

Covid-19
Special
Pull Out
Section
pp. 11-14

WEST RIVER *Catholic*

Informing Catholics in Western South Dakota since May 1973



March 2021

Diocese of Rapid City
South Dakota

Volume 49 Number 7 www.rapidcitydiocese.org



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During Holy Week we will once again recall what Jesus Christ has done to save us from sin and death. He held nothing back in his sacrifice on the cross, so much does he love us. I pray that as we celebrate another Holy Week and Easter our hearts are open to the Lord's great love for us and that we allow him to renew our faith. We have travelled through a challenging time in so many ways this past year and the Lord has been with us every step of the way.

As more and more people receive their vaccinations the time has come to reinstate the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses. In this edition of the *West River Catholic* you will find my letter doing just that and a list of important exceptions to the obligation for those who still need them.

It is my deep desire and prayer that we will experience a rebirth of our faith as we emerge from the pandemic and live our Catholic life boldly in new ways that draw those around us to Jesus Christ.

God bless you with good health and renewed faith.
+Bishop Peter

Mary and St. John stand at the foot of the cross in this depiction of Christ's crucifixion at Holy Family Church in Ramallah, West Bank.

(CNS photo/Debbie Hill)



NewsCenter 1 Mass Broadcasts

Palm Sunday: Saturday,
March 27, NBC 4 p.m.,
& MyTV 430 p.m.
Sunday, March 28,
NBC 630 a.m., MyTV 10 a.m.
Easter: Saturday, April 3 NBC
4 p.m., MyTV 430 p.m.,
Sunday April 4, NBC 630 a.m.
& MyTV 10 a.m.

Holy Week Livestream Schedule

Masses for Holy Week will be live streamed from
the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

You can watch on our

Facebook page, [facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity),
or our website, www.rapidcitydiocese.org.

Chrism Mass — Monday, March 29, 11 a.m.

Holy Thursday — April 1, 7 p.m.

Good Friday — April 2, 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, April 3, 8:30 p.m.

Reinstating the Sunday Obligation

A letter from Bishop Peter Muhich can be found on page 11.



Through the
internet, print media,
television, and radio ...

*Communication Builds
Community*

Support the Catholic
Communications Campaign

Special Collection: May 15-16, 2021

www.usccb.org/ccc



Copyright © United States Catholic Bishops, Washington D.C.
All rights reserved. Photo: NewGroup Media, Diocese of Rapid City.

WSDCF awards almost \$1 million in grants

The Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation was created to ensure the financial stability of ministries within the Diocese of Rapid City. The mission of the foundation was established as promoting and strengthening the Catholic Church by providing people an opportunity to contribute to a permanent endowment fund, and make other types of gifts that will provide financial resources for meeting the spiritual needs of future generations of Catholics in the diocese.

The Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation awarded \$911,896 in grants at its February 11, Board of Directors meeting. Recipients included: Casa Maria Retirement Home, Catholic Social Services, Cheyenne River Pastoral Center, Diocese of Rapid City, Newman Center – BHSU, Newman Center – SDSM&T, Office of Vocations, Priests Retirement and Aid Association, RC Catholic School System, Red Cloud Indian School, Sioux Spiritual Center, St. Francis Fund, Standing Rock Reservation Ministry.

To find out more about the foundation contact:
WSDCF Executive Director Tim Henderson, PO
Box 984 Rapid City, SD 57709, phone 605-721-7843
or email THenderson@wsdcf.org.



The Pontifical Good Friday Collection: April 2, 2021

COMMISSARIAT OF THE HOLY LAND IN THE UNITED STATES

1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, D.C. 20017

www.MyFranciscan.org

Lower Brule Assignment

Fr. Jean Claude Mbassi, SCJ, has been assigned to the parishes of St. Mary, Lower Brule; St. Michael, Kennebec; and St. Mary, Reliance. He is originally from Yaoundé, Cameroon. He professed his first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 2001 and was ordained to the priesthood on April 25, 2009. In September 2019, he came to the United States to study in the English and Cultural Studies program at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, Hales Corner, Wis. In Africa, Father Mbassi served in several diocesan leadership positions. Also, he has worked as a prison chaplain and as the director of an at-risk youth training center.



Director of Native Ministry

February 16, Germaine Little Bear joined the Chancery staff as Director of Native Ministry. She is a member of St. Isaac Jogues Church, Rapid City. In her parish she is a lector, catechist and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. She is a graduate of Rapid City High School class of 1967, a 1981 graduate of Black Hills State University, Spearfish, and a 2009 graduate of Real Estate School. She will be serving in Rapid City and on the five Native American Reservations in the Diocese of Rapid City. Little Bear is a Commissioned Lay Minister and has served as chair for the diocesan Association of Commissioned Lay Ministers. She served on the board of directors for Sioux Spiritual Center, Howes, for six years. Also, at Sioux Spiritual Center, she has served for many years on the *Canku Wakan* retreat teams.



New Receptionist

Irene Lee joined the Chancery staff as a receptionist March 1. She and her husband, Lucky, are members of St. Therese the Little Flower Parish, Rapid City. She serves her church as a liturgical minister. She is a 1977 graduate of Bison High School, Bison, and Black Hills State University, Spearfish, in 1980. She earned a master's degree in literacy instruction from the University of Sioux Falls in 2013. Lee previously worked as a schoolteacher.



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.

Bishop's Calendar

March 19-April 21, 2021
Subject to change without notice

March 19, Friday

5 p.m. St. Joseph Celebration, St. Joseph Spearfish

March 21, Sunday

3:30 p.m. Presentation for Association of Commissioned Lay Ministers, Terra Sancta

March 22, Monday

Pastoral Ministry Days, Terra Sancta

March 23, Tuesday

Pastoral Ministry Days, Terra Sancta

March 25, Thursday

1 p.m. Nicholas Black Elk Working Group Meeting, Chancery

March 27, Saturday

Annual Men's Conference, Terra Sancta

March 28, Sunday

8 a.m. Mass, Cathedral
11:30 a.m. Catholic Social Services Palm Sunday Brunch, Ramkota, Rapid City

March 29, Monday

11 a.m. Chrism Mass, Cathedral
1:30 p.m. College of Consultors Meeting, Cathedral

April 1, Thursday

7 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass, Cathedral

April 2, Good Friday, Chancery Closed

3 p.m. Good Friday Service, Cathedral

April 3, Saturday

8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil, Cathedral

April 4, Sunday

11 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass, Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City

April 8, Thursday

10 a.m. Chancery Cabinet Leaders Meeting, Chancery

April 13, Tuesday

8:30 a.m. Staff Mass, Chapel

April 14, Wednesday

10 a.m. Sioux Spiritual Center Board Meeting, Chancery

April 15, Thursday

9 a.m. Presbyterian Council Meeting, Chancery

April 20, Tuesday

5 p.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting, St. Joseph, Spearfish
6 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Spearfish

April 21, Wednesday

5 p.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting, St. Paul, Belle Fourche
6 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Paul Church, Belle Fourche

WEST RIVER CATHOLIC

USPS 983-360

Official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Rapid City, published every other month. *The West River Catholic* is owned and published by the Diocese of Rapid City 606 Cathedral Drive Rapid City, SD 57701-5499 Phone: 605-343-3541

Publisher: Bishop Peter M. Muhich

Editor: Laurie Hallstrom, lhallstrom@diorc.org

Assistant Editor: Becky Berreth, bberreth@diorc.org

Circulation: Tanya Cooper, tcooper@diorc.org

Advertising: Laurie Hallstrom, 343-3541

Subscription: \$27, Foreign subscription: \$60 per year.

Postmaster: Address all correspondence, including change of address, to:

West River Catholic, PO Box 678, Rapid City, SD 57709-0678

Periodical postage paid at Rapid City, SD 57701



Ecumenical and Interreligious Guidebook: CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



Laudato Si' for Everybody

The guidebook is jointly published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer, and Catholic Climate Covenant. "This guide offers insights into how Catholics can bring the riches of the Catholic theological tradition to ecumenical and interreligious discussions and actions that uphold the dignity and sanctity of our environment." — Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, Chairman, Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs United States Conference of Catholic Bishops https://www.usccb.org/resources/Ecumenical-Guidebook-Care-for-Our-Common-Home_0.pdf.



DANA

DENTAL ARTS

A General & Cosmetic Practice

Rapid City

200 Federal Avenue 605.342.6038

Spearfish

1306 Main Street 605.642.7727



Michael R. Dana, DDS, PC

Monique M. Dana, DDS FICOI, MICOI

Bradly R. Dana, DDS FICOI, MICOI

Nicole D. Dana, DDS, FICOI, MICOI

Western Stationers

- Office and School Supplies and Equipment
- Greeting Cards and Gifts

714 St. Joe • Phone 605-342-3310

Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Email: administration@westernstationers.com

Website: www.westernstationers.com

Director of Music and Director of Liturgy

St. Joseph, Spearfish, has an opening for the Director of Liturgy and Music. This individual will oversee the parish liturgies including sacred music in parish worship and liturgy. The position can be filled by applying for a full-time position and administering both jobs together of music and liturgy, or the position can split into two part-time jobs for two individuals. A job description can be found on the St. Joseph Parish Web site www.stjosephspearfish.com.

To apply send cover letter and resume to mwooster@diorc.org.

Applications may also be mailed to: St. Joseph Church,
Attn: Msgr. Michael Woster, 844 North 5th Street, Spearfish, SD
57783

KIRK

Funeral Home &
Cremation Services

1051 E. Minnesota
Rapid City, SD
605-343-4808

Our family helping your family



Diocese of Rapid City
2021 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

LET YOUR LOVE FLOW!

www.rapidcitydiocese.org

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On February 2, we celebrated the Presentation of the Lord by blessing candles. The candles remind us that Christ became human to shine the true light of God's love into the darkness of our lives to help "Let Your Love Flow." The love flowing from the Father has shone upon us, and in the light of that love we are invited to join the procession and carry a light to meet our God.

In that spirit, I want to thank each of you who has joined in the work of the church in western South Dakota by participating in the 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal. Especially considering the challenging events of the past year, your faithfulness and sacrificial generosity are inspiring. To those who have not yet made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, I encourage you to take a moment to bring this appeal to the Lord in prayer.

While my prayer is that things can return to normal soon, the reality is that this past year has also been difficult for the church — locally and universally. The hardships of parishioners and reduced opportunity for gathering in person have led to a serious reduction in participation in our Annual Diocesan Appeal. Fewer pledges have been received. The diocese has taken steps to make do with less, cutting over \$300,000 from our budget. We are getting by with fewer staff members and making other sacrifices at the diocesan level to live within our means. However, outside funding continues to diminish, and those outside sources that remain have also suffered from reduced charitable giving in 2020.

Each of us can let our own light shine by supporting the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Even the smallest of gifts, when offered as an outpouring of God's self-giving love, can make a big difference. Together we can build up the body of Christ in western South Dakota. Every gift, flowing from the heart of love in service to one another, is life-giving and deeply valued.

May God bless you and your families!



Sincerely in the peace and joy of Christ,

Very Reverend Peter Muhich
Bishop of Rapid City

Diocese of Rapid City Annual Diocesan Appeal 2021

I will pray for the appeal and those it serves.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Spouse _____

Phone # _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL SUPPORT
OF OUR DIOCESAN MINISTRIES

Total Pledge	\$ _____
Enclosed	\$ _____
Pledge Balance *	\$ _____

Please, no gift is too small.

Make check payable to:

Diocese of Rapid City Annual Diocesan Appeal
Mail to: P.O. Box 678, Rapid City, SD 57709-0678

If interested in an automatic bank payment or credit card payment, please contact your parish office for a pledge envelope or call Elizabeth Siemieniak, (605) 791-7293

*Reminder statements are mailed quarterly.

For a complete listing of diocesan ministries, see the appeal brochure.

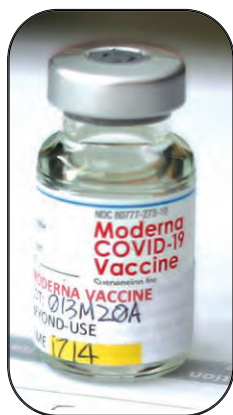
Third FDA approved vaccine raises ethics questions

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE
& WEST RIVER CATHOLIC

While Catholics may get vaccinated with the newest Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 drug, if given a choice, it is recommended they choose one of the other vaccines.

