INDEX

From the Bishop's Desk	2
Obituary	3
Year of Faith Timeline	5
Kenya Connection	8-9
Making Sense out of Bioethics	10
Calendar of Events	15

Permanent deacon ministry growing

Almost 15,000 active in US

WASHINGTON — The number of permanent deacons in the United States continues to increase, according to a national survey released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) conducted the survey of 193 of the 195 U.S. dioceses in April. This marks the seventh CARA survey of the permanent diaconate, an ancient ministry reinstituted by the Second Vatican Council.

The bishops began to ordain permanent deacons for the United States in the early seventies. The ministry emphasizes roles in liturgy, preaching and service. Currently there are more than 18,000 deacons, about 3,000 of them retired.

The most recent survey found that the largest numbers of deacons were reported by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (414) and the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey (383).

Considering Catholic population in an area, the Latin-rite diocese with the highest concentration of permanent deacons is Fairbanks, Alaska, with 482 Catholics to every deacon.

Ninety-three percent of active deacons are currently married; four percent are widowers, and two percent never married.

"The statistics are encouraging," said Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. "But they also alert us to the fact many of the deacons will soon reach retirement age. This suggests a need for bishops to recruit a greater number of men to join the ranks of the permanent diaconate."

Ninety-five percent of active deacons are at least 50 years old. About a quarter are in their fifties; 43 percent are in their sixties; and 25 percent are 70 or older. Almost 90 percent of dioceses have a minimum age for deacon candidacy and half have a mandatory retirement age. In the U.S. the minimum age for ordination to the permanent deaconate is 35. The average minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate program is 33. Thirteen percent of dioceses have a mandatory retirement age of 70. Eighty percent mandate retirement at 75.

Many permanent deacons hold jobs outside of the ministry in such areas as sales, law or other work. An estimated 21 percent of active permanent deacons are also compensated for ministry. Some serve in full-time ministry, for example in parishes or diocesan positions.

Almost 30 percent of permanent deacons hold a graduate degree, about two-thirds of them in a field not related to the diaconate. Three in ten (31 percent) have a bachelor's degree as their highest level of education. Almost 20 percent have some college education and another fifth have a high school degree.

Gentle nudges

Prayer, words of encouragement lead men to vocations as permanent deacons

By Tanya Watterud

Preparing for ordination as a permanent deacon is stirring up many of the same feelings Jerry Martin had before he proposed to his wife, Cheri.

"It feels like I'm getting married again," said Martin, who lives in Williston. "It is saying 'yes' to another vocation. You're looking forward to it . . . there's excitement, you know it's right, you know it's your calling to do." Martin said what he is feeling now is "the same spirit that gave me the courage to ask Cheri to enter into the vocation of marriage. . . The same kind of excitement, but also the same butterflies."

Martin, Loren Kordonowy of Belfied, and Randy Schmidt of Bismarck will be ordained permanent deacons for the Diocese of Bismarck by Bishop David Kagan on Nov. 17 at 3 p.m. at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. The men have completed a 5-year program of formation to prepare them to be servants of the Catholic Church through the diaconate. Deacon comes from the Greek word "diakonos" meaning servant. They will serve the parish to which they are assigned, its pastor and future pastors, Bishop Kagan and future bishops of the diocese, and the entire universal Catholic Church.

The vocation of permanent deacon allows for the men to be married. Since marriage is their primary vocation, their wives are involved in the formation program for the diaconate because of the supportive role they will play. They attend the classes, get to know the other deacons' wives, and learn about the sacrifices the diaconate may require of their husbands, themselves and their families.

Kordonowy and his wife, Wendy, have six

children who range in age from six to 20 years old. "She's very supportive. She also believes that it is truly a calling. It's not just something we decided," Kordonowy said of his vocation as a deacon. "When you're married, you are one, and she's along for the ride. She's, humbly and graciously, a great support."



Wendy and Loren Kordonowy

Kordonowy said their experience of beginning their married lives with different faith backgrounds – Wendy as a Southern Baptist and Loren as a Ukranian Byzantine Catholic – helped them both delve into faith. Wendy had a lot of questions about Catholicism. "It's so important to be willing to find out the answers to those questions and not just give up," Kordonowy said. Moving toward a common faith (they are both now Roman Catholic) "was a big struggle and we did it together," he said. Now, they are taking another step in their faith journey.

For Kordonowy, the road to the diaconate began in prayer with "that voice in my head that I need to be considering it," he said. "I told myself 'Not me' for years." Through further prayer and spiritual direction, Kordonowy knew he had to explore the vocation.

Randy Schmidt's first thoughts about the vocation of the diaconate were prompted when a woman asked him "the simple question – 'Have

you ever considered becoming a deacon?"
His answer was "no". He hadn't thought about it yet at that time. A year or so later, after serving as a lector and Eucharistic minister for his niece's wedding, his godfather asked him, "So when do you get ordained a deacon?"
"So my answer changed



Randy and Susan Schmidt

from 'no' to 'what?'" Schmidt said. A short time after that, a priest asked him, "Randy, are you praying?" "Yes, Father, I am," he responded. Then the priest asked, "Are you listening?"

Those gentle nudges and the prayers of many people were all gifts from God, he said. They helped him to give up control and to pray, "Okay Lord, I need you to show me. I don't need to drive this time . . . just show me what you need me to do'. And He did," Schmidt said.

The men appreciate the format of the formation process for the diaconate. "I like the program the way they have it. It gives you the time ... for good proper discernment," Martin said. "You grow in your spiritual life as well as who you are as a person."

Schmidt explained that the first two years of the program are called the aspirancy phase, followed by three years of candidacy. He and Susan participated for two years, then took two years off to continue discernment. They returned for the final three years of formation.

Through the process, they have come to know deeply the power of prayer. When his wife had cancer recently, people from their parish, their family, the diaconate program and religious orders prayed for them. "That power of prayer . . . gave us the courage, strength and hope to walk that journey," Schmidt said.

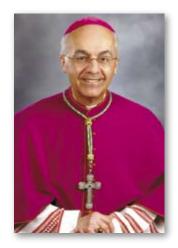
When asked what he's most looking forward to as a deacon, Kordonowy said, "All of it. I'm very much looking forward to being able to help bring Christ to anyone who's ready and willing to accept him."

Martin, who will be serving under Fr. Russell Kovash in the rapidly growing community of Williston, encouraged others to be open to the vocation of deacon. "If there is that inner calling, no matter how gentle that voice is, contact David Fleck," he said



Jerry and Cheri Martin

David Fleck is director of the Office of the Diaconate for the Diocese of Bismarck. He can be reached at 701-204-7210 or dfleck@bismarckdiocese.com. More information about the program can be found on the diocesan website, www.bismarckdiocese.com, in the "Diaconate" section under the "Offices & Ministries" tab.



FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

Make Mass a part of your Thanksgiving Day celebration

s we approach the month of November, the month dedicated to all of the saints in heaven and the poor, holy souls in purgatory, I urge you to attend and participate at the holy sacrifice of the Mass on All Saints Day, November 1, which is a holy day of obligation. While All Souls Day, November 2, is not a holy day of obligation, it is our ancient and beautiful Catholic practice to pray for all of our holy and beloved dead at Mass on this day. Please try to come to Mass on All Souls Day and please continue to have Masses offered in your parishes for your own deceased relatives and friends.

Sunday, November 24 is the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King and that is the day on which the universal Church will celebrate the formal and official close of the great Year of Faith (see page 5). Please do make this a special spiritual day for yourselves and your families. We will celebrate this great solemnity in the Diocese of Bismarck by consecrating our diocese to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This very same weekend, all of our priests will be doing the same consecrations in each of our 98 parishes. I urge you to consecrate your homes and families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. You will derive countless blessings by honoring Jesus and Mary in this way.

While it is a civil holiday and observance, Thanksgiving Day has a very special place in the hearts of all Americans as well as in the history of our country. I have always especially enjoyed this holiday because, as a youngster and then as a priest, it always began with Mass. There is no better way to observe and enjoy this distinctive civil holiday than to gather at the altar of the Lord and offer praise and thanksgiving for the gift of His Son, Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and the gift of salvation He obtained for us. Make Mass your first Thanksgiving event of celebration. Everything else you will do that day will be even more enjoyable because you were at Mass.

No doubt you have noticed that many stores have been promoting the Christmas holiday—and doing so seemingly earlier than ever. What is so apparent in all of the advertising and displays is the elimination of Jesus, Mary and Joseph from all of it. I would ask you to join me as we quickly approach the holy season of Advent and then Christmas, to make a real effort to keep these times holy and spiritual. Resolve to go to daily Mass in Advent and the Christmas season, go to confession, make the Stations of the Cross (Christmas points us to Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and participate in your parish's Advent activities to assist our brothers and sisters in need. God came to us as a poor child and lived among us as the One who is poor, chaste and obedient. Imitating Him in our lives will bring real joy, peace and contentment. Advent and Christmas remind us of this—and call us to live it.

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE

Bishop David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L.

NOVEMBER 2013

Oct. 28- Nov. 7 • Pilgrimage to Italy

Nov. 11-14 • USCCB Fall General Meetings, Baltimore, Maryland

Nov. 17

• Mass at the Church of St.

Hildegard, Menoken, 10:30 a.m.

 Diaconate Ordination, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 3 p.m.

Nov. 19 • Real Presence Radio interview,

 Mass for deceased bishops, priests, and deacons, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 11 a.m.

Nov. 20
• Catholic Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck,

10 a.m.Nov. 21 • All-staff Mass, Chancery chapel,

8 a.m.
• Directors' staff meeting, Center for

Light of Christ Catholic Schools
 Board meeting, Center for Pastoral
 Ministry, Bismarck, 1:15 p.m.

