

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011

Steady declining use leads to decision to close diocesan Media Resource Center

New Ulm – The Media Resource Center of the Diocese of New Ulm will close its doors on July 1, 2011. The decision, which was approved by Bishop John M. LeVoir, came as a result of steadily declining use over the past 15 years.

With the retirement of its media center librarian last December, the Office of Communications undertook a cost analysis of the center. That analysis revealed that the time and expense on the part of the diocese and parishes to borrow and return an item exceeded the cost of purchasing the average DVD online.

For almost 40 years, the Media Center has offered a variety of media resources for parishes and schools to borrow primarily to help with religious education. In the 1970s and '80s, it was often an indispensable source of videos and audio cassettes that Catholic educators could not easily find elsewhere.

Recent innovations in communications technology, however, have lessened the importance of the center. Most Catholic media resources are now readily available for purchase at reasonable prices on the Internet. Catholic video clips and audio files are also

available on different Web sites for download free of charge. With these other sources of Catholic media, membership in the center declined from 62 parishes and 22 schools in 1996 to 29 parishes and seven schools in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The number of items borrowed dropped by about 50 percent during this time, to about 280 in 2009-2010.

Those with questions about the closing of the center should contact Dan Rossini, director of Communications, at 507-359-2966 or drossini@dnv.org.