In a March 4 video, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, repeated comments that he made in a March 2 statement in conjunction with Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, that if a choice of vaccines is available "we recommend that you pick one with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines. Pfizer and Moderna's connection is more remote than that of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine," he said.

In December, the prelates addressed concerns over what then were the newly approved BioNTech and Moderna vaccines because "an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them," but "not used in their



A vial of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is seen in this illustration photo. *It one of the preferred vaccines.* (CNS photo/Lucy Nicholson, Reuters)

production." They noted then that cell lines used were derived from fetuses aborted in the 1970s.

In their more recent statement, the bishops also quoted the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which judged that "when ethically irreproachable COVID-19 vaccines are not available ... it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process."

Father Leo Hausmann, Vicar General for the Diocese of Rapid City, said that the

Diocese of Rapid City stands by those moral objections. "It goes against our respect for human life, and so that is the issue for us, and the diocese fully backs what the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith has said about that," he said.

"What's most important is that people get vaccinated," Bishop Rhoades continued.

"It can be an act of charity that serves the common good. At the same time, as we bishops have already done, it's really important for us to encourage development of vaccines that do not use abortion-derived cell lines. This is very important for the future."

Diocese of Rapid City Vacancy Announcement

Director of Communications and Human Resources

FUNCTIONS: To coordinate communications between the bishop and the news media. To promote a healthy relationship with the public media. To perform Human Resources and Benefits responsibilities associated with the Diocese of Rapid City. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Practicing Roman Catholic able to communicate and model a full understanding of the life and mission of the Roman Catholic Church. Degree and experience in Communications/Human Resources or related fields preferred. Ability to write effective news releases and to speak before reporters and representatives of the media. Advanced knowledge or experience in Human Resources practices and implementation of benefits. Excellent interpersonal skills, written and verbal communication and organization skills. **APPLICATION PROCESS:** A job description and a diocesan application form can be found on the website by clicking on the employment icon at <https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/>. Interested individuals should submit via e-mail or regular mail, a letter of application along with their resume listing three professional references and a completed application form to: msimonson@diorc.org or: Office of the Chancellor, Diocese of Rapid City, 225 Main Street Ste 100, Rapid City SD 57701. The Diocese of Rapid City offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

DURING LENT, TERRA SANCTA RETREAT CENTER INVITES YOU TO

Come Away and Rest in God

Certified SoulCore Leader
Jenny Scherr wil have
hour-long classes during
Holy Week at Terra Sancta.
6am & 5pm Daily
Monday (3.29)-Thursday (4.1)
and the
Good Friday (4.2) 12pm & 3p.m.
Please use the South Patio Entrance

facebook.com/soulcore605

Space is limited. Please reserve
your spot by calling 607-716-0925



Outdoors anytime
Explore our Hiking Trails
Pray the Via Dolorosa...
Walk the Outdoor
Christian Prayer Labyrinth



Or join us indoors during Holy Week starting Monday at noon, then daily through Good Friday from 9am-6pm with the Indoor Christian Prayer Labyrinth. Please use the West (main) Entrance.

SoulCORE
A Movement to Nourish Body, Mind & Soul



terrasancta.org

Cor ad Cor has been a great tool to grow in the spiritual life

Since the middle of October, I have been accompanying four students from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in the *Cor ad Cor* Spirituality Year, an outgrowth of the *Veritatis Splendor* Institute (VSI), sponsored by the Office of Faith formation. We meet every Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

The title *Cor ad Cor* is a Latin phrase meaning “Heart speaks to Heart.” Cor ad Cor is a 30-week retreat in which the first eight weeks are devoted to the Oremus program from Ascension Press and the next 22 weeks focus on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola according to the 19th Annotation.

The 19th Annotation is an opportunity for people who cannot devote 30 days to an Ignatian retreat to do the prayer, readings and meditations over a period of several months.

Cor ad Cor has been a great tool to help all of us, including me, to learn and grow in the spiritual life, and to have the courage to be vulnerable as men by sharing our faith and the work the Lord is doing in our lives.

The center of the *Cor ad Cor* Spirituality Year is to pray at least 20 minutes every day with a series of Scripture readings, often praying them again and again, going deeper and deeper. We use our imagination to put ourselves into the Scripture scene and to apply our five senses to the Word of God, so that we’re able to see, hear, smell, and touch this living word, letting it penetrate and touch us deeply.

This process reminds me of one of my favorite scripture passages: *“Indeed, the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart,”* (Heb 4:12).

It is awesome to see how the Word of God, so alive and explosive, touches the hearts of these four young men week after week. I have been blessed to journey and accompany them for the past six months, and I can hardly wait to see how the Holy Spirit is going to move this small band of brothers in the months ahead.

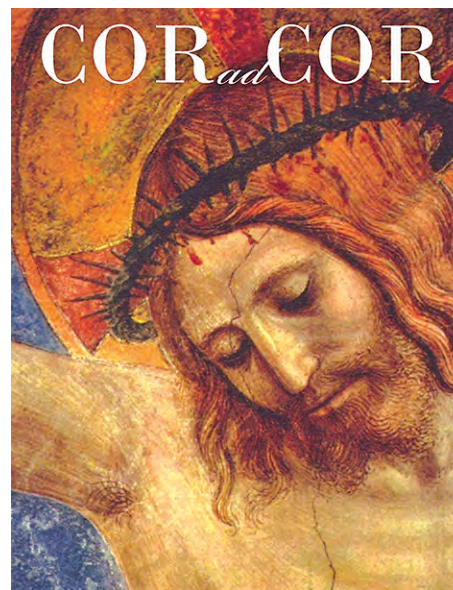
Several weeks ago, we were praying with The Visitation of Our Lady to Elizabeth in Luke 1:39-56. Several lines hit me in my prayer time: *“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb”* (41) and *“And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home,”* (56).

The child John leaped in the womb of Elizabeth, who was filled with the Holy Spirit, when she heard Mary’s greeting. I imagined that this was not a one-time occurrence for the infant John, but something that happened repeatedly as Elizabeth and Mary had conversations with one another that were charged with the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary remained with Elizabeth and Zachariah for three months before she returned to Nazareth.

In my prayer time, I imagined what the conversations were like between Mary and Elizabeth, and even Mary, Elizabeth and Zachariah. How many times did Elizabeth ask Mary during that three-month stay to tell her again and again how the angel Gabriel appeared to her and announced that she was to be the Mother of the Son of God; how the Holy Spirit came upon her; and how God overshadowed her?

I imagine Mary saying to Elizabeth, “With God all things are possible.” And Elizabeth nodding and smiling with great joy and replying, “I know, Mary. I am in my 90s and will give birth to my first son, John.”

How many times did Mary ask Zachariah to tell her his story? I imagine



him going through the difficulty of writing down his story, that while offering incense in the temple, the angel Gabriel appeared to him, telling him that his prayers had been answered and Elizabeth would bear a son.

Then he would describe his own unbelief at the angel’s word and how he became mute and unable to speak. I am sure that in those three months, Mary, Elizabeth and Zachariah had amazing conversations, encountering the infant Jesus in the womb of Mary and the Holy Spirit over and over again. Pondering these incredible miracles in their heart and then sharing them with one another filled them with amazing joy.

I continue to ponder this prayer period and have preached on it several times. In my work as vocation director, and as the chaplain of St. Thomas More middle and high school as well as chaplain at the Newman Center, I am convicted of the importance of having similar conversations — conversations where we, too, speak of how God is at work in our lives.

This is a key to fostering abundant vocations. When all of us — moms, dads, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors and our parish priests — share with our young people how we ourselves have encountered Christ and were touched by the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, our young people will learn to seek that encounter for themselves. When they begin to encounter and experience God in this way, their hearts will be open to his call for their lives.

Cor ad Cor — “heart speaks to heart.” Let the Sacred Heart of Jesus speak to our hearts so that our hearts might speak to other hearts, encouraging the living and deep abiding Word of God to penetrate our joints and marrow.



Fr. Mark McCormick
Director
Office of
Vocations
MMcCormick@diorc.org

Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapels & Crematory Service

*Locally owned and operated
by the Isburg Family*

*Faithful Parishioners of the
Catholic Community*

605-642-2633

*Spearfish & Lead, South Dakota
Sundance, Wyoming*



ALL PILGRIMAGES HAVE OPENINGS!

2021 DATES: August 9-20 Shrines of France, Spain, and Portugal with Fr. Brian Lane; June 7-18 Poland with Fr. Andrzej Wyrastek; August 2-13 Footsteps of St. Paul, Greece with Fr. Kerry Prendiville (includes 4 day Aegean Sea Cruise); October 4-15 Italy with Fr. Dan Juelfs (*trip includes proposed deacon ordination of our own Robert Kinyon*)

2022: June Northern Ireland/Scotland and Wales with Fr. Brian Lane; December Holy Land; (pick your date) Oberammergau Passion Play, Germany (pick your date)

2023: Summer Lisbon, Portugal and World Youth Day with Jacques Daniel

Select International Tours, POC Rita Dupres, 605-381-4988

Register online or see more information and brochures on selectinternationaltours.com



@RapidCitydiorc

DioceseofRapidCity

@RapidCitydiorc



Rite of Election

The annual Rite of Election Mass of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates was held Feb. 21 in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. Bishop Peter Muhich signs the Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, Book of the Elect. Sponsor Trisha Raml stands with Alisha Keehan and her daughters, Elizabeth and Ella (standing behind). The altar server is Sean Pelayic and the book was presented by Jillian Kubik. Cathedral pastor Fr. Brian Christensen served as master of ceremonies. **(Right)** Altar server Max Daniel assists Bishop Muhich in blessing the St. Joseph statue which will be touring the Diocese of Rapid City during the Year of St. Joseph. (WRC photos by Laurie Hallstrom)



Chaldean Catholics call pope's Iraq trip 'beautiful'

SHELBY TOWNSHIP, Mich. (CNS) — Metro Detroit's Chaldean Catholic community hopes Pope Francis' recently completed pastoral visit to Iraq strengthens and restores some of the oldest Christian communities in the world. The pontiff visited the war-torn Middle Eastern country March 5-8, including the capital city, Baghdad, as well as Mosul and the Ninevah Plain region in the country's north. Pope Francis met with religious and government leaders but expressed a sense of solidarity with the much-aggravated Chaldean and Syriac communities — who trace their faith to St. Thomas the Apostle bringing the Gospel to Mesopotamia in the first century. The pope called for religious toleration and a sense of fraternity in a nation beset by wars, violence and political upheaval. "The trip is a connection to the early disciples, the early apostles," Father Fawaz Kako, pastor of St. George Chaldean Church in Shelby Township said.

Ameriprise
Financial

Are you a faithful steward of your finances?

When it comes to planning for your financial goals, you want an advisor who understands and supports your Christian world view.

I can help. As a Christian advisor, I offer financial planning and advice based on biblical principles of stewardship. I'll help you plan for your goals in a way that's consistent with your Christian faith.

Our Advisors. Your Dreams.

MORE WITHIN REACH

Call me today at (605) 791-5321

Ted Norman, CFP® practitioner
Financial Advisor

709 Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

605-791-5321

ted.j.norman@ampf.com

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. Ameriprise Financial provides financial services without regard to religious affiliation or cultural background.

© Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

Discover a Career with the Knights of Columbus



SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY • STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH • CHANGE THE WORLD



Mark DiSanto
Rapid City
605-391-5694
mark.disanto@kofc.org



Adam Werkmeister
Armour
605-999-0743
adam.werkmeister@kofc.org



Curtis Antony
Watertown
605-881-6545
curtis.antony@kofc.org



David Cook
Sioux Falls
605-419-1551
david.cook@kofc.org



Jeff Gillen
Sioux Falls
605-759-7204
jeff.gillen@kofc.org



Tom Bechen
Mitchell
605-770-9798
thomas.bechen@kofc.org



Phil Carlson
Brookings
605-695-4793
philip.carlson@kofc.org



Matt Weller
Redfield
605-450-6066
matthew.weller@kofc.org



Karl Libby
Volin
605-661-4079
karl.libby@kofc.org



This Could Be You!
Contact Jon for
Career Opportunities

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Jon Beebe
General Agent
(605) 882-8689
jon.beebe@kofc.org

www.kofcbeebeagency.com



School of Spiritual Direction to be launched in the Diocese of Rapid City this fall

BY CAROLE BROWN
SIOUX SPIRITUAL CENTER DIRECTOR

There is no doubt that many Catholics feel a profound spiritual hunger and a deep desire to connect with God in a more conscious way. They may be doing all the normal Catholic practices, going to Mass regularly, saying prayers and serving generously. But they have a sense that there must be more. For people who feel the desire to go deeper, finding a good spiritual director is usually a necessary next step. But spiritual directors are not easy to find.

