

WEST RIVER *Catholic*

Informing Catholics in Western South Dakota since May 1973



Honoring the Blessed Mother and St. Helena
May 17, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, the Filipino Community held its first *Santacruzán & Flores de Mayo*, a celebration of faith that lifts up the beauty, grace and virtues of Mary, who always leads us to her Son, Jesus Christ. The celebration features a solemn procession of 25 *reynas* (queens) with the Rosary, flowers, hymns, and prayers. It also honors St. Helena, finder of the true Cross. The procession traveled around the outside of the cathedral and was followed by Mass and a dinner. (WRC photos by Laurie Hallstrom)

May 2026

Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota

Volume 54 Number 1 www.rapidcitydiocese.org

Santacruzán & Flores de Mayo



Our Lady of Perpetual Help
MarCeline Luna



Vessel of Honor
MarSelah Luna



Queen of Consolation
Dory Kent



Queen of Life
Kathy Pelofske



Mystical Rose
Vera Luna

'Acts of outright bigotry and violence were not uncommon'



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

*"For I was hungry
and you gave me food, I
was thirsty and you
gave me drink, a
stranger and you wel-
comed me..."*

— (Mt. 25:35)

The period roughly from 1840 to 1920 witnessed one of the most dramatic demographic transformations in United States history: the rise of a mass Catholic population through immigration. This influx

reshaped American religion, politics, and society, provoking both fierce hostility and significant institutional innovation.

In 1840, there were about 600,000 Catholics in the United States, comprising about 3.5% of the total population. By 1920, the Official Catholic Directory reported nearly 28 million Catholics in our nation, then 26% of the population. As with other dramatic influxes of immigrants from the many nations of the world, the assimilation of Catholics was not without its perils. Many native-born Protestants feared that Catholics owed allegiance to the pope rather than to American democracy. A common nativist belief was that Catholic immigration represented a conspiracy to make the nation a Catholic nation (like those of earlier European nations) which itself professed an ultimate loyalty to the pope. In the end, however, nativist sentiments feared a loss of political power and influence.

Acts of outright bigotry and violence were not uncommon. Among the most notorious was the publication of the spurious "historical" novel of 1836 entitled, "Awful Disclosures of the *Hotel Dieu Nunnery* of Montreal" by Maria Monk, purported to expose the licentious and murderous acts of Catholic priests and nuns behind closed convent doors. The anti-Catholic screed sold more copies than any other book in America until the 1852 publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This anti-Catholic sentiment fueled political movements, including the notorious "Know-Nothing



Party" of the 1850s that explicitly opposed Catholic immigration. During these early years of Catholic immigration, spurred by famines in Europe, particularly in Ireland, acts of violence were perpetrated against the Catholic immigrant, including the 1834 burning of a convent in Boston and the anti-Catholic riots of 1844 in Philadelphia. As can be frequently the case, Catholic immigrants were subject to dehumanizing actions and rhetoric. "No Irish Need Apply" communications in employment situations were but veiled anti-Catholic messages. A future president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, wrote in his diary as a young man about increasing influence of Irish politicians in the New York State Assembly, "There are some twenty-five Irish Democrats in the house. ... They are a stupid, sodden and vicious lot, most of them being equally deficient in brains and virtue. Three or four however ... seem to be pretty good men, and among the best members of the house are two Republican farmers named O'Neil and Sheehy, the grandsons of Irish immigrants. But the average Catholic Irishman of first-generation as represented in this Assembly, is a low, venal, corrupt and unintelligent brute."

With such hostility greeting the Catholic immigrant of the 19th century, the Church itself sought to provide for its own through social and educational efforts. A significant influx of religious sisters, brothers and priests founded and staffed schools, orphanages, and other social institutions. Bishops and clergy exhorted the new immigrants to become loyal American citizens, while the Church defended the immigrants against employment and other forms of discrimination and provided moral and social guidance through its educational institutions, especially the parochial school, which were mandated by the Third Plenary

Council of Baltimore (1844) — the vast parochial schools system that resulted provided a refuge for young immigrant children and produced a means for preserving faith and culture in the face of an often hostile American culture. The Church thus became a central social anchor, not just a religious institution. In the end, the Church and its leadership framed immigration not as a threat, but as a source of renewal for American society and Catholic life. The country was often slow to accept this message.

As mentioned, a primary agent of the Church's response to a resistant to the incorporation of the vast number of Catholic immigrants by the larger American nation were Catholic religious orders, led by radi-

ant figures like St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Katherine Drexel, and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, who founded numerous schools, orphanages, hospitals, and social agencies, a legacy that remains with us through organizations like Catholic Social Services of our own diocese. Even to this day, a large segment of our hospital system traces its origin to Catholic institutions, which sought to provide for immigrants and, in the end, to respond to Jesus' wider call to care for all the sick (cf. Mt. 25:36).

