



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

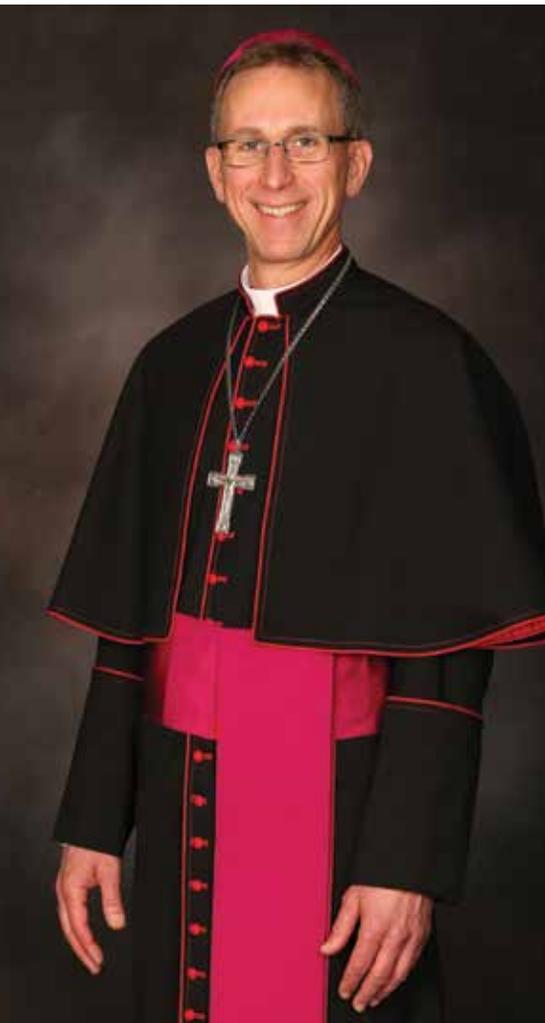
December 2020

# THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN



*Hope* lights the way  
as we *Wait* for the *Lord*

# Waiting is essential for growth in holiness



**I** prayed, longed for and waited 23 years for a rural parish until God blessed me with a mostly rural diocese! Wow what a gift beyond my imagination, but only a foretaste of heaven.

Man is it hard to wait for what I want. This has been my experience most of my life. It seems I always wanted the next thing, the ideal, the fullness of my desires. Much of my life I tried various ways to fulfill those desires, sometimes discovering what I was desiring was more surface things like the pleasures of money, power, possessions, the mind or the body.

In seeking and having some of those things I would eventually discover they didn't satisfy my heart where my deepest longing is. My heart has and always will long for the fullness of happiness which can only be found in loving friendship with God and others.

At various times in my life I longed to be a farmer, fireman, husband, dad, businessman or a priest. When I thought about being a priest, my desire was to be a country parish priest with vibrant souls living their Catholic faith. Only after 23 years as a priest have I been fulfilled in a way far beyond what I could imagine possible in this life with a largely rural diocese.

You, like me, may wonder: Why does God make us wait so long sometimes for what we desire? Because His plan is always better than mine, and my virtues (good habits) need to be strengthened.

My "hurry up God" produces impatience, disappointment, discouragement and other questions of "why not now God?" One thing I have learned through the years is that waiting is essential for growth in holiness and happiness. For example the virtues of patience and even long suffering need to grow in order for me to be a saint one day.

Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of the Lord, ideally filled with a joyful anticipation and not an impatient or anxious waiting. It certainly was hard to do as a kid when all I wanted was my Christmas gifts. Only as I

grew older did the Christmas gifts become less influential and the longing for interior happiness in my heart grow stronger.

I would eventually discover what I really wanted was a deep loving friendship with God. I had to discover what St. Augustine described: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

If our focus is receiving and sharing God's love, we will be satisfied as much as we can here on earth but will still be longing for the fullness of it in heaven.

Perhaps you, like me, have searched for love in all the wrong places and things, i.e. in the pleasures of the mind, body or will, rather than focusing on what will bring us interior or spiritual happiness of a loving relationship with God and others.

As extremely blessed as I am to be your bishop with my love of our mostly rural diocese, that alone will never satisfy my heart. I will forever long for the fullness of loving friendship with God which will only be completely fulfilled in heaven.

So, as we continue our earthly journey with all its joys and sorrows, may we focus our attention and energy on our deepest desire of loving friendship with God and align everything else according to that great desire!

Remember the words of Psalm 27:14: "Wait for the Lord, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the Lord!" That is my prayer and hope for all of us.

This Advent and Christmas Season let's joyfully await the coming of the Lord through the grace he provides each day, at Christmas, and at the end of time when the waiting and longing to be COMPLETELY fulfilled in a more satisfying way than we can even imagine.

As we await and strive for the full satisfaction and perfect love of God and others, may we never forget that Jesus is "Emmanuel - God with us" each and every moment of our life on the journey to heaven.

**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.

## December

- 1 6:30 Real Presence Radio Annual Fundraising Banquet, Sioux Falls
- 3 11:00 Presbyteral Council, Catholic Pastoral Center
- 5 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)
- 10 12:00 Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center
- 19 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)
- 25 12 AM Mass, Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 26 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)
- 28 4:00 Seminarian Mass and gathering, Christ the King Parish, Sioux Falls

## January

- 2 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, broadcast on Keloland TV or live stream via [sfatholic.org](http://sfatholic.org)

# LITANY OF TRUST

From the belief that I have to earn Your love. Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear that I am unlovable. Deliver me, Jesus.

From the false security that I have what it takes. Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear that trusting You will leave me more destitute. Deliver me, Jesus.

From all suspicion of Your words and promises. Deliver me, Jesus.

From the rebellion against childlike dependency on You. Deliver me, Jesus.

From refusals and reluctances in accepting Your will. Deliver me, Jesus.

From anxiety about the future. Deliver me, Jesus.

From resentment or excessive preoccupation with the past. Deliver me, Jesus.

From restless self-seeking in the present moment. Deliver me, Jesus.

From disbelief in Your love and presence. Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being asked to give more than I have. Deliver me, Jesus.

From the belief that my life has no meaning or worth. Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of what love demands. Deliver me, Jesus.

From discouragement. Deliver me, Jesus.

That You are continually holding me, sustaining me, loving me. Jesus, I trust in you.

That Your love goes deeper than my sins and failings, and transforms me. Jesus, I trust in you.

That not knowing what tomorrow brings is an invitation to lean on You. Jesus, I trust in you.

That you are with me in my suffering. Jesus, I trust in you.

That my suffering, united to Your own, will bear fruit in this life and the next. Jesus, I trust in you.

That You will not leave me orphan, that You are present in Your Church. Jesus, I trust in you.

That Your plan is better than anything else. Jesus, I trust in you.

That You always hear me and in Your goodness always respond to me. Jesus, I trust in you.

That You give me the grace to accept forgiveness and to forgive others. Jesus, I trust in you.

That You give me all the strength I need for what is asked. Jesus, I trust in you.

That my life is a gift. Jesus, I trust in you.

That You will teach me to trust You. Jesus, I trust in you.

That You are my Lord and my God. Jesus, I trust in you.

That I am Your beloved one. Jesus, I trust in you.

