Our Lady of Silence

May is a Marian month in the Roman Catholic Church. The icon above is by Sr. Mary Catherine Jacobs, a hermit living in the Diocese of Rapid City. The original was painted by the Benedictines from the convent of Mater Ecclesiae, on the island of San Giulio, Lake Orta, Italy. Various reports say Pope Francis has referred to the icon to discourage gossip in general and encourage silence in Mass.

While Catholics do not worship Mary, she is venerated as the “Mother of God.” Important Marian celebrations in May include May Crowning — a centuries old tradition wherein children place crowns of flowers on statues of Mary; May 13, Our Lady of Fatima, recognizing Marian apparitions at Fatima, Portugal in 1917; and the May 31, feast of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Sr. Mary Catherine’s artwork is available at the Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. (Courtesy photo)
The Announcement of the Year of the Eucharist

"Once you understand the Eucharist, you can never leave the Church. Not because the Church won't let you, but because your heart won't let you."

We just recently celebrated the greatest event in human history — the depth of the Father's love for us in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In giving away his Son, the Father's only and deepest desire was and is to have a relationship with those whom he has called his own — each and every one of us.

As the mystical body of Christ, in our Catholic communities, each week we gather to experience this reality in the celebration of the most holy Eucharist. Far from being merely an event that we attend, it is here, in this sacramental moment, where each of us is drawn into this great mystery of love.

In order to draw us more deeply into this mystery, I have called for a Holy Year of the Eucharist in the Diocese of Rapid City. Unlike recent holy years, such as the Year of Faith and the Year of Mercy, this was not initiated by the Holy Father for the Church around the world. It is intended to invite each of us in western South Dakota to a deeper experience of encounter with Christ.

Because sin has entered into the world, humanity has fallen far from God's graces, keeping us from that original holiness and thus subecting us to "eternal" death. Our Catholic faith proclaims a "good news" and gives us an answer of hope that death does not have the last word. God's compassion toward us and his mercy are infinite. "But God has proved his love for us. While we were still sinners Christ was sent into the world by the Father to die for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath (Rom 5:8-9)."

Through his death on the Cross, Jesus presented to the Father in heaven his perfect homage and obedience as reparation for humanity's disobedience and sin. Jesus offered himself on the Cross for each of us, fulfilling his own words, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13). Christ's complete act of charity towards humanity allows us the opportunity to re-establish an authentic relationship with God and grow towards that original holiness.

This saving action of Jesus Christ is re-presented each time the Eucharist is celebrated. "It is Christ himself, the eternal priest of the New Covenant who, acting through the ministry of the priest, offers the Eucharistic sacrifice. And it is the same Christ, really present under the species of bread and wine, who is the offering of the Eucharistic sacrifice."

The Church fathers of the Second Vatican Council proclaimed that the Eucharistic sacrifice is "the source and summit of the Christian life." The Church draws her very life from the Eucharist. The other sacraments and all the works of the Church flow from and are directed toward this great mystery.

The Church's mission, our mission, flows from the mission of Christ: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you" (Jn 20:21). From the Eucharist, the Church draws her spiritual power and then is sent on mission to "go therefore and make disciples" (Mt 28:19). The Eucharist comes to be "both the source and the summit of all evangelization, since its goal is the communion of mankind with Christ and in him with the Father and the Holy Spirit."

Our union with Christ in the Eucharist, both a gift and grace, makes it possible for us, in him, to embrace fully his mission of love and mercy. When we come to understand this great mystery celebrated in the Eucharist and participate fully each time we gather, our lives will never be the same. We come to understand more deeply the Father's love for us in Christ Jesus. Our desire for spiritual union with the Lord deepens. Our own sacrificial love intensifies and expands. Our aspiration to serve the Lord grows. These are the very fruits of our holy Communion.

Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought of how the Lord Jesus desires to bring us, individually and communally, deeper into this love relationship. When we deeply encounter Love, we are transformed by it, and become like the Lover.

As shepherd of the Diocese of Rapid City, I long to help others come to know and experience Jesus in a more personal and life-changing way, especially through the celebration of the Sunday Mass.

Over the past many years, there has been a decline in Mass attendance around the world. Half of all baptized Catholics in the United States who have left the Church now declare no church affiliation. Every family knows of people who no longer regularly attend Mass or have fallen away from the Church altogether. Perhaps it is because they have no clear understanding of the Eucharist, the Church's greatest treasure. Or perhaps they came to Mass but did not give themselves over to this beautiful encounter with Love.

If not attended to, our faith can “become like smoldering cinders or embers — weakened by sin and secularism. It must be reawakened, fanned into flame. We must help Christians to encounter once again, this Jesus, especially those who have left the Church.” The Year of the Eucharist is meant to help awaken the hearts of all Catholics across the Diocese of Rapid City, deepening the desire for Jesus in all of us. Celebrating this Year of the Eucharist is meant to help us come to a deeper understanding, appreciation, and experience of the Church's greatest treasure.

This Holy Year of the Eucharist will commence on Sunday, June 23, 2019, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, and will conclude on that same Solemnity, Sunday, June 14, 2020.

Over the course of this year, the focus of the spiritual life of the diocese will be oriented towards the importance of the holy Eucharist in our lives as Catholics. All adult and youth religious education will give attention to some aspect of the Holy Eucharist — the Mass, its meaning and importance; Eucharistic Adoration, etc. Materials have been prepared for use in all parishes to help the faithful come to a deeper understanding and experience of this great gift so that the Eucharist will always be held in highest honor, received devoutly and frequently, and worshiped with supreme adoration. These materials will also assist pastors in carrying out their responsibility to teach the faithful diligently about this area of sacramental life.

By giving the Eucharist the prominence it deserves, we will show that we are attentive to the importance of the greatness of this gift Jesus left us. Over the course of this year, we will recall in more intentional ways the central event of history of our Catholic faith — Christ offering himself on the cross, the acceptable sacrifice which is made present each and every time the holy Eucharist is celebrated. This is at the heart of the Gospel and the living Tradition of the Church. Christ has promised to be with us always (Mt 28:20), and he is to be known, loved and imitated. The holy Eucharist brings us into communion with him, enabling us to live with him in the life of the Trinity, and to not only be transformed by this love, but, with him, to transform the world through our lives made holy by this union.

We must remember that we are never alone because through the humble signs of bread and wine, changed into his body and blood, Christ walks beside us as our food for the journey, strengthening us to become, for everyone, witnesses of love and hope for the world.

As we begin the Year of the Eucharist, let us not forget Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. We ask her to intercede for us and assist in her Son in the Eucharist. Every time we approach Jesus in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we turn to her who received the lifeless body of her son, and so received Christ's sacrifice for the whole Church. In her, the world is renewed in Christ's love. Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, pray for us.

Given in Rapid City, on 27 April, the Vigil of the Second Sunday of Easter, or the Sunday of Divine Mercy, in the year of our Lord 2019, the eighth year of my Episcopacy.

+Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Rapid City

Video of text read by Bishop Gruss: https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/year-of-eucharist/
Priest Assignments

After hearing the advice of the Diocesan Consultants, Bishop Robert Gruss has made the following appointments effective July 1, 2019.

Fr. Tony Grossenburg is released from assignment as Pastor of the Parishes of St. Mary in Lemmon, Sacred Heart in Morristown, St Bonaventure in McIntosh and St. Michael in Watauga for one year.

Fr. Dan Juefifs is released from assignment as Administrator of the Parishes of St. Patrick in Wall and St. Margaret in Lakeside and is assigned as Administrator of the Parishes of St. Mary in Lemmon, Sacred Heart in Morristown, St. Bonaventure in McIntosh and St. Michael in Watauga for one year.

Fr. Ed Vanorny's assignment as Administrator for the Parishes of St. Anthony in Buffalo, St. Isidore in Ralph and Blessed Sacrament in Bison is extended through June 30, 2020.

