Deacons Honored

The 50th Anniversary of the Permanent Diaconate in U.S. was celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, on September 7. Bishop Robert Gruss presided at the Mass. He said, “You are the living and working expression of charity in the church ... though you do serve at the altar, your primary ministry is in the world, sanctifying it by your ministry, actively living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.”

(Back row l-r) Deacons Jim Hayes, Hot Springs; Joe Witte, Hot Springs; Jim Van Loan, Rapid City; Lloyd Frein, Philip; Jim Scherr, Rapid City; Pat Coy, Hill City; Cal Clifford, Martin; and Greg Sass, Rapid City. (Middle row) Deacons Walt Wilson, Piedmont; John Osnes, Black Hawk; Ray Klein, Belle Fourche; Fred Tully, Hill City; Raul Daniel, Rapid City; and Lou Usera, Rapid City. (Front row) Deacons Greg Palmer, Rapid City, George Gladfelter, Rapid City; Bishop Gruss; Deacons Chuck Rausch, Rapid City; Craig Pearson, Hot Springs; Tom Adams, Hot Springs; and Larry Kopriva, Rapid City.

At the same Mass, four men studying for the permanent diaconate were installed as lectors, (l-r) Ralph Dupres, Robert Hrabe, and Rich Olsen, all of Rapid City; and Bill White, Porcupine.

(WRC photos by Laurie Hallstrom)
‘Questions raised deserve answers that are conclusive’

As we seek to address the crisis in the Catholic Church, the pain and confusion of this moment in her history is palpable. I have received many letters, both of support and challenge. I appreciate the lay faithful expressing their feelings and concerns. The pain and suffering goes far and wide. In the midst of this public scandal, many victims of sexual abuse by clergy will have to relive the abhorrent experiences again. As a church, as the body of Christ, it is important to keep them deeply in our prayers.

“When one member of the Body suffers, the whole Body suffers,” (1 Cor 12:26). Most importantly our prayers are needed at this time.

Published reports about these criminal allegations and the lack of appropriate response by some bishops over many decades are deeply disturbing. The betrayal by church leaders runs deep in the hearts of victims and faithful Catholics, and rightfully so. These horrific actions bring deep sadness and shame to all of us who love the church so dearly, in particular the faithful bishops and priests who seek to live their priesthood with faithfulness and integrity. My sincere apologies and prayers go out to all victims and their families — anyone who has been affected by this scandal.

Where must we go from here? Through-out her history the church has faced many challenges, many crises. Each time she has had to look inwardly at her own weaknesses and flaws. This is nothing new, painful as it is. It has been painful each time it has occurred in the church’s history. It is very painful today for us who are living through this time in her history. This may be the greatest crisis the American Catholic Church has had to face throughout her history.

As I wrote in my last statement, because further questions have arisen in the released testimony from the former Papal Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, making serious allegations about the Archbishop McCarrick abuse case, I join my voice with Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Executive Committee in calling for the Holy See to conduct a thorough investigation that includes granting authority to a lay commission to examine the many questions that surround the case of Archbishop McCarrick.

As Cardinal DiNardo said on August 27, “The questions raised deserve answers that are conclusive and based on evidence. Without those answers, innocent men may be tainted by false accusation and the guilty may be left to repeat sins of the past.” A thorough investigation is necessary, one that is credible and done with the utmost transparency. The “truth” must be found. The only way through this is openness and honesty — that lead to effective reforms. Jesus assures us “the truth will set us free.” We shouldn’t fear anything. Truthfulness and transparency will lead to the path of purification and reform.

Perhaps right now, many Catholics may feel compelled to leave the church because of the scandal. Without denying this reality, I urge those who are considering this response to prayerfully reconsider, lest they fall into the desires of the Evil One. A better response is for each of us to renew our commitment to seek holiness in our lives, trusting that Jesus is intimately with us this moment.

Pope Francis, in Gaudete et Exultate, said that “Holiness is the face of the Church.” This “face” is not so pretty at this moment. We must remember that this “holiness” is meant for everyone. We are all called to seek holiness every day and to live a life of faith — courageously and with integrity, as beacons of light and hope, personally, in our families, in our parishes and in our communities. This then, allows the world to see the true face of the church.

As Catholics, we believe that Christ has not and will not abandon his church. He promised to be with us always — and he is living with us through this crisis. He looks out over his beloved Bride, the church, and weeps with us. But we live in faith and hope that Jesus, as we surrender ourselves to him, keeping our gaze upon this “crucified One,” will lead us to a new place where the Gospel can be preached and lived with faithfulness and love, thus bearing new life in the world.

The sanctity of the church rests in Christ himself. I believe that Jesus is very present; he is fighting this spiritual battle with Satan. Perhaps that is why all of this is coming to light. “For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed” (Jn 3:20). Perhaps Jesus has forced these things into the light. Only when things come into the light can he heal them.

The weakness of the church, a human church, can be transformed through Christ — and through prayer and repentance. This is something all of us can do and should do for the sake of our Bride, the church — for her healing. Our fasting and prayer can lead to healing, to purification, and to the necessary reforms.

The church is holy to the extent that her members are holy. The church’s conformity to Christ is complete only to the extent that her members are conformed to Christ. Each of us, as disciples of Jesus, are called to help lead the church through the challenges, through the sinfulness of our culture, to become more fully the church that Jesus Christ established.

In response to this, I invited all priests of the diocese to join me in offering a Mass on September 14, the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, and/or September 15, the Memorial of our Lady of Sorrows, in each of their parishes in reparation for the sins of priests and bishops. During this Mass all victims — children and adults — who have suffered abuse at the hands of priests and bishops were lifted in prayer.

I have also encouraged my priests, and now all of you, to make Fridays for the next year a day of prayer and sacrifice for reparation for all priests and bishops who have so grievously wounded the body of Christ. Some suggestions might be:

- Pray the Mass on Friday for this intention if you are able.
- Pray a rosary or the Rosary of Our Lady of Sorrows.
- Pray the Litany for the Abuse Crisis each Friday for nine Fridays and then repeat.
- Offer a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on Friday.

Please consult your parish bulletins to find out what is being done in your parishes. I also ask Our Lady, Our Mother of Mercy, to pour out her mercy upon our Church and our families, so that all victims may experience the healing love of her Son. We must never forget those who have been harmed by the church. May our prayers and sacrifices bring true healing, conversion and holiness to all.
U.S. bishops tell pope abuse scandal ‘lacerated’ the church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The leaders of the U.S. bishops’ conference said they shared with Pope Francis how the church in the United States has been “lacerated by the evil of sexual abuse.”

“He listened very deeply from the heart,” said a statement released after the meeting Sept. 13.


The USCCB statement described the encounter as “a lengthy, fruitful and good exchange,” but did not enter into details about what was discussed or whether any concrete measures were taken or promised.

“We look forward to actively continuing our discernment together, identifying the most effective next steps,” the statement said.

Cardinal DiNardo originally announced that he was requesting a meeting with Pope Francis last Aug. 16. The request followed the release of the Pennsylvania grand jury report on sexual abuse cases in six Pennsylvania dioceses and the announcement of credible allegations of child sexual abuse committed by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, the former cardinal-archbishop of Washington. Two dioceses also had announced allegations of inappropriate contact between Archbishop McCarrick and seminarians, resulting in settlements totaling more than $100,000.

Pope to convene world meeting on abuse prevention

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis is calling the presidents of every Catholic bishops’ conference in the world to Rome Feb. 21-24 to discuss the prevention of the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.

The Vatican made the announcement Sept. 12 after the pope and members of his international Council of Cardinals wrapped up three days of meetings.

After hearing from his council, the pope “decided to convocate a meeting with the presidents of the bishops’ conferences of the Catholic Church on the theme of the protection of minors,” the council said in a written communiqué.

The members present “extensively reflected together with the Holy Father on the matters of abuse” during their deliberations Sept. 10-12. Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, also updated those present with the commission’s ongoing efforts.

The council said in its communiqué that, concerning work on the reform of the Curia, it finished “rereading the texts already prepared (and) also called attention to the pastoral care of personnel who work there,” in the Roman Curia.

Obituary

Fr. Robert Baden, 79, dioecesan priest

Fr. Robert “Bob” Baden, 79, passed away September 12. At the time of his death, he was residing in Ballinger, TX.

