‘Saint of the gutters,’ Mother Teresa, to be canonized Sept. 4

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The poor, the suffering and those who minister to them will be at the center of celebrations leading up to the canonization of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata at the Vatican. The main event — the canonization Mass — will begin at 10:30 a.m., Sept. 4, the Vatican announced. A “family feast” for the poor, a musical, Masses and prayer vigils will precede her canonization, according to programs published by the Vatican and by the Missionaries of Charity, the order she founded.

Known as the “saint of the gutters,” Mother Teresa was revered for ministering to the sick and the dying in some of the world’s poorest neighborhoods. Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in 1910 to an ethnic Albanian family in Skopje, in what is now part of Macedonia, Mother Teresa went to India as a Sister of Loreto in 1929. Receiving what she described as a “call within a call,” she began her missionary work with the poor and laid the foundation for what would become the Missionaries of Charity. Following her death in 1997, St. John Paul II waived the usual five-year waiting period and allowed the opening of the process to declare her sainthood. She was beatified in 2003.

The Vatican will anticipate the canonization of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata with a special postage stamp, which will be released Sept. 2, two days before Pope Francis officially declares her a saint. The Vatican Philatelic and Numismatic Office announced the stamp’s release Aug. 5 and distributed initial images of it. The 95-cent stamp features a wrinkled but radiant Mother Teresa smiling in her blue-trimmed, white sari. Overlaid on the design by Patrizio Daniele is another image of her holding the hand of a small child.

(CNS photo/courtesy Vatican Philatelic and Numismatic Office)
World Youth Day

They were seeking someone — Jesus Christ

World Youth Day has come and gone. More than a million young people gathered in Poland — pilgrims seeking something in their lives. In reality, they were not seeking something, but someone, Jesus Christ. I was one of those pilgrims, along with 85 other bishops from the United States who met in Krakow for this global event. It is estimated that 40,000 people from the United States made the pilgrimage to be united with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for those days of prayer and celebration of our faith in Jesus Christ.

This was the first World Youth Day that I have ever attended and I was not disappointed. I deeply enjoyed the experience. Our host country, Poland, opened her arms to all of us. We felt welcomed and loved, cared for and secure. The Polish people were very friendly and their own love for Christ and his church was evident. They seemed happy to be the host to so many people from around the world.

What I found most inspiring was the enthusiasm, the beautiful spirit and the prayerfulness of the young people and their love and desire for Jesus. This was a great grace for me. It bolstered the spirit of faith and hope in all of us. In particular, I cherished the time I was able to spend with the youth of our own diocese and to hear of their desires for World Youth Day in regard to their relationship with Jesus. I want to thank them for their willingness to share their love for the Lord and for answering their call to follow Jesus.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, arrived in Krakow on July 28. Throughout the days he was there, his encouragement to the young people to live a life following Jesus came through over and over again. His messages spoke not only to the young, but to all Christians, if we really want to follow Christ. He challenged the youth and all of us to be in the forefront of serving others. In his talk at the Stations of the Cross, he shared these words:

“Humanity today needs men and women, and especially young people like yourselves, who do not wish to live their lives ‘halfway,’ young people ready to spend their lives freely in service to those of their brothers and sisters who are poorest and most vulnerable, in imitation of Christ who gave himself completely for our salvation. In the face of evil, suffering and sin, the only response possible for a disciple of Jesus is the gift of self, even of one’s own life, in imitation of Christ; it is the attitude of service. Unless those who call themselves Christians live to serve, their lives serve no good purpose. By their lives, they deny Jesus Christ.”

Pope Francis, in his homily at the Vigil Service on Saturday night, spoke of how “God expects something from all of us; how he hopes in us and comes to open the doors of our lives, our dreams, our ways of seeing things. God comes to break open everything that keeps us closed in.”

He told us to get off the couch and stop being young “couch potatoes” but “young people with shoes, or better, boots laced” who go out into the world and leave their mark in history that began at Pentecost. “The Lord wants to work one of the greatest miracles we can experience; he wants to turn your hands, my hands, our hands, into signs of reconciliation, of communion, of creation. He wants your hands to continue building the world of today. And he wants to build that world with you.”

As Pope Francis shared in his homily at the closing Mass for World Youth Day, we are to be like Zacchaeus who took a risk and put his life on the line for Jesus. “When it comes to Jesus, we cannot sit around waiting with arms folded; he offers us life — we can’t respond by thinking about it or texting a few words! Don’t be afraid to say ‘yes’ to him with all your heart, to respond generously and to follow him! Don’t let your soul grow numb, but aim for the goal of a beautiful love which also demands sacrifice. Say a firm ‘no’ to the narcotic of success at any cost and the sedative of worrying only about yourself and your own comfort.”

In spite of the heat and humidity the last few days of World Youth Day, it is my sense that the young people, perhaps all of us, came away with a new sense of mission and a new sense of our call to discipleship; that World Youth Day is not meant to be only a cherished memory, but to be lived in the concrete, to be lived in every corner of our lives. If this happens, then World Youth Day will have been a great success, not only for the church in western South Dakota, but for the entire world.

July 23, wooden barges float on the Dunajec River Gorge through the Pieniny Mountains. Bishop Robert Gruss joined the 46-member diocesan group that attended World Youth Days in Krakow, Poland. He is wearing the regional clothing of the raft operators. (Photo by Fr. Mark McCormick)

Pope Francis walks with World Youth Day pilgrims as he arrives for a July 30 prayer vigil at the Field of Mercy in Krakow, Poland. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
Pope names six women, six men to panel to study women deacons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has appointed six men and six women to a commission to study the issue of women deacons, particularly their ministry in the early church. In addition to the 12 members named Aug. 2, the pope tapped Archbishop Luis Ladaria Ferrer, secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to serve as president of the commission. The pope set up the commission at the request of the International Union of Superiors General, the organization for the leaders of women’s religious orders around the world. Meeting the group in May, Pope Francis said that while his understanding was that the women described as deacons in the New Testament were not ordained as male deacons are today, “it would be useful for the church to clarify this question.”

The International Theological Commission, a body that advises the doctrinal congregation, included the question of women deacons in a study on the diaconate almost 20 years ago. While its report, issued in 2002, did not offer recommendations for the future, it concluded that biblical deaconesses were not the same as ordained male deacons. In June, Pope Francis told reporters that he had asked Cardinal Gerhard Muller, prefect of the doctrinal congregation, and Sister Carmen Sammut, president of the superiors’ group, to suggest scholars to include in the study group. At least one of the members Pope Francis named to the commission — U.S. scholar Phyllis Zagano — has written extensively on the role of women deacons in a study on the diaconate nearly 20 years ago.

Phyllis Zagano, a senior research associate in the religion department at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., is seen in her office Aug. 2. Zagano, who has written extensively on the subject of women deacons, is one of six women appointed by Pope Francis to a 13-person “Commission to Study the Women’s Diaconate.”

(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)
It’s not right to equate Islam with violence, pope says

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

An economy that focuses on the God of money, not human beings, is the foundation of terrorism, Pope Francis said.

Speaking to journalists aboard his return flight from Krakow, Poland, July 31, the pope also stressed that violence exists in all religions, including Catholicism, and it cannot be pinned to one single religion.

“I do not like to speak of Islamic violence because everyday when I look through the papers, I see violence here in Italy,” the pope told reporters. “And they are baptized Catholics. There are violent Catholics. If I speak of Islamic violence, I also have to speak of Catholic violence,” he added.

Spending about 30 minutes with reporters and responding to six questions, Pope Francis was asked to elaborate on comments he had made flying to Poland July 27 when he told the journalists that religions are not at war and want peace.

The pope’s initial comment came in speaking about the murder July 26 of an elderly priest during Mass in a Catholic church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, France. Two men, armed with knives, entered the church during Mass. The attackers murdered 85-year-old Father Jacques Hamel, slitting his throat. The Islamic State group later claimed responsibility for the murder.

Although the death of the French priest was committed in the name of Islam, the pope said that it is unfair to label an entire religion violent because of the actions of a few fundamentalists.

“One thing is true. I believe that in almost all religions, there is always a small fundamentalist group. We have them, too,” the pope said. “When fundamentalism goes to the point of killing — you can even kill with the tongue. This is what St. James says, but (you can kill) also with a knife.

“I do not think it is right to identify Islam with violence. This is not right and it is not true,” he said.

Instead, the pope said, that those who choose to enter fundamentalists groups, such as the Islamic State, do so because “they have been left empty” of ideals, work and values.

The pope was also asked about accusations of sexual abuse made against Australian Cardinal George Pell, prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy.

Pope Francis said the accusations are unclear, but are in the hands of investigators. He also warned against deeming alleged accusations true or false before they are investigated thoroughly.

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Pope Francis was also asked if he was all right after he stumbled and fell during Mass outside the Marian shrine of Jasna Gora in Czestochowa July 28. He missed a step as he was blessing the altar and an image of Mary with incense.

“Listen to them, speak to them because they must learn from us and we must learn from them. That is how history is made, that is how we grow — without closing them off, without censuring them,” Pope Francis said.
News

Attention Commission Lay Ministers:

The Commissioned Lay Ministers of Deanery Two are hosting a retreat at St. Patrick Church in Lead on September 24. Glen Gauer of FOCUS Ministries will lead the retreat.

The theme of the retreat will be “Discipleship.” Topics include:
1. What is discipleship?
2. The connection of Matthew 28, the Great Commission, and Acts 1:4, receiving the promise of the Father.

Everyone is welcome. The retreat is appropriate for Commissioned Lay Ministers, all Catholics and members of other Christian traditions.

Registration deadline is September 10. There is no charge to attend. Free-will donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of lunch and snacks and Gauer’s travel expenses. To make your reservation, please contact Mary DeMarcus at mdemarcus@diorc.org or call St. Patrick parish at 605-578-2002.

Sessions will begin at 8 a.m. and the day will end with Mass at 4:30 p.m. There will be an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation from 3-3:45 p.m. Following Mass, those who wish to have dinner together at their own expense will continue the discussion informally at a local restaurant.

Mercy received must be mercy shared, pope says at audience

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God’s mercy is infectious and must be shared with others, Pope Francis said.

Mercy is “a journey that departs from the heart to arrive at the hands,” the pope said Aug. 10 at his weekly general audience.

In his main audience talk, Pope Francis focused on the Gospel story of Jesus raising from the dead the son of the widow of Nain, giving renewed hope not just to the woman and her son, but to all.

“The powerful word of Jesus can make us rise again and takes us, too, from death to life,” the pope said. “His word revives us, gives hope, refreshes weary hearts and opens us to a vision of the world and of life that goes beyond suffering and death.”

Pope Francis ended his main talk by insisting that “Jesus watches you, heals you with his mercy and says, ‘Arise,’ and your heart is new.”

“And what do I do now with this new heart healed by Jesus?” he asked. “I do the works of mercy with my hands and I try to help, to heal the many who are in need. Mercy is a journey that departs from the heart and arrives at the hands, at the works of mercy.”

Greeting Italian visitors at the end of the audience, the pope returned to his point about how the experience of mercy must lead Christians to concrete acts of mercy toward others.

Recently, he said, a bishop told him that in his cathedral, there is not just one Holy Door designated for the Year of Mercy, but two.

One Holy Door is an entrance, the doorway people pass through to ask for God’s forgiveness and receive it in the sacraments. The other door is an exit, “to go out and bring God’s mercy to others with the works of mercy. This bishop is intelligent, isn’t he?” the pope said.

“In our hearts we receive the mercy of Jesus, who gives us pardon because God forgives everything, everything,” the pope said. “He raises us up. He gives us new life and he also infects us with his compassion. From our hearts forgiven and healed, and with the compassion of Jesus, the journey toward our hands begins, that it, toward the works of mercy.”
Rediscover silence to find the Lord working in your life

By Laurie Hallstrom

Fr. Brian Christensen, Rome, was the featured speaker at St. Therese Church, Rapid City, for Deanery One Day of Mercy, July 19.

