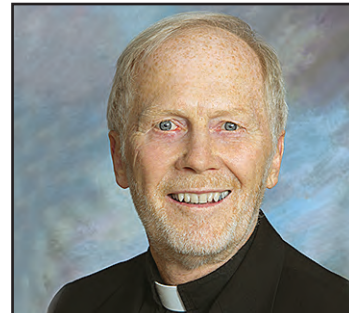


WEST RIVER Catholic

Informing Catholics in Western South Dakota since May 1973



Priest Assignments, p. 4



Permanent Diaconate 50th, p. 6

May 2025

Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota

Volume 53 Number 1 www.rapidcitydiocese.org

Chicago native elected pope

CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the Chicago-born prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, was elected the 267th pope May 8 and took the name Pope Leo XIV.

He is the first North American to be elected pope and, before the conclave, was the U.S. cardinal most mentioned as a potential successor of St. Peter.

French Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, protodeacon of the College of Cardinals, appeared on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at 7:12 p.m. He told the crowd, "I announce to you a great joy. We have a pope (*Habemus papam*)," saying the cardinal's name in Latin and announcing the name by which he will be called.

Ten minutes later, the new Pope Leo came out onto the balcony, smiling and waving to the crowd wearing the white papal cassock, a red mozzetta or cape and a red stole to give his first public blessing "*urbi et orbi*" (to the city and the world).

The crowd shouted repeatedly, "*Viva il papa*" or "Long live the pope" as Pope Leo's eyes appeared to tear up.

"Peace be with you," were Pope Leo's first words to the crowd.

"My dear brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the risen Christ, the good shepherd who gave his life for God's flock," he said, praying that Christ's peace would enter people's hearts, their families and "the whole earth."

The peace of the risen Lord, he said, is "a peace that is unarmed and disarming."

Signaling strong continuity with the pa-



Pope Leo XIV, the former Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, waves to the crowds in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican after his election as pope May 8, 2025. The new pope was born in Chicago. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

pace of Pope Francis, Pope Leo told the crowd that God "loves all of us unconditionally" and that the church must be open to everyone.

"We are all in God's hands," he said, so "without fear, united, hand in hand with God and with each other, let us go forward."

He thanked the cardinals who elected him, apparently on the fourth ballot of the conclave, "to be the successor of Peter and to walk with you as a united church always seeking peace, justice" and together being missionary disciples of Christ.

Telling the crowd that he was an Augustinian, he quoted St. Augustine, who said, "With you I am a Christian and for you a bishop."

"Together we must try to be a missionary church, a church that builds bridges and always dialogues, that is always open to re-

ceiving everyone like this square with its arms open to everyone, everyone in need," he said.

The new bishop of Rome told the people of his diocese and of the whole Catholic Church, "We want to be a synodal church, a church that journeys, a church that seeks peace always, that always seeks charity, that wants to be close to people, especially those who are suffering."

A longtime missionary in Peru, the 69-year-old pope holds both U.S. and Peruvian citizenships.

La Repubblica, the major Italian daily, described him April 25 as "cosmopolitan and shy," but also said he was "appreciated by conservatives and progressives. His visibility comes from the fact that as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops for the past two years, he was instrumental in helping Pope Francis choose bishops for many Latin-rite

dioceses. A Chicago native, he also served as prior general of the Augustinians and spent more than two decades serving in Peru, first as an Augustinian missionary and later as bishop of Chiclayo.

Soon after coming to Rome to head the dicastery, he told Vatican News that bishops have a special mission of promoting the unity of the church. Divisions and polemics in "the church do not help anything," he said.

Pope Leo was born Sept. 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois. He holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the Augustinian-run Villanova University in Pennsylvania and joined the order in 1977, making his solemn vows in 1981. He holds a degree in theology from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a doctorate from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

Statement of Most Rev. Scott E. Bullock, Bishop of Rapid City Election of Pope Leo XIV May 8, 2025



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

Habemus papam!

In the name of the people of the Diocese of Rapid City, we give thanks to God that the Holy Spirit has selected a new leader of our Church, Pope Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost, OSA, one of our own from the United States. This election was a very quick one, which gives confidence to the action of the Holy Spirit, that a consensus was reached so quickly. As the Vicar of Christ and the Successor of Peter, the pope is the agent and center of unity which requires a powerful gift of the Holy Spirit as promised by our Lord Jesus.

I invite all the members of our Church in western South Dakota to join the millions of their fellow Catholics around the world in offering a prayer of gratitude for our new pope. We believe our supreme prayer of thanksgiving is the Eucharist, the Mass. I invite you to join your brothers and sisters at Mass this weekend in offering this prayer of thanksgiving for Pope Leo XIV. I extend our gratitude to our sisters and brothers in Christ who worship in other Christian churches and communities for

your prayers for our new pope — may his ministry contribute to the unity that our Lord prayed for, that we might be one (cf. Jn 17:20-21). Finally, thanks to you and all people of faith for your prayers for our new pope. May his spiritual leadership contribute to a more humane and just world that God has given us.

We have been given a new pope who was formed as a priest in the Augustinian Order, with a great deal of time as a missionary in Peru. Furthermore, he has expertise in Church law and served on Dicastries (congregations of the Holy See) for Bishops and Evangelization.

