

# WEST RIVER *Catholic*

Informing Catholics in Western South Dakota since May 1973



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December 2016

Diocese of Rapid City  
South Dakota

Volume 45 Number 8

[www.rapidcitydiocese.org](http://www.rapidcitydiocese.org)



*“And the Word became flesh and  
made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory, the glory as of the  
Father’s only Son,  
full of grace and truth.”\**

The Father’s grace and glory appeared  
on that first Christmas morning. This season of  
Christmas invites us to enter deeply into this  
mystery of love. This mystery leads us into  
gratitude, into giving, and into love.

May Jesus always be  
your joy, your hope, your greatest desire.  
And may this Christmas  
and each day of the new year  
be directed by His guiding hand of love!

*Merry Christmas to all of you.*  
**+Bishop Robert Gruss**

\*Jn 1:14



Mailing Label

## 'Fear hardens our hearts and creates binders on our eyes'



**Bishop  
Robert Gruss**

**Diocese of  
Rapid City**

The symbols of Christmas speak a language which we all understand. Pope Francis reminds us, "The Christmas tree and Nativity scene are symbols of God's love and hope, reminding us to contemplate the beauty of creation and welcome the marginalized. The cribs set up in churches, in homes and in so

many public places are also an invitation to make room in our life and in society for God, hidden in the faces of many persons who are in conditions of hardship, of poverty and of tribulation."

As we have listened to the readings of Advent and look forward to the readings of Christmas, we can see that they speak of a new era, one of peace and tranquility — a new dawn breaking upon the world. This message is meant to fill the world with hope, with deep longings fulfilled, thereby diminishing the anxiety and fear experienced by many people in this country and

throughout the world.

Emmanuel, God Is with Us, brings new promise. The Messiah has come to deliver people from their suffering and affliction. The promise has been realized. This is the gift of Christmas. This is what we celebrate these days.

But perhaps not for everyone. The threat of deportation among the undocumented in this country, and even worse the threat of death for being Christian in the Middle East, brings severe angst among many populations. The mystery of Christmas for them may seem to be a hidden reality.

As I sit to write this column, the sad news has come across the Internet of a bombing at a chapel adjacent to Egypt's main Coptic Christian cathedral killing 25 people and wounding another 49, mostly women and children, during a Sunday Mass. One cannot imagine the pain and suffering felt by Egyptians in the aftermath of such barbarism. But this is not an isolated incident. My heart goes out to the people of Cairo and all across Egypt. We must not forget the people of Iraq and Syria as well, for so many of them have similar experiences.

The fact is that the persecution of religious believers has become an increasingly tragic situation all across the world. People of all religious denominations, including Muslims and Jews, are facing the wrath of persecution. But Evangelical Protestants and Catholics have especially become targets of terrorism initiated by evil authorities who are often motivated by anti-Western, anti-democratic ideologies and who feel threatened by Christian faith and worship.

Pope Francis, in a homily in June 2014, said that "there are more martyrs in the Church today than in the first centuries." After an additional two years, the evidence bears this out even more. Little has been done by the United States government in terms of speaking out against these terrors of religious persecution. Perhaps as a Christian nation we have failed to do all within our power to alleviate the suffering of those persecuted. This should concern all of us.

We might think, "what can I do?" We can be in solidarity with those who have been displaced from their homelands because of persecution through prayer and support. As I wrote in my Pastoral Letter, "To be in solidarity with others is to see

them as God sees them, to love them as God loves them, and to sacrifice for them as Christ has sacrificed for them. United together, we are the Body of Christ. Every time we neglect others in the Body, the whole Body suffers (cf. 1 Cor 12:26). When we live in solidarity and charity, the Body of Christ is built up, there is communion, and the Kingdom of God is made manifest."

We are often afraid of people who are different from us. Fear hardens our hearts and creates binders on our eyes. But when looking at this situation with our eyes open, not living in fear but in solidarity and love, we will see their plight as an opportunity to be messengers of Christmas peace and hope. Then blindness and indifference will be transformed into solidarity and love.

In gathering with family and friends to celebrate this great feast of Emmanuel, God Is With Us, don't forget to include the suffering and persecuted of the world in your prayers, in your conversations and in your generosity. These are simple ways in which we can be in solidarity with these brothers and sisters. May your Christmas be filled with very grace and blessing!

## *Pope calls Coptic Pope Tawadros to express condolences after Cairo attack*

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis phoned Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria Dec. 12, expressing his prayers and condolences for the previous day's terrorist attack at the Cairo cathedral that left 25 people dead.

"We are united in the blood of our martyrs," the pope told the Orthodox patriarch, according to a Vatican statement.

The patriarch thanked Pope Francis for his closeness at such a sad time and asked his continued prayers for the Copts and for peace in Egypt, the statement said.

On a December weekend bloodied by terrorist attacks in Egypt and Turkey, Pope Francis condemned the violence and urged people to hold fast to their faith and renew their commitment to upholding basic human values.

After reciting the Angelus Dec. 11, Pope Francis offered prayers for the "victims of savage terrorist attacks" in Egypt, which

also wounded dozens, and Dec. 10 in Istanbul, which killed close to 40 people, mainly police.

"The places are different, but the violence is the same," Pope Francis said. In response to the "death and destruction," there is only one response: "faith in God and unity in human and civil values."

The pope also told the crowd in St. Peter's Square that each day in prayer he is close to the people of the besieged city of Aleppo, Syria.

"We must not forget that Aleppo is a city and that there are people there: families, children, elderly, sick," he said. "Unfortunately we have become used to the war and destruction, but we must not forget that Syria is a country full of history, culture and faith. We cannot allow this to be negated by war, which is a pile of abuse and falsity."

Around the world, Christians reacted to the bombing at St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral complex with messages of condolences.

In Washington, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement, "We draw near to our Coptic brothers and sisters in prayer, sorrow and comfort. And we are confident in the

healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ. The lives lost strengthen the faith of Christians everywhere and offer a testament to the great privilege of worshipping God in peace."

He, too, referred to attacks in other countries.



Police arrive at the site of an explosion Dec. 10 in Istanbul, which killed close to 40 people, mainly police. (CNS photo/Murad Sezer, Reuters)

## Bishop's Calendar

December 20, 2016 to January 17, 2017

### December 20, Tuesday

7 a.m. Mass with Jesuit Tertian Retreat Participants, Terra Sancta  
6 p.m. Finance Council Appreciation Dinner, Rapid City

### December 22, Thursday

5:30 p.m. Seminarian Mass and Christmas Dinner, Rapid City

### December 23, Friday

Chancery Closed

### December 24, Saturday

10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass – Cathedral

### December 25, Sunday

Christmas Day

### December 26, Monday

Chancery Closed

### December 30, Friday

Chancery Closed

### January 1, 2017, Sunday

10:30 a.m. Mass, Solemnity of Mary, Cathedral

### January 2, 2017, Monday

Chancery Closed

### January 3, 2017, Tuesday

6 p.m. Diocesan Staff Christmas Social – Rapid City

### January 16, 2017 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Chancery Closed

### January 17, 2017 Tuesday

8 a.m. Staff Mass/Breakfast, Terra Sancta  
9:15 a.m. Department Head Meeting, Terra Sancta

*Subject to change without notice*

## New Chief Finance Officer Hired



Rick Soulek, Rapid City, has been hired as the new Chief Finance Officer for the Diocese of Rapid City. He graduated from Wagner Community School, Wagner. Soulek earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, in 1986. Also at USD, he earned his MBA in 1991. Soulek has experience in finance, operations and management. He began serving the diocese Dec. 1. He and his wife, Lynn, are members of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Rapid City.

He takes over for Suzie Lambert who is leaving after 27 years. See page 16.

*(WRC photo)*

## Married Sweethearts Mass & Dinner-Dance

Saturday, February 11, 2017

Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City



**Mass 5:30 p.m.**

Holy Cross Chapel.

**Dinner and dance to follow.**

**Tickets \$65 per couple**

**Registration deadline**

Wednesday, January 29, 2017.

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Rapid City, SD 57702

**Contact Amy Julian**

Director of Family Life Ministries,  
605-712-5214 x236

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## Vatican Nativity Scene

The Nativity scene is pictured in St. Peter's Square during a Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Vatican Dec. 9. The Christmas tree and Nativity scene are symbols of God's love and hope, reminding us to contemplate the beauty of creation and welcome



the marginalized, Pope Francis said. Baby Jesus, whose parents could find no decent shelter and had to flee persecution, is a reminder of the "painful experience" of so many migrants today, he said. "Nativity scenes all over the world are an invitation to make room in our life and society for God – hidden in the gaze of so many people who are living in need, poverty or suffering." *(CNS photo/Paul Haring)*



# Terra Sancta Retreat Center

*Come away and rest in God.*

It is with hearts of gratitude that we submit this snapshot of the past year at the retreat center. Based on use of the retreat center, programs and ministries of the diocese are flourishing. Your continued support of our mission providing hospitality to diocesan and parish spiritual renewal is essential and very appreciated. The staff and volunteers of the retreat center extend our thanks to all who have been our guests ... We look forward to having you "Come Away and Rest in God" at Terra Sancta Retreat Center — soon and often!



"This (September) was the first time that our priests from the Diocese of Grand Island gathered at Terra Sancta for our annual retreat. It was a wonderful and blessed experience. Some of the blessings came in the form of the beauty of the area, the peacefulness of the chapel, the ability to walk around outdoors, the quality food, and the abundant hospitality offered to us by the staff of the retreat center. Our priests found this an ideal place to gather in community and to pray. We plan to return to Terra Sancta and are grateful that a quality retreat center such as this is located in our region."

Fr. Jim Golka  
Diocese of Grand Island (Nebraska) Annual Priest Retreat  
Pastor, Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Grand Island

"Terra Sancta has been a great place to host Young Adult events, for example – board game tournaments! Here we can get all the necessary ingredients: comfortable space, snacks and drinks, and most importantly, Jesus! Being so close to a chapel makes it easy to include Christ in all we do."