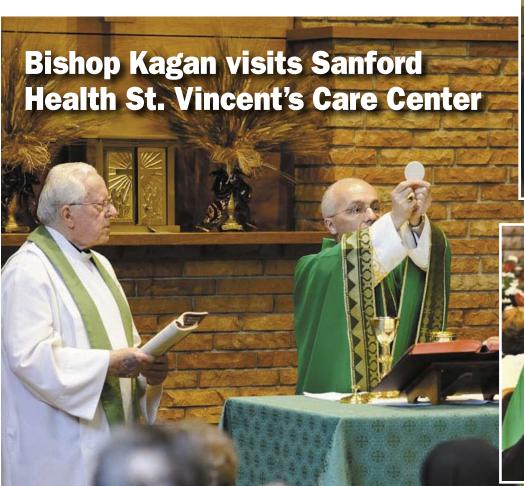
Pastoral Ministry, 9:15 a.m.

Nov. 23
• Dedication and blessing of renovation of the Church of St. Joseph, Killdeer, 4:30 p.m. MT

Nov. 24
• Year of Faith closing Mass and consecration to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 11:30 a.m.

Nov. 25-26 • Workshop for new priests, Radisson, Bismarck

> Thanksgiving day Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 10 a.m.





Nov. 28

Bishop David Kagan traveled to Sanford Health St. Vincent's Care Center on Sept. 19 for Mass and a reception with the residents, retired priests and sisters in the Bismarck Diocese.

(Photos by Deacon Joe Krupinsky)

CATHOLIC ACTION

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Sister Louise Wirtz in front of St. Vincent's Nursing Home

Obituary

Sister Louise Wirtz

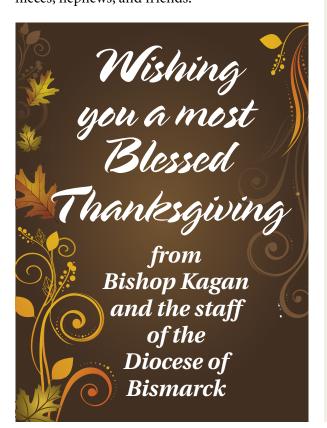
Sister Louise (Lorraine) Wirtz was born on March 1, 1915, the fourth of fourteen children in the John and Mary (Bauer) family. Her first home was her father's homestead in Outlook, Mont., but the family moved to Kenmare when she was seven because her parents wanted their children to have a Catholic education at St. Agnes Academy staffed by the Ursulines.

She entered Sacred Heart Convent when it was in Garrison and made her first monastic profession of vows August 20, 1935. She served within the monastic community as cook, gardener, laundress and procurator over the years.

Her natural ministry field was in dealing with the elderly, especially at St. Vincent's Care Center and Marillac Manor, helping to build both ministries from their beginnings. She served as a floor supervisor at the first St. Vincent's Home in 1941-46, as an administrator at St. Luke's Hospital in Crosby from 1946-49, and an administrator at St. Vincent's Care Center from 1962-67 and 1971-77.

After numerous roles there, she moved to its sister facility, Marillac Manor, an adjacent apartment complex for independent elderly who benefited from a pleasant, secure home setting that encouraged community among the residents. Her work in Bismarck in these ministries spanned 1941-89, except for a four-year period (1967-71) when she played a vital role in the new Sacred Heart Monastery in Richardton. She and Sister Loretta Jahner literally camped out in the monastery while it was being built and oversaw everything in order to learn how it all worked. She was the monastic procurator in those years and was a great steward of the new building before returning to St. Vincent's and Marillac for another 18 years.

She officially retired to the monastery in 1994 and entered St. Benedict's Health Center in Dickinson in 2003. Sr. Louise died August 27 at St. Benedict's. She will be greatly missed but lovingly remembered by her monastic family; by her siblings Clara Larson, Theresa Ankenbauer, and Paul (Marlis) Wirtz; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.



What's in a name?

By Michelle Duppong Year of Faith Coordinator

November is a special time in the liturgical year when we call to mind the communion of saints. With November 1 being the feast of All Saints and



Michelle Duppong

November 2 being All Souls' Day (where we are reminded to pray that the holy souls in purgatory may soon enter heaven), I thought it would be a good time to talk about namedays.

So, what's in a name? The Catechism states (paragraph 2158): "God

calls each one by name. Everyone's name is sacred. The name is the icon of the person. It demands respect as a sign of the dignity of the one who bears it." Let this thought soak in for a minute.

When growing up, my parents used to talk about their dads' Name's Day parties. When December 27 (the feast of St. John the Apostle) rolled around, my mom's folks would invite all their relatives and friends over after supper for an evening of celebrating and socializing. On the feast of St. William, my dad's parents would host a party. Both shared how special these gatherings were as the grown-ups would visit and enjoy the refreshments until the card playing began, which would go into the wee hours of the morning, and the kids got to run wild in the basement with their cousins and friends. Oh, how the kids relished the treat of getting to drink pop at these parties! These were even more special than birthdays.

During this Year of Faith, I have proposed ways to incorporate the faith into our daily lives. Why not begin the tradition of celebrating the feast days of each member of your family? You may be wondering how to pick a patron saint. Here are some tips:

- Start off with your first name. Do some research to see if there are any saints with that name or if your name is a derivative of a saint's name. (Example: Andrea is a derivative of Andrew.) If not, move on to your middle name.
- If there are multiple saints with your name, choose the most common one or the one whose story speaks to you most.
- If neither your first nor middle names are after saints, go with your confirmation saint.

■ There are books available with saints' names and feasts—as well as ample sites on the internet. A particular resource that may be helpful is "The Nameday Book" compiled by Sr. Theodora of the Trinity.

Happy feasting!

Special Indulgences for November:

- A *plenary indulgence*, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted to the faithful who,
- On any and each day from **November 1 to 8**, devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the departed. (A *partial indulgence* is granted if this act is done during the rest of the year.)
- On **All Souls' Day (Nov. 2)** or on the Sunday following it, devoutly visit a church or an oratory and recite an Our Father and the Creed.
- A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who, on the solemnity of **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe** (November 24),
 publicly recite the act of dedication of the human race to Christ the King (*Iesu dulcissime*, *Redemptor*); a partial indulgence is granted for its use in other circumstances.

Iesu dulcissime, Redemptor

Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before you. We are yours, and yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with you, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your Most Sacred Heart. Many indeed have never known you; many, too, despising your precepts, have rejected you. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to your Sacred Heart. Be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken you, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned you; grant that they may quickly return to the Father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. Be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and the unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one Shepherd. Grant, O Lord, to your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give tranquility of order to all nations; make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to it be glory and honor for ever. Amen.

Taken from the Manual of Indulgences published by the USCCB in 1999.

Li	turgica	al Cale	endar -	Nover	nber 2	013
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Purple: Advent, Lent, and White: Easter and Christ	om Epiphany to Ash Wednesda I funerals, penitential mas Seasons, feasts of Our L easts of Christ's Passion, Prev	ord and Our Lady, and feasts			All Saints' Day	2 All Souls' Day
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	4	5	6	7	8	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time	11 St. Josaphat	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini	13	14	15	16
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	18	19	20	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	22 St. Cecelia	23
Year of Faith Closing - Enthronement of the Diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ the King Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30 St. Andrew

{

"The Interview"

Unpacking Pope Francis' headline-producing discussion with a Jesuit magazine

By Bishop David Kagan

By now, I am sure many of you have heard of and perhaps have read what is being called "the Interview." This is the extended conversation our Holy Father Francis had with the editor of the Italian Jesuit monthly magazine *La Civilta Catolica*. In this article I would like to address some of the issues that the secular media presented and then editorialized about in a way that puts our Holy Father and his words in a seeming position of opposition to the rest of the Catholic Church. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The structure of "the Interview" was a series of questions asked of the Holy Father and his responses. The editor did a good job in framing the questions that had been gathered from other Jesuits from around the world who are editors of their own more local magazines. The first six questions were of a personal nature relating to Pope Francis and his background, the development of his priestly vocation, the Jesuits in general, and his being a Jesuit, an archbishop and now the pope. His answers are not only interesting, but also very instructive for all of us, especially for any man who is discerning a possible vocation to the priesthood.

The Church is for everyone

The pope, being a true son of Saint Ignatius, is a tremendous gift to the Church just as Saint Ignatius was a gift to the Church in the sixteenth century. He is thoroughly imbued with the Ignatian spirit and a love for the Catholic Church, and he expressed this beautifully when he was asked what it means to "think with the Church," a notion St. Ignatius wrote about in the Spiritual Exercises.

Clearly the Holy Father repeats what he has been saying since his election: That the Church is the people of God, just as the Second Vatican Council repeated so often (LG 12). He is very clear that the Catholic Church, as the people of God, is for *all peoples* and not just for a few. He says that the faith of the Church is lived by clergy, religious and laity as the "experience of 'holy mother the hierarchical church,' as St. Ignatius called it, the church as the people of God, pastors and people together. The church is the totality of God's people." Correctly, Our Holy Father reminds all of us who we are in Christ. The Church is neither *only the clergy* nor

is it only the laity.

As he said: "This church with which we should be thinking is the home of all, not a small chapel that can hold only a small group of selected people... And the church is Mother; the church is fruitful. It must be." These statements of the Holy Father were reported in the secular media as if he was saying that the Church is a populist kind of institution. However, he is saying just the opposite; it is the holy people of God and this means that it includes and is open to all peoples. He is simply stating a fact of the doctrine of the Church concerning its four marks – one, holy, catholic and apostolic. Not new and certainly not very radical!

The first proclamation: Jesus has saved you

The answer that the Pope gave to the next questions received the most attention from the secular media, which did not make an effort to report his answer fully but instead misled readers by sensationalizing just one part of his answer, as if it was all that the Pope had to say.

