

WEST RIVER Catholic

Informing Catholics in Western South Dakota since May 1973



The 300 Club, p. 5



A Blizzard of Opportunity, p. 11

March 2025

Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota

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Dr. Greg Bottaro, Catholic psychologist, was the keynote speaker at Pastoral Ministry Days. Among the wealth of information he shared, he has found a gem of a sign for his office, "Worry is the misuse of imagination."



James Wurzler from Ruah Woods Institute visits with Sr. Christine Hernandez, SCTJM, diocesan chancellor, during a break at Pastoral Ministry Days. (WRC photos by Laurie Hallstrom)

St. John Paul II wrote a blueprint for living

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

Dr. Greg Bottaro, a Catholic psychologist, was the Pastoral Ministry Days featured speaker, addressing 237 clergy, religious, and laity. They gathered to attend "Restored: Making All Things New," March 9-11, at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City.

In 2012, Bottaro founded the CatholicPsych Institute in New York, and he is the creator of the Catholic Psych Model of Applied Personalism. His work involves establishing a Catholic standard for mental health and training others how to use it. His PMD addresses advocated church min-

isters strive for healthy and compassionate attitudes toward themselves and others.

The annual gathering brought together parish leaders from all parts of the Diocese of Rapid City. It was conducted under the auspices of the Office of Pastoral Ministries, directed by Sr. Sara Kowal, SCTJM. Her staff and hospitality volunteers guided participants through days of talks, Liturgy of the Hours, Adoration and Masses. The conference also brought to light the gifts of Lakota and Hispanic Catholics. There were hymns and readings in Lakota, Spanish and English. During breaks people could visit booths representing both diocesan ministries and various Catholic vendors.

A key component of the PMD conference was Bottaro's emphasis between mind, body, and spirit. "What the brain creates, the body believes," he said. He spoke on a secular philosophy, cartesian dualism, which teaches the mind and body are separate. In addition, much modern thinking leaves out the needs of the soul or relationship to God. According to Bottaro, there is a pandemic of anxiety today and people are concerned with things beyond their own influence. "We are relational by nature and that is an intrinsic part of our being," he said. "You can't do this on your own."

He continued, "You need to set boundaries. What am I responsi-

ble for, and what is God responsible for?" Bottaro urged the participants to release burdens that are too large to God, because the Lord can carry heavier loads than we can.

"My hero and the model for everything I do, besides Jesus, is the work and example of St. John Paul II," he said. According to Bottaro, the late pontiff contributed an understanding of who we are in the world. He gave us a blueprint of the modern person and he loved art, literature, and theater, which formed him as a person. "He found good in everyone," said Bottaro. "There is more to us than we might realize and St. John Paul II already wrote it out."

From the many conference talks Jenny Dirk, the parish secretary at St. Mary Church, Lemmon, said she will use this in ministry: "The idea of being in the present, not living in the past or worrying about the future. Just being present with the people we are ministering to and with."

Amanda Pearson, assistant director of Evangelization, at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, said, after the conference, "You have to heal yourself before you can help others — especially in evangelization."

Videos of PMD presentations are available at: rapidcitydiocese.org/pmd25/.

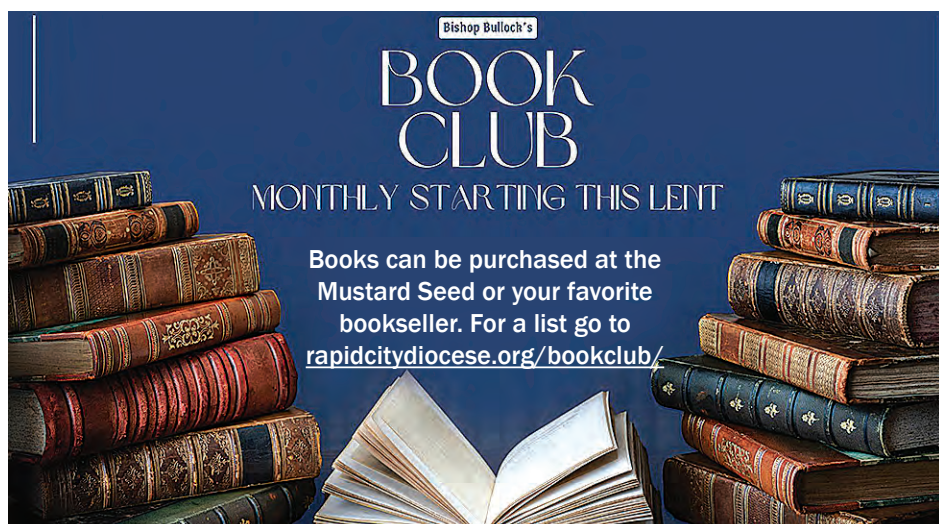
Literature can help us find unity rather than opposition



Bishop Scott Bullock
Diocese of
Rapid City
Surgite Eamus
"Rise, let us be
on our way."