*Written by the Sisters of Life*

# THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

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### The Bishop's Bulletin

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# It has been a gift



**W**hen I was a senior at Aberdeen Central High School, I was the editor of the school newspaper, “The Blue and Gold.” My dad, at the time, was the editor of the city newspaper, “The Aberdeen American News,” so most people assumed I was active in journalism due to my dad, but there is also a good chance that it was because my sister Christy was the editor of “The Blue and Gold” when she was a senior.

It might have been family tradition, but there is something to be said for sibling competition as well.

Either way, when I enrolled at South Dakota State University I declared print journalism as my major. I enjoyed the classes and the internships; I was fascinated by the history of journalism and the challenge of crafting a new story; I learned the importance of layout and even how to develop my own pictures.

As I was getting close to graduating, I began the work of entering the seminary. My journalism advisor was not a fan of the idea. A few days after graduating, she called me and asked me to take a job in Wall, SD, and I told her I would be happy to, as long as they knew it was only for the summer.

She said, “We’ll see.”

A few days later I moved to Wall and discovered that I had not taken the job of a reporter, but I was the editor of the “Pennington County Courant.” Well, to be honest, I was the editor, and the reporter, the photographer, I helped lay out the paper, inserted the TV guide and delivered the papers to the stores and post office.

It was great, and I did think a bit about keeping the job when the summer ended, but after a long Saturday walk through the Badlands, I decided to go to the seminary. I thought my journalism career was at an end.

Then, a few months after my ordination, and based solely on the fact that I had a degree in journalism, I was asked to write a monthly column detailing the trials and

tribulations of a newly ordained priest, “The Rookie Priest.”

A few years after that, Bishop Carlson assigned me to be the editor of “The Bishop’s Bulletin.” I was enormously grateful to be able to continue my journalism career, even as a priest. The years have passed and the newspaper I took over has become a magazine. There is color now and new ways of telling the story of our diocese, but still, as for the last 30 years, there has been this column; from “The Rookie Priest” to this, my last column.

I would like to thank Bishop Dudley, God grant him rest, Bishop Carlson, Bishop Swain and Bishop DeGrood for giving me a space to share my journey each month for the last 30 years.

As I write this final column, I want to also thank you for letting me be a part of your journey of faith; it has been a gift.

It has been an extraordinary privilege to be able to speak to all of you, and to share some of the aspects of my life, and I have been touched by the cards and letters and notes I have received over the years.

So many of those greetings have expressed an appreciation for how this column seemed so “down to earth,” finding the divine in the usual and ordinary aspects of our human lives. Whenever I would read something like that I would smile.

Knowing I had to write this column each month changed the way I looked at the world. Knowing I would have to write something, I usually went through my life noticing things, keeping events and stories in mind and trying to find the presence of God within them so I could write about them, and share them with all of you.

There is so much beauty and wonder in the ordinary aspects of our lives, the presence of God pulsing through our days, and I have been challenged all these years to seek it, and in finding it, share it with others.

Now, it’s your turn.

# Bishop invites FOCUS missionaries into vision for diocese

Bishop Donald DeGrood and Father Scott Traynor met with FOCUS team directors from campuses in the South Dakota, North Dakota and Nebraska region recently. The gathering was hosted by Tony Menke, regional director of the West for FOCUS, who serves and oversees eight universities in the West Region.

The group discussed how FOCUS can implement and further the bishop's vision of *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love* in their work with university students around the diocese. They also shared their experiences of working with students as they bring Christ to their lives and their challenges in their work.

Pictured with the bishop and Father Traynor are (back row) Seyha Saumweber (UND), Dylan Reinhardt (SDSU), Tony Menke, Father Scott Traynor, Bishop DeGrood, Jacob Tschann (Northern St.), Rob Cargill (USD), (front row) Lexie Weber (NDSU), Courtney Jerome and baby Jude Jerome (UMary), and Marina Martin (TD at Wayne St.).



"You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word."

Psalm 119:114

Blessings of peace and joy to you this holy season





*Hope* lights the way  
as we *Wait* for the *Lord*

*by Renae Kranz*

**A**dvent is a beautiful opportunity to wait with joyful hope for the coming of our Messiah. It can also be a time to refresh our souls with prayer and the sacraments, making ourselves ready for the Christ child on Christmas Eve.

The wait during Advent seems easy because we know what the end of the wait will bring. But in our daily lives, we often face times of waiting that can leave us discouraged and rob us of our hope. You might be waiting to find a spouse to share your life with. You might be waiting to have a child. Or, you might be waiting to be healed from a disease.

Whatever it is, the result you desire might seem impossibly out of reach; you wait so long that your hope has dwindled. But God doesn't want us to lose hope. He wants us to know that he loves us so much more than we love ourselves and wants to give us all the good things we desire.

He wants us to renew our hope and to trust in Him.

## Mary shows us the way

Put yourself in Mary's shoes for a moment. After the angel Gabriel visited her and she gave her "yes" for the world, she would have nine months to wait for her son, the Son of God, to be born. There was probably some anxiety as she faced several unknowns: what would Joseph do, what would others think, would she be a good mother to Jesus, to God Himself?

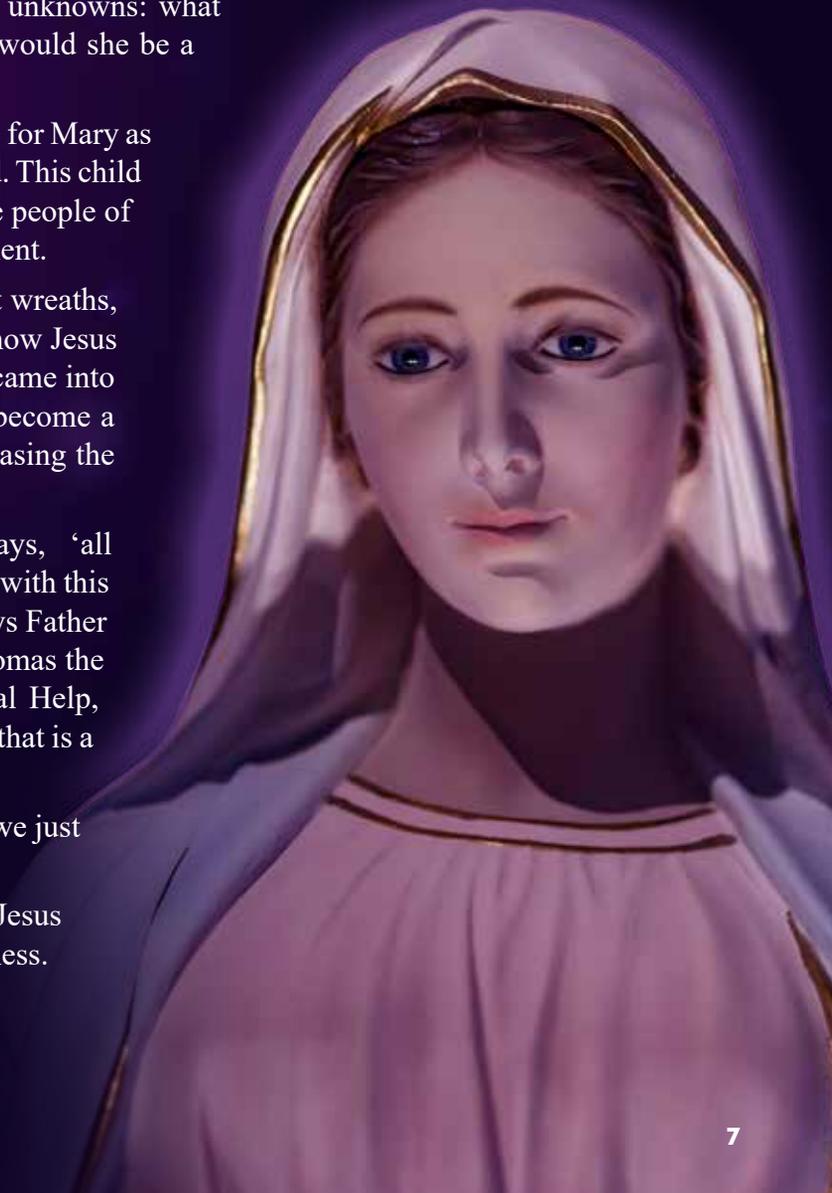
I suspect there was great peace and quiet hope for Mary as well because of her deep faith and trust in God. This child would be the fulfillment of the hope of all the people of Israel who had waited centuries for this moment.

