but that just isn't the case with a 7-year-old boy. The first week he was playing with the dog, getting a snack, and even dancing in the living room instead of school work. She said he spun the dancing as both PE and music class even though he was supposed to be working on math at the time.

Since one parent teaches him one week and the other the next depending on their work schedules, they got organized fast so they would both be able to catch up on where things were each Monday. Getting organized, flexible scheduling and even some creative learning have worked pretty well so far.

"Some days, especially when I'm anxious or frustrated, Leo can feel it. The last thing I want is for him to be anxious, too,"

Cammie says. "Those days we learn in our own way. Maybe he can't sit down and focus on his handwriting worksheets that have been assigned, but maybe he will sit down to write a letter to his grandparents who live in Missouri. Maybe he isn't focusing on math, but he is happy to help me measure the dry ingredients for dinner or cookies. We've had to be adaptable and creative."

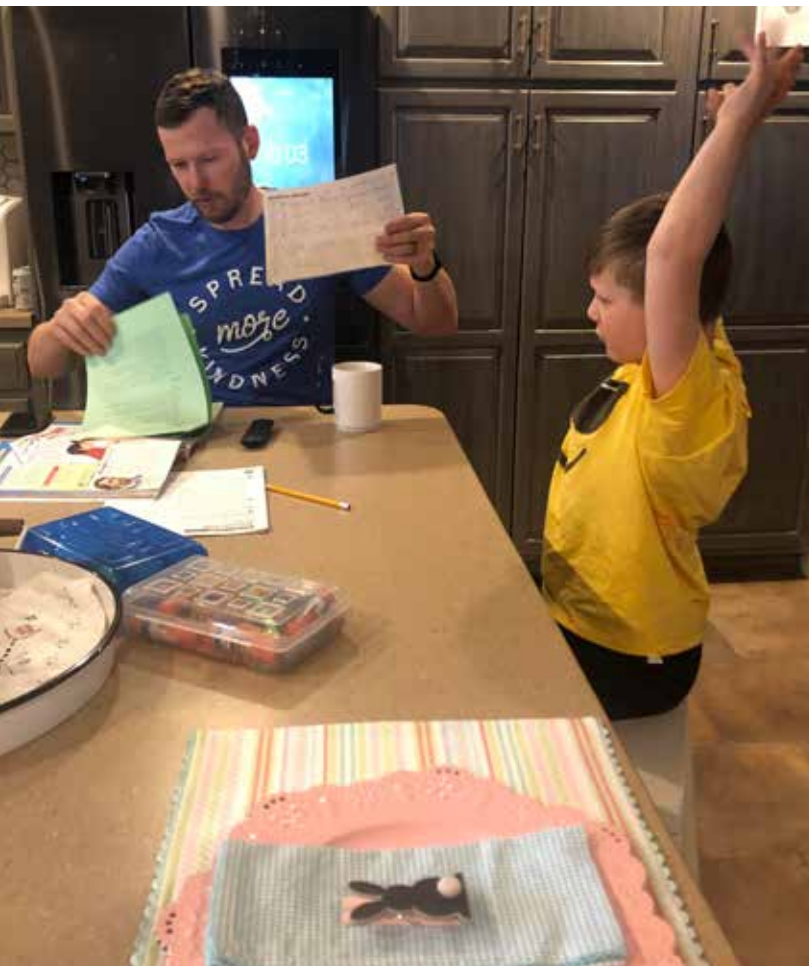
It's important for Cammie and Jason that Leo knows he is loved and safe. They try to stay active so there is less anxiety and more happiness in their home. They spend more time playing games, reading, watching movies and playing outside than they have in a year. Leo also gets to FaceTime with his friends from Immaculate Conception School, which Cammie says is particularly comical to watch.

"We're doing our best to give it to God and turn off the news. Some days that is easier than others," she says. "Although things are uncertain and scary, we have a lot to be thankful for as well. We have a home we love that is safe, enough food to eat, and family to share this time with. Not everyone can say that."

With that in mind, the Mengwassers have done what they can to help their community by helping to deliver food boxes and sewing masks for medical staff. They see it as a teaching opportunity to show their son it takes an entire community to get through something like this.

"We should always be in the service of others when we are blessed to have all we need," Cammie says. "We are all in this together, as a family, as a school, as a community. We have faith it will all work out."

