

New Earth

November 2023 | Vol. 44 | No. 10



The Magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Fargo

Horror in the Holy Land

Pilgrims from the Fargo Diocese
caught in the crossfire of war

From Bishop Folda:
Campus Ministry:
A beacon of faith

"Next door saves lives:" Women's
Care Center announces second
location in FM area

Gaze on the Lord:
The Eucharist in the
Old Testament



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ON THE COVER:

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, one of the last sites visited by pilgrims from the Diocese of Fargo before fleeing Israel.
(Photo by Father Augie Gothman, Hawley, Minn.)

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NEW EARTH

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Mission

Our mission is to inform, teach, and inspire readers about the Catholic faith and the life of parishioners in Eastern North Dakota.

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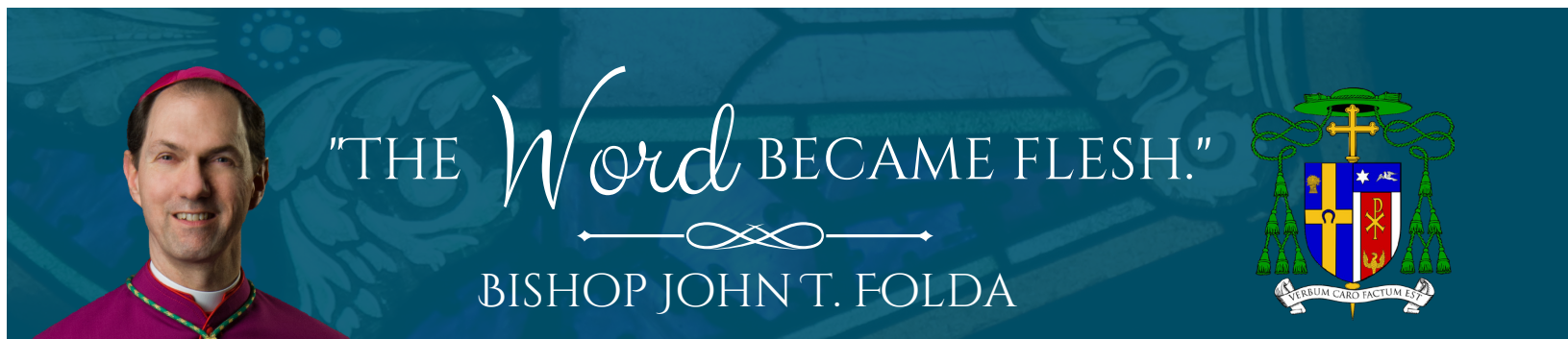
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Campus Ministry: A beacon of faith

I recently had the privilege of celebrating the dedication of the beautiful new chapel at the St. Paul Newman Center at North Dakota State University. After a long journey of planning, fundraising, and construction, the priests, students, staff, and benefactors of the Newman Center at NDSU were overjoyed to be able to pray in their new chapel, which is the heart of Catholic campus ministry at the university. The previous Newman Center building served the university well for more than 50 years, but the university has grown, and so have the needs of its students and faculty. Everyone at the St. Paul Newman Center can be very proud of what they have worked so hard to build.

The Diocese of Fargo is blessed to have vibrant campus ministry at the two largest universities in the state, NDSU and the University of North Dakota. The St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center at UND had its own rebirth after a flood and fire more than 20 years ago. Both of these campus parishes are spiritual homes for students, staff, and families at the universities. They are bright beacons in our diocese where the gift of faith is lived and handed on to young adults. They offer a faith community and a home away from home to young people who are often far away from their own families and parishes.

Our campus parishes are called “Newman Centers” after St. John Henry Newman, an English scholar and cardinal of the 19th century. He was a chaplain at Oxford University, and a rising star in the Anglican Church. But after a long journey of prayer, study, and discernment, he embraced the Catholic faith and entered the Church at great personal cost. As a Catholic priest and scholar, he believed that religious faith and the study of theology have an essential place in higher education, because God is the source of all truth, and our intellectual journey would be incomplete without God. He became a great proponent and defender of the Catholic faith in his own time, and Catholic campus ministries all across the country have been named for him ever since. Newman’s theology has been an important influence in the life of the Church, and his sanctity was recognized when he was canonized a saint by Pope Francis in 2019.

The vast majority of our Catholic college students attend secular colleges and universities, so Catholic ministry on those campuses is vitally important. During their college years, the students face a multitude of challenges to their faith, both

in and outside of the classroom. Catholic faculty members and employees too can face challenges to their faith. College campuses and programs often present themselves as places of open-minded discussion and tolerance, but that’s not always true when it comes to religion. The Catholic faith in particular comes in for challenges and even ridicule from the secular culture of higher education. But the earliest modern universities were established by the Catholic Church, so Catholic campus ministry has a natural home in that setting. Campus ministry can be an important support to those who are striving to live their faith and grow in their understanding and love for God.

During their college years, these young people take important steps into their adult lives. They not only prepare for a future career, but they are often discerning their vocations as well. Many will marry someday, and there are countless stories of Catholic young people who met their future spouses at the campus Newman Centers. Others are considering a call from God to the priesthood or religious life. Many of our priests and religious sisters and brothers were encouraged and supported in their discernment through their participation in campus Newman Centers. In fact, I was one of them. And there are times when a big university can be a little overwhelming and impersonal, so our campus parishes offer a place where students can find friendships and community that are built on faith and common Gospel values.

One of the sad facts of our time is the attrition of young adults from the practice of their Catholic faith. Many college students, when they are on their own, drift away from an active faith life, and an alarming percentage leave the Church for good during this time of their lives. This may be due to the undermining influence of the college culture, or a lack of understanding of the truth and goodness and beauty of our faith. In either case, the presence of Catholic campus ministry and the witness of faith-filled young Catholics can make all the difference to a young person who is wrestling with questions of faith and meaning in their lives. And the good news is that many other young people discover the Catholic faith for the first time during their college years. Once again, the presence of a Catholic Newman Center can offer them a place where they can encounter the love of Christ and the youthful, faith-filled presence of his Church right there on campus. They discover that they are loved and that they have a place in God’s family.

Our Newman Centers have flourished over the years because of the support of many generous alumni and benefactors throughout our diocese. When we support our Newman Centers, we are supporting young Catholics who already are an essential part the Church, and others who are just finding their way. I'm grateful to those who give so much to keep our campus ministries thriving in the Diocese of Fargo, and I ask you to join me in praying for all the young people who are seeking God on our college campuses.



Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

November - For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



Official Appointments/ Announcements

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

Priests' Council of the Diocese of Fargo: I herewith recognize the election of the following members:

Rev. Antony Samy, Deanery 5, first term of 3 years.

Rev. Patrick Parks, Deanery 8, first term of 3 years.

Rev. William Slattery, Deanery 2, second term of 3 years.

Rev. James Gross, Deanery 3, second term of 3 years.

I herewith appoint **Rev. Greg Haman**, member at large, second term to conclude September 23, 2025.

Deacon Clarence Vetter has been granted retirement from active ministry as a permanent deacon, effective September 21, 2023.

Deacon James West has been granted retirement from active ministry as a permanent deacon, effective September 21, 2023.

BISHOP FOLDA'S CALENDAR

Nov. 11–16

USCCB meeting, Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 20 at 7 p.m.

Theology on Tap, Crooked Pint, Fargo

Nov. 21 at 5 p.m.

Operation Andrew Dinner, St. John Church, Wahpeton

Nov. 23–24

Thanksgiving, Pastoral Center closed

Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Operation Andrew Dinner, Bishop's Residence, Fargo

Dec. 1 at 8:30 a.m.

Mass at Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Fargo

Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Noel Night, St. John School, Wahpeton

Dec. 6 at 10 a.m.

North Dakota Catholic Conference, Jamestown

Dec. 6 at 3 p.m.

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

Dec. 8 at 12:10 p.m.

Mass of Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Cathedral of St. Mary, Fargo

Dec. 8

Pastoral Center closed

Dec. 9 at 1 p.m.

Shanley Christmas Concert, Sts. Anne and Joachim, Fargo

Dec. 12 at 3 p.m.

Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, Pastoral Center, Fargo

Dec. 16 at 4 p.m.

Mass at St. Mathias, Pastoral Visit, Windsor

Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Mass at St. Margaret Mary, Pastoral Visit, Buchanan



MONTHLY EUCHARIST MIRACLE

Eucharist thrown into fire overnight miraculously unscathed

From therealpresence.org (edited for content)

In 1345, a man who was a devout Catholic became very ill. He told his family he would like to receive Holy Viaticum. The family notified the pastor of the then known *Old Church*. The priest, after administering the sacrament, advised the family, if the ill man threw up (which he was known to do after taking nourishment) they were to empty the contents in the fire. The man threw up and the family did what they were advised to do by the priest, they threw the contents into the fire in the sick room.

Early the next morning, one of the women went to rake the fire and she noticed in the middle of the grate, the Blessed Sacrament in the form of a host. A light surrounded it. The woman became upset and immediately put her hand in the fire to rescue the host. This she did without any ill effects to herself. She did not burn her hand. The woman was surprised to find the host was cold! She immediately called in a neighbor and asked her to take the Sacred Host to her home. The neighbor took a clean cloth, placed the host on it and locked it in a box. She then took it home. When the husband of the woman who found the host heard what had taken place, he requested to see it. He tried to lift it off the white cloth it rested on but the Sacred Particle resisted as if to say it did not want to be touched by this man's hands.

A priest was then summoned, who took the host and placed it in a pyx. When he went to wash the cloth that held the Blessed Sacrament and return it to the original box, he noticed the pyx was turned over and the host was gone! The

next morning the neighbor returned for her original box and cloth. When she opened the locked box she once again found the Sacred Host in it! There was then no doubt that Our Lord wanted this miracle to be made known. The priest notified the clergy of Amsterdam and a procession was held to carry the host to the church.

The home of the sick man soon became a chapel and as early as 1360 public processions and pilgrims traveled to the site of the miracle. On May 25, 1452, a large conflagration broke out which left three fourths of the city in ruins. It was during this time, the chapel known as the Holy Room, became subject to the flames. Strangely, the monstrance containing the Miraculous Host (which had been brought over to the chapel from the old church) was spared. In 1456, a new Holy Room was built surrounded by a beautiful church.

Many pilgrims went to visit the shrine seeking cures and spiritual help. One pilgrim, Archduke Maximilian, later a Roman Emperor, came seeking a cure in 1480. God heard his prayer and he was cured. In thanksgiving, the Archduke dedicated a beautiful window to the Holy Room. By the second half of the sixteenth century, Catholics in Amsterdam fell under persecution of the Protestants. The Holy Room fell under Protestant rule. In 1910, rather than sell the property to the Catholics, the chapel was torn down. However, devotion to this Eucharistic Miracle still takes place every March 12 at the church nearest the site.

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)*

Take time to get away together—with Jesus!

By Deacon Ben Seitz | Director of Evangelization, Sts. Anne and Joachim, Fargo

Life can be so hectic. It seems from the time the alarm goes off in the morning until we shut our eyes at night, we are busy. There is little time to focus on important things like our faith and our marriage. Finding that peace that we so desire often requires us to get away from the day-to-day stressors. Jesus and his disciples experienced this same busy-ness in the Gospel of St. Mark. Jesus called on them to “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” Jesus was calling his disciples to a “retreat.”

There are many different options when it comes to retreats. There are silent retreats where one goes to focus on Jesus Christ in Word and in the Eucharist. Those types of retreats can range from a three-day weekend retreat to much longer periods.

Other types of retreats are not silent. Cursillo retreat weekends, for example, are opportunities for men and women to spend a weekend together learning more about their faith and encountering Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament in an atmosphere that encourages sharing and dialogue. There are separate men’s weekends and women’s weekends for individuals to attend.

I have enjoyed many men’s retreat weekends throughout my life and have garnered great spiritual benefit from them. Every time we sacrifice our time to grow in our faith, to encounter Jesus Christ, we leave that weekend blessed. God the Father enjoys giving great gifts to his children.

The only problem with going on a men’s retreat weekend is when I come home to my beloved bride, I am on a spiritual and emotional high from the weekend retreat, while she is in the same place she was when I left on Friday. No matter how much I try to share what I learned from the weekend with her, it is just not the same as being there. The same thing happens when my wife attends a women’s weekend retreat.

Men’s and women’s retreat weekends are wonderful, and everyone should take time annually to attend one. They are game changers in our faith life! That being said, married couples should also consider attending retreat weekends designed specifically for them. These weekends are opportunities for couples to get away together and focus on each other and on Christ.

There are a few different options available to married couples to attend retreats together.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers weekend getaways that enable married couples to rediscover themselves as individuals and as a couple. The weekend format helps couples communicate openly and honestly with each other. There

is no group sharing or counseling offered. Couples who attend these weekends not only rediscover the joy, intimacy, and romance in their relationships, but often become more active in their faith and parish life.

More information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends including schedules is available at www.fargodiocese.org/marriedlifeprogams.

Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped thousands of married couples in struggling marriages turn the tide, find new hope, and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. Surveys have shown that three out of four couples who complete the entire program are still married five years later with stronger, healthier marriages.

Retrouvaille is open to couples who have experienced any degree of hurt or disillusionment in their relationship. More information about Retrouvaille weekends including schedules is available at www.fargodiocese.org/marriedlifeprogams.

Six Stone Jars Mission was founded by my wife Jennine and I a few years back to provide weekend retreat opportunities for married couples to grow closer to each other and Jesus Christ. While the world tells us that success in marriage depends upon the husbands and wives compromising and meeting in the middle, Six Stone Jars Mission motto is, “Don’t meet in the middle, meet at Jesus!” Through prayer, Word and Sacraments offered by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church, couples can find love and peace in their marriages through mutual sacrifice.

Retreat themes currently available include: The Virtues—Building Blocks for Great Lives and Joy Filled Marriages. And “I AM”—Christ’s Grace Filled Model for Holy Marriages from the Gospel of St. John.

Each retreat weekend includes seminar talks with time for reflection on sacred scripture references after each. Also included is daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, opportunities for confession, rosary, and Divine Mercy devotions, and of course, good coffee!

More information about Six Stone Jars Mission weekends including schedules is available at: www.sixstonejars.org.

There are many options for married couples in the coming months, so take some time to get away together—with Jesus!



(Catholic)

“Next door saves lives:” Women’s Care Center announces second location in FM area

By Kristina Bloomsburg | Assistant Editor of New Earth

Entering Women’s Care Center in Fargo, you won’t see a check-in desk. This center for pregnant women in downtown Fargo with its cozy living room entryway, looks more like a home than an office.

This design is very intentional, says Angela Wambach, Executive Director of Women’s Care Center.

“We really try to give women a safe, quiet place to process their feelings,” said Angela. “Ninety-nine percent of the time, women who come through our doors don’t want to have an abortion, but feel like they have to. We’re here to help them process their thoughts and feelings—shut out the world for a bit so they can focus on what they want.”

According to their website, Women’s Care Center was founded in 1984 with the mission to help pregnant women choose life for their babies, have healthier pregnancies, become better parents, and take first steps to self-sufficiency. The center has grown to become the largest, most successful pregnancy resource center in America. They serve 30,000 women annually from 35 centers in 12 states. Nine in 10 of these women choose to parent or adopt.

