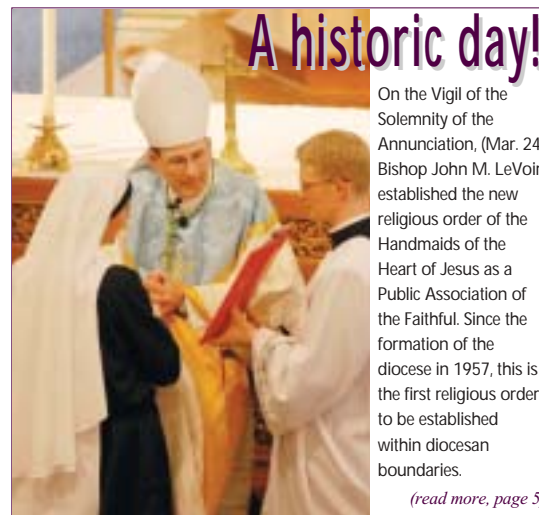


THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 8 April 2010



A historic day!

On the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Annunciation, (Mar. 24) Bishop John M. LeVoir established the new religious order of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus as a Public Association of the Faithful. Since the formation of the diocese in 1957, this is the first religious order to be established within diocesan boundaries.

(read more, page 5)

Bishops encourage vigilance that health care legislation protects conscience, does not fund abortion; need to address flaws in current health reform plan

Washington - The U.S. bishops called on Congress and people in the Catholic community to make sure promises are kept that new health care legislation will not expand abortions in the United States.

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, made the call March 23, 2010, moments after president Barack Obama signed the Senate version of health care reform legislation approved by the House of Representatives by a slim margin on March 21. The statement was approved unanimously by the 32-member Administrative Committee

of the USCCB. "We applaud the effort to expand health care to all," Cardinal George said.

He noted concerns about the legislation, including that "the statute forces all those who choose federally subsidized plans that cover abortion to pay for other people's abortions with their own funds." Cardinal George pointed to President Obama's executive order that said "it is necessary to establish an adequate enforcement mechanism to ensure that federal funds are not used for abortion services."

The need for such an order underscores deficiencies in the bill, Cardinal George said. "We do not understand how an

Executive order, no matter how well intentioned, can substitute for statutory provisions," he said also.

President Obama and others claimed the bill does not expand abortion, Cardinal George noted.

"We and many others will accompany the government's implementation of the health care reform and will work to ensure that Congress and the Administration live up to the claims that have contributed to its passage. We believe, finally, that new legislation to address its deficiencies will almost certainly be required," he said.

The statement follows.

For nearly a century, the Catholic bishops of the United States have

called for reform of our health care system so that all may have access to the care that recognizes and affirms their human dignity. Christian discipleship means, "working to ensure that all people have access to what makes them fully human and fosters their human dignity" (*United States Catechism for Adults, page 454*). Included among those elements is the provision of necessary and appropriate health care.

For too long, this question has gone unaddressed in our country. Often, while many had access to excellent medical treatment, millions of others including expectant mothers, struggling families, or those with serious medical or physical problems were left unable to afford the care

they needed. As Catholic bishops, we have expressed our support for efforts to address this national and societal shortcoming. We have spoken for the poorest and most defenseless among us. Many elements of the health care reform measure signed into law by the President address these concerns and so help to fulfill the duty that we have to each other for the common good. We are bishops, and therefore pastors and teachers. In that role, we applaud the effort to expand health care to all.

Nevertheless, for whatever good this law achieves or intends, we as Catholic bishops have opposed its

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Collaborative school planning begins in diocese national consulting firm to guide process

Editor's note:

The 2007 diocesan Plan for Schools document calls for greater collaboration and cooperation between schools and their sponsoring parishes. While there are various planning initiatives ongoing throughout the diocese, this article highlights the current planning initiative taking place between the New Ulm Area Catholic Schools (NUACS) and St. Mary's School in Sleepy Eye. Additional articles updating the process will appear in upcoming issues of The Prairie Catholic.

During the past eight years, administrative and pastoral leaders of New Ulm Area Catholic Schools and St. Mary's School in Sleepy Eye have gathered a number of times to identify mutual strengths, share concerns, and search for ways the schools can collaborate to ensure a strong future for Catholic school education in the two communities.

Bishop John LeVoir and other diocesan leaders are actively participating in several of these discussions and offering their support and insights.



NUACS

As a result, a number of challenges the schools currently face have been identified and some initial strategies to build collaboration between the two communities are being



St. Mary's School

implemented. One new collaborative initiative in place for the past two years is for both

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**Submissions for
The Prairie Catholic is the 10th of
each month prior to publication**

The *Prairie Catholic*,
the official newspaper for the
Diocese of New Ulm since
May 1972, is published monthly
except July and August.

Its office of publication is located at
1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073
(507) 359-2966.

Postmaster: Send notice on Form 3579, *Prairie
Catholic*, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN
56073-2099. Periodical postage paid at New Ulm
and additional mailing offices. USPS 926-760.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

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1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073
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Web site: <http://www.dnu.org>

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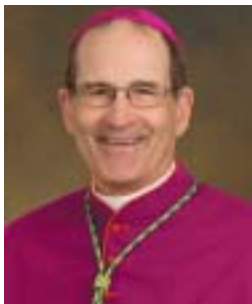
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Sr. Margaret McHugh,

vocation awareness

BE NOT AFRAID "Highs and Lows"



Bishop John M. LeVoir

Jesus shared our human nature in all things but sin. This means that Jesus experienced all of the emotions and feelings that we have as human beings, but he did so without sin. He always remained united to the will of his Father in all of his highs and lows, in all of his joys and sorrows. This gives us confidence in Jesus as our model as we deal with our highs and lows, our joys and sorrows. "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Heb 4:15).

The liturgy of Palm (Passion) Sunday underscores the emotional highs and lows that Jesus experienced. For example, just a few days before his arrest, Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem. It must have been a moment of great exhilaration and joy. "As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; . . . the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy

for all the mighty deeds they had seen. They proclaimed: 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Lk 19:36-38).

Yet, on that same journey into the city, Jesus was moved with the deepest emotion of sadness and he wept. "As he drew near, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, 'If this day you only knew what makes for peace — but now it is hidden from your eyes'" (Lk 19:41-42).

The most profound low and the most profound high were experienced by Our Lord on Good Friday and Easter Sunday respectively. In a certain sense, the low of Good Friday summed up all of Jesus' lows and the high of Easter Sunday summed up all of Jesus' highs. When they are viewed through the eyes of faith, this low and this high of Our Lord reveal to us the ultimate outcome of all of our lows and highs.

Constituting Jesus' deepest low was his Passion and Death. Jesus suffered profoundly both physically and emotionally. The most devastating emotion of Our Lord was the feeling of abandonment by his Father. His relationship of love with his Father was the most important thing to Our Lord, and in his agony, even this seemed to vanish. "Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (Mt 27:46).

Yet, after Good Friday came Easter Sunday. The words of the psalmist came true in the Resurrection of Our Lord from the dead. "God's love endures forever. In danger, I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free" (Ps 118:4-5). In the Resurrection, Our Lord's cry from the Cross was heard by his Father. Our Lord must have felt the greatest of joys in his Resurrection,

"When we exercise our faith and choose to live out our baptism, there will come a time when we will join Our Lord in the glories of heaven. All lows will be ended. There will only be an eternity of highs."

not only because of what it meant for him and his relationship with the Father, but also because of what it meant for humanity: redemption.

The Apostles shared that joy when Jesus appeared to them after the Resurrection. The Apostles, upon seeing Our Lord, ". . . were still incredulous for joy and were amazed" (Lk 24:41). This was the high of the Resurrection.

All of us experience high and low emotions and feelings. The emotional highs seem to make life worth living. The emotional lows make life seem dismal. What can we learn from our model, Our Lord Jesus Christ, about these highs and lows, lows and highs?

