

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 23 No. 9 May 2009



Bishops urge state legislators to support raising sufficient revenue as part of comprehensive approach to resolving budget shortfall

The State of Minnesota is facing a nearly \$5 billion budget deficit. Current budget proposals contain significant cuts to Minnesota's health and human services programs - programs that provide basic needs for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers. As Catholics, we are called to speak for those among us whose voices are not heard.

On April 20, 2009, the Minnesota Catholic bishops (St. Paul and Minneapolis, Crookston, Duluth,

New Ulm, St. Cloud, and Winona), sent a signed statement to the Minnesota legislators in regard to the state's budget and the difficult decisions that will need to be made.

TEXT OF THE APRIL 20TH LETTER FOLLOWS:

Dear Members of the Minnesota State Legislature:

We know that you are facing difficult decisions regarding Minnesota's budget. Because our faith tradition calls us to care for each other, both individually and as a state, we believe that Minnesota's budget should uphold the inviolable human dignity, value and worth of every Minnesotan, and reflect a commitment to the common good. In your deliberations, we urge you to

ensure that our state has sufficient revenue to meet the needs of Minnesotans, especially those among us who are poor and vulnerable, since they will be most affected by your decisions.

Minnesota's budget is a moral document that sets the priorities for our state. It reflects not only the values and goals of Minnesota, but determines whether all Minnesotans can meet their basic needs. We are especially called to place the needs of those living in poverty at the center of economic concerns. "Like family life, economic life is one of the chief areas where we live out our faith, love our neighbor, confront temptation, fulfill God's creative design, and achieve our holiness" (*Economic Justice for All: A*

Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy, 6). Our state is facing many hardships, including:

- a \$4.6 billion deficit in Fiscal Year 2010-11, and an even greater deficit in FY 2012-13;
- the highest rate of unemployment in 26 years - 8.9% - with unemployed Minnesotans outnumbering job openings by 8 to 1;
- 374,000 people - 77,000 of them children - who do not have health insurance;
- a record number of visits to our state's 300 food shelves - more than 2 million visits last year;
- 308,000 Minnesotans who use food stamps to supplement their food budgets, which only represents

69 percent of Minnesotans who are eligible for food support; and • 482,000 of our sisters and brothers living below the poverty line, which is \$22,050 for a family of four.

Economic decisions have human consequences. They promote or erode human dignity, help or hurt our sisters and brothers, strengthen or weaken our families and communities, enhance or diminish justice, and build or undermine the common good. As faithful citizens, we must carefully examine Minnesota's budget. Do the spending and revenue raising provisions of Minnesota's budget reflect justice? Do they promote the common good?

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Catholic Communication Campaign

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Parishes nationwide urged to observe World Day of Prayer for Vocations first Sunday in May

Washington - Parishes nationwide are urged to mark the 46th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 3, the first Sunday in May. Remembrances can include everything from special petitions in the Prayer of the Faithful and homilies on the role of prayer in fostering vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, to highlighting the vocations that have come from a parish and diocese. Pope Benedict XVI stressed the

importance of prayer in his message from the Vatican with the theme "Faith in the divine initiative - the human response."

The first duty, he said, "is to keep alive in families and in parishes, in movements and in apostolic associations, in religious communities and in all the sectors of diocesan life this appeal to the divine initiative with unceasing prayer."

He added that "what is asked of those who are called, for their part, is careful listening and prudent discernment, a generous and willing adherence to the divine plan, and a serious study of the reality that is proper to the priestly and religious vocations, so as to be able to respond responsibly and with conviction." Pope Benedict's entire message can be found in English/Spanish on the U.S.

Catholic Bishops' Web site at www.usccb.org/cclv/. According to the 2008 Official Catholic Directory, there are 28,000 diocesan priests, 13,300 religious order priests, 5,040 religious brothers and 63,000 women religious in the United States.

(story courtesy of www.usccb.org)

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BE NOT AFRAID "Statement of Activities"



Bishop John M. LeVoir

This is the first time as the Bishop of New Ulm that I am addressing you regarding the finances of the diocese.

The large "loss on investments" of \$871,485 is the item that stands out on the Statement of Activities of the Diocese of New Ulm for the fiscal year July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, (see page 3). This loss reflects the troubled state of the economy in general and the drastic fall in stock prices, in particular toward the end of the fiscal year. Even though this loss is a "paper loss," it still must be shown on the Statement of Activities for the purpose of full disclosure.

The loss on investments of \$871,485 this fiscal year compares with a \$915,000 gain on investments for the fiscal year July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. This change in investment income is significant. However, the

Diocese of New Ulm is assured by its outside auditor that because of solid financial decisions made in the past, it can "weather the storm" and remains in sound financial condition. The sound financial condition of the diocese is underscored by the total net asset figure as of June 30, 2008: \$12,781,565.

With regard to investments, the Finance Council of the Diocese of New Ulm will be meeting with the investment firm that invests diocesan funds to review the firm's investment strategies, policies, and expectations for the future. The hope is that the economy will recover at some point and that we will again see ample gains from the investments of the diocese.

Prescinding from the investment losses, the diocese had a good year. The pie charts (on page 3) show, by percentage, the various items that compose the revenues and expenses of the diocese. The goal had been to move to obtaining 1/3 of the revenues from the Diocesan United Fund (DUF), 1/3 from the Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA), and 1/3 from other sources. However, the loss on investments has changed these percentages significantly from the last fiscal year. Once the economy stabilizes, the plan for the various sources of revenue will be revisited.

Remember, the DUF (Diocesan United Fund) is the annual

assessment for each of the seventy-six parishes of the Diocese of New Ulm based on the number of households and Sunday offertory collections. On the other hand, the DMA (Diocesan Ministries Appeal) supports new ministries, in most cases started after the first DMA in 2006. These new ministries include Catholic Charities, the Permanent Diaconate Program, and the ongoing education of lay ministers who will continue to serve day in and day out in each of our parishes.

The budgeting process for 2009-2010 is nearly completed. The Office of Finance begins this process each October. The first draft is reviewed by the Finance Council. It is then reviewed by the Budget Review Committee, which interviews the director of each of the offices of the Diocese of New Ulm. The Budget Review Committee is made up of members of the Christian faithful who have expertise in finance, business, and personnel. Experienced clergy are also members of this committee.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council also reviews the budget. After committee and council recommendations have been taken into consideration, a fourth draft is presented to the College of Consultors (composed of priests of the diocese). The College then makes its recommendations for approval to the Bishop.

Beginning July 1, 2009, the diocesan annual budget has a projected increase over last year of 1.43%. DUF is projecting an increase of 1.82%. The DMA goal of \$660,000 for 2008 will remain unchanged in 2009.

I have been impressed by the Office of Finance. Also, I have been impressed by the finance committees, policies, and procedures of the Diocese of New Ulm, but most especially by the people who sit on the committees, and apply the policies and procedures.

As our native son, Bishop John McRaith said so clearly during the Bishop Lucker Lecture in March, stewardship is an essential expression of our Catholic faith. Therefore, responsible stewardship is the duty of each Catholic in the Diocese of New Ulm and involves the giving of time, talent, and treasure.

Each Catholic belongs to a parish, each parish belongs to an Area Faith Community, and the Area Faith Communities (and four separate parishes) compose the Diocese of New Ulm. Working together and giving generously, we can accomplish many good things for the people of the diocese. I pray that the Lord will continue to pour out his blessings on us as we look with hope into the future.

Bishop's May Calendar

1 St. Peter: 9:00 a.m. Church of St. Peter. School May Crowning Mass.

New Ulm: 1:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Vocations Team Meeting.

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

2 Redwood Falls: 9:30 a.m. Church of St. Catherine. Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting.

Litchfield: 5:00 p.m. Church of St. Philip. Confirmation.

3 North Mankato: 10:00 a.m. Church of the Holy Rosary. Confirmation.

Sleepy Eye: 4:00 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Signing of the Catholic/Lutheran Covenant.