He was born Nov. 9, 1938, in San Francisco, CA, to Ewing and Melvina (Moreau) Baden.

In 1958 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and trained at Ft. Ord, CA, and Ft. Eustis, VA. He served at Tripoli, Libya. He was discharged in 1961 with a rank of Spc. 4. He reenlisted for six years and served at the Armed Forces Induction Center in California and then in Vietnam. Stateside he was assigned at Oakland Army Base, CA. He was discharged with the rank of Staff Sgt.

He attended the Franciscan School of Theology, in Berkeley, CA. From 1971 to 1978 he was a member of the U.S. Army Reserve. He was ordained a priest on Jan. 6, 1977, at the Church of Ss. Andrew and Joseph, Oakland, CA, by the Bishop of Rapid City, Harold J. Dimmerling.

In 1978 he was commissioned as a chaplain in the South Dakota Army National Guard. From 1981-1991, he returned to the Army as a chaplain and served at Ft. Polk, LA; Ft. Riley, KS; and two tours in Germany. He was discharged as a captain.

In the Diocese of Rapid he served parishes in Rapid City, Buffalo, Reva, Ralph, Cox, Camp Crook, Bear Butte, Hereford, Lead, Wall, Kadoka, and Interior. He also served as a chaplain at Ft. Meade. He retired in 2007. In 2010 he was invested as a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem in Kansas City, KS.

Survivors include one sister, Barbara (Bill) Liddle of Santa Rosa, California; nephews Bob and Gary Waltenspiel; nieces Jenny (Craig) Olsen and Trina (George) Brennan; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City with Bishop Robert Gruss as celebrant and priests of the Rapid City Diocese as con-celebrants.

Interment will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 21, at Black Hills National Cemetery.

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.
Founder’s Award honoree Mayor Barnett recalls Msgr. O’Connell’s wisdom

In 1971 a 28-year old man became the youngest mayor of Rapid City. His two terms were pressure packed times of natural disaster and civil unrest. Catholic Social Services chose to award former Mayor Don Barnett with the Msgr. William O’Connell Founder’s Award for his work following the 1972 flood and the 1973 American Indian Movement demonstrations on Main St.

Barnett was instrumental in getting a new fire station, Central High School and the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center going.

Rev. Larry Dahlstrom, former pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church and a classmate of Barnett, gave the first testimonial. “He gave his heart and soul to leading Rapid City through the aftermath of the flood of ’72, the American Indian Movement confrontation and lots of other challenges which confronted him,” he said.

The second speaker was longtime friend Ozzie Osheim, who met Barnett when they both attended Trinity Lutheran Church. “As a youngster Don had to overcome a severe stuttering problem, later he wrote a book about that experience in an effort to assist others who may have the same problem,” he said. “When Don was inducted into the S.D. Hall of Fame in 2011, my wife and I were honored to be Don’s guests at that function.”

The third testimonial came from Kay Rippentrop, she worked in the mayor’s office for 42 years serving 10 mayors. Rippentrop recalled Barnett won the city election in a run off by 160 votes. “The young mayor shook things up,” she said, recalling his two terms. She remembered when the Rapid City flood hit, he worked for days without sleep to get the city operating. He had the help of the Rapid City Ministerial Association, city employees, FEMA, the Salvation Army and a group of Mennonite volunteers who came to Rapid City to lend a hand.

Rippentrop said she has kept in touch with Barnett over the years. “We look back and are very appreciative things turned out so well.”

The award was presented by CSS Board President Susan Raposa and CSS executive Director Jim Kinyon. When Barnett spoke, he took the attention off himself and told how grateful he was for the wisdom of Msgr. William O’Connell and the assistance of others during his terms in office. He gave a vivid account of the flood, AIM members protesting in 1973, and Rapid City citizens who drove to work with shotguns in their trunks. He relied on church leaders and business owners to calm the people.

“(Then-Father William O’Connell) believed we had so many challenges in Rapid City and that each one was a challenge to Christian brotherhood. We called on him first many times.

“On the night of June 9, 1972, everything went wrong 238 times (referring to flood casualties). During the night there was terror, loss of life and loss of dreams,” said Barnett.

As part of the recovery efforts Rev. Dahlstrom and Fr. O’Connell worked with the Rapid City Ministerial Association to create Church Disaster Response. During the racial tensions he said Father O’Connell continually advocated against meeting anger with violence.
Centenarian looks back on a lifetime of living her faith

By Laurie Hallstrom

In the past 100 years Mary Ellen Bennett has attended Mass thousands of times. These days a friend, Maria Nehl, calls her at 7 a.m. Sunday mornings and picks her up for 8 o’clock Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Occasionally, they attend Latin Mass at the old cathedral, Immaculate Conception Church. She makes an effort to remember the prayers she grew up with. She learned the “Our Father” in Latin and tries to pick it out of the Liturgy. “I can’t see well enough to follow a prayer book anymore,” she said.

Commenting on her faith life, she said, “You know that God is looking after you; he knows what’s going on.

“I felt that He was there to make sure things were going okay even when they didn’t seem to be going the right way. Whenever I was really ill, I felt confident things would be all right. I always had a backup in God.”

She has met many priests along the way. One of her favorites is Fr. Michel Mulloy, who was her pastor at cathedral parish for 12 years. “I’ve always enjoyed him. He is positive, and suggests you shape up once in a while,” said Mary Ellen.

She was born in 1918. Her father, Tom McMahon, was a baptized Catholic but didn’t practice the faith until his wife became Catholic.

“My brother Bob was really sick and in the hospital in Deadwood. That’s when mom (Mary) became a convert,” she said.

Mary Ellen was baptized as a toddler alongside her brothers Earl and Bob. Her brother John was born four years after her.

“I remember my first confession, no way would you get me in that little box,” she said. After her two oldest brothers went to confession, her mother and a priest, whose name has escaped her, spent the afternoon cajoling her to step into the small dark confessional, and eventually, she relented.

She doesn’t remember much about her first Communion other than that she and her oldest brothers took instructions from Fr. William Boyd.

Mary Ellen grew up on the family ranch her grandparents homesteaded in 1880. She attended Spring Creek rural school, two miles from her home.

For secondary education she attended the old Cathedral High School. “We drove from the ranch to the school every day,” she said.

During the first year his older siblings were all in high school, younger brother, John attended the Catholic elementary school. “After a year he returned to Spring Creek school; he was not ready to be a city person,” Mary Ellen said.

There were 13 pupils in her graduating class in 1935. They were taught by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary from Dubuque, Iowa. She attended the S.D. School of Mines and Technology for one year, and then studied one year at a teacher’s college, Spearfish Normal, now dubbed Black Hills State University. She taught in rural schools in Deerfield for one year and near Caputa for one year.

When she quit she returned to the ranch, “rode my horses and watched the cows grow.” She also travelled “here, there and everywhere” seeing relatives on both U.S. coasts and visiting her brother Earl as an engineering student in Omaha, Neb., and then when he was working in Pittsburgh, Pa.

In 1950, Fr. David Buescher, Hermosa, presided when she married Emmett Bennett. She met Emmett when he came home from serving after WWII. Abroad, he served in Africa, India and Italy. In America, he was stationed in Washington state. He went to work for the U.S. Post Office and she became a homemaker. They had three children, Gary, Nancy and a little girl who died at age six months. Emmett passed away in 1997.

For most of their elementary education their children attended Perpetual Help Elementary school, later renamed St. Elizabeth Seton Elementary.

While she wasn’t registered in the altar society, she helped members setting up and serving at many, many wedding and funeral luncheons.

After years of attending Mass at Immaculate Conception Cathedral and when it became too small, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, she and her mother, Mary, attended the dedication of the new Cathedral, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, on May 7, 1963.

She celebrated her centennial birthday on August 31 with an open house in her Rapid City home; on September 1 with a family luncheon at Terra Sancta Retreat Center; and on September 2 with a family day at the ranch south of town on Highway 79.

Today, she has a walking stick by the front door and a walker that is usually on the other side of the house when she needs it. Asked to impart some wisdom she said, “Just be glad each day comes.”
**DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

The Diocese of Rapid City is accepting applications for the full-time position of Director of Development.

