

New Earth

September 2025 | Vol. 46 | No. 8

The Magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Fargo



Family of the Year

Family of Servant of God Michelle Duppong honored
by the Knights of Columbus

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and labor in the plan of God

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Mass of peace and unity
held at the International
Peace Gardens

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Pope Leo XIV speaks to
1 million youth at jubilee:
"Stay with us, Lord"

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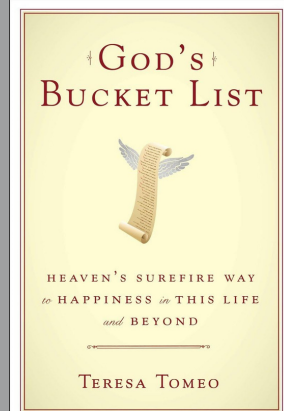
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| Oct. 3-5 | iSurrender: When life doesn't go as planned |
| Oct. 17-19 | Women's reading retreat |
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WOMEN'S READING RETREAT

Oct. 17-19, 2025

Maryvale's weekend reading retreat is filled with group and silent reading times, small and large group discussions, prayer time, daily Mass, Adoration, evening social, and the building of lasting friendships

The book for the weekend is "God's Bucket List: Heaven's Surefire Way to Happiness in This Life and Beyond" by Teresa Tomeo. Scripture tells us only God knows the desires of our hearts. God's Bucket List will examine what God wants for each of us: mercy fruitfulness, fellowship, and peace, just to name a few.



3150 116a Ave. SE, Suite A,
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Contact:
Carrie.Nice@MaryvaleND.org
(701) 845 2864



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Ladies, do you desire to live in greater freedom? Are you longing for an authentic encounter with your true feminine identity? Join us for the **Undone Women's Conference** where you will experience a weekend of truth, beauty and transformation, as the knots of Eve's disobedience are "undone" through Mary's model of radical receptivity. Available in person or via Livestream.

ON THE COVER:

Ken and Mary Ann Duppong accept the Knights of Columbus Family of Year award on Aug. 4 during a ceremony in Washington D.C. as part of the 143rd Supreme Convention. (Paul Haring)

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NEW EARTH

(ISSN# 10676406)

Mission

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

New Earth is the official monthly publication of the Diocese of Fargo.

Publisher

Most Rev. John T. Folda
Bishop of Fargo

Editor

Paul Braun

Assistant editor & designer

Kristina Bloomsburg

Subscriptions

Parish contributions make it possible for each registered Catholic household in the diocese to receive 11 issues per year. Those outside the diocese are asked to consider a \$12 yearly donation. To subscribe, change an address, donate, or see past issues of *New Earth*, go to: fargodiocese.org/new-earth.

Contact *New Earth* staff

news@fargodiocese.org
(701) 356-7900

Deadlines

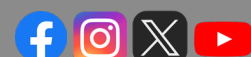
Deadline to submit articles, events, and advertisements for the October issue is Sept. 9, 2025. All submissions are subject to editing and placement.

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

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

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

Member of the Catholic Media Association





Creation and labor in the plan of God

September 1 this year had a double significance in the life of the Church. On the one hand, it was Labor Day in the United States. Labor Day was established to recognize the importance of laborers in our country. It is a national holiday that honors and expresses support for all those who work for a living, not only in factories, but also in homes, shops, offices, farms, and every other place where work is carried out. Labor Day acknowledges the essential contribution of workers to the well-being of our country and our society. Without the steady and diligent activity of ordinary workers, the human family would languish and suffer.

But Labor Day doesn't have merely a secular significance. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2427) teaches us that human work proceeds from our activity as persons created in the image of God, and allows us to continue the work of creation and subduing the earth, as God commanded. Through our work, we can honor the Creator who has given us gifts and talents to use. Through work we can enter into communion with Jesus himself, who worked as a carpenter before he began his public ministry. Through work we can also enter into the mystery of redemption by sharing in the hardship that our Lord experienced as he carried the cross. "In work, the person exercises and fulfills in part the potential inscribed in his nature." Our labor flows from our effort but also is for our benefit and the benefit of our families and the entire human community. Lest we forget the dignity and humanity of the worker, Pope St. John Paul II taught us to keep things in proper order: "Work is for man, not man for work" (*Laborem exercens* 6, *Catechism* 2428).

Pope Leo XIII, the namesake and predecessor of our current Holy Father, taught us about the rights and dignity of the worker during the Industrial Revolution. He reminded the people of his time and ours that workers must be treated with proper dignity, and should receive the respect of all, including their overseers and managers. And now, Pope Leo XIV has picked up this theme of the Church's social teaching in a new age with new challenges. He teaches us at this time of great technological change that the human person still has intrinsic value and

worth in the sight of God. The contribution that each person makes to the common good, especially workers, must not be forgotten or overshadowed by impersonal forces of progress and the motive of profit.

The second celebration on Sept. 1 this year was the World Day for the Care of Creation. Early in his pontificate, Pope Francis taught us the importance of care for the created world, "our common home." Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict also taught this important truth. By having appropriate reverence for the earth and the created world, we show reverence to God, the author and Creator himself. The created material world is a manifestation of God's power and his beautiful design for this earth and the universe. Through the natural cycles of creation, we see God's hand at work, forming and guiding creation as he carries out his plan for our eternal salvation.

In the Book of Genesis, we see God bringing creation into being by an act of his will. God spoke, and it came to be. And God looked on all he had made and saw that it was good. Because of the innate goodness of God's creation, we have a responsibility to treat the created world with reverence, putting it to good use for the mutual benefit of the human family, and preserving it from undue damage and lasting harm. There are some who take the protection of creation to extremes, disregarding the place of human persons in the created world. Human beings are part of creation too, and deserve the highest reverence, for they alone are created in the image and likeness of God. But our place in the created world makes us stewards of this creation, and we must therefore give God's handiwork the care that it deserves.

This celebration of creation isn't just a form of environmentalism. It is a form of spirituality because it is rooted in our faith in God, who creates out of his infinite love. We believe that God creates *ex nihilo*, out of nothing. He doesn't just rearrange something that was already there; he creates something entirely new, something that did not exist before. We also believe that God sustains all creation. Creation is entirely dependent on God's sustaining love, and without this intentional act of love, creation

Through the natural cycles of creation, we see God's hand at work, forming and guiding creation as he carries out his plan for our eternal salvation.

-Bishop John T. Folda

would simply cease to exist. But we know that God does not and will not forget us. The created world is dear to him, and he promises that he will never abandon us, his children.

There are some who see the magnificence of the created universe, but they fail to see the hand of God in its existence. And yet, the age-old question remains: why is there creation at all? Why do things exist at all? Logic (and St. Thomas Aquinas) help us to see that existing things do not create themselves, and they do not come into existence apart from some act of creation, from the One who creates. The very design of the created world shows the infinite wisdom of God, who is the only answer to the question of why things exist at all.



Official Appointments/ Announcements

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

I hereby appoint the **Rev. Robert Keller** full-time teacher at Shanley High School, Fargo ND, beginning June 25, 2025 and continuing *ad nutum episcopi*.

Jubilee 2025 Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.



May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

So, as the days pass by, let us remember the perennial importance of human labor and the dignity of those who work for a living. Let us also remember the awesome beauty of God's creation around us. In our daily work, in our prayer, and in our gaze on the created world, let us strive always to give glory to God.

BISHOP FOLDA'S CALENDAR

Sept. 10 at 9 a.m.

All Saints School Mass, Holy Family, Grand Forks

Sept. 16

Diocesan Principals and Priests, Pastoral Center, Fargo

Sept. 16 at 3 p.m.

Diocesan Finance Council, Pastoral Center, Fargo

Sept. 19–22

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Meeting, Minneapolis, Minn.

Sept. 22–25

Bishop Mission Conference, Chicago, Ill.

Sept. 28–Oct. 1

Presbyterate Days, Maryvale, Valley City

Oct. 2 at 4 p.m.

All Saints School Board Meeting, St. Michael, Grand Forks

Oct. 5 at noon

Mass and Holy Hour for Life, Cathedral of St. Mary, Fargo

Oct. 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Operation Andrew Dinner, St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, Grand Forks

Oct. 9 at 2 p.m.

Diocesan Pastoral Council, Pastoral Center, Fargo

Prayer Intention of Pope Leo XIV



For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.



MONTHLY EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE

Eucharistic miracle of Eten, Peru

From miracolieucaristici.org (edited for content)

In 1649, the Eucharistic Miracle of Eten took place. In fact, there were two apparitions related to this miracle. In the first, which occurred on June 2 during vespers and the solemn exposition for the feast of Corpus Christi, a Franciscan monk was returning the monstrance to the tabernacle when he was shocked to see the brilliant face of a child in the Host. Those in attendance also saw the same vision.

The second apparition occurred on July 22 during the celebration honoring St. Margaret Mary, the town's patroness. According to witnesses, during exposition of the Host, the child Jesus appeared. Many also saw three small white hearts united among themselves. It is believed this symbolized the Holy Trinity present in the Host.

To this day the feast of the Divine Child of Eten is celebrated and attracts thousands of pilgrims each year.

Episode with 20 Bishop Folda

Bishop Folda: There was a big change of heart in Moses when he realized the danger that the Israelites had put themselves into and so he stepped into the breach, you might say, and he really threw himself on God's mercy to defend them. It's not that God hated the Israelites and was looking for a reason to wipe them out. No, on the contrary, he loved them. I mean, they were his chosen people. And it's almost like Moses realized that and put himself before the Lord to protect them in a very real sense. He persisted in prayer. Anybody who prays consistently recognizes the kind of broadening of heart that happens and recognizes that prayer changes them.

Steve: The Lord knows what we need. But he wants us to ask him because then we become aware of that need. Then we cry out to him which opens the door of our heart because if I ask somebody for something I'm expecting a response. But if somebody tries to give me something and the door of my heart isn't open, I may not receive it.

Bishop Folda: One image that I've always loved in the Gospels is the image of Peter walking on the water towards Jesus. All of a sudden, he looks around and recognizes the dangerous storm that surrounds him and the impossibility of what he is doing. That's when he starts to sink. And he cries out, "Lord, save me." And you know, Jesus always had him, but finally Peter cried out and Jesus took him by the hand and did save him from sinking beneath the waves. So there again, I think there's wisdom in praying and in crying out to God. There's a wisdom in realizing that I can't do this myself. So we beg for God's protection and his help.



Tune in to weekly episodes of "Sent" podcast every Monday. Visit www.fargodiocese.org/sent or search for Diocese of Fargo on YouTube, Spotify, and other podcast providers.

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A vocation is all about love

By Deacon Curtis Kaufman | St. Rose of Lima, Hillsboro



THE DEACONS BRIDGE
Connecting the Church and Society

DEACON CURTIS KAUFMAN
St. Rose of Lima, Hillsboro

One of the great blessings that I have received since ordination into the Permanent Diaconate nearly five years ago, has been the opportunity for my wife and me to work with young couples as they prepare for marriage. Ministering to these young people has given me the occasion to reflect on my own vocations.

A vocation is all about love. It is a life of love in a concrete, particular form that comes from God. Each vocation begins with his love for us. In that love for you he is calling you to a particular form of life. How special then that for me the vocation to the permanent diaconate came from the vocation of marriage. Both vocations are inseparable and the discernment towards the Diaconate, and my ministry today, has been and continues to be a team effort.

Discerning a vocation is part of the Christian life. It involves seeking and responding to the grace that God offers, aiming to conform more closely to Christ. Discerning a vocation means deepening your friendship with Christ and learning his will for you. In prayer, instead of asking, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" ask, "Lord, who do you want me to be?" Our actions follow who we are, and a vocation is about *being* rather than *doing*.

Grace is given for actual, particular actions, not future contingents. God provides the grace to follow him now, even in small steps. That's the way it was for me, small steps, sometimes backward, but always with my spouse, asking the will of God. When our modern ears hear the word "discern" we think of its modern definition to see, perceive, or distinguish; but in Latin *discernere* literally means to separate, set apart, or divide. Therefore, rather than simply discerning your vocation (seeking to know the answer), instead try exploring your vocation. When you explore something, you are active, not passive. When you explore something you don't quite know what you are going to encounter; this is why we explore.

