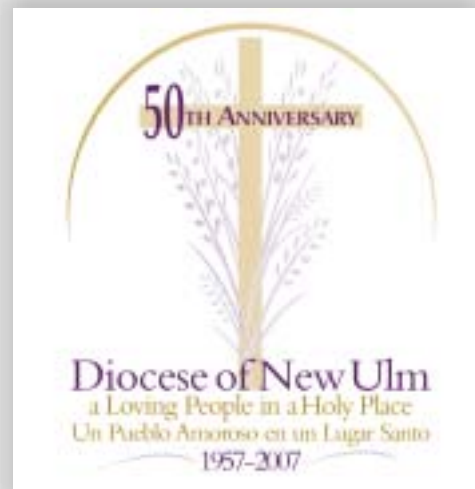


THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 23 No. 3 November 2008



50th Anniversary year long celebration comes to a close faithful invited to gather for concluding celebration November 16 in Marshall

The Diocese of New Ulm's 50th anniversary year-long celebration has been an occasion to give thanks for fifty years of diocesan life, mission, and ministry, and an opportunity to rededicate the diocese to Mary, the Mother of God. With gratitude, we remember our past and present bishops, Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler (1957-1975), Bishop Raymond A. Lucker (1975-2000), Bishop John C. Nienstedt (2001-2007), and Bishop John M. LeVoir,

our current shepherd, along with the labors of the People of God who all had a part in building this local Church, and its vibrant parishes and schools.

To conclude our 50th anniversary year, you are cordially invited to come and celebrate not only our past, but to rejoice in our future during the third and final 50th anniversary celebration to be held November 16 at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall. The celebration will begin at 3:30 p.m. with a program reflecting on the 50 year history of the diocese. The program will be followed by an overview of a future "covenant of understanding" with the Southwest Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, (see page 10 for more information on the covenant) and concluding with Bishop John LeVoir's reflection on his hopes for the future of our diocesan Church.

At 4:30 p.m. participants will gather with Bishop LeVoir for vespers, (prayer service) followed by a supper served in the parish hall.

Registration is required in your local parish for those who will be attending the 50th Anniversary concluding celebration so a participant count can be taken for the meal.

As in the two previous 50th

anniversary celebrations, attention will be drawn to the corporal work of mercy which calls us to "shelter the homeless." A collection will be taken up during the Mass to raise awareness of the building efforts of the five Habitat for Humanity Chapters in this diocese, as well as the home construction projects

sponsored by our San Lucas Mission in Guatemala. Proceeds from the collections will be divided among the Habitat for Humanity Chapters and the San Lucas Mission. So far, over \$2,000 has been collected and shared with these groups.

The people of this diocese, and their

ancestors in faith, have worked hard to make the Diocese of New Ulm a dwelling place for God. Bishop Lucker, shepherd of the diocese for twenty-five years, was convinced that "God is here!" Let us continue to acknowledge and respond to God's presence among us.

The observance of the 50th anniversary year began at the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson on November 7, 2007, with a *Mass for Deceased Bishops, Pastoral Leaders, Religious, and Deacons* who had served the New Ulm diocese throughout diocesan history. Approximately 375 faithful gathered in worship with Archbishop John C. Nienstedt, Apostolic Administrator of the diocese, to not only pray for the deceased but also reflect on our 50 years of diocesan history in which they were such a major part of.

Several dignitaries from the province and beyond were also in attendance to concelebrate the Mass. They included: Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, Bishop Blase J. Cupich, Bishop John R. Gaydos, Bishop Bernard J. Harrington, Bishop John J. McRath, Bishop Richard E. Pates, Bishop Paul J.

Swain, Bishop A. Zipfel, Bishop Michael J. Hoeppner.

From remembering the past to celebrating the present, the focus of the 50th observance moved on to Redwood Falls for a Diocesan Festival which commemorated the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the local Church.

The event was held at the Redwood Falls Community Center where over 750 participants enjoyed browsing parish and diocesan history displays, an afternoon Mass concelebrated by priests of the diocese, a picnic supper followed by a concert featuring nationally known Catholic singer and songwriter, John Angotti.

What an historic year it has been! Just imagine what the next fifty years might bring!

50TH ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Lord God, we praise and bless your holy name for calling each of us into loving union with you through your Son Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

For fifty years, you have blessed our Diocese of New Ulm with faith-filled clergy, dedicated religious, loving spouses, caring single men and women, and energetic youth eager to hear your Word and respond with loving service.

Renew us in our baptismal commitment so that we may continue to know, love, and serve you, our Redeemer. Grant us more vocations to plant the seeds of faith, hope, and love into our hearts.

We thank you for Bishop John M. LeVoir, who has been chosen to shepherd this local Church. May he cultivate a faith in us that is worthy of union with you and the saints in heaven.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Patroness of our diocese pray for us.

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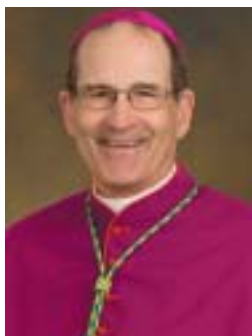
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Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP,

vocation awareness

BE NOT AFRAID



Bishop John M. LeVoir

"Prayer"

In Baptism, we receive the virtue of faith. This virtue is: "Both a gift of God and a human act by which the believer gives personal adherence to God who invites his response, and freely assents to the whole truth that God has revealed" (*CCC*, Glossary). Faith is no small gift from God. It is a great gift and is so great that it is called a mystery. Faith is mysterious because we can know some things about it, but not all.

What are we to do with this great gift of faith? The Catechism teaches: "Great is the mystery of the faith! This mystery, then, requires that the faithful believe in it, that they celebrate it, and that they live from it

in a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God. This relationship is prayer" (*CCC*, no. 2558). It is prayer that I would like to comment on.

One of the basic truths of our faith is that God loves us. This will always be God's attitude toward us. It can be nothing else, since God is love (see 1 *John* 4:16). This means that God always wants what is best for us and will help us to achieve that which is best for us.

God's love for us calls for a response on our part. A response to love is something that we experience in our daily life. When someone does something good for us, we naturally and without thinking want to do something good for them. This is how it should be between God and us. He has given us our lives and all that follows from the gift of life. God the Son gave Himself to us for our salvation. Our response should be to give ourselves back to God in gratitude and love.

Prayer is a deep expression of our love for God. "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (*CCC*, no. 2559). In other words, prayer is the raising of our whole person to God. It is giving of ourselves to God as He has given

Himself to us in creating us and in saving us.

Writing or talking about prayer is one thing, but to do it is another. Prayer is difficult. It takes effort. One veteran priest that I know went on a retreat. He came back to the parish and told his parishioners that on retreat he discovered the most important thing about prayer. They were all curious as to what it was. The veteran priest simply responded: "To do it!" Even great saints experienced difficulty in "doing" prayer. When at prayer in the convent chapel, St. Teresa of Avila had to hold tightly onto the pew in order to keep herself from leaving the chapel.

Nevertheless, if we wish to bind ourselves in love to God, prayer is essential. In a certain sense, prayer is more important for us today than it has ever been. At the conclusion of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, Pope John Paul II encouraged us to cast our nets into the deep (see *Luke* 5:4). In other words, the Pope called us to go forward from the jubilee and to trust in God and live our faith to the fullest.

John Paul quickly added that this could not be done without prayer. "It is important however that what we propose, with the help of God, should be profoundly rooted in

contemplation and prayer. Ours is a time of continual movement which often leads to restlessness, with the risk of 'doing for the sake of doing.' We must resist this temptation by trying 'to be' before trying 'to do.' Trying 'to be' means spending time in prayer in order to unite ourselves to God before trying 'to do'" (*At the Beginning of the New Millennium*, no. 15).

How are we to pray? Any way in which we lift our minds and hearts to God is prayer. Prayer is done with familiar prayers as well as prayer in our own words. Familiar prayers are the "Our Father" and "Hail Mary;" the Rosary; "Morning Prayer" and "Evening Prayer" from the Liturgy of the Hours; and many other familiar prayers that are found in prayer books. Prayers in our own words come from the heart and speak to the heart of God. These prayers are different for each one of us.

Using Scripture for prayer is a most excellent practice. Pope Benedict XVI has declared a year of St. Paul to be celebrated until next June 29. A good idea would be to use the life and writings of St. Paul as material for meditation and prayer. Through his life and writings, we can allow St. Paul to lead us to the heart of God.

(continued on page 5)

Bishop's November Calendar

1 New Ulm: 9:00 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass for All Saints Day.

New Ulm: 7:00 p.m. New Ulm Country Club. Fr. Alexander Berghold Society Dinner.

2 New Ulm: 9:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Mass for All Souls Day.

Silver Lake: 1:00 p.m. Church of the Holy Family. Pro-Life Celebration.

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

6 Bird Island: 7:00 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Mass for Deceased Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Diocese of New Ulm.

