

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

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The Bishops of Minnesota have again called for parish's across the state to celebrate Statewide Immigration Sunday on January 2, 2011, the feast of Our Lord's Epiphany. (Visit www.immigrationsundaymn.org for information.)

U.S. bishops meet; Archbishop Dolan of New York elected new president

Baltimore – The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathered Nov. 15–18 in Baltimore for their annual Fall General Assembly. The bishops elected a new president, vice president, and treasurer and also voted on chairs-elect of six committees.

On a third ballot run-off with Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York was elected as the new USCCB president in a vote of 128–111. Archbishop Dolan succeeds Cardinal Francis George of Chicago.

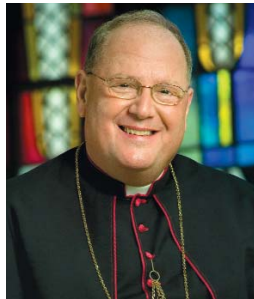
Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., was elected vice president. Both the new president

and vice president began their three-year terms following the conclusion of last month's meeting.

Elected as treasurer was Bishop Michael Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston, W. Va. Bishop Bransfield's duties were effective immediately.

The bishops also voted for the chairmen-elect of six committees who will begin their three-year chairmanships in November 2011. The bishops elected are:

- Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for Military Services to chair the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance.
- Bishop Joseph McFadden of Harrisburg, Pa., to chair the Committee on Catholic Education.



Archbishop Timothy Dolan

- Bishop Denis J. Madden, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, to chair the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.
- Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wis., to chair the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.
- Bishop Daniel Conlon of

Steubenville, Ohio, to chair the Committee on Child and Youth Protection.

- Archbishop Edwin O'Brien of Baltimore to chair the Committee on International Justice and Peace.

This year's election outcome marked the first time since the bishops' conference was reorganized in 1966 following the Second Vatican Council reforms that a sitting vice president who sought the presidency did not win election.

Other business

The first day of the meeting included the introduction of items to be voted on the next day, including an agreement on the mutual recognition of baptism from the Reformed-Catholic dialogue,

guidelines for the provision of sustenance to retired bishops, and some proposed revisions to regulations regarding USCCB statements and publications. The bishops heard reports on donations by U.S. Catholics for reconstruction in Haiti; preparations for World Youth Day in Spain in August 2011; the need for the bishops to embrace social media to effectively evangelize the "digital continent"; and the work of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage, which has been upgraded to a subcommittee of the Marriage and Family Life Committee.

For additional information about the USCCB General Meeting, visit the bishops' Web site at www.usccb.org.

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School Sisters of Notre Dame net \$220k selling rare baseball card

Baltimore, Md. (CNA) – The missions of the School Sisters of Notre Dame will receive a big financial boost from the sale of an unusual item – the most prized baseball card in the world.

Honus Wagner, it appears, didn't want his image used to promote tobacco. That's the story of how a 1909 American Tobacco Company baseball card, featuring the Pittsburgh shortstop, became the most valuable trading card in history. The cards were withdrawn, and only around 50 exist.

Last month, though, Wagner's card was put to a nobler purpose: an order of sisters raised \$220,000 by auctioning one.

Heritage Auction Galleries, which handled the online sale, recounted that one of the Baltimore-based School Sisters of Notre Dame had received the card from her brother. Although the card was not in perfect condition, he said, its value "should increase exponentially throughout the (21st) century."

The auction agency clearly agreed,

rhapsodically announcing that the winning bidder would be "planting his flag atop one of the most challenging and scenic mountain tops in the (card-collecting) hobby." Bids began at \$140,000 and nearly doubled over the course of the week. The sisters will receive around 80 percent of the final \$260,000 bid.

Wagner, known as the "Flying Dutchman," was one of the five original inductees into baseball's Hall of Fame and compiled a .328 batting average during his career. Some of his contemporaries

regarded him as one of the greatest players of all time.

His card's value, however, derives mostly from its sheer rarity. A card in mint condition from the same early 1900s batch went for \$2.8 million in 2007 - the highest price ever paid for a baseball card. Far from its original purpose of promoting Sweet Caporal Cigarettes, the profits from the School Sisters' sale of the card will go toward their charitable missions in 35 countries.

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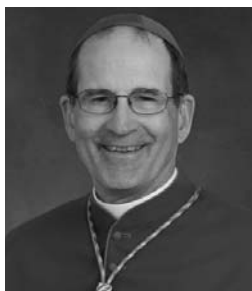
Vocations Team

Bishop John M. LeVoir, team leader;

Fr. Todd Petersen, director; Fr. Craig

Timmerman, associate director;

Margaret McHugh, vocation awareness



Bishop John M. LeVoir

As we approach Christmas, I would like to write about the priestly office or ministry of Jesus and how we carry on that mission today. This call to continue Christ's priestly office comes from our Baptism. It is at Baptism that we receive our identity as Christians. At Baptism, we are changed by the pouring of the water and the saying of the words into "other christ's."

About the baptized person's identification with Christ, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ" (CCC, no. 1272). In addition, St. Augustine wrote about baptized Christians, saying: "Let us rejoice, therefore, and give thanks to God: not only have we become Christians, but we have become Christ himself" (St. Augustine, "In Iohannis Evangelium Tractatus," tr. 21, 8).

Being configured to Christ by Baptism is one source of our dignity. The other is being created in the image and likeness of God. St. Leo the Great wrote: "Christian, remember your dignity, and now that

you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's Kingdom" ("Sermo 1 in Nativitate Domini," 1-3; PL 54, 190-193).

Having been configured to Christ in Baptism, we are called to carry on the mission of Jesus. One aspect of his mission involved his priesthood. Christ exercised his priesthood by revealing love to us. Christ showed us God's love in his every word and action. The fullness of love (the giving of oneself to others for their true good) was revealed in the Incarnation, and the Death and Resurrection of Christ (the Paschal Mystery). As Pope John Paul II taught: "This revelation reaches its definitive fullness in the gift of love which the Word of God makes to humanity in assuming a human nature [the Incarnation], and in the sacrifice which Jesus Christ makes of himself on the Cross for his bride, the Church [celebrated at Easter]" ("On the Family," no. 13). It is the first act of the expression of Christ's priesthood, his Incarnation, that we celebrate at Christmas.

The word "Incarnation" refers to God the Son, the second Person of the Trinity, assuming our human nature, without giving up his divine nature. As the Catechism of the Catholic

Church states, the Incarnation is "the fact that the Son of God assumed human nature and became man in order to accomplish our salvation in that same human nature. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity, is both true God and true man, not part God and part man" (CCC, Glossary).

... "Christmas is also an opportunity for us to recommit ourselves to the daily imitation of the priesthood of Jesus by giving our love to God and to our brothers and sisters. This opportunity presents itself to us in each and every celebration of the Eucharist."

In other words, in coming down from heaven and making his home the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus gave himself totally. He did not pretend to be human or appear to be human, he was wholly human. So, Jesus did not hold anything back when he became one of us for our salvation. He gave himself totally for our true good. This is the definition of love. In addition to giving his life on the Cross, this is how Jesus exercised his priesthood.

What does this have to do with us? We are called by Baptism and our configuration to Christ to imitate him and to carry on his priesthood by giving ourselves totally to others for their true good. Just as Jesus gave himself by becoming one of us and by giving his life on the Cross for our salvation, so are we to give ourselves to others, totally and unselfishly, not holding anything back. This is the meaning of Christmas. God gives himself to us, and we give ourselves to God and to others.

The gift of God to us and the gift of ourselves back to God and to others happen in the most powerful way at Mass. It is at Mass that the sacrifice of the Cross is presented again. Jesus' sacrifice is made present under the appearances of bread and wine. So, at Mass, we are there at the Cross, receiving Christ's love and being empowered to give love back to God and to others. That is why we go to Mass on Christmas and each Sunday (or Saturday evening).

