

# THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 4 December 2009



Parishioners of the Church of St. Mary in Beardsley recently celebrated 125 years of parish history. The present church was built in 1904 and remodeled in 1949. *(read more page 7)*

## Catholic Home Missions - assisting rural dioceses in the development of programs relevant to today's needs of the Church

*Editor's note: The Catholic Home Missions, a subcommittee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on National Collections, recently awarded the Diocese of New Ulm a 2010 grant of \$90,000 to be disbursed in four equal payments in early January, April, July, and October 2010. The grant money will be distributed between three diocesan ministries and offices: Hispanic Ministry, \$54,000; Communications/The Prairie Catholic, \$27,000; and Lay Ministry, \$9,000.*

### SEEDS OF HOPE IN NEW ULM (courtesy of Catholic Home Missions)

The people of the prairies of New Ulm have a deeply rooted faith. Their forebears brought the Catholic faith from northern Europe and nurtured it through generations of coaxing corn, soybeans, and sugar beets from the flat lands of southwestern Minnesota. Now, this faith is challenged by the same forces that threaten rural life throughout the United States: an aging population, the movement of

youth to cities in search of jobs, the closing of family farms, and the growing secularization of society.

With the help of grant money from the Catholic Home Missions, the Diocese of New Ulm operates a landmark two-pronged program for lay leadership formation. Bryan Reising, the director of religious education and adult faith formation for the diocese, says the six-year-old initiative is based on a model developed by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

"We collaborate with St. Mary's University in Winona, MN, and the University of Dayton to give our catechetical leaders and catechists proper formation in spirituality, content, and methods," Reising says. "Our goal is to further the education of our current leaders and form our future ones."

Reising explains how the two adult faith formation programs, called FOUNDATIONS and Together in Communion, help support the rural parishes. "They're planting seeds of a different type and preparing the

participants to be spiritual sowers," he says. "The people gain a new appreciation for the catechetical ministry and for their own formation."

Bobbi Refsland, who attended the adult faith formation programs in New Ulm, knows that this formation is more than just a personal matter. "We need to protect our beliefs in order to pass them on to the next generation, or we won't have a Church left for our children to believe in," she says. "The classes helped me gain confidence in what I knew was right, but never had the courage to stand up for."

Refsland lives in Pennock, a community of 491 people who make their living from farming and light manufacturing. She taught catechism for 10 years with her husband, Gary, and participated in Adults and Teens Encounter Christ. She says that in FOUNDATIONS and Together in Communion, she learned from both her professors and her classmates. "I learned that the more I learn about my faith, the more I want to know. I learned that sometimes serving God can take us way out of our comfort zone. I learned how God transforms us and gives us the ability to change."

Refsland adds, "I have fallen back on the information I learned in the classes in my relationships with other people. I never really knew how to defend our faith. I would just listen as people would run our faith into the ground. I don't do that anymore. Now I proudly explain what our Church teaches. And you know what? They can't argue with the truth."

Reising says that pastors throughout the diocese invite parishioners to the programs, which meet once a month for a full Saturday at a central location. St. Mary's brings in a *(continued on page 9)*

## Statewide Immigration Sunday January 3 MN Catholic bishops encourage parish participation

Minnesota's Catholic bishops invite all parishes throughout Minnesota to celebrate Statewide Immigration Sunday on the feast of Our Lord's Epiphany, January 3, 2010. It is the bishops' hope that this will serve as an opportunity for parish communities to renew hope and seek justice for newcomers; learn more about the many obstacles encountered by our immigrants, migrants, and refugees; and join in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers to create peace and justice for all. Parishes are encouraged to incorporate the music, symbols, signs, and

languages of immigrant, migrant and refugee sisters and brothers into their liturgies, and to organize immigration-related educational activities for children and adults.

In communion with all the bishops of our nation, members of the diocese are also invited to observe the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) National Migration Week (Jan. 3 – 9, 2010). The theme is *Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice*.

The following Web sites provide important education resources to

learn about the complex issues surrounding migration and immigration. They are: *2010 National Migration Week*, [www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml); *Justice for Immigrants Minnesota*, [www.jfimmn.org/index.html](http://www.jfimmn.org/index.html); *Justice for Immigrants*, [www.justiceforimmigrants.org/](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/); *Energy of a Nation Immigration Minnesota Resources*, [www.energyofanation.org/](http://www.energyofanation.org/), and *Minnesota Catholic Conference*, <http://mccc.org/resources/immigrati-on-sunday/>.

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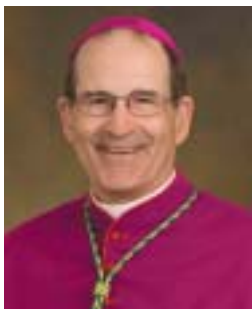
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Bishop John M. LeVoir

Before writing about Advent, I would like to turn briefly to two joyful events that took place recently. On Thursday, October 8, 2009, and on Saturday, November 7, 2009, the Diocese of New Ulm rejoiced. Two of our seminarians were ordained to the transitional diaconate.

On October 8, Matthew J. Wiering, who is attending the North American College in Rome, was ordained for the Diocese of New Ulm in St. Peter's Basilica by Archbishop Robert J. Carlson. On November 7, Zachary D. Peterson was ordained for the Diocese of New Ulm at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall. I had the privilege of ordaining Deacon Peterson. As the diocese rejoices in the ordination of Matt and Zach, we also thank God for the gift of these two faithful young deacons. After spending some time serving as deacons, they will be ordained priests, and the Diocese of

## BE NOT AFRAID "Advent, Jesus is Coming"

New Ulm will again rejoice. The formation that these men received from their families made them open to answering God's call. So, I thank their families, especially their parents, Ronald and Rhonda Wiering and Dean and Doreen Peterson. I pray that all families would encourage their sons to consider the priesthood. We need many more young men like Deacon Wiering and Deacon Peterson to answer God's call to the ordained ministry.

Now, I would like to reflect on the season of Advent. Advent is already upon us. As I get older, Advent seems to slip by quicker and quicker each year. All of a sudden it is Christmas, and I am disappointed because I find myself spiritually unprepared for this great feast.

However, this year, Christmas falls on a Friday. Consequently, Advent is almost four weeks long (in the years when Christmas falls on a Monday, Advent is short, being only three weeks and one day). I hope that this year's time frame gives all of us a better chance to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ.

As we prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas, it is often said that we are preparing for the three comings of Jesus. What are the three comings? Of course, the first coming of Christ was 2,000 years ago, when he was born of the Virgin Mary in the stable in Bethlehem. This was

the first Christmas. Each subsequent Christmas celebrates the anniversary of the first coming of Our Lord.

Preparing for the celebration of the anniversary of Jesus' first coming reminds us that Jesus will come again at the end of time. As we profess in the Creed, "He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead." This is called the "second coming." Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for this coming as well. We want to be ready when Jesus comes at the end of time.

When will Jesus come for a second time? None of us knows. In the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent, some people ask Jesus when the end of time will come.

Jesus does not give them a date. Rather, he answers them by telling them about certain signs that will occur at the end and that they should be ready when the end does come. "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand."

What is the third coming of Jesus? It is a coming that we should pray for daily, namely, the coming of Jesus into our hearts. Into our souls, into the deepest recesses of our hearts, is where Jesus desires to come each day. We make clear the path to our hearts through prayer, through the celebration of the sacrament of

Reconciliation, through good deeds, and especially through the reception of the Body and Blood of Our Lord. If we prepare for this third coming of Our Lord, we will be prepared for the other two comings as well.

