

WYOMING CATHOLIC REGISTER

Volume 63 | Issue 4 | December 2024



Hope does not disappoint

Bishop Steven Biegler

“**H**ope does not disappoint.” This is the theme of the Jubilee Year of Hope that Pope Francis has declared for 2025. It is taken from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, “Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5).

While introducing the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis wrote, “Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them

happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. Taking it as our guide, let us return to the message that the Apostle Paul wished to communicate to the Christians of Rome” (Bull of the Jubilee, *Spes Non Confundit*, 1).

Causes of Discouragement

It is easy to become discouraged. In our nation, division has deepened with the media fueling the split between political

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 . . .

Emmanuel: The reason for our hope, Page 6

Sharing the Good News Across the Diocese of Cheyenne, Pages 8 - 11

Toward creating a culture of protection and healing, Page 12

A Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy, Page 13

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ...



parties, while some communication on social media sours relationships among friends and family. Wars are raging and expanding into regional conflicts. The Church itself is often fraught with factions. The world needs signs of hope.

Then there are personal issues that darken our hearts. We can be preoccupied with past sins, failures in relationships, or anxiety about the future. We often wear ourselves out by mulling over past sins. There is nothing wrong with honestly confronting failures, but it is a dead end if we are stuck in the muck of our messy lives. We long for renewed hope in our personal lives.

Hope springs from divine love. This is a truth that I learned while studying theology, and it has proven true in the experience of counseling sinners. Once a person accepts the unconditional love of God, everything changes. Saint Paul described this dynamic so clearly, “Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). God’s gracious love incites new hope. This is the fruit to seek in the Jubilee Year 2025.

More Than Optimism

Medical experts promote the health benefits of positive thinking, which affects a person’s energy, cheerfulness, anxiety level, and satisfaction with overall life. Scientific evidence affirms the benefits of having a positive attitude. Yet, the divine gift of hope has an even more profound and holistic impact on the human person.

Some of the most hopeful people are those who have experienced the worst suffering. While positive thinking may have helped them to cope in their trials, it was divine hope that gave them patience and perseverance. In suffering, hope arises in our hearts because of the mystery of Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection at work deep within every baptized person.

Pope Francis wrote, “Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross: ‘For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life’ [Romans 5:19]. That life becomes manifest in our own life of faith, which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God’s grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit” (*Spes Non Confundit*, 3). The Jubilee is a time to stir into flame the love of Christ planted in our hearts at Baptism.

Born From Silence and Word

How can we live the paschal love more fully so that hope arises in our hearts? So that we will become a sign of hope for others? One of the surest ways is to take time for silence with the Word of God – every day. During the Jubilee Year, make a new commitment to be silent, allowing space for the Word of God.

Establish a lifestyle of silence. Be silent in nature. Take a walk in the park. Rest in the beauty and let God speak through creation. Drive through the countryside without any telephone calls, the radio, or music playing. Sit quietly in the church, but do not fill up the time with reciting prayers; dedicate the first 10-20 minutes to silence or meditate on a Scripture verse. Let the Lord speak first.

Slow down because hurrying is the death of restfulness and silence. Hurry is the enemy of hope. Ronald Rolheiser diagnosed the pathology of hurrying and constant distraction as he wrote, “Today a number of historical circumstances are ... conspiring to produce a climate within which it is difficult not just to think about God or to pray, but simply to have any interior depth whatsoever.”

He continues, “We are distracting ourselves into spiritual oblivion ... We are more busy than bad, more distracted than nonspiritual, and more interested in the movie theater, the sports stadium, and the shopping mall and the fantasy life they produce in us than we are in church. Pathological busyness, distraction, and restlessness are major blocks today within our spiritual lives” (*The Holy Longing*, pp. 31-33).

Slow down, be silent with the Word. This is absolutely critical for hope. If you would like help in establishing a lifestyle without hurry, you might read *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer. I found his book insightful and challenging.

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 . . .

