

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 23 No. 8 April 2009



Please give generously
in your parish April 25-26.

Parishioners across the United States will have the opportunity to help their fellow Catholics in rural America - from the Deep South to the Mountain West - live out their faith under difficult circumstances.

The **2009 CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL** is scheduled nationally for the weekend of April 25-26. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal is administered by the Committee on the Home Missions, a division of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information contact the Secretariat for the Home Missions at (202) 541-5400; visit www.usccb.org/hm.

April designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month in parishes, dioceses

Washington - Child Abuse Prevention Month will be marked this month in parishes and dioceses around the United States.

To assist church groups, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection has developed resources in English and Spanish to facilitate activities to highlight the need for prevention efforts.

They include posters, liturgical guides, articles on church efforts to

reach out to abuse victims and to protect children, and bulletin announcements. All materials may be downloaded for use locally.

The materials are available on the USCCB Web site at www.usccb.org/ocyp/april_cap_month_2009.shtml

The USCCB Child and Youth Protection Secretariat has made care for minors a key priority and spearheaded nationwide safe environment programs. Through these programs, more than five million minors already have been educated on how to protect themselves from harm and almost two million adults have undergone background screening and training on appropriate relationships with youth in their care.

"There are few things more important than protecting our children from harm," said Bishop Blase Cupich of Rapid City, South Dakota, Chair of the USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People.

"Child abuse in our society is rampant and we are called to do what we can to stop it. Children are gifts entrusted to us by God. All responsible adults must protect the life and dignity of those gifts. Child Abuse Prevention Month deserves our attention in both prayer and action." (*courtesy of www.usccb.org*)

→ See page 8 to read about how the USCCB is being proactive in creating a safe environment for our children and youth.



Staff training relevant during Child Abuse

Prevention Month The Catholic school administrators of the Diocese of New Ulm and additional school staff from various Catholic schools participated in the Minnesota Department of Health psychological first aid training last month in New Ulm. The training offered suggestions for practical assistance and coping skills in helping individuals dealing with the emotional impact of a traumatic event. Those attending learned to recognize the signs and symptoms of stress within individuals, as well as strategies in helping others to increase their resilience from stress. The event was co-sponsored by the New Ulm Diocesan Offices of Schools and Catholic Charities.

(photo by Sr. Mary Charles Mayer, RSM)

INSIDE

Page 3

Seminarians installed to ministry of acolyte

Page 4

Catholic Charities welcomes new advisors to staff

Page 5

Chrism Mass April 2 in Spicer

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Bishop LeVoir to lead *Way of the Cross* on Good Friday

New Ulm, MN - The observances of Holy Week and Easter Sunday are at the heart of the Christian faith. However, unique to the Catholic community is the spiritual pilgrimage reenacting the historic events of Christ's suffering and death in Jerusalem. The *Way of the Cross*, a devotional tradition dating back to the Middle Ages, is a series of stations that represent various scenes in the Passion of Christ.

On Good Friday, April 10, at 3:00

p.m., Bishop John LeVoir will lead a public prayer and meditation on the fourteen Stations of the Cross, walking along the pathway marked by lifelike images portrayed in statuary, that retell the story of Christ's trial, crucifixion, and death. People of all faiths are invited. Other times to attend will be: 1:00 p.m. led by the local Knights of Columbus; and 2:00 p.m. and again at 4:00 p.m. led by either Msgr. John Richter or Fr. Mark Steffl from the Cathedral of

the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. The *Way of the Cross* is a shrine of the Diocese of New Ulm located at 1420 5th North Street in New Ulm (above the New Ulm Medical Center).

The shrine, which celebrated its centennial in 2004, includes the Sorrowful Mother Chapel and statuary and housing for the fourteen Stations.

The Knights of Columbus have

been committed to the maintenance and restoration of the *Way of the Cross* through countless hours of volunteer service and fund-raising activities.

In case of inclement weather, the penitential devotions will be cancelled and announced in your local parish or media.

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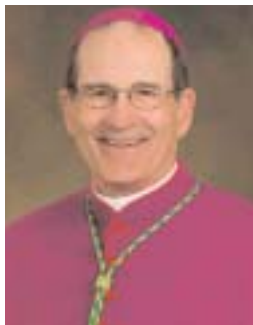
Bishop John M. LeVoir, team leader;

Fr. Todd Petersen, director; Fr. Craig

Timmerman, associate director;

Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP,

vocation awareness



Bishop John M. LeVoir

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the last three days of Holy Week called the Sacred Triduum. There are no more beautiful and meaningful liturgies than Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday. By celebrating these holy days, we immerse ourselves in the saving Passion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As Pope Benedict has said: "These are fitting days for reawakening within us a deeper desire to adhere to Christ and to follow him generously aware that he loved us to the point of giving his life for us" (April 12, 2006).

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate "The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper." There are three key elements in this liturgy. One is the institution of the Holy Eucharist. During the Last Supper, Our Lord celebrated the Passover with his Apostles. But when he took bread

and said, "This is my body," and when he took wine and said, "This is my blood," he changed the meaning of that meal. It was the first Mass.

As the first Mass, it was a sacred banquet in which the Apostles ate the Body of Christ (under the appearance of bread) and drank the Blood of Christ (under the appearance of wine). It was the presentation beforehand of Our Lord's suffering and death on the cross. In order that this sacred banquet and sacrifice be perpetuated throughout the ages, Our Lord made the Apostles the first priests. He did this when he said to them: "Do this in memory of me." The priesthood is the second key element celebrated in the Holy Thursday liturgy.

The third key element celebrated on Holy Thursday is Our Lord's example of love for neighbor. "So, during supper ... he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist" (Jn 13:2-5). Pope Benedict commented on this action of Christ by saying: "...he left us the 'new commandment' – 'mandatum novum' – of brotherly love with the touching gesture of the washing of the feet, which is reminiscent of the humble service of slaves" (April 12, 2006).

Holy Thursday concludes with

Eucharistic Adoration. After the Last Supper, Our Lord and the Apostles went out to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Our Lord was to experience his agony. As the Apostles were asked by Christ to "Remain here, and watch with me" (Mt 26:38), so are we to remain in the church in Eucharistic Adoration and prayer, keeping company with Our Lord.

On Good Friday, the Church celebrates the Lord's Passion. This is done with a unique liturgy during which the Passion of Our Lord is proclaimed, petitions for the needs of the Church are recited, the Cross is venerated, and Holy Communion is received. The celebrant and the congregation sing: "This is the word of the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world. Come, let us worship." Good Friday: "... is a day of fasting and penance, completely oriented to contemplation of Christ on the Cross" (Benedict XVI, April 12, 2006). Good Friday concludes by remembering that Joseph of Arimathea: "After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried" (Lk 23:53).

Holy Saturday/Easter is the celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection from the dead. "But at daybreak on the first day of the week, they [the women] took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone

rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus." However, they did see angels, who said to them: "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised" (Lk 24:1-8).

The Holy Saturday liturgy or Easter Vigil is the most glorious of all liturgies because it celebrates Our Lord's Resurrection. The Easter fire is lit; the Exsultet and Gloria are sung; the new Holy water is blessed; new members are welcomed into the Catholic Church, their hearts full of joy; the Eucharist is celebrated; and Alleluias are sung. To celebrate the Easter Triduum is to be spiritually renewed and refreshed.

Still, Pope Benedict reminds us: "...for a fruitful celebration of Easter, the Church asks the faithful in these days [before Easter] to receive the sacrament of Penance, which is like a sort of death and resurrection for each one of us. Preparing oneself for Easter with a good confession continues to be an action to make the most of, because it offers us the possibility of giving our life a fresh start and of truly having a new beginning in the joy of the Risen One and in the communion of the forgiveness that he gives us" (April 12, 2006).

