

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 26 No. 2 October 2011



After five years of work, members of the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall will dedicate their newly renovated church on Oct. 16. The \$2.8 million renovation is the first in a series of improvements that will occur over the next several years.

(Read more, page 7.)

(photo by Marshall Independent)

Holy Trinity Middle School transformed into Handmaids' motherhouse

by Sam Patet
The Prairie Catholic

Hundreds of volunteers spent parts of their summer renovating Holy Trinity Middle School in New Ulm into a new motherhouse for the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus.

Due to difficulties in effectively maintaining three separate schools, the administration of New Ulm Area Catholic Schools chose to merge its middle school (grades six through eight) with its elementary school and high school at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

The Handmaids were approached last December by Msgr. John Richter, rector of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, and asked if they would like to make the soon-to-be vacant middle school building into a

new convent. After much prayer and conversations with other religious communities, the Handmaids chose to transform the middle school into their new home.

Mother Mary Clare, founder and mother superior of the Handmaids, said that they had to put all their trust in the Lord as they began the project. "This is way bigger than we've ever done ... and that's something that for us was so scary because it was such a big reality. We knew we would need a lot of help," she said.

Now, four months after rolling up their sleeves and donning their hard hats, Mother Mary Clare and eight other Handmaids have moved into their new home. The sisters have named their motherhouse the Holy Trinity Convent. Bishop John M. LeVoi blessed the convent and celebrated Mass with the sisters on Sept. 5.

Why did the Handmaids need a bigger convent? Numbers.

When they first arrived in the diocese in November of 2009, the Handmaids moved into an empty convent at St. John the Baptist Church in Searles.

Mother Mary Clare said the convent's seven bedrooms, chapel, dining room, and other facilities were the perfect size for the



(photo by Sam Patet)

Sr. Immaculata Marija and Diocese of New Ulm seminarian Garrett Ahlers unpacked a new sink they would install in the first floor bathroom at the new Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus motherhouse.

Handmaids' seven members at the time. "It worked for what we needed," she said. "The actual structure was fantastic. It was close to New Ulm."

The Handmaids quickly realized, however, that they would need a bigger space with the number of women who were joining their group. "We realized we needed a bigger convent, and we needed something that we could actually grow into," especially "if we were going to keep receiving girls," said Mother Mary Clare.

Getting the convent in tip-top shape for the Sept. 5 move-in date proved to be a large task. Mother Mary Clare and her sisters knew that the building's classrooms, offices, library, computer lab, and storage spaces would need to be somehow

changed into 20 cells (or bedrooms) for sisters, a chapel, a large dining room for the sisters and their guests, and a dormitory space for girls who were visiting.

Mother Mary Clare noted that while she and the other sisters had a variety of skills that would help them convert the middle school into their convent, they lacked the manpower and resources to do so. She said the Handmaids wanted to renovate the middle school in a way that was true to their way of life as sisters, sisters who depend on God and His Providence for all their needs.

So the sisters undertook this project in a way that was true to who they were, namely, by begging. They turned to family members, friends, and the faithful of the Diocese of

New Ulm for the materials, money, technical skills, and manpower they needed.

And people responded.

Mother Mary Clare said they were able to begin their project through donations they received of building supplies, paint, furniture, and monetary gifts. However, one of the most significant ways the Handmaids received assistance was through volunteer workers.

Some came for a couple of hours when they had the time; others came in organized groups that helped over the course of an entire weekend.

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THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

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BE NOT AFRAID “Respect for Life”



Bishop John M. LeVoir

October is Respect Life Month. As the program for this month, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has determined the following themes: Abortion, Death Penalty, Persons with Disabilities, Reproductive Technologies, Embryo Research, Marriage, Euthanasia, and Contraception. The following quotes are given to illustrate the Church's teaching on these subjects.

Abortion. Blessed John Paul wrote: “Each human being is unique, unrepeatable, and infinitely precious to God. In becoming man and by his death on the cross, Jesus showed us the incomparable value of each human life, making his human life the instrument of the salvation of all humanity!” (“The Gospel of Life,” no. 33).

Abortion is: “The deliberate and direct killing, by whatever means it is carried out, of a human being in the initial phase of his or her existence, extending from conception to birth... Among all the crimes which can be committed against life, procured abortion has characteristics making it particularly serious and deplorable” (“The Gospel of Life,” no. 58).

Death Penalty. Blessed John Paul wrote: “The nature and extent of the punishment must be carefully evaluated and decided upon, and ought not go to the extreme of executing the offender except in cases of absolute necessity: in other words, when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society. Today however, as a result of steady improvements in the organization of the penal system, such cases are very rare, if not practically nonexistent” (“The Gospel of Life,” no. 56).

Persons with Disabilities. “Every human person – no matter how vulnerable or helpless, no matter how healthy, handicapped, or sick, no matter how useful or productive for society – is a being of inestimable worth created in the image and likeness of God”

(Homily, Sept. 19, 1987).

Reproductive Technologies and Embryo Research. “In reality, the origin of a human person is the result of an act of giving. The one conceived must be the fruit of his parents' love. He cannot be desired or conceived as the product of an intervention of medical or biological techniques; that would be equivalent to reducing him to an object of scientific technology. No one may subject the coming of a child into the world to conditions of technical efficiency which are to be evaluated according to standards of control and dominion” (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, “Donum Vitae,” II.B.4.c).

Marriage. “The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that marriage is: “A covenant or partnership of life between a man and woman, which is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children. When validly contracted between two baptized people, marriage is a sacrament” (Glossary).

Euthanasia. “True ‘compassion’ leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear” (Blessed

John Paul, “The Gospel of Life,” no. 66).

Contraception. Blessed John Paul wrote: “Thus the innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife is overlaid, through contraception, by an objectively contradictory language, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other. This leads not only to a positive refusal to be open to life but also to a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love, which is called upon to give itself in personal totality” (“The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World,” no. 32).

Marriage

Minnesota will have a marriage amendment on the ballot in the fall of 2012 defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Consequently, there will be much discussion in the coming months about marriage and sexuality. It is important that the teaching of the Catholic Church be heard in this discussion. The Minnesota bishops, through the Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC), will be bringing this voice into the public square. It is important that the laity do their part

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Bishop's October Calendar

2 Arlington: 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Confirmation.

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

5 New Ulm: 10:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Children's Holy Field Trip.

Appleton: 6 p.m. Church of St. John. Operation Andrew Dinner.

7 Sleepy Eye: 10 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Marathon Mass.

New Ulm: 6:30 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Consecration of Margaret McHugh as a Virgin.

8 Redwood Falls: 8 a.m. Church of St. Catherine. ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) Seminar.

9 New Ulm: 10 a.m. Church of St. Mary. 100th Anniversary Mass.

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

10 Sleepy Eye: 7:30 p.m. Schoenstatt on the Lake. Rosary.

11 Olivia: 12:45 p.m. Church of St. Aloysius. Capital Campaign Board of Directors Meeting.

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

12 St. Paul: The St. Paul Seminary. Day of Recollection.

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

14 Mankato: 11 a.m. Good Counsel. Mass.

St. Peter: 2 p.m. Benedictine Living Community of St. Peter. Blessing of the Assisted Living Facility.

16 Marshall: 10 a.m. Church of the Holy Redeemer. Dedication of the Church of the Holy Redeemer.

New Ulm: 4:50 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Riverbend TEC (Together Encountering Christ) Gathering.

17 Sleepy Eye: 6 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Operation Andrew Dinner.

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

19 New Ulm: 8:25 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. School Mass.

21-25 Vatican: Canonization of Blessed Louis Guanella.

26 Olivia: 12:30 p.m. Church of St. Aloysius. Committee on Parishes Meeting.

Bird Island: 6 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Operation Andrew Dinner.