For Jesus, after the Resurrection, all of his emotional pain and suffering,

all of his lows, were ended. There was and is only joy, eternal joy. In heaven, the hosts cry out to him who has risen from the dead: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing" (Rev 5:12). Jesus triumphed over sin, suffering, and death. He triumphed over every kind of low.

In baptism, we were made sharers in Jesus' triumph over sin, suffering, and death. Like Jesus, we suffer lows: physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Nevertheless, these will not last forever. When we exercise our faith and choose to live out our baptism, there will come a time when we will join Our Lord in the glories of heaven. All lows will be ended. There will only be an eternity of highs.

As John testifies in the Book of Revelation: "I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away.' The one who sat on the throne [God] said, 'Behold, I make all things new'" (Rev 21:4-5). Alleluia!

Bishop's April Calendar

1 New Ulm: 7:30 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass of the Lord's Supper.

2 New Ulm: 12:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Good Friday Service.

New Ulm: 3:00 p.m. Way of the Cross. Stations.

3 New Ulm: 8:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Easter Vigil.

4 New Ulm: 9:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Easter Mass.

5-9 Minneapolis: National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Convention.

10 Montevideo: 5:00 p.m. Church of St. Joseph. Confirmation.

11 Murdock: 9:00 a.m. Church of the Sacred Heart. Confirmation.

New Ulm: 2:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Divine Mercy Celebration.

11-15 Buffalo: Annual Priests' Retreat.

17 Wabasso: 5:00 p.m. Church of St. Anne. Confirmation.

18 Redwood Falls: 9:30 a.m. Church of St. Catherine. Confirmation.

New Ulm: 6:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. *Lectio Divina* Prayer Group Gathering.

20 Olivia: 1:00 p.m. Church of St. Aloysius. Priests' Council Meeting.

22 St. Paul: 3:00 p.m. St. Paul Seminary. Board of Trustees Meeting.

St. Paul: 6:00 p.m. St. Paul Seminary. Rector's Council Mass and Dinner.

23 Olivia: 4:30 p.m. Church of St. Aloysius. NUDCCW Board Meeting.

24 Olivia: 8:30 a.m. Church of St. Aloysius. NUDCCW Convention.

Ortonville: 5:00 p.m. Church of St. John. Confirmation.

25 Lambertton: 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Joseph. Confirmation.

(continued on page 4)

Catholic Charities fiscal year plan in place; outline available on Web site *contributions to annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal credited for on-going service*

On Wednesday, February 24, 2010, Bishop John M. LeVoi and the Catholic Charities staff and advisors from the Diocese of New Ulm met to finalize the *2010-2011 Plan for Catholic Charities*.

According to Tom Keaveny, director of Catholic Charities in the diocese, "The central theme of the program review and the planning process was clearly articulated and affirmed: 'enhance the core services of counseling and crisis response.'" Copies of the plan will be available on the diocesan Web site (www.dnu.org); or by calling (507) 359-2617, toll-free 1 (866) 670-5163.

Also during the meeting, major highlights of Catholic Charities services this past year in the diocese were outlined and discussed. They include:

- ▶ a total of 200 households received counseling services this past year involving some 350 individuals (spouses and children);

- ▶ spiritual direction, as a core service, has been initiated and is now available upon request by Catholic Charities clients;

- ▶ Catholic Charities staff, parish pastoral leaders, and lay people from throughout the Diocese of New Ulm, received formal training for Project Rachel post abortion services and resources;

- ▶ through an agreement with Lutheran Social Service (LSS), Catholic Charities will now refer individuals seeking financial or guardianship services to LSS as Catholic Charities of the diocese does not currently provide these types of services;

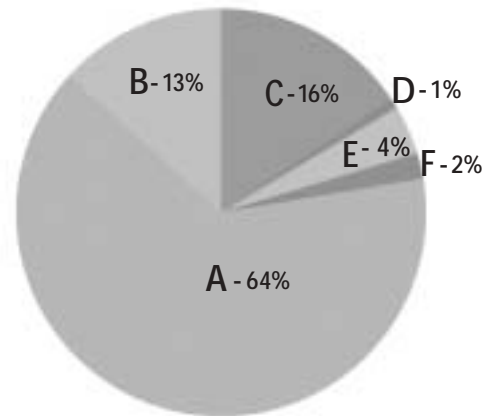
- ▶ the Catholic Charities crisis response plan was utilized six times throughout the year for families, parishes, and schools who were addressing death related tragedies;

- ▶ approximately 800 participants, especially in diocesan schools and parishes, participated in sessions facilitated by Catholic Charities staff who addressed grief and loss, bullying, self-esteem, sexuality, pre-marital abstinence, and outreach to others and compassion; and

- ▶ the intensity of a client's "spirituality" will now be incorporated into the service planning for Catholic Charities counseling.

In conclusion, it was acknowledged by all meeting participants that none of these Catholic Charities services would be possible without the financial support of the annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA).

Last year, Catholic Charities served 1,232 people throughout the diocese



- A = Education and Enrichment Services
- B = Grief and Loss Programs
- C = Counseling/Mental Health Services
- D = Addiction Services
- E = Pregnancy Services
- F = Adoption Services/Project Rachel

Catholic Charities Counseling Services

are offered in four regions of the diocese

Hutchinson, Marshall, New Ulm, and Willmar



Providing services for: Individual and Family Counseling; Adoption; Marriage Preparation Counseling, Parish and Community Response; Pregnancy Counseling; Grief Services; and Spiritual Direction.

For inquiries and to schedule an appointment, please contact the New Ulm office located at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN, 56073; phone: (507) 359-2617 or toll-free 1(866) 670-5163.

Rev. Peter Nosbush to observe 40 year anniversary

Rev. Peter C. Nosbush will observe his 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood this month. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of New Ulm on April 26, 1970, at the Church of St. Andrew in Fairfax, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.

Fr. Nosbush is currently pastor at the Church of the Holy Rosary, North Mankato.



Rev. Peter C. Nosbush

Two special collections will be held in the diocese during April. They are: HOLY LAND on April 2 (Good Friday) and the CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL on April 24-25. Please give generously in your parish. For further information on these collections, visit www.usccb.org.

Success of DMA returns over \$2.4 million to parishes in four years

The annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA) has proved to be successful once again. To date, the diocese has received pledges in the amount of \$1,146,086 as a result of the 2009 appeal. Besides fulfilling the \$660,000 to meet the diocesan goal, the DMA is poised to return to parishes \$458,000 (if all pledges are paid in full).

Most astounding, however, is the four-year cumulative impact of the annual appeal on parishes. The DMA has and will return, with this year's DMA proceeds, over \$2,400,000 to parishes in its short four year history.

"When the concept of the DMA was being designed, it was intended as a financial benefit to both the diocese and each of the parishes in the diocese," said Wayne Pelzel, diocesan Director of Development. "In order to receive the benefit, parishes simply had to announce the project the proceeds would benefit. Over this three-and-a-half-year period, parking lots have been done or redone, organs repaired, schools supported, sidewalks redone, churches repainted and redecorated, and ministries expanded, just to name a few," Pelzel said.



"There is a lengthy list of other similar projects that have been completed and it's all due to the generous contributions of the faithful of the diocese."

National audit shows fewest reports of sexual abuse by clerics since 2004; most from decades ago

Washington - The data show that in 2009 there were 398 allegations and 286 offenders reported to dioceses, most from earlier decades. Of the allegations reported in 2009, six allegations (2 percent) involved children under the age of 18 in 2009. About an eighth of the allegations in 2009 (48) were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by the end of the year. Similar declines were found in data from religious orders of men.

Data for the 2009 calendar year were collected by the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). It began gathering data on sexual abuse of minors by clerics in 2004 as part of the bishops' annual report on compliance with the *Charter*. The audit report can be found at http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/annual_report_2009.shtml

CARA reported that most allegations cited were against pre-teen or teenage males and occurred decades ago.

"For the majority of new allegations (71 percent) brought to dioceses, the abuse began between 1960 and 1984. The most common time period for allegations reported in 2009 was 1975-1979," CARA noted.

