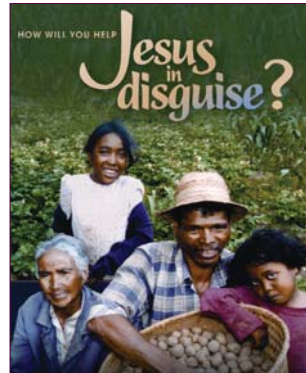


THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 25 No. 8 April 2011



Please support the Catholic Relief Services Collection in your parish.

APRIL 2-3, 2011

State bishops support education, life, family initiatives

Editor's note: The following is a legislative update provided by the Minnesota Catholic Conference, which advocates on behalf of the state's bishops for public policies and programs that support the life and dignity of every human person.

The Minnesota Catholic Conference has been busy lately with many fast-moving bills at the state Legislature. Here is an update on some current proposals:

Education

House file 273, which provides enrollment options for students in persistently low-performing schools, was being heard in the House Education Finance Committee on March 14. MCC supports this bill because it provides private school scholarship assistance to low income students who are

enrolled in persistently low-performing public schools.

Students from St. Pascal Baylon School in St. Paul and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Minneapolis came to the State Office Building to record their testimony.

It was a great opportunity for students to explain to our lawmakers how Catholic schools can provide opportunities for high achievement for every family that would like to choose Catholic education, regardless of income level.

The MCC supports Senate File 641, the Equity and Opportunity in Education Tax Credit, which will create an 80 percent tax credit for those who choose to donate money to an educational scholarship foundation. Scholarships will go to

low income children who will then be able to attend the K-12 school of their choice. Additionally, there will be scholarships available for all Minnesota children ages 3 to 5 to attend the preschool of their choice. This bill was to be heard in two Senate committees on March 15 and March 17.

Life

House File 936, a bill that will protect pain-capable unborn children by prohibiting abortions at or after 20 weeks of gestation, was scheduled for a hearing in the House Committee on Health and Human Services Reform March 16. The bill allows for exceptions to this prohibition when abortion is believed necessary to save the life or avert serious risk of physical impairment of the mother.

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State's Catholic, Lutheran bishops seek budget deficit solutions that protect poor and common good

The following is an open letter, dated March 15, to Governor Mark Dayton and members of the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives written by the Minnesota bishops of the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

By now, you are immersed in the challenges of providing legislative and executive leadership for all Minnesotans. As citizens, we take seriously the need for change in addressing the Herculean task that lies before us. The responsibilities you face as you lead us and consider the future of our state present opportunities to uphold the dignity and worth of all Minnesotans.

You are already deeply into erasing a large budget deficit, an enormous challenge that suggests both dollar savings and increased income to achieve a balanced budget that avoids devastating cuts in services to vulnerable people. In many of the political campaigns of last fall, we heard politicians speak of "fairness" and "equality" as they spoke of the task ahead. We ask you today to consider "justice" as you engage in your

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Bishops voice solidarity with Japan, urge Catholics to support efforts of Catholic Relief Services following earthquake

Washington – Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), expressed the prayers and solidarity of the U.S. bishops and Catholics for the people of Japan following the March 11 earthquake.

In his March 14 letter to Archbishop Leo Jun Ikenaga, SJ, of Osaka, president of the Catholic

Bishops' Conference of Japan, Archbishop Dolan said the "estimates of suffering, loss of life, and physical damage challenge our ability to grasp the reality of such an event."

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the humanitarian agency of the U.S.

"Japan is in dire need of our support. In Christian charity, I am asking that we reach out to them in prayer and donations." – Bishop John M. LeVoi

bishops, is responding to the tragedy and receiving donations, said Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., chairman of the CRS board.

"These will be used for the immediate humanitarian needs of

the most vulnerable and support the local Catholic Church in its ongoing mission," said Bishop Kicanas.

The full text of Archbishop Dolan's letter follows:

Dear Archbishop Ikenaga, I write today conscious of the terrible earthquake that has struck Japan. The first news reports of the

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THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Publisher

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Editor in Chief

Dan Rossini

Editor

Christine Clancy

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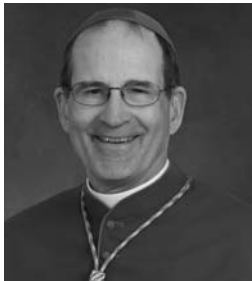
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Bishop John M. LeVoir, team leader;
Fr. Todd Petersen, director; **Fr. Craig Timmerman**, associate director;
Margaret McHugh, vocation awareness

BE NOT AFRAID "The Holy Land"



Bishop John M. LeVoir

From January 14-24, 2011, my friend, Fr. Paul LaFontaine, and I had the privilege of leading a group of pilgrims to the Holy Land. There were 34 of us altogether, many from the Diocese of New Ulm. This was the second pilgrimage that I made to the Holy Land. The first was in 1996.

In this pilgrimage, we spent time at many of the holy sites. These sites included, among many others, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Cana, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Qumran, and the Dead Sea. In Bethlehem, we were able to touch the birthplace of Jesus. In Nazareth, Fr. LaFontaine and I celebrated Mass near the house of Mary, which is within the Church of the Annunciation.

We took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. The married couples in our group renewed their wedding vows in the church in Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle (changing water into wine for the wedding feast). In Qumran, we saw the caves where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered. The Mount of the Beatitudes, overlooking the Sea of Galilee, commemorates Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. There we read aloud the Beatitudes. Some "swam" in the Dead Sea. But it was in Jerusalem that we spent the most time.

In Jerusalem, we visited the Wailing Wall, the Temple Mount, and the Pool of Bethesda. We rose very early one morning, and we walked and prayed the Via Dolorosa (the Stations of the Cross) through the almost deserted streets of Jerusalem, stopping at the sites designated for each of the fourteen Stations.

We concluded the Stations in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Within this church, which dates back to the fourth century, is housed both Mount Calvary and the empty tomb, from which Jesus rose from the dead. We prayed on Calvary and we prayed at the empty tomb. We were

able to touch and venerate the places where Jesus died and rose.

The inside of the empty tomb has room for three or four people. There is an altar inside where Mass is celebrated. Along with Fr. LaFontaine, I celebrated Mass for our group. Fr. LaFontaine and I were within the tomb and the pilgrims from our group were gathered outside. A choir of ten Franciscan monks sang for the Mass.

Celebrating Mass in the empty tomb was the most moving portion of the pilgrimage for me. To have the privilege of entering the tomb, reading the account of the Resurrection, and being present in the tomb with Christ under the appearances of bread and wine is an experience that will remain with me always.

In the empty tomb, as well as wherever I visited a holy site, I prayed for all of the people in the Diocese of New Ulm. The needs of the diocese were constantly on my mind and in my prayers.

While in Jerusalem, we had an audience with the Patriarch of

Jerusalem, Archbishop Fouad Twal. He is a Jordanian. He is the Archbishop of Israel, Jordan, and Cyprus. He welcomed us to the Holy Land and told us of his concern for the dwindling number of Christians in the Holy Land. Life is made difficult for our brothers and sisters in Christ. He encouraged us to pray for the Christians in the Holy Land and to support them in any way we can. He promoted making pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

Our time spent in the Holy Land went too quickly. There is so much of Jesus' life to experience there that time always seems short. Because it is the land where Jesus lived and because it adds so much to our knowledge of Jesus, the Holy Land is sometimes called the Fifth Gospel (in addition to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

Please pray for Christians in the Holy Land. Please pray for peace in the Holy Land. If you are able, make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It will change your life and strengthen your faith.

For more Holy Land coverage and photos, see pages 6-7.