Leo and his Father Jason Mengwasser doing school work and keeping in contact with classmates via FaceTime - Watertown, SD





John and Susan Gard - Mitchell, SD

The Gards

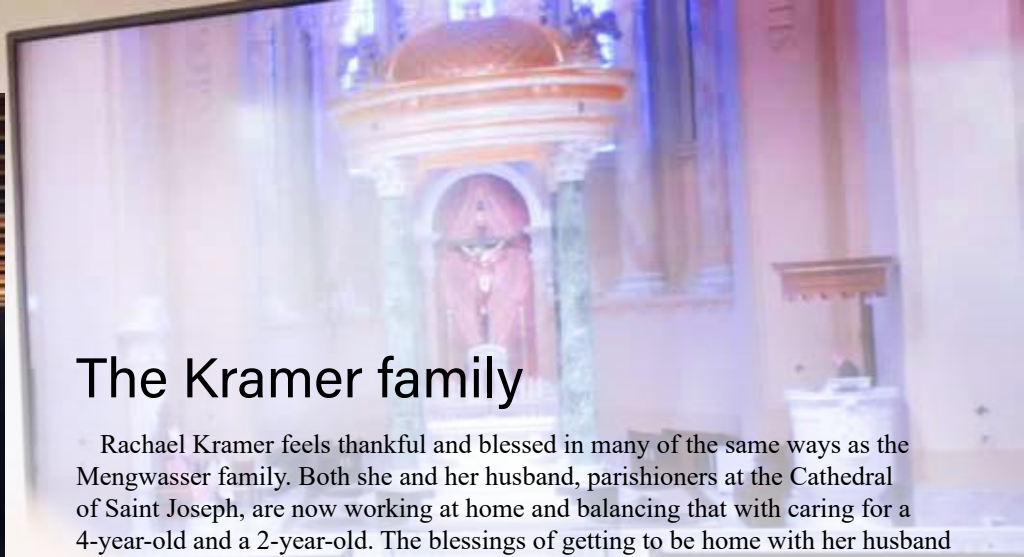
John and Susan Gard, parishioners at Holy Family Parish in Mitchell, have been attending Mass by watching TV Mass on Keloland each Sunday morning. It's definitely not the same, but John says they appreciate the time and effort that goes into making that Mass available to so many during a time when options are limited.

Over the weeks of the pandemic, John realized they needed to get their weekly financial contribution to the church. He and Susan knew the parish's expenses didn't stop just because Mass wasn't currently available, and they needed to make sure they did their part to keep the parish they loved going.

John and Susan mailed their normal monthly contributions for the weeks they had missed and included their committed contribution to the capital campaign.

"We believe that when we don't attend Sunday Mass we still need to be willing to honor our ongoing financial commitments to our local parish, to the best of our ability," John says. "And what better time to be reminded of this than during Lent when we are encouraged to commit to prayer, fasting and almsgiving?"

The couple has also focused on keeping their prayer life strong. They use tools like "The Word Among Us" and devote time each day to prayer and meditation. They also spend time outside doing things they love. These important pieces to their daily puzzle help them fight off fear and increase hope.



The Kramer family

Rachael Kramer feels thankful and blessed in many of the same ways as the Mengwasser family. Both she and her husband, parishioners at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, are now working at home and balancing that with caring for a 4-year-old and a 2-year-old. The blessings of getting to be home with her husband and children will only expand when their family expands in June when their new baby is expected to arrive.

Rachael is purposely using her faith to get through the pandemic and all its disruptions on life. She began a new routine for Lent of spending time every morning reading the daily Mass readings, the meditation of the day and the saint sections of "Magnificat."

"With our current circumstances, I have now found this element of my day the most crucial part to starting my day with a peaceful mindset. If I miss that component, my whole day seems off and full of anxiety," Rachael says.

For her, the fear and anxiety have been real and prevalent. Finances, job security and bringing a new baby into the world in a couple months weigh heavily on her mind. She says she finds herself drawing closer to God and her husband for support.

"Trials do two things: they either push you away or draw you close. I can tell that not only is my relationship with my husband stronger, but also I've had to lean on my trust in God more and more," Rachael says. "I find myself praying 'Jesus, I Trust in you' about every day. And by God's grace, I have been filled with a great sense of calm."

The rosary has been an additional source of strength for Rachael, allowing her to "rest in the arms of Our Lady and offer up my petitions."

"The phrase I've adopted this year has been the fiat 'God's holy will be done.' Above all things, if we continually strive to say yes to God, what can go wrong?"

Mrs. Rachel Kramer directing her 2019-2020 O'G High School Choir - Sioux Falls, SD



Can we trust in God?

Our faith is held in our hearts as is our trust in the Lord. Faith and trust lead to hope. If you aren't sure if you fully trust him yet, try this prayer from Mark 9:23-25: *"I believe, Lord. Help my unbelief."*

That is sometimes the best we can do. And then turn it all over to Jesus.

"The big thing for us to do is to pray the name of Jesus to save us from the ravages of this virus," Father Lichter says. "The name Jesus means 'God saves' and God will prevail, and God does have his hands on each of us. Pray for an end to this pandemic, and we also ask the Mother of God, Mary the patroness of the Americas, to intercede for us."