After preparing ourselves during Advent, when Christmas comes, we are ready to look upon the Child in the manger. As we gaze into our Christmas crèches, we will find our emotions moved by the sight of this tiny Child, wrapped in swaddling clothes and adored by Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Sometimes these feelings overcome us, especially if we are with children and we watch them staring intently upon the Child Jesus.

At the manger, we are moved because we suddenly become aware that our great and mighty God loves us so much, that he came among us as a little baby. It is this love of God that each of our overworked, wounded, and burdened hearts needs so desperately.

Our world can be so cold, and our lives can be so troubled and lonely. Living in such a state and in such an environment, the sudden realization that we are loved by God stirs our emotions so deeply that we are brought to tears. But, they are not tears of sorrow. Rather, they are tears of gratitude and joy.

May God grant us a fruitful Advent and a most blessed Christmas.

## Bishop's December Calendar

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

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

**2 St. Paul:** 9:00 a.m. Chancery. Meeting with the Catholic Health Association of Minnesota.

**St. Paul:** 11:00 a.m. Chancery. Minnesota Catholic Conference Board Meeting.

**4 New Ulm:** 9:00 a.m. Holy Trinity Middle School. NUACS Board of Directors Meeting.

**Duluth:** Deacon Formation Program (Dec. 4-5).

**6 Crookston:** 3:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. 100th Anniversary of the Diocese of Crookston.

**8 Sleepy Eye:** 8:20 a.m. Church of St. Mary. School Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

**New Ulm:** 10:00 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. School Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

**New Ulm:** 1:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Feasibility Study Committee Meeting.

**11 New Ulm:** 9:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Diocesan Staff Advent Morning of Reflection.

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

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

**Glencoe:** 7:00 p.m. Church of St. Peter X. Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**13 Canby:** 2:00 p.m. Church of St. Peter. Diocesan Advent Prayer Service.

**Springfield:** 7:00 p.m. Church of St. Raphael. Diocesan Advent Prayer Service.

**14 Duluth:** 2:00 p.m. Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop Paul D. Sirba.

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

**18 New Ulm:** 6:00 p.m. Diocesan Staff Christmas Gathering.

**20 Stewart:** 9:15 a.m. Church of St. Boniface. 125th Anniversary Mass.

**New Ulm:** 5:00 p.m. *Lectio Divina* Prayer Group Christmas Gathering.

**25 New Ulm:** 9:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass for Christmas.

**New Ulm:** 11:00 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass for Christmas.

**27 New Ulm:** 5:00 p.m. Seminarian Christmas Gathering.

## Retirement Fund for Religious collection slated for Dec. 12-13

**Washington** - The annual Retirement Fund for Religious national collection will be taken up in most U.S. parishes December 12-13. The collection theme is *Share in the Care*.

Now in its 22nd year, the collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington and benefits thousands of elderly women and men religious whose communities lack adequate funding for retirement. "Funding needs are more dramatic than ever," said Sr. Janice Bader, a Sister of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Missouri, and NRRO executive director. "We recently got a call about a religious order that could not pay its heating bill. We've found sisters cutting back on medical and dental care to save money. A lot are living in 'Peter Pan' housing, built as if the sisters would stay forever young. These institutions need to be made handicap-accessible."

She said many sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have been helped by recent donations. "I am continually heartened by the overwhelming generosity of Catholics to this fund each year,"

she said. "Even in these difficult financial times, Catholics across the nation find a way to give back to the women and men religious who sacrificed so much for our Church and our world."

The retirement crisis developed as demographics of religious institutes changed, so that now there are more elderly than young members. The problem has been compounded by skyrocketing health care costs. Today, there are more than 35,000 women and men religious over age 70, and more than 5,500 religious require skilled care.

Historically, older religious worked for years for small stipends, with surplus income reinvested in their ministries, such as schools and social service agencies. Retirement was not a priority in the past when there were enough younger members to care for older ones. Over the next ten to fifteen years, the number of religious age 25 to 74 is expected to decrease sharply. With this decline, the income of religious institutes will drop precipitously.

For more information, visit [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org).

## Seminarians ordained deacons; Wiering in Rome, Peterson in Marshall

by Fr. Craig Timmerman, Assistant Vocation's Director

On October 8, 2009, seminarian Matthew J. Wiering was ordained to the diaconate by the Most Reverend Robert Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Wiering was ordained along with thirty other men.

On November 7, 2009, seminarian Zachary D. Peterson was ordained to the diaconate at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall by Bishop John M. LeVoi.

As candidates in preparation for the priesthood, both Wiering and Peterson were ordained as 'transitional' deacons as opposed to 'permanent' deacons, because they are in 'transition' to becoming priests.

### JOURNEY TO THE PRIESTHOOD

The sacrament of Holy Orders has three levels: deacon, priest, and bishop. A man is first ordained a deacon before he is ordained a priest. But it is here at this ceremony, in being ordained a deacon, that these men commit their lives to Christ and service to the Church. Since they are in 'transition' to the priesthood, they promise to live a life of celibacy 'for the sake of the kingdom, in service of God and man.' They also promise to pray the Liturgy of the Hours for the Church, to conform their lives to Christ each and every day, and to be obedient to their bishop.

After making these promises, they lie prostrate on the ground while the whole assembly sings the Litany of the Saints, asking their intercession upon these men to be ordained. The bishop lays his hands on the candidate's head, and prays the Prayer of Consecration. The men are now deacons. Each of them chooses another deacon or priest to help them put on the vestments of a deacon: the stole and dalmatic. Then the bishop presents the *Book of Gospels* to the newly ordained deacon.

Following his ordination as a deacon on October 8, Matthew Wiering receives the *Book of Gospels* from Archbishop Robert Carlson.

(photo by North American College)



Bishop John LeVoi prays the Prayer of Consecration during the November 7 ordination to the diaconate of Zachary Peterson.

(photo by Dan Rossini)



Traveling to Rome to be present at Wiering's ordination to the diaconate are New Ulm diocesan priests, (l-r) Fr. John Pearson, Fr. Andrew Michels, Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, and Msgr. Francis Garvey. Not pictured: The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

(photo by North American College)

Deacon Wiering is in his fourth year of theology studies at the North American College in Rome. He is from the Church of St. Dionysius in Tyler, and the son of Ronald and Rhonda Wiering.

Deacon Peterson, originally from the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall, and son of Dean and Doreen Peterson, is currently serving his pastoral internship at the parish and school of St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye, MN. He will return to do his fourth year of theology study at St. Meinrad, IN, the following year.



Deacon Peterson is pictured with Bishop LeVoi following the ordination ceremony.

(photo by Dan Rossini)

## Diocesan Ministries Appeal heads into fourth year

Members of the diocese had the opportunity to view the 2009 Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA) promotional DVD in their parish the weekend of November 7-8. The DVD,

produced by the diocesan Office of Communications, is an overview of the vital ministries that are currently being supported in part by contributions to the annual DMA. This year's DMA goal is \$660,000. All monies above individual parish DMA goals are returned to the parish for important parish projects. To track your parish contributions to the DMA visit the Diocese of New Ulm Web site at [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org). The 2009 Diocesan Ministries Appeal DVD can be viewed on the Web site as well.