Bishop's April Calendar

1 Minnesota: 4:30 p.m. Church of St. Edward. Region 3 Presbytery Gathering.

2 Wabasso: 7 p.m. Church of St. Anne. Confirmation.

3 Redwood Falls: 9:30 a.m. Church of St. Catherine. Confirmation.

4 Sleepy Eye: 8:15 a.m. Schoenstatt on the Lake. Catholic Charities USA Regional Conference.

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

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

8 Montevideo: 1 p.m. Church of St. Joseph. Region 4 Presbytery Gathering.

9 Wilno: 5 p.m. Church of St. John Cantius. Confirmation.

10 Minnesota: 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Edward. Confirmation.

Cottonwood: 3 p.m. Lakeview Secondary School. Junior High Festival.

11 New Ulm: 9 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Budget Review Committee Meeting.

New Ulm: 7 p.m. Cathedral High School Gym. NUACS Parent Meeting.

12 Olivia: 11:30 a.m. Max's Grill. Capital Campaign Executive Committee Meeting.

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

13 Sleepy Eye: Good Leaders, Good Shepherds.

14 Madison: 7 p.m. Church of St. Michael. Chrism Mass.

15 New Ulm: 12 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Region 1 Presbytery Gathering.

16 New Ulm: 8:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Day of Retreat for the Holy Cross Area Faith Community.

17 New Ulm: 9:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Palm Sunday Mass.

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

New Ulm: 4 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Jubilarian Gathering.

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Save the date!

In recognition of Bishop LeVoir's 30th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, June 19, at 3 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar.

Bishop asks that this Mass of Thanksgiving also serve as an opportunity to honor all the priests of the diocese who are celebrating their 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, and 50th anniversaries of ordination to the priesthood. A reception will follow the Mass in the parish center.

Everyone is welcome.

Pledges to Capital Campaign top \$1.4 million

by Wayne Pelzel, director
Office of Development

Pledges to the Christ Our Life Capital Campaign in the Diocese of New Ulm now total over \$1.4 million. Most of these pledges have come in during the "silent" wave of the campaign. The silent wave seeks to establish momentum for the campaign by soliciting a number of larger pledges to get the campaign started. Pledges of a half million and a quarter million dollars have been received, along with many substantial smaller pledges.

Funds raised by the campaign will be split equally between the diocese and the parish until the diocesan goal for the parish is reached. At that point all additional dollars that come in will be directed to the parish projects.



"The Christ Our Life Campaign seeks to raise \$15 million of which half will support the construction of a new Pastoral Center in the diocese..."

The Christ Our Life Campaign seeks to raise \$15 million, of which half will support the construction of a new Pastoral Center and the other \$7.5 million will support a variety of projects at the parish level. These parish efforts include a wide range of projects, including the construction of a new religious education center, the shingling of a school roof, the construction of a church gathering area, adding air conditioning, building endowment funds to support ongoing ministries, and many other projects. Almost all of the 76 parishes in the diocese have projects that they are planning.

The Christ Our Life Campaign now moves into the "pilot" wave of the campaign. Seventeen parishes are involved in the pilot wave. Those parishes are Cathedral, New Ulm; St. Mary, Sleepy Eye; St. Andrew, Fairfax; Sacred Heart, Franklin; St. Willibrord, Gibbon; St. Francis de Sales, Winthrop; St. Anne, Wabasso; St. Mathias, Wanda; St. Mary, Seaforth; Our Lady of Victory, Lucan; St. Mary, Tracy; St. Joseph, Montevideo; St. Andrew, Granite Falls; St.

Francis, Benson; Sacred Heart, Murdock; St. Malachy, Clontarf; and St. Bridget, De Graff. This pilot wave began the third week of March and will continue until May. Wave I, involving about 30 parishes, will run from April through August and Wave II, involving another 30 parishes, will run from July through November.

In the first weeks of a wave, the volunteers are trained to go out and secure pledges from their fellow parishioners. This training will be followed by a mailing to all parishioners explaining the diocesan and parish projects.

At the same time, a video will be shown at the weekend Masses further explaining the diocesan project. Contacts are then made by the volunteers. Campaign organizers were very pleased that 150 volunteers came forward in the 17 pilot-wave parishes to contact their fellow parishioners.

For further information about the Christ Our Life Capital Campaign, contact the diocesan Office of Development, 507-359-2966.

First missionary priest to Guatemala dies at age 82

Fr. Stanley V. Martinka, 82, died on Saturday, March 12, 2011, in Colo.

Fr. Martinka chose to donate his body for medical research, therefore a memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, April 16, at the Church of St. Mark in Shakopee, Minn.

Fr. Martinka was born Sept. 9, 1928, in Lucan. He graduated from New Ulm Public High School in 1946. From 1946-1950 he attended St. Thomas College in St. Paul, receiving a B.S. in chemistry and biology as well as a place in the university's Athletic Hall of Fame.

He was ordained for the Diocese of New Ulm on Feb. 19, 1961, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.

Following ordination he served as associate pastor of the Church of the Holy Rosary in North Mankato. Responding to Bishop



Fr. Martinka

Schladweiler's request for a volunteer, Fr. Martinka became the first New Ulm diocesan missionary to Guatemala. He was appointed pastor of the San Lucas Mission in Guatemala on June 27, 1962. From 1965-1975, he served as a U.S.

Army chaplain and was stationed in Missouri, Vietnam, Germany, Maryland, Korea, and Texas, earning the rank of major. From 1975 Fr. Martinka worked in the San Alfonso Mission in the Diocese of Juarez, Mexico, where he established a school, two dispensaries with a doctor and nurse in residence, a food cooperative, and a cement and block-making cooperative.

Fr. Martinka retired from active ministry on Feb. 15, 2005, and had been living in Arvada, Colo. In 1993, Fr. Martinka received the St. Thomas College Humanitarian of the Year award.

Former Sanborn pastoral administrator dies

Sr. Frances G. Broderick, SC, (Margaret Ignatius) of Mount Saint Vincent, Wellesley Hills, Mass., died Sunday, March 6, 2011, following a long illness.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on March 9 at Mount Saint Vincent Center in Wellesley Hills, Mass.



Sr. Frances

A Sister of Charity (Halifax) for 51 years, she served in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts. In the Diocese of New Ulm, she served as pastoral administrator of the Church of St. Thomas in Sanborn from June 1983 to January 1988.

solidarity with Japan

(continued from page 1)

preliminary estimates of suffering, loss of life, and physical damage challenge our ability to grasp the reality of such a massive event.

My letter is to make a first contact

How to help

Visit <http://crs.org/japan> to learn more about how to contribute to Catholic Relief Services' earthquake and tsunami recovery efforts.

Church and the people of Japan

to the intercession of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, asking her to care for all of those left in conditions of suffering because of the quake and the aftershocks.

I know that our Catholic Relief Services has already been in touch with Caritas in Japan. They are already studying the situation with the goal of being as helpful as possible in responding to the tragedy.

Again, Archbishop Okada, please know of our prayers and solidarity with you at this moment.

Bishop LeVoi requests special collection in parishes

A special collection was held in parishes throughout the diocese last month to aid Japan following the recent devastating earthquake and tsunami. All contributions will be remitted to Catholic Relief Services. "This disaster is so staggering and world-shaking that we cannot ignore our brothers and sisters in Japan," stated Bishop LeVoi.

Open house for Fr. Barry

Willmar – In recognition of Fr. James Barry's 50 years of priestly ministry, there will be an open house on Sunday, May 1, at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar. There will be a 10:30 a.m. Mass of Thanksgiving followed by an open

house from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Fr. Barry was ordained to the priesthood on Feb. 25, 1961 at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.



No Tengas Miedo La Tierra Santa

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Del 14 al 24 de Enero, 2011, mi amigo, Padre Paul LaFontaine y yo tuvimos el privilegio de llevar a un grupo de peregrinos a la Tierra Santa. Eramos treinta y cuatro el total y muchos de ellos de la Diócesis de New Ulm. Este fue mi segundo peregrinaje a la Tierra Santa. El primer peregrinaje fue en 1996.