In our current day, immigration remains a contentious and thorny political issue. It ought to come as no surprise that the same arguments presented against the Catholic immigrant of the 19th century are employed even to this day regarding our new generation of immigrants. And while there have been many successes with acceptance of Catholics in our larger American culture, the progress was slow and uneven. At the very least, our legacy as an immigrant people who were met with profound resistance in the 19th and 20th centuries ought to provide a context out of which to view our current national debate over our newest American sisters and brothers. Recalling Jesus' own command to "welcome the stranger," may God provide wisdom for our leaders ... and all of us ... to provide for the orderly and just reception of immigrants who have come to our land with the same aspirations as our Catholic ancestors.

Next month: Slavery, Abolition, and the Civil War



PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Ordination of
**DEACON TODD
VANDERMAY**
to the
PRIESTHOOD
June 19 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Holy Hour
June 18, 5:30 p.m.

Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City
rapidcitydiocese.org/live or [Facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity)



Memorial Day
Monday, May 25
Chancery Office Closed



ESTATE PLANNING & END-OF-LIFE SEMINAR

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Rapid City, SD

June 13th, 2026

Mass 8:00am & Rosary 8:30am

Breakfast 9:00am

Seminar 9:30am-12:00pm

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



*May is the
 Month of Mary*

**We have rosaries, Marian devotionals,
 books, and more!**

***My First Interactive Rosary Book* from Ascension Press**

***A Young Catholic's Guide to the Rosary*
 from Ascension Press**

***The Way of the Rosary* by Shannon Wendt
Mysteries of the Rosary
 by Anne Catherine Emmerich**



225 Main Street Rapid City
 605-348-5228

MUSTARD SEED
Catholic Store

Bishop's Calendar

April 23 - May 20, 2026

Subject to change without notice

May 20, Wednesday

Priest Convocation

12:45 p.m. Priest Retirement and
 Aid Association/Pension Plan

Meeting, Terra Sancta

5 p.m. Reception for Graduates of
 UpLifting Parents, Rapid City

May 21, Thursday

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Meeting &

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Rite,
 Immaculate Conception Church,
 Rapid City

May 24, Sunday

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

May 25, Monday

Memorial Day - Chancery Closed

2 p.m. Mass, Rite of Consecra-
 tion, Carole Brown, Cathedral

May 26, Tuesday

5:30 p.m. Catholic Social Services
 Executive Committee Meeting,
 Rapid City

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

May 29, Friday

5:30 p.m. Holy Hour with Vespers,
 Cathedral

May 30, Saturday

10 a.m. Ordination of Transitional
 Deacons, Cathedral

1:15 p.m. *Veritatis Splendor*
 Institute Course, Terra Sancta

June 14, Sunday

10:30 a.m. CT Confirmation
 Meeting &

11:30 a.m. CT Mass, St. Francis
 Mission

June 18, Thursday

5:30 p.m. Ordination Vigil: Holy
 Hour with Evening Prayer,
 Cathedral

June 19, Friday

5:30 p.m. Deacon Todd
 VanderMay Ordination to the
 Priesthood, Mass, Cathedral

June 21, Sunday

6:30 p.m. Mass, S.D. National
 Guard Officer Candidate School,
 Fort Meade

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 57701-3031
 Phone: 605-343-3541

Publisher: Bishop Scott Bullock

Editor: Laurie Hallstrom, lhallstrom@diorc.org

Assistant Editor: Becky Berreth, bberreth@diorc.org

Advertising: Laurie Hallstrom, 605-343-3541

Circulation Contact: 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 57701-3031

Periodical postage paid at Rapid City, SD 57701

Clergy Assignments

Bishop Scott Bullock issued clergy assignments on April 27. Unless otherwise indicated, the assignments are effective July 1, 2026.



Fr. Kevin Achbach, Vicar General, will be appointed as Administrator for St. Francis of Assisi in Sturgis and St. Mary Star of the Sea in Newell until September 1, 2026. He will remain pastor of St. Joseph in Spearfish and St. Paul in Belle Fourche with residence in Spearfish.



Fr. Timothy Castor will be appointed as Pastor of St. Joseph in Faith, St. Joseph in Mud Butte and St. Anthony in Red Owl and released from assignment as Canonical Pastor of St. Patrick in Lead and St. Ambrose in Deadwood and from his assignment as Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Sturgis and St. Mary Star of the Sea in Newell.



Fr. Mark Horn will be assigned as Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Custer. He will remain Pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Hill City. Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Keystone will be converted to an oratory of the Parish of St. Rose of Lima. At the same time, he will be released from his assignment as Director of Hispanic Ministry.



Fr. Collins Igwilo will remain Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in Hot Springs and St. James in Edgemont. He will be released from his assignment as Pastor of St. John the Baptist in Custer.



Deacon Tim Minihan's assignment will be changed from Parish Administrator to Pastoral Associate of St. Patrick in Lead and St. Ambrose in Deadwood.



Fr. Kerry Prendiville will be released from his assignment as Pastor of St. Therese in Rapid City and St. John the Evangelist in New Underwood and assigned as Pastor of St. Patrick in Lead and St. Ambrose in Deadwood.