4 Minneapolis: 6:00 p.m. Church of St. Helena. Catholic Servant Dinner.

5 New Ulm: 1:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Priests' Pension Plan Board Meeting.

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

New Ulm: 12:00 p.m. Staff Appreciation Lunch.

7 Winona: 12:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Bishop Bernard J. Harrington.

9 New Ulm: 5:30 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Confirmation.

10 Winsted: 10:30 a.m. Church of the Holy Trinity. Confirmation.

12 Olivia: Max's Grill. Presbytery Day.

13 New Ulm: 12:00 p.m. New Ulm Country Club. Catholic Community Foundation Luncheon Seminar.

16 Bird Island: 11:00 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Sisters' Council Spring Gathering.

Glencoe: 5:30 p.m. Church of St. Pius X. Confirmation.

17 St. Peter: 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Peter. Confirmation.

19 New Ulm: 8:20 a.m. Cathedral of

the Holy Trinity. Confessions for New Ulm Area Catholic Schools.

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

Mankato: 6:00 p.m. Applewood Restaurant. Serra Club Bishops Burse Night

20 Minnesota: 9:00 a.m. Church of St. Edward. School Mass.

Canby: 1:00 p.m. Church of St. Peter. School Mass.

Canby: 6:30 p.m. Church of St. Peter. Blessing of Pro-Life Memorial.

(continued on page 4)

Diocese of New Ulm

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

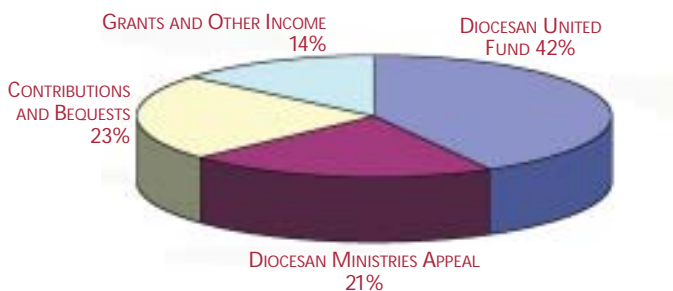


REVENUES	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTALS 2008
Diocesan United Fund	\$ 1,305,361			\$ 1,305,361
Diocesan Ministries Appeal	660,000			660,000
Contributions and bequests	20,883	\$ 340,839	\$ 355,302	717,024
Grants		140,561		140,561
Interest and dividends	193,893	165,753		359,646
Net unrealized and realized gains (losses) on investments	(431,493)	(215,371)	(224,621)	(871,485)
Program income	168,060			168,060
Rent income	38,312			38,312
Gain on sale of land held for resale	127,421			127,421
Other income	3,606			3,606
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	547,200	(547,200)		-
TOTAL REVENUES (see pie chart below)	\$ 2,633,243	\$ (115,418)	\$ 130,681	\$ 2,648,506

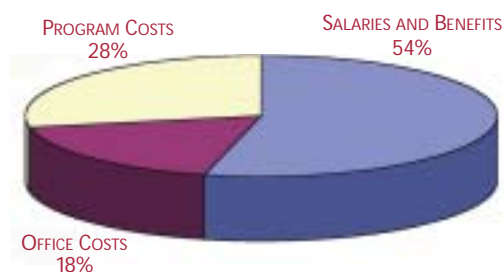
EXPENSES

Salaries and benefits	\$ 1,609,786			\$ 1,609,786
Office costs	533,821			533,821
Program costs	849,186			849,186
TOTAL EXPENSES (see pie chart below)	\$ 2,992,793			\$ 2,992,793
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (359,550)	\$ (115,418)	\$ 130,681	\$ (344,287)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	6,583,195	1,724,296	4,818,361	13,125,852
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 6,223,645	\$ 1,608,878	\$ 4,949,042	\$ 12,781,565

2007/2008 REVENUES \$2.6 MILLION



2007/2008 EXPENSES \$2.9 MILLION





No Tengas Miedo

Declaración de Actividades

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Esta es la primera vez como Obispo de New Ulm que me dirijo a ustedes en relación a las finanzas de la diócesis.

La gran "pérdida de las inversiones" de \$871,485 es el elemento que destaca en la Declaración de las actividades de la Diócesis de New Ulm para el año fiscal que va del 1 de julio de 2007 hasta el 30 de junio de 2008, (ver página 2). Esta pérdida refleja la conflictiva situación de la economía en general, y la drástica caída en los precios de las acciones, en particular, hacia el final del año fiscal. A pesar de que esta pérdida es una "pérdida en papeles", que aún debe ser mostrada en la declaración de actividades con el propósito de su completa divulgación.

La pérdida de inversiones de \$871,485 dólares, de este año fiscal, se compara con una ganancia de \$915,000 en inversiones para el año fiscal del 1 de julio de 2006, hasta el 30 de junio del 2007. Este cambio en los ingresos por inversiones es importante. Sin embargo, la Diócesis de New Ulm está garantizada por su auditor externo que, debido a las sólidas decisiones

financieras tomadas en el pasado, esta puede "caper el temporal" y mantenerse en una situación financiera solvente. La situación financiera solvente de la diócesis se ve subrayada por la cifra total del activo neto al 30 de junio de 2008: \$12,781.565.

Con respecto a las inversiones, el Consejo de Finanzas de la Diócesis de New Ulm se reunirá con la empresa de inversión que invierte los fondos diocesanos para revisar las estrategias, políticas, y expectativas de inversión de la firma para el futuro. La esperanza es que la economía se recuperará en algún momento y que vamos a ver nuevamente amplios beneficios para las inversiones de la diócesis.

El proceso de elaboración del presupuesto para 2009-2010 está casi terminado. La Oficina de Finanzas comienza este proceso en octubre de cada año. El primer borrador es revisado por el Consejo de Finanzas. Luego es examinado por el Comité de Revisión de Presupuesto, que entrevista al director de cada una de las oficinas de la Diócesis de New Ulm. El Comité de Revisión de Presupuesto se compone de los miembros de la fe cristiana que

tienen experiencia en el área de las finanzas, los negocios, y personal. Los cleros experimentados también son miembros de este comité.

Como nuestro hijo oriundo, el Obispo John McRaith lo dijo claramente en la Conferencia Anual Obispo Lucker en marzo, la mayordomía es una expresión esencial de nuestra fe católica. Por lo tanto, una mayordomía responsable es la tarea de cada católico en la Diócesis de New Ulm e implica la entrega de tiempo, talento y tesoro (bienes.)

Cada católico pertenece a una parroquia, cada parroquia pertenece a una Comunidad de Área de Fe y las Comunidades de Área de Fe (y cuatro parroquias separadas) componen la Diócesis de New Ulm. Trabajando juntos y dando generosamente, podemos lograr muchas cosas buenas para el pueblo de la diócesis. Ruego que el Señor siga derramando sus bendiciones sobre nosotros, así como vemos con esperanza el futuro.



Fr. Pat Casey to retire from active ministry

After 44 years of priestly ministry in the Diocese of New

Ulm, Rev. Patrick L. Casey, 70, currently pastor of the Church of St. John, Darwin, and the Church of St. Gertrude, Forest City, is retiring from active ministry effective June 30, 2009.

Born in Litchfield, MN, Fr. Casey attended Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary, St. Paul Major Seminary, and the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul.

He was ordained to the priesthood on March 13, 1965, at the Church of St. Mary, Willmar, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler. Following ordination he served at the Churches of St. Peter, St. Peter; Holy Redeemer, Marshall; St. Mary, Sleepy Eye; St. Catherine, Redwood Falls; Holy Rosary, North Mankato; SS Cyril and Methodius, Taunton; St. Anne, Wabasso; St. Mathias, Wanda; St. Joseph, Montevideo; St. Isidore, Clarkfield; St. Aloysius, Olivia; Holy

Redeemer, Renville; St. Anastasia, Hutchinson; St. Boniface, Stewart; and currently at St. John, Darwin, and St. Gertrude, Forest City.

