

WEST RIVER *Catholic*

Informing Catholics in Western South Dakota since May 1973



Befriending the Poor, p. 4



Sioux Spiritual Renamed p. 5

March 2026

Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota

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Easter Greetings to you and your loved ones!

As Easter approaches, I always look forward to the “Office of Readings” for the day before Easter, Holy Saturday, part of a supplemental body of readings that the ordained promise to pray daily. This one, from “An Ancient Homily on Holy Saturday,” begins; “*Something strange is happening — there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. ... I am your God, who for your sake have become your son.*”

Out of love for you and your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in Hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I in you; together we form one person and cannot be separated.”

The hope of Easter is an extraordinary one:

we are joined with Christ, who, risen from the dead, takes us with him through death to risen life! His sure and certain promise of the Resurrection for all his beloved children is the firm foundation of our eternal hopes! Know of my prayers for you in this holy season, that the Holy Spirit will instill in you a confidence of Christ’s victory over death — a victory in which we all share!

+Scott E. Bullock
Bishop of Rapid City

'Catholic priests risked imprisonment or execution'



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

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." First Amendment to the United States Constitution, adopted 1791.

The First Amendment to the United

States Constitution enshrines a number of rights that we take for granted: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, right to assembly, and a right to legal recourse when aggrieved. In this ongoing series of articles on the 250th anniversary of our nation from the perspective of our Catholic faith, it is the first two clauses of this amendment that will be the focus here: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion ("the establishment clause"), or prohibiting the free exercise of ("the free exercise clause") ..."

The implication of these first two clauses of the first amendment to the Constitution is that this right was under attack and needed legal protection. Our Catholic ancestors knew this well!

For example, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony (which was founded by Puritans), Catholics were not allowed to practice their religion openly and priests could be arrested or even banished. In Virginia, anti-Catholic laws that originated in the English Reformation were followed in this English colony, making Catholic worship illegal for long periods. And, in New York, which also followed English law, restrictions became even more strict with an anti-Catholic uprising of 1689, after which Catholic priests risked imprisonment or execution even by being present in the colony.

The major exception was Maryland,



whose "Toleration Act" of 1649, framed by the colony's Roman Catholic proprietor, Lord Baltimore (Cecil Calvert), was the first public act to use the phrase "the free exercise" of religion, later embodied in the first amendment. This freedom, however, was a tenuous one.

Opposition to the Act by Protestant leaders of the colony managed to bring about its suspension between 1654 and 1658, and

when they gained political control of the colony in 1689, the act was rescinded permanently, after which the public exercise of the Catholic religion was banned never to be reinstated under colonial rule.

Some of our founding fathers too exhibited such anti-Catholic hostility — though not all. John Adams, one of the most virulent, in a letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1821, said, "Can a free government possibly exist with the Roman Catholic religion?" Though he believed Catholic bishops encouraged political authoritarianism, he at the same time supported legal toleration of Catholics. His second cousin Samuel Adams spoke in the manner of many when he said, "What we have above everything else to fear is

Popery." Finally, John Witherspoon, the signer of the Declaration of Independence and a Presbyterian minister from New Jersey spoke to the heart of the concerns of many when he wrote, "Popery is not tolerated ... because they profess entire subjection to a foreign power, the see of Rome." The issue was often that allegiance of Catholics to Rome would undermine the stability of the independent United States.

However, not all were as strident as these founders. Our first president, George Washington, on the eve of the adoption of the Bill of Rights (the first of which being the First Amendment to the Constitution) said, in a letter to American Catholics (1790), "As mankind becomes more liberal they will be more apt to allow that all those who conduct themselves as worthy members of the community are equally entitled to the protection of civil government."

Furthermore, as previously mentioned, with the participation of Marylander and Catholic, Charles Carroll in the deliberations and signing of the Declaration of Independence, Catholics had, at least nominally, a place at the political table of the founders.