Over the last number of years, leaders in the Diocese of Rapid City have recognized the need to provide spiritual accompaniment for those who desire it. To that end, they also recognized the lack of suitable training in spiritual direction.

Starting this September, the Diocese of Rapid City will be offering a certification course in spiritual direction at the Sioux Spiritual Center. The course consists of three two-week sessions over the course of 26 months. One of the sessions is devoted

to Prayer, another to Virtue, and another to Healing. This school is being conducted in collaboration with the leadership of the Alleluia School of Spiritual Direction in Augusta, Georgia. The program is eligible for certification (9 credits of continuing pastoral education credit) through the University of Mary, culminating in a Certification in Spiritual Direction. The cost of the program is \$1400 per session, covering tuition, materials and room and board. Attendees can receive continuing education credit through the University of Mary for an additional \$60 per session.

The course will provide practical instruction and skills development in the elements of spiritual direction and will foster attentiveness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Students will be exposed to various streams of Catholic Spirituality, particularly from Ignatian and Carmelite sources. Students must complete the three two-week sessions and make a directed silent Ignatian retreat of eight days. Students also complete a practicum in which they guide a person

through 16 weeks of prayer toward a deeper relationship with Jesus. The program focuses on the transformation of the student more than the transfer of information. There are no papers or exams.

For more information about the course, please contact Dr. Carole Brown, Director of the Sioux Spiritual Center 605-985-5906, or Deacon Greg Sass at the Chancery 605-343-3541.

Coming up at the Sioux Spiritual Center

March 19-21: Native Style Recovery Retreat

April 16-18: Inner Healing Prayer Retreat with Dr. Clare Ten Eyck (12 spaces only)

May 21-23: Native Style Recovery Retreat

May 28-31: Ignatian Retreat for Beginners (Memorial Day Weekend)

July 23-31: 8-day Silent Ignatian Retreat with Fr. Damian O'Connell, SJ (12 spaces only)

To register, visit

www.siouxspiritualcenter.org/retreats



BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH *Mahipya Na Maka Okogna*



Sioux Spiritual Center

- Group Retreats
- Personal Retreats
- Ignatian Retreats
- Native Recovery Retreats
- Healing Retreats
- Spiritual Direction Available

visit our website

www.siouxspiritualcenter.org
605-985-5906



SIOUX SPIRITUAL CENTER
CATHOLIC RETREAT LODGE

Charity Hunt

Reserve a day for your own buffalo hunting adventure at the Brownotter Buffalo Ranch, LLC, located near Bullhead, S.D. The Brownotter Ranch is believed to be the largest buffalo ranch solely owned by an American Indian in all of North America. This hunt is for fall/winter 2021. Cost for the hunt is \$8500 for one buffalo bull, and includes the price of processing the meat. Proceeds benefit the Sioux Spiritual Center Catholic Retreat Lodge.

For more information contact Ron Brownotter at 605-848-2623.

Please spread the word to your hunting enthusiast friends!

(Courtesy photo)

5734 Sheridan Lake Road, Ste 202
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-342-0258

Schedule Online 24/7
www.eyes4infinity.com



Infinity EyeCare

Family Focused • Vision for Life

Shane A. Clark, OD, FAAO
Optometrist



Remembering lives of consequence



George Weigel

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

All lives are consequential, for every human being is an idea of God's, and everyone is a someone for whom the Son of God, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, entered history, suffered, died – and was raised from the dead to display within history a new, glorified humanity. Thus to every life, as Mrs. Loman noted in “Death of a Salesman,” “attention must be paid.” Or as C.S. Lewis

reminded us in “The Weight of Glory,” “there are no ordinary people,” for everyone you meet has an eternal destiny.

Still, while every life is fascinating, some lives leave a deeper impress on history than others, and they're all the more fascinating for it. Over seven decades, it's been my privilege to know many such men and women. Some, I've worked with closely; others, including more casual acquaintances, I've admired from a greater distance.

During my early years as a practitioner of the weekly newspaper column, I'd occasionally recollect a consequential life by way of obituary tributes (or laments). Time moves far more rapidly as life goes on, however. And as time seems to accelerate, so do the number of deaths in one's circle of acquaintances, colleagues, and friends.

In any event, earlier this year it occurred to me that I'd been writing rather a lot of obituary columns in recent years and that a collection of them, suitably edited, might make an interesting book when combined

with similar pieces written in the more distant past. My friends at Ignatius Press agreed, and the result has just been published: “Not Forgotten: Elegies for, and Reminiscences, of, a Diverse Cast of Characters, Most of Them Admirable.”

The 68 small essays in the book cover a lot of territory, geographically and in terms of human personalities. There are saints I've known (John Paul II) and martyrs whose beatification causes I've tried to help advance (Franz Jägerstätter and Francis X. Ford, MM.).

There are politicians and statesmen who bent the course of history in one direction or another (Lindy Boggs, Václav Havel, Henry Hyde, Scoop Jackson, Max Kampelman, Pat Moynihan, Anwar Sadat, and Sargent Shriver).

There are men whose books I once read in college and graduate school who later became friends and colleagues (Peter Berger, James Billington, Avery Dulles, SJ, Leszek Kołakowski, Richard John Neuhaus, Michael Novak, and James Schall, SJ). There are rock'n'roll legends (Denny Doherty and Cass Elliott of The Mamas and The Papas), one longtime communist and master of the five-string banjo (Pete Seeger), and three heroes in the National Baseball Hall of Fame (Frank Robinson, Jackie Robinson, and Earl Weaver).

There are princes of the church (Bernardin Gantin, Francis George, OMI, Lubomyr Husar, MSU, and Aaron Jean-Marie Lustiger). There is a man I once loathed and then came to love (Chuck Colson).

There are fellow scribblers, far more talented than I (Fouad Ajami, Bill Buckley, Charles Krauthammer, Tom Wolfe, and Herman Wouk). And then there are my

parents and my late son-in-law.

I deliberately chose the word “diverse” in my subtitle because “diversity” is getting a lot of attention these days. And I must confess that much of the “diversity” talk I hear strikes me as ideologically intoxicated: “diversity” means the preemptive and presumptuous categorization — better, pigeon-holing — of people by race, sex, nature of desire, or that politically charged word “gender.” By contrast, virtually all the consequential lives remembered (and in most instances celebrated) in “Not Forgotten” manifest “diversity” in a far nobler way. For most of those in my cast of characters embody, quite diversely, the creative, purposeful, vocational living that is possible for everyone, irrespective of what boxes we happen to tick on a census form.

We are not pre-programmed creatures, like the artificially fabricated humans of “Brave New World” whose earthly destiny is pre-determined in a test tube. No: in the biblical view of things, anyone can live the virtues with the help of grace, and wickedness is an ever-present temptation to us all. That is the human condition and to suggest otherwise is to demean human dignity.

For all their differences, the men and women in my album of elegies and reminiscences all teach important lessons about what it means to live a worthy life. Some, admittedly, teach it along the old *via negativa*, the road we ought not travel. But that is another reason why they, like those who are Lewis' “immortal splendors,” should not be forgotten.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



St. Thomas More High School
Rapid City, SD

visit: rccss.org - District - Employment Opportunities
Closing date March 26, 2021

Dr. Paula Sorensen
Dr. Eryn Caudill
Dr. Greg Sorensen

in VISION
A Better Eye Care Experience

Family Eye Care

- Contact Lens Specialists including bifocal contact lenses
- Great frames & sunglasses
- Diabetes and Glaucoma management
- Family & second pair discounts
- Urgent eye care for infections, foreign body removal & other eye problems

605-399-3811 or 1-877-399-EYES
www.eyedoctorsrapidcity.com

2626 W. Main St. Ste. 4, Rapid City, SD 57702

**PETE
LIEN
& Sons, Inc.**

**“Your Projects
Just Got Easier”**

Aggregates, Sand, River Rock,
Landscape Blocks, Redi-Rock,
and Ready Mix Concrete.

605-342-7224
PO Box 440
Rapid City SD 57709
www.petelien.com

*Reinstating the Sunday Obligation***Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith because it is during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is made present to us and Our Lord makes himself truly present for us in his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. As one of my brother bishops recently stated, "the Eucharist is an irreplaceable gift, a foretaste of Heaven!"

When the coronavirus pandemic broke out, we explored safe ways to bring Christ to our people, both through the Word of God and the Sacraments in the light of public health recommendations. We put in place prudent restrictions, such as capacity limits and sanitization protocols, to allow for the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments without undue risk of accelerating the pandemic. During the last year our pastors, parishes, and all of the faithful have adapted in order to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone in our local communities. I am grateful to all of you for your efforts to implement and maintain the things we put into place to keep our parishes and schools safe.

As part of our efforts, many of our parishes have broadcast Masses over the internet. While this has been a means to help Catholics nourish their souls when they could not be present at Mass, we must remember that it cannot become the norm. God did not come to us virtually. He came to us in the flesh. As Catholics, unmediated contact with the Real Presence of the flesh and blood of Our Lord in offering his sacrifice to the Father is essential — and irreplaceable! Remember the Lord's words in John's Gospel: "*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him,*" (Jn 6:54-56).

Because of the essential and central nature of the Eucharist it is important for me as your bishop to lead you to the Lord Jesus in the Mass. That is why I am reinstating the obligation to participate in Sunday and Holy Day Masses beginning on Palm Sunday. Because we are still dealing with the coronavirus, I am also granting some particular dispensations to those still at risk. It is time for us to come back to Mass with a renewed amazement that we have a God who is so close to us and who has such a deep love for us that he come to us in flesh and blood. Active participation in Mass is an occasion for all of us to avail ourselves of the inexhaustible graces Christ desires to give us in the Eucharist.

I know that a real concern for spread of infection still remains, especially among those most vulnerable. Because of this important concern I am granting particular dispensations from the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses for people in certain circumstances, including those who are ill and those who care for anyone who is at risk of serious complications from COVID-19. I ask all those who are ill or think they might be ill to refrain from in-person attendance at Mass. Those who would experience significant anxiety or fear of getting sick are also dispensed from their obligation to attend Mass. More information about particular dispensations can be found in the list included along with this letter. **(Right)**

In reinstating the Sunday and Holy Day Obligation we welcome back all Catholics who have already been engaged in other activities that would present a similar or greater risk of exposure, such as eating out at restaurants, traveling and partaking in non-essential shopping. These individuals should prepare to return to Mass in recognition of its preeminence in our lives as Catholics.

The health and safety of our communities is very important, and we will continue to monitor local conditions. For that reason, I am continuing to encourage all the faithful present at Mass, with the exception of small children, to wear a mask or face-covering.

The Eucharist is the heart and soul of our Catholic life together. Let us never take this irreplaceable encounter with Christ for granted. And let us continue to pray for an end to this pandemic and for all who are ill.

(Signed) Most Rev. Peter M. Muhich, Bishop of Rapid City



NewsCenter1 personell recording Masses on Wednesdays for broadcast on Sundays. Here Bishop Peter Muhich celebrates Mass in the chapel of the Chancery building on Main St., Rapid City. The station donated time for the Masses. (WRC photo)

Information on Dispensations from the Sunday Obligation Effective March 27, 2021

The general obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (including the anticipatory Mass at 4 p.m. or later on the previous day) is to be reinstated in the Diocese of Rapid City effective Saturday, March 27, 2021. Considering the grave obligation we have of being physically present with our brothers and sisters at Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation for the Eucharist, each of us is asked to make a good and sincere judgement as to whether these circumstances apply or not. Where doubt or confusion persists, consult any priest for clarity. While the general dispensation is removed, there are specific instances where the dispensation will continue, as well as those circumstances where there is no obligation in the first place. One does not have an obligation to attend Mass on Sunday in the following circumstances:

1. You are ill or your health condition would be significantly compromised if you were to contract a communicable illness (*i.e., you have underlying conditions or are in a high-risk category*).
2. You exhibit flu-like symptoms.
3. You have good reason to think you might be asymptomatic of a contagious illness (*e.g., you were in recent contact with someone who tested positive for a contagious illness such as COVID or influenza*).
4. You care for the sick, homebound, or infirmed.
5. You are pregnant.
6. Those 65 years of age or older (*per the CDC's recommendation of high-risk individuals*).
7. You cannot attend Mass through no fault of your own (*e.g., no Mass is offered, you are infirm, or, while wanting to go, you are prevented for some reason you cannot control e.g., your ride did not show up, the church was at capacity*).
8. If you have significant fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass.