**FUNCTIONS:** The Director plans, organizes, implements and evaluates all philanthropic activities for the support and benefit of the Diocese of Rapid City including but not limited to the Annual Appeal, Annual Giving Society, Estate gifts and special needs gifts. The Director is responsible for grant applications and the management of fundraising programs. Supervises and trains a Grant Writer and the Assistant to the Director of Development.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor’s degree in business administration or related field. Knowledge of effective fundraising strategies and techniques for small to medium-sized nonprofits. Experience building and maintaining a contact management system of donors in which planned donor contacts are initiated from the development office based on capacity to give and affinity with the diocesan activity or program. Self-starter, good communication skills, experience in public relations, strong interpersonal relationship skills. Demonstrated success with planned giving programs. Demonstrates proficient computer skills and familiarity of Microsoft Office software applications including Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. May also require the ability to use Access, and desktop publishing software as required. Ability to learn and effectively use various data collection and database management systems to record data as required. Demonstrates familiarity and proficiency with Internet tools and techniques for searching, extracting and processing information.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** A job description and a diocesan application form can be found on the website by clicking on the employment icon at https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/. Interested individuals should submit via e-mail or regular mail, a letter of application along with their resume listing three professional references and a completed application form to:msimonson@diorc.org or Office of the Chancellor, Diocese of Rapid City, 606 Cathedral Drive, Rapid City SD 57701. The Diocese of Rapid City offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

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**“Let the children come to me...”**

The Children’s Memorial Garden at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City, was dedicated by Bishop Robert Gruss on August 26. An outdoor Mass was held at the Mount of the Beatitudes Amphitheater. The garden was initiated by Eric and Dionne Eastmo following the death of their son, Jacob, age 11. The garden features statues of Jesus with outstretched arms and three children running towards him. According to Dionne, as of August 8 there were 76 children memorialized on stainless steel name tags. “A $100 donation is suggested to help cover costs, but no child will be turned away,” she said. People can add names by going to the Children’s Memorial Garden link on the Terra Sancta website and clicking REMEMBER A CHILD at http://www.terra sancta.org/, Parents who have lost children patriciated in the Mass as lectors, eucharistic and hospitality ministers.

*(WRC photo by Laurie Hallstrom)*

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**Diocesan Podcasts**

A podcast by Susan Safford, diocesan director of Faith Formation, about the St. Pio relics coming to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Rapid City (Sept. 28-19) will be posted to the diocesan Website on Wednesday, Sept. 19. Start by downloading the cell phone podcast icon from the Apps menu. Select the search icon and type in “Official Podcast for the Diocese of Rapid City.” Then select a title from the list. A link will also appear on the rapidcitydiocese.org page. On Wednesday, Sept. 26, there will be a podcast on the Diocesan Youth Rally (Oct. 7) by Craig Dyke, director of Youth and Young Adults Ministry. He will speak with presenter Chris Padgett.

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Pope says he sees continuity, not rupture in ‘Amoris Laetitia’

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Everything in the document “Amoris Laetitia” on marriage and family life is based on Catholic Church teaching “always in continuity — without ruptures — yet always maturing,” Pope Francis said.

In addition, when referring to specific ethical situations, “the exhortation follows the classical doctrine of St. Thomas Aquinas,” the pope wrote in a letter to Stephen Walford, author of the new book, “Pope Francis, the Family and Divorce.”

The letter, sent to Walford after he, his wife and five children met with Pope Francis in July 2017, is included as the preface to the book, which is being published by Paulist Press in the United States.

“The exhortation ‘Amoris Laetitia’ is a unified whole, which means that, in order to understand its message, it must be read in its entirety and from the beginning,” the pope wrote to Walford. “This is because there is a development both of theological reflection and of the way in which problems are approached.”

Pope Francis said the exhortation “cannot be considered a ‘vademecum’ (handbook) on different issues. If the exhortation is not read in its entirety and in the order it is written, it will either not be understood or it will be distorted.”

Walford, who lives in Southampton, England, began writing his book after publishing an open letter in 2017 to the four cardinals who, in late 2016, publicly released a list of critical questions, known as “dubia,” about the pope’s document.

In his open letter, Walford defended Pope Francis’ teaching and warned the four cardinals, two of whom are now deceased, that their position was being used by people attacking the pope.

The new book looks specifically at Pope Francis’ provisions that would allow some divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion in certain circumstances and after prayer and discernment with their priests.

In his open letter, Walford had written, “The pope’s interest and pastoral concern is for those souls who love the Lord very much, yet find themselves in an extremely difficult situation; and because of this, I would say this is a very courageous pope, sent by the Holy Spirit for these times, and who has confronted the reality of a wounded church, and a wounded world that must not be abandoned.”

Although not a trained theologian, Walford attempts in his book to explain the theological and moral concepts behind “Amoris Laetitia,” including by looking at the meaning of marriage and family life, the development of doctrine in the Catholic Church, moral culpability and Pope Francis’ teaching on mercy.

“We live in a time of great tribulation and the world has many wounded souls in need of compassion and mercy,” Walford wrote. “The church as mother has the ability to defend the doctrines on the indissolubility of marriage, the holy Eucharist, confession and mortal sin while, at the same time, finding merciful ways to approach those brothers and sisters who have found themselves in a second, civil union.”

The author wrote that he hoped the book would “contribute in some small way to bring hope to those suffering souls in complex relationships, and to those who have been affected by the ‘manufactured confusion’ of papal dissenters.”
Services to assist homeless persons in South Dakota are undergoing some changes with the goal of improving both the efficiency and the effectiveness of the service system. The Coordinated Entry System, which officially started August 2018, is designed to make it easier for those experiencing homelessness to request assistance and find housing for themselves and their families, and thus help to minimize the time that they are homeless.

The South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium is the oversight body for CES. Consortium members include agencies that provide housing services, as well as those who provide support services such as case management, education, job training and similar assistance. While housing and associated services have been available for quite some time, the system has lacked a central entity to help coordinate services statewide.

CES has both physical access points listed below and a virtual access toll-free phone number that is available statewide. When a person requesting assistance visits one of the physical access points or calls the toll-free number, trained staff will first determine whether the person is actually homeless. If the person is not considered homeless, they will be referred to other available assistance. If the person is homeless, staff will proceed with an application and assessment process. The assessment process will be used to understand the person’s needs and prioritize them with the appropriate housing and services. Due to rural remoteness of South Dakota and lack of available housing options in some communities, the person may be placed on a locally-based waiting list. The person’s case will then be prioritized, reviewed by a team of service providers, and referred to appropriate agencies when housing and services become available.

The goal of CES is to provide consistency for individuals and help document unmet needs so resources can be better allocated across the state. The agencies initially participating in CES are the agencies which receive funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is the goal of CES to expand the partnerships and have all homeless service providers participate.

For more information on the Coordinated Entry System or South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium please visit www.housingforthehomeless.org or contact Davis Schofield at davis@sdhda.org.

South Dakota Housing for Homeless Consortium Coordinated Entry System Access Points and Hours of Operation

Statewide Telephone Access
Helpline Center
9 a.m. – 6 p.m., M-F
1-800-664-1349

Region 1.
Harding, Perkins, Corson, Butte, Meade, Ziebach, Dewey, Pennington, Haakon, Custer, Fall River, Shannon, Bennett, Jackson Counties.
Cornerstone Rescue Mission
30 Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
8 a.m. – 4 p.m., M-F
605-341-2741

Region 2.
The Journey Home
420 S. Washington Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
9 a.m. – 2 p.m., M-F
605-725-7031

Region 3.
Jones, Lyman, Buffalo, Jerauld, Sanborn, Mellette, Todd, Tripp, Gregory, Charles Mix, Douglas, Hutchinson, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay, Union, Brule, Aurora, Davison, Hanson Counties.
Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership
505 N. Western Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., M-F
605-334-2808

Region 4.
Lincoln, Turner, McCook, Minnehaha, Miner, Lake, Moody, Kingsbury, Clark, Codington, Hamlin, Deuel, Grant, Brookings Counties.
Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership
505 N. Western Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., M-F
605-334-2808

Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation thanks the major sponsors of the August 13 Bishop’s Golf Classic.
Carateto gives voice in an ode to the church

Carlo Carretto was an Italian monk who died in 1988. For many years he lived as a hermit in the Sahara Desert, translated the scriptures into the Tuareg language, and from the solitude of the desert wrote some extraordinary spiritual books. His writings and his faith were special in that they had a rare capacity to combine an almost childlike piety with (when needed) a blistering iconoclasm. He loved the church deeply, but he wasn’t blind to its faults and failures, and he wasn’t afraid to point out those shortcomings.