MAKING THE BEST OF THINGS AROUND THE DIOCESE

I organized a ladies bible study for Lent, which was only a six-week study. We were only two weeks into it and then had to call off our weekly discussion get-togethers. There are 13 of us ladies from St. Ann's and St Peter's parishes participating and everyone was really liking the study. It was heartbreaking to have to cancel class. I have had a little tiny experience with Zoom. I prayed for the courage to try to keep our study group going, learned how to operate Zoom to host a meeting, and how to watch our weekly video that goes with the discussion. I did have a few difficulties getting started, but Mary was with me and helped me get it all figured out and it was a success! I am so thankful that God gave me the courage to figure out some new technology so we didn't have to abandon our Lenten study.

I also host Soulcore at St. Peter's in Platte on a weekly basis. Soulcore is exercises and stretches done while praying the rosary. Usually I hook my phone up to our projector and we watch the video for our exercises in the parish hall. Obviously that, too, had to end. I also tried our first Soulcore together via Zoom and it was a success. We are now continuing our weekly Soulcore rosary exercise and prayer time together. And we have a growing group. Normally we have two to three ladies a week participate at the church. On our Zoom meeting there were four of us. We have now grown to a group of about 12 so far. Our secretary put a notice out on Flocknote to invite ladies from our two parishes. That also has been a huge blessing to me and to our small core group!

Sent in by Angie Petrik, St. Ann's Parish, Geddes

Our women's bible study group started a daily rosary via Zoom. It has been fun and challenging with young children, but we find it important to stay connected and keep our faith strong. Our group has added others who aren't a part of our bible study as well. Everyone joins when they can. Our children participate as well when they can. It has been a very moving and touching and memorable experience.

Sent in by Amy Kusmak on behalf of a large group of spiritual women from all over the Sioux Falls area



Holy Cross Parish in Ipswich made modifications to the rectory garage as a confessional to safely continue confessions during the season of Lent during the disruption of the COVID-19 epidemic. Father Timothy Smith calls the modified garage the COVID-fessional.



Laura Baus and family, Holy Spirit Parish in Mitchell, watch Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday mornings and still dress in our Sunday best. Their living room gets transformed and no one is allowed in the prayer room unless they are praying.

Dean Pierson, parishioner at Risen Savior Parish in Brandon, and much of his extended family gather remotely to pray the rosary every Sunday since the pandemic began. He gathers his mother and seven siblings and families together for that precious prayer time. He hopes his idea and actions will inspire the younger generations of the family to pray together more often, even after things return to normal.

He also joined with fellow parishioners to create a video of the Stations of the Cross for YouTube. They read each station and one of the men sings "Were You There" in the empty church. The group went a step further, placing signs along the sidewalk outside the church as Stations so participants could pray the stations from their cars while viewing the video on their phones.

Information provided by Wendy Royston

Our post-confirmation group, Teens Loving Christ, has led the way in connecting to each other and our parish through the Zoom app, something many of us hadn't even heard of until last week. They started their class meeting over Zoom the first Wednesday we were out of school, and the following Friday they led a Zoom Stations of the Cross for all who wished to attend through the app. Following their example, our confirmation class and junior high are meeting over Zoom with their teachers for their weekly meetings.

Our religious education lessons for K-5 are now shared through email and the All Saints religious education Facebook page each week. Although we cannot carry out the lessons as previously planned, we are at least still able to share the online videos that we would have shared in class.

It's taken some learning and creativity, but we are determined to keep "meeting" and staying connected through the end of the school year. It's really been interesting how this experience has mirrored our focus of this past year. We have been on a journey through the Old Testament, looking at how God's people had to trust and follow him in what often looked like impossible circumstances, to human eyes at least. Little did we know what the end of the year would bring! I've often thought of Abraham, Moses, the Israelites, and their faith or lack of it, these past weeks.

Sent in by Laura Melius, DRE, All Saints Parish, Mitchell

Our faith deepens when we feel the need for God

The year 2020 has already been filled with so many twists and turns, graces and trials; as vocations director, I'm happy to offer a quick update in what has become a year like no other.

First, let us recall the joyful celebration of Bishop Donald DeGrood's ordination as the ninth bishop of Sioux Falls on February 13. What a gift it was to welcome our new bishop with multiple celebrations, dinners and a packed cathedral for the ordination Mass.

All the seminarians were called home from their respective seminaries to partake in the festivities and to serve the Mass. Many throughout the diocese joined us by watching the ordination online, back when live streamed Masses were offered because the Church was too full.

We had two visits to the seminary planned this winter and both were canceled. Our first was canceled because it landed on the same weekend as the Bishop's ordination in February. Our second visit to the seminary was supposed to take place March 14-16, which coincided with the beginning of the virus arriving in South Dakota and the subsequent cascade of cancellations.

