

WYOMING CATHOLIC REGISTER

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Seminarian Linh Vu kneels during his Diaconate Ordination in June 2020.

Called to be beacons of hope

Bishop Steven Biegler

Nine months ago, none of us imagined the trials ahead in 2020: a pandemic causing illness, death, anxiety, stress, unemployment, and economic woes; police brutality with ensuing protests and violence; ever deeper political divisions nationally and internationally.

We have no idea how much longer we will be dealing with Covid-19 and these trials. It is not enough to just “wait it out.” The school year has begun, and many are anxious about how things

will work out. Flu season will be another challenge. The fall elections will likely be conducted in an atmosphere of rancor and acrimony. Our journey in the desert will continue for the foreseeable future, but perhaps less than forty years!

How can we maintain a spirit-filled perspective? In a world tainted by anger, meanness, and violence what might inspire us to be beacons of hope? Instead of grumbling about

problems, how can we be a voice of encouragement?

From Grumbling to Praise

When the Israelites entered the desert, they had no idea of the trials ahead. However, years later they recognized the blessings during their sojourn in the desert. Their perspective changed as they looked back and understood how God was guiding them.

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“Gratitude is a flower that blooms in noble souls.”

- Pope Francis

To read about expressing gratitude to those who take on the yoke of leadership, go to Page 10.



Psalm 118, which begins with “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.”

Also, in the Rite for Penance, the priest is supposed to end the sacramental encounter with the same proclamation of praise. After the absolution he says, “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;” and the penitent responds, “His mercy endures forever.”

The Hebrew word for mercy is *hesed*, also translated as loyalty, faithfulness, or steadfast love. Biblically, *hesed* describes the fidelity between a husband and wife, as well as the Lord’s promise of fidelity linked to the covenant.

He Leadeth Me

God’s faithful guiding hand and merciful love are one and the same. The Lord remains faithful in every moment, even in our cynical grumbling. God always is leading us. Walter Cizek exemplified this faith in an exemplary way, which is demonstrated in his book *He Leadeth Me*. As a Jesuit priest in the Soviet Union, he was arrested and spent five years in solitary confinement; next, he was sent to Siberia and subjected to hard labor for 17 years.

With relentless trust in God’s providence, Fr. Cizek describes the attitude that sustained him. He wrote, “there was but one will that directed all things, God’s will. I had only to see it, to discern it in every circumstance in which I found myself and let myself be ruled by it. God is in all things, sustains all things, directs all things. To discern this in every situation and circumstance, to see His will in all things, was to accept each circumstance and situation and let oneself be borne along in perfect confidence and trust. Nothing could separate me from Him because He was in all things. No danger could threaten me, no fear could shake me, except the fear of losing sight of Him. The future, hidden as it was, was hidden in His will and therefore acceptable to me no matter what it might bring.” (*He Leadeth Me*, pp. 79-80)

God is leading us. No matter what, his mercy endures forever. We only need to discern his

will in every circumstance, in every difficulty, in every person. Our only real fear is “to lose sight of Him.” I am not sure how God is using our trials, but I am certain that the Lord is leading us. The challenge is to keep this perspective.

Habits of Hope

Do you spend your time in gossip groups or prayer groups? Be mindful of what is feeding your heart. Gossip, grumbling, and rancorous news all lead to negativity, anxiety, and anger.

One of the best ways to encourage one another is through shared prayer. Families need to pray together. In general, we should look for ways to invite others to reflect on the Scriptures. Each Tuesday, our chancery staff spends just 15 minutes reflecting on the gospel for next Sunday. It has been a source of encouragement and unity.

Some of our priests have organized Morning Prayer in groups through remote video means. Together people pray the Psalms which are often spiritual reflections on suffering in light of God’s steadfast mercy. If you have never prayed the Psalms, then you might begin with Psalm 27, 46, 91, or 136; then explore others.

How can we maintain the spiritual perspective which Fr. Walter Cizek lived? Daily persevering in prayer and regularly reading the Scriptures. Then we will be beacons of hope like St. Paul, who wrote, “Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.” (Rom. 12:12)

In these days of division, it is imperative that we stay united in charity. To do this, we must make a habit of forgiving, receiving the Lord’s forgiveness, and extending it to others. Every morning and evening, I bring my lack of charity before God in prayer where I experience the grace to start anew.

Rather than grumbling or anxiously waiting for things to change, we can take the initiative to “prepare the future,” not by ourselves, but by carefully discerning God’s will, acting with conviction that we are collaborators with the Lord. In God’s providence, we were born for this time. As the next generation looks back at this moment, they will recognize us either as grumbling whiners mired in the mud or beacons of hope persevering in grace and charity. ✚

We face similar spiritual struggles. It is so easy to let the stress, anxiety, and uncertainty lead to negativity and complaining. Perhaps this was the primary temptation for the Israelites—their constant grumbling.

As the Egyptians pursued them with chariots and horsemen near the Red Sea, they said to Moses, “Were there no burial places in Egypt that you brought us to die in the wilderness?” (Ex. 14:11) This sarcastic grumbling continued when they feared that they might die of hunger. They whined to Moses, “If only we had died at the LORD’s hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our kettles of meat and ate our fill of bread! But you have led us into this wilderness to make this whole assembly die of famine!” (Ex. 16:2-3)

The grumbling was the result of being mired in the mud. They were stuck in their problems but failed to trust in the Lord. However, many years later their grumbling turned to praise. Many of the Psalms record their faith in God’s guiding hand and merciful love. One of the best examples is Psalm 136. The opening verse is “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever;” with each of the next 25 verses reiterating the phrase “for his mercy endures forever.”

The same declaration of praise resounds throughout the Easter season as we sing

Llamados a ser faros de esperanza

Hace nueve meses, ninguno de nosotros imaginaba las pruebas que se avecinaban este 2020: una pandemia que ha causado enfermedad, muerte, ansiedad, estrés, desempleo y problemas económicos; brutalidad de parte de la policía resultando en protestas y violencia; divisiones políticas cada vez más profundas, ambos al nivel nacional e internacional.

No tenemos idea de cuánto más tiempo estaremos lidiando con Covid-19 y estas pruebas. No es suficiente simplemente “esperar”. El año escolar ha comenzado y muchos están ansiosos por saber cómo saldrán las cosas. La temporada de la influenza será otro desafío. Las elecciones del otoño probablemente se llevarán a cabo en un ambiente de rencor y acritud. Nuestro viaje por el desierto continuará en el futuro previsible, ¿pero quizás, menos de cuarenta años!

¿Cómo podemos mantener una perspectiva llena de espíritu? En un mundo contaminado por la ira, la maldad y la violencia, ¿qué podría inspirarnos a ser faros de esperanza? En lugar de quejarnos de los problemas, ¿cómo podemos ser una voz de aliento?

De la Queja a la Alabanza

Cuando los israelitas entraron en el desierto, no tenían idea de las pruebas que se avecinaban. Sin embargo, años después reconocieron las bendiciones durante su tiempo en el desierto. Su perspectiva cambió cuando miraron hacia atrás y entendieron cómo Dios los estaba guiando.

Enfrentamos similares luchas espirituales. Es muy fácil dejar que el estrés, la ansiedad y la incertidumbre conduzcan a la negatividad y las quejas. Quizás esta fue la primera tentación de los israelitas: sus constantes quejas.

