The West River Catholic is sent to every registered household in the diocese and it will continue to do so. However, to offset the price of production, each year a voluntary subscription drive is held. The suggested donation is $27, but all gifts are welcome.

For your convenience an envelope is included in the January 2020 edition if you wish to mail in your donation.

If you wish to make your Voluntary WRC Subscription donation online, please go to: www.rapidcitydiocese.org, click “Make a Gift” at the top of the page — select the “West River Catholic Newspaper — Voluntary Subscription” and it will take you to the donation page.
My first conscious awareness of 2020 was the song, “We’re Off to See the Wizard.” No kidding. I woke up with that song running through my head. There was Dorothy in her ruby slippers, skipping down the yellow brick road with her three companions. I dressed and skipped (no, not really) to the chapel for my morning routine of prayer.

At first, I wondered if this wizard song had anything to do with my impending visit to Rome. True, I do have “new slippers” in the form of a new cassock. I am excited to meet Pope Francis, but not because I want something. Rather, I hope to listen to his wisdom and experience and that of the various leaders of the Vatican offices to learn and grown in my own ministry. Rome is not emerald, but rather more of a mixture of stony white and various shades of tan, orange and dirty pink.

I quickly dismissed these ideas as misguided, but as the song persisted in my head, I contemplated further the image of these four wandering misfits on the yellow brick road. Nothing in life is coincidental. God speaks to us in many ways if we have expectant faith.

Dorothy and her companions wanted a brain, a heart and courage, along with a return to Kansas. More deeply, the travelers wanted 1) to see clearly and understand, 2) to feel deeply and know love, 3) to have the willingness and resolve to act, and 4) to find the way home. In this first prayer of 2020, I examined my own need for renewal as I pondered these four desires.

Like the scarecrow, I want a brain that understands. I want to see clearly and to know what it is that God wants for me and from me. A significant dimension of the spiritual journey is understanding. Understanding by itself is insufficient, but it is, at the same time, essential. How often have you wanted to understand and did not, or had a moment when suddenly you did understand and then felt rather foolish about having missed the point? God wants us to understand. God wants us to see with the kind of clarity that will propel us into a relationship with him and with one another.

Like the tin man, I want to feel deeply and to love. My heart can be filled with bitterness, anger and envy. I can hold grudges in a self-righteous determination to “get my way.” I suspect you might identify with that smallness of heart that leaves us shriveled and stingy and lonely. Do you want something more? I want to reflect more deeply, to open my heart more honestly. I want to feel the hurt and release my pain into the eternal embrace of God’s gracious love and experience that love which flows from God’s heart into ours. I want to open my heart to the depth of God and discover in me the ability to love as God loves.

Like the cowardly lion, I also want to have the courage to act, to do something, but only with and through that understanding and selfless love of God. Do you find yourself fearful and trembling, at least inside, not knowing if and when and how you should do something? Or do you find yourself charging in without a clear understanding or a genuine compassion, only to be ashamed of your thoughtless and uncaring comment or action? I want to have genuine courage and to speak the truth with deep kindness in a way that calls both me and the other to a new response.

Finally, and above all, I share Dorothy’s desire to go home. I really do want to be in heaven when my yellow-brick-road journey is complete. My deep longing to be an understanding, loving, courageous disciple is rooted in the ultimate goal of life with God. Do you find yourself longing for that kind of peace and security that is never ending, to be cherished for being you? Heaven is our true home and I want to live my life in response to God’s gracious invitation to live with him so that I can find a new and glorious home — not the Emerald City, but the heavenly Jerusalem.

So, 2020 has begun. We in the Diocese of Rapid City are mostly likely off to meet, not a wizard but a new bishop. When that will be, I don’t know. In the meantime, as we travel down the road, I pray that you will receive the gift of understanding to know and see what it is that God desires for you. I will pray that you will receive a heart of overflowing love that will allow you to meet each person with kindness and truth. I will pray that you will, with understanding and love, have the courage to live your discipleship in the Lord Jesus and make the choices that make a difference in our small corner of the world. Above all, I pray that your desire for our heavenly home will increase and that all we say and do will be led by that desire to be with God now and forever. I would ask you to do the same for me.

Thank you and God bless you in your 2020 yellow-brick-road journey.
Diocesan Administrator’s Calendar
Subject to Change Without Notice

January 24-26, Friday-Sunday
Heart to Heart Marriage Preparation Retreat, Terra Sancta

January 27, Monday
9 a.m. National Catholic Schools Week Mass, Cathedral
4 p.m. Rapid City Catholic School Board Meeting, Cathedral
6 p.m. Men in Black Basketball Vocations Fundraiser, St. Thomas More High School

January 28, Tuesday
9:30 a.m. Cabinet Leaders Meeting, Chancery

February 1, Saturday
5:30 p.m. Mass, Installation of Acolytes, Cathedral

February 2, Sunday
9:30 a.m. Mass, St. Paul, Belle Fourche

February 3, Monday
10 a.m. Sioux Spiritual Center Board Meeting, Chancery

February 5, Wednesday
9:30 a.m. Cabinet Leaders Meeting, Chancery

February 6, Thursday
8 a.m. Chancery Staff Mass/Gathering, Terra Sancta

February 8, Saturday
9 a.m. Diocesan Liturgy Commission, Wall
6 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Martin

February 9, Sunday
8 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Martin
11 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of Victory, Kadoka

February 10, Monday
8 a.m. Real Presence Radio On-Air Live, 94.7/89.9 FM
11 a.m. Mass/Lunch with Benedictine Sisters, St. Martin Monastery

February 13, Thursday
2 p.m. Ordination of Bishop-elect DeGrood, Sioux Falls

February 16, Sunday
11 a.m. Mass, Marriage Matters, Terra Sancta

February 16-17, Sunday-Monday
Junior Clergy Days

February 17, Monday
Chancery Closed for Presidents’ Day

Gift Yourself Post-abortion Healing in 2020
Release the pain and grief of your abortion decision. Enjoy a true makeover of your emotional and spiritual health! Attend the April 2020 Rachel's Vineyard Healing Retreat in our diocese! Call/email Carol now for information and begin your healing journey. 605-374-5639; ckling@sdplains.com; https://www.rachelsvineyard.org/

Correction to the West River Catholic
The December WRC carried an article on the beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen on page 9. The beatification has been postponed while officials review Archbishop Sheen’s role in priest assignments in the Diocese of Rochester, NY. A press release from the Diocese of Peoria said, “In our current climate it is important for the faithful to know that there has never been, nor is there now, any allegation against (Archbishop) Sheen involving the abuse of a minor.” An updated story is posted on the WRC page 9 web edition at www.rapidcitydiocese.org. On the “What We Do” drop down menu, click on West River Catholic and then click on the December newspaper icon. As further news is available the WRC will carry it.
Pope Francis holds the Book of the Gospels as he celebrates Mass marking the feast of the Epiphany in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 6. The pope has established the third Sunday in Ordinary Time as "Sunday of the Word of God." It will be celebrated for the first time Jan. 26. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

**Bible, Continued from p. 1**

be extra attentive to creating a homily each Sunday that “speaks from the heart” and really helps people understand Scripture “through simple and suitable” language.

The homily "is a pastoral opportunity that should not be wasted," he wrote. “For many of our faithful, in fact, this is the only opportunity they have to grasp the beauty of God’s word and to see it applied to their daily lives.”


