

New Earth

October 2022 | Vol. 43 | No. 9



The Magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Fargo

A new beginning for Maryvale

**Diocese of Fargo to assume
operations at the retreat center**



**From Bishop Folda:
Maryvale: A new chapter**

**Healing presence of Christ
experienced at Redeemed
Eucharistic Conference**

**Catholic Action: Making
an informed Catholic
choice in November**

A Portfolio of Protection

- Permanent Life Insurance** — Our signature product. Insure your life for life.
- Term Life Insurance** — Affordable protection for temporary needs.
- Retirement Annuities** — Retirement income you can count on. Guaranteed.
- Long-Term Care Insurance** — Protect your assets. Get quality care. Prepare for the future.
- Disability Income Insurance** — Receive an income even when you are sick or can't work.

The Knights of Columbus offers a full-line of quality, flexible products backed by our highly-rated financial strength* to help protect your Catholic family.

* As of 01/2021, rated A+ Superior by A.M. Best



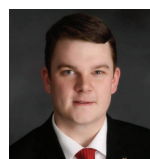
Wayne Cherney, FIC, LUTCF
Devils Lake
701-662-4420
701-739-8143
wayne.cherney@kofc.org



Jamison Fetting, FIC
Napoleon
701-325-0712
jamison.fetting@kofc.org



Joel Herman, FICF
Wahpeton, Jamestown
701-219-5847
joel.herman@kofc.org



Sam Owan, FIC
Williston/Minot
701-609-1918
samuel.owan@kofc.org



Don Willey, FIC
Bismarck
701-202-9089
don.willey@kofc.org



This Could Be You!
Contact Jon for
Career Opportunities

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Jon Beebe
General Agent

(605) 882-8689

jon.beebe@kofc.org

www.kofcbeebeagency.com



© Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510



Celebrate with a \$2,022 savings.

Riverview Place offers a sense of comfort in a safe, uplifting and supportive environment that includes fun activities, healthy meals, and customized care plans.

Sign a lease and enjoy a savings of \$2,022 off your rent through the end of this year!

For a tour, call 701.237.4700.

5300 12th Street South | Fargo, North Dakota
Independent Living | Assisted Living
CHILivingCommunities.org/Riverview

Hello humankindness®

 **CHI Living Communities**
Riverview Place

ON THE COVER:

Aerial view of Maryvale. The property is nearly 500 acres in size, and borders the Sheyenne River. (submitted photo)

TABLE OF CONTENTS



FROM BISHOP FOLDA

- 4 Maryvale: A new chapter

LOCAL

- 12 Healing presence of Christ experienced at Redeemed Eucharistic Conference

NEXT GEN

- 13 New school year, new school for Holy Spirit students



COVER STORY

- 16 A new beginning for Maryvale: Diocese of Fargo to assume operations at the retreat center

FAITH AND CULTURE

- 20 Book visits the tale of one of America's greatest little-known disasters

OUR CATHOLIC LIFE

- 27 From military to Carmel: a vocation story

US/WORLD NEWS

- 33 Pope Francis: The Eucharist teaches us to adore God rather than ourselves

SIDEWALK STORIES

- 35 Good news, bad news of a dead-end sidewalk



NEW EARTH

(ISSN# 10676406)

Mission

Our mission is to inform, teach, and inspire readers about the Catholic faith and the life of parishioners in Eastern North Dakota. *New Earth* is the official monthly publication of the Diocese of Fargo.

Publisher

Most Rev. John T. Folda
Bishop of Fargo

Editor

Paul Braun

Assistant editor & designer

Kristina Lahr

Subscriptions

Parish contributions make it possible for each registered Catholic household in the diocese to receive 11 issues per year. Those outside the diocese are asked to consider a \$9 yearly donation. To subscribe, change an address, donate, or see past issues of *New Earth*, go to: fargodiocese.org/new-earth.

Contact *New Earth* staff

news@fargodiocese.org
(701) 356-7900

New Earth

5201 Bishops Blvd S., Suite A
Fargo, ND 58104

Deadlines

Deadline to submit articles, events, and advertisements for the November issue is Oct. 18, 2022. All submissions are subject to editing and placement.

New Earth is published by the Catholic Diocese of Fargo, a nonprofit North Dakota corporation, 5201 Bishops Blvd. S, Suite A Fargo, ND 58104.

Periodical Postage Paid at Fargo, ND and at additional mailing offices.

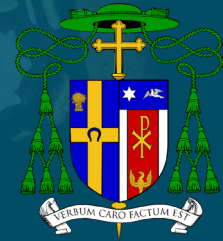
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Diocese of Fargo, 5201 Bishops Blvd, Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104.

Member of the Catholic Media Association



"THE Word BECAME FLESH."

BISHOP JOHN T. FOLDA



Maryvale: A new chapter

"Mary set out and traveled to the hill country..." In the month of October, a month traditionally dedicated to Mary, a special blessing has been offered to us in the Diocese of Fargo. Many of you are familiar with Maryvale, the regional motherhouse near Valley City of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. I am happy to share with you the news that the Sisters have offered Maryvale, their home, to the good people of our diocese.

Maryvale, which means "Mary's Valley," was established as the sisters' motherhouse in 1965. In addition to serving as their home and their headquarters in the United States, the sisters have hosted numerous retreats and other events, extending hospitality to countless visitors over the years. But as the number of sisters has declined in recent years, they approached me about future uses for Maryvale. While they realized that they no longer need the entire facility, they also hoped that the ministry of hospitality and spiritual development might continue at Maryvale.

So, in a beautiful act of trust and generosity, the sisters have given the Maryvale property to the Diocese of Fargo for continued use by the people of God. And in a further act of generosity, the sisters have also established a substantial trust fund to help support the ongoing operations of Maryvale and its apostolates.

I cannot overstate the significance of this gift. Maryvale has been an important center of spiritual life in the Diocese of Fargo for many decades, hosting retreats for priests, deacons and their spouses, SEARCH retreats for youth, vocation discerners, campus ministry groups, women's and men's retreats, and many, many others. With great foresight and love for the Church, the sisters realized the value of maintaining this essential apostolate, and so were willing to make this personal sacrifice of their spiritual home for the benefit of all the faithful.

As an added blessing, the sisters will continue to reside at Maryvale. It will still be their home, even though they are entrusting it now to the care of the Diocese. Meanwhile, they will support the spiritual mission of Maryvale with their prayers, their ample experience, and the witness of their lives. What a gift it is to have the prayerful accompaniment of the sisters for those who participate in retreats and other events at Maryvale.

I see this as a new opportunity for spiritual growth in our diocese. In a beautiful setting on a hillside outside Valley City, Maryvale can be an ideal site for parish retreats and other gatherings of the faithful. Individuals who wish to get away with the Lord can also make their own private retreats or days of recollection in the peaceful surroundings of the Maryvale campus. To his own disciples, Jesus said, "Come away and rest awhile." We all need occasions of spiritual refreshment, opportunities to step away from the noise and busyness of our daily lives. A retreat, or a simple day of recollection can be an occasion to rest in the Lord, to listen to his word in our hearts, and to be renewed for the responsibilities of our vocation in life.

Needless to say, a facility like Maryvale needs ongoing upkeep and material support. The work of spiritual programming and maintaining a building with its sprawling grounds require adequate staffing and funding. The sisters have made a generous contribution to the operation of Maryvale, but we must do our part as well. I will begin an initiative to match the contribution of the Sisters so that Maryvale can operate on a sound basis and make necessary improvements in the years to come. And to that end, I would encourage you, the faithful of our Diocese, to consider how you might support this important spiritual work of the Church.

This gift of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation is only the latest sign of their love for Christ and his Church. Since their arrival in the Diocese of Fargo more than a hundred years ago,

I see this as a new opportunity for spiritual growth in our diocese. In a beautiful setting on a hillside outside Valley City, Maryvale can be an ideal site for parish retreats and other gatherings of the faithful. —Bishop John T. Folda

they have worked zealously in the fields of Catholic education, Catholic health care, spiritual direction, and evangelization. I cannot thank them enough for their apostolic service in our diocese. And this occasion allows me to thank *all* of the religious sisters and communities who serve or served in the Diocese of Fargo. They continue to inspire us by their witness to love of Christ, their service to the Church, and their lives of prayer and charity. All of our religious sisters have given their lives as Gospel witnesses, and we are richer in faith because of them.

Maryvale now opens a new chapter, and I pray that God will continue to bless those who come to “Mary’s Valley” for spiritual growth and rest. May our Blessed Mother Mary, who set out for the hill country of Judea to visit Elizabeth, meet us on the hillside of Maryvale and walk with us as we encounter Jesus, her Son.



Diocese of Fargo Official Appointments/Announcements

Most Rev. John T. Folda, Bishop of Fargo, has made the following appointments, announcements, and/or decrees.

I hereby appoint the:

Rev. F. Scott Karnik Administrator of **St. Patrick’s Church, Enderlin; Holy Trinity, Fingal; and Our Lady of the Scapular, Sheldon**, effective October 2, 2022, and continuing *ad nutum episcopi*.

Rev. Robert J. Keller Parochial vicar of **Holy Spirit Church, Fargo**, in accord with cc. 545-552, effective October 2, 2022, and continuing *ad nutum episcopi*.

BISHOP FOLDA’S CALENDAR

Oct. 15 • 2 p.m.

Mass for God’s Children, Cathedral of St Mary, Fargo

Oct. 19 • 9:30 a.m.

St. JP II Feast Day, JP II All School Mass, Shanley Gym, Fargo

Oct. 20 • 9 a.m.

Diocesan Professional Development and Mass, Shanley High School, Fargo

Oct. 21 • 5 p.m.

Mass at Youth Rally, Red Willow Bible Camp, Binford

Oct. 24 • 7 p.m.

Pro-Life Fundraiser for Shanley High School, Fargo

Oct. 26 • 3 p.m.

St. JP II Schools Board Meeting, Pastoral Center, Fargo

Oct. 26 • 5:30 p.m.

Operation Andrew Dinner, Bishop Residence, Fargo

Oct. 27 • 2 p.m.

Pastoral Council Meeting, Pastoral Center, Fargo

Oct. 27 • 6 p.m.

bisonCatholic Banquet, Delta Hotel by Marriott, Fargo

Oct. 29–30

Pastoral visit to Wishek, Ashley, and Zeeland

Nov. 1 • 12:10 p.m.

All Saints Day, Cathedral of St. Mary, Fargo

Nov. 2 • 9 a.m.

St. JP II Memorial Mass, Sacred Heart Chapel, Fargo

Nov. 4 • 5 p.m.

St. Catherine School Fall Auction, Eagle’s Club, Valley City

Nov. 5 • 5 p.m.

Mass for Musicians Workshop, Sts. Anne and Joachim, Fargo

Nov. 8 • 5:30 p.m.

Operation Andrew Dinner, Bishop Residence, Fargo

Nov. 10 • 5:30 p.m.

St. JP II Schools President’s Dinner, Jasper Hotel, Fargo

MONTHLY EUCHARIST MIRACLE

Eucharistic miracle of Sokolka

Originally published September 2017 on
aleteia.org (edited for content and space)



The miracle of Sokolka, Poland took place on Oct. 12, 2008. During the Holy Mass celebrated at the parish church of St. Anthony, a consecrated host fell from the hands of one of the priests during the distribution of Communion. The priest picked up the host, and, in accordance with liturgical norms, placed it in a small container of water. The host was expected to dissolve in the water, which would later be disposed of properly.