In his retirement, Fr. Casey will continue his music hobby. For twelve years he has been a member of the Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra, a nonprofit choir that donates freewill offerings received from events to local food shelves, flood relief, hospices, and more. He is also active in the Litchfield Male Chorus and plays bass horn for Mid-Minnesota Concert Band at local area events.

Open House Planned


A retirement open house celebration for Fr. Casey is planned for Sunday, June 14, from 2-5 p.m. at the St. John's Education Center, (Hwy 12 between Cokato and Dassel). There will be a Mass at 10:30 a.m. celebrated by Bishop John LeVoir. The Litchfield Area Male Chorus will perform at 2:00 p.m. The Woodbury Chorale and Belle Ringers will perform at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.


Bishop's official appointments


Effective June 30, 2009

Rev. Patrick L. Casey to retire from active ministry.


Effective July 1, 2009


 Rev. Anthony R. Hesse appointed pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Winsted.


 Rev. John A. Pearson appointed pastor of the Church of St. John in Darwin and Sacramental Minister of the Church of St. Gertrude in Forest City, and to work for the greater cooperation of the Area Faith Community including the Churches in Litchfield, Manannah, Forest City, and Darwin.

 Rev. Samuel Perez appointed parochial administrator of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Murdock, and to assist in the area parishes of Benson, Clontarf, and DeGraff, and to provide

Hispanic Ministry at the Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton.

 Rev. Paul A. Schumacher appointed pastor of the Church of St. Dionysius in Tyler, and the Church of St. Genevieve in Lake Benton, while continuing as pastor of the Church of Ss. Peter and Paul in Ivanhoe and the Church of St. John Cantius in Wilno.

 Rev. William A. Sprigler appointed pastor of the Church of St. Francis in Benson, the Church of St. Malachy in Clontarf, the Church of St. Bridget in DeGraff, and the Oratory of the Visitation in Danvers.

 Rev. Craig A. Timmerman appointed pastor of the Church of St. Peter in Canby and the Church of St. Leo in St. Leo, while continuing as Associate Vocation Director 15% time.

Bishop's calendar (continued from page 2)

22 Winsted: 7:30 p.m. Church of the Holy Trinity. Holy Trinity High School Graduation.

24 Sleepy Eye: 2:00 p.m. Church of St. Mary. St. Mary's High School Graduation.

New Ulm: 7:00 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Cathedral High School Graduation.

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

New Ulm: 1:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Finance Council Meeting.

New Ulm: 7:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Property Committee Meeting.

31 New Ulm: 3:00 p.m. Flandrau State Park. Family Ministry Gathering.

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

Listen for
Bishop LeVoir's
EASTER MESSAGES

**KNUJ 860 AM
RADIO (NEW ULM)**
Daily through Pentecost
between 7:15 a.m. and
7:30 a.m.

**KDUZ 1260 AM
RADIO (HUTCHINSON)**
Daily through Pentecost
8:05 a.m.



Four priests of diocese to mark significant years of service



Rev. John T. Goggin will mark 45 years of priestly ministry.

Born in DeGraff, MN, Fr. Goggin attended St. John University, Collegeville, MN, and St. John University, School of Divinity.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1964, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm, MN, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.

Following ordination, he served as associate pastor of the Church of St. Anastasia, Hutchinson, before studying Spanish at the University of Ponce, Puerto Rico. Since December 1967 he has served as associate

pastor of the Diocese of New Ulm Mission Parish of San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala, in Central America, working along side Msgr. Greg Schaffer, pastor of the Mission Parish for the past 45 years.

For 40 years, Fr. Goggin's (or "Padre Juan" as he is referred to by the local people) work in San Lucas has been with the catechists and saying Mass in the outlining areas surrounding San Lucas, such as the communities of Sta. Cruz Quixaya, Tierra Santa, San Jose Nueva Vida, Sta. Teresita, San Juan Mirador, El Porvenir, Nueva Providencia, and Toltoya. He is also a confessor for the Minor Seminary in Solola.



Rev. Dennis C. Labat will mark 35 years of priestly ministry.

Born in Marshall, MN, Fr. Labat attended

Crosier Seminary in Onamia, MN, and St. John Vianney Seminary, and St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1974, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler at the Church of St. Clotilde in Green Valley, MN.

Following ordination he served in the parish communities of: St. Mary, New Ulm, and taught at Cathedral High School; St. Mary, Sleepy Eye, and taught at St. Mary's High School; Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth; St. Mary, Bechyn;

Sacred Heart, Franklin; St. Andrew, Fairfax; Our Lady, Manannah; St. Joseph and St. Adalbert, Silver Lake; St. John, Morton; St. Patrick, Kandiyohi; St. Thomas More, Lake Lillian; St. Brendan, Green Isle; and St. John, Faxon Township. He currently serves the *Vine and Branches* Area Faith Community (Springfield, Sanborn, Lamberton, Morgan, Clements).

Father Labat has served as Director of the Office of Communications; Director of the Office of Youth Ministry; Director of Continuing Education for Priests; and Director of Priest Personnel. From 1991-1995 he served as Chancellor of the diocese. From 1995-2002 he served as Vicar General. Since 1991, he has

served as Supervisor for Pastoral Administrators.

From 1974-1978, Fr. Labat was involved with the National Marriage Encounter teams in Mankato, MN. Since 1980, he has served as coordinator of Riverbend TEC (Together Encountering Christ) retreat program in the diocese. From 1996-1997 he served on the Leadership Team for the National Teens Encounter Christ Conference.

In 1990, Bishop Raymond A. Lucker presented him with the Diocesan Distinguished Service Award for "his loyal commitment and contribution to the A-TEC Ministry (now Together Encountering Christ) in this Diocese of New Ulm and for his personal time, energy, and spiritual guidance."



Rev. Gerald S. Meidl will celebrate 35 years of priestly ministry.

Born in New Ulm, MN, Fr. Meidl attended St. Mary, Tracy; St. Paul, Walnut Grove; and St. Clotilde, Green Valley. He currently serves the Churches of St. Anastasia, Hutchinson, and St. Boniface, Stewart.

Following ordination he served in the parish communities of: St. Mary, Willmar; Holy Rosary, North Mankato; St. Mary, Sleepy Eye; Holy Redeemer, Marshall; St. Mary, Tracy; St. Paul, Walnut Grove; and St. Clotilde, Green Valley. He currently serves the Churches of St. Anastasia, Hutchinson, and St. Boniface, Stewart.

Over the years, Fr. Meidl has served on the Diocesan Worship Commission, the Priests' Council, Diocesan College of Consultors, the

Committee on Parishes, and the Priest Personnel Board. He has also worked as an appeal judge in the Tribunal.

COME CELEBRATE!
Fr. Gerald Meidl will celebrate his 35th Anniversary to the Priesthood with root beer floats and bars at St. Anastasia parish in Hutchinson following all the Masses the weekend of May 30-31, 2009, and at St. Boniface parish in Stewart on June 19, 2009, after the 9:15 a.m. Mass. Everyone is invited.



Rev. Robert J. Mraz will celebrate 35 years of priestly ministry.

Born in Hutchinson, MN, and raised in rural Glencoe, Fr. Mraz attended minor seminary at Nazareth Hall, Arden Hills, MN, St. John Vianney Seminary, University of St. Thomas, and the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 1, 1974, at the Church of St. George, Glencoe, MN, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.

Following ordination he served in the parish communities of: St. Aloysius, Olivia; Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm and taught at Cathedral High School; Ss. Peter & Paul, Ivanhoe; St. Peter, Canby; St. Leo, St. Leo; St. Patrick, Kandiyohi; St. Thomas More, Lake Lillian; and Holy Family, Silver Lake. He currently serves the Area Faith Community of the Churches of St. Mary, Tracy; St. Paul, Walnut Grove; and St. Michael, Milroy.

