



Messengers of Hope, pp. 6-8

October 2025

Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota

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(Front Row L-R) Ralph Dupres (Society of St. Vincent de Paul), St. Benedict Award Recipient; Jim Kinyon, Founders Award Recipient; Maynard Konechne, St. Benedict Award Recipient; Colleen Lecy, St. Benedict Award Recipient; and Kelly Thomas, CSS Board President. (Back Row L-R) Grant Sasse, Executive Director; Fr. Robert Kinyon, Board Member; Jamie Hilt, Board Secretary; Mary Thomas, Board Member; Laura Hauser, Board Member; Cassie Ward, Board Treasurer; Connie Forstner, Board Member. (WRC photo by Becky Berreth)

CSS honors those who reach out

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

The Founder's Award and the Order of St. Benedict Awards were given out at the Catholic Social Services Annual Gathering, September 30, in Rapid City. The awards recognize people who help CSS reach out to people in western South Dakota.

Dr. Grant Sasse, executive director of Catholic Social Services said the Founder's Award recipient Jim Kinyon served as Catholic Social Services Executive Director from July 1992 to April 2024. Sasse said, "Jim now serves as Ex-

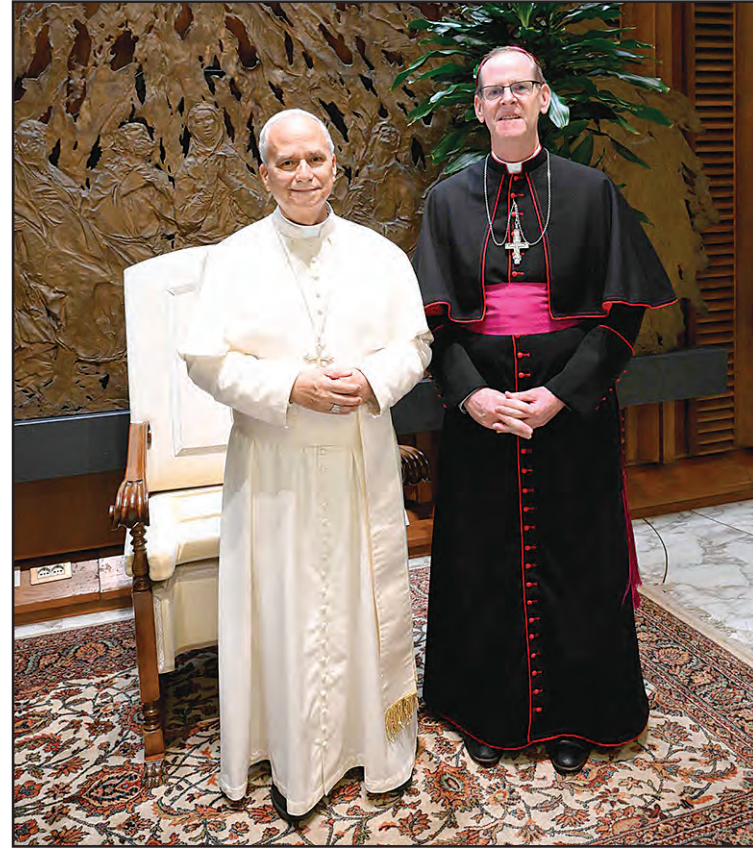
ecutive Director of the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation. Given the strong relationships he cultivated while at CSS he is well suited for his current role in the Rapid City Diocese."

Sasse announced two new services offered by CSS. The Counseling Program is initiating Catholic Life Coaching for personal development and growth. He said, "It will guide individuals, couples and families towards greater meaning, purpose and transformation in their lives and vocations while recognizing God's

providence and love in their lives, renewing our identity as a child of God."

He also promoted St. Anne's Aging Services, a new service for seniors 62+ years old. It includes volunteer companions, or matching senior citizens with employed adults or college students for room rentals at below market rates — creating companionship and addressing the need for affordable housing.

