



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

May 2021

# THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

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*St. Joseph*

THE GREAT SAINT OF  
SILENCE

# St. Joseph comes alive through dad and brother



One of my four brothers was named Joseph, whom we commonly called Joe. He is the one among us five boys who likes to stay on the farm and work rather than do public sorts of things. I learned many things from my brother Joe as we grew up: how to raise rabbits, pigeons, trap, hunt and so many things about nature, cows, pigs and other farm animals. He is a farmer and nature enthusiast who loves to live a very hidden, simple, faith-filled wholesome life as a farmer and hunter. And he is generous when it comes to helping the Church and others, along with his wife, Connie.

Joe was really a “chip off the old block” like my dad who is known for saying, “I will usher at church but never ask me to speak in front of people” and “I am much more comfortable with a pitchfork in my hands than a microphone.” My dad was very humble, had high morals, was gentle, kind, a hard worker, generous, had a wonderful sense of humor and was very serious about our Catholic faith. He reminds me so much of the wonderful qualities I would come to know of St. Joseph, the patron of the Universal Church, our diocese and our cathedral.

In the front pocket my dad’s bib overalls, he carried his “army rosary” which he would pull out once we got in the truck to transport cows or pigs to market, and we would pray the rosary going to and sometimes when returning from transporting the animals to the marketplace. Just as St. Joseph kept his wife, Mary, close, so too did my dad keep Mary close to his own heart and taught us boys to do the same.

In the Gospels we read that St. Joseph was a righteous believer and a humble carpenter. In many ways like him, my dad was a faith-filled farmer at heart who only went through eighth grade because he was needed on the farm, and he farmed all his life after taking the farm over from my grandpa. He lived and died on the farm.

One of my many profound memories of my dad was after he died at home and the mortician asked us five boys if we wanted to carry our father out to the entrance of the

house. I was struck by how dad would have gently carried us many times into the house as little kids and how privileged we were to carry him out of the house for the last time to prepare him for his funeral Mass and burial. Oh how I look forward to seeing him again in heaven!

I wished I would have learned more about St. Joseph before I became bishop. It was really since being called to be bishop and learning that St. Joseph the Worker is the patron of our awesome diocese that my knowledge, love and reliance upon him grew. With St. Joseph’s accessibility as patron of the Catholic Church throughout the world, of our diocese and of St. Joseph’s Cathedral, and since Pope Francis dedicated this year to St. Joseph, my relationship with him has skyrocketed. Thanks be to God.

He really is one of the great gifts of our awesome Catholic faith. So many saints throughout the centuries have themselves drawn close to “good St. Joseph” and in turn have been led by him closer to our Lord. The great 20th century martyr, St. Maximilian Kolbe, said, “With the exception of our loving Mother, St. Joseph stands above all the saints.” In his apostolic letter declaring this Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis wrote this about Jesus’ foster father: “Each of us can discover in Joseph—the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence—an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

I hope in this month’s Bishop’s Bulletin you will enjoy our highlighting of St. Joseph, and he will become for all of us a great help in our spiritual growth. May the hidden life of St. Joseph become a profound witness to us of the power of prayer and all the Godly virtues: humility, charity, obedience to God, etc. May all boys and men resemble the Godly qualities of St. Joseph to love and serve God, serve all girls and women, and mentor other boys to be real men like St. Joseph—to lead, guide and protect others, leading us to the will of our heavenly Father, here on earth and toward heaven.

## May

- 1 10:00 Confirmation, St. Teresa of Avila, Beresford; Good Shepherd, Centerville; St. Patrick, Wakonda, at St. Teresa of Avila in Beresford
- 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph\*
- 3-4 Yankton Deanery travel
- 5 7:00 Confirmation, St. Thomas Aquinas, Madison; St. Agatha, Howard; Church of Epiphany, Epiphany; St. William, Ramona, at St. Thomas Aquinas in Madison
- 8 1:00 Lay leadership gathering, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph\*
- 15 11:00 Ordination to the permanent diaconate, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 16 9:00 Confirmation, St. Mary, Highmore; St. Ann, Miller, at St. Ann in Miller
- 2:00 Confirmation, Holy Trinity, Huron
- 19 5:00 Solemn Vespers, Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota
- 20 11:00 Episcopal ordination and installation of the Most Reverend Daniel Felton as the 10th bishop of Duluth, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, Duluth
- 22 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph\*
- 7:00 O'Gorman High School Commencement, Sioux Falls Arena
- 23 11:00 Confirmation, Immaculate Conception, Watertown
- 2:00 Confirmation, Holy Name of Jesus, Watertown; St. John, Castlewood; Holy Rosary, Kranzburg, at Holy Name of Jesus in Watertown
- 27 11:00 Ordination to the transitional diaconate, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 28 11:00 Ordination to the priesthood, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 31 9:00 Memorial Day Mass, St. Michael Cemetery, Sioux Falls

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

## Officials



The Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood has decreed the following appointments effective July 1, 2021:

**Reverend Lance Oser**, to diocesan hermit and chaplain to the Carmelite Sisters living at Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph Monastery, Alexandria.

**Deacon Glenn Ridder**, from St. John Paul II, Harrisburg, to St. Mary, Sioux Falls.

In anticipation of their ordination to the priesthood on May 28, 2021, the Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood has decreed the following appointments to take effect on July 1, 2021:

**Reverend Jacob Doty**, to parochial vicar at St. Mary, Sioux Falls.

**Reverend Scott Miller**, to parochial vicar at St. Michael, Sioux Falls.

**Reverend Jeff Schulte**, to parochial vicar of Sacred Heart and St. Mary in Aberdeen.

In anticipation of their ordination to the permanent diaconate on May 15, 2021, the Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood has decreed the following appointments to take effect upon their ordination:

**Deacon Jon Eckrich**, to St. Michael, Sioux Falls.

**Deacon Bradley Palmer**, to Ss. Peter and Paul, Pierre.

**Deacon Peter Sexton**, to St. Teresa of Avila, Beresford.

**Deacon Daniel Sherban**, to St. Thomas Aquinas, Madison.

**Deacon Jeffrey Swank**, to Sacred Heart and St. Mary, Aberdeen.

In anticipation of their ordination to the transitional diaconate on May 27, 2021, the following summer assignments will take effect for the following seminarians in formation for priestly ministry:

**Reverend Mister Nick Haiar**, to Christ the King, Sioux Falls.

**Reverend Mister Mitchell McLaughlin**, to St. Peter, Jefferson, St. Joseph, Elk Point, and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Dakota Dunes.

**Reverend Mister Zach Schaeffbauer**, to Holy Spirit, Sioux Falls.

Thank you for holding each of these priests and deacons in prayer as they undergo these transitions in their ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew K. Althoff  
Chancellor

## THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

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# A grateful heart opens us to abundant graces from God

By Josie Bopp

In the life of missionary discipleship, gratitude stirs in all of us a recognition of God's presence and love, His activity in our hearts and lives. Gratitude opens the heart to the workings of the Holy Spirit. Gratitude is first a response to God's action of loving and pursuing us.

Even when life gets difficult, He continues to offer abundant graces.

