Marian Feast Day a Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception affirms the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin in the womb of her mother. It will be celebrated Saturday, December 8 and is obligatory in the United States since the Immaculate Conception is our patroness. To fulfill this obligation you can celebrate the Solemnity on Friday evening, December 7 through Saturday, December 8 until 3 p.m. Check your parish for Masses times. Beginning Saturday, December 8 at 4 p.m. and all day on Sunday, the Solemnity of the Second Sunday of Advent will be celebrated. It is not possible to attend Mass on Saturday evening after 4 p.m. and fulfill your obligation for both the Immaculate Conception and the Second Sunday of Advent. These are separate obligations.

The Immaculate Conception Vigil from Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, will be posted on www.rapidcitydiocese.org. Viewing does not meet the obligation of attending the holy day. This service is offered for those who are homebound and unable to attend Mass.

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name; good indeed is the Lord, his mercy endures forever, his faithfulness lasts through every generation.” (Psalm 100:4-5)

Though each day we should give thanks for the many blessings received, the celebration of Thanksgiving reminds us in a special way to reflect upon our many blessings, the great abundance around us and the One who provides it all. As you spend time with family and friends on this Thanksgiving Day, be sure to turn to the Lord in prayer and gratitude for his faithfulness and generosity to you.

Know that my Thanksgiving Mass will be offered for you and your intentions. As we give the Lord thanks, may the Lord continue to bless you abundantly this day and always.

Wishing you peace and joy in Christ.
+Bishop Robert D. Gruss

Diocese of Rapid City reaching out on multiple platforms

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

The Diocese of Rapid City is working to keep Catholic parishioners current on faith building opportunities and news.

The West River Catholic has news, photos and an “Events” calendar now published monthly on page 15.

On the diocesan Website, rapidcitydiocese.org, there is an icon to connect with the latest issue of the West River Catholic a couple days after it is mailed. For past issues the newspaper archives are reached through the “What We Do” drop down menu, then by clicking West River Catholic. The digital “Upcoming Events” calendar is on the Web home page. The Website is also where homebound people can watch selected local Mass recordings or occasional livestreamed Masses. Other audios and videos are available there, too.

Podcasts on various topics can be found by using the “Official Podcast for the Diocese of Rapid City” app from the App Store on cell phones or by going to https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/podcast. New podcast titles are listed inside the WRC regularly.

Facebook fans can stay in touch at facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity. “Throwback Thursday” historic photos from the diocesan archives are showing popularity. Instagram followers can go to @rapidcitydioc. Tweets are accessed by going to @RapidCitydioc.

Parishioners are also kept informed of the latest happenings in their parish bulletins. Weekly announcements are sent to parishes from the Catholic Chancery.

See more diocesan social media addresses on page 5.
Improving the lives of homeless individuals and families

Imagine providing a solution to the serious homelessness problem in Rapid City — helping homeless individuals and homeless families improve their quality of life, setting them up for success and long term stability. Shouldn’t that be the goal of every community which care about all of its citizens?

There is an initiative currently in progress in Rapid City to address this serious problem in our community. I do not know if everyone in our Catholic community is aware of this important initiative. This initiative is the work of the Rapid City Collective Impact, as stated on their website, “a community-supported initiative involving members of local government, nonprofits, faith-based communities, businesses, grass roots citizens and a backbone organization who share the common goal of improving quality of life in Rapid City. RCCI is a program of the Black Hills Area Community Foundation.”

Their work focuses on three priorities — food security, behavioral health and affordable housing/homelessness — by creating a campus that would serve homeless by providing transitional housing and connected services in one location. The campus, known as One Heart: A Place for Hope & Healing, will encompass the majority of the former National American University properties, spanning much of the 100 to 300 blocks along the south side of Kansas City Street. It will neighbor and complement Pennington County’s Community Restoration Center.

The mission of this transformation campus is to elevate the human spirit and the spirit of the Rapid City community, improving quality of life for all who live in Rapid City and “to make Rapid City the most caring community of its size.”

What follows appeared recently as an op-ed in the Rapid City Journal in support for this important initiative in our local community.

**Our Obligation to the Homeless**

What is the responsibility of the Christian community in response to the Gospel call to serve the least among us — the most vulnerable and often neglected?

Throughout the pages of the New Testament, we find a consistent response to the poor. The health and holiness of Christian communities rested on their willingness to aid those in need, adhering to the teachings of the Christian church about the right use of material goods. The “community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common,” (Acts 4:32).

St. Paul was always mindful of the obligation to serve the poor. He clearly stated that disciples should participate in God’s generosity by offering relief for Jerusalem Christians, (Rom 15:25-27, 1 Cor 16:1-4, and 2 Cor 8-9).

The clearest call comes from Jesus himself in chapter 25 of St. Matthew’s Gospel. “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs? Amen, I say to you, what you did for one of these least ones, you did not do for me,” (Mt 25:45). Perhaps this clarion call will be the final exam we face on this side of life.

It is easy to look at homelessness in Rapid City as someone else’s problem — the city, county or faith communities. This is a complex, largescale social problem which presents many challenges for those who seek solutions. No one organization can solve it singlehandedly. As a Christian community, we have an opportunity to stand strong, city-wide, to provide innovative, effective, comprehensive, local solutions.

I believe that the Rapid City Collective Impact is an important initiative for meeting these challenges directly. The initiative addresses three priorities: food security, behavioral health and affordable housing/homelessness. This community-supported initiative can be instrumental in improving the quality of life and building a more caring community.

When we invest in the most vulnerable of our community in a responsible way, we will achieve long-term financial savings for our local government and, at the same time, provide comprehensive services to our most vulnerable in a more humanitarian way, thus upholding their God-given human dignity. Consolidating services would also allow precious resources to be more efficiently utilized, thus practicing good stewardship.

I support the proposed transformation campus – ONE HEART. One location where the community could provide transitional housing and many other needed services for our homeless would be a valuable asset, not only for those among us in need of such services, but for our community itself. It is clear that when people beaten down by circumstances in life are given a chance and the necessary resources to turn their lives in a new direction, inspiring things happen. They discover their own dignity in a new way and grow in the confidence that they can become the persons whom God has created them to be.

I recall the challenging words of Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, whose aim was to live in accordance with the justice and charity of Jesus Christ, bringing hospitality to those on the margins of society — “I really only love God as much as I love the person I love least.”

I am deeply grateful for the business leaders whose leadership and support have led the way to bring this vision to life. Now Rapid City is graced with a great opportunity, from which we cannot turn away. Let us band together as a community and show compassion in a way that leads to a better quality of life for the least among us — the most vulnerable and often neglected.

Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rapid City

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bishop’s Calendar</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November 21-Dec 15, 2018 — Subject to Change without Notice</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November 21, Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. Bishop’s Cabinet Meeting, Chancery</td>
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<td><strong>November 22-23, Thursday-Friday</strong></td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Break, Chancery Closed</td>
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<td><strong>November 26, Monday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 p.m. Rapid City Catholic School Board Meeting, Chancery</td>
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<td><strong>November 27, Tuesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 a.m. College of Consultants Meeting, Rapid City</td>
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<td>4 p.m. Diocesan Review Board Meeting, Chancery</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Catholic Social Services Board Meeting, CSS Office</td>
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<td><strong>November 28, Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 p.m. Sioux Spiritual Board Meeting, Rapid City</td>
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<td><strong>November 29, Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:05 a.m. Real Presence Radio, on-air live</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m. Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation Annual Meeting, Terra Sancta</td>
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<td><strong>November 30, Friday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 p.m. Winterfest Fundraiser for Catholic Schools, Seton Gym, Rapid City</td>
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<td><strong>December 4, Tuesday</strong></td>
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<td>8:30 a.m. Investment Committee, Chancery</td>
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<td>9 a.m. Finance Council, Chancery</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 p.m. Real Presence Radio Banquet Fundraiser, Ramkota, Rapid City</td>
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<td><strong>December 5, Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. Bishop’s Cabinet, Chancery</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15 p.m. Generations of Faith Dinner, Cathedral</td>
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<td>6 p.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting, Cathedral</td>
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<td><strong>December 6, Thursday</strong></td>
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<td>8 a.m. Staff Mass and Gathering, Rapid City</td>
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<td>10 a.m. Black Elk Committee Meeting, Chancery</td>
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<td>4 p.m. St. Thomas More 8th Grade Etiquette Social, Rapid City</td>
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<td><strong>December 8, Saturday</strong></td>
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<td>Immaculate Conception 8 a.m. Mass, Cathedral</td>
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<td><strong>December 9, Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>10 a.m. Mass, Pastoral Visit, Immaculate Conception, Rapid City</td>
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<td><strong>December 12, Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass/Dinner, Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December 14, Friday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 p.m. Priest Retirement and Aid Association Meeting, Chancery</td>
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<td>2 p.m. Presbyteral Council, Chancery</td>
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<td>5 p.m. Priests’ Christmas Dinner, Rapid City</td>
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<td><strong>December 15, Saturday</strong></td>
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<td>11 a.m. Deacon Social, Rapid City</td>
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Bishops hear frank presentations, discussion on abuse crisis

By Catholic News Service and WRC Staff

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston–Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Nov. 14 he had opened the bishops’ fall general assembly “expressing some disappointment,” but “I end it with hope.”

