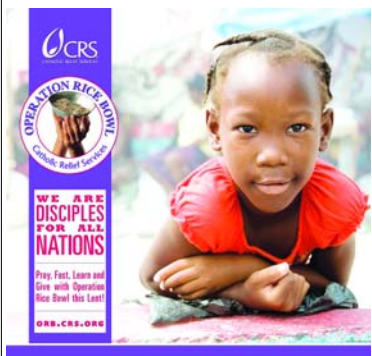


THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 25 No. 7 March 2011



Operation Rice Bowl, sponsored by Catholic Relief Services, is an annual Lenten program that begins in parishes on Ash Wednesday (March 9). During this time, Catholic schools and parishes from more than 12,000 communities throughout the country use symbolic rice bowls as the focal point for their prayer and fasting. Your involvement in this program is a tangible way to help those living in poverty around the world. Visit www.crs.org.

President Obama's refusal to support Defense of Marriage Act worrisome

by Kevin J. Jones

Washington D.C. (CNA/EWTN News) – The Obama administration's decision not to defend a key federal marriage law raises worrying questions about the religious freedom of Catholics and others who believe in traditional marriage, according to Catholic leaders.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced Feb. 23 that the administration now believes the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act – which defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman and denies marital benefits to

homosexual partnerships – is unconstitutional because it discriminates against homosexuals.

Holder cited a "changed" legal landscape – including a Supreme Court ruling that laws against homosexual conduct are unconstitutional. He also cited Congress' decision late last year to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that prevented homosexuals from serving openly in the military.

Anthony R. Picarello, Jr., the top legal counsel for the U.S. bishops, called the administration's decision a "grave affront" to Americans who reject unjust discrimination but also affirm "the unique and

inestimable value of marriage as between one man and one woman." "Support for actual marriage is not bigotry, but instead an eminently reasonable, common judgment affirming the foundational institution of civil society," Picarello said.

Any government suggestion that this belief is discriminatory is a "serious threat" to religious liberty, he added.

Robert P. George, perhaps the nation's top Catholic scholar on marriage, described Holder's defense of the administration's position as "extremely worrying." He said Holder's statement was

"dripping with animus" against people who believe that marriage is "the conjugal union of a husband and wife."

"He treats that belief as if it were a mere prejudice, as though it is motivated by a desire to cause harm to people," George told CNA Feb. 24. "Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. It is a legitimate moral belief that has informed our law throughout history."

The statement suggests to George the possibility that the Justice Department will "abuse its authority to suppress the religious liberty of people who dissent."

"It raises the concern that the Justice Department will treat believing Christians, Jews, Muslims, and others as though they are the equivalent of racists," he warned.

He said recognizing marriage as only between one man and one woman is "absolutely not" discriminatory in terms of constitutional law. He cited Justice Anthony Kennedy's ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, a landmark 2003 case that declared laws against homosexual acts to be unconstitutional. That ruling, George said, has "no implications whatsoever for marriage."

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Catholic Schools Week special report

Visit us online!
www.dnu.org

Dr. Deborah Savage to keynote annual DCCW convention

2011 convention presenter is a recognized expert on Christian feminism



Dr. Deborah Savage

Redwood Falls – Dr. Deborah Savage, a member of the faculty at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St.

Thomas in St. Paul, will be the presenter at the 52nd annual New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women annual convention on Saturday, April 30, at the Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls. The topic of her presentation will be "The Beauty of the Feminine Genius at Home and in the World."

Savage comes to the diocese on high recommendation of Bishop John M. LeVoit. She currently teaches philosophy and theology in both the Pre-Theology and Masters in Pastoral Ministry Programs at the

University. She received her Doctorate in Religious Studies from Marquette University in 2005; her degree is in both theology and philosophy. She is a recognized scholar of the work of John Paul II and has written and presented or published several papers on how his philosophical anthropology informs his body of work as pope.

Savage speaks regularly on the topics of the feminine genius within the context of the complementarity of men and women, human sexuality, and the theological

meaning of human work. She is the cofounder of the Siena Symposium, an interdisciplinary think tank at UST, organized to respond to John Paul II's call for a new and explicitly Christian feminism. She is versed in the relationship between faith, spirituality, and work; and has given talks and seminars and delivered papers internationally on the relationship between faith and human work.

Convention registration information will be forthcoming in parish bulletins throughout the diocese.

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

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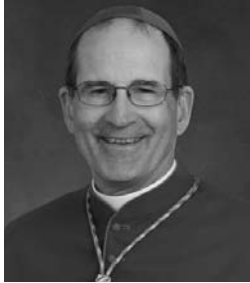
Thomas Keaveny

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Fr. Todd Petersen, director; **Fr. Craig Timmerman**, associate director;
Margaret McHugh, vocation awareness

BE NOT AFRAID

"Lent: a time of prayer"



Bishop John M. LeVoir

Soon we will be in the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday this year is on March 9. This is the beginning of Lent and our forty day journey to Easter on April 24. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines Lent as follows: "The liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (CCC, Glossary).

During Lent, we are called to spend time in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, in imitation of Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls Lent one of the times that "... are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and

fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works)" (CCC, no. 1438).

It is important that when we are involved in the practices of Lent that we have a reason for doing them. For example, when we pray, we can pray for something or someone. This is called a prayer of petition. There are so many things for which we can petition God during Lent. There are so many people who need our prayers. Let me suggest a number of intentions for which to pray.

There is prayer for family and friends, especially for those who are struggling with difficult issues in their lives. For example, they may be struggling with the death of a friend or relative, with their studies in school, finding a new job, relief from an illness or injury, divorce, and so forth.

It is important to pray for the Holy Father and all Church leaders, for the Church herself, for all of those who have suffered abuse by clergy and religious, and for those clergy and religious who have been abusive. We pray that this abuse never takes place again.

We should pray each day for the respect for human life from conception to natural death and for an end to all sins against chastity. We can pray for all lay people, for our parishes, for marriage and family life, for the Fourth Plan for

Parishes, and for the "Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign (there is a special prayer for this intention).

We should pray for our government officials, for police and firefighters, for emergency personnel, and for business people and farmers. Prayer helps those who are addicted in any way to food, alcohol, or sex. Prayer to protect the conscience rights of health care workers is an important prayer today.

Since our diocese is in great need of more priests and religious, I have asked that the parishes pray often for an increase in the number of those answering God's call to the priesthood and consecrated life, as well as for those who are in formation in seminaries and religious houses. We should pray for those who are serving the diocese as priests and religious, as well as the lay people who work in our parishes and at the Pastoral Center.

In addition, I pray a special prayer for my brother priests each day because of the challenges that they face in preaching the Gospel and celebrating the sacraments, as well as the personal issues with which they struggle. Do not forget to pray for deacons, and the deacon candidates and their families.

