U.S. bishops take part in retreat about clergy sex abuse crisis

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic bishops took part in a closed-door retreat Jan. 2-8 at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago to prayerfully consider ways to rebuild trust over the clergy sex abuse crisis.

“We are honored to welcome the bishops of the United States to Mundelein as they prayerfully unite to reflect on the urgent issues facing the Catholic Church today,” said Father John Kartje, rector of Mundelein Seminary in a statement. “The people of God deserve servant-leaders who are holy, joyful and competent in their ministry.”

Mundelein Seminary is the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago and is the largest Catholic seminary in the United States. It currently has more than 200 seminarians from 34 dioceses across the country and around the world.

The structure of the retreat emphasized quiet reflection, daily Mass, time for personal and communal prayer before the Eucharist, vespers and an opportunity for confession.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household, led the retreat with the theme, “the mission of the apostles and their successors.”

This time of prayer came at the suggestion of Pope Francis and was planned largely in response to last summer’s revelations of sex abuse that reached the highest levels of the U.S. church.

In a letter distributed to the bishops at the start of the gathering, Pope Francis said he was convinced their response to the “sins and crimes” of abuse and “the efforts made to deny or conceal them” must be found through “heartfelt, prayerful and collective listening to the word of God and to the pain of our people.”

“As we know,” he said, “the mentality that would cover things up, far from helping to resolve last summer’s revelations of sex abuse that reached the highest levels of the U.S. church.

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“As we know,” he said, “the mentality that would cover things up, far from helping to resolve
The Diocese of Rapid City would have a public face in the community

The Living the Mission Campaign is moving into full swing. The pilot phase has been successfully completed and the parishes in block one are fully engaged in the process. I am not only pleased, but deeply grateful for the generosity that I have seen thus far in the campaign. It speaks of peoples’ holy desire to live the mission of Jesus Christ, helping the diocese to move forward with what has been laid out in the Diocesan Priority Plan beginning in 2015. It is my hope that we are well on our way to a very successful campaign.

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on a very important priority for the Diocese of Rapid City. It too, was a key priority outlined in the Diocesan Priority Plan — a new pastoral center to include not only the chancery (offices of the bishop, diocesan administration and the archives) but also the offices of the personnel who provide pastoral ministry throughout the diocese. Before I do so, let’s look back for a moment.

As we recall, phase two of the We Walk By Faith appeal had originally planned for the renovation of space at Terra Sancta to be used for all of our diocesan offices. Due to lack of space at the main chancery located next to the cathedral, several departments were moved to the Terra Sancta Retreat Center on the northwest side of Rapid City — not the most ideal situation. The archives and the offices of our ministries including Faith Formation, Family Life Ministries, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Stewardship, Vocations, the Marriage Tribunal, and Native American Ministry, are all currently located at Terra Sancta. Because of the overwhelming success of the Terra Sancta Retreat Center and the increase in diocesan staff, the retreat center is no longer a viable option as a new home for our diocesan offices. Our staff has almost doubled in the seven and a half years that I have been here.

Currently, my staff is spread across three buildings in two locations. At the main Chancery located near the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we have some staff using space that was originally intended as a closet and file room. We also have staff who work different days each week in order to share a desk and shelf space. We have a very limited number of conference rooms which must be shared by many departments and 40 staff people. The longer these types of issues persist, the more difficult and costly it will be to address.

It has always been my desire to have a new pastoral center that will meet current and future needs more centrally located in Rapid City as a matter of convenience for the people we serve, at least locally. We have been quietly looking for a building that would provide adequate space for a couple of years. When we completed the facility master plan for the Terra Sancta campus a year and a half ago, we included a new pastoral center to be built there because we already owned the land.

Last February, we became aware that the Black Hills Federal Credit Union building at 225 Main Street was coming on the market in the near future. We toured the building and began a conversation with the owners about the possibility of purchasing it. At the same time we had our architect look at it to determine if the facility had adequate space based on our initial plan for a new pastoral center on the Terra Sancta campus. We also had an appraisal and inspection completed to assist us in determining if this could be a possibility for a new pastoral center.

My own excitement grew as I thought of the possibility of having the presence of the Catholic Church in downtown Rapid City. What a blessing that would be!

Over the course of the past ten months, we have been in negotiations with Black Hills Federal Credit Union to purchase this building. After a renovation process, it would provide enough office space to meet our current and future needs, allowing all of our staff to be together under one roof as well as ample parking for chancery staff and visitors — not to mention that the downtown location will give the diocese a very public face in our community.

I am very happy to say that we have recently signed a purchase agreement to acquire the building and the parking lots surrounding the Credit Union. We have agreed upon a four-million dollar purchase price and could take possession in late February or March, depending upon how soon Black Hills Federal Credit Union is able to vacate the building and move into their new building across the street. With the remodeling necessary to accommodate the unique features and space requirements of a pastoral center, we believe that this option will cost $1-1.5 million less than a new building. The renovation process could take ten to twelve months.

We have been in our current location since 1975, serving the needs of the diocese from there for approximately 44 years. Like most families, most companies move multiple times in a 44 year history. I believe this new pastoral center will serve the needs of the Diocese of Rapid City for many, many years to come and also allow us to be the face of Christ to those we serve in the heart of Rapid City! That is the true blessing!

For more on the Living the Mission Campaign see page 7.

Vatican abuse summit will underline need to end cover-ups, official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The aim of Pope Francis’ February meeting on abuse and safeguarding is to clarify and underline what must and must not be done with allegations and make sure no more cases are ever covered up, said Andrea Tornielli, editorial director for the Vatican Dicastery for Communication.

“The presence of bishops from all over the world, called together for the first time to address this painful plague which has been, and is, a source of enormous suffering for victims and of counter-witness to the Gospel, will help to increase everyone’s awareness of the seriousness of the crisis,” he said.

The abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, “the horrific experiences of the victims, the procedures to be applied in the face of accusations and the indications to ensure a safe environment for children and young people will thus be examined from a perspective that is not solely European or American,” Tornielli said about the Feb. 21-24 meeting, which will bring presidents of the world’s bishops’ conferences, the heads of the Eastern Catholic churches and leaders of religious orders to the Vatican.

“The purpose of the meeting is very specific: to ensure that everyone taking part in it can return to their own country being absolutely clear about what must — and must not — be done with regard to addressing these cases,” he said in an editorial published Jan. 10 on Vatican News and on the front page of the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano.

“The bishops will discuss “what steps must be taken to protect the victims, with respect for the truth and the people involved, in order to ensure that no more cases are stonewalled or covered up.”

Many “significant and concrete steps have been taken” the past 16 years, he wrote, and “rules on how to respond have been established and strengthened by the will of recent popes.”
**Diocesan Seminarian Burses (as of 12/31/18)**

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

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Appreciation is extended to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, White River, for contributing to the Ambur Burse; Roger Johnsen for contributing to the Costigan Burse; and an anonymous donor, for contributing to the Scherer Burse.

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**PRAA Memorial Burses**

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

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**PRAA Board Chair Fr. Kerry Prendiville**

For information on donating to PRAA Memorial Burse, contact Finance Manager Rick Soulek, 343-3541.

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**Bishop’s Calendar**

*January 21-February 19, 2019*  
Subject to Change without Notice

- **January 21, Monday**  
  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Chancery Closed
  - 9 a.m. Finance Council Meeting, Chancery
  - 11:30 a.m. Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation Board Meeting, Chancery

- **January 27-February 2**  
  National Catholic Schools Week
  - 9 a.m. National Catholic Schools Week
  - 5 p.m. Rapid City Catholic School Board Meeting, Cathedral
  - 6 p.m. Men in Black Basketball Event, St. Thomas More High School

- **January 28, Monday**  
  - 10 a.m. College of Consultants Meeting, Rapid City
  - 10 a.m. Bishop’s Cabinet Meeting, Chancery

- **January 30, Wednesday**  
  - 9:30 a.m. Bishop’s Cabinet Meeting, Chancery

- **February 1, Friday**  
  - 11:15 a.m. First Friday Mass/Luncheon, Cathedral
  - 4:30 p.m. CT Pre-Confirmation Meeting, Ft. Pierre
  - 5:30 p.m. CT Confirmation Mass, St. John, Ft. Pierre

- **February 4, Monday**  
  - Presidents’ Day Chancery Closed

- **February 5, Tuesday**  
  - 8:30 a.m. Investment Committee
  - 8:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Martin

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**West River Catholic**

USPS 983-360

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WSDCF Relocates

Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation, Executive Director Tim Henderson is pictured in his new office January 2. The new location for the WSDCF is 10 E. Mall Dr, Rapid City, SD 57701. It is in the basement of the Berendse & Sons Painting building. The mailing address is PO Box 984, Rapid City, SD 57709. The office can be reached by phone, 605-721-6843 or by email, thenderson@wsdcf.org. (WRC photo)

WSDCF awards $1,334,694 in grants to Catholic ministries

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation was held on November 29.