At the end of the Mass, at the request of the pastor, the parish sacristan poured the water and the host into another container. Knowing that the consecrated host would take time to dissolve, she placed the container in the safe in the parish sacristy. Only she and the pastor had the keys to the safe. A week later, when the pastor asked her about the condition of the host, the sacristan went to the safe. When she opened the door, she noticed a delicate aroma of unleavened bread. When she opened the container, she saw, in the middle of the host—which was still largely intact—a curved, bright red stain, like a blood stain: a living particle of a body. The water was untainted by the color.

The sacristan immediately informed the priest, who brought in the other priests at the parish. They were amazed and left speechless by what they saw. They kept a discreet and prudent silence about the event, considering its importance, but immediately notified the archbishop of Białystok. They were all deeply moved by what they saw. The archbishop ordered that the host be protected while they waited to see what would happen.

On Oct. 29, the container with the host was transferred to the Divine Mercy Chapel in the rectory and placed in the tabernacle. The next day, by decision of the archbishop, the stained host was taken out of the water and placed on a small corporal,

which was then put back in the tabernacle. The host was kept this way for three years, until it was solemnly brought to the church on Oct. 2, 2011. A piece of the altered host was taken and analyzed independently by two experts in order to ensure the credibility of the results.

When the samples were taken for analysis, the undissolved part of the consecrated host had become embedded in the cloth. However, the red blood clot was as clear as ever. This transformed part of the host was dry and fragile, interwoven with the rest of the fragment, which had kept the form of bread.

The results of both independent studies were in perfect agreement. They concluded that the structure of the transformed fragment of the host is identical to the myocardial (heart) tissue of a living person who is nearing death. The structure of the heart muscle fibers is deeply intertwined with that of the bread, in a way impossible to achieve with human means. The studies proved that no foreign substance was added to the consecrated host; rather, part of the host took the form of heart muscle of a person near death. This phenomenon is inexplicable by the natural sciences.

In its official communiqué, the Metropolitan Curia of Białystok stated, “The Sokolka event is not opposed to the faith of the Church; rather, it confirms it. The Church professes that, after the words of consecration, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread is transformed into the Body of Christ, and the wine into his Blood. Additionally, this is an invitation for all ministers of the Eucharist to distribute the Body of the Lord with faith and care, and for the faithful to receive him with adoration.”



Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

October:

A Church open to everyone

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

New Marian grotto at St. John's Academy dedicated to Monsignor Jeffrey Wald

By Paul Braun | Editor of New Earth



Bishop Folda leads faithful gathered at St. John's Academy in Jamestown in dedicating the new Marian Grotto at the school on Sept. 8. (Paul Braun | New Earth)

In what could not be a more fitting way to celebrate the birth of Mary, the mother of Our Lord, the faithful in Jamestown took the occasion to dedicate their new Marian Grotto located outside the walls of the new chapel at St. John's Academy.

Bishop Folda was joined by the pastor of St. James Basilica, Father Neil Pfeifer, students from the academy, and parishioners of St. James Basilica in dedicating the grotto in memory of Monsignor Jeffrey Wald, the late pastor of the Basilica and

a staunch supporter of St. John's Academy and Catholic education.

Monsignor Wald chose the site of the grotto during the construction of the chapel and expansion project of the academy in 2020 before his death in October of that year. He envisioned an outdoor space that would be used by students, staff, and parish members to aid in their spiritual growth. The grotto was paid for through private donations and memorials in honor of Monsignor Wald.

Before the dedication ceremony, a pie social was held at the St. James Basilica social hall featuring a rosary made of 53 varieties of pies, one for every Hail Mary said in the rosary. Parishioners donated over 80 pies in total for the social honoring the birth of Our Lady.



Parishioners of St. James Basilica in Jamestown donated pies to create a "pie rosary" for a pie social held at the Basilica in honor of Our Lady's birthday. (Paul Braun | New Earth)

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen. (From USCCB)





OUR VOCATIONS

Answering God's call to the priesthood, religious life, and diaconate

SEMINARIANS



Dcn. Matthew Kensok

Hometown: Casselton
Parish: St. Michael's,
Grand Forks
Year: Pastoral Year



Seth Skjervheim

Hometown: Langdon
School: MSMS
Year: Theology III



Jasper Keller

Hometown: Fargo
School: SPS
Year: Theology II



Timothy Kraemer

Hometown: Grand Forks
School: MSMS
Year: Theology II



Richie Stenger

Hometown: Fargo
School: MSMS
Year: Theology II



Garrett Aberle

Hometown: Minot
School: SPS
Year: Theology I



Brendon Schneibel

Hometown: Manvel
School: MSMS
Year: Theology I



Pat Sorrells

Hometown: Fargo
School: SPS
Year: Theology I



Taylor Ternes

Hometown: Devils Lake
School: MSMS
Year: Theology I



Matthew Follis

Affiliation: Fargo
School: MSMS
Year: Pre-Theology I



William Gerads

Hometown: Ham Lake, Minn.
School: SGGS
Year: Pre-Theology I



Paul Zach

Hometown: Rosholt, S.D.
School: SGGS
Year: College IV



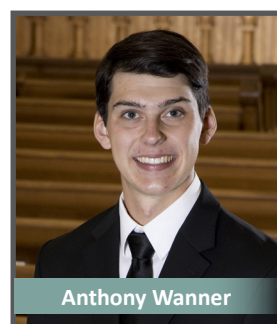
Kade Palmer

Hometown: Portland
School: SGGS
Year: College II



Gregory Splonskowski

Hometown: Hawley, Minn.
School: SGGS
Year: College II



Anthony Wanner

Hometown: Fargo
School: SGGS
Year: College I

MSMS: Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

SGGS: St. Gregory the Great Seminary, Seward, Neb.

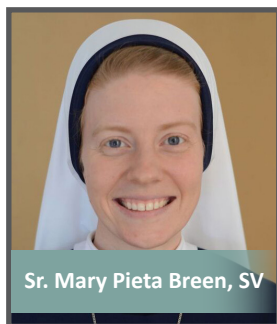
SPS: Saint Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

RELIGIOUS IN FORMATION



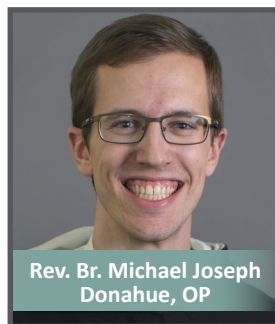
Sr. Maria Teresa (of the Sacred Heart) Borden

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Novice; Carmel of Mary, Wahpeton, N.D.



Sr. Mary Pieta Breen, SV

Hometown: Fargo
Professed Sisters of Life, Stamford, Conn.



Rev. Br. Michael Joseph Donahue, OP

Hometown: Moorhead, Minn.
Solemn Vows Eastern Province of St. Joseph, Washington, D.C.



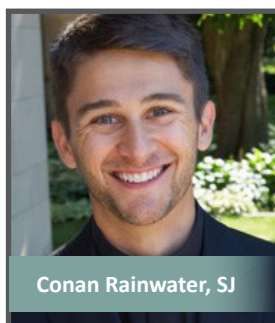
Sr. Mary Angela Gross, ACJ

Hometown: Napoleon
Temporary Vows Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus, Dickinson, N.D.



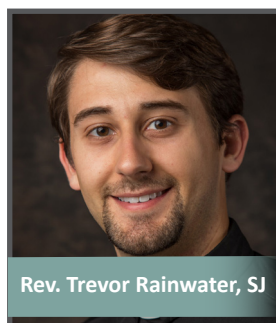
Br. Stephen Johnson, OSB

Hometown: Fargo
Temporary Vows Order of St. Benedict, Richardton, N.D.



Conan Rainwater, SJ

Hometown: Fargo
Regency Society of Jesus, Midwest Province



Rev. Trevor Rainwater, SJ

Hometown: Fargo
Theology Society of Jesus, Midwest Province



Br. Joseph Maria Thaelke, KHE

Hometown: Crystal
Temporary Professed Knights of the Holy Eucharist, Lincoln, Neb.



Sr. Miryam Vandal, PCC

Hometown: Langdon
Temporary Vows Poor Clare Colettines, Belleville, Ill.

DIACONATE CANDIDATES



Shawn DeKeyser

Blessed Sacrament Church, West Fargo



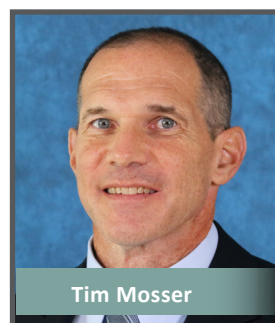
Brian Herding

St. Anthony Church, Fargo



Ted LeMier

Sts. Anne & Joachim Church, Fargo



Tim Mosser

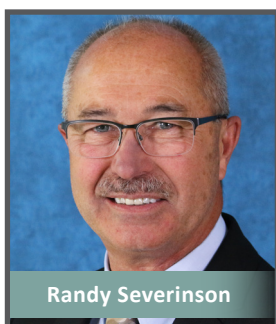
Sts. Anne & Joachim Church, Fargo



Tom O'Keefe

St. Anthony Church, Fargo

These men are in their third of five years of formation.



Randy Severinson

Holy Family Church, Grand Forks



Steve Splonskowski

Cathedral of St. Mary, Fargo



Bruce Wehri

Holy Spirit Church, Fargo

Remembering the lost, defending the future

By Deacon Ben Seitz | Deacon at Sts. Anne and Joachim Church, Fargo



Members of Deacon Teams for Life from Shanley High School in Fargo place a wreath at the grave marker honoring 100 aborted babies buried at Holy Cross Cemetery North in Fargo (Paul Braun | New Earth)

The National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children was observed on Sept. 10 at Holy Cross Cemetery North in Fargo. On that day, we were called to pray and reflect on the victims of abortion. It is a day to take inventory of where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going in the ongoing battle to protect innocent lives.

While the number of abortions in the U.S. has been reduced in recent years (under one million annually), globally there were over 73 million children aborted in 2021 according to the World Health Organization. That is staggering; worldwide 30% of all pregnancies end in abortion.

The quietest and most vulnerable victims, of course, are the babies, whose lives are violently ended simply because they were not planned, not wanted, and not loved. God had created these children, each for a special purpose in today's world; children that would grow to become the great doctors, great teachers, great leaders, and great friends that the world so desperately needs. Children who were never given the opportunities to smile and laugh, to win and to lose, to love and to be loved.

The mother is a victim as well. Often times she feels she has been left with no other options. She can find no one willing to stand by her in her time of need; no man willing to stand in the breach. Even in those instances where she thought an abortion was the right thing to do or the best option, she is the one left to bear the burden of guilt, remorse, and emptiness.

On June 29, we celebrated the overturning of the Supreme Court *Roe vs. Wade* decision. It is good news! Unfortunately, the decision to overrule *Roe vs. Wade* was not based on a newfound interpretation that life begins at conception or in horror at the over 60 million lives that had been lost in the U.S. over the past 50 years. A battle has been won, but the war is far from over. So what can each of us do in this battle for hearts and souls?

First, we must all engage the spiritual warfare battle with even greater intensity. Prayer is powerful and the Holy Rosary is the ultimate weapon of prayer to break the evil hold that Satan has on our culture. We should couple our daily prayer for life with fasting. Prayer and fasting are the weapons in the battle for life. Without being grounded in prayer, all other actions will be fruitless.