For the past two years, Father Christensen has been serving in Rome on the faculty of the seminary, Pontifical North American College. He was in Rapid City for a short time this summer.

“It has been a privileged time to work with future priests who will serve here in the United States. They are good men — very inspiring work. I have great hope for the church in the United States and throughout the world because of the goodness and perseverance of these men. It is a great joy to be with them. Also, I have had the opportunity to be close to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, especially during this year of mercy,” he said.

“I had an opportunity to share in days of retreat that the Holy Father had during the special jubilee year for priests. It was really a very powerful time, three hours with Pope Francis offering spiritual conferences for priests and a Holy Hour concluding with Mass on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The pope’s blessing of priests, his encouragement for priests was for me and for so many, very powerful and uplifting.

In his talk on *Lectio Divina*, Father Christensen emphasized the importance of silence.

“As St. Augustine of Hippo so keenly noted so many centuries ago, back in the fourth century, we are restless until we rest in God. There is a deep, deep longing within each of our human hearts, a desire that’s not quenched by the things of this world. No thing or person will satisfy our human hearts until they discover the fullness of God,” he said. “The Father draws us into this relationship through his son, Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Spirit.”

He recounted Jesus leaving his disciples and the crowds to be with the Father and pray in silence.

“In order to be capable of reflecting God’s mercy rediscover the value of silence,” he said. “In silence we hear God’s word which transforms us.”

According to Father Christensen, *Lectio Divina* is an attentive engagement with the word of God that leads to communion and a new way of life.

“We live in a very busy world, filled with so many activities, sometimes very frenetic activity. To cultivate silence even in short periods during our day is difficult but essential to our relationship with God,” he said.

To begin the practice of *Lectio Divina* he recommended using either the church’s daily readings or the Sunday Gospel.

“We don’t just read it, its about attentive reading, listening to what God is saying, reading it once, reading it a second time, reading it a third time. What word, what phrase, what image jumps out at you,” said Father Christensen. Take time to reflect on that image or phrase.

“Daily prayer is our life breath, without it our supernatural lives will quickly suffocate.

“Do not be anxious. Seek God, do not worry whether you are doing things right. There is no one with more patience than God. No one who wants to help you more,” he said.
August 2016

Events Schedule

September 17, Saturday

- Natural Family Planning: Seminar for engaged couples or anyone wanting to learn more about natural family planning. To be held at St. John the Baptist, Custer. Preregistration required. Next seminar, October 22, Terra Sancta, Rapid City. For Family Life Ministries, 603-716-5214 x236 or Ajulian@diorc.org.

- Mandala Prayerful Painting: Using a lectio format, learn to pray, compose and paint a mandala. Retreat day to explore the art form of mandalas as a way to pray. No prior art experience necessary. Held at St. Martin Monastery from 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. $20 includes lunch. Sr. Therese Marie, 605-343-8011.

September 23, Friday

- Heart to Heart Weekend for the Engaged: For engaged couples to deepen their relationship with each other and God by exploring the Catholic Church’s vision of marriage. Attendance is required for couples doing marriage prep in the diocese. Ends September 25. Register online at terrasancta.org.

Terra Sancta Retreat Center Highlights — September

- Sept 8: BHADA fall retreat
- Sep 11: VSI Certification Mass & Reception
- Sep 17: Aspirancy; TS Guild Event
- Sep 18: Celebration of Marriage
- Sep 18-23: Priest retreat — Diocese of Grand Island
- Sep 27-28: Great Plains Tribal Health Board Staff Retreat
- Sep 30- Oct 2: Annual Deacon Retreat — Diocese of Rapid City

“This is the second time the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board is hosting its annual staff retreat at Terra Sancta. We were extremely pleased with our last retreat and the large meeting spaces, extensive food menu, and beautiful scenery. The staff at Terra Sancta has always been easy to work with and customer service oriented. We are excited to take advantage of the outdoor space and the many amenities of the Terra Sancta Retreat Center.”

— Kristine Watts, MPA, SHRM-CP, Director of Human Resources & Communications

St. Therese the Little Flower Church

Fall Festival

Sunday, September 25, 2016
10:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Roast Beef Dinner
with homemade salads and pies

Tickets sold in the Parish Office. Monday-Friday: Adults $10, children (ages 5-10) $5

Silent Auction • B-I-N-G-O • Country Store • Boutique Store • Games
Visit the “History/ Coffee Room” for coffee, refreshments, and cookies after dinner.

South Dakota

Right to Life

2016 State Convention

Hosted by Rapid City Right to Life Chapter

Saturday, September 17, 2016
Blessed Sacrament Church • 8:00am - 5:00pm
4500 Jackson Blvd • Rapid City, SD
PreRegistration - $25 ea (before 9/1/16) or $30 ea (after 9/1/16)
Registration at the Door (if space available) - $40 ea

Visit our website www.rcrighttolife.org or call Diane Ange at 605-721-3065 or email rcrtl@rcrighttolife.org for more information.
When pastors are reassigned, it’s dying and rising

Fr. Craig Cower has often told pastors that moving to a new parish is, in a real way, a participation in the Paschal Mystery. When a pastor is told he is being reassigned, he must die to the hopes and dreams and plans he had for the parish he is serving. He must say good-bye to many of the people to whom he has drawn close.

When he first moves to the new parish and is unfamiliar with the routines, doesn’t know the parishioners or the community, he is, in some respects, in the tomb. After some time, when he has had the opportunity to serve those in need, minister to families in times of tragedy, and build trust with his new parish, he begins to build hopes and dreams in this new place; he experiences resurrection.

Right now your new pastor is in the tomb. Continuing to welcome him throughout his first year can help him rise perhaps sooner than later. Last month, we shared ways we could assist new pastors. With school starting soon, here are a couple ideas to continue welcoming your new pastor:

- Show him where the school is and point out where the school activities and athletic events take place. What door do you use to get into basketball games or school concerts? Tell him what the school mascot is, what the school colors are, on which side of the field or court the home crowd sits. Don’t just give him the sports schedule, invite him to come with you to the high school football game. Introduce him to other parishioners while you are there.
- Get at least seven families to invite him to something seven times over the course of 18 months or so.
- Ask him his thoughts and aspirations concerning faith formation. What is his vision and how can you help make it a reality?

There are also ways we can “help” our former pastor to die to our parish so he can rise from the tomb in his new parish. The first thing is to let the past be the past and not succumb to the temptation to keep comparing the old with the new, as we mentioned last month.

Second, one woman I knew many years ago shared this idea with me: Whenever her pastor was reassigned, she gave him a few postcards which were addressed to her and stamped. She invited him to send her one of these cards whenever he was in need of prayer. He needn’t write anything on the card, she said. When she received it, she would know to pray for him.

Third, it is often tempting to ask an old pastor back for funerals or in other times of need. This is understandable because often there is a relationship and trust built up over many years with him. However, ministering to people in need is one of the primary ways the new pastor builds relationships with his parish. Allow him this time and this opportunity to minister to his people.

Conflicts often arise in times of change. This is a good time to reflect on how we, as disciples of Jesus, are called to respond to conflict. When a new (or old) pastor does or says something with which we disagree, offends us or makes us angry, it is tempting to vent to friends, neighbors or family members. It is more fruitful, though, to take our problem to the one who can truly help us. Go instead to Jesus, present in the tabernacle, and share honestly with him your anger, hurt, disappointment, thoughts and feelings. Ask him how you should proceed, what you should say and with whom, if anyone, you should speak.

If, after this time with the Lord, you still feel you should say something, go to the pastor.

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone” (Mt 18:15). Pray for the right words said in the right tone and at the right time.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that we are to “interpret insofar as possible our neighbor’s thoughts, words and deeds in a favorable way” (CCC 2478). Work toward genuine understanding and reconciliation. If the matter is grave and not resolved with the pastor, then it is appropriate to bring it to the bishop’s attention with trust that, despite the outcome, we have done our part.

Significant transitions can be difficult, but they are also an opportunity to grow as disciples of Christ, to practice humility, charity and genuine hospitality as we read in the Book of Revelation: “Behold, I make all things new!” (Rv 21:5) and Jn 11:25: “I am the resurrection and the life.”

(Fr. Tim Hoag co-wrote this month’s column.)
The Washington Post and the Church of Me

My local paper, the Washington Post, is best read for its sports and op-ed pages and its often-sensible editorials on foreign policy. Alas, the Post editorial board’s IQ drops well below the Mendoza Line when the subject is the Catholic Church. After decades of grumbling about this seemingly permanent feature of life along the Potomac shores, it occurred to me recently that the problem here isn’t gross ignorance about matters Catholic; the problem is that the Post is all-in for another, competing religion.

The prophet of that religion — call it the Church of the Imperial Autonomous Self or, if you prefer something punchier, the Church of Me — is U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. For almost a quarter-century, Justice Kennedy has preached a notion of freedom that the human person is just a twitching bundle of desires, the satisfaction of which is what we mean by “human rights.”

In a July 2 editorial (“The pope’s welcome surprises”), the Post tried to recruit Pope Francis as a kind of deputy to Justice Kennedy as prophet of the Church of Me, claiming that the Holy Father had “charted a new course in compassion for the Roman Catholic Church.” The evidence for this was the most over-reported and mis-represented papal statement in history: the Pope’s response (“Who am I to judge?”) to a question about the appropriate pastoral approach to a priest experiencing same-sex attraction who was striving to live an upright and chaste life (the pope repeated a modified version of the phrase to reporters in late June). “Empathy for the oppressed,” the Post’s editors opined, “has always been a hallmark of Francis’s papacy.”

Memo to editors: “Empathy for the oppressed” has been a hallmark of the papacy for a long time. To suggest otherwise — to imply that the Catholic Church has been a theologically-sophisticated Ku Klux Klan, reveling in oppression until the pope from the peripheries began to drag it into the bright uplands of compassion — is slander. Period. And anti-Catholic slander, as the Post editorial board should know, has a long, ugly history in the United States.

Then there was the editorial’s claim that the “Catholic Church has been dodging” certain “contested issues” for a long time. Which issues, you ask? Welcome to the catechism of the Church of Me: the issues being “dodged” include “homosexuality, divorce, and contraception.”

Memo #2 to editors: The Catholic Church has emphatically not been “dodging” these issues, which are not in fact “issues” but settled matters of Catholic moral teaching, informed by both reason and revelation. Beneath the façade of a church playing dodgeball, the real complaint here is quite different: what cobs the Post’s editors is that, unlike liberal Protestantism and Reform Judaism, the Catholic Church has not taken the Post’s advice and caved in to the cultural tsunami of the sexual revolution — a surrender the Post applauds as “compassion.”

If Pope Francis, however misrepresented, has gotten the Washington Post editorial board’s attention, good for him. Let me now suggest some follow-up for the editors. Read St. John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body” — or, if that’s too much to ask, read the summary of it in my “Witness to Hope.” Then see if that portrait of human love, noble self-giving, and mature, humble self-mastery isn’t a more attractive vision of human possibility than Justice Kennedy’s twitching bundle of desires.

The editors challenged “Church traditionalists” to “open themselves to a ‘God of surprises.’” Let’s see if the Post’s editorial board has the nerve to take its own advice.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver.
‘We create our own fear of hell’

Hell is never a nasty surprise waiting for a basically happy person. Hell can only be the full-flowering of a pride and selfishness that have, through a long time, twisted a heart so thoroughly that it considers happiness as unhappiness and has an arrogant disdain for happy people. If you are essentially warm of heart this side of eternity, you need not fear that a nasty surprise awaits you on the other side because somewhere along the line, unknowingly, you missed the boat and your life went terribly wrong.