Over the years Fr. Mraz has served on the Priest's Council, Chairman of the Diocesan Building Committee, the Priest Personnel

Board, and Region 3 and Region 6 Regional Moderator for the Council of Catholic Women. He was Chaplain for the All Saints Knights of Columbus Council in Ivanhoe, Chaplain of Mother Cabrini Knights of Columbus Council in Silver Lake, and Marian Knights of Columbus Council in Tracy, Walnut Grove, Milroy, and Lucan. He served as Faithful Friar for the Bishop Grace Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly and of Archbishop Murray Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly. He served also as Chaplain for the Catholic Workmen FSCLA, Catholic Aid, Catholic Order of Foresters, and Catholic Daughters of America Societies, and St. Monica Society for Widows.

Come Celebrate!
The Area Faith Community will be hosting an open house potluck dinner at the Church of St. Mary in Tracy after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 7, 2009, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited, all current and past parishioners included.

Year of the Priest, 2009-2010

Pope Benedict XVI has recently announced a 'Year of the Priest' to run from June 2009 to June 2010. The Pope made the announcement during an audience March 16, 2009, with members of the Vatican Congregation for Clergy.

In part it is to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of the French parish priest and saint, John Vianney, often known as the Cure D'Ars, who Benedict called "a true example of a pastor at the service of Christ's flock."

Priests must be, says the Pope

"present, identifiable and recognizable - for their judgement of faith, personal virtues and attire - in the fields of culture and of charity which have always been at the heart of the Church's mission." He also reminded us that "The centrality of Christ leads to a correct valuation of priestly ministry, without which there would be no Eucharist, no mission, not even the Church."

Just as the ongoing current Year of St Paul has enabled many people to think about and reevaluate his contribution to Christian life, then

maybe this Year of the Priest will enable the Church to reflect more deeply on the role of the priest in the Church and how priesthood functions within the whole community of the people of God.

The Pope will open the special year with a vespers service at the Vatican June 19, 2009 - the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day for the sanctification of priests. He will close the celebrations during a World Meeting of Priests in St. Peter's Square on June 19, 2010.

Catholic Communication Campaign collection helps connect the world with God's Word

If Jesus Christ were on earth today, how would he spread his message? Through the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC), the Church makes use of traditional and new media to evangelize and promote gospel values. The 2009 Catholic Communication Campaign Collection will be held in parishes across the diocese the weekend of May 16-17.

"Because of the generosity of Catholics in the United States, CCC is able to fund programs that proclaim the Gospel of Jesus in the United States and in developing nations around the world," said Helen Osman, Secretary of Communications for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Half of the funds collected in each diocese remain there to support local communications projects. The other half supports the development and production of a wide range of media initiatives carried out by the USCCB Committee on Communications and grantee organizations.

Here in the diocese

Examples of how your donation to the Catholic Communication Campaign connect people with the Word of God in the Diocese of New Ulm include:



- A free Sunday Mass leaflet reaching out to shut-ins who are not able to celebrate Mass in the parish
- *The Prairie Catholic*, free to every Catholic household in the diocese
- Media Resource Center providing print and electronic materials to parishes and school
- Diocese of New Ulm Web site (www.dnu.org)

Beyond the diocese

Examples beyond the diocese include:

- 7 million unique visitors - an

average of 1.2 million visitors each month - listened to the New American Bible daily readings from January through June in 2008 at www.usccb.org.

- The Holy Father's U.S. visit inspired 602,000 unique visitors to explore www.uspapalvisit.org from the site's launch through May 1, 2008.

- The *For Your Marriage* campaign used public service announcements on radio, television, and billboards

throughout the country to draw people seeking information on the sacrament of Marriage or ideas on how to strengthen their marriages on its Web site www.foryourmarriage.org.

- Audio programs such as *Lino at Large*, *Tu Compañero Católico*, and *Radio Soliel* in Haiti reach hundreds of thousands of listeners literally around the world, in multiple languages.

- *Sister Survivors: Religious Life under Eastern European Communism*, a documentary being produced by the Sisters of St. Joseph, will honor the women

TV Mass Leaflet available to home bound



For over twenty years, the New Ulm Diocesan Office of Communications has provided a free Leaflet Missal for home bound Catholic television Mass viewers throughout the Diocese of New Ulm. The Leaflet Missal, produced by the American Catholic Press, South Holland, IL, is funded through donations to the annual Catholic Communication Campaign.

Tevised Catholic Mass can be viewed in the Diocese of New Ulm Sundays at 7:30 a.m. on KEYC-TV, Ch. 12, Mankato, MN or on EWTN Global Catholic Network (Live) daily at 7:00 a.m.

If you or someone you know are not able to attend Mass due to age, illness, and/or disability and would like to receive the leaflet service, please send name, address, and phone number to: Office of Communications, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; phone: (507) 359-2966.

religious who endured persecution and difficulties under communist regimes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

A list of programs and resources funded by the Catholic Communication Campaign can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site at www.usccb.org/cc.

Please give generously on May 16-17, 2009

On Catholic Communication Campaign Collection weekend, parishioners will be asked to reflect about the role of communications in their faith lives and the benefits of having Catholic-produced resources for television, radio, print, and the Internet, and to continue to help spread the *Good News* through the media.

Permanent endowments - the gift that keeps on giving



by Wayne Pelzel
Director of Development

Want to make a planned gift to the Church but like the idea that the gift would have a lasting impact? A gift to an endowment fund may be the answer you are looking for.

A gift to a permanent endowment means that the principal is never spent. Only a portion of the earnings from the endowment are used for the purpose you designate. The remaining portion of the earnings is retained in the fund to insure that the

fund will continue its annual growth. In that way, the value of the fund will grow preserving the purchasing power of the earnings long into the future.

The diocese has five different permanent endowments and the earnings derived from these funds are used to support the designated cause of the fund. As these funds grow in size, their impact will reduce the demand for Diocesan United Fund resources.

Following is a list of those endowment funds:

- **Education for Priests** (Burse Fund) - to educate seminarians
- **Catholic Ministries** - to support the various ministries of the diocese
- **Lay Ministry Scholarship** - to support ongoing education of lay teachers

• **Bishop Lucker Lecture** - to provide speakers for the faith enrichment of the people

"Establishing a permanent endowment insures that no one can ever use the money for any purpose other than as intended by the donor."

• **Archbishop John C. Nienstedt Catholic Schools Scholarship Fund** - to help support students who wish to attend Catholic schools in the diocese

There is also a desire to set up additional endowments to help fund various ministries at the diocesan level, as well as endowments for the benefit of parishes. Any size contribution to either an established fund or to a new fund are welcome at any time. A great way to remember one of these funds is in

your will. What a great way to establish a legacy. A larger gift to one of these funds could allow for the naming of a chosen fund in your memory or the memory of a loved one. Contact the Office of Development if you would be interested in a legacy gift.

Endowments are so much about the future, and prudent churches, schools, and the diocese set up endowments to help insure their financial future. Endowments are a wise investment in the future.

There is one really important thing to consider when setting up an endowment. Make sure that it is a PERMANENT endowment. Sometimes money is simply deposited somewhere earmarked for the donor's intent. This is fine for a few years, but in time people forget and money could be used in ways that were not the donor's original

intent. Establishing a permanent endowment insures that no one can ever use the money for any purpose other than as intended by the donor. Catholic Community Foundation at the Pastoral Center can help you set up a true permanent endowment.

For further information, contact the diocesan Office of Development, (507) 359-2966; wpelzel@dnu.org.

*Gifts can be sent to:
Endowments, Diocese of New Ulm,
1400 6th Street North,
New Ulm, MN 56073.*

Make sure if you are sending a gift that you indicate the specific endowment you want to fund.