The Order of St. Benedict Awards are for those who carry on ministries that reflect the work of



Meeting in Rome

Bishop Scott Bullock said one of the highlights of attending the Course for New Bishop's in Rome, in September, was getting to spend time with the first American pontiff, Pope Leo XIV. See column p. 2 (Courtesy photo)

St. Martin Benedictine Sisters of Rapid City. Colleen Lecy, principal of St. Elizabeth Seton Elementary, was a board member from 2008 to 2014. After leaving the board she has served on various program committees. In partnership with CSS the elementary school participates in the Angel Tree program providing gifts for CSS clients, and students assemble Thanksgiving baskets for those

who are served by CSS.

Maynard Konechne is President of South Dakota Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Response, known as VOAD. He has helped CSS with disaster response for the past 13 years.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was represented by Ralph Dupres. The Society lobbied the

CSS, Continued on P. 4

The highlight of the course was meeting new bishops from all around the world

BY BISHOP SCOTT BULLOCK

Between September 3-11, 2025, I had the opportunity to attend what was called “The Course for New Bishops” in Rome, the annual event to which were invited all the recently-appointed bishops from the last year. This course is intended to introduce new bishops throughout the world into the functioning of the Holy See, the various offices of the Vatican and, in particular, to its leader, our new Pope Leo XIV. Rather than providing a drawn-out detailing of the perhaps 20 “lectures” and other events that characterized the gathering, perhaps a few “snapshots” that characterized the event might afford some insights into what happened during this gathering of the nearly 200 new bishops who had been appointed and ordained during this last year.

I was a bit late to the party. The last annual course was held in mid-September 2024, concluding just a couple days before I was ordained in Rapid City on September 23 of that year. The course is definitely compulsory — no new bishop is excused! However, due to its proximity to the ordination date, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Christophe Cardinal Pierre, requested (and was granted!) a delay in my participation until this year. As a result, I was one of the more experienced bishops — and in fact not very much so!

My reviews from my brother bishops of the United States who had already attended the course in previous years were spot on: The highlight of the course was, definitely, meeting new bishops from all around the world. I was amazed to hear the stories — of where the new bishops were when they received a call to serve as bishops, the extraordinary and inspiring circumstances where they now serve, and the deep faith and beautiful pastoral qualities embodied by these modern-day apostles. I heard stories of bishops from the wilds of Australia, the Pacific islands, from our Canadian neighbor to the north, from across Europe, as well as from the approximately dozen new bishops from our United States. The common denominator among them all was a deep desire to serve Jesus and his Church, often in very trying

and challenging circumstances. It was an inspiring boost to this new bishop.

The canonization of two new saints coincided with the course! In one of the most solemn acts of our Church, the Holy Father declared two new role models — saints — to be among the communion of saints that has preceded us, interceded for us, and inspires us. St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, 1901 – 1925, and St. Carlo Acutis, 1991 – 2006, were solemnly presented to us as worthy models of holiness and sure intercessors from heaven. I found the ceremony, where I was seating perhaps 25 feet from the pope, to be exceptionally moving and beautiful. I kept thinking: What a joy to gather with thousands of fellow believers to celebrate ... holiness! Human holiness — God’s grace perfecting our humanity: there is nothing more radiant and beautiful! Back in our diocese, I was thrilled to gather this month at the Student Center at South Dakota School of Mines to rededicate the center as the “St. Carlo Acutis Catholic Student Center.” Our students there indeed have a radiant role model of devotion to the Eucharist and our Blessed Mother Mary to encourage and inspire their lives of faith. As a personal note, I’m rather certain that I was able to attend the “beatification” (the final step towards a canonization) of Pier Giorgio Frassati, in May 20, 1990, as a seminarian.

Pope Leo XIV ... our first American pope. Besides encountering the Holy Father at the canonizations, our course was able to spend a beautiful three hours with him on September 11, the final day of the course. I found him to be a pope with a beautiful humanity, a lively sense of humor, and an evident deep peace, of the type that only Christ can give. He spoke to us of his vision of the ministry of bishops and then spent about an hour in “fraternal dialogue” with his brother bishops. At one point, he quipped that it would have been appropriate if he had attended the Course for New Bishops, as he was a new bishop ... of Rome! As the course ended on this “high,” I left with a renewed respect for the universal church and the inspiring men who lead its dioceses through the world!