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

BE NOT AFRAID

"The Easter Triduum"

Bishop's April Calendar

1 Springfield: 10:00 a.m. St. John Lutheran Home. Mass.

2 Spicer: 7:00 p.m. Church of Our Lady of the Lakes. Chrism Mass.

5 Morgan: 11:00 a.m. Church of St. Michael. 100th Anniversary of the Catholic School.

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

St. Paul: 6:00 p.m. Archdiocesan Chancery. Seminarian Dinner.

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

10 New Ulm: 12:30 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Good Friday Service.

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

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

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

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

15 New Ulm: 7:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Confirmation.

18 Marshall: 5:00 p.m. Church of the Holy Redeemer. Confirmation.

19 Silver Lake: 9:30 a.m. Church of the Holy Family. Confirmation.

Hutchinson: 1:00 p.m. Church of St. Anastasia. Confirmation.

19-23 Buffalo: Christ the King

Retreat Center. Annual Priests' Retreat.

23 St. Paul: 1:00 p.m. St. Paul Seminary. Board of Trustees Orientation.

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

24 New Ulm: 12:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Mass.

(continued on page 4)

Priest obituaries



Rev. Bernard P. Schreiner

Reverend Bernard P. Schreiner died March 15, 2009, at the age of 92. The Mass of Christian Burial was March 21, 2009, at the Church of St. Anthony in Watkins with burial at St. Anthony Cemetery in Watkins.

Fr. Schreiner was born March 19, 1916, in Watkins, MN. He was ordained at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul, MN, on June 6, 1942, for the Archdiocese of St. Paul by Archbishop John G. Murray. Following ordination he served as associate pastor of the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul and the Church of St. Matthew in St. Paul. He served as pastor of the Church of St.

Anthony in Regal, the Mission of St. Patrick in Kandiyohi, and the Church of St. Peter in Eden Valley. Fr. Schreiner continued his priestly ministry in the Diocese of New Ulm when it was established on November 18, 1957, and served as pastor of the Churches of St. Joseph in Rosen, St. Raphael in Springfield, St. Thomas in Sanborn, St. John the Baptist in Searles, St. Eloi in Ghent, and SS. Cyril & Methodius in Taunton. Fr. Schreiner served numerous organizations throughout his years of ministry, especially noted as Chaplain to the All Saints Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Faithful Friar to the Bishop Grace Assembly of KC's. He was a faithful supporter of the Council of Catholic Women.

Fr. Schreiner retired from active ministry on June 15, 1990, and served as Chaplain at Divine Providence Hospital and Home in Ivanhoe from July 1990 until March 1996. He resided in Cold Spring and Watkins in retirement.



Rev. Celestine C. Pistulka

Reverend Celestine C. Pistulka died March 16, 2009, at the age of 78. The Mass of Christian Burial was March 23, 2009, at the Church of St. Mary in Seaforth, MN, with burial at St. Mary Cemetery, Seaforth.

Fr. Pistulka was born June 13, 1930, in Seaforth, MN. He was ordained at

the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul, MN, on June 2, 1956, for the Archdiocese of St. Paul by Archbishop James J. Byrne.

Following ordination he served as associate pastor of the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm. He continued his priestly ministry in the Diocese of New Ulm when it was established on November 18, 1957, and served as pastor of the Churches of St. Mary in Bechyn, St. John Cantius in Wilno, Immaculate Conception in St. Peter, St. Mary in New Ulm, St. Anthony in Watkins, Our Lady of Victory in Lucan, St. Michael in Milroy, St. Mathias in Wanda, and Holy Name in Vesta. Fr. Pistulka served as senior associate pastor at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall.

In addition to parish ministry, Fr. Pistulka was Diocesan Moderator of the Council of Catholic Women from 1985 until 1994.

In 1994, he received the Diocesan Distinguished Service Award (DDSA) for his *dedicated service to the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. . . and for priestly commitment as pastor and advisor to the bishop as well as continual support of diocesan programs.*

Fr. Pistulka retired from active ministry on June 19, 2002, and had been living at Divine Providence Community Home in Sleepy Eye since his retirement.

Ministry of acolyte received by two seminarians of diocese

Two seminarians from the Diocese of New Ulm recently were installed as acolytes.



Jacob Niemand

Jacob Niemand currently in Theology II at Saint Meinrad School of Theology, St. Meinrad, IN, was installed on February 10, 2009, by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Niemand is the son of Carleton and Patricia Niemand of Montevideo, MN.

Aaron Johannek, currently in Theology II at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, was installed March 15, 2009, by the His



Aaron Johannek

Eminence Edmund Cardinal Szoka, Archbishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Detroit. Johannek is the son of Thomas and Constance Johannek of Wabasso, MN.

An acolyte is appointed to assist a deacon or priest, primarily in the celebration of Mass. He attends to the needs of the altar and may distribute Communion as an auxiliary minister. He also may be entrusted with the public veneration of the Blessed Sacrament but does not give the Benediction, since he is neither a priest nor a deacon.

Religious jubilees



Sister Betty Gits, CSJ, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, in 1944, and is celebrating her

65th Jubilee this year.




Sister Marie Grossman, CSJ, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1944, and is celebrating her

65th Jubilee this year.

Sister Betty began serving in the Diocese of New Ulm in 1967. She worked at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall for seven years and at the Church of St. Raphael in Springfield for four years. She then served at the Church of St. Thomas, Sanborn, for seven and a half years. After retiring from pastoral administration, Sister Betty moved to Minnesota and volunteered at the parish and the nursing home for four years. Sister Betty currently resides at the St. Joseph Provincial House in St. Paul, MN.

Sister Marie served the Diocese of New Ulm beginning at the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm for one year. She then went to the Church of St. Joseph in Lamberton where she served as a parish administrator for eleven years. She moved to Gaylord with her sister, Agatha, who is also a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, where they taught English as a second language to the Hispanic population for eleven years. Sister Marie currently resides at Bethany Convent in St. Paul, MN.



The 2008 Diocesan Ministries Appeal continues its growth. As of March 25, 2009, pledges to the annual Appeal have grown to \$1,200,916.83. To date, the Appeal has generated approximately \$1,053,275.22 in cash. Using pledges to the Appeal as the guide, a long list of parishes have already reached their goal. A number of these parishes have significantly surpassed their goal, enabling them to fund parish projects. To review your parishes DMA contribution or view the 2008 DMA video, visit the New Ulm diocesan Web site at www.dnu.org or contact Wayne Pelzel at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, (507) 359-2966; wpelzel@dnu.org.

Hope for Years to Come
Esperanza para los Años Venideros

Catholic Charities welcomes new advisors to their staff



Bishop John LeVoir (seated) and the Catholic Charities staff of the Diocese of New Ulm recently welcomed two new advisors. They are: (standing l-r) Sr. Carole Freking, OSF and Dr. Margaret "Meg" Dwyer Lee, LP.

(photo by Joan Weicherding)

Dr. Margaret "Meg" Dwyer Lee, LP, and Sr. Carole Freking, OSF, have joined the Catholic Charities Advisory Committee of the Diocese of New Ulm. They come to Catholic Charities with a variety of experiences and perspectives, and are committed to the Catholic Charities mission of providing help and creating hope.

Dr. Dwyer Lee is a licensed psychologist providing therapy at the Woodland Centers Mental Health Clinic in Willmar. She and her family are members of the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer. Dwyer Lee has volunteered extensively in her parish as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and nursing home visitor, as the president of the parish Council of Catholic Women chapter, and as a faith formation teacher and "hall angel" for the parish Faith Formation Program.