Today, as we light the candles on our Advent wreaths, Father Timothy Smith reminds us to look at how Jesus can come into our lives right now just as he came into Mary's life. We need to prepare for Him to become a bigger part of our lives. One way is by increasing the virtue of hope in times of trial and waiting.

"In Luke's gospel when she [Mary] says, 'all generations will call me blessed,' she is filled with this understanding that she is graced by God," says Father Smith, pastor at Holy Cross, Ipswich, St. Thomas the Apostle, Roscoe, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Leola. "She has been given this grace, and in that is a joyful living hope for us as an example."

So why do we need hope in our lives? Can't we just power through and do this ourselves?

We don't have to. In fact, we can't. Instead, Jesus offers us the promise of his love and faithfulness.



## Hope transforms waiting

In our fallen world, we often forget who we belong to and where we are destined to go—heaven. So when we face a challenge, we wait with restless hearts, not knowing where to turn or who will help us. We forget who loves us and where to find our hope. Our hope can only be in the Lord, not in the world.

In his encyclical, “On Christian Hope,” Pope Benedict XVI reminds us of the intimacy that hope creates between God and us through prayer:

*“A first essential setting for learning hope is prayer. When no one listens to me anymore, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk to anyone or call upon anyone, I can always talk to God. When there is no longer anyone to help me deal with a need or expectation that goes beyond the human capacity for hope, he can help me. When I have been plunged into complete solitude...; if I pray I am never totally alone.” (para. 32)*

Father Smith assures us that our God keeps his promises and is trustworthy in all circumstances. He has found that learning more about the virtue we want to grow in can help us realign our thoughts. In this case, learning more about the virtue of hope and praying about it can help us increase it and realign our thoughts toward heaven.

“The biggest thing is to always go back to maintaining that relationship with God in prayer,” Father Smith says. “And so always acknowledging those thoughts, those feelings and those desires and keeping them related to God through constant conversation. Joseph Pieper, a Catholic philosopher, says that prayer and hope are naturally ordered to each other. Prayer is the expression and proclamation of hope. The hope itself speaks through prayer.”

Father Smith also recognizes that we might feel like the Lord knows our thoughts and feelings and we don’t need to pray about it. He has even felt that way himself at times. But he emphasizes that God wants to hear from us.

“We can always continue to relate to the Lord. And the more we do that, the greater that intimacy with God will be. And then we’re going to be invited to a greater intimacy with His love,” he says.

A main key to waiting in hope comes again from Mary, who waited with the Lord. Instead of waiting FOR the Lord to do something in our lives, we must wait WITH the Lord. When we do that, we will begin to desire what He desires.

As always, the Catechism of the Catholic Church clarifies the virtue of hope for us:

*“The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men’s activities and purifies them so as to order them to the kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.” (CCC 1818)*



*“There became a heightened awareness in me that the real thing that I was created for was something I would never be able to buy. It would be something I really wouldn’t even be able to touch. It’s something that wasn’t tangible and ultimately, that’s heaven.”*

*Father Tim Smith, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Ipswich*

# Hope clarifies a calling

Before Father Smith became a priest, he was an up-and-coming businessman in the world of finance. He had learned a good work ethic from his parents and had a drive for self-sufficiency and success. But as he earned more money and continued to succeed, he became more and more despairing.

He described a point when he had received the largest check he had ever received. At that moment, he was the most miserable he had ever been.

“The more personal security I stored up for myself, the more I found it lacking in real goodness that I was made for. And so there had to be real personal transformation,” Father Smith said. “There became a heightened awareness in me that the real thing that I was created for was something I would never be able to buy. It would be something I really wouldn’t even be able to touch. It’s something that wasn’t tangible and ultimately, that’s heaven.”

At that point, Father Smith began a re-evaluation of his life which he says led to a “beautiful transformation, personal discovery and personal conversion.” He had to reorient himself away from the things of this world and back toward the things of heaven. That process led him to seek “lifelong, eternal peace and also eternal goodness, which can be found in Jesus.”

He went on to enter seminary and become a priest. He says he now understands that this is all just part of the human experience, that we can get distracted by the things of the world and forget about the good things God has in store for our lives. For him, the lives of the saints were influential to him finding his true calling, especially Blessed Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan.

Cardinal Thuan was the archbishop of Saigon in the 1970s when it fell into the hands of the North Vietnamese communist government. He was imprisoned for 13 years, nine of which he spent in solitary confinement. This would normally be a place where hope withers away and despair takes its place. But Thuan’s faith was especially

powerful, which fed into his hope and kept him from despair.

As he waited in prison, Cardinal Thuan dedicated himself to prayer and living his life, solitary as it was, in communion with God. He wrote reflections about hope that were circulated to the other prisoners and eventually distributed around the world. Those reflections became known as “The Road to Hope.”

“He was an amazing example of keeping

one’s hope rooted in the hope for heaven and in love with Jesus and through prayer,” Father Smith says. “And with that true hope for heaven, there really isn’t anything that we cannot go through in this life so long as we see things properly. And that again, takes place over time. You know, each of us has a different journey to make to get there. But the goal is the same, eternal life in the kingdom of heaven.”



Left to right - Gage Crow (Jeremy's son), Barry Crow, Kierra (Crow) Thies, Kaison Thies, Helen and Allan Crow.

## Life isn't always rosy

Sometimes in life we hope for one thing but a different, less desirable thing happens. It can cause our hope in the Lord to be tested. Helen Crow’s story followed this less desirable path.

On Ash Wednesday 2010, Helen and her husband, Allan, parishioners at Holy Trinity in Huron, got a call they never thought they would get. Navy personnel were on the other end of the phone and they wanted to meet with them. Helen knew the news wouldn’t be good.

Their oldest son, Jeremy, had been in the Navy for 17 years by then. When they met with the Navy personnel, they learned their son had been killed. They weren’t able to give them all of the information, but it didn’t really matter in the end. The only thing that mattered was that he was gone.