“Our model of care is based on St. Benedict’s rule which includes radical hospitality,” said Angela. “It’s really about us seeing Christ in those who come through our doors and being Christ. Our staff does a great job of seeing people the same day they call or come to the door. Many women feel like they need to hurry and make a decision about their baby right now and get it over with, but one of the things that we share with them is that they actually have a gift of time. Decisions don’t need to be made in one day. We make our best decisions by not making them in a hurry. The gift of time wins every time.”

While Women’s Care Center boldly advertises free and confidential pregnancy testing and ultrasounds on their pink signs along University Drive in Fargo, they also offer significantly more.

“Women can have as many ultrasounds as they need so that they can make a fully informed decision and feel good about that decision,” said Angela. “We also offer education, goal planning, connecting them with area resources and referring agencies. Our weekly classes cover topics like pregnancy, parenting, life skills, nutrition, raising children with character, and positive parenting. Women and their significant other can earn what we call coupons for each service they receive. They can use the coupons like cash in our Crib Club, which has everything from clothing, blankets, diaper bags, cribs, car seats,



Angela Wambach stands in the Crib Club at the Women's Care Center in Fargo where new and expecting mothers can receive items they need.
(Kristina Bloomsburg | New Earth)

high chairs, and strollers. It encourages fathers to be a part of the whole process, to help them to become good parents as well.”

In June 2019, Women’s Care Center changed their name/ model from First Choice Clinic and moved to their current location. Since then, they’ve tripled the number of women they serve annually. Women’s Care Center now serves 1 in 10 babies born in Cass County. Four hundred babies were born to local Women’s Care Center moms last year.

While this is fantastic news, there’s still much work to be done. Shortly after Roe vs. Wade was overturned in June 2022, Red River Women’s Clinic, where abortions are performed in the area, moved from downtown Fargo to Moorhead, Minn. Women’s Care Center is now three miles away from the women who need them most. For the 80% of Women’s Care Center’s clientele who are poverty level and may not own a vehicle, three miles can feel insurmountable.

So it was with great joy that on Oct. 9, at their Luxury Bingo fundraising event, Angela announced the plan to build a second location in the Fargo-Moorhead area on 3rd Ave North in Moorhead, directly across the street from Red River Women’s Clinic.

“I helped open the Women’s Care Center in Duluth right across from the abortion facility there,” said Angela. “I’ve seen firsthand the impact that you can have by being that close. You sometimes get wrong doors or people who have an abortion scheduled but decide to come to you first for that free ultrasound. That gives us the opportunity to show them

their baby and meet with our counselors. Here they find love, hope, and real help to choose life.”

There are three abortion facilities in the state of Minnesota. The Red River Women’s Clinic in Moorhead is the only one of the three without a pregnancy center next door. From their own reporting, Red River Women’s Clinic has provided approximately 20% more abortions since moving to Moorhead. Minnesota is surrounded by states that have abortion bans in place, so many women come from other states to have abortions there.

Women’s Care Center purchased the land for their new location in October 2022.

“We all know that it’s going to be a very life-saving location, especially with everything changing in Minnesota politically, the laws surrounding abortion, and the goals in Minnesota to be a ‘safe haven’ for women. We want to be a *true* safe haven. Next door saves lives. This is a proven model with Women’s Care Center nationally. Time is of the essence. With each passing week, we are losing the equivalent of a classroom of children to the tragedy of abortion. The sooner we can open this center, the more lives will be saved.”

Women’s Care Center hopes to break ground for their Moorhead location in early 2024 and open late 2024.

“God is with us through everything. Every year our budget goes up, and yet we still make budget every year. We don’t



A rendering of the new Women’s Care Center to open in Moorhead in late 2024. the 4,106 square foot building will include an ultrasound room, counseling offices, a classroom, a play area for children, and a Crib Club store. (submitted photo)

have a lot of excess, but God is good. I know that this is his plan. We wouldn’t have gotten the perfect property we needed otherwise.”

Women’s Care Center hopes to raise \$2,700,000 to build the new center in Moorhead. For more information, visit supportwomenscarecenter.org/donate/.

David Tamisiea named Executive Director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference

By North Dakota Catholic Conference

Bishop David D. Kagan of Bismarck and Bishop John T. Folda of Fargo are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. David Tamisiea as the new Executive Director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference.

Tamisiea comes to the conference from the University of Mary, where he has served as the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences since 2019. He has an extensive background in law, theology, Catholic social doctrine, and the Christian lay vocation. Tamisiea received his Ph.D. and M.A. in Theology from Ave Maria University, his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law, and his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he double majored in Pre-medicine and Psychology. Tamisiea lives in Bismarck with his wife Seana and their six children.

Upon the appointment, Bishop John Folda stated: “David’s extensive experience in both the law and theology, as well as his commitment to the Church and the common good, make

him uniquely well-positioned to continue the important work of the Catholic Conference.”

Bishop Kagan added: “David’s dedicated service to the Church is evident throughout his career and personal life, and especially his excellent work at the University of Mary. I look forward to his leadership as the next Executive Director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference.”

David Tamisiea succeeds Christopher Dodson, who is retiring from the conference after 29 years. Tamisiea started his new position on Nov. 1. Dodson will continue as a co-director during the transition.



(submitted photo)

Welcome changes to St. James Basilica, Jamestown

By Paul Braun | Editor of New Earth

When Father Chad Wilhelm became the new pastor at the Basilica of St. James in Jamestown in June, he was told by more than one parishioner of their desire to move the church's main crucifix "out of hiding and into the open." In the past, the crucifix was behind a wall, visible only through a glass opening.

Now the crucifix is front and center behind the altar and visible to all attending Mass, to the welcome eyes of many parishioners. Accompanying the crucifix are statues of Mary

and the disciple John, gifts from the parish of St. Bernard's in Oriska. The tabernacle was also moved forward and placed behind the altar on a special table built by a St. James parishioner.

Other improvements to the sanctuary will be placing of the statues of St. Ann and St. James back on the walls to the left and right of the altar area, realigning some steps going up to the altar for safety purposes, and moving the original baptismal font from the social hall back to the main sanctuary.



(Paul Braun | New Earth)



(Paul Braun | New Earth)



Visit: MaryvaleND.Org



UPCOMING OPEN RETREATS

- Beloved Husband - Men's Retreat - Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2023 (filling up fast!)
- Couples Retreat - Dec. 8-10, 2023
- Made for Greatness Men's Winter Retreat - Jan. 19-21, 2024
- Beloved Father - Men's Retreat - Feb. 1-3, 2024
- Couples Retreat - Feb. 9-11, 2024
- Women's Directed Ignatian Retreat - April 4-7, 2024

If you have questions about upcoming retreats please contact Amanda:
(701) 845 2864 | Amanda.Kunze@MaryvaleND.org

Shanley Soccer wins ND State High School Boys Soccer Championship

By Paul Braun | New Earth

The Shanley Deacons boys varsity soccer team capped a remarkable season on Oct. 14 by winning the North Dakota State High School Boys Soccer Championship with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Bismarck Legacy High School.

Sophomore Andrew Schneider tallied the winning goal for the Deacons on a spectacular header shot, with Senior Andrew Kankelfritz opening the scoring with a free-kick goal unassisted. The win capped a stellar season for the Deacons, who went 16-1-2, including ten shut-outs, two coming in the quarterfinal and semi-final games at the state tournament.

The Deacons, the number-one seed from the Eastern Dakota Conference, placed four players on the all-state tournament team; seniors London Gray, Matt Berg, Michael Noack, and Peter Noah. The win was the first state soccer title for Shanley High School since 2008.



(Photo by Father Kyle Metzger | Shanley High School)



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The pilgrimage group from Holy Cross in West Fargo touring Bethlehem. (Father Phil Ackerman)

Horror in the Holy Land

Pilgrims from the Fargo Diocese caught in the crossfire of war

By Paul Braun | Editor of New Earth

What started as a long-awaited pilgrimage to the Holy Land ended in terror, confusion, and prayer for a group of over 80 tourists from the Diocese of Fargo. The tour group was in Palestinian territory when war broke out Oct. 7 between Israel and the Hamas terror organization in the Gaza Strip. Suddenly, those who were on what they expected to be a sacred pilgrimage were caught between two lands and two warring factions, wondering if they would be able to escape the violence and get home safely.

The group was led by three priests, Father Phil Ackerman, pastor of Holy Cross in West Fargo; Father Gerard Braun, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in Fargo; and Father Augie Gothman, pastor of St. Andrew's in Hawley, Minn. and St. Elizabeth's in Dilworth, Minn. *New Earth* spoke with Father Phil Ackerman shortly after they arrived back in the United States to get a first-hand account of what the group experienced, and what that experience may have taught them about their faith.

New Earth: Take us through that first day, Oct. 7, when the attack started. What were your experiences from that day? What happened with your group?

Fr. Ackerman: We didn't know what was going on at that point. We were leaving Nazareth and heading to Bethlehem. Normal day, everything is fine, and we were planning to drive along the Jordan Valley to Jericho and visit Zacchaeus' tree and the Mount of Temptation, and we were going to the River Jordan to renew our baptismal vows and drive to the Dead Sea. That was our plan. But as we were heading in that

direction, we stopped at a gas station and were told to get back on the bus. We have to get back on the bus to get to Bethlehem right away because checkpoints are closing. That was the first indication we had.

New Earth: And you didn't know why the checkpoints were closed?

Fr. Ackerman: We knew something was happening, but we didn't know why that was happening. We headed to Bethlehem and got settled in our hotel, and we were told that it is safe to be in Bethlehem because the Hamas would not attack Bethlehem because it's Palestinian. We had a sense that we were safe. The local tour guides live a life where there's unrest, so they just kind of shrug their shoulders and say, this is just another incident like this and it'll pass just like it has before.

New Earth: When did you realize it was more serious than that?

Fr. Ackerman: As the day went on and into Oct. 9, a lot of input was coming from outside of our group from family hearing it on the news—it's escalating, it's getting worse. We didn't know what to do at that point and the checkpoints were closing. There's a checkpoint between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. It's only about five miles apart, but the Bethlehem section is Palestinian and the Jerusalem part is Israeli. So we thought, well, we're not able to do any touring in Jerusalem. That's when I felt the power of prayer. A lot of people said we're in God's hands. There's people praying for us. There's a level of peace and comfort, even though there is anxiety underneath. I believe it was Oct. 9 when we were planning

to go to Jerusalem, or at least wanting to, but we thought we couldn't, but then the checkpoints suddenly opened. We felt things are kind of leveling off a little bit.

New Earth: So Oct. 8, Sunday, you were waiting around in Bethlehem, not knowing what was going on, wondering if your tour was even going to be able to continue?

Fr. Ackerman: Well, not at that point. On the 8th, we were touring Bethlehem. We knew that maybe Jerusalem was off limits, but on the 8th we went to the Church of the Nativity. We saw the place where Christ was born, and we went to the milk grotto, but then after that we were told to stay in our hotel. By the time Oct. 9 came, we knew it was more serious, and we had heard that the conflict was breaking out, it was only about 45 miles from where we were staying in Bethlehem.

New Earth: What was the mood of the people on Oct. 8 when you were told to go back to the hotel?

Fr. Ackerman: Good spirits because we knew we were safe, even though it was a high level of anxiety. People just seemed to be team players and say, you know, we're okay. Monday was a little more intense. We were not able to see (sites in Jerusalem) as we had planned.

New Earth: You had mentioned that on the 9th, all of a sudden, the checkpoints opened up. Did that feel like maybe a little normalcy was returned?

Fr. Ackerman: I thought, oh, it's getting better. Because why else would they be opening checkpoints? So we went through, went to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to go into the tomb of Christ and touch the slab where he was prepared. It was just a profound. We couldn't believe that we could do this. We were so thankful. Before that we did the Way of the Cross and that was a profound experience too. After that we had lunch and then we were told we needed to get to the bus quickly because the checkpoints are closing again. That was another level of anxiety, thinking that things might get worse.

New Earth: At that point, did you feel you were still going to be able to complete your entire tour?

Fr. Ackerman: No, we knew we were done touring. People didn't want to. They just wanted to go home. By Oct. 10 morning, we discovered that our flights back to Toronto and Montreal were canceled. The Tel Aviv Airport still had commercial flights coming in and out from other airlines at that point, but our flights were canceled. That morning there was a lot of anxiety. What are we going to do? All of a sudden at 9.30 a.m., Jane Alatrash, our tour guide, worked a miracle for us. She said, "We're leaving for Jordan right now. Pack up and let's go." Within minutes everybody was ready with no complaints. I said to one of our travelers, "Do you know what we're doing?" We got on the bus and headed to Jordan, and there was a sense of relief that we had a plan, even though we had no flights. In the meantime, Jane arranged to have two new buses and



The pilgrimage was led by (l to r) Father Gerard Braun, Father Phil Ackerman, and Father Augie Gathman. (submitted photo)

drivers because they cannot cross the border from Israel to Jordan. She had it all arranged and rooms for about 75 people at a hotel. It was unbelievable, especially with the number of people trying to do the same thing we're doing. We waited at the border for three hours because there's a line of buses. When we finally crossed the border, there was such a feeling of relief. We're safe.



One of several closed Israeli checkpoints encountered by the group. (Father Phil Ackerman)



Being on the Sea of Galilee was a profound experience for those on the pilgrimage. (Father Phil Ackerman)

New Earth: When you crossed the border, did you cross by foot or on a bus?

Fr. Ackerman: Our bus crossed into the middle zone between the custom checkpoints and then the bus driver let us off. We had all our stuff sitting out for about six and a half hours, but we were happy. Hungry perhaps, but we were safe, and we were just relieved. On the way into Jordan, Jane asked for a list of people that should be first to leave that were running out of medications. They would be the first ones to go.

New Earth: So you finally were able to cross into Jordan from the waiting area. Wasn't that about the same time the kids from Trinity School in West Fargo started adoration?

Fr. Ackerman: I was told there was some connection there. They started adoration at about 7 p.m. our time, and we had crossed the border already. But we learned later that when we crossed the border, about two or three hours after we crossed, it was closed. I felt the power of prayer and that prayer helped us in this situation. We got to the hotel in Amman, Jordan at

about 10:45 p.m. The manager of the hotel was standing in the front entrance as we walked in and said, "Welcome to Jordan, you are safe." Wow!

New Earth: That must have been very calming.

Fr. Ackerman: We were at the Crown Plaza, an American hotel. They had dinner for us, a full buffet. The staff said "Hurry up, don't go to your rooms, don't panic, just come and eat." Then Jane explained our next move. Twenty-seven people had the first set of plane tickets heading out the next morning. We all had different flights. The first group flew out of Amman to Chicago. From Chicago, some people had connecting flights to Minneapolis and Rochester. Roxanne Clute from our (Holy Cross) parish, arranged with her brother, who lives in the Twin Cities, to come to Rochester along with a sister-in-law with two vehicles because they needed to pick up the luggage for six people. They took us to St. Cloud and by then it was about 1 a.m. Then she had other relatives pick us up, including a fiancé who drove all the way from Jamestown to St. Cloud.