Secondly, we must evangelize our culture; we must bring others to Christ! Some might say, "what does evangelization have to do with changing people's minds about abortion?" One might say that it's more difficult to reason with a non-believer about the sanctity of life than it is to lead that same person to an encounter with Jesus Christ. Changing someone's mind about abortion is nearly impossible as most people are firmly entrenched in their beliefs. What is needed is a change of heart. When we lead others to Christ, hearts are changed from within and intellects are enlightened through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those who accept the Gospel are more open to the truth.

Finally, the recent changes in the legal landscape in the U.S. have ushered in new and bold initiatives for the care of mothers. Tim Mosser, Director of the Fargo Diocese Respect Life Office, has been spearheading the "Walking with Moms in Need" program. This parish-based program provides essential information to not only expectant mothers but all mothers discerning options available to them. The "Walking with Moms in Need" program is designed to act as a community hub for mothers and expectant mothers to find the resources they need. The Knights of Columbus recently established the Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program. This program was established to support pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes throughout the world. Both of these programs aim to support not only pregnant women in their decision to choose life but also open the door to support young mothers and young families after babies are born.

Each of us is called to engage in this battle for the lives of the innocent, to support mothers, and to transform this culture of death into a culture of life. Let us resolve today to pray and fast, bring others to Christ, and find new ways of supporting new mothers in our communities so that our children might live in a world of light and life.

Father Jerald Finnestad receives Quilt of Valor

By Red River Quilts of Valor



Father Jerald Finnestad, retired priest of the Diocese of Fargo, received the Quilt of Valor Aug. 10. (submitted photo)

Father Jerald Finnestad received a Quilt of Valor (QOV) during a ceremony held at St. Catherine's Living Center in Fargo on Aug. 10.

A QOV is a quality quilt that is machine or hand quilted and awarded to a Service Member or veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

Any service member or living veteran who served in the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard is eligible for a QOV.

Members of the activated National

Guard and activated or active duty-special work reservists are included.

The Red River Quilts of Valor gave Father Finnestad the quilt because he is a Veteran who served in the Army. Father Finnestad received the Quilt from the local chapter of the Red River Quilts of Valor, a nationally renowned nonprofit with chapters in every state.

Father Jerry was drafted into the Army and served from 1966–68. His basic training was at Fort Polk, La., where most of the infantry soldiers prepared for combat in Vietnam. He was transferred to Ansbach, West Germany, where he was a clerk typist. Father Jerry held the rank of Specialist Sargent E5.

He received the Good Conduct Medal, European Theater Ribbon, Rifle and Machine Gun Award, and the Board and Star Ribbon.

He attended Northern Illinois University, the University of North Dakota, and St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. He was ordained in 1980 and served as a priest for 41 years.

We thank you for your service and sacrifice.



Bishop Folda leads attendees of the Pro-Life strategy meeting in prayer at the Sts. Anne and Joachim social hall in Fargo on Sept. 23. The meeting was for priests and parishioners to encourage them to build a pro-life team in their parish, parish cluster, or deanery. Many pro-life groups were represented to give the more than 70 in attendance an idea of the missions and working of the specific groups. The goal of the strategy meeting was to collaborate with each other and utilize the resources of the group to better serve the pro-life cause. (Paul Braun | New Earth)

HURLEY'S
RELIGIOUS GOODS
Serving our faith community since 1951

Religious gifts for all occasions
Baptism, First Communion,
Confirmation, weddings, art work,
statues, jewelry, crucifixes, candles,
books, church supplies, rosaries,
nativity sets, greeting cards,
children and baby gifts

www.Hurleysrg.com 1417 S University Dr, Fargo
info@hurleysrg.com 1-800-437-4338

Healing presence of Christ experienced at Redeemed Eucharistic Conference

As part of the three-year Eucharistic Revival, the Diocese of Fargo hosted the Redeemed Eucharistic Conference Sept. 23-24 at the Delta Hotel by Marriott in Fargo. Over 1,000 people gathered to hear Monsignor James Shea, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, and Dr. Mary Healy present on the beauty and healing power of the Eucharist and to witness to the healing power of Jesus Christ during the Eucharistic healing service.

Stay tuned as we unpack the blessings and grace received from the weekend. (Photos by Kristina Lahr | New Earth)



New school year, new school for Holy Spirit students

By Paul Braun | Editor of New Earth



The Olson family stands outside the Cathedral of St. Mary Wanzek Center in Fargo, the temporary location for Holy Spirit Elementary School. (submitted photo)

The first day of school for students of Fargo's Holy Spirit Elementary School was an eventful one. Not only were the 106 students beginning a new school year, they were doing so in a new, temporary school building.

On May 17, staff at Holy Spirit school noticed that walls were buckling-in and cracking near the Little Deacons classroom areas of the school. It was decided to end the school year early on May 20 for the safety of students and staff. An investigation into the structural problems revealed a slight settling of the load-bearing walls, which caused the interlocking non-load

bearing walls to shift. Repairs are already underway, but the school will remain closed throughout the 2022–23 school year.

The immediate concern for Holy Spirit staff and families was where classes would be held this school year. Thankfully, a former school building was available in the diocese not far from Holy Spirit. The Cathedral of St. Mary's Wanzek Center, formally St. Mary's school, was offered to Holy Spirit to serve as a temporary school building for the academic year.

Making the move from Holy Spirit School to the Wanzek Center was made possible through the work of students from Sacred Heart Middle School and Shanley High School's summer strength and conditioning program. These volunteers provided the muscle needed to move books, furniture, and supplies from one school to the other before the start of the school year.

Work continues repairing the damaged areas of Holy Spirit School. The cost of the project is estimated at nearly \$1 million, and will be paid for as part of a larger capital improvement campaign for Holy Spirit parish.



Workers dig into the foundation of Holy Spirit Elementary School in Fargo to determine the cause of collapsing walls. (submitted photo)



Building Manager - Fargo

The University of Mary is seeking a property manager for our Fargo campus, located at 1351 Page Drive South. This position will ensure that day-to-day custodial operations and general maintenance are carried out in a timely, efficient, and effective manner; serve as the liaison to the building occupants and contractors; and build a culture of ready and earnest hospitality in accord with Saint Benedict's admonition that all be received as Christ. Candidates will be invited to demonstrate a willingness to support the Christian, Catholic, Benedictine mission of the University of Mary. To apply, visit our career page at <https://universityofmary.applytojob.com/apply/jhLztiOTte/Building-Manager-Fargo>.

NAPOLÉON LIVESTOCK



SALE EVERY THURSDAY

1-800-932-8821

napoleonlivestock.com

3 Generations of Livestock Marketing Integrity

Dylan Bitz 321-0672 Paul Bitz 226-6199

Jacob Bitz 329-0315 Jim Bitz 226-6197

George Bitz 226-6198

School year begins for Catholic school students

Submitted photos

Another school year is underway for 2,301 students attending the 14 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fargo. Classes began the week of Aug. 22, and several schools sent *New Earth* photos of smiling students from their area eager to hit the books, see old friends, and make new ones.



St. John's Academy, Jamestown



St. Michael's Elementary, Grand Forks



Trinity Elementary School, West Fargo



St. John's Elementary, Wahpeton



Trinity Elementary School, West Fargo



**St. Michael's Elementary,
Grand Forks**



St. John's Academy, Jamestown



St. Ann's School, Belcourt



Shanley High School, Fargo

Aerial view of Maryvale. The property is nearly 500 acres in size, and borders the Sheyenne River. (submitted photo)

A new beginning for Maryvale

Diocese of Fargo to assume operations at the retreat center

By Paul Braun | Editor of New Earth

Nestled among nearly 500 acres of woods and wilderness north of Valley City, bordered by the Sheyenne River, the Maryvale Retreat Center has been a cornerstone of religious activity and spiritual growth to Catholics and Protestants alike for nearly six decades.

Maryvale is an ideal place for both personal and group retreats because the remote outdoor setting fosters personal contemplation and communing with God. The name means “Mary’s Valley,” and there are several walking stops, shrines, and grottos on the grounds that are dedicated to Our Lady.

The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation have been operating Maryvale since the center opened in 1965. The sisters were already at St. Catherine’s school in Valley City, and they outgrew their space there. They needed a place to gather with their sisters throughout the United States, so their new home at Maryvale was built. A wing for boarding students from St. Catherine’s school was also built, but with advances in transportation, boarding school-age children was no longer necessary, so in the early 1970s the sisters utilized the boarding wing, and their hospitality and retreat ministry began. Four and a half decades later, the retreat and hospitality missions continued, but the number of sisters at Maryvale declined.

“The sisters here did everything as far as the housekeeping, cooking, laundry, as well as led the retreats,” said Sister Su-

zanne Stahl, Regional Superior for the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. “Unfortunately, our numbers declined, and we didn’t have sisters to do all of those tasks, so we started hiring lay employees to fill those positions.”

The sisters hired an operations manager and finance director in 2017, but it soon became apparent that continuing to operate Maryvale was becoming too difficult for them.

“Our goal has always been to continue the evangelization ministry that God has called us to do,” said Sister Suzanne. “We realized we couldn’t continue the hospitality and retreat missions. So we started discerning what God wanted us to do next. We looked at joining with other women religious communities and talked to some, but we felt approaching the Fargo Diocese was the best option being that the Queen of Peace Center [in Fargo] had closed, and the faithful of this diocese could benefit from having a retreat center.”

The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation approached Bishop John Folda and asked if the diocese would be interested in taking over the operations at Maryvale. After a period of negotiations, the Diocese of Fargo agreed to acquire Maryvale and its retreat and hospitality mission. The sisters donated all of the land and buildings at Maryvale to the diocese, and the official agreement was signed in late September.



Steve Splonskowski, Executive Director of the newly formed Maryvale Corporation, and Sister Suzanne Stahl, Regional Superior of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, sign the agreement turning Maryvale over to the corporation and the Diocese of Fargo. (submitted photo)

The gift of Maryvale to the Diocese of Fargo resulted in the forming of the Maryvale Corporation to hold the gift. The corporation is run by a board of directors that has Bishop Folda serving as the board director, and includes Sister Suzanne and others from the diocesan Pastoral Center. Steve Splonskowski, the Project Manager for the diocesan Office of Evangelization, will serve as the Executive Director for the Maryvale Corporation and will oversee operations and the mission of Maryvale.

The eight sisters living at Maryvale will continue to make the center their home and will assist in retreats. Sister Anne Germaine Picard will continue to offer the Women's Retreat that has been a staple at Maryvale for 30 years. All of the operational logistics will be handled by Operations and Hospitality Director, Carrie Nice. Current staff will also be retained.

There won't be many visible or operational changes to Maryvale, at least for the near future. The home for the sisters will undergo some updating, and 19 hospitality rooms have been refurnished to accommodate married couples. Sister Suzanne says they have had requests for more men's retreats, and other groups come to do their own retreats. Some of the groups bring their own retreat leaders in, but she says the Maryvale Corporation is hoping to identify more leaders for different retreats for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. SEARCH retreats for youth and young adults will continue, and there's hope to expand youth retreats. Sister Suzanne says the area, with all of its acreage, the river, quiet areas in the woods, is ideal for more youth events in the future.

