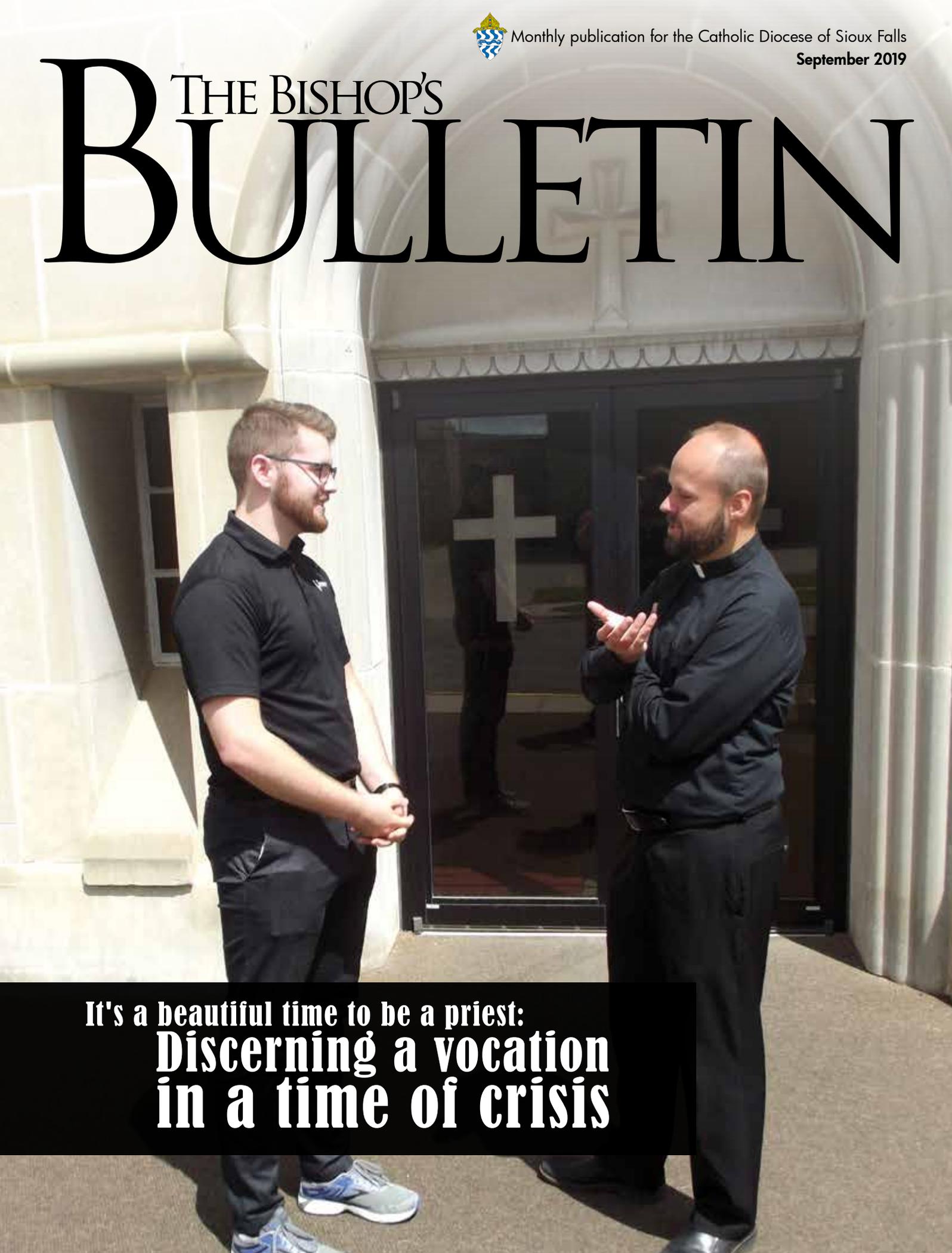




Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

September 2019

THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN



**It's a beautiful time to be a priest:
Discerning a vocation
in a time of crisis**

Affirm your priests, deacons and seminarians

The theme for this month's Bulletin is "Discerning a Vocation in a Time of Crisis." Surely these are challenging times for us all, but especially for our priests and seminarians. That a few would betray their promise of chastity and cast a shadow over the vast majority of our brothers is discouraging to say the least, dispiriting and profoundly sad.

I encourage those reading these words to affirm and encourage your priests, deacons and our seminarians.

The truth is that a vocation, whichever it is, is a call from God through Christ always in the midst of the culture of the day. One reason I recommend studying the history of the Church is to put in perspective the unique cultural challenges of our day.

Simply contemplating the Passion of our Lord underscores that cultural opposition has always been with Christ's Church. The prophets sent by God were rejected in their days, and the prophets sent by God in our day are often rejected as well.

That is why we need seminarians who become priests to be men of integrity, humility and courage.

I have been privileged to have ordained 31 priests in my time as your bishop. It is always a great privilege.

I remember standing outside the Cathedral anticipating the procession before my first ordination when the startling thought struck me: this is serious business. As a result I have over the years sought to get to know our seminarians as well as I am able.

I try to meet with them individually twice a year when they are home. I also meet with those being ordained to the diaconate and priesthood a day or two ahead to review the promises they are about to make and to underscore that they are making them before God. It is serious business for them as well.

Our diocese has from its beginnings received clergy from outside the state, beginning with our first bishop Martin Marty, a Benedictine missionary. Some of our beloved priests have been religious order priests and diocesan priests from other dioceses. They have enriched us all.

We always seek attestation that they are in good standing and have completed appropriate training consistent with the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young Adults. They are expected to complete, as are all clergy and volunteers working with children, annual training and openness to background checks.

When we evaluate candidates for seminary sponsorship and the permanent diaconate and journey with them in their formation, these are some of the virtues I keep in mind, always remembering that we are all works in progress:

1. Do they pray? Formation will deepen this virtue, but there needs to be openness from the beginning or it can become simply a checklist expectation.
2. Do they love the Church? Christ established the Church and the priesthood. We are His.
3. Are they faithful and courageous? Saints and martyrs are raised up as models and as teachers to remind us that sacrifice and resilience are integral to ministerial service.
4. Do they trust in God's will and God's way? We cannot anticipate all that might be asked of us, and that unknown can be a bit unsettling. Christ declared that He is the way, the truth and the life. We must trust in Him or be overwhelmed with uncertainty.
5. Do they love and care about the people? Priesthood is not about us privileged to serve. Priesthood is about service to others, especially those suffering. This is important at all times but especially when inconvenient. Jesus said, "As I have done, so you must do."



6. Do they have a sense of what is realistic? We are all weak instruments. Identifying our strengths and weaknesses allows us to be present in ways we are able and know when others should be consulted. As one wise bishop said: we are not the Messiah.
7. Do they anticipate the cross? Jesus said we must pick up our crosses everyday if we are to follow him. Jesus did his Father's will out of obedience and so must we. That can result in some heavy times but we are not alone; He is with us. We are bearing such a cross these days.
8. Do they yearn for salvation, certainly for others but also for themselves? We are in this world only for a time. How we use that time is important. Oneness with Christ for all eternity is our mission.
9. Do they love and rest in the Blessed Mother? Jesus said, "There is your mother." Her love is ours if we open our hearts to her.