Fr. Mark McCormick will be assigned as Pastor of St. Therese in Rapid City. He will remain Chaplain for St. Carlo Acutis Student Center in Rapid City. He will remain Director of Vocations until September 1, 2026.



Deacon Todd VanderMay will be assigned as Parochial Vicar for St. Therese in Rapid City upon Ordination to the Priesthood on June 19, 2026.



Fr. Phil Cooke, SJ, will be assigned as Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Rapid City, while remaining Pastor of St. Isaac Jogues in Rapid City.



Fr. Jonathan Dillon will be assigned as Pastor of St. John the Evangelist in New Underwood, while remaining pastor of St. Patrick in Wall and St. Margaret in Lakeside. He will be released from his assignment as Pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Martin and Our Lady of Victory in Kadoka. He will reside in Wall.



Fr. Bryan Sorensen will be assigned as Chaplain for Terra Sancta Retreat Center. He will provide interim coverage throughout the diocese as assigned by the bishop for sabbaticals and other significant absences.



Fr. Grant Gerlach will be assigned as Pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Martin and Our Lady of Victory in Kadoka. He will remain pastor of Sacred Heart in Philip and St. Mary in Milesville but be released from assignment as Pastor of St. William in Midland. He will continue to reside in Philip.



Deacon Greg Sass is released from assignment at Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont, and assigned as deacon at St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City.



Fr. Francis Nsubuga will be released from his assignment as Sacramental Priest for St. Patrick in Lead and St. Ambrose in Deadwood. He will be assigned as Parochial Vicar for Sacred Heart in Philip, St. Mary in Milesville, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Martin, and Our Lady of Victory in Kadoka. He will reside in Martin.



Fr. Janusz Korban will be assigned as pastor of St. William in Midland, while remaining Pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Fort Pierre. He will be released from his assignment as Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in Draper, which will be closed.



Fr. John Paul Trask will remain Pastor of All Saints in Eagle Butte, which includes the parish churches of Sacred Heart in Dupree, St. Joseph in Cherry Creek, St. Therese in White Horse. Sacred Heart in Red Scaffold and St. Catherine in Promise will be converted to oratories of the Parish of All Saints. The parish churches of Immaculate Conception in Bridger and St. Joseph in Ridgeview will both be closed.



Fr. Francis Nwakile will be released from his assignment as Parochial Vicar of All Saints in Eagle Butte, Sacred Heart in Dupree, Sacred Heart in Red Scaffold, St. Joseph in Cherry Creek, St. Therese in White Horse, Immaculate Conception in Bridger, St. Catherine in Promise and St. Joseph in Ridgeview. He will be assigned as Parochial Vicar at Blessed Sacrament Church in Rapid City.



Fr. Zane Pekron will remain Pastor of Immaculate Conception in Winner and St. Isidore in Colome. He will be released from assignment as Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Wood, which will be closed.



Fr. Robert Kinyon, effective June 1, 2026, is released from assignment as Parochial Vicar of Blessed Sacrament Church and Chaplain for the Rapid City Catholic School System and appointed as principal of St. Thomas More High School.

Restructuring the Diocese of Rapid City

By BECKY BERRETH

After hearing from the priests and the deanery gatherings, the Presbyteral Council and, by extension, the College of Consultors, has been restructured effective February 1, 2026. According to Bishop Scott Bullock, the motive for restructuring was to reduce the size of the council with regard to the overall size of the Presbyterate.

"I have spoken to Archbishop Bernard Hebda, describing the reasons for such a restructuring of the Presbyteral Council, and he has offered his support of my decision," said Bishop Bullock in an email to the priests of the diocese. "Once the new Presbyteral Council is constituted (through elections and appointments of Vicars Forane and the representative from the reservations), I will select from its number six to serve as the College of Consultors (as required by c. 502), which will fulfill the specific requirements of the 'Code of Canon Law.'"

The Presbyteral Council represents the priests of the diocese and serves as a "senate to the bishop" to assist him in governance of the diocese according to the norms of law and to promote the pastoral good of the people of God of the diocese. The bishop, in consultation with the elected members of the council, determines what the council

considers.

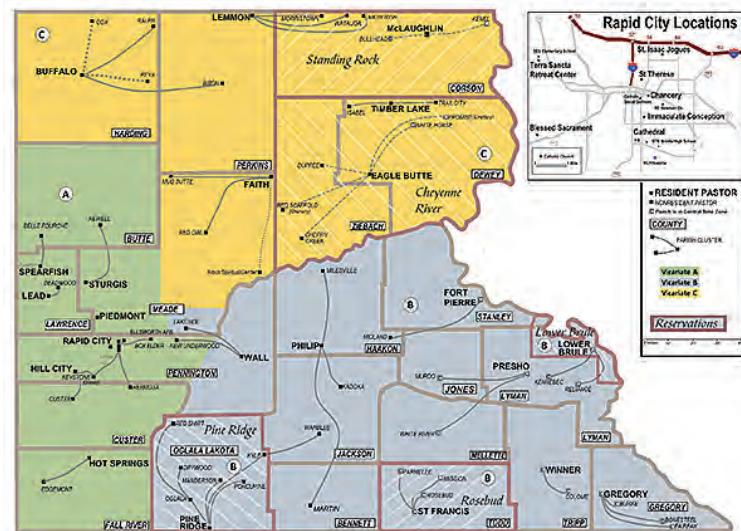
The council consists of: the Vicar General serves *ex officio*; three Vicars Forane, serving *ex officio*; four Members elected by the presbyterate — two from the older clergy (from oldest 50 percentiles of the presbyterate) and two younger clergy; one Vicar General (this appointment also serves as a tie breaker) — neither an appointed nor elected member; one member who serves on one of the reservations dedicated to the ministry of the Society of Jesus or Sacred Heart Fathers, appointed by the bishop.