October 7, Bishop Scott Bullock leading the candle light procession at Fatima in front of the apparition site. He led a Marian Pilgrimage of 100 pilgrims including 12 from the Diocese of Rapid City. The Great Saints tour lasted 11 days and included stops in Paris and Lourdes as well. (Courtesy photo)

ESTATE PLANNING & END-OF-LIFE SEMINAR

St. Joseph Church, Spearfish

November 10th

5:30pm - 8pm (Dinner Included)

St. Francis of Assisi, Sturgis

November 15th

10am - 2pm (Lunch Included)

RSVP BY CALLING WSDCF: **605-721-6843**





Year of Hope Pilgrimage

Sixty parishioners from St. John, Custer; St. Anthony, Hot Springs; and St. James, Edgemont, met in Rapid City in late September and participated in a pilgrimage walk to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help as Pilgrims of Hope for the Jubilee year. Pastor of the three parishes, Father Collins Igwilo, organized the pilgrimage and led the walk from a Rapid City park to the Cathedral. Father Brian Christensen gave the group a tour of the church which was followed by Adoration, reconciliation and Mass. (Courtesy photos)

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Bishop's Calendar

October 25 - November 17, 2025

Subject to change without notice.

October 25, Saturday

8 a.m. "Brunch with the Bishop" vocations event for young men, St. Carlo Acutis Catholic Student Center, Rapid City
3 p.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting &
4 p.m. Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross, Timber Lake
7 p.m. Confirmation Mas, St. Mary, Isabel

October 26, Sunday

10 a.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting &
11 a.m. Confirmation, St. Mary, Lemmon

October 30, Thursday

8 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont

November 1, Saturday, All Saints Day

8 a.m. All Saints Mass at Cathedral
Livestream rapidcitydiocese.org/live
5:30 p.m. All Souls Mass, Installation of Lectors, Holy Cross Chapel, Terra Sancta

November 5, Wednesday

6 p.m. Mass, Installation of Pastor Fr. Ryen Dwyer, SJ, Holy Rosary, Pine Ridge

November 6, Thursday

6:30 p.m. Bishop's Film Series: Harlan County, USA, Cathedral

November 11, Tuesday

Chancery closed for Veterans' Day

November 15, Saturday

5 p.m. CT Pre-Confirmation Meeting &
6 p.m. CT Confirmation Mass, St. Mary, Reliance

November 16, Sunday

9 a.m. CT Mass, St. Michael, Kennebec
11 a.m. CT Mass, St. Mary, Lower Brule
5:30 p.m. Mass, Cathedral

November 17, Monday

7 a.m. Mass, Cathedral

UPCOMING MOVIE:

HARLAN COUNTY, USA

CINEMA with the Shepherd

NOV. 6 | 6:30PM | ST. JOSEPH HALL, OLPH

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BANQUET

RAPID CITY

THURSDAY

NOV 20

Best Western Ramkota / 5:30PM - 8:30PM MT

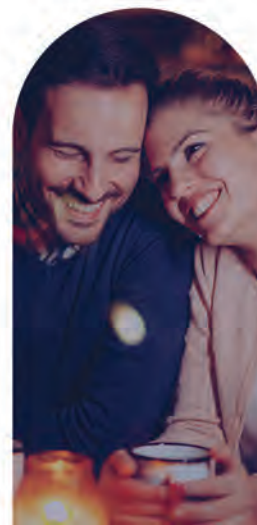
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Join other married couples for a date night full of food, fellowship, and conversation.

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Learn more at: rapidcitydiocese.org/family





St. Vincent de Paul Society members who were on hand for the CSS annual gathering where the group was awarded an Order of St. Benedict Award included: **(Front Row L-R)** Sally Munger, Rita Dupres, Rene Brand, Sherry Scudder, Deannie Knudtson, and Linda Stayer. **(Back Row L-R)** Dennis Wagner, Ralph Dupres, Tom Champa, Eileen Desmond, Jim Blackwell, Deacon Don Moore, Christine Moore, Elaine Kocher, Theresa Treinen, and Vesper Wright. *(WRC photo by Becky Berreth)*

CSS, Continued from p. 1

city of Rapid City for changes in water billing to reduce late fees and prevent water shut offs. From August 2024 to August 2025 the Society spent \$204,000 serving more than 6,000 poor and needy friends in Rapid City.