“My hope is first of all grounded in Christ, who desires that the church be purified and that our efforts bear fruit,” he told his fellow bishops in Baltimore with remarks closing the public sessions of the Nov. 12-14 meeting.

“We leave this place committed to taking the strongest possible actions at the earliest possible moment,” Cardinal DiNardo said. “We will do so in communion with the universal church. Moving forward in concert with the church around the world will make the church in the United States stronger and will make the global church stronger.”

He announced at the start Nov. 12 the Vatican had requested the bishops delay voting on several proposals to address the sex abuse crisis and hold bishops more accountable for dealing with wayward priests and other church workers accused of sex abuse.

Bishop Robert Gruss, Diocese of Rapid City, said, “Over the course of these days, there was much disappointment expressed among all the bishops regarding the Vatican requesting that we not vote on proposals for the Standards of Accountability for Bishops, the establishment of a Special Commission for Review of Complaints against Bishops, and the protocols regarding restrictions on bishops who were removed from or resigned their office.”

The directive from Rome said there needed to be a review for conformity to canon law and that action on the proposals needed to wait until after the February Vatican meeting for presidents of bishops’ conferences worldwide to discuss the abuse crisis. But throughout the assembly, the spotlight was on the widening abuse crisis in the U.S. church and action the U.S. bishops must take to address it. Much of the meeting time was devoted to frank presentations and discussions about abuse.

Bishop Gruss said, “We listened to various speakers which included victim-survivors. They were not only courageous in sharing their stories with us, but they were inspiring, challenging us to listen to all victims when they come forward. Monday’s Day of Prayer was a beautiful opportunity to pray for victim-survivors and make reparation for the sins committed by my clergy and church leaders.”

Among speakers who gave presentations on the abuse crisis and called for action was the chairman of the National Review Board, Francesco Cesareo, president of Assumption College in Massachusetts.

He called for broadening the scope of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” to include bishops. He also urged publishing complete lists of credibly accused clergy in all dioceses; improving the audit process; and enhancing accountability for bishops regarding cases of abuse.

He urged the bishops to take action and continue to move solutions to abuse forward. If such action does not happen, “I fear for the future of our church,” Cesareo said Nov. 13.

“We are facing painful times as a church,” said another speaker, Father David Whitestone, chair of the bishops’ National Advisory Council. “The depth of anger, pain and disappointment expressed by members of the NAC cannot begin to be expressed adequately in words.”

He noted that progress has been made since the bishops adopted the Charter, but he stressed that more needs to be done. “We must recommit to the ongoing care of all victims in their healing,” Father Whitestone said.

During a late-afternoon open discussion on the crisis, the case of Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick posed the most daunting questions for the bishops. The former cardinal-archbishop of Washington is accused of abusing a minor decades ago and having sexual contact with seminarians in more recent years. He denies the allegations.

Bishop Gruss said, “It was very clear that this is on the minds of our lay faithful and bishops. We must complete this investigation quickly with the utmost openness and transparency. Many, many bishops expressed this throughout the discussion.”

During the discussion, there were calls for bishops to examine their relationship with Jesus and with God and to ask themselves what it means to be a shepherd in their dioceses.

The bishops also heard from Heather Banis, a trauma psychologist who is victim assistance coordinator for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She told them that helping victims and survivors of child sex abuse heal is a journey that involves showing them repeated trustworthiness. It begins with listening, understanding, offering responses showing that they, the victim-survivors, are believed, she said.
Msgr. Todd Lajiness, rector of Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and president of the National Association of Catholic Theological Schools, outlined feedback given by some U.S. seminary rectors on promoting “celibate chastity” among seminarians as well as having listening sessions with seminarians, taking “a fresh look at boundaries,” and providing “new pathways for reporting” abuse allegations.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States urged them to face them realistically and “face them. And do it in the positive sense that the bishops and the nuncio to the United States urged them to face the issue of clergy sexual abuse straight ahead,” he said.

By our action this week and the months to come and the years to come, the abuse crisis will be remembered as guardians of the church with transparency, restore credibility, and meet the needs of victims— bringing healing to the church — and we are committed to this.

“In the United States, the crisis has begun. We are now in the middle of it. What we have done so far is important. But what we must do is more. We must do more and we must do it better.”

Bishop Gruss concluded, “I came away from the discussion very hopeful — with a positive sense that the bishops and the USCCB really want to solve this crisis in the church with transparency, restore credibility, and meet the needs of victims — bringing healing to the church — and we are committed to this.”

“It is also important to share what we are doing to keep our children safe. There is no institution in the world that has done more to protect our children than the Catholic Church. Having said this, we also cannot become complacent in doing this. More can be done and this must remain an important ministry in the church,” he said.

In his presidential address Nov. 12, Cardinal DiNardo took note of the historic nature of this year's meeting. “Whether we deal with racism or economic concerns, the mission of the church is the same. It is to love, serve, and care for all of the faithful.”

They overwhelmingly approved the document, “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love — A Pastoral Letter Against Racism.” It declares “racist acts are sinful because they violate justice.” “They reveal a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of the persons offended, to recognize them as the neighbors Christ calls us to love,” it adds.

The vote for passage was 241-3 with one abstention. It required a two-thirds vote by all bishops, or 183 votes, for passage.

Also on the final day’s agenda the bishops gave unanimous support for the advancement of the canonization cause of Sister Thea Bowman on the diocesan level — the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, headed by Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz. It is the diocese where Sister Bowman grew up and also where she ministered in her last years while taking care of her aging parents and subsequently fighting cancer herself.

The great-granddaughter of slaves, Sister Bowman was the only African-American member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. She transcended racism to leave a lasting mark on Catholic life in the United States in the late 20th century.

Other agenda items for the last day of the meeting included the approval of a budget for 2019, which reflected increased expenses related to the new clergy sex abuse crisis and a downward trend in the USCCB’s Office of Migration and Refugee Service’s budget due to federal cuts in refugee resettlement funds.

They also heard reports on September’s V Encuentro held in Grapevine, Texas, and October’s Synod of Bishops on “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.”

Regarding the synod, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who was a synod delegate, said the event was a moment of great grace that needs attention of church leaders now to implement it on the diocesan level.

The bishops voted for Bishop Gregory L. Parkes of St. Petersburg, Florida, as treasurer-elect of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He’ll take office for a three-year term next November at the end of the general assembly, succeeding Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr.

Votes also were cast for a new chairman of the Committee on National Collections and chairmen-elect for the committees on Catholic Education; Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations; Divine Worship; Domestic Justice and Human Development; Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; and Migration.

Throughout the meeting, outside the hotel, protesters continued to gather to call for change and urge more action by the bishops to address the abuse crisis.

In Your Prayers

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


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Permanent Diaconate – Is God Calling You?

Could God be calling you to serve him and the Church as a Permanent Deacon?

Come and explore the possibility of the Permanent Diaconate by attending a presentation on the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Rapid City.

Saturday, February 2, 2019
Terra Sancta Retreat Center
11:45 AM Mass (Holy Cross Chapel)
12:30 PM Luncheon
1:30 PM Presentation

Counts for lunch and space are required — please contact Deacon Greg Sass to make your reservation to attend.

Wednesday, February 20, 2019
Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont
6:30 PM Presentation
No reservation required.

Additional presentations Will be scheduled at other locations.

Watch the West River Catholic and your bulletin for other dates and locations.

For more information, contact Deacon Greg Sass, gsass@diorc.org, (605) 791-7282 or visit https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/permanent-diaconate/diaconate-formation/.

Husbands and wives are encouraged to attend.

Additional USCCB meeting news...

CNS — There were other items on the agenda, including a pastoral letter on racism that was introduced to the body of bishops as an action item Nov. 13 and voted on Nov. 14.

