



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

September 2020

# THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN



## NET MINISTRIES:

**BRINGING THE MISSIONARY FIRE OF  
GOD'S LOVE TO THE DIOCESE**

# What does “Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God’s Love” look like?



If your experience has been like mine, faith has been more a personal matter between God and me. Through my years as a Catholic layman, priest and now bishop, I have a much deeper understanding of the importance to know, love and serve God through study, prayer and sharing my faith with others. I have learned to receive and share what God intends for others.

As I look back on my life I am grateful for those wonderful examples in my family, friends and teachers who have taught, loved and challenged me in a good way to become comfortable talking about my faith with others. It is so great to no longer fear sharing my faith with others and the joy of doing it has brought a great sense of inner peace, freedom and joy. That’s when I knew I was finally striving to live as a Catholic missionary disciple.

Shortly after my arrival as your new bishop, I was given a very clear grace (supernatural inspiration and insight) from God prompting me to establish a very clear vision for our wonderful diocese—*Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God’s Love*. These past months have been spent discerning how God desires that to be shared and lived out in every Catholic parish, school and institution in our diocese.

This month’s feature story is about one shining example of *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God’s Love* as witnessed by young adults through the National Evangelization Teams (NET). In prayer one day last month I had a spiritual prompting (grace of God) to explore whether having NET serve in our diocese would be possible.

To my amazement because of the time of the year and COVID-19, God has made it possible for us to have a group of NET young adults assigned to our

diocese starting in September. This is truly an amazing thing. Thanks be to God, NET leadership, and our Discipleship and Evangelization Office we will have a diocesan-wide outreach to kids, youth and families through retreats, one-on-one discipling and shared life with families in various regions of our diocese.

Does NET Catholic missionary discipleship work?

I was so very blessed to have a parish NET team in one of the parishes where I was pastor. I was absolutely amazed at the incredible impact the NETers had on the kids, youth, young adults, adults and senior citizens. The witness of young adults who are giving up a year of their life to serve as Catholic missionary disciples paid off in great fruits. They helped our middle and high school students learn how to pray, work through challenges, grow comfortable talking about God and personal difficulties, and helping others experience God’s love.

I was amazed to learn how our high schoolers then became Catholic missionary disciples for our middle schoolers and middle schoolers for grade school kids. Not only did our middle school youth numbers rapidly grow, but it was also impressive to see how many of those high schoolers went on to be Catholic missionary disciples with NET Ministries for one or more years.

At least five of those former high schoolers who served for a year or more on NET are now in the seminary discerning priesthood. Clearly, God is generous to those who open their hearts to divine love through NET.

My hope and prayer is that the example of our diocesan NET team will inspire each of us to ask ourselves a simple question: How is God asking me to be a *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Disciple Through God’s Love*?

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

## September

- 5 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)
- 6 9:00 State Fair Mass, Women's Building, State Fairgrounds, Huron
- 6-7 Clergy visits within the Mitchell Deanery
- 8-9 Clergy visits within the Brookings-Huron Deanery
- 12 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)
- 17 Visit to St. Thomas More Newman Center, Vermillion
- 19 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)
- 20 4:00 Confirmation, St. James, Chamberlain, and St. Margaret, Kimball, in Chamberlain
- 21-22 Bishop's Charity Hunt, Kimball
- 24 11:00 Presbyteral Council, Catholic Pastoral Center
- 26 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)

## October

- 3 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)
- 5-8 Clergy Days, Arrowhead Cedar Shore, Oacoma
- 10 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)

## Officials



Since publication of the previous Bishop's Bulletin, the Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood decreed the following priest assignment changes effective on August 10, 2020:

**Reverend Mark Axtmann**, in addition to his current assignment of chaplain at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, to sacramental minister at St. Mary Parish, Aberdeen, and

**Reverend Andrew Thuringer**, from parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish, Aberdeen, to chaplain at O'Gorman High School, sacramental minister at Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish, and discernment assistant for the Vocations Office.

In addition, the Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood granted personal leave from assigned ministry to **Reverend Joseph Scholten** effective July 28, 2020.

Finally, in a decree dated August 10, the Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood lifted the general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation that had been previously granted to all Catholics on March 17, 2020. Effective August 17, 2020, the dispensation remains in effect only for those who are at increased risk for severe illness (from the COVID-19 virus) and for those responsible for the care of individuals who are at increased risk of severe illness.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew K. Althoff  
Chancellor

# THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

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# Learning to live from those in love



One would think that, after being a priest for 30 years, you would have it all figured out. I always thought I would reach that happy point, and I presumed that things would be so much easier; what I did not consider is that it would also be much more dangerous.

There is always the possibility, as you have had the same experience over and over again, to just kind of go through the motions. Eventually you have the words memorized, and so they can start to lose their meaning.

It is something to be fought against as the years progress, and to somehow allow each sacramental encounter to be a gift. There is a sign that used to be in a number of sacristies that said, “Father, celebrate this Mass as if it was your first Mass, your last Mass, your only Mass.” It is good advice, but can be difficult to follow as the years pile up.

For the last few years, the hierarchy has been assisting in this effort by presenting to the Church revised rituals for the celebration of the Eucharist and marriage, and recently, baptism. While it has been a bit of a challenge to reorient myself to the new rituals after these years, I have discovered a happy benefit: I cannot just say the words from memory anymore.

This has given me the chance to practice a bit more, learn the meaning of the words, rediscover the rhythm of the poetry, to embrace again what is being taught in the words and the prayers and the actions. I have to learn how to celebrate a wedding all over again.

As I have spent this time learning the new prayers I have begun thinking about the couples I have been privileged to celebrate with; the couples I have helped prepare for this wonderful sacrament. In the years since my ordination, I have prepared many couples for marriage, spending time with them and talking with them, sharing my experiences and helping them build on their relationship.

As I have been learning again how to perform the matrimonial ceremony, I have given myself the opportunity to be amazed at how much I have learned from the couples I have walked with in preparation.

Most of them are still married, and many are not, relationships are complex and difficult, but almost all of them began in the same way. A couple, in love and desiring the grace

of the sacrament sits in my office and we begin to get to know each other. They are usually so nervous to meet with me, scared that I will find fault or some reason to send them away, but I hope our time together eases up some of their concern.

As we meet and I go through the various aspects of the required preparation process, we get to know each other and, if things work as they should, they come away with a better understanding of the life they are called to, and I come away better and more human for having been with them.

Why? Because they are in love; that is it, that is the experience they share with me and with the world. None of us knows what their future may hold, but at this moment, we know they are in love, and how they live that can change me and everyone they encounter.

Their love has bid them make a thousand sacrifices before they come to the chairs in my office, and they make them joyfully, happily, because they are in love. I have gotten older, and it is important for me to be taught again the youthful truth of how love renews even the burdens and sacrifices of life.

As they make their way through the process, each couple is made aware of the struggles they will endure as the future unfolds, and in that moment, they have a sense that they are not alone, and they will face those struggles together; how easily I forget this. It is a gift to be reminded of the absolute necessity of community in order to live as a Christian; their commitment reminds me that Jesus was pretty clear on this fact.

On their wedding day, after many months of preparation with me and the hundred thousand details a wedding demands, I always smile as this couple I have gotten to know walks down the aisle, hand in hand, to begin their new life. I am reminded at that moment that the Church is made up of more wives and husbands than it is made up of clerics.