For questions about the application of any of these, please contact your pastor.

These categories will be reviewed in due course and revised as needed.

Those within categories #1-8 above must still observe the Lord's Day and are encouraged to spend time in prayer on Sunday, meditating on the Lord's passion, death and resurrection; an excellent way to do this is through participating in a broadcast of the Sunday Mass.

On pp. 12-13 diocesan statistics based on 73% of parishes weighing in.

The coronavirus affected parishes in Rapid City...

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

On March 4 last year the Diocese of Rapid City issued a statement suspending use of the common cup in Communion, requested no hand shaking at the sign of peace, no hand holding during the "Our Father," and urged Catholics to take Communion in the hand and not on the tongue. By Friday, March 13, in a joint statement from the Dioceses of Sioux Falls and Rapid City, Catholics were released from the obligations to attend Mass. Several parishes and the Diocese of Rapid City began broadcasting Masses on television and social media platforms.

Fr. Brian Christensen, pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, announced the dispensation the following Tuesday, at 5:30 daily Mass. He put it out on social media as well.

"We already had a plan in place, we ordered sanitizer for wiping down pews, and began social distancing. A year prior we had established a computer system that allowed the staff to work at home," he said. "That was a great blessing."

The cathedral began broadcasting Mass using an iPhone and transmitting from Facebook live. To avoid echo in the granite walled cathedral they ended up purchasing a sound system for the iPhone. For 7 a.m. daily Mass they broadcasted using a tripod. On Sundays they had a skeleton crew serving.

Fr. Matt Fallgren, parochial vicar at the cathedral, said, the situation called for more prayer on his part. "Especially initially, saying Mass



FR. BRIAN CHRISTENSEN

Diocesan Parish contributions were down an average of 38%

without the people hurt, it felt different and I missed them," he said.

To stay in touch with parishioners, the staff and a lot of volunteers began doing care calls taking lists of 40-50 people and letting them know about the Masses. The spiritual communion prayer was posted online.

From Easter to Pentecost Father Christensen did a Zoom show, "On the Road to Pentecost." He said 35-45 people tuned in regularly.

To keep sacramental preparation in place Cathedral staff sent homework packets to 2nd graders preparing for 1st Communion and middle school confirmation classes were held online.

"Initially giving dropped off the table," said Christensen. "Today, we are back to pre-covid levels of giving. After a big hit in March, we started to recover with online giving options, and people were good about dropping off or mailing in their envelopes. We did take the Payroll Protection Plan grant and had that forgiven at the end of December. That did make the difference for us. Without the PPP we would have been in the hole about \$130,000."

The cathedral did not close down during the pandemic. "The cathedral was still a place for worship and prayer, we never locked doors. We still had adoration continue, but we did roll it back from 24-hours to 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. We never stopped confessions, but practiced social distancing," he said.

When public Masses began again in May, the cathedral roped off every other pew and started with issuing 40 tickets to each Mass for about 3 weeks. With 80 pews, tickets were increased to 50 tickets per Mass, and determining there was enough space, the cathedral dropped the tickets altogether. People attended with a mix of masks and social distancing. On Thursday evenings a mask-required Mass was held.

Leading up to the shutdown many of the priests were doing the consecration of St. Joseph. "I called on St. Joseph as a spiritual father a lot in the early days," he



said.

When the cathedral had a commercial camera system installed, Christensen's family on the East Coast started tuning in. "That was hysterical, getting comments from my mother on my homilies," he said

Father Fallgren was the main priest going to the hospital and overseeing nursing homes. With the nursing homes shut down he trained Catholic staff to be extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and in some cases, they were conducting Communion services. Altogether, nine facilities were covered. At two assisted living apartments, people who were already living in the building, and were EMS could do Communion Services.

He went to the hospital three or four times a week. He wore surgical masks, goggles, gloves and sometimes a face shield. The N95 masks create a tighter seal around the nose and mouth than a regular mask. He had to shave off his beard that he has had for 30 years. "Once or twice going up to ICU, I put on a hood with visor and a huge fanny pack with positive air pressure into the mask. Each room had its requirements," he said.

While he administered anointing of the sick, nurses would hold an electronic tablet or phone so family could watch.

Julia Orrock, a hospital nurse said, "I will always be thankful for Fr Matt. Once we did allow one family member to be with a dying patient. It was hard to see the wife saying goodbye to her husband of over 50 years by herself. I was never so relieved to see Fr. Matt getting dressed to



(Left) Diagonally across from Monument Health Rapid City Hospital, cathedral used their sign and smaller yard signs to show support for patients and health care workers. (Above) Bella, a public school student, works with volunteer tutor, Linda Hofer. Rapid City Public Schools are closed on Fridays. The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in cooperation with Love, Inc., is one of four churches offering Spark Learning Centers on Fridays. (WRC photos by Laurie Hallstrom)



Angie Stover, the office manager at Sacred Heart Church, Pine Ridge, with parishioner Patricia Catches. The parish staff delivered cookies to elders who were sheltering-in-place. (Courtesy photo)

come in and be with her. I will always remember that and treasure it."

Father Christensen said, "While a lot of people were retreating, we had a lot of people step up." He named staff and volunteers who were helping — serving dinner at the rescue mission three or four times a week; donating supplies to Oyate Health weekly, St. Vincent de Paul Society providing rent and utility assistance as well as food; and partnering with local charity agencies including CSS.

3,100 drop in Mass attendance

On the reservations...

Fr. Brad Held, SJ, is pastor of Holy Rosary Mission and Sacred Heart Church, both in Pine Ridge. He said when the parishes closed down, "We notified folks via Facebook, KILI Radio, phone calls, and posting a notice at the church entrances. People were shocked that Mass was suspended."

The parish and mission staff used Facebook, phone calls, and a new text messaging service to keep in touch with parishioners. They posted bulletins on social media, which they had never done before. "We produced a weekly home prayer service to distribute online, which was something new for us, and we opened the churches as a prayer space on Sunday mornings and staff were around during those times for distanced interactions," he said.

For protection, several staff members began working from home. "We forwarded office phones so they could be answered from home. We granted leave for some employees who were unable to work remotely. Then, we closed our church halls to events, which was meant to protect staff and others," he said.

The Jesuits began to stream Mass online. "While there were no public Masses, people were grateful to see their church on screen and participate, via livestream, in a familiar setting. We rotated the churches on the Reservation that we livestreamed from so that people would see their church from time to time.

"The Jesuit Community celebrated the Triduum in Holy Rosary Church and live streamed our celebrations. We were able to have good music and have nice celebrations that people seemed really grateful for," added Father Held.

"I, and the associate pastors, have done anointing of the sick during the pandemic. We anointed several COVID patients with help of the medical staff offering us proper personal protective equipment," he said. More than 18 funerals around Pine Ridge were attributed to the coronavirus.



FR. BRAD HELD, SJ

"In Fall 2020 we pivoted to resource parents to do in home sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and Communion. During Advent 2020 and Lent 2021, we have included the distribution of family activity bags to mark the seasons at home. We took what would normally have been in person activities at after Mass hospitality and transformed them into at home activities, including providing the supplies," added Father Held.

On the reservation, there were a few confirmations and first Communions over the summer with simply the candidate and immediate family present at Mass.

The finances for the church are a part of Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. Red Cloud received a payroll protection grant which helped the parishes. The local sources of income are mainly collections and hall rentals, and those have been significantly down. However, external fundraising has remained strong.

In addition to national and state guidelines, the reservation also has tribal rule. "We have been limited in the number of people who can be in attendance at Mass by tribal ordinance. We also have a local mask ordinance. People have been cooperative with both those realities since we began Masses again in June."

During the pandemic Father Held spent time exercising regularly as well cooking and baking for the Jesuit Community.

He recalls making an eight-day retreat in January 2020 and being reminded Jesus is in control. "Little did I know that two months later Jesus' message would be more and more real. The pandemic has taken me on a lot of ups and downs and it has strengthened my hope in the One who is in control," said Held. As plans perpetually changed his emotions rose and fell. "At times that has made me sad, amazed, frustrated, joyful, and

more. It has challenged me to grow," he concluded.

48% of parishes encouraged watching a televised Mass

And the prairies...

Fr. Brian Lane is the pastor of three parishes: Holy Cross in Timber Lake, Holy Rosary in Trail City and St. Mary in Isabel. In March 2020, when the diocese issued dispensation from Mass, he sent a pastoral letter to all parishioners and shared any news or updates on the parish Facebook page and its website.

At the time, some parishioners wondered if the pandemic would affect rural life.

To protect himself, and two parish staff members, they practiced social distancing and kept the office clean and sanitized. So far, during the pandemic he

has had anointing of the sick for six people but no COVID related funerals.

"To keep in touch, I recorded a weekly message with a greeting and Gospel reflection that was sent out as a Sunday morning phone call to all parishioners," he said. "It was well-received by many parishioners and was missed when we opened up again. Several people said that they liked the variety of Masses online and enjoyed watching priests who they knew like Fr. Brian Christensen and even priests that they did not know."

It's been a busy time. The religious education program became more family-focused with several events and activities. There were Zoom calls with Life Teen and Edge youth and catechists. For Lent 2020 there were outdoor stations of the cross in front of people's homes around town. There was an outdoor movie, a rosary walk around town, a tour of saints, All Saints Day Mass at the cemetery, Boxes of Joy (a mission project organized by Cross Catholic Outreach), and the parish distributed monthly take-home packets for youth and adults.

Diocesan Annual Appeal contributions are down 22.4%



FR. BRIAN LANE

More than **67 funerals** were related to Covid-19 in the diocese

"Contributions went down a bit when there were no services available, and we took advantage of the first round of the Payroll Protection Program grants. Some parishioners mailed in their contributions last spring and we have had an increase in parishioners using online giving," said Father Lane. "After churches opened back up, contributions picked back up to comfortable levels."

By May 15, the diocese issued a directive to allow Masses to be celebrated again and asked the Center for Disease Control guidelines be used. He estimates that approximately 75% of parishioners came back right away when the churches started having Mass again. People did not warm to wearing masks, but embraced using every-other pew and social distancing with one another. There is overflow seating available at Holy Cross Church with video and audio set-up and ready in the parish hall.

During the long months the pandemic loomed, Father Lane said he read a lot. The biggest lesson for him was, "I learned that I do not like saying Mass alone."



Pictured — empty Holy Cross Church, Timber Lake, with ribbons on the pews for social distance seating. (Courtesy photo)

54% of Parishes had online Masses

44% of Parishioners returned to church when Masses were offered again last May in the Diocese of Rapid City

Catholic Schools: Teachers deeply missed their students

BY BECKY BERRETH

“I think March 13 is a day we’ll all remember,” said Rapid City Catholic School System superintendent Barb Honeycutt. “The staff was planning on how to address CDC guidelines and I was in my office trying to figure out what was going on and what exactly this coronavirus was. I had meetings with the South Dakota Activities Association, the department of health and education, and the governor’s office. We didn’t have to make the decision to close. Schools were closed by the state.”

The three Catholic school campuses in the Diocese of Rapid City closed their doors to in-person learning in March.

The first school to reopen was Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge. Benefiting from a one-to-one, student to technology ratio, staff and administrators were able to start teaching online after a two day shutdown. They spent the two days training teachers, checking for gaps in internet access, and developing a curriculum for on-line work. Students began logging in for classes on March 18.

At St. Francis Mission, the tribe mandated the school to shut down, forcing the Sapa Un Academy to move to online learning. Sapa Un also has a one-to-one technology to student ratio. “The teachers all came

in, sanitized the student’s machines and sent them home,” said assistant principal Stacey Valandra. “We were able to get on-line two or three days a week at first.”

Students at the RCCSS had the initial week of school closure to work on late schoolwork and other projects. “We were totally honest with the parents. We needed time to figure out how we were going to proceed once school started again,” said Honeycutt.

“The administration worked the first couple days and then we brought the staff back in,” added Mary Helen Olsen, principal of St. Thomas More Middle School. “By Thursday of that week we had a roll out plan.”

To keep students connected and engaged, Red Cloud held a high school attendance challenge — a 94% attendance rate resulted in the teachers completing a TikTok challenge. Senior graduation and awards were done virtually. They also delivered school lunches to students using school buses.