A vocation is all about love. It is a life of love in a concrete, particular form that comes from God. Each vocation begins with his love for us. In that love for you he is calling you to a particular form of life. This love involves first his total gift of himself to you, and then in response your total gift of self to him. Christ our Lord tells us in the Gospel according to St. John,

"You did not choose me, but I chose you." His choice for you is what makes a vocation different from an occupation or a career. You can choose an occupation or a career for yourself, but a vocation is his choice for you and which he invites you to undertake for love of him. How natural it was for me to discern the Diaconate, following my vocation of marriage.

I think the mind of the church, borne out in practice by many effective, happy deacons, is that they must integrate rather than compartmentalize the two vocations. The man is a deacon even when he's at home with a sick child or celebrating an anniversary with his wife; he is a married man even when he's proclaiming the Gospel at Mass. The Diaconate is not about overextending the married man. Instead, it brings about a new deepening of his life in Christ, empowering him to give more fully of himself to family, friends, co-workers, and parish, as part of a beautiful, integrated life—in docility and obedience to the Holy Spirit.

The Diaconate is a graced summons for the woman, too, to cultivate her baptismal gifts in service of her family, the world, and in her own distinct way, the Church. My spouse and our marriage vocation is foundational to my ministry as a Deacon. My wife ministers alongside me, and sometimes independently. There are many times that she is approached by parishioners, sharing her special charisms, that work within my ministry and extend both our contributions to the Church and our community as a couple. My marriage became an integral part of the discernment process and my current ministry. Our families, most especially our spouse, know us better than anyone else on earth. Who better to honestly walk with us? We have found that in the vocation of the Diaconate, we have strengthened our first vocation to the married life. We are sharing our faith in ways we have never done before.

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The eye-catching new mosaic at Holy Cross

By Paul Braun | Editor of New Earth

Holy Cross Church in West Fargo was dedicated March 20, 2025. There was still much interior work to be completed, especially the artwork.

One of the first large pieces of art to be completed and installed was the mosaic behind the crucifix that was put in place earlier this summer. It is eye-catching and unique. One of the most frequently asked questions by those who view it is “Why peacocks?” According to liturgical artist Paige Stransky, who is the chief artistic designer for the church, the peacock has deep, religious meaning.

“In early Christian and Romanesque art, the image of the peacock held deep symbolic meaning, often representing immortality and the resurrection,” said Stransky. “This association arose from the ancient belief that the flesh of the peacock did not decay, a notion echoed by early Church Fathers like St. Augustine. As Christianity emerged within the Roman Empire, early Christians adopted and reinterpreted existing symbols through a theological lens. The peacock, with its radiant plumage and cyclical molting, became a powerful image of Christ’s triumph over death and the promise of eternal life.”

“One of the most striking features of the peacock is the ‘eye’ pattern at the end of each feather. For early Christians, this was a symbol of the all-seeing eye of God, his divine watchfulness, omniscience, and providence over creation. It became a powerful reminder that the faithful are always under his care.”

“Peacocks were especially prominent in funerary art, adorning the tombs of early Christian martyrs in the Roman catacombs. Their presence alongside symbols like the Tree of Life or the Eucharistic banquet signified the martyrs’ glorification and the hope of resurrection. Sarcophagi and frescoes often featured peacocks flanking sacred imagery, visually proclaiming that death was not the end, but the gateway to eternal life in Christ. Today,



The mosaic behind the crucifix at the new Holy Cross Church in West Fargo was installed earlier this summer.

(Paul Braun | New Earth)

the image of the peacock in sacred spaces, such as the vibrant mosaic depicted here, continues to echo this ancient Christian tradition, reminding the faithful of resurrection, renewal, and the eternal glory that awaits in heaven.”

Check out this opportunity to learn about the faith

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

The Diocese of Fargo is launching the Catholic Formation Initiative this fall. Under this new initiative, you will find on-going formation resources, events, podcasts and more. Each fall we will highlight a new formation component for the year and invite all who are interested in learning more about their faith to join in. You can find information at www.fargodiocese.org/cfi.

This fall we are promoting a new series by Ascension Press called *Foundations of Faith, a Journey through the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This new series includes a video/streaming component filmed in 30 different countries along with commentary from Jeff Cavins, Dr. Edward Sri, Marcellino D’Ambrosio, Fr. Mike

Schmitz and many others. It also includes a companion workbook and chart for small groups or personal study. There is a lot of flexibility with this series to make it possible for anyone who is interested. Check with your parish to see if they are offering it this fall or sign on for an individual account at www.ascensionpress.com.



The Rosary is a powerful sleep aid for parents

By Mary Rose DeCock | Parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua, Fargo

Hear me out! You might assume I'm being glib and disrespectful of the beautiful prayer that is the Rosary. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

A few years ago, a rather innocent and funny movie scared the living daylights out of my then 7-year-old. Parents the world over can identify with what followed. Sleepless nights, stumbling into his room 4-5 times a night to assure him that there were no monsters in the closet. 30-45 minute long talks at 2 a.m. to try and calm him down enough to return him to sleep. Sitting in his room for 45 minutes to get him to fall asleep, only to have him reawaken 5 minutes after I crept back to bed. Waking up with him sleeping on the floor next to me.

It got to the point that he didn't even try to go to sleep in his own room but preferred to lay down on the hardwood floor next to our bed at his bedtime. My husband, of course, loved this. Didn't you know that A+ quality romance always happens with a 7-year-old sleeping on the floor next to you?

We tried to reason with him. We tried logic. We emptied the closet and showed him there were no monsters. We blessed him with holy water. We even tried deliverance prayers! Nothing seemed to take the edge off, until we hit on something new.

As a Christmas present, my husband and I gifted each other a very beautiful statue of Our Lady. It just so happens that our house has an alcove right in front of the front door that we both knew was originally intended for a statue of Our Lady. When we toured the house, a Buddah sat there. We quickly remedied the situation.

In order to help our little worrywart to not feel abandoned, and to get ourselves to sit down and pray a Rosary, we sat on our stairs, facing the statue and prayed loudly enough for him to hear in his bedroom. We turned off the lights and lit LED candles by Our Lady. By the end of the Rosary, our older children admitted that sitting in the dark and praying made them feel calm and sleepy.

The kicker was that after a few nights of repetition, our two younger children (including our insomniac!) started to fall asleep during the Rosary. Let's be real: the Rosary is a repetitive prayer. It takes presence of mind and effort to prevent it from feeling boring. This is to your advantage if you're trying to lull little children to sleep! It's like a verbal lullaby!

Somehow it's different from sitting and singing to a child for the same amount of time. I have to think that Mary sends extra graces to parents who are trying to pray with their families. Anything you entrust to her just goes better than it should. At least, this is my experience. Theologians would call it signal graces. I just know that most parents struggle with getting kids



(Catholic)

to sleep at some point in their lives, and the Rosary is an underutilized tool that can really help both parents and children.

Do you struggle to pray the Rosary? Maybe you need to take advantage of this good old-fashioned "Catholic Sleep Aid."

FALL Dinner

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Honoring local veterans with Quilts of Valor

By Shoba Dasari | Reporter of Wahpeton Daily News

On a quiet afternoon filled with gratitude and remembrance, the Red River Quilters group presented Quilts of Valor to five veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The group honored men and women whose service spanned decades and continents, recognizing their military careers. The honored veterans include Karen and Henry Weber and Patricia Morales, now Mother Madonna.

Karen Weber entered the U.S. Air Force in 1975 after becoming the first woman to graduate from the Army Reserve Officers training Corps (ROTC) program at North Dakota State University. She attended basic training at Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) in Florida and went on to serve at Vandenberg AFB in California and Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Her responsibilities included logistics, equipment supply chain, and officer-level planning, working directly under a General.

Karen was awarded the Commendation Medal, the Outstanding Unit Award, and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon during her service. She was honorably discharged in 1982 as a Major (O-4). She and her husband Henry now serve as caretakers of the Carmelite Monastery in Wahpeton.

Henry Weber began his Air Force career in 1974 as an officer and mechanical engineer. His journey took him through Wright-Patterson and Vandenberg AFBs, and ultimately to the Pentagon with the Air Force Defense Mapping Agency. His specialties included acquisition management, scientist, developmental engineering, and mechanical engineering.

Notably, Henry served from 1990–1994 in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm and was involved in monitoring the launching of Minuteman missiles. His accolades include the Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Defense Service Award, and the Longevity Service Award. Henry retired as a Lieutenant Colonel (O-5) in 1994 after 20 years of service.

Patricia Morales, now Mother Madonna, joined the U.S. Air Force in 1985 and completed basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas. As an accounting and finance specialist, she was responsible for registering service members in military systems to ensure proper pay disbursement.

She served three years in England and one year in Tennessee. In recognition of her dedication, she was named Airman of the Year and given the unique opportunity to fly in an F-111 after completing required flight preparation. She was honorably discharged in 1989. Mother Madonna now resides at the Carmelite Monastery in Wahpeton.

The quilts were presented by Red River Quilters, a local group affiliated with the national Quilts of Valor Foundation, which has awarded more than 425,000 quilts to service members across the country.



Patricia Ann Morales, now Mother Madonna, was named Airman of the Year in the 1980s. (submitted photo)



Karen and Henry Weber, both U.S. Air Force Veterans, now serve as caretakers of the Carmelite Monastery in Wahpeton. (submitted photo)



Heartfelt gratitude to Sts. Anne and Joachim in Fargo for hosting the 69th Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Prairies!

carmelofmary.org
carmelofmary@gmail.com



17765 78th Street SE,
Wahpeton, ND 58075

When life doesn't go as planned

By Kristina Bloomsburg | Assistant editor of New Earth

What do you do when life doesn't go as planned? Where do you turn when disappointments, failures, and tragedies come your way?

The iSurrender retreat aims to answer these questions. This retreat is not about giving up but rather giving *in* to receive the bounty of graces God is waiting to bestow. It is about finding a reliable God in an unreliable world to a surrender that will bring peace.

Patti Armstrong, one of the presenters of the retreat, surrendered much to God when she lost her husband unexpectedly last year.

"I didn't know how I was going to go on without him," she said. "Yet, there was a level of acceptance because I had already surrendered my life and made peace with the fact that there will be sorrow as well as joy. It was not my choice, but I was able to feel God's care through family and friends and through our Church and the beauty of the funeral Mass and many prayers."

When it comes to surrendering to God, Patti said, "It's not like it's a real option. We can either go willingly uniting our lives to Jesus, come what may, or we can go kicking and screaming. Only one option brings grace and holiness. By willingly, I don't mean void of emotions, but rather by giving God our acceptance that he is in charge and we are not. It comes with the understanding that God knows best in all circumstances."

Another presenter, Roxane Salonen, learned about surrender just before her husband went through his first of two open-heart surgeries in 2016. During that time, Roxane was introduced to the surrender novena. The main refrain of the novena is: "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!"

"The novena has become a staple in our lives to get through the hardest situations," said Roxane. "The more we grow in our faith, the more we have realized our dependence on God, and how this is a good thing, not something to fear. In this realization there is a freedom. But it's not always easy to get there."

You can find the full novena at www.hallow.com/blog/how-to-pray-the-surrender-novena.

"We did not know if he would make it out of either of those procedures alive," said Roxane. "But he did, and God gave him new life. With each of those major surgeries, he learned to give over more control of his life to God, and I have seen his faith life come alive before my eyes in the years since. Traveling that vale with him, I, too, had to learn to surrender in a big way."

For Monica Hannan, also presenting at the retreat, she learned to surrender to the Lord through not just crises moments, but through day-to-day decisions.

"In the past I've tended to try to puzzle things out on my own," said Monica. "Take this interview, for instance. A good rule of thumb would be to say a quick prayer prior to answering these questions, asking the Holy Spirit to guide me. In the past that

would not have occurred to me. By learning to surrender my life to God, even the little things take on new meaning. Now I begin my day with an offering prayer, with the intention that every moment is given over to His will. It certainly lessens anxiety and things go better."

The full retreat is Oct. 3–5. There is also another option for those who need a shorter time away. The weekend will include Mass, Adoration, Confession, personal stories, and delicious food, all nestled within the beautiful hills of rural Valley City.

"I've learned that God honors those who show up, so attending a retreat in a beautiful place where prayer seems to happen naturally pays dividends," said Monica. "Listening to others talk about surrender moments—and hearing compelling surrender stories—can remind us that our time here is fleeting, and if we're willing to give our lives over to our creator, He can do amazing things with us here, even as we prepare for our next adventure in the life to come."

Register at www.maryvale.org.



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Seminarians installed as candidates, lectors, acolyte

By Ann Losinski | Parishioner of Sts. Anne & Joachim, Fargo



On Aug. 8, Bishop Folda celebrated Vespers with the Admission to Candidacy and Holy Mass with the Installation of Lectors and Acolytes for our seminarians. Kade Palmer and Matthew Samson were admitted to Candidacy, Matthew Follis and William Gerads were installed as Lectors, and Paul Zach was installed as an Acolyte.

What this means for each of these men:

Candidacy: A man entering seminary is initially an aspirant, exploring his calling to the priesthood and seeking clarity. After a period of discernment, he petitions the bishop to become a candidate once he has gained a firm conviction that he is called to this vocation. This formal step signifies a deepening commitment and a more stable, peaceful readiness in preparation for reception of Holy Orders.

Lector: A lector is a person specially appointed to proclaim the scripture readings during Mass. While the Second Vatican Council allowed lay people to perform this role, the Church still retains it as a formal ministry for those in preparation for reception of Holy Orders. This appointment, which typically occurs before a seminarian's second year of theology, serves as a crucial step in his journey toward one day speaking all the texts of the Mass. If a man who has been formally installed as a lector by the bishop attends Mass, it is his proper role to proclaim the scriptural readings.

Acolyte: An acolyte is a layman tasked with distributing Holy Communion, a role historically reserved for priests. While the Second Vatican Council allowed lay people to assist as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, the ministry of acolyte is still formally retained for men preparing for Holy Orders. A seminarian is typically installed into this ministry before his third year of theology.

From left to right, William Gerads, Matthew Samson, Matthew Follis, Bishop Folda, Kade Palmer, and Paul Zach.
(Photo by Diocese of Fargo)

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Mass of peace and unity held at the International Peace Garden

By Paul Braun | Editor of New Earth



Fourth Degree knights of the Knights of Columbus in Manitoba and North Dakota salute the anthems of Canada and the U.S. to open the Peace Garden Mass at the International Peace Garden north of Dunseith. (Paul Braun | New Earth)

At a time when world peace is jeopardized by the war in Ukraine, international prayers for peace are as important now as they have been during past world conflicts. With peace talks ongoing, the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus in Manitoba and North Dakota held their 61st Mass for Peace at the International Peace Garden, located on the U.S./Canadian border between Manitoba and North Dakota, with the express purpose of celebrating and maintaining the peace between Canada and the U.S., and praying for world peace.

The Mass was celebrated by Father Michael Slovak, SOLT, pastor of nearby St. Michael's church in Dunseith, N.D. Before the Mass, an international Rosary was recited in English, Sinhala (Sri Lanka), Ukrainian, and Tagalog (Phillipines). State Deputies Mark Desjardins of Manitoba and Mike Bannach of North Dakota were on hand to represent their two countries and the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

"The purpose of the event is to encourage peace and unity between our two countries," said John Preston of Manitoba and president of the Peace Garden Mass Association. "It's an opportunity for both sides of the border to get together and celebrate a Mass together, because the Mass is the ultimate statement of our faith."

The Peace Garden Mass has been held nearly every year since 1960, with the exception of the years 2020-2023 during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year's Mass attracted very few Sir Knights and their family and friends, and there were thoughts that the tradition would die for lack of interest.

"We are quite concerned about the future of this event," said Preston. "Our numbers are dwindling, our executive planning

team is dwindling, and we don't have new people coming on board to plan the event. I think we have to go back to our roots and think about what the Knights of Columbus are all about and to share the vision of Fr. McGivney to take care of our families, and ultimately its families that we want to come and experience this together. The Peace Garden is a beautiful place that families can enjoy after they attend the Mass."

"We do need to make this more of a family event," said Mike Bannach, North Dakota State Deputy for the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus. "Younger families are typically two-income families and their kids are greatly involved with activities as they should be, but this could also be one of those activities for the family to participate in."

This year's event brought about 35 Fourth Degree Knights, along with about 125 family and friends from both Canada and the U.S., which was encouraging for event organizers, who hope to keep the event going for decades to come.

"It's very important because world peace is important," said Bannach, "For the Knights of Columbus in Manitoba and North Dakota, this is a huge sign of unity not only for Sir Knights in our two nations but across the world as well. If more of us did this and prayed for world peace, we could possibly achieve world peace. The Knights of Columbus has 2.2 million members world-wide in ten different countries, and there's not a better way for an organization to have fellow Catholic Christian men bridging the gap to not only unify our two nations, but to unify us throughout the world through the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus."

Franciscan Sisters host 20th “Mother Daughter Days” in Hankinson

By Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen



Daughters, mothers, and grandmothers gather for a photo during Mother Daughter Days at St. Francis Convent in Hankinson. (submitted photo)

This summer, the Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen in Hankinson (Hankinson Franciscans) joyfully celebrated 20 years of “Mother Daughter Days,” welcoming about 60 mothers, grandmothers, and daughters to St. Francis Convent during two sessions in June and July. This year’s theme was “Come, Follow Me.”

This annual event offers young girls a fun and faith-filled opportunity to experience life at a convent, all while spending meaningful time with their mothers. For the moms, it is a refreshing retreat from daily responsibilities—filled with prayer, faith enrichment, and quality time with their daughters.

Over the course of a day and a half, participants share meals, prayer, and Holy Mass with the Sisters. Activities also include a craft project, fun and games, and Q&A with the Sisters. This year, at one of the sessions, some of the girls provided musical entertainment. Other years, some have put on a skit based on Scripture or the lives of the saints.

“Mother Daughter Days” grew out of the convent’s “Come & See” weekends after one mother suggested offering a version tailored to younger girls—with the comfort of their mothers by their side. Since then, the event has grown in popularity, now held twice each summer to accommodate more families and varying schedules.

“This was our family’s eighth mother daughter retreat,” said Heather Hanson of Hankinson. “It’s a time of peace spent in the Lord’s presence with my daughters and the Sisters. This year, Sister Jean Louise’s sharing on Our Lady of Perpetual Help

spoke directly into my life in a place of need.” Her daughter, Therese, age nine, shared: “I like the crafts, and I really liked the [theme] song, *O God, You are my God*. I like to come every year because it helps me get closer to God.”

To learn more about “Mother Daughter Days” or other vocation opportunities with the Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen, visit ndfranciscans.org/vocation-events.

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Putt 4 a Purpose continues tradition of golf, community, supporting youth

Bishop Folda's annual Putt 4 a Purpose golf tournament was held Aug. 4 at Rose Creek golf course in Fargo. It was a wonderful community event that raised money for seminarian education and youth programs through the diocese including March for Life, SEARCH retreats, and youth camps. This year's winning team of the 1st annual Al Brandt Memorial "Parish" Championship Trophy was from St. James Basilica, Jamestown, Knights of Columbus. Back row, left to right (starting just left of the trophy), were players Jay Schmitz, Stuart Lamp, Dave Barnick, and John Yatskis. Family members present at the banquet and the Al Brandt trophy presentation are front row, (left to right): Jeff Terfehr, Megan Kreklau, Cheryl Terfehr, and Connie Brandt. (submitted photo)



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Thank you to all who sponsored the 19th annual Putt 4 a Purpose golf scramble held on August 4, at Rose Creek Golf Course in Fargo.

This year 128 golfers participated to raise funds to benefit seminarian education and youth programs throughout the Diocese of Fargo.

University of Mary launches world's first Catholic Montessori institute

By Tom Ackerman | University of Mary

On the 118th anniversary of Dr. Maria Montessori's inaugural *Casa dei Bambini* in 1907, the University of Mary unveiled a groundbreaking initiative: the Catholic Montessori Institute (CMI)—the world's first and only global center dedicated to advancing Catholic Montessori education.

The announcement, made during a campus-wide University of Mary meeting, marks a historic milestone in Catholic education. CMI will serve as a centralized hub for academic collaboration, professional development, and resource accessibility—all uniquely grounded in both Montessori pedagogy and Catholic theology.

The Catholic Montessori Institute is the fruit of a long-held dream by Dr. Maria Montessori and is now being fulfilled by a few seasoned Montessorians including JoAnn Schulzetenberg, a Montessori educator and now CMI's executive director. Her years of prayerful reflection and practical experience culminated in a providential meeting with University of Mary President Monsignor James Shea.

"Several years ago, I was seated next to Msgr. Shea at a wedding. I had been praying and reflecting on the state of Montessori education in the United States," Schulzetenberg recalled. "I pitched the idea to Monsignor Shea to create an entirely new Montessori training that would be authentically Catholic." Shea recognized that this vision fit seamlessly within the mission of the University of Mary.

"This past fall, the University of Mary hosted a Catholic Montessori Conference, and the response was impressive," Shea said. "With people coming from all over the country, it was evident there was a significant hunger for this kind of formation. Ultimately, Catholic Montessori isn't just about education, it's about meeting Jesus in the classroom, in the work of the hands, and in the freedom of a child ordered to God."

Montessori education continues to flourish, with an estimated 22,000 programs across 110 countries—and nearly 4,000 in the United States alone, according to the American Montessori Society (AMS). Yet until now, no central institution has focused on uniting this method with Catholic identity and theological depth.

"There is not any other Catholic Montessori Institute in the United States. This is the first of its kind," Schulzetenberg said. "CMI will be a place to truly help other Catholic Montessorians connect and be supported."

One of the pillars of the Institute will be focusing on an openness to working together across all cultures that will be important to maintaining and growing the relationships with the broader Montessori community. CMI's model is designed to preserve and build upon the enduring foundations laid by



Children in a Montessori classroom. (University of Mary)

both the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and AMS, combining their strengths within an authentically Catholic context. "Both AMI-certified and AMS-certified educators will collaborate to build out the institute," added Schulzetenberg.

Initially, students and educators seeking certification through CMI will begin their training via an approved AMI training program hosted by the University of Mary. These courses will be delivered both in-person and online over the course of a year, culminating in oral and written examinations. Upon successful completion, students will earn an AMI diploma. The trainings offered next summer will be for the Assistant to Infancy (0-3) and Primary levels (3-6-year-olds).

Students already have the opportunity to pursue a fully online Master of Education in Catholic Montessori through the University of Mary, and CMI's long-term vision includes customized Catholic Montessori training and expanded support services for educators and schools. Catholic schools may also apply for CMI membership to receive access to a wealth of benefits—including expert consultations, ongoing formation, resources, and operational tools.

The Catholic Montessori Institute is intentionally built to serve a wide spectrum of needs across Catholic Montessori education. Through its programs, CMI will provide educators with professional development opportunities, spiritual retreats, and mentorship steeped in Catholic theology. A dedicated online hub will offer best practices, a national job board, and other valuable resources tailored to the needs of Catholic Montessori schools and practitioners.

CMI reflects and advances the University of Mary's mission, which has been entrusted to it by the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery. Rooted in the Benedictine tradition, the university is committed to forming leaders who are professionally excellent and deeply grounded in faith, service, and community. These same values—hospitality, respect for the dignity of every person, and a spirit of service—are also foundational to the Montessori method. At the heart of Montessori education is the intentional formation of the adult, who in turn cultivates these values in children, echoing the Benedictine ethos of nurturing both the individual and the community at large.

In uniting these two traditions, the University of Mary recognizes a profound harmony between Benedictine and Montessori principles—each emphasizing human dignity, peaceful living, and purposeful service. By launching CMI, the university boldly fills a global need, creating a center for Catholic Montessori thought, training, and renewal that serves both the broader Montessori community and the Church.