In addition to the restructuring of the Presbyteral Council, a deanery re-alignment, now called Vicariates Forane, has occurred to reduce the number of deaneries from five to three. Former deaneries 1 & 2 are now Vicariate A; deaneries 3 & 4 are Vicariate B; and the current deanery 5 is Vicariate C. Priests serving on reservations will join the geographical deanery in which they minister.

The purpose of grouping the parishes is, "to foster pastoral care through common action, several neighboring parishes can be joined into special groups, such as vicariates forane." (Canon 374 paragraph 2)

In the Diocese of Rapid City, these parish groupings serve a three-fold purpose:

- to serve as a regular occasion where



DIocese OF RAPID CITY

As of July 1, 2026

the bishop can seek feedback from the priests on a wide variety of pastoral issues;

- to serve as an occasion where issues can be raised for consideration by the Presbyteral Council;
- to serve as an occasion for priestly fraternity.

Each Vicariate has a Vicar Forane who

serves on the Presbyteral Council and serves as the bridge between the clergy and the laity for the joint pastoral activity within the Vicariate. He is also responsible to and collaborates most closely with the bishop in offering guidance and support to his brother priests.

Find Peace With Us.

Catholic Owned and Operated

BEHRENS WILSON
FUNERAL HOME
SINCE 1879

343-0145
Toll Free
1-888-366-2800

632 St. Francis St
Rapid City

behrenswilson.com



Wade H. Wilson
Funeral Director
Owner

WE ARE HIRING

Join our team!

- Director
- Operations Officer

Apply on-line
rapidcitydiocese.org/chancellor/employment/



*To those who received one or
more of the
Sacraments of
Initiation at Easter
time, welcome to the
Catholic Church.*

Belle Fourche, St. Paul
Izzabella Ramos

Buffalo, St. Anthony
Caitlyn Olson
David Tilus

Burke, Sacred Heart
Ben Hosford
Corbin Rolf

Custer, St. John
Gabrielle Hooker
Jack Hooker
Brittany Mechaley
Nicholas Myhre

Fairfax, St. Anthony
Katrina Whaley

Leimon, St. Mary
Pat Jensen
Lea Kling
Kameron Traversie
Lauren Weishaar

Murdo, St. Martin
Deb O'Reilly

**Piedmont, Our Lady of the
Black Hills**
Lucas Adams
Victoria Adams
Harland Bergeleen

Jordan Dubin
Amy Farley
Matthew Petersen
(Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City)
Emily Shoup
Nadine Rhodes
Colter Schenbeck
Thomas Walk

**Pine Ridge Reservation,
Holy Rosary Mission**
Mercedes Faubion (Our Lady of
Sorrows, Kyle)
Shikayla Faubion (Our Lady of
Sorrows, Kyle)
Gage Garrett (St. Agnes,
Manderson)
Payton Garrett (St. Agnes,
Manderson)
Shawntay Iron Horse (St. Agnes,
Manderson)
Jonathan Janis (Our Lady of the
Sioux, Oglala)
Maureen Locke (Christ the King,
Porcupine)
Christopher Morrison, Sr. (Sacred
Heart, Pine Ridge)
Evangeline Poor Bear (St. Agnes,
Manderson)
Charlie Smallwood, Jr. (Sacred
Heart, Pine Ridge)
Raiden Two Bulls (Our Lady of the
Sioux, Oglala)
Fernando White Butterfly, Jr.
(Sacred Heart, Pine Ridge)

Rapid City, Blessed Sacrament
Brett Bennett
Aminata Boyd
Shawn Fuller
Lexie Gomez
Leonard Hanson
Eric Hudson
Adriana Jackson
Jarrick Jensen
Scott Karasch
Grace Kierzek
Joe Kopriva
Debra Macdonald
Julianna Nielson
Alex Oleson
Tyler Wildes
Roberto Zavala

Rapid City, Cathedral
Trae Bakley
Logan Bartling
Molly Boyum
Kayden Carter
Riley Carter
Charles Conlee
Ayla Conners
Emily Gentrup
Gracie Gentrup
Stephanie Gentrup
Rayna Habbe
Ryan Matusiak
Dan Merrill
Joanna Merrill
Collin Miller
Lori Slather
Megan Smith
Laython Suhr
James Van Heuvelen II