The first Christmas and every celebration of Christmas afterward is an opportunity for the God-man and true priest, Jesus Christ, to shower us with his love. Christmas is also an opportunity for us to recommit ourselves to the daily imitation of the priesthood of Jesus by giving our love to God and to our brothers and sisters. This opportunity presents itself to us in each and every celebration of the Eucharist.

As Pope Benedict wrote about the Eucharist: "Each celebration of the Eucharist makes sacramentally present the gift that the crucified Lord made of his life, for us and for the whole world. In the Eucharist, Jesus also makes us witnesses of God's compassion towards all our brothers and sisters. The Eucharistic Mystery thus gives rise to a service of charity towards neighbor, which 'consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know'" ("The Sacrament of Love," no. 88).

A most blessed Christmas to you and yours.

BE NOT AFRAID

"Christmas: An Expression of the Priestly Love of Jesus Christ"

Bishop's December Calendar

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

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

New Ulm: 2 p.m. Holy Trinity Middle School. NUACS Board of Directors Meeting.

4 Redwood Falls: 9:30 a.m.

Church of St. Catherine. Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting.

New Ulm: 2 p.m. Capital Campaign Reception.

5 Olivia: 2 p.m. Capital Campaign Reception.

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

New Ulm: 1 p.m. Catholic Pastoral

Center. Vocations Team Meeting.

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

New Ulm: 11:55 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. School Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

11 New Ulm: 5 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass.

New Ulm: 6 p.m. Cathedral of the

Holy Trinity. Vigil for All Nascent Human Life.

12 Willmar: 12:30 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Olivia: 4 p.m. Church of St. Aloysius. Diocesan Advent Prayer Service.

(continued on page 4)

Pope's comments on condom use in line with traditional Church teaching

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News) – Excerpts of Pope Benedict XVI's new book are causing a stir. Though some media reports claim he offers a change in papal teaching about condom use, Pope Benedict in fact says that a humanized sexuality, not condoms, is the right response to HIV. The Nov. 21 edition of the Vatican newspaper "L'Osservatore Romano" (LOR) released excerpts of the pontiff's book, "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times."

The book contains the Pope's responses to questions from Peter Seewald, a German reporter who spoke with him over a week last summer about the most sensitive and important questions in Church life today. The themes treated in the book are edgy and the reception of the pope's words is likely to be varied. But his answers offer readers a unique look into his teachings and his perspective on the Church and the world.

In the excerpts offered in LOR, just two brief paragraphs provide the pope's response to a question on sexuality in the world today. He says that concentrating on the use of the condom only serves to trivialize sexuality. This trivialization leads many people to no longer see sex as an expression of love, but as a self-administered drug. The fight against the banalization of sexuality is part of a great effort to change this view to a more positive one.

According to one much commented excerpt printed in LOR, the pope concedes that there can be single cases in which the use of a condom

may indicate moral progress. He uses the example of prostitutes who might use prophylactics as a first step toward moralization, that is, becoming moral.

In such a case, condom use might be their first act of responsibility to redevelop their consciousness of the fact that not everything is permitted and that one cannot do everything one wants.

Bishop LeVoir comments: "Media reports misinterpret theological language"

In his weekly correspondence to parish leaders, Bishop John M. LeVoir expressed concern that parishioners understand what Pope Benedict XVI really says in his new book. He encouraged pastoral leaders to refer to the National Catholic Bioethics Center's (NCBC) response to how the pope's statement on condoms should be interpreted.

The NCBC's statement reads in part: "Briefly, this is what the pope actually said: 'Condoms are neither the effective way nor the moral way to stop the spread of AIDS' (the Church 'does not regard it as a real or moral solution'). He also said, 'We cannot solve the problem by distributing condoms.' He states that the AIDS epidemic has resulted in large measure from the irresponsible and selfish use of sexuality. Then he expresses hope for the conversion of a sinner by suggesting that the use of a condom MIGHT be an expression of his concern for the 'other.' This might be seen therefore a first step toward loving and respecting the 'other' so that he would eventually embrace a life of either fidelity or abstinence, the only approaches which have truly proven to be successful."

The article goes on to say: "But

interestingly the pope does not really reflect on the question of the effectiveness of condom use in reducing the transmission of AIDS. He rather wants to reflect on the moral state of the person who would use it with the hope that that person would begin to assume moral responsibility for his sexual activity. There is no question that the Church considers acts of prostitution and homosexuality to be gravely immoral and disordered. However, the Church in her love of souls always looks for some indication that the sinner might 'come to his senses.' In the case at hand, the pope says the use of a condom in a particular case MIGHT be 'a first step in the direction of . . . a first assumption of responsibility, on the way toward recovering an awareness that not everything is allowed . . .'"

"Obviously this first possible step in the direction of 'moralization' cannot make an act of prostitution or homosexuality or contraception good. But it does indicate that the moral conscience might still be alive and might eventually bring one to conversion and new life" (National Catholic Bioethics Center, News and Events, November 23, 2010; <http://www.ncbcenter.org>).

Annual collection benefits elderly religious

Catholics in the Diocese of New Ulm will have the opportunity to "Share in the Care" of senior religious by participating in the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) Dec. 11-12. The collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington and provides financial support for the day-to-day care of thousands of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Last year, the Diocese of New Ulm contributed \$40,823.27 to this collection. Many women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese but whose institutes are headquartered elsewhere may benefit from this fund.

Since 1988, Catholics in the United States have donated \$617 million to this initiative. Nearly 95 cents of every dollar is used to aid senior religious. Despite the overwhelming generosity to this fund, many religious communities continue to lack resources sufficient to support



retirement and elder care. Traditionally, religious served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement. Compounding the funding shortage are the rising cost of care and the substantial loss of income that has resulted from the declining number of religious able to serve in compensated ministry.

Please give generously in your parish on the weekend of Dec. 11-12.

Save on taxes while making charitable gifts

by Wayne Pelzel

Many tax payers are on the lookout for tax saving strategies and/or tax alternatives that allow additional flexibility. This year, in particular, the abundant grain harvest has placed a number of farmers in that position. Would you be interested in getting a charitable deduction this tax year, but having the flexibility to give the gifts over a period of several years?

The Catholic Community Foundation Donor Advised Fund may provide the answer you are looking for. A Donor Advised Fund allows you to make charitable gifts over a number of years while gaining the benefit of the tax deduction in the year you deposit the money into the fund (the year you need the deduction). Here is an example. Let's say you

have \$10,000 in additional income this tax year. You make a contribution of \$10,000 to a Donor Advised Fund, giving you the benefit of the charitable tax deduction this tax year. The principal is invested by the Foundation and grows tax free until you decide to disburse it to the charities of your choice. You decide when and how much you would like to give to charities according to your time horizons.

For further information about the Donor Advised Fund, call Wayne Pelzel, Gift Planner for the Catholic Community Foundation and the Diocese of New Ulm, 507-276-9558 (cell) or 507-359-2966 (Catholic Pastoral Center).



(photo by Dan Rossini)

Bishop's Advent and Christmas messages to be heard on airwaves

All the faithful of the Diocese of New Ulm are encouraged to "tune in" to hear Bishop John M. LeVoir's messages for the Advent and Christmas season.

Messages will air daily throughout the Advent and Christmas season on KNUJ Radio 860 on the AM dial at approximately 7:30 a.m., and on KDUZ 1260 on the AM dial at approximately 8:05 a.m. The Advent and Christmas messages can also be listened to (or read) by visiting the Diocese of New Ulm Web site, www.dnu.org.



No Tengas Miedo

Navidad: Una Expresión del Amor Sacerdotal de Jesucristo

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Como nos acercamos a la Navidad, me gustaría escribir sobre el oficio sacerdotal o el ministerio de Jesús y de cómo llevamos a cabo esa misión hoy en día. Este llamado a continuar el oficio sacerdotal de Cristo viene de nuestro Bautismo. Es en el bautismo que recibimos nuestra identidad como cristianos. En el Bautismo, somos transformados en "otros Cristos" mediante el baño de agua y las palabras proclamadas.