Late in life, when his health forced him to leave the desert he retired to a religious community in his native Italy. While there, late in life, he read a book by an atheist who took Jesus to task for a phrase in the Sermon on the Mount where he says: “Seek and you shall find,” meaning, of course, that if you seek God with an honest heart you will find God. The atheist had titled his book, “I Sought and I Didn’t Find,” arguing from his own experience that an honest heart can seek God and come up empty.

Carretto wrote a book in reply called: “I Sought and I Found.” For him, Jesus’ counsel rang true. In his own search, despite encountering many things that could indicate the absence of God, he found God. But he admits the difficulties, and one of those difficulties is, at times, the church. The church can, and sometimes does, through its sin, make it difficult for some to believe in God. Carretto admits this with a disarming honesty but argues that it’s not the whole picture.

Hence his book combines his deep love for his faith and his church with his refusal to not turn a blind eye to the very real faults of Christians and the churches. At one point in the book he gives voice to something which might be described as an Ode to the Church. It reads this way:

How much I must criticize you, my church and yet how much I love you!

How you have made me suffer much and yet ove much to you.

I should like to see you destroyed and yet I need your presence.

You have given me much scandal and yet you alone have made me understand holiness.

Never in this world have I seen anything more obscurantist, more compromised, more false, and yet never in this world have I touched anything more pure, more generous, and more beautiful.

Many times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face — and yet how often I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms!

No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you, even though not completely you.

Then, too — where would I go? To build another church?

But I cannot build another without the same defects, for they are my own defeats I bear within me.

And again, if I build one, it will be my Church, and no longer Christ’s.

No, I am old enough to know that I am no better than others.

I shall not leave this Church, founded on so frail a rock, because I should be founding another one on an even frailer rock: myself.

And then, what do rocks matter?

What matters is Christ’s promise, what matters is the cement that binds the rocks into one: the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit alone can build the church with stones as ill-hewn as we.

This is an expression of a mature faith; one which isn’t so romantic and idealistic that it needs to be shielded from the darker side of things and one which is real enough so as not to be so cynical that it blinds itself to the evident goodness that also emanates from the church. In truth, the church is both horribly compromised and wonderfully grace-filled. Honest eyes can see both. A mature heart can accept both. Children and novices need to be shielded from the dark underbelly of things; scandalized adults need to have their eyes opened to the evident goodness that’s also there.

Many people have left the church because it has scandalized them through its habitual sins, blind spots, defensiveness, self-serving nature, and arrogance. The recent revelations (again) of sexual abuse by priests and the cover-up by church authorities have left many people wondering whether they can ever again trust the church’s structure, ministers, and authorities. For many, this scandal seems too huge to digest.

Carlo Carretto’s Ode, I believe, can help us all, whether scandalized or pious. To the pious, it can show how one can accept the church despite its sin and how denial of that sin is not what’s called for by love and loyalty. To the scandalized, it can be a challenge to not miss the forest for the trees, to not miss seeing that, in the church, frailty and sin, while real, tragic, and scandalous, never eclipse the superabundant, life-giving grace of God.

In Your Prayers


Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father

OCTOBER

Evangelization:
The Mission of Religious
That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.

For more information, go to: APOSTLESHIPOFPRAYER.ORG

Monthly Message From Our Lady

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

“Dear children! This is a time of grace. Little children, pray more, speak less and permit God to lead you on the way of conversation. I am with you and love you with my motherly love. Thank you for having responded to my call.” 8/25/18
Ringing bells is a choice, pure and simple

Smells and bells. That was a common and somewhat irreverent way of referring to symbols in the Catholic Church. We have always had the smells (incense) but for many years, except in the extraordinary form of the Mass, there were no bells save those hanging in the tower. In some parishes they are back to the delight of some and the consternation of others and there is confusion as to why bells during Mass are not heard in every parish or at the same time.

Historically bells have been rung for warnings, for reminders, for protection and for celebration. They also called people to prayer. Beginning in the 13th century bells were rung during the consecration of the Mass to remind people of this solemn moment. People out in the fields and those praying at Mass itself were encouraged to stop their work, to look up from their prayers and to adore the Lord present in his body and blood. This seems strange to us, but we must remember that the Mass was celebrated in Latin and at some distance from the faithful gathered so that they neither heard nor understood what the priest was praying. The bells reminded the faithful that the Lord was present in a unique way in the moment of consecration.

The advent of the liturgical reforms that sprung from the Vatican Council II, and the celebration of the Mass in English with the priest facing the people silenced the bells. The faithful could see and understand what the priest was praying. In the recent reform of the Roman Missal (2011) the use of the bells was renewed. It is stated this way in the General Instruction that governs our celebration of the Mass. “A little before the consecration, if appropriate, a minister rings a small bell as a signal to the faithful. The minister also rings the small bell at each elevation by the Priest, according to local custom.” GIRM 150. This directive needs some explanation.

First the wording tells us that ringing the bells during Mass is optional. It has not been the local custom in our diocese and the phrase “if appropriate” leaves room for choice. Simply said the pastor has the option to ring or not ring the bells during the consecration. Second, because it is a choice the pastor can choose to ring the bell just before the consecration and/or during the elevations. Pastors might do this differently. Third, it does not offer a directive concerning the number of times the bell is rung at each elevation. Finally, the mention of a “small” bell does not determine the size of the bells used for this occasion. Small here means a bell rung with one’s hand versus the bells rung in the tower of the church.

It is important in witnessing this return to a former practice to not make more of it than is intended. It is meant as a signal, a way of calling the faithful to attention and reminding them what is happening during this moment in the Mass. It is not a sign of better or worse, and the personal choice of the pastor or the individual faithful is not a mark of their holiness. It is a choice pure and simple with a noble tradition that pastors have the freedom to use or not use.

Reference: https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/bells

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LET’S TALK TODAY.

Fr. Michel Mulloy
Vicar General, Diocesan Liturgy Director
mmulloy@diorc.org
The theme we have chosen for the Office of Vocations this year will fix our gaze on the image of the “Beloved Son.” We will focus on two passages - the Baptism of Jesus, in which we hear “a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’” (Mk 1:9-11), and the Transfiguration of Christ where we hear that as Peter was still speaking, “a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him’” (Mt 17:5).

Through the baptism of Christ, all of us have become children of God; we are called to participate in Jesus’ own relationship with God the Father. The words spoken by the Father at the baptism of Jesus are spoken to each one of us as well: “You are my beloved son.” “You are my beloved daughter.”

Do you truly believe that you are a beloved son and daughter of the Father? Do you truly believe that God the Father is pleased with you, delights in you, and simply loves to look at you?

This is a fundamental question we need to answer for ourselves. Mary Healy, a professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit says, “Only in accepting our identity as a beloved child of the Father is it possible for us to embark courageously on the mission to which God has called us.”

In the story of the Transfiguration of Christ, the words of the Father are directed to the three disciples, who confirm their faith in the identity of Jesus as being the Son of the Father. The disciples are challenged by the Father to listen to his Son and to follow his Son. Even though the disciples were afraid, Jesus touched them, reassuring them as he said, “Rise and have no fear.”

It is these two stories in Scripture — the Baptism of Jesus and the Transfiguration of Christ — that will become our framework as we continue to create a culture of vocations within ourselves, our families, our parishes and diocese. Realizing that, our truest identity is being children of the Father who are called eagerly to listen to the voice of his Son.

At times it can be difficult for us to see ourselves as children of God the Father because of our relationship with our own fathers. Father George Montague, a priest of the Society of Mary, addresses this in his book “Living the Father’s Embrace: Experiencing the Love of the Heart of the Trinity,” saying this becomes one of the “biggest blocks” to experiencing intimacy with God the Father.