The pope also suggested pastors provide parishioners with the Bible, a book of the Gospels or other catechetical resources, “enthrone” the Bible in order to emphasize the honor and sacred nature of the text, bless or commission lectors of the parish and encourage people to read and pray with Scripture every day, especially through “lectio divina.”

“...the pope wrote.

“The Bible is the book of the Lord’s people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division toward unity” as well as come to understand God’s love and become inspired to share it with others, he added.

The celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God also “has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity,” he wrote. The third Sunday in Ordinary Time falls during that part of the year when the church is encouraged to strengthen its bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity.

The document was published on the feast of St. Jerome, patron saint of biblical scholars and doctor of the church, who said, “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” The title, “Aperuit Illis,” is based on a verse from the Gospel of St. Luke, “Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”

The pope said it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth without the Lord who opens people’s minds to his word, yet “without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his church in this world would remain incomprehensible.”
Deacon brings Gospels to life in Lakota language

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Pope Francis has established the third Sunday in Ordinary Time to be devoted to sharing the word of God. Because of that, the West River Catholic is taking a look at a text translated by Deacon Ben Black Bear, Sr., from St. Francis. In addition to his work for St. Francis Mission, he was a on program for KINI Radio Station which was called “Sioux For Christ.” He was one of several people who read from the “Bible History” book which was written in Lakota.)

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

WRC: What inspired you to take on such a big project?
Deacon Ben: When I was ordained a deacon in the Catholic Church, I spoke Lakota fluently. In fact, that was my first language and I was becoming literate in Lakota. I did a lot of the preaching in Lakota.

My mother taught me how to read and write in Lakota when I was still in middle school at St. Francis Mission Catholic Boarding School. I thought it was important to produce a lot of material written in Lakota, including the Bible.

The Bible was translated into Dakota. But it was not translated into Lakota — which is a different dialect. There were enough differences between the two dialects that it was difficult for Lakota speakers to read the Dakota Bible.

I started translating St. Luke’s Gospel into Lakota on my own. Fr. Paul Manhart, SJ, heard what I was doing and offered to help me with the effort. He was the one who directed me to use the RSV Bible.

Deacon Ben: I try to use several methods in translation work. I took a course in Bible translating from the United Bible Society. One method they use is called the ‘dynamic equivalence method’ of translating which involves taking a sentence and breaking it down to its simplest form. Then translating it to the target language. Then building it back up in the target language to a more formal expression. Word for word translation does not work very well because words do not have equivalent words in other languages. Even a simple word like ‘the,’ which is ‘ki’ in Lakota is not used in the same way in both languages.

In fact, the reason why I am studying Greek and re-studying Latin is because I learned that in order to do translation work with the Bible one should learn these languages and possibly even Biblical Hebrew. There are so many versions of the Bible written in English that it is difficult to decide which one to use. I stay with the Catholic editions of the Bible. It is a huge task.

WRC: Can it be seen?
Deacon Ben: When I was working with the United Bible Society sponsored translation work, I believe they did publish some preliminary translations. The funding ceased with that effort, so the office no longer exists. Together we did produce a video of the Gospel of Luke in Lakota. So one can say that the entire Gospel of Luke is in Lakota. Perhaps the United Bible Society may have some information regarding this. I don’t know where the translations are at this time. I do have some draft copies of the work that was done, but they are not published at this time. We did community checking with all the translations we have done, so there are drafts that were printed.

WRC: What feedback have you gotten from other Lakota people on this project?
Deacon Ben: When we did the community checking on the translations we completed, there was a very positive reaction to the Bible in Lakota. We had lively discussions during the community checks that we did. We also distributed most all of the Luke’s Gospel videos.

WRC: Do you plan to have it available?
Deacon Ben: I will have to do some community checking before it gets published with church approval. Once it is published it will be available to the public.

Sheep are seen on burned out property in Sarsfield, Australia, Dec. 31, 2019. Soaring temperatures, often higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and a protracted drought have contributed to an unprecedented national emergency which, by Christmas, had already seen more than 14.5 million acres of forest and rural land burned. (CNS photo/James Ross, AAP via Reuters)
Taking Communion to the sick — it just feels right and natural

(Editor’s note: During the Year of the Eucharist the West River Catholic is asking people selected by their parishes to express their feelings on receiving Communion.)

Cliff Bienert is a member of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. He and his wife, Debra, have been members since 2011 when they returned to the city. They met when they were students at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and she originally is from this area.

Bienert took first Communion as a second grader at Sacred Heart Church in Yankton. He remembers dropping his prayer book over the edge while sitting in the front row of the church. He didn’t want to draw attention to himself during Mass. “I didn’t know if should get up and get it. I bided my time and an usher came by and picked it up for me,” he said.

When asked about going to church, Bienert said, “Attending Mass keeps me connected with my God and my savior, Jesus Christ.” While he feels the presence of Christ throughout all of Mass, it is especially heightened during the consecration and while taking Communion.

He said taking Communion makes him feel connected to Jesus and the Trinity. “It reminds me what is important in life and makes me feel fulfilled,” he said explaining the importance of Jesus guiding him and giving him grace.

To share that fulfillment with others he serves as a weekly hospital eucharistic minister. “Distributing Communion to those who want to receive it is one of the most fulfilling things I do in my life. It just feels so right and natural,” said Bienert.

God’s word can never be ‘enchained,’ pope says at audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A true apostle is one who continues to be a courageous and joyful evangelizer even in the face of persecution and certain death, Pope Francis said. By choosing to close the Acts of the Apostles not with St. Paul’s martyrdom but with his continuing to preach the Gospel even while under house arrest, St. Luke wanted to show that the word of God cannot be “enchained,” the pope said Jan. 15 during his weekly general audience. “This house open to all hearts is the image of the church which — although persecuted, misunderstood and chained — never tires of welcoming with a motherly heart every man and woman to proclaim to them the love of the Father who made himself visible in Jesus,” he said. The pope concluded his series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles with a reflection on St. Paul’s imprisonment in Rome. St. Paul’s treacherous journey and adventures to “the heart of the empire,” he said, did not weaken the Gospel he preached but instead strengthened it by “showing that the direction of events does not belong to men but to the Holy Spirit, who gives fruitfulness to the church’s missionary action.”
Everyone is welcome to attend the Installation as Acolytes of the Diaconate Candidates

Rob Hrabe, Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City
Rich Olsen, Cathedral OLPH, Rapid City
and Bill White, Christ the King, Porcupine

To be held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City
Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, 5:30 p.m. Mass,
Presider, Fr. Michel Mulloy
This celebration is the next step toward potential ordination as a permanent deacon.

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! I am carrying my Son Jesus to you, for Him to bless you and reveal to you His love, which comes from Heaven. Your heart yearns for peace, of which there is less and less on earth. That is why people are far from God and souls are sick and heading towards spiritual death. I am with you, little children, to lead you on this way of salvation to which God calls you. Thank you for having responded to my call.” 12/25/19

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father
FEBRUARY
Listen to the Migrants’ Cries:
We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

For more information, go to: APOSTLESCHIPOFPRAYER.ORG

Support the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe
Restore the Church Build the Future
Special collection February 8-9, 2020
www.usccb.org/ceee

Share Your Faith
Help the church in Latin America
Learn more at www.usccb.org/latin-america
Special Collection January 25-26, 2020

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Building a lively culture of vocations in families

One of my desires for this new year is to work more closely with parents in building a lively culture of vocations in their family life. My hope is to encourage parents to have more intentional conversations with their children on how God continues to call each one of their children to a life of holiness, filled with the grace and power of Jesus in the Holy Spirit.

These types of conversations are only effective if they are rooted in a life of prayer. Prayer opens the hearts of parents and their children to hear the voice of Jesus who says in Mt 4:19, “Come, follow me.”

Wouldn’t it be amazing if all of our children had the support they needed to truly discern their vocation, whether it would be marriage, priesthood, consecrated life or the single life, with dad and mom taking the lead?

From my experience, a majority of our young people simply assume that marriage is their vocation without praying or having intentional conversations with mom and dad about the possibility God is calling them to anything else.

Father Brett Brannen, a vocation director and former seminary rector, wrote a book titled “A Priest in the Family: A Guide for Parents Whose Sons are Considering Priesthood.” He wrote it because he encountered in his ministry so many seminarians and priests who shared that a parent or family member actively tried to talk them out of becoming a priest.

He would often say to young men: “Would you like to become a priest?” Usually the answer was: “I don’t think so, Father.”

Then he would say, “But would you become a priest if Jesus asked you to?” And the answer is always the same: “Yes, Father, if Jesus asks me to become a priest, I will do it.”

Therefore, part of the challenge is to help our parents and children encounter the presence of Christ and to begin to hear his voice together. In this way we can begin to combat the challenge Father Brannen identifies; namely that many young people don’t consider a religious vocation because they don’t hear Jesus’ invitation.

Having families listen together also addresses another equally serious challenge. Year after year, in surveys of newly ordained priests, over half report that their families opposed the idea of priesthood when they first expressed interest.

One of the reasons is that priesthood does not fit a parent’s vision of the good life for their children. Parents, too, need to hear the reassuring voice of Jesus reminding them that he loves their children, too, and only wants the best for them.

As I begin this new year with the desire to work more intentionally with parents, I thought sharing these Six Vocation Myth-busters for Parents from Vianney Vocations would be a good beginning:

Parents, please make a commitment during 2020 to be open to the possibility that your children might have a calling to the priesthood or religious life. Consider that such a calling is part of God’s plan for them — a plan that needs your nurturing and support.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me for ideas on how you can help your children discern their vocations. I look forward to working with you in providing them with the guidance they need.

Vocations Myths Busted

**MYTH #1 “He’s too young”**

Many parents, when their young son expresses an interest in seminary, will dispense well-meaning advice: “Get some life experience first — and at least a college degree — then think about seminary later.”

Mom and dad envision that with a nice girlfriend and a good job; the idea of priesthood will fade away. The problem is, they may be right. That’s why it’s crucial that when God moves the heart of a young man to explore the priesthood, parents should trust God that the timing may be right.

True, in some cases an 18-year-old may not be mature enough to enter seminary right out of high school. But many are ready. College seminaries are places of joy, camaraderie and deep spiritual growth.

Even if your son goes to college seminary and eventually discerns he is not called to priesthood, don’t think he’ll have to “make up for lost time.” Thousands of former seminarians look back on their seminary days with great affection and gratitude!

...when God moves the heart of a young man to explore the priesthood, parents should trust God

**MYTH #2 “He’ll be so lonely”**

This is an easy myth to dispel. Priests are surrounded by people! After all, their job is to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus.

They are continually working with parish staff, youth and a myriad of people who come to them for spiritual advice.

Seminaries are very deliberate in teaching men how to form good, healthy relationships with people in their parishes and the priests of their dioceses. Sure, there can be lonely moments — but the same is true in any vocation, including marriage. Most priests have healthy friendships with brother priests, lay people and family that keep them grounded and connected.

**MYTH #3 “Celibacy is impossible”**

For couples who enjoy a healthy sexual relationship, it can be difficult to imagine their son choosing “life without a wife.” Society would have us believe that celibacy is impossible or, at the very least, unreasonable.

The truth is that sexual love is indeed one of God’s greatest natural gifts, but that thousands of saints have experienced tremendous joy living the supernatural vocation of celibacy. Seminaries offer superb formation in how to live celibately with peace and joy.

**MYTH #4 “I won’t have grandchildren”**

When a mother of a priest was asked at her only child’s ordination if she was sad she would never have grandchildren, she responded, “It’s not about me.” She was simply grateful that her son had found God’s will for his life.

Many parents of priests are surprised to find that they gain “spiritual grandchildren” — thousands of people whose lives have been profoundly influenced by their son’s priesthood. There is a special joy in meeting people who exclaim, “You’re Fr. Jacob’s mother? He’s such a great priest!”

**MYTH #5 “I’ll lose my son”**

Some parents think that if their son becomes a priest, they’ll never see him. One young priest laughed at this idea: “When Thanksgiving rolls around and my brothers and sisters are busy with their children and in-laws, guess what? As a priest, I don’t have any of those ties. It’s me carving the turkey with mom and dad!”

His point is that diocesan priests are able to spend a healthy amount of time with family. If the priest’s assignment is far from home, in the Internet age, social media and Skype make it easy to keep in touch.

**MYTH #6 “He’ll be unhappy”**

This is the “umbrella fear” that encompasses all the others. It’s also the easiest to dismiss, because the facts prove otherwise. A number of studies about happiness invariably find one profession ranked number one: clergy.

There is a recent book, based on a very large study, titled “Why Priests Are Happy.” The author, Msgr. Stephen Rosetti, finds that 92% of priests report being happy, and that the key factor in this happiness is an “inner peace.”
The Eucharistic Prayer is prayed to God the Father

The mention of the great deeds of God continues after the Holy, Holy, Holy in Eucharistic Prayers two, three and four. (Eucharistic Prayer One has all the elements of the other Eucharistic Prayers but they are arranged differently. A separate column would be necessary to explain the structure of Eucharistic Prayer One.)

This expression of thanksgiving gives way to the epiclesis. This is a Greek word which means invocation. Having thanked God for his great deeds, we ask him to send his Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. We do this with great confidence because we have recalled God's love for us in his great deeds and we know in faith that he wants to give us all that is good for us.

We also pray in confidence because we know in faith that God's greatest gift to us was his Son's life, death and resurrection. Jesus gave us his body and blood at the Last Supper and as we prepare to remember with gratitude that moment in Jesus' life, we join Christ present in invoking the Spirit.

What follows then is the institution narrative and the consecration. Through the agency of the priest who is Christ present leading the body of Christ the church, the Holy Spirit transforms the bread and wine into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ. In this moment we are remembering what Jesus did for us, we are fulfilling his command to "do this in memory of me" (Lk 22:19), and we are confessing once again the great deeds of God in his Son Jesus. This moment is amazing and all that has gone before in the Mass as a whole and the Eucharistic Prayer in particular, prepares us for the consecration.

All that comes after flows from this moment as well. What more can we do than once again, offer an acclamation, a song of joy and hope for what God has done in Jesus and will continue to do until the end time. Our adoration of Christ present leads us to a song of remembrance and praise in the Memorial Acclamation.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues with the anamnesis, oblation and another epiclesis. Anamnesis is another Greek word that means remembering. Just after the Memorial Acclamation, we pray remembering that Christ not only died but also rose from the dead and ascended. This moment in the Eucharistic Prayer completes the command of Jesus to remember what he did for us.

This remembering leads us to make an offering or oblation to God the Father.

This is the true offering of the Mass. We are invited to join the priest's prayer of offering Christ, who is present with us, to God the Father and ourselves with him (GIRM78). Participating in this offering of the sacrifice is the obligation that church asks of us. We are to join Christ in his sacrifice of himself to the Father. This is a marvelous moment of deep humility and joyous hope. Joined to Christ, we go to God the Father by God's gracious design. The hope of our eternal salvation is bound up and given its fullest expression in this prayer which often goes unnoticed without this proper understanding.

During this offering of the sacrifice, we turn again to invocation. We ask that the Holy Spirit transform us too. We ask to become one body and one spirit in Christ, to be made one. The presence of Christ invites us almost immediately into a relationship with one another. As we are one with God the Father through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, so may we be with one another.
The ‘Little Way’ exceeds simple piety

Anonymity: Therese’s “little way” refers to what’s hidden, to what’s done in secret, so that what the Father sees in secret will be rewarded in secret. And what’s hidden is not our act of charity, but we ourselves, who are doing the act. In Therese’s “little way” our little acts of charity will go mostly unnoticed, will seemingly have no real impact on world history, and won’t bring us any recognition. They’ll remain hidden and unnoticed; but inside the Body of Christ what’s hidden, selfless, unnoticed, self-efficating, and seemingly insignificant and unimportant is the most vital vehicle of all for grace at a deeper level. Just as Jesus did not save us through sensational miracles and headline-making deeds but through selfless obedience to his Father and quiet martyrdom, our deeds too can remain unknown so that our deaths and the spirit we leave behind can become our real fruitfulness.

Finally, her “little way” is predicated on a Particular Motivation. We are invited to act out of our littleness and anonymity and do small acts of love and service to others for a particular reason, that is, to metaphorically wipe the face of the suffering Christ. How so?

Therese of Lisieux was an extremely blessed and gifted person. Despite a lot of tragedy in her early life, she was (by her own admission and testimony of others) loved in a way that was so pure, so deep, and so wonderfully affectionate that it leaves most people in envy. She was also a very attractive child and was bathed in love and security inside an extended family within which her every smile and tear were noticed, honored, and often photographed. As she grew in maturity it didn’t take her long to notice that what was true in her life wasn’t true of most others. Their smiles and tears went mostly unnoticed and were not honored. Her “little way” is therefore predicated on this particular motivation. In her own words:

“One Sunday, looking at a picture of Our Lord on the Cross, I was struck by the blood flowing from one of his divine hands. I felt a pang of great sorrow when thinking this blood was falling on the ground without anyone’s hastening to gather it up. I was resolved to remain in spirit at the foot of the Cross and to receive its dew… Oh, I don’t want this precious blood to be lost. I shall spend my life gathering it up for the good of souls. … To live from love is to dry Your Face.”

To live her “little way” is to notice and honor the unnoticed tears falling from the suffering faces of others.

Littleness: For Therese “littleness” does not refer first of all to the littleness of the act that we are doing, like the humble tasks or giving a simple smile to someone who’s unpleasant. It refers to our own littleness, to our own radical poverty before God. Before God, we are little. To accept and act out of that constitutes humility. We move towards God and others in her “little way” when we do small acts of charity for others, not out of our strength and the virtue we feel at that moment, but rather out of a poverty, powerlessness, and emptiness that allows God’s grace to work through us so that in doing what we’re doing we’re drawing others to God and not to ourselves. As well, our littleness makes us aware that, for the most part, we cannot do the big things that shape world history. But we can change the world more humbly by sowing a hidden seed, by being a hidden antibiotic of health inside the soul of humanity, and by splitting the atom of love inside our own selves. And yes, too, the “little way” is about doing little, humble, hidden things.

Most of us have heard of St. Therese of Lisieux, a French mystic who died at age 24 in 1897 and who is perhaps the most popular saint of the last two centuries. She’s famous for many things, not least for a spirituality she called her “little way.” What’s her “little way”?

Popular thought has often encrusted both Therese and her “little way” within a simple piety which doesn’t do justice to the depth of her person or her spirituality. Too often her “little way” is understood simply as doing little, humble, hidden things. Yes, it does ask us to do humble chores and be nice to each other in the name of Jesus, but there are deeper dimensions to it. In some ways, of course, this is true; however her “little way” merits a deeper understanding.

In her own words:

“…a Particular Motivation. In her own admission and testimony of others) loved in a way that was so pure, so deep, and so wonderfully affectionate that it leaves most people in envy. She was also a very attractive child and was bathed in love and security inside an extended family within which her every smile and tear were noticed, honored, and often photographed. As she grew in maturity it didn’t take her long to notice that what was true in her life wasn’t true of most others. Their smiles and tears went mostly unnoticed and were not honored. Her “little way” is therefore predicated on this particular motivation. In her own words:

“One Sunday, looking at a picture of Our Lord on the Cross, I was struck by the blood flowing from one of his divine hands. I felt a pang of great sorrow when thinking this blood was falling on the ground without anyone’s hastening to gather it up. I was resolved to remain in spirit at the foot of the Cross and to receive its dew… Oh, I don’t want this precious blood to be lost. I shall spend my life gathering it up for the good of souls. … To live from love is to dry Your Face.”

To live her “little way” is to notice and honor the unnoticed tears falling from the suffering faces of others.
Massachusetts judge rejects right to physician-assisted suicide

BOSTON (CNS) — Patients who are terminally ill do not have a right to physician-assisted suicide, but their doctors can provide information and advise about medical aid in dying, a Massachusetts court has ruled. Suffolk Superior Court Judge Mary K. Ames said in her Dec. 31 decision that the legality of physician-assisted suicide is not one for the courts to decide. “The Legislature, not the court, is ideally positioned to weigh these arguments and determine whether, and if so, under what restrictions MAID (medical aid in dying) should be legally authorized,” Ames said in her ruling.

The ruling comes in a case filed by Dr. Roger Kligler, a retired physician from Cape Cod who has advanced prostate cancer, and Dr. Alan Steinbach, who treats terminally ill patients. Patient rights groups welcomed Ames’ decision, saying that allowing any type of suicide is “too dangerous.”

“We are gratified the court reaffirmed the law against assisted suicide and referred the matter to the Legislature where lawmaking belongs,” John B. Kelly, director of Second Thoughts Massachusetts, a disability rights group, said in a statement Jan. 13. “Disability rights advocates will continue to press the Legislature that assisted suicide is just too dangerous.”

Matt Valliere, executive director of the Patients Rights Action Fund, said in a statement he sympathized with Kligler and other patients who face a challenging medical diagnosis, but “assisted suicide is simply too dangerous.” He added that the terminally ill, people with disabilities, the elderly and financially disadvantaged people would be “at risk of abuse and coercion” if physician-assisted suicide was permitted.

Mental Wellness . . .
What does it mean & How can I help?

I know she’s hurting, but I feel so helpless . . . Sound familiar?

Join us for a day of questions and answers. By the end of this session, participants will start to build confidence and comfort in having conversations around mental health concerns, and in seeking help for themselves and others.

Get to know the resources we have right here in western South Dakota!

Catholic Social Services

James T. Kinyon, MS, LPC-MH, LMFT, QMHP Executive Director
Dominique Charlson, Director, Prosperity Initiative

And Introducing . . .

BeFriender Ministry
A Listening Presence

Social Justice Commission Winter Workshop
10AM—4PM • Saturday February 29, 2020 • Registration $15
Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City
www.terrasancta.org/SJCworkshop

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. John 10:10b
Monae Johnson has parented children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder for the past 16 years, but the FASD Parenting class at Catholic Social Services she attended recently was still a great reminder that there's always something new to learn, or relearn, about FASD and its many challenges.

"For me, it's been a great refresher course," Monae said. "Nora has so much information to share that I'll want to go to it again, too. And the group discussions with other parents is always very helpful. I heard things that I knew, but had sort of forgotten about over time."

Nora Boesem, the Family Services Director at Catholic Social Services, offers two parenting support and education classes (FASD 101 and FASD 102) for parents, grandparents and caregivers of children with FASD. Boesem is a trained social worker and adoption specialist. But she's also a FASD expert, the adoptive mother of 11 children who all have a diagnosis of FASD, and an advocate who educates about FASD issues at her annual FASD conference.

To register for a future FASD class, contact CSS at 605-348-6086. Boesem also teaches Resilient Parenting, a 6-week class for parents of children who have been exposed to trauma or who have severe behaviors that don't respond to traditional parenting techniques. The next Resilient Parenting begins Thursday, Jan. 30, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at CSS.

CSS parenting education classes are supported by a gift from Patti Herlihy in memory of her late husband, Dr. John Herlihy.

FASD 101 is a 6-week class that guides parents and caregivers through its challenges and milestones. It educates parents about FASD and introduces them to practical tips, online resources, support networks, proven ideas and new perspectives for coping with life with FASD. FASD 102 is an 8-week course that teaches parents to navigate systems in their child's life (legal, educational, healthcare and community) while guiding their child into adulthood.

"Parenting children with FASD is hard. It's a totally different world. And it's a non-stop world," says Monae. "The classes tell you that instead of getting frustrated, these things might help. FASD is a lot to think about continuously. For me, Nora's classes helped me remember that."

Monae and her former husband had three children before fostering/adopting their 16-year-old twins Shawn and Shawntel at 10 months old. The family also has a third child who was adopted as a baby. Shawn and Shawntel, born to a mother who drank heavily during her pregnancy, were neglected as infants. They got an FASD diagnosis later, but Monae knew from day one that this parenting experience was going to be very different from her biological children.

"The way they ate, the way they slept, what they did, what they didn't do. It was all different," she said. "But the minute you get them into your home, they become yours."

At 16, her twins are beginning their journey into adulthood. "We're just beginning to figure that all out," Monae said.

Monae Johnson and twins Shawn and Shawntel have benefitted from parenting classes at Catholic Social Services, Rapid City. (Courtesy photo)

Children born into the world called ‘great gift’ for families, for future

CHICAGO (CNS) — Despite high winds, freezing precipitation and cold temperatures, thousands turned out for the seventh annual March for Life Chicago, which kicked off in Daley Plaza Jan. 11. The march, with the theme “Life Empowers: Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman,” proceeded east on Washington Avenue and south on Michigan Avenue, where it ended at the Congress Plaza Hotel. A youth rally hosted by the Archdiocese of Chicago took place at the hotel before the march, along with an expo of pro-life groups sponsored by WeDignify. The “Mass for Life” was celebrated at the hotel following the march, and the evening featured a banquet and swing dance party.

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich joined several speakers in addressing those gathered for the march. "When a child is born into the world, it is a great gift, not just for the child but for a whole family, a family that sees a legacy carried on and can see in the eyes of that child the future," Cardinal Cupich told the gathering. The cardinal spoke of how his own family welcomed two new great-grandnephews in recent months, which makes 25 great-grandnephews and great-grandnieces in his family. Those new births, and all children, inspire generosity and hope for the future, he said. That generosity extends to helping all children and mothers.
Kinyon joins National Committee of the Council of Diocesan Directors

Jim Kinyon, executive director of Catholic Social Services, in Rapid City for the past 27 years, has been elected by his fellow diocesan directors to the Executive Committee of the Council of Diocesan Directors. This 15 member group is the Steering Committee for the activities of the Larger Assembly Directors. This 15 member group is the Steering Executive Committee of the Council of Diocesan Services, in Rapid City for the past 27 years, has been elected by his fellow diocesan directors to the Steering Executive Committee of the Council of Diocesan Directors. This 15 member group is the Steering Executive Committee of the Council of Diocesan Directors. This 15 member group is the Steering Executive Committee of the Council of Diocesan Directors. This 15 member group is the Steering Executive Committee of the Council of Diocesan Directors.

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Jennifer Wadsworth, Customer Service/Sales Manager

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WRC 11
WRC 13

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Diocesan Seminarian Burses (as of 12/31/19)
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, and the anonymous donor for contributing to the Scherer Burse.

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.
Pastoral Center Construction Continues —
Tours Still Underway

Concrete is pumped into the former drive-thru area to transform it from a driveway
to a level floor. Tours are available to the public on the third Friday of each month
from 3-6 p.m. Pre-registration not needed. If you have tour questions contact Todd
Tobin at 605-343-3541.

Next Dates: Friday, February 21
Friday, March 20
Time: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Location: 225 Main St.,
Rapid City, SD 57701

Special Instructions: Building access
directions signage
will be posted at each event.
Hard hats will be provided and must be
worn at all times.

Two new canopies mark entrances to the
building.
January 31, Friday
• Deadline for submissions: Paper mailed Tuesday, February 18. ☎️ 605-343-3541 🌐hallstrom@diorc.org 🌐bberreth@diorc.org

January 24, Friday
• Heart to Heart 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 26. Next weekend February 21-23. 🌐heart2heart

January 25, Saturday
• NPM Winter Meeting: Meeting includes cantor training and certification, “The Mass Parts and their Jewish Connection” and a chorus impact study. Held at St. Francis of Assisi, Sturgis from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. ☎️James Washabaugh 605-342-6300 or 🌐jpwashaj@rushmore.com to help secure an accurate lunch count.

January 26, Sunday
• LIFE Runners Speaker: Dr. Pat Castle, president and founder of LIFE Runners will be in Pierre/Ft. Pierre for two days of speaking engagements. Sunday’s events include the Life Walk at 12:30 p.m. followed by Hour of Reflection at 2 pm at the Capitol Rotunda, and he will present “Living Pro-Life with Virtue” at 5 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, Fort Pierre. On Monday he will speak on “Real Healthcare, Support Life at All Stages” at noon, at the Capital University Center Auditorium, Pierre, and speak at Theology on Tap, “FACE it: Faith, Activism, Courts, Education,” 7 p.m., Drifter’s, Fort Pierre. All events are open to the public. Free will offering will be taken. ☎️St. John the Evangelist Church 605-223-2176.

January 27, Monday

• Men in Black Basketball: Held at St. Thomas More High School. Begins with community dinner from 5-6:30 p.m., followed by games between students and teachers, and the students vs priests at 7 p.m. Priests will be available to sign basketball cards from 6-6:30 p.m.

February 1, Saturday
• Installation of Acolytes of the Deacon Candidates: Held at 5:30 p.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. See page 7.

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

• Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Level 1 Training, Session 2: Learn this Montessori-based religious formation for children beginning at the age of three. The program seeks to create a sacred hands-on space for children to celebrate and learn about the mysteries of the Catholic faith. Held at Our Lady of the Black Hills Church, Piedmont. Saturday schedule — 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Monday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. $350 cost includes materials and national registration. Book packet is $50. ☎️605-787-5168 or 🌐rhonda.gehlsen@olbh.org.

February 15, Saturday
• Natural Family Planning: Seminar for engaged couples or anyone wanting to learn more about natural family planning. Held at St. Joseph Church, Spearfish, from 9 a.m.-noon. Next seminar March 14 at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. ☎️Family Life Ministries 605-716-5214.

February 17, Monday
• Chancery Office Closed: In observance of President’s Day.

February 29, Saturday
• Social Justice Commission Winter Workshop: “Mental Wellness — What Does it Mean and How Can I Help.” Held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. From 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost $15, $10 students. See page 11.