27 St. Paul: 5:30 p.m. Town and Country Club. The St. Paul Seminary Rector's Dinner.

28 Redwood Falls: Priest Day of Reflection.

29 New Ulm: 8 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Bioethics Conference.

"Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign moving toward projected goal *parishes continue to benefit from funds returned*

The Diocese of New Ulm is in the midst of the "Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign, a major fundraising effort to raise \$15 million. The money raised will be split, with \$7.5 million going to the diocese to be used to build a new Pastoral Center, and \$7.5 million going to the 76 parishes participating in the campaign.

In preparation for the campaign, parishes have identified their own areas of financial need. These include building projects, maintenance projects, adding to the cemetery care fund, bolstering endowments, starting an emergency fund, and retiring debt.

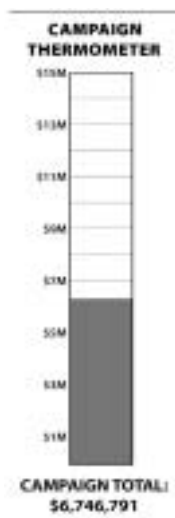
Donations collected from parishioners are divided 50/50 between their parish and the diocese until the overall parish goal is met. At that point, 100 percent of any additional donations benefit the parish.

The campaign is being guided by the Steier Group of Omaha, Neb., which has been paid a fixed fee for its professional services. All campaign expenses incurred will be deducted from the diocese's portion of the funds.

St. Mary's, Seaforth put campaign funds to use in aftermath of summer storm

On July 1, 2011, a major thunderstorm with a reported tornado, strong straight-line winds and large hail swept through Lyon, Redwood, and Renville counties in the Diocese of New Ulm. While some areas were hit hard, such as Vesta and Belview, the residents around Seaforth experienced damage as well. Many lost trees, had roof or shingle damage, and experienced other losses.

The Church of St. Mary in Seaforth also sustained damage on the west side of the church. Basement windows and a screen were broken by hail, and the air conditioning units sustained damage. The



estimated cost of these repairs was around \$5,000.

The shingles of the church roof also sustained considerable damage. Unfortunately, because only half the roof sustained damage, the parish's insurance would only cover half the expense. The estimated cost of materials and labor was \$30,000.

According to Fr. Todd Petersen, pastor at St. Mary's, without the money already collected and returned to the parish from the "Christ Our Life" Campaign, an immediate response to replacing the roof would have been difficult financially.

"I was so thankful for the campaign funds that were available to my parish at this crucial time," said Fr. Petersen. "We were blessed to be able to address the damage right away without further financial burden to parishioners."

Fr. Petersen acknowledged how well organized the Steier Group and diocesan representatives were. "As a parish in the pilot phase, it was wonderful to walk into a program that was well designed, timed, and implemented," he said. "The initial campaign meetings

were very useful, with great information shared, which made the implementation on the parish level easy," he said.

Fr. Petersen emphasized that the financial benefits for both the diocese and parish helped garner support for the campaign. "Though financially, times are still tight for many, St. Mary's parishioners responded very well," he said. "We are a farm-based economy, so contributions are calculated based on how the crops might do. Our parish goal was met very quickly, and those who contributed were happy to be asked," he said.

Fr. Petersen felt that the keys to St. Mary's successful fundraising were an emphasis on communication as well as great volunteers. "We had a tremendous group of volunteers who were upbeat, excited to help, and ready to answer any questions.

They found unique ways to make the appeal. For example, they informally gathered givers for a meal who were mutual friends. Once word was out, it caught on," he said.

The financial returns from the campaign that St. Mary's received will more than cover the cost for repairs. "It was with profound relief that I could stand before the parish and inform them of the damage, and that we had the money on hand, thanks to their generous support of the "Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign," said Fr. Petersen.

For an up-to-date progress report on the campaign, visit the New Ulm diocesan Web site, www.dnu.org, or contact Wayne Pelzel, director of Development, 507-359-2966; wpelzel@dnu.org.



Please keep the pastoral leaders and volunteers of the following parishes in your prayers as they kick off the final wave of the "Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign. These 31 parishes are undertaking, in good faith, a capital campaign to raise \$8,098,000 for projects to benefit the Diocese of New Ulm and their individual parishes.

St. Gregory the Great, Lafayette St. Mary, New Ulm St. Paul, Comfrey Holy Rosary, North Mankato St. Peter, St. Peter St. John the Baptist, Searles St. George, West Newton Twp. St. Mary, Arlington St. Michael, Gaylord St. Brendan, Green Isle St. Joseph, Henderson St. Anastasia, Hutchinson St. Philip, Litchfield St. John, Morton St. Boniface, Stewart St. John, Darwin	St. Gertrude, Forest City St. Pius X, Glencoe Our Lady, Manannah Holy Family, Silver Lake St. Anthony, Watkins Holy Trinity, Winsted St. Paul, Nicollet St. Joseph, Lamberton Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth St. John-Assumption, Faxon Twp. St. Catherine, Redwood Falls St. Raphael, Springfield St. Michael, Morgan St. Mary, Cottonwood St. Clotilde, Green Valley
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Minnesota bishops urge Obama administration to protect conscience rights in healthcare

St. Paul – The Catholic bishops of Minnesota urged HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in a recent letter to rescind the recent "preventative services mandate" rule imposed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The Rule would force private insurance plans to cover sterilization and contraception, including abortion-inducing drugs like the recently FDA-approved drug Ella. They requested HHS instead broaden the protection of conscience in the implementation of the PPACA.

Although the bishops noted their support for providing access to services that truly prevent disease or disability for women, such as pap smears and mammograms, they are concerned that the Rule will treat

fertility and pregnancy as abnormal states that are in need of prevention and will force unprecedented restrictions on employers to act in violation of their informed conscience.

"Even if there are disagreements about abortion and birth control as public policy, the long-standing legislative tradition in the United States has protected the freedom of conscience and religious beliefs," said Jason Adkins, Executive Director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC), which represents the bishops of Minnesota on matters of public policy.

"Requiring Catholic individuals and institutions to pay for and provide abortion drugs and contraceptives

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No Tengas Miedo *Respeto a la Vida*

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Octubre es el mes de Respeto a la Vida. La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos ha determinado los siguientes temas:

Aborción. Beato Juan Pablo II escribió: "Cada ser humano es único, irreplicable, e infinitamente bello en los ojos de Dios. ¡Cuando se hizo hombre y por su muerte en la cruz, Jesús nos mostró el valor incomparable de cada ser humano, haciendo su vida humana el instrument de la salvación de toda la humanidad!" (The Gospel of Life, no. 33).

Aborción es: "La eliminación deliberada y directa, como quiera que se realice, de un ser humano en la fase inicial de su existencia, que va de la concepción al nacimiento . . . entre todos los delitos que el hombre puede cometer contra la vida, el aborto procurado presenta características que lo hacen particularmente grave e ignominioso" ("The Gospel of Life," no. 58).

Pena de Muerte. Beato Juan Pablo II escribió: "Es evidente que, precisamente para conseguir todas estas finalidades, la medida y la calidad de la pena ser valoradas y decididas atentamente, sin que se deba llegar a la medida extrema de la eliminación del reo salvo en casos de absoluta necesidad, es decir, cuando la defensa de la sociedad no sea posible de otro modo. Hoy, sin embargo, gracias a la organización cada vez más adecuada de la institución penal, estos casos son ya muy raros, por no decir prácticamente inexistentes" ("The Gospel of Life," no. 56).

Personas con Disabilidades. "Cada ser humano - sin importar que tan vulnerable sea, ...que tan saludable sea, discapacitada, o enferma, que tan útil o productivo sea a la sociedad - es un ser digno creado a imagen y semejanza de Dios." (Homily, Sept. 19, 1987).

Tecnología Reproductiva y la Investigación de Embriones. "El origen de una persona humana es en realidad el resultado de una donación. La persona concebida deberá ser el fruto del amor de sus padres. No puede ser querida ni concebida como el producto de una intervención de técnicas médicas y biológicas: esto equivaldría a reducirlo a ser objeto de una tecnología científica. Nadie puede subordinar la llegada al mundo de un niño a las condiciones de eficiencia técnica medibles según parámetros de control y de dominio" (Congregación para la doctrina de la fe, "Donum Vitae, I.I.B.4.c").