10. Do they accept the call of Christ with humility and awe? Lord we are not worthy but only say the word.

One of my favorite scripture passages is Jesus walking on the water during a storm. The disciples are frightened. Jesus laments their lack of faith. Peter suggests that he will believe if he too can walk on the water. Jesus calls him. With his eyes fixed on Jesus, Peter is able to do so. But then he takes his eyes off of Jesus, looks down and stumbles.

If we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will be able to survive even the storms of our lives whatever our vocation, work or station in life. When our gaze goes elsewhere, especially in on ourselves, we too will falter. Fortunately the love and mercy of Christ will remain even when we do so. But it would be better to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Saint Mother Teresa said that Jesus gazes on us. May we gaze on Him our Lord and Savior at all times.

Officials

Effective June 24, 2019:

The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain, after consultation with the College of Consultors and with consideration of the proposed plans for future use of the building, decreed the deconsecration of Holy Trinity Church in Hosmer and relegated the worship space to profane yet nonsordid use.

Effective August 7, 2019:

The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain, upon receipt of the decree of excardination by the Most Reverend James P. Powers, Bishop of Superior, decreed the incardination of Deacon J. Patrick Derrington as a permanent deacon of the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew K. Althoff
Chancellor



SCHEDULE

September

- 1 9:00 State Fair Mass, Women's Building, State Fairgrounds, Huron
- 7 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 8 1:30 Wedding Anniversary Mass and reception, Sacred Heart, Aberdeen
- 10 12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood
- 14 5:30 Confirmation, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dante and St. John the Baptist, Wagner in Wagner
- 19 11:00 Presbyteral Council, Catholic Pastoral Center
- 20-23 EOHSJ Northern Lieutenancy Annual Meeting, Des Moines
- 23-24 Bishop's Charity Hunt, Kimball
- 28 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 29 2:00 Confirmation, St. James, Chamberlain and St. Margaret, Kimball in Kimball
- 30-Oct. 3 Clergy Days, Arrowhead Cedar Shore, Oacoma

October

- 5 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 8 12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood

The Bishop's Bulletin

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Most Rev. Paul J. Swain

Executive Editor

Rev. Michael L. Griffin

Managing Editor

Mrs. Renae D. Kranz

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523 N. Duluth Avenue
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Correspondence should be addressed to:

523 N. Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714
Phone: 605-334-9861

E-mail: rkranz@sfcatholic.org

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Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

September 2019

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Clergy gather for picnic at Bishop's house



Fr. James Morgan
presided at Vespers
to kick off the clergy
picnic (above).
Priests and deacons
enjoyed a meal
and conversation at
the Bishop's house
afterward (left).
(photos by Kevin
Fitzgibbons)

Mother of God Monastery

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It's a beautiful time to be a priest: Discerning a vocation in a time of crisis

by Father Michael Griffin

In March 1992, Pope John Paul II presented to the Church the apostolic exhortation “Pastores Dabo Vobis (I Shall Give You Shepherds)” on the formation of priests. In this document, the mystery of vocations was presented as “an inexpressible dialogue between God and human beings, between the love of God who calls and the freedom of individuals who respond lovingly to him.” (PDV, 36)

This dialogue was present at the beginning when God entered into a relationship with human

beings, continued through the call of prophets and apostles, and endures to this day as God calls the baptized to their vocation in life; God calls in love and we respond in love.

Since the beginning of the Church, God has called men to the vocation of holy orders and the priesthood, and they have responded to this call in love. Yet, throughout the history of the Church, struggles, scandals and challenges have had a profound impact on men discerning the call God has given them to serve the Church as a priest.

In the present day, the effects of the abuse crisis are still being felt in the Church, and still rest heavy on the hearts of the faithful. As the Church deals with these effects, and strives for repentance and healing, men are still being called by Christ to follow him in the priesthood.

Responding to the Call

Priests who have been ordained for two decades or more entered the seminary in a different culture, where the vocation to priesthood was highly regarded both in the Church and outside it. Today, those discerning a vocation to the priesthood face the added challenge of a loss of respect for the priesthood in the culture; and yet, they are still responding in faith.

Father Grant Lacey, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle in Platte and St. Anne in Geddes, was ordained to the priesthood in 2015. In his senior year at the University of South Dakota, “after years of back and forth with an unease about discovering what I should be doing, and not just what I should be learning, I began to pray,” he said.

“I met with Father Scott Traynor and learned the discernment of spirits, and discovered what I should be doing.”

Father Lacey said even while he was discerning, the abuse crisis did not really play a part in his prayer or decision.

“I had zero church radar when I was in college, and the events



Father Grant Lacey, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle in Platte and St. Anne in Geddes

really didn’t blow up until I had already entered the seminary.”

Things were different for Gerald Thornton, a seminarian for the diocese from Sioux Falls. His understanding of the priesthood was formed at an early age through his interaction with individual priests.

“I grew up in the Church, going to daily Mass and serving as soon as I could. I grew up around priests, and I got to know them, so it never occurred to me that a priest could be like that,” he said.

His discernment involved a bit more understanding of how the view of the priesthood has changed in the culture around him.

“I’m used to the jokes about the abuse crisis, but it’s a part of the culture now to think that way,” he said. “I grew up with the jokes

about priests, but they were just jokes, so it didn’t really occur to me that people would think about me that way if I went into the seminary.”

Thornton attributes a great deal of this ability to see priesthood apart from the cultural perceptions of it to the Safe Environment policies established in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops in June 2002.

In their recent revision of the Charter, the bishops of the United States wrote that, “Safe environment programs are in place to assist parents and children—and those who work with children—in preventing harm to young people. These programs continually seek to incorporate the most useful developments in the field of child protection.”

For 17 years, the Church has worked to integrate the protections of the Charter into the daily life of parishes and clergy. While this work is challenging and painful, and involves some new ways of thinking and ministering for older priests, the effects of it are positive for young men discerning God's call.

Thornton said, "I grew up with the safe environment changes with priests, so, for me, that was just the ways things were—there was going to be some separation in youth events. I never really had a thought that this was somehow 'added.' As far as I knew, this was just how normal adults acted."

Father Jordan Samson, vocations director for the diocese and pastor of Christ the King in Sioux Falls, sees the current climate and cultural view of priesthood as having a definite impact on the internal and spiritual dialogue between God and the one He is calling.

"Now, perhaps more than ever, it's countercultural to listen to this call, and it takes courage," he said.

Some of that courage is needed due to the changes in support a man discerning a vocation would traditionally have received. Father Samson said, "I think there are young men discerning now who may not have the same family support they may have had years ago."

While Thornton has strong support from his family, he has felt concern from others.

"People have expressed concern with the Church, and they wonder how I can be doing what I'm doing

with all the news about the crisis."

This has challenged him to look at the Church in different ways.

"You start to see the Church is human, and it's flawed, but even more, you see Christ in the people you are serving," Thornton said.