His first words to the world: "Peace be with you all — these were the first words of the Risen Lord." May we indeed know that peace more fully in our families, communities, and among the nations, praying especially as Pope Leo XIV did, through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of Peace.

I celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for our new pope on May 8, at 5:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City and I have directed our priests and people throughout the diocese to do the same as soon as it is possible. See it on the website rapidcitydiocese.org/election-mass/. We join the angels and saints in a resounding hymn of praise, praising our God for the gift of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.



WSDCF BISHOP'S FISHING TOURNAMENT FOR SEMINARIANS

JUNE 9, 2025 | OAHE, PIERRE

The day includes a bass and walleye tournament, Mass celebrated by bishop, a silent auction, raffles, and an outdoor prime rib dinner!

All proceeds benefit seminarian education and formation for the Diocese of Rapid City.



LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT: WSDCF.ORG



All are welcome!

Ordination of **Todd VanderMay** to the **Transitional Diaconate**

May 24, 2025 ~ 10 a.m.

Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Rapid City

Holy Hour

May 23, 2025 ~ 5 p.m.

rapidcitydiocese.org/live or
Facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity

Ordination of **DCN MAX VETCH** to the **PRIESTHOOD**

June 27 ~ 5:30 p.m.

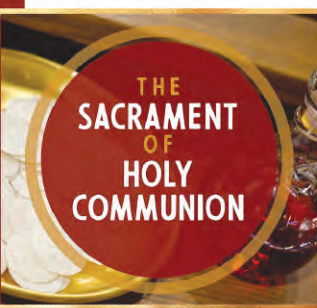
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Rapid City

Holy Hour

June 26, 2025 ~ 5 p.m.

rapidcitydiocese.org/live
Facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity





First Communion

Send your group photo
and parish name to
bberreth@diorc.org by June 30
for publication in the July
West River Catholic

In Your Prayers

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

JUNE

Birthdays: June 7, Dcn. Craig Pearson; June 17, Fr. John Heying; June 26, Fr. Tony Grossenburg; June 27, Fr. Ed Witt, SJ.
Ordinations: June 1, 1974, Fr. Ron Seminara, SJ; June 3, 2017, Fr. Brad Held, SJ; June 4, 2011, Fr. Francis Nwakile, FJS; June 6, 1991, Fr. Mark McCormick; June 6, 1987 Fr. David Mastrangelo, SJ; June 6, 2008, Dcn. Tom Freece; June 7, 1984, Fr. Kerry Prendiville; June 7, 2014, Dcn. Robert Ackerman; June 8, 1974, Fr. John Hatcher, SJ; June 8, 1979, Fr. Michel Mulloy; June 8, 1989, Fr. Brian Lane; June 8, 2001, Fr. Timothy Castor and Fr. Matthew Fallgren; June 9, 1988, Fr. Gary Oreshoski and Fr. Bryan Sorensen; June 9, 2000, Fr. John Heying and Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek; June 9, 2006, Fr. James Hoerter; June 10, 1990, Dcn. George Gladfelter; June 11, 1982, Msgr. Michael Woster; June 11, 1992, Fr. Leo Hausmann; June 12, 1981, Fr. Peter Klink, SJ; June 12, 1998, Fr. Ed Vanorny; June 13, 1997, Fr. Janusz Korban; June 17, 1983, Fr. Ron Garry; June 19, 1976, Dcn. Ben Black Bear; June 19, 2014, Fr. Jonathan Dillon, Fr. Grant Gerlach, and Fr. Adam Hofer; June 20, 1987, Fr. James Lafontaine, SJ; June 24, 2022, Fr. Joshua Lee; June 25, 2003, Dcn. Larry Brown; June 26, 2009, Fr. Tyler Dennis; June 27, 2009, Dcn. Larry Kopriva and Dcn. James Van Loan; June 29, 1995, Fr. Tim Hoag. June 29, 2023 Dcn. G.W. Ekroth, Dcn. James Hulms, Dcn. Timothy Minihan, Dcn. Brian Paulsen, Dcn. Matthew Snyder, and Dcn. Philip Thompson
Necrology: June 2, 1966, William McGuill; June 3, 1940, Bruno Suchsland; June 7, 1914, Joseph Chausee; June 8, 1952, Arthur LaFleur; June 9, 1963, Joseph O'Rourke; June 9, 1972, Francis Collins, SJ; June 10, 1982, Dcn. Max Plank; June 12, 1924, Thomas Hoban; June 12, 1936 Michael Straeten; June 14, 1975, Eugene Szalay; June 17, 1961, Walter Isherwood; June 19, 1967, Peter Price, SJ; June 20, 1946, Columban Bregenzer, OSB; June 22, 1975, Patrick McCormick; June 26, 1999, Joseph Zeller; June 26, 2018, Dcn. John Steffen; June 27, 1985, Victor Perkovitch, SCJ.

WEST RIVER CATHOLIC

USPS 983-360

Official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Rapid City, published monthly.