Deanery Days of Retreat

During the Jubilee Year, we are planning five days of retreat, one in each deanery. The day will begin at 9 AM and close with Saturday evening anticipated Mass. Each day will be focused on a specific theme of hope. In the Bull for the Jubilee, Pope Francis describes signs of the times and the yearning of people for hope (cf. *Spes non Confundit*, 7-15).

Pope Francis identified “10 Hopes” to consider during the Jubilee: hope for peace over division, hope for enthusiasm for life and readiness to share it, hope for the openness to life and responsible parenthood, hope for prisoners through restorative justice, hope for the sick and those dedicated to their care, hope for youth and young adults, hope for migrants and refugees,

hope for the elderly, hope for the poor and the hungry, and hope for greater Christian unity.

Each retreat day will have a theme based on one of these “Hopes.” The first retreat will be February 15, 2025, in Hartmann Hall at the Cathedral in Cheyenne with the theme of hope for the elderly, sick, and those dedicated to their care.

Retreat days will be held in the other deaneries during June, July, September, and November. Watch for announcements in parish bulletins. The Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year will be at 4 PM Saturday, December 28, 2024, in the Cathedral of Saint Mary.



La esperanza no defrauda

Obispo Steven Biegler

“La esperanza no defrauda”. Este es el tema del Año Jubilar de la Esperanza que el Papa Francisco ha convocado para el año 2025. Está tomado de la Carta de San Pablo a los Romanos: “La esperanza no quedará defraudada, porque el amor de Dios ha sido derramado en nuestros corazones por el Espíritu Santo que nos ha sido dado” (Romanos 5,5).

En la introducción del Año Jubilar, el Papa Francisco escribió: “Encontramos con frecuencia personas desanimadas, que miran el futuro con escepticismo y pesimismo, como si nada pudiera ofrecerles felicidad. Que el Jubileo sea para todos ocasión de reavivar la esperanza. La Palabra de Dios nos ayuda a encontrar sus razones. Dejémonos conducir por lo que el apóstol Pablo escribió precisamente a los cristianos de Roma.” (Bula del Jubileo, *Spes non confundit*, 1).

Causas del desánimo

Es fácil desanimarse. En nuestra nación, la división se ha profundizado, los medios de comunicación alimentan la división entre los partidos políticos, mientras que algunas comunicaciones en las redes sociales agrían las relaciones entre amigos y familiares. Las guerras están en pleno apogeo y se están expandiendo hasta convertirse en conflictos regionales. La propia Iglesia a menudo está plagada de facciones. El mundo necesita señales de esperanza.

Luego están los asuntos personales que oscurecen nuestro corazón. Podemos estar preocupados por pecados pasados, fracasos en las relaciones o ansiedad por el futuro. A menudo nos desgastamos dándole vueltas a los pecados pasados. No hay nada de malo en enfrentar honestamente los fracasos, pero es un callejón sin salida si estamos atrapados en el lodo de nuestras vidas desordenadas. Anhelamos una esperanza renovada en nuestras vidas personales.

La esperanza brota del amor divino. Esta es una verdad que aprendí mientras estudiaba teología, y ha demostrado ser cierta en la experiencia de aconsejar a los pecadores. Una vez que una persona acepta el amor incondicional de Dios, todo cambia. San Pablo describió esta dinámica tan claramente: “La esperanza no quedará defraudada, porque el amor de Dios ha sido derramado en nuestros corazones por el Espíritu Santo que nos ha sido dado” (Romanos 5,5). El amor misericordioso de Dios incita a una nueva esperanza. Este es el fruto que hay que buscar en el Año Jubilar 2025.

Más que optimismo

Los expertos médicos promueven los beneficios para la salud del pensamiento positivo, que afecta la energía, la alegría, el nivel de ansiedad y la satisfacción con la vida en general de una persona. La evidencia científica confirma los beneficios de tener una actitud positiva. Sin embargo, el don divino de la esperanza tiene un impacto aún más profundo y holístico en la persona humana.

