

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 37 No. 1 September 2022



Welcome Bishop Zielinski!

(Photo by Dr. Michelle Kramer)

NEW ULM – On Tuesday, July 12, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Chad W. Zielinski, 57, the fifth bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm. The announcement was made by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Zielinski succeeds Bishop John M. LeVoir, who led the diocese from July 14, 2008, until his retirement on Aug. 6, 2020. Monsignor Douglas Grams (left) welcomes the new bishop to the diocese during a media conference held on the day of the announcement at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. Monsignor Grams has served as diocesan administrator since Aug. 10, 2020. Bishop Zielinski's installation is set for Tuesday, Sept. 27 at the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye.

(See Special Report, pages 8-9)

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(Photo by Shelby Lindrud/West Central Tribune)

Marking a milestone!

As part of a weekend celebration in June, St. Mary's Catholic School in Bird Island welcomed alumni, staff, and community members to tour its halls as the school celebrated its 125th anniversary.

(Read more, page 6.)

Pope's synod process invites all faithful to gather in prayer, listening, discussion Diocese completes synod report on how the faithful are called to help guide the Church

by Fr. Anthony Stubeda
Diocesan Coordinator for the
Synodal Process

Pastoral leaders of the Diocese of New Ulm have been doing much listening over the last several months as part of a two-year global synod process of listening and dialogue known as the Synod on Synodality. "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission," was launched by Pope Francis in October 2021 and has been described as the most ambitious project for Catholic renewal since the Second Vatican Council. In the fall of 2023, the process will culminate with a three-week synod of bishops in Rome.

As part of the synodal process, Pope Francis has called the whole Church to participate in a pre-synodal dialogue: a process of prayer, listening, discussion, and discernment involving all of the faithful, including lay people, those in consecrated life, and members of the clergy. The process is to reflect the encounter of Jesus with his apostles, the crowds, and those seeking an encounter with his mercy and power. The Holy Father's invitation stresses the importance of our listening to each other through prayer and attentive listening to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

This past spring and early summer, 406 individuals in 15 parish or area faith communities (AFC) in the Diocese of New Ulm gathered to engage in conversation and prayer in response to the pope's invitation. Those conversations centered around three primary themes: Journeying Together, Listening to God and to Each Other, and Celebrating Our Shared Faith. The discussions were shaped by questions suggested by Pope Francis.

At the beginning of the process, there was some hesitance and skepticism about the process, but as one participant at Holy Redeemer in Marshall commented, "We do not need to fear that we will be caught in error if we are open and listen to one another, the Holy Spirit will guide us to truth and faithfulness."

Repeatedly at the gatherings I attended, there was confidence



expressed that God's truth would guide us and that our experience could be helpful in remaining faithful to the truth God reveals in our lives and in the life of the Church.

As I watched the process unfold, I was struck by the people's eagerness to share their thoughts and ideas, and I was impressed by the participants' willingness to listen to each other without feeling the need to correct, disagree, or convince those who held different views.

Feedback compiled into one report.

Following the gatherings, each parish or AFC was asked to submit a report to the diocese concerning feedback from their discussions. A summary of these reports has been compiled into one diocesan report and has been submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

(USCCB) for synthesis with other dioceses from across the nation.

Further along in the process, the national reports will be compiled with reports from across the globe and submitted to the pope and representative bishops from around the world for consideration and dialogue at their gathering in the fall of 2023.

Common themes that emerged from the parish and AFC gatherings:

- The centrality of the Eucharist to our life as a Church.
- Concern about the celebration of the Eucharist, especially about communal participation. There was some unease expressed about the division caused by a perceived move away from the vision of Vatican II on the liturgy and towards earlier forms of celebration. There was a much less broad feeling that the move towards pre-Vatican II forms

would be a good idea.

- Many mentioned the damage done by the isolation and distancing necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic and how to overcome and heal that damage.
- There was great concern about the effects of the clergy sexual abuse scandal.
- There was concern with liturgical education; formation and education of the faithful was a prominent theme.
- The need for more priests was common throughout the submitted reports.
- There was much discussion about listening to those on the edges or outside our parishes. Special concern was expressed for divorced people and Hispanic community members.
- There was an almost universal desire to learn how to listen to and engage young people.
- The refrain of listening to God, to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and each other was evident throughout the process.

The recent synodal process revealed Catholics' deep love for Christ and his Church, a keen awareness of the challenges and difficulties we face, a certainty that the Holy Spirit will guide us in responding to these challenges, and a desire to engage in prayerful and meaningful dialogue with companions on the pilgrimage of faith.

As one participant expressed, "I was surprised to be invited to share my story and concerns, and I hope this will be the beginning of a renewal of our faith."

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by Monsignor Douglas Grams
Diocesan Administrator

On June 27, 2022, the feast of St. Cyril of Alexandria, I received a phone call from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio (Pope Francis' ambassador to the United States), informing me that the Holy Father had appointed Bishop Chad Zielinski to serve as bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm. Bishop Zielinski is currently serving as the bishop of the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Archbishop Pierre mentioned that Bishop Zielinski was flying to Fairbanks and wouldn't be home for another two hours. With that privileged information, I journeyed to the cemetery at St. Gregory the Great in Lafayette for a 6:30 pm outdoor Mass and blessing of the new columbarium. Following Mass, I called Bishop Zielinski and congratulated him on

his appointment to the Diocese of New Ulm.

We have been praying for a new bishop for two years, and our prayers have been answered. While waiting for the appointment of a new shepherd, parish life happily moved forward. Evangelization took place, including the proclamation of the Gospel, the celebration of the sacraments, and Christian service.

The universal law of the Church is concerned with the salvation of people and good order. On Sept. 27, 2022, Bishop Zielinski will be installed as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm and entrusted with the pastoral care of members of this local Church, and my temporary role as diocesan administrator will cease. Taking a cue from John the Baptist and the motto of Bishop Zielinski, "He must increase, and I must decrease" (*John 3:30*).



Monsignor Douglas Grams, (back) diocesan administrator of the Diocese of New Ulm for the past two years, welcomes the diocese's new shepherd Bishop Chad Zielinski upon his arrival on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in New Ulm. This was an opportunity for the bishop to meet the diocesan staff prior to the afternoon media conference at the Cathedral in New Ulm.

(Photo by Christine Clancy)

Thank you to the College of Consultors, diocesan staff, and parish staffs who have assisted and supported me during this time. I have served three bishops and look forward to the arrival of Bishop Zielinski, realizing his leadership style will be different from the bishops who preceded him and those who will follow. He will be the youngest bishop I have served. He comes to us with pastoral experience and a genuine concern for the people of God.

I know you will join me in welcoming Bishop Chad Zielinski to our diocese. As he bids farewell to the Christian faithful in the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, we pray for his safe arrival to the Diocese of New Ulm and a peaceful transition of leadership.

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

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Day of prayer keeping with theme of *Laudato si'* encyclical

by Kevin J. Jones
Catholic News Agency

The "beauty of the fall season" in many parts of the country is a great time to make yourself more open to God and to join Pope Francis in praying for God's Creation, the U.S. bishops have said.

"Our gratitude for plentiful harvests and the beauty of colorful leaves, early sunsets, and cooler air invites us to make some interior space to listen more carefully to creation, to each other and to God," the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said September 1.

The bishops' message for the World Day of Prayer for Creation came from Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Justice and Human Development, and Bishop David Malloy of Rockford, chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace.

Commemorated on September 1, Pope Francis established the day of prayer in 2015. It begins a month-long "Season of Creation" that ends on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The day of prayer is in keeping with the theme of the pope's 2015

encyclical *Laudato si'*, on care for our common home. The theme of this year's day of prayer is "Listen to the Voice of Creation."

"If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance," Pope Francis said in his own message for the observance. "On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home."

The U.S. bishops reflected on Pope Francis' words. Just as the Old Testament prophets warned about those who "have ears, but hear not," Catholics today must "learn the art of listening to protect the environment."

"With careful attentiveness, the Holy Father rightly identifies a dissonance in the world, also resoundingly true in the United States," they said. "The beauty of the natural world and the harmony that comes from the integrity of creation speaks to us. Yet we also hear the 'cry of the earth and cry of the poor,' the 'little ones' being wounded by a throwaway culture fueled by greed, over-consumption, technocratic power, and indifference. We continue to experience the destructive force

of natural disasters, floods, fires and heat waves and the consequent suffering of people, animals and ecosystems."

With attentive listening, the bishops said, "We can also catch the sound of hope emerging from our collective actions to protect creation, perhaps surprisingly, from our national politics and within our pilgrim Church."

"Numerous U.S. Catholic institutions, religious orders, dioceses, parishes, communities, families, and individuals are responding to the invitation of *Laudato si'*," the bishops said.

Their statement praised the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's support for community organizations that work on environmental issues. The Catholic Rural Life Conference works with farmers and agriculture leaders, Catholic Charities aids those affected by natural disasters, and Catholic Relief Services advances climate change adaptation work among the poor of the world.

The USCCB recently updated its socially responsible investment guidelines, with the most attention given to environmental concerns. It now has five categories for responsible investment: climate

change, biodiversity, water and natural resources, technology, and environmental impact.

The U.S. bishops noted the upcoming Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and the second anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, which addressed fraternity and social friendship. According to the bishops, the pope's call for "a better kind of politics" is an appeal to seek a better "eco-politics" that "protects, rather than exploits, the environment and green ideologies for partisan gain."

Despite political divisions, lawmakers of many political beliefs share concerns about the global climate and the national welfare.

"They are doing the hard work of considering bi-partisan policies that can preserve the environment, promote energy security, and grow the economy," said the bishops. "We pray that now, and in the future, both parties will continue to put forward their best environmental policies and work together to protect our 'common home which God has entrusted to us'."

Catholic Schools Center of Excellence expands

Twin Cities nonprofit receives funding to serve all Minnesota Catholic grade schools

by Christine Clancy
The Prairie Catholic

NEW ULM – With a mission to enhance excellence and increase enrollment in Catholic schools, the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) announced in June that it is expanding to support every preschool through eighth-grade Catholic school in Minnesota, including schools in the Diocese of New Ulm. CSCOE’s expansion is made possible by a \$10 million multi-year investment from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, its initial and sustaining funder.

“Since day one, we’ve been a bottom-up, opt-in organization,” said CSCOE President and former Catholic school principal Brian Ragatz in a June 16 media release. “We listen to Catholic school principals and respond to their needs with financial resources, professional support, and excellent programs that benefit them and their entire school communities.”