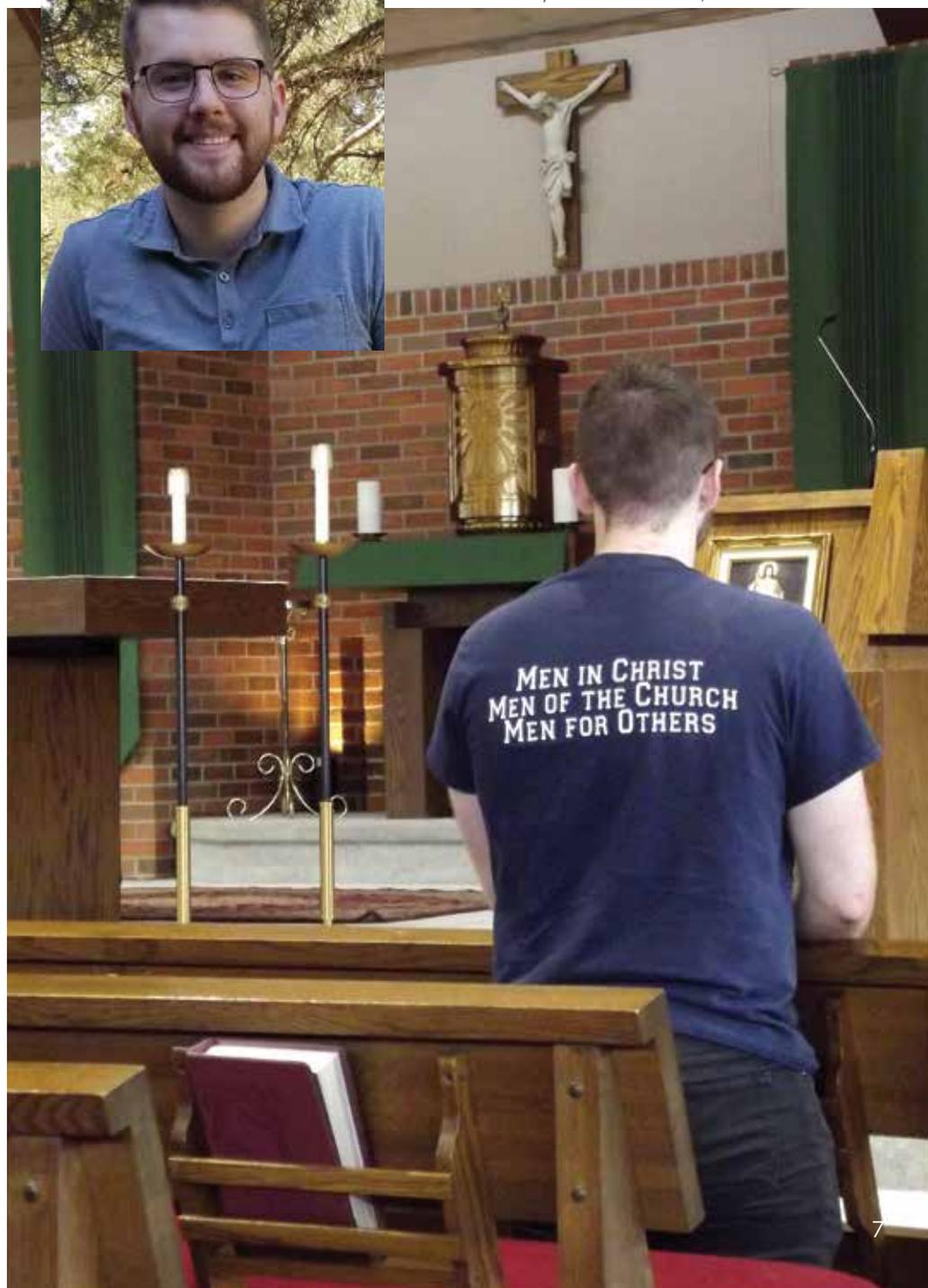
Father Samson sees his vocations ministry, in a strong way, as

helping young men who are listening for that call to discover the courage they need, and to embrace what is positive in discerning it for themselves.

"When you're called, you can know the facts and figures about priesthood today, but it is still your call, and it would be sad to deny that," Father Samson said.



Gerald Thornton, seminarian currently studying at St. John Vianney Seminary at the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota





Father Jordan Samson, pastor of Christ the King, Sioux Falls, and Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Sioux Falls

“It’s a beautiful time to be a priest.”

He sees the call of Christ to the priesthood today as a challenge, but also a unique opportunity to live the Gospel.

“Being a priest is an amazing life, and in today’s particular culture, practicing the Gospel is more radical because of the contrast with our culture.”

Formation of a Priest

John Paul II wrote, “A vocation is a fathomless mystery involving the relationship established by God with human beings in their absolute uniqueness, a mystery perceived and heard as a call which awaits a response in the depths of one’s conscience...But this does not eliminate the communitarian,

and in particular, the ecclesial dimension of vocation. The Church is also truly present and at work in the vocation of every priest.” (PDV, 38)

The Church uses seminaries to teach and form men for the priesthood.

While many of the academic and spiritual aspects of seminary formation remain the same, the manner of formation is ever evolving and changing with each generation. Today’s climate has also had an impact on how men are prepared for ordination.

Father Lacey felt the change in his seminary experience during his first year.

“I was in pre-theology when the events in Boston, the abuse, the

scandal, began to be revealed,” he said. “It became part of the conversation, but it was always ‘out there.’ That happened ‘out there.’”

When he entered the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity in Saint Paul, Minnesota, “out there” moved closer to home. He said, “The lawsuits started in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul/Minneapolis, and then, the conversations were all the time.”

The emotional impact underlying these conversations was strongly felt by the seminarians on a personal level.

Father Lacey said, “There was frustration expressed because they had this aspiration to the priesthood, and then they saw these men who had betrayed

everything they aspired to become. I had some anger on a human level to see these men fail so catastrophically.”

In response to this anger, Father Lacey spoke openly with his fellow seminarians, friends and those responsible for his formation.

He also took it to prayer.

“As the saying goes, ‘I took yesterday’s news into today’s holy hour.’ I found myself asking the Lord how this can happen in the priesthood and how He could be calling me into this priesthood,” Father Lacey said. “Every time I thought about it, or heard about it, I took it to prayer and asked, ‘Are you still calling me into this life?’”

He said the answer was always the same.

“The answer was always ‘yes.’ He told me God’s people still need good priests. There is still work to do, and the priesthood is bigger than the failings of its members; it’s a call from Christ.”

In order for men in priestly formation to more clearly hear this call from Christ, John Paul II wrote, “The...seminary should strive to become ‘a community built on deep friendship and charity so that it can be considered a true family living in joy.’” (PDV, 60)

This “deep friendship and charity” in today’s climate can be an invaluable gift for a young man responding to Christ’s call.

Thornton said, “We know (as seminarians) we can step out the door and be seen as terrible, so we

find a great deal of support in the seminary community.”

He sees the impact of this support in the individual men in formation.

“There are so many signs of hope, everyone is so committed to his formation and his spiritual life,” Thornton said. “We have always been encouraged to go to counseling, if needed, for depression or anxiety, and it’s not taboo at all. Everyone wants to work on his issues, emotionally and otherwise, to be humanly healthy and to bring their vices to the light.”

This includes a seminary formation that is thoroughly committed to the bishop’s mandates regarding Safe Environment training. Thornton said this training takes place right away.

“It can be a little discouraging, but then you realize all the practical steps taken are having an effect. It gives you an added awareness.”

Father Lacey said, “Everything in the seminary was magnified and seen under the lens of Safe Environment. It could be tiresome at times, because it was hammered in, which is good because everyone comes to understand what the expectations are and need to be.”

Today, however, even the safety of the seminary cannot be taken for granted. A year ago, credible allegations of abuse were made against Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, which included the abuse of adult seminarians.