To help educators and school leaders plan ahead, the Catholic Montessori Institute offers the following timeline of key events and milestones:

- October 16-18—National Catholic Montessori Conference, hosted by the University of Mary, drawing educators from across the country and beyond for keynote sessions, breakout workshops, and community-building.
- Fall 2025—Registration for the first CMI hosted AMI training
- Summer 2026—First official CMI/AMI Montessori training cohort begins
- Pilgrimage Offerings—CMI will sponsor an immersive pilgrimage to Amsterdam and Italy, visiting key sites in Dr. Maria Montessori's life—from her birthplace in Chiaravalle to her final resting place in the Netherlands. The trip offers spiritual renewal and vocational inspiration for educators and supporters alike.

"These pilgrimages are not only journeys of learning," Schulzetenberg said. "They are sacred encounters with the

roots of a vocation—a chance to walk where Dr. Montessori walked, to pray where she taught, and to experience her vision with fresh eyes."

Dr. Maria Montessori once said, "An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking. It involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live."

The Catholic Montessori Institute takes that charge seriously—forming educators to lead classrooms with not only precision and love, but also Gospel-centered hope.

"I was deeply touched that, by the Grace of God, this dream has become a reality on the exact date of when Dr. Maria Montessori began her first *Casa dei Bambini* in 1907," Schulzetenberg reflected. "I knew that God was blessing this new path forward—and that Maria Montessori would be so proud to have her work continue in such a beautiful way."

For more information about the Catholic Montessori Institute, the degree program, or upcoming training and travel opportunities, visit Online.UMary.edu/CMI.



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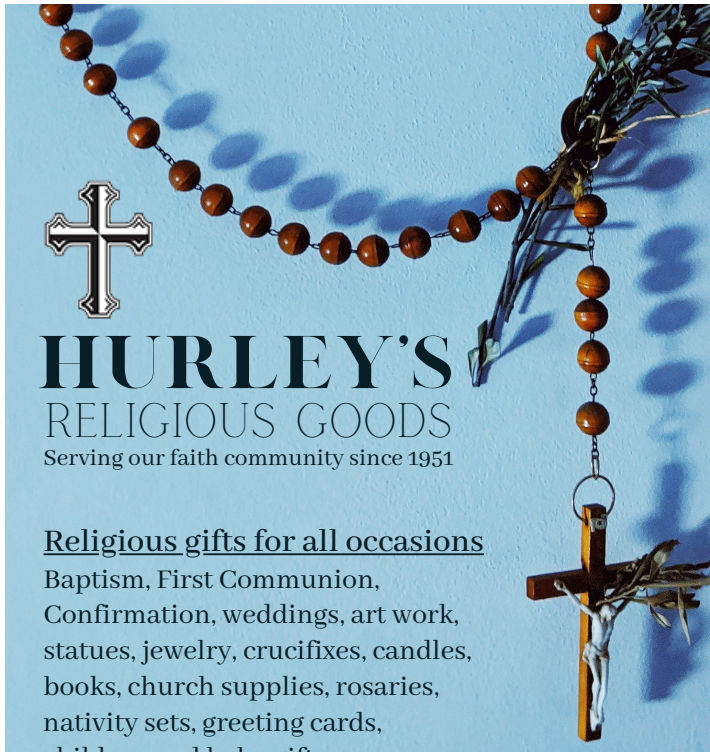
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Ken and Mary Ann Duppong, along with their children, their spouses and their children, were honored as the Knights of Columbus International Family of the Year during a ceremony in Washington D.C. (Paul Haring)

Family of the Year

**Family of Servant of God Michelle Duppong honored
by the Knights of Columbus**

By Paul Braun | Editor of New Earth

Ken Duppong of Glen Ullin, N.D. has been a member of the Knights of Columbus Bishop Ryan Council 4004 since 1972, including serving as Grand Knight of his local Council for five years. He has given much of his life in service to his hometown parish and the Knights, but he never dreamed he and his family would be recognized the world over by the Knights of Columbus.

On Aug. 4, Ken and Mary Ann Duppong, along with their children, their sons and daughters-in-law and their grandchildren, were honored as the Knights of Columbus International Family of the Year during a ceremony in Washington D.C. as part of the 143rd Supreme Convention.

According to a press release from the Knights of Columbus, "From the very beginning, faith has been at the center of the Duppongs' family life. From their daily family rosary, to enthroning the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their home, to organizing Corpus Christi celebrations near their family farm, God has always come first. This faith was passed down from Ken and his wife, Mary Ann, who have been married for 52 years, to their 6 children and 18 grandchildren. Today, the family remains close and puts their faith in action through service to their parish and community."

It continues, "Ken and Mary Ann's children—Jeff, Lisa, Sara, Michelle, Renae and Kalene—have been exemplars of the Catholic

faith in their adult lives. Their son, Jeff, and sons-in-law, Kyle and Brad, are Knights of Columbus. Michelle and Renae served as FOCUS campus missionaries. Lisa volunteers in her children's Christian homeschooling community, while Kalene has devoted herself to developing local Catholic Montessori programs for children. Sara volunteers at her parish, her children's Catholic school, and with various community groups. Renae continues her evangelization work with people of all ages and also engages in healing ministry. The rest of the Duppong family, including spouses and grandchildren, are also active members of their schools, parishes, and dioceses."

Of those six children, Michelle's faith journey has been singled out. While serving as the Diocese of Bismarck's Adult Faith Formation director, Michelle was diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and passed away at the age of 31 on Christmas Day 2015. Her life of faith and service has been recognized by the Diocese of Bismarck and Bishop David Kagan, who declared her a Servant of God for her life of holiness. Bishop Kagan opened her cause for canonization in November 2022.

"These are some of the ways Michelle taught us, especially during the later years of life," said Ken Duppong while receiving the award from the Knights of Columbus. "To discern in prayer what would please God in her work and in all her decisions. To love others, she focused on the person in front of her, listening to them and consoling them. Michelle is a real hero in our family. She ran the race well. We look up to her for inspiration in our own lives and we hope she will touch yours as well. Her main goal in life was to bring souls to Jesus and her motto was run to win."

"She was passionate about sharing her faith with whomever she encountered from her college days and beyond," said Mary Ann Duppong. "From her hospital bed in her final year of life, she brought hope and trust to all of those around her, believing that God's plan is perfect. She's an example how a simple, faithful farm girl can do great things by reaching out to those around her with her genuine, caring heart."

The honor of their family being recognized with the international award was not lost on Mary Ann and Ken's children. Son Jeff Duppong is a Knight with his council in Fargo.

"Our family appreciates the recognition and accepts it with humility," Jeff Duppong told *New Earth*. "I believe most of us have no desire to be 'put on a pedestal' but are willing to be seen as an example to the world that anyone who strives earnestly to follow the tenets of our faith can achieve the same. We hope that others can be inspired by the example of our family, as we have been similarly inspired by the many extraordinary people that we've encountered in our lives."

"My parents example in praying with us growing up showed that faithfulness in praying, even when the kids push back or it seems like it is far from peaceful prayer, is a way we can remain faithful," said daughter Kalene of Fargo. "I have a deep sense



Duppong Family on Ken and Mary Ann's 40th wedding anniversary in 2013. Michelle is shown front center. (Copyright Duppong Family)



Ken and Mary Ann Duppong during their acceptance speech at the Knights of Columbus convention. (Paul Haring)

that everything in life comes back to the surety our Catholic faith provides and my parents definitely passed on the firmness of having a foundation of faith in God. Having open conversations as a family about our faith and its application is a way we live this out as a family."

According to the Knights of Columbus in their award presentation announcement, "The Duppongs have spent the last twenty years hosting hundreds of people at their family farm for faith-related social events and retreats, and more recently in sharing the story of their daughter Michelle's life with people coming to visit her grave. Throughout their lives, members of the Duppong family have relied on their faith and thirsted for the truth and hope that the Church offers. Today, the family continues to share Michelle's story of joy and trust in God, as well as their own wisdom, to help strengthen Catholic families in the modern world."



TATTERED PAGES

A review of books, movies, music

Book offers a step in hope and healing for women

By Ann Losinski | Parishioner of Sts. Anne and Joachim Catholic Church, Fargo

As women, we all have wounds. Some are hidden deep within ourselves, while others might be more obvious to the outside world. It is also common for women to put on a brave face, hiding her deep wounds from those around her. This tends to lead to isolation and fear that you are the only one experiencing hurt from your wounds.

Undone by Carrie Schuchts Daunt is a collection of stories from women who share their wounds. It's raw, real, and relatable as fifteen women share where their wounds came from and how the Lord is working in their lives to overcome their past hurts. These stories are all from contemporary women living in the modern age.

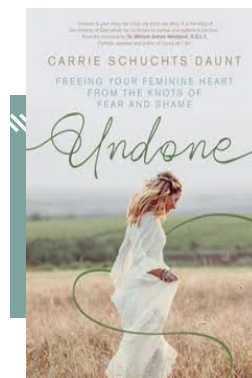
This book is broken into four categories; daughter, sister, mother, and bride. Each one of these is an identity that a woman holds that might be wounded from a past relationship or life circumstance. By reading through the stories of these women, you are able to get a glimpse into the reality that we all have wounds and that we are not alone in our suffering. It is a glimpse into the messy, less beautiful parts of life, but also speaks hope into the truth that the Lord wants to bless us and heal us from our wounds.

It is by reclaiming our identities as daughter, sister, mother, and bride that we are able to truly experience the freedom that we are called to in Christ. This book is a gateway into that, showing you how women just like you have worked to start reclaiming those titles as their own. Throughout the book, there

are reflection questions and short meditations that help you to think about how what you are reading might apply to your own life.

The book only scratches the surface of hope and healing and is a gateway to deeper prayer with the wounds you are carrying. It reminds you that you are not alone and that with Christ, all things are possible. I highly recommend this to any woman who is seeking to grow deeper in love with herself and with the Lord.

I'm very excited to continue this journey at the "Undone" Women's Retreat in Fargo this fall. The retreat is sponsored by the same people who wrote this book and goes even deeper into our identity as women. I hope you will join me Nov. 20–22 in Fargo. For more information, visit www.fargodiocese.org/undone.



"Undone: Freeing Your Feminine Heart from the Knots of Shame"
by Carrie Schuchts Daunt, 2020.



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The Pilgrims Page

A look at Catholic pilgrimage sites

The many layers of San Clemente

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

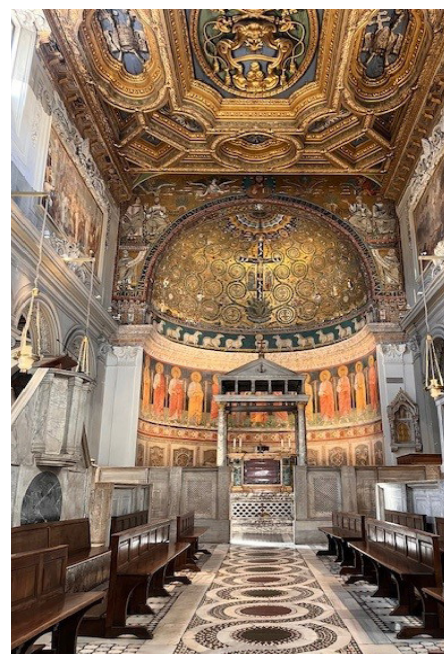
The Basilica of San Clemente is a minor basilica in Rome. It is dedicated to Pope Clement I who was the third pope and was believed to have been ordained by St. Peter himself. The unique aspect of this church is that it has three layers of structures that can be visited today. The church you enter into off the street, but still quite a few steps down, is from the 12th century. This church escaped the Baroque renovations of the 1600s and instead preserved its early history.

Back in the 1860s a curious Dominican Irish priest who had some background in archeology decided to excavate underneath the present basilica. He discovered the ruins of the previous church of the 4th century. The priest found many elements still intact. For example, the ancient frescos, stone inscriptions and decorative pillars. But that's not all. It was later discovered that another structure was underneath the 4th century church. It was determined that this structure had several different rooms and halls determined to be from the 1st century. Part of it was a home, another was a Mithraeum cult room, as well as a variety of warehouses where broken pieces of pottery were found. It was a remarkable discovery that began a huge excavation project that continues today.