They overwhelmingly approved the document, “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love — A Pastoral Letter Against Racism.” It declares “racist acts are sinful because they violate justice.” “They reveal a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of the persons offended, to recognize them as the neighbors Christ calls us to love,” it adds.

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Diocese encouraging prayers to St. Michael the Archangel

BY FR. MICHEL MULLOY
VICAR GENERAL

There is a long history associated with the Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel. Bishop Robert Gruss has given pastors the choice to revive the practice of praying this prayer before or after the celebration of the Mass in the parishes of the Diocese of Rapid City. This was the recommendation of the Priests Presbyteral Council at their October meeting. Whether to pray this prayer and when remains the choice of the pastors.

Our tradition tells us that Michael, who is mentioned in the book of Daniel and in the Book of Revelation, is the angel who battled against the devil and the fallen angels when they rebelled against God’s plan of salvation. St. Michael the Archangel remains a strong advocate and intercessor in the struggle against evil and its power in the world.

St. Paul tells us to “Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil” (Eph 6:11). St. Francis DeSales said, “Veneration to St. Michael is the greatest remedy against despising the rights of God, against insubordination, skepticism and infidelity.” Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) recognized the importance of the intercession of St. Michael and encouraged a devotion to St. Michael as a means of defense against the constant attack of the forces of evil. He ordered that the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel be prayed at every low Mass. With the Second Vatican Council reforms this practice was discontinued. More recently both St. Padre Pio and St. John Paul II called for a devotion to St. Michael as a help to overcome the forces of evil in our world.

Bringing this prayer back as a devotion has been suggested by a number of lay people in response to the present cultural situation in which we find ourselves. There is no question that the forces of evil are doing all they can to undermine and cause havoc in the life of the church. Bishop Gruss’ decision to allow pastors to begin this devotion is not a reaction to the sexual abuse crisis. It is far beyond one issue. There is no doubt that the forces of evil are working through this crisis that we are facing as a church. However, the general breakdown of the family, the moral and spiritual decline in our culture and the obvious presence of forces that militate against the church and the salvation of souls is the reason why the desire to reinstitute this devotion has now surfaced.

The Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel, originally written in Latin, has been translated in various ways since it was first created. For the sake of unity within the diocese, the translation printed with this article will be used in any parish whose pastor decides to begin this devotion. Prayer cards will be created and distributed to the parishes who begin this devotion.

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

CNS photo
Knights of Columbus help modernize BH Pregnancy Center

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

Wes Mendenhall, chair of the Right to Life Committee for Knights of Columbus Council 7079, led the effort to raise money for ultrasound equipment donated to the Black Hills Pregnancy Center, Rapid City. His council serves Our Lady of the Black Hills Parish, Piedmont. The council enlisted help from the St. Francis Assisi Parish Council 6341, Sturgis, and other area knights to raise the funds. Fundraising drives and pancake breakfasts have taken place over the past couple years. Ultrasound units cost $35,000 each.

“Buying ultrasound machines is a part of a nationwide pro-life program of the K of C Catholic Charities. It matches funds raised by local councils to assist pregnancy centers in expanding capabilities which encourage pregnant women to carry babies to birth,” said Mendenhall. “Over 80 percent of women who see their babies on ultrasound images decide to avoid abortion.”

The pregnancy center now has a My Lab 6 — 3D/4D ultrasound. Travis Lasseter, executive director of the Rapid City based center, estimates training on the latest version ultrasound machine will be completed in February 2019 and should be up and running afterwards.

He said his organization is willing to work in partnership with churches, organizations or individuals to increase services or provide baby equipment like car seats, play pens or clothing. The center is particularly looking for monthly support partners and for a sound system to suppress conversations from one meeting room to the next to ensure client privacy.

The center takes married or single clients, couples and individuals. It provides free pregnancy tests, layettes, opportunities to earn money for baby items, and pairing with trained advocates. The “Earn While Your Learn” program awards “Baby Bucks” for watching educational videos, completing worksheets, going to doctor appointments, attending school, or attending church. According to Lasseter the prices in the office baby boutique are lower than retail stores and they carry new items — clothing, equipment and diapers.

“We are definitely looking for more volunteers with a variety of skill sets — letter writing, event planning and coordinating, graphic designing, and office cleaning,” said Lasseter.

“A lot of newer clients find us through Google,” said Lasseter, adding the center is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. In Rapid Valley the pregnancy center address is Black Hills Pregnancy Center, 1774 Centre St. Ste. 1, Rapid City, SD 57703. The Website is BlackHillsPregnancyCenter.com, email blackhillspregnancycenter@gmail.com; phone 605-341-4477 or text 605-415-6217.

In the future, the center plans to build a new facility on land donated to them at the corner of 5th and Anamosa Streets in the north part of Rapid City.
November 2018

Reconciliation

Belle Fourche, St. Paul, Monday, Dec. 3 — 7:30 p.m.
Bison, Blessed Sacrament, Monday, Dec. 10 — 6:30 p.m.
Bonesteel, Immaculate Conception, Thursday, Dec. 6 — 6:30 p.m.
Buffalo, St. Anthony, Sunday, Dec. 9 — 6:30 p.m.
Colome, St. Isidore, Tues, Dec. 11 — 6:30 p.m.
Custer, St. John, Tuesday, Dec. 4 — 6:30 p.m.
Deadwood, St. Ambrose, Sunday, Dec. 16 — 1:30 p.m.
Faith, St. Joseph, Sunday, Dec. 23 — 6:30 p.m.
Ft. Pierre, St. John, Thursday, Dec. 20 — 6:30 p.m.
Gregory, St. Joseph, Tuesday, Dec. 18 — 6:30 p.m.
Hot Springs, St. Anthony, Tuesday, Dec. 11 — 6:30 p.m.
Isabel, St. Mary, Monday, Dec. 10 — 7 p.m.
Kyle, Our Lady of Sorrows, Tuesday, Dec. 4 — 4 p.m.
Lemmon, St. Mary, Sunday, Dec. 16 — 7 p.m.
Martin, Sacred Heart, Tuesday, Dec. 18 — 6:30 p.m.
McLaughlin, St. Bernard, Sunday, Dec. 2 — 7 p.m.
Midland, St. William, Sunday, Dec. 9 — 1:30 p.m.
Murdo, St. Martin, Tuesday, Dec. 4 — 6:30 p.m.
Newell, St. Mary, Thursday, Dec. 20 — 7 p.m.
New Underwood, St. John, Tuesday Dec. 11 — 6:30 pm
Piedmont, Our Lady of the Black Hills, Monday, Dec. 17 — 6 p.m.
Philip, Sacred Heart, Sunday, Dec. 9 — 4 p.m.
Presho, Christ the King, Thursday, Dec. 13 — 6:30 p.m.
Rapid City, Blessed Sacrament, Advent Mercy Night*, Monday, Dec. 10 — 4 pm.
Rapid City, Cathedral OLPH, Mercy Night*, Tuesday, Nov. 27 — 6:30 p.m.
Rapid City, St. Isaac Jogues, Wednesday, Dec. 19 — 7 p.m.
Rapid City, St. Therese, Thursday, Dec. 13 — 6:30 p.m.
Speakfish, St. Joseph, Sunday, Dec. 16 — 7 p.m.
Sturgis, St. Francis, Monday, Dec. 10 — 7 p.m.
Timber Lake, Holy Cross, Sunday, Dec. 9 — 7 p.m.
Wall, St. Patrick, Sunday, Dec. 16 — 5 p.m.
Wanblee, St. Ignatius Loyola, Friday, Dec. 7 — 3 p.m.
Winner, Immaculate Conception, Monday, Dec. 17 — 6:30 p.m.

*Includes Eucharistic Adoration

Sponsored by: StoneBridge Business Partners
Rochester, New York

Real Presence Radio Banquet

Real Presence Radio will host Teresa Tomeo, host of “Catholic Connection,” as keynote speaker at their upcoming annual fundraising banquet on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at the Best Western Ramkota in Rapid City.

In addition to being a radio host, Tomeo manages her own communications company and is also a bestselling author and print, radio, and television journalist with more than 30 years of experience in media. When Teresa reverted to the Catholic faith, her broadcasting experience came with her, and she now uses these skills to advance the mission of Christ.

For more information about the banquet, or to become a sponsor, host a table of eight, or register to attend as a guest, please visit yourcatholicradiostation.com, call (877) 795-0122 or email jessica@yourcatholicradiostation.com.

Teresa Tomeo

Full-time Counseling Program Director and Outpatient Therapist Postillons Open

Catholic Social Services has openings for a full-time Counseling Program Director and an Outpatient Therapist. Master’s Degrees and FuS. D. licenses required. Salary DOE. Travel required. Benefit package includes Life & Health Ins., Retirement, PPL, etc.

Send resume to: Catholic Social Services
529 Kansas City St.
Rapid City, SD 57701 or to css@cssrapidcity.com.

Real Presence

Radio Banquet

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Teresa Tomeo

STONEBRIDGE

Business Partners

October 18, 2018

Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss Bishop of Rapid City
606 Cathedral Drive, Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Bishop Gruss:

We are writing to inform you that the Diocese of Rapid City is in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2017/2018 Charter audit period. We have reviewed this information and will be forwarding the documents to the Secretariat of Youth and Child Protection for use in the 2018 Audit Report.

Thank you for your cooperation and for participating in the data collection process.

Sincerely,

StoneBridge Business Partners
Rochester, New York

cc: Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

Knights of Columbus

Thanksgiving Dinner

November 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
St. Thomas More High School, Rapid City
All are welcome! Meal is free of charge.

Volunteers please report to STM Cafeteria at 10:15 a.m.
Silver anniversary of *Totus Tuus* vocation camps coming next summer

Fr. Mark: Next summer, the Diocese of Rapid City’s *Totus Tuus* ("All yours") Vocation Camps will be celebrating 25 years of bringing together middle school and high school youth from across the diocese. This is a way to help our young people hear the voice of Jesus and to encourage them not to be afraid to ask this question of the Lord: “Lord, what do you want me to do with my life?”

*Totus Tuus* has been a great blessing for our diocese in building and promoting a culture of vocations, and it has borne much fruit — not only in the number of priestly and religious vocations, but simply by helping our young people to seek a living and personal relationship with the Lord.

As we begin to celebrate the 25th anniversary of *Totus Tuus*, I asked Father Tim Hoag, founder of the camp as we know it, to share a bit of the history of this remarkable gift.

**Fr. Tim:** *Totus Tuus* Vocations Camps developed mostly through trial and error. Bishop Steven Biegler and I, while we were in seminary, recognized a need to develop a community of young men who were interested in priesthood.

We held our first vocations camp in 1989 at Camp Rimrock. Fifty-six middle school boys and girls attended. It was a great retreat. However, we took a four-year hiatus as both of us went off to theology school.

The summer of my diaconate year I sought permission from and the support of Fr. Arnie Kari, who was the vocation director at the time, to put on a vocations retreat. He gave us his blessing. Bishop Steven Biegler and Father Peter Kovarik, who were newly ordained, other diocesan seminarians and I put on a retreat at St. Martin Monastery.

It was a weekend retreat (Friday through Sunday) and was offered for high school and college-aged men. Father Tony Grossenburg attended this retreat and has shared that it was instrumental in his decision to go to the seminary the following year.

We learned from this retreat that the age spread of high school through college was too big, plus we thought a camp atmosphere would work much better than a retreat format. Also, the research provided by the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors highlighted that the first time a young boy begins to think about being a priest is in his middle school years. So, we decided to start with middle school boys with the hope of building the camp by later adding high school boys and young men as leaders.

From 1996 – 2011 it was held at various Protestant camps throughout the Hills because, at the time, we did not have our own retreat center. Camp was held at Camp Rimrock, the Wesleyan Camp, Atlantic Mountain Ranch and Camp Bob Marshall. Eventually, we settled on a permanent place in the schedule at Storm Mountain Camp. In 2012, we moved to our diocesan retreat center at Terra Sancta Retreat Center in Rapid City.

In those early years we had to prepare our meals and snacks for the camp. These were largely put together through volunteers from the cathedral parish where I was assigned as an associate pastor.

When the first sixth grade group had attended *Totus Tuus* for three years and were moving into high school we realized we needed to have a leadership camp to continue to build a community for these young men who were interested in seminary. We developed the high school leadership camp which was held two days prior to the middle school camp. Alongside diocesan seminarians, the boys from the leadership camp helped run the middle school camp.

When Father Brian Christensen became vocation director in 2002, we realized there was a need to encourage young girls to consider religious life. Thus, we developed *Totus Tuus* Girls. Father Brian and I really didn’t know how to put a camp like this together. Therefore, we turned to the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious to find young women religious who were willing to assist us.

Not knowing any better, we set the schedule for the first girls camp exactly as we had run the boys’ camp. About a half a day into the first camp, the sisters who had come to assist us met with Father Brian and me to revise the schedule. They wanted to add things we would never have dreamed of adding with boys.

For instance, they suggested an hour of preparation time to get ready for breakfast and an hour for lunch, allowing the girls to have time to visit. They also wanted to give the girls time for crafts. We would never have included crafts with the boys. Putting things like sharp objects (scissors), glue and the like into the hands of the boys didn’t seem wise.

In time, the sisters, in coordination with the vocations office, were designing the schedule and the talks for the girls’ camp. During this time, the first fruit of *Totus Tuus* was received. Father Grossenburg, who attended that first retreat, was ordained.

Under the direction of Father Brian and Susan Safford, at that time a newly consecrated virgin, as well as Father Kevin Achbach who succeeded Father Brian as vocations director, the camp’s numbers increased. We also began to see more fruit from the camps.

Men who had attended the camp as middle school and high school boys were beginning to be ordained including Father Tyler Dennis, Father Jonathan Dillon and Father John Paul Trask. We have also seen the fruit of the girls’ camp with Rachel Wilhelm (Sister Familiae) and Giovanna Julian (Sister Poveri) with the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matari, and Audrey Blankartz (Sister Lucia Christi) with the Nashville Dominicans. We also have three seminarians who were *Totus Tuus* campers: Deacon Zane Pekron, Andrew Sullivan and Robert Kinyon.

This trend continues under vocation director Father Mark McCormick. Last year, the camps served 95 middle school and 38 high school young people.

**Fr. Mark:** If you or your children have any stories to share about the blessings of *Totus Tuus* in their lives, I would love to hear them. We can see the fruits of those who have chosen priesthood or religious life and have shared with us the impact *Totus Tuus* had on their decision, but it is harder for us to see how the camps have assisted young people in general to draw closer to the Lord and to listen to his call.

We are planning several events this summer to celebrate the gift that *Totus Tuus* has been to our young people, families, parishes and diocese. Help us to celebrate and live *Totus Tuus* in our lives.
We believe that Jesus is truly and really present in the Communion we receive. It could be argued that this is the reason we come. I would not disagree. However, much happens in Mass before Communion and it is not unimportant. We are, throughout the Mass, encountering Jesus in the Word proclaimed, the priest presiding and in the community, gathered.

The presence of Jesus throughout the Mass does not diminish the importance of Communion. Catholics have a unique awareness of the reality of the Lord’s presence in the sacred species, and that reality has drawn many Catholic into a deeper union with the Lord, has brought non-practicing Catholics back to their faith practice and has been a significant dimension of conversion for others. Still, if Mass were simply a matter of receiving Communion, we could simplify things quite a bit.

The presence of Jesus in the Communion we receive is grounded on our belief that Jesus, risen from the dead, is present all the time. Jesus is alive and active in our lives. The resurrection was not simply a historically significant event that we remember with fondness. It is a living reality he makes present to us today. Jesus continues his saving work in, with and through his church in the world today. Our belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharistic species is predicated on this deeper reality.

The risen Jesus continues to bring about the salvation of the world. As Jesus did once in history, so he eternally offers himself to God the Father in sacrifice, to free us from our sins and to bring us into union with God. At the heart of the celebration of the Mass is our desire and willingness to join our sacrifice to the sacrifice of Jesus. My coming to Mass and my participation in the whole celebration are how I concretely offer myself with Jesus to God the Father.

The listening, the praying, the attention, the singing, all my gestures and actions, all in celebration of the Mass are how I join the sacrifice of Jesus. Joining my sacrifice to the sacrifice of Jesus is not possible unless I am with him, that is, encountering Jesus. The whole of the Mass is giving expression to our desire to enter this encounter with Jesus.

We believe that by making this sacrifice with Jesus to the Father, we will also share in the resurrected life God gives to his Son. Communion is the gift of God the Father to us. It is the deep encounter with Jesus we have been preparing for throughout the celebration of the Mass. The fact that Jesus is present to us throughout the Mass is the underpinning that makes communion so powerful.

When we embrace our belief that the risen Lord is present and active in our lives all the time, then the celebration of the whole Mass and our immersion in the celebration with our whole heart, mind and soul, are essential. It is through the whole Mass that we encounter Jesus, and in that encounter, receive the great gift of his life in our life through holy Communion. So, the question is important.