For his part, Bishop Folda says the sisters "have given us a very gracious welcome." The Maryvale Corporation board



The sisters residing at Maryvale attend Mass in the Maryvale chapel. (submitted photo)

will continue to evaluate the existing property to see if any updates, improvements, or expansion projects are necessary, but there are no immediate plans as of now.

For the sisters, turning over their beloved Maryvale's mission has had its moments of second thoughts, but they are sure it was the right thing to do. They will continue to live in a section of Maryvale and be the prayer support for the retreat ministry.

"We really believe this is God's will," said Sister Suzanne. "We prayed and discerned about this for some time, but at the same time, with anything you've loved and done and taken care of for years and years there is, of course, some sadness with that, but we've been making those steps for quite some time. We're not here to gain wealth or notoriety, we're here to quietly carry out the spreading of God's Word and the good news of Jesus Christ. If giving this gift can do that, then that's what we're about."



One of the guest rooms at Maryvale. Some guest rooms have been modified to accommodate married couples on retreat. (submitted photo)

Caring for you



SMP Health

www.smphealth.org

Our North Dakota Ministries

Bottineau	SMP Health - St. Andrew's
Enderlin	SMP Health - Maryhill
Fargo	SMP Health - St. Catherine <i>North</i>
Fargo	SMP Health - St. Catherine <i>South</i>
Harvey	SMP Health - St. Aloisius
Jamestown	SMP Health - Ave Maria
Rolla	SMP Health - St. Kateri
Valley City	SMP Health - St. Raphael

Not willing to let go of your marriage?

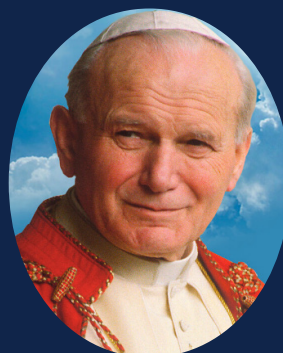


RETRouvaille
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Weekend for couples March 3-5, 2023

Retrouvaille is a program designed to help struggling marriages regain their health. It helps husband and wife rediscover or re-awaken the love and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication and healing.

For more information,
Call (701) 356-7903 or visit HelpOurMarriage.com



Quotable

St. John Paul II

Feast day Oct. 22

“The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the world.”

True wonder and awe

By Prime Matters



We live in an enchanted world, charged by God's grandeur. In order to reclaim a sense of wonder, we need to see the ordinary as extraordinary, grateful for the gift of existence itself.

Today's technology dominates our intrigue with the latest advances in science and engineering. We marvel at

the ways in which computers and electronic devices wirelessly synchronize our e-mail, social media posts, music playlists, and contact information. This synchronization improves with greater speed as each new generation of technology provides faster and more reliable service. Yet as impressive as these advances are, our amazement at this technology is transitory as we grow complacent and eventually demand more impressive features. This amazement also focuses on the latest achievements of engineers, upon that which is man-made. True wonder should surpass this world and lead us into the transcendent, into the eternal realm of God whose splendor never fades nor seems routine.

As our intrigue for technology increases, our capacity for wonder seems to fade proportionally. We grow curious about what is possible through human craft, while failing to delight in what is already created by God. How many have held a new cell phone and were captivated by its arresting beauty? Who has unpackaged a new electronic tablet and allowed themselves to be lost in wonder about the source of such a device? No one contemplates engineers with a sense of awe, nor their products. Electronic technicians do not evoke bewilderment. Yet God does, if we allow ourselves to peer beyond this world into the source of all that is.

In order to reclaim a sense of wonder, there is need to see the ordinary as extraordinary. We live in an enchanted world, charged by God's grandeur and inhabited by beings both physical and spiritual. Yet to see the extraordinary qualities that surround us, one must not take for granted the gift of existence itself. For the fact that there is anything created when there could be nothing, should astound us. Why is the Pacific sky arrayed with pale colors each evening with the setting sun? Why does a forest soar up into sky, seemingly reaching to heaven in exuberant praise? Why are we allowed to enjoy these expressions of beauty? To miss these elements is to miss the handiwork of God and our connection to him.

In recognizing the extraordinary hidden within the ordinary, we should be moved toward gratitude and praise for the Creator.

Wonder in the face of arresting beauty should lead us to thank the one who created such beauty. For our interior life is capable of much more than simply delighting in our own experience of wonder and awe. Our desire for truth and for personal connection should drive us to discover the source upon which all delights are made and how we can remain connected to that source, despite our own limitations.

Reclaiming the ability to see the ordinary as extraordinary prevents us from viewing the world as dull and life as a series of disappointments. Furthermore, in noticing the natural ways in which God reveals himself within the splendor of this world, we are better equipped to note the subtle ways in which he reveals himself through supernatural means.

To recover a sense of wonder and awe, a cue can be taken from the early twentieth-century English journalist, G. K. Chesterton. Though an impressive adult with a towering list of professional accomplishments, Chesterton preferred to live in the world of children—that is, in the realm of imaginative wonder that fills the minds of youth. As he wrote in his autobiography, "What was wonderful about childhood is that anything in it was a wonder. It was not merely a world full of miracles; it was a miraculous world." Appreciating the world's impressive existence and explosive color was an ability that Chesterton maintained throughout his life. It was also an ability that many of his contemporaries had lost. For in their sophistication, they sacrificed the joys of their childhood for the common attitude that grows tired of this world, seeking stimulation instead from the next fad or thrill. Yet Chesterton realized that "the great and glorious privilege of being exceptional is that such a person can admire the ordinary" (*Notebook*).

As our Lord instructs, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of God" (Matt. 18:3). Our salvation involves a humble reliance upon our heavenly Father. Yet as Chesterton realized, it also includes a return to our childlike sensibilities in which the world can still startle and amaze us. If we lose our capacity to appreciate the splendor of this world, how will we ever be found worthy to enjoy the majesty of the heavenly world to come? Perhaps the thing we need most is not more advances in science and technology, but a renewed appreciation for the creation that already surrounds us.

Prime Matters exists to awaken the Catholic imaginative vision in Catholics and all people of goodwill. Outreach of the University of Mary, Bismarck. For more, visit primematters.com.

TATTERED PAGES

A review of Catholic books, movies, music

Book visits the tale of one of America's greatest little-known disaster

By Father James Gross | Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Grand Forks

In August we learned of the passing of Pulitzer-prize winning author David McCullough at the age of 89. Dr. McCullough is one of my favorite authors. His skill in portraying major figures and events in American history has made his subjects much more accessible to readers who bring curiosity but do not style themselves academic experts. While his works were not religious as a specific genre, they often included religion as significant elements in his narratives. McCullough's passing inspired me to revisit his first book, *The Johnstown Flood: The Incredible Story Behind One of the Most Devastating Disasters America Has Ever Known*, first published in 1968.

If 2,200 Americans were to perish in any kind of natural disaster, it would be a major news story for weeks. This is precisely what happened in and around the small city of Johnstown, Pa. on May 31, 1889. The story begins with a man-made lake formed by South Fork Dam, a large earthen structure in a mountainous terrain 14 miles upstream from Johnstown. A group of wealthy Pittsburgh industrialists formed a private hunting and fishing club on the property surrounding the lake, complete with both year-round lodges and seasonal cabins.

This was an era before the kind of vigilance we find today with government agencies monitoring environmental and safety impacts of infrastructure. Few area settlers had any knowledge of the club's activity, and most of those who did were confident that any breach in the dam would only minimally raise the level of adjacent rivers.

As a result of an abnormally wet winter and a recent huge rainfall, the lake level suddenly rose up to and eventually above the dam's height, particularly at the center, which had been lowered to build a roadway. The club members' basic methods of construction proved fruitless to fortify the dam once they detected trouble. On the afternoon of Friday, May 31, the burst dam released the entirety of the water in the lake, which measured a mile wide, over two miles long, and 60 feet deep, in under 40 minutes.

Very scant means of communication existed to get word to the people of Johnstown, a booming blue-collar town of 30,000 residents, which was a leader in the steel mill industry. With unimaginable force, a wave of water tore through Johnstown,

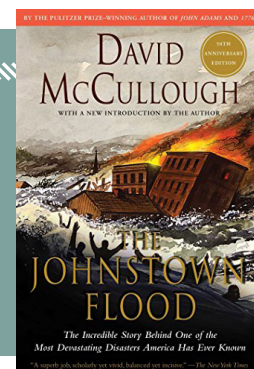
carrying with it trees, railroad cars, and all manner of other debris. McCullough masterfully chronicled the catastrophic event with plentiful statistics of the height of the floodwaters, as well as vignettes featuring many of the area residents. The Catholic Church, St. John's, was decimated by a combination of the flood and a subsequent fire. However, the steeple and clock tower of the Lutheran church remained intact, tolling on the hour throughout the rest of the evening and producing a sound that "had a powerful effect on everyone who heard it."

A Methodist Pastor by the name of Reverend Chapman had no choice but to ride out the flood and its deafening noise in an upstairs room of his parsonage with several family members and neighbors. He later remarked, "We knew that many of our fellow citizens were perishing, and we feared that there could be no escape for us...I think none was afraid to meet God, but we all felt willing to put it off until a more propitious time."

The moral lesson I take from this book is how important it is to always regard our common humanity and our value as brothers and sisters in Christ, so that when tragedy strikes, we may be better poised to help one another. Also, while McCullough doesn't belabor the point, one cannot tell the story of the Johnstown Flood without addressing the issues that arise from distrust and stratification of social classes. Many of the elites who made up the South Fork Hunting and Fishing Club were naïve that forming a large lake in that specific location was a potential hazard to their neighbors.

I remain deeply grateful to David McCullough for presenting this little-known disaster so engagingly. May he rest in peace.

"The Johnstown Flood: The Incredible Story Behind One of the Most Devastating Disasters America Has Ever Known" By David McCullough
Originally published 1968





Gaze on the Lord's beauty

A look at Catholic images

Supper at Emmaus offers us a seat at Jesus' table

By Mary Hanbury | Director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fargo



The Supper at Emmaus recounts the biblical story from Luke 24:13-35 where Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection. Jesus appears on the road walking alongside two men talking about the events of the last few days. They are trying to understand all that had happened. Jesus walks along with them and explains how the Old Testament Scriptures are now fulfilled. He opens the Scriptures to them in a way that they could never see before. The two men plan to stop for the night, but Jesus appears as if he is going on further. They ask him to stay and eat with them.

This painting reveals that supper. The scene is the moment when the bread was broken, Jesus said the blessing and “their eyes were opened.” You can see their astonished faces as they realize it is the Lord Jesus Christ who died on a cross right in front of them.

In these fall months, the darkness of the days comes upon us. In this image, the warm glow from the candle is an inviting scene. As you are drawn into this intimate scene, you may notice that the table is not completely full of people. One spot remains open for you; pull up a chair. The perspective puts the viewer right at the level of the subjects and invites us in to have a seat and be present for the miracle before our eyes.

There are a few details to pay attention to in this painting. First, notice Jesus is not looking at them. His gaze is upward to the Heavenly Father as he raises the bread slightly in his hands. We are reminded of the words the priest says at the consecration: “On the day before he was to suffer he took bread in his holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, his almighty Father, giving you thanks he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: ‘Take this, all of you, and eat of it: for this is my body which will be given up for you’” (Eucharistic Prayer I).