The pandemic is obviously on everyone's mind and no one is unaffected. Here in the vocations office, we have welcomed back nine of our 14 seminarians as their seminaries released their men back to their home dioceses to finish courses online. Two seminarians from St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, two seminarians from Kenrick Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, three seminarians from Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona and two seminarians from the North American College in Rome,



Father Jordan Samson, vocations director for the Diocese of Sioux Falls, pastor at Christ the King Parish, Sioux Falls

Italy, all came home between March 16 and 26. We have found rectories throughout the diocese for them to have a place of prayer, study and continued formation.

St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul was in a unique situation to remain in their building and continue classes. Five of our Sioux Falls seminarians will remain there until the end of the semester while observing strict quarantine within the grounds of their campus for safety.

This pandemic has shaken so many of our certainties. Our desire to control the circumstances around us, to plan for every eventuality, and to feel prepared has all taken a great hit. I never planned to coordinate housing and formation plans for nine seminarians or become proficient in video conferencing.

Things change by the hour as "normal" life grinds to a halt and we are forced to adjust. Though shaken, something, or rather someone, must steady and sustain us. I've offered a few articles for the seminarians to

read during this time. High on my recommendations is Pope Francis' message from Friday, March 27, 2020. On a rainy evening in front of an empty St. Peter's square he prayed for the world in this time of crisis. These words from his homily stuck out for me:

"The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities... Faith begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars."

The enemy in front of us is not only the virus, but also the threat of being overwhelmed by anxiety and fear. Though so much has been taken from us, there is a grace here. As the Holy Father points out, the resulting vulnerability we experience when everything is shaken can be a grace. "Faith begins when we realize we are in need of salvation."

The neediness we feel, this neediness we so often shy away from or even hate, is actually the beginning of faith, not an obstacle. That's a perspective I need to hear over and over in these days when I want to grasp at control of my circumstances rather than embrace the reality in front of me.

As we struggle to accompany one another in these unique times may we have love for our neighbors, gentleness with ourselves, and a deepening faith in God because we feel deeply our need for Him.

Know that the seminarians are in good spirits. Continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood for our diocese.

Four saints to help us through challenging times

Saints are there for us during all types of trials. They pray and intercede for us to the Father, and they walk with us on life's difficult journeys.

With the new challenges we face right now, life can feel out of our control. We need our brothers and sisters in heaven to work on our behalf, and they stand ready and waiting.

If you have a special devotion to a particular saint, now is the time to ask for their help. If you aren't sure which saint to pray to in this situation, here are four who are especially well known for help during times of worry, fear and anxiety.



St. Dymphna – The patron saint of nervous disorders and anxiety, she is perfect for this situation. Dymphna's mother died when she was young. When her distraught father

couldn't find a new wife, he decided the only solution was to take his daughter as his wife. The stress on her was enormous as she fled the situation. He eventually found her and murdered her when she wouldn't consent to his madness. Many miracles are attributed to her intercession.



St. Jude Thaddeus – Best known simply as St. Jude, this apostle of Jesus is the patron of hopeless cases. Jude was chosen for this role because he was often mistaken for the apostle who betrayed Jesus since they shared the same

name. It seemed impossible that anyone would pray for his intercession. The unlikely saint became a powerful intercessor.

St. Juan Diego – This saint is included because of what Our Lady said to him when he didn't follow her instructions



because his uncle became ill. Mary appeared to him and said, "Listen and be sure, my dear son, that I will protect you; do not be frightened or grieve, or let your heart be dismayed, however great the illness that you speak of. Am I not here?"

St. Pio of Pietrelcina – St. Pio is well known for his saying "Pray, Hope and Don't Worry." He depended heavily on God's goodness and saw worry as useless. His solution to worry was to pray instead.



For more about the saints, visit the "Can We Be Saints?" blog at sf catholic.org/saints. Reflections on the lives of different saints are added each month.

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Catholic schools and teachers help their students

Catholic schools in the diocese found themselves in new territory in March when the coronavirus sent every student home. Staff and teachers stepped forward to make it possible for students to continue their classes online from home and found ways to support parents in their new role as at-home teachers.

Through all the ups and downs of this new reality, students and teachers have kept their studies going and their spirits up. Here's an update from several schools throughout the diocese on how things are working and the many blessings they are seeing.

Aberdeen Roncalli

I would like to offer my thoughts on Angela Keller, the Special Education teacher at the Junior High/High School at Roncalli. She has not only been a huge source of knowledge for her fellow teachers in the district as we transition, as she is a Google Certified instructor and has a wealth of knowledge of all things digital, but she has also successfully reached all of her special education students who re-



The O'Gorman Knight stopped by to say hi to the students of St. Katharine Drexel Elementary during their Easter car parade.

quire sometimes a great deal of additional assistance and accommodations. She is working with parents to make sure they know how to help their students at home and she is in constant communication with fellow staff and her administration.