Pope Francis was asked: "What does the church need most at this historic moment? Do we need reforms? What are your wishes for the church in the coming years? What kind of church do you dream of?" The substance of his answer is a masterful use of a familiar image. He said: "I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured persona if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else...And you have to start from the ground up."

This idea of "starting from the ground up" is where our Holy Father places all that the Church believes and does as the Church. He described what he meant this way: "The most important thing is the first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you." This must come first. Then, as Pope Francis said, the other moral and religious imperatives follow from this first proclamation. He is absolutely correct.

Having first directed our attention to the heart of the Church, the preaching of the Gospel, and Jesus Christ as Our Lord and Savior, the Holy Father's remarks about a few of the moral issues of the day were completely misrepresented by the secular media. The secular media latched on to the following statement: "We cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods. This is not possible." This was interpreted by the secular media as a break with the Church's constant moral teaching on these matters or as at least a changing of the Church's position. Again, not true at all.

All that Pope Francis said is based on that first proclamation. As soon as I read his answer, I was so grateful for it because he put the matter in its proper order in the very same way that Jesus did in His life among us. What came to mind for me was the moment in John's Gospel when the woman caught in the act of adultery was dragged to Jesus for Him to respond to the ill will of the Pharisees. Read that passage in John 8 and you will understand why the Holy Father answered the way he did and what he means. Jesus showed mercy by first healing and then addressing her sin. That is the same order he wants for the Church. Thus, he did not change anything, but urges the Church's ministers to "be ministers of mercy above all."

The Holy Father is absolutely correct when he said that if the Church does not keep the right order of the first proclamation, we could become "obsessed with the transmission of a disjointed multitude of doctrines." He said that the first proclamation (which is missionary in nature) focuses on the essentials and will always be a cause for joy and healing; it will forever be attractive and fresh. "The proposal of the Gospel must be more simple, profound, radiant. It is from this proposition that the moral consequences then flow." Again, the Holy Father is only putting in more familiar terms what the Church has always believed and tried to live in the world in every age (sometimes more successfully than at other times). But what he said throughout "the Interview" is not new.

If you have the opportunity to read our Holy Father's conversation, I urge you to do so. Do not rely on the secular media for your information. While he had much to say on various topics, I have confined my remarks to just a few of his answers. It is worth your time to read "the Interview" in its entirety.

Use this URL to find Pope Francis' interview: bit.ly/19jXs0C

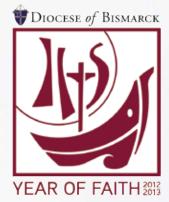
Pets blessed on snowy feast of St. Francis

n a snowy and blustery October 4, Monsignor Tom Richter blessed the pets of students at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit School in Bismarck. Dogs, fish, and even a bull (brought by Steven and Meghan Fallgatter) were blessed. The event was held on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, as St. Francis was known to be a lover of nature, animals and the poor.





(Photos by Matthew Kurtz)



CELEBRATING THE Year of Faith

IN THE DIOCESE OF BISMARCK

Editor's note:

When he called on the Church to celebrate a Year of Faith, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI gave three reasons:

- 1. To help us know what we believe and to profess our beliefs with conviction
- 2. To deepen our personal encounter with
- 3. To be witnesses of our faith by the examples of our daily lives

What a year it has been...and it's not even over! God has poured out his graces on our diocese (and the universal Catholic Church) during the Year of Faith, and the timeline to the right is proof. A new pope, cardinals visiting Bismarck, six new priests...All of these spiritually invigorating events have been taking place over the last year, many of them right here in western N.D. Did you notice?

Ask yourself: What (if any) of these Year of Faith events did I take part in? How did I grow during the Year of Faith?

God wants to give us all life in abundance. And we can discover "life in abundance" by participating in events like these. Don't miss out. Christ is reaching out to all of us. It's up to us to grab His hand and walk with Him. Thank God for a tremendous Year of Faith!

Oct. 11, 2011

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI publishes an apostolic letter titled "Porta Fidei" ("Door of Faith") in which he declares that a "Year of Faith" will begin on Oct. 11, 2012



August 15, 2012

Bishop Kagan publishes his first pastoral letter titled "I Call You Friends" in anticipation of the upcoming Year of Faith

Sept. 19, 2012

The Diocese of Bismarck publishes a video to explain the "Year of Faith." The video received over 5,000 views on Youtube



Oct. 11, 2012

First official day of the Year of Faith

"The Enduring Legacy of Vatican II" Symposium I is held at the University of Mary in **Bismarck**

Bishop Kagan celebrates the opening Mass of the Year of Faith at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit





Photos by Deacon Joe Krupinsky and Matthew Kurtz



Dec. 14, 2012

Bishop Kagan announces that six priests in the Bismarck Diocese have received the honorary title of monsignor

Jan. 20-31, 2013

Fr. Benedict Fischer leads a Year of Faith pilgrimage to the Holy Land



Feb. 23, 2013

"The Enduring Legacy of Vatican II" Symposium II is held at Dickinson Trinity High School

Feb. 28, 2013

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI officially resigns from the papacy

March 13, 2013

· Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio is elected as pope of the Catholic Church after a two-day, five-ballot conclave. He becomes the first pope from the Americas and the



first to take the name Francis

April 6, 2013

"The Enduring Legacy of Vatican II" Symposium III is held at Bishop Ryan Catholic School in Minot

"The Church...must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life...towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance."

- Porta Fidei, Pope Emeritus XVI's Apostolic Letter on the Year of Faith



June 2, 2013

· Cardinal Raymond Burke visits Bismarck for the feast of Corpus Christi and leads a eucharistic procession through the streets of **Bismarck**



June 13, 2013

Bishop Kagan ordains six men to the diocesan priesthood, the largest number of men ordained on a single day since 2000

July 13-14, 2013

· The St. Kateri Tekakwitha Celebration is held at United Tribes Technical College in **Bismarck**



Oct. 7, 2013

· Bishop Kagan publishes his second pastoral letter titled "...and so man became a living being"

Oct. 25-27, 2013

· The Diocese of Bismarck hosts THIRST 2013, a **Eucharistic Confer**ence featuring keynote presenters Cardinal Timothy



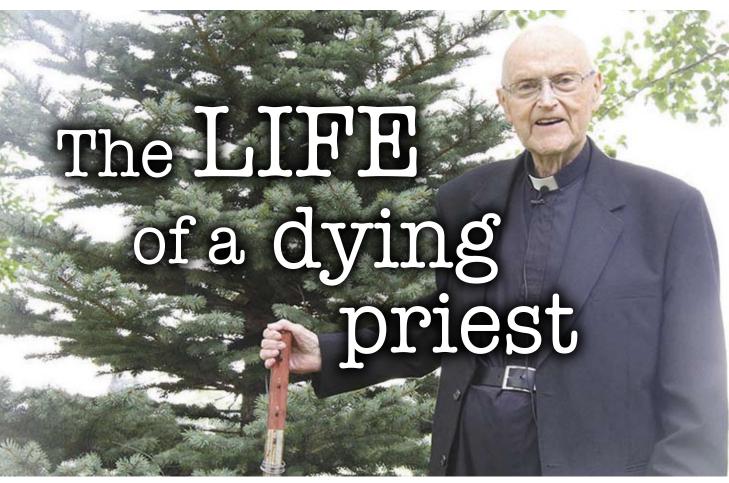
Oct. 29-Nov. 7, 2013

Bishop Kagan leads a pilgrimage to Rome

Nov. 24, 2013

· Bishop Kagan celebrates the closing Mass of the Year of Faith, also consecrating the Diocese of Bismarck to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Marv





Fr. Leary retired from active ministry in 2006. He then moved to Strasburg, N.D. to volunteer his time by assisting the pastors at the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul. Now, he helps with the Mass schedule at Sanford Health St. Vincent's Care Center and Marillac Manor in Bismarck. "I still hope to be of service to the diocese until my life is over," he said. "I want to enjoy the people around me...and die with my boots on." (Photo by Matthew Kurtz)



From The Editor

Matthew Kurtz @CathVideoDad

Fr. Albert Leary has lived a vibrant life...and spent considerable time reflecting on it. Just consider his mantras:

"I always say I was an only child with the exception of 12 others." Or this one: "I always say I was born in Boston with one foot in the ocean."

Fr. Leary is now nearing age 87. He's been a priest in the Diocese of Bismarck for 60 years. And he is dying of cancer.

I was just a few months into my employment with the diocese when an email from Fr. Leary popped into my inbox last September. The subject line read "email to our diocesan family."

My heart did a flip as I read through the message from a man I hardly knew: "I have been dealing with several types of cancer for more than 20 years," he said. "... The scan was done at St. Alexius Hospital... the cancer had indeed metastasized to the bone... I asked him about the time I had left, and he indicated it might be from 12 to 18 months."

I soon found myself at apartment #8 at Emmaus Place, the retired priests' residence for the Bismarck Diocese. Usually young children are the most difficult to interview on camera—they're so fidgety, it's hard to keep them in frame. But as we visited, Fr. Al proved to be just as hard to keep in my camera frame. Not because of any uneasiness, but his positive energy and large hand gestures kept me on my toes. I soon learned that Fr. Al's outlook on his impending death wasn't one of gloom, but of joy and confidence.

The first interview

Fr. Leary told me all about his life: How he was born in Boston to a very large, faithful family. How he loves cruise trips. How he spearheaded the construction of the Church of St. Joseph in Williston after a fire destroyed the building in 1980. How he spent 20 years as pastor of the Church of Christ the King in Mandan. He knew nothing of the west, yet took a leap of faith, boarded a non-pressurized DC-3 aircraft, and came to N.D. after being ordained a priest in 1954. He wanted to "serve in a place where you really felt needed" and was attracted by the prospect of becoming a pastor early in his priesthood in North Dakota (since it typically took at least 30 years to become a pastor in the Archdiocese of Boston).