Fr. John Paul Trask is released from assignment as Parochial Vicar of the Parishes of St. Joseph in Spearfish and St. Paul in Belle Fourche and is assigned as Parochial Vicar of the Parishes on the Cheyenne River Reservation: All Saints in Eagle Butte, Immaculate Conception in Bridger, St. Joseph in Cherry Creek, Sacred Heart in Dupree, St. Catherine in Promise, Sacred Heart in Red Scaffold, St. Joseph in Ridgeview, and St. Therese in White Horse.

Fr. Mark Horn, Administrator of the Parishes of St. Rose of Lima in Hill City and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Keystone is named as Pastor of the same parishes for an additional five years with no change in his part time assignments to the Tribunal and the Hispanic Community.

Newly ordained (on May 28) Fr. Zane Pekron is assigned as Parochial Vicar of the Parishes of St. Joseph in Spearfish and St. Paul in Belle Fourche.

Bishop’s Calendar
May 21-June 23, 2019
Subject to Change without Notice

May 21, Tuesday
Clergy Days, Terra Sancta

May 22, Wednesday
Clergy Days, Terra Sancta
2 p.m. St. Thomas More Middle School Graduation, Cathedral

May 23, Thursday
Clergy Days, Terra Sancta
2 p.m. Western S.D. Catholic Foundation Open House, 10 E. Mall Dr, Suite B, Rapid City

May 26, Sunday
2 p.m. St. Thomas More High School Graduation, Cathedral

May 27, Monday
Chancery Closed for Memorial Day
4 p.m. Vocations Cookout, Canyon Lake Park
6:30 p.m. Holy Hour for Vocations, Blessed Sacrament

May 28, Tuesday
7 p.m. Ordination of Deacon Zane Pekron to the Priesthood, Cathedral

June 16, Sunday
10:30 a.m. CT Pre-Confirmation Meeting, St. Charles, St. Francis
11:30 a.m. CT Confirmation Mass, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Francis

Update on Fr. Marcin Garbacz

It has been recently reported that Father Marcin Garbacz was arrested May 10 at the Seattle airport by a special agent with the IRS. According to the report, he has been charged with federal wire fraud for allegedly stealing about $150,000 in donations in the Diocese of Rapid City between July 2012 and April 2018 and depositing the cash into his personal account.

According to the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Rapid City, Fr. Garbacz will be extradited from the state of Washington to South Dakota in a few weeks to face charges.

He was suspended from ministry in May 2018 by Bishop Robert Gruss stemming from an incident of theft at St. Therese the Little Flower Parish in Rapid City. Following this suspension, he entered a six-month treatment program in Saint Louis, Mo. In November 2018, he departed the program prior to completion and moved to Seattle, Wash. Father Garbacz’s decision to leave the program and move out of state were in direct violation of his letter of suspension and in disobedience to the bishop.

Father Garbacz, a Polish immigrant, was ordained for the Diocese of Rapid City in October 2004. He became a U.S. citizen July 2, 2014. According to the report, he could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

The Diocese of Rapid City was unaware that any investigation was taking place by the IRS.

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Let us give thanks to the Lord
for those who have responded to his call

Pre-ordination Adoration
to pray for Deacon Zane Pekron
and those discerning their vocation
Monday, May 27 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
at Blessed Sacrament Church
4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City
Bishop Robert D. Gruss
will lead us in prayer
Cake & punch reception to follow — Everyone welcome
Sponsored by the Office of Vocations

Rejoice with us
With great joy,
Bishop Robert D. Gruss
warmly extends to the people of the
Diocese of Rapid City an invitation to the
Ordination to the Priesthood

May 28, 2019, 7 p.m.
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
(520 Cathedral Drive, Rapid City)
Reception to follow in the Cathedral Hall

All are welcome

Be merciful ministers of Christ, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The priesthood is not a “cultural association or a union,” but a ministry of mercy anchored on Christ’s mission to bring hope to the downtrodden and comfort to those who suffer, Pope Francis told new priests.

“The Lord wished to save us freely. It was he who told us, ‘Give freely what you have received freely.’ The celebration of the Eucharist is the culmination of the Lord’s gratuitousness. Please, do not dirty it with petty interests,” he said.

Celebrating Mass May 12 in St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Francis ordained 19 new priests: 11 who studied at three different diocesan seminaries in the city and eight from the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, an association of diocesan clergy associated with Opus Dei.

Reading the traditional homily from the rite of ordination, the pope reminded the new priests of their duties as ministers of Christ and the call to be “men of prayer, men of sacrifice so that through the word (of God) and your example you may build the house of God, which is the church.”

However, departing from his prepared remarks, he also urged them to “never tire of being merciful.”

“Through the sacrament of penance, you will forgive sins in the name of God, Christ and the church,” the pope said. “Be merciful just as the Father, just as Jesus, has been merciful with us, with all of us.”

Be “close to God in prayer, be close to the bishop who is your father, be close to the presbytery, close to the other priests as brothers — without speaking ill of each other — and be close to the people of God,” the pope said. “Always have before your eyes the example of the Good Shepherd who came not to be served but to serve and to seek out and save what was lost.”

After the ordination, Pope Francis greeted the faithful waiting in St. Peter’s Square and led them in praying the “Regina Coeli” prayer.

Recalling the Sunday Gospel reading from St. John, in which Jesus tells his disciples that “my sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me,” the pope said that the Good Shepherd “is attentive to each one of us, he looks for us and loves us.”

“Let us not forget that Jesus is the only shepherd who speaks to us, who knows us, who gives us eternal life and guards us,” he said.

Reminding the crowd that Sunday also marked the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis urged people to pray for “courageous” men and women who are called to the priesthood and religious life because “it is always a risk to follow Jesus.”

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There are many good things happening in and because of the Catholic Church," said George Weigel. He is a syndicated columnist who wrote "Witness to Hope: the Biography of Pope John Paul II" and the featured speaker at the annual Catholic Social Services Palm Sunday brunch.

He contradicted social media and the blogosphere saying, "It's important to remember, today as we begin Holy Week, that the reality of Catholicism in America is not just a matter of abusive clerical behavior and church misgovernment. In six days, tens-of-thousands of adults will be baptized or received in full communion with the church at Easter Vigil.

“They will receive the sacraments of initiation knowing full well that the church is suffering through a major crisis. But they will nevertheless become one with us because they have found the truth who is Jesus Christ in a church that is his body in the world. Their courage and confidence in Catholicism … should give each of us renewed courage and confidence in a Catholic future.”

Weigel said Catholic seminaries are fuller than they have been in decades. Virtually all of those seminaries have been reformed and while there is room for further reform, America’s seminaries are models for the world. “They are filled with young men who know their vocation is not to a life of ease, but to a life of sacrifice informed by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ the great high priest,” he said, adding “That there has not been a mass exodus from American seminaries in light of the scandals of the last year, tells us something very, very important, and very encouraging about those priests in the future and those forming them for ministry.”

He asked the attendees not to forget the thousands of good and holy priests already at work in parishes and missions in the United States. “You cannot blame the priests of the United States for the sins and crimes of some 4 percent of American priests,” he said. He also commended the bishops who have worked on authentic reform despite the abuses of the clergy and failures in leadership and stewardship by their brother bishops.

“We are a church committed to propos-

difficult,” he said.

As the biographer of Pope John Paul II, he recalled the pontiff thought we should think of the poor and disadvantaged as people with potential to be unleashed, not as problems to be solved. Weigel said CSS programs aid in bringing poor and disadvantaged people into being full participants in society.
National Diocesan Information Technology Conf. will be hosted by the Diocese of Rapid City

By Rick Souleck
Diocesan Chief Financial Officer

If Rapid City looks a bit more technical the week of June 10 it’s due to the arrival of Information Technology professionals who support the Catholic Church. The Conference is called DISC which stands for Diocesan Information Systems Conference.