On top of this, she is an incredible mother to four children, three of whom are in the school system, so she is assisting her children with their work as well and in the meantime is offering praise to those teachers for the wonderful work they are doing for her kids during this time.

She is positive, she is encouraging and very patient with all of us as we have been asking her questions constantly. A true educator!

—Elizabeth Gorski, primary school principal

I would like to give a shout out to all of my RES teachers and staff. I don't think I can pick one teacher as all of my teachers are amazing! Not once have I witnessed these people complaining or doubting their actions and their work. They certainly would rather be in the classroom, but the talent, dedication and effort they all have is beyond anything I have witnessed before. They cooperate with each other, exchange ideas, and do for one another without a second thought. Their goal is their students and what they can do to make this whole experience better than anything else. I have teachers who give their students a "nightly challenge" by challenging them on who can make the best blanket fort for the night, or who can read to a sibling or pray with them. The resources they find and alter to fit the students and parents are great. Basically it's about meeting all expectations with a genuine love and commitment to Catholic education.

—Peggy Freidel, 3-6 grade principal

I'm not sure what the other schools in the area are doing but I'm very impressed with Roncalli's response to the kids being home.

My seventh grader is working off his (school supplied) Chromebook with daily assignment posts and teacher's hours to assist with questions.

My first grader and pre-schooler have a daily list of learning activities to cover all parts of their educational needs. Teachers

and principals are posting daily videos reading books, saying prayers, and virtually connecting with the kids.

And to top it off, I got an email today with the school offering assistance and support from their counseling staff, food resources, etc.



It may not be a perfect situation, but good job on swift action and good execution in an unprecedented time.

—Steve L., parent

St. Thomas More, Brookings

"Calm in the midst of the storm" are the words that keep coming to mind when I think of how our St. Thomas More Catholic School responded to the unprecedented state-wide shut down amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only did they respond with astonishing swiftness to fast-breaking, and somewhat confusing news, they also responded with compassion and grace. They have continued to support parents and students with academic resources, as well as ongoing emotional and spiritual support, reminding us all that God is in control and Christ is "still in our boat."

—Angela Bucholz, parent

O'Gorman High School

Our staff at O'Gorman High School has been encouraged by the administration to send at least two to three instructional videos a week so students can see and

nts and parents adjust to a new reality

hear a familiar face and voice. Collectively, the staff has been rising to the occasion and surpassing it. Some teachers are offering live meeting sessions and activities for their classes. Fr. Scholten, our chaplain, has offered a weekly live-stream Mass. Our campus ministry director Brian Stai has been offering live

stream morning prayer and worship music. Considering the abruptness to the changes of our modes of teaching, our staff has taken this challenge head-on and has done so with grace and determination.

Our counseling staff at O’Gorman has done a great job of emphasizing emotional health in our school system, so it’s been easier to make this a natural extension of my own classroom, checking in on our

students, letting them know we care for them and their families and want to offer support as we are able.

For my choir students, specifically, I’ve been sending them a video greeting nearly each day. I also do a daily exit quiz in conjunction with our daily assignments, but I have been including a “just for fun” section at the end of the google form quiz where I ask them questions about how their work load has been with the transitions, what difficulties they’ve had, what online activities they’ve enjoyed, and positive outcomes of being home with family during the unexpected time. I posted a summary recently on Facebook of some of my student’s responses. They responded with great wisdom and outlook. Here are some of their responses:

“I was singing the ‘Song of Farewell’ the other day, and its lyrics fit perfectly to what’s happening right now. Specifically, ‘until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.’ I hope God holds all of us close until we can be together in school again. This is a different way to reconnect with those who should be closest to you.”

“I was able to hang out with my sisters since we all were laid off of work for the time being so we were able to do karaoke with each other in the kitchen which was good since we didn’t have choir class.”

“I finally get to talk to my brothers. We finally have time to do things together, even if it’s little things.”

“I have learned to not take things for granted like choir class. I miss singing with my choir family everyday. I also realized that we need to not take things for granted like hanging out with friends because you never know when you won’t be able to see them for a while, so we need to always express our love for each other.”

“I will never say I hate school again in my life.”

I was so proud of these students for seeing the blessings amidst this difficult situation. Their answers embodied what we strive to teach and instill in the Bishop O’Gorman Catholic Schools. I especially found the first student’s reflection on the



St. Katharine Drexel Elementary teachers invited their students to join them for an Easter car parade. Over 100 cars drove by the school to safely greet each other.

lyrics of “Song of Farewell” touching. We had just talked in class that last week before school about how the lyrics are not necessarily sad. They are actually hopeful and full of joy, wishing good for another person until we see them again, and praying for God’s protection over them until that day comes, whether it’s a month from now or in our eternal home.