The Church asks us to pray for those who have died. Included in my prayer for the dead are my

predecessors, Bishop Schladweiler and Bishop Lucker; my dad and my relatives; as well as the hundreds and hundreds of those for whom I have celebrated the funeral liturgy. Important as well is prayer for peace in the world; an end of terrorism, violence, and war; for our military personnel, especially those overseas; prayer for those who are poor, marginalized, and discriminated against; prayer for the immigrant; and prayer for the sick and disheartened.

These are some of the things for which we can pray during Lent. This list is not exhaustive. However, looking at these intentions, maybe there are one or two that you could pray for in a special way during Lent, whether at Mass, at home, in adoration, or during the Rosary. Prayer is the key that opens the merciful heart of God, who is rich in mercy and hears every one of our prayers.

Perpetual Adoration in New Ulm

I am very pleased that the Holy Cross Area Faith Community will begin perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm. There are many parishes throughout the diocese that have hours of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. I encourage regular times for adoration in all of our parishes. It is a special way to pray: to sit with Our Lord, to speak with him, and to listen to him speak to us.

Bishop's March Calendar

5 Redwood Falls: 9:30 a.m.

Church of St. Catherine. Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting.

North Mankato: 5:30 p.m. Church of the Holy Rosary. Confirmation.

6 Green Valley: 8 a.m. Church of St. Clotilde. Confirmation.

Marshall: 11 a.m. St. Mary's Chapel, Holy Redeemer School. Confirmation.

New Ulm: 6:15 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Opening of Perpetual Adoration for the Holy Cross Area Faith Community.

7 St. Paul: 1:30 p.m. Minnesota

Catholic Conference Executive Director Interviews.

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

New Ulm: 1 p.m. Holy Trinity Middle School. NUACS Board of Directors Meeting.

9 Sleepy Eye: 8:20 a.m. Church of St. Mary. School Mass.

New Ulm: 10 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. School Mass.

11 Olivia: 12 p.m. Church of St.

Aloysius. Region 5 Presbytery Gathering.

12 St. Peter: 4 p.m. Church of St. Peter. Confirmation.

13 Sleepy Eye: 10 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Confirmation.

New Ulm: 3 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Rite of Election.

14-15 Duluth: Bishops' Support Group Gathering.

16 New Ulm: 9:45 a.m. Catholic

Pastoral Center. Quinquennial Report Team Meeting.

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

New Ulm: 1 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Finance Council Meeting.

New Ulm: 7 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Property Committee Meeting.

18 New Ulm: 9 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Diocesan Staff Lenten Morning of Reflection.

(continued on page 11)

Bishop to recognize five for distinguished service to diocese

recognition to take place following Bishop Lucker Lecture March 29 in Redwood Falls

On March 29, Bishop John M. LeVoir will present the 2011 Diocesan Distinguished Service Award (DDSA) to five Catholics in the diocese in recognition of their outstanding diocesan service, exercised in some leadership capacity. The presentation will be held following the annual Bishop Lucker Lecture at the Church at St. Catherine in Redwood Falls beginning at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend the evening's events free of charge.

This year's DDSA recipients are: Fr. John Goggin, Encarnación (Chona) Ajcot, Joseph Eikmeier, Sr. Therese Collison, and Regina "Jeane" Appel.

Fr. John Goggin currently serves as a diocesan priest at the Diocese of New Ulm parish mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. He has served there over 43 years. Fr. Goggin is a native of DeGraff and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler in May 1964. He was assigned as associate pastor to the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson for three years before accepting an assignment as associate pastor in San Lucas.

While in San Lucas, Fr. Goggin took charge of all parish programs in the rural communities and the plantations, coordinated the catechists, and directed the social and religious projects. He is also very involved with the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), a sponsorship for children in need of assistance with their educational, medical, and other needs in the areas surrounding San Lucas.

Encarnación (Chona) Ajcot is a member of the Diocese of New Ulm mission parish in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. She has worked with the parish since the age of 14. In her early years of parish work, Ajcot prepared milk to be distributed to the poor, then assisted the nuns with household



Fr. John Goggin



Encarnación (Chona) Ajcot



Joseph Eikmeier



Sr. Therese Collison



Regina "Jeane" Appel

chores, and later took up cooking. She is now the head cook at the mission and in charge of the entire food service for the parish.

Ajcot has raised three children alone after her husband was kidnapped and disappeared during the years of violence in the 1980s. From this experience she found the strength to help the mission in a new way. She now travels to the United States with Msgr. Greg Schaefer and assists him in his effort to raise financial support for the people of San Lucas. She prepares Guatemalan food for fundraisers, and speaks to church groups, schools, and universities. During the 47 years she has worked with the mission, she has found a means to help her people who have suffered greatly and need assistance to build a better life.

Joseph Eikmeier is a member of the Church of St. Mary in Willmar and has been involved in diocesan efforts for many years. He was a representative of Region 5 Regional Council when that structure existed in the diocese and served on the Diocesan Pastoral Council as the Region 5 representative. He also was a member of the Committee on Parishes for 10 years, from 1993-2003.

Eikmeier currently serves on the Diocesan Building Committee, where he has been active for the past 15 years. He also has been active with parish ministries, serving as lector at liturgies and counting the money from collections the parish receives.

Sr. Therese Collison, SSND, currently serves as principal of John Ireland Elementary School in St. Peter and as pastoral associate at the Church of St. Peter in St. Peter. In the early 1980s, she served on the Continuing Education of the Clergy Advisory Board and from 1979-1984 she served on the Sisters' Council. During this time she also served on the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of the Sisters' Council and then as representative of the diocesan Catholic school principals. Since 2005, she has served on the diocesan Evangelization and Catechesis (E & C) Committee, currently serving as chairperson. Since 2010, she has served on the Catholic Charities Advisory Council for the diocese.

From 1980-1984, Sr. Therese represented the diocese with the Catholic Conference Task Force, helping to form the nonpublic school accrediting association agency. She was involved with the Educational Cooperative Services Unit in Marshall from 1979-1983, representing diocesan Catholic schools and principals.

As a pastoral associate at the parish level, she is involved with baptismal preparation with parents of children to be baptized; ministers to the homebound, sick, and dying; leads Word and Communion services in nursing homes; coordinates social concerns needs in the area; assists with the RCIA; coordinates adult faith formation; and assists with sacramental preparation.

Regina "Jeane" Appel served as president of the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Woman (NUDCCW) from 2008-2010. Prior to serving as president, she served on the Family Concerns Commission of the NUDCCW and currently serves as chairperson of the Organization Commission. Appel has also served as DCCW Region 3 president, vice president, and treasurer.

In her home parish of St. Genevieve in Lake Benton, she serves as a Eucharistic minister in the parish and to the homebound. She is involved with meals on wheels and visits the local nursing home regularly.

