

# THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 5 January 2010



The Church of St. Boniface in Stewart recently marked the 125th Anniversary of its incorporation which was on December 18, 1884.

*(read more, page 7)*

## Hundreds of youth from diocese join bishop at NCYC in Kansas City, MO

*Editor's note:*

*Bishop John LeVoir joined 244 area youth and 75 chaperones November 19-21, 2009, during the biennial National Catholic Youth Conference held this year in Kansas City, MO. A total of 24 parishes from the Diocese of New Ulm were represented.*

*Pictured is Bishop with the NCYC group from the Church of the Sacred Heart in Murdock.*



Conference in Kansas City, MO, as they walked four blocks between the morning's opening event at the Sprint Center and the mid-day workshops at the Kansas City Convention Center. More than 3,000 additional youth waited for them at the Convention Center, adding up to a total of more than 21,000 conference participants.

Sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, NCYC is the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the country. Its aim is to invigorate the faith of young Catholics and encourage them to live and share it.

### Seeing 'the face of Christ'

After two days packed with speakers, music, comedy shows, liturgies, and prayer, the experience of participating in a Eucharistic procession that large was still at the top of Sara Hughes list of favorite

moments from the conference. "We sang songs, prayed, and looked around us and saw the face of Christ in each and every one I walked next to," she said.

During Friday's Eucharistic procession, many of the youth and adults from the Diocese of New Ulm held their cameras high to capture the sea of people. It was unlike anything they'd ever seen before.

Hughes, 16, was one of thirteen youth and four adults at NCYC from the Church of St. John in Darwin. Like many others, their parish had been preparing and fundraising for two years in preparation for this event.

For the youth from the Diocese of New Ulm, NCYC began by visiting the "Reign Forest" theme park, a huge conference hall packed with vendors, games, and activities on

every aspect of Catholic belief. Next, came a regional Mass on Thursday evening.

Leah Miller, from the Church of the Sacred Heart in Murdock, commented, "On Thursday evening we went to the Region 8 (Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota) Mass. Everyone from the New Ulm diocese wore purple and gold shirts that day, thanks to Sister Margaret and her assistants. We were the largest diocese there from Region 8. There was purple and gold everywhere that day. We received many positive comments about our shirts."

NCYC 2009 concluded with a conference-wide Mass on Saturday night in the Sprint Center. "Seeing other young Catholics helps ignite the faith of our youth," said Sr. Margaret McHugh, Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of New Ulm.

"Hearing the speakers' testimonies and meeting others from across the United States showed the young Catholics they were not alone in their journey of faith," she added.

Nick Wellmann, a junior at Cathedral High School in New Ulm, said he really enjoyed the opportunity to see Jason and Crystallina Evert in person. He was excited about all of the fun activities which included the crazy hats worn at the conference and the opportunity to trade small items with other participants.

"NCYC has taught me to look at things in my life in a whole new way. Now, instead of stressing out when I get into tough situations, I have begun to pray and it has kept me a lot calmer." said Bernadette Streling, a junior from the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer.

### Taking it home

Sharon Illikman, a parent of two teen participants from New Ulm, chaperoned a group that included both first-time and past NCYC pilgrims. She said it was fun to watch the kids who were experiencing all of this for the first time. "They were like kids in a candy shop, trying to take it all in!" she said.

She felt that everyone got a lot out of the experience. "All of them were so excited to be in a place where they could share their faith so openly."

Shelly Mendiola, DRE and youth minister at the Church of St. John in Darwin, commented, "As usual, our youth returned fired up. They had a great experience."

*excerpts of NCYC story courtesy of The Catholic Spirit*

For a moment, 14th Street in Kansas City was empty. Reporters, cameramen, and curious onlookers lined the sidewalks, holding hot coffee, breath rising in the crisp November air. They gazed expectantly toward the Sprint Center, which was reflecting the morning sun.

Slowly, a mass of young people rounded a corner, filling the end of the street and silently bearing a hand-painted banner reading "Christ Reigns." Behind them, men in cassock and surplus walked in two rows, preceding a golden canopy shading a monstrance.

The Eucharist passed, but the procession continued. For almost an hour, the street brimmed with about 18,000 youth and leaders attending the National Catholic Youth

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Bishop John M. LeVoir

As we begin a new year, it is good to have a resolution on which to work. This is good for each of us as individuals and it is also good for us as a diocese. What would be a good resolution that we can work to fulfill during 2010?

A good resolution would be to work on making our families into places of love. This is so important because as Pope John Paul II reminded us: "The future of humanity passes by way of the family." Loving families mean a bright future. However, we can all see that family life is hurting today. So many families are experiencing trials, sufferings, and breakups. What can be done?

Spouses can try their hardest to make their families places of love. This is their responsibility. A husband and wife have the vocation or call to love each other in a way that is permanent,

# BE NOT AFRAID

## "New Year's Resolution"

faithful, and open to life (children). It is their love that forms the foundation of the love within the family.

Love within the family is not easy in today's culture. But if both spouses in a marriage work at making their family a place of love, it can be done. But it requires a total effort on the part of both of the spouses, not just one of them. An integral part of the effort that spouses put into their marriage is prayer together, and frequenting the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

It is good for spouses to be familiar with St. Paul's definition of love. I even encourage couples to paste this quote on their refrigerators. "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1 Cor 13:4-8).

One of the best tools that young couples can use to strengthen their love is Natural Family Planning (NFP). Through a series of NFP

classes, couples learn about their fertility and how it is a gift from God. They can then use that knowledge to plan their families in a responsible way. NFP encourages couples to pray together and to communicate with each other on the deepest level. I have found that the proper use of NFP promotes authentic marital love.

"... the future of humanity passes by way of the family."

When children come into the family, spouses are called to form them in the values and virtues of our Catholic faith. It is the parents who teach their children their prayers and begin to form the spiritual lives of their children.

I received a letter this Christmas from a couple that I know. They are so happy that their little daughter knows the *Our Father*, the *Hail Mary*, and the *Glory Be*. They said that she likes to go to Mass with them and looks forward to bringing up the gifts during the Mass at the time that the priest prepares the altar. She also likes to see "her" priest, Father Jim.

Parents are also responsible for teaching their children the fundamentals of the Catholic faith.

Catholic schools and religious education classes are meant to reinforce the faith taught within the family. It is important to begin early in the education of children in the ways of faith. It is amazing what the "little ones" can learn. Children learn by example, too. They are great at imitating what they see in their parents.

Service is learned in the family as well. Service within the family should be based on the example of Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve. Service includes kindness, respect, and patience with other family members. Children who learn to serve their parents and siblings in the family are prepared well to serve those outside of the family.

It is from loving families that vocations to the priesthood and the religious life come, as well as vocations to the married life. It is loving families that will evangelize other families who have little or no faith. It is from loving families that we can build a civilization of life, where all human life is respected from conception to natural death.

So, a good resolution this year would be to work on making our families into places of love. This is so important because the future of humanity passes by way of the family. If we want love in our future, it will come through the family.

## Bishop's January Calendar

**1 New Ulm:** 9:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

**New Ulm:** 11:00 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

**3 New Ulm:** 9:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Mass.

**4-11 Jacksonville, FL:** Region VIII Bishops' Retreat.

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

**New Ulm:** 12:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Priest Personnel Board Meeting.

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

**15-21 Guatemala:** San Lucas Toliman Mission.

**22: Minneapolis:** 6:00 p.m. Church of St. Charles. Prolife Across America Banquet.

**24 Litchfield:** 8:00 a.m. Church of St. Philip. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**Litchfield:** 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Philip. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**Litchfield:** 12:00 p.m. Church of St. Philip. Mass for Catholic Schools Week (Spanish).