He said the longing for God is universal; every child longs for unconditional love coupled with great strength. In 1 Jn 4:8 we hear “God is love.” To the extent that we can mirror God’s unconditional love and great strength, we will be helping to meet this universal need of every child.

As we begin to break open this year’s theme, “Beloved Son,” it gives us the opportunity to be with and pray with our fathers who are uniquely suited and called by God to be like the love of God the Father for their children.

A way for all of us to be more open to God the Father’s love in our lives as beloved sons and daughters is to allow the Father’s love to permeate all of our relationships, especially with our own fathers. St. Ignatius of Loyola can be our teacher in this regard for in the Spiritual Exercises #75 he says: “I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my consciousness raised on high, consider how the Lord my God looks upon me. Then I will make an act of reverence or humility.”

Let’s try this right now. Stop for a second. Close your eyes and let God gaze at you. What do you see? What do you hear the Father saying to you?

Whether we realize it or not, God is always looking at us. I think God’s desire for us is for us to return the gaze and open our hearts to him. If we give God permission to allow his love to penetrate the depths and the wounds of our hearts, we will learn to walk in his love and courageously say “yes” to the mission to which God the Father has called us as his beloved sons and daughters.
I have not always been aware of this reality. Often, I have looked elsewhere for some point of reference by which to understand myself. In the end, no manner of external consolation was ever sufficient to satisfy and make me happy, no possessions, no accomplishments, no human relationships ever provided me with an adequate means by which to understand who I am.

Those times when I could not recognize myself as God’s beloved son, my failure, my disappointment, and my sin were my only identity. Trying to earn God’s love was my only mission. My entire priesthood is changed. Because of my relationship with him, I know I am the beloved son of the Father. His love is the core of my identity. Because I know who I am, I know what I am supposed to do.

I experienced a new peace and a new gentleness. Speaking with my dad’s voice, the Father told me that he loves me and that he is proud of me. In that moment, he spoke to me very clearly.

First, as I prayed one day asking for a felt experience of his fatherly love for me, he showed me memory after memory of his kindness. Those memories of love caused me to understand why I am so loved.

As I prayed through that retreat, the Father initiated two powerful movements that have changed everything. The Delight of the Father

Thirty years later, in the fall of 2014, I found myself moving my son into the same seminary I had attended. In another turn of God’s humor, he moved into the same room I had once occupied. I know that Robert, like all of us, will find his greatest happiness in doing whatever God is calling him to do, and I pray that all my children, regardless of their vocations, are deeply rooted in the truth that they are God’s beloved children—al loved, all unworthy and yet chosen to be a living image of the love of the Father.

The Delight of the Father

The Father Provides

These temptations to see myself as something other than the beloved son were dramatically interrupted a little less than a year ago. While I have experienced God’s love in powerful ways, I found myself on a silent retreat in profound need of a reminder of his love for me.

As I prayed through that retreat, the Father initiated two powerful movements that have changed everything. First, as I prayed one day asking for a felt experience of his fatherly love for me, he showed me memory after memory of his kindness. Those memories of love caused me to understand why I am so loved.

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As a young man, I was intimidated by the call to lead a faith community and to act as a living image of God. I knew God had loved me, but I also knew my weaknesses. While I was still committed to strive to live a life worthy of being a beloved son, I knew I was too dependent on God’s grace to do so as a leader.

I was certain I was too much of a “normal man” to consider myself a “holy man.” So, I chose to pursue what I thought at the time was the proper vocation for a “normal man.”

Although I will never have a biological family, I will have a large spiritual family. Even though that may seem like an easy cop-out at times, I cannot stress to you how much truth there is to that statement.

Although I thought I gave up my hobbies for the eight years of schooling and my life beyond, my Father has returned them to me. After a period of sacrifice, God has given me hobbies of golf, fishing, and backpacking which truly show me his work in creation.

Although I cannot stress to you how much truth there is to that statement. The Father provides for all of us.

Although I never will have a biological family, I will have a large spiritual family. Even though that may seem like an easy cop-out at times, I cannot stress to you how much truth there is to that statement.

The people who I have already shepherded in my time in seminary have truly been like sons and daughters to me. I have been through the highs and lows of their lives and been able to be the supportive loving father they needed.

My beloved Father has truly provided for me in ways that I could not have imagined at the start of seminary. My beloved Father has truly provided for me in ways that I could not have imagined at the start of seminary. My beloved Father has truly provided for me in ways that I could not have imagined at the start of seminary. My beloved Father has truly provided for me in ways that I could not have imagined at the start of seminary.

The Father provides for all of us.

The Father provides for all of us.

The Father provides for all of us.

The Father provides for all of us.

The Father provides for all of us.
Pray to the Lord of the Harvest

VOCATION HOLY HOURS 2018-2019
Join us at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life.

DEANERY ONE:
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral - October 4, 2018
St. Isaac Jogues - March 7, 2019
Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont - April 4, 2019

DEANERY TWO:
St. Ambrose, Deadwood - February 7, 2019
St. Joseph, Spearfish - May 2, 2019

DEANERY THREE:
St. Patrick, Wall - November 2, 2018 (1st Friday)
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Martin - January 3, 2019
Sacred Heart, Pine Ridge - July 11, 2019 (2nd Thursday)

DEANERY FOUR:
St. John the Evangelist, Ft. Pierre - December 6, 2018
St. Mary, Lower Brule - June 6, 2019

DEANERY FIVE:
St. Joseph, Faith - August 1, 2019
Holy Cross, Timber Lake - September 5, 2019

FOR MORE RESOURCES ON SUPPORTING VOCATIONS IN YOUR PARISH PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.GODS-CALL.ORG
Curia Corner

Preserving a Catholic community

These first Communion class photos were brought to the attention of Kathy in the archives office in August by Lisa, a woman who was cleaning out her mother’s attic. With only “St. Bartholomew’s Church” and a list of names, Lisa wondered if anyone knew where the church was located. Kathy had these exact photos in her collection of unidentified pictures.

“I was so excited to be able to share the news with Lisa that St. Bart’s was in Glad Valley,” said Kathy Cordes, archivist. “Lisa was able to provide a list of the children in the photo.”

Glad Valley is an unincorporated community in Ziebach County just west of Isabel. The church, which predated the town, was incorporated in 1917 and attended from Isabel. In 1922 the parish was completely destroyed by a cyclone. Another church was moved from Thunder Butte and in 1931 the parish house was moved to the church. The parish was closed in 1968 and records show the building was sold in 1970 for $300.

Watch our social media pages for more #tbt. Who knows ... you may have the answer to the next mystery.

#yourmothersattic #canyouhelp

Events Schedule

September 28, Friday
• Deadline for submissions. Paper mailed Tuesday, October 16. ☏ 605-343-3541

September 20, Thursday
• Returning Catholics: Six-week program for those who have been away from the church and are thinking about returning. No charge. Held at 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Church, Spearfish. ☏ Diane Say 605-642-2306. Other program start dates: September 24, Monday, 7 p.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. ☏ Margaret Jackson 605-939-0579.

September 27, Thursday, 7 p.m., St. Ambrose rectory, Deadwood. ☏ Parish office 605-584-2002 or Pete 303-319-3993. www.ReturningCatholics.net.

September 22, Saturday
• The Summit 2018: Held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Lunch and dinner provided. $25 individual or $50 per family. Day includes Sunday vigil Mass. Child care will be available. Youth Tracks for pre–k–high school students.

September 23, Sunday
• St. Padre Pio Choir: Area musicians are invited to join a diocesan choir for the closing Mass following the 24-hour veneration period of St. Padre Pio’s Relics at 5:30 p.m. ☏ Amber 605-342-0507 or amber@cathedralolph.org.

September 24, Monday
• Bereavement Support Group: An eight-week non-denominational support group open to all Christian adults who have lost a loved one due to death. Held at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. ☏ George Wallace 605-721-3811 or Janece Rieman 605-343-5547.

September 27, Thursday
• Surviving Divorce — Helping You Find Peace, Power, and Passion After Your Divorce: This eight-week support group is open to Christian men and women of all denominations. Covers topics including shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. $30 fee covers all materials, scholarships available. Held at St. Therese the Little Flower, Rapid City, from 6:30-8:30p.m. ☏ Amy Julian at 605-716-5214.