Ragatz said that the goal is for this expansion to continue to strengthen Catholic education in Minnesota. “Collectively, the 78 Catholic schools we currently serve and the additional 74 schools we’ll offer to support will benefit from better connections and more resources to bring even

more excellence to students, staff, and school communities,” he said.

Diocese of New Ulm director of Catholic Schools Dr. Michelle Kramer told *The Prairie Catholic* that the diocese is very excited about this opportunity to partner with CSCOE. “They have become a tremendous source of support for those in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and I trust that they will help us to continue growing enrollment and making our schools in the Diocese of New Ulm even more excellent in the years ahead,” Kramer said. “We are grateful for the Schulze Family Foundation and all who support our schools, students, and staff.”

The 13 Catholic schools in the diocese that can expect to receive additional support from CSCOE include St. Mary’s School (Bird Island), St. Peter School (Canby), St. Anastasia School (Hutchinson), School of St. Philip (Litchfield), Holy Redeemer School (Marshall), St. Edward’s School (Minneota), New Ulm Area Catholic Schools (New Ulm), John Ireland School (St. Peter), St. Mary’s School (Sleepy Eye), St. Raphael School (Springfield), St. Mary’s School (Tracy), St. Anne’s School (Wabasso), and Holy Trinity School (Winsted).



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH THE APOSTOLIC NUNCI. On the day of the July 29, 2022, Episcopal Installation Mass of Winona-Rochester’s new shepherd Bishop Robert E. Barron, New Ulm’s new shepherd Bishop Chad W. Zielinski (second left) poses for a photo with Bishop Donald J. Kettler, (far left), bishop of St. Cloud (who also served as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, 2002-2013), New Ulm Bishop Emeritus John M. LeVoir, and Archbishop Christophe Pierre (far right), apostolic nuncio to the United States.

(Photo submitted)

Eucharistic procession on feast of Corpus Christi launches National Eucharistic Revival



NEW ULM – Catholics in the Diocese of New Ulm were invited to gather for a Corpus Christi Eucharistic procession on Sunday, June 19. The procession was initially scheduled to begin at the Catholic Pastoral Center in New Ulm, processing down the hill to the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, followed by Eucharistic adoration and a family-friendly barbecue in the park. However, due to the extreme heat, the planned events were moved to the Cathedral and a small reception was held in the church basement. Pictured, Monsignor Douglas Grams, diocesan administrator for the Diocese of New Ulm, carries the Eucharist in procession through the Cathedral. (Photo by Christine Clancy)

by Catholic News Agency

Belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is waning among professed Catholics, and the bishops of the United States are trying to do something about it.

According to a 2019 Pew Research Center study, roughly two-thirds of U.S. Catholics do not believe that the bread and wine at Mass become Christ’s body and blood during the consecration – a core dogma of the Catholic faith and the “source and summit” of the Church’s life, according to the catechism.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Eucharistic Revival, launched nationally on Sunday, June 19 on the Feast of Corpus Christi, has a mission to “renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist,” as stated on

the initiative’s website, www.eucharisticrevival.org.

What is the Eucharistic Revival?

The Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative that aims to inspire, educate, and unite. In a world where not many people know Jesus intimately, the revival is meant to show everyone what wonders the True Presence of Jesus can do to heal the soul. Through a carefully planned timeline of events, over three years, the U.S. bishops hope to change the lives of many Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

As the revival website says, “We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith – his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.”

It is a time to confront

the hardships that face people in everyday life. The National Eucharistic Revival is a powerful, uplifting way to rise to this challenge.

The Heart of the Revival newsletter provides weekly updates on this unprecedented national movement as well as reflections, videos, and resources from eucharistic preachers, religious congregations, and Catholic apostolates connected with the Revival. Stay on top of the news from the Revival throughout the U.S. Visit www.eucharisticrevival.org and sign up for the newsletter today!



For further information regarding the Eucharistic Revival initiatives in the Diocese of New Ulm, contact Fr. Anthony Stubeda who serves as the local coordinator.

Catholic Charities

offices located in **NEW ULM, MARSHALL, HUTCHINSON, WILLMAR** offering pregnancy and adoption counseling, Project Rachel, and Respect Life Resources



Pregnancy support services include assistance with: an unplanned pregnancy, finding resources, preparing for the birth of a child, and relationship counseling. **Adoption:** Information on and assistance in discerning an adoption plan and its options as well as resources for people interested in adopting. **Abortion:** The Church’s message is one of healing and hope. Counseling and spiritual support are provided for those affected by abortion.

Call 1-866-670-5163 | pkral@dnu.org



por Monseñor Douglas Grams
Administrador Diocesano

En Tierra Buena

al cementerio de St. Gregory the Great en Lafayette para una misa al aire libre a las 6:30 p.m. y para la bendición del columbario nuevo. Después de la misa llamé al obispo Zielinski para felicitarlo por su nombramiento.

Hemos estado orando para que nombren a un obispo en nuestra diócesis por dos años, gracias a Dios nuestras oraciones fueron escuchadas. Mientras esperábamos por el nombramiento de un pastor, la vida parroquial aquí continuaba como de costumbre. Mientras tanto, se llevó a cabo la evangelización, la proclamación del Evangelio, la celebración de los sacramentos y el servicio Cristiano.

La norma universal de la Iglesia se preocupa por la salvación de sus feligreses y del buen orden. El 27 de Septiembre, el obispo Zielinski será instalado como el quinto obispo de la Diócesis de New Ulm y se le encomendará el cuidado pastoral de todos los miembros de esta Iglesia local, y mi función como administrador

diocesano cesará. Siguiendo el ejemplo de Juan Bautista y el lema del obispo Zielinski, “Es necesario que él crezca y que yo disminuya” (Juan 3:30). Gracias al Colegio de Consultores, al personal diocesano y al personal parroquial que me han ayudado y apoyado durante este tiempo. He tenido el privilegio de servir a tres obispos y con una emoción esperamos la llegada del obispo Zielinski. Se que su estilo de liderazgo será diferente al de los obispos anteriores y de los que lo sigan. Será el obispo más joven que he servido. El viene a nosotros con bastante experiencia pastoral y que se preocupa por el bienestar del pueblo de Dios.

Sé que ustedes se unirán a mí para dar la bienvenida al obispo Chad Zielinski a nuestra diócesis. Mientras tanto se despide de los feligreses en la Diócesis de Fairbanks en Alaska. Oremos para que llegue bien a la Diócesis de New Ulm y para una transición pacífica de liderazgo.

Bishop Robert Barron installed as bishop of Winona-Rochester



Bishop Robert Barron

WASHINGTON (CNA) – Bishop Robert E. Barron, the founder of the Catholic media apostolate Word on Fire, was installed as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester at St. John the Evangelist Co-Cathedral in Rochester on July 29, 2022.

Appointed by Pope Francis earlier this summer, Bishop Barron is returning to the Midwest after almost seven years as auxiliary bishop in the Santa Barbara region of Los Angeles, California.

Bishop Barron was ordained to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1986. In his new appointment, he succeeds Bishop John M. Quinn.

As a young priest serving in Chicago, Bishop Barron broadcast his homilies on a local radio station, attracting the attention of Cardinal Francis George, who urged him to share his talents with the wider world. With the cardinal’s support, Bishop Barron founded the non-profit Word on Fire media apostolate that shares the traditions of the Catholic faith through a multi-media platform that includes artwork, theology, and philosophy. In the form of daily blog posts, articles, videos, and an archive of hundreds of online homilies, Bishop Barron’s ministry has reached millions across the globe.

At the installation Mass, apostolic nuncio to the United States Archbishop Christophe Pierre recognized the bishop’s dedication to spreading the Gospel around the world, adding that he hoped his commitment to evangelization would “continue to be of great fruit.”

The Winona-Rochester Diocese serves over 136,000 Catholics, including 23 Catholic schools and St. Mary’s University.

Duluth’s Fr. Mike Schmitz's next podcast, 'Catechism in a Year,' starts January 1

by Catholic News Service

Father Mike Schmitz, the voice behind the “Bible in a Year” podcast, will launch a new “Catechism in a Year” podcast on Jan. 1, 2023.

For the 365 days of 2023, Schmitz will read through the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church, while “providing explanation, insight, and encouragement along the way,” according to a press release. The new podcast will be free on all streaming platforms, as well as on the Hallow prayer app.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a compilation of fundamental Christian truths and the essential teachings of the Church. The official U.S. version of the text is more than 900 pages long.

Ascension, the podcast’s publisher, reports that the “Bible in a Year” podcast has garnered 6.8 billion total listening minutes,

as well as 300 million downloads to date.

In an announcement video, Schmitz said, “If your experience with the ‘Bible in a Year’ was it took your life and started moving it and started bringing you closer and closer to the Lord, the ‘Catechism in a Year,’ I’m telling you, is going to put your prayer life and your relationship with the Lord into hyperdrive.”

In preparation for “Catechism in a Year,” *Ascension* will publish a new version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church so that podcast listeners can follow along.

The podcast’s webpage says by listening to the podcasts Catholics will:

- Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic faith and why they matter
- See how Church teaching is

rooted in over 2,000 years of sacred tradition

- Encounter God’s plan of sheer goodness, and
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

If you have ever wanted to understand what it means to be Catholic and allow those truths to shape your life – this podcast is for you!

Editor’s note: Fr. Mike Schmitz is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth as well as the chaplain for the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD). He attended St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and was ordained for the Diocese of Duluth in 2003.

Ranweiler retires after 26 years of service to diocese



Jenni Ranweiler

After 26 years of service to the Diocese of New Ulm, Jenni Ranweiler has retired as bookkeeper for the diocesan Office of Finance located at the Catholic Pastoral Center in New Ulm. Her retirement was effective July 29, 2022.

During Ranweiler’s time with the diocese, she has been a part of the diocesan curia under three bishops of the diocese: Bishop

Raymond A. Lucker, Bishop John C. Nienstedt, and Bishop John M. LeVoir.

“My background and experience was not in finance but I am forever grateful that I was given the opportunity to fill the bookkeeper position,” said Ranweiler. “I have worked with three bishops and many priests. The people I work with are not just co-workers but have become good friends. I have truly loved my job!”

Jenni and her husband Mark are members of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. The couple has been married for 42 years, and they have one daughter, Laura.

Thank you, Jenni, for your 26 years of dedicated and faithful service. We wish you well in all your future endeavors.

Diocesan summer camps can be a life-changing experience for youth

by Christine Clancy
The Prairie Catholic

The Diocese of New Ulm Office of Youth and Young Adult ministry hosted its annual summer camps for boys and girls, grades sixth through twelve this past July and August.

