

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 25 No. 9 May 2011

SAVE THE DATE!



Deacon Zachary D. Peterson will be ordained to the Holy Order of Priesthood for the Diocese of New Ulm by Bishop John M. LeVoiur on Saturday, June 4, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. A reception will follow.

Note: Next month the June issue of "The Prairie Catholic" will be delayed by a week so that it will include coverage of the ordination.

Rich tradition of Catholic education to end in Silver Lake

low enrollment forces closure of Holy Family Catholic School

New Ulm – Holy Family Catholic School in Silver Lake will close at the end of the 2010-2011 academic year due to continued declining enrollment.

The decision was made by Bishop John M. LeVoiur upon the recommendation of Holy Family pastor Fr. Anthony Stubeda, who studied the matter in depth with the help of a task force.

The school currently provides a Catholic faith-based education for 28 students in preschool through fourth grade. The announcement was made to parishioners at an open meeting on March 17. "This has been the most difficult and heart-

wrenching decision of my priesthood," said Fr. Stubeda in a letter to his parish community. "It is with great sadness that I make this move."

"I understand the sadness of our parish after such long and faithful dedication to a parochial school. The sweat, love, and lives of so many of you have built a school to be proud of, and to witness its closing will be difficult," he said.

Bishop LeVoiur also expressed his sadness. "I was educated in Catholic

schools from first grade through graduate school," he said. "As a parish priest, I was always assigned to a parish with a Catholic school because of my support of Catholic education. I do not like to see any Catholic school close its doors. For me it is both sad and frustrating to see this happen."

Discussions about the future of the school have been going on for about four years. For the past two years,

Karla Cross, director of the Office of Schools for the diocese, has guided task force and focus group meetings.

"When enrollment drops significantly, as much as we would like to see it remain open, it isn't feasible financially to continue to operate a Catholic school."

– Bishop LeVoiur

During the 2009-2010 school year, a task force of Holy Family parishioners reviewed and shared data on various aspects of the school. In March 2010, a decision was made

under then-pastor Fr. Brian Oestreich to close the fifth and sixth grades.

In late 2010, the task force expanded to include members of the Church of Holy Trinity, Winsted, and the Church of St. Pius X, Glencoe. The Diocese of New Ulm has grouped the three parishes together as an area faith community, in which constituent parishes work together to carry out the mission and ministries of the Church. Holy Trinity and St. Pius X both have Catholic schools.

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"Christ Our Life" Campaign launches new Web site

by Wayne Pelzel, director
Office of Development



The "Christ Our Life" Campaign, a fundraising endeavor of the Diocese of New

Ulm to build a new Pastoral Center and answer parish needs is off to a great start with the strong support of the generous donors in our Pilot Wave parishes. And now tracking progress of the campaign is only a click away.

A new "Christ Our Life" Campaign Web site has been launched, and will continually be updated with the latest campaign totals as parishes strive to reach their campaign goals.

"One of the most important elements of a successful campaign is communication of the goals," said Bill Maloney, campaign manager for the Steier Group, the company hired to guide the campaign. "We feel that we need to use as many means as possible to communicate campaign information. This new Web site will enhance our ability to reach the parishioners of the diocese."

A campaign video will be available to visitors of the Web site. The video will also be shown in all parishes at the time they are participating in the campaign.

Online giving will be added to the new Web site in the next few weeks. According to Maloney, "Once a

parishioner receives their campaign material in the mail, they can go to the Web site to complete their pledge by clicking on the 'Donate Here' button located in the right hand margin."

The "Christ Our Life" Campaign is being conducted in three waves throughout the diocese. Seventeen parishes are currently participating in the Pilot Wave. Twenty-nine parishes have begun preparation for Wave One and they will be seeking gifts beginning in June. The final group will be Wave Two, which will begin preparations this summer and will ask their members for pledges in the fall of 2011.

Information on individual parishes in Waves One and Two will be

50% **Parish Needs:** Parish leaders will identify projects they want to complete. Each parish will receive half of the funds raised to address those needs.

50% **New Pastoral Center:** Half of the campaign proceeds will assist in funding the construction of a new Pastoral Center.

Funds raised in excess of each parish goal are returned to the parish.

made available on the Web site when the campaign begins in each parish.

The campaign will take place in all parishes throughout 2011. Call 507-359-2966 for more information.

SPECIAL FEATURE this month!

Meet Bishop LeVoiur's staff who work at the Pastoral Center.

Learn more about how the diocesan offices serve you and your parish.

Visit us online!
www.dnu.org



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BE NOT AFRAID

“Blessed John Paul II on Marriage and Family”

by Bishop John M. LeVoir

When I was in the seminary, I knew that someday I would be preparing engaged couples for marriage. What I was learning in the seminary did not seem to have the power to persuade and to convince couples who were sometimes skeptical about the teaching of the Church on marriage and the family. Then, I began to read Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body addresses, and when I was newly ordained, I read his Apostolic Exhortation on the Christian Family in the Modern World. After reading these works, I knew then what I would be presenting to engaged couples who were preparing for marriage. It was John Paul's theology on marriage and family life. It was fresh. It was persuasive. It was convincing.

Section 11 of Apostolic Exhortation on the Christian Family in the Modern World contains a brief summary of Blessed John Paul's teaching on marriage and the family. He begins this section by calling to mind the truth that God is the origin of marriage and that God has a plan for marriage and the family. The plan reflects the nature of God himself. God is love and God created man and woman in his image and likeness out of love. That means that man and woman image God, not

only in who they are, but also in what they do. They are called to love as God loves.

God is both one and three. There is only one God, but in God, there are three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Persons of the Trinity live a mystery of personal loving communion. Each of the Persons loves the other two. Consequently, all three are united in the love that they have for each other.

In marriage, man and woman are called to reflect God by making their family a personal loving communion. Husband and wife are persons and are to love each other with a love that makes them one. Then, when children are born, they become members of the one personal loving communion or union that is called the family. Just as God is one being, but three Persons, so is the family one family, with many members. Marriage and the family reflect God and his love.

The Holy Father goes on to say that in marriage, man and woman are to love one another or give themselves totally to one another. Since man and woman are both bodied persons, that is, each is a being composed of a body and a soul, marital love is both spiritual (soul) and physical (body). So, in marriage, a husband gives

himself totally to his wife (body and soul) and a wife gives herself totally to her husband (body and soul). So, "Love includes the human body, and the body is made a sharer in spiritual love." In this way, the oneness of husband and wife includes each of their bodies as an integral element of the way that they image God's love.

From here, John Paul writes about human sexuality and its proper role. Blessed John Paul teaches that the bodies of man and woman are complementary and have a nuptial meaning. He writes that sexuality is the means by which man and woman give themselves to one another through the acts which are proper and exclusive to spouses. . . . In other words, through the exercise of their sexuality, husband and wife express their love. But, he goes on to say that the exercise of sexuality includes more than the bodies of the couple, that is, it. . . . is by no means something purely biological, but concerns the innermost being of the human person as such." In other words, through the exercise of their sexuality, the inner core or heart of each person is given to the other, received by the other, and united to the other.

Since the exercise of sexuality involves the possibility of new life (children), John Paul writes that the

couple is responsible for their fertility. Their sexuality must be exercised in a responsible way. This is so because children from conception onward are persons, whose life should be treasured and safeguarded. Being responsible for one's fertility would include the use of Natural Family Planning. By learning NFP, a couple comes to a knowledge of their fertility and a knowledge of how to exercise their sexuality in a responsible way in planning their family.

The Holy Father concludes Section 11 by writing: "The only 'place' in which this self-giving [love] in its whole truth is made possible is marriage, the covenant of conjugal love freely and consciously chosen, whereby man and woman accept the intimate community of life and love willed by God himself which only in this light manifests its true meaning."

By following Blessed John Paul's way of presenting marriage, I was able to prepare engaged couples well for marriage and family life. In addition, John Paul's theology opened the eyes of many of the couples that I prepared to a true appreciation of the meaning of their vocation to marriage and the family. Blessed John Paul II, pray for us and our families.

Bishop's May Calendar

1 Hutchinson: 11 a.m. Church of St. Anastasia. Confirmation.

Silver Lake: 2 p.m. Church of the Holy Family. Divine Mercy/Beatification of Pope John Paul II Celebration.

New Ulm: 6 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Lectio Divina Prayer Group Gathering.

1-5 Buffalo: Annual Priests' Retreat.

3 New Ulm: 4:30 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass for Region VIII Provincial Canon Law Meeting.

6 Sleepy Eye: 8:20 a.m. Church of St. Mary. May Crowning Mass.

Springfield: 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Raphael. May Crowning Mass.