Acerca de la identificación del bautizado con Cristo, el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica enseña: "Incorporado en Cristo por el Bautismo, el bautizado es configurado a Cristo" (CCC, no 1272.). Además, San Agustín escribió sobre los cristianos bautizados, diciendo: "Alegrémonos, pues y demos gracias a Dios: no sólo nos hemos convertido en cristianos, sino también hemos llegado a ser el mismo Cristo" (San Agustín, en el Iohannis Evangelium Tractatus, tr. 21, 8).

Estar configurado a Cristo por el Bautismo es una fuente de nuestra dignidad. La otra es ser creado a imagen y semejanza de Dios. San Leo el Grande escribió: "Cristiano, recuerda tu dignidad, y ahora que participas de la naturaleza de Dios, no regreses por el pecado a tu condición de base anterior. Ten en cuenta quien es tu cabeza y de cuyo cuerpo eres miembro. No te olvides que has sido rescatado del poder de las tinieblas y traído a la luz del Reino de Dios" (Sermón 1 en Nativitate Domini, 1-3; PL 54, 190-193).

Después de haber sido configurados a Cristo en el bautismo, estamos llamados a continuar la misión de Jesús. Uno de los aspectos de su misión involucró su sacerdocio. Cristo ejerció su sacerdocio al revelar su amor a nosotros. Cristo nos mostró el amor de Dios en cada palabra y acción. La plenitud del amor (la

entrega de uno mismo a los demás por su bien verdadero) fue revelada en la Encarnación y la Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo (El Misterio Pascual). Como el Papa Juan Pablo II enseña: "Esta revelación alcanza su plenitud definitiva en el don del amor, que la Palabra de Dios hace a la humanidad al asumir la naturaleza humana [la Encarnación], y en el sacrificio que Jesucristo hace de sí mismo en la Cruz por su novia, la Iglesia [celebrada en la Pascua]" (On the Family, no. 13). Este es el primer acto de la expresión del sacerdocio de Cristo, su encarnación, que celebramos en Navidad.

La palabra "Encarnación" se refiere a Dios el Hijo, la segunda Persona de la Trinidad, asumiendo nuestra naturaleza humana, sin renunciar a su naturaleza divina. Como enseña el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, la Encarnación es "el hecho de que el Hijo de Dios asumió la naturaleza humana y se hizo hombre para lograr nuestra salvación en esta misma naturaleza humana. Jesucristo, el Hijo de Dios, la segunda Persona de la Trinidad, es al mismo tiempo Dios verdadero y hombre verdadero, no parte Dios y parte hombre" (CCC, Glosario).

En otras palabras, al descender del cielo y hacer del seno de la Bienaventurada Virgen María su casa, Jesús se entregó totalmente. No pretendió ser un ser humano o aparentar ser humano, él era totalmente humano. Así, Jesús no esperó nada a cambio, cuando se convirtió en uno de nosotros para nuestra salvación. Se entregó totalmente para nuestro verdadero bien. Esta es la definición del amor. Además de dar su vida en la cruz, así es como Jesús ejerció su sacerdocio.

¿Qué tiene esto que ver con nosotros? Hemos sido llamados por el Bautismo y nuestra configuración a Cristo a imitarlo llevando a cabo su sacerdocio dándonos totalmente a los demás para su verdadero bien. Así como Jesús se entregó a sí mismo al transformarse en uno de nosotros y

dar su vida en la cruz por nuestra salvación, así es como debemos entregarnos a los demás, totalmente y sin egoísmo, sin escatimar nada. Este es el significado de la Navidad. Dios se nos entrega, y nosotros nos entregamos a Dios y a los demás.

El don de Dios para nosotros y el don de nosotros mismos a Dios y a los demás les sucede de la manera más poderosa en la Misa. Es en la misa que el sacrificio de la Cruz se presenta de nuevo. El sacrificio de Jesús se hace presente bajo la apariencia del pan y el vino. Así, en la Misa, estamos ahí en la Cruz, recibiendo el amor de Cristo y siendo habilitados para dar amor a Dios y a los demás. Es por eso que vamos a misa de Navidad y cada domingo (o sábado por la noche).

La primera Navidad y cada celebración de la Navidad posterior es una oportunidad para que el Dios-hombre y verdadero sacerdote, Jesucristo, nos empape con su amor. La Navidad es también una oportunidad para volver a comprometernos con la imitación diaria del sacerdocio de Jesús, dando nuestro amor a Dios y a nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Esta oportunidad se nos presenta en todas y cada una de las celebraciones de la Eucaristía.

Como el Papa Benedicto XVI escribió sobre la Eucaristía: "Cada celebración eucarística actualiza sacramentalmente el don que el Señor crucificado hizo de su vida, para nosotros y para todo el mundo. En la Eucaristía Jesús nos hace testigos de la compasión de Dios hacia todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas. El misterio eucarístico da así lugar a un servicio de caridad hacia el prójimo, que 'consiste en el hecho de que, en Dios y con Dios, amo también a la persona a la que no me gusta o ni siquiera conozco'" (The Sacrament of Love, no. 88).

Una Navidad llena de bendiciones para usted y los suyos.

Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations in diocese

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated during the Advent season giving us the opportunity to focus on Mary, who has been called the bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament – between expectation and fulfillment. In this Advent season, allow her to be a symbol of hope, of God's presence in your struggles, and God's hand in your life.

FAIRFAX – Church of St. Andrew – Dec. 12 at 5 p.m.

Mass in Spanish followed by a potluck meal.

GLENCOE – Church of St. Pius X Mañanitas: Dec. 11 at 11 p.m. Dec. 12 at 12 p.m.

Mass in Spanish followed by a potluck meal.

LITCHFIELD – Church of St. Philip Dec. 12 at 12 p.m.

Mass in Spanish followed by a potluck meal.

MARSHALL – Church of Holy Redeemer Mañanitas: Dec. 11 at 11:30 p.m. Dec. 12 p.m.

Mass in Spanish followed by a potluck meal.

MONTEVIDEO – Church of St. Joseph Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Mass in Spanish followed by a potluck meal.

RENVILLE – Church of Holy Redeemer Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Mass in Spanish followed by a potluck meal. Mañanitas: Dec. 11 at 10 p.m.

SLEEPY EYE – Church of St. Mary Dec. 12 at 11:30 a.m. Mass in Spanish followed by a potluck meal.

WILLMAR – Church of St. Mary Mañanitas: Dec. 11 at 11:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at 12:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish followed by a potluck meal. *Bishop John M. LeVoir to be the celebrant.*

HUTCHINSON – Church of St. Anastasia, Dec. 11 at 4:30 p.m. Mass with elements of Spanish followed by luncheon.

Novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated December 3-11. Contact your local parish for a schedule.

Las Posadas (a nine-day novena) are celebrated from December 16-23. Contact your parish for schedule.

Bishop's calendar

(continued from page 2)

14 Olivia: 1 p.m. Church of St. Aloysius. Priests' Council Meeting followed by College of Consultors Meeting.

Olivia: 5 p.m. Max's Grill. Capital Campaign Executive Committee Meeting.

17 New Ulm: 6 p.m. Diocesan Staff Christmas Gathering.

19 New Ulm: 2 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Penance Service.

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

20 Sleepy Eye: 5 p.m. St. Mary's Rectory. Las Posadas.

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

22 New Ulm: 3 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Reconciliation.

Searles: 4:30 p.m. Church of St. John the Baptist. Reconciliation.

24 New Ulm: 4 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass for the Vigil of Christmas.

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

26 New Ulm: 5 p.m. Seminarian Christmas Gathering.

The holy seasons of Advent and Christmas *times for being and becoming a child after the example of Christ*

by Sr. Candace Fier

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David, a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you, you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:10-12).

In this season there is a struggle to gain our attention and the focus of our minds and hearts. On the one hand we have the store windows, beautifully decorated, that dazzle the eyes and hearts of adults and children alike.