(photo by Joan Weicherding)





## No Tengas Miedo Adviento: Jesús ya Viene

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Antes de escribir sobre el Adviento, quiero referirme brevemente a dos acontecimientos alegres que tuvieron lugar recientemente. El jueves, 8 de Octubre del 2009, y el sábado 7 de Noviembre del 2009, la Diócesis de New Ulm se llenó de regocijo. Dos de nuestros seminaristas fueron ordenados para el diaconado.

El 8 de Octubre, Matthew J. Wiering, quien esta asistiendo al North American College en Roma, fue ordenado en la Basílica de San Pedro por Arzobispo Robert J. Carlson. El 7 de Noviembre, Zachary D. Peterson fue ordenado en la Iglesia del Santo Redentor en Marshall. Tuve el gran privilegio de ordenar a Diácono Peterson. Mientras que la diócesis regocija la ordenación de Matt y Zach, también agradecemos a Dios por el regalo de estos dos diáconos jóvenes fieles. Después de servir como diáconos por un tiempo, ellos se ordenarán como sacerdotes y una vez más la Diócesis de New Ulm regocijará de su ordenación.

La formación que los hombres recibieron de sus familias los hizo abiertos a responder a la llamada de Dios. Por lo tanto, agradezco a sus familias, especialmente sus padres, Ronald y Rhonda Wiering y Dean y Doreen Peterson. Pido que todas las familias alienten a sus hijos a estudiar el sacerdocio. Necesitamos muchos más hombres jóvenes como el Diácono Wiering y el Diácono Peterson para responder a la llamada de Dios al ministerio ordenado.

Ahora, me gustaría reflexionar sobre la temporada del Adviento. El Adviento está ya entre nosotros. Como me hago mayor, el Adviento parece deslizarse cada año más rápido y más rápido. De repente, es Navidad, y estoy decepcionado, porque no me encuentro espiritualmente preparado para esta gran fiesta.

Mientras nos preparamos espiritualmente para la Navidad, se dice a menudo que nos estamos preparando para las tres venidas de

Jesús. ¿Cuáles son las tres venidas? Por supuesto, la primera venida de Cristo fue hace 2,000 años, cuando nació de la Virgen María en el establo de Belén. Esta fue la primera Navidad. Cada Navidad posterior se celebra el aniversario de la primera venida de Nuestro Señor.

Preparando la celebración del aniversario de la primera venida de Jesús nos recuerda que Jesús vendrá de nuevo al final de los tiempos.

Como profesamos en el Credo: "Él vendrá otra vez en gloria para juzgar a los vivos y a los muertos." Esto se llama la "segunda venida". Adviento es un tiempo para preparar nuestros corazones para la próxima venida también. Queremos estar preparados para cuando venga Jesús al final del tiempo.

¿Cuándo regresará Jesús por segunda vez? Ninguno de nosotros sabe. En la lectura del Evangelio para el primer domingo de Adviento, algunas personas le preguntan a Jesús, cuando será el final de los tiempos. Jesús no les da una fecha. Más bien, él les responde diciendo acerca de ciertos signos que tendrán lugar en el final y que deberán estar listos cuando el final llegue. "Y entonces verán al Hijo del Hombre viniendo en una nube con poder y gran gloria. Pero cuando estas señales comiencen a suceder, pararse derecho y levante la cabeza, porque vuestra redención está cerca."

¿Cuál es la tercera venida de Jesús? Se trata de una venida que debemos orar por día, es decir, la venida de Jesús en nuestros corazones. En nuestras almas, en lo más profundo de nuestros corazones, es donde Jesús desea llegar cada día. Nosotros dejamos claro el camino a nuestros corazones a través de la oración, a través de la celebración del sacramento de la Reconciliación, a través de buenas obras, y especialmente, a través de la recepción del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Nuestro Señor. Si nos preparamos para esta tercera venida de Nuestro Señor, estaremos preparados para las otras dos venidas también.

Después de prepararnos a nosotros mismos durante el Adviento, cuando llegue la Navidad, estaremos

## Season of Advent - a special time to honor Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

### On a personal note

Two important liturgical celebrations in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary fittingly occur during the season of Advent: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 and Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. The Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States of America; and under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is patroness of the Americas.

Our Lady of Guadalupe (*Spanish: Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*) is a celebrated 16th-century icon of the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus Christ. The image, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe represents a famous Marian apparition. According to the traditional account, the image appeared miraculously on a simple peasant's cloak. The image still exists; it is on display in the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City. It is perhaps Mexico's most popular religious and cultural image, and the focus of an extensive pilgrimage. Our Lady of Guadalupe is said to have appeared to Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac near Mexico City between December 9 and December 12, 1531. The Virgin of Guadalupe is a symbol of significant importance to Mexican Catholics. The Virgin Mary in this aspect has been given the title: "Patroness of the Americas."

For a schedule of **Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations** in the diocese visit [www.dnu.org/service/hispanic.html](http://www.dnu.org/service/hispanic.html) or call Office of Hispanic Ministry, (507) 233-5302.



**Stephanie Marian Fuentes, Grade 10**  
Litchfield Sr. High School  
Church of St. Philip, Litchfield

"Our family has an altar in our home and we place roses at the altar on the day of her feast and then we go to church to give thanks and sing "mañanitas" and remember her appearances. We celebrate because she is our mother and in Jesus' crucifixion he gave her to us as our mother. I do not have words to describe how important she is to me, *mi Virgensita de Guadalupe, me linda guadalupana!*"

**Alexa Jaqueline Corona Reyes, Grade 5**  
Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City Elementary  
Church of St. Philip, Litchfield



"Our family rejoices with excitement at the time of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We light candles and we also pray for ourselves and others. Our Lady is a symbol of pride for the Hispanic community. She represents love and joy for all people."

**Erick Lopez, Grade 10**  
Litchfield Sr. High School  
Church of St. Philip, Litchfield

**Novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe** is celebrated December 3-11. For the schedule please contact your parish.

**Las Posadas** (Spanish for "the inns") is a nine-day celebration with origins in Spain beginning December 16 - December 24. It is a yearly tradition for many Mexican Catholics and symbolizes the trials which Mary and Joseph endured before finding a place to stay where Jesus could be born, based on the passage in the New Testament, the Gospel of Luke (2:1-9). Typically, each family in a neighborhood will schedule a night for the Posada to be held at their home starting on December 16. The neighborhood children and adults are the pilgrims (*peregrinos*), who have to request lodging by going house to house singing a traditional song.

**FOR SCHEDULING INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR PARISH.**

dispuestos a mirar al Niño en el pesebre. A medida que la mirada en nuestras guarderías de Navidad, nos encontraremos con nuestras emociones conmovidos por la visión de este Niño pequeño, envuelto en pañales y adorado por María, José y los pastores. A veces estos sentimientos nos superan a nosotros mismos, sobre todo si estamos con los niños y los vemos mirando fijamente al Niño Jesús.

En el pesebre, nos conmueve porque de pronto tomamos conciencia de que nuestro gran y poderoso Dios nos ama tanto, que vino entre nosotros como un bebé. Es este amor de Dios que cada uno de nuestros sobrecargados de trabajo, heridos, cargados razones necesitan tan desesperadamente.

Nuestro mundo puede ser tan frío, y nuestra vida puede ser tan problemática y solitaria. Vivir en tal

estado y en ese entorno, el darse cuenta repentinamente de que somos amados por Dios mueve nuestras emociones tan profundamente que nos emociona hasta las lágrimas. Sin embargo, no son lágrimas de tristeza. Más bien, son lágrimas de gratitud y alegría.

Que Dios nos conceda un Adviento fructífero y una muy bendita Navidad.

## The ministry and service of a permanent deacon

by Deacon Mark Kober, director  
Office of Permanent Diaconate

The permanent deacon is ordained to the first rank of sacred orders, not to the presbyterate or the episcopate. He is no longer a layman, but a member of the clergy. Like other clerics, the deacon participates in the threefold ministry of Jesus Christ; the "diaconia of the liturgy, of the Word, and of charity." He represents "Christ the Servant" in his vocation.

The ministry of the permanent deacon bears witness to Christ in three ways: The Church's ministry of liturgy as sanctifier; the Church's ministry of the Word as evangelizer and teacher; and the Church's ministry of charity and justice as witness and guide.

*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, the Vatican document on the Eucharist and its celebration declares: Deacons "upon whom hands are imposed not for the priesthood but for the ministry," as men of good repute, must act in such a way that with the help of God they may be recognized as the true disciples of him "who came not to be served but to serve," and who was among his disciples "as one who serves."

Strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, they are in service to the people of God, in communion with the bishop and his presbyterate. They should, therefore, consider the bishop as a father and give



Permanent Deacon Michael Thoennes, who assists at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Winsted, distributes the Eucharist as an ordinary minister.

assistance to him and to the priests "in the ministry of the Word, of the altar, and of charity." Let them never fail, "as the Apostle says, to hold the mystery of faith with a clear conscience, and to proclaim this faith by word and deed according to the Gospel and the tradition of the Church," in wholehearted, faithful, and humble service to the Sacred Liturgy as the source and summit of ecclesial life, "so that all, made children of God through faith and Baptism, may come together as one, praising God in the midst of the Church, to participate in the Sacrifice and to eat the Lord's Supper."

The deacon is called to serve in the liturgy, the Church's official gatherings of public celebration. The deacon proclaims the Gospel of Christ and is sometimes asked to preach a homily, he sanctifies through the sacraments, and helps lead the community in its religious life. He assists at the altar, distributes the Eucharist as an

ordinary minister, blesses marriages, presides over funerals, administers viaticum to the sick, and leads certain celebrations in the absence of a priest. Like other clerics, they also lead the public recitation of the Divine Office, commonly referred to as the breviary.

Because they receive the sacrament of Holy Orders, deacons are sent by Christ to serve God's people. They are called to do so out of the depths of an interior life centered in the Eucharist, which is the summit to which Catholics are called to find strength. They should also be fueled by a life of prayer, which proceeds action.

While deacons are usually known by and seen in this 'public' liturgical ministry, they use this strength in their ministries of the word and charity which will be discussed next month in the January issue of *The Prairie Catholic*.

## Lay leadership Parish Liturgy

Courtesy of the diocesan Offices of Worship and Religious Education/Adult Faith Formation, this is the fourth 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

Many talented individuals work throughout the year to put together all the details that are involved with the Mass which is at "...the center of the whole Christian life for the Church..." (GIRM, 16). There are those who schedule and train liturgical ministers, keep the sacristy in order, and enhance the church with seasonal decorations and many other tasks. Others are



Mary Bolek

more specialized as pastoral musicians of the parish. These people select music; prepare choirs, cantors, and instrumentalists; keep the instruments of the church in working order; and are there to serve for funerals, weddings, and weekend Masses as musicians or in other roles.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* points out that lay leaders "feel called, or are in fact called, to cooperate with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community, for the sake of its growth and life" (#910).

Mary Bolek describes her call to pastoral music in this way, "I had been involved in music in the church for years. I sang midnight Masses as an undergrad at St. Thomas Moore Center at Mankato State University.



Something always attracted me in the spiritual-music area." Mary taught music education and choral music for fourteen years and was led by a religious sister and a priest to think about serving the church. This led Bolek to serve as a pastoral musician in parishes in Wyoming, West St. Paul, Marshall, and now Church of St. Mary in Willmar. When asked what is most fulfilling in her position, Bolek mentions when the 'ah-has' are found during a liturgy. "There is nothing that compares to seeing and hearing members of an assembly being spiritually touched and knowing it."

Bolek notes that "finding the right key to unlock the sacred for the assembly" is the most challenging part of her work. "Our society imprints us against the sacred and finding those keys to the sacred get harder and harder. After many years, I have found the more simple; prepare the offering, the more vulnerable we become to the Spirit's leading."

She has advice for those individuals who feel they may be called to be a pastoral musician, but her words could apply to any ministry. "Don't have an agenda. Have tough skin, 'big ears' and a warm, open heart. Be prepared for the emotional and physical rigors of music ministry. Have adequate formation and look for the God-surprises that come daily. Be willing to grow in your spirituality and share that with others."

People like Bolek are working hard in the parishes so that liturgies are prayerful and meaningful. During this upcoming Christmas season, thank those who help to make it happen.

## And the 'charity of choice' is . . .

Greg Bushard of New Ulm recently presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the Office of Vocations of the Diocese of New Ulm. Upon Bushard's retirement, Kraft Foods of New Ulm donated \$1,000 on his behalf to any charity of his choice. Bushard chose to support the vocations and seminary training costs in the diocese. Thanks, Greg, for your generous support of the future of the Catholic Church!

Greg Bushard (left) is pictured with vocation team members Fr. Todd Petersen, Vocation's Director, and Bishop John LeVoi. Other team members not pictured: Fr. Craig Timmerman and Sr. Margaret McHugh.

(photo by Joan Weicherding)



## Prayers answered!

*portable Mass Kit on its way to mission parish in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala*



by Barb Garding, Spicer, MN

This summer, the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes K4J Vacation Bible School program collected pennies to purchase a portable Catholic Mass Kit for a newly ordained priest from the Diocese of Solola, Guatemala, who was assigned to the Diocese of New Ulm's mission parish in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. The project was named *Kids for Jesus Mass Kit Project*. A Mass Kit includes everything a priest needs to celebrate Mass.

The penny collection lacked funds to purchase the Mass Kit so a request for additional donations was placed in the Jesus Our Living Water Area Faith Community parish bulletins (Willmar, Kandiyohi, and

Lake Lillian). And, God provided an abundant answer!

The story begins long before the K4J Bible School program. A gentleman named Owen Heuring was married to his high school sweetheart, Darlene, in 1950. In February 2008, Darlene passed away. Being a man of deep faith, Heuring decided to buy a Mass Kit for a missionary priest in honor of his late wife, his cousin, Msgr. Alban Heuring, and the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes. Waiting for God to provide the missionary priest, he read in the parish bulletin about the *Kids for Jesus Mass Kit Project*. His prayers were answered.

But, more good news! The \$203 collected from the penny collection has also been given to the mission in San Lucas.

## St. Pius X youth group in action



Glencoe - The youth group of the Church of St. Pius X in Glencoe recently donated fleece tie blankets to the Glencoe Regional Health Services Ambulance Core. The blankets will be given to personnel for comfort during crisis situations. The funding for this project came from donations by the Knights of Columbus and the Crow River Snow Pros. The group also made blankets to be presented to babies when they are baptized. According to St. Pius X pastor, Fr. Anthony Stubeda, the youth group plans to continue this project as part of their yearly projects and events.