The annual conference is hosted at different dioceses throughout the country each year. It is the premier showcase for the use of information technology within the Catholic Church at both local and national levels. Those attending DISC are IT directors for parishes, schools, dioceses, administrators, clergy, staff and others who explore and expand the use of information technology in support of the mission of the church. The attendees from across the country will have sessions on technology, security, hardware and software solutions. They will also visit Crazy Horse Memorial and Mount Rushmore, showcasing the Black Hills of South Dakota.

In 1985, DISC started when the topic of computer use by dioceses in the United States was discussed at the Diocesan Fiscal Managers Conference conventions in the early 1980s. There was a great deal of interest in meeting to discuss mutual computer applications and developments. So, in December 1981, Ed Faraday of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., invited all dioceses to a seminar called S.O.S. or Sharing Our Systems. The seminar was highly successful drawing 83 participants from 51 dioceses.

In the next few years the idea of forming a permanent computer user group was discussed at the DFMC conventions but questions such as the scope of standardization, hiring programmers, etc., were never resolved.

The dream of sharing software and ideas would not die in the heart of Fr. John Peters of the Diocese of El Paso, Texas. In order to get started, in 1985, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisc., offered to host a group of IBM minicomputer users which became known as Diocesan IBM Computer Users Group. The idea was to actually show how Milwaukee used the equipment and application software. Other dioceses shared their systems as well.

Since then, DISC and its members have been meeting annually around North America at the invitation from the local bishop and diocese. The conference has matured greatly since 1985 and has become the technology network for IT professionals who work for the Catholic Church in all its areas and ministries.

This is the first time that the DISC conference has been held in the state of South Dakota. For more information please visit the website www.discinfo.org.

Family of the Year

Del and Joann Solano of St. Therese Church, Rapid City, were named Family of the Year at the state Knights of Columbus convention April 26-28 in Rapid City. The award was presented by acting State Deputy Gerald Dvorak.

(Courtesy photo)
housing the archives of the diocese. These are all the records, both historical and financial, dioceses are required to keep.

The first and second floors will have enough offices for the chancery staff, currently about 40 employees, as well as a few extra offices for possible expansion of one department or another. Most of these offices are already in place. A section of the second floor that was previously filled with moveable cubicles will be converted to permanent offices.

The second floor will also have a small chapel. There are two reasons for this. First and foremost, a place to gather for Mass and prayer is a strong reminder to the chancery staff that our work is grounded in our diocesan mission to attract and form disciples of Jesus who want to live and proclaim the Gospel. In addition, the chapel will be used for daily Mass and times of prayer for the staff.

To accommodate meetings and committee work, the new pastoral center will have conferences and meeting rooms. Some of these already exist and some will be added during the remodeling process.

The design is simple and functional. This will be the place from which the bishop and his staff reach out in service to the diocese, that is, to all of us. Plans include ways to reflect the whole diocese in the artwork of the new Pastoral Center.

As you think about and reflect on your contribution to the Living the Mission Campaign, realize that the bishop and his staff are working to use the gifts that have been offered well. The diocese needs a new pastoral center and the purchase of this credit union facility will allow us to realize that aspect of the case elements in the campaign in a cost-effective way.

May 1, Jacques Daniel has been hired to fill the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry position for the Diocese of Rapid City. He is a 1997 graduate of St. Thomas More High School, Rapid City, and a 2002 graduate of Black Hills State University, Spearfish, with a degree in Mass Communications and an emphasis in photography. He has completed the basic and masters courses for the Veritatis Splendor Institute offered by the diocese. Daniel worked as the Director of Youth Ministry at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, from 2003-08. He has been involved in youth ministry throughout the diocese since 2003, a Faith on the Road team member since 2014 and the Director of the Rapid City Newman Center 2018-19. Since 2014, he has served as a group chief for the Federation of North American Explorers.

Daniel, his wife, Annie and their family are members of Cathedral Parish.

Welcome to Our Lord’s Table
Send 1st Communion photos to bberreth@diorc.org by Monday, June 17 for publication in the July West River Catholic.

Send confirmation photos to bberreth@diorc.org for posting on Facebook at facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity

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God’s plan turns out much better than we can imagine

This past Holy Week, I was blessed to be part of the St. Thomas More Mission trip to the Mustard Seeds Communities in Jamaica. One of the great lessons I had to relearn once again is that I need to trust God completely in his plan for our mission trip.

No matter how much we organized and planned out our trip, in the end, God’s plan would turn out much better than we could have imagined. It takes eyes of faith to see God’s plans unfold before us and one thing is for certain: “There are no coincidences with God.”

We left for Jamaica on Saturday, April 13, and spent over seven hours in the Rapid City airport waiting for the thunderstorms in the Dallas area to subside. We finally made it to Dallas that evening but missed our flight to Montego Bay, Jamaica. The earliest they could re-book us was Monday morning. We prayed as a group in the Dallas airport asking that Jesus and Our Lady would provide for a way out of the predicament in which we found ourselves.

We ended up staying at a hotel and renting four vans for our unplanned “layover” in Dallas. Mary Casey, one of the adult leaders, received a text message from a friend of hers encouraging us to go to the Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Dallas for Mass, and we decided to go to the Abbey for Palm Sunday Mass after viewing beautiful pictures on their website, even though it meant driving past a parish only minutes from our hotel.

When we reached the Abbey, Abbott Peter happened to catch sight of us as we were coming in. He made sure to officially welcome us at the opening of the Mass and then had Father Anthony give us a tour of the Abbey afterward. Father Anthony’s parents, who happened to be at Mass as well, went and bought donuts for us while we were taking a tour of the Abbey.

As an extra bonus to our time at the Abbey with the monks, we were treated to three amazing vocational testimonies by Father Anthony, Brother Christopher and Abbott Peter. It was truly a grace-filled time at the Abbey of Our Lady of Dallas and so unexpected. Thank you, Lord!

St. Thomas More High School has been sending students on mission trips to the Mustard Seed Communities for the last six years. Mustard Seed Communities began in 1978 as a home for a handful of children with disabilities who had been abandoned to the streets of Jamaica.

Today, MSC provides loving and lifelong care to over 600 children and adults with disabilities, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and young mothers in crisis across Jamaica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

As we started the trip, I asked our students and adult leaders to name a desire of their hearts, to ask from Jesus a grace that they wanted him to do for them while on this mission trip. Alissa Stephens, a junior, shared this desire of her heart:

“I began to pray about what it was that God wanted me to get from this trip. Eventually, I realized what I desired was a deeper appreciation for the dignity that exists in every human being that I encounter. Throughout this trip, I spent numerous hours with the mentally and physically handicapped residents of the Mustard Seed Communities, and it was through doing this that I was able to see God’s love constantly at work in them and in all the members of the mission team.”

Stephens continued, “Prior to the trip, I struggled with being able to look at certain people around me and see God in them, but now it is much easier for me to recognize God’s presence in almost every person that I encounter.”

“This trip was an amazing opportunity for me to serve others and at the same time, grow in my own spiritual life. I can’t wait to continue spreading this newfound love that I acquired while in Jamaica.”

Spreading this newfound love is at the heart of a missionary disciple who has encountered the person of Jesus. Pope Francis writes in his encyclical “The Joy of the Gospel”:

“Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries,’ but rather that we are always ‘missionary disciples.’ If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: ‘We have found the Messiah!’ (Jn 1:41). The Samaritan woman became a missionary immediately after speaking with Jesus and many Samaritans came to believe in him ‘because of the woman’s testimony’ (Jn 4:39). So too, Saint Paul, after his encounter with Jesus Christ, ‘immediately proclaimed Jesus’ (Acts 9:20)”(120).