**Rapid City, St. Carlo Acutis
Catholic Student Center**
John Brickey
Cole Dobberstein
Thor Erickson
Evan Hatton
AleK Kuchta
Jack Schieuer

Rapid City, St. Therese
Alison Bridges
Brittney Cundy
Glenn Dyer
Tamara Flores
Joseph Freeouf
Lyle Grendzinski
Joseph Kinyon
John Monroe
Isaiah Quasney
Katelynn Travis
Taylor Travis
Sandy Schneider-Troy

Spearfish, St. Joseph
Jaedyn Cox
Drew Hinker
Edwin Hopton, Jr
Clara Jensen
Adam Kindsfater
Ryan Olsen
Sebashtan Conover Palmer
Lance Palmer
Laurel Palmer
Riana Rensch
Alan Roth
Daniel Tintinger

Sturgis, St. Francis
Emma Bestgen
Melonie Bestgen
Landon Meirose
Ronald Plaggemyer, Jr.
Myiah Wasson

Timber Lake, Holy Cross
Carter Keller

Wall, St. Patrick
Taran Eisenbraun (Wall)
Kelly O'Connell (Kadoka)



Wall —Taran Eisenbraun with
Fr. Jonathan Dillon



Burke — Fr. Ron Garry with Ben
Hosford and his sponsor Andrea
Steffen



Belle Fourche — Fr. Max Vetch with Izzabella Ramos

Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapels and Crematory Service



*Locally owned and operated
by the Isburg Family*

*Faithful Parishioners of the
Catholic Community*

605-642-2633

*Spearfish & Lead, South Dakota
Sundance, Wyoming*

**PETE
LIEN
& Sons, Inc.**

**"Your Projects
Just Got Easier"**

Aggregates, Sand, River Rock,
Landscape Blocks, Redi-Rock,
and Ready Mix Concrete.

605-342-7224
PO Box 440
Rapid City SD 57709
www.petelien.com

2026 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

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

Scan Here
to Give Today!
www.rapidcitydiocese.org



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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! We rejoice as a diocesan family that we have been able to welcome over 100 new sons and daughters into the Church during the Easter Vigil through the Sacraments of Initiation. Their witness is a living sign of the power of Christ to transform lives.

This Easter Season invites all of us to be active Messengers of Hope, sharing the Gospel with renewed joy and to nurture a Church where each person can encounter Christ's peace and love.

Your participation in the 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal is part of your response to that call as you help to bring Christ's message of hope to our brothers and sisters throughout western South Dakota. 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. These include:

- Formation of our seminarians and permanent deacon candidates
- Ongoing formation for our priests and deacons
- Evangelization efforts and formation of missionary disciples
- Catholic media outreach, including social media and the *West River Catholic*
- Promotion of the sanctity of life and resources to strengthen families
- Catechist and lay minister training
- Support for youth and young adult ministry
- Administrative support for my office and our diocesan ministries

I am deeply grateful for your previous gift, through which you have been a bearer of his hope, a powerful Messengers of Hope. If you have not yet done so, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help to share Christ's hope through your gift to the 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal.

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 _____

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

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





Students from St. Carlo Acutis Catholic Student Center toured seven parishes after Holy Thursday Mass. They are pictured at St. Therese the Little Flower, Rapid City. (Courtesy photo)

A night to remember

I know it is a little early to start talking about and planning for Holy Thursday 2027; however, as the late-Msgr. William O'Connell would say, "Strike when the spirit is hot!"



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

This past Holy Week, I was asked about the Catholic tradition of the Seven Churches Visitation during OCIA at St. Carlo Acutis Student Center on the campus of South Dakota Mines. To be honest, I believe it was the first time I had ever

really heard about this beautiful tradition of visiting seven different churches to pray before the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday.

The more I prayed about the idea during Holy Week, the more I felt called to "strike when the spirit is hot." I learned that this tradition dates back to the time of Saint Philip Neri in the 16th century. The story goes that St. Philip Neri would gather with a few friends and set out on foot to visit and pray at the four major basilicas — St. Peter's in the Vatican, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran, and St. Mary Major — along with three smaller churches: St. Sebastian Outside the Walls, Holy Cross in Jerusalem, and

St. Lawrence Outside the Walls.

This pilgrimage that St. Philip Neri would embark upon every Holy Thursday stretched over 15-plus miles. Amazing! What an incredible and prayerful experience this must have been for St. Philip Neri and his companions. At each church, they would pray, sing a hymn, and offer a short reflection. Over time, this simple initiative became a living Roman tradition.

Wanting to be obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in my own heart, I pitched the idea to the community at St. Carlo's about making a holy pilgrimage to seven Chapels of Repose on Holy Thursday, just like St. Philip Neri. Following those promptings, about 25 of us set out from St. Carlo's after the Holy Thursday-Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper — not on foot, but in cars.

It was amazing as we raced from Chapel of Repose to Chapel of Repose, hoping to make it before the churches closed. From St. Carlo to Our Lady of the Black Hills in Piedmont, to Blessed Sacrament, to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, to St. Isaac Jogues, to St. Therese, and finally ending at Immaculate Conception Church.