Randy Vette  
Director of Young Adult & Youth Ministries  
Diocese of Rapid City



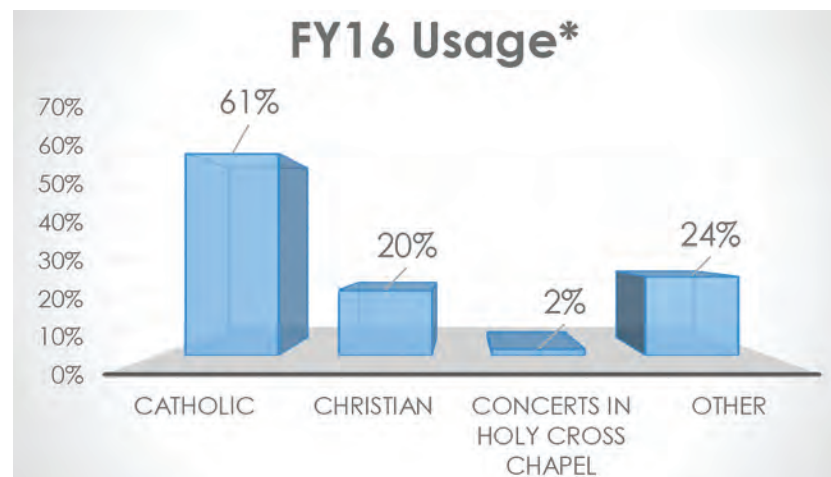
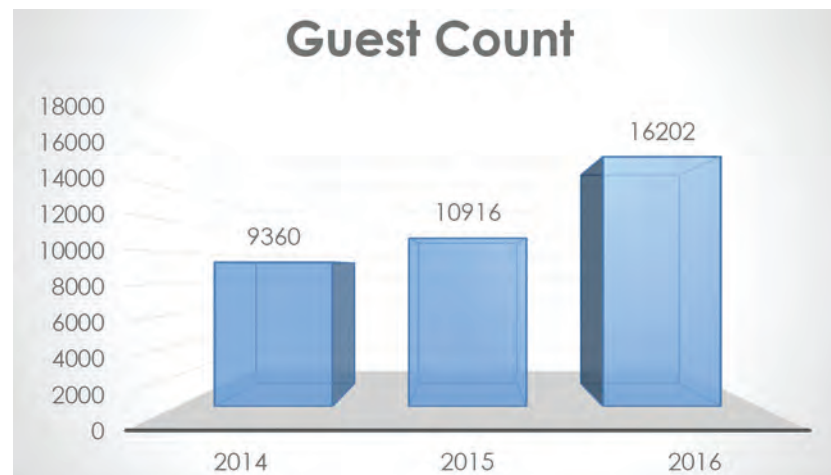
"Getting married and having our reception at Terra Sancta Retreat Center was a wonderful experience. After spending a few moments in awe of the beauty of Holy Cross Chapel, we were certain that it was where we wanted to say our vows. The sense of joy and peace that we experienced on our wedding day was incredible. We felt God's presence as we stood under the crucifix and pledged to love and honor one another for all the days of our lives. The staff of Terra Sancta was extremely helpful and accommodating. They were involved throughout our planning process and helped us turn our ideas into reality. We were thrilled that we could have our wedding and reception in the same place and also have lodging options available for our guests. Terra Sancta will always be a special place to us."

Jake & Jacqui Thiesse  
Wedding & Reception  
Billings, Montana

Photo courtesy of <http://www.danielphotodesign.com/>

## A Note from our Neighbors ... The Sisters of St. Martin Monastery

Five years ago, in preparation for the opening of Terra Sancta Retreat Center, several of us sisters rolled up our sleeves and washed walls, cupboards and lavatory sinks in December for the opening of Nazareth Hall and again in April, when the Cloister area opened. This included helping make innumerable beds to prepare for the first occupants. We were eager to know whether our renovated monastery would attract enough people to make all the work and financial outlay worthwhile. Today we rejoice that God has blessed TSRC beyond anyone's imagining. It has truly fulfilled our hope that the legacy of prayer and care for others we received from the Benedictine sisters who came before us would continue to flourish in our old home. May God continue to bless its dedicated staff and all who come to be refreshed and nurtured at Terra Sancta.



\*percentage based on event days (some days there were multiple events). There were 46 days of no events during the past fiscal year.

"This past year the Mulloy Family had their reunion at Terra Sancta. It was fantastic. The staff treated us so well, the food was excellent and for those who stayed at the center, the rooms were the best. The greatest part of the experience was being able to celebrate Mass in Holy Cross Chapel. My relatives kept talking about what a great place this was for a reunion."

Fr Michel Mulloy  
Mulloy Family Reunion  
McLaughlin, South Dakota



# BY THE NUMBERS

**1987** Estimated number of guests who were at the retreat center in April 2016; the largest attendance for a single month in FY2016.

**8838** Number of estimated guests who attended diocesan sponsored events at the retreat center — retreats, workshops, meetings — organized by offices of the Chancery, diocesan parishes and the RCCSS.

**8386** Pounds of sheets and towels laundered in the past fiscal year. This doesn't include table linens.

**77,446** Income for June 2016 — our highest month for income in the past fiscal year.

Number of people who participated in the Heart to Heart Retreat Weekends for the Engaged throughout the past fiscal year. **198**

Number of retreatants during the past year who were able to "Be Still and Know" at one of several silent retreats. **144**



**CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF MINISTRY!**  
Our first retreat was held January 13-14, 2012.



"Terra Sancta offers a place of true healing, reconciliation and hope. God does his miracles with my clients when we're here! Thanks for providing a place for us to meet."

Laura Longville  
Walking in Grace, Inc.  
Rapid City, South Dakota

In October, a pilgrimage group of 77 people from North Dakota and Minnesota visited the Terra Sancta Retreat Center. After a long day of travel we arrived ready to be refreshed body and soul. Through receiving the Eucharist in daily Mass and being served a delicious meal by the Terra Sancta Retreat Center staff, we received the needed nourishment. We were so grateful for the priests who came to hear confessions and to the friendly staff who shared the beautiful retreat center with us that evening.

Lisa Durkin  
Real Presence Radio Pilgrimage  
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Photo right: Archbishop Samuel Aquila (center) with the pilgrimage group in Denver.



"When we decided to get married, location was a big issue for us. We both were from different states, with family all over the world so it was incredibly difficult to pick a community to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony with all of our family. We talked and prayed on it for a long time! The Lord presented the opportunity for us to have our wedding at Terra Sancta and we could not have been more excited! Hands down, the staff was incredible. I am a full-time nursing student and Reid, my husband, was working full time managing the mill at a feedlot. Neither of us had the time to work out every detail of the wedding. The staff at Terra Sancta made it their mission to fill in the details we were missing and helped create a wedding we could have only dreamed about. Wherever one went around Terra Sancta, it was impossible not to feel the divine presence in motion."

Annawynn & Reid Drury  
Wedding & Reception  
Eckley, Colorado



Annawynn is the granddaughter of Mary Ellen & Joe LaLomia, long-time parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Church. Mary Ellen, former diocesan librarian, and her husband Joe now reside in Florida.

"The wedding of our daughter Annawynn Blankenship Drury at Terra Sancta was blessed and perfect. With the need to join two families living all over the United States and Europe within the sacrament of matrimony, Annawynn sought a spiritual home in the Black Hills; we found this at Terra Sancta. Annawynn wanted the focus to be sacred and God-centered while allowing family from all over the world to be reunited and celebrate this wondrous event. I arrived from Stuttgart, Germany, and Annawynn from Oklahoma, we had five days to attend to the endless details that a wedding requires. The support and assistance provided by the staff were both service orientated and blessed, the presence of God felt in all the details. A welcome relief in the stressful preparations that a wedding demands. The staff's attention to detail and needs were notable. With them we never lost sight of God or the sacrament in all Annawynn's wedding details. The staff provided above and beyond service and it made for the most beautiful wedding. We will forever be grateful to the staff at Terra Sancta for caring so deeply that our sacred moment in time is just that ... holy, beautiful and blessed. P.S. The food was superb, the best BBQ beef brisket I have ever had."

Shana LaLomia Blankenship  
Mother of the Bride  
Stuttgart, Germany

Find out more on-line at  
<http://terrasancta.org>

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## U. S. Bishops' strategic plan similar to diocesan priority plan

BALTIMORE (CNS) — A new strategic plan adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Nov. 15 during its fall general assembly reflects the efforts of Pope Francis to establish a more merciful and accompanying church, said the archbishop who led the planning process. The plan, adopted by a vote of 199-4 with two abstentions, will govern the work of the conference and its committees from 2017 through 2020. It takes effect in January.

"We have adapted these priorities to coincide with the priorities of Pope Francis," Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans and chairman of the bishops' Committee on Priorities and Plans, told the assembled bishops before their vote. The plan incorporates the theme "Encountering the Mercy of Christ and Accompanying

His People With Joy" in setting five priorities: evangelization, marriage and family life, human life and dignity, vocations, and religious freedom. In total, the five priorities identify more than 740 individual projects to accomplish during the next four years.

The plan, more than a year under discussion by the bishops through their committees, subcommittees and an ad hoc committee, stems in large part from Pope Francis' message to the bishops when he visited the U.S. in 2015.

The 28-page document offers an overview of the plan and outlines several specific areas to address under each priority. Much of the plan was developed to support individuals of all ages as well as families as people go through daily life and to encourage actions that carry out what is described

as "missionary discipleship."

Another passage in the plan stresses that it charts "a path of hope for the people in need of a loving embrace as they face the challenges of the world."

Further, the document states, "The USCCB strategic plan exists to serve the mission of evangelization entrusted in a particular way to each bishop; it is the tool the U.S. bishops rely upon to prioritize, organize, optimize and resource good works which will allow the conference to fulfill its mission."

The strategic plan also mentions that the

early projects being undertaken will help the bishops as they prepare a pastoral letter on race relations that is planned for the 50th anniversary of the death of civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 2018.

In his presentation Nov. 14, Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, as chairman of the USCCB Task Force to Promote Peace in Our Communities, urged his brother bishops to issue the statement on racism sooner than scheduled. The archbishop said such a statement would help address postelection tensions.

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**December 23, Friday**

•**Christmas Taizé:** A celebration of Christmas through song, scripture, and silence. Begin at 7 p.m., Holy Cross Chapel, Terra Sancta.

**December 27, Tuesday**

•**Christian Prayer Labyrinth:** Enter into a deeper relationship with Christ using the indoor Christian prayer labyrinth at Terra Sancta. Open daily from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., December 27-30.

**January 3, Tuesday**

•**WRC Deadline for submissions.**  
Paper mailed Tuesday, January 17.

☎605-343-3541.

✉LHallstrom@diorc.org or

✉BBerreth@diorc.org

**January 6, Friday**

•**Bishop's Mass and Luncheon:** Has been canceled for the month of January.

•**World Apostolate of Fatima:** First Friday Mass at 5:30 p.m. with prayers and devotions. First Saturday, January 7, begins with prayers at 7:45 a.m. followed by 8 a.m. Mass and exposition. Both in Our Lady's Chapel, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. ☎Dr. Kopriva 605-343-6202.

**January 11, Wednesday**

•**Taizé:** Experience the sacred through song, silence, and scripture. Held at 7 p.m. in Holy Cross Chapel, Terra Sancta.

**January 13, Friday**

•**Heart to Heart Retreat Weekend for the Engaged:** For engaged couples to deepen their relationship with each other and God by exploring the Catholic Church's vision of marriage. Attendance is required for couples doing marriage prep in the diocese. Ends January 15. Register at [terrasancta.org/heart2heart/](http://terrasancta.org/heart2heart/) or ☎Amy 605-716-5214 x236.

**January 16, Monday**

•**Chancery Office Closed:** In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**January 19, Thursday**

•**Beginning Experience, Separated, Divorced & Widowed Support Group — Coping with Life Alone:** Nine-week, non-denominational group open to all Christian men and women who are hurting following a separation, divorce or death of a spouse. Begins at 7 p.m. at St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rapid City. Registration fee: \$30, scholarship available. ☎Family Life Ministries, 605-716-5214 x236.

**January 20, Friday**

•**Refuel:** For all involved in evangelization and catechesis. Speaker Jessi Kary, AO, national director of the Pro Sanctity Movement in the U.S. The movement is dedicated to spreading the universal call to holiness through the formation of internal holiness. Registration \$65. Ends January 21. [terrasancta.org/refuel2017](http://terrasancta.org/refuel2017).

