Next *Encuentro* phase — local leaders take action

**BY NORMA MONTENEGRO FLYNN**  
**CATHOLIC NEW SERVICE AND**  
**LAURIE HALLSTROM**  
**WEST RIVER CATHOLIC**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nearly 3,000 Hispanic ministry leaders have gone back to their parishes and dioceses to share the ideas and fruits of the conversations that took place at the Fifth National *Encuentro* in Grapevine, Texas.

The Diocese of Rapid City sent five delegates to *V Encuentro* to plan how to meet the needs of Hispanic Catholics living in this area. Fr. Mark Horn, Hill City; Maria and Jaime Munoz, Maru Oszwaldowska and Barbara Linares all of Rapid City were the diocesan representatives.

“The best part of *V Encuentro* was to share with our brothers and sisters and to come to the realization that even though our dioceses are different, as a community, we share many of the same needs and struggles. Additionally, it was humbling to see the presence of so many bishops and know first-hand of their continued commitment to serve the diversity of the Catholic Church in the USA,” Oszwaldowska said.

As the first part of the *Encuentro* multiyear process reaches completion, the next phase is aimed at putting into practice the lessons learned and bear fruits. In the next few months, the leadership team of the Fifth National *Encuentro*, or *V Encuentro*, will distribute a concluding document listing the main priorities and problems identified across 28 ministry areas; the document will assist dioceses, parishes and national structures in drafting their own pastoral plans according to their own realities and priorities.

“This has been like a retreat, the message that we were given at the end is you have the Holy Spirit, you have to take it with you and you have to be saints, (so go) produce fruits of love,” said Sister Judith Maldonado, a member of the Dominican Sisters of the Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. Her religious order is involved with family ministry serving parishes in Maryland and Texas. “The Diocese of Rapid City has as one of its pastoral priorities faith formation for adults, youth and children. It is important to...
Sexual misconduct policy and codes of conduct are in place

The sexual abuse crisis in the Church has been made far more horrendous by some bishops, who by their actions or their failures to act, have caused great harm to both individuals and the Church as a whole. The abuse of their power and authority to manipulate and sexually abuse others has caused devastating harm. The fear of scandal replaced honest concern and care for those who have been victimized by abusers. Again, we seek forgiveness from both the Lord Jesus and those who have been harmed in any way by these actions.

As a beginning step, the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in the aftermath of this scandal has undertaken some important initiatives to address the situation and its root causes. We must all continue to pray for healing in our Church, in particular for those who have been personally victimized. Be assured of my continued prayers for healing.

Over the course of the past few weeks, parishioners from across the diocese have questioned me regarding the extent of this issue in this diocese — if clergy sexual abuse is still happening in the Church, and what happens when an allegation becomes known. I thought that I would address some of these questions and share the good news of what the Diocese of Rapid City has been doing to protect our children and young people.

The John Jay College of Criminal Justice completed a comprehensive research investigation focusing on the causes and context of clergy sexual abuse in the American Roman Catholic Church between 1950 and 2010. Released in 2011, this was the second of two studies done, and it reported that the vast majority of abuse cases occurred from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s. Ninety-four percent of all cases occurred before 1990 and seventy percent of clergy offenders were ordained as priests before 1970. They concluded that these numbers, as well as the style and type of abuse, were fairly consistent with other large organizations (i.e., public schools, boy scouts, etc.) with men who had unsupervised and unlimited access to minors during the last half century and most especially during the 1960s and 1970s.

I share this, not to denigrate the gravity of this issue in the Church, but to put it into a historical context. One could get the sense from the media’s reporting about the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report that wide-spread clergy sexual abuse is still happening across this country. This is simply not the case, even though we are deeply saddened by a recent allegation in our own diocese. The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy, was established by the USCCB in June 2002. This Charter includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing and accountability, as well as supporting survivors and the prevention of further acts of abuse in the American Catholic Church.

Since the implementation of the Charter, the Catholic Church in America has done more in seeking to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults than any other institution, public or private. In fact, beginning in the 1990s, the bishops of the Diocese of Rapid City have implemented zero tolerance policies toward any instance of sexual abuse of children and young people.

The Diocese of Rapid City adheres to the following procedures regarding the handling of any reports of allegations of sexual misconduct.

- Any allegation involving a minor or vulnerable adult is taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. Allegations are referred to civil authorities.
- The diocese has a policy dealing with sexual misconduct, as well as codes of conduct for priests, deacons, lay employees, volunteers and youth activity participants.
- The diocese has an independent review board made up of one priest and several lay people who make recommendations to the bishop regarding the credibility of allegations. They review every allegation that is made.

All clergy, seminarians, diocesan employees and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults undergo background checks every five years.

All clergy, seminarians, diocesan employees and all volunteers working for the Church are required to participate in safe environment training and recurrent training every five years. Over the past years, 2817 clergy, seminarians, diocesan employees and volunteers have participated in the safe environment training.

All children involved in our Catholic schools and all children involved in parish religious formation programs are taught to recognize, resist and report abuse of any kind. This training takes place yearly. On average, over the past five years 3836 children have gone through the safe environment training each year.

The diocese is audited annually by an independent company to ensure proper training and safeguards are in place and followed. We have been in compliance since the audits began.

I will ensure that the diocese remains vigilant and transparent in fulfilling its policies and procedures regarding reported sexual misconduct. In all of this, we must also never lose sight of those victim-survivors who have suffered because people in positions in power and authority have failed to act as the Gospel demands.

For survivors of sexual abuse, these days in the Church may re-open deep wounds. Support is available from the Church and within our communities. Anyone who has been a victim of sexual misconduct by a bishop, priest, deacon or lay person working for or volunteering for the Church is invited to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator by calling 605-209-3418 for assistance and compassionate care.

To anyone who has been abused, if you don’t feel comfortable for any reason with the Church providing help, never hesitate to also contact local law enforcement.

With compassion and without judgement, the bishops of the United States pledge to heal and protect with all of the strength God provides us.

Bishop’s Calendar

October 19-November 2, 2018   Subject to change without notice

October 19, Friday
1 p.m. Presbytery Council Meeting, Chancery

October 21, Sunday
10 a.m. Celebration of Marriage Mass, Luncheon, Terra Sancta

October 22, Monday
Diocesan Staff Retreat, Terra Sancta
5 p.m Rapid City Catholic School System Board Meeting, Cathedral

October 24, Wednesday
9:30 a.m. Cabinet Meeting, Chancery Conference Room

October 25, Thursday
9 a.m. Live on Air with Real Presence Radio

October 28, Sunday
7:30 a.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting, Sacred Heart Church, Philip
8:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Philip

November 1, Thursday, All Saints Day
8 a.m. Staff Mass/ Gathering, Terra Sancta

November 2, Friday, All Souls Day
11:15 a.m. First Friday Mass/Luncheon, Cathedral

With genuine sadness, I write to inform you that the Diocese of Rapid City has received an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by an extern priest of our diocese. Fr. John Praveen Itukulapati, a member of the Holy Spirit Fathers in India, has been arrested and charged an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by an extern priest of our diocese. Fr. John Praveen Itukulapati, a member of the Holy Spirit Fathers in India, has been arrested and charged of two studies done, and it reported that the vast majority of abuse cases occurred from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s. Ninety-four percent of all cases occurred before 1990 and seventy percent of clergy offenders were ordained as priests before 1970. They concluded that these numbers, as well as the style and type of abuse, were fairly consistent with other large organizations (i.e., public schools, boy scouts, etc.) with men who had unsupervised and unlimited access to minors during the last half century and most especially during the 1960s and 1970s.

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With compassion and without judgement, the bishops of the United States pledge to heal and protect with all of the strength God provides us.
**Priesthood Sunday, Oct. 28**

In midst of scandal, Catholics urged to honor good and holy priests in nationwide event

The last Sunday of October, Oct. 28, 2018, is designated as Priesthood Sunday, a one-day celebration of the priesthood calling all United States Catholics to show support for their priests with prayer, public recognition and dialogue. The annual celebration is organized by parish lay leaders and has been sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International, a worldwide Catholic lay organization, since 2005.