They have desired the gift of a sacramental union, and receiving this gift, they go forth to share it with the world. Their family and friends wish them well, and I wish them well; it will be a long, arduous and beautiful journey they begin.

I hope, as the doors fly open and they enter into the world that I have taught them something; I know they have taught me, and God has given them the best wedding present of all—each other and himself.

# Father Michel Mulloy to be installed as bishop of Duluth

Father Michel Mulloy will be ordained and installed as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Duluth on October 1. He has spent the last year as the diocesan administrator for the Diocese of Rapid City.

Bishop-elect Mulloy will fill the seat of Bishop Paul D. Sirba who died of a heart attack December 1, 2019.

Mulloy was born in Mobridge, South Dakota, in 1954. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary University in Winona, Minnesota, he attended seminary at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, also in Winona, and St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls June 8, 1979. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Rapid City in 1986 after spending a few years in the diocese on loan for ministry.

During his time as a priest in the

Diocese of Sioux Falls, he served at several parishes including St. Anthony in Red Owl and Our Lady of Victory in Plainview.

Mulloy was pastor at several parishes in the Rapid City diocese, including several mission parishes. He served as director of vocations from 1989 to 1992 and was the director of the office of worship in 1994.

In the Rapid City diocese, he also served on the priest council, college of consultants, diocesan finance and pastoral councils and the Sioux Spiritual Center Board of Directors.

In 2017, the bishop-elect became the full-time vicar general for the Diocese of Rapid City.

The Diocese of Duluth is 22,354 square miles and has 45,283 Catholics out of a total population of 447,896 in the diocese.



Bishop-elect Michel Mulloy (photo courtesy of Diocese of Duluth).

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# NET MINISTRIES:



## BRINGING THE MISSIONARY FIRE OF GOD'S LOVE TO THE DIOCESE

by Renae Kranz

Catholic parents and parishes want the same thing: vibrant young people on fire for Christ. This common goal is difficult to attain but so necessary to keep our Catholic faith thriving and growing.

We already have several diocesan programs like Going Deeper Retreats, Confirmation Retreats, D-Camps, Totus Tuus and Bible studies. But to have a lasting impact on young people, more evangelization needs to happen at the parish level.

So how do we do that with many small, rural parishes? We bring in a NET Ministries team to light the fire of missionary discipleship.

In light of the vision Bishop DeGrood has sensed from God for the diocese for lifelong Catholic missionary discipleship through God's love, the bishop and the diocesan Discipleship and Evangelization Office want to help parishes develop on-fire youth this year. A great opportunity has arisen in partnership with NET Ministries to dedicate a NET discipleship team in our diocese for the year.

It's a unique and exciting opportunity.

### BRINGING THE FIRE TO OUR DIOCESE

NET (National Evangelization Teams) Ministries will be familiar to some in our diocese. They've been doing retreats here since their inception in 1981. They have now grown from their main office based in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to serve dioceses not only in the United States, but also in other countries including Canada, Australia and Ireland.

NET teams are made up of four men and four women who usually do one of two types of ministry aimed at junior high and high school students: teams either travel around putting on retreats, or teams do discipleship outreach work in schools or parishes for a year. One of these experiences is probably what some of us are familiar with when we think of NET.

This year they're trying something new in the Sioux Falls diocese. After sensing in prayer a need in our diocese, Bishop DeGrood asked NET to send a team here to do a hybrid ministry. They'll be dedicated to our diocese from September 18 to May 9 and will travel to four or five designated "hubs" around the diocese for five to six weeks each. The diocesan Discipleship and Evangelization team (including Father Scott Traynor, Eric Gallagher, Dr. Chris Burgwald and Emily Leedom) will be working with parishes to coordinate the NET team's schedule.

Father Traynor, vicar for lay and clergy formation, says the idea behind the hybrid setup is especially to help parishes who may not have a youth minister or other paid staff to work with their youth. The NET team will be able to provide outreach in a meaningful way, starting with their basic retreat where they invite junior and senior high school students to open their hearts to the fire of God's love.

But Father Traynor doesn't want this to just be a one-time thing and then send them off on their own with a "good luck." The NET team will be working to connect young people with follow-up resources in their parish and in the diocese.

"We want to leverage the great gift of the NET team's presence here to be a bridge to what we have already in the diocese," Father Traynor says. "We have a lot of young adults in our parishes, college age and older, who have come through discipleship camp over the years, who have been Totus Tuus missionaries, who are focus alumni or NET alumni, and this gives us an occasion to organize them to be able to do discipleship groups in local areas. We really hope that the experience of the NET retreat and the presence of the NET team in a region will build those connections with those adults who can continue to invest in those young people in discipleship."

For those who might be interested in helping to disciple those young people after the NET team is gone, they can feel confident in what they're doing because of their time working with the NET team and learning from them. It's a win-win situation for the entire diocese.

"Having the NET team here allows us to try that on and see what that could look like and what we could accomplish," Father Traynor says. "So it's going to be a lot of creative and innovative outreach, and it would be my goal and Eric's goal to definitely see if we can have, in two or three years, a diocesan-based team that's available to these parishes in the same way."

For smaller, more rural parishes, this offers a way for them to feel more connected to diocesan initiatives and receive the benefits of them more directly. It's all part of Bishop DeGrood's plan for the diocese—a jumpstart toward Catholic missionary discipleship.

"The aim in Catholic missionary discipleship is to meet any person where they are and help them take the next best step they can take to grow in relationship with Jesus and His Church," Father Traynor says.

Once the initial investment of time with the NET team is completed for each region, the aim is to invite those junior and senior high students and the adults wishing to get involved to connect with their parishes and with other diocesan programs to create a pathway to continue the new awakening of their faith. A big part of Father Traynor's role is to help parishes be the place where people can be accompanied and grow deeper in their relationship with God at the parish level.