"In reading great literature I become a thousand men and yet remain myself. Like the night sky in the Greek poem, I see with myriad eyes, but it is still I who see. Here, as in worship, in love, in moral action, and in knowing, I transcend myself; and am never more myself than when I do." — C.S. Lewis, "An Experiment in Criticism"

Much lamented in our day is the "balkanization" of our culture, nation, church and community. Balkanization: "to divide into small and mutually hostile groups," as was the political condition of the Balkans; the reference is to the political situation in the Balkans c. 1878-1913, when the European section of the Ottoman Empire



melted into small, warring nations. Must our lives be this way — and what might be the remedy?

On July 17, 2024, Pope Francis issued a splendid teaching, a letter he entitled, "On the Role of Literature in Formation." Originally intended to direct seminaries dedicated to the education and formation

of new priests, he soon discovered that "this subject applies to the formation ... of all Christians" (1). He continued, "What I would like to address here is the value of reading novels and poems as a part of one's path to personal maturity." A large part of such "personal maturity" is the capacity for empathy, to understand the experiences and values of persons unlike ourselves — which is everyone else! Literature helps us transcend ourselves, see things as others do, and overcome our tendencies to live in opposition to others whom we don't understand.

Thus, Pope Francis proposes, among other things, that literature can help us overcome the divisive nature of our current affairs, to find unity rather than opposition.

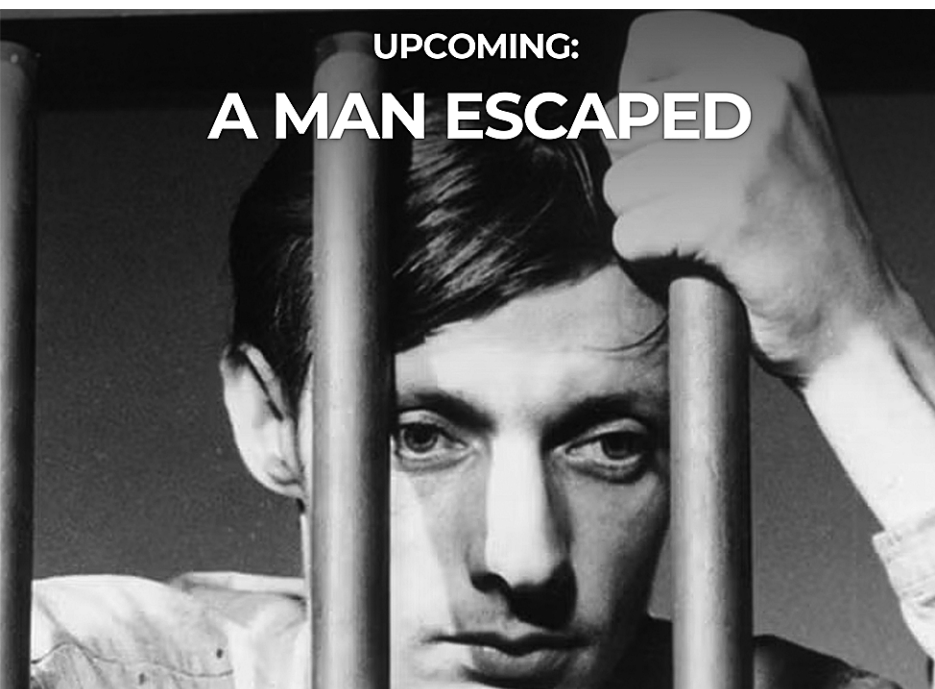
When I came to South Dakota last fall, my instinct was to find some fine literature that would help me "get up to speed" with the folks in the new vineyard of the Lord to which I had been called, to appreciate more fully (and as quickly as possible!) the state, its culture, and its people. Two works of literature helped me begin to overcome my limited experience of South Dakota: "Dakota: A Spiritual Geography" by Kathleen Norris and "Giants in the Earth" by O. E. Rolvaag. While Norris takes on a more modern exploration of the people of South Dakota, Rolvaag's focus is on the homesteaders that are the founders of the State of South Dakota and, after the Lakota and other native peoples, birthed the state which we inhabit.

In response to the Holy Father's invitation to enter into the great human adventure of literature, I am happy to announce that I will be hosting the "Bishop's Book Club," information about which can be found at www.rapidcitydiocese.org (the diocesan website). Each month, I propose a different book for our reading. As a former teacher of literature, you will notice many offerings on the list that are what would be considered "literary" — classic novels that will give us a chance to grow in empathy and appreciation of persons both unlike us in their experiences and, at the same time, similar in our humanity and our aspirations. Further, I have included some writing that is more specifically related to our faith and a more overt "Catholic" perspective. Some of these works might seem foreign and, thus, not at first appealing. For me, this experience is part and parcel of breaking down the barrier between what I find familiar and normative, and the diverse experience and expression of others, whose perspectives will enhance and expand my own humanity.