Gogie Enstad, a past CSS board president, paid tribute to Kinyon. “I need hours to describe who he is and his blessings to our community. I settled on one word, M-A-R-V-E-L, as in expressing amazement at a person’s qualities and achievements. Marvel as in superheroes who possess extraordinary abilities and are dedicated to fighting evil (homelessness, addiction, and mental challenges) and protecting others.

“With God’s will as guidance Jim marvelously overcame funding, staffing and other startup needs. Under his leadership many programs were successfully implemented and are thriving today,” she said.

Fr. Robert Kinyon, Jim’s son, was also asked to speak about his dad. “Amid tremendous support from my mother (Lisa Kinyon), he was able to raise me and my four siblings in ways beyond what I can articulate. In the home, at plays, and at all the different sporting events, my dad has been a man of constancy.

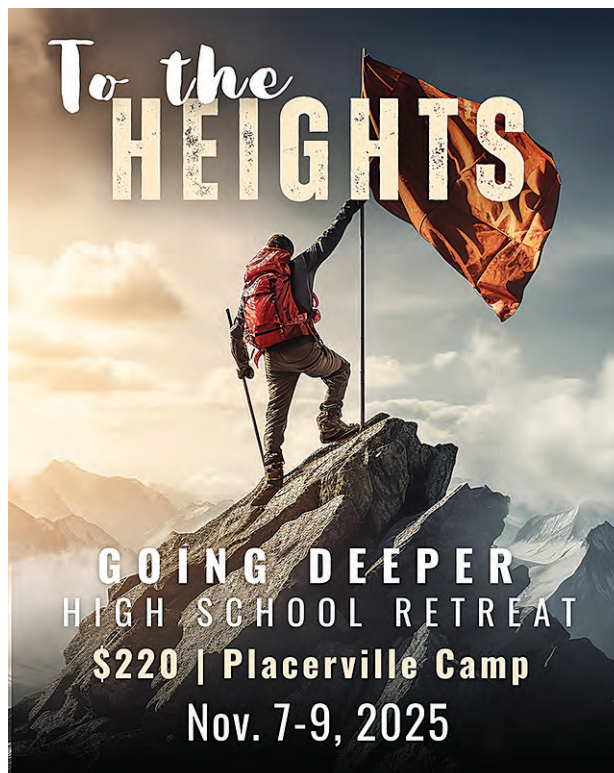
“In many ways, his work has been animated by Jesus, lovingly giving himself to the people of S.D., with conviction,” said Father Kinyon.

Jim Kinyon attended Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minnesota, for two years, and he earned a master’s degree in counseling from S.D. State University, Brookings. He also gained experience working for two years at Catholic Charities in Worthington, Minnesota.

In his keynote address, Jim recalled several people who had influenced him in his career. He also recalled many of

the challenges he and his staff faced during disasters and the pandemic.

“I come away inspired every year by the generosity of the people who are here knowing that I am going to ask for their money and they come anyway. They come because they know who Christ is and they want to be a part of his life. This is a great diocese and God does incredible things here,” he said.



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In Your Prayers

In Your Prayers is designed to help us remember the birthdays, ordinations and death anniversaries of the clergy who serve us.