The *West River Catholic* is owned and published by the
Diocese of Rapid City, 225 Main St., Ste 100, Rapid City, SD 57701-5499
Phone: 605-343-3541

Publisher: Bishop Scott Bullock
Director of Communications: Jacques Daniel, jdaniel@diorc.org
Editor: Laurie Hallstrom, lhallstrom@diorc.org
Assistant Editor: Becky Berreth, bberreth@diorc.org
Advertising: Laurie Hallstrom, 605-343-3541
Circulation: Melinda/Karen, receptiondesk@diorc.org
Subscription: \$35, Foreign subscription: \$60 per year.



Postmaster: Address all correspondence, including change of address, to:
West River Catholic, 225 Main St. Ste 100, Rapid City, SD 57701-2835
Periodical postage paid at Rapid City, SD 57701

Bishop Calendar

May 19 to June 8, 2025

Subject to Change without notice

May 19-21, Monday-Wednesday

Clergy Days, Terra Sancta Retreat Center

May 23, Friday

2:30 p.m. Ordination Rehearsal,
Cathedral

5 p.m. Holy Hour, Cathedral

May 24, Saturday

10 a.m. Ordination of Todd VanderMay
to the Transitional Diaconate, Cathedral

May 25, Sunday

2 p.m. St. Thomas More High School
Graduation Mass/Ceremony, Cathedral

May 26, Monday

Memorial Day, Chancery Closed

June 4, Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Homeschool Graduation
Mass, Commencement, Cathedral

June 5, Thursday

6:30 p.m. Bishop's Film Series:
"The Trip to Bountiful," Cathedral

June 6, Friday

4:30 p.m. Candidate Meeting &
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Rite,
Immaculate Conception, Rapid City

June 7, Saturday

4:30 p.m. CT Candidate Meeting &
5:30pm CT Confirmation Mass,
Sacred Heart, Burke

June 8, Sunday

2 p.m. Reception for Pilgrimage of
Hope, Cathedral



American Voters

U.S. Cardinals pose for photo at Pontical North American College, Rome, before moving to the Vatican to vote for a new pope. (L-R) Cardinals Wilton Gregory, retired, Washington, DC; Joseph Tobin, Newark, N.J.; Robert McElroy, Washington, DC; Timothy Dolan, New York, N.Y.; Daniel DiNardo, Galveston-Houston, TX; and Blase Cupich of Chicago, Ill; Cardinal Cupich was the Bishop of Rapid City from 1998 to 2012. (PNAC photo)

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Priest assignments

Bishop Scott Bullock has released the following clergy assignments. Unless otherwise indicated, the assignments are effective July 1.



Fr. Leo Hausmann is released from his assignment as Pastor for the Parishes of St. Patrick in Lead and St. Ambrose in Deadwood and placed on full retirement status. He is relieved of his appointment as Vicar General of the Diocese of Rapid City.



In addition to his current responsibilities, **Fr. Kevin Achbach** is appointed as Vicar General of the Diocese of Rapid City.



Fr. Francis Nsubuga is released from assignment as Associate Pastor for the Parishes of St. Joseph in Spearfish and St. Paul in Belle Fourche, and assigned as Sacramental Priest for the Parishes of St. Patrick in Lead and St. Ambrose in Deadwood, in accord with Can. 517 §2.



Deacon Tim Minihan is assigned as Parish Life Coordinator for the Parishes of St. Patrick, Lead, and St. Ambrose, Deadwood, in accord with Can. 517 §2.



In addition to his current responsibilities, **Fr. Timothy Castor** is assigned as Supervising Pastor for the Parishes of St. Patrick, Lead and St. Ambrose, Deadwood, in accord with Can. 517 §2.



Deacon Maxwell Vetch, upon Ordination to the Priesthood, will be assigned as Associate Pastor for the Parishes of St. Joseph, Spearfish and St. Paul, Belle Fourche



Fr. Bryan Sorensen is released from assignment as Pastor for the Parishes of St. Anthony in Buffalo, St. Isidore in Ralph and Blessed Sacrament in Bison and granted an indefinite personal leave.



Fr. Joshua Lee is released from assignments as Associate Pastor for the Parishes of Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Michael, Hermosa and assigned as Pastor for the Parishes of St. Anthony in Buffalo, Blessed Sacrament in Bison, and St. Isidore in Ralph. He is also relieved of his appointment as Chaplain of Rapid City Catholic Schools System.



Fr. Leonard Ssenyonjo is released from assignment as Associate Pastor for the Parishes of St. Therese the Little Flower, Rapid City and St. John the Evangelist, New Underwood, and assigned as Associate Pastor for the Parishes of Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Michael, Hermosa



Fr. Brad Held, SJ is released from assignment as Pastor for the Parishes of Holy Rosary Mission on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He will leave the diocese for an assignment from the Jesuit Midwest USA Province.



Fr. Ryen Dwyer, SJ, is released from assignment as Parochial Vicar for the Parishes of Holy Rosary Mission on the Pine Ridge Reservation and is assigned as Pastor of the same.



Fr. Robert Chawngthu, SJ, currently serving as a teacher at Red Cloud-Mahpiya Luta School in Pine Ridge is assigned as Parochial Vicar for the Parishes of Holy Rosary Mission on the Pine Ridge Reservation.



Effective June 1, **Fr. Jean Claude Mbassi, SCJ**, is released from assignment as Pastor for the Parishes of St. Mary in Lower Brule, St. Mary in Reliance, and St. Michael in Kennebec. He will leave South Dakota for an assignment by the Provincial of the Priests of the Sacred Heart United States Province.