Local Serra Clubs gather in Sleepy Eye for five-year anniversary

On the evening of Feb. 7, members of the Good Shepherd Serra Club and surrounding clubs gathered with Bishop John M. LeVoir and a number of priests, deacons, deacon candidates, and religious for Mass followed by a banquet in celebration of the club's five-year anniversary. Bishop LeVoir told attendees about his vocation story. Good Shepherd Serra Club was chartered in November of 2005 and is the second club with members from the Diocese of New Ulm (the Mankato Serra has members from Holy Rosary, North Mankato). Serra clubs exist to support, affirm, and promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, as well as foster members' vocations. Normally, the club meets on the first Thursday of the month at Divine Providence in Sleepy Eye. For further information on becoming a Serra club member, call 507-747-2181.



(photo by Fr. Todd Petersen)





por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Este año el Miércoles de Ceniza es el 9 de Marzo marcando el inicio de Cuaresma y nuestra jornada de cuarenta días hasta la Pascua el 24 de Abril. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica define la Cuaresma de la siguiente manera: "La temporada litúrgica de los cuarenta días que se inicia con el Miércoles de Ceniza y termina con la celebración del Misterio Pascual (Triduo Pascual). La Cuaresma es el tiempo penitencial elemental en el año litúrgico de la Iglesia, ya que refleja los cuarenta días que Jesús permaneció en el desierto orando y ayunando" (CCC, Glosario).

Durante la Cuaresma, somos llamados a orar, ayunar y dar ofrenda, en imitación a Cristo. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica llama la Cuaresma uno de los tiempos "...son particularmente apropiados para los ejercicios espirituales, las liturgias penitenciales, las peregrinaciones como signo de penitencia, las privaciones voluntarias como el ayuno y la limosna, la comunicación Cristiana de bienes (obras caritativas y misioneras)" (CCC, no. 1438).

Cuando estemos involucrados con las prácticas de Cuaresma es importante tener un motivo para hacerlas. Por ejemplo, cuando

No Tengas Miedo

Cuaresma: Un Tiempo de Oración

oramos, podemos orar por algo o alguien. Esto se llama una oración de petición. Hay tantas cosas que podemos pedirle a Dios durante la Cuaresma. A continuación, un número de intenciones por la cual orar.

Hay oración por las familias y amigos, especialmente por los que batallan con problemas personales. Por ejemplo, por los que sufren la muerte de un ser querido, por los estudios en la escuela, por encontrar un empleo, por el alivio de alguna enfermedad o lesión, divorcio, etc.

Es importante orar por el Santo Padre y por todos los líderes de la Iglesia, por la Iglesia, por aquellos que han sufrido abuso por el clero y religiosos y por los clérigos y religiosos que han sido abusados. Oremos para que este abuso nunca ocurra más.

Debemos orar cada día por el respeto a la vida humana desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural y para poner fin a todos los pecados contra la castidad. Podemos orar por todos los laicos, por nuestras parroquias, por el matrimonio y la vida familiar, por el Cuarto Plan para parroquias y por la Campaña Capital.

Debemos orar por nuestros funcionarios Gubernamentales, por los policías y bomberos, por el personal de emergencia, agricultores y empresarios. La oración ayuda con los que de alguna forma son adictos a los alimentos, alcohol o sexo. Una

oración muy importante hoy en día es para proteger los derechos de la conciencia de los trabajadores de cuidado de la salud.

Puesto que nuestra Diócesis está en la gran necesidad de más sacerdotes y religiosos, he pedido que las parroquias oren regularmente por el aumento de las vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida consagrada. Debemos orar por los sacerdotes y religiosos de nuestra diócesis, así como los laicos que trabajan en nuestras parroquias.

Cada día rezo por mis hermanos los sacerdotes por los desafíos que hacen frente en la predicación del Evangelio y la celebración de los sacramentos, así como de sus problemas personales.

Es importante orar por la paz en el mundo; fin del terrorismo, violencia y guerra; por nuestro personal militar, especialmente los que sirven fuera del país; por los pobres, marginados y discriminados; los inmigrantes y oración por los enfermos y desmoralizados.

Estas son algunas intenciones por las cuales podemos orar durante la Cuaresma. Al mirar estas intenciones, tal vez haya una o dos que usted podría orar de manera muy especial esta Cuaresma, ya sea en la Misa, en su casa, en adoración, o durante el Rosario. La oración es la llave que abre el corazón misericordioso de Dios, ya que escucha cada una de nuestras oraciones.

What we have taught Tommy and what Tommy has taught us

by Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM
Diocesan Safe Environment
Coordinator

When we read about a child being threatened by a stranger, we relate to that child and that child's family on a certain level. But when that child, that family, is "close to home," their predicament is perceived with a new intensity, a more personal meaning that affects us more deeply. The situation urges us to reach out with our support and renew our efforts to help keep all children safe.

Tommy is that child who is "close to home" for us as a diocese. On Jan. 11 there was an attempted, but unsuccessful abduction of young Tommy in Arlington. Tommy knew what to do when he was approached by the abductor. He ran away.

Tommy was able to keep himself safe. When he was asked by his parents, school officials and law enforcement authorities how he knew what to do, he answered, "I learned it in Church religion class and Cub Scouts."

"I learned it in Church religion class" In 2007 the VIRTUS program for adults and children became the official safe environment program of the diocese. Since then the offices of Religious Education and Faith Formation, Catholic Schools, and Safe Environment have taken up and fulfilled the request of the bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm to foster a safe environment in our Church for our children and youth. They have incorporated into their curriculums VIRTUS' Protecting God's Children, Touching Safety Program for Children. Through the efforts of the DREs, catechists, principals, teachers, and school staff in our diocese, the faith environment of each of our parishes and schools has become a safer environment for our children and youth.

It was the Church – you and I and all of us together as Church – that taught and continues to teach Tommy and all of our children what

VIRTUS training
sessions (for adults)



March 8
St. John Education Center
(Hwy. 12, west of Cokato)
at 6 p.m.

March 10
Church of St. Francis,
Benson at 7 p.m.

Contact parish to register.

to do to be safe. We can be so grateful that our efforts to educate through the VIRTUS program have been able to bear the fruit they have – that each of our parishes provides not only a living faith environment, but also a safe environment. This is because of the lessons taught in our school and religious education curriculums, as well as through the Safe Environment adult training given to all employees and volunteers who have unsupervised contact with children and youth.

Our commitment to our safe environment program is grounded in all that the Church teaches on the dignity of each human person and the way we should model a Christ-like love, compassion, and caring for those we encounter. This commitment leads us to structure our church and school environments and activities to protect against threats to the safety of our children and youth.

The VIRTUS program has helped save one child and one family from tragedy and pain. It has and deserves to continue to be our committed response as Church to the human suffering of child abuse.

Better interest rates and spiritual benefits

by Wayne Pelzel

Do the current interest rates on your CD leave you disappointed? Would you like a significantly higher, guaranteed, safe alternative? The Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) may be just the answer. And as an additional reward, you'll get a tax benefit.

