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First Communion pp. 6-7

July 2024

Diocese of Rapid City
South Dakota

Volume 52 Number 2 www.rapidcitydiocese.org

Pope Francis appoints 10th Bishop of Rapid City

'I want to continue the great work that is already underway'

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

Word traveled fast in western South Dakota on Tuesday, June 25. In Washington, DC, Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic delegate to the United States, issued a press release announcing Pope Francis had appointed Fr. Scott Bullock, a priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, as the bishop-elect for the Diocese of Rapid City. Diocesan Administrator, Fr. Dan Juelfs, and Chancellor, Sr. Christine Hernandez, SCTJM, sent messages to clergy and diocesan staff at 4 a.m. to keep pace with the 6 a.m. news on the East Coast.

Communications Director Jacques Daniel sent news agencies a welcome message, photo, and biography for the new ordinary. A diocesan-wide announcement was posted on the website. A 10:30 a.m. online video conference would allow area Catholics to meet the bishop-elect.

Bishop-elect Scott opened with a prepared statement noting he had known of the appointment for just 10 days. He expressed his gratitude to the Holy Father and the papal nuncio. He was thankful for warm phone greetings by the Metropolitan Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of St. Paul Paul/Minneapolis, and from Father Juelfs, Rapid City.

"Archbishop Hebda, offered a promise of his prayers for this region," said Bishop-elect Scott.

"I come to you filled with joy at what has been and hope of what is to come!" he said.

Monday he was able to make a pilgrimage to the grave of Bishop Peter Muhich. "I commended him to the inter-



Screen shot taken from the June 25 diocesan livestream welcoming and introducing Bishop-elect Scott Bullock to Catholics in western South Dakota. He is a priest from the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa. The broadcast and a transcript of his statement can be viewed at <https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/bullock-welcome/>. His episcopal ordination is slated for September 23.

cession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and at the same time, asked his prayers on my behalf, and the diocese that he served," he said

"In these last years, I have experienced an exponential growth in my confidence in the powerful, prayerful intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary. ... It is with this confidence that I consecrate the ministry of Bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City to the intercession of the Mother of God,"

he added.

For his episcopal motto he chose "*Sur-gite Eamus*." It is the title of a book written by St. John Paul II that translates "Rise, Let Us Be on Our Way"

The term comes from Matthew 26:46 when Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane with his disciples and his betrayer has arrived.

"Jesus with love for us and for all the world says, 'rise and let us go and do our

sacred work.' For me it's a very hopeful suggestion that two we're going with Jesus," said Bishop-elect Bullock.

When asked about his plans for the diocese, he reminded those in attendance that he has only known about his appointment for 10 days, "I am really anxious to hear what has happened here already. I am confident the Holy Spirit has moved and



Ordinations require much planning



Fr. Dan Juelfs, JCL
Diocesan Administrator

As hopefully all of you know, we received word on June 25 that the Holy See has appointed a new bishop for our diocese. Bishop-elect Scott Bullock is from the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa. While he will not be ordained until September 23, it is great news for us, and much sooner

than any of us anticipated.

While the ordination is two-and-a-months away, there is much excitement and much planning to be done in the meantime. Many people are involved in the various committees needed to plan such an event. If you have not yet had the opportunity to respond, there is a survey

out in the parishes asking for numbers as to how many people are planning on attending as well as opportunities to become involved in the celebration. As the event has many associated costs there is also a request for financial assistance. Please be as generous as you can in participating in the ordination celebration.

We are now fully into the summer months and many of our parish activities are "on vacation" in most places. There are still many things happening throughout the diocese. The National Eucharistic Congress took place July 17-21 and two bus loads of people made the trip to Indianapolis to take part — one bus for adults and one for youth.

Take the opportunity to spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament after this historic event in our nation.

Please continue to pray for me as well during the next few months as we make the transition to a new bishop.

10th Bishop of Rapid City, Continued from p.1

is moving right now. I want to continue that great work that is already underway." He added, "I have a deep concern for the youngest members of our faith and how they are being trained."

While the size of the Rapid City Diocese geographically is larger than most other dioceses, it has a small Catholic population — just under 25,000.

The Archdiocese of Dubuque is in northeastern Iowa and has around 180,000 Catholics. "I have seen your statistics, much smaller, and I plan to get to know everybody," he said with a smile. In his leisure time, he completed a

master's degree in English literature in 2015 and then taught Literature and English composition classes at the college level for Catholic high school students through a local community college. "I love religion and theology. I really admire great writing and hopefully I can speak that way and sometimes preach," he concluded.