Effective June 1, 2025, **Fr. Christianus Hendrik, SCJ**, is assigned as Pastor for the Parishes of St. Mary in Lower Brule, St. Mary in Reliance, and St. Michael in Kennebec in addition to his pastorate in the Diocese of Sioux Falls.



Effective September 1, 2025, **Fr. Edward Witt, SJ**, is released from assignment as Pastor from St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City. He will leave the diocese for an assignment from the Jesuit Midwest USA Province.



Effective September 1, 2025, **Fr. Phillip Cooke, SJ**, is assigned as Pastor for St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Rapid City. He is returning to South Dakota from a Provincial assignment outside the country, having previously served at Holy Rosary Mission.



Chancery closed, Monday, May 26



Terra Sancta
Retreat Center
terrasancta.org | stay@terrasancta.org

June fishing tournament is going to be a whopper

By LAURIE HALLSTROM

Fish tales will be told after Monday, June 9. That is when the Dioceses of Sioux Falls and Rapid City will team up for the 2025 Bishop's Fishing Tournament & Dinner. The competition will be held on the neutral "turf" of the Missouri River near Pierre and the official boundary between the competitors. All entry fees from the western side of the riverbank will go 100% to seminarian education for the Rapid City Diocese.

Those who wish to get in on the fun, but not drop a hook in the water, can attend the 3:30 p.m. Mass. Following the Mass, there are pre-purchase tickets for the social hour and outdoor prime rib dinner. Last year's tournament drew more than 350 people to the boat launch south of Pierre.

In past years various smaller fishing tournaments have been held in this diocese. Last spring, when Jim Kinyon took over as Executive Director of the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation he learned he needed to put together a fishing tournament in June. With no experience setting up sporting events, he turned to the Sioux Falls Catholic Foundation for help. "Sioux Falls

graciously let us jump on board their event," he said.

In this year's rematch, Kinyon is working with Fr. Mark McCormick, Diocesan Vocations director to make a bigger splash this year. "I'm in it for the competition," said Fr. Mark, whose catch last year didn't quite float up to the top of the winner's circle.

Kinyon pleaded, "I need a professional guide to get Fr. Mark in a boat. If you know the Pierre area PLEASE call. Fr. Mark needs some help. Then, if we could get a couple of ladies from the Altar Society to put on some scuba gear and put fish on the hook that would help, too."

"I'm ready to pull in a lunker," Fr. Mark said, wading up to the challenge.

Six seminarians are expected to compete for Rapid City. Kinyon is looking for six boaters to each take one seminarian aboard, and host families to house the seminarians.

According to Kinyon the price of educating a seminarian is about \$45,000 per year. The tournament is only one of three events sponsored to help with the costs. In 2024 this fishing tournament netted \$39,356. The WSDCF is looking to top the amount this year.



At the 2024 Bishop's Fishing Tournament & Dinner, children took advantage of their own sports. Children's hot dog dinners are \$10. (Courtesy photo)

To get a boatload of details on the tournament schedule, entry fees, award divisions, raffle tickets, silent auction, and sponsorship opportunities go to wsdcf.org/news-and-events/. There is even a current Real Presence Radio podcast featuring Fr. Mark and

Jim Kinyon discussing the tournament. Entry fees include breakfast, lunch, and prime rib dinner. "This is a great opportunity to involve parish youth in a fun, diocesan event with our seminarians and diocesan priests," said Kinyon.

UPCOMING:

THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL



CINEMA with the *Shepherd*

JUNE 5 | 6:30PM | ST. JOSEPH HALL, OLPH

After Cana DATE NIGHTS



**6:30-8:30PM | FOOD PROVIDED
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A new marriage enrichment series sponsored by the Office of Marriage and Family Life.

Calling all married couples! Rekindle your love and faith at our After Cana Date Night Series, designed just for you. The evening includes delicious food, heartfelt conversation, and time to grow closer through prayer together as we delve into the Church's inspiring vision for marriage!

UPCOMING DATES

JUNE 14

JULY 19

AUG 9



Learn more at: rapidcitydiocese.org/familylife

An early deacon candidate class with Jesuits

BY EUGENE IRON SHELL JR.

The Jesuits have had a long and cordial relationship with the Lakota people. As far back as the 1880s, Chief Spotted Tail of the Sicangu (Burnt Thigh) Lakota Nation, and Chief Red Cloud of the Oglala Lakota Nation in Pine Ridge, ventured from their home in South Dakota to Washington, D.C., where they made numerous requests for the Catholic priests “that wear black dresses” to educate the Lakota children.

President Rutherford B. Hayes finally approved the request, and St. Francis Mission was formed in 1886 on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Holy Rosary Mission was founded two years later on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and today the institutions remain apostolates of the Midwest USA Province of the Society of Jesus.

This year, on May 31, the Diocese of Rapid City, S.D., celebrates the 50th anniversary of the diocese’s first permanent diaconate ordination. Here, we reflect and pay tribute to the first five permanent deacons, and the Jesuit priests entrusted with their formation.