Helen said at first she went into shock. Even though her son worked with the Navy Seals transporting them, she never thought she would be in this position. She had spent the last 17 years praying for his



safety and eventually a safe return home. She waited and hoped and appreciated the few times they had contact with him or got to see him.

One of the first things Helen did to begin dealing with the news of her son's death was to turn to God in a deeper way. Since it was Lent, she began going to Stations of the Cross on Friday's. She found herself especially drawn to the station's devotions said through the eyes of Mary, sometimes known as Mary's Way of the Cross. She understood that Mary knew her pain.

Helen continued to see things in new ways as she dealt with her grief. The priest at her parish at the time told her something that helped increase her hope.

"He told me that the closest we are to the people who have gone before us is when we're at Mass. And so, I went to Mass before, but that puts even more of a meaning to it," Helen said.

She did struggle as anyone would. About six weeks after her son died, she felt herself sinking lower into a bad place and needed to get back to her routine. She attended a seminar that helped get her back on the right path, and she began to understand that her feelings were valid and her path through her grief would be her own. She didn't need to compare herself to anyone else.

But she did need hope.

She opened herself up to uplifting music, time in adoration and silent retreats at Broom Tree. These things helped her become more prayerful even as she realized her path could have gone a darker way. She says she was never angry, but she asked why many times. She learned to put her hope and trust in God and allow herself to be drawn deeper into relationship with him.

"I've been told that God wouldn't allow anything bad to happen unless He can bring good out of it," Helen says. "And it might not be something that we even see, it might be in time. When you look at a tapestry, if you look at the back it's not pretty. It's a mess. But when you look at the other side, it's beautiful."

Now Helen and Allan enjoy time with their other children and grandchildren. She also tries to help others who are grieving. She knows hearing someone else's story can give someone who might be struggling hope when they need it.

Something she read in the book "Unexpected" by Christine Caine struck her: "Hope is the unshakeable confidence in God. It doesn't deny the pain, but it gives permission to believe in a new beginning."

## Hope brings life

Jordan and Mikaela Pannell, parishioners at St. Therese Parish in Sioux Falls, understand the challenge of waiting for something they really want. They started out waiting for each other, and later found themselves waiting for something even more.

Before Jordan met Mikaela he had decided to stop dating for a while during college until he was fully ready for the commitment of a relationship. He says his hiatus lasted three or four years.

"I was trying to work on myself and just waiting for the right person to walk along," Jordan says. "I learned after high school that I didn't find myself nearly ready enough to try to have a super committed relationship. So I figured I'd be open to dating, but at the same time be willing to wait for the person that God puts in front of me."

This decision wasn't without its challenges. Jordan had many friends who were getting engaged or were in committed relationships, but rather than let that bring him down, he surrounded himself with other good, chaste men to walk through that time with. Those friends didn't just fall into his lap, either. He had to put himself into places like daily Mass and Catholic ministries at college to find good men who he could talk to and find support from.

It wasn't quite as easy for Mikaela. She came from a small town where many couples who were high school sweethearts got married, including her own parents. That didn't happen for her which threw her off a bit.

"I was praying probably a little more persistently than Jordan, but I was comfortable with the fact that I was forming really good friendships and forming myself," Mikaela says. "I figured however long this takes, it'll be okay because I know God's got it. And it's worth it, I think was the big thing, like this is worth it."

Once the two met each other and started dating, their courtship was quick, only a little over four months. They knew they were meant to be together, and Mikaela credits that confidence to their individual choices to wait for the right person.

"I think that's important really for both of our stories. We ended up meeting each other because we were both in youth ministry," Mikaela said. "If we hadn't both been doing that waiting for each other and for what we knew God wanted for us, that probably wouldn't have happened. I don't think I would have



*Jordan and Mikaela Pannell with daughter Melody Marie, parishioners of St. Therese Parish, Sioux Falls*

been in youth ministry had I not chosen to take that path.”

That trust and hope in God’s plan for their lives would be tested shortly after they married. Jordan and Mikaela assumed they would have no problem having children and they were anxious to get their family started. However, Mikaela had been tracking her cycles for years already and knew some things were not quite right.

With the help of good health care and her use of the Creighton Method, she was already being treated for low progesterone. But after seven or eight months of trying to get pregnant, they knew something else had to be going on. Frustration was beginning to build.

The couple worked with their doctors and a midwife to try to figure out what was keeping them from conceiving. They found additional underlying issues and dealt with them, but nothing seemed to be the sure solution. They tried fertility medications as well, which were hard on Mikaela and ultimately were not the solution either. It would come down to trust in God.

“I think everybody at one point or another is going to struggle with the hope part, and I know we did from time to time for sure,” Mikaela said. “We had to keep reminding ourselves in our prayer life together. It became that trying to align our will with God’s will, his timing, not our timing. And that was helpful. And also embracing where we were in that period of our life and what we were able to do.”

Besides prayer, the Pannell’s turned to others for support. They learned to appreciate the time to build up their marriage and make it rock solid for when children did come along. And they found opportunities for “parenthood” in other ways: spending time with children through various ministries, being godparents, and babysitting for others. They embraced those roles instead falling into a “poor me” attitude.

“There were definitely the hills and the valleys as far as our faith goes. I think

starting out it was super hard on us just because we thought we had done everything right,” Jordan says. “We had a lot of questions. What did we do wrong? Are we getting punished? There’s just a lot of uncertainty and questions that arose especially pretty early on. And then eventually you get past this hump where you start going up the hill again.”

“And then you realize you can’t do this without God,” Mikaela added.

Finally, after almost two years, Jordan and Mikaela got good news. Jordan was sure his wife was “pulling his chain”

when she told him they were expecting. There were lots of tears and the feeling that a miracle had finally happened for them.

Their daughter, Melody Marie, was born June 12 of this year. The couple has learned to embrace periods of waiting and uncertainty in their lives and put their trust squarely with God.

“It’s a lot easier for us to acknowledge the waiting and depending on God’s will,” Jordan says now. “And just knowing that He’s got us.”

## Prepare your hearts

Hope isn’t always easy to hold onto when life throws you a curve ball. But Father Smith reminds us not to be too hard on ourselves if we are struggling. He says we should continue to pray, frequent the sacraments (especially confession), learn more about our faith, and turn to the saints for help and inspiration. And also remember to listen to what God might be saying to you.

“He’ll always give us an opportunity to be taken out of our comfort and really reevaluate how much dependence we’re putting on him and how much really in our own self-sufficiency we’re really going off of and trying to fulfill our deepest longings on our own, rather than looking at Him,” Father Smith says.

Confession can be a critical component to increasing our faith, hope and love. Sin can cause us to lose these virtues. Repentance and the Lord’s forgiveness renew them and restore our relationship with Him.

“When I go to reconciliation and my sins are forgiven through Jesus by the authority of his Church, and I know that I have God’s grace flowing in me, I know my hope for heaven is renewed,” Father Smith says. “I know that I have restored my relationship with God and that if something were to happen, I am ready for the Lord.”

Take the waiting time of Advent to prepare for Jesus and increase your hope. Our hope for the joys of heaven can sustain us through the hills and valleys of life. Come, let us rejoice!