Do you believe that we encounter Jesus in the celebration of the Mass?
Beyond criticism and anger – the invitation to a deeper empathy

Recently, I attended a symposium where the keynote speaker was a man exactly my age. Since we had both lived through the same cultural and religious changes in our lives, I resonated with much of what he said and with how he felt about things. In his assessment of both the state of affairs in our politics and our churches today, he was pretty critical, even angry. Not without reason. In both our governments and our churches today, there isn’t just a bitter polarization and an absence of fundamental charity and respect, there’s also a lot of seemingly inexcusable blindness, lack of transparency, and self-serving dishonesty. Our speaker ended very negative in terms of his attitude towards those whom he blames for the problem.

I can’t fault his truth and I can’t fault his feelings. They’re understandable. But I’m not at ease with where he landed. Bitterness and anger, no matter how justified, are not a good place to stay. Both Jesus and what’s noble inside of us invite us to move beyond anger and indignation.

Beyond anger, beyond indignation, and beyond justified criticism of all that’s dishonest and unjust, lies an invitation to a deeper empathy. This invitation doesn’t ask us to be stop being prophetic in the face of what’s wrong but it asks us to be prophetic in a deeper way. A prophet, as Daniel Berrigan so often said, makes a vow of love not of alienation.

But that’s not easy to do. In the face of injustice, dishonesty, and willful blindness, all of our natural instincts militate against empathy. Up to a point, this is healthy and shows that we’re still morally robust. We should feel anger and indignation in the face of what’s wrong. It’s understandable too that we might also feel some hateful, judgmental, thoughts towards those whom we deem responsible. But that’s a beginning (a healthy enough starting point) but it’s not where we’re meant to stay. We’re called to move towards something deeper, namely, an empathy which previously we did not access. Deep anger invites deep empathy.

At the truly bitter moments of our lives, when we’re feeling overwhelmed by feelings of misunderstanding, slight, injustice, and rightful indignation, and we’re staring across at those whom we deem responsible for the situation, anger and hatred will naturally arise within us. It’s okay to dwell with them for a time (because anger is an important mode of grieving) but, after a time we need to move on. The challenge then is to ask ourselves: How do I love now, given all this hatred? What does love call me to now in this bitter situation? Where can I now find a common thread that can keep me in family with those at whom I’m angry? How do I reach through the space that now leaves me separated by my own justified feelings of anger? And, perhaps most important of all: “From where can I now find the strength to not give into hatred and self-serving indignation?”

How am I called to love now? How do I love in this new situation? That’s the challenge. We’ve never before been called upon to love in a situation like this. Our understanding, empathy, forgiveness, and love have never before been tested in this way. But that’s the ultimate moral challenge, the “test” that Jesus himself faced in Gethsemane. How do you love when everything around you invites you to the opposite?

Almost all of our natural instincts militate against this kind of empathy, as does most everything around us. In the face of injustice our natural instincts spontaneously begin, one by one, to shut the doors of trust and make us judgmental. They also invite us to feel indignation and hatred. Now those feelings do produce a certain catharsis in us. It feels good. But that kind of cathartic feeling is a drug that doesn’t do much for us long range. We need something beyond feelings of bitterness and hatred for our long range health. Empathy is that something.

While not denying what’s wrong, nor denying the need to be prophetic in the face of all that’s wrong, empathy still calls us to a post-anger, a post-indignation, and a post-hatred. Jesus modeled that for us, and today it’s singularly the most needed thing in our society, our churches, and our families.

Podcasts on tap

Download from “Official Podcast for the Diocese of Rapid City” or at rapidcitydiocese.org

- Meet the Priest: Father Mark McCormick
- Through Him, With Him and In Him: Panel Discussion led by Bishop Gruss on the Introduction and Chapter 1
- For All the Saints: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father

DECEMBER
Evangelization: In the Service of theTransmission of Faith.
That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

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! You have a great grace of being called to a new life through the messages which I am giving you. This, little children, is a time of grace, a time and a call to conversion for you and the future generations. Therefore, I am calling you, little children, pray more and open your heart to my Son Jesus. I am with you and love you all and bless you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

10/25/18
My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We in the Diocese of Rapid City have been richly blessed by God in many ways. As I meet people across western South Dakota, I am impressed by the knowledge that, by and large, from the prairies to the hills, the people of our diocese are men and women of substance: true to solid values and traditions, committed to family, self-giving and faithful, generous and caring.

This abundant faith and generosity have enabled the diocese to provide much-needed ministries for families, young people, the elderly and those in most need. You have helped to provide opportunities for others to encounter the Lord in new and meaningful ways and you have helped ensure that our parishes and programs are safe environments for children, young people and vulnerable adults. I am grateful and humbled to be your Bishop.

"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). As I contemplate this theme for the 2019 Annual Appeal, I know that often it is a challenge for most of us, raised to be independent and capable, to give God that kind of trust — to rely on him completely. Yet, in acknowledging that it isn't up to me, that what I have accomplished, what I have, who I am, all comes from our generous and loving God, I know that it all belongs to him. And my part is to offer my best efforts, my first fruits, my trust and my confidence to him. He will provide for my needs and yours.

In giving to the Lord, intentionally and from the first and best of all that he has made possible for us, we are truly honoring God. In giving, we respond to our encounter with the Lord and to his generosity with the kind of sacrificial love that he has modeled for us. The act of giving expresses in a concrete way our trust in God and our gratitude for his generosity toward us.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is an important way in which every Catholic family can serve one another in a sacrificial way, thereby helping to build up the body of Christ in western South Dakota. Your sacrificial support is important to us, deeply valued and necessary for the Lord’s work to continue and grow. The Lord has given us all different gifts but calls each of us to the same sacrifice. This is why the heart of stewardship is spiritual.

Please prayerfully seek the Lord’s guidance in considering your gift. What is He asking of you in light of this year’s appeal? Please be generous in pledging both your financial support and your prayers for the mission of our great diocese and the 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal, so that together we may honor him with the first fruits of our labor. May God bless you and your families!

Sincerely in the peace and joy of Christ,

Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Rapid City
Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord.

These names are a list of family and friends we lost between October 1, 2017, furnished by the parishes.
Ben & Arlene Black Bear
St. Charles Borromeo,
St. Francis
Married in St. Francis
February 10, 1968

Stephen & Susan Colgan
Our Lady of the Black Hills,
Piedmont
Married in Hastings, Neb.
December 18, 1968

Larry & Janet Gill
Holy Cross, Timber Lake
Married in Glencross
April 27, 1968

LeRoy & Joyce Jelinek
Immaculate Conception,
Winner
Married in Winner
September 21, 1968

Jack & Diana Jensen
St. Paul, Belle Fourche
Married in Bismarck, N.D.
June 15, 1968

Sonny & Betty LaBeau
Sacred Heart, Philip
Married in Philip
August 24, 1968

Tom & Irma LeFaive
St. John the Evangelist,
Ft. Pierre
Married in Gettysburg
September 28, 1968

Jerry & Barbara Mitzel
Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City
Married in Rapid City
August 24, 1968

Lee & Mary Skramstad
St. Therese the Little Flower,
Rapid City
Married in Lidgerwood, N.D.
July 20, 1968

Ken & Sue Jimmerson
Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City
Married in Sioux Falls
November 23, 1968

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November 23, 1968

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Married in Philip
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Jerry & Barbara Mitzel
Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City
Married in Rapid City
August 24, 1968

Lee & Mary Skramstad
St. Therese the Little Flower,
Rapid City
Married in Lidgerwood, N.D.
July 20, 1968

Bob & Dee Wagner
St. Paul, Belle Fourche
Married in Bison, N.D,
July 22, 1968

David & Patty Wagner
St. John the Baptist, Custer
Married in Chadron, Neb.
November 9, 1968

John & Betty Wagner
Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City
Married in Petersburg, VA
April 20, 1968

Bill & Janice Winegar
St. Therese the Little Flower,
Rapid City
Married in Zell
September 7, 1968

Jan and Zofia Wyrostek
Married in Bialy Dunajec,
Poland
April 24, 1968

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Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

with a **Bilingual Mass**

**December 12, 5:30 pm**

Procession of Children begins at 5:20 pm

**Blessed Sacramento Church**
(4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City)

**Bishop Robert Gruss**, principle celebrant

*Priests wanting to concelebrate, contact Father Mark Horn by December 7.