In other paintings of the Supper at Emmaus the bread is not as noticeable, but in this rendition

it is the center of the painting. The piece of broken bread is held close to the candle so that it can be clearly seen. The candle should also remind us of the altar candles lit when Mass is being celebrated. The piece of broken loaf in his hands shows us the texture and crust of the bread tempting those who are hungry enough to eat it. Are we hungry to receive Jesus in the Eucharist? The candle lights up the startled expressions on the faces of the other men. One is so surprised, he’s jumping out of his chair. They reach out with their hands wanting to touch him, “is he real?” they must be thinking.

For those who know the story, we understand why they looked so surprised, or perhaps in shock as Scripture tells us: “they recognized him in the breaking of the bread” and then he disappeared. We place ourselves around the circle of people looking at Jesus and, like the others, being totally astonished that it is actually him who we were talking to the whole time. Then he is gone from sight. We are left with each other and the bread, which he just transformed into his presence to remain with us in the Eucharist. He left us this great gift. We should hunger to receive him always.



Seeing Jesus through my father's hands

By Joyce Riske | Wife and mother of six, parishioner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Reynolds

In 1983, I taught High School English in Bogotá, Colombia in a college preparatory school founded by monks from Richardton, N.D. Moving from rural North Dakota to a city of 6 million people sprawled along a majestic mountain range was easier than one would think because I was working next to people from Devils Lake and Richardton. Because of the 8,661-foot altitude in Bogotá, a person needed to dress in layers every day as the temperature flexed from chilly to warm throughout the day.

One saving grace for hard-working teachers was that Bogotá was only 67 miles from Melgar: a 2-hour bus ride to the tropics, a quick temperature jump of 20°F, and a city known for its abundant swimming pools—all of this for \$2. Usually, two of us would travel to Melgar for the weekend, walk to our hotel, and enjoy the swimming, the people, and the food. This weekend, I decided this 26-year-old was brave enough to face Melgar on her own.

The bus ride was always a little tricky, descending from the heights of the mountain range to the lower level of the tropics. A person wanted to sit in the front of the bus to avoid motion sickness and be able to check the gorges for the unfortunate bus that had strayed too close to the edge of the road the prior week.

Upon arriving at the hotel, I went to check in, only to find that the hotel was completely booked. The owner recognized me and asked why I was traveling alone. He was all sweet assurance and told me that he would find me a place in his own home. I could enjoy the pool during the day but sleep at his place at night. I thanked him and told him I would consider it. My spidey sense went off the charts. Although Melgar had other hotels, I wasn't familiar with any of them and decided to cut my losses, head back to Bogotá, and enjoy the rest of my weekend a little wiser. I picked up a large orange for lunch, made my way back to the station, and boarded the bus for Bogotá. Being one of the first to board, I was able to sit in the first row by the door and have an excellent view.

A few miles out of Melgar, the bus driver slowed to a stop. Two campesinos quickly scrambled into the bus. I didn't see any money exchange hands, and the campesinos didn't get a seat. They sat on the steps in front of me. The upper-class students I taught used the word "campesino" as a slur, a farm laborer, a lower class of person. The travelers' clothes were brown and

dirty. The elderly man sat on the top step, directly in front of me. I stiffened up and tried to move farther back in my seat.

The man scooted back and used my legs as his backrest. That was more contact than this Midwestern girl could handle. I looked around for a quick escape, but the seats were full. I held my orange closer to my nose and wondered how long they'd be on the bus.

Then I looked down at the old man's hands. He had hands like my father's.

My father's hands were huge, gnarled, large-jointed, strong, and warm. We never found leather gloves that would fit Dad. He always wore yellow jersey work gloves, even to church, because they fit. Looking at this campesino's hands was like looking at my father's hands. My eyes filled with tears, to be so far from home and able to see hands just like my father's on a poor campesino. I was awash with shame for my thoughts and behavior.

This man deserved better. I offered him half of my orange. It's all I had to share. "Tranquilo. Está bien," I assured him, letting him know he could rest his tired body against my legs.

I've often thought of that grace-filled lesson: to look for the loving person inside of the stranger so that I could treat a stranger with love. I know St. Teresa of Calcutta would tell her sisters to look for Jesus in each person, but for me, it was seeing my father's hands.



To Know God...
To Love God...
To Serve God...

HOLY FAMILY BOOKSTORE

For Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, weddings, and special occasion gifts and books.

Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
1336 25th Ave. S., Fargo 58103
(701) 241-7842

Homosexual men and chaste friendships



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK, Ph.D.

Director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia

Catholic men facing same-sex attractions often struggle with how they are supposed to handle their homoromantic feelings. Some clearly understand that the Church invites them to order their feelings and attractions through a life of chaste continence, but they also wrestle with a strong desire for same-sex friendship and bonding.

In the midst of an escalating gay culture that actively promotes and celebrates homosexual sex, even in its most promiscuous forms, how can young men hope to encounter friends with whom they might cultivate healthy and chaste relationships? What role does the Church play in encouraging this?

A group called Courage offers outstanding spiritual support for those who are struggling with same-sex attraction and desiring to live chastely according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. Founded by Father John Harvey, Courage held its first meeting in 1980 in New York City. Since then, it has expanded into an international ministry. This important apostolate deserves broad recognition and support for its vital work, yet regrettably, resistance still arises at times in some quarters of the Church when Courage seeks to promote clear Catholic teaching on chastity and homosexuality.

Cultivating a chaste heart demands a deep prayer life, strong spiritual support, and good fellowship, not to mention frequent reception of the sacraments, especially Holy Communion and Confession. Courage vigorously promotes these practices.

I once visited a large Midwest Catholic parish where there was a group of men with same-sex attraction who attended Mass together. I later learned that each of them had his own room in a common living arrangement where they divided responsibilities, prayed together, discussed their burdens and struggles, and sought to strengthen each other in their shared journey of following the Lord generously and chastely. They were a source of inspiration and an example of hope within the parish, which supported and encouraged them.

Among same-sex-attracted individuals, cultivating chaste relationships with each other can sometimes be complex. Doing so requires a supportive environment, patience, an understanding of human weakness, a strong sense of hope, and a mutually shared determination to avoid near occasions of sin.

A few years ago, I read a memorable, no-holds-barred commentary on the gay lifestyle by Ronald G. Lee, a librarian

in Houston, Texas, in which, based on his own struggles with homosexuality, he offered several helpful observations. He disputed the claim that gay men are supposed to, or are even able to, live in monogamous homosexual relationships. Instead, echoing the wisdom of the Church's teaching, he stressed the fundamental need for a chaste lifestyle.

At the same time, he acknowledged the urgent need for same-sex-attracted individuals to have healthy human friendships with others. He mentioned his best friend Mark, who, like himself, was a refugee from the gay lifestyle and a man of faith. Summing up their relationship, he said, "From Mark I have learned that two men can love each other profoundly while remaining clothed the entire time. We are told that the Church opposes same-sex love. Not true. The Church opposes homogenital sex, which in my experience is not about love, but about obsession, addiction, and compensation for a compromised masculinity."

The Catholic Church stresses that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered but homosexual persons are not. This distinction is crucial. Moreover, a person's natural inner desire for human bonding should not be considered disordered or problematic in itself. In other words, the desire for friendship, relationship and communion, even among same-sex-attracted individuals, is not intrinsically disordered, although desiring and pursuing same-sex sexual relations, which always contravene the root purposes of human sexuality, will be unchaste and immoral. The desire for closeness among same-sex-attracted individuals can and should be directed toward non-lustful friendships.

A second distinction is also worth mentioning. If homoerotic desires are allowed to take root, linger and be acted upon, they will be inherently problematic and sinful. If such desires, however, arise spontaneously in a person's mind, and are not actively cultivated, entertained, or acted upon, this would not be sinful, insofar as sin always involves a wrongful choice.

The late Father Benedict Groeschel alluded to these nuances surrounding our inclinations and choices when he noted, "Homosexuality is a condition; gay and lesbian is a decision."

The Catholic Church extends a beautiful call to each of us, one of authentic freedom and love. Human sexuality involves powerful drives that must be ordered within God's sacred and providential plan. The Catechism reminds us that same-sex-attracted individuals are called ultimately to holiness, which is the fulfillment of a life of love:

"Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection" (n. 2359). That summons is a source of great hope.

Making an informed Catholic choice in November



CATHOLIC ACTION

CHRISTOPHER DODSON

Executive director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference, which acts on behalf of the Catholic bishops of N.D. to respond to public policy issues of concern to the Catholic Church

Every election year, the Catholic bishops of North Dakota, working through the North Dakota Catholic Conference, examines issues facing Catholic voters.

North Dakotans will decide in November whether to legalize recreational marijuana. The North Dakota Catholic Conference opposes the measure. The proposal is nearly identical to HB 1420 from the 2021 legislative session. In its testimony against that bill, the conference stated that the proposal “does not advance the common good and poses harms to families, children, our most vulnerable, and the community. Instead, it signals that marijuana is safe, without regard for those families and communities it leaves behind.” The full testimony can be found on the conference’s website. (<https://bit.ly/3d5R8IZ>)

When it comes to candidates, the Catholic Church does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. Instead, it encourages Catholics to examine the candidates through the eyes of faith and reason. To assist Catholics, the conference provides questions that Catholics should ask about their candidates or, if the occasion arises, ask the candidates directly. Some of the questions concern issues that are more important than others. Some concern policies, like attacks on human life, which a Catholic can never support. Catholics can however, legitimately disagree about how to address some other issues. All the issues deserve our attention.

Where Does the *State* Candidate Stand?

Creating a Sanctuary for Life

- Promoting and funding policies and programs that help pregnant women, mothers, and newborns
- Maintaining bans on abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, human embryo research, and commercial surrogacy

Religious Liberty

- Protecting the exercise of religion
- Protecting the right of religious organizations to serve the public in accordance with their beliefs

Family and Education

- Enabling parents, financially and in other ways, to choose the best educational setting for their children

- Opposing policies that mandate acceptance of false gender ideologies

Poor and Vulnerable

- Ensuring access to health care while respecting human life, human dignity, and the religious and conscience rights of health care providers
- Providing services to those in need, especially families facing financial hardship and persons with disabilities, mental illness, and addictions
- Protecting families and communities with a criminal justice system that focuses on restoration, rehabilitation, prevention, and elimination of racial and ethnic bias

- Welcoming properly-vetted refugees, regardless of race, nationality, or religious affiliation

Economy and Environment

- Ensuring a just wage, economic initiative, and pro-family work policies
- Promoting family farms, rural communities, and a food system that respects the dignity of labor and workers
- Respecting the right of local communities to manage their own affairs for the common good
- Fostering stewardship of our natural resources

Where Does the *Federal* Candidate Stand?