The USA Council of Serra International’s choice to reinvigorate their promotion of Priesthood Sunday this year coincides with the new clergy sex abuse scandal sending shockwaves through the church. Members of Serra International, an organization formed in 1935 to support and encourage vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated religious life, recognize the challenge confronting their promotion of a day to honor the priesthood when such disturbing stories of abuse come to light. However, the distressing news has strengthened their resolve to honor good and holy priests — the innocent majority whose reputations and even safety have been threatened by the unconscionable acts of a relative few.

“There has never been a more important time for Serra,” said Anne Shepherd-Knapp, vice president of the USA Council’s Vocations Committee. “The news is very disheartening but this is not a time to lose faith. We need to pray with great fervor for the purification of our church and offer our support to the faithful: fellow Catholics who have suffered, those who are losing faith, and our dear priests who have served honorably but are being unfairly associated with the few who have caused such concern and anguish.”

“Our hearts and prayers go out to all those who have been touched by this scandal, especially the victims,” said John Halloran, Serra’s USA Council Membership Committee chairman. “May our Lord hold those still affected by this tragedy in his healing hands and surround them with loved ones until they can be made whole again.”

In the weeks leading up to Priesthood Sunday, Catholics are called to reflect on the service priests provide to parishes, schools, and the community at large through various forms of priestly ministry, including the sacraments central to the Catholic faith.

On Priesthood Sunday itself, parishes may honor and celebrate their priests in whatever style they choose. In the past, parishes have chosen to mark the occasion with special liturgies, cards, art made by parish school children, a reception after Mass, and more.

Led by Shepherd-Knapp, the Vocations Committee has been instrumental in the push to get Priesthood Sunday on the calendars of parishes across the United States. The committee creates, curates and shares materials to help parishes plan Priesthood Sunday celebrations at the USA Council’s official website, https://serraus.org/priesthood-sunday/, and at the Serra Promotion and Resource Kit (SPARK) website https://www.serraspark.org/11-priesthood-sunday.html. These pages contain tips, suggestions, links, and downloadable materials.

Along with National Vocations Awareness Week (Nov. 4-10, 2018), World Day for Consecrated Life (Feb. 3, 2019) and World Day of Prayer for Vocations (May 12, 2019), Priesthood Sunday is part of a suite of global and national events designed to promote a positive culture of vocations in contemporary society.

Priesthood Sunday is coordinated and sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International. Serra International is a worldwide Catholic organization of lay men and women dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Nearly 8,000 members in over 200 clubs are active in the United States.

(Submitted by Serra Club of Rapid City)

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**Holy Hours for vocations are scheduled throughout the Diocese of Rapid City**

St. Patrick Parish, Wall, Friday November 2, 7 p.m.

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**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.

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**Pray a Rosary**

for your parish priest!

SERRA CLUB RAPID CITY is a lay organization dedicated to promoting and affirming the priesthood and consecrated religious life in the Rapid City Diocese, and helping its members respond to God’s universal call to holiness.

Join us in Prayer!
serraclubrapidcity.org
‘A good way to remember him, pray for him’

BY BECKY BERRETH

Members of St. Patrick parish, Lead, and St. Ambrose Church, Deadwood, gathered for a hike up Black Elk Peak and a sunset Mass, on September 16, to celebrate the life of a former pastor.

Father Peter Kovarik was only in the parishes for a little over a year before he was killed in a plane crash, but in the 16 months he was assigned, he started a tradition at the top of the highest summit in South Dakota.

“Father Pete asked if I would put a hike together,” explained Jay Jacobs, parishioner in Lead. “That was our first hike. He loved being outdoors and wanted to share that with us. We were able to do two, Black Elk Peak and Cement Ridge, before he passed away.”

“Celebrating Mass on Black Elk Peak was something the people talked about who had hiked with him to Black Elk Peak,” said Father Leo Hausmann, current pastor. “They had a very fond memories of the event, so it seemed like making it an annual event in honor of Father Peter would be a good way to remember him, pray for him, and in the process find healing of our own grief related to his death.”

What makes this hike and Mass worth doing is the journey, explained Jacobs. “You’re hiking and then pretty soon you’re hiking with other people, and it becomes a journey to the destination.”

“Hiking to the summit of Black Elk Peak takes a while and there is a lot of good conversation about everything under the sun,” agreed Fr. Hausmann. “You really get to know people in a different way than you normally do at other social gatherings.”

The event, which has drawn anywhere from five to a dozen participants each year, has become a tradition for the two parishes, something Fr. Hausmann sees as important in today’s world.

“I think parish traditions are really important, especially for young people. Our culture today isn’t built on tradition to the extent of previous generations, probably for a lot of different reasons. We are so much more mobile these days and we lose some of our grounding. Traditions ground us.

“Even though much of the stability from times gone by that fostered tradition in family life isn’t as common in our present culture, we can offset that somewhat by building tradition in the parish. I think that if a person has a fond memory of a parish tradition from their youth, but somewhere along the path of life fell away from the practice of their faith, the fond memory of a parish tradition might play a part in drawing them back into the life of the church. For older and more consistently involved parishioners, parish traditions keep them involved and united with fellow parishioners.”

In Your Prayers

In Your Prayers is designed to help us remember the birthdays, ordination and death anniversaries of the priests and deacons.

Joy, hope, energy contagious among participants at V Encuentro

BY NORMA MONTENEGRO FLYNN

GRAPEVINE, Texas (CNS) — Joy, hope, energy and a spirit of continued collaboration are contagious among the participants of the Fifth National Encuentro in Grapevine.

One of the attendees, a 22-year-old Mexican-American seminarian, said he feels enriched by the exchange of ideas on pastoral needs in areas such as vocations and young adults. He also feels his contributions will be of value to strengthen Catholic Hispanic ministry in the United States.

“In school we do a lot of theorizing and then you come here, and you come back to the reality to see what the needs of the church are,” the seminarian, who asked that his name not be used, told Catholic News Service.

“One thing that surprised me is the amount of youth, young leaders, young people working for different dioceses, it’s something that I didn’t expect to be a reality,” he added.

The Encuentro participants, who totaled about 3,200 Hispanic ministry leaders, bishops and members of organizations and ecclesial movements, continued a full day of consultation and discernment Sept. 22 on 28 ministerial areas and 10 priorities which include evangelization and catechesis, family, immigration, justice and peace, and Hispanic youth and young adults.

During an afternoon plenary session, regional representatives highlighted the contributions of “Dreamers,” or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients. They were part of the Encuentro process but were unable to be present at this gathering in Texas for fear of being detained and deported due to the state’s harsh immigration laws. It was a moving moment in which the audience cheered in solidarity with them.

“I’m very hopeful with the results of this Encuentro that we’re going to go back home and really bring consciousness to the whole world, that we’re going to make a difference in the lives of those who need us,” Sister Norma Pimentel, an Encuentro delegate, told CNS. A member of the Missionaries of Jesus, Sister Pimentel is executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

Other recurring issues include supporting Hispanic women in leadership roles; the need to continue the role of a missionary church that reaches out to others; more access to leadership positions at all levels; and to reach out to, mentor and guide young adults as ministry leaders.

Unlike previous Encuentros where a national pastoral plan was developed following the national gathering, the results of the Fifth Encuentro, or V Encuentro, will be compiled into a final document that will be shared with all dioceses, so parishes and dioceses can utilize it to reinforce and strengthen their Hispanic ministry groups. The reason is that the Hispanic community in the church has grown to be large and diverse in its needs and realities, and what makes sense for San Antonio would not make sense in other dioceses like Green Bay, Wisconsin, or Tulsa, Oklahoma, explained Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio in an interview with CNS.

He chairs the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Each diocese has been in a different process even in the V Encuentro,” Archbishop Garcia-Siller said. He also pointed out that the involvement of bishops from most dioceses and archdioceses shows their support for the Hispanic community and commitment to move forward.