## Trust leads to gratitude

Fifty-five minutes of CPR. Fifty-five minutes of waiting, wondering, *is my daughter going to make it?*

Rachel and Matt Mueller sat for 55 minutes watching, waiting and praying as their 11-year-old daughter Alisha went into cardiac arrest on February 12, 2018. Earlier that morning, Rachel had driven Alisha to the emergency room after Alisha started having trouble breathing while dealing with a fever. Minutes after arriving in the pediatric intensive care unit at Sanford Health, Alisha went into cardiac arrest from toxic shock, experiencing multi-organ failure. The staff immediately started CPR, calling for a pulse check every couple of minutes.

"After a while, you're thinking, 'Why aren't they calling this?'" recalls Rachel.

What the Muellers didn't know is their only option was a life-support device

called ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) which had never been tried at Sanford during an emergency before. As providence would have it, the surgeon and the expert on the device were in the building and available, so the team in the PICU room kept Alisha's heart going with CPR while they prepared the device.

The Muellers had called their pastor at Christ the King Parish in Sioux Falls, Father Richard Fox, who came to be with them in the PICU room. He administered an apostolic pardon on Alisha and was texting the Christ the King school and parish staff to pray while leading Rachel and Matt in prayer.

"Everybody from preschool through sixth grade marched over to the church and prayed a rosary," Rachel said.

And in about the time it took for a rosary to be prayed, Alisha was put on the ECMO machine and ultimately, her life was saved. That was the first of what the Muellers say were many miracles that kept their daughter alive, from the healing of her lungs to Alisha not having debilitating brain damage due to the trauma and swelling of the brain.

"God gave us a glimpse—more than just a glimpse—of His healing power," Matt said.

While Alisha would have a tough road ahead of her, including a stint at the Chil-

dren's Hospital in Minneapolis and a partial leg amputation, the Muellers were immediately struck with gratitude by the outpouring of support in all areas of their lives.

"We were just so blown away by how blessed we were by so many people," Rachel said. "We realized what a blessing it was to be able to experience it because we got to see really good things in people. It opened our hearts...and it helps us to be more generous and empathetic."

Rachel says she remembers praying to God to help her little girl that day at Sanford, but it wasn't a grace that came out of nowhere, and surrender to God's will throughout their lives as a couple and family allowed the Muellers to receive God's love and grace through others during the most challenging time of their lives.

## Blessings abound in surrender

Cassie Heim knows the power of gratitude in the life of discipleship well. As a young adult, she says she had always wanted a large family. While serving as a missionary in our diocese for Totus Tuus during the summer of 2010, Cassie met her future husband, Alex, and the two were married in September 2011.

The Heims excitedly began their married life together, Alex as a rancher and Cassie as a kindergarten through third grade

teacher in a country school. Cassie also spent time as a DRE and youth leader. But Cassie's dream of a large family seemed to fade as the couple dealt with issues of infertility, ultimately being told they would only ever have a five-percent chance of conception. Cassie's doctor told her not to get her hopes up.

"You have that craving to be a mom," Cassie recalls, saying she really struggled in the beginning with wanting to know why. "But a few years into it, we got some answers on the whys and once I knew that was the way it was, I felt a lot of peace."

But two years in, Cassie and Alex experienced their five-percent chance miracle: they found out they were pregnant.

"We felt such an overwhelming sense of joy," Cassie said. "We felt so grateful that God, who could do anything, felt that our greatest desire was worthy of being answered with a yes."

The Heims were blessed with their son Luke in September 2014, and Cassie became a stay-at-home mom. What they didn't know was that God was going to continue filling that desire in ways they wouldn't have expected.



Cassie and Alex Heim with son Luke

A few years after Luke was born, while pursuing adoption through an agency, Cassie and Alex had a clear Holy Spirit moment during Mass when the mom of a family from their parish who fosters children walked by them after receiving Communion.

"When we got in the vehicle after Mass, I told Alex, 'When she walked by at Communion I felt like we should be doing foster care,'" recalls Cassie. Alex responded by saying he'd had the exact same experience.

"Our plan was that we were going to do foster care until we got a match for adoption," Cassie said. "But as soon as we started, we just knew that was what we were supposed to be doing."

For Cassie and her family, fostering has brought a deeper sense of trust in God's call and His plan for their marriage and family. As they get to know and love the children they care for, much remains out of their control.

"Surrender—that's been our word," Cassie said. "We're going to give everything we have every day we have them, and when it's out of our control, we have to trust that God's got the next step. We've been very happy and thankful for every day we have these kids and then when it's out of our hands, it's been a gift that we've been able to let go."

### Giving from what we receive

Gratitude in the life of missionary discipleship prompts us to return in love what we have first received.

For Cassie, teaching her young son Luke, now 6 years old, about gratitude has been about living the works of mercy as a foster family. In the fall of 2020, the Heims were caring for two babies about three months apart, and Luke told his parents he thought they probably needed another baby for Christmas.

"His heart has really grown to love these kids—even when he knows they may only be here for a short time," Cassie said. "There are no walls up. We just give them everything we've got."

That doesn't mean living gratitude is easy. Cassie says her advice is to approach everything with prayer, something that she and Alex have done in particular in their marriage.

"The more you pray the more you get to understand God's voice when He speaks to you," she said. "It's the easiest way to get your life led."

Even when dealing with the pain of infertility and the uncertainty of foster care, Cassie says surrendering to God in prayer has made all the difference in her family.

"I can look back and see how God has stretched us to be where He wanted us to

be and how He has been with us through it all," Cassie said. "It's not at all where we thought we were going, but now we can't imagine it differently."



The Mueller family: back row – Annika, Alexis, Matt, Rachel and Alisha; front row – Adelyn, Joseph, Azelie and Amelia

Gratitude continues to open up the Heim's hearts as they expect the birth of their second miracle baby, finding out about the pregnancy just two days before a foster placement they'd had for a year went home.

"It was such a surprise," Cassie said. "God's timing was so beautiful. It was a huge way for Him to show us that He was with us and was going to provide for us even during the hard, confusing times in life."

### This is the day the Lord has made

For the Muellers, living in gratitude continues to mean recognizing God's blessings and remembering that His will, no matter what happens, is good. Rachel recalls Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

"We still go through suffering, kicking and screaming and complaining," Matt said. "But something that I have come to realize so much more is how grateful I am for the sacraments that the Church provides, especially with the sacrament of reconciliation, knowing that I need that because I can't do this on my own."

From the gift of the Catholic faith to the power of intercessory prayer, the Muellers know gratitude is not a one-and-done moment. Rachel says she wonders if she would still be grateful to God if she had lost Alisha.

"I would hope so," Rachel said. "How can you not be grateful when God's generosity is so incredibly amazing?"





# St. Joseph THE GREAT SAINT OF SILENCE

by Renae Kranz

**L**ittle is said about St. Joseph in the Bible. He himself says even less. In fact, he says absolutely nothing. And yet, he is the patron of the entire Catholic Church and of our diocese. Father Shane Stevens, pastor at St. Mary Parish in Dell Rapids, calls him the great saint of silence.