Costs paid by dioceses for settlements, therapy for victims, support of offenders, attorney fees and other costs amounted to \$104,439,629 in 2009. Of this total, 53 percent was for settlements with victims and another six percent for therapy for victims if not already included in settlements.

"Compared to 2008, amounts paid for settlements in 2009 decreased by 83 percent and the amount paid in attorneys' fees declined by three percent," CARA reported.

Dioceses also invested more than \$21 million for child protection efforts such as training programs, background checks and salaries for staff, CARA reported.

The annual audit looks at dioceses' compliance with the 17-point *Charter* adopted by the bishops in 2002. Auditors examine steps dioceses take to deal with allegations of abuse, reports of such allegations to civil authorities, and efforts to prevent child sexual abuse.

Virtually all 195 dioceses and eparchies in the United States participated in the audit. Six refused to participate including the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, and five eparchies (Eastern rite dioceses): the Eparchies of St. Peter the Apostle for Chaldeans; Eparchy of Newton for Melkites; Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics; Eparchy of St. Josaphat of Parma for Ukrainians; and Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians.

The *Charter* compliance audits, which cover the time period July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. They found 21 cases of allegations against current minors. Nine allegations were against international priests visiting or serving in the United States. Their countries of origin included Pakistan (1), Nigeria (1), El Salvador (2), Poland (1), Mexico (2), and India (2).

Almost six million, or 96 percent of children in Catholic schools or religious education programs, underwent Safe Environment training, and all but two dioceses that were audited, the Diocese of Baker, Oregon and the Diocese of Fresno, California, were compliant by year's end with this particular provision of the *Charter*.

(continued on page 8)



Jesús compartió nuestra naturaleza humana en todas las cosas, pero sin el pecado. Esto significa que Jesús experimentó todas las emociones y los sentimientos que tenemos como seres humanos, pero lo hizo sin pecado. Siempre se mantuvo unido a la voluntad de su Padre, con todos sus momentos de regocijo y aflicción, en todas sus alegrías y tristezas. Esto no da confianza en Jesús como nuestro modelo para poder relacionarnos con nuestros momentos de aflicción y de regocijo, con nuestras alegrías y tristezas. "Pues nuestro sumo sacerdote puede compadecerse de nuestra debilidad, porque él también estuvo sometido a las mismas pruebas que nosotros; sólo que él jamás pecó." (He 4:15).

La liturgia del Domingo de Ramos (Pasión) resalta los estados emocionales que Jesús experimentó. Por ejemplo, pocos días antes de su detención, Jesús entró a Jerusalén triunfalmente. Debe haber sido un momento de gran regocijo y alegría. "Conforme Jesús avanzaba, la gente tendía sus propias ropas por el camino;... todos sus seguidores comenzaron a gritar de alegría y a alabar a Dios por todos los milagros que habían visto. Decían: ¡Bendito el Rey que viene en el nombre del Señor!" (Lc 19:36-38).

Cuando llegó cerca de Jerusalén, al ver la ciudad, Jesús lloró por ella, diciendo: "¡Si entendieras, siquiera en este día, lo que te puede dar paz! Pero ahora eso te está escondido y no puedes verlo." (Lc 19:41-42).

El más profundo de aflicción que experimentó Jesús fue su pasión y muerte. Jesús sufrió profundamente, tanto física

No Tengas Miedo Regocijos y Aflicciones

por Obispo John M. LeVoi

como emocionalmente. La emoción más devastadora de Nuestro Señor era el sentimiento de abandono por parte de su Padre. Su relación de amor con su Padre era la cosa más importante para nuestro Señor, y en su agonía, aunque este parecía desvanecerse. "Jesús clamó con fuerte voz: "Eli, Eli, lamá sabactani." Lo que quiere decir: Dios mío, Dios mío, ¿por qué me has abandonado?" (Mt 27:46).

Sin embargo, después del Viernes Santo llegó el Domingo de Pascua. Las palabras del salmista se hicieron realidad en la Resurrección de Nuestro Señor de los muertos. "El amor del Señor es eterno. En mi angustia llamé al Señor; él me escuchó y me dio libertad. (Sal 118:4-5)." En la resurrección, el grito de Nuestro SEÑOR en la Cruz fue escuchado por su padre. Nuestro Señor debe de haber sentido la mayor de las alegrías en su Resurrección, no sólo por lo que significaba para él y su relación con el Padre, sino también por lo que significaba para la humanidad: la redención.

Todos nosotros experimentamos momentos y sentimientos de aflicción y de regocijo. Los momentos de gran regocijo nos hacen sentir que la vida vale la pena. Los momentos de aflicción hacen que la vida parezca triste. ¿Qué podemos aprender de nuestro modelo, de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, acerca de estos momentos de regocijo y de aflicción?

Para Jesús, después de la Resurrección, se terminó todo su dolor emocional y sufrimiento, todos sus momentos de aflicción. Hubo y

hay solo alegría, el goce eterno. En el cielo, las huestes gritaron que ha resucitado de los muertos. Jesús triunfó sobre el pecado, el sufrimiento y la muerte: "¡El Cordero que fue sacrificado es digno de recibir el poder y la riqueza, la sabiduría y la fuerza, el honor, la gloria y la albanza!" (Ap 5:12). Él triunfó sobre todo tipo de aflicción.

En el bautismo, se nos hizo partícipes del triunfo de Jesús sobre el pecado, el sufrimiento y la muerte. Como Jesús, sufrimos momentos de aflicción: física, emocional y espiritualmente. Sin embargo, estos no durarán para siempre. Cuando ejercitamos nuestra fe y optamos por vivir nuestro bautismo, llegará un momento en el que nos uniremos a Nuestro Señor en la gloria del cielo. Todas las aflicciones terminarán. Sólo habrá una eternidad de regocijos.

Así pues Juan testificó en el Libro de Apocalipsis: Y oí una fuerte voz que venía del trono, y que decía: "Dios vive ahora entre los hombres. Vivirá con ellos, y ellos serán su pueblo, y Dios mismo estará con ellos como su Dios." "Secará todas las lágrimas de ellos, y ya no habrá muerte, ni llanto, ni lamento, ni dolor; porque todo lo que antes existía ha dejado de existir." El que estaba sentado en el trono dijo, "Yo hago nuevas todas las cosas." (Ap 21:4-5). Aleluya!

Bishop's April calendar

(continued from page 2)

25 Montevideo: 3:00 p.m. Montevideo Public High School. Junior High Festival.

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

New Ulm: 4:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Jubilarian Gathering.

28 New Ulm: 1:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Vocations Team Meeting.

29 New Ulm: 7:00 p.m. Church of St. Mary. *Vianney* Performance.



A historic day in the diocese!

new religious order established; four receive habits, new names

Hundreds of people, including priests, deacons, seminarians, women religious, and lay people, gathered March 24, 2010, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm at 5:30 p.m. for what would be a historic event.

On the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Annunciation, Bishop John M. LeVoir established the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus as a Public Association of the Faithful - the first step toward becoming a Religious Community of Diocesan Right. The establishment of a religious order is the first of its kind in the Diocese of New Ulm. Since its formation in 1957, there has never been a motherhouse within its boundaries.

During the Mass, celebrated by Bishop LeVoir, four of the community of seven women of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus, received their religious habit and their new names in religion. The ceremony of receiving the habit is called an investiture.

The four women to receive their habit and new names are: Mary Shaffer, now Sister Miriam Rose of the Incarnate Word; Megan Marshall, now Sister Magdalena Marie of the Trinity; Mary Therese Foley, now Sister Regina Marie of the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar; and Claire Roufs, now Mother Mary Clare of the Heart of the Father.

After receiving the habit, the sister becomes a novice - one who is being formed in the religious life but has not yet committed herself to it for any length of time. She will remain a novice for one or two years.