The website will provide, each month, access to an initial "reading guide," my introduction to the work and why I have chosen it. In addition, you will be able to find mid-month a "podcast," a recorded conversation between myself and some others who have read the work, to engage you in a discussion about the merits of the monthly book. I can imagine these resources could assist a "book club" who might choose the book or could aid individual readers. For those who live in Rapid City, you can find copies of the books at our local Catholic bookstore, The Mustard Seed. Some of the titles are available to borrow from the public library in hard copy, e-book or audio book format.

Pope Francis concludes in his letter on literature, "Literature helps us to reflect on the meaning of our presence in this world ... to grasp what lies beneath the surface of our existence. Literature, in a word, serves to interpret life, to discern its deeper meaning and its essential tensions" (33). I invite you to join me on this splendid adventure that is literature!

Surgite eamus!



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Bishop Calendar

March 19 to April 14, 2025

Subject to Change without notice

March 19, Wednesday

4 p.m. RCCSS Executive Committee Meeting,
Chancery

March 20, Thursday

10 a.m. College of Consultors Meeting,
Chancery

5 p.m. Mercy Night, Cathedral

March 22, Saturday

6 p.m. Mass, Pastoral Visit, Sacred Heart,
Morristown

March 23, Sunday

8 a.m. Mass, Pastoral Visit, St. Bonaventure,
McIntosh

10:30 a.m. Mass, Pastoral Visit, St. Mary,
Lemmon

March 25, Tuesday

Annunciation of the Lord

7 a.m. Mass, Cathedral

6:30 p.m. Catholic Social Services Board
Meeting, Rapid City

March 27, Thursday

4 p.m. Mercy Night, Blessed Sacrament,
Rapid City

March 29, Saturday

6 p.m. Bilingual Mass, St. Rose of Lima, Hill City

March 30, Sunday

8 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of Carmel, Keystone

10 a.m. Mass, St. Rose of Lima Hill City

1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass, Blessed Sacrament,
Rapid City

April 1, Tuesday

8:30 a.m. Chancery Staff Mass, Chancery
1 p.m. STM Graduation Photo, Cathedral

April 3, Thursday

10 a.m. Chancery Cabinet Leaders Meeting,
Chancery

April 5, Saturday

11:30 a.m. Seminarian Zoom Meeting

April 6, Sunday

8 a.m. Mass, Camp Rapid Chapel

6 p.m. Mass and Student Dinner, BHSU
Newman Center, Spearfish

April 10, Thursday

6:30 p.m. Year of Hope Film Series: A Man
Escaped, Cathedral

April 11, Friday

5 p.m. SD Catholic Daughters State Conven-
tion Memorial Mass/Banquet, Spearfish

April 12, Saturday

4:30 p.m. Catholic Social Services Bishop
Sponsors Reception, Rapid City

April 13, Sunday

Palm Sunday

8 a.m. Mass, Cathedral

Noon, Catholic Social Services Palm Sunday
Brunch, Ramkota, Rapid City

April 14, Monday

10 a.m. Chrism Mass, Cathedral

11:30 a.m. Bishop's Luncheon with Priests,
Rapid City,

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Pope Francis bows his head in prayer during his election night appearance on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 13, 2013. The crowd joined the pope in silent prayer after he asked them to pray that God would bless him. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Pope's chest x-ray confirms his improvement

Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis' condition continues to be stable and a chest x-ray "confirmed the improvements recorded in the previous days," his doctors said, but without saying his double pneumonia had cleared up completely.

The 88-year-pope is still using high-flow oxygen through a nasal tube during the day and "noninvasive mechanical ventilation" with a mask overnight, said the medical bulletin published March 12 by the Vatican press office.

In their bulletin of March 10, the pope's doctors had said that the pope's continued stability and incremental improvements in his breathing and blood tests had led them to lift their "guarded" prognosis, although they insisted he continued to need hospitalization. The bulletin March 12 continued to speak of the "complexity" of the pope's illness.

Pope Francis has continued watching the live stream of the morning and after-

noon meditations offered to cardinals and senior members of the Roman Curia at their annual Lenten retreat, the bulletin said. He also "received the Eucharist, devoted himself to prayer" and then to physical therapy, which is designed to prevent the problems associated with limited movement during a prolonged hospital stay.

The rosary, recited at the end of the Curia's retreat March 12 was led by Cardinal George Koovakad, prefect of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue and the main organizer of Pope Francis' trips abroad.