# Changes offer opportunities to grow in faith

By Renae Kranz

If you've already read Father Mike Griffin's column for this month, you know the news. If you haven't, well, go back to page 4 and see what he has to say.

After about 26 years as executive editor of the Bishop's Bulletin, Father Mike is putting down his pen. As part of that decision, he will also end the column he has written for 30 years. It's a sad day for those who have faithfully read his lovely words all these years.

Changes like these can be difficult, especially when they are unexpected. But changes in life help us grow and stretch ourselves in ways we don't expect. They also help us put our trust in God, following him where he leads us. As long as we do that, it will always be the right direction.

I didn't get to work with Father Mike for nearly as long as others involved with the Bishop's Bulletin, but the short time I've had has been a great learning experience. His writing has a beautiful poetic feel to it that I always admire as I proof his column every month. And it will be difficult to replace his keen eye when proofreading the entire issue on proof day. His help with planning stories and advice when problems arose were invaluable to our team.



Renae Kranz, interim director of Communications for the Diocese of Sioux Falls and managing editor of The Bishop's Bulletin

Jerry Klein was the director of communications for much of the time Father Mike was part of the Bulletin and worked closely with him. He felt privileged to work with him through the years.

"His ability to combine his pastoral and journalistic skills have imprinted not just the Bishop's Bulletin but all who read it," Jerry said. "His foresight inspired the transition from newspaper to a beautiful, readable and inviting magazine format. Most of all, I enjoyed the monthly proof day time together. While getting the

work done, we also caught up with each other. We laughed a lot and I learned much, whether about his National Guard experiences, his pet stories, and perhaps something of our shared Jackrabbit journalism legacy. After 30 years of monthly columns and nearly that long as executive editor, all I can say is thank you for sharing your abundant God-given talents."

From the Communications team and the entire diocesan staff, thank you Father Mike. Your contributions over the years have helped the Bishop's Bulletin become what it is today.

This is not the only change you'll see in months to come. Bishop DeGrood's vision of *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love* will begin to push the Bulletin in a new and exciting direction. We want to feed your faith, help you grow in love, and help you become more fully, authentically Catholic.

How will we do that? Well, we don't have that completely hashed out yet, but we will be creating more content to serve all age groups in our diocese. You'll begin to see more stories about Catholics living their faith in everyday life. And you'll read about the wonderful parishes and parish families we are blessed with, along with our priests, seminarians and others in religious life.

To accomplish this, we will need help! So I'm putting out a call for Catholic writers and photographers around the diocese. If you are a writer or photographer and would be interested in helping us tell more stories from the diocese, please reach out to me. This would be a great opportunity for high school and college students who aspire to become journalists to get experience and create a portfolio. However, all ages are welcome.

If you are interested in helping the Bulletin, contact me at [rkrantz@sfcatholic.org](mailto:rkrantz@sfcatholic.org). I will want to see samples of your work, and we'll talk about opportunities in your area.

We're so excited to see where this adventure with the bishop's vision takes us. I hope we can all become better Catholics and better missionary disciples to spread God's love to all.



Father Mike Griffin proofreading the Bishop's Bulletin from his office in Aberdeen.

# What does papal infallibility refer to?



*Is everything a pope says infallible?*



This is a great and timely question, in light of the documentary that was released about Pope Francis in October. That documentary included clips from a news interview that the Holy Father had given in 2019 on the topic of civil unions for same-sex couples. Much of the coverage of the Holy Father's remarks, particularly in secular media, indicated that Pope Francis had changed the Church's teaching.

This column won't be getting into the details of questions about what he meant or why the Church teaches what she does about marriage (make sure and check out the online resources in the link below as some of those will address that topic). Instead, we're going to look at the larger question of whether a pope can change Church teaching, and how papal infallibility fits into that.

It's important to remember the nature of the teaching authority of the pope and those bishops in union with him. Jesus entrusted Peter and the other apostles with the responsibility of handing on and proclaiming His teachings to every generation. To ensure they would do so, Jesus did not rely on the Apostles' own holiness or intelligence. Instead, He promised that He would give them the Holy Spirit to allow them to carry out that task of guarding and proclaiming His teachings.

So it was to the Apostles that Jesus gave this responsibility, and He promised that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth. They, in turn, handed on that authority to other men—the popes and the bishops—and they, too, were guided by the Holy Spirit to faithfully guard and teach what Jesus had taught to the Apostles.

What this means is when the pope and the bishops with him officially teach the faith, we can have confidence what they are teaching is true, and that it reflects what Jesus taught when He lived and taught 2000 years ago. We see this teaching authority exercised, for instance, in the

formal teachings of ecumenical councils and things like the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Among the Apostles, however, Peter had a special role as their leader, and to him and his successors—the popes—Jesus gave a special responsibility to teach not only for his local church, but for the universal Church. And because of this unique task which Peter and his successors (the popes) have been given, the Holy Spirit works in a special way to ensure that, in specific situations, what the pope teaches is completely without error.

This is what papal infallibility refers to. It means that when a pope formally defines a matter of church teaching, referring to something of faith or morality, he is protected by the Holy Spirit from teaching error. So whatever he says in this context has no error in it.

It's important to note what papal infallibility does not mean. It does not mean that popes are sinless; that's what "immaculate" means (as in "Immaculate Mary"). It doesn't even mean that when he does teach infallibly, he does so in the clearest manner possible.

It also does not mean that everything a pope teaches is infallible. Again, it applies only when a pope is formally defining a matter of Church teaching. So with regard to Pope Francis' interview, for instance, that was not a formal definition of Church teaching, and hence is not an instance of papal infallibility.

There's another layer of complexity, however. The Church teaches that whenever a pope is teaching, he is exercising his teaching authority, and we are to presume the truth of what he is teaching. This applies to most papal documents and to formal addresses (speeches) that a pope gives on matters of faith or morality. Even though these are not instances of



Pope Pius IX dogmatically defined the doctrine of papal infallibility during the First Vatican Council.

papal infallibility, we are to presume the truth of what the pope says as it relates to doctrine.

It's important to note, though, that even this level of authority does not apply to everything a pope says. Even popes can have "personal" theological opinions, and those views, because they are not authoritative, are not binding on us to accept as true. Such would apply to things like media interviews, whoever the pope might be.

The papacy is a great gift from God to us. It's important that we understand that gift accurately so that through our popes we can grow as authentically Catholic missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

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

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

*Chris Burgwald holds a doctorate in theology and is the director of Adult Discipleship and Evangelization for the Diocese of Sioux Falls.*



# Reaching out in times of crisis

This year has presented us with many challenges, but none has had a greater impact on our lives than COVID-19. It has led to job losses, depression, addiction, loneliness, sickness and for some, death. It's been a struggle for almost everyone.

As Catholics, these are the times we are moved to action to help our neighbors. Through the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund that has been facilitated by the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota (CCFESD), we have impacted the lives of 644 families with grants ranging from \$250 to \$500 to help with immediate needs.

Of those who have received funds, nearly 1,200 children have been helped. Parishes in 22 communities across the diocese have received a total of \$267,100 in assistance over 28 weeks. Many have stepped up to help ease the burden of their friends and neighbors during a time of real crisis.