While it is a dramatic event in the life of the sister when she begins to visibly witness to the Gospel and to her community's charism, receiving the habit is not as important as professing vows. Mother Mary Clare of the Heart of the Father, is the foundress of the institute. In addition to receiving her habit and a new name, Mother Mary Clare also professed vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

By professing vows, she is now bound to be faithful to her order as



Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus receiving their habit and new name on March 24 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm are: (front, l-r): Sr. Regina Marie of the Holy Sacrifice

of the Altar, Sr. Miriam Rose of the Incarnate Word, Sr. Magdalena Marie of the Trinity, and Mother Mary Clare of the Heart of the Father. Pictured with Bishop John M. LeVoir (center) are visiting bishops and friends of the Handmaids, Bishop Paul D. Sirba, Diocese of Duluth (far left), and Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin (far right).

(photos by Abigail Javanovich)



(Above) As part of the Investiture Ceremony, the Handmaids are given a black tunic and belt, to represent poverty and their death to the world; a white scapular, which is a long piece of fabric covering the front and back of the tunic, to represent their dedication to and protection by the Blessed Virgin Mary; a white veil to represent their spousal relationship with Christ; and a rosary to assist them in their life of prayer. To distinguish novices from those who have professed vows, the veil of the Handmaids either has a white band (novices) or a black band (professed sisters) around the head.



two people who are married are bound by their wedding vows. The day of a sister's profession is the day when she espouses Christ, promising to follow him as his true bride by living his own life of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

MAKING THE DIOCESE HOME

At the invitation of Bishop LeVoir, the Handmaids moved to the Diocese of New Ulm this past December and currently reside in the convent at the Church of St. John the Baptist in Searles. There are currently seven sisters in the new institute; the four

who have received their habits are those who have been a part of the institute for several years. Mother Clare of the Heart of the Father is the first member of the Handmaids to take vows.

The Handmaids are all college graduates working toward advanced degrees at the School of Divinity in St. Paul. For now, they are focusing on studies and formation in the religious life. Eventually, they feel called to serve the needs of parishes and schools.

Lay leadership

Pastoral Administrator leadership in place since early 80's



Courtesy of the diocesan Offices of Worship and Religious Education/Adult Faith Formation, this is the eighth in a series of articles about people that represent the many who are involved with lay leadership and the important work they do throughout the diocese.

by Ann Przybilla, director Office of Worship

This month, we focus on those who serve the Church as pastoral administrators. A pastoral administrator is appointed by the bishop to take on the responsibilities of leading a parish, a role referred to in canon 517.2.

According to statistics gathered by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), there are over 500 parishes in the United States that are served by a deacon, religious sister or brother, or other lay person. Pope Benedict XVI, addresses the need for committed lay leaders; "... it is necessary to improve pastoral structures in such a way that the co-responsibility of all the members of the People of God in their entirety is gradually promoted, with respect for vocations and for the respective roles of the consecrated and of lay people. This demands a change in mindset, particularly concerning lay people. They must no longer be viewed as 'collaborators' of the clergy but truly recognized as 'co-responsible,' for the Church's being and action, thereby fostering the consolidation of a mature and committed laity." (*Address to the Opening of the Pastoral Convention, Basilica of St. John Lateran, May 26, 2009*).

The first pastoral administrator in

the diocese was appointed in 1981 by Bishop Raymond A. Lucker. Sr. Eunice Drazba, OP, was assigned to serve the Church of St. Paul in Walnut Grove effective March 11, 1981.

Currently, there are ten pastoral administrators in the Diocese of New Ulm appointed to serve parishes through various pastoral and administrative tasks. Sr. Joanne Backes, OSB, is one of them. For forty-nine years as a Benedictine Sister, twenty-two years as an elementary teacher, and twenty-six years as a pastoral administrator, Sr. Joanne has worked to cultivate the mature faith of the people of God of which the Holy Father speaks.

As pastoral administrator, Sr. JoAnne has served in the parish communities of Henderson, Jessenland, and Morton. She currently serves as pastoral administrator at the Church of St. Paul in Comfrey and the Church of the Japanese Martyrs in Leavenworth.



Sr. JoAnne Backes, OSB

When describing the way she was called to the pastoral administrator role she explains, "During the summer months I teamed up with three other sisters called 'The Team with a Theme.' Our objective was to travel to small rural parishes for a week and offer a mini parish mission which included teaching children during the day and offering various activities each night. It was during these visits to the rural parishes that I saw a need to reach more people than I was able to do teaching elementary school."

Sr. JoAnne believes most fulfilling in her position is the great variety of activities as pastoral administrator. "A highlight of my ministry is preparing the folks for the

(continued on page 10)



San Lucas Toliman celebration pays homage to parish padre of 47 years!

Editor's note: Fr. Phil Schotzko, pastor of the Church of St. Peter in St. Peter and diocesan Director of the Office of the Propagation of the Faith/Holy Childhood Association, had the opportunity to take part in the 50th Anniversary celebration of Msgr. Greg Schaffer hosted by the people of San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala on February 20, 2010. Following is his experience of the grand event.

The stage was being set, literally, as we turned into the courtyard of the parish of San Lucas in Guatemala. It answered a question I had about where they were going to hold the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Msgr. Greg Schaffer, a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm who has served at the diocese's mission parish of San Lucas Toliman for the past 47 years. After all, up to 2,000 people would be attending and the church only holds about 500. They were extending the raised platform out into the plaza of the 400-year-old colonial church.

A huge, seven meter square image of Msgr. Schaffer in full liturgical garb hung from the facade of the church which was accentuated by flagged strings that flapped in the breeze. This was going to be a fiesta with nothing held back. The white and violet flower arrangements were



being designed and placed by skilled hands.

The actual celebration began with loud fireworks aerial bombs at 4:00

"I will never forget my trip to San Lucas this past January. What I learned from you and from the people of the San Lucas Mission cannot be expressed in words. You have worked together with the people of San Lucas to improve their lives and to strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ and his Blessed Mother."

(excerpt of Feb. 16, 2010, letter from Bishop John LeVoir to Msgr. Schaffer in honor of his 50th anniversary.)



(photos by Fr. Phil Schotzko)

a.m. on February 20, 2010, and continued with Mass at 10:00 a.m. The principal celebrant was Bishop

Gonzalo de Villa, Bishop of Solola, along with Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, the Papal Nuncio to Guatemala. The entrance procession began at the shore of Lake Atitlan and proceeded a few blocks over elaborately decorated streets to the temporary sanctuary in front of the church. It would be full with priests and seminarians of the diocese.

For forty-seven of his fifty years as a priest, Monsignor Schaffer has served the people of God in the San Lucas region with expansive programs that seek to respond to the needs of the whole person. The Papal Nuncio's message named so clearly the people's obvious affection for Monsignor Schaffer that has grown deeper over the years.

At the end of Mass, a letter from Bishop John M. LeVoir was read expressing gratitude for the legacy of Msgr. Schaffer's love and service. Many others expressed their thankful congratulations. Then, as a symbol of appreciation and respect, they unveiled and blessed a life-sized statue of Msgr. Schaffer in vestments, (pictured above). It was very impressive.

Another question I had was, were they going to feed all the people who came to this huge celebration?

Indeed, everyone who came was served a meal. Planning had gone on for months within the various women's groups. Money was collected, and food was bought, cooked, and served all in a timely manner. When the chairs ran out, the folks sat on the ground eating contently in little family groups throughout the grounds of the church. Everyone seemed to go home content, but not before another round (three hours worth) of "actos" honoring Msgr. Schaffer with song, dance, and spoken words of praise and thanks.

In the end, to the observer, this celebration was just as much a tribute to the generous and talented people of Guatemala who have collaborated with Msgr. Schaffer over these years. It was their indomitable spirit of faith and gift for enjoying and celebrating life that shaped the whole day.

It was obvious to me that in the midst of great materialistic challenges, the people of San Lucas find a way to "go for the gold" of gratitude for all God's blessings and those who help channel them into their daily lives.