Members of the Curia, he said, were joining "the Christian faithful and members of other religious traditions who are offering prayers and sacrifices for the Holy Father." The dates for the traditional Lenten retreat were announced before Pope Francis was hospitalized February 14. During the retreat, he does not hold his weekly general audience and usually does not schedule private audiences either.



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The 300 Club is preserving a slice of S.D. Catholic history

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

The historic St. Martin Chapel is on 5th and Sherman Sts., in Sturgis. Built in 1911 by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Martin, it is the last standing building in a complex that once had six structures. In 1962 the sisters moved to a new campus in Rapid City. For a time the chapel was not used and it began to deteriorate. In 1988 the St. Aloysius Cemetery Association assumed the title to the chapel. It is used as a burial chapel for interments in the adjoining cemetery, weddings and other occasions. The chapel is laden with paintings, stained-glass windows, and an ornate altar donated in 1919.

The 300 Club has been established to support the upkeep and continuing restoration of the chapel. There are currently 100 members and they are looking to increase that number to 300 members. The fees are \$300 dollars for initial membership and \$100 to renew annually.

Now living in the St. Martin Village Good Samaritan Village, there are eight sisters who once lived in the Sturgis convent. These include Sisters Therese Marie Furois, Carol Kovarik, Lorane Coffin, Eleanor Solon, Michele Aldrich, Margaret Hinker, Mary Wegher, and Yvette Mallow.

Sr. Yvette shared some of her memories from life in the old St. Martin Academy, "I was sixteen when I came to Sturgis. Where the postulants and novices stayed, the beds were separated by curtains. We had one bathroom on each floor with a shower, a tub and four toilets. Each sister had a water basin to put on her overnight stand to wash up in the morning. We did not talk during meals — someone read during that time."

The sisters followed the Rule of Saint Benedict closely. They didn't talk from after evening prayer until after morning prayer and Mass. Then, they prayed the Divine Office and it was written in Latin. "Thanks be to God, it had an English translation on the other side," she said.

They came to the Chapel daily for prayer at 6:30 a.m. in the morning, at noon and in the evening. "After, we always had recreation in the evening. And that was always a fun time," she said.

In the 1940's the sisters were thinking about starting a college in Rapid City. About this time 560 acres came up for sale and the sisters bought the whole valley. As

the community steadily grew, the convent in Sturgis was not large enough to accommodate the sisters.

There were 156 sisters when they moved to the large St Martin campus in 1962. That building is now owned by the Diocese of Rapid City and called Terra Sancta Retreat Center.

"My novitiate class of eight sisters was the last class to make final vows in the Sturgis Chapel," she said.

At the time of the move the sisters had three hospitals, St. Joseph in Deadwood, St. John in Rapid City, and Our Lady of Fatima in Hot Springs. They had ten schools including the Boarding School in Rapid City

"There is a lot of history to the chapel in Sturgis. There was a railroad track that ran

past below St. Martin and a lot of hobos were on that train as it came through Sturgis. Many of them got off the train in Sturgis, they found the sisters and asked for food. The sisters called these people St. Josephs," said Sr. Yvette. She thinks it is important to preserve such a sacred and beautiful place.

A lot of work has been done already to preserve the chapel. Upcoming projects include new stucco, new stairs, refinishing the floors and finishing the basement for event use.

Donations can be mailed to St. Francis of Assisi Church, Attn: Chapel/Cemetery



The 300 Club is working to preserve the historic Benedictine Sisters' St. Martin Chapel in Sturgis.

Committee, 1049 Howard St., Sturgis, SD 57785.

To join The 300 Club call Mary Weber, 605-490-9873; Joanne Harmon, 605-490-2426; or Mike Palmer, 605-347-0642.