En este peregrinaje, fuimos a muchos lugares santos. Los sitios incluyen, Belén, Nazaret, el Mar de Galilea, Caná, el Monte de las Beatitudes, Qumran y el mar muerto. En la ciudad de Belén, tuvimos la oportunidad de tocar el lugar donde nació Jesús. En Nazaret, Padre LaFontaine y yo celebramos la Misa cerca de la casa de María, que está dentro de la Iglesia de la Anunciación.

Fuimos de paseo en bote por el Mar de Galilea. Las parejas casadas de nuestro grupo renovaron sus votos matrimoniales en la Iglesia en Caná, lugar donde ocurrió el primer milagro de Jesús (convirtió el agua en vino en las Bodas de Caná). En Qumran, tuvimos la oportunidad de ver las cuevas donde se descubrió los manuscritos del mar muerto. El Monte de las Beatitudes, con una vista del Mar de Galilea, conmemora el sermón de Jesús en el monte. Allí leímos en voz alta las beatitudes. Algunos "nadarán" en el mar muerto. La mayoría de nuestro tiempo la pasamos en Jerusalén.

En Jerusalén, visitamos los Muros de los Lamentos, el Monte del Templo y la Piscina de Bethesda. Una mañana nos levantamos muy temprano y empezamos a caminar por las calles casi abandonadas de Jerusalén orando las estaciones de la Vía Crucis y parando en los sitios señalados en cada uno de las catorce estaciones.

Las estaciones la concluimos en la Iglesia de Holy Sepulcher. Dentro de dicha Iglesia, que data del siglo IV es el Monte Calvario y la tumba donde Jesús resucitó de entre los muertos. Rezamos en los dos lugares y pudimos tocar y venerar los lugares donde Jesús murió y resucitó.

Dentro de la tumba hay espacio para tres a cuatro personas y tiene un altar donde se puede celebrar la Misa. Padre LaFontaine y yo celebramos la Misa para nuestro grupo.

Celebrar la Misa en la tumba fue uno de los momentos más emocionantes de este peregrinaje. Tener el privilegio de entrar a la tumba, narrar lo sucedido de la resurrección y estar presente en la tumba con Cristo bajo la forma del pan y el vino es una experiencia que siempre lo tendré presente.

En la tumba, como en los otros lugares santos que visité, ore por todo el pueblo de la Diócesis de New Ulm. Las necesidades de la diócesis estaban constantemente en mi mente y en mis oraciones.

Nuestro viaje a la Tierra Santa se pasó muy rápido. Hay tanto que aprender sobre la vida de Jesús que siempre falta tiempo. La Tierra Santa es donde Jesús vivió y porque incorpora bastante a nuestro conocimiento sobre Jesús. La Tierra Santa se le conoce como el Quinto Evangelio (además de Mateo, Marcos, Lucas y Juan). Les pido que oren por los cristianos y por la paz en la Tierra Santa.

Ver pagina 6 y 7 para mayor cobertura sobre el peregrinaje a la Tierra Santa y fotos.

Rite of Election held at Cathedral



New Ulm – Bishop John M. LeVoir presided over the annual Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion on Sunday, March 13, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm.

During Lent, candidates for the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) experience final preparation to become members of the Catholic Church.

It is during this celebration they announce publicly their desire to be full members of the Catholic Church.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Catholic faith, contact your pastoral leader or the Office of Worship at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 1400 6th Street N, New Ulm, MN 56073; 507-359-2966; e-mail: aprzybilla@dnu.org.

(photos by Christine Clancy)



letter to governor, state legislators

(continued from page 1)

work. Justice means that the common good of all citizens serves as the hallmark of a strong society and a vital economy.

We expect that, as you seek to balance the budget, you will engage in civil and respectful dialogue rather than partisanship and posturing. We trust that you will seek to govern the people of the state of Minnesota so that all citizens – particularly those who are poor and live on the margins of our communities – have access to housing, education, health care, and other human services. We suggest that the most effective means of eliminating poverty resides in policies that lift people out of a safety net to a level of sustainability.

Minnesota has a history of caring for all its citizens, and all of us are heirs of those who shaped that legacy. Catholics and Lutherans – representing some two million Minnesotans – have partnered in that legacy as the largest providers of health care, human services, and non-public education. Being a state that cares for its people has been the hallmark of Minnesota. And the most telling measure of how well we care for each other is to consider how we treat those who are most vulnerable among us. We believe there exists in the people of this state the will to respond to the human

needs among the poor with compassion, generosity, and resolve. We challenge you to remember all Minnesotans as you make decisions that affect the people, the economy, and the character of this state. We pledge our support, our prayer, and our best effort to these same ends as we each seek to be faithful stewards of the common good in this state.

Roman Catholic bishops of Minnesota:

Archbishop John Nienstedt, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis; Bishop Michael Hoepfner, Diocese of Crookston; Bishop John Kinney, Diocese of St. Cloud; Bishop John LeVoir, Diocese of New Ulm; Bishop Lee Piché, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis; Bishop John Quinn, Diocese of Winona; Bishop Paul Sirba, Diocese of Duluth.

ELCA bishops of Minnesota:

Bishop Jon Anderson, Southwestern Minnesota Synod; Bishop Thomas Aitken, Northeastern Minnesota Synod; Bishop Craig Johnson, Minneapolis Area Synod; Bishop Peter Rogness, St. Paul Area Synod; Bishop Harold Usgard, Southeastern Minnesota Synod; Bishop Lawrence Wohlrahe, Northwestern Minnesota Synod.



Perpetual adoration – a place to bring our heart to Jesus

New Ulm – Perpetual adoration has begun in the Holy Cross Area Faith Community (parishes of Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and St. Mary in New Ulm, St. John the Baptist in Searles, St. Gregory the Great in Lafayette, and St. George in West Newton Township). Bishop John M. LeVoir celebrated the opening Mass on Sunday, March 13, at the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm.

The following is Bishop LeVoir's homily, which gives light to the meaning of perpetual Eucharistic adoration:

There are three essential realities about the Holy Eucharist. Today is a good day to recall those realities as we begin perpetual Eucharistic adoration. First of all, the Eucharist is a sacred banquet, a sacred meal. It is something that is holy because God is there. Our Lord gave us the gift of the Eucharist on that first Holy Thursday when he celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles. We know that he took bread and said, "This is my body." He took wine and said "This is my blood." And then he told his apostles to eat and to drink.

He had told them beforehand what the effect of eating his body and drinking his blood would have. That effect is eternal life. Jesus said, "If you want to have life within you, you must eat my body and drink my blood." Some were scandalized at that, and some thought of leaving our Lord. Some did leave our Lord. But, it was Peter who had deep faith and said "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life."

And it was at the Last Supper that Peter's faith was confirmed. He could see that Jesus' body and blood would be given as a sacred banquet under the appearances of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a sacred banquet, a sacred meal in which we partake of our Lord. Our Lord is truly present. We take our Lord inside of us and he gives us the strength that we need to follow him.

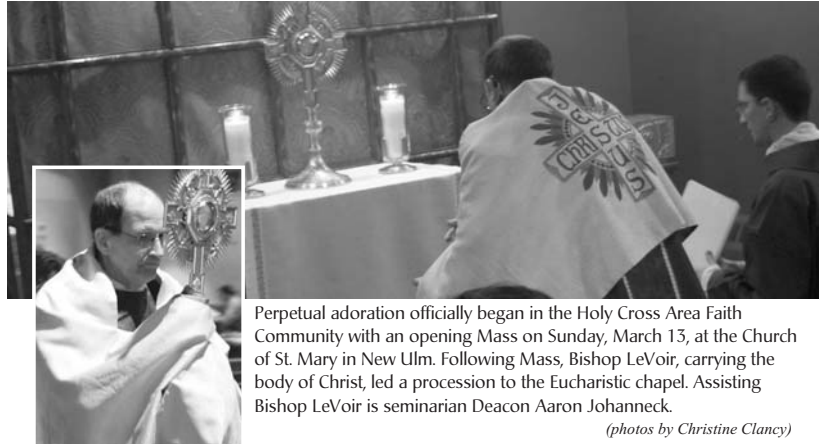
In the gospel today, as well as the first reading, we heard about the temptations of Satan that he presented to our first parents and to our Lord. I once did a comparison of those temptations and found out that they were pretty much the same. Satan tried the same temptations on Christ that he had tried on Adam and Eve. I like to say the devil is in a rut – he keeps after us with the same kind of temptations. He does not have much of an imagination.