**Redwood Falls:** 4:00 p.m. Presbyterian Church. Christian Unity Prayer Service.

**25 New Ulm:** 8:30 a.m., New Ulm Area Catholic Schools, Teacher In-Service.

**26 Tracy:** 8:30 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**Canby:** 1:00 p.m. Church of St. Peter. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**27 Winsted:** 8:15 a.m. Church of the Holy Trinity. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**Silver Lake:** 10:30 a.m. Church of the Holy Family. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**New Ulm:** 1:30 p.m. Cathedral High School Gym. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**28 Bird Island:** 9:00 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**29 Sleepy Eye:** 8:20 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Catholic Schools Week Mass.

**Morgan:** 1:00 p.m. Church of St. Michael. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**31 Marshall:** 10:00 a.m. Church of the Holy Redeemer. Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

**New Ulm:** 6:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. *Lectio Divina* Prayer Group Gathering.

## National Vocation Awareness Week to be celebrated January 10 - 16

The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, January 10-16, 2010. This year's theme is *Baptized in the Spirit*.

According to Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, this week provides the opportunity for parishes across the country to promote vocations through prayer and education. "It is our responsibility to encourage young people to be generous in their response as they discern the

possibility of a call to service in the Church.

"We must also ask parents, families, and our parish communities to assist with this work. Vocations are everyone's business. As we pray for an increased number of seminarians and candidates for religious life, we recognize the importance of safeguarding the gift of vocations.

This National Vocation Awareness Week reminds us that it is our responsibility to pray for vocations and to invite young people to consider a call to ordained ministry and consecrated life."

## Connecting Catholic college students with their faith

by Judy Cozzens

A study by CARA for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops concerning Catholic Campus Ministry (Nov. 2005) confirmed that former college students who were active in campus ministry were more likely to attend Mass, volunteer for leadership roles in parishes and to consider a religious vocation. Serra clubs (groups dedicated to spiritual growth, continuing Catholic adult education, fellowship, and the encouragement of Church vocations) are working to connect Catholic college students with youth ministers on campus through the USA Council of Serra International - College Connection for Catholics program.

Dick Stolly started College Connection for Catholics (CCC) in Ohio six years ago. Under Stolly's direction, it grew into a national program involving approximately 50 clubs with 8,000 graduates in 2009.

Following Stolly's untimely death in June 2009, the program continued moving ahead under the direction of a steering committee of dedicated

Serrans headed by Judy Cozzens. Serra's CCC steering committee approached NET (National Evangelization Teams) Ministries, to administer the program. NET has experience working with campus ministry programs and a good reputation of 28 years of outstanding service to our Church ([www.NETUSA.org](http://www.NETUSA.org)). The NET Board and USA Council of Serra International have both approved this new partnership.

The CCC steering committee decided to use the professional services of NET and the internet to streamline their service to Serra Clubs and the Catholic students graduating in the spring of 2010. They are contracting for a database and interactive Web site to deal with larger numbers and make it easier for clubs to obtain campus ministry packets to give to graduating seniors.

### Assistance needed

The College Catholic Connection committee needs your help! We need clubs that took part in the past to continue, and other clubs to start participating. All participating clubs

(continued on page 10)



## YEAR FOR PRIESTS

June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

## Understanding our vocation through the guidance of the Holy Spirit

by Fr. Todd Petersen, director diocesan Office of Vocations

In 1976, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year as the beginning of National Vocation Awareness Week. In 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which marks the initiation of Jesus into public ministry.

Whether your vocation is the priesthood, consecrated life, marriage, or single life, it is important to remember that all vocations come from the Holy Trinity.

This year's National Vocation Awareness Week theme, *Baptized*

*in the Spirit*, is an important theme. When we are baptized, we are reclaimed as children of God the Father, baptized into the Body of Christ, and called to be temples of the Holy Spirit. In baptism, we are given a share in the life of the Holy Spirit, fulfilled in the sacrament of Confirmation. When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, it is often not an external charismatic manifestation, but rather an interior transformation and conversion.

Too often, many of us live our lives relatively unaware of the Holy Spirit, or find it too easy to disregard the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We seem to instinctively relate to God the Father and to Jesus, the Son. But the

Holy Spirit also works in our lives, and while intangible and often hidden, is just as active.

It is ultimately the role of the Holy Spirit to help us discern how we are called to follow Jesus Christ, responding to the will of the Father. As such, it is never too early to begin asking the Holy Spirit for his guidance that we understand our vocations.

Each and every one of us who are baptized have been immersed into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and immersed in the Holy Spirit. So, as we mark National Vocations Awareness Week, let us take some time to ask the Holy Spirit to be more active in our lives.

## Secular Franciscan group canonically established in the Marshall area

A secular Franciscan group has been canonically established in the Marshall area. The Little Portion Secular Franciscan Fraternity celebrated their establishment on November 15 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall. Initially formed in 1999, the group now has eighteen professed members and three who are in candidacy and will be professed in March of 2010. Consent for the establishment of Little Portion was granted by Bishop John M. LeVoiur on October 9, 2009.

The Secular Franciscans (formerly known as 3rd Order Franciscans) is an order for lay persons that began 800 years ago with St. Francis himself. Like other Franciscans, SFO members have a vocation to live a life of poverty (a spirit of detachment), fraternity (growing in



The newly established Little Portion Secular Franciscan Fraternity is pictured with Holy Redeemer pastor, Fr. Paul Wolf, celebrant for establishment Mass.

acceptance of one another and others as brothers and sisters in Christ), and minority (seeking to serve rather than be served). For additional information visit, [www.nafra-sfo.org/](http://www.nafra-sfo.org/).

Little Portion community gatherings are held every third

Sunday of the month at the Campus Religious Center in Marshall, beginning with a 2:00 p.m. Franciscan Crown Rosary.

Call Lisa Kremer, Fraternity Minister (507) 360-3423 or Vangie Wyffels, Formation Director (507) 537-1681.



## Diocese once again in compliance with *Charter*

by Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM  
Diocesan Safe Environment  
Coordinator

On June 14, 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. This *Charter* addresses the Church's commitment to deal appropriately and effectively with cases of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, employees, and volunteers of the Catholic Church. As required by the *Charter*, each year the Gavin Group, Inc. audits the Safe Environment Program here in the Diocese of New Ulm and in each of the dioceses of the nation to ensure that all programs are in compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

This year, the Diocese of New Ulm had a full onsite audit resulting in the decision that the diocese is in compliance with the *Charter*. This decision was based upon the auditor reviewing reports of compiled data from our parishes and schools regarding the training of our children, as well as our pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers who provide supervision and/or education of our children.

The compliance of our diocesan program is a confirmation and positive indication of the successful efforts of our entire diocese to keep our children safe

and to promote the healing and reconciliation of all those affected by sexual abuse. The success of this effort is due to the outstanding support of our pastoral leaders and the total dedication of the local safe environment coordinators. Our school principals and teachers, directors of religious education, and catechists have done an outstanding job supervising and implementing the teaching of our children. Likewise, our facilitators have played a critical role in the success of our program by training our pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers. Their efforts and the documentation they have provided to the diocese have allowed us to demonstrate and assure the USCCB of our ongoing commitment to promote and protect the life and dignity of our children and youth.

The staff of the diocesan Safe Environment Office is grateful to all those individuals who, each and every day, in every parish and school, promote and effectively give witness to our diocesan Code of Conduct and our call to minister to all of God's people and especially to our children in Christ's name.

We ask you to join us in celebrating and giving thanks for the love and compassion of Christ that has been shared among us through the educating efforts of our Safe Environment Program.



por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Al comenzar un nuevo año, es bueno tener un propósito sobre el cual trabajar. Un buen propósito sería trabajar en hacer de nuestras familias lugares de amor. El Papa Juan Pablo II nos recordaba: El futuro de la humanidad se forja en la familia. "Las familias cariñosas significan un futuro brillante. Sin embargo, todos podemos ver que la vida familiar se está afectando hoy en día. Así que muchas familias están experimentando las pruebas, los sufrimientos y las rupturas. ¿Qué se puede hacer?"

Los cónyuges deben poner todo su empeño para que sus familias sean lugares de amor. Esta es su responsabilidad. El marido y la mujer tienen la vocación o el llamado de amarse mutuamente de una manera que sea permanente, fiel y abierta a la vida (niños). Es su amor el que constituye la base del amor en la familia. El amor en la familia no es fácil en la cultura actual. Se requiere de un esfuerzo total por parte de ambos cónyuges, y no de sólo uno de ellos. Una parte integral del esfuerzo que los cónyuges ponen en su matrimonio es la oración juntos, y frecuentar los sacramentos de la Reconciliación y la Eucaristía.

## No Tengas Miedo *Propósitos para el Año Nuevo*

Es bueno para los cónyuges estar familiarizados con la definición del amor de San Pablo. Yo incluso aliento a las parejas a pegar esta cita en sus refrigeradores. "El amor es paciente, servicial y sin envidia. No quiere aparentar ni se hace el importante. No actúa con bajeza, ni busca su propio interés. El amor no se deja llevar por la ira, sino que olvida las ofensas y perdona. Nunca se alegra de algo injusto y siempre le agrada la verdad. El amor disculpa todo; todo lo cree, todo lo espera y todo lo soporta. El amor nunca pasará." (1 Co 13:4-8)

Una de las mejores herramientas que las parejas jóvenes pueden utilizar para fortalecer su amor es la Planificación Familiar Natural (PFN). A través de una serie de clases de PFN, las parejas aprenden sobre su fertilidad y la forma cómo esta es un don de Dios. Ellos pueden utilizar ese conocimiento para planificar sus familias de una manera responsable. PFN alienta a las parejas a rezar juntos y comunicarse entre sí a un nivel más profundo. He encontrado que el uso adecuado de la PFN promueve el amor conyugal auténtico. Cuando los niños llegan a la familia, los cónyuges están llamados a formarlos en los valores y virtudes de nuestra fe católica. Los padres son los que enseñan a sus hijos sus oraciones y comienzan a formar la vida espiritual de sus hijos. Es asombroso lo que, "los pequeños" pueden

aprender. Ellos son increíbles al momento de imitar lo que ven en sus padres.

El servicio es aprendido en la familia también. El servicio dentro de la familia debe estar basado en el ejemplo de Jesús, que no vino para ser servido, sino para servir. El servicio incluye la bondad, el respeto y la paciencia con los otros miembros de la familia. Los niños que aprenden a servir a sus padres y hermanos en la familia están bien preparados para servir a los que están fuera de la familia.

Esa así como de las familias cariñosas provienen las vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa, así como las vocaciones a la vida de casados. Son las familias cariñosas las que evangelizan a otras familias que tienen poca o ninguna fe. Por lo tanto, un buen propósito para este servir a sus padres y hermanos en la familia están bien preparados para servir a los que están fuera de la familia. Esa así como de las familias cariñosas provienen las vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa, así como las vocaciones a la vida de casados. Son las familias cariñosas las que evangelizan a otras familias que tienen poca o ninguna fe. Por lo tanto, un buen propósito para este año sería trabajar en hacer de nuestras familias lugares de amor.

## Audit Year (July 2008 – June 2009)



For a listing of upcoming diocesan safe environment sessions (*VIRTUS*) visit [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org).

**8,383** Children and youth trained through our schools and religious education classes

**883** Pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers trained in 45 *Virtus* sessions around the diocese.

**1,453** Background checks done on: employees, volunteers, and speakers coming into our diocese:

353 employee checks  
863 volunteer checks  
237 motor vehicle checks

## Contributions to 2009 DMA up from previous year!

Tabulated pledges and gifts to the 2009 Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA) are running ahead of the 2008 Appeal. To date \$940,887 in gifts and pledges have been received. That total is \$29,525 ahead of last year when \$921,362 had been received (as of December 18 of each year).

Actual cash received to date is \$738,000 which is \$34,000 ahead of 2008. However, the number of donors is 4,108 which is down about 100 at this time. Sixty-two of seventy-six parishes have already met their diocesan goal. (Visit

[www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org) for a posting of individual parish DMA contributions which is updated on a weekly basis.)

The 2008 DMA brought in \$1,278,455 with \$618,455 being returned directly to the parishes for their own use. The remaining \$660,000 stays with the diocese to support ministries that serve the people of the diocese. Wayne Pelzel, Director of Development for the diocese said, "People now better understand that all the proceeds of the DMA directly benefit them. Whether it is the money that is

returned to the parish or the money that supports ministries for the entire diocese, it all impacts them and their parish. Programs that receive DMA support such as the preparation and formation of priests and deacons or the Catholic Charities offices are here to serve the people of the diocese. The DMA benefits everyone."



## Three from diocese pursue the religious life

In the Catholic Church, a nun, also known as a sister, is a woman who has taken special vows committing her to a more radical way of living the Gospel. She may be an ascetic who voluntarily chooses to leave mainstream society and live her life in prayer and contemplation in a monastery or convent. While in common usage the terms nun and sister are often used interchangeably, properly speaking, a *nun* is a female religious who lives a contemplative life of prayer and meditation within a monastery while a *sister* lives an active vocation of service to the needy, sick, poor, and uneducated. The difference between the two is their degree of separation from public life. *Sisters* are seen in public more often because they make themselves more available for service in person, while *nuns* make prayer their first mission. The monastic, or cloistered life, of a *nun* ensures the regular rhythm of structured prayer in community.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, there are a number of different religious orders, each with its own charism or special character. In general, when a woman enters a convent she first undergoes an initial introductory period of trying the life, known as postulancy, for a period of six months to a year. If she, and the order, determine that she may have a vocation to the life, she receives the habit of the order (usually with some modification to distinguish her from the professed) and undertakes the novitiate, a period (that lasts one to two years) of living the life without yet taking vows. Upon completion of this period she may take her initial, temporary vows which last one to three years, typically, and will be professed for not less than three years and not more than six.

Finally, she will petition to make her "perpetual profession" to profess the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in a life-long commitment. *Sisters* usually make perpetual profession of simple vows while *nuns* profess solemn vows.

This year, a number of young women from the Diocese of New Ulm have taken important steps in religious life. Several have begun their novitiate and one has made her First Profession of vows.

**Melissa Rose Huhn**, daughter of Don and Pat Huhn, members of the Church of St. John in Darwin,



was received as a Novice for the Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen in Hankinson, ND. On November 29, 2009, Huhn received a white veil as a sign of her consecration to Jesus Christ, the mission crucifix that identifies her as a member of Franciscan Order, her copy of *The Rule and Constitutions of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen*, and a new name, Sr. Mary Ruth.

**Sr. Katie Wallyn**, daughter of Dr. Christopher and Cathie Wallyn, members of the Church of St. Anastasia in



Hutchinson, was received into the Novitiate of the Sister Servants of the Home of the Mother. Her Investiture ceremony took place on July 16, 2009, in Santander, Spain. Sr. Katie wears a white veil and the habit of her community until she professes vows.

**Sr. Maria Mater Compassionis**, daughter of Glen and Donna Schmitz, members of the Church of St. Raphael in



Springfield, made her First Profession of Vows in Washington, DC, on March 19, 2009. Her First Profession took place during a Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. She wears the blue veil, cross, and habit of her community, the Servant of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara.

## Lay leadership

### Dividends for life: A Catholic school teacher

*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/Adult Faith Formation

Talk about a long-term investment! For 30 years, Suzanne Brull has been teaching 6th grade students at St. Anastasia Catholic School in Hutchinson. She also teaches religion and math to 5th grade students.

How did she get started serving as a Catholic school teacher? Attending a Catholic school from kindergarten through 8th grade, she was raised in a family of active, practicing Catholics.

While attending college at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family in Manitowoc, WI, she was a catechist



at her home parish. She continued with that ministry following marriage, even though she was a full-time teacher at a public elementary school.

It was always in the back of her mind that if the opportunity ever presented itself, she would apply for a position at a Catholic school. After moving to Hutchinson and enrolling her daughter in kindergarten at St. Anastasia Catholic School, she was offered the position as a 6th grade teacher.

When asked what was the most fulfilling thing about her teaching,

she responded, "Guiding students to a closer relationship with God. This is the most important work that I do!"

Teaching about our Old Testament ancestors in the faith, the prophets, the commandments, the teaching ministry and miracles of Jesus, the beatitudes, the sacraments, and the lives of saints are among the topics she covers in the 5th and 6th grade religion curriculum. "When my students come back from the sacrament of reconciliation saying, 'I feel so good, it's like I'm floating on air!' I know their relationship with God has been strengthened," she said.

Brull has a "never-quit" attitude that influences her students. "Seeing students who previously had struggled come to understand a concept and feel pride in their accomplishment, is very rewarding."

(continued on page 6)

## The permanent deacon's ministries of word and charity

by Deacon Mark Kober, director Office of Permanent Diaconate

The deacon is called to a threefold ministry of liturgy, word, and charity. Having discussed liturgical ministry in last month's *Prairie Catholic*, this article will focus on the ministries of word and charity.

As a minister of the "word", the permanent deacon proclaims the Gospel and may also preach. The United States Bishops have said that "the deacon sacramentalizes the mission of the Church in his words and deeds, responding to the master's command of service and providing real-life examples of how to carry it out."

Thus, it is the deacon who reads the intercessions representing the needs of the community to the assembly. It is the deacon who helps receive the gifts at offertory, which is "symbolic of his traditional role in distributing the resources for the community among those in need."

The deacon dismisses the congregation to "go forth to love and to serve the Lord."

The ministry of the word includes works of evangelization: e.g., religious education, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, preparation classes for baptism or marriage, adult education, and promoting ecumenism. The deacon is also called to evangelize by his life and his example. If married, he is expected to bear witness to good family life, to the sanctity of the "domestic church," and to truly show that his relationship with his wife is like the relationship that Christ has with his bride, the Church. He is called to reflect the gospel in his work, whether it be in a secular profession or whether he works full-time for the Church. The deacon is also expected to be a person of the Word, a man of integrity when dealing with others on a personal, business, or social level.

Finally, and most importantly, the deacon is called to the ministry of charity and service. Truly, Christ the servant is made manifest in the deacon's ministry of serving others, especially those who are poor, less fortunate, or otherwise needy. The United States bishops have stated that the ministry of the deacon would be "severely deficient" if not accompanied by the ministry of charity. Ministries of charity include: bringing Communion to those who are home-bound, hospitalized or sick; helping service or civic organizations with their work of serving others; working with people who are mourning, confused, or troubled; advocating for the marginalized; working with people in the criminal justice system; reaching out to help the poor in whatever fashion may be needed; communicating Church teaching regarding the dignity of human life from conception to

(continued on page 9)



# A padre among his people

*newly ordained priest assigned to Diocese of New Ulm's mission parish of San Lucas Toliman*

by Msgr. Greg Schaffer, pastor  
San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala

When seminarian Geovanny Perez Taquez completed his theological studies in preparation for ordination to the priesthood for the Diocese of Solola-Chimaltenango, Guatemala, the diocese was in the midst of a change of bishops. Bishop Raul Antonio Martinez was to go to Guatemala City to work out of a parish there and Bishop Gonzalo de Villa y Vasquez, S.J. was to become Ordinary of Solola-Chimaltenango. Out of respect for the new bishop to take possession of the diocese shortly, Bishop Raul Gonzalo asked the young seminarians just completing their studies to work in parishes, gain a little experience, and prepare for their "call" from Bishop Gonzalo soon to be installed as the Ordinary of their diocese.

Geovanny was sent to us, the Diocese of New Ulm Mission Parish of San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala. Upon arriving he was shown his room, told when the meals were served, and immediately was asked to talk all over accompanied by two parish leaders, Emi Lopez de Tun and Juan Ordonez. Geovanny's important contribution to the whole parish would be working with youth, youth groups, and sacramental preparation with youngsters in the Colegio San Lucas. All twenty-two communities making up the parish as a whole were to be included in his important ministry. He was also to be prepared to give conference to adult groups in the parish. Talented, well prepared, and a 'self-starter', Geovanny never looked back.



Padre (Fr.) Geovanny Perez Taquez has been assigned to serve the mission parish of San Lucas Toliman.

A little less than a year after Bishop Gonzalo's installation as Ordinary of Solola-Chimaltenango, ordinations began. On August 9, 2008, Bishop Gonzalo ordained eight transitional deacons (among them Geovanny), and six priests.

The following year on March 11, 2009, he ordained eleven transitional deacons and eight priests - one of which was Geovanny.

As a parish we prayed and in the name of the parish I asked Bishop Gonzalo to consider assigning now Padre (Fr.) Geovanny Perez Taquez to the parish of San Lucas Toliman. Bishop Gonzalo was good enough to comply. When the bishop told us he was assigning Padre Geovanny to our parish, he smiled and said to me with humor, "By the way, Gregorio, that letter of recommendation you



New Ulm diocesan priest, Msgr. Greg Schaffer (center) has served the mission parish of San Lucas Toliman for the past forty-six years.

wrote for ordination to priesthood, not for canonization!"

### A BIT OF BACKGROUND

Back in the early 1960s the Catholic Church was forming dioceses in different parts of the countries of Latin America. Although there were large populations of people for the dioceses, there were very few ordained and religious to serve. Thus, a plea for help to Catholic bishops in the United States, Canada, and Europe was made. The bishop of New Ulm at that time, Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler, responded by sending personnel from the Diocese of New Ulm to

work with Bishop Angelico Melotto and serve the people of the new Diocese of Solola, Guatemala. Other bishops responded as well to Bishop Melotto's plea. In those early years of this effort there were as many as five different dioceses of the United States represented in the Diocese of Solola. There was a group of Benedictines from Marmion Abbey outside of Chicago, groups of School Sisters of Notre Dame in several parishes, and a large group of Italian Franciscans working with Bishop Melotto. There was also a strong contingent of Spanish Carmelites present as well. However, there were no Guatemalan priests working in the new diocese.

There were none available. Although it has taken quite some years, a lot of dedicated work by foreigners, some very good planning and work by Guatemalan bishops with lots of prayer, and a ton of patience by the Guatemalans living in the very poor Departamento de (state of) Solola, all has come together to bring about a tremendous change.

Watching Padre Geovanny Perez Taquez among his people, it becomes obvious why all are so grateful to have their own padre among them. It is not that we "outsiders" have not made a contribution or a positive influence, but rather we are still and always will be "outsiders" and must know and appreciate our roles. Is this a humbling reflection? Well, yes it is. However, maybe the question would be better phrased, is this a freeing experience? Indeed it is because it helps us to appreciate who we are among the indigenous people we want to come to know and to serve. It helps us to appreciate what they can do with and for us.

*Editor's Note: Bishop LeVair will travel to the San Lucas Mission January 15-21. This will be his first trip to Guatemala.*

## lay leadership (continued from page 5)

One of her greatest joys is having former students return to tell her how their life is going or tease her about her undying loyalty to the Green Bay Packers. However, there are some challenges to be faced. According to Brull, most often it is the limited funds and resources available, ever-changing technology, and competition for the minds and hearts of our youth from the secular world.

For those who are considering being a teacher in a Catholic school, she offers this: "If a young person has a passion for learning, loves to help and work with others, strives to have a positive effect on society, he or she should consider the teaching profession. In addition, teaching at a



For 30 years, Suzanne Brull has been teaching 6th grade students at St. Anastasia Catholic School in Hutchinson

Catholic school is exponentially rewarding because one is able to impart Catholic values, share the faith, and participate in the sacraments with students and their families."

We thank Sue Brull and the many other Catholic school teachers and parish catechists who have invested their time, gifts, and faith. It has produced many dividends.

## Update on H1N1 precautions in parishes throughout diocese

On December 10, 2009, the following directives were communicated to the parishes from the diocesan Office of Worship:

*The H1N1 virus seems to have slowed down considerably in our area. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, there has been just one hospitalization for the virus in our area during the week of November 22-28, compared to 83 hospitalizations during the weeks of September 1-28. Given this new information, parishes that have decided to omit the Sign of Peace and/or the distribution of the chalice are asked to reinstate these practices.*

## Significant anniversary for Stewart parish *Bishop LeVoir celebrates Mass to mark 125 years of history*

On December 20, 2009, Bishop John LeVoir celebrated Mass at the Church of St. Boniface in Stewart in recognition of the parish 125th anniversary. Following Mass, many current and former parishioners and friends enjoyed a luncheon reception and fellowship with Bishop LeVoir.



(photo by LaMae Maier)

Bishop John LeVoir celebrated Mass recently with Fr. Gerald Meidl and parishioners and friends of St. Boniface in Stewart, in recognition of the 125th anniversary of the parish. (Membership: 243)

The year 1877 marks the beginning of the Church of St Boniface in Stewart. It was in that year that a small frame church building was erected on a farm place located one-quarter mile south of the present city of Stewart in McLeod County. Fr. Andrew Kober (1884-1893) moved the St. Boniface church building from the farm in Round Grove Township into Stewart in 1883. Three adjoining lots had been purchased on Grove Street. The church was placed on one lot south of the railroad tracks. A rectory was constructed on an adjoining lot.

The parish was incorporated December 18, 1884. Signers were: Bishop John Ireland; Vicar-General of the Diocese of St Paul, Augustin Ravoux, Father Andrew Kober, pastor; and the two lay trustees of the parish, Albert Boedingheimer and Gerhard Klinkhammer. By the late 1890's, St Boniface served Catholics in a wide area including Stewart, Hutchinson, Hector, and Brownton. Burials for St. Boniface members took place at a site on the Fred Forcier farm from 1877 until 1889. A permanent parish cemetery was selected in 1890 one-half mile south of Stewart. The remains of the deceased that had been interred on the Forcier farm were exhumed and reburied in the new cemetery.

On October 8, 1901, permission was

received from Archbishop John Ireland that the parish might proceed to purchase lots on Main Street on the north side of the railroad tracks for the purpose of building a new church to seat 400 people. Fr. Peter Sylvester Joerg, OSB, (1902-1905) arrived in April of 1902 and proceeded with the construction of the church. The cost exceeded \$15,000. The first Mass was offered in the new church on Sunday, February 6, 1903.

The St. Boniface Parochial School was built during the pastorate of Fr. August E. Rhode (1926-1934). Opened in 1927, it was staffed by the Sisters of St Joseph of Crookston. The school closed in 1969 after more than forty years of service to the parish. The rectory was completed in 1928.

Under the guidance of Fr. John Stolz (1944 -1954), a new convent was built in 1948. Extensive remodeling of the church took place during the three years of Fr. Rudolph Heinrich's pastorate (1954-1957), at a cost of \$20,000. It was during that same time that the church acquired ownership of additional properties, which gave the church an entire block in the City of Stewart. Further remodeling of the church sacristy entrance and of the

rectory was carried out by Fr. Henry Sterner (1957 - 1980). Fr. John G. Cooney (1980 -1987) was appointed pastor of St Boniface in June of 1980. The year 1982 saw the remodeling of the church basement to provide facilities for religious instruction, parish meetings and social gatherings.

On May 29, 1983, the basement was remodeled and includes classroom areas, a parish general assembly room, restroom facilities, a library, kitchen facilities, and a new entrance on the church's southwest corner.

Father Cooney was the last assigned priest at the Church of St. Boniface. Sr. Idamarie Primus served as pastoral administrator from mid-1990 until the creation of the Area Catholic Faith Community of St. Anastasia and St. Boniface in 2002. Fr. William Sprigler, then assigned to St. Anastasia in Hutchinson and sacramental minister to St. Boniface, was assigned to the Area Faith Community of St. Anastasia, Hutchinson, and St. Boniface, Stewart. Fr. Gerald Miedl currently serves as pastor in the Area Faith Community with Fr. Patrick Okonkwo serving as associate pastor.

## Alphonse Mathiowetz of Comfrey receives recognition

Alphonse Mathiowetz was presented an award in recognition of his 45 years of volunteer service as a lector at the Church of Paul in Comfrey. Mathiowetz started as a lector in 1964, along with "Wishy" Eicschen, Norbert Schwab, Edward Schwab, Ray Koll, and Ed Savage. Recalling that first day he was asked to be a lector Mathiowetz recalls, "Fr. Jerry Berger called me one day and wanted six men to travel to New Ulm to prepare for lectoring. I told him he could pick someone better than me, but he said, "You're going-and I went." He has been a lector ever since. Pictured (l-r) Alphonse Mathiowetz; Denice Evers, Administration Council Chair; Sr. JoAnne Backes, pastoral administrator.



## Atrium Catechesis in place since 1989 at Springfield



by Shelley Olson

Twelve children attended part-one of the First Holy Eucharist retreat at the Church of St. Raphael in Springfield, offered by the Atrium Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Originating in 1954 with the founding of the children's center or "Atrium" in Rome, Italy, it was inspired by Montessori principles of education and now extends to every continent with various Christian religions. It was started under the guidance of Dr. Sofia Cavaletti, Hebrew and Scripture scholar and member of the Vatican commission for Jewish and Christian relations, and Professor Gianna Gobbi, colleague and Dr. Maria Montessori and educator of children and adults.

The Catechesis is an approach to the religious formation of children 2 1/2 -12 years of age. St. Raphael parish has two of three age levels offered. The Catechesis is based on the conviction that God and the child are in relationship.

Children have a deep need to experience, and a special capacity to enjoy, the presence of God. The task of the adult director is to help the child live fully the encounter with God by creating a unique environment along with presentation materials. The curriculum is constructed so that it accommodates and nurtures the faith, moral and psychological stages of a child's growth. Each Level of Atrium goes deeper and wider with the topics covered in a manner that is age and style of learning specific.

Introduced by Mary Polta, formerly of Springfield, St. Raphael Atrium has been at the church since 1989. Currently, Karen Reindl is the certified level 1 director. Both Reindl and Olson are certified at all three levels.

*Shelley Olson of Springfield is the level 2 certified director of the St. Raphael Atrium.*

## Catholic speaker David Rinaldi at Holy Family



Catholic speaker David Rinaldi.

**Silver Lake** - On November 11, the Church of the Holy Family Religious Education program hosted

Over 150 youth and adults from Holy Family in Silver Lake, Holy Trinity in Winsted, and St. Anastasia in Hutchinson attended to hear Rinaldi's presentation on "Living Your Faith in the Real World" which encouraged and equipped people of all ages to place God at the center of their

lives and challenged them to share his love with others.

Rinaldi currently serves full-time for NET Ministries and has nearly 20 years of ministry experience with youth and young adults. Visit [www.davidrinaldi.org](http://www.davidrinaldi.org) > [www.davidrinaldi.org](http://www.davidrinaldi.org).



## USCCB launches postcard campaign in support of immigration reform



Bishop John LeVoiir signed the first postcard on December 12, 2009, during the Guadalupe festivities at St. Pius Church, Glencoe, MN.

The Justice for Immigrants Office of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is promoting a postcard campaign as a tool to build support for comprehensive immigration reform in Congress. The goal of the postcard initiative is to enhance the ability of the church community to advocate for immigration reform.

Bishop John LeVoiir signed the first postcard on December 12, 2009,

during the Guadalupe festivities at St. Pius Church, Glencoe, MN.

"Today, on this Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as a symbol of my solidarity with all immigrants, but especially with you who are our brothers and sisters here in the Diocese of New Ulm, I sign the first postcard and invite you to join in the campaign beginning January 3, 2010, as we celebrate Immigration Sunday."

### A personal testimony

*"A family member applied for my permanent residency when I came to the U.S. During the long wait, five years, I met and married my husband. I did not know that that would cancel the application process. I had to begin all over again. It took me over 10 years to become a permanent resident."*

— Audelia Salvatierra pictured with her husband, Jose.



by Sr. Anna Marie Reha, director Office of Hispanic Ministry

The Catholic Church has historically held a strong interest in immigration and how public policy affects immigrants seeking a new life in the United States. Based on Scriptural and Catholic social teachings, as well as her own experience as an immigrant Church in the United States, the Catholic Church is compelled to raise her voice on behalf of those who are marginalized and whose God-given rights are not respected.

The Church believes that current immigration laws and policies have often led to the undermining of immigrants' human dignity and have kept families apart. The existing immigration system has resulted in a growing number of persons in this country in an unauthorized capacity,

living in the shadows as they toil in jobs that would otherwise go unfilled.



Minnesota Statewide Immigration Sunday

Close family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents face interminable separations, sometimes of twenty years or longer, due to backlogs of available visas. United States immigration laws and policies need to be updated to reflect these realities.

The Catholic bishops do not condone unlawful entry or circumventions of our nation's immigration laws. The bishops believe that reforms are necessary in order for our nation's immigration system to respond to the realities of separated families and labor demands that compel people to immigrate to the United States.

The Catholic bishops propose an earned legalization for those in this country in an unauthorized status and who have built up equities and are otherwise admissible. The bishops' proposal is not an amnesty. Amnesty, as commonly understood, implies a pardon and a reward for those who did not obey immigration laws, creating inequities for those who wait for legal entry.

The bishops' earned legalization proposal provides a window of opportunity for undocumented immigrants who are already living in our communities and contributing to our nation to come forward, pay a fine and application fee, go through criminal background checks and security screenings, demonstrate that they have paid taxes and are learning English, and obtain a visa that could lead to permanent residency, over time.

### For more information

Visit *Justice for Immigrants – Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform*  
[www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

## Since first century, Church's teaching on abortion has not waived

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law" (No. 2271).

From earliest times, Christians sharply distinguished themselves from surrounding pagan cultures by rejecting abortion and infanticide. The earliest widely used documents of Christian

teaching and practice after the New Testament in the 1st and 2nd centuries, the *Didache* (Teaching of the Twelve Apostles) and *Letter of Barnabas*, condemned both practices, as did early regional and particular Church councils.

To be sure, knowledge of human embryology was very limited until recent times. However, mistaken biological theories never changed the Church's common conviction that abortion is gravely wrong at every stage. At the very least, early abortion was seen as attacking a being with a human destiny, being

prepared by God to receive an immortal soul (cf. Jeremiah 1:5: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you").

### Roe v. Wade

For the past 37 years, on January 22, the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, people pause to recognize the date in some way. Some speak out, some march, some reach out, some educate, some just reflect. Many pray.

### March for Life

Against the backdrop of a society in

which many institutions of influence endorse legal abortion, the pro-life movement has grown year by year, in numbers and in vitality. Pro-life Americans have shown that their commitment will not waver and their efforts will not cease. On Friday, January 22, the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCCL) will sponsor the annual March for Life in front of the State Capitol. The march will begin at noon followed by a program on the Capitol front steps at 12:30 p.m. Preceding the march there will be a 10:30 a.m. prayer service for life at the Cathedral of Saint Paul

sponsored by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

### Counseling assistance

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of New Ulm is available to assist with abortion issues. If you or anyone you know wish to speak in confidence contact Lois Byrne, PBVM, 1-866-670-5163; email: [willois@dnu.org](mailto:willois@dnu.org).

Catholic Charities Counseling Services is offered in four regions in the diocese: Hutchinson, Marshall, New Ulm, and Willmar.

## from the desk of . . . the diocesan CCW President



by Jeane Appel

How many times since the beginning of the year have

you greeted someone with the familiar phrase "Happy New Year"? And, how can we apply this greeting to the Council of Catholic Women as we strive to implement changes directed by the bylaw revision approved by the membership at the national convention held in September 2009?

The bylaw revision provides for the creation of three commissions: spirituality, leadership and service, based on the mission statement, which states "The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) acts through its membership to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. . . ." The previous commissions will be consolidated into the new commissions: church and legislation under spirituality; organization under leadership; and family, community and international concerns under service.

In the Diocese of New Ulm we also have two committees: reverence life and scholarship. Each parish is free to organize their commissions, committees, and/or interest areas in whatever way best suits their members' needs. Some affiliates may reorganize their commissions according to the national structure; others may decide to keep their current structure and this is all right. Individual membership is strongly encouraged as this will provide each Catholic woman with voting privileges and ownership in her organization. Each member in good standing will have the opportunity to vote at the National Council of Catholic Women annual convention, either by mail or electronic media in lieu of in-person voting. This will allow members who cannot attend the annual national convention to

vote for officers and members of the nominating committee. The NCCW Board of Directors will establish categories of membership and set dues and fees.

### What if there was no CCW organization?

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women are involved in many projects throughout our parishes. The Council provides food and fellowship for funerals; offer financial support to missionaries, especially the diocese's mission parish of San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala; they sponsor the Adopt-A-Child program and promote prayer for priests through Shepherds of the Field program. They also support or sponsor community projects such as food shelf, bloodmobile; social activities, and fund-raisers for the parish. They provide education in regard to legislative and reverence life issues and present spiritual enrichment at meetings. The Council of Catholic Women promote prayer and healthy life styles for families; actively participate in prayer groups; provide scholarships to people in parish ministry; and reach out to victims of domestic violence, child abuse, or human trafficking. These are just to name a few.

### Get involved!

The National Council of Catholic Women is facing very challenging times financially and also in active membership. Saturday, March 6, 2010, marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the National Council of Catholic Women. Will we see our 91st anniversary? Will 2010 be a happy, New Year? It is up to you! I encourage all women to become active in your local parish Council of Catholic Women.

Support the projects and register to become a member of the National Council of Catholic Women as we strive to "Move Forward with Faith and Joy" in 2010. Information on individual membership procedures will be announced at upcoming Spring Gatherings.

## Reverence Life Committee promoting life from conception to natural death

by Judy Haag

Did you know that over 4,400 pre-born babies - one every 22 seconds are aborted each day? That's the bad news! The good news is that over 3,000 pro-life pregnancy centers exist in the U.S. to offer support to women and their babies. (Statistics provided by *Pro Life Across America*).

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Reverence Life Committee labors to promote respect for all life from conception to natural death. The Committee seeks to educate about pro-life organizations and offers support and prayer for those dealing with abortion issues.

January 22 marks the 37th commemoration of Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. The Reverence Life Committee encourage all parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm to commemorate this day in some special way in their parishes. In the past, many parishes have had special Masses, eucharistic adoration, special novenas, and candlelight vigils. Other parishes have sponsored buses to the prayer service and March for Life held at the Capital in St Paul. You are encouraged to participate in these events in your parish.



### 40 Days for Life Campaign

During Lent this year, February 17-March 28, 2010, the Reverence Life Committee invites you to participate in 40 Days for Life, a pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion in America.

This past fall, members of the Good Teacher Area Faith Community (Canby, St Leo, Taunton, Minneota, and Ghent) participated in the 40 Days for Life fall campaign. As they camped out in front of the Planned Parenthood Clinic in St. Cloud, the group was peacefully praying. A mother with her 9-month old baby stopped at the vigil site and said, "I

Participating in the fall 40 Days for Life campaign are members of the Good Teacher Area Faith Community, Fr. Craig Timmerman, Dennis and Shirley Timmerman, Kelley Timmerman, and Karen Eichoff.

just had to stop and tell you to keep on praying for an end to abortion."

She then went on to explain how her baby had been saved from abortion because pro-life people had supported her in prayer and action. Fr. Craig Timmerman then blessed her and her baby and affirmed her of the courage she has shown in giving her baby life. It was a beautiful moment for all those present.

To find out more about 40 Days for Life visit [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com) or contact Judy Haag, DCCW Reverence Life Coordinator, email: [bobjudy@meltel.net](mailto:bobjudy@meltel.net); (320) 453-7592.

## permanent deacon (continued from page 5)

natural death, social justice, and human rights; assisting the bishop's ministry of charity on the parish or diocesan level.

It should be noted that sometimes the ministries of the deacon overlap. The reading of the Gospel at Mass is certainly both a ministry of the word and of the liturgy. Taking Holy Communion to the sick may be both a ministry of charity and of the word.

These ministries all have their origin in the service of God and others. They are not generally activities that draw attention to themselves; they are often quiet requirements of serving Christ and being Christ to others. These ministries will be provided in new

ways when permanent deacons are ordained for service in the Diocese of New Ulm. The duties of the deacon will manifest themselves differently from parish to parish, or area faith community to area faith community. The Bishop will assign each deacon to work in a community, generally under the supervision of a priest or a pastor, and may assign each deacon to some work as well, for the diocesan Church.

The Second Vatican Council has embraced a renewed permanent diaconate stating that "At a lower level of the hierarchy are deacons, upon whom hands are imposed 'not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service.' For strengthened by sacramental grace,

in communion with the bishop and his group of priests they serve in the diaconate of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity to the people of God." (*Lumen Gentium*, n. 29)

Currently there are eleven permanent deacon candidates in the Diocese of New Ulm's four-year diaconate program. On their ordination date, set for April 21, 2012, at the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, they will become the newest laborers in this area of the Lord's vineyard we call the Diocese of New Ulm.

For information in regard to the permanent diaconate program contact Deacon Mark Kober, director, (507) 359-2966; [mkober@dnu.org](mailto:mkober@dnu.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.

## Mass texts: specific changes

by Ann Przybilla

If you have been following this Update on the Roman Missal series from month to month in *The Prairie Catholic*, you are aware that the Mass texts will be changing, most likely in Advent of 2011. Here are some specific changes we will experience in the Mass.

**The Confiteor prayer of the penitential rite** ("I confess to almighty God...") will be prayed a bit differently, "In what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." In addition to this being a more literal translation to the Latin text, these words acknowledge that we are not perfect. While God's grace overflows we also need to repent. In addition to this textual change, there will be two other options for this Penitential Act as well as the option for the Sprinkling Rite to be used at times such as during the Easter season.

**The Gloria and the Holy, Holy (Sanctus)** will have several textual changes. For example, the Sanctus will begin with the words "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts" rather than "God of power and might." Composers are currently working on new musical settings.

It will take some time to learn these new musical Mass settings which will include the Gloria, Sanctus, Memorial Acclamations, Amen and the Lamb of God. Singing these texts will aid the assembly in memorizing the new texts much quicker.

**The Creed** will be translated as "...he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." This differs from the current text that states "he was born of the Virgin." The more literal translation of the word *incarnare*, "to make flesh" deepens

The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship has launched a new Web site to help educate Catholics about the forthcoming English translation of the new Roman Missal. Visit [www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal).

the meaning of what historically happened. Other words in the Creed will change in order to reflect the original Latin text more faithfully.

**The seven Eucharistic Prayers** that we have available to us will still remain available. Eucharistic Prayers I, II, III and IV, Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation I and II and the Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs and Occasions will be included in the revised translation of the Roman Missal. The sentence structure tends to be longer in these prayers and the wording will cause us to listen ever more closely to these wonderful prayers.

**After the singing of the Lamb of God, the dialogue will reflect a change.** We will say "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof..." alluding to the text found in Matthew 8:8. This is not to be confused with the roof of one's mouth, but rather refers to one's dwelling place.

**The dismissal of the Mass** will offer some new options such as "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord," and "Go in peace,

glorifying the Lord by your life." These dismissals give a broader meaning to what it means to leave the church building and to go out into the world to live the mission of Christ.

As you can see, these text changes signal the biggest shift in our

worship since Vatican II. The Mass itself will keep the same flow and format, but these textual changes will be hard to get used to at first, causing us to listen and participate ever more intently.

Before the new translation is implemented in the dioceses of the United States, you can learn more by visiting the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site, [www.usccb.org/romanmissal/](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/).

## Christian churches to join in prayer January 18-25



by Fr. Paul Timmerman, director diocesan Office of Ecumenism

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010 begins January 18 and ends with the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25. The theme for this annual celebration, *You Are Witnesses of These Things*, has been announced by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches. It comes from Luke's Gospel (*Chapter 24 verse 48*).

Different denominations take turns hosting this prayer service on the diocesan level. This year the Presbyterians will be hosting this prayer service in Redwood Falls, at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday January 24 at the First Presbyterian Church, 235 East 4th Street. Several Christian denominations will be represented and there will be time for fellowship and refreshments afterwards in the church social hall.

**WHAT IS THE POINT OF BEING ECUMENICAL?** Jesus gives us the answer to this question in that night before he died, he prayed to the Heavenly Father, "May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me" (John 17:21).

In other words, Jesus desires all Christians to be united. Each year we set aside a week to pray for that the unity of all Christians may one day become a reality. As proof that unity is possible, just this past November the Vatican published an apostolic constitution, *Anglicanorum Coeбитus*, that allows for groups of Anglicans to come into communion with the Catholic Church while retaining their heritage and traditions. We need to continue to pray for unity.

I encourage you to join Bishop John LeVoir and other denominations' representatives in praying for Christian unity at this prayer service. If you do not live near Redwood Falls, I encourage you to participate in the prayer service for Christian unity in your local area.

Let us all pray for Christian unity so that we may be cooperators in Jesus' prayer for Christian unity.

## College Connection (continued from page 3)

are being asked to solicit high school seniors' information from Catholic high schools and parishes. NET Ministries will prepare packets of information about the colleges' campus ministry programs and facilities (location - time of services - who's in charge - programs - fellowship, etc.) and post them on the Web site. The program will use the internet to allow you to enter the student information, and print out the prepared packets. Should we not find an official "Catholic presence," the student will receive information about a nearby parish. The College Catholic Connection will furnish the Catholic ministers the names of

incoming freshmen so they can invite them to visit their facility and encourage them to participate in a welcoming social when they arrive on campus.

Together, Serran volunteers and NET Ministries can help young people stay connected to their faith.

For more information, email Judy Cozzens, [jcozzens@msn.com](mailto:jcozzens@msn.com) or Homer Radford, [hhradford2@comcast.net](mailto:hhradford2@comcast.net).

*Judy Cozzens is chairperson of the College Connection for Catholics Task Force.*

## SERRA in the diocese

Good Shepherd SERRA meets on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting is January 7 at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference Room in Sleepy Eye beginning with rosary and Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by program and lunch. Fr. John Ekwoanya from St. Mary's in New Ulm, originally from Nigeria, will share his vocation story and how he decided to come to America. Everyone welcome. Call Mike or Annette Rohlik, (507) 747-2181.

## Catholic Schools Week to be observed in diocese

**Washington, DC - Catholic Schools - Dividends for Life** is the theme selected for Catholic Schools Week 2010. This annual celebration focuses attention on the good work done by the nation's Catholic schools. Nationally, the week will be observed January 31 to February 6, 2010. (Some schools within the Diocese of New Ulm will be celebrating the prior week due to scheduling needs. Check with your local school.)



The CSW logo designed for the week, features a cross superimposed on an outstretched hand. Rays coming from behind the hand express the concepts of faith, knowledge, morals, and discipline - all beneficial aspects of a Catholic education.

Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). According to Karen Ristau, NCEA president, "Catholic schools provide good things for students and families - high expectations, and daily experience of faith. In these challenging times, the theme also reminds parents that the dividends of a Catholic school education -students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals, and discipline -last a lifetime."

As part of Catholic Schools Week, *National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools* will be observed Wednesday, February 3 to encourage supporters nationwide to showcase to elected officials the

great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools. In Washington, a delegation of Catholic school students, teachers, and parents will visit Capitol Hill to meet with congressional leaders to promote Catholic schools.

For further information in regard to Catholic Schools Week, contact Karla Cross, Director of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of New Ulm, (507) 359-2966; [kcross@dnu.org](mailto:kcross@dnu.org).

*Editor's note: Highlights of area Catholic Schools Week activities will be featured in the March issue of The Prairie Catholic.*

## Upcoming Events

**SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**, Mother of God, Patron Saint of the Diocese of New Ulm. (January 1)

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** (January 1)

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE** visit [www.vatican.va/phone\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/phone_en.htm) for Pope Benedict's message. (January 1)

**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** a feast that announces Jesus as light to all nations. (January 3)

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD** (January 10)

**NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK** (January 10-16)

**UPCOMING RIVERBEND TEC (TOGETHER ENCOUNTERING CHRIST) WEEKEND** - January 16-18, in New Ulm. 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](mailto:riverbendtec@newulmtel.net). For additional scheduled weekends visit [www.riverbendtec.org](http://www.riverbendtec.org).

**ROE V. WADE** - January 22 marks the 37th anniversary.

**IN CONCERT: STEVE ANGRISANO WITH SPECIAL GUEST PETER BIERER** - February 3 at 7:00 p.m., Centennial Student Union Ballroom on the campus of Minnesota State University, Mankato. Presented by St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center. Free will offering. Event information: [www.catholicmavs.org](http://www.catholicmavs.org); (507) 387-4154 ext. 5.

**WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** - February 12-14, 2010, at Shalom Hill Retreat Center, Windom, and March 19-21, at Stewartville. Contact Jeff and Rondi Kodet, (507) 644-3523; [jrek@redred.com](mailto:jrek@redred.com). Web site: [www.wmmeSection8.org](http://www.wmmeSection8.org).

**RITE OF ELECTION** - February 21, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity at 3:00 p.m.



An internet based E-learning initiative for adult faith and catechist formation anytime and anywhere.

**Cycle 1:  
Jan. 10- Feb. 13**

\*\*Registration closes Jan. 6, 2010.

- Catholic Beliefs
- Church and Communication
- Church History 1
- Conscience
- Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
- Ecumenism
- Faith and Human Development
- Foundations and Visions for Adult Learning and Faith Formation
- Images of Jesus
- Introduction to Catechesis
- Introduction to Liturgy
- Introduction to Media Literacy Education
- Introduction to Practical Morality
- Introduction to Prayer
- Letters of Paul
- On Bended Knee (Seminar)

*An opportunity for deepening understanding and enrichment of your faith!*

- Our Hearts Were Burning (Seminar)
- Overview of the GDC & NDC (Seminar)
- Pastoral Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation
- Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World
- Sacraments
- Scripture: Introduction
- Scripture: New Testament
- Scripture: Old Testament
- Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities
- Survey of Catholic Doctrine
- Vocation, Spirituality, and Discipleship of Catechists

Sponsored by The Institute for Pastoral Initiatives of the University of Dayton, (<http://vic.udayton.edu>), and the Diocese of New Ulm ([www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org)). Contact Bryan Reising, diocesan Director of Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation (507) 359-2966; [breising@dnu.org](mailto:breising@dnu.org).

## The Christmas story



Depicting Holy Family - John Kiehn, Katlyn Root, (baby Jesus) Luci Ficker, (angel) Cali Ficker.

Three Wisemen -Thomas Bell, Johnathen Erpelding, and Joe Pennertz.

**Forest City** - The Church of St. Gertrude held its annual Christmas program and brunch on Sunday, December 13, 2009. A new generation acted out the ancient story of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to the delight of parents and grandparents.



## A new year; a new beginning

### Catholic Charities of the diocese available to assist

by Lois Byrne, PBVM, LICSW  
Catholic Charities Counselor

New Year's is the one holiday each year that is celebrated to mark the passage of time. We pause to reflect on the past year, but also look to a new beginning. Many of us use this time to think of changes we want to make and commit ourselves to New Year's resolutions.

If you are using this time of year to set new or renewed goals in your life, the following are a few tips you might like to consider.

- First, prayerfully consider your goal

and your motivation for achieving this goal. Ask God to help you look for your deeper motivation. Adjust the goal as needed.

- Have you made the resolution before and not followed through? If so, consider what interfered and what you will change this time.

- Write down your resolution, its motivation, and the plan to achieve it. Define it in detail. Break it into small goals that are time limited. Involve the support of others. This might mean making it a family or group goal.

- Remember adjustments are to be expected. Not following through with your plans is not failure, rather use the opportunity to re-examine what disrupted your good intentions. Rewrite the plan making the changes.



*Catholic Charities serve people of all faiths in the Diocese of New Ulm providing a wide range of services - individual and family counseling; adoption; marriage preparation counseling, parish and community response; pregnancy counseling; and grief services. Call (507) 359-2617 or toll-free 1(866) 670-5163.*

# THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 5 January 2010

## catholic trends

**Vatican City (VIS) - "If you want to cultivate peace, protect the creation"** is the theme chosen by Pope Benedict XVI for his Message for the 43rd World Day of Peace, which will be celebrated on January 1, 2010. The theme aims to raise awareness about the strong bond that exists in our globalized and interconnected world between protecting the creation and cultivating peace. This close and intimate tie is further accentuated by the many problems concerning man's natural environment, such as the use of

resources, climate change, the application and use of biotechnology, and demographic growth. If the human family is unable to face these new challenges with a renewed sense of social justice and equity, and of international solidarity, we run the risk of sowing seeds of violence among peoples, and between current generations and those to come.

Following the precious guidelines contained in paragraphs 48 to 51 of the encyclical *Caritas in veritate*, the

papal message will make it clear that the protection of the environment is a challenge for all humankind. It is a shared and universal duty to respect a collective asset destined for everyone.

Ecological questions must be faced, not just because of the dreadful prospects that environmental degradation presages; they must be translated, above all, into a strong motivation to cultivate peace.

**Pope Benedict XVI has appointed William Francis Medley, 57**, as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY. Bishop-elect Medley, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, succeeds Bishop John J. McRaith, (1982-2009) who resigned in January of 2009 due to health reasons. Bishop McRaith, a native of Hutchinson, MN, was ordained to the priesthood in 1960 for the Diocese of New Ulm by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler. He is the only priest of the Diocese of New Ulm to be named a bishop.

**Vatican, Dec. 21 - Pope Benedict XVI** has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, 75, from the pastoral care of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH. He is succeeded by Coadjutor Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, 61, former bishop of the Diocese of Duluth, MN.

**Pax Christi USA is calling upon Catholics** to reflect on ways to integrate peacemaking and embrace nonviolence in their everyday lives. The call follows a wide-ranging six-year endeavor that the Catholic peace organization calls a *People's Peace Initiative*. The effort involved dozens of discussions

nationwide to express the challenges of peace in the 21st century. To engage Catholics in the pews across the country, Pax Christi released a 48-page document, *Called to be Peacemakers: The Challenge and Promise of Peace in the 21st Century*. The document cites Catholic social teaching as the basis for its call to Catholics to embrace nonviolence and peacemaking. It invites Catholics to relate the Church's social teaching to examples of injustice they may have seen in their communities. *Called to be Peacemakers* is available online at [www.paxchristiusa.org/PPIFinalenglish.pdf](http://www.paxchristiusa.org/PPIFinalenglish.pdf).



Sponsored in-part by Catholic Communication Campaign

Listen for Bishop LeVoi's *Christmas Messages* broadcast on. . .  
**KNUJ Radio (860 AM)**  
 Daily through January 16 approximately 7:30 a.m.  
**KDUZ Radio (1260 AM)**  
 Daily through January 16 approximately 8:05 a.m.



On November 20, about 18,000 youth walked from the Sprint Center to the Kansas City, MO, Convention Center in a Eucharistic procession as part of the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). Bishop John LeVoi met up with the 244 youth and 75 chaperones who represented 24 parishes of the Diocese of New Ulm at NCYC.

(read more, page 1)

photo by Joe Cory  
The Catholic Key