Mientras los egipcios los perseguían con carros y jinetes cerca del Mar Rojo, le dijeron a Moisés: “¿Y dijeron a Moisés: «¿Acaso no había sepulturas en Egipto para que nos hayas traído a morir en el desierto? ¿Qué has hecho con nosotros sacándonos de Egipto?» (Éxodo 14:11) Esta queja sarcástica continuó cuando temían morir de hambre. Ellos se quejaron a Moisés, “¡Ojalá Yavé nos hubiera hecho morir en Egipto! Allí nos sentábamos junto a las ollas de carne y comíamos pan en abundancia. ¡Ustedes, en cambio, nos han traído a este desierto en que todo ese gentío morirá de hambre!” (Éxodo 16: 2-3)

La queja fue el resultado de estar atascados en el lodo. Estaban atrapados en sus problemas, pero no confiaban en el Señor. Sin embargo, muchos años después, sus quejas se convirtieron en alabanza. Muchos de los Salmos registran su fe en el amor misericordioso de Dios, quien, los iba guiando de la mano. Uno de los mejores ejemplos es el Salmo 136. El versículo inicial es “Den gracias al Señor, porque él es bueno, porque

su amor perdura para siempre”; con cada uno de los siguientes 25 versículos reiterando la frase “su amor perdura para siempre”.

La misma declaración de alabanza resuena durante todo el tiempo de Pascua mientras cantamos el Salmo 118, que comienza con “Den gracias al Señor, porque es bueno, su amor perdura para siempre”. Además, en el Rito de la Penitencia, se supone que el sacerdote debe terminar el encuentro sacramental con el mismo anuncio de alabanza. Después de la absolución dice: “Den gracias al Señor porque es bueno”; y el penitente responde: “Su amor perdura para siempre”.

La palabra hebrea para misericordia es *hesed*, también traducida como lealtad, fidelidad o amor constante. Bíblicamente, *hesed* describe la fidelidad entre un esposo y una esposa, así como la promesa de fidelidad del Señor vinculada en la Alianza.

El me Guía

La mano de Dios que nos guía y su amor misericordioso son lo mismo. El Señor permanece fiel en todo momento, incluso en nuestras quejas cínicas. Dios siempre nos está guiando. Walter Ciszek ejemplificó esta fe de una manera ejemplar, que se demuestra en su libro *Caminando por Valles Oscuros*. Como sacerdote jesuita en la Unión Soviética, fue arrestado y pasó cinco años en confinamiento solitario; luego, fue enviado a Siberia y sometido a trabajo forzado durante 17 años.

Con una confianza implacable en la providencia de Dios, el Padre Ciszek describe la actitud que lo sostuvo. Escribió, “a Dios, que era todo en todo; no había más que una voluntad que lo gobernaba todo: la voluntad de Dios. Solo tenía que verla, describirla en cualquier circunstancia en la que me hallara y dejarme guiar por ella. Dios está en todo, lo sostiene todo, lo gobierna todo. Describirlo así en cada situación y en cada circunstancia, ver su voluntad en todo, significaba, aceptar cada circunstancia y cada situación, y dejarse llevar con una seguridad y una confianza perfecta. Nada podía separarme de Dios, porque El estaba en todo. Ningún peligro podía amenazarme, ningún temor podía estremecerme, excepto el de dejar de verle a Él. Por escondido que estuviera el futuro, estaba escondido en su voluntad y, por lo tanto, yo sería capaz de aceptarlo, trajera consigo lo que trajera.” (*Caminando por Valles Oscuros*, págs. 79-80).

Dios nos está guiando. Pase lo que pase, su

misericordia perdura para siempre. Solo necesitamos discernir su voluntad en cada circunstancia, en cada dificultad, en cada persona. Nuestro único temor real es “el de dejar de verle a Él”. No estoy seguro de cómo Dios está usando nuestras pruebas, pero estoy seguro de que el Señor nos está guiando. El desafío es mantener esta perspectiva.

Hábitos de Esperanza

¿Pasas su tiempo en grupos de chismes o de oración? Se consciente de lo que está alimentando a tu corazón. Los chismes, las quejas y las noticias rencorosas conducen a la negatividad, la ansiedad y la ira.

Una de las mejores formas de animarnos unos a otros es a través de la oración compartida. Las familias necesitan orar juntas. En general, debemos buscar formas de invitar a otros a reflexionar sobre las Escrituras. Cada martes, nuestro personal de la cancillería dedica 15 minutos para reflexionar sobre el evangelio del próximo domingo. Ha sido una fuente de aliento y unidad.

Algunos de nuestros sacerdotes han organizado la Oración de la Mañana en grupos a través de video. Juntos rezan los Salmos, los cuales son reflexiones espirituales sobre el sufrimiento, conscientes de la misericordia inquebrantable de Dios. Si nunca has rezado los Salmos, entonces puedes comenzar con el Salmo 27, 46, 91 o 136; y luego puedes explorar otros.

¿Cómo podemos mantener la perspectiva espiritual que el Padre Walter Ciszek vivió? Perseverando diariamente en la oración y leyendo regularmente las Escrituras. Entonces así, seremos faros de esperanza como San Pablo, quien escribió: “Tengan esperanza y sean alegres. Sean pacientes en las pruebas y oren sin cesar.” (Rom. 12:12).

En estos días de división, es imperativo que nos mantengamos unidos en la caridad. Para hacer esto, debemos tener el hábito de perdonar, recibir el perdón del Señor y extenderlo a otros. Cada mañana y cada noche, presento mi falta de caridad ante Dios en oración, donde experimento la gracia de comenzar de nuevo.

En lugar de quejarnos o esperar ansiosamente que las cosas cambien, podemos tomar la iniciativa de “preparar el futuro”, no por nuestros méritos, sino discerniendo cuidadosamente la voluntad de Dios, actuando con la convicción de que somos colaboradores del Señor. En la providencia de Dios, nacimos para este tiempo. A medida que cuando la próxima generación mire hacia este momento, nos reconocerán como quejándonos y renegando atascados en el lodo o como faros de esperanza perseverando en la gracia y la caridad. ✠



St. Anthony Tri-Parish Catholic School, Casper

As we begin the 2020-2021 school year, there is no doubt we are entering a new and different world. At St. Anthony Tri-Parish Catholic School, we plan to operate with a three-tier system for the health and protection of our students and staff, and we are preparing our teachers to teach both on campus and through remote learning. Our families may choose the format that best fits their particular needs at this time.

The great news is that we are so excited to be working with our students once again. These are not ordinary times for students and staff as we traverse this new world but St. Anthony Tri-Parish School, like the other Catholic schools in Wyoming, are up for the challenge. Please pray for all Wyoming Catholic School students and employees.

Cyndy Novotny, Principal

Holy Spirit Catholic School, Rock Springs

Holy Spirit Catholic School was excited to welcome back our students and families at their "Meet the Teacher Night" Thursday, August 20. Families were scheduled to visit their classrooms and teachers individually to accommodate social distancing protocols. A special "take home" treat was provided by our supportive Home and School Association.

Holy Spirit Catholic School resumed in-person instruction on Monday, August 24, in accordance with our *Reopening Plan*. A safe learning environment is our top priority. The Cohort model has been implemented for the start of our year. Alternative options are available and ready to be put into place if needed.