The RCCSS also held a virtual graduation, elementary students took part in a drive by parade, middle school teachers caravanned around Rapid City delivering diplomas to eighth grade graduates, and the high school participated in the national

#BeTheLight Challenge — turning on the stadium lights as a sign of hope and assurance that students were missed.

After finishing the 2019-2020 school year, the schools spent the summer trying to decide how to proceed in the fall.

“It was the most challenging time of my career,” said Honeycutt. “You would be in meetings and what you heard at 8 a.m. was totally different than what was said at 3 p.m.”

Both Red Cloud and Sapa Un began the school year online. “We did go virtual at the beginning of the school year,” said Valandra. “As time went on and some of the cases started to lower, we left it up to teachers and parents about returning in person.”

While some classrooms are meeting in small groups, she hopes to move all of the students back into the classroom within the month but admits, “we are playing it by ear. We have some parents who don’t want their kids to come back until they have received vaccinations. We wanted their voices to be heard as well.”

After surveying Red Cloud parents, school administrators developed a plan that will welcome students back on campus April 12. According to a letter sent to families in the school system, “Staff will return to working on-site (if they have completed

the vaccine) and will receive new training in classroom procedures, from set-up to cleaning, to protect against the spread of COVID-19.”

Classes will use a hybrid model to keep class sizes to less than 10 students. Wednesday will be a virtual day to ensure sanitation of the building. Students will also be asked to social distance and wear masks at all times.

“It is vitally important to us that all our students, parents, and families feel confident in our return to school plan, and feel comfortable returning to in-person learning,” said interim superintendent James Johnston in a letter to families. “I know how deeply our teachers and staff have missed their students and are all eager to reconnect and begin rebuilding our sense of community here on campus and in our classrooms.”

In Rapid City, it was decided students and staff would come back in person full-time in the fall, requiring masks, social distancing when possible, and one-way hallways.

“We had a time when we had more teachers teaching from home than in the classroom, but we made it through,” said Olsen. “We’ve made it this far, we can make it through the year.”

Medical workers sacrificed to care for patients

Julia Orrock has been a nurse for more than 14 years, mostly serving in the intensive care unit at Regional/Monument Health hospital. “I received my ADN from the University of South Dakota, my BSN from Aspen University, and I am currently completing my master’s degree from John Hopkins University,” she said.

According to Orrock, the fall of 2020 was a busy time, with November being the peak month, averaging more than 90 COVID-19 patients hospitalized at Monument Health hospitals.

While the news was filled with photos from cities with over crowded hospitals, that was not the case here. “There were times when we had to divert patients with certain medical needs to other hospitals, but

the issue was staffing more often than space. Nurses and other caregivers, like other community members, were sick at home with COVID-19. Because the coronavirus arrived here later than other parts of the country, we had time to prepare.

We turned vacant shell space in the new Rapid City hospital expansion into COVID-19 wards. Fortunately, we never had to use these areas. This extra time to prepare also helped our supply chain source and buy supplies to keep our patients and caregivers safe. We did not experience the extreme shortages of important personal protective equipment.”

Throughout the last year Monument Health caregivers, physicians and leaders worked together to come up with new ways to safely care for the patients.

“Without doubt, 2020 was the most challenging year in my career. The emotional and physical toll was significant. Not only were the hours long, but the COVID patients were some of the sickest people I ever cared for,” she said.

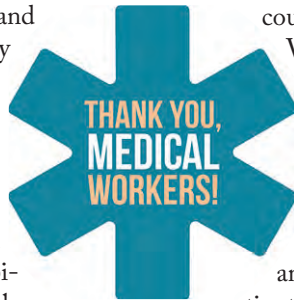
According to Orrock, health care workers worried about themselves and bringing the virus home to their loved ones. Additionally, healthcare workers had to wear plastic gowns, gloves, goggles, and tight fitting N95 respirators that led to skin break down, overheating, dehydration and fatigue.

“Emotionally it is so draining to try and try and no matter what you do these people still died. Emotionally, we will be scarred for life — being the only connection to someone dying while you hold a cellphone or iPad up for the family to say their last good-byes. I can tell you no one died alone, one of us was there holding their hand and

singing or praying with them,” said Orrock

She continued, “Great tragedy often tests faith. I know I cannot fully understand what God’s plan was for all of us in this. I hope that through Christ’s love, we can all heal and return to the virus free life we previously enjoyed. I prayed so much and many times felt as if my prayers fell onto deaf ears, but then once in a while, I did witness miracles and knew someday we would all get through this.”

Orrock said she is proud of all the doctors and caregivers at Monument Health. Working long hours and wearing N95 masks, face shields and other protective gear throughout your shift is uncomfortable. “I heard very few complaints,” she said. She also appreciates Monument Health opening many COVID-19 vaccine clinics across their hospitals, administering vaccines at an impressive pace.



Upcoming Calendar:

Scholarship for a Catholic senior girl

The Hubbeling Family has established a \$1000 scholarship in memory of their parents, Janet and Edwin Hubbeling. The scholarship is to be awarded to a graduating senior girl who is a practicing Catholic and will be a freshman in a four year college of her choice in the fall of 2021. Because of Janet's involvement in and love for the Catholic Daughters, this scholarship is to be administered by the local Court St. Rita, #916. For information and an application, contact CDA Scholarship Committee, c/o F. Skinner, duduchan3@gmail.com, or (605) 431-0851. Completed submissions must be by post marked no later than May 10, 2021.

Men's Conference

Saturday, Mar. 27, Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City, guest speaker Kevin Wells. Registration fee \$40, go to journeymensd.org. Contact Jacques Daniel, 605-343-3541 or email jdaniel@diorc.org

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for "Healing After Abortion" will be offered on a Zoom platform on Fri-Sun, Apr. 23-25. For confidential information, call Carol Kling at 605-374-5638 or email ckling@sdplains.com. For more information about Rachel's Vineyard, visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Sodalitas Diocesan Young Adult Gathering

Saturday, April 10, Que Pasa Cantina, Rapid City – 7pm
Presenter: Mackenzie Watkins, Unraveled Podcast | Topic: In Seasons of Waiting
Learn more at: website: www.diorcyya.com

PMD 2021

Monday-Tuesday, March 22-23, Guest speakers Chris and Linda Padgett will present, "Family: Become Who You Are" at Pastoral Ministry Days to be held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. In-person spots still available. Parish Hubs and Virtual spots still open for registration. Register online at www.PMD2021.com.

Young Adult Living Stations of the Cross

Friday March 26, 5:30 p.m. Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City.

Vocations

Sunday, April 25, World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Rachel's Vineyard Clinical Training

"Rachel's Vineyard: Healing the Trauma Wounds of Abortion." The Zoom training will be presented by Dr. Theresa Burke, the founder of Rachel's Vineyard. The training is by Zoom, with the second session Monday, June 14, and additional sessions offered every four months for the next two years. For more information, contact Amy Julian at ajulian@diorc.org, or 605-343-3541.



*The Chancery is closed on
Good Friday, April 2,
Have a blessed Holy Week.*



Find Peace With Us.

Catholic Owned and Operated



**BEHRENS
WILSON**
FUNERAL HOME
SINCE 1879

343-0145
Toll Free
1-888-366-2800

632 St. Francis St.
Rapid City

behrenswilson.com



Wade H. Wilson
Funeral Director
Owner



**TERRA SANCTA
CATERING
to Go!**

Easter

Brunch or Dinner

Order by March 24 for pick up on Good Friday. Brunch or dinner items ready for you to heat and serve on Easter Sunday!

TERRASANCTA.ORG/TOGO

(605) 716-0925 stay@terrasancta.org terrasancta.org

Should health care workers be conscientious objectors?

“To refuse to take part in committing an injustice is not only a moral duty; it is also a basic human right.” St. John Paul II wrote these words twenty-six years ago this month in his great pro-life encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae* (the Gospel of Life). He’s referring to what is called conscientious objection.

He specifically explains this basic human right as being of fundamental importance for those working in health care when he goes on to teach,

“What is at stake therefore is an essential right which, precisely as such, should be acknowledged and protected by civil law. In this sense, the opportunity to refuse to take part in the phases of consultation, preparation and execution of these acts against life should be guaranteed to physicians, health-care personnel, and directors of hospitals, clinics and convalescent facilities. Those who have recourse to conscientious objection must be protected not only from legal penalties but also from any negative effects on the legal, disciplinary, financial and professional plane.” (No. 74.)

It is in our consciences that we hear God’s voice as we reflect on moral truth. It is in our consciences that we come to acknowledge right and wrong, and it is there that we first exercise a choice for one or the

other. The church teaches we are bound to obey our conscience; this is one reason why the church teaches that we have a duty to form our conscience in accord with objective truth. What we come to know in our conscience, as either right or wrong, plays out in how we act.

Even so, why, in 1995, did St. John Paul II insist health care providers must be protected in rights of conscience, to refrain from participating in what they understand to be morally wrong?

John Paul’s insights were prophetic. He saw the great harms of a culture of death, and he was wise enough to foresee where such harms would lead in the medical profession. Consider this excerpt from a reading assigned to many medical students in our country today: “(H)health care providers — and all those whose jobs affect patient care — should cast off the cloak of conscience when patients’ needs demand it.” The prominent author goes on to explain what is meant by patients’ needs. “Qualms about abortion, sterilization, and birth control? Do not practice women’s health.” In contradiction to John Paul’s defense of rights of conscience and call to protect them robustly in civil law, this influential academic urges that conscience be “cast off” — in other words, ignore morality. By this

reckoning, faithful Catholics should not be working in medicine.

Which brings me to a bill that failed this legislative session, House Bill 1247. In addition to the S.D. Catholic Conference, the bill was supported by the Catholic Medical Association, Americans United for Life, the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, South Dakota Right to Life, and others. While South Dakota law currently has a bare-bones statute on the books, its protections are very limited and do not contain a “cause of action” (a clear remedy for an aggrieved person). Moreover, while federal regulation provides some theoretical protection, reality is quite different. In practice, this relief is incredibly burdensome to pursue, relies on political appointees in federal agencies, and may be rescinded at any time. For example, it took four years for the federal Health & Human Services Department (HHS) to resolve the complaint of one nurse forced to participate in a gruesome dismemberment abortion of an unborn child at 22-weeks’ gestation. In another case dating to 2016, the Secretary of HHS permitted a state to force all health insurance plans — no exceptions — to cover abortions, in plain violation of several federal legal provisions. And in comments collected during an

HHS public-input process in 2018, tens of thousands of health care workers reported facing an environment of discrimination and attempted coercion due to their moral or religious convictions. Clearly a better approach is needed.

House Bill 1247 would have enacted ironclad conscience protections in state law, and ensured that Catholics and others of goodwill are free to decline involvement in procedures they believe morally wrong, as they live their professional oath to “Do No Harm.” While the conscience protection bill died this year, such an important issue will surely return to the state capitol in the future. As St. John Paul II emphasized, what is at stake is a basic human right.

For more information on HB 1247 or the work of the SDCC during the 2021 legislative session, visit <http://www.sdccatholicconference.org/category/2021-session/>.



Christopher Motz

Executive Director South Dakota Catholic Conference

cmotz@sdccatholicconference.org

Easter is more than

just chocolate eggs and Easter baskets. As Catholics, we need to encourage the truth of the season by giving gifts and other reminders of faith to our friends and loved ones.

We invite you to stop in

at the Mustard Seed where we have greeting cards, books, Bibles and devotional materials for adults and children that will enhance your Easter experience.

Puzzles	Children’s Books
DVDs	Holy Cards
Greeting Cards	Medals
Jewelry	Statues

Remember your RCIA Candidates and Catechumens



MUSTARD SEED
Catholic Store
225 Main St., Suite 200,
Rapid City - 605-348-5228

OSHEIM & SCHMIDT FUNERAL HOME

Serving Your Family For Generations

Family-owned and Operated

2700 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City 605-343-0077

“Funeral Directors with over 200 years of combined experience”



Robb Schmidt



Ozzie Osheim



*Terry Gilertson,
CFSP*



Jes Scott



Dwight Edstrom



Robert Broderick

S.D. 2021 legislative session update Signing

LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM CHRIS MOTZ
Executive Director of S.D. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Each bill has its number, a description, the church's position, and status as of March 9.

SB 190, "Human rights" amendment. Introduces the concepts "sexual orientation," "gender identity," and "Two-Spirit" as statutory categories into South Dakota's employment, business, education, and public accommodations laws. *Oppose/Pending* Tabled in Senate committee 6-0.