Finishing shortly after midnight and covering countless miles across the Black Hills, it was a wonderful pilgrimage — one that I will remember for a very long time. So mark your calendars now for the Seven Churches Visitation next Holy Thursday, March 25, 2027.

Who's in?

2026 PRO-LIFE GALA DINNER



**Wednesday,
June 24th**

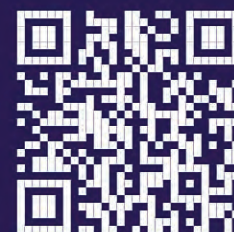
**Double Tree by Hilton
Rapid City, SD**

With Special Guest Speaker DAN VENEZIA

Dan was a professional baseball player who had a life changing experience when he nearly died, TWICE. He's been a featured guest on The Fox News Channel, The Sean Hannity Radio Show, ESPN Radio Sports Center Tonight, CBS, Newsmax, The Drew Mariani Show, CBN's 700 Club and EWTN's The Journey Home. Don't miss Dan's unforgettable story of conversion, faith, and forgiveness.

HEALING THE CULTURE

Register today at
HealingtheCulture.org/Events



Bishop's Fishing Tournament rules: no cheating, no bananas

BY LAURIE HALLSTROM

The Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation is once again teaming with their Diocese of Sioux Falls counterpart to host the 14th Annual Bishop's Fishing Tournament on June 8 that supports seminarian education. All proceeds raised on the western shores of the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area will go toward our diocesan seminarians.

Vocations Director Fr. Mark McCormick was unfortunately skunked again last year by the Sioux Falls Diocese Vocations Director Fr. Michael Kapperman. "Good thing we will have Fr. Tyler Dennis fishing with us this year," he said. As of Sept. 1, Father Dennis is the incoming vocations director for the Rapid City Diocese and purportedly a better angler.

Father McCormick still endorsed the fishing event. "It's a good time to hang out and have fun. One of the East River semi-

narians said something that stuck with me, after meeting the guys from West River, he said, 'Now I feel like a seminarian for the State of S.D.'"

Rich Raposa, Rapid City, made the mistake of trying to smuggle a banana in his sack lunch. "These guys were serious — no bananas on a fishing boat." Apparently, his hosts believe the age-old superstition that a banana could bring bad weather, mechanical failure, or a poor catch. He ditched it and will be sure to be banana free this year.

James Schaefers, Rapid City, was on the same boat as Deacon Todd VanderMay who will be ordained to the priesthood Friday, June 19. Schaefers said the real fun was getting to know everyone on the boat and after the tournament meeting people from all over the state. Regarding the prime rib dinner, he said, "the food was delicious."

Organizers are seeking teams of four people to fish on shore or on boats. The day

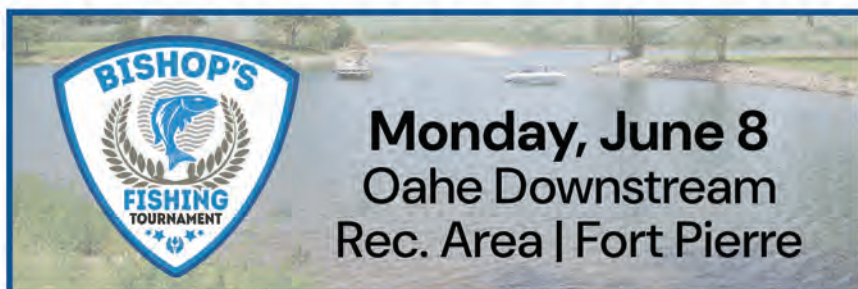


From the 2025 fishing tournament (L-R) Ken Korkow, George Welk driving the boat, seminarian Blane Schriock, Abigail, Edith and Grant Sasse. Schriock will be ordained a transitional deacon on Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. (Photo by Sarah Bakker)

will also include a silent auction, raffle, children's activities, Mass with Bishop Donald DeGrood of Sioux Falls, and a prime rib dinner. Use the QR code in the ad below to

register or sponsor the event. The foundation can also be reached at 605-721-6843 or www.wsdcf.org.

Cast a Line. Answer the Call.



The 14th Annual Bishop's Fishing Tournament supports the men preparing for the priesthood in our Diocese. Join us for a day of fishing, fellowship, and faith where all proceeds go directly to our diocesan seminarians.

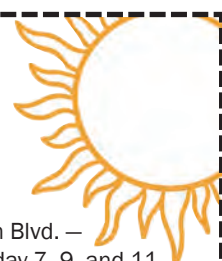
Fish in teams of four | Silent auction
Mass celebrated by Bishop DeGrood
Kids activities | Prime rib dinner



**Western South Dakota
Catholic Foundation**
605-721-6843 | www.wsdcf.org

Scan to register your
team or sponsor now!

Black Hills Summer Mass Schedule



Belle Fourche: St. Paul Catholic Church,
855 5th St. — Sunday 9 a.m.