Thornton said the reaction from the seminary in Saint Paul was

swift. The archdiocesan lawyer and an ombudsman, who is not employed by the archdiocese, were sent to the seminary to give the seminarians a confidential place to report if they had been abused. The rector of the seminary sent a letter to the bishops of the seminarians detailing how they are being kept safe.

Thornton said, “Bishop Swain immediately sent the letter to the parents of seminarians. He said he is always willing to speak with them if they have any concerns. I know my parents were happy the bishop sent it to them, to show he does care about our safety as seminarians.”

In the day-to-day living within the seminary community, Thornton said, “I do feel safe. I know the seminary and I know the priests there, and I know how our response is to continue to pray and to work on our own formation. There are no gray areas in formation; it’s all out in the open.”

Father Samson sees all the aspects of formation within the seminary community as necessary for men “to just be human, to be a man who knows himself and his limits, who loves life, who laughs and cries and shares his heart with people.”

Rather than being a hindrance, the culture today is challenging seminarians in new ways.

“Today, the seminarians for our diocese seem even more excited because of the climate, even more eager to serve and to show the courage needed to be a priest,” Father Samson said.

Living the Call

O Father, you desire all of us to be happy. Stir the grace of the Holy Spirit in these men searching out their vocation to the priesthood. 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 be inspired to consider service as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters to bring the truths of our Catholic faith to all others. May we all strive to know, love and serve You all our days.

Amen



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After seminary formation, a man is presented for ordination and then, traditionally, is sent to a parish. There he can put what he has learned in seminary into practice, and to live his priesthood as a man with a healthy spirituality, a strong academic life, and an authentic humanity.

As John Paul II taught, “The formation of future priests... and lifelong assiduous care for their personal sanctification in the ministry and for the constant updating of their pastoral commitment is considered by the Church one of the most demanding and important tasks for the future of the evangelization of humanity.” (PDV, 2)

For Father Lacey, this means living his priesthood in a church that has embraced even greater openness and transparency in ministry.

“To be honest, it doesn’t come up very often, but if it comes up in the news I’ll address it, and preach on it, and people are pleased I approach the topic,” he said. “After Mass, some people will thank me or tell me they’ve been thinking about it or worrying about it.”

One of the positive aspects of the crisis is a renewed sense of the priesthood itself.

Father Samson said, “There is a tension in loving the office of the priest and honoring that, and the need to confront clericalism. There is a strong need today for men to be formed to be humble and unpretentious, to learn how to be with people in their lives with grace, and to just be human.”

For Father Samson, families are not only the source of vocations in the church but are also a source of

inspiration in living that vocation.

“Priests come from families; they don’t fall out of thin air,” he said. “My five brothers, living healthy marriages, teach me how to be a priest and about the sacrifices needed. If I am ever tempted to think I’m better than my brothers because I’m a priest, I just watch them take care of their children.

“My family keeps me grounded; they love my priesthood, but I’m always going to be Jordan to them.”

Younger priests, formed in a time of crisis, are using the challenges of the past as an opportunity to embrace more fully their “personal sanctification and...pastoral commitment.” Father Samson said, “It drives me to live the life of Christ even more, and the simplicity of the Gospel. It calls me to remember why Christ is so important.”

Father Lacey realizes that young men discerning a vocation to the priesthood face unique challenges on their journey, as did he, but he would ask them, as a part of that discernment, to keep a positive perspective.

“There’s always been crisis in the Church, and in the world, but the message has always been the same,” Father Lacy said. “Jesus Christ is our consolation in crisis, and we need men to bring Him through the sacraments.”

With the opportunities for growth, opportunities for human as well as priestly formation, that are present in the Church today, a time of crisis becomes a time of courage, of compassion, of sacrifice and love. Father Samson said, “It’s a beautiful time to be a priest.”

Do bioethics techniques respect our human dignity?

Recent headlines have made my head spin.

For example, a new scientific technique, termed “mitochondrial transfer,” has raised the specter of human beings scientifically engineered from three or more “parents,” with numerous actual cases reported. Along similar lines, CRISPR technology, the molecular tool designed to edit genes, has been used to genetically modify babies. “Should the rich be allowed to buy the best genes?” is now a real question one headline poses, not a line from an Aldous Huxley novel.

Follow that with a report in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine* this spring that “a man delivered a stillborn baby.” A woman, who identified herself as a “transgender man,” went to an emergency room with severe abdominal pain. Her medical records identified her as a male, so she wasn’t triaged with a pregnancy in mind. By the time she was seen, her baby had died.



Last, consider the news from Nebraska this April that “a 61-year-old woman gave birth to her own grandchild for her son and son-in-law.” The woman served as a surrogate for her son and his same-sex partner using in vitro fertilization and gametes from both the 61-year-old woman’s son and his partner’s sister.

This is heavy stuff and highlights two characteristics of our age: previously unthinkable technological developments, and the “autonomous self,” that is, a belief that there are no due limits to what a person can or should do, so long as they want it.

In light of these strong cultural currents and rapid technological advances, we might wonder, is there any solid ground on which we can stand? Yes!

We find this stable ground in answering the call to holiness, in love and truth. It’s with this in mind that many are delving once more into the teaching of St. John Paul II.

What does it mean to be human? What is my body for? How do I learn to give and receive love? Does it even matter?

From 1979 to 1984, St. John Paul II unpacked these questions in a series of 129 Wednesday afternoon discourses given to those gathered in St. Peter’s square. As a man who had experienced deep suffering—he lost his mother, brother and father in his youth, and he lived under brutal Nazi and Soviet regimes—St. John Paul II knew these questions weren’t pie-in-the-sky but were deeply important to living an authentically human life in this vale of tears.

In this series of reflections, known as the “Theology of the Body,” the Holy Father begins with an extended reflection on Jesus’s words as recorded in Matthew’s Gospel: “from the beginning it was not so” (cf. Mt. 19).

Why start here? Because from the very beginning, St. John Paul II emphasized, God inscribed order and purpose into our human nature. This deep meaning runs through our souls and our bodies, through which we give and receive love. The great Polish pope believed if we didn’t come to see the spiritual purposes built into the order of our bodies as given to us by God “from the beginning,” humans would come to see themselves more and more as objects to be used and manipulated at will, rather than subjects called to and capable of great virtue.

St. John Paul II’s teaching, which affirmed the perennial Tradition of the faith, reminds us we can never treat other persons as mere objects to be manipulated—created and structured according to our own will. But, in order to act with virtue, that is, to act in accord with our God-given nature, we must



Christopher Motz, Executive Director, South Dakota Catholic Conference

always accept others as a gift, respecting the inherent order of God’s creation.

Such a life of virtue isn’t something we arbitrarily stumble into; it requires that we put on the mind of Christ and think deeply with the Church about the ways in which certain technologies lead us to treat humans as objects to be used, not human persons capable of great love.

For this reason the South Dakota Catholic Conference and the Diocesan Office for Marriage, Family, and Reflect Life are hosting Jennifer Lahl, the president of the Center for Bioethics and Culture, for *But Should We? The Ethics of Artificial Reproductive Technology* at Holy Spirit Parish in Sioux Falls at 7 p.m. on September 10.

Mrs. Lahl, a pediatric nurse, bioethicist and renowned documentary filmmaker, will be speaking about the ethical concerns presented by artificial reproductive technology. She approaches these issues from the standpoint of natural law and right reason, focusing on the real-life concerns that arise with practices such as egg harvesting, sperm donation and surrogacy.