“The main thing is that the bishops — and you see it with the presence of bishops (at this gathering) — we are assuming this walking together with the people of God in the Catholic Church in which many, many, many are Catholic for the sake of the whole church,” Archbishop Garcia-Siller said.
Deborah Brannon, a representative of the St. Pio Foundation (New Rochelle, New York) accompanied the relics of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Italy, better known as Padre Pio, into the Diocese of Rapid City. Susan Wagner, Rapid City, was one of the laity who presented the relics to the bishop. The altar servers are Matt O’Connor and Abbi Wagner. In the back row are Fr. Brian Christensen, cathedral pastor, and Dcn. Greg Sass.

‘Pray, hope and don’t worry’

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

Deborah Brannon, a representative of the St. Pio Foundation (New Rochelle, New York) accompanied the relics of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Italy, better known as Padre Pio, to the Diocese of Rapid City on September 28. The Saint Pio Foundation, who hosts the tour of the relics, will visit 40 dioceses this year promoting the charism and legacy of this modern day saint.

The relics, which included the saint’s glove, crusts of the stigmata wounds, cotton-gauze stained with his blood, a lock of hair and his mantle, all travel in a specially designed case under the care of a representative such as Brannon. Visitors who arrived at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help were given time to pray in the presence of the relics, asking for the intercession of St. Pio.

The relics were well received. Fr. Brian Christensen, pastor of the cathedral, said 2,000 people came to the cathedral to venerate them. Tanya Daunt, Hot Springs, met family members from S.D. and Wyoming at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. They came early to receive the sacrament of reconciliation before the Saturday Vigil Mass. After venerating the relics, she said she felt a sense of peace, “I just kept going through prayer and his motto, ‘pray, hope and don’t worry.’”

Patrick Verschoor, Rapid City, has had a 20-year devotion to St. Pio. He too feels drawn to the motto. “He is one of the saints I pray to for guidance,” said Verschoor. “This is amazing. I feel very fortunate to have the relics here.”

Jim Jackson, Rapid City, was one of the 60 Knights of Columbus who stood watch over the relics from 6:30 p.m. Friday to 5:30 p.m. Saturday. “It was awesome watching the people who came. When they finished praying some were crying,” he said. To fill the schedule knights from four parishes were asked to volunteer.
Are you well-informed on the issues, and ready to vote this November? In preparation for the November 6 general election, visit www.SDCatholicConference.org to find resources on forming your conscience as a faithful citizen, and to sign up for email updates throughout the year. As Bishop Robert Gruss has reminded us, “Through voting and involvement in the political process, Catholics help shape the moral character of society.”

—Chris Motz, Executive Director
South Dakota Catholic Conference

The Catholic Chancery will be closed
Monday, October 22
for a Staff Retreat Day.

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New employee
Todd Tobin of Silver City has been hired as the full time Development Director for the diocese. Tobin is a graduate of Rapid City Stevens High School and attended Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. He is a member of St. Ambrose Parish, Deadwood.

Tim Henderson will continue his work as the executive director of the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation.

Position Opening — WSDCF
Administrative Assistant
The Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation has an opening for an administrative assistant. The position plays a key role in administration, marketing, fundraising and special events for the Western South Dakota Foundation. The successful applicant will possess exceptional organizational skills and will have extensive experience with current computer programs and database management.

The candidate will also display outstanding interpersonal and communication skills that will promote the mission of the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation. This is a three-quarter time position that could develop into a full-time position. Competitive salary and benefits package are available. Contact Tim Henderson at 605-343-3541 or see www.wsdcf.org for an application and job description. Resumes can be emailed to thenderson@diorc.org.

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How does ‘all work and no play’ fit with Mass?

“The Mass is the most useless thing we can do, and by that, I mean it’s the highest thing we can do.” So says Bishop Robert Barron in his new film series on the Mass. I recently watched the first episode, and something that he said really grabbed my attention. “Mass,” he claims, “is the most useless thing we can do ... Heaven is a place of utter uselessness. Mass, in its playful uselessness, is a great anticipation of Heaven.” Now, before we all chuck our Sunday plans to come to church and head to the lake or the nearest pub playing the Sunday game, let me also point out that Bishop Barron also echoes the Second Vatican Council in reminding us that the Mass is the “source and summit” of the Christian life — in fact, the most valuable activity we could choose to engage in. So, the Mass is at the same time both useless and valuable.

We need a moment to wrap our heads around this.

The key here lies in the word “playful.” Bishop Barron defines play as an activity which has no purpose outside of itself; it is something done for its own end. Work, on the other hand, is always a means to another end. For instance, we work to get paid so that we can buy the necessities of life. In our society, we tend to think that work is more valuable than play, but Bishop Barron challenges us, saying we have that backwards. We have impoverished the traditional meaning of play to mean something not important and not valuable, when it was once seen to signify the highest form of human activity. In the study guide that accompanies his series on the Mass, he writes, “We find our freedom in the things we do with no thought to utility, which is why our work may make us wealthy, but our play is what makes life worth living. Play, therefore, has the higher value.” Play is the highest form of human activity because, having no purpose outside of itself, it is free from utility and practicality. It is a good pursued for its own end, and is therefore more beautiful, more precious than work.

To say that this has caused me to look at things in a way I have never seen them before would be an understatement. My pragmatic, hard-working, task-driven, list-making German genetics are ready to launch into high rebellion, but the more I ponder this wisdom, the more I am intrigued, because we do tend towards imbalance. We all seem to be frantically working at an increasingly faster pace without in some sense knowing why; we feel compelled, trapped in the pace of American life. We lose the joy in valuable work and even turn what we name play into work by pursuing it not for its intrinsic good but for some externally imposed prize or gain. This hinders our ability to be good stewards of our time, limiting our ability to love both God and our neighbor well. This is not the freedom Jesus has promised us.

I believe recapturing an appreciation for human activity which we pursue simply for its own end (play) can help us to put our work (necessary and good) in its proper place and perspective, and free it to serve the greater good. This in turn, frees us from the slavery we feel towards the tasks we engage in every day and helps us to order them properly. It can assist us in being good stewards of our time; receiving the time we have been given as a gift and striving to live each moment in God’s will and for his glory. Inspired by Bishop Barron’s wisdom, we can begin by fostering a deeper appreciation for the most important “play” we can engage in — the Mass. May we see the time we spend at Mass as the most valuable and highest form of human activity; not as a means to an end, but rather to simply be with the Almighty; to worship, to offer our love and our lives and to receive in return his gift of himself.

Prayer to St. Michael sees resurgence in response to abuse crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In response to the church abuse crisis, many parishes around the country have been bringing the Prayer to St. Michael to the church abuse crisis, many parishes around the country have been bringing the Prayer to St. Michael to...
Eucharistic prayer begins the center and high point of the Mass

The central part of the Eucharistic Celebration is the Eucharistic Prayer. Many think that the high point of Mass is Communion. Communion is very important. That moment of union with the Lord Jesus and one another is really the reason we are there. As important as Communion is however, it is not, according to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, (GIRM) the most important moment. The GIRM, in reference to the Eucharistic Prayer, says in paragraph 78, “Now the center and high point of the entire celebration begins, namely the Eucharistic Prayer, that is, the prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification.”

Jesus sacrificed his life to God the Father on the tree of the cross. His death was the culmination of a life of sacrifice. Jesus invited his followers to follow him. Following him means that we are to give our lives in sacrifice to God the Father as well. Better said, we are asked to join our sacrifice to the sacrifice of Jesus. The response to Jesus’ sacrifice to his Father was the resurrection. God the Father gave life back to his Son. What our faith tells us is that this sacrifice and response in love between the Son and the Father is not just something that happened once in history. This is the eternal relationship of God the Father and God the Son, and this exchange of love is animated by the Holy Spirit.