—Rachael Kramer, vocal music teacher



St. Michael School teachers and staff wave as students and parents drive by during their Easter car parade. Picture center: One teacher from St. Michael is overjoyed to greet her students.

Heavenly help from the Mother of God



The statue of Mother Mary in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph.

By Monsignor Charles Mangan

Several titles from the Litany of Loreto (or Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary) leap out at us during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Lady is the Virgin most merciful, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted and Help of Christians.

These five powerful ways to refer to Mary teach us many truths. She looks upon our misery with compassion, restores vigor to the ill, welcomes home those who have turned their backs against her Son, brings solace to the overburdened, and supports those who love and follow Christ.

Our Lady is concerned about the wellness of the whole person—body, mind and spirit. She accepts the maternal duty, given to her by God, to help us, the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. And we have a corresponding duty to ask her, whom the faithful have urgently invoked for centuries, to do what she does—lead us to her Son, the sure and only remedy for all our needs.

Mary’s grace-filled relationship with her Son makes this possible—and desirable. We want to be forgiven, healed, embraced, consoled and aided. We wish to be made whole and prepared for Paradise. She assists us and presents us to the Risen Lord.

Her indescribable kindness to us is a pattern for our own outreach to our neighbors. The Church summons us, in imitation of Our Lady, to be merciful. During the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy a few years ago, Pope Francis reminded us that we should not try to be merciful to others unless we first acknowledge that God has treated us with His unfathomable mercy.

To be merciful is our serious obligation in charity and justice. The words of Saint Paul spring to mind: “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.” (Romans 12:9-13)

The Easter season and the month of May find us honoring the Ever-Virgin, especially by praying the holy rosary, particularly the glorious mysteries, meditating on the Litany of Loreto and chanting or reciting the Regina Caeli—“Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.”

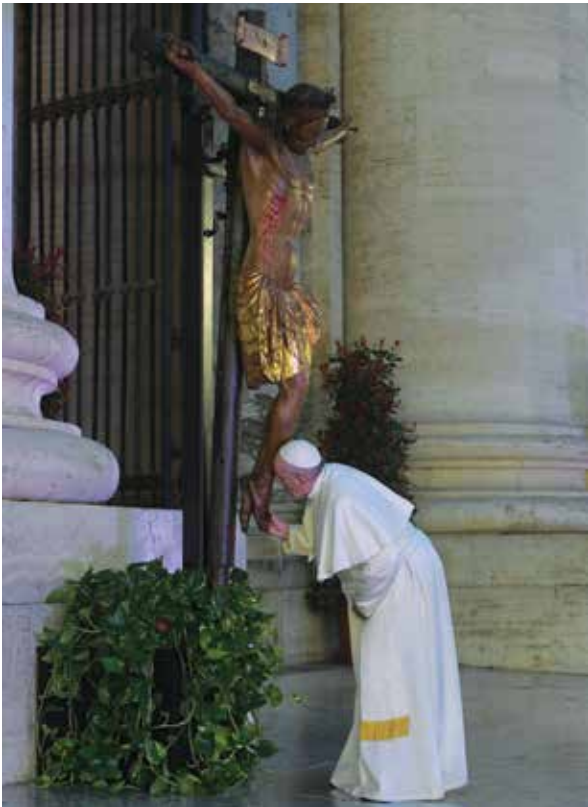
To venerate the Mother is to adore and obey the Son. How the Mother of God delights in our single-hearted following of Jesus. In *The Virgin Mary* (page 44), Father Raymond de Thomas de Saint-Laurent (1879-1949) repeats an oft-quoted story regarding Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, abbot and doctor of the Church (1090-1153):

Saint Bernard habitually greeted a statue of the Madonna in his monastery. Each time he passed by he recited a Hail Mary. A legend says that one day the statue came to life and Our Lady’s face lit up with a smile. She graciously inclined her head to the saint and said, “And I greet you, Bernard.”

Our Lady exults in our fidelity to Christ. We are truer disciples of Jesus by becoming better sons and daughters of His Mother.

God willing, the current pestilence will pass soon but, we hope, not before we have sincerely begged Our Blessed Mother—the Virgin most merciful, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted and Help of Christians—to pray for us and all the victims of COVID-19 and their loved ones. Let us do all that we can to be merciful by comforting the sick and dying and encouraging their families as we thank Jesus through Mary for the supernatural strength that comes to us.

Pope gathers the world for a special blessing



Pope Francis kisses the feet of a crucifix from the Church of St. Marcellus in Rome during the prayer service. The crucifix was carried in Rome in 1522 during the "Great Plague."