Mrs. Lahl is accustomed to speaking to Catholic and non-Catholic audiences alike, so feel free to bring a curious friend. The event is made possible through the generosity of the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota. No RSVP is necessary.

Can we b

A saint is just a sinv

You get a sneak peak! "Can we be saints?" is a new series that will be launched on the diocesan website www.sfcatholic.org this month. Regularly, we'll introduce you to a saint in a new way, not with just a boring old bio. We'll show you how saints struggled and lived very much like we do today. They're more like us than we could ever imagine. Visit www.sfcatholic.org/saints to see future stories of how our lives and saints lives intersect.

By Renae Kranz

Have you ever had to wait a long time to get something you really wanted in life? Maybe you've waited a long time to meet your ideal spouse, and the wrong people keep sending you off track. Or you can't seem to land that job you've been working toward for years.

The road blocks keep popping up. The waiting drags on.

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne faced the same problems. She's probably not a saint you've heard of before, but she overcame road blocks and waiting in her own life. And maybe she can inspire you to face them head on in yours.

While growing up in Grenoble, France, in the late 1700s, Rose felt called to enter the religious life early on, but her father objected. She tapped into her strong will and desire to serve God to overcome that road block and entered the convent of the order of the Visitation of Holy Mary when she turned 18.

Unfortunately, the revolutionaries of the French Revolution's Reign of Terror closed or suppressed all religious houses. Dejected and likely terrified, Rose went back home and tried to live out her vows for the next 11 years. She helped others suffering from the ravages of war and even those imprisoned at the former monastery during this dark time in France's history.

Did you give up the first time a road block was put in your path? The courage to press on is often the difference between success and failure, and maybe the difference between becoming a saint or becoming, well, not a saint.

After I graduated from college, I worked for a daily newspaper for about a year. I quickly figured out the life of a newspaper reporter wasn't for me, but I still loved writing. I moved and couldn't find a job as a writer. This was my first road block to my calling. And I'm sorry to say, I didn't choose my next steps very well.

Rose struggled too. Post revolution, she tried and failed to revive the monastery because the living conditions were just too harsh to keep it going. She accepted an offer in 1804 to merge with another religious community, the Society of the Sacred Heart. Now she was getting somewhere. She became a superior and supervised a school in the new convent in Paris.

All through her life, a desire to serve Native Americans in the New World grew in Rose, but she couldn't figure out how to accomplish that goal. It would be 13 more years before she would get her chance. Talk about waiting!

I waited almost 20 years to start my journey back to writing.

Those years weren't wasted though. I learned a lot about myself and my abilities. I explored new career paths very different from writing. But none of those careers seemed to really fit. I was tired of flopping around, not knowing what was next.

Rose did a lot better than I did during her waiting, but she waited nonetheless. Finally in 1817, the Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana and the Two Floridas, William Dubourg, visited the convent in Paris. Rose's dream seemed within reach. Bishop Dubourg was looking for educators to come to America to evangelize the Native American and French children of the diocese. She begged her superior for permission to serve and was finally granted it.

Rose left the next year at age 49, traveling by sea for 10 weeks to reach New Orleans and then on a steamboat up the Mississippi River for seven more weeks to arrive in St. Louis. Here, another road block was erected. Rose would not be assigned in St. Louis as expected. She was needed instead in St. Charles, Missouri, a remote village on the frontier.

Can you imagine her disappointment? Just when she thought she was going to fulfill her heart's desire, the Lord asked her to wait again. And this time, the road block almost did her in.

In St. Charles, she founded the first house of the Society of the Sacred Heart outside of France, but the harshness of the frontier was nearly too much for her. Extreme cold, hard work, lack of money and difficulty with communication made things more difficult than even a tough woman like Rose expected.

My conditions were also getting tough. I had been running a home staging business for about seven years. The problem? I wasn't getting any traction. I felt busy, but I wasn't making any real money. I had to face the fact that I needed a new job, one that would pay me a regular salary so we could pay the mortgage. It was a difficult realization, but you do what you have to do. In my case, I got a job as an administrative assistant at an accounting firm.



**St. Rose
Philippine
Duchesne**

Be saints?

Her who keeps trying



For Rose, the conditions she and the other sisters faced eventually forced them to relocate to Florissant, Missouri. The new location was a vast improvement. By 1828, the sisters had grown their work to six communities and several schools for the young women of Missouri and Louisiana. Although Rose was accomplishing much, she was still waiting. Her opportunity to fulfill her long-held desire to serve the Native Americans would soon present itself.

Think of the patience this must have taken for Rose. All these years, she served faithfully where ever she was called, even when it wasn't what she wanted. Sound familiar?

Maybe we don't always serve so faithfully, but we can. And the Lord will always lead us down the path we're supposed to take if we listen to His promptings. It's so hard to see while we're traveling it, but He's there.

I knew He was there when my opportunity to get back to writing turned up just around the corner as well.

I started taking writing classes to polish my skills while working the administrative assistant job.

After a few years, I knew I had to find a way back to writing as my

full-time job. I applied for writing work, but no one would give me a chance because I had been out of the business for too long. Another road block.

This time I didn't let the road block stop me. I started my own freelance writing business on the side, working with businesses to write their marketing materials. I picked up clients and had some work. I knew I would have to wait a while before I could quit my day job (there's that dreaded waiting again). But suddenly, the Lord intervened, quite literally it seemed.

Let's finish up Rose's story first.

In 1841 at age 72, Rose was retired and frail, but when the call finally came to serve the Native Americans, she would accept it happily. A Jesuit priest at the mission in Sugar Creek, Kansas, requested Rose and three other religious sisters to come start a school for Potawatomi girls.

Though her health was her final roadblock, she did what she

could for the fledgling school. She spent most of her time in prayer for the students and those running the school, becoming known as "Woman Who Prays Always." After only a year, she was sent back to St. Charles because of her poor health, but she had finally done the one thing she longed to do.

Rose died November 18, 1852, at 83. She was canonized a saint in 1988.

As for me, my husband happened to notice an ad in our Sunday bulletin for the position of managing editor/writer for our diocesan publication, The Bishop's Bulletin. I figured it couldn't hurt to apply.

Thankfully, my soon-to-be boss was able to do what so many others couldn't do in the past: look at my resume and see me as someone who could use all my varied experiences (previously road blocks) to do the job. I believe the Lord stepped in.

All those years while I felt like a failure for floundering in my professional life were necessary to bring me to this place, this job, this calling.

***"Profit by the little trials
that come to you, for through them
we make real progress."***

Interestingly, Rose felt at different times during her service that she had failed, too. She once said about her work soon after arriving in St. Charles, "...the dear Lord has favored us with a share of His cross. The greatest and undoubtedly the hardest to bear is the lack of success in our work here. If a saint had been in charge, all would have gone well." Little did she know that a future saint was indeed in charge.

When the world puts road blocks in your way and the waiting seems too much to bear, remember that God has a plan for you. My own experience has borne that out over and over. I don't usually know where I'm being led, but suddenly something will happen that brings the journey I've taken so far into sharp focus.