Before Jesus offered his sacrifice on the cross he left us a way to enter his sacrifice. During the Last Supper Jesus gave us the Eucharist. He told us that the bread in his hands was his body and the wine in the cup he held was his blood. He told us, as recorded in John’s discourse on the Bread of Life (chapter 6), that this bread and wine was his body and blood. He asks us in Luke’s gospel to “Do this in memory of me,” (Lk 22:19). Jesus asks us to continue to offer his body and blood to God the Father in the celebration of the Mass. Therefore, we speak of the Sacrifice of the Mass. We are remembering with bread and wine that becomes Jesus’ body and blood that he sacrificed his life to God the Father to free us from sins and bring us into relationship with the Father.

During the Celebration of the Mass, then, we are invited to not only remember and re-present the sacrifice of Jesus; we are also told that we must join this sacrifice. The GIRM says, again in paragraph 78, that…”the meaning of this (Eucharistic) Prayer is that the whole congregation of the faithful joins with Christ in confessing the great deeds of God and in the offering of Sacrifice.” We join our sacrifice to Jesus’ sacrifice and offer it with him to God the Father. We are, in this great action, present with Jesus, offering ourselves to God the Father. We believe that the Father hears our prayer because it is joined to Jesus’ offering and gives life back to us. Therefore, the communion we share is the culmination of Jesus’ sacrifice and therefore of ours as well. Thus, the Eucharistic Prayer is the center and high point of the entire celebration.

If you have any questions about the Celebration of the Mass or any aspect of our liturgical life, please send your questions to Father Michel Mulloy, mmulloy@diorc.org.
Terra Sancta staff were amazingly coordinated and delicious as well. It was a day well spent!”

For Ronda Graber, St. Joseph Parish in Gregory, the day was a much-needed get away from her busy life as a mother and teacher. “It was a fantastic experience to have Mass with Bishop Robert Gruss and get to see my son serve with him as an altar server. The night climaxed with an awe-inspiring healing service, where I felt the Holy Spirit surround me and fill me with much needed hope and love.”

A sense of healing also enveloped Mary Horn of Sacred Heart Parish, Burke. She said during confession and adoration she felt filled with “God’s active power and graces.

“I asked the Holy Spirit to come over me, take away my clutter, to give myself totally to Him…. it filled me, refreshed me.”

Vicki Knutson of Sacred Heart Parish, Philip, enjoyed a day of renewal. “We all seemed to wait in anticipation with hope despite the crisis in our church,” she said. “Matt Laboda spoke of great faith, Jim Beckman challenged us to be bold and Chris Steward and Tony Brandt weaved words throughout the day prompting and giving us the hope we anticipated.” She too said she felt a sense of elation during the confessions and healing prayers. “I believe many people encountered Jesus Christ. Renewal answered,” she said.

“Matt Laboda spoke of great faith, Jim Beckman challenged us to be bold and Chris Steward and Tony Brandt weaved words throughout the day prompting and giving us the hope we anticipated.” She too said she felt a sense of elation during the confessions and healing prayers. “I believe many people encountered Jesus Christ. Renewal answered,” she said.

Summit 2018 featured three returning favorite speakers and one new one. Matt Laboda, Phoenix, Ariz., discussed his family’s powerful faith journey after nearly losing his youngest daughter. (WRC photo by Becky Berreth)
Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight...
Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce;

Proverbs 3:5&9

Diocese of Rapid City
2019 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Pledge Weekend November 17th & 18th. (Watch for Bishop’s letter in your mailbox.)
Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.

VERITATIS SPLendor INSTITUTE

“The Veritatis Splendor Institute (VSI) sponsored by the Diocese of Rapid City has nurtured confidence in my Catholic faith that has inspired me to step out and share my relationship with Jesus and his church with others. It has been since my college days that I have had the opportunity to study theology and the teachings of the church at this depth. I gained so much from the instructors’ knowledge and wisdom, but also from their witness of love for the church and its deposit of faith. I have appreciated the rich discussions with my fellow VSI classmates and teachers, sharing both the challenges and joys of catechesis. I learned so much from the people that I journeyed with in VSI and already miss the time of prayer and formation that we had together. VSI was a wonderful, life-giving experience for me!”

LuAnn Lindskov
St. Mary’s, Isabel

Family Life Ministries

“I didn’t know what to expect but was excited to know the theme was Mary, Mother of Mercy. The retreat exceeded all my expectations. It was perfect. There were many places to go within and outside the retreat center, my room, the chapel, walking the stations, sitting in the sun on the patio. I am blessed to have the opportunity to be renewed and spiritually fed at this retreat. Thank you for your hard work making it possible.”

Andrew Sullivan
Seminarion

Native American Ministries

“I attended a Cedul Wakan in 2013, and realized that God was wanting more from me. My wife Terri and I started Lay Ministry the following year. Reflecting on the Gospel and learning more about the church was very rewarding spiritually. We were commissioned as Lay Ministers with four others at Holy Rosary Church, Pine Ridge last March. We started doing more ministry on the Pine Ridge Reservation, sacramental preparation, wake team ministry, and home visits. Still seeking, we started the deacon formation, which included Veritatis Splendor Institute (VSI). We completed our first year of VSI and was installed as a Deacon in August 2018.”

Bill White
Christ the King, Porcupine, SD

Vocations

“A few things have become apparent to me in my time in seminary (six years). First, that God is so good. He cares for me and comforts me in ways I could not have imagined. Second, the church we live in today is ready to be set on fire. I can tell this from the many faithful and zealous seminarians I met from across the country. And third, the people of God in western South Dakota are amazing. When I’ve been away from home in Minnesota and now in St. Louis, I have received many letters and notes of encouragement from people back home. The people of the diocese have been so generous to me and I want to pay them back by becoming the most holy priest I can be. Thank you for your continued support.”

Eugene Bieniek
Seminarion

OPERATING INCOME

Western SD Catholic Foundation $670,000
Catholic Extension Society $84,000
Committee on Home Missions $70,000
Black & Indian Mission Office $129,000
Other Grants $4,174
Parishes from Other Dioceses-Mission Caip Program $46,119
Total Gifts from Outside Funders $1,003,313
Adopt a Seminarian Funds $131,373
Annual Giving Society $60,000
Development $600,000
Diocesan Programs $998,298
Terra Sancta Retreat Center Income $510,317
Other Gifts $61,277
Investment Income $45,000
Total Other Income $4,806,264
Annual Appeal Gifts $1,487,273
Total Diocesan Income $4,296,850

OPERATING EXPENSES

Terra Sancta Retreat Center $773,672
Spiritual Development (Religious Ed, Youth Seminary, Ministry Formation, Office of Permanent Deacons) $639,712
Vocations Office and Seminary Education $587,073
Social Concerns & Family Life (Fidelitas, Native Concerns, Catholic Social Services) $366,984
Communications $267,088
Development $311,048
Charity Administration $318,915
Pastoral Programs (Pastoral Ministry Days, Priest Retreat, Presbyterial Council, Clergy Support) $248,880
Family Life $205,256
Office of Stewardship $165,774
Parish Accounting Office $190,594
Grants to Parishes $142,000
Office of the Bishop $68,301
Safe Environment Office $50,482
U.S. Bishop & Vatican Assessments $21,072
Total Operating Expenses $4,296,850

These and many other ministries throughout the Diocese are supported by our Annual Diocesan Appeal.
Almost two million Americans are now addicted to opioids. The National Institute on Drug Abuse notes that more than 100 people die each day in the U.S. from opioid overdoses. This unprecedented level of abuse — which involves not only heroin, but also prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Percocet, morphine, codeine, and fentanyl — has become a national crisis.

Reportedly, about 80 percent of heroin addicts first misused prescription opioids. Yet for many patients, no pain-relieving options more effective than opioids exist. Figuring out how to use these powerful pharmacological agents in an appropriate and ethical manner is urgent and imperative.

At a minimum, a three-pronged approach is required. One prong involves working with medical professionals to limit the use and availability of these drugs by modifying prescribing practices. A second involves making patients more aware of the risks of addiction and increasing their involvement in monitoring their medications and managing decisions about their care. A third involves making effective addiction treatment and outreach programs accessible to those caught in the throes of chemical dependency.