Wabasso: 1 p.m. Church of St. Anne. May Crowning Mass.

7 Redwood Falls: 9:30 a.m. Church of St. Catherine. Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting.

10 New Ulm: 8:20 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. School Mass.

Olivia: 12:30 p.m. Church of St. Aloysius. Committee on Parishes Meeting.

11 New Ulm: 9:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Diocesan Staff Meeting.

New Ulm: 12 p.m. Staff Appreciation Lunch.

New Ulm: 1 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Vocations Team Meeting.

14 Darwin: 5 p.m. Church of St. John. Blessing of the Tabernacle.

Winsted: 7 p.m. Church of the Holy Trinity. Confirmation.

15 New Ulm: 1 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Confirmation.

16 Marshall: 1:30 p.m. KMHL Radio Rosary Recording.

17 Olivia: Presbytery Day.

Mankato: 6 p.m. Applewood Restaurant. Mankato Serra Club Bishops' Burse Night.

18 New Ulm: 1 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Finance Council Meeting.

New Ulm: 7 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Property Committee Meeting.

20 Winsted: 7:30 p.m. Holy Trinity High School. Holy Trinity High School Graduation.

22 New Ulm: 2 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Cathedral High School Graduation.

23 Sleepy Eye: 7:30 p.m. Schoenstatt on the Lake. Rosary.

24 New Ulm: 10:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Priest Personnel Board Meeting.

25 New Ulm: 1 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Priests' Pension Plan Board Meeting.

(continued on page 10)

Priestly anniversaries



The public is invited to attend a celebration in recognition of Fr. Bernard J. Steiner's 50th anniversary of ordination to

Fr. Steiner 50th

the priesthood on Sunday, June 12. Bishop John M. LeVoor will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 1 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

Fr. Steiner was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of New Ulm on Feb. 19, 1961, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.

Following ordination he served the following parish communities: Springfield, Marshall, North Mankato, Dawson, Clarkfield, Lafayette, Winthrop, Appleton, Holloway, Comfrey, Madison, Granite Falls, Clara City, Raymond, the Benson area parishes (Clontarf, Danvers, DeGraff, Murdock), Wanda, Sanborn, Lambertson, Green Isle, Faxon Township, and Jessenland. Fr. Steiner retired from active ministry in 2005.



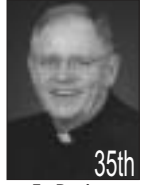
The public is invited to attend a celebration in recognition of Fr. John A. Pearson's 45th anniversary of ordination to

Fr. Pearson 45th

the priesthood on Sunday, June 5, following the 10:45 a.m. Mass at the Church of St. John in Darwin where he currently serves as pastor. Fr. Pearson also serves as sacramental minister of the Church of St. Gertrude in Forest City.

Fr. Pearson was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of New Ulm on May 28, 1966, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.

Following ordination he served the following parish communities: North Mankato, Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Redwood Falls, Hutchinson, Bird Island, St. Leo, Taunton, Graceville, Barry, Lake Lillian, Appleton, Holloway, Cottonwood, Green Valley, Tyler, Lake Benton, Wabasso, Seaforth, Wanda, and Lucan. Fr. Pearson also served as chaplain at Loretto Hospital, New Ulm, and as diocesan director for Ecumenical Affairs.



An open house for the 35th anniversary of priestly ordination and farewell for Fr. Jerry Paulson will be held on Sunday, June

Fr. Paulson 35th

26, 1-4 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary in Arlington. Fr. Paulson currently serves as pastor of the Church of St. Mary in Arlington and the Church of St. Michael in Gaylord.

Fr. Paulson was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of New Ulm June 6, 1976, at the Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye, by Bishop Raymond A. Lucker. Fr. Paulson's ordination was the first ordination for Bishop Lucker as bishop of the diocese.

Following ordination he served the following parish communities: Willmar, Marshall, Springfield, Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Searles, Arlington, Henderson (serving as weekend assistant), and Montevideo. Diocesan assignments include: vicar general, moderator of the curia (coordinator of diocesan staff), director of priest personnel, assistant presiding judge of the diocesan tribunal, chancellor, and supervisor of pastoral administrators.



The public is invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving in recognition of Bishop John M. LeVoor's 30th anniversary of

Bishop LeVoor 30th

ordination to the priesthood on Sunday, June 19, at 3 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar. A reception will follow the Mass in the parish center.

Bishop LeVoor was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on May 30, 1981, at the Cathedral of St. Paul by Archbishop John R. Roach.

Following ordination he served at: St. Charles Borromeo, St. Anthony; Holy Trinity, South St. Paul; St. Augustine, South St. Paul; St. Michael, Stillwater; and St. Mary, Stillwater.

On July 14, 2008, he was named the fourth bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm by Pope Benedict XVI. His episcopal ordination and installation took place Sept. 15, 2008, at the New Ulm Civic Center.



The public is invited to attend a celebration in recognition of Fr. Joseph A. Steinbeisser's 25th anniversary of ordination to

Fr. Steinbeisser 25th

the priesthood on Sunday, June 12, at the Church of St. Philip in Litchfield where he serves as pastor. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 2 p.m. followed by a reception in the church social hall.

Fr. Steinbeisser was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of New Ulm on June 7, 1986, at the Church of St. Aloysius in Olivia by Bishop Raymond A. Lucker.

Following ordination he served the following parish communities: Marshall, Leavenworth, Comfrey, Nicollet, and Willmar. Fr. Steinbeisser has also served as director of Vocations for the diocese.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is May 15; diocesan programs and resources assist in prayer effort

by Fr. Todd Petersen, director Office of Vocations

The 48th World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be celebrated on May 15, the fourth Sunday of Easter. The theme is "Proposing Vocations in the Local Church."

Pope Benedict XVI's papal message for this day of prayer was released in February at the Vatican. In his message, the pope said proposing vocations on the local level means "having the courage, through an attentive and suitable concern for vocations, to point out this challenging way of following Christ which, because it is so rich

in meaning, is capable of engaging the whole of one's life."

The local Church needs to become "more sensitive and attentive" to helping children and young people grow in their relationship with Christ through prayer and the sacraments, become more familiar with sacred Scriptures, be generous and loving toward others, and "understand that entering into God's will does not crush or destroy a person, but instead leads to the discovery of the deepest truth about ourselves," he said.

The pope underlined the importance of fostering priestly

and religious vocations as much as possible, and to take a special interest in missionary vocations.

Here in the Diocese of New Ulm, the Office of Vocations has developed a number of programs and resources as a way to encourage people to pray for vocations, either for seminarians and religious candidates, for priests and religious already responding, or for the families of discerners and the discerners themselves.

□ Spiritual Maternity of Priests: During the Year for Priests, the Vatican initiated a program to encourage women to pray for

priests. In the Diocese of New Ulm, the demand was so overwhelming that most priests actually have two spiritual mothers. To participate in this program, contact Margaret McHugh at 507-359-2966.

□ Saints Anne and Joachim Society: This is a program for lay men and women to pray for and encourage vocations, dedicating their efforts to Saints Anne and Joachim, parents of the Blessed Mother. There are no meetings, and those who enlist in the program promise to pray daily for vocations and for pastoral leaders, to make a holy hour every week,

and to attend Mass with the intention for vocations.

□ Prayer calendars: The Office of Vocations makes available six-month calendars (March-August and September-February) which include the names of pastoral leaders in the diocese and current seminarians listed for each day. Visit www.ftodd.blogspot.com and look under the resource section in the right column.

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No Tengas Miedo

Santísimo Juan Pablo II sobre el Matrimonio y la Familia

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Cuando estaba en el seminario, sabía que algún día estaría preparando a parejas comprometidas al matrimonio. Comencé a leer la Teología del Cuerpo de Juan Pablo II. Cuando me ordené como sacerdote leí su Exhortación Apostólica sobre la Familia Cristiana en el Mundo Moderno. Después de leer estas obras, supe entonces lo que se podría presentar a las parejas comprometidas que se estaban preparando para contraer matrimonio.

La sección 11 de la Exhortación Apostólica sobre la Misión de la Familia Cristiana en el Mundo Actual contiene un breve resumen de la enseñanza del Santísimo Juan Pablo II sobre el matrimonio y la familia. El comienza diciendo que Dios es el origen del matrimonio y él tiene un plan para el matrimonio y la familia. El plan refleja la naturaleza de Dios mismo. Dios es amor y Dios creo al hombre y a la mujer a su imagen y semejanza. Eso significa el hombre y la mujer imagen de Dios, no solo en quienes son, pero en lo que hacen también.