Bishop to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday additional parishes in diocese to conduct celebration

All are welcome to join Bishop John M. LeVoir for a Divine Mercy celebration on Sunday, April 11, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. There will be a Reconciliation service at 2:00 p.m., followed by individual confessions offered until 4:00 p.m. The sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed at 3:00 p.m. Music and periods of silent reflection will be interspersed throughout the celebration.

The Second Sunday of Easter is designated Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope John Paul II at the canonization of St. Maria Faustina on April 30, 2000, and then officially decreed by the Vatican.

Divine Mercy Origin

The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary recording the revelations she received about God's mercy.

Jesus revealed in various revelations to St. Faustina in the 1930s that it was his desire that we celebrate this special feast. He told St. Faustina: "The Feast of Mercy emerged from my very depths of tenderness. It is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy" (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 699).

Additional Divine Mercy Celebration opportunities

They include:

- Church of the Holy Family in Silver Lake; Reconciliation at 2:00 p.m.; sung Chaplet at 3:00 p.m., followed by refreshments. Note: In 2005, Bishop John C. Nienstedt designated Holy Family as the designated Divine Mercy Chapel for the Diocese of New Ulm.

- The Divine Mercy Area Faith Community of Comfrey, Leavenworth, and Sleepy Eye will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation at 2:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye; the Chaplet of Divine Mercy to be recited at 3:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is a series of prayers counted out on rosary beads. The formula was reportedly given by Jesus to St. Faustina.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Optional Prayer. *You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.*
3. Say the Our Father.
4. Say the Hail Mary.
5. Say the Apostles' Creed.
6. Say The Eternal Father. *"Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."*
7. On the Ten Small Beads of Each Decade - *"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."*
8. Repeat for the remaining decades. Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.
9. At the end of the Chaplet, say three times: *Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and the whole world.*

Triduum celebrates Paschal Mystery in its entirety

For the past forty days, (during the season of Lent) the Church has asked us to give ourselves to prayer and to the reading of Scripture, to fasting and to giving alms, reminding us that this is not ordinary time.

Because Lent is a season with a personality of its own, we tend to think of it as a season which has its existence just for the sake of itself. However, it is important to remind ourselves that Lent exists only as a preparation for something bigger. That something bigger is the Easter Triduum.

The term Triduum means "three days." It tells the story of what it means to be Christian. The Triduum begins on Holy Thursday at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues on Good Friday with the celebration of the Lord's Passion, and reaches its high point on Holy Saturday night with the Easter Vigil. The purpose of these celebrations is to make the Church present to the great mysteries of salvation found in the saving work of Jesus Christ.

Each of these days "tells" a different part of the story of Jesus' saving action. On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper. Jesus gives us the Eucharist and tells us, "Do this in memory of me." He then washes the feet of the Apostles. On Good Friday we remember the Passion and Death of Jesus. We celebrate the Resurrection of



During the Holy Thursday liturgy last year, Bishop LeVoi immolates the Gospel of John 13:1-15 by washing the feet of several members of the assembly.

Christ either at the Easter Vigil on Saturday night when new members are baptized and welcomed into the Catholic community or on Easter Sunday morning.

We look at the Easter Triduum as one single celebration that lasts for three days. We cannot separate the Death of Jesus from his Resurrection. We are called to church to gather and remember together. *"Christ redeemed us all and gave perfect glory to God principally through his Paschal Mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life. Therefore, the Easter Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year."*

General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, #18

Bishop to lead Stations of Cross

New Ulm - On Good Friday, April 2, the Way of the Cross will be staffed by the Knights of Columbus from noon to 5:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m., Bishop LeVoi will lead a public prayer and meditation on the fourteen Stations of the Cross. Additional group sessions will also be held at 1, 2, and 4:00 p.m., led by local clergy.



Last fall, students and staff from St. Pius X Catholic School in Glencoe visited the diocesan shrine following the annual Children's Holy Field Trip sponsored by the diocesan Office of Schools.

Resurrection cookies make story of Jesus Christ come alive

It's easy for children to associate Easter treats with chocolate bunnies, jelly beans, and brightly colored hard-boiled eggs.

But, resurrection cookies turn a simple morsel of meringue into a powerful teaching tool by blending verses from Scripture with the five ingredients throughout the preparation phase. While these sweet bites can be made at any time, the process coincides ideally with the Easter story if they are made during the evening of Holy Saturday.

Family project

Sheila (Brannan) Veach, formerly of Minnesota now residing in Chapin, South Carolina, started making the cookies three Easters ago with her sons.

"Erik was five at that time and Christopher was three. The boys kept getting out of bed to look at the cookies in the oven that night," she remembered. "On Easter morning the duct tape was peeled back from the oven, we read the last reading and they ate their resurrection cookies for breakfast - they called them 'empty cookies.'"

Everyone's favorite verse, she said, is from Matthew 28 when the angel rolls back the stone and announces to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary that Jesus is no longer in the tomb.

"Reading a recipe is one thing, but baking while reading Bible verses is different," Veach said.

Veach feels that children ages three to four are not too young to prepare the recipe with an adult's assistance.

"Once you've made the resurrection cookies - reading the Scripture and symbolically experiencing Jesus' Resurrection with your family or other youngsters - chocolate bunnies and jelly beans may never taste quite as sweet.

story by Carol Jessen-Klixhull
courtesy of St. Cloud Visitor

Resurrection Cookies

- 1 cup whole pecans
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- 3 egg whites
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup sugar

- zipper baggie
- wooden spoon
- tape
- bible

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Place the pecans in the zipper baggie and let the children beat them with the wooden spoon to break them into small pieces. (Explain that after Jesus was arrested he was beaten by the roman soldiers."

Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. (Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given common wine, sometimes translated as vinegar, to drink.)

Read John 19:28-30.

Add the egg whites to the vinegar. (Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave his life to give us life.)

Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. (Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin.)

Read Luke 23:27.

Add 1 cup sugar. (Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us, he wants us to know that and he wants us to love him as well.)

Read John 3:16.

Beat ingredients with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15



minutes until stiff peaks are formed. (Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus.)

Read Isaiah 1:18 and 1 John 3:1-3.

Fold in the broken nuts. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto a wax paper-covered cookie sheet. (Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid.)

Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door, and turn the oven off. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. (Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed.)

Read Matthew 27:65-66.

At bedtime, discuss with the children that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. (Explain that Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed.)

Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hallow! (On Resurrection morning, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty.)

Read Matthew 28:1-9.

Rejoice. the Lord Jesus has risen! He is alive!



April designated as Child Abuse Awareness month

by Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM
Safe Environment Coordinator
Diocese of New Ulm

The 2010 National Safe Environment Leadership Conference took place in New Orleans from March 14-18, with the theme: "Marching in Line With Our Promise to Prevent Child Abuse, Protect Our Children, and Heal Our Church." The conference provided a message for all of us as Church; we are reminded that one who marches leaves behind an imprint that gives witness to his commitment and action. The imprint must speak to the fact that as Church we are seeking more than a safe environment. We are seeking a faith environment - an environment of nurturing love and faith that affirms the dignity of every human being and gives witness to Christ in its action of preventing, protecting, and healing.

As we seek to right the wrong of sexual abuse, we do it in the spirit of the Gospel message of Christ which is a message of love.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond of the Diocese of New Orleans



characterized this as a faith environment where we empower by imparting formation. Although he was speaking to us as Safe Environment Coordinators, Bishop Aymond's comments really apply to all of us as Church because of the various ways we participate in ministry. Through our catechesis and ministry we seek to model behavior that affirms each person as a child of God. By imparting the truths of our faith we are empowering people, especially our children and young people to model Christ and develop healthy relationships. This formation is preventative, protective, and healing action that we must all be responsible for.

Creating and maintaining this faith environment has its challenges; it is

truly faith formation, not sex education. This formation fulfills its task only when it is lived out by the participants as individuals and collectively by the Church as community. We are called as Catholics to respect the dignity of every human being from conception to natural death. Christ said, "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers you do for me." Each of us must look out for the needs of others, their healing, safety, support, and respect for their dignity.