## Grandparents' Day at Holy Trinity Middle

New Ulm - Holy Trinity Middle School students celebrated Grandparents' Day on Wednesday, October 7. Students attended morning Mass with their grandparent(s) and/or other special adult(s) in their lives.

During the homily, Msgr. John Richter spoke about the special blessing that grandparents are. "Grandparents give us many gifts. The greatest gift they give us is the gift of our parents." He also reminded students of the important part grandparents play in our lives



Pictured is Michael Hoffman and his grandmother, Margie Hoffman, following the Grandparents' Day Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm.

by always being there to welcome us, love us, and support us. At the conclusion of the Mass, grandparents received a special

blessing. Following Mass, grandparents visited classrooms, played bingo, and joined students for lunch.

## Holy Redeemer receives CAF funding for new computers

Marshall - On October 19, the Catholic Aid Foundation (CAF) presented a check for \$500 to Holy Redeemer School to be used to help pay for new computers.

Pictured in the school's computer lab are: Paul Naumann,

CAF director, Dan Markell, CAF area representative, Fr. Paul Wolf, pastor of the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Carol Desmet, school principal, and Mike Bredeck, CAF north region manager.



## Community Formation Night at St. Gertrude's



Forest City - The public was recently invited to the Church of St. Gertrude's Community Formation Evening in Forest City. The evening was a slight twist of the usual religious education night. Instead of their 7:00 p.m. religious education classes, students were invited to a spaghetti dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by a presentation on the Catholic understanding of the relationship between science and religion or reason and faith. Younger children had the option of doing crafts. Mark Peterson, (pictured) a science teacher from the Dassel-Cokato School District and a parishioner of the Church of St. John in Darwin, was the presenter.

## ENING ALL AROUND THE DIOCESE

### New scholarship fund established to enhance religious education in diocese



Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr

**Springfield** - Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr of Springfield, the Diocese of New Ulm, and the Church of St. Raphael in Springfield are pleased to announce the establishment of a new scholarship fund for catechists.

The *Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr Catechist Scholarship Fund* has been established to benefit and enhance the quality of religious education at the Church of St. Raphael and in the Diocese of New

Ulm. The scholarship fund, named after the donors, takes a four-sided approach to provide scholarships for the benefit and enhancement of religious education.

That four-sided approach includes scholarships offered in the following areas: workshops and seminars, Faith Formation Days or comparable offerings, online courses, and Catholic college scholarships for degrees in church ministry and/or leadership.

The Mohr's passion for quality religious education has led them to fund each of these four areas with \$1,000 from September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2010. They have made provisions for this funding to continue for the next ten years and other provisions to continue the scholarship well beyond ten years.

Scholarships of up to \$2,000 will also be available through the Church of St. Raphael in addition to the diocesan-wide scholarships.

For application information, contact the diocesan Office of Religious Education or the Office of Catholic Schools (507) 359-2966.

Scholarship applications are available from the Church of St. Raphael by contacting Fr. Dennis Labat or Monica Simmons, (507) 723-4137. School principals and directors of religious education will also have application forms. Application deadlines for this first year will be January 15 and April 15, 2010.

Additional gifts to enrich this fund are always welcomed. For information contact Wayne Pelzel, Director of Development for the Diocese of New Ulm, (507) 359-2966.

### 125 years of faith and history at Beardsley parish



Parishioners of the Church of St. Mary in Beardsley gathered for a potluck and fellowship following the 125th Anniversary Mass November 8.

**Beardsley** - On November 8, 2009, the Church of St. Mary in Beardsley, a parish of approximately 177 parishioners, celebrated 125 years of history. Following the 10:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by the pastor, Fr. David Breu, parishioners enjoyed a potluck, which included fellowship and memories. There was a display of photo albums of present and past clergy, parishioners, and important events throughout the 125 years.

#### PARISH HISTORY

The Church of St. Mary was incorporated April 22, 1885. The

present church was built for \$15,595 in 1904. In a tragic fire in 1914, St. Mary rectory burned, including sacramental records before 1908.

A new rectory was constructed during the summer of 1915. The church was redecorated and the altar remodeled in 1924, and in 1926, the church basement was remodeled for parish use. A cyclone opened the roof on July 24, 1948, taking out three stained glass windows and the chimney. The church was remodeled in 1949, the basement in 1951, and extensive repairs were made to the church interior in 1969.

### Generations of friendships at St. Edwards



**Minneota** - Eighth grade students at St. Edward School in Minneota recently participated in a rewarding program with the elderly of the parish. The "special friends" program enables students to choose a special elderly member of the parish and develop a friendship by writing monthly letters and keeping their new friend updated with what is happening at their school and in their lives. Students visit their friend before each holiday with a little something they handcrafted in art class. The students also received pumpkins from St. Edward parishioner Kim Abraham which they decorated and delivered to their special friend. Pictured (l-r): (sitting) Tanner Thooft, Megan Evers, Kelsey Maeyaert, Josh Bot; (standing) Austin Buysse, Grant Abraham, Maggie Konold, Alaine Buysse.

### On the field they carry a football; off the field a "tune"

**Sleepy Eye** - The junior high football players from St. Mary's School in Sleepy Eye are not only learning the skills of the game "on the field" but "off the field" as well. Kevin Currans coaches these young men to be all around "good players" by teaching them that living out their faith life is important. They are actively involved with such ministries as lecturing, serving, ushering, and music. Pictured are some of the young men singing at a 5:30 p.m. Mass.



### Bishop LeVoir celebrates a school Mass in Mankato



**Mankato** - On September 11, Bishop John LeVoir celebrated a school Mass at Loyola Catholic School in Mankato. Following Mass, Bishop visited with William Schumacher, intermediate

principal; Bette Blaisdell, president and high school principal; and Sr. Mary Beth Schraml, SSND, elementary principal.



**Check out** your parish's contribution to the 2009 DMA!

**Visit: [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org)!**  
Updates will be made weekly.

*Prayer - Our Mission - Our Love*  
*Committed Parishioners - Active Leaders*

## U.S. bishops hold fall general assembly; numerous agenda items approved



**Baltimore** - The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved a pastoral letter on marriage, a document on reproductive technologies, and a proposed revision to the directives that guide Catholic health care services on November 17, the second day of their 2009 Fall General Assembly.

*Marriage: Life and Love in the Divine Plan*, the foundational document of the U.S. bishops' pastoral initiative on marriage, passed with 180 in favor, 45 opposed and 3 bishops abstaining. The final document can be found online at: [www.usccb.org/laity/LoveandLife/](http://www.usccb.org/laity/LoveandLife/).

A document on reproductive technologies, *Life-Giving Love in an*

*Age of Technology*, which addresses Catholic teaching on a range of infertility treatments, passed with 220 in favor, 4 opposed and 3 abstaining. The document looked at morally problematic procedures including in vitro fertilization, embryo adoption, sperm and egg donation and surrogacy and recommended therapeutic means that help a couple conceive through sexual intercourse rather than replacing the act itself.

The bishops also approved revision to the directive dealing with medically assisted nutrition and hydration of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services. The revised directive, which passed with 219 in favor, 4 opposed and 1 abstaining, takes into account elaborations on Catholic teaching by Pope John Paul II and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome predated by the current directives. It states more strongly the need to provide food and water even to patients in a persistent vegetative state.

### BISHOPS ELECT CHAIRS-ELECT OF FIVE COMMITTEES, MEMBERS OF CRS AND CLINIC BOARDS

The bishops also elected by simple majority the chairmen-elect of five committees: Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis was elected Chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocation; Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans was elected Chairman of the Committee on Divine Worship; Bishop Stephen Blaire of Stockton, CA, was elected Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN, was elected Chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; Archbishop José Gomez of San Antonio was elected Chairman of the Committee on Migration. Chairmen-elect serve for one year in this capacity before assuming the responsibilities as chairman of a committee.

The U.S. bishops also elected members of the boards of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). Bishop Kevin Boland of Savannah, GA, Bishop Denis Madden, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, Bishop Richard Malone of Portland, MA, and Bishop Joseph Cistone of

Saginaw, MI, were elected to the CRS board. Bishop Richard Garcia of Monterey, CA, and Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSPS, auxiliary bishop of Seattle, were elected to the board of CLINIC.

## John Jay researchers offer update on causes and context study

**Baltimore** - Researchers from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice presented an Interim Report on the Causes and Context Study on sexual abuse of minors by clergy at the November assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) held in November. The bishops called for the Study as part of their response to the sexual abuse crisis when they adopted the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002.

The Causes and Context research seeks to explain the rise in incidence of sexual abuse by priests in the late 1960s and 1970s and its subsequent decline after 1985. Karen Terry, PhD, the principal researcher on the Study, reported on the synthesis of information from several independent data sources that confirmed the explanation for this variation that was previously reported to the bishops. The Study involves gathering and analyzing archival research and collecting data from priests, psychologists, sociologists, and the U.S. bishops. Funding was provided by the USCCB, the National Institute of Justice, and several foundations.

The Causes and Context Study was pursued by the bishops in order to understand more fully the problem

of clergy sexual abuse and what needs to be done to keep children safe in the Church's care.

The completed Causes and Context Study is expected in December of 2010. Findings will be made public so that what the Catholic Church learns will benefit others working with youth in and outside of the Church. The Interim Report found that:

- Data on cases of abuse reported after 2002 reflect the same pattern of incidence found nationally – the rise of sexual abuse in the 1960s and the decline in the 1980s. There is no evidence that unreported cases will be brought forward that change the overall time frame of the problem.
- The pattern of deviant sexual behavior by clerics is consistent with several other behavioral changes in society between 1960 and 1990, including use of drugs, and an increase in divorce and criminal behavior.
- Clergy who as seminarians had explicit human formation preparation seem to have been less likely to abuse than those without such preparation.
- Diocesan responses to charges of abuse by clerics changed substantially over a 50-year period, with decreases in reinstatement and more administrative leave given to abusers in recent years.

## Catholic Charities now offering spiritual direction to any faith denomination

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm's strategic plan "To 2010 and Beyond" encouraged additional spiritual emphasis in all services that Catholic Charities provides. In response to these objectives from the Catholic Charities advisors and Bishop John LeVoir, Catholic Charities is now offering spiritual direction.

Catholic Charities counselor, Sr. Lois Byrne, PBVM, has completed her masters in Christian Spirituality and is completing her certification in spiritual direction.

James Keegan, SJ, a spokesperson for the Coordination Council of Spiritual Directors International, describes spiritual direction as "the contemplative practice of helping another person or group to awaken to the mystery called God in all of life, and to respond to that discovery

in a growing relationship of freedom and commitment."

Spiritual direction is available to anyone wishing to grow in their relationship with God and this service is appropriate for persons of any faith denomination. Spiritual direction is often ongoing with a director and a directee meeting approximately once a month. Others may have an immediate issue or

need for a more intensive but shorter spiritual journey. There are several trained spiritual directors in the diocese. In addition to offering this service, Catholic Charities will assist with connections to other qualified and available spiritual directors.

For further information contact Catholic Charities toll-free at 1-866-670-5163.

### Catholic Charities Counseling Services offered in

**Hutchinson, Marshall, New Ulm, and Willmar**

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



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

## USCCB nationwide health care reform effort supported by Bishop LeVoir

Bishop John LeVoir supports the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops nationwide health care reform effort. The diocesan Office of Social Concerns urges pioneers to contact Senators Klobuchar and Franken, and their representative, and urge them to

uphold policies against abortion funding, protect conscience rights, ensure affordable health coverage, and allow immigrants access to health care. A pre-written, instant e-mail to legislators is available at [www.usccb.org/action](http://www.usccb.org/action).



## from the desk of the DCCW President

by Jeane Appel

How can families better live the spirit of Advent and Christmas in their homes? The Catholic Church has designated the four Sundays preceding Christmas as Advent, a time to "prepare the way of the Lord" for his coming as our Savior. Advent is a time to readjust our priorities as we are called to teach by living our faith, both inside and outside the home.

The Council of Catholic Women do this through "supporting, empowering, and educating members in spirituality, leadership, and service; reaching out with Gospel values to meet the needs of Church and society." As a means to accomplish a segment of this mission statement, the Council of Catholic Women strive to emphasize the true meaning of Advent and Christmas - a season of spiritual preparation and celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Following are just a few suggested activities that your family can do to celebrate Advent and Christmas to its fullest:

**- Weekday Masses and Penance:** In the Eucharist we find the source and goal of our Advent preparation: Christ himself, whose sacrifice reconciles us with God (CCC no. 1426).

**- Advent Wreath:** It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its redeemer and represents the years of our waiting for his second and final coming.

**- Empty Manger:** When acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the person receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. On Christmas morning, "Baby Jesus" is placed in the manger on a comfortable bed of straw.

**- Jesse Tree:** This tree tells about Christ's ancestry through symbols.

**- The Christ Candle:** A large white candle decorated with symbols for Christ. Light it on Christmas Eve to show the "Light

of the World" has arrived and continue to light it on Sundays throughout the year as a reminder of our waiting for Christ.

**- The Mary Candle:** On December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, place a candle with a blue ribbon before a picture of the Blessed Virgin, whose "yes" to God enabled our Lord's coming. Lighting this candle can be a reminder to keep our own light of grace burning as a preparation for Christ's coming.

**- Christmas Cards:** Use cards that display the birth of Jesus and religious postage stamps.

**- Blessing of the tree:** This is a reminder that "the tree" relates to many aspects of our faith. St. Boniface stated, "The fir tree is the wood of peace, the sign of an endless life with its evergreen branches. It points to heaven. It will never shelter deeds of blood, but rather be filled with loving gifts and rites of kindness."

May you, and all you hold dear, be blessed with the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of his love this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

## Who will your nomination be? 2010 Woman of the Year sought

by Chris Heiderscheidt,  
DCCW 1st Vice President

Have you started thinking about your nomination for the 2010 Woman of the Year? Who will you nominate from your parish?

Every parish has a woman worthy of this award. However, she will only be chosen if she is nominated. The New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will again be presenting the Woman of the Year Award at the annual convention to be held at the Church of St. Aloysius in Olivia on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Just consider for a moment the women in your parish who are

always ready to say "yes" when called upon, who continually serve in your parish and lead by their example of service and faith.


Nomination forms can be obtained from your parish president. Each nominee will be judged on how she has carried on the mission of Christ in her family, her church, the community, and especially her involvement with the Council of Catholic Women.

Each nominee's name and parish are left off the form so that she is judged solely on her accomplishments. More than one name may be submitted. Names submitted in the past must be



resubmitted to be considered for the current year's award. Current CCW Diocesan Board Members and past recipients are not eligible. All recommendations are kept confidential.

The deadline for nominations is January 15, 2010. Don't delay! Send your nomination in early.