8-13 Baltimore, MD: Baltimore, Maryland: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Assembly.

15 Morgan: 9:00 a.m. Church of St. Michael. NUDCCW Board Meeting.

Nicollet: 5:00 p.m. Church of St. Paul. Confirmation.

16 Marshall: 3:30 p.m. Church of the Holy Redeemer. Diocesan 50th Anniversary Conclusion.

17 Bird Island: 9:00 a.m. St. Mary's School. School Visit and Mass.

Bird Island: 12:00 p.m. Athmann's Restaurant. School Principals' Meeting.

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

19 New Ulm: 10:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Vocations Team Meeting.

Dawson: 6:00 p.m. Church of St. James. Operation Andrew Dinner.

21 Fairfax: 5:00 p.m. Church of St. Andrew. Fundraiser – Jesse Manibusan Concert.

22 Renville: 11:00 a.m. Center for Youth Ministry. Talk to Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers – "Catechesis in Our Time."

23 St. Cloud: 4:00 p.m. Chancery. Provincial Appreciation-Welcome Dinner for Archbishop Harry J. Flynn and Archbishop John C. Nienstedt.

24 St. Cloud: 9:00 a.m. St. John's Abbey. Provincial Meeting.

25 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.

27 New Ulm: 9:00 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Thanksgiving Day Mass.

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



Plans in place for third annual appeal

by Wayne Pelzel, director
Office of Development

"*Hope for Years to Come*," the 2008 Diocesan Ministry Appeal (DMA) is set to kick off in parishes the weekend of November 15 and 16, 2008. At the conclusion of each Mass, parishioners will view the 2008 DMA video which will cover the four important ministries in the diocese that are financially being supported by the generous donations to the DMA.

First-time DMA contributor Bishop John M. LeVoir states: "The 2008 Diocesan Ministries Appeal funds so many wonderful ministries here in the diocese. Our seminarians, the diaconate, Catholic Charities, and ongoing formation of our young people as well as adults, are all beneficiaries of your generosity to the annual DMA.

"As stewards of God's gifts to us, I ask each of you to give a generous gift to the Appeal. To those of you who have given before, I can only say "Thanks! Please continue your wonderful support!" To those of you who haven't given yet, "Now is your opportunity to return to God some of his gifts to you! Don't pass up this great opportunity to give back."

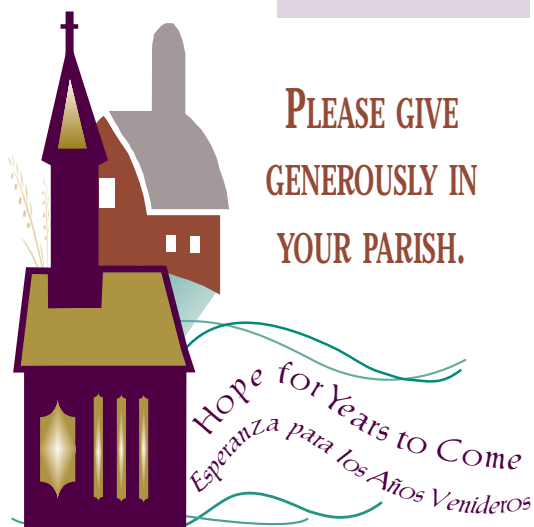
GIVING IS SIMPLE!

- Watch your mail the first week of November for a DMA brochure outlining the Appeal.
- The return envelope enclosed within the brochure will allow you to contribute monthly, quarterly, or one-time gift.
- Gifts to the DMA can be by cash or checks, electronic fund transfers, automatic withdrawal, or credit cards.
- Additional gift options are securities, bonds, grain, or real estate.

All gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

THE BISHOP'S GUILD is a group dedicated to helping the bishop meet essential needs within the Diocese of New Ulm. Members who give a minimum gift of \$1,000 to the DMA will in return receive: an invitation to a special Guild dinner with the bishop; the annual spring edition of *Good News* - a publication of the Diocesan Ministries Appeal; as well as recognition in *The Prairie Catholic*.

PLEASE GIVE
GENEROUSLY IN
YOUR PARISH.



Diocesan Ministries Appeal COMMITMENT WEEKEND

The Goal
\$660,000!

November 15-16, 2008

Diocesan Ministries Appeal How does it affect me?

Frequently asked Questions about the DMA

Q. What is the DMA? Why do we have it?

A. The DMA is a diocesan wide campaign designed to raise money to support ministries the diocese has not been able to offer due to lack of funding, to reduce the Diocesan United Fund, and to give parishes a vehicle by which they could also increase their own revenues.

Q. What ministries does the DMA support that could not be offered previously?

A. Two programs that are funded solely by the DMA are the counseling services provided through the four newly opened Catholic Charities offices located in four regions of the diocese, and the diaconate program which is currently preparing eleven men to serve as deacons in the diocese. The DMA also partially supports our nine seminarians in their studies, supports training and formation of lay ministers, and supports programs for children and youth.

Q. What is the Diocesan United Fund (DUF) and how does the DMA reduce it?

A. The Diocesan United Fund is a method by which the parishes support the work of the diocese. Many years ago that method was devised based on each parish's population and their giving records to determine on a fair share basis how much each parish should give to financially support the diocese. Annual revised parish statistics determine the new parish funding amount.

The first \$100,000 of income from the DMA is used to reduce the amount needed to be raised by the Diocesan United Fund.

Q. How does the DMA support parish projects?

A. The DMA, with the principles of Christian stewardship as its foundation, began to raise additional funding for the diocese. In the DMA's design, parishes would also have the opportunity to raise additional funds if they so desired for projects within the parish itself.

Since the diocese provides all the mailing, print material, DVDs and bookkeeping, the work of parishes to carry on the fundraising event is relatively small. In that way it provides a great service for parishes who have identified a project that needs funding.

Q. What amount of money has the DMA raised in its two year history and how was that money used?

A. In its two year history, the DMA has raised 2.7 million dollars. Here is a breakdown of how that money was used.

- \$1,440,000 returned to parishes to support parish projects;
- \$200,000 reduction of Diocesan United Fund (DUF);
- \$1,060,000 funding for diocesan ministries including our seminarians, the diaconate, Catholic Charities, and formation programs for our young people and adults.

For more information about the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, please contact Wayne Pelzel, Director of the Office of Development for the Diocese of New Ulm, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; (507) 359-2966; email: wpelzel@dnu.org.



No Tengas Miedo....

por Obispo John M. LeVoi

"Oración"

En el Bautismo, recibimos la virtud de la fe. Esta virtud es: "Tanto un regalo de Dios como un acto humano por el cual el creyente da su adhesión personal a Dios, quien lo invita a su respuesta, y a consentir libremente toda la verdad que Dios ha revelado" (CCC, Glosario). La fe no es un pequeño regalo de Dios. Es un gran regalo y es tan grande que es llamado: un misterio. La fe es misteriosa porque podemos saber algunas cosas sobre ella, pero no todas.

¿Que tenemos que hacer con este gran regalo de la fe? El Catecismo nos enseña: "¡Este es el misterio de la fe! Por tanto, este Misterio exige que los fieles crean en él, lo celebren y vivan de él en una relación viviente y personal con Dios vivo y verdadero. Esta relación es la oración. (CCC, no. 2558). Es una oración que me gustaría dar un comentario.

Una de las verdades básicas de nuestra fe es que Dios nos ama. Esta será siempre la actitud de Dios hacia nosotros. Y no puede ser nada más, ya que Dios es amor (véase Juan 1, 4:16). Esto significa que Dios siempre quiere lo mejor para nosotros y nos ayudará a lograr lo que es mejor para nosotros.

El amor de Dios nos pide una respuesta de nuestra parte. Una respuesta al amor es algo que experimentamos en nuestra vida cotidiana. Cuando alguien hace algo bueno por nosotros, naturalmente, y sin pensar queremos hacer algo bueno para ellos. Así es como debería ser entre Dios y nosotros. Él nos ha dado nuestras vidas y todo lo que se desprende del regalo de la vida. Dios es el Hijo que se dio a sí mismo a nosotros para nuestra salvación. Nuestra respuesta debe ser nosotros mismos para regresar a Dios en señal de gratitud y de amor.

Oración es una expresión profunda de

nuestro amor a Dios. "La oración es la elevación del alma a Dios o la petición a Dios de bienes convenientes." (CCC, no. 2559). En otras palabras, la oración es la elevación de todo nuestro ser a Dios. Es dar todo de nosotros a Dios y nosotros corazonos a Dios es oración. La oración se hace con la oración familiar, así como la oración en nuestras propias palabras. Las oraciones familiares son el "Padre Nuestro" y el "Ave María", el Rosario; "Oración de la mañana" y "Oración de la Noche" de la Liturgia de las Horas, y muchas otras oraciones familiares que se encuentran en los libros de oración. Oraciones en nuestras propias palabras salen del corazón y hablan al corazón de Dios. Estas oraciones son diferentes para cada uno de nosotros.

