

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 26 No. 1 September 2011



How to help

Catholic Relief Services is offering assistance to those affected by the disaster in East Africa. Donate online at <http://crs.org/donate>, or mail a check to: CRS, PO Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090.

Drought conditions in Somalia are severely impacting livestock. More than 3 million are at risk of starvation.

(photo by U.S. Geological Survey)

Drought, famine threatens millions in Somalia and parts of east Africa

Washington – Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, chairman of the Board of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), have asked their brother bishops to encourage pastors and parishioners to support emergency relief efforts in the Horn of Africa, possibly by taking up a second collection.

More than 12 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia because of what many are calling the worst drought in decades. This severe lack of rainfall has resulted in failed crops, deaths of livestock, and critical shortages in food and water.

“Every day we are seeing more and more heartbreaking news about the drought and famine in Somalia and the eastern parts of Africa. We see millions of people being forced from their homes, leaving behind what meager possessions they had, and walking for days over rough terrain,” wrote Archbishop Dolan and Bishop Kicanas.

“There are parents whose little children have died, and children who have been orphaned. They are suffering from hunger, thirst, disease, and drought,” they said. “It is a humanitarian crisis that cries out for help to Christians throughout the world.”

The Holy Father, on several

occasions, has asked Catholics to respond generously to the desperate needs of our brothers and sisters in East Africa. “Christians cannot be indifferent to the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people starving in the Horn of Africa, Pope Benedict XVI said.

It is inadmissible to be indifferent in the face of the tragedy of the hungry and thirsty,” the pope said, speaking in Polish after reciting the Angelus July 31 with pilgrims gathered in the courtyard of the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo.

“When Jesus fed the multitudes by miraculously multiplying loaves and fishes, he gave his disciples an example to follow. He encourages

us to give them something to eat and to share bread with the needy. Following Christ, we must be sensitive to people’s poverty,” he said.

The pope prayed that people would open their hearts with compassion for their neighbors and would share with those in need.

CRS response

CRS has worked in East Africa for decades and is on the ground responding to this emergency. In Ethiopia, CRS is expanding its food distribution program to 1.1 million people and is working closely with local partners to provide livelihood support, water, and sanitation. In Somalia, CRS is supporting local

partners to assist highly vulnerable, displaced families with basic necessities, such as food packages, support for clinics, therapeutic feeding, and shelter. In Kenya, CRS is working both to assist newly arrived refugees with hygiene, sanitation, promotion, and protection, and also to provide water, sanitation, and supplemental feeding to drought-affected Kenyan communities.

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States.

Faith Formation Days set for Sept. 23–24; to be held in two locations

by Bryan Reising, director Office of Adult Faith Formation

The diocesan sponsored Faith Formation Days, an annual event designed for Catholic school personnel and those involved with catechesis and youth ministry will be held Sept. 23 and 24 in two separate locations with two different keynote speakers. Any adult can attend.

On Friday, Sept. 23 at St. Anthony School in New Ulm, keynote speaker Bishop John M. LeVoiur will share insights of “Blessed John Paul’s II’s Approach to Catechesis.”



Bishop LeVoiur SEPT. 23 KEYNOTE

will begin at 8:45 a.m. and end at 2:45 p.m.

On Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar, keynote speaker Richard Drabik, multimedia director for the University of Dayton and its Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), will



Drabik SEPT. 24 KEYNOTE

Catholic school personnel can benefit from this day too. The day will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. There will be an 8 a.m. Mass on Saturday.

The cost of each day is \$15, which includes lunch. For a registration form and a listing of workshop

topics and speakers for both days, visit the diocesan Web site at www.dnu.org and click the Adult Faith Formation button; or call, 507-233-5325; or e-mail cblickem@dnu.org.

Although Saturday will be geared toward parish catechesis,

Scholarships available

Those involved with catechetical ministry, youth ministry, RCIA, adult faith formation, or Catholic schools are eligible for scholarship money through the Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr Catechist Fund. Visit www.dnu.org/work/education.html or call 507-233-5325.

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**Submission deadline for
The Prairie Catholic is the 10th of
each month prior to publication**

The Prairie Catholic,

the official newspaper for the
Diocese of New Ulm since
May 1972, is published monthly
except July and August.

Its office of publication is located at
1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073
(507) 359-2966.

Postmaster: Send notice on Form 3579, Prairie
Catholic, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073-
2099. Periodical postage paid at New Ulm and
additional mailing offices. USPS 926-760.

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BE NOT AFRAID

“In the Midst of a Miracle – World Youth Day 2011”



Bishop John M. LeVoir

World Youth Day (WYD) 2011 was held in Madrid, Spain, from Aug. 15 through Aug. 21. There were 12 pilgrims from the Diocese of New Ulm who made the journey to Madrid to meet with Pope Benedict XVI, to listen to his words, to pray with him, and to celebrate the Catholic faith with nearly two million young people from around the world.

This year was the 26th WYD. WYD was begun by Pope John Paul II so that he could meet with youth from around the world for the purpose of deepening and spreading the Catholic faith. “Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith” (cf. Col 2:7) was the theme for this year’s event.

From day to day in Madrid, I kept a little diary of each day’s events. The following are some of the highlights.

● Tuesday, Aug. 16: We arrived in Madrid and checked into the Melia Galgos Hotel. There were many bishops staying at the hotel. I found out later that there were some 1,000 bishops attending, with 80 of them being from the United States.

In the evening, we celebrated the Opening Mass at the Plaza de Cibeles. The main celebrant for the Mass was the Cardinal-Archbishop of Madrid, Antonio Maria Rouco Varela.

The temperature that day and the other days was near 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

● Wednesday, Aug. 17: Bishop Paul Sirba of Duluth and I went to the Parque Retiro (Retiro Park) where most of the pilgrims were gathered for various WYD events. The park was huge. There, by the Prado Museum, we met with the group from the Diocese of Duluth. We all ate lunch and enjoyed the afternoon together.

I was able to make contact with our young people from the Diocese of New Ulm (led by Margaret McHugh), and we set up a time and a place to meet the next day.

● Thursday, Aug. 18: Bishop Sirba and I met with the group from the

Diocese of New Ulm. I was so happy to see our young people and their leaders. We were able to eat lunch together and to visit. We all shared the WYD experiences that we already had. We talked about the arrival of Pope Benedict, which happened later that day.

In the evening, everyone gathered at the Plaza de Cibeles to greet Pope Benedict and to pray with him. The crowd was very joyful and greeted him with cheers of “Benedicto.” The Holy Father was thrilled to see so many young people. Before he came to the stage, he rode through the crowds of cheering young people in the popemobile, waving and smiling as he went. We then had a prayer service and a talk by the Holy Father. He reminded us that we were at WYD for “friendship, prayer, and celebration.”

● Friday, Aug. 19: One of the things that I wanted to do in Madrid was to visit the Church of St. Isidore the Farmer, and to pray at his tomb and the tomb of his wife, St. Maria de la Cabeza. I went to the church this afternoon and prayed by the tombs of Saints Isidore and Maria for our diocese.

In the evening, everyone gathered in the Plaza de Cibeles to pray the

Stations of the Cross with the Holy Father. Each of the 14 stations was from a different church in Spain. The artistry of each station was elegant. The stations were crafted from different periods of time, from the 16th through the 20th century.

Before the ceremony began, a little girl could not contain her excitement at seeing the pope and ran up to kiss his ring. The Holy Father lovingly patted her on the head.