This quiet man let his actions speak for him in the way he cared for Mary and Jesus and in the way he answered the call the Lord had for his life. He left a courageous legacy of faith behind as an example for the rest of us to strive toward.

And he is a saint we can all turn to in times of trouble.

## PATRON OF OUR DIOCESE

Besides being the patron of the Church as a whole, St. Joseph became the patron of our diocese when the mother church, the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, was completed in May of 1919. According to Father Stevens, his patronage is unique among the saints because St. Joseph cared for both the Son of God and our Blessed Mother Mary. He provided an example of perfect manhood even though he was not God incarnate like our Lord and was not given the graces of the Immaculate Conception as Mary was. St. Joseph had neither of those, says Father Stevens, and yet had abundant graces from God to fulfill his call.


“In many ways, this is the vocation of faithful manhood that is very much needed—to be radically in love with the Incarnation,

but also to be truly devoted to the Immaculate Heart,” Father Stevens says. “And so I think those two aspects, for him, both for men and for women, disciples in general, the idea that you have this man who had such a magnificent encounter with the Incarnation and the Immaculate Conception all at once, and then had the great graces of being able to care for this Christ child and his mother. It’s profound. He absolutely has so much to offer.”

In order for Joseph to be the man God needed him to be for Jesus and Mary, He gave him the grace of justice. The Bible calls Joseph a “just man,” meaning he was a pious man who followed the Law and loved God. Father Stevens explains it also means he had the reputation of giving God and others their due. It gave him the ability to do what was right when hard things arose in his life.

One of those hard things was when he learned Mary was mysteriously with child. Rather than make a big production of it or put her in a position to be punished, he decided to divorce her quietly, to give her what he understood to be just in the context of the Law. Father Stevens says Joseph’s justice became mercy in this situation with Mary. At this point, God had mercy on Joseph by sending an angel to guide him to do His will and take Mary as his wife and Jesus as his son.

“Most of us don’t get an angel from God to tell us to knock it off and go this direction,” Father Stevens says. “The angels would



be very busy if they had to come tell me every time I turn around I was on the wrong path, but most of us are not dealing with the Incarnation at that level. So this was a pretty profound experience for him.”

When you think about what Joseph was asked to do, he must have felt some fear and uncertainty. How could he be a father to the Son of God? How was he even worthy of it? But God gave him everything he needed beforehand. He gave him an open heart to do the will of God.

“God sends an angel to explain to him his role, and with great faith and great courage, he’s able to accomplish that,” Father Stevens says. “And I think for many fathers, for husbands, for young men in general, that sense of needing to be courageous, to have a mission and that it can be accomplished, is something that’s exceedingly attractive.”

In his encyclical letter on devotion to St. Joseph, “*Quamquam Pluries*,” Pope Leo XIII gives us an image of a father and son, a head of a family and a dutiful child.



**Father Shane Stevens with students visiting  
St. Mary Parish in Dell Rapids**



“And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents. From this two-fold dignity flowed the obligation which nature lays upon the head of families, so that Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. And during the whole course of his life he fulfilled those charges and those duties.”

One young father in our diocese has recently discovered St. Joseph and the benefits of a devotion to him. Matt Leedom, parishioner at Holy Spirit Parish in Sioux Falls, is a father of three little girls and devoted husband to wife Emily. St. Joseph’s example has been significant.

“Marriage and fatherhood has required immense faith, trust and courage from me,” Matt says. “I can’t think of a better example of these things carried out than in the life of St. Joseph. His example is a steady reminder of who I desire to be.”

## AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL

Could Joseph have known the influence he would have on men for thousands of years? Probably not, but it has been obvious in the lives of both Matt and Father Stevens.

For Matt, a devotion to St. Joseph is a bit new. He began noticing the Church dedicating this year to St. Joseph, the recent consecration of our diocese to him by Bishop DeGrood, and the consecration prayers written by Father Donald H. Calloway in his book “Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father.” He also felt a stirring in his own heart.

“As a young dad, images of him began to resonate with me in a new way and curiosity about his life began to grow,” Matt says. “The

more I look at him, the more I want to know of him. And the more I know of him, the more I want to be like him.”

Matt’s middle name is Joseph and his father’s name is Joseph. Something strange had been happening with this saint for a while.

“If I’m being honest I never thought much of that until the past few years. Looking back, while I may not have been aware, I think St. Joseph has been pursuing me for a long time as my patron before I was pursuing him,” Matt says.

That’s a powerful statement and not an unusual one. Saints often seem to find the people who need them most.

Father Stevens traces his connection to St. Joseph to several moments in his childhood and teenage years. When his mother’s French Canadian family came to this country a couple generations before him, they brought with them a love and devotion to St. Joseph, and his mother and her family worked for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia, Kansas. When he was young, the now-closed Church of St. Joseph in the countryside nearby provided his first experience of Joseph during Christmas Eve midnight Mass.

“St. Joseph plays such a prominent role in the nativity narratives, so I started making that connection, ‘Oh, this is a very special man,’” Father Stevens says. “My great-grandmother, my grandmother, they all had a lot of devotion to him, praying to him and having statues of him. So it was a really warm thought.”

The second memory that stands out for Father Stevens is a youth retreat where the priest there talked about how God is our Father and St. Joseph, in a particular way, can be a father to us as well. It helped him to know that besides his own father, whom he loved dearly, St. Joseph would take care of him as well. He could “go to Joseph.”

When he was a sophomore in high school, Father Stevens went on a pilgrimage to Fatima led by Father Robert Fox and encountered St. Joseph again. Father Fox talked to the group about Joseph, explaining that a devotion to him would help strengthen their desire for chastity and purity in their state of life. Father Stevens found himself very attracted to everything he learned about this spiritual father.

Now as a priest, he’s put all the pieces together into a beautiful picture of the great saint of silence.

“I’ve always just been very moved by this idea of this man who took care of the Immaculate



The Leedom Family (from left to right): Emily, Claire, Magdalene and Matt





## St. Joseph the Worker stained glass window in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph

There will always be work to do, but we do our work for a reason, Father Stevens says: “the care of oneself, the care of one’s family, the care of neighbors, one’s just participation in society.” St. Joseph never loses track of what’s important in his life with Mary and Jesus.

“He doesn’t say to the angel, ‘Oh, no, I can’t take care of this situation with Mary because I have this table and chairs I’ve got to get finished. I can’t go to Bethlehem because I promised to make some barstools for this neighbor down the street, and I’ve got to get this done,’” Father Stevens says. “No, he keeps the perspective. So what Joseph says to us is there’s always going to be work. There’s always going to be things to be attended to, but it’s about the priority. I think the great gift of St. Joseph is that he reminds us of the priority: God first, **God first**, family, friends, neighbors, and always God first.”

We couldn’t have a more perfect example of work and putting priorities in the right order.

## A SAINT FOR EVERYONE

Father Stevens recommends St. Joseph as an intercessor to people for a variety of reasons. When a woman comes to him and is broken hearted, discouraged or frustrated with her husband, he tells her to “go to St. Joseph.”

He often encourages young men who might be struggling with pornography, masturbation or sins against the sixth commandment to “go to St. Joseph.” Rather than trying to get through it on their own, he sends them to the fatherly arms of the earthly father of Jesus.