Needless to say, the competing interests of the first two clauses of the First Amendment (the State could not establish

religion while the citizens had the right to exercise their religion freely) have had to be worked out, both politically and legally, across the course of our 250 years. For example, the Supreme Court in *McCreary County v. American Civil Liberties Union* (2005) clarified this tension in the following situation: When the government spends money on the clergy (military chaplains), then it looks like establishing religion. But, if the government cannot pay for military chaplains, then many soldiers and sailors would be kept from the opportunity to exercise their chosen religions.

The right to free exercise of religion in the Constitution of the United States has had far reaching effect, including the inspiration of similar protections in the modern constitutions of India (1950), Germany (1949), post-apartheid South Africa (1996), just to name a few.

In a real way, the right to Religious Liberty in the Constitution can be seen as a clear ancestor to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), adopted by the United Nations which states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom ... to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance," and even to the Church's own Declaration *Dignitatis Humanae* of Religious Liberty of the Second Vatican Council (1965) which noted, "Indeed, religious freedom has already been declared to be a civil right in most constitutions, and it is solemnly recognized in international documents" (DH 15).

As we will see in subsequent articles in this series, the guarantees in the U.S. Constitution did not in fact remove all prejudices to Catholics and the practice of their religion in subsequent years. But for now, it is a worthy thing to be grateful to the relative freedom we Catholics (and other believers) have in our nation. At the same time, we continue to pray for the full preservation of this basic human right in our nation ... and all around the world.

Next month: The Early Republic and the Carroll Family.



Fr. Floribert Bulo, SCJ

Priest Assignments

Appointments affecting the Parishes of St. Mary in Lower Brule, St. Michael in Kennebec, and St. Mary in Reliance effective March 1. **Fr. Christianus Hendrik, SCJ**, will be released from assignment as pastor of the parishes on the Lower Brule Reservation to assume an assignment from the Congregation of the Sacred Heart Provincial.

Fr. Floribert Bulo, SCJ, will be assigned as administrator of St Mary in Lower Brule, St Michael in Kennebec and St Mary in Reliance.

ESTATE PLANNING & END-OF-LIFE SEMINAR

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Philip, SD

April 8th, 2026

Dinner/Social 5:30pm

Program 6:00pm-8:30pm

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



Bishop's Calendar

March 18 - April 22, 2026

Subject to change without notice

March 18, Wednesday

6 p.m. Young Adult *Visio Divina*, Terra Sancta

March 19, Thursday

5:30 p.m. St. Joseph Parish Feast Day Mass and Dinner, St. Joseph Church, Spearfish

March 21, Saturday

Annual Men's Conference, Terra Sancta

March 26, Thursday

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

March 28, Saturday

8 a.m. Mass with Retreatants/Rite of Preparation for OCIA, Terra Sancta

March 29, Sunday

8 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass, Cathedral
11:30 a.m. Catholic Social Services Palm Sunday Brunch, Best Western Ramkota, Rapid City

March 30, Monday

4 p.m. Priest Meeting, Cathedral
5:30 p.m. Chrism Mass, Cathedral
7 p.m. Public Reception, Cathedral

April 1, Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Mass, Cathedral

April 2, Holy Thursday

7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper, Cathedral

April 3, Good Friday

3 p.m. Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, Cathedral

April 4, Holy Saturday

8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass, Cathedral

April 5, Easter Sunday

10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass, St. Mary Star of the Sea, Newell

April 9, Thursday

7 a.m. Mass, Cathedral

April 11, Saturday

9:15 a.m. VSI Course, Terra Sancta
11:45 a.m. Mass with VSI, Holy Cross Chapel, Terra Sancta
4 p.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting & 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Francis, Sturgis

April 12, Sunday

4:30 p.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting & 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Therese, Rapid City

April 16, Thursday

7 a.m. Mass, Cathedral

April 18, Saturday

4:30 p.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting & 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Bonaventure Church, McIntosh

April 19, Sunday

10 a.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting & 11 a.m. Confirmation Mass, Assumption Church, Kenel

April 22, Wednesday

5 p.m. Pre-Confirmation Meeting & 6 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont

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Assistant Editor: Becky Berreth, bberreth@diorc.org

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UPCOMING: PASSION OF JOAN OF ARC



CINEMA with the *Shepherd*

MARCH 26 | 6:30PM | ST. JOSEPH HALL, OLPH

Vincentians befriending neighbors in need for 10 years

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

At 10 years old, the Diocese of Rapid City Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is flourishing.