At the end of the mission trip, we presented each of our young missionary disciples with the Mustard Seed Cross as a reminder to them to proclaim and live Jesus Christ and to see Christ in one another. The Mustard Seed Cross is indispensable to its mission and graces each of their community chapels. They describe it in this way:

“The transparent figure of Jesus represents the risen Christ and the barbed wire cross stands for the sufferings of the world. This unique work symbolizes the hope the resurrected Christ brings to those who may feel trapped by the barbed wires of fear, poverty, injustice, illness, or despair. It is particularly vivid when viewed as dawn breaks during early morning prayer in the Chapel. In the darkness, the cross is the only part that is visible, but as the light grows the body of Jesus becomes more apparent, reinforcing Christ as the light amidst the darkness of our lives and as Light of the world.”

When we returned from our mission trip, I noticed that several of our students were wearing their Mustard Seed Crosses to school, among them Joe Hanson and Michael Eastmo. I asked Joe, who will be entering the seminary this fall for our diocese, about the wearing of the Mustard Seed Cross. Joe responded, “I haven’t taken it off. It serves as a constant reminder to me of our trip and why I went on it.”

I pressed Joe a little bit and asked, “Why did you go?” He replied, “I went on this trip to have the opportunity to serve the most vulnerable in Jamaica, but also to help open my eyes to the presence of Christ in those that I am able to serve. This trip really taught me to see Christ in the people that I am gifted with the opportunity to serve.”

Besides hanging out with the residents, we also engaged in several work projects: painting some residents’ homes, building a sidewalk, hanging doors, putting screens on windows and purchased and built two personal energy transportation hand carts.

In visiting with Mary Casey, who has coordinated several of the St. Thomas More mission trips and helped this past year, she said she would be willing to be the contact person and help to coordinate any groups looking for a mission trip experience. She can be contacted at: mcasey@rccss.org.

In the words of Pope Francis: “So what are we waiting for?”
The Year of the Eucharist will begin on June 23, 2019. I thought it would be good to share with you some insight concerning the celebration of the Eucharist.

I think we need to begin by asking, why do I go to Mass? Years ago, a professor answered that question in a way that was clear and simple. We go to Mass to encounter God. We are seeking an experience of God. The bishop’s pastoral letter reminded us that God is also seeking an experience with us. We often speak of this desire on our part and on God’s part as encountering Jesus. So how do we encounter God (Jesus) in the Mass? The answer to that question will take a while to unpack but it is worth the journey. We begin in the depth of God as Jesus revealed God to us.

In our faith tradition, our understanding of God is that there is one God in three divine persons. There has been a lot of ink spilled over trying to explain that understanding. Every explanation is bound to be incomplete in some way and yet each explanation can open new insight for us as well. This is the insight I have learned over the years. For some of you reading this, my insight will be familiar. For others it will be new. For all of us, I believe it bears repeating.

I believe that Jesus told us two things about God. First, in God there is real relationship. In other words, within the life of God there is a dynamic dialogue, an interaction, a communication between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Second, Jesus told us that this real relationship is so complete and so intimate, that there is a total oneness in Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There are parameters for thinking about and speaking about the Trinity. So, what does this relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit look like? How can we characterize it in a way that makes sense?

To answer this question, we need to look at Jesus’ life. God became man in Jesus of Nazareth. We can then assume that the way Jesus the Son related to God the Father in his life on earth reflects the relationship within God. Jesus’ life is best understood as sacrifice. In his life and ministry on earth, Jesus sacrificed himself to God the Father. This was made clear in his death on the cross. His words in the garden express the essence of his life. “Father ... not my will but yours be done,” (Lk 22:42). Jesus’ relationship to the Father was one of sacrificial giving.

Jesus lived this life of sacrifice through, with and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, Jesus was conceived. Through the Spirit, he was gifted with wisdom and teaching authority. The Spirit descended on him at his baptism and he lived his public life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Finally, in his death, he gave us his Spirit. The Holy Spirit enabled and empowered Jesus to give himself to the Father.

The Father’s response to his Son’s sacrifice was to give life back to the Son. Both at Jesus’ baptism and at the transfiguration, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son. The Father’s pleasure in his Son’s life and teaching enlivened Jesus’ life on earth. Ultimately, the Father gave life back to his Son in the resurrection.

The relationship of God reflected in Jesus is one of mutual giving. The Son sacrifices his life to the Father. The Father responds by giving the Son new life. The Holy Spirit empowers this exchange as the advocate, the counselor, the guide.

If this is confusing, I would encourage you to read it again. Our understanding of God is vital for us to understand how we encounter Jesus and his Father in the Eucharist. We will continue these reflections in the coming months of the Year of the Eucharist. Consider clipping this article out and saving it as a reference for future months.
Our struggle for proper celebration

We don't know how to celebrate things as they're meant to be celebrated. We want to, but mostly we don't know how. Generally we celebrate badly. How do we normally celebrate? By overdoing things; by taking a lot of the things we ordinarily do — drinking, eating, talking, singing, and humoring, and bringing them to excess. For most of us, celebration means eating too much, drinking too much, singing too loudly, telling one joke too many, and hoping that somewhere in all that excess we will find the secret to make this occasion extraordinary. Whatever the reasons, we struggle with this and thus many of us go through life deprived of a healthy capacity to enjoy, and since nature will still have its way, we end up alternating between rebellious enjoyment (pleasure we steal from God, but feel guilty about) and dutiful discipline (which we do without a lot of delight). But we're rarely able to genuinely celebrate. We rarely find the genuine delight we are looking for in life and this pushes us into pseudo-celebration, namely, excess. Put simply, because we struggle to give ourselves permission to enjoy, ironically we tend to pursue enjoyment too much and often not in the right ways. We confuse pleasure with delight, excess with ecstasy, and the obliteration of consciousness with heightened awareness. Because we cannot simply enjoy, we go to excess, burst our normal limits, and hope that obliterating our awareness will heighten it.

And yet, celebrate we must. We have an innate need to celebrate because certain moments and events of our lives (e.g., a birthday, a wedding, a graduation, a commitment, an achievement, or even a funeral) simply demand it. They demand to be surrounded with rituals which heighten and intensify their meaning and they demand that they be shared in a special, highlighted way with others. What we cease to celebrate we will soon cease to cherish.

The same is true of some of our deeper loving, playful, and creative moments. They too demand to be celebrated: highlighted, widened, and shared with others. We have an irrepressible need to celebrate, that's good. Indeed the need for ecstasy is hard-wired into our very DNA. But ecstasy is heightened awareness, not obliterated consciousness. Celebration is meant to intensify our awareness, not deaden it. The object of celebration is to highlight certain events and feelings so as to share them with others in an extraordinary way. But, given our misunderstandings about celebration, we mostly make pseudo-celebration, that is, we overdo things to a point where we take our own awareness and our awareness of the occasion out of the equation.

We have a lot to overcome in our struggle to come to genuine celebration. We still need to learn that heightened enjoyment is not found in excess, deeper community is not found in mindless intimacy, and heightened awareness is not found in a frenzied deadening of our consciousness. Until we learn that lesson we will still mostly trudge home hung-over, more empty, more tired, and more alone than before the party. A hangover is a sure sign that somewhere, back down the road, we missed a sign post. We struggle to know how to celebrate, but we must continue to try.

Jesus came and declared a wedding feast, a celebration, at the center of life. They crucified him not for being too ascetical, but because he told us we should actually enjoy our lives, assuring us that God and life will give us more goodness and enjoyment than we can stand, if we can learn to receive them with the proper reverence and without undue fear.

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father

JUNE

The Mode of Life of Priests:
That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

For more information, go to:
APOSTLESCHIPOFPRAYER.ORG

Monthly Message From Our Lady

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

“Dear children! This is a time of grace, a time of mercy for each of you. Little children, do not permit that the wind of hatred and peacelessness rule in you and around you. You, little children, are called to be love and prayer. The devil wants peacelessness and disorder, but you, little children, be the joy of the risen Jesus who died and resurrected for each of you. He conquered death to give you life, eternal life. Therefore, little children, witness and be proud that you have resurrected in Him. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

4/25/19

Fr. Ron Rolheiser
President
Oblate School of Theology
San Antonio, TX

www.ronrolheiser.com
7th Annual
Bishop’s Fishing Tournament

Remember God’s Will in Yours

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
Matthew 4:19

Friday, June 21, 2019
Lakes Oahe & Sharpe,
Ft. Pierre, S.D.