**January 28, Saturday**

•**Natural Family Planning:** Seminar for engaged couples or anyone wanting to learn more about natural family planning. To be held at St. Therese the Little Flower, Rapid City. Preregistration required. ☎Amy at Family Life Ministries, 605-716-5214 x236 or [ajulian@diorc.org](mailto:ajulian@diorc.org).

**January 30, Monday**

•**"Heal your Grief" Bereavement Support Group:** Eight-week, non-denominational support group for Christian adults grieving the loss of a loved one. Begins at 7 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. ☎Janece Rieman, 605-343-5547, or Family Life Ministries, 605-716-5214 x236.

•**Men in Black Basketball:** Held at St. Thomas More High School from 5:30-8:30

p.m. The evening includes dinner and basketball games featuring students vs. faculty and high school boys vs. the priests of the diocese.

**February 3, Friday****•Young Women's Discernment**

**Retreat:** An opportunity to spend time with consecrated women and priests to learn more about discernment and vocations. For young women ages 16-30. Held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. Ends February 5. ☎Shawna Hanson, 605-716-5214 x233 or [shanson@diorc.org](mailto:shanson@diorc.org).

•**Bishop's Mass and Luncheon:** 11:15 a.m. Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. Noon lunch in Cathedral hall, talk by Bishop Robert Gruss. Lunch \$6. Everyone welcome.

**February 4, Saturday**

•**NPM Winter Meeting:** Held at Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont. Featured speaker Father Michel Mulloy will talk about the new Marriage Rite. Afternoon session features parishes demonstrating wedding appropriate psalms. ☎Jackie Schnittgrund, [jschnitt@rap.midco.net](mailto:jschnitt@rap.midco.net), if you or your choir would be interested in sharing a psalm.

**Diocesan Masses for Life Matching Grant**

Prayer is essential to ensuring a culture of life in South Dakota and throughout the nation. Again this year, the Diocesan Social Justice Commission will match total donations made for the Diocesan Masses for Life project, up to a total of \$250. The Masses are coordinated by the Blessed Sacrament Parish Pro-Life Committee, but are offered daily at parishes throughout the diocese. This is the ninth year the diocese has matched funds for these Masses for the protection of all life. Please send donations to: Diocesan Masses for Life, c/o Mary Mitchell, 113 Berry Pine Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702. Donations must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2016.

**Terra Sancta Retreat Center Highlights — January 2017**

**Jan 6-7:** St. John the Evangelist (Ft. Pierre) Confirmation Retreat

**Jan 13-15:** Heart to Heart: Weekend for the Engaged

**Jan 18-20:** Youth and Family Services Staff Retreat

**Jan 28:** Social Justice Commission Workshop



"Terra Sancta offers a place of true healing, reconciliation and hope. God does his miracles with my clients when we're here! Thanks for providing a place for us to meet."

—Laura Longville, Walking in Grace, Inc.

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# To find yourself, relate, identify, embrace mission



**Fr. Mark McCormick**

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This past year, while I was in filling in at Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont, Deacon John and Joni Osnes invited me to be part of their Sunday adult faith formation class after Mass. They were studying "The Disciple as Steward" by Sharon Hueckel, which is a six-week, small group study based on the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship titled, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response."

One of the questions that was asked was, "Who am I?" As we went around the room, the answers to that question went something like this: I am an engineer, I am a mother, I am a dad, and I am a teacher.

Jacque Osnes, a college student, surprised us all when she said, "First, I am a child of God. That is who I am, first and foremost a child of God."

Wow, what a great answer. I wished I would have come up with that: "First, I am a child of God. That is who I am, first and foremost a child of God."

The answer to the question of "Who am I?" is not about what we do or even what we possess or own, but the truth is found in answering another question: "Whose we are?"

Jacque was right; first and foremost we are children of God. Through our baptism in Christ we have been adopted as sons and daughters of God the Father; we

become partakers of his divine nature and we are temples of the Holy Spirit (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1265). What defines us a person is the fact that we have been made in the image and likeness of God, and because of that we are called to love, know and serve him.

Fr. Paul Hoelsing, in his pamphlet on prayer, *Have I Been With You? Personal Prayer For Young Disciples*, says, "Our relationship gives us an identity, and our identity gives us a mission. What we do (our mission) flows from our identity (who we are), and who we are begins with our hearts in communion with Jesus." Fr. Paul is emphasizing three key words in his description of who we are: Relationship — Identity — Mission (RIM).

Relationship — Identity — Mission is rooted in the vine and branches passage in Jn 15:4, "*Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.*"

However, we often get this ordering reversed by putting mission first, then identity and lastly relationship. When we put mission first, it is easy to lose our way and our identity because our focus and gaze is not on Christ, but rather on the mission and on ourselves.

When we get this upside down, the mission inevitably takes up all of our time and energy, and in the end we have no

time for a personal relationship with Christ. It is much easier and less challenging for us to focus on the mission rather than on our relationship and identity with Jesus.

Let's face it: being people of prayer is difficult because it requires us to be disciplined and to have a spirit of constancy in our lives when it comes to giving time to building and maintaining a personal intimacy with the Lord.

This is why in our diocesan priority plan prayer is our first core value. Bishop

Robert Gruss indicates, "Prayer is listed first because it provides us a secure foundation" as we read in the story of the wise and foolish builders in Lk 6:46 -49.

Since March, we have been focusing on the second lens of our stewardship initiative lively faith: prayer, study and formation. Both Msgr.

Thomas Richter at Pastoral Ministry Days and Jim Beckman at the Stewardship Summit focused on RIM: Relationship — Identity — Mission in their talks. Msgr. Richter describes RIM in the context of the experience of Jesus' life: "Relationship with the Father for 30 years, then at Jesus' baptism the Father proclaims his Identity, "This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased." Then the Spirit sends Jesus on Mission."

I encourage you to go to our diocesan webpage and listen to both Msgr. Richter's and Jim Beckman's talks on lively faith. (Msgr. Richter) <http://rapidcitydiocese.org/pmd-2016-video-resources>; and (Jim Beckman)



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Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, while speaking to a gathering of young people at Westminster Cathedral, sums up the theme of RIM in this way: "This is the message I want to share with you today. I ask you to look into your hearts each day to find the source of all true love. Jesus is always there, quietly waiting for us to be still with him and to hear his voice. Deep within your heart, God is calling you to spend time with him in prayer. But this kind of prayer, real prayer, requires discipline; it requires making time for moments of silence every day. Often it means waiting for the Lord to speak. Even amid the business and stress of our daily lives, we need to make space for silence, because it is in the silence that we find God, and in silence that we discover our true self. And in discovering our true self, we discover the particular vocation which God has given us for building up his church and the redemption of our world."

With the Advent/Christmas seasons upon us, spend some time in re-examining your relationship with Christ, who first gives us our identity as beloved sons and daughters of the Father and then sends us out on mission through the Holy Spirit to bear abundant fruit in his name.

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## On our need for the real Thomas More



### Exhibit of St. Thomas More artifacts debuts at St. John Paul II shrine

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new exhibit featuring artifacts revolving around St. Thomas More has opened at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington. Titled “God’s Servant First: The Life and Legacy of Thomas More,” the exhibit runs through March 31. The title comes from what are believed to be More’s last words before going to the chopping block where he was beheaded: “I die the king’s good servant, and God’s servant first.” Nearly all of the 60 or so items in the exhibit come from Stonyhurst College in England, according to Jan Graffius, the curator of collections at Stonyhurst, a Jesuit institution. The Knights of Columbus and Stonyhurst’s Christian Heritage Center organized the exhibit and are its sponsors. To be able to have so many artifacts is remarkable, Graffius told Catholic News Service before the exhibit opened, as she and her team were putting the finishing touches on the exhibit. King Henry VIII, who had St. Thomas More imprisoned in the Tower of London for more than a year before his execution, and subsequent monarchs had made Roman Catholicism virtually illegal and had all traces of Catholicism wiped out. St. Thomas More, a lawyer and the first layman to serve as chancellor of England, had balked at helping Henry VIII obtain an annulment so he could marry Anne Boleyn in hopes of bearing him a son to be heir to the throne. After the pope denied the annulment, Henry declared himself head of the church in England, conferring upon himself the power to divorce and marry whomever he pleased.

The exhibit of artifacts associated with the saint will be open daily at the shrine until March 31, 2017.

(CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

Next month marks the 50th anniversary of the film, “A Man for All Seasons.” And if it’s impossible to imagine such a picture on such a theme winning Oscars today, then let’s be grateful that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences got it right by giving Fred Zinnemann’s splendid movie six of its awards in 1967 — when, reputedly, Audrey Hepburn lifted her eyes to heaven before announcing with obvious pleasure that this cinematic celebration of the witness and martyrdom of Sir Thomas More had beaten “The Sand Pebbles,” “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?,” “Alfie,” and “The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming,” for Best Picture.

Intriguingly, though, “A Man for All Seasons” is a magnificent religious film — perhaps the best ever — despite its author’s stated intentions.

Robert Bolt’s introduction to his play, which led to the movie, makes it rather clear that author Bolt saw More less as a Catholic martyr than as an existential hero, an approach befitting the hot philosophical movement of the day (which was, of course, the Sixties). As Bolt put it:

“Thomas More ... became for me a man with an adamant sense of his own self. He knew where he began and left off, what areas of himself he could yield to the encroachments of his enemies, and what to the encroachments of those he loved. It was a substantial area in both cases, for he had a proper sense of fear and was a busy lover. Since he was a clever man and a great

lawyer he was able to retire from those areas in wonderfully good order, but at last he was asked to retreat from that final area where he located his self. And there this supple, humorous, unassuming, and sophisticated person set like metal, was overtaken by an absolutely primitive rigor, and could no more be budged than a cliff ...

“What attracted me was a person who could not be accused of any incapacity for life, who indeed seized life in great variety and almost greedy quantities, who nevertheless found something in himself without which life was valueless and when that was denied him was able to grasp his death.”

Yet this portrait of Thomas-More-as-Tudor-era-existentialist doesn’t quite convince, because Bolt, perhaps in spite of himself, gave us a different More in his drama and later in his screenplay — a More who “grasps” his death, not as an existential stalwart, a courageously autonomous “self,” but as a Catholic willing to die for the truth, which has grasped him as the love of God in Christ. Thus when More’s intellectually gifted daughter Margaret, having failed to argue him out of his refusal to countenance Henry VIII’s divorce and subsequent marriage to Anne Boleyn, plays her final card and cries, “But in reason! Haven’t you done as much as God can reasonably want?,” More replies, haltingly, “Well ... finally ... it isn’t a matter of reason; finally it’s a matter of love.”

And not love of self, but love of God and love of the truth. For the God who is truth all the way through is also, St. John the Evangelist teaches us, love itself. And to be

transformed by that love is to live in the truth — the truth that sets us free in the deepest and noblest meaning of human liberation.