Unfortunately for many us, the preaching and catechisis of our youth sometimes schooled us in the idea that you could tragically miss the boat without knowing it and that there was no return. You could live your life sincerely, in essential honesty, relate fairly to others, try your best given your weaknesses, have some bounce and happiness in life, and then die and find that some sin you’ve committed or mistake you’d made, perhaps even unknowingly, could doom you to hell and there was no further chance for repentance. The second of your death was your last chance to change things, no second chances after death, no matter how badly you might like then to repent. As a tree falls so shall it lie! We were schooled to fear dying and the afterlife.

But, whatever the practical effectiveness of such a concept, because it really could make one hesitate in the face of temptation because of the fear of hell, it is essentially wrong and should not be taught in the name of Christianity. Why? Because it belies the God and the deep truths that Jesus revealed. Jesus did teach that there was a hell and that it was a possibility for everyone. But the hell that Jesus spoke of is not a place or a state where someone is begging for one last chance, just one more minute of life to make an act of contrition, and God is refusing. The God whom Jesus both incarnates and reveals is a God who is forever open to repentance, forever open to contrition, and forever waiting our return from our prodigal wanderings.

With God we never exhaust our chances. Can you imagine God looking at a repentant man or woman and saying: “Sorry! For you, it’s too late! You had your chance! Don’t come asking for another chance now!” That could not be the Father of Jesus.

And yet, the Gospels can give us that impression. We have, for example, the famous parable of the rich man who ignores the poor man at his doorstep, dies, and ends up in hell, while the poor man, Lazarus, whom he had ignored, is now in heaven, comforted in the bosom of Abraham. From his torment in hell, the rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to him with some water, but Abraham replies that there is an unbridgeable gap between heaven and hell and no one can cross from one side to the other. That text, along with Jesus’ warnings about the doors of the wedding banquet that will at a point be irrevocably closed, have led to the common misconception that there is a point of no return, that once in hell, it is too late to repent.

But that’s not what this text, nor Jesus’ warning on the urgency of repentance, teaches. The “unbridgeable gap” here refers, among other things, to a gap that remains forever unbridged here in this world between the rich and the poor. And it remains unbridged because of our intransigence, our failure to change heart, our lack of contrition, not because God runs out of patience and says: “Enough! No more chances!” It remains unbridged because, habitually, we become so set in our ways that we are incapable of change and genuine repentance.

Jesus’ story of the rich man and Lazarus actually draws upon a more ancient Jewish story that illustrates this intransigence: In the parallel Jewish parable, God does hear the rich man’s plea from hell for a second chance and grants it to him. The rich man, now full of new resolutions, returns to life, goes immediately to the market, loads his cart with food, and, as he is driving home, meets Lazarus on the road. Lazarus asks for a loaf of bread. The rich man jumps off his cart to give it to him, but, has he pulls a huge loaf of bread from his cart, his old self starts to reassert itself. He begins to think: “This man doesn’t need a whole loaf! Why not just give him a part? And why should he have a fresh loaf? I’ll give him some of the stale bread!” Immediately he finds himself back in hell! He still cannot bridge the gap.

Kathleen Dowling Singh submits that in making a series of mental contractions we create our own fear of death. That’s true too for the afterlife: by making a series of unfortunate theological contractions we create our own fear of hell.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com. Now on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser.

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Monthly Message From Our Lady

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

“Dear children! I am looking at you and I see you lost; and you do not have prayer or joy in your heart. Return to prayer, little children, and put God in the first place and not man. Do not lose the hope which I am carrying to you. May this time, little children, every day, be a greater seeking of God in the silence of your heart; and pray, pray, pray until prayer becomes joy for you. Thank you for having responded to my call.” 7/2/16

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father

September

Universal: Centrality of the Human Person
That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the center.

Evangelization: Mission to Evangelize
That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.

For more information, go to: APOSTLESHPOFPRAYER.ORG

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Columns

**In Exile**

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

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**Family Thrift Center**

**Dry Cleaners & Launderomat**

Open Daily 7 AM - Last Wash 9 PM
Business Accounts Welcome

Special: Comforters & Sleeping Bags: $1.75 a pound
Student Discount: 25% off all washes
1802 Cambell St. Rapid City 343-9879
**Custer Right to Life group activities**

Members of the Right to Life group from St. John the Baptist, Custer, participated in the Gold Discovery Days Parade, July 23. The group walked the route handing out otter pops reminding people that life is precious from conception to natural death. In addition to the parade, they stand outside the parish on Saturday mornings and recite the rosary. *(Photo courtesy Terry Wakeland)*

**Bishop’s Hunt for Seminarians**

A first class, fully guided and outfitted pheasant hunt in Gregory County. Your hunt will include lodging, meals, social time, sporting clays, pheasant hunting, and an early morning Mass, all with Bishop Robert Gruss.

**October 3 through October 4, 2016**

For additional information or to register call Tim Henderson at 605-343-3541. You can register online at [www.wsdcg.org](http://www.wsdcg.org).

Benefits the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation Seminarian Education Fund

Hosted by Stukel’s Upland Adventures Outfitters & Guides

Sponsored by the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation

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**REGISTRATION FEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunters (includes lodging and all meals)</th>
<th>$ 750.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-hunters — dinner only</td>
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# Hunters $ ______

# Non-hunters — dinner only $ ______

Sponsor a Seminarian $ ______

I am unable to hunt this year. I would like to sponsor a seminarian.

Total Amount Due $ ______

NAME ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________

CITY/ST/ZIP ____________________________

PHONE ____________________________

**ADDITIONAL HUNTERS/DINNER GUESTS**

NAME ____________________________

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO: The Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation, PO Box 678, Rapid City, SD 57709-0678
Martin was born the illegitimate son of a Spanish knight, John de Porres, and a freed slave woman, Anna, in Lima, Peru, in 1579. He inherited his mother’s dark complexion and features, and so endured much hardship, persecution, and ridicule for his biracial heritage throughout his life. His own father never married his mother and refused to even acknowledge his son until Martin was about 8 years old. After a sister was born, his father abandoned their family and left them to a life of poverty.

Martin did not receive much schooling, and at age 12 he was apprenticed to a barber-surgeon where he learned both trades — cutting hair, caring for the sick and injured, treating wounds and ailments, drawing blood, distributing medication, etc. After spending three years in this apprenticeship, Martin longed to join the Dominican religious community in Lima. As a teenager he asked to serve their community as a lay helper, where he worked tirelessly at any menial task. At age 15 he applied for admission into the community and received the Dominican habit. He served in his old trades as barber and surgeon — caring for those in the infirmary, in addition to cleaning, washing clothes, and serving meals — doing them with great love, care, and humility, prompting a brother to note that “he clung to God in his soul,” and so “all these things were effects of divine grace.”

Eventually Brother Martin made full religious profession in the community. He was known to spend his days caring for the sick and the poor and his nights in prayer and penance. He treated not only the brothers, but all people who came to him, regardless of their race, wealth, or status — wealthy nobles and poor slaves all knew they could come to Brother Martin for medical care and assistance. He helped to found an orphanage and a hospital, and he raised money for poor girls in need of a dowry. It is said that he received extraordinary gifts, including bilocation, flight, miraculous knowledge, and miraculous healing. Many of the brothers asked him to be their spiritual director, and although an admired leader in the community, he always referred to himself as a poor slave.

Brother Martin set an example of great love, humility, compassion, and mercy, giving alms to the poor and providing for them in their need, caring for orphans and slaves, working hard at menial tasks, teaching, tending to the sick and injured, and providing for spiritual direction for the brothers. He was friends with St. Juan Macías, a fellow Dominican, and St. Rose of Lima, who often aided him in his work. Brother Martin died in 1639; prelates and noblemen carried his body to his tomb. A saint of mercy and forgiveness and charity, he is the patron saint of interracial justice. At his canonization in 1962, St. John XXIII said of him, “He excused the faults of others. He forgave the bitterest injuries, convinced that he deserved much severer punishments on account of his own sins. He tried with all his might to redeem the guilty; lovingly he comforted the sick; he provided food, clothing and medicine for the poor; he helped, as best he could, farm laborers and Negroes, as well as mulattos, who were looked upon at that time as akin to slaves. Thus, he deserved to be called by the name the people gave him, ‘Martin of Charity.’”
Bishop Robert Gruss’ pastoral letter, “Through Him, With Him, and In Him,” along with a copy of the Priority Plan of the Diocese of Rapid City and a bookmark, has been mailed to registered households in the diocese. Additional copies can be obtained at parishes. In this month’s WRC we will reflect upon the importance of reconciliation within families, how disciples embrace lifelong learning and the Gospel’s call to reach out in ministry.

**Reconciliation in the Domestic Church**

“As members of families, both our own and our parish family, we have experiences that pull us apart and create division. When we choose to hang on to those hurts, we remain separated from one another. That separation cripples our ability to become disciples of Jesus. His first invitation to his apostles after his resurrection was to forgive,” said Fr. Michel Mulloy, an Envisioning Team member from McLaughlin. “Forgiveness restores unity in the family and unity enables the love of God to be manifested in us.”

Envisioning Team member Mary Helen Olsen, is principal of St. Thomas More Middle School, Rapid City. She said one of the best tools the church gives us is the sacrament of reconciliation.

“Families who wish to grow in the virtue of mercy routinely practice seeking and offering forgiveness to each other. These families also seek forgiveness from the Lord in regular reception of the sacrament of reconciliation.” She added that it is helpful for parents to model for their children giving comfort and consolation to the sorrowful. Olsen said, “Finally, families can pray for the grace to grow in patience and charity with one another.”

Fr. Christopher Johnson, SJ, is an Envisioning Team member from Pine Ridge. He said, “Mercy is experiencing another’s suffering and reaching out with the heart. In injured relationships, love is wounded and misery results. Reconciliation heals relationships, better enabling us to live charity. Valuing charity and experiencing mercy draws us to reconcile. Seeking reconciliation within our families — society’s fundamental element — we more profoundly experience the love of God and we are strengthened to share that love with all the world.”

Among all the people we interact with, family members are the ones we are most likely to hurt or offend. Cathy Larsen, the director of Counseling at Catholic Social Services, Rapid City, said “One concrete way to improve communication and family relationships is to have family meetings. The meeting can open with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to be present. Families might also consider a regular daily prayer time or weekly prayer night if they are very busy.”

She recommended a format from a website called “Positive Discipline.” It discusses sticking to a set time frame, making sure everyone feels safe to talk, and joint problem solving. It promotes listening to one another, respect, and modeling the actions parents want their children to emulate.

**Make Disciples by Sharing the Faith**

When we invite others, including our children, to develop a closer relationship with Jesus, the way to start is by creating a sense that people are welcome and belong in the church community.

“Generous hospitality keeps inviting others to seek a deeper relationship with the Lord and his church, regardless of where they are in their faith development,” said Envisioning Team member, Fr. Mark McCormick, diocesan director of the Office of Stewardship and Vocations. “Hospitality is about seeing the other person as another Christ. Hospitality keeps inviting another person step-by-step to become a true disciple of Jesus.”

He referred to the Letter to the Romans where St. Paul writes that one of the true markers of being Christian is to “contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality” (Rom 12:13). Father McCormick said, “Offering and practicing hospitality is the way to open the door to others as Jesus has opened the door of faith to us. Offering and practicing hospitality fosters and nurtures the gift of being in relationship with one another as stranger and as friend. It allows for conversations to spring up between God’s people, hopefully, strengthening and renewing one’s relationship with Jesus. Where faith is shared, faith is strengthened.”

**Fr. Steve Biegler, Vicar General, Envisioning Team Member**


According to the pope, it is meeting people where they are now and sharing their journey. That requires the virtues of prudence, understanding, patience, and docility of spirit. The process is further explained by Bishop Robert Gruss in his pastoral letter, “Through Him, With Him and In Him,” on pages 55-56.