The fund came about in a rather organic way according to Kelly Bartmann, who acted as the fund administrator for the CCFESD. She knew God would provide generous donors to help those who needed it.

“We were determined to make a difference by connecting those who wanted to help with those in eastern South Dakota who needed financial help due to COVID-19,” Bartmann said. “We received our first gifts the end of March and made our first distributions through four different parishes by mid-April. There have been grants distributed weekly since then until the funds were depleted with our last distribution on October 27.”

Over the last eight months, stories have poured into CCFESD as grants were made. Priests across the diocese were the first point of contact in most cases. Some of the families in need were dedicated churchgoers. Some were not. None of that mattered. Their church family stepped up to help them.

“The COVID-19 Relief Fund has definitely been an eye opening and humbling part of my job for the past several months,” Bartmann said. “It has been my goal to maintain the ‘personhood’ of each grant recipient as we work through the mechanics of providing some emergency relief as

we are able. We also found it helpful to coordinate with Catholic Family Services in a few cases where there have been infants or pregnant moms involved.”

Here are some of the stories of those helped by the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund:

*Let's start with the story from St. Paul Parish in Marty... Father Cathal Gallagher called shortly after the information went out to the parishes letting them know we had emergency funds available. He was at odds how to handle this process because he had so many people in need. We had lengthy discussions during which he explained the sisters he works with there would be the best at understanding the needs of the people of the parish. In the end, Father Gallagher was sent a grant of \$5,000 to be distributed as he and the sisters determined. They helped 47 families with that grant money.*

*Another pastor requested funds for a parishioner who has been dealing with the ongoing costs of a divorce for the last two to three years. She raises her four kids on her own with very little if any financial support from the children's father. Her employment at a local business supply store was ending, as the store was closing. Finding a new job in this pandemic is a challenge. She definitely needed the support, as she has moved her family to a housing assistance address.*

*Yet another pastor had a call from a dad who had to stay home to care for his two sons, one 2 years old and one 2 months old, when their mom was sick with COVID and hospitalized for two weeks.*

*A pastor heard from a grandmother living on a fixed income who is now faced with providing food and shelter for her granddaughter, her nephew and their parents. The local priest was happy he could at least help with some of her increased expenses.*

*Another had a desperate call from a single mom with five children she adopted when their mother abandoned them. She was laid off for four months and about to choose between paying the rent and feeding her children.*

*We had a request through our website from a single dad of an 11-year-old son. He fell behind when he lost his job due to the pandemic and now had the fuel pump go out on his car. He found a job but was short \$500 on his rent. He said, “I've never had to ask for a handout in my 36 years, but I'm in desperate need of some help to get back on my feet.” We connected him with a local parish to receive a grant and received a very heartfelt expression of his thanks, “Thank you so much! I am beyond grateful for your help! I grew up Catholic but for years have only made it to church on Christmas Eve and Easter. I am so thankful my church is still willing to help me.”*

CCFESD is grateful to the pastors who heard the call from their parishioners and took time to help them in their difficult hour. Although the Fund is currently depleted, CCFESD is open to accepting donations any time to continue to help those in need due to the pandemic. If you'd like to make a donation, visit [www.ccfesd.org](http://www.ccfesd.org).

# Annual report for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

The fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, was a unique year for programs and ministry throughout the Diocese of Sioux Falls. While we were blessed to welcome Bishop Donald DeGrood in February, we had to quickly adjust to operating within a challenging environment. Despite those challenges, the fiscal year was sound financially, with net revenue of \$543,111 as a result of improvement in the insurance programs and lower than anticipated operating expenses.

While contributions were slightly below forecast, operating expenses were also below what was anticipated.

Catholic Family Sharing Appeal remained even from the previous year and continues to be the primary source of revenue for programs and ministries offered through the diocese. Endowment and other revenue provided by the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota also provides significant funding. Program and other revenue also continue to be an important source of operating revenue.

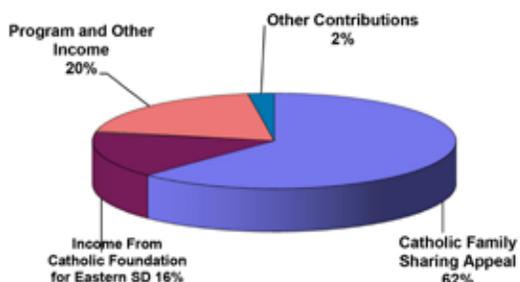
Total assets of the Catholic Chancery Office grew by over \$600,000 to \$16.2 million, up from \$15.5 million as cash and investments continued to grow.

Ministries such as Sunday TV Mass and the Bishop's Bulletin continue to be critical, especially during this time. During the fiscal year, diocesan programs were evaluated and adjusted to better align with future programming needs. Operations also continue to be reviewed, including such areas as communications and technology, to better serve parishes, schools and ministries throughout the diocese now and into the future.

"As your new bishop, I am amazed at the generous support of so many faith-filled people who help support the Catholic ministries in east river South Dakota," Bishop Donald DeGrood said. "Know of my gratitude, especially in these trying times."

A copy of the audited financial statements is available through the Financial Administration Office of the Catholic Chancery Office.

## 2020 OPERATING REVENUE AND SUPPORT



## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2020 AND 2019

	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,396,726	\$ 434,226
Cash and cash equivalents-non operating	2,128,284	1,880,143
Receivables	1,534,798	2,080,410
Other assets	130,926	155,521
Loans receivable	195,148	202,247
Assets held by others	1,138,967	1,154,247
Equity in insurance cooperative	488,295	455,912
Property and equipment	9,206,040	9,190,374
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 16,219,184</b>	<b>\$ 15,553,080</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 755,848	\$ 878,363
Custodial funds	292,942	305,599
Contributions payable	504,784	504,973
Notes payable	1,073,354	815,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,626,928</b>	<b>2,503,935</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions	8,660,532	8,127,682
With donor restrictions	4,931,724	4,921,463
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>13,592,256</b>	<b>13,049,145</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 16,219,184</b>	<b>\$ 15,553,080</b>

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2020 AND 2019

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions 2020	Total	Total 2019
<b>Revenue and Support</b>				
Catholic family sharing appeal	\$ -	4,241,854	4,241,854	\$ 4,251,465
Income from Catholic Foundation for Eastern SD				
Contributions and events	100,906	141,383	242,289	531,482
Income from endowments	-	826,027	826,027	761,511
Loan and investment income	20,751	-	20,751	16,615
Clergy insurance program	847,235	-	847,235	871,380
Lay health insurance program	5,008,967	-	5,008,967	4,870,116
Program and other income	1,249,555	78,442	1,327,997	1,329,223
Other contributions	108,359	50,523	158,882	147,108
Gain(loss) on disposal of property	-	-	-	160,408
Net assets released from restrictions	5,327,968	(5,327,968)	-	-
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>12,663,741</b>	<b>10,261</b>	<b>12,674,002</b>	<b>12,939,308</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Ministries and programs	3,508,874	-	3,508,874	3,216,978
Clergy benefits and health program	696,728	-	696,728	1,008,352
Lay health insurance program	4,786,358	-	4,786,358	4,289,417
Seminarian and other education	786,957	-	786,957	1,169,311
Interest paid to parishes and others	32,873	-	32,873	44,602
Pastoral services	670,979	-	670,979	645,509
Administrative	1,210,893	-	1,210,893	1,211,919
Depreciation	437,229	-	437,229	375,413
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>12,130,891</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,130,891</b>	<b>11,961,501</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>532,850</b>	<b>10,261</b>	<b>543,111</b>	<b>977,807</b>
<b>Net Assets-Beginning</b>	<b>8,127,682</b>	<b>4,921,463</b>	<b>13,049,145</b>	<b>12,071,338</b>
<b>Net Assets-Ending</b>	<b>\$ 8,660,532</b>	<b>4,931,724</b>	<b>13,592,256</b>	<b>\$ 13,049,145</b>

# God's gift of grace to Mary

We celebrate the Immaculate Conception each year on December 8 as a holy day of obligation. It's a day to contemplate the great gift of God's grace given to Mary our mother.