We appreciate the dedication of our teachers and support staff who worked throughout the summer to prepare for our students' return. Teachers received additional professional development this summer to facilitate a smooth transition to virtual learning, utilizing Google Classroom.

For generations, students and families have benefited from the faith-filled education that Holy Spirit Catholic School provides. We will continue to strive to meet this goal and look forward to another successful year! Please keep all our schools in your prayers.

Linda Marcos, Principal

St. Mary's Catholic School, Cheyenne

The staff of St. Mary's Catholic School has been hard at work since last March working to provide our students with a quality educational experience. The upcoming school year presents many challenges in the midst of the pandemic we are now enduring. We developed a COVID task force to carefully study the guidelines and recommendations put forth by the CDC and AAP to create a solid reopening plan with the best possible chances of remaining open for the entire school year.

While our plan is extremely cautious, it was created in a way to give the students a much more authentic experience during the school year. Many things will be different, but the children will be able to see their classmates every day and continue to receive quality in-person instruction. We have even planned virtual school Masses each week to be broadcast to their classrooms from the school chapel. Each class will have the opportunity to participate in a Mass in-person and still be a part of the liturgy preparation for those Masses.

We are confident that we have done all we can to ensure our students receive a top-notch education this year, and we were so excited to see their smiling faces again when they arrived on August 24th!

Jenni Bridges, Principal

Holy Name Catholic School, Sheridan

The beginning of the school year is like my favorite holiday. I am barely able to sleep the night before; I cannot wait to see the students and their families and hear about how their summer went.

It is a magical time where relationships are rekindled, lessons are learned, and we become more Christ-like, striving to do His will. Each day is composed of unlimited potential to spread joy, exercise kindness, strive for peace, and practice saintly love.

This year, I am mixed with anticipation for the new school year and balancing a national pandemic. It is my pledge to my students and staff to fiercely keep them healthy and safe in the classrooms where learning is meaningful and where academic growth explodes.

Mary Legler, Principal

Lay Ministry Spotlight

Joe Wotawa, Director of Pastoral Formation, Diocese of Cheyenne

An old refrain in our Church states “unity is not uniformity” because our Catholic faith includes and invites many charisms, liturgical preferences, and vocations, among other points of difference. In our desire to understand how Christ’s work of salvation extends to every aspect of life and people of very different backgrounds, we must remain attentive to the stories from individuals and groups that tell of how Christ has shaped their lives.

*Christ’s work of salvation has a far reach in our own local Church here in Wyoming; therefore, the **Wyoming Catholic Register** will occasionally feature a lay minister. These reflections from lay ministers give witness to how individuals from across the state respond to the call of Christ to serve the Church using the passions and skills with which God has endowed them. No story is identical to another, though all ministers serve the same mission of proclaiming God in our Catholic tradition.*

Lumen Gentium – the document on Church governance from the Second Vatican Council – offers the following description of the laity: “The laity, by their very vocation, seek the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God” (n. 31).

The description continues by describing how laity live in the secular world and “are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven. In this way they may make Christ known to others, especially by the testimony of a life resplendent in faith, hope and charity.”

These accounts by lay ministers represent how our God calls each of us by name and how the vocation of the laity can take many different forms.

Theresa J. Meuer, Director of Youth Ministry, St. Matthew’s in Gillette



Luckily, my husband Tim and I are a package deal, so Gillette gets a two-for-one. I know God chose me for this ministry, but I was happy pursuing my own ambitions in the secular world and tried to ignore this call. God patiently waited for

me to respond. Because I said “yes,” I am more fulfilled than I ever thought I could be in this life. God’s plans are better than our own.

One of my greatest gifts is my capacity for love, which translates in the way I serve. I practice relational ministry, inspired by Jesus, unafraid of brokenness and wounds. My priority is to make sure every youth who comes through our doors is called by name and knows Christ because we love them.

Throughout my seven years in youth ministry, I have worked with so many teens (and now young adults) whom I call my “kids.” People underestimate the beauty and fulfillment found in spiritual motherhood and fatherhood. I think that is why people are afraid to discern anything

other than marriage. There is a false fear of missing out.

With incredible priests to lead us, Tim and I have sought to create a “culture of vocations.” We proudly model our ten-year marriage and the beauty of sacred vows. Yet, we emphasize that marriage (just as priesthood and religious life) should be discerned, not assumed. God has a plan for each of us, and the vocation we are called to is where we will find the most fulfillment.

I am so thankful God called me forth to this ministry. Do not be afraid of a radical change of life. When we drop our nets and follow the call to serve, we walk closely with our Lord.

The voice of the Lord clearly resounds in the depths of each of Christ’s followers, who through faith and the sacraments of Christian initiation is made like to Jesus Christ, is incorporated as a living member in the Church and has an active part in her mission of salvation.

Saint Pope John Paul II Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation: *Christifideles Laici* (On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World) December 30, 1988

News Briefs

Cheyenne Concert Series features acclaimed Mormon Tabernacle organist Andrew Unsworth



Courtesy Photo

Acclaimed Mormon Tabernacle organist Andrew Unsworth will perform 2 p.m. Oct. 11, 2020, on the Visser-Rowland Tracker Organ at the Cathedral of St. Mary, featured in

the 28th edition of the Cheyenne Organ Concert Series. The concert is free and open to the public, but the Concert Series Committee will be observing COVID-19 precautions, which means that seating will be limited and reservations need to be made.

The 2020 concert will be in memory of the Rev. Carl A. Beavers, who presided over the installation of the organ at St. Mary's in 1992.

The program will include works by Bach, Kasen, Elgar, Vierne, and two of Unsworth's original compositions. A camera feed from the Cathedral loft to a large screen in the center of the sanctuary will allow the audience to see the performer at the organ.

Those who wish to attend, may register by going to Cathedral of St. Mary website at: stmarycathedral.com. All people who enter the church will be asked to wear face coverings and use hand sanitizer at the door. Ushers will escort people to their seats. If you have questions, call the parish office at (307) 635-9261, ext. 2010, 2011, 2016, or 2021. Please check the Cathedral Website for updates or changes.

Unsworth has been a Mormon Tabernacle organist since 2007, one of three full-time organists at the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah. Previously, he served as assistant profes-

sor of music at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and as organist and assistant director of music at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City.

Unsworth received a bachelor of music degree in Organ Performance from Brigham Young University and received master's and doctoral degrees in historical performance practice from Duke University.

He has performed throughout the United States and Europe as a soloist and accompanist and has been featured as a recitalist at national and regional conventions of the Organ Historical Society and American Guild of Organists. He has published several articles on organ performance and teaching. His solo organ recording, *French and German Masterworks*, is on the Raven label.

Wyoming Catholic Ministries Foundation announces new officers

The Wyoming Catholic Ministries Foundation announced new officers and the addition of a new member to the board of directors, following elections on July 22.

Gay Woodhouse, Cheyenne, was elected president of the board. An attorney with Woodhouse, Roden and Nethercott, Gay served as Wyoming's first female attorney general and has been on the board of WCMF for more than ten years.

Sadly, Fr. Carl Beavers passed

away just one day after his election as vice president of WCMF.

Bob Grady, Wilson, was elected treasurer. He is an American venture capitalist, private equity investor, and former public official. Bob has worked at such leading investment firms as Robertson Stephens, The Carlyle Group, and Gryphon Investors, as well as for a number of elected officials, including former President George H.W. Bush.