On the other hand, this is the season our minds and hearts are called to be focused on a child, a child who is our "Messiah and Lord." He is the Son of God come down to earth as a child.

Generations of children have brought the nativity story home to us again and again as they played their part of shepherd or wise man, ox or sheep, Mary or Joseph, angel or innkeeper. And these children become a most precious part of our Christmas. And yet it must truly become our Christmas by each of us making this birthday story our own. We relive this story to strengthen our relationship with the Christ Child so that he might be reborn in our hearts and through us in the hearts of others. We relive this story for ourselves and for others as mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandmothers and grandfathers, family and friends.

I would like to share with you how some friends of mine relived this story for me. It was the first Christmas my friends felt their small daughter would be aware of what Christmas was all about. They set up their nativity set and introduced the little girl to baby Jesus and the other figures at the manger. Each day she picked up the figures over and over and asked to hear the story. They also experienced a struggle and concern over the advertising



TV, in stores, and through the mail that featured all of those "must have" toys. Each day the couple

"...this is the season our minds and hearts are called to be focused on a child, a child who is "our Messiah and Lord."

tried to counteract the message of the commercial world, emphasizing the preparation for the birthday of baby Jesus.

From time to time presents discretely found their way to the top shelf of the hall closet, in anticipation of the surprise to take place on Christmas. The last evening, as the father took the final presents and placed them on the shelf, he heard a noise and sensed that his little daughter was behind him.

Immediately he envisioned the struggle – his daughter wanting to open the presents. He turned to see his little daughter gazing up at the presents, eyes wide with excitement, clapping her hands and squealing with joy, "Daddy, Daddy, look at all of the presents for baby Jesus."

With his eyes glistening, he related that his daughter had not asked for presents for herself. And it was in that moment that he and his wife realized how blessed they were to have fulfilled their mission to help their daughter form a relationship with Jesus.

We relive the story of the Christ Child to deepen our relationship with Our Heavenly Father, whose love became incarnate through him. Christmas demonstrates the great love of God that could only be

expressed through the gift of his Son becoming man, to teach us the meaning of being a child of the

Father. For Jesus, being a child was oneness with the Father expressed as the loving fulfillment of the mission the Father gave him here on earth.

The basis for John Paul II's catechesis, his "Theology of the Body," discusses this filiality, resulting from the act of creation, as one formed in love. "The Creator is he who 'calls to existence from nothing' and who establishes the world in existence and man in the world, because he 'is love' (1 Jn 4:8)."

Father and Son share a common life and love into which they wish to draw each of us. Our striving to be child, to love God and others through the mission God has given us, draws us into this life and love. John Paul II characterizes this relationship: "He [man] is at the same time set into a unique, exclusive, and unrepeatable relationship with God himself."

All that we are and have is a gift of love that we have received and urges us to give a gift of love in return. Our understanding and return of love, as human persons, is bound up with the experience of continually being and becoming a child, after the example of Christ. The tiny Child, lying in the manger in Bethlehem, reveals to us who we are and what we must become.

Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM, is director of Family Life Education for the Diocese of New Ulm.

History book of diocese makes great Christmas gift!

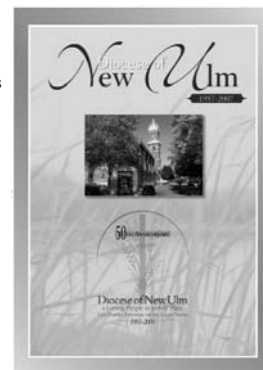
A beautiful hard-cover photographic book covering 50 years of history of the Diocese of New Ulm is available for Christmas delivery.

A Loving People in a Holy Place, a 50th Anniversary History book of the Diocese of New Ulm (1957-2007) provides an in-depth look at the history of the diocese from its earliest roots to the present day. It also includes all parishes, each of which have a special section of history, as well as several colored pictures.

This beautiful book, published in 2007 by a French company, Editions du Signe, consists of approximately 160 pages and is printed in color on high-quality paper. It includes hundreds of photos covering the history of the diocese.

ORDERING IS EASY!

Contact the diocesan Office of Communications, 1400 6th Street



North, New Ulm, MN 56073; 507-359-2966; jweicherding@dnu.org to order your copy. Each book is \$26.50. Note: if pick up is not possible and mailing is necessary, please include \$4.00 per book; \$4.50 for two books; and \$5.50 for three books. For more than three copies, call for a postage quote.

Hurry and order your copy for early Christmas delivery!

Lucille Mauer recognized for volunteer service

Springfield – Bishop John M. LeVoir presented Lucille Maurer, a member of the Church of St. Raphael in Springfield, the Bishop's Medal of Service from the Diocese of New Ulm for her volunteer service. The award was presented Sept. 26 at the church.

Maurer has been involved at St. Raphael Parish and in the Springfield community in many ways over the years. She has made thousands of rosaries since 2002 and volunteers at the Good Neighbor Thrift Store operated by the parish. She also volunteers at St. John Lutheran Home, has done embroidery and quilting for many years for St. Raphael Craft Ladies, and makes baby quilts for babies born in Brown County and lap quilts for veterans at the Veterans Administration.



(photo by Springfield Advanced Press)

History made! Four from diocese currently serving with NET ministries

by Margaret McHugh
director of Youth Ministry

Every fall, the Diocese of New Ulm is blessed with young, enthusiastic visitors from the West St. Paul-based NET Ministries. NET stands for National Evangelization Team. Since 1981, NET Ministries has been sending teams throughout the country offering retreats for youth, challenging them both to love Christ and to embrace the life of the Church.

Over the years young adults from the Diocese of New Ulm have served on NET. This year, we are making history because four young women are serving with NET Ministries!

Leah DeLanghe from Holy Redeemer in Marshall is working on outreach events like the monthly Lifeline Mass and Discipleship Week and also works in the administrative offices in West St. Paul. DeLanghe is now a college graduate and has already served two separate stints on the NET team. The three other young women will be on the road traveling all over the country. Kim Junczewski from the Church of St. John in Darwin will be serving for her second year in a row.



Leah DeLanghe



Kim Junczewski



Kiki Wallyn



Sarah Finnegan

She is on Team #1 along with another young woman, Kiki Wallyn, from the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson. Wallyn is serving on a team for the first time, just like Sarah Finnegan from the Church of the Holy Trinity in Winsted. Finnegan is on Team #5 assisting with music ministry.

Please pray for these young women as they serve Catholic youth across our country.

Follow their adventures!

Visit <http://www.netusa.org/> team profiles and click on Team 1 for Kiki Wallyn and Kim Junczewski and Team 5 for Sarah Finnegan.

Pope's letter to seminarians emphasizes need for priests now more than ever

by Fr. Todd Petersen, director
Office of Vocations

On Oct. 18, His Holiness Pope Benedict released a letter to the seminarians of the world. He referred briefly to an incident that occurred as he was drafted into military service in Germany in December of 1944 – an army that fought for what he despised, short-lived as his required service was. The commander said that priests would no longer be needed in the new Germany, but the youth who was to be named Pope Benedict knew better: priests would be needed more than ever, because people will always need God.

Pope Benedict addressed those that are discerning the same call he did to the priesthood, those in formation in seminaries, to encourage them to continue their formation as priests. He tells the seminarians, and as a result all those already ordained, that they are to be men of God, men with an intimacy with the Lord, who prayerfully ponder the face of Christ, who reveals the Father to us.

The seminarian is also to be a man of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, in which Christ is given to us. The pope stated, "The proper celebration of the Eucharist involves knowing, understanding, and loving the Church's liturgy in its concrete form." He reminds them of the need and the beauty of the Sacrament of Penance, in which we can see ourselves as God sees us, leading us to honesty and humility. In letting God forgive us, we learn to forgive others.

The pope continues by urging them to maintain a popular piety – a way that the faith has entered the human heart and gives it flesh and blood. Study, one of the primary reasons for seminary, is not overlooked. Pope Benedict encourages the seminarian to see every subject of study, not simply what is 'practical' or pastorally useful, as a way to understand and appreciate the eternal structure of the faith. The main purpose of seminary is to grow in

Frassati Visit – find out all your faith has to offer!