Fr. Al knows suffering: His father was killed by a hit-and-run drunk driver and his mother died of a sudden heart attack. Despite his distance from them, he was coincidentally able to speak with each of his parents hours before they died.

"I saw the finger of God in that," he said. "The only thing I can say to people: If you want to hang in there through the thick and thin of all that life has to offer—don't leave Christ out."

He always put his parishioners first. A number of his vacations abruptly ended if there was a funeral to celebrate back home. "I loved the people, and I hope they loved me. Was I a saint without blemish? No! I had my Irish temper. But I always tried to make sure that when I made a mistake, I expressed my sorrow for it."

He was first diagnosed with cancer in 1990

during a routine annual physical. He's endured surgery to remove his prostate as well as chemotherapy and 36 radiation treatments.

"I missed one shot and it got ahead of me." Now, he has just months left to live. His response?

"Thank you, Lord, for keeping me alive so long when I could have been gone years ago. Thank you for giving me the time to get ready. This is what I've been working for all my life. I'm hopeful that I'll be well prepared when the time comes.

"I've been praying a lot. I don't want to come up there [to heaven] and say [to God], 'What's your na

say [to God], 'What's your name again?' I want the Lord to say, 'Come in, Al!'"

What does a dying priest pray for? "I pray that I'll be prepared, that I won't lose sight of the goal and won't get distracted. That I'll have courage. I hope that I have a happy death...and that I leave anybody who mourns

me at peace, knowing that I went to God with the hope that, in His mercy, I would receive a judgment that would welcome me into his presence."

New citizenship

Nearly a year had passed since my last interview with Fr. Leary. I had seen him at a number of diocesan events over those months, and naturally wondered how he was doing. He had visibly weakened, and seeing his decline tied my heart in knots.

I don't know if it was my fear of his death or the poor excuse that I was too busy, but I ignored the urge to call him and ask if I could bring my camera to Emmaus Place and visit with him again.

Then my phone rang. Fr. Leary wanted me to know that a generous couple had

donated two trees to be planted on the grounds of Emmaus Place in his honor. I knew the Holy Spirit had made up for my weakness.

I returned to apartment #8, and once we began visiting, my fears soon melted. How had I forgotten his positive outlook? Sure, his energy had declined, but his heart still radiated with peace.

"As a priest, this is what you've trained for, worked for...I want to witness to the depth of my own personal faith and the promises of Jesus Christ to me. As a priest, I need to be an example of accepting God's will."

He told me of an experience years ago at a hospital in Minot. A dying man called for him on his way out the door. Fr. Leary went to his bedside. Despite the influence of heavy medication, the man told him that he's "going to give up his citizenship papers in the United States." There was a pause. Both men were weeping. "I'm taking out my citizenship papers in the kingdom of heaven," the man said.

"I had never heard anybody express what it means to die as a Catholic so beautifully. You're going home to God."

Fr. Leary has prepared his funeral, and he

intends for it to be a celebration. He gave me strict orders to come to his funeral and to "sing loud!" He's known to tell funeral organists to "let loose on that organ and I want the roof off this place!"

We continued to visit and then he pulled out a sheet of paper. Something he wrote a few months ago. A letter to go out to family and friends after his death. "It kind of sums up what I'm trying to do and be these final days." He wants people to know when he has died. And to pray for him after his death.

"Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for all your kindnesses to me," the letter concludes. "It was always my hope that as death approached and consciousness began to fade,

my last thoughts would be of my blessed and merciful savior, Jesus Christ, and that the last word I would utter on Earth would be the most holy name of Jesus."

Thank you, Fr. Leary, for your example of holiness and trust in the will of God. We will be praying for you. Please never stop praying for us.

"What else could a priest do

except minister to people in those moments when there's great joy and those times when there's deep sadness? I've tried to be present for people in the brightest and darkest moments of their lives. That's what has lit the fire inside me. That's what priests do."



Minot woman's religious art business booms

By Patti Armstrong

As a young girl, Nellie Edwards dreamed of becoming a fine art painter. At 20 years of age, Nellie married Chrys and eight children later, her childhood dream of becoming an artist was almost forgot-

Nellie had plenty to keep her busy. A hobby of making Christmas ornaments turned into a family business—Mother of Eight Designs. Her hand-casted 'keepsake gift product' grew to support the whole family and allowed them to move from Sunnyside, Wash. to North Dakota. The business prospered. Many of their products had a religious theme. At one Eucharistic Conference in Fargo, Bishop James Sullivan stopped by their booth. "He told me that he had taken some of our ornaments to Rome as a gift to Pope John Paul II," said Nellie. "The bishop had placed them in the Holy Father's hands who then gave our family a blessing by name...and I embraced the grace!"

In 2007, after the Edwards had moved to Butte, the four oldest boys started their own tiling business. The first big job for Edwards Brothers Tiling was St. Celia's Church in Harvey. Fr. Michael Hickin wanted a Celtic Harp inlay in front of the Blessed Sacrament altar.

"The boys asked me to design a pattern for them," Nellie said. "I found myself asking them to get

me a PC tablet I'd seen advertised. I hoped it would help me get the right symmetry." Little did she know, this would become her virtual canvas and brush.



Chrys started helping the boys with the tiling, so Nellie sold the family business. Using her new computer program, she began to experiment making small posters. But soon, she felt inspired to paint a picture of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. "I did not know where the inspiration came from, not even knowing much about Kateri," she said. "I kept resisting because I knew I didn't have that kind of talent." Finally, she thought, "If this is an inspiration from the Lord, the outcome should make it clear."

With no model and no formal training of any kind, a beautiful image of Blessed Kateri began to take shape. When it was completed, Nellie sent it to the Kateri Tekakwitha Foundation. "Congratulations! She's just beautiful," the director wrote back. Now that she was past the age of 50, Nellie's childhood dream of

becoming a real artist had begun. Within five years, on October 21, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI canonized Kateri a saint. In the meantime, Nellie's image was used by magazines, calendars, and on a book cover.

Shortly after the 'portrait' of Kateri, Nellie felt inspired to do a picture of an unborn child. Her passion for the unborn was a natural inspiration but she was unsure exactly where it was leading—she merely wanted to help cultivate a culture of life. "One day, I suddenly knew it was supposed to be Our Lord in utero." The picture, The Word Made Flesh was born, of the Blessed Mother with Our Lord showing through the womb. Again, public reaction was very positive.

Nellie kept following her inspirations, even whey they seemed not to make sense. For instance, she received repeated suggestions from people to do an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. "I thought it was absurd," she said. "I would tell them that the Blessed Mother had left her image so I wasn't going there, period." Even so, Nellie explained, "while painting one day, I felt strongly led to begin showing a profile view of Our Lady of Guadalupe, kneeling in adoration of her unborn Son and Savior." It became "Mother of Life."

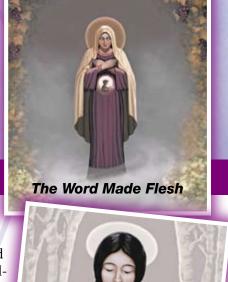
"I've received many calls from people about the strong effect this picture has had on them," said Nellie. She recently heard from a counselor at a pregnancy center. The Mother

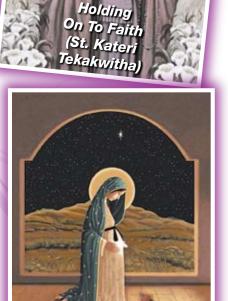
> of Life painting that was hanging in their waiting

room touched a pregnant girl so profoundly that she credited it for her decision to keep her baby rather than to abort it as she had originally planned.

Mark Nelson, owner of Nelson Fine Arts and Gifts, the largest distributor of religious art in the U.S., described Nellie's paintings as art that touches the soul. Nelson traditionally only reprints old Catholic art, but he

said they have made exceptions with four especially talented modern-day artists. Nellie is one of those excep-





The Mother of Life

Last August, Nelson debuted Nellie and her work at the Catholic Marketing Network tradeshow in Somerset, N.J. According to Nelson, there has been much positive feedback from retailers and customers who have been moved by her art. "She also writes beautiful poems and prayers that accompany her pieces so we have developed products that accommodate that," he said.

In October, Nelson released Nellie's latest image of our Blessed Mother: Our Lady Undoer of Knots. "It is a beautiful rendition of a centuries-old tradition," Mark said. Pope Francis, when he was Bishop Bergoglio, saw the original image during a trip to Germany. He brought one back with him to Argentina and promoted the devotion.

Nellie's new image shows the Holy Father offering up a knotted ribbon and interceding for the church with Mary untying the knots, which represent the sin and troubles of our world. With every print of Our Lady Undoer of Knots, Nelson will include a booklet with a powerful novena and the history of the devotion.

Last year, Nellie's husband died of cancer, just as her art began to really take off. She turned to art as therapy and solace. "Whenever people tell me it's too bad Chrys is not here to see this, I tell them, 'Oh he sees, and I believe he's praying for it."

To learn more, go to Nellie's website: PaintedFaith.net. Order her art through Nelson Fine Arts and Gifts at CatholicToTheMax.com.