November

Ordinations: Nov. 1, 1995, Dcn. Calvin Clifford. **Birthdays:** Nov. 6, Fr. Jonathan Dillon; Nov. 8, Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek; Nov. 10, Fr. Peter Klink, SJ; November 23, Fr. Maxwell Vetch; Nov. 24, Fr. Janusz Korban and Dcn. Robert Hrabec; Nov. 28, Dcn. John Osnes; Dcn. Brian Paulsen. **Necrology:** Nov. 1, 2005, Dcn. Lawrence Kocer; Nov. 4, 1955, Francis Guessen; Nov. 4, 1997, Joseph Sheehan, SJ; Nov. 7, 1958, James Keller; Nov. 10, 1981, Thomas Healy; Nov. 14, 2015, Dcn. Claude Sauer; Nov. 15, 1961, William Kingsley; Nov. 17, 1902, Michael Quinlan; Nov. 18, 1973, Michael Costigan; Nov. 20, 1950, Louis O'Connor, SJ; Nov. 20, 1965, Eugene O'Connor; Nov. 21, 1945, Berthold Brown, OSB; Nov. 21, 1978, Ralph Villwock; Nov. 22, 1996, Christian Keeler, SJ; Nov. 24, 1989, Patrick Igoe; Nov. 25, 2014, Dcn. Vern Rath; Nov. 28, 1915, Bishop John Stariha; Nov. 28, 2014, Peter Kovarik; Nov. 29, 2003, Andrew Staricek; Nov. 29, 2006, William Pauly, SJ.

Angel Bazaar

Saturday, December 6, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

St. Thomas More High School Gym

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**Dr. Brandy Tarap, M.D.
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Dr. Tarap



*Jennifer Zettl, DNP, CNP, is a graduate of University of Mary family medicine NP program and is a natural women's health provider trained in FEMM (Fertility Education Medical Management) and knowledgeable in NFP methods.

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NOVEMBER 16

DECEMBER 21

JANUARY 18

FEBRUARY 15

MARCH 22

APRIL 19

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Forming Missionary Disciples

One hundred seventy men from across the diocese gathered at this year's Men's Conference for a full day of presentations, prayer, and fraternity. This year's keynote speaker, Msgr. Shea, president of the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, spoke about how the Lord raises saints in every age. In addition to engaging talks, the day included the Liturgy of the Hours, opportunities for confession, Eucharistic adoration, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

"As a dad, the Annual Men's Conference was an energizing experience filled with prayer, inspiring speakers, and growing in faith with my son. This conference was an opportunity to bond not only with friends, but our family as well. This annual conference has enriched our relationships with God and each other, which has truly been a blessing and a gift."



– Michael & Aaron Lemon,
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral, Rapid City
(Father & son pictured)

Your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal funds life-giving formation programs that form Messengers of Hope who go forth to share the love of Christ.



Strengthening Our Families

This year, the Office of Marriage and Family Life hosted several marriage enrichment events. A full-day workshop helped couples clarify their unique family mission, while a new date night series was launched with a focus on strengthening communication and drawing inspiration from the lives of Saints who were married.

"The After Cana Date Nights have been a great opportunity for us to have a night once a month focused on intentionally growing closer in our marriage. The time spent together, and the material covered have helped us pursue our vocation more intentionally. I'm so thankful for the marriage enrichment activities the diocese has been doing!"



– Eric and Sarah Timpe,
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral, Rapid City

Your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal strengthens marriages and families through the work of the Office of Marriage and Family Life, helping couples prepare for a holy marriage and offering enrichment programs that build up the domestic church and help families live out their mission as Messengers of Hope.



Diocese of
Rapid City



"Hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul."

Hebrews 6:18-19

2026 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL Messengers of Hope



Serving Those Who Serve Us

When Rev. Max Vetch was invited to a seminary visit as a junior at St. Thomas More High School, he reluctantly agreed. But over a weekend of prayer, six hours of ping pong, and the witness of men joyfully pursuing holiness, the Lord began working in his heart. He expressed, *"Once I entered the seminary, the Lord began to unfold His love for me in amazing ways, and over the course of my eight years at the seminary, He revealed to me how He was calling me to serve Him as a Catholic priest."* On June 27, 2025, he was ordained to the priesthood and is now serving at St. Joseph in Spearfish.

Your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal fosters vocational discernment, provides seminarian and diaconate formation, and ensures ongoing formation and retreats for our priests so that we may have holy ministers who go forth as Messengers of Hope serving the people of God.



Leading Our Young People to Christ

This Steubenville Summer Youth Conference is a transformational pilgrimage for our high school youth. Over three days, teens encounter Christ through dynamic speakers, worship, adoration, confession and fellowship.

"Steubenville has always been one of the most moving and empowering experiences for my faith, I look forward to it every year and this one was no exception. I experienced a kind of connection with our Lord and the teens around me that was just indescribable. My typical day-to-day life can be a discouraging environment to grow a deep faith with God some days, yet every year at this conference I'm reminded that there are thousands of people who love God and our Catholic faith with their whole selves, just like me!"



– Kate Bestgen,
Senior, Our Lady of the Black Hills
(Pictured far right)

Your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal gives our young people opportunities to encounter Christ, drawing them into a lively relationship with God and inspiring them to be Messengers of Hope.

2026 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Messengers of Hope



"Hold fast to the hope that lies before us.
This we have as an anchor of the soul."
Hebrews 6:18-19

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www.rapidcitydiocese.org



Eucharistic Procession, Lemmon - St. Mary (Affiliated with Mariadown, Watanga and McIntosh)
Photo by Ben Threinen

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

When I joined Pope Francis in opening the Jubilee Year of Hope on Sunday, December 29, 2024, I invited the people of our diocese to consider the simple yet sublime teaching of that great saintly figure of the last century, St. Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968), often referred to as "Padre Pio," who counseled the follower of Jesus to humbly "Pray, Hope and Don't Worry." With this wisdom, the saint helps us along the path to discover hope: through prayer, the preparation for hope; to hope, a "theological virtue," a holy habit we practice to perfection only with the grace of God; resulting in freedom from worry, also known as peace, a gift that only Jesus can give (cf. John 14:27)!

While this appeal package has the primary intention of inviting your generosity to the 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal, "Messengers of Hope," even more it is appealing to you become this very reality: persons who have found hope in Christ, our only hope, who share generously of the gifts that God has given you for the sake of strengthen hope in others.

There are so many things in this imperfect world which, looked upon with merely human vision, can lead us to the opposite of hope: apathy and even despair! May we not sit by while sisters and brothers are afflicted and without hope, when we have known Christ our only hope, a Savior who calls us through generous acts of self-sacrifice to be bearers of His Hope, to be powerful "Messengers of Hope"!

Another great messenger of hope from our Catholic tradition, St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), called us to be such messengers of the hope of Christ when she wrote, "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world." Your gift to the 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal can help us, together, be the hands and feet of Christ that bring his hope to the world!

Every heart, every soul, every hand matters. Every gift, no matter the size, is a powerful expression of our shared faith and makes a tangible difference in the lives of many. As we begin this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal, I invite you to join me in prayer for its success and to prayerfully consider how you are being called to share Christ's hope.

Through the intercession of all the saints, including St. Pio, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Mary, Mother of Hope, may our Lord fill us with the divine love we need to be his bearers of hope to an anxiously waiting world!



Sincerely in Christ,

+ Scott E. Bullock

Most Reverend Scott E. Bullock
Bishop of Rapid City

Diocese of Rapid City Annual Diocesan Appeal 2026

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

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

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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:

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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!



Diocese of Rapid City bids bond farewell to televised Masses, eyes new horizons

After nearly six years of bringing the beauty of the Mass into homes across the region, the Diocese of Rapid City's weekly televised Masses will conclude on December 28, the Feast of the Holy Family.

Encouraged by KNBN's former station owner Jim Simpson in March 2020 to reach isolated parishioners during COVID shutdowns, these broadcasts started with simple services at Casa Maria and grew into more lively celebrations at the Chancery Chapel of

Mary Mother of the Church under Bishop Peter Muhich, continuing under Bishop Scott Bullock. These efforts even expanded to include a regular homily podcast available on various podcasting apps starting on Pentecost 2021. We have greatly appreciated the opportunity given to us by KNBN, and we thank them for their generosity over the years. We also want to thank all of the priests, musicians, lectors and video crews that have helped to make these Masses possible.