Pope Francis leads a prayer service in an empty St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 27, 2020. At the conclusion of the service the pope held the Eucharist as he gave an extraordinary blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world). The service was livestreamed in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. (Both photos: CNS photo/Vatican Media)



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Raffle a huge success at St. Lambert School

The students, parents, teachers and staff of St. Lambert Elementary are grateful to the Sioux Falls community for helping them achieve fundraising success through the 2020 Catholic Schools Raffle program. The school met their \$12,000 goal through the program in ticket sales and donations.

From January 17 to March 1, students at St. Lambert sold raffle tickets at \$5 each to raise funds for their school. Costs to run the raffle are provided by sole sponsor Catholic United Financial so every dollar raised by ticket sales stays with this school.

The fundraiser came to an official close on March 12 with the prize drawing ceremony during which winners of \$40,000 in prizes, from gift



cards and vacations to a new Buick Encore SUV, were announced by guest emcees Super Bowl Champion Matt Birk and Miss Minnesota 2019 Kathryn Kueppers.

When St. Lambert's total is added together with the other 88 participating schools in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, the 2020 Catholic

Schools Raffle raised more than \$1.3 million—a new annual record for the program—and a cumulative total of \$9.8 million since the program began in 2009.

“All the credit goes to students, families, and parish and school staff, and the wonderful communities that support them,” said Harald Borrmann, president of Catholic United Financial. “It is an honor for us to show our unconditional support of Catholic education through this program year after year.”

Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, raffle sponsor Catholic United Financial provides all the prizes and promotion materials for the raffle resulting in 100 percent profit for the schools.

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COMMITTED IN CHRIST



ABERDEEN – Jim and Mary Anne Whitman will celebrate their 40th anniversary on May 3. They have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and are members of Sacred Heart Parish.



ALEXANDRIA – Kevin and Mary Arend will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 29. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary of Mercy Parish.



BROOKINGS – Philip and Pam Carlson will celebrate their 35th anniversary on May 31. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Thomas More Parish.



CASTLEWOOD – Ken and Judy Schmit will celebrate their 45th anniversary on May 3. They have 5 children, 12 grandchildren and are members of St. John Parish.



DIMOCK – Bob and Carol Schlingen celebrated their 55th anniversary on February 20. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



FAULKTON – Lloyd and Sonja Wager will celebrate their 60th anniversary on May 2. They have 4 children (1 deceased), 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.



HURON – Gene and Ann Blondheim celebrated their 40th anniversary on April 18. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of Holy Trinity Parish.



IPSWICH – Greg and Brenda Geditz will celebrate their 25th anniversary on May 20. They have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Holy Cross Parish.



MADISON – Dave and Ann Zerfas will celebrate their 40th anniversary on May 23. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.



MITCHELL – Jim and Jeanette Ernster will celebrate their 60th anniversary on May 19. They have 5 children, 11 grandchildren (1 deceased) and 9 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



PIERRE – Galen and Ann Jordre will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 29. They have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



SALEM – Bill and Teresa Rotert will celebrate their 40th anniversary on May 3. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Mike and Candy Wagner will celebrate their 45th anniversary on May 16. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – James and Karen DeWitte will celebrate their 60th anniversary on May 7. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Belvie and Nancy Kennerly will celebrate their 25th anniversary on May 27. They have 2 children (1 deceased) and are members of Christ the King Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Daniel and Blanca Robbenolt will celebrate their 25th anniversary on May 2. They have 3 children, 1 grandchild (deceased) and are members of St. Therese Parish.



TABOR – Roger and Mary Prunty will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 29. They have 3 children (1 deceased), 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Wenceslaus Parish.



WATERTOWN – Dennis and Diane Garvey will celebrate their 40th anniversary on May 17. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



WATERTOWN – Dick and Karyl Boettcher will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 30. They have 4 children, 13 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



YANKTON – Jim and Donna Arens will celebrate their 30th anniversary on May 5. They have 2 children and are members of St. Benedict Parish.

Bishop blesses oils during Chrism Mass



Bishop Donald DeGroot combines oils during the Chrism Mass March 26 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. (photo by Kevin Fitzgibbons)

Bishop Donald DeGroot celebrated his first Chrism Mass as bishop in an empty cathedral with only a few fellow priests instead of concelebrating with all priests of the diocese due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

During the Mass, oils and chrism were blessed and consecrated. The Oil of the Sick is used to bring comfort and support to the sick. The Oil of Catechumens is used in the preparation of catechumens for their baptism. Holy Chrism is used to anoint the newly baptized, to seal confirmation candidates, and to anoint the hands of priests and the heads of bishops at their ordination, as well as in the rites of anointing pertaining to the dedication of churches and altars.