In the early days, men were formed to be Lakota catechists at Pine Ridge and Rosebud. Most notable was Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk. The men were selected for their good character, intelligence and zeal, and entrusted to perform baptisms, visit the sick, lead prayers, bury the dead and teach the Gospel, which is what current-day deacons are ordained to do.

Upon the re-emergence of the Church’s permanent diaconate in the late 1960s, Jesuit Fathers Harry Eglsaer and Paul Manhart approached Bishop Harold Dimmerling, the fifth bishop of Rapid City, and sought his permission to begin a program to train deacons for the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations. Bishop Dimmerling agreed, and the program was born in 1972.

From the beginning, the Jesuits wanted to build this new concept in the spirit of the early Lakota catechists like Black Elk. Father Chris Keeler, SJ, assisted with teaching the candidates, and Fr. Richard Jones, SJ, provided their spiritual direction. All of the candidates were married, and their wives participated in the same classes they did.

Jesuit Fathers John Hatcher and Patrick McCorkell were ordained in 1974 and spent a year studying theology at Regis College in Toronto. They had both worked at St. Francis Mission during formation in the summer of 1972. In 1975, they were assigned to St. Francis and appointed co-directors of the diaconate program, which the bishop had recently formally approved for the diocese.

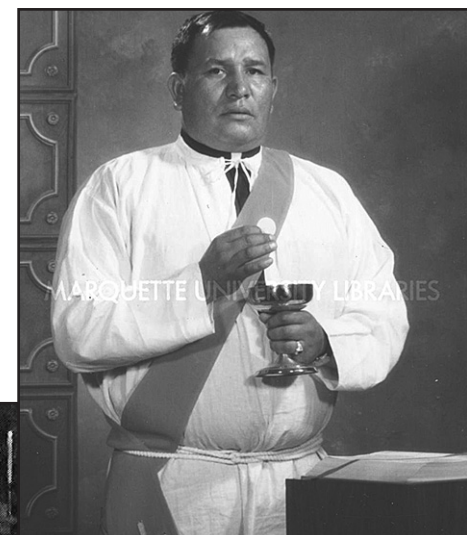
“We had high hopes back then,” Fr. McCorkell says. “I think what stands out is that the Lakota people now have local clergy and have the capability to uniquely build up the Church.”

Today, Fr. Hatcher is the priest-in-residence at St. Issac Jogues Parish in Rapid City, and Fr. McCorkell is a retreat speaker at Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, Minn.

Their greatest contribution in those early days was the development of a formal curriculum, which they had started in Toronto. Father Eglsaer would let them know what lessons were needed, and they would mail them to St. Francis. The lessons were published as “Builders of the New Earth: The Formation of Permanent Deacons” edited by Fr. Tibor Horvath, SJ, of the Regis College theology department. Lakota men ordained at Holy Rosary Mission to the permanent diaconate were Steven Red Elk (1975), Reno Richards (1975), Lester Plank (1975) and Victor Young Bull Bear (1978). Deacon Ben Black Bear Jr. (1976), who had to apply for a dispensation from the Holy See because he was only 30, was ordained at St. Francis. One thing all five of them understood was their Lakota identity. “For a few years in the 1990s, I had the privilege of spending a few weeks each summer with Deacon Victor,” says Fr. Gary Wright, SJ. “I wanted to learn more about Lakota spirituality. It seemed to me that one of his greatest gifts was his ability to put the Gospel and faith into a way that spoke to the heart of his people. He was a witness to others that Jesus is the way because of his public role as a Catholic deacon, but he could put it into terms that his Lakota people could readily understand because of his embrace of Lakota spirituality. To say that he tried to integrate both ways would be misleading. It went deeper than that. He integrated the

Catholic faith and Lakota spirituality into one single way of life in his own person.” By the late 1970s, the program had expanded to include the entire Rapid City Diocese. The Jesuits built the Sioux Spiritual Center, which would serve as a base for the formation program. They formed candidates there until 2017, when the facility was turned over to the diocese, which operates it today. The work of the Society of Jesus continues to bear fruit in the parish communities in western South Dakota. According to Deacon Greg Sass, current director of the permanent diaconate for Rapid City, approximately 60 deacons have been ordained since 1975. Father Peter Klink, SJ, a witness to early Lakota diaconate ministry, sums it up well. “This program exhibited the very fact that our God is a good and gracious God,” he says. “He has created all things and all peoples in his generous love. The Lakota deacons help us to understand a more inculturated, richer and more deeply blessed Church.”

Reprinted from “Midwest Jesuits” magazine, Spring 2025 edition.