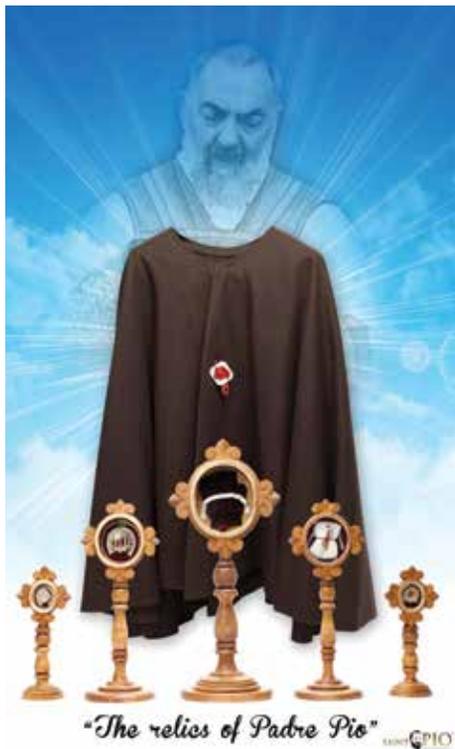
Am I comparing myself to a saint? No way. But as you can see, the saints faced many of the same challenges we do. They found a way to serve the Lord in all kinds of adversity.

We all have a long way to go to be holy. But we're all called to try. And we have to trust the Lord. Difficult, I know. Even for those who become canonized saints.

Keep pressing on. The road to holiness is possible for each of us, and Rose has some final encouragement to help.

"We may not understand His Will for us in time, but in eternity the veil will be drawn and we shall see that He acted only for our happiness. Let us bear our cross and leave it to God to determine the length and the weight."

St. Pio of Pietrelcina:



The relics of St. Pio of Pietrelcina (better known as St. Padre Pio) will be visiting the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Sunday, September 29, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A Mass to honor St. Pio will be celebrated at 4 p.m.

This event is part of the "Relics Tour of St. Padre Pio" sponsored by the St. Pio Foundation, a nonprofit charity dedicated to the promotion of the spiritual charism of St. Pio.

The relics of St. Pio available for public veneration will include his glove, a crust of the wounds of his stigmata, cotton gauze with blood stains, a lock of hair, his mantle, and a handkerchief soaked with his sweat hours before he died.

Cathedral of Saint Joseph rector Father James Morgan sees this as a great opportunity for the people in the diocese.

"For the Cathedral of Saint Joseph to be chosen as a host site for the relics is

indeed a privilege for all the faithful of the diocese who have known of St. Padre Pio and have always wanted to encounter the saint in a personal way," Father Morgan said.

The veneration of relics is as old as the Church herself. Father Morgan says in the very beginnings of the Church, the first bishops and priests of Rome celebrated Mass over the graves of martyred saints,

"Pray, hope and don't worry."

– St. Padre Pio

often becoming martyrs themselves in the process. They venerated them because their lives had a great impact on the faith.

"Christians have been venerating the relics of saints for centuries, first, because it



Governor Kristi Noem has farmed and ranched in South Dakota for many years. She's pictured here touring flood-damaged areas.

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Relics to visit diocese as part of tour

recognizes a particular saint's holiness of life. Thus, it then inspires us to embrace holiness of life," Father Morgan said. "Second, and more importantly, we venerate relics as a form of worship to God. We don't worship the relics. We worship the God who made their saintly lives a testament to His goodness and omnipotence."

He says venerating relics can have a supernatural effect. Many healings have been recorded after the faithful visit or venerate relics or holy sites. At the very least, you should expect to see something extraordinary in the ordinary.

The word relic means "a fragment" or "remnant of a thing that once was but now is no longer." The relics of St. Pio that will be on display will be from all three classes of relics:

- First class – a relic of the body or fragments of the body of the saint, in this case the lock of hair and crusts from St. Pio's wounds

- Second class – something personally owned by the saint, in this case the mantle
- Third class – items a saint touched or that have been touched to a first- or second-class relic of a saint, in this case the glove and handkerchief

Father Morgan says St. Pio has left an "indelible mark on the faith of believers," perhaps only behind two other modern-day saints, St. John Paul II and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. His story is one of a powerful faith with plenty of difficulties and trials along the way.

"He had the gift to read into people's souls. He received the stigmata (wounds of Christ) that were both a blessing and a curse. Healings happened when he prayed over someone, and they continue to happen through the invocation of his intercession," Father Morgan said.



If you want to learn more about St. Padre Pio, a more in-depth bio will be available at our new saint's page on the diocesan website September 15. Visit www.sf-catholic.org/saints to read more about him before visiting the relics.

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 Mitchell
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First day of school Catholic schools ready for a new year



Kids from all over the diocese went back to school in August. Pictures bottom middle and bottom right: kids from John Paul II in Mitchell enjoy story time and others get a welcome "five" from the DWU football team. Photos top and bottom left and top right: kids at St. Katharine Drexel and O'Gorman Junior High in Sioux Falls arrive for their first day.



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Conference inspires Catholics to bring their faith to work



Area business people seeking to integrate faith into the workplace gathered for the 2019 Faith and Business Conference in August. The conference featured speakers who helped show attendees how to take faith principals and turn them into business practices—taking Sunday into Monday.

Speakers included Catherine Pakaluk, assistant professor of Social Research and Economic Thought at The Catholic University of America, Tom

Morgan, Vistage Chair, and Father James Mason, president and rector at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Father Mason also celebrated Mass with the attendees.

The conference attracted around 250 people. To watch all of the keynote speakers' talks, go to www.faihandbusinessconference.com. Next year's conference will feature Super Bowl Champion and six-time Pro-Bowl NFL offensive lineman Matt Birk as one of the keynote speakers.

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September 2019 - The Bishop's Bulletin

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Help Wanted

Sacred Heart Parish Seeks A Director of Music

Sacred Heart Catholic Church has an opening for a full-time Director of Music. The successful applicant will work as a vital part of the parish staff team to bring the parish vision of 'Inviting Everyone to Passionately Live the Gospel' to realization, specifically through the work of sacred music. Tasks include coordinating music to enhance the liturgical services of the parish, including selecting music, playing the organ and piano for liturgies, directing choirs, coordinating cantors and accompanists, and maintaining the pipe organ and piano.

A full job description can be found at sacredheartaberdeen.net/employment-opportunities. Interested candidates are asked to send a copy of their resume and an accompanying cover letter to Fr. Mark Lichter, Pastor of Sacred Heart, at sacredheartaberdeen@gmail.com, or by mail to 502 2nd Ave SE Aberdeen, SD 57401.

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Tues Oct 1st- Birthday of the Store + Door Prizes!

Wed Oct 2nd- Decorating Angel Cookies

Thurs Oct 3rd- Rosary & Rosary Hanger craft

Fri Oct 4th- Blessing of Pets with Msgr Charles Mangan @ 5pm

Sat Oct 5th- Birthday Party Finale!

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M-F 9:00am - 8:00 pm

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NO HARM WHATSOEVER,
BUT INSTEAD PERFECTS ALL
THINGS.”

~ ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Anniversary Masses put the commitment of couples on display for Christian faithful

Bishop Paul J. Swain celebrated the first of two annual anniversary Masses to honor couples who have enjoyed the Sacrament of Marriage for 25 years or more. The Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls was held August 18 and included a reception and the opportunity for photos with the bishop.



The Church holds the Sacrament of Marriage in high esteem because strong marriages build strong families that reflect the Trinity, which in turn creates a solid foundation on which to build the Church. Recognition of marriage in the Church shows other couples a good example of Christian love and sacrifice.