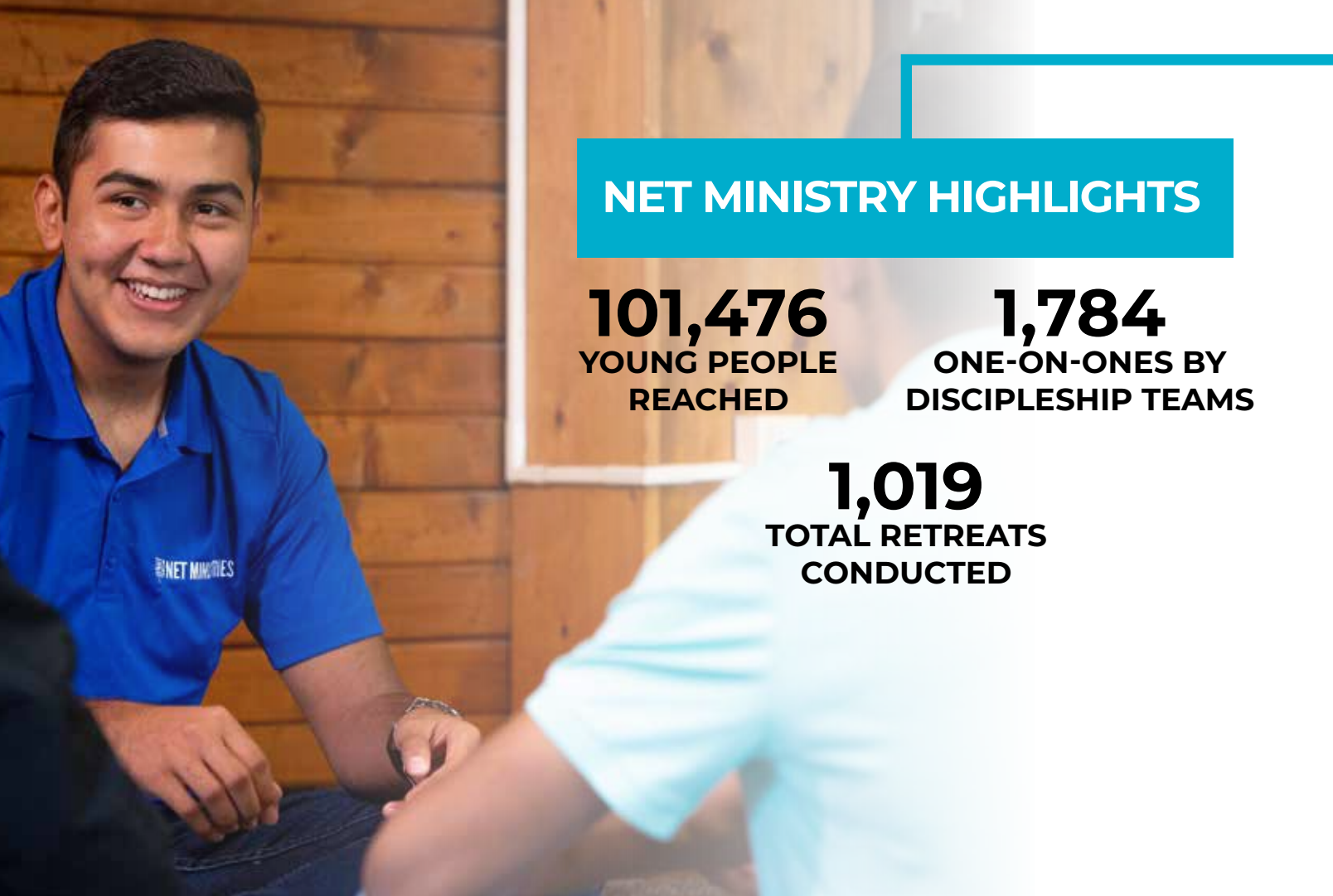
The NET team's presence in an area will help Fr. Traynor and the rest of the diocesan Discipleship and Evangelization team train adults in how to run small groups and discipleship groups. One example of what Father Traynor hopes to put together from that training would be organizing small-group Bible studies that an adult, now trained and ready, can lead. This initiative should help increase the number of adults who feel comfortable to lead others.

Father Traynor and Bishop DeGrood also want local parishes to think about how they can respond and what steps they could take, with the help of the diocesan offices, to expand that Catholic missionary discipleship vision and carry it on.

Lynn Mayer, discipleship team coordinator for NET Ministries, says she sees a shared vision between NET and our diocese in the way we want to help young people encounter the love of Jesus and "to create disciples who are then ready to be on mission and serve the Church." She says this model could be one they eventually replicate in other areas of the country.

Mayer and Mark Berchem, founder and president of NET, couldn't pass up on the idea when Bishop DeGrood reached out and pitched it to them. Mayer says the Holy Spirit took over





## NET MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**101,476**  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
REACHED

**1,784**  
ONE-ON-ONES BY  
DISCIPLESHIP TEAMS

**1,019**  
TOTAL RETREATS  
CONDUCTED

and the pieces began to fall into place. The fact that our diocese already has some experience with a somewhat similar model helped the vision come together. NET is excited about the opportunity to try something new.

“This feels like a real partnership between the Sioux Falls diocese and NET which is such a gift when you are trying something new,” Mayer says. “So much of our time has been adjusting and planning for the ministry year in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, it has been great for us as a ministry to have opportunities to be talking and making plans that aren’t only COVID related. I am overwhelmed with God’s generosity in offering us the opportunity to try something new and exciting during a time that has been somewhat trying in ministry.”

What kind of results can we expect from this new arrangement with NET? If we make the most of it, the fruits could be far reaching.

### MISSIONARY FIRE PRODUCES MUCH FRUIT

Many levels of fruit can come from a program like this and not only from the work with junior and senior high school students. Father Traynor says the real investment is in the training up of Catholic missionaries to go out and continue the work after the NET team leaves and in connecting youth with existing adult leaders. It will be especially helpful in rural parishes where parents and youth alike can see what is possible in missionary outreach.

“This NET team will have a real eye to inviting parents and other young adults to be involved and to be that follow up after the team moves on,” Father Traynor says. “They can really help interested adults get over the hump. People need to see it in action to imagine that this is really possible.”

In everyday life, younger kids look up to older kids and adults—grade school kids look up to middle school kids, middle school kids look up to high school kids, high school kids look up to college kids. They can act as mentors and bring younger kids up as disciples of Christ. This is the whole idea behind NET ministries and other programs like FOCUS and Totus Tuus.

Father Traynor’s own experience of this idea was pivotal in the development of his faith. While in Catholic school as a middle school student, he and his classmates were expected to be responsible for the younger kids who looked up to them. It was a big deal.

“There can be a lot of good things that happen just among friendships with direct peers in high school and junior high school, but especially to equip them and give them a defined way, an environment where they can exercise that leadership in an appropriate way for people who are just a little bit younger than them, that’s totally doable,” Father Traynor says. “It’s been done very fruitfully in many places.”

The key to this type of evangelization is that it’s relational. Father Traynor points out that people grow in relationship with God and the Church through influential relationships. He says





16

U.S. TEAMS

172

MISSIONARIES

39

STATES

114

DIOCESES



if evangelization isn't relational, it isn't happening. The more people you have working on those relationships who have the tools they need to act on the evangelization vision, the more we will see growth in our parishes and diocese.

Through those relationships and the activities experienced with NET and other adults, we can expect an awakening in faith in our young people and a building and multiplying of the kind of Catholic discipleship relationships happening in the diocese. Jesus becomes real to all of us through each other. We begin to realize He is here for us and can make a difference in our lives.

"That really disposes young people to welcome Jesus into their heart in a way they never have before in their life," Father Traynor says.

And Father Traynor goes further to say we don't have to be perfect or know everything in our evangelization efforts. Evangelization is just the sharing of our faith, and the Church, our priests and the diocesan offices are there to help us. All we have to do is be with the people we are normally with and intentionally help them in their faith.

"God has a plan for that person in their life, and He wants to draw them. He's always laboring to draw them to take the next step deeper in relationship with himself and with the church," Father Traynor says. "So really banking that God is taking the initiative takes the pressure off for me as an evangelist."

The NET team will help young people and adults become more comfortable with Catholic evangelization and missionary efforts, but it can be awkward. It becomes easier as you do it and get out of your comfort zone a bit.

Father Traynor says the thing to remember is that the awkwardness is worth it. If we're to help each other get to heaven, we must face our fear of talking about faith.

"If we really believe that our choices in this life have eternal consequences, eternal union with God and perfect happiness or eternal separation from Him, eternity is worth the awkwardness," he says.

Once the people reached through the work of NET teams have begun to grow in their relationship with Christ, they will also begin doing the work of a person seeking more in their faith: frequenting the Sacraments, praying, seeking good fellowship and serving others. The next step is to then give as a gift to others what they are receiving from God. They can help others take the next step. It becomes a blessing to all involved and helps their faith develop strong roots that are not easily pulled up.