Here's how the CGA works. The Catholic Community Foundation uses your gift to provide you with a guaranteed income for the rest of

your life. Annuity payments range from 5.4 percent at age 64 to 8.2 percent at age 85. At the end of your life, the remaining principal goes to the charity of your choice. But even with these terrific interest rates, there's more: The CGA also gives you a charitable deduction on your initial gift to set up the annuity. And, on top of that, a sizeable portion of the annuity payments you receive will be tax free.

The CGA is a great way to get better

returns on your savings investment; set aside money to someday benefit your parish, school, or the diocese; and take advantage of some great tax benefits all at once.

For a no-cost illustration of how the CGA will benefit you and the charity of your choice, contact Wayne Pelzel, diocesan director of Development and a Gift Planner for the Catholic Community Foundation, at 507-359-2966.

“Christ Our Life” Campaign for new pastoral center set to begin pilot wave

New Ulm – St. Francis parish in Benson has a new educational center in the works. The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm will opt for a new roof. A new parking lot and restroom updates are on tap for Sacred Heart in Franklin. At

other area parishes, plans are underway for facility expansion, heating and cooling upgrades, and much needed structural repairs. They are different churches with different projects, but share one common trait: All will be participating in the “pilot wave” of the Diocese of New Ulm’s “Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign.

“By having this campaign that is all-encompassing, that includes all of these parishes, it’s a phenomenal concept,” said Mary Ellen Domeier, a member of the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm and campaign volunteer. “It’s great to see that all of us can, at one time, in a very efficient manner, address our individual needs at the same time as we address the diocesan need.”

Seventeen parishes have volunteered to participate in the pilot wave of the campaign. Each parish of the diocese will be asked to raise 1.12 times their annual parish offertory. The parish and the diocese will share equally in this amount. In other words, for every

dollar raised, the parish will receive 50 cents and so will the diocese. Once the parish reaches its goal, it will receive 100 percent of every

additional dollar raised. The monies raised for the diocese will go toward construction of a new pastoral

center. The allocation of the parish funds will be decided by each local church or area faith community.

As a former pastor, Bishop John M. LeVoir knows how important it is for a parish to secure its future. “What do they need? Maybe the rectory needs fixing or something else needs to be done. They’ll be able to face the future in a much more solid position” through their participation in the campaign, he said.

Preparations for the start of the pilot wave are well underway. Parish leadership and volunteers are currently attending training meetings in anticipation of the kickoff in late March. Parishes that are not participating in the pilot wave will conduct their efforts later this year.

For further information about the campaign, contact the diocesan Office of Development, 507-359-2966; wpezlzel@dnu.org.



Christ
Our Life
DIOCESE OF NEW ULM CAMPAIGN

Plans for perpetual adoration underway in Holy Cross Area Faith Community

by Deacon Aaron Johanneck

Perpetual Eucharistic adoration is coming to the Holy Cross Area Faith Community!

The parishes of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm, St. John the Baptist in Searles, St. Gregory the Great in Lafayette, and St. George in West Newton Township are making the commitment to adore Jesus Christ in the Eucharist all hours of the day and night.

Members of the faith community will commit to one hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament each week to ensure that the Lord is never left alone. This means that the chapel in which adoration takes place can always be open for anyone who desires to stop for personal prayer in the presence of Our Eucharistic Lord.

Through perpetual adoration, a community beautifully and powerfully expresses its faith in and devotion to Jesus Christ, who is always present with us Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Perpetual adoration chapels have become more widespread in the past few decades. In fact, Fr. Victor Warkulwiz of the Missionary Priests of the Blessed Sacrament based in Philadelphia, who preached at all of the Masses at the Cathedral and St. Mary’s the weekend of Jan. 15 and 16, has dedicated the past 20 years to establishing and maintaining perpetual adoration in parishes across the nation. His efforts, and those of other priests and orders dedicated to perpetual adoration, have contributed to the spread of this devotion.

In the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis alone there are currently about 40 parishes with perpetual adoration, according to their Web site. The Diocese of Winona has at least one perpetual



Perpetual Eucharistic adoration occurs when a community commits itself to ensuring that someone is adoring the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at all times. In the Holy Cross Area Faith Community perpetual exposition of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Adoration Chapel at the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm.

adoration chapel in each deanery, with one as close as St. John the Baptist parish in Mankato.

In the Diocese of New Ulm, perpetual adoration currently takes place at St. Mary’s in Sleepy Eye, where the hours are divided between the adoration chapel in the old convent and the chapel at Divine Providence Community Home. Perpetual adoration was established there in 1998 under then-pastor Msgr. John Richter.

Eucharistic adoration is certainly not a new phenomenon in the Holy Cross AFC. Days of adoration currently occur both at the Cathedral and at St. Mary’s. Other times of adoration are held at other parishes of the AFC as well.

The decision to expand to perpetual adoration is the result of the desire of Bishop John M. LeVoir that Jesus be adored in the Eucharist in the heart of the diocese. Bishop LeVoir has seen the fruits of perpetual adoration in parishes where he has served as pastor in the archdiocese. He is confident that this time spent in adoration of the Lord will bear great fruit in the diocese.

Preparations for perpetual adoration are currently underway. Those who have indicated an interest in committing to spending an hour with the Lord each week are being contacted to set the schedule of adorers. Improvements are also being made to the chapel at St. Mary’s, where perpetual adoration will take place.

Perpetual adoration of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist in the Holy Cross AFC begins the first Sunday of Lent and continues ... perpetually! An opening Mass will be celebrated by Bishop John M. LeVoir at the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm at 6:15 p.m. on Sunday, March 13.

If you live in the New Ulm area and would like to participate in the Holy Cross AFC perpetual Eucharistic adoration, please contact me at 507-233-9505.



Deacon Aaron Johanneck is a seminarian of the Diocese of New Ulm, who is currently serving at the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm. He will be ordained to the priesthood June 30, 2012.

Tune in for . . .

Lenten Radio Messages from Bishop John M. LeVoir

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

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



funded in part by the
Catholic Communication
Campaign

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



A+ For America CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The 38th annual **Catholic Schools Week**, held Jan. 30-Feb. 5 in Catholic dioceses throughout the nation, celebrated the fact that Catholic schools are an added value ("a plus") for the nation. Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a positive contribution to American society. Catholic schools give a high level of service to the nation (the A+ level) by serving

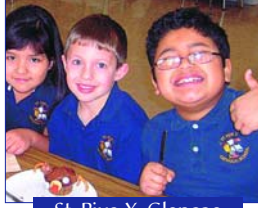
students from all economic backgrounds and giving them a strong academic and moral foundation, allowing them to succeed in life, and preparing them to serve in the government, industry, business, the non-profit sector, and education. Catholic schools also give a high level of service (the A+ level) to local communities because of the many service projects students undertake. "Giving back to the community" and "helping others" are values instilled in every Catholic school student.



St. Mary, Bird Island



St. Anastasia, Hutchinson



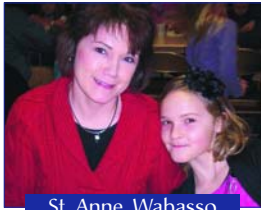
St. Pius X, Glencoe



John Ireland, St. Peter



St. Raphael, Springfield



St. Anne, Wabasso



St. Mary, Tracy



St. Michael, Morgan



St. Peter, Canby

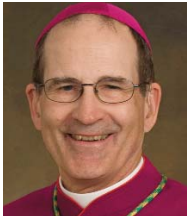


Loyola, No. Mankato



Students at St. Edward School in Minneota supported Catholic Schools Weeks by wearing t-shirts donated by the Student Council. The shirts were designed by third grader Ali DeVlaeminck.

Handing down the Catholic faith to our children



**A message from
Bishop
John M. LeVoi**

“The Catholic school is an integral part of the mission of the Church to families and their children.”

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year the Diocese of New Ulm, along with many dioceses across the country, celebrates Catholic Schools Week. It is a time to thank God for our Catholic schools and to recommit ourselves to sustaining these schools. This year, Catholic Schools Week was celebrated in the schools beginning on Monday, Jan. 31, 2011.

Jan. 31 happens to be the feast of St. John Bosco (1815-1888). I celebrated two school Masses that day, at Holy Trinity in Winsted and St. Pius X in Glencoe. I was able to talk to the students during the homily about St. John and his connection to Catholic schools.

St. John was a priest in Turin, Italy, during the Industrial Revolution. This event brought many families into the city of Turin to work in the factories. Since there was not work for everyone, there were many poor families in Turin and many children were abandoned in the

streets because their parents could not care for them.

St. John and his followers took many boys into their care. Their main tasks were to give the boys the necessities of life, as well as to educate them both in various trades and in their Catholic faith. In other words, they educated the whole person so that the boys could make a decent living and practice their faith.

The mission of St. John Bosco is carried on in so many ways in the 19 Catholic schools of our diocese. The purpose of the Catholic school is to assist parents in handing on the Catholic faith to their children, while at the same time imparting the knowledge of the arts and sciences. This is the same method of St. John. The whole person is educated, body, mind, and will.

The Catholic school is an integral part of the mission of the Church to families and their children. Pope Benedict XVI pointed this out in England not too long

ago when he said: “. . . the life of faith needs to be the driving force behind every activity in the school, so that the Church’s mission may be served effectively, and the young people may discover the joy of entering into Christ’s ‘being for others.’”

I ask you to continue to support Catholic schools in our diocese, where our children can form a friendship with God. Again, to quote the words of our Holy Father to Catholic school students, “. . . there is always a bigger picture over and above the individual subjects you study, the different skills you learn. All the work you do is placed in the context of growing in friendship with God, and all that flows from that friendship.”

In Christ,

The Most Reverend John M. LeVoi
Bishop of New Ulm



St. Philip, Litchfield

★ Giving back!

Catholic school students throughout the diocese get an A+ for their involvement, reaching beyond the school and out into their parish community.



Holy Trinity, Winsted



Holy Family, Silver Lake



Holy Redeemer, Marshall



New Ulm Area Catholic Schools

USCCB supports Wisconsin bishops on rights of workers

Washington – Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, expressed his "support for and solidarity" with the Wisconsin bishops' statement on the rights of workers.

In a Feb. 23 letter to Archbishop Jerome E. Listekki of Milwaukee, Bishop Blaire wrote, "You and our brother bishops in Wisconsin are offering a timely reminder of what the Church teaches on the rights and duties of workers, including the right to form and belong to unions and other associations, and the obligation to address difficult problems with respect for the rights and needs of all. As you insist, 'hard times do not nullify the moral obligation each of us has to respect the legitimate rights of workers.'"

"Catholic teaching and your statement remind us these are not just political conflicts or economic choices; they are moral choices with

enormous human dimensions. The debates over worker representation and collective bargaining are not simply matters of ideology or power, but involve principles of justice, participation and how workers can have a voice in the workplace and economy."

Recalling the teachings of Popes Benedict XVI and John Paul II on unions and the rights of workers, Bishop Blaire praised the Wisconsin bishops for consistently sharing the "teaching of the Church in the midst of this controversy."

"We pray that the leaders and people of Wisconsin – and across our nation – will respond to your appeal to everyone – lawmakers, citizens, workers, and labor unions – to move beyond divisive words and actions and work together, so that Wisconsin can recover in a humane way from the current fiscal crisis," he said.

To read the complete text of the letter visit www.usccb.org.

iPhone confession app "no substitute for sacrament"

Vatican City, (CNA/EWTN News) – The sacrament of Confession "cannot be substituted by any computer application," a Vatican said Feb. 9. The remarks by papal spokesman Fr. Federico Lombardi, SJ, came amid a flurry of misleading international media reports on a new application developed for Apple's iPhone, iPad, and iPod.

"Confession: A Roman Catholic App" was recently released as a way for Catholics to prepare for and participate in the Sacrament of Penance. Some recent press reports, however, have suggested that the application could replace in-person confession.

Fr. Lombardi said the essence of the sacrament involves the intimate conversation of the believer and the priest and the presence of Jesus Christ.

"It is essential to understand that the

sacrament of penance requires a personal dialogue between the penitent and the confessor, and absolution by the confessor who is present," said Fr. Lombardi.

"This is something that cannot be replaced by any application. One cannot speak of a 'confession via iPhone,'" he said.

He said that the new application could be useful in helping people make an examination of conscience. In the past, he noted, Catholics would sometimes use written questions and answers to prepare for confession, and that's something that could be done today with the aid of a digital service.

The application was developed by a small firm in Indiana and is based on the Ten Commandments. It was designed in part for people who have been away from the Church.

TEC cofounders receive national youth ministry recognition award

New Orleans – The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) Board of Directors honored TEC (Together Encountering Christ) cofounders Fr. Matthew Fedewa and Dorothy Gereke with the National Youth Ministry Recognition Award. They received the award because of their lifetime dedication and ongoing contributions to the TEC movement.

Every two years, the NFCYM presents this award to those who serve as role models to other youth and young adult ministry leaders. Fedewa and Gereke received their honors at the 2010 National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry on Dec. 10 at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center.

According to the Diocese of New Ulm's Riverbend TEC spiritual leader, Fr. Dennis Labat, "the diocese has benefited greatly from the inspiration and work of Fr. Fedewa and Dorothy Gereke as we have continued to develop the content and spirituality of our TEC retreat weekend."

In 2007, Fr. Fedewa was the



(photo courtesy of TEC Conference)

presenter at the TEC leadership training in the diocese and in 2010, Gereke participated in one of the TEC weekends.

"All of us involved in Riverbend TEC are greatly indebted to these two individuals who developed the TEC experience, which has helped us to more deeply encounter Christ and get more involved in our parishes. We, too, want to give thanks to our God for their gift to the Church," Fr. Labat said.

TEC is a Catholic movement of spirituality for older adolescents and young adults founded in Battle Creek, Mich., in 1965. Focusing on

Fr. Matthew Fedewa and Dorothy Gereke, cofounders of the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) Movement, received the National Youth Ministry Recognition Award Dec. 10 in New Orleans.

the Paschal Mystery, TEC helps thousands of young people each year deepen their relationship with Christ and discern their vocation within the larger Church. TEC is affiliated with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry; National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association; and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops through its episcopal moderator, Bishop William Callahan of La Crosse, Wis.

For an upcoming TEC weekend in the diocese of New Ulm, visit www.riverbendtec.org or call 507-723-4141.

DYC members travel by bus to visit newly approved Marian apparition site



On Feb. 11-13, Margaret McHugh, diocesan director of Youth Ministry, led members of the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) on a pilgrimage to New Franklin, Wis. to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. This shrine is a newly approved Marian apparition site. Pilgrims described their experience as "amazing, peaceful, prayerful, and inspiring." Participating on the pilgrimage are: (l-r) chaperones Steve and Sharon Onnen, Grace Maiers, Shawn Polman, Jon Onnen, Anne Goedtk, chaperone Sharon Illikman, Andrea Tauber, Monica Illikman, Tonio Rabaey, and Margaret McHugh.

St. Patrick: why his message still matters

by Brother Colmán Ó Clabaigh

March 17 is upon us again, and all over the world everyone is an honorary Irishman or Irishwoman for 24 hours. St. Patrick's popularity is a result of the wanderlust of the Irish, and there is no corner of the world in which his name is not honored.

Yet, if his name is known, his story is less familiar and his message often gets drowned out by the parades, the plastic shamrocks, and the green-dyed beer.

The little knowledge we have of him comes from two letters he wrote in the course of his missionary work in fifth-century Ireland.

In one, he fearlessly condemns a warlord who carried off some of his converts into slavery. The other document, known as his "Confession," gives a moving account of his conversion and his work as a minister of the Gospel.

Patrick was born in the year 389 into a comfortable Christian background in Roman-occupied Britain. Like others, he took his family, his faith, and his good fortune for granted.

All this changed when a group of Irish raiders captured him and sold him and his young companions into



Statue of St. Patrick, Church of St. Patrick, Kandiyohi

slavery. Snatched from the comfort of his Roman villa, he found himself herding sheep and fending off wild animals on the side of an Irish mountain.

Exiled, abused, and exploited, Patrick turned to Christ in his desperation, and the relationship of faith that followed transformed his own life and the lives of the Irish people.

Escaping from captivity, he returned to his family and became a priest.

He would perhaps have settled into a comfortable clerical career had it not been for a dream in which he heard the "voice of the Irish" begging him to "come and walk once more amongst us." This he took as a summons to return and proclaim the

freedom of Christ in the land of his captivity. It was a courageous decision and one that demanded all his reserves of courage and forgiveness.

Personal challenges

But Patrick's story doesn't end there. From the "Confession" we learn that his mission was anything but an easy one: He was subjected to threats and extortion, his converts were enslaved and brutalized, and his own personal integrity was called into question.

For Patrick had a dark secret.

Around age 15, he had committed a very serious crime. What the nature of this offense was he does not reveal, but it would have been an obstacle to his ordination had it been disclosed.

He confided this to a close friend, who subsequently betrayed his trust. In consequence, Patrick's mission was called into question and the "Confession" contains an anguished defense of his ministry in the face of his detractors, whom he dismissively addresses as "you men of letters, sitting on your estates."

God working within

All this is a long way from the sanitized image of the saint banishing the snakes from Ireland in his green vestments, bishop's staff, and oversized shamrock.

However, the reality of St. Patrick revealed in the "Confession" shows someone in whom the grace of God was powerfully active. The Lord habitually uses weak and fragile people to accomplish his will, to build up his kingdom: "My grace is enough for you, my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Patrick himself recognized this, he was conscious of being "rustic, exiled, unlearned," of lacking the

sophistication of other bishops. But more than this, he was conscious of the power God working within him.

Anyone familiar with the stonewalled fields that partition the Irish countryside will appreciate the image that he uses to describe this: "I was like a stone lying in deep mud; and he that is mighty came and in his mercy lifted me up, and raised me aloft and put me on top of the wall. And therefore I ought to shout out aloud and return something to the Lord for the great mercy he has shown me now and for all ages."

Weak though he was, Patrick's success lay in his recognition of the Gospel's power to transform, transfigure, and uplift; and this is as true for us in the 21st century as it was for him in the fifth.

Brother Colmán Ó Clabaigh is a Benedictine monk of Glenstal Abbey in Ireland where he is the monastery infirmarian and archivist. A medieval historian, he is the author of many books and articles on medieval monasticism and religion.

Looking out for the least of our brothers and sisters

by Margaret Schueller
DCCW Community Concerns
Commission Coordinator

As a person living in a community with people in need, what does Lent mean to you? Our present day communities include senior citizens living on a fixed income and families with children also living on fixed incomes. Are these people able to meet their living expenses?

During these cold winter months, more families are relying on their local food shelf due to a number of circumstances, which may include loss of job or the rising cost of utilities. How can we help these struggling families?

March is Minnesota Food Share month – an opportune time to

support and promote donations to your local food shelf. Perhaps you could help to organize a food collection in your parish.

In Matthew 25: 31-46 we read: "I was hungry, you gave me food; I was thirsty, you gave me drink; as a stranger you welcomed me; naked, you clothed me; ill and you cared for me; in prison and you visited me."

This Lent, get involved not only by giving something up, but also by helping in the communities where we live through prayer, almsgiving, and especially promoting donations to your local food shelf.

Margaret Schueller is a member of the Church of St. Dionysius in Tyler.

Enrichment videos for the season of Lent

By recommendation of the diocesan Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation, the following Lenten videos are available for check out through the diocesan Media Resource Center located at the Pastoral Center in New Ulm. Call 507-233-5330; or e-mail cclancy@dnu.org to place your order.



Elementary Grades

- *Angels' Lenten Lesson* by Twenty-Third Publications
- *Walk with Jesus: A Children's Way of the Cross* by Twenty-Third Publications

Elementary Grades and Middle School

- *Stations of the Cross for Children* by Twenty-Third Publications

Middle School Grades

- *Celebrating the Church Year – Lent* by Paulist Press

High School Grades and Adults

- *The Christian Year (Section Four – Lent and Holy Week)* by Cathedral Films and Video

- *Church Celebrates Lent and Easter* by St. Anthony Messenger Press
- *The Stations of the Cross* by ACTA Publications
- *Lent: A Time for Renewal* by Franciscan Communications

Adults

- *A Lenten Journey Series* by St. Anthony Messenger Press
- *Inspire Series* by Faith and Values
- *Lent in Sign and Symbol* by CTNA
- *Lent: A Time to Forgive* by Twenty-Third Publications
- *On the Road to Jerusalem Series* by National Catholic Broadcasting Foundation

Liturgy will be more formal, theologically deeper



(photo by USCCB)

NEW WORDS, A DEEPER MEANING, BUT THE SAME MASS

by Jerry Filteau

When a new English translation of the Mass is introduced in the United States – at the start of Advent in late 2011 – the style of worship will be more formal. But it will also be deeper theologically and more evocative emotionally and intellectually.

The Vatican's intention was not so much to make the liturgy more formal as to make the English version conform more closely to the original Latin, says Fr. Paul Turner, a Missouri priest who is former head of the North American Academy of Liturgy and frequently writes and lectures on liturgical questions.

"I think what's intentional is getting to a closer interpretation of the Latin" from which all modern liturgy translations in the Roman Catholic Church emanate, Fr. Turner says.

He said the result may sound more formal than in the past 40 years because the new translation rules inevitably lead in that direction.

The original translation of the Roman Missal into English was carried out under 1969 Vatican rules that stressed simplicity, modernity, and other factors that would make the language of the liturgy more comprehensible and participatory.

Newer rules, set out by the Vatican in 2002, emphasize greater fidelity to the original Latin.

Msgr. John H. Burton, vicar general of the Diocese of Camden, N.J., and board chairman of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Coordinators, says there was concern "that the

language has been too laid back" and failed to convey the rich liturgical heritage of the Roman rite.

The new translation shows an effort "to heighten the language a bit" and capture "the transcendence as well as the imminence of God," he says.

Fr. Andrew R. Wadsworth, executive director of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, says a more formal language in the new translation "is clearly identifiable as one of its characteristics." The commission translates Latin liturgy texts into English for the world's English-speaking bishops' conferences.

He says the vocabulary of the Mass prayers "is necessarily rich as it reflects the various mysteries of salvation, conveying concepts which do not always occur in everyday conversation. To radically simplify the language is often to dilute the concept."

An excerpt from Eucharistic Prayer I illustrates the difference in style.

The version currently in use reads: "Look with favor on these offerings. Accept them as once you accepted the gifts of your servant Abel, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the bread and wine offered by your priest Melchizedek.

"Almighty God, we pray that your Angel may take this sacrifice to your altar in heaven. As we receive from this altar the sacred Body and Blood of your Son, let us be filled with every grace and blessing."

The new translation says: "Be

pleased to look upon these offerings with serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

"In humble prayer we ask you,

almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing."

In working to reflect features of the original Latin texts more clearly, the translators sought to develop "a translation which is clearly sacral in character and yet not archaic in style," Fr. Wadsworth says.

Fr. Turner says that one of the principles the first translators used was "compression," eliminating repetitive phrasing. "That lent a vigor to the first translation, but it did eliminate some of the style and content of the original prayers."

He acknowledges criticisms of some

of the long, complex sentences in the new translation, especially in the collects, the prayers at the beginning of Mass.

"It's a logical fear that people will raise, but I think they'll be pleasantly surprised at how easy it is to understand." He says the collects follow a pattern, with many of the same components repeated from one day to the next. If you look at just one collect in the new translation, "it sounds complicated," he says. "But when you hear that style Sunday after Sunday, I think your ears open up to the style," and it becomes familiar.

Jerry Filteau has covered liturgical issues in the Catholic press since 1973, first for Catholic News Service and, since his retirement there in 2007, for National Catholic Reporter.

The 40 days of Lent – a time for prayer, fasting, alms, and penance

by Fr. Todd Petersen, director Office of Vocations

We are about to begin the great season of Lent, a season of prayer, fasting, alms, and penance. It is a time to take stock of our relationship with Christ, the Crucified and Risen Lord, and to deepen it. Lent, and spiritual practices in general, are often approached much the same as vocations. Either we embrace them, or we avoid them for several different reasons. Let's examine some of the justifications people use to avoid prayer:

1. "Does God really care?" This attitude can be found in a spectrum from what seems to be 'practical atheism' (where there is an intellectual ascent to God, but it makes no difference in one's life) to a form of deism (in which God is creator, but has abandoned us). There is no outright denial of the divine, but a person just lives his or her life with no reference to God. But God is our creator, and he loves

us and continues to be intimately involved with us. He continues to give us everything, and desires for us to desire him, the source of all goodness. We are made for God; we are made to know, love, and serve him. Knowledge of God without action in faith leads to a dead end.

2. "I'm too busy!" God, as already said, is the giver of all things, including time. Perhaps we need to re-evaluate our priorities if we are really "too busy." We ought to ask about our activities, "In the grand scheme (not only in this world, but also in the world to come), is what we are busy doing really important?" If not, it needs to be let go. The Lord knows what we need to do, and by giving him time, he will give us focus and energy to accomplish our tasks often more efficiently and more effectively than without him!

3. "God might ask for something, or something too much." God works with gentle invitation, and

would not invite you to something that ultimately did not lead to happiness (though that fulfillment might be in Heaven). His plans for us are so much greater, happier, and meaningful than our plans for ourselves. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and has gifted us. Yes, he may call us out of our comfort zone, but he knows where he is leading us.

This Lent, the Lord is calling us to greater faithfulness. He invites us to come to him, to spend time. Lent is a time of surrender, of letting God show us his glory and holiness.

How we approach prayer and penance might reveal how we really approach a vocation. Either we can embrace it as a gift from God who loves us, or we can avoid it. But God calls us to happiness; he wants us to love him. Responding to a vocation, whether to a dedicated single life, marriage, religious life, or the priesthood, will bring us true and lasting happiness.

Celebrating and honoring consecrated life



New Ulm – On Feb. 13 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Bishop John M. LeVoir gathered with women religious from throughout the diocese, as well as priests and lay persons, to celebrate and honor the consecrated life. An

afternoon reception was held, followed by Vespers presided over by Bishop LeVoir. The celebration was organized by the diocesan Sister's Council and Worship office. Since the diocese's formation in 1957, it has been

blessed with the presence of dedicated women religious from various religious orders. Currently there are 12 different religious orders serving in the diocese.

Upcoming Events

Lenten Retreat for Women: Called to be a Prophet for the Kingdom, March 12-13 at Assisi Heights, Rochester. Contact Sisters of Saint Francis, Rochester, 1-888-277-4741; ann.redig@myclearwave.net.

Together in Ministry Session (Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion) will be held March 19 from 9 a.m. –12:15 p.m. at the Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls. Cost is \$10. Call 507-359-2966 to register or visit www.dnu.org under Adult Faith Formation.

Marriage Preparation Program opportunities, March 19, April 2, May 7, or Sept. 10. All sessions held in Olivia. To register call 507-359-2966.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) Cycle 2: March 13–April 16 (registration opens Jan. 25; closes March 9). For additional course information or registration, visit <http://vlc.udayton.edu>. Scholarship available for those involved in catechetical ministry; contact 507-359-2966 for further information. VLCFF is sponsored by the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives of the University of Dayton and the Diocese of New Ulm.

L. O. C. A. L. (Living Outrageously Catholic At Large) Youth Night will be held March 27 from 4-6 p.m. at the Church of St. Raphael in Springfield. All youth grades 6-12 are welcome. Bring a container of peanut butter and or jelly for the area food shelf. Free-will offering will go towards future L.O.C.A.L. events. Call 507-723-4138.

"Deepening the Contemplative Attitude" retreat led by Brother Don Bisson, April 3-8 at Shalom Retreat Center, Dubuque, Iowa. Call 563-582-3592 to register or for further information. For additional retreats visit www.shalomretreats.org.

Chrism Mass will be held April 14 at the Church of St. Michael in Madison at 7 p.m.

Day of Retreat with Bishop John M. LeVoir will be held April 16 from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. The day will include Mass, adoration, confession, talks, and lunch. Free-will offering. Childcare and youth track available. To register, contact Sr. Magdalena, 507-276-9128, or mlmarshall1@stthomas.edu. Everyone is welcome.

Divine Mercy Devotion celebrating the Beatification of Pope John Paul II, May 1 at the Church of Holy Family, Silver Lake. Watch for additional information in the April issue of "The Prairie Catholic."

Come and See will be held by the Sisters of Saint Francis, Rochester, March 26-27 at Assisi Heights. For ages 18-35. To register call 888-277-4741; ann.redig@myclearwave.net.

St. Michael, Morgan students' mission of love

Morgan – Students of St. Michael's School in Morgan recently participated in the annual "Mission of Love" valentine project, which supports the people of the Diocese of New Ulm's mission parish of San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. Each year, participants purchase or submit a home-made valentine, sign it, and send it with a \$2 donation to the

San Lucas Mission Extension Office, PO Box 326, Lamberton, MN 56152. Mission staff and volunteers will distribute the valentines to the children, widows, and disabled at the mission, who are given rice, corn, beans, and school supplies purchased with the donation.



Bishop's calendar

(continued from page 2)

18 Litchfield: 3 p.m. Church of St. Philip. Region 6 Presbytery Gathering.

19 Litchfield: 5:30 p.m. Church of St. Michael. Confirmation.

20 Bird Island: 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Confirmation.

21 New Ulm: 9:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Catholic Charities Annual Planning Meeting.

New Ulm: 12 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People Meeting (via Video Conference).

22-24 Des Moines, Iowa: Good Leaders, Good Shepherds.

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

Sleepy Eye: 4:30 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Region 2 Presbytery Gathering.

Sleepy Eye: 7:30 p.m. St. Mary's School Auditorium. School Musical.

26 Clara City: 4:30 p.m. Church of St. Clara. Confirmation.

27 Benson: 11 a.m. Church of St. Francis. Confirmation.

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

29 Sleepy Eye: Good Leaders, Good Shepherds.

Redwood Falls: 7 p.m. Church of St. Catherine. Bishop Lucker Lecture.

30 St. Paul: Vocations Day for Diocesan Catholic High Schools.

New Ulm: 7 p.m. St. Anthony Elementary School. Holy Cross Area Faith Community Religious Education.



Jr. High Youth Festival
Sunday, April 10
11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Lakeview Secondary School
Cottonwood, MN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER IS CHRIS PADGETT

This event is for youth in grades 6-8. Call 507-359-2966; e-mail cblickem@dnu.org for more information.

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

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Rite of Election is March 13

The Rite of Election and Continuing Conversion marks the beginning of the final, intensive period of preparation for catechumens (those not baptized) and candidates (those already baptized) for their sacraments of initiation, ordinarily celebrated at the Easter Vigil. During the ceremony, the Church, through the person of the bishop or his representative, "elects" the catechumens, declaring that they will receive the sacraments of initiation at the vigil. The celebration corresponds with the beginning of Lent. This year, the rite will be celebrated on Sunday, March 13 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. Pictured is Doug Goodmund, a candidate from the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Marshall, as he greeted Bishop John M. LeVoit during last year's ceremony at the Cathedral in New Ulm. All the faithful of the diocese are welcome to attend this joyful celebration.

catholic trends

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News) – In his 2011 message for Lent, Pope Benedict emphasized that Baptism releases men and women from the "burden" of materialism and self-centeredness and enables them to participate more deeply in the Church's reflection on the death and resurrection of Christ.

On Feb. 22, the Vatican released the pope's 2011 Lenten message, which has the theme: "You were buried with Him in Baptism, in which you were also raised with

Him." Pope Benedict highlighted the significance of Baptism during his remarks as a means of "immersing ourselves into the death and resurrection of Christ" during the upcoming Lenten season.

Through "the Sacrament of Baptism," he said, "we are moved to free our hearts every day from the burden of material things, from a self-centered relationship with the 'world' that impoverishes us and prevents us from being available and open to God and our neighbor."

Rather than being a mere "rite from the past," the pope said, Baptism is a living "encounter with Christ, which informs the entire existence of the baptized, imparting divine life and calling for sincere conversion."

He also noted that the traditional practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer during Lent are "an expression of our commitment to conversion," and help teach "us how to live the love of Christ in an ever more radical way."

By "rendering our table poorer, we learn to overcome selfishness in order to live in the logic of gift and love; by bearing some form of deprivation – and not just what is in excess – we learn to look away from our 'ego', to discover someone close to us and to recognize God in the face of so many brothers and sisters."

He also said that the Lenten practice of almsgiving helps offset "the temptation of accumulating and love of money that undermine God's primacy in our lives."

The pope emphasized the importance of Confession during Lent, calling the season a "favorable time to recognize our weakness and to accept, through a sincere inventory of our life, the renewing grace of the Sacrament of Penance, and walk resolutely towards Christ."

To read the complete text, visit www.vatican.va/

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News) – Abortion "resolves nothing," Pope Benedict XVI told the Pontifical Academy for Life Feb. 26. The academy was meeting at the Vatican to present studies on "post-abortion syndrome" and the use of umbilical cord stem cell banks for therapeutic treatments.

The pope told them that the effects on a woman after an abortion reveal "the irrepressible voice of moral conscience and the terrible wound it suffers each time a human action betrays the human being's innate vocation to good."

Pope Benedict explained that moral conscience "has the duty to

discern good from evil ... so that, on the basis of this judgment, human beings can freely orient themselves towards what is good."

"Through moral conscience God speaks to each of us, inviting us to defend human life at all times, and in this personal bond with the Creator lies the profound dignity of moral conscience and the reason for its inviolability."

Additionally, doctors must do their part to "to ensure that women's consciences are not tricked into believing that abortion will resolve family, economic and social difficulties, or the health problems of their child," he said.

"In a cultural context characterized by an eclipse of the meaning of life ... doctors are called to show particular fortitude in continuing to affirm that abortion resolves nothing; rather it kills the child, destroys the woman and blinds the conscience of the child's father, often devastating family life," said the pope.