Are you a high school junior or senior wondering what God's plan is for your life?

The Frassati Visit (named after Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati) is a four-day event focused on helping high school young men and women explore their future and their Catholic faith.

Join diocesan vocation team members Fr. Craig Timmerman and Margaret McHugh, as well as other junior and senior high school youth from around the diocese as they travel on March 3-6, 2011, to the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul for three evenings of learning what your Catholic faith has to offer and at the same time having fun.

To register contact Fr. Craig Timmerman, fathercraig@gmail.com or Margaret McHugh, mmchugh@dnu.org or call 507-359-2966. Frassati Visit information is also posted at www.dnu.org.

human maturity, resulting in "the right balance of heart and mind, reason and feeling, body and soul, to be humanly integrated." It is in this human maturity that celibacy is nurtured and freeing. He makes reference to sexual abuse as the lack of integration. Finally, Pope Benedict points to the various movements of the Church as the assisting in the communal encounter with Christ.

While this letter is addressed to seminarians, priests should be encouraged to the same prayerfulness, integration, and study; and laity should assure the priests and seminarians of their desire and prayers for this, too.

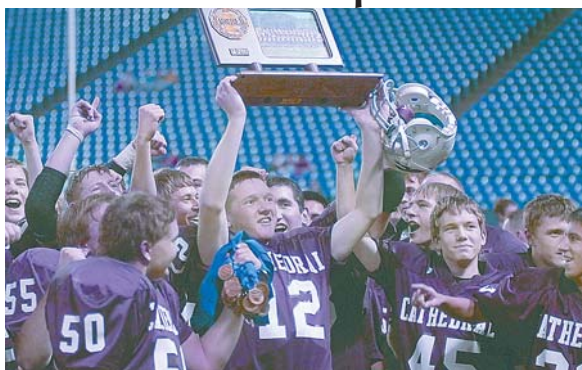
As Pope Benedict knew then, and continues to proclaim: We need priests, now, more than ever, to continue to help us encounter Christ.



Class A State Champions!

Congratulations to the New Ulm Cathedral football team for the school's first ever Class A State Championship title. The Greyhounds defeated the Barnesville Trojans 19-13 on Nov. 26 at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.

(photo by The Journal,
New Ulm)



The Prairie Catholic corrections

October 2010, page 3, Bi-annual Convention: Jordyn Feige and McKaia Ryberg are from the Church of St. Mary, Bird Island.

November 2010, page 8, Ministry of the Acolyte: Russ Blaschko is a member of the Church of Holy Rosary, North Mankato.

Bishops urge HHS to focus on authentic care/saving lives

Washington – Deirdre McQuade, spokesperson for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), addressed the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on Preventive Services for Women as they convened for the first time on Nov. 16. She urged them not to recommend contraception or sterilization among mandated “preventive services” to be announced next August by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the Department implements the new health care act.



contraception actually increases a woman’s risk of developing some of the very conditions that the ‘preventive services’ listed in the Interim Final Rules are designed to prevent, such as stroke, heart attacks, and blood clots (especially for women who also smoke), so a policy mandating contraceptive services as ‘preventive services’ would be in contradiction with itself.”

McQuade added, “At various times women may have serious personal reasons for wanting to avoid or delay a pregnancy. However, these personal reasons do not transform a temporary or permanent condition of infertility into a prerequisite for health, or turn a healthy pregnancy into a disease condition.”

She also highlighted the potential impact on conscience rights.

“Currently, such employers and insurance issuers [who object to contraception and sterilization] are completely free under federal law to purchase and offer health coverage that excludes these procedures. They would lose this freedom of conscience under a mandate for all plans to offer contraception and sterilization coverage,” McQuade said. “Thus the Administration’s promise that Americans who like their current coverage will be able to keep it under health care reform would become a hollow pledge.”

She concluded, “The Administration rightly does not include contraceptives or sterilization as preventive services in its Interim Final Rules, and future rulemaking or other guidance should also refrain from doing so. We hope these considerations will be taken into account as the Institute of Medicine prepares to make its recommendations on a final list of required preventive services for women.”

courtesy of USCCB.org

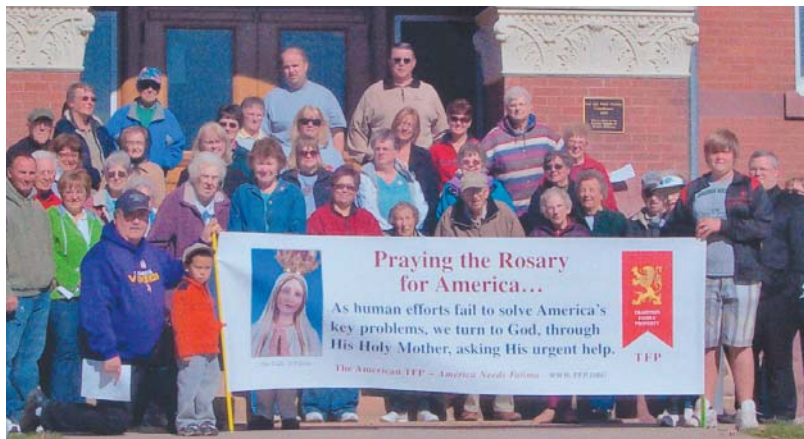
“As you study the vital question of preventive services for women under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), I urge you to focus on services that will offer authentic care and save lives,” she said.

Echoing the letter sent by the Office of the General Counsel (www.usccb.org/ogc/preventive.pdf) to HHS on Sept. 17, McQuade said, “The Conference has a particular concern that contraceptives and sterilization not be mandated as ‘preventive’ services. To prevent pregnancy is not to prevent a disease – indeed, contraception and sterilization pose their own unique and serious health risks to women and adolescents. In addition, contraceptives and sterilization are morally problematic for many stakeholders, including religiously-affiliated health care providers and insurers.”

According to McQuade, the preventive services recommended under the Interim Final Rules share a basic medical profile. “They pose little or no medical risk themselves, and they help prevent or ameliorate identifiable conditions that would pose known risks to life and health in the future,” McQuade said, but contraception “presents the opposite profile.”

She continued, “Use of prescription

Prince of Peace AFC participates in rosary rally; one of 45 held throughout Minnesota



Members of the Prince of Peace Area Faith Community, consisting of the Church of St. John in Appleton, the Church of St. James in Dawson, and the Church of St. Michael in Madison, gathered recently on the steps of the Lac Qui Parle court house in Madison to pray for America. This rosary rally was one of 45 held in Minnesota on Oct. 16 to seek the Blessed Mother’s assistance for the nation to end abortion and to defend marriage between one man and one woman.

U.S. Catholics praised for their response to last January’s tragedy in Haiti


Baltimore – After the terrible earthquake that last January devastated Haiti and buried almost 300,000 people beneath the rubble, U.S. Catholics responded with remarkable generosity, reported Bishop Kevin Farrell, chairman of the USCCB Committee on National Collections, during his opening remarks on the first day of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Fall General Assembly. The bishops heard a comprehensive report on the “One-Church” response to the Haiti earthquake which highlighted the breadth of the Church’s response and the collaborative effort it demanded.

In the face of great tragedy and at a time of great economic stress at home, Catholics across the country donated, in just one weekend in January, \$82.6 million. This special collection for Haiti was intended to be used for emergency relief and to rebuild the Church in Haiti. In March, the Administrative

Committee endorsed a proposal from the Committee on the National Collections and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to allocate 60 percent of the Special Collection to CRS for humanitarian assistance and 40 percent to the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America for ecclesial needs.

Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, member of the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America and chairman of its Haiti Advisory Group, spoke of the difficult plight of the Church in Haiti. In addition to the terrible loss of life – including Archbishop Miot and many seminarians, religious and lay leaders – 70 parishes, including the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption in Port-au-Prince, were totally destroyed, as well as dozens of schools, several convents, and the three centers of priestly formation.