Custer: St. John the Baptist Catholic
Church, 449 Harney St. — Saturday
5:30 p.m./Sunday 8 a.m.

Deadwood: St. Ambrose Catholic Church,
760 Main St. — Saturday 6 p.m./
Sunday 8 a.m.

Edgemont: St. James Catholic Church,
310 3rd Ave. — Sunday 5 p.m.

Hermosa: St. Michael Catholic Church,
13480 Hwy 40 — Sunday 9 a.m.

Hill City: St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church,
305 Pine Ave. — Saturday 6 p.m. bilingual
Spanish-English Mass/Sunday 10 a.m.
English Mass

Hot Springs: St. Anthony of Padua Catholic
Church, 538 University Ave. — Sunday
10:30 a.m.

Keystone: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic
Church, 1014 Madiill St. — Sunday 8 a.m.

Lead: St. Patrick Catholic Church,
141 Siever St. — Saturday 4 p.m./Sunday
10 a.m.

Piedmont: Our Lady of the Black Hills
Catholic Church, 12365 Sturgis Rd. (Exit
48) — Saturday 5 p.m./Sunday 8 a.m. and
11 a.m.

Rapid City: Blessed
Sacrament Catholic

Church, 4500 Jackson Blvd. —
Saturday 4 p.m./ Sunday 7, 9, and 11
a.m. Spanish Mass: Sunday 1:30 p.m.

Rapid City: Cathedral of Our Lady of
Perpetual Help, 520 Cathedral Dr. —
Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 8, 10:30 a.m.,
and 5:30 p.m.

Rapid City: Immaculate Conception
Catholic Church, 922 5th St. — Latin Mass
in the Former Rite: Sunday 8 and 10 a.m.

Rapid City: St. Isaac Jogues Catholic
Church, 221 Knollwood Dr. — Saturday
5 p.m./Sunday 9 and 11 a.m.

Rapid City: St. Therese the Little Flower
Catholic Church, 523 Adams St. —
Saturday 4:30 p.m./Sunday 9 a.m. and
5:30 p.m.

Spearfish: St. Joseph Catholic Church,
844 5th St. — Saturday 5:30 p.m./
Sunday 7:30 and 10:30 a.m.

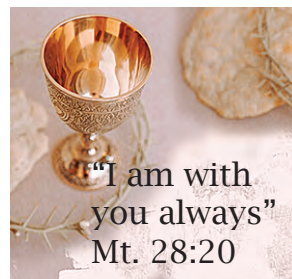
Sturgis: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic
Church, 1049 Howard St. — Saturday
5 p.m./Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Wall: St. Patrick Catholic Church,
701 Norris — Sunday 11 a.m.

(Time provided by parishes as of 5/19/26)

Homebound, Hospitalized, and Nursing Home Residents

You can still enjoy
the Word of Our Lord...
Televised Mass



"I am with
you always"
Mt. 28:20

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

(Contact your parish to receive Communion.)

Custer Scholarships

Blaise Arp and Keira Nelson received the Women of St. John's Scholarship presented May 3 at St. John the Baptist Church. Following Mass, the Knights of Columbus hosted a pancake breakfast reception to honor 2026 graduates Arp, Nelson, Kally Trump, Ava Hohn and Zander Dinius. (Courtesy photo)



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.

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.

Ordinations: June 1, 1974, Fr. Ron Seminara, 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 Gladfelder; 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 27, 2025, Fr. Maxwell Vetch; 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 McGill; 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.



Proud to support the Rapid City Catholic School System

Hillard Wealth Solutions Group

243 Founders Park Drive, Suite 101 | Rapid City, SD 57709
(605) 343-7720 | www.hillardwsg.com



Wealth
Management

Investment and insurance products offered through RBC Wealth Management are not insured by the FDIC or any other federal government agency, are not deposits or other obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank or any bank affiliate, and are subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested.

© 2024 RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC, registered investment adviser and Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC.
All rights reserved.

24-RC-03077 (09/24)

What is a Certified Lay Ecclesial Minister (CLEM)?

Why should I consider becoming one?

BY LENORR SNYDER

According to the USCCB document “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord,” a lay ecclesial minister is someone who is authorized by the hierarchy to serve publicly in the local Church; who has leadership in a particular area of the Church; who has close mutual collaboration with the pastoral ministry of bishops, priests and deacons; who has preparation and formation appropriate to the level of responsibilities assigned to them. The roles of a lay ecclesial minister are many and varied, but ultimately it implies a distinct service in the ministry of the Church.

Because lay ecclesial ministers are often tasked with leading and forming other lay faithful, it is essential that they have appropriate formation. The code of Canon Law states:

“Lay persons who devote themselves permanently or temporarily to some special service of the Church are obliged to acquire the appropriate formation which is required to fulfill their function properly” (Canon 231).

For this reason, the Church gives certain guidelines and recommendations for this formation. Based on these guidelines, the Diocese of Rapid City has crafted an initial formation program for certified lay



ecclesial ministers (CLEM) based on the four areas of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral. They are also required to receive ongoing formation to remain active in their ministry.