The Church teaches that Mary, from the moment of her conception, was preserved from the stain of original sin. She was to be a pure vessel for Jesus as he was conceived and grew in her womb.

How did that happen and how is it different from how we are saved from original sin in baptism? Here's an analogy that has been used by the Church for a thousand years to illustrate this gift of grace.

Say you are walking along and fall into a deep, muddy pit. Someone reaches down and pulls

you out of the pit. They save you from the mud and mire.

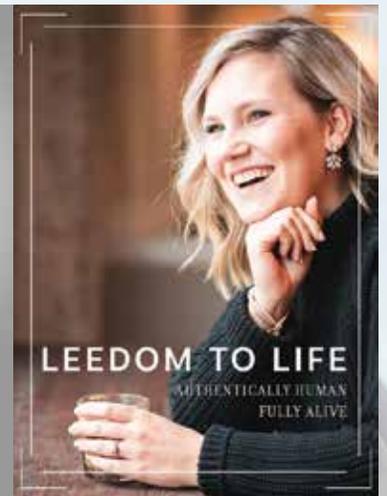
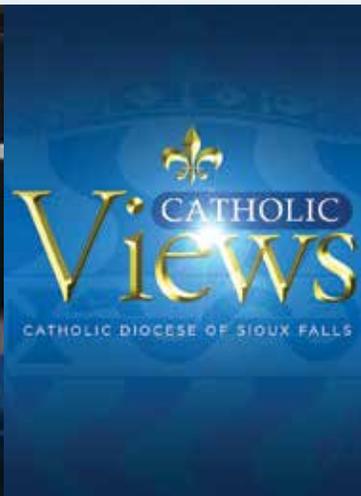
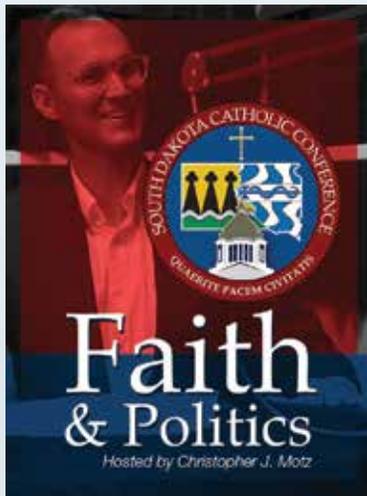
Now imagine your friend is walking in the same area and is about to fall into the same pit. Just before your friend falls into the pit, someone reaches out and pulls her back so she doesn't fall into the pit at all and does not become muddy.

You were both saved from the pit, but you had the stain of the mud (sin) on you that had to be washed away with water (baptism). Your friend, on the other hand, was saved before being stained by any mud (sin) at all. This is Mary, saved from any stain of sin thanks to a grace received from Christ at the moment of her conception.

Hail Mary! Full of grace! Pray for us!



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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

Discover a wide variety of Catholic podcasts, produced and available through the Communications Office of the Diocese.

[sfatholic.org/radio-podcasts](http://sfatholic.org/radio-podcasts)



# Gathering leaves to help out their neighbors

Students from St. Mary School in Salem from first to eighth grades spent an afternoon helping two Salem residents rake the leaves in their yards. The students contacted the residents themselves, split up into two groups, and finished the yards in one afternoon. They enjoyed getting out into the community and were happy to be of service to their neighbors. (Photo courtesy of Peggy Freidel)



# Light of the World



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-JOHN 1:5

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**ARMOUR** – Greg and Betty Putnam will celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 29. They have 3 children, 9 grandchildren and are members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish.



**BRANDON** – Jerry and Barb Schneider will celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 19. They have 2 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of Risen Savior Parish.



**HOWARD** – Randy and Lesa Feldhaus celebrated their 45th anniversary on October 11. They have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of St. Agatha Parish.



**MILBANK** – Robert and Noreen Lien celebrated their 65th anniversary on November 26. They have 6 children, 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Lawrence Parish.



**MITCHELL** – Dan and Jackie Sabers celebrated their 45th anniversary on November 22. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are members of Holy Family Parish.



**MITCHELL** – Dave and Cindy Driscoll will celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 4. They have 4 children, 9 grandchildren and are members of Holy Family Parish.



**SALEM** – Steve and Carol Gessner will celebrate their 60th anniversary on December 31. They have 6 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Ron and Diane Bannwarth will celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 12. They have 4 children (1 deceased), 7 grandchildren and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Rob and Linda Hartmann celebrated their 50th anniversary on November 26. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and Linda is a member of St. Michael Parish.



**WATERTOWN** – Bill and Rita Chase will celebrate their 45th anniversary on December 20. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.

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## ANNIVERSARY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

Send a color photo, your anniversary information and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by **December 14** for inclusion in the January 2021 edition to:

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

# Monsignor Richard Mahowald passes at 90

Monsignor Richard J. Mahowald, 90, a retired priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, died November 5, 2020, at Avera Prince of Peace in Sioux Falls.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated November 11 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls. The Most Reverend Donald E. DeGroot, bishop of Sioux Falls, was the main celebrant. A committal service was prayed privately at a family plot at St. Mary Cemetery in Watertown.

Richard James Mahowald was born on August 22, 1930, in Watertown. He was the second of nine children born to Benedict and Mary (née Rozum) Mahowald. He was baptized on September 7, 1930, by the then-pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Watertown, Reverend Lambert Hoch, who would go on to serve as the fifth bishop of Sioux Falls.

After attending grammar school at Immaculate Conception in Watertown, he attended high school at St. Thomas Military Academy in St. Paul, Minnesota. He entered minor seminary at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and attended major seminary at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul and, later, at the Gregorian University in Rome. On December 17, 1955, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Martin J. O'Connor at North American College in Rome.



Monsignor Richard Mahowald

Upon ordination, Father Mahowald served as associate pastor at Holy Family Parish, Mitchell, and St. Agnes Parish, Vermillion. He was then assigned to lead the Catholic Student Center at South Dakota State University where he oversaw the construction of the Pius XII Newman Center.

From 1963-1967 he completed his doctoral studies in sacred theology at the Gregorian University, including publishing the thesis "The Idea of the Word in the Christian Life According to John Henry Cardinal Newman." After completing his doctorate, he fulfilled multiple assignments in Rome, including serving as superior of the Casa Santa Maria and as the

founder and director of the Institute for Continuing Theological Education. In 1972, Pope Paul VI conferred the Prelate of Honor upon him.