Emily Leedom, director of Marriage, Family and Respect Life for the diocese, has been inspired by what she has seen at these Masses.

“A few years ago I saw an

elderly couple who had been married 73 years. The tenderness they had toward one another, helping one another when their frailty made it difficult to help themselves, changed the way I approach my husband,” Leedom said. “We all need witnesses of that kind of love.”

Marriage can be hard even for the happiest couples, but God is always involved and always



Couples pray together during Mass. (photos by Bill Sealey)

ready to help.

“Marriage is messy and complicated,” Leedom said. “But marriage lived authentically is also deeply joyful, profound and transformative. We need to

celebrate the joy of marriage lived well—as a beacon of hope in a world of confusion regarding love’s potential.”

The second anniversary Mass will be in Aberdeen Sept. 8 at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish.

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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.

Sept 17: What is Grace? Cooperating with the power of God - directed by Fr. Tom Anderson	Oct 15: St. Teresa of Avila, Practical Spirituality of Falling in Love with Jesus - directed by Fr. Joe Forcelle
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SPECIAL RETREATS

Oct 11-13: Inner Healing Retreat - directed by Mike Snyder & Jane Barz	Dec 6-8: Couples Retreat - directed by Fr. John Rutten
Oct 20-24: Fall Priest Retreat - directed by Fr. James Steffes	Dec 14: One Day Silent Retreat - directed by Fr. Steven Jones


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Committed in CHRIST



ABERDEEN – Carrol and Regina Reis will celebrate their 60th anniversary on September 10. They have 7 children (1 deceased), 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren and are members of Sacred Heart Parish.



ARMOUR – Rich and Jeanne Soulek celebrated their 62nd anniversary on August 7. They are members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish.



CLEAR LAKE – Joe and Clarice Uckert will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 22. They have 6 children, 12 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



DELL RAPIDS – Richard and Rosalie Gannon celebrated their 60th anniversary on August 22. They have 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



DIMOCK – Tom and Jeanne Weber will celebrate their 60th anniversary on September 23. They have 7 children (1 deceased), 14 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



DIMOCK – Eldon and Tina Hohn will celebrate their 60th anniversary on September 9. They have 5 children (1 deceased), 10 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.



MADISON – Halley and Nancy Riedel celebrated their 50th anniversary on August 22. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.



MILBANK – George and Berniece Folk will celebrate their 72nd anniversary on September 29. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Lawrence Parish.



MILBANK – Brian and Mary Lou Bullert will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 22. They have 4 children (3 deceased) and are members of St. Lawrence Parish.



MILLER – David and Derla Simons celebrated their 60th anniversary on August 1. They have 10 children, 32 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Ann Parish.



MITCHELL – Gayland and Bernice Trudeau will celebrate their 70th anniversary on September 14. They have 11 children, 25 grandchildren (1 deceased) and 17 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



MITCHELL – Gary and Julie Kunkel will celebrate their 45th anniversary on September 14. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



MITCHELL – Ken and Joanne Geraets will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 13. They have 5 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



ONIDA – Dan and Colleen Lamb will celebrate their 45th anniversary on September 14. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and are members of St. Pius X Parish.



REVILLO – Charles and Joyce Meyer will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 13. They have 5 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of Annunciation Parish.



ROSHOLT – Dan and Heather Lick will celebrate their 25th anniversary on September 24. They have 4 children and are members of St. John the Baptist Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Jeff and Angie Westwick will celebrate their 25th anniversary on September 3. They are members of St. Katharine Drexel Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Ernie and Anna Ortega will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 13. They have 1 child, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



TYNDALL – Dave and Jolene Vavruska will celebrate their 45th anniversary on September 13. They have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Leo the Great Parish.



TYNDALL – Howard and Mary Hajek will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 7. They are members of St. Leo Parish.

Continued on next page



WATERTOWN – Lynn and Lana Waege will celebrate their 25th anniversary on September 10. They have 4 children and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



YANKTON – Dennis and Sherryl O'Rourke will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 26. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of Sacred Heart Parish.



CLARK – Bob and Marlys Benson will celebrate their 45th anniversary on September 21. They have 5 children, 20 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Michael Parish.

YANKTON – Mark and Patricia Hunhoff will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 20. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of Sacred Heart Parish.

HURON – David and Jamie Nemmers will celebrate their 25th anniversary on September 23. They have 4 children and are members of Holy Trinity Parish.

Sister Helen Ripplinger dies at 92

Sister Helen Ripplinger, 92, a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, died on July 17 at Avera Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 20 in Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Presentation Convent, Aberdeen. Interment followed at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Helen Ripplinger was born September 27, 1926, in Trail City, South Dakota, to Magdelina (Meier) and Joseph Ripplinger.

Helen graduated from the South Dakota School for the Blind in 1945. She attended Northern



Sr. Helen Ripplinger

State College, Presentation College and later Lighthouse School for the Blind in Chicago.

She entered Presentation Convent September 8, 1949, and made her profession of vows on August 10, 1952.

Sister Helen ministered at (Avera) St. Luke's Hospital from 1952 to 1996 in many positions including receptionist, medical transcriptionist and TelMed clerk. She is remembered for singing in the choir, cantoring and lecturing at Sacred Heart Parish.

She is survived by her community family of Presentation Sisters; 3 sisters Julie Lynch, Mary Weber, Rose Ann Belcher; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; 4 brothers Peter, Joachim, Edward, and LeRoy; and 1 sister Frances Birchard.

Anniversary submissions

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by September 16 for inclusion in the October 2019 edition to:
The Bishop's Bulletin
523 North Duluth Avenue
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Upcoming EVENTS

24th Annual Bishop's Charity Hunt

Support college students' faith through Catholic Campus Ministries

Bishop Paul J. Swain and priests from the diocese will trade in their traditional black for blaze orange hunting gear during the Bishop's Charity Hunt on September 23 and 24, sponsored by the Catholic Community Foundation of Eastern South Dakota.

The fields at Horseshoe K Ranch in Kimball offer a perfect setting for the two-day pheasant hunt. All proceeds help support the Catholic Newman Centers at the four state universities in eastern South Dakota: SDSU in Brookings, USD in Vermillion, NSU in Aberdeen and DSU in Madison.

Father Andrew Dickinson, director of the Pius XII Newman Center in Brookings and pastor at St. Paul Parish in White, knows pheasants are plentiful and an important part of South Dakota's economic and cultural lifeblood. So why pay

money to hunt them when you could just ask an area farmer to hunt in his field?

"The Bishop's Charity Hunt is more than just a chance to blast some birds. It's a chance to support the future of eastern South Dakota," Father Dickinson says. "It is in college where the future leaders of agriculture, business, medicine and education are making their life-long decisions for Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church. If we want to have healthy families, towns and economies for the future of South Dakota, then we have to support Catholic Newman Centers and Campus Ministries."

Eighty percent of Catholics leave the faith between the ages of 18 and 24. Decisions made during university years will impact the rest of one's life. Strong Catholic



Hunters walk fields at Horseshoe K Ranch in Kimball during last year's Bishop's Charity Hunt. (photo courtesy of the Catholic Community Foundation of Eastern South Dakota)

Campus Ministry forms the leaders of tomorrow in our society and our Church—from strong husbands and wives to dynamic priests and religious.