The best-preserved room of the 1st century portion is the Mithraeum, which was a place of the cult of Mithras, a Roman mystery cult that worshiped the god Mithras. These 1st century rooms were then filled in to build a church once Christianity arrived in Rome. The 4th century church built on top has the second largest collection of Early Medieval wall paintings (called frescos) in Rome dating from the 8th century through the 11th century. It was also discovered that the relics of St. Cyril were

buried here. His relics have since been moved up to the upper church under the main altar.

The second layer was then filled in to build the 12th century church, referred to now as the upper church. The upper church is famous for its brilliant apse mosaic called the *Tree of Life* which twinkles when the light streams on it because of the amount of gold used. It is meant to give the impression that our faith is alive. Visiting this church certainly gives that impression as you climb into the lower levels to gaze upon frescos that Catholics would have also gazed on as early as the 4th century or walk the different paths of the 1st century that the first Christians might have walked on. It is a Basilica not to be missed if you are visiting Rome. To visit the excavations, you need to reserve a date and time through their website.



The upper church of San Clemente.
(submitted photo)



Father Slattery gives a tour to young adults for the 4th century layer of San Clemente during the young adult pilgrimage to Rome in May. (submitted photo)



Mithraeum from the 1st century. (submitted photo)

A Eucharistic procession litany

By Father Charles LaCroix | Pastor of churches in Cavalier and Crystal

On June 22, Corpus Christi, we had a deanery-wide Eucharistic Procession, a six-mile-long trek which included six priests and their parishes: Father Lefor, pastor in Pisek, Lankin, and Bechyne; Father Gunwall, pastor in Langdon and Nekoma; Father Asselin, pastor in Walhalla and Neche; Father Giljum, pastor in Park River and Veseleyville; Father LaCroix, pastor in Cavalier and Crystal; and Father Wapenski, pastor in Drayton and Pembina. We had a great crowd, even though the clouds were threatening for all six miles.

We started at the Pembina County Historical Museum, at the historic St. Anthony Catholic Church building that is now part of the Museum. We ended at St. Brigid Church in Cavalier.

Since we prayed a plethora of Litanies along the route, I composed my thoughts about the Eucharistic Procession in the form of a Litany.

After each line, say: "We praise you, O Lord."

For our Eucharistic Procession,

For allowing us to witness to THE Mystery of our Faith,

For increasing our devotion to Your Son Jesus, in the Holy Eucharist,

For showing us that belief in The Real Presence is the Answer to all the world's ills,

For inspiring so many priests and their flocks to attend,

For the joy we all felt in walking with Your Son,

For the honor of living our Catholic Faith in public,

For the fire of the Holy Spirit that was in each one of us,

For the peace we experienced,

For the bond we had with fellow Catholics we never even met before,

For You defying the weather maps that said we had no business being out there,

For the fact that it rained before and after the Procession, but not a drop during the Procession,

For the kindness and generosity of Zelda Hartje, administrator of the Pembina County Historical Museum, in allowing us to start the Eucharistic Procession at St. Anthony church,

For giving us the perseverance in a six-mile walk,

For the horses, standing at attention, as Jesus was passing by,

For the excitement we still experience in having been a part of this pilgrimage,

For the ability to revel in our Catholic Faith,

For people of all ages that made the trek,

For all the youth that participated, and for their infectious energy,

For so many families that were present,

For the young men who led the Procession,

For all who carried the canopy in such a distinguished way,

For the Knights of Columbus members who showed the dignity of this event, being attired in full regalia,

For all the altar servers who nobly carried out their tasks,

For the enthusiasm that was more than obvious,

For those who sang and prayed, making this Procession a holy endeavor,

For those who provided prayer support for this majestic adventure,

For all the people who supplied valuable transportation to others,

For the folks in cars and golf carts, equipping us with water and first aid if needed,

For the caring souls who furnished us with refreshments after the Procession,

For all the people who attended their first Eucharistic Procession,

For all the non-Catholics that were a part of this journey,

For the paved bike path that kept us on task and separate from the road,

For all vehicles on the main road who were witnessed to,

For giving us a greater love of our Catholic Faith,

For the robust, short Prayer Service at the completion of the Procession at St. Brigid,

For the fellowship we enjoyed after the Procession, in the basement of the church,

For giving us hope and light, in a world that is sometimes despondent and dark,

For showing us that Your Son keeps His promise to be with us until the end of the world,

For igniting a flame in our souls for next year's Eucharistic Procession!



Pilgrims process with the Eucharist on a six mile trek from the Pembina County Historical Museum to Cavalier. (submitted photo)

Simple KISS Rules: Guidance for a weary soul



THE VOCATION OF BUSINESS

PAUL WINKLER

Catholic Author, Founder and President of Attollo. *The Vocation of Business is distributed by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.*

“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

It is assumed that this phrase was written by King Solomon, a guy who literally had everything available to him in the world. Yet, despite his success and all the goodies that come with it, he expresses a deep sense of fatigue.

Solomon was gifted by God with wisdom and discernment. “Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.” God also gave him a bonus gift of earthly things he did not ask for—riches and honor—so that “no other king shall compare with you, all your days” (1 Kings 3:12-14). Despite all those gifts from God, he eventually chose to let concupiscence, specifically lust, rule him.

Solomon’s point in this passage was not about technological advancement or human progress but about the unchanging nature of the human heart. He recognized that while the world around us continues to change, human nature remains consistently broken—and I believe he recognized that he was not immune to it.

Ironically, the trajectory of Solomon’s life mirrors that of many high-profile media figures and business moguls today who, even with fame, fortune, and seemingly limitless access to pleasure and power, continue to search for fulfillment.

We average people also search for ultimate happiness. The world never stops shouting for our time and attention, telling us our happiness can be found through earthly things. My own mind and soul grow weary from the daily battle against the noise and distractions that appeal to my own lower nature.

I found a simple way to stay focused and refreshed using the “KISS” method. KISS is an acronym from the 1960s that stands for “Keep It Simple, Stupid.” The term was coined by Kelly Johnson, a Lockheed Skunk Works employee who wanted systems designed so that they could be repaired by a mechanic with average skills under combat conditions with minimal complexity.

In the high-pressure environment called life, which often feels like a battleground, I realized I needed to design a similar

system to Johnson’s for my personal, professional and spiritual life. Just as the Skunk Works team engineered high-performance systems that were simple enough for any mechanic to repair, these simple rules can help us navigate life, staying focused while working on our personal development, business mastery, and spiritual maturity.

Here are my Simple KISS Rules:

KISS Rule #1: Get Over Yourself.

As newborns, we are completely helpless yet unrelentingly demanding of our parents. Eventually, as we mature, we should switch from a heart occupied with only ourselves to a heart concerned about others. Spiritual maturity opens our hearts, allowing God to dwell there. We need to heed St. John of the Cross, who said, “God does not fit in an occupied heart.”

KISS Rule #2: Define Happiness.

The key to finding lasting happiness is first to define it. Father Robert Spitzer defines happiness as the fulfillment of our desire. This is important because every decision we make in life is based on whether that decision will make us happy. So, let me ask you—what do you truly desire?

KISS Rule #3: Work on Your Barriers to Holiness.

The Jesuit priests at Walsh Jesuit High School in Ohio taught me that the hungry stomach, physical pain, and spiritual woundedness are barriers to our sanctity. There are temporal solutions to hunger and physical and psychological ailments, but a wounded soul keeps us defensive and untrusting of others, including God. This woundedness can happen by our own hand or be given to us by others throughout our lives.

Father Scott Traynor uses a great metaphor of a minefield (our soul with many wounds). We put up fences to keep ourselves and others away from those wounds, allowing them to fester and making our beautiful soul a wasteland. We need inner healing with the help of a holy “bomb squad” of Jesus and a spiritual director or counselor to dig out and heal those mines or wounds buried deep in our souls. Solomon was given a discerning mind, but his heart and woundedness, weighed down with God’s gifts of wealth and honor, ultimately took him down.

KISS Rule #4: ACT (Apply – Change – Transfer)

Put these simple rules into practice. Reflect on their positive impact on us and look for opportunities to share them with others.

As we live out these simple rules and share them through our example, we do more than follow a path—we create one for others. As Pope St. Paul VI wrote in *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (41), “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” Our authentic witness, grounded in action and humility, becomes a powerful form of servant leadership.

Defund Planned Parenthood now



CATHOLIC ACTION

DAVID TAMISIEA, JD, PHD

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

Despite the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision that returned the issue of abortion to the states, the number of abortions is steadily on the increase in our country. According to the pro-abortion research and policy advocate, the Guttmacher Institute, there were 1,038,100 clinician-provided abortions provided in the United States in 2024, the highest number in over 10 years.

The Catholic Church is unequivocal in its condemnation of abortion as a grave moral evil: "Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2271). The Church has consistently spoken out against abortion as a grave evil because it violates the dignity of the human person and sacredness of human life present from the moment of conception. This dignity and sacredness flow from the fact that every person is created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27), redeemed by Jesus Christ (Eph 1:10; 1 Tim 2:4-6); and meant to share eternal life with God (1 Cor 15:51-57).

St. John Paul II in his landmark encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, confirmed that the Church's condemnation of abortion is based upon the natural law and the written Word of God, transmitted by the Church's Tradition, and infallibly taught by the ordinary and universal magisterium of the Church (EV 62). John Paul emphasized that "God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can, in any circumstance, claim for himself the right to destroy an innocent human being" (EV 53).

You do not have to be a Catholic or even a Christian to recognize the evil of abortion. The natural law demands that every person has a duty to preserve human life, with that duty becoming even greater when it comes to one's own offspring, and modern science points to conception as the logical beginning of a new human being with its own unique genetic code and independent existence, marked only by a continuous unfolding, growth, and development.

Planned Parenthood is by far the largest provider of abortion in the United States. Planned Parenthood's most recent annual report—released on Mother's Day this past May—revealed its abortion centers performed 402,200 abortions from July 2023 through June 2024, an increase of almost 10,000 abortions

from the year before and a record high for the abortion giant. That means Planned Parenthood performs around 40% of all abortions in the United States each year.

Planned Parenthood is all-in when it comes to abortion. Planned Parenthood disclosed in its annual report that it spent \$3.4 million covering travel expenses so that women could travel from places where abortion is illegal to places where it is legal. Planned Parenthood further reported it increased its engagement in telehealth services to 42 states, which is increasingly being used to circumvent state laws banning abortion by allowing doctors in more liberal states to guide women in states with more restrictive laws to administer medical abortions on themselves. Planned Parenthood also reported that it has updated its online educational videos instructing women how to use abortion pills available through the mail to perform medical abortions on themselves. Planned Parenthood also reported it has an abortion center locator service and a patient navigation system with agents across the country who assist people seeking abortion with transportation, travel support, financial assistance, and referral services.

Planned Parenthood rakes in a staggering amount of money every year. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, Planned Parenthood and its affiliates in the U.S. and worldwide reported taking in over \$2 billion in revenue and that it has around \$2.5 billion in net assets.

Taxpayers like you and me are footing the bill. According to Planned Parenthood's most recent annual report, taxpayer funding in the form of government grants, contracts, and Medicaid reimbursements reached a whopping \$792.2 million for the year—over \$2 million dollars per day—making up nearly 40% of Planned Parenthood's annual revenue. As my former colleague and pro-life scholar and activist Dr. Michael New puts it, "Big Abortion needs Big Government."

But there is an opportunity to end the gravy train. Under Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill, Planned Parenthood is banned from receiving federal Medicaid reimbursements for a period of one year, which likely amounts to defunding the abortion behemoth around \$700 million in federal tax dollars for the year. This cut in government funding is only for a year, but it is a start. However, Planned Parenthood sued, and a preliminary injunction was granted by the court that requires taxpayer funding to continue. The legal battle is not over, though, as the Trump administration is expected to challenge the injunction, with an appeal to the Supreme Court likely.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, are urging Catholics to join a focused effort of daily prayer to stop taxpayer funding of the abortion industry. The prayer invokes

the intercession of Saint Joseph, Defender of Life, began on July 25, and will continue until Oct. 1, the beginning of Respect Life Month. Please join me and other pro-life Catholics across America in praying this prayer daily for the defunding of Planned Parenthood, the protection of unborn children, and the end to abortion:

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as

your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

Desiring the will of God in our weakness



SISTER'S PERSPECTIVE

**SISTER MARIA FAUSTINA
OF THE CHILD JESUS, SOLT**

"God, what should I do? What should I do?" It was 2018 and I was working as a nurse. I was not yet a religious sister, but I was a Catholic laywoman and I had just been asked to administer an oral contraceptive to a patient. I knew the Church teaches that contraception is gravely wrong, and harmful to the human person. But I wanted to be admired at my job and was anxious not to be seen as different.

I sat at a desk in a back room with the contraceptive pills in one hand and my head in the other hand, as I frantically "asked God" what to do. The problem was, I did not really want to do God's Will. St. Ignatius of Loyola says that to discern the Will of God, one must first be *willing to do* the Will of God. I was not.

In my head, I came up with a million excuses to justify my actions. Needless to say, I compromised on my Faith and gave the contraception. Sometime later, when I finally asked God's forgiveness in confession, it all became so clear and simple. All I had to do was let my charge nurse know that I was a Catholic and could not administer those pills. What she chose to do was not my business, but for me to do the right thing in that moment was actually very simple. In my efforts to conform God's Will to mine, though, and to be just like everybody else, everything became too complicated for me to see the right thing clearly.

I often think about that day, because I *still* struggle to do the right thing in my everyday life as a religious sister. I'm shy around strangers, and yet Jesus has called me to a life where I encounter strangers every day in the parish, food pantry, and soup kitchen. It's hard for me to speak up, and yet I have been asked to serve as a teacher in our school and church. The graces of many confessions over the years have given me more fortitude than I had before, but I still like to be liked and it is still hard to

be seen as different. But, a Christian is different. "You cannot serve both God and mammon." I cannot be of Christ and of the world. It has to be one or the other.

As a religious sister, Jesus has given me the gift of being clothed in a habit and veil as a visible reminder of this. Around the time I entered religious life, I was praying one day with the Gospel story of the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears. I was imagining myself as the woman, and was shedding tears over yet another personal failure in Christian fortitude. In my mind's eye, Jesus suddenly surprised me by reaching down, picking me up, and setting me on the bench right next to Him. "Just stay here right next to me," He said. "Everybody will see that you are with me, and you won't be able to deny me anymore."

As His spouse, I have the joy of living my life right at His side. When people see me, they think of Him. Although my motivation in entering religious life was simply a response to His tender love for me, the more I grow in self-knowledge, the more I wonder if I could ever have been saved in any other way. Jesus has given me a gentle soul, but with that comes a unique weakness and struggle to be courageous. The visible sign of my religious habit has saved me over and over again from denying Him and helped me to witness to the Truth even when I had no courage. Even if I say not a single word, everybody can see that I belong to Him. And, when I still fall despite all of the grace Jesus gives me, it reminds me that He didn't choose me because I was so virtuous, smart, and quick-witted. He chose me simply because He loves me, and if He loves someone as little and weak as me, then there is nobody He can't love.

I am so grateful for His daily, merciful love towards me. When I fall now, I just try to smile up at Him once again and get back up. I have come to realize that it's in faithfulness to the little things and the present moment that I can become a saint. Jesus is not giving me the fortitude for all my future battles right now, but He is giving me the strength and fortitude for the battle of this present moment. Please pray for me to be faithful to His grace!

Another smart use of your IRA



STEWARDSHIP

STEVE SCHONS

Director of stewardship and development
for the Diocese of Fargo.

While you may initially appreciate the income, as time goes on, the higher withdrawal requirements can sometimes push you into a higher tax bracket, increasing your taxes.

A few years ago, Congress made the IRA charitable rollover permanent. The rollover law allows taxpayers who are required to withdraw money from their IRAs to give directly to charity. Because the rollover counts against your required minimum distribution (RMD), making an IRA rollover gift to an organization like ours could reduce your income and taxes.

The IRA rollover is a great way for you to help support your Catholic parish, school, diocese, or other ministry. While you won't receive an income tax deduction for a rollover gift, you also won't pay any income tax on the transfer.

The transfer only works for IRAs and not with other retirement accounts. An important feature to remember is that any gifts to charity that come from an IRA need to come from the IRA itself. So, to realize the tax advantage, the charitable gift should originate and be dispersed by the IRA custodian. For your own unique situation, check with your tax advisor or the custodian of your own IRA account for advice.

Here are some of the requirements for making an IRA rollover charitable gift this year:

- You must be age 70½ or older.
- You must transfer money directly from your IRA to a qualified charity.
- You can give annually (for 2025) up to \$108,000 from your IRA.



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Joel Herman
Field Agent
701-219-5847
joel.herman@kofc.org



Wayne Cherney
Field Agent
701-739-8143
wayne.cherney@kofc.org



Mark Gaydos
Field Agent
701-805-1706
mark.gaydos@kofc.org



Don Willey
Field Agent
701-202-9089
don.willey@kofc.org



Sam Owan
Field Agent
701-609-1918
sam.owen@kofc.org



Jeremy Norby
Field Agent
701-290-0647
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Always reorient your life to Christ



SEMINARIAN LIFE

DALTON BOOTH

College IV; St. Gregory the Great Seminary,
Seward, Neb.

During the last weeks of summer break approaching my return to Saint Gregory the Great Seminary for my final year of college seminary, I had a chance to pray and reflect on the many graces and blessings that I have received so far during my time of formation in Seward, Neb. Most especially, I was gently reminded to reorient myself to a disposition of searching out for and gratefully receiving God's will for my life, with a greater sense of urgency as I enter my last year at St. Gregory's. We are invited to reorient our lives to Christ every day, but the past weeks gave me a great opportunity to continue discerning Jesus' call to the priesthood with two years of seminary completed.

As a seminarian, the "discernment question" is not something that we ask God every day because we can trust that where Jesus has placed us today is where He desires us to be. In the pattern of seminary life, it's better to focus on how each day Jesus is calling us to more faithfully live as His disciple than to wonder whether He wants us to someday be one of His priests. In these past weeks, it was helpful when I didn't get too caught up in the anxiety surrounding the need to have an answer to this question. Instead, the Lord desires for me to entrust myself to His will for my life in my particular vocation through the hands of His Blessed Mother.

Mary's faithful yes to God's will for her life at the Annunciation has been a source of grace and inspiration for me since beginning to discern whether God was calling me to seminary. Her trust in receiving the way which God desired to work through her life is a great example and invitation for all of us. Much like Mary, before we are able to make a gift of ourselves and to love the people God has placed in our lives, we must first receive and experience the infinite love which God first has for us. This sequence of giving after we have received reflects the interior life which our Lord desires for us. We must first recognize the priority of our relationship with God, praising and thanking Him for the many ways His mercies and blessings have touched our lives and asking for continued mercy and graces.

However, it doesn't stop there. Grounded in the firm foundation of God's love, we are called to love others in our life and to receive the love of God through them as well. Over the last

few months, this took shape in my life during my summer assignment as I served at St. Catherine's Parish in Valley City. Silent prayer before the Eucharist, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, and serving or attending Mass were all ways in which I was daily fed and nourished spiritually. Being ordered firstly in God's love and mercy through prayer and the sacraments, He enables me to make a greater gift of myself than I ever could on my own.

This summer, doing some physical labor at Maryvale and St. Catherine's, partaking in parish meetings, and serving at several Catholic youth camps was made possible because of the love which I experienced in prayer and from others. I found this pattern of sharing with others the love which God has shown me to be very life-giving this summer. Some days were more exciting than others and temptations to follow my own will were always present, but trusting God and making small acts of faith every day allowed our Lord's faithfulness to take root in my life.

As I prepare for the start of my final year of college seminary, I hope to continue making small acts of faith to allow God's will and His love to work in my life today as a seminarian, whether it be somewhere in the Diocese of Fargo or at St. Gregory's in Nebraska. Every day, God is asking me to share the love which He has shown to me. "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John 13:34).



Quotable

St. Peter Claver

Feast day Sept. 9

**"To love God as he ought to be loved,
we must be detached from all temporal
love. We must love nothing but Him, or
if we love anything else, we must love
it only for his sake."**

Sister Agatha Lucey passes away July 17



Sister Agatha and her twin sister Deborah were the youngest of the eight children of Patrick Lucey and Margaret Dinneen Lucey. Born in Killarney, Co Kerry, Ireland, on February 5, 1930. Sister Agatha attended Clonkeen National and Crosshaven Colaiste Muire Schools in Ireland. After coming to the United States in 1947 to enter the Presentation Convent in Fargo, she completed her secondary education at Sacred Heart Academy graduating in 1948. Agatha was received into the Presentation Order in August 1948 and was given the name Sister Mary de Lourdes. (In 1969, she reverted to Agatha, the name she received at baptism.) She made profession of vows in 1950.

After her graduation from St. Luke's School of Nursing in Aberdeen (1953) and St. Mary's Hospital School of Anesthesia in Duluth (1954), she served in hospitals in Grafton, Langdon, Carrington, and Park River as nurse clinician, nurse anesthetist, and administrator. Sister Agatha received a baccalaureate degree from the Catholic University of America and did graduate study in administration. She also pursued clinical pastoral education.

At various times Sister Agatha served on boards of directors of healthcare facilities in the area. She also served in governance of her religious Congregation, the Sisters of the Presentation. She was an early participant in the Cursillo movement and the phrase "Praise the Lord" became her mantra.

In 1987 Sister Agatha joined the administrative staff at Riverview Place and worked there until 2016. She and her co-workers, Ss. Mary and Josephine, together formed the heart of this retirement center.

Cake decorating was a hobby in which she became proficient. She enjoyed creating lovely edible designs for friends and community on special occasions. Having become proficient in Irish step-dancing during her days in Ireland, her dance performances were the highlight of many a St. Patrick's Day event. Skill in calligraphy was another talent she developed and friends and relatives cherish many of the cards she made for them.

Thirty-five years ago, Sister Agatha was featured in the "spotlight" section of the *Acorn*. The writer concluded the article with this observation: "If there is one word to describe Sr. Agatha, it is 'wholistic.' She loves life and lives it to the full. Praise the Lord."



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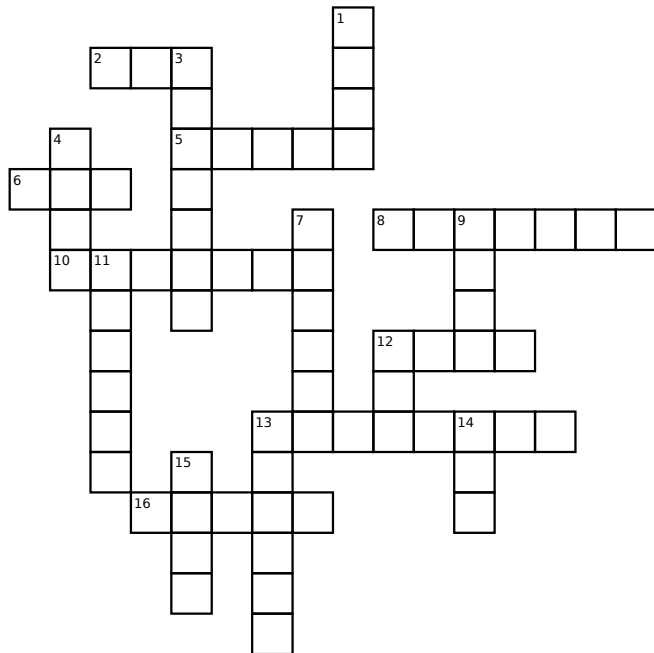
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JAMESTOWN	SMP Health - Ave Maria
ROLLA	SMP Health - St. Kateri
VALLEY CITY	SMP Health - St. Raphael

Books of the Bible

Level Medium

Answers on page 35



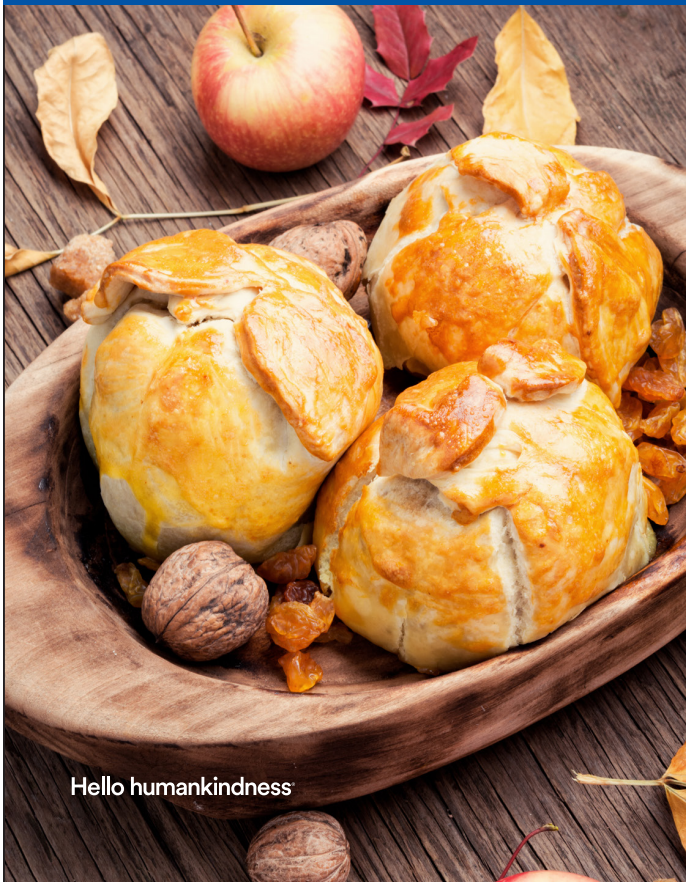
Down:

- 1 Last book of the Pentateuch (abbr.)
- 3 The Sermon on the Mount is found in this gospel
- 4 Love songs celebrating love, desire, and marriage, the ___ of Songs
- 7 This heroine appeals to the emperor to undo a plot to kill Jews
- 9 Thortest of the gospels
- 11 Moses parts the red sea in this book
- 12 God gives Israel instructions for how to worship him (abbr.)
- 13 Longest book of the old Testament
- 14 John sees visions of the past, present, and future (abbr.)
- 15 This gospel focus on signs and miracles of Jesus

Across:

- 2 Dirges lamenting the fall of Jerusalem after the Babylonian attacks (abbr.)
- 5 The angel Raphael is disguised as a man in this book
- 6 Satan attacks this righteous man and his friends debate why terrible things are happening to him
- 8 Israel fails to trust God and wanders for 40 years in this book
- 10 The Tower of Babel story is found in this book
- 12 The parable of the Good Samaritan is found in this gospel
- 13 Sayings to help people make wise decisions that bring justice
- 16 A disobedient prophet who is swallowed by a fish

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LIFE'S MILESTONES



John and Debbie Aasand, parishioners of St. John's in Grafton, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Aug. 1. They were married at St. John's. They have 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.



DuWayne and Bev Didier celebrated their 50th anniversary. They are parishioners at Sacred Heart in Sanborn where they were married on Aug. 2. They have been blessed with 2 sons and 6 grandchildren.



Lester Jr. and Cheryll Ellingson, parishioners of St. William's in Maddock, celebrated their 60th anniversary Aug. 7. They have been blessed with 3 children and their spouses, 9 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandsons.



John and Linda Frelich, parishioners of St. Joseph's in Devils Lake, will celebrate their 60th anniversary Sept. 25. They have 4 children and are blessed with 13 living grandchildren and 1 deceased grandchild.



John and Sally Johs, parishioners of St. Philip Neri in Napoleon, will celebrate their 60th anniversary Sept. 25. They were married at St. Anthony's, a former country church southwest of Napoleon. They are blessed with 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.



Deacon George and Marilyn Loegering, parishioners of Cathedral of St. Mary in Fargo, celebrated their 60th anniversary Aug. 14. They were married at St. Vincent in Sturim. They are blessed with 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.



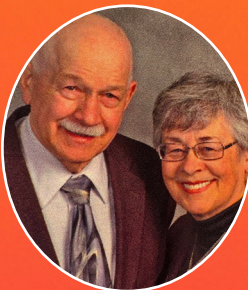
Wilbur and JoAnne McGauvran celebrated their 65th anniversary Aug. 23. They were married at St. Alphonsus in Langdon. They have 6 children, 14 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.



Greg and Marla Soper, parishioners of St. Joseph's in Devils Lake, will celebrate their 50th anniversary Sept. 20. They were married at St. Joseph's in Devils Lake. They have 2 sons and 1 daughter, and 8 grandchildren.



Alton and Mary Theede, parishioners of St. Philip's in Hankinson, will celebrate their 60th anniversary Sept. 11. They have 3 sons and their spouses, 6 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.



Dale and Sheila Wandersee, parishioners of Sts. Anne and Joachim in Fargo, celebrated their 50th anniversary July 19. They were married at St. Thomas Church in Decatur, Ill. They are blessed with 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

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, two months prior, or one month following. Send a photo with text to Susan.Noah@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 Oct. issue is Sept. 9. Deadline for the Nov. issue is Oct. 14.



Sisters Roselima D'Costa PBVM (right) and Sharon Altendorf PBVM (left) celebrated their 60th year of Religious Profession July 12 at Riverview Place in Fargo. Bishop Folda celebrated the Jubilee Liturgy and a reception followed with families, friends, Sisters, and associates.



Lois Breker, parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul in Cayuga, will celebrate her 95th birthday Oct. 18 with an open house at Coteau Des Prairie Lodge in Havana 2 to 5 p.m. Lois and Mel, were married for 59 years before Mel's passing in 2010. They have 7 children (1 deceased), 15 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and 1 on the way.



Delores Wooldridge Novak celebrated her 90th birthday Aug. 13. Delores, a parishioner of St. John's in Grafton, was married to Cyril for 64 years before his death in 2020. They were blessed with 7 children, 21 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.



Leona (Schill) Schneider, parishioner of St. Boniface in Walhalla, will celebrate her 90th birthday Sept. 7. Leona's husband, Ronald, passed in 1989. Together they had a daughter and 4 sons (1 deceased), 6 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.



Lila Thoen, parishioner of St. James Basilica in Jamestown, celebrated her 90th birthday Sept 2. Lila was married to Marty for 45 years before he passed away in 2006. They had 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

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 — 1950

WWII did not end with the death of Nazism in Europe. Under post war arrangements, Poland, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and much of Germany had fallen under the administration of Communistic Russia. In Germany, Bishop Aloisius Muench could observe the sad plight of refugee priests first hand. Many appealed to him directly to find a haven for them in the United States. With the aid of The Catholic Committee for Refugees, seven priests in exile from their own Communist dominated lands have been moved into the active ministry on Dakota prairies. The facts are few for fear that retaliation against family and friends might follow public disclosure of the events in each of their lives, but the Bishop is proud of these priests and the editors of *Catholic Action News*, paper of Fargo Diocese, is proud to present the stories of these men. All of the men are still attached to their own dioceses and state that it is their duty to return to their people as soon as conditions allow.

50 years ago — 1975

The second addition to Mercy Hospital, Valley City, was completed this summer, and on September 14, Bishop Justin Driscoll blessed and dedicated the new addition. Founded in 1928, Mercy Hospital was the third in North Dakota to be staffed by the Sisters of Mercy from Omaha—Devils Lake was opened in 1895 and Williston in 1919. The original Hospital had a strong Spanish influence that disappeared under the brick façade when the 1952 addition was built to double the size of the hospital. The present building, which remodeled the former addition, contains 72 beds: 44 in the new section and 31 in the 1952 building.

20 years ago — 2005

A Ten Commandments monument was dedicated Sept. 25 on the grounds of St. Joseph's in Devils Lake. The ceremonies were led by Fr. Chad Wilhelm, who is pastor of St. Joseph's and serves as the state chaplain for the Knights of Columbus in ND. The monument is a memorial to Pope John Paul II, who died April 2, 2005.

Down	3 Matthew	9 Mark	13 Psalms	15 John	5 Tobit	10 Genesis	16 Jonah
1 Deut	7 Esther	12 Lev	14 Rev	2 Lam	8 Numbers	13 Proverbs	
	4 Song	11 Exodus		Across	6 Job	12 Luke	

Fall parish events

Wimbledon: St. Boniface will be hosting a Fall Festival Supper on Sept. 21 from 4 to 7 p.m. in their newly remodeled dining room. Free-will offering meal of turkey and roast beef and homemade pies. Bazaar, farmers market, bounce house, and live music. Take-out available by calling (701) 435-2310.

Horace: St. Benedict's will host its Fall Dinner Sept. 21 from noon to 2 p.m. Day includes ham dinner, silent auction, bake sale, a community service project, and kids' activities. Adults \$15, ages 5 to 10 \$6, ages 4 and under free. Take-out meals \$15.

Grand Forks: St. Mary's is hosting their Fall chicken and meatloaf dinner Sept. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Take-out meals available. Adults \$15; ages 5-11 \$8; ages 4 and under free.

Hope: St. Agatha will host a Fall Supper at the Hope American Legion Sept. 28 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. To-go meals available. Turkey, meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, dressing, squash, coleslaw, and pie.

Fargo: St. Anthony's Fall Bazaar is Sept. 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Games for kids, bake sale, maker's market, book sale, plants, pie wheel, silent auction. Turkey dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adults \$15, children \$8, ages 5 and under free, family \$50. Take-out available.

6 miles east of Dazey: St. Mary's will host a Fall Supper Oct. 5 from 4 to 7 p.m. Turkey dinner includes homemade sauerkraut. Adults \$15, ages 6-12 \$6, ages 5 and under free. Take-out available. Chair lift on site. Gift baskets and Oliver's Pumpkin Patch.

Medina: St. Mary's will be serving a Chicken Dinner Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Medina Legion Hall. Oven-baked chicken, baked potato, side dishes, relishes, and dessert. Adults \$12.50; ages 6-12 \$6; ages 5 and under free. Country store with baked goods and crafts for sale.

Argusville: St. William's invites you to their annual fall dinner, bake sale, country market, and raffle at the Argusville Community Center Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Suggested \$15 donation. For questions, contact (701) 261-4800 or tim.keckler@gmail.com.

West Fargo: Blessed Sacrament invites you to their fall dinner and bazaar Oct. 5. Dinner is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bingo at 2:30 p.m. Bazaar activities include market, chance baskets, raffle, prayer cards, and indoor and outdoor games.

Milnor: St. Arnold's will host their annual Chili & Pie Supper on Oct. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. in their social hall. Homemade chili with toppings plus homemade pie. Take-out meals available.

Langdon: St. Alphonsus will host their turkey and ham dinner on Oct. 12 from 4 to 7 pm. Adults \$15; Kindergarten to 6th grade \$8; pre-k \$5; to-go meals \$16. Cake walk.

Hunter: St. Agnes will host their fall dinner on Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Turkey, homemade mashed potatoes, carrots, stuffing, and dessert. Adults \$15, ages 10 and under \$12. Take-out available for an additional \$1.

For all diocesan events,
go to www.fargodiocese.org
and click on the "events" tab.



Want to advertise in New Earth?

Contact Kristina at (701) 356-7900
or kristina.bloomsburg@fargodiocese.org



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Diocesan policy: Reporting child abuse

The Diocese of Fargo is committed to the protection of youth. Please report any incident 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.

Pope Leo XIV speaks to 1 million youth at jubilee: “Stay with us, Lord”

By Hannah Brockhaus | Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV addressed the largest crowd of his pontificate in Rome’s outskirts on Aug. 2, telling an estimated 1 million young adults to “study, work, and love according to the example of Jesus” and to pray: “Stay with us, Lord.”

The pontiff was greeted by joyous crowds on the 237-acre grounds of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, 10 miles east of Rome, where teenagers and young adults stayed all night in anticipation of the closing Mass of the Jubilee of Youth Aug. 3.

Pope Leo, who arrived at the event by helicopter, drove through the grounds before the prayer service waving to cheering young people from the popemobile as the sun set.

He then carried the pilgrim cross of the Jubilee of Hope on foot from the crowd up to the 15,000-square-foot stage for prayers and Eucharistic adoration. The pontiff returned to the outdoor venue to celebrate the Jubilee Mass on Aug. 3.

Clare Fletcher, 29, from Omaha, Nebraska, told CNA she was so grateful she decided to come to Rome for the Jubilee of Hope during the Jubilee of Youth.

“I’ve never been to World Youth Day, but everyone I’ve talked to is comparing the two,” she said.

She described the crowd as singing along to the hymns and worship music with joy. Fletcher’s 24-year-old brother, Paul, who attended the prayer vigil with her, said he had “never seen an event of this scale and with this level of reverence.”

During the first part of the prayer service, Leo answered questions from young adults about friendship and loneliness, making good choices, and how to truly encounter Christ.

In his answers to the questions, one in each of the three languages he speaks fluently—Spanish, Italian, and English—Leo encouraged youth to seek good relationships with others and with God.

“And we can say thank you, Jesus, for loving us,” he said in a moment of improvisation in the midst of his prepared remarks.

“Each time we adore Christ in the Eucharist, our hearts will be united in him,” the pontiff added, and he recommended saying to the Lord: “Stay with us, because without you we cannot do the good we desire.”

Fletcher, who traveled to Rome with a group of young adult friends who work in Catholic schools, called the question-and-answers with Pope Leo “poignant and so relevant! Each spoke for us. Each spoke to our hearts.”

“This is a pope who knows the youth. His response was savvy, beautiful, and worth remembering, not to mention worth praying with for some time,” she said.



Pope Leo XIV approaches Tor Vergata in Rome on Aug. 2.
(Vatican Media)

Leo’s advice to young people included having Jesus, “who always accompanies us in the formation of our conscience,” as a friend.

“If you truly want to encounter the risen Lord, then listen to his word, which is the Gospel of salvation. Reflect on your way of living, and seek justice in order to build a more humane world. Serve the poor, and so bear witness to the good that we would always like to receive from our neighbors,” he recommended.

“Adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the source of eternal life,” he said. “Study, work, and love according to the example of Jesus, the good Teacher who always walks beside us.”

Elodie, from France, told EWTN News at the prayer vigil that the Jubilee of Youth felt like “a huge family.”

“You feel the heart of the Church beating. I think, really, it’s beautiful,” she said.

The Jubilee of Youth, held July 28 through Aug. 3, is the most-attended event during the Catholic Church’s 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, with an estimated 1 million young adults, teens, and their chaperones flocking to Rome from 146 countries.

Leo left the vigil after 10 p.m., more than 30 minutes past the scheduled time. After Eucharistic adoration, the crowd broke out in loud chants of “Papa Leone,” Italian for “Pope Leo.”

Young Catholics began arriving at the site of the vigil as early as 3 p.m., where they braved sun, humidity, and temperatures in the upper 80s during an afternoon listening to live performances and the personal stories of young people from different countries.

Archbishop Fisher: Holy relics are not “just a quirky Catholic thing”

By Courtney Mares | Catholic News Agency

Standing before the casket containing the incorrupt body of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and the tomb of St. Catherine of Siena in Rome, Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney told a packed basilica of young jubilee pilgrims that holy relics are “not just a quirky Catholic thing—they are a quirky God thing.” The Australian Dominican archbishop delivered the homily at the closing Mass of the weeklong public veneration of Frassati’s body during the Jubilee of Youth, a celebration that drew 1 million Catholic young people to the Eternal City.

“It’s a quirky thing, that Catholics so honor their dead and the remains of the dead,” Fisher said. “I was asked once by a radio host, ‘What’s this thing with Catholics and bones?’ I explained that the relics of saints are sacramentals: Sites where God imparts graces of healing and strength through the intercession of the faithful ones whose relics they are.”

“Through ‘this Catholic thing with bones,’” he added, “we honor the person who was and look forward to the person who will be again—but now purified, restored, glorified.”

“In reverencing the remains of our loved ones and especially the saints, we proclaim our faith in the holy Catholic Church and the communion of saints, but also in the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting!”

The Mass in the Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva on Aug. 4 had standing room only, as young pilgrims crowded in for a chance to pray before the incorrupt body of Frassati, a 20th-century Italian layman whose body was found intact 60 years after his death, which is considered a miracle.

“When Pier Giorgio’s mortal remains were transferred from Pollone cemetery to Turin Cathedral, they were found to be incorrupt after 60 years,” Fisher explained. “In miraculously preserving his body for so long, God was saying something powerful about the purity of this incorruptible man, about the significance of life in the flesh, and about the promise of resurrection to us all.”

Following the Mass, Dominican friars carried Frassati’s casket in a solemn procession down the basilica’s central aisle. Outside, pilgrims lined the steps, waving as the vehicle carrying Frassati’s body departed for the eight-hour drive back to Turin, where his tomb is located in the city’s cathedral.

Evangeline Jenan, 16, from Arizona, was one of the few who were able to reach out and touch the casket after it was processed outside of the basilica.

“Being able to touch his casket is just an absolutely powerful experience,” she told CNA. “His love for God is just so inspiring and amazing to me. And I want to be like him.”

Fisher recalled how Frassati’s body was brought to Sydney for World Youth Day in 2008. “To offer Mass again beside his casket is a real privilege,” he said, welcoming Frassati’s niece, Wanda Gawronska, who has played a vital role in sharing her uncle’s story with the world.

The liturgy coincided with the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, and Fisher reminded the youth that sainthood comes in many forms.

“Male and female, tall and short, young and old, clerical and lay, alive or dead at the moment: Sainthood is not one-size-fits-all,” he said.

Frassati, who died at age 24 in 1925, has long inspired young Catholics with his deep piety, charity for the poor, and love of the outdoors. He famously said: “To live without faith is not living, but merely existing.”

Fisher described Frassati as someone who showed that “faith is fun.”

“Mountain climbing or skiing, study or socializing—all could be apostolate,” he said.

Young pilgrims in attendance said the encounter with Frassati’s relics and Fisher’s message left a deep impression.

Rebecca Calabrese, 27, from Sydney, traveled with 64 young Australians for the jubilee. “It really inspires a lot of young people who are searching for their vocation and looking for a deeper relationship with Christ,” she said, “to see someone so ordinary but also extraordinary... who lived out his faith with such zeal and joy and passion in the normal, everyday aspects of life.”

For Dylan Staub, 21, of Gettysburg, Penn., the jubilee was a life-changing experience. “I’ve never even been out of the country before,” he said. “It’s just so many people, so many people filled with grace and on fire with their faith.”

In his final exhortation, Fisher urged the youth to ask Frassati’s intercession for courage and clarity in their vocations.

“Ask Pier Giorgio to intercede for wisdom about your calling, for courage to embrace it, and for the holy joy of flourishing in that vocation in the years ahead,” he said.



Archbishop Fisher told young pilgrims in Rome, that holy relics are “not just a quirky Catholic thing—they are a quirky God thing.” (Ivanka Ranic/Archdiocese of Sydney)



Persistence: a valuable lesson from the sidewalk



SIDEWALK STORIES

ROXANE B. SALONEN

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

By the time I reached the sidewalk that day, the afternoon abortion appointments were dwindling, so I found a spot to pray. I'd prayed a few Rosary decades when commotion began stirring near the parking-lot entryway. I walked over to support the two other female advocates standing vigil.

Soon, three abortion escorts walked over to us and encircled us while a black car containing the abortion-facility manager made its way into the street. As they retreated back to their posts, one of the advocates whispered, "Maybe they were trying to protect her?" "Weird," I replied. But as I was saying this, something caught my eye: the last abortion client of the day was just emerging from the facility through a far door.

I watched her slip into the parking lot of the apartment complex to the east. The parking lot, private property, typically doesn't allow abortion-client parking, so I walked east along the sidewalk to peer into the lot, thinking maybe I could talk with her there. She was walking away, to the north, holding a little brown bag—indicating she'd likely had an abortion, or was given the abortion pill. Knowing this can be reversed, I wanted to reach her. I took a few steps forward, but an escort who'd followed her into the lot was now staring me down. "You must be here for a reason," I said to the escort, now scowling at me.

The young lady was still on foot, and no car had appeared to pick her up. "What lengths some will go to avoid being approached by sidewalk advocates or hide from their decision," I thought. This likely wouldn't happen in winter, but it was a nice day, in the 70s, and easily walkable.

I returned to update my friends and mentioned the thought of driving to reach the woman in case I could help her. "Go for it!" one said. I jumped into my car and headed north.

Eventually, I regained sight of her, and saw that now, another person had met up with her, and now they were walking together. She was about her age and female; a friend, perhaps. It seemed safe enough, though I knew I'd have to be especially careful with no eyewitnesses. I said a prayer while grabbing a

few brochures from the seat beside me and turned right onto the small road they were just approaching. I was able to position my car directly across the street from them, stop, and roll down my window.

"I have some information I hope will help," I said, holding out the brochures. The friend began walking toward me, apparently curious and non-threatening. As she approached, I explained what the flyers were for. "Thanks," she said, accepting them.

By now, the client, a few paces behind her, seemed curious. "You a protestor?" she asked, eyeing me suspiciously. I could see her perfectly now, a beautiful girl with dark brown eyes. "No, we're just here praying for you," I said. "If you had an abortion, we want to help. Please call the numbers listed if you need anything."

Without backup, I didn't want to linger, so I drove back to the sidewalk, but with a feeling of gratitude for this almost-lost chance. Some might have given up on the young woman and let her walk away, but how could I? Following what I call a "Holy Spirit hunch," I persisted, even though I could barely see her, not wanting to risk her slipping away completely.

When I shared with my sidewalk friends why I'd persisted, they marveled that I had not given up. But they also mentioned they had been praying for me, and I knew that act was just as important as my own.

That day, in my mind, the escorts blew it. They let one get away, and I was so grateful for that; to talk to the young woman kindly, plant seeds of hope, and let her know there's help, should she need it. It reminds me of how important it is to persist in this ministry, always remembering that "We can't, but God can." This month, several opportunities will be available to both regular pro-life sidewalk advocates as well as those who cannot join us often or at all.

On Sept. 20, the Life Runners event will return for a second year in Fargo, starting at 9 a.m., with prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral, continuing with a 2.7-mile walk led by a "Remember the Unborn" banner, and ending in prayer at the Moorhead abortion facility. Visit the Life Runners site to learn more and to register: www.liferunners.org.

The annual 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign will kick off at 10 a.m. on Sept. 24 with a prayer-filled gathering directly north of the Women's Care Center, 220 Highway 75 N., in Moorhead. Join us, and if you can, bring a money or new baby-item donation for the area's newest pregnancy resource facility.

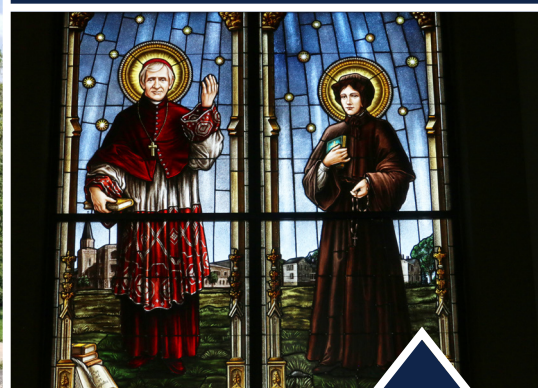
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Do you know
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in the October *New Earth*.



Where in the diocese are we?

Last month's photo is from St.
Paul's Newman Center in Fargo.