Besides his avid reading and study of literature, he also is an enthusiastic long-distance bicyclist and student of world cinema.

See his full biography at:
<https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/bullock-welcome/>.

Diocesan Administrator Calendar

July 23-August 20, 2024

Subject to change without notice

July 23, Tuesday

6:30 p.m. CSS Board Meeting, Rapid City

July 24, Wednesday

4 p.m. Rapid City Catholic School System Executive Committee Meeting, Chancery

July 27, Saturday

5:30 p.m. Seminarian/Parent Mass and Dinner, Rapid City

August 5, Monday

Priest-Seminarian Day, Hot Springs

August 6, Tuesday

Annual Philanthropy Day for Priests, Chancery

August 8, Thursday

10 a.m. Chancery Cabinet Leaders Meeting, Chancery

August 15, Thursday

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 a.m. Chancery Staff Mass, Chancery Chapel

August 16, Friday

11 a.m. Rapid City Catholic School System Commissioning Mass, Terra Sancta

August 17, Saturday

10 a.m. Nicholas Black Elk Memorial Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Pine Ridge

August 20, Tuesday

8:15 a.m. Diocesan Investment Committee

9 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, Chancery

Does this newspaper appear smaller?

Editor's note: In 2020 major budget cuts were made across the board at the chancery. The *West River Catholic* staff was asked to publish every-other-month instead of monthly. Since that time, they have looked for ways to keep the news timely. The first effort, to print bimonthly, meant sending out news well in advance or reporting on things that happened weeks prior.

As much as possible, news is posted on the diocesan website and calendar items go to the bulletins. We still have readers who say they missed hearing about opportunities to grow in faith.

After discussions about working on a limited budget, but still wanting to be timely, a new plan has the WRC publish-



ing monthly again. Instead of one 24-page paper every other month, most issues will be 12 pages monthly. Special editions may require more pages.

Now readers have an easier opportunity to be informed on what is going on in the Diocese of Rapid City by the WRC using a more pertinent schedule.

Pilgrims feel connection with Jesus

BY SHAWNA HANSON
EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL POINT PERSON

"I believe this is what the Eucharistic Revival is all about — bringing people to the Lord, so that the Lord can speak to their hearts." — Fr. Mark McCormick, EWTN Live! June 19.

Many people in the Diocese of Rapid City are experiencing the National Eucharistic Revival by participating in the National Pilgrimages which launched on Pentecost. Fr. Mark McCormick spent a week traveling as a chaplain on the southern route. He said, "I saw the Lord do incredible things, amazing things and when we were traveling in the bus, I felt an incredible peace. I said to Charlie, our driver, 'I just feel this incredible peace.' He replied, 'Of course, Father, we have Jesus right here with us.'"

Blase Gebes, a seminarian for the diocese, is traveling with the northern Marian

Route for the entire 60 days. When asked how he was doing, he replied, "I am joyfully tired! I have been inspired by people's expressions of faith."

In mid-June, I had the privilege to meet up with the National Pilgrimage in Ogallala, Nebraska, with eight other women. Kelley Schipke put into words what so many others also shared. "I was truly moved by the events of the pilgrimage in Ogallala. I thought the adoration/healing service on Thursday night was beautiful. The music and message were inspiring. Plus, I had never experienced adoration where the priest held the monstrance directly in front of each person in attendance. It was amazing to have that brief personal moment with Jesus."

Connie Forstner said, "It was amazing! Taking a 'retreat' away from my regular routine makes the same prayers/adoration a different experience because I am truly away



Pilgrims from the Diocese of Rapid City joined the St. Junipero Serra Route which originated California. They caught up with it in Ogallala, Nebraska. Fr. Mark Horn of Hill City is in the center. He carried the monstrance during part of the pilgrimage. (Courtesy photo)

from all other distractions and wholly there in mind and spirit. It was a moving experience to have the friar share the Gospel story of the woman with the hemorrhage touching Jesus' cloak and then be given the opportunity to 'grab his cloak' as well."

"Witnessing Fr. Mark Horn's (Hill City) devotion to the Eucharist as he carried the monstrance at the head of the pilgrimage was another highlight," shared Kelley. "We are blessed to have faith-filled priests."

Sharen LaGrande was touched by the evening adoration as well. She shares, "The priest slowly walked in front of me and

paused to give me a few minutes with Jesus, one-to-one. The thought that came to mind was Jesus saying to me, 'I made a covenant with you Sharen, with YOU.' I felt such a deep sense that I mattered to Jesus. My heart swelled and I responded with enthusiasm, 'I'm all in!'"

Sharen continued, "The next day as we walked seven miles with the procession, I found myself reflecting on those few moments with Jesus. I asked myself, 'Am I really, all in for Jesus?' I knew that I wanted to be and that was why I exclaimed it in my

Nebraska, Continued p. 4

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 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 by 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.

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Nebraska, Continued from p. 3

heart so quickly. As I thought further, though, I had to admit to myself I wasn't all in. I saw how life had wounded my heart, and how I had coped with those wounds by becoming self-sufficient and not trusting. I had closed off part of my heart and let fear creep in. And I saw that this had affected my personal relationship with Jesus. I asked myself, 'What have I been afraid of?' I was afraid that Jesus would not meet me in the core of my brokenness. Healing is a lot like an onion, you must keep peeling off the layers till you get to the core.

The love and acceptance I experienced invites me to peel off some more layers, to dig out some of the lies that Satan planted a long time ago and replace them with the light, love and promises of Jesus. These thoughts led me to a favorite quote from Pope St. John Paul II, 'We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures, we are the sum of our Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son.' What a blessing it is to have the hope that

we can become more and more the image of Jesus as we journey with him every day! On this pilgrimage I learned to walk with my heart wide open."

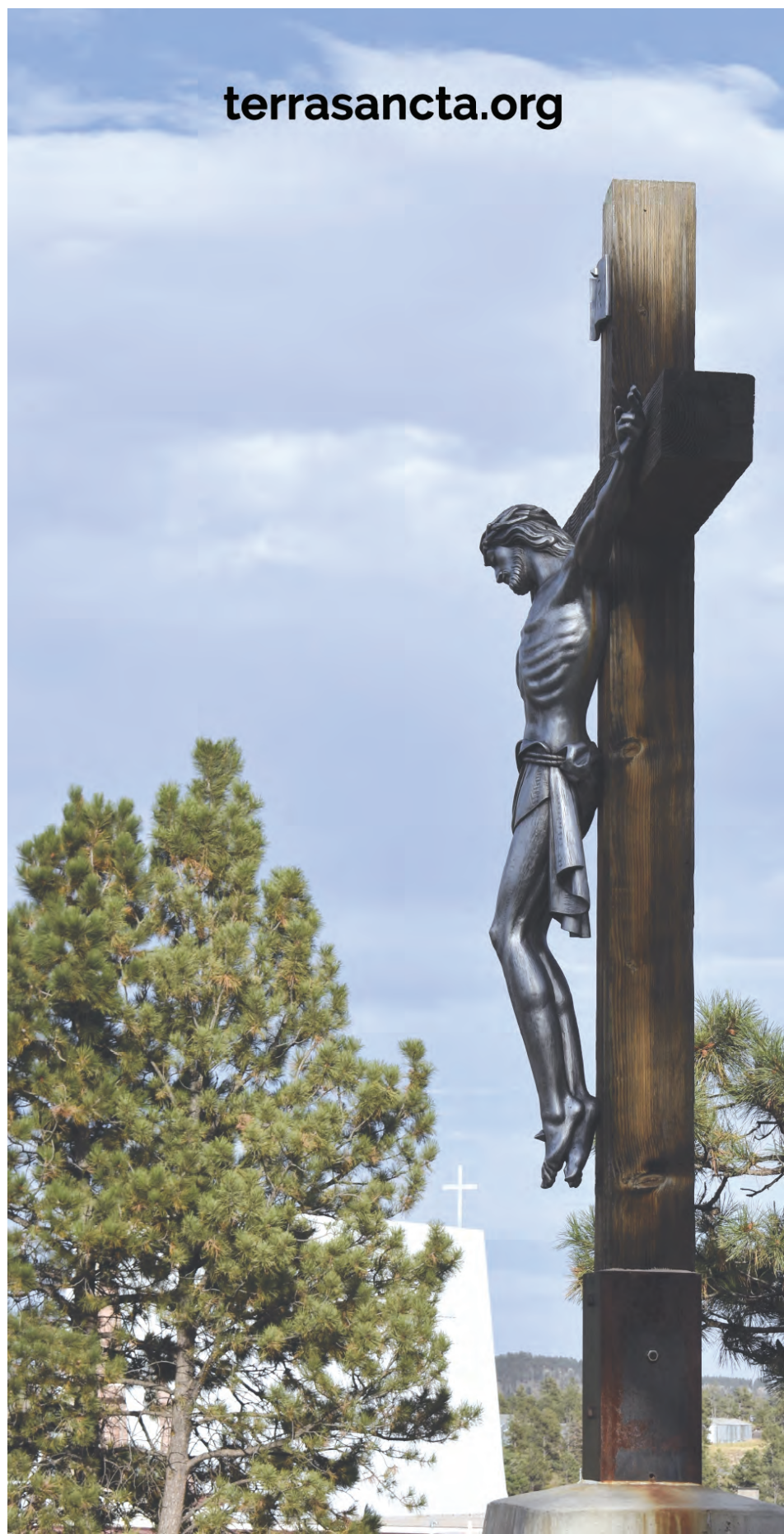
During the seven-mile walk, the Franciscan Friars who were serving as chaplains for the pilgrimage, took turns walking at the end of the procession and offered confession. This moved the hearts of each woman who took advantage of this opportunity. One woman shared, "The most amazing experience of the pilgrimage for me was having a 'walking confession' with one of the Franciscan Friars. At this point, I was tired and he could sense that and so he offered me his arm. As I walked by his side, holding his arm, and confessing my sins, I looked down at his feet walking in sandals, his gray robe and his rope belt, and it felt like I was truly walking and talking with Jesus. It gave me so much peace. I will never forget it."

As Fr. Mark said, "Bringing people to the Lord, so that the Lord can speak to their hearts." For those that come, the Lord spoke. He spoke healing, love, light and peace. Praise God!"



While serving as chaplain for the southern route of National Eucharistic Procession, Fr. Mark McCormick (right) appeared on EWTN with Fr. Mitch Pacwa and SDSM&T Newman student, Caden Eckroth of Yankton. (Courtesy photo)

terrasancta.org



'Stories of signs and wonders that I could tell'

BY FR. MARK MCCORMICK

I was blessed to be the chaplain for the southern route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage from June 15-22. A friend of mine, Samantha Vargo, reached out to me when the initial chaplain scheduled was unable to be part of the pilgrimage. Trying to live with a Marian heart that is open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, I said 'yes' to being the chaplain as the pilgrims traveled from Mobile, Alabama to Atlanta, Georgia.

As St. John Paul II often said, "Life with Christ is a great adventure." And believe me the words of St. John Paul II did not disappoint. Traveling for a week with eight perpetual pilgrims who were constantly before the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament was an adventure.

We rode in a 12-passenger van wrapped on the outside with a colorful Monstrance and the wording National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, and on the inside, a tabernacle bolted to the floor and the Monstrance securely fastened to the top of the tabernacle, proclaiming to everyone who saw it that this is no ordinary van and no ordinary ride. I loved driving through the streets of the towns and cities we went through, pulling up to stop lights with a big grin on my face saying, "Here is Jesus!"

One morning, outside a hotel, a gentleman approached Brother Damiano, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal, and pointed to the word "Eucharistic" on the side of the van. He asked Brother Damiano what that word meant because he had never seen that

word before. Brother Damiano, in a few short minutes, explained to him that the Eucharist is the real presence of Jesus. The gentleman called his wife on the phone, and the three of them had a conversation about the transformative power of Jesus in the Eucharist. The gentleman shared with Brother Damiano that his uncle had just died, and Brother Damiano was able to pray with the gentleman and his wife on the phone. In this brief encounter, Brother Damiano was able to give them a true sense of the peace of Jesus in the Eucharist.

One day, we pulled up to a big convenience store to get fuel. Jesus was exposed in the monstrance. I opened the van door, got out, and genuflected to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. As I did so, the people in the car right next to us, stepped out of their car and knelt on the hot asphalt in adoration and worship of Jesus. It was a remarkable sight; I did not expect to see such faith and love for Christ and the courage that enabled them to kneel right there in front of everyone. At that moment, it seemed like time stopped, and we joined them on our knees, thanking Jesus for the gift of himself to us in the Eucharist.

I will never forget pulling up to St. Mary Magdalene Church in Newnan, Georgia, where hundreds of parishioners walked out to meet Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. As we processed the Blessed Sacrament to the Church, the sidewalk was lined on both sides with people kneeling. I was suddenly overcome by his Real Presence. So much that I could hardly breathe. I felt like I was



"We rode in a 12-passenger van ... and on the inside, a tabernacle bolted to the floor and the Monstrance securely fastened to the top of the tabernacle, proclaiming to everyone who saw it that this is no ordinary van and no ordinary ride," said Fr. Mark McCormick.

hyperventilating, trying to catch my breath, tears rolling down my face, and in my mind declaring, "Here is Jesus, here is our God, here is our Savior, here is our Lord, here is our food, here is our love, here is our heart, here is our joy, here is our friend, here is our life."

I shared this experience with the eight perpetual pilgrims as we drove to the next event. I asked them to pause and to ask the Holy Spirit to put other names of Jesus in their hearts. It was like popping popcorn, "Here is our victor"; "Here is our peace"; "Here is our bridegroom"; "Here is our salvation"; "Here is our hope"; "Here is our unity"; "Here is our everything"; "Here is our strength"; "Here is our light"; "Here is our sight"; "Here is our window"; "Here is our living bread"; "Here is our resurrection"; "Here is our revival."

Lastly, when we were at Mother Angelica's Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama, Brother Damiano and I were sitting at the breakfast table after Mass. Across the table was a woman who told Brother Damiano about the excruciat-

ing headache she had the night before. Her headache was so bad she could hardly drive to the Shrine; however, she knew she wanted to be part of the Mass, the Eucharistic procession, and the healing service. She explained that this was a condition she had been dealing with for some time and that her headaches were getting progressively worse, so she was scheduled for a CAT scan soon.

Right after the healing service, she found Brother Damiano again. She explained to him as the priest processed the Blessed Sacrament around the church, he stopped right in front of her. She said, "As I looked at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, I felt like running water flowing over my head, and immediately my excruciating headache was completely gone. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament has healed me."

I have many more stories of signs and wonders that I could tell of my short eight days on the St. Juan Diego Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. It truly has been a great adventure, and I realize how blessed and highly favored I am.

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Welcome to Our Lord's Table

Welcome to Our Lord's Table



Immaculate Conception,
Bonesteel &
St. Anthony, Fairfax



St. Anthony, Buffalo



Sacred Heart,Burke



St. John, Ft. Pierre

St. Joseph, Gregory ▶



St. Michael Hermosa



St. Michael, Hermosa



St. Rose, Hill City



St. Anthony, Hot Springs

St. Mary, Isabel ▶



St. Mary, Lemmon



St. Bonaventure, McIntosh

◀ **Sacred Heart,** Martin



Sacred Heart, Philip



St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City



St. Therese, Rapid City



St. Anthony, Red Owl



St. Bridget, Rosebud



St. Charles, St. Francis



Holy Cross, Timber Lake



St. Ignatius, Wanblee

**Photos
provided by
parishes and
parishioners*



Michael G. Pauley
Executive Director
S.D. Catholic Conference
sdccatholicconference.org

On May 20, the spiritual leaders of the Catholic dioceses of South Dakota released a statement condemning a ballot measure, Amendment G, that would insert a radical “right to abortion” throughout pregnancy in the state constitution. Amendment G has been certified to appear on the ballot of the November 5, 2024 general election.

Bishop Donald DeGrood of the Diocese of Sioux Falls and Rev. Daniel Juelfs of the Diocese of Rapid City stated, “We urge Catholics and all people of good will to study this measure carefully, understand the devastating consequences it would have for our state, and work with great determination to ensure this measure does not become a part of our state’s constitution.”

Below are additional excerpts from the statement of Bishop DeGrood and Father

Amendment G would have “devastating consequences” for S.D.

Juelfs on Amendment G:

“During the nearly 50 years that Roe v. Wade was in effect, an estimated 46,000 preborn girls and boys perished from abortion in our state. This scourge came to an end on June 24, 2022, when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the Dobbs decision, finally allowing South Dakota to enforce laws that protect the human rights of preborn children. Amendment G would reverse all this progress and create a regime of unrestricted abortion that would be far worse even than what was in effect under Roe. Amendment G would not even permit health and safety regulations for most abortions.

“Pope Francis, in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), describes preborn children as ‘the most defenseless and innocent among us.’ The Holy Father goes on to say, ‘Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this.’

“This is exactly what Amendment G would do. It proposes that we treat preborn children as a disposable commodity, and it would prohibit any efforts by the

legislature, the governor, or the judiciary to recognize and protect their human rights.

“St. John Paul II once said, ‘A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying.’ How will history judge our society in South Dakota? The answer to that question depends greatly on the actions we take during the next several months.

“We believe God has set us here at

this time and place to fight for the protection of human life with unique zeal and devotion.”

Catholic voters can make a difference in this upcoming election by educating themselves and others on the threats posed by Amendment G. Learn more by visiting: lifedefensefund.com. The South Dakota Catholic Conference has also set up a resource webpage on Amendment G: <https://sdccatholicconference.org/stopg/>.

In Your Prayers

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

August

Ordinations: August 3, 2017, Dcn. Corey Compton; August 16, Dcn. Fred Tully; August 23, 2008, Fr. Michael Oli; August 30, Dcn. Raul Daniel.

Birthdays: August 6, Fr. Brian Christensen and Fr. Mark Horn; August 14, Fr. Arnold Kari and Fr. Leonard Ssenyonjo; August 17, Fr. Timothy Castor and Fr. James Lafontaine, SJ; August 24, Fr. Joseph Daoust, SJ; August 31, Fr. John Hatcher, SJ.

Necrology: August 1, 2017, Gerald

Scherer; August 5, 1967, Francis Monighan; August 10, 1967, William Boyd; August 10, 2005, Dcn. Albert Grant; August 12, 1950, Alfred Abler; August 14, 1961, William Parry, SJ; August 15, 1928, Leo Scherer, OSB; August 16, 1941, Silvester Lehmen, OSB; August 16, 1979, Martin Schlitz, SJ; August 19, 1936, John Hoey; August 19, 1980, John Cowley; August 22, 1887, Patrick Colovin, CSC; August 22, 1996, Patrick O'Connor; August 23, 2019, Dcn. Carl Orthman; August 24, 1966, John O'Hara; August 24, 1997, Dcn. Roland Gravel; August 25, 1972, Cecil Folkins; August 29, 2015, William O'Connell; August 30, 1970, Michael Thompson; August 31, 1939, John Fitzgerald.



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WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA BISHOP'S GOLF CLASSIC



September 16, 2024
Registration - 11 am
Shotgun Start - Noon



Scan for more
information on
these events.

Bishop's Hunt for Seminarians

October 3-4, 2024
Dallas, SD
St. Huberts Hideaway



For more information visit www.wsdcf.org | 605-721-6843

Diocesan Seminarian Burses (as of 12/31/23)

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

Ambur, Irene	5,207.25	Lux, Peter & Gertrude	1,200.00
Baden, Fr. Robert	2,000.00	McManus, Lyle	450.00
Baskerville, Doreen	1,420.00	McManus, Mary	150.00
Bell, John M.	1,000.00	McNaboe, Fr. Thomas	1,000.00
Berning, Fr. Francis	3,105.00	Meade, Fr. Cornelius	1,720.00
Bertrand, Howard	1,200.00	Meyer, Dillen	500.00
Bishop's Burse	8,212.72	Miller, Donald and Kathleen	1,380.00
Blessed Virgin Mary	1,517.00	Morvay, Fr. Andrew	33,000.00
Bollinger Family	41,136.19	Muldoon, Fr. Ralph	1,375.00
Bourassa, Margaret	150.00	Nemec, Ed & Elizabeth	50,000.00
Budmayr, Minnie	1,797.00	O'Connell, Msgr. William	23,000.00
Cahoy, Emil	500.00	O'Doherty, Fr. Leo	800.00
Callahan, Mabel	19,750.00	Padula, Fr. Dominic	12,671.20
Carr, Harry	915.25	Plante, Fr. Richard	93,055.92
Caswell, Margaret	30,000.00	Prendiville Family	7,015.00
Costigan, Msgr. Michael	35,836.67	Rath, Deacon Vern	1,317.00
Cower, Fr. D. Craig	6,625.00	Reedy, Camille	929.00
Cower, Robert H. & Blanche A.	153,323.96	Roach, Msgr. Michael	4,346.00
Cower, Rod H.	5,725.00	Rovella, Anna	4,000.00
Dauwen, Ray	750.00	Ruud, Donna	20.00
Davies, Dorothy	5,000.00	St. Anthony-Hot Springs	3,547.72
Decker, Maude Cower	4,000.00	St. Francis of Assisi-Sturgis	9,922.55
Deisch, Fr. Raymond	6,155.00	St. Joseph-Mud Butte	250.00
DeMers, Ray	300.00	St. Joseph-Scenic	2,070.78
Dimmerling, Bishop Harold	43,836.14	St. Mary-Lemmon	1,371.00
Diskin, Fr. William	4,316.28	St. Mary-Newell	500.00
Donahoe, Fr. James	700.00	St. Paul-Belle Fourche	750.00
Dosch, Pius and Jerome	40,000.00	St. Therese-RC	4,610.00
Drew, Msgr. Bernard	4,488.00	Scherer, Fr. Gerald N.	15,335.00
Dries, Theodore & Gretchen	12,369.56	Schofield, Mary Ellen	600.00
Dube, Msgr. Robert	400.00	Sonn, Lorraine	80.00
Erhardt Family	335,496.56	Szalay, Fr. Eugene	7,300.00
Falzone, Maurice	10,000.00	Thompson, Msgr. Michael	265,584.63
Fencl, Fr. Leonard SJ.	500.00	Tunnissen, Fr. James	3,400.00
Feuerbach, Msgr. Leo	80,289.53	Vannix, Dorothy	115,866.98
Garry Memorial	6,310.00	Welsh, Bishop Lawrence	1,200.00
Gravel, Deacon Ed	1,650.00	Whiteside, Fr. Robert	1,600.00
Groell, Fr. John	1,000.00	Zacher, Catherine & Eugene	2,525.00
Healy, Msgr. Thomas	1,558.00	Zelnik, Fr. Ron-Kadoka	1,040.00
Igoe, Fr. Patrick	3,485.00	Zelnik, Fr. Ron-Midland	790.00
Jones, Netta	1,200.00		
Krebs, Ernest & Frank	30,000.00		
Krebs, Lewis & Abbie	52,076.06		
LaCroix, Trude	3,000.00		

Other funds

Leo "Pete" Berens Memorial Fund . . . 323,339.21
Fr. Peter Kovarik Memorial Fund . . . 70,855.89

Appreciation is extended to Father Kerry Prendiville, Dwight and Teresa Hecker, and Melinda Prendiville for donating to the Prendiville Burse; Michael and Phyllis Rovella for contributing to the Rovella Burse; and the anonymous donors for contributing to the Scherer Burse.

PRAA Memorial Burses

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

Anna Berens	12,000.00
Margaret Biggs	1,000.00
Fr. D. Craig Cower	8,550.00
Anonymous	633.26
Jerome and Pius Dosch	40,000.00
Vern Johnson	7,646.00
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SATURDAY – 4 P.M.
NBC 21.1
ConnectCenter1 21.2
SUNDAY – 7 A.M.
NBC 21.1
SUNDAY – 10:30 A.M.
ConnectCenter1 21.2



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YouTube
SUNDAY
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Benedictine Sister Carol Kovarik
celebrates
75th Jubilee



(Back row l-r) Sr. Jennifer Mechtild Horner-Pastoral Administrator, Sr. Joan Tetrault, Sr. Lorane Coffin, and Sr. Yvette Mallow. (Front row l-r) Sr. Bernadette Ward, Sr. Michele Alrich, Sr. Carol Kovarik, Sr. Margaret Hinker, and Sr. Eleanor Solon, Not Pictured: Sr. Therese Marie Furois, Sr. Teresa Hinker, and Sr. Mary Wegher.



Friends and family gathered at Terra Sancta Retreat Center on July 13 to celebrate with Sr. Carol Kovarik, OSB, on her 75th anniversary becoming a Benedictine Sister. (Courtesy photos)

On Saturday, July 13, 2024, the Sisters of St. Martin Monastery celebrated the 75th Jubilee of Sr. Carol Kovarik with a Mass and Brunch at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. Many members of Sr. Carol's extended family came from far and wide to celebrate with her. Sr. Carol entered the community on June 28, 1949. A lifelong learner and teacher, Sr. Carol earned a B.A. in English from Mt. Marty College in 1958 and also holds M.A.'s in English (Notre Dame University) and Computer Applications in Education (Dubuque, Iowa). She served as a teacher for many decades, teaching at St. Martin's Academy and also California, Laguna Beach, California, and Riverton, Wyoming. After St. Martin Academy closed in 1991, Sr. Carol opened and operated a daycare and preschool where she cared for and taught young children. Sr. Carol continues to be active, attends concerts and plays with friends and family and can always be counted on to participate in the activities offered at Good Samaritan, St. Martin Village where the sisters now live. Cards can be sent to Sr. Carol at: St. Martin Monastery, 2101 City Springs Rd., Suite 300, Rapid City, SD 57702

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22-RC-03048 (12/22)

Totus Tuus Summer Camps

Totus Tuus, which is Latin for “Totally Yours,” is the name of the diocesan summer camps for middle school and high school youth. The camps have been running for 29 years and allow youth to encounter religious orders, seminarians, and diocesan priests.

This year’s theme was “Made for Greatness” which reminds campers that while “the world offers you comfort, you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness!”

Campers listened to testimonies, played games, hiked, swam, rock climbed, and enjoyed s’mores and campfire songs with seminarians, sisters, and priests. Please pray for an Increase in vocations to priesthood and consecrated life in our diocese. (WRC photos by Becky Berreth)



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VSI drew Mackenzie Oster's whole family closer to the Lord

BY SR. SARA KOWAL, SCTJM
DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL MINISTRIES AND
FAITH FORMATION

When Mackenzie Oster from St. Anthony Church in Buffalo signed up for the *Veritatis Splendor* Institute in the summer of 2023, she did not know the extent that the program would change her and her family's life.

"This year has been life-changing for me and my family. Before this year I was really struggling to figure out the vocation of being a stay-at-home mom and the importance of it. I was a teacher for nine years, so when I left the classroom, I felt like I lost my identity and a big part of who I was. This year with VSI has helped me blossom and come out of that rut. It has me excited to learn more about my Catholic faith and to go to Mass more than just on Sundays," she said.

Mackenzie grew up a cradle Catholic on a ranch in Harding County. Faithfully, she attended faith education at her parish and received the sacraments of Baptism, 1st Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. She went off to college, studying education at Black Hills State University, Spearfish. There, she got involved in the Newman Center, attending Sunday Mass and, at times, participating in various Bible studies and a walking Rosary around campus.

However, after college she moved away to North Dakota for a teaching job. There her faith really faltered, and she strayed

away from the faith she had clung to most of her life. She shares that these were the most difficult years of her life. Eventually, she met her now-husband Mark, moved back to the Buffalo area, got married, and began living and working with Mark and their four boys on her parent's ranch.

She began getting more involved in her parish in Buffalo, teaching religious education, becoming a lector and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. One Sunday, she heard about VSI from her pastor, Fr. Bryan Sorensen. Instantly she was drawn to the idea and desired to sign up. The long distance to Rapid City and finding childcare each month were significant obstacles in the process, but with a little effort and early mornings — she rises at 4:30 a.m. each VSI Saturday to make it in time — she was able to make the commitment to attend with her aunt and godmother, YoLanda Martian.

During this time, Mackenzie's prayer life increased, deepened and transformed: "I have learned about the importance of conversational prayer — not only how to talk to Jesus but to also stop and listen for Him to respond. I have seen myself begin to give more attention to what God is telling me is good versus what the secular world says is good. It's a lot easier for me to see where I am broken and fall short and where I need to pray about those things more."

This spilled over into her family as well. The couple began to have a greater desire for their whole family to be drawn into a

July 2024

MAILING LABEL
West River Catholic

WRC 12



Mark and Mackenzie Oster and their children at St. Anthony Church, Buffalo. She heard about VSI from her pastor, Fr. Bryan Sorensen. (Courtesy photo)

ilies, where they gather for a meal and the prayer of a family Rosary. Mackenzie and her Aunt YoLanda also planned and led a women's retreat at their parish this past spring with Sr. Jacque Schroeder, OSF.

VSI has changed not only Mackenzie's life, but that of her whole family as well. Both Mackenzie and YoLanda plan to continue the VSI program and pursue the 2-year Master's certification beginning this fall.

Mackenzie concludes: "I have grown so much this past year. I was raised a 'cradle' Catholic and, looking back to my high school years, I probably didn't take it as serious as I should have. This is the first real faith formation that I have done as an adult, and it's been life changing."

meaningful relationship with the Lord. "All of the boys (ranging from 2-12 years old) like to lead the prayers now," Mackenzie said. "I have seen growth in making prayer with my young kids more important, and we pray as a family more this year than we ever have."

Joyfully, Mark entered the Church this past April at the Easter Vigil. He now encourages his own family to go to Church and deepen their relationship with the Lord. Mark and Mackenzie desire to begin hosting monthly gatherings for young fam-



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