He says most people he sends to Joseph usually haven’t thought of turning to him but come back to him later to report how much consolation they received from St. Joseph’s intercession. He also recommends having a statue of St. Joseph in their home and asking him to be the patriarch of their home.

“We should take the example of him [St. Joseph] and just be faithful and courageous, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. I have found him to be the go to saint over and over,” Father Stevens says.

## GO TO ST. JOSEPH

The witness of St. Joseph is a powerful one for both men and women. Matt is seeing it more and more in his growing devotion.

“The ‘yes’ of St. Joseph to accept a life that he hadn’t planned for himself is a beautiful witness of faith in God’s plan. I think all of us could use more faith amidst a time and world that seems to have so much uncertainty,” Matt says.

Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church in 1870. These words from his decree display the deep love the Church has for this most chaste spouse of Mary:

“Him whom countless kings and prophets had desired to see, Joseph not only saw but conversed with, and embraced in paternal affection, and kissed. He most diligently reared Him whom the faithful were to receive as the bread that came down from heaven whereby they might obtain eternal life.

“Because of this sublime dignity which God conferred on his most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honored and praised blessed Joseph next to his spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in times of trouble.”

Let us “go to Joseph” in our times of need.

Conception and was in the presence of the Incarnation, and what a great grace that must have been,” Father Stevens says. “And that we, too, as sons and daughters of God can have that as well in the Eucharist, in adoration. I just think often what it must’ve been like for him to dwell upon and look upon the Christ child, God himself, to hold him. And that sense that Joseph, in all of his strength and all of his courage, had the tenderness of being able to hold God, and we can do that, too, in Holy Communion and our relationship with God and our care for others.”

Father Stevens goes to St. Joseph daily, asking him to intercede for him and praying in a particular way for protection. He also has a custom of lighting a perpetual candle in front of St. Joseph in his parish for big intentions for the parish and his parishioners.

He’s been a reliable intercessor for both men in times of need.

## PATRON OF WORKERS

St. Joseph is not only a patron to the Church and our diocese, but he is also the patron of workers. Since we know Joseph was a carpenter and worked tirelessly to support his family, he is a natural place for all kinds of workers to turn.

Matt has always felt an attraction to St. Joseph the Worker and often imagines him working in a wood shop. He realizes that might be an unusual image to think of first, but it comes from working alongside his own father and grandfather as he learned wood working from them.

“There was something in that time spent together that I learned more about what it means to be a man and a dad,” Matt says. “I think that’s the power of St. Joseph. He teaches us masculinity and fatherhood through his actions, not his words.”

Pope Pius XII established the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1, 1955, partly as a balance to the Communist idea of the worker as just a cog in a wheel. Joseph is a model of the dignity of work and its value to the human family. But Father Stevens says Joseph can also remind us that not everything in our lives should revolve around work. He often has to remind his parishioners to properly prioritize their work, especially if it’s being used as an excuse to miss important things like Mass or family time.



# PRAYER BEFORE WORK TO ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER



Glorious Saint Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work in a spirit of penance for the expiation of my many sins; to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my natural inclinations; to work with thankfulness and joy, considering it an honor to employ and develop by means of labor the gifts received from God; to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience, never shrinking from weariness and trials; to work above all with purity of intention and detachment from self, keeping unceasingly before my eyes death and the account that I must give of time lost, talents unused, good omitted, and vain complacency in success, so fatal to the work of God.

All for Jesus, all through Mary, all after thy example, O Patriarch, Saint Joseph. Such shall be my watch-word in life and in death.  
Amen.

*(Composed by Pope St. Pius X)*



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# How do we know Jesus rose from the dead?



*How do we actually know Jesus rose from the dead?*



Last month I said we were going to address people's doubts that the Church's teachings are Jesus' teachings. However, given the timeliness of the question about the resurrection, we'll address the question about the Church's teachings next month.

Asking about the resurrection is timely because we just celebrated Easter last month and are still in the midst of the Easter season. Beyond that, however, it's a fitting question for the times in which we live, as traditional Christian teachings are exposed to ever greater scrutiny in our society. And this question in particular—the question of the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ—goes to the very heart of our faith.

In certain scholarly circles over the last few decades, it's become fashionable to question or even deny the fact of the Resurrection, and so in mass media we read or hear the theories of various theologians claiming the “true” meaning of the Resurrection is that after Jesus died, the Apostles “realized” the full meaning of Jesus' teaching on the importance of loving and forgiving, or that the “true” meaning of the Resurrection is that Jesus is alive in the hearts of those who followed Him. But the idea that He actually rose from the dead in a glorified body? Myth, fable, fairy tales according to these theories.

In his first letter to the Christians of Corinth, St. Paul wrote this: “if Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, your faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:14) If Jesus is not alive, if He was not raised from the dead, then our Christian faith is empty, according to the great Apostle.

As St. Paul testifies, the truth of the Resurrection is at the very heart of our faith as Christians, and it has been so since the very beginning. Just a few sentences earlier St. Paul sets forth the heart of the Gospel, that which is of first importance: “that Christ died for our sins

in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas [Peter], then to the Twelve.” (1 Cor 15:3-5) Or consider the sermon which St. Peter preached on Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles, in which the Prince of the Apostles proclaims that God raised Jesus up after His crucifixion (cf. Acts 2:24). As we see here and elsewhere, from the very beginning the followers of Christ affirmed that He rose from the dead.

The facts of the empty tomb and the testimony of those who claim they saw the risen Lord only allow for a few possible interpretations, other than the actual truth of the Resurrection. Some argue Jesus didn't actually die on the cross (the “swoon” theory); others claim the Apostles and other eyewitnesses were lying; others propose they had a series of mass hallucinations; and finally some hold that the eyewitnesses didn't mean Jesus literally rose from the dead.

None of these arguments ultimately hold any water. As various scholars have shown (see the Additional Resources online at the link below), each of the proposed alternate explanations of the empty tomb and the testimony of the eyewitnesses have serious and ultimately fatal flaws, leaving only one valid explanation: Jesus Christ the Nazorean actually rose from the dead.

Personally, I am especially taken with the bold witness of the Apostles to the truth of Jesus' bodily resurrection. Throughout the New Testament and other early Christian writings, we see that the Apostles claimed they had seen, talked to and ate with the risen Lord, and that they were to suffer torture and ultimately



even death rather than deny this claim. Think about that: the Apostles said Jesus rose from the dead, and they maintained that even when threatened with death themselves. Their actions alone are incomprehensible if the Resurrection did not occur; who, after all, would willingly undergo ridicule, torture and death for a preposterous lie?

Remember, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead has incredible significance. It means that while we still experience pain, suffering and death, they do not have the last word. Jesus has conquered them, and He will share the fruits of that victory with us in our own resurrection at the end of time. And in the meantime, we can find peace and joy even in the midst of our earthly trials, knowing Jesus is really, truly alive.

