

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 1 September 2009



(photo by Joan Weicherding)

During an August 25th "back-to-school" workshop for Catholic educators in region 1 of the diocese, Bishop LeVoir spoke on the call to be prophetic witnesses within the schools. (read more on page 7)

USCCB Pro-Life Chairman urges amendment of H.R. 3200 "genuine health care reform that respects life and dignity urgently needed"

Washington - Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia urged preservation of "longstanding federal policies that prevent government promotion of abortion and respect conscience rights," and called current House health care legislation "seriously deficient" on the issue of mandated coverage and funding of abortion. He cited his concerns in an August 11, 2009, letter to the U.S. House of Representatives. (www.usccb.org)

Cardinal Rigali, Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, reaffirmed the bishops' position that genuine health care reform that respects life and

dignity is urgently needed. He also welcomed provisions in America's Affordable Health Choices Act (H.R. 3200) that do not preempt state laws regulating abortion or current federal conscience laws on abortion. But he criticized the bill for delegating to the Secretary of Health and Human Services "the power to make unlimited abortion a mandated benefit in the 'public health insurance plan' the government will manage nationwide." He called this a "radical change" since federal law excludes most abortions from federal employees' health benefits, and no federal health program mandates coverage of elective abortions.

Cardinal Rigali also criticized the bill for bypassing the Hyde Amendment and other longstanding provisions that prevent federal funding of abortion and health benefits packages that include abortion. He called the provisions to separate funding for

abortion created by the House Energy and Commerce Committee a "legal fiction," one that would force low-income Americans, who may only be able to afford the public plan, to subsidize abortions for others and abortion coverage for themselves "even if they find abortion morally abhorrent."

"Much-needed reform must not become a vehicle for promoting an 'abortion rights' agenda or reversing longstanding policies against federal funding and mandated coverage of abortion," Cardinal Rigali said. He added that "no federal program mandates coverage for elective abortions, or subsidizes health plans that include such abortions. Most Americans do not want abortion in their health coverage, and most consider themselves 'pro-life,' with a stronger majority among low-income Americans."

Cardinal Rigali reiterated the

USCCB's long-time support of genuine health care reform that respects human life and dignity from conception till natural death, provides access to quality care for all with special concern for the poor and immigrants, respects pluralism and

conscience rights, and shares costs equitably. He urged members of the House to support amendments to correct the "unacceptable features" currently in H.R. 3200 and to oppose any rule for considering the bill that would block such amendments.



U.S. bishops launch Web site on health care reform, their position and concerns

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) launched a Web page promoting its support of "truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity."

The page, (www.usccb.org/healthcare/), includes letters from bishops to Congress, videos, facts and statistics, frequently asked questions, and links for contacting members of Congress.

The site features Web videos of

USCCB policy staff discussing the bishops' position on health care. Kathy Saile, director of Domestic Social Development, outlines the general position and concerns. Richard Doerflinger, associate director of Pro-Life Activities, describes how abortion relates to the health care reform debate. The page also contains facts and statistics about Catholic health care in the United States, which includes 624 Catholic hospitals, 164 home health agencies, and 41 hospice organizations.

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40 Days of Life campaign

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Holy Father's strong witness to marriage and the family example for all

Washington - "Marriage and the family are institutions that must be promoted and defended from every possible misrepresentation of their true nature, since whatever is injurious to them is injurious to society itself." This is just one of many of Pope Benedict's decisive statements on the unique good of

marriage and the family, recently gathered into a new volume of USCCB Publishing's "Pope Benedict XVI - Spiritual Thoughts Series," this time on the "Family."

The timely publication of this new volume collects in one place the Pope's strong teaching and witness

to the unique value and truth of marriage and the family. The pope addresses the range of teaching on marriage and strategically zeroes in on the unique nature of marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

To obtain copies of "Family"

(publication number 7-075; \$6.95 per copy) from USCCB Publishing, visit www.usccbpublishing.org or call 800-235-8722.

(courtesy of USCCB)

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vocation awareness

BE NOT AFRAID

"My first year as bishop"



Bishop John M. LeVoir

On September 15, 2009, I will have completed my first year as bishop. In this column, I would like to reflect on some of my experiences, thoughts, and feelings during this year. I would also like to take a brief look at the year to come.

It was quite a change for me to go from being a parish priest to a bishop. Fear was my initial response upon hearing from the Apostolic Nunciature that the Holy Father wanted to name me a bishop. At first, I was ashamed that I had this response, but then I thought of how many times in the Scriptures Our Lord said: "Do not be afraid." He said this because so many times those who were called to do something for the Lord were afraid. I was comforted by that.

Once I had decided to say "yes" to the Holy Father's wishes, I realized that I must deepen my prayer life. As a bishop, with increased responsibilities, I would need God's help more than ever. With this in mind, I set up a little chapel in the bishop's residence. There I have the

Blessed Sacrament reserved and can spend time in prayer with Our Lord. I pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the Rosary, and other prayers. I do my spiritual reading in the chapel. Occasionally, I celebrate the Eucharist there. I have a statue of St. John Vianney in the chapel to remind me to pray for priests during this Year for Priests, especially the priests of the Diocese of New Ulm. This prayer time with Our Lord has been invaluable to me as a source of strength, inner conversion, and peace.

I have enjoyed visiting many of the parishes in the diocese. As of September 15, I will have visited 54 parishes (and I am looking forward to visiting the other parishes soon). My visits are usually occasioned by some type of parish celebration. For example, I have celebrated 31 Confirmations, attended a number of parish festivals, celebrated anniversary Masses, had special blessings, and been present for other events. It has been wonderful interacting with the faithful of the diocese. I have met so many good people. Sometimes I remember names and other times I do not. As time goes on and I continue to visit the parishes, the more names I hope to remember.

I have visited all 20 Catholic schools in the diocese (this includes Mankato Loyola where some diocesan students attend). Usually, I celebrated Mass with the students, toured the school, visited the classrooms, and ate lunch. These visits have been a great joy. I believe that our children and young people need a Catholic education now more than ever. I also

believe that the presence of a Catholic school in a community is a sign of the presence of Christ in a community.

It was emotional for me to celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the diocese. This is the Mass at which the Holy Oils are blessed by the bishop. The oils are distributed to the parishes and are a sign of the unity of the parishes with the bishop. The Mass also highlights the communion of the priests with their bishop. During the Chrism Mass, the priests of the diocese are invited by the bishop to renew their commitment to priestly service. I have renewed my commitment to priestly service as a parish priest. But at the Chrism Mass, I was the bishop, inviting my priests to renew their priestly commitment and their union with me as their bishop. This was, indeed, very moving for me.

One thing that I have learned is that people pay more attention to you when you are a bishop. For example, things that I say are not just another opinion. They are what "the bishop" says and what "the bishop" thinks. It is the same with what I do. It becomes what "the bishop" does. I am still not used to this.

As I look back over the years, I am amazed how God has prepared me to be the Bishop of New Ulm. From the age of nine through twenty-two, during the summers, I caddied at a golf course and became Caddie Master at the same course. During these years, I came to know many, many different people. These experiences helped me to develop

relational skills that I have used as a priest and now as a bishop. After college, I worked with an international CPA firm and became a CPA. These business skills serve me well as I deal with the financial matters of the diocese.

As a seminarian, I met and got to know Bishop Alphonse Schladweiler, the founding bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm. I paid a number of visits to his home on German Street in New Ulm and there were many places that we visited in the diocese. I never dreamed that I would be his successor. In addition, my parish experience has served me well. I have experienced being a parish priest and pastor for twenty-seven years, so I am familiar with the challenges faced by our parishes. Finally, the work that I have done on the theology of Pope John Paul II has prepared me with a significant and coherent framework from which I draw constantly in my work.

I am grateful for God's work of formation in my life. I did not know what He was doing for me when these things were happening to me. But, I am glad for them because they have prepared me to be of greater service to the people of the diocese.