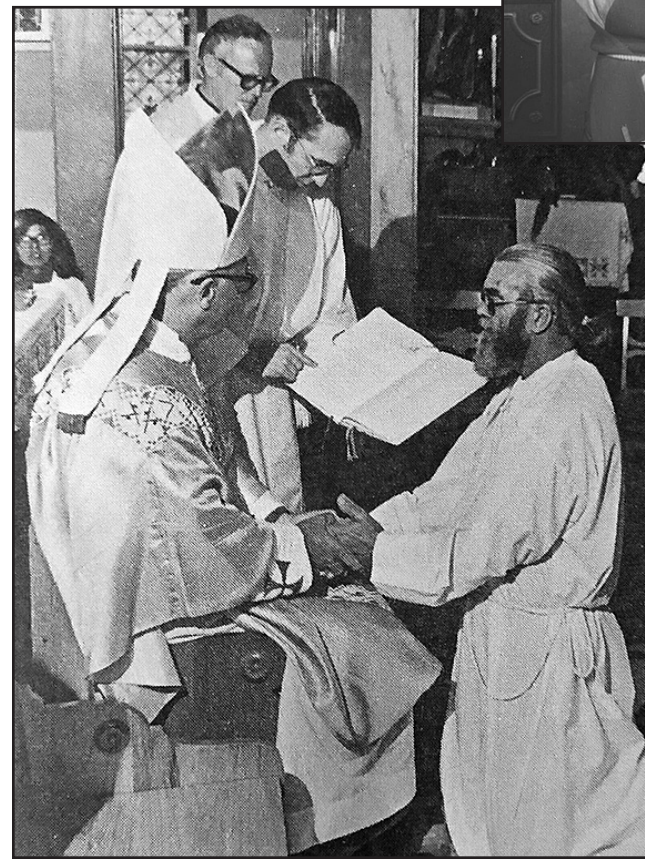


First Three Deacons

(Top) Dcn. Steven Red Elk was assigned to the St. Agnes Parish in Manderon. He was a tribal councilman for the Eagle Nest District in Wanblee, and was the nephew of Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk. (Holy Rosary Mission photos from Marquette University Archives.)

(Middle) Dcn. Reno Richards was from Allen.

(Left) Deacon Lester “Max” Plank was one of the first three ordained on May 31, 1975. He was assigned to the St. Bridget Parish in Rosebud. (Photo from Buechel Memorial Lakota Museum)



Surgite Eamus Bishop's Dinner to raise funds for seminarian education



Fr. Mark McCormick
Director
Office of
Vocations
MMcCormick@diorc.org

I am excited to announce that the Office of Vocations is teaming up with the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation to do something new in the Diocese of Rapid City. We are always looking for ways to promote and build up a culture of vocations in our diocese together.

We have plenty to celebrate, and we rejoice in the Lord for his promises are true, "the harvest is plentiful," as

we hear in Mt 9:37. The

plentiful harvest we see in the transitional diaconate ordination of Todd VanderMay on May 24 and the priesthood ordination of Deacon Max Vetch on June 27. In 2026, God willing, we will have three more transitional deacon ordinations leading to priesthood: ordinations for Josiah Hanson, Blane Schriock and Dillon Johnson.

In February of this year, "The Catholic World Report" listed the Diocese of Rapid City in the top ten percent of the dioceses in the United States with the highest ratio of seminarians to Catholics. In 2024, the Diocese of Rapid City had eleven seminarians: one per 1,904 Catholics.

To celebrate this good news, we are planning our First Bishop's Dinner for Seminarian Education called *Surgite Eamus*. The dinner will be held Saturday, August 2, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, beginning with 5:30 p.m. Mass with Bishop Scott Bullock. Following Mass, we will have a celebratory dinner with our seminarians present so that you, too, can see this bountiful harvest and hear some of their testimonies of what Jesus is doing in their lives.

We are hoping to fill all four hundred seats at the St. Joseph's Hall for our First Bishop's Dinner for Seminarian Education — *Surgite Eamus*, "Rise, let us be on our way." For more information, please scan the QR code to visit the website for Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation and the Office of Vocations.



SURGITE EAMUS

Dinner

1st Bishop's Dinner for Seminarian Education
St. Joseph Hall, Cathedral | August 2, 2025
Following the 5:30pm Bishop's Mass

hosted by wsdcf.org & Gods-Call.org

Register now for the annual Stand Up for LIFE Gala



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LIFE!

With Special Guest Speaker

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HORN**

Join us for a fun evening of drinks, a fabulous dinner, and a chance to meet popular podcaster, author, and Catholic Answers apologist, **Trent Horn**. Be part of the pro-life mission that's converting hearts, saving preborn children, and reaching millions!