New Earth: Did you realize that your plight was covered by national media in the U.S.?

Fr. Ackerman: I did at that point. When we were in Chicago, we had to claim our luggage and go through customs. When we were at the luggage carousel, a young man looked at us and said, "Are you the group from North Dakota?"

New Earth: So, you arrived in Fargo Oct. 12 morning at 4 a.m. What were your feelings being in the rectory?

Fr. Ackerman: It's a miracle I'm here. I didn't know if I'd be able to come back. During that tense time at that hotel in Bethlehem, I thought, "are we going to be taken as hostages? Christ faced the cross. Maybe we will too." Even with all that, I thought to myself, "I'm going to place myself in God's hands and he's going to take care of me no matter what happens." That gave me comfort.



The group spent several hours in the hot sun between the Israeli and Jordanian border before finally being allowed to cross into Jordan. (Father Phil Ackerman)

New Earth: What role did you play in being spiritual advisors during this whole ordeal?

Fr. Ackerman: I think I got some emails on that saying that we were there to provide comfort and strength and a bit of humor and that helped us through this. I think just having us there was a sense of strength for them. Then came this sour note, this moment when some felt their family members were abandoned by their shepherds when we flew out first. In hindsight, I would have said to Jane as she arranged flights to make sure that we were last. I had not thought of that. It didn't even dawn on me.

New Earth: Wouldn't that also be because you've got to take a flight when you can? Because if you don't, you might not get one again?

Fr. Ackerman: That's right. The flights were issued before we even knew it. Jane had to nail it down right now, otherwise two minutes, a minute later, it's lost. It's already taken. It was out of my hands. I felt uneasy, but when I came back I found out it was worse than I thought. There was a parishioner who came in that was extremely angry. He said, "My wife is still over there and here you are and my family is angry at you." We talked it through and I said, "I'm just so grateful to you to bring this to my attention. I said I felt uneasy about it and here's the situation." We're okay, but there's still some frustration out there. I wrote an email to the whole group, not trying to defend myself, just to say, "here's how this is laid out and if you would like to talk about it, I'd love to talk about it further."

New Earth: You mentioned the power of prayer and how you actually felt it. What are your thoughts now looking back about your faith and your role as a shepherd?

Fr. Ackerman: The thing that was profound for me is that God's presence and guiding hand were there, and it was strong. I felt that. Of course, I've felt that all my life as a priest, but I felt it in a deeper way. The power of prayer just really struck me on this journey. So many of the pilgrims, including myself, see this incident, this tragedy, as part of our pilgrimage.

New Earth: Would you go back?

Fr. Ackerman: I've had a wonderful experience of pilgrimages and tours. I've been so blessed with that. I've done this for over 20 years. It's been wonderful, but I think I'm done. But who knows, I might change my mind.

New Earth: What's the importance of a Holy Land pilgrimage? Why is that so important for the faithful, if they can make one, to do it?

Fr. Ackerman: I feel people want to experience where it all happened. They get to actually be on the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus started his ministry. This is where he had to face those staunch Jews, solid in their faith. The other shore is pagan religions and immorality. He had to face that too. On top of



Students at Trinity Catholic School in West Fargo begin perpetual Adoration at Holy Cross church to pray for the safe return of those on the pilgrimage. While they were in prayer, the borders closed, but not before the group was able to cross safely into Jordan. (Trinity Catholic School)

it, rounding up those unwieldy disciples that have their own set of problems. There's a lot of sites where Jesus might have been in this spot, or this spot, but he was actually on the Sea of Galilee. That was exciting to all of us. When we talked about Mount Tabor, and the Feast of Transfiguration, and whatever, we were there, so that vision will be more profound when we read the scriptures. People want to be on the site where Jesus was. That draws people. Overall, it was a profound experience of faith. I'm so grateful for it.

New Earth: Not your typical pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Fr. Ackerman: People became more aware of some impact of the scripture passages. For example, Mary traveled from Nazareth to see Elizabeth. The terrain, the rocky terrain, the hills, the trees, how difficult was that? I was thinking about the hardships and even the flight to Egypt. You think about August or July and there Jesus is traveling with this unwieldy group he calls disciples, and they're traveling from place to place. You see how uncomfortable that was, and how hot it was. How did they get fresh water? How did they think about the difficulties getting to all these places? When we read a scripture passage, those things come alive and become much more profound. That's what the pilgrimage did for us. It made things come alive.

TATTERED PAGES

A review of Catholic books, movies, music

Connection to family and God remedy for cultural problems

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

How many changes take place within a decade's time? When it comes to things like technology, changes are frequent and rapid. If I go back ten years from the year of my priestly ordination of 1999 to the year I was a high school sophomore/junior, the 1989 version of me had never heard of email, whereas the 1999 version checked his account almost every day. No less drastic are the changes we have witnessed regarding the norms (or lack thereof) of sexual morality in Western society.

Mary Eberstadt, a prominent American Catholic scholar and author, wrote an expertly observant book on these matters in early 2013 entitled *Adam and Eve after the Pill*. Her thesis was that the wide introduction of artificial contraception and the subsequent "sexual revolution" of the 1960s were harbingers of catastrophic cultural problems, regardless of whether people recognized them or not. In the decade which elapsed since its release, so much ground had shifted under the feet of Christians that Eberstadt felt compelled to pen a sequel earlier this year. *Adam and Eve after the Pill, Revisited* is suitable for anyone serious about applying the Gospel teaching of the dignity of the human person: one need not have read this volume's predecessor to derive great benefit.

America has seen a veritable avalanche of propaganda in the past decade in areas like gender identity and medical "transitioning." The accelerated pace seems particularly focused on soliciting life-altering decisions from minors who are well below the age of consent, not to mention legally prohibited from the adult privileges of voting, enlisting in the military, or the use of alcohol or tobacco. Procedures that seemed at least outlandish and requiring psychological therapy a decade ago have not only received endorsement in the fields of politics and medicine: they now have the loud and pugnacious support of proponents who insist not only on acceptance but widespread advocacy. Numerous European nations, previously seen as far more libertine than us, are now imposing restrictions on so-called "gender affirming care" for minors that many American professionals will not even countenance.

However, Eberstadt points out that there have been developments within the past ten years which offer signs of hope. The explosion of #MeToo testimonials starting in 2017 has

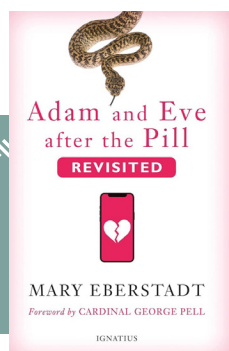
brought to light a great many crimes perpetrated by those who, because of their influence and celebrity, had received the benefit of the doubt: in addition, it has amplified the voices of female victims who feared economic repercussions if they spoke out. Also, compared to 2013, a far wider array of voices in the public square have decried the harmful impact of pornography, instead of consigning such opposition to the rantings of out of touch religious zealots.

What, we may ask, will provide the remedy? Repeatedly Eberstadt visits the theme of personal integration into both the family of God and the bonds of extended family. She is fond of using anecdotal examples of how few young people ever hold or care for a baby or have grandparents nearby with whom they spend lavish amounts of time. Also, consider the following quote: "The [sexual] revolution robbed many modern people of a familial identity. By spurring secularization, it also robbed them of a supernatural foundation. The first change cut their primordial horizontal ties; the second, their primordial vertical ones."

With a concise collection of chapters including extensive research, Eberstadt has sought to take a critical look at the sexual revolution's fallout in light of recent trends. May more people of good will follow in her footsteps.

Adam and Eve after the Pill,
Revisited

by Mary Eberstadt, 2023



Correction

In the October 2023 issue of *New Earth* on page 20, the Tattered Pages article listed Matt Komprood as the writer. It should read "by Nathan Carr | Director of Campus Ministry at St. Paul's Newman Center, Fargo." *New Earth* regrets the error.



Gaze on the Lord's beauty

A look at Catholic images

The Eucharist in the Old Testament

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



Triptych of the Last Supper by Dieric Bouts. Belgium, Leuven, St. Peter's Church. 1464-68.

This month our Eucharistic image is a Northern Renaissance painting of the Last Supper by Dieric Bouts painted in 1464–68, which has other biblical scenes surrounding it on side panels. The painting was commissioned by members of the Confraternity of the Holy Sacrament for their chapel in St. Peter's Church, Leuven, Belgium.

The key to this painting is looking at the very center first and it will tell you the main theme of this painting. Right in the middle, Jesus is blessing the bread, which is shown as a Eucharistic host, so we do not miss the connection to the same host we receive at Mass.

The setting is that of a typical dining room in Northern Europe during the 15th century, not first century Jerusalem, because this event affects everyone for all time.

All twelve apostles are accounted for. But other than the beardless John, there are no symbols or attributes to identify them; the focus is not on them or the betrayal of Judas.

The white tablecloth is most interesting, it seems to be a mess, but a closer look reveals that the drape in the forefront is not even part of the tablecloth. It could be a reminder to the viewer of the burial cloth to be used for Jesus in the distant future. The artist displayed it in such a way that your eyes are drawn to it just below the Eucharist, making it an important aspect of the painting and a possible reminder of the sacrifice

of Jesus that is linked to the Last Supper.

This triptych is a three-panel piece that can open and close. It demonstrates how events in the Old Testament foreshadow that of the New Testament. The top left is when Abraham meets Melchizedek. Melchizedek is a priest who brings bread and wine to Abraham and blesses him. He is a prefigurement of Jesus. According to the Letter to the Hebrews, Jesus Christ is identified as "High priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

The panel below it depicts the Passover meal where the Hebrews are holding walking sticks, for they were told, "Eat quickly, with your coat ready, your shoes on your feet, and your walking stick in your hand" (Ex. 12:3-13). The Hebrews were to eat the lamb, and the blood from the sacrifice was to go on their doorposts so the angel of death would pass by. It was the blood of the lamb that would save them as the Blood of the Lamb of God saves us.

The top right shows the Hebrew people gathering manna in the desert. The message is clear, God provides the bread.

The scene below it is the angel that brought food to Elijah in the wilderness. Again, God provides the food we need. He provided for his people then and in the person of Jesus Christ provides Himself to us now in the Eucharist: the food that nourishes our soul, food we so desperately need.

Recent North Dakota laws on gender and gender dysphoria



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.

North Dakota recently enacted several laws related to gender and gender dysphoria that are either misunderstood or purposely mischaracterized by vocal opponents of the laws.

Let us start with some basic principles. The Catholic Church teaches and acknowledges that human beings are created male and female from fertilization. Sex is an objective reality that cannot be changed. To deny one's biological sex is to deny the dignity bestowed on us by God. Gender, therefore, cannot be separated from biological sex. The concept that gender is subjective or fluid is a man-made ideology contrary to objective, biological reality and disrespectful of nature and human dignity. These truths are not just doctrine. They are knowable through natural law.

For some people, their perceived gender does not conform to their biological sex. They should be treated with respect. Some of these individuals suffer from emotional distress due to the incongruence. This is known as gender dysphoria. Persons suffering from gender dysphoria should be respected and offered appropriate psychological treatment to treat the distress.

One of the laws enacted restricts applying non-psychological treatment to minors suffering from gender dysphoria. Additional principles from Catholic teaching apply to this issue.

The first principle is that a medical intervention must have a good intention. In the case of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and sex reassignment surgery the purpose—indeed, the only purpose—is gender transitioning or providing a step toward gender transitioning. They may be called “gender-affirming,” but in reality, they act on the physical body so that it takes on the characteristics of the person's self-identified gender.

Certainly, some practitioners will contend that the purpose of these interventions is to alleviate stress or reduce anxiety, but the chosen method to address those conditions is gender transitioning. Gender transitioning is ultimately a fiction or a

battle against nature. The body cannot change its sex and—going back to the first set of principles above—attempts to do so are contrary to the dignity of the person.

Another criterion for determining whether a medical intervention is ethical is whether the intended effect is achieved by a harmful action. In this regard, all three interventions used to achieve gender transitioning—puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and sex reassignment surgery—clearly fail.

Puberty blockers do only one thing. They suppress normal and healthy bodily development. The administration of cross-sex hormones does not treat any disease. It only interferes with the normal and healthy functioning of the human body. Sex reassignment surgery does not treat any pathology. It is the alteration or removal of healthy organs and tissue, an act also known as mutilation.

Some argue that as a result of these interventions, the individual might have less stress, anxiety, or depression. These are what are called “consequentialist” appeals. They attempt to justify a harmful act by appealing to an indirect, though possible, good consequence. These arguments ignore, however, that the act itself harms the body and that the act itself does not directly treat gender incongruence.

Unfortunately, violations of these principles of medical ethics have become common, which is why the legislature acted to protect children. Children should not be subject to medical interventions that harm, sometimes irreparably, healthy bodily functions, organs, and tissues for the sake of forcing the body to look or feel like something it is not.

Another misunderstood new law concerns parental rights in public schools. The new law states: “Unless otherwise required by law, a school district, public school, or public school teacher may not: a. Adopt a policy concerning a particular student's transgender status without approval from the student's parent or legal guardian; or b. Withhold or conceal information about a student's transgender status from the student's parent or legal guardian.”

It does not force a school to “out” a student's “transgender status,” as some school officials have claimed. It merely states that a school cannot adopt a special policy because of a student's status without approval from the parent and that the school cannot purposely withhold or conceal such information from the parent.

Some have claimed that concealing a child's transgender status is necessary to protect the child from harm by a parent. The law, however, does not apply when other laws—and there

are many of them—require the school to protect the safety of the student. Moreover, if the child is at risk of such harm, appropriate authorities should be notified.

Understandably, emotions can run high when it comes to issues regarding gender. That is not an excuse, however, to ignore the facts and the law.

Silent retreat allows God's guidance to surface



SEMINARIAN LIFE

MATTHEW FOLLIS

Pre-Theology II at Mount St. Mary Seminary; Emmitsburg, Md.

Near the beginning of the academic year for my second year in seminary, we had our 40-hour silent retreat given by Dominican priest Father Patrick Briscoe. The entire house looks forward to this retreat as it's seen as a bit of a respite from academics. More importantly, it's an opportunity for us at the seminary to reflect. We reflect upon what is being discussed but also reflect upon anything that we feel the Lord is drawing us to.

Father Briscoe's focus was on the sacraments, especially the Real Presence of our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist. This retreat and reflection upon the sacraments helped me to grow in appreciation of the vastness of God's love. At every stage of our lives, God offers his overwhelming love to us, regardless of if we are in complete union with his Church, have fallen away from his Church, or never have been with his Church. The recognition of this and the silence that allowed me to dwell in this realization allowed me to be truly engulfed in his love.

To break this down, if one is not with the Church, God offers us Baptism for the erasure of original sin and to bring us into his fold. For the baptized, God gives the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Communion. If we fall into sin, God gives us the way back to him with the sacrament of Reconciliation, no matter how deeply we fall. The love that he gives us in this sacrament is in the fact that though we have sinned and by sinning rejected his love and put further distance between ourselves and God, he wants us to come back to him. No matter how many times we sin, he wants us to come back. Instead of rejecting us for our rejection of him, he wants us to come back to him. The love God gives us in the Holy Eucharist is found within his passion, which is contained in the Eucharist. He grants us the ability and the privilege to enter into his love through his passion.