Human Life

- Protecting unborn human life and ending abortion nationwide
- Repealing the federal government’s use of the death penalty
- Prohibiting the use of federal funds to pay for abortions
- Protecting the right of the states to create sanctuaries for life by legally protecting unborn human life
- Promoting and funding policies and programs that help pregnant women, mothers, and newborns

Religious Liberty

- Protecting the exercise of religion
- Protecting the right of religious organizations to serve the public in accordance with their beliefs

Family and Education

- Enabling parents, financially and in other ways, to choose the best educational setting for their children
- Opposing policies that mandate acceptance of false gender ideologies

Immigration

- Achieving comprehensive reforms that offer a path to citizenship for the undocumented who live in the U.S. and do not have a criminal record, expand family reunification, secure our borders, and establish humane border enforcement

- Welcoming properly-vetted refugees, regardless of race, nationality, or religious affiliation

The Poor and Vulnerable

- Ensuring access to health care while respecting human life, human dignity, and the religious and conscience rights of health care providers
- Providing services to those in need, especially families facing financial hardship and persons with disabilities, mental illness, and addictions
- Maintaining and increasing funding for poverty-focused development assistance to poor countries
- Acknowledging the harm done to Native Americans by the federal government's assimilation policies

Economy and Environment

- Ensuring a just wage, economic initiative, and pro-family

work policies

- Promoting family farms, rural communities, and a food system that respects the dignity of labor and workers
- Respecting the right of local communities to manage their own affairs for the common good
- Fostering stewardship of our natural resources

When all candidates hold a position that promotes an intrinsically evil act, the voter may take the extraordinary step of not voting for any candidate or, after careful deliberation, vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position and more likely to pursue other authentic human goods.

Catholics have an obligation to participate in the democratic process. Remember to vote and, no matter what the outcome, become involved in the legislative process.

Charitable Gift Annuities a popular “giving” option



STEWARDSHIP

STEVE SCHONS

Director of stewardship and development
for the Diocese of Fargo

Imagine making a gift to the Catholic Development Foundation and then opening the mail a few months later and finding a check from the Catholic Development Foundation made out to you. If you didn't know better, you might call the Catholic Development Foundation and say, “Hey, what's going on here? I gave you people some money a while ago and now you're giving money back to me. What's wrong? Did my gift bounce?”

You wouldn't call the Catholic Development Foundation because you would have in your possession a signed agreement with The Catholic Development Foundation entitling you to a specific amount of money every year for the rest of your life. This agreement is called a Charitable Gift Annuity, and it remains one of the most popular ways people support their favorite Catholic ministry or church.

Here's how it works. Mr. Sample is 75 years old. After reviewing the information provided by the Catholic Development Foundation, and consulting with his advisor, he writes a check for \$25,000 and informs the Catholic Development Foundation that he wants a gift annuity with payments on a quarterly basis.

According to the gift annuity rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities, Mr. Sample's age entitles him to receive a quarterly check (every 3 months) in the amount of \$387.50. This represents an annual annuity rate of 6.2 percent.

In addition to receiving regular fixed payments (partially tax-free), Mr. Sample will also receive an income tax charitable deduction. With this example and based on today's IRS schedules, the deduction would be greater than \$11,000.

How does the Catholic Development Foundation benefit from this arrangement? The Catholic Development Foundation takes the \$25,000 and invests it in a special annuity fund, expecting not only to have enough to make the quarterly payments to Mr. Sample but enough left over after Mr. Sample is gone to benefit Mr. Sample's favorite Catholic ministry or church, such as a Catholic parish, religious education ministry, seminarian education, or cemetery.

The Catholic Development Foundation has been issuing gift annuities for many years, as have thousands of other charities. It is a wonderful way to benefit those who support these charities, as well as set funds aside for future use.

Gift annuities can be obtained for the donor, or by the donor for someone else. They can run for one-life or for two-lives. They can be funded with cash, IRAs, or marketable securities such as stock. Payments can begin soon after the gift is made or years later.

Besides the more obvious uses, gift annuities can be used to help fund a college education and by executives to supplement a retirement plan. They can be used by employers to benefit faithful employees, and they can help children provide added financial support for aging parents.

To have free illustration mailed to you, please contact Steve Schons at the Catholic Development Foundation, 5201 Bishops Blvd. S., Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104 or (701) 356-7926 or steve.schons@fargodiocese.org.

A seminarian at a funeral



SEMINARIAN LIFE

BRENDON SCHNEIBEL

Theology I at Mount St. Mary
Seminary; Emmitsburg, Md.

I recently started my fifth year of seminary at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. One month in, I received permission for my first trip away from the seminary to Brainerd, Minn. for my grandmother's funeral. As I reflected on that trip, I realized that I had a unique perspective of this funeral, not only because of my relationship with my grandmother but because I'm a seminarian.

The first (and possibly most typical) aspect of this perspective is my closeness to the priest. Not only was I physically closer to the priest since I was serving the Mass, but as a seminarian, I was naturally very attention to the activity of the priest. Especially at a funeral, I found myself thinking about how the priest is or is not interacting with the congregation. I thought about how important his fervor is for setting an example for the congregation in reverent prayer. I thought about what it's like to be united with Christ in offering the sacrifice of the Mass and, at a funeral, offering that sacrifice for the salvation of particular souls. There are probably infinite points I could reflect on here, not because I am aware of all of them, but because of the profundity of the priesthood.

Another unique character of my involvement at this funeral was my relationship to the people in the pews. As a server, sometimes it's distracting to have people you know in the congregation (yes, even as a 22-year-old-seminarian server). I had to try a little harder to look away from the sanctuary to see whom of my loved ones and friends were present and how they were emotionally getting along. At first, this was a bit of a distraction for me, but eventually the Lord helped me draw this into my prayer. In a similar way to how I was closer to the priest during this funeral, I found my intercessory prayer taking on a more priestly character. I was praying for my grandmother of course, but I was also praying in a particular way for those in the congregation, for God's grace to be with them in their trials. It seemed fitting that as I am studying for the priesthood, I should have a special place in my heart for those who are partaking of this sacrifice with me. They're the ones that a priest makes intercession for, asking that his sacrifice and theirs "be acceptable to the Father." I found myself praying that all of our sorrows and trials from that day would be used by God as he sees fit.

Lastly, I experienced a renewal of hope. During the funeral, and other times of grief, I noticed that I have a strong sense of hope in Jesus. This has been nurtured by my time in the seminary. The seminary has been, and continues to be, a time of learning about the joys of heaven and the power of God to get us there despite our efforts to the contrary. It has been a time of coming to appreciate the Church, the body of Christ, who provides us with the means of cooperating with his power to save us. Most importantly, it has been a time of growing in relationship with the God who loves us so much that he died to save us and rose again to show us that we need not fear the grave. All this nourished a sense of hope in me that, before and after the funeral, kept me from becoming distraught at the passing of my grandmother. During the funeral, the beauty of the liturgy and the emotions of those around me had a stronger impact, and I became more emotional, but this sense of hope allowed me enough consolation for me to perform my duties.

Overall, my grandmother's funeral was a beautiful experience. There was great deal of sadness, and it was mixed with joy and beauty, but it was a gift from God. He uses all things for our good, and that good can pertain particularly to our state in life.

Parish Musicians Workshop

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."
John 1:14

Nov. 4-5, 2022

Sts. Anne & Joachim,
Fargo

\$50
(includes meals & materials)

Register by Oct. 21 at
fargodiocese.org/sacredmusic

What to Expect

- ◆ Choir/schola rehearsals
- ◆ Chanting the Divine Office
- ◆ Talks on developing confidence, how to actively participate as a musician, what the Church really says about music, how to start a choir, and the Liturgy of the Hours
- ◆ Formal meal with Bishop Folda
- ◆ Silent prayer and Adoration
- ◆ Individual voice lessons

From military to Carmel: a vocation story



SISTER'S PERSPECTIVE

SISTER MARIA TERESA OF THE SACRED HEART

I was born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colo. My maternal grandparents were devout Catholics and my paternal grandparents were Southern Baptists. Both sets of grandparents were influential in my faith as they tried to help me see the importance of prayer and a relationship with Jesus. I especially remember my mom's parents praying the rosary every evening together. I prayed with them most nights from the ages of about 8 to 13. The thought of becoming a religious sister never crossed my mind. Instead, I had a deep desire to join the military.

After high school, I enlisted in the Army as a Military Police Soldier and was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. There I did basic law enforcement duties and prepared for deployments. I deployed to Baghdad, Iraq twice. My first deployment, 2004–05, was not too bad until my emotions started to surface, and questions like, "why would a loving God allow so much evil to happen?" I thought that God had abandoned me and did not see or care about the destruction that wars cause.

In 2006 I deployed again to Baghdad. This time things were a lot different. Al Qaida had moved into every major city of Iraq. Baghdad was not what I remembered from my first deployment. I saw more action on that deployment than on my first. In January 2007, my squad got into several gun fights that made me feel the worst I had ever felt. For three days, I felt nothing but rage, and nothing and no one could help. I did not like the person I was turning into.

Finally, I remembered something my grandparents had told me when I was growing up. When things seem unbearable, ask the Blessed Mother for help. For the first time in years I prayed. I repeated over and over again, "Help me Mother of God." After about 15 minutes I felt like a boulder had been taken off my shoulder and a peace like I had never felt before came over me. It stayed with me the rest of my deployment, even though things did not calm down. I began praying the rosary and reading the Bible every day. I started researching religious life. Immediately I found four different communities that attracted me.

After I returned to the United States, I was stationed in Arizona. There I discovered the Lay Carmelites in Tucson and began attending their meetings. They were studying the Rule of St. Albert. It was in studying the Carmelite Rule (written by St. Albert of Jerusalem in 1207) that I realized my vocation to

Carmel. In Chapter 14 of the Carmelite Rule, it mentions the spiritual warfare that all of us are undergoing and how we all must put on the armor of God quoting Ephesians 6:10. "Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil." Like the first Carmelites on Mount Carmel, I too find the Carmelite Rule resounding in my heart as I strive daily to live "in allegiance to Jesus Christ," following in his footsteps (chapter 1 of the Carmelite Rule).

Many Carmelite saints came to Carmel to save souls through a life of prayer. We hold deeply the priesthood and the many intentions of priests. Because of my own unique vocation and experience in the military, I have a strong desire to pray in a special way for Veterans. If you know any Veterans, please send their names to me and I will lift them up in prayer.

Carmel of Mary
17765 78th Street SE
Wahpeton, ND 58075
carmelofmary@gmail.com



EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

*A Community inspiring Excellence through
Faith, Learning, and Service.*

3 Year old Little Deacons-12th Grade

For information or a tour
Call 701-893-3271
jp2schools.org

HOLY SPIRIT
ELEMENTARY | NATIVITY
ELEMENTARY | TRINITY
ELEMENTARY
SACRED HEART
MIDDLE SCHOOL | SHANLEY
HIGH SCHOOL



LIFE'S MILESTONES



Dennis and Betty Gregoire, parishioners of St. Jude in Thompson, will celebrate their 65th anniversary on Nov. 23. They were married at St. Jude's. They have 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, 1 step-grandchild, and 3 step-great-grandchildren.



Bernie and Mary (Wiltse) Hall, parishioners of St. Cecelia's in Harvey, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Sept. 2. They have 3 children and 11 grandchildren.



Francis and Margeret Harding, parishioners of St. John's in Kensal, celebrated their 60th anniversary on Sept. 14. They were married at St. Mary's in Courtenay and are blessed with 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.



Marvin and Philomena (Minnie) Ries, parishioners of St. Thomas in Buffalo and previously St. Henry in Alice, will celebrate their 70th anniversary Oct. 18. They have 9 children, 19 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.



Tim and Rose Senger, parishioners of St. Joseph's in Devils Lake, celebrated 70 years of marriage Sept. 23. They were married at St. Benedict's in rural Crary. They have 9 children, 23 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.



Dennis (Butch) and Kathy Zacher will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Oct. 21. They were married at St. Joseph's in Devils Lake where they are still parishioners. They are blessed with 2 children and 5 granddaughters.