In June 2015 two representatives of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul came to the Diocese of Rapid City at the invitation of then-Bishop Robert Gruss. Jeanne Harper, Marinette, Wisc., and Jay Schmallen, Fargo, N.D., wanted to see at least three conferences started in the Rapid City area. A conference is a group of 6-8 people in a parish who pray to discern an unmet need in the community. Harper said, "We treat the poor with the utmost respect, so their dignity remains intact." By April 2016 three conferences were established under the umbrella of the Diocese Rapid City Council.

Harper explained the organization does not proselytize, but if asked, members will share their faith and the gospel message. Volunteers undergo Ozanam Training before ministering in pairs (see history below). Also, they take diocesan Safe Environment training, have background checks and sign confidentiality agreements. No money changes hands, goods or services that need to be purchased are handled through vouchers or checks written directly to landlords or utilities.

The five diocesan conferences in the local council include: 1) the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Conference — Cathedral; St. Joseph, New Underwood; Blessed Sacrament, St. Isaac Jogues, and St. Therese all of Rapid City; 2) Piedmont; 3) St. Francis, Sturgis — St. Mary, Newell; 4) St. Joseph, Spearfish — St. Paul, Belle Fourche; 5) St. Patrick, Lead — St. Ambrose, Deadwood. In Spearfish, the conference presidents operate a thrift store to help raise funds for all five conferences.

Rita Dupres, a Rapid City member, said

the Rapid City OLPH Conference serves most of western South Dakota. The society helps with food, clothing, prescriptions, furniture, gasoline, bus transportation, rent, and utilities. According to Dupres, 90% of the people are helped in and around Rapid City because that is where the population is highest. Rapid City's finance report shows in 2025, 5,794 people were helped utilizing \$211,768.75 in donations. The bulk of the money goes toward preventing evictions. To make the most of Rapid City resources society representatives meet monthly with local charities and agencies to stay current on referral opportunities.

"Our friends are always grateful," she said, recalling one of her favorite visits to a tiny trailer where inhabitants had asked for food help. "A little boy about 3-years old lit up when he saw a box of Fruit Loops and said, 'these are for me?' A little tear ran down his cheek. It touched me like you can-

not believe. I thought 'today I say the face of God.'"

Over the last two years, the OLPH Conference volunteers have been facilitating a systemic change workshop called, "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World." The workshop graduates met with the City of Rapid City Water department in an attempt to clarify the water bill, reduce the late fees and fees to turn water back on. Also, they streamlined the process for when SVDP assists with the water bill. The investigation found that those in poverty paid \$732,000 in fees over a one year period. The City of Rapid City employees even hosted a fundraiser to help the society raise money.

Conferences meet twice a month for prayer, discussion and business. The Rapid City Council is open to starting conferences in other diocesan towns. To learn more or ask for help in Rapid City call the helpline at 605-718-5896.

International History

St. Vincent de Paul of France was ordained a priest in 1600. He devoted his ministry to diminishing the suffering of the poor. He founded the Congregation of the Mission. With Louise de Marillac he co-founded the Daughters of Charity. Blessed Rosalie Rendu entered the Daughters of



Groceries are blessed at the Vincentians food pantry in their office at Catholic Social Services, Rapid City. (Courtesy photo)

Charity in 1802. She mentored Blessed Frederic Ozanam on how to visit the poor. He and six college companions founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1833. They had been challenged by a Protestant to do more than discuss their faith. After two years of working to live their faith they wrote the "Rule of the Society of St. Vincent" which has been updated and is still used today. By 1845 the society had spread across Europe and half of the United States.