En el matrimonio, el hombre y la mujer están llamados a reflejar Dios haciendo una comunión personal de amor a su familia. Marido y mujer deben amarse el uno al otro con un amor que los haga uno. Entonces, cuando sus hijos nacen, ellos se convierten en miembros de una comunión personal de amor o unión que se llama la familia. Así como Dios es un ser, pero en tres personas, así es la familia, una familia, con muchos miembros. El matrimonio y la familia reflejan Dios y su amor.

El Santo Padre dice que en el matrimonio, hombre y mujer se aman el uno al otro o darse el todo. Mientras que el hombre y la mujer son seres humanos, es decir, cada uno es un ser compuesto por un cuerpo y alma, el amor conyugal es espiritual (alma) y físico (cuerpo). Así, en el matrimonio, el marido da todo su ser a su esposa (cuerpo y

alma) y la esposa da el todo a su marido (cuerpo y alma). Así pues, "El amor abarca también el cuerpo humano, y el cuerpo se hace participe del amor espiritual." De esta manera, la unidad de marido y mujer incluye cada uno de su cuerpo como un elemento integral de la manera como identifican el amor a Dios.

Desde aquí, Juan Pablo escribe sobre la sexualidad humana y su papel. El escribe que la sexualidad es el medio por que "... el hombre y la mujer se dan uno a otro con los actos propios y exclusivos de los esposos..." En otras palabras con el ejercicio de su sexualidad, marido y mujer expresan su amor. Pero, él continua diciendo que el ejercicio de la sexualidad incluye más que el cuerpo de la pareja, es decir, "no es algo puramente biológico, sino el interior del ser humano como tal." Es decir, mediante el ejercicio de su sexualidad, el nucleo interno o el corazón de cada persona es dada a la otra y unida a la otra.

Puesto que el ejercicio de la sexualidad implica la posibilidad de una nueva vida (niños), Juan Pablo II escribe que la pareja es responsable de su fertilidad. Su sexualidad debe ejercerse de manera responsable. Esto es así porque los niños desde la concepción para adelante son seres humanos cuya vida debe ser atesorada y salvaguardada. Responsables de la fertilidad incluiría el uso de la planificación familiar natural. Aprendiendo NFP, una pareja llega a un conocimiento de su fertilidad y un conocimiento de cómo ejercer su sexualidad de manera responsable en la planificación de su familia.

Siguiendo el camino del Santísimo Juan Pablo II de presentar el matrimonio, tuve la oportunidad de preparar bien a las parejas comprometidas al matrimonio y la vida familiar. Santísimo Juan Pablo II, ruega por nosotros y nuestras familias.

Bishop's official appointments announced

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011



Fr. David L. Breu appointed pastor of the Church of St. Anthony in Browns Valley by Bishop John Kinney, bishop of St. Cloud, with the consent of Bishop John M. LeVoir, while remaining pastor of Holy Rosary in Graceville, and St. Mary in Beardsley.



Fr. Anthony R. Hesse appointed parochial vicar (senior associate) of Holy Trinity in Winsted, and to assist in the Area Faith Community.



Fr. Brian L. Mandel appointed parochial vicar (senior associate) of St. Mary in Willmar, while assisting in the Jesus Our Living Water Area Faith Community, and continuing responsibilities with Hispanic Ministry.



Fr. Jerome E. Paulson appointed parochial vicar (senior associate) of Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer, and to assist in the Jesus Our Living Water Area Faith Community.



Fr. Samuel Perez appointed pastor of St. Joseph in Henderson, St. John-Assumption in Faxon Township, and the oratory of St. Thomas in Jessenland.



Fr. Keith R. Salisbury appointed pastor of St. Mary in Arlington, St. Michael in Gaylord, and St. Brendan in Green Isle.



Fr. Paul A. Schumacher appointed parochial vicar (senior associate) of Holy Redeemer in Marshall, and to

assist in the Bread of Life Area Faith Community, while continuing as Coordinator for AIDS ministry.



Fr. William A. Sprigler appointed pastor of the Sacred Heart in Murdock, while remaining pastor of St. Francis in Benson, St. Malachy in Clontarf, St. Bridget in DeGraff, and the oratory of Visitation in Danvers.



Fr. Mark S. Steffl appointed parochial vicar (associate pastor) of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye.



Fr. Anthony J. Stubeda appointed pastor of Holy Trinity in Winsted, while remaining pastor of St. Pius X in Glencoe and Holy Family in Silver Lake.



Fr. Paul D. Timmerman appointed parochial vicar (associate pastor) of Holy Redeemer in Marshall.



Fr. Matthew Wiering appointed parochial vicar (associate pastor) of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm and St. John in Searles, and to assist in the Holy Cross Area Faith Community.



Rev. Mr. Zachary D. Peterson appointed parochial vicar (associate pastor) of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson and St. Boniface in Stewart upon condition of his ordination to the priesthood on June 4, 2011.

Bishops support marriage amendment

Minnesotans should decide future of marriage in their state

St. Paul – Marriage between one man and one woman sustains our civil society and promotes the common good.

That is the view of Minnesota's Catholic bishops, who were encouraged Tuesday, April 26, by the introduction of legislation in the Minnesota Senate that, if passed by both houses, would place a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November 2012. If approved by the people, the Minnesota Constitution would declare that only the union of one man and one woman shall be considered "marriage" in Minnesota.



According to Jason Adkins, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference – the Church's public policy voice – the purpose of marriage is to ensure the well-being of children and, as a result, properly nurture the next generation of society. "Reason, science, and

experience all show that children need a mother and a father," he said.

In a 2010 Joint Pastoral Statement on Marriage, Minnesota's bishops declared: "Our own State's constant recognition of marriage is based on the evident fact that only the sexual union of a man and a woman has the natural capability to bring forth new life with the bearing of children. Both faith and reason agree, then, that marriage is an institution central to the life of human society, and touches profoundly on the common good. This committed relationship

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Religious Jubilees



Sr. Carole Freking, OSF, will celebrate her 50th jubilee of religious life on Sunday, June 5, at the Church of St. Clara

in Clara City. Bishop John M. LeVoir will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10 a.m. and an open house reception will follow until 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

A native of Remsen, Iowa, Caroline Regina (Carole Jean) Freking entered Mount St. Francis in Dubuque, Iowa, on Sept. 3, 1960. She received the brown habit on Aug. 10, 1961, and made her first vows on Aug. 12, 1963. On Aug. 12, 1968, she made her perpetual vows as a Dubuque Franciscan. She was named Sr. John Marie after her parents, John and Mary; she later returned to her baptismal name. A teacher by trait, Sr. Carole has

taught in Dubuque, Pocahontas, Dyersville, and Manchester, all in Iowa.

She served on the vocation team of the Dubuque Franciscans and has served as pastoral associate and liturgist at St. Patrick's Parish in Nevada, Iowa, pastoral associate and director of religious education at St. Joseph's Parish in Elkader, Iowa, and at Sacred Heart Parish in Volga, Iowa. Her other major ministries include co-founding the Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) program in 1974, leading service trips to poverty areas, and involvement in renewal programs for teens and adults.

Since 2004, Sr. Carole has been the pastoral administrator at St. Clara, has ministered in the Holy Family Area Catholic Community, and has served on several diocesan committees.



Sr. JoAnne Backes, OSB, will celebrate her 50th jubilee of religious life on Sunday, June 12, beginning with a

Mass at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Paul in Comfrey, followed by an open house luncheon in the parish center until 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

A native of Farming, Minn., JoAnne professed her first vows as a Benedictine Sister on July 11, 1961. She taught primary grades for 22 years in schools in St. Cloud, Breckenridge,

Cold Spring, and Hutchinson. In 1984, Sr. JoAnne was appointed one of the first pastoral administrators in the diocese, serving in the parish communities of Henderson and Jessenland for 11 years, and then 10 years in Morton. She is currently the pastoral administrator in Comfrey and Leavenworth. While teaching in Hutchinson, Sr. JoAnne was given the Teacher of the Year award by the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce. In 1991 she received the Diocesan Distinguished Service Award.

Leaders elected for new SSND province

The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), a Catholic congregation of women religious, are reconfiguring and forming a new province in North America. In June, the sisters of the current provinces in Mankato, Milwaukee, St. Louis, and Dallas will become a new province called School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Central Pacific Province. At an election assembly held March 14-18 in St. Louis, Sr. Mary Anne Owens of Dallas was elected provincial leader of the new province. She is currently the executive director for Catholic Charities in Dallas.