September 29, Saturday
• St. Vincent de Paul Fundraisers: The Spearfish, Belle Fourche, Rapid City, Sturgis, and Lead/Deadwood chapters will host two events. The 3rd Annual Charity Golf Invitational will be held at Elkhorn Ridge Golf Course, Spearfish, beginning at 8:30 a.m. ☏ mary.day@k12.sd.us. The 11th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run is begins at 1 p.m. at Elkhorn Ridge. www.fopwalk.org. All proceeds directly help people in the Northern Black Hills.

October 5, Friday
• World Apostolate of Fatima: First Friday, prayers and devotions 6 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Chapel, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. First Saturday, October 6, begins with prayers at 7:45 a.m. followed by 8 a.m. Mass and exposition in Our Lady’s Chapel, Cathedral. ☏ Dr. Kopriva 605-343-6202 or Ellen 605-718-9909.

October 7, Sunday
• Diocesan Youth Rally: Held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center beginning at 9 a.m. Features speakers Chris Padgett and Gina Bauer. See page 23. www.rapidcitydiocese.org/yya.

October 12, Friday

• White Mass for Health Care Professionals: Mass at 5:30 p.m., Holy Cross Chapel, Terra Sancta. Heavy hors d’oeuvres and social to follow. ☏ Amy Julian 605-716-5214.

October 19, Friday
• Young Adult Fall Retreat: Theme is “Jumpstart: Discerning Your Mission in Life.” For young adults between 18–35. Held at Sioux Spiritual Center. $120 cost includes retreat materials, meals, and lodging. Ends October 21. www.rapidcitydiocese.org/yya.

October 21, Sunday
• Celebration of Marriage: Mass in commemoration of those celebrating 25, 40, 50, or more years of marriage in 2018. If you, or someone you know is celebrating one these milestone anniversaries ☏ Amy Julian for an invitation to this celebration, 605-716-5214.

October 28, Sunday
• St. Joseph, Spearfish, Annual Turkey Dinner: Turkey, gravy, all the trimmings, and homemade desserts prepared by the Altar Society, from 11 a.m.–2p.m. with a raffle and cake walk to follow dinner. $10 for adults, $4 for children ages 5-12, 4 and under are free. Everyone is welcome.

November 16, 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. Required for couples doing marriage prep in the diocese. Ends November 18. www.terrasancta.org/heart2heart.
Contingency fund helps parishes renovate

The Catholic Parish Association Contingency Fund is a centrally managed pool of funds created by parishes in the diocese to help meet their financing needs. This fund provides an above average return on all parishes savings while at the same time loaning funds to parishes at below market rates of interest.

During the past year, the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City; the Black Hills State University Newman Center, Spearfish; and St. John the Evangelist Church, Ft. Pierre, all utilized Contingency Funds as part of the overall financing of their building projects. While most building projects are complex with much planning and coordination needed, the Contingency Fund’s goal is to make the financing easy after the construction planning is done. At right are photos of the roofing project currently under construction at cathedral the church at Ft. Pierre where the HVAC system was updated. The Contingency Fund was proud to be a part of all these projects.

Currently the Contingency Fund is paying 2 percent interest on parish deposits and charging 3.25 percent interest on parish loans. To find out how a parish can benefit from the Contingency Fund or if you are interested in serving on the Contingency Board, please call Rick Soulek at the Chancery 605-343-3541.

(Above) The parish contingency fund helped the cathedral get a new roof. (Below) St. John the Evangelist Church, Ft. Pierre, used the fund to fix up their heating and cooling system. The photo was taken during a renewal of wedding vows. (Photos and information submitted by the Contingency Committee)

Special Collection
October 20-21, 2018

“World Mission Sunday” is a wonderful opportunity for Catholics around the world to participate in the church’s missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. In this way, we answer our call to evangelize and proclaim the Gospel. World Mission Sunday provides all of us an opportunity to bring hope to our neighbors in distant lands, to bring justice to the poorest among us, to bring education to the most remote villages, to provide medical aid in isolated places, to help set people free from poverty, to assist in the development of peoples, overcoming ethnic divisions, and to demonstrate respect for life in all its stages. Please be generous to those brothers and sisters who have far less.”

—Bishop Robert D. Gruss

World Mission Sunday

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PO Box 678, Rapid City, SD 57709
Testimonials to Rachel's Vineyard post-abortion retreat's power/healing

Post-abortive women often suffer abortion after-effects that dramatically impact their lives. These stories show how attending a Rachel's Vineyard retreat helped them restore their lives — spiritually, emotionally, and physically. You, too, can find this healing and peace!

Before attending Rachel's Vineyard retreat I was secretly suffering from severe depression, because of my abortions. Making the initial phone call was difficult, but when the counselor told me that she was post-abortion, I felt she would understand me and not judge me. Before the weekend, I started to panic because I hadn't been totally honest with her, so I decided to tell her via e-mail that I had two abortions. She emailed me back and said that she was so looking forward to meeting me.

During the first evening when the women began to share their stories, I was so amazed at the honesty of the women, they just bared their souls. When my turn came I was so eager to get it off my chest. I never thought I would have the strength to say it. The shame and the pain that I have felt for so many years is passing. I am hopeful for the future. The black cloud has lifted. Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place. I am so glad that I came.

For 12 years after my abortion I suffered in silence, grieving the loss of my child. My life became a living hell, and I didn't care if I lived or died. In October, all of that changed. I attended a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat and began my journey of healing. Not only did God remove my fear, He has also allowed me to have tremendous love and support from my family and friends. I am now able to carry the message of hope and healing to others who have suffered after abortion.

This has been one of the memorable and wonderful personal events of my life. Had I not been here and participated, I would still be a wandering soul without purpose. Now I am on my new journey to peace and being filled with the Holy Spirit. I found most meaningful that God is truly forgiving, therefore, I can forgive myself. Also, all of our babies are God’s creations and are happy in their eternal life in heaven waiting to be re-united with their mothers.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat
Bismarck area, November 3-5, 2018
Contact Carol at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com

Five delegates to attend V National Encuentro

WASHINGTON— Sept. 20-23, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will be convening a gathering of more than 3,000 delegates from across the U.S. for the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry with the theme, "Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God's Love." Bishop Michael F. Olson of the Diocese of Fort Worth will be hosting the national event that will be held in Grapevine, Texas.

The delegates from the Diocese of Rapid City are Fr. Mark Horn, Barbara Linares, Jaime and Maria Munoz, and Maru Oszwaldowska.

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Were you married in 1968?
Send your photo along with your names, wedding date, town you were married in, and current parish to:
Attn: Becky Berreth, West River Catholic, PO Box 678, Rapid City, SD 57709, or e-mail to bberreth@diorc.org by October 24

St. Therese the Little Flower Church
532 Adams St., Rapid City • 342-1556
Fall Festival
Sunday, September 23
10:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Roast Beef Dinner
with homemade salads and pies
Advanced tickets (through September 16); Adults $8, Children (ages 5-10) $5
Tickets at the door; Adults $10, Children $5
Silent Auction • B-I-N-G-O • Country Store • Boutique Store • Youth Room

Lord God,
We thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send the Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations in our youth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen
50th Anniversary of U. S. Permanent Diaconate

One of the great legacies of the Second Vatican Council was its renewal and encouragement of the order of deacons throughout the entire Catholic Church.

Following the closing of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI formally implemented the renewal of the diaconate. Since the Second Vatican Council consigned the decision of the restoration of the diaconate to individual episcopal conferences, the bishops of the United States voted in the spring of 1968 to petition the Holy See for authorization. On August 30, 1968, the Apostolic Delegate informed the United States bishops that Pope Paul VI had agreed to their request. To commemorate this anniversary the West River Catholic will feature active deacons monthly throughout the year.

Deacon Assignment

Bishop Robert Gruss has released Deacon Greg Palmer from his assignment as a Permanent Deacon at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, and appointed him to serve as a Permanent Deacon at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. The appointment is effective August 29.