Tournament Schedule
(Central Daylight Time)

7 a.m.-11 a.m. CDT:
Registration at Padre Hall
St. John the Evangelist Church
Ft. Pierre, South Dakota

3 p.m. CDT:
Weigh-in and Silent Auction

5:30 p.m. CDT:
Mass with Bishop Robert Gruss

6 p.m. CDT:
Awards & Fish Fry Dinner

Register at:
wsdcf.org/news-and-events/
or
Scan the QR code

Benefiting Seminarian Education
**Holy Week with Bishop Robert Gruss**

**Palm Sunday**
April 14, altar server Franklin Ogbozor assists Bishop Gruss with blessing palms.

(WRC photos by Laurie Hallstrom)

**Holy Thursday**
April 18, Liam Yantes takes off his shoes while Bishop Gruss washes Allison Albrecht’s feet. In washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus demonstrated his love for them in a humble way.

**Good Friday**
April 19, Deacon Jim Scherr holds the cross for altar server Liam Pelayic to venerate. The cross is an important symbol especially in areas of the world affected by violence.

(WRC photo by Becky Berreth)

**Easter Vigil**
April 21, Easter fire flames reach to sky as altar server Max Daniel holds the book for Bishop Gruss. The bishop is pushing wax nails into the Paschal Candle held by Deacon Jim Scherr.

Leah Zandstra, London Two Bulls, and Casey Zandstra watch as Liam Two Bulls is baptized by Bishop Gruss. In the background, assisting the bishop are Ernie Garcia and Bradley Colling. **Three sacraments of initiation are celebrated at Easter Vigil — baptism, confirmation and Communion.**

Bishop Gruss gives first Communion to Lora Moore. She joined the church at Easter Vigil. **By Jesus’ body and blood we are saved.**
Welcome to the Diocese of Rapid City
To those who were received into the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil or at Easter time.

Burke, Sacred Heart
Thomas Horn
Fairfax, St. Anthony
Keith Hovorka
Faith, St. Joseph
Jen Medrud
Ft. Pierre, St. John
Witt Meyer
Gregory, St. Joseph
Jeremy Sengelmann
Steffanie Sengelmann
Isabel, St. Mary
Bailey Bruns
Edgemont, St. James
Theresa Schumacher
Hot Springs, St. Anthony
Carrie Bergen
Christina Schuh
Martin, Sacred Heart
Jaclyn Schlaak
Parmelee, St. Agnes
Tisha Two Eagle
Piedmont, Our Lady of the Black Hills
Lee Ann Den Otter
Ella Vallette
Jamie Vallette
Jenna Vallette
Pine Ridge, Sacred Heart
Mahpiya Bark
Ryan Bark
Freddie Brehmer
Erica Buckman
Chalina Ghost
Vincent Lafferty
Andy Morrison, Jr.
Dak Shangreau
Anthony Standing Soldier
Philip, Sacred Heart
David Butler
Katie Butler
Kelcey Butler
Lukas Butler
Reed Johnson
Carmen Peterson

Rapid City, Blessed Sacrament
Tatiyanna Blakeman
Sheri Higgins
Jarrett Jensen
Paul McMahon
Shawn Mudget
Amy Sears
Taylor Thompson
Claudia Uecke

Rapid City, Cathedral
Jonathon Alston
Luci Brooks
Ruth Burgos-Martinez
Elise Flachs (Newman Center)
Joel Haas (Newman Center)

Isabel, St. Mary
Steffanie Sengelmann

Isabel, St. Joseph
Jen Medrud

Jen Medrud joined the Catholic Church at St. Joseph Parish, Faith. She is shown with her sponsor Garry Fisher and her pastor Fr. Janusz Korban. (Courtesy photo)

Jen Medrud

Rapid City, Cathedral
Joey Swanson

Rapid City, St. Therese
Robert Dietzman
Mariaha Murray
Mason Murray
Michaela Saffel
LeRoy Salazar
Raymond Semmler
Laura Snider
Jessica Walker
Spearfish, St. Joseph
Laurie Burke Smith
Deric Flagstad
Tony Garcia
Roger Goehler
Arlen Johnson
Nolan Johnson
Kate Crowley Johnson
Jens Matson
Sarah Richards

Shawn Schnabel
Erik Simonyak
Jobi Sprigler
Sturgis, St. Francis
Kimberly Alexander
Alexis Hentkowski
Bryan Hentkowski
Michael Rodenz
Timber Lake, Holy Cross
Duffy Dupris
Wall, St. Patrick
Kendra Heathershaw
Winner, Immaculate Conception
Shea Connot
Jessie Harris

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Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths
Black Elk: Discipleship in a collapsing world

BY DAMIAN COSTELLO

Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk (1867-1950) is an example of discipleship for our times, though he lived the faith in a completely different context.

Black Elk was born into the Oglala Lakota people and grew up hunting buffalo on the Northern Plains. He fought at the battles of Little Bighorn and Wounded Knee. As a young man, he was an important medicine man, using the power of song to heal the sick.

In 1904, Black Elk entered the Catholic Church and embraced a different way of healing. Utilizing his abilities to memorize Scripture and speak persuasively, he became a missionary disciple. He served as a catechist, which in his community functioned much like a permanent deacon does today.

Black Elk went on missions to neighboring reservations and spoke to Catholic groups throughout the country, bringing more than 400 people into the church, including 113 that called him their godfather.

For many, possible collapse is paralyzing. Our patterns of destruction seem impervious to change. We despair that nothing can be done, that our actions don't matter. But let me tell you, God has not abandoned us and there is no future.

Jesus was not just a good teacher, but the key teacher. Lakota people call Jesus Waniikiya, “He Who Makes Live.” For Black Elk, Jesus and his new life were the answer to a collapsing world: Only he can “lift them up again.” The tragedy was so great that “after this nothing happened.”

It is here that Black Elk’s discipleship becomes especially relevant for us. Albeit at a different point in history, we face the possibility of the world collapsing every day. Our world is filled with growing warnings. Wars continue seemingly without end. The nuclear arsenals of the Cold War are still there, tempting those lost in ideologies of hate.

In times of tragedy, it can feel like one’s world is collapsing. Faith can dissipate, leaving emptiness in its wake. Yet Black Elk bore these trials with hope and persevered in his witness.

“Now my heart is getting sad — but my heart will never turn bad,” he wrote in a letter in 1948, two years before his death. “Ever since Wakan Tanka (the Lakota name for God) gave light to my heart, it stands in light without end.”

Another layer of suffering that makes Black Elk’s discipleship and possible sainthood stand out: his world did collapse. The buffalo were killed. The old way of life was destroyed. The Lakota people were imprisoned on reservations and forcibly reprogrammed.

Environmental devastation and climate change expand unchecked. Wars continue. Our patterns of destruction seem impervious to change expand unchecked. Wars continue seemingly without end. The nuclear arsenals of the Cold War are still there, tempting those lost in ideologies of hate.

Our world is filled with growing warnings.

For many, possible collapse is paralyzing. Our patterns of destruction seem impervious to change. We despair that nothing can be done, that our actions don't matter. Worst of all is what Plenty Coups described: the pain of a broken heart — that God has abandoned us and there is no future.

That’s why Black Elk’s witness is important. Jesus was not just a good teacher, but the key teacher. Lakota people call Jesus Waniikiya, “He Who Makes Live.” For Black Elk, Jesus and his new life were the answer to a collapsing world: Only he can fully heal the Earth, bring back the dead and explain how to make sense of the newcomers.