Father Biegler said, “The art of accompaniment is not an entirely new concept. You are on a journey with someone as people who are both trying to grow in the Spirit.”

In Evangelii Gaudium the pope quotes Exodus 3:5 wherein Moses sees the burning bush. Father Biegler said, “The first thing Pope Francis teaches us is to remove our sandals — we are on sacred ground. I think what he means by that is we need to recognize the sacredness of the other person’s journey. We are all on a pilgrimage with Christ to the Father. We are walking with another person step-by-step to become more Christ like.”

According to Father Biegler docility of spirit calls for “really listening to what the Spirit is trying to do with this person. How is the Spirit calling them?”

He said a greater emphasis of Pope Francis is to “be patient.” This process is going to take time and compassion. It is a very personal encounter, much more than counseling or therapy.

He said, “When you look at the life of Pope Francis, he is very personal with people. The art of accompaniment is deeply personal in the context of faith.”

Father Biegler said the end of the pope’s explanation on accompanying people sums it up. “This is clearly distinct from every kind of intrusive accompaniment or isolated self-realization. Missionary disciples accompany missionary disciples” (Evangelii Gaudium 173).
Education and Formation are foundational ministries, meaning they are present in every diocese, for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. In this diocese, kindling an interest in learning about the faith happens mostly in the parishes. Susan Safford is the diocesan director of the Office of Faith Formation and an Envisioning Team member. Her role is to educate catechists who minister as religious education directors and teachers in the parishes. In turn, they minister in settings varying from multi generational gatherings to the traditional classroom settings.

“God created us, became a man, lived and died for us because of his great love. Wanting all to know and share in his love, before ascending into heaven, the Lord called his disciples to ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’

“He founded the church and promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to protect and guide her. It is our own living in union with Christ and our love and zeal and joy in the Lord that sparks an interest in learning about the Catholic faith in others. And so, the mission of the church begins with my own growth in relationship with Christ.

“Sharing that faith then must start with relationship — building relationships with people, no matter their age, becoming friends with them. As St. John Bosco said in regard to working with youth, ‘Get them to love you and they’ll follow you anywhere.’ When people know that we love them, they want to be a part of that community. From there, an introduction to Jesus Christ — his love and salvation — will draw people closer to him through love. Growth in the relationship, conversation, and union with Christ through prayer moves the heart to fall more deeply in love with him. And so, learning how to pray — to speak to and listen to the Lord — is at the heart of growing in the faith.”

For almost 900 students, pre-K-12, education in the faith is enhanced by attendance in the Rapid City Catholic School System. Envisioning Team member, Barb Honeycutt, is the superintendent of St. Elizabeth Seton Grade School, and St. Thomas More Middle and High Schools, Rapid City.

Honeycutt said, “The family, being the domestic church, creates the foundation for a strong society. In Catholic school communities, solidarity is evident in the response of our people to those in need. Through the development of personal and academic excellence, our students gain the skills and practice the virtues that create in them the desire to accept the call to love and serve one another. Graduates leave knowing the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls them to use their talents for the common good of society. Furthermore, they are deeply committed to social justice, the care of the poor and the planet, and proud members of the church, ready to help at all times.”

LeAnn Wenger is a parent of three RCCSS students. “One of the tough things about being a Catholic convert, is that I don’t have the personal experiences to bring to my children as they have grown in their Catholic faith. I was fortunate enough to have met Father Mike Mulloy while he was serving in the town of Faith. He was the one who helped me find my ‘home’ in the Catholic Church.

“As a parent, I put all my trust in God and know that I am far from perfect. Parents are called to share the faith with their children, to teach them how to pray, to share the tremendous love God has for them, to help them enter into a relationship and union with Christ, to raise them up in the moral, liturgical, and sacramental life of the church.

“Parents give an example of virtue, faithfulness, and commitment to their children, and they help them to discern their own vocation from the Lord as he draws them to holiness.

“Called to solidarity with all people, the disciples of Christ desire all to come to share in the great love that we share in — knowing Christ Jesus our Lord, and so the mission of the church given by Christ extends to every person.”

The task of raising children in faith also takes place in homeschooling families.

Peggy Sue Mutchler, Keystone, is the mother of six. “I was raised like most Catholic kids; attending Sunday Mass and Wednesday CCD classes. We prayed the rosary and lit our Advent candles. My parents instilled in me a strong foundation of faith.”

She said she was open to the Holy Spirit when the opportunity to home-school her children arose. “Through the grace of God, I have been able to intertwine faith into my children’s lives and schooling; to immerse them in the beauty of Catholicism has become a natural process.

“Faith has become our daily routine. The rosary is our morning start. Daily Mass is a bonus. We immerse ourselves in school curriculum that is Catholic based; history is read from a Catholic perspective, spelling and vocabulary teach us words like ‘transubstantiation.’ Catholic artwork is a staple in our home; whether purchased, or homemade.”

She said she has found support from members of their parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, as well. “The kids enjoy cantoring, lectoring, and altar serving at Mass.”

Live the Mission on Sacred Ground

The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are an important component of the Catholic faith. In the land west of the Missouri River there are three primary cultural backgrounds, Native Americans, white Anglo descendants and Hispanics. There are also a handful of people with roots in other traditions. Faith has been handed down in different ways in different traditions and while one might be versed in their own faith traditions, they could still be ignorant of traditions from another culture.

Maria Munoz, an Envisioning Team member, was one of three
women who spoke with the *West River Catholic* on extending works of mercy to different cultures. She said as a member of the Envisioning Team she reached out to parishes in the diocese to determine the number of Hispanic parishioners being served. No one knew — questions of ethnicity are not on registration forms.

She said, “Every parish should update their registrations to identify the diversity in the community. How many Hispanics or Vietnamese do they serve?”

*Irma Lefaive*, an Envisioning Team member from Ft. Pierre, said the forms should include more information on heritage that would identify Germans, Norwegians or French descendants.

She suggested an informative way to encounter other cultures. Lefaive said, “Have a monthly dinner that is ethnic in origin and along with the dinner have people dress in traditional regalia and bring their traditions. Maybe center it around a saint’s day that is particular to a culture.”

An Envisioning Team member who serves on the Pine Ridge Reservation, *Veronica Valandra*, said learning about other cultures works best when it goes two ways.

“As I reflect on ‘actions of mercy’ I think of the service groups that come to the reservation each summer to share their gifts by assisting the parishes with their vacation Bible camps. They in turn learn from us our cultural ways of worship and life. Taking communion to home bound, Wake Teams leading wake services and comforting the mourners, and the group planning the diocesan pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy here in October are all ‘actions of mercy.’” At the pilgrimage event, we will share with all people who attend an inculterated faith, incorporating the Lakota ways of prayer. Mercy is the Sacred Heart of Jesus, where we can share in God’s love through an encounter with Jesus Christ and live a good way of life as a Lakota Catholic.”

Two of the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy include feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, has three groups that serve a meal at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission the second Sunday of each month. Each group serves quarterly.

*Paula Clark*, a Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioner, is a member of a 2006 Renew group that has remained active.

“Our Renew group is one of three, that still meet, pray, study, etc., for Advent and Lent of each year. One of the other of these groups is headed by Teresa Treinen and she invited our Renew group to join theirs in providing a meal at the mission. We started serving mission meals as a combined Renew effort in June 2007.”

According to Clark, the group is funded by the Cathedral for most of the meal and the groceries are purchased.

“I can only speak for myself in that I usually leave the mission uplifted and realize how great it is that we are blessed and have enough. I love to serve rather than cook because I like the direct interaction with those we serve. Most of those receiving the meal are very grateful, complimentary, and they vocalize that.”

*(Contributing to this article were Laurie Hallstrom and Becky Berreth)*

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**The Corporal Works of Mercy**

Gloved and ready to serve, these women are one of three groups from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, who serve the second Sunday of the month evening meal at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission. (L-R) Loretta Jackson, Beth Stump, Lori Bogue, Robin Bommersbach, and Paula Clark. *(Courtesy photo)*

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**Hope For New Life jail ministry volunteers bring their faith to men and women inmates at the Pennington County Jail, Rapid City. The group started in 2005.**

*Bill Gradoville*, a group leader, said they get positive feedback from the inmates and he has been told it is the best attended volunteer activity in the jail.

“I do it because it is a corporal work of mercy. We (volunteers) get as much out of it as the inmates do. Sharing your faith makes it stronger. Also, it has given me a new outlook on those who are incarcerated — I have more compassion,” he said.

Currently, there are two separate sessions for men held on Wednesdays, and one for women is held the same evening.

“We explain that no matter what they have done, God will forgive them,” he said.

The jail requires a background check and an orientation session on jail policies before anyone can minister. In addition, the jail ministry has prayer partners — volunteers who pray for the intentions of the inmates. Jail ministers work in teams and usually serve two Wednesdays in a row. There is a team meeting at Catholic Social Services on the third Monday of each month.

*Father Ed Witt, SJ*, of St. Isaac Jogues Church works with the team. According to Gradoville, the group is working with him and other ordained clergy to establish regular Mass and Communion Services.

The group gives away Bibles, rosaries, prayer books and prayer cards. At Christmas they give away 500 to 600 bags of candy to inmates and guards.

To learn more about this ministry call the following Rapid City or Piedmont parish representatives:

**Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

*Bill Gradoville*, 341-2721

**Blessed Sacrament Church**

*Tony Galles*, 348-2301

**St. Therese Church**

*Jill Leberknight*, 431-1926

**Our Lady of the Black Hills Church**

*Brad Blauvelt*, 343-6906 or 390-0683.
Parish Guild Leadership Teams
(Reprinted from the Terra Sancta Guild Newsletter, August 2016)

“Terra Sancta is a holy place for holy people, God’s people. I am very grateful for the support of the Terra Sancta Guild. The guild is much more than financial support for the diocese. The guild is a group of people who walk by faith and step forward in faith to bring our diocese to a new Catholic way of life. We have done so much together so far and there is so much more we can do together!” said Bishop Robert D. Gruss

This quote can be seen as a great description of our guild today. We are doing much more together as we start the next chapter of the Terra Sancta Guild and its Annual Giving Society. The guild membership has grown to more than 750 people. We need to reach out and touch all guild members to keep them informed and involved.

In order to accomplish this, the guild has enlisted the help of over seventy parish leaders who have volunteered to make it happen. More than forty of those leaders gathered at Terra Sancta in early May to learn more about working with existing guild members while finding new guild members in their respective parishes.

You may have already heard from Parish Guild Leadership Team members who have started to reach out and make contacts around the diocese. Please take the time to learn more from them and our new annual membership contribution levels, membership card benefits, deanery socials, the annual guild dinner coming on September 17 and more.