Esther McGann, Laramie, was elected secretary. Esther is retired

from her career as a financial planner and planned giving specialist at the University of Wyoming.

She has served on the WCMF board for ten years and is active at St. Paul's Newman Center, as well as nonprofits in the Laramie area.

Jeff Marsh, Torrington, joined the board. He founded an insurance/investment firm and has been a teacher, athletic coach, and owner of a construction company. He also was recently elected as chair of the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees.

The Wyoming Catholic Ministries Foundation is a 501 C (3) organization whose mission is to raise funds and advance the Catholic faith and programs throughout the state of Wyoming.

For more information about WCMF, please e-mail jgleason@wycmf.org

Be sure to check out the website at: <https://wycmf.org/>.



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A tribute to Ray Repp: The “father of the guitar Mass”

Guest Contributor Tressie Parsons, Rock Springs

There are people whom we grow to revere because of their contributions to life through their talents, their caring for all people, and their desire to teach. Then our minds are touched with the Lord's lessons so that we learn to trust the Lord, love all people, and even heal.

I believe that Ray Repp, “the father of the guitar Mass,” was one of those “saints of life” who inspired many of us in Wyoming and worldwide. His “Mass for Young Americans” has been translated into 28 languages.

Perhaps we should remember Ray as the roving troubadour with a loving mission (with a few lively songs for group spirit). He always emphasized community building, as well as peace and justice issues.

Our nation is in such great peril due to the novel coronavirus epidemic and the delirium of unrest. If Ray had been healthy and vibrant in voice instead of fighting his painful cancer battles, he may have been singing to cheer people up, renew their faith, and teach the importance of love. Sadly, he passed away in April 2020.

But now we all can honor Ray by singing his music and lightening up our beings. Then we will be in a mood to share his songs with others. We can be the bridge to healing of bodies and minds. His music – although written 40 to 50 years ago – is just as inspiring and potent today. His songs are classics!

Westminster Cathedral personnel in London knew the worthiness of his songs. They chose Ray's song, *We Are the Family*, as the entrance song for their 200th anniversary. Some of Ray's fans, Friends of Ray Repp (FORR) may recall these words: “We are the Family and we are the Home. We are the mountain where love may be known. We are the voices and we are the hands for bringing peace to our land.”

Ray was aware of the world's needs, and people welcomed his songs for renewed hope and faith. Although his songs weren't composed for Mass, that is where they were wanted.

Ray's instrument was the guitar. Along with his great voice, what could be better? So, the guitar

became an acceptable instrument for Mass. This became controversial because some believed that only the organ and voices were acceptable in Mass. Had it been forgotten that *Silent Night* was born with the guitar after mice chewed the billows to the organ? Also, that lyres and harps were the instruments used for the Psalms?

In 1982, the superintendent of Wyoming's Catholic Schools invited Ray Repp to come to the annual convention for teachers, held in Casper. We were greatly inspired. Three years later, Ray was invited to come to Rock Springs for a concert and “meet the real composers” sessions for students. People were so delighted that a weekend retreat with Ray Repp was held. More concerts and two more summer retreats followed.

By 1995, Ray had been composing music and inspiring people for 30 years. Students at the Catholic School in Rock Springs, an adult choir, and instrumentalists surprised Ray with a special concert, which was “with and for” Ray to celebrate 30 years of sharing his talents. The concert



Image Courtesy of Tressie Parsons

was recorded live. Ray's music and wit interplayed with humor for the audience that he loved.

Ray's last Christmas message read: **“Like a bridge over troubled waters” (Paul Simon) . . . may we bring Light, Integrity, and Love to our troubled World.”**

Peace to our friend Ray.

Thank you to Linda Schultz and welcome to Mary McMains

Father Rob Spaulding, Director of the Office of Worship, Diocese of Cheyenne

For the past 18 years, Linda Schultz has been behind the scenes coordinating lectors and studio time to record the weekly televised Mass for the Diocese of Cheyenne.

Linda started in November of 2002, when, after a daily Mass, Monsignor O'Neill asked her if she would find a lector for the TV Mass. Little did Linda know, Monsignor wasn't just asking her to help with that weekend, he meant every weekend!

Linda “retired” from this ministry in March, as the Diocese of Cheyenne stopped filming at the K2 studio. Her greatest joy was working with and getting to know the priests from our diocese.

Because of COVID-19, for the past five months, the weekend Mass has been recorded at St. Paul's Newman Center in Laramie.

As you read this article, hopefully

the Diocese of Cheyenne will have been back to recording Mass from K2 in Casper.

The Diocese of Cheyenne welcomes Mary McMains to the ministry of coordinating the television Masses.

Mary serves as the parish secretary and Music Ministry director at Our Lady of Fatima In Casper.

Photos courtesy of Fr. Rob Spaulding



Linda Schultz



Mary McMains

The Chancery Office welcomes new employees

Dan Placke, Chief Financial Officer

Dan Placke is a St. Libory, Nebraska, native who grew up on a diversified-family-farm. He received a B.S. in comprehensive business administration, with an emphasis in accounting (University of Nebraska-Kearney, formerly known as, Kearney State College, 1990) and holds a Nebraska CPA certificate.

Dan brings, from both small and large corporations, a combined 30 years of extensive, all-encompassing and varied financial, accounting, administrative, and operational management, experience.

Following a 25-year career in the organic agriculture industry in Colorado, Dan now enjoys drawing from his experience to support the work of the Diocese of Cheyenne and the Catholic Church.

Dan is married to his high school sweetheart, Leslie, and they have three adult daughters (Shelby, Haley, and Kylee), all of whom are married and starting families of their own. Dan's favorite pastime is anything family related, but finds family time extra special when combined with hiking, yard games, card games, and college sports.



Courtesy Photo

Mariah Klawon, Finance Specialist

Mariah Klawon joined the Chancery Office team in late July. She was born in Cheyenne. She is a member of a military family and lived in different places, eventually returning to Cheyenne.

She graduated from East high school and then earned a bachelor's degree in business management with a minor in finance from the University of Wyoming.

Mariah looks forward to being a member of the finance team and contributing to its success. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, and watching Netflix.



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

The Chancery Office bids farewell to Jeff Nieters

Jeff Nieters retired from the Diocese of Cheyenne after five years of service. Before joining the Chancery Office, Jeff worked for governmental entities for 31 years. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in accounting and master's degree in public administration.

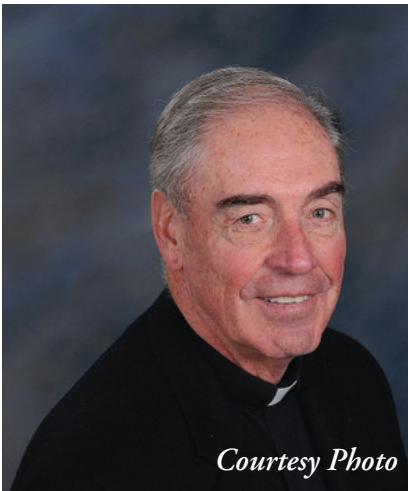
He began his career working for the Wyoming Department of Transportation, followed by a position at the Wyoming State Lands and Investments Board. Jeff served as finance director for the City of Green River for 14 years before retiring and relocating to Cheyenne to be closer to his children. Jeff and his wife Patty have four grown children.

His service for the Diocese of Cheyenne is greatly appreciated, and his colleagues at the Chancery Office wish Jeff well in his full retirement.