Msgr. Michael Woster led the meeting as he concluded the second and final year of his term as board president.

Executive Director Tim Henderson reported on changes recently initiated in the structure of his office and job responsibilities. Henderson formerly served the Diocese of Rapid City as its Director of Development while simultaneously devoting efforts to the WSDCF as its Executive Director. In order for the Director of Development to become a full time diocesan position, the WSDCF Executive Director position became a separate position. Todd Tobin was hired by the diocese as the Director of Development. That office is located in the main Chancery at 606 Cathedral Drive.

Henderson and the WSDCF office have relocated to a donated space at 10 E. Mall Dr. (north of the Rushmore Mall) in the lower level of Berendse & Son's Painting.

The board of directors approved awarding $1,334,694 in grant funds as recommended by the Distribution Committee.

These awards were made to Catholic ministries across the diocese based on grant proposals they submitted. Those who benefit include:

- Casa Maria Priests Retirement Home, Piedmont
- Catholic Social Services, Rapid City
- Cheyenne River Ministries, Eagle Butte
- Office of Vocations
- Priest Retirement & Aid Association
- Rapid City Catholic School System
- Our Lady of the Black Hills Church and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Piedmont
- Sioux Spiritual Center, Howes
- St. Vincent de Paul Society — Cathedral, OLPH, Rapid City
- Standing Rock Ministry, McLaughin
- Diocese of Rapid City
- Newman Center — BHSU, Spearfish
- Newman Center — SDSM&T, Rapid City
- Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City
- Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge
- St. Joseph Church, Spearfish.

The Nominating Committee Chairperson, Msgr. Woster, made the nominating committee report. The members of the Board of Directors were appointed to repeat their one-year terms for a new period beginning January 1, 2019. He anticipates that one or two members will be resigning from the board during the upcoming year, so board members were asked to seek out possible replacements, especially in Deanery 3 (Midland, Milesville, Philip, Wall, Kadoka, Wanblee, Martin, Pine Ridge, Kyle,) which is not currently represented. The other significant action of the committee was to approve Tony Berendse as president of the board and Msgr. Woster as vice president effective January 1.

(Excerpted from the WSDCF Newsletter)
A global response to abuse: Work already underway, Jesuit says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By summoning leaders of the world’s bishops’ conferences and top representatives of religious orders to the Vatican in February to address the abuse crisis and the protection of minors, Pope Francis is sending the message that the need for safeguarding is a global issue.

Even though media attention and public fallout for the church’s failings have focused on a small group of nations, abuse experts and victims know that does not mean the rest of the world is immune from the scandal of abuse or can delay taking action to ensure the safety of all its members.

While Catholic leaders in some countries might not recognize it as a global issue, Vatican offices that receive abuse allegations have a “clear idea about what is the situation now because allegations come from all parts of the world,” said Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, president of the Center for the Protection of Minors at the Pontifical Gregorian University and a member of the organizing committee for the February meeting.

Because the Catholic Church mandates that all credible allegations of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy must be sent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, “we have one office that has to deal with all of this so, for the time being, we know what are the allegations that come from different parts of the world,” he said.

Allegations coming in from the English- and German-speaking countries that have been the center of the abuse scandal for decades “have diminished considerably” because of the safeguarding measures that have been put in place, he told Catholic News Service in early January.

But in those countries where abuse has not been talked about in society and in the church until recently, he said, allegations are just beginning to surface.

The doctrinal congregation has never released statistics on the geographical distribution of the clerical sexual abuse cases reported to it; in the past, the congregation has published the total number of cases reported and the total number of priests expelled from the priesthood because of abuse.

The last figures published by the congregation were for cases submitted to it in 2015. It said 518 cases involving graviora delicta (more grave crimes) were submitted in 2015; the majority of those cases dealt with the sexual abuse of minors, including the possession of child pornography, but the category of graviora delicta also includes serious offenses against the sacraments.

What is not known, however, is the actual extent of abuse throughout society, Father Zollner said.

“There are no clear and no scientifically verified statistics for the prevalence of sexual abuse in societies worldwide. There are only estimates that range from 7 percent to 25 percent of all young people in a given society and, in some countries, it may be even much worse,” he said.

However, because abuse is a global phenomenon, he said, the church — as a global network with people and institutions in every corner of the world — is perfectly positioned to be part of the solution.

In fact, while the February summit is being designed to bring church leadership together in solidarity, humility and dialogue and to strengthen their commitment to serving the most wounded and vulnerable, a very wide and global grassroots effort in safeguarding has been underway for years.

The Pontifical Gregorian University, the German Archdiocese of Munich and Freising and others established the Center for Child Protection in 2012.

“At the very beginning of the CCP, when we had only the e-learning program, the idea was to spread its online studies in multiple languages and make them accessible to the whole world,” he said.

The center also reached out to other educational and academic institutions so that coursework in safeguarding would become part of the “normal curricula” for those studying psychology, social sciences, teaching or theology, said Father Zollner, who is also academic vice rector of the Gregorian University and dean of its Institute of Psychology.

The center has since developed a global alliance of organizations — starting with some pontifical and Catholic universities — who are committed to working with local experts and exchanging concrete information.

The center also offers a multidisciplinary diploma course and master’s program in safeguarding for priests, religious and laypeople from all over the world. The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples offers bishops’ conferences in Africa and Asia full scholarships for either program for six people each year.

“This is very forward-looking because in those countries there are almost no resources either in society or in the church that have any kind of special training in this field,” he said.

Graduates go back to their home countries, dioceses, orders or institutions, mostly to work in child protection, setting up programs, offering workshops and giving talks for church personnel and anyone who requests their help. In very poor or remote areas, sometimes they are the only experts available even for the government.

The feedback and reception safeguarding graduates have been getting back home, Father Zollner, “is very mixed because there is certainly a certain kind of reluctance and hesitancy and sometimes passive resistance” in some places.

One of the big challenges now, he said, is to give graduates “ongoing support so that they can push through and they can also exchange strategies that will help them and the church to really come to grips of the situation in their countries.”

Father Zollner travels the world doing workshops and talks on child protection at the invitation of bishops’ conferences and religious orders.

Just in the past year, he said, “I have been invited by the bishops’ conferences of Papua New Guinea and Malaysia — countries where just two or three years ago one would never have thought that there was any possibility to talk about (abuse) either in society or in church, and the church has started to face that now.”

The international members of the papal commission on safeguarding also are invited to speak at seminars, conferences and workshops on every continent and provide education and insight, including survivors’ testimonies to new bishops and staff at the Vatican. Father Zollner said having skilled and motivated people on the ground to implement and share safeguarding measures will be very important for church leaders attending February’s summit.

“Because once you have some good people, trained well and very committed, you will find links to others, other church institutions and organizations and possible government structures, (then) you can really make a difference,” he said.
Seek Jesus, adore him, serve him and others, pope says on Epiphany

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People find Jesus only through humble love, and once they find him, they are called to offer him the gifts of their prayer, their adoration and their care of others, Pope Francis said.

Celebrating the feast of Epiphany Jan. 6, the pope said Christians are called to imitate the Magi: “They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the center but bow down before the one who is the center. They do not remain glued to their plans but are prepared to take other routes.”

And they each bring gifts, he said, during his homily at Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. “In this Christmas season now drawing to its close, let us not miss the opportunity to offer a precious gift to our king,” especially by caring for those who cannot repay the gift.

Reciting the Angelus after Mass, Pope Francis pleaded with European governments to demonstrate “concrete solidarity” with 32 migrants rescued from the Mediterranean Dec. 22 and 17 others rescued Dec. 29. (Following the pope’s plea, the 49 people, including several children rescued from the Mediterranean were taken to shore in Malta, Jan. 9, while European nations continued to argue over who was responsible for them.)