With regard to reducing opioid availability, in recent years medical professionals have been seeking to establish guidelines for prescribing opiates that take into account the number of pills typically needed to get through a surgery or treatment. For example, recovery from more complex stomach surgeries might require 60 opioid pills, while an appendectomy or hernia might only require 15-20. Although prescription guidelines can be helpful, they clearly can’t be fixed in stone, as individual patients will have varying pain management needs.

Some nurses recall well the days when concerns about addiction could result in under-medicated patients watching the clock and writhing in pain until the time of the next dose. Unmanaged pain is a spiritual assault on the dignity of a person, and plays right into the hands of assisted suicide advocates.

Careful titration of pain medications, whether for surgery or chronic pain, also helps to avoid overmedicating patients and rendering them lethargic or semi-comatose; in terminal situations, patients still have the right to prepare for their death while fully conscious, and they should not generally be deprived of consciousness or alertness except to mitigate excruciating or otherwise uncontrollable pain.

In certain cases, of course, it may not matter if a person becomes addicted to pain medications. If a patient has only a few weeks of life remaining, and he or she is experiencing intractable pain such that high doses of opioids are the most effective approach, addiction during his or her final days and hours would not generally raise ethical concerns.

There are alternatives to the use of opioids that may be suitable for some patients. These include the use of less-addictive or non-addictive drugs such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, naproxen, or anesthetics and blockers at the pain site. Cognitive behavioral therapy, stress management and relaxation techniques can help patients learn how to modify triggers that increase pain.

Researchers speculated that, like everyone else, physicians tend to assess health and safety risks differently when bad outcomes spring readily to mind. At the same time, taking steps to restrict opioid availability can backfire, with devastating consequences for chronic pain patients who may now end up being refused opioid prescriptions they need and have relied on for years.

The proper use of pain medications, in the final analysis, requires a balanced approach, attending to objective indications from the patient, so clinicians can offer sufficient comfort and remediation of their pain. Patients must also take responsibility for their own pain management decisions, becoming informed about, and aware of, the challenges and risks. When the goal is to provide the lowest dose of opioids for the shortest amount of time, in direct response to the level and severity of the pain, patients are likely to have better treatment outcomes with diminished risks of addiction.

Curia Corner

Preserving a Catholic community

Glen, from Texas, recently visited our diocesan archives to search out the path of his great-uncle, Father John Francis McKearney who served at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Martin, from 1921-1922. He passed away in Martin of “the flu.”

“I am following my great-uncle’s spiritual journey from his birthplace near the mythic site of Emain Macha in Ireland to his boyhood in Glasgow, student years in Paris (where he encountered the Lakota members of Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show), to Kentucky and, finally, to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart near Pine Ridge,” he said.

“Our research led us from the Sacred Heart Parish in Martin to Pine Ridge, to Louisville, New York, Maryland to Rochester to Rapid City, where we were able to piece together parts of Fr. McKearney’s journey,” said Kathy, diocesan Archivist.

“Something here in God’s Country brought him profound peace in God,” said Glen. Fr. McKearney also developed a fondness for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Pine Ridge. He was not a diocesan priest but a missionary priest, searching. A deluge of emails and phone calls to diocesan archivists across the country led to finding his ordination at St. Bernard Church in Rochester, N.Y., in 1898.

After various posts he landed in Pine Ridge. His life wasn’t easy, and there were years when his faith was shaken. His faith was restored among the Lakota, whom he’d encountered as a young man in Paris. What was it about that encounter that so marked his journey?

Fr. McKearney’s journey was a trail not unfamiliar to Nicholas Black Elk. In fact, they were in Paris at the same time during the Buffalo Bill Wild West Shows in 1887-1889.

“After climbing Black Elk Peak, visiting the Pine Ridge Reservation, and driving through the Badlands, I made a note to myself that the landscape pulls one’s thoughts beyond oneself to something greater,” said Glen. “But, at the same time, the significance of life is enhanced, not diminished.”

In the end, Glen believes Fr. McKearney found peace, his faith restored. His records and history are located and preserved in archives more complete than ever around the country.

Mysteries will remain, as always.

Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
Director of Education
The National Catholic Bioethics Center
Philadelphia.
www.ncbcenter.org

Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapels & Crematory Service
Locally owned and operated by the Isburg Family
Faithful Parishioners of the Catholic Community
605-642-2633
Spearfish & Lead, South Dakota
Sundance, Wyoming
October 31, Wednesday
• Deadline for submissions.
Paper mailed Tuesday, November 20.
☎ 605-343-3541
✉ lhallstrom@diorc.org
✉ bberreth@diorc.org

October 25, Thursday
• Nun Run: Opportunity for girls ages 16 and older to make a visit to a community of religious sisters and to see their life. Visit the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb. Interested in learning how to hear his voice? Want to know more about discerning your vocation and discovering the future God has in mind for you? No cost. Registration is required. Ends November 12. ☎ Office of Vocations 605-716-5214 or ✉ www.gods-call.org.

October 26, Friday

October 28, Sunday
• Light the Capitol Purple: To raise awareness for pancreatic cancer. Held at the S.D. Capitol Building Rotunda from 3-4:15 p.m. ✉ pierrepurplelight@yahoo.com.

November 2, Friday
• World Apostle 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, November 3, 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.


November 3, Saturday
• Rachel’s Vineyard: Rachel’s Vineyard: For those hurting due to an abortion. Held in Bismarck, N.D. Ends November 5. ☎ Carol Kling 605-374-5639 or ✉ cckling@sdplains.com about the retreat. ✉ www.rachelsvineyard.org or ✉ 1-877-467-3463 for information about Rachel’s Vineyard.

November 9, Friday
• IHM Seminary Visit: Join Fr. Mark McCormick for a trip to visit the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minn. Tour campus, visit with seminarians, pray with the community and enjoy some recreation. Open to young men ages 16 and older. No cost. Registration is required. Ends November 9. ☎ Office of Vocations 605-716-5214 or ✉ www.gods-call.org.

• Diocesan Men’s Retreat: How can gazing at Christ on the cross affect our vocation as men, husbands, fathers? Join Craig Dyke, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, on a journey to Calvary and the Cross, and a journey into your own heart. Held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. Ends November 9. ✉ www.rapidcitydiocese.org/diocesan-mens-retreat/.

November 10, Saturday
• Natural Family Planning: Seminar for engaged couples or anyone wanting to learn more about natural family planning. Held at Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont, from 9 a.m.-noon. ☎ Amy 605-716-5214 or ✉ ajulian@diorc.org.

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. ✉ terrasancta.org/heart2heart.

Standing Events
• Lectio Divina: Held Wednesdays at 5 p.m. at Terra Sancta. Led by Sandi Ohlen. Please use south patio entrance and join the group in the Solarium at Terra Sancta.


• Prayer and Lectio: Thursdays 6:30 p.m., St. Martin Monastery. ☎ Sister Marmion Howe, OSB, 605-343-8011.

• Patriotic Rosary: Thursdays 6 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. ☎ Ellen Robertson 605-718-9909.


• Family Rosary: Sundays, 7 p.m., St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rapid City. ☎ Mark Biggs 605-343-2467.

• Hope for New Life Jail Ministry: Third Monday, 7 p.m., Catholic Social Services. ☎ Tony Galles 605-348-2301 or Mary Sperlich 605-342-9343.

• Vocation Discernment Retreats: ☎ Sister Mary Wegher, OSB, 605-343-8011.

• Spiritual Direction: At St. Martin Monastery. ☎ Sr. Margaret Hinker, OSB, or Sr. Edna Marie Stephenson, OSB, 605-343-8011.

• Divine Mercy Image: Would you like to host a traveling Divine Mercy Image in your home for up to 27 days to pray the Divine Chaplet/Novena? A rosary and information about the image are included. ☎ Georgine 605-441-8140.

• Spanish Bible Study: Learn about the Catholic faith, from 5:45-7:30 p.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, room 107. Everyone welcome. Aprendiendo nuestra Fe Catolica los Miercoles de 5:45-7:30 p.m. Todos estan Bienvenidos, salon 107. ☎ Maria Munoz 605-791-3430.