Algunas de las personas más esperanzadas son aquellas que han experimentado el peor sufrimiento. Si bien el pensamiento positivo puede haberlas ayudado a sobrellevar sus pruebas, fue la esperanza divina la que les dio paciencia y perseverancia. En el sufrimiento, la esperanza surge en nuestros corazones debido al misterio del sufrimiento, la muerte y la resurrección de Cristo que obra en lo profundo de cada persona bautizada.

El Papa Francisco escribió: “La esperanza efectivamente nace del amor y se funda en el amor que brota del Corazón de Jesús traspasado en la cruz: «Porque si siendo enemigos, fuimos reconciliados con Dios por la muerte de su Hijo, mucho más ahora que estamos reconciliados, seremos salvados por su vida» (Rm 5,10). Y su vida se manifiesta en nuestra vida de fe, que

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 4 . . .

VIENE DE LA PÁGINA 3. . .



empieza con el Bautismo; se desarrolla en la docilidad a la gracia de Dios y, por tanto, está animada por la esperanza, que se renueva siempre y se hace inquebrantable por la acción del Espíritu Santo (Romanos 5,19). Esta vida se manifiesta en nuestra propia vida de fe, que comienza con el Bautismo, crece en la apertura a la gracia de Dios y está animada por una

esperanza que se renueva constantemente y se confirma por la acción del Espíritu Santo” (*Spes Non Confundit*, 3). El Jubileo es un tiempo para reavivar el amor de Cristo sembrado en nuestros corazones en el Bautismo.

Nacido del silencio y la palabra

¿Cómo podemos vivir más plenamente el amor pascual para que la esperanza surja en nuestros corazones y seamos un signo de esperanza para los demás? Una de las formas más seguras es tomarnos un tiempo de silencio con la Palabra de Dios, todos los días. Durante el Año Jubilar, asumamos un nuevo compromiso de estar en silencio, dejando espacio para la Palabra de Dios.

Establezca un estilo de vida de silencio. Esté en silencio en la naturaleza. Dé un paseo por el parque. Descanse en la belleza y deje que Dios hable a través de la creación. Conduzca por el campo sin llamadas telefónicas, sin la radio ni música. Siéntese tranquilamente en la iglesia, pero no llene el tiempo recitando oraciones; dedique los primeros 10 a 20 minutos al silencio o a meditar sobre un versículo de las Escrituras. Deje que el Señor hable primero.

Disminuya el ritmo, porque la prisa es la muerte de la tranquilidad y el silencio. La prisa es enemiga de la esperanza. Ronald Rolheiser diagnosticó la patología de la prisa y la distracción constante al escribir: “Hoy en día, una serie de circunstancias históricas están... conspirando para producir un clima en el que es difícil no sólo pensar en Dios o rezar, sino simplemente tener alguna profundidad interior”.

Continúa diciendo: “Nos estamos distraendo hasta el olvido espiritual... Estamos más ocupados que mal, más distraídos que no espirituales, y más interesados en el cine, el estadio deportivo, el centro comercial y la vida de fantasía que producen en nosotros que en la iglesia. El ajeteo patológico, la distracción y la inquietud son hoy en día grandes obstáculos en nuestra vida espiritual” (*El Santo Anheló*, págs. 31-33).


Disminuya la velocidad, permanezca en silencio con la Palabra. Esto es absolutamente fundamental para la esperanza. Si desea ayuda para establecer un estilo de vida sin prisas, puede leer *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* (La eliminación despiadada de la prisa) de John Mark Comer. Su libro me pareció revelador y estimulante.

Días de retiro en los decanatos

Durante el Año Jubilar, estamos planeando cinco días de retiro, uno en cada decanato. El día comenzará a las 9 a. m. y terminará con la Misa anticipada del sábado por la noche. Cada día se centrará en un tema específico de esperanza. En la Bula para el Jubileo, el Papa Francisco describe los signos de los tiempos y el anhelo de esperanza de la gente (cf. *Spes non Confundit*, 7-15).