There was something worthy and inspiring about certain aspects of existentialism: not the soured existentialism of Jean-Paul Sartre, which quickly decomposed into nihilism, but the heroic existentialism of a Camus, who could not abide the anti-clerical Catholic progressives of his day and who sought a world in which we could be, as he put it, “neither victims nor executioners.” But it was Sartrean existentialism that won the day, at least insofar as one can trace a line from Sartre to contemporary narcissism, displayed today in everything from temper tantrums on university campuses by over-privileged and under-educated barbarians to voters across the Western world who seek relief from their grievances — some quite legitimate — in adherence to some pretty dreadful characters.

In this unhappy situation, we need the real Thomas More: the Thomas More who bore witness and ultimately “grasped his death,” not to vindicate his sense of self, but as the final and ultimate act of thanks for his having been grasped, and saved, by truth itself, the Thrice-Holy God.



**George Welgel**

Senior fellow  
Ethics and  
Public Policy  
Center in  
Washington, D.C.

#### Monthly Message From Our Lady

On the 25th of each month, Our Lady appears to the Medjugorje visionary Marija to give us her message

“Dear children! Also today, I am calling you to return to prayer. In this time of grace, God has permitted me to lead you towards holiness and a simple life — that in little things you discover God the Creator; that you fall in love with Him; and that your life be a thanksgiving to the Most High for everything He is giving you. Little children, in love, may your life be a gift for others and God will bless you; but you, witness without interest — out of love for God. I am with you and intercede before my Son for all of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

11/25/16

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# Our churches as sanctuaries for the broken, wounded



**Fr. Ron Rolheiser**

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Whenever we have been at our best, as Christians, we have opened our churches as sanctuaries to the poor and the endangered. We have a long, proud history wherein refugees, homeless persons, immigrants facing deportation, and others who are endangered, take shelter inside our churches. If we believe what Jesus tells us about the Last Judgment in the twenty-fifth chapter

of Matthew's Gospel, this should serve us well when we stand before God at the end.

Unfortunately our churches have not always provided that same kind of sanctuary (safety and shelter) to those who are refugees, immigrants, and homeless in their relationship to God and our churches. There are millions of persons, today perhaps the majority within our nations, who are looking for a safe harbor in terms of sorting out their faith and their relationship to the church. Sadly, too often our rigid paradigms of orthodoxy, ecclesiology, ecumenism, liturgy, sacramental practice, and canon law, however well-intentioned, have made our churches places where no such sanctuary is offered

and where the wide embrace practiced by Jesus is not mirrored. Instead, our churches are often harbors only for persons who are already safe, already comforted, already church-observing, already solid ecclesial citizens.

That was hardly the situation within Jesus' own ministry. He was a safe sanctuary for everyone, religious and non-religious alike. While he didn't ignore the committed religious persons around him, the Scribes and Pharisees, his ministry always reached out and included those whose religious practice was weak or non-existent. Moreover, he reached out especially to those whose moral lives were not in formal harmony with the religious practices of the time, those deemed as sinners. Significantly too, he did not ask for repentance from those deemed as sinners before he sat down at table with them. He set out no moral or ecclesial conditions as a prerequisite to meet or dine with him. Many repented after meeting and dining with him, but that repentance was never a pre-condition. In his person and in his ministry, Jesus did not discriminate. He offered a safe sanctuary for everyone.

We need today in our churches to challenge ourselves on this. From pastors, to parish councils, to pastoral teams, to diocesan regulators, to bishops' conferences, to those responsible for applying canon and church law, to our own personal attitudes, we all need to ask: Are our churches places of sanctuary for those who

are refugees, homeless, and poor ecclesially? Do our pastoral practices mirror Jesus? Is our embrace as wide as that of Jesus?

These are not fanciful ideals. This is the gospel which we can easily lose sight of, for seemingly all the right reasons. I remember a Diocesan Synod within which I participated some twenty years ago. At one stage in the process we were divided in small groups and each group was given the question: What, before all else, should the church be saying to the world today?

The groups returned with their answers and everyone, every single group, proposed as its first priority apposite what the church should be saying to the world some moral or ecclesial challenge: We need to challenge the world in terms of justice! We need to challenge people to pray more! We need to speak again of sin! We need to challenge people about the importance of going to church! We need to stop the evil of abortion! All of these suggestions are good and important. But none of the groups dared say: We need to comfort the world!

Handel's Messiah begins with that wonderful line from Is 40, "*Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.*" That, I believe, is first task of religion. Challenge follows after that, but may not precede it. A mother first comforts her child by assuring it of her love and stilling its chaos. Only after that, in the safe shelter produced by that comfort, can she begin

to offer it some hard challenges to grow beyond its own instinctual struggles.

People are swayed a lot by the perception they have of things. Within our churches today we can protest that we are being perceived unfairly by our culture, that is, as narrow, judgmental, hypocritical, and hateful. No doubt this is unfair, but we must have the courage to ask ourselves why this perception abounds, in the academy, in the media, and in the popular culture. Why aren't we being perceived more as "a field hospital" for the wounded, as is the ideal of Pope Francis?

Why are we not flinging our churches doors open much more widely? What lies at the root of our reticence? Fear of being too generous with God's grace? Fear of contamination? Of scandal?

One wonders whether more people, especially the young and the estranged, would grace our churches today if we were perceived in the popular mind precisely as being sanctuaries for searchers, for the confused, the wounded, the broken, and the non-religious, rather than as places only for those who are already religiously solid and whose religious search is already completed.





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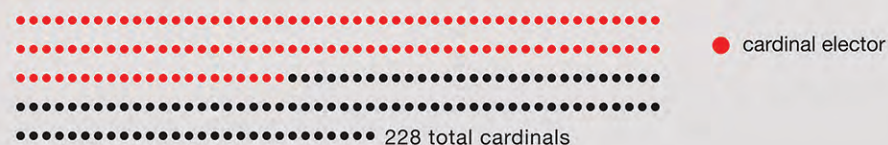
Above, new U.S. Cardinals Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis, Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life, and Blase J. Cupich of Chicago talk as they arrive for a consistory in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican (CNS photo/Paul Haring) At left, Cardinal Blase Cupich, and Bishop Robert Gruss, Rapid City, in the sacristy of Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi before Mass. A group of 32 people from the Diocese of Rapid City made a pilgrimage to Rome to attend the consistory. (Courtesy photo)

## Pope calls new cardinals to be agents of unity in divided world

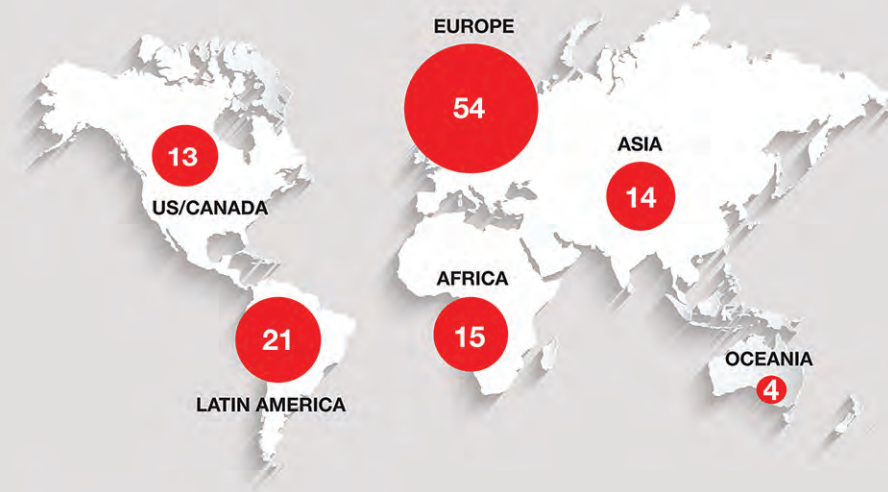
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church's 17 new cardinals must dedicate their lives to being ministers of forgiveness and reconciliation in a world — and sometimes a church — often marked by hostility and division, Pope Francis said. Even Catholics are not immune from “the virus of polarization and animosity,” the pope told the new cardinals, and “we need to take care lest such attitudes find a place in our hearts.” Creating 17 new cardinals from 14 nations Nov. 19, the pope said the College of Cardinals — and the Catholic Church itself — must be a sign for the world that differences of nationality, skin color, language and social class do not make people enemies, but brothers and sisters with different gifts to offer. Three of the new cardinals created during the prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica were from the United States: Cardinals Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Joseph W. Tobin, whom the pope asked to move from being archbishop of Indianapolis to archbishop of Newark, New Jersey. Only 16 of the new cardinals were present for the ceremony. The Vatican said 87-year-old Cardinal Sebastian Koto Khoarai, the retired bishop of Mophale's Hoek, Lesotho, was created a cardinal although he was unable to travel to Rome.

## Counting Cardinals

How the College of Cardinals will look after the Nov. 19 consistory



### Electors by region



### Countries with the most electors

ITALY .....	25	BRAZIL .....	5	INDIA.....	4	POLAND .....	4
US .....	10	FRANCE.....	5	MEXICO .....	4	SPAIN.....	4

The Chancery will be closed  
December 23 and 26 for Christmas  
&  
December 31 and January 2  
for the Solemnity of Mary



## —Reconcile—Make Disciples—Live the Mission— The Diocesan Priority Plan — Further Developments

By Teresa Spiess

**December is a time to reflect on what has happened and to look with eyes of hope on what is yet to come.**

The people of our diocese have been talking about Bishop Robert Gruss’s pastoral letter, “Through Him, With Him and In Him,” in study groups and adult formation sessions, hearing our priests speak about the priority plan in their homilies and praying for the work of the priority plan in shaping the future of the Church in our area — nudging us, perhaps, to get off our couches and to step into the mission field to accompany others on their journey into faith.

Let’s take a look at the progress we are making in the diocese toward some of the goals included in the priority plan.

### RECONCILIATION

Parishes are working on evaluating reconciliation in their parishes — what is working in their parish and what could help them to further foster reconciliation between individuals, families and communities. The reports and parish plans indicate that the Evenings of Reconciliation and other discussion groups on the subject have been fruitful.

For example, St. Joseph in Spearfish, St. Paul in Belle Fourche and St. Mary Star of the Sea in Newell reported, “the evening (of reconciliation) was a prayerful time taken seriously by those present. In our areas of discussion on reconciliation we found that identifying what was going on was an important first step. From there we tried to move on to how can we be a better instrument of God’s reconciling love. Most important, for participants, the desire was there for reconciliation in our personal life, family, parish and community along with the willingness to take positive action.”

### SACRAMENTS AND WORSHIP

Father Michel Mulloy, Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese reported that thirteen individuals have accepted his invitation to join the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. The commission will meet in January to begin their work. A survey for all parishioners about their experience of liturgy in the diocese will be among the first items on the agenda for the newly formed commission. Expect to see it in your parish next fall.

#### NEXT UP:

There are three goals with January 1, 2017, due dates in the Foundations Ministries of Education and Faith Formation and Vocations and Evangelization.