Escribir o hablar acerca de la oración es una cosa, pero hacerlo es otra. La oración es difícil. Se necesita esfuerzo. Un veterano sacerdote que conozco se fue a un retiro. Regresó a la parroquia y le dijo a sus feligreses que en el retiro descubrió la cosa más importante acerca de la oración. Todos ellos estaban curiosos por saber lo que era. El veterano sacerdote, simplemente respondió: "¡Hacerlo!". Incluso los grandes santos tuvieron dificultades para "hacer" oración. Por ejemplo cuando durante la oración en la capilla del convento, Santa Teresa de Ávila tuvo que agarrarse fuertemente sobre el banco con el fin de controlarse a sí misma para no salir de la capilla.

Sin embargo, si queremos aferrarnos a nosotros mismos a amar a Dios, la oración es esencial. En cierto sentido, la oración es hoy más importante para nosotros de lo que lo ha sido nunca. En la celebración del Gran Jubileo del Año 2000, el Papa Juan Pablo II nos animó a lanzar nuestras redes en la profundidad (véase Lucas 5:4). En otras palabras, el Papa nos ha llamado para avanzar al jubileo y para confiar en Dios y vivir nuestra fe al máximo.

Juan Pablo II añadió prontamente que esto no hubiera sido posible sin la oración. "Es importante que lo que nos proponemos, con la ayuda de Dios, esté fundado en la contemplación y en la oración. El nuestro es un tiempo de continuo movimiento, que a menudo desemboca en el activismo, con el riesgo fácil del 'hacer por hacer.' Tenemos que resistir a esta tentación,

buscando 'ser' antes que 'hacer.' (At the Beginning of the New Millennium, no. 15).

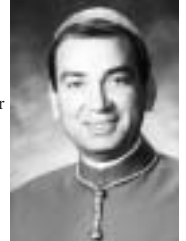
¿Cómo vamos a rezar? Cualquier forma en que levantemos nuestras mentes y nuestros corazonos a Dios es oración. La oración se hace con la oración familiar, así como la oración en nuestras propias palabras. Las oraciones familiares son el "Padre Nuestro" y el "Ave María", el Rosario; "Oración de la mañana" y "Oración de la Noche" de la Liturgia de las Horas, y muchas otras oraciones familiares que se encuentran en los libros de oración. Oraciones en nuestras propias palabras salen del corazón y hablan al corazón de Dios. Estas oraciones son diferentes para cada uno de nosotros. El uso de las Escrituras para la oración es una excelente práctica. El Papa Benedicto XVI ha declarado el año de San Pablo que se celebrará hasta el próximo 29 de junio. Una buena idea sería utilizar la vida y los escritos de San Pablo como material para la meditación y la oración. A través de su vida y escritos, le permitimos a San Pablo que nos conduzca al corazón de Dios. Además, el utilizar uno de los Evangelios para la meditación nos unirá más estrechamente a Dios. Yo por lo general sugiero que comiencen con el Evangelio de Mateo.

La forma más elevada de oración es la celebración de la Santa Eucaristía, especialmente la Misa dominical. Es que durante la Misa nos reunimos con Nuestro Señor en una forma más personal. Individualmente y como comunidad, estamos unidos a Él en las oraciones de la Santa Misa, lecturas de la Escritura, y la recepción de su Cuerpo y su Sangre. Esta reunión con Cristo se hace más significativa para nosotros cuando revisamos periódicamente la interpretación de la Iglesia acerca de la Misa. Hay muchas fuentes para ello. Uno de esas fuentes es el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica. Además, se derivan de la Misa la adoración Eucarística. La adoración ha ayudado a muchos a contemplar más profundamente el misterio de Cristo y para echar sus redes a las profundidades.

A pesar que la oración es difícil, eso no significa que la oración es para algunos solamente. Cada uno de nosotros somos llamados a rezar cada día. Papa Juan

Pope names Duluth bishop named coadjutor archbishop of Cincinnati

Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Duluth, MN, who is treasurer of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as coadjutor archbishop of Cincinnati. The appointment was announced October 17 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

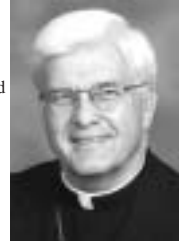


Coadjutor Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr

Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, 74, is the current head of the archdiocese. As coadjutor, Archbishop Schnurr, 60, automatically becomes head of the archdiocese upon Archbishop Pilarczyk's retirement or death. Next year, on Aug. 12, Archbishop Pilarczyk will turn 75, the age at which bishops are requested by church law to submit their resignations to the pope. The pope may or may not accept it at that time.

Bishop Quinn named coadjutor bishop of Winona

Pope Benedict XVI has named Auxiliary Bishop John Quinn of Detroit as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Winona, MN. The 62-year-old Quinn will serve with, and then succeed, Bishop Bernard Harrington, who submitted his request for retirement to the Vatican when he turned 75 last month.



Bishop John M. Quinn

Harrington also came to Winona from the Archdiocese of Detroit. He served as an auxiliary bishop for four years before he was named Bishop of Winona in 1998. The Winona diocese is comprised of 20 counties across the southern tier of Minnesota. It counts 148,400 Catholics, 79 active priests, 115 parishes, 33 schools, one seminary and one Catholic university.

Quinn's installation is planned for December 11, 2008, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona.

Pablo II nos recuerda: "Pero se equivoca quien piense que el común de los cristianos se puede conformar con una oración superficial, incapaz de llenar su vida. Especialmente ante tantos modos en que el mundo de hoy pone a prueba la fe, no solo serían cristianos mediocres, sino 'cristianos con riesgo.' En efecto, correrían el riesgo insidioso de que su fe se debilitara progresivamente, y quizás acabarían por ceder a la seducción de los sucedáneos, acogiendo propuestas religiosas alternativas y transigiendo incluso con formas extravagantes de superstición. (At the Beginning of the New Millennium, no. 34).

Una vez unido cerca a Dios en amor a través de oración, estamos listos a confiar en Dios para vivir nuestra fe a

lo máximo. El fruto de oración es una vida de caridad. Una vez más Papa Juan Pablo, leímos: "Sí, queridos hermanos y hermanas, nuestras comunidades cristianas tienen que llegar a ser auténticas 'escuelas de oración,' donde el encuentro con Cristo no se exprese solamente en petición de ayuda, sino también en acción de gracias, alabanza, adoración, contemplación, escucha y viveza de afecto hasta el 'arrebato del corazón.' Una oración intensa, pues, que sin embargo no aparta del compromiso en la historia: abriendo el corazón al amor de Dios, lo abre también al amor de los hermanos, y nos hace capaces de construir la historia según el designio de Dios. (At the Beginning of the New Millennium, no. 33).

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Total	26,404	26,470

Couple visits 81 parishes in 81 days!

50th anniversary history book serves as travel guide



Using the 50th anniversary history book as their guide, Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm parishioners Rick and Gwen Christiansen, completed a 1,619 mile motorcycle ride to all 81 parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm.

by Rick & Gwen Christiansen

New Ulm, MN - Having spent 50 years calling the Cathedral "home", we completed a quest that we assume very few people have done: travel to every parish in the New Ulm diocese on motorcycles. We began our 1,619 mile ride to all 81 churches this spring, and finished exactly 81 days later, rolling up to the Cathedral in New Ulm at 11:00 p.m. on July 24.

We were not mere tourists, but rather leather-clad pilgrims. We took pictures of the sanctuaries, stained glass, altars and choir lofts, but mostly we came to pray. At each parish we prayed for the pastor, the parishioners, and the community.

We prayed for a renewal of faith in that parish, for vocations, and offered a decade of the Rosary before we left for our next stop.

We covered the entire diocese from Graceville, the most northern church to Comfrey in the south, from Beardsley on the western edge, to Jessenland in the east. Faxon Township was by far the hardest to find, down a gravel road in the middle of a cornfield, but well worth the search. In most small towns, the local watering hole was easier to spot than the church. Directional signs coming into these towns would have been helpful. We were warned not to blink while coming through Manannah. What a surprise to run

into a traffic jam waiting for a parade to finish!

We enjoyed the spontaneity of our visits. We were uninvited guests at weddings in Benson, Wilno, and Green Valley. But, we gratefully accepted an invitation to the potluck dinner in Winthrop. Mass was being celebrated when we arrived in St. Peter and Cottonwood. In Sleepy Eye, the wonderful perpetual Eucharistic Adoration was part of our visit, and in Winsted an outdoor concert of praise music delighted us. We did make one planned visit in Olivia, however, for the Evening Vesper service with Archbishop Nienstedt.

Be not afraid

(continued from page 2)

In addition, using one of the Gospels for meditation would unite us more closely to God. I usually suggest beginning with the Gospel of Matthew.