Tuesday, June 24th | 5PM - 9PM

Double Tree Convention Center | Rapid City, SD

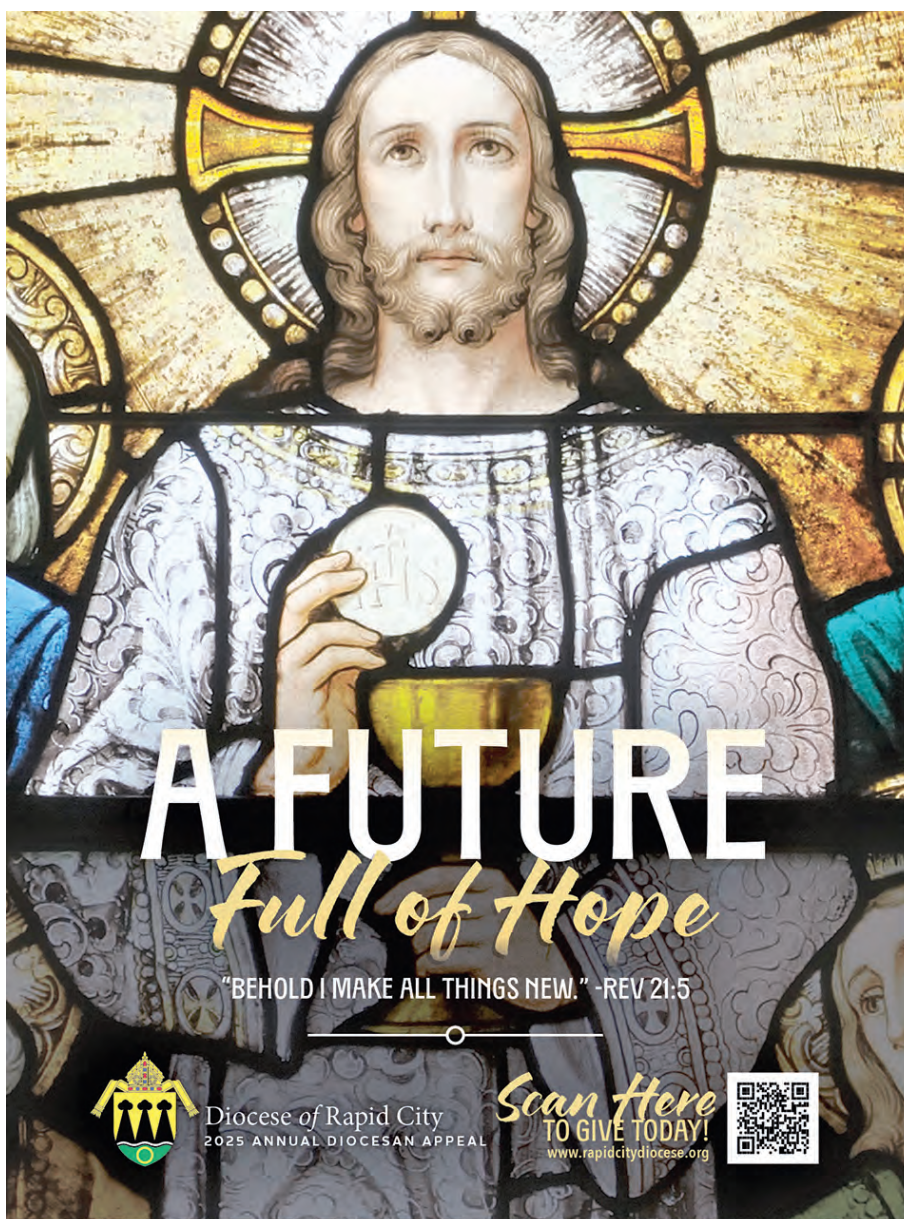
Seating is Limited

Register today at

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HEALING THE CULTURE



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I continue to travel throughout our diocese to introduce myself to the people of our many parishes, schools, and other institutions, a question that comes up repeatedly is something like this: "Do you like it here in our diocese?" To this question, I can say that, without a doubt, I do very much love my new home in western South Dakota! At the top of my list of the reasons for my reply: the warm and welcoming folks that I meet on every visit to a new place! Thanks again for your kind reception in my new diocese!

As I have mentioned before, my episcopal motto, *Surgite eamus* ("Rise, let us be on our way!"), is the call of Jesus himself to his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, once his betrayers have arrived, to join with him to "be on our way" with him in the saving work of his cross and resurrection.

Specifically, in each of our lives, nearly 2,000 years after Jesus made this call to his disciples, we too are asked to join his path of sacrificial love for the sake of those of God's children placed across the paths of our lives. One of the primary ways we do this together is through our support of the many efforts of our local Church to form missionary disciples, to provide opportunities for our youth to grow in their faith and in lives lived with Christ, to strengthen our families, and to contribute to the education of our future parish leaders, our seminarians, who, God willing, will become our future priests.

If you have not yet had the opportunity, I humbly ask you to make a sacrificial gift to our diocese's annual appeal. Your gift will help your brothers and sisters in Christ "rise and be on our way" toward the hope that only the Lord can provide. I know that there are many demands on your generosity. Know of my gratitude for the act of faith that motivates each gift you contribute to the mission of our Catholic Church in western South Dakota.

Also, be assured that I remember you and all the people of the diocese in prayer at Mass each weekend.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Scott E Bullock

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



Diocese of Rapid City Annual Diocesan Appeal 2025

☐ I will pray for the appeal and those it serves.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Spouse _____

Phone # _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____

Thank you for your prayerful support of our Diocesan ministries

Total Pledge	\$
Enclosed	\$
Pledge Balance*	\$

Please, no gift is too small.

Make check payable to:

Diocese of Rapid City Annual Diocesan Appeal
Mail to: 225 Main St., Ste. 100, Rapid City, SD 57701-2835

Please scan the QR code with your smartphone to make your pledge online! **Your gift helps families thrive!**





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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.

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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 – 4:30 P.M.

NBC 21.1

ConnectCenter1 21.2

SUNDAY – 7 A.M.

NBC 21.1

SUNDAY – 10:30 A.M.

ConnectCenter1 21.2



ONLINE

newscenter1.tv/catholic-mass

Facebook: KNBNNewscenter1

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/>



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by searching Diocese of Rapid City!