ONLINE COUNSELING



Catholic Family Services

TELE-HEALTH DURING THIS PANDEMIC

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

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ANNIVERSARY SUBMISSIONS

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by **May 14** for inclusion in the June 2020 edition to:

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

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Bishop's Charity Fishing Tournament's format honors current reality

The Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota has found a way to keep its annual Bishop's Charity Fishing Tournament alive and kicking by going virtual.

All proceeds from the event will still benefit seminarian education. However, there will be no silent auction or raffle this year, only the fishing tournament fees and donations. With those events missing, generous donations will be needed to keep up the usual support the Foundation has provided through this event in the past.

Here's how the tournament will work:

- Individuals and families are invited to fish, keeping in mind that you should fish only with others you have been "isolating" with already.
- Fishing will begin May 30 and run through June 8. You can fish as often as you like during those dates on your own time.
- You can fish on any public body of water (no private stocked locations).
- Suggested registration fee is \$50 per person. Kids under 18 fish free.
- Register online at ccfesd.org where you will find more specific details regarding how this will work.
- Once participants register, you will be given access to the fishing app Hook'd which will allow you to catch your fish and use the app to measure.



- Daily prizes will be awarded for various fishing challenges. These will be announced on the app.
- Catches submitted through the app will be reviewed and judged by our local committee members.
- This is a walleye and bass competition. However, there will be awards for the largest "other" fish and other new options.
- Participants will see a live leader board on the app and will be able to monitor their rank throughout the tournament.
- Tournament winners will be announced following the close of the tournament on June 8. More details will be provided.

No one who wants to participate will be turned away due to the suggested fee. Everyone is welcome to get out, join the fun, and help our seminarians with their education.

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UPCOMING RETREATS

Due to COVID 19 Restrictions:

- The May Day of Recollection is canceled.
- We are working on rescheduling the May Women's Silent Retreat (May 7-10) - keep an eye on our website for that new date.
- The Women's Conference with Emily Leedom rescheduled to **June 5-6, 2020** - if the COVID 19 Restrictions have been lifted. Stay tuned!

SILENT RETREATS

Men's 2020		Women's 2020	
June 25-28	October 15-18	June 18-21	October 1-4
August 20-23	November 19-22	August 13-16	November 5-8
September 24-27		September 17-20	

DAY OF RECOLLECTION **June 23: We Are God's Children**
- directed by Fr. Anthony Urban

Broom Tree Days of Recollection begin at 10 a.m. and consist of conferences, time for Adoration, Mass, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day ends in mid-afternoon. Because lunch is also served, we ask that you please register. A prayerful donation is requested.

SPECIAL RETREATS

October 9-11: Inner Healing Retreat - directed by Mike Snyder & Jane Barz	November 13-15: Couples Retreat - directed by Fr. Scott Traynor
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123 Saint Raphael Circle • Irene, SD 57037
605-263-1040 • broomtree@sfcatholic.org
www.broom-tree.org

Recitation of the rosary planned

Friday, May 1 - 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.

Rural Catholic DRE Conference

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 Melius at 605-228-3945 or mellettedre@sfcatholic.org to RSVP or with questions. Attendees may join the Rural Catholic DRE Conference group on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

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 denjohndevlin@sfcatholic.org.

Catholic Family Services

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

June 9-July 14/Grieving loss from homicide. A six-week program held every Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This is a program for adults who have lost a loved one from the tragic and senseless crime of a murder. This loss has a unique intensity that requires special and educational assistance toward adjustment. Located at Catholic Family Services, 523 N. Duluth Ave, Sioux Falls. Please call 605-988-3775 or e-mail cfs@sfcatholic.org 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

New Interactive Online Programs. Join a Benedictine Peace Center-sponsored group online to deepen your spiritual experience during this time of social distancing. Go to yanktonbeneditines.org/retreats-online-group/ to view a developing schedule of on-line discussion groups on various topics in Scripture and spiritual reading. Email address for registration and information for each is provided there. Group sizes are limited; individuals will be enrolled on a first-come basis.

May 1/Lectio Divina—Praying Together with Scripture. Each Friday morning of May, 10–10:45 a.m. S. Penny Bingham OSB will lead a virtual Lectio Divina, praying with the Sunday Gospels. Meetings will include times of quiet reflection and sharing, as you wish. Connecting via Google Meet. Limited to eight participants. To register and for more information go to yanktonbeneditines.org/retreats-online-group/.

Spiritual Direction/A spiritual director is an experienced companion-guide with whom you can share your experience of God, focus on and intensify your journey with God. The schedule is flexible, typically meeting once a month. Contact beneditinepeacectr@yanktonbeneditines.org, or call (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 beneditinepeacectr@yanktonbeneditines.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.

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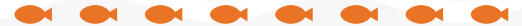


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