Rene Brand at the Farmers Market promoting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. (Courtesy photo)



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Sioux Spiritual Center to receive new name in 50th year

BY CAROLE BROWN
RETREAT CENTER DIRECTOR

Fifty years ago, the Lord planted a small idea in the heart of Louis Freiberg.

As a teenager, Louis had watched his parents and neighbors build a modest church on the family ranch in the Cheyenne River Breaks. Completed in 1918, St. Patrick's Church became a sacred place — tucked away in the clefts of the land, quiet and hidden, yet deeply precious. In his old age, Louis began to wonder what would become of the little church after he was gone. So far from the beaten path, he feared it might one day be forgotten — or worse, repurposed into something “useful,” like a tool shed or an animal shelter.

He began to consider a simple solution: perhaps he could donate some land to the Catholic Diocese, which could then be leased. The income could be used to care for St. Patrick's Church and the adjoining cemetery where his parents were buried. It was a small idea — but God had something far greater in mind.

At the same time, Jesuit priests working among Native American Catholics in the diocese were facing growing challenges. In

the 1970s, the American Indian Movement was gaining strength. While rooted in legitimate concerns, it also created tension for Native Catholics, pressuring them to abandon what was seen as the “white man's religion” and return exclusively to traditional spiritual practices.

Jesuit Fathers Pat McCorkell, John Hatcher, Damian O'Connell, and others were deeply concerned about how best to support the faith of a people in whom Catholicism had taken root more than a century earlier. They envisioned a prayerful retreat center — a place for deeper formation, leadership development, and healing — where it could be clearly affirmed that one could be both fully Lakota and fully Catholic. Efforts to secure a suitable place for such a project had been so far unsuccessful.

When Bishop Harold Dimmerling learned of their hopes, he immediately thought of the land Louis Freiberg had donated. He invited the priests to see it for themselves. That visit proved decisive. Construction began the following spring, and the center was given a Lakota name: *Mak-piya na Maka Okogna* — “Between Heaven and Earth.” It soon became known simply



Sioux Spiritual Center is renamed the Black Elk Catholic Retreat Center. A celebration will be held August 12. (Photo by Carole Brown)

as the Sioux Spiritual Center.

For the next forty years, the Jesuits Priests carried out a vibrant and fruitful ministry there. In 2017, however, a national realignment led to many Jesuit resources being redirected to urban missions. The Sioux Spiritual Center then came under management by the Diocese of Rapid City, with its mission reaffirmed and broadened.

Now, in conjunction with its 50th anniversary, the Sioux Spiritual Center will receive a new name in honor of the Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk. Its full name will be *Heháka Sápa Šíya Sápa*. — Black Elk

Catholic Retreat Center. *Heháka Sápa Šíya Sápa*. translates literally as “Black Elk Black Robe” or “Black Elk Catholic.” The term *Šíya Sápa*. was traditionally used by the Lakota people to refer to Jesuits and, more broadly, to Catholicism itself.

An anniversary celebration will be held at the center on August 12 and will include the Jesuits in whose hearts the original inspiration was planted. All who have loved the center over the years are warmly invited to join in giving thanks for fifty years of grace — and to look forward with hope to the years ahead.



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Hebrews 6:18-19

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again, I humbly invite you to participate in the mission of our Catholic Church in western South Dakota through your support for the annual appeal. Your support in the past has been so vital and your renewed gift in support of the ministries and services we provide for the local Church, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, can be life-changing for those we serve.

While the Jubilee Year of Hope has come to a close, the work of growing as a people of hope continues. For followers of Jesus that means that we, like St. Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968), are called to pray that our hearts may be open to hope, to place our hope in God through his grace, and to trade our worries for the true peace that only comes in Jesus (cf. Jn 14:27).