Monsignor Mahowald returned to the diocese to serve as pastor to St. Lawrence Parish, Milbank, St. Agnes Parish, Vermillion, and Christ the King, Parish, in Sioux Falls. In between these assignments he served in multiple teaching and formator assignments at the University of Dallas, the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul), and at North American College.

He was granted retirement from ministry assignments in 2006. However, Monsignor continued to offer retreats and give spiritual direction all throughout his years of retirement. Frequently he was invited to other dioceses to offer this ministry, but he was especially attentive to Broom Tree Retreat Center, always willing to provide direction for its retreatants.

Monsignor Mahowald served as vicar general of the diocese during Bishop Robert Carlson's tenure. In addition, he was a regular contributor to the priest council and the clergy continuing education committee at different times in his priestly ministry.

Monsignor Mahowald is survived by two sisters and two brothers along with 54 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, and three sisters.

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## Addition to November's Necrology of the Diocese of Sioux Falls

Two sisters from Presentation Heights in Aberdeen were inadvertently left out of the 2019-2020 Necrology published in the November issue of the Bishop's Bulletin: Sister Catherine Fiegen - June 9 and Sister SaBina Joyce - June 26.

[www.midcontinental.com](http://www.midcontinental.com)

# Sister Loretta Von Rueden, OSF, dies at 91

Sister Loretta Von Rueden, 91, a sister of the Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Guadalupe, died November 3, 2020, at her home in Mitchell. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated November 9 at Holy Spirit Parish in Mitchell with burial at Calvary Cemetery in Mitchell.

Loretta Von Rueden was born July 18, 1929, in Reynolds, North Dakota, to Loretta (Mennehan) Von Reuden and Jerome Von Rueden. She graduated from St. Francis Academy, Hankinson, North Dakota. Sister Loretta made her religious profession on August 4, 1947, at St. Francis Convent in Hankinson. She graduated from the St. Cloud School of Nursing in 1951 and was assigned to Oakes Community Hospital, Oakes, North Dakota, where she served as nursing director from 1953-1961.

Sister Loretta's service to the Diocese of Sioux Falls began in February 1961 when she was assigned as staff nurse and director of nursing at Gettysburg

Memorial Hospital in Gettysburg. Her role expanded over the years to serve as assistant administrator, corporate treasurer and on-call obstetrical and emergency nurse. She also served as treasurer of the South Dakota Catholic Hospital Association from 1967-1969. She was a member of the South Dakota Director of Nursing Association and served on the governing board of Gettysburg Memorial Hospital.

Sister was one of the founding members of the Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Guadalupe under Bishop Hoch. She was elected Sister Leader in March 1985. The commu-



nity built a new convent in Mitchell and moved in on November 14, 1991.

From 1991-2003 Sister Loretta served as pastoral visitor for both Holy Family and Holy Spirit parishes in addition to teaching baptism and RCIA classes. In 2003 she began serving her community full time. She served in many ways, but most especially enjoyed her role as cook. The last few years she was a prayer warrior spending most of her time in chapel in her recliner.

Sister Loretta celebrated her 70th jubilee to religious life on August 4, 2017.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews, as well as her community sisters: Sister Marita Pfau and Sister Nancy Dwyer.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Tony VonRueden, her sister, Rita Braun and her community sisters: Sister Francine Randa, Sister Teresa Schmitt and Sister Juliana Haman.



## Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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# Learn about the Church through Catholic Conversations



The diocesan Office of Discipleship and Evangelization is offering a new series called Catholic Conversations.

Bishop DeGroot has called all of us to grow as lifelong Catholic missionary disciples through God's love. An essential aspect of being a disciple is to deepen our understanding of what God has revealed

to us about Himself, about us, and indeed about all things. To grow as a disciple throughout our lives, then, is to grow in understanding of what God teaches us through His Church.

To help the faithful of the diocese grow as missionary disciples, Dr. Chris Burgwald, the diocesan director of Adult Discipleship

and Evangelization, is broadcasting live as he travels around the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Each month he is making a stop at a different parish to have a conversation about an aspect of our Catholic faith.

This is an opportunity for you to join with fellow Catholics to explore the things not normally covered in adult faith formation. Not only will you learn more about what the Church teaches, but you'll also discover in a richer way the difference that our faith can make in your daily life. In addition to learning facts about our faith, you will see how knowing them can enrich your relationship with God and lead you to live with His peace, joy and passion.

If you can't make a presentation in person, Dr. Chris is livestreaming them as well, so you can participate live or watch after the fact.

You can find dates, locations and ways to connect online at [www.sfcatholic.org/conversations](http://www.sfcatholic.org/conversations).

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**UPCOMING RETREATS**

**SILENT RETREATS**

**Men's Silent Retreats 2021**

- February 18-21
- April 15-18
- August 19-22
- September 23-26
- October 21-24
- November 18-21

**Women's Silent Retreats 2021**

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

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

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

**December 15**  
**St. Joseph, Our Spiritual Father**  
- directed by Dr. Teri Kemmer

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**JANUARY 19, 2021**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

**MARCH 9, 2021**

**APRIL 13, 2021**

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

123 Saint Raphael Circle • Irene, SD 57037  
605-263-1040 • [broomtree@sfcatholic.org](mailto:broomtree@sfcatholic.org)  
[www.broom-tree.org](http://www.broom-tree.org)

**Recitation of the rosary planned**

**Friday, Dec. 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.

**Christmas on the Prairie cancelled**

The Christmas on the Prairie concert at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Hoven has been cancelled for 2020. Any donations to the parish are appreciated and we hope to see you in December 2021.

**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.

**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](http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org/retreats-online) group for updated information on new topics, dates and registration information.

**December 4/** Online Lectio Divina, Fridays, December 4, 11, and 18, 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](mailto:pbingham@yanktonbenedictines.org) or 605-668-6023, sending her your email address.

**December 5/** Advent Morning of Reflection: The Winter of the Spirit/ In these days of COVID-19 darkness, how can the hope of Advent speak to us? This retreat will be presented on Zoom by Peace Center staff, with opportunities for questions and sharing. Saturday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Please register by noon on Friday, December 4. For more information on registration and appropriate donation, go to <https://yanktonbenedictines.org/advent-retreat/>

**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.

Visit [sfcatholic.org](http://sfcatholic.org) to find new ways to strengthen your faith and learn more about your Catholic diocese



**What you'll find**

- The various ministries of the diocese
- Mass times
- Upcoming events
- Podcasts like Ignition, Leedom to Life and Faith & Politics
- "Can We Be Saints?" blog
- Fresh news from around the diocese
- The Bishop's Bulletin online edition
- Catholic Views radio program



*Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls*

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# "That's My God!"



## CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL 2020 IS GOING VIRTUAL!

We are offering a special 90-minute commercial free broadcast on Christmas night, Dec. 25, 6:30 - 8:00 PM on KELOLAND Television.

FOR INFO  
[www.ccfesd.org/events](http://www.ccfesd.org/events)  
(605) 988-3765

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## THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls



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