In his Mass homily and in his main Angelus address, Pope Francis contrasted the attitude and actions of the Three Kings with the attitude of Herod, who was “greatly troubled” at news of the Messiah’s birth. While the Wise Men set out to meet Jesus, Herod stayed in his palace, plotting ways to keep all his power.

Herod and the scribes, he said at the Angelus, “had hard hearts, which stubbornly refused to visit that baby. That is a possibility: closing oneself to the light. They represent those who, even in our day, are afraid of the coming of Jesus and close their hearts to their brothers and sisters in need.”

The glory of God born in a stable “is symbolized by the light, which penetrates and illumines all things,” he said. But the surprising thing is that “God does not need the spotlights of the world to make himself known” or the assistance of the powerful, like Herod.

“We might think that it would have been better had the star of Jesus appeared in Rome, on the Palatine Hill, where Augustus ruled over the world; then the whole empire would immediately have become Christian,” he said.

But God’s light does not shine on those who shine with their own light. God ‘poses’ himself; he does not ‘impose’ himself,” the pope said. “He illumines; he does not blind.”

Being flashy or powerful is always a temptation for people, he said. “How many times have we pursued the seductive lights of power and celebrity, convinced that we are rendering good service to the Gospel?”

“How many times, too, have we as a church attempted to shine with our own light,” he said. “Yet we are not the sun of humanity. We are the moon that, despite its shadows, reflects the true light, which is the Lord. He is the light of the world. Him, not us.”

Pope Francis also spoke about the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh offered by the Magi to the baby Jesus.

“Gold, the most precious of metals, reminds us God has to be granted first place; he has to be worshiped,” he said. Frankincense is a symbol of the prayer that each person is called to offer God. And myrrh, the same ointment that would later be used to anoint Jesus’ dead body, is a sign of the gift of “care for bodies racked by suffering, the flesh of the vulnerable, of those left behind, of those who can only receive without being able to give anything material in return.”
Prayerfully consider being a part of this great mission

BY FR. MICHEL MULLOY
VICAR GENERAL

The Living the Mission Campaign continues to move forward thanks to the hard work of our pastors, their volunteers and our consultants from Community Counseling Services. As of January 7, we have received pledges totaling $4,426,807.90, about one third of the campaign goal of $12,000,000.

The pilot phase, which involved the parish clusters of Presho, Murdo and Draper, Martin and Kadoka and Lead and Deadwood was completed before Christmas. Four of those parishes exceeded their goals and the remaining three parishes reached approximately 68 percent of their goals. The pilot phase afforded Community Counseling Services some valuable information and lessons about conducting a campaign in our diocese and prepared them for the rest of the process. CCS chairman Will Wisner said, “It has truly been a joy to be part of the Living the Mission Campaign. The sense of identity and pride in South Dakota is something special and that has made the success possible that we’ve seen throughout the campaign to date. In any diocesan campaign, success is built through the efforts of the volunteers in the individual parishes. The geographical size and population density that make this campaign unique make the efforts of these volunteers even more critical. We could not be any prouder of the lay leaders and pastors who we have worked with so far.”

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish also began the Living the Mission Campaign this summer. However, in addition to their support of the diocesan campaign they are also doing their own campaign raising additional funds from within their parish to build a new parish hall. Their efforts will continue for a few more months.

Currently, 23 parishes throughout the diocese are part of Block One working on the campaign. In February, the final group of 37 parishes will begin their efforts. The priests and lay volunteers have spoken favorably about the support they have received from the CCS team working with them on the campaign.

Conducting a capital campaign is a challenge. In both small and large parishes however, priests and parishioners have responded to this invitation to live the mission of Jesus Christ. Father Kerry Prendiville said, “I have lived all my life in the Diocese of Rapid City and I’ve enjoyed the churches built by the generations before me. I see how my desire to take up the mission of Jesus Christ builds upon the faith lives of my grandparents and parents. I’m planting a tree knowing that a harvest of intentional disciples will stand one day in its shade.”

Building a legacy of faith and a legacy of giving is what the Living the Mission Campaign is all about. Lisa Meyer from Presho said that well. “I gave to the campaign to support the bishop’s mission of spreading the Gospel in the diocese. I could see the importance of improving efficiency for the bishop and his staff with a new office building, and I wanted to help the Catholic schools keep costs down.”

The five priorities of the campaign are all important to the diocese, that is, to each one of us. One or the other may not impact a given parish or parishioner to the same degree as it does another but to be a Catholic in western South Dakota means that we belong to one another — one body of Christ. We are part of a family of faith and together we are called to attract and form intentional disciples who joyfully, boldly and lovingly proclaim and live the mission of Jesus Christ.

If ministry to the Native American Catholics improves, that is a blessing for all of us; if the Catholic schools in Rapid City can operate more effectively, that is a gift to everyone in the diocese; if the diocesan offices in Rapid City can work more efficiently, it is positive for the whole diocese. If the priests of the diocese can be assured of a secure retirement, this too, will be a gift to every parish in the diocese.

Judy Javersak from Lead said it this way. “Through Living the Mission, we were all invited to participate in our larger (diocesan) family. As members of parishes within the diocese we could contribute to the needs of all in the diocese. Our individual parishes also benefited from our gifts. The diocese is working to be good stewards of the gifts we give. Much thought and research went in to determine what was needed and locally parishioners worked together to present the program to their peers. I liked the individual response. All gifts were received with gratitude and goals were exceeded. Mother Teresa said, ‘It is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.’ I gave out of love for God and my neighbor. Through the program many lives are going to be touched.”

Sharing our gifts with one another and working together to continue the mission of Jesus is the call of every Catholic in our diocese.

If your parish has completed the campaign, we are deeply grateful for your gift. If your parish is currently engaged in the campaign, offer your assistance and be pleased to receive the call from the volunteer who is working on your parish campaign. Ask your questions and listen to the response. Most importantly, prayerfully consider being a part of this great mission for our diocese at this time in our history. If your parish has yet to begin, be willing to participate, knowing that your help and your gifts will make a difference — helping all of us to Live the Mission of Jesus Christ in our diocese.

Prayer is the most important ingredient in this campaign. So regardless of where your parish is in this important process, please keep the Living the Mission campaign in your daily prayers, asking the Lord to bless this diocese in great abundance so that we as the body of Christ may continue the work of our Master.

Prayer has the power to change lives, hearts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God is a father who never ignores his children when they call to him in times of suffering, loneliness and despair, Pope Francis said. Although at times it seems that “so many of our prayers seem to have no result,” Christians are called by Christ to “insist and not give up,” the pope said Jan. 9 during his weekly general audience. “Prayer, prayer always changes reality, let us not forget that. It either changes things or changes our hearts, but it always changes,” he said. Arriving at the Paul VI audience hall, the pope greeted thousands of cheerful pilgrims, shaking hands, embracing children and even taking a sip of mate tea offered to him by a pilgrim. Continuing his series of talks on the Lord’s Prayer, the pope reflected on the disciples asking Jesus to teach them how to pray. In teaching them to pray the “Our Father,” he said, Jesus “explains to his followers in what words and with what feelings they must turn to God.”

Indonesian archbishop urges ditching plastic bags

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — Months after Indonesia’s military was summoned to unclog Jakarta Bay, Archbishop Ignatius Suharyo has joined a chorus of disapproval of the nation’s growing plastic waste problem by calling parishioners to action. Ucanews.com reported that, through a video message shown across all parishes nationwide Jan. 5-6, the prelate appealed to all Catholics to reduce their use of plastic and plastic bags due to their harmful impact on the environment. The news comes as other countries in Asia are starting to waken to the threat posed by mountains of plastic left at refuse dumps or dumped at sea. Thailand has also embarked on a conservation campaign with retailers now charging for the use of plastic bags on certain days of the months. China, Thailand and Indonesia are considered the continent’s top three offenders in terms of poor waste management. About 8 million tons of plastic are dumped into the world’s oceans every year, the U.N. Environment Programme said in December. Indonesia deals with about 64 million tons of plastic a year, 3.2 million tons of which end up in the ocean, environmental groups say.
Despite scandal, faith still alive in young adults

I had a blessed surprise right before Christmas. I was celebrating Mass at St. Thomas More Middle/High School and three young adults, STM alumni home from college, came to Mass several days in a row at 7:15 a.m.