Sr. Carole Freking is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family (OSF) and the pastoral administrator of the Church of St. Clara in Clara City. Sr. Carole is a member of the pastoral team and the RCIA Coordinator for the Holy Family Area Faith Community, which includes Granite Falls,

Montevideo, and Clara City. She is also a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and, as such, she will represent the Catholic Charities Advisory Committee and programs as a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

As Bishop LeVoir shared comments at the annual planning meeting, he thanked Sr. Carole and Dr. Dwyer Lee for their willingness to serve the diocese as advisors to Catholic Charities in addition to all of their other contributions to the Church and their parish faith communities.

Bishop LeVoir joined staff in recognizing the service of all the advisors and, especially, outgoing advisors, Sr. Marie Donahue, SSND & LICSW, from Our Lady of Good Council, and Quinn Buchtel, LICSW, clinical supervisor for Kandiyohi County Family Services. Other members of the Diocese of New Ulm's Catholic Charities Advisory Committee include: Barb Dietz, LSW, from New Ulm, Noel "Chuck" Koenigs, MSW-LICSW, from Benson; Cindy Nelson, LSW, from Ghent; Fr. Paul Schumacher from Wilno; and Sue Serbus, MSW-LISW, from St. Peter.



No Tengas Miedo

El Triduo Pascual

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Todos están invitados a participar en los tres últimos días de Semana Santa denominados el Triduo Sagrado. No hay nada más hermoso y significativo que las liturgias del Jueves Santo, Viernes Santo y Sábado Santo / Domingo de Resurrección. Al celebrar estos días santos, nos sumergimos en la gracia de la Pasión, Muerte, Entierro y Resurrección de Nuestro Señor y Salvador, Jesucristo. Como el Papa Benedicto ha dicho: "Estos son días de adecuación para volver a despertar en nosotros un profundo deseo de adherirnos a Cristo y seguirlo generosamente conscientes de que él nos amó hasta el punto de dar su vida por nosotros" (12 de abril del 2006).

El Jueves Santo, se celebra "La Misa Nocturna de La Última Cena". Existen tres elementos fundamentales en esta liturgia. Una de ellas es la institución de la Eucaristía Santa. Durante la Última Cena, Nuestro Señor celebra la Pascua con sus Apóstoles. Pero cuando él tomó el pan y dijo: "Esto es mi cuerpo", y cuando él tomó el vino y dijo: "Esta es mi sangre", él cambió el sentido de esa comida. Fue la primera misa. El sacerdocio es el segundo elemento clave celebrado en la liturgia del Jueves Santo.

El tercer elemento clave celebrado el

Jueves Santo es el ejemplo de Nuestro Señor de amor por el prójimo. "Hicieron la cena...se levantó mientras cenaba, se quitó el manto, se ató una toalla a la cintura y echó agua en un recipiente. Luego se puso a lavarles los pies a sus discípulos y se los secaba con la toalla" (Jn 13:2-5). El Papa Benedicto comentó sobre esta acción de Cristo diciendo: "... él nos dejó el 'mandamiento nuevo' - 'mandatum novum' - del amor fraterno mediante el gesto del lavado de los pies, que recuerda el humilde servicio de los esclavos" (12 de abril del 2006).

El Viernes Santo, la Iglesia celebra la Pasión del Señor. Esto se hace con una única liturgia en la que la Pasión de Nuestro Señor es proclamada, se recitan peticiones por las necesidades de la Iglesia, se venera la Cruz, y se recibe la Sagrada Comunión. El celebrante y la congregación cantan: "Esta es la madera de la cruz, en la que colgó el Salvador del mundo. Venid, adoremos." "Viernes Santo": "... es un día de ayuno y penitencia, totalmente orientado a la contemplación de Cristo en la Cruz" (Benedicto XVI, 12 de abril del 2006). Viernes Santo concluye recordando que José de Arimatea: "Habiéndolo bajado de la cruz, lo envolvió en una sábana y lo depositó en un sepulcro cavado en la roca, donde nadie había sido

enterrado aún." (Lc 23:53).

El Sábado Santo / Pascua es la celebración de la Resurrección de Nuestro Señor de entre los muertos. "Pero al amanecer del primer día de la semana, ellas [las mujeres] tomaron las especias que habían preparado y se dirigieron a la tumba. Encontraron la piedra rodada fuera de la tumba, pero cuando entraron, no encontraron el cuerpo del Señor Jesús." Aún, ellos vieron ángeles que dijeron: ¿por qué buscan entre los muertos al que vive? No está aquí. Resucitó" (Lc 24:1-8).

La liturgia de Sábado Santo o Vigilia Pascual es el más glorioso de todos los actos litúrgicos, ya que celebra la Resurrección de Nuestro Señor. El fuego Pascual es encendido; el Exsultet y el Gloria son entonados, la nueva agua bendita es bendecida; nuevos miembros son bienvenidos en la Iglesia Católica, sus corazones llenos de alegría, se celebra la Eucaristía, y se cantan Aleluyas. Celebrar el Triduo Pascual es estar espiritualmente renovado y refrescado.

Que la luz de Cristo, creciente en la gloria, disipe las tinieblas de nuestros corazones y nuestras mentes.

Bishop's calendar (continued from page 2)

24 Springfield: 4:30 p.m. Church of St. Raphael. NUDCCW Pre-Convention.

25 Springfield: 9:00 a.m. Church of St. Raphael. NUDCCW Convention.

Granite Falls: 4:30 p.m. Church of St. Andrew. Confirmation.

26 West Newton Township: 12:00 p.m. Church of St. George. 50th Anniversary of Ordination to

the Priesthood for Fr. James E. Moran.

Sleepy Eye: 3:00 p.m., St. Mary's School. Junior High Festival.

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

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

Renville: 3:30 p.m. Renville Nursing Home. St. Francis Health Services Informational Meeting.

29 Silver Lake: 1:00 p.m. Church of the Holy Family. School Mass.

Watkins: 7:00 p.m. Church of St. Anthony. Confirmation.

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; Grief Services; and Immigration and Legalization Services.



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.

Investing in our youth a great investment

Springfield, MN - Most people are apprehensive to invest in stock in today's market. There are too many variables and loss seems inevitable. But the Work Camp Team of the Church of St. Raphael in Springfield is selling stock that might change lives.

The team, made up of eleven youth and four adults, is raising funds for a week of Catholic Heart Work Camp in June 2009. They hope to give friends an opportunity to invest in people vs. products. They have been selling stock since January and this is a new venture for a work camp team. In the past, they have sold everything from soup to nuts.

Selling stock in yourself is a fresh idea to the area and exists for many reasons. "As we talk to people about investing in our experience, we hope to also involve the parish and local community in seeing youth and service as vital parts to our family. Stock sales not only take youth to camp but they also connect the investors to a priceless investment, the youth and their lives." stated M. J. Simmons, the formation/youth coordinator at St. Raphael's. "Buying stock in a human being reminds us that we are one Body in Christ and that we have

opportunities to invest in people each day."

Catholic Heart Work Camp has many week-long Catholic service camps. Springfield, with other area parishes, is going to Wishawaka, IN, for the week of June 14-19, 2009. Work camp teams will serve at women's shelters, homeless shelters, food pantries, low-income homes, elderly, disabled, and possibly at boys and girls clubs in the area.

Stock sales will continue with Stockholder Gatherings, a Talent/Dessert celebration, and each stockholder will receive notes and letters before, during, and after camp. Call (507) 723-4138.