**Reception to follow Mass**
Desserts are welcome and can be dropped off at the kitchen before Mass.

**ATTENTION MUSICIANS Everyone Welcome**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass Choir Rehearsals for the bilingual choir (United in Christ/Unidos en Cristo) at Blessed Sacramento Church, Rapid City:
Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m.-noon; Sunday, Dec. 2 from 3-5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 9 from 3-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Questions? Call Terry 605-341-1143
Christ@Work
Living the Diocesan Core Values through our Ministry at Terra Sancta Retreat Center

Trusting in the Lord is central to making our staffing model work at the retreat center ... relying heavily on part-time staff and giving thanks daily for dedicated full-time staff. As a business model, having a small core team of full-time staff (TSRC employs 5 full-time staff) and a large part-time crew is great for the bottom line — keeping personnel costs down overall. And while we have been blessed with amazing part-time staff, it can be a struggle — on-going training needs, flexible scheduling (and last-minute changes), understanding (and celebrating) multi-generational needs, developing commitment and loyalty to the organization, and not overburdening our full-time staff.

In an effort to overcome these challenges — and to ensure our team is united in Christ and in service to each other and our guests, we take a day or two each summer for a spiritual retreat and a staff planning day. With staff ranging in age from freshmen in high school to those who are working part-time in their retirement, we firmly believe that taking time to pray together is essential to our success in fulfilling God’s vision for the retreat center. This summer, after a day on spiritual retreat with Fr. Jim Kubicki, SJ, we spent our planning day focusing on why we exist as a retreat center ... using an approach developed by Simon Sinek, “Know Your Why”. As a staff, we identified our “Why.” Combining this “Why” with the Diocesan Core Values is central to our ability to fulfill our mission of hospitality and service to the diocese through our work at the retreat center.

As we enter our seventh year of operation, we wanted to take the time, as a staff, to share our stories with all of you ... our full-time staff speaking to how they feel they have been called to ministry at the retreat center. For several of our part-time staff to share how they see themselves living the diocesan core values through their work at the retreat center. For myself, it has been and continues to be an absolute gift to help others nurture their strengths as we strive to serve the Lord and complete the tasks at hand. Knowing that hope in the Lord will renew our strength, “we will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Reeny Wilson, Director (2011)

Called to Serve

Holly Baughman, Coordinator for Events & Weddings (2015)

Before I started at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, I was not very prayerful in my daily life. I think God called me here to bring me closer to him as well as help others on their journey. I’m forever grateful for this opportunity to work in a place where God is at the center of everything we do.

Regina Rangel Sanchez, Head Chef (2016)

As the head chef for TSRC, I am blessed to be able to work with all areas of serving; serving our guests, serving God’s plan for this beautiful space.

I couldn’t ask for a more wonderful role! I adore cooking for and adding to the experience of all our visitors. I feel that our food service is a key component to the nourishment of all our guests: mind, body and soul. With every event, I can feel God’s presence as he guides me to feed his people. There’s so much love among the staff and it is a wonderful opportunity to have co-workers from all age groups and life stages; there’s nothing quite like hearing and saying, “I’m praying for you,” and knowing it is a sincere, heartfelt statement!

Kerry Wilson, Coordinator for Hospitality Services (2014)

Judy Zetah, Coordinator for Dining Services (2013)

We feel like the Lord has truly called both of us to be here at Terra Sancta to minister to the people he places in our pathway, to see Christ present in them and to allow the Lord to work through us to touch their hearts through our simple, humble service to them.

Kerry & Judy
Living the Core Values

Prayer
Barb Philippe, Catering Services (2014)
Working at TSRC, we have unlimited opportunities for the Core Value of prayer — especially in the kitchen. There is a lot of quiet time while chopping vegetables or slicing fruit or cutting meat or baking cookies to pray for the guests we serve, the staff, our families and friends. We also can go to the beautiful chapel or the hillside and pray. We pray with the event staff before large events. We have a prayer intention board in the break room. We pray together before we eat during breaks. Prayer is part of every day at TSRC.

Solidarity
Paige Gehlsen
Event Coordinator (2015)
Sophomore - SD Mines & Technology
The value of solidarity is something I use and witness each day here at Terra Sancta. Seeing how each one of my co-workers gifts and talents shine through to help create the optimum environment for guests is truly a reward in itself.

Kim Carlson, Coordinator for Lodging Services (2016)
“I know well that the greater and more beautiful the work is, the more terrible will be the storms that rage against it.” — St. Faustina
Now more than ever, we must strive to create beauty in all we do. Over the past two years, I have witnessed true service and sacrifice, from the leadership demonstrated by Bishop Robert Gruss, to the continuous spirit of generous hospitality of the TSRC staff. How grateful I am to call Terra Sancta home.

Stewardship
Megan Hamer, Coordinator for Accounting/Business Services (2015)
Working at Terra Santa Retreat Center is a blessing and opens my eyes to God at work in so many ways. Whether it is the planning and setup, serving, or cleaning after an event our hope is to create an environment for our guests to grow closer in relationship to God. Whatever our role, we rely on each other: when we need help, we ask; when we see someone in need of help, we offer it. Our willful “YES” to support one another is founded in the love God first has for us, so that we may love each other.

Mercy
Isaac Gehlsen, Event Staff (2017)
The positivity and teamwork that my co-workers and I use every day is always present in the atmosphere at TSRC!

Sam Marchiando, Event Staff (2018)
When I have the opportunity to come in and help someone with a smile, it instantly gives me a sense of love and fulfillment.

Charity
Megan Gisi, Event Staff (2018)
“Instruct them to do good, be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.”
Timothy 6:18
This is one of my favorite verses from the Bible. It speaks about charity which is one of my personal core values. Being able to help someone in a time of need is very rewarding! When I serve others, I feel the closest to God.

Caden McNabb, Event Staff (2018)
As well as giving our guests my full attention at all times, (I also) thank the Lord for the ability to work and serve others at TSRC.

Family
Michael Wilhelmi, Event Coordinator (2015)
In my home, we have this tradition where once you walk through our door, you become a part of the family. I feel this can also be said about Terra Sancta — once you walk through our doors, you become a part of this great big family in Christ.

Sam Haug, Event Staff (2014)
Junior - Southern New Hampshire University
Family wants what best for you, no matter what it is. That’s exactly what we have here at Terra Sancta. Friendly faces to greet you, and a helping hand when you need it the most, because at the end of the day, we are all children of God, and part of one big family.

Current staff at the retreat center

Bethany Batman
Holly Baughman
Byron Bloomer
Bryce Busse
Hope Canaday
Gabe Canaday
Kim Carlson
Jonathan Coronado
Skyler Eisenbraun
Haley Erickson
Lisa Fahey
Madyson Gamroth
Isaac Gehlsen
Paige Gehlsen
Margarita Giacometti
Megan Gisi
Jennifer Glynn
Megan Hamer
Michael Hanson
Sam Haug
Vivian Hurd
Rachel Kampa
Halle Karna
Vincent King
Angie King
Kelsey Koch
Sam Marchiando
Sarah Matthes
Denise McCormick
Rachel McCormick
Caden McNabb
Cassie Nack
Darcy Paschke
Barb Phillipe
Regina Rangel- Sanchez
Rogelio Sanchez
Cindy Schuman
Derrick Siemieniak
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Elizabeth Wagner
Lisa Wattenhofer
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Michael Wilhelmi
Therese Wilhelmi
Isaac Wilhelmi
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Kerry Wilson
Judy Zetah

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I recently attended a panel discussion of advance medical planning at a conference organized by health care workers. Advance medical planning encompasses those legal tools that we can use to prepare for a time when, due to illness or other incapacity, we cannot make care decisions on our own. This oftentimes is near the end of life. Such tools include medical powers of attorney and health care directives or living wills, which can express our values and give guidance to others faced with yet-unknown decisions concerning our healthcare.

The panelists’ conversation centered around end-of-life medical orders, which some think would be helpful advance planning tools (though oftentimes come with significant ethical concerns). A number of panelists shared about difficult experiences they had had in making end-of-life medical decisions with their families, common yet complex decisions that many persons make with or for a loved one towards the end of life.

One panelist in particular sticks out in my mind. In sharing about the facts and circumstances of her father’s final illness and medical condition — which, of course, are highly individualized and particular to him — this panelist shared, “and, you know, he was not contributing anything to society.”

“This statement — offered as a factor in the decision of whether to authorize or withhold certain medical care for an incapacitated elderly man — caused me to stiffen in my chair. If it doesn’t shock us to some degree, that’s evidence of how far this insidious idea has already crept into our own thinking.