Ray and Kathy Korynta, parishioners of Sacred Heart in Minto, celebrated their 60th anniversary on Oct 2. They were married at St. Joseph's Mission in Stephen, Minn. They have 5 boys, 11 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.



John and Kathleen (Lang) Lee, parishioners of Sacred Heart in Carrington, will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Oct. 28. They were married at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Rock Lake. They have a son and a daughter and 6 grandchildren.



Perry (Skip) and Loretta Nesdahl, parishioners of St. Stephen's in Larimore, will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Oct. 14. They were married at St. Paul's in Crookston, Minn. and are blessed with 4 children and 7 grandchildren.



Thomas and Mary Rohrich will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Oct. 14. They were married at St. Andrew's in Zealand where they are still parishioners.



Arlan and Margaret (Wald) Vonesh, parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Reynolds, will celebrate their 50th anniversary Nov. 10. They have 8 adult children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Leo and Lenore Beauchamp, parishioners of St. Boniface in Walhalla, are celebrating their 90th birthdays in October: Leo on Oct. 10 and Lenore on Oct. 29.



Marcella Loberg, parishioner of St. John's Church in Wahpeton celebrated her 100th birthday Sept. 17. Marcella is blessed with 7 children, 13 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.



Clare Scholand, parishioner of St. Rose of Lima Church in Hillsboro, celebrated her 100th birthday on Oct. 4.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Life's Milestones includes anniversaries for marriages, ordinations, and religious vows for 25, 40, 50, 60, 65, and 70+ years and birthdays for 80, 85, 90, 95, and 100+ years for those in the Diocese of Fargo. Submissions will only be accepted for milestones occurring during the month of publication, one month prior, or one month following. Send a photo with text to news@fargodiocese.org or to Diocese of Fargo, New Earth, 5201 Bishops Blvd S, Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104 with a stamped return envelope and phone number. Deadline for the November issue is Oct. 18.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

These news items, compiled by Danielle Ottman, were found in *New Earth* and its predecessor, *Catholic Action News*.

75 years ago — 1947

Sacred Heart Academy of Fargo and St. James Academy of Grand Forks will battle on October 26 for a football trophy, a three and a half-foot statue of American football's most-renowned coach, Knute Rockne. The trophy is a gift from current Notre Dame coach, Frank Leahy. The teams will meet on the field annually to claim possession of the trophy. Knute Rockne converted to Catholicism in 1925. He died in a plane crash March of 1931 at only 43 years of age.

50 years ago — 1972

Respect Life Week, October 1-7, will focus attention on the sanctity of human life in contemporary society. It will deal with

peace, the aged, the rights of the unborn, youth problems, and the family. Sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Committee hopes that Respect Life Week "may be another instrumentality through which the Church in America may call attention to the values of our heritage and the principles of our Faith.

20 years ago — 2002

Pope John Paul II proclaims "a year of the rosary" and suggests an additional set of mysteries. He invites Catholics to rediscover the rosary during the special October 2002 to October 2003 observance saying the Marian prayer is especially powerful as a petition for peace and for the health of the family. The "mysteries of light" focus on episodes from Christ's public ministry. Pope John Paul II says that while reciting the rosary involves repetition, its goal is contemplation; dwelling on the mysteries in order to focus on Christ.

CORRECTION: In the September issue of *New Earth* on page 26, Father Thaines Arulandu's anniversary was listed as June 3, 1982. It should read Jan. 3, 1982. *New Earth* regrets the error.



Connect with the
Diocese of Fargo



Heading south for the winter?

Make sure *New Earth* comes with you!

In most cases, the USPS will not forward *New Earth* for individuals who record a forwarding/temporary address for their mail. As a result, *New Earth* does not reach many of our faithful who travel south for the winter. To set up a temporary address for *New Earth*, go to www.fargodiocese.org/new-earth, call (701) 356-7900, or mail a notice including a temporary address and what months you'll be living there to:

New Earth, 5201 Bishops Blvd, Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104

EVENTS

Living in the Presence of God: A retreat for young women

Young women, aged 18 to 45 are invited to spend time reflecting on the impact of living in the presence of God. The Franciscan Retreat Center in Hankinson provides a prayerful atmosphere to relax and allow God to love you. The retreat is Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. to Oct. 23 at 11 a.m. and includes formal presentations, group activities, time to visit with old friends and meet new ones, communal prayer and time for personal prayer, time to explore the beautiful building/grounds, and meals with the Franciscan Sisters. Suggested donation is \$175. To register, contact srmmaryruth@sfcetreats.org or (701) 242-7195.



FALL DINNERS

Milnor: St. Arnold's Church will host their Chili Drive Thru and Pie Supper Oct. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. or until gone. Drive up and place your order for chili supper or call (701) 427-9288 after 5 p.m. to place an order for pickup.

Langdon: St. Alphonsus Church will host a fall supper on Oct. 16 from 4 to 7 pm. Take-out meals available.

West Fargo: Blessed Sacrament Church is hosting a fall dinner and bazaar on Oct. 30 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost for fried chicken dinner is adults \$12, ages 6–12 \$5, under 5 free. Take-out available. Activities include country store, jewelry store, prayer cards, games, bingo, and raffle.

Cassellton: St. Leo's Church will host a fall dinner Oct. 30. Roast Beef Dinner from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Take-out available. Adults \$15, ages 4-12 \$6, ages 3 and under free.

Grand Forks: Holy Family Church Altar Society's Christmas Tea will be held Nov. 5 from 1 to 4 p.m. Fresh baked pie, tea, coffee, cider will be served. Bake sale with lefse and raffle.

Minto: Sacred Heart Church will host a fall dinner Nov. 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Minto Community Center. Adults \$13, ages 6–12 \$6, under 5 free. Bake sale, quilt raffle, and mini raffles. Take-out available.

Hillsboro: St. Rose of Lima Church will have a fall turkey dinner on Nov. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

LaMoure: Holy Rosary Church will host their Annual Buffalo Supper and Basket Raffle Nov. 6 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$15, ages 6-12 \$8, and preschoolers free.

Fargo: Nativity Church will host their annual fall festival Nov. 6. Day includes a pork roast dinner, bake sale, silent auction, games, and cake walk. Dinner served 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults \$13, ages 4–11 \$6, ages 3 and under free.



Keep the TV Mass on the air

Your support is treasured by all who are unable to join in our greatest form of prayer, the Mass.

Name _____

In memory of: _____

Address _____

OR a gift for: _____

City/State/Zip _____

List on the following date(s): _____

Phone _____

Make check payable to: **Diocese of Fargo TV Mass**, 5201 Bishops Blvd. S, Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104

Watch Sundays:

10:30 a.m. - Fargo, WDAY, Ch 6 or Grand Forks, WDAZ, Ch 8

11 a.m. - Bismarck, KNDX, Ch 26 or Minot, KXND, Ch 24



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Act of August 12, 1970: Section 3685)
Title 39, United States Code

1. Title of Publication: *New Earth*.
2. Publication No. 0009526.
3. Date of Filing: September 7, 2022.
4. Frequency of Issue: Monthly, except August.
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 11.
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$9 or donation.
7. Complete Address of Known Office of Publication: Diocese of Fargo, 5201 Bishops Blvd., Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104.
8. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher:
Diocese of Fargo, 5201 Bishops Blvd., Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104.
9. Names and Address of the Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor. Publisher: Most Reverend John T. Folda, 5201 Bishops Blvd., Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104. Editor: Paul Braun, 5201 Bishops Blvd., Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104. Managing Editor Kristina Lahr, 5201 Bishops Blvd., Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104.
10. Owner: Diocese of Fargo, 5201 Bishops Blvd., Suite A, Fargo, ND 58104.
11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None.
12. For completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to mail at special rates (Section 132.122 Postal Service Manual):
The purpose, function and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal Income Tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.
13. Publication Name: *New Earth*.
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2022.
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

	Ave. No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	22,400	22,936
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation in-country	22,200	22,701
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation	22,200	22,701
D. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies)	150	187
E. Distribution Outside the Mail	150	187
F. Total Distribution	22,350	22,888
G. Copies Not Distributed		
1. Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	50	48
H. Total	23,400	23,936
I. Percent paid	99.10%	99.18%

16. This Statement of Ownership has been printed in the October 2022 issue of this publication.
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publishers, Business Manager, or Owner.

Paul Braun, Editor

Deacon James Perius passed away August 29



Deacon James John Perius, 95, Fargo (formally of Wales, ND) joined our Lord and his beloved Joanie in heaven on Aug. 29.

James Perius was the sixth of nine children born on a farm near Wales to Ignatius and Mae (Thielen) Perius on April 24, 1927. He attended grades 1-7 at Minto Township school and high school in Wales where he graduated in 1945. James enlisted in the United States Army in 1945

and served our great country in WWII. After two years, he was honorably discharged and pursued a degree in Business Administration at St. Thomas College.

James worked for Minnesota Mining (now 3M) until the spring of 1950 when his father requested him to return home and operate the family farm. He married the love of his life, Joan Marie Platz on Aug. 6, 1960. James and Joan raised four children on the Summit Ranch north of Wales where they continued the family tradition of farming from 1960 until his retirement in 1993 when they moved to Fargo.

He partnered with his wife completing the diaconate formation in 1988 and continued his diaconate mission until his retirement in 2013. He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus serving as a 4th Degree Knight. James served his community by visiting and giving Holy Communion to those in hospitals and nursing homes.

James had a passion for cars and pickups, faithfully cheered on his Green Bay Packers and NDSU Bison, led the rosary on many road trips, and shared many stories with his family and friends. His laugh was contagious, and his smile lit up the room.

James is survived by four children: Mark (Julie) Perius, Michael (Michelle) Perius, Nicholas (Sheila) Perius, and Maria (Stuart) Clute, siblings: Patty (Rob) Robbins and Marilyn Varney, ten grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

James was preceded in death by his wife, Joan, parents and siblings, Viola and Al Meyerdirk, Geneva and Paul DeBord, Allen and Ruth Perius, Joseph Perius, Marie and Tom Flynn, Glen Perius, Ken Varney along with many friends and family.

Father Richard LaCorte passed away Sept. 11



Reverend Richard LaCorte passed away Sept. 11 in Bay St. Louis, Miss. He was 75 years old.

Father LaCorte was born on May 28, 1946 in Boston, Ma. Bishop James Sullivan ordained Father LaCorte a priest of the Fargo Diocese at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Fargo on May 15, 1987.

During his time in the diocese, Father LaCorte served as the parochial vicar at the Basilica of St. James in Jamestown, Blessed Sacrament in West Fargo, St. Benedict's in Wild Rice, and Holy Family in Grand Forks. His assignments as a pastor included Sacred Heart in Rolette, and Notre Dame Parish in Willow City. Father LaCorte also served as the administrator for St. Boniface in Lidgerwood and St. Martin's in Geneseo, and was a priest in residence at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Fargo. Father LaCorte retired from active ministry on June 30, 2012.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Sept. 16 at Our Lady of the Gulf in Bay St. Louis, Miss.



BOULGER
FUNERAL HOME • CREMATION SERVICES

LARRY BOULGER
Owner / Licensed
Funeral Director

701-247-6441
123 10th St. S. - Fargo

boulgerfuneralhome.com



HISTORIC
NORMAN
FUNERAL HOME

"The Community's Choice Since 1882"

Grand Forks, ND | normanfuneral.com | 701.746.4337

**WANT TO
ADVERTISE
IN NEW EARTH?**

Contact Kristina Lahr
(701) 356-7900
newearthads@fargodiocese.org



Pope Francis prays at Italy's National Eucharistic Congress in Matera, Italy on Sept. 25. (Vatican Media)

Pope Francis: The Eucharist teaches us to adore God rather than ourselves

By Courtney Mares | Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Sept. 25 traveled to the ancient Italian city of Matera, where he urged thousands of people gathered in a soccer stadium for Sunday Mass to “rediscover” Eucharistic adoration.

“From the city of Matera, this ‘city of bread,’ I would like to tell you: Let us return to Jesus. Let us return to the Eucharist,” Pope Francis said in his homily.

“Let us return to the taste of bread because while we are hungry for love and hope, or we are broken by the travails and sufferings of life, Jesus becomes food that feeds us and heals us.”

Matera, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world known for its ancient cave dwellings, is also called the “city of bread” due to its traditional sourdough recipe that has been passed down over centuries.

The ancient “city of bread” hosted Italy’s National Eucharist Congress from Sept. 23 to 25. More than 80 bishops and hundreds of delegates from across Italy participated in the congress with the theme “Let us return to the taste of the bread: For a Eucharistic and Synodal Church.”

Pope Francis flew early Sept. 25 to the southern Italian city to offer the closing Mass for the congress. He departed by plane rather than by helicopter as scheduled due to stormy weather conditions in Rome and arrived to a warm welcome in Matera as his popemobile passed through a cheering crowd.

In his homily, the pope expressed his dream for “a eucharistic Church” that “kneels before the Eucharist and adores with wonder the Lord present in the bread, but also knows how to bend with compassion and tenderness before the wounds of those who suffer, relieving the poor, drying the tears of those who suffer, making themselves bread of hope and joy for all.”

He said that the Eucharist presents each person with a challenge: “to adore God and not ourselves, putting him at the center rather than the vanity of self.”

“When we adore the Lord Jesus present in the Eucharist, we receive a new outlook on our lives as well: I am not the things I possess or the successes I can achieve. The value of my life does not depend on how much I can show off nor does it diminish when I encounter failures and setbacks. I am a beloved child, each of us is a beloved child. I am blessed by God. He wants

to clothe me with beauty and free me from all slavery.”

“Let us remember this: whoever worships God does not become a slave to anyone. They are free. Let us rediscover the prayer of adoration, a prayer that is frequently forgotten. Adoration ... frees us and restores us to our dignity as children, not slaves,” Francis said.

Prisoners in Italy helped to make the eucharistic hosts offered during Communion at the Mass as part of an initiative of the Italian prison chaplains’ association. The wine offered at Communion was made from vines cultivated by refugees and migrants who work at the House of Dignity vineyards.

At the end of the Mass, Pope Francis prayed the Angelus prayer and recalled that Sept. 25 marks the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

The pope said: “Let us renew our commitment to building the future in accordance with God’s plan: a future in which every person may find his or her place and be respected; in which migrants, refugees, displaced persons, and the victims of human trafficking may live in peace and with dignity.”

Pope Francis then prayed for peace in Ukraine and in Myanmar, where an air attack on a school killed 11 children.

“May the cry of these little ones not go unheard! These tragedies must not happen,” he said.

The pope also appealed for the release of five priests and a religious sister who were kidnapped in Cameroon.

After praying the Angelus, the pope paused in silence in front of an icon of Mary from his wheelchair. The pope, who has struggled with an injury to his knee in recent months, stood up on his own at some points in the liturgy.

Diocesan policy: Reporting child abuse

The Diocese of Fargo is committed to the protection of youth. Please report any incidents or suspected incidents of child abuse, including sexual abuse, to civil authorities. If the situation involves a member of the clergy or a religious order, a seminarian, or an employee of a Catholic school, parish, the diocesan offices or other Catholic entity within the diocese, we ask that you also report the incident or suspected incident to Msgr. Joseph Goring, vicar general, at (701) 356-7945 or the victim assistance coordinator, at (701) 356-7965 or by email at victimassistance@fargodiocese.org. To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by bishops, go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562.

Catholic prayers for Queen Elizabeth II — and the new king

By AC Wimmer | Catholic News Agency



King Charles III walks alongside the coffin carrying Queen Elizabeth II with the Imperial State Crown resting on top as it departs Westminster Abbey during the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II on Sept. 19 in London. Elizabeth II died at Balmoral Castle in Scotland on Sept. 8, 2022, and is succeeded by her eldest son, King Charles III. (Photo by Gareth Cattermole/Getty Images)

As millions across the United Kingdom and the whole world witnessed the final farewell for Queen Elizabeth II on Sept. 19, the Catholic bishops of England and Wales have released statements, made comments, and issued pastoral letters about the death of Her Majesty.

The Catholic archbishop of Westminster and president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales paid a strong personal tribute to the queen.

"Our prayer is that she is now received into the merciful presence of God, there to be reunited with her beloved Prince Philip. This is the promise of our faith, and our deep consolation," Cardinal Vincent Nichols said in a statement published by the Catholic Church of England and Wales upon the news from Buckingham Palace that the queen had died peacefully at Balmoral Castle Sept. 8.

"Even in my sorrow, shared with so many around the world, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude for the gift to the world that has been the life of Queen Elizabeth II," he said.

The cardinal said on Sept. 8 that the queen's "Christian faith marked every day of her life and activity."

"In her millennium Christmas message, she said, 'To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.'

"This faith, so often and so eloquently proclaimed in her public messages, has been an inspiration to me, and I am sure to many. The wisdom, stability, and service which she consistently embodied, often in circumstances of extreme difficulty, are a shining legacy and testament to her faith," Nichols said.

In the homily for the Requiem Mass celebrated Sunday, Sept. 11, at Westminster Cathedral, the loss was brought into a Christian light: "Yes, we mourn the death of our Sovereign. Our loss is profound and our sorrow immense. But we also know that her life continues; it is changed, not ended," the sermon said.

"For as this earthly dwelling slowly turns to dust, we pray that she will gain an everlasting dwelling in heaven, where nothing of her great goodness is lost but rather brought to its fulfillment. In the words of St. Paul, those who are baptized in Christ 'went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we, too, might live a new life.'"

Together with many Catholics around the U.K. and the Commonwealth, the faithful in Westminster on Sept. 11 also prayed for the queen's son, King Charles III, as he took on the burdens of the royal office. The prayer at the end of the homily stated:

*O God, to whom every human power is subject,
Grant to your servant His Majesty King Charles
wisdom in the exercise of his high office,
so that, always revering you and striving to please you,
he may constantly secure and preserve
for the people entrusted to his care
the freedom that comes from unity and peace.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.*



Sidewalk Stories

Good news, bad news of a dead-end sidewalk



SIDEWALK STORIES

ROXANE B. SALONÉN

Mother of five, writer for The Forum and CatholicMom.com, speaker and radio host for Real Presence Radio

At one of my first visits to our area's new abortion facility just across the Red River in Moorhead, Minn. at 302 Highway 75 North, I realized I'd forgotten something in my car. Walking back to it on the lonely street pointing to what seemed the end of nowhere, I was stopped cold by a yellow, rectangular, tilted road sign marked "Dead End."

Those who installed it couldn't have known that someday it would represent a nearby "clinic" in which, weekly, the lives of tiny humans end. It was put there simply to let people know there's no thru street, and that by proceeding, they could end up stuck. The sign, fairly innocuous all the preceding years, has taken on a sad new significance, announcing the operations that now mark the air: "Dead End." Indeed.

A friend who knows a former Moorhead police officer said he told her this section of the city has historically been so sketchy that no cop would traverse the area without back-up. I don't know of all the sordid things that have transpired there, but I do know of dark deeds happening there now on Wednesdays.

But wait, didn't the Red River Women's Clinic, the only facility that performed abortions in North Dakota until recently, shut down after *Roe vs. Wade* was overturned? If so, why are we still worrying about it? Why not celebrate our victory and let Minnesota take over sidewalk advocacy on their turf? We certainly do celebrate the end of abortions at the Kopelman Building in downtown Fargo. Still, on Aug. 19, many of us North Dakota prayer advocates joined citizens and leaders from Minnesota, and the co-founder of 40 Days for Life National—David Bereit—under a tent in grounds across the street from this new facility, all to garner collective enthusiasm for pro-life efforts, needed more than ever.

It was never just about one state. While we can be proud of pro-life efforts in North Dakota, friends in Minnesota have been joining us on our sidewalk for years. And now, they're needing us at theirs. We want to empower our friends across

the river to take up the charge, but we are the Body of Christ together. No state boundary, river or otherwise, can change the necessity of working together to effect a culture of life.

Recently, a friend asked, "So, how are things going at the new place?" I wish I had good news to share; that no one is really coming by, and it'll only be a matter of time before this new place closes. Unfortunately, that's not the case. Not only are people coming, but we're more restricted than ever from reaching clients. We have a sidewalk to stand on, but the whole building and parking lot are off limits to us. We can no longer reach out with brochures, and our chances of having meaningful conversations with the abortion-minded are nearly nonexistent.

Maybe we can make eye contact, shout information across the parking lot, flash a sign letting clients know of other ways to meet the challenge of an unplanned pregnancy, or lead them to help afterward. But we have little assurance we're making a difference.

The good news is that it's less boisterous. Since we have so little contact with clients or escorts, the friction that seemed so insurmountable just months ago has all but ceased. If anyone is going to change anyone's mind, it's really going to have to be by God's hand and not ours. We have to turn even more to the almighty.

It's a humbling and challenging time with new rules and new scenarios cropping up that seemed unfathomable even a year ago—like the possibility of Fargo's Veterans Hospital offering abortions, since federal operations don't fall under state law.

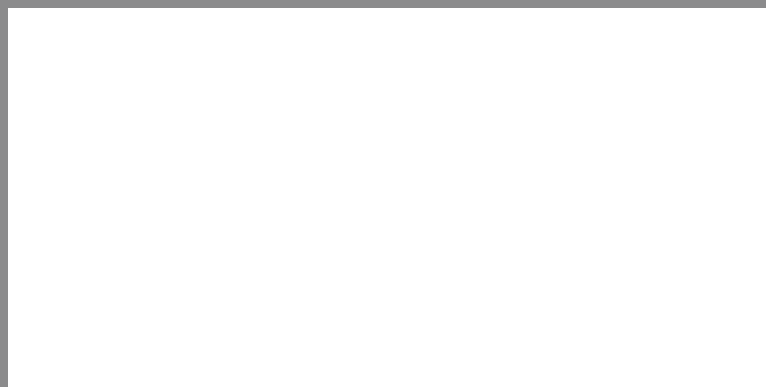
What hasn't changed, and will never change, is God's protection, presence, and providence. On Easter Sunday, he proved that no Dead End lasts forever. So, even as we grieve more lives lost, we must trust the unfolding of his beautiful and glorious plan for the redemption of the world.

40 Days for Life ends Nov. 6. To sign up for an hour of prayer outside the Red River Women's Clinic in Moorhead, Minn., visit 40daysforlife.com/en/moorhead.



NEW EARTH

Catholic Diocese of Fargo
5201 Bishops Blvd, Ste. A
Fargo, ND 58104



*Do you know
where we are?*

The answer will be revealed
in the November *New Earth*.



Where in the diocese are we?

Last month's photo is
of Assumption Church
in Pembina.