In this ongoing mission of hope, we have chosen as the theme for our 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal: "Messengers of Hope." Through baptism, each of us is called to share the hope that only the Gospel can provide. The very first chapter of the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that, "urged on by the love of Christ ... all Christ's faithful are called to hand [the Good News of the Gospel] on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer" (CCC #3). I appeal to you to become the persons of faith who have found hope in Christ, our only hope, who share generously of the gifts that God has given you for the sake of strengthening 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 now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." Your gift to the 2026 annual appeal can help us, together, be the hands and feet of Christ that bring his hope to the world!

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! Thank you for your sacrificial gift that helps us to work together to share the hope that can only be found in Christ!



Sincerely in Christ,

+ Scott E. Bullock

Most Reverend Scott E. Bullock
Bishop of Rapid City

Diocese of Rapid City Annual Diocesan Appeal 2026

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Fr. John Hatcher, SJ, presented aspects of Lakota Culture at the winter NPM meeting (Courtesy photo)

National Pastoral Musicians 2026 Meetings

Winter — Recap

Rapid City National Pastoral Musicians held its Winter Meeting Saturday, January 31 at St. Isaac Jogues Church, Rapid City. “Catholic Inculturation” was the theme. Fr. John Hatcher, SJ, gave two presentations on aspects of Lakota culture as experienced during his many years at the Sioux Spiritual Center and elsewhere in the diocese. Brief sessions were also given by other presenters on Lakota, Hispanic, and Filipino musical history and traditions.

Spring — April 25

Rapid City National Pastoral Musicians’ Spring Meeting will be Saturday, April 25 at St. Patrick Church, Wall. Fr. Jonathan Dillon will speak on “Pastors and Music Ministry: Building Relationships.” Other planned presentations: a panel discussion on Music Ministry Planning Processes and Resources (both online and print), and Working with Small Groups and Ensembles in Catholic Worship. CLEM credit hours will again be offered, same as at our Winter 2026 meeting.

Summer Meeting — June 13

St. John Church, Ft. Pierre.

Fall — September 25-26

The Fall Meeting will feature nationally known composer and theologian Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP, in a two-day event, Friday-Saturday, September 25-26, at Our Lady of the Black Hills Church, Piedmont. The Friday night concert will feature Father Manalo with some assistance from local musicians and will benefit OLBH Food Pantry and Piedmont Valley Church Response. Sponsors are welcome and will be included in the program. On Saturday Father Manalo will speak on building unity as music ministers in “Towards a More Perfect Communion.”

Contact Chantry Nelson, marycsnelson@gmail.com. For more information about the Rapid City Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians, see the NPM website www.npmrc.org or Facebook page www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter.



Area students present winning essays

In the fall of 2025, homeschooled students from the Black Hills Catholic School House intermediate and advanced writing classes were invited to submit entries to the South Dakota Right to Life’s Annual essay contest. Encouraged by their instructor, Gail Wingert, and writing under the prompt “Why I am pro-life,” students submitted 500-word essays. Four of the students placed after entries from around the state were judged. Three of the winners were asked to read their essays aloud at the Rapid City Right to Life’s Annual Memorial of Life event that coincides with the anniversary of Roe v Wade. In the Junior division, Gemma Daniel placed third, in the Senior Division, Hope Skoog placed fourth, and her sister Grace Skoog placed third. (WRC photo by Jacques Daniel)

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'I entered the retreat burnt out and upset'

FR. MARK MCCORMICK
ST. CARLO CSC CHAPLAIN

At the end of February, we had our annual College Lenten Retreat at Terra Sancta, led by our own Bishop Scott Bullock. What a gift to our college students from South Dakota State University in Brookings, Chadron State University in Chadron, Nebraska, Black Hills State University in Spearfish and S.D. School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City. The theme of our retreat was "I Do Will It ... Jesus' Desire to Heal You" from Mt 8:3.

Throughout the weekend Bishop Bullock reflected on God's healing and the Catholic teaching and understanding on healing, suffering and the cross. Reminding us that God does desire to heal us and will heal us, however, we must desire it as much as Jesus desires it for us.