Children, Youth, and Friends of St. Raphael, Springfield, presents

With One Voice

Sunday, April 19, 2009
7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Contemporary choirs and praise/worship styles.

Friends and local supporters of the choirs will present their own original music and even a few surprises. Freewill offering towards the music ministries with children and youth.

All are welcome. Call Monica at (507) 723-3462.

Bishop to bless sacred oils at annual Chrism Mass on April 2

The Mass of Chrism is held once a year in the diocese. This year, it will be held at the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

During this special Mass, Bishop John LeVoir will bless the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism - the first being used for adult catechumens and infants, the second for anointing the sick, and the Sacred Chrism for Baptism, Confirmation, ordination of bishops and priests, and the consecration of altars. The bishop is the only minister in the diocese who may consecrate the Sacred Chrism. This Mass also highlights his ministry and the members of the diocese's union with him.

Another element that takes place at the Chrism Mass is the Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service. Because of the intimate link between the oils in the sacramental



Confirmation candidate Daniel Garding of the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer, MN, was recently anointed with the Sacred Chrism by Bishop John LeVoir.

life of the Church and the ministry of its priests, an essential part of the celebration is the renewal of commitment to priestly service by the presbytery of the diocese. The ordained, in the presence of the assembly, ask for God's help to remain faithful to their consecrated mission to serve the people of God.

Lastly, the Mass of Chrism gathers

the faithful of the diocese with their shepherd to prepare for celebrations of Christ in all our churches throughout the year. RCIA candidates and catechumens are especially encouraged to attend the Chrism Mass to witness the blessing of the oils that will be used to initiate them into the Church at the Easter vigil.

Lamberton receives \$730 grant to cover cost of replacing microphone equipment

When St. Joseph parish in Lamberton discovered last summer that the problem with its cordless microphone would not be able to be repaired, they experienced a dilemma: how to find \$730!

At the same time, the parish had been made aware that parish grants were offered through Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) for liturgical needs. The simple form was filled out asking for the \$730 needed. Since the grant recipients would not be announced until spring of 2009, the matter was eventually forgotten.

In February, St. Joseph's pastoral administrator, Sr. Judi Angst, received a letter. To her delight it was from John J. Limb, OCP publisher, announcing that Archbishop John Vlazny and the Board of Oregon Catholic Press were awarding St. Joseph parish a check in the amount of \$1,000 to assist in the effort to "enhance their community's liturgy and music." The parish was one of sixty-nine chosen out of nearly 400

applications from parishes large and small across the United States. The check has been received and the parish will now be able to substantially improve its sound system.

Delighted to have received the \$730 check are Martin Meidl, choir director and microphone "expert" at St. Joseph, and Sr. Judi Angst, pastoral administrator of St. Joseph.



From Gaylord to Uganda, Africa!



St. Michael's youth in Gaylord decided to send their "money jar" collection of over \$250 to the Noah's Ark Orphanage in Uganda, Africa, so that they could have a special Christmas. A St. Michael's parishioner currently lives and works at the orphanage and keeps the children informed with letters and pictures of the daily lives and activities of the children in the orphanage.

Employment opportunities

Highly qualified principal for the 2009-2010 school year, beginning July 1 at St. Michael School, Morgan, MN, a pre-kindergarten - six grade; accredited with MNSAA. A master's degree is preferred or the willingness to work towards the degree is necessary. Salary based on experience and qualifications. Send credentials and letter of interest to: Ms. Theresa Bisek, Principal, 612 West Third Street; P.O. Box 459, Morgan, MN 56266-0459;

(507) 249-3192; principalbisek@hotmail.com.

Director of Liturgy, RCIA, and Adult Faith Formation at St. John Vianney Church, Fairmont, MN. Music background preferred but not required. Applicant should have a bachelor's degree or higher in liturgy, theology, or related field. Contact: Fr. Kevin Connolly, 901 South Prairie Avenue, Fairmont, MN, 56031; (507) 235-5535; email: sjv-frkevin@midconetwork.com.

Minnesota Catholic Conference education department visits the Capitol



Diocesan Education representatives (l-r) Marty Frauenheim, Al Foley, Karla Cross (New Ulm Diocesan Director of Schools) and Linda Kaiser, gathered in the Minnesota Catholic Conference office near the capitol prior to going to the state office building to meet with state lawmakers.

St. Paul, MN - The Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC) arranged an opportunity for members of its Education Department to visit with key Minnesota legislative leaders to discuss issues of importance to Catholic school students, parents, and educators across the state. Largely comprised of diocesan school superintendents and members of their staff, the MCC Education Department met with five lawmakers to discuss parental choice in education, special education, early childhood, and transportation issues. This is the third consecutive session that the MCC has arranged for education department members to meet with lawmakers. Each of the participating lawmakers has a

leadership role in their respective caucuses and serves as party leader in education and finance committees. In sum, these are the lawmakers who wield much power and influence in the legislature.

Those in the Minnesota Catholic Conference delegation included Karla Cross-New Ulm; Cynthia Zook-Duluth; Linda Kaiser-Saint Cloud; Dan Hollenhorst-Saint Cloud; Al Foley-Crookston; Marty Frauenheim-Saint Paul & Minneapolis; P.J. Thompson-Winona; and Christopher Leifeld and Pete Noll-Minnesota Catholic Conference. Department members were able to ask poignant questions and received very thoughtful responses from lawmakers, making

for a rich, productive dialogue.

According to Karla Cross from New Ulm, "The day at the Capitol was a busy day as the legislators were being approached by many groups and attending committee meetings. Even though this is a difficult time for them as they grapple with the deficits, their willingness to listen to the issues facing Catholic schools was appreciated. It was often surprising how we began addressing one issue with a legislator and yet another issue arose opening new opportunities for possibly addressing the improvement of providing equity in student educational services

within Catholic schools." Cross went on to summarize her reflections of the day by saying that it, "...reinforced the need for constituents to express their concerns with their legislators - others are being heard and the needs of the students within the Catholic schools need to be heard, too."

In summarizing the day, MCC executive director Chris Leifeld said, "These meetings can and should have a positive impact on advancing our work in trying to assist the children, parents, teachers and principals who are members of our Catholic school communities across

our state. Our schools are already schools of excellence and we want to be able to see them serve their communities for future generations. The in-kind programs such as special education services and pupil transportation augment the parent's ability to enroll their child in the school that best suit their individual needs."

At the end of the day, more doors were opened and opportunities created for the MCC to advance its education agenda with the support and assistance of these lawmakers.

(photo/story courtesy of Minnesota Catholic Conference)

New MCEA Certification Consultant hired



Minnesota Catholic Education Association (MCEA) Executive Director, Dr. Peter Noll, announced the hiring

of **Alma Richard, M.S., M.A., CLEM**, as the new MCEA Certification Consultant for the state of Minnesota. Richard will assist the six dioceses in guiding accepted lay ministers through the process of being certified either as Catechetical Leaders or as Youth Ministry Leaders. Until recently Richard served as the director for the Office

of Youth and Family Life for the Diocese of Winona, a position she held for the past fourteen years. She herself received certification as a Lay Ecclesial Minister in Youth Ministry Leadership in the Master's category in 2005. She has served on both the Winona Diocesan Review Committee and the Minnesota State Certification Review Board from 2005-2008.