Father Dickinson has noticed that news media narratives often portray college students as lazy, party animals, and incapable of criticism. But he sees the students involved in the Newman Centers as "truly breaking the mold in regard to those narratives and expectations."

"When a college student decides to make Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith a priority in their life, a wide range of options are available: discernment of religious life and priesthood, what sort of spouse they want to have, or how

they will live as a nurse, teacher or farmer," he says.

Father Dickinson says the Bishop's Charity Hunt is an opportunity to support a powerful cause, even if you have other options for hunting pheasants.

"Help us form the leaders of tomorrow. In the lives and stories of college graduates impacted by Campus Ministries, you can see how they break the mold and lead to a future full of hope," he says.

Join the bishop and many others to support this great cause. Lodging is on-site and included in the fee. For more information or to register, visit www.ccfesd.org or call 605-988-3765.

St Michael Parish Pub Trivia Night Saturday, September 28th 7-10pm

1600 S Marion Rd, Sioux Falls

Gather your friends for a night of fun
and compete for prizes.

- Build your own trivia table of 8 or we will build one for you, \$10 per seat.
- Cash bar/food and other cash games available
- Table reservations/tickets sold after Masses and via email to Karen Boone kjcboone@gmail.com
- Contact Rhonda Kelsey 360-3772 with any questions.

 This is a 21 and over event that will help to provide Agua for Guatemala, the St Michael Parish Guatemalan Water Project.



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Directed by Joe Rutten
Director of the Benedictine Leadership Institute

for more information and registration:
holyspiritmen.org/mens-retreat or call 605-360-2750



Parish Dinners/Socials

Sept. 8: Immaculate Conception Parish, Watertown, fall festival dinner; serving 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; turkey dinner with all the trimmings and homemade pies; tickets are \$10 each or \$25 per family; take-out meals are \$10; raffle prizes include a cash giveaway of \$1,000.

Sept. 8: St. George Parish, Scotland, will host its annual fall supper. Enjoy broasted chicken, baked ham, cheesy potatoes, salads and pie served from 4-7 p.m. Take part in a raffle at 7 p.m.

Sept. 14: St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Hoven, annual church bazaar "Harvesting Faith" will begin with Mass at 4:30 p.m. A pork-chop meal will be served from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. Entertainment will include games, raffle prizes and paddle wheel items.

Sept. 15: St. Mary Parish, Dell Rapids, is hosting a Turkey Dinner and Bazaar from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 7-12, \$2 for ages 3-6, and ages 2 and under are free. Carry outs are available for \$12.

Sept. 22: St. Peter Parish, Colman, Roast Beef Dinner at the parish hall. Serving from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$10 and children 10 and under are \$3. Carry outs available.

Sept. 22: Sacred Heart Parish, Westport, annual chicken dinner. Serving from 4-7 p.m. Enjoy chicken, potatoes, dressing, corn and pie.

Sept. 29: Holy Rosary Parish, Kranzburg, roast beef dinner and bazaar from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the parish hall. Cost of the meal is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 7-12, \$2 for ages 3-6 and ages 2 and under are free. Raffles and a variety of games and activities will be included.

Sept. 29: St. Liborius Parish, Polo, annual bazaar in the Polo Gym. A roast beef and turkey meal will be served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Bingo, kids games, raffles and much more until 4 p.m.

Oct. 6: Sioux Falls Serra Club hosting Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Christ the King School gym, 26th and Lake, Sioux Falls. Cost is a free will donation. Money raised will go toward seminarian education.

Oct. 6: St. Wenceslaus Parish, Tabor, bazaar. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Enjoy chicken, dumplings, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, vegetable and fruit salad, kolache, rolls and assorted pies.

Parish Dinners/Socials

Oct. 6: St. James Parish, Chamberlain, Fall Festival; lunch and silent auction immediately following 10:30 a.m. Mass. Enjoy ham, cheesy hashbrowns, green beans, salads and pie.

Oct. 6: St. Stephen Parish, Bridgewater, annual Whole Hog Sausage Supper. Serving family style from 3-7 p.m. Whole hog sausage sales begins at 1:30 p.m.

Oct. 13: St. Boniface Parish, Idylwilde (rural Freeman), annual fall supper from 4-7 p.m. Serving broasted chicken and pork chops, cheesy potatoes, vegetable, salads, rolls, dessert and beverage. Cost is ages 13 to adult \$11, ages 5-12 \$7 and 4 and under are free.

Recitation of the rosary planned

Friday, Sept. 6 - 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.

Recitation of the rosary planned in the

Mother's Garden - The Office of the Marian Apostolate will sponsor the recitation of the rosary in the Mother's Garden near the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Sioux Falls at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12, Tuesday, Sept. 17, and Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Pax Christi Southeastern SD to meet

Saturday, Sept. 14 - Pax Christi Southeastern SD meeting is set for 1-3 p.m. at Caminando Juntos, 617 E. 7th St., Sioux Falls. Contact Sister Pegge at 274-3735.

Novena for Our Nation

Sunday, Oct. 13 - Recite the rosary daily as part of the nationwide 54-Day Rosary "Novena for Our Nation," which began on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, and will conclude on the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, October 7. The special intentions for the Novena are for deeper respect for: the dignity of human life, especially that of preborn children; marriage; the family; and religious freedom. The rosary will be prayed in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13, to coincide with the National Rosary Rally in front of the U. S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. For more information, contact the Office of the Marian Apostolate 605 521-0175.

Search for Christian Maturity retreat set

Oct. 25-27 - Located at Holy Spirit Church, Sioux Falls, the retreat is a student led program featuring talks, skits, music, opportunities for Confession, and celebration of Mass. All high school and college age students and adults are welcome. For more information, contact 605-371-1478, SiouxFallsSearch@gmail.com or www.siouxfallssearch.org.

Sacred Heart Monastery

Sept. 8/Seeking a deeper spirituality? Come to the new member orientation for Benedictine Oblates. An Oblate of St. Benedict is a Christian lay person (all faiths) who associates one's self with a Benedictine monastery to share in the spiritual and material good works of the community. Orientation for new members will be at Sacred Heart Monastery, at 1 p.m. in Room 2015. No cost except for occasional books. If interested, contact Sister Patricia Heirigs at 605-668-6000 or email patricia.heirigs@yanktonbenedictines.org.

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

Mother of God Monastery

Sept. 4 and 18/Coffee and Conversation What's better than a "chat" about God over a cup of coffee? 9:15-10:15 a.m. in Harmony Hill Hall. Visit www.watertownbenedictines.org for more information or call Sister Emily at 605-886-4181.

Catholic Family Services

Sept. 17-Oct. 22/Grieving the loss of a parent or sibling offered on six Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 at Catholic Family Services, 523 N. Duluth Ave., Sioux Falls. The program is for adults who have lost a parent or sibling. Parents and siblings play significant roles in our lives and this loss requires a significant adjustment. Call 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 to register.

Surviving Divorce at two sites/St. Thomas More, Brookings, begins Monday, Sept. 9 6:30-8:30 (continues Monday evenings). Immaculate Conception, Watertown, begins Sunday, Sept. 8 6:30-8:30 (continues Sunday evenings). Cost of \$45 each includes materials and refreshments for 6 weeks. Scholarships available. For more information or to register, in Brookings, contact Catholic Family Services at 605-988-3775 or cfs@sfcatholic.org; in Watertown, contact Sheila Grabow at sheilagrabow@gmail.com.

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