When the depth of this realization hit me, at the silent retreat, it flooded me. A warmth welled up within me that made me

feel truly loved. It felt as if a blanket had been draped around my shoulders, and when I gazed upon our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist in the monstrance, I felt pure adoration and love for him. This feeling was so strong that it brought me to tears of gratitude. The graces that have been given me are so great. Yet I know that the gratitude that I feel will never match the vastness of God's graces. This realization does not lead me to dismay but rather I take it as a calling to greater gratitude at all times.

I find myself particularly blessed to be able to attend such retreats like the one we have had this past year at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. The opportunity to take the wisdom that is being shared with us by the leader of the retreat and to reflect upon my life and where I feel my life is heading, helps to strengthen my spiritual life and my discernment.

Tours

3:00, 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.

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hearty hor d'oeuvres | sweets | tastings

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3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

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How to travel lightly: the great de-clutter



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

Freelance writer from
Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

My next-door neighbors have been packing up to move for the last month. The empty nesters are downsizing, and I've watched their weeks-long purge with a mix of horror and admiration.

High-school letter jacket?

Give.

Handmade desk?

Give.

Barbie clothes sewn by Grandma?

Give.

Almost everything had to go. There was no longer space or, it turns out, need. They've raised their kids, retired from their careers. So they handpicked recipients for special items that no longer serve them and donated the rest.

Yesterday, when the moving truck pulled up, their garage became the graveyard for the final bits: a wooden Santa, a large clock, potting soil and a box labeled "rags."

That's what it had come down to: the rags.

I could see a lightness in the wife's face. Sure, the past month had been grueling—endless sorting, boxing, lifting, lugging. But she had eliminated all the unnecessary stuff in her life and, with it, a tremendous psychological weight.

She is ready for the next chapter, and she has put in the work so she can travel lightly.

I want to do the same. I just don't know if I'm ready.

For guidance, I've been reading Laraine Bennett, the Catholic author best known for her writing on temperaments. Laraine's latest book explores the spiritual underpinnings of our consumerist culture. It draws inspiration from St. Therese of Lisieux, who wrote: "Happiness has nothing to do with the material things that surround us; it dwells in the very depths of the soul." It is titled: *The Little Way of Living with Less: Learning to Let Go with the Little Flower*.

The book begins with Laraine's account of selling almost everything to move to Germany with her husband and two young children. They settled in an old farmhouse with a tiny kitchen and miniature stove. Their American-size box spring wouldn't fit through the stairs, so they made do with a mattress on the floor and fleas from the barn animals next door.

"This discomfort opened up a space where there was a possibility of spiritual awakening, an encounter, a surprise," Laraine writes. "God is the God of surprises, Pope Francis says. But when you are too comfortable, too content with the status quo, you rarely step out of your cozy cocoon to encounter the surprise."

In lieu of the frantic Christmas shopping she'd witnessed in the U.S., the young mom participated in a neighborhood tradition: hiking through snowy woods to a mountaintop where snow began to fall just as St. Nicholas appeared, with bishop's miter and staff in a horse-drawn carriage.

"When our hearts are filled with our earthly loves, our creature comforts and our material possessions, we have less room for God," Laraine writes.

Ultimately, we need very little. But the line between want and need has never been blurrier in the age of Amazon. We buy for so many reasons: because we can, because it brings a momentary thrill or distraction, because it was recommended by an influencer.

It can be difficult to examine our motives, especially when the period from idea to acquisition spans a matter of seconds. This year I've tried to slow that down. What I discovered is that sometimes—embarrassingly—I already had the thing I was about to buy, or something similar. I could get by.

Before a party, I could dig through my "Rainy Day Bin" and find a gift that would suffice. I've become more honest about the recipient's needs. I picture a cluttered house and busy schedule and opt, instead, for a handwritten card paired with a jar of honey or box of tea.

Buying less isn't fun, but I can feel virtue building—patience, prudence, peace. It feels good to be resourceful, more easily contented.

I want to travel lightly, unencumbered, with my arms and heart open wide, ready to be surprised.

69 years in the Diocese of Fargo!



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SISTER'S PERSPECTIVE

SISTER MARIA FAUSTINA OF THE CHILD JESUS, SOLT

“Don’t worry about all those books,” Father waved his hand dismissively. “Just go to Adoration and ask Jesus what he wants you to say.”

It was my senior year of college, and I had come to one of the campus priests for some advice on a presentation that I had to give in an upcoming class. Talking in front of people was just the worst, and on top of that, I had spent *hours* pouring through stacks and stacks of books, but could not think of a single thing to say.

I tip-toed hesitantly into the Adoration chapel, pen and paper in hand, and sat and looked at Jesus for a while. “Okay, Jesus, what do you want me to say?” I asked.

About half an hour later, I emerged triumphantly with everything I wanted to say scribbled on my paper, and a big smile on my face.

Needless to say, I passed that presentation, but that moment taught me much more than that. I learned that when I am anxious and worried, the solution lies in Jesus, not in myself. When I labor and am burdened, I really *can* come to him to find rest.

I have a tendency to work harder and faster when I feel anxious, but Jesus has been teaching me to come and sit at his feet instead.

A few years after college, I was a novice with SOLT (The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity). I decided that, for Lent, I would spend an extra ten minutes in the chapel each day. As religious sisters, we already pray in common five or six times a day, including a daily holy hour. However, I felt Jesus calling me to spend extra time with him alone, even when I was busy.

One day during this time, I was helping to organize a retreat for our school kids. I had a list of time-sensitive jobs to do, and it was really hard to pull myself away and sit with Jesus for those extra ten minutes. When I came out, I found that during the time I was with Jesus, the many items on my list had easily fallen into place better than I could have planned them myself. I felt like Jesus was smiling, and saying, “See! I can take care of things for you! You just be with me.”

I remember once hearing a quote by St. Francis de Sales which said, “Half an hour’s meditation each day is essential, except when you are busy. Then a full hour is needed.” What

We are called to be his

struck me most about this quote is that when I am very busy, I should pray *more*. It seems so paradoxical, but then again, everything about my spouse is paradoxical. I never would have had the idea to give life to the world by dying on a cross!

During my time here in the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota, Jesus has continued to confirm what he has been teaching me throughout my life about prayerful surrender and trust in him. Shortly after I was assigned here in 2022, one of our parishioners told me in conversation how she always stops to pray during Jesus’ hour when she sees the clock strike 3:33. Ever since then, my eyes seem to frequently fall on the clock right at that moment, and I know he is looking at me. Sometimes I am busy, and my stony heart actually experiences a flash of annoyance at the interruption, but then I remember who I am—his spouse—and I stop and look back at him. It is a constant reminder that his eyes are on me and he calls me to intimacy with himself at every moment.

Yes, I am called to serve, but first and foremost, I am called to be his. As a consecrated spouse of Jesus, I have the privilege of being a living sign of what we *all* ultimately made for—union and communion with the Most Holy Trinity.

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Medjugorje reopens heart to Jesus

By Nichole Haugen | Wife, mother of six, RN, life coach for Catholic nurses and parishioner at St. Boniface, Wimbledon

The summer of 2005 I had just graduated from high school. I was excited to be heading to college that fall, where I could finally be an adult and live on my own. I was looking forward to getting off the ranch, to discover new adventures, and to find myself. Of course, I had nothing left to learn from my parents. Their advice sounded like white noise most of the time.

That summer we were on a family camping trip with my extended family. When we went to Mass, the priest and some parishioners had just returned from the village of Medjugorje. This is where the Virgin Mary had appeared to six visionaries in 1981, and was still appearing to some of them currently.* They spoke about their travels and time there, and how much their faith had grown during that time. My mom walked out of the church and announced that she felt called and was going to Medjugorje the following summer. Who was going with her?

I always dreamed of backpacking around Europe, and while this was a far cry from backpacking, I jumped at the opportunity to travel overseas. I was very leery of Mary actually appearing to visionaries. I had never even heard of Medjugorje, so if this was so true, why wasn't it talked about more? When my mom had an idea not much could stop her, so in the summer of 2006 we set out. My mom, aunt, cousin, and myself traveled with a company that specialized in taking pilgrims to Medjugorje.

At the start of the trip, I was rude to my mom and annoyed by everything she said and did. I felt like she was treating me like a child, hovering around me. I also couldn't believe how naive she was being—so willing to trust and believe what others were saying happens in Medjugorje. I, on the other hand, was going to keep a logical mind and would believe something when I saw it.

One of the visionaries, Ivan, lived a few houses from where we were staying. Our group had the privilege of being in his personal chapel when Mary appeared to him that June. Sitting in Ivan's chapel, we were all praying the rosary, waiting for Mary. I was focused on the prayers, not believing that anything would happen. Suddenly everyone fell silent. I felt a physically warm, fuzzy feeling throughout my body. There was a calming peace that wrapped around me and I could smell roses. That moment was a changing point, not only on the trip but in my life.

My skepticism was starting to unravel. Everyone kept saying that if you traveled to Medjugorje, you were called. I didn't

believe this since I just wanted to travel. After the encounter with Our Lady at Ivan's house, I began questioning. Had Mary called me? Did she want me to draw closer to her and her Son?

I had been struggling that year with my faith. A close family member passed away in the spring of 2005. He was young and it was so sudden. I was angry that God allowed that to happen.

After the apparition, I started allowing space in my heart for God again. I even worked up the courage to go to Reconciliation after multiple years away from the sacrament. Leaving the Confessional, I felt lighter than I had in years and an even greater peace than I had in the room during the Marian apparition. Being around a million other pilgrims that are constantly praying, talking about Mary, going to Mass, Stations of the Cross, Adoration, and Reconciliation, began to soften the hard protective shell I had wrapped around my broken heart. I was looking forward to praying the rosary each day and having time in prayer and silence.

I wanted to go to college to find myself. Instead what I found was the truth. While I wanted distance from my family, what I really needed was to believe that love and acceptance was always available from my heavenly family. Mary called me to give my hurting heart to Jesus. I had been extremely cautious. I was believing the lie that God allowed bad and hard things to happen as a punishment.

Medjugorje opened my heart to our Mother. She then helped me take my first awkward steps back to Jesus.

**The Catholic Church has not taken an official stance on Medjugorje.*



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Parish Receptions central to the success of “Living our Faith, Building our Future” campaign



STEWARDSHIP

STEVE SCHONS

Director of stewardship and development for the Diocese of Fargo.

Parish Receptions are a crucial element of the Living our Faith, Building our Future capital campaign in the Diocese of Fargo. These receptions play a vital role in engaging parishioners and encouraging their active participation in the campaign.

1. Campaign Overview: The Living our Faith, Building our Future capital campaign is a significant initiative in the Diocese of Fargo, aimed at raising funds for various important purposes.

2. Campaign Duration: The campaign is scheduled to run from now (active phase) until the end of 2024 with the pledge fulfillment occurring over a four-year time-frame, which provides a substantial timeframe for parishioners to get involved and contribute to its success.

3. Reception Importance: Parish Receptions are highlighted as a vital component of the campaign. These events serve multiple purposes, including inviting people to participate, informing them about the campaign's objectives, and motivating them to take action.

4. Campaign Progress: Currently, 32 out of the 127 parishes in the diocese are actively engaged in the campaign by hosting receptions. This indicates that the campaign is already in motion, and additional parishes will follow suit in the coming months or next year.

5. Campaign Objectives: The funds raised through this capital campaign will be allocated to several key areas, which include:

- Supporting the retirement needs of our Priests.
- Contributing to the Maryvale Retreat center.
- Addressing each parish's unique capital needs.

6. More Information: For those interested in learning more about the campaign, you can visit the official campaign website at www.fargodiocese.org/lof. This website provides detailed information about the campaign's goals, progress, and how individuals and parishes can participate.

The success of the campaign will depend on the active involvement of parishes and their members, as well as their understanding of the campaign's objectives and the impact it will have on the local community and the diocese as a whole. For more information, visit www.fargodiocese.org/lof or contact me at (701) 356-7926 or steve.schons@fargodiocese.org.



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LIFE'S MILESTONES



Bruce and Shirley Carlson, parishioners of Sts. Anne and Joachim in Fargo, will celebrate their 50th anniversary Nov. 24. They were married at Nativity B.V.M. in Philadelphia, Pa. They have 2 daughters and 7 grandchildren.



Kurt and Jennifer Kelley, parishioners of Sacred Heart in Minto, will celebrate their 40th anniversary Nov. 19. They were married at St. Joseph's in Lankin. They have 2 sons and 1 granddaughter.



Chris and Dee Engler, parishioners of Our Lady of Peace in Mayville, will celebrate their 40th anniversary Nov. 11. They were married at St. Denis in Louisville, Ky. They have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.



Ovide and Verna Marcotte, parishioners of St. Michael's in Grand Forks, will celebrate their 75th anniversary Nov. 16. They were married at St. Alphonsus in Langdon. They have 11 children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Herbert and Annette (Volk) Felch, parishioners of St. Joseph's in Devils Lake, will celebrate their 65th anniversary Nov. 22. They were married at St. Joseph's and have 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.



Jerome and Dorothy Peerboom, parishioners of St. Francis Xavier in Anamoose, celebrated their 70th anniversary on Oct. 6. They have numerous nieces and nephews.



Loren and Gwen Scheer, parishioners of St. Brigid in Cavalier, will celebrate their 50th anniversary Nov. 24. They were married at St. Bonaventure in Underwood. They are blessed with 2 daughters (1 deceased). They have 2 sons in law and 7 grandchildren.



Chuck and Mary Weingarten, parishioners of the Cathedral of St. Mary in Fargo, will celebrate their 50th anniversary Nov. 23. They met at NDSU and were married at St. Leo's in Minot. They have 4 children and 10 grandchildren.



Francis Seefeld, parishioner of St. Anthony's in Selz, will celebrate his 90th birthday on Nov. 28. Francis and his late wife, Sally, were blessed with 2 children, 3 grandchildren. He resides at Ecumen Evergreen in Fargo.



George Wysocki, parishioner of St. Michael's in Grand Forks, celebrated his 95th birthday Oct. 15. George and his wife, Georgian, have been blessed with 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren (1 deceased).

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 December issue is Nov. 10, and the deadline for the January issue is Dec. 11.



Marlene Dvorak, parishioner of St. Michael's in Grand Forks, celebrated her 90th birthday Nov. 2. Marlene married Willard Ganyo in 1955. They had 5 sons. Willard died in 1977. In 1984, Marlene married Richard Waxvik. Richard died in 2000. In 2007 Marlene married Donald Dvorak. Don died in 2012.

Marlene has many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and step-great-grandchildren.



Quotable

St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
Feast day Nov. 18

"If you have no earthly consolation, why do you not seek consolation in the Heart of Jesus? To love him is truest joy."

Fall dinners

Fargo: Join Sts. Anne & Joachim Church for their Annual Fall Festival Nov. 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. Silent auction, farmers market, children's games, bingo, and more! Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win up to \$8,000! Famous pork dinner served in the social hall, adults \$12, ages 5 to 12 \$5, ages 4 and under free. Take-out available.

West Fargo: Join Blessed Sacrament Church for their 44th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church. Experience a Blessed Sacrament Thanksgiving; turkey and all the trimmings. Free-will offering. Take-out available.

West Fargo: Holy Cross will host a Craft/Vendor Show Dec. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Over 75 artisans will be available for your holiday shopping needs. This is the largest church-held craft/vendor show in the region. Lunch available for purchase. Admission \$2. For more information, call (701) 282-7217.

West Fargo: Knights of Columbus Council 9642 will be selling Christmas trees beginning Nov. 24 at the Holy Cross picnic shelter and continuing weekend days and weekday evenings until all sold. Fraser and Balsam fir trees along with White and Scotch pine trees area available.

Milnor: St. Arnold's Church will host their annual Christmas Pantry on Dec. 6, from 4 to 6 p.m. Shop for cookies, candies, and Christmas gift plates. Raffle tickets to win cash prizes.

Grand Forks: St. Mary's social concerns committee is hosting their annual Christmas Cookie Walk. Dec. 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Cookies are \$9/lb. Breads and specialties sold separately. Cider and coffee served.

Father Joseph Fitzpatrick passes away Oct. 3



Father Joseph Vincent Fitzpatrick, passed away Oct. 3 at St. Catherine's South in Fargo at the age of 70 following a 6-week illness from heart disease. He was born on July 15, 1953, in Washington, D.C., to his parents Hugh and Ula (Sheehy) Fitzpatrick. His paternal family (LeVitre) had roots in Moorhead and Fargo.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop James Sullivan in 1992 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo and served in a number of locations in the Fargo Diocese, including Devils Lake, Crary (rural Rutten), Starkweather, Langdon, Nekoma, Wales, Mount Carmel, Osnabrock, Milton, Osnabrock, Brocket, Tolna, Lakota, Grand Forks at St. Thomas Aquians Newman Center, Manvel, Lidgerwood, Geneseo, and Cayuga.

He is remembered for orthodox and well-prepared homilies, "gems of truth and courage," in the words of a family friend; he was always concerned with guiding the faithful away from doctrinal novelties.

He graduated from Wheeling College, W.Va. While pursuing graduate studies in philosophy at Fordham University and driving a taxi in New York City, he was the professional vocalist for the well-known dance band, Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks. He worked in Catholic print and television journalism.

He is survived by his siblings: John J. Fitzpatrick (Leslie), Upper Darby, Pa., Mary E. Fitzpatrick, Billings, Mont., Donna Fitzpatrick Bethell (Tom), Washington, D.C., and Linda M. Gourash (William), Pittsburgh, Pa.

The funeral mass for Father Fitzpatrick was held Oct. 11 at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Fargo.

A glimpse of the past

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

75 years ago — 1948

In the early hours of Columbus Day, October 12, the Knights of Columbus building in Fargo burned to the ground. Cause of the fire is unknown. Left standing was only the first floor and the four walls, but for safety sake the weakened front wall on Broadway was leveled to the second floor.

While not definitely decided, the Knights favor the plan of rebuilding a three story fire-proof building on the present location, providing ample space for store and office rentals. It is contemplated that a fifteen to twenty year mortgage together with the insurance coverage will put the Knights back in their rooms. Grand Knight Pete Carey struck the predominant note when he said, "The Knights in Fargo are down, but not out."

50 years ago — 1973

The North Dakota Right to Life Association in cooperation

with the National Right to Life Committee sponsored a Mid-states workshop at the Fargo Holiday Inn, November 2-4. It concentrated on three major areas of concern: Political effectiveness at the local, state, and national levels; local and state organization; and education at the school, church, organization and community, state, and national levels.

20 years ago — 2003

The chapel at Shanley High/Sullivan Middle School, Fargo, will be dedicated Friday, Nov 21, and will be named in honor of the sisters who established Catholic education in Fargo in 1882. Bishop Samuel Aquila will celebrate the dedication Mass in the chapel at 9:30am, which will be named Chapel of Our Lady of the Presentation.

"The Sisters of the Presentation not only laid the groundwork for Catholic education in the City of Fargo but also staffed six other grade schools and two high schools in North Dakota," according to information provided by the Fargo Catholic Schools Network. "It is in honor of Our Lady and in memory of the gifts to Catholic education made by the Sisters of the Presentation that this chapel is dedicated."



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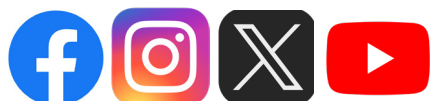
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"Do this in memory of me."
(Luke 22:19)

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Bishop John Folda
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More information
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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 Goering, 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.

Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Karlsruhe (submitted photo)

We Remember

A call to pray for those who have gone before us

Please remember in prayer the faithful departed from our parishes, our diocese, and throughout the world. Included are those who passed away between Oct. 1, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023. If your loved one was not included in this list, we will include them in the Dec. 2023 New Earth issue.

Clergy: Fr. Michael Parrotta—Oct. 14, 2022; Fr. Edward Sherman—Feb. 4, 2023; Fr. Scott Sautner—June 5, 2023; Fr. Armand (Bud) Brooks—Sept. 19, 2023.

Religious: Sr. Rebecca Metzger, OSF—Jan. 17, 2023; Sr. Mary Louise Jundt, OSF—July 4, 2023; Sr. Elizabeth Rose Muscha—July 20, 2023.

ALCIDE – St. Anthony's Church:

Victoria Short—Jan. 28, 2023; Gladys M. Smith—Feb. 21, 2023; Geraldine E. Cammack—Aug. 26, 2023.

ANAMOOSE – St. Francis Xavier's Church:

Barbara Martin—Dec. 6, 2022; Miranda "Mandy" M. Weninger—Dec. 10, 2022; Gloria J. Miller—Dec. 31, 2022; Raymond J. Kuntz—Dec. 31, 2022; Dorothy Leier—Feb. 20, 2023.

BALTA – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church:

Rita Muffenbier—Nov. 5, 2022; Marlene Wentz—Feb. 10, 2023; Neil Mack—Feb. 17, 2023.

BECHYNE – Sts. Peter and Paul's Church:

Anna M. Ellingson—Oct. 14, 2022; Marlin A. Bata—Nov. 14, 2022.

BELCOURT – St. Ann's Church:

Durant L. Trottier—Oct. 10, 2022; Elmer Parisien—Oct. 14, 2022; James White—Oct. 17, 2022; Carol Grant—Oct. 30, 2022; Raymond P. Delorme, Sr.—Nov. 3, 2022; Christy White—Nov. 10, 2022; Terry R. Baker—Dec. 4, 2022; Lisa K. Decoteau—Dec. 5,

2022; Lorelee Vivier—Dec. 12, 2022; Susan Lafrombois—Dec. 15, 2022; Leslie S. Laducer—Dec. 18, 2022; Lachlan T. Hoeger—Dec. 20, 2022; Lucinda Larocque—Dec. 24, 2022; Richard Thomas—Dec. 25, 2022; Arthur "Art" Dionne—Dec. 28, 2022; Nicky Champagne—Dec. 28, 2022; Frances M. Decoteau—Jan. 4, 2023; Sadie L. Azure—Jan. 5, 2023; Edward Delonais—Jan. 6, 2023; Shelly Decoteau—Jan. 13, 2023; Randolph T. Decoteau—Jan. 21, 2023; Frances A. Morin—Jan. 26, 2023; Edwin P. Decoteau—Jan. 30, 2023; Wilhelmina Charette—Feb. 15, 2023; Carol Patenaude—Feb. 15, 2023; Gladys M. Vallie—Feb. 26, 2023; Donald "DJ" J. Allery—Mar. 11, 2023; Richard Trotter—Mar. 21, 2023; Presley R. LaFountain—Mar. 30, 2023; Linus LaVellie—Apr. 10, 2023; Justin Azure—Apr. 21, 2023; Cole J. Poitra—Apr. 24, 2023; Douglas A. Morin—June 1, 2023; Rory E. Davis—Aug. 1, 2023; Raymond L. Parisien—Aug. 13, 2023; Jonathan P. Lavallie—Aug. 16, 2023; Betty Duchaine—Aug. 21, 2023; Gary Gourneau—Aug. 25, 2023; Curtis Desjarlais—Sept. 6, 2023; Gladys M. Henry—Sept. 7, 2023; Betty J. Cromwell—Sept. 16, 2023; Bernard Houle—Sept. 29, 2023.

BISBEE – Holy Rosary Church:

James Peters—May 13, 2023.

BOTTINEAU – St. Mark's Church:

George Carbonneau—Oct. 8, 2022; Malcolm Bedell—May 16, 2023; Alice Christenson—May 29, 2023; Rodney Kalk—June 4, 2023; Daryle "Butch" Lorenz—June 20, 2023; William L. Baumann—Aug. 31, 2023.

BUFFALO – St. Thomas Church:

Larry G. Zaun—Feb. 12, 2023; Robert "Bob" A. Killoran—Sept. 12, 2023.

CANDO – Sacred Heart Church:

Stacy A. Klein–Nov. 11, 2022; Sharon R. Roberts–Dec. 10, 2022; Vera LaRue Lee–Dec. 12, 2022; Elsie L. Weiker–Feb. 5, 2023; Wayne F. Freund–June 3, 2023; Geraldine “Gerry” C. Holien–June 11, 2023; Terence J. Rieder–June 20, 2023; Nan E. Hilts–June 28, 2023; Raymond L. Freund–June 30, 2023.

CARRINGTON – Sacred Heart Church:

Judy Volk–Nov. 18, 2022; Cleone Finch–Jan. 4, 2023; Fred Freeman–Feb. 23, 2023; Genevieve Copenhaver–Apr. 7, 2023; Ross A. Allmaras–Apr. 15, 2023; Bertha “Bert” Murphy–July 8, 2023; Karen A. Theis–Aug. 27, 2023; Vikki Sondag–Aug. 31, 2023; Dorothy Kracht–Sept. 3, 2023.

CASSELTON – St. Leo’s Church:

Craig M Hocking–Oct. 10, 2022; Francis “Hank” E Weber–Oct. 27, 2022; Janice Muscha–Dec. 31, 2022; Ruth Kasowski–Jan. 3, 2023; Betty Hersch–Jan. 19, 2023; David Schmidt–Mar. 12, 2023; Shirley Marek–Mar. 22, 2023; Robert “Bob” Volk–May 9, 2023; Russel Muscha–June 9, 2023; Brenda Corcoran–June 9, 2023; James “Jim” Kieffer–Sept. 13, 2023.

CAYUGA – Sts. Peter and Paul’s Church:

Leslie Kiefer–Feb. 15, 2023.

COOPERSTOWN – St. George’s Church:

Frank Heinz–Oct. 10, 2022; Gretchen Rottke–Nov. 25, 2022.

DAZEY – St. Mary’s Church:

Larry Reidman–Nov. 30, 2022; Dale Kunze–Jan. 6, 2023; Tom Breckheimer–Jan. 28, 2023; Jerome Wieland–Feb. 22, 2023; Cindy Kunze–Apr. 25, 2023.

DEVILS LAKE – St. Joseph’s Church:

Kateri Schlosser–Oct. 5, 2022; Katherine Eback–Oct. 12, 2022; Delores M. Stromme–Nov. 5, 2022; Joseph “Joe” W. Belford–Nov. 17, 2022; John “Toby” R. Trottier–Nov. 22, 2022; Anna “Annie” Rader–Nov. 23, 2022; Thomas J. Brannan–Dec. 3, 2022; MaryAnn VanSteenvoort–Dec. 4, 2022; Marlene M. Jorgenson–Dec. 5, 2022; Ellen K. Berg–Dec. 9, 2022; Randall “Randy” Summers–Dec. 12, 2022; Peter J. Goesser–Dec. 14, 2022; Colleen Barendt–Dec. 15, 2022; Alan “Lurch” Martin–Dec. 26, 2022; Shirley M. Uthke–Jan. 12, 2023; Gerald P. Mertens–Jan. 18, 2023; Geraldine R. Ebensteiner–Jan. 23, 2023; Beata A. Gasparre–Jan. 31, 2023; Loretta “Lorry” Gefroh–Feb. 5, 2023; Elizabeth “Betty” Herda–Feb. 5, 2023; Michael “Mike” Ebertz–Feb. 8, 2023; Christine R. Kraft–Feb. 14, 2023; Michael K. Kurtz–Mar. 4, 2023; Susan K. Otto–Mar. 10, 2023; Georgine L. Miller–Mar. 15, 2023; Julie Walter–May 6, 2023; Marie Schwan–May 22, 2023; Irene A. Krebsbach–May 23, 2023; Ned J. Mitzel–May 30, 2023; Eldoris Rodlin-Dosch–June 20, 2023; Paul “Fox” D. Christianson–July 4, 2023; Laura V. McCarthy–July 6, 2023; Sharon Eickenbrock–July 10, 2023; Mary M. Keeling–July 11, 2023; Jose J. Cruz Despiegelaera–Aug. 26, 2023; Mary M. Kraft–Aug. 27, 2023; Georgia A. Matejcek–Aug. 30, 2023;

Ashley L. Johnson–Sept. 3, 2023; Terry L. Armstrong–Sept. 8, 2023; Cynthia M. Brannan–Sept. 17, 2023; Cynthia M M Meyer–Sept. 18, 2023.

DICKEY – Assumption Church:

Douglas Cuypers–Dec. 25, 2022.

DRAKE – St. Margaret Mary’s Church:

Cameron Miller–Mar. 14, 2023; Merna R. Lemer–Apr. 27, 2023; Agnes Roder–June 21, 2023.

DRAYTON – St. Edward’s Church:

Veronica Wilson–Dec. 3, 2022; Daniel Pokrzywinski–Aug. 2, 2023; Nicole Brown–Aug. 26, 2023.

DUNSEITH – St. Michael’s Church:

Shirley A. Norquay–Nov. 19, 2022; Richard Allery–Jan. 4, 2023; Larry Forschen–Jan. 26, 2023; Duane LaFountain–Feb. 2, 2023; Linda Vallie–May 1, 2023.

ENDERLIN – St. Patrick’s Church:

Stephen Sletmoe–Mar. 3, 2023; Keiarra “Kiki” Marsh–Aug. 18, 2023.

ESMOND – St. Boniface Church:

Ralph W. Boldenow–Jan. 15, 2023; Mitchell “Cy” C. Streifel–Mar. 23, 2023; Donald J. Hager–Mar. 27, 2023; Ronald J. Grossman–Apr. 30, 2023; Arlene L. Hoffner–July 6, 2023.

FARGO – Sts. Anne and Joachim Church:

Manuela Job–Oct. 13, 2022; Arlene Faiman–Oct. 14, 2022; Nadine F. Kruk–Oct. 19, 2022; Marian Romanoski–Jan. 7, 2023; Charles “Buzz” Marvin–Jan. 14, 2023; Margaret A. Rabideaux–Jan. 20, 2023; Clayton C. Drake–Jan. 23, 2023; RoseMary Lothspeich–Mar. 19, 2023; Myron L. Huettl–Mar. 28, 2023; Maureen Spooner–Apr. 4, 2023; Mary Feltman–Apr. 22, 2023; Kathryn A. McGuire–Apr. 29, 2023; James G. Beaudoin–May 13, 2023; Tylan “Ty” Jochim–July 6, 2023; Luke Hoepfner–July 6, 2023; Ben L. Trottier–July 10, 2023; Duane A. Zwinger–July 12, 2023; Sutton C. Lauinger–July 15, 2023; Frances Bjornstad–Sept. 21, 2023; Alphonse “Al” Dukart–Sept. 25, 2023.

FARGO – St. Anthony’s Church:

Kenneth Forster–Oct. 16, 2022; Christian R. Esser–Nov. 3, 2022; Kenneth Forester–Nov. 16, 2022; Angela Jacobs–Dec. 17, 2022; Jude Wieler–Dec. 20, 2022; Margaret Gaynor–Jan. 9, 2023; Leonard L. Myers–Jan. 12, 2023; Allen Stemick–Jan. 16, 2023; Florian Storbakken–Feb. 5, 2023; Daniel J. Grabinski–Feb. 14, 2023; Rose Lauinger–Feb. 20, 2023; Richard Schneider–Mar. 8, 2023; Alfred E. Steiger–Mar. 16, 2023; Jonathan M. Brundnin–Apr. 28, 2023; Geoffrey E. Martin–May 1, 2023; James Brown–May 1, 2023; Mark Bittner–May 12, 2023; Kristhela L. From–June 14, 2023; Naom Schlenker–June 19, 2023; Mitchell Gregor–July 14, 2023; H. Marvin Ness–July 21, 2023; Joan Forstner–Aug. 1, 2023; Deb Kuntz–Aug. 18, 2023; Patricia Crary–Aug. 27, 2023; Annette Jankowski–Sept. 17, 2023.

FARGO – Holy Spirit Church:

Joan Joyce–Nov. 2, 2022; Rosalie “Rose” Pavék–Dec. 19, 2022; G. Thomas “Tom” Bogan–Jan. 5, 2023; Bradley W. Pavék–Mar. 7, 2023; William Rook–Mar. 7, 2023; Larry Kenney–Mar. 9, 2023; Allen Morris–Mar. 19, 2023; Mary Elizabeth “Betty” Morghan–Mar. 24, 2023; James Wilhelmi–Mar. 27, 2023; Leo J. Welk–Mar. 30, 2023; Gilbert “Gib” Bromenschenkel–Apr. 22, 2023; Janice “Jan” Nowatzki–May 17, 2023; Carol A. Muscha–June 20, 2023; Patricia A. Bachmeier–June 29, 2023; Blanche Harr–July 8, 2023; James “Jim” Caverly–July 28, 2023; Lawrence “Larry” Kessel–Aug. 11, 2023; Jerome “Jerry” Cicha–Aug. 13, 2023; Fred A. Wenger–Aug. 24, 2023.

FARGO – Cathedral of St. Mary:

Joan L. Hruby–Nov. 3, 2022; Rochelle Wieser–Jan. 16, 2023; Jane Grage–Feb. 2, 2023; David J. Moe–Mar. 3, 2023; Mary Jarisch–Mar. 16, 2023; John “Jack” Baumgardner–June 19, 2023.

FARGO – Nativity Church:

Pat Eng–Oct. 11, 2022; Lawrence Monson–Oct. 13, 2022; Duane Boone–Oct. 16, 2022; Wilhelm “Bill” Daul–Nov. 3, 2022; Mary Jean J. Johs–Nov. 4, 2022; Irene Flanagan–Nov. 11, 2022; Warren Gullickson–Dec. 9, 2022; Robert St. Marie–Dec. 12, 2022; Donald Tillisch–Dec. 19, 2022; Richard “Dick” Lothspeich–Dec. 21, 2022; Rita Traynor–Dec. 21, 2022; Albert “Al” Olien–Jan. 3, 2023; Donna Gravalin–Jan. 4, 2023; Muna Wreh–Jan. 10, 2023; George H. Densinger–Jan. 17, 2023; Gloria Bougie–Jan. 28, 2023; Phyllis Stoa–Jan. 31, 2023; Carol Johnson–Mar. 14, 2023; Janice McDavitt–Mar. 16, 2023; Richard Biel–Apr. 13, 2023; Mathias “Matt” Wolf–June 11, 2023; Dr. Danuta Krasniewska–June 17, 2023; Dr. Samy Karaz–June 23, 2023; Esther Metzger–June 30, 2023; Francis “Frank” Witte–Sept. 27, 2023.

FESSENDEN – St. Augustine’s Church:

Amy A. Serfontein–Oct. 22, 2022; Joseph D. Dosch–Dec. 4, 2022; Art Muscha–May 4, 2023; Ruth M. Mack–May 22, 2023; John M. Sjoquist–Aug. 17, 2023; Ramona Klocke–Sept. 17, 2023; Daniel G. Mack–Sept. 24, 2023.

FINGAL – Holy Trinity Church:

Jerald “Jerry” Wavra–July 17, 2023.

FINLEY – St. Olaf’s Church:

Paul Amundson–July 6, 2023.

FORMAN – St. Mary’s Church:

Curtis J. Silseth–Feb. 20, 2023; William “Bill” Rust–Apr. 29, 2023.

FORT TOTTEN – Seven Dolors Mission:

Gary R. Smith, Sr.–Dec. 4, 2022; Kassie J. McKay–Dec. 7, 2022; Gladys B. Cavanaugh–Feb. 9, 2023; Wardena Helm–Feb. 11, 2023; Donelda A. Little Wind–May 12, 2023; Merle D. White-tail–Sept. 22, 2023;

GENESEO – St. Martin’s Church:

Eva Slabik–Nov. 14, 2022; Shirley Banish–Jan. 12, 2023; Mary Ann Opitz–Feb. 14, 2023; Ken Thornberg–May 26, 2023.

GRAND FORKS – Holy Family Church:

Roger Dufault–Oct. 6, 2022; Marian Mayer–Oct. 14, 2022; Olga Gonshorawski–Oct. 29, 2022; Helen Zahn–Nov. 3, 2022; Phyllis Felchle–Nov. 5, 2022; John Belcher–Nov. 11, 2022; Linda Loveless–Dec. 22, 2022; Marion Capouch–Jan. 18, 2023; Mary Anne Tupa–Feb. 19, 2023; Anna Walker–Feb. 28, 2023; Ronald Fortier–Mar. 21, 2023; Lois Jackson–May 11, 2023; Beverly O’Shea–May 27, 2023; Kenneth F. Schill–May 27, 2023; Arthur “Art” Passa–June 30, 2023; Myron Garceau, Sr.–Aug. 15, 2023; Maria Mullally–Sept. 5, 2023; Mark G. Ward–Sept. 7, 2023.

GRAND FORKS – St. Michael’s Church:

Carina Whalen–Oct. 8, 2022; Frances E. Long–Oct. 18, 2022; Rudolph Kucher–Oct. 21, 2022; Margaret “Marge” Knaus–Oct. 27, 2022; Sally Teresa LeFebvre–Oct. 29, 2022; John M. McGurran–Nov. 17, 2022; Margret Curran–Dec. 11, 2022; Trudy E. Zespy–Feb. 12, 2023; Steve Cray–Feb. 15, 2023; Vickie Ann Lee–Feb. 24, 2023; William J. Steffen–Feb. 27, 2023; Clarence Nikle–Mar. 7, 2023; Patricia Huot–Mar. 12, 2023; Michael “Mike” Demers–Mar. 31, 2023; Dennis J. Loff–Apr. 6, 2023; Stephen Tupa–Apr. 9, 2023; Glenn W. Frericks–Apr. 14, 2023; Mary A. Fontaine–Apr. 15, 2023; Catherine H. Ingwaton–Apr. 15, 2023; Christopher Suedal–May 13, 2023; Nancy Kay Goulet–May 15, 2023; Joseph Stagnaro–May 20, 2023; Kenneth J. Krom–June 13, 2023; Patrick Foley–June 19, 2023; Manuel R. Ramon, Jr.–June 26, 2023; Phillip Meyer–July 1, 2023; Judith “Judy” Olufson–July 6, 2023; Peter “Pete” Gillig–July 31, 2023; Susan J. Kuntz–Aug. 12, 2023; Louis Belisle–Aug. 13, 2023; Carolyn Keegan–Aug. 15, 2023; Ralph Thompson–Aug. 25, 2023; Tucker Risky–Aug. 25, 2023; Terry Kuntz–Aug. 28, 2023.

GRAND FORKS – St. Mary’s Church:

Nancy C. Larson–Oct. 5, 2022; Theresa Martin–Oct. 14, 2022; Betty L. Martian–Nov. 15, 2022; Leona L. Czapiewski–Jan. 21, 2023; Geraldine “Gerry” Whitebird–Mar. 2, 2023; Victoria “Vicki” D. Schreiner–Mar. 25, 2023; Dale M. Fontaine–Mar. 29, 2023; Edward A. Adams, Sr.–Apr. 2, 2023; Ron Bushy, Jr.–Apr. 26, 2023; Reine V. Freeman–May 7, 2023; Bradley J. Anderson–May 26, 2023; Laurie M. Donarski–May 28, 2023; Leona Schwarzenberger–May 30, 2023; Jordan L. Kuchera–July 18, 2023; Margaret L. Gilbertson–July 30, 2023.

GRAND FORKS – St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center:

Grace Stomli–Feb. 2, 2023.

GRAFTON – St. John’s Church:

Lois Eisenrich–Oct. 5, 2022; Mary Schnellbach–Nov. 11, 2022; Maxine Twamley–Nov. 15, 2022; Roger Amiot–Nov. 27, 2022; Frances Boulduc–Dec. 1, 2022; Joey Eide–Dec. 2, 2022; Ramon Hernandez–Dec. 8, 2022; Kelly Woinarowicz–Jan. 1, 2023; Robert “Spike” Desautel–Jan. 1, 2023; Jerome Carriere–Jan. 2, 2023; Francis “Glen” Schneider–Feb. 5, 2023; William “Billy” Rivard–Feb. 13, 2023; Thomas J. Hermann–Feb. 15, 2023; Frank Suda–Mar. 7, 2023; Louise Sevigny–Mar. 23, 2023; Leslie

J. Aasand—Mar. 30, 2023; Mary Schnetzer—June 3, 2023; Mary Jo Olson—July 10, 2023; Verna Aasand—July 16, 2023; Herman Barta—July 28, 2023; Helen Sieben—Aug. 3, 2023; Jeanne Silewski—Aug. 15, 2023; Jeannette A. Osowski—Aug. 17, 2023; Alberto Lopez—Sept. 14, 2023.

HANKINSON – St. Philip’s Church:

Curtis A. Foertsch—Apr. 4, 2023; Donald Leinen, Sr.—Apr. 24, 2023; Francis T. Birnbaum—June 15, 2023.

HARVEY – St. Cecilia’s Church:

Leo J. Martinson—Oct. 15, 2022; Marcella “Sally” Volk—Nov. 18, 2022; Barbara Irons—Nov. 26, 2022; Emanuel J. Grad—Dec. 6, 2022; Elaine Kline—Jan. 12, 2023; Karen Olschlager—Mar. 13, 2023; Gerald Rademacher—Mar. 20, 2023; Anna Klein—Apr. 10, 2023; Anna Streifel—Apr. 10, 2023; Agnes Goldade—May 5, 2023; Paulene Wentz—May 21, 2023; Lena Zerr—May 25, 2023; Leonard “Butch” Prom—June 15, 2023; Leo J. Volk—June 27, 2023; Emaline Marchand—July 23, 2023; Larry Grossman—July 29, 2023; Ronda Patzer—Aug. 13, 2023.

HILLSBORO – St. Rose Church:

Clare Scholand—Oct. 5, 2022; Scott Vettel—Oct. 27, 2022; Annella Thompson—Nov. 30, 2022; John Ackerman—Dec. 26, 2022; Kenneth Vettel—June 19, 2023; Erica Kritzberger—June 24, 2023.

HOPE – St. Agatha’s Church:

Mary Walsh—Oct. 14, 2022.

JAMESTOWN – St. James Basilica:

Eugene T. Rexine—Oct. 3, 2022; Jane Kulla—Oct. 13, 2022; Jean M. Griffin—Oct. 24, 2022; John Kleven—Dec. 1, 2022; Arnold J. Kuhn—Dec. 3, 2022; Patrick Windish—Dec. 11, 2022; Alex Bucholz—Dec. 16, 2022; Roger Haut—Jan. 9, 2023; Arlene Altringer—Jan. 9, 2023; Rosa A. St. John—Jan. 11, 2023; Lawrence Gorman—Jan. 29, 2023; Roger Nogosek—Feb. 6, 2023; Susanne Beard—Feb. 15, 2023; Terri Opatz—Feb. 17, 2023; Darlene Greenlund—Feb. 23, 2023; Bryan Radtke, Jr.—Feb. 23, 2023; William Trecker—Feb. 28, 2023; Darlene Heintz—Mar. 3, 2023; Betty G. Parson—Mar. 8, 2023; Theresa Kaiser—Mar. 18, 2023; Bradley P. Fowler—Mar. 19, 2023; Ernest “Ernie” Trudeau—Apr. 2, 2023; Kenneth Anderson—Apr. 24, 2023; Angela M. Kokott—Apr. 26, 2023; Brooklyn Gores—May 3, 2023; Allen Huber—May 10, 2023; Kristie Hoffert—May 13, 2023; Daniel R. Lies—May 20, 2023; James Myers—May 22, 2023; Rita Williams—June 11, 2023; Rylee Dingmann—June 12, 2023; William Hamm—June 18, 2023; Carrie Kraft—June 29, 2023; Imogene Greer—June 30, 2023; Kim Casey—July 1, 2023; Alana A. Paiement—July 2, 2023; Aileen L. Astrup—July 5, 2023; Larry D. Pecka Sr.—Aug. 1, 2023; Nancy Wolf—Aug. 3, 2023; Craig Bosch—Aug. 16, 2023; Bernice Zimney—Aug. 18, 2023; Carlton Huus—Aug. 20, 2023; Steve Tomlin—Cichos—Aug. 23, 2023; Larry J. Polries—Sept. 19, 2023; Florence Maurer—Sept. 25, 2023; Kyle Newman—Sept. 28, 2023.



**Window in St. Mary’s Church, Grand Forks.
(Kristina Bloomsburg | New Earth)**

JESSIE – St. Lawrence Church:

Margaret Maertens—Nov. 2, 2022; John Miller—Mar. 6, 2023.

KARLSRUHE – Sts. Peter and Paul’s Church:

Ardyth Merck—Dec. 20, 2022; Christopher Brewer—Jan. 22, 2023; Steve Schiele—July 7, 2023; Bernadine Schiele—July 24, 2023.

KENSAL – St. John’s Church:

Jane Kulla—Oct. 13, 2022; Harriett DeVillers—July 24, 2023.

KINDRED – St. Maurice Church:

Jesse Kramer—Oct. 22, 2022.

KNOX – St. Mary’s Church:

Kim Anderson—Oct. 7, 2022.

LAKOTA – St. Mary’s Church:

Daniel Kouba—Oct. 21, 2022; Elizabeth Wheeler—June 11, 2023; Marie Halvorson—June 20, 2023; Timothy Freund—Aug. 31, 2023.

LAMOURE – Holy Rosary Church:

Norman A. Goehring—Oct. 30, 2022; Calvin R. Steffes—Nov. 26, 2022; Stanley A. Wald—Dec. 2, 2022; Jeannette Slykerman—Dec. 8, 2022; Daniel H. Quinlan—Mar. 4, 2023; John “Jack” Burton—June 7, 2023.

LANGDON – St. Alphonsus Church:

LaRue Dosmann–Oct. 2, 2022; Timothy A. Sullivan–Oct. 14, 2022; Daniel Hansel–Oct. 29, 2022; Elaine M. Hill–Nov. 29, 2022; Gloria Denault–Dec. 30, 2022; Yvonne A. Schuler–Jan. 14, 2023; James “Jim” P. Novacek–Jan. 21, 2023; Judy L. Lill–Jan. 31, 2023; Rita Uhrich–Feb. 6, 2023; Betty Braun–Feb. 19, 2023; Judy Illerbrunn–Feb. 27, 2023; Jerome Dosmann–Mar. 5, 2023; Michael Agnes–Mar. 13, 2023; Carla Koistinen–Mar. 15, 2023; Eugene E. Marcotte–May 3, 2023; Richard “Dick” S. Johnson–May 11, 2023; Douglas Bodnar–June 18, 2023; Paul F. Hansel–July 5, 2023; Wilbert Chaput–July 28, 2023; James “Jim” Spanier–July 28, 2023; Doretta Swenson–Aug. 3, 2023; Tom Valentine–Aug. 13, 2023; Florence Liebersbach–Aug. 26, 2023; Allan Bachman–Sept. 5, 2023.

LARIMORE – St. Stephen’s Church:

Albert E. Tuma–Mar. 4, 2023; Willard A. Ketterling–Apr. 14, 2023.

LIDGERWOOD – St. Boniface Church:

Bernice Prashek–Nov. 12, 2022; Leona M. Willprecht–Nov. 18, 2022; Donald Kuzel–Dec. 21, 2022; William Wisnewski–Feb. 3, 2023; Gerald Baker–Apr. 4, 2023; Elaine J. Oster–May 13, 2023; Juliann Vislislis–June 16, 2023; Wayne S. Mattson–July 30, 2023; Jeffrey J. Lyon–July 31, 2023; Leo Ehli–Aug. 2, 2023; Henry J. Biewer–Sept. 5, 2023; MaryAnn Jelinek–Sept. 8, 2023.

LISBON – St. Aloysius Church:

Catherine L. Hoecherl–June 9, 2023; Martha Berube–June 22, 2023.

MANVEL – St. Timothy’s Church:

Veronica A. Stadstad–Dec. 11, 2022; John L. Bushaw–Mar. 19, 2023.

MAYVILLE – Our Lady of Peace Church:

Diane Shereck–Nov. 10, 2022.

MICHIGAN – St. Lawrence’s Church:

Alfred Polasky–Dec. 5, 2022; Simon Schwan–Jan. 26, 2023; Marie Schwan–Feb. 8, 2023; Dale Staniszewski–July 21, 2023.

MILNOR – St. Arnold’s Church:

Audrey T. Ficenec–May 22, 2023; Orville E. Erickson–Sept. 22, 2023.



(Catholic)

MINTO – Sacred Heart Church:

Claudia Contreras–Oct. 22, 2022; Sylvia Dymowski–Oct. 24, 2022; Felix R. Rudnik, Jr.–Oct. 25, 2022; Donna Cicha–Nov. 24, 2022; Walter Paschke–Nov. 27, 2022; Genevieve Klava–Dec. 5, 2022; Margaret “Peggy” Curran–Dec. 11, 2022; Colleen Langowski–Dec. 14, 2022; Donald D. Riske–Jan. 11, 2023; Eva Langowski–Jan. 14, 2023; Marlys Miller–Feb. 1, 2023; Bernice S. Glanner–Feb. 20, 2023; Walter Tibert–Apr. 3, 2023; Judy Mondry–May 22, 2023; Isabel Niswonger–July 1, 2023; Shirley Mokerski–July 22, 2023; Robert Votava–Aug. 28, 2023.

MOORETON – St. Anthony’s Church:

John F. Heitkamp–Feb. 23, 2023.

MUNICH – St. Mary’s Church:

Lois R. Dawley–Dec. 20, 2022.

NAPOLEON – St. Philip’s Church:

Mary A. Fettig–Oct. 26, 2022; Margaret Wald–Dec. 13, 2022; Virginia Fettig–Apr. 27, 2023; Wilma Gross–May 19, 2023; John Silbernagel–July 9, 2023; Victor Wald–Aug. 12, 2023; Gladys Marquart–Sept. 18, 2023; Carolyn Gross–Sept. 26, 2023.

NEKOMA – St. Edward’s Church:

Randall D. Viger–Mar. 14, 2023.

NEW ROCKFORD – St. John’s Church:

Philip “Phil” Schafer–Oct. 25, 2022; Donna Schafer–Nov. 7, 2022; Peter “Pete” M. Kuntz–Nov. 8, 2022; Marjorie Wright–Dec. 30, 2022; Cindy Bichler–Feb. 26, 2023; Tara B. Thumb–Apr. 13, 2023; Jean M. Allmaras–May 9, 2023.

OAKES – St. Charles Church:

George A. Forward, Jr.–Oct. 25, 2022; Katherine Vosberg–Oct. 28, 2022; Beverley Benda–Jan. 16, 2023; Timothy M. Kelly–Apr. 4, 2023; James Maddock–May 3, 2023; Mona Visto–May 5, 2023; LeRoy Schmaltz–Sept. 22, 2023.

OAKWOOD – Sacred Heart Church:

Todd Mattson–July 8, 2023; Lucille LaFreniere–July 22, 2023.

PARK RIVER – St. Mary’s Church:

Victoria L. Mongeon–Jan. 7, 2023; Bertha A. Hodny–Feb. 4, 2023; Morris D. Vondra–Mar. 15, 2023; Marlowe J. Simon–Mar. 25, 2023; Daniel J. Young–Apr. 6, 2023; William J. Alkofer–June 23, 2023; Margaret M. Houser–Sept. 19, 2023; Cynthia V. Schiernbeck–Sept. 30, 2023.

PISEK – St. John Nepomucene’s Church:

Jack Sharpe–Oct. 23, 2022; Cornelia Jonk–Nov. 20, 2022; Cleophas W. Novak–Mar. 14, 2023; Leeanne G. Olstad–Apr. 23, 2023; Arnold J. Dvorak–May 22, 2023.

REYNOLDS – Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church:

Ashley E. Breidenbach–Feb. 10, 2023; Marie L. Anderson–Mar. 4, 2023; John Riske–July 22, 2023; Douglas L. Ackerman–Sept. 23, 2023.

ROCK LAKE – Immaculate Heart of Mary Church:

Gertrude Halvorson–Jan. 3, 2023.

ROLETTE – Sacred Heart Church:

June Mongeon–Mar. 30, 2023; Nancy Berube–May 9, 2023; Jack P. Lemieux–Aug. 7, 2023; Joan Thompson–Sept. 19, 2023; Orville Grenier–Sept. 22, 2023.

ROLLA – St. Joachim's Church:

Antoinette Lagasse–Oct. 6, 2022; Judith A. Haas–Nov. 25, 2022; Laurence "Larry" A Bonn–Mar. 7, 2023; Donald E. Neameyer–May 13, 2023; Cleo G. Charlebois–May 18, 2023; Jamie S. Trotter–May 23, 2023.

RUGBY – St. Therese Church:

Elizabeth "Betty" Larson–Oct. 15, 2022; Engelbert "Bert" Kuntz–Oct. 22, 2022; Monica Grove–Oct. 28, 2022; Gabriel "Gabe" Scheet–Nov. 17, 2022; Bertha Schell–Jan. 2, 2023; Daniel Koenig–Jan. 5, 2023; Leonard Schmaltz–Jan. 7, 2023; Lois Tuff–Mar. 29, 2023; Boniface Hornstein–Apr. 9, 2023; Alice Axtman–May 22, 2023; Bernadine Duchscher–June 6, 2023; Ann Hager–July 22, 2023; Richard Volk–Aug. 27, 2023; Joey Mattern–Sept. 10, 2023; Leonard Goetz–Sept. 21, 2023.

SANBORN – Sacred Heart Church:

Janice Piatz–Dec. 31, 2022; Ilah M Lettenmaier–July 7, 2023.

SELZ – St. Anthony's Church:

Jerome Young–Mar. 30, 2023; Darlene Axtman–May 26, 2023.

SHELDON – Our Lady of the Scapular Church:

Marie L. Boeder–July 9, 2023.

SAINT JOHN – St. John's Church:

Raymond F. Belgarde–Feb. 26, 2023.

SAINT MICHAEL – St. Michael's Indian Catholic Mission:

Karen Bull–Longie–Oct. 1, 2022; Tonya Jo F. Teel–Oct. 22, 2022; Dion B. Gardner–Nov. 12, 2022; William J. Black, Sr.–Nov. 20, 2022; Rebecca J. Brown–Dec. 10, 2022; Percy Cavanaugh–Dec. 19, 2022; Clarence D. Guy–Jan. 5, 2023; Billie Jo Smith–Jan. 16, 2023; Mario Luke–Feb. 7, 2023; Lynette J. Stone–Feb. 11, 2023; Joseph A. Herman–Feb. 15, 2023; Kyston P. Baker–Feb. 18, 2023; Kara Jetty–Mar. 19, 2023; Roger V. Cavanaugh–Apr. 5, 2023; Yvonne Thompson–Apr. 12, 2023; Michael A. Grant–Apr. 17, 2023; Sandra K. Jackson–June 2, 2023; Patricia L. Jackson–June 24, 2023; Julynn C. Langstaff–July 3, 2023; Denise J. Poni–Cappo–July 13, 2023; Evelyn F. Ross–July 18, 2023; Stella A. Sherman–Cavanaugh–July 28, 2023; Jennifer M. Brathovde–Aug. 7, 2023; Earlwin B. Bullhead–Aug. 20, 2023; Jeffrey Lenior–Sept. 7, 2023; Jennifer K. Piro–Sept. 27, 2023.

THOMPSON – St. Jude's Church:

Catherine Pulkrabeck–Dec. 25, 2022.

TOLNA – St. Joseph's Church:

Lorrain Vrem–Sept. 5, 2023.

TOWNER – St. Cecilia's Church:

Deborah K. Jorde–Nov. 26, 2022; Quentin L. Schell–Dec. 9, 2022; Mary Jane Holen–Feb. 28, 2023; Bregetta Jorde–Mar. 5, 2023; Betty J. Ring–Mar. 15, 2023.

VALLEY CITY – St. Catherine's Church:

Karen Leadbetter–Oct. 3, 2022; Patricia A. Meester–Pederesen–Nov. 23, 2022; Rita E. Beaudry–Dec. 17, 2022; Florence M. Retterath–Jan. 30, 2023; Phyllis A. Machtell–Mar. 31, 2023; Darrell E. Machtell–Apr. 15, 2023; Merlin "Merle" J. Baumgartner–May 10, 2023; Robert G. Maresh–May 16, 2023; Joni A. Altringer–May 17, 2023; Alice M. Wendel–May 31, 2023; Richard B. Moritz–June 6, 2023; Roman J. Ertelt–July 28, 2023; Jeffrey G. Differding–Aug. 7, 2023; Raymond J. Miller–Aug. 16, 2023; Terry L. Houle–Aug. 18, 2023; Craig Neussendorfer–Sept. 27, 2023.

VELVA – St. Cecilia's Church:

Beverly Boechler–Oct. 2, 2022; Eva D. Deibert–Oct. 29, 2022; Marie Leier–Nov. 24, 2022; William "Bill" Krumwiede–Dec. 25, 2022; William "Bill" Irmen, Sr.–Feb. 16, 2023; Jackie Krumwiede–Sept. 6, 2023; Lucille Schiele–Sept. 27, 2023; Phyllis Long–Sept. 30, 2023.

VESELEYVILLE – St. Luke's Church:

Edward E. Bartuska–Dec. 25, 2022; Lois M. Durkin–Feb. 14, 2023; John E. Janda–July 28, 2023; Stanley Votava–Aug. 14, 2023.



(Catholic)

IN MEMORIAM

WAHPETON – St. John's Church:

Leona Umphrey–Oct. 5, 2022; Margaret Barina–Oct. 26, 2022; Keith H. Huwe–Oct. 30, 2022; MaryAnna Althoff–Nov. 18, 2022; Jacqueline “Jackie” DeVillers–Nov. 21, 2022; Charles “Chuck” Cox–Nov. 23, 2022; Norma J. Link–Nov. 26, 2022; Charles E. Scott–Dec. 1, 2022; Paul Tehle–Dec. 3, 2022; Delmer A. Muehler–Dec. 10, 2022; Dan F. Erbes–Dec. 11, 2022; Adam R. Campbell–Dec. 24, 2022; Loretta J. Bernstein–Dec. 25, 2022; Butch E. Nelson–Jan. 4, 2023; Rita Ehrens–Feb. 10, 2023; Connie Caspers–Feb. 13, 2023; James “JD” D. Link–Mar. 2, 2023; Edith R Cook–Mar. 31, 2023; JoAnn M. Hinsverk–Mar. 31, 2023; Rose A. Heisler–Apr. 4, 2023; Mary Loll–Apr. 6, 2023; Maryann Althoff–Apr. 17, 2023; Travis P. Rinnels–Apr. 18, 2023; Nancy F. Hayes–Apr. 21, 2023; Angeline D. Nordick–Apr. 23, 2023; Rae F. Keaveny–May 22, 2023; Tom Richels–May 24, 2023; Vonnie Halverson–May 27, 2023; David L. Christopher–June 10, 2023; Joann Meyer–June 27, 2023; Robert Breuer–July 7, 2023; Sharon M Larson–Sept. 3, 2023.

WALHALLA – St. Boniface Church:

George P. Kalis–Oct. 11, 2022; Betty Northagen–Oct. 23, 2022; Valerie L. Danielson–Nov. 14, 2022; Earl P. Dunnigan–Dec. 15, 2022; Leonard E. Urlaub–Dec. 22, 2022; Lawrence H. Gapp–Jan. 30, 2023; Rita M. Dunnigan–Feb. 14, 2023; Stanley Karel–Mar. 25, 2023; Judy Cook–May 6, 2023; Yvette Kram–June 2, 2023; Lenore M. Beauchamp–Aug. 1, 2023; Floyd Lafferty–Aug. 11, 2023; Robert Wendt–Aug. 25, 2023; Susie Dearing–Aug. 29, 2023; Arthur J. Gapp–Sept. 30, 2023.

WARSAW – St. Stanislaus Church:

Margaret “Marge” Knaus–Oct. 22, 2022; Ernest Shoults–Nov. 2, 2022; Gary Kosmatka–Nov. 7, 2022; Diane Shereck–Nov. 10, 2022; Frieda Walski–Dec. 15, 2022; Ervin Grabanski–Dec. 17, 2022; Duane Babinski–Jan. 10, 2023; Rita Kosmatka–Feb. 3, 2023; Irene Schanilec–Mar. 4, 2023; Theodore “Ted” Stoltman–Mar. 5, 2023; Dr. Mary “Chris” Gerszewski–May 22, 2023; Roger Duray–Sept. 16, 2023.

WESTHOPE – St. Andrew's Church:

Irene Sivertson–Mar. 29, 2023; Marilyn Weyer–Sept. 29, 2023.

WEST FARGO – Blessed Sacrament Church:

Bette Brand–Oct. 12, 2022; Joan Barta–Nov. 12, 2022; Leonard Pulkrabek–Nov. 14, 2022; Paulette Deichert–Nov. 19, 2022; Robert “Bob” Yanish–Nov. 21, 2022; Erik Erdmann–Dec. 30, 2022; Eileen Kaehler–Jan. 21, 2023; Edward Sheveck–Mar. 1, 2023; Raymond Gutterud–Mar. 15, 2023; Leonard W. Kirkhoff–Apr. 9, 2023; Jane Debing–June 16, 2023; Christine E. Nelson–June 29, 2023; Sandy Johnson–July 20, 2023; Mary Lou Erck–July 28, 2023; William L. Dahlen–Aug. 8, 2023.

WEST FARGO – Holy Cross Church:

Edward Greicar–Oct. 3, 2022; M. Joan Burke–Oct. 15, 2022; Carlene Mastel–Nov. 8, 2022; Blaine Paulus–Nov. 15, 2022; Allen Baumstarck–Nov. 23, 2022; Diane Kleven–Jan. 19, 2023;

Margrette M. Brown–Jan. 27, 2023; David Davis–Mar. 25, 2023; Dr. Steven Agnes–Apr. 8, 2023; Rosetta “Rose” F. Olson–June 3, 2023; Randy Elmore–June 5, 2023; Robert Koneck–July 19, 2023; Sandy Bartunek–Aug. 7, 2023; Nicholas Rinehart–Aug. 9, 2023; Joseph Hettwer–Aug. 20, 2023; Gloria Garcia–Sept. 25, 2023; Francis “Fran” Gerszewski–Sept. 27, 2023; Christopher “Chris” Perreault–Sept. 27, 2023.

WILD RICE – St. Benedict's Church:

Myron Tande–Nov. 16, 2022; Donald Tessier–Dec. 5, 2022; Danell Dougherty–Dec. 13, 2022; Lillian Richard–July 1, 2023; Bev Peters–Aug. 27, 2023.

WILLOW CITY – Notre Dame Church:

Alton Sanderson–Mar. 20, 2023.

WIMBLEDON – St. Boniface Church:

Pat Windish–Dec. 11, 2022; Gerald Willson–Feb. 24, 2023; Margaret R. Samek–Apr. 6, 2023; Angie Steckler–Werner–Apr. 28, 2023.

WYNDMERE – St. John the Baptist Church:

Alvin “Butch” Brandt–Oct. 19, 2022; Sharon M. Markle–Dec. 26, 2022; Donna Sikorski–Jan. 25, 2023.

ZEELAND – St. Andrew's Church:

Wayne J. Lacher–Dec. 24, 2022; Paulina Jangula–July 6, 2023.



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Fr. Jason Lefor is a priest of the Diocese of Fargo, pastor of St. John Nepomucene—Pisek, Sts. Peter & Paul—Bechyne, St. Joseph—Lankin



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Cost: \$200-\$250

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NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

Eucharistic procession passes through the heart of New York City

By Jonah McKeown | Catholic News Agency

A procession bringing Jesus in the Eucharist through the heart of the largest city in the U.S. attracted hundreds of participants on Oct. 10.

Participants marched reverently as the Body of Christ, housed in a golden monstrance, was carried aloft through the busy streets of Manhattan, passing right in front of the storied Radio City Music Hall as some bystanders looked on with interest and others dropped to their knees.

The public procession, sponsored by the Catholic leadership organization Napa Institute, was part of the group's 2023 Principled Entrepreneurship Conference, held Oct. 10–11 at The Metropolitan Club in New York.

Father Mike Schmitz, a priest of the Diocese of Duluth and a popular Catholic speaker and podcaster, celebrated Mass before the start of the procession at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the seat of the Archdiocese of New York. He was joined by dozens of priests from around the country as well as Bishop Edmund Whalen, auxiliary bishop of New York.

"We have hearts that are a mess. And we need Jesus," Schmitz said during the Mass, addressing the crowd of hundreds in the cathedral. "We don't have the kinds of hearts that can love him the way he deserves... every one of us is a sinner, and we need Jesus to rescue us."

Reflecting on the Mass reading from the Book of Jonah, Schmitz boiled down God's message to the reluctant and rebellious prophet: "Go to the people that I love and bring me with you." The priest admitted that he "felt like Jonah" when he was asked to celebrate the Mass before the procession. Schmitz said he sometimes is wary of the idea of processing the Eucharist outside in public spaces, where many onlookers may react with misunderstanding, indifference, or even hatred.

"I don't want to 'ambush' them with the Lord," Schmitz admitted. "Most people will not have any idea what we're doing." But, upon further reflection, he said, "I think it's what we need to do." He said he is reminded of Jesus carrying his cross during his passion—at the time, Jesus was "unnoticed, misunderstood, or hated" by almost everyone who saw him.

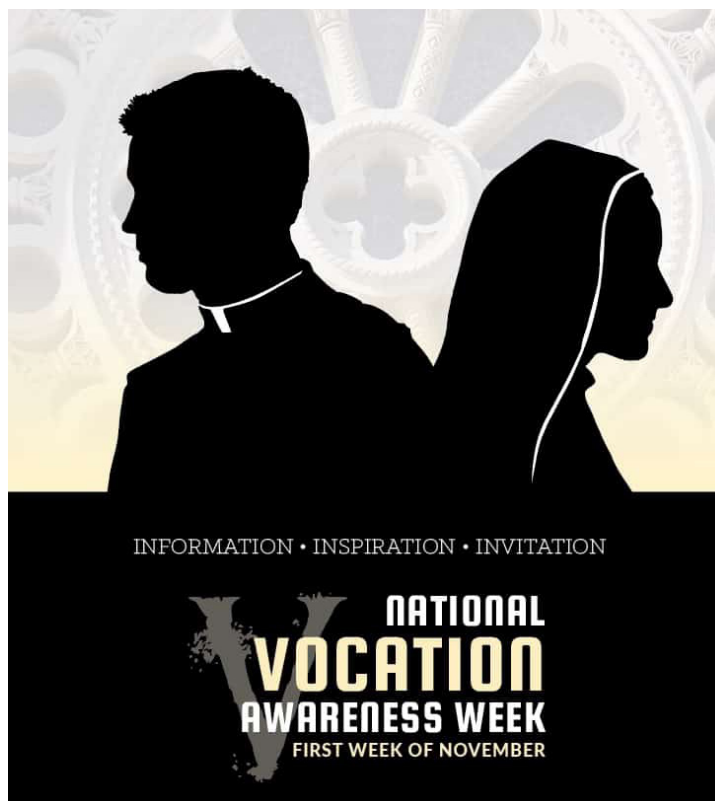
Schmitz said the Eucharistic procession is an opportunity to glorify Jesus in a "hidden" form that most observers will not understand. And, perhaps, "someone will look up, glance over, and see the friends of Jesus and ask, 'Who is that?'"

"Let this procession be your choice to say 'God, I want you to recognize me in your glory. So I'm going to cling to you when you're hidden... I want to be known as your friend when you come in triumph. So let me be your friend now,'" Schmitz said.



A bystander kneels as the Blessed Sacrament passes by during a Eucharistic procession on the streets of New York City on Oct. 10. (Jeffrey Bruno | CNA)

The solemn procession, with Whalen carrying the monstrance, began immediately after Mass. Photos show the monstrance being carried through the busy streets with dozens of priests, nuns, and laypeople following. Some observers on the side of the road dropped to their knees in reverence as the procession passed by.



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Devin Schadt is the executive director of the Fathers of St. Joseph, an apostolate that labors for the restoration, redemption, and revitalization of fatherhood. Devin is the author of several books and is the creator of the video-devotional system LEAD: The Four Marks of Fatherly Greatness. Devin lives with his wife and five daughters in the Midwest. Learn more at fathersofstjoseph.org.

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“We lack food and medicine:” Catholics in Gaza take refuge in only parish church

By Suhail Lawand | ACI MENA, CNA

As the fighting between Hamas and the Israeli army continues in the Holy Land, the Catholic Church in Gaza is doing everything in its power to alleviate the burden of war on its affected members.

The bloodshed and displacement have not spared the civilians in Gaza, who have borne the brunt of the raging war in a region that has not known safety and stability for about 75 years.

In an exclusive conversation with ACI MENA, CNA's Arabic-language news partner, Nisreen Antoun, Holy Family parish's project manager, revealed that there are 20 homes of Christian civilians that were completely destroyed as a result of Israeli bombing as well as homes that were partially damaged.

Holy Family Church is the only Roman Catholic parish in the Gaza Strip and is located in the northern part of Gaza City. Israel's military had ordered the Palestinian civilians to evacuate south last week, but the church today still has several hundred people taking refuge in its buildings.

Antoun said the number of Christian refugees coming to the church to date is estimated to be approximately 500 people in addition to others residing in the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Porphyrius.

Antoun described what the church is providing for the displaced families.

“We opened the halls and rooms in the church and school,”

he said. “We supplied the displaced with mattresses, pillows, and covers. We also provide them water, food, and personal hygiene items.”

“We suffer from power outages, with difficulty securing diesel for the power generator,” he said. “In addition to difficulty in bathing, as water is almost cut off and the number of people we have is large. Also, the mattresses are not enough for everyone to sleep. Additionally, we have a problem related to food supplies, as it is not easy to find them, especially bread. Currently, only four bakeries are operating in Gaza, and some medicines have become missing from pharmacies.”

Antoun continued: “The city of Gaza has been completely destroyed; however, no Christian has been martyred to this hour. The church is also unharmed and has not been subjected to any damage, but no one knows what will happen in the coming days.”

Despite the siege and the harshness of war, the church continues to open its doors to worshippers daily, fulfilling its spiritual duties toward them. Amid the images of sorrow and death, the church witnessed joy and a new spiritual birth last Sunday during the baptism of baby Daniel Alaa Shaheen.

In the evenings, believers recite prayers by candlelight due to the power outages.

This story originally appeared in ACI MENA, CNA's Arabic-speaking news partner, and has been translated and adapted by CNA.



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Despite the cacophony of sounds, God heard it all



SIDEWALK STORIES

ROXANE B. SALONEN

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

Everything was ready the morning of Sept. 27 for the 2023 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign opening. The flatbed with signs and microphones was parked across the street, the speakers were gathered, the prayer folks were in place.

But just a few minutes before 10 a.m., something happened to prevent a prompt beginning.

First, a man from a landscape company began zooming around on a riding lawn mower in front of the office-building-turned-abortionary. As soon as he got going, a garbage truck rolled up and began grabbing and dumping bins in the apartment-building parking lot to the east. It wasn't long before the lawn guy jumped out of the mower to start up his electric weed whacker, working the edges of the lawn just inches from the sidewalk where we stood, the loud, frantic buzzing increasing with each blade of grass trimmed. Across the street, another work truck had thread a large hose into a hole beneath the surface of the road and was creating a racket just feet from the 40 Days for Life truck and crew.

This sudden cacophony of sounds couldn't have been timed any more perfectly to frustrate our plans. It was almost as if the Red River Women's Clinic had asked the workers to arrive right at 10 a.m.

Clearly, the opening was not going to happen at the top of the hour as promised. As one of the team members talked to the workers with the hose, loud music began blaring behind me. It was coming from the phone of an abortion escort who paced back and forth just inches from us, adding to the clanging concert now pervading the atmosphere.

"They keep on telling me I'm cursed. I'm paranoid and I don't want to make it any worse," went the words of the rap song. *"We're all going to die but first things first. Ima take the world with me when they put me in the dirt."*

"What a zoo!" I whispered to my friend Nick. Undoubtedly,

Old Scratch was up to his tricks. At least some of the disruption seemed purposefully placed. But it couldn't go on forever. I looked up at the sun, engulfed by clouds all around, yet shining through the center like the Eucharist in a monstrance.

Soon, the loud sounds stopped, the men across the street paused their work, the lawn guy lumbered away, and the garbage truck moved on.

Peace prevailing now, the second 40 Days for Life launch at this location commenced. It included a touching opening prayer, heartening encouragement from several speakers, and a moving talk by a young woman who shared the painful story of her abortion at age 17.

The death of her child had happened without her mother, a pro-life Christian, knowing. The Red River Women's Clinic employees knew the law, but also a workaround. They promised the high-schooler they'd find a way; her mom would never know. Straight from the courtroom one morning, after successfully jumping that legal hoop, they escorted her into a room to take care of the "mistake," ending her child's life.

When her mom found out, instead of responding angrily, she grieved, according to the woman, both the loss of her grandchild and her parental rights. Later, when welcoming her two daughters, she felt unworthy, and it took a while for her to find healing, she shared, but it happened in time.

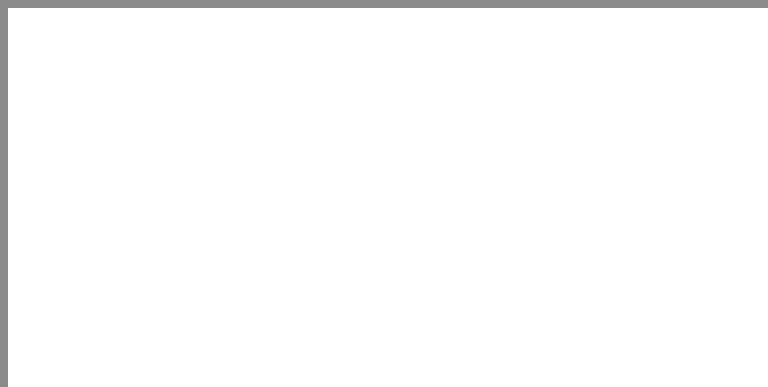
In closing, the Rev. Paul Levitin remarked, "When the darkness is exposed, that's when healing begins." I nodded, feeling fortified to continue bringing attention to this devastating reality in our community and world; one that has claimed too many of our children and grandchildren.

As a tribute to the babies who've perished there, Pastor Paul played a hauntingly beautiful rendition of "Amazing Grace" on his bagpipes; one he'd played a few years earlier at the funeral of his miscarried child. It pierced our hearts like hope, and for a few wonderful moments, we glimpsed the win of heaven.

Even if the discordant chorus from earlier had not ceased, it wouldn't have mattered. God's ears cannot be drowned out, for nothing escapes his hearing; not the pitter-patter of tiny hearts, not even the silent cries of the women who've been led astray by a lost culture. And certainly, not the pleas you and I pray every day for an end to this senseless scourge.

NEW EARTH

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*Do you know
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Where in the diocese are we?

Last month's photo is
from St. Boniface Church
in Walhalla.