As Bishop Bullock looks back on his first year as our shepherd, his goal has been to respond to the Holy Spirit to use the arts to communicate the Gospel all across the diocese. Under his leadership, a monthly movie night and an additional monthly book club have

been launched, including various recordings and online resources to reach people no matter where they live in western South Dakota. In addition to bishop's new initiatives, we are exploring other opportunities to evangelize using our limited time and resources.

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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.

KNBN.2 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/tvmas/>

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Mysteries of the Rosary by Anne Catherine Emmerich

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We won ... now let's get to work

By MICHAEL PAULEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SOUTH DAKOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

October is "Respect Life Month" — a time when the Catholic bishops of the United States have asked us to reflect on our duty to protect vulnerable human life.

This occasion prompted me to reflect on what the Church in South Dakota was facing just one year ago. We were focused on the dire threat posed by Amendment G — the ballot measure to legalize abortion through all nine months of pregnancy. In the October 2024 edition of the *West River Catholic*, Bishop Bullock implored the faithful, "Let us come to the defense of God's precious gift of life in the least of us, the child in the womb, by voting 'no' on Amendment G."

Thankfully, Catholics responded with prayer and action, and the happy result was that Amendment G was rejected by 59% of voters. Among all states that have considered abortion-related ballot measures in recent years, South Dakota delivered the most robust pro-life victory.

While we rightfully celebrate the defeat of Amendment G, much work remains to be done. Our goal has never been just to make abortion illegal. We must also make it unthinkable — and this will require many more years of work. There are many abortion-vulnerable women in our state, and they need our help. Some women are traveling out of state and having abortions in jurisdictions where it remains legal. We also know that dangerous abortion-inducing drugs are illegally distributed in South Dakota.

Moving forward, there are at least two urgent tasks before us. First, we must rally around South Dakota's pro-life pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) and support their programs to serve abortion-vulnerable women. Consider becoming a financial supporter, or volunteer at the PRC that is closest to you. To see a list of PRCs, visit this page provided by South Dakota Right to Life: www.sdrightrighttolife.org/pregnancy-help.

Second, we must work for the cultural

change that will reduce demand for abortion. Data on abortion collected by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control tells us that nearly 88 percent of women having abortions are unmarried. The nexus between abortion and the abandonment of traditional sexual norms is obvious.

The ambitious task before us is to create a new culture of sexual integrity that can replace the broken and dysfunctional social milieu that we've inherited from the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s. In the Church, we should broaden our understanding of what is considered "pro-life" work. When we encourage young people to get married and stay married, that strikes a blow against the abortion culture. When we catechize young people in Christian sexual morality, including Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body," we equip them to resist the lies emanating from the Sexual Revolution and embrace a life-affirming paradigm.

The change described above won't happen overnight. It demands patience and perseverance. It requires religious, cultural,

and political leaders who know how to play the long game. The cynic will say it's impossible — but as recently as a year ago, many of the "smart people" in society told us that stopping Amendment G was impossible. We ignored them — and we won.



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Were you married in 1975?

Do you know someone who is? The West River Catholic would like to run your photo (wedding or current) in the November issue. Please email a photo, wedding date, and current parish to bberreth@diorc.org or mail to: WRC Attn: Becky Berreth, 225 Main St., Suite 100, Rapid City, SD 57701 by October 31.

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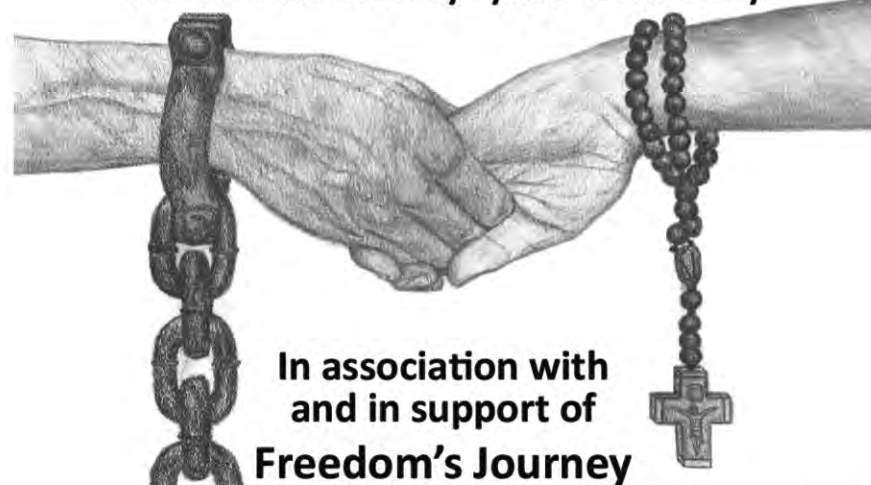
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The "KW Players" Catholic Youth Theatre Troupe presents