• Tutors Volunteers Needed: Overcoming the language barrier ministry at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, is looking for volunteers interested in helping adults with English reading, writing, and speaking skills. Participants will be introduced to the Lauback Way to Reading with an emphasis on English language learners. ☎ Christine Leichtnam 605-342-8598, ✉ cleeicht@raptudeco.net or ☎ Maria Munoz 605-791-3430.

October 28, Sunday
Spearfish Annual Fall Turkey Dinner
St. Joseph Church (844 N 5th St)
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. ~ $10 adults, $4 children ages 5-12
The Altar Society will prepare the dinner with potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetable, salad, and homemade pies.

November 4, Sunday
Mother Butler Community Center Bazaar
(231 Knollwood Drive, Rapid City) ~ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Silent Auction, vendors, food, and games. Vendor space available for $30. ☎ 605-343-2165 or ✉ stisaac@rushmore.com

Newell Annual Fall Dinner
(306 6th Street) ~ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Enjoy lamb, turkey, and all the fixings. Day includes cake walk and raffle. Free will donation. Proceeds benefit youth and parish functions.

Our Lady of the Black Hills
Piedmont
Fall Festival Turkey Dinner
Sunday, November 11, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tickets at the door:
Adults $10, Children $5, Family $30

Bingo • Country Store
Cake Walk • Fish Pond • Family Fun
Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent is theme of Respect Life Month

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Each year the U.S. Catholic Church observes October as Respect Life Month, which calls Catholics “to cherish, defend and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between,” said the chairman of the bishops’ pro-life committee.

For this year’s pro-life observance “we become even more aware of the need for messengers of God’s love and instruments of his healing” due to the clergy sex abuse crisis and other assaults on human dignity, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said Oct. 3.

As the church approaches Respect Life Sunday, “our hearts are heavy with revelations of how those who should be most trustworthy have not only failed in this regard but have inflicted immense evil,” he said.


The theme for this year’s Respect Life Month is “Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent,” which highlights “our call to build a culture of life as missionary disciples, the cardinal said.

The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-life Activities provides English-and Spanish-language resources for observing the month and to use all year at www.usccb.org/respectlife. Among the resources are: the text of Cardinal Dolan’s statement; homily helps; intercessions; “Respect Life” images; parish bulletin inserts; a poster and reflection flyer; and pulpit announcements.

There also are articles on Catholic teaching on several life issues, including abortion, disabilities, assisted suicide, end of life, contraception and abortion healing.

This year’s theme draws on the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego. Mary appeared to him as a pregnant indigenous woman. She “sent him with miraculous flowers in his cloak to tell the bishop to build a church where people could receive her Son and her loving, tender care.

By embracing the mission entrusted to him, St. Juan Diego helped bring Christ’s transforming love to cultures gripped by oppression and death,” says the reflection.

“Like St. Juan Diego, let us embrace our daily mission to help others encounter God’s transforming, life-giving love.”

Cardinal Dolan said: “We are called and sent to be messengers of God’s love, treating one another as cherished and chosen by Him. In doing so, we help build a culture that respects all human life. The body of Christ needs you. The world needs you.”

St. Juan Diego Chosen for Respect Life Poster

This poster is included in the materials for the U.S. bishops’ 2018-19 Respect Life Program, which is distributed by the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. “Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent” is the theme for Respect Life Month, observed in October.
Toronto doctors lay out procedures for euthanasia of children

BY MICHAEL SWAN

TORONTO (CNS) — In a prestigious medical journal, doctors from Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children have laid out policies and procedures for administering medically assisted death to children, including scenarios where the parents would not be informed until after the child dies.

The article appears just three months before the Canadian Council of Academies is due to report to Parliament on the medical consensus about extending voluntary euthanasia in circumstances currently forbidden by law. The Canadian Council of Academies is specifically looking at extending so-called assisted dying to patients under 18, psychiatric patients and patients who have expressed a preference for euthanasia before they were rendered incapable by Alzheimer’s or some other disease.

The Sept. 21 paper written by Sick Kids doctors, administrators and ethicists was published in the British Medical Journal’s J Med Ethics and backed by the University of Toronto’s Joint Centre for Bioethics.

In a flowchart that outlines how a medically induced death would occur at Sick Kids, authors Carey DeMichelis, Randi Zlotnik Shaul and Adam Rapoport do not mention conversation with family or parents about how the child dies until after the death occurs in the “reflection period.”

Patient confidentiality governs the decision about whether or not to include parents in a decision about an assisted death, the authors said. If capable minors under the age of 18 stipulate they don’t want their parents involved, doctors and nurses must respect the patients’ wishes.

“Usually, the family is intimately involved in this (end-of-life) decision-making process,” they write. “If, however, a capable patient explicitly indicates that they do not want their family members involved in their decision-making, although health care providers may encourage the patient to reconsider and involve their family, ultimately the wishes of capable patients with respect to confidentiality must be respected.”

The proposed policy for Sick Kids argues that there is no meaningful ethical distinction between a patient choosing to refuse burdensome treatment and accepting an inevitable death versus patients who choose to die by chemical injection before the disease brings on death. Legally, Ontario does not require parents to be involved in a capable minor’s decision to refuse further treatment, therefore there is no legal reason to require parent involvement in an assisted death, according to the Sick Kids policy.

Bioethicist Bridget Campion said she is neither surprised nor shocked by the article.

“The fact is medical assistance in dying is now legal. And it’s legal in many places around the world,” said the researcher, lecturer and writer with the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. “Now that it is legal, many practitioners are saying, ‘How do we do this?’ I’m not surprised at all.”

Opponents of assisted suicide are concentrating their efforts on a fight for conscience protections, she said, both for individual clinicians and for religious health care institutions.

Swan is associate editor of The Catholic Register in Toronto.

November is dedicated to praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Holy Souls need our prayers, as they can no longer help themselves. Susan Tassone has written several books to help you pray:

Praying with the Saints for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Day by Day for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

The Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thirty-Day Devotions for the Holy Souls

Prayers, Promises and Devotions for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Available at the Mustard Seed Catholic Store

708 St. Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD • 605-348-5228
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 Cal & Joan Clifford
Ordained November 1, 1995 by Bishop Charles Chaput

Assigned to: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Martin

Duties: Marriage Prep, Faith Formation, Sacraments, Visit Home Bound & Helping People with Addictions

Ministry Highlights: Baptized 13 of 15 grandchildren and great grandchildren, with two baptized together on Sep 30. Being ordained for 23 years, I recently realized I have baptized the children of couples I presided at their wedding, who I baptized when they where babies.

Work: Retired

St. John Paul II still challenges Catholics to be holy, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The teachings, life and holiness of St. John Paul II can help guide and protect people on their daily journey toward Christ, Pope Francis said.

Greeting Polish pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Krakow, which Pope John Paul led from 1964 until he was elected pope in 1978, Pope Francis thanked God for this “great pope” who led the church into the new millennium. The group was in Rome to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their countryman’s election as pope Oct. 16, 1978. “May his teaching, his example of holiness and his intercession guide and protect our daily, at times difficult, journey along the path of the Lord,” Pope Francis told them at the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square Oct. 10.

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When people ask why the Vatican has an observatory, one Jesuit priest says it’s because it cannot afford a particle accelerator.

The nerdy quip by the Vatican Observatory’s vice director, Jesuit Father Paul Mueller, has become his signature response to people’s inevitable surprise when they discover that popes have stockpiled telescopes, and the church does not oppose science — even if it won’t buy a 16-mile long, multibillion-dollar particle accelerator.

Eleven Jesuit astronomers live, work and pray together year-round as they conduct top-notch research either at the modern Mount Graham International Observatory in Arizona or at their historic headquarters on the grounds of the papal summer villa and gardens in Castel Gandolfo near Rome.

“Science is part of our life; for us there is no conflict, no tension” with their Catholic faith and religious vocation, said Father Mueller, a U.S. priest who has degrees in physics, history, philosophy and theology and a doctorate in the history and philosophy of science.