The eight provincial councilors who were elected are: Sr. Helen Jane Jaeb, Sr. Marjorie Klein, and Sr. Dianne Perry, all from Mankato; Sr. Joan DiProspero, Sr. Susan Jordan, and Sr. Carol Ann Prenger, all from St. Louis; Sr. Marie Elena Ferrer-Lopez from Dallas; and Sr. Kathryn Frank of West Palm Beach, Fla.

Installation of the new leadership team will be Pentecost Sunday, June 12 at Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Elm Grove, Wis. More than 1,200 sisters will be united in the new Central Pacific Province.

Sisters' Council meet for spring gathering



Fairfax – The Sisters' Council met April 16 at the Church of St. Andrew in Fairfax. Sr. JoAnne Backes and Sr. Carole Freking were recognized for their 50 years of vowed religious life. Also acknowledged were the sisters who have given service and ministry within the diocese and who are now moving on to new ministries. The meeting's discussion was on human trafficking, led by Sr. Anna Marie Reha, a member of the Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking. Members of diocesan Sisters' Council are: front (l-r) Sr. Marian Kemper, OSB; Sr. Mary Kay Mahowald, OSF; Sr. Anna Marie DeVos, CSJ; Sr. Carole Freking, OSF; Sr. JoAnne Backes, OSB; middle row (l-r) Sr. Jodie Zimmerman, OSB; Sr. Lucille Hass, OSF; Sr. Bernadette McGowen, OSB; Sr. Sharon Altendorf, PBVM; Sr. Grace Maertens, CSJ; back row (l-r) Sr. Anna Marie Reha, SSND; Sr. Lois Byrne, PBVM; Sr. Mary Ann Kuhn, SSND, and Sr. Rita Wollschlager, SSND.

Holy Family school to close

(continued from page 1)

Separate meetings then took place in the three parishes involving students, faculty, school parents, religious education parents, and parish leaders. Discussions centered on how to best promote the Catholic education of children in the area faith community. The task force met to analyze the data gathered and to explore possible strategies.

Three options for Holy Family Catholic School emerged. Option one was for the parish to continue support for the school until it was no longer able to meet the financial obligation. Option two was to significantly increase tuition to cover more of the cost of educating each student, and option three was to close. These options were then shared with both the area faith community task force and the administrative council of Holy Family.

With transportation available from Silver Lake to the other schools in the area faith

community, option three was recommended as the best way to practice good stewardship. Currently the area faith community is creating a plan to assist parents in continuing the Catholic education of their children in one of its other schools. Holy Family has begun a discussion of how it will financially support the schools that its parents will choose. Holy Trinity Catholic School offers preschool through grade 12, and St. Pius X Catholic School offers preschool through grade six.

Holy Family history

Holy Family enjoys a rich tradition of Catholic school education. When the New Ulm diocese was formed in 1957, Silver Lake had Catholic schools at St. Adalbert's and at St. Joseph's – the two parishes that came together to form Holy Family in 1993. In 1957, both schools offered grades one through eight with a total enrollment of 283 students. The two schools merged in 1968, and grades seven and eight were

dropped the following year. Free tuition was offered from 1979 through 1995. Yet enrollments continued to decline from 120 in 1979, to 85 in 1994, to 78 in 2000, and down to 37 in 2009.

A kindergarten program was added in 2002. The school was projecting a kindergarten enrollment of just three students for the 2011-2012 school year.

"I have been to Holy Family School a number of times," said Bishop LeVoir. "I like the school very much. But, the demographics of the Silver Lake area have changed a great deal over the years and are continuing to change."

"When enrollment drops significantly, as much as we would like to see it remain open, it isn't feasible financially to continue to operate a Catholic school. My hope is that Holy Family School families will find a Catholic school for their children at either Holy Trinity or St. Pius X," he said.



Meet the diocesan staff, learn what they do



Front row, (l-r): Jeovana Michels, Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM, Sherry Kalow, Dcn. Mark Kober, Karla Cross, Fr. Todd Pete Jenni Ranweiler; (middle row) Thomas Keaveny, Penny Forst, Fr. Dennis Labat, Msgr. Douglas Grams, Fr. Philip Sch Bryan Reising, Wayne Pelzel, Margaret McHugh, Janelle Boyum; (back row): Christopher Loetscher, Steve Spilman, Cindy Blickem, Dan Rossini, Paulette Kral, Carol Hacker, Sr. Anna Marie Reha, SSND, and Jane Beranek. *Not picture* Fr. Gerald Berger, Fr. Mark Mallak, Fr. Paul Wolf, Fr. Craig Timmerman, Margy Manderfeld, Ken Huebert, Charles Bc Byrne, and Tami Dale.

The diocese's "Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign, which is raising funds to build a new pastoral center, has focused attention on the work of the Pastoral Center staff. Who works at the Pastoral Center, and what do they do?

The pastoral staff works for Bishop John M. LeVoir to carry out the mission of the Diocese of New Ulm through various ministries.

Following is a list of the offices of the diocese, along with their primary activities:

Bishop (*Most Rev. John M. LeVoir; Wanda Ubl, secretary*)

- As a successor to the apostles, provides spiritual leadership to the 63,000 Catholics of the diocese.
- Ensures that the faithful have access to the sacraments. Ordains priests and deacons to collaborate in spreading the gospel and celebrating the sacraments.
- Celebrates Masses in parishes, including Confirmations, dedications, anniversaries, funerals, and special events. Makes pastoral visits to parishes, schools, and religious communities.
- Leads and attends conferences, retreats, prayer group gatherings, and pilgrimages.
- In consultation with the Priest Personnel Board, assigns priests to parishes.
- Directs the affairs of the diocese in consultation with several advisory committees, including Priests' Council, College of Consultors, Diocesan Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Committee on Parishes, Property Committee, Priests' Pension Board, and Budget Review Committee.
- Supervises the activities of the Pastoral Center.
- Collaborates with other dioceses and archdioceses, the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Apostolic Nunciature, and the Vatican.

Vicar General and Priest Personnel (*Msgr. Douglas Grams; Margy Manderfeld, secretary*)

- As vicar general, acts with the authority of the bishop in the administration of the diocese.
- As an advisor to the bishop, participates on the Priests' Council, the College of Consultors, the Committee on Parishes, and the Priest Personnel Board.
- Coordinates the official assignments of priests with the help of the diocesan Priest Personnel Board.
- Prepares notices and letters of assignment for priests.

Chancellor (*Msgr. Eugene Lozinski; Penny Forst, Kathy Huebert, and Margy Manderfeld, secretaries; Marilyn Hesse, archivist*)

- Serves as chief archivist of diocesan records. Oversees the filing, upkeep, and electronic cataloguing of records.
- Handles the administrative process (routine marriage papers and dispensations) for the diocese.

Coordinator of Staff (*Dan Rossini; Penny Forst, secretary*)

- Coordinates the services and activities of the professional, associate, and maintenance staffs as the bishop's chief of staff.
- Works with the diocesan staff to implement the bishop's initiatives.
- Monitors, reviews, and seeks to improve human resource practices in the diocese, parishes, and schools.
- Oversees the maintenance and upgrading of the diocese's computer systems.
- Supervises the use of facilities and upkeep of properties for the diocese.
- Serves as staff liaison to the Diocesan Pastoral Council.
- Serves as a staff liaison to the Committee on Parishes and coordinates the development of the Plan for Parishes.

Communications (*Dan Rossini; Christine Clancy, secretary; "The Prairie Catholic" editor*)

- Coordinates communication between the bishop and/or his staff

and outside media.

- Writes press releases to share information about the diocese with the media.
- Publishes "The Prairie Catholic" monthly, September through June.
- Maintains and upgrades two diocesan Web sites, dnu.org and omib.org.
- Obtains and schedules Catholic programming for Community Access Television stations across the diocese.
- Prepares promotional materials for major diocesan events.
- Operates the diocesan Media Resource Center, containing DVDs, videos, audio tapes, books, and learning kits to be loaned to parishes.

Catholic Charities (*Thomas Keaveny; Paulette Kral, secretary; Sr. Lois Byrne*, Tami Dale*, Sam Rickertsen, counselors*)

- Provides individual, marriage, family and grief counseling.
- Provides mediation and interventions in regional settings; responding to pastoral, community, and diocesan referral sources.
- Assesses and counsels couples preparing for marriage and remarriage at the request of pastors or the Tribunal.
- Gives behavioral health presentations and resources to parishes, schools, and communities.
- Provides spiritual direction and referrals to counseling clients and others.
- Provides counseling and referrals for individuals and couples with unplanned pregnancies, considering adoption, or searching for adoptive

placement information.