As we celebrate the Resurrection on Easter and throughout the Easter season, let us repeat the ancient paschal greeting: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

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

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

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



# The Blessed Mother's fiat leads us into wisdom

By Lois Heron

**M**y first encounter with the beauty of our Blessed Mother came through the 1968 release of the popular song “Let It Be” by the Beatles. What the Beatles communicated in that song, though not exactly scriptural, began to draw me to Mary long before I converted to Catholicism decades later. The notion that the mother of Jesus could speak words of wisdom to me intrigued me.

Later in life when I was a tenderfoot Catholic, I began contemplating all the words of our Blessed Mother and I found that praying “let it be” could usher me into the grace the Lord has for all who will magnify Him. How so? By observing this grace-filled woman, this perfect mother, we learn how to detach ourselves from our own notions about how life should go.

Let's use the Beatles song to expand on how Mary's fiat leads us into wisdom.

**“When I find myself in times of trouble...”** Our Blessed Mother knew times of trouble, knew what confusion felt like, what rejection felt like, what poverty felt like. Her response to those rugged reali-



Lois Heron, parishioner at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph

ties, “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart,” (Luke 2:19) reveals her humility.

As we learn to respond rather than to react when the unexpected throws us off-kilter, we leave room in our soul to reflect on the circumstances from the Lord's

point of view as Mary surely did. In that space of reflection we learn to listen to the Holy Spirit's wise counsel. Though life may remain rugged, we may more readily accept the pratfalls of life as sacred ground for our spirit to rest in the Lord's great love for us.

**“And in the hour of darkness...”**

Allow me to use my own experience with “the hour of darkness” to show how our

Blessed Mother comes to us speaking words of wisdom. In the years before I officially converted to the Catholic Church, I devoured books written by contemplative Catholics. My spirit kindled to what they wrote about the sacramental life of the Church, especially when the life of our Blessed Mother was the topic. My spirit opened to belief in her intercession for me.

One afternoon I was feeling the sear of pain in an unspeakable tragedy our family was enduring. The hours, months, years were indeed dark! I cannot say I put Mary to the test, but somewhere deep down I hoped that she would be my mother as I was being a mother in the midst of loss and grief.

As I dropped to the floor from physical exhaustion of the trauma, I began to pray. Who did I pray to? The Lord of course, but who was there holding me, weeping with me, crying out with me the extreme of my emotions? It was our Blessed Mother! I cannot articulate the infused comfort and hope my spirit received that day, but I experienced the “lifting up of the lowly” that Mary declared in her Magnificat.

**“And when the night is cloudy...”** When we are on our last tether and we can't see our way through a dilemma, if we listen, we hear the echo of our Blessed Mother say to Jesus, “They have no wine.” (John 2:3) When our resources don't measure up to the expectation of others, if we listen we can hear, “Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5) And what do we do when Christ abundantly supplies? We do as Mary does: we reflect on God's goodness and treasure it in our heart.

**“I wake up to the sound of music...”** As we pray the rosary of our Blessed Mother, we join Mary in contemplating the joys of the life of our Savior. He laughs, he celebrates. When He walks in He literally lights things up! And we can imagine Mary laughing right along. Why? For she knew that “The Mighty One has done great things for me.” (Luke 1:49)

We receive the same peace and joy when our mighty Savior does great things in us!





# Diocese to celebrate three ordination Masses

Bishop Donald DeGrood will celebrate three ordination Masses in his second year as bishop in the Diocese of Sioux Falls. All three ordinations will take place at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph.

Five men will be ordained to the permanent diaconate on Saturday, May 15. These men began their formation in 2018.

The five permanent deacons to be ordained are: Jonathan Eckrich, Bradley Palmer, Peter Sexton, Daniel Sherban and Jeffrey Swank. After ordination, they will

serve in parishes in Sioux Falls, Pierre, Aberdeen, Beresford and Madison. Watch for photos from their ordination in the June issue of the Bishop's Bulletin.

Three men will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on Thursday, May 27. They are: Nicholas Haiar, Mitchell McLaughlin and Zachary Schaeftbauer. After ordination, they will serve for the summer in parishes in the diocese and then continue their seminary studies for one more year.

Finally, three men will be ordained to the priesthood on Friday, May 28. They are: Deacon Jacob Doty, Deacon Scott Miller and Deacon Jeffrey Schulte. These men will be assigned to parishes as parochial vicars.

All ordination Masses begin at 11 a.m. and will be live streamed at [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org). Please pray for these men.

Photos from the priest and transitional deacon ordinations will be in the July issue of the Bishop's Bulletin.

## Seminarians to be ordained to the priesthood



Deacon Scott Miller



Deacon Jeffrey Schulte



Deacon Jacob Doty

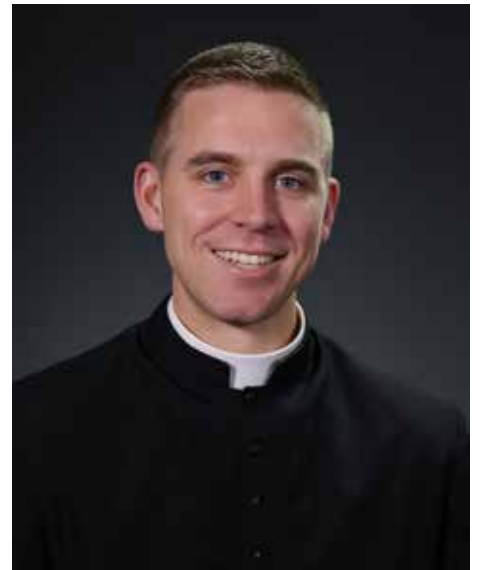
## Seminarians to be ordained to the transitional diaconate



Mitchell McLaughlin



Nicholas Haiar



Zach Schaeftbauer



# Diocese casts missionary NET over its parishes

*By Dana Hess*

The Sioux Falls diocese is in the midst of discerning how evangelization fits into the bishop's vision for missionary discipleship. Catholics in parishes across the diocese have had a firsthand look at the methods for spreading God's word.

Those Catholics learned about those methods through interacting with National Evangelization Teams Ministries (NET). Based in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, NET has been holding retreats in the Sioux Falls diocese since its inception in 1981. However, this trip to South Dakota was unique.

According to Tessa Bernousek, a NET missionary from Holdrege, Nebraska, mission trips typically take two forms: a team roams from state to state offering school retreats and parish retreats, or a team settles at a church for a year, ministering to that parish. Bishop DeGrood had a different vision for NET's mission in our diocese.

"This is the first time in NET history that this type of team has been done, where we stay in a particular diocese," says Tessa. "We just stay in the Diocese of Sioux Falls and just kind of do what the diocese asks of us, attend workshops, hold our own retreats and modify our retreats to fit whatever the parish is in need of at a particular time."

The main stops for the NET team were Dell Rapids, Mitchell and Ipswich with shorter stays around Elk Point and in

Sisseton. There were eight people on the NET team assigned to the diocese from last September through May. The four men and four women on the team ranged in age from 18 to 28. By their estimate, during their time in eastern South Dakota they interacted with Catholics from 90 parishes.

With a wide range of communities to serve, the NET team's stay in each community was tailored to the needs of that parish.