● Saturday, Aug. 20: The bishops from the United States celebrated Mass for the young pilgrims from the United States at the “Love and Life Center” in Madrid. This center was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Sisters of Life from New York. Cardinal Francis George of Chicago was the main celebrant for the Mass and Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York gave the homily. Some 8,000 youth from the United States attended.

In the evening, there was a prayer vigil with Pope Benedict at Cuatro Vientos Airfield. There was an estimated two million youth present. After the vigil, they spent the night at the airfield, with adoration of the

(continued on page 7)

Bishop’s September Calendar

5 New Ulm: 7:30 a.m. Holy Trinity Convent. Blessing of Convent.

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

Mankato: 1 p.m. Good Counsel Campus Chapel. School Mass for the Opening of the Academic Year.

7–8 Philadelphia, PA: Episcopal Installation of Archbishop Charles J. Chaput.

9–11 Duluth: Deacon Formation Program.

12 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People Meeting (via Video Conference).

13–14 Washington, DC: Memorial Mass for Archbishop Pietro Sambi.

16–19 Sioux Falls, SD: Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Annual Meeting and Investiture.

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

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

20 St. Paul: 2 p.m. Archbishop’s Residence. Provincial Meeting.

21 St. Paul: 9 a.m. Carondelet Center. Minnesota Catholic Conference Board Meeting.

23 New Ulm: 9 a.m. St. Anthony Elementary School. Faith Formation Day.

New Ulm: 7 p.m. Johnson Park. Homecoming Football Game.

24 Willmar: 8 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Faith Formation Day.

Winsted: 5:15 p.m. Church of the Holy Trinity. Pastor Installation of Fr. Anthony J. Stubeda.

25 Lambertton: 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Joseph. Confirmation.

Olivia: 5 p.m. Max’s Grill. Bishop’s Guild Dinner.

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

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

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

New Ulm: 2 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Vocations Team Meeting.

Sleepy Eye: 5:30 p.m. Schoenstatt on the Lake. Dinner with Parents of Women in Formation.

30 Sleepy Eye: Good Leaders, Good Shepherds.

Sleepy Eye: 7 p.m. St. Mary’s Football Field. Homecoming Football Game.



"Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign an endeavor for a new Pastoral Center while benefiting parishes in the diocese

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 and \$7.5 million going to the 76 parishes participating in the campaign.

The name of the campaign reminds us that all we are and all we have comes from Christ, and as Christ was generous with us, we should be generous in sharing whatever we have with others.

Specifically designed to be very parish friendly, the campaign seeks to raise the funds necessary to build a new Pastoral Center for the diocese and for each parish to have money to address specific projects.

An example of a parish that ran the campaign and has already reaped financial benefits is the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. "Cathedral's rector, Msgr. John Richter, did a tremendous job of leading his parish through the campaign process, meeting his diocesan goal and his parish goal," said Wayne Pelzel, diocesan director of Development. "In fact, they have done so well that they have already received nearly \$150,000 back from the diocese and have begun work on some important projects."

In the following testimony, Msgr. Richter shares some insights he gained as he went through the fundraising process.

"I wanted Cathedral parish to be a part of the campaign pilot phase because of the projects we would be involved in. When the "Christ Our Life" Campaign started, I approached six people to serve on the leadership team. Five of the six were eager and willing to do so. This made all the difference for the success of the campaign. The



The roof of the Cathedral was damaged by a hail storm and the shingles needed to be replaced. This was also an opportune time to paint the trim of the church. These improvements were all funded through the "Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign.

leadership team was very enthusiastic and extremely helpful throughout the entire campaign.

"Personally, and I think I can speak for the whole leadership team, I thought the process was much easier than I had anticipated. The leadership team was ready to attend meetings and offer a lot of good information and insights as to what needed to be done.

"The key to the success of our campaign was the involvement of the volunteers who made personal contacts. We determined the number of personal contacts we were going to make and then asked for volunteers. My goal was to have volunteers make two to three contacts. If they wanted more they were able to take more, but to have a volunteer make many solicitations would most likely be overwhelming. The volunteers selected the names of people they were willing to contact and faithfully carried out that responsibility. This part of the campaign was very successful and completed in a short time.

"Cathedral parish had four main projects. One is in progress now – painting the exterior trim and re-shingling the church. Other projects include the restoring the stained glass window, repairing the pipe

organ, and shingling the Holy Trinity Middle School. The roof of the Cathedral was damaged by a hail storm on June 26, 2010, and we needed to replace the shingles. This was a good time to paint the trim of the church as well. This project will be completed within the next three or four weeks.

"Already, \$150,000 has come back to the parish from the campaign to help cover this expense!

"It was a surprise and a great blessing to receive so much from the campaign so quickly. The first installment of \$122,000 came back to the parish just a few months after the campaign started, and then a second check for \$28,000 came to the parish just six weeks after the first installment. This was very beneficial because payments for the work being done on the church were due around the time both checks came in.

"We are close to meeting our parish goal, which was established at \$1,100,000. This goal should cover the cost of the four projects designated for the parish campaign."

Q & A's concerning the proposed new Pastoral Center

by Bishop John M. LeVoir

Q. Has the proposed new Pastoral Center project been thoroughly thought through?

The project began to be discussed five years ago by Archbishop Nienstedt and the Property Committee of the Diocese of New Ulm. Plans were drawn up by a professional architectural firm. They were modified and re-modified a number of times over the five-year period to cut costs as much as possible. In addition to the diocesan Property Committee, the project was reviewed by the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the diocesan Finance Council, and the diocesan Priest's Council. All gave their approval.

Q. Why would an office building, such as the proposed new Pastoral Center, cost \$5.6 million?

A pastoral center building is like no other building. It is not just an office building. It is a multipurpose and many faceted

building, with the Holy Eucharist in the chapel as the center of the building and, symbolically, as the center of the diocese.

The building must accommodate an archive and it must have a communications section for publication of "The Prairie Catholic" and audio-visual materials. The offices must be suited for privacy and confidentiality. They must be places where the professional staff can have their personal files, computer, books, and other resources. Catholic Charities requires space for confidential counseling and meetings. There must be large spaces for meetings. There must be a large work room for copy machines, mail processing, etc.

For the most part, all these features are the same features that pastoral center buildings have throughout the dioceses of the United States. They are unique to pastoral centers, and buildings with such features do cost more money to build than standard office buildings.

Fr. Harpel retires from active ministry at a young 93!



Fr. John Harpel

An open house retirement party was held Aug. 20 at the City Center in Glencoe for Fr. John Harpel, SVD.

of pastoral work, he entered the Diocese of New Ulm on April 25, 1979, and was appointed diocesan director of the Office of the Propagation of the Faith. While remaining as director, from 1980–1986 he served at the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson.

Fr. Harpel, 93, was born in Glencoe and was ordained for the Societas Verbi Divini (Society of the Divine Word) on Aug. 15, 1944, at the Church of St. Mary in Techny, Ill. His first assignment was to the Gold Coast, West Africa, a British colony at the time and now known as Ghana. Following additional years

In 1986 he left the diocese and became chaplain for the St. Joseph Community Hospital in New Hampton, Iowa, now called Mercy Medical Center.