- Provides Project Rachel post-abortion counseling and related resources for those seeking healing after an abortion.
- Provides emergency behavioral health and "Psychiatric First Response" following a tragic death, suicide, accident, or natural disaster in the diocese.

Permanent Diaconate (*Dcn. Mark Kober*; Paulette Kral, secretary*)

- Directs the activities of the permanent diaconate program.
- Recruits and evaluates inquirers for the diaconate.
- Makes recommendations of deacon aspirants to the bishop.
- Coordinates the formation of permanent deacons.
- Coordinates the work of the Committee on Admissions and Scrutinies, which makes recommendations on diaconal candidates to the bishop.
- Assists the bishop in his decisions of assignments of permanent deacons.

Family Life Education

- (*Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM; Margy Manderfeld, secretary*)
- Works with diocesan staff and parishes to integrate John Paul II's Theology of the Body into school curriculum, religious education, faith formation, and enrichment programs.
- Coordinates study groups for women on Church documents and resources that highlight the dignity and role of women.
- Serves as an advisor to the bishop and resource person to diocesan

offices and parishes on family life, medical, moral, and bioethical issues; including those that involve the work of Catholic health care facilities in the diocese.

- Coordinates and promotes NFP services, fertility awareness, and chastity education.

Safe Environment (*Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM; Margy Manderfeld and Paulette Kral, secretaries*)

- Directs ongoing implementation of VIRTUS safe environment training for pastoral leaders, employees, volunteers, and youth.
- Works with pastoral leaders and parish and school safe environment coordinators to ensure compliance with the diocesan Safe Environment program.
- Serves as a facilitator for VIRTUS training. Coordinates training of additional facilitators and the scheduling of training sessions.
- Facilitates completion of the annual safe environment audit.

Finance (*Thomas Holzer; Carol Hacker, manager; Jenni Ranweiler, bookkeeper; Sherry Kalow, secretary*)

- Coordinates the annual budgeting process. Manages diocesan accounting operations.
- Serves as staff liaison to diocesan Finance Council, Property Committee, Way of the Cross and Loretto Park Committee, and Priests' Pension Board.
- Manages diocesan and Priests' Pension Board investments.
- Assists parish cemetery committees to administer diocesan policies.



ers, Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, Ann Przybilla, notzko, Bishop John M. LeVoi, Thomas Holzer, Kathy Huebert, Wanda Ubl, Christine Clancy, ed: Msgr. Gregory Schaffer, Fr. Paul Timmerman, otz, Marilyn Hesse, Sam Rickertsen, Sr. Lois

instance court for ratification; and informs parties of outcomes.
– Coordinates the work of judges, defenders of the bond, advocates, auditors, and notaries in preparing and hearing nullity cases.

Vocations (*Fr. Todd Petersen; Fr. Craig Timmerman; Jeovana Michels, secretary*)
– Promotes vocational awareness of priesthood and religious life.
– Promotes prayer for vocations for one's own discernment and that of others.

– Provides various programs and displays using several forms of media.
– Makes recommendations to the bishop

regarding seminarians.

– Recruits and assists seminarians in their formation toward the diocesan priesthood.

Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation (*Bryan Reising; Cindy Blickem, secretary*)

– Provides educational opportunities for DREs and catechists through online courses, onsite training, Gatherings, newsletters, and Faith Formation Days.

– Consults with parishes and AFCs on evangelization and catechesis matters, including curriculum, hiring staff, and outreach efforts.

– Creates opportunities to network through monthly Gatherings in-services, newsletters, and the diocesan Web site.

– Plans, coordinates, and promotes the Bishop Lucker Lecture.

– Researches and provides a list of resources for adult catechesis.

– Recommends and promotes methods for adult faith formation.

AIDS Ministry (*Fr. Paul Schumacher**)

– Supports persons with HIV/AIDS as well as their family and friends.
– Provides education about HIV/AIDS.

San Lucas Mission (*Msgr. Gregory Schaffer, Kathy Huebert*)

– Assists in facilitating the work of the diocesan mission of San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala.

– Helps to raise awareness of the many projects at the mission.

– Coordinates group and individual

trips to the mission. Assists with long-term volunteers.

– Writes mission newsletters.

– Maintains a mission Web Site.

– Keeps records of monetary donations to the mission.

Catholic Schools (*Karla Cross; Cindy Blickem, secretary*)

– Provides ongoing education and support to Catholic school administrators on all aspects of school operation, including a biannual faith formation day for all Catholic school educators.

– Works with Catholic school administrators to ensure the quality of schools and their Catholic identity.
– Assists and advises school administrators on legal requirements and diocesan policy.

– Coordinates the development and implementation of the Plan for Schools.

– Serves as executive secretary of the Diocesan Evangelization and Catechesis Committee.

Continuing Education of Clergy and Lay Ecclesial Ministry Certification (*Karla Cross; Jeovana Michels, secretary*)

– Plans and coordinates continuing education programs and activities for pastoral leaders.

– Coordinates annual priests' retreat.

– Assists in planning for Spanish language and cultural studies.

– Coordinates opportunities for spiritual direction for priests.

– Assists, guides, and supports lay ecclesial leaders with certification process.

Social Concerns and Family Life (*Chris Loetscher; Margy Manderfeld, secretary*)

– Promotes Catholic social teaching, respect for human life, Christian marriage and family life, faithful citizenship, works of mercy and justice, sustainable agriculture, and environmental stewardship.

– Coordinates the diocesan marriage and remarriage preparation programs.

– Provides resources and referrals for those in troubled marriages, and for separated and divorced Catholics.

– Coordinates the diocesan Social Concerns Committee and fosters the development of AFC social concerns committees.

– Administers the diocesan Emergency Assistance Fund to assist people affected by natural disasters.

– Coordinates outreach to persons who have been sexually abused by

clergy.

Worship (*Ann Przybilla; Kathy Huebert, secretary*)

– Coordinates preparations for diocesan liturgies such as Ordinations, the Chrism Mass, Rite of Election, and Advent Prayer Services.

– Serves as a resource to the bishop, pastoral leaders, and laity on liturgy.

– Promotes and provides ongoing liturgical education for liturgical ministers and RCIA teams.

– Prepares liturgies for clergy gatherings, diocesan staff reflection days, weekly Masses at the Pastoral Center, and other diocesan events.

– Collaborates with the Diocesan Worship Committee to promote the liturgical life in the diocese.

– Supports the work of Charismatic Renewal in the diocese.

Lay Ministry Formation (*Ann Przybilla; Bryan Reising; Paulette Kral, secretary*)

– Coordinates the program design and implementation of lay ministry formation programs, including Foundations, Together in Communion, and Together in Ministry.

– Assists laity with continuing educational opportunities.

– Promotes lay formation programs through articles, brochures, and other communication.

Development and Foundation

(*Wayne Pelzel; Sherry Kalow, secretary; Steve Spilman, capital campaign*)

– Coordinates the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Develops materials to carry on an effective appeal, including the DMA video.

– Promotes all aspects of planned giving, testamentary giving, tax advantaged gifting, and charitable gifting to benefit parishes and the diocese.

– Provides stewardship education.

– Writes articles for "The Prairie Catholic" and other marketing and promotional materials.

– Oversees, promotes and supports the "Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign.

– Meets with clients interested in establishing trusts, charitable gift annuities, permanent endowments, or donor-advised funds to benefit parishes and the diocese.

– Promotes the Foundation of the diocese. Works with Catholic Community Foundation, Christian Brothers Investments, and Frandsen Bank to provide financial services to parishes and individuals.

– Writes grant proposals to organizations providing financial assistance to dioceses.

Youth Ministry and Vocation Awareness (*Margaret McHugh; Cindy Blickem, Jeovana Michels, secretaries*)

– Recruits and oversees Diocesan Youth Council to plan annual youth festivals.

– Meets monthly with parish youth ministers.

– Produces newsletter and writes articles in "The Prairie Catholic."

– Coordinates annual visit of the National Evangelization Team.

– Coordinates diocesan participation in the National Catholic Youth Conference and World Youth Day.

– Coordinates summer camps.

– Oversees the diocesan youth center in Renville.

– Serves as ex-officio member of the Evangelization and Catechesis Committee.

– As a member of Vocations Team, coordinates events related to vocations and vocations recruitment.

Ecumenism (*Fr. Paul Timmerman*; Kathy Huebert, secretary*)

– Promotes interdenominational dialogue. Offers support for parish efforts to reach out to people of other Christian traditions.

– Provides information and guidance in ecumenical affairs.

Propagation of the Faith (*Fr. Philip Schotzko*; Sherry Kalow, secretary*)

– Promotes missionary outreach of the diocese. Coordinates various diocesan-wide mission collections.