Black Elk explained this hope in a 1909 letter he wrote to the Lakota. He listed the tribes he visited and included the settlers among them. All — whether Lakota, allies or former enemies — are good people and he prayed for all. “We all suffer in this land,” Black Elk wrote. “But let me tell you, God has a special place for us when our time has come.

In a collapsing world, Black Elk learned to live a vibrant life of hope. With the skill of an artist, he wove seemingly different strands into one beautiful life: He preached the Gospel, worked to save the old ways, and built bridges across artificial divisions that separate us into warring tribes. Black Elk once healed the sick with sacred songs; with his baptism he became a missionary disciple of life, radiating the healing love of Waniikiya into a broken world.

Black Elk can help us find our way out of our tendency to despair. His witness can help us re-learn that the core of our faith is hope in a God that has power over all the destructive forces that threaten our world, that in a world under threat of collapse we are to be missionary disciples who live the message of Christ: “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev 21:5).

Damian Costello is a member of St. Augustine Parish in Montpelier, Vermont, and the author of “Black Elk: Colonialism and Lakota Catholicism.”

Nicholas Black Elk (left) and Eagle Elk at Our Lady of the Sioux Church, Oglala, circa 1910. (Photo from Marquette University Archives, Indian Mission Records ID 296)
May 31, Friday
• Deadline for submissions. Paper mailed Tuesday, June 18.
  605-343-3541
  lhallstrom@diorc.org
  bberreth@diorc.org

May 27, Monday
• Chancery Office Closed: In observance of Memorial Day.

Pre-ordination Adoration: Join the Vocations Office for an hour of adoration
to give thanks for those who have responded to his call and to pray for
Deacon Zane Pekron as he prepares for his ordination. Held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at
Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. A cake and punch reception will follow.

May 28, Tuesday
• Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Zane Pekron: Held at 7 p.m. at the
  Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. All are welcome. See page 4.

June 1, Saturday
• World Apostolate of Fatima: First Saturday begins with prayers at 7:45 a.m.
  followed by a 8 a.m. Mass and exposition in Our Lady’s Chapel, Cathedral. First Friday,
  June 7, prayers and devotions 6 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Chapel, Cathedral of Our
  Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. Dr. Kopriva 605-343-6202 or Ellen 605-718-9909.

June 21, Friday
• Seventh Annual Bishop’s Fishing Tournament: Begins at 7 a.m. at St. John
  the Evangelist Church, Ft. Pierre. Day ends with Mass, fish fry, and silent auction. See

June 22, Saturday
• Ride with the Bishop Motorcycle Rally and Poker Run: Begins at 9 a.m. at Black Hills State
  Newman Center, 814 W. King Street, Spearfish, with Mass, breakfast, and blessing of the bikes. Ends at 4:30 p.m. with BBQ. Not a biker? Enjoy the food and entertainment after the ride. newmanbhsu@stjosephspearsfish.com. See page 24.

June 23, Sunday
• Opening Mass for the Year of the Eucharist: Join Bishop Robert Gruss for the 10:30 a.m. Mass as we begin the diocesan Year of the Eucharist. Held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. See page 2 for the full announcement.

June 24, Monday
• Totus Tuus Girls: An opportunity to reflect on God’s call with religious sisters

June 25, Tuesday
• Conclusion of the Diocesan Phase of the Beatification Process for Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk: Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Agnes Church, Manderson with Bishop Robert Gruss presiding. There will also be other ceremonies and a light lunch served. See page 14.

July 4, Thursday
• Chancery Office Closed: In observance of Independence Day.

July 7, Sunday
• Verso L’Alto: Join Fr. Mark McCormick and seminarians for five days in the Rockies. For men ages 16-26. See right.

July 14, Sunday
• Totus Tuus Boys: An opportunity to reflect on God’s call with seminarians and

July 26, 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 July 28. terrasancta.org/heart2heart or Family Life Ministries 604-716-5214.

August 17, Saturday
• Natural Family Planning: Seminar for engaged couples or anyone wanting to learn more about natural family planning. Held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, from 9 a.m.–noon. Seminar will be open for distance learning opportunity for out-of-town couples. Family Life Ministries 605-716-5214.

Visit www.rapidcitydiocese.org more on all events listed and future events.

Duc In Altum 2019
Duc in Altum is a program sponsored by the Office of Vocation to provide
parishes with a week-long parish “mission” for youth that strives to teach
the faith and inspire participants to live it more fully.

Verso L’ALTO
ROCKY MOUNTAIN EXPEDITION
SUN. - THUR, JULY 7-11, 2019 | COLORADO ROCKIES
COST: $350 | MEN AGES 16-26
Join Fr. Mark McCormick and several seminarians for five fun-filled days in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. This high adventure trip will include white water rafting, hiking a 14,000 ft. peak, camping and exploration of the Rockies. Mass, confession, adoration, Liturgy of the hours and the Rosary will be included daily. It will be intense both physically and spiritually.

Summer Fly Fishing Trips
If you are interested in a private fishing trip, please contact
605-393-9130

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 20, 2019
REGISTER ONLINE AT: WWW.GODS-CALL.ORG
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the peace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal for 2019 is drawing to an end and the spirit of Christ continues to shine through all the ministries of the diocese. Your prayers and your gifts given joyfully from the first fruits of God’s generosity honor the Lord and enable us to continue his work in our diocese, building a stronger foundation for God’s kingdom.

Many of you have graciously responded in faith, entrusting the Lord with your heart and your produce, as advised in our appeal theme, from proverbs, “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). Thank you for your kindness and generosity. I am deeply grateful.

If you have not yet made your pledge, please join in the mission of the diocese by taking the time to prayerfully reflect upon the many blessings which the Lord has given you and your family. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what the Lord is asking in light of supporting our Annual Diocesan Appeal. It is only through your generous support that the church can effectively serve the people of western South Dakota.

The Lord has blessed us all in so many ways. May we all come to know and experience more deeply the joy of giving in response to God’s gifts to us. May God bless you and your families!

Sincerely in the peace and joy of Christ,

+ Robert D. Gruss
Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Rapid City
Being reasonable in an age of un-reason

At a recent Sunday Mass, my parish priest joyfully announced that those children “who have attained the age of reason will be receiving their First Holy Communion today.” My eldest daughter, Frances, a first-grader, was among them. Franny wore my wife’s godmother’s vintage dress, and my wife made her a flower-topped veil. I was so proud!

That phrase, “age of reason,” warrants some reflection, as our ability to reason is not only a basic prerequisite to receiving the Eucharist for the first time, but is also criterion for healthy engagement in social and political life.

What is reason? According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the “age of reason” is the time at which human beings are deemed to begin to be morally responsible. Aristotle saw human beings as distinct from plants and animals in so far as we not only need nutrition (like plants) and have instincts (like animals), but that we’re rational — that is, we have the ability to reason — a unique capability among organic creatures. Consistent with this, the church understands reason to be our cognitive faculty. Humans are reasonable insofar as we come to conclusions based on sound premises. Using reason, we come to know, examine, and weigh various sorts of evidence and ultimately make decisions.

Reason has some foundational concepts. Human reason is an ability of the human mind, but what does this mean? It means that we have — as Aquinas taught us in Summa Theologiae — the ability to reason in the proper way. Reason unmoored from the transcendent Creator, in the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict, is like a windowless concrete bunker illuminated by artificial lights in which we breathe stale re-circulated air. In the bunker we think we’re self-sufficient, but in fact the raw materials always originate in a gift of God. How much easier it would be to throw open the windows to God’s wide world, to take in the sun and wind, the earth and the sky. Only with the windows and doors wide open to all that the Lord gives do we make right use of reason, for which the church is a sure guide.