The girls' camp, Camp Beloved, and the boys' camp, Camp Greatness, offered the youth of the diocese the opportunity to disconnect from everyday life and connect deeper with God.

Those attending the overnight camps held at the Schoenstatt on the Lake in Sleepy Eye had the opportunity to create new friendships, experience new activities, and leave on fire for God. It is hoped that these camp experiences will live on into the youth's home, school, and church life.

Nine out of the 86 youth from throughout the diocese who attended the camps spoke with *The Prairie Catholic* to talk about what they liked best about the camp and what they took away from the experience.



Amber Rosemeier
Grade 11, Murdock

"This is my second year. I heard about the camp through *Totus Tuus* at our church. My favorite part of the camp is just the community – it's really just a place to be Catholic, which is hard to find elsewhere, especially going to a public school. And the deep conversations you can have with people. We really all have the same goal of getting to get closer to Jesus and to have a deep relationship with him. I think I will take away from the camp that you have to set aside time to pray; otherwise, it won't get done. And, you have to pray to have a relationship with the Lord. One of the quotes from one of the talks by a member of *Totus Tuus* is, 'Prayer doesn't help your relationship with the Lord; it is your relationship with the Lord.'"



Joseph Ballalatak
Grade 11, Arlington

"This is my third time coming to camp. My parish priest told me about it. My favorite part is definitely the people around here. I've met so many kids here. When you are around everybody around home, there's not a lot who are Catholic. So when you come here it's really nice to get with a big group of guys. I definitely got confidence in myself and in my faith too, not being scared to talk about it. We get two or three small groups a day where you just sit around and talk about everything going on in your life and your day. I will definitely come back next year."



Isaac Elwell
Grade 9, Litchfield

"This is my first time coming to camp. I have met a lot of new people that are very similar in age and faith, which is probably the best part of the camp. There's a lot of cool people here. It strengthens your faith; that's probably what I got the most out of it."



Emily Mendiola
Grade 7, Dassel

"I really wanted to get closer to the Lord and meet new people. I think I will take away from this camp all the friendships I have made, my love of God, and learning how to pray and get closer to him. I liked going to Mass every day. We played a lot of games, did Holy Hour, and quiet time. I think I will come back next year; I really enjoyed it."



Riken Krzmarzick
Grade 8, Howard Lake

"I was at *Totus Tuus*, and they handed out a brochure (about the camp), and I thought, 'Oh, this looks cool!' So I wanted to join. I will probably come back next year. My favorite part of the camp was just hanging out with people. I learned that Jesus will always help you along the way."



Hudson Weverka
Grade 8, Marshall

"I heard about the camp at my church; it was on the bulletin board. My favorite part of the camp was honestly just having the time with God. I think I will take away from this experience that I will try to pray more."



Norah Hartman
Grade 8, Ortonville

"This is my first time at camp. I really enjoyed it when we went outside and played games. I'll probably be taking back home with me is learning that that we are beloved to God. He loves us more than anything. He loves our flaws, he loves all the little things we don't like about ourselves, he loves what we love about ourselves, he just loves everything about us."




Helen Fischer
Grade 11, New Ulm

"This is my first time coming to camp. I heard so many good things about it and I just thought it would be really good for my prayer life and just growing closer to God. My favorite part was all the prayer time we had. I really liked the holy hours and getting to pray with the missionaries, with the sisters, and learning to pray better. I'm definitely going to take all the friendships I've made with me because it is so beautiful that I can continue to support all these other girls as we journey toward Christ."




Eli Yost
Grade 7, St. Peter

"My favorite part of the camp was listening to the counselors talk and going tubing. The counselors talked about our relationship with Jesus and how we can get closer to Jesus. I will take away from the camp that God loves me no matter what I do."



DIocese of New Ulm

CHILDREN'S HOLY FIELD TRIP



WEDNESDAY,

OCTOBER 5, 2022

10:30 A.M.

CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY

605 N State St., New Ulm

Sponsored by diocesan Office of Schools, mkramer@dnu.org



Celebrating 125 years of education, faith, and values at St. Mary's, Bird Island

by Shelby Lindrud

BIRD ISLAND – For 125 years, St. Mary's Catholic School of Bird Island has provided a Christ-centered Catholic education for generations of students, as its mission statement proclaims.

A community celebration and all-alumni reunion were held to commemorate the school's anniversary from June 17 to June 19, with many activities such as a baseball game Friday night and a celebratory Mass on Sunday. The big day was Saturday when an enthusiastic crowd came to tour the school, view decades of memorabilia, and share memories of St. Mary's. There were also bouncy houses for the kids, food trucks, and music by the Wendinger Band.

"I was really pleased with the turnout that we had and appreciative of those that came," said St. Mary's principal Tracy Bertrand Sigurdson. "They were so happy to be there, you could tell. I'm happy they were happy."

For some who came to the celebration, it had been nearly a lifetime since their school days, while others had just recently graduated from high school. They enjoyed the chance to revisit old haunts, say hello to fellow schoolmates, and have another opportunity to be part of the school.

"It is absolutely wonderful," said Donna Bernhagen Rime, from the Class of 1949.

The school's gym was filled with tables of memories dating back to the school's earliest days. There were newspaper clippings, sports uniforms, trophies, and class pictures. It took some digging to find all of the memorabilia, a job St. Mary's staff were happy to do, especially after seeing how thankful the alums were to see the items and share their stories.

"Just seeing the people come, seeing how happy they were, made me feel like it was a huge success," Bertrand Sigurdson said. "That was worth every minute."

During the reunion, St. Mary's parish senior associate Fr. George Schmit shared a lot of St. Mary's history, from the sizes of different graduating classes to special



St. Mary's parish pastor Fr. Joseph Steinbeisser, left, and senior associate Fr. George Schmit took part in the weekend anniversary celebration.



St. Mary's principal Tracy Bertrand Sigurdson, welcomed everyone to the celebration on Saturday, June 18.

(Photos by Shelby Lindrud/West Central Tribune)



Donna Bernhagen Rime, left, and Donna Ernesti Adams, both from the St. Mary's High School class of 1949, view their old class photo during the school's 125th anniversary celebration June 18, 2022.



St. Mary's School celebratory weekend included bouncy houses for the kids, food trucks, and music provided by the Wendinger Band.

events, such as the champion girls' basketball team in 1922 and Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton's visit to the school in 2012. Every student is part of that history of St. Mary's: a history everyone has gathered to recognize.

"It is so nice of you all to be with us today as we celebrate this wonderful history of Catholic education in the heart of Bird Island, Minnesota," said St. Mary's parish pastor Fr. Joseph Steinbeisser at the celebration and reunion.

St. Mary's opened its doors in 1897, with classes in the parish house. The first school building was completed in 1898. A larger building was constructed in 1913, and a small piece of that school still exists. A few small columns and a statue from its front façade are now the centerpieces of the

school's digital sign.

As enrollment grew in the school's first decades, the decision was made to offer high school classes. A separate building was built in 1915. It remained in operation until 1972.

Today, St. Mary's continues offering K-8 education to approximately 150 students in the old high school.

"I think it was the greatest school I could imagine going to," said Edna Athmann Rudeen, a graduate of the Class of 1945.

St. Mary's successes were possible due to the support of many. First, there are the teachers, who continue to be passionate and dedicated to educating the students.

"The staff made a difference in

the students' lives, helped them thrive," Bertrand Sigurdson said. "I feel so blessed that I'm doing the same thing. I'm helping our next generation become who they are."

Then there are the families, both current and alumni. Even years after they left St. Mary's or had a student enrolled, many families continue to support it through volunteering or donations.

"People that have been part of St. Mary's believe in St. Mary's," Bertrand Sigurdson said. "They show it in so many ways."

Bertrand Sigurdson is thankful for all the support the Bird Island community has given the school throughout its history. The anniversary celebration was just a small way for the school to give back to the community that has welcomed the school.

"I don't think we can thank the community enough for letting us be a part of that," Bertrand Sigurdson said. "We are blessed to be part of that community."

As St. Mary's looks toward its next 125 years, Bertrand Sigurdson expects the school to continue on its path of educating students while also helping them along their spiritual path. St. Mary's is proud of all the students' academic successes, yet there is just as much satisfaction from helping raise a good person.

"It is even more awesome to have a child who is good at heart and demonstrates morals, ethics, and values," Bertrand Sigurdson said. "It is whom we want to build our kids into; they are the future."

Two churches in diocese undergo major renovation projects this year

by Abigail Saffert
Prairie Catholic correspondent

The Diocese of New Ulm is home to parishes with diverse architectural styles, all chosen with care for the parish community. This past year, two of those parishes undertook significant renovation projects. The projects provided much-needed updates to the church buildings and helped emphasize the spaces' individual artistic and architectural beauty.

Summer visitors to the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye would have found the parish amid a major renovation project. Phase one focused on replacing the church's wood floor, which over the years had become very worn and damaged by age and Minnesota weather wear and tear.

After much consultation, it was decided that the floor would be replaced by terrazzo flooring, a choice that is beautiful, easy to maintain, and eco-conscious, as the marble chips used in the material are recycled, and the aggregate comes from glass bottles. The life expectancy of the floor is at least 100 years. The process began with a team of parish volunteers moving the wood pews to the church basement, where Masses were celebrated throughout the summer. Although a massive moving project, it only took a day and a half due to the help of so many.

The floor replacement process began by applying crack-proofing material, followed by gluing down brass strips to outline the shape of the floor patterns and then pouring the flooring. Once cured, the entire floor is ground down and polished to produce the final effect.

Built in 1901, St. Mary's church has undergone other renovations over the years, including painting over some of the original artwork on the walls and ceilings. A proposed second phase would do repair work to the plaster walls and restore some original paintings and murals of the life of Mary in the sanctuary and nave of the church, along with restoring and repairing the woodwork of the altars. A sample of that re-decoration is being done in September, before the bishop's installation Mass.

Stained glass windows

Phase one renovations also involved a tedious restoration of



Phase one of Sleepy Eye St. Mary's renovation project included the replacement of the wooden floor with terrazzo flooring, a choice that is beautiful, easy to maintain, and eco-conscious.

(Photo by Josh Sellner)



The recent St. Mary's restoration project also included a tedious restoration of re-leading and repairing a number of the stained glass windows in the church, a process that involved cleaning the glass, replacing the deteriorated lead between the glass panels, and repairing and painting the decorative wood surrounding the window.