  
*All children and families*  
*of the Diocese of New Ulm*  
*are invited to join*  
**Bishop John M. LeVoir**  
*in a special*  
**Advent Prayer Service**  
*to help us focus on Advent and prepare for the*  
*true meaning of Christmas*  
**December 13, 2009**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Canby**

**St. Peter Church**


307 West 4th Street

**7:00 p.m.**

**Springfield**

**St. Raphael Church**

117 West Van Dusen Street



*Please bring the Baby Jesus figure*  
*from your home manger scene*  
*for Bishop LeVoir to bless during the service.*  
  
*In keeping with the gravity of the Advent season,*  
*family car services to bring "moulding candles"*  
*in the form of baby sleepers, garbs to clothe, or figurines*  
*that will be donated to St. Carol's Mission,*  
*Northridge, or Planet Services.*

## Home Missions

(continued from page 1)

theologian who addresses a different theme each month during the year-long program. Since January 2009, the University of Dayton has been helping by offering the programs online, which, Reising says, eliminates weather-related class cancellations.

Participants in both programs have the full support of New Ulm's Bishop John M. LeVoir. He says, "As the bishop of a rural diocese without a Catholic institution of higher learning, I am very pleased that, in collaboration with St. Mary's University and the University of Dayton, we can offer these programs for the enrichment of the Catholic faith of our lay leaders. They are called to continue the mission of Jesus in the family, the workplace, and society in general. Without the financial assistance from Catholic Home Missions, these programs would not be possible in our diocese, and we are so very grateful for the help." Both programs charge a modest

tuition, but grants are available for those individuals and parishes that cannot afford it.

Whether the participants use their experience to evangelize their parish or to enrich their own faith experience, Reising says, "they are more mindful of the mission of the Church and appreciate it as an undercurrent to whatever they are doing."

Refsland concludes, "I learned so much about my faith and about myself and all the things I need to work on to make myself more pleasing to God. I learned that I belong to a Church that has gone through so many trials and tribulations and has come out better and stronger. It's such an amazing journey!"

For further information in regard to any of these lay ministry programs, contact the Catholic Pastoral Center in New Ulm, (507) 359-2966; or visit [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org).

## 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.

### Timeline for the Implementation of the Roman Missal

by Ann Przybilla

Many people have asked when the revised translation of the Roman Missal from Latin into English will be implemented in parishes. This is a hard question to answer because nobody really knows for certain. The United States bishops have completed their work on the final sections of the Missal. The next step is approval from the Holy See. Once it is approved, publishers will need at least a year to prepare the new books.

It is the right and duty of the baptized to participate fully in the Mass (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 14). We should take ownership in educating ourselves about the Mass. To do this, you can watch for further articles on liturgy here in *The Prairie Catholic* or in your parish bulletin, or review the new translation at [www.usccb.org/romanmissal/](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/). This preparation is important so that when we are at Mass we are "not there as strangers or silent spectators; on the contrary, through a good understanding of the rites and prayers

(we should) take part in the sacred service conscious of what (we) are doing, with devotion and full involvement" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 48).

The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship has launched a new Web

site to help educate Catholics about the forthcoming English translation of the new Roman Missal. Visit ([www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal)).

*Next Month: Liturgical Prayer Texts: Specific Changes.*

### U.S. bishops complete work on translation of Roman Missal

**Baltimore** - The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voted to approve the last five pieces of the English translation of the Roman Missal during the November 17 session of the annual Fall General Assembly. Bishop Arthur Serratelli of Paterson, NJ, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship, called the bishops' completion of their years-long work on the Missal "historic."

The bishops approved the Proper of Saints with 195 in favor, 23 opposed and 4 bishops abstaining. The bishops approved the Commons with 200 bishops in favor and 19 opposed. They

approved the Roman Missal Supplement with 203 in favor, 15 opposed and 3 abstaining. They approved the U.S. Propers with 199 in favor, 20 opposed and 1 abstaining. They approved the U.S. Adaptation to the Roman Missal with 199 in favor, 17 opposed and 1 abstaining.

These items will now go to the Vatican for *recognitio*, or approval, which Bishop Serratelli said is expected sometime in 2010. Once the new translation is approved in its entirety, the materials for its implementation at the parish level will be ready in approximately a year.

## Evangelization retreat connects youth to their faith



Hispanic youth from around the diocese gathered November 8 for a day of worship, faith, and fun.

Close to eighty students and adults participated in the New Ulm Diocesan Hispanic Youth Evangelization Retreat on Sunday, November 8, 2009, at the Renville High School in Renville. The day provided an occasion to meet other Hispanic youth and young adults from across the diocese. The theme was *Compromiso/Alianza – Commitment/Covenant*.

Although it was a day of fun and games, it also served as an opportunity for the youth to learn

to work in small faith communities and organize their own youth gatherings in their parishes. The retreat was also an opportunity to engage the Hispanic young people, inviting them into a more active, enthusiastic, and influential participation in the life and mission of the Church. The day was facilitated by the group, La Pastoral Juvenil Latina (The Latino Youth Pastoral), from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

## Young voices needed for All-State Honor Choirs

The Minnesota Catholic Education Association (MCEA) is putting together the first Catholic All-State Honor Choirs to convene August 23, 2010, in Duluth in conjunction with the MCEA Convention: *We Are People of HOPE!* Participating students will experience choral singing with students from other Catholic communities from across Minnesota as well as work with noted conductors such as Dr. Axel Theimer, professor of

music at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict, Teri Larson, the director of music at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis and a director of numerous honor choirs, and Dr. Patrick O'Shea, professor of music at St. Mary's University and a noted composer. For more information, contact Ann Przybilla or visit [www.mncatholiced.org/Catholic%20All-State%20Honor%20Choirs.htm](http://www.mncatholiced.org/Catholic%20All-State%20Honor%20Choirs.htm).

## All Saints Day Mass at Holy Redeemer

On October 29, the third graders at Holy Redeemer School in Marshall helped to plan the All Saints Day Mass. A skit was performed by six 3rd grade students about one of the newest saints, St. Damian of Molokai. Courtney Toulouse and Jackson Hughes read the skit; Daniel Bauer played the part of Saint Damian and Meredith Bock, Kelsey Boerboom, and Chino Nwakama played the part of lepers.

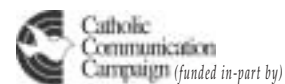


The 1st and 2nd grade classes made saint crowns and wore them to the Mass (pictured above).

### Tune in for Bishop John LeVoi's Advent/Christmas Messages

KNUJ Radio (860 AM)  
Daily through Advent  
approximately 7:30 a.m.

KDUZ Radio (1260 AM)  
Daily through Advent  
approximately 8:05 a.m.



## Who's learning Spanish these days?



This fall, Bishop LeVoi met for 1 1/2 hours each day for two weeks at the Catholic Pastoral Center in New Ulm with Sr. Caridad Ina, an instructor of a Speaking Spanish Program based out of the Centro Internacional de Recursos, CIRIMEX, in Guadalajara, Mexico.

*(photo by Joan Weicherding)*

Over the years, a number of priests from the Diocese of New Ulm have studied Spanish at the Centro Internacional de Recursos, CIRIMEX, in Guadalajara, Mexico.

This fall, Sr. Caridad Ina, CHM, Ph.D., Executive Director of CIRIMEX, arrived in the Diocese of New Ulm to instruct a Speaking Spanish Program.