He spoke to Catholic News Service Sept. 30 during a Vatican-led tour of the observatory’s facilities at the papal villa.

Reporters were treated to a full tour of the four observatory domes and telescopes housed in two separate buildings — one being the papal summer residence itself with a stunning view of Lake Albano below and the other being a newly refurbished building nestled within the wooded gardens.

The recently renovated facility houses the now fully restored Carte du Ciel (Celestial Map) telescope from 1891, a Schmidt telescope from 1957 and a new exhibit showcasing a number of historical scientific instruments, artifacts and meteorites from the observatory’s collections.

The plan is to open the unique space to the public starting in the summer 2019 with visits organized by the Vatican Museums.

Father Mueller said one idea would be to have groups tour the villa’s garden, have dinner and then open one of the observatory domes for a night of stargazing. The Vatican Museums already organize special tours of the papal villa and gardens at Castel Gandolfo.

While the details and starting dates of the star-watching tour still have to be worked out, Father Mueller said it will offer a great way to make the historical treasures, work and achievements of the Vatican Observatory more “public and visible.”

The observatory traces its origins back to an observational tower erected at the Vatican by Pope Gregory XIII in 1578 in preparation for reforming the Western calendar.

Pope Leo XIII formally established the Vatican Observatory — placed on a hillside behind the dome of St. Peter’s Basilica — in 1891 as a visible sign of the church’s centuries-old support for science.

The pope’s main observatory, by now entrusted to the Jesuits, was eventually moved to the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo in 1935.

The Jesuit observatory staff set up a second research center in Tucson, Arizona, in 1981 after Italian skies got too bright for nighttime observation. And in 1993, in collaboration with Steward Observatory, they completed the construction of the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope on Mount Graham — considered one of the best astronomical sites in the continental United States.
Bishop’s Hunt for Seminarians

The hunt raises money for seminarian education. The final estimate for the net profit from the hunt is $9,000 this year. It is held at Stukel’s Upland Adventures in Gregory. The hunters are: Front row (left to right) Fr. Mark McCormick, Kim Sarver, Fr. Brian Lane, Bishop Gruss, Terry Sewell, and Matt Faden. Back row (left to right) Tim Henderson, Kevin Morsching, Larry Smith, Tony Berendse, and Mark Schlicte.

(WRC photo)

Veritatis Splendor Institute Mass of Certification

September 16, Bishop Robert Gruss presided at Mass at Terra Sancta, Rapid City, for those who have completed studies in the Veritatis Splendor Institute conducted by the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation. It is a catechist certification program Thirty-two students completed the one year basic certification program. They were given certificates and medals of St. John Paul II, patron saint of the program. There were 14 students who completed the two year Master certification program. They received certificates and images of the annunciation. (WRC photo)

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After the West River Catholic is mailed out to parishioners in the Diocese of Rapid City it is posted online at rapidcitydiocese.org — just click the front page icon.

“THE ROSARY IS A LONG CHAIN THAT LINKS HEAVEN AND EARTH.”
St. Therese of Lisieux

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Church must adopt Jesus’ method, mentor youth, says U.S. synod observer

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Church leaders and members need to be “spiritual mentors” — like Jesus and the saints — befriending, accompanying and enriching the lives of young people, one U.S. observer told the Synod of Bishops.

“Young people are leaving the church for different reasons, but the absence of spiritual friendships and mentors in our families, schools and parishes lies at the heart of this crisis of faith,” said Jonathan Lewis, assistant secretary for pastoral ministry and social concerns in the Archdiocese of Washington.

“Spiritual friends and mentors are urgently needed today since young people trust personal relationships more than institutions,” he said in his Oct. 10 intervention, which he shared with reporters.

He began his brief talk in the synod hall by asking those present to think of how many young people they actually know by name.

He recalled the great impact a priest had on his life in college when he was invited to begin spiritual direction, which involved walking in the evenings in conversation, “like a modern-day road to Emmaus.”

While many of his peers had spiritual mentors when they were young, “most young Catholics today do not.”

He said when young people leave because they no longer trust a church marred by scandal, they still want and need mentors, “not who scandalize the church with sin, but who scandalize the world with holiness.”

Others leave, he said, “because they have serious questions that have never been answered. Young people are asking for mentors who listen to their questions and provide serious answers that offer a coherent Christian worldview.”

Others say they find the church to be irrelevant, Lewis said. “The church does not speak about their interests and experience. Young people are asking for mentors to befriend them and inculturate the faith into their lives.”

Lewis, who as an observer was taking part in the synod discussions but did not have a vote on the final proposals given to the pope, said “young people are not asking for a new event or ‘program’ but a relationship” with a person who gives life a new horizon and sure direction — the person of Christ.

This is why the first task of the church is to offer young people an encounter with Jesus through its witness, he said.

“Spiritual mentorship was the method of Jesus, the method of the saints, and should be our method today,” he said. This “art of accompaniment” is a “long-term apprenticeship in Christian living that no textbook or technology can replace.”

Local churches can start with clergy and laity asking themselves: how many hours they spend each week mentoring young people; whether their sacramental preparation programs provide long-term spiritual mentorship; whether they invest financially in the formation of lay mentors; and how many young people they know by name.
Diocesan Youth Rallies: The Road

Using anecdotes from growing up in North and South Dakota, Chris Padgett (right) spoke to more than 200 students and attending the Diocesan Youth Rally, October 7, at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. Partnered with Gina Bauer, the two national speakers collaborated on the theme, based on Luke 24:32, “The Road: Were not our hearts burning while he spoke to us on the road?”

Padgett reminded the students that, “God doesn’t make accidents.” He also gave them three things, “that will help you in real life:

1) Jesus picks me. “You are all picked first by God. No one looks like you, acts like you, no one is you. You are all uniquely singular. Jesus is cool with you being you.”

2) Jesus prepares me. “God isn’t asking you to be like your friends. He’s asking you to be you. I could not stop telling stories. It is no surprise that I tell stories for a living, because I haven’t been quiet since birth. God knew back then that I needed to be me.

3) Jesus protects me. “I’m telling you that you are beautiful and that God has a plan for you.”

Bauer (below) used an image of a bridge to teach the students how to live with God. “St. Catherine of Siena saw a bridge in the shape of Cross that went between earth and heaven. All of the people are marching across that bridge, living their whole life with God. But sometimes they mess up and fall off and what do they do? They drag themselves back on to the bridge. How? With prayer, Mass, confession. Why? Because Jesus is the bridge.”

She also encouraged the students, through stories of parenting and college life, to let the Holy Spirit guide their lives. “Don’t be afraid to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and be willing to listen and show up.” (WRC photos by Becky Berreth)

(Above) The championship series of “Rock, Paper, Scissors” matched Kira Lingwall, Sturgis, against Gabe Keller, Timber Lake. Lingwall won the series three games to one.

To see more photos from the youth rallies visit facebook.com/youthrcsd/

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‘MY DAYS HERE AT RED CLOUD HAVE TRULY BEEN A GIFT’

For the last 14 years — six as a board member and nine as president — Fr. George Winzenburg, SJ, has served Red Cloud with energy, compassion, and grace, working tirelessly to create new opportunities for our students and families, artists, parishioners, and many more. In late May, he announced that the coming year will be his last at Red Cloud. He will be transitioning out of his role as Red Cloud’s president by the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

“I know the entire Red Cloud community is so grateful to have had Fr. George’s strong leadership and vision for all these years,” said Norma Tibbitts, the chair of Red Cloud’s Board of Directors.

Fr. George will continue to serve as president during the 2018-19 academic year, leaving behind a legacy of growth and success. He led the creation and implementation of Red Cloud’s first comprehensive strategic plan, which has advanced Red Cloud’s work in crucial ways. Under his leadership, Red Cloud introduced innovative educational programs that uphold Jesuit and Lakota values and culture, and expanded the groundbreaking Lakota Language Project and unique arts education opportunities. These efforts have led to unprecedented levels of student success, inside the classroom and out. Today, Red Cloud’s graduation rate is close to 94 percent, compared to an average of just 70 percent for Native students nationwide.