Deacon Pat & Fran Coy

Assigned to: St. John the Baptist, Custer

Duties: Diocesan Tribunal, Marriage Prep, Baptism Prep, Spiritual Direction, Jail Ministry, Homeless Ministry, Homebound/Nursing Home/Hospital Ministry, Summer Program for Kids, Retreats. (Former Ministry Formation Team member)

Ministry Highlight: 25 years as a deacon

Work: Rancher

Deacon Greg & Denise Palmer

Assigned to: Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City

Duties: Prison Ministry, RCIA, Adults and Youth Religious Education

Ministry Highlight: Presiding at grandchildren’s baptisms

Work: Retired

The Chancery will be closed Monday, October 8 for Native American/Columbus Day

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Politics and law flow out of culture. That much is clear from a reading of our nation’s founding documents, which demonstrate a cultural consensus grounded in faith and the natural law. In contrast, however, with America’s earlier cultural foundations, it’s also clear that the shortcomings of twenty-first century politics follow and build on contemporary cultural failings. One example: The television show “Modern Family” preceded Obergefell v. Hodges, the infamous 2015 case which constitutionalized same-sex unions, equating them with authentic marriage, by six years. “Will and Grace” preceded it by nearly twenty.

We ought not be surprised that shallow culture has produced empty politics. But must we accept the status quo as our destiny? No. I suggest the medicine our culture and politics need so badly is leisure. Bear with me here — I don’t mean the leisure suit that your uncle dons for family weddings, and I don’t mean that we need to cram our garages with more toys. In the Catholic understanding, leisure is not mere idleness or amusement, and it has nothing to do with vintage polyester or a bigger RV. Rather, it encompasses those things that are apparently useless but that we do for their own sake, because they are good in and of themselves. Recall Solomon’s prayer for an “understanding mind,” a “listening heart,” as he accepted the mantle of law-making. Leisure is a disposition of contemplation; in modern parlance, of mindfulness. “Be still and know that I am God,” as the Thomistic philosopher Josef Pieper begins his excellent little book, “Leisure, the Basis of Culture,” by quoting Psalm 46.

The holy sacrifice of the Mass is at the pinnacle of leisure — it’s not useful for anything, except for the worship of God and through that our own sanctification. Leisure, properly speaking, includes any way in which we seek the transcendentals of truth, goodness, and beauty. The Lord’s Day is especially for leisure. Leisure fosters a condition of the soul, “a form of stillness that is necessary preparation for accepting reality; only the person who is still can hear, and whoever is not still, cannot hear.” We’ve all done it, if we’ve ever been delighted by a good book, a prairie sunrise, or the silent beholding of a sleeping infant. These are true leisure. These things help us to see reality as it is.

But of what use is leisure to culture or politics? Indeed, what use is “seeing reality” to anything? You can’t pave a road with it, or cash its paychecks, or eat it. Leisure isn’t economically productive, and isn’t necessarily amusing. But it disposes us to reality, and it’s absolutely necessary. Any culture or system of politics that ignores reality does so at great risk to its flourishing.

Thus, if we wish for a culture that celebrates the greatest goods of created reality — life itself, the family, a healthy view of education and work, the right disposition to these basic goods, or, at best, affirms and supports them, then we must begin with leisure. Healthy culture and politics are born from this.
The following STM students placed at the 2018 South Dakota Trig Star Competition sponsored by the South Dakota Society of Professional Land Surveyors. Placing third was Spencer Lund with a score of 94 and first place, Katherine Achbach, with a perfect score of 100. As the state champion, Katherine represented St. Thomas More High School and the State of South Dakota in the national competition in June where she placed eighth in the nation. Historically, Katherine’s score marks the third time in which a perfect score was earned in South Dakota at this competition.

St. Thomas More sophomore Megan Achbach received the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Scholarship while Karson Jegeris was the alternate for this prestigious award. District-wide, faulty and staff selected these students from the class of 2020 based on their outstanding oral and written communication skills; critical and creative thinking; creative problem solving; strong decision-making skills; and sensitivity to the needs or concerns of others, among other criteria. Megan attended the leadership seminar at Dakota State University, June 14-17, 2018. There, she joined other outstanding S.D. high school students building skills to implement in our school this fall. For information about this worthwhile program, check out www.hobysd.org. Congratulations to Katherine, Spencer, Megan & Karson!

### Girls State ‘A’ Champions

#### 5 Peat All Tournament Team
- Klaire Kirsh, Jayden Bies, Aislinn Duffy

#### All State Players, 1st Team
- Aislinn Duffy

### South Dakota’s Best Overall Sports Programs

**Winner of the KELO Cup**
- 3rd time in 4 years — 2015, 2016, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Reading</th>
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### ACT for STM

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<td>23.2</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>25.1</td>
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#### 800m State Champion
- 2:13.61 Haleigh Timmer

#### 4x100 Relay State Champions
- 43.77 Jacob Hyde, Jake Bohnenkamp, Matt McGillick, Thomas Rafferty

#### 4x800 Relay State Champions
- 9:33.50 Lizzy Erlandson, Clara Sedlacek, Brigit Blote, Kaci Cooper

### Boys Track and Field

#### Class ‘A’ State Champions
- 100m State Champion
  - 10.99 Thomas Rafferty
- 200m State Champion
  - 21.88 Jacob Hyde
- 400m, 800m State Champion
  - 50.08, 1:56.84 Ty Trainor
- Pole Vault State Champion
  - 14’ Jens Christensen

#### 4x100 Relay State Champions
- 1:29.25 Corten Dobesh, Jacob Hyde, Jake Bohnenkamp, Thomas Rafferty

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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Since 2006, C-SPAN has partnered with local cable TV providers nationwide to invite middle and high school students to produce short documentaries about a subject of national importance. This year's theme, “The Constitution & You: Choose a provision of the U.S. Constitution and create a video illustrating why it's important to you,” saw a record 2,985 submissions. STM has participated in this competition through the AP-Gov course and has had a winning documentary each year. 2018 winners included Josie O'Meara & Rose Kinyon, 3rd Place Central Division and Francesca Dyke and Emma Kellar, Honorable Mention. The four videos were chosen based on the thoughtful examination of the competition’s theme, expression, and the inclusion of varying sides of the topic.

CELEBRATING OUR STAFF

Ann Kellar, chosen from more than 150,000 teachers and administrators, as well as diocesan leaders and organizations dedicated to the nation's Catholic schools, received the National Catholic Educational Association “Lead. Learn. Proclaim Award” recognizing educational leadership and excellence. “The most rewarding aspect of being a Catholic educator is to be able to teach in an environment centered on values. Students and teachers inspire each other by word and example driven by a love of Christ and learning,” said Mrs. Kellar.

Jon and Ann Kellar

WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING...

“Here at RCCSS, I've been taught by example that loving and selfless service is a sure way to genuine happiness and fulfillment. I'm very grateful for all the opportunities that have led me to this form of spreading Christ’s joy.”

Sandy Cronin, Class of 2019

“RCCSS has provided me with an environment where true leadership is valued. The rigor of our learning environment has prompted me to rise up and help lead others to success. The most important thing that I have learned is that helping to aid the success of others is just as important as your own success.”

Ethan Oleson, Class of 2018

“I have so much gratitude towards the Rapid City Catholic School System for being my support system for the last thirteen years. St. Thomas More has given me the opportunity to be surrounded by students and staff who inspire me to be the best individual that I can be. I am excited to share with others all of the gifts, knowledge, and faith that the Rapid City Catholic School System has so profoundly enriched my life with.”

Brigit Blote, Class of 2018

“St. Thomas More has given me the opportunity to lead and create a culture of inspiration and fulfillment through missions and extra-curricular activities.”

Alex Kandolin, Class of 2019

Fundraising is necessary to close the gap between actual tuition and the cost to educate a child enrolled in the RCCSS. Please consider making a donation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Tuition/Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
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<td>Financial Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Support</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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Expenses

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<td>Office/Administration</td>
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<td>Facilities</td>
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<td>Extracurricular</td>
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2017-2018 TUITION ASSISTANCE GIVEN: $846,713

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Cost to Educate a Child

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
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</table>
NPM brings in Tom Porter for awards meeting

BY JACKIE SCHNITTGRUND

The Rapid City Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians Association is having a meeting on Oct. 6 at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. The speaker will be Tom Porter from Bismarck, N.D.