As I look forward to the next year, I will continue to encourage all to work on their spiritual lives and to renew themselves through prayer, the Eucharist, spiritual reading and study, and the celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation. These spiritual experiences unite us more closely with Christ. It is our relationship with

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Bishop's September Calendar

- 1 Sleepy Eye:** 8:30 a.m. Church of St. Mary. School Mass for the Opening of the Academic Year at St. Mary's Catholic School.
- New Ulm:** 1:00 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Vocations Team Meeting.
- 2 New Ulm:** 1:15 p.m. Cathedral High School Gym. School Mass for the Opening of the Academic Year at New Ulm Area Catholic Schools.
- Sleepy Eye:** 5:30 p.m. Schoenstatt on the Lake. Dinner with Parents of

- Women in Formation for Religious Life.
- 5 Lake Benton:** 5:00 p.m. Church of St. Genevieve. Pastor Installation – Fr. Paul A. Schumacher.
- 6 Tyler:** 10:00 a.m. Church of St. Dionysius. Pastor Installation – Fr. Paul A. Schumacher
- 8 Olivia:** 11:00 a.m. Church of St. Aloysius. Priests' Council Meeting followed by College of Consultors Meeting.

- 9 New Ulm:** 9:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Diocesan Staff 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.
- 11 Mankato:** 10:00 a.m. Good Counsel Campus Chapel. School Mass for the Opening of the Academic Year at Loyola Catholic School.

- New Ulm:** 6:00 p.m. St. Anthony Elementary School. Tribunal Training.
- 12 Redwood Falls:** 9:30 a.m. Church of St. Catherine. Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting.
- Vatican:** Pilgrimage and Conference for New Bishops. (Sept. 12-23)
- 25 Sleepy Eye:** 8:20 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Homecoming Mass for St. Mary's Catholic School.

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Pope declares year for priests to inspire spiritual perfection

Pope Benedict XVI has declared the Year for Priests June 19, 2009 through June 19, 2010. The Holy Father has called for this year of grace for the whole Church as a new opportunity for priests to grow in holiness and live more fully united to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and for all the members of the Church to recall the essential role of priests among us and in society.

During this jubilee year, the pope has also proclaimed St. John Vianney, considered patron saint of parish priests, as patron saint of all the world's priests.

Why St. John Vianney?

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of this 19th-century saint who represents a "true example of a priest at the service of the flock of Christ," the pope said. St. John Vianney is widely known to Catholics at the Cure (parish priest) of Ars who won over the hearts of his villagers in France by visiting with them, teaching them about God, and reconciling people to the Lord in the confessional.

New Web site launched

The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for

Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has set up a Web site to mark the Year for Priests at www.usccb.org/yearforpriests. The site includes the pope's message for the occasion and the announcement of a plenary indulgence in conjunction with the celebration. Throughout the year, the secretariat will also use the site to publish monthly articles about the priesthood written by prominent Catholic women.

Prayer cards available

Year for Priests prayer cards will be available in September in parishes throughout the diocese. Bishop LeVoir encourages the faithful to pray for our priests that, through prayer and encouragement, "we can help those called to the priesthood to hear clearly the voice of Christ." He also asks that we use this as a time to pray ardently that more men will answer the call of Christ to the priesthood.

Are we helping our priests?

by Dr. Rob Furey

I have an idea about how to increase the number of priests. We can pray for vocations and I am sure that helps. But we can do something else. We can take better care of the priesthood.

No matter how many changes occur in the Catholic Church, our priests will always be recruited from the human race. They are wonderful people, but people nonetheless. They need to see that they are appreciated and that their work is meaningful. They need support and encouragement. And they need to

take a breather now and then or they will wear out just like the rest of us.

If we continue to buy into the myth of the Superpriest who can run forever without rest or support, vocations will continue to decline, as no one can honestly live up to this expectation. And those who try may find themselves exhausted.

Don't expect a priest to be perfect. Allow him to be human... and then appreciate what he has done with his gifts. Ask yourself: "Would I want

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Want to learn more about the priesthood?

young men encouraged to attend Operation Andrew dinners

Following the example of St. Andrew who brought his brother St. Peter to Jesus, any school-aged men of the diocese are invited to an informative evening about the priesthood. Operation Andrew dinners are informal dinners and conversations with Bishop LeVoir, priests of the Diocese of New Ulm, and young men who are interested in

learning more about the priesthood. The dinners are sponsored through the Diocese of New Ulm Vocations Office and hosted by priest representatives in the six regions of the diocese.

Contact the diocesan Office of Vocations (507) 359-2966, email: jmichaels@dnv.org; or your parish pastoral leader.

October 28 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

St. Peter & Paul, Ivanhoe

November 11 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm

November 30 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer

Vocations UPDATE

by Fr. Todd Petersen, director
Office of Vocations

In this Year for Priests, I am pleased to announce that the Diocese of New Ulm has eleven seminarians in formation for the priesthood. This is the most we have had at one time since the founding of our diocese in 1957.

Currently, there are two young men that will be ordained to the diaconate this year:



Matt Wiering from Tyler is attending the Pontifical North American College in Rome and



Zach Peterson from Marshall is attending St. Meinrad's Seminary in Indiana. He will be ordained to the diaconate on November 7 at Holy Redeemer, Marshall.

Two young men will be in their third year of Theology:



Aaron Johannek from Seaforth attends the Pontifical North American College and



Jacob Niemand from Montevideo attends St. Meinrad's.

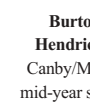


Sam Wagner from Sleepy Eye will be in his second year of Pre-Theology at St. Paul Seminary.

There will be six total attending St. John Vianney, St. Paul:



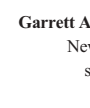
Paul Blaschko from North Mankato as a junior,



Burton "Butch" Hendrickson from Canby/Madison as a mid-year sophomore,



and **Andrew Ilikman** from New Ulm as a sophomore,



Garrett Ahlers from New Ulm as a sophomore,



and newly accepted **James Blaschko** of North Mankato, and



Alex Rabaey of Minnesota, both as freshmen.

Please keep these young men in your prayers.

Discernment retreat held



Young men from St. John Parish in Appleton, accompanied by Sharon Plotter, Appleton DRE, took part in a discernment retreat August 7 in Sleepy Eye. Pictured (l-r) Justin Huges, Bishop LeVoir, Juvenal Olvera, and Brandon Zinda.

Sleepy Eye, MN - A Discernment retreat with Bishop John LeVoir and seminarians studying for the Diocese of New Ulm was held Friday, August 7, at Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye. Seven young men from around the diocese experienced

great presentations on discernment, prayer, and listening to others for guidance. Bishop LeVoir shared his vocation story and fielded questions. The group prayed the Liturgy of the Hours and gathered for Mass, followed by a meal.



Foundation grants total \$2.9 million

Catholic Community Foundation (CCF), the foundation of the Diocese of New Ulm and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, announced that they have distributed 424 grants totaling \$2.9 million in the quarter ended June 20, 2009. That amount represents a 20% increase over the same period in 2008. The majority of these grants were distributed to parishes, schools and perpetual care cemetery funds from endowments and Donor Advised Funds managed by CCF. The Foundation has distributed over \$60 million in grants since it was formed in the Archdiocese in 1992. The Diocese of New Ulm partnered with the Foundation in 2008.

Since July 1, 2008, individuals and parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm have begun new endowments and charitable gift annuities with the Foundation valued at

one half million dollars. Beneficiaries of these endowments are parishes, schools, and cemeteries within the diocese. Prior to July 1, 2008, a number of endowments had already been established with the Foundation raising the value of funds managed for various entities within the diocese to well over a million dollars.

The mission of CCF is to financially support the spiritual, social, and educational needs of the Catholic community in the Archdiocese as well as the Diocese of New Ulm. CCF is the nation's largest community foundation serving Catholic philanthropy. Wayne Pelzel, Director of Development and Foundation for the New Ulm diocese, is Director of Gift Planning for Catholic Community Foundation in the Diocese of New Ulm (wpelzel@dnu.org).