Whether on campus or off, during his years at Red Cloud, Fr. George has devoted his time and energy to advancing the very heart of Red Cloud’s mission — providing meaningful, life-changing programs on the Pine Ridge Reservation. From celebrating the impact of the annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show to creating new opportunities for Lakota leaders to guide Red Cloud’s pastoral work across the reservation, he has been involved in every facet of the organization.

“Each and every one of my days here at Red Cloud has truly been a gift. Walking with all of you — our administrators, teachers, staff, students and families, artists, partners, donors, and so many more — we’ve been able to create unique opportunities here on the reservation, where they are so urgently needed. Indeed, I believe what we have done together is not only making a difference today: the holistic and innovative programming Red Cloud provides will continue to bring about positive change on the Pine Ridge Reservation for many generations to come,” said Fr. George. “I have been humbled and blessed by the opportunity to serve this organization and this community.”

(Article and photo courtesy of Red Cloud Indian School)

Confimation 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.

How many Gods are there? One. (CCC 253)

YouCat (30): Why do we believe in only one God?
We believe in only one God because, according to the testimony of Sacred Scripture, there is only one God and, according to the laws of logic, there can be only one (200-202, 228). If there were two gods, then one god would be a limit on the other; neither of the two would be infinite, neither one perfect; in these respects neither of the two would be God. Israel’s fundamental experience of God is: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord” (Deut 6:4). Again and again the prophets exhort the people to abandon their false gods and to convert to the one God: “For I am God, and there is no other” (Is 45:22).

Animal Blessing

IN HONOR OF
ST. FRANCIS
OF ASSISI

Father Mark McCormick, chaplain of the Rapid City Catholic School System, asks seventh grader Emily Myscofski about her dog Clover, a one-and-a-half year old Maltese, during a pet blessing Oct. 4 outside St. Thomas More Middle School. Before the sprinkling rite, Fr. McCormick asked each of the students to tell those in attendance a little about their pets. The service was held on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of animals. (WRC photo by Becky Berreth)
Breaking up with your phone

I’ve been emailing my friend Becky, a newspaper editor in South Dakota, about our growing desire to unplug. We used to compare notes on “Dancing With the Stars,” but lately we’re both watching less TV.

“My eyes have started to reject going from screen to screen,” she emailed me. Instead, she said, she’s been reading, cooking and walking her dog, which led to the discovery of downtown trails and encounters with bison, deer and bighorn sheep.

“I notice a difference,” she wrote. “It has gotten to the point where my phone is strictly for texting and calling people on Sundays. I can’t keep up with it all, and I’m not sure it’s worth trying.”

I told her about my week-long hiatus from social media, which retrained my thumb from tapping on Instagram feeds. I used that free time online to enjoy personality profiles and read substantive articles on mental illness, gender identity and child development. I found myself looking up the definition of words like ersatz, which means artificial or synthetic, an inferior substitute used to replace something natural or genuine.

Just as soon as I had landed on this snazzy new word — a word that says so much in six letters and has that novel z ending — I uncovered an application for it, one that got me started on my goal to break free from social media.

Social-media apps purports to connect us with others but actually impair and isolate us, turning us into the kind of people who don’t answer a phone call but text the caller shortly later, only to enter into a rapid-fire exchange that feels urgent but not fulfilling.

It was time to turn to Catherine Price’s 2018 bestseller “How to Break Up with your Phone: The 30-Day Plan to Take Back your Life.” Reading this book was like eating broccolli: I knew I was doing something good for myself. It offers an eye-opening assessment of the mental, social and physical effects of extended phone use — the way it fractures our attention spans, hinders our ability to form new memories and undercuts our sleep.

The biggest takeaway, for me, was the fact that we do not think critically about the impact of our phones. How do certain apps make us feel? Why is it hard to put down our phones? What are they doing to our brains? Who benefits from our addiction? I was disappointed in myself for being lulled, like an unblinking toddler, into all the scrolling and swiping.

Heeding Price’s advice and cutting back on phone time has made me feel more in control, more engaged with my life. It empowers me to tackle other off-balance areas as I head into fall, which will be a season of change. I’m setting better sleep habits and healthier snacking, replacing Dove milk chocolates with peanuts and pecans. One positive change begets another.

I recently read about a priest who hits the gym several times a week and weight lifts 350 pounds. “It gets you used to doing hard things,” he said. “And when you’re doing hard things in this controlled environment, it’s way easier to do hard things elsewhere in your life.”

When praying is hard, I focus on the simple prayers that ground me, beginning and ending my day.

But I’m also realizing that being disciplined can turn the day into one continuous prayer: an act of appreciation for life, for God’s gifts, a love for something greater than self. And that’s a good reason to set aside the phone.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Bible, like cellphone, should be carried always, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians should care about reading God’s messages in the Bible as much as they care about checking messages on their cellphones, Pope Francis said.

As Christ did in the desert when tempted by Satan, men and women can defend themselves from temptation with the word of God if they “read it often, meditate on it and assimilate it” into their lives, he said.

“What would happen if we turned back when we forget it, if we opened it more times a day, if we read the messages of God contained in the Bible the way we read messages on our cellphones?” the pope asked the crowd.

Satan, he said, attempts to dissuade Jesus from fulfilling his message and to undermine his divinity by tempting him twice to perform miracles like “a magician” and lastly, by adoring “the devil in order to have dominion over the world.”

“Through this triple temptation, Satan wants to divert Jesus from the path of obedience and humiliation — because he knows that through that path evil will be defeated — and take him on the false shortcut of success and glory,” the pope said.

However, Jesus deflects “the poisonous arrows of the devil” not with his own words but “only with the Word of God.”

Christians, the pope continued, are called to follow Jesus’ footsteps and “confront the spiritual combat against the evil one” through the power of God’s word which has the “strength to defeat Satan.”

“The Bible contains the word of God, which is always relevant and effective. Someone once said: What would happen if we treated the Bible like we treated our cellphones? What would happen if we always brought it with us, or at least a small pocket-sized Gospel?” he asked.

While the comparison between the Bible and a cellphone is “paradoxical,” he added, it is something that all Christians are called to reflect on.

“If we have the Word of God always in our hearts, no temptation could separate us from God and no obstacle would deviate us from the path of good,” the pope said.

V рө VIEW

Venom (Columbia)

(CNS) — Whatever you do, don’t call that alien who has taken up residence in your body a parasite. The polite term, it seems, is symbiote. Such is the dubious lesson in Marvel Comics-based bit of nonsense. Director Ruben Fleischer’s adaptation has San Francisco investigative reporter Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy) trying to get the goods on evil billionaire — is there any other kind? — Carlton Drake (Riz Ahmed). Having made his fortune in pharmaceuticals, Drake now devotes himself, ostensibly, to advancing space exploration. His real agenda is quite different, however.

Behind the scenes, he’s been experimenting with fusing human beings and extraterrestrials into a composite life form. His preferred guinea pigs are consenting, albeit less than fully informed, denizens of the city’s streets. With the help of Dr. Dora Skirth (Jenny Slate), one of Drake’s researchers who’s had second thoughts, Brock manages to infiltrate the tycoon’s vast lab. But things quickly go awry, and he accidentally undergoes the transformation Drake has been struggling to achieve. As a result, Brock is endowed with superpowers — but he’s also unable, at times, to control his own actions.

There’s some amusing dialogue between Brock and Venom. And believers will appreciate the fact that villainous crackpot Drake is given lines denouncing the God of the Bible and offering himself as a substitute deity. The mayhem the otherworldly creatures wreak, moreover, is virtually bloodless in terms of what’s shown on screen. This is easily forgettable fare for the undemanding and, perhaps, Marvel movie completists.

The film contains much stylized violence, habitation, profanity, frequent crude and occasional crass language and brief mature workplace. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Classifications used by the USCCB are: A-I, general patronage; A-II, adults and adolescents; A-III, adults; L, limited adult audiences, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling; O, morally offensive. For more information, visit: http://www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm.