

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm



Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 6 February 2010

Global solidarity during the season of Lent

CRS provides two opportunities to highlight the Catholic social teaching principle of global solidarity

Lent - the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010, marks the first day or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

During this season of Lent, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provides two opportunities for Catholics in the United States to highlight the

Catholic social teaching principle of global solidarity as a way to live in true communion with our brothers and sisters worldwide: the Operation Rice Bowl program and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops National CRS Collection.

What is Operation Rice Bowl?
Operation Rice Bowl is the Lenten solidarity program of Catholic Relief Services. Through the Eucharist we have a spiritual connection with all of humanity. Operation Rice Bowl connects our Lenten activities to our brothers and sisters in need worldwide.

The theme of Operation Rice Bowl 2010 is *Solidarity Will Transform the World*. Through participation in the program, Catholics have the opportunity to grow in solidarity among their own faith communities as well as reach out in solidarity with people who live in communities far away.

Contributions support projects that assist the poor both overseas and here in the United States. Seventy-five percent of Operation Rice Bowl contributions are sent to Catholic Relief Services and help fund development projects overseas that help increase and maintain communities' access to food. Twenty-five percent of the contributions remain in the dioceses

in the U.S. and are used to fund local poverty and hunger alleviation programs.

Operation Rice Bowl begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010; and ends with Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010. For additional information or resources, visit orb.crs.org.

"The development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family, working together in true communion. . . "

- Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in veritate* (53)

that advance the international social ministry of the Catholic Church: Catholic Relief Services; the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development; the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration and Refugee Services; the Catholic

The national date for the CRS Collection is always *Laetare* Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. This year, the CRS Collection falls on the weekend of March 13-14, 2010. For additional information visit www.usccb.org/crscollection.

United States bishops encourage contributions to these national collections in the light of stewardship and sharing. "God has given us our light and our prosperity. It is right and just that we give something back, helping people in our nation and worldwide to live better and grow in the love of Jesus."

Legal Immigration Network, Inc.; and the Holy Father's Relief Fund.

What is the CRS Collection?

The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Collection is one of the twelve national collections established by the bishops of the United States with the hope that, by combining resources, we can more effectively carry out our mission as Catholics.

The collection assists the work of our community of faith in the world, saving souls and improving lives.

The CRS Collection theme, *Jesus in Disguise*, reminds us of the presence of Christ in every one of our brothers and sisters in need.

Contributions to the CRS Collection support five Catholic organizations

Archbishop of Haiti victim of January earthquake; CRS commits millions to aid survivors

The archbishop of Port-au-Prince in Haiti was killed in the devastating earthquake that has demolished the Haitian capital and taken untold lives since striking Tuesday, January 12, according to a dispatch from the Vatican. The body of Msgr. Joseph Serge Miot, 65, was found under the rubble of the archdiocese. The apostolic nuncio in Haiti, Msgr. Bernardito Auza, said that the cathedral and all the major churches and seminaries in Port-au-Prince were leveled by the most powerful tremor to strike the island in two centuries. Hundreds of seminarians and priests were trapped in the rubble, he told Vatican Radio.

Catholic Relief Services has worked in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, for over 50 years. The country is still rebuilding

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Co-Editors:

Christine Clancy & Sr. Mary Charles Mayer

Production/copy editors:

Christine Clancy and Joan Weicherding

Submissions 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.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

Diocesan Pastoral Center
 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073
 (507) 359-2966;

e-mail address: dnu@dnu.org

Web site: <http://www.dnu.org>

Publisher

Bishop John M. LeVoir

Vicar General

Msgr. Douglas L. Grams

Chancellor

Msgr. Eugene Lozinski

Coordinator of Staff

Dan Rossini

Finance

Tom Holzer

Communications/Advancement

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Sr. Margaret McHugh, vocation awareness

BE NOT AFRAID

“My Pilgrimage to San Lucas Toliman”



by Bishop John M. LeVoir

It is well known that Msgr. Greg Schaffer from the Diocese of New Ulm has served as pastor of San Lucas Toliman Mission in Guatemala since 1962. San Lucas is located on beautiful Lake Atitlan in the central part of the country and is surrounded by breathtaking mountains and forest. Over the years since 1962, many have visited the mission to volunteer their services, and to learn from Msgr. Schaffer and the people of San Lucas about the Christian community that forms San Lucas Mission.

It was my privilege from January 15 through January 21, 2010, to make a pilgrimage to the San Lucas Mission with Fr. Brian Oestreich, pastor of the Church of the Holy Family in Silver Lake, and twenty-four other pilgrims. My purpose was to meet and to pray with the people of San Lucas and to learn from them about their culture and their faith. The other pilgrims had the same purpose, but in addition, they used their time in San Lucas to make a retreat and to do some volunteer service. To help us to

understand what we were experiencing, Msgr. Schaffer gave us several interesting talks about his work at San Lucas.



I celebrated Mass for the group and for others each day during our visit. A couple of Masses were at the churches at the fincas or coffee plantations. The most beautiful ceremony took place on Sunday, January 17. There was a large parish Mass welcoming me and our group to San Lucas. I celebrated the Mass, along with Msgr. Schaffer, Fr. Oestreich, and Fr. Geovanny Perez Taquez, the Guatemalan associate to Msgr. Schaffer. The church was

overflowing, and we were all greeted with much joy. I had the privilege to greet the parishioners individually after Mass.

One of the trips that we took was to the parish and church of San Diego Atitlan, which is just across Lake Atitlan, not far from San Lucas. It was in San Diego that Fr. Stan Rother, a priest from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, was assassinated on July 28, 1981, in the violence that erupted between the Guatemalan government troops and guerilla fighters. The bedroom in which Fr.

Rother was murdered has been made into a chapel where people can remember the sacrifice of Fr. Rother and pray for peace. The cause for Fr. Rother's canonization as a



saint of the Church is now in process. The visit to San Diego was a very moving experience for all of us. We also visited some of the work projects that have been developed over the years by Msgr. Schaffer, the people of San Lucas, and volunteers,

many from the Diocese of New Ulm. There was a Women's Center where the Guatemalan women could go for washing clothes and much needed socialization with other women. There was a beautiful park. We saw one of the churches that was constructed under the guidance of Fr. Phil Schotzko, now pastor of the Church of St. Peter in St. Peter, when he worked at San Lucas Mission. There was the coffee production facility, where coffee is processed and then packaged for sale. In the botanical garden, different types of plants are grown to be used for reforestation and other purposes.

A hospital was built in San Lucas as part of the parish operations. We had a tour of the facilities and were most impressed by the medical and dental care provided. Patients are served at

the clinic regardless of whether or not they can pay. We visited, as well, some of the communities that the parish has built. These communities provide better housing for the people.

Monday, January 18, was the first day of school for the parish Catholic elementary school students. The school buildings were constructed over the years by parishioners and volunteers. Msgr. Schaffer invited me to bless with him some of the new

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Bishop's February Calendar

- 2 New Ulm:** 9:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Diocesan Staff Meeting.
- Olivia:** 1:00 p.m. Church of St. Aloysius. Priests' Council Meeting followed by College of Consultors Meeting.
- 13 Willmar:** 6:00 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Confirmation.
- 14 Darwin:** 10:45 a.m. Church of St. John. Confirmation.
- 16 New Ulm:** 10:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Priest Personnel Board Meeting.
- New Ulm:** 1:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral

- Center. Capital Campaign Committee Meeting.
- 17 Sleepy Eye:** 8:20 a.m. Church of St. Mary. School Mass
- New Ulm:** 11:55 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. School Mass.
- 18 St. Paul:** 1:00 p.m. St. Paul Seminary. Marriage Preparation Presentation.
- 19 New Ulm:** 9:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Diocesan Staff Lenten Morning of Reflection.
- Cottonwood:** 4:30 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Region 3 Presbytery Gathering.

- 20 Morgan:** 5:30 p.m. Church of St. Michael. Confirmation.
- 21 Winsted:** 10:30 a.m. Church of the Holy Trinity. 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Fr. Eugene M. Brown.
- New Ulm:** 3:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Rite of Election.
- 22-23 Willmar:** Church of St. Mary. Pastoral Leader Days.
- 24 New Ulm:** 12:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Catholic Charities Advisory Committee Meeting.
- 25 St. Paul:** 3:00 p.m. St. Paul Seminary. Board of Trustees Meeting.

- 26 New Ulm:** 1:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Vocations Team Meeting.
- Silver Lake:** 4:30 pm. Church of the Holy Family. Region 6 Presbytery Gathering.
- 27 St. Leo:** 5:30 pm. Church of St. Leo. Confirmation.
- 28 Ghent:** 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Eloi. Confirmation.
- New Ulm:** 6:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Lectio Divina Prayer Group Gathering.

Highlights

Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting December 2009

Membership of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is comprised of representatives from diocesan committees and councils, and two representatives from each region, who meet five times each year with the bishop.

Meeting Highlights

- Bishop LeVoi**r reported on his attendance at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Assembly in Baltimore, MD, in November. One of the bishops' main accomplishments was the approval of the final sections of the liturgy that were retranslated from Latin to English. The text now goes to the Vatican for final approval with changes in the liturgy expected by Advent 2011. Bishop LeVoi emphasized that now is the time to begin preparing for the implementation of the translation. The USCCB has a Web site dedicated to the translation where visitors can see what has been approved and the reasoning behind it. Director of Worship, Ann Przybilla, has been working for months getting information out to parishes. Pastoral Leader Days in February will also focus on the new translation.
- Bishop LeVoi**r also spoke about attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, MO, which took place following the USCCB meeting. There were 21,000 people in attendance; 320 from the Diocese of New Ulm. He said he had a wonderful experience and that it was great to see young people so excited about their faith.
- Bishop LeVoi**r reported that last fall seven women who have been discerning about forming a new religious community approached him about receiving diocesan sponsorship. The Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus are all college graduates and four of them are working on their advanced degrees in theology at the St. Paul Seminary. Bishop LeVoi said that after doing a lot of investigating, talking with different people, and getting references, he was willing to offer the Handmaids a place of residence in the diocese. The women are currently concentrating on their studies, formation, charism, and other things necessary to found a religious community, and won't be doing any substantial work in the diocese at this time. Ultimately, the Handmaids will focus on parish work, such as teaching in a school or religious education program and visiting the sick.
- The Diocesan Pastoral Council** chose two members to complete terms of office to the end of June. Jan Rauenhorst from the Church of St. Aloysius in Olivia will be the new secretary, and Linda Busch from the Church of St. Joseph in Montevideo will be the new member at large to the Executive Committee.
- Dan Rossini**, the diocesan Coordinator of Staff, gave an update on pastoral planning. Bishop LeVoi said that the development of the *Fourth Plan* must be a well thought out, prayerful process. Not everyone will agree with the final solution. The most important thing, he said, was that people's faith and their relationship with Jesus Christ be given a chance to develop.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, March 6, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls.

Diocesan Ministries Appeal dollars assist Sacred Heart Church renovation project



Murdock - Members of the the Church of the Sacred Heart in Murdock recently completed a major church renovation project and the annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA) played a major role.

With the assistance of funds returned to the parish after their individual parish DMA annual goal was met, the renovation project began. It included: removing old carpet and refinishing the beautiful wood floor that layed beneath; replastering and repainting walls;

DMA UPDATE Gifts to the 2009 Diocesan Ministries Appeal continue to come in daily. Many parishes have now surpassed their individual parish goal. Visit the diocesan Web site www.dnu.org to check out your parish's contribution. And remember, all contributions above your parish goal is returned to the parish.

purchasing a new altar and ambo and painting and repairing other altars; refinishing the pews; updating the lighting; installing new cabinets for the sacristy; and painting and repairing statues in the church.

The total cost was approximately \$125,000; \$12,000 came from the DMA. For information about the annual DMA contact Wayne Pelzel, Office of Development, (507) 233-5310; wpelzel@dnu.org.

earthquake

(continued from page 1)
from the 2008 hurricanes that left the city of Gonaives buried in 3.2 million cubic yards of mud.

On Wednesday, January 13, CRS had already committed \$5 million (US) to help survivors of the devastating quake.

While the CRS office in Port-au-Prince was undamaged, a building directly across from it collapsed. CRS has approximately 340 staffers in Haiti, of which 120 are in Port-au-Prince.

CRS to help meet pastoral and reconstruction needs of Church in Haiti



Washington - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops President Cardinal Francis George of Chicago and Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, chair of the CRS board, released a letter January 13 to Catholic bishops of the United States inviting them to urge parishes in their diocese to take up a special collection for the humanitarian efforts of the U.S. bishops and Catholic Relief Service in Haiti. The letter stated that the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that ravaged Haiti "destroyed countless homes, churches, seminaries, schools, and other buildings and has left millions without the most basic necessities of life. Our faith compels us to pray for and reach out to our brothers and sisters in their time of suffering."

Additional information on the U.S. Catholic community's response to this emergency and how U.S. Catholics can help can be found at CRS.org and USCCB.org information.



No Tengas Miedo

Mi Peregrinación a San Lucas Tolimán

por Obispo
John M. LeVoi

Sabemos muy bien que Monseñor Greg Schaffer de la Diócesis de New Ulm ha servido como pastor de la Misión de San Lucas Tolimán en Guatemala desde 1962. San Lucas se encuentra en el hermoso Lago de Atitlán, en la parte central del país y está rodeado de montañas y bosques.

Tuve el privilegio, de hacer una peregrinación a la Misión de San Lucas con el Padre Brian Oestreich, pastor de la Iglesia de Holy Family en Silver Lake y veinticuatro otros peregrinos, desde el 15 al 21 de enero del 2010. Mi objetivo era reunirme y orar con el pueblo de San Lucas y aprender de ellos acerca de su cultura y su fe.

Celebré la Misa para el grupo y para los demás cada día durante nuestra visita. Un par de misas se llevaron a cabo en las iglesias en las fincas o en las plantaciones de café. La ceremonia más bella tuvo lugar el domingo 17 de enero. Hubo una gran Misa parroquial para darnos la bienvenida a mí y a nuestro grupo a San Lucas. La iglesia estaba repleta, y a todos se nos saludó con mucha alegría. Tuve el privilegio de saludar a los feligreses individualmente después de la Misa.

Uno de los viajes que hicimos fue a la parroquia y a la iglesia de San Diego de Atitlán, que está justo al otro lado del lago de Atitlán, no lejos de San Lucas. Fue en San Diego que el Padre Stan Rother, un sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de la ciudad de Oklahoma, fue asesinado el 28 de julio de 1981 como resultado de la violencia que estalló entre las tropas del gobierno de Guatemala y los guerrilleros. La habitación en la que el Padre Rother fue asesinado ha sido convertida en una capilla donde la gente puede recordar el sacrificio del Padre Rother y orar por la paz. Esa es la razón por la cual la canonización del Padre Rother como santo de la Iglesia se encuentra actualmente en proceso. La visita a San Diego fue una experiencia muy emocionante para todos nosotros.