I was not expecting this, especially given the recent crisis in our church. The constant barrage of news stories about sexual abuse by even high-ranking clergy, and how some bishops have mishandled the repeated allegations of abuse, have caused many to question both the church and her leaders’ ability to shepherd and lead.

To see three young college students home for Christmas break and at daily Mass roused in my heart a sense of hope and joy. I shared with them what seeing them at daily Mass did for my heart.

I asked them what it is like to be a believing, practicing young adult Catholic at this challenging moment in the church. All three shared that this has been a difficult time for them. Madison Feist said it has been hard to accept but, at the same time, he is waiting for us to accept him into our lives. I have realized in the past couple of months that I have to make an effort to call on him in the easiest and most difficult of times. We must be willing to put absolute faith and trust in him.

As I visited with these three young adults who are practicing their faith in these trying times in our church, my heart was drawn to our seminarians: What is it like to be in the seminary at this moment in time? Max Vetch, a sophomore at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, shared, “It is a strange thing to hear about these cases on the news or from other seminarians from their diocese, but it all kind of changes when it is from your own diocese. I am just as confused and angry as everyone else is. What is most frustrating is that these things happen in almost every diocese.

“At the seminary, we are very aware of everything going on, even if we turn off the news and don’t look at social media. The faculty at IHM is very focused on making good, holy men, and this can only be done through a good awareness of self and the world around us.

“So we visit about these things — both my brother seminarians and the faculty. We discuss it so that we can grow in holiness. Many people would think that these cases are a deterrent from the seminary, but for the men at IHM, I haven’t seen that at all. The seminarians at IHM are there to discern a vocation given them by God, and no problem or scandal can take that calling away.”

Robert Kinyon, a first-year theologian at the Pontifical North American College in Rome told me, “The recent sexual abuse crisis has been deeply saddening. On a number of different occasions, it has shaken my trust in the church, especially those who are in particularly authoritative positions.

“Despite all the disheartening and frustrating news, Jesus Christ remains the same. He is still laboring to love me during every moment of every day. Jesus, the head, has not and will not abandon his body, the church.

“I am continuing my formation for priesthood because Jesus Christ continues to lavish his love upon me and his entire church, as broken and wounded as we may be. Before all else, we must tear open our hearts to receive an outpouring of his personal love.”

Father Paul Hoesing, dean of seminarians and director of human formation at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, shared with me his perception of the climate of seminary life at this time.

“I believe a very healthy, righteous anger has been awakened in these scandals. As a result, there has been no better time to address the tough issues of mental health, chastity and psycho-sexual development.

“The scandals reveal what is at stake. Only a truly healthy priest can serve the people of God. The people of God are weary. They desire good shepherds.

“The scandals reveal the need for a truly spousal life on the part of the priest — priests who are willing to lay down their lives for their bride, the church. Otherwise, the priesthood is seen as a strange or dangerous bachelorhood.

“I see our young men eager to move into a new and vigorous courage in this regard. For the sake of the victims and the bride, the church, the men are responding with a new level of honesty and generosity in answering the question, ‘Where is your heart?’

“It’s been a privilege to witness the Spirit at work in this opportune moment for young men to respond more clearly and maturely.”

Despite the difficulties in our Catholic Church today, the faith is alive in the hearts of our young people and in young men studying for the priesthood, which should renew all of our hearts.

I am grateful for this early Christmas gift I received in the witness of Madison, Dillon and Corbin, our seminarians, Max and Robert, and the hopeful and challenging words of Father Hoesing.

‘In the Eucharist, I am united with Jesus who brings me eternal joy. The Eucharist unites the world together, and when I receive the Eucharist, I think of family members, friends, faculty and all the people who have impacted my faith journey. Mass unites me to my foundation in Christ.’

— Madison Feist
In Eucharist we receive his life into our life

I have long said that celebrating Mass, and for that matter, all the sacraments, is a believing person’s activity. It is essential that those who celebrate the Eucharist believe in what they are doing. That may be simply stated. Sometimes the simple truth eludes us. The grounding of our participation in the Mass is faith in what Jesus came to earth to do.

Jesus sacrificed his life to God the Father on the cross. That was an historic moment which revealed the deeper mystery of the relationship of the Father and Son. The Son eternally gives himself to the Father and the Father eternally receives and gives life back to His Son. This exchange of love is animated by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus came not only to reveal this truth to us but to invite us to share in that exchange of love who is God. Jesus gave us baptism that we might receive the Holy Spirit. He gave us confirmation to strengthen that Holy Spirit within us. Then, Jesus gave us the Eucharist as the means whereby we come to share the very life of God. At the Last Supper he gave us this ritual and told us to “do this …” We remember Jesus’ sacrificial death AND we join in that sacrifice. As we enter the sacrifice of Jesus to God the Father, we receive back through, with and in Jesus, his life. We are united to God by sharing in the body and blood of Jesus. We receive his life into our life, and we are transformed by this heavenly food. In short, as the bishop often says, at Mass we truly encounter Jesus. This is essential and first.

Too often, we become consumed with the form and the matter of the celebration. We focus on the signs and symbols. Are they done well, and right? Do I like them or not? Is it beautiful, and theologically accurate? How long did it take and why are people participating or not participating in the way they should? I am guilty of asking all these questions. Sometimes we (I) make of supreme importance what we like and do not like. Please don’t misunderstand. The form and matter of the celebration of the Mass are important. We should not make Mass ordinary and mundane. The beauty and the gloriousness of the Mass really do make a difference.

Yet if we do not believe in the deep mystery we are participating in, all the external expressions of this mystery we are entering into, no matter how well they are executed, will not make a difference. Catholics have walked away from the most glorious and mysterious of liturgies as easily as they have from the folksy and sloppy liturgies because they were one way or the other. Rather it was because they did not believe. Likewise, Catholic have through the centuries stayed in the pews because underneath the form and matter however it was dressed up or stripped down, they believed that being there and participating in this action of Christ really lead them to encounter Jesus and brought them into the heart of divine love.

When we believe what happens in the Mass, we will strive to the best of our ability to celebrate this holy moment with all due reverence and enthusiastic participation and it will transform us. However, when we truly believe, how Mass is celebrated will be important, but it will not distract us from the essence of its reality.
Abortion funding — cutting off the blood supply

Americans have long been disturbed by the fraud and waste that often surrounds the federal government’s use of their tax dollars. They now have further reason to be up in arms because of the way those tax dollars support the practice of abortion, even though such support, technically speaking, remains illegal.

The 1976 Hyde Amendment, a rider attached by Congress to federal spending bills each year, states that federal tax dollars—particularly for Medicaid—cannot be used to pay for abortions. Yet, approximately half a billion dollars of taxpayer money is received annually by Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of “pregnancy terminations” in the United States.

Although Planned Parenthood does not directly receive Medicaid reimbursements for the abortion procedures it performs, the inherent fungibility of funds means that any money provided to Planned Parenthood ends up supporting and indirectly financing the their primary business, which is elective abortion. Taxpayer funding props up the nation’s largest abortion chain, with more than 300,000 abortions carried out under the auspices of Planned Parenthood each year.

Many Americans object to taxpayer subsidies for this organization, seeking to avoid any cooperation or involvement in the serious evils it promotes. This is why pro-life Americans and individuals of conscience are urging that the organization be defunded, to put a stop to the de facto circumventing of the Hyde Amendment that happens every time Planned Parenthood takes advantage of some form of government funding.

Yet Planned Parenthood continues to expand like a cancer not only in the U.S., but also globally. As cancer tumors need blood and oxygen for their continued growth, Planned Parenthood requires a life-line of government aid to support its killing activities. As cancer tumors release special chemicals to make new blood vessels sprout nearby to nourish themselves, so Planned Parenthood continues to tap into a number of federal and state governmental funding sources, including Medicaid and grants from Title X of the Public Health Services Act. Eliminating this financial lifeline would significantly decrease the availability of direct abortion and diminish its promotion, much as using selective pharmaceuticals to shut down the growth of new blood vessels in tumors can starve them of their lifeline so they wither away.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute, which functions as a research arm of Planned Parenthood, has plainly acknowledged the importance of governmental subsidies: “Because Title X grants offer up-front funding to providers (rather than payment after-the-fact, as with Medicaid or private insurance), the program provides essential infrastructure support that allows health centers providing family planning services to keep their doors open for clients. Up-front funding helps supply a cash-flow cushion for providers....”

Despite their “health care provider” veneer, Planned Parenthood is much more of a menace than a benefit to the health and well-being of Americans. The organization has faced a string of scandals ranging from the sale of baby body parts to overbilling and unsanitary clinic conditions, from cover ups of sexual abuse of minors to botched abortions, from falsified medical information to LGBT activism, to the promotion of offensive forms of sex education to impressionable children. As House of Representatives member Diane Black notes, “Planned Parenthood is both the largest abortion provider in America and the largest recipient of Title X dollars. While Title X grants are intended to fund critical women’s health services for low income Americans, Planned Parenthood misuses taxpayer dollars to (subsidize) its abortion services. ... Abortion is not healthcare. It destroys one life and damages another.”

The United States needs to eliminate the financial lifeline of Planned Parenthood by defunding the organization of taxpayer dollars. Planned Parenthood supporters, however, argue that if this were to happen, low-income women would not be able to get needed healthcare. Yet federally qualified health centers (community health centers) could be encouraged to take up the slack. They receive broad government funding and offer care regardless of the patient’s ability to pay, making available an even broader array of primary care services than Planned Parenthood does, so women would actually have more health care choices and options. Also, there are many more community health centers than Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide.

Jamie Hall and Roger Severino of the Heritage Foundation sum it up this way: “To ensure that taxpayers are not forced to subsidize America’s number one abortion provider, Congress should make Planned Parenthood affiliates ineligible to receive either Medicaid reimbursements or Title X grants if they continue to perform abortions. Taxpayer money from these programs should instead be redirected to the more than 9,000 federally qualified health center sites throughout the country that provide comprehensive primary health care for those in need without entanglement in abortion.”

Hurtling after an abortion?
Let your heartache turn to love and peace on a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat weekend.

Rapid City area retreat
April 26-28, 2019

Contact Carol 605-374-5639
or cking@sdplains.com

Healing after abortion
www.RachelsVineyard.org

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father

FEBRUARY
Human Trafficking:
For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

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. 12/25/18

“Dear children! I am carrying to you my Son Jesus who is the King of Peace. He gives you peace and may it not be only for you but, little children, carry it to others in joy and humility. I am with you and am praying for you in this time of grace which God desires to give you. My presence is a sign of love here while I am with you to protect you and lead you towards eternity. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

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

Prayer Intentions of the Apostleship of Prayer

APOSTLESHIPOFPRAYER.ORG
**Simbang Gabi**

A Filipino Advent Celebration was held Dec. 21, at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. Children dressed as angels were part of a procession before the Mass. The procession also depicted Joseph and Mary travelling on a donkey to Bethlehem, guided and encouraged by angels, while the Mass choir sang "Almost There."

*(At Right)* Fr. Jason Marco from Saratoga, Wyo., was the celebrant. He is pictured with Joy Smith, baby Julia and grandmother Zenaida Tabobo. *(Courtesy photo)*

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Rapid City Catholic School System

Current Enrollment:
St. Elizabeth Seton Preschool  –  112
St. Elizabeth Seton Elementary  –  299
St. Thomas More Middle School  –  185
St. Thomas More High School  –  256

4 Priest Alumni
2 Current Seminary Alumni
2 Religious Life Alumni

WEEKLY MASS AND ADORATION
Grade Level Retreats
Beginning in 5th Grade

4 Fulbright Scholars
7 Focus Missionaries
4 Spirit of Su Award
1 Spirit of Max Award

Class of 2018 was offered
$5.2 Million
in college scholarships

99% Graduation Rate

32 Presidential Scholars since 2008

6th - 12th Grade Volunteer Hours Total over
12,000 Per Year

$846,713 Awarded in Tuition Assistance

16 Rapid City Athletes of the Year Awards

National Catholic Schools Week
Come Celebrate with us:
January 27th - February 2nd, 2019

All System Mass -
Monday, Jan. 28th at OLPH

Men in Black Basketball game -
Monday, Jan. 28th at STM High School
Dinner at 5:00
Priests vs STM 7:00 p.m.

For a tour call -
St. Elizabeth Seton - 605-716-5213
St. Thomas More Middle School - 605-348-1477
St. Thomas More High School - 605-343-8484
“Developing Personal and Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition”

“I have attended RCCSS since I was in preschool. St. Thomas More has helped me grow academically, athletically, and most importantly in my faith. The relationships I have made at STM help carry me and teach me how to live a faithful and confident life. Without my experiences here, and the spiritual guidance along the way, I would not have been shaped into the person I am today.”
Lizzy Elder, Junior at STM

“I have been a student of the Rapid City Catholic School System since preschool, which makes it almost 13 years. I am so grateful for the faith and education I have received. My favorite part of school is sharing my faith with other members of the RCCSS family. There are so many great faculty, staff, and students to help you with school or life in general. It’s easy to talk with everyone because almost everybody knows one another.”
Abby Wagner, Junior at STM

“My time at St. Thomas More has been such a blessing. Not only have I been given the resources necessary to prepare for college adequately, but also for life as a whole. I have been surrounded by hard-working and caring people, students and teachers alike. Faith has been an inherent component of everything at the school, and allows for everything within the busyness to keep its proper perspective. I have been blessed to participate in a number of sports and other extracurricular activities, and because of them I have gained a number of life skills that cannot be taught in the classroom. Without this school, I would not be the person I am today, and I will hold onto and cherish the impact this school system has had on me for the rest of my life, both in college and beyond.”
Spencer Lund, Senior at STM

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**National Catholic Schools Week**

Come Celebrate with us: January 27 – February 2, 2019

All System Mass – Monday, Jan 28th 9am at Cathedral OLPH
Men In Black Basketball game – Monday, Jan 28th at STM High School
Dinner at 5:00 - Priests vs. STM 7:00 pm
Harmful ideologies subtly creep into the structures of law with ‘kid gloves on’

“Laymen should take up as their own proper task the renewal of the temporal order .... It belongs to the laity, without waiting passively for orders and directives, to take the initiatives freely and to infuse a Christian spirit into the mentality, customs, laws and structures of the community in which they live.”

These words of St. Paul VI aren’t just an encouragement, they’re a mission. This mission to renew the world is more urgent than ever. According to Pope Francis, societies are experiencing “cultural and ideological colonization,” by which, through the power of law, freedom is diminished, morals are erased, and young people are indoctrinated. He warns that harmful ideologies subtly creep into the structures of law with, in his words, “kid gloves on,” shifting modes of thinking almost imperceptibly.

This brings our mission as Catholic laity into sharper focus. As Catholics, we’re truth-tellers, and as laity, our field of action is politics. If we form our minds and consciences according the wisdom of the church, ideological sleight of hand becomes easier to spot. As false ideologies pop up like dandelions in my summer lawn — a new bunch every week — our task to bring forth a vision for renewal awaits. With the 94th South Dakota Legislative Session underway, we have before us mission territory that belongs to all the laymen and women of our state. That’s you and me. As I review legislation for the Catholic Conference this year, I will be watching carefully for proposals that would implicitly eliminate God from the public square. But the work isn’t mine alone.

The November elections are behind us, with expressions of gratitude from many. One woman shared on November 6, “I’m ready for car commercials again.” Now we have a new government in Pierre, which, thanks to our federal system, is where much of the nuts-and-bolts heavy lifting of governance occurs. It’s especially important that our new leaders hear from you as they form judgments and make decisions. Visit www.sdcatholicconference.org and click the “State Government” tab for contact info for the governor and your legislators. Put their numbers in your speed dial or their email addresses in your contacts. In her inaugural address, Governor Kristi Noem shared her desire to stay connected, saying, “I want to hear from you early and often.” Pick up the phone or send an email.

I’m writing before most legislation is filed. But we can expect bills that touch on abortion, reproductive trafficking (commercial surrogacy), sex trafficking, the environment, immigration, religious freedom, health care, education, marriage, and the family. I could write a column on each of these topics. Check the South Dakota Catholic Conference website often, or join the email list for updates.