In Bishop Bullock's last talk, he broke open the scripture passage for us: Jesus heals the Gerasene Demoniac in Mk 5:1-20. Towards the end of the story, we hear and see how the townspeople now see Jesus' healing of the Gerasene Demoniac who is now fully clothed and in his right mind. Jesus, now sends the healed man from the country of Gerasene to "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

We too, like Jesus, sent our college students home to their friends to tell them what the Lord has done for them on retreat. Amazing Grace! Thank you, Jesus, for your healing ways.

"At the healing service I was so moved watching all my friends go up and be healed and I was just filled with so much emotion and joy being able to see the Lord bring so much peace to the hearts I knew were trou-



(L to R) Kayla Brion, director of Chadron State Newman Center, Tori Skiba, a FOCUS missionary at BHSU, Spearfish, and Abigail Mason a FOCUS missionary at SDSM&T, Rapid City, play an icebreaker game passing a banana. (Courtesy photo)

bled. The Lord also brought so much peace and joy to my heart as I was prayed over and experienced healing in my soul. After resting in the spirit, I just felt so comfortable being totally and utterly myself which was such a cool experience." —Emma Codr, Junior at the Frassati Newman House at CSU

"The 2026 Lenten Retreat was a wonderful time to experience the healing offered by the Lord and grow in fellowship with others. Swamped by the busyness of school, athletics, and life, I entered the retreat burnt out and upset about the near constant work that I've had over the past two months. Reflecting on the healing offered by the Lord opened me to a greater

understanding, acceptance, and love of the many duties that have been placed in my life. I realized that these duties are not a distraction from my relationship with God but rather an invitation to grow in dependence upon him and to realize he is present in everything we do!" —Caden Ekroth, Junior at St. Carlo's CSC at SDSM&T

"Resting in the spirit is a grace I received that overwhelmed my soul with the Holy Spirit's presence for surrender and healing. It quieted my heart, restoring it to a child-like dependence. I received the opportunity

to pray over others and serve as a humble instrument through which God helped lift the burdens they were carrying. In those moments, I witnessed Christ working through me, reminding me that he often chooses ordinary people to be channels of his mercy, healing, and peace." —Tanner Becker, Senior at St. Carlo's CSC at SDSM&T

"The Newman Retreat this year was incredibly peaceful. Every year the students at CSC look forward to this weekend and it is always beautiful, but it was very clear that my heart and the hearts of the students who came needed healing. I feel lighter, more joyful, and at peace, ready for everything the Lord has planned for me in 2026 bringing the "real world" of retreat to the students who were unable to experience it." —Kayla Brion, Director of the Frassati Newman House at CSU

"Before signing up for the healing retreat, I had convinced myself that I had no need of healing. However, the week leading up to it, God revealed some deep wounds that I had yet to allow myself to even fully feel. The first night of adoration was the most powerful for me — Bishop Bullock gave the first talk about how Jesus wills us to be healed, and I was starting to crumble. Going to adoration, I truly felt God's love and was able to stop hiding myself from the abundance of it. The rest of the retreat then felt like an embracing of the Lord, and I came home feeling whole again." —Mataya Ward, sophomore at Frassati Newman House at CSU



(L to R) Tanner Becker, Caden Ekroth, Bishop Scott Bullock, and Gabe Ripperda at the retreat Mass. (Courtesy photo)

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Rachel's Vineyard Post-abortion Healing

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat date is April 24-26, Healing Abortion Trauma through Compassion and God's Merciful Love. The spring Rachel's Vineyard Retreat has room for you. Come receive healing from your abortion and restoration for your emotional and spiritual life! Contact Carol at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com for help, information, and encouragement.

HOLY WEEK LIVE STREAM SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday - March 29, 8 am
 Chrism Mass - March 30, 5:30 pm
 Holy Thursday - April 2, 7 pm
 Good Friday - April 3, 3 pm
 Easter Vigil - April 4, 8:30 pm

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

PRESIDER: BISHOP SCOTT BULLOCK

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.