The MCEA Certification process is certified by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Certification and

Accreditation. Candidates seeking the credential apply for and move through the process in their own dioceses. The Dioceses of Crookston, Duluth, New Ulm, St. Cloud, and Winona have fully implemented the process and are accepting applicants for certification. The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is not accepting applications for certification at this time. Richard can be reached at (605) 635- 6322; cell: (507) 450-8835; e-mail: arichard50@gmail.com

Charitable Gift Annuity - a better investment when it comes to your return

by Wayne Pelzel
Director of Gift Planning
for the Diocese of New Ulm

Dissatisfied with 1.4% or 2.7% return on investments you're now getting? Would you like to nearly double your investment return and provide a charitable gift for your church, school, or diocese at the same time? The Charitable Gift Annuity may be just what you're looking for.

The Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) will provide a guaranteed lifetime income for the lifetimes of one or two people. It will also provide you with a more favorable tax treatment. The guaranteed income is based on a

fixed percentage (determined by the donor's age) of the original donation, while the tax deduction is determined by the charitable gift. At your death, the balance of the gift annuity issued by the Catholic Community Foundation would be used to benefit your favorite parish, school, or the diocese. See the illustration (*to the right*) or contact me at the Diocesan Pastoral Center; phone: (507) 359-2966; email: wpelzel@dnu.org.

YOUNGER THAN 65? Consider the Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity. The return will be even better and the tax deduction could be very helpful at this stage of your life.

Support your parish or the Diocese of New Ulm and Receive a Guaranteed, Lifetime Income - Rates of 5.4% - 10.5%



A Charitable Gift Annuity uses your gift to provide you with a guaranteed income for the rest of your life with annuity payment rates of 5.4% to 10.5%

Six reasons to set up a charitable gift annuity

With a CCF Charitable Gift Annuity, you'll be assured of:

- A lifetime annuity income
- A guaranteed, fixed annuity payment rate
- Your choice of monthly, quarterly, or annual checks
- Immediate income tax benefits
- Possible future estate tax benefits
- Support for your parish, school, or diocese

TABLE OF ANNUITY RATES: CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Rates Effective July 1, 2008. - Minimum Gift \$10,000. Rates in effect at the time your annuity agreement is signed will apply to your contract.

ONE-LIFE		TWO-LIVES (Joint/Survivor)	
AGE	% RATE	AGES	% RATE
65	5.7%	65/65	5.4%
70	6.1%	70/70	5.8%
75	6.7%	75/75	6.0%
80	7.6%	80/80	6.6%
85	8.9%	85/85	7.4%
90+	10.5%	90/90	8.7%

For information call:
Wayne Pelzel
Director of Gift Planning
Diocese of New Ulm
507-359-2966; wpelzel@dnu.org

Catholic Community Foundation

Annual Bishop Lucker Lecture opportunity to welcome back native priest 'Stewardship' theme of evening presentation

by Christine Clancy, co-editor
The Prairie Catholic

"Stewardship is not some program or method that we try to sell. Stewardship is a relationship with our Creator, based on the gift of faith."

This was the primary message of the March 12, 2009, lecture given by native Bishop John McRaith, retired Bishop of Owensboro, KY, during the annual Bishop Lucker Lecture held in Hutchinson, MN. The event, originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2009, was rescheduled two days later due to inclement weather. Fortunately, this did not disrupt Bishop McRaith's schedule as his plans were to remain in the area for a few days.

For many of the approximately 300 in attendance, this year's lecture also served as a time to meet up with a long-time friend. Bishop McRaith is not only a Hutchinson, native, but also a former priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, and the first and only priest from the diocese to be named a bishop.

During his hour lecture, *Planting the Seeds of Stewardship*, Bishop McRaith explained to his audience that although it is a challenge to be a good steward, one should consider it a "great gift to be called by God to be a steward of his gifts."

"Looking at life through the lens of stewardship gives a unique picture of how we relate to God, our neighbors, ourselves," he said. "It is something we have to learn from our faith. It does not just happen."

Bishop McRaith said that realizing that good stewardship is a big part of being a disciple of Christ helps us understand who God is, who we are, and who our neighbor is. "In that, stewardship is about relationships," he said.

Several years back, the bishops of the United States issued a pastoral letter entitled, *Stewardship - A Disciple's Response*. Bishop McRaith served on the writing committee for this document. During his lecture he talked about how this statement was released at a time when dioceses, large and small, were running short of money and in the process of downsizing.

"Now, twenty years later, we are facing even more financial problems," he stated.

However, Bishop McRaith continued, "When it comes to carrying out the mission of the Church to bring the *Good News* of the love of God to the people, it's hard to see how downsizing is the answer," he said.

"If all understand the call to share what we have been so freely given, the needs of the Church and all the needs of the people will ultimately be met."

According to Bishop McRaith, a key element in the discussion about the bishops' letter on stewardship was do we put out a pastoral letter to attempt to raise quick money, or do we present stewardship as a part of our faith life, part of our ongoing conversion experience?

It was decided to take the latter, slower answer to the problems that faced the Church at that time - problems that seem even worse today. "The quick fix had been the answer for too long. We needed an answer that would truly change peoples' lives. Stewardship was the answer then and it is the answer today," he said.

Bishop McRaith encouraged that, "We must always be teaching the truth of discipleship and stewardship as our youth receive their religious education in their homes. Children and adults must be taught about



stewardship because active, conscious stewardship has not been part of our tradition."

He continued, "Catholics seem to be asking, 'What does the Church need to carry out its mission?' The real question is, 'What has God given to you and me that we need to steward according to God's will?'"

"Faithful stewardship is not a matter of the Church needing money, or the hungry needing food, or the captives needing to be set free. The poor must be the first priority. The issue is that you and I are called every

day and every hour to be generous in sharing God's gifts of time, talent, and material resources.

"If all understand the call to share what we have been so freely given, the needs of the Church and all the needs of the people will ultimately be met."

The complete text of Bishop McRaith's lecture can be found on the New Ulm diocesan Web site at www.dnu.org. A copy can also be obtained through the diocesan Office of Communications, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; (507) 359-2966.

Former priest of the Diocese of New Ulm and a Hutchinson native, Bishop John McRaith took the time to reminisce with friends and brother priests prior to his talk March 12 at the Hutchinson Event Center.



(photos by Christine Clancy)

Youth of diocese invited to attend April 26 Jr. High Festival

by Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP

St. Mary's School in Sleepy Eye, MN, will host the main diocesan event for middle school youth when the Junior High Festival is held on April 26, 2009. Youth in grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited to participate.

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and includes Sunday Mass with Bishop LeVoir. The Diocesan Youth Council will emcee and animate the event. Amanda Vernon will be singing a brand new song, dedicated to the youth of our diocese, "Keep It Fresh!"

Guest speakers include Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnson (originally from Tyler, MN) of Oddwalk Ministries; Amanda Vernon from Joyful Noise

Ministries in Grand Rapids, MI; Julie Carleton from NET Ministries in West St. Paul; and Fr. Craig Timmerman of the Church of St. Mary, New Ulm.

The cost for youth is \$17 for the day if registered by Thursday, April 16, or \$20 after that date. Chaperone cost is \$10 and \$13 after April 16. Lunch and snack are included.

To register, contact your local youth minister or the Office of Youth Ministry at (507) 359-2966; cblickem@dnu.org.

Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP, is director of the Office of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of New Ulm.

USCCB Charter shows increased spending on sex abuse prevention in 2008

Washington - Dioceses spent more than \$23 million nationwide in 2008 to prevent child sexual abuse, an increase of two million dollars from 2007. The figures are part of the 2008 Annual Report on the Implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/annual_report2008.shtml).

This sixth annual report also found that virtually all U.S. dioceses and eparchies are compliant with the 17-point *Charter*, which was adopted by the U.S. bishops in 2002. Most recent reports of abuse concerned alleged offenses from 1965-74, 35 to 40 years ago, and most alleged offenders are dead or out of the ministry.

The report is produced under the direction of the National Review Board, chaired by Judge Michael Merz. It includes the audit results of 188 of the 195 dioceses and eparchies in the United States as well as data collected for calendar year 2008 by the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) in its *Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs*.

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that the bishops hope that with child abuse protection activities, "new ways are being found to improve not only the safety of children in the care of the Church, but also the safety of all children in society.

"By our prayers, actions, and dedication to protect children, we are working to make the world safer for all young people. We and the Church are on the right path." More than 99 percent of people who were required to participate in safe environment training programs did so. The report noted that meeting the requirements of Article 12 of the *Charter*, which governs safe environment training, has many challenges "ranging from data management to training the trainers." Nevertheless, 5,513,259 or 96.6 percent of the children received

safe environment training by June 30, 2008, and 1,446,156, or 98.8 percent of volunteers underwent background checks.

Last year, dioceses received ten new credible allegations of abuse to persons still under 18 years of age. CARA reported that in 2008, more old cases came to light as 620 victims made 625 allegations against 423 offenders. Most incidents took place decades ago, most frequently in the 1970-74 period. Most victims were male and a little more than half were between the ages of 10 and 14 when the abuse began. About 23 percent were younger than age 10. About 83 percent of the offenders among diocesan clergy are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized or missing. About 60 percent of those identified offenders in new allegations in 2008 had been identified in previous allegations.

A total of 16 priests or deacons were returned to ministry in 2008 based on resolution of allegations made during or prior to 2008. Money expended in relation to the abuse crisis decreased, though it is still substantial.

"The total allegation-related expenditures by dioceses, eparchies, and clerical and mixed religious institutes decreased by 29 percent between 2007 and 2008 after increasing in each of the previous three years," CARA reported. Dioceses, eparchies and religious institutes paid a total of \$374,408,554 in settlements. Two dioceses and five eparchies refused to participate in the audit process. They include the Diocese of Baker, Oregon; Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska; Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle-Chaldean, in Southfield, Michigan; Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle-Chaldean in El Cajon, California; Eparchy of Newton for Melkites, in Roslindale, Massachusetts; Eparchy of St. Josephat for Ukrainians in Parma, Ohio; and Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance-Syrians in Union City, New Jersey.

All dioceses and eparchies, except

Lincoln, participated in the CARA Survey, a 99 percent response rate. Among clerical and mixed religious institutes, 160 out of a possible 219 participated for a 73 percent response rate. The overall response rate for dioceses and religious institutes was 86 percent, the highest response rate ever reached for this survey.

Audits were conducted by The Gavin Group, Inc., a Boston-based firm founded by former FBI agent William Gavin and overseen by the USCCB Secretariat for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Secretariat was created in 2002 by the bishops to address the clergy sexual abuse crisis.

Only four dioceses were found non-compliant with one or more of the *Charter* articles at the time of the audit. The Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma, fell short of Article 12, which stipulates conditions for safe environment programs. The dioceses of Lansing, Michigan; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Archdiocese of San Francisco, also were non-compliant at the time of their audits,



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 explotado sexualmente por un clero y necesita hablar con alguien sobre abuso, explotación 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.

but became compliant before the report was completed.

The National Review Board made four recommendations:

1. Expand audits to include parishes.
2. Continue, through the annual audit, to examine policies and practices of dioceses/eparchies related to background evaluations and safe environment training of international priests.

3. Make contact information for victim assistance coordinators readily available and easily obtainable by the public.
4. Ensure that persons responsible for *Charter* implementation in the diocese/eparchy possess the necessary skills and receive the resources and cooperation of all diocesan/eparchial personnel.

(continued on page 9)

Testimonials calling for 'conscience protection' posted on USCCB Web site

A doctor, a nurse, and two medical students gave testimonials on the importance of conscience protection in the medical field in four videos now available on the Web at www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection. Their testimonies are part of an effort by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urging Catholics to tell the Obama Administration to retain Health and Human Services regulations governing conscience protection for health care workers.

Giving her testimonial in English and in Spanish, Sally Sanchez, R.N. of Provena Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, IL, said of the nursing profession, "As part of our every action, I have to make a decision. Here I draw on my education, my life's experience, and my

conscience." She added, "If our government will not respect my right to follow my conscience, I can't be the kind of professional

Your Voice is needed to help protect the conscience rights of health care providers. Visit the New Ulm Diocesan Web site at www.dnu.org for a link to a letter that can ensure your voice will be heard!

you want at your bedside." Myles Sheehan, M.D., who practices internal medicine and geriatrics, spoke of the responsibilities of his field, noting that he and his colleagues "hold the extraordinary power of medicine in our hands."

"We depend on our conscience for guidance as we work with our

patients. For years, our government has recognized the importance of protecting conscience in a democratic society, especially in the field of medicine where human lives hang in the balance," said Dr. Sheehan, who is also a Jesuit priest.

Medical students Michael and Kathryn Redinger of the Stritch School of Medicine at

Loyola University in Chicago mentioned the Hippocratic Oath to do no harm to their patients. "We'll rely on conscience so we never violate this oath," said Kathryn.

These videos can be found along with other USCCB resources and a link to contacting Health and Human Services at www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection.

from the
desk of the DCCW President



Jeane Appel

Only one year ago, our beloved Pope Benedict XVI visited the U.S.A. bringing his message of *Christ Our Hope*. Do we still feel that "hope" in our hearts?

It is difficult to keep the message of hope alive when the news is bombarding us with reports of "doom and gloom" – declining economy, loss of jobs, retirement accounts dwindling, more homeless people, tragic loss of lives. How can we keep the message of hope alive?

The Council of Catholic Women offers all women of the diocese an opportunity to enkindle the message of hope through prayer, enrichment,

and fellowship at the 50th Annual Council of Catholic Women Convention to be held Saturday, April 25 at the Church of St. Raphael in Springfield, MN. This year's convention theme is taken from 1 Peter 5:9.... *"Be Steadfast in Faith."*

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., beverages and rolls will be served; General Assembly will start at 8:30 a.m.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Edward Sri who will address the topic "Praying the Rosary Like Never Before: Mary, the Rosary and the New Mysteries." Dr. Sri is a nationally-known Catholic speaker who appears regularly on EWTN and is the author of several best-selling books. He is provost and professor of theology and Scripture at the Augustine Institute's Master's in Evangelization and Catechetics program in Denver, CO, and regularly writes and speaks on Scripture, marriage, and the Catholic faith. He holds a doctorate from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He resides with his wife, Elizabeth, and

their five children in Littleton, CO. Other highlights of the Convention include: a silent auction from 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.; booths and displays; the 2009 "Council of Catholic Woman of the Year" award presentation given to an outstanding member of the diocese; as well as Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. LeVoir with Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, CCW Diocesan Moderator, and visiting priests concelebrating. The Mass collection will help support a scholarship for the Natural Family Planning program offered through the Diocese of New Ulm. Following lunch and social time, the afternoon will feature an opportunity for Catholic Q & A with Msgr. Eugene Lozinski.

The Convention will conclude at 2:40 p.m. with closing prayers for vocations and drawings for door prizes. For registration information, contact your parish Council of Catholic Women president.

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

Council of Catholic Women - a good neighbor at home and abroad

by Maureen Bernardy

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto me." This can be an inspiration for all of us. Whatever good deeds we do for others we are really doing for Christ. What an inspiration for us!

Lent is a good time for women of the parishes throughout the Diocese of New Ulm to help the needy financially around the world and in our country.

The diocese's mission parish of San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala is one place where your help is appreciated. Msgr. Greg Schaffer, a priest from the diocese who has served the mission parish for over forty years, is busy with many projects helping the Guatemalan community. One

project is the Women's Center which gives the women a place to go for fellowship, and to learn to make breads, jellies, etc., for their own home use. It also gives the children an opportunity to play together and learn.

Other San Lucas projects include the Water for Life Project, Library Project, land purchase, Sponsor-A-Child, Medical Clinic, and the General Mission Project wherein the mission uses monetary support where it is most needed. Donations can be mailed to the San Lucas Mission Office, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073.

The mission parish also appreciates our purchase of Juan Ana coffee grown by the local coffee growers to help make them self-sufficient. The

coffee can be purchased on the Web site of www.juananacoffee.com, by calling the San Lucas Mission Office (507) 359-2966, ext. 304, or email: khuebert@dnv.org.

Catholic Relief Services reaches out to the suffering throughout the world needing food, shelter, medical care, and education. For further information about Catholic Relief Services contact them at 228 West Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201; Web site: www.crs.org. May the Lord bless you in all of your projects that are making our world a better place to live.

Maureen Bernardy is the NUDCCW International Commission chairperson and a member of the Church of St. Mary, Seaforth.

50th Annual Convention

New Ulm Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women
Saturday, April 25, 2009
7:30 AM - 3:00 PM



"Be Steadfast in Faith"

1 Peter 5:9
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Edward Sri
PRAYING THE ROSARY LIKE NEVER BEFORE:
Mary, the Rosary and the New Mysteries
"Silent Auction" "Friendship" "Catholic Q & A"
Church of St. Raphael
Springfield, Minnesota

USCCB Charter

(continued from page 8)

Judge Michael Merz noted an increase in the number of dioceses that extended audits to selected parishes and said this "can provide bishops with important management information on the implementation of the Charter."

He also noted that "the number of dioceses and eparchies refusing to be audited increased from five to seven." Previously the National Review Board expressed concern for the Diocese of Lincoln, which has consistently refused to be audited. "However, the Bishop of Baker in Oregon also declined to be audited because he has declined to have safe environment training for children in the diocese. The Board and the USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People have spent much effort over the past two years supporting safe environment training by offering professionally developed suggestions for that work. We continue to believe that safe environment training is very important to protecting children. We hope the Conference will encourage open dialogue on any reservations bishops may have about this part of the Charter implementation."

(courtesy of www.usccb.org)

Upcoming Safe Environment sessions

In an effort to comply with the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth People, the Diocese of New Ulm maintains a "safe environment" program. All employees in the diocese, as well as volunteers who work unsupervised with minors, are required to attend a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training session.

Parents and other interested parishioners are also welcome to attend at any scheduled site. The introductory VIRTUS session is attended once. Follow-up training for employees and volunteers is done online annually or quarterly depending on one's status as determined by the diocesan safe environment coordinator. This is the third year of the VIRTUS program.

UPCOMING SESSIONS ARE:
April 25, 2009, 9:30 a.m. at St. John, Appleton; and
May 19, 2009, 6:30 p.m. at St. John, Ortonville.

WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE

the sacrament of Marriage



by Bryan Reising, director
Office of Religious Education/
Adult Faith Formation

How many times have we experienced a joyful occasion like the wedding of a man and woman who may be a relative or a close friend? It is a special time to celebrate as they unite in the sacrament of Marriage. We read in the Gospel of John, that Jesus joined the celebration of Marriage of some friends or family in Cana. Like Jesus, we celebrate, but we also pray for the couple. In this day and age where many marriages end in divorce, we as a community of faith pray for this couple and support them in their vocation. How can we support their vocation? How can we enrich marriages so that God is, indeed, the center of their relationship?

A VOCATION

Marriage and family life is a vocation, a call from God. We have heard repeatedly that all vocations begin with the family. Married couples are witnesses first to each other, but also as parents to their children. Their call is to be witnesses and to teach the faith to their children through prayer, devotions, faith traditions, life in general, and teachable moments. Some parents take their role so seriously that they teach the faith to their children in an organized way, whether the children are home schooled or not. Part of these teachings or teachable moments is to share with their children how God calls everyone to holiness, but in a variety of ways. Some are called to be single, some to the priesthood, some to the religious life, and by the parents' own

Editor's Note: *The Prairie Catholic, with the assistance of the diocesan Office of Worship and the Office of Religious Education, continues the series, What Catholics Believe. This 7-part series will explain the sacramental system in the Catholic Church and explore the specific purpose and characteristic of each of the Seven Sacraments.*

example and words, they teach about marriage and family life every day.

PREPARATION

Like all sacraments, preparation for this sacrament and for the vocation of Marriage is very important. It really begins with remote preparation in the family: in childhood, during adolescence, and into young adulthood. Then as a man and woman approach the Church for the sacrament of Marriage, immediate preparation is to take place. The New Ulm diocesan Marriage Preparation Program complements preparation at the parish level. The program coordinator and a team of married couples give presentations, followed by times for reflection and discussion. The themes are commitment, communication, conflict, children, career, and church. These six C's include information about the sacramental meaning of marriage, intimacy and sexuality, conflict resolution, forgiveness, addictions, natural family planning, parenting, finances, work and leisure, prayer and spirituality, and interfaith marriage. For further information about the Marriage Preparation Program, contact Chris Loetscher at the diocesan Office of Family Life and Social Concerns, (507) 359-2966; cloetscher@dnu.org.

THE NUPTIAL MASS OR SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Normally, the sacrament of Marriage happens in a Mass setting, otherwise known as the nuptial Mass. It can happen outside of Mass as well, but certain elements are to be incorporated within this

sacrament. First, the ministers of this sacrament are the bride and groom. The priest is the official witness that guides the sacramental process. Two other witnesses are required as well. The ritual includes the marriage vows, the openness to children and raising them in the faith, the rings, and the kiss of peace. Within the Mass setting, this happens right after the homily.

The community of faith can help support this couple through prayer, action, and presence. In addition, there are guidelines for music and what is to be done liturgically so that it truly is a faith-filled celebration. For further information about the nuptial Mass contact Ann Przybilla at the diocesan Office of Worship, (507) 359-2966; aprzybilla@dnu.org.

CONTINUING THE MARRIAGE JOURNEY AND THE FAMILY

Regarding the continuing journey of marriage and family, daily prayer and communication help the relationships to grow in Christ. In addition, there needs to be time for the married couple. Perhaps the couple can go on a date or take time for a walk or a short trip to talk, to listen, and to pray. Worldwide Marriage Encounter provides weekend retreats for married couples (www.wmesection8.org/cgi-bin/wmme-weekends.cgi). Books like the *Five Love Languages* by Dr. Gary Chapman can really open up communication skills and help with understanding each other. A recent resource to help communication is the DVD, *Fire Proof*, now available from the diocesan Media Resource Center, (507) 233-5330; jweicherding@dnu.org.

R.C.I.A. - a step closer to the Catholic initiation rites

New Ulm - On Sunday, March 8, 2009, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Bishop John LeVoir celebrated the Rite of Election with ten catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion with forty-two candidates from the Diocese of New Ulm. This celebration is one of many rituals that take place as part of the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) as a step toward the initiation rites of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation that will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil in the parishes around the diocese.



During the celebration, the Bishop signs the Book of Elect and affirms each candidate's readiness to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

(photos by Christine Clancy)



Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* (Christopher West has summary books on this theology) can help the couple reflect upon how their marriage is a reflection of God's love. The married couple needs to be intentional about these opportunities so that their relationship can deepen.

Yes, there will be times that the relationship may seem like a desert moment. If these moments are troublesome and continue to put stress on the relationship, couples should seek help. One great resource is the *Retrouvaille* retreat (for local contacts: <http://www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php>).

A great resource for all married couples is the following Web site set up recently by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/>.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AND MARRIAGE

The mission of the Church is to evangelize. No matter what vocation a person has, it is every baptized person's role to proclaim the Gospel, the very person of Jesus, and his saving deeds. For the married couple, they do this through their witness of life, through their acts of charity and justice, through their involvement with the Church, through their role as parents passing on the faith to their children, and through their love of each other, exemplifying how God loves us!

The next time we witness a wedding, let us celebrate this vocation of love that has just begun!

Upcoming Events

GOOD SHEPHERD SERRA

CLUB will not hold an April meeting due to the Chrism Mass on April 2 in Spicer, MN.

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 5

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 9

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION - APRIL 10

VIGIL OF EASTER - APRIL 11

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 12

SAINT PAUL AND THE DIVINE MERCY OF GOD WEEKEND

CONFERENCE - Friday, April 17 - Sunday, April 19, at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph the Workman, La Crosse, WI. Registration form can be found at www.dioceseoflacrosse.com

NEW ULM DIOCESAN JUNIOR HIGH FESTIVAL - April 26, 11:00

a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye, MN. To register contact New Ulm Diocesan Youth Ministry Office, (507) 359-2966; cblickem@dnu.org.

UPCOMING NEW ULM

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE

PREPARATION PROGRAM - May 2 or September 12 at the St. Aloysius Education Center in Olivia, MN. Program is designed specifically for engaged couples and is an opportunity to explore and strengthen relationships. Contact diocesan Family Life Office, 1400 6th St. N., New Ulm, MN 56073; (507) 359-2966.

SIGNING OF THE PASTORAL

COVENANT - On May 3, Bishop John LeVoir and Bishop Jon Anderson bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, (ELCA) will be signing a Pastoral Covenant focused on evangelization and helping the faithful grow in their faith lives. The covenant will be signed during a 4:00 p.m. prayer service at the Church of St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye. All are invited to this ecumenical event. Call (507) 359-2966.

YOUNG WOMEN'S

DISCIPLESHIP CAMP 2009 - for junior and senior high school girls. Begins 9:30 a.m. on June 11 - ends 5:00 p.m. on June 12 at the Center for Youth Ministry near Renville, MN. Cost: \$50 by May 23; \$60 after. To register contact diocesan Youth Ministry Office, (507) 359-2966; cblickem@dnu.org.

YOUNG MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

CAMP 2009 - for junior and senior high school boys. Begins 9:30 a.m. on June 18 - ends 5:00 p.m. on June 19 at the Center for Youth Ministry near Renville, MN. Cost: \$50 by May 23; \$60 after. To register contact diocesan Youth Ministry Office, (507) 359-2966; cblickem@dnu.org.

RIVERBEND TEC (TOGETHER ENCOUNTERING CHRIST)

WEEKEND - June 27-29, 2009, at Bird Island, MN, or August 1-3, 2009, at Winsted, MN. Three days

filled with a series of talks, discussions, reflection time, special liturgies, recreation, and time to socialize. Anyone who is at least 16 years old or a junior in high school is eligible. Cost: \$60. This retreat is part of the youth ministry provided by the Diocese of New Ulm. Contact Fr. Dennis Labat, (507) 723-4141; or riverbendtec@newulmtnl.net

5TH ANNUAL HIGH GROUND MUSIC FEST - August 14-15, in

Winsted, MN. Featuring artist Third Day, Jeremy Camp, Mark Schultz, Kutless, Disciple, Stellar Kart, and Esterlyn (and many more...). Visit www.hgmusicfest.com for ticket information or call Echo Ministries at (952) 924-3246.

An opportunity for deepening understanding and enrichment of your faith!



An internet based E-learning initiative for adult faith and catechist formation anytime and anywhere.

Cycle 3: April 19-May 9 (seminar only)

- Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan
 - On Bended Knee
 - Our Hearts Were Burning
- [Courses run for 3-5 weeks.]

Sponsored by The Institute for Pastoral Initiatives of The University of Dayton and the Diocese of New Ulm.

Contact: Bryan Reising, (507) 359-2966; breising@dnu.org

Televised Catholic Mass schedule for the New Ulm diocese

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

Open house reception to honor Fr. James Moran



Rev. James E. Moran will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood with a Golden Jubilee

Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 12:00 p.m. at the Church of St. George, West Newton Twp., MN.

An open house reception will follow

in St. George Parish Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

James E. Moran was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of New Ulm on February 22, 1959, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler. Since retiring in 2003, Fr. Moran has continued to assist parishes for weekend and holy day liturgies.

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Restored news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 23 No. 8 April 2009



(photo by Rev. Eugene Brown)

The annual Bishop Lucker Lecture was held Thursday, March 12, 2009, at the Hutchinson Event Center in Hutchinson, MN. The evening keynote was Hutchinson, MN, native and former priest of the diocese the Most Reverend John McRaith, recently retired Bishop of Owensboro, KY. Bishop McRaith spoke on "Planting the Seeds of Stewardship." (Read more about the lecture, page 7)

PICTURED ABOVE: Following the lecture, Bishop John LeVoir presented the 2009 Diocesan Distinguished Service Award to five members of the diocese. Award recipients are: (l-r) Al and Bunny Iverson, Spicer; Cindy Blickern, New Ulm; and Mark and Pat Schneider, New Ulm. Also pictured is Bishop LeVoir and Bishop McRaith (far right).



Washington - Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities, last month, called President Obama's executive order on embryonic stem cell research "a sad victory of politics over science and ethics." Under the order, for the first time in U.S. history, federal tax dollars will be used to encourage researchers to destroy live human embryos for stem cell research. Cardinal Rigali also cited a January 16 letter in which Cardinal Francis George,

president of the USCCB, urged President-elect Obama not to issue such an order. Cardinal Rigali's statement follows: "President Obama's new executive order on embryonic stem cell research is a sad victory of politics over science and ethics. This action is morally wrong because it encourages the destruction of innocent human life, treating vulnerable human beings as mere products to be harvested. It also disregards the values of millions of American taxpayers who oppose research

that requires taking human life. Finally, it ignores the fact that ethically sound means for advancing stem cell science and medical treatments are readily available and in need of increased support." To view Cardinal Rigali's entire letter, visit the USCCB Web site at www.usccb.org.

Vatican City - In a March 12, 2009, letter to the bishops of the Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI expressed regret that his lifting of the excommunications of four traditionalist bishops gave rise to a storm of protests and bitterness. The pope said the controversy over Bishop Richard Williamson's statements denying the extent of the Holocaust was "an unforeseen mishap" - one that could have been anticipated, however, by paying more attention to information easily available on the Internet.

The pope said he was particularly saddened at the reaction of some Catholics who seemed willing to believe he was changing direction on Catholic-Jewish relations. He

thanked "our Jewish friends" who helped clarify the matter and restore a sense of trust.

For the complete text of the Holy Father's letter, visit the New Ulm Diocesan Web site www.dnu.org. A copy of the letter can also be obtained through the diocesan Office of Communications, (507) 359-2966; email: dnu@dnu.org.

Washington - The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops congratulated the bishops of New

Mexico and other advocates on their successful efforts to repeal the death penalty in New Mexico. On March 18, Governor Bill Richardson signed HB 285 into law making New Mexico the second state to repeal the death penalty since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the use of the death penalty in 1976. In December 2007, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine signed legislation repealing the death penalty in that state. Fifteen states now have laws banning the death

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