Matrimonio. "El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica dice que el matrimonio es: "La alianza matrimonial, por la que el varón y la mujer constituyen entre sí un consorcio de toda la vida, ordenado por su misma índole natural al bien de los cónyuges y a la generación y educación de la prole, fue elevada por Cristo Nuestro Señor a la dignidad de sacramento entre bautizados" (glossary).

Eutanasia. "La verdadera 'compasión' hace solidarios con el dolor de los demás, y no elimina a la persona cuyo sufrimiento no se puede soportar" (Blessed John Paul, "The Gospel of Life," no. 66).

Contracepción. Beato Juan Pablo II escribió: "Así, al lenguaje natural que expresa la recíproca donación total de los esposos, el anticoncepcionismo impone un lenguaje objetivamente contradictorio, es decir, el de no darse al otro totalmente: se produce, no sólo el rechazo positivo de la apertura a la vida, sino también una falsificación de la verdad interior del amor conyugal, llamado a entregarse en plenitud personal" ("The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World," no. 32).

El Matrimonio
Minnesota tendrá una enmienda sobre el matrimonio en las elecciones en el 2012 para definir al matrimonio como la unión entre un hombre y una mujer. Por lo tanto, en los próximos meses se hablará mucho sobre el matrimonio y la sexualidad. Es importante que la enseñanza católica se escuche en estos debates. Los obispos de Minnesota, a través de la Conferencia Católica de Minnesota se hará oír su voz en la plaza pública. Es importante que los laicos pongan de su parte y hagan conocer sus enseñanzas, teniendo en cuenta que la verdad siempre se debe hablar con amor. (Para mayor información sobre la enmienda ir a la página de internet del MCC).

¿Qué es el matrimonio? The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World Beato Juan Pablo II escribe que el matrimonio es "el pacto de amor conyugal o elección consciente y libre, con la que el hombre y la mujer aceptan la comunidad íntima de vida y amor, querida por Dios mismo" (no. 11). En el matrimonio se requiere un amor especial. El amor es diferente que uno le tiene al amigo, entre un padre a su hijo, o entre nosotros a Dios. Se llama amor conyugal y se caracteriza por el amor que se dan entre el varón y la mujer en fidelidad, estabilidad, y abierto a la procreación y la crianza de los hijos.

El amor conyugal se expresa de manera profunda a través de la relación sexual. Beato Juan Pablo II define a la sexualidad como el medio por el cual "el hombre y la mujer se dan el uno al otro a través de actos propios y exclusivos de esposos" luego continua "no es algo puramente biológico, sino que afecta al núcleo íntimo de la persona humana en cuanto tal. (no. 11). La sexualidad por la cual el varón y la mujer dan su corazón como expresión del amor que se tienen.

Handmaids

(continued from page 1)

From June to August, the Handmaids hosted large groups of volunteers on eight different weekends, said Mother Mary Clare.

"We asked each of the groups if they'd be willing to sponsor a weekend. They basically would do the work of trying to find volunteers and supply food, and we would supply housing," said Mother Mary Clare. She said volunteer groups consisted of people from local parishes, family members of Handmaids, seminarians from a number of dioceses, friends from as far away as Illinois, and even complete strangers.

Volunteers did a variety of tasks, including ripping up carpet, taking down chalkboards, framing walls, mudding and taping, doing electrical work, installing ceiling fans, painting walls, and cooking meals. The midday and evening meals were welcome times of rest, refreshment, and fellowship.

Sr. Regina Marie's brother, Paul Foley, organized a group of volunteers from the Twin Cities. Foley and his group of a dozen family members and school friends helped the Handmaids on Aug. 12 and 13. "There was a lot of work to do," he said. "We were impressed that the sisters were doing a lot of the work."

According to Foley, the break times not only allowed him and his friends to get to know other volunteers, but it also allowed them to get to know the Handmaids better. "Some of the girls from college whom I know expressed interest in learning more about their religious order and they were happy to have a chance to talk with some of them," he said.

While the Handmaids have moved out of the convent in Searles and into their new home, the renovations at Holy Trinity Convent are far from over. Mother

Mary Clare said there is much work that still needs to be done and that it will take several years before it is complete.

Renovating the middle school "is like Michelangelo and the Pietà; you just gotta get her out of the marble," she said.

Work weekend scheduled

The Handmaids are grateful for any donations they receive, and they are still accepting volunteers to help with various projects. "Anybody is welcome to come and work," said Mother Mary Clare. "If people want to get a group together and come down, just contact us and we would very happily put it on the calendar and organize a weekend."

On Oct. 14 and 15, the Handmaids will host another work weekend. They will work from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Open House Oct. 16

Finally, to give thanks to God and to the many people who have helped them over the past four months, the Handmaids will host an open house at the convent on Sunday, Oct. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A potluck lunch will begin at noon. Guests will be able to meet the Handmaids, learn about their way of life, and get a tour of the convent building.

"We want to express our gratitude for how many people have been so generous in helping us and really making this a place of beauty and rest in the Lord," said Mother Mary Clare. "We are grateful ... to the Lord for this opportunity for us to be so close to the Church and ... to the diocese, to be able to really serve and live out our charism."

Editor's note: The Holy Trinity Convent is located at 515 N. State St., New Ulm. To set up a volunteer weekend, make a donation, or learn about their religious order, call the Handmaids at 507-276-9128 or e-mail them at handmaids1@gmail.com.

Minnesota for Marriage – get involved!

by Jason Adkins

In November 2012 Minnesota voters will have a chance to defend marriage as the union of one man and one woman from rogue courts and legislators who believe it is their right to redefine and undermine this vital social institution.



Minnesota Catholic Conference
The Public Policy Voice of the Catholic Church in Minnesota

The ballot question states, “Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota.” If adopted, the Minnesota Constitution would be amended accordingly. As Catholics and faithful citizens, we should consider this as an opportunity to share with other Minnesotans why marriage matters for our communities. Our answer is fundamental to all Catholic social teaching.

Jesus was born and lived in a concrete family and was nurtured by a mother and father joined together in marriage. He conferred the highest dignity on the institution of marriage, making it a sacrament of the new covenant (cf. Matthew 19: 3–9). Enlightened by this message, Catholic teaching considers the family the first natural society and

places it as the center of social life – where we learn to love others and live the virtues necessary to be good and productive members of our communities.

A family founded on the mutual self-giving of one man and one woman is the bedrock of civil society. As Blessed John Paul II reminds us, authentic, strong marriage is where children “develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny.” If families suffer, children suffer and all of society suffers.

Given the inherent connection between families, the well-being of children, and the good of society, it

is natural that the state supports and endorses traditional marriage in its laws.

Civil marriage exists in law because societies across history and around the world realized that marriage between one man and one woman provides the most stable environment in which to raise children and keeps biological parents connected to their children. While death and divorce too often prevent it, we know children do best when raised in an intact home by their mother and father. In other words, traditional marriage fosters strong community.

Minnesota’s Catholic bishops have publicly promoted a state marriage amendment because of ongoing attempts by judges and politicians to redefine marriage in our laws. The 2012 amendment will prevent what happened in Iowa and New York, among other places, where a small group of legislators or a smaller group of judges redefined marriage for the whole state.

Help strengthen marriage
The Minnesota Catholic Conference is actively supporting “Minnesota
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Commissioning our adults; empowering our children



by Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM

Our Church teaches that each person is a child of God composed of body and soul that must be nurtured and cared for with love both by oneself as well as by others. This teaching provides the basis for children to mature in their faith, grow in their love and respect for themselves and others, and help keep their environment safe.

Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM, is director of Safe Environment for the Diocese of New Ulm.

As we begin a new school year and children and young people are returning to Catholic schools and religious education classes, we are preparing to make this school year a time of productive growth and learning. A very important way that we accomplish this is by ensuring that our safe environment programs get off to a good start. In this way we can help ensure that our parishes and schools and all the interactions that take place there promote a safe and faith-filled environment for learning.