No Tengas Miedo En medio de un Milagro – Jornada Mundial de la Juventud 2011

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

La Jornada Mundial de la Juventud (JMJ) se llevó a cabo del 15 al 21 de Agosto en la ciudad de Madrid, España. 12 peregrinos de la Diócesis de New Ulm hicieron el viaje a Madrid para conocer al Papa Benedicto XVI, escuchar sus palabras, rezar con él y celebrar la fe Católica con aproximadamente dos millones de jóvenes de todo el mundo.

El Papa Juan Pablo II inició la JMJ con el propósito de reunirse con todos los jóvenes del mundo para profundizar y difundir la fe católica. El lema de este año "con profundas raíces en él, firmemente basados en él por la fe" (Col 2:7).

Desde que llegue a Madrid hice un pequeño diario de los acontecimientos acontecidos y aquí los más destacados.

Martes, 16 de Agosto: Al llegar a Madrid nos hospedamos en el hotel Melia Galgos. Muchos Obispos se hospedaron en este hotel también. Más adelante me enteré que 1,000 obispos asistieron al evento y 80 de ellos de los Estados Unidos.

Jueves, 18 de Agosto: Obispo Sirba y yo nos reunimos con el grupo de

la Diócesis de New Ulm. Yo estaba tan feliz de ver a nuestros jóvenes y sus líderes. Tuvimos la oportunidad de comer juntos y platicar sobre las experiencias de la JMJ.

Conversamos sobre la llegada del Papa Benedicto XVI que tuvo lugar más tarde.

Por la noche, todos se reunieron en la Plaza de Cibeles para saludar al Papa Benedicto XVI para orar con él. La multitud estaba muy alegre y lo saludó con una ovación diciendo "Benedicto." El Santo Padre se emocionó al ver millones de jóvenes y antes de llegar al altar desde su papamovil él sonreía y saludaba a la multitud. Luego tuvimos un servicio de oración y una plática por el Santo Padre. El nos recordó que estábamos en la JMJ por la "Amistad, oración y celebración."

Sábado, 20 de Agosto: Los Obispos de los Estados Unidos celebraron la Misa para los jóvenes peregrinos procedentes de los Estados Unidos en el "Love and Life Center" en Madrid. Alrededor de 25,000 jóvenes estadounidenses asistieron a la Misa.

Por la noche, hubo una vigilia con el Papa Benedicto XVI en el aeródromo de Cuatro Vientos y

alrededor de dos millones asistieron al evento. Después de la Vigilia, pasaron la noche en el aeródromo, con una adoración Eucarística.

Domingo, 21 de Agosto: La Misa de Clausura se llevo a cabo en el aeródromo de Cuatro Vientos a las 9:30 a.m. Alrededor de dos millones de peregrinos se reunieron para despedir al Santo Padre. Durante su homilía, el Santo Padre animó a los jóvenes hacer de Cristo, Hijo de Dios, el centro de sus vidas y ser apóstoles del siglo XXI.

Durante la JMJ, los peregrinos tuvieron la oportunidad de asistir a la Misa todos los días, celebrar el Sacramento de la Reconciliación, participar de la catequesis, adorar al Santísimo Sacramento, conocer a peregrinos de otros países y asistir a diversos eventos.

Formar parte de la JMJ 2011 fue una experiencia religiosa bastante intensa que permanecerán en mi memoria para siempre. Sin duda, la gracia que los participantes experimentaron, estábamos en medio de un milagro. (La próxima JMJ está programada para el 2013 en Rio de Janeiro, Brasil).

will focus on the theme "Do This in Memory of Me." Those whom the pastoral leaders have designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's Department of Education has produced materials to help parishes celebrate the event at the local level.

This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on Sept. 18 and

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Immigration policy discussion of upcoming symposium

by Sr. Anna Marie Reha, SSND

Migration has been part of human history since its origins. But today, due to widespread changes caused by globalization, more people are migrating than ever before and we feel those effects here in the United States.

In September and October the Diocese of New Ulm will be co-sponsoring a regional Justice for Immigrants symposium.

"Justice for Immigrants: The Theology of Migration and Framing the Message," will be held on Friday, Sept. 30, at St. John's University, Collegeville, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and again on Saturday, Oct. 1 at St. Catherine University, St. Paul, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be Fr. Daniel Groody CSC, director of the Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture.

Fr. Groody, an associate professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, states, "According to the Judeo-Christian Scriptures, immigration is not simply a sociological fact but also a theological event. God revealed his Covenant to his people as they were in the process of immigrating. This Covenant was a gift and a responsibility; it reflected God's goodness to them but also called them to respond to newcomers in the same way Yahweh responded to them in their slavery: So you too must befriend the alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 10:19).



Fr. Daniel Groody has spent many years doing pastoral work and research in

Latin America, particularly along the U.S. - Mexican Border. He teaches, writes and lectures on U.S. Latino spirituality, globalization and the relationship of Christian spirituality to social justice. In addition to his books and articles on these themes, he is the producer of documentary films including "One Border, One Body: Immigration and the Eucharist," and "Dying to Live: A Migrant's Journey."

Building on this same foundation, Catholic social teaching has reiterated that the true moral worth of any society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. John Paul II has consistently underscored the moral responsibility of richer nations to help poor nations, particularly with regard to more open immigration policies.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend this powerful and spiritual discussion of our country's immigration policy. There is a \$20 fee to attend, registration is required and space is limited.

A brochure with registration for the event can be found on the Diocese of New Ulm Web site, www.dnu.org under Hispanic Ministry, or contact Sr. Anna Marie Reha, diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry, 507-359-2966.

Catechetical Sunday celebrated Sept. 18

Why do we celebrate Catechetical Sunday?

In 1935, the Vatican published "On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education," a document that asks every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists.

For the first few years after Catechetical Sunday was established, national catechetical congresses were held in conjunction with the celebration. Since 1971 the

Bishop's official appointment



Effective Aug. 15, 2011

Fr. Paul D. Timmerman has been appointed parochial vicar of the Church of St. Francis, Benson, and to assist in the St. Isidore the Farmer Area Faith Community, in addition to serving as diocesan director of Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Affairs.

ENDOW faith study group finds place in diocese

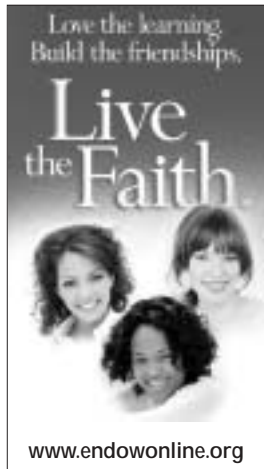
women of every age group encouraged to get involved

by Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM

Are you a woman who would like to learn more about your faith in fellowship with other women? The Office of Family Life Education invites you to mark your calendars and plan to attend the "ENDOW in a Day" seminar on Oct. 8 at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls.

ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) is a Catholic educational program that uses a small study group format to cultivate faith, fellowship, and formation among Catholic women.

This introductory seminar will give participants the opportunity to experience ENDOW study programs. The ENDOW study group requires no homework or advance preparation. Participants gain from the study of authentic Church teaching and a shared experience of prayer, which helps them discover anew their God-given dignity, as well as their call to



holiness and its implications for transforming society.

Seminar facilitator Eileen Love, from the ENDOW office in Denver, will present an overview of the study program on Blessed John Paul II's "Letter to Women."

The day will begin at 8 a.m. with

Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. LeVoi and end at 4 p.m. The cost for the study program is \$75.

At the request of Bishop LeVoi, the diocesan Office of Family Life Education is undertaking the initiative to make ENDOW study groups available in all regions of the diocese.

The New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is lending support to this initiative and has diocesan scholarships available. Contact your CCW parish president for more information regarding qualifications for a diocesan scholarship.

Registration is available online at www.endowonline.org (click on the register for a class tab), or call Margaret McCann at 303-715-3224.

For further information about the ENDOW initiative, contact the diocesan Office of Family Life Education, 507-233-5328; cfier@dnv.org.

ENDOW faith study group formed in Christ the King Area Faith Community



Since February, women of the Christ the King Area Faith Community (Church of St. John, Appleton; Church of St. James, Dawson; and Church of St. Michael, Madison), have been meeting as an ENDOW faith study group. Pictured front (l-r): Lila Schmidt, Joan Wiering, Vanessa Bedow, Danielle Brandt. Back: Joyce Dass, Kari Dass (hostess), Pat Persoon, Mary Wiering, Rita Doyscher, Darla Bakker, Rhonda Wiering (ENDOW facilitator), Judy Leibfried, Kathy Peterson. Not pictured: Pam Thoof, Melanie Thoof, Rhonda Newton.

Mixing faith and fun at summer camps!



Summertime means summer camps for youth of all ages. In June, Bishop LeVoi visited the Schoenstatt Girls' Youth Camps held at Schoenstatt on the Lake in Sleepy Eye. As part of his visit, he celebrated Mass for the participants.

Above: Bishop poses with high school missionaries who led the Fiesta de Maria (a week of activities celebrating the Blessed Mother) with the Hispanic community in Sleepy Eye (right).



Far right: Participants pose for group photos at the annual Young Women's and Young Men's Discipleship Camps in June and July. Coordinated by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, both camps were held at the Youth Center in rural Renville.



Young missionaries from diocese experience trip of a lifetime

Sleepy Eye – From June 19–28, current high school students and recent graduates of St. Mary’s School in Sleepy Eye took a mission trip of a lifetime to Kolkata (Calcutta), India.

Sleepy Eye and Kolkata are two cities that couldn’t be further apart geographically, culturally, and economically. Sleepy Eye has a population of approximately 3,500; Kolkata, more than 15 million.

Accompanying the youth on the trip was St. Mary’s, Sleepy Eye, pastor, Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, and St. Mary’s School educators, Mary Beth Botz and Julie Neubauer. The group’s primary mission was to be of service to the poor, following the late Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa was the founder of the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata. Prior to her death in 1997, she spent 45 years ministering to the poor, sick, orphaned, and dying there.

The trip’s organizer was the nonprofit organization Pathways to Children Foundation of Minneapolis, whose founder and director is Sleepy Eye native Grace (Sellner) Strangis. She also led the trip once in Kolkata along with a Pathways to Children volunteer, Gina Zappa.

The original idea of the trip was ignited by Botz, who played a large role with organizing the trip at the local level. “The idea of the mission trip evolved from a conversation I had with Grace,” she said. “I asked her to come speak to my class about her Pathways to Children Foundation and she offered the possibility of traveling with a group of students.”

“This has been a spiritual pilgrimage for me,” said Botz. “I have always been fascinated by Mother Teresa and the stories of the missionaries. . . . She (Mother Teresa) gave up everything to live with the poor.”

June was the monsoon season in Kolkata,

which meant hot, humid weather. According to Botz, it rained almost every day that the group was there. Prior to leaving for the trip, Botz said, she was prepared for the images of poverty but not for the overwhelming crowds of people and the smells. “There was garbage in the streets, people living on the streets, animal manure on the streets. And with all the heat and humidity, the smells just hung in the air. That I wasn’t ready for.”

Accompanying the group on the trip were four tubs (50 pounds each) of school supplies, donations of clothing (including over 100 pillowcase dresses made by New Ulm’s Little Dresses for Africa, and knitted hats and small baby blankets from a Sleepy Eye women’s group.

Several sites visited were associated with Mother Teresa, including an orphanage named for the Catholic nun. During their eight days in India, the group volunteered with poverty-stricken children and their families, helping to improve basic survival skills, health care, and education. They assisted with maintenance and repair projects and simple carpentry.

“The 15 students and young adults on the trip were amazing,” said Botz. “There was not one of them that held back from helping the children or doing any job we got.”

The trip’s agenda also included Sunday Mass, a visit to schools that were sponsored by Pathways to Children Foundation, and a tour of temples, museums, and bazaars. The group also visited Mother Teresa’s tomb, her leprosy center, and her home for the dying.

The mission trip gained the attention of Jason Davis of KSTP-TV’s “On the Road,” who accompanied the group to film a documentary about their experience. Segments are available for viewing online at <http://kstp.com/article/26/>.



Missionaries to India gathered with Sr. Gertrude, the second sister to join Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity. Sr. Gertrude spoke to the group about 30 minutes, passing on lessons learned from Mother Teresa and telling stories of their work among the poor of Kolkata (Calcutta). Pictured kneeling in front (l-r): Betsy Baer, Kahley Pelzel, Emily Schwartz, Mary Beth Botz, Katie Steffl. Row 2: Charles Sasson (guide), Julie Neubauer, Andrea Schwartz, Molly Schwartz, Sr. Gertrude, Molly Mathiowetz, Boston Portner. Row 3: Lisa Schwartz, Carissa Seidl, Maria Reising, Ashton Fleck, Zach Miller, Brianna Jensen. Back row: Michael Sprenger and Msgr. Eugene Lozinski.



Pictured (r-l): Brianna Jensen and Molly Mathiowetz visit with children at the Ankur slum school sponsored by Grace Strangis and Pathways to Children.




Young students at the Ankur slum school wear pillowcase dresses sewn by New Ulm’s Little Dresses for Africa.

Kindergarten program first of its kind at St. Edward’s, Minneota

St. Edward’s School in Minneota kicked off the school year on Wednesday, Aug. 17 with a chance for parents, students, and faculty to meet. The start of the new school year brings the start of a new kindergarten program for St. Edward’s. Pictured, Principal Jason Myhre and parent Lisa Hennen look on as teacher Allison Peterson shows two of her kindergarten students, Grace Hennen and Faith Myhre, some of the interesting learning they will be doing this year. St. Edward’s is the only Catholic school in the history of the diocese that has not previously offered a kindergarten program.





College Connection for Catholics

Do you know a high school senior who will be going away to college? College Connection for Catholics (CCC), a program of the USA Council of Serra International and NET Ministries, unites college students with the Catholic faith on campuses. CCC is designed to connect incoming college freshmen with the Catholic presence on or near their campus, with the goal of helping the students stay active in their faith.

Visit www.collegeconnectionforcatholics.org.

Pope encourages young pilgrims to take WYD experience back home



Madrid (CNA/EWTN News) – Pope Benedict XVI left Spain on the evening of Aug. 21, after giving a challenge to the million-plus young people who came to World Youth Day in Madrid over the past six days.

“Now I ask you to spread throughout the world the profound and joyful experience of faith which you had here in this noble country,” said the pope, on the tarmac at Madrid’s Barajas Airport.

“By your closeness and your witness, help your friends to discover that loving Christ means living life to the full.”

Pope Benedict led nine events during his four-day visit for World Youth Day. The peak moment was Sunday’s Mass at Cuatro Vientos airbase, with a congregation said to contain up to two million people.

Spain’s King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia came to Barajas to bid the pope farewell on behalf of

the Spanish nation.

“Holiness, you have addressed words of love and hope, encouragement and confidence to a youth that treasures values like solidarity,” said King Juan Carlos.

“I give the most heartfelt thanks for your visit to Spain. Thank you for the hope and the vision that you have given to our youth.”

About two hundred young people got to come onto the tarmac to wave goodbye to the pope. As with his arrival at the same location, he was “protected” by a line of mini-Swiss Guards, Spanish schoolboys dressed in the uniforms of the illustrious Vatican army.

“I leave Spain very happy and grateful to everyone. But above all I am grateful to God, our Lord, who allowed me to celebrate these days so filled with enthusiasm and grace, so charged with dynamism and hope,” the Pope said.

He said the past week’s “feast of faith” should inspire “great confidence” in God’s love and care, keeping the Church “young and full of life, even as she confronts challenging situations.”

“This is the work of the Holy Spirit, who makes Jesus Christ present in the hearts of young people in every age and shows them the grandeur of



Diocese of New Ulm World Youth Day pilgrims met Bishop John M. LeVoor for lunch at the Prado Museum on Aug. 18 in Madrid. Pictured front row (l-r): Bridget Forst, New Ulm; Grace Maiers, Stewart, Anne Goedtk, Springfield; Anna Posivio, Gaylord; diocesan director of Youth Ministry and group leader Margaret McHugh, Shawn Polman, Cottonwood. Back: David Goedtk, Springfield; Elizabeth Anderson, Morgan; Bishop LeVoor, Theo Buysse, Minneota; Tonio Rabaey, Minneota; James Blaschko, North Mankato.

the divine vocation given to every man and woman.”

The pope said that young people respond when “one proposes to them, in sincerity and truth, an encounter with Jesus Christ, the one redeemer of humanity.”

He concluded by urging the bishops of the world, and teachers of the faith at every level, to build on the lessons that young people have received in Madrid. “Do not be afraid to present to young people the message of Jesus Christ in all its integrity, and to invite them to celebrate the sacraments by which

he gives us a share in his own life.” The pope then departed on his chartered Alitalia flight which returned him to Rome that evening.

And so ended World Youth Day 2011. Its effects around the world may have just begun.

At the “Feast of Pardon” in Buen Retiro Parkin, Madrid, lines of young people waited to go to confession.



Bishop’s pastoral letter

(continued from page 2)

Blessed Sacrament taking place throughout the night.

The vigil was interrupted by a terrific thunderstorm with a driving wind and rain; yet the Holy Father was present throughout the storm, which lasted about an hour. He was asked twice whether or not he wanted to leave the scene. He replied both times: “No, I am staying. We are staying.”

Seeing that the pope was staying with them, the young people cheered and cheered. It seemed that in the storm the devil was after us all, but led by the Holy Father and the protection of God, he was

helpless. After the storm, Pope Benedict continued the vigil and we all adored the Blessed Sacrament.

• Sunday, Aug. 21: This day brought the Closing Mass with Pope Benedict at 9:30 in the morning. The Mass was held at Cuatro Vientos Airfield. Again, some two million pilgrims attended. The Mass was beautiful. During his homily, the Holy Father encouraged the youth to make Christ, the Son of God, the center of their lives and to be apostles of the 21st century.

During WYD, the pilgrims had the opportunity to attend daily Mass, to celebrate the Sacrament of

Reconciliation, to participate in catechesis, to adore the Blessed Sacrament, to meet pilgrims from other countries, to visit the world famous Prado Museum (which houses numerous works of classic Christian art), and to attend many other events.

Being a part of WYD 2011 was a powerful religious experience for me. It will forever remain in my memory. With the outpouring of grace that the participants experienced, we were definitely in the midst of a miracle.

The next WYD is scheduled for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2013.

Pope emotionally moved by many of the WYD events

Madrid (CNA) – Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco Varela of Madrid recalled that Pope Benedict was “emotionally moved many times, almost to tears,” during World Youth Day 2011.

The cardinal said Benedict XVI was especially touched by the theatrical presentation of the Stations of the Cross, which he had initially not planned to attend.

Speaking to the COPE radio network on Aug. 22, Cardinal Rouco said the Pope changed his mind upon learning that the stations would be presented following the traditions of the Holy Week celebrations in Spain, using a combination of chant and prayer.

The cardinal also encouraged Catholics to re-read the Pope’s numerous speeches, which he called a treasure trove of “preaching, proclamation of the word and explanations to young people” based on the gospels and on the World Youth Day theme. This year’s theme was, “Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith,” taken from St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians. “That was the common thread in all of his homilies, speeches and remarks,” the cardinal added.

Recent HHS mandate for contraceptive and abortifacient drugs violates conscience rights

Washington – On Aug. 1, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released a press release which sharply criticized a new HHS “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.

“Although this new rule gives the agency the discretion to authorize a ‘religious’ exemption, it is so narrow as to exclude most Catholic social service agencies and healthcare providers,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

“For example, under the new rule our institutions would be free to act in accord with Catholic teaching on life and procreation only if they were to stop hiring and serving non-Catholics,” Cardinal DiNardo continued. “Could the federal government possibly intend to pressure Catholic institutions to cease providing health care, education and charitable services to the general public? Health care reform should expand access to basic health care for all, not undermine that goal.”



“The Administration’s failure to create a meaningful conscience exemption to the preventive services mandate underscores the need for Congress to approve the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act,” the Cardinal said. That bill (H.R. 1179), introduced by Reps. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Dan Boren (D-OK), would prevent mandates under the new health reform law from undermining rights of conscience.

Cardinal DiNardo added: “Catholics are not alone in conscientiously objecting to this mandate. The drugs that Americans would be forced to subsidize under the new rule include Ella, which was approved by the FDA as an ‘emergency contraceptive’ but can act like the abortion drug RU-486. It can abort an established pregnancy weeks after conception.

“The pro-life majority of Americans – Catholics and others – would be outraged to learn that their premiums must be used for this purpose.”

“HHS says the intent of its

‘preventive services’ mandate is to help ‘stop health problems before they start,’” said Cardinal DiNardo. “But pregnancy is not a disease, and children are not a ‘health problem’ - they are the next generation of Americans.”

“It’s now more vital than ever that Congress pass the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act to close the gaps in conscience protection in the new health care reform act, so employers and employees alike will have the freedom to choose health plans in accordance with their deeply held moral and religious beliefs.”

In a July 22 letter supporting the bill, Cardinal DiNardo wrote: “Those who sponsor, purchase, and issue health plans should not be forced to violate their deeply held moral and religious convictions in order to take part in the health care system or provide for the needs of their families or their employees. To force such an unacceptable choice would be as much a threat to universal access to health care as it is to freedom of conscience.”

The full text of Cardinal DiNardo’s letter is available online at the bishops’ Web site, www.usccb.org.

(story courtesy of USCCB)

USCCB launches 9/11 memorial Web site

Washington – *The Catholic Church Remembers*, a United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Web site launched Aug. 12 to mark the tenth anniversary of 9/11, highlights people’s firsthand experiences of pain and hope from the disaster.

The site at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/september-11/ includes six video vignettes. Among them are recollections of Cardinal Edward Egan, archbishop-emeritus of New York, who became intimately involved in the tragedy moments after it happened – when New York

Mayor Giuliani called and asked him to head for St. Vincent’s Hospital.

Thus began soul-searing days tending to the sick on stretchers and anointing bodies pulled from smoldering rubble where the Twin Towers fell. “If I had to sum up 9/11, I would say it was a time in which people taught this nation and the world how to be strong and willing to sacrifice themselves for others,” he says in one video. “It was a terrible tragedy, it was a crime, but it was a magnificent manifestation of courage and willingness to sacrifice self.”

The Web site also includes video of Chaplain Donald Rutherford, a two-star general and Catholic priest now head of all U.S. military chaplains. He is based at the Pentagon, where the terrorists flew a plane into the building on 9/11. “Before 9/11,” he says, “it was kind of a carefree world where you never had been attacked before. I think now it says that we’re all vulnerable We look at the young soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines that we work with every day they are a faithful people. We saw their faith grow that day.”

DREAM Act supporters plan Sabbath push in September

by Sr. Anna Marie Reha, SSND

Thousands of hard-working young people who were brought to the United States as infants or children can now be locked up in federal detention centers and deported to a country they have never known. But all they want to do is serve our country and live the American dream.

The DREAM Act (acronym for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) is an American legislative proposal first introduced in the Senate on Aug. 1, 2001. The bill would provide conditional permanent residency to certain undocumented students of good moral character. It would apply to people who were brought to the United States before age 15, who have earned a high school diploma or the equivalent, and are admitted to college or who enlist in the military. The bill includes a lengthy list of requirements such as background checks and registering for Selective Service, before providing a six-year window during which the applicant is protected from deportation and may apply for permanent residency as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

The DREAM Act is not amnesty, providing blanket legal status to the undocumented in the United States. Instead, it is very narrowly tailored to provide a hard-earned path to lawful status for those who meet its strict eligibility requirements.

As the effort to pass the DREAM Act hits its 10th anniversary, churches, synagogues, and mosques around the country will devote a September weekend to teaching their congregations about the faith-based reasons to work for its passage. On July 12, 2011, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., flanked by priests, bishops, rabbis, ministers and an imam, announced during a news

conference at the Capitol that Sept. 23–25 will be DREAM Act Sabbath. Faith leaders said they and their fellows would devote time during or after worship services to explain the legislation and offering testimony from young people who would be affected by it, all geared toward mustering legislative support.

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, D.C., said at the press conference that “these are Americans, for all practical purposes,” and that many DREAM Act supporters, who call themselves “Dreamers” risk deportation in order to advocate for the chance to become U.S. citizens through its provisions. “Why would we not want to embrace their dedication, energy, talents, and courage – characteristics that have made our nation great? It would be to our detriment to forsake them.”

Speaking on behalf of fellow bishops, the Cardinal said, “We plan to promote the DREAM Act Sabbath.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has continually supported the DREAM Act because they believe in protecting the life and dignity of every human being, so that all can reach their God-given potential. “Whoever receives one child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me” (Mk 9:37).

More information on the DREAM Act can be found at the USCCB Justice for Immigrants Web site. Visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org/learn-issues.shtml.



Sr. Anna Marie Reha is the director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of New Ulm.

DCCW Fall Gatherings offered in a new setting this year

by Audrey Prokosch
DCCW President

This year, board members of the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women have decided to combine the annual DCCW Fall Gatherings with the Resource & Guidance Sessions, formerly Leadership Training.

Participants will have three dates and locations to choose from. Each location will have two regions as hosts. Council of Catholic Women members are to select one to attend.

Region 1 and 2 will host their meeting on Sept. 24 at the Church of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm.

Region 3 and 4 will host their meeting on Oct. 15 at the Church of St. Leo in St. Leo.

Region 5 and 6 will host their meeting on Oct. 22 at the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson.

Each day will begin with a gathering and coffee at 8:30 a.m. followed by general sessions and share shops. Mass will be held at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. The afternoon speaker at each location will be Linda Reising, director of the First Choice Pregnancy Center in New Ulm.

Please plan to attend.

CCW at the national level

Shirley Nowak from Silver Lake will be installed as the new Province Director at the National Council of Catholic Women Convention, which will be held November 9–13 in Chicago. Registration forms to attend the national convention are available at www.nccw.org. It would be great to have representation from our diocese as Shirley is installed. Hope to see you there.

Seven reasons why we should pray

by Connie Rossini

Most of us have probably heard that daily prayer is necessary for spiritual growth. Yet, how often do we look back and realize that we have not prayed for several days, or worse, have not even thought about doing so?

I grew up in a family that prayed together daily, so I always knew I should pray daily in adulthood. Still, I struggled for years with consistency in prayer, praying three or four days a week, often half asleep just before bed.

In my late '20s I finally acknowledged the necessity of daily prayer for spiritual vitality. (I had thought I was doing fine spiritually without it.) This acknowledgement changed my life.

To help others who find themselves struggling with this issue, I offer seven reasons why we should pray every day.

1. Jesus, Mary, and all the saints prayed. Jesus prays in at least 15 passages in the Gospels. Luke 6:12 is typical: "Then he went out to the mountain to pray, spending the night in communion with God." Jesus was God the Son, always united with the Father, yet, as a man, he found it necessary to pray.

Mary is a model of prayer. Her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) is a profound prayer. We are told she "treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart" (Luke 2:19, etc.). She truly prayed without ceasing.

Pick up any saint's biography and you read about a life steeped in prayer. No matter the culture, the state in life, or the age of the saint, they all communed with God daily.

2. Prayer gives us self-knowledge. When I thought I was doing fine spiritually without daily prayer, I was blind to many of my sins and weaknesses.

God Alone Suffices



Prayer enables us to see ourselves as we are, so we can work (with God's grace) to change.

3. Prayer keeps us from sin. Not only are we more aware of our sins when we pray, prayer also gives us the grace to overcome present and future temptations. St. John Chrysostom wrote, "It is impossible, utterly impossible, for the man who prays eagerly and invokes God ceaselessly ever to sin" (De Anna 4, 5).

4. Relationships need communication. We have all experienced growing apart from a friend who was once indispensable by losing contact or being too preoccupied with other things to call or visit. It is the same with our relationship with God. If we seldom talk (or listen) to him, we will easily fall away.

5. God always listens. No matter how much other people may turn a deaf ear to our concerns, God always hears us. Sincere prayer is always efficacious, even if God doesn't answer the way we want or expect.

6. Prayer disposes us to receive the sacraments. A person who prays is more likely to frequent the Sacrament of Reconciliation and make a good

confession. Prayer prepares us to more fully participate in the Mass and receive the Eucharist worthily. In daily prayer we learn to turn aside from distractions and focus our minds and hearts on Christ.

7. Prayer leads to divine union. God desires all people to reach union with him, being completely obedient to his will and loving him with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength (see Deuteronomy 6:5). We were created for this very purpose. This union is absolutely impossible without prayer.

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" sums it up this way: "The living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer" (n. 2567). Do we hear the call? Are we eager to respond?

For further reading, I recommend part four of the "Catechism" and "Fire Within" by Fr. Thomas Dubay (Ignatius Press).



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.

Hundreds gather to witness first vows of Handmaids

New Ulm – Hundreds of people including priests, religious, and lay people gathered on Friday, July 1 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm to witness three Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus make their First Profession of Vows. Having completed a period of formation as Handmaid novices, Sr. Magdalena Marie, Sr. Myriam Rose, and Sr. Regina Marie vowed to live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience for a period of three years, after which these vows may be renewed. Bishop LeVoir celebrated the Mass of Religious Profession at 5:30 p.m. A potluck dinner reception followed.

On Dec. 8, 2009, Bishop LeVoir established the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus as a public association of the faithful – the first step toward becoming a religious community of diocesan right. The group is the first of its kind in the diocese. Since the diocese's formation in 1957, there has never



During the July 1 ceremony at the Cathedral, Sr. Regina Marie vows poverty, chastity, and obedience to Handmaids foundress and Mother Superior, Mother Mary Clare Roufs. (photo by Jeanine Roufs)

been a motherhouse within its boundaries. For more information about the Handmaids, call 507-276-9128; handmaids1@gmail.com.

“Lift up your hearts!” – a summons to communion with Christ



(photo by USCCB)

Editor's note: The Roman Missal, Third Edition, will be implemented in the United States on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2011. Visit www.usccb.org/romanmissal.

by Fr. John Paul Erickson

“Lift up your hearts!” These are pivotal words in the Mass, words spoken by the celebrant to the congregation during what is referred to as the “preface dialogue.” They are pivotal words not only because they form an integral part of the liturgy, but also because they encapsulate beautifully the meaning of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and serve as a clarion call to that full, active and conscious participation in the liturgy that is our

delightful duty as believers. We are summoned by Christ to offer up our hearts in union with his own sacrifice, a sacrifice made present on the altar. They are words meant to prompt devotion, remind us of love, and call us to communion. Let our response be bold and zealous – “We lift them up to the Lord!”

This call to communion, a summons to offer up our lives to the Father in union with the total gift of self offered by Christ on the altar, lies at the very heart of the meaning of the whole Mass. This meaning has always been found at the foundation of the liturgy of the Church, and must be the rock upon which we build any authentic understanding of the Church’s prayer.

NEW WORDS, A DEEPER MEANING, BUT THE SAME MASS

On November 27 of this year (the First Sunday of Advent), many of the words used at Mass to summon, remind and form us will be changing, but the foundation will remain the same, as it always will.

It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of good catechesis during the months ahead as we prepare for the reception and use of these new words at Mass. This catechesis is important not only because we need to know what to say on November 27 and why we say it, but also because every time these sorts of changes occur it is a privileged time to re-examine the Mass and the liturgy as a whole, and to take a serious look again at our own devotion to the Mass and to the

sacraments. Change is often difficult, but it can also be immensely fruitful. Indeed, change, even difficult change, is most often necessary for life and real growth.

Catholics are encouraged to get to know these new texts, the reasons behind them, and some of the history of the Mass itself.

Parishes and pastors will be receiving practical guidance from their local diocesan Office of Worship as to how to implement and prepare for these changes in the many communities of faith throughout this local Church.

I encourage all who have not already done so to visit the Web site of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and to examine the page the conference has produced on the new texts. Visit www.usccb.org/romanmissal/. Many marvelous resources are found there, and the common questions asked about the new texts are answered. The site is

simply the best resource out there on the new texts.

May God bless us all during these months of preparation and waiting for the historic changes to the words of the Mass. May the Blessed Mother, who is the image of the Church and a model of prayer, intercede for us and teach us how to truly pray with mind and heart renewed. And may we all, clergy and laity alike, take this opportunity to refocus on the immutable meaning of the Mass, a summons to communion with Christ in the sacrifice of our hearts to the Father of all. Lift up your hearts!

Fr. John Paul Erickson is director of Worship for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Questions in regard to the new Roman Missal can be addressed to Ann Przybilla, director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of New Ulm, 507-359-2966; aprzybilla@dnu.org.

Discipleship formation program sessions begin this month

Foundations, a discipleship formation program for adults in the Diocese of New Ulm, is gearing up for another round of sessions. In addition, a new component for the January 2012 session has been added – an online seminar from the University of Dayton which will focus on the topic of the sacraments.

The 2011–2012 sessions, led by faculty from St. Mary’s University in Winona and New Ulm diocesan staff, will take place this year at the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson. Sessions will be held Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, and Dec. 10, Jan. 8–28 (a three-week, user-friendly, online seminar on the sacraments), Feb. 25, March 24, and April 28. Topics will include theology, prayer, sacraments, philosophy, Church history, and

Scripture. Each session will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3:45 p.m.



The cost for all eight sessions is \$110, which includes lunch and registration materials. Scholarships are available for those involved in catechetical ministry (catechists, parish catechetical leaders, youth ministers and their teams, and Catholic school personnel) through the Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr Catechist Fund. Visit www.dnu.org/word/education.html.

Foundations is a collaborative effort by St. Mary’s University of Minnesota in Winona and the Diocese of New Ulm.

Online registration is available at <http://dnu.org/word/adultfaithform.html>, or call 507-233-5325.

Together in Ministry schedule announced

Together in Ministry, a lay leadership program sponsored by the Diocese of New Ulm, seeks to prepare parishioners for various activities within parish life. Sessions are open to anyone who serves their parish community as a lay volunteer or as a paid employee.

Each session will outline Church documents that are helpful for the ministry, recommend tools that assist with the specific tasks of the ministry, and give practice guidance on how to best perform the ministry. Sessions will be held Sept. 2011–April 2012. Participants may choose the session that correlates with their activity within the parish.

All sessions will be held at the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson from 9 a.m.–12:15 p.m. and will be led by diocesan professional staff and consultants. The cost is \$10 per session and includes breakfast.

Upcoming sessions:

Sept. 17 – Youth Ministry led by Margaret McHugh. *This is an interactive workshop on the skill needed to engage youth and lead them to Jesus.*

Oct. 15 – Human Resources led by Larry Vanden Plas. *This session will focus on diocesan policy, preparation of documents, adherence to civil laws, and other aspects.*

Nov. 19 – Marriage and Family led by Chris Loetscher. *An overview of Catholic teaching will be provided regarding marriage and family life, and participants will learn about available USCCB resources.*

Dec. 10 – RCIA led by Ann Przybilla. *Aspects involving the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults as well as other rituals will be explored*

to give participants the tools to assist candidates and catechumens in the process.

Feb. 25 – Weaving Together a Culturally Diverse Church led by Sr. Anna Marie Reha. *Best practices that recognize and affirm the growing diversity in rural Minnesota parishes will be highlighted. The pastoral, catechetical, and liturgical facets of parish life in a diverse church will be explored.*

April 28 – Adult Faith Formation led by Bryan Reising. *Explored will be the US bishops’ document “Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us,” and ways that a parish or AFC can develop a plan for evangelization and adult faith formation.*

To register call 507-359-2966; pkral@dnu.org.

Upcoming Events

Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo Silent Retreats for Women: "Renew My Heart," Sept. 9-11; Sept. 13-15; or Sept. 16-18. Cost is \$140. "Progress Not Perfection: The Spirituality of Imperfection," Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Cost is \$160. Call 763-682-1394; www.kingshouse.com.

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) will present five informative meetings in September: Mankato (Sept. 21), Sleepy Eye (Sept. 22), Ortonville (Sept. 26), Willmar (Sept. 28), and Redwood Falls (Sept. 29). Meetings will be held at 7 p.m. Attendees will learn about how lives are being saved from abortion, the good news about adult stem-cell research, how to educate their communities about the importance of life issues, and much more. Visit www.mccl.org for specific locations, or call 612-825-6831.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) Cycle 6



will be from Sept. 25-Oct. 29. Registration closes on Sept. 21. VLCFF is an Internet-based e-learning initiative for adult faith

and catechist formation. VLCFF is sponsored by the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives of the University of Dayton (<http://vlc.udayton.edu/>) and the Diocese of New Ulm. Contact Bryan Reising, diocesan director of Religious Education and Faith Formation, 507-359-2966; breising@dnu.org.

Annual Children's Holy Field Trip, Oct. 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm. Call 507-359-2966.

Good Shepherd SERRA Club, Oct. 6 at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference Room in Sleepy Eye at 7 p.m. Speaker will be Fr. Paul Van de Crommert. Call 507-747-2181.

Bioethics Conference, Oct. 29 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Keynote speaker Bishop John M. LeVoiur will present on "Theology of the Body and Dignity of the Human Person." For a list of additional speakers, call the diocesan Office of Family Life Education, 507-233-5328.

Join Bishop LeVoiur on a PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY!

Sept. 4-13, 2012

Visit www.dnu.org to download a brochure or call Magi Travel, 952-949-0065.

From New Ulm to San Lucas – large container of donated items sent to diocesan mission



On July 23, volunteers packed donated items destined for San Lucas, Guatemala. Pictured are: back (l-r): Dennis Schwartz and Ken Huebert; front: Shirley Wendinger and Bill Ubl. Also volunteering were Herb and Ella Biebl, David Wendinger, Peter Schwartz, Wanda Ubl, and Kathy Huebert from the diocesan San Lucas Mission Office. Pictured far right: Fr. Matthew Wiering, associate pastor of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, gave the cargo a final blessing before its long journey to Guatemala. Dennis Schwartz and Kathy Huebert look on.

New Ulm – On July 23, a very hot and humid day in New Ulm, volunteers packed a 40-foot high container with donated items for the Diocese of New Ulm's mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. The cargo would travel by semi-truck, railroad, and ocean freight before reaching its destination Aug. 22.

Ulm. These included over 175 school desks and chairs, several teacher desks, doors, shelving, florescent lights, tables, chalk boards, and computer tables. Other items included medical supplies, a hospital bed, two wringer washing machines, several sheets of chipboard, boxes of school supplies, many boxes of

various kinds of electrical and strapping tape, sandpaper, and donated quilts made by various organizations in the diocese. Also part of the inventory were boxes of kitchen donations for the new Women's Center in San Lucas and for people who lost their homes to Hurricane Agatha.

A number of the items were from the recently closed Holy Trinity Middle School building in New

Bishop to join young men at Operation Andrew Dinners

Young men (high school age) of the diocese are invited to join Bishop John M. LeVoiur at one of three upcoming Operation Andrew Dinners sponsored by the diocesan Office of Vocations.

Operation Andrew Dinners are named after the Apostle St. Andrew, who according to John's Gospel, brings a number of people to Jesus (Simon Peter as well as a young boy before the Multiplication of the Loaves).

Participants will begin each evening with prayer (the Liturgy of the Hours) followed by a meal. There will be a brief program that will include the "Fishers of Men" video produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Following the video, priests in attendance will be invited to share their vocation

Upcoming Operation Andrew Dinners

October 5
Church of St. John, Appleton

October 17
Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye

October 26
Church of St. Mary, Bird Island

Each evening begins at 6 p.m.

stories with the youth. To register contact your parish leader or Fr. Todd Petersen, diocesan director of Vocations at ftodd@me.com. Notification of attendance is necessary at least one week in advance. Please feel free to recommend young men to your priest.

40 Days for Life to launch biggest campaign ever

The pro-life advocacy group 40 Days for Life has announced the launch of its biggest campaign ever this fall, with over 300 locations worldwide participating in the event.

The Sept. 28 through Nov. 6 campaign – which includes fasting and peaceful prayer outside of local abortion facilities – will take place in 48 U.S. states, seven Canadian provinces, Australia, England, Spain, Germany and Argentina.

In Minnesota, newest sites include Mankato, Rochester, and Alexandria. Each of these sites will be holding vigils at Planned Parent abortion clinics. There will be a total of seven sites in Minnesota with

repeat campaigns in St. Cloud, St. Paul, Duluth, and Walker.

Since the beginning of the campaign in 2007, over 4,000 unborn babies have been spared from abortion and 53 abortion workers have quit their jobs and walked away from the industry. Fifteen abortion clinics where vigils have been held have also shut down.

Campaign Kick Off Event Sept. 24

There will be a 40 Days for Life Kick Off Event on Saturday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Ray Erlandson Park, 101 N. Belmont Drive in Mankato. Sponsored by the Diocese of

Winona, the event will include various pro-life professionals who will offer information about the campaign. The day will begin with 9:30 a.m. Rosary for life at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 105 N. 5th Street, Mankato, followed by a 10 a.m. Mass. Participants will then gather at Erlandson Park at 11 a.m. for an ecumenical event. There will also be music, an ecumenical prayer service, youth for life activities, concessions and additional pro-life information.

To learn more about 40 Days for Life or how you can get involved, visit www.40daysforlife.com or call Beverly Miller, 507-514-2425; ssppyouth@hickorytech.net; or Judy Haag, 320-453-7592; judy4life@meltel.net.

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 26 No. 1 September 2011



World Youth Day 2011

Approximately two million young people from all over the world gathered Aug. 18–21 for World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, and 12 Minnesota pilgrims were there to represent the Diocese of New Ulm. Pictured at Cibele Square in Madrid waiting for the Opening Mass with the Archbishop of Madrid are: front (l-r): Theo Buysse, Minnesota, Tonio Rabaey, Minnesota. Middle: Elizabeth Anderson, Morgan; James Blaschko, North Mankato; Grace Maiers, Stewart; Margaret McHugh (diocesan director of Youth Ministry). Back: Bridget Forst, New Ulm; Ann Goedtko, Springfield.

(See more WYD coverage, pages 2 and 7.)

catholic trends

A memorial Mass for Archbishop Pietro Sambi, 73, who died July 27, will be celebrated Sept. 14 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Archbishop Sambi died at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore apparently from complications of lung surgery performed approximately three weeks earlier.

The Italian archbishop served as

apostolic nuncio to the United States (the personal representative of Pope Benedict XVI) since February 2006.

On July 29 and 30, his body lay in state at the apostolic nunciature in Washington and then was transported to Italy for funeral services Aug. 2.

Washington – In the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Labor Day statement,

Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif. and chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said this Labor Day comes at a time when 9 percent of Americans are looking for work and cannot find it, while others live in fear of losing their jobs.

"The economic facts are stark and the human costs are real: millions of our sisters and brothers are without work, raising children in poverty and haunted by fears about their economic security," he said. Citing Pope Leo XIII's groundbreaking encyclical "Rerum Novarum" as the inspiration for this year's statement, he added, "We need to look beyond the economic indicators, stock market gyrations, and political conflicts, and focus on the often invisible burdens of ordinary workers and their families, many of whom are hurting, discouraged, and left behind by this economy."

He further stated, "An economy that cannot provide employment,

decent wages and benefits, and a sense of participation and ownership for its workers is broken in fundamental ways."

Bishop Blaire also emphasized the Church's tradition of supporting the rights of workers to organize to protect their dignity and the dignity of work.

He concluded by outlining a Catholic response to the economy and joblessness, stating, "We are

called to renew our commitment to the God-given task of defending human life and dignity, celebrating work, and defending workers with both hope and conviction. This is a time for prayer, reflection, and action."

The full text of the annual Labor Day statement can be found online in English and in Spanish at www.usccb.org.