The Diocese of Cheyenne is challenging Catholics to model love for neighbor through respect and compassion during the 2020 election cycle and beyond. Put your faith into action and make room in your heart for those with whom you disagree. Pledge dignity beyond the debate today at CivilizeIt.org!



Father Carl Beavers rest in peace



Courtesy Photo

Father Carl A. Beavers, retired priest of the Diocese of Cheyenne, died suddenly on July 23, 2020, near Dayton, Wyoming, with his dog “Cooler” by his side. He was born on September 16, 1942, in Sheridan to Clyde A. (Buck) and Edna C. Breen Beavers.

After graduating High School in 1960, Father Beavers attended Northwest Community College in Powell for one year on a football scholarship.

He attended St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado, and was ordained on May 24, 1968.

During the 44 years during which he was a priest for the Diocese of Cheyenne, Father Beavers served at St. Barbara in Powell, St. Laurence O’Toole in Laramie, St. Joseph’s Children’s Home in Torrington, Cathedral of St. Mary in Cheyenne, Our Lady of the Mountains in Jackson, and Holy Spirit Catholic Community in Rock Springs. He also served as Chancellor for the Diocese of Cheyenne from 1990 to 1995.

While serving as superintendent of St. Joseph’s Children’s home, Father Beavers recognized the advantage of raising beef cattle to both feed the resident children and make available more 4-H and FFA projects to them.

Father Beavers was the Rector at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Cheyenne for 17 years and also served as Moderator of the Curia and Superintendent of Sexton High School. When the Wyoming Senate was in session, he was asked to offer the invocation each morning for several years.

After retiring on June 30, 2012, Father Beavers moved back to Dayton. Retirement was in name only, as he kept busy with most of the previous functions of the church, with the exception of office duties.

He became known for his articulate, carefully reasoned sermons and his mastery of every social situation. Poise, combined with a hearty enjoyment of sports (especially the Wyoming Cowboys, Notre Dame, the Colorado Rockies, and the Denver Broncos), ranching, and hunting, won Father Beavers many friends across the state and beyond.

Survivors include his brothers Jack (Geraldine) of Laramie, Jim (Barbara) of Powell, and sister Jeanette West of Dayton; nephews: Clint Beavers of Laramie, Mark West of Arlington, Massachusetts, Matthew West of Denver, and Brian Beavers of Powell; nieces: Beth St. Clair of Laramie, Becky Beavers of Cheyenne, and Michele West of Denver. Father Beavers was preceded in death by his parents, nephews Brad and Bret Beavers, and brother-in-law Louis West.

Memorial suggestions are: St. Joseph’s Children’s Home, P.O. Box 1117, Torrington, WY 82240-1117; St. Edmund Building Fund, P.O. Box 217, Ranchester, WY 82839; Ranchester Dayton Rotary, P.O. Box 451, Ranchester, WY 82839; Seminarian Education Fund or St. Joseph’s Society for Retired Priests Fund, Diocese of Cheyenne, P.O. Box 1468, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

Father Joseph Fraher rest in peace



Father Joseph Fraher, 94, completed his earthly pilgrimage July 8th, 2020. He passed away peacefully in his sleep under the loving care of the nurses and staff of the Davis Hospice Center in Cheyenne. He was born on December 2, 1925, in Denver, but his family moved to Rawlins when he was still a toddler. At a young age, he felt a call to the vocation of the Catholic priesthood, and while he was still in high school, Father Fraher enrolled in a pre-seminary program and then St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. He was ordained on June 3, 1950, at St. Joseph’s in Rawlins. Father Fraher served many parishes across the Diocese of Cheyenne during his 70 years of priesthood.

More than anything, he loved to call people to gather with him around the table. Of most importance was the table of the Lord, in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist; second was the dining room table of so many parishioners, friends, and family; and last was around a poker table, where few could match his skill and ability. He and his trademark stained yellow sweater traveled anywhere his car would take him, from Mexico to Canada, New York to California. Of all the places he visited, his favorite was the campus of Notre Dame, and he regretted not ever going to Rome.

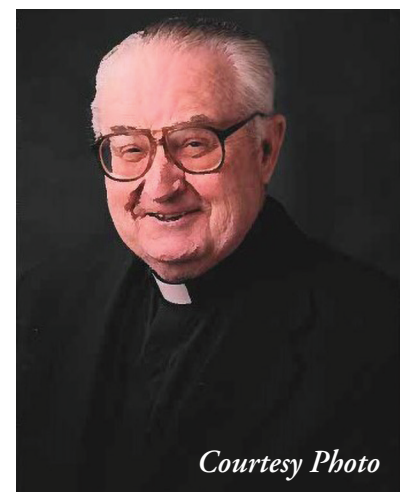
He was a strong advocate for the laity and encouraged involvement in the Church through CYO, CCW, Newman Club, and the Knights of

Columbus. Father Fraher did not have a favorite parish; he loved them all equally. No matter where he served, everyone knew if the Bronco’s had an early televised game, he would offer a short homily. Of course, they also knew of his equal dedication to the Wyoming Cowboys and Notre Dame.

Survivors include one brother, Mike Fraher of Seattle, Washington, several nieces and nephews, and grandnieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary and Joseph Fraher, brother John Fraher and wife Geraldine, sister Eileen Krause and husband Bernie, sister-in-law Mary Fraher, nephews Terry Fraher and Richard Fraher and niece Terri Larsen.

Expressions of sympathy in his name may be made to:

The Cowboy Joe Club, 1000 E University Ave # 3414, Laramie, WY 82071; Davis Hospice Center, 6000 Sycamore Rd., Cheyenne, WY 82009.



Courtesy Photo

Expressing gratitude to those who bear the yoke of leadership

Deacon Mike Leman, Legislative Liaison, Diocese of Cheyenne



What a stressful year 2020 has been for all of us. In one 24-hour period, I found out that a relative contracted COVID-19 and that two other relatives narrowly survived layoffs that happened because of the shutdown. Fortunately, the relative with COVID-19 was not “high risk,” and he discovered he had the virus before transmitting it to family members who are in that category. Unfortunately, the two who survived layoffs have friends and co-workers who were not so lucky.

Most days, I waiver between wondering if the precautions we’ve been asked to practice are overreactions to wondering if we shouldn’t be doing more to prevent the spread of the virus. Based upon the reactions I have been reading, I’m not alone.

No one should apologize for having an opinion; we all have them. When criticizing decisions made by our civil and religious leaders, however, I believe it is important to remember that none of us sees any given situation quite from their vantage point. As one of my former mentors in the fire service used to say about being a captain, “You aren’t one, until you are one.”

“Armchair quarterbacking” is a favorite pastime at the fire station dinner table. After they have a few years of experience under their belts, firefighters begin critiquing decisions made by those in command of the fireground. It is a good learning exercise to consider

how one might have responded to a situation differently from the way leadership did, but no one ever lost sleep over hypothetical consequences resulting from imaginary decisions.

Pretend scenarios from the comfort of one’s living room chair can never replicate how it feels to make real-time life and death decisions. Knowing that one choice could mean jeopardizing the lives of those in your charge, while a different choice could result in loss of civilian lives and/or their property, and realizing that you will have to live with the consequences of those decisions for the rest of your life, is a burden most of us, thankfully, never will carry in our lifetime.