El Papa Francisco identificó “10 esperanzas” para considerar durante el Jubileo: esperanza de paz por encima de la división, esperanza de entusiasmo por la vida y disposición a compartirla, esperanza de apertura a la vida y paternidad responsable, esperanza para los prisioneros a través de la justicia restaurativa, esperanza para los enfermos y aquellos dedicados a su cuidado, esperanza para los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes, esperanza para los migrantes y refugiados, esperanza para los ancianos, esperanza para los pobres y hambrientos, y esperanza de una mayor unidad cristiana.

Cada día de retiro tendrá un tema basado en una de estas “Esperanzas”. El primer retiro será el 15 de febrero de 2025, en Hartmann Hall en la Catedral de Cheyenne con el tema de la esperanza para los ancianos, los enfermos y aquellos dedicados a su cuidado.

Los retiros se realizarán en los demás decanatos durante junio, julio, septiembre y noviembre. Esté atento a los anuncios en los boletines parroquiales. La Misa de Apertura del Año Jubilar será a las 4:00 p. m. el sábado 28 de diciembre de 2024 en la Catedral de Santa María. 

Wyoming Catholic Register is the official newspaper of the Diocese of Cheyenne.

Periodical postage is paid at Cheyenne, WY, and additional offices (USPS 696-960 ISSN 076-5580).

Please send address changes to: Wyoming Catholic Register
2121 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001

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



A spiritual act

Peg Louiselle, Executive Director, Wyoming Catholic Ministries Foundation

In a society where we are bombarded with requests for charitable donations, how should we respond? Our first response might be one of annoyance, or perhaps we have become accomplished at delivering a kind version of “no, thanks.” Sometimes, we are moved to say “yes,” but why? Perhaps it is our response to Christ’s call to be united in him.

The fourth core value of *Vision 2030* is “Stewardship – Responding to God’s call to be coworkers in his vineyard – in the work of creation, redemption, and sanctification.” An important part of Christian stewardship also involves sharing the gifts with which God has blessed each of us, and when we frame our understanding of charitable giving around that, our response to a request to give becomes an easy “Yes.”

Charitable giving is the cornerstone of the Catholic Church’s ability to serve those in need, educate our children, strengthen our parishes, care for our priests and seminarians, and form missionary disciples. These actions steward the Church and the world.

Some of us are blessed with much treasure, and we donate to charitable works as our way of giving back. Others are blessed with just enough or barely enough, and they give with trust in God. Tithing, although not fully understood or embraced by all, simply is freely returning the “first fruits” of what we have received. Those who tithe faithfully will tell you that there is tremendous freedom and fulfillment in consistently returning our “first fruits” to the giver of all. Tithing puts earthly things into proper context.

Giving, in this sense, is not merely a financial transaction but a spiritual act—an offering of one’s financial blessings to help further God’s work on earth.

One of the most profound reflections on the value of giving comes from the late Catholic theologian and spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen, who wrote, “When we give, we become part of a larger story, a story that is not ours alone, but one that belongs to God, and to all of humanity.” This insight speaks to the heart of the Church’s

approach to charitable giving as an act of spiritual participation in God’s work on earth. Nouwen’s words underscore the idea that financial support for the Church’s ministries is not a business transaction, but as a profound way to express faith, love, and solidarity with our neighbor.

The *Communion for Mission* campaign will launch in that spirit. The Diocese of Cheyenne, its parishes and missions, its partner ministries, and Wyoming Catholic Ministries Foundation (WCMF) are working in collaboration to raise awareness and funds for our collective ministries (\$26M over 5 years, plus \$10M in legacy gifts).

Henri Nouwen wrote, “The gift of giving helps us to see that the world is not a place where we have to fight for ourselves, but a place where we can trust that God will provide for us and, in turn, invite us to care for one another.” When we live in abundance, placing our trust in God’s providence, we let go of scarcity, hoarding, competing, and scratching for what is “ours.” We are inspired to give generously, creating a legacy of faith, hope, and charity that endures.