Speaking on emergency aid and



Since the devastating earthquake, CRS has received \$182,650 from parishioners in the Diocese of New Ulm.

“The USCCB and CRS are dedicated to using all funds in a responsible and accountable way, both for immediate relief and long-term development.”

reconstruction, Archbishop Dolan of New York, president of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), provided an account of the agency’s achievements and include.

- food provided to nearly 900,000 people in the early months of the response.
- monthly food rations distributed

(continued on page 9)

Operation Andrew dinners help young men consider a vocation to the priesthood

In October and November, the diocesan Office of Vocations organized two Operation Andrew dinners. These evenings are held for young men in junior and senior high school as a way to encourage them to discern whether God is calling them to the priesthood.

The first dinner was held on Oct. 27 at the Church of St. John in Darwin. Six young men from three area faith communities attended. The second dinner was held Nov. 8 at the Church of St. Anne in Wabasso, with nine young men from two area faith communities attending.

Bishop John M. LeVoir was present at each dinner along with several priests. The evenings began with prayer and a meal followed by viewing "Fishers of Men," a video produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The program was followed by discussion.

Pastoral leaders of the diocese are



Diocesan sponsored Operation Andrew dinners were held this fall for young men from around the diocese who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

(photo by Fr. Todd Petersen)

encouraged to personally invite young men to Operation Andrew dinners. While not all young men who attend will discern to enter a seminary or religious order, it is certain that the seed of prayerful discernment of God's will has been planted in them. Sometimes that is all that is needed to begin a journey towards priesthood.

If you or anyone you know are interested in attending an

Operation Andrew dinner, an informational brochure is available on the Diocese of New Ulm Web site under the Vocations Office. Please visit www.dnu.org or contact the diocesan Office of Vocations at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; (507) 359-2966; toddpetersen@me.com.

Web site offers Advent/Christmas resources includes books of reflections from Pope Benedict XVI

Washington – The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is continuing its tradition of providing online resources for the Advent and Christmas seasons with suggestions for daily prayer, reading, reflection, and action. As a special spiritual gift this season, USCCB is providing a downloadable book of scriptural reflections for Advent and Christmas featuring the words of Pope Benedict XVI from his homilies, speeches, and other addresses during his papacy.

The 37-page document includes a scripture quote and a reflection from the Holy Father for every day of Advent through the seventh day in the Octave of Christmas, Dec. 31. "Advent & Christmas with Pope Benedict XVI" is a preview of the upcoming Vatican publication, "A Year with Pope Benedict XVI,"

which will be available from USCCB.

"This has become one of the more popular features on the bishops' Web site," said Helen Osman, secretary of communications for USCCB. "It is a great one-stop resource for families and individuals seeking ways to enter more deeply into the spirit of the Advent and Christmas seasons."

Other material highlighted in the interactive online Advent and Christmas calendars is from the Vatican publication, "Advent and Christmas with the Church Fathers" and "Reflections on Advent and Christmas: Cultivating the Gift of Self," new releases of which are available from USCCB.

"A Festival of Lesson and Carols," which is a service of Scripture and

song that dates to the late 19th century, can be heard live online or downloaded for later listening. The audio program features music performed by the choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The USCCB Advent/Christmas Web site also features videos in which Catholics discuss their favorite Old Testament stories, passages, and characters.

Other resources on the Web site include a list of recommended holiday-themed movies, prayers, and blessings from the USCCB publication, "Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers," and suggestions for remembering the immigrants and the poor throughout the season.

courtesy of USCCB.org

Dawson native professes first vows of Dominican Order

On Sunday, August 15, Br. Wesley Dessonville, OP, made his first profession to the Order of Preachers, the Dominicans. Dessonville is a native of Dawson, Minn. The son of Ronald and Monica Dessonville, he graduated from Dawson-Boyd High School and later from the University of Mary, where he earned a degree in Theology and Pastoral Ministry.



Br. Wesley Dessonville, OP

While in the diocese, he served on the Diocesan Youth Council from 1999-2000. Most recently, Dessonville taught theology at Shanley High School in Fargo, N.D., for three years before entering the Dominicans.

Dessonville completed his novitiate in Denver and began his formal studies for the priesthood this fall at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis.

Visit www.domcentral.org for information about the Dominicans.

Women Religious GOOD NEWS



Franciscan Sr. Gladys Meindl was recently named the 2010 recipient of the College of Saint Teresa Citation of Service Award.

The citation was awarded Oct. 9 at Saint Mary of the Angels Chapel in Winona. Sr. Gladys was honored for her involvement in education for 53 years before retiring as principal at St. Michael's School, Morgan. Congratulations Sr. Gladys!

Fr. McCauley appointed interim director of Catholic conference

Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis has announced the appointment of Fr. David McCauley as interim director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC), the public policy and advocacy voice of Minnesota's Catholic bishops. He replaces



Fr. McCauley

Christopher Leifeld. A native of St. Paul, Fr. McCauley was ordained in 1963 for the Diocese of Fargo, N.D., where he served in various capacities. In 1995, he returned to St. Michael's to become executive director of the MCC, serving for six years. Fr. McCauley will serve as interim director of MCC while a national search for a new executive director is being conducted.

Catholic Charities

Counseling Services offered in

Hutchinson, Marshall, New Ulm, and Willmar



Providing: Individual and Family Counseling; Adoption Counseling; Marriage Preparation Counseling; Parish and Community Crisis Response; Pregnancy Counseling; and Grief Services.

For inquiries or 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.

Several from diocese in attendance at National CCW Convention



Those attending the 2010 National Council of Catholic Women Convention from the Diocese of New Ulm were: (front, l-r) Lori Dalberg, Chris Heiderscheidt, Audrey Prokosch, Donna Sanders, and Sherry Johnson; (Back, l-r) Ronda Mathiowetz, Carolyn Boerboom, Sandy Redding, Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, diocesan moderator, and Mary Ann Kramer.

Washington – The 2010 National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) annual convention took place November 10-13 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year, the convention celebrated its 90th birthday and the convention theme was “Celebrating 90 Years: Rejoice & Renew.”

Several members of the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women attended the fun and faith-filled three days, which also served as a great opportunity to meet NCCW members from all over the United States. There were several workshops offered. The keynote luncheon speaker was Ambassador Thomas Melady, who

was recently appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See. Convention participants also attended Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The celebrant was Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington D.C.

earthquake relief

(continued from page 7)

to more than 100,000 children in over 370 schools, orphanages and child-care centers, many of them run by Catholic parishes and congregations.
– emergency shelter materials distributed to over 215,000 people and more than 400 transitional shelters constructed with over 100 additional shelters built per week.
– 974 emergency operations and 64,000 outpatient consultations in eight hospitals; plus increased medical support, resources, and training.

For his part, Bishop Hubbard, of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace, spoke to the comprehensive U.S. policy and aid goals the committee is pursuing with the Haitian Administration, including immediate relief and long-term development assistance; debt relief

and trade preferences; Church and civil society participation in both relief and long-term development; and building the capacity of the Haitian government through transparency and accountability.

Finally, Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration and Refugee Services, related to the bishops the findings of a joint mission with the Committee on International Justice and Peace to Haiti and the Caribbean in the summer. Specifically, the delegation called for more protection for vulnerable Haitians both inside and outside Haiti, including single women with children and children who have lost their parents during the earthquake, as well as for the reunification of medical evacuees to the U.S. with their families. The

report can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/>.

“Together we can bring about the genuine change that Haiti and its people need and long for,” Bishop Farrell said, as he asked for continued support and prayer services and memorials as the first anniversary of the terrible earthquake approaches. “We have achieved a great deal in very difficult circumstances but as you know from the news there is an uphill road to climb,” he said. Full text of presentation can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/meetings/2010Fall/media/>.

courtesy of USCCB.org

Woman of the Year: every parish has one!

by Chris Heiderscheidt

The New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) will again be presenting the Woman of the Year Award at the DCCW annual convention, to be held on April 30, 2011, at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls.