This type of Catholic missionary discipleship helps foster more vocations, build stronger families and keep our Catholic faith growing. It sets the missionary fire of God's love ablaze.

"We're here to equip people who have said a strong yes to Jesus Christ to be built up and equipped to go out and reach their coworkers, their other family members and the people who God brings into their lives to help every person they meet to truly be missionary disciples, to help each person they meet to begin and deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ," Father Traynor says.

It's something he experienced during his own time with NET Ministries.

## FORMER NET<sub>ER</sub>'S STORIES

Father Traynor was a NET missionary in 1992. At the time, he had become convinced God had a plan for his life, but he didn't know what it was yet. He just knew if he followed it, he would be the most happy.

The time spent learning more about his faith, praying, working with the other NET team members, going back to confession after many years away, recreation together, and much praise and worship were critical to understanding that plan for his life. The trainers who lived NET every day also helped him and the other team members feel more comfortable with what they were taking on.

"It's important that someone who's living it can take you by the hand and not only cast a vision for it, but say, 'It's going to be okay,'" Father Traynor explained. "And then to see how powerfully God worked in the lives of these young people as we did our retreats was absolutely a life changing experience."

Staying with the host families, as all NETers do, made him think God was calling him to the married life. He saw Catholic family life like he had never known and wanted it for himself someday. But God had other plans.

As Father Traynor was traveling through the Diocese of Saginaw (Michigan), praying and asking God to raise up good priests for the amazing families he met, he heard God say something shocking in his heart. He said he wanted him to be His priest.

"Up until that moment, I was really open to whatever God had wanted. And then I was like, I don't think I'm too open to that," Father Traynor admitted.

Thankfully, the daily prayer time during his NET experience helped him open his heart to God's plan. He had very personal conversations with God every day and asked God to give him the desire to be a priest. If God would do that, he would take that path.

Amazing things happened the rest of his year with NET and the desire came. By the time he was done with his year, he couldn't wait to get to seminary.

Another NETer, Erin Claussen, a parishioner at St. Lambert Parish in Sioux Falls, spent a year as a NET missionary. Her year was filled with ups and downs and was very demanding. But the Lord doesn't promise us an easy life. Although it was one of the hardest years of her life, she found great joy as well.

"I would say the best thing about my experience was the people I met, both in the form of other missionaries and those in the community we served," Claussen said. "I learned to never give up on people, no matter how hard the year got."

She found the biggest impact on her faith was forming a consistent prayer life. The early morning personal prayer time each day became very important to her, even if she would occasionally fall asleep during prayer. She needed that time with God.

Claussen says NET showed her the importance of reconciling with God and others which impacted her faith as well. God was calling her to enter into relationships with others more deeply. It's a call worth answering.



**Erin Claussen (second from left) with her NET teammates during her year with NET Ministries.**

## NET IS COMING TO YOU

Father Traynor says there are things we can do to make this year with NET a greater success for the parishes and diocese. When you hear the NET team is coming to your area, tell your friends and invite them along.

The NET teams will also need host families to stay with, so watch for information coming through your parishes for opportunities to help.

It's up to us to make the NET team's time here fruitful and to allow the fire of Catholic missionary discipleship to burn brightly throughout the diocese. If you're hearing a call from God to help, don't turn away from it. Jump in and help make this the catalyst to a more vibrant Catholic faith community in Eastern South Dakota.

# Is it wrong for Catholics to pray to Mary?

Q

*I had a friend question why we pray to Mary and I wasn't 100% sure how to answer it. What do you suggest?*

A

Thanks for this question. It's a commonly asked one, by both Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

As simple as the question seems, it actually contains an entire series of questions. Let me explain that by walking through them.

A common objection to praying to Mary is that it takes away from Jesus' status as our sole mediator between God and humanity.

My first response to this point is that we are told throughout the New Testament to both pray for others and to ask others to pray for us. Prayer that is specifically for others is called intercessory prayer, and it's one of the most common ways that we pray. For instance, when we pray for health for friends, that's intercessory prayer. Or when we ask our family to pray for a job interview, that's intercessory prayer. This form of prayer isn't merely "okay," it's highly praiseworthy. We should pray for others and we should ask others to pray for us. Such a practice is not only not in contradiction to Jesus' mediation, but in fact is expected of us as His disciples and members of His Church.

I'd also make the point that when we ask people to pray for us, we tend to ask people who we know take their faith seriously. We intuitively recognize that not only will they pray, but there is a particular efficacy in their prayer because of their close relationship with God.

This essentially is what we're doing when we pray to Mary. Prayer to Mary is simply asking her to pray for us, as we might ask a faithful friend to pray for us. Even more, it's asking someone we recognize as the greatest of Jesus' disciples to pray for us, as we would ask someone we recognize as a holy person on earth to pray for us.

If that's the case, why do Protestant

Christians question our prayer to Mary? There are usually a couple other reasons why they might object to this practice. First, the language we use can be a bit confusing. For most Protestants, prayer is something that is only ever directed to God. So "to pray" implies prayer of worship and adoration, which is due to God alone. And as Catholics we wholeheartedly agree that worship and adoration are due to God alone and no one else.

However, we use prayer in a different sense than that, to include requests to others—angels and saints, specifically—to pray for us. So any request for prayer that I make to a friend would be considered itself a prayer in our usage of the term.

Second and more substantially, Protestant Christians tend to question the validity of praying to those who have died. There can be a variety of reasons for this, but most commonly it relates to the biblical prohibition against conjuring the spirits of the dead, as is attempted in a seance, for example. Once again, as Catholics we completely accept this. So how can we accept praying to saints if we accept that it's wrong to try to communicate with the dead?

It's important to understand why using seances and mediums to contact the dead are prohibited. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, such practices are wrong because they are attempts to gain knowledge that God has not given to us (cf. CCC 2115-2116). But seeking



Mary's intercession is not that. Again, to pray to Mary or any of the angels or saints is simply to ask them to pray for us as we might ask someone on earth to pray for us.

Here it's important to note that according to Scripture, death does not separate Christians in a definitive sense. There is one Body of Christ, one Church, and it includes both those on earth and those in heaven.

Finally, I'd note that praying to Mary is a practice that goes back to the earliest centuries of the Church. We have a papyrus dated to 250 A.D. that includes prayer to Mary. And throughout the early centuries of the Church we find saints and scholars alike extolling the practice.

**Be sure to check out the additional resources at [sfcatholic.org/answer](https://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 Adult Discipleship and Evangelization for the Diocese of Sioux Falls.*

# This November 3, how will you vote?

By Chris Motz

It's that time again when car commercials take a backseat to campaign ads and red, white and blue yard signs sprout like patriotic mushrooms on lawns, letting us know who's asking for our vote to send them to Pierre or Washington. Yet it's not just a time to passively hunker down and bear the biennial marketing assault before we cast our ballots.

"A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it," Chesterton quipped, reminding us that this is a time to be alive as citizens, to engage and actively think about the big questions. What do we want from our country? What's our vision of life together? What good do we see or desire in our government, and how do we support it? What evil do we see, and how do we resist or seek to change it?

These aren't easy questions, and I know they can seem a bit detached from the headlines or twitter feed of any given day, but unless we want to get swept along like dead fish in the current, they're of foundational importance. Active reflection upon such questions led to our nation's founding and is essential to its future.