The highest form of prayer is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, especially Sunday Mass. It is at Mass that we meet Our Lord in a most personal way. Individually and as a community, we are united to Him in the Mass prayers, the Scripture readings, and the reception of His Body and Blood. This meeting with Christ is made more meaningful for us when we review periodically the Church's understanding of the Mass. There are many resources for this. One such resource is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. In addition, flowing from the Mass is Eucharistic adoration. Adoration has helped many to contemplate more

profoundly the mystery of Christ and to cast their nets into the deep.

Just because prayer is difficult, that does not mean that prayer is for only a few. Each of us is called to pray each day. Pope John Paul reminds us: "But it would be wrong to think that ordinary Christians can be content with a shallow prayer that is unable to fill their whole life. Especially in the face of the many trials to which today's world subjects faith, they would be not only mediocre Christians but 'Christians at risk.' They would run the insidious risk of seeing their faith progressively undermined, and would perhaps end up succumbing to the allure of 'substitutes,' accepting alternative religious proposals and even indulging in far-fetched superstitions" (*At the Beginning of the New Millennium*, no. 34).

Once united closely to God in love through prayer, we are ready to trust in God and live our faith to the fullest. The fruit of prayer is a life of charity. Again, going to Pope John Paul, we read: "Yes, dear brothers and sisters, our Christian communities must become *genuine 'schools' of prayer*, where the meeting with Christ is expressed not just in imploring help but also in thanksgiving, praise, adoration, contemplation, listening and ardent devotion, until the heart truly 'falls in love.' Intense prayer, yes, but it does not distract us from our commitment to history: by opening our heart to the love of God it also opens it to the love of our brothers and sisters, and makes us capable of shaping history according to God's plan" (*At the Beginning of the New Millennium*, no. 33).

50th Anniversary History Book

AVAILABLE **NOW!**



\$26.50 per book/plus shipping

Don't miss out on your copy of 50 years of diocesan history condensed into a valuable keepsake.

For more information or to order call (507) 233-5330; email: jweicherding@dnu.org

*a Loving People in a Holy Place
Un Pueblo Amoroso en un Luga Santo*

Each church has a unique story to tell. We benefited from display cases of old sacramentals and reliquaries, a written history of the parish or a book describing the stained glass windows. (Do you know how many churches have a window depicting Noah's Ark?) Statuary is important in churches, and we particularly appreciated churches that had statues of its patron saint. Altars varied from large granite stones to a simple wooden table. Many have added impressive gathering halls to old churches. These features reveal the value the parish has for the richness and traditions of the church as a whole.

It was rare to find a church that needed additional TLC. The care and cleanliness of the buildings and grounds proudly displayed the respect and love each parish has for their Lord and their place to worship him. Several times we saw parish families taking turns mowing the lawns; making one feel this is a true parish family.

We were occasionally disappointed to find a church locked, especially on Sunday afternoon. It is a real blessing that most churches were open, even in the smallest towns, to

allow people to come in and worship throughout the day. We noted the protective reactions of the neighbors when they saw two strange bikers entering the church. Many approached us and inquired about our visit. It was an unexpected joy to visit with several parish priests on our visit.

The oldest church in the diocese is Forest City, although Jessenland lays claim to the oldest parish. The newest church is Litchfield. And among all Christian denominations, only in the fullness of the Catholic Church will you find parishes named after patron saints: Clotilde (Green Valley), Willibrord (Gibbon), Eloi (Ghent), Malachy (Clontarf), and Dionysius (Tyler).

The diocese is full of beautiful churches! We have our personal favorites which are too numerous to mention. Our lasting impression from our adventure is that we are truly a diocesan family. Together, we are the church, and all have ownership in this diocese. We strongly encourage everyone to visit other churches throughout the diocese. Experience the great love for the Lord as reflected in the beauty of all 81 churches.

Kemmeter accepts Milwaukee position



Mark Kemmeter

Mark Kemmeter has served the Diocese of New Ulm as Coordinator of Diocesan Staff since July of 2000. He has been offered and has accepted the position of Coordinator of Parish Mission for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The job will include pastoral planning, pastoral council development, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, and monitoring parish ministerial activity and status. This new position will be effective November 1, 2008.

The Diocese of New Ulm is very grateful for his many years of dedicated leadership.

2009 Diocesan Distinguished Service Award nominations sought

Nominations are requested for the 2009 New Ulm Diocesan Distinguished Service Award (DDSA). The award is presented to members of the Diocese of New Ulm in recognition for outstanding service to the diocese over a period of years. Up to five awards will be presented by Bishop John M. LeVoir at the Bishop Lucker Lecture to be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at the Hutchinson Event Center, Hutchinson, MN.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

- ⊕ Outstanding service exercised in some leadership capacity, such as service on a diocesan council or committee, in a diocesan organization or as a member of the Diocesan staff;
- ⊕ The diocesan service has been performed over a number of years;
- ⊕ The person has served as a living witness to the New Ulm Diocesan Mission Statement;
- ⊕ The person has nurtured leadership and encouraged growth among the members of the diocesan community.

NOMINATION DEADLINE

Nominations must be received by

January 1, 2009, for consideration. Forms are available on the diocesan Web site www.dnu.org, or contact Penny Forst at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; email: pforst@dnu.org.



Bishop John J. McRaith

Bishop McRaith to keynote Lucker Lecture

Bishop John McRaith of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, and a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm and the first to become a bishop, will keynote the 2009 Bishop Lucker Lecture to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at the Hutchinson Event Center, Hutchinson, MN. Bishop McRaith's presentation, "Planting the Seeds of Stewardship," will address the topic of stewardship and the responsibility of every follower of Jesus to use the gifts which God gives us wisely.

A native of rural Hutchinson, MN, Bishop McRaith was ordained a priest for the Diocese of New Ulm on February 21, 1960, at St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye, by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler. Parishes served include: St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye, St. Michael's, Milroy, and St. Leo's, St. Leo. He also served as Superintendent of St. Mary's High School, Sleepy Eye. For the diocese he served as Vicar General, Chancellor, Moderator of the Curia, Coordinator of Staff, Director of Priests' Personnel, and Rural Life Director. From 1971-1978, he served as Director for the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. On October 26, 1982, Pope John Paul II named him the third bishop of Owensboro, KY. He was ordained and installed on December 15, 1982.

Bishop McRaith has served on a number of Committees of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. Most notably, he was one of the co-authors of the pastoral statement, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. His familiarity with that document and the people of the diocese will assure an insightful and entertaining lecture.

Sleepy Eye St. Mary's School celebrates 125th anniversary



Original school circ. 1883



Fr. Sandmeyer

Sleepy Eye, MN - In August 1878, Fr. Bernard Sandmeyer (pictured right) was appointed the first pastor of the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, MN, and it was under his guidance that a parish school was built. The first grade school, built in 1883, was located on the northeast corner of the church property. It included four good sized classrooms. Fr. Sandmeyer gave \$500 of his own money to the help fund the construction. The Sisters of St. Francis from Rochester, MN, staffed the parish school which opened on September 26, 1883, with about 90 pupils enrolled.

be needed. Seven acres of land was bought from Peter Geshwind, a member of the parish. These acres are the site of the present grade and high school. The cornerstone was blessed and laid on June 24, 1914.

After the building of the grade school, a new auditorium was ready for use in December of 1939. It had a seating capacity of 675 and also served as the basketball floor. The old auditorium in the grade school was transformed into four

In the course of time it became apparent that a new building would

(continued on page 9)

Past DDSA recipients

Abbott, SSND, Sr. Darlene	1991	Czech, Dave	1986	Kieffer, John	1964	Nester, Ellen	2005	Schmidt, Lila	2003
Allen, John Regan	1991	Czech, Dee	1986	Klein, Carl	1964	Neubauer, Jerry	1996	Schmit, Rev. George	1990
Anton, Philip	1972	Daily, Catherine	1966	Kramer, Mary	1965	Neudecker, Ida	1968	Schoolmeesters, SSND, Sr. Kathryn,	
Babel, Tim	1996	Femholz, SSND, Sr. Kay	1989	Kramer, Mary Ann	1986	Nowak, Shirley	2001		2003
Backes, OSB, Sr. JoAnne	1991	Fier, ISSM, Sr. Candace	1996	Kramer, Nick	1965	O'Connor, William	1989	Schueller, Elizabeth	1964
Balbach, Jerry	2004	Filler, Herbert	1970	Kramer, Wayne	2005	O'Donnell, Lucille	1986	Schueller, Rosemary	1991
Balbach, Julaine	2004	Fink, Rev. Frederick	1986	Kuester, Kevin	2004	O'Neil, PVBM, Sr. Kay	1991	Schumacher, Rev. Paul	1987
Barry, Rev. James	1989	Gaddo, John	1996	Kuester, Teresa	2004	Osborne, Kay	1996	Schwarz, Kathleen	2007
Beech, Mary	1990	Garvey, Msgr. Francis	1989	Labat, Rev. Dennis	1990	Paulson, Rev. Jerome	1991	Schwarz, Joel	2007
Berg, Dolores	2001	Gosch, SSND, Sr. Mary Kay	1986	Larkin, Elizabeth	1986	Pelzel, Wayne	1996	Seifert, Dr. James	1987
Berger, Rev. John	1991	Grossman, CSJ, Sr. Marie	1989	Larsen, Mary Ann	2006	Peters, Dorothy	1991	Spencer, SSND, Sr. Sandra	1986
Borchert, Curtis	1987	Guillemette, Rev. Arthur	1986	Leifeld, Msgr. Antony	1986	Pettrich, Margaret	1975	Stadick, Ken	2007
Borchert, JoAnn	1987	Hackert, Rev. Eugene	1996	Lorenz, Marie	1966	Picha, SSND, Sr. Margaret	1986	Stahl, Polly	2001
Bramley, Cherie	1996	Hanna, Nancy	2001	Ludowese, Mark	1989	Pistulka, Rev. Celestine	1994	Stubeda, Rev. Anthony	1996
Brey, Rosa	1965	Haspert, Elaine	1974	Mahoney, Paul	1986	Pohland, Glenn	1996	Suedbeck, John	1987
Breyfogle, Darrell	1986	Herriges, Phil	1967	Manderfeld, Margaret (Margy)	2005	Pohland, Joanne	1996	Summerfield, Michael	1996
Brinkman, Dr. Donald	1996	Herriges, Stella	1967	Marti, Paula	1991	Power, Mary Ann	2007	Tacheny, Paula	1996
Bromenschenkel, Gail	2005	Higgins, Kevin	1996	McGill, Pat	1986	Prokosch, Carol	2006	Wagner, Beatrice	1964
Brunner, Herb	2003	Higgins, Mary	1996	McRaith, Bishop John	1991	Puccio, CSJ, Sr. Carolyn	1986	Ward, Msgr. John	1986
Brunner, Rev. Jack H.	2007	Hillemeier, Bette	2001	Meidl, Ray	1971	Rademacher, Rev. Germain	1989	Warren, OSF, Sr. Kathy	1987
Brust, June	2001	Hillesheim, Paul	2006	Mertensotto, Lavahn	1986	Reinhart, Ralph	1996	Weber, Judi	2001
Caron, Jeanie	1991	Hoffman, Conrad	1987	Meyer, Louise	1987	Reiter, Anna Marie	2005	Weisgerber, Alphonse	1970
Caron, Larry	1991	Hoffman, Oscar	1986	Meyers, PBVM, Sr. Michelle	1991	Richter, Msgr. John	1998	Whitehead, OSF, Sr. Rosemarie	1991
Casey, Bill	1993	Huebert, Kathy	2006	Mohr, Elizabeth	1990	Ruskamp, Mercedes	1989	Willette, DePaul	1986
Casey, Rev. Patrick	1987	Huebert, Ken	2006	Monnens, Marion	1996	Sanders, Donna	1989	Willette, Lois	1986
Clasemann, Donald	1996	Irrgang, Frances	1969	Monnens, Rev. Merle	1996	Schaffer, Msgr. Gregory	1991	Wirth, SSND, Sr. Justin	1989
Crowe, Jan	2001	Kemp, Carrie	1996	Nachreiner, Yvonne	1996	Schieffert, David	1996	Zenk, Maria	2003
Culhane, OSB, Sr. Cathan	1991	Kemp, Gary	1996	Nelson, Etta	1964	Schindler, Judy	1996	Zenk, Steven	2003
				Nelson, Kay	1996	Schlosser, Sandra	1989		
				Nelson, Marjorie	1987	Schmeling, Scott	1996		

After 113 years, Taunton parish closes with final Mass

Taunton, MN - Parishioners from Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Taunton gathered one last time for Mass Saturday. After eating together, they all gathered again to officially close the 113-year-old church.

Cindy Full, a 66-year-member of the parish, sat on one of the front rows with three of her daughters, Francie Collignon, Susie Huber and Jeannie Antony. "Most of my children were baptized here. I sang in the choir," Full said. She buried her husband and three sons in the parish.

"We have sat in the same pew here our whole lives," said Collignon. Since the parish conducted its last service in the summer and none of her children are members of Sts. Cyril and Methodius anymore, Full has already joined the parish in Minnesota.

In contrast, Frank Swedzinski put it off as long as he could. "I waited until we locked the doors, but I will join St. Edward's in Minnesota," he said after the closing ceremony.

As president of the parish council, Swedzinski was part of the group that made the decision to close Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church. "We'll miss the companionship and fraternity of our friends and neighbors, but we'll still see everybody in town. The sorrow is that we won't be as close," Swedzinski added.

Swedzinski's history with the parish runs deep: His parents, Casimir and Marcianna Swedzinski, were original members of the parish.

Frank Swedzinski's sister, Dorothy Swedzinski Stake of Lennox, S.D., came back to her old parish to say goodbye. "Here tonight it did" hit her the church was closing, she said after

the ceremony, her voice cracking a bit with emotion.

She wasn't the only one. Many parishioners wiped away tears after the doors were locked, and Fr. Jeremy Kucera's voice shook a bit at the very end of the service when he spoke about locking the doors. Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church was his first parish. He also serves St. Edward's in Minnesota and St. Eloi in Ghent.

"Memories of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church are a special gift from God," added Helen McGuire, a Swedzinski sibling.

Newly-named Bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm John M. LeVoir celebrated the Mass. In his Mass homily, he mentioned the Polish background of many who started the parish, the great faith of those who had come before, and the memories that have been made in this church.

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS, TAUNTON, MN

INCORPORATED: June 7, 1895

DEDICATED: Nov. 19, 1927
by Archbishop Austin Dowling

CURRENT PASTOR: Rev. Jeremy Kucera

GOOD TEACHER AREA FAITH COMMUNITY with parishes of St. Eloi, Ghent, St. Leo, St. Leo, St. Edward, Minnesota, and St. Peter, Canby



"It's healthy for us to mourn, to be sad at this passing, but we should look to the future without forgetting the past," he said.

"We should bring our faith into the future" wherever we go.

During the meal, Bishop LeVoir said

no decision had been made on what will happen to the building and its contents. "The stained-glass windows, statues, and sacred vessels will be saved if the church would be demolished. Everything will find a home," he said, probably with another parish.

The diocese is well-aware of the trend toward rural churches closing due to decreased population. "There's a five-year plan we're starting to look at now," Bishop LeVoir said.

He saw the trend of falling population reflected in the consolidation of



Following Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church closing Mass, participants gathered for a reception prior to gathering again to officially close the 113-year-old church.

photo courtesy of Marshall Independent

school districts. "So many churches, but fewer people and fewer priests," he said.

Families are having fewer children now and those children tend to move to cities outside the diocese.

There was one good thing about the closing of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church. "The people here are the ones who decided it would close. Any parish that closes, I would like to see it done that way," said Bishop LeVoir.

story courtesy of Marshall Independent

Parishioners of St. Mathias in Wanda reminisce and celebrate past 125 years

Wanda, MN - St. Mathias Catholic Church in Wanda is noted for its closeness and caring. It's a close-knit rural community with nearly everyone knowing everyone else. It has been that way for most of the 125 years of existence.

On Sunday, September 7, 2008, the parish celebrated its 125th anniversary which included a Mass and a noon meal at the Wanda Legion Hall.

The first Catholic church to serve the Wanda area was St. John the Baptist, located in Willow Lake Township. It was built in 1883 on the north end of what is now the Catholic cemetery, east of town. There was neither plaster on the walls nor pews in the church until an addition was built in 1891.

In 1900, more settlers began moving to the area and founded the village of Wanda. In 1902, a church was built and the name changed to St. Mathias. Five years later the church in Wanda burned to the ground. According to the history of

the church, St. Mathias was rebuilt in 1910.

Today, the parish of St. Mathias is part of the Light of the World Area Faith Community which includes St. Anne's, Wabasso, Our Lady of Victory, Lucan, and St. Mary's, Seaforth. Fr. Todd Petersen, a Wabasso native, has served all four parishes since 2007.

(r) Fr. Petersen greets parishioners following the 125th Anniversary Mass.



story/ photos courtesy of Wabasso Standard and also Lambertson News



Fr. Petersen recently met with three life-time members of St. Mathias and discussed events and changes during their tenure as Catholics. (l-r) Fr. Petersen, Bertha

Altermatt, Elaine Rohlik, and Omer Jenniges. Bertha at one time was a teacher at St. Anne's School in Wabasso and one of her fifth grade students was Fr. Petersen.



Catholic Charities provides pregnancy support including adoption choices

by Lois Byrne, PBVM

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. Adoption is a choice that today provides many options regarding openness between birth and adoptive families. Although confidential adoption is still optional most birth and adoptive families are choosing open adoption.

Openness in adoption has evolved over the past twenty or more years. In most situations birth and adoptive families meet prior to the baby's birth and from this initial contact, the relationship develops. Fueled by mutual respect and appreciation, direct contact often continues into the years ahead. Catholic Charities is not licensed as a child placing agency but assists in facilitating adoption services with the Catholic Charities agencies of St. Paul, St. Cloud, and Winona, or another licensed agency of the birth parents' choice.

People interested in adopting may

also contact Catholic Charities for information or consultation. Search information is available as well.

Adopted persons who have reached the age of 19 and birth parents of adults interested in seeking information about their adoption may contact Catholic Charities.

Additionally, Catholic Charities provides supportive services for unmarried parents and their families planning to parent or unsure of their

plans. These services include decision making counseling, supportive parenting resources, and relationship counseling.

For more information on these services or for any services provided by Catholic Charities call 1-866-670-5163.

Lois Byrne, PBVM is a licensed independent clinical social worker with many years of experience working in adoption services.

Catholic Charities Counseling Services offered in

Hutchinson, Marshall, New Ulm, and Willmar

Providing services for: Individual and Family Counseling; Adoption; Marriage Preparation Counseling, Parish and Community Response; Pregnancy Counseling; Grief Services; and Immigration and Legalization Services.

For inquiries and to schedule an appointment, please contact the New Ulm office located at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN, 56073; phone: (507) 359-2617 or toll-free 1(866) 670-5163.

The acceptable fast: feeding the hungry

by Fr. Philip Schotzko, director Diocesan Office of Propagation of the Faith

More than likely, most who read this article have ever felt the effects of real, life-threatening malnutrition. I don't mean just fasting for a day or two. I mean not having adequate food for yourself or your children for an extended period of time. With experience as a missionary, I have often seen the signs of hunger...the thin discolored hair, the skin covering bony limbs and protruding stomachs, and the hauntingly sad eyes.

I once went on a fast for four days (water only). I sat still by a stream and felt my body grow weak and my mind begin to fixate on imaginary FOOD! Since this fast was my choice and I had someone checking on me daily, I was not concerned for my health. I knew I could end it in an instant.

In the quiet reflection time of this experience, the "food" of God's Word in Scripture became rich and

satisfying. But what if I had not had a full meal waiting for me at the end of the fast?

The economic crisis in America that is spreading throughout the world may have our heads spinning and our hands clinging to our pocket books. However, we have not felt the effects of poverty that many are experiencing as never before. There is a global food crisis that is deepening as more and more people do not have food for today. As basic food prices rise, double, and even triple, income has remained flat. The result is that many countries are facing a nutrition crisis.

Although it would be quite complicated to review all the causes of this global food crisis and delineate all the possible ways we might respond to make a difference, I can bring the reality of the crisis to your attention and point you to resources to educate yourself.

Perhaps you will then decide what

is yours to do. I suggest going to a Web site like, <http://crs.org/emergency/global-food-crisis.cfm>. Then, read and pray. Also, pay attention when you see news articles or other related stories that explore the growing problem. Our prayers may be our first and best response. However, I have no doubt that, guided by the Spirit, who challenges us to feed the hungry, other responses may follow. May the God of the poor and hungry stir our hearts.

Fr. Schotzko is pastor of St. Peter in St. Peter, MN.

between eviction and home,
between hunger and health,
between unemployment and work,
between anxiety and stability.

This line is the Poverty Line.

Please give generously in your parish Nov. 22-23.

We can help struggling families and communities.
Support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in your parish Diocese. www.catholiccampaign.org for more.

Knights to the rescue! new Birthright facility in McLeod County



Carolyn Pohlen, Chairman of the Birthright, Inc. Board presents Fourth Degree Knight Roy Tupa, a member of St. Anastasia, Hutchinson, MN, with a plaque of appreciation for his involvement in the new Birthright facility.

by Dolores Brunner, Treasurer Birthright, Inc.

Hutchinson, MN - We read and hear about the wonderful work being done by the people of the New Ulm diocese in far away places. We applaud them and their extraordinary work to help the poor and unfortunate. It's always nice to know how people go out of their way to help others. This story is about helping in our own area and our own people close to home.

Early this year, the Birthright Incorporated, Board of Directors decided that their Hutchinson, MN, based office was not in an ideal location for their work. It was located in a basement space down a long flight of stairs and was not very private. Birthright is a non-profit, non-sectarian, all-volunteer membership of concerned individuals offering emotional and practical support to anyone in distress over an unplanned pregnancy. Space became available in a building that the owner had dedicated to non-profit organizations. That's when help was needed!

The Knights of Columbus, St. Anastasia parish of Hutchinson, MN, and St. Boniface parish of

Stewart, MN, were asked for physical help. Some money had been saved by the Board for this opportunity but all of their funds are donations from people, churches, and organizations that understand the commitment of Birthright to the unborn. This is when Roy Tupa, a Fourth Degree Knight (Hutchinson St. John's Council) came to the rescue. Tupa took over the reins as general contractor obtaining licenses and permits necessary, planned the work schedule, purchased the materials, and contacted his fellow Knights to donate their talents to the cause. He also contacted the neighboring Council 8253 of Holy Trinity Church of Winsted; Council 1841 Holy Family Church of Silver Lake; and Council 4842 St. Pius Church of Glencoe for help in the project and to donate funds to help defray the cost of materials.

Tupa and his recruited crew of volunteers went to work installation new walls, a new ceiling, configured the existing heating, did rewiring, put in wallboard, taped and sanded, painted and stained and put in new doors. In other words, they built an office, a consultation room, a lab and a storeroom from donated supplies. They took time from their families, their jobs, and their recreation, to help the unborn.

In all, about 30 men from the four Knights of Columbus Councils guided by Roy Tupa made it possible for the McLeod County area to have a viable, clean, accessible private office located in the Hope Center, 218 Main St. S. Suite 132, Hutchinson, MN.

from the
desk of the DCCW President



ATTENDING NCCW GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM THE DIOCESE WERE:

(l-r) Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, New Ulm DCCW Moderator, Sherry Johnson, Region III Legislation, Lake Benton; (middle) Sr. Elizabeth Gruenes, OSB, Glencoe, Jeane Appel, New Ulm DCCW President, Lake Benton; (front) Joanne Pohland, NCCW Secretary, Glencoe, Mary Ann Kramer, past NCCW President, Lucan, JoAnne Griebel, CCW Parish President, Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm, Donna Sanders, NCCW Region I Vice President, Cottonwood.

by Jeane Appel

Approximately 600 members and friends of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) met at the General Assembly, September 24-28, 2008, in Salt Lake City Utah, to grow in their faith and become educated in leadership and service.

The opening Eucharistic Liturgy was held at the Cathedral of the Madeleine with Bishop of Salt Lake City, the Most Reverend John C. Westra as celebrant and homilist, and our diocesan Council of Catholic Women Moderator, Msgr. Eugene Lozinski as concelebrant.

PRIME (promote, recruit, invite, members, enthusiastically) was a segment in the president's training workshop given by Donna Sanders of Cottonwood, MN, and the NCCW Region I Vice President.

Sanders also presented "The Importance of Good Communication" which is a requisite to the vitality of our CCW organizations.

The Community Concerns Commission presented the program, CASE (Children and a Safe Environment) with valuable information of what we can do to prevent toxins in our environment.

A packet is available from the Web site, www.NCCW.org.

Msgr. Lozinski, was celebrant and homilist for the Eucharistic Liturgy on Friday, Sept. 26. He spoke on how Christ must be master of our lives; we must witness to him in all we do, by our actions and witness. We, as CCW, have a mission to be Jesus in the world today.

All General Assembly sessions were recorded and are available on CD. Please contact me at (507) 368-4341; jappel@itctel.com if you would like to purchase a copy.

FAST TO RELIEVE HUNGER

The New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and its affiliates, along with the National Council of Catholic Women, invite you to participate with them in a nationwide fast to relieve hunger on November 15. In a world in which millions go to bed hungry each night, the Thursday before Thanksgiving has been chosen as a day of fast to prayerfully consider the want of others and share in their experiences of hunger before we embark on holiday feasting. To learn more about world poverty, visit the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty at <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/>

Guatemalan Bishop Gonzalo visits diocese
St. George parish hosts Mass/potluck in his honor

In October, Bishop Gonzalo de Villa Y Vásquez, S.J. from the Diocese of Sololá, - Chimaltenango Guatemala, came as a guest of Msgr. Greg Schaffer to visit the Diocese of New Ulm and see the autumn countryside of Minnesota.

Msgr. Schaffer is a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm and pastor of the diocesan Mission parish of San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala.

Through Monsignor's work in San Lucas, he came to know Bishop Gonzalo who was installed as Bishop of Sololá in September 2007.

Bishop Gonzalo was born in Spain, but came to Guatemala at a young age. He is a Jesuit and was a professor of political philosophy, as well as the president of a university.

While in the diocese, he had several opportunities to socialize with some of the priests and made a visit to the Diocesan Pastoral Center in New Ulm where he gathered for lunch with Bishop John LeVoir and his staff. On October 22, the Church of St. George in West Newton Township hosted a special Mass and potluck in the bishop's honor.

Pictured with Bishop Gonzalo (far right) during his visit in New Ulm are (l-r) Msgr. Douglas L. Grams, Vicar General, Msgr. Greg Schaffer, Bishop John M. LeVoir (seated), and Kathy Huebert, US/diocesan coordinator for the San Lucas Mission.



(photo by Chris Clancy)

St. Mary's *(continued from page 6)*

classrooms. This present day auditorium has become a theatre arts building.

The first rectory house, which later became known as Little St. Mary's, was where the boys stayed. The girls stayed in the top floor of the convent. Boarders from first grade through high school stayed there during the school year. About 400 pupils stayed at the boarding house.

In 1951 the high school wing was added to the school. An athletic field was also constructed.

By fall of 1988, construction was well underway for the addition east of the existing grade school and included three classrooms, gymnasium, locker rooms, lavatories, and a concession and lobby area. \$550,000 in pledges and cash donations were received from parishioners and \$22,000 from alumni. The Knights of Columbus paid for half of the



FOUR GENERATIONS OF ST. MARY SCHOOL GRADUATES: (l-r) Leona (Sellner) Seidl ('34), Mildred (Seidl) Rosenhammer ('57), John Rosenhammer ('80) and Joseph Rosenhammer ('07).

bleachers. This building was referred to as the "new gym" for many years.

In 2000, when the family of the late Richard Mathiowetz, wanting to carry out some of Mathiowetz's dreams and wishes, offered the school a gift of \$400,000 toward the construction of an addition to the school, known as the field house.

The first class to graduate at St. Mary's was the class of 1918. Many groups of energetic men and women have since gone forth from St. Mary's.

WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE

the Sacrament of Baptism



by Ann Przybilla, director
Office of Worship

Certain events direct people to various responsibilities, rights and purposes. Graduation often signifies maturity and master of knowledge. Inauguration into public office indicates a responsibility of leadership to his/her constituents. Ordination makes a lay man an ordained priest. Retirement frees one from the burdens of employment and opens the door to many other opportunities in life. Baptism is an event in life that makes one a Christian signifying one as a child of God destined for eternity and a part of the Christian community.

Infant baptism shows that God always takes the first step in our salvation, and that is why parents will often make this event a special day in the life of their new child even if the parents themselves have drifted away from active involvement in the Catholic community. It is the beginning of a life-long process of conversion and catechesis, not meant to be a stepping stone on the way to the next sacrament. In the words of the baptism ritual we hear; "Dear parents and godparents: By water and the Holy Spirit, they are to receive the gift of new life from God,

Editor's Note: Beginning this month through May, *The Prairie Catholic*, with the assistance of the diocesan Office of Worship and the Office of Religious Education, will be running a series of articles that will provide an explanation of the sacramental system in the Catholic Church and explore the specific purpose and characteristic of each of the Seven Sacraments.

who is love. On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring them up in the practice of the faith." Parents who present their children for baptism must recognize that they are asking for their children to be accepted among those who will carry on Christ's work throughout their lifetimes. Similarly, an adult who presents himself or herself for baptism must be willing to take on a share of the responsibility for carrying on the mission of the Church.

In the gospels, Jesus describes the church as a light for the world, the leaven in the dough, and the salt of the earth. The church is to be the yeast that raises up the whole of humanity and the salt that makes life better. In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul notes that we are expected to live a life that reflects the reality of being a child of God, a life in which we resist the power of sin. Those who know God, those who are baptized, are called to a stricter moral code than others. (*Romans 6, 1 Thes. 4*). The church has a mission, and those who are called to baptism are called to share in that mission.

Those who are called by God to baptism and given the gift of faith must respond to that call in order to

be saved. For those called to it, baptism is necessary for salvation; for such a person to reject baptism is to reject God's will. Those who have not been given faith, however, are not held accountable for what they have not received. As Jesus says in Luke's Gospel: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more" (*Luke 12:48*). Each person is judged on how he or she responds to what God has given.

If we think of Baptism as only a means to get to heaven or only a pre-requisite for receiving the other Sacraments, then we miss the point of the Church. But if we see the church as established by Christ to carry on his work of redemption, then those who are baptized are those who are called to carry on that work. With a three-fold emphasis on salvation, initiation and mission, Baptism is not reduced to a magical moment in ones life, but a ritual signifying a deeper reality - becoming a child of God, enlightened by Christ.

Taken, in part, from *The Sacrament of Baptism*, # 44150 Part 1 of 4 © 2008 Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, 415 Michigan Avenue, N.E., Suite 70, Washington DC 20017 Author: Rev. Lawrence Mick. Used with permission.



THE ANNUAL MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY

7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008
CHURCH OF ST. MARY, BIRD ISLAND, MN
BISHOP JOHN M. LEVOIR, CELEBRANT
EVERYONE WELCOME.

Advent: a time to wait in joyful hope

by Bryan Reising, director
Religious Ed./Adult Formation

Advent begins November 30 this year. It comes at a time when the lightness of day shortens and the darkness of night expands. Just as this phenomenon occurs in nature and we wait for the days and for light to grow again, Advent is a time that we wait in joyful hope for Christ, who is the light that dispels the darkness. It is a time for new beginnings. In fact, it is the beginning of our liturgical year. It is a time for preparation for the feast of the Incarnation, commonly known as Christmas. It is also a time to prepare for the second coming of Christ. Both of these require spiritual preparation.

Sometimes we can lose this sense of waiting, this spiritual preparation, because of the busy lives we lead. We know how we get busy: shopping, Christmas cards, office Christmas parties, baking cookies and so on. Before you know it, Advent and its wonderful opportunities have passed.

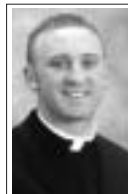
Take time to see how you and your family can wait in joyful hope and

spiritually prepare. List all the things you normally do during this time of year to prepare for Christmas. Now look at this list and pray to see how you can simplify these activities a little and how you can be a good steward of your time. Then, fill the extra time for prayer: by yourself, with your family, and your parish. Get an Advent wreath and pray daily as you light the candles. The prayer and ritual can be simple. There are many resources: check your parish, the Diocesan Media Center, and the Internet. Your prayer can have moments of silence, of waiting, or moments of joy: like singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

If you make these small changes, you will begin to see that your time of Advent is a time of waiting, a time of joyful hope, and a time that you spiritually prepare for Christmas and for Christ to come again! Thus, when Christmas arrives, the season of Christmas will have a deeper meaning in your life, and you can share this meaning with your loved ones and with all who need to experience the Light of Christ!

Pastoral Covenant: what does it mean?

by Fr. Paul
Timmerman
Diocesan Director
of Ecumenism



Included in the November 16, 2008, closing celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of New Ulm, will be an overview of the "Pastoral Covenant," with the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

WHAT IS THIS "PASTORAL COVENANT?"
When Archbishop Nienstedt was still our bishop, he and the ELCA bishop of this area of Minnesota, Bishop Jon Anderson, decided that it would help to promote relations between Catholics and Lutherans to acknowledge what we have in common, and then to promise to work on evangelizing our respective parishes so as to bring more people to come to truly know Christ. Both bishops

understood that we were not going to be breaking any new theological ground, but yet they wanted to work together to help spread the gospel to parishioners who have been baptized and maybe even confirmed, but who no longer come to church every Sunday nor pray together with their families at home. We refer to this as a "Pastoral Covenant" because it has this pastoral focus on evangelization.

Both the diocese and the Southwestern Minnesota Synod ELCA have a committee to help draft this covenant. The covenant is currently in a draft stage and being evaluated. The goal is that the finished edition will be ready to be signed by Bishop LeVoir and Bishop Anderson during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25, 2009). It is hoped that this effort will help bring more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events

YOUNG MEN INVITED TO OPERATION ANDREW DINNERS WITH THE BISHOP

Operation Andrew Dinners are opportunities for young men grades 7-12, who express interest in learning more about the priesthood or who are searching for ways to help them discern God's will for their life. Many who have displayed priestly qualities also have attended after an invitation by a priest, pastoral administrator, youth minister, or Director of Religious Education.

Upcoming dinners will be November 19 in the Madison/Dawson/Appleton Area Faith Community, and December 1 in Litchfield. All dinners will begin at 6:00 p.m. Bishop LeVoiur will preside over the evening prayer prior to enjoying dinner. Following dinner Bishop LeVoiur will formerly introduce himself and New Ulm diocesan seminarian Butch Hendrickson will talk about discerning a vocation. The evening will wrap up around 8 p.m. with a vocation's story by one of the priests of the diocese. Those interested need to RSVP to your pastor or pastoral leader. Parents and other chaperons are encouraged to attend - they need to RSVP as well. Call the diocesan Office of Vocations (507) 359-2966; or Fr. Todd Petersen, (507) 227-2657; email: ftrodd@mac.com.

St. JOHN VIANNEY VISITS
The seminarians and staff of St. John Vianney College Seminary will host a "Vianney Visit" on November 20-22, 2008, and February 12-14, 2009. Any young men (high school sophomore or older) who are discerning a priestly vocation are encouraged to attend. Call diocesan Office of Vocations (507) 359-2966; or Fr. Todd Petersen, (507) 227-2657; email: ftrodd@mac.com.

ROSE ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM AT St. MARY, WILLMAR
The Rose Ensemble, based out of St. Paul, MN, will perform at St. Mary's in Willmar on December 2, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. Early Mexican music resounds in this joyful holiday program featuring over two centuries of festive Christmas dances, ballads, and *villancicos* from the great cathedrals of Puebla and Mexico City, including some never before performed in the U.S. Accompanied by *viola da gamba, vihuela da mano*

and several percussion instruments (including African drums), solos and choruses burst forth in this program that's anything but predictable. Tickets will be \$12 regular and \$9 senior, available at the door. Call: (320) 235-0118.

JESSE MANIBUSAN TO PERFORM NOVEMBER 21 IN FAIRFAX
Jesse Manibusan will be performing in concert at St. Andrew's in Fairfax, MN, at 7:00 p.m., on Friday, November 21, 2008. The event is sponsored by Area Faith Community of Fairfax, Franklin, Gibbon and Winthrop, as a benefit fundraiser for youth/chaperone trips to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, MO in November 2009, World Youth Day, and Guatemala Mission trips. Manibusan is an internationally recognized dynamic and charismatic presenter, singer, composer, comedian, clinician, musician and storyteller. He has been a regular performer and presenter at National Catholic Youth Conferences in the US, as well as World Youth Days in Denver, Toronto, and Cologne, Germany. He also sang at the Papal Mass, and one of his songs was used during the liturgy. For tickets call (507) 426-7739, e-mail ffgw@redred.com Advance ticket sales through November 19th: Adults/Students (13 and over) - \$12.00 advance, \$15.00 at the door, Children (12 and under) - \$8.00 advance, \$10 at the door. There is limited seating. There will be a lunch stand, religious goods, Christian T-Shirts, and music for sale. Questions - may also contact Bery Berger, concert coordinator, at jberger@redred.com

ALL SAINTS
November 1, 2008 (not a holy day of obligation)

ALL SOULS
November 2, 2008

ELECTION DAY
November 4, 2008

THANKSGIVING
November 27, 2008

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 30, 2008

Children gather in New Ulm for annual Holy Field Trip; meet with new bishop

New Ulm, MN - Nearly 300 children accompanied by parents and teachers were welcomed by Karla Cross, Director of Schools, to the fifth annual Children's Holy Field Trip held at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm on October 1, 2008. Bishop John M. LeVoiur presided during the prayer service which included praying the rosary. Students from John Ireland School of St. Peter led the decades of the rosary. Students from St. Pius X of Glencoe processed in with the statue of Mary and assisted as servers.

Following the prayer service, Bishop LeVoiur remained at the Cathedral to meet and talk with the students. Several of the groups also



toured the Diocesan Pastoral Center and were able to have a desk-side meeting with Bishop LeVoiur and receive Guatemalan friendship bracelets from the San Lucas Mission's office.

(photos by Joan Weicherding)

32nd Senior High Youth Rally held in Benson!

On Sunday, October 26, 2008, diocesan youth grades 9-12 gathered in Benson, MN, for the 32nd Senior High Youth Rally sponsored by the Diocese of New Ulm Office of Youth Ministry. Hosting the event was the Area Faith Community of St. Francis, Benson; St. Malachy, Clontarf; Visitation, Danvers; St. Bridget, DeGraff; and Sacred Heart, Murdock. The day's theme was *Fitness for Witness* taken from *Acts 1:8*. Keynote was musician John Flynn. The day also included skits and mixers, NET Team, break-out sessions, lunch, Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop John LeVoiur, snacks, and a dance with DJ John Young assisted by Justin Coates, a Diocesan Youth Council Member.



(photo by Mary Alice Hoffman, St. Francis, Benson)

Televised Catholic Mass schedule for the New Ulm diocese

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

EWTN
(Eternal Word Television Network)
(Galaxy 1R, Transponder 11)
Sunday, Mass live at 7:00 a.m.
Daily Mass live
Monday - Saturday, 7:00 a.m.

Catholic Radio
Catholic Radio Weekly
5:30 p.m. on KLOP-FM 92.1
Madison/Dawson

Radio Rosary
KMHL 1400 AM
Marshall
Sunday's at 7:00 a.m.
Monday-Saturday at 6:10 p.m.

Safe Environment sessions

In an effort to comply with the U.S. Catholic bishops *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth People*, the Diocese of New Ulm maintains a "safe environment" program. All employees in the diocese, as well as volunteers who work unsupervised with minors, are required to attend a "Protecting God's Children" training session by VIRTUS. (See scheduled sessions below) Parents and other interested parishioners are also welcome to attend at any scheduled site.

The introductory VIRTUS session is attended once. Follow-up training for employees and volunteers is done online annually or quarterly depending on one's status as determined by the diocesan safe environment coordinator. VIRTUS replaces the previous safe environment program speakers/dvd's. This is the second year of the VIRTUS program.

November 2, 2008	1:00 p.m.	Marshall (SPANISH)
November 4, 2008	6:30 p.m.	New Ulm Cathedral (NUACS)
November 22, 2008	9:00 a.m.	Watkins
December 3, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Winsted
December 9, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Bird Island

Contact your local parish/school office for additional upcoming sessions.

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 23 No. 3 November 2008



Here we- and those who have gone before us- have celebrated our joys and sorrows. In this church we have encountered Jesus Christ in Word, sacrament, and one another. But now, after 113 years of faith, with thanks to God for the good accomplished here, I declare this Church of Ss. Cyril and Methodius closed.

- closing ceremony formal announcement
Bishop John M. LeVoir, October 25, 2008

Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Taunton parishioners, present and past, gathered to celebrate the Eucharist together one last time on Saturday, Oct. 25th. The parish pastoral council made the recommendation to Fr. Jeremy Kucera, pastor of the parish and Bishop LeVoir to close.

(For story, see page 7)

catholic trends

According to the New Ulm diocesan Office of Social Concerns, Catholic Charities USA is pleading for donations to assist people affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Two million people were displaced by Hurricane Gustav. It is predicted that rebuilding of the effected areas will take years. Donations should be sent to: Catholic Charities USA, 2008 Hurricane Fund, PO box 17141, Baltimore, MD, 21297-1141.

The annual Fall General Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will be November 10-13, 2008, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. At the assembly, the bishops will hear an address by the president of the USCCB, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago; and elect the USCCB secretary and chairs-elect of the Committees on National Collections, Cultural Diversity, Doctrine, Pro-Life Activities and Communications.

Other action items include votes on the revised Grail Psalter for use in the United States, the translation of the Proper of the Seasons, the Order for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb, and the translation of the Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children. The bishops also will hear a report by Bishop Gerald Kicanas, USCCB vice-president, on the work of the Priority Task Force. Bishop Kicanas will present the goals and objectives of the bishops' five task forces to address strengthening marriage, faith formation and sacramental practice, life and dignity of the human person, cultural diversity in the Church and promoting vocations to priesthood and religious life.

Presentations will be delivered on the "Ethical and Religious Directives for Health Care Services" and on "Covenant and Mission," the 2002 statement of the National Council of Synagogues and the USCCB Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. The

bishops also will discuss practical and pastoral implications of political support for abortion.

Pope Benedict XVI convoked a Synod of bishops in Rome on October 5-26, 2008. The topic addressed was: "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church." Two hundred and fifty bishops from around the world participated including bishops from the U.S. The Holy

Father has said that the goal of the synod is to find practical ways of helping our Catholic people achieve greater access to, and better understanding of, the Bible. Propositions approved at the synod are turned over to the Holy Father with the request that he fashion them into an apostolic exhortation, which serves as a teaching document for the whole Church.

Come Celebrate!

DIocese of New Ulm's closing celebration of the 50th anniversary year.

Sunday, November 16, 2008
3:30 p.m.

Church of the Holy Redeemer, Marshall
(RSVP's requested - See pg. 1 of this issue!)

DAY INCLUDES: SHORT PROGRAM, EVENING PRAYER, & LIGHT DINNER.

During this 50th Anniversary Year, let us give thanks for fifty years of diocesan life, mission, and ministry.

With gratitude, we remember the labors of the People of God who built this local Church, and its vibrant parishes and schools.