Porter is from of Mandan, N.D. He graduated with honors from the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D.; DePaul University in Chicago, Ill.; the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.; and the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he earned a Doctorate in Musical Arts in Choral Conducting under the direction of Dr. Eph Ehly and Dr. Charles Robinson.

He is currently a Professor of Music and the Chair of the Music Department at the University of Mary where he has taught since 2008. His choirs have performed for state and regional conferences as well as toured regionally and internationally, including performances at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, and St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel in Rome. He taught at Bismarck State College for 14 years and served as the Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Bismarck for 12 years, during which time he hosted two regional conventions of the National Pastoral Musicians Association and a national RCIA conference.

An avid composer, Porter has written a variety of compositions from classical solos to commercial jingles, from orchestral overtures to church hymns, such as "By My Side," "Christ Has No Hands But Ours," and "Let Us Be Bread." Presently, his compositional efforts are focused on choral music, both secular and sacred, including "Hoe Down," "O nata lux," "Lux aeterna," and "Sing, Laugh, Love." He has written commissioned pieces for professional choirs, churches, and schools across the country, a number of which have been featured as Editor's Choice in the J.W. Pepper catalogue.

Porter has been recognized with the North Dakota Governor's Award for Arts Education, the North Dakota Choral Directors Association Choral Director of the Year, the Crystal Apple Award in High Education, the Bismarck State College Outstanding Faculty Award, and the University of Mary Alumni Recognition Award. He has served on local, state, regional, and national boards, including the North Dakota Council on the Arts, Central Dakota Children's Choir, Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus, National Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, and the American Choral Directors Association. He has presented papers and workshops at state, regional and national conferences, conducted reading sessions at conferences and for J.W. Pepper, and has conducted honor choirs throughout the Midwest.

A silent auction will be held again this year. To donate an item, please send your name, contact info, and a digital photo to Carman Timmerman, carman@nmu.edu. It will be posted on the chapter Facebook page. To bid on an item, go to Facebook and look up the RC Chapter NPM Fundraiser. Click on “see all,” click on “Comment.” Type in your name, email or post office address, phone number, and amount that you wish to bid. Click “Return” on your computer.

Submit applications for 25, 40, and 50 year Music Ministry Awards to Pat McDowell, patmcdowell44@gmail.com to be received no later than Oct. 2. Nominations for the Emerging Youth Musician, Emerging Musician, St. Cecilia Award for Clergy and/or Laity are to be received by Pat McDowell no later than Sept. 24.

Back to School

RAPID CITY — On Aug. 30, St. Thomas More Middle and High School students kicked off the new school year with a eucharistic procession from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to STM High School for adoration. They were led by their new chaplain, Fr. Mark McCormick. (WRC photo by Becky Berreth)

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Hurricane Florence

Floodwaters from the Neuse River are seen next to a home in New Bern, N.C., Sept. 13 ahead of Hurricane Florence making landfall in the Carolinas. At press time the hurricane Florence was poised to affect more than 10 million people in the southeastern U.S. (CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters)

Correction: On page 9 of the August WRC, Fr. Peter Klink, SJ, was incorrectly identified as an Extension, Lumen Christi final. He was a nominee.
Confirmation Preparation

Have a student preparing for confirmation? Want to learn more about the sacrament?
Watch for this Q&A featuring questions for confirmands from Bishop Robert Gruss.

Why did God create us?

To know, love, and serve Him in this life; and to be happy with Him forever in heaven. (CCC 1, 358)

From the YouCat: We are here on earth in order to know and to love God, to do good according to his will, and to go someday to heaven. (1-3, 358) To be a human being means to come from God and to God. Our origin goes back farther than our parents. We come from God in whom all the happiness of heaven and earth is at home, and we are expected in his everlasting, infinite blessedness. Meanwhile we live on this earth. Sometimes we feel that our Creator is near; often we feel nothing at all. So that we might find the way home, God sent us his son who freed us from sin, delivers us from all evil, and leads us unerringly into true life. He is “the way, and the truth, and the life.” (Jn 14:6).

BY BECKY BERRETH

How does one live once we have encountered Jesus?

That is the question posed by this year’s Diocesan Youth Rally speakers Chris Padgett and Gina Bauer. The two will address youth sixth grade through seniors in high school at the Oct. 7 event held at the Terra Sancta Retreat Center.

“This year’s theme — The Road to Discipleship” — is based on Jesus’ walk with the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus,” said Craig Dyke, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the diocese. “This year, we are working from the experience of having had an encounter with Jesus — what do you do then? Stop and say ‘that was awesome,’ and go back to our old way? No! Once we encounter him, we walk with him, and along the road we talk to him, get to know him and his plan for us.”

“Missionary discipleship is a big deal in our church right now,” said Padgett. “The call to live out our faith is a very important call. Jesus himself talked about going out to the ends of the earth and sharing the good news. This road to discipleship is about learning how to fall more in love with Jesus and sharing that relationship with other people in a natural way. I feel that a lot of people think they have to be street corner preachers to do this, but they don’t; it’s caring for people, it’s loving the unlovable.”

“The hope is for each student to be filled with the desire to want to be a disciple and then go out into the world and make disciples,” agreed Bauer. “I will teach the youth what it means to encounter the Lord, know him intimately, and then share Christ with the world.”

This year, high school students will have the opportunity to live the call to share Christ by participating in the Teen Missionary Disciplers Conference, the day before the youth rally. According to Dyke, the idea stemmed from the reality that a number of high school age teens who attend youth rallies, Steubenville Youth Conferences, etc., are ready to move from the experience of encountering Christ to more of an ongoing daily encounter with our Lord. “We will dive into what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ through prayer, fellowship, Scripture, the sacraments, and boldly witnessing to his presence in our lives,” explained Dyke. “Both speakers will give talks to inspire our teens to grow as disciples and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

“The teens who participate in the TMDC will play particular evangelizing roles for the youth rally that takes place the next day. All will have some role in the set up for the day — hospitality and welcoming, leading prayer experiences, lecturing, or serving at Mass, and opportunity to share their personal testimony at the youth rally.”

Padgett hopes to equip students attending both events with “resources we need in this difficult and dark time,” he said. “We are trying to do something that’s a little unconventional — we are swimming upstream. This is a positive message and a place of encouragement.”

“Life is crazy,” agreed Bauer. “We need to take time to slow down and what better place than a youth rally!”

Registration forms for both events can be found online, www.rapidcitydiocese.org/yya or from your parish youth director. TMDC begins at 5 p.m. on October 6, and the Youth Rally begins at 9 a.m. on October 7. Cost for rally is $45, includes lunch and t-shirt. The cost for TMDC is $75 which includes overnight stay at Terra Sancta, youth rally, meals, and t-shirt. Scholarships are available for those in need. Registration deadline for both events is September 25. For more information call Craig Dyke or Linda Batman at 605-716-5214 or email lbatman@diorc.org or cdyke@diorc.org.
Newman Center chapel dedicated near the BHSU campus

‘A space in which we proceed towards the divine’

(Below) Deacon Zane Pekron watches as Bishop Robert Gruss consecrates the altar at the new Black Hills State University Newman Center with holy oil, Sept 9. Bishop Gruss dedicated and blessed the chapel, adjacent to Spearfish campus. The building features a chapel, offices for staff, an apartment for FOCUS missionaries, four dorm style rooms, large gathering area, classrooms, and a kitchen. (Right) Bishop Gruss blesses the water in the baptismal font. Msgr. Michael Woster, Spearfish; Deacon Ray Klein, Belle Fourche; altar server Abbie Woodard; Father Tim Hoag, Rapid City; Father Kerry Prendiville, Rapid City; Father Timothy Castor, Sturgis; Deacon Pekron; and Father Dan Juelfs, Wall; look on. (Below right) Deacon Pekron and Bishop Gruss proceed down the center isle during the sprinkling rite. (WRC photos by Becky Berreth)

Ride with the Bishop

Bishop Robert Gruss and Msgr. Michael Woster lead riders through the Black Hills during the 2018 Bishop’s Rally and Poker Run, July 22. The day began with Mass at St. Joseph Church, Spearfish, and ended with a BBQ and concert in front of the nearly completed Newman Center. Proceeds benefit the Newman Center Capital Campaign. (Courtesy photo)