In a sound-bite world it can be easy to let important questions go unasked. Consider a garden-variety political advertisement: "Elect Chris Motz, your advocate for Liberty and Family!" Will you vote for me?

Hey, not so fast! You haven't even asked me what my slogan means.

Sure, the words "liberty" and "family" poll well in South Dakota focus groups, but what ideas do they represent? Does my campaign pitch point towards the sort of liberty described by *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the 1992 decision solidifying the so-called right to kill a child in the womb, understood as "the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life"?

Or, to take a completely opposite view



Chris Motz, executive director of the South Dakota Catholic Conference

of liberty, does it mean "the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act," which establishes the basis for "choosing between good and evil," as described by the Catechism of the Catholic Church? (CCC 1731-33) The first of these views leads to the dictatorship of relativism; the second leads to true freedom in service to what is good and just. That's a big difference.

Along similar lines, by claiming to advocate for the family, does my postcard platform mean the sort of "family" re-defined by the Supreme Court's 2015 5-4 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which, having discovered a "new insight," declared, "marriage has changed and evolved—for the better," thus (as a dissenter put it) completely "transform[ing] a social institution that has formed the basis of human society for millennia, for the Kalahari Bushmen and the Han Chinese, the Carthaginians and the Aztecs"?

Or, when I claim to fight for the family, do I understand it to be a natural institution, necessarily connected to the organic procreation and rearing of children, which by definition involves

both the male and female halves of the human reproductive system?

The logic that spurred the first of these views through the high court, that reproductive biology is irrelevant to marriage, is both novel in the history of humankind and admits no limits in the order of nature. The latter, on the other hand, embodies the reasoning of the Church, which teaches that "civil authority should consider it a grave duty to acknowledge the true nature of marriage and the family." (CCC 2210)

These are very different ideas. If we believe, as St. John Paul II taught, that the future of humanity passes by way of the family (*Familiaris Consortio*, no. 86), then it's pretty important to know what my campaign sign or postcard means.

This is a simple exercise in reason, one we could undertake with any campaign slogan or political movement. Words have meaning that seek to convey the truth of an idea, and it's important that we try to assess the truth-claims conveyed in political speech. Our state-level candidates especially are often very accessible, so don't hesitate to ask them about their beliefs.

A final thought for the weary. Many Americans are experiencing exhaustion, disorientation or even despair. For them, it may be tempting to give up on political processes. We can remember that voting isn't a sacrament, and that politics doesn't save us—only God's love can do that.

Yes, voting is an important, even essential, way to exercise our co-responsibility for the common good, but the weight of the world's problems need not rest on our shoulders. Christ has already paid the price to restore human brokenness. God's got this. Let's double-down on the perfect love that casts out fear.

Say your prayers, do your homework, and God bless you as you prepare for November 3.

More resources can be found at [www.sdatholicconference.org](http://www.sdatholicconference.org).

# Ballot measures to consider for 2020

This November 3, South Dakotans will be asked to vote on three ballot measures: Initiated Measure 26 would legalize medical marijuana in statute, Constitutional Amendment A would legalize recreational marijuana by altering the state constitution, and Constitutional Amendment B would authorize the legislature to permit sports betting in Deadwood casinos. South Dakota voters rejected medical marijuana in 2006 and 2010. This is the first time recreational marijuana and sports gambling are on the ballot.

## SD Catholic Conference opposes Constitutional Amendment A

The South Dakota Catholic Conference urges citizens to vote “No” on Constitutional Amendment A.

### What Amendment A would do

Amendment A is aimed at normalizing recreational marijuana use. According to the attorney general’s explanation, it would legalize “the possession, use, transport, and distribution of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia by people age 21 and older”; direct the state to license commercial growers, wholesalers, and retailers; and imposes a 15 percent tax on marijuana sales. Tax revenues will be applied to implementation, with additional funds split equally between public schools and the state general fund. The attorney general notes that marijuana is illegal under federal criminal law.

### Moral implications of recreational drug use

Pope Francis has spoken out against legalizing recreational drugs, including marijuana. “No to every type of drug use. It is as simple as that,” the Holy Father told an international gathering of drug enforcement agencies in June 2014. Even narrowly limited attempts “to legalize so-called ‘recreational drugs,’ are not only highly questionable from a legislative standpoint, but they fail to produce the desired effects.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) states that drug use “inflicts very grave damage on human health and life.” (CCC 2291)

Broadly speaking, pleasurable recreation or play is good and serves the overall health and happiness of a person. Why,

then, should we oppose recreational marijuana use?

To answer this question, it’s important to understand how marijuana works. When it is smoked or ingested, delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive ingredi-



ent commonly known as THC, binds to and overstimulates receptors within a person’s nervous system, causing the effect of feeling “high” or “stoned.” At the same time, marijuana decreases cortical dopamine levels, which are critical to high-functioning rational thought. Often these effects are accompanied by others, including distorted sensory perception or hallucinations, irrational anxiety or panic, diminished motor control and slowed reactions, and reduced learning and memory. Studies have shown that impaired cognitive function continues into the workweek even after a person no longer feels intoxicated, and that regular users are at approximately twice the risk of developing psychosis as non-users.

What’s the problem with this? Human beings are endowed by God with the gift of reason. Reason aids us in differentiating between right and wrong and is foundational for human freedom and personal responsibility. Thus, we can understand that to directly intend to suppress our God-given rational faculties is gravely wrong. Such an intent behind drug use, as St. John Paul once explained, is “always illicit because it involves an unjustified and irrational renunciation” of the rational faculties that make us free persons.

### Other social considerations

As Catholic citizens, it’s also helpful to look at the practical experiences of other

states that have legalized recreational marijuana. For example, when Colorado legalized retail sales of recreational marijuana in 2014, marijuana-related traffic deaths rose 32 percent from the previous year. Colorado teen use—for whom recreational marijuana remains illegal—is 50 percent higher than the national average.

Moreover, there is reason to be concerned that the poor are at higher risk to the for-profit marijuana industry. One 2017 report on Seattle and Denver’s marijuana industry showed that respectively 40 percent and 45 percent of so-called “pot shops” were in low income neighborhoods, significantly disproportionate to the overall population.

Further, proponents of the measure have touted the lure of the supposed financial boon to state coffers. But a 2018 study found that for every dollar of state tax revenue generated on marijuana sales, unwanted effects cost \$4.50, principally in healthcare and reduced workforce readiness.

The Catholic faith teaches that our reason is a gift from God that we should embrace and develop, not deliberately impair. We can see this truth affirmed by the social consequences suffered elsewhere. This November 3, vote “No” on Amendment A.

For more resources on this ballot measure, visit [www.sdatholicconference.org](http://www.sdatholicconference.org).

<sup>1</sup> Stokes Paul R. A., Egerton Alice, Watson Ben, Reid Alistair, Breen Gerome, Lingford-Hughes Anne, Nutt David J., and Mehta Mitul A. 2010. *Significant decreases in frontal and temporal-raclopride binding after THC challenge.* *NeuroImage* 52, no. 4: 1521–27.

<sup>2</sup> Wadsworth E. J. K., Moss S. C., Simpson S. A., and Smith A. P. 2006b. *Cannabis use, cognitive performance and mood in a sample of workers.* *Journal of Psychopharmacology* 20, no. 1: 14–23.