I deeply care about the life and future of our country. I first swore an oath to serve her in August of 2001 as a young midshipman eager for meaning and sacrifice. I’ve sweated for her and I’ve fought alongside heroic men who’ve bled for her. As Catholic citizens, the only promise tomorrow holds for us is the promise of the Lord’s abiding presence and the help of the Holy Spirit. All else is uncertain. The future of this country we love depends on us. Get engaged and stay engaged. God bless, and pray for me in Pierre.
Events Schedule

**January 31, Thursday**
- **Deadline for submissions.** Paper mailed Tuesday, February 19.
  - Phone: 605-343-3541
  - lhallstrom@diorc.org
  - bberreth@diorc.org

**January 18, 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 January 20.
- **NPM Winter Meeting:** Held at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Hill City. Cindy Howell will present “Leadership in Music Ministry,” Tammy Schnittgrund will present “Psalms for Lent and the Triduum,” and a panel will discuss “Goal Setting and How it Helps us get Things Done.” Pat McDowell, patmcdowell44@gmail.com or 605-341-2174. Registration deadline, January 22.

**January 19, Saturday**
- **Prayerful Painting:** Held at St. Martin Monastery from 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. $20 includes lunch. Sister Therese Marie 605-716-5214 to register and for more information.
- **Natural Family Planning:** Seminar for engaged couples or anyone wanting to learn more about natural family planning. Held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. From 9 a.m.-noon. Seminar will be open for distance learning opportunities for out-of-town couples. Next seminar, March 16, Terra Sancta Retreat Center. Amy 605-716-5214 or ajulian@diorc.org.

**January 25, Friday**
- **Young Women’s Discipleship Retreat:** Find out more about where God is calling you. Retreat includes prayer and discussion about discerning your individual call, whatever that may be. This weekend will be an opportunity to spend time and ask questions of the Josephine Sisters and learn more about your vocation. For young women ages 16 and older. Cost is $50 per person and includes lodging and meals. Held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center.
  - Office of Vocations at 605-716-5214 or moszwalowski@diorc.org for more information.
- **Refuel:** For all religious educators, youth ministers, and anyone involved in evangelization and catechesis. Speaker is Father Scott Traynor. Begins with Mass and dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and ends Saturday at 4 p.m. Held at Terra Sancta.

**January 26, Saturday**
- **Roe v. Wade Memorial Observance:** Held from 1:30–3 p.m. at St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rapid City. Noon lunch in Cathedral Hall, talk by Bishop Robert Gruss. Lunch $6.

**January 27, Sunday**
- **First Friday Mass:** Mass at 11:15 a.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. Noon lunch in Cathedral Hall, talk by Bishop Robert Gruss. Lunch $6.
- **Preached Silent Retreat:** Within silence is the opportunity for deep and meaningful spiritual reflection and discovery. In silence you can hear yourself think; but more importantly, you also give yourself the opportunity to actively listen for the voice of God and his desire for your life. Sponsored by Faith Formation and Family Life Ministries. terrasanta.org/event/
- **OLPH Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy:** First Saturday, 9 a.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Pam Ekberg 605-343-4999.
- **Vocation Discernment Retreats:**
  - Sister Mary Wegher, OSB, 605-343-8011.
  - Divine Mercy Chaplet: Sundays, 3 p.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Followed by the patriotic rosary.
  - Ellen Robertson 605-718-9909.
- **Hope for New Life Jail Ministry:** Denial, 7 p.m., Catholic Social Services. Tony Galles 605-348-2301 or Mary Sperlich 605-342-9343.
- **Prayer and Lector:** Thursdays 6:30 p.m., St. Martin Monastery. Sister Marjorie Howe, OSB, 605-343-8011.
- **Family Rosary:** Sundays, 7 p.m., St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rapid City. Mark Biggs 605-343-2467.
- **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, 5:45-7:30 p.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, room 107. Everyone welcome. Aprendiendo nuestra Fe Catolica los Miércoles de 5:45-7:30 p.m. Todos están 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 cleicht@rap.midco.net or 605-342-8598 or Maria Munoz 605-791-3430.
Jesuit to remain as House Chaplain in new Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Jesuit whom former Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan sought to oust in 2018 will remain in his post as chaplain of the legislative body as the 116th session of Congress begins. Lawmakers voted late Jan. 3 to keep Jesuit Father Patrick J. Conroy, the 60th chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, in the post for the next two years. He began his term May 25, 2011. As the House chaplain, Father Conroy, 68, is responsible for offering a prayer at the beginning of each day when Congress is in session. The nondenominational prayer in the House chamber is broadcast live on HouseLive.gov and on C-Span. It’s also archived in the Congressional Record and is part of the official rules of the House to get the day started. But some suspect that one of Father Conroy’s prayers in 2017 is what moved former House speaker Ryan to try to oust the chaplain. Ryan was then trying to garner votes to pass a tax overhaul bill. “May their efforts these days guarantee that there are not winners and losers under new tax laws, but benefits balanced and shared by all Americans,” Father Conroy said in a Nov. 6, 2017, prayer, a time when lawmakers were debating how some of the proposed tax laws would affect the rich and the poor.
George Weigel 2019 Palm Sunday Brunch Keynote Speaker on April 14

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by sponsoring the Palm Sunday Brunch, Begins at 12 Noon
Ramkota Convention Center, Rapid City

Your sponsorship helps defray brunch expenses, allowing Catholic Social Services to direct all proceeds raised during the event to those in need of CSS services. As a Major Sponsor you are cordially invited to attend a reception party Saturday evening April 13, 2019. You will have the opportunity to meet The Most Reverend Robert Gruss, Bishop of Rapid City and George Weigel keynote speaker for the Palm Sunday Brunch.

George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, is a Catholic theologian and one of America’s leading public intellectuals. He holds EPPC’s William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies.


George Weigel is the author of more than twenty other books, including “The Cube and the Cathedral: Europe, America, and Politics Without God” (2005).

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Billing address ___________________________________________  City  State  Zip  Phone (incl. area code) __________________________

Amount to be charged: $ ________________  Signature: __________________________
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Number of complimentary tickets to the brunch: Adults: __________  Children under 10: __________

I cannot be a major sponsor at this time, but I have enclosed a check for $ ____________ to help Catholic Social Services provide critical services.

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2019 National Education Contest

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas announce the 2019 annual National Education Contest. The themes of the contest are (choose one): “Here I Am Lord I Come To Do Your Will.” Ps. 40 or “Doing My Best To Do Good”

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Note: Students may be Catholic or Non-Catholic

Contestants may enter a Category only once, but may submit entries in multiple categories. All entries must be received by the Local Court deadline of February 10, 2018. Interested applicants may contact the Court St. Rita #916 Contest Chairperson for the peculiar rules in the categories listed above, and for the Contest Entry Form.

The first place winning entry from our local Court, for each Category in each Division (either theme, not both) will be sent to the State Contest Chairperson and the first place winning entries at the State level will be forwarded to the National Education Contest Chairperson.

There is a monetary award for each first, second and third place winners at the local and state level in each division and a first ($100), second ($50) and third ($25) place award at the national level in each division.

Last years contest saw two state winners from Rapid City that went on to compete at the national level. The essay entry from Madelyn Holzer won 3rd place at national.

Contact:
Patricia McDowell
Court St. Rita #916 Contest Chairperson
605-787-0638
patmcdowell44@gmail.com

Help End Human Trafficking

Social Justice Workshop
Saturday, March 23, 2019
Surbeck Center
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Rapid City

Keynote Speaker:
Becky Rasmussen
of Call to Freedom
Navigating a Healthy Path for Victims of Human Trafficking
Sioux Falls, SD
www.calltofreedom.org

Sponsors:
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Black Hills State University Newman Center, Spearfish
SDSM&T Newman Center, Rapid City
More information on sponsors and agenda coming soon...

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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.