A person’s worth is never contingent upon his usefulness, what he contributes to society. As our faith teaches us, dignity is inherent in our very being. It’s a very serious mistake to slip into a utilitarian mindset about the dignity of the human person. This mindset subtly coerces the sick and elderly, and it doesn’t serve the common good.

The utilitarian view, according to St. John Paul II, reflects a “descent into arbitrariness and the dominion of the strong over the weak.” Indeed, the great Polish saint reminds us, “society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying.” In our lives as citizens, we should seek laws that respect the innate dignity of all, regardless of their utility.

Yet knowing that a person’s usefulness is not a legitimate factor in healthcare decision-making, what are legitimate principles that arise from our innate dignity?

The church teaches that we have a moral obligation to use “ordinary or proportionate means to preserve” life. Extraordinary or disproportionate means are optional if they “do not offer a reasonable hope of benefit or entail an excessive burden, or impose excessive expense on the family or the community.” Furthermore, food and water — even if medically assisted — is not optional, including for those in chronic or presumably irreversible conditions, unless it cannot be reasonably expected to prolong life, would be excessively burdensome for the patient, or would cause significant physical discomfort.

For more information on end-of-life healthcare decision-making, the National Catholic Bioethics Center is a sound resource. Search for A Catholic Guide to End-of-Life Decisions at www.NCBCenter.org. Furthermore, to view a sample Advance Directive, visit www.rapidcitydiocese.org/social-justice-commission/.
Crosslands grow family through international adoption

By Mary Garrigan, CSS

Chloe Crossland was born in China with a cleft palate birth defect. Abandoned at birth, she spent the first nine years of her life in orphanages.

In June, Chloe was adopted by Jay and Angela Crossland of Rapid City and welcomed into a family that includes three siblings: Garrett, 12, Wyatt, 9, and Laurel, 7, plus two rambunctious mini-goldendoodle dogs named Tucker and Carlo.

Additional surgeries are needed to completely fix Chloe’s cleft palate and her new family seems uniquely qualified to make that happen. Her dad is Dr. Jay Crossland, an oral surgeon with a medical partner who specializes in soft palate repair, speaks Mandarin and already has a treatment plan in place for Chloe. Her mom’s brother has lived in China for the last 10 years, so Chloe’s bilingual Uncle Doug serves as a built-in translator for his new niece.

For all those reasons, and more, this adoption feels like a “God thing” to the Crosslands.

“I like to think that perhaps it is God working in our lives to put these things together,” said Jay Crossland.

The Crosslands adopted through the Denver office of CCAI Adoption Services, the largest international adoption agency working in China today. But because they needed a home study conducted in South Dakota, they turned to the Family Services Department at Catholic Social Services, which is a Hague-accredited agency qualified to work on international adoptions.

Adoption specialist Hannah Ceremuga worked with the Crosslands to complete their home study and help finalize the adoption. “Hannah is amazing. She was terrific,” said Angela.

Nora Boesem, director of CSS Family Services Department, will host an International Adoption Open House at CSS on Thursday, Nov. 29, beginning at 6 p.m. for families interested in learning more about the process, costs and timelines involved with international adoption.

Angela and Jay are now experts in the rigorous application process for international adoption. Their journey took 18 months and was — as advertised — “demanding, time-consuming, expensive and invasive,” Jay said.

And they did it all over again. The Crosslands want other prospective adoptive couples to know that while fear of the process is normal, adoption is a dream worth pursuing.

“So many people warned us about all the problems and difficulties of the international adoption process,” Jay said. “But I wish someone had also told me that ordinary families can do this, that you don’t have to be perfect to adopt.”

Adoption may be in Angela’s DNA. Her father and his siblings spent part of their childhood in an orphanage, and he always spoke of those years as a formative part of his life. One of her paternal aunts was adopted from that orphanage, and Angela has fond memories of a trip she took with her father to visit the orphanage site.

“So the seed was planted early for me,” Angela said. Her father died in 2012, but she knows he would be “so thrilled” to have Chloe as a granddaughter. “Oh, he’d be thrilled. He loved to travel and he loved China, too.”

Two pregnancy losses also got the Crosslands thinking early in their marriage about adoption as an option for growing their family. “I thought about adoption for years, but I was very nervous about it,” Angela said.

Two years ago, their family participated in a short-term CCAI exchange program for special needs children from China. They thoroughly enjoyed hosting a young boy with cerebral palsy in their home. Chloe was part of that exchange group, and both Angela and Jay felt drawn to her without realizing the other was, too. When Angela inquired about Chloe’s availability for adoption, she was told that several families were already on a waiting list for her. Months later, CCAI called out of the blue to say that all the other applications had fallen through and asked if the Crosslands were still interested in adopting her.

They were. Then, just weeks before the entire family, including Angela’s mother, Victoria, flew to China in late June to finalize Chloe’s adoption, their daughter Laurel was diagnosed with a congenital heart condition. In August, they traveled to Omaha, where Laurel underwent successful open heart surgery.

The Crosslands took it all in stride, and they say Chloe’s adjustment to life in an upper-middle class American family after years of austerity in a Chinese orphanage is going well. She’s in third grade at Wilson Elementary School, where brother Wyatt is a 4th grader and Laurel is in 2nd grade. She already comprehends English well, but is slow to speak it around adults, perhaps due to the natural reserve of Chinese children around adults, Jay said.

“Chloe is a very compliant child. We’re all more stressed by the new puppy than anything else,” jokes Jay about the 10-week-old ball of fur barking in the background. Chloe knows she’s lucky to have landed in a family that has plenty of love, parental attention and resources to go around.

But Jay and Angela say people get it all wrong when they praise the Crosslands for changing Chloe’s life through adoption.

“We are overwhelmed that people are calling it a God thing. We try hard to realize that in our own lives,” Angela said.

The Jay and Angela Crossland family traveled to China this summer to finalize their adoption of 9-year-old Chloe, shown here with her new siblings, Garrett, Wyatt and Laurel, and grandmother Victoria Martin. (Courtesy photo)

“These kids change your life. They transform you,” Jay said.

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Recognizing Marriage

A Celebration of Marriage Mass was held at Terra Sancta, Rapid City, October 21. Following Mass, a luncheon was hosted by the Diocesan Office of Family Life Ministries. In attendance were couples celebrating 25, 40, 50 or more years of marriage in 2018. Bishop Robert Gruss presented certificates to the couples who were honored. Mike and Betty Mitzel, Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, were the longest married couple in attendance. They celebrated 75 years on October 25, 1943. (WRC photo by Becky Berreth)

Medical profession celebrated

Catholic Medical Guild President George Ceremuga, Family Life Ministries Director Amy Julian, speaker Jeff Hurd, and Bishop Robert Gruss visit at the reception following the White Mass on October 12. The Mass was held to honor doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals for their service to the community, and was followed by a meeting of the Sacred heart of Jesus Guild of the Catholic Medical Association. Hurd’s presentation focused on the history of contraception, marriage and the transgender community as each idea progressed through the court system.

“Until 1965, some states still criminalized contraception,” he said. “By 1973 there is a constitutional right to kill the unborn. All of that happened within a brief period of time. Those that thought it was a bad idea to put a doctor in jail for prescribing contraceptives to a married couple never imagined that decision would lead to abortion being legal, but that’s how fast these things move.”

He also touched on the life issues that are coming to the state legislature in the next session.

The Catholic Medical Guild is open to all medical professions in the diocese. The goal of the group is to inspire physicians and all members to imitate the life of Jesus through humility, love and forgiveness, while following the Catholic social values and embracing the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Visit https://shjcmaguild.com to learn more.

(WRC photo)
Rapid City Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians holds St. Cecilia Fall Meeting and Awards Luncheon

BY CARMAN TIMMERMAN

On October 6, Rapid City’s Blessed Sacrament Church was the location for the NPM Rapid City Chapter’s St. Cecilia Fall Meeting and Awards Luncheon.

Members learned from the day’s guest speaker, Tom Porter, DMA, Professor of Music at University of Mary as well as noted educator, musician, conductor and composer.

After Morning Prayer with music provided by St. Patrick’s Parish, decision was made to “Small & Rural Parishes — Doing the Basics Well.” Following this presentation, he led the members in a reading session with complimentary sheet music provided by G. W. Pepper.

After a lunch, final bids were taken on the chapter’s Silent Auction. The chapter collected over $1300 that will be used to support the Rapid City Chapter’s activities.

At the business meeting, the members voted on the following Rapid City Chapter officers: Bonnie Josten, Co-director; Pat McDowell, Secretary-Treasurer. The members thanked Jacqueline Schnittgrund for her service as the Rapid City Chapter Co-director as she ends her term of office.

In the afternoon, Fr. Timothy Hoag, Blessed Sacrament Parish pastor, commissioned the musicians accompanied by music led by St. Michael Parish, Hermosa. Then, Dr. Porter informed the members about “Resources for Communities, Small in Number and Large in Faith.” To end the day, the members joined in the closing prayer was led by Rapid City’s Terry Schroeder, Blessed Sacrament Parish and Christy Leichtnam, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

The NPM Rapid City Chapter’s Winter Meeting will be on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at St. Rose of Lima Church in Hill City. The day’s program will feature Cindy Howell on “Leadership Skills for Music Ministers,” Tammy Schnittgrund on “Psalm

Happy Thanksgiving

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Wyoming job opening for principal

St. Margaret’s Catholic School in Riverton, WY is seeking a faith-filled, enthusiastic principal to lead our school. Position to be filled immediately.

If interested, please contact Fr. Robert Rodgers at (307) 856-5922 or frrogers33@gmail.com.

Job Opening at Blessed Sacrament Church

The Communication/Liturgical Administrative Assistant (CLAA) will oversee and administer all aspects of parish communications and assist the pastor with administrative liturgical duties. The CLAA will occasionally fill in for the receptionist and or administrative assistant when needed. See BSC website for more information or contact Michael Johnson at michael@blessedsacramentchurch.org.
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.

A Safe Environment for Children and Young People

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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.

How many persons are there in God?
What are their names?

There are three persons in God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three are God and all three are equal. (CCC 252, 254, 255)

YouCat (35): Do we believe in one God or in three Gods?

We believe in one God in three persons (Trinity). “God is not solitude by perfect communion” (Pope Benedict XVI, May 22, 2005). (232-236, 249-256, 265-266) Christians do not worship three different Gods, but one single being that is threefold and yet remains one. We know that God is trine from Jesus Christ: He, the son, speaks about his father in heaven (“I and the father are one,” Jn 10:30). He prays to Him and sends us the Holy Spirit, who is the love of the Father and the Son. That is why we are baptized “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19).

Hispanic Women Addressed in Spanish

The last weekend of October the Annual Women’s Diocesan Retreat was directed by Sr. Infant of Prague (pictured), and Sr. Maria, Madonna dei Poveri. The two sisters were visiting from the Washington D.C. area and are from the Institute of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara, (also known as the Servidoras) a missionary order founded in Argentina. Offering meditations from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, the sisters enabled the attendees to draw closer to the heart of Jesus. On October 28 the sisters were able to share a talk in Spanish to the women of the Hispanic Community. They shared the life of Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini, Patroness of Immigrants, as an example for all who aspire to be strong, devoted and holy women and mothers. Finally, the sisters visited the Newman Center at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and met with students. The Servidoras have visited the diocese a number of times in the past for Totus Tuus Girl’s Vocation Camp and vocation weekends, and two Rapid City Diocese natives have found their home in the order, Sr. Poveri (Gia Julian) and Sr. Regina Familiae (Rachel Wilhelm). For more information on their visit www.ssvmusa.org. (Submitted by Family Life Ministries)

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More information will be available in December.

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FOCUS at SDSM&T: ‘Connecting the head and heart’

BY BECKY BERRETH

According to a combined study, from St. Mary’s Press with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, approximately 13 percent of young adults between ages 18 and 25 are former Catholics. It also states that they desire a spiritual connection even though they do not consider themselves affiliated with the church. One way of encouraging a connection is to reach out to students on college campuses.

Enter Megan Henle, Avery Hembrook, Michael Newsham, and Joey Fritz. The four campus missionaries are part of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, better known as FOCUS, on the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology campus, Rapid City. They are tasked with helping engineering, geology, math, and computer science students navigate college faith life through friendship, Bible studies, and mentorship. SDSM&T is one of 19 new FOCUS campuses this academic year.

FOCUS is a Catholic outreach organization whose mission is to share the Gospel with college and university students. Missionaries are trained in church teaching, prayer, Scripture, evangelization and discipleship — inviting students to have a personal relationship with Jesus and accompanying them along the way. On the SDSM&T campus, it’s also about taking the analytical thought process of many of the students and connecting it to a relationship.

“It’s connecting the head and the heart,” explained Megan Henle, FOCUS team director in her fourth year of campus work. “Yes, it’s the analytical part, but then teaching them to live out the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Everything about us should be living out the intellectual and allowing the Holy Spirit to do what it wants with us.”

“I had to go through the process of connecting of my mind and my heart in my relationship with God and I knew that would be a big thing here,” agreed Joey Fritz, a third-year missionary.

Fritz majored in computer science at North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., and encountered FOCUS at a SEEK2015. He explained that faith was something he did out of habit until he heard a talk from Father Mike Schmitz at the yearly national conference presented by FOCUS.

“He said we were made not just for a relationship with God but added we are made for a deep intimacy with him,” he said. “My analytical side told me if the Eucharist is really Jesus then that’s the greatest source of grace on earth (going to receive him) so there should be nothing in my day that should stop me from that.”

“The girls I have been working with have so many questions. I have been focusing on trying to introduce them to a relationship with Jesus before answering the questions,” said first-year missionary Avery Hembrook, admitting that she does not think as analytically as the students — she majored in therapeutic recreation at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse — but she is happy to learn alongside the students. “I am not engineer minded so we challenge each other.”

When the missionaries first arrived on campus, they helped students move in and attended campus events, Newman Center Masses and other happenings. After this initial outreach, missionaries begin to organize, facilitate, and train students to lead small group Bible studies. The goal is to bring students closer to Christ and to help students establish and/or deepen their relationships with Christ.

“Through the Bible studies I was able to take an extra step and go a little deeper on a regular basis. I didn’t have anyone challenging me until that moment,” said first-year missionary Michael Newsham.

He was active at his Newman Center at Washington State University, Pullman, Wash., but it was with the FOCUS missionaries who started on campus his third year that he began to understand his relationship with Jesus.

“I had weekly accountability. I had to make time to read scripture and get to know Christ better to build a relationship with him. I didn’t really understand that part of my faith life up until that point.”

Within those Bible studies, FOCUS missionaries welcome students into a discipleship program teaching them how to take the faith out to their friends, lead their own Bible studies, and teach others how to pray.

It was in Henle’s fourth year at Winona State University in Minn., when she began to realize what kind of an effect this had on her faith life and her future. “My senior year I was leading a few girls, who were leading a few girls, who were leading a few girls, and I was able to see this beautiful reproduction of a life of prayer, virtue, and evangelization,” she said. “I was able to see that this might be something God might be calling me to do in the future — teach the faith.”

Fellowship is also an important part of the missionary’s time on campus. Events have included formations nights, men’s and women’s nights, camping, and coffee with the students.

“Events outside the Bible study with students is key to what we do. It allows us to get to know them outside the religious environment and build a relationship with them, so we can help build that relationship with Christ,” explained Newsham. “We make an invitation and have the patience to bear the fruit that only Christ can.”

Dr. Seuss’ The Grinch (Universal)

This adaptation of Theodor Geisel’s 1957 children’s fable “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” is an extravagant animated adventure, directed by Scott Mosier and Yarrow Cheney and narrated by Pharrell Williams. The eponymous grump (voice of Benedict Cumberbatch) lives high above the hamlet of Whoville with his loyal dog by this side. With a heart “two sizes too small,” he wants nothing more than peace and quiet and to be left alone. Determined to put a halt to the incessant joy and goodness of the Whos, he strikes on the idea of masquerading as Santa Claus and stealing every Christmas present, tree and decoration in sight. One intrepid girl (voice of Cameron Seely), has plans of her own, however. With a few welcome nods to the true religious meaning of Christmas, this is perfectly acceptable holiday fare for all ages with a core lesson about the redemptive power of kindness and forgiveness. Mild cartoonish action. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Classifications used by the USCCB are: A-I, general patronage; A-II, adults and adolescents; A-III, adults; L, limited adult audience; C, children; F, family warning; F, family warning. With a heart two sizes too small, he wants nothing more than peace and quiet and to be left alone. Determined to put a halt to the incessant joy and goodness of the Whos, he strikes on the idea of masquerading as Santa Claus and stealing every Christmas present, tree and decoration in sight. One intrepid girl (voice of Cameron Seely), has plans of her own, however. With a few welcome nods to the true religious meaning of Christmas, this is perfectly acceptable holiday fare for all ages with a core lesson about the redemptive power of kindness and forgiveness. Mild cartoonish action. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

For more information, visit: http://www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm.