Exemplum Dedi Vobis
‘I have given you an example’

The Most Rev.
Peter M. Muhich

Ordained 9th
Bishop of the
Diocese of
Rapid City

July 9, 2020
at the Cathedral of Our
Lady of Perpetual Help
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so grateful to God for the call to become the 9th Bishop of Rapid City. What a beautiful place this is and what a warm welcome I have received from you! Of course this is all new to me so I have much to learn from you about what God has been doing in this local church. I promise to keep you in my daily prayers and ask that you do the same for me. If our prayers are sincere God will make our lives pleasing and fruitful in building up his kingdom.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us.
+ Bishop Peter M. Muhich
Diocese of Rapid City

(Above) At Father Peter Muhich first Mass he is shown with his Uncle Tom and Aunt Ruth Starkovich; (below) with his mother Sally Muhich; and (at right) with his godfather, Uncle Jim Muhich. (Courtesy photos)
“Western South Dakota has been blessed by the Holy Father’s appointment of Bishop Peter Muhich as the ninth bishop of Rapid City. He is a skilled and experienced pastor, a leader who is strong, loving and wise. As I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Muhich and the People of God, know that my pledge to remember the Diocese of Rapid City in prayer and at the Lord’s Table comes from a heart filled with gratitude and fondness as I recall the grace-filled years we worked together in the Lord’s vineyard. Peace be with you.”

+Cardinal Blase Cupich

Bishop-elect Michel Mulloy and the faithful of the Diocese of Duluth congratulate Bishop Peter Muhich on his ordination and installation as the ninth Bishop of Rapid City

May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment!

Exemplum Dedi Vobis
I know he is the right fit for our diocese

The sede is not vacant any more. In other, English, words, the seat is not vacant. Hurray! Sound the trumpets. I have been excited about Bishop Peter Muhich coming to Rapid City since I first heard the good news from our Papal Nuncio. The United States and the Vatican City have a diplomatic relationship and Archbishop Christophe Pierre is the ambassador to the United States from Vatican City. He handles any state matters between our countries as well as church affairs, including the notification of future bishops and their dioceses.

I was excited, not just because we were receiving a new bishop, but also because I have known Father Muhich for some years. We have attended training seminars together and in January spent a week in Rome during the ad limina visit for our region. I know him to be a man of deep and steady faith. He also has a long history of pastoral experience in a variety of parishes. I know he is the right fit for our diocese.

That was confirmed when I called him. I sensed right away his calm acceptance of this new ministry. His unhesitating response to the statement, “The Holy Father has selected you to be the Bishop of Rapid City,” was reassuring to me. I knew he wanted to come, and I knew he was ready for this challenge. After his announcement, that initial experience was confirmed during further conversation with the administrator of the Duluth Diocese, who was and is a personal friend of our new bishop, as well as other bishops in our region.

It is important to realize that our new bishop is in fact, new. He has never been in this role. Although his years of pastoral experience qualify him for this assignment, he has not managed a diocese before. I only mention this so that all of you — priests, deacons, staff and laity — will allow him the time he needs to come to know our diocese and the many facets of being a bishop. Allow him to explore. Take the time to share with him all that is wonderful and good about our diocese. Give him time to come to love our way of life and the unique brand of Catholicism that we live and celebrate. Because I have led you for a year and have worked among you for many more years, I know that Bishop Muhich will love and cherish all the people of the diocese. That is just what happens when we take the time to listen, to understand and to seek unity in our lives together.

Dear Bishop Muhich,

The COVID-19 pandemic has derailed all our lives for the past several months. One thing I deeply regret is that our local limits on travel prevent my being with you in Rapid City on July 9th. But you’ll be in my prayers along with the people you serve on the day of your ordination and every day in the time ahead.

I was ordained the Bishop of Rapid City on July 26, 1988. It was the beginning of a joyful relationship with the people of western South Dakota and the beautiful part of the country that you will come to love. Since then I have served in two other dioceses — Denver and Philadelphia — but Rapid City has always had a special place in my heart: “Once a South Dakotan, always a South Dakotan.”

Everything in the Diocese of Rapid City will be a blessing for you — the clergy, the religious, the lay faithful, the people on the prairie, the people on the reservations, and the people in the towns and cities. You’ll face many miles of travel but also extraordinary beauty everywhere.

I’m sure that you will be very well loved. Your brother priests and people will be wonderfully co-responsible for the life of the Gospel in western South Dakota.

May God bless you, dear Bishop, and give success to the work of your hands.

Fraternally yours in Christ,
+gc
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia

Jesus gave us an example of service in washing the feet of the apostles at the Last Supper. Jesus asked us to do the same for each other. I know Bishop Muhich wants to serve you and be attentive to you. Please take his motto and apply it to your response to him. See in him Jesus washing your feet and allow him to do that. Then, offer back to him your service. Wash his feet, too. In this way you will all grow as disciples and my joy at this moment will become your joy, multiplied in each of you throughout the Diocese of Rapid City, joined together with your new shepherd as Christ’s body, the church.

Tan’yán yahí

Bishop-Elect Muhich!

From the entire Red Cloud community, we look forward to welcoming you to Maȟpíya Lúta Owáyawa!
Congratulations Bishop Muhich
as you answer the call to be the next bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City! As we are both from Minnesota, I can say I have found the good people of South Dakota to be much like those back home: warm, kind and full of faith. I suspect the people west of the river will welcome you as those east of the river have welcomed me. It has been awesome being in South Dakota.

I look forward to working with you for the people we are blessed to be able to serve. May God’s love guide us as we shepherd others on the way to heaven. Know of my prayers for you as you begin your ministry.

+Bishop Donald DeGrood
Diocese of Sioux Falls

Welcome Bishop Peter Muhich

Welcome to South Dakota
Bishop Peter Muhich

From the Brother Knights & their Families of South Dakota

Interested in helping your parish and community?
Join the 2-million Knights of Columbus – the world’s largest Catholic fraternal organization.

Go to www.kofc.org/joinus to find out more.
‘I will miss having him around’

The two were asked to chair or be on a variety of committees. Most recently, before Bishop Paul Sirba died, they were deans of two of the five deaneries in the diocese, which also meant they served together on the Personnel Board. Both have been on the College of Consultants, too.

“Bishop Muhich is probably the most organized person I know. Since I will be succeeding him at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, I am most grateful for that. He is always well-spoken and respectful in any public setting,” commented Father Wroblewski.

“As friends, he is very enjoyable to be around. He has a great sense of humor. We have had many, many good discussions. He knows what he believes, and he will always defend it, which is great for a bishop!” he added, “His parishioners and others he has worked with him love him and I will miss having him around.”

Father Wroblewski was asked what gifts the new bishop would bring to the Diocese of Rapid City. “He is a good listener. He is able to take a situation and assess it quickly and correctly. He has an ability to relate well with a variety of different people, from those who have ‘means’ in the Cathedral Parish to the poor who find themselves at the downtown parish where he was pastor as well. Finally, he has had some major building projects and he knows administration. He will be a great asset to your diocese.”

Recalling the many good times, the three priests have shared, Father Wroblewski recalled they would get together on Sunday evenings and Mondays. “This would include making a meal together. But as I have said, he is known for order and he likes cleanliness. Well, he would sometimes inspect our cleaning, like wine glasses. Once, he made us rewash the wine glasses. So, when he left the room, I took them, and pulled the glasses already in the cabinet forward, and put the recently washed ones in back. That way if he inspected them, he would be inspecting the ones in front which he already washed himself some other time. We never told him what we did.”
‘May you be a blessing for each other’

Fr. Jim Bissonette is the diocesan administrator for the Diocese of Duluth. He met Bishop Peter Muhich in the fall of 1978.

“We traveled with our diocesan Vocation Director to St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., to take part in a ‘Live-in’ weekend so we could see what life was like at the seminary. We were both from small towns in Northeastern Minnesota. I was from Babbitt and he was from Eveleth. We struck up a friendship and the following year we entered St. John Vianney Seminary together. Our friendship continued through theology studies overseas. Bishop-elect Peter in Leuven, Belgium, and me in Rome, Italy. Both of us were ordained for the Diocese of Duluth. Our friendship has continued to the present day.”

The two priests were associate priests and first time pastors at the same time. “I became involved in church law through the Chancery and Tribunal while Bishop Peter assisted in the areas of Catechesis, deacon formation and most importantly, Diocesan Strategic Planning,” said Father Bissonette.

Bishop Peter has always been a man with a strong faith in Jesus Christ and the church according to Father Bissonette. “He is thoughtful, kind and a very good friend. He is a fine priest. We have similar interests and enjoy each other’s company and many a time we have traveled together, visited friends and shared meals,” he said. “We have enjoyed learning about other cultures and appreciating the lakes, the trees and the outdoors in our own neck of the woods.”

Among the pastoral gifts Bishop Muhich will bring to his ministry here, Father Bissonette said, “He always tries to put Christ first, front and center. Not in a showy way, but as the source of grace for his and our lives. He is intelligent, logical, straightforward and consistent. He has a wealth of pastoral experience and he is a good administrator. He is compassionate and encouraging in the ways of the faith.”

It is hard to see his longtime friend leaving Duluth, “I will miss Bishop Peter as a brother priest and a friend, but I know that this is what God wants him to do so I am happy for the Diocese of Rapid City. You have a good man for your next bishop, and I also know that he is very much looking forward to getting to know the clergy and people of his new diocese. May you be a blessing for each other.”

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Congratulations

Bishop Peter Muhich

Bishop John T. Folda,
the clergy, religious brothers and sisters, and the
lay faithful of the Diocese of Fargo extend our
most sincere prayers and best wishes.

Bishop Steven Biegler
and the clergy, religious,
and the faithful of the
Diocese of Cheyenne
offer prayers and best wishes to
Bishop Peter Muhich
and the Diocese of Rapid City!

May the Lord cause you to increase and
abound in love for one another;
and for all people!
(1 Thes 3:12)
According to the Roman Catholic Church heraldic tradition, the Coat of Arms of a bishop is normally composed by:

- a shield with its charges (symbols) coming from family, geographic, religious and historical meanings and/or referred to the name of the bishop;
- a golden processional cross, with one traversal bar, to represent the rank of the bishop, “impaled” (vertically) behind the shield;
- a green hat (galero) with 12 (six on each side) attached tassels, ordained 1; 2; 3; from the top;
- a scroll with the motto, written in black, below everything.

Here it has been chosen a samnitic shape shield, frequently used in Roman Catholic Church heraldry and a bottonny processional cross with five red gemstones to represent the Five Wounds of Christ.

**Motto**

“EXEMPLUM DEDI VOBIS” (Jn 13,15) ‘I have given you an example’

For his episcopal motto Bishop Muhich has chosen these words taken from the Gospel of John, where the Evangelist tells us about the Last Supper and, precisely, about the washing of the feet made by Jesus.

**Blazonry** (heraldic description) of the Coat of Arms of Bishop Muhich

“Arms impaled. Dexter: Or, three piles trefoil pointed Sable, issuant from a wavy bar Argent, an annulet Or on a terrace in base Vert. Sinister: quarterly Azure and Argent; in 1st a seven pointed star of the same, in 2nd two keys reversed and affronté Gules, in 3rd a lighted mining lamp Proper, in 4th a cross fleuretty Or”

**Interpretation**

In the right side of the shield (in the heraldic shield, right and left are exchanged from the observer point of view) we find represented the Coat of Arms of the Diocese of Rapid City: The coat of arms of the Diocese of Rapid City shows three black triangular peaks, called piles, meant to represent the Black Hills of South Dakota. They are depicted with shamrocks at their peaks, to allude to Saint Patrick, the patron saint of the church in Lead, which served as the first cathedral of the diocese from 1902 to 1930. The background of the shield is painted gold (Or) as a reminder of the gold ore which once drew many prospectors and settlers to the region. The green (Vert) region at the base of the shield recalls the rich ranch land on which many South Dakotans past and present have relied for their livelihood; it is charged with a gold circle reminiscent of the sacred circle of the Lakota people and their belief in the interconnectedness of all created things. The white wavy stripe alludes to the Missouri River, the eastern boundary of the diocese.

For his personal arms, seen in the sinister impalement of the shield (right side from the observer point of view), Bishop Muhich has chosen four symbols: the Morning Star, symbol of Our Lady, very common in Blessed Mary iconography, to underline the Patroness of both the Diocese of Duluth (Our Lady of the Rosary) and the Diocese of Rapid City (Our Lady of Perpetual Help) and Our Lady of Fatima, commemorated on May 13, birthday of the Bishop; the two keys of Saint Peter, to recall the first name of Father Muhich, they are in red (Gules), the color of martyrdom of the Prince of the Apostles; an ancient mining lamp to remember that Father Peter grew up on the Iron Range, the mining area of Northern Minnesota and, last, the fleuretty cross which appears on the Coat of Arms of the Diocese of Duluth, from where Father Peter comes.

The blue (Azure) color symbolizes the separation from the worldly values and the ascent of the soul toward God, therefore the run of the Celestial Virtues which raise themselves from the things of the earth toward the sky.

The silver (Argent) is the color of the transparency, then of the Truth and Justice, fundamental dowries for the bishop’s pastoral service.
John and Paul Muhich reflect on their brother, Bishop Peter Muhich

Bishop Peter Muhich’s brothers John and Paul collaborated on information regarding the new bishop.

“Mom and Dad’s reaction to the announcement (of his Bishop’s appointment) was excellent in their local church interview. They were very proud of Fr. Peter. Everyone in the family is very happy for him and excited for his next challenge,” they said. See p. 14 for instructions on viewing the parish interview with his parents, Louis and Sally Muhich.

According to his brothers, Bishop Muhich is a very good administrator. Paul said, “He knows how to coordinate people and keep a level head in times of stress. Also, he is a very good fund raiser.”

They enjoy his cooking, especially when hosting their New Year’s Day meal. “He cooks a great southern comfort ham with pasta. I have also enjoyed watching the Minnesota Vikings football and other sporting events over the years,” said Paul.

They said all the Muhich brothers remember their high school glory days as football players — he played center — as did most of his brothers.

They also recalled deer hunting with their brother was great too. His brothers said he likes to read about history and watch movies.

(Above) “I’m sure Peter will be a very good bishop. I am excited that he is now located in Rapid City. It is a great place for me to come visit. He needs to get a cowboy hat!” said his brother, Paul Muhich. (Right) The Muhich children in 1969: Teresa, Peter, John and Paul; in front are Mary and Tom. Brother Jim was not born yet. (Courtesy photos)
Growing up in Eveleth, Minnesota

Brothers Peter and John Muhich playing at an early age. Are they pretending to be bishops using paper bags for miters? (Courtesy photos)

At his 5th birthday party, young Peter Muhich showed an interest in baseball and the Minnesota Twins in particular.

Bishop Muhich’s father, Louis, with his first four children.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Congratulations to Bishop Peter Muhich on his appointment as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City.

May the Lord bless Bishop Muhich in his ministry.

—Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Bishop Peter Muhich

I have known Bishop Peter Muhich for many years. I consider him a good friend. He is a man who loves Jesus Christ and the Church. The first time that I met him was at Holy Trinity parish in South St. Paul, where I was pastor. He and Fr. James Bissonette were visiting Fr. Bissonette’s sister and her family. They were parishioners at Holy Trinity. Before they left South St. Paul, both priests stopped in to visit the Blessed Sacrament in the church, and I happened to be in the church as well.

The two priests introduced themselves to me, and we spent a good amount of time talking. I remember thinking after the two priests left for home in Duluth that these were two particularly good and holy priests. They both had great senses of humor as well, which often is an expression of the joy of being a priest.

Over the years, Bishop Muhich and I crossed paths many times. My initial conviction about him has only been confirmed. The Bishop of Rapid City is a good and holy priest, with a good sense of humor. May he have many more years as Our Lord’s faithful servant.

+ Bishop John M. LeVoir, Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota

Father Peter Muhich baptized his nephew Josh, son of his brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Shari Muhich. According to his brother, John Muhich, he has been the celebrant at most of their family weddings and funerals. (Courtesy photo)

Congratulations, Bishop Peter Muhich!

Saint John Vianney College Seminary
Class of 1983

From the seminarians and priests of Saint John Vianney College Seminary and The Saint Paul Seminary.

The Seminaries
Of Saint Paul
Joyful Catholic Leaders

semssp.org
Congratulations

Bishop-Elect Peter Muhich

Prayerful Best Wishes

Bishop Robert Gruss
and the Faithful of the
Catholic Diocese Of Saginaw
From Rome With Love

Fr. Peter Muhich was an excited young priest when he wrote to this postcard to his grandmother, Mary Muhich in 1980. (Courtesy photo)
First Blessing

At the ordination of Father Matthew Miller June 26, in the Diocese of Duluth, Bishop-elect Peter Muhich receives the traditional first blessing from the new priest. (Photo by Dcn. Klye Eller, Northern Cross)

Proud Parents

Bishop Peter Muhich’s parents, Louis and Sally Muhich, of Eveleth, Minn., were unable to attend the ordination. To see a video interview with them go to rapidcitydiocese.org/bishop—peter-muhich/.

Congratulations

BISHOP PETER M. MUHICH

Bishop Donald Kettler and the people of the Diocese of Saint Cloud offer prayers and best wishes as you begin your episcopal appointment as the bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota.
**Solemn Vespers, July 8**

The Covid-19 pandemic shaped the vespers and ordination. Each event involved limiting attendance and practicing social distancing. Here, priests are spread across Holy Cross Chapel. The use of video helped people in western South Dakota and other locations participate in the events.

Vespers were held July 8 at Holy Cross Chapel in Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. Bishop Robert Gruss of Saginaw witnessed the Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity for Bishop-elect Muhich. *(WRC photos by Becky Berreth)*

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**Congratulations & WELCOME TO SOUTH DAKOTA**

**BISHOP PETER MUHICH**

Bishop Donald E. DeGrood and the faithful of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, welcome you and are excited to work with and beside you!
Ordination Celebrated

On July 9, Bishop Peter M. Muhich was ordained to the episcopacy by Archbishop Bernard Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn. The Mass was held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City.

Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S., Archbishop Christophe Pierre, read the apostolic mandate from Pope Francis.

At right, Priest Presenters, Fr. Jim Bissonette, (left) diocesan administrator for the Diocese of Duluth and (far right) Bishop-elect Michel Mulloy, soon to be Bishop of Duluth, with Bishop-elect Muhich listening to the papal mandate.

Bishop-elect Muhich lays prostrate on a star quilt, symbolic of laying his life down for the church, during the litany of saints. Background, cantor Teresa Spiess. Foreground Deacon Jim Scherr who served as Deacon of the Word and Deacon Greg Sass who served as Deacon of the Altar.

At right, Archbishop Hebda anoints the new bishop with Chrism oil, a symbol of the Holy Spirit and spiritual blessings being poured out.
(Clockwise from top left) Bishop Peter Muhich is seated in the *cathedra* (chair) symbolic of the place from where he will lead the diocese. (Center) Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archdiocese of Chicago, in prayer. (Top right) Bishop Donald DeGrood, of the Diocese of Sioux Falls during the Laying on of Hands calls down the Holy Spirit. Bishop DeGrood and Bishop Robert Gruss served as co-consecrators at the ordination Mass. (Lower right) Bishop Steven Biegler, Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyo., is a former priest of the Diocese of Rapid City. (At left) The new bishop consecrates the bread and wine during the Liturgy of the Eucharist for the first time in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City.

(Ordination photos by Laurie Hallstrom)
Before the Diocese of Lead

Bishop Martin Marty was born in Schwyz, Switzerland, he joined the Benedictine Abby of Einsiedeln and was ordained in 1856. His religious order sent him to the United States to St. Meinrads, a new foundation in southern Indiana. In 1876 the Bureau of Catholic Indian Mission sent him to Dakota Territory. In 1879 he was appointed Vicar Apostolic for Dakota Territory. In 1889 he was named Bishop of Sioux Falls, the one diocese of the state of South Dakota.

The First Eight Bishops

1. Bishop John N. Stariha was born May 12, 1845, in Austria. He immigrated to America at age 22 and studied at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wis. He was ordained the first Bishop of Lead on Oct. 28, 1902. He was installed at St. Patrick Cathedral, Lead, on Nov. 23, 1902. The see city is the community where the bishop resides and has his cathedral. At this time there were only five priests here. Plagued by chronic ill health, he resigned Mar. 29, 1909.

2. Bishop Joseph F. Busch was born Apr. 18, 1886. He was ordained for the Diocese of Lead on May 19, 1910, and he was installed Jun. 21, 1910. On Feb. 21, 1915, he was transferred to St. Cloud, Minn., as its fourth bishop.

3. Bishop John J. Lawler was born Aug. 4, 1862. On May 19, 1910, he was ordained as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis. He was installed as the third Bishop of Lead on May 4, 1916. He recruited priests from Europe and the eastern United States. When he arrived 18 priests were active in the diocese. During his administration, the see was moved from Lead to Rapid City on Aug. 1, 1930. By 1947 there were 107 priests, 87 parishes, and 10 schools. He died Mar. 11, 1948.

4. Bishop William T. McCarty, CSSR, was a member of the Redemptorist religious order. He was born Aug. 11, 1889. When WWII began, he became a military chaplain. He was ordained an auxiliary bishop of New York in Jan. 1943, with special duties to the Military Ordinate. Apr. 10, 1947, he was named the auxiliary bishop of Rapid City with the right of succession upon the death of the bishop. Under his leadership the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was built. He retired Sept. 17, 1969, and passed away Sept. 14, 1972.

5. Bishop Harold J. Dimmerling was born Sep. 23, 1914. He was ordained the fifth Bishop of Rapid City on Oct. 30, 1969. During his administration he instituted several diocesan offices and programs to meet the needs of the people in the diocese – Rural Life; Stewardship; Social Concerns, Ministry to Separated, Divorced and Widowed; Religious Education; and the West River Catholic newspaper. Under his leadership Catholic Social Services was established. He helped initiate a training program for permanent deacons and in 1975 he ordained the first five Native American deacons in the United States. He died Dec. 13, 1987.

6. Bishop Charles Chaput, OFM Cap., was born Sep. 26, 1944. He was ordained a priest Aug. 29, 1970 and he was ordained the sixth bishop of Rapid City on Jul. 28, 1988. He was the second man of Native American descent to be ordained a bishop and the first to become the head of a diocese. He established the Western S.D. Catholic Foundation and the Office of Native Concerns. Under his leadership, St. Thomas More High School was built. He was installed as Archbishop of Denver, Apr. 7, 1996. Sep. 8, 2001, he was installed as the Archbishop of Philadelphia. He retired this year.

7. Bishop Blase J. Cupich was born Mar. 19, 1949. He was ordained a priest Aug. 16, 1975 and he was ordained the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City on Sep. 21, 1998. Part of his legacy will be the Terra Sancta project — a former Benedictine convent renovated as a retreat center and an elementary school. He was installed as Bishop of Spokane, Sept. 3, 2010. He was appointed Sep. 20, 2014, as archbishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and November 18, 2014, and he was elevated to the College of Cardinals on Nov. 19, 2016.


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.
Diocesan administrator named Bishop of Duluth

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis has appointed Father Michel J. Mulloy, diocesan administrator of the Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota, as the bishop of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota.

Duluth has not had a bishop since Bishop Paul D. Sirba died Dec. 1, 2019, at age 59. He suffered cardiac arrest and was rushed to the hospital where lifesaving measures were unsuccessful.

Bishop-designate Mulloy, 67, is a native of Mobridge, South Dakota. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 8, 1979, and incardinated into the Diocese of Rapid City in 1986 after being on loan to the diocese for a few years for parish ministry.

His appointment as bishop was announced June 19 in Washington by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican nuncio to the United States.

His episcopal ordination and installation have been set for Oct. 1.

“With great joy and gratitude to Pope Francis,” Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis congratulated Bishop-designate Mulloy on his appointment. “I very much look forward to collaborating with him as he joins the bishops of our state,” he added.

“I have come to know him in his great work as diocesan administrator of the Diocese of Rapid City and am confident that he will be a faithful servant and shepherd to the people of northeastern Minnesota, building on the ministry of Bishop Paul Sirba,” Archbishop Hebda said.

Michel Joseph Mulloy was born May 20, 1953, in Mobridge, South Dakota, to Silvin and Ethel Mulloy. Michel joined one brother, Colin Dean, and two sisters, Madonna and Roxan. His older brother Llewellyn died at birth. He grew up attending St. Joseph Catholic Church and the public school in Mobridge. His dad was a mechanic and car dealer, and his mother cared for the home and assisted her husband with bookkeeping.

In 1967, Michel’s mother died of an aneurysm. His father moved with Michel’s brother to Keystone, South Dakota, in the Black Hills in 1968, where he met and married Amelia (Babe) Cordes.

That same year, Michel entered the minor seminary at O’Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as a sophomore. Michel attended what is now St. Mary’s University of Minnesota and Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minnesota. He graduated in 1975 with a bachelor of arts in classical humanities.

From 1975 to 1979, Michel attended St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, for theology, the archdiocese’s graduate-level seminary, which has graduated 33 other priests later ordained bishops, among them Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, a candidate for sainthood.

After Bishop-designate Mulloy was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls in 1979, he served in parishes in both the Sioux Falls and Rapid City dioceses before being formally incardinated in the Rapid City Diocese.

He has served as the Rapid City diocese’s vocations director and director of its Office of Worship. He has also served on its priests’ council, college of consultors, diocesan finance and pastoral councils, and the Sioux Spiritual Center Board of Directors.

In 2017, Bishop-elect Mulloy became the full-time vicar general of the diocese and returned to Rapid City. In 2019, he was elected diocesan administrator when Bishop Robert D. Gruss was named bishop of Saginaw, Michigan.

On May 12, Pope Francis named Father Peter M. Muhich, rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary in Duluth, to be the new bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota. The date of Bishop-designate Muhich’s ordination and installation was in July.

Bishop-elect Mulloy is close to his immediate family and his extended family with cousins living throughout the country. His brother Colin died in 2003. His father and stepmother also are also deceased. Colin’s two daughters and two granddaughters live in San Diego.

His sister Roxan lives in Rugby, North Dakota. She has two daughters and four grandchildren. His sister Madonna and her husband, Allen, live in Milliken, Colorado. They have two sons and a daughter and 14 grandchildren.

The Diocese of Duluth covers 22,354 square miles and has a total population of 447,896 of which 45,283 are Catholic.

**Fr. Michel Mulloy is Bishop-elect of Duluth**

June 19 — Diocese of Rapid City, Chancellor Margaret Simonson, was pleased to share the news that Pope Francis named Fr. Michel Mulloy, Diocesan Administrator, as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota.

Father Mulloy has served the diocese in many capacities. Most recently, the College of Consultors of the Diocese of Rapid City elected him to lead the diocese in the absence of a bishop shortly following the installation of Bishop Robert Gruss as Bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw, Mich., on July 26, 2019. During his term as Diocesan Administrator Fr. Mulloy oversaw the completion of a new chancery building at 225 Main St., Rapid City, as well as the staff move to the new facility.

Chancellor Simonson said, “The Lord has blessed this diocese abundantly through Fr. Mulloy’s priestly ministry. Throughout his 40 years of priesthood he has been an integral part of our presbytery and left a faith-filled impression on the parishioners that he served. He will be greatly missed; however, the people of the Diocese of Duluth will gain a faithful and joyful shepherd. Today is a day of great joy for all of us but especially for the people of the Diocese of Duluth.”
Priests of the Diocese of Rapid City

Bishop-elect Michel Mulloy, former Diocesan Administrator, Rapid City

Fr. Kevin Achbach Immaculate Conception Church, Winner; St. Isidore Church, Colome

Fr. Gregory Bartholomew, FSSP Immaculate Conception Church, Rapid City

Fr. Jacob Boddicker, SJ St. Thomas Church, Mission; Sacred Heart Church, White River; Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Wood

Fr. Timothy Castor St. Francis of Assisi Church, Sturgis; St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, Newell

Fr. Brian Christensen Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City; St. Michael Church, Hermosa

Fr. Joseph Daoust, SJ Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge; Oglala

Fr. Tyler Dennis Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Martin; Our Lady of Victory Church, Kadoka

Fr. Jonathon Dillon St. Joseph Church, Gregory; Sacred Heart Church, Burke; Immaculate Conception Church, Bonesteel; St. Anthony Church, Fairfax

Fr. Matt Fallgren Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City; St. Michael Church, Hermosa

Fr. Ron Garry St. John the Evangelist Church, Ft. Pierre

Fr. John Heying Christ the King Church, Presho; St. Anthony of Padua Church, Draper; St. Martin of Tours Church, Murdo

Fr. Tim Hoag Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City

Fr. James Hoerter St. Bernard Church, Faith; St. Anthony Church, Red Owl; St. Joseph Church, Mud Butte

Fr. Adam Hofer Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City

Fr. Mark Horn St. Rose of Lima, Church, Hill City; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Keystone

Fr. Dan Juefels St. Mary Church, Lemmon; St. Bonaventure Church, McIntosh; St. Michael Church, Watauga; Sacred Heart Church, Morristown

Fr. Arnold Kari Retired Rapid City

Fr. Peter Klink, SJ Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge

Fr. Janusz Korban St. Joseph Church, Faith; St. Anthony Church, Red Owl; St. Joseph Church, Mud Butte

Fr. Jim Kubicki, SJ St. Francis Mission St. Francis

Fr. Jim Lafontaine, SJ St. Charles Church, St. Francis; St. Agnes Church, Parmelee; St. Bridget Church, Rosebud
Priests of the Diocese of Rapid City

Fr. Brian Lane
Holy Cross Church, Timber Lake; Holy Rosary Church, Trail City; St. Mary Church, Isabel

Fr. Mark Mastin, SCJ
St. Mary Church, Lower Brule; St. Mary Church, Reliance; St. Michael Church, Kennebec

Fr. Mark McCormick
S.D. School of Mines & Technology Newman Center, Rapid City; St. Thomas More Middle School & High School, Rapid City

Fr. Richard Novotny
Retired USAF

Fr. Gary Oreshoski
Sacred Heart Church, Philip; St. William Church, Midland; St. Mary Church, Milesville

Fr. Riccardo Pennati
Retired Piedmont

Fr. Zane Pekron
St. Joseph Church, Spearfish; St. Paul Church, Belle Fourche; Black Hills State University Newman Center, Spearfish

Fr. Brian Prendiville
St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rapid City; St. John Church, New Underwood

Fr. Ron Seminara
Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Kyle; St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, Wanblee

Fr. Brian Sorensen
St. Anthony Church, Buffalo; St. Isidore Church, Ralph; Blessed Sacrament Church, Bison

Fr. John Paul Trask
All Saints Church, Eagle Butte; Immaculate Conception Church, Bridger; St. Joseph Church, Cherry Creek; Sacred Heart Church, Dupree; St. Catherine Church; Promise; St. Therese Church, White Horse; St. Joseph, Ridgeview

Fr. Ed Vanorny
Retired, Rapid City

Msgr. Michael Woster
St. Joseph Church, Spearfish; St. Paul Church, Belle Fourche; Black Hills State University Newman Center, Spearfish

Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek
Our Lady of the Black Hills Church, Piedmont

Fr. Edmund Yainao, SJ
St. Agnes Church, Manderson; Sacred Heart Church, Porcupine

Fr. Bill Zandri
Retired Rapid City

FAREWELL
BISHOP-ELECT MIKE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14
AT THE CATHEDRAL
5:30 PM Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Mother Mary (No Mass tickets required) Reception follows on the North Lawn

Come bid Bishop-Elect Michel Mulloy Goodbye and Godspead.
New bishop-elect: ‘It’s my new home; it’s where I belong’

BY DEACON KYLE ELLER
THE NORTHERN CROSS

(Editor’s note: this excerpt from a story for the Diocese of Duluth newspaper was written before the July 9 ordination of Bishop Peter Muhich.)

When a diocesan official asked him when he anticipated coming to the Diocese of Duluth, Bishop-elect Michel J. Mulloy said in a press conference that his first impulse was simple: “tomorrow.”

While other duties will prevent that immediate move, Bishop-elect Mulloy, currently serving as diocesan administrator for the Diocese of Rapid City, said that once he accepted the call to become the Diocese of Duluth’s next bishop, his heart already began moving here. After only a few hours, he said, he already felt welcome.

“I look forward to meeting everybody,” he said. “I look forward to getting to know the people of this diocese and the priests of this diocese, the deacons of this diocese, because it’s my new home; it’s where I belong. It’s where God has planted me for this part of my life.”

He said moving is something he’s used to, and the hard winters don’t daunt him.

“I learned a long time ago that you learn to love where you are and you learn to be happy where God places you,” he said. “So I’m not worried about that piece at all.”

Bishop-elect Mulloy will succeed the late Bishop Paul Sirba, who died unexpectedly Dec. 1, 2019, and he said some of his first thoughts after he learned of the new assignment were of the late bishop, whose funeral he had attended.

“When I found out I was going to become the bishop, I went into the chapel in the chancery where I work, and one of the first people that came to my mind was Bishop Sirba,” he said. “And so I said, ‘I need you to help me.’ And I believe he heard that and he will. So I’m also honored to be following in his footsteps, because he truly was a wonderful, holy man.”

There are other connections, too. Father James Bissonette, diocesan administrator for the Diocese of Duluth, who introduced the new bishop-elect at the press conference, said the two of them had recently come to know each other better.

“Because of Bishop Sirba’s untimely death, the two of us went as diocesan administrators with the bishops of the province to Rome together,” Father Bissonette said. “So you might notice I use a cane, and I have cerebral palsy, and I yanked on his arm all the way through Rome last January. So luckily, fortuitously, gracefully, we know each other.”

“We’re very glad to have our bishop-elect, and one of these days we can drop the ‘elect’ and he’ll just be our bishop,” he added.

Bishop-elect Mulloy’s duties as diocesan administrator in the Diocese of Rapid City also bring a connection to Duluth, as that diocese is preparing for the ordination and installation of a Duluth priest, Bishop-elect Peter Muhich, on July 9.

Asked about what in effect works out to be an unusual “swap” between the two dioceses, Bishop-elect Mulloy said, “I think God has an enormous, wonderful sense of humor, that’s what I think.”

“You’re losing a good priest; I hope you’re getting a good one,” he added. “I think we’re getting a good bishop; I hope you’re getting one.”

He described the opportunity for ministry among Native Americans in the Diocese of Duluth as another special connection between the two dioceses. The Rapid City Diocese, he said, has one of the largest populations of Native American Catholics in the United States, and there is a cause for canonization for one of them, Nicholas Black Elk, a catechist who led many people to the Catholic faith.

“There’s something very holy about Native American people that I’ve experienced or been around,” he said, adding that he was anxious to get to know the Native Americans in our area.

Father Bissonette, in delivering the news to the clergy of the diocese, said Bishop-elect Mulloy brings a wealth of both pastoral and administrative experience, having served in parishes from 1979 to 2017 and having served in many capacities for the Diocese of Rapid City since the late 1980s.

Catholic News Service and Maria Weiring of The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, contributed to this report.
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Closing the Year of the Eucharist

“On Sunday, June 14, at St. John Church, Ft. Pierre, with the conclusion of our worship inside the church, we walked in Eucharistic procession. About 30 people walked one-third of a mile, stopping for prayer three times,” said Fr. Ron Garry.

The parish closed out the Year of the Eucharist with the procession. “My homily on this final day was the timeless gift of Jesus sacramentally present, the memorial of saving events, for life today as pledge of future glory. Placing a consecrated host in a monstrance, we followed Jesus in a public worship, venerating the Lord of heaven and earth,” he said. The procession stopped at the Jesus and John the Baptist statue by the highway, and praised the God of salvation. As we crossed the highway, several people in vehicles stopped and took off their hats in respect.

Parishioners prayed at the old Sansarc school, honoring the heritage of parents, teachers, and schools. Then they walked clockwise around the block and stopped again in front of the Verendrye Museum.

“So many ancestors have walked here; we gave thanks for their sacrifices, and resolved to walk a good road to correct injustice. Our closing station was at the stone marking the meeting of Teton people and the Lewis and Clark band in Fischer’s Lilly Park. Without Black Buffalo’s calming down a heated argument, there would have been bloodshed. To God eternal, we prayed for national unity and an end to racism,” said Father Garry.

It was a windy day for carrying the Blessed Sacrament under a canopy held by four Knights of Columbus. They had to untangle its braids after a downdraft. One Knight said to Father Garry, “It was just like the tangled events of life, but Jesus stood tall.” Winds which stirred up Missouri River white caps subsided as the procession reached the final prayer station where followers remembered, “Jesus gives peace.”

Father Garry overheard a prayerful walker say, “It was a beautiful and holy procession,” and another said “I know I walked away feeling a whole lot better.” (Courtesy photo)

Filipino-American Friendship Day

Two holidays were brought together at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, on June 17. A combined celebration for Philippine Independence Day, June 12, and Filippino-American Friendship Day, July 4. June 12 is observed as the independence day from Spain. Starting in 1898, the country was ceded to the United States and granted their independence from the U.S. on July 4, 1946. Singers Rosevhine Hull, Maria Snow and Viannie Anderson led the attendees singing hymns. Because of the current gathering restrictions, a traditional meal was not served. Volunteers handed out Filipino sweet treats outside after Mass. Collection baskets were set up near the altar to provide food for the members of Santo Rosario Chapel in Quezon City, Philippines. An estimated 500 Filipino people live in the Rapid City area. (WRC photo by Laurie Hallstrom)

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Shane A. Clark, OD, FAAO
Optometrist
Report marks 20th year of U.S. efforts to address trafficking worldwide

By Ian Alvano

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Government-sponsored trafficking is “a perversion of any government’s reason for existence,” which is “to protect rights, not crush them,” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said during the release of the 20th annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

“The United States will not stand by as any government with a policy or pattern of human trafficking subjects its own citizens to this kind of oppression,” Pompeo said. “We will work tirelessly in the United States to free those who are still enslaved.”

Pompeo was joined for the June 25 release of the TIP Report, as it is called, by U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, who 20 years ago was the author of the historic Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, the law which mandated the report and which has been reauthorized many times.

Also in attendance were Ambassador John Richmond, who serves in the Trafficking in Persons Office at the State Department, and White House adviser Ivanka Trump, who has made human trafficking one of her signature issues.

The TIP Report “is the gold standard, exposing problems and motivating countries to reform,” said Smith.

“The TIP Report is a key component of our nation’s robust efforts to combat human trafficking which ruins childhoods, leaves victims scarred for a lifetime and enriches human traffickers,” added Smith, author of five human trafficking laws. “The annual report catalogs and reviews what countries are doing to track down and prosecute the perpetrators and how they are working to rescue and help the victims.”

There are an estimated 24.9 million adult and child trafficking victims worldwide. Human trafficking involves sex trafficking and forced labor.

The 570-page report evaluates countries with human trafficking problems according to “tiers.”

A country is in “Tier 3” if it does not meet minimum standards to address trafficking set by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, known as TVPA, or it is not making sufficient efforts to eliminate trafficking. “Tier 2” countries do not meet the standards either, however they are at least trying to eliminate trafficking.

The report also has a “Tier 2 watchlist” for countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA’s minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

Finally, the countries doing the best job and meeting the minimum standards are in “Tier 1.”

To meet the minimum standards, the government of a country must, among other things, prohibit severe forms of trafficking in persons and punish acts of such trafficking; it must punish the knowing commission of any act of sex trafficking involving force, fraud, coercion or in which the victim of sex trafficking is a child incapable of giving meaningful consent, or of trafficking which includes rape or kidnapping or which causes a death”; it should make serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons.

Factors that show a country’s sustained efforts include prosecutions, investigations, and measures to inform and educate the public to prevent trafficking in persons.

“China continues to own the worst human trafficking rating of major nations in the world, scoring a Tier 3,” Smith said. “Hong Kong, increasingly under the thumb of the Chinese government, is almost as bad, landing on the Tier 2 watchlist.”

The report states that “traffickers subject PRC national women and girls to sex trafficking throughout the world, including in major cities, construction sites, remote mining and logging camps, and areas with high concentrations of PRC national migrant workers.”

The report allows the United States to see which nations have a human trafficking problem and sanction them if needed. The State Department utilizes the TIP Report to see where work needs to be done around the world.

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Welcome to Our Lord’s Table

Diocese/Parishes

St. John the Baptist
Custer

St. Mary
Isabel

Holy Cross
Timber Lake

Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Rapid City

Belle Fourche
(Photos provided by parishes. The West River Catholic will publish another group of first Communion photos at a later date. To submit a photo, email: bberreth@diorc.org)
Do you wish you had clearer answers in discussing religious topics with your family, friends or coworkers?

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"I started VSI with the intention to learn a little more about my faith as a Catholic and about the Catholic Church. I never expected that VSI would lead me into a much deeper and more intimate relationship with Christ nor how much it would impact how I lived my day to day life as a closer disciple of His."

-Josh Lee, now a seminarian from Faith, SD
Happy Anniversary

Fr. Timothy Hoag celebrated his 25th anniversary of priestly ordination on June 28 at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. He was ordained June 29, 1995, by then-Bishop Charles J. Chaput in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. He has served in several parishes and currently is both pastor at Blessed Sacrament and judicial vicar of the Diocese of Rapid City for the Marriage Tribunal. An outdoor Mass was held and parishioners used lawn chairs to aid with social distancing. A dinner reception followed in the west parking lot. Several priests were able to concelebrate the occasion. (Courtesy photos)

Read about changes in news delivery on page 32.
Concert honoring St. John Paul II centenary available online

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A concert honoring the centennial of St. John Paul II’s birth is now available online.

The concert, featuring some of the United States and Poland’s top classical music artists, was held June 21. St. John Paul’s birth was May 28.

The concert features introductory remarks from Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki of Poznan, president of Poland’s bishops’ conference, and Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York. The performances can be seen at https://jp2concert.com. The total running time is two hours and 47 minutes.

The musical program begins with pianist Szymon Nehring, in a church courtyard, playing a solo piano rendition of “Etude in C# Minor, No. 25, Op. 9,” written by one of Poland’s musical treasures, Fredric Chopin.

The program, a combination of sacred and classical music, includes Metropolitan Opera soloist Angel Joy Blue’s rendition of Franz Schubert’s “Ave Maria”; two other Metropolitan Opera soloists, MaryAnn McCormick and Lisette Oropesa performing Mozart’s “Panis Angelicus” and “Laudate Dominum”; Metropolitan Opera featured performer Latonia Moore singing the “Ave Maria” from Verdi’s opera “Otello”; and Brandie Sutton’s performance of the “Lamb of God” to the accompaniment of David Sneed, who has performed with such artists as Aretha Franklin, Wynton Marsalis, Jessye Norman, Stevie Wonder and Diana Ross.

In the joint Polish-American program, performers on the Polish side include Veriko Tchumburidze, first prize winner of the last International H. Wieniawski Violin Competition, Richard Lin, gold medalist of the 10th International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, and Adam Palma on guitar performing Chopin’s “Polonaise in A Major”; Polish National Opera soloist Edyta Piasecka singing “Nai” by Stanislaw Moniuszko; another soloist, Rafal Bartminski, singing “Pray for My Soul” from Jan Maklakiewicz’s “Polish Mass”; and soloist Aleksandra Olczyk’s rendition of “Pie Jesu.”

The concert also features the world premiere of the arias from the opera “Hiob” by Krzesimir Debski, which was based on a play by Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul.

The event was held under the patronage of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome, the Institute of the Heritage of National Thought, the Center for Thought of John Paul II in Warsaw, the Polish Community Association, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York and the Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America. It chief sponsor was the Culture and Art Foundation, known by its Polish acronym FKIS, which promotes Polish culture and art.

Its mission “creates a positive image of Poland, arouses interest of the international community in Poland’s history, culture and art,” according to the organization’s website.

“It aims to increase the visibility of Polish culture abroad, through activities to strengthen the Polish community’s ties with their homeland, organizing activities aimed at maintaining and promoting national traditions, increasing national, civic and cultural awareness, education through art, propagating patriotic values, awakening interest in Polish history, teaching respect for the homeland and its heroes, shaping the attitudes of modern patriotism,” it added.
In Your Prayers

In Your Prayers is designed to help us remember the birthdays, ordination and death anniversaries of the priests who serve us. Every effort has been made to have a complete list.

August

Birthdays: August 6, Fr. Brian Christensen and Fr. Mark Horn; August 12, Fr. James Kubicki, SJ; August 14, Fr. Arnold Kari; August 17, Fr. Timothy Castor and Fr. James Lafontaine, SJ; August 24, Fr. Joseph Daoust, SJ.

September

Birthdays: September 12, Fr. Adam Hofer; September 17, Dcn. Paul Keller; September 20, Fr. Marcin Garbacz; September 22, Dcn. Michael Curtin; September 28, Fr. James Hoerter; September 29, Fr. Jacob Bodickker, SJ.

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I have worked at the West River Catholic for 34 years. In that time, I have written only a handful of editorials. It is not because I lack strong feelings on contemporary issues; I believe the people who read the diocesan newspaper are looking for news on people they know. They are also looking for guidance from the church on causes that affect their lives and those of others. It is my experience those who read this publication want to know where and how they can help make a difference in this world.

In addition, readers want to know what their new priest or bishop looks like or where he has served. They want to know about formation opportunities. They like to share information on Masses, prayer vigils, rosaries, food and diaper drives.

When Bishop-elect Michel Mulloy had the difficult task of addressing myself and Assistant-editor Becky Berreth about the diocesan budget cuts that would limit the West River Catholic to six issues per year, our minds went into overdrive. While Becky has been devoting a great deal of effort in establishing and maintaining digital news delivery, we both know there are readers who prefer their news in print. Since the beginning the newspaper has been mandated to every Catholic household in the diocese. Still, we value the support of parishioners who send in voluntary subscription donations — some even contribute to cover the cost for more than one household. Several write notes of appreciation for the work that goes into the publication, and we do not want to abandon those loyal readers, but we must work with the resources available to us. Becky first suggested an online publication to keep people posted and I went to work finding a format.

On August 18, a new online version of diocesan news will be available on the diocesan website, www.rapidcitydiocese.org. It will be published during the months no newspaper is printed.

I will not be sitting idly by during the time saved on a print publication. I will be learning new ways to support news and information electronically. When the WRC founder, the late Msgr. William O’Connell, retired from the paper after 40 years, he had one request, “Keep the dream alive.” We will, but with some online adaptations.

Sincerely,
Laurie Hallstrom, Editor