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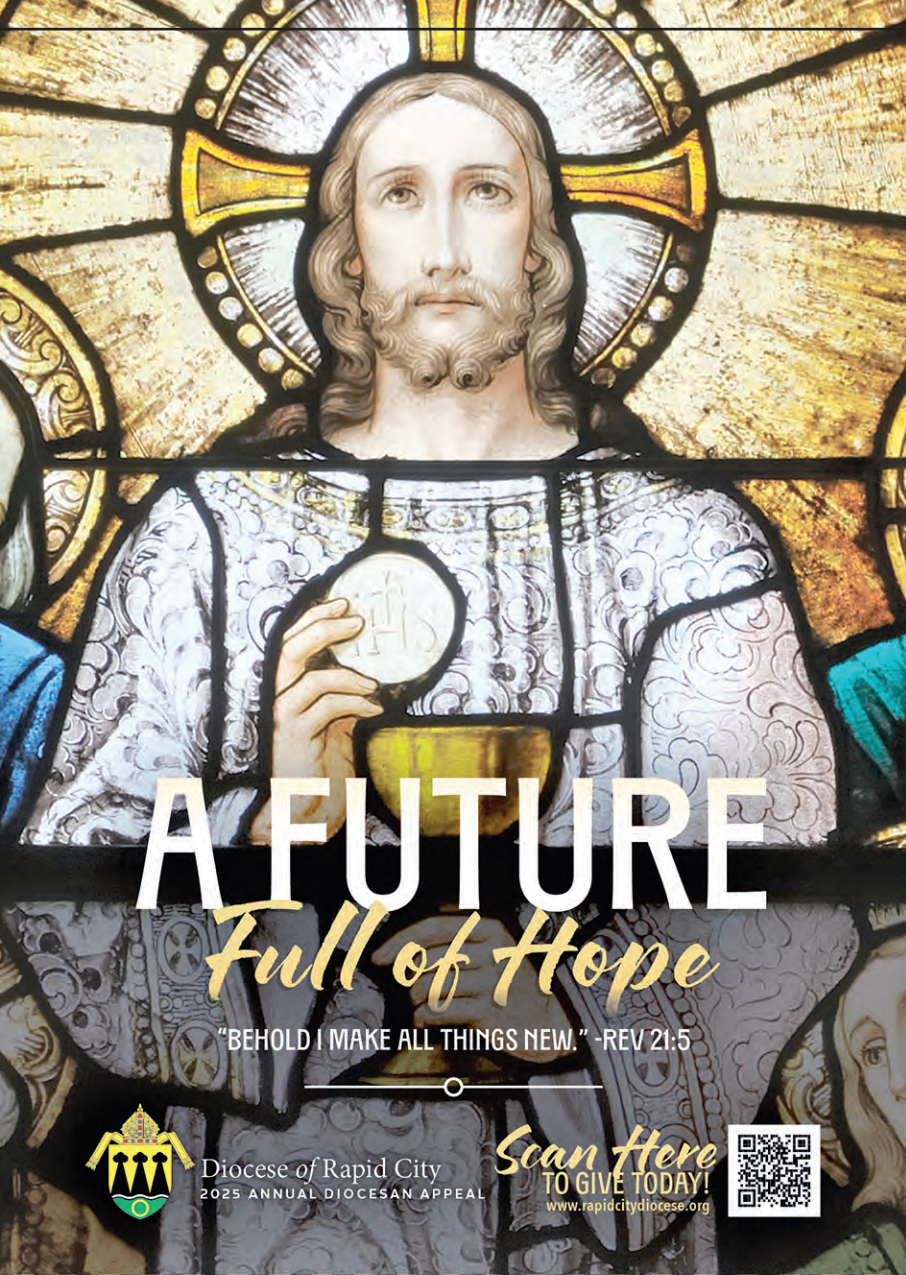
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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to invite your generous support of the mission of our Catholic Church in western South Dakota through a sacrificial gift to support the vital ministries and services that we offer as a diocese in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has chosen to lead the entire Church in a Jubilee Year of Hope during this year, seeking to help us to rediscover the singular hope that comes from a total reliance on Christ. For the followers of Jesus, hope is a way of life that continually practices placing our trust in the promises of the Lord. I have discovered that hope is a choice we make daily, with God's grace, to trust in the Lord's promises for the challenges of this day ... and every day. Even more, we can be a source of hope for others!

Each time we represent Jesus in our efforts as a diocese, we seek to lead others to the Christ, our *spes unica*, our only hope. Your contribution to our *Annual Diocesan Appeal* truly sows seeds of hope — helping our sisters and brothers grow in faith, providing for the education of our future priests, offering aids to strengthen families in need, and many other ways the Gospel calls us to serve ... together.

When the Lord promised to "Make all things new" (Rev. 21:5), he frequently intended this to happen through our efforts — empowered by his Holy Spirit. The world is waiting for hope — and we, the followers of Jesus, are called to act, that others might indeed enjoy their dignity in a future full of hope.

Humbly, in the name of Jesus, I ask you to prayerfully consider a gift to our *Annual Diocesan Appeal*. May your sacrificial support of the efforts of our diocese enhance the hope of our sisters and brothers who will benefit from all we do as followers of Jesus. Know of my prayers and gratitude for all that you do.

Sincerely in the joy and hope of Christ,

+ Scott E. Bullock

Most Reverend Scott E. Bullock, JCL
Bishop of Rapid City



P.S. Thanks also for your warm welcome this last year as your new bishop!