Adam and Eve had God's life in them. That is how they were created – with God's life, in union with God. But, they still fell. Our Lord gives us an example of what we need to do in time of temptation. But, we need strength over and above our own power. We are not strong enough – we are fallen because of the sin of our first parents. It is the Eucharist that gives us that strength when we eat our Lord's body and drink his blood.

Second, the sacred banquet is a sacrifice. It is a sacrifice of love. When our Lord gave himself on the cross we say that it was a bloody sacrifice as he died on the cross. In the Mass, there is no blood of Christ shed as it was on the cross, but rather that sacrifice is presented to us under the appearances of bread and wine. Our Lord did that to be able to love us with the love of the cross. We were not able to be there at Calvary. We were not there with Mary and John and the others. But we can be there at the cross when we come to Mass.

When we come, we are loved by Jesus precisely in the same way that Mary and John and the others were loved by Jesus when he was on the cross.

Third, Jesus is truly present under the appearances of bread and wine. He is not there just because we believe it, but rather because he is there, we believe it. Our faith does not make Jesus' present. Jesus is present. And because he is present, we have faith.



Perpetual adoration officially began in the Holy Cross Area Faith Community with an opening Mass on Sunday, March 13, at the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm. Following Mass, Bishop LeVoir, carrying the body of Christ, led a procession to the Eucharistic chapel. Assisting Bishop LeVoir is seminarian Deacon Aaron Johanneck.

(photos by Christine Clancy)

This is where Eucharistic adoration comes in. It is really a continuation of Mass – of the sacrifice of the Eucharist. It is almost as if at Mass we do not get enough love – we want more.

Eucharistic adoration is way to do that. We take the Eucharist, in which Jesus is truly present, and place him in our Eucharistic

chapel. We are then able to continue after Mass that exchange of love – Jesus loving us, we loving.

Perpetual adoration is a place to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It is a place to pray that all human life be respected from conception to natural death. It is a place to pray

for marriage and family life. It is a place to pray for those who are sick and suffering. It is a place to pray for peace in the world, for the poor and the marginalized. It is a place to pray for those who were affected by the recent tsunami. It is a place to come to meet Jesus Christ and to bring our heart, our everything to him, and to receive his love.

Catholic physicians in diocese organize CMA guild, plan White Mass

by Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM

A group of Catholic physicians in the Diocese of New Ulm is organizing a guild of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA). They will celebrate their founding at a White Mass for members and all health care workers of the diocese on April 28 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral in New Ulm.

A White Mass is the customary description for a liturgy for health care workers. Traditionally, health care workers wore white attire. In the Church, white symbolizes hope and comfort to the ill and hospitalized.

The CMA consists of Catholic physicians from the United States and Canada who come together to grow in the spirit of Christ in their

personal and professional lives.

Their purpose is:

- To uphold the principles of the Catholic faith in the science and practice of medicine.
- To assist the Church in the work of communicating Catholic medical ethics to the medical profession and society at large.
- To support Catholic hospitals in faithfully applying Catholic moral principles in health care delivery.
- To enable Catholic physicians to know one another better and to work together with deeper mutual support and understanding.

The CMA's national office is near Philadelphia. Guilds, or local groups of the CMA, may be organized at the parish, city, or diocesan level. They provide fellowship, education, and opportunities to serve the local

Church and the public. They are also a resource for medical students and residents.

Eight physicians with practices in the diocese have requested charter status as a guild. They are: Dr. James Joyce, president; Dr. Francille Knowles; Dr. Terence Knowles; Dr. Mario DeSouza; Dr. Frank Boyle; Dr. Jane Gaetze; Dr. Michael Merck; and Dr. Christopher Wallyn. They have chosen St. Gianna Beretta Molla as their patroness.

Thursday, April 28, the day scheduled for the White Mass, is the feast day of St. Gianna. The White Mass will be celebrated by Bishop John M. LeVoir, who is also chaplain of the guild.



A journey
in the footsteps
of our Lord
provides unique
nourishment for
the soul.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land will k



In January, Bishop John M. LeVoir (center-left) and Fr. Paul LaFontaine (center-right), led a group of 32 on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The group is pictured with Archbishop Fouad Twal, the Latin Patriarch of the Holy Land.

by Francille Knowles, M.D.
Church of St. Mary, New Ulm

In January, my family of six (my husband Terry, Gabe, Anna, Christopher, Sam, and I) and 26 other pilgrims, were blessed to spend eight days on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Bishop John M. LeVoir and Fr. Paul LaFontaine of St. Charles Borromeo, St. Anthony, Minn.

Although it has been several weeks since our return, the journey continues every time we go to Mass or read the Bible. The day after we returned, Anna came home from school and said, "They talked about the Sea of Galilee in the Gospel today. I could picture it in my head. That was cool."

A couple weeks later, we all heard the Sermon on the Mount. It was fun to bring out the pictures and remember the view from the Mount looking down over the Sea of Galilee.

Each adult pilgrim who traveled would tell you a different story about the pilgrimage. My children had their own opinions about the highlights of the trip.

All four kids put the Dead Sea at the top of their lists for their favorite place in the Holy Land. After only being able to look at their swimsuits in the suitcase for nine days, they finally were able to put them to use. Gabe learned quickly that the high salt content not only allowed you to float with your hands and feet in the air, it also tastes horrible and burns your eyes! Christopher wasn't too sure about the slippery mud you had to wade through before getting to the sandy bottom but, soon he joined in the family fun of covering yourself with mud to soften your skin.

Having young hearts and minds along for the journey helped my husband Terry and me to see things differently. Our children saw the different clothing of the Jews, the Palestinians, the Bedouins, the Orthodox Jews, the Franciscan monks, and the Israeli soldiers as "interesting" and they had fun trying to figure out which group people belonged to. They all seemed to get along and exist peacefully together in the markets and public places. It felt similar to the melting pot in America.

Then we went in and out of Bethlehem (Palestine). We had to wait an extra long time coming out of Palestine as the Israeli soldiers with M-16 rifles searched the bus and made sure that we did not have any Palestinian citizens trying to escape to Jerusalem.

We learned that relatives from Gaza and Jericho are not allowed to celebrate holidays together because of the tight Israeli control of travel throughout the country. The two percent Christian minority in the Holy Land has a small voice in the struggle for control of this holiest place on earth. So, they turn to heaven and pray for peace to the God of all. The Christian Brothers and a small group of friends meet every Friday at the wall around Bethlehem and pray the rosary for peace. However, we were so blessed to feel peace when we were in the Holy Land. Our tour director, Wallyd, was a wonderful Catholic man. He shared so much information with us in our week together. Our driver, Wassim, maneuvered the large tour bus through streets that were meant for walking and small carts only.

Our first experience on the pilgrimage of



The Dead Sea

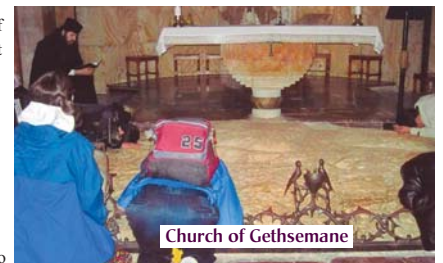


Prayer at the Wailing Wall

where Jesus died was at the Solemn Entrance in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is built over Golgotha and the tomb of Christ.