Likely to remain on the table and therefore fail **HB 1247 Religious Freedom/ Conscience protections.** Safeguards fundamental rights of conscience for healthcare providers. *Support/Failed.* Passed House St. Aff. cmtee 8-5 Failed House floor 25-41

HB 1248 Embryo Destruction Reporting Requires IVF facilities to report to the state department of health the total numbers of human embryos destroyed or transferred *Support/Failed.* Passed House St. Aff. cmtee 8-5 Passed House floor 47-21; Failed Senate HHS cmtee 1-5

SB 183 Ban abortion clauses in contracts Makes a Class 1 misdemeanor and voids contract provisions that require a woman to undergo an abortion. (eg, in some surrogacy

contracts) *Support/Pending.* Passed Senate Judiciary 6-1, Passed Senate Floor 35-0; Passed House St. Aff. cmtee 11-2; Passed House floor 62-5

SB 177 Revise homeschooling statute Streamlines reporting and testing requirements and ensures all children may participate in interscholastic activities. *Support/Pending.* Passed Senate Ed cmtee 6-1; Passed Senate floor 21-14; Passed House St. Aff. cmtee 8-5 Passed House floor 41-27

SB 175 Revise K12 tax-credit scholarship program Opens scholarship program to all children meeting need-based qualifications, regardless of age. Helps income-qualifying families send kids to private school. *Support/Pending.* Passed Senate Ed cmtee 6-0; Passed Senate floor 30-5; Passed House St. Aff. cmtee 10-3, Passed House floor 60-9

HB 1217 Fairness in girls sports Provides for fairness in girls sports, ensuring girls and women will not be required to compete against boys. Aligns state law with natural law. *Support/Pending.* Passed House St. Aff. cmtee 11-2; Passed House floor 50-17; Failed Senate St. Aff. cmtee 3-6; "Smoked out" on Senate floor, passed Senate floor 20-15

HB 1201 Permits video lottery gambling ban Give local cities and counties the ability to pro-

hibit video lottery casinos within a local jurisdiction if approved by local ballot measure *Support/Failed.* Failed House local gov't cmtee 2-11 **SB 166 "Hate Crime" amendment** Add 'Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity' to the list of protected classes under S.D. hate crime laws *Oppose/Failed.* Passed Senate Judiciary 5-0 Failed Senate floor 8-27

SB 126 Ban obscene child-like dolls Building onto state laws that ban child pornography, bans the creation, buying, or selling of obscene dolls that look like realistic children. *Support/Pending.* Passed Senate Judiciary 6-0; Passed Senate Floor 33-0; House Judiciary cmtee 12-0 Passed on House consent calendar



HB 1130 Abortion pill discontinuance Ensure a woman seeking a chemical (pharmaceutical) abortion is provided reliable information on how she may "discontinue" that abortion. *Support/Pending* Passed House St. Aff. 11-2; Passed House floor 55-13; Passed Senate HHS cmtee 6-1; Passed Senate floor 34-1

HB 1114 Revise definition of abortion Closes a loophole in the statutory definition of "abortion" to make it the termination of a "life," not a "pregnancy" *Support/Pending.* Passed House Judiciary 12-0; Passed House floor 61-7; Passed Senate Judiciary cmtee 7-0; Passed on Senate consent calendar

HB 1110 Down Syndrome abortion ban Ban abortions based on an unborn child having a Down Syndrome diagnosis. *Support/Pending.* Passed House St. Aff. 13-0; Passed House floor 68-0, Passed Senate HHS cmtee 6-0 Passed on Senate consent calendar

SB 124 Religious Freedom protection Protects the exercise of religious freedom from gov't burden *Support/Pending.* Passed Senate St. Aff. 9-0; Passed Senate floor 35-0; Passed House St. Aff. cmtee 13-0; Passed House floor 64-3

HB 1076 Birth certificate sex designation Ensure the accuracy of 'sex' on vital records issued by the state. *Support/Failed.* Failed House HHS cmtee 6-7, but brought to floor through smoke out; Passed House floor 39-31 Failed Senate HHS cmtee 0-6

SB 98 Death penalty ban Eliminate the death penalty as a criminal sentence in most cases *Support/Failed.* Passed Senate Judiciary 5-1; Failed Senate floor 13-20

SB 83 Perinatal hospice Provides parents with referral information for perinatal hospice programs. *Support/Pending.* Passed Senate HHS cmtee 7-0; Passed Senate floor 34-0; Passed House HHS 12-0. Passed House floor 68-1; Signed by governor

HB 1051 Born Alive protections Ensure that any newborn infant who survives the horror of an attempted abortion receives the same life-saving medical care as any other infant. *Support/Passed;* Passed House HHS 10-3; Passed House floor 59-8; Passed Senate HHS 7-0; Passed Senate floor 32-3; Signed by governor

SB 83 Perinatal hospice Provides parents with referral information for perinatal hospice programs. *Support/Pending.* Passed Senate HHS cmtee 7-0; Passed Senate floor 34-0; Passed House HHS 12-0. Passed House floor 68-1; Signed by governor

HB 1051 Born Alive protections Ensure that any newborn infant who survives the horror of an attempted abortion receives the same life-saving medical care as any other infant. *Support/Passed;* Passed House HHS 10-3; Passed House floor 59-8; Passed Senate HHS 7-0; Passed Senate floor 32-3; Signed by governor

HB 1051 Born Alive protections Ensure that any newborn infant who survives the horror of an attempted abortion receives the same life-saving medical care as any other infant. *Support/Passed;* Passed House HHS 10-3; Passed House floor 59-8; Passed Senate HHS 7-0; Passed Senate floor 32-3; Signed by governor

HB 1051 Born Alive protections Ensure that any newborn infant who survives the horror of an attempted abortion receives the same life-saving medical care as any other infant. *Support/Passed;* Passed House HHS 10-3; Passed House floor 59-8; Passed Senate HHS 7-0; Passed Senate floor 32-3; Signed by governor

Proud to support the Catholic school system

Since 1909, a commitment to our communities has been one of RBC Wealth Management's core values. It's part of how we run our business day in and day out. We believe that our most visible imprint is through the great work being done by the organizations we support.



Hillard Wealth Solutions Group

246 Founders Park Drive, Suite 101
Rapid City, SD 57709

(605) 343-7720

Toll free: (800) 658-5544

www.hillardwsg.com



**Wealth
Management**

Non-deposit investment products offered through RBC Wealth Management are not FDIC insured, are not a deposit or other obligation of, or guaranteed by, a bank, and are subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested.

© 2020 RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC. All rights reserved.

20-RC-1525 (03/20)

Pope announces yearlong reflection on family, Amoris Laetitia

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As the fifth anniversary of his apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia approaches, Pope Francis announced that the Catholic Church will dedicate more than a year to focusing on the family and conjugal love.

During his Sunday Angelus address on Dec. 27, the pope commemorated the feast of the Holy Family and said that it served as a reminder “of the example of evangelizing with the family” as highlighted in his exhortation.

Beginning March 19, he said, the year of reflection on Amoris Laetitia will be an opportunity “to focus more closely on the contents of the document.”

“I invite everyone to take part in the initiatives that will be promoted during the year and that will be coordinated by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life,” he added. “Let us entrust this journey, with families all over the world, to the Holy Family of Nazareth, in particular to St. Joseph, the devoted spouse and father.”

According to the dicastery’s website, the “Amoris Laetitia Family” year “aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.”

The dicastery said that the goals of the celebration include sharing the contents of the apostolic exhortation more widely, proclaiming the gift of the sacrament of

marriage and enabling families to “become active agents of the family apostolate.”

The “Amoris Laetitia Family” year will include forums, symposiums, video projects and catechesis as well as providing resources for family spirituality, pastoral formation and marriage preparation.

The commemoration will conclude June 26, 2022, “on the occasion of the World Meeting of Families in Rome,” the dicastery said.

Pope Francis already had declared a year of St. Joseph, which began Dec. 8 and ends Dec. 8, 2021.

In his Angelus talk, the pope said that the Holy Family is a model in which “all families of the world can find their sure point of reference and sure inspiration.”

Through them, he said, “we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit; it must be founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope.”

Families can experience sincere communion when they live in prayer, when forgiveness prevails over discord and “when the daily harshness of life is softened by mutual tenderness and serene adherence to God’s will,” he added.

“I would like to say something to you: If you quarrel within the family, do not end the day without making peace,” the pope said. “And do you know why? Because cold war, day after day, is extremely dangerous. It does not help.”

Pope Francis also reflected on the



Amoris Laetitia Family Year 2021 - 2022

(CNS photo/courtesy Dicastery
for Laity, Family and Life)

his death was in vain, among those who witnessed and consented to his stoning was St. Paul, who eventually became “the greatest missionary in history.”

St. Stephen’s example “was the seed” of St. Paul’s conversion, he said. “This is the proof that loving actions change history: even the ones that are small, hidden everyday.”

Christians, he added, can become witnesses of Christ through their everyday actions, “even just by fleeing the shadow of gossip” or refusing to speak ill of others.

“When an argument starts at home, instead of trying to win it, let’s try to diffuse it, and forgive one another,” Pope Francis said. Small efforts and gestures, he said, “change history because they open the door, they open the window to Jesus’s light.”

theme of forgiveness during his Angelus address on the feast of St. Stephen, Dec. 26.

Recalling St. Stephen’s martyrdom, the pope said that although it may seem that

March 22-23, PMD guest speakers Chris and Linda Padgett will present, “Family: Become Who You Are” at Pastoral Ministry Days. See registration details on page 15.

In honor of the Year of St. Joseph

if you know anyone named *Joseph* or *Josephine*, please send us their name and address so we can send them a card.

Carmel of Mary Monastery

17765 78th St. SE,

Wahpeton, N.D. 58075

carmelofmary@gmail.com

701-642-2360



CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021 | TERRA SANCTA RETREAT CENTER

THE MEN WE NEED

GUEST SPEAKER
KEVIN WELLS, AUTHOR
WWW.THEPRIESTSWENEED.COM

COST: \$40 INCLUDES CONFERENCE,
BREAKFAST, AND LUNCH.

REGISTER BY MARCH 6TH FOR THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT
REGISTER ONLINE AT: JOURNEYMENSD.ORG



Ethicists must call out unethical behavior in health care

SYDNEY (CNS) — The coronavirus pandemic has multiplied the number of ethical dilemmas that health care workers, health care systems, governments and individuals face which require the specialized assistance ethicists can provide, Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher told the Catholic Health Association of the United States. But while health care ethicists are more relevant than ever and must be prepared to call out unethical behavior, they also must be wary of risks that can undermine their role such as being "tamed" by the health care institutions who employ them.



CSS Communications and Development Director

This position is responsible for securing diversified funding to support Catholic Social Services programs, services and operations. The position oversees and manages all donor relations, fundraising events and grant writing needs and is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive marketing and communications strategy to promote Catholic Social Services.

Salary commensurate with experience. Full benefit package. Email resume to css@cssrapidcity.com or mail to Jim Kinyon at CSS, 529 Kansas City St., Rapid City, SD 57701

Town-N-Country Plumbing

Prompt, Professional Services

Quality Work at Reasonable Rates
Residential and Commercial
Plumbing Supplies and Answers

Carol Hallock, Owner

1026 Main St., Sturgis, 57785
347-5194 or 1-800-201-5194

TELEVISED MASSES



Diocese of Rapid City

Saturday

NBC 21.1/MyTv 21.2

4:30 P.M.

Sunday

NBC 21.1

7 A.M.

MyTv 21.2

10:30 A.M.

Online

NEWSCENTER 1.TV
TWITTER: @NEWSCENTER1
FACEBOOK: KNBN NEWSCENTER1

.....
Check your cable or satellite provider for NBC or MyTv channels as they may be different than over-the-air channels for NewsCenter1 and MyTv



Visit our website
www.rapidcitydiocese.org/televised-mass
for a list of online Masses and resources for at home prayer and study

Check with your parish for in person Mass times.



Diocese of Sioux Falls

KELO Land TV (CBS)
9 a.m. MDT/10 a.m. CDT

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.

April

Birthdays: April 2, Dcn. Thomas Adams; April 4, Dcn. James Van Loan; April 9, Dcn. Lloyd Frein; April 10, Fr. Jean Claude Mbassi, SCJ; April 11, Fr. Leo Hausmann.