Bonnie Beer
Bart & Marlene Biegler
George Biggs
Lucie Bradley
Jerry & Dodie Brown
Roy & Marilyn Brumbaugh
Harold & Patricia Carda
Chad & Allison Carpenter
Ken & Pat Cerny
Deacon Andrew & Patty Clark
+Charley & Patty Cresaia
Bruce & Mary DeMarcus
+ Don & Miriam Dunnire
Edna Durkin
Donald & Suzanne Feist
Audrey Feterl
Karl & Eileen Fischer
Kathleen Flakus
Deacon Lloyd & Marianne Frein
Ernesto & Nancy Garcia
David & Jeanine Gerlach
Scott & Mary Gibson
+ Ray & Linda Gimborys
Leo & Iva Grubl
Pat & Mary Lou Guptill
Steve & Judy Hasenohr
Tim & Marilyn Henderson
Joe & Bonnie Hilt
Don Holliday
Edwin & +Jan Hubbeling, Sr.
Jim & Stephanie Jacquot
Timothy Johns
Rev. Dan Juelfs
Kenneth & Sharon Karp
+Richard & Jeanne Kirsch
Kem & Mary Kjerstad
Wayne & Kelly Klein
Deacon Larry & Elke Kopriva
Marge Kovarik
Kip & Donna Larson
Tom & Kathy Letner
Chuck & Barbara Lien
Helen Lindquist
Corey & LuAnn Lindskov
Kevin & Denise Maher
Steve & Susan Massopust
Michael & Sandra McNeely
James & Dorothy Miller
Thomas & Cynthia Monnin
Rev. Mike Mulloy
Rollie & Peg Noem
Patricia Peil
Shawn & Rachel Pelayic
Wade & Karen Pogany
Dan & Betsy Pravecek
Rev. Kerry Prendiville
Joseph & Carol Rickert
Deacon James & Barbara Scherr
Robert & Sandy Spencer
Pat Storms
Don & Joyce Stukel
Raymond & Jean Tehle
Frances Terkildsen
Russ & Chris Tiensvold
John & Bernadette Usera
Rev. Ed Vanorny
Larry & Carol Vavruska
John & Betty Wagner
Richard & Frances Waits
Virg & Myra Warnke
Robert & Pamela Weaver
Ed & Joann Wegner
Larry & LaVonne Weich
Jon & Gail Wingert
Betty Zacher

Dan & Sue Adams
James & Margaret Allison
Rod & Megan Anderson
Loyson & Lori Carda
Ron & Paula Clark
Deacon Calvin & Joan Clifford
Tom & Lorinda Collings
James & Sondra Courtney
Douglas & Darla Crowl
Forrest & Karen Darby
Duane & Jean Day
Kenneth & Kathleen Dewell
Whitney & Laurie Driscoll
Tom & Cathy Durkin
Rev. Peter Etzel, SJ
Elizabeth Fallgren
Dwain & Elinor Finkenbiner
Colleen Flynn
Deacon George Gladfelter
Bill & +Patty Gradoville
Cathy Grant-Andersen
Bill & Jean Grode
Leo & +Mary Hagenson
Tom Haney
Brett & Shawna Hanson
Rosemary Harvey
Rev. John Hatcher, SJ
Jeff & Stephanie Hurd
Alex & Lynda Imberi
George & Loretta Jackson
Ken & Sue Jimmerson
Ron & Sue Johnson
Morris & Barbara Jones
Rev. Arnold Kari
Anthony Kathol
Alan & Sally Kent
Steven & Jan Kirsch

Alverna Kopsky
Joe & Lois Laber
Steven & Mary Lofswold
Rev. Dave Matzko, SJ
Blaine & Carol McCance
Rev. Mark McCormick
Dean & Sandi McNenny
Mary Miller
John O’Grady
Vivian Oniveros
Eric Putnam
Richard & Susan Raposa
Howard & Mary Rice
Elmo & Margie Rosario
Thorval & Mary Sautter
Mike & Ester Schmidt
Bob & Barbara Schwarz
Warren & Donna Sealey
Will & Linda Severs
Eddie & Jennifer Shama
Todd & Janette Shippy
Donal & Catherine Sieger
Matt & Lynn Simmons
Curt & Margaret Simonon
Mike & Michele Solano
Brian & Teresa Spiess
Rosalie Stangle
Doug & Sandy Stukel
Kurt & Kellie Stukel
Lane & Clare Ten Eyck
Joseph & Laurel Tippmann
Gerald Tomac
John & Vicki Vetsch
Mark & Shelby Vickers
Kenneth & Donna Wetz
Rev. Ed Witt, SJ

+ Denotes deceased member
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<td>Pete Lien &amp; Sons</td>
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<td>Wayne &amp; Pat Roe</td>
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<td>Rev. Jerry Scherer</td>
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<td>Rev. Andrzej Wyrostek</td>
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<td>Rev. William Zandri</td>
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| John Finn |
| William Fischer |
| +Adeline Gassen |
| Richard & Nancy Gowen |
| Joe & Bonnie Hilt |
| Jim & Katerlyne Klinefelter |
| +Arthur & Eleanor Kroetch |
| +Roman & Wilma Kuryslas |
| +Don & Judy Lien |
| Tom & Cindy Lillibridge |

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<td>+John (Jack) &amp; +Ruth Cannon</td>
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<td>+John &amp; Helen Colgan</td>
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<td>Rev. D. Craig Cower</td>
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<td>Dakota Charitable Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen &amp; Lynn Eckrich</td>
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<tr>
<td>David &amp; Deana Emery</td>
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| Michael & Kimberly Albertson |
| +Raymond Berens |
| Most Rev. Blase Cupich |
| Monte & Luann Dirks |
| Eric & Dianne Eastmo |
| John & Tonya Gomez |
| Brian Hagg; Rex & Cindy Hagg; and Kent & Karin Hagg |
| Roger Johnsen |
| Martin & Mary Jorgensen |
| Lyle & Phyllis Kenzy |
| Gregory & +Rose Kopriva |
| Deacon Larry & Elke Kopriva |
| Tom & Kathy Letner |
| Robert & Betty Letner |
| Joe & Edith Lien |
| Dennis & Margaret Lindskov |
| Thomas & Kathryn Loff |
| Most Rev. Robert Lynch |
| The Maguire Family |
| Rev. Mark McCormick |
| Angel & Barbara Munoz |
| Thomas & Carolyn O’Meara |
| Daniel & Jean Peteri |
| +Elizabeth J. Rau |
| Louis & Julie Raymond |
| Elmo & Margie Rosario |
| Bernadette Rose |
| Deacon Greg & Nancy Sass |
| Norbert & Jane Sebade |
| Will & Linda Severns |
| Curt & Margaret Simonson |
| John, Cindy & Aldene Steele |
| Bert & +Army Theissen |
| Robert & Susan Thompson |
| Jeanette Thorstenson |
| Deacon Fred & Maryann Tully |
| Ken & Kathy Van Asma |
| Mick Vickers |
| Romeo & Elena Vivit |
| +John & Sandra Wade |
| Kyle & Suzanne White |
| Don & Jeanne Wieseler |
| Deacon Walt & Judy Wilson |
| Gregory & Nan Wittenberg |
| Thomas & Sharon Zeller |
| Anonymous (8) |

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<tr>
<td>Wendlin Baumgartner</td>
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<td>Dan &amp; Geraldyn Colgan</td>
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<td>Michael &amp; Deborah Fredrich</td>
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<td>Bill &amp; Judy Duhamel</td>
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<td>Most Rev. Robert Gruss</td>
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<td>Steve &amp; Susan Massopust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA</td>
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<td>Jim &amp; Mary Anne Wingert</td>
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<tr>
<td>John &amp; Patti Herlihy</td>
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<td>+Richard &amp; Marge Kovarik</td>
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<td>Stephan Miller &amp; Jennifer May</td>
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<td>John, Cindy &amp; Aldene Steele</td>
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William & Frances Abby
Bryan & Joanne Achbach
Robert & Sheila Achbach, Jr.
Tom & Monica Ackerman
Dan & Sue Adams +
+Marie & Madonna Alley
James & Margaret Allison

William Anderson
William & Lola Anderson
Rod & Megan Anderson
Brett & Glenys Bachand
Leo Bakeberg, Sr.
Richard & Judith Barthel
Bernard & Karen Bear
Larry & Cindy Begley
Mary Berens +
+Robert & + Trudie Besse +
+Robert & Leona Best
Bar & Marlene Biegler
Greg Biegler & Janine Kern

William Bielmaier
Kevin & Jody Bielmaier
George Biggs
Mike & Linda Birgenheir
+Delbert & JoAnn Birkel
Mike & Laura Blote
Leo & Bernice Boland
Linda Stukel Boles
Lucile Bradley
Forrest & Sharon Brady
Douglas & Finene Brand
Dennis & Lynette Braun
Luke & Randi Brickey
David & Doris Brite
Larry & Rochelle Bride
Jerry & Dodie Brown
JoAnn Brown
Linda Brown
Roy & Marilyn Brumbaugh
Earl Brunson
Steve & Sandy Buchholz
Gwendolyn Buckmaster
Ryan & Jenny Bush
Eileen Caldwell
Angela Calvetti
Harriette Carbajal
Eugene & Lois Cardoza
Loysor & Lori Cardoza +
+James & Dorothy Carmichael
Gary Chase
Ron & Paula Clark
Gloria Claussen
Deacon, Calvin & Joan Clifford
Grant & May Coffin
Tom & Lorinda Collings
Mary Collins
Mary Jean Conklin
Kevin & Carol Conway
Ana Costas
Leo & Pam Coughlin +
+Mary Coughlin
Sandra Courtney