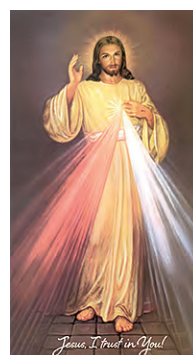
We invite you to stop in
 at the Mustard Seed where we have
 greeting cards, books, Bibles and
 devotional materials for adults and
 children that will enhance your
 Easter experience.

Puzzles	Children's Books
DVDs	Holy Cards
Greeting Cards	Medals
Jewelry	Statues

*Remember your OCIA Candidates
 and Catechumens*



MUSTARD SEED
Catholic Store
 225 Main St., Suite 200,
 Rapid City - 605-348-5228



Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat

March 23-25, Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City will host a Lenten Mission, "Healing Power of Divine Mercy," in the evenings. Fr. Mark Baron, MIC, from the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., will be the featured speaker. For information go to blessedsacramentchurch.org/divine-mercy-mission.

HEARTS N FIRE MISSION TRIP MIAMI, FL

Ages 18-25 June 20-28 Cost: \$475



Sponsored by:

Sodalitas Young Adult Group
 Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary

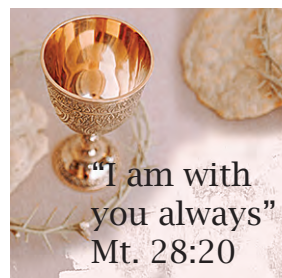
Homebound, Hospitalized, and Nursing Home Residents

*You can still enjoy
 the Word of Our Lord...*

Televised Mass

KELO Land, Sunday Mornings
 9 a.m. MT/10 a.m. CT

(Contact your parish to receive Communion.)





Rite of Election Doubles in Numbers

A record 110 catechumens and candidates from 19 parishes attended the Rite of Election Mass on February 22, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. **(Above left)** Bishop Scott Bullock signs the Book of the Elect given to him by Sr. Catherine Neiketounuo Thakro, UFS, of Pine Ridge Reservation parishes. The book is a record of the catechumens joining the Catholic Church. Catechumens seek all three Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation.



(Above right) Bishop Bullock greets candidate Ron Plaggemeyer, presented by his sponsor, Sebastiao DaSilva. They are followed by their pastor, Fr. Timothy Castor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Sturgis. Candidates are those already baptized who seek to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. They need the Sacraments of 1st Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. All will join the church at Easter Vigil in their parishes.

(WRC photos by Laurie Hallstrom)



Proud to support the Rapid City Catholic School System

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24-RC-03077 (09/24)

In Your Prayers

In Your Prayers is designed to help us remember the birthdays, ordination and death anniversaries of the priests and deacons who serve us.

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. **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.

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.



Now Enrolling

Preschool – Grade 12

The Rapid City Catholic School System

We form hearts and minds in the Truth.

Call For Your Tour

TODAY!




Rooted in Christ and guided by Catholic tradition, our small schools offer abundant opportunities for students to grow in virtue, knowledge, and leadership. Our students are known, challenged, and formed – spiritually, academically, and personally. From state-champion athletic teams to state-champion STEM teams, our students pursue excellence with passion, purpose, and a life anchored in faith.

St. Elizabeth Seton Preschool and Elementary School: (605) 716-5213
 St. Thomas More Middle School: (605) 348-1477
 St. Thomas More High School: (605) 343-8484
www.rccss.org

Proficiency Scores

READING	MATH
RCCSS 93%	RCCSS 89%
SD Average: 52%	SD Average: 44%
RCAS: 46%	RCAS: 37%

Average ACT Score
STM 24.8
 State 21.0, National 19.4, RCAS 19.6

Advanced Placement Honor Roll
Platinum



An honor that reflects St. Thomas More High School's dedication to academic excellence