Although we as Church are and have been at the forefront of providing safe environment training and education, we have been joined by a number of other organizations who have likewise recognized the need to developed this training. All of these efforts work together to keep our children safe.

Each organization works to make their program as effective as possible. Bishop John M. LeVoir has endorsed VIRTUS for both adults and children as the safe environment program in the Diocese of New Ulm in order to provide a high-quality program based on Catholic values that involves effective tracking and monitoring.

As faith-filled people we have chosen to commission our adults and empower our children to keep all children and youth safe by putting the necessary information on awareness and prevention into the context of our Catholic teachings.

October Adult VIRTUS Training Sessions

- Oct. 1 at 9 a.m.**
St. Anastasia, Hutchinson
- Oct. 2 at 6 p.m.**
Cathedral of the Holy Trinity,
New Ulm
- Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m.**
St. Andrew, Fairfax
- Oct. 15 at 9 a.m.**
St. Peter, Canby

Please check the diocesan Web site, www.dnu.org, for the most current listing of training sessions.

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

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

conscience rights in healthcare

(continued from page 3)

contrary to Catholic teaching in the name of ‘reproductive autonomy’ is an unprecedented attack on the cherished liberties of religious and associational freedom.”

The bishops noted that the new Rule is a reversal of the long tradition in the United States of conscience protections for faith-based providers. Additionally, they are disheartened by the “potential impact of the Rule on the vulnerable populations who have been served well and generously by Catholic providers for many decades in our country.”

“Not only Catholics, but millions of people of different faiths and those outside the religious community are served through Catholic-affiliated social service

programs and schools throughout the United States. The Rule will effectively insulate churches and religious organizations from the

“Requiring Catholic individuals and institutions to pay for and provide abortion drugs and contraceptives contrary to Catholic teaching in the name of ‘reproductive autonomy’ is an unprecedented attack on the cherished liberties of religious and associational freedom.”

– Jason Adkins,
MCC Executive Director

communities they serve,” Adkins said. “It will seriously affect the educational and social service network of the Catholic Church by preventing us from helping all of our brothers and sisters of other faiths and beliefs, while staying true to ours.” The bishops also sent letters to the Minnesota congressional delegation asking them to sponsor

the bipartisan Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (HR 1179), which would insure the PPACA would not be used to trample on religious

and association freedom by forcing private health plans to provide services that are morally unacceptable. Additionally, they asked Catholics in Minnesota to voice their concern about the Rule by sending a letter about the mandate to HHS and the Minnesota congressional delegation no later than Sept. 30, 2011.

Student numbers up at Holy Trinity School, Winsted

by Linda Scherer
Herald Journal Staff Writer

It was welcome news to both the Holy Trinity education committee and the administrative council when they recently learned Holy Trinity's school enrollment is on the rise. The increase in student numbers for this school year is being attributed to the enrollment enrichment plan that was put in place in April. The plan was initiated by church and school leaders as a way to try to end the trend of declining enrollment that has been plaguing the school for the last decade. It was agreed that the school has the capacity and staff to educate and enrich the lives of 35 more students without increasing education costs or resources.

How it works

The enrollment enrichment plan offers any new (or former) student in grades one to 12, who attends Holy Trinity School for the school year of 2011–2012, to have the entire cost of the first year of their tuition waived, as well as half the

cost of tuition for the school year of 2012–2013. The same offer will be made next year.

For the school year 2011–2012, there are 29 students taking advantage of the plan. There is a total student enrollment for pre-k through 12th grade of 242. That's an increase of 19 students compared to last year.

The new students are coming from 10 different communities, making it a total of 21 communities now served by Holy Trinity School. A breakdown of the student population for the 2011–2012 school year includes: Tiny Trojans – 25; kindergarten – 16; elementary – 104; and high school – 113.

Angie Hertel, Holy Trinity development and marketing director, said, "I think we have seen really positive results from the plan and we are happy with that. We are excited for new families to join us and find out what Holy Trinity is all about."

Another benefit being offered through the enrollment enrichment plan for current students is a \$300 tuition credit for anyone who refers a new or former student to Holy Trinity. Five families have had their tuition credited because of referrals.

Also, families that have their child baptized at Holy Trinity will be given a certificate to receive 50 percent off the cost of their tuition when enrolling their child in kindergarten.

Mark and Amy Burau of Winsted have a son, Brian, who will be a junior at Holy Trinity. "For years, most of Brian's friends have been attending Holy Trinity. We want our children to have a full understanding of their faith and respect their studies. With the scholarship program, we were able to send Brian to a school that offers a Christian background, his friends, and an affordable education," Amy said.

New school principals are familiar faces

Jason Myhre has been hired as the new principal for St Edward Catholic School in Minneota. A 1989 graduate of St. Edward School, he and his wife Tina have four children and they are expecting their fifth child in November. Myhre is also a candidate in the first permanent deacon class for the Diocese of New Ulm. He previously worked in the sales industry. Myhre is a 1997 graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead with a degree in education. He has also served as the youth and adult religious education director at the Church of St Edward in Minneota and the Church of St Eloi in Ghent.



Jessica Balzarini has been hired as the new principal for St. Peter's Catholic School in Canby and the director of Religious Education for the Church of St. Peter, Canby. She and her husband Mark currently live in Tyler. Balzarini is a graduate of Holy Trinity High in Winsted and went on to graduate from Franciscan University of Steubenville with a degree in theology and a concentration in religious education. For the past 11 years she has worked in parish ministry doing religious education for all ages and some youth ministry.



pastoral letter

(continued from page 2)

as well to make this teaching known, keeping in mind that the truth should always be spoken with love. (For the latest information on the Marriage Amendment, see the MCC Web site).

What is marriage? In his apostolic exhortation "The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World," Blessed John Paul II writes that marriage is a "covenant of conjugal love freely and consciously chosen, whereby man and woman accept the intimate community of life and love willed by God himself" (no. 11). There is a special love required for marriage. It is different from the love between friends, or between parent and child, or between us and God. It is called marital love and is characterized by a man and a woman who give themselves to one another in faithfulness, permanence, and openness to the begetting and raising of children.

Marital love is expressed in a profound way through the sexual embrace. Blessed John Paul defines

sexuality as the means by which "man and woman give themselves to one another through the acts which are proper and exclusive to spouses" (no. 11). He goes on to write that sexuality "is by no means something purely biological, but concerns the innermost being of the human person as such" (no. 11). Sexuality is the means by which a man and a woman give their hearts to one another as an expression of the faithful, permanent, and life-giving love that they have for one another.

Politics

The USCCB is concerned with legislation and policies that impact church-state relations. In particular, the USCCB has an interest in legislation that protects religious freedom, limits government intrusion into religious matters, and allows for reasonable collaboration between public and religious entities. The USCCB carefully monitors any legislation or policies dealing with the regulation of tax exempt entities. Legislation which creates incentives for charitable giving and public assistance for

programs carried out by church-related entities are also of particular interest to the USCCB.

Recently the Catholic bishops have expressed concern over the government's non-enforcement of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Also, concern has been expressed about the government's role in helping to reduce poverty and to advocate for the poor and those without jobs; the just treatment of immigrants; the protection of the conscience rights of health care workers; and the protection of religious freedom (for example, the government's Health and Human Services "preventive services" mandate requiring private health plans to cover female surgical sterilization and all drugs and devices approved by the FDA as contraceptives, including drugs which can attack a developing unborn child before and after implantation in the mother's womb). It is good to check regularly the USCCB Web site for the latest Church teaching on public issues.

Senior High Youth Rally

Grades 9–12

Sunday, Oct. 23 from 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Hutchinson Senior High School

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Fr. Leo Patalinghug, a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, will engage the youth with his "Spirit Combat" using his extensive background in Martial Arts. His presentation has become one of the most popular topics for people of all ages, especially for youth and young adults who seek some spiritual guidance. He is also known as "the cooking priest," the creator and host of the movement "Grace Before Meals," which strengthens family relationships around the dinner table.



Claire Culwell is an abortion survivor. At the age of 13, her biological mother underwent a surgical abortion but a few weeks later discovered she was still pregnant. Come hear her story and why she now speaks up for the unborn. Claire's life is a miracle and true testimony that God has plans for each and every person.

Register through your parish DRE or Youth Minister.

First phase of renovations complete at Holy Redeemer

Marshall – The Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall will dedicate its newly renovated church on Oct. 16 during the 10 a.m. Mass. Bishop John M. LeVoir will preside and preach at the dedication ceremony. There will be a separate dedication ceremony at 3 p.m. that day for the new organ.

Taking five years to complete and costing \$2.8 million, the church's renovations include a new altar, ambo (the stand where the priest gives his homily), and baptismal font; a series of paintings at the front of the church that depict angels and the four Gospel writers; a three manual Roger's Organ; and a new gathering space at the church's entrance.

The dedication of the church marks the completion of the first in a series of renovations that will occur at the parish over the next several years. Since 2007 a parish task force, which includes members of the parish's building committee, has been evaluating repairs that need to occur to the parish's buildings, including the church, the priests' residence, the school, and the convent. The task force hired an architectural firm, YHR Partners of Moorhead, to help them with this process.

In August 2010 work began on the first phase of renovations to the church; these are being dedicated at the Oct. 16 ceremony. In August 2011 the task



Included in the Holy Redeemer Church renovation are paintings at the front of the church of the four Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). The artist, Alex Smith, designed the paintings to provoke thought about the early church and the tidal shifts in culture that were happening at the time.

force met with YHR Partners to begin planning a second phase of renovations. These renovations will include upgrades to the church's air conditioning and heating systems, adding office space and restrooms to Carlin Hall, and updating the priests' residence.

There will be receptions after the dedication of the church and after the dedication of the organ. Everyone is invited to attend.

Diocesan youth director to become consecrated virgin



Margaret McHugh

New Ulm – Bishop John M. LeVoir will consecrate Margaret McHugh of New Ulm as a virgin on Friday, Oct. 7, during a 6:30 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in

New Ulm. This ceremony will be the first of its kind for the Diocese of New Ulm. Everyone is welcome.

A consecrated virgin is a woman who has been consecrated by the Church to a life of perpetual virginity in the service of God. She is similar to, but distinct from sisters in religious life. She is responsible for providing for her own living expense, medical care, and retirement, and she does not live in community. However, like those in religious life, a consecrated virgin assumes the responsibility to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the official set of daily prayers of the Catholic Church.

Divine Providence in Sleepy Eye to celebrate the canonization of their founder

by Sam Pate
The Prairie Catholic

Residents at Divine Providence Community Home in Sleepy Eye will have cause to celebrate on Oct. 23. On that day, Blessed Louis Guanella, an Italian priest of the 1800s, will be recognized as a saint by Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square. Among the many things he accomplished, Fr. Guanella founded the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, the group of religious sisters who run Divine Providence.

"We are all excited about it," said Sr. Lucy Tardivo, facilities director at Divine Providence.

Louis Guanella was born on Dec. 19, 1842, in the small mountain village of Fraciscio, Italy. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Como, Italy, on May 26, 1866, at the age of 23. Fr. Guanella desired to serve the poorest of the poor as a priest.

For three years he served with the order of Salesian priests in Turin, Italy, under the leadership of its founder, St. John Bosco. His time with Fr. Bosco and the Salesians allowed him to work with poor orphan boys.

Fr. Guanella returned to Como in 1878, and after serving in three separate parishes, he founded the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence in 1881 with Marcellina and Clare Bosatta. Guanella and the Bosatta sisters desired that this new religious congregation would provide material and spiritual assistance to the poor.

When asked what inspires her most about Blessed Guanella, Sr. Lucy said it was his trust in God's Divine Providence and his love for the poor. "Anyone he would find on the streets he would take home," she said.

In 1913 the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence crossed the



**Blessed Louis Guanella
1842-1915**

Atlantic and established a group of sisters in Chicago to care for city's immigrants. The sisters eventually travelled west, arriving in Sleepy Eye on Sept. 30, 1960, to establish the Divine Providence Community Home.

Fr. Guanella died in 1915 at the age of 72 and soon after his death, his life of holiness and love for the poor caused the Church to consider him for sainthood. After an investigation into his life and after two miraculous healings were attributed to his intercession, he was declared blessed by Pope Paul VI on Oct. 25, 1964.

Fr. Guanella needed one more miraculous healing to be attributed to his intercession before he could be declared a saint. This occurred in 2002 when William Glisson, a carpenter from Philadelphia, was healed of a severe head injury he

sustained while rollerblading. Glisson's family had access to a relic of Fr. Guanella when the young man was injured, and they prayed to Guanella for his miraculous healing.

Sr. Lucy Tardivo and Sr. Mary Lynn Rakowski of Sleepy Eye will accompany 33 Guanellan sisters of their province to attend the canonization. Bishop John M. LeVoir and Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, pastor of the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, will also be present.

On Oct. 23 residents at Divine Providence will be able to watch the canonization Mass on a big screen television, Sr. Lucy said. The home's real celebration, however, will occur nine days later on Nov. 1. On the Solemnity of All Saints, the Divine Providence community will celebrate a Mass in honor of all the saints and especially in honor of Fr. Louis Guanella. A reception will follow the Mass with cake, punch, and a skit on the life of Fr. Guanella. The skit is being produced by the home's activities department, and it will involve many of the residents.

Editor's note: Biographical information on Fr. Guanella and his cause for canonization were taken from the book "Father Louis Guanella," written by Franca Vendramin and Pino Venerito, and from the Servants of Charity Web site, <http://www.servantsofcharity.org/>.

Fifty years of religious vocation

Sr. Lucy Tardivo, facilities director at Divine Providence Community Home in Sleepy Eye, recently celebrated her 50th anniversary of religious profession. On Aug. 10 Bishop John M. LeVoir celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Divine Providence chapel. Joining the celebration were eight priests, a deacon and a seminarian, and sisters from South Dakota and Illinois. Following the homily, Sr. Lucy renewed her religious vows and Bishop LeVoir presented her with a special papal blessing.



Sr. Lucy Tardivo



Society's elderly are a blessing, not a burden

by Sr. Constance Carolyn Veit, LSP

As the 20th century came to a close, the United Nations celebrated the International Year of Older Persons, heralding the vision of "A Society for All Ages." The first years of the new millennium have been anything but that, with the abandonment of frail seniors during natural disasters from New Orleans to Japan, the legalization of assisted suicide in several U.S. states and foreign countries, and political rhetoric that seems to consider the growing population of seniors merely as a drain on our health care system and the federal budget. Is this the society for all ages we envisioned in 1999?

Rather than looking upon the growing numbers of older persons as a burden, Pope Benedict – like his predecessor, Blessed John Paul II – has called them a blessing for society. "Every generation can learn from the experience and wisdom of the generation that preceded it," he affirmed in speaking to the elderly at St. Peter's Residence in London last September. The pope insisted that "the provision of care for the elderly should be considered not so much as an act of generosity but as the repayment of a debt of gratitude."

The pope's words should give us pause. We might also recall a bit of biblical wisdom: "With your whole heart honor your father; your mother's birth pangs forget not," Sirach tells us. "Remember, of these parents you were born; what can you give them for all they gave you?" (Sir 7:28). Sirach admonishes us, "My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate with him; revile him not in the fullness of your strength. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, it will serve as a sin offering – it will take lasting root" (Sir 3:12–14).

To realize all that we owe the elderly and to honor them as a blessing, perhaps we need to slow down a bit and look at each one as if they were our own parent or grandparent. Maybe we need to see ourselves in them – for we too will be old one day, if we are blessed to enjoy a long life. Perhaps what we really need to do is to look upon the elderly as Pope Benedict does – as persons imbued with inviolable dignity, and thus worthy of our respect and care, simply because they have been made in the image and likeness of God and are



"As advances in medicine and other factors lead to increased longevity, it is important to recognize the presence of growing numbers of older people as a blessing for society. Every generation can learn from the experience and wisdom of the generation that preceded it. Indeed the provision of care for the elderly should be considered not so much an act of generosity as the repayment of a debt of gratitude."

– Pope Benedict XVI

sustained by his Providence. "Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary," Benedict said in his first homily as pope and again to the elderly last September in London. "Life is a gift, at every stage from conception until natural death, and it is God's alone to give and to take."

October is Respect Life Month

This month American Catholics will once again observe Respect Life Month. When we think of pro-life

activities, we naturally think of the unborn, and rightly so. But this year, we would do well to reflect on the elderly – the contributions they have made to our families and society, their wisdom and experience, the care and assistance they need and the respect they deserve as human persons created in God's image. The U.S. Bishops recently published a statement on assisted suicide entitled "To Live Each Day with Dignity" (www.usccb.org/toliveeachday/). It is a valuable read for anyone who

cares about the dignity of human life.

As Little Sisters of the Poor, we are committed to the accompaniment and care of the needy elderly, following the advice of our foundress, Saint Jeanne, who said, "Never forget that the poor are our Lord ... Making the elderly happy, that is what counts!" We are caregivers – not politicians or policy makers. But we do know that caring for the elderly poor is growing more difficult all the time because of funding cuts, a chronic shortage of qualified professional and paraprofessional care givers, and the attitudes of a society becoming increasingly callous with regard to the sacredness of human life.

During this Respect Life Month we invite you to pray for the triumph of the culture of life, to advocate for better financing of care for low-income seniors and better educational programs and benefits for caregivers, and simply to cherish the elders in your own family or community.

Sr. Constance Carolyn Veit is director of Communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States.

marriage amendment in the state of Minnesota

(continued from page 5)

for Marriage," the ballot campaign promoting the amendment, and will work with a broad coalition of groups to promote the amendment in a positive, pro-marriage and pro-community way. It is helping to organize a grassroots network of volunteers across the state.

The success of the campaign depends upon the initiative of all Catholics to take an active role in helping with the many activities needed to be done between now and November 2012. Not everyone has the same gifts or interests, but there will be lots of opportunities to use your talents and time.

Will the campaign be easy? No. We will be vastly outspent and there will be many cultural forces working against us. They will try to make us

think that we are swimming against the tide of history. They will call us names for defending the important institution of marriage. But, we must stand together.

Volunteers are needed at the parish and community level. We will be conducting a massive voter education effort, speaking with all Minnesotans about the amendment and why it is necessary to preserve traditional marriage in our state.

We need parishes to provide prayer teams and support, and parish leaders or captains who can assist the pastor in various educational efforts in support of marriage and the amendment; help recruiting other volunteers and organizing activity in the parish and local community; or help with voter

registration drives, phone calls, door knocking and get-out-the-vote efforts later in 2012. Training and resources will be provided.

Your support is vital to help other Minnesotans see the timeless institution of marriage as the bedrock of civil society and the strongest environment for raising children.

To become informed and involved, and for regular marriage amendment campaign updates, sign up at: <http://www.minnesotafor marriage.com>. You can also contact MCC outreach coordinator Cathy Deeds at 651-256-7583; cdeeds@mccc.org.

Visit "MCC's Marriage Amendment Resource Page" Web site for helpful

documents on Church teaching on marriage, frequently asked questions in the marriage debate, videos and news updates at <http://mccc.org/issues/marriage>.

God is the author of marriage. But we are his hands and feet. Through prayer, fasting and hard work, Catholics will work to preserve his


design for marriage as the union of one man and one woman to the benefit of families, children, and society. Please join us and stand up for marriage today.

Jason Adkins is executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference.

Pray and give generously in your parish

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Oct. 23, 2011



The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/Pontifical Mission Societies



Did you know? . . . Minnesota marriage amendment Q & A

One piece of legislation Minnesotans will encounter in the 2012 election is the marriage amendment. This amendment would define marriage as the union of one man and one woman in Minnesota's state constitution.

Luanne Kucera, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Legislation Commission coordinator, recently interviewed Fr. Craig Timmerman, pastor of St. Peter's in Canby and St. Leo's in St. Leo, and associate director of the Office of Vocations, on the marriage amendment. While in the seminary, Fr. Timmerman received a licentiate (a two-year degree) in Marriage and Family Life at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Rome.

Q. Why is the marriage issue so important today?

A. Marriage as we know it is being challenged. Blessed John Paul II said, "The future of the world and the Church passes through the family." The point is this: Marriage is not just about two people. It is the basis of family life. Blessed John Paul II wrote that the family is "the basic building block of society."

Marriage, like the vows say, is the lifelong union of man and

woman. And since a man and woman are able to give birth to new life in children, families are 'born' from marriage. So marriage affects our whole society, not just the two people.

Q. What is the marriage amendment?

A. The Minnesota marriage amendment will be a statewide ballot vote in 2012 to define marriage specifically as the union of one man and one woman. Voting "yes" will put this definition of marriage in our state constitution.

Q. Why do we need this amendment?

A. It will prevent activist judges or politicians from changing the definition of marriage in the future, as has already happened in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, and Washington, D.C. Each of these places now allows same-sex marriage. Thirty other states have already passed amendments to ban same-sex marriage, keeping marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Q. Why can't marriage include two men or two women?

A. Marriage comes from God, who from the beginning created

us "male and female" and commanded us to "be fertile and multiply." This is the beginning of marriage. Only a man and woman can do this, not a man and man, or a woman and woman. Men and women are created "complementary."

Q. Isn't it discrimination to not allow two men or two women to marry?

A. The marriage amendment is not about discrimination against any group. It is about defining what marriage is. Homosexual persons must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. But that does not mean we can redefine marriage. By the conjugal act, spouses give birth to new life, the next generation. Marriage provides the best environment for the formation and education of those children.

Q. How could changing the legal definition of marriage affect us?

A. This is really the most important point. When the courts or a legislature allow homosexual "marriage," they actually change what marriage is. They no longer use the terms "husband" and "wife"; rather, they use the terms

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Making time for prayer

by Connie Rossini



God Alone Suffices

Are you having trouble finding time for prayer every day? Here are some suggestions and reflections that may help.

1. Ask yourself whether daily prayer is your number-one priority. If you do not see the need for prayer, there is little chance you will be faithful in it.

Contrary to what many people think, prayer does not take us away from our duties; it gives us the strength to fulfill them. No matter what your vocation is or how busy it keeps you, you can be sure God wants to strengthen you in it through daily prayer. If you have a hard time seeing the importance of prayer, read my last column, "Seven Reasons We Should Pray," or a good Catholic book about prayer.

2. Simplify your life. Almost all of us are too busy these days with work, volunteering, and socializing. Try cutting out some of your unnecessary activities or reducing the number of events you must chauffeur your kids to. In extreme cases, you may even have to consider a job change, if that is possible for you, so that work does not devour your life. Do whatever you must to slow down and refocus your life on Christ. You will not be sorry you did.

What about material possessions? Do you own so much property or so many gadgets that all your "free" time is spent taking care of them? Perhaps reducing the amount of clutter or giving some of your surplus goods to the poor will really free up your time. Consider what you could do without.

3. Turn off the TV. If you have time for your favorite program, you have time for prayer. A 30-minute conversation with Christ will refresh you more than a sitcom. Maybe you only watch EWTN. St. Frances de Sales cautioned people against thinking they were holy simply because they read a lot of spiritual books. The same could be said of watching Catholic television in our day. Is it time to switch off the set and put your faith into practice?

4. If possible, pray first thing in the morning. Set your alarm back half an hour. Not a morning person? Neither

am I, but I still find this is the ideal time for prayer. There are few interruptions or distractions before 6 a.m. If you leave prayer until the end of the day, there is a real chance you will not pray at all, or you will be so caught up in thinking about the day's events or so sleepy, that you will do a poor job of praying.

5. Enlist your family's support. If both spouses are committed to daily prayer, you can give one another encouragement and practical support. For example, the husband can watch the children while the wife prays. A stay-at-home mom can teach older children to have a quiet time while the little ones nap, then use this time for prayer.

6. Be creative. Some of the above may not be applicable, or even possible, for you. That is why these are only suggestions. Everyone's situation is different. The key is to examine your life before you decide that daily prayer will not work for you. With a little ingenuity, it can usually be done. Sometimes multi-tasking is necessary. Pray while you nurse the baby or push the toddler in the stroller. Use half of your lunch hour to pray in the car. My husband and I have tried all of these methods. Your tack may have to change from time to time as your situation in life changes. Daily prayer almost always requires sacrifice, but remember that God rewards even the smallest sacrifices (see Mt 10:42).

7. Still struggling? Ask God for wisdom and guidance. In a word, pray.

Connie Rossini is a parishioner of the Church of St. George, West Newton Township, and a member of the Council of Catholic Women. She is a permanently professed member of the Third Order of Discalced Carmelites.

CCW Recognition Sunday is Oct. 9

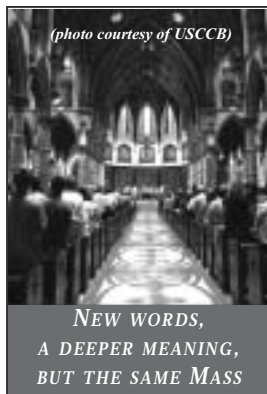
New Ulm – In September Bishop John M. LeVoir signed the proclamation designating Sunday, Oct. 9, 2011, as Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Recognition Sunday in the Diocese of New Ulm. On this special Sunday, parishes will recognize women who have worked tirelessly through CCW, using their time, talent, and treasure. Through their leadership, dedication, and commitment to Christ and his Church, the women of CCW have become an invaluable resource in parish communities.

Pictured: DCCW moderator Msgr. Eugene Lozincki and DCCW president Audrey Prokosch join Bishop John M. LeVoir as he signs the proclamation designating Oct. 9, 2011, as CCW Recognition Sunday.

(photo by Christine Clancy)



Full, active, and conscious participation



(photo courtesy of USCCB)

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

New Roman Missal to be implemented Nov. 27

Free workshops scheduled to assist in formation of laity

Oct. 25 – St. Francis, Benson from 7-8 p.m.
Oct. 27 – Ss. Peter and Paul, Ivanhoe from 7-8 p.m.
Oct. 29 – St. Gregory, Lafayette from 6-7 p.m.
Nov. 17 – St. Gertrude, Forest City from 7-8 p.m.

Presenter: Ann Przybilla, diocesan Office of Worship
No registration required.

Oct. 1 – Holy Trinity, Winsted from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Oct. 22 – St. Mary's, New Ulm from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Oct. 29 – St. Michael, Madison from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Nov. 12 – St. Mary's, Willmar from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Presenter: Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus
No registration required.

by Fr. John Paul Erickson

Certainly one of the most obvious outcomes of the Second Vatican Council was the reform of the Liturgy, that is, the public prayer of the Church. As enunciated in the first published document of the Council, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, an explicit goal of these reforms was the “full, active, and conscious participation” of the People of God in this public prayer, especially in the Holy Mass.

We have had nearly 40 years to pray the Mass utilizing the 1974 translation. Many have been nourished and sustained by the words within it. Many Catholics in the United States have prayed the Mass in English using these words all of their life. It is all they have known. It is all I have known.

Desiring to continue to harvest the rich fields of the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, Holy Mother Church released in 2001 a pivotal document entitled *Liturgiam Authenticam*, which established new principles upon

which the translation of liturgical texts were to be based from this point forward. *Liturgiam Authenticam* sought to affirm what had worked well since the Second Vatican Council in the translation of liturgical texts, but also to correct what needed refinement.

Our new translation of the *Novus Ordo*, to be used later this year, is an attempt to follow the new principles of translation outlined by the Church in *Liturgiam Authenticam*.

Closely connected to the release of *Liturgiam Authenticam* was the decision of Blessed John Paul II to announce in the Jubilee Year of 2000 the publication of a new Roman Missal, that is, a new book of prayers for the Mass. The final Latin text of this missal was not completed until 2002. This would be the third such “typical edition” missal since the Second Vatican Council, the first being released in 1969 and the second in 1975. The missals of 1975 and 2002 were mostly simple reprints of the original 1969 Latin text, but they

did add new prayers, new saints, and offer clarifications on the celebration of the Mass. For example, the 2002 missal includes new prayers for Masses offered in honor of Saint Josephine Bakhita, an African nun from Darfur.

While these new words will be challenging to us all for a number of different reasons, this moment in our Church’s life is nevertheless a privileged chance to once again truly listen to what we are saying when we participate in the Holy Mass.

In this time of learning and new beginnings, priests and laity alike will need to slow down and truly pay attention to what we are saying and hearing at the Mass, so as to learn again, better yet, so as to remember again the meaning of this foundational prayer. If we do this, not only will we be better able to proclaim new words at Mass, we ourselves will be made new.

Editor’s note: Fr. John Paul Erickson is director of Worship for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

marriage amendment Q & A

(continued from page 9)

“partners.” This will have to be taught to our kids in public schools.

If any organization does not agree with this definition, they will be seen as discriminating. They could possibly be sued or even shut down, everything from insurance companies to wedding

photographers. Businesses will have to provide benefits to “partners.”

Already Massachusetts’ and California’s Catholic Charities organizations were ordered by law to provide adoptions to homosexual couples. They refused and had to shut down their adoption services.

Furthermore, churches or religious organizations could possibly lose their tax-exempt status because they are discriminating against homosexual “marriage.”

Get involved! Visit the Minnesota Catholic Conference’s Web site, <http://mncc.org/issues/marriage/>.

Spiritual direction invites a deeper relationship with God

by Lori Mathiowetz, MA and Lois Byrne, PBVM, MA, MSW-LICSW

“As she has never failed to do, again today the Church continues to recommend the practice of spiritual direction, not only to all those who wish to follow the Lord up close, but to every Christian who wishes to live responsibly his baptism, that is, the new life in Christ.” – Pope Benedict XVI

The practice of spiritual direction has been a part of the life of the Catholic Church for centuries, though many Catholics have never heard of it, or assume that it is only for priests or religious. However, as Pope Benedict XVI has indicated in a number of statements during his pontificate, the practice of spiritual direction has an important part to play in the spiritual lives of Catholics everywhere.

Spiritual direction is for anyone desiring to grow in their awareness of God’s presence in their lives. It can also be helpful during times of growth, transition, vocation discernment, or faith crisis.

Emphasis is placed on your potential to respond interiorly and exteriorly to God’s self-revelation and his desire to interact with us in our deeper affective attitudes, feelings, desires, and core experiences of life. Spiritual direction invites a deeper relationship with the spiritual aspect of being human.

Spiritual direction is specific to each spiritual journey. Whether one is taking the first steps to learn to pray, or one has been meditating for decades, spiritual direction is valuable, offering a place to reflect on how to pray, to review ongoing or unfolding spiritual practices, and the human desire for greater significance in life. This can help persons to better savor, enjoy, and respond to God’s activity not only in their prayer life, but also in their day to day living.

A spiritual director offers a confidential, supportive place to explore prayer practices, questions about life’s meaning, and one’s relationship with God. “A spiritual guide should help to grow in knowledge of oneself and lead a person to union with the Lord, so that one’s life is increasingly conformed to the Gospel. We always need a guide, dialogue, to go to the Lord; we cannot do it with our reflections alone. And this is also the meaning of the ecclesiality of our faith, of finding this guide,” says Pope Benedict XVI.

There are a number of persons and centers that offer spiritual direction to people from the Diocese of New Ulm. Fees vary depending on the spiritual director offering this service and the nature of the request. For help finding a trained spiritual director or resource in your area, contact Catholic Charities at 866-670-5163.