Ordination: April 25, 1990, Fr. Jean Claude Mbassi, SCJ

Necrology: April 2, 1944, Edward Calahan; April 2, 2017, D. Craig Cower; April 4, 1987, William Fitzgerald, SJ; April 6, 1959, Nicholas McNamara; April 7, 1940, Placidus Sialm, SJ; April 10, 2011, John Gible, SJ; April 12, 1952, Henry Westropp, SJ; April 12, 1982, Ronald Zelnick; April 17, 1966, Kevin Doyle, CSC; April 20, 1953, John Vogel; April 21, 1921, John Shea, CSC; April 23, 1957, Joseph Zuercher, SJ; April 25, 1920, Hugh Mullen; April 27, 1960, Thomas Carroll; April 27, 1977, Robert Ehrenbold; April 28, 1995, Dcn. George Schenck; April 28, 1989, Richard Pates, SJ; April 29, 1924, John Boyle; April 30, 1940, Anthony O'Hora.

May

Birthdays: May 1, Fr. Michael Hight; May 3, Dcn. James Scherr; May 4, Dcn. Larry Brown; May 6, Fr. Edward Vanorny; May 10, Fr. Kevin Achbach; May 10, Fr. Jean Claude Mbassi, SCJ; May 12, Dcn. Larry Kopriva; May 13, Dcn. Ray Klein; May 13, Bishop Peter Muhich; May 16, Dcn. George Gladfelter; May 17, Dcn. James Hayes; May 20, Fr. Michel Mulloy; May 22, Fr. Brad Held, SJ; May 31, Fr. Mark McCormick.

Ordinations: May 10, 1985, Dcn. Harold Condon; May 22, 1981, Fr. Richard Novotny; May 22, 2003, Dcn. Ray Klein; May 23, 2010, Dcn. Thomas Adams; May 24, 2007, Dcn. James Hayes and Dcn. Steve McLaughlin; May 28, 2003, Dcn. Greg Palmer; May 29, 2014, Dcn. Charles Rausch; May 31, 1969, Fr. Joseph Daoust, SJ; May 31, 1991, Fr. Edward Witt, SJ.

Necrology: May 1, 1951, William Sullivan; May 3, 2008, Andrew Morvay; May 5, 1940, Vincent Frech, OSB; May 6, 1984, Joseph Ford, SCJ; May 9, 1959, Daniel Daley; May 10, 1961, John Cohane; May 12, 1951, John Frei; May 13, 2014, Richard McCaslin, SJ; May 16, 1947, Henry Klein; May 17, 1921, Thomas McNaboe; May 17, 1973, Bernard Drew; May 17, 1978, Hugh Farrington, OSB; May 19, 1932, Dennis Casey; May 21, 1962, Stephen McNamara, SJ; May 23, 1873, Peter DeSmet, SJ; May 25, 1986, Leonard Fencel, SJ; May 26, 1913, Bede Marty, OSB; May 28, 2003, Dcn. Justin Lauer; May 29, 1981, James O'Connor, SJ; May 31, 1953, Bishop Joseph Busch.



Remember HIS will in yours

If you are planning to create or update your will and would like to include the Catholic Church, please call us. We can help.

Website: www.wsdcf.org

Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation

Phone 605-721-7843

Rapid City, SD 57702

(Mailing) PO Box 984, Rapid City, SD 57709



"IT'S LIFE CHANGING"

Finally! A local Doctor is helping cancer survivors live free from the constant pain and suffering associated with **Peripheral Neuropathy!**

Irreversible is not a word you want to hear from your Doctor but it's common if you've been diagnosed with Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy or CIPN.

Audrey H. of Rapid City survived breast cancer only to be living life in constant pain. She felt as though she were walking on pins and needles, becoming weaker everyday. "I was beginning to be worried that one day I would be wheelchair bound."

Nearly half of patients who undergo chemotherapy will develop Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy or CIPN.

Chemotherapy meds travel throughout the body and attack cancer cells; sadly they can also cause severe damage to healthy nerves. CIPN can begin within weeks of starting treatment and can worsen as treatment continues. A high number of really unfortunate people will be forced to endure the symptoms associated with CIPN for months, or even years after they've completed chemo.

When asked how CIPN was affecting her quality of life, she responded, "It was difficult to even walk up and down stairs and do other things we usually take for granted."

The most common symptoms include:

- **pain, tingling, burning, weakness, or numbness in arms, hands, legs or feet**
- **sudden, sharp, stabbing or shocking pain sensations**
- **loss of touch sensation**
- **clumsiness and trouble using hands to pick up objects or fasten clothing**
- **loss of balance and falling**

For some, their nerves will recover over time. For most, the nerve damage is 'irreversible.' Audrey had been told just that by a series of Doctors and specialists. Essentially they could cure her cancer but couldn't fix the damage done by the drugs.

Then Audrey made a call to Dr. Ariann Wolff, DACM of West River Acupuncture & Wellness right here in Rapid City. Dr. Wolff is using the time tested science of Acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

After a series of treatments Audrey was taking stairs with stride!

"I no longer have a difficult time getting upstairs to my husband's and my bedroom," Audrey shared.

"I remember thinking 'that's become mighty easy for me,' I didn't have to hold on to the hand rail or anything! It's life changing to have this mobility back!"

Again and again, we meet with patients who were once diagnosed as "untreatable" or "incurable" but after receiving Dr. Wolff's treatments are now living lives free from pain and suffering. For nearly 10 years she has been reversing the effects of CIPN and other varieties of Peripheral Neuropathy, including when caused by diabetes without invasive surgeries and medications that come with uncomfortable side effects.

If you've recently beat cancer only to find that you're living a life in constant pain and discomfort or you're struggling with the same symptoms as a result of either Idiopathic Neuropathy or Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy, Dr. Wolff and the incredible team at West River Acupuncture can help!

Dr. Wolff is now accepting new patients but only for a limited time. In an effort to protect her patients, both current and future, she has made the difficult decision to limit the number of patients seen in her clinic. Only 15 new neuropathy patients will be accepted before the end April so call (605)205-5177 now to schedule a consultation.

Visit WestRiverAcupuncture.com to learn more and to take advantage of their New Patient Offer!

Kansas Catholics recall priest's wartime ministry, heroism in POW camp

BY CHRISTOPHER M. RIGGS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WICHITA, Kan. — William Hansen kept his silence for over 50 years about being one of the POWs who buried Father Emil Kapaun's body after the priest died May 23, 1951.

In 2005, Hansen was in his doctor's office at a VA Hospital in Florida when he read an article about the U.S. Army chaplain who died a hero in a North Korean POW camp in Pyongyang.

Scott Carter, coordinator of the Father Kapaun Guild for the Diocese of Wichita, said Hansen told his doctor that Father Kapaun was a fellow POW and he helped bury the priest.

Hansen had never talked about his connection to Father Kapaun, Carter added, because he said he was sworn to secrecy about the matter by the U.S. Army.

"His doctor told Hansen that he felt it was OK with the Army now and that he definitely needed to contact them," Carter told *The Catholic Advance*, Wichita's diocesan newspaper.

A native of Pilsen, Kansas, Father Kapaun was ordained for the Diocese of Wichita June 9, 1940, and was a U.S. Army chaplain in World War II and the Korean War.

Although he could have avoided capture by the North Koreans, he allowed himself to be taken prisoner with his fellow soldiers. He heroically served his flock in the camp where he died.

"Hansen explained that Father Kapaun wasn't buried in a mass grave like most of the POWs had assumed. That he was buried in the town behind one of the huts in kind of a lean-to," said Carter.

As a result, it was more likely that Father Kapaun's remains had been transferred when the remains of about 4,000 prisoners were exchanged as part of the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement, Carter said. Over 800 of those were unidentified.

The identification of Father Kapaun's remains was announced March 4, when the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, stated that Department of Defense investigators had identified them among the unknown Korean War soldiers buried at the National Memorial Cemetery



Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, a Kansas priest and a military chaplain, who died May 23, 1951, in a North Korean prisoner of war camp, is pictured circa 1943. A candidate for sainthood, he died ministering to prisoners of war during the Korean War. (CNS photo/U.S. Army courtesy The Catholic Advance)

of the Pacific in Hawaii.

"I heard that they had made a lot of progress recently in their ability to extract DNA from the bones to identify these men," Carter said. "In the last three years, they developed a new technique to extract the DNA."

He added the agency hopes to have all of the remaining unknown soldiers identified in the next five or six years.

"The DPAA contacted Ray Kapaun, Father Kapaun's nephew," he said. "Thankfully we've got a great relationship with Ray and he contacted Father Hotze to share the great news. He quickly contacted the bishop and then told me as well."

Father John Hotze is the postulator for Father Kapaun's sainthood cause. The postulator is the official who presents a plea for beatification or canonization.

Carter said when he got the call March 4 from Father Hotze, he thought it might be a minor update from Rome.

"We knew they were working on the remains, but we still weren't prepared to re-

ceive the good news," he said.

About 95% of Father Kapaun's skeletal remains were identified by the DPAA. "That is quite remarkable because a lot of the other remains they've been working on recently were just fragments from the battlefield," Carter said. The family is responsible for determining where the remains will be interred, he said, adding they also are interested in discussing the matter with the Diocese of Wichita.

"Even when he was alive, Father Kapaun gave his life to the church and he became a man for all," Carter said. "Now that his cause for sainthood is under consideration, he's much bigger than the diocese."

Bishop Mark K. Carroll, Wichita's bishop from 1947 to 1967, celebrated a memorial Mass in 1953 for Father Kapaun, he said, "but we've never been able to have an actual funeral or an actual burial."

During that Mass, celebrated July 29, 1953, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, Bishop Carroll said the faithful must be like soldiers, that Christ died for the truth. "Not in all history can we

find anything to equal the heroism of Christ the soldier."

A priest is the vicar of Christ, he said. "The work of a priest is the same as that of Christ. He is to be an apostle of love and the ambassador of peace, and at the same time he is to be preeminently a soldier of Christ, the captain of souls ... fighting error and superstition and the sinful spirit of the world."

Carter said now that the remains have been identified, many other details regarding the status of his cause and Father Kapaun's remains will be discussed.

"When I heard that his remains were coming I was super-excited, but at the same time I thought about Father Kapaun's last words to his fellow prisoners: 'Hey guys, don't worry about me. I'm going to where I always wanted to go. And when I get there, I'll say a prayer for you. And tell my bishop I died a happy death.'"

Editor's Note: For details about Father Emil Kapaun's life and his cause for canonization, visit www.frkapaun.org.

Cardinal welcomes pope's pledge to visit Hungary for eucharistic congress

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The day Pope Francis announced his intention to travel to Budapest, Hungary, in September for the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress, the country went back on a COVID-19 lockdown, that included banning all public gatherings. "Even if at this moment, public Masses in Budapest are suspended because of the pandemic, the churches are not closed, and people come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. It is moving to see what hunger and thirst the people have for the Eucharist," Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest told Vatican News March 11. The Hungarian government put the country back on a strict lockdown March 8 in response to a rapid rise in COVID-19 infections since mid-February. Schools, stores selling nonessential items, restaurants and gyms were all closed until April 7 and "all forms of assembly" were forbidden. Returning to Rome from Iraq the same day, Pope Francis told reporters that his next trip would likely be to "Hungary for the final

Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress — not a visit to the country, but for the Mass."



Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest is welcoming Pope Francis' promise to go to Hungary in September to celebrate the closing Mass of the event. (CNS illustration/International Eucharistic Congress)

A 'Common Ground' diocesan Archives favorite

By KATHY CORDES, DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST

One of my projects, is digitizing and preserving columns, articles, sermons, and other great works of our clergy. This helps to build a foundation of our archival history. Listen with your heart for an exciting message. These words from Msgr. William O'Connell still ring true today:

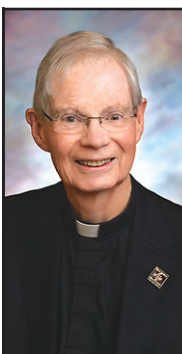
"For a moment, imagine ... Every day when we get up there is a printed text beside our bed or we are only allowed to say "It will be okay." These are the only words we can speak that day. What a boring day that would be! Why? Because words are meant to be heard. Spoken in love, in anger or confidence all are meant to be heard.

Msgr. Romano Guardini, a noted theologian, wrote in 1953 how important it was for us to hear the holy words of Scripture when we are in Mass. What Guardini wrote then still applies to this day. During Mass, the Liturgy of the Word is not merely read, it is proclaimed! That is, the priest, deacon or lector is giving us an important message from God, Our Father. An exciting message!