También visitamos algunos de los proyectos de trabajo que se han desarrollado a lo largo de los años por Monseñor Schaffer, el pueblo de San Lucas y los voluntarios, muchos de ellos de la Diócesis de New Ulm. Había un centro para mujeres donde las mujeres de Guatemala pueden ir para lavar la ropa y para la socialización que es muy necesaria

con otras mujeres.

Allí también había una fábrica para la producción de café, donde el café es procesado y envasado para la venta. En el jardín botánico, los diferentes tipos de plantas que se cultivan son usados para la reforestación y otros fines.

Como parte de las operaciones de la parroquia se construyó un hospital en San Lucas. Hemos hecho un recorrido por las instalaciones y quedamos muy impresionados por la atención médica y dental proporcionada. Los pacientes son atendidos en la clínica, independientemente de si pueden o no pagar.

El lunes, 18 de enero, fue el primer día de escuela para los estudiantes de la parroquia católica de primaria. Monseñor Schaffer, me invitó a bendecir con él algunas de las instalaciones de la nueva escuela: Una nueva cancha de baloncesto exterior, un nuevo campo de fútbol (con césped artificial) y una sección pre-escolar. Estuvieron presentes los 625 estudiantes de la escuela, profesores, administradores y las familias. Fue una gran ocasión, con bendiciones, oraciones, corte de la cinta y por supuesto mucha ovación.

Nunca he visto la pobreza como la ví en San Lucas y en Guatemala. Es muy grave. La casa típica, por ejemplo, tiene paredes construidas de bloques de cemento o de tallos de caña. Los techos son de chapa ondulada. Los pisos son de tierra. Las casas son pequeñas y muchas personas viven en una sola vivienda. La estufa es generalmente un fuego abierto en la casa, que tiene muy mala ventilación hacia el exterior, produciendo un ambiente lleno de humo en su interior. Sé que yo nunca podría sobrevivir si tuviera que vivir en una de aquellas casas.

He encontrado que el pueblo Maya es un pueblo hermoso. Había muchos, muchos niños (la edad promedio en Guatemala es de 18) y son personas muy hermosas y entrañables. La gente era muy amable y siempre se saludan y sonríen cuando pasábamos delante de ellos. Hay una verdadera alegría entre la gente a pesar de la miseria absoluta. Como una persona me dijo: "Obispo, tenemos muy poco, pero lo que nos dan viene del corazón".

Para obtener más información sobre la Misión de San Lucas y del maravilloso trabajo que se hace allá, por favor, consulte con nuestra página de internet de la Diócesis de New Ulm.

be not afraid

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school facilities: a new outside basketball court, a new soccer field (with artificial turf), and a new preschool. Present were the school's 625 students, faculty members, administrators, and families. It was a grand occasion, with blessings, prayers, and ribbon cutting, along with much cheering.

We visited the seminary of the Diocese of Solola Chimaltenango. It is a beautiful facility located in Solola, across Lake Atitlan from San Lucas. There are many seminarians. The rector is a priest who grew up in San Lucas and went to the Catholic school there. We saw the computer lab at the seminary. Most of the computers were donated by the Diocese of New Ulm under the guidance of Fr. Oestreich. After our seminary tour, some of us had a most cordial lunch with Bishop Gonzalo de Villa y Vásquez, SJ, Bishop of Solola Chimaltenango.

I have never seen poverty as I saw in San Lucas and in Guatemala. It is severe. The typical house, for example, has walls constructed from cinder blocks or cane stalks. The roofs are corrugated tin. The floors are dirt. The houses are small and many people live in one dwelling. The stove is usually an open fire in the house, which

is very poorly ventilated to the outside, producing a smoky atmosphere inside. In most villages, the houses are very close together and form a kind of shanty town. I know that I could never survive if I were to live in one of these houses. I found the Mayan people to be a handsome people. There were many, many children (the median age in Guatemala is 18),



Indianapolis. On Monday, January 18, we experienced a small earthquake (magnitude of 6.1). There were no injuries. There were numerous flight delays, with the consequent effect of spending many hours on airplanes. However, God brought us through it all so that we could experience the faith and the culture of the people who compose San Lucas Mission.

For more information on San Lucas Mission and the wonderful work taking place there, please see the Diocese of New Ulm Web site, www.dnu.org.

photos by Lori Mathiowetz and
Meg Kubesh

(For more pictures of
Bishop's visit to Guatemala
visit www.dnu.org)

and they are very beautiful and endearing. People were very friendly and would always wave and smile as we passed them. Generally, the women were colorfully dressed and the men were neatly dressed, as were the boys and girls. There was a real joy among the people, despite the grinding poverty. As one person told me, "Bishop, we have very little, but what we do give comes from the heart."

Our travel was not uneventful. On January 15, on the flight to Atlanta from Minneapolis, our 737 blew an engine, spewing long fire streaks in the early morning sky. We made a safe emergency landing in

Catholic Charities of diocese joins in response to needs of struggling farmers

New Ulm - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm has been asked to join the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Minnesota Farmer Assistance Network (MFAN), according to Thomas Keaveny, diocesan director. "MFAN has been launched in response to the struggling economy and to address the needs of farmers facing financial challenges,

especially in light of the depressed dairy and hog prices that have affected many in our diocese," Keaveny said.

The MFAN network draws upon the expertise of experienced financial analysts from several organizations working together to help farmers.

These experts provide business and financial

guidance to farm families on a variety of topics, including financial statement preparation, debt restructuring, business reorganization, and farm transition.

By calling the toll-free MFAN helpline, 1-877-898-MFAN (6326) or in the Twin Cities metro area, (651) 201-6326, farmers are connected to

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New religious community being formed

Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus take up residence in Searles

by Claire Roufs

Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus

What would impel seven young women (all Minnesota-born) between the ages of twenty-two and thirty, to leave their homes, jobs, friends, and family to undertake the formation of a new religious community?

"Hopefully the Holy Spirit!" I typically answer when asked this question. On the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception 2006, I experienced what seemed to be a call from the Lord to begin a new religious community which would live in imitation of Mary, serving the parishes of a diocese. For the past several years, I have been residing in St. Paul with other young women who feel drawn to this same way of life, calling ourselves the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus.



The Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus met with Bishop LeVoi recently to discuss forming their community in the Diocese of New Ulm. Pictured (front row, l-r) Mary Shaffer, Bishop LeVoi, Bernadette Shaffer, and Megan Marshall; (back row) Mary Therese Foley, Claire Roufs, Barbara Evans, and Rose Coleman.

Last fall, we met with Bishop John LeVoi who had expressed interest in the possibility of inviting us to the Diocese of New Ulm. In December, after much prayer and discernment, Bishop LeVoi extended a formal invitation and showed us the currently vacant

convent at the Church of St. John the Baptist in Searles. We graciously accepted, and we now call Searles our new home!

The Handmaids are all college graduates working toward

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World Day for Consecrated Life set for February 7 in United States

Washington - The 14th celebration of the annual World Day for Consecrated Life, February 2, will be marked in the United States the weekend of February 7. The occasion is celebrated in the United States on the Sunday following February 2, to enable as much participation as possible. World Day for Consecrated Life marks an opportunity to highlight the extraordinary contributions of men and women religious in this country as well as a time to pray for vocations to the consecrated life.

"The Church is greatly blessed by the many contributions of consecrated men and women, through their ministries in the areas of education, health care, spiritual formation and social service," said Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. "In particular, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the service given by consecrated women, those who established the foundations in past

generations and those serving in our midst today. Also, in this Year for Priests, we extend our gratitude to religious order priests for their ongoing work of helping to build up the Church. May this day provide all religious women and men an opportunity to experience a renewal

of their vocation and commitment to consecrated life."

The U.S. bishops have named the promotion of vocations to priesthood and consecrated life as one of their five priorities. A new Web site will be launched in April highlighting this gift to the Church.

Redwood Falls native appointed provincial superior

Sr. M. Joanna Buckley, ISSM, was appointed November 16, 2009, provincial superior of the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary for the northern part of the United States. Buckley is a Redwood Falls native and member of the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls.



At present, the northern province of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary here in the United States has 115 members, with established houses in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. In addition, individual members are stationed in Ohio and Indiana, and work in various other states throughout the country. Locally, the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary maintain Marian shrine and retreat center in Sleepy Eye, which is open to visitors and guests from all faith backgrounds. Through the Schoenstatt Movement they are also active in family and youth ministry, and offer spiritual inspiration to many groups and individuals.

Lay leadership

Youth ministry - bringing youth to Christ

Courtesy of the diocesan Offices of Worship and Religious Education/Adult Faith Formation, this is the second in a series of articles about people that represent the many who are involved with lay leadership and the important work they do throughout the diocese.



by Bryan Reising, director Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation

At times, you can find Kirk Hendrickson playing guitar and practicing music - a great gift to offer to the young people he serves! Hendrickson is the youth minister for the Area Faith Community of the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson and the Church of St. Boniface in Stewart. He began this position in August 2008. The ministry he is a part of helps guide and involve young people in their faith.



Kirk Hendrickson

Just finishing college majoring in Music Education, Music Performance, and a Minor in Theology, Hendrickson felt called to music ministry and aspired to be a successful Christian musician. But, God had a different path for Kirk.

"While attending Mass at St. Boniface, I just happened to see that the two parishes were looking for a youth minister and something about it caught my attention," Hendrickson said. "Honestly, it seemed to smack me pretty hard. I felt like God was calling me to this ministry. My experience in youth ministry growing up, my education degree, and my background in music was all just training to fulfill a role in life I didn't yet realize. But God did."

Hendrickson loves seeing the lives

of others turn toward a call to Christ's love. He explains, "We all can get too comfortable with life and that is when we quit going deeper with God. We just go through the motions. It's like the quote says, 'God comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable.'"

Seeing the passion in students when they grow in their faith lives and watching them fully rely on God is extremely rewarding to Hendrickson. "This generation of young people are very fast paced and motivated, and youth ministry has to echo that in order to get their attention," he said. "Young people want a purpose, something to live for, and we, as a Church, need to help them find that."

For those considering a career in youth ministry, Hendrickson said that it is no ordinary job. "Youth ministry is about relationships, accompanying young people on their journey, and challenging them to see how Christ is working through them. Success cannot be judged by the quantity, but rather quality," he stressed.

According to Hendrickson, youth ministry is about building relationships, foundations, and disciples. He said that often times the greatest ministry with young people is done over a cup of coffee, a game of basketball, a morning bible study, a text message, a Facebook chat, or playing a video game with them - things that never make it into the bulletin or newsletters, but make a difference.

We thank Kirk and all youth ministers and youth ministry teams who strive to bring young people to Christ every day!

50 years of priestly ministry to be observed by



Rev. Eugene M. Brown

will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on February 21, 2010, at a 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Winsted. Bishop John M. LeVoir will be the main celebrant and homilist. There will be a luncheon in the church basement for everyone following the Mass and a reception from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Care Center in Winsted. Everyone is welcome.

Fr. Brown was born in Fort Wayne, IN, and moved to Minnesota with his family when he was three weeks old. The family resided on several farms between Clara City and Montevideo. In the fall of 1948, they moved into Montevideo, at which time Eugene began attending Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary in St. Paul. He received his BA degree at the St. Paul Seminary.

He was ordained February 21, 1960, at the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler. Following ordination he served the Church of St. Mary in Bird Island, the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, the Church of St. John in Appleton, the mission of St. Joseph in Holloway, the Church of St. Joseph in Clements, the Church of St. Leo in St. Leo, the Church of St. Mary in Cottonwood, the mission of St. Isidore in Clarkfield, the Church of St. Michael in Madison, and the Church of St. James in Dawson.

From 1985 to 1989 he was

associate editor with Don Bosco Multimedia in New Rochelle, NY. After returning to the Diocese of New Ulm, he served the Church of St. Paul in Nicollet, the Church of the Visitation in Swan Lake, the Church of St. Nicholas in Middle Lake, the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm, the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall, and the Church of St. Michael in Milroy. Fr. Brown retired from active ministry on July 1, 2004, and served as chaplain at Divine Providence Health Center in Ivanhoe until April 2007. He has served as chaplain at St. Mary's Care Center in Winsted from that time to the present.

His professional associations include: 1968-1972 photographer of Diocese of New Ulm events for Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis newspaper, *The Catholic Bulletin*; 1972-1985 member of *Newsletter* staff, the official newspaper of the Diocese of New Ulm; former photographer of diocesan events for *Newsletter* and now periodically for *The Prairie Catholic*; 1986 editor of *Faith's Answer: the Mystery of Jesus*, published by Don Bosco Publications; photographer of the annual convention of the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women; past member of the College of Consultors; 1990-2004 secretary of the Priests' Council; 1997 received award for 25 years of service to *Newsletter* and *The Prairie Catholic*; member of the Knights of Columbus and past chaplain of Knights of Columbus councils in St. Peter and New Ulm.

Father Brown requests that there be no gifts. If you wish, you may make a donation to the diocesan mission in Guatemala: San Lucas Mission Office, 1400 Sixth Street N, New Ulm, MN 56073.



Msgr. Gregory T. Schaffer

will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on February 21, 2010.

The Diocese of New Ulm mission parish of San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala, the parish in which Monsignor Schaffer has served for the past forty-six years, will celebrate with him on February 20, 2010, in San Lucas. Bishop Gonzalo de Villa y Vasquez will be present to celebrate the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Dinner will follow the Mass and in the afternoon there will be presentations by different parish groups that will include song, poems, and a Mayan folklore group presenting traditional music and dance.

On March 21, 2010, there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a traditional Guatemalan dinner in Monsignor's honor at the Church of St. John Neumann in Eagan, MN, for friends and family. This event will be hosted by St. John Neumann parish "Friends of San Lucas Mission."

There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving and reception in the Diocese of New Ulm. Details are pending and will be announced in the Upcoming Events section of the March issue of *The Prairie Catholic*.

For additional information on any of these celebrations contact Kathy Huebert at the Catholic Pastoral Center, (507) 359-2966, ext. 304; e-mail khuebert@dnu.org.

Monsignor Schaffer was born in

St. Paul on January 29, 1934. He grew up and attended St. Columba parish and school and graduated from the 8th grade at St. Columba before entering Nazareth Hall for his high school years. Following this, he went on to the St. Paul Seminary. During these years his family moved from St. Paul to New Ulm and became members of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

He was ordained February 21, 1960, at the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler. Following ordination, he served at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall and also taught religion and morals at Central Catholic High School and served as high school counselor.

In 1963, Bishop Alphonse Schladweiler asked for a volunteer to work in the mission field in Guatemala for five years. Father Schaffer accepted this challenge and on August 11, 1963, departed for six months of study of the Spanish language before beginning his service at the San Lucas Toliman Mission parish. Those five years have turned into forty-six years.

In 1984, Father Schaffer received "Protanotary Apostolic" (the title of Monsignor) from Pope John Paul II through Bishop Angelico Melotto.

Awards bestowed upon Monsignor Schaffer include: 1977, St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity Distinguished Alumnus Award for his service in missionary work; 1991, Diocesan Distinguished Service Award from the Diocese of New Ulm in recognition of his committee service and outstanding contribution to the diocesan mission and ministry; 1996, Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award from St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, St. Paul; 2000, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Loyola

University in Chicago; 2001, International Award known as Anonymous Heroes Working for Peace Through Development, a prestigious award presented by several local entities in Guatemala including the local consulate of the United Nations, and Bancafe, an agricultural trade and economic development institution which have joined together to recognize community development efforts that lead to peace; 2003, Pilgrimage of Faith Award from the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA) for his service to the poor, recognized for support of CFCA's work in Guatemala, where CFCA has its most extensive outreach; 2007, Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from University of San Francisco, CA; 2007, Order of Quetzal, highest honor bestowed by the Guatemalan Government, was given in the name of Father Schaffer to the San Lucas Parish whose long-lasting service and commitment to the people of San Lucas Toliman was distinguished among others. Monsignor has also received awards from the Municipal Government in San Lucas Toliman.

Many projects in Guatemala such as the medical clinic, schools, rectory, convent, library, women's center, various land projects, and extensive housing projects have all been established under the direction of Monsignor Schaffer with the aid of the people in San Lucas and support from the people of the Diocese of New Ulm and friends of San Lucas.



Five priests ordained for the diocese in 1960



Msgr. Robert J. Wyffels will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on May 16, 2010, at a 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Church of St. Michael in Morgan. Bishop John M. LeVoir will be the main celebrant and homilist. Following Mass, Msgr. Wyffels will share highlights of his "wonderful and joyful years" in priestly ministry. A meal will be served and the event will continue until 3:00 p.m. All are invited.

Father Wyffels was born on a farm near Cottonwood and baptized in Green Valley. Later, the family farmed near Marshall before buying their farm near Cottonwood. He attended St. Joseph's Academy in Marshall for eight years and Marshall Public High School. His formation for the priesthood continued at the minor seminary at St. John's University in Collegeville, and he pursued philosophy and theology at the St. Paul Seminary.

He was ordained February 21, 1960, at the Church of St. Mary in

Sleepy Eye, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler. His First Mass was celebrated at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall. In 1965, he earned his Master's Degree in Secondary School Administration from the College of St. Thomas.

Following ordination to the priesthood he served the Church of the Holy Trinity in Winsted for one year and then nine years at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm, where he also served as director of Cathedral High School. He then served the Church of St. Paul in Comfrey from 1970-71 and the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye for 12 years where he also served as superintendent of St. Mary's Schools. He returned to the Church of the Holy Trinity in Winsted for 15 years where he also served as superintendent of Holy Trinity Schools. He is currently serving as pastor of the Church of St. Michael in Morgan and co-sacramental minister of the Church of St. Joseph in Lambertson and the Oratory of St. Joseph in Clements.

Msgr. Wyffels served for 14 years on the Diocesan Education Committee and over the years was a member of the Priests' Council and the College of Consultors.

On September 14, 2005, he was named Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of Monsignor by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.



Rev. Robert P. Goblirsch will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on June 20, 2010, with a 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Church of St. John in Ortonville. Bishop John M. LeVoir will be the main celebrant and homilist. The Mass will be followed by a dinner and an open house reception from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. RSVPs appreciated, but not required. There will be a brief

program at 2:30 p.m. followed by cake and coffee. RSVP by June 1 to main office, (320) 839-2772; e-mail frbobecelebration@gmail.com. Anyone wishing to share stories or photos of Fr. Goblirsch are asked to submit them by April 15. Photos will be returned if labeled with name/address. Identification of individuals in photos appreciated. Submit to Fr. Goblirsch Celebration Committee, 421 Madison Avenue, Ortonville, MN 56278; e-mail frbobecelebration@gmail.com.

Father Goblirsch was born in Sleepy Eye, MN, where he attended St. Mary's High School before attending Nazareth Hall and receiving a BA in history at the St. Paul Seminary.

He was ordained February 21, 1960, at the Church of St. Mary in

Sleepy Eye, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.

Following ordination he served the Church of St. Raphael in Springfield, the Church of St. Thomas in Sanborn, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm, the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall, the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm, the Church of St. James in Nassau, the Church of St. John Cantius in Wilno, the Church of SS. Peter and Paul in Ivanhoe, the Church of St. Michael in Madison, and the Church of St. James in Dawson.

Since 1998, Father Goblirsch has served as pastor of the Church of St. John in Ortonville, the Church of St. Joseph in Rosen, and the Church of St. James in Nassau.



The Most Reverend John J. McRaith, Emeritus Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro will mark his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on February 21, 2010.

Born in Hutchinson, MN, he received his grade school education in a one-room country school. He graduated from St. John's Preparatory School in Collegeville, MN, Loras College in Dubuque, IA, Mount Saint Bernard Seminary in Dubuque, IA, and did post-graduate studies at Mankato State University in Mankato, MN.

He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of New Ulm on

February 21, 1960, at the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, MN, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.

Following ordination, he served the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, the Church of St. Michael in Milroy, and the Church of St. Leo in St. Leo. He also served as superintendent of St. Mary's High School in Sleepy Eye.

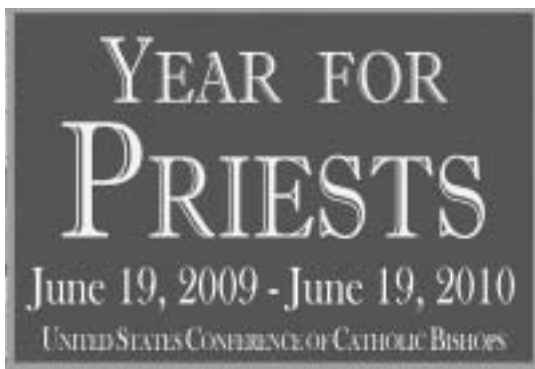
In the 1960's he was named director of the diocesan Office of Rural Life, a position he held until 1968. From 1972-1978 he served as director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference headquartered in Des Moines, IA. In 1978, he was appointed Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese of New Ulm, as well as diocesan Coordinator of Staff, working closely with staff people in all areas of ministry. In 1979, he was appointed diocesan director of the Pastoral Office for Personnel, serving as executive director of the Priests' Personnel Board, while remaining Vicar General and Chancellor.

On October 26, 1982, Father

McRaith, age 48, was named third bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, by Pope John Paul II. He was the first priest of the Diocese of New Ulm to be ordained a bishop.

Since then he has served on numerous Committees for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops including the Ad Hoc Committee on Stewardship, responsible for authoring the bishops' pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciples' Response*. In 1986, Bishop McRaith wrote a pastoral letter on the AIDS crisis for the Diocese of Owensboro entitled, *Go and Do Likewise*. He has served the community of Western Kentucky as board member for Brescia University, the Daniel Pitino Shelter and McAuley Clinic in Owensboro, and Lourdes Hospital Foundation in Paducah.

Bishop McRaith retired as Bishop of Owensboro on January 5, 2009, at the age of 74. He currently resides at 501 W, 5th Street, Owensboro, KY 42301.



Rediscovering the true meaning of marriage *USCCB pastoral letter represents summary of Church teaching; effort to strengthen marriages*

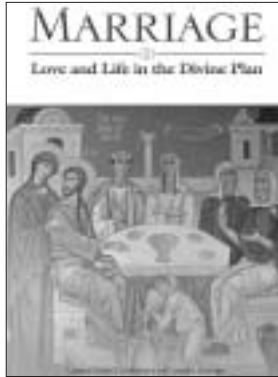
by Theresa Notare

During their 2009 Fall assembly, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved their new pastoral letter, *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*. The letter represents a summary of Church teaching on marriage. It is the centerpiece of a wider effort initiated in 2004 called *The National Pastoral Marriage Initiative* (see www.usccb.org/laity/marriage/npim.shtml). The pastoral initiative represents a renewed effort in the Church to strengthen marriage. It is a multi-pronged work that includes a Web site called "ForYour Marriage.org." The Web site features popular articles and resources to help married couples in their life's journey.