March 1, Sunday
• Rite of Election: Join in prayer with the catechumens and candidates as they affirm their intention of seeking full communion in the Catholic Church. Begins at 2 p.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City.

March 29-31, Sunday-Tuesday
• Pastoral Ministry Days: Begins with Holy Hour and hospitality on Sunday, 7 p.m. This year’s theme is “Give us this day our daily bread.” Keynote speaker is Deacon James Keating, Director of Theological Formation at the Institute for Priestly Formation, Omaha, Neb. Held at Terra Sancta. Registration fee $80. Early bird registration $65 before March 1. 🌐www.pmd2020.com.

March 30, Monday
• Chrism Mass: A celebration of the blessing of the holy oils for sacramental use in the diocese and the renewal of priestly promises. Begins at 7 p.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. Reception after Mass sponsored by WSDCF.

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

Follow us on social media:

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or online: www.rapidcitydiocese.org
Rapid City Catholic School System

Current Enrollment:
St. Elizabeth Seton Preschool — 96
St. Elizabeth Seton Elementary — 301
St. Thomas More Middle School — 174
St. Thomas More High School — 242

4 Priest Alumni
3 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 Awards
1 Spirit of Max Award

Class of 2019 was offered $7 Million in college scholarships

ACT Scores

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99% Graduation Rate

33 Presidential Scholars since 2008

9 National Merit Scholars since 2008

$817,339 Awarded in Tuition Assistance

16 Rapid City Athletes of the Year Awards

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I am a product of a Catholic education, an employee with the Rapid City Catholic School System and a parent of a current STM MS student. I had a wonderful experience attending St. Martin Academy and want a similar experience for my daughter. I see the person she is becoming, in part due to the level of education she receives and the continued development of her faith. I also see commitment and dedication from the RCCSS administration and teachers. Students are the top priority, and I want my daughter to be in that type of environment.

I VALUE A CATHOLIC EDUCATION!

-Robert Satter ‘87, Development director,
Alumni Parent Class of 2025
“Young men and young women, your job is to defend the experiment.” I vividly recall then-Lieutenant General James Mattis addressing a rapt auditorium full of young Marine officers including yours truly in early 2006. It really hit me, in a way I’d never considered: America is an experiment, an ongoing project, and its future is by no means certain. Just as we expect our military to defend it, we — its citizens — must not take it for granted.

This ultimate uncertainty — will it work or won’t it? — has been cast into sharp relief in recent years by the fragmentation of our social fabric, as observed and felt by so many. The crescendo of polarization hit a new note several weeks ago, when for the third time in our nation’s history a president was impeached. One might hope that this was the peak of the present divisiveness and diffusion, but we have another election year ahead. There’s no guarantee the road ahead gets any smoother. What, then, are we as Catholics to do?

As is customary in a presidential election year, the U.S. bishops have updated their perennial political document, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” and have given it a new introductory note, which I recommend reading. (See sd catholicconference.org/resources) The bishops remind us that “we bring the richness of our faith to the public square,” and that we “draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all.” When we approach our political duties, whether as voting citizens or elected leaders, we do so “first and foremost rooted in our identity as followers of Christ.” As a result, “our participation in political parties should be influenced by our faith, not the other way around.” There is much woundedness in society that we are called to address, and as Catholics we are called to do so “as models of civil dialogue.”

We also might consider that, in addition to our frayed social fabric, the Catholic Church in our country is weathering difficulties, from the horrors of abuse revelations to the rise of the “nones.” We’re swimming upstream, it seems, against the current. My sense of things right now — as a disciple of Christ desiring to live as a faithful citizen — is that the pathway to renewed vigor and unity, as a body of believers called to be leaven within the social polity, must be walked with the two feet of humility and joy. Humility, in being honest about our wounds and mistakes, will help us turn outside of ourselves and open our eyes to how much we need the saving love of Jesus. And the joy, of course, that proceeds from knowing Christ’s great love, will help us to not be afraid, to courageously engage our fellow citizens winsomely and with good cheer.

In the last year, I’ve thought often of St. John Paul II’s insistent exhortation: “Be not afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!” In 2020, our nation really needs us to bear this Christian spirit into the world.

In the year ahead, I invite you to join me in responding to the U.S. bishops’ call to prayer, found in “Faithful Citizenship:

Merciful Father,
Thank you for inviting each of us to join in your work of building the kingdom of love, justice, and peace.
Draw us close to you in prayer as we discern your call in our families and communities.
Send us forth to encounter all whom you love:
those not yet born, those in poverty, those in need of welcome.
Inspire us to respond to the call to faithful citizenship, during election season and beyond.
Help us to imitate your charity and compassion and to serve as models of loving dialogue.
Teach us to treat others with respect, even when we disagree, and seek to share your love and mercy.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Follow the 2020 South Dakota legislative session by signing up for our newsletter at www.sdcatholicconference.org/sign-up.
As the state legislature opens the 2020 session, SDCC will be watching several bills protecting the unborn, limiting state executions, phasing out commercial surrogacy, safeguarding children, toughening human trafficking laws, safeguarding conscience, and will be vigilant for any effort that might unduly inhibit free religious exercise. The list located at www.sd catholicconference.org will be updated with specifics as they develop.

Public education funding
- HB 1042 — revise the special education property tax levy for school districts and to revise the state aid to special education formula.
- HB 1043 — revise the property tax levies for the general fund of school districts and to revise the state aid to education formula.

Mental Health
- HB 1010 — revise provisions regarding testimony of qualified mental health professionals at involuntary commitment hearings.
- SB 1 — provide for the use of electronic communication in the involuntary commitment process and to declare an emergency.
- SB 2 — require the Department of Social Services to fully support a statewide centralized resource information system.
- SB 5 — provide immunity for qualified mental health professionals at appropriate regional facilities.

Environment
- HB 1026 — revise certain provisions relating to use of security for cleanup and remediation of environmental problems.
- HB 1035 — make an appropriation from the water and environment fund and its revolving fund subfunds for various water and environmental purposes, to revise the water resources projects list, and to declare an emergency.

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
- HB 1047 — revise certain provisions regarding human trafficking.
- Support HB 1057 — prohibit certain acts against children and provide a penalty therefor.
- SB 6 — revise certain conditions under which presumptive probation may be applied.
- SB 7 — revise the eligibility for presumptive probation.
- SB 18 — revise certain provisions regarding professional counselors.
- SB 19 — revise certain provisions regarding marriage and family therapists.
- SB 20 — create a monitor to review and respond to complaints related to the care provided to youth in the custody or care of certain care facilities, treatment centers, and programs.
- SB 27 — establish a missing persons clearinghouse.
- SB 44 — authorize the use of crime victims’ compensation funds to reimburse law enforcement for certain emergency expenses incurred for victims.
- SB 46 — revise provisions related to the restoration of competency of criminal defendants.

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2020 S.D. State Legislature to examine a number of proposed bills

- Mental Health
- Environment
- Public education funding

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Everyone was out in one minute and 42 seconds at the 9:30 a.m. Mass; that’s 300 to 350 people with a number of young families,” said Mike Whitney, one of the parishioners behind the drill.

Other Masses did nearly as well. At the vigil Mass about 150 people were out the door in 1 minute and 49 seconds; at the 12:15 p.m. Mass, with between 400 and 450 people, everyone exited in 2.12 minutes.”

“I was thinking that for this first time that four minutes would be good, and we’d shave time off that in future drills,” Whitney told the Catholic Sentinel, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Portland. “We were ecstatic.”

Parishioners impressed Merrill Harrison, Springfield’s deputy fire marshal, as well.

“Evacuation drills and early detection of an emergency are key to everyone’s safety,” he said. “The whole point is familiarizing people about getting out. We fall back on muscle memory when we get scared or things go wrong.”

The impetus for the drill came from Father Mark Bentz, who arrived as pastor in 2016. He had inherited a strong pastoral council, with Whitney, a retired police officer who has worked for decades as a private investigator, as council president.

Like every pastor, Father Bentz cares about keeping his parishioners safe, but he thought far more about their spiritual safety than their physical safety. Church security had not been on his radar until he heard some disturbing news at a vicariate meeting. Another pastor had described a physical assault at that parish.

Father Bentz consulted with Whitney. “He and Jim Horton have taken the bull by the horns and developed a safety plan,” Father Bentz said. “It’s great.”

Whitney and Horton, also a retired police officer, said the credit goes to the parish security committee, which came together quickly and includes a nurse, a security consultant, an Occupational Safety and Health Administration employee, a Department of Defense career public servant, a young Spanish-speaking police cadet and a National Guardman.

Their work soon was shown to be necessary. While parishioners at St. Alice, established in 1921, did not remember troubling incidents in past decades, in the past year and a half there have been three restraining orders against potentially dangerous trespassers.

“We were prepared for it,” Whitney said.

The evacuation drill — which will be repeated — was just one part of the committee’s work. Members spearheaded several efforts to ward off trouble, including improving parking lot lighting, installing security cameras throughout the church campus, purchasing a new computer system that provided better data protection, adding emergency exits to the cry room, training for greeters and emergency assistants.

In the same way that there is a lead greeter for each Mass, there also is a lead emergency assistant, who stands at the back of the sanctuary during Mass and keeps an eye out for where help might be needed. The safety committee’s protocols suggest that all greeters and emergency assistants are “the face of St. Alice” and also its eyes and ears, offering “a welcoming greeting to everyone while remaining alert for possible issues.”

Horton said the worst case so far was a man who came to the Spanish Mass but was clearly not there to pray. He was hanging around the restrooms with a camera around his neck watching the kids. The lead greeter asked him to leave. The security cameras provided a good photo of the individual. The photo was distributed to all greeters.

Two weeks later, the same fellow turned up at the 9:30 a.m. English Mass, also hanging about the restroom. The greeters recognized him and called the police.

“As a result of that guy, Father Mark asked parents to accompany their children to the restroom,” Horton said. “That was one of the good outcomes.”

The committee released a nine-page “Medical, Safety and Security Policies and Procedures” pamphlet that has been shared with other churches, Catholic and Protestant.

Both Whitney and Horton caution people about keeping a balance when thinking about crime.

Whitney said he was at a presentation offered by the Portland Police Bureau in 2018 year when the speaker asked listeners to raise their hands if they thought it was more dangerous currently than when they were growing up. Most hands went up. Then he noted that in fact violent crime per capita is about half of what it was in the 1970s. Further, the odds of being involved in an active shooter situation is less than one in a million.

Despite such small odds, the parish isn’t taking any chances.

“We don’t want to think about this but as pastor I have to look out for my flock and keep them safe,” Father Bentz said.
Amid threat of war, do not give up hope pope tells diplomats

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hope is the virtue needed to approach the coming year, especially when the looming threat of war surrounds a humanity scarred by violence, Pope Francis said.

During his annual address to diplomats accredited to the Vatican, the pope said that with heightened tensions and acts of violence on the rise, the “new year does not seem to be marked by encouraging signs.”

Nevertheless, acknowledging the challenges confronting the world today and courageously finding ways to resolve them open a path to hope, he said in his speech Jan. 9.

“Precisely in light of these situations, we cannot give up hope,” the pope said. “And hope requires courage. It means acknowledging that evil, suffering and death will not have the last word and that even the most complex questions can and must be faced and resolved.”

Among the most “troubling” conflicts emerging, he noted, are the increasing tensions between the United States and Iran, which not only compromise the efforts to rebuild Iraq, but also set “the groundwork for a vaster conflict that all of us would want to avert.”

“If therefore renew my appeal that all the interested parties avoid an escalation of the conflict and keep alive the flame of dialogue and self-restraint, in full respect of international law,” he said.

In his nearly one-hour speech to the diplomats, the pope reflected on the foreign trips he made over the previous year, as well as the major events and issues that emerged in 2019.

While his visit to Panama last January for World Youth Day highlighted the joy brought by young people “brimming with dreams and hopes” for the future, the pope said the Vatican summit on clergy sex abuse the following month painfully showed how young people can be robbed of that future.

Sexual abuse committed by members of the clergy and laity “are crimes that offend God, cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to their victims and damage the life of whole communities,” he said.

The pope renewed the church’s commitment to not only bringing to light past cases of abuse, but also to ensure that such cases are dealt with in “accordance with canon law and in cooperation with civil authorities on the local and international level.”

Young people, he continued, also have brought significant attention to the issue of climate change, which “ought to be a concern for everyone and not the object of ideological conflict between different views of reality or, much less, between generations.”

“Greater polarization does not help to resolve the real and pressing problems of citizens, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable, nor can violence, which for no reason can be employed as a means of dealing with political and social issues,” he said.

Pope Francis also expressed concern for the resolution of conflicts in Sudan and Central African Republic. The pope also said he hoped to visit South Sudan this year.

Recalling his final trip of 2019, which took him to Japan, Pope Francis renewed his appeal for a world without nuclear weapons because “true peace cannot be built on the threat of a possible total annihilation of humanity.”

“These weapons do not only foster a climate of fear, suspicion and hostility,” he said. “They also destroy hope. Their use is immoral, a crime not only against the dignity of human beings but against any possible future for our common home.”

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getting to the heart of God’s design

$228 per couple

includes all sessions, materials, meals, snacks and lodging from breakfast Saturday through Sunday lunch. Optional early check-in on Friday add $80. includes lodging and social. Scholarships available - all are welcome!

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Clear vision for the diocesan archives

Preserving a Catholic Community
By Kathy Cordes, Diocesan Archivist

(Writer’s note: These firsts do not encompass the history of the five Indian Reservations in the Diocese of Rapid City.)

History will be made in 2020 with the first Catholic Pastoral Center in our diocese. Following are lists of the firsts we have recorded. Unfortunately, the claims for these firsts are not well documented and many dates contradict one another. These make for interesting history discussions. We would love for someone to say — “hey, wait a minute our marriage was the first recorded in …” and then we could record it as the diocesan’s firsts.

From the Dakotas to New Dakota Territory to Lead City to Diocese of Lead City and finally, to the Diocese of Rapid City – The recorded first priest, diocesan or religious order; the first Mass, low or high Mass; first church (framed, wooden or structure).

The first West River Catholic issue was published in May 1973. Publisher: Bishop Harold J. Dimmerling, Editor: Fr. William J. O’Connell. The diocesan cathedral was dedicated on May 7, 1963. Ten years later to the day the first issue was published. It was “to serve as a reminder to everyone that the Blessed Virgin plays an important part in our spiritual life.”

The first Mass in Rapid City was celebrated on Christmas Day, 1883 by Rapid City’s first resident pastor, Rev. Alfred Vigeant in the first church of any denomination to be built in the new town. St. Mary Catholic Church (framed) was constructed beginning in 1881. –Excerpt from Rapid City in Retrospect, published 1982.

The first resident Jesuit Catholic priest in 1876 was Father Bernard Mackin, SJ. He was reportedly the first priest buried in St. Ambrose Cemetery. Interestingly enough, the first cemetery – St. Ambrose, the Catholic section (also called Mount Moriah) was established in Deadwood in the early 1880s. –St. Ambrose Parish 100th Anniversary booklet 1877-1977.

St. Ambrose was the first Catholic church in our diocese. Fr. John Lonergan presided at the first public low Mass in Deadwood on May 20, 1877. -The Black Hills Daily Times, Dakota Territory, 1877.

The first Spanish speaking missionary, Rev. Pedro Morante, was in charge of the Spanish mission people in the Black Hills.

The first grammar school was named St. Martin Academy in honor of Bishop Martin Marty. The first hospital, St. Edward Hospital was opened 1878 in Deadwood and staffed by Sisters of the Holy Cross.

“In order to make this (these firsts) as interesting as possible I would appreciate any news clippings, photos, written historical remembrances that parishioners might have which would help tell the history of our diocese.” Fr. Eugene Szalay, May 1973, wrote in the first column “Heritage In The Faith” published in first West River Catholic newspaper.

The well known mantra of all archivists as reiterated in Fr. Szalay’s message above, of yesteryear and for the future, we must preserve and report history and send it to the archives!
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 the Office of the Bishop.

What is prayer?

Prayer is a personal relationship with the living and true God. It is “the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God” (St. Therese of Lisieux). It includes adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, and supplication.

YouCat 469: What is prayer?

Prayer is turning the heart toward God. When a person prays, he enters into a living relationship with God (2558-2565).

Prayer is the great gate leading into faith. Someone who prays no longer lives on his own, for himself, and by his own strength. He knows there is a God to whom he can talk. People who pray entrust themselves more and more to God. Even now they seek union with the one whom they will encounter one day face to face. Therefore, the effort to pray daily is part of Christian life. Of course, one cannot learn to pray in the same way one learns a technique. As strange as it sounds, prayer is a gift one obtains through prayer.

How often should we pray?

Because prayer is entering into a relationship with God, we should pray every day.

YouCat 499: When should a person pray?

From the earliest times Christians have prayed at least in the morning, at meals, and in the evening. Someone who does not pray regularly will soon not pray at all (2697-2698, 2720).

Anyone who loves another person and all day long never gives that person a sign of his love does not really love him. So it is with God, too. Anyone who truly seeks him will keep sending him signals of his longing for his company and friendship. Get up in the morning and give the day to God, asking for his blessing and to “be there” in all your meetings and needs. Thank him, especially at mealtimes. At the end of the day, place everything into his hands, ask him for forgiveness, and pray for peace for yourself and others. A great day — full of signs of life that reach God (188).

“Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving” (Col 4:2)
Young adults at FOCUS summit urged to help others live their faith

BY KIRSTEN BUBLITZ

PHOENIX (CNS) — Young adult Catholics can lead others to God through their actions and daily experiences, a priest of the Diocese of Phoenix told the annual Student Leadership Summit of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

Father John Parks, vicar for Evangelization for the Diocese of Phoenix, told more than 8,500 young adults at the opening Mass Dec. 30 that they can bring unbelieving individuals to belief in God.

“You’re the solution. That’s why you’re here at SLS, that’s why God called you. He wants to use you to help those people come to live in faith,” he said.

Father Parks cited Anna from the day’s Gospel reading who waited on the Lord. He encouraged attendees to use Anna as a model of the faith.

“When you wait on the Lord, when he’s the number one desire of your heart, that increases your awareness of the Lord and you start to see the Lord in everything,” Father Parks said. “When you see the Lord in everything, you feel called to respond to him.”

As the FOCUS conference opened, Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted welcomed the young adults from college campuses and parishes in the U.S. and around the world.

The five-day conference focused on the theme of responding to the Lord. Following Mass, attendees heard from two popular speakers who use YouTube to evangelize: Father Mike Schmitz and Emily Wilson.

Father Schmitz, chaplain for Newman Catholic Campus Ministries at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, said Jesus at one time was optional for him, until he realized that Jesus should be a necessity. Father Schmitz explained that Jesus is not optional but can be a balm for the world in which people say everything is fine in their lives when often it is not.

“I’m afraid that when we say, ‘I’m fine,’ we actually believe it,” said Father Schmitz. “It’s normal not to be seen, not to be known, not to be loved, and then Jesus shows up, and he says, ‘You don’t have to pretend you’re fine anymore. You actually need me.’”

Father Schmitz’s presentation culminated with a guided prayerful meditation. Attendees prayed along with Father Schmitz, the sound of everyone’s voice like a low-rumbling echo of praise to God: “Jesus, I confess that I’ve treated you like an option. In Jesus’ name, I declare I am not fine. In Jesus’ name I declare that I am his.”

Wilson, who travels widely as an inspirational speaker and author, invited attendees to commit their lives to God. She stressed the deep desire of every soul to be known by name and to be loved.

“Jesus comes to find us and calls us by name,” Wilson said. “Jesus says, ‘In all of your sorrow, in all of your sin, I still love you.’”

Wilson encouraged attendees to grow their trust in God as well. The conference is designed to equip young people to evangelize and, as Wilson said, no one can lead others to God if he or she doesn’t trust God themselves.

She dedicated the last minutes of her talk to prayer where participants had the opportunity to respond to Jesus’ call and to commit or recommit their lives to him. Participants bowed their heads in prayer, outstretched their hands in adoration, and sang along to the live band saying, “I will put my trust in you alone and I will not be shaken.”

Gabby Sanchez, a student from West Coast University in Anaheim, California, told The Catholic Sun, newspaper of the Diocese of Phoenix, that she is learning to put her trust in God. The summit is Sanchez’s second FOCUS conference. She attended her first conference in 2019, when she was still studying at Northern Arizona University, a campus that has five FOCUS missionaries.

Sanchez currently attends a university that doesn’t have FOCUS missionaries, yet she felt a prominent call during Wilson’s talk to be a leader at her home parish in California. She led a small group during the summit and hopes to take back what she learned.

“Even when I feel so small and not worthy to lead others in their faith, Jesus is showing me that I am worthy and called to live his mission and called to make disciples of all nations,” she said.

MOVIE REVIEW

Dolittle (Universal)

(CNS) Chaotic comic adventure, loosely based on Hugh Lofting’s “Doctor Dolittle” books for children, about a physician-turned-veterinarian (Robert Downey Jr.) who has acquired the ability to communicate with the critters he treats. Having become a recluse after the death of his wife, he’s drawn out of seclusion when an attendant from Buckingham Palace (Carmel Laniado) brings news that Queen Victoria (Jessie Buckley) is gravely ill. Since the monarch’s death would mean the loss of the animal sanctuary she granted him for her lifetime, he hurries off to London, then sets off on a quest to find the mystical tree whose fruit is the only antidote to the poison the sovereign has surreptitiously been given. He’s accompanied by the good-hearted lad (Harry Collett) who’s out to become his apprentice and by his chief adviser, a wise parrot (voice of Emma Thompson) who doubles as the story’s narrator. Director and co-writer Stephen Gaghan’s adaptation is an amiable mess — well-intentioned, but silly and disorganized. Some potentially frightening interludes and a bit of grown-up joking aside, though, worrisome elements are minimal. Stylized action and physical violence, characters in peril, a couple of mild oaths, brief scatological and anatomical humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.