We are called upon to make our hearts and souls receptive to what we hear. Jesus is the sower and the Sunday readings are the good seed that he sows. We need to work so this seed does not fall on the hard soil of our heart. When listening to the reading, it stirs us while in church and hopefully we take it to the outside world. Our Lord hopes that our hearts and souls will be the good soil that produces a very virtuous life in each of us.

If we listen with our hearts, we will have a kernel of God's truth, which allows it to become the living word in our lives.

As we move quickly towards Holy Week and Easter, let us pray that we indeed have ears to hear the message Our Lord has for us when we listen to the proclamation of



The late Msgr. William O'Connell was a fan favorite and founding editor of the *West River Catholic*. (Archive photo)

Scripture at Mass."

Condensed article "Will God's Word Land on Good Soil?" by Msgr. William O'Connell, West River Catholic, March 2012.

Update on diocesan Nicholas Black Elk Canonization process

I also serve with the Black Elk Working Group. We are responsible for the groundwork for the diocesan portion of the canonization process. Here are some updates from the group while we wait to hear from Rome on the next step to canonization:

- Recently we have been investigating reports of alleged miracles from all over the globe to further the canonization of Nicholas Black Elk. Two miracles are required to be submitted to Rome for the cause of a saint awaiting veneration. Deacon Bill White leads the investigations of alleged miracles. For a miracle to be considered, each one is to be completely faith based — no surgical or human intervention can be attributed to the healing. Currently, the working group is looking at the events surrounding two separate alleged miracles — each one attributed to the intercession of Nicholas Black Elk by those who witnessed the alleged miracle. Deacon White reviews each alleged miracle as a potential addition to the cause.

- "Walking the Good Red Road" by NewGroup Media has been widely received and is now showing in Canada.

- We would like to welcome Germaine Little Bear to the working group. As the new diocesan Director of Native Concerns, she is a welcome addition (*see p 3*).



BLACK ELK IMAGE FROM NEWGROUP MEDIA

Pope names woman Scripture scholar as secretary of biblical commission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has named Sister Nuria Calduch-Benages, an Old Testament scholar and professor at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, to be secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

The Spanish member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family of Nazareth is the first woman to hold the position, which involves coordinating the work of the 20 biblical scholars from around the world who study topics in Scripture studies and interpretation on behalf of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

According to the norms of the commission, as revised by St. Paul VI in 1971, the secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission also serves as a consultant to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Sister Calduch-Benages, who will celebrate her 64th birthday March 26, was born in Barcelona, Spain, and earned a bachelor's in theology from the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome. She earned her license and doctorate in sacred Scripture from Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute and has taught at the Gregorian University since 1991.

Pope Benedict XVI named her an expert at the 2008 Synod of Bishops on the Word of God, and Pope Francis named her a member of the first commission studying the historic identity and role of women deacons; that commission worked from 2016 to 2019.

She served as a member of the biblical commission from 2014 to 2019 and was reconfirmed for a second five-year term in January.

Palm Sunday Brunch 2021

"For I know well the plans I have for you, says the Lord
... plans to give you a future full of hope."
-- Jeremiah 29:11



Photo by Father Tony Grossenbrg



**We look forward to hearing
Keynote Speaker
Bishop Peter Muhich
Bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City**

Ticket reservations deadline March 19, 2021. Must have a ticket to enter.

Don't have a ticket? You can help us fund our mission.
www.cssrapidcity.com/palm-sunday/
(605) 348-6086 or css@cssrapidcity.com

529 Kansas City Street, Suite 100 | Rapid City, SD 57701 | css@cssrapidcity.com

Vice and virtue: Two threads woven in the human heart

By CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With Lent as a time for conversion, Pope Francis has laid out a handy guide in a new series reflecting on the seven virtues and their opposites — a host of “parasites” that will feast away without the fortifying “vitamins” of virtue in one’s daily diet.

Soon to be aired on Italy’s Discovery channel and published in early March as a book in Italian, “Vices and Virtues: A Conversation with Pope Francis” is the latest sit-down interview between the pope and Father Marco Pozza, a chaplain in a maximum security prison in the northern Italian city of Padova.

Father Pozza, 41, has already used the same television series and book formats for sharing the pope’s reflections on the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer and the Hail Mary.

This time he sought to tackle something broader and deeper — how to journey through this thing called life and make sense of all the lights and shadows present in the world and in one’s own soul.

A reflection on “the struggle and the beauty of everyday life,” the priest and pope said in the book’s joint introduction, is a reflection on vices and virtues.

The pope — dressed in white, the head of the universal church — and the priest — dressed casually in darker hues, a minister to the condemned — was the juxtaposition Father Pozza sought to highlight, the same way Giotto did with his stark black and white depictions of virtues and vices decorating the Scrovegni Chapel in Padova.

The 14th-century maestro arranged his frescoed masterpieces so that as visitors face a spectacular scene of the Last Judgment, they are also flanked by a series of personified virtues on the sun-soaked “warm” wall facing south and personified vices on the opposite “cold” and humid north wall of the chapel, the book said.

Giotto presents attractive, noble depictions of the four cardinal and three theological virtues on one side and their disfigured, miserable polar opposites — rather than traditional capital vices — on the other, making the choice look easy. But, the priest asked the pope, “Why are vices able to fascinate more than virtues?”

“People are like fish, when they see the

bait, they are drawn to it,” the pope replied.

Everyone is vulnerable and people need to take their vulnerability seriously, Pope Francis said. By reflecting on vices and virtues, “we can understand better where our life is heading, and in what direction we need to go.”

“Virtues are like vitamins, they help you grow, push you forward. Vices are essentially parasitic,” making the person weaker, pulling them “just a little bit” lower each day like doing the limbo, until they hit the ground, he said.

Each chapter in the book is dedicated to the priest and pope detailing each virtue and its opposite pairing that Giotto presented in Padova: Justice-Injustice; Fortitude-Inconstancy; Temperance-Wrath; Prudence-Foolishness; Faith-Infidelity; Charity-Envy; and Hope-Desperation.

Inconstancy, for example, the pope said, is an “I’ll get to it later” approach to life that shows no progress, no courage to take the initiative, no ideals or no willpower to “make them concrete today, right now.”

Its opposite, fortitude, is “true prophecy,” which is seen in people who concretely “show that the Gospel is possible” and who say and do tough things when needed to serve others, the pope said.

“Fortitude is the virtue of the poor. To survive a person who is poor must be strong,” sustained by solid values, refusing to be beaten down, he said.

“Fortitude is the capacity to get back up. Or to let ourselves be helped to get back up,” he said.

When it comes to foolishness, “it is convenient to act the fool,” the pope said.

It is living “in a continual present, without having problems, without making ‘history,’” without “fruit” and without the roots of memory which are “the strength that gives life.”

There is foolishness in wealth, “in believing that heaven is here,” becoming “a slave to lies, slaves to what has been created instead of followers of the Creator.”

Prudence, on the other hand, is the essential virtue of governance.

“Because people are hot-blooded, they need something that tells them, ‘Stop, stop and think,’” and to have abundant empathy, the pope said.

“Prudence is not just a virtue of calcula-

tion, of pros and cons, it is also a virtue of the heart,” he said.

“Let’s take Jesus, for an example. So many times before he makes a decision, the Gospel has the phrase, ‘his heart was moved with pity for them,’ this is empathy and this ‘helps Jesus make prudent decisions.’”

“We are human and faith is a gift that is so immense that when we receive it we cannot believe it. How is this possible?” Pope Francis said.

“The devil makes us have doubts,” he said, because it is natural that with trials and tragedies, people ask, “Why does God let this happen?”

“The problem is when you don’t have pa-

tience” because feeling abandoned is an experience of faith that many saints and people have, even Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, he said.

“They feel abandoned by God but they do not lose their faith. They keep that gift safe” and wait.

“A faith without these trials makes me doubt that it would be a true faith because if faith is really there, the devil will go and try to destroy it,” the pope said.

By strengthening the virtues, the two men wrote, people can “reawaken the archangel hiding in each person, and by battling vice, keep under control the beast that lies in wait inside each one of us.”

SUPPORT

THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

SPECIAL COLLECTION
APRIL 24-25, 2021

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions>

STRENGTHENING
the **CHURCH AT HOME**

Copyright © 2020, United State Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington D.C. All rights reserved.
Photos: Philip Laubner/CRS, Jeffrey Bruno, Diocese of Laredo.

WEST RIVER Catholic March 2021



Official Newspaper of the Diocese of Rapid City

Mailing label

24 WRC

Learning from Horton: say what you mean, mean what you say



Christina
Capecchi

Freelance
writer

Inver Grove
Heights, Minn.

Dr. Seuss' fourth book was published in 1940 and met with critical acclaim. It features an elephant whose large ears and long trunk provided the ideal infrastructure for the artist's distinct lumps and humps.

Today, the homely hero of "Horton Hatches The Egg" feels like a symbol of what we are sorely lacking in a culture that sets us up to be flighty and fickle. He reminds me of a Gospel principle I have found more challenging now that I'm a parent.

The tale begins when a lazy bird, Mayzie, becomes bored sitting on her egg and recruits Horton to take over, vowing to return soon. He agrees and pledges loyalty.

His resolve is tested the first night with a wicked storm.

"This isn't much fun," remarks Horton, perched on the nest and soaking wet.

Once Mayzie lands in Palm Beach, she decides to stay. Winter arrives, and Horton is covered in icicles. "But Horton kept sitting and said with a sneeze, 'I'll stay on this egg and I won't let it freeze. I meant what I said and I said what I meant ... an elephant's faithful 100 percent!'"

From his perch on the egg, Horton endures endless abuse. At each hardship, he repeats his promise as a pep talk: "I meant what I said and I said what I meant ... an elephant's faithful 100 percent!" His identity becomes his mantra.

Horton lands in a traveling circus, and, lo and behold, after 51 weeks of dutifully warming that egg — it begins to hatch just as Mayzie happens upon them. She claims ownership of the egg, which shatters and stuns, revealing a winged baby elephant.

Dr. Seuss asserts the rightness of the out-

come: "And it should be, it should be, it should be like that! Because Horton was faithful! He sat and he sat! He meant what he said and he said what me meant ... and they sent him home happy, 100 percent!"

Horton's statement has since been borrowed by politicians selling straight talk, never bothering to credit Seuss. They could also cite the Bible, where the principle was first articulated. In the Gospel of Matthew, we are presented a teaching on oaths: "Make good to the Lord all that you vow" (Mt 5:33). And then comes a memorable verse: "Let your 'yes' mean 'yes' and your 'no' mean 'no.' Anything more is from the evil one" (Mt. 5:37).

I remember reading this as a girl and finding it simplistic. Yes means yes, no means no — yeah, yeah, yeah, got it.

I find it much harder as an adult, fielding invitations and opportunities that seem fine and lovely but are actually demands on my time and threats to my priorities. Putting first things first, I've come to realize, is no small feat.

As a parent, it's even harder to say what I mean and mean what I say. My reflex is to respond as quickly as possible — not necessarily as thoughtfully. There have been times I've answered a young child without knowing what I have just agreed to.

I'm learning the value of taking a pause to give myself space for thinking — and to let my kids see that. I'm discovering the merit of a response like, "I don't know yet" and "Let me think about it." And I'm trying to halt my fast-talking, people-pleasing impulse long enough to size up a commitment before saying yes or no.

In the end, we are defined by the promises we keep. I want mine to honor the values and people I hold dear. When the going gets tough and I'm covered in ice like Horton, I want to "make good to the Lord," repeating my promises as a pep talk, embracing my vocation, turning my identity into a mantra — 100 percent.



NEWMAN

Rapid City Catholic Newman Center

Invites you to

Bridges of Faith

An evening of Food & Faith

Saturday, April 17, 2021

RC Newman Center – 316 E Kansas City St

Social Hour – 5pm | Meal – 6pm | Program – 7pm

\$75/plate

Limited seating available. Purchase tickets online at

www.hardrockercatholic.com/bridges

www.rcnewmancenter.com/bridges

Program will be live streamed the night of the event.



Scan to
Purchase Ticket

Questions? Contact Frank
frank@rcnewmancenter.com
605-716-4130

Sponsored by

SDSM&T Newman Club and ARCNC



Alumni Rapid City Newman Center

 **Hardrock Catholic**