Every parish has a woman worthy of this award. However, she will only be chosen if she is nominated. Consider for a moment the women who are always ready to say yes when called upon, who are a shining example of service and faith, and who do so much in your parish CCW. Your parish CCW president has the necessary nomination form. Nominees will be judged on how she has carried on the mission of Christ in her family, church, community, and especially her involvement with the DCCW.

During the selection process, each nominee’s name and parish are left off the nomination form so that she is judged solely on her accomplishments. You may submit more than one name and names submitted in the past must be resubmitted to be considered for the current year’s award. Current

Past recipients of the Woman of the Year award

Marilyn DeGrote	1992
Mary Vieyra	1993
Dorothy Rourk	1994
Arliss Stenger	1995
Betty Merritt	1996
Betty Heymans	1997
Elaine McRaith	1998
Doris Foley	1999
Martha Polfliet	2000
Donna Helget	2001
Angela Coudron	2002
Rose Jonas	2003
Paula Spranger	2004
Elizabeth Mohr	2005
Doris Weise	2006
Kathy Wichmann	2007
Sherry Johnson	2008
Nancy Hanna	2009
Cloe Klinkner	2010

DCCW board members and past recipients are not eligible. All recommendations are confidential.

Submission deadline is Feb. 1, 2011. Who will you nominate for Woman of the Year 2011?

Chris Heiderscheidt is the DCCW 1st vice president. She is a member of the Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye.



Were you married in 1946 or before?

“The Prairie Catholic” would like to honor couples who are members of a parish in the Diocese of New Ulm who will be celebrating a 65th, 70th (or beyond) Wedding Anniversary in 2011. There is no charge for this listing.

Complete the form at the bottom of this page and return it, along with your photograph (include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the photo returned) to “The Prairie Catholic,” 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN, 56073 no later than Dec. 31, 2010. We will include you in the February 2011 issue.

Groom’s name _____
 Bride’s MAIDEN name _____
 Parish _____
 City _____
 Parish to which you presently belong _____
 City _____
 Your Phone # _____

The information and photo can also be e-mailed to jweicherding@dnu.org.

Welcoming the New Roman Missal – an interview with Msgr. James P. Moroney



**NEW WORDS,
A DEEPER MEANING,
BUT THE SAME MASS**

Editor's note: On August 2010, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago announced the Vatican approval of the new Roman Missal English language translation. Implementation is set for the first Sunday of Advent 2011. Following is the last of four interviews conducted by Kevin Aldrich, author and educator, with Msgr. James P. Moroney, one of the foremost authorities on the new English translation of the revised Roman Missal. For further information on the new Roman Missal, visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site, www.usccb.org. (photo courtesy of USCCB)

The new translation and apologetics

by Kevin Aldrich

Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Vatican II Constitution on the Liturgy called for a "full, conscious and active participation" in the Mass on the part of the faithful. Does the new translation foster this or is it a rollback of the reform which the council called for?

It was Pope Pius X who first called for the active participation of the faithful in the sacred liturgy. An authentic translation of the prayers of the Holy Mass certainly provides an avenue for a deeper participation in the Sacred Liturgy. Likewise, the deepening understanding of participation in its internal as well as external dimensions will allow the Church to continue to build upon the understanding of the indispensable role of participation in the liturgy as articulated by popes and bishops throughout the years.

What do you think about the criticism that the new translation is not "pastoral?" What do people mean by pastoral? Is the new translation "pastoral?"

I prefer the definition of pastoral offered to us by the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd knows his sheep, seeks them out when they are lost, carries them home, and protects them from the wolf and the false

shepherds. This translation seeks to give the faithful access to the true meaning of the prayers of the Church, to attract them with their beauty and their truth, and to preserve the Church from imprecisions or unfortunate amplifications in previous attempts. I would suggest that such an approach is eminently pastoral.

One critic has objected to specific examples of the new translation as "clumsy" and "precious."

He cited these as examples:

- "and with your spirit"
- "consubstantial with the Father"
- "incarnate of the Virgin Mary"
- "oblation of our service"
- "send down your Spirit like the dewfall"
- "He took the precious chalice"
- "serene and kindly countenance"

I personally like all these. What is your take on the criticism?

Cardinal George Pell, the Chairman of the Vox Clara Committee, was recently quoted as referring to such unusual sounding expressions as "not the sort of language one would use at a barbecue." And yet, His Eminence pointed out there are no other renderings more accurate of the original Latin texts than these. An accurate translation of a difficult concept can be explained and the faithful can grow into its use by adequate catechesis. A simpler, but less accurate translation will never lead anyone to the fullness of the truth.

Another objection to the new translation is that the American church (priests and laity) haven't had an opportunity to review these texts nor have they been "market tested" with us. I guess the objection is that the Church hasn't followed a democratic process or asked for enough people's input. Should the Church consult with us over liturgical translations? What kind of consultation has gone on?

I would dare say that no action by the Church in the United States has ever undergone more consultation. Each bishop has received draft texts on more than a dozen occasions which they have shared with pastors and scholars, offering literally thousands of suggestions. Many of these suggestions have been incorporated into the texts over the past 10 years. In addition, ICEL and the Holy See have employed innumerable Latinists, poets, musicians, theologians, pastors, and English experts to bring this project to a felicitous conclusion.

Here's an odd one, but pastors will probably hear it: Isn't it wrong to produce a new translation that will require parishes to buy all new liturgical and other books. Rather than killing a bunch of trees, shouldn't this money just go to the poor?

The average liturgical book is designed to last for a minimum of five years before the pages begin to fall out! As each of us learns with approaching age, everything (and everyone) eventually needs to be replaced, including old liturgical books.

What do you recommend pastors and those of us in the pews do to help the new translation be implemented smoothly?

A careful study of the liturgical texts and the careful formulation of effective pastoral strategies for teaching about the Sacred Liturgy are indispensable. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council called upon pastors to become imbued with the spirit and power of the sacred liturgy

and to give instruction about it. Without such efforts, as the Fathers of Vatican II so presciently predicted, all this will be in vain.

What is your greatest personal hope for the new English translation of the new Roman Missal?

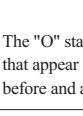
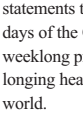
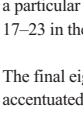
The defining ecclesial event of our lifetime was the convening of the Second Vatican Council. In many

respects, our ministry is constantly defined and judged against the vision articulated by the Council Fathers. It is my prayer that this more accurate, more beautiful and more proclaimable translation of the Missale Romanum will foster that full, conscious and active participation in the Sacred Liturgy which was the prime goal of the conciliar liturgical renewal.



O Antiphons

by Darren M. Henson, STL



"Oh, my goodness! It's Advent!" That was the usual reaction I heard as a child when the long Thanksgiving weekend began to wind down. We would make a frantic dash to the dark basement storage room in search of our Advent wreath and colored candles.

Our family had the tradition of lighting the wreath every night before supper. Our prayer was accompanied by a verse of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." It wasn't until I was an adult that I learned that each verse of the song belongs to

a particular day between Dec. 17–23 in the Advent calendar.

The final eight days of Advent are accentuated by these "O" statements that lead to the eight days of the Christmas octave. The weeklong prelude intensifies the longing heart for the Savior of the world.

The "O" statements are antiphons that appear at Evening Prayer before and after the Gospel canticle

is prayed. The images are so rich that in the Middle Ages, they were woven into a hymn that became associated with the entire season of Advent. Today, in addition to appearing at Evening Prayer, they are also found in the daily liturgy. They take turns, one a day, serving as the verse to the Gospel Acclamation: "O Wisdom," "O Sacred Lord," "O Flower of Jesse's Stem," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of All Nations," and the most expected and greatest of them all, "O Emmanuel." They end Dec. 23, because evening prayer on Dec. 24 is the beginning of the Christmas vigil.