(Photo by Christine Clancy)

re-leading and repairing a number of the stained glass windows in the church. This process entailed cleaning the glass, replacing the deteriorated lead between the glass panels, and repairing and painting the decorative wood surrounding the window. According to St. Mary's pastor Fr. Mark Steffl, when it came to raising the funds for the project, "People were very generous," he said. "The parish is very proud of the church they have, they were very eager to see this project get off the ground."

Although the church has been closed since the beginning of June, and Masses have been offered in the church social room (basement), the project is scheduled to be completed in time to host the Episcopal Installation of New Ulm's fifth bishop, The Most Reverend Chad W. Zielinski on Tuesday, September 27.

For photos of the Church of St. Mary's parish renovation project visit www.divinemeracyafc.org.

Hutchinson parish project is four years in the making.

For St. Anastasia Catholic Community in Hutchinson, the project was four years in the making. The parish completed phase one of their planned renovations this past spring, with updates to the sanctuary space, the building lighting and acoustics, and the technical systems.

"We've known there have been some upgrades needed," said Jim Fahey, a member of the parish's renovation and building committee. Since the parish's construction in 1983, the age of some of the technology and functional systems had started



Phase one of St. Anastasia's renovation project was complete as of April 2022 which included one of the main focal points - the sanctuary. Done in a prairie architecture style, it could be described as plain, but majestic. The use of wood and gold accents in the space highlight this.

(Photo submitted)

to show. The sprinkler system, acoustics, and lighting needed to be re-done, and adjustments were needed for ADA compliance in the church space.

Much of the work for the first phase was completed from August 2021 through April 2022. This included building wheelchair-accessible ramps, installing a sprinkler system throughout the building, and adding a large state-of-the-art sound booth.

However, the main focal point of the project is the sanctuary, done in a prairie architecture style. Fahey describes the style as "plain, but majestic," and the use of wood and gold accents in the space highlight this. One of the recent changes was to move and enlarge the Stations of the Cross. The original stations were small

metal images set against brick in the back of the church, making them hard to see. The project kept the originals but placed each on a background of gold and wood to highlight them and tie them into the rest of the architecture. The result is full of light and captures the project's intention of maintaining the beauty of the church's existing style.

Like many construction projects over the past few years, this renovation was not without its challenges to overcome. The pandemic and supply chain disruptions caused construction costs to go up mid-project, but the parish persisted, raising money through a capital campaign to see the project through.

Phase two of the renovation is planned for the coming years,

which includes plans to increase the footprint of the building, add gathering space, and expand the day chapel where Adoration is held. Also slated for renovation are the parish bathrooms, a change that parish pastor Fr. Paul Wolf says has been a frequent request. The current bathrooms are original to the building, and each has only one stall, so updates are necessary to make them suitable for the parish's current needs. At the conclusion of the renovation projects, the parish hopes that the updated gathering space and facilities will present a welcoming feeling for the church and provide a venue for much fellowship and community.

For photos of the Church of St. Anastasia renovation project visit <https://www.stanastasia.net/>.

A question and answer session with our new shepherd, Bishop Chad W. Zielinski

by Christine Clancy
The Prairie Catholic

NEW ULM – On July 12, 2022, Bishop Chad William Zielinski, 57, was appointed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to serve as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm. The announcement was made by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Zielinski has been serving the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska since Nov. 8, 2014. As bishop of New Ulm, he succeeds Bishop John M. LeVoir, who led the diocese from July 14, 2008, until his retirement on Aug. 6, 2020. Monsignor Douglas L. Grams has been serving as diocesan administrator since Aug. 10, 2020.

“I am most grateful to our Holy Father for entrusting me to serve as the shepherd of the Diocese of New Ulm,” said Bishop Zielinski following the July announcement. “As I leave the vast expanse of Northern Alaska, I am fully aware of the countless blessings I received from 46 parishes. The faithful of the entire Diocese of Fairbanks patiently helped form me to be the shepherd I am today. Our Native Alaskan brothers and sisters have opened my mind and heart to the cultural beauty and richness of their

traditional way of life. I come to the Diocese of New Ulm with the same open heart and mind, eager to learn and encounter new blessings as I visit parishes and families in this beautiful prairie land of south and west-central Minnesota. Guided by the Holy Spirit, together we continue our journey of faith into a new era of peace filled with hope in Jesus Christ.”

In a recent sit-down interview with *The Prairie Catholic*, prior to his Episcopal Installation on September 27, Bishop Zielinski answered several questions that offer a sneak peek into our new bishop’s past and present, his pastoral style, and his hope for the future.

Q. Where were you, and what was the conversation like when you received the nuncio’s call that Pope Francis requested your leadership in the Diocese of New Ulm?

Bishop Zielinski: I was flying from Chicago to Anchorage, returning from a conference, and I noticed that I had missed a call from what we call the 202 area code, which is Washington, DC. So, I knew it was the nuncio, but I had talked to him about a few other issues earlier since he was at that same conference that had to do with

Native American affairs. I serve as the chairperson of that committee. Once at the Anchorage airport, I called him back. “Well,” he says. “It’s official. The Holy Father has appointed you as the bishop of New Ulm.” “That’s great news! That’s awesome news! I’m excited!” I said. “This is just like returning home.” I told the archbishop that I grew up on farmland and can’t thank him enough. Then, there was this silence, and I said, “I bet you don’t hear that too often.” And he just started with this laughter. After that, it was all business, talking about the next steps I needed to take.

Q. You grew up in rural Alpena, Mich. Can you talk a bit about yourself, your family, and how you feel growing up in a rural environment relates to the Diocese of New Ulm?

Bishop Zielinski: We lived about ten miles outside of Alpena, where we had 120 acres of land; part of it was farmable. My mom was a social worker, and my father was a schoolteacher. Farming was on a small scale, but my dad just loved it. He was a science teacher, so he had this great love and respect for nature and was into organic farming before it came in vogue. Because of his scientific background as a teacher, he became conscientious of the environment and the chemical impact on the environment and our bodies. Growing up in a rural area, we were used to hard work and long days, and I didn’t think anything of it. Driving tractors and baling hay was a big thing as we got older and stronger. Farmers would hire us to do that. It was a lot of manual labor. Things seem to be more mechanized today. And, there was just something about the proverbial mostly hated job of picking stones out of a dirt field. Many people can recall that because you get the taste of the earth in your mouth, your nose, your ears. But, there was peacefulness. As a kid, I enjoyed long walks through parts of our meadows behind our house, through woods of white pine. As I got older, dad allowed us to go hunting for deer and wild game. When I was nine or 10, my grandmother – my dad’s mom – moved in with us. She had lived in Florida, and dad built an



Following the Holy Father’s official announcement of a new bishop for New Ulm on Tuesday, July 12, the diocese hosted a media conference at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm where the fifth bishop of New Ulm was introduced. Bishop Zielinski was interviewed by several media outlets, including KEYC-TV in Mankato. (Photo by Dr. Michelle Kramer)

apartment onto the house. She had a huge influence on our growing-up years. She was an incredibly extraordinary and holy woman. Her apartment looked like a religious goods store with statues, rosaries, and the Blessed Mother everywhere. Anytime we had a problem, we could run and talk to her, and she would sit down and pray with us. She died in 1994 when I had completed my second year of theology in the seminary. I’m convinced she prayed me into the seminary.

Q. After graduating from high school, you enlisted in the U.S. Air Force while also attending college. Soon after you felt a call to serve God as a priest, can you talk about that?

Bishop Zielinski: When the question is asked, what were some of the influencers of my decision or vocation to the priesthood, I would say the number one thing was growing up in a loving, Catholic faith-filled environment and the way my mom and dad and then my grandmother from the early years, raised us. It wasn’t a utopia, but they were committed to values, and we went to church every

Sunday and on holy days, and I went through religious education and got very involved in that whole community aspect. Then, in January of 1983, I enlisted in the Air Force and was sent to Mountain Home Air Force in Idaho. I quickly got to know the Catholic chaplain there. He loved hunting and fishing. He saw that I was a young airman and one day asked me to go fishing. I became very good friends with him. It was probably watching him live a life of priesthood – the joy he had, the people’s lives he touched. Then I was invited to volunteer to teach religious education to kids at the air base chapel. People would start saying, “Have you ever thought about being a priest?” I also got to know other priests, and they would tell me one does not go to the seminary with their mind made up to become a priest. They go to the seminary to discern a call. So, I thought, I can do that – because I didn’t know for sure that’s what I wanted to do and entered [the seminary.] When I was in the Air Force, I accumulated some college credits, so when I went to the seminary, I was actually a sophomore in college, and I graduated from Mount Angel College, where I did a year of

theology. I then went on to Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, moving back to my home diocese. So it’s not like I got this fax or email from heaven or an apparition of an angel or the Blessed Mother saying go be a priest. It was a long process.

Q. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, you requested from your bishop to serve as a chaplain in the USAF Chaplain Corps. You served combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, sometimes celebrating Mass with mortar fire in the background. Talk about your desire to serve as a chaplain and about that experience.

Bishop Zielinski: Because of my enlisted experience (1982-1986) and having a huge break in service by the time of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the military obviously ramped up all the military activity. They started recruiting in every area, including Catholic chaplains. They sent me a letter. I told them I didn’t know if I could go. But they said they needed me, “You’ve got experience.” I talked to my bishop, and he told me to go because “We need to support the military.” So, off I went in 2002

and was stationed in England. I did two tours in Iraq; the first one was in ‘03, going into March of ‘04, and it was pretty bad. That was the beginning of the war in Iraq, and there were times that we would just lay next to the sandbags lined up on the side of a tent and pray that shrapnel didn’t fall on us. Lots of fear. You face your own mortality. It’s like, yeah, I could really die in this situation. I was in Afghanistan in 2010. I flew around in the helicopter and went on convoys to 18 different combat outposts to celebrate Mass and other sacraments and then visit people. The chaplain in the military is the only one that has privileged communication. So, even though I was there as a Catholic priest to serve the sacraments, the people that aren’t Catholic will come and talk to you because they have that absolute confidentiality. It was a really key position to have.

Q. Do you see any connection or differences between your responsibilities as a military chaplain and your responsibilities as a bishop? And do you feel your years as a chaplain will benefit you as you begin to lead the Diocese of New Ulm?