"We build a lot of personal relationships at each parish and just kind of graft ourselves to the community as much as possible," says missionary Eddie Vinciguerra of Goodyear, Arizona. "Just getting to know people and how community life is, how their lives are going, what the community has been experiencing lately."

A staple of NET team visits is an Encounter event that includes introducing the team, a main talk that has included topics on surrendering to God or how to pray, personal testimony from the missionaries, a drama on the importance of having a personal relationship with God, adoration and praise.

In Mitchell, the six-week NET visit included a game night for junior high students, a youth night for high school students, small group discussions fol-

lowed by praise and worship music and a college bingo night.

"We have two colleges here in Mitchell so we really have a Catholic community of college-age students that we wanted to engage," says Courtney Deinert, a director of religious education for Holy Family and Holy Spirit parishes.

One of the most daunting challenges for a hosting parish is feeding eight young people twice a day for six weeks. (That's 672 meals for those of you keeping score at home.)

"That sign-up sheet filled up right away," Courtney says. "Just the response there from the parishioners let us know they were very receptive to hosting the team and interacting with them."

In Mitchell the NET team was active in forming 15 adult groups and six youth groups, many of which watched and dis-





cussed “The Search” on [formed.org](http://formed.org).

“From the small group initiative, we’ve seen it bring former members and new individuals back to Mass,” Courtney says. “We’ve seen it connect women, men and families who are in similar seasons of life. It’s created a curiosity in some of the group members to explore their faith more.”

In Ipswich the NET team got busy with an evening Encounter event and followed it up with retreats, faith sharing groups and small group discussions. According to Father Timothy Smith of Holy Cross Parish, NET Ministries has a long history in Ipswich of conducting daylong or weekend-long retreats with two individuals, one in the 1980s and one in the 1990s, serving as NET missionaries.

“NET Ministries has a longtime history of already coming to the parish and the community,” Father Smith says. “This is just the fruit of over 40 years of relationship with their organization.”

According to Father Smith, the enduring grace left behind by the NET team was their ability to impress people as witnesses for Christ. To explain it, he turns to Pope St. Paul VI: “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

“It’s really true in that it applies to the NET missionaries,” Father Smith says. “The young people, they are a living witness to the faith and young people in the world today. Even non-practicing Catholics or someone who’s not religious, they can be changed by having this encounter with young people that love the faith.”

At a time in our society when so many people can be at odds, Father Smith says the NET missionaries are a reminder of the good that comes from loving God. While they all come from different places, “the one thing they have in common is human respect, love of God, love of neighbor and just being good witnesses. More than anything, people can be moved by that witness.”

In Mitchell, the NET team has prompted continued religious study. After the first NET-inspired small groups finished their studies, they turned to a book endorsed by Bishop DeGrood: “From Christendom to Apostolic Mission.”

“We had over 350 books picked up by parishioners just to study it,” Courtney says. “So that’s how we’re seeing the

graces continue through our parish even now that the NET team is gone.”

Serving for weeks at a time in a parish has led to some memorable experiences for the missionaries as well.

“One time we got to do a first confession retreat for second graders which was really unique because usually NET focuses on middle and high school kids,” says missionary Robbie Voorheis of Leesburg, Virginia. “We got to kind of tone things down for the second graders and really concentrate on the sacrament of reconciliation, just in a way that would be approachable to them.”

The team’s call to minister to all ages was a blessing for Tessa. “Six-year-olds, 60-year-olds, they all get something from the events that we do. I love that aspect of ministry, getting the whole range instead of just one age group.”

Like the Ipswich recruits from decades ago, this NET team encountered young people with questions about the missionary lifestyle. Robbie says one student was a senior in high school trying to figure out her future in college when she was moved in prayer to consider becoming a missionary.

“She asked a bunch of questions about discerning a missionary year, the experience of it, what was challenging, what was good,” Robbie says. “It’s youth who are already disciples who have their interest piqued.”

A theme throughout the NET team’s visits was Bishop DeGrood’s diocesan vision for *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God’s Love*. The visit helped illuminate the diocesan vision according to Courtney in Mitchell.

“I think at first it just helps unpack and elaborate what his vision means and how to bring it to life for the parishioners,” Courtney says. “That’s the first step in helping fulfill his vision. It’s really illustrating to everyone what this means and what it looks like in our parish.”

Coming from a farming community,

Father Smith likens the NET team’s response to the diocesan vision in terms of spring planting.

“I think the first thing we need to do is we need to tend the ground,” says Father Smith, explaining that as a boy on the farm one of his spring chores was picking rocks in the field to get it ready for planting. “I believe these missionaries, in terms of the bishop, are like those young people that are hired every spring to go



Photo above: Fr. Shane Stevens with the NET team in Dell Rapids. Photo opposite page bottom: The NET team leads a group in praise and worship at St. Stephen Parish in Bridgewater. (This photo by Jake Geis.)

out and pick stones out of the fields, to try to cultivate the soil.”

For their part, the NET missionaries have focused on the diocesan vision throughout their visit, inviting people across the diocese to encounter God’s love.

“The understanding that God loves you, wants a personal relationship with you, has been our motto,” Eddie says. “I feel we’ve definitely been pushing people towards the bishop’s vision for the diocese.”

The impact of the NET missionaries was felt across the diocese. In Ipswich, Father Smith says they have just the right qualities for the job. “It’s their willingness, their openness, saying yes to God is what makes things have that positive impact. All God needs is a good will and an open heart. Thanks be to God, he gave us the missionaries.”

In Mitchell, the NET team is gone, but the changes in the parishes are only beginning. “Things are changing and the Holy Spirit is at work,” says Courtney. “We’re excited to see how it plays out. The NET team’s presence was just the beginning.”

# The Jericho Wall group prays to end abortion

By Marcus Ashlock

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) statistics, by January's 48th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, more than 62.5 million abortions have taken place in the U.S. or roughly 1.3 million per year. In a study published in July 2020 in one of the world's oldest medical journals, *The Lancet*, the average number of abortions worldwide was 73.3 million each year during 2015-2019—73.3 million each year.

How many innocent lives will be ended before the world realizes the value of life?

ning Paul felt like he needed to do more and did not know where to start. After strengthening his walk of faith with other men looking to do the same, a question was asked about what to do now as they had built this strong faith. He describes having a certain understanding in his heart to do something with the sanctity of life.

"It had been on my heart about what I was to do, and it was just like a light bulb," Paul said. "It's something to do with the pro-life movement. I didn't know what it was, but I felt like God was calling me."

From his youth, Paul knew the pro-life movement was important and he supported it but never felt a part of it. While attending a 40 Days for Life event, Paul met Mark Hierholzer, parishioner at St. John Paul II in Harrisburg, when they both showed up to pray in front of the Planned Parenthood location in Sioux Falls.

Mark was heeding a call from the Holy Spirit to go down to the offices and pray. Paul talks about having been doing the same from time to time, but meeting Mark one day in the spring of 2019 gave them the strength to make this a permanent

for the children, for the fathers, for the families or for anyone who is getting hurt by abortion," Paul said. "We made a commitment to be there every Tuesday night."