Crime and Punishment

Based on the novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky



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and in support of
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Combating Human Trafficking and Assisting Survivors

Friday, November 14, 2025 @ 7:00pm &

Sunday, November 16, 2025 @ 4:00pm

*at the Blessed Sacrament Church Theatre Room
(4500 Jackson Blvd/Rapid City)*

Admission is FREE/seating is limited/nursery provided

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 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.

RUN TO WIN

INSPIRING A CULTURE OF
EXCELLENCE IN OUR PARISHES

"Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all
run in the race, but only one wins the prize?
RUN SO AS TO WIN." — 1 Cor 9:24

November 22

Ft. Pierre

8:30 am - 4pm



DEANERY DAYS

Inspiration + Collaboration + Formation



The 2025-26 FOCUS missionaries at Black Hills State University are (L-R) Victoria Skiba, McLaine and Andrew Noah, Ryan Vanvooren, and Ann Endres. (Courtesy photo)

FOCUS Missionaries minister at BHSU

Andrew Noah, Team Director
Originally from Iowa
Number of years with FOCUS: 8

Ann Endres
Originally from North Dakota
Number of years with FOCUS: 3

Victoria (Tori) Skiba
Originally from Minnesota
Number of years with FOCUS: 2

Ryan Vanvooren
Originally from Wisconsin
Number of years with FOCUS: 1st year

WRC: What are you looking forward to this year?

Andrew: I am excited for the year ahead. We finished last year with 186 students who came to Bible study at least one time, and our hope is to continue to keep growing — inviting more students into Bible studies, discipleship, and a relationship with Jesus. We're off to a really good start.

Ann: I'm excited because this is my second year here. I'm looking forward to continuing to walk with the girls that I've already been investing in from last year, and just going a lot deeper with them and helping form them so they can evangelize their peers.

Tori: I'm looking forward to deepening my relationships with the girls who I was walking with last year and helping them lead others through their own Bible studies and then discipling others as well. I'm also excited to have Father Max Vetch this year. He's already been great. He's typically here on Thursdays.

Andrew: He's a great asset to our team.

The students love him. We love him. He's very mission-minded, and mission focused and driven.

WRC: What do you do on Thursdays with Father Max?

Andrew: We gather together as a community for Adoration from 5-6pm, Mass at 6, and then there's a light dinner provided, with a topic for discussion. There will be nights with a formative theme to it along with some spontaneous fun nights.

WRC: Ryan, how did you become involved in FOCUS?

Ryan: I was running Bible studies and trying to grow the faith of my campus, and then I felt called to mission. I researched a couple missions, found about FOCUS through, SEEK, and as my dad said, 'I drank the Kool-Aid.' What FOCUS was doing and what they are still doing is absolutely amazing, and I wanted to be a part of it, so I applied.

Read more of the WRC interview with the team at rapidcitydiocese.org/bhsu-focus-25.



October 2025

MAILING LABEL
West River Catholic

WRC 12

St. Andrew's
Brunch
With Bishop Bullock

At St. Carlo Acutis
Catholic Student Center
316 E. Kansas City St., Rapid
City, Sat., Oct. 25, at 8 a.m.
for single men,
college-age through age 35



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For single men
college-age and
through age 35

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galleries to see photos from the
Diocesan Youth Rally
St. Carlo Acutis Gala
& "Pursuit" for Young Adults