In Your Prayers

A couple months ago, a group of parishioners for the parish clusters of Eagle Butte, Timber Lake and Faith began meeting. Bishop Robert Gruss asked that the central area of the diocese go through a process of reflecting on how to best serve the needs of the parishioners in that area. This same process was employed across the northern tier of the diocese (the parish clusters of Buffalo, Lemmon, and McLaughlin) a few years ago. The result was a renewed vision of ministry and a reorganization of the alignment of the parishes in that area.

The Central Plains Commission has met three times. There are a total of 18 lay representatives for the three parish clusters as well as three pastors. I am facilitating the process. The first order of business was to develop a mission statement, so the commission members had a clear understanding of their task. We engaged this process by looking at the Diocesan Priority Plan. Any ministry in the diocese, whether in a commission like this one, or in an individual parish, must be guided by the mission statement, values and foundational ministers of the whole diocese as expressed in the Priority Plan. The Central Plains Commission’s mission statement is:

The Central Plains Commission will use our faith, knowledge of our communities and our commitment to develop a plan for bold, effective ministry in our area of the diocese, to meet the spiritual needs of all and to inspire and motivate their joyful living of the mission of Jesus Christ.

In addition to crafting this mission statement, the commission has begun to collect data about the 14 parishes that make up this area. This data includes the number of parishioners and their involvement in the life of their parish and the diocese. We are also trying to understand future needs.

The commission has had conversations about the faith life of the parishioners in these 14 parishes. They have begun formulating what bold and effective ministry looks like and exploring the spiritual needs of the parishes that are represented on the commission. We have also begun assessing ways the individual parishes already have meaningful ministry and where it is lacking.

The commission members are listed here. You are welcome and encouraged to visit with them to understand their work and to have your questions answered regarding creating and implementing a plan for bold, effective ministry in the central plains for all who live in that part of the diocese. Your input will be most appreciated.

Lynn Hahne, Trail City
Jim Keller, Trail City
Bryan Gill, Timber Lake

Marlene Biegler, Timber Lake
Marcia Lindskov, Isabel
Mary Harris, Isabel
John D. Lemke, Dupree
Twila Schuler, Dupree
Nila Woodward, Dupree
Bud Neigel, Eagle Butte
Dean Schremp, Eagle Butte
Sylvia Mowrer, Promise
Ryan Tate Dennis, Red Owl
Dannie Arneson, Red Owl
Deacon Larry and Valarie Brown, Faith
Bob and Jennifer Orwick, Mud Butte
Fr. Brian Lane, Timber Lake Cluster
Fr. Bryan Sorensen, Eagle Butte Cluster
Fr. Janusz Korban, Faith Cluster

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St. Paul Catholic Church, 855 5th St. — Sunday 9:30 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 449 Harney St. —
Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 8 a.m.
St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 760 Main St. —
Saturday 6 p.m./Sunday 8 a.m.
St. James Catholic Church, 100 Park Ave. — Sunday
10 a.m. Bilingual Mass: Saturday 6 p.m.
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 538 University Ave. —
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, 1014 Madill St. —
Sunday 8 a.m.
St. Patrick Catholic Church, 141 Siever St. — Saturday 4 p.m./
Sunday 10 a.m.
Our Lady of the Black Hills Catholic Church, 12365 Sturgis Rd.
(Exit 48) — Saturday 5 p.m./
Sunday 9 and 11 a.m.
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 4500 Jackson Blvd. —
Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 7, 9, and
11 a.m. Spanish Mass: Sunday 1:30 p.m.
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 520 Cathedral Dr. —
Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 8,
10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 922 5th St. —
Latin Mass in the Former Rite:
Sunday 10 a.m.
St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church, 221 Knollwood Dr. — Saturday
5 p.m./ Sunday 9 and 11 a.m.
St. Therese the Little Flower Catholic Church, 523 Adams St. —
Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 9 a.m.
and 5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Church, 844 5th St. — Saturday 5:30 p.m./
Sunday 8 and 10 a.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1049 Howard St. —
Saturday 5 p.m./Sunday 8:30 a.m.
St. Patrick Catholic Church, 701 Norris — Saturday 5:30 p.m./
Sunday 8 a.m.
Need to find another parish?
www.rapidcitydiocese.org/parishes/
A Safe Environment for Children and Young People

The Catholic Diocese of Rapid City is firmly committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for our children and young people. To report allegations of sexual abuse by church personnel, contact the Victim Assistance coordinator, Barbara Scherr. To ensure confidentiality in her outreach to victims, she can be contacted privately at 1-605-209-3418 (cell). Her phone has caller ID and messaging features. All information will be treated confidentially. Alleged victims are advised of their right to report alleged abuse to civil authorities.

In accordance with diocesan policy, all allegations of sexual misconduct involving children or young people and priests, deacons, lay employees, or volunteers serving the Diocese of Rapid City will be investigated. The diocesan sexual misconduct policy and the code of conduct are posted on the diocesan website at www.rapidcitydiocese.org.

Prairie church hosts National Pastoral Musicians

By Bonnie Josten

At the April 6 Spring Meeting many NPM members had their first opportunity to experience the new St. Michael Church, Hermosa.

Fr. Matt Fallgren welcomed the musicians to the church and led them in the opening prayer. Following prayer, Chantry Nelson demonstrated “How to Get the Most of Your Electronic Keyboard — Options Galore,” detailing the pros and cons of three electronic keyboards. Regardless of the instrumentation used, Nelson gave two takeaways. First, start small when introducing a new sound to your congregation, remembering that the goal is to facilitate worship. Second, avoid using technology to replace a human skill.

Over the years, Jackie Schnittgrund has emphasized the advantages of planning ahead. She led a “Seasonal Planning Group Discussion” in which they explored various aspects of Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Triduum and Easter seasons. The results of the group discussion may be found on the Rapid City Chapter website, www.npmrc.org.

Following lunch, Terry Schroeder shared her extensive experience with “Funeral Music and Worship Aids/Tips for Leading a Successful Funeral Choir.” She discussed licensing options and prices as well as song suggestions. Compliments of GIA, all attendees received sheet music for nine funeral songs that were sight read as part of this program segment.

To conclude the spring meeting, Cathedral Our Lady of Perpetual Help members led the closing prayer.

The NPM Rapid City Chapter’s Summer Meeting will be on Saturday, June 22 at St. Joseph Church, Spearfish. The topics for this program are: “Working with the Aging Voice” and “Working with Intergenerational Choirs” both presented by Dr. Jonathan Nero, Spearfish. The Sage on Stage and a reading session will be led by Angela Weber, Rapid City.

All Rapid City diocesan music ministers and clergy are welcome to attend quarterly NPM meetings at which education, prayer and fellowship are the focal points. For more information about the Rapid City Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians, go to the website www.npmrc.org or Facebook page www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter.
Curia Corner — Archives awareness and beyond, a year of #tbt

Staying focused while working on an archival project? Not one of my strong suits. Most of the time, that is how “Throwback Thursday” (#tbt) on social media comes into fruition — a photo here, a random photo there.

For those of you who don’t have Facebook or aren’t on social media, the diocesan archives have published a “Throwback Thursday” photo every week for the past year. Here are some highlights:

Your favorites (or most likes on Facebook) — the pics of Fr. Gerald Scherer and his mining photos with his father looking at ‘Jerry’ from the foot of the Scherer Coal Mine in Firesteel; Fr. Scherer’s column; building pics of cathedral in the 1960s; the picture of nativity scene with an added shepherd; artifacts such as St. Brigid’s cross, the surprise donation of the stained glass work of art prairie church and other artifacts that find their way to the diocesan archives. How cute was the photo of a 1920s married couple published in February? Who could forget the memory of driving by the bishop’s house on West Blvd and seeing his gigantic (in the eyes of a 7-year-old) nativity scene!

We Remember — Photos of Fr. Gerald Scherer and his 100th heavenly birthday, Msgr. W. O’Connell, Fr. Cower; Msgr. Walsh; those who perished in the 1972 Rapid City flood including Fr. Francis Collins, SJ; Fr. Bob Baden and our clergy and staff whom we thanked for service in our military; Fr. John Francis Mc Kearney and his great-nephew’s visit to our archives for genealogical research.