– Facilitates selecting and assigning missionaries to parishes for the annual mission appeal under the Mission Coop Plan.

Pastoral Administrators (*Fr. Dennis Labat; Margy Manderfeld, secretary*)

– Collaborates with parishes to be assigned a pastoral administrator during the hiring, internship training, and appointment processes.

– Meets monthly with pastoral administrators and interns.

Maintenance (*Charles Botz; Jane Beranek, Ken Huebert*)

Editor's note: Persons marked with an asterisk (*) do not currently work at the Pastoral Center, except to attend meetings.

– Coordinates diocesan and parish property, casualty, auto, and workers' compensation insurance and risk management program.
– Administers Pastoral Center employee benefit plans.

Hispanic Ministry

(*Sr. Anna Marie Reha, SSND; Jeovana Michels, secretary*)

– Serves as a pastoral ministry resource in parishes where the pastoral leader is not fluent in Spanish and/or where there is no Hispanic Ministry coordinator.

– Coordinates diocesan lay formation program *Llamados a Servir*/Called to Serve.

– Coordinates annual Hispanic Youth Retreat.

– Keeps up-to-date on the social concerns issues affecting the Latino and immigrant population.

– Visits and monitors area and parish Hispanic ministerial activity.

Tribunal (*Fr. John Berger, judicial vicar; Janelle Boyum, office manager; Marilyn Hesse, transcriptionist; Msgr. Douglas Grams, Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, Fr. Paul Wolf*, Fr. Mark Mallak**)

– Directs the canonical procedures which examine the sacramentality and validity of marriages that have ended in a civil divorce.

– Works with declaration of nullity (annulment) cases from start to finish: Accepts cases; collects testimony (interviews) from petitioners, respondents, and witnesses; brings cases to an affirmative or negative decision; sends affirmative cases to second

Annual junior high festival leads youth closer to God and Church



Chris Padgett



D.J. Bill Lage



Attending Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop LeVoir was part of the day's agenda.



Zack Goodman

(photos by Christine Clancy)

Cottonwood – On Sunday, April 10, the diocese hosted the 20th Annual Junior High Youth Festival for youth grades 6–8. Over 400 young people and chaperones gathered at the Lakeview Secondary School in Cottonwood. The day's theme was "Planted . . . Firm in Faith."

Chris Padgett, songwriter, musician, speaker, and worship leader, was the day's keynote presenter. He travels nationally and internationally giving talks, missions, and concerts. He has been involved in youth ministry on the national level for the past 10 years. Known for his zany sense of humor, Padgett is a familiar face in the diocese as he was the presenter at other diocesan youth events in 2002 and 2005. His primary message to

the youth was "God made you just the way you are – you are special just the way you are!"

The rest of the day was jam packed. DJ Bill Lage entertained the audience with song, dance, and silly mixers, and the Diocesan Youth Council performed a skit.

With the message that "you are never too young to make a difference," 13-year-old Zack Goodman from Colorado took the stage to speak about how he, at the age of 10, started the first Rocky Mountain March for Life in Colorado. The audience also viewed a testimonial via video about young Bethany Hamilton, a professional surf board champion, who at age 13

lost her arm in a shark attack but did not let that stop her from competing in the water. Her story is now a major motion picture, "Soul Surfer."

Bishop John M. LeVoir was present during the day to celebrate the Eucharist with festival goers. Priests who con-celebrated were: Fr. Jack Nordick, Fr. Samuel Perez, Fr. Paul Timmerman, Fr. Tony Hesse, Fr. Craig Timmerman, Fr. Ron Huberty, and Fr. Todd Petersen. The local Knights of Columbus were also present as an honor guard for the liturgy.

According to Margaret McHugh, diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, the elements of the festival were designed by the Diocesan Youth Council and parish youth ministers. "The keynote, games, liturgy, and music all work together to provide a springboard for valuable faith sharing between youth," she said.

The annual diocesan Junior High Festival is a Catholic program for young people to gather in faith and to share in the Eucharist in an environment that will lead them closer to God and the Church. For further information, contact the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, 507-359-2966; mmchugh@dnu.org.

It's time to end taxpayer funding of abortions

by Jason Adkins, executive director Minnesota Catholic Conference

Editor's note: The following is a legislative update provided by the Minnesota Catholic Conference, which advocates on behalf of the state's bishops for public policies and programs that support the life and dignity of every human person.

On April 12, committees in both chambers of the Minnesota Legislature held hearings on companion bills (HF 201/SF 103) forbidding the use of taxpayer money to fund abortions. The law ends coverage for abortion in state-

sponsored health insurance programs. The Minnesota Catholic Conference testified in support of this legislation.

The Catholic Church's opposition to abortion and its defense of human life from conception to natural death are well known. "The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of civil society and its legislation." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2273).

Life begins at conception

The Church's position is not strictly theological. Indeed, on many political and moral issues, the Church voices

its concern in the public square in language accessible to all, regardless of faith or creed.

Abortion is no different. Science and the embryology textbooks are clear that human life begins at the moment of conception. Yet, despite this evidence, state and federal laws allow women access to abortion at every stage of pregnancy, even after the point at which a child can survive outside the womb.

Ironically, a hospital may be aborting children on one floor, while employing cutting-edge technology

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Warmth for those in need



Earlier this year, 21 Confirmation candidates from the Prince of Peace Area Faith Community (Dawson, Appleton, and Madison) participated in a Corporal Works of Mercy Confirmation retreat in Minneapolis. Over 250 blankets were collected and given to the Franciscan Brothers of Peace and the Marie Sandvik Center to share with the homeless and needy. Candidates spent the day cooking and serving lunch in addition to assisting with activities for children from the inner city. Pictured are: (l-r) Jacob Larson, Questa Stensrud, Bryce Mamer, and Mike Bothum.

Bishop to recognize service of early missionary priest; plaque dedication May 25

New Ulm – On Wednesday, May 25, Bishop John M. LeVoir will bless a memorial plaque in honor of the late Fr. Valentine Sommereisen. Fr. Sommereisen was the first priest to say Mass at the now closed Church of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph's was the first Catholic Church in Cottonwood Township, Brown County. The public is invited to attend the dedication at 5:30 p.m. on the grounds of the church and cemetery, located south of New Ulm (Minnesota State Highway 15 to the junction of Highway 25. Turn right on Highway 25 and go west for 1 1/2 miles).

Funds for the plaque were raised by the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Bishop Cretin Assembly.

The plaque's script reads:
Fr. Valentine Sommereisen was the

first resident Catholic priest in three large areas of the American West: southwestern Minnesota, the Dakota Territory, and western Kansas. Born May 28, 1829 in Rouffach, Alsace, a German-speaking part of eastern France, he was one of seven theology students who followed the great missionary, Fr. Augustin Ravoux, to Minnesota in 1854. Sommereisen was ordained by Bishop Joseph Cretin March 8, 1856, in the second Cathedral of St. Paul. His first assignment was to SS. Peter and Paul in Mankato. From there he ministered to 36 communities in 14 counties in southwest Minnesota. Many area families can trace ancestors' baptisms, marriages, and funerals to his signature on parish records.

This is the site of St. Joseph Church, the first Catholic church in Brown County, completed in 1861. Fr.



Fr. Valentine Sommereisen

Sommereisen celebrated the first Mass. He ministered to Catholics in nearby Leavenworth, Sleepy Eye, St. George, and St. Peter. During the U.S. Dakota War of 1862, he joined Doctor W.W. Mayo in New Ulm August 21–25 caring for the defenders and their families. Fr. Sommereisen accompanied Fr. Ravoux, baptizing and consoling 33 of the 38 Dakota Sioux who were hanged in Mankato on Dec. 26, 1862.

Fr. Sommereisen moved west in 1871 to Yankton.

Springtime brings new life, new parish CCW leadership

by Jeanne Appel
Organization Commission

In the spring and after celebrating the glorious Resurrection of Jesus, we often think about new beginnings or new life. This is also true for many of our Council of Catholic Women (CCW) organizations as they seek new officers and commission chairs. The following are a few suggestions for scouting potential CCW leaders in your parish:

- Pray before you collect names or call with the request.
- Be excited about CCW. Your positive attitude will be felt by the recipient.
- Don't assume someone is too busy, too young, too old. Allow everyone to share their talents.
- Allow for job sharing. Try new ideas where people can share responsibilities.
- Be complete in explaining the duties of the position and arrange for outgoing leaders to be available for answering questions.
- Diocesan resource and guidance meetings will be available in the

fall to train and assist CCW women in their positions. Watch your parish bulletin for announcements of the dates in your region.

It is also very important to re-energize the women who have given dedicated service through the years. Consider some of the following ways to show appreciation:

- CCW Appreciation Mass** – Arrange one of the liturgies for the intentions of all CCW members.
- Breakfast treat** – Ask an organization in the parish to plan a breakfast and invite all women to be guests.
- Entertainment** – Have a salad or dessert buffet catered, and provide entertainment such as singing, dancing, or a magic performance.
- Special blessing** – Ask your parish priest to offer a special blessing to all of the women of the parish in thanksgiving for their selfless service.

These are only a few of the possibilities that are just right for your parish. I challenge you to find the best option. Remember that a great attitude begins with gratitude!

A dream come true! After years of manual labor, Women's Center opens in San Lucas

by Msgr. Greg Schaffer

February 22, 2011, marked a dream come true for the women of San Lucas and surrounding area as the Parish Women's Center (Centro de Mujeres) was officially opened. A facility of this sort has been in great need for the women. New Ulm diocesan priest Fr. Brian Oestreich from Madison and Appleton, was in San Lucas leading a group of visitors at the time of the center's official opening. He and Chona Ajcot, head cook of the San Lucas Mission Parish and administrator of the entire food service for the parish, were present for the blessing of the center, along with other women leaders and various guests visiting the mission.

Years of cutting and removing huge volcanic rocks (all by hand), over 10 years of working on the construction of the building, and several years of building a large covered 'lavandero' for washing clothes are now complete. The area surrounding the kitchen is a large hall. Here, women are able to do their weaving or sew

on the sewing machines that are now available. The space includes furniture to be used for resting or visiting along with a small library/classroom and display room. There is also a bathroom with showers and a bath tub for bathing children.

The Women's Center has been hosting events and classes since its inauguration. Women are learning to make cookies and breads using state-of-the-art ovens and stoves and to utilize sewing machines. With this knowledge, mothers, wives, and daughters are able to make aprons and children's clothing. Local staff is being sought to begin traditional weaving lessons.

A key feature of the center is the opportunity for those visitors to use quickly ripening fruit to make jams, jellies, and sauces as well as breakfast breads or 'quick' breads using baking powder or baking soda. Bread is a special treat for the people, as it must be purchased because the women have not

had the opportunity or wherewithal to mix and bake it. Surrounding the Women's Center is a large park for the family to use at picnic time. A playground still needs to be built so that mothers feel safe in letting their children run free playing, a long way from the town streets, the clutter of vendors, and vehicles.

Also on the site is a medicinal plant garden which offers the women traditional medicines still used by families. A small vegetable garden among the volcanic rocks and an orchard on the northern end of the park are also part of the landscape.

Many stories are already coming forth regarding the use of the center and the breads that are returning home with the women to their husbands and children. It is truly a dream come true!



Msgr. Greg Schaffer is pastor of the Diocese of New Ulm mission parish of San Lucas Tolliman, Guatemala.

vocation prayer initiatives

(continued from page 3)

Prayer Cards: Prayer cards have been produced with vocation meditations on the Luminous Mysteries, in addition to a reprint of the diocesan Prayer for Vocations. Several other types of cards are available as well.

Traveling Chalice Program: This program is currently active in a number of parishes. Some parishes have used a crucifix or religious icon instead. The idea is that the item is passed from household to household, and the week that the family has the item, they pray as a family for

vocations, and especially when there are youth present, they pray for an openness to vocations. The program booklet for the Diocese of New Ulm has been recently updated.

Prayer hours: Booklets for parish adoration times and Stations of the Cross for Vocations are available. Contact the Office of Vocations for a sample or to enroll.

For more information contact Fr. Todd Petersen, frtoddd@me.com, 507-227-2657, or visit www.frtoddd.blogspot.com.

The reception of Holy Communion at Mass *bowing just before receiving the Eucharist sign of reverence*

Editor's note: May is a popular month for First Communion celebrations. First Communicants are heavily focused and preoccupied on how to receive Communion on this special day. As we grow older, we become so comfortable with Communion that we forget the common postures and gestures that go along with receiving the Precious Body and Blood. Although the revised Roman Missal will not include new instructions on receiving Communion, the new General Instruction of the Roman Missal has directed that we make a sign of reverence, a bow, just before receiving. This action expresses our reverence and gives honor to Christ who comes to us as our spiritual food. The following article can help us to remember other important aspects of receiving Communion so that we can approach every Communion with sincerity and joy.

The new edition of the General Instruction asks the conference of bishops in each country to determine the posture to be used for the reception of Communion and the act of reverence to be made by each person as he or she receives Communion. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has determined that in this country Communion will be received standing and that a bow will be the act of reverence made by those receiving. These norms may require some adjustment on the part of those who have been used to other practices, however the significance of unity in posture and gesture as a

symbol of our unity as members of the one Body of Christ should be the governing factor in our own actions.

Those who receive Communion may receive either in the hand or on the tongue, and the decision should be that of the individual receiving, not of the person distributing Communion. If Communion is received in the hand, the hands should first of all be clean. If one is right handed the left hand should rest upon the right. The host will then be laid in the palm of the left hand and then taken by the right hand to the mouth. If one is left-handed this is reversed. It is not appropriate to reach out with the fingers and take the host from the person distributing.

The person distributing Communion says audibly to each person approaching, "The Body of Christ." This formula should not be altered, as it is a proclamation which calls for a response of faith on the part of the one who receives. The communicant should audibly respond, "Amen," indicating by that response his or her belief that this small wafer of bread, the wine in this chalice are in reality the body and blood of Christ the Lord.

When one receives from the chalice, the same proclamation is made by the person distributing Communion and the communicant again responds, "Amen." It should be noted that it is never permissible for a person to dip the host he or she has received into the chalice. If, for

some reason, the communicant is not able or willing to drink from the cup, then that person should receive only under the form of bread.

It seems appropriate to conclude this reflection on the reception of Communion with a quotation from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (n.1396):

In Baptism we have been called to form but one body. The Eucharist fulfills this call: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Cor 10:16, 17).

If you are the body and members of Christ, then it is your sacrament that is placed on the table of the Lord; it is your sacrament that you receive. To that which you are you respond, "Amen" ("yes, it is true!") and by responding to it you assent to it. For you hear the words, "the Body of Christ" and respond, "Amen." Be then a member of the Body of Christ that your Amen may be true. (St. Augustine)

Based upon Roman Missal formational materials provided by the Secretariat for the Liturgy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010.

Chrism Mass celebrated at St. Michael, Madison



Madison – Pastoral leaders and the faithful gathered with Bishop John M. LeVoir for the annual Chrism Mass on April 14 at the Church of St. Michael in Madison. The Chrism Mass takes its name from the most noble of the three holy oils (Oil of the Sick, Oil of the Catechumens, and Sacred Chrism). The bishop blesses these oils for his local Church's use over the following year. Also at this Mass, priests renew their promise of priestly service during the liturgy.



(photos by Dan Rossini)

Bishop's May calendar

(continued from page 2)

25 New Ulm: 5:30 p.m. St. Joseph Cemetery. Blessing of a Memorial Plaque in honor of Fr. Valentine Sommerreisen.

27 New Ulm: 10 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Parish Audit Team Meeting.

29 Sleepy Eye: 2 p.m. Church of St. Mary. St. Mary's High School Graduation.

30 New Ulm: 8 a.m. New Ulm Catholic Cemetery. Memorial Day Mass.

31 Sleepy Eye: Good Leaders, Good Shepherds.

Searles: 5 p.m. Queen of Peace Convent. Investiture of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus.

marriage amendment

(continued from page 4)

between one man and one woman calls forth the best of the spouses, not only for their own sake, but also for the well-being of their children and the community. It is neither possible for us to change the definition of marriage nor wise to attempt to do so."

Over the last few years, there have

been a number of bills introduced in the legislature, as well as a lawsuit, aimed at changing the definition of marriage in Minnesota," said Adkins. "The people of Minnesota should have the opportunity to preserve an institution that predates government and has been the bedrock of society for thousands of years."

"Let the people vote."

To view the Minnesota Catholic Conference's "Marriage Amendment Resource Page," visit <http://mccc.org/issues/marriage/>.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

How the
GOOD NEWS
Gets Around to YOU!

If Jesus Christ were walking the earth today, how would he spread his message of salvation? Would he use television, radio, newspapers, text messages, billboards, DVDs, or even the Internet? Pope Benedict XVI, in his 43rd message for World Communication Day, said that "these technologies are truly a gift to humanity and we must endeavor to ensure that the benefits they offer are put at the service of all human individuals and communities."

Please give generously to the Catholic Communication Campaign collection in your parish on May 15. Half of the proceeds stay in our diocese to fund local communications work.

Couples retreat held at Schoenstatt



Retreat participants are pictured with retreat leader Fr. Gerold Langsch and Sr. M. Jessica Swedzinski, Coordinator of the Minnesota Schoenstatt Movement.

Sleepy Eye – “The Family, God’s Favorite Place of Education,” was the main topic for the Schoenstatt Couple’s Retreat on March 4-6 at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Sleepy Eye. Fr. Gerold Langsch, the National Schoenstatt Movement Director from Waukesha, Wis., led the retreat and celebrated the Masses.

God uses the family to educate and how to use tools that Schoenstatt provides to further self-education.

The retreat emphasized how the atmosphere of the home should be like that of the Holy Family in Nazareth. It should be a place of joy and acceptance, where we listen and uplift each other, accept our differences, and recognize each as a gift of God. When we ask the

Blessed Mother to come into our homes, we should expect her to educate us, transform us, and bring many graces to help us live heroically in these challenging times.

Couples also learned about living their mission in accordance with God’s will. The language of silence and suffering was also discussed.

Retreat participants explored how

stop funding abortions (continued from page 8)

to save babies of the same age on another.

Most egregiously, the Minnesota Supreme Court’s 1995 *Doe v. Gomez* decision made Minnesota one of the most radically pro-abortion states in the nation. It ruled that the right to privacy guaranteed by the Minnesota Constitution included the right of women to obtain a publicly funded abortion if they could not afford to terminate their pregnancy.

Gomez was a tremendously misguided decision on many levels. First, it has caused the death of more than 50,000 children in Minnesota, as well as sent more than \$15 million in taxpayer money to the abortion industry.

Additionally, *Gomez* gives people further incentive to have sex before they are ready to raise a child because they will not have to incur

even the cost of obtaining an abortion if they get pregnant. Finally, *Gomez*’s declaration that abortion is a “fundamental right” in Minnesota is actually an assault on social justice by denying the weakest and most defenseless in our society – children in the womb – the one thing they need most: the right to life.

Coerced into paying
The vigorous defense of *Gomez* by abortion proponents undermines the claim that abortion is a personal choice. *Gomez* coerces the people of Minnesota into paying for what science tells us is the destruction of innocent human life. That is not pro-choice; it is no choice.

The companion bills being heard in the Legislature end the state’s coercion of citizens to pay for the destruction of innocent life. But can the Legislature really overturn a

decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court? Yes – there is no question that the Legislature can end the taxpayer funding of abortion. If the new law faces a legal challenge, there is a provision in the law requiring the case to be heard immediately by the Minnesota Supreme Court. The court will then have the opportunity to revisit *Gomez* and ultimately decide that the decision was both a mistake and a miscarriage of justice.

In the meantime, Catholics should tell their lawmakers to pass HF 201 and SF 103 because they no longer want to subsidize the culture of death.

Visit www.mncc.org and join the Minnesota Catholic Advocacy Network (MNCAN) and take action on taxpayer-funded abortions and other issues.

Upcoming events

School Sisters of Notre Dame Summer Splash for Moms and Daughters will be June 17-18 at Good Counsel Hill, Mankato. Register online, www.ssndmankato.org by June 7 or e-mail mbschramlssnd@yahoo.com.

Missionary Oblates to celebrate 150th anniversary of their founder, St. Eugene De Mazenod, May 22 at 2 p.m. at Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo. Open house from 3-5 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Fr. Barron’s talk at 2011 Lucker Lecture available in audio or DVD

Fr. Robert Barron’s presentation on the “YouTube Heresies” given at the Bishop Lucker Lecture in March is now available in audio on the diocesan Web site, www.dnu.org. A DVD of Fr. Barron’s presentation

is also available. Contact the diocesan Office of Communications/Media Resource Center at 507-233-5330 or e-mail mediacenter@dnu.org.

Register now for summer camps!

NEW THIS YEAR! Longer format; a new location

Each year at this time it seems that people start calling the diocese about summer youth camps and asking where they can send their youth.

Good leadership training is provided through diocesan sponsored camps. All young campers going into grades 6-12 in the fall are invited to attend. If you are seeking registration information on summer camps, contact the youth minister or director of religious education at your local parish or the diocesan Youth Ministry Office, 507-359-2966; e-mail cblickem@dnu.org.

YOUNG WOMEN’S DISCIPLESHIP CAMP

Sunday, June 12 (6 p.m.)
until Thursday, June 16 (9 a.m.)
Cottonwood Group Center at
Flandrau State Park, New Ulm

YOUNG MEN’S DISCIPLESHIP CAMP

Sunday, July 10 (6 p.m.)
until Thursday, July 14 (9 a.m.)
Cottonwood Group Center at
Flandrau State Park, New Ulm

CAMP INFORMATION

ONLINE:
<http://www.dnu.org/word/youth.html>

The Diocese of New Ulm

has an opening on the staff of its Communications Office for a

Full-time Communications Specialist

Responsibilities: This media professional will write news stories and take photographs of people, places, and events of Catholic interest for the diocese’s newspaper, “The Prairie Catholic,” and edit content for publication on the diocese’s Web site, dnu.org. This person will also select Catholic programming for broadcast on cable access television stations in the diocese.

Qualifications: A person in full communion with the Catholic Church; thorough knowledge of Catholic doctrine and practice; sound organizational skills; strong attention to detail; and a willingness to travel regularly by automobile within the diocese. Comprehensive knowledge of English is also required. A bachelor’s degree (1) in theology, Catholic studies, or a related field, is required, and (2) in English, journalism, or a related field is preferred.

A complete job description is available on the diocesan Web site. Send letter of introduction, résumé and three examples of written work to: Search Committee, Diocese of New Ulm, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073, or e-mail this information to drossini@dnu.org. Applications accepted until position is filled.



For dates of parish festivals!

visit www.dnu.org for dates and times.

Or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:
Office of Communications, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073.

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 25 No. 9 May 2011



New Centro de Mujeres (Women's Center) opens in San Lucas Toliman!

(See story, page 9)



Fr. Brian Oestreich of Madison, Minn. blessed the new Centro de Mujeres during its ribbon cutting ceremony. He is accompanied by Chona Ajcote, a member of San Lucas Mission Parish.

catholic trends

Washington – The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has launched a new Web site to honor the legacy of the late Pope John Paul II. The site (www.usccb.org/popejohnpaulii/) features a 17-minute “John Paul II Memorial video,” which recaptures touching moments and key messages during the late pope’s visits to the United States.

Other contents on the site include a biography and a

timeline, as well as major writings, backgrounders, canonizations, beatifications, and more. The bishops’ conference created the Web site to assist people in realizing the magnitude of the pope’s work, and the video to illustrate his remarkable relationship with the American people.

The globetrotting, prolific author, and long-reigning pope was beatified May 1 at the Vatican in a ceremony presided over by his successor, Pope Benedict XVI.

Washington – The average age of men ordained to the priesthood in 2011 is trending younger with the average age at 34, with more than half between the ages of 25 and 34. This is slightly younger than in 2010, and follows the trend over the past five years of ordinands becoming younger.

These figures stand out in “The Class of 2011: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood,” an annual national survey of men being ordained priests for U.S. dioceses and religious communities, conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), a Georgetown University-based research center.

Data show that on average, most of the ordination class have been Catholic since infancy, but nearly one in 10 became Catholic later in life. Four in five report that both parents are Catholic, and a third have a relative who is a priest or religious.

One important trend evident in this study is the importance of lifelong formation and engagement in the Catholic faith. Seventy-one percent of the Class of 2011 report they served as an altar server. For the entire report visit www.usccb.org/vocations.

Bishop William Bullock, retired bishop of Madison, Wis., and former auxiliary bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis (1980 –



1987), died in Madison on April 3 of cancer at the age of 83. The Mass of Christian Burial was held April 7 in Madison with burial in the Resurrection Cemetery, Madison.

He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on June 7, 1952, by Auxiliary Bishop James Byrne at the St. Paul Cathedral. In 1987, he was appointed as bishop of Des Moines, Iowa, and in 1993 appointed the bishop of Madison, retiring in 2003.

Christ Our Life
DIOCESE OF NEW ULM CATHOLIC

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you for your support of the “Christ Our Life” campaign. Together we have raised \$2.84 MILLION for the needs of parishes in the diocese & the new pastoral center.

“He who sows bountifully will be abundantly reaped & he who refuses others will himself be refused.”
PROVERBS 11:25