Modeling right relationships and listening, responding, and helping those who have been abused or are in danger of being abused brings healing. Our children need our continual effort in this area. They alone cannot protect themselves from abuse; they alone cannot protect themselves from pornography and the many other dangers to their dignity and healthy growth. As healers in our faith environment, we must acknowledge the task we all share in regard to our children, by virtue of our baptism. To the extent that we are people of prayer, faith, and integrity, we bring about an ever great fulfillment of this task.

If you or someone you know has been sexually exploited by a member of the clergy and you need to talk with someone about abuse, exploitation, or harassment, please contact the Diocese of New Ulm Victim Assistance Coordinator or the Bishop's Delegate in Matters Pertaining to Sexual Misconduct by Clergy, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; phone: (507) 359-2966.

Si usted, o alguien a quien conoce, ha sido sexualmente por un clero y necesita hablar con alguien sobre abuso, o acoso sexual, por favor ponerse en contacto con el Coordinador de Asistencia para Víctimas de la Diócesis de New Ulm o con el Delegado del Obispo en Asuntos que Pertenecen al Abuso Sexual por Cleros de la Diócesis de New Ulm, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; número de teléfono (507) 359-2966.

(continued from page 4)

"The bishop of Baker feels it is inappropriate to provide any kind of sex education to any pre-puberty age child," the report noted. It added, however, that the diocese does promote a program to help parents to provide safe environment training for their children. The Fresno Diocese was found non-compliant because it could not provide documentation showing that

one quarter of its children in Catholic school and religious education programs had been trained.

The audit found that background evaluations were performed on over two million priests, deacons, seminarians, educators, employees and volunteers.

(courtesy of USCCB.org)

VIRTUS safe environment training session

April 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Church of St. Anastasia, Hutchinson
May 8 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Anthony Elementary School, New Ulm
May 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Church of Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer

Contact your local parish/school office for additional upcoming sessions or visit www.dnu.org.

health care legislation

(continued from page 1)

passage because there is compelling evidence that it would expand the role of the federal government in funding and facilitating abortion and plans that cover abortion. The statute appropriates billions of dollars in new funding without explicitly prohibiting the use of these funds for abortion, and it provides federal subsidies for health plans covering elective abortions. Its failure to preserve the legal status quo that has regulated the government's relation to abortion, as did the original bill adopted by the House of Representatives last November, could undermine what has been the law of our land for decades and threatens the consensus of the majority of Americans: that federal funds not be used for abortions or plans that cover abortions. Stranger still, the statute forces all those who

choose federally subsidized plans that cover abortion to pay for other peoples' abortions with their own funds. If this new law is intended to prevent people from being complicit in the abortions of others, it is at war with itself.

We share fully the admirable intention of President Obama expressed in his pending Executive Order, where he states, "it is necessary to establish an adequate enforcement mechanism to ensure that federal funds are not used for abortion services." However, the fact that an Executive Order is necessary to clarify the legislation points to deficiencies in the statute itself. We do not understand how an Executive Order, no matter how well

intentioned, can substitute for statutory provisions. The statute is also profoundly flawed because it has failed to include necessary language to provide

"... as Catholic bishops have opposed its passage because there is compelling evidence that it would expand the role of the federal government in funding and facilitating abortion and plans that cover abortion."

essential conscience protections (both within and beyond the abortion context). As well, many immigrant workers and their families could be left worse off since they will not be allowed to purchase health coverage in the new exchanges to be created, even if they use their own money.

Many in Congress and the Administration, as well as individuals and groups in the Catholic community, have repeatedly insisted that there is no federal funding for abortion in this statute and that strong conscience protection has been assured. Analyses that are being published separately show this not to be the case, which is why we oppose it in its current form. We and many others will follow the government's implementation of health care reform and will work to ensure that Congress and the Administration live up to the claims that have contributed to its passage. We believe, finally, that new legislation to address its deficiencies will almost certainly be required.

As bishops, we wish to recognize the principled actions of the pro-life Members of Congress from both parties, in the House and the Senate, who have worked courageously to create legislation that respects the principles outlined above. They have often been vilified and have worked against great odds.

As bishops of the Catholic Church, we speak in the name of the Church and for the Catholic faith itself. The Catholic faith is not a partisan agenda, and we take this opportunity to recommit ourselves to working for health care which truly and fully safeguards the life, dignity, conscience, and health of all, from the child in the womb to those in their last days on earth.

(courtesy of usccb.org)

One-man production, VIANNEY, to be performed April 29 at St. Mary's, New Ulm

In recognition of the Year for Priests (June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010), the Diocese of New Ulm will sponsor a live one-man production entitled VIANNEY on Thursday, April 29, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm.

Performed by actor and director Leonardo DeFillippis (De-fil-LIP-pis), and presented by Saint Luke Productions, VIANNEY tells the story of St. John Vianney (1786 – 1859), a parish priest who served the people of Ars, France. His exemplary life was so remarkable that Pope Benedict XVI has named him the patron of the Year for Priests.

DeFillippis' live performance of VIANNEY includes a spectacular set, numerous costumes, and a moving musical score.

The evening program is suitable for ages nine years and up. Admission will be a freewill offering.

The production of VIANNEY (www.vianneydrama.com) focuses on the Curé of Ars, as he is commonly called, as he begins his life as a priest in 1815 following the chaotic time of secularization and anti-religious sentiment during the French Revolution. Persevering against tremendous resistance, Vianney succeeds not only in

reforming the lives of his parishioners, but also in drawing hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to the tiny parish in Ars. He is well known as a great confessor, reading the souls of his penitents.

Seating at the Church of St. Mary will be at a first come, first serve basis. The church is accessible to those with disabilities. A social, sponsored by St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women, will follow the evening performance.

For further information contact Bryan Reising, (507) 233-5324; e-mail breising@dnu.org.

from the desk of the DCCW President

by Jeane Appel

The 51st Annual Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention will be held Saturday, April 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Aloysius in Olivia. This year's convention theme is taken from John 6:63.... "It is the Spirit that Gives Life."

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast followed by the general assembly at 8:30 a.m. The keynote speaker will be well-known lecturer and author Prof. Janet E. Smith speaking on "The Family and Conscience Formation."

Professor Smith speaks nationally and internationally on the Catholic teachings on sexuality and on bioethics. She holds the Father Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, where she is a professor of Moral Theology. She is currently serving a second term as a consultant to the Pontifical Council on the Family.

Prof. Smith is author of *Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later* and editor of *Why Humanae Vitae Was Right: A Reader*. She has two new books; one on bioethics entitled *Life Issues, Medical Choices, Questions and Answers for Catholics*, and *The Right to Privacy*. Her new series of talks, "Sexual Common Sense," will be available the day of the convention.

Also during the convention, the 2010 DCCW "Woman of the Year Award" will be given to an outstanding member. In addition, a collection will be taken of personal items and monetary donations for women's shelters. The day will allow for a silent auction from 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and participants will have time to browse the many booths and displays which will include the six commissions and two committees that make up the Council of Catholic Women as well as a display of Professor Smith's items. Various vendors will display religious articles.



Mass will be celebrated by Bishop John M. LeVoir with Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, diocesan moderator, and visiting priests concelebrating. The Mass collection will be given to the victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti through the National Council of Catholic Women - Catholic Relief Services.

Following lunch, Janet E. Smith will give a brief presentation on "Theology of the Body and the Eucharist." This will be followed by a Catholic Q&A hosted by Professor Smith.

The closing prayer will include Eucharistic Adoration, Litany of our Lord Jesus Christ, Priest, Victim (as prayed by Pope John Paul II) and Benediction.

Door prize drawings will conclude the 51st Annual New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention.

Come and share the Spirit and celebrate all that God has enabled us to do through our Council of Catholic Women mission of prayer, study, and service. Everyone is welcome!

For registration information, please contact your parish Council of Catholic Women president.