In this spirit, WCMF mailed its collective End of Year Appeal in early November. With this one appeal you can give to one, some, or all of our partner ministries. Each organization will still conduct its own signature appeals during the year, but, at the end of the year, we are combining several of our efforts into one consolidated request for your convenience, and as a testimony of unity.

The End of Year Appeal, *Living and Giving in Christ: Unity for Diocesan Ministries* annual appeal, and other annual appeals are different from the upcoming *Communion for Mission* campaign. *Communion for Mission* is a five-year campaign that seeks to fund the future of the Diocese of Cheyenne and its partner organizations. Other appeals support current, ongoing needs and ministries.

From the earliest days of Christianity, the faithful came together to share their resources to further the mission of the Christ. Today, this tradition continues in countless ways throughout the Diocese of Cheyenne.

Thank you for your thoughtful, prayerful acts of love through your response to these appeals. May your giving provide you with profound peace and confident assurance that you are in communion for mission, one body in Christ, on one paschal journey.



Courtesy Photo



All things of this world are gifts of
God presented to us so that
we can know God more easily and
make a return of *love*
more readily.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Emmanuel: The reason for our hope

Deacon Mike Leman, Catholic Social Teaching and Legislative Liaison, Diocese of Cheyenne

Advent is the season of anticipation and waiting for the coming of the Christ child; a time when there is more darkness in our days than there is light. Our memory serves to remind us of the coming of the light – that the God who was and the God who is, is the same God who always will be, and his name is Emmanuel – God is with us.

Our liturgical memory retells the history of our faith; that this God sought to enter into space and time to redeem and bring salvation to humanity, and His Blessed Mother and Blessed Saint Joseph had to intervene to protect Emmanuel from those earthly powers who sought to extinguish his light. And the liturgy beckons to each Christian to see how the particular circumstances of his or her life are a participation in that event, which the Church calls salvation history.

Personally, this Advent comes at the end of another season of waiting, as my wife and I have been anticipating the birth of our first grandchild. She was born to our daughter and son-in-law early in the morning the day before I submitted this column. She arrived five days past her due date, and we welcomed her with great joy! She reminded us that our timing isn't always in sync with what God has planned.

Since her birth comes on the heels of the U.S. elections, God's timing intrigues me. American citizens, once again, have been promised that what awaits them is either a Utopian-like America or an America that will soon meet its demise. If we reflect on our recent national memory, we recall that we have been here before. I don't say this to suggest, in any way, that we don't have serious challenges in the days ahead. I say it, rather, to propose that what is more important than the challenges that inevitably will come, is the people whom we will decide to be in light of them.

Will we be prideful prophets of doom, who hope our world suffers the worst of our predictions, so that we might say, "We told you so?" Or will we decide to work for the betterment of our world regardless of the challenges that come and regardless of which politician happens to be leading our country at the moment?

As I have reflected on this question, I have begun to wonder how our answers to these questions will impact the way our granddaughter's generation will be welcomed into the world. How might political disappointments and anxieties influence the family atmosphere into which this generation is born?

These reflections reminded me of an old black and white picture of my mom and her family in Spain. The photo was taken in the Spring of 1939, just months after the Spanish Civil War had ended.

Over the course of my life, I have been to Spain five times to visit. My grandfather died when I was very young, so I have only a vague memory of him. There was a treacherously steep stairway in my grandparents' house, and I remember my mom once slipped and fell down the stairs and was badly injured. As a result, as a 3-year-old, I was prohibited from going up or down those stairs by myself. I remember my grandfather calling to me from the bottom of the stairs every morning and laughing as I impatiently waited for my mom to help me down the stairs so I could run to him.

My grandmother died much later in life, so I got to know her more, even though I never learned Spanish until I was older.

Unfortunately, by then she suffered from severe dementia. Still, I have fond memories of my aunt telling her, again, and again, that I was her grandson, and my grandmother suddenly grabbing my face and hugging and kissing me like I was her only grandchild.