Few of us have had to speak with those who have lost family members to COVID-19 and wondered if we could have done more to prevent their deaths. Few of us have simultaneously had to speak with those whose businesses and jobs were lost because of the

closures and wondered if our precautions went too far.

To be clear, we should dare to question the decisions our leaders make. We should look critically at how their decisions control the virus’ spread vs. how those decisions affect our society’s economic future. These are healthy practices.

We should not forget, however, that we aren’t privileged with information that tells the whole story. We should not forget that our hypothetical scenarios do not bear the full weight of life and death consequences, and, as followers of Christ, we should be more charitable in our assessments of the intentions of those in leadership positions.

May we never apologize for being an opinionated people. May we always remember to express our gratitude to those who have accepted the yoke of leadership during these difficult times. And may we recommit ourselves to praying for all of our leaders.

July 2020 DACA Memo: What You Need to Know (Source: USCCB)

What is the July 2020 DACA Memo?

On July 28, 2020, the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security issued a memo on the DACA program. The memo is in response to the recent 5-4 decision by the Supreme Court of the United States striking down the Trump Administration’s September 2017 attempt to end the DACA program.

Does this memo end DACA?

No. The July 2020 DACA Memo does not end the DACA program, but it does limit the program.

What limitations does the July 2020 DACA Memo put on the DACA program?

The July 2020 DACA Memo limits three main elements of the DACA program: (1) it limits the work authorization period from two years to one; (2) it does not allow for new individuals to apply for the DACA program; and (3) it ends advance parole for all DACA applicants.

What are the implications of these changes on DACA youth and their families?

These changes will have substantive negative impacts on DACA youth and their families. First - the limiting of the work authorization period from two years to one will heighten the feelings of anxiety and uncertainty that DACA recipients are already facing. Additionally, it will cost DACA recipients and their families more money to renew as they will have to do so more frequently. Currently, the fee for DACA and work authorization renewal is \$495. This fee will now be required by DACA recipients once a year versus every two years.

Next - the decision to not let new DACA applicants apply limits the ability of the program to help young people brought by their parents to come out of the shadows and fully contribute to our communities, our country, and our Church. There are approximately 65,000 new young people who have aged into the DACA program who will not be allowed to apply due to the July 2020 DACA Memo.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13...

Catholic Rural Life brings Life in Christ retreat to Wyoming lay leaders

Father Andrew Duncan, St. Anthony's, Guernsey

Perhaps our new state motto, “Wyoming: Social distancing since 1868!”, explains why our diocese has been chosen as the newest to receive the *Life in Christ* Lay Leadership Program offered by Catholic Rural Life (CRL). Each year, lay leaders in rural states receive training, formation, and inspiration to lead their fellow parishioners in prayer and study of Scripture and Church teaching through the Encyclicals of Popes Francis, Benedict, Saint John Paul II, and Pius XII.

A weekend retreat, *Life in Christ*, will be held October 2, 3, and 4, 2020, at the beautiful and prayerful Terra Sancta Retreat Center outside of Rapid City (see the ad on page 13). Nationally recognized and expert theologians and Bible scholars will offer insightful and inspiring presentations of Ephesians and the Papal Encyclical “On the Mystical Body of Christ.”

“CRL provides a program that equips and develops Catholic lay leaders in rural communities who are able to lead small groups through the Holy Scriptures, Papal Encyclicals, and the Catechism. The goal of this program is to revitalize the faith of Catholics in rural America in the spirit of the New Evangelization and Saint John Paul II’s Apostolic Exhortation, *The Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful People (Christifideles Laici)*, which highlights the role and calling of the laity in the Church,” notes Jim Ennis, national director of CRL and main presenter at the October retreat. “The outcome of this program is more Catholic lay leaders in rural communities



Photo Courtesy of Fr. Duncan

Fr. Andrew Duncan (far left) joined in a lay leadership retreat in South Dakota in 2019. This year Catholic Rural Life has invited the Diocese of Cheyenne to form a team.



Photo Courtesy of Fr. Duncan

Lay leaders receive in-depth education in scripture and theology.

who are able to lead small groups through Catholic social teaching, putting their faith in action through service, and transforming their communities.”

Peg Faber, an early participant in *Life in Christ*, recently reflected: “We have also seen a growing interest from other members of the parish. People trust that with our training from *Life in Christ* we will not lead them astray. The people who have attended Bible and Book Study start asking us two months in advance when the

next one is going to start. Last year we had our biggest group—around 20 joined us. We were thrilled!”

Nearly 60 million people live in rural communities throughout the United States. Slightly more than one-third of parishes are located in rural or “non-metropolitan” areas as designated by the U.S. Census. Many priests in rural communities are now ministering to two to four parishes and driving long distances to provide the sacraments to the faithful.

At the same time, many young couples with families are rediscovering the value of raising a family in a rural setting. Unfortunately, there are very few programs in the Church today that focus on revitalizing the faith of rural Catholics and equipping them with leadership skills to lead small group discussions in the Church’s teaching for the purpose of entering into a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church.

In June 2020, Bishop Steven issued a draft proposal to address these issues in Wyoming, especially in our mission parishes. In this draft, he made a call for the church to offer opportunities for formation and training for lay leaders. Enter Catholic Rural Life, who providentially received a grant from Wyoming Catholic Ministries to accomplish and fulfill this vision.

Thanks to this generous grant, the October retreat is offered free-of-charge, except for the individual room and board fees supporting Terra Sancta Retreat Center. This will be an in-person retreat with online attendance available as needed.

If you are interested in attending either in-person or on-line please call Diocese of Cheyenne Director of Pastoral Formation Joe Wotawa at 307-638-1530 or Fr. Andrew Duncan at St. Anthony’s, Guernsey, at 307-575-1743.

This program is under the sponsorship of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the direction of Bishops Cahill and Gruss.

The USCCB has designated an ad hoc Committee Against Racism that seeks to teach about and to witness to the intrinsic dignity of the human person as an antidote to the grave sin of racism. To learn more, go to the website at: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism>.

Moving forward with Diocese of Cheyenne communication. . .

Diana Marie Waggener, Director of Communications, Diocese of Cheyenne

When I came to work in the Chancery Office in October 2019, I left behind a comfortable position as the public relations person for the UW College of Arts and Sciences, where I worked for 20 years. I knew that I would face some challenges as a new employee—believe it or not, the commute from Laramie to Cheyenne is pretty harrowing in and of itself. I never could have guessed, however, that early in the New Year, the world would plunge into one of the most challenging times in modern history.

SARS-CoV-2, which causes the disease COVID-19, was first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, and the first laboratory-confirmed case in the United States was recognized on January 20, 2020. For most of us, it was one of many nightly news stories that we heard without much concern, but all of that changed on March 11 when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO). On March 13, a national emergency was declared in the United States, and March 16 was the last time I drove to Cheyenne for work. Since that time, because I am among those who are high-risk for contracting this novel coronavirus, I have worked from home, as have many other Americans. In fact, according to a recent Gallup Poll seven out of ten of us still are working from home. We are among the blessed because more than 1.5 million people have lost their jobs.

Early in the crisis, Pope Francis said that the COVID-19 pandemic offers a chance for creativity and positive change, and he urged us to reconnect with the “real world” and reject what he calls the “throwaway culture,” a society in which unwanted items and unwanted people, like the unborn, the elderly, and the poor, are discarded as waste.

I pondered Pope Francis’ words as I watched newscasts about New York City COVID-19 victims’ bodies in freezers awaiting burial, while some insisted that most of the dead were elderly people with underlying health issues, as if somehow that made the loss more acceptable. I pondered his words as the months went by and people found themselves wondering if they could pay their bills and put food on the table, while at the same time food banks and homeless shelters were stretched to their limits. I pondered his words as many businesses began to close permanently. I pondered his words as the COVID cases across Wyoming increased, while wearing masks in public became a bone of contention for many. I’m still pondering his words, and I’m waiting to find the creativity and positive change for which Pope Francis called.

Some days, I see glimpses of creativity in the work of medical professionals, business owners, educators, people who manage food banks and soup kitchens and homeless shelters,

many of our pastors, and other folks who come up with imaginative ways to serve those who are suffering. I’m still waiting for positive change, but I am hopeful that it is coming soon.

When the pandemic hit, the reality of unpreparedness was laid bare across all facets of society. Here in the Diocese of Cheyenne, the importance of communicating swift and accurate information was immediately evident, and we scrambled to do so as best we could. Yet, I was aware that our efforts were less-than perfect.

One step toward improved communication across the Diocese of Cheyenne is the development of a new website. When you visit the new website, you will find contact information for personnel who can best answer your questions; a Google Maps directory to parishes throughout the state, including contact information and Mass times; Safe Environment information; access to the *Wyoming Catholic Register*, the Bishop’s Blog, Diocese of Cheyenne media releases, Word on Fire videos, *Catholic News Service* videos, recorded messages from Bishop Steven Biegler and Pope Francis, daily readings in both English and Spanish, COVID-19 updates, and more.

As we move forward, I pledge to continue looking for ways to strengthen communications across this diocese and humbly ask for your prayers.

The Diocese of Cheyenne has new Website!
To check it out, go to: dioceseofcheyenne.org



The Roman Catholic
DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

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WELCOME TO THE DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

We the Catholic Community in the state of Wyoming, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrate the sacraments of salvation, and invite people into a personal relationship with Christ, through prayer, worship, and service of God and neighbor.



JULY 2020 DACA MEMO, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10 ...

What else is notable about the July 2020 DACA Memo?

While the July 2020 DACA Memo does not cancel the DACA program, it is notable since it signals the Trump Administration's intent to likely cancel the program. In the memo, Acting DHS Secretary Wolf notes that he is reviewing the DACA program in light of the June 18, 2020, Supreme Court decision. The memo outlines initial justification by the Trump Administration for its efforts to end the DACA program a second time in the future.

Why does the Catholic Church care about this issue?

Pope Francis has long spoken of the importance of family, in his address at the 2015 World Meeting of Families he said that, "family life is something worthwhile, and that a society grows stronger and better, it grows in beauty and it grows in truth, when it rises on the foundation of the family.

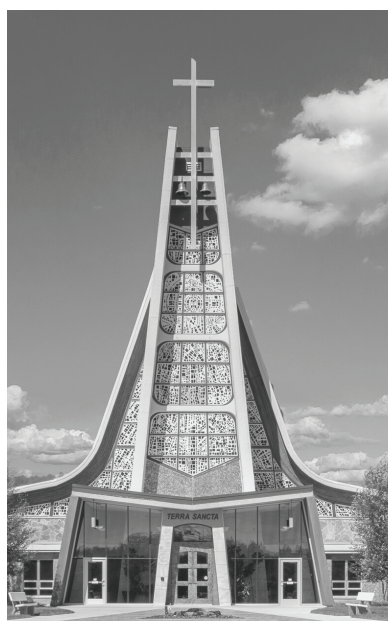
As Catholics, we believe that the dignity of every human being, particularly that of youth and families, must be protected. The Catholic Bishops have long supported Dreamers and their families and continue to do so. As Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the USCCB, and Bishop Mario Dorsonville, auxiliary bishop of Washington and chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, have stated: "The Catholic Church in the United States has long advocated for the Dreamers and we will continue to stand with them. Many were brought to this country as infants and young children and they have grown up in our schools and parishes and now are making important contributions in the Church and in almost every area of American life."

What can you do to protect Dreamers and DACA?

(1) Urge your Senators to pass legislation giving Dreamers immediate protections and longer term permanent protection in the form of a path to citizenship—Urge your Senators to support legislative protections for DACA recipients generally, and in the Dream Act and American Dream and Promise Act specifically.

(2) Pray for Dreamers—Pray for Dreamers during this difficult and uncertain time so that they and their families may feel supported, as well as feel the support of the Lord. Pray also that our elected leaders exhibit moral leadership and provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers.

(3) Help stand in solidarity—Access to trusted legal resources at this time is vital. Share resources from reputable sources such as CLINIC, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.



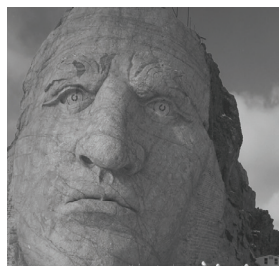
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Rapid City | South Dakota

605-716-0925 | stay@terrasancta.org | <http://terrasancta.org>

Living and Giving In Christ

2020

Unity through Diocesan Ministries

Thank you to those who already have responded generously to the 2020 appeal.

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

~ Saint Teresa of Avila

Every gift to Living and Giving supports the Body of Christ.



NEWS

Bishop Chairman comments on Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

July 10, 2020

Following the publication of a national news story on Catholic churches receiving loans through the Paycheck Protection Program, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, issued the following statement in response:

"The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental supplier of social services in the United States. Each year, our parishes, schools, and ministries serve millions of people in need, regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. The novel coronavirus only intensified the needs of the people we serve and the demand for our ministries. The loans we applied for enabled our essential ministries to continue to function in a time of national emergency.

"In addition, shutdown orders and economic fallout associated with the virus have affected everyone, including the thousands of Catholic ministries—churches, schools, healthcare, and social services—that employ

about 1 million people in the United States. These loans have been an essential lifeline to keep hundreds of thousands of employees on payroll, ensure families maintain their health insurance, and enable lay workers to continue serving their brothers and sisters during this crisis.

"The Paycheck Protection Program was designed to protect the jobs of Americans from all walks of life, regardless of whether they work for for-profit or non-profit employers, faith-based or secular.

"Despite all of this, more than 100 Catholic schools have announced that they plan to close, with hundreds more facing an uncertain future. Businesses, hospitals, schools, and churches all across the country are facing many of the exact same problems.

"We will continue advocating for everyone negatively affected by this terrible pandemic, praying for all the sick, for all who have died and are in mourning, and especially the poor and vulnerable at this time of great need."

Bishop Chairmen condemn acts of vandalism, destruction at Catholic sites

July 22, 2020-WASHINGTON

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Religious Liberty, and Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, issued the following statement in response to reports of increasing incidents of church vandalism and fires:

"In the last few weeks, we have witnessed, among other things, one church rammed with a car and set on fire, as well as statues of Jesus Christ and of the Virgin Mary defaced or even beheaded. An historic mission church has also been badly damaged by fire, and the cause is still under investigation.

"Whether those who committed these acts were troubled individuals

crying out for help or agents of hate seeking to intimidate, the attacks are signs of a society in need of healing.

"In those incidents where human actions are clear, the motives still are not. As we strain to understand the destruction of these holy symbols of selfless love and devotion, we pray for any who have caused it, and we remain vigilant against more of it.

"Our nation finds itself in an extraordinary hour of cultural conflict. The path forward must be through the compassion and understanding practiced and taught by Jesus and his Holy Mother. Let us contemplate, rather than destroy, images of these examples of God's love. Following the example of Our Lord, we respond to confusion with understanding and to hatred with love."

106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

To know in order to understand

"Particular concern must be shown for those displaced due to conflicts, natural disasters and persecution. All of them hope that we will have the courage to tear down the wall of 'comfortable and silent complicity' that worsens their helplessness; they are waiting for us to show them concern, compassion and devotion."

Forced like Jesus Christ to flee



Pope Francis has selected "Forced like Jesus Christ to Flee" as the theme for the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), which will be celebrated on **Sunday, September 27, 2020.**

His reflections originate in the experience of Jesus Christ and his parents as displaced persons and refugees.

To learn more, go to:
<https://migrants-refugees.va/>



Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service is a United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) initiative in collaboration with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). Running from March 25, 2020, to March 25, 2021, this nationwide effort celebrates the 25th anniversary year of *Evangelium vitae* and gives parishes, with the support of their pastors, opportunities to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need.

For this Year of Service, the USCCB Pro-Life Committee has developed educational, pastoral, and action-oriented parish resources, including tools for documenting an inventory of local resources for pregnant mothers in need; ideas for improving parish responses; prayers for building a culture of life and a civilization of love; and reflections on the teachings of *Evangelium vitae*, *Evangelii gaudium*, and *Laudato si*. To learn more and to locate resources, go to the website at: www.walkingwithmoms.com/.



Currently, Council of Catholic Women (CCW) in parishes across Wyoming help new and young mothers with various needs by donating baby items or offering financial assistance to pregnancy centers; giving new mothers baby blankets, a rosary, a book of prayers, or meals; donating funds and/or items for babies or mothers to crisis centers; and praying and/or walking with a mother experiencing difficulties.

NCCW Service Commission Chair Mary Ann Cummins, parish administrator at St. John the Baptist in Buffalo, is asking those

who are serving mothers in need to send her their action stories so that she can add those to her report to the bishops at the 2020 NCCW convention in August 2021. For more information or to share your service to moms in need, send email to: maryann.cummins4@gmail.com.

To learn more about the National Council of Catholic Women, visit the website at: www.nccw.org/.

COVID-19 Prayer of Solidarity

*For all who have contracted coronavirus,
we pray for care and healing.
For those who are particularly vulnerable,
we pray for safety and protection.
For all who experience fear or anxiety,
we pray for peace of mind and spirit.
For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between
food on the table or public safety,
we pray for policies that recognize their plight.
For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.
For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration
status, we pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.
For our brothers and sisters around the world,
we pray for shared solidarity.
For public officials and decision makers,
we pray for wisdom and guidance.
Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of
hope, comfort, and love to all.
Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord.
Amen.*

USCCB Office of Justice, Peace, and Human Development



**If you have been
abused or
victimized by
church personnel,**

Please believe there is hope and healing. We encourage you to come forward and make a report. Our diocesan victim assistance coordinator is available to help you obtain support for your needs.

If you suspect abuse of a minor, your first call should be to law enforcement or the Department of Family Services.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or an employee or volunteer of a parish or the Diocese of Cheyenne, contact:

Mary Adams

Victim Assistance Coordinator

307-220-485 or adamsmaryj@outlook.com

Please understand that the Diocese of Cheyenne is bound by civil and canon law to report sexual abuse of a minor to civil authorities. Anyone who believes that they have been sexually abused is strongly encouraged to report as well.



Diocese of Cheyenne Prayer for Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning

Loving Father, we praise you for sending your Son as the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep.
By the Light of your Holy Spirit, guide our pastoral planning. Open our minds to your vision and mission.
Refresh us with the spirit of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence,
and fear of the Lord.

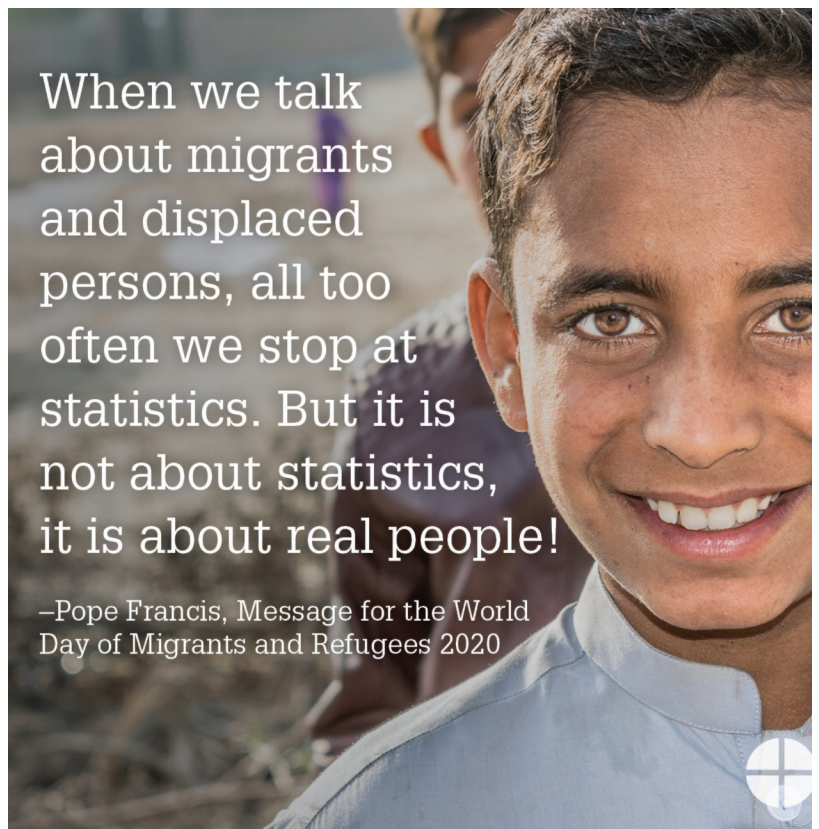
May the fire of your Spirit inflame the hearts of the disciples in the Diocese of Cheyenne.
Help us to be shepherds after the heart of Jesus, who came to seek out and save the lost.
May your Spirit impel us to make disciples of all nations.

As we recall how the Risen Lord commissioned Peter to “tend my sheep,” may we be mindful of the least brothers and sisters of Jesus; the hungry and homeless, the sick and sinners, prisoners, and immigrants.
Show us how to be a field hospital for those on the margins, like your Son who was sent “to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the suppressed go free.” (Luke 4:18)

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



In the midst of COVID-19, the work of the Church continues. Above, Bishop Steven Biegler blesses the holy oils during Chrism Mass July 29, 2020, at St. Patrick's in Casper. The holy oils then were distributed to parishes across the diocese where they are used to anoint the faithful throughout the year.



When we talk about migrants and displaced persons, all too often we stop at statistics. But it is not about statistics, it is about real people!

—Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2020

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2121 Capitol Avenue
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Managing Editor: Diana Marie Waggener
Diocese of Cheyenne
P.O. Box 1468
Cheyenne, WY 82003
Phone: 866-790-0014
Fax: 307-637-7936
www.dioceseofcheyenne.org