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 St. N., New Ulm, MN 56073; phone: 507-359-2617 or toll-free 866-670-5163.

Sisters' Council elects new officers

The Sisters' Council of the Diocese of New Ulm represents all woman religious ministering in and/or living in the diocese. The mission of the council is to extend the Kingdom of God to the people of the diocese. Three new officers were elected at the April 16, 2011, meeting. Pictured with Bishop John M. LeVoir are officers (l-r) Sr. Jodelle Zimmerman, OSB, secretary-treasurer; Sr. Lois Anne Palkert, OSF, vice-chair, and Sr. Anna Marie Reha, SSND, chair.



(photo by Sam Pater)

Upcoming Events

School Sisters of Notre Dame Craft Fair/Garage Sale, Oct. 8, from 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Campus, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato.

St. Gertrude's, Forest City Pedal Pilgrimage will be held Oct. 22. This year's leisurely and prayerful bike tour will circle around the city of New Ulm and will begin at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 605 N. State St., New Ulm at 2 p.m. To register e-mail stgert@xtratyme.com with "pedal pilgrimage" in the subject line or call 320-693-7801. Cost is \$10 with an optional t-shirt for \$12. Registration forms can be downloaded at www.forministry.com/usmrcathsgccs. The pedal pilgrimage is open to all faith traditions.

Riverbend TEC (Together Encountering Christ) retreat weekend will be Oct. 15–17 in New Ulm. Cost is \$65. Call 507-723-4141; <http://www.riverbendtec.org/>.

Together in Ministry's Oct. 15 session will focus on Human Resources. Learn about diocesan policy, preparation of documents, adherence to civil laws and more. Led by Larry Vanden Plas. Session is from 9 a.m.–12:15 p.m. at St. Anastasia Church, Hutchinson. Cost is \$10. The Nov. 19 session is on "Marriage and Family" led by Chris Loetscher. To register contact your parish pastoral leader or call 507-359-2966. For additional sessions, visit www.dnu.org/world/adultfaithform.html.

Good Shepherd SERRA Club, Nov. 3, at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference Room in Sleepy Eye at 7 p.m. Speakers will be area missionaries to India. Call 507-747-2181.

Pilgrimage to Italy, with Bishop John M. LeVoir will take place Sept. 4–13, 2012. Visit www.dnu.org to download a brochure or call Magi Travel, 952-949-0065.

Conference to explore bioethical decision making topics include infertility, IVF and emergency contraception

New Ulm – On Oct. 29, the Diocese of New Ulm Office of Family Life Education will host a bioethics conference at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm, beginning with Mass at 8 a.m. and continuing to 4 p.m. Bishop John M. LeVoir will be the keynote speaker and will address the topic of "Theology of the Body and the Dignity of the Human Person: A Foundation for Bioethics." The conference will explore the topics of infertility, IVF, and emergency contraception, and will outline a framework for bioethical decision-making in light of the dignity of the human person, based on natural law.

Joining Bishop LeVoir will be Francille Knowles, MD, addressing the topic, "Hey Doc, We Can't Get Pregnant, Where Do We Start?"; April Lind, MD, addressing the topic of bioethics in the context of

Catholic health care; Sr. Candace Fier, MTS, RN, addressing the topic of bioethical decision making in the face of infertility; and James Joyce, MD, addressing the topic of "Emergency Contraception – Why Not?" A framework for ethical decision-making in Catholic health care will be discussed.

This conference is designed to look at the human person as bioethical decision-maker in both personal and professional roles and it will be of interest to persons in need of health care as well as health care providers. It will provide the opportunity for participants to explore challenging issues in health care and identify the principles Catholic health care providers bring to the discussion. By providing a forum for exchange, the conference seeks to inform and uphold Catholic health care providers as well as each person who seeks health care.

In this way Catholic health care can proclaim and affirm that each and every person is created in the image and likeness of God and endowed with an innate human dignity that must be lovingly cared for from the moment of conception until natural death.

Application has been made for five CMEs for physicians, which are pending.

Application for contact hours has been made to CNE-Net, the education division of the North Dakota Nurses Association, an accredited approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Please call Sr. Candace Fier at the Diocese of New Ulm, 507-233-5328, for more information about contact hours.

Everyone is welcome to attend the conference. For more information on the cost and/or registration, e-mail Sr. Candace Fier, cfier@dnu.org, or call 507-233-5328.

DIOCESE OF NEW ULM

Catholic Charities

presents three workshops by Vicki Thorn
Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011

POST-ABORTION RECONCILIATION AND HEALING

8:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Center, Sleepy Eye

Open to counselors, parish staff and parishioners, and community professionals. Four hours of CEU credits are available from the MN Boards of Social Work and Behavioral Health. CEUs from the MN Boards of Psychology and Nursing have been applied for.

WHAT THEY FORGOT TO TELL US IN SEX EDUCATION

1:15–2:15 p.m. at St. Mary's High School, Sleepy Eye

An assembly for senior high school students (grades 9–12) from Sleepy Eye St. Mary's and New Ulm Cathedral.

WHAT THEY FORGOT TO TELL US IN SEX EDUCATION

7–8 p.m. at St. Catherine's Church, Redwood Falls

Open presentation for Diocese of New Ulm religious education classes (grades 9–12).

For additional information, to RSVP for the professional workshop, and/or to confirm a group attending a presentation, contact Catholic Charities, 1-866-670-5163.

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Total	25,294	25,789

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 26 No. 2 October 2011

catholic trends

Washington – The Obama Administration’s fight against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defines marriage as between one man and one woman, will undermine marriage and create a serious breach of Church-State relations, Archbishop Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote in a Sept. 20 letter to President Barack Obama.

The Administration’s assault on DOMA, Archbishop Dolan said,

will “precipitate a national conflict between Church and State of enormous proportions and to the detriment of both institutions.”

Archbishop Dolan asked President Obama to “end its campaign against DOMA, the institution of marriage it protects, and religious freedom.”

“Please know that I am always ready to discuss with you the concerns raised here and to address any questions that you may have,” he added. “I am

convinced that the door to a dialogue that is strong enough to endure even serious and fundamental disagreements can and must remain open, and I believe that you desire the same.”

For the complete letter, visit www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/promotion-and-defense-of-marriage/upload/dolan-to-obama-doma-letter-sept-20-2011.pdf.

Freiburg, Germany (CNA/EWTN News) – Pope Benedict XVI used his departure from German soil to reflect upon his four-day state visit in September to his homeland and to express confidence in the future of Christianity there.

“I encourage the Church in Germany to pursue with resolute confidence the path of faith which leads people back to their roots, to the heart of the Good News of Christ,” said the pope at Lahr Airport on Sept. 25.

Pope Benedict said that he hoped

his visit would reverse the societal trend of the past few decades to “remove religion from people’s lives.”

“This gives me confidence for the future of Christianity in Germany. As in previous visits, it was clear how many people here are bearing witness to their faith and making its transforming power present in today’s world.” He said that he had particular cause for optimism given the presence of “large numbers of young people” at the youth vigil in Freiburg.

Reflecting upon his visit, Pope Benedict outlined his personal highlights. He mentioned his opportunity to address the

Bundestag and present “some reflections on the intellectual foundations of the state.”

He also said that building bridges with other Christian churches, communities, and non-Christian faiths had meant a great deal to him.

The September visit constituted Pope Benedict’s first state visit to Germany. His previous two visits since his 2005 election to the papacy were made in a pastoral capacity.

Predictions of protest and lack of interest prior to his visit have largely proved unfounded. Both crowds and public support exceeded the hopes of the organizers.



"It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop."

— Pope John Paul II
"The Gospel of Life"

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Respect Life Program begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. This year's Respect Life Program takes us back to the basics, focusing on human life and dignity. Visit www.usccb.org.

(Read Bishop LeVoir's pastoral letter, page 2.)



World Priest Day & Priesthood Sunday
October 30

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