But what about upcoming posts, you ask? I’ve got them ready. They will be featuring Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk, the Wall parish window that has traveled the world, oldest recordist voice on YouTube, a curly haired priest birthday photo and much more.

I am on to new discoveries, unexpected archival finds, mystery photos, more pics of our clergy in their younger days, more accounts of original church photos. Want more preservation tips? What is your favorite part of our diocesan history? What would you like to see published? Email your thoughts, ideas, and comments to kcordes@diorc.org.

(Right) A #tbt post from July 2018. Watch for a new post every Thursday on social media. Find the diocese at:

facebook.com/ DioceseofRapidCity
twitter rapidcitydiorc

Remember HIS will in yours
If you are planning to create or update your will and would like to include the Catholic Church, please call us. We can help.
Website: www.wsdef.org

Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation
10 E. Mall Dr., Suite B, Rapid City, SD, 57701
Phone: 605-721-6843 (Mailing): PO Box 984, Rapid City, SD 57709
Find the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation on Instagram at: westernalsdcatholicfoundation
Red Cloud Indian School’s Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Raymond Nadolny, Ph.D., the former president of North Dakota’s Williston State College, as the school system’s new president. Nadolny will become Red Cloud’s 27th president on June 1, succeeding Fr. George Winzenburg, SJ.

“We are extremely honored to welcome Dr. Raymond Nadolny to Red Cloud,” said Rodney Bordeaux, chair of Red Cloud’s Board of Directors. “All of us at Red Cloud believe in the transformative power of education — and indeed, today we are seeing how an education rooted in Lakota and Jesuit values truly empowers our own students to pursue their own dreams, in college and beyond, while also serving their community and their people. The members of Red Cloud’s board of directors are confident Nadolny will make significant contributions here, and we are looking forward to working alongside him in the years to come.”

“After spending time speaking with Red Cloud’s teachers, staff and, most importantly, its students, I am truly humbled to have the opportunity to support their work going forward,” said Nadolny. “While remaining rooted to its core values, Red Cloud has continued to evolve to meet the needs of its students and families — by bringing culture, language, and arts into the classroom, by innovating its curriculum in key areas like science and technology, and by providing students with the opportunities they need to pursue any goal. I am committed to building on that success, and to learning directly from students, staff, and families on how I can best serve this extraordinary organization.”

Nadolny, a leader in higher education for over 25 years, has focused much of his life’s work on creating opportunity for students in rural and low-income communities. From 2009 to 2016, he served as the third president of Williston State College, a dynamic community college within the North Dakota University System. Under Dr. Nadolny’s leadership, Williston State became one of North Dakota’s fastest-growing colleges, launching an initiative to provide high school students in five local counties with free tuition, fees, and books. Thousands of new students were able to pursue higher education and their future career goals without incurring any educational debt.

Through his career, Nadolny has also worked closely with Native American communities and organizations to expand educational opportunities for native students. While working as an administrator in Arizona, he worked with the Tohono O’odham and Navajo public school systems in the development of their strategic plans. During his time in North Dakota, he partnered with Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College, a tribal college serving the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations, to support their nursing program.

Dr. Nadolny will lead Red Cloud following a time of tremendous growth and success. Red Cloud implemented its first comprehensive strategic plan, advancing the organization’s work in crucial ways. Red Cloud introduced innovative educational programs fostering Jesuit and Lakota values and culture, expanding both the groundbreaking Lakota Language Project and a series of unique arts education opportunities. As a result of comprehensive planning and innovative programming, Red Cloud is experiencing unprecedented levels of student success, inside the classroom and out. Red Cloud’s graduation rate is close to 94 percent, compared to an average of 70 percent for native students nationwide.

(Photo and article courtesy of Red Cloud Indian School. Read the full article at www.redcloudschool.org/presidentannouncement)
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.

**What do we call the mystery of God becoming man?**

The mystery of the Incarnation.

**YouCat (76): Why did God become man in Jesus?**

“For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven” (Nicene Creed.) (456-460) In Jesus Christ, God reconciled the world to himself and redeemed mankind from the imprisonment of sin. “God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son” (Jn 3:16). In Jesus, God took on our mortal human flesh (incarnation), shared our earthly lot, our sufferings, and our death, and became one like us in all things but sin.

**YouCat (9): What does God show us about himself when he sends his Son to us?”

God shows us in Jesus Christ the full depth of his merciful love. (65-66, 73) Through Jesus Christ the invisible God becomes visible. He becomes a man like us. This shows us how far God’s love goes: he bears our whole burden. He walks every path with us. He is there in our abandonment, our sufferings, our fear of death. He is there when we can go no farther, so as to open up for us the door leading into life.
Jesuit astronomer works to unravel the mysteries of galactic evolution

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (CNS) — Jesuit Father Richard D’Souza finds halos mesmerizing. Galactic halos, that is. Not the angelic variety. It’s enthralling to the Vatican Observatory astronomer that those halos of stars that have fallen into one galaxy from another during collisions and mergers can provide clues to a galaxy’s multibillion-year history. Father D’Souza, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Michigan since 2016, studies the evolution of galaxies. His focus largely has been on the Milky Way’s neighbor, the Andromeda galaxy, designated as M31 in French comet hunter Charles Messier’s catalog of astronomical objects. Through months of meticulous research, Father D’Souza, 40, believes he has helped uncover a key part of Andromeda’s past. In a paper published last July in the journal Nature Astronomy, Father D’Souza and fellow University of Michigan astronomer Eric Bell hypothesized that M31 cannibalized what until about 2 billion years ago was the third largest member of the Local Group — a clump of galaxies, including our Milky Way and Andromeda, traveling through the universe together and interacting over time. The two astronomers — who share a warm friendship as well as a professional relationship that dates to the early 2000s when they studied at Heidelberg University in Germany — suggested that Andromeda’s halo shows signs that another Messier object, M32, was devoured by the more massive M31 over a period of about 3 billion to 4 billion years.

Jesus is always ready to help free people from evil, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians recognize life’s great paradox that so much evil and temptation exist in the world, but that God is always present, too, ready to help and give people the strength to persevere, Pope Francis said. Each person has been given life, “dreams of love and the good,” but is then “continuously exposed to evil” aimed against himself and those around him, so much so that “we can be tempted to despair,” the pope said during his weekly general audience May 15. “In fact, Christian prayer does not close its eyes” to reality, he said. Christians know life can be very difficult, painful or unjust and they pray that God — who is greater and stronger than any evil — would offer strength to go on and would “deliver us from evil.” Continuing his catechesis on the Lord’s Prayer, the pope reflected on the last invocation, “Deliver us from evil.” Jesus teaches people to always turn to God, especially when they can feel evil’s “threatening presence,” which St. Peter said was like an angry lion, always circling, ready to “devour us,” the pope said.

The Sun Is Also a Star (Warner Bros.)

Uneven adaptation of Nicola Yoon’s best-selling novel for young adults chronicles a day in the lives of a pragmatic would-be astronomer (Yara Shahidi) struggling to keep her Jamaican family from being deported from New York and a Korean-American true believer in romance (Charles Melton) whose parents are forcing him to become a doctor rather than the poet he aspires to be. After their paths cross at Grand Central Terminal, he insists that they were destined to be together, but she has her doubts. So long as director Ry Russo-Young keeps the focus on the central pair, the quirky chutzpah of Melton’s character, out to win over his lady love, it is sufficiently appealing to maintain viewer interest. The pretentious pronouncements about life, the universe and everything that embellish Tracy Oliver’s script, by contrast, will likely try moviegoers’ patience. Possibly acceptable for mature teens. Scenes of sensuality, a couple of mild oaths, a few mild terms, several crude and crass expressions. 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.