### FOUNDATIONAL MINISTRY: EDUCATION AND FORMATION

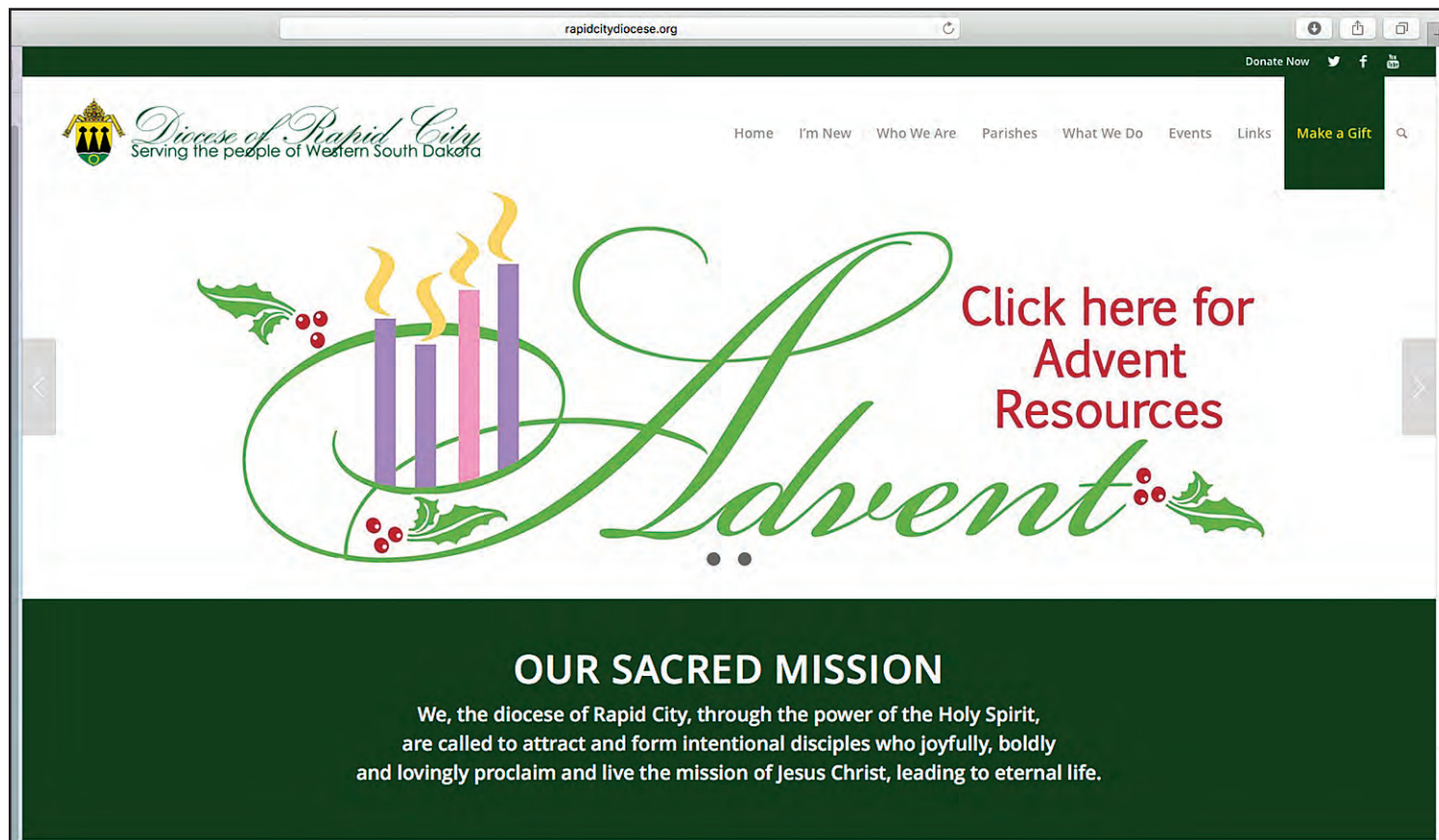
**DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM, AND IN HIM, P. 111) Provide 3-5 ongoing opportunities for formation for catechists and parishioners in a distance learning format by January 1, 2017.**

This past spring Susan Safford, diocesan director of the Faith Formation Office, assembled a committee to help plan formation for catechists and parishioners in a distance learning format.

Obviously, many of our small, rural parishes are several hours from the Chancery and lack the staff and resources that are available in Rapid City. The Lis-



The faith formation committee is looking at ways to better use Real Presence Radio (89.9 and 94.7 FM) as well as KINI Radio (96.1 FM) in Rosebud to reach out with good Catholic content, both on-the-air and online.



This month there was a list of Advent materials and resources posted on the diocesan website at [rapidcitydiocese.org](http://rapidcitydiocese.org). Keep an eye out for future suggestions.

tening Sessions held throughout western South Dakota clearly indicated that a greater effort was needed to bring opportunities for faith formation to the places where our parishioners live and pray.

The faith formation committee identified online resources available from organizations including the Augustine



Institute and Ascension Press. They are looking at ways to better use Real Presence Radio (89.9 and 94.7 FM) as well as KINI Radio (96.1 FM) in Rosebud to reach out with good Catholic content, both on-the-air and online. The committee is looking for ways to make the program FORMED.org, more accessible to parishes through grant possibilities and group discounts. FORMED has been called “Netflix for Catholics” and offers movies, audio presentations, study programs, and eBooks from trusted Catholic apostolates for an annual fee paid by the parish.

The office of faith formation is working with the diocesan communications office to get the word out to parishioners about the availability of resources and opportunities for faith formation. This

month there was a list of Advent materials and resources posted on the diocesan website at [rapidcitydiocese.org](http://rapidcitydiocese.org). Keep an eye out for future suggestions.

Faith on the Road continues to grow as well. This outreach team from the diocese travels to provide onsite formation opportunities on a number of themes for Catholics of all ages, including youth ministry, vocations outreach, family enrichment and adult formation. A list of possible topics was provided to parishes in August. Pastors and parish directors of religious formation can schedule a visit from the Faith on the Road team by contacting the Office of Faith Formation. The office is also compiling a list of talented local speakers who could add to the presentations that the office is already bringing to parishes.

### PASTORAL PRIORITY: VOCATIONS AND EVANGELIZATION

(THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM, AND IN HIM,  
P. 120-124)

#### FORMING PARISH

#### VOCATIONS COMMITTEES

**Each parish or parish grouping will form a vocations committee to encourage and promote a culture of vocations by January 1, 2017.**

In April of 2016, Rhonda Gruenewald, author of “Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry,” conducted workshops in Ft. Pierre and Piedmont. Participants were given practical information to help them create a culture of vocations in the parish. A follow-up workshop is scheduled on March 18, 2017.

Several parishes have taken this information and formed vocations teams. These parishes have begun to promote vocations in various ways.

- Blessed Sacrament had a big celebration for Priesthood Sunday — there are some great photos of this event on the Vocations Facebook page, [facebook.com/GodsCall](https://www.facebook.com/GodsCall).

- Spearfish had a pie social to welcome Fr. John Paul Trask as their new parochial vicar.

- Custer parishioners presented Fr. Grant Gerlach with a coupon book when he arrived as their new administrator, including offers for “a picnic lunch with our family” or “one hike in the hills with our family” and other similar, hospitable invitations.

- Piedmont has borrowed the priest and sister cutouts from the vocations office and set them up for kids to have their picture taken. They also invited Fr. Mark McCormick, diocesan vocations director, to speak to parents and grandparents about encouraging vocations.

- Parishioners in Bonesteel are making up photo cards for each priest in our diocese with their name and address. Parishioners will be invited to take one

and send the priest a card on their birthday and ordination anniversary and to pray for them.

The Vocations Office provided all parishes with a resource packet for National Vocations Awareness Week and Priesthood Sunday. The vocations website ([Gods-call.org](http://Gods-call.org)) provides access to resources. Shawna Hanson and Father Mark McCormick are excited about the work of parish vocations teams and hope to see more teams established in the coming year. Consider visiting with your pastor about this opportunity to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life in your community!

#### RELATIONAL MINISTRY TRAINING

**Train and form 10-15 people from each parish or parish grouping in relational ministry and sharing the joy of the Gospel of Christ through witness and testimony by January 1, 2017.**

Staff of the Vocations and Faith Formation Offices are working together with a committee to find ways to increase relational ministry in the diocese. The goal for relational ministry is to: “provide training for people in the local parish communities to become evangelizers in answer to their baptismal call.” (THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM, AND IN HIM, P. 120-124)

The committee is considering how best to identify people from around the diocese who already have a natural sense of relational ministry and provide training to prepare them to train others.

In addition, Bishop Gruss has formed a delegation to participate in a national Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando, Florida, hosted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops next July. Delegates will form an evangelization team and bring back tools and the spirit to influence parish and diocesan communities, and to form the Church of the missionary option envisioned by Pope Francis. Delegates include Father Steve Biegler (Cathedral Pastor and Vicar Gen-

eral), Susan Safford (Director of Faith Formation), Amy Julian (Director of Family Life Ministries), Father Mark McCormick (Director of Stewardship and Vocations), Dionne Eastmo (Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City), Vincent and Val King (St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City), Whitney and Laurie Driscoll (St. Joseph, Spearfish), Bill White (Christ the King, Porcupine), Ben and Jenny Black Bear (St. Charles, St. Francis), Ron Brown Otter (St. Aloysius, Bullhead), Sr. Jacque Schroeder OFM (St. Bernard, McLaughlin) and Father Michel Mulloy (St. Bernard, McLaughlin).

#### BE PART OF THE PROCESS

As part of your end-of-year reflection and goal-setting process for the coming year, consider using available resources for furthering your own faith formation and spiritual growth through programs offered through your parish or through the diocese. Pick up a Lighthouse CD from your church, listen to a Catholic podcast, visit a Catholic website or prayerfully re-read Chapter 2 of the Bishop’s book. Take time to consider how God might be calling you to participate in the mission and ministry of the Church in your local community. Offer to be part of your vocations ministry team to promote religious and priestly vocations. Pray for the others you encounter in your daily life and find ways to help them encounter the love and mercy of God through your own words and actions. Build positive relationships that help you to grow in faith and to be strengthened and encouraged to share faith with others in ways both profound and simple. Taking any of these steps will help to renew your own faith and to bring the fire of God’s love to our families, parishes and communities.

## We are called to love: Mercy by mercy

BY ANNE MCGUIRE

On a recent drive home from work, I pushed “play” on my audiobook to pass the time in traffic. It’s not an unusual activity for me, but what I didn’t anticipate was my own bittersweet heartbreak.

As the author shared stories of her visit to Africa, she spoke of one place preserved from the destitution she had witnessed elsewhere. One building in particular, though small and simple, was nicer than others she had seen. But the reason for its better conditions cuts to the heart: it was a hospice home for children.

In this home lived a little girl, with whom the author became fast friends the day they met, each blessing the other with the love they both needed. As the author continued reading, she shared her desire to do something to help the people she’d fallen in love with. It’s so easy to feel discouraged by the thought of all that is wrong in our world, to feel that our personal efforts wouldn’t really matter or make a difference. But the author’s reflections reminded me of the incredibly personal nature of large-scale issues. Our world’s tragedies aren’t faceless. They are the experiences of individual people who have faces, names, and their own stories. It’s hard

to wrap our heads around large-scale suffering, but its personal nature means that anyone can make a concrete difference—person to person.

One of my favorite parts of Pope Francis’s official Jubilee of Mercy proclamation *Misericordiae Vultus* describes God’s mercy as “a concrete reality with which he reveals his love as of that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. ... It gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion.”