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Books: *The Purest of All Lilies* by Fr. Donald Calloway
Introduction to Mary by Mark Miravalle
Guadalupe and the Flower World Prophecy
by Joseph Julian Gonzalez

DVDS: Fatima, The Rosary
Mary of Nazareth, Guadalupe Mysteries

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MUSTARD SEED
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*To those who received one or more of the
Sacraments of Initiation
at Easter time, welcome.*



PIEDMONT — At Our Lady of the Black Hills, Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek baptizes Marlin Klingspor at Easter Vigil.
(Courtesy photo)

Belle Fourche, St. Paul
Marc Monier
Gabriel Ziething
Nathan Zitting
Buffalo, St. Anthony
Claire Fuest
Bonesteel, Immaculate Conception
Cristy Bentz
Mason Curtis
Brooke Stransky
Mackenzie Lomme
Custer, St. John the Baptist
Kayla Adams
Melissa Adams
Rachel Adams
Cheryl Bogle
Deadwood, St. Ambrose
Kyler Cracco
Ryker Roberts
Dupree, Sacred Heart
Don Howe
Eagle Butte, All Saints
Kirby Peterson
Gregory, St. Joseph
Alexis Schelske
Jerika Kirwan
Hill City, St. Rose of Lima
Jeremy Gillaspie

Lemmon, St. Mary
Shawn Hanna
Wayne Moser
Kathi Olson
Martin, Sacred Heart
Harper Byrne
Jessa Byrne
Scarlett Byrne
Sena Krolkowski
Kevin Kuxhaus
Colten Peterson
Kendyll Risse
Maddux Risse
Taylor Risse
Saya Waln
Rei Waln
Kinze Watts
Morristown, Sacred Heart
Ethan Wright
New Underwood, St. John
Taylen Crowel
Corbin Crowell
Ashlyn Crowell
Piedmont, Our Lady of the Black Hills
Brooks Bernhagen
Serenity Johnson
Daniel Klingspor
Marlin Klingspor
Adara Osborn
Ila Osborn

Rapid City, Blessed Sacrament
Kurt Clark
Silvana Gable-Alvarez
Beth Farrar
Braxton Ferley
Mitch O'Connell
Breanna Paul
Rapid City, Cathedral Newman Center
David Bauer
Delaney Crook
Dylan Johnson
Katie Magni
Landon Ptacek

Rapid City, St. Isaac Jogues
Brandon Hahn
Rapid City, St. Therese
Alysse Morris
Kyler Schroeder
Lexen Smith
Clayton Eldridge
Spearfish, St. Joseph
Elinor Danberg
Grace Frasier
Ryan Reamer
Abigail Renner
Braden Ressler
Ly Smith
Casey Steiner
Grace Szekely
Spencer Walton
Timber Lake, Holy Cross
Braylen Hansen
Gracen Hansen
Trenton Hansen
Winner, Immaculate Conception
Nicole Roth

RAPID CITY — At the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, during Easter Vigil, Bishop Scott Bullock confirms Candidate Richelle Aldana, behind her is her sponsor Sandra Klutz.
(WRC photo)



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Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek's Silver Jubilee

Saturday, June 28, Mass at 5 p.m. Wine & Cheese reception to follow. Sunday, June 29 Mass at 8 a.m. Breakfast served from 9-10:30 a.m. Both events are at Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont. Send photos of Fr. Andrzej from throughout the years to olbh@olbh.org.



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.



**National Pastoral Musicians Chapter
Thanks the
Western South Dakota
Catholic Foundation**

The WSDCF has awarded the Rapid City Chapter of NPM a \$2,000 grant to develop simplified music accompaniments for commonly used Mass settings in the Rapid City Diocese. The Chapter appreciates the grant, the purpose of which is to encourage beginner accompanists to engage in the music liturgy of the Mass. This effort is intended to promote the goal of the NPM organization — to foster the art of musical liturgy. The Rapid City Chapter of NPM meets quarterly at various churches in the diocese and seeks to inspire, educate, and encourage musicians as they serve their Catholic communities through music ministry. All interested musicians are welcome to participate in these events and will find meeting information in parish bulletins and in the West River Catholic.

Also, visit the NPM Rapid City Chapter website npmrc.org/



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

**MORE INFO AND
REGISTRATION ONLINE!**

WWW.RAPIDCITYDIOCESE.ORG/TT25

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West River Catholic

WRC 12

Tornado Tour



Bishop Scott Bullock drove to St. Francis Mission on April 30 to survey tornado damage on mission grounds. On April 28 the Mission was hit by a tornado one-mile wide with winds of 85 miles per hour. Fr. Edmund Yainao, SJ, pastor, showed Bishop Bullock damage to the grounds. Several buildings sustained roof damage including the Icmanni Building, two guest trailers, and the home where Sapa Un Academy teachers live. St. Charles Church was not harmed, but two large pine trees had to be removed. Also, the Buechel Memorial Lakota Museum was not harmed. An insurance company is compiling an estimate. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe's Emergency Preparedness Program helped with cleanup at St. Charles Cemetery and downed trees on campus. (Photo by Caroline DeCory)

YOU ARE INVITED
JUNE 22, 2025 - DIOCESAN CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION



**3PM MASS WITH BISHOP BULLOCK
FOLLOWED BY A PROCESSION TO MEMORIAL PARK.**

Celebrate the Year of Missionary Sending of the National Eucharistic Revival and participate in the Jubilee Year graces by visiting the Cathedral! Everyone from the diocese is invited!