<sup>3</sup> Van Winkel Ruud, and Kuepper Rebecca. 2014. *Epidemiological, neurobiological, and genetic clues to the mechanisms linking cannabis use to risk for nonaffective psychosis.* *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology* 10: 767–91.

# St. Michael Parish angel gown ministry brings

By Renae Kranz

When a family loses a baby, whether by miscarriage, still birth or shortly after birth, they often feel like they're alone in a suddenly dark world.

A mother will wonder if she did something wrong. A father will worry about his wife. Both will feel a deep emptiness for the loss of a future and the child they'll never get back and never get to know in this life.

To add to the pain they feel, this is something few people talk about with each other. Most people don't know what to say and the family really doesn't know what happens next.

What the family is really looking for in these moments is a caring word, an understanding ear and someone to tell them what their options are for the baby they hoped for and still love more than they even know yet. They search for comfort and a way to honor their child.

A new ministry at St. Michael Parish in Sioux Falls offers a beautiful way for parents who've lost a baby to make the last moments they have with their child a lasting memory of love. This ministry creates what they've come to call "angel gowns" to give these precious children a final outfit worthy of a child of God.

## A new ministry arises

Bev Dickes had a thriving business as a seamstress specializing in bridal in Sioux Center, Iowa. At times women would donate their wedding dresses to her and ask her to make an angel gown from it. In the back of her mind, this was something she wanted to do more often, but time was in short supply with her busy life.

When her husband retired from his work in education, they moved to Sioux Falls. Bev moved her business as well and found herself as busy as ever. They became parishioners at St. Michael Parish, but Bev felt lost in such a big church since they had come from a small parish in Iowa they had helped start. It was a feeling she didn't expect and began looking for a way to remedy that feeling and find a purpose in her new parish.

A solution soon arose when Bev was starting to get requests for angel gowns in her new city. While she was visiting with a lady about an angel gown, she suddenly understood the key to making this idea finally happen.

"I'm a firm believer that the Holy Spirit guides you in a certain direction," Bev said. "And when I was visiting with this lady, all of a sudden, it just dawned on me that I don't need to do this all on my own."

She knew then she needed to find other people at St. Michael who might want to help her, but she didn't know how to find them. She turned to Jane Derrington at her parish for advice and direction. From there, the two women put together a group of now about 20 others who are helping to create these angel gowns for families who need them.

## Many jobs, one mission

As Bev and Jane got the group going, they realized they needed more than just seamstresses. The process of creating an angel gown from a donated dress involves several steps and the more help they had, the more gowns they could make.

Before COVID hit, the group would meet and each volunteer would dive in with a task. Each dress donated is documented, photographed and numbered because some brides who donate dresses want to see the angel gowns made from their wedding gowns. Then the entire dress is taken apart and the embellishments are removed.

Next, the fabric is cut into four different sizes for the babies who will wear them: micro, tiny, preemie and newborn. Seamstresses then sew the gown which is open in the back and ties closed so they're easy to put on. From there, embellishments are added and a vest and bowtie are added to the gowns for baby boys.



# comfort to families who have lost a baby

“I’m so tickled when I see these dresses come back, and I see the creativity that these women are putting into them and the ideas they have because they’re all embellished differently,” Bev said.

Some of the volunteers make organza drawstring bags to put the gowns in for delivery. Bev says it’s their hope that the bag can be used later by the family to keep cards or other memories of their baby.

The final piece of the puzzle is a pretty card created by one of the volunteers to comfort the family receiving the gown. It has a Bible verse on one side and condolences from the St. Michael Angel Gown ministry on the other side.

Bev finds herself acting as the organizer along with others for the group. There are also several volunteers who work on outreach and finding places who would like to have angel gowns on hand.

When COVID changed how they could gather, the group began meeting at the church parking lot to swap materials and continue making the gowns in their homes. They now have a good supply of angel gowns for anyone who needs one.

## A heartfelt gift

Although Bev has not experienced the loss of a baby herself, it was important to her that these families have a lasting memory of their child.

“This might be the last time they see this baby,” Bev said. “They see the baby in this gown and we would like that to be a very positive, beautiful thing that they remember from their child. It is truly amazing when people come forward and tell you what the experience of losing a child is like. It’s a blessing to hear their stories.”

One family in Sioux Falls recently received an angel gown and was surprised something like that was available. Twila Roman’s daughter had just lost one of her twins shortly before they were to be born. She said she was reminded of our connection as a Catholic community and that others were praying them through a difficult time.

“As it sunk in and seeing the gown, the magnitude of devotion to the project became very evident,” Twila said. “The care with which it was obviously made really hit our hearts, knowing that someone

made this exactly for this purpose. What a tangible aspect of our Catholic faith and community to know there is abundant love and care to create something so meaningful during a very difficult time.”

Jane has had the privilege of giving a few gowns to families in the last few months. It’s been a moving experience for her.

“The limited number of families we have touched have received the gown with tears of appreciation in the midst of the sadness and loss,” Jane said. “They felt that God would be wrapping his hands around their little one.”

## Angel gowns available

The ministry now has enough gowns on hand for anyone who needs them and more are being made. If you or your family would like a gown for a beloved child, or if you are a parish and would like to have a few gowns on hand, you can contact either Bev at 712-441-3220 or Jane at 715-781-0882.

If you’d like to volunteer, more hands are always welcome.



# Catholic schools' teachers prepare for their student's needs during in-service

Michelle Schoenfelder, principal at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Huron, and Darlene Braun, principal at St. Joseph Catholic School in Pierre, teamed up to produce an in-service for Catholic schools' teachers that was held July 29.

Over 40 teachers from five different Catholic schools in our diocese attended.

Relying on expert speakers, the teachers received instruction on how to identify and provide accommodation for children affected by dyslexia. They also heard presentations on how to assist children as they adjust to the trauma which the COVID-19 pandemic has created.

Both topics were useful as Catholic schools made final preparations for returning to school.

Photos courtesy of Michelle Schoenfelder.



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COVID-19 continues to have an impact on many of our families, friends and neighbors. Some who thought they could get by are now finding themselves struggling to pay rent or buy groceries due to layoffs, cut backs on work hours, or having to quit work to care for and educate their children.

Adult children have moved in with their parents to help make ends meet and unexpected medical expenses have put families over the limit of their finances.

Thanks to your generosity through the COVID-19 Relief Fund, local pastors throughout the diocese have been able to offer a hand up that may not have been an option within their own parish budgets.

One anonymous note expressed gratitude from everyone:

*This is a "Thank You" from the many families and individuals that have been helped financially by the Church during this COVID-19 pandemic. So many have been helped, but their very circumstances (poverty, day to day obligations, etc.) oft times overshadow the courtesy of expressing sincere heartfelt thanks and appreciation.*

*This card is to give voice and endorsement to the many hundreds who have no doubt been blessed by your program. All of us need to sense that someone, somewhere, sees us and cares. I believe your efforts and various staffs have given hope and a sense of acknowledgement to many.*

*As scripture indicates: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Count yourselves blessed of the Lord for seeing and responding to His people.*

*Love & appreciation, Everyone*

If you know someone who needs assistance, or if you would like to support this ministry, please contact your local parish or the Catholic Community Foundation: [www.ccfesd.org](http://www.ccfesd.org), 605-988-3788.



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**UPCOMING RETREATS**

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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.*

<b>September 15: Our Lady of Sorrows</b> - directed by Fr. Jeff Norfolk	<b>November 17: November - A Month of Saints</b> - Fr. Joe Forcelle
<b>October 13: You Must Become as Little Children</b> - directed by Fr. David Roherich	<b>December 15: St. Joseph, Our Spiritual Father</b> - Dr. Teri Kemmer

**SPECIAL RETREATS**

<b>October 9-11: Inner Healing Retreat</b> - directed by Mike Snyder & Jane Barz	<b>November 13-15: Couples Retreat</b> - directed by Fr. Scott Traynor
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**ABERDEEN** – Larry and Cathy Papke will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 6. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



**ABERDEEN** – Arnie and Donna Ottenbacher will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 5. They have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



**BIG STONE CITY** – Elmer and Audrey Binsfeld will celebrate their 65th anniversary on September 24. They have 2 children, 1 grandchild and 1 great-grandchild and are members of St. Charles Parish.



**BRIDGEWATER** – Harry and Alyce Paweltzki will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 5. They have 2 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of St. Stephen Parish.



**CANTON** – Randy and Pat Halverson will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 7. They have 4 children (1 deceased), 17 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Dominic Parish.



**CHAMBERLAIN** – Francis and Joanne Pazour will celebrate their 65th anniversary on September 10. They have 7 children, 21 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren and are members of St. James Parish.



**DELL RAPIDS** – Richard and Virginia Mergen celebrated their 65th anniversary on August 31. They have 9 children, 27 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild and are members of St. Mary Parish.



**DELL RAPIDS** – Gil and Char Peichel will celebrate their 60th anniversary on September 17. They have 5 children, 15 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



**DELL RAPIDS** – Rick and Debi Ripper will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 19. They have 3 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



**ESTELLINE** – Arlyn and Barb Coleman will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 5. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of St. Francis de Sales Parish.



**FLORENCE** – Martin and Carmen Tschakert will celebrate their 30th anniversary on September 8. They have 2 children and are members of Blessed Sacrament Parish.



**HUMBOLDT** – Frank and Ann Scharzt will celebrate their 30th anniversary on September 8. They have 3 children and are members of St. Ann Parish.



**HURON** – Bill and Clarice McManus will celebrate their 65th anniversary on September 3. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Trinity Parish.



**IDYLWILDE** – Dale and Debra Neuharth will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 20. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Boniface Parish.



**IPSWICH** – Jerome and Carol Schaffner will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 27. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Holy Cross Parish.



**KIMBALL** – Leonard and Janice Geppert will celebrate their 60th anniversary on September 3. They have 7 children (1 deceased), 21 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Margaret Parish.



**KRANZBURG** – Elmer and Mary Hupf will celebrate their 60th anniversary on September 10. They have 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Rosary Parish.



**MADISON** – Scott and Jeri Daniels will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 6. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.



**MITCHELL** – Gary and Kay Shafer will celebrate their 55th anniversary on September 3. They have 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and are members of Holy Family Parish.



**MITCHELL** – Bruce and Marlene Haines will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 13. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



PLATTE – Tom and Barb Travis will celebrate their 45th anniversary on September 27. They have 3 children, 11 grandchildren and are members of St. Peter Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Chuck and Judy Lapka will celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 4. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Larry and Barb Gadbois celebrated their 50th anniversary on August 1. They have 6 children, 9 grandchildren and are members of Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Lance and Patricia Mattson will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 20. They have 3 children and are members of Christ the King Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Nick and Lisa Moeller celebrated their 40th anniversary on August 9. They have 8 children (1 deceased), 6 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Carney and Betty Walter will celebrate their 60th anniversary on September 26. They have 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



SIOUX FALLS – Michael and Connie Burkard will celebrate their 45th anniversary on September 20. They have 4 children (1 deceased), 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Michael Parish.



TABOR – Terry and Eileen Sestak will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 20. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Wenceslaus Parish.



TURTON – Terry and Valarie Vogel celebrated their 50th anniversary on August 15. They have 4 children, 8 grandchildren and are members of St. Joseph Parish.



WATERTOWN – Vincent and Maxine Brueggeman celebrated their 50th anniversary on August 1. They have 5 children, 11 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



WATERTOWN – Mike and Chris Barrett celebrated their 30th anniversary on August 24. They have 3 children and are members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish.



WATERTOWN – John and Cathy Cordell will celebrate their 40th anniversary on September 26. They have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish.



WATERTOWN – Steve and Patty Rasmussen will celebrate their 30th anniversary on September 15. They have 2 children and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



WATERTOWN – Pete and Donna Mack will celebrate their 60th anniversary on September 29. They have 5 children, 19 grandchildren (1 deceased) and 15 great-grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



YANKTON – Bruce and Bev Ulmer will celebrate their 30th anniversary on September 1. They have 3 children and are members of Sacred Heart Parish.

## ANNIVERSARY SUBMISSIONS

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

The Bishop's Bulletin  
523 North Duluth Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
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rkranz@sfcatholic.org.

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# Sinsinawa sister dies at 87

Sister Ruth Mary Coleman, OP, died July 29, at MercyOne Dubuque Medical Center, Dubuque, Iowa. She was 87.

Natural burial took place July 31 in the Motherhouse Cemetery. Mass of Christian burial was held at the Dominican motherhouse, Sinsinawa, August 7.

Ruth Mary was born Feb. 27, 1933, in Oak Park, Illinois, the daughter of Ruben and Ruth (Norton) Coleman.

She made her first religious profession as a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa Aug. 5, 1954, and her perpetual profession Aug. 5, 1957. She taught in schools for 19 years, ministered in religious education for 21 years, and spiritual direction for five years. She served in South Dakota, Illinois, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Alabama, Florida and New Mexico.

In the Diocese of Sioux Falls, Sister Ruth Mary taught at St. Joseph Cathedral, Sioux Falls, from 1954-1959.

She is survived by two sisters, Susan O'Regan and Karen Schwartz; nieces; nephews; and her Dominican Sisters with whom she shared 65 years of religious life.

Her parents; stepmother, Catherine (Wall) Coleman; and two brothers, Robert Coleman and John Coleman, preceded her in death.



Sr. Ruth Mary Coleman

## Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will.

Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service.

Amen.

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# Bishop's Charity Hunt stalks its 25th year

For the 25th year, hunters will gather in Kimball for the Bishop's Charity Hunt. They'll hunt pheasant, spend time with friends and hang out with the bishop, all for a great cause—Catholic Newman Centers in our diocese.

A few adjustments may have to be made due to COVID-19, but the hunt is set to run September 21-22 at Horseshoe K Ranch. The event is sponsored by the Catholic Community Foundation of Eastern South Dakota.

This will be Bishop DeGroot's first crack at South Dakota's state bird while bishop. Priests, deacons and plenty of lay hunters will take part in the two-day event to benefit Catholic Newman Centers at the four state universities in our diocese: SDSU in Brookings, USD in Vermillion, NSU in Aberdeen and DSU in Madison.

Registration for the hunt begins at 8 a.m. on September 21. 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](http://www.ccfesd.org) or call 605-988-3765.



Photo above: Hunters from last year's event load up to find the birds in the fields around Kimball. Photo right: Will Thompson and his hunting dog are ready to do their part to raise money for Catholic Newman Centers during last year's hunt. (photos courtesy of Catholic Community Foundation of Eastern South Dakota)



## RPR's Incredible Parish Challenge will reward parishes

The Real Presence Radio network serves almost 1,000 parishes throughout 10 dioceses. These parishes support RPR by publishing information about fundraising events, sharing the RPR mission through parish talks, and displaying RPR parish stands and marketing materials. RPR is returning their kindness with the Incredible Parish Challenge during the upcoming Fall Live Drive, October 6-9.

During the drive, participating parishes have the opportunity for a 20 minute on-air interview where the priest or a parish representative will showcase incredible happenings



unique to their parishes.

Donors who then call in during the Live Drive can pledge their support to RPR, mention the parish name, and their donation will be attributed to that parish in the challenge.

There will be two first prizes and two

second prizes awarded. One \$1,000 prize will go to the parish that raises the most money for RPR. The second prize of \$1,000 will go to the parish that has the most call-in pledges. The second-place prize in both categories will be a \$500 public awareness campaign that can be used within the next year.

Tune in to Real Presence Radio October 6-9 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to hear more about these incredible parishes, inspirational stories of faith and hope, and your chance to win one of the daily drawings including books, gift cards, RPR gear and a few surprises.

**Recitation of the rosary planned**

**Friday, Sept. 4** - 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.

**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.

**Search for Christian Maturity retreat**

**Oct. 23-25** - Located at Holy Spirit Church, Sioux Falls. Registration is open. This retreat is a student led, Roman Catholic retreat program featuring talks, skits, music, opportunities for confession, and celebration of Mass. All high school and college-age students and adults are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact: (605) 371-1478, SiouxFallsSearch@gmail.com, www.siouxfallssearch.org.

**St. Michael Angel Gown Ministry**

The St. Michael Angel Gown Ministry is a group of dedicated lay people making angel gowns for babies who were lost too soon. They create these beautiful gowns from donated wedding dresses. If you would like to donate a wedding dress or are in need of an angel gown, contact Bev Dickes at 712-441-3220. If you're interested in helping to create angel gowns, the group is accepting volunteer help.

**Confraternity of the Holy Rosary seeks new members**

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

**Applicants for permanent diaconate being accepted**

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

**Parish Dinners/Socials**

**Sept. 27:** Holy Rosary Parish, Kranzburg, will host their Fall Roast Beef Dinner and Bazaar serving from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Social distancing will be practiced with food tents and other outdoor activities on the parish grounds. Silent auctions, raffles and games will all be held outdoors.

**Sept. 27:** St. Peter Parish, Colman, Roast Beef Dinner will be serving from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Outdoor eating and meals to go.

**Oct. 4:** St. Stephen Parish, Bridgewater, WILL NOT host the annual sausage supper this year due to COVID-19 but will be selling the famous whole hog sausage from 1:30-4 p.m. Preorder by calling 605-729-2714 or 648-3155. Cost is \$5.00 per pound and sold in a one-pound ring or one-pound ground sausage package.

**Catholic Family Services**

**Catholic Family Services Counseling Service**-During this pandemic, in addition to our current in-person counseling we are offering a HIPPA compliant tele-health format. It is user friendly and as long as you have internet availability, can be accessed by phone or computer.

**New Program/Sept. 15-Nov. 24**-Grief-Share, a worldwide Christian grief program for adults, combines educational videos, personal workbook, and group discussion. It blends professional education with time for small group sharing and reflection. Well-researched and well thought out program. Catholic Family Services will present the video portion in a large group format then allow for small breakout discussion groups according to participants' particular loss such as loss of a spouse, a child, a parent/sibling, etc. The 11-week program will run from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday evenings. Overall cost is free with a free will offering available. Workbook is \$15 with scholarships available. For more information, please call 605-988-3775 or email cfs@sfcatholic.org.

**Sept. 15-Oct. 20**-Surviving Divorce Program offered Tuesday evenings in Sioux Falls from 6-8 p.m. Cost of \$45 per person includes a "Personal Survival Guide," refreshments and all materials for 6 weeks. Scholarships available. For information or to register contact Catholic Family Services, 605-988-3775 or cfs@sfcatholic.org.

**Sacred Heart Monastery**

**Online offerings:** As we pray for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, we seek to extend our Benedictine Hospitality through online programs. Go to www.yanktonbenedictines.org/retreats-online-group for updated information on new topics, dates and registration information.

**Spiritual Direction/** Due to social distancing restrictions, we are currently offering spiritual direction online. Share your experience of God with an experienced companion-guide and intensify your spiritual journey. Scheduling is flexible, typically meeting once a month. Contact benedictinepeacectr@yanktonbenedictines.org or 605-668-6292 for more information.

**Sept. 4/** Online Lectio Divina, Fridays, September 4, 11, 18 and 25, and October 9, 23 and 30, 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, Sr. Penny Bingham OSB at pbingham@yanktonbenedictines.org / 605-668-6023, sending her your email address.

**Sept. 30/** The Book of Genesis Online Scripture Study. This study of Genesis, Ch. 1-25, will be held Wednesdays from 9:30-11 a.m. from September 30 to November 4. Facilitated by Sr. Doris Oberembt OSB, we will reflect through use of study, reflection questions, discussion, videos and prayer. To register or for further information, contact Sr. Doris at 605-668-6022 or doberembt@yanktonbenedictines.org no later than September 23.

**Sept. 30/** Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Racism Online Study Group. This Wednesday evening online group will reflect on the Scriptures and Church's teaching on racial equity, using the document from the U.S. Bishops, "Open Wide Our Hearts," along with a faith formation guide. Facilitated by Sr. Mary Jo Polak, we will meet 7-8:30 p.m. for 6 weeks, beginning September 30. For more information and to register email maryjo.polak@yanktonbenedictines.org or call 605-668-6021 no later than September. 23.

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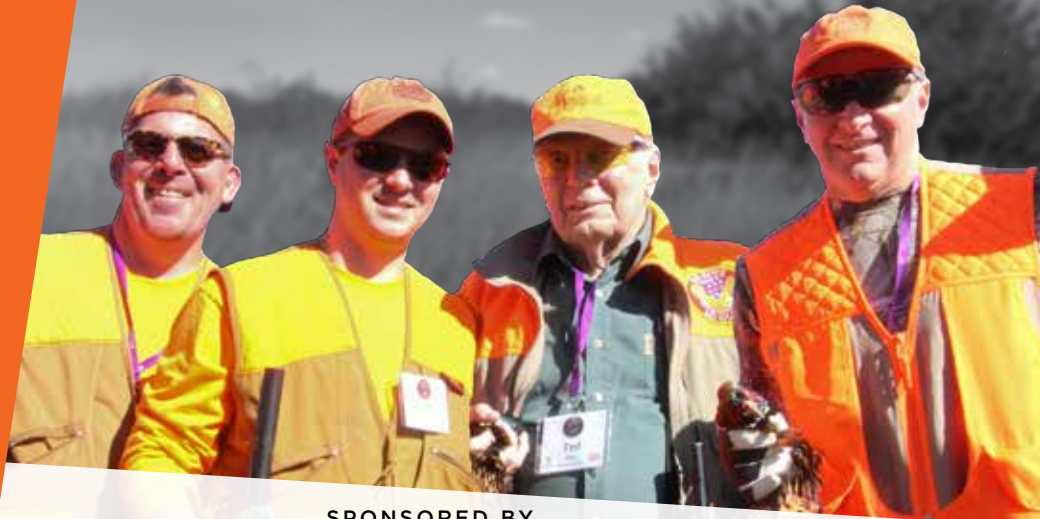
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