Bishop Zielinski: I always had strong faith, but I think the military really formed me to be a good leader. Obviously, it’s a style of leadership that comes out of the military, and I think it really helped me in my first years as a bishop. As a bishop, you wear this pastoral hat, but then you’ve got this hat, shall we call it, the CEO. You have to have balance, and you have to know how things are processed or structured. The first thing I asked for was the organizational chart to see how this diocese is structured; who your supervisors are, what are their functions, and so on. And that’s the first thing you do when you go into a new setting in the military is you try to find out how things are structured. As a chaplain in the military, I was an officer; you had a higher rank than enlisted people. But, your most valuable asset is your senior enlisted personnel because they are the ones that have been around and know systems and situations, equipment, etc. They are the bedrock and foundation. And I think the same thing happens as a parish priest.

You go into the parish; you have to listen to your finance council, your parish staff, and your pastoral council because there’s continuity there, there’s wisdom there. You get that from the military in just watching commanders that I had a lot of respect for who had a collaborative leadership style. Some came in with their rank on and made decisions and barked orders. But, the ones that were more successful and motivated people would want to hear from all the different leaders of the different units and say, well, go back and talk to your people about this concern and get back to me with recommendations. So that’s just kind of a style I learned from the military. There are many people with a lot of talent out there, and you tap into them. And my father used to say, “If you want to be successful, surround yourself with people smarter than you.”

Q. Do you expect any challenges as the bishop of New Ulm?

Bishop Zielinski: Yes, I do. Sometimes we see them as obstacles, hurdles, things that are difficult, problems. I graduated from high school and went to Alaska. I remember a friend and I looked at this big mountain and said, “We’re going to climb that mountain.” And we did! So it depends on the attitude that you have. A challenge is an exciting thing. For example, there is a keen concern about the younger kids in their 20’s not practicing their faith. So do we just sit there and cry about that and say, you know, “Oh, it’s a big failure,” or do you see this as an invitation? You go where they are at; encounter them, and tell them about the Good News. It’s an opportunity for evangelization. So, yeah, there’s going to be challenges. I hope there is because if we don’t embrace a challenge with enthusiasm, then we end up with spiritual apathy and laziness, and then that kind of breeds negativity. Just coming out of a synodal process, the Diocese of New Ulm has identified the top ten areas of concern shared by the majority of the people that participated. The top two or three have to do with the Eucharist. I think that becomes a great segue, and I think it’s a movement of the Holy Spirit into the Eucharistic

Revival that will go on for the next three years. I see that as a great challenge to embrace the core of our faith, but at the same time, to evangelize, and evangelizing is not proselytizing; it’s really announcing the Good News with great joy.

Q. On a typical day in your spiritual life, do you have any practices that give you strength in adversity and comfort in grief?

Bishop Zielinski: As a priest, we have a commitment to pray the Liturgy of the Hours and so I’m very faithful to that – all the parts of the Liturgy of the Hours. I find that one day you are praying the Psalms that you’ve always prayed, but something speaks to you through that. Celebrating the daily Mass throughout my 26 years as a priest, I’ve heard all these readings before. But, all of a sudden, it’s like you are reading it for the first time. And, just receiving the grace of the sacrifice of the Mass is way beyond me. It’s not about me, which fuels me with great strength and hope.

I have a great love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, so I pray the Rosary daily and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Often I like walking while praying the Rosary. Maybe it’s from my childhood of walking through fields and woods and contemplating nature and God. I just find that peaceful and quiet.

Q. As bishop, what top three justice issues do you feel God calls you to respond to?

Bishop Zielinski: I would have to answer that from a perspective of coming out of Alaska, but I can also answer it from a national perspective. For all of my priesthood, I worked with the Hispanic community, so I have this great compassion for caring for people that come here from a different country. They really want something better for their families. I have lived in Mexico, lived in Iraq, and Afghanistan, and seen absolute squalor and poverty beyond comprehension and levels of human suffering, and that’s injustice. We have it good in America, and we need to stop and ask the question, “Whom can I help that is less fortunate than me?” Another area that I’m passionate about is this massive acceleration in the last couple of years towards

the destruction of what I call the divine image of God in the life of the person, from conception until natural death. I don’t know what’s going on, but that needs to be safeguarded and restored. For example, the killing of unborn children, as well as places like Alaska where there is a super high suicide rate and domestic abuse. While in Alaska, I really pushed this whole thing: “You are created in an image of God; therefore, you are a big deal. Your life matters, and God has a mission, a purpose for you.” I think our younger people that are struggling don’t hear that enough. It’s promoting that beauty, goodness, and truth that lives within every person, and nobody can take that away. *Psalm 139* – “I knew you when you were formed in your womb. You are wonderfully made.” People need to hear that news. And if we believe it, then I have to treat you as a brother or sister in Christ with that mindset. You are wonderfully made by God. It’s sacred; it’s holy.

Q. What else would you like Catholics in the Diocese of New Ulm to know as we prepare for your installation?

Bishop Zielinski: I’m very excited to be here, eager to meet people, to offer Mass in the parishes and the other sacraments. The main reason for moving from Fairbanks is a medical condition that I have regarding my back – a second spinal fusion surgery. The first was after a combat tour, and physically I just can’t handle the demands of traveling through the bush up there [in Alaska]. But, I have the physical stamina to travel around the diocese, engage with the people, and drive a tractor, if I get to do that. And more than anything, where is the Holy Spirit moving us as we move out of the synod process with the Eucharistic Revival and then hearing God, handing him your heart, and having hope amidst whatever challenges and difficulties we see as we are united together. There will be hope no matter how difficult things get. So, I’m very excited about that. I feel very blessed.

Bishop Chad W. Zielinski’s Episcopal Installation Details and Events



Solemn Vespers – Monday, Sept. 26

6:00 p.m. at Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm
Everyone welcome – Live streamed at www.dnu.org
Reception to follow.

Episcopal Installation – Tuesday, Sept. 27

1:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye
Reception to follow
(Due to limited seating – by invitation only)
Live streamed at www.dnu.org

Dobbs v. Jackson: Minnesota Catholic bishops respond with statement

**Statement released
June 24, 2022**

Along with women and men across our nation who respect the inherent dignity of each human life, the Catholic bishops of Minnesota give thanks to God on this historic day as the Supreme Court ends the injustice of the Roe v. Wade decision. We are grateful that the Supreme Court has returned to state Legislatures and federal officials the ability to protect preborn children and save mothers and fathers from the untold pain of abortion.

For almost 50 years, Roe grievously denied one of America's founding principles: that all men and women – irrespective of their stage of development – are created equal, with God-given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Forgetting this self-evident truth has resulted in the death of over 60 million preborn children and the wounding of millions of mothers and fathers.

Welcomed in life

As a Church, we have been committed to providing help to every mother and father dealing with a crisis pregnancy, so they are not forced to choose abortion. We are proud that many of our Catholic faithful work in crisis pregnancy centers that create

nonjudgmental networks of support for women. These centers offer shelter, housing assistance, free diapers and clothing, pregnancy and parenting classes, community referrals, childcare, and other charitable assistance. Through our continued efforts to respect the well-being of both the mother and the child, we have been honored to accompany countless women and men tempted to choose abortion. We have been privileged as well, through post-abortion healing retreats, to help parents who have chosen abortion to work through the pain they so often suffer.

To further support our work, the Catholic bishops of the United States have launched a nationwide initiative, Walking with Moms in Need (walkingwithmoms.com), to create additional avenues of support for mothers in our communities by way of Catholic parishes, ministries, and crisis pregnancy centers. We also pledge that our Catholic churches will be a sanctuary for women in crisis pregnancies. Any woman in a crisis pregnancy who comes to the door of a Catholic church in the state of Minnesota seeking assistance will be supported and, at a minimum, referred to resources where she can get help.

The Church's contribution to public life walks with the two feet

of justice and charity. Our direct assistance to women in crisis pregnancies through charitable and philanthropic efforts is fundamental in our endeavor to build an authentic culture of life. But we also commit to working in our state Legislature to ensure that every child is welcomed in life and respected by the law.

Respected in law

Unfortunately, the landscape in Minnesota is shaped by our own version of Roe v. Wade. The 1995 Doe v. Gomez decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court characterized the state right to an abortion as a "broader protection" than Roe, including the right of low-income women to a taxpayer-funded abortion. Sadly, Gomez is unlikely to be overturned without a change in federal law or a state constitutional amendment.

Despite Minnesota's legal landscape, we should continue to find ways to place reasonable limits on the availability of abortions, especially after viability (Minnesota is one of the few states without limitations on post-viability abortions). We should also put in place, and keep in place, measures to help protect women from further serious injury arising from the risks already involved with an abortion. Such protections include, among other things, licensing abortion clinics

and requiring that chemical abortions be procured only through a physician.

To limit the demand for abortion, the state should also commit its resources to ensuring that women have the support they need to choose life. Some pregnancy centers are supported in part by the state's Positive Alternatives Grant Program, which promotes healthy pregnancy outcomes and assists pregnant and parenting women develop and maintain family stability and self-sufficiency. In a budget that will reach \$60 billion by 2024, our state allocates only \$3.375 million for these services, even though the need is much greater. The most recent round of funding requests totaled roughly \$6.5 million.

The prospect of Roe being overturned has already sharpened partisan division on the abortion question. As bishops, however, we have no interest in engaging as partisans, and we will continue to work to build common ground rooted in the principles articulated above. This is a matter of prenatal justice – giving to both mother and child that which is their due, namely, support and protection.

But make no mistake: we will rigorously oppose efforts to expand the abortion license in Minnesota and we will work with

people on both sides of the aisle to prevent Minnesota from becoming an abortion sanctuary state.

Abortion advocates want people to believe that abortion promises liberation, but instead, it leads to sadness, pain, and the death of a human being. To quote one pro-life leader, "Abortion says 'I sacrifice your life for my convenience.' But Love says, 'I sacrifice my convenience for your life.' Only love will lead to fulfillment." Let us be a credible witness to the Gospel of Life by sacrificing ourselves for the sake of others, both born and unborn.

We ask all Minnesotans to join our efforts to combat a throwaway culture, foster prenatal justice, and create a state where love prevails.

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda
Bishop Joseph A. Williams
Archdiocese of St. Paul and
Minneapolis

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens
Diocese of Crookston

Bishop Daniel J. Felton
Diocese of Duluth

Monsignor Douglas L. Grams
Diocese of New Ulm

Bishop Donald J. Kettler
Diocese of St. Cloud

Bishop John M. Quinn
Diocese of Winona-Rochester

A new springtime of life is awakened

by Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM
diocesan director of Family Life



On June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court, in the Dobbs v. Jackson decision, overturned

Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey. With this decision, they returned to state legislators the ability to protect preborn children and their mothers and fathers from the pain of abortion. Now state legislators and the people of the state who elect them will make the decision about abortion.

After almost 50 years of prayer by those who support the pro-life cause, it will now be possible for the people of any state to proclaim, and uphold through the

law, the innate dignity of every unborn human being.

The overturning of Roe v. Wade has sown the seed of a new springtime of life. It is truly a sign of hope. It urges us to never stop fighting for life so that one day no child in the womb is threatened by actions that will end their life.

Some states are seeing the realization of this new springtime in very concrete ways through laws that protect the preborn child. Currently, as a country, we witness the battle within the states, with some states prohibiting abortion, such as Missouri and our neighboring state of South Dakota. Yet others are continuing to legalize and protect abortion, such as Illinois and our state of Minnesota.

Our pro-life efforts here in Minnesota to proclaim the innate dignity of every human life,

born and preborn, and provide protection in law for that life, continue to be an uphill battle.

The 1995 Doe v. Gomez decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court defines the state right to an abortion as a "broader protection" than Roe and includes the right of low-income women to taxpayer-funded abortion. For Gomez to be overturned we would need a change in federal law or an amendment to our state constitution. While this is unlikely, we must continue to pray for this possibility with the same faith that we have been praying for these past 50 years, before the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

While we face challenges here in Minnesota because we cannot offer legal protections to the preborn at this time, the new springtime of life is alive. It is alive to the extent that we, as Catholics, will continue to be pro-life people that take every

opportunity available to care for women, babies, and families today and into the future.

As pro-life people, we know that the demand for abortion is often tied to an unexpected or unwanted pregnancy, or the mother is pressured into thinking that the pregnancy will interrupt her life plans or future accomplishments, or there is financial insecurity, fear of the unknown, or a lack of a support system to help the woman cope.

The new springtime of life here in the Diocese of New Ulm stands ready to confront and work through these challenges. As a state, we must protect mothers, babies, and families from the risks associated with abortions by requiring abortion facilities to meet a medical standard of care including the provision of chemical abortions by physicians only. By committing the state

resources needed, women can be empowered to choose life and reject abortion.

Promoting and supporting pregnancy help centers located in the diocese and throughout the state provide places where healthy pregnancy outcomes are a priority. Pregnancy help centers offer pregnant mothers and parenting mothers and fathers assistance through programs that promote healthy and stable families. As Church, we make the work of pregnancy help centers and other community and parish resources known to women and families by establishing in our parishes the initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Walking with Moms in Need.

Finally, our greatest contribution to the creation and growth of the springtime of life here in Minnesota are the babies, the boys

(Continued on page 11.)

Back to school 2022: Diocese welcomes six new Catholic school leaders

by Dr. Michelle Kramer, director
Office of Catholic Schools

and strengthen NUACS's
reputation for excellence.

As a new school year begins, the Diocese of New Ulm Office of Schools is excited to welcome several new administrators. The New Ulm Area Catholic School system (NUACS) has hired a president, Sr. Julie Brandt, and two principals, Karen Schulte in the elementary and Erica DeVries in the high school. The School of St. Philip in Litchfield is pleased to welcome Jenna Scheevel, and Holy Trinity in Winsted welcomes Kevin McCaffrey.

Erica DeVries will serve as an interim high school principal for Cathedral High School in New Ulm. Growing up at Sacred Heart School in Adams, Minn., her heart has always been in Catholic education. After receiving her degree in elementary education from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, her career took her from Holy Redeemer in Marshall to St. Anthony Elementary in New Ulm, where she has served in various roles for the past 20 years.

Sr. Julie Brandt, a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND), will serve as president of New Ulm Area Catholic Schools (NUACS). With a strong background in faith and education, Sister Julie holds both a master's and a doctorate degree in Catholic educational leadership. She has served in many areas of Catholic education – teacher, principal, and associate superintendent. Desiring to move closer to her family and the SSND community, she is delighted in her new role. Her leadership experiences and educational background will help her continue

Karen Schulte will be serving as principal of St. Anthony Elementary School in New Ulm. Schulte began her career in accounting but discerned a call to Catholic education after serving as a volunteer at St. Mary's School in Bird Island while her children attended the school. She obtained elementary licensure and a master's degree in educational technology and has worked at the Southwest West Central Service Cooperative for the last six years as an education consultant. She plans to complete her School



New Catholic school leadership in the Diocese of New Ulm includes, back row, left, Stacey Lambrecht, Jenna Scheevel, Karen Schulte, and Erica DeVries. Front row, Kevin McCaffrey and Sr. Julie Brandt.
(Photo by Christine Clancy)

Leadership program at Concordia in St. Paul in December 2022.

Kevin McCaffrey, the new PreK-12 principal at Holy Trinity School in Winsted, is originally from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis where he was a teacher and leader at Epiphany Catholic School in Coon Rapids. He has an undergraduate degree

in philosophy and a minor in theology. This summer, he completed a graduate certificate in Catholic School Leadership from the St. Paul Seminary.

Jenna Scheevel is excited to begin her career as a principal at the School of St. Philip in Litchfield. Holding an undergraduate degree in music

education and a master's degree in education, she will complete her administrative licensure in December 2023. Scheevel comes to the diocese from Athlos Academy in St. Cloud, where she was a K-8 music and junior high band teacher. She has a long history of serving in parish music ministry in her home parish, St. Joseph's in New Hope, and now at St. Peter's in St. Cloud.

In addition to these exemplary leaders, we are also pleased to welcome a new assistant principal for St. Mary's School in Bird Island.

Stacey Lambrecht holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the College of St. Benedict with an emphasis in middle school social studies. A middle school teacher for the past 12 years at St. Mary's, she has completed her master's degree in educational leadership from St. Mary's University and is excited to begin her role as assistant principal.

The diocese is grateful to each of these leaders for their continued commitment and dedication to Catholic education.

John Ireland School in St. Peter expands; adds seventh and eighth grades

by Katie Ballalatak
Prairie Catholic correspondent

ST. PETER –Thanks to a successful \$25,000 matching challenge grant by the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation and two generous, anonymous donations, John Ireland Catholic School has officially added grades seven and eight just in time for the 2022–2023 school year.

Affiliated with the Church of St. Peter, John Ireland is one of the oldest Catholic schools in the Diocese of New Ulm. The

school first considered adding seventh and eighth grades in 2015. However, a survey of families showed that there was more need for a preschool, which opened up in 2017. “Since that time, we’ve seen an increase in enrollment, particularly in the last few years with COVID-19,” said principal Colleen Wenner, a former John Ireland teacher and student. “Families were seeing more of what was happening in the [public] school system, and they were looking for other [faith-based] options.”

Practically speaking, adding in seventh and eighth grades would also help John Ireland's students more easily transition into the St. Peter public school system, which currently separates the middle school (fifth through eighth grade) in one building and the high school (ninth through 12th grade) in another down the street.

Due to financial constraints, planning for the expansion didn't kick off until early spring 2021. Wenner organized a small middle school expansion committee, which helped gather all the information needed to present to the administrative council. The volunteers began researching tuition and basic curricular materials from neighboring Catholic schools and what academics were necessary for eighth graders to transition into public school. Despite strong support for the expansion from parents and the parish, significant funding was still needed. Fortunately, the matching challenge grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation – a Minnesota-based organization that supports education and beyond –

came just in time. “The challenge grant was very well received,” says Wenner. “We met [and exceeded] our goal, and that gave us the financial support that we needed.”

On top of the \$37,000 raised by the school and the Schulze Foundation match of \$25,000, John Ireland also received an anonymous donation of \$100,000 – the second anonymous donation the school had received for this project. The first was received in 2015 when conversations had only just begun.

For this school year, which started on September 1, John Ireland will have a multi-age classroom for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. “We’re going to start small this fall,” said Wenner.

In terms of the education model, John Ireland will continue to adhere to the preschool through eighth grade model, allowing students to interact frequently and connect across all levels. However, Wenner also hopes to give the middle school students a bit of independence from the

elementary grades. “I kind of want the best of both worlds,” says Wenner. “Our older students will be able to work on their leadership skills and do some mentoring. The younger kids will have someone to look up to and so forth. But I also want our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to experience a middle school feel. They will have a separate lunchtime and recess time, and they will have different teachers and move to different rooms.”

Fr. Craig Timmerman, pastor of the Church of St. Peter, credits and acknowledges Wenner for her time, effort, and commitment to giving parents and students another opportunity to pursue Catholic education. “The seventh and eighth grades are hugely formative years in young boys’ and girls’ lives,” said Fr. Timmerman. “And there’s so much clarity that a faith gives in terms of their development . . . we can really help them receive the foundation they need, so they can go into high school knowing who they are and what the Church teaches.”

Pro-life efforts

(Continued from page 10)

and girls, the women and men who are here because we, the pro-life community, cared for their mothers with compassion and love when they were experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

These individuals now take their place in the ever-growing pro-life generation. They are the blessings that ensure that the

new springtime of life will grow, flourish, and endure. In response to Christ's words, “Let the little children come to me,” – let us make abortion unthinkable.

Editor's note: For a list of pregnancy centers in the Diocese of New Ulm visit www.dnu.org/familylife.

From the steps of the Minnesota state capitol in St. Paul to Guatemala 2022 commemorates New Ulm priest's historic 3,087 mile walk for the betterment of the poor

by Bill Peterson, executive director
Friends of San Lucas

Beginning this month, the non-profit organization Friends of San Lucas (FOSL) will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Monsignor Greg Schaffer's 1972-73 historic walk from the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol in Saint Paul to San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala in the Diocese of Solola.

A St. Paul native, "Father Greg," as he was best known, was a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm and pastor for 48 years of the diocese's mission parish of San Lucas Tolimán in Guatemala. He died May 24, 2012, after a long battle with lymphoma/cancer. He was 78. Today, the San Lucas Mission's work is run by the Guatemalan people and funded through donations to the Friends of San Lucas.

Throughout Father Greg's years serving San Lucas Toliman mission parish along with constant fundraising, he was recognized with numerous awards for his devotion to the people of San Lucas and his commitment to helping them rise above poverty. In 2007, the Guatemalan government bestowed on him their highest honor, the prestigious "Order of the Quetzal."

Other awards he received include an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Loyola University in Chicago; an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of San Francisco; the Anonymous Heroes Working for Peace Through Development award from the Guatemalan consulate of the United Nations, Bancafé, and several local entities in Guatemala; the Diocese of New Ulm's Diocesan Distinguished Service Award; and the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award.

On Oct. 18, 1984, Pope John Paul II conferred upon him the honorary title of "Monsignor" (protonotary apostolic).

Historic walk

On Oct. 18, 1972, Father Greg, Ronal Motta, and Elias Jacinto



Fifty years ago, in 1972, Fr. Greg Schaffer, Ronal Motta, and Elias Jacinto began their 3,087 mile walk from the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul to Guatemala to raise funds for the work of the San Lucas Toliman Mission. Their goal was \$75,000; they raised \$1,000,000.

(Photos from *The Prairie Catholic* archives)

began their momentous 3,000-plus mile walk to Guatemala to raise money for what was then the Diocese of New Ulm's mission parish of San Lucas Tolimán.

It took approximately three months of travel by foot before the pilgrims arrived at their destination. A massive celebration greeted them in San Lucas, which happened to be on Father Greg's birthday, Jan. 29, 1973.

The Friends of San Lucas will be commemorating the 1972 walk by celebrating the organization's achievement, raising awareness of the work of FOSL, and generating support for the continued work of the San Lucas mission. While we are not re-creating the actual walk, we will be sharing glimpses into the walk's history and the mission's work through our online communications.

Commemorative bike ride
Early in September, New Ulm

Cathedral High School graduate Dan Herbeck began riding his bike along the U.S. portion of the historic walk route to raise money and awareness for the Friends of San Lucas. Along the way Herbeck is scheduled to stop at schools and churches to reflect on the legacy of Father Greg and the continued impact of the mission on the people of San Lucas.

Become a sponsor

To help celebrate Father Greg's historic achievements, you are invited to sponsor one or more miles walked in 1972-73. If every mile is sponsored, nearly \$1,000,000 will be raised to support the San Lucas Mission's programming. For more information on how to become a sponsor, visit sanlucasmision.org.

Annual Gala

The Friends of San Lucas annual Minnesota Gala will be held on September 24 in New Ulm. This year the contributions made by



In 1964, three Schools Sisters of Notre Dame left their Provincial House in Mankato, Minn., to serve in the missions in Guatemala. Sr. Medard Zweber, left, and Sr. Sandra Spencer, far right, were the first religious to serve in the small village of San Lucas Toliman. Sr. Janet Druffel, center, served in the city of Nahuala. The SSND order will be recognized for their missionary work at the FOSL Gala in September.

the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) to the founding and development of the San Lucas Mission and its programs will be celebrated.

It was Sept. 11, 1964, when the SSNDs of the Mankato, Minn.

province adopted the mission parish of San Lucas Tolimán, which had been adopted a year earlier by the Diocese of New Ulm. For 26 years, the Sisters organized their work at the mission in education, healthcare, worship, and the orphanage.



**Friends of
San Lucas**

You're Invited!
To the Friends of San Lucas

**ANNUAL
GALA**

Royal Oak Event Center*
301 20th S St
New Ulm, MN
*formerly the New Ulm Event Center

September 24 • 6:00 PM



To purchase tickets go to: sanlucasmision.org/gala22.

National DCCW convention close to home this year; archdiocese to host November 2-5



by Jackie Finstad
NUDCCW president

Registration is now open to attend the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Convention which will be held close to home this year. This annual convention will take place November 2-5 in the Twin Cities at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

What a great opportunity to celebrate our Council of Catholic Women history, future, and vision

as we gather with women from across the nation.

NCCW: Wide Open Hearts Abiding in Faith, Hope and Love is this year's convention theme. It is inspired by and derived from the encyclical of Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*.

There is a superb lineup of speakers for the assembly, including Sr. Xavier Mariette Ezeokoli, IHM, Liz Kelly, Theresa Coons, Kristin Molitor, Susan Stabile, and Yen Fasino. More information about the speakers can be found at www.nccw.org/nccw-convention/.

This year's convention charity is Sharing and Caring Hands, an extension of the community to the desperate needs of the poor. This nonprofit organization exists as a vehicle for volunteers to commit their time and resources towards making a difference in the lives of others who are alone, afraid, or

in need. Items will be collected for this charity, including towels, diapers, baby wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, and deodorant.

This will be my first national convention and I would be delighted to see many from our diocese join in. I encourage all women to attend.

The National Council of Catholic Women's mission is to act through its members to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. Each affiliate (parish, deanery, and province) that pays dues is a member of NCCW.

For information on becoming an individual or supporting member of NCCW and the benefits of membership, visit the NCCW website, nccw.org and click on the 'membership' tab.

Meeting the needs of those less fortunate

by Sheryl Kaiser
DCCW Service Commission Chair

Each year, the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (NUDCCW) selects and supports both a local and international service project in hopes of bringing attention to organizations that meet a need in our parish communities throughout the diocese.

For 2022-2023, the NUDCCW board encourages every parish Council of Catholic Women to help a non-profit in their area. We, as a nation, are experiencing hard times. These local service projects can be a rewarding experience to help those that live among us. Some examples might be a homeless shelter, a food bank, a group home, a community garden, Meals on Wheels, or a nursing home. The opportunities are endless. Donations, either monetary or material, can be given directly to the group of choice.

For 2022-2023, the NUDCCW international service project is a water project that supports the people and wildlife located in and



around St. Benedict's Monastery in the Diocese of Sivagangai, India, where water scarcity is a major problem.

Fr. Bruno Santiago, a Benedictine monk from India, has served in the Diocese of New Ulm since 2017. He currently serves the All Saints Area Faith Community (Fairfax, Gibbon, and Winthrop). Parishioners of the AFC brought this project to the attention of the NUDCCW Board.

During the summer months in India, with average temperatures of 104-111 Fahrenheit, finding a water source is difficult. The water project addresses three

main areas: deepening an existing open well, rainwater harvesting and recharging the well, and construction of a water tower to make safe drinking water available.

Our Heavenly Father has given so much. These NUDCCW projects are just another opportunity for us to be the hands and feet of Christ to our fellow brothers and sisters.

The NUDCCW hopes to make significant progress this coming year to bring this project to fruition. To learn more about the water project, visit www.nudccw.org/service-commission.

Make it a priority to strive first for the kingdom of God

by Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M.

The work from home trend that exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way many companies now approach their workday, as well as the degree to which employees are expected to be in the office. This trend has also affected the way people view work in general, with many turning to entrepreneurial enterprises or simply viewing their homes as their primary offices. These trends can be beneficial, but change always presents new challenges – and a major challenge in this new environment is the responsibility to set one's own priorities and create a routine that facilitates reaching the goals we are called to.

A famous story of unknown origin tells of a philosopher who stood before his students holding a jar, which he first filled with rocks. When the rocks reached the top of the jar, he asked his students if it was full. They said it was full, but then the philosopher started dropping small pebbles in amongst the rocks, shaking the jar so the pebbles would find their way into all the crevices, until the jar looked full again.

Next, the philosopher took sand and poured it into the jar, and it found its way into even smaller crevices until everyone agreed that the jar was full.

Then, the philosopher said to his students, "This jar represents your life. The rocks are the most important things: family, friends, loved ones, and the values we hold dear. If everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles represent secondary things that matter to our wellbeing, like our work and the essentials that sustain us. And the sand is everything else. The small stuff."

The philosopher concluded, "If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your

time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

This bit of wisdom has helped many people realize how to prioritize what matters most in their lives, and it is reminiscent of Christ's words, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," (*Matt 6:19-21*).

These words of Christ found their way into the beliefs of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, who taught that serving God should be our first priority. The things of this world should only be utilized to achieve that end, and we should rid ourselves of the things of this world to the degree they detract from that goal.

These lessons create great starting points for establishing priorities and creating our own routines in life. Start with the things that matter most, and you will be driven to achieve all you need to accomplish in your day. Prioritize prayer, and you will find inspiration to tackle the most challenging tasks. Make time for family, and you will find the fulfillment to sustain you throughout the rigors of the workday. Put first things first, and all things will follow.

As Christ said, "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well," (*Matt 6:19-21*).

Editor's note: Fr. Ed Dougherty serves on the Board of Directors for The Christophers, www.christophers.org.

Ask a Canon Lawyer

This month's question:

What responsibilities does the diocesan finance council have?



by Fr. Mark Steffl, STL, JCL

Canon Law requires each diocese to have a finance council, along with other councils such as a priests' council (also called a presbyteral council) and a college of consultors in order to assist and advise the diocesan bishop in his responsibilities of governing and shepherding a diocese.

In the case of a diocese that is vacant – that is, without a bishop – as New Ulm has been for these last two years, all of the councils cease to officially function with the exception of the college of consultors, which assists the diocesan administrator in governing the diocese until a new bishop is installed. My September 2019 column in *The*

Prairie Catholic covered what responsibilities does the College of Consultors have.

Two canons from the Code of Canon Law govern the finance council that the diocese is to have:

Canon 492 §1. In every diocese a finance council is to be established, over which the diocesan bishop himself or his delegate presides and which consists of at least three members of the Christian faithful truly expert in financial affairs and civil law, outstanding in integrity, and appointed by the bishop.

§2. Members of the finance council are to be appointed for five years, but at the end of this period they can be appointed for other five year terms.

Canon 493 In addition to the functions entrusted to it in Book

V, The Temporal Goods of the Church, the finance council prepares each year, according to the directions of the diocesan bishop, a budget of the income and expenditures which are foreseen for the entire governance of the diocese in the coming year and at the end of the year examines an account of the revenues and expenses.

The finance council of a diocese is a consultative committee, meaning that there are certain things a diocesan bishop should have advice about when making administrative decisions about what are called the “temporal goods” of the Church. These “temporal goods” are the material possessions of a diocese such as property and investments.

The canons require that some members of the council be especially expert in finances and

civil law, because a bishop cannot be an expert in all things, and the committee also assures that the bishop has transparency in financial matters, which protects the diocese from any hint of financial impropriety.

Each diocesan bishop can decide how best to utilize the various councils he has, but the finance council has the specific responsibility of approving an annual budget for the diocesan offices and periodically reviewing the income and expenditures of a diocese. In practice in the Diocese of New Ulm, this council meets quarterly with the bishop and members of the diocesan finance office to review financial statements of accounts and oversee decisions relating to diocesan investments such as different endowments and funds the diocese has. It is made up of a few priests who are appointed by the bishop in addition

to laypersons who are experts in financial investing and accounting.

The Diocese of New Ulm, which is a small diocese in comparison to most, has an annual budget of about \$3.1 million and publishes an annual summary of finances towards the end of each fiscal year in the *The Prairie Catholic*.

Next Issue: Who owns church property?

If you have a question regarding canon law, email [The Prairie Catholic, cclancy@dnv.org](mailto:ThePrairieCatholic@cclancy@dnv.org).



Editor's note: Fr. Mark Steffl is a canon lawyer and serves as judicial vicar of the diocesan Office of the Tribunal.

INSIDE THE CAPITOL

The Capitol shakeup and the questions that need asking



MINNESOTA
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

Historic turnover within the State Legislature presents both an opportunity and responsibility to make an impression on a new cohort of lawmakers. All 201 seats in the Minnesota Legislature are up for election this year. Minnesota Catholics must take advantage of this opportunity to transform the Legislature into a lawmaking body that places the common good over partisan rancor. Filling that tall order begins by forming our consciences and informing ourselves about the candidates who seek to represent us.

This year, there are more candidates than usual to get to know. Redistricting following the 2020 census has led to 51 retirements in the House and Senate – the largest turnover since 1972. Many legislators were no longer going to be representing their current communities, while others decided they did not want

to challenge a current colleague for their new district seat. Many of the August 9 primaries pit an incumbent against a newcomer who often represents positions that are further to the left or right than their predecessor. This deeper entrenchment along party lines creates the potential for a very polarized Legislature in 2023.

These partisan dynamics and the opportunity to engage a Legislature full of new faces is a calling for Catholics to build relationships that help advance the common good.

Fortunately, we are given a rich tradition of Catholic social teachings that are centered on creating the conditions for all to thrive. As Pope Francis has said, “good Catholics meddle in politics by offering the best of themselves.” Therefore, we have a responsibility to engage with those who are seeking leadership roles in our democracy but must do so as principled, faithful citizens – that is, the “best of ourselves” – rather than as partisans.

Minnesota Catholic Conference's election resource page is chock-full of everything you need to get to know the principles of our

faith and learn how to meet and get to know your candidates. You can download a free candidate questionnaire that addresses many issues currently impacting life, dignity, and the common good here in Minnesota. You can then mail or email these questions to your candidates.

Another great way to get to know your candidates is to host a town hall at your parish. There is a do-it-yourself townhall kit that will step you through everything you need to know.

Those striving to represent us must first know that we are present and why we propose what we do, grounded in principles reflective of the way God ordered us as persons and our proper relation to others and creation. We must take this opportunity to ask the questions that can help us get to know the candidates, and perhaps more importantly, we can help them understand why Catholics stand for life, dignity, and the common good.

Find all your election resources at www.MnCatholic.org/ElectionResources.

Equipped for Life:

A Fresh Approach to Conversations About Abortion

Learn how to respond to the toughest pro-choice arguments with truth and love. This indispensable and life-changing day of training provided by National Pro-Life Leader Emily Albrecht through the Equal Rights Institute will equip you with:

- A large, successfully tested set of practical tools to use in future conversations.
- Practice conversations to be confidently prepared to engage any pro-choice advocate who defends abortion with arguments based in:
 - difficult circumstances
 - biology
 - personhood
 - bodily autonomy

Emily Albrecht is a speaker, writer, and coach with Equal Rights Institute.

Saturday, October 1, 2022
Lumen Christi Catholic Community
2055 Bohland Ave.
St. Paul MN 55116

8:30 a.m.	Check-in
9:00 a.m.	Morning Training
11:45 a.m.	Lunch Break
12:45 p.m.	Afternoon Training
4:00 p.m.	Conference Concludes
4:30 p.m.	Mass (Optional)

\$15 Half-Day Registration
 \$20 Full-Day Registration
 \$10 Half-Day Student
 \$15 Full-Day Student
(High School & College Age)

Box Lunches are available for \$5.

Parking is available in main parish lot (off Bohland Avenue). Additional parking on side streets for free. Bus drop off is in the main parking lot.

Register at MnCatholic.org/EquippedForLife

After two years of social distancing restrictions – Riverbend TEC is back!

by Andrea Gibbs

TEC (Together Encountering Christ) has been actively hosting retreats nationally since its beginning days in 1965 in the Diocese of Lansing, Mich. This Catholic retreat experience quickly expanded all over the United States and across the world, landing in the Diocese of New Ulm under the name Riverbend TEC in 1977 with the approval of Bishop Raymond A. Lucker. Since then, teens and adults have encountered the love of Christ through this themed retreat on the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

At 16 years old, I “appeared” to be outgoing, overly confident, and without a care in the world. Internally, I struggled with a lack of self-confidence. I never felt I fit in at my high-priced college prep school in the Twin Cities, and I longed for more true friends.

I was a cradle Catholic who, like

many teens, was going through the motions of faith without much understanding of who Jesus was or the incredible depth of the Catholic Church. However, the Riverbend TEC retreat experience changed my life.

During my retreat, I met Catholic teens who accepted and befriended me for who I was. I also met devoted adults who loved Christ and the Catholic faith and became mentors to me. Although my parents are faithful Catholics, expanding the network of other mentors in my life proved essential down the road. Riverbend TEC helped me understand so much about my faith, but notably, that I was enough.

Beyond the community of dependable and devout friends I encountered that weekend decades ago, my encounter with Christ was the most profound. The TEC retreat experience offered the sacraments I had been receiving

my entire life, but they were made anew in the wake of my revival in my Catholic faith. The Eucharist is central to every Riverbend TEC weekend. My prayer time during adoration, meditating on the Stations of the Cross, and the beautiful healing offered through the Sacrament of Reconciliation are memories from that retreat that I hold dear.

This past summer, Riverbend TEC celebrated its 280th retreat, the first in nearly three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I was part of the team that gathered in Marshall on the weekend of June 24, 2022, to set up and prepare for the retreatants who would arrive the following morning. There were tears of joy – TEC was back!

Editor’s note: Andrea Gibbs is a Catholic freelancer from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Abbey of the Hills welcomes new Stations of the Cross



MARVIN, SD – Approximately 85 people attended the July 14 blessing ceremony for the newly installed Outdoor Stations of the Cross at the Abbey of the Hills Inn and Retreat Center near Marvin, SD. Participants made a procession through the trail of the 15 Stations which depict the walk Jesus made to his crucifixion. Stops were made at each station as the corresponding donors read the name of the station followed by a blessing by Fr. Mike Kelly, a priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Deacon Paul Treinen (pictured front left) and Deacon Rick Christiansen of the Diocese of New Ulm assisted.

(Photo courtesy of Grant County Review, Milbank, SD)

Retreat strengthens, inspires faith in Christ



(Photos by Madi Field)

ROCHESTER, Minn. – In July, parish pastor Fr. Aaron Nett (St. Cloud) accompanied 8th–12th grade youth and chaperones from the Church of St. Anthony in Watkins (Diocese of New Ulm) and those from the Church of the Assumption in Eden Valley (Diocese of St. Cloud) to this year’s Steubenville Conference in Rochester, Minn. The event included praise and worship, Eucharistic adoration, Reconciliation, keynote speakers, a service project at Feed My Starving Children, and a night of fun and fellowship at a hotel water park. Steubenville Youth Conferences, an outreach of Franciscan University of Steubenville, are a series of 25 conferences across North America that help teens encounter the love of Christ every summer. The mission is to build the Church by evangelizing, equipping, and empowering God’s children to become joyful disciples. For more information about the Steubenville conferences, visit steubenvilleconferences.com.



DIOCESE OF NEW ULM
ETHICS CONFERENCE 2022
 Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, 8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

THE INTERSECTION OF LIFE AND GENDER IDEOLOGY

This conference explores a faith-based response to the psychosocial, legal, and intra-personal aspects of our daily living as they intersect with gender ideology addressing such questions as; how does our faith inform and respond to gender ideology and the development of the human person? How does gender ideology shape our legal landscape today? How do we, as Church, care for the religious and and psychosocial well-being of each human person?

Everyone welcome **Registration 8 a.m.**
 Cost: \$25/includes lunch **Opening Mass 8:30 a.m.**
 Contact: Paulette Kral 507-233-5318
 or register at www.dnu.org/ethicsconference/registration

Presenters

 Pamela Jacobson Psy. D., L.P., Licensed Psychologist	 Fr. Tom Knoblach Diocese of St. Cloud	 Virginia Cronin Attorney at Law	 Sr. Candace Fier Encourage Facilitator
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Sponsored by the diocesan Office of Family Life
 Sr. Candace Fier, director
www.dnu.org/familylife



ST. CLOUD - 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign begins Wednesday, Sept. 28 and runs through Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022. This is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion. Opening rally will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. Opening Rally is Saturday, Oct. 1. For more information visit <https://stedio.org/respect-life/forty-days-life/>.

BALTIMORE – Six months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the war has created an extraordinary refugee and

displacement crisis. Since it began in February, more than 11 million people have crossed the Ukrainian border. Nearly 5 million people have returned to Ukraine.

"The current state of stress is not sustainable – not for Ukraine, not for its neighboring countries, not for the larger global community," said Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

In addition to providing refugee families with immediate help like food, shelter, and information to people crossing borders,

CRS addresses the mental and emotional toll that thousands of refugees across the region are living with. CRS provides counseling – such as art therapy – to refugees in neighboring countries like Romania and also works to meet the longer-term needs of people impacted by the war.

In Moldova, CRS provides families with rent assistance for at least six months as well as cash. CRS and its local Church partners also work in Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, providing housing, cash and integration services. In Ukraine, preparing for winter is an urgent need, as many buildings and homes have been destroyed. For information on how to financially support the good works of CRS visit www.crs.org.

ROME – Existing and new members of the College of Cardinals from every corner of the globe gathered in Rome on Saturday, Aug. 27, for Pope Francis' eighth consistory, where he created 20 new cardinals held at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Sixteen of the cardinals are under the age of 80, thus electors in a future Conclave, and

four non-electors, over the age of 80.

The celebration marked a universal Consistory, with Church leaders from the five continents.

"A cardinal loves the Church, always with that same spiritual fire, whether dealing with great questions or handling everyday problems, with the powerful of this world or those ordinary people who are great in God's eyes," the pope said during the consistory.

Those who have this apostolic

zeal are compelled "by the fire of the Spirit to be concerned, courageously, with things great and small," he said.

During the ceremony, each of the new cardinals, including Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego, Calif., professed their faith by reciting the Creed and formally swore fidelity and obedience to the pope and his successors. They then approached Pope Francis, one by one, to receive their biretta, their cardinal's ring and the assignment of a "titular" church in Rome, which makes them part of the Roman clergy.



A special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States and to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. This nationwide event is coordinated and sponsored by the US Council of Serra International.

<https://serraus.org/event/priesthood-sunday-2022/>