Seton educator selected as Outstanding Elementary STEM Teacher

The South Dakota Science Teaching Association is proud to recognize Brenda Mizenko as the 2026 Outstanding Elementary STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Teacher. Mizenko is an elementary library and STEM teacher at St. Elizabeth Seton Elementary School of the Rapid City Catholic School System. Mizenko leads all library and STEM programming, including, but not limited to, the Junior Master Gardener and Honey Bee Cohort programs. She also coordinates annual STREAM Day promoting inquiry and collaboration across grade levels. Her colleague, Marcia Torgrude, noted Mizenko's exceptional dedication, innovative teaching methods, and profound impact on students, and said, "experiential learning is a hallmark of her teaching."

Mizenko was recognized and presented with her \$1,000 award at the SD STEM Ed Conference in Huron, a joint professional development conference hosted by SDSTA and the South Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Support for this award comes from Midwest Dairy, a checkoff organization representing over 3,600 dairy farms to 41.8 million consumers across the region.

The South Dakota Science Teaching Association is an organization created by teachers, for teachers. The purpose of SDSTA shall be the advancement, stimulation, extension, improvement, and coordination of science education in all fields of science at all educational levels.

SOULS & HEARTS

Internal Family Systems Workshop

Making Sense of Our Internal Experiences

Join Dr. Peter Malinoski and Bridget Adams for this experiential IFS workshop.

Dr. Peter is a clinical psychologist dedicated to helping people understand their interior life and overcome the obstacles that hinder deeper relationships with God and others.

His insights have been shared in outlets such as *The Pillar*, *The Lila Rose Show* and *The Chris Stefanick Show*.

Saturday, March 28

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

St. Carlo Acutis Newman Center
 \$40/person (\$20 for priests, religious, missionaries)

<https://members.soulsandhearts.com/rapidcityIFS>

"What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members?" James 4:1

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

March 28, FAITH, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



DEANERY DAYS

Inspiration + Collaboration + Formation



2026 To the HEIGHTS TOTUS TUUS

GIRLS' CAMP: JUNE 9-12
H.S. Leadership Camp: June 8-12

BOYS' CAMP: JULY 14-17
H.S. Leadership Camp: July 12-17

Info and Registration



DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY



ABLAZE

"A NEW **HEART** I WILL GIVE YOU;
A NEW **SPIRIT** I WILL PUT WITHIN YOU
THAT YOU MAY COME TO **LIFE**."

-EZ 36:26, 37:14

A Vita Christi RETREAT

DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY
APRIL 24-26, 2026
TERRA SANCTA RETREAT CENTER

Register Here



Discover
THE CHESTERTON DIFFERENCE
High School Opening Fall 2026 - St. Francis, Sturgis



Next family meetings: Mar. 18, Spearfish | Mar. 26, Rapid

Joyful. Catholic. Classical.
www.ChestertonBlackHills.com



MAILING LABEL
WRC March 2026 West River Catholic Page 12



After Cana DATE NIGHTS

6:30-8PM | FOOD PROVIDED
CATHEDRAL ST. JOSEPH HALL
BABYSITTING AVAILABLE

APR 11
MAY 16

Join other married couples for a date night as we explore the beauty of the Sacrament of marriage and provide opportunities for prayer, discussion, and growth. Our Spring series is all about growing in intimacy with your beloved.

Learn more at: rapidcitydiocese.org/family




CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

MARCH 29th 12 PM - 2 PM

RAMKOTA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Doors open at 11:30am | Mimosa bar available
Brunch begins at 12:15pm | Keynote to follow



Dr. Peter Malinoski, Co-Founder and President of Souls & Hearts, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Peter is a clinical psychologist whose work focuses on identifying and removing the interior obstacles that prevent us from having a deeper relationship with God and others.

His work has been explored in conversations on *The Pillar*, *The Lila Rose Show*, and *The Chris Stefanick Show*.



Sponsorship and tickets available at
www.cssrapidcity.com/ps
605-348-6086

Sponsorship includes reception at Bishop Bullock's home with Dr. Malinoski