The Jericho Wall men's prayer group is named after the story in the Old Testament book, Joshua 6:1-27, where the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho for seven days carrying the Ark of the Covenant. After marching around the walls seven times on the seventh day, they blew their horns and shouted, and the walls fell.

"God put it on my heart to name it The Jericho Wall," Paul said. "Out in front of the priests and Ark of the Covenant were the picked troops of God. We men are the picked troops today, our Blessed Mother is our ark, and her rosary is our shout. We don't know what seven days time is to God, we're just trying to be committed warriors."

Men, young to old, meet at the Planned Parenthood office on 41st Street in Sioux Falls each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. Some kneel, others stand. Some days there are few and other days there can be 30 or more. Paul invites any man looking to enrich his faith in God to come and pray for the safety of innocent lives.

Paul also understands not every person can commit to coming each week and maybe someone can only make it once a month or three times a year. His invitation is for people to commit to praying the rosary each Tuesday evening for the women contemplating abortion. Pray from your home, with your family, in your car or wherever you may be, but pray.

"In prayer, I had a vision of the prayers being sent to heaven, rays of light through prayer from this area," Paul said. "We want all these rays of light, all these prayers going up at the same time, we want to bombard heaven for Planned Parenthood in Sioux Falls, and for those seven or 10 girls who are contemplating tonight about getting an abortion this week. If we could save one life, the value is incalculable."

Is God calling you to pray for life? Maybe your journey of missionary discipleship begins with a commitment to pray the rosary each Tuesday to tear down the walls of Planned Parenthood in Sioux Falls. What better way to strengthen your walk of faith than to pray for life.



The Jericho Wall prayer group gathers in front of Planned Parenthood to pray for women, children and men touched by abortion. (Photo by Renae Kranz)

What can the devout Catholic do to help save these innocent lives? We can simply start with prayer.

"It started when I wanted to be more courageous with my faith, to live my faith and put it on the ground and not just keep it wrapped around my rosary," Paul Heiberger, parishioner at St. George Parish in Hartford, said.

Like many Catholic men who want to be more active disciples, at the begin-

act of prayer.

After a few false starts to pray together at Planned Parenthood, it worked out they could both meet on Tuesdays. Planned Parenthood counsels the women on Monday and Tuesday, waits 48 hours to give them time to think about the procedure, and then performs abortions on Thursdays. Each week, seven to 10 abortions are performed in Sioux Falls.

"We decided to go pray for those women,



# Happenings around the diocese



Photo above: The fourth grade class of St. Agnes Elementary School in Vermillion presented their annual Passion Play on March 30. (Photo courtesy of Kris Larson) Photo middle: Living Stations was presented at Holy Family Parish in Mitchell on Good Friday. (Photo by Wendy Royston)



Photo above: Luminaries line the curb in front of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in preparation for the Gift of Hope event held the evening of April 10. Bishop DeGrood and Emily Leedom spoke to a large crowd about hope and healing during the candlelight celebration. (Photo by Ellen Keena)

Photo below: A group discusses what they learned about the diocesan vision (Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love) at a presentation at St. Benedict Parish, Yankton. Father Scott Traynor, Dr. Chris Burgwald and Eric Gallagher have been traveling the diocese to explain how the vision is vital for everyone. (Photo by Jake Geis)



Photo below: The Pontifical Servers of the North served Bishop DeGrood during confirmations at Holy Cross Parish, Ipswich. (Left to right) Bentley Geditz, Nicholas Fuhrmann, Father Timothy Smith, Bishop DeGrood, Max Kulesa, Jacob Bakken and Lane Braun. (Photo by Lynn Thares)





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**ABERDEEN** – Jim and Mary Rieck will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 29. They have 2 children, 1 grandchild and are members of St. Mary Parish.



**ARLINGTON** – Ron and Cathy Nelson celebrated their 40th anniversary on April 24. They have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. John the Evangelist Parish.



**BERESFORD** – Deacon Gordan and Alma Richard will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 28. They have 5 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Teresa of Avila Parish.



**BRANDON** – Dean and Nancy Pierson will celebrate their 40th anniversary on May 22. They have 4 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of Risen Savior Parish.



**GARRETSON** – Tom and Karla Godbey will celebrate their 40th anniversary on May 30. They have 3 children, 1 grandchild and are members of St. Rose of Lima Parish.



**GARRETSON** – Dan and Betty Irvine will celebrate their 45th anniversary on May 8. They have 6 children (1 deceased), 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Rose of Lima Parish.



**GARRETSON** – Todd and Heidi Fink will celebrate their 25th anniversary on May 18. They have 3 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Rose of Lima Parish.



**HARTFORD** – Dale and Charlene McAvoy will celebrate their 45th anniversary on May 22. They are members of St. George Parish.



**HURON** – Jim and Dianne Gropper will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 28. They are members of Holy Trinity Parish.



**MITCHELL** – Robert and Nadine Beatch will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 22. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and are members of Holy Family Parish.



**MONTROSE** – Donald and Dorothy Erickson celebrated their 70th anniversary on April 9. They have 5 children, 14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild and are members of St. Patrick Parish.



**ONIDA** – Bob and Elaine Yackley will celebrate their 60th anniversary on May 4. They have 3 children, 13 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Pius X Parish.



**PLATTE** – Thomas and Elaine Jaeger will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 15. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Peter Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Dan and Jan Wudel will celebrate their 40th anniversary on May 30. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.

## ANNIVERSARY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We accept anniversary submissions for the following anniversary years: 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70. We include them in the issue of the month of the anniversary, and late submissions will only be accepted from the prior month.

Send a color photo, your anniversary information and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by **May 17** for inclusion in the June 2021 edition to:

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



**SIOUX FALLS** – Tom and Susan Francis will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 29. They have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Tom and Bonnie Morgan will celebrate their 60th anniversary on May 27. They have 7 children, 20 grandchildren (1 deceased), 21 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



**TABOR** – Bob and Karen Caba will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 1. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Wenceslaus Parish.



**WATERTOWN** – Stan and Jan Winkels will celebrate their 60th anniversary on May 8. They have 5 children, 14 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish.



**WATERTOWN** – Jack and Trish Spartz will celebrate their 25th anniversary on May 11. They are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



**WATERTOWN** – Maxine and Henry German will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 8. They have 5 children, 10 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



**WATERTOWN** – Donald and Leslie Kranz will celebrate their 35th anniversary on May 17. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



**WAUBAY** – Stan and Pauline Arnold celebrated their 60th anniversary on April 3. They have 5 children, 15 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



**WOONSOCKET** – Jim and Shirley VanDenHemel will celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 21. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of St. Wilfrid Parish.



**YANKTON** – Deacon Still and Marlene Slason will celebrate their 30th anniversary on May 25. They are members of Sacred Heart Parish.



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**UPCOMING RETREATS**

**SILENT RETREATS**

**Men's Silent Retreats**

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

**Women's Silent Retreats**

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

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

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

**May 11, 2021**  
"Letting God Love You"  
- directed by Fr. Shaun Haggerty

**August 17, 2021**  
"The Gift of Forgiveness"  
- directed by Teresa Henrickson

**SPECIAL RETREATS**

**October 15-17, 2021**  
**UNDONE: A Healing Retreat**  
- directed by Fr. Scott Traynor

**November 12-14, 2021**  
**Couples Retreat**  
- directed by Jim and Meg Beckman

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

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**broom-tree.org**



# Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa dies at 85

Sister Margaret Ann "Peggy" Brennan, OP, died April 5, 2021, at St. Dominic Villa, Hazel Green, Wisconsin. Her religious name was Sister Eunice.