The original Latin titles for these images formed an acrostic to reveal a hidden message. The first letter of each phrase added to the next and then reversed spelled *Ero Cras*, or "I will come tomorrow."

Some parishes will sing the familiar song throughout Advent, and it is one that should not be overlooked. Waiting to break out the O Antiphons until Dec. 17 will emphasize the seasonal practice of patient waiting. Whenever they are prayed or sung, these images intend to inspire awe and wonder. They leave us with the speechless response of "Oh!" as we contemplate the multiple images that Christ fulfills.

(continued on page 11)

Post abortion ministry discussed in Willmar *area professionals and youth gather for presentations*

On Nov. 17 at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm sponsored a day-long workshop for area professionals on the topic of post-abortion ministry.

The workshop was led by nationally and internationally known speaker Vicki Thorn, founder of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing. Thorn may be best known for Project Rachel, her post-abortion ministry.

Later in the evening, area youth,

grades 9-12, gathered at the church to hear Thorn's presentation, "What They Didn't Tell You in Sex Ed." Approximately 300 youth attended.

For an audio or video of Thorn's evening presentation to youth, contact Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm, 866-670-5163.

If anyone you know is experiencing an unplanned pregnancy or struggling with issues involving a post abortion journey, call Lois Byrne, 320-262-3436.



Catholic Charities counselor Lois Byrne, PBVM, (right) is pictured with presenter Vicki Thorn.

Upcoming Events

Good Shepherd SERRA Club will meet Dec. 2 at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference Room in Sleepy Eye at 7 p.m. Fr. Germain Rademacher, retired priest from New Ulm, will share his vocation story. Call 507-747-2181.

Springfield Nativity Pageant

Dec. 10-11 with one performance each evening beginning at 7 p.m. at Riverside Park, Springfield. See the nativity come to life at this annual outdoor presentation. Local actors bring you 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. Enjoy Christmas music sung by the community choir. After the show refreshments will be served at the Springfield Community Center.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)

Cycle 1 will be from Jan. 23-Feb. 26. VLCFF is an Internet-based e-learning initiative for adult faith and catechist formation. It is an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding and enrichment of their faith. VLCFF is sponsored by the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives of the University of Dayton (<http://vlc.udayton.edu/>) and the Diocese of New Ulm. For further information, visit the Web site or contact Bryan Reising,

diocesan director of Religious Education and Faith Formation, 507-359-2966; breising@dmu.org. Registration for Cycle 1 closes Jan. 19, 2011.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje, June 27-July 5, 2011. This pilgrimage will have a special focus on youth – young adults, families, those who work with youth, or the "young at heart." Contact Berny Berger at 507-834-6321, e-mail jbberger@redred.com for more information, or visit www.pilgrimages.com/berger.

VIRTUS (Safe Environment Training) sessions will be held January 14 at 7 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary, Bird Island and January 18 at 7 p.m. at The Church of the Holy Redeemer, Renville.

"Together in Ministry" (Catholic Social Teaching)

will be held Jan. 22 at the Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Cost is \$10. To register call 507-359-2966 or visit www.dnu.org. Upcoming sessions include Feb. 26, Pastoral Musicians; March 19, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; and April 16, Catechists. Sign up now for your area of interest.



HRS student council Operation Christmas



Marshall – During October and November, the Holy Redeemer School student council organized its annual Operation Christmas Child shoebox drive. Families of HRS were asked to donate a shoebox of numerous items or make a monetary donation. With the help of Holy Redeemer Faith Formation and Wee Care Preschool, the students donated 154 boxes to Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child.

O Antiphons

(continued from page 10)

Questions for reflection

- Which image in the O Antiphons seems the most unfamiliar to you? What does it tell us about the season?
- How does your understanding of Christmas change when you ponder that Christ fulfills all seven of these O images?
- Where in your life do you need wisdom? The Lord to reveal himself? New growth? An opened door? A radiant new day? A ruler? And God among us?

For a deeper understanding of the O Antiphons, visit <http://catholic->

resources.org/Lectionary/Advent-O-Antiphons.htm, a Web page that lists each antiphon, its refrain, the Latin translation, the acclamation translation, and biblical references.

Home activities

Create a countdown to Christmas. Beginning December 17, take one O Antiphon image each day. Use it to begin a prayer around your family's Advent wreath, or sing the corresponding verse of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Share with others how this image might be important to living a Christian life.

Darren M. Henson, STL, is pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Emporia, Kansas. He serves as adjunct faculty at Loyola University Chicago, and Benedictine College, Atchison, Ks.

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NOMINATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE
2011

DIOCESAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This award is presented to members of the diocese in recognition of outstanding service in some leadership capacity to the Diocese of New Ulm over a period of years. Up to five awards will be presented by Bishop John M. LeVoir immediately following the annual Bishop Lucker Lecture to be held this year on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls. Evening presenter will be Fr. Robert Barron, a prominent theologian and one of the world's most innovative teachers of Catholicism.

Forms for nominations, as well as a listing of past recipients, are posted on the diocesan Web site, www.dnu.org, or contact Penny Forst at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; 507-359-2966; e-mail: pforst@dmu.org

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS JANUARY 3, 2011.

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 25 No. 4 December 2010



Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News) – At a St. Peter’s Basilica Mass on Nov. 21, the Pope gave each of the 24 newest cardinals a ring with the image of a crucifix emblazoned on it. The image was intended to remind them that their ministry is dependent upon their fidelity to the crucified Christ. The Mass took place just a day after the consistory event which created the cardinals.

The Pope and the new cardinals were joined in St. Peter’s by more than 100 other cardinals in addition to bishops, priests, religious and faithful representing the farthest reaches of the globe.

Among the new cardinals were two from the United States: Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, former St. Louis Archbishop and now prefect of the Apostolic Signatura, the top Vatican tribunal, and

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington.

World AIDS Day is Dec. 1. Each year we set aside this day to recognize the impact of HIV and AIDS in our communities and throughout our global family.

World AIDS Day is also a day when the world joins hands and hearts to address the pain, the stigma, and the great loss of so many lives. It is a time for us to witness, by words and action, the compassion of Jesus as we pray as a people of faith and hope for the healing of HIV and AIDS.

For information or assistance on HIV/AIDS Ministry in the Diocese of New Ulm, contact Fr. Paul A. Schumacher, director of AIDS Ministry and senior associate pastor at the Church of St. Anastasia, 400 Lake Street SW, Hutchinson, MN 55350 (mailing address: 460 Lake Street SW, Hutchinson, MN 55350); 320-

587-6507; e-mail: stanastasia@stanastasia.net.

For the past two years, Catholic parishes across Minnesota have taken the opportunity to celebrate Immigration Sunday on the feast of Our Lord’s Epiphany. On Immigration Sunday, we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who have come here from other countries, bearing the difficulty of leaving home and moving to a foreign

land. Bishop John M. LeVoir stated, “It is our responsibility, as a loving Christian community, to welcome them, treat them with dignity, and help make this their new home.” Bishop LeVoir invites all the faithful of the Diocese of New Ulm to join him and his brother bishops in Minnesota as we again celebrate statewide Immigration Sunday on Jan. 2, 2011.

Did you miss the showing of the 2010 DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL presentation in your parish?

View it online at www.dnu.org.

The DVD is also available through the diocesan Media Resource Center, 507-233-5330.



Individual parish DMA fund summaries are now available for viewing online.

Visit often to check out how your parish is doing in reaching its 2010 DMA goal!



“He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth.”

– Luke 1:14

(Photo: Church of Our Lady of Victory, Lucan stained glass window)

Join Bishop LeVoir for an Advent Prayer Service

The faithful throughout the diocese are invited to attend the annual Advent Prayer Service on Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Church of St. Aloysius in Olivia at 4 p.m. Bring the Baby Jesus from your home nativity set to be blessed by the bishop. Donations of “swaddling clothes” (blankets, sleepers, layette items) will be collected for San Lucas Mission, Birthright, or Human Services.