El 15 de Septiembre del 2009, habré cumplido mi primer año como obispo. En esta columna, me gustaría reflexionar alguna de mis experiencias, pensamientos y sentimientos durante este año. También me gustaría compartir brevemente sobre el año venidero.

Para mí fue un gran cambio ser de párroco a obispo. Cuando me enteré por primera vez por parte del Nuncio Apostólico que nuestro Santo Padre me quería nombrar obispo mi primera reacción fue de temor. Al principio me sentí hasta avergonzado de tener esa reacción, pero por otra parte pensé las veces que nuestro Señor mencionó en las escrituras: "no tengas miedo." El dijo esto porque muchas veces aquellos que fueron llamados de hacer algo en favor del Señor tenían temor. Eso me reconforta.

Una vez que había decidido decir "sí" a los deseos de nuestro Santo Padre, me di cuenta que debía crecer en mi vida de oración. Con más responsabilidades siendo el

No Tengas Miedo

Mi Primer Año como Obispo

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

obispo, necesitaría de su ayuda más que nunca. Con esto en mente, establecí una capilla en la residencia del obispo. Allí tengo el Sacramento Bendito reservado y rezar con nuestro Señor. Rezo la liturgia de las horas, el rosario y otros rezos. En la capilla hago mi lectura espiritual. De vez en cuando, celebro la Eucaristía. En la capilla tengo una estatua de San Juan Vianney que me recuerda rezar por los sacerdotes durante este Año de los Sacerdotes, especialmente los nuestros en la Diócesis de New Ulm. Este espacio de rezo con nuestro Señor ha sido inestimable para mí ya que ha sido una fuente de fuerza, de conversión interna y de paz.

He disfrutado de mis visitas a las parroquias de la diócesis. El 15 de Septiembre, habré visitado 54 parroquias. Generalmente las ocasiones de estas visitas han sido por alguna celebración parroquial. Por ejemplo, he celebrado 31 Confirmaciones, asistido a un buen número de festivales parroquiales, celebrado el aniversario de algunas parroquias, bendiciones especiales y estar presente en otros eventos.

Tuve la gran dicha de visitar las 20 escuelas católicas de la diócesis. Generalmente las visitas se basaban en celebrar la Santa Misa con los estudiantes, recorrer la escuela, visitar las aulas y almorzar con ellos. Estas visitas han sido de gran alegría. Creo que nuestros niños y jóvenes necesitan de una educación católica ahora más que nunca.

Mientras nos enfocamos al próximo año, continuaré animando a todos para que trabajen en su vida espiritual y se renueven a través de la oración, la Eucaristía, la lectura espiritual y estudio y la celebración del sacramento de la

Reconciliación. Estas experiencias espirituales nos unen más con Cristo. Nuestra relación con Cristo y la experiencia de él a través de la Eucaristía es la que debe impregnar y guiar todo lo que hagamos como una comunidad Católica.

La diócesis continuará trabajando en la formulación del cuarto Plan para Parroquias y el desafío de mantener la diócesis centrada en la Eucaristía, mientras se tenga en cuenta el número limitado de sacerdotes y recursos disponibles. La diócesis continuará promoviendo enérgicamente por vocaciones al sacerdocio, especialmente durante este Año de los sacerdotes. Once seminaristas continuarán discerniendo su llamado al sacerdocio. Once hombres continuarán preparándose para la ordenación al diaconado permanente en el 2012.

La Iglesia ve matrimonios saludables y vida familiar afectuosa como una forma de edificar la Iglesia y la sociedad. La diócesis continuará promoviendo matrimonios fieles y permanentes que tengan una actitud abierta sobre el don de vida. Se seguirá promoviendo asuntos sobre Planificación Familiar Natural y el respeto y la defensa de todo ser humano desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural. Continuaremos tendiéndole la mano a los más necesitados, a los maltratados, a los inmigrantes y a los marginados.

Hay más desafíos que necesitan nuestra atención al esforzarnos en uniros íntimamente a Cristo mientras continuamos trabajando de llevar a cabo su misión. La vida de nuestra fe católica es con certeza una gran aventura. Lo ha sido para mí, especialmente el año pasado. Con esperanza espero el mañana.



(photo by Christine Clancy)

Home Missions representative visits diocese

Dr. David Suley, Director of Catholic Home Missions of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops visited the Diocese of New Ulm on May 30 - June 3. While here, Suley met with Bishop LeVoir and his staff to learn about the overall diocesan operations. Qualifying as a "mission diocese," annually the Diocese of New Ulm applies for Home Missions grant money which in return is used to fund particular programs/projects, one being this newspaper, *The Prairie Catholic*. Upon his departure back to Washington, Suley left a handwritten note stating, "I will do all I can to make sure your diocese receives the funding it needs for your programs. I plan to give your diocese a high recommendation for funding. I am impressed with what I have seen. You are all special people."

Be not afraid

(continued from page 2)

Christ and our experience of him through the Church that should permeate and guide all that we do as a Catholic community.

The diocese will continue to work on the formulation of the fourth Plan for Parishes and the challenge to keep the diocese centered on the Eucharist, while taking into account the limited number of priests and resources available. The diocese will continue to promote vigorously vocations to the priesthood, especially during this Year for Priests. Eleven seminarians will continue to discern their call to the priesthood. Eleven men will continue to prepare for ordination to the permanent diaconate in 2012.

The Church sees healthy marriages and loving family life as the building blocks of Church and society. The diocese will continue to promote faithful, permanent marriages that are open to the gift of life. Companion issues that will continue to be promoted are Natural Family Planning and the respect and defense of all human life from conception to natural death. We will continue to reach out to the poor, the hurting, the immigrant, and the marginalized.

The diocese will be preparing the faithful to use the new English translation of the Roman Missal (Mass prayers) during the next year. Due to

the deteriorated and compromised infrastructure of the Catholic Pastoral Center, we will continue to study and consider various options for its possible replacement. We will continue to promote responsible stewardship.

There are many other challenges to meet, as well, as we strive to unite ourselves intimately with Christ and as we work to carry on his mission. Living our Catholic faith is certainly a great adventure. It has been for me, especially during the past year. I am looking forward to the future with hope.

¡Fiesta Maria! by Hannah Andrews, Ham Lake, MN

The Schoenstatt high school girls' camp was held June 22-24, 2009, at Schoenstatt on the Lake in Sleepy

Eye. This year we planned and led a camp for the Hispanic children of Sleepy Eye. Participants ranged from 5 to 13 years old. The Fiesta Maria took place each afternoon for about two hours Monday through Wednesday. Each day had a specific theme: God as Trinity, Mary our Mother, and Called to Be Saints. Each day's songs, dances, skits, and crafts were based on one of these themes. The kids enjoyed the camp immensely, and the smiles grew throughout each day. All of the high school girls had specific jobs to do and led the camp with help from the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary: Sr. M. Deanne and Sr. M. Sophy Ann. Some girls led the crafts, while others led the games. A highlight of the Fiesta Maria for the kids was the water games. We threw water balloons, squirted everyone, and cooled everyone off in the hot weather. Some of the older boys first thought that the camp was boring, but



quickly changed their minds when the water balloons came out!

The shrine was also an important part of Fiesta Maria. Led by Maria Lucia, the children talked about the day's theme and the parts of the shrine. On the first day of the camp, we discussed the Trinity. We played an "I Spy" game trying to find the persons of the Trinity in the shrine. On the last day, the kids made paper flowers and gave them to the Blessed Mother in the shrine. They realized the importance and reverence of the shrine, and some even wanted to stay and pray more!