Deacon Pat & Fran Coy
Charley & Patty Cressalia
Douglas & Darla Crown
Duane & Jean Day
Dorothy DeBell
Denny & Donna Deffenbaugh
Tom & Chris Deis
Dennis & Shirley DeMers
Kathryn Dennis
Brad & Carrie Derschan
Kenneth & Kathleen Dewell
Rick & Rita Doerr
Earl & Mary Drey
Whitney & Laurie Driscoll
Ronald & Jean Drummond
Margaret Duerfeldt
Tom & Cathy Durkin
Edna Durkin
Wayne & Kari Ebbes
Vern & Myrtle Eich
+Paul & Phyllis Eienberger
JoAnn Emerson
Dean & Amy Engel
+Joseph & Ida Engelhardt
Daniel & Sherri Engesser
Elizabeth Fälten
+Bernard & Audrey Feterl
Fred & Delores Fisher
Kathleen Flakus
Colleen Flynn
Most Rev. Harry Flynn
Gerald & Marie Foltz
Robert & Elizabeth Fredrickson
Deacon Lloyd & Marianne Frein
Dennis & Gwen Fritz
Edward & Mary Furois
Barry Furze
Rev. Marcin Garbacz
Jim & JoAnne Gervasi
Albert Gils
Linda & + Ray Gimboray
Joseph & Kathryn Gitings
Michael & Marnie Gould
Richard & Mary Grady
Chris & Teresa Grant
Cathy Grant-Anderson
Rodney & Teresa Gray
Rodney & Joan Grim
Barry & Marilyn Grossenborn
Leo & Iva Grubl
Liz Grubl
Shannon & Gutsmeter
Ron & Pat Guy
John & Linda Haefer
John & Mary Hanan
Tom Haney
James & Kathy Hanley
Brett & Shawna Hanson
William & Gale Harrington
Rosemary Harvey
Steve & Judy Hasenohrl
Rev. John Hatcher, SJ
Mark & Nancy Haugen
Marlin & Marilyn Haukaas
Roger & Elaine Haydock
Steve, Marla & Margery Hayes
Myron & Serena Heig
+Dell & Mary Hellekson
Thelma Heltzel
Tim & Marilyn Henderson
Patrick & Tammy Hersch
+Melvin & Linda Hiermeier
Tom & Jamie Hilt
Kevin & Kris Hittle
Rev. Timothy Hoag
Jesse Hoffmann
Mike & Jane Holoten
Dave & Denise Hollenbeck
Gary & Roxanne Holzer
+John & Marie Honerkamp
Ellen Horan
Eddie & Sandra Huddleston
Bill & Linda Hughes
Terry & Susan Hurd
Jeff & Stephanie Hurd
Alex & Lynda Imbrie
Carol Imhoff
Daryl & R. Sally Isburg
George & Loretta Jackson
Sheri Jackson
Mary Janklow
Mike & Karla Janssen
Ken & Sue Jimmerson
Myron & Carol Johnson
Christopher & Kasandra Jolley
Morris & Barbara Jones
Dora Ann Jones
Bernice Kari
Kenneth & Sharon Karp
Anthony Kathol
Tom Kauer
Robert & Carmen Kavaughan
Joanne Keck
Jon & Ann Kellar
Cecilia Keller
Alan & Sally Kelts
Carol King
Cathy King
Vince & Valerie King
+Richard & Jeanne Kirsch
Steven & Jan Kirsch
Kem & Mary Kjerstad
Bacon Ray & Joan Klein
Rosemary Knecht
Anthony & Mary Ann Koening
Francis (Butch) Kolb
Rev. Janusz Korban
Ronald & Joyce Koth
Kathy Kovall
David & Patricia Kramer
James & + Elizabeth Kramer
Bruce & Linda Kroetch
Jerry & Karen Kroetch
Ralph & Carol Kroetch
John & Sue Kuhl
Justin & Veronica Kusser
Michael & Kristen Langerman
Gary & Sandy Langfeldt
Susan Larson
Dave & Mary Larson
Francis & Shirley Lauer
Craig & Jackie Layh
Sherry Layh
Colleen Lecy
Robert Lecy
Edward & Barbara Lee
Albert & Alvina Lennerville
Evelyn Lenton
Joe & Kathleen Leutenegger
+Duane & Helen Lindquist
Steven & Mary Lofswold
Rev. John Lule
Leon & Mary Lunders
Joseph & Marcia Mack
Don & Martha Mack
Kelly & Teresa Madsen
Bruce & Ethel Maher
Harvey & +Loretta Maion
Doug & Lea Mathis
Marion & Darlene Matt
Jim & LuAnn Mattern
Sandra Mattern
John & Jean Mattson
Rev. David Matzko, SJ
Gary & Donna Mayer
Blaine & Carol McCane
Brad & Tanya McCaskell
Richard & Patricia McDowell
Darald & Joann McElroy
Richard & Smita McGillic
Dean & Sandi McNenny
+John & Margaret McPherson McPhillips
Max & Lisa Merchen
Lauren Merveden
Jeffrey & Susan Meyer
Larry & Julie Meyer
John Miller
Pat & Rhonda Millman
Kenneth & Priscilla Moon
John & Jackie Moore
Tim & Patty Moran
Steven & Julie Mousell
Agnes Mousseau
Karl & Sokai Mueller
Don & Janet Murray
Terry & Judy Nultz
Wayne & Tracey Nelson
Robert & Glenda Nixon
Joseph & Diane Norman
Thomas & Marilyn Novotny
William & Sandra O’Connor
Eric & Doris O’Connor
John O’Grady
Scott & Donita O’Meara
Jim & Martha O’Neill
Patrick & Karen
Odenbach
Monte & Colleen Oliver
Steve & Reanne Opp
Michael & JoAnn Oster
David & Ronda Oster
Lanny & Camille Outlaw
David & Kristen Page
Deacon Greg & Denise Palmer
John & Laurie Palmer
Steve & Roberta Paradis
Shawn & Rachel Pelayci
+Norpa Pendo
Rev. Richard &
+Mary Lou Pennati
Ron & Donna Pfeiffer
Donald & Mary Policky
+Mary Lou Polonic
Bill & Judy Porch
PT-OT Professionals,
Karl Kirsch &
Kathleen Boyle
Jan & Margaret
Puszynski
Dan & Janice Quinn
Richard & Susan Raposa
Ted & Judy Rapp
Deacon, Chuck &
Theresa Rausch
+Hermin & Jane Rausch
JoAnn Ray
Oliver & Angie Redden
Ingrid Reinke
Christina Cote & Gable Rhodes
Howard & Mary Rice
Joseph & Carol Rickert
Paul & Debra Roberts
Dagoberto & Claudia Rodriguez
Rudy & Susan Roth
Frank Rubin
Randy & Teresa Ruby
Jack & Gayle Rush
Claude & Bennie Saldanha
Bart & Nicole Samuelson
Claude & Bennie Sanderson
Mary Kay Sandal
Walter & Ramona Saubers
Robert & Barbara Schepf
Deacon James
+William & Sandra Scherr
Eric & Jenny Scherr

Kathy Schlosser
Mike & Ester Schmidt
Elmer & Sharon Schortzmann
James & Joan Schulze
Bob & Barbara Schwarz
Frank & Judy Schweitzer
Paul & Susan Sledacek
Jacqueline Sell
Jean Seizler
Marie Seniuk
Joel & Cathy Severin
Stephen & Helen Sewell
+Don & +Dona Vetsch
Todd & Janette Shippy
Andre Silva
Dean & Norma Sime
Scott & Cathie Sime
Elmer & Sharon Simmons
Matt & Lynn Simmons
Raymond & Donna Smith
Frank Smyle
Mike & Michele Solano
Robert & Sandy Spencer
William & Bonnie Spratte
+LeO & Rosalie Stangle
Mike & Mary Statz
Dawyn & Bette Stebbins
Mary & Roxanne
Stephens
Garrett & Anne Stevens
Richard & Frances Stracquarsli
Joe & Sarah Strain
Doug & Sandy Stukel
Kurt & Kellie Stukel
Gerald & Alice Sullivan
John & +Annette Swaby
Raymond & Jean Tehele
Frances Tilkdslien
Marianne Thompson
Donald & Regena Thrall
Carmen Ann Timmerman
Joseph & Laurel Tippmann
Nick & Danielle Tippmann
Virginia Tolstedt
Gerald Tomac
Francis & Kathy Toscaana
Jerry & Theresa Treinen
Jamin & Tami Tremmel
Randy & Linda Turkab
Leo & Norberta
Betty VanderMay
Bill & Jo Walsh
Virg & Myra Warnke
Tim & Brenda Warnke
Lisa Wattenhofer
Ed & JoAnn Wegner
Larry & LaVonne Weich
Tavis & Cindy
Weidenbach
Mike & Judy Weissgram
Kenneth & Rebecca Wentz
Timothy & Paula
Wetling
Doug & Sue Wernke
Peg Westrich
Kenneth & Donna
Wetz
+James Whalen
William & Beverly
Whitney
Hank & Joyce Whitney
Leon & Carolyn Wikie
Steven & Linda Williams
Wade & Carrie Wilson
Jon & Gail Wingert
Rev. George
Winzenburg, SJ
Rev. Ed Witt, SJ
Joe & Bobbi Wotte
Kevin Wolfe
Mary Woytasak
Jerome & Patricia Wright
Paul & Kathy Young
Don & Mindy Zander
Anonymous (40)

Regular members
Andrew & Keva Aberle
Joe & Jeanine Abele
Rev. Brian Christensen
+Jerome & + Pius Dorsch
Randy & + Becky Fitchner
Knights of Columbus,
Belle Fourche
Joe & Lois Lamer
Sarah Lantis
John & Jackie Moore
+Phil & Winnifred
Shama
Anna Shannon
Talking to kids about porn and human sexuality

A growing concern today involves the role of pornography as the next generation’s instructor in human sexuality. For many young people, pornography has become the only guide to sexuality they have ever known. For Catholic parents, this raises the critical challenge of how best to approach these matters with their children, given that kids as young as 8 or 9 may already be acquiring information and viewpoints about human sexual behaviors from internet pornography. I would like to present six practical suggestions for parents, culled from parental testimonies and insights, from other experts in the field, and from ex-users of pornography.

First, steer away from “The Talk” towards a more integrated approach. Having “The Talk” relies on the misguided notion that parents have educational content or factual knowledge that they are duty-bound to try to deposit into their children’s brains. This approach is not only awkward and paternalistic, but can convey a sense that sexual education is a one-time, get-it-over-with ordeal. Kids require ongoing guidance and support from their parents — an expressed willingness to enter into these important discussions that stress the beauty of sexuality in marriage and what it is really for, rather than just telling them what not to do or scaring them away from sexually transmitted diseases.

Second, be attentive to opportune moments to share wisdom and stories. Because we live in a highly pornified culture, opportunities for parents to share and discuss important value assessments regarding human sexuality with their children arise often. Driving by a billboard with a risqué picture or seeing something on TV might, for example, serve as an opportunity to note how it’s against the love of women to use them as sex objects. Passing through a part of town where prostitutes are plying their trade might spark a discussion about how many women involved in prostitution are victims of human trafficking and the vast majority wish they could break free of it, etc.

Third, avoid internet access in the bedroom. Sometimes parents will say, “The kids have access at school and everywhere else, so I let them have unrestricted access at home — they’ve got to learn how to handle it anyway.” But the home setting needs to differ from the outside world, serving as an oasis and a protected environment for children. If someone offered to install a pipe into your child’s bedroom that could be turned on to pump in raw sewage, you would not agree to it. Yet many parents fail to restrict what is entering their children’s bedrooms through the internet and TV.

Fourth, be wary of internet access on cell phones. “Due diligence” with cell phones for children might mean looking for handsets that function strictly as phones without internet access, or maybe the kids should be given a phone only at those times when they are dropped off at events like piano practice, soccer, etc. As children grow older and show signs of maturing, restrictions and limitations can be scaled back.

Fifth, monitor internet usage. Check browser history, and make use of monitoring software, even though a particular child may be an angel. Keep the family computer in a shared space like the living room with the screen visible so family members can be aware of each other’s online activities. Laptops and tablets can pose an inadvertent temptation in this respect as teens sit cuddled up on the couch with screens not visible to others. In family life, we are called to serve as our brother’s keeper. Set limits on “screen time” for children, and maintain password/access control over devices. Have the neighbor’s kids deposit their electronic devices on the kitchen table during visits to diminish the temptation to slip away to a private part of the house and surf the net, perhaps with younger siblings in tow. Such practices may also serve to indirectly evangelize other families in the neighborhood regarding the serious threats from internet porn.

Sixth, set appropriate rules regarding relationships, and be involved in the kids’ dating practices. Too often parents are tempted to take a “hands-off” approach to this area of their children’s lives. When I was growing up, we knew and the vast majority wish they could break free of it, etc. And parents determine that dating should begin, it offers further opportunities and occasions to discuss problems and scenarios that can help teens set moral boundaries.

Talking to kids and helping them to become good stewards of the gift of human sexuality bestowed by God is hard work. In a culture that forcefully communicates a pornified countergospel, though, it is certainly one of the most important and enduring gifts a parent can seek to provide for the happiness and well-being of their children.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.
Anne Lyon joins Sisters of Saint Francis’ Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission

Anne Lyon, a Social Justice Commission member from Martin, has been accepted by the Sisters of Saint Francis’ Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission for a one-year commission term. She has been a “companion” with the sisters for more than 15 years, supporting them by prayer and by assisting when possible in their ministries, attending their summer retreats, studying scripture, and bringing the charisms of St. Francis to her own life and to her ministries in her parish and diocese.

Lyon said that the sister’s Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission is very similar to our diocesan Social Justice Commission. This particular religious community has ministries ranging from nursing to teaching to pastoral ministry in Colorado, New Mexico and Nebraska. Lyon will share perspectives and project information with each group to help each learn from the other. The full scope of her long-distance role with the sister’s commission will become clearer over the next year.

At one time Lyon considered joining the sisters’ religious community; twenty years later and married, she discovered their “companion” program. She now feels “I have the best of both worlds in a sense ... a connection to a religious community as well as marriage.” More information about the sisters’ commission is available at jpic.stfrancis.org and about the companions program at companions.stfrancis.org.

Outreach and ecology inspire new members to join Social Justice Commission

A career in social work led Cindy Weidenbach to be interested in serving on the Social Justice Commission. She previously worked with people with mental illnesses, those struggling with poverty, substance abuse, and homelessness, and she knows their challenges and needs. A convert to Catholicism with involvement in various church ministries, she sought more information from Amy Julian, Family Life Ministries director and SJC liaison, about the SJC. “I knew this was something that I wanted to be a part of,” Weidenbach said. “The SJC is doing many positive things for the people of the diocese. The commission mission promotes Catholic social teaching through education, outreach, and advocacy.”