St. Michael's School in Morgan celebrates 100 years of Catholic education



(Left) St. Michael's School centennial celebration included a performance by K-6 students. All students at St. Michael's learn to play the guitar.

(Below I-r) Fr. Eugene Hackert, Msgr. Robert Wyffels, and Bishop John LeVoir process from the centennial Mass followed by the Knights of Columbus.



by Karla Cross

A centennial celebration for St. Michael's School in Morgan, MN, was held on Palm Sunday. Bishop John LeVoir celebrated Mass with Msgr. Robert Wyffels and Fr. Eugene Hackert at the Church of St. Michael in Morgan.

Msgr. Wyffels is the current pastor of St. Michael's and has served the parish since 1998. Fr. Hackert was the immediate predecessor of Msgr. Wyffels, serving St. Michael's from 1988 through 1998. The community and school alumni were invited to a celebration meal following Mass, an open house of the school, and a centennial celebration pageant in the auditorium.

Students in pre-kindergarten through grade six presented activities representing the various eras of school life. The pre-kindergarten presentation remembered the Dakota heritage of the community. Grades 1 and 2

brought in memories of the German heritage and Latin Mass. Grade 3 and 4 brought in the square dancing era, and Grades 5 and 6 the hands-on-learning currently taking place as school curriculum seeks to engage all learners.

Together, the entire study body played a guitar selection of *He has the Whole World in His Hands*. The first "original" verse the students sang was, "He has the Pope and Bishop LeVoir in His Hands." Other original verses followed. They then continued with several other vocal and instrumental songs.

Congratulations to St. Michael's Parish for its commitment to providing a Catholic School to the community for the past 100 years.

Congratulations to Msgr. Wyffels, Principal Theresa Bisek, and the entire school staff!

In 2008, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's School also celebrated an anniversary milestone with a dinner and pageant in celebration of 125 years of Catholic School education in the Sleepy Eye community.

Karla Cross is Director of Schools for the Diocese of New Ulm.

ENDOW – Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women

ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) is a Catholic educational program that brings women together to discover their God-given dignity and to understand their role in humanizing and transforming society. It utilizes small study groups, conferences and retreats to cultivate faith, and fellowship and formation. A growing Ecclesiastical organization, the majority of those involved in ENDOW are Catholic. However, it is open to all spiritualities recognized by the Catholic Church. The distinctive charism of ENDOW is a blend of the many beautiful spiritualities within the Church working together to offer a program of study on Catholic feminism.



highlights a young female saint that lived a life of holiness, despite the pressures and temptations of the world around her.

2. True Beauty...Revealed - a high school study program to educate young women about their authentic femininity using a small group setting and study curriculum. The studies are based on Pope John Paul II's writings regarding the New Feminism, Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and other Catholic thinkers, philosophers, and saints.

Teens will also learn practical tips for applying the Church's teachings to their daily lives, will discuss the nature of their femininity, and will have the opportunity to reflect on their personal development and character formation, as well as examine their relationships with peers and the opposite sex. In addition, they will read about young saintly women who witness the pursuit of holiness in a world of temptation and will challenge themselves and one another to strengthen their prayer lives and grow in understanding and love for the sacraments and the Church.

Anyone interested in participating in one of these groups should contact Sr. Mary Charles Mayer, R.S.M., (507) 233- 5333 (office), (507) 840-1500 (cell). Visit the ENDOW Web site at: www.endowonline.com

Adult Track

The adult track offers study programs such as: Letter to Women; *Mulieris Dignitatem* (On the Vocation and Dignity of Women); *Humanae Vitae* (Of Human Life); Edith Stein: Seeker of Truth; *Lumen Gentium* (The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church); Aquinas For Beginners, Part I (A Tour of the Summa); Discover Your Dignity, A Woman's Journey Through Life, Part I & Part II; *Salvifici Doloris* (On the Christian Meaning of Suffering); and *Redemptoris Mater* (The Mother of the Redeemer).

Youth Track for Girls

There are two youth tracks for girls:

1. Girl Genius Program - A pre-teen program to help young women better understand their nature, dignity, and special role in society.

Besides relaying Scripture and catechesis in the lessons, the Girl Genius Program also incorporates group activities, reflections, and journaling sessions that focus on issues affecting middle school girls today (confronting culture/media; teen image/self-esteem, etc). Every lesson also



Calling all youth!

The Office of Youth Ministry is revving up for summer camps! Based on the success of the last two years, separate camps are planned for the girls and boys and will be held at the Center for Youth Ministry in rural Renville, MN.

The Young Women's Discipleship Camp is set for June 11-12, 2009. The theme is "Outrageous Love" based on *1 John 4:16*. **The Young**

Men's Discipleship Camp is set for June 18-19, 2009. The theme is "Sword of the Spirit" based on *Paul's letter to the Ephesians 6:14-18*. Participants of both camps can expect to meet new friends from all over the diocese. A fun two days are planned with lively skits and dynamic faith talks, all in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Cost is \$60. Space is limited to 30 youth at each camp. To register contact your parish or AFC youth minister or call the New Ulm Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, (507) 359-2966; cblickem@dnv.org.

Catholic Charities "To 2010 and Beyond" strategic plan established

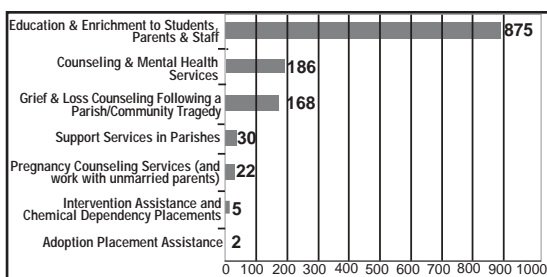
by Tom Keaveny, MSW-LICSW
Catholic Charities consultant

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm has been in operation since November 2007. An estimated 306 clients were served by that year's end.

In 2008, the agency completed its first full year of service, providing counseling and addiction interventions, pregnancy counseling and adoptive placement referrals, education and support group services for students, parish support services, and group and individual outreach in parishes and schools following a tragic event.

Catholic Charities is pleased to share that our programs served 1,288 people living within the Diocese of New Ulm in 2008. (See graph for breakdown of services provided.)

As we so often reflect, the services Catholic Charities provides would not be possible without support from the annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal and the generosity of so many people in the diocese (and even a few donors beyond our diocesan borders). On behalf of everyone we were able to assist in 2008, "Thank you."



In February and March, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm reviewed its services and finalized a plan - "To 2010 and Beyond" - as well as a budget for the coming fiscal year. In this process, service delivery experiences and statistics are reviewed and the various feedback from clients, parish and community stakeholders, donors and community resources are all evaluated by Bishop LeVoir and the diocesan Catholic Charities Advisory Committee and staff to accomplish an annual planning process.

The 1,288 clients served in 2008 were the primary outcome of last year's planning. Five other major accomplishments, which unfolded as a result of the 2008 plan, include outreach and training for pastoral

leaders, diocesan and parish staff, and other services providing "partners," especially in the areas of crisis response, child and adolescent development, marriage and remarriage counseling, and grief and loss processes.

Bishop LeVoir and the Catholic Charities Advisory Committee have been clear in their vision of "To 2010 and Beyond" which will serve as a guide to operations for the current and coming year. A copy of the plan can be found on the diocesan Web site at www.dnu.org.

"To 2010 and Beyond" will allow Catholic Charities staff to continue to provide help and create hope for the people of the Diocese of New Ulm.

Becoming a Marriage-Building Church Conference June 25-28, 2009

The National Association of Family Life Ministers, in conjunction with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Laity, Family Life & Youth, will be sponsoring a conference, *Becoming a Marriage-Building Church*, June 25-28, 2009, at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul. Implementing the United States Bishops' Pastoral Initiative on Marriage, this conference is for marriage and family life ministers, pastoral leaders, deacons, marriage ministry teams, National Family Planning instructors, marriage movement members, directors of religious education, and youth ministers. Keynote speakers include Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, Co-director of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers' University, and John Grabowski, Associate Professor of

Moral Theology/Ethics at Catholic University of America.

Unique offerings of the conference will include: three archbishops and four bishops from past and current USCCB Committees on Marriage & Family; top leaders in the field of marriage spirituality, research, enrichment, and education; pre-conference trainings/meetings for in-depth learning; and Spanish, youth, and National Family Planning tracks.

For additional keynote speakers, program and registration information, workshop descriptions, and a printable brochure, visit www.nacflm.org/displayconvention.cfm, or call (937) 431-5443. There is a discounted registration fee if you register before June 5.

U.S. bishops support introduction of DREAM Act

Washington - In an April 3, 2009, letter to sponsors of the legislation, Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City, Utah, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, expressed the support of the USCCB for the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (or DREAM Act), legislation which would legalize the status of thousands of undocumented youth in the United States.

The legislation (S. 729, H.R. 1751) applies to young persons who entered the United States before the age of fifteen, have been physically present in the United States for five years, and have earned a high school diploma. The bill would also repeal federal restrictions that limit the ability of states to offer them in-state tuition. The letters were sent to Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), primary sponsors in the U.S. Senate, and Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), primary sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"The DREAM Act represents a practical, fair, and compassionate solution for thousands of young persons who simply want to reach their God-given potential and contribute to the well-being of our nation."

"This legislation would make a difference in the lives of undocumented youth who were brought to the United States by their parents and now, because of their lack of legal status, face obstacles to their future," Bishop Wester wrote.

The bill would apply to students in both public and private schools, including Catholic schools. Young persons would become eligible for permanent legal status upon completion of two years of college or two years of honorable service in the military. Approximately 65,000 youth per year would benefit from the DREAM Act. Visit www.usccb.org for full text of the correspondence.

Project Rachel

post-abortion healing ministry training offered in diocese

Since 1973, there have been more than 36 million abortions in the United States. For many, the experience is devastating, causing severe and long-lasting emotional, psychological, and spiritual trauma. Evidence of post-abortion trauma is increasingly attested to by psychologists, counselors, and those involved in post-abortion ministry.



are no more. Thus says the LORD: Cease your cries of mourning, wipe the tears from your eyes. The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward... There is hope for your future. (Jeremiah 31:15-1)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm will be sponsoring a Project Rachel training opportunity

on Friday, May 8, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar, MN. Presenter for the day will be Vicki Thorn, an international speaker and founder of Project Rachel and also of the National Office of Post Abortion Reconciliation and Healing.

Cost for the training is \$10 and this includes lunch and materials. Priests, pastoral administrators, pastoral staff, and other interested parishioners are especially invited to join Catholic Charities staff for this unique and nationally recognized training opportunity. Register before May 6 by calling Sr. Lois Byrne at the Catholic Charities office in Willmar at (320) 262-3436.

Founded in 1984, Project Rachel is a healing ministry of the Catholic Church for those who have been involved in abortion. The ministry's name derives from Scripture: *In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning, of bitter weeping! Rachel mourns her children, she refuses to be consoled because her children*

from the desk of the DCCW President



we pray for each other. What a gift to be a member of this prayerful, service orientated organization, the Council of Catholic Women!

Many members of the Council of Catholic Women have "Mary Gardens" containing flowers named for Our Lady. What is a Mary Garden. It is "a garden dedicated to Mary," the Mother of God,

containing plants either named after Mary or associated with her by legend. With a statue of Mary as a focal point, it can contain many familiar flowers. The use of color in the garden can remind us of Mary: white - Joyous Mysteries; red - Sorrowful Mysteries; yellow - Glorious Mysteries; and purple - Luminous Mysteries.

Mary's Gardens were started in medieval times when flowers were named to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. These "Mary names" for the flowers predated their botanical names and help us to remember her life. A few examples are: Lavender (known as Mary's Drying Plant) - Mary would lay the clothes of the child Jesus on the lavender bush to dry and pick up the beautiful fragrance of that plant; Lily of the Valley (Our Lady's Tears) - it is said to have grown where she wept; Marigold (Mary's Gold) - they were used as a gold-colored die for wool and have been thought to symbolize Our Lady's simplicity and domesticity; Rosemary - the pale blue flowers are said to have taken their color from Mary's veil when she spread it over a rosemary bush; Rose - symbolizes the Virgin herself, who was sometimes referred to as the "Mystic Rose."

NATIONAL CCW CONVENTION
The mission of the Council of Catholic Women is to "support, empower, and educate members in spirituality, leadership, and

service; and to reach out with Gospel values to meet the needs of Church and society."

A wonderful way to deepen spirituality, increase knowledge of the Church, and strengthen leadership skills is to attend the National CCW Convention to be held in Jacksonville, FL, Sept. 23-27, 2009. Early bird registrations must be postmarked by July 6, 2009, and all registrations must be received by August 17, 2009. It is not too early to start making plans to attend the NCCW Convention.

Scholarships are available through NUDCCW Scholarship Fund to help defray expenses. For more information see the March/April issue of *Catholic Woman* magazine or contact your parish president or a NUDCCW Board of Directors member.

Leaders needed to continue building the Council

by Mary Karnitz, immediate past DCCW President

Leaders create healthy organizations for the long term. The Council of Catholic Women needs leaders, women of integrity, committed to building an enduring organization. We need leaders who have a deep sense of purpose and are true to prayer, study and service. We need leaders who have the courage to build the Council of Catholic Women to meet the needs of the Universal Church and who serve society.

Almost without exception, emerging leaders have solid values and a sense of purpose. They are looking to make a difference - to contribute to a worthwhile cause through their assistance, to find reasonable balance between their service and home lives, and to serve where they trust the leaders and share a common set of values.

Why people leave organizations correlates closely with how connected they feel with their leaders. Be the kind of person you would like to work with. Women are less likely to leave if they are learning, recognized, valued, or feel they are part of something significant and meaningful. Share what you value most. Ask women what needs to be done...and listen. Thank them for their input.

As leaders we can build an enduring CCW organization. We can reach out to one another and invite women back. We can recognize that we need everyone's creativity in order to make a difference and let the Holy Spirit be our source of strength and guide every aspect of our work for the Lord. In thinking about whether to step up and lead, ask yourself two simple questions: If not me, then who? If not now, when? The Council of Catholic Women needs your leadership now.

by Jeane Appel

During this month of May, *On This Day O Beautiful Mother* is one of the many hymns we sing to give honor to our Blessed Mother Mary. Why do we love, honor, and pay tribute to Mary?

The fact that God specifically chose her to be the mother of Jesus, the mother of our hope and our salvation, makes her someone special.

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) organization offers every woman an opportunity to follow the model of Mary and to be of service to others, be it at the parish, region, diocesan or national level. Consider saying "yes" as Mary did when you are invited to minister through CCW. Trust God, Jesus, and his holy mother, Mary completely, and they will guide you as you share your talents.

We give honor and love to Mary through many forms of prayer - Hail Mary, the Rosary, the *Angelus*, and more. The Council of Catholic Women, whose patroness is "Our Lady of Good Counsel," promotes prayer as they begin and end each meeting with prayer. We pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Rosary, prayers for an increase in vocations to Holy Orders and the religious life, as well as prayer for respect of all life, our Shepherd of the Field, and

statement to MN legislators (continued from page 1)

In your work to resolve the state's budget deficit, we ask that you:

1. fully consider the human consequences of spending and revenue raising proposals;
2. place first, never last, those who are vulnerable, especially those living in poverty; and
3. build on our interconnectedness - we are all strengthened when those with the greatest needs are strengthened.

The current budget proposals of Governor Pawlenty, the Minnesota House, and the Minnesota Senate include significant cuts to the Health and Human Services budget. Children and seniors, those living in poverty or foster care, those experiencing hunger, unemployment or homelessness, or living with severe disabilities or mental illness are most at risk in budget cuts. If the services for those who are in the greatest need are cut, many will be forced to live without basic necessities.

The current financial crisis has occasioned vigorous debate concerning the adequacy of state revenue and the ability of Minnesotans to pay for services. Given the budget crisis, the use of one-time funds, federal stimulus dollars, and our state's increasing deficit, we must consider whether it is possible to meet urgent needs without increasing revenue. One way to contribute to the common good is by raising the revenues necessary to meet the needs of individuals, families, and local communities throughout our state.

We believe that resolving the budget deficit through spending cuts alone will do great harm to Minnesotans and our economy. We urge you to support raising sufficient revenue as part of a comprehensive approach to resolving Minnesota's budget shortfall. Catholic social teaching upholds the role of government to assist individuals and communities

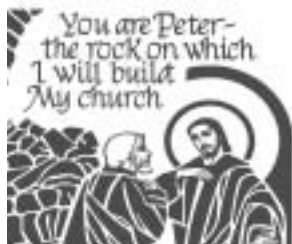
when they cannot help themselves. In performing this role, the state is fulfilling its moral responsibility to promote the common good.

May God bless and guide you in your work to strengthen the common good during this difficult economic time.

Archbishop John C. Nienstedt
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Rev. James B. Bissonette
Diocese of Duluth, Diocesan Administrator
Bishop John F. Kinney
Diocese of Saint Cloud
Coadjutor Bishop John M. Quinn
Diocese of Winona
Bishop Emeritus Victor H. Balke
Diocese of Crookston
Bishop Michael J. Hoeppner
Diocese of Crookston
Bishop John M. LeVoir
Diocese of New Ulm
Bishop Bernard J. Harrington
Diocese of Winona
Archbishop Emeritus Harry J. Flynn
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE

the sacrament of Holy Orders



by Ann Przybilla, director
Office of Worship

This final article in our series on the Sacraments leads us to Holy Orders. The Catechism notes that this sacrament, like marriage, is a sacrament at the Service of Communion. Married couples are called to lead their spouses and family members toward salvation. In a similar fashion but in a unique role, those who receive Holy Orders are given the grace to build up the Church and lead others to salvation.

Through Baptism, we all share the prophetic (teaching), kingly (governing) and priestly (sanctifying) qualities of a Christian. But from the early beginnings of the Church, the apostles provided the necessary authority and leadership as they spread the message of Christ throughout Palestine. As the Church grew, deacons and presbyters in communities were called upon to serve as guardians of the community, to settle disagreements, to provide for the poor, and to teach and preach. While the characteristics and duties of ordained ministers has shifted throughout history, the priesthood has

always been understood as a ministry of service.

The texts of the Rites of Ordination are descriptive of this ministry of service. This past September our diocese had the privilege of witnessing the ordination of Bishop LeVoir. We heard the words "Pour out now upon this chosen one that power which is from you, the Spirit of governance whom you gave to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Spirit whom he bestowed upon the holy Apostles, who established the Church in each place as your sanctuary for the glory and unceasing praise of your name."

At the ordination of priests we hear, "Together with us may he be a faithful steward of your mysteries, to that your people may be renewed in the waters of baptism, and nourished from your altar; so that sinners may be reconciled and the sick raised up."

And in a few years, our diocese will ordain eleven men to the permanent diaconate who will be able to assist with distributing Communion, blessing marriages, proclaiming the

Editor's Note: *The Prairie Catholic, with the assistance of the diocesan Office of Worship and the Office of Religious Education, continues the series, What Catholics Believe. This 7-part series will explain the sacramental system in the Catholic Church and explore the specific purpose and characteristic of each of the Seven Sacraments.*

Gospel, giving homilies, presiding over funerals, and serving in other ministries of charity. We will pray these words at their ordination "May there abound in them every Gospel virtue: unfeigned love, concern for the sick and poor, unassuming authority and purity of innocence and the observance of spiritual discipline."

Faced with the news headlines of the past few years, it has become difficult for some to trust our ordained leaders and to support them. Just as the reception of Baptism, Confirmation or Communion does not guarantee that we will be faithful witnesses and followers of Christ, in the same way the reception of the sacrament of Holy Orders does not guarantee that a bishop, priest, or deacon will be without sin.

Pope Benedict has announced the Year of the Priest beginning June 19, the day of the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Prayer is one way in which we can all support our ordained leaders. During this upcoming Year of the Priest we can pray for the Spirit to call others to Holy Orders and for the call of service to be answered.

Benedictine Living Community Chapel blessed by Bishop LeVoir



The Benedictine Living Community of St. Peter, MN (BLCSP) recently celebrated a Chapel Blessing Ceremony. Pictured: Evelyn Prochaska, BLCSP; Sr. Mary Christa, Order of St. Benedict, St. Scholastica Monastery; Jack Coltrain, BLCSP Activities Department; Bishop John LeVoir; Fr. Phil Schotzko; and Linda Nelsen, BLCSP Administrator.

St. Peter, MN - On March 2, 2009, the Benedictine Living Community of St. Peter (BLCSP) celebrated a Chapel Blessing Ceremony with Bishop John LeVoir presiding and Fr. Philip Schotzko from the Church of St. Peter assisting.

The Chapel has been furnished through gifts from the Good Shepherd Care Center of St. Paul. Through donations a stain glass window was created by Mark Hall of Hallmark Art

Glass of Kasota. The stain glass window depicts a flowing river with an angel, butterfly, dove and eagle soaring overhead, each of these represent a neighborhood within the nursing home where residents live.

Benedictine Living Community of St. Peter is a member organization



Benedictine Living Community residents, friends and family gathered for the chapel blessing ceremony.

of Benedictine Health System and is sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery of Duluth. The Chapel is available for multiple faith expressions.

Rosen youth present living Stations of the Cross



This year for Lent, the youth group (7-12) from the Church of St. Joseph in Rosen MN, and a part of the St. Anthony/St. Monica's Society, presented the living stations twice for the parish. This is the third year of presenting them. The kids do a spectacular job and it also brings a deeper understanding of the Stations to the kids and those attending.

Ecumenical prayer service to include signing of Catholic-Lutheran Covenant

Sleepy Eye, MN - On Sunday, May 3, 2009, Bishop John LeVoir, Diocese of New Ulm, and Bishop Jon Anderson, Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), will be signing a Pastoral Covenant which will not only cite areas of common belief and a pledge to work toward greater unity, but also focus on evangelization and

helping the faithful grow in their faith lives.

The Covenant will be signed during a 4:00 p.m. prayer service at the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye. All are invited to this ecumenical event.

Fr. Paul Timmerman is the Director of Ecumenism and Inter-religious Affairs for the Diocese of New Ulm, (507) 794-4171.

Together In Communion year long study session comes to a close



Sixteen of the twenty-four Together In Communion participants gathered April 18 in Redwood Falls. This marked the completion of their year-long study.

The second *Together In Communion* cohort finished their year of studies on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Participants completed a year of FOUNDATIONS prior to taking part in the *Together In Communion* program.

Another opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith is available through the FOUNDATIONS program which begins September 19, 2009. This discipleship formation program provides quality lay formation for adult parishioners. Its purpose is to provide a solid foundation of faith formation for those involved in parish and area ministry, as well as anyone interested in a more systematic study of the Catholic faith. It is a collaborative effort of the Diocese of New Ulm and St. Mary's University, Winona, MN,

Sessions are held monthly at the Church of St. Catherine in

Redwood Falls, MN. Lectures by college professors, prayer, and discussion on reading assignments are included with each session.

The basic course outline of the seven Saturday sessions includes: Introduction to the Christian Scriptures; Introduction to the Jewish Scriptures; Introduction to Catholic Theology; Theology of the Catholic Church; Theology of Sacraments, Prayer, and Liturgy; and Morality and the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church.

The cost is \$70 which includes resources and lunches. Contact your parish pastoral leader if you would like to take part in this unique faith formation experience. It is through the generosity of the Diocesan Ministries Appeal that the diocese is able to provide this faith formation opportunity to the laity.

Do you feel called to serve the Church?

Do you feel called to serve the Church as a lay minister? Do you already work for the Church but want to broaden your expertise and knowledge of the faith?

St. Mary's University of Winona, MN, is currently accepting applications for those seeking master degrees in Pastoral Ministry or Pastoral Administration. The degree involves a three-year commitment consisting of at home study and a two-week summer-residency in Winona.

Contact Ann Przybilla, Director of Lay Ministry at (507) 233-5320 or aprzybilla@dnu.org. Additional information can also be obtained by visiting <http://www.smumn>.

Upcoming Events

GOOD SHEPHERD SERRA

CLUB will meet Thursday, May 7, 2009, at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference Room, beginning with Rosary and Mass at 7 p.m., followed by program and lunch. Come early for Eucharistic Adoration. This month Fr. Mike Doyle will share his vocation story. Everyone welcome. Call (507) 747-2181 for further information.

ST. PIUS X VACATION BIBLE

SCHOOL - Everyone is welcome to Catholic Vacation Bible School at St. Pius X in Glencoe June 8-12, 2009. This year the stories, crafts, and music will center around Divine Mercy as we talk about the Stations of the Cross and the Works of Mercy. Call St. Pius X for more information (320) 864-3214.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL AND WHY? - John Kippley, a

Dean of the National Family Planning Movement, co-founder of Couple to Couple League and NFP International, www.nfpandmore.org, will speak at St. Anastasia Church in Hutchinson, MN, on June 18 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. All welcome.

RIVERBEND TEC (TOGETHER ENCOUNTERING CHRIST)

WEEKEND - June 27-29, 2009, at Bird Island, MN, or August 1-3, 2009, at Winsted, MN. 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

Televised Catholic Mass schedule for the New Ulm diocese

KEYC-TV, Ch. 12, Mankato
Sunday, 7:30 a.m.

Catholic Radio Catholic Radio Weekly

KLQP-FM 92.1 - Madison/Dawson
Sunday, 5:30 p.m.

Radio Rosary

KMHL 1400 AM - Marshall
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. and
Monday-Saturday, 6:10 p.m.



Sisters' Council to meet for annual spring gathering

On May 16, 2009, the Sisters' Council of the Diocese of New Ulm will hold their annual spring gathering at St. Mary's Church Hall in Bird Island from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The gathering will include spiritual enrichment, celebration for sister jubilarians, and a business meeting. The spiritual enrichment will include a DVD presentation on St. Paul by

Fr. Don Senior, which he gave at the most recent National Religious Vocations Conference. Bishop John LeVoir will be present to celebrate Mass.

Pictured are present Sisters' Council officers: (l-r) Sr. Carmen Sonnek, OSF, chair; Sr. Lucille Hass, OSF, secretary/treasurer; and Sr. Carole Freking, OSF, vice-chair.

Visit www.dnu.org for a listing of PARISH FESTIVALS throughout the diocese!

EPIC SEMINAR COMING TO

DIocese - The Diocesan Offices of Religious Education and Youth Ministry will be sponsoring a Faith Formation Day on September 26, 2009, at St. Catherine Church in Redwood Falls. Open to anyone who wants to grow deeper in their faith, especially parents and those who work with youth. There will be two tracks from which to choose: the Epic Seminar or a one-day study of Church History developed by

Ascension Press. Keynote will be Steve Weidenkopf. A number of other topics and publishers will be present - something for everyone. Call (507) 359-2966 for further information.

5TH ANNUAL HIGH GROUND

MUSIC FEST - August 14-15, 2009, in Winsted, MN. Visit www.hgmusicfest.com for ticket information or call Echo Ministries at (952) 924-3246.

An opportunity for deepening understanding and enrichment of your faith!

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

Cycle 4: April 24-June 27
registration opens April 21
closes May 20

- Advanced Catholic Social Teaching
- Catholic Beliefs
- Catholic Social Teaching 1
- Church History 1
- Conscience
- Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
- Ecclesiology: Reframing Church (In design)
- Images of Jesus
- Introduction to Catechesis
- Introduction to Liturgy
- Introduction to Prayer



Join us!

- Islam
- Marianist Studies: Founders
- Marianist Studies: Prayer
- Media, Faith, and Values
- National Directory for Catechesis
- Overview of GDC/NDC
- Praying With Children
- Sacraments
- Scripture: Introduction
- Scripture: Old Testament
- Scripture: New Testament
- Survey of Catholic Doctrine

Sponsored by The Institute for Pastoral Initiatives of The University of Dayton and the Diocese of New Ulm.

Contact: Bryan Reising, (507) 359-2966; breising@dnu.org

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 23 No. 9 May 2009



Spreading the gospel message through . . .
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Help the Church remain a strong voice in today's media. Support the Catholic Communication Campaign in your parish collection on the weekend of May 16-17, 2009.



catholic trends

April 22, 2009 - Earth Day heeded a new call for Catholics - one to care for all of God's creations by reducing their impact on our planet. The Catholic Climate Coalition unveiled a campaign for Catholic families, parishes, schools, and hospitals to consider their environmental impact and its effect on the disadvantaged, who bear the brunt of the consequences of climate change. The effort, if met by the participation of the 67.5 million registered Catholics in America, and the 1 billion Catholics worldwide, will be

"unprecedented in its scope," said Bishop William Skylstad, honorary chair of the covenant. "[The initiative] brings two fundamental principles - care for God's creation, and care for the poor and vulnerable."

Catholics across the U.S. are being urged to take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor, which encourages them to pray, learn, assess, act and advocate for environmental justice.

Zogby poll data shows that Catholics are ready to act. More

than half of Catholics identify global warming as a serious problem, and more than two-thirds believe that we know enough about global warming to act now. Two-thirds of Catholics also believe that future generations will be affected by climate change.

The Catholic Climate Coalition hopes to influence key members of committees on Capitol Hill regarding climate legislation, and cap-and-trade. The Catholic Health Association, with a network of hospitals that serves one in six Americans, will also be revamping hospital practices to minimize waste and emissions. On an individual level, though, the coalition hopes that Catholics will consider their own carbon footprint and how to minimize it at home.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced April 22, 2009, that it has expanded over-the-counter access to the morning-after pill, Levonorgestrel or "Plan B," for 17-year-old minors as well as to adults. Deirdre McQuade, Assistant Director for Policy and Communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, objected to the move. "The FDA's court-driven decision to make Plan B available without a prescription to 17-year-old minors - as well as to adults - flies in the face of common sense.

"Levonorgestrel is a powerful drug, taken in two doses over a 12-hour period. It is 40 times more potent than comparable progestin-only birth control pills (Ovrette) for which a prescription is required. Wider access to Plan B could

endanger the lives of newly-conceived children, and will put minors at risk for unnecessary side effects, undermine parental rights, and contribute to higher STD rates."

For the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops comments to the FDA and other information on the morning-after pill, go to: www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/contraception/morningafterpill.shtml.

NCSF grant helps fund Bishop's radio messages

The National Catholic Society of Foresters (NCSF) has awarded the Diocese of New Ulm one of their 2009 Catholic Communication Grants totaling \$1,500. The money will be used to help fund the production of Bishop LeVoir's daily radio messages broadcast during the Lenten/Easter Season. NCSF is a non-profit fraternal benefit society founded in 1891 to offer life insurance and annuities to Catholics and their families. Presenting Bishop LeVoir with the check is NCSF representative, Jim Tranel (far right). Also pictured is Tom Holzer, Diocesan Director of Finance.



See page 4 in this issue for Bishop's Easter Message broadcast schedule.