**In Your Prayers**

Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek is pictured with the newest award recognitions his parish has received. In December 2017, Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont, was the first to be recognized as a foundational parish. On November 20, 2018, they were recognized by the Office of Stewardship and by Bishop Robert Gruss for being the first hospitable parish. According to Shawna Hanson, director of Stewardship, the 2016 Diocesan Priority Plan set forth “Forming Disciples” as an essential part of our mission. Under that priority, parishes have been invited to embrace stewardship as a way of life. To assist them in this, the Office of Stewardship has created the “Characteristics of a Stewardship Parish” and developed a process parishes can use to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses and set goals which will help them become “Stewardship parishes.” It has four tiers — foundational parish, hospitable parish, lively parish, and at the top — stewardship parish. In a report prepared by the Office Stewardship, it praised the church for having a welcoming atmosphere. That includes greeters at the doors, space for visiting and personally inviting people to get involved. When parishioners register, they receive a letter of welcome and a brochure explaining the parish. Members of the welcome committee give the family a welcome basket, they host a newcomers’ supper with the pastor quarterly, and display photos of new parishioners in the atrium of the church. According to Hanson, there are several parishes that will qualify as foundational parishes soon. Foundational parishes have active Finance, Pastoral and Stewardship Councils. The parishes have clear mission and vision statements. They have the necessary foundational structures in place that make it possible for them to grow into vibrant, mission-focused, stewardship parishes. The Diocese of Rapid City views Stewardship through three lenses — Generous Hospitality: invitation, welcome and fellowship; Lively Faith: prayer, study and formation; and Dedicated Discipleship: to love God and to love neighbor with an intentional heart. See the full characteristics on the Office of Stewardship page on the diocesan website at www.rapidcitydiocese.org/stewardship/. (Courtesy photo)
Merry Christmas beloved children of God! I am glad to be able to send you this Christmas message even though I can’t be present with you. Tonight’s gospel message is about healing. Jesus came into our world to bring healing to all his people. He was born just like common folk, he was a king, but he didn’t come robed in majesty. He didn’t even have a home. Like many of us, that is how we came into this world. Little babies with no expectations, no fan-fare or sometimes even without parents who love us.

Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted, he came to set captives free and to bring us all together with him. The healing comes from this night, when we come into this church. Sometimes, we come not knowing why we are here, we go out of obligation, out of curiosity, or maybe somebody invites us. We continually search for the part of us that will make us whole. Many times we look to the wrong places. We look to glamour and entertainment, alcohol, drugs, all these things that the world says will make us feel better. We often feel inadequate, we feel like we don’t belong, or as though we shouldn’t be here because of the bad things we think we have done. We don’t think God loves us. Through all the white noise, we miss the small voice that is calling us, “My beloved child,” and calling us to healing. That is what we are looking for, searching for. When we come to church sometimes we come as strangers, we come as observers, or we come as skeptics, not really knowing what to expect and even what we are looking for. As we listen, as we participate in the sacraments and hear the prayers, sing the hymns, God is working to chip away at those hardened parts that keep our hearts closed. But if we are able to open our hearts and hear that small voice, then those pieces begin to soften and change begins.

We begin to see life as it really is; we see life through the eyes of our Lord, and how wonderful it is, how glorious it could be and how much we have missed. Once his voice touches our hearts we see friends, people on the same journey as we are; people struggling just as we are but searching for the same thing. Most importantly we look into each others eyes and we see brothers and sisters because each one of us has the Holy Spirit within us. When we see each other through these new eyes, the God that is in me touches the God that is in you, and this is what in Lakota culture we refer to as Mitakuye Oyasin — we are all related.

Through the power of God strangers have become brothers and sisters, enemies have reunited. This is the message of the gospel. I want to ask all of you to think about those people in your life that maybe hurt you or whom you have hurt in any way. Through the miracle of this night, may this little baby bring healing into our world. I want you to find a way through prayer, through reflection, or reading the good news to reconcile with those with whom you are estranged. It will be challenging to do, but it takes each one of us to take that first step. Most of the time when we begin talking we may not even remember why we are fighting amongst each other. That is the power of the spirit at work.

In my days of going through this disease (cancer), I have come to realize that really the only thing we can give is our love. It’s not hard to do, all we have to do is open our arms and our hearts, put judgments and resentments aside and let the love of the Holy Spirit fill our hearts. That is when we will know the true meaning of this night, and how it touches our lives. This night Christ is born into our hearts.

I ask all of you to continue to pray through Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk for a miracle of healing for me. I believe miracles have already come into my life. First, I have no pain associated with this affliction. Second, I believe that all your prayers combined with thousands of others across the country are a miracle in itself because the prayers are for the healing of my illness. Thank you for your love, generosity, and prayers. Continue to pray for healing throughout our troubled world.

May you have a blessed Christmas abo’ Mitakuye Oyasin.
Increasing Black Elk Awareness

Bill White, vice-postulator for the Nicholas Black Elk, servant of God, sainthood cause, spoke about the candidate for sainthood to a full house at Morning Fill Up, December 20, in Rapid City. It is a public gathering held in an office space called The Garage featuring local and national leaders with the intent to inspire local participants “for the greater good,” according to a handout.

White is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He is a retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 from the National Guard where he served 38 years. White is a veteran of both the Operation Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom military campaigns. He and his wife, Terri, are Commissioned Lay Ministers and he is in the deacon formation program in the Diocese of Rapid City. He works as a pastoral assistant at Christ the King Church, Porcupine.

“Nicholas Black Elk was a holy man and a healer. He was living in heaven long before his death,” said White. “People are praying to Nicholas. He shows them that you can walk in both cultures — you can pray with the pipe and pray with the rosary equally.”

For more information see the Nicholas Black Elk Canonization page on Facebook.

(WRC photo by Becky Berreth)

Curia Corner
Preserving a Catholic community

MSGR. JAMES P. WALSH
40 Years of Service To The Tri-State Area

The 2018 Christmas season provides an opportunity to reflect on a very special benefactor of St. Paul's Church in Belle Fourche. Monsignor James P. Walsh died 50 years ago, Christmas Eve, 1968. He served Belle Fourche, for nearly 40 years and oversaw an expansion in members and buildings. Born in 1893 in Pennsylvania, ordained in Baltimore in 1921 and for the next nine years was pastor in White River.

Father Walsh arrived in Belle Fourche in July 1930 with 23 registered families in St. Paul’s. The church was old, needed paint, the yard bare earth and weeds. Father came from a family of successful business people, he having studied business and finance in college. With this background, he undertook restoration of the building. His arrival was shortly after members of the Ku Klux Klan had held a national conclave here, drought and the depression were to come. Yet this determined easterner, of small stature, managed to move mountains.

Father worked with the welfare department, a social worker that helped people to stand, but to also stand alone. Appointed by the governor, he was named relief director for Butte, Harding, Meade and Lawrence counties from 1923 to 1938. A commendation from the United States government was extended to him for the sale of savings bonds and a Treasury award for patriotic service for the World War II efforts. This gracious man helped our entire area through the depression and the War.

Neeing more space, he sought donations to build a church addition. The Belle Fourche paper called the remodeled place of worship, dedicated in 1940, a monument to Father Walsh: “a plucky pastor with a plucky congregation.” Father paid the work crew, all protestant but one, ten cents over the going wage.

Father was elevated to the office of Monsignor in 1963. A new church building was then underway. In 1962, Father Lawrence Welsh was assigned as assistant pastor, helping implement Vatican II. Monsignor was still there to oversee the construction project. The budget called for cement block interior walls but Monsignor would not allow that and footed the bill to have the walls lined with bricks. The new building was dedicated in 1964.

As his health deteriorated, he moved to a home care facility where he died on Christmas Eve, 1968. It was like the poem, “I’m spending Christmas with Jesus this year.” As the final act of charity and love to St. Paul’s parish, his life insurance and estate paid off all remaining debt on the building. As a tribute, the local Knights of Columbus are the Msgr. James P. Walsh Council.

It’s Father Walsh’s Day
Excerpts from The Daily Belle Fourche Post, June 19, 1946

Rev. James P. Walsh marks today the 25th Anniversary of his first mass, celebrated ... a week after his ordination. In July, 1930, he came to Belle Fourche.

Naturally, his church will pay tribute to him on the 25th anniversary of his priesthood. And all Belle Fourche will salute him as well. In fact, the community has been watching for an opportunity to tell the pastor how much it appreciates him.

(Father Walsh) has fulfilled his obligation to himself and his vows if he serves his church well. ... One needs no other proof than the structure that today houses St. Paul’s parish.

There it stands — perfection in architecture. The whole community has been his responsibility. Civic clubs, community drives, institutions and obligations, have all felt the pull of his personality.

Father Walsh has been a social worker as well as priest. His early training in social service has been augmented thru the years by daily work with people ...

He has the curative desire in his work with people. He is not satisfied with merely helping an unfortunate person to stand; he must teach that person to stand alone, as well.
“Pepper” the robot, a humanoid robot designed to welcome and take care of visitors and patients, stands next to a mother and her new born baby at AZ Damiaan hospital in Ostend, Belgium. The Vatican’s Pontifical Academy for Life has added robotics to its list of specialized areas of study, especially in medicine, warfare and the workforce. (CNS photo/Francois Lenoir, Reuters)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even though today’s modern tools and technologies are hardly human, the Pontifical Academy for Life is zeroing in on the world of robots and machines powered by artificial intelligence.