Patrick Powers, from St. Isaac Jogues parish in Rapid City, brings multifaceted experiences to the SJC. His background includes training in philosophy, theology and psychology, and a master’s degree in Culture and Spirituality. He has worked as a mental health therapist on the Rosebud Reservation and with Youth and Family Services in Rapid City. Powers is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Oyate and a laicized former Nebraska priest. “I am serving on the diocesan Social Justice Commission because of my belief in the value of the virtue, justice or ‘right relations.’ I am inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si and its appeal to establish right relations with Mother Earth and the environment,” Powers said.

(SCJ stories submitted by Sue Jimmerson)

Natural methods offer hope for overcoming infertility

By Amy Julian
Director of Family Life Ministries

Last month we visited about the surprising efficacy of Natural Family Planning as a method of spacing the conception of children. Teaching women to be aware of their natural cycles can do more than avoid pregnancy, it can actually help to achieve pregnancy, even in cases of infertility.

In a study conducted over four years, Mercedes Wilson, a fertility expert and founder of Family of the Americas, 50 out of 54 couples, whose infertility ranged from 1-12 years, were able to conceive using an ovulation method which was completely natural.1 “By contrast, In Vitro Fertilization, ... has a success rate of anywhere from 20 to 40 percent. Also, IVF typically costs upwards of $15,000 per cycle.”2

After a diagnosis of endometriosis, surgery and continued declining health, “Melissa” was advised that IVF was her best, if not only, chance to conceive a child. Knowing the moral objections to IVF, she turned to the Creighton Model and NaPro Technology. Armed with only a few weeks of charting, her doctor was able to adjust her diet, hormone supplements, and recommend a correction of her prior surgery. Two months after the second surgery, she and her husband became pregnant with their first child.3

“NFP is not a contraceptive, it does nothing to suppress or block conception.” Instead, couples adjust their behavior according to their family planning intention (that is, whether they hope to achieve or avoid pregnancy) using the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of a woman’s menstrual cycle.4

2 Ibid.
Tremendous line-up of speakers at Right to Life State Convention

Local and national speakers will headline the South Dakota Right to Life 2016 State Convention. It will be held Saturday, September 17, at Blessed Sacrament Church, 4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

National Life Runners, coach and founder, Dr. Patrick Castle will speak on “Encouraging Life in Vulnerable Times.”

Eric and Jenny Scherr, a Piedmont couple who gave birth to a baby following an adverse diagnosis, will speak on “Chosen, A Parent’s Perspective” highlighting the challenges and blessings that they encountered in their daughter Blakely’s short life.”

Yvonne Florczak-Seeman, who appeared in the film “40” and is president of Love from Above, Inc., will speak on “A Time to Heal.”

Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., is a monthly columnist in the West River Catholic. He may be familiar to area residents from his June 2014 appearance in the diocese when he spoke on end of life issues. He earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. He will speak on “Physician Assisted Suicide, Euthanasia, Pain Management and Hospice and Ethical decision Making in Sickness, Compromised States and End of Life Situations.”

There will be a youth panel, which will address the “Next Pro-Life Generation,” and a premiere showing of “A Voice From the Womb.”

Advance registration is $25, after September 1 registration is $30 or at the door, $40. Go to website www.rcrighttolife.org, email rcrtl@rcrighttolife.org or call Diane Ange at 605-721-3065.

Catholic Medical Guild

The diocese will host an evening for Catholic medical professionals, including doctors, nurses and technicians, to explore the possibility of forming a Catholic Medical Association Guild in Rapid City. Representatives from the CMA will be on hand to share their experiences as members of the CMA, with a keynote address from Fr. Pacholczyk. For more information contact Amy Julian, director of Family Life Ministries, 605-716-5214 x236 or AJulian@diocese.org.
Stop being reluctant to cross the road and get your hands dirty

BY DEACON MARLON LENEAUGH
DIRECTOR OF NATIVE MINISTRIES

Who is my neighbor? This question is asked by a man who is trying to justify himself to Jesus in Luke’s Gospel in the story of the Good Samaritan. The story tells of a foreigner who went well out of his way to help an injured person left lying by the roadside while fellow countrymen passed him by on the opposite side. The story concludes when Jesus asks the man, who was neighbor to the injured man? The man answers, “The one who showed him mercy.”

We become neighbors when we are willing to cross the road for one another.

There is much that divides our society and some have a tendency to dwell on differences or divisions rather than find similarities. Some promote and encourage divisions and persuade others to choose sides on contentious issues. In the past weeks we have observed some terrifying tragedies in our society. We witnessed people killing each other for revenge, retaliation and mistrust. We observed citizens killing police in assassination type killings and police killing citizens out of fear.

Fear and distrust creates animosity and divisiveness between us and we are unable to look into each other’s eyes without forming misconceptions and negative opinions about one another. We give others names, make jokes about them, cover them with our prejudices and avoid direct contact. We think of others as being enemies and we become fearful of one another. Fear paralyzes us and we become incapable of seeing beyond our insecurities. The question of who is my neighbor becomes a defensive question as we want someone to point out specifically who it is we are supposed to love or show kindness and mercy to. We hope it is someone like minded or at least someone with similar skin color. We forget that others love as we love, care for their children as we care for ours, or become sick and die as we do. We treat them as objects of our own prejudices and fears and not like brothers and sisters who share a common loving Father.

We’re reluctant to help others because it’s an inconvenience. We have to get our hands dirty or we have to take time from our busy lives to actually stop and lend a helping hand. And besides, if we don’t even know the person why should we be expected to help someone we don’t even know?

So, is it possible to love your neighbor as yourself? This happens only through the workings of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who demonstrates the immense love that the Father has for all of us. It is through the image of the Son stretching out his arms to all humanity that we witness the deep love of God for mankind. Our prayer is allowing the Holy Spirit to change our hearts and open our eyes to see all as brothers and sisters.

There is a lot of road crossing to do. By making the choice to cross the street and observe what is happening, we break down barriers of bigotry and intolerance allowing us the capacity to accept one another as neighbor. Only when we have the courage to cross the street and look in one another’s eyes can we see that we are children of the same God and members of the same family of man.

Vatican Think Tank

A refugee woman hangs her laundry behind a fence at a transit camp in Schisto, Greece. July 28, a the Vatican announced a papal think tank is convening a summit to tackle the threat to global stability posed by today’s refugee crisis. The Vatican summit will study ways to: end the war in Syria; establish humanitarian corridors worldwide, not just in Europe; not punish Great Britain for its disenchantment with current European Union mandates; help the “disaffected working class” through increased social spending; offer amnesty to victims of human trafficking; and foster development in low-income countries.

(CNS photo/Yannis Kolesidis, EPA)
### Adopt-A-Seminarian Collections

**Fiscal Year 2015/2016**

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**Total** $142,500.00 ................. $153,787.62

Thank you to all who contributed to the Adopt-A-Seminarian Fund.

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### Diocesan Seminarian Burses

(as of 6/30/16)

Only income from these donations is used to support diocesan seminarian education.

- **Ambur, Irene** ........................................... 3,907.17
- **Baskerville, Doreen** ..................................... 1,420.00
- **Bell, John M.** ........................................... 1,000.00
- **Berning, Fr. Francis** ..................................... 3,105.00
- **Bertrand, Howard** ........................................ 1,200.00
- **Bishop’s Burse** ........................................... 2,249.72
- **Blessed Virgin Mary** ...................................... 1,517.00
- **Bollinger, Gerald & Mary Jean-Lead** .................. 38,336.19
- **Bourassa, Margaret** ....................................... 150.00
- **Budmayr, Minnie** ......................................... 1,797.00
- **Cahoy, Emil** ............................................... 500.00
- **Callahan, Mabel** .......................................... 19,750.00
- **Carr, Harry** ............................................. 915.25
- **Caswell, Margaret** ........................................ 30,000.00
- **Costigan, Msgr. Michael** ................................ 31,836.67
- **Cower, Fr. D. Craig** ...................................... 6,625.00
- **Cower, Robert H. & Blanche A.** ....................... 17,625.00
- **Cower, Rod H.** ........................................... 5,725.00
- **Dauwen, Ray** ............................................. 500.00
- **Davies, Dorothy** .......................................... 5,000.00
- **Decker, Maude Cower** .................................... 4,000.00
- **Deisch, Fr. Raymond** ..................................... 6,155.00
- **DeMers, Ray** ............................................. 300.00
- **Dimmerling, Bishop Harold** ............................ 43,836.14
- **Diskin, Fr. William** ...................................... 4,316.28
- **Donahoe, Fr. James** ...................................... 700.00
- **Dosch, Pius and Jerome** ................................ 40,000.00
- **Doyle, Msgr. Arthur** .................................... 5,375.00
- **Drew, Msgr. Bernard** ..................................... 4,488.00
- **Dries, Theodore & Gretchen** ......................... 12,369.56
- **Dube, Msgr. Robert** ...................................... 400.00
- **Erhardt Family** .......................................... 335,496.56
- **Falzone, Maurice** ........................................ 10,000.00
- **Fencel, Fr. Leonard SJ.** ............................... 500.00
- **Feuerbach, Msgr. Leo** ................................... 80,289.53
- **Garry, Russel** ........................................... 950.00
- **Gorman, Fr. Thomas** ..................................... 1,534.00
- **Gravel, Ed** ............................................... 1,650.00
- **Groell, Fr. John** ......................................... 1,000.00
- **Healy, Msgr. Thomas** .................................... 1,558.00
- **Igoe, Fr. Patrick** ......................................... 3,485.00
- **Jones, Netta** ............................................. 1,200.00
- **Krebs, Ernest & Frank** .................................. 30,000.00
- **Krebs, Lewis & Abbie** ................................... 52,076.06

**Total** $142,500.00 ......................... $153,787.62

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### PRAA Memorial Burses

Only income from these donations is used to support retired priests.

- **Anna Berens** .............................................. 12,000.00
- **Margaret Biggs** .......................................... 1,000.00
- **Fr. D. Craig Cower** ....................................... 8,550.00
- **Anonymous** ............................................... 633.26
- **Doch, Jerome and Pius** .................................. 1,000.00
- **Fr. Christopher Scadron** ............................... 380.00
- **Emma Smith** .............................................. 1,000.00
- **Hazel Smith** ............................................... 1,000.00
- **Valades Family** ............................................ 9,000.00
- **Frank & Margaret Woster** ................................ 2,531.00

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**PRAA Board Chair Fr. Kerry Prendiville**

For information on donating to PRAA Memorial Burse, contact

Finance Manager Suzanne Lambert, 343-3541.
Settlers and homesteaders came to the area along Elk Creek east of what is now Piedmont in the 1880s. A traveling priest would say Mass in a local home where Catholic neighbors would congregate.

The first written record of Catholic services being held in Piedmont is documented in the November 25, 1904, Rapid City Daily Journal, “Catholic services were held at the school house in the French District Monday. Five boys and girls were confirmed.”

In early 1916 local Catholics were seriously considering building a church. An Elkton farmer had promised $500 towards the building of a chapel in memory of his wife, Mary. The Catholic Church Extension Society contacted Bishop John Lawler knowing the Catholics in Piedmont wanted to build a new church.

At the corner of Park and Second the church was built on donated land. Volunteers helped with the work and, soon, St. Mary Catholic Church became a reality.

In late 1959 the congregation size had increased to the point where a remodel and update of the church and rectory was needed. Volunteers completed the project.

In the 1970s, Piedmont’s population had grown to the extent that there was a need for a social center for the purpose of fellowship gatherings and fund raising events. One suggestion, though met with opposition, was to build onto the existing rectory and church — it was considered a short-term solution. Another option was to build a new church a few miles south of town. Richard and Heloisa Burns had donated a large parcel of land, in memory of Richard’s mother. A building committee began plans to work on a more desirable new facility. Meetings were held with Bishop Harold Dimmerling to discuss design, budget, finance, and planning, and in April 1979, the bishop gave the approval for construction.