The bishops have a deep concern for marriage and the family. After all, marriage affects everyone - it is the "little Church" where its members learn about loving God, each other, and their neighbors. Marriage and the family are the building blocks of society!

On a personal level, the Church must assist married couples to live their sacrament fully. The Church also bears the responsibility to prepare engaged couples for this special vocation. On a social scale, the Church has always defended marriage against those forces that would tear it apart. In today's world this is especially urgent.

Strengthening marriage is an urgent priority in today's world. Most of us can list the multitude of forces that tear at the fabric of marriage. We know that many people have an inadequate understanding of the nature of commitment, causing many to wonder if life-long



commitment can be attained. This fear is understandable when we consider the effects of generations of no-fault divorce. The irresponsible practice of one spouse opting out of a marriage for any reason has poked holes in marital permanence. With the increase in acceptance of couples living together without the benefit of marriage, society has also fostered a "test-drive" mentality regarding romantic relationships. If it ultimately doesn't "feel" right, one can get out of the driver's seat!

Lost in our day is a sense of delaying our own personal satisfaction. As a society, we almost frantically grasp for whatever we think will make us happy. The idea of "self-sacrifice" for the love of someone else often stands in the shadows. It is, of course, not wrong to want various things - like to develop our individual talents and attain our goals. But, when one is married, "we" must be considered before "me."

Also forgotten in our day is the fact that the sexual relationship is wired for bonding and procreation. Sex is not only about personal fulfillment. Rather, sex is about moving out of

The new USCCB pastoral letter, *Marriage, Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, is available for check out through the diocesan Media Resource Center at the Catholic Pastoral Center in New Ulm. Contact Joan Weicherding, Media Center Coordinator, (507) 233-5330; e-mail: jweicherding@dnu.org

the self to love the other person - loving that person so much that the gift of a child is the fruit. Life-long love, marital love, is the best environment for man and woman because it nourishes each of them and cares for the well-being of children.

The bishops' pastoral letter is an invitation to Catholics, and to all people of good will, to rediscover the true meaning of marriage - something that is based not only on individual satisfaction and personal fulfillment but also on God's desire for the good of his people.

Theresa Notare, PhD, is the Assistant Director of the Natural Family Planning Program, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC.

Marriage Encounter Weekends

This is a program for married couples who want to strengthen their marriage.

For upcoming program dates in Minnesota and the Dakotas visit www.wmesection8.org/cgibin/wwme-eekends.cgi or call (507) 644-3523.

2010 engaged couples program schedule set

The diocesan Marriage Preparation Program is designed specifically for engaged couples. It is time set aside for engaged couples to explore and strengthen their relationship.

Through presentations given during each day-long program, engaged couples are challenged to reflect individually and to dialogue privately with each other on key aspects of married life: commitment, conflict, children, career, and church. The objective is discovery through honest communication.

Presentations are given by Christopher Loetscher, director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of New Ulm, and also by married couples and individuals trained for this ministry. The program, held at the Church of St. Aloysius Education Center in Olivia, begins at 8:30 a.m. on a Saturday and ends at 5:00 p.m.

Registration is limited to thirty-seven couples per session. The cost of the program is \$75 per couple, including lunch, refreshments, and materials.

Upcoming program dates
February 6, March 6, March 20, April 10, May 1, September 11.
Contact Office of Family Life, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; (507) 359-2966; cloetscher@dnu.org

Preparing a wedding liturgy

Assistance is available for couples who are preparing a worship aid/program for the wedding liturgy. Visit www.catholicbrides.com. The diocesan Office of Worship has a sampling of programs the company has produced. Call (507) 359-2966.

Catholic Knights donate to Mohr scholarship fund



The Catholic Knights Insurance Society, Branch #720 of New Ulm, presented \$200 to the Mohrs as a donation to the Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund was recently established by the Mohrs to benefit and enhance the quality of religious education in the Diocese of New Ulm. The Mohrs are members of the Church of St. Raphael in Springfield. All catechists in the diocese are eligible for scholarships from this fund. Scholarship applications are available on the diocesan Web site (www.dnu.org) or call (507) 359-2966. Donations to this fund are always welcome and anyone interested in donating should contact either the Mohrs or the Office of Development at the Diocese of New Ulm, (507) 233-5310. Pictured (l-r) Duane Fesser, Marcy Bode, Elizabeth Mohr, T. Hilary Mohr, and Denny Kuss, Catholic Knights representative from Rochester.



February 14, 2010

Bishops urge congress to resume work on health care

Washington - The U.S. bishops called on Congress to continue to work on health care reform to provide access for everyone, protection of life at all stages and conscience rights.

The call came in a January 26 letter signed by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chair of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, chair of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; and Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City, chair of the Committee on Migration.

The entire letter can be found at www.usccb.org/healthcare/HC-Letter-to-Congress-012610.pdf

The bishops said that the need for reform remains despite a new political climate.

"Although political contexts have changed, the moral and policy failure that leaves tens of millions of our sisters and brothers without access to health care still remains," they said. "We encourage Congress to begin working in a bipartisan manner providing political courage, vision and leadership. We must all continue to work towards a solution that protects everyone's lives and respects their dignity."

The bishops asked for changes in proposed bills in the House of Representatives and Senate. The current bills, they said, "leave between 18 and 23 million people in our nation without health insurance."

They criticized the Senate bill saying it does not meet the Church's criteria on life and conscience since it does not reflect the current U.S. policy as

outlined in the Hyde Amendment passed in 1976.

"The bill's provision against abortion funding should have the same substantive policy as the Hyde Amendment and parallel provisions in current law, should cover every program in the legislation and should be as permanent as the funding provided by the bill. The House-

"We must all continue to work towards a solution that protects everyone's lives and respects their dignity."

passed language meets these criteria," they said.

Both bills are a step backwards in conscience protection, the bishops said.

"The freedom that insurers, purchasers, and sponsors currently enjoy under federal law to offer or purchase health plans that are not morally or religiously objectionable to them would be lost," they said.

"It is critical that the final bill retain the freedom of conscience that insurers, purchasers, plan sponsors, and health care providers currently have under federal law," they added.

The bishops urged that undocumented persons be able to purchase insurance in the new health care exchange with their own money. They also called for removal of the five-year ban on legal immigrants accessing health care plans such as Medicaid.

Visit www.usccb.org/healthcare/ to keep up-to-date on what the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* are saying in regard to health care reform.

from the desk of the DCCW President



by Jeane Appel

Pope Benedict's prayer intention for the month of February is "For all scholars and intellectuals, that by means of sincere search for the truth, they may arrive at an understanding of the one true God." The mission is: "That the Church, aware of its own missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and to proclaim his gospel to all peoples."

How can this apply to the Council of Catholic Women?

"Building A Campaign for Human Dignity" is the theme chosen for 2010 by the three National Council of Catholic Women Commission Chairs.

The Spirituality Commission, led by Joanne Pohland, formerly of the Diocese of New Ulm now residing in Iowa, will focus on theology of the body. NUDCCW Church and Legislation Commissions will be guided by the Spirituality Commission.

The National Leadership Commission, led by Judy Powers, will provide the present Organization Commission information for building and weaving the theme into existing diocesan and parish Council of Catholic Women programs.

Family Concerns, Community Concerns and International Concerns Commissions, under the leadership of the Service Commission, led by Karen Painter, will partner with several organizations which include Religious Alliance Against Pornography and the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families as well as other groups. This Commission will also work with Catholic Relief Services and Human Life International.

The Reverence Life Commission encourages participation in the 40 Days for Life Campaign held February 17-March 28, 2010. The campaign invokes God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to promote respect for life at all stages.

Spring gatherings

The DCCW spring gatherings, held annually in each region of the diocese, avail all Catholic women the opportunity to grow in truth and spirituality. Several regions are planning for a keynote speaker whose topic will concern "The Year For Priests." More information will be forthcoming in the March issue of *The Prairie Catholic*.

Making good use of any of these available means will allow the Council of Catholic Women the opportunity to address Pope Benedict XVI's intentions and to work to fulfill the Council of Catholic Women mission statement of "Supporting, empowering, and educating members in spirituality, leadership and service; reaching out with Gospel values to meet the needs of Church and society."

Scholarships Sieze YOUR opportunity!

by Barb Nowak
DCCW Scholarship Coordinator

The New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Scholarship Program provides opportunities to empower and educate CCW members in spirituality, leadership, and service.

Scholarship amounts of \$200 are available to individuals providing leadership in the Council of Catholic Women activities, teaching, in parish Catholic schools, or religious education programs. Scholarships are available to individuals ministering within their parish in music,

administration, youth ministry, and in a wide range of social concerns activities. They are available to women, men, and youth throughout the Diocese of New Ulm to empower and enrich their faith.

The Council of Catholic Women Scholarship Program is financially supported solely by parishes in the diocese. In 2009, ninety-nine scholarships were granted for a total of \$17,304. Due to limited funds, scholarships are awarded only to individuals of parishes that voluntarily contribute with monetary donation to the NUDCCW Scholarship Program.

Scholarship applications for 2010 may be obtained through your parish Council of Catholic Women scholarship coordinator or by contacting the region scholarship coordinator or diocesan scholarship coordinator.

All scholarship applications and/or parish donations are to be mailed to Barb Nowak, 1519 11th Street E, Glencoe, MN 55336 and must be postmarked by March 15, 2010.

To learn more visit the *Diocesan Council of Catholic women Web site* at www.nudccw.org.

UPDATE ON THE ROMAN MISSAL



Editor's Note: For many years the *Sacramentary* (the red book which includes the texts of the Mass) has been going through a process of revision. Throughout the coming months, with the assistance of the diocesan Office of Worship, *The Prairie Catholic* will offer articles to explain the textual changes in the Mass that will be forthcoming.

by Ann Przybilla

As was evident in last month's column, there are plenty of specific textual changes we will experience when the new Roman Missal is implemented in the parishes. However, most of the gestures and movement within the liturgy will not change. As we prepare for new words, this is an opportune time for parishes, and even individuals, to evaluate the unspoken language of the liturgy.

The highly regarded liturgist Romano Guardini once said that Christians at liturgy should help the faithful to "see the inner sense in the outward sign." That is one reason why Catholics value the visual aspects of liturgy such as vestments, vessels, flowers, and statues. In addition, the outward signs of postures, gestures, and the way we approach silence says a lot about the divine reality.

The non-verbal communication of liturgy has the potential to either cloud our inner sense of the divine or to make it more apparent. Imagine someone who believes in

Christ but is unsure about the Catholic faith. This individual attends Mass in your parish and what he sees is more compelling than what he hears. Having been

Visit
www.usccb.org/romanmissal
 to learn more about the forthcoming English translation of the new Roman Missal.

greeted warmly by an usher holding open the door, parishioners sign themselves with water, genuflect, and bow with reverence and meaning. Mass begins on time and the procession is unhurried with willing liturgical ministers carrying high the symbols of light and Gospel. The assembly is led by musicians that appear to enjoy inviting the assembly to sing. This newcomer notices that the people's gestures and participation create a sense of prayerfulness and celebration. They care about what they are doing. This must be an important gathering. Non-verbal gestures of the Mass

have the potential to encourage or discourage the newcomer to continue with the Catholic faith, or to enliven or dampen the level of commitment of the most devout Catholic. The Holy Spirit works through the human act of worship to reveal something holy and so the ritual movement of every Mass is something special and worthy of our attention and care. Liturgical ministers and assembly alike should be aware of what they are saying by the way they move during the great prayer of the Liturgy. This element of participation is as important as the spoken prayers, taking part in the gestures not with rigid stiffness as if tedious but with intentionality and purpose.

We continue the process of the liturgical renewal begun prior to Vatican II. As we prepare for the new texts of the Roman Missal, parishes should take the time to evaluate and study the ritual movements of the Mass so that what we see will resemble what we believe.

The Lenten fast - a time for spiritual growth

Self-denial is a way of emphasizing dependence on God. The Lenten fast is a fast of penance. Fasting helps us free ourselves from things of this world that destroy happiness by strengthening our will to put first things first; namely, the love of God, neighbor, and self. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday in particular are the most important penitential days for the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence.

What is abstinence?

Abstinence refers to refraining from eating meat. Under the present law it does not include egg or milk products. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

How do we fast?

The customary fast allows for only one full meal to be taken during the day. Two smaller meals are permitted, if necessary, to maintain strength according to one's needs. Eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

A glass of juice may be taken in the morning and simple liquids such as water, coffee, and tea, during the day. The fast ends with a brief

prayer followed by an adequate meal.

Age guidelines for abstinence

Abstinence is to be practiced by all who are 14 years of age and older.

Age guidelines for fasting

Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday and who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. Those who have already celebrated their 59th birthday are welcome to share with the community in these practices. However, they should take appropriate care regarding their personal health.

The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse oneself from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse oneself from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

Rite of Election February 21 *a joyful celebration for those preparing to become Catholic*

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated on Sunday, February 21, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. In this celebration, the candidates and catechumens announce publicly their desire to be full members of the Catholic Church, a sign that the Holy Spirit continues to call people into the fold.

This celebration is one of many rituals that takes place as part of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) as a step toward the initiation rites of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation that will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil in the parishes around the diocese.

The Rite of Election is for catechumens, those seeking baptism.

The Call to Continuing Conversion is for candidates, those already baptized in the Christian faith who seek full membership in the Catholic Church. These individuals have prepared a year or more in preparation for this celebration.

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: przybilla@dnu.org.

Catholic Charities relationship with MFAN

(continued from page 4)

appropriate resources such as MFAN analysts, farm business management instructors, extension educators, and others with the expertise to assist them. Available at no cost to farmers statewide, MFAN also provides referrals for legal guidance, basic needs (such as food or housing), and mental health counseling, including a 24-hour crisis hotline. All information will be confidential.

The MFAN initiative is a network

of organizations working together to provide resources to help Minnesota farmers who are facing economic hardship. For more information, visit the MFAN Web site at www.mda.state.mn.us/mfan; e-mail to mfan.mda@state.mn.us. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm is listed as a mental health counseling resource in the Department of Agriculture's MFAN Web page.

Catholic Charities staff has information available regarding financial counseling and other

farm management resources that are offered through the MFAN programs. If you wish to see a Catholic Charities counselor or would like related information about MFAN, contact Paulette Kral at Catholic Charities 1-866-670-5163.

It is the successful effort and support of the annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal, (DMA) which makes it possible for Catholic Charities counselors to provide these counseling services and to be a part of this related effort.

Supporting the troops

Marshall - Students, faculty, and staff of Holy Redeemer School in Marshall collected Christmas decorations to send to troops stationed in Kuwait. This effort was led by Wendy Hall, whose husband Steve Hall is currently serving in Kuwait. Pictured (l-r): Courtney and Connor Roth, Lauren Buysse, Keygan Buysse, Isaac Timmerman, Greta Hall (daughter of Wendy and Steve), and Sydney Schaeffer.



Silver Lake - The Knights of Columbus of the Church of the Holy Family in Silver Lake recently sent care packages to military personal serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Over a dozen twenty-pound packages were sent to soldiers. Pictured are members of the Knights of Columbus who organized the project and helped pack the donations. A similar project is planned for Easter. If you know of a soldier serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and would like them to receive a KC care package, send their

complete military address including APO to Fr. Brian Oestreich, pastor of the Church of the Holy Family, 720 W Main Street, Silver Lake, MN 55381; e-mail: fbrian@holymfamilysilverlake.org.

Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus

(continued from page 5)

advanced degrees at the School of Divinity in St. Paul. For now, we are focusing on our studies and formation in the religious life. Eventually, we feel called to serve the needs of parishes and their schools. Yet, for a consecrated person (and any person!) what is important is not what we do but who we are.

What does it mean to be a Handmaid of the Heart of Jesus? Let us first ask, what is a handmaid? She is a servant. Her life is dedicated to pleasing the one she serves. Therefore, her spirit is simple and free. She does not bother about anything except the desires of her Lord, which she follows out of her love for him. This is the way Mary responded to the Angel Gabriel when he asked her if she would be the mother of God's Son: "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord! Let it be done to me

according to your word" (Lk 1:38). To be a handmaid is to respond to the Lord with Mary's eager "yes!" in every aspect of our lives.

For more information contact the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus, Queen of Peace Convent, 18173 1st Avenue, New Ulm, MN 56073; (507) 276-9128.

Operation Miryam Dinner open to young women of diocese

The diocesan Office of Vocations will be hosting an Operation Miryam (Hebrew for "Mary") Dinner on March 1 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Renville. Young women, high school age and older, who are open to a religious vocation are invited for evening prayer and dinner with Bishop John LeVoi.

If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in attending, contact Sr. Margaret McHugh, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; e-mail mmchugh@dnu.org.



Upcoming Events

GOOD SHEPHERD SERRA

CLUB - meets Thursday, February 4, 2010, at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference Room, beginning with Rosary and Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by program and lunch. Come early for Eucharistic Adoration. This month we will have several religious sisters from the new religious order, the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus, who have recently moved into the convent in Searles, sharing their story. For more information on SERRA, call Mike or Annette Rohlik, at (507) 747-2181.

UPCOMING RIVERBEND TEC (TOGETHER ENCOUNTERING CHRIST) WEEKENDS

- February 13-15, 2010, in Winsted; March 20-22, 2010, in New Ulm. Three days filled with a series of talks, discussions, reflection time, special liturgies, recreation, and time to socialize. Anyone who is at least 16 years old or a junior in high school is eligible. Cost: \$60. This retreat is part of the youth ministry provided by the Diocese of New Ulm. Contact Fr. Dennis Labat, (507) 723-4141; or riverbendtec@newulmtel.net. For additional scheduled weekends visit www.riverbendtec.org.

2010 BISHOP LUCKER

LECTURE - Thursday, March 11, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls. Fr. William J. Baer, rector and

president of St. John Vianney College Seminary at the University of Saint Thomas in Saint Paul and a member of the drafting committee for the *Program of Priestly Formation, Fifth Edition, 2001-2006*, will be the featured speaker. Fr. Baer's talk is entitled "Our Future Priests, From Someone Who Knows Them: An Examination of Recent Trends in the Priesthood." Call (507) 359-2966 for further information.

NEW ULM DIOCESAN JUNIOR HIGH FESTIVAL - April 25, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Montevideo High School Gym.

VIRTUS Sessions

(Safe Environment Training for the Diocese of New Ulm)

2010

February 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Marshall
February 20 at 9:00 a.m. in Watkins
February 28 at 9:30 a.m. in Rosen
March 20 at 9:30 a.m. in Arlington

For information in regard to VIRTUS, contact your local parish or Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of New Ulm.

Mission of Love

The annual valentine project, "Mission of Love," sponsored by the San Lucas Mission Extension Office has begun. Here is how it works: The project begins now and runs through the end of March. You make a valentine, sign it (no address please), and send it with a \$2 donation to the San Lucas Mission Extension Office, Martin and Beth Meidl, PO Box 326, Lamberton, MN 56152. This in turn is sent to the Diocese of New Ulm Mission Parish in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. The valentines will be distributed by mission staff and volunteers to the children, widows, and disabled who will be given rice, corn, beans, and school supplies purchased with the monetary donations. The response has been wonderful in the past!

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 6 February 2010



photo by John Gaetz, Franklin, MN

To San Lucas with "love"

The annual valentine project, "Mission of Love," sponsored by the San Lucas Mission Extension Office and spearheaded by Martin and Beth Meidl of Lambertton begins this month. This annual project distributes valentines to the children, widows, and disabled of San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala, along with rice, corn, beans, and school supplies purchased with the monetary donations.

(See page 11 for information on how to participate.)

catholic trends

The U.S. postal service recently announced that the image of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be among the subjects depicted on U.S. stamps debuting in 2010. The 44-cent stamp, bearing a portrait of Mother Teresa of Calcutta painted by artist Thomas Blackshear II of Colorado Springs, CO, will go on sale on what would have been her 100th birthday, Aug. 26, 2010.

"Her humility and compassion, as well as her respect for the innate worth and dignity of humankind, inspired people of all ages and backgrounds to work on behalf of the world's poorest populations," said the Postal Service news release on its 2010 commemorative stamp program.

The release also noted that Mother Teresa received honorary U.S. citizenship in

1996 from the U.S. Congress and President Bill Clinton. Only five other people have been made honorary U.S. citizens -- Winston Churchill, Raoul Wallenberg, William Penn and Hannah Callowhill Penn and the Marquis de Lafayette -- and all but Hannah Callowhill Penn also have appeared on U.S. postage stamps.

Born August 26, 1910, in what is now the Republic of Macedonia, Mother Teresa went to India at the age of 18 and founded the Missionaries of Charity there. She died in Calcutta September 5, 1997, and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

More than 2.24 million pilgrims and visitors came to see Pope Benedict XVI in person at the Vatican or the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo in 2009. The total figure for 2009 was higher than in 2008 when more than 2.21 million people came; in 2007 there were more than 2.8 million pilgrims and visitors. In 2006,

Pope Benedict's first full calendar year as pope, the total was more than 3.2 million. According to the 2009 statistics, a total of 537,500 people attended one of the pope's 44 weekly general audiences. Another 115,600 people were part of groups that had a special audience with the pope.

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressed "profound sorrow and deepest condolences for the terrible tragedy" in Haiti in a January 21 letter to Archbishop Louis Kébreau of Cap-Haïtien, President of the Haitian bishops. The letter was presented by New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Chairman of the Board of Catholic Relief Services, at the January 23 funeral of Port-au-Prince Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, who died in the January 12 earthquake. Archbishop Dolan officially represented the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

at the funeral. The full text of the letter can be read by visiting the USCCB Web site at www.usccb.org.

Tickets for the "The Dead Sea Scrolls" exhibit, which opens March 12, 2010, at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul, are now available. Three sets of five scrolls, some of which are more than 2,000 years old, will be on display from the Israel Antiquities Authority. They include fragments of the earliest known texts of the Bible.

Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$22 for kids and seniors. Call (651) 221-9444 or visit www.smm.org.

The Black and Indian Missions Collection will be held in parishes throughout the Diocese of New Ulm on the weekend of February 20-21, 2010. This collection supports Catholic evangelization efforts among Black, Indian, and Indigenous communities throughout the United States.