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Seminarian Dillon Johnson receives Ministry of Acolyte

On March 2, 2025, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization conferred the Ministry of Acolyte in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State, on 24 seminarians including Dillon Johnson a seminarian from the Diocese of Rapid City

In his homily, Cardinal Tagle directly addressed those who would be receiving the Ministry of Acolyte and encouraged them to live out the Gospel by evangelizing through the example of their lives. He said to them, "First take out the lumber from your eye, before you try to remove the splinter from their brother's eye." Cardinal Tagle went on to exhort those who were to be installed as Acolytes to "live lives of integrity through the bearing forth of the good fruits of humility, kindness and authenticity."

In the rite of the Institution of Acolyte, Cardinal Tagle placed the paten, which contains the hosts for the celebration of Mass, in the hands of each candidate. He then said, "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church."

The seminarians, currently in their second year of formation at the College, have two additional years of theological studies before being ordained to the priesthood in their home dioceses.

The Pontifical North American College serves as the American seminary in Rome. Founded in 1859 by Blessed Pius IX, the College has formed over 5000 priests near the heart of the Church for service in dioceses around the United States, Canada, and Australia. The College strengthens the bonds between Rome and local Churches worldwide, and it allows its students a first-hand encounter of the Church's rich religious and cultural heritage.



Vatican City, March 2, diocesan seminarian Dillon Johnson received the ministry of acolyte from Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization. Johnson attends the Pontifical North American, College. (Photo from North American College)

20 Seminarians by 2025.

The current Memorare Prayer count as of March 12 is 837,289! The Vocations Office is grateful to the many valiant Prayer Warriors who are so diligent. To achieve the 1,000,000 prayers goal, we need 162,711 more Memorares by June 8, Pentecost Sunday.

"Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary..."

Easter is more than

just chocolate eggs and Easter baskets. As Catholics, we need to encourage the truth of the season by giving gifts and other reminders of faith to our friends and loved ones.

We invite you to stop by

the Mustard Seed where we have greeting cards, books, Bibles and devotional materials for adults and children that will enhance your Easter experience. Check out these titles and more!

**Celebrating a Holy Catholic Easter
A Guide to the Customs and Devotions
of Lent and the Season of Christ's Resurrection**
by Father William Saunders

The Story of the First Easter Bunny
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A Blizzard of Opportunity: Surrendering Control

(Editor's note: This article appeared in the Winter 2025 issue of Catholic Rural Life magazine. It is reprinted with permission.)

By JOE TRASK

Wintering cattle in western South Dakota can be challenging. Blizzards blow and temperatures remain subzero for many days. Growing up in a ranching family, I have learned from my parents, siblings, and neighbors many ways to prepare for, and mitigate, the perils of the brutal elements of the winter. From large-scale planning, such as how much feed to keep on hand for a winter to the small details of keeping your machinery full of fuel and plugged in, ranchers strive to keep their operations in a position for success in the face of winter's adversity. In our operation, we position the cow herd prior to a storm in the best possible shelter available. The goal is for the livestock to weather the storm in the canyon or shelter with a belly full of feed, and

to stay there for hours or days until the storm has passed. For these reasons, we plan to keep our haystack yard supplied and our canyons full of old tall grass. Have you ever wondered why God made those tall species of grass, such as Indian Wild Rye, Big Bluestem, or Switchgrass, that grow tall and rank and which the cows ignore most of the year? These seemingly aesthetic-only grasses provide the perfect source of nutrition for the cows made less picky by deep snow.

With increased weather forecasting accuracy, we have a great advantage in preparing for these winter storms in comparison to the ranchers of yesteryear. But even now, with weather events such as the "Atlas Blizzard" in October of 2013, winter storms surprise the most advanced forecasting models and bring destruction and death. The "Atlas Blizzard," also called the "Cattlemen's Blizzard," will be remembered as one of the most severe winter storms in western South Dakota history that resulted in up to 40,000 dead livestock. Such a se-

vere storm at such an early date found cows with calves at their side, still on summer range and without their winter coats of hair. The devastation and death were shared by all ranchers in the area, and no amount of preparedness or shrewd experience by any rancher protected the livestock. The fruit of this mighty and devastating blizzard was the sharing, caring, working together, and love shared by both country and city folks with one another in the aftermath.

Everyone, at some point in their lives, lives under the false illusion that they are in control. That with hard work and shrewd decision-making, success will be theirs. The harsh, and then refreshing, truth is that we are not in control and never will be. How coarse it can be to accept that our successes in ranching and farming are not due to our own greatness but the greatness of God! But also, how refreshing to know that we should not carry our failures in farming and ranching solely on our own shoulders, so as to crumble under the insurmountable

weight we were never created to carry.

The exposure of ranchers and their livestock to the uncontrollable winter weather humbles a person, and in doing so brings about a great opportunity for faith. The instances where vulnerability to the weather brings about humility should be seen as a great blessing. Imagine how a job with much less unpredictability than cattle ranching avails less opportunities to exercise our trust in God's divine providence.

We should find great solace that God, in His infinite wisdom, knows the desires of our hearts. Should God desire for us to remain farming or ranching, so help us God, we shall remain operating in agriculture. Oh, don't fret, our humanity will drive us to get up and feed our cattle, do the work, and yes, stress over how we will get by. But at the end of the day, placing our trust in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the best way to get through the brutal winter.



We invite you to join us for

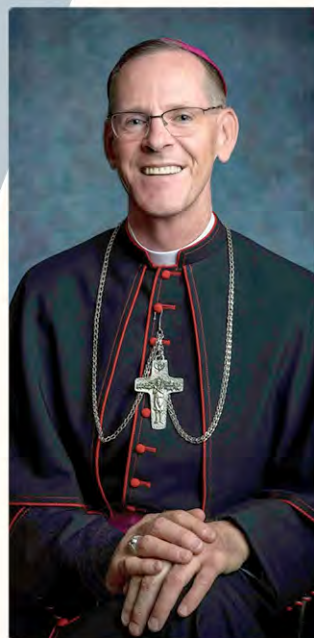
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A Vita Christi RETREAT



'God has elected you'

On March 9, Bishop Scott Bullock celebrated the Rite of Election Mass. People from throughout the diocese gathered at the Cathedral to celebrate this rite, inviting both catechumens and candidates to the Easter mysteries. Catechumens are those seeking to join the Catholic



Church through the three sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at Easter time. **(Left)** Michael Ochoa presents Bishop Bullock with the "Book of the Elect" from St. Joseph Church, Spearfish. **(Above)** Those already baptized are presented to the bishop as candidates for full communion. Visit our website to read/listen to the full homily, watch the Mass, or see more pictures. (WRC photos by Laurie Hallstrom)

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**OFFICE CLOSED
APRIL 18
IN OBSERVANCE OF
GOOD FRIDAY**



TELEVISED MASS

Visit our website

WWW.RAPIDCITYDIOCESE.ORG/TELEVISED-MASS

for a list of online Masses and resources for at home prayer and study

Check with your parish for in-person Mass times

SATURDAY – 4 P.M.

NBC 21.1

ConnectCenter1 21.2

SUNDAY – 7 A.M.

NBC 21.1

SUNDAY – 10:30 A.M.

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DioceseofRapidCity



**DIOCESE OF
SIOUX FALLS**



SATURDAY

3 p.m. MT/4 p.m. CT

YouTube

SUNDAY

9 a.m. MT/10 a.m. CT

KELOLand TV (CBS)

<https://www.sfcatholic.org/tvmass/>



Listen to the homily on our website or on your favorite podcast player
by searching Diocese of Rapid City!

HOLY WEEK LIVE STREAM SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday - April 13, 8 am

Chrism Mass - April 14, 10 am

Holy Thursday - April 17, 7 pm

Good Friday - April 18, 3 pm

Easter Vigil - April 19, 8:30 pm

www.rapidcitydiocese.org/live
facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity

PRESIDER: BISHOP SCOTT BULLOCK

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.

April

Birthdays: April 2, Dcn. Thomas Adams; April 4, Dcn. James Van Loan;

April 9, Dcn. Lloyd Frein, Fr. Collins Igwilo, Fr. David Mastrangelo, SJ;

April 11, Fr. Leo Hausmann; April 17, Dcn Corey Compton.

Ordination: April 25, 1990, Fr. Jean Claude Mbassi, SCJ

Necrology: April 2, 1944, Edward Calahan; April 2, 2017, D. Craig Cower; April 4, 1987, William Fitzgerald, SJ; April 6, 1959, Nicholas McNamara; April 7, 1940, Placidus Sialm, SJ; April 10, 2011, John Gigl, SJ; April 12, 1952, Henry Westropp, SJ; April 12, 1982, Ronald Zelnick; April 17, 1966, Kevin Doyle, CSC; April 20, 1953, John Vogel; April 21, 1921, John Shea, CSC; April 23, 1957, Joseph Zuercher, SJ; April 25, 1920, Hugh Mullen; April 27, 1960, Thomas Carroll; April 27, 1977, Robert Ehrenbold; April 28, 1995, Dcn. George Schenck; April 28, 1989, Richard Pates, SJ; April 29, 1924, John Boyle; April 30, 1940, Anthony O'Hora.

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NOW HIRING: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Healing the Culture, an international leader in pro-life advocacy that delivers respect life education to millions, is hiring for the position of Executive Director. Visit us at www.HealingtheCulture.org or scan the QR code to learn more and apply.

HEALING THE CULTURE



'Jesus Keeps on Loving You, No Matter What'

BY BISHOP DANIEL THOMAS, CHAIRMAN
USCCB'S COMMITTEE ON
PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

"As we approach Lent, please allow me to speak to all who carry the unbearable sadness and guilt of an abortion experience. Be assured that Jesus keeps on loving you, no matter what.

"The blessed ashes distributed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday remind us that we are all sinners; broken, imperfect, yet very precious in the eyes of God and so well loved by Him. The ashes are both a reminder of our need for repentance and the graces that flow from our Lord's death and resurrection.

Some stay away from the Church because they fear judgment of past sins. Yet as Pope Francis reminds us in his letter announcing the Jubilee of Hope, '[Judgment] is meant to bring us to a definitive encounter with the Lord' (*Spes non confundit*, 22). Jesus' voice is calling out to you as His beloved daughters and sons, and He is waiting to meet you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He de-

sires a relationship with you. This Lent, I personally invite you to come home to Jesus, who eagerly awaits your return, and come home to the Church.

"God's gift of hope allows you to expect His comfort as you grieve for the loss of your aborted children. It also provides assurance that 'you can with sure hope en-

trust your child' to the Father and His mercy (St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, 99).

"I pray that God plants a seed of hope in every heart that is overwhelmed by sadness and despair from participation in abortion. This Lent, the Lord's mercy awaits you. Allow Him to heal you and lift your sadness into joy."

Nonjudgmental, compassionate help is available from experienced clergy and laypeople through the Church's diocesan abortion healing ministry.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministry* for healing after abortion is open to anyone impacted by abortion: moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, and health care workers. The next retreat is April 25-27 in western South Dakota. For caring and confidential information, contact Carol now at ckling@sdplains.com or 605-374-5639 or go to www.rachelsvineyard.org.

**Serving the Rapid City Diocese for over 25 years.*

i am...
LOVED [ROMANS 5:8]
worthy [1 THESSALONIANS 2:12]
cherished [EPHESIANS 5:29]
forgiven [1 JOHN 2:12]
chosen [COLOSSIANS 3:12]



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24-RC-03077 (09/24)

Thank you to our generous Living the Mission donors!

The Rapid City Catholic School System (RCCSS) is thrilled to announce that the Living the Mission campaign has received an incredible \$1.7 million distribution toward increasing our endowment for teacher salaries and tuition assistance, as well as the St. Thomas More cafeteria.

These priorities were first identified during Bishop Robert Gruss' time serving as the Bishop of Rapid City. Thanks to overwhelming generosity, we are making progress on ensuring long-term financial sustainability for our schools. While our need for an upgraded cafeteria and kitchen is no longer urgent, building the endowment to secure, retain, and adequately pay our qualified teachers and staff remains a critical priority.

With aging facilities across our system, RCCSS has invested in strategic planning to identify ongoing facility needs. As outlined in the Living the Mission campaign, the final distribution of funds will be determined by Bishop Scott Bullock. In collaboration with the RCCSS school board, superintendent, and strategic planning committee, Bishop Bullock approved the funds originally designated as cafeteria and kitchen improvements, instead being designated to support the long-term maintenance plan for our school facilities.

Thank you again for your continued support, faith, and generosity. Together, we are securing a bright future for our students and our entire school community.

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 Victim Assistance Coordinator, Irene Lee. To ensure confidentiality in our outreach to victims, she can be contacted privately at 1-605-209-3418 (cell). 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, young people, and vulnerable adults 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.*

Lenten Recipe

Recipe and photo
Submitted by
Mary Lunders

Seafood Salad



14-16 ounces of imitation crab
½ cup mayonnaise
½ cup sour cream
1 Tbs lemon juice
1 cup diced celery
1 tsp fresh dill
½ Old Bay seasoning
Salt to taste

Separate crabmeat into individual pieces and chop into ½ pieces; add to a medium size bowl.
Combine the remaining ingredients and gently stir into the chopped crab until

well combined. Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate.

Notes:

Use crab, shrimp or lobster in place of the imitation crab. Add diced cucumber, hard boiled egg or chopped olives for a different taste. Use dry Ranch mix in place of Old Bay seasoning.

See other recipes at <https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/lenten-recipes/>.

Send recipes to: lhallstrom@diorc.org.

MAILING LABEL

March 2025

West River Catholic

WRC 12



In Rapid City, hospital ministry is managed by the Spiritual Care Office at Monument Health (605) 755-8191. They have the schedule of the on-call priests and will contact one of them for you.

DIocese OF RAPID CITY

FIERCE:

"For Such a Time as This"
ESTHER 4:14

TOTUS TUUS 2025
GIRLS' CAMP: JUNE 10-13
H.S. LEADERSHIP CAMP: JUNE 9-13
BOYS' CAMP: JUNE 23-26
H.S. LEADERSHIP CAMP: JUNE 21-26

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