All of us were grateful to be able to come and help with Fiesta Maria. For

the support of our project, thank you Bishop LeVoir, Sr. Anna Marie Reha, SSND, director of Hispanic

Ministry for the diocese, Msgr. Gene Lozinski and St. Mary's Parish, and Alma Saenz and those who coordinate the migrant program. Thank you also to the Schoenstatt high school girls who came the weekend before to help prepare for the camp. Sixteen young women helped to organize the

camp and went door-to-door inviting Hispanic families to send their children to the Fiesta Maria, and to attend the Hispanic Holy Mass on Sunday, June 21.

The mission experience reminded us to give to others, for giving makes us truly happy! As part of the high school camp, we attended Holy Mass each day, prepared the afternoon camp, and had fun activities in the evenings. We agreed that this mission project was a smashing success, and we should repeat it again next year.

Permanent deacon candidates enjoy summer fun in western part of diocese



On July 19, permanent deacon candidates and their families gathered for Mass at St. Joseph Parish, in Rosen, MN, followed by a picnic dinner and boating in nearby Ortonville. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Robert Goblirsch, pastor of the parishes of Rosen, Ortonville, and Nassau. The picnic dinner was hosted by permanent deacon candidate Paul Treinen and his wife, Julie. Currently there are eleven permanent deacon candidates in the New Ulm diocesan program thanks to generous donations to the annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal. For information in regard to the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of New Ulm, contact Deacon Mark Kober, director, (507) 359-2966; mkober@dnu.org.

Sisters' Council gathers Bishop celebrates Mass, takes part in business meeting



On Saturday, May 16, twenty-one members of the Sisters' Council met at the Church of St. Mary, Bird Island, for their spring gathering. Bishop John LeVoir celebrated Mass with the council and participated in their business meeting. Sisters celebrating jubilees were also honored. They are: Sr. Marion Kemper, OSB, Sr. Anna Marie Reha, SSND, Sr. Jodelle Zimmerman, OSB, and Sr. Lois Byrne, PBVM. There are approximately sixty sisters serving in the diocese, representing thirteen congregations from seven different religious orders.

taking care of our priests

(continued from page 3)

to be a priest in my parish? If not, what would you do to make your community more priest-friendly? Don't assume that your parish is a spiritual wonderland. Parishes, like people, are seldom perfect and can usually be improved.

Along with asking what your priest can do for your parish, maybe start asking what your parish can do for your priest. Make an effort to enjoy the homily. If you think it is easy, try to write a sermon that will interest five year olds and ninety year olds, Democrats and Republicans, devout and fallen away Catholics, seekers and know-it-ails. You can't please all the Catholics all the time. But you have to admire those who try.

I'm concerned that we are not doing enough to help our priests. As a result, far too many develop compassion fatigue - a potentially devastating form of burnout that afflicts those who give and give but

never adequately replenish themselves. When compassion fatigue sets in, caring human beings can be reduced to bitter and confused individuals who feel abandoned and alone. Their decision making may become impaired.

Do you remember the priest you didn't like because he didn't act the way you thought a priest should? Well maybe he gave away all his passion and compassion without stopping for a refill. And, sadder still, maybe his parish stood by and watched this tragedy unfold. Keep in mind that burnout can only happen to those who were once on fire. Compassion fatigue attacks the best of the best. It can reduce them to much less than what they were and what they can be. Even the stars fall. Indeed, our exceptional ministers may be the ones most vulnerable to burnout.

I am not a priest. I don't have what it

takes. I'm just grateful for those who do. But I don't think we try hard enough to understand them and their work. Priests tend not to talk about their sacrifices. In a way, I admire this too. And I don't think this will change. Consequently, in order to get a glimpse at their sacrifices, we are going to have to pay attention to our priests. Above all, and more than ever, we need communities where priests will feel they belong.

Too often we mistakenly believe that a calling to the priesthood involves only God and the person being called. Actually, callings to the priesthood are about God, a human being, and a community. Vocations will increase and become stronger as we build communities that value, respect, appreciate, and assist those who are called to the priesthood.

Dr. Furey is a psychologist and the author of several books.



Bishop LeVoir requests remembrance in your prayers the repose of the soul of Spc. James Wertish who was killed recently in the line of duty serving in Iraq. Specialist Wertish was one of three Minnesota Army National Guardsmen killed in Basra on July 16, 2009. The three men were members of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division which was deployed to Iraq in April 2009. Specialist Wertish and his family are members of the Church of St. Mary in Bird Island.

Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word

by Bryan Reising, director
Religious Education and Adult
Faith Formation

Have you ever been so excited about something that you had to share it with anyone and everyone? Perhaps you became engaged to be married or your favorite team won the World Series?

Have you ever been so excited about your faith that you had to share that experience with anyone and everyone? Perhaps you made a TEC retreat or you were at a Mass where the readings felt as if they were speaking directly to you?

The heart of the Gospel, Jesus' life, passion, death, resurrection, and call to mission, is the foundation of catechesis. Proclaiming this Good News of Jesus needs to be at the core of the catechetical mission.

On Sunday, September 20, 2009, parishes across the United States will celebrate Catechetical



September 20, 2009

Sunday - a time to honor catechists at all levels, as people who go and proclaim the Word, proclaim the very person of Jesus and the salvation he offers each of us.

What is catechesis?

Catechesis is sharing the teachings of Jesus Christ in such a way that a person comes to know about and believe in God, enter into a relationship with God, and be transformed. Catechesis involves teaching about doctrine as well as about the living practice of the faith.

Who is a catechist?

All believers participate in the

Church's catechetical mission. Parents and guardians are the most influential agents of catechesis for their children. Some are called to more specific catechetical roles. Our Catholic bishops are primarily responsible for catechesis. Priests share the teaching role of the bishop and are his immediate collaborators. Others who assist in the catechetical mission include: deacons, religious, Catholic school principals and faculty, parish religious education personnel, youth ministers, and campus ministers.

Let us all show our support for anyone who proclaims and catechizes. It is so important that we pass on the faith effectively and with joy to all! This ensures that our Catholic faith, the way we worship God and celebrate our faith, and the way our faith is lived, will continue for generations to come.

Lay leadership

Catechetical leaders: passing on the faith and empowering others

This issue of The Prairie Catholic features the first in a series of articles covering the various lay leadership roles in parishes and Area Faith Communities in the diocese. In this monthly column, courtesy of the diocesan Offices of Worship and Religious Education/Adult Faith Formation, we will share with you real stories about real people that represent the many who are involved with lay leadership and the important work they do.

by Bryan Reising, director
Religious Education and Adult
Faith Formation

If you would describe the role of a parish catechetical leader, it would read, "Go, proclaim the Gospel to all, and make disciples of all." It describes their roles to both evangelize and catechize. In a true sense, catechetical leaders are missionaries, teachers of the faith, collaborators, and leaders who empower others.



Barb Garding / Diane Pyka

Barb Garding and Diane Pyka are such leaders. They are co-coordinators of faith formation at Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer, MN. Both are very enthusiastic about catechetical ministry, and they both have a positive and faith-filled outlook on life. In addition, they have a long history with catechesis. Pyka has worked with catechesis for twenty-three years and Garding for twenty.

Explaining how she got started with catechesis Pyka said, "I was a catechist and loved sharing and growing in my faith. The opportunity to be a part of this ministry was exciting to me."

For Garding, it was a calling. "God called me to this work. I am a catechist at heart. It is my grateful response to God's very real presence



through my life experience - my husband's ALS and the incredible grief after his death. I want others to discover the reality of God in their own lived experiences."

And through these lived experiences, like a conversion moment, a birth of a child, a tragedy, we can come to know how God is present as he calls us to do his work.

Things that are most fulfilling about this ministry, Garding shares, "Jesus sent the disciples out two by two, and I love the model we have of Diane and I doing this work

together...sharing, challenging, growing...together. I love being invited into the catechist's faith lives and discovering the God who is always more, ...seeing children's eyes light up as they share their faith, hearing the stories of parents faith, listening to members of our parish share their joys and difficulties in such beautiful, honest ways, and being part of a parish staff that is supportive. Our priests have always supported our ministry."

For Pyka, what is fulfilling for her is, "I am able to plan, pray, and share faith with the catechists and youth of our parish, to work with the pastor and my partner, Barb, and our Faith Formation Advisory Team. I am able to get to know our parishioners and offer ways for them to continue growing in their faith."

Catechesis is not just limited to children or youth, but to all parishioners. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the U.S. bishop's document, *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, and this document focuses our energies to adult faith formation. Catechesis is indeed a lifelong venture for all Catholics.

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Discipleship formation program entering its fifth year beginning September

The first session of FOUNDATIONS, a discipleship formation program of the Diocese of New Ulm, was held in 2004. Since then, it continues its mission of forming quality adult lay formation for adult parishioners. Over 140 participants have completed the program.

FOUNDATIONS is sponsored in collaboration with St. Mary's University in Winona, MN, and the New Ulm diocese. Participants meet once a month on Saturdays, from September 2009 through March 2010. The faculty comes from both St. Mary's University in Winona and our own diocesan staff. This year's FOUNDATIONS will begin September 19, 2009, and each session will meet at St. Catherine's Parish in Redwood Falls.



Since 2004, FOUNDATIONS, a discipleship formation program, has provided quality adult lay formation throughout the Diocese of New Ulm.

For further information on how you can participate in FOUNDATIONS, contact your parish pastor or pastoral administrator, or Bryan Reising, Director of Adult Faith Formation for the Diocese of

New Ulm, (507) 359-2966; email: breising@dnu.org.

Registration deadline is Friday, September 11, 2009.

Educators gather for back-to-school training; new principals on-board

by Karla Cross, director
Catholic Schools

In August, school staffs throughout the diocese gathered regionally for back-to-school staff workshop days. On August 25 at St. Anthony Elementary School in New Ulm, Bishop LeVoir spoke to participants about being called as teachers and administrators in Catholic education and on the importance of all they do in passing on the faith to the students. School personnel in attendance were from New Ulm Area Catholic Schools, St. Mary's School in Bird Island, St. Michael's School in Morgan and St. Mary's School in Sleepy Eye.

On August 26, another regional workshop opportunity was held at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye. Willow Sweeney and Paul Bemabei spoke on "Discovering the Power of Choice." Sweeney and Bemabei are co-authors of a book entitled *Top 20 Parents: Raising Happy, Responsible & Emotionally Healthy Children*. Sweeney is an educator at Cretin-Derham Hall and Bemabei directs Noble Ventures, an effort to assist employees of schools, churches and other organizations in developing their potential. He also directs Share-a-Life, a program that provides housing and support for pregnant women in crisis.

Additional gatherings were held regionally throughout the diocese.

New principals hired

The diocese welcomes two new principals to Catholic schools this year. Patty McCauley returns to the diocese and to Catholic schools after spending several years at a St. Paul charter school. McCauley is excited to be back at St. Michael's School in Morgan where she was the principal from 1999-2004. She also served as principal at St. Anne's School in Wabasso from 1989-1997 as well as from 2005-2006.

St. Pius X School in Glencoe welcomes Kathryn Morgan to the



Morgan

diocese. Morgan is excited to be back in Minnesota after having spent the past three years as a teacher and principal at a Catholic

elementary school in Kentucky. Originally from St. Paul, she taught for numerous years at St. Peter Catholic School, North St. Paul. She received her undergraduate degree at St. Catherine's and her Masters degree in Education from St. Thomas and recently attended Xavier University in Ohio.

Both McCauley and Morgan will serve as school principal and the parish religious education director.

Current school stats

There are currently sixteen elementary schools and three high schools in the diocese. The diocese also has students attending Loyola Catholic School in Mankato.

The 2008-2009 statistics show a population for Catholic schools within the diocese was 2,324 with 1,938 attending Catholic elementary schools and 386 attending Catholic high schools.

With many of the schools starting after Labor Day, enrollment figures are not yet available for the 2009-2010 school year.

H1N1 Flu Stay informed!

With growing concerns regarding the H1N1 virus, schools are gearing up to take measures designed to help prevent the spread of the flu.

Parents and the general public can stay informed on precautions and current guidance at the Minnesota Department of Health Web site:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us>.

Minnesota Marathon for Non-public Education needs YOUR PLEDGE!

Since 1974, the Minnesota Marathon for Non-public Education has generated important financial support for school programs. With fun events and service projects, the Marathon has served communities while supporting non-public education. In 1975, the State Council of the Knights of Columbus joined the effort and since then have provided financial and event support for Marathon events across the diocese.

Typically held either the first Friday or Saturday of

October, the marathon is no longer the traditional biking, walking, jogging event that it once was. Many of our schools have added service activities and even moved the event to the school day to ensure that all children can participate. Students solicit donations for the marathon activity they are participating in.

Please consider making a pledge.

Thirteen Catholic schools in the diocese participated in last year's marathon raising over \$268,000.

School	Participants	Amount Raised
Holy Family, Silver Lake	40	\$7,700
Holy Trinity, Winsted	206	\$26,138
John Ireland, St. Peter	96	\$15,655
NUACS, New Ulm	575	\$32,000
St. Anastasia, Hutchinson	200	\$8,424
St. Edward, Minneota	115	\$20,993
St. Mary (Elem.), Sleepy Eye	402	\$33,258
St. Mary, Bird Island	133	\$25,369
St. Mary, Tracy	70	\$12,048
St. Michael, Morgan	48	\$24,071
St. Peter, Canby	75	\$41,577
St. Pius X, Glencoe	150	\$18,378
St. Raphael, Springfield	77	\$3,020

To date, the Minnesota Marathon for Non-public Education has raised over \$8.4 million dollars state-wide and last year alone over 330,000 people across the state participated. Local interest stories are posted at the organization's Web site (www.mnmarathon.org). Check out stories posted regarding Catholic schools within the diocese.

Faith Formation Day

Saturday
September 26

Church of St. Catherine
900 East Flynn
Redwood Falls, MN

Schedule

8:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Opening Prayer
9:20-11:20 a.m. Keynote
Why Study Church History?
by Stephen Weidenkopf, M.A.

Track 1	Track 2
(begins at 11:30 & ends at 5:00)	(begins at 11:30 & ends at 2:35)
LUNCH PROVIDED. Registration \$12; deadline Sept. 18 (507) 233-5325 or cblickem@dnu.org	

(Sponsored by Diocese of New Ulm
Offices of Religious Education /
Adult Formation and Youth Ministry.)

WHY STUDY Church History?

FOR CATECHISTS, CATECHETICAL LEADERS,
YOUTH MINISTRY TEAMS, OR ANY INTERESTED ADULT

Did you know that St. Francis of Assisi traveled to Egypt and tried to convert a great leader of the Muslims, Sultan al-Kamil? Or that Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Blessed John XXIII) helped save thousands of Jews during World War II? These are just some of the fascinating facts that covers the history of the Catholic Church through the centuries.

At this year's Faith Formation Day, keynote Steve Weidenkopf, M.A., will address church history in his morning presentation entitled: *Why Study Church History?* Weidenkopf is a lecturer of church history at the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College in Alexandria, VA.

After the keynote, participants can choose one of two tracks. **Track 1** entitled *Experience Church History Like Never Before! Come on an "Epic Journey"* with Steve Weidenkopf; or **Track 2** which offers a variety of general catechist workshops to choose from. For workshop titles/descriptions visit the diocesan Web site at www.dnu.org or call (507) 233-5325.

Learn about church history right in your own home!

Epic: A Journey through Church History with Steve Weidenkopf will be aired on public access channels throughout the New Ulm diocese beginning in October and continuing for twenty weeks. Public access is available in the communities of: Arlington, Bird Island, Fairfax, Gaylord, Gibbon, Hutchinson, Kandiyoji, Madison, Marshall, Morgan, North Mankato, St. Peter, Spicer, Springfield, Willmar, and Winthrop. Watch your parish bulletin or local newspaper for dates and air times. *The Epic Journey* 20-part series will also be available through the Diocesan Media Resource Center, (507) 233-5330; email: jweicherding@dnu.org.

Pro-life advocates in diocese to launch groundbreaking 40 Days for Life campaign

On September 23-November 1, 2009, pro-life advocates in the New Ulm diocese and beyond will join together with people of faith and conscience from many other communities from coast to coast to kick off the area's own version of the groundbreaking 40 Days for Life campaign.

40 Days for Life is an intensive pro-life initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, 40 days of peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and 40 days of grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history where God brought about world-changing transformation in 40-day periods.

"As people of the New Ulm diocese join with others from across the country to pray and fast and take courageous action for 40 days to end the tragic violence of abortion, we look forward to seeing what kind of transformation God will bring about in our diocese and throughout America," said Judy Haag, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Reverence Life Coordinator.

FROM THE BEGINNING

The first 40 Days for Life campaign was conducted in Bryan/College Station, Texas, in the fall of 2004. A local pro-life group prayed for an answer about how to reduce abortion in their area, and the answer God gave them was 40 Days for Life. The campaign was put together in a matter of weeks, yet it activated 1,000 people and led directly to a 28 percent decline in abortions in that community.

News of the victory that God led in Texas spread to other communities, and in 2005 and 2006, a half dozen other cities conducted their own 40 Days for Life campaigns. Each program was geared to the specific region, but each reported positive results. For some, it was learning that clinics closed altogether or cut their operating hours. Other cities found an outpouring of women seeking post-abortion healing.

CAMPAIGN GOES NATIONAL!

The first *national* 40 Days for Life campaign was conducted in the fall of 2007, with more than 80 cities in more than 30 states participating in a simultaneous outreach. People who had never been involved in pro-life activities came forward to answer the call.

A second national 40 Days for Life campaign was conducted in more than 50 cities in the spring of 2008. This campaign coincided with the Christian season of Lent, and brought renewed attention to the abortion issue.

Two additional coordinated campaigns were conducted in the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2009. The next coordinated 40 Days for Life campaign will be held from September 23 - November 1, 2009.

LEARN MORE!

To find out more about 40 Days for Life and to receive updates visit www.40daysforlife.com or contact Judy Haag, NUDCCW Reverence Life, bobjudy@meltel.net (320) 453-7592.



VISION and MISSION

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion in America.

The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion.



In Springfield this past Lent, parishioners of St. Raphael's participated in the 40 Days For Life campaign. After being introduced by parish priest, Fr. Dennis Labat, many parishioners used this campaign as a focus for their Lenten prayer and fasting. A 24-hour Eucharistic adoration was also organized to pray for the success of the state-wide 40-day Lenten vigil which was held at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN, where abortions are

performed. Parishioners from the diocese also traveled to St. Paul to pray and participate in the peaceful vigil. Pictured left: Amy (Mrs. Dan) Schmitz, Council of Catholic Women Reverence Life Coordinator for St. Raphael brought her seven home-schooled children as part of a field trip. Judy Haag, (far right) Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Reverence Life Coordinator and a member of Our Lady in Manannah, also participated.

Catholic Charities reflects on September as addiction and recovery month

by Thomas Keaveny, MSW-LICSW director, Catholic Charities

According to a new national study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), nearly 7 million Americans aged 18 to 25 were classified as needing treatment in the past year for alcohol or illicit drug use. These levels have remained relatively stable since 2002.

Many people who seek Catholic Charities counseling present issues related to chemical dependency. Sometimes a crisis has been precipitated by an episode with alcohol or drugs. In other situations there is a strong denial of the need to address chemical use patterns even though they may be affecting family life, job security, academic achievement and...physical and mental health.

In this context, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and SAMHSA have long supported a Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and related chemical dependency resources. A wealth of information (and opportunities to order many free publications) may be found through the SAMSA Web site (www.samhsa.gov). We might think of this as just another government bureaucracy, but it is encouraging to note that through their efforts alcohol related highway deaths are at all time low levels in contrast to miles driven. Minnesota has experienced an unprecedented decline in traffic fatalities, comparing to the late 1940s, a time when exponentially ten times fewer miles were driven. Obviously, the

efforts of this agency and other groups such as MADD and SADD have saved lives, if but for the mere reduction in the legal limits of blood alcohol content related to impaired driving and related DUI (Driving Under the Influence) enforcement efforts.

In addressing chemical use issues as it is reviewed in the Catholic Charities counseling assessment, staff share a simple, four question, CAGE (Cut down, Annoyed, Guilty, Eye-opener) questionnaire. This public domain tool is actually recommended for use by most insurance plans reimbursing for counseling and related mental health services as part of the counseling intake process.

If you are concerned about your alcohol or chemical use, look at the CAGE questionnaire. Family members who suspect a loved one has a problem can also apply the CAGE questions to the person they are concerned with:

1. Have you felt a need to cut down on your drinking?
2. Do you feel annoyed by people complaining about your drinking?
3. Do you ever feel guilty about your drinking?
4. Do you ever take an eye-opener in the morning to avoid the shakes?

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm is available to assist anyone who has a concern about alcohol or drugs in their life or their loved one's life. Call toll free 866 670-5163 to schedule an appointment to see a Catholic Charities counselor.

Story of nun heroes airs September 20

Some were nurses. Many were educators. Still others cared for orphans, the elderly, the mentally ill. But all were women religious enduring the communist regime in Eastern Europe after WWII. Their story is told in "Interrupted Lives: Catholic Sisters Under European Communism," a one-hour documentary to air Sunday, Sept. 20, at 5:00 a.m., KSTP TV, Ch. 5. To order DVD's call 800-234-8722. More information available on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site, www.usccb.org.

from the desk of the DCCW President



Jeane Appel
DCCW President

Jesus has called all to make disciples of others through our actions. As St. Francis of Assisi recognized when he said, "Preach the Gospel; sometimes use words," our actions often proclaim the message of Jesus louder than our words.

The Council of Catholic Women speak through action in many ways. We visit nursing homes, make quilts, and sponsor various missions (especially the Diocese of New Ulm mission parish of San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala). We also provide parish celebrations for First Communion, senior graduation and birthdays, educational forums on legislative issues, and information on respect life issues. We also offer scholarships toward educational opportunities.

Last year, the combined parish Council of Catholic Women contributed over \$123,500 in charitable gifts.

A key element of the Council of Catholic Women gatherings is prayer and education/enrichment. It is truly a blessing for each of us to have the opportunity to be involved in this worthwhile organization.

I strongly urge every woman in the New Ulm diocese to actively participate in your local CCW unit and to avail yourself of the many benefits.

Following the carefree days of summer, the month of September brings a renewal of many activities -children starting a new year in school, young adults entering college, organizations hosting "kickoffs" to build enthusiasm for the coming year. The same is true for Council of Catholic Women as we seek to inspire and energize Catholic women through the fall gatherings in our six regions throughout the diocese.

These fall gatherings are an opportunity to unite in friendship, be nourished spiritually as well as physically with the holy sacrifice of the Mass and an appetizing meal.

The evening speakers provide an opportunity for education in our Catholic faith.

All are invited and encouraged to attend. Call a friend, car pool, and make plans to attend the gathering in your region.

For further information in regard to the fall gatherings, contact your parish Council of Catholic Women president.

Jeane Appel is a member of the Church of St. Genevieve, Lake Benton.

Fall Regional Gatherings

REGION 1

Dolores Portz, President
Thursday, September 17, 2009
Cathedral of the Holy Trinity,
New Ulm
Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Mass: 6:00 p.m.
"Providing Help, Creating Hope"
-Tom Keaveny, Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of New Ulm

REGION 2

Ronda Mathiowetz, President
Thursday, September 10, 2009
St. Mary, Sleepy Eye
Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Mass: 7:30 p.m.
"Defending our Catholic Faith"
-Jason Myhre (followed by time
for questions/answers)

REGION 3

Betty Thooft, President
Monday, September 14, 2009
St. Mary, Tracy
Registration: 5:15 p.m.
Mass: 6:00 p.m.
"Defending our Catholic Faith"
- Jason Myhre (followed by time
for questions/answers)

REGION 4

Monica Roggenbuck, President
Tuesday, October 6, 2009
Holy Rosary, Graceville
Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Mass: 6:00 p.m.
Theme, TBA - Mary Paluck

REGION 5

Barbara Mathiowetz and Mary Ann Powers, Co-Presidents
Monday, September 28, 2009
Holy Redeemer, Renville
Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Mass: 6:00 p.m.
"How Can We, as Women, Prioritize Our Faith in 2009?"
- Bishop John M. LeVoi

REGION 6

Cindy Entinger, President
Tuesday, September 29, 2009
St. Anastasia, Hutchinson
Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Mass: 6:00 p.m.
"Role of the Archangels"
- Fr. Tony Stubeda

Shepherd of the Field project important now more than ever

by Mary Braun
DCCW Church Commission

Priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus. On June 19, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI promulgated the Year for Priests for two purposes: first, to foster in priests a yearning for spiritual perfection, and second, for all Catholics to recall the essential role of the priests among us and in society. Without the priesthood we would have no Eucharist or the means of grace afforded us through the sacraments.

The Year for Priests is Christocentric for each of us. The theme for this Jubilee Year is "Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests." Christ is the one true priest. As "Alter Christus," priests have a unique role in bringing Christ to others. Their identity comes from Christ, not from parish programs, buildings, or titles. Through external conduct, as well as internal holiness, may priests inspire and lead people to authentic holiness.

In this Jubilee Year, the Council of Catholic Women Shepherd of the Field project is a wonderful way for individuals to affirm priests and encourage them to conform their lives to Jesus Christ. The project also

affirms deacons, pastoral administrators, seminarians, and deacon aspirants, in their work for the Church or their discernment and formation for future ministry.

The project consists of an individual being assigned to a parish of the Diocese of New Ulm by the DCCW Church Commission coordinator. Assigned names are sent to parish CCW Church Commission coordinators. It is the coordinator's duty to inform the parish about the person selected to be their Shepherd of the Field for the year. Information about the shepherd's birthday (and date of ordination if applicable) is listed in parish bulletins so parishioners can send words of encouragement and gratitude for their service. Each parishioner is asked to remember this person in prayer.

Especially in this Year for Priests, all parishioners are encouraged to participate in the Shepherd of the Field project.

Mary Braun is a member of the Church of St. Mary, Willmar.

Lay leadership

(continued from page 6)

When it comes to challenges, both Pyka and Garding mention *time*. Pyka says more time is needed to accomplish all she needs to get done within this ministry. Garding adds that sometimes time and commitment become challenges. "Our lives can be easily out of balance with jobs and extra curricular activities that oftentimes Church and faith are near the bottom of the list," she said.

Both agree that concerning time and commitment, conversion and reprioritization needs to happen. If God is the center of our time and commitment, life will continue and continue for the better.

"Remember, this is God's work. Build community and take time to

keep your own faith life active, trusting that the Holy Spirit is with you. Our diocese offers ongoing faith formation, take advantage of it!" Garding advised.

As we celebrate catechetical ministry this month, we thank and honor those who are parish catechetical leaders, like Pyka and Garding. We also honor all the volunteers who are catechists to our children, youth, and adults. Perhaps take the time personally to thank your catechetical leaders and catechists for their time and commitment. And, consider giving your time and commitment and volunteer with catechesis. Perhaps God is calling you!

UPDATE ON THE ROMAN MISSAL



The Roman Missal: what, when and why?

by Ann Przybilla

The Sacramentary, a big red book that the priest uses for the prayers of the Mass, is undergoing a revision. Here are some basic questions and answers to help us understand more about it.

Why use a Sacramentary?

A common book helps to establish unity and common prayer assists in preserving the truths of the faith that Jesus preached and handed down to the Apostles. St. Paul knew that the early Christians who gathered for worship were not united (1 Cor 11:17-18). In addition, there were some who preached contrary to the message of Jesus. (2 Cor 11:13). The use of a common book for worship insures that truths of the faith are not distorted in the prayer of the Church, for what we pray is what we believe (*Lex orandi, lex credendi*). The Church wants all English speaking countries to share a uniform translation of the Mass texts. In the end, we will hold more in common with our fellow Catholics around the globe.

What changes will this bring?

When the revised Sacramentary is completed, the structure of the Mass will remain the same but many of the responses of the assembly and

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

the prayers of the presider will be different. Changes have already taken place since 2002 to correspond to the introductory material of the General Instruction.

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

Some of the modifications include the purification of the vessels at the altar after Communion, the reverent bow to the Body and Blood of Christ before receiving, and standing at the words "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands..."

Why is the Church doing this now instead of dealing with more important issues?

While some may feel that there are bigger fish to fry in the Church today, it is good to remember that this process has been an ongoing development for decades that has involved consultation with linguistic and liturgical scholars. Since the time of Vatican II there have been over 50 documents issued in the form of statements, instructions, guidelines, and laws regarding the translation of liturgical texts. Bishop Arthur Serratelli sums up the

importance of this endeavor: "Liturgical language is important for the life of the Church. (*Lex orandi, lex credendi*). In liturgy, the words addressed to God and the words spoken to the people voice the Faith of the Church. They are not simply the expressions of one individual in one particular place at one time in history. The words used in liturgy also pass on the faith of the Church from one generation to the next. For this reason, the bishops take seriously their responsibility to provide for the faithful the translations of liturgical texts that are accurate and inspiring."

When will the new Roman Missal (Sacramentary) be completed?

This is a million dollar question. Nobody knows exactly when the revisions will be complete. This process involves international committees and approval by all the English speaking bishops conferences. It then has to be approved by the Holy Father. In the meantime, parishes continue to use the second edition of the Sacramentary with the third edition of the introductory material that describes the gestures and rubrics (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2002*).

The Catholic funeral rite

— are your plans in place? —

Many funeral homes and cemeteries have advance planning. As Catholics, we celebrate the funeral rite to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving for the gift of life which has now returned to God, the author of life (*Order of Christian Funerals, no.5*). Upon request, the diocesan Office of Worship provides a booklet entitled "Preparing for a Catholic Funeral." It is the diocese's hope that these funeral guidelines will be of assistance to anyone who is preparing for a Catholic funeral.

Preplanning your funeral liturgy gives you the opportunity to express your personal wishes and relieve the burden of those you love from making these decisions at a most difficult time.

As members of the Body of Christ, when one suffers, we all suffer (*1 Cor. 12:26*). Therefore, we are called on as a community to care for the dying, to console those who

mourn, and to participate in the funeral rite.

The celebration of a Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. Prayerful preparation and planning of the funeral rite will help you and your loved ones deal successfully and gracefully with the ultimate rite of passage through death to eternal life.

To order your copy of *Preparing for a Catholic Funeral*, contact the diocesan Office of Worship, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; (507) 233-5304; email: khuebert@dnu.org.

Order forms are available on the Diocese of New Ulm Web site, www.dnu.org (Worship section). Each copy is 50 cents plus postage.

Relic of the Eucharistic miracle seminarians Wiering and Johanneck play important role in annual procession



Orvieto, Italy - New Ulm diocese seminarians Matt Wiering (front far right) and Aaron Johanneck (front far left) carry the relic of the Eucharistic miracle of Bolsena of 1263 on procession through the streets of Orvieto, Italy. Every year the relic, a corporal that still carries the marks of the blood that spilled on it from a consecrated host, is carried around the city of Orvieto, whose Cathedral houses the sacred relic. The procession occurs each year on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Each year seminarians from the Pontifical North American College participate in the processions and sometimes are given the privilege of carrying the reliquary, as Wiering and Johanneck did on Corpus Christi Sunday, June 14, 2009.

Musicians gather with renowned liturgical composer

On Saturday, August 15, sixty-five musicians from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's in Arlington, to learn more about their ministry of music. The day's presenter was singer-songwriter and prominent liturgical composer, Jeanne Cotter from St. Paul, MN. Cotter has experience of performing her

original piano works and singing her inspirational songs throughout the United States and Canada for more than a decade. She has numerous recordings and music collections published by GIA Publications, Inc., as well as her own company, Mythic Rain Productions. Cotter is author of



Keyboard Improvisation for the Liturgical Musician (GIA).

(photo by Ann Przybilla)

Statue gets a shine! sculptor performs maintenance on Berghold statue in Loretto Park



Sculptor Paul Rieffer and his daughter, Michelle spent a good part of a day in late July cleaning the Fr. Alexander Berghold statue located in New Ulm. This was part of the preservation process which also included heating the bronze surface before applying a special wax. (photos by Christine Clancy)

The sculptor of the Fr. Alexander Berghold statue returned to New Ulm on July 23 to perform maintenance work on the half-ton, 7 1/2 foot tall bronze statue of the former Diocese of New Ulm missionary priest.

Paul Rieffer of St. Paul, MN, and his daughter, Michelle, scrubbed the statue with bristle brushes, mild soap, and water. Rieffer used a blow-torch to heat up the statue before applying wax to preserve it. "Heating the bronze helps the bronze absorb the wax," Rieffer said.

In early 2002, a capital campaign was launched under the direction of Bishop John C. Nienstedt to preserve the memory of Berghold, a central figure in the building, development, and history of the New Ulm area and the Diocese of New Ulm from the late 1800s to early 1900s.



The memorial site is located in Loretto Park, near the entrance to the Way of the Cross, just west of the New Ulm Medical Center along 5th North Street. The statue rises from the river valley for a panoramic view of the city. (excerpts courtesy of *New Ulm Journal*)

FIND OUT WHERE THE FUN IS! Visit www.dnu.org

for dates of upcoming Parish Festivals throughout the diocese.



Upcoming Events

Good Shepherd SERRA Club meets Thursday, September 3, at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference room, beginning with rosary and Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by program and lunch. Come early for eucharist adoration. This month Sr. Bernadette McGowen, a Benedictine sister will share her vocation story. Call Mike or Annette Rohlik, at (507) 747-2181 for further information.

NEW ULM DIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM - September 12 at St. Aloysius Education Center in Olivia, MN. Program is designed specifically for engaged couples and is an opportunity to explore and strengthen relationships. Contact Diocesan Family Life Office, 1400 6th St. N., New Ulm, MN 56073; (507) 359-2966 to register or for additional upcoming program dates.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY AT ST. GERTRUDE'S IN FOREST CITY - September 16-November 18, 2009, 9:30 a.m. Cost: \$20. This eight-part program provides an excellent introduction to the bible timeline learning system as well as a meaningful overview of salvation history. Through video, Jeff Cavins briefly covers the same information taught in his bible timeline seminar. The videos are complemented by group discussion questions, useful maps and charts, and brief assignments for home study. Call (320) 693-7801; stgert@xtratyme.com.

Televised Catholic Mass schedule for the Diocese of New Ulm

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

EWTN
(Eternal Word Television Network)
(Galaxy 17, Transponder 11)
Sunday Mass Live, 7:00 a.m.
Daily Mass Live:
Monday - Saturday, 7:00 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.

ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SEASONS - October 24, 2009, at St. Aloysius in Olivia, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Presenter: Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman. This is a gathering for those who enhance the worship space through environment and art. Cost: \$5. Register by calling (507) 359-2966; email: khuebert@dnu.org. Sponsored by Office of Worship of the Diocese of New Ulm.

September '09 Safe Environment sessions scheduled

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. (September sessions are as follows:)
Sept. 1, 6:30 p.m., Hutchinson
Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m., Spicer
Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m., New Ulm (Cathedral)
Sept. 12, 9:30 a.m. Marshall
Sept. 13, 1:00 p.m., Glencoe (in Spanish)
Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m. Canby
Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m. St. Peter
Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m. Tracy
Sept. 19, 9:30 a.m. Granite Falls
Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m. Willmar
Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m. North Mankato

To register or for additional upcoming sessions, contact your local Catholic parish/school office. Or, visit www.dnu.org.

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Cycle 7:
Oct. 18 - Nov. 21

- Catholic Beliefs
- Church and Communication
- Church History 2
- Conscience
- Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
- Ecclesiology: The Pilgrim Church
- Images of Jesus
- Introduction to Catechesis
- Introduction to Liturgy
- Introduction to Prayer
- Letters of Paul
- Mary in Scripture and Tradition
- Media, Faith, and Values
- National Directory for Catechesis
- Our Hearts Were Burning (Seminar)
- Overview of the GDC & NDC (Seminar)
- Praying With Children
- Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling
- 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,
Director of Religious Education and
Adult Faith Formation
for the Diocese of New Ulm
(507) 359-2966; breising@dnu.org

**Registration opens Sept. 1;
closes Oct. 14.

bishop's calendar (continued from page 2)

Sleepy Eye: 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Football Field. Homecoming Football Game for St. Mary's Catholic School

26 Redwood Falls: 8:00 a.m. Church of St. Catherine. Faith Formation Day.

27 Arlington: 10:15 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Confirmation.

Willmar: 5:00 p.m. Willmar Conference Center. Bishop's Guild Dinner.

28 Renville: 6:00 p.m. Church of Holy Redeemer. Region V CCW Fall Gathering.

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

THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 24 No. 1 September 2009

Catechesis and the Proclamation of the WORD

Catechetical Sunday 2009 will be celebrated September 20 in parishes across the United States. This day not only marks the beginning of the catechetical year, but is also an occasion to celebrate the vocation of catechist. We renew our gratitude for these faithful women and men who persevere in the labor of passing on the faith.

(Read more, page 6.)

catholic trends

St. Paul, MN - In July, the Vatican designated the Cathedral of Saint Paul to be the first national shrine in honor of the Apostle Paul.

This special distinction was granted by the Office of the Holy See and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, following a request by The Most Rev. John C. Nienstedt, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. This will be the first national shrine in the State

of Minnesota and the only national shrine in North America dedicated to honor Saint Paul.

Considered one of the top five cathedrals in America, the cornerstone for the Cathedral was laid over a century ago and it opened for worship on March 28, 1915. Actually the fourth Cathedral of the then young Archdiocese, it owes its existence to the vision of

Archbishop John Ireland and the architectural genius of Frenchman E.I. Masqueray. It was paid for, in part, with the pennies of school children and the small contributions of the city's ordinary citizens.

Guided tours are given every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1:00 p.m. or by appointment. The public is also invited to visit the Cathedral Museum and Gift Shop on the lower level. Call (651) 228-1766; www.cathedral-saintpaul.org.

The Vatican has launched iPhone and Facebook applications in an effort to help Catholics, especially younger generations, use new technologies to create a culture of dialogue, respect, and friendship. The new applications are part of a brand new Vatican Web site - www.pope2you.net. The site can be viewed in five languages and allows young people to learn more about the Church and Benedict XVI through his

own writings. While the site aims to generate the interest of young people, it is also meant for people of all ages. It features news on the Catholic Church and details on the pastoral activities of the pope incorporating content from the Vatican's YouTube channel. At the same time, a new application for the iPhone and iPod Touch has been created by the Catholic news agency H2Onews, with plans to add other mobile platforms later.

Pope2You also provides a gateway to a parallel world in

Facebook with an application where you can create and send to friends virtual postcards with the Pope's own words, greetings, and excerpts of his writings.

These new applications highlight the latest example of the Church reaching out in new ways in the world of social networks - a forum where the Church can meet new people, make new friends, dialogue, and offer solidarity.

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