According to Sr. Anna Marie Reha, SSND, director of the diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry, the program is designed to teach how to activate the Spanish-speaking speech muscles, pronounce Spanish vowels and consonants correctly, as well as where to place accents.

When Sr. Caridad was in Minnesota, Bishop John LeVoi and four priests of the diocese, Fr. Steve Verhelst, Fr. Ronald Huberty, Fr. James Devorak, and Msgr. Douglas Grams, took on the challenge of the Speaking Spanish Program studying with Sr. Caridad for an hour and a half each day for two weeks.

Learning a second language is not easy, but the Hispanic community is extremely grateful for this effort that demonstrates hospitality and respect for their culture and language.

Eloina Carrillo, a Spanish speaking member of the Church of St. Andrew said, "It is a wonderful gesture of welcome and acceptance that Fr. Huberty was willing to take the time and energy to begin to learn Spanish. It means a whole lot to us, the Spanish speaking community of Fairfax."

Currently, there are seven parishes in the diocese that offer a Sunday Mass in Spanish. Sr. Anna Marie Reha commented that she is often questioned why it is so important to have a Mass in Spanish, "Some Catholics are newer immigrants and speak little English. Others may use English in their places of work but speak Spanish in the home because it expresses their culture and and is their language of intimacy and relationship. It is their 'heart language.'"

She continued, "The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic lives and it is important that all peoples can enter into this great mystery with their whole heart, mind, and soul. Spanish speaking Catholics are very grateful to be able to worship in their own language."

**GOOD SHEPHERD SERRA CLUB** - meets Thursday, December 3, at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference room, Sleepy Eye, beginning with rosary and Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by program and lunch. Come early for Eucharist Adoration. This month parents of our diocesan seminarians, share their experiences - John and Sharon Illikman of New Ulm, and Russ and Deb Blaschko of North Mankato. Everyone welcome. Call Mike or Annette Rohlik (507) 747-2181.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY DECEMBER 8** (Holy Day of Obligation)

**SPRINGFIELD NATIVITY PAGEANT** - will be held December 11 and 12, with one performance each evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. See the nativity come to life at this annual outdoor presentation. Local actors bring the sights and sounds of the Christmas story, with Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus in a live manger scene, with real camels, dancing angels, and more. Christmas music will be sung by the community choir. Following the show, refreshments will be served at the Springfield Community Center.

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DECEMBER 12.**

### Televised Catholic Mass schedule for the Diocese of New Ulm

**KEYC-TV, Ch. 12, Mankato**  
Sunday, 7:30 a.m.

**EWTN**  
(Eternal Word Television Network)  
(Galaxy 17, Transponder 11)  
Sunday Mass Live, 7:00 a.m.  
Daily Mass Live:  
Monday - Saturday, 7:00 a.m.

#### Catholic Radio

**Catholic Radio Weekly**  
KLQP-FM 92.1 - Madison/Dawson  
Sunday, 5:30 p.m.

#### Radio Rosary

KMHL 1400 AM - Marshall  
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. and  
Monday-Saturday, 6:10 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

**UPCOMING RIVERBEND TEC (TOGETHER ENCOUNTERING CHRIST) WEEKENDS** - January 16-18, 2010, in New Ulm. Cost: \$60. Contact Fr. Dennis Labat, (507) 723-4141; or email: riverbendtec@newulmtel.net.

**VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 24.**

**NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) DECEMBER 25** (Holy Day of Obligation)

### VIRTUS Sessions (Safe Environment Training for the Diocese of New Ulm)

**2009**  
December 1 at 6:30 p.m. in Arlington  
December 12 at 9:30 a.m. in Olivia

**2010**  
January 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Morgan  
February 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Marshall  
February 20 at 9:00 a.m. in Watkins  
March 20 at 9:30 a.m. in Arlington  
April 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Hutchinson  
May 8 at 9:30 a.m. in New Ulm (St. Mary's)

For information in regard to VIRTUS, contact your local parish or Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of New Ulm.



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### Cycle 1:

**Jan. 10- Feb. 13**

\*\*Registration closes Jan. 6, 2010.

- Catholic Beliefs
- Church and Communication
- Church History 1
- Conscience
- Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
- Ecumenism
- Faith and Human Development
- Foundations and Visions for Adult Learning and Faith Formation
- Images of Jesus
- Introduction to Catechesis
- Introduction to Liturgy
- Introduction to Media Literacy Education
- Introduction to Practical Morality
- Introduction to Prayer
- Letters of Paul
- On Bended Knee (Seminar)
- Our Hearts Were Burning (Seminar)
- Overview of the GDC & NDC (Seminar)
- Pastoral Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation
- Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World
- Sacraments
- Scripture: Introduction
- Scripture: New Testament
- Scripture: Old Testament
- Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities
- Survey of Catholic Doctrine
- Vocation, Spirituality, and Discipleship of Catechists

Sponsored by The Institute for Pastoral Initiatives of the University of Dayton, (<http://vlc.udayton.edu/>), and the Diocese of New Ulm ([www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org)). Contact Bryan Reising, diocesan Director of Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation (507) 359-2966; [breising@dnu.org](mailto:breising@dnu.org).

## 50th Anniversary History Book MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!



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Un Pueblo Amoroso en un Lugar Santo*

# THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 4 December 2009



Today  
a great light  
has come  
upon the  
earth.

## catholic trends

**Pope Benedict XVI has named** Bishop Jerome E. ListECKI of La Crosse, Wisconsin, 60, as Archbishop of Milwaukee, and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 51, as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana. He also accepted the resignation of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, 77, from the pastoral governance of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese. The appointments and resignation were publicized in Washington, November 14, by Archbishop Pietro Sambi,

apostolic nuncio to the United States.

**Pope Benedict XVI will focus on the connection between protecting the environment and working for peace** in the message he will publish for World Peace Day in 2010, the Vatican said.

The theme the pope has chosen for the January 1 celebration is "If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Safeguard Creation." The papal message will underline the fact that protecting the natural

environment is a challenge all people must face together, recognizing they have an obligation to respect a gift God created for all. The Holy Father also wants to emphasize how the "current ecological crisis" is impacting the entire world and, therefore, requires international action to resolve it.

The Holy Father intends his World Peace Day message to be a further development of the four paragraphs on the environment included in his encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth").

In his encyclical, published in early July, Pope Benedict said, "The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility toward the poor, toward future generations and toward humanity as a whole."

While the encyclical focused on development, and therefore discussed the need to share natural resources equitably and not exploit those found in poor

countries, it also insisted there is a connection between environmental protection and peace.

**A worldwide celebration of Masses December 9** will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, as well as promote his cause for canonization. The St. Paul Seminary in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, will celebrate the Archbishop Sheen Memorial Mass at 11:35 a.m. in St. Mary's Chapel. Masses have been scheduled in 35 countries on six continents.

Bishop John M. LeVoiR joins bishops from around the U.S. by being part of the the Episcopal Advisory Board for the Cause for Beatification of the Servant of God Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Fulton Sheen (1895-1979) was a universally popular evangelist, radio/TV personality, writer and missionary. In 2002, his cause for beatification and canonization was officially opened by the Diocese of Peoria, IL, Sheen's birthplace. The Sheen Foundation is the official promoter of the beatification cause. Visit [www.archbishopsheencause.org](http://www.archbishopsheencause.org) to learn more and how to help the Cause.