Having been made in God’s image and likeness, we are called to love as he loves, to be moved as he is moved. Everything we believe and do as Catholics is rooted in this love. Just as God cherishes each person, so too, we are called to cherish one another ... throughout the year, let’s allow God to move our hearts with mercy for those who are marginalized, ignored, and especially those at risk of losing their lives. How does God want to work through you today?

*(Anne McGuire is the Assistant Director for Education and Outreach for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. Visit [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife) for more information.)*

### In Your Prayers

In Your Prayers is designed to help us remember the birthdays, ordination and death anniversaries of the priests who serve us. Every effort has been made to have a complete list. If any omissions or errors are found please send the correct information to the *West River Catholic*, P.O. Box 678, Rapid City, SD 57709.

**Ordinations:** January 3, 1984, Fr. Wm. Zandri, January 6, 1977, Fr. Robert Baden; January 17, 1982, Fr. John Lule; January 18, 1982, Fr. Michael Hight.

**Birthdays:** January 21, Fr. Tyler Dennis; January 22, Fr. Riccardo Pennati; January 23, Fr. Ron Seminara, SJ; January 26, Fr. Andrea Benso.

**Necrology:** January 2, 1973, James Weithman; January 4, 1955, Edward Henault; January 7, 1979, Dominic Padula; January 12, 1961, Michael Conley; January 13, 1999, Bishop Lawrence Welsh; January 14, 1964, John Connolly; January 15, 2014, Raymond Deisch; January 16, 1946, Raymond O’Hora; January 16, 1978, Othmar Buerkler, OSB; January 17, 2004, Collins Jordan; January 21, 1957, John Novak; January 23, 1951, John O’Reilly; January 25, 1990, James Donahoe; January 26, 1955, Edward McGonigal; January 26, 1960, Walter Pascal; January 26, 1962, Gerhard Stakemeier; January 30, 1998, William McKenney, SJ; January 31, 1959, Charles Virnig; January 31, 2005, Dale Kutil.

Christmas *Taizè* Service – Friday, December 23 at 7 p.m.  
in Holy Cross Chapel, Terra Sancta

## Atlantic Canada bishops address pastoral issues linked to assisted dying

By Philippe Vaillancourt

QUEBEC CITY (CNS) — In a pastoral letter addressing medical aid in dying, the Atlantic Episcopal Assembly says that “the pastoral care of souls cannot be reduced to norms for the reception of the sacraments or the celebration of funeral rites.”

The four-page letter, issued in late November, offers a “pastoral reflection” on the challenges the assisted-dying law, passed in June, poses to the Canadian Church.

“In the pastoral care of those who are contemplating medical assistance in dying, we must remember that the purpose of pastoral care is to communicate the compassion of Christ, his healing love and his mercy,” wrote the 10 Catholic bishops from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

“As people of faith, and ministers of God’s grace, we are called to entrust everyone, whatever their decisions may be, to the mercy of God. To one and all we wish to say that the pastoral care of souls cannot be reduced to norms for the reception of the sacraments or the celebration of funeral rites,” added the bishops. “Persons, and their families, who may be considering euthanasia or assisted suicide and who request the ministry of the church, need to be accompanied with dialogue and compassionate prayerful support. The fruit of such a pastoral encounter will shed light on complex pastoral situations and will indicate the most proper action to be taken including whether or not the celebration of sacraments is appropriate.”

However, the letter stresses that the church does not support medical aid in dying, but encourages the development and



Opponents of euthanasia and assisted suicide staged a “die-in” following a rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, in early June as the Senate began debate on Bill C-41, the doctor-assisted dying bill. In a pastoral letter addressing medical aid in dying, the Atlantic Episcopal Assembly says that “the pastoral care of souls cannot be reduced to norms for the reception of the sacraments or the celebration of funeral rites.” (CNS photo/Art Babych)

support of palliative care.

Earlier this fall, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories said that those considering euthanasia or assisted suicide should not be granted last rites or funeral rites. Other Canadian bishops, such as Cardinal Gerald Lacroix of Quebec, and Archbishop Christian Lepine of Montreal, said they did not intend to refuse funerals.

*Vaillancourt is editor of the Montreal-based Presence info.*

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# Popular culture: 'It's not wrong, if it feels right!'

Many people today believe that moral judgments and values are merely expressions of sentiment. They deny that moral values are fixed or universally true, and instead, argue that we have changing emotions that may or may not correspond to the moral feelings of those around us.

This can play out in various real-life situations when people say, for example, "You can't really know what it's like to have an unexpected pregnancy if you haven't been in the situation yourself, so you can't tell me it's wrong to get an abortion." The morality of terminating a "problem pregnancy," according to this view, depends on "being in the moment," and experiencing the mother's desperation, fears and sentiments.

Most of us, in fact, have probably granted our emotions leeway to trump our better moral judgment somewhere along the line. We can relate to stories of friends who make various solemn declarations like: "You don't know how hard it's been for me in this painful marriage, and you don't understand how it feels to fall in love with somebody who really cares for you, so you can't say it's wrong for me to be in a relationship with someone else."

Philosopher Alisdair MacIntyre notes that this emotive approach to moral thinking has gained broad societal approval: "To a large degree people now think, talk and act as if emotivism were true, no matter what their avowed theoretical standpoint may be. Emotivism has become embodied in our culture." In light of our tendency to try to justify our misdeeds, it can be appeal-

'To think clearly about morality, we need to start by acknowledging that certain moral duties do not depend on context or emotion, but are universally binding on us, having even a "commandment-like" quality.'

ing to imagine that ethics are always "first person" — from my vantage point — and to suppose that no one else can identify moral obligations regarding another's situation. "How do you feel about it?" becomes the guiding principle, and leads to the view that morals are relative, context dependent, and subject to emotional confirmation. Reducing ethics to feelings, however, is a seriously deficient approach to thinking about right and wrong. It also, in the final analysis, doesn't work.

Imagine what would happen to the practice of medicine if physicians could treat patients only if they personally experienced and felt the diseases their patients had. Consider the miscarriage of justice that would occur if judges ruled only when they could feel and experience everything the perpetrator felt and experienced at the time the crimes were committed, and had to decide cases in line with those feelings. Such sentimentalism completely misses the objective foundations and concerns of morality.

Those objective foundations begin with

the recognition that all men and women have a shared human nature, so whatever is always morally bad for one of us will also be bad for any of us. If it is immoral for me to steal the electronics out of your house, it will likewise be wrong for you to rob me or anyone else; and it will be equally wrong for the president of the United States or the pope to do so. If I rob others, it is objectively bad because it harms others by depriving them of their goods, and it transforms me into a thief, the kind of person who cheapens his humanity and degrades his integrity by stealing the goods of others. Even those who believe in a "feelings-based" morality are quick to decry certain actions as always wrong, at least when it comes to their own vehicles and homes being plundered, irrespective of whether the robbers might have their own moral sentiments favoring the practice.

To think clearly about morality, we need to start by acknowledging that certain moral duties do not depend on context or emotion, but are universally binding on us, having even a "commandment-like" quality.

Professor William May, a remarkable teacher of moral theology at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, had a penchant for choosing clear and memorable examples when he would lecture. He used to tell his students that we all know certain actions are wrong, regardless of circumstances.

One of his most graphic examples, recounted by his students even decades later, was his undeniable assertion that we all know barbecuing a baby is wrong. Similarly, he stressed that everyone recognizes the wrongness of adultery, an act, so often shrouded in secrecy, that attacks the good of our spouse and seriously violates an important and defining personal commitment we have made.

Even if something "feels right" in the moment, it can be very wrong for us to do it. Quite apart from the context or circumstances, certain kinds of acts, without exception, are incompatible with human dignity because, by their very nature, they are damaging and destructive to ourselves and to those around us.



**Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.**

Director of Education  
The National Catholic Bioethics Center,  
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# Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12) was celebrated with a Mass and dinner at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. Bishop Robert Gruss was the principal celebrant at the bilingual Mass. Fathers Janusz Korban; Ed Witt, SJ; Matt Fallgren; Richard Abert, SJ; Christopher Johnson, SJ; Brian Lane; and Kerry Prendiville concelebrated. The celebration recalls the miraculous apparitions of the brown-skinned Virgin Mary to St. Juan Diego at Tepeyac, Mexico, in December 1531. She appeared to Juan Diego three times and the last time filled his tilma (cloak) with roses. When he emptied his cloak of the roses, he found that it bore her image. In the decades after her appearance, millions of indigenous people converted to the faith. In 1999, then-Pope John Paul II, in a homily given at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, declared December 12 as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent. During the same visit, Pope John Paul II entrusted the cause of life to her loving protection, and placed under her motherly care the innocent lives of children, especially those who are in danger of not being born. She is the Patroness of the unborn and the Americas.



Abrianna and Nathalia Munoz carry in rose petals to place at the foot of the a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Children dress as peasants and St. Juan Diego for the celebration.



Andrea Alboi hands the collection basket to Bishop Gruss during the Mass. (WRC photos)



Chava Correa and Barbara Linares (at the podium) lead the diocesan choir and congregation in the Alleluia. The choir was under the direction of Terry Schroeder.



Rapid City Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Outlet in Box Elder, Dec. 1. Store manager Andrew Shepard used giant gold scissor for the occasion. (WRC story and photo by Laurie Hallstrom)

## Outlet store offers shopping by the pound

A Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony was held Dec. 1, for the St. Vincent de Paul Conference Thrift Outlet in Box Elder. Following the success of the SVDP Thrift Store in Spearfish, the society opened the outlet store. The location is 640 Box Elder Rd. W., Box Elder. (Coming from Rapid City, at I-90 exit 63, take the first left turn, about one block from the interstate.)

The outlet store is unique place to shop because everything, except furniture and mattresses, is sold by the pound. According to JoBeth Meyer, executive director for Store Development, opening day prices for clothing and other goods were 99-cents per pound. The regular rate is \$1.49. Check Facebook for specials.

The store carries low cost mattresses are individually priced. The mattresses are stripped to the springs and recovered in Chicago, Ill; however, the thrift outlet cannot accept mattresses as donations in this area. The mattresses and box springs range from \$150 to \$249 for double pillow top set. Full sets are \$200, Queen sets \$250 and King sets \$395, and bed frames start at \$39.95. Meyer said, "For the month of December, mattresses are 25 percent off these low prices to celebrate the Christmas Season and our grand opening. Delivery is available for \$20 extra."

The store is accepting donations of clothing and household items. Since there is no washer on site, the store personnel appreciate having clothes washed before donating. To have furniture or large items picked up call 605-791-0707. Store hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Sunday. Also, the store does not accept electronics more than five-years old. Video tapes, CDs, DVDs and records go for 50 cents each. Donations of canned and boxed foods are given out on Vincentian home visits to people in need.

The thrift outlet operates with a combination of paid workers and volunteers. It has created employment opportunities in Box Elder. Proceeds from the Spearfish and Box Elder stores help fund SVDP outreach.

"We are very close to having given out \$100,000 of assistance since May 2016 between the three conferences (located at Rapid City Cathedral, Piedmont and Spearfish-Belle Fourche-Newell.) Each conference does fundraising and receives cash donations as well as funds from the stores. The need seems to be especially great this holiday season and we are in need of both cash donations and goods," said Meyer.

She said the SVDP stores are a great place to use conference vouchers. "The conferences will help a friend with a voucher to get the household items and clothing they need. Because our prices are so low a friend can get a lot for even just \$25," she said.

There are plans to open more stores in the area.





## Mary's Feast

A projected image of Mary and the Christ Child illuminates the facade of Sydney's St. Mary's Cathedral Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. (CNS photo/Jason Reed, Reuters)

## Vucurevich Foundation community impact recognized

The Grant Professionals Association (GPA) presented its international Pioneer Award to the John T. Vucurevich Foundation, Rapid City, on Nov. 11 at the annual GPA conference in Atlanta, Ga.

The Pioneer Award recognizes the visionary contributions in grant making by a grant-maker that positively impacts their communities and the field of grantsmanship while improving the way grant professionals do their work.

The Vucurevich Foundation uses its public profile and \$5 million in annual funding to create a shared sense of responsibility among non-profits, institutions, local governments, and philanthropists to promote long-term, sustainable change in western South Dakota, according to GPA. The Rapid City-based foundation was nominated for the award by Catholic Social Services of Rapid City.

(At right) Vucurevich Foundation President Sandy Diegel with the GPA Pioneer Award. She is standing in front of a portrait of the late John T. Vucurevich. (Courtesy photo)



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## We are all made in the image of God

BY DEACON MARLON LENEAGH  
DIRECTOR OF NATIVE MINISTRIES

The month of December marks the 126th anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre. A time in history when indigenous people were considered a hindrance to progress in the “wild west.” In the 1800s the real motivation for the government treaties and attempts to make peace were ploys to take the land. The native people were considered trouble makers who stood in the way of making money in the Dakotas — especially panning for gold.

Once again a century and a quarter later, we witness native peoples blocking progress. On the Standing Rock Reservation, we have seen a standoff between energy companies, which want to transport oil, and the native people and sympathizers who want to protect the environment, especially the right to clean water. The native people still feel the loss of the lands — their source of self-sufficiency. The news media decides what we hear about the parties involved.

I know there are good people on both sides and they are judged with all the rest. Guilty by association, I guess. The good ones are the true peace makers, who live out the beatitudes and desire a peaceful resolution. They struggle with the violence and the cruel words.

There are white people and native people on both sides of this conflict. I wonder what Jesus’s position would be on the issue. Jesus sought fairness in all dealings. What is hard about this issue is that it is causing good Christian folks to speak badly about one another. Friends have become enemies and people have been hurt in many ways.

When this is all over, we once again will have to live with each other, pass each other on the street and allow our children to play together. Each of us, no matter how poor or wealthy, big or tall, short or stocky, are made in the image and likeness of God and in the eyes of God we are equal, no one is greater than another in the Kingdom of Heaven. We will be judged by the way we treat one another.



## The 2017 Kateri Tekakwitha Conference

to be held in Rapid City, July 19-23, is soliciting donations and memorials to defray conference expenses.

To donate, contact the conference treasurer, Deacon Marlon Leneagh at 605-343-3541 or [mleneaghsr@diorc.org](mailto:mleneaghsr@diorc.org).

*In the November memorials for the conference, in memory of Eva Witt, the last daughter listed should have been Wanda Standing Bear.*

*Statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual, Rapid City*

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## Stand Aside, Superheroes

No web slinging Spiderman, karate chopping Turtles, or “look up in the sky,” Metropolis’ man of steel for Bishop Gracen Gill, who is 5 years old. He has a different plan for saving people in peril. His parents are Bryan and Kristen Gill. According to his mother, “He has aspirations of someday being a ‘Father.’ He loves to play Mass at home.” He has a family role model — his uncle is Father Mark Horn — currently studying in Rome.

Gracen is a member of the Holy Cross Parish, Timber Lake. This photo was taken at a local Halloween carnival put on by the area 4-H groups on Oct. 30. Watch out, Gotham’s caped crusader.

*(Courtesy photo)*

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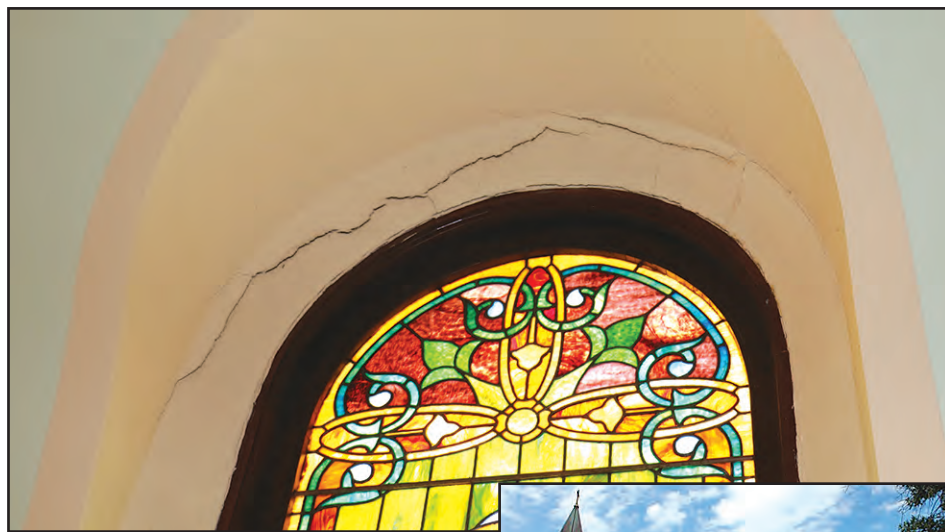
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## ICC parishioners trying to preserve historic building

By Laurie Hallstrom

Immaculate Conception Church, also known as the old cathedral, is deteriorating. The cornerstone for the building was laid in 1930 — the same year the See was moved from Lead to Rapid City. The sandstone building served as the cathedral for the Diocese of Rapid City until the early 1960s when the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was built. It has been used in recent years as a church for Latin Mass of the Roman Rite in the previous form. In 1975, the church building was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Father Christopher Hathaway, FSSP, has appointed a building committee for the ICC restoration project. The committee members are consulting experts in historic church restoration as well as the Diocesan Building Commission.

The church has a new roof. According to Jean Carlson, a committee member, "After the water problems were alleviated at ICC, it left significant damage to the plaster



(Above) Water damage has caused cracks to form in the plaster walls, murals, around stained glass windows and in the ceiling. (WRC photo) (Below) The church viewed from the south side. (WRC file photo)

throughout the whole interior of the church."

The restoration is planned in three phases; first update electric knob and tube wiring and new plaster. Second, the Romanesque hand-crafted altar will be cleaned and enhanced with gold and other colors. The carving of the Last Supper on the front of the altar will be painted. Third, deteriorating side altars will be replaced.

Additional updates will include repainting the walls and replacing the sanctuary floor with Carrera marble.

The committee is still consulting experts and gathering bids for the project.



At the diocesan pilgrimages a cord with a crucifix and two beads were given out.

Additional beads were available at subsequent pilgrimages. A prayer sheet accompanied the chaplet. The pilgrimages were held at Rapid City, St. Francis, Timber Lake, Pine Ridge and Sturgis.

## Jubilee Year of Mercy concludes

Story and Photos by Laurie Hallstrom

The final diocesan pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year of Mercy was hosted by the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Nov. 19, in Sturgis.

The day began with adoration. Susan Safford, director of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation led a *Lectio Divina* reflection for participants. Priests were available throughout the day for the sacrament of reconciliation. In the afternoon, the keynote speaker, Dr. Bryan Thatcher of Tampa, Fla., spoke on "Divine Mercy." He is the founder of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy.

He said 25 years ago, he was a successful gastroenterologist, but his personal life hit bottom. During this time of tribulation, a friend gave him a copy of the "Diary of St. Faustina."

The Polish nun, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, was canonized in 2000. The familiar image of Divine Mercy was painted under her guidance. She is known for spreading devotion to Jesus' divine mercy.

"The Lord doesn't limit the number of times we can be forgiven," Dr. Thatcher said. "We will never be able to understand divine mercy, we just have to accept it." He urged everyone to go to confession.

The day concluded with Mass celebrated by Fr. Timothy Castor and concelebrated by Fr. John Paul Trask.



In Sturgis, the St. Francis of Assisi Church altar was adorned with fall flowers where the monstrance was displayed for adoration.



The guest speaker was Dr. Bryan Thatcher, Tampa, Florida, the founder of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy. He spoke on the message of St. Faustina. His talk is online, [rapidcitydiocese.org/jubilee-year-mercy](http://rapidcitydiocese.org/jubilee-year-mercy).

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## Catholic Daughters announce 2017 Education Contest

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas announce the 2017 National Education Contest. The themes of the contest (choose one) “Whatever you do for the least of my brethren, you do for me” Mt 25:40, or “Helping the needy where I live.”

### Divisions and Categories:

*Note Students may be Catholic and Non-Catholic*

Division 1—Grades 4-5 Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art

Division 2—Grades 6-8 Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art, Music, Photography

Division 3—Grades 9-12 Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art, Music, Photography

Division 4— Adult CDA Poetry, Art, Computer Art, Photography

Contestants may enter a category only once, but may submit entries in multiple categories. All entries must be received by the local court deadline of Feb. 15, 2017. Interested applicants may contact the Court St. Rita #916 Contest Chairperson for the particular rules in the categories listed above, and for the Contest Entry Form.

The winning entry for each category in each division (either theme, not both) will be sent to the State Contest Chairperson and the winning entries at the state level will be forwarded to the National Education Contest Chairperson.

There is a monetary award for each first place winner at the local and state level in each division and a first \$100, second \$50 and third \$25 place award at the national level in each division.

### For an entry form:

Patricia McDowell, Court St. Rita #916 Contest Chairperson  
605-787-0638 or [patmcdowell44@gmail.com](mailto:patmcdowell44@gmail.com)



## Contingency Board welcomes new members

The Catholic Parish Association Contingency Fund, Inc. met on November 11 in Rapid City. **(Front row)** Brett Hanson, Fr. Kevin Achbach and Jim Waterbury. **(Back row)** Rick Soulek, the new diocesan Chief Finance Officer with board members Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek and Fr. Timothy Castor. Board member Mike Lyons from Lemmon joined the meeting by telephone. Hanson, Fr. Achbach and Waterbury are new to the board.

The Catholic Parish Association Contingency Fund is a centrally managed pool of funds created by parishes in the diocese for the benefit of all parishes in the diocese. Currently, parish deposits earn 1.5 percent interest on their savings and parish loans are charged 3.5 percent interest. Any parish deposits not loaned to other parishes are invested by First Interstate Wealth Management.

By pooling their funds, parishes earn a greater amount of interest on their savings than most savings accounts while allowing their fellow parishes to pay less interest on their loans than from outside sources. “The Catholic Parish Association Contingency Fund allows parishes to help parishes in a win-win situation,” said Soulek. *(Courtesy photo)*

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### Terra Sancta offers special Rates

Come away and rest in God this Advent and Christmas season at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. Stay at the retreat center now through Dec. 31 for just \$75 per night per room, (two queen size beds and private bath) including tax. Make your reservation on-line at <http://terrasancta.org/christmas-lodging-2016/> or call 605-716-0925.

## A Safe Environment for Children and Young People

The Catholic Diocese of Rapid City is firmly committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for our children and young people. To report allegations of sexual abuse by church personnel, contact the Victim Assistance coordinator, Barbara Scherr. To ensure confidentiality in her outreach to victims, she can be contacted privately at 1-605-209-3418 (cell). Her phone has caller ID and messaging features. All information will be treated confidentially. Alleged victims are advised of their right to report alleged abuse to civil authorities.

*In accordance with diocesan policy, all allegations of sexual misconduct involving children or young people and priests, deacons, lay employees, or volunteers serving the Diocese of Rapid City will be investigated.*

The diocesan sexual misconduct policy and the code of conduct are posted on the diocesan website at [www.rapidcitydiocese.org](http://www.rapidcitydiocese.org).

## Obituary

### Fr. Thomas J. Tierney, SJ, 92, served at Hot Springs VA Hospital

Father Thomas J. Tierney, S.J. passed away Dec. 7, at Opelousas General Hospital in Opelousas, La. He was 92 years old, a Jesuit for 65 years and a priest for 54 years.

He was born in Aitkin, Minn., on November 13, 1924. During WWII he served in U.S. Army in the Pacific theater. After military service, he attended various colleges in California, including Loyola University in Los Angeles, before landing in 1950 at Loyola University in New Orleans. He entered the Society of Jesus New Orleans Province on August 14, 1951, at St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, La. Following first vows he studied humanities in Grand Coteau and philosophy at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., earning a B.A. in Sociology (1957). He did a single year of regency at Jesuit High in New Orleans (1957-58) before studying theology at Alma College, the California Province theologate (1958-62), earning the S.T.M. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 13, 1962, at Blessed Sacrament Church in Hollywood, Calif. He made Tertianship at Rathfarnham Castle in Dublin, Ireland and pronounced his final vows on August 15, 1965 in Shreveport, La.

Following ordination, he worked for one year as a counselor at Jesuit High School in New Orleans, La., (1962-63) and for two years as a teacher at Jesuit High in Shreveport, La. He then spent about ten years in the pastoral apostolate, including service as assistant pastor at the Gesù in Miami, Fla., Sacred Heart Church in Tampa, Fla., and

Our Lady of Guadalupe in San Antonio, Texas. Fr. Tom had for a long time expressed a desire to devote himself to chaplaincy work. In 1976-77, he participated in Clinical-Pastoral Training at St. Elizabeth, a large psychiatric hospital in Washington, D.C. This proved to be a turning point in his ministry.

He spent the next thirty-one years (1977-2008) as a chaplain at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Hot Springs. When he moved to Hot Springs to take on the chaplaincy at the VA hospital there, he was expected to find his own living arrangements. Appalled by the high rents, he decided to live in a mobile home. He had simple needs and that suited him fine. A man who loved the outdoors, he enjoyed the opportunities that South Dakota offered for hunting and golf, as well as swimming in the hot springs. When he retired from chaplaincy, he remained active as long as he could, living at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Hot Springs and helping with the pastoral ministry there. In 2013, he moved to the St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Pavilion in Grand Coteau, La.

Mass of Christian burial was held Dec. 17 at St. Charles College Chapel Grand Coteau, La. Burial is in Jesuit Cemetery, St. Charles College.



## 33 Days to Morning Glory

On December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, 75 people from three local parishes participated in the Marian consecration, consecrating themselves to Jesus through Mary, our Blessed Mother. During the Mass, Bishop Robert Gruss led the group in the renewal of baptismal promises and the prayer of consecration. The participants were blessed with holy water from the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Lourdes, France.

"For 33 Days, we individually read and were in heart pondering prayer as we reflected on the lives of four Marian saints: St. Louis de Montfort, Maximilian Kolbe, Mother Teresa, and Pope John Paul II from the book, "33 Days to Morning Glory," by Fr. Michael Gaitley," said Sherry Braun, a Cathedral parishioner. "We also met weekly to share in a video and small group discussion as we prepared for consecration."

At the end of the consecration, members of the group placed roses in vases before the altar to signify offering themselves. Tim Shull, St. Therese Church; Patrick Flanigan, Cathedral; and Scott Smallwood, Blessed Sacrament; are pictured. (WRC photo)

"33 Days to Morning Glory" can be done either individually as a self-guided retreat or in a group.

For information on this Marian consecration contact Braun at 605-341-3712 or email, sherry\_lrb@peoplepc.com.



## STM Legacy Brick Memorial

*The goal of Campus Ministry is to connect students to Jesus and to the larger community of believers, to help students grow in faith and their life of prayer, to equip them for living and sharing their faith, teaching them to serve one another in love, and to glorify God with their lives.*

We invite you to join the mission of Campus Ministry with a personalized brick. Bricks are available for a \$250 donation. Each brick will be personalized to your specifications. Your donation and personalized brick will be a permanent part of our STM Legacy Brick Memorial. Your sponsorship of a brick will allow our ministry to continue to grow to meet the needs of our students.



A Mass will be celebrated every month for the intentions for those whose names are inscribed in the STM Legacy Brick Memorial. In addition during each November when the church remembers all the deceased, an outdoor Mass will be offered on the memorial grounds.

To purchase a brick visit  
[www.RCCSS.org/campusministry](http://www.RCCSS.org/campusministry)

## Born to Eternal Life

This is an addition to the list printed in the November *West River Catholic* — family and friends we have lost from Oct. 1, 2015, to Sept. 30, 2106. Names and dates provided by parishes.

### Lower Brule, St. Mary

10/10/15 Mary Jane Bad Horse (Powell)	1/12/16 Helen Smith
11/19/15 Gyla Jandreau	1/20/16 Jamie Crazy Bull
12/18/15 Maza Wakntou Grass Rope	3/20/16 Scott Jones (Ta Sunke Wankapi)

For a *West River Catholic* advertising rate sheet contact Laurie at [lhallstrom@diorc.org](mailto:lhallstrom@diorc.org) or phone 605-343-3541.

## Outreach Team visits STM high school

Jenny Scherr, Piedmont; Randy Vette, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry; Jake Davis, Rapid City; and Father Mark McCormick, director of Vocations and Stewardship; pose for a photo before lunch with students at St. Thomas More High school, December 8. The four are part of the Outreach Team focused on entering into the lives of high school students and loving them where they are at.

"The goal is to build genuine relationships that will allow us to mentor young people in the faith by simply being a presence," explained Vette. "This idea for the team came from a desire to work with high school students in the best, most fruitful way possible. Jesus showed us how; we simply desire to imitate Christ and his love. He didn't wait for us to come to him, but first took on flesh and came to be with us. We believe that is the model youth ministry should follow. There is great potential with this new ministry and a lot of students we can be a joyful witness to."

After a weekend of attending basketball games, the team went back to the school to have lunch on December 14.

"STM has been very welcoming to us. I look forward to getting to know the kids," Scherr added.

The team also includes Jackie Kuhn and Jordan Miller, both of Rapid City. (WRC photo)



## Corporal Works of Mercy

In November, the youth group at St. Francis of Assisi, Sturgis, had a winter clothing drive and went to downtown Rapid City on a "Clothe the Naked" Mission Trip. All the clothing went to the Cornerstone Mission to help those in need. Youth group members are:

**(Back row)** Jacob West, Charlie Casteel, John Fischer, Josh West, and Stevie Fischer.

**(Middle row)** Megan Andersen, Tayghen McGrath, Molly Buchholz, Ainsley Sabers, Emily Pi, Nate Andersen, Tegan Thomson, Brett Konst, Blane Breth, Jaedra Woldt, and Reegin Kehn.

**(Front row)** Kiara Brown, Kenzie Krcil, Mairen McGrath, and Maggie Reeve.

The "Clothe the Naked" Committee: Reegin Kehn-chair, Kenzie Krcil and Jaedra Woldt organized the drive, spoke to the parish and collected the donations. (Courtesy photo)



## Movie Review: Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

By John Mulderig

NEW YORK (CNS) — With "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," last year's promising re-ignition of the iconic franchise, "The Force Awakens," gains a — and equally family-friendly — companion.

Interstellar derring-do is once again the order of the day as this latest film in the series provides a rousing prequel to writer-director George Lucas' 1977 original, subsequently dubbed "Episode IV — A New Hope."

"A New Worry" might be an apt subtitle for "Rogue One" since its plot is driven by the fact that the evil Empire — served, most prominently, by Grand Moff Tarkin (a computer-generated projection of the late Peter Cushing) and Orson Krennic (Ben Mendelsohn) — is on the verge of deploying a game-changing new weapon, the Death Star.

With its potential to wipe out entire planets, the Death Star could doom the efforts of the gallant Rebel Alliance, headed by Mon Mothma (Genevieve O'Reilly), to resist subjugation.

This crisis draws the movie's main character, Jyn Erso (Felicity Jones), to center stage. As the daughter of Galen Erso (Mads Mikkelsen), the brilliant scientist who unwittingly developed the technology behind the

Death Star while being held captive, she has reason to believe that the armament can be sabotaged from within.

To prove this, she'll need the help of intrepid Alliance officer Capt. Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) as well as that of his mechanical sidekick, K-2SO (Alan Tudyk). An amusingly straight-talking android, K-2SO is the source of most of the movie's wry comic relief.

In crafting an exciting epic, director Gareth Edwards keeps the mayhem inherent in his story of armed conflict virtually bloodless. And the script, by Chris Weitz and Tony Gilroy, celebrates altruism while also briefly tackling the morality of obeying some military orders.

But the ambiguous nature of the spiritual "Force" cultivated primarily, in this installment, by blind Buddhist-style monk Chirrut Imwe (Donnie Yen) may be a source of concern for the parents of some teens. Since the Force can be interpreted in any number of ways, including a vaguely Christian one — the famous blessing it inspires having an almost liturgical ring to it — youngsters may need guidance to arrive at sound conclusions.

For all others, "Rogue One" offers old-fashioned entertainment in the best sense: an engaging showdown between plucky goodness and elegant villainy with a bit of delight-



Diego Luna, Felicity Jones and Jiang Wen star in a scene from the movie "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. (CNS photo/Lucasfilm Ltd.)

fully innocent romance thrown in for good measure.

The film contains frequent but thoroughly stylized combat violence, religious elements requiring mature discernment and some frightening images including a scene leading up to mental torture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Mulderig is on the staff of Catholic News Service.

## Believe (Freestyle)

Evangelical Christian faith hovers in the background of this holiday-themed drama about a cash-strapped factory owner (Ryan O'Quinn) facing both the collapse of his business and the end of the annual Christmas fair his family has long sponsored in his small hometown. As he struggles to decide whether to sell his company to save the festival — from which many of his neighbors make a substantial profit, though he puts it on for free — he draws support from his best friend since childhood (Shawnee Smith) and from a duo of newfound acquaintances: an impoverished, ailing mother (Danielle Nicolet) and her indefatigably cheerful little boy (Issac Ryan Brown). As its Job-like protagonist doggedly holds out for a Capraesque happy ending, writer-director Billy Dickson's film mostly avoids preachiness and keeps the imperative of its title Bible-based but non-denominational. Though not as rose-colored in its outlook as some religiously-inspired projects — O'Quinn's character doesn't shy away from confrontation — the movie, which is suitable for most age groups, lacks polish. Some nonlethal violence, a single crass term. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.