As we entered the church, the Franciscans were chanting. We followed the candle-lit path to the tomb of Christ. The friars continued to chant as we were allowed several people at a time to enter the tomb and spend a few minutes praying on the very spot where Jesus was laid hours after his death.

Our return to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was equally moving. It was a brisk morning that started with a 4:30 a.m. wake-up call. We went straight to the Via Dolorosa (the Stations of the Cross). We walked the cobblestone streets of Jerusalem, stopping to pray at each station. The last four stations are inside the Church. After the 14th station, we celebrated High Mass at the tomb. Bishop LeVoir and Fr. LaFontaine could be heard from within the tomb at the altar, while the pilgrims gathered with the monks outside the tomb. It is impossible to describe with words how it felt to be there.



Church of Gethsemane

After Mass, we were invited to join the Latin Patriarch of the Holy Land, Archbishop Fouad Twal. He greeted us warmly and asked everyone to pray for peace. He requested that we share our new knowledge of the places where Jesus walked, and that we let the world know of the persecutions that still take place there today.

Many of the places that Jesus walked and lived have a church built over them to identify the sacred landmark. While this can make it difficult to picture what it was like in Jesus' time, it has preserved the locations, and reminded us to be reverent and thoughtful while spending time there.

Year fruits for many years to come

Another highlight was the Sea of Galilee, which was an awesome experience. We climbed aboard a wooden boat reminiscent of the time of Jesus. Looking to the shores we could see Capernaum, Tiberias, the Golan Heights, and the Mount of the Beatitudes just as people have done for thousands of years. The kids were amazed that it was called a sea when it had fresh water and it was small enough to see the opposite shores.

We stopped at Cana, the village of Jesus' first miracle. Those who wished could renew their wedding vows. One of the couples recalled how Bishop LeVoir had blessed their marriage the first time over 20 years ago.

The Garden of Gethsemane is another place that has remained the same through the years. You can imagine Jesus in his desperate last hours stopping and leaning on the same twisted olive trees that stand there today. We

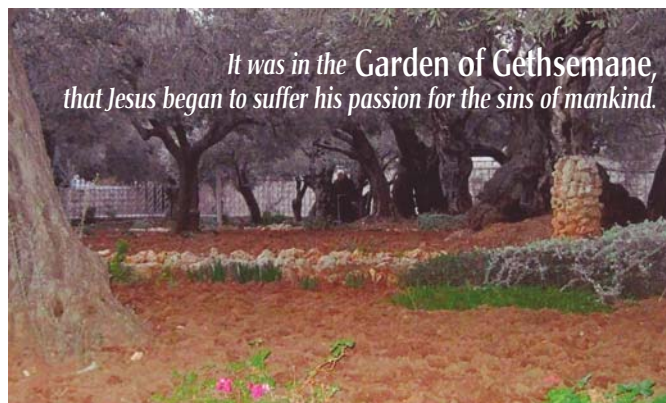
were able to spend an hour in adoration around the rock next to the garden where Jesus sat and prayed.

Daily we went to Mass in places that brought to life the history of our faith. Christopher's favorite church was Peter's Primacy on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. It was a small and simple church where Peter told Jesus three times that he loved him. Anna's favorite church was the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth. It has several levels. We attended Mass in the lower level. Behind the altar is the cave where Mary lived and was visited by the angel.

On Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, we attended Mass at the Church of the Visitation. It was so powerful to stop and pray at the site where two of the holiest pregnant women embraced each other and the lives within their wombs.

That same day, we learned about the pods

from the carob tree that grew in the area. The pods are called locusts and taste like chocolate. Our guide informed us that this is the locust that John the Baptist ate with wild honey. They were also likely the "pods" referred to by the Prodigal son who



was jealous of the pigs eating pods. At this point of the trip, Christopher was quick to agree that the pods tasted better than the raw fish, greens, pita, falafel, and schawarmas that he had not developed a taste for quite yet!

The day we returned from the Holy Land, I heard the bells of my home parish of St. Mary's in New Ulm ringing for the Angelus. At that moment I thought, "Wow, we do have a 'call to prayer' three times daily here in New Ulm!" It was awesome to pause and visualize the site of the Annunciation while praying this simple prayer.

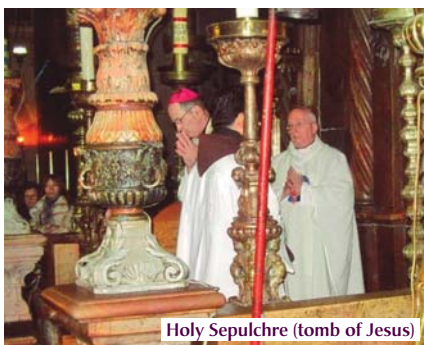
Terry and I had no idea of the lifelong impact

this pilgrimage would have on our family. The Holy Land experience will bear fruits for many years to come.

Bishop LeVoir and Anna aboard a wooden boat on the Sea of Galilee.



Bishop LeVoir and Fr. LaFontaine celebrate Mass at the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee.



Holy Sepulchre (tomb of Jesus)

While in the Holy Land, Bishop awarded pilgrim shell of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre

Jerusalem – As a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem since 2007, Bishop John M. LeVoir was awarded the pilgrim shell by Archbishop Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, on Jan. 20, during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The pilgrim shell is the most significant decoration of the order. It is awarded to any knight or lady of the order who is in good standing, and who makes a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and prays at the Holy Sepulchre of our Risen Lord.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre was founded around the year 1099 by knights who participated in the first crusade. As Christian knights they were already devoted to the Christian ideals of the love of God and of their neighbor, as well as to the knightly virtues of rectitude, courage, sacrifice, and "courtesy of the hearts."

A decision was made to unite, in a knightly and religious order, those who showed a special veneration for the places hallowed by the life and by the passion of Christ, especially the Holy Sepulchre – a symbol of our redemption – and who were ready to attend to the protection and to the freedom of access of these sanctuaries.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre rapidly received recognition and support from the Holy See. It has maintained for almost nine centuries the essence of its mission and the best of its traditions. The order is, together with the Sovereign Order of Malta, the oldest order of chivalry. These two orders are today the only ones recognized by the Holy See as independent Catholic orders of knighthood.



On Jan. 20, Archbishop Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, awarded Bishop LeVoir the Order of the Holy Sepulchre Pilgrim Shell, the most significant decoration of the Order.

Pilgrimage 2012!

Plans are underway for a pilgrimage to Italy in September 2012, led by Bishop John M. LeVoir. Watch for further details in the June issue of *The Prairie Catholic* or contact Magi Travel, 952-949-0065.

April is Child Abuse Prevention month

USCCB Charter to protect children must continue

Washington – Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), reiterated the U.S. bishops' resolve to deal firmly with clerics who abuse children in a March 22 statement.

He highlighted and endorsed efforts by bishops, clergy and laity to implement the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," which was drafted by the bishops in 2002 to deal with the crisis of sexual abuse of minors by clerics. Archbishop Dolan said child abusers will not be tolerated in ministry.

The statement said that in light of the recent disclosures about the Church's response to the sexual abuse of minors by priests, the Archbishop has been asked by his brother bishops who were gathered for the recent meeting of the Administrative Committee of the USCCB to offer reassurances that this painful issue continues to receive our careful attention, that the protection of our children and young people is of highest priority, and that the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" remains strongly in place.

In his statement the Archbishop said, "Over the past nine years, we have constantly reviewed the high promises and rigorous mandates of the Charter, as we continually try to make it even more effective. Thanks to the input of our National Review Board, Catholic parents, professionals, the victim-survivor community, law enforcement



officials, and our diocesan victim-assistance coordinators, we keep refining the efficiency of the "Charter." We want to learn from our mistakes and we welcome constructive criticism," he said.

The statement also said that the USCCB has a long-planned review of the "Charter" scheduled for their June meeting.

In his statement, the Archbishop also said, "The arrival of April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, provides us the providential opportunity to unite with all Americans in a renewed resolve to halt the scourge of sexual abuse of youth in our society.

"We bishops recommit ourselves to the rigorous mandates of the Charter, and renew our confidence in its effectiveness . . .," he said.

"We remain especially firm in our commitment to remove permanently from public ministry any priest who committed such an intolerable offense," he added.

Archbishop Dolan assured that the annual outside audits by forensic

experts will continue, "checking that we remain faithful to the processes in place to protect our young people, promote healing of victims/survivors, and restore trust."

"In short, the progress made must continue and cannot be derailed; we want to strengthen it even more; we can never stop working at it, because each child and young person must always be safe, loved, and cherished in the Church. We are encouraged in this resolve by the words of Pope Benedict XVI to the bishops of the United States during his Apostolic Visit in 2008: "It is your God-given responsibility as pastors to bind up the wounds caused by every breach of trust, to foster healing, to promote reconciliation, and to reach out with loving concern to those so seriously wronged."

For a full copy of the statement, visit www.usccb.org.

Upcoming VIRTUS Safe Environment Sessions for adults:
April 5 – Church of St. Clotilde, Green Valley, 7 p.m.

April 28 – Church of St. Mary, Arlington, 6:30 p.m.

Finding truth and peace this Lenten season

by Susan E. Wills

When it comes to sins against human life or chastity, there is today a profound darkening of conscience. American culture also promotes a moral relativism that prevents us from seeing sins for what they are. Just last week, I encountered written material from three Catholics illustrating this trend:

– In a paper on the ethics of contraception, a Catholic college student wrote that she believes the Church does not take very seriously its objection to contraceptive use, so she doesn't either. She has never heard it mentioned in a homily, nor been told of the teaching (except dismissively) in years of Catholic schooling.

– A co-chair of a parish-based program gave the impression she is considering being sterilized. On a popular blog for "urban moms," she asked if other women could share their positive experiences with a particular method of permanent sterilization.

– Another Catholic woman wrote of her experiences going through multiple harrowing cycles of egg extraction and in vitro fertilization (IVF), in her effort to create children genetically related to herself and her husband.

Many Catholics experiencing fertility problems have resorted to IVF to create a child, and many consider IVF to be "pro-life" simply because it may bring a new baby into the world. Few are aware that, in addition to the moral problems related to IVF, the vast majority of the embryonic children created through reproductive technologies are discarded or otherwise die in the process.

As adults we cannot claim that the Church's moral truths are unavailable to us. The Catechism teaches that the moral law is inscribed in our hearts by God, and that we have a duty to educate and form our conscience so that we can make good judgments and act morally (See CCC, 1776-1794). It

has never been easier to access the wisdom of the Church on issues of life and chastity – the writings of popes, bishops, and good moral theologians are only a Google search away.

But recognizing that an act is sinful is just the first step toward reconciliation. We must also repent of our action, and that usually entails dropping our excuses or rationalizations for the wrong we commit. How many parents, faced with a diagnosis of genetic problems in their unborn child, have succumbed to the advice of doctors and loved ones to end the child's life to "prevent the child's suffering?" How many parents of pregnant teens thought they were doing the right thing by insisting their daughter have an abortion so she wouldn't be "burdened" while finishing her education? God wants to restore our peace and pour out his healing grace on us in confession, but the rationalizations and excuses have to go.

Parish priests should be uniquely qualified to inspire deep conversion and reconciliation among their parishioners. They can foster an understanding of Church teachings on life and chastity – the basis for an authentic and comprehensive examination of conscience – through homilies and through bulletin inserts and announcements citing good articles on these teachings. By preaching on God's desire to forgive our sins and renew us in his grace, and offering extra hours of sacramental reconciliation each week, priests can overcome the obstacles of fear and "inconvenience" that keep people away from confession.

With these few steps, all of us in the parish can be encouraged to make peace with our past and more worthily observe Holy Week and Easter this year.

Susan Wills is assistant director for education and outreach, USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. See www.usccb.org/prolife.

New voice at state Legislature!

St. Paul – Minnesota's Catholics have a new voice at the state Legislature and in the public square. The state's Roman Catholic bishops have appointed attorney Jason Adkins to lead the Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC) as its executive director. The MCC is the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Minnesota. It advocates for polices and programs that



Adkins

"My brother bishops and I believe that the combination of Jason's theological

support the life and dignity of every human person from conception through natural death.

training, knowledge of public policy, and legal experience will serve us well as he advocates on behalf of the Church and for the common good of all Minnesotans. Jason brings a freshness and dynamic energy to this work, and we look forward to his service," stated Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.



from the desk of the DCCW President

Easter: What does it mean to you?

In my home parish of St. Anne's in Wabasso, I assist with the CCD program. Recently, in recognition of the Lent and Easter season, I read a story to the class that evolved around an 8-year-old boy named Phillip who has Down syndrome.

Although Phillip was for the most part a happy child, he was becoming increasingly aware that he was different and so did his peers.

The story goes on to explain that in religion class following Easter, Phillip's teacher prepared a lesson for the children. Each child received a plastic egg. They were sent out onto the church grounds to look for a symbol which represented new life that could be placed into their plastic egg.

After each child completed the task, all the eggs were set out on a table. Everyone gathered around

the table and began to open the eggs. One egg had a flower inside, another a butterfly, and another a new leaf, etc. Then, the teacher came to Phillip's egg. It was empty.

Remarks from the children came quickly: "That's stupid!" "That's not fair!" "Someone didn't do it right."

In response, Phillip explained, "It is Easter and the tomb is empty."

How would you fill that plastic egg? What does Easter mean to you?

To you and your family, have a very Blessed Easter.

Audrey Prokosch is from Redwood Falls.

Plan to attend annual DCCW Convention



The 52nd Annual New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention will be held Saturday, April 30 at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls. Watch your parish bulletin for a registration form.

Recommended by Bishop John M. LeVoir, this year's convention keynote speaker will be Dr. Deborah Savage, a member of the faculty at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. She will speak on "The Beauty of the Feminine Genius at Home and in the World."

Responding to needs internationally and at home

by Maureen Bernardy

"Love your neighbor as yourself." This is the great commandment God has given us and we can fulfill it through International Concerns and the other commissions in the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW).

Some people may tend to think we have had a bad winter and we have not been blessed by the Lord. But think again. We didn't suffer an earthquake, tsunami, or devastating mud slides like our brothers and sisters in Haiti, Japan, or Guatemala.

The DCCW International Concerns Commission responds to the needs of the international society. Our brothers and sisters in Guatemala can be helped through the diocesan mission at San Lucas. Contact the San Lucas Mission Office at the

Catholic Pastoral Center, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; 507-359-2966; khuebert@dnu.org. Those affected by the earthquakes and tsunami can be most helped through Catholic Relief Services, PO Box 17145, Baltimore, MD, 21297; www.crs.org.

In addition, take a look around your area for programs that help those less fortunate such as a food shelf or the "We Care Project" in Morgan.

As God pointed out to us, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto me." Count your blessings and share.

Maureen Bernardy serves as chairperson for the DCCW International Concerns Commission. She is a member of the Church of St. Mary, Seaforth.

Catholic Charities 2012 program initiatives affirmed



Catholic Charities advisors pictured with Bishop LeVoir (seated) are: (l-r) Sr. Carol Freking, OSF, Cindy Nelson, Fr. Paul Schumacher, and Sr. Therese Collison, SSND. Not pictured are Meg Dwyer-Lee, Chuck Koenigs, and Barb Dietz.

New Ulm – Bishop John M. LeVoir and the advisors for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm met on March 21 with Catholic Charities staff and related diocesan directors for an annual review of Catholic Charities operations and to discuss 2012 program initiatives. Participants affirmed Catholic Charities 2010 service delivery efforts which included counseling to some 240 households involving some 400 people; crisis response and outreach to 125 individuals; and educational presentations and workshops to some 2,000 students,

parishioners, and participants at both the National and Minnesota Catholic Education Association conventions.

Staff reiterated their heartfelt gratitude for the generous donations to the annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal, which enables Catholic Charities services to be offered throughout the diocese.

For more information on Catholic Charities, contact Paulette Kral at the Pastoral Center in New Ulm, 866-670-5163.

supporting life, dignity of every person

(continued from page 1)

There is a wealth of evidence that shows that a developing unborn child is capable of experiencing pain by 20 weeks after fertilization. Life advocates are very hopeful that these facts will help this legislation pass and survive court challenges.

MCC also supports House File 998, which would prohibit human cloning, and House File 201, which would limit use of state funds for abortions. Both bills were to be heard in committees March 15 and 16.

Family

Authors for a bill for a constitutional amendment that will defend the definition of marriage

have been identified. The bills have not been introduced yet because legislative leaders will take up social issues that do not have a fiscal impact once budget bills are passed.

Social concerns

It was a joyful moment in early March in the House Public Safety Committee when House File 556, which will protect victims of child trafficking by decriminalizing juvenile prostitution and creating safe harbor and services for victims, was passed unanimously by committee members. Trafficking victim advocates are hopeful that a Senate companion bill will be introduced soon.

Senate Files 509 and 479, which would require voters to show photo

identification, were heard on March 14. The MCC is concerned about these proposals – not because having voters show photo identification is an inherently bad idea, but because there are a number of studies that show that surprisingly high numbers of elderly, minority, and low-income people do not currently have photo identification.

The MCC is worried that, without funds allocated to offer outreach and assistance (e.g. for help with paperwork and transportation) for people currently without identification, such a new requirement would disenfranchise eligible voters.



All life leads to, and from the Mass



by Terry McGuire

Ask a Catholic liturgist where Catholics find their identity, and the answer comes without hesitation: the Mass.

"It's where we are most 'church,' if you will; where we are most the body of Christ," says Msgr. John Burton, chair of the board of directors of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions. "The Mass is at the very heart of our Christian experience."

For Precious Blood Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, director of the Institute for Liturgical Ministry in Dayton, Ohio, the Mass is far more than a Sunday obligation or even a mere ritual.

"We cannot be Roman Catholic without Mass," she says. "Mass actually defines for us who we are as baptized members of the Body of Christ."

And that, the two liturgists say, is why the Mass is so important to Catholicism.

Sr. Joyce Ann notes that the Mass is where Christ gives himself to us in word and sacrament, offering his "total self-giving love" that marks his divinity and humanity. "That total self-giving is what our life as baptized people is also all about," she says. At Mass, "We enter into and rehearse who we are to be and how we are to be as the visible presence of Christ in the world today."

Catholics' participation in the

celebration of the Mass is a celebration of salvation, says Sr. Janet Baxendale of the Sisters of Charity, a professor of liturgy at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.

Get Educated
on the New Changes!
Visit: www.usccb.org/romanmissal

"This is one of the primary reasons that the Mass is at the center of our life as Catholics," Sr. Janet says. "The bread and wine offered on the altar truly become the body and blood of Christ which was sacrificed for our salvation. This Eucharistic food nourishes us spiritually. It is our food for the journey of life."

The three liturgists note that upcoming changes to the English translation of the Roman Missal will likely cause concern among some because of the deeply personal way in which the Mass touches people. Some tend to become very protective in the face of change, Sr. Joyce Ann says.

But the liturgy is a communal gathering and not an individual event. When a person comes through the church doors and enters the sacred space, they leave the individual self outside and join the gathering as members of the body of Christ, becoming "we" instead of "I," she says. The realization that the "liturgy isn't about me" should help people prepare for the changes, she

NEW WORDS, A DEEPER MEANING, BUT THE SAME MASS

(photo by USCCB)

says. They have to "let go" and place their trust that the Spirit and the teaching office of the Church will be moving them forward.

The new changes are not being made for the sake of change but to be as "faithful as possible to the Latin texts from which they were translated," Sr. Janet says. While they may take some getting used to, "they can be for us a way to grow in a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the power and beauty of the great treasure we have in our Mass."

The three liturgists note that the Mass, as the summit of all the Church's services, differs from the other sacraments and popular devotions such as the rosary, Stations of the Cross, novenas, and other forms of private prayer. "Both private prayer and popular devotions are strongly encouraged by the church," Sister Janet says, but "while they are a help to our celebrating liturgy well – to putting us into the spirit of the liturgy – they are in no way equal to the liturgy."

Msgr. Burton likes to look at the Mass from a monastic perspective, where the Mass is at the center of the day and everything leads to it and flows from it.

As Catholics, all of life leads to the Mass, he says, and "all of life leads from it."

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Easter's 'Alleluia' the password to eternal life

Easter Sunday Readings: Acts 10: 34, 37-43; Psalm 118; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9.

by Fr. Thomas Smith
Diocese of La Crosse

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad." It will soon be Easter Sunday, a day when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Coincidentally, in our part of the world, Easter comes in the spring, when the death of winter is giving way to the new life of spring.

Easter teaches us about new life – the new life Jesus obtained through his death and resurrection. It is the greatest feast of the whole liturgical year because we celebrate the most important event in the life of Jesus, and the most significant happening in the history of the Church – indeed, the history of the world. The joy of Easter is so great that the celebration continues for 50 full days. The rejoicing festivity and growth in the life of Christ culminate in the feast of Pentecost, when Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to show us how to live this new life.

All of the symbols of Easter speak of new life. The egg seems dead before it brings forth life. But inside the egg is material that will make a tiny new chicken. The chick breaking out of the egg reminds us of Jesus breaking forth from the tomb into new life. The bright colors of the eggs are a sign of joy at Christ's resurrection, and of our joyful expectation of our own resurrection in Christ.

Other symbols speak of new life at Easter. The Easter lily, shaped like a trumpet, joyfully proclaims Christ's resurrection. The Easter candle reminds us that Jesus is the Light that banished the darkness of sin and evil.

In the first reading, St. Peter was preaching at the baptism of a man named Cornelius, who was a Gentile, therefore reminding us

that Jesus came to save all people. We began sharing the risen life of Jesus when we were baptized, but Lent and Easter remind us that our whole life is a time of preparation for our resurrection on the Last Day, the completion of our birth into eternal life.

In the second reading, as St. Paul tells us, if we have been raised with Christ, we must set our hearts on what pertains to the higher realms of heaven, where Christ is seated at God's right hand. He tells us we must be intent on those things, explaining that we have already died with Jesus. Christ's resurrection was such a monumental and unprecedented event that the Gospel cannot wrap it in language, so they simply state the fact of the resurrection and use the word "Alleluia!" This word is our password to life forever with God.

On Easter Sunday, we Catholics come to church as people of faith. We embrace the truth that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. We believe that he will come to raise us from the dead because, by dying he destroyed our death, and by rising he restored our life.

We believe even more. We believe that Christ is truly present in the Holy Eucharist and that is the sacrifice and sacrament of his Paschal Mystery made present on our altar. It is his body given up for us and his blood poured out for us. We believe that when we eat his body and we drink his blood, we are proclaiming his life-giving death until he comes again.

While receiving Christ in Communion, we ought to hear the echo of his wonderful promise, "You who eat my flesh and drink my blood have life everlasting and I will raise you up on the last day." This is the fullness of the new life promised us by Christ. No wonder the liturgy says: "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad."

Jail ministry puts faith into action

For over a year, the Seeker of Souls Area Faith Community of St. John of Darwin and St. Gertrude of Forest City has been striving to put words of Scripture into action. When Fr. Patrick Casey retired, he passed on his Tuesday morning jail ministry to others. "At first I tried to fill Father's shoes," said Mike McNeil, pastoral administrator of St. Gertrude's. "However, after a few months I decided I needed help," he said.

The week before McNeil put the help wanted request in the parish bulletin, one of his parishioners said she had just mentioned to her husband that she felt compelled to do some kind of corporal work of mercy.

Mentioning her thoughts proved to be a minor miracle, for when the notice of jail ministry came out, she could hardly say no.

Since then McNeil has been joined



For over a year, several members of the Seeker of Souls Area Faith Community minister weekly to those jailed.

by four others. The group rotates every Tuesday in teams of two in leading a Scripture meditation. "We don't call it Bible study, since there are other programs that do that," explains McNeil. "What we do is early form of Bible study called *Lectio Divina*, which was developed by the desert Fathers as they devoted their lives to prayer. During the course of the week the desert Fathers would come together to read and pray together."

Recently the group expanded visits

to include ProWorks in Litchfield, whose mission is to provide support and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

McNeil hopes to be able to continue to expand the ministry. "It has been a blessing for all involved, ministers, residents and clients. We open our meditation with a prayer that says, 'may we not only be hearers but doers of God's Word.' We will continue to strive to put faith in action."

Upcoming Events

Good Shepherd SERRA Club will meet April 7 at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference Room in Sleepy Eye at 7 p.m. Guest speaker, Sr. Jessica Swedzenski, a Schoenstatt Sister. Call 507-747-2181.

Diocesan Junior High Festival will be April 10 at Lakeview High School, Cottonwood, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Chris Padgett will be the keynote speaker. Contact your local parish minister or DRE to register or visit www.dnu.org for further details and schedule.

Charismatic Renewal will be sponsoring a life in the Spirit Seminar, April 29–30, at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center, Sleepy Eye. Cost is \$55 which includes meals. To register and for details, call Judy Markgraf, 320-310-1971, or Jan Crowe, 320-275-2424, by April 15.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith



Formation (VLCFF) Cycle 3 will be from May 1 – June 4. VLCFF is an Internet-based e-learning initiative for adult faith and catechist formation. It is an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding and enrichment of their faith. Registration closes April 27. Call 507-359-2966; breising@dnu.org.

Together in Ministry session, April 16, 9 a.m.–12:15 p.m. at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls. This month's topic is "catechists." Cost is \$10. To register or for further information, call 507-359-2966 or visit the diocesan Web site at www.dnu.org.

Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated in conjunction with pope's beatification

Silver Lake – Join Bishop John M. LeVoor in celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday and the beatification of John Paul II on May 1 at the Church of the Holy Family in Silver Lake beginning at 2 p.m.

There will be a Penitential Celebration followed by individual confession offered until 4 p.m. The sung Chant of Divine Mercy will be prayed at 3 p.m. A reading of Pope Benedict's homily for the

beatification of John Paul II will take place at 3:30 p.m. A reception featuring Polish desserts will follow.

For additional Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations, visit www.catholicnewsnet.com/.

For further information on the celebration in Silver Lake, contact the diocesan Office of Worship, 507-359-2966; aprzybilla@dnu.org

2 p.m.
Penitential Celebration
followed by individual
confessions until 4 p.m.

3 p.m.
Chaplet of Divine Mercy

3:30 p.m.
Reading of Pope Benedict's
homily for the beatification

Reception to follow

Bishop's calendar (continued from page 2)

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

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

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

23 New Ulm: 9 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Easter Vigil Mass.

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

26 Redwood Falls: 2 p.m. Church of St. Catherine. DMA Committee Meeting.

28 New Ulm: 7 p.m. Cathedral of

the Holy Trinity. White Mass.

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

30 Redwood Falls: 8:30 a.m. Church of St. Catherine. NUDCCW Convention.

Day of retreat with Bishop LeVoor

New Ulm – All Catholics of the diocese are invited to attend a Day of Retreat with Bishop John M. LeVoor on Saturday, April 16 from 8:30–4 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. The day will include Mass, adoration, confessions, talks, and lunch. There will be a free-will offering. A childcare and youth track will be available.

To register, contact Sr. Magdalena at 507-276-9128 or e-mail mlmarshall1@stthomas.edu. If e-mailing please include name, age, and contact phone number and/or e-mail address, as well as any special needs.



All are welcome to celebrate Chrim Mass April 14

All the people of the Diocese of New Ulm are invited to attend the annual Chrim Mass at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, at the Church of St. Michael in Madison. Bishop John M. LeVoor will preside at the Mass, during which priests of the diocese will renew their commitment to priestly service.

Also during the Mass, Bishop LeVoor will consecrate the sacred chrim – a balsam-scented oil used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders – and bless the oil of the sick and the oil for catechumens. The oil is then dispensed into worthy vessels brought by the parishes and distributed to pastors or their representatives for use in their parishes.

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 25 No. 8 April 2011



(photo by Jackie Neese)

The tradition of the Stations of the Cross as a chapel devotion began with St. Francis of Assisi and extended throughout the Roman Catholic Church in the medieval period.

On Good Friday, April 22, the Diocese of New Ulm's shrine, the Way of the Cross, located at 5th North Street above the Medical Center in New Ulm, will be staffed by the Knights of Columbus from 1-5 p.m. At 3 p.m., Bishop John M. LeVoir will lead a public prayer and meditation on the 14 Stations of the Cross. There will also be Stations held at 1, 2, and 4 p.m., led by local clergy.

catholic trends

Washington – The 2011 Catholic Home Missions Appeal calls Catholics to “Strengthen the Church at Home.” The appeal will be made in most dioceses around the country the weekend of April 24-25.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal funds a wide range of essential pastoral activities in mission dioceses across the United States, with special emphasis on evangelization; religious education; ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and lay people;

youth ministry; and support for poor parishes. As a “Home Mission” diocese, the Diocese of New Ulm has benefited from generous donations to the Appeal for the past 20 years.

For more information about the Catholic Home Missions Appeal and the dioceses that benefit from it, visit: www.usccb.org/hm.

CNA – Pope Benedict XVI’s second volume on the life of Jesus Christ debuted in the number 10 slot on the March 27 New York Times Bestseller List. “Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week”

discusses the last week of Jesus’ earthly life, from his entrance into Jerusalem to his Resurrection and appearances to his disciples and other followers. It is the second volume in a planned three-book series.

“This book fulfills Pope Benedict’s ardent desire – that it would be helpful to all readers who seek to encounter Jesus and to believe in him,” said Capuchin Fr. Thomas G. Weinandy, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Doctrine.

Washington – As the United States and other nations take military action to protect the people of Libya from their own government, the U.S. bishops asked the Obama administration to stay focused on this limited goal and mission, as well as the well-being of the civilian population.

“Important questions include: How is the use of force protecting the civilian population of Libya? Is the force employed proportionate to the goal of

protecting civilians?” wrote Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, New York, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in a March 24 letter to National Security Advisor Thomas E. Donilon. The bishop also urged that the use of force be continually evaluated in light of these questions: “Is it producing evils graver than the evil it hopes to address?” and “What are the implications of the use of force for the future welfare of the Libyan people and the stability of the region?”

“We know these are difficult questions to which there are few easy answers, but it is our moral responsibility as a nation to rigorously examine the use of military force in light of the need to protect human life and dignity,” said Bishop Hubbard. He said the purpose articulated in UN Security Council Resolution 1973 to demand “a ceasefire and a complete end to violence and all attacks against, and abuses of, civilians” appears to meet the traditional criterion of “just cause,” but said the U.S. bishops joined Pope Benedict XVI in following the military action in Libya with “great apprehension.”

Tune in for . . .

Lent and Easter Radio Messages
from Bishop John M. LeVoir

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

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



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