On April 22, 1979, groundbreaking commenced and excavation began the following morning. The budget was $160,000, and again, volunteers completed much of the work.

When the old church property was sold in August 1979, parishioners had to bring their own chairs to Mass on Sundays at the new facility. The first Mass in the new church was celebrated September 16 and the priest was able to move into the rectory on October 10.

Most decisions — colors, carpet, and finish — were voted on by the parishioners, including the name of the new church, Our Lady of the Black Hills. Several items were brought to the new church from the old, namely, two small stained glass windows, the church bell, statues, and a small number of pews.

The next ten years would prove to be a time of significant growth. In 1981 the church still had a limited number of pews and the altar and some fixtures were temporary. An altar and sanctuary lamp, were both donated by Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, a Rapid City family gifted an organ, and the Convent of St. Therese donated a tabernacle.

The generosity and dedication of parishioners continued throughout the 1980s, allowing the church to be debt-free by 1985 despite completion of numerous projects and updates. Work on the church included installing ceiling fans, adding classrooms, purchasing pews, and various projects on the outside of the property. Almost all the materials and labor were donated, saving the church from having to borrow money.

The growth of the parish continued as people enjoyed the activities, events, fellowship, and services provided. It was predicted by the end of the decade that a larger church might be necessary, and in 1996 classrooms, office space, and worship space expansion began. Again, the project was completed by the work of volunteers, and the weekend before Christmas, Mass was celebrated in the new church.

In 2005, the interior of the church was updated with a new altar, ambo and baptismal font created from brass and Crazy Horse granite. The Blessed Sacrament chapel was designed in the space that previously was the cry room. A holy family shrine room and confessional were built.

A prayer garden and patio were added in 2010, along with outdoor Stations of the Cross and a grotto for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In 2011 the church grew again with the purchase of the home behind the church. The house became the new rectory and the old rectory was named St. Joseph Hall.

(History adapted from “1916-1990 Our Lady of the Black Hills, Formerly St. Mary’s of Piedmont,” by J.R. Honerkamp; “Our Lady of the Black Hills Leadership Booklet,” by Fr. Steve Biegler; and diocesan archives.)
By Katie Scott

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — In his encyclical “Laudato Si, on Care for Our Common Home,” Pope Francis does not mince words: “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”

But what does living that vocation look like for Catholics and how can the faithful go beyond simply recycling bottles and newspapers at home and turning off lights?

A new guide draws from more than a dozen countries and cultures to offer practical ways to care for creation and respond to the pope’s call to action. The “Eco-Parish Guide: Bringing ‘Laudato Si’ to Life” is a tool for pastors, staff, pastoral councils and parishioners to combat climate change — what Pope Francis refers to as “one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.”

Divided into three main sections, the guide includes initiatives that can help parishes reduce emissions, suggestions for how they can inspire and engage parishioners about environmental issues, and ways to practice solidarity and advocacy that serve the neediest and build up the common good.

It encourages parishes to form a Care for Creation Team, which spearheads projects with approval from the pastor; provides recommended resources; and contains a climate-action idea checklist. It also has a section on benchmarking — comparing energy performance of a church to buildings of comparable size and location — and certification.

Among the Catholic communities featured in the 45-page guide — available at bit.ly/Eco-ParishGuide — is St. Francis of Assisi Church in Triangle, one of three parishes highlighted in North America.

St. Francis is noted for its certification through New Jersey-based Green-Faith, a national interfaith environmental coalition. The parish and school established nontoxic maintenance and cleaning practices; reduced energy, paper and water use; and became a National Wildlife Federation certified wildlife habitat.

While the certification process was ambitious, “every parish can do something to help the environment,” said Rob Goraieb, a secular Franciscan, who is coordinator of Franciscan Action and Advocacy at St. Francis of Assisi. “It’s about taking incremental steps; you do what you can,” he told the Arlington Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington. Real change will occur he said, not through a “fight for climate change” but by transformations shaped by faith.

The Officers and Directors of Catholic Social Services cordially invite you to attend our

Annual Banquet

2016 FOUNDERS AWARD HONOREE Ray J. Hillenbrand
KEYNOTE SPEAKER The Most Rev. Charles Chaput, OFM Cap, Archbishop of Philadelphia

Ray J. Hillenbrand
President
Dakota Charitable Foundation

The Most Rev. Charles Chaput, OFM Cap
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Susan Meyer
President
Catholic Social Services

The Most Rev. Robert Gruss
Bishop of Rapid City

Jim Kinyon
Executive Director
Catholic Social Services

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 — 6-8 p.m.
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, LaCroix Ballroom

$25 per person — Buffet Dinner
Save $5 per ticket by ordering online at: www.catholicsocialservicesrapidcity.com

Please RSVP by October 3, 2016 • 605-348-6086
BHSU Newman Center 3rd Annual Charity Golf Invitational

Saturday September 10

Spearfish Canyon Golf Club

- Check-in Starts: 11 am
- Shotgun Start: 12:30 pm
- $150/person or $600/team of 4
- Includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart & social.
- Deadline to register is Sept. 6th.

Don’t Miss...

Non-Golfer Social
5:00-6:30 pm
Advance tickets - $20
At the door - $25
(must be purchased by Sept. 6th)
Includes:
Food AND Live Music from
Straight No Chaser
with Msgr. Michael

Non-Golfer Bunco
1:00-5:00 pm
$25 includes Bunco, Appetizers, Beverages & Prizes

All proceeds go to the Newman Center Capital Campaign. These funds will help build a new center that will be more accessible to students and faculty at Black Hills State University.

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For more information, registration or for sponsorships, please email Kristin Thompson at newmandhshs@stjosephspearfish.com.
Register online for the Golf Tournament and the Non-Golfer Social and Bunco at www.stjosephspearfish.com and click on the “Golf” banner.
**Regina Caeli summer activities**

Regina Caeli FNE boys and girls Timberwolf dens (ages 8-12) and Explorers troops (ages 13-16) help stain picnic tables for Terra Sancta Retreat Center, in August. Knights of Columbus Council #1489 helped with the project. Another summer event was a boys campout along the Grand River (Hugh Glass area). The Federation of North American Explorers is a member of the International Union of Guides and Scouts of Europe – a Catholic lay movement imbuing the scouting method with the Catholic faith. Learn more about the group on their website: www.ReginaCaeliFNE.com. (Photo courtesy Jacques Daniel)

**Do not say ‘I am only a youth’**

A “YouCat” nugget courtesy of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

What is meant by a “virtue?”

A virtue is an interior disposition, a positive habit, a passion that has been placed at the service of the good (1803, 1833).

“You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly father is perfect” (Mt. 5:48). That means that we must change on our way to God. By your human abilities we can do that only in fits and starts. With his grace God supports the human virtues and gives us, above and beyond that, the so-called supernatural virtues, which help us to come closer to God and live more securely in his light (293-294).

What is charity?

Charity is the power by which we, who have been loved first by God, can give ourselves to God so as to be united with him and can accept our neighbor for God’s sake unconditionally, and sincerely as we accept ourselves (1822-1829, 1844).

Jesus places love above all laws, without however abolishing the latter. Therefore St. Augustine rightly says, “Love, and do what you will.” Which is not at all as easy as it sounds. That is why charity, love, is the greatest virtue, the energy that inspires all the other virtues and fills them with divine life.

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**Newman Center welcome back activities, Mass times**

**SDSM&T Newman Center**
316 East Kansas City Street, Rapid City
605-716-4130 • www.rcnewmancenter.com
Nancy Haugen, Director • nhaugen@cathedralolph.org

- 7:30 p.m. Sunday Mass NEW TIME!
- Aug. 22, 9 p.m. Monday Night Rosary Walk
- Aug. 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Student Organization Fair,
- 5 p.m. Welcome Back Picnic
- Aug. 31, 8 p.m. Swing Dance

**Black Hills State University Newman Club**
844 N 5th St, Spearfish
605-717-2582 • www.bhsunewman.com
Taylor Linn, Director • taylor@stjosephspearsfish.com

- Aug. 22, 6:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social
- Aug. 23, 8 p.m. Weekly Mass at the Newman Center with snacks to follow.
- Aug. 24, 8 p.m. Night Hike meeting
- Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m. Slip N Slide Kick Ball at the Newman Center.
- Aug. 26, 9:15 p.m. Bonfire & S’mores following Downtown Friday Night

**Chadron State College Newman House**
907 Main Street, Chardon, Neb.
Riley Stack • 308-615-9052

- Sat. 5:30 p.m./Sun. 9:00 a.m Mass
- Aug. 19, Noon-2 p.m. CSC Club Fair.
- Aug 24, 5 p.m. Welcome Back Picnic

**Anticipate the canonization of Mother Teresa**

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708 St. Joseph St.
Rapid City, SD
605-348-5228

Store Hours: Mon-Fri: 9:30am-5pm
Sat: 10am - 4pm.

**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.
Don’t tuck life away, take risks, pope tells young people

KRAKOW, Poland (CNS) — Take risks and do not let life’s obstacles get in the way of encountering the true joy and life that Jesus can give, Pope Francis told more than 1 million young people.

“Don’t be afraid to say ‘yes’ to him with all your heart, to respond generously and to follow him,” the pope told pilgrims at the closing Mass, July 31, for World Youth Day. “Don’t let your soul grow numb, but aim for the goal of a beautiful love which also demands sacrifice.

When it comes to Jesus, we cannot sit around waiting with arms folded; he offers us life. We can’t respond by thinking about it or texting a few words,” he told the young people, thousands of whom had spent the night camping at an area dubbed the Field of Mercy.

The lack of sleep and morning heat seemed to have little impact as the young men and women energetically waved their flags and ran as close as possible to the popemobile to greet Pope Francis.

In his homily, the pope reflected on the Gospel story of Zacchaeus, a reviled tax collector who, due to his short height, climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus.

The obstacles Zacchaeus faced — including his short stature — the pope said, can also “say something to us.”

“Even today we can risk not getting close to Jesus because we don’t feel big enough, because we don’t think ourselves worthy. This is a great temptation; it has to do not only with self-esteem, but with faith itself,” he said.

By not accepting themselves and their limitations, Christians deny their “real stature” as children of God and see themselves as unworthy of God’s love.

At the same time, he said, people will try to convince Christians that there are others who are unworthy of God’s love.

“People will try to block you, to make you think that God is distant, rigid and insensitive, good to the good and bad to the bad,” he told the young people. “Instead, our heavenly Father ‘makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good.’ He demands of us real courage: the courage to be more powerful than evil by loving everyone, even our enemies.”

Another obstacle, the pope continued, is the “paralysis of shame,” one that Zacchaeus overcame by climbing the sycamore tree at “the risk of appearing completely ridiculous.”

Pope Francis encouraged the young men and women to not be ashamed in bringing “everything to the Lord in confession, especially your weaknesses, your struggles and your sins.”

As he did with Zacchaeus, Jesus looks beyond appearances and faults to the heart — something young people are called to imitate, the pope said.

“Establish the most secure connection, that of the heart that sees and transmits goodness without tiring.”

Although the Mass brought the World Youth Day celebrations to an end, Pope Francis invited the youth to continue along the path that began with their pilgrimage to Krakow and bring the remembrance of God’s love to others.

Before concluding the Mass, the pope invited the youths to carry the “spiritual breath of fresh air” back to their countries and communities and “wherever God’s providence leads you.”

The next World Youth Day will take place in 2019 in Panama, Pope Francis told the youths.

Father Mark Horn, Jordan Miller, Fr. Andrzej Wyrosek, Randy Vette, Bridget Decker, Bishop Robert Gruss, Elizabeth Hofer, Bishop James Tamayo (Laredo, TX), Sister Joy of Martyrs, and Marianne Hofer show off their lunch tickets. (Courtesy photo)