Jeane Appel is a member of the Church of the Church of St. Genevieve, Tyler.

collaboration of schools (continued from page 1)

faculties to come together during the year to share in prayer and professional development opportunities - ending duplication of speaker fees and associated staff planning efforts. Another successful initiative is the writing of a joint grant which provides enriched science curriculum opportunities for the high-school students. There has also been discussion of sharing in academic programs and teachers. While these efforts have started the building of a collaborative approach to strengthening Catholic school education, the desire to increase collaborative efforts to keep both systems sustainable was making very little progress.

Therefore, to assist in the planning efforts and gain a broader view of potential options from across the country, it was decided to contract with a national Catholic school planning firm. Meitler Consultants of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, specializes in strategic planning with schools and parishes for the purpose of developing a vision to further their missions and ministry. They have over thirty-eight years of consulting experience, working with more than 240 high schools, more than 1,150 elementary and middle schools, and hundreds of parishes and other church agencies. They

have worked in over 110 Catholic dioceses across the United States, as well as with other church institutions.

"The goal is that they will help us explore a wide range of possibilities and options not only to enhance the collaboration of St. Mary's School and New Ulm Area Catholic Schools, but to assist these two school systems in moving strategically and confidently into the future together," stated Karla Cross, Diocesan Director of Catholic Schools.

"The key objective of the planning process is to not only identify and evaluate possible collaborative planning options for the future, but also prepare a plan with specific recommendations and action plans that address the current challenges," she continued.

The planning process, which began in January, will continue into August when the plan will be presented. A special School Planning Committee is in place to work with the consultants in developing the plan. Members of the Committee include diocesan leaders, pastoral leaders, and equal representation of parish and school community leaders from the two school communities.

During the initial consultant visit in January, meetings were scheduled with the diocesan Director of Schools, pastors of parishes providing support for the schools, principals, and a joint gathering of the St. Mary's Evangelization and Catechesis Committee and NUACS Board of Education. During the second consultant visit in March, meetings were scheduled with various groups - students, parents, alumni, donors, religious education parents, staff, and governing groups.

At the end of each visit, the consultants met with the School Planning Committee. A vision for the future of Catholic education for Sleepy Eye and New Ulm was discussed and will be a continued part of future planning discussions. Future articles in *The Prairie Catholic* will share the vision statement of the planning committee.

We initiate this process as we do with all of the school planning efforts, trusting in our God and praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to lead us in this important work of bringing our children closer to him in holiness.

UPDATE ON THE ROMAN MISSAL



Editor's Note: For many years the *Sacramentary* (the red book which includes the texts of the Mass) has been going through a process of revision. Throughout the coming months, with the assistance of the diocesan Office of Worship, *The Prairie Catholic* will offer articles to explain the textual changes in the Mass that will be forthcoming.

by Ann Przybilla

The Roman Missal is where the prayers of the Mass are found. We currently use prayers from the second edition of the Roman Missal from 1975. As we await the *recognitio* (approval) of the English translation of the third edition of the Missal, it is good to know what we are gaining with this revision.

Following is an address made by Bishop Arthur Serratelli to the 2008 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions. It reflects the same information that pastoral leaders of the Diocese of New Ulm were given at a recent Pastoral Leader Days to discuss the Roman Missal:

□ First, the new texts will be used in many different English-speaking countries. Therefore, the language will not bear the cultural stamp or preference of one particular country. This calls for certain openness on the part of all of us.

□ Second, since we use the language of the liturgy to address God, it should be intelligible. This

does not, however, mean every word has to be part of the active vocabulary of everyone.

□ Third, in Liturgy, we should use a noble language that lifts us up as well as honors God. From the earliest Latin texts from the 4th

LEARN MORE!

The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship has launched a Web site to help educate Catholics about the forthcoming English translation of the new Roman Missal.

Visit www.usccb.org/fromanmissal.

century, the style of the language used in prayer differed from street language. In the new translations, the noble, heightened style of prayer at Liturgy is certainly a gain for all.

□ Fourth, when we receive the new Roman Missal for the English-speaking world, we will have a work that is aimed at an exact, though not slavishly literal translation.

□ Fifth, the new Missal will provide prayers that are theologically accurate in

expression and "free from all ideological influence" in choice of words so that "the sacred mysteries of salvation and the indefectible faith of the Church are efficaciously transmitted by means of human language" (*Liturgiam Authenticam*, no. 3).

□ Sixth, the new Missal will come as the result of years of growth and understanding. It will improve our liturgical prayer, but it will not be perfect. Perfection will come when the Liturgy on earth gives way to that of Heaven where all the saints praise God with one voice.

□ Seventh, when put in use, the common English text for all English-speaking countries will reaffirm in a tangible manner the breadth of our Catholic identity.

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lay leadership (continued from page 5)

sacraments. Young children are so eager to learn about their forgiving God. During a recent day-long retreat they all wanted to stay longer or come back another day. That hunger motivates me to do even more with them and their parents."

She continues, "Couples preparing for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony and those receiving the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick are so often an inspiration to me as their hearts are filled with a desire to love and learn more. I often notice a beautiful conversion of heart."

Sr. JoAnne is not immune to

inevitable difficulties that go along with the practical realities of running a parish. "The day-to-day administration and maintenance of the parish could weigh me down, but parish members are so good and supportive and also pitch in when there is a leaking roof, an uneven sidewalk, or just not enough money to pay the bills. Without parishioner support this could be overwhelming," she said.

Sr. JoAnne finds that the most challenging aspect of her ministry is declining Mass attendance. "It does sadden and worry me to see many of

our Catholics no longer attending Mass every week. There are so many other attractions that seem to pull them away."

Through the delights and disappointments, Sr. JoAnne knows that guiding a parish is not left to her alone. "I firmly believe the Holy Spirit is very present and hope that even the small things I do each day with the Spirit's guidance will help the future of our Church continue to be alive and well."

World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 25th

by Fr. Craig Timmerman
Associate Director
Diocesan Vocations Team



Pray for our priests, so that they will witness the love of Christ and their witness may awaken the vocations of many more.

Perhaps many of us have seen the video clip, *Fishers of Men*, a DVD launched by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2006, as a major resource in vocational recruitment. This extremely popular 18-minute DVD has inspired many young men to wonder if God may be calling them to be a priest and many seminarians to persevere in their studies for the priesthood.

But the DVD was actually created to inspire priests! The idea was this: if you ask any priest today why they first entered seminary, their answer would be, "Well, Fr. 'so-and-so' asked me if I wanted to be a priest."

It was the invitation and the witness of other priests that attracted these men to the priesthood. So, if we want to pray for more vocations, we must pray first for our priests.

Pope Benedict's message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, celebrated this year on Sunday, April 25, (Good Shepherd Sunday) is *Witness Awakens Vocation*. When a young man or woman sees a priest or religious living out his or her consecrated life with faithfulness and joy, it awakens a desire in them to also respond to God generously, and consider their own vocation to priesthood or religious life.

In this Year for Priests, let us focus on the witness of the priests. There are three parts to that witness. First, they must live in an intimate friendship with Christ. A priest must spend time in prayer, 'abiding' with God in times of silence and meditating on the Word of God. This personal friendship with Christ then affects how he lives out his witness.

Secondly, a priest must make a complete gift of himself to God. Only when he gives his whole life to God, not holding anything back

for himself, can he say with St. Paul, "It is Christ who lives in me." When Christ lives completely in a priest, he can minister to others through that priest. The priest becomes a witness. Those who come into contact with the priest know that they have come into contact with Christ.

Thirdly, priests must be "men of communion." This means a priest must be "open to all," capable of uniting the Lord's flock, "helping to settle conflicts and misunderstandings, and to forgive offenses." This great witness to the love of Jesus the Good Shepherd awakens healing, love, and devotion in others.

It is this witness that will call other young men forward to courageously answer the call to priesthood. The very life of dedicated priests and men and women religious proclaims the love of Christ. They have let themselves be won over by God, won over by his call and his love for them. This generous and complete response will also awaken a desire in the youth of today a generous and complete response to answer their vocation.

Pray for our priests, so that they will witness the love of Christ and their witness may awaken the vocations of many more.

7th Annual Bishop Lucker Lecture held *Distinguished Service Awards presented to five from diocese*

Redwood Falls - The seventh annual Bishop Lucker Lecture was held on Thursday, March 11, 2010, at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls.

Although the evening presented itself with inclement weather due to fog in the area, approximately 200 people came to hear presenter Fr. William J. Baer, rector and president of St. John Vianney College Seminary at the University of Saint Thomas in St. Paul, talk about our future priests and recent trends in the priesthood. For an audio recording of Fr. Baer's talk, visit the diocesan Web site at www.dnu.org.

2011 presenter announced

Fr. Robert Barron has been selected as next year's presenter for the eighth annual Bishop Lucker Lecture to be held Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls.



Fr. Barron is a sought-after speaker on the spiritual life, from prestigious universities, to YouTube, to national conferences and private retreats. The prominent theologian and podcasting priest is one of the world's great and most innovative teachers of Catholicism. His global media ministry called Word On Fire (www.wordonfire.org) has a simple but revolutionary mission - to

Speak with energy, charisma, and a lot of storytelling, Bishop Lucker Lecture presenter, Fr. William J. Baer (left) explained to his audience of approximately 200, how each young man walking through the doors of the seminary has an individual personality; something we must be sensitive to.

evangelize the culture. Fr. Barron is the Francis Cardinal George Chair of Faith and Culture at University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. Ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1986, he also has published numerous books, essays, and DVDs. For further information about the 2011 Bishop Lucker Lecture, call the Diocese of New Ulm, 507) 359-2966; e-mail: dnu@dnu.org.

(photos by Fr. Eugene Brown)

Distinguished Service Awards

In conjunction with the Bishop Lucker Lecture, Bishop John M. LeVoir presented five members of the diocese with the 2010 Diocesan Distinguished Service Award (DDSA). The award consists of an engraved medal and a framed citation signed by Bishop LeVoir in recognition of



committed service and outstanding contribution to the diocesan mission and ministry. Pictured (l-r) are: Theodore Hilary Mohr of Springfield, Thomas and Mary Portner of Sleepy Eye, Bishop LeVoir, Mary Karnitz of New Ulm, and Msgr. Douglas Grams, pastor of the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm and Vicar General of the diocese.

Chrism Mass held; holy oils blessed by Bishop LeVoir



Sleepy Eye - On March 18, 2010, members from the parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm gathered at the Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye, to witness Bishop John M. LeVoir bless the sacred oils at the Chrism Mass. After the liturgy, the oils were distributed to representatives from each parish. The Oil of the Sick will be used for healing the body, soul, and spirit. The Oil of the Catechumens is used for those

preparing for Baptism. The sacred Chrism is used for Holy Orders, Confirmation, Baptism, as well as for special acts of dedication. (Above) Bishop LeVoir mixes the balsam, which is a perfumed fragrance, into the sacred chrism before the prayer of blessing. Looking on is Deacon Zachary Peterson, Sleepy Eye, and Fr. Anthony Hesse, pastor of Holy Trinity, Winsted.

(photo by Chris Clancy)

Employment opportunities

Full-time Director of Administration needed for Jesus Our Living Water Area Faith Community (Spicer, Kandiyohi, Lake Lillian, and Willmar). Complete ministry description and its responsibilities can be found at www.ourlivingwater.org. Send letter of application, resume, references and salary requirement to Church of St. Mary, Fr. Steve Verhelst, 713 12th St. S.W. Willmar, Minnesota. 56201 or e-mail: frsteve@stmaryswillmar.org by May 1.

of St. Mary in Willmar, a 1450 family member faith community. Seeking a person to build a comprehensive youth ministry program for middle and high school students and young adults. Complete ministry description and its responsibilities can be found at www.stmaryswillmar.org. Send letter of application, resume, references, and salary requirement to Church of St. Mary, Fr. Steve Verhelst, 713 12th St. S.W., Willmar, Minnesota, 56201 or email to frsteve@stmaryswillmar.org by May 1.

Full-time Director of Youth/Young Adult Ministry needed at the Church

Bishop LeVoir to lead pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan

Bishop John M. LeVoir, along with co-host Fr. Paul La Fontaine of the Church of St. Charles Borromeo in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan (optional extension to Istanbul) on January 14-24, 2011. Because Bishop LeVoir is co-hosting this pilgrimage, participants will be privileged to do some unique and special things in the Holy Land. Solemn Entry to the Holy Sepulchre:

This is a special and private visit to Christ's tomb. This Solemn Entry began at the time of the Crusaders and is now only done for groups with a bishop. There will also be a private meeting with the Patriarch in Jerusalem. Space is very limited.

Call Magi Travel (952) 949-0065; info@magitravel.com or visit the diocesan Web site, www.dnu.org for a copy of the brochure.

DIocese of New Ulm
2010 JUNIOR HIGH FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, APRIL 25
11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
MONTEVIDEO HIGH SCHOOL
1501 WILLIAM AVENUE
MONTEVIDEO, MINNESOTA



Sign up with your local youth minister today or call the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry (507) 359-2966

Keynote with Leonardo Defilippis - "Acting Like a Saint"
Breakout sessions. ▼ Sunday Mass with Bishop John M. LeVoir
Lunch and snacks served. (Visit www.dnu.org for more information!)

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 8 April 2010



catholic trends

Washington - Thousands of new Catholics will join the Church on Easter. Every year, in dioceses big and small, people seeking baptism (catechumens) or to be brought into full communion with the Church (candidates) signal a new springtime at Easter and are a reminder of the power of the Gospel to transform lives. According to the 2010 edition of a yearbook published by the National Council of Churches, in the United States and Canada membership numbers have gone up 1.49 percent for the Catholic

Church - the country's largest denomination with more than 68 million members. This vitality is especially notable in the southern and southwestern parts of the United States.

The Diocese of New Ulm will welcome seventy-six as new Catholics into the Church this Easter. They have been preparing to enter the Catholic Church or completing their Christian initiation for nearly one year. The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis reports 182

catechumens and 515 candidates; and the nation's largest archdiocese, Los Angeles, reported that nearly 2,400 catechumens and candidates will be received into the Church on Easter.

Vatican City, (VIS) - On Monday March 29, the Monday of Holy Week, Pope Benedict XVI presided at a celebration of the Eucharist in the Vatican Basilica to mark the fifth anniversary of the death of Venerable Servant of God John Paul II (April 2, 2005).

Vatican City, (VIS) - On March 17, in remarks to pilgrims at the end of the day's general audience, the Pope addressed a special greeting to Irish faithful who that day celebrating the feast of their patron, St. Patrick.

"As you know," said the Holy Father speaking English, "in recent months the Church in Ireland has been severely shaken as a result of the child abuse crisis. As a sign of my deep concern I have written a Pastoral Letter dealing with this painful situation. I will sign it on

the Solemnity of St. Joseph, (March 19), the guardian of the Holy Family and patron of the Universal Church, and send it soon after. I ask all of you to read it for yourselves, with an open heart and in a spirit of faith. My hope is that it will help in the process of repentance, healing, and renewal." The Holy Father's Pastoral Letter can be found on the Vatican's Web site. Visit www.vatican.va.

(VIS) - In a communique released March 25, the Holy See Press Office announced the online publication of the official acts of the Holy See and of the collection

of documents from the period of World War II. "Important texts that until now have only been available in hard copy in libraries are now accessible at the Official Site of the Holy See www.vatican.va, in the "Resource Library" section.

"Texts representing documentary resources of inestimable value are now at the disposal of scholars and all interested persons, free of charge. It is a great contribution to research and information on the history and activities of the Holy See."

Tune in for Bishop John LeVoir's *Easter Messages*

KNUJ Radio (860 AM)
SAM Radio (107.3 FM)
Daily through Pentecost
approx. 7:20 a.m.

KDUZ Radio (1260 AM)
Daily through Pentecost
Mon.-Sat. approx. 8:05 a.m.
Sunday at approx. 9:05 a.m.



Funded in-part by the Catholic Communication Campaign