“To set high standards means both to provide a thorough basic training and to keep it constantly updated. This is a fundamental duty in order to ensure qualified personnel for the Church’s mission.”

— St. John Paul II

The sacramental basis of their ministry is based on the Sacraments of Initiation, not the Sacrament of Ordination. Charac-

teristics of a Lay Ecclesial Minister include:

According to the USCCB’s document “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord,” the characteristics proper to a lay minister are as follows:

- Habitual prayer enriched by Scripture and Liturgy
- Knowledge and adherence to Church doctrine in teaching and discussion
- Respect and appreciation for the Traditions of the Church
- Regular celebration of the Sacraments, especially Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Participation in one’s parish community

- Ability to direct others in service
- Mature humanity — chaste living according to vocation; mature emotional balance and healthy affectivity; critical thinkers; manage stress well.

· Willingness and ability to engage in disciplined study, including academic and ecclesial subjects

The initial formation program for certified lay ecclesial ministers is as follows:

- *Cor ad Cor* Spirituality Year Completion
- *Veritatis Splendor* Institute Basic Certification
- Summer Online Courses through Franciscan Catechetical Institute
- Ecclesial Pastoral Formation Year

We encourage you to visit the diocesan website for more information and to apply. You can reach us at:

Sr. Sara Kowal, SCTJM

Director of Pastoral Ministries and Faith Formation
Diocese of Rapid City
Skowal@diorc.org
Phone: 605-343-3541, X2243

Lenorr Snyder

VSI, CLEM, *Cor ad Cor*/Programs & Events Coordinator
Diocese of Rapid City
lsnyder@diorc.org Phone: 605-343-3541, X2234

Ink, Nib, and the Noble Script

Join us for an event to celebrate Bl. Alcuin’s feast day! This student event features lessons on the lost art of scribes of the early medieval Carolingian dynasty. Students will learn about Bl. Alcuin’s contribution to the written word of the 8th century, learn minuscule script calligraphy, study book illumination processes, create natural inks, and complete a final project that combines all the skills learned! The evening includes dinner and a showing of *The Secret of Kells*!

For students going into 8th-12th grade

May 30 | 4pm - 9pm | Terra Sancta Retreat Center



CHESTERTON ACADEMY
OF BLESSED ALCUIN OF YORK
Joyful. Catholic. Classical.

www.ChestertonBlackHills.com



KIRK

Funeral Home &
Cremation Services

**1051 E. Minnesota
Rapid City, SD
605-343-4808**

Our family helping your family



St. Elizabeth Seton 1st grade classroom students with teacher Julie Carreiro. (WRC photo)

Rapid City Catholic School System

Increased scholarships available

BY SUZANNE FEIST
INTERIM ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR

As you look ahead to the fall, we invite you to consider the Rapid City Catholic School System and all that Catholic education offers. Our schools are rooted in a shared vision — forming hearts and minds in the Truth — and are guided by dedicated educators passionate about serving students and families. Registration for the 2026–2027 school year is now open at rccss.org.

There are many scholarships through RCCSS and South Dakota Partners in Education. The updated SDPE guidelines will help more families qualify for financial assistance. Beginning with the 26-27 school year, the income levels to qualify for assistance have increased to 200% of the NSLP guidelines, significantly expanding the number of families who will qualify for SDPE grants.



In addition, RCCSS continues to award tuition assistance and scholarships to families showing need based on a completed TADS application.

Check out: <https://secure.tads.com> to apply for assistance from both RCCSS and SDPE. There is a \$42 application fee. Please reach out to us: Admissions@rccss.org or call the RCCSS Business Office at 605-719-5447.

We invite you to explore the many financial opportunities available — now more accessible than ever. RCCSS offers a wide range of named scholarships, and South Dakota Partners in Education provides additional support at significant levels. We encourage you to take the next step — learn more, ask questions, and discover how a Catholic education can be both attainable and transformational for your family.

MAILING LABEL

WRC May 2026

West River Catholic

Page 12



ALL ARE INVITED
TO THE ORDINATION OF
Josiah Hanson
AND
Blane Schriock
TO THE
**Transitional
Diaconate**

May 30, 2026 ~ 10 a.m.

HOLY HOUR
May 29, 2026 ~ 5:30 p.m.



Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City
rapidcitydiocese.org/live or Facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity

Dr. Paula Sorensen | Dr. Greg Sorensen
Dr. Steven Schaefer | Dr. Sarah Houdek



A BETTER EYECARE
EXPERIENCE

eyedoctorsrapidcity.com

2626 West Main Street, Suite 4 | Rapid City
Appointments Available: 605.399.3811

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: www.rapidcitydiocese.org/to-the-heights

DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

ALL ARE INVITED
RITE OF CONSECRATION
OF
CAROLE BROWN
TO THE ORDER OF VIRGINS LIVING IN THE WORLD

MAY 25, 2026 ~ 2 P.M.
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, RAPID CITY

RAPIDCITYDIOCESE.ORG/LIVE
FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESEOFRAPIDCITY