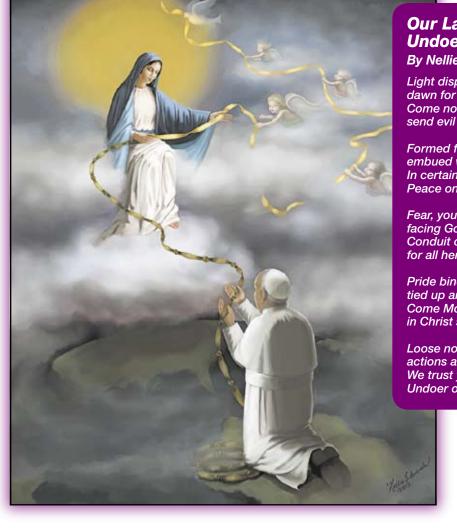
dawn for new day Come now Our Lady, send evil away

Formed for the mission, embued with all grace In certainty armed, Peace on your face

Fear, you know not, facing God's foe Conduit of Grace, for all here below

Pride binds our souls, Come Mother Mary, in Christ set us free

Loose now our tangled actions and thoughts We trust you Our Lady, Undoer of Knots



KENYA®CONNECTION

The Kenya Connection is a newsletter about the activity of the Diocese of Bismarck's mission in Kenya. The logo symbolizes the call of Christ to reach out and assist those in need.

Little dresses for Africa

Mandan Girl Scout creates dresses from pillowcases for African children

By Matthew Kurtz

ewing and scouting have always been a large part of the Ludlum family.

As she would cart her three children around town to different appointments and events, Kay Ludlum would always travel with a crochet project in hand, in case a moment of downtime arose.

Shelby Ludlum, the second of Kay's three children, inherited her mother's craftiness. So when it came time for Shelby to tackle a project to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award (which is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting), she knew her sewing skills could come in handy.

A valid Gold Award project requires at least 80 hours of service, has to be able to be replicated, and must have a global impact. Feeling stumped for a good idea, Kay, who also serves as her daughter's scouting leader, stumbled across a project that put the family's love of sewing to use.

Kay happened to be watching the PBS show "Sewing with Nancy" one day when Rachel O'Neill, founder of the non-profit organization Little Dresses for Africa, was a

featured guest. O'Neill talked about how Little Dresses for Africa began making dresses in 2005 and would send them across the globe to impoverished children in Kenya, Africa. Kay knew that contributing to Little Dresses for Africa could have the global impact Shelby needed to earn the award.

The Ludlums coordinated sewing groups at the Church of St. Joseph in Mandan and began making dresses. People and local businesses began donating pillowcases, bed sheets and other fabric. Suddenly, all the materials and people were in place, and dresses could be made.

Shelby and 20 volunteers at St. Joseph have sewn nearly 400 dresses over the last two years. When it came time for distribution, the Bismarck Diocese African Mission was a natural fit. This fall, a priest will bless another shipment of dresses and Bismarck's three new missionaries will then deliver them to the children of the diocesan mission in Africa.

"It's a gift," said Tip Reichert, who serves as director of the Bismarck Diocese African Mission with her husband, Chuck. "We've had giveaways of simple things like underwear in

> the past, and I was literally mobbed by the children," she said, adding that most of the kids only have one or two pairs of underwear and only one dress.

"In that culture, young children are lower on the totem pole, and young girls are the worst off," said Shelby, who graduated from Mandan High School this past May and hopes to make a trip to Africa to personally deliver dresses some day. "A lot of the time the kids cry when the dress is put on them because they think it's going to be taken away. For

something as simple as clothing to move you to tears...it kind of just brings you to awe."

Even though Shelby was awarded with the Girl Scout Gold Award on May 5, 2013, the sewing group still meets on the second Thursday of each month at St. Joseph.

"We want to try to get more people involved in sewing the dresses because

we have more than enough supplies that have been donated to continue," Kay explained. "We need more sewers!"

"The dresses instill in the minds of the little girls that they are worthy, that they can be loved," Shelby said. "These girls are so excited to have one dress."

Shelby will begin basic training for the Army on October 29, unashamed of her love of sewing and proud of how she was able to use it to help children thousands of miles

"It makes me happy that I can create something out of nothing. It gives me a sense of purpose and joy."

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Degin ng / 29, of sew-ud was it to n thoules

Girl Scout Shelby (right) and her mother Kay Ludlum organized a group of volunteers at the Church of St. Joseph in Mandan to sew dresses for the children of the Bismarck Diocese African Mission. The dresses are made from pillowcases, bed sheets and other spare fabric.

Chloe, who is from Ghana and was adopted by a couple from Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck, models one of the pillowcase dresses made by Shelby Ludlum that helped her earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.

(Photos by Matthew Kurtz)

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Meet Lawrence Otieno

African seminarian benefits from Bismarck Mission, utilizes laptop to spread the Gospel in Cameroon

By Matthew Kurtz

he process of becoming a priest in Africa is much different than what young men go through in the U.S.

African dioceses rarely offer monetary support. Textbooks are expensive—if they can even be found. Computers are a luxury.

Lawrence Otieno is studying to be a religious priest with the Mill Hill Missionaries in Africa. Thanks in part to his interactions with missionaries from the Bismarck Diocese African Mission, he's well on his way to ordination.

"He's a remarkable seminarian and has a pastoral heart that's just huge—he reminds me of Mother Theresa," said Keven Wanner, who traveled to Africa for the Bismarck Diocese mission in 2012.

Lawrence is a simple man who believes he's been called by God to work with the poor—actually, the poorest of the poor.

"Apparently Kenya wasn't poor enough for him—[the Mill Hill Missionaries] had to send him to Camaroon!" Keven said.

After receiving help from Bismarck's missionaries, Lawrence is committed to giving back and helping his fellow Africans know Christ. He's breaking new ground. The parish where Lawrence is currently serving is in a remote part of Cameroon and is less than two years old. No roads. No cell phone reception. No electricity. And long, heavy rains during six months of the year.

A priest usually visits the parish just two times per year. As a result, Lawrence, who has been ordained a transitional deacon, has been visiting the parishioners regularly, offering communion services. "People expressed a lot of gratitude for this visit for they had taken five months without
Mass or communion service," Lawrence
recounted in a
recent pastoral
report to his
superiors. "I was
grateful to help
them to come
into living contact
with Jesus in the
Blessed Sacrament
and in His good
news."

Lawrence seeks to escape from his "comfort zone" and performs weekly

home visits to "the sick, the orphans, the lonely, the oppressed, the widows, and the elderly who have no one to care for them." Most of these people have never been introduced to Jesus, he said.

A generous family in the Bismarck Diocese donated Lawrence the funds he needed to get a laptop computer to help him in his ministry and priestly studies. He calls it his "American pride." Lawrence takes the computer on his home visits and shows DVDs about the Catholic faith, which he said has been important in helping people understand their role in the Church.

Lawrence shares stories of pregnant mothers who die during childbirth. (The only alternative is for them to walk 60 kilometers to the nearest hospital.) Others die of snakebites because they are unable to receive medical attention. People suffering from skin cancer helplessly turn to magicians to be healed. There is no other option.

"I feel completely helpless and sad about their suffering and bitter about the way they are exploited by their brothers," Lawrence wrote. "Their

da la constant de la

Bismarck missionaries Keven and Kristi Wanner, above, personally delivered liturgical vestments to Lawrence that were donated by Bismarck Bishop David Kagan in 2012. (Submitted photos)

sufferings raise a number of questions in me: How does the Gospel that I am witnessing permeate the lives of our people who are undergoing so much suffering? Can it shed light in their situation and transform it to the better?"

Despite the misery, Lawrence maturely keeps

things in perspective. "I am aware that there is nothing I can do to change their situation apart from being present in their midst and help them realize that Christ is in solidarity with them."

God willing, Lawrence should be ordained a priest within the next two years. In the meantime, he has benefitted from another generous donation from Bismarck: Bishop David Kagan donated liturgical vestments that Keven, his wife Kristi, and fellow missionary Alice Hager delivered to him in 2012.

Above all, Lawrence recognizes the gifts God has given him and is tremendously thankful to the Bismarck Diocese and its missionaries for the ways they have helped him.

"A big thanks to Keven and Kristi, Madam Alice and others. The material and moral support which you have been giving me has been a living fire that keeps my pastoral zeal alive. May God bless and reward you for your kindness. The local communities which I am serving also send the words of thanks for the help which they received from you through me. Thank you so much."

New missionaries sent to Africa

On Sept. 11, Bismarck Bishop David Kagan commissioned three individuals to serve as missionaries for the Bismarck Diocese African Mission.

Leon and Alicia Heick and Patricia Clark will serve in Africa until May 2014.



Patricia Clark

Follow the mission blog at: www.kenyamission-dioceseofbismarcknd.blogspot.com



Leon and Alicia Heick Family

(Photos by Deacon Joe Krupinsky)



All correspondence regarding the mission should be addressed to:

Co-Directors of Missions, Center for Pastoral Ministry, PO Box 1137, Bismarck, ND 58502-1137

Address corrections should be sent to: Editor at the above-mentioned address.

The ethics of donating money to charitable foundations

Does the Susan G. Komen Foundation support Planned Parenthood?



MAKING SENSE Out of Bioethics

Father Tad Pacholczyk

Private foundations and non-profit groups are frequently involved in advocating for particular causes, ranging from cancer research to protecting the environment. Some of these foundations rely almost exclusively on charitable donations to carry out their promotional work. Potential donors seeking to support these causes face the challenge of exercising "due diligence," so that their funds are properly utilized and not misdirected or otherwise targeted by the organization to support immoral projects.

An example of the need for this due diligence can be seen in the case of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, which promotes scientific research to cure Type 1 diabetes. The ethical concern arises because this organization has gone on record in support of a highly unethical form of research, namely, human embryonic stem cell research. Similarly, we may need to consider whether it is appropriate to support the Susan G. Komen Foundation's Race for a Cure, which seeks to promote breast cancer research and awareness. One of the rarely-discussed problems with the Komen Foundation's activities is that some of the money they raise may be used to promote morally objectionable activities that run counter to their mission of fighting breast cancer: some of Komen's funds are made available to Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the U.S., even though abortion of a woman's first pregnancy has been shown to correlate with an elevated incidence of breast cancer. More than 28 different studies over a period of 45 years have shown abortion to be a significant risk factor for breast cancer.

In fiscal year 2009, Komen affiliates contrib-

uted around \$730,000 to programs sponsored by Planned Parenthood, and in fiscal year 2010, they contributed about \$569,000. In January of 2012, the Susan G. Komen Foundation courageously decided that it would discontinue its financial support of Planned Parenthood. In the media firestorm that ensued, Komen experienced the backlash reserved for those who dare to cross the pro-abortion lobby. After little more than twenty-four hours, the Komen Foundation withered under the pressure, reversed itself, and assured the public it would continue to make funds available to Planned Parenthood. This backsliding solidified the beliefs of many donors that the Komen Foundation could not be trusted with their funds.

In fiscal year 2009, Komen affiliates contributed around \$730,000 to programs sponsored by Planned Parenthood

Komen's support for the abortion provider may stem from the fact that Komen's founder, Nancy Brinker, is a long-time promoter of Planned Parenthood, having served as an advisory board member for the organization's Texas affiliate. John Hammarley, a spokesman for Komen, indicated that about 20 of Komen's 122 affiliates are responsible for the money that goes to Planned Parenthood and has claimed that those funds are used only for breast cancer treatment, education, or screening programs that happen to be affiliated with the abortion group.

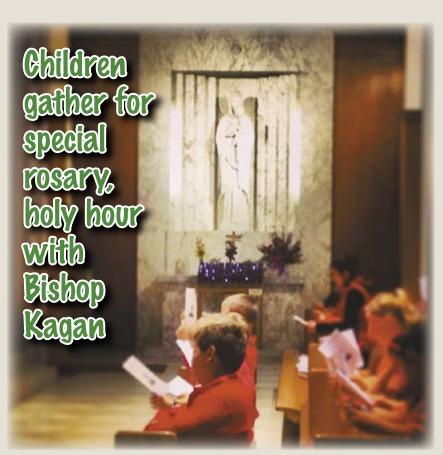
Planned Parenthood, however, is not licensed to provide screening beyond Level 1 breast examinations – the same exam that can be done by a woman in her shower, or in any clinic or physician's office. They do not even perform mammograms. Even if they did provide serious breast cancer screening, it would still remain a financial fact of life that an orga-

nization that receives money for Project A can divert other funds in its budget to Project B. Every dime that Komen provides to Planned Parenthood allows a different dime to be freed up for overhead, supplies, equipment and personnel to perform abortions.

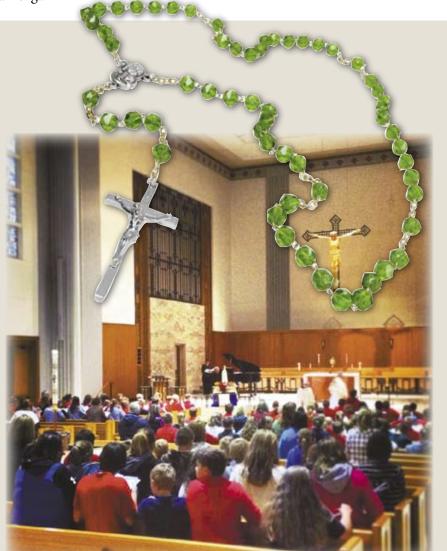
When foundations have a generally sound list of activities, but promote an intrinsically immoral activity as well (e.g. abortion, human embryonic stem cell research, contraception, etc.), one must consider the serious matter of the fungibility of donated funds. If we engage in fundraising for such organizations, even if they assure us that specified funds will only be used for activities with an ethical profile, it can end up being little more than a shell game. In this sense, there is a real danger that our fundraising activities will not only engender scandal, but may even contribute to the perpetuation of grave evils like abortion and human embryonic stem cell research.

Our fundraising initiatives need to be carefully directed towards foundations and organizations without such connections to intrinsically immoral actions. Donors who are concerned about the use of funds by Komen may wish to consider alternative groups such as the National Breast Cancer Foundation, an organization that funds mammograms, or the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, which offers information on avoidable risks including abortion. The Iacocca Family Foundation, to consider another example, promotes cutting-edge diabetes research without supporting human embryonic stem cell research. Some smaller, local organizations may also have suitable profiles for us to be able to support their work unreservedly. A determined decision to redirect our fundraising energies can also have a powerful practical impact, serving to evangelize and provide witness, as organizations become aware of the reasons why such efforts are being channeled away from them.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www. ncbcenter.org.



Students from Christ the King, Cathedral and Saint Anne schools gathered at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck on Oct. 4 for the annual Worldwide Children's Holy Hour. The children prayed a rosary together and took part in eucharistic adoration with Bishop Kagan and Dcn. Doug Helbing. The event is organized by the Bismarck division of the World Apostolate of Fatima. (Photos by Matthew Kurtz)



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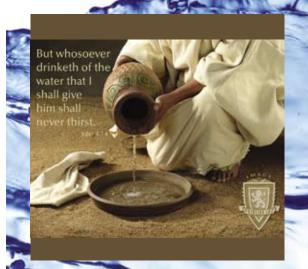
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Dan & Rose Mayo



Dickinson group visits parish's namesake

By Sarah Bengston

Webster's dictionary defines a pilgrim as "one who travels to a holy place." While we may find a definition of what a pilgrim or pilgrimage is, it is harder to define the journey of the heart that takes place as a result of a pilgrimage.

On September 25, Monsignor Patrick A. Schumacher, pastor of the Church of St. Wenceslaus in Dickinson, along with 45 pilgrims departed the U.S. for the St. Wenceslaus Centennial Pilgrimage.

We arrived in Prague, Czech Republic, for the feast of St. Wenceslaus and our group was fortunate to take part in vespers, the holy Mass and the procession of the relics of St. Wenceslaus at St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague.

The Christian faith was taught to St. Wenceslaus by his grandmother, St. Ludmila, and was later martyred by his own brother in 935. Celebrating Mass, the central element of our faith, on our parish's feast day in the presence of our patron saint's relics was truly a blessed experience; one that we continue to work to understand and cherish. We also celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Victory in Prague in the presence of the Infant Child of Prague statue.

While in Rome we visited many holy sites including the four major basilicas and the catacombs. We enjoyed a papal audience with Pope Francis, viewed the burial site of St. Peter during a Scavi tour and were privileged to celebrate Mass in his crypt. As I sat there in the crypt, nearing the

end of our long anticipated pilgrimage, I thought about St. Peter and St. Wenceslaus, martyrs and saints who continue to direct the faithful to our God, the source of our strength, joy, peace and being. I also thought about how each of us, 46 in all, started the pilgrimage with different expectations, yet encountered Christ in our own way, grew in our faith, and felt the Holy Spirit as our continual guide. As pilgrims, we knew we were traveling to holy sites, but none of us knew exactly the journey our hearts would take. What can be said, however, is that this pilgrimage truly was a blessing.

Bengtson currently serves as pastoral assistant at the Church of St. Wenceslaus, Dickinson.

What an impact your gift will have!

Matching Grant deadline nears, gifts will benefit local seminarians

By Mike Kiedrowski

The announcement of the Catholic Extension Society's (CES) matching gift challenge to raise funds for the Seminarian Scholarship Fund was made in the September 2013 *Dakota Catholic*

Action. Since then, many have responded with a gift to help meet the challenge of raising the \$100,000 to obtain the maximum grant of \$50,000. CES will match \$1 for every \$2 we raise. So far we have raised \$71,250.99 and have reached 71 percent of our goal.

Gifts in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per individual will qualify for the match. The purpose of this guideline by CES was to

-\$80,000 -\$71,250.99 -\$60,000 -\$40,000 -\$20,000

obtain many donors to this effort vs. just a few major gift donors.

Impact of your gift

Each gift of \$1,000 to \$5,000 gift will be matched 50 percent. So a \$1,000 gift actually means a \$1,500 gift. This match increases the impact of your gift. Now let's consider an impact of your gift if you are able to extend a \$5,000 gift. Here's the impact:

- Your gift increases from \$5,000 to \$7,500 with the matching grant!
- Your gift receives a federal tax deduction

Example: If you are in a 25 percent tax bracket, your estimated tax savings is \$1,250.

• Your gift receives a 40 percent N.D. Tax Credit of \$2,000 as it is directed to a qualified N.D. endowment

(Minimum gift to obtain the N.D. Tax Credit is \$5,000)

- Cost of your gift of \$5,000:
- \$1,250 federal tax deduction at a 25 percent tax bracket
- \$2,000 N.D. Tax Credit

\$1,750 Net cost

• Bottom Line: With a net cost of your gift of only \$1,750, you make a \$7,500 impact!

The most important impact will be the support you are extending to those seminarians in their first four years of study. All funds from this challenge will be directed to the newly formed scholarship endowment fund for minor seminarians. Previously there was no endowment established for these seminarians and other financial resources were limited. This will have an immediate impact on our current and future seminarians.

For more information, please contact Mike Kiedrowski, the Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation for the People of the Diocese of Bismarck at 701-204-7206 or toll free at 877-405-7435, mike@catholicfoundationdob.com. To donate online, please go to www.bismarck-diocese.com and click on Gifting Opportunities and select Seminarian Scholarship Fund.

I wish to make the following gift to this challenge:
□ \$1,000 □ \$2,500 □ \$5,000
☐ Other
Name
Address
Phone
E-mail
Mail to: Mike Kiedrowski Catholic Foundation for the People of the Diocese of Bismarck PO Box 1137 Bismarck, ND 58502-1137
Note: The Catholic Extension Society will match gifts in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000 up to December 31, 2013. Gifts of all sizes are appreciated, however. The ND Tax Credit of 40% will apply for a gift of \$5,000 (maximum gift to receive the ND Tax Credit is \$25,000 per person). For more infromation please contact Mike Kiedrowski, Executive Director, mike@catholicfoundationdob.com, 701-204-7206.

Catholic Conference files brief in abortion case

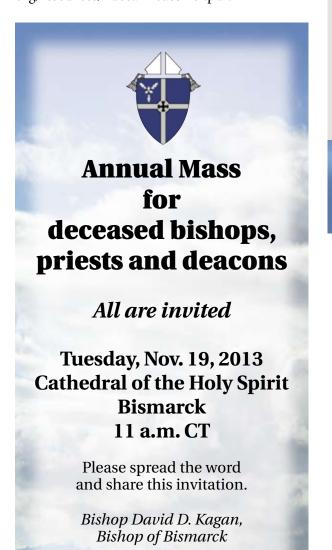
BISMARCK – The North Dakota Catholic Conference, acting on behalf of Bishop David D. Kagan of Bismarck and Bishop John T. Folda of Fargo, filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the North Dakota Supreme Court in the case of MKB Management Corp. v. Burdick, urging the court to reverse a district court decision that found a right to an abortion in the state constitution.

From its inception in 1970, the North Dakota Catholic Conference has advocated for the life, health, and safety of all human life, including unborn children and the women who contemplate or receive an abortion. The case concerns whether the state can regulate the use of abortion drugs and establish safety requirements for women obtaining abortions. A lower court judge found a right to abortion in the North Dakota Constitution and invalidated the statutes.

The brief extensively cites North Dakota and federal law to show that the North Dakota Constitution does not contain a right to abortion and the court is not required to interpret the state constitution to provide such a right. Creating such a right, the brief notes, "threatens a wide range of abortion regulations the state has enacted, including parental consent, informed consent, waiting periods and public funding restrictions, as well as virtually any other abortion regulation the State may enact. Nothing in the text, history or interpretation of the North Dakota Constitution requires such a radical result."

The brief adds: "The North Dakota Constitution must be interpreted in light of the rights and liberties it was created to uphold, and not the philosophical viewpoints of the judiciary who hold the responsibility of interpretation.' Nothing in the state constitution was intended to create or recognize a right to abortion . . ."

The brief was written in cooperation with the Thomas More Society. Based in Chicago, the society is a not-for-profit, national public interest law firm that exists to restore respect in law for life, marriage, and religious liberty. The brief is available online at: http://ndcatholic. org/resources/ndccamicusbrief.pdf.



Students plant flags to recognize lives lost to abortion

Fifth and sixth grade students at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit School planted 1,000 pink and blue flags in the lawn of the Bishop's residence in Bismarck on Oct. 4.





Another 1,000 flags were placed at the Center for Pastoral Ministry, which houses all diocesan staff. A total of 66,000 flags were planted in Bismarck that day, which represents the number of lives lost to abortion in North Dakota since the 1973 Roe v. Wade court decision that legalized the procedure.



Together, we can prevent child abuse

Act on suspicions

The future well-being of a child is at stake.

By acting on suspicions of child sexual abuse, you will save not only one child, but perhaps countless others.

Many of those who sexually abuse children have multiple victims.

You may be faced with a situation where you suspect abuse but don't have any proof.

Suspicions are scary, but trust your instincts.

Have the courage to report the suspected abuse.

To report a suspicion of child abuse, contact the local social service office where the child resides. If you're unsure about whether to make an official report or just need support, contact the Sanford Health Dakota Children's Advocacy Center at 323-5626. The staff will help you evaluate your suspicions and your next steps.

Calendar of events

Safe Environments 4 p.m. Nov. 6 St. Anne's Church, Hebron

We offer free on-going counseling and advocacy. If you or someone you know needs help, contact us at 323-5626. For more information, please visit bismarck.sanfordhealth.org.



Dakota Children's Advocacy Center SANF#RD



Dr. Hunt serves with Matthew Kelly as vice-president at The Dynamic Catholic Institute. He is a nationally known speaker and best selling author of "Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody" and "Confessions of a Mega-Church Pastor: How I Discovered the Hidden Treasures of the Catholic Church."

Keys to a happy marriage

Dr. Hunt shares how to have greater passion and purpose in marriage

By Patti Armstrong

Dr. Allen Hunt, a convert to Catholicism and a former Protestant pastor is passionate about marriages. Not just his own marriage, but all marriages. He spoke at the Church of Spirit of Life in Mandan on September 28 to 250 people who came to learn ways to put greater passion and purpose into their own marriages.

"By any measurement, marriages in this country are not doing well," he stated. "And by

any measurement, children do best when raised by both parents in a happy marriage." According to Hunt, that means we have a problem and he is working to be a part of the solution. Using humor, stories and insights, Hunt approached marriage from both the male and female perspectives. Before beginning his three talks, Hunt had everyone join in the "Prayer of a Married Couple" together, thanking God and appealing to him to bless our unions.

In his first talk titled "Five things women need to know about men," Hunt explained that men need respect more than they

need love. "When asked if they had to choose between being totally disrespected or being totally alone and unloved, three out of four men chose to be unloved than to be disrespected," he said. Hunt pointed out that Scripture supports this. "In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband." (Ephesians 5:33)

The top thing women want men to know about them is that they are not carburetors that need fixing. "Men think it is their responsibility to fix things, so often, when their wives just want them to listen, the men instead think they should tell them what they should do," Hunt said. "Usually, all they want is for their husbands to listen."

Hunt said husbands and wives can build stronger, happier relationships by building one

another up with at least five positives for every negative comment. "Contempt, criticism, anger, and abuse become habits that drain love and happiness from a marriage," he warned. "It does not kill it in a day, but it slowly drains your relationship." Hunt again pointed to Scripture. "Love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor." (Romans 12:10) In addition, he added that money problems, substance abuse, dishonesty and

adultery are the big things that destroy marriages.

Hunt said that following the Catholic faith is good for marriages. "The most engaged Catholics have the lowest divorce rates—11 percent," he said. "The Catholic faith is a safeguard because the Church's teachings are true." He also cited research that shows that devout, married Catholics report the best sex lives of any demographic group.

Ultimately, Hunt said that regardless of the issues between a husband and a wife, forgiveness was important for all marriages. "Either you can criticize and complain or

realize that you are flawed too," he said.

According to Msgr. Chad Gion, pastor of the Church of Spirit of Life, the feedback he has gotten from those that participated in the event has been very positive. "Dr. Hunt's retreat was just a few hours long, but the work that God was able to do in that time was remarkable," he said. "To watch the couples walking out of the event hand in hand, so grateful to be with each other, speaks to the desire that exists in couples to have not just tolerable marriages, but outstanding marriages. When marriages are strong, families are strong. When families are strong, the parishes are vibrant."

The audio of Dr. Hunt's three talks can be downloaded from the Spirit of Life website: myspiritoflife.com.



Kermit and Nina Heen, celebrating 70 years of marriage. (Photos by Deacon Joe Krupinsky)

Celebrating marriage in Watford City

By Joyce McDowall
Director, Office of Family Ministry

The 12th annual Celebration of Marriage day was held at the Church of Epiphany in Watford City, N.D. on September 14. It began with an opportunity for each couple to have their picture taken with Bishop Kagan. A beautiful liturgy followed, complete with Knights of Columbus Honor Guard and lovely music. Fr. Brian Gross, pastor of the Church of

Epiphany, and Fr. Josh Ehli both concelebrated Mass with Bishop Kagan.

One highlight of this year's Celebration of Marriage was honoring Williston couple Kermit and Nina Heen, who celebrated 70 years of marriage.



Fr. Brian Gross, pastor of the Church of Epiphany, Watford City

They stated that they would be welcoming their 50th great grandchild into their family in a few months. It was a true testimony of what living the sacrament of marriage is all about.

The women of Epiphany parish served a delicious luncheon for all the couples, who came from all across the region for the event.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions NOVEMBER

- Suffering Priests. That priests who experience difficulties may find comfort in their suffering, support in their doubts, and confirmation in their fidelity.
- Latin American Churches. That as fruit of the continental mission, Latin American Churches may send missionaries to other Churches.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The Diocese of Bismarck is firmly committed to the health and protection of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. With the hope of healing the pain and suffering from sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, we encourage anyone who has suffered from this abuse to please come forward and let us know. To report allegations of sexual abuse, please contact: Dale Eberle, Chancellor, Diocese of Bismarck, PO Box 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502-1575. Phone: 701.223.1347 or 1.877.405.7435. The complaint form and policies can be found on the diocesan web site at http://www.bismarckdiocese.com.

CODE OF PASTORAL CONDUCT

The Catholic Church must be exemplary: Clergy, staff, whether diocesan or parish, and volunteers are held accountable for their behavior. To enable the highest level of accountability, there must be a clear and unambiguous definition of appropriate behavior. To this end, this Code of Pastoral Conduct is defined for the Diocese of Bismarck and it provides a foundation for implementing effective and enforceable standards for all personnel. View the Code of Pastoral Conduct at http://www.bismarckdiocese.com.

"It is good to be here."

Sr. Hannah Vanorny reflects after making her Perpetual Monastic Profession

By Sister Hannah Vanorny, OSB **Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck**

I am often asked why I became a sister – but the real question, I think, is not how I came to be a sister, but why have I continued to be a sister?

When I first felt that stirring in my heart to pursue becoming a sister, it was exciting! I imagined all kinds of things...an idvllic prayer life in a beautiful setting; a community of sisters who would always be loving and kind (how could they not be, they were sisters!); a life of peace and simplicity with ample time for reading and reflection; a life with little conflict...

Then I moved into the monastery.

Reality quickly set in as I realized that sisters, while they really are amazing women who indeed aspire each day to seek God, are actually rather ordinary people. People who have good days and bad days...people who can get on your last nerve...people who you sometimes wish you didn't have to see each and every day...

When I ponder why I continue to live as a Benedictine sister with 35 other women in one building, I often think of Sister JoAnn Krebsbach, who always concludes her vocation story with, "It is good to be here." And she is right. Despite the difficulties of living in community, the benefits far outweigh the negatives. At the end of each day, I can honestly say that it is indeed good to be a sister at Annunciation Monastery. Why is good to be here? A few reasons:

Prayer. We spend our lives praising God! While I may have ups and downs in my personal prayer life, I know that I will always have the community's prayer life to depend on, to help me in times of need. We pray the Liturgy of the Hours together morning and evening and celebrate the Eucharist daily.

The Rule of St. Benedict. Our monastic Benedictine life has a certain order to it. We follow a little rule written by a monk in the 500s AD. It is full



Sr. Hannah, center, sings "Receive me, O Lord, according to your promise and I shall live. Do not disappoint me in my hope" as she makes her Perpetual Monastic Profession Oct. 12 at Our Lady of Annunciation Chapel on the campus of the University of Mary. Also pictured are Sr. Susan Lardy, left, and Sr. Nancy Miller, Prioress. (Photo by Jerald Anderson Photography)

of sensible ideas and rules mixed with compassionate and caring ways of relating to one another.

Learning. Benedictines focus a lot on learning, which I love. Since becoming a sister, I've studied a lot about the Catholic Church (our teachings, history, Vatican II documents, the Bible, etc.) and about what it means to be Benedictine (including in-depth studies of our prayer life, our monastic history, and even how to read and interpret chant). I have learned about the amazing strength of women in our Church. The sisters in my community are educated, courageous, smart and very capable. Their strength and confidence empowers me to develop my own leadership skills as a woman and sister in the Catholic Church.

Community, community! I chose to join a monastic order because of the focus on

living in a community of sisters – we pray, eat, play and work together. While it can be challenging living with so many other women, the benefits are definitely worth it. My sisters provide me with support, encouragement, companionship, friendship, a shoulder to cry on and people to celebrate with. They are basically my "other" family and I cannot imagine life without them. We seek God together.

Joy. I like to laugh and to be around people who appreciate humor and do not take everything too seriously. The sisters fit that bill. They live life with an optimism born of a firm belief in the goodness of God.

So why am I still here after six years? I again quote Sister JoAnn – it really is undeniably "good to be here."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Seminarians and those in Religious Formation

Sr. Rebecca Mayer, OSB

Abbot Brian Wangler, OSB

Deacon James Wosepka

Sr. Paula Larson, OSB

Rev. Kenneth Wald

Nov. 4

Nov. 5

Nov. 6

Nov. 7

Nov. 8

Nov. 9

Nov. 27

Nov. 28

Nov. 29

Nov. 30

Nov. 12, 1961

Nov. 13, 1918

UPCOMING EVENTS

Retrouvaille: A lifeline for troubled marriages - The Retrouvaille program will return to the Bismarck Diocese Jan. 17-19, 2014. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, or if you are considering separation or divorce, try Retrouvaille. The weekend begins at 7 p.m. Friday and concludes at 5 p.m. Sunday. To register and for more information, visit www.retrouvaille. org or contact Joyce McDowall, 701-204-7209 or jmcdowall@ bismarckdiocese.com.

Youth ministry workshop in Bismarck - Dr. Jeffry Kaster will give a youth ministry workshop titled "Dynamic Youth Ministry: A Call to Discipleship" on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Church of Saint Anne in Bismarck. The workshop is designed for all parish staff and volunteers who minister to youth, especially directors of religious education, youth ministers, catechists and volunteers. To register for the workshop, email Melissa Hund-Cerna at triparish.youthministry@gmail.com by Friday, Nov. 1. Cost for the workshop is \$10, which includes lunch. Call 701-989-0196 for more

"Ever Wonder?" retreat at Annunciation Monastery

- The Benedictine sisters of Annunciation Monastery are hosting an "Ever Wonder" discernment retreat weekend at the monastery beginning at 11 a.m. Nov. 9 – 1 p.m. Nov. 10. All single women are welcome. To register for this free overnight event or for more info, contact Sr. Hannah Vanorny (vocations@annunciationmonastery.org) or call/text 701-

Life in the Spirit Seminar in Valley City - A Life in the Spirit Seminar will be held at the Church of St. Catherine in Valley City, N.D. beginning on Friday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. and closing Sunday afternoon, Nov. 17. This is an opportunity to experience an inner renewal through Scripture, sacraments, inspiring talks, discussions, prayer and song. Everyone is welcome. There is no cost for the weekend, though a freewill donation will be accepted. For more information or to preregister, contact Doran Chandler at 701-840-1257 or Deacon Joe (Deb) Leitner at 701-845-0817.

PRAY FOR THE PRIESTS, **RELIGIOUS AND DEACONS** SERVING OUR DIOCESE

Nov. 1 Rev. Austin Vetter Nov. 2 Deacon Wilfred Wolf Seminarian Brandon Wolf Nov. 3

Nov. 10 Sr. Rose Schweitzer, OSB Nov. 11 Sr. Rita Miller, OSB Nov. 12 Deacon Robert Zent Nov. 13 Sr. Laura Hecker, OSB Nov. 14 Msgr. Gerald Walsh Deacon Edward Ziman Nov. 15 Bro. John Patrick Arnett, OSB Nov. 16 Nov. 17 Sr. Elizbeth Novy, OSB Nov. 18 Sr. Renee Branigan, OSB Nov. 19 All Lay Ministers Nov. 20 Seminarian Gregory Crane Nov. 21 Rev. Sebastian Schmidt, OSB Nov. 22 Rev. Chris Walter Nov. 23 Deacon Daniel Barone Nov. 24 Rev. Basil Atwell, OSB Sr. Agnes Reinert, OSB Nov. 25 Nov. 26 Sr. Michael Emond, OSB

Rev. Patrick Cunningham

Bro. Louie Bachand, OSB

Deacon Steve Brannon

Sr. Renee Zastoupil

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR **DECEASED CLERGY ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR DEATH**

Rev. Leo Gourde, OSB Nov. 2, 1979 Rev. Louis Pfaller, OSB Nov. 2, 1979 Nov. 2, 1941 Most Rev. Vincent Wehrle, OSB Nov. 3, 1918 Rev. George Rau Nov. 6, 1990 Most Rev. Hilary B. Hacker Nov. 6, 1957 Rev. Ambrose Johanns, OSB Nov. 6, 1917 Rev. Ambrose Lethert, OSB Nov. 7, 1904 Rev. Claude Ebner, OSB Rev. Leo Kaufman Nov. 7, 1957 Rev. Augustine Fox, OSB Nov. 8, 1947 Rev. Walter Lenger Nov. 8, 1948 Deacon Martin Schumacher Nov. 8, 2004 Rev. Amandus Struder, OSB Nov. 9, 1983 Nov. 10, 1998 Rev. Joseph Adkins Most Rev. Vincent J. Ryan Nov. 10, 1951 Nov. 11, 1961 Rev. Charles Bauer, C.P.P.S. Nov. 11, 1992 Rev. Harold Roth, C.P.S.

Rev. Joseph Heer

Rev. Clement Bauer, OSB

Rev. Jerome Schommer, SDS Nov. 13, 1994 Nov. 15, 1931 Rev. Maurice Hilpert, OSB Nov. 15, 1952 Rev. Timothy Majerus, OSB Nov. 15, 1971 Rev. Otto Weber, C.P.S. Rev. Otto Diller, C.PPS Nov. 16, 1981 Nov. 16, 1980 Rev. Thomas Jundt, OSB Rev. Edmund Guillozet, C.P.S. Nov. 17, 1954 Rev. Herman Regensburger Nov. 19, 1918 Nov. 21, 1945 Rev. Berthold Brown, OSB Rev. Donald Hill Nov. 21, 2004 Nov. 21, 2001 Rev. C. Robert Kayanev Deacon Dominic Pereira Nov. 21, 1992 Nov. 22, 1962 Rev. John Dubsky Rev. Paul Neussendorfer, OSB Nov. 22, 1939 Nov. 22, 1925 Rev. Aloysius Strigl, OSB Nov. 23, 1982 Rev. Maurice Kelch, SDS Rev. Clarence L. Gavett Nov. 24, 1991 Nov. 25, 1966 Rev. Richard Rauth, C.P.S. Nov. 28, 1950 Rev. William Hake Nov. 28, 2010 Rev. Michael Krank Nov. 29, 1965 Rev. Francis M. Rvan Nov. 30, 1918 Rev. Karl Hellmeier Rev. Augustine Studeny, OSB Nov. 30, 1956

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: The Dakota Catholic Action is published monthly except for July. Material deadline is noon the first Friday of the month for the following months' publication (ex: first Friday in January for the February issue of the DCA). Recurring or ongoing events must be submitted each time they occur to be included.

ACCEPTED MATERIAL: Brief notices of upcoming events hosted by diocesan parishes and institutions. Items are published on a space available basis.

SUBMITTED ITEMS MUST INCLUDE:

For consideration each event must be listed individually and include:

- *Time and date of event
- *Full event description including related times
- *Complete address of event venue
- *Contact information of individual responsible for submitted

E-mail: mkurtz@bismarckdiocese.com Mail: DCA Calendar, PO Box 1137, Bismarck ND 58502-1137