Mass of Christian burial was held at the Dominican motherhouse in Sinsinawa, April 14, followed by burial in the Motherhouse Cemetery.

Sister Peggy was born May 20, 1935, in Sioux City, Iowa, the daughter of Charles and Kathryn (Fleming) Brennan. She had three sisters and four brothers.

Sister Peggy made her first profession as a Dominican sister of Sinsinawa Aug. 5, 1958, and her perpetual profession Aug. 5, 1961. She ministered in education as a teacher for 41 years, substitute teacher and library volun-

teer for eight years, and registrar for two years.

Sister Peggy served as secretary to the prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa for nine years. She served in Nebraska, Illinois, Connecticut, Wisconsin and South Dakota.

In the Diocese of Sioux Falls, Sister Peggy taught at O'Gorman High School, Sioux Falls, from 1973-1977.

She is preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Catherine Marriott, Mary Strozdas, and Sister Jean Brennan, OP; and four brothers, the Rev. John Brennan, William Brennan, Richard Brennan, and James Brennan.

She is survived by nieces, nephews and her Dominican sisters with whom she shared 62 years of religious life.



Sister Margaret Ann "Peggy" Brennan

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# Annual Bishop's Fishing Tournament coming up

The 26th Annual Bishop's Fishing Tournament offers something for almost every participant with three ways to participate this year. So get your fishing poles ready!

A virtual tournament will run from June 5-14 and allows fishing in any public body of water in South Dakota. Use the iAngler tournament app to track your catches.

Two live and in-person fishing days will be back this year. The first is June 7 at Lake Side Park in Big Stone City, and the second is June 14 in Pierre at the Oahe Downstream Recreational Area. All events are for walleye and bass fishing.

Bishop DeGrood will celebrate Mass and an outdoor prime rib dinner will be served at both live tournaments.

Participation in these events raises funds for seminarian education and formation in our diocese. A seminarian's education averages \$45,050 per year, which is why these fishing tournaments are so important.

For more information or to register, visit [ccfesd.org](http://ccfesd.org) or call 605-988-3765.



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**Recitation of the rosary planned**

**Friday, May 7** - The rosary is recited for the faithful departed on the first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in St. Michael Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

**Mass for those who have lost an infant**

**May 22** - St. Michael Parish, Sioux Falls, invites those who have experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss (whether recently or years ago) to celebrate Mass at 9:30 a.m. at St. Michael Parish. You are not alone in your loss. Father Weber will give a special blessing of parents and all who mourn. Observing prudent guidelines, we will gather for refreshments and conversation after Mass.

**Memorial Day Mass**

**Monday, May 31** - St. Michael Cemetery will celebrate Memorial Day Mass at the cemetery on May 31 at 9 a.m. The host parish will be the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. Please bring your lawn chair. Gates will open at 8 a.m. at 3001 N. Cliff Ave. in Sioux Falls. In case of inclement weather, Mass will be held at the Cathedral.

**Anniversary celebration for Fr. Cizewski**

**Sunday, June 6** - Fr. Albert Cizewski will celebrate his 50th anniversary of priesthood on Sunday, June 6. Following 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. John de Britto Parish, an open house reception will be held at the Britton Event Center, 1203 3rd St, from 12-2 p.m. All parishioners, friends and acquaintances of the last 30+ years Fr. Albert has been with our diocese are invited. RSVP by May 31 to britton.StJohndeBritto@sfcatholic.org. If you are unable to attend the event, greetings may be sent to him at P.O. Box 108, Britton, SD 57430.

**School of Healing in Yankton**

**July 30-31** - The Yahweh Shalom Prayer Group is hosting the School of Healing from Encounter Ministries at St. Benedict Parish, Yankton, beginning July 30 at 6:30 p.m. and ending July 31 at 10 p.m. Presenters will include Fr. Brian Gross and Fr. Patrick Gonyeau. For more information, visit [www.encounterministries.us/events/soh-yankton](http://www.encounterministries.us/events/soh-yankton).

**Pray at Planned Parenthood with Jericho's Wall group**

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

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

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

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

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

**Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit available**

Would you like the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit to come to your parish? This display is from the Vatican and provides concrete evidence of the miracle of the Real Presence. To learn more, contact Earl Markley at 605-214-1620 or [earl.markley@hotmail.com](mailto:earl.markley@hotmail.com).

**Help display the Immaculate Heart of Mary image**

St. Christina Court of the Catholic Daughters in Tea is spreading the image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary around the diocese via billboards. If you'd like to support this effort to bring Mary to others, contact Earl Markley at 605-214-1620.

**Parish Dinners/Socials**

**May 23:** Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Sioux Falls, will host a food sale and raffle led by the youth group on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the gymnasium. Menu will be tamales, street tacos, pupusas, etole, and taquitos. The raffle will include 10 large prizes ranging from a new 65" TV to a large statue of St. Michael the Archangel. Raffle tickets are \$50.00 each. This raffle will benefit the repair of the parking lot and other necessary church repairs.

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

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

**Interested in additional resources**

**regarding the integration of faith and healing?** Be sure to check out "Leedom to Life," a podcast hosted and produced by Catholic Family Services and the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Not sure where to start? Check out the recent episode, "Unbound," interviewing Father Kristopher Cowles.

**Grief series**-Catholic Family Services will be offering a Summer Grief Series. This will be a four-week series beginning Tuesday July 6. Call us at 605-988-3775 for any questions or if you would like to register.

**Sacred Heart Monastery**

**May 7/** Online Lectio Divina, Fridays, May 7 and 14 from 10-10:45 a.m. Meet online for Lectio Divina, a time for praying with the Gospel of the following Sunday. To register any time, contact group leader, S. Penny Bingham OSB at [pbingham@yanktonbenedictines.org/605-668-6023](mailto:pbingham@yanktonbenedictines.org/605-668-6023). Include your email address.

**May 26/** Bible Study, "The Kingdom of God"/ This three-week study will explore Gospel passages that help us see the essential transforming message of Jesus and its meaning in our lives. Through stories and images Jesus teaches us God's presence among us is both welcoming and demanding. Sessions are led by Sr. Doris Oberembt on Google Meet from 9:30-11 a.m. CDT on Wednesdays, May 26, June 9 and 16. Register by May 19. Email or call: 605-668-6022, [doberembt@yanktonbenedictines.org](mailto:doberembt@yanktonbenedictines.org); more information at [www.yanktonbenedictines.org/retreats-online-group](http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org/retreats-online-group).

**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](mailto:benedictinepeacectr@yanktonbenedictines.org) or 605-668-6292 for more information.



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8:30AM - 91.3FM KSTJ - HARTFORD  
9:00AM - 88.9FM KSJP - ABERDEEN  
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