While the academy’s focus is on the protection of human life and dignity, the rapidly shifting and radical capabilities of robotics are having an ever-increasing impact on human lives, people’s relationships, communities and creation, said Jesuit Father Carlo Casalone, an academy member and consultant.

The need to reflect on the effects, opportunities and risks posed by artificial intelligence and robotics has led the pro-life academy to launch a special look at this complex field, adding robotics to its list of specialized projects, which already include palliative care, neuroscience, bioethics and human genome editing.

A major workshop on “Robo-ethics: Humans, Machines and Health” will be held at the Vatican Feb. 25-26 as part of this increased study; the workshop will focus on the use of robots and artificial intelligence, specifically in medicine and health care.

The use of industrial and personal-service robots is on the rise, according to industry reports. They are being used in manufacturing, housekeeping, assisting with surgery and even caring for the elderly. People with reduced mobility can be assisted with brain control technology, which converts brain waves into digital signals that can command or control external devices, such as artificial limbs or machines.

Father Casalone, who studied medicine and worked as a cardiologist before joining the Society of Jesus in 1984, helped organize the workshop. He became a member of the pontifical academy in 2017 and works in its scientific section.

He told Catholic News Service in December that the workshop will bring together ethicists, health care workers and researchers, including Hiroshi Ishiguro, a Japanese robotics engineer who creates humanoid robots and promotes discussion about the essence of being human. His lab has developed the interactive “Actroid,” a lifelike humanoid robot that can operate autonomously or be teleoperated and created an uncanny replica of Ishiguro known as the “Geminoid.”

Father Casalone said the academy wanted the workshop to include experts like Ishiguro who could explain “what sort of vision” guides their work and so that members could “truly listen to what is going on in today’s world and to engage with this historic moment in time. We are seeking to be fully aware of the rapidly advancing world of ‘cognitive machines.’

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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.

The Deposit of Faith is made up of what two parts?

Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition

YouCat (11): Why do we hand on the faith?

We hand on the faith because Jesus commands us: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19). (91) No genuine Christian leaves the transmission of the faith exclusively to specialists (teachers, pastors, missionaries). We are Christ for others. This means that every genuine Christian would like God to come to other people, too. He says to himself, “The Lord needs me! I have been baptized and confirmed and am responsible for people around me to learn about God and to ‘come to the knowledge of the truth’ (1 Tim 2:4b).” Mother Teresa used a good comparison: “Often you can see power lines alongside the street. Unless current is flowing through them, there is no light. The power line is you and I! The current is God! We have the power to allow the current to flow through us and thus to generate the light of the world: JESUS — or to refuse to be used and, thus, allow the darkness to spread.”

YouCat (12): How can we tell what belongs to the true faith?

We find the true faith in Sacred Scripture and in the living Tradition of the church. (76, 80-82, 85-87, 97, 100) The new testament developed out of the faith of the church. Scripture and tradition belong together. Handing on the faith does not occur primarily through sacred documents. In the early church it was said that Sacred Scripture was “written on the heart of the church rather than on parchment.” The disciples and the apostles experienced their new life above all through a living fellowship, which continued in a different way after resurrection. The first Christians held fast “to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayer” (Acts 2:42). They were united with one another and yet had room for others. This is part of our faith to this day: Christians invite other individuals to come to know a fellowship with God that has been preserved unaltered since the times of the apostles in the Catholic Church.
It’s OK to start 2019 with you

I’ve always appreciated the notion of self-care in an Oprah Winfrey, hot-baths-and-expensive-chocolates kind of way. We work so hard, the thinking goes, that we deserve a break here and there. So splurge on that full-price gift-to-yourself. Book the massage. Binge on the new season.

This philosophy is easy to get behind.

But it was recently challenged when I encountered the writings of Julia Hogan, a 30-year-old therapist whose book “It’s OK To Start With You” presents self-care through a Catholic worldview, giving permission to readers to take it up with greater resolve by understanding it in a clearer light.

The impetus for the book came through observations from Hogan’s private practice, seeing clients after clients who were suffering because they had neglected self-care. The consequences were wide-ranging, but they often circled back to the same root cause.

Julia has a message for them.

“True self-care is much more than a collection of sayings or self-indulgent, surface-level practices,” she writes in her book. “It’s a way of life that reinforces the fact, rooted in our dignity as God’s children, that we are worthy of love and care. It’s a set of habits, built over time, that takes seriously the Gospel command to ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“We remember to look out for our neighbors but not always our own wellbeing, which can affect our ability to take care of our neighbors,” Julia told me, perched at the kitchen table of her Chicago apartment and framed by gold paper wheels on the wall.

The surest way to truly embrace 2019, she said, is to practice self-care. “When we think of resolutions, we tend to think ‘lose X amount of weight or go to the gym more or make more money.’ It’s appreciating who you are right now and investing in that. Self-care requires work. It’s a discipline.”

Keep bringing Christ to others, archbishop tells SEEK conference

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila described the 17,000 mostly college students attending SEEK2019 in Indianapolis as “a great sign of hope for the church, that the church is alive and well among young people.”

He celebrated Mass on Jan. 6 for the participants in the biennial conference sponsored by the Denver-based Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). The group, founded in 1998, seeks to nurture the Catholic faith in college students. It currently has nearly 700 missionaries serving on 153 college campuses in 42 states and five international locations.

In his homily, Archbishop Aquila said he was briefly “playing hooky” from the retreat taking place for bishops in the U.S. at Mundelein Seminary in the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago to celebrate the Mass in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

This year’s SEEK gathering, Jan. 3-7, is the sixth such conference that Archbishop Aquila has attended.

“Certainly, you can see the deep faith in the young people,” he said in an interview after the liturgy. “What their encounter with Christ has brought about is palpable. When you give young people the truth of Christ and Christ as the light and the one who gives meaning to life, it changes everything.”

In his homily, the archbishop spoke about the reading from Isaiah where the prophet spoke of darkness covering the earth. He said this darkness today is consumerism, incivility and the “sin by certain members of the clergy.”

“All of that can, at times, discourage us,” he said. “But in the midst of that is the light of Jesus Christ. And it is that light that we must focus on.”

Watch for reaction from Black Hills State University and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Newman Center students in the February issue, mailed February 19.

For years I had seen it as a series of hastily justified, “I deserve this” indulgences, not an ongoing discipline. How enlightening to consider self-care as long-term, sustainable habits that replenish the body, mind and spirit.

What that looks like differs for each of us and requires an honest assessment of our current needs held up against our big-picture goals.

It could mean saying no more often — or it could mean saying yes in order to proactively nurture relationships. It could require cutting back on social media — or it could simply necessitate greater mindfulness about when and why you scroll through Instagram.

It might mean staying up later for a favorite show, but it may well call for an early bedtime. It might mean feasting on a Sunday brunch that deviates from the diet — or ordering the salad.

The discipline of self-care is softened by Julia’s call for leisure, which she distinguishes from idleness as a “much richer concept” — not an aimless passing of time but a happy pursuit intentionally engaged in to restore your sense of balance.

That’s what brought Julia to her watercolor paints on a recent Thursday morning, a hobby she turns to for enjoyment, not expertise. While we spoke, she painted a snake plant from Trader Joe’s.

“It’s exciting to provide an alternative to our conventional understanding of self-care that really resonates with people,” she said, tilting her head as she outlined the third leaf.

“My work flows from my faith and the belief that everyone is loved by God. I’m not just helping my clients overcome depression or anxiety but to understand who they are as a person.”

This winter Julia is offering digital workshops to supplement the free downloadable resources on her website. She’s hoping for a ripple effect.

“Taking care of yourself fuels you to do good in the world wherever you are called.”

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

The Upside (STX)

(CNS) — Odd-couple mix of comedy and drama in which Kevin Hart is a recent parolee for various crimes who desperately needs employment to avoid returning to prison, and Bryan Cranston is Phillip, an uber-wealthy investment guru in a Park Avenue penthouse who is a quadriplegic as the result of a hang-gliding mishap and also a lonely widower.

The film contains benignly viewed marijuana use, sexual humor and references and fleeting rough and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. 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.