My mom had no memories of "La Guerra" as the civil war is referred to in Spain. But she grew up hearing stories of how her town was terrorized by both the fascists, who were supported by Nazi Germany, and the Socialists, who were supported by the Soviet Union.

Most of the town's people just wanted to live in peace, but the possibility of being accused by a neighbor of being a sympathizer to either the fascists or to the socialists created

deep-seated fear and division among friends and family.

This fear mongering wasn't done to affect the outcome of an election. People on both sides were accused of supporting the Nazis or the socialists, and people on both sides were tortured and killed as a result of those accusations. What kind of courage must it have taken to survive such a time? I find it hard to imagine.

The more I reflect, the more that black and white picture fascinates me.

If I could, I would ask both my grandfather and my grandmother many questions, but everyone in the picture has gone to their eternal reward. My grandfather and grandmother have passed on; both of my uncles and my aunt have passed on; and my mom passed on four years ago. Perhaps you've noticed that the numbers don't add up. My aunt and uncles make three children and my mom would make the fourth, but there are only three children visible in the photograph.

Although you can't see my mom in the photo, she is there. Take a close look at my grandmother. Family history recounts that even back then, my grandmother had a smile that could light up a



*Family Photo, Spain, Circa 1939.
Courtesy of Deacon Mike Leman*

room, but the last thing any mother wants to do when experiencing morning sickness is to take a family photo.

I am a deacon in the Catholic Church by God's call and grace, but my grandfather and grandmother had a critical role in ensuring that the faith was passed down to me. I wish I could ask them, but I believe their own participation in the liturgy gave them assurances that no matter how dark the days of the Spanish Civil War would become, they had an even more profound reason to hope. They must have realized in some mysterious way that they too were playing a part in salvation history.

As I held my granddaughter for the first time, I was overwhelmed by the sense of courage that my daughter and son-in-law have. They decided to start a family at a time when many feel they do not have a reason to hope.

In his *Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025*, Pope Francis writes, "A number of countries are experiencing an alarming decline in the birthrate as a result of today's frenetic pace, fears about the future, the lack of job security and adequate social policies, and social models whose agenda is dictated by the quest for profit rather than concern for relationships."

He continues, "*For the desire of young people to give birth to new sons and daughters* as a sign of the fruitfulness of their love ensures

a future for every society. This is a matter of hope: it is born of hope and it generates hope" (n. 9).

I don't know what the future holds anymore than the next person, but when I look at that old picture, I do know that Emmanuel has always been, is now, and will always be with his people. No matter the challenges we face in the months and years ahead, we have a responsibility to the faith that our ancestors have passed onto us, and to the generations ahead, to be a people of hope.



Prayer for Unity, to Overcome Division

*Christ Jesus,
who gave yourself for the good of all,
we come before you
as brothers and sisters
but we are divided
and at times, even hostile--
tearing one another down.
We approach the altar unworthily
and ask for your forgiveness.*

*Move us, instead, towards
Encounter
listening
dialogue
reconciliation, and
a commitment to build your kingdom
for the good of all.*

*Heal us, restore us,
unite your divided family, Lord.
Through the power of the Eucharist, overcome our divisions.
Give us sincere hearts that
make us open, not closed,
and willing to encounter,
ready to listen.*

*In your broken body, given for all, may we find unity
and peace in you.
Amen.*

Inspired by the reflections of Pope Benedict XVI in *Sacramentum Caritatis (The Sacrament of Charity)*, no. 89.
Copyright 2022, USCCB

Catholic Social Teaching Leads to Social Justice!

Three Principles of Catholic Social Teaching: Human Dignity, Solidarity, Subsidiarity

To learn more, go to the Diocese of Cheyenne website at: <https://dcwy.org/catholic-social-teaching>

Sharing the Good News Across the Diocese of Cheyenne

Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary with a Living Rosary

Gemma Szott, Administrative Assistant, Saint Laurence O'Toole, Laramie

On Monday, October 7, 2024, Saint Laurence O'Toole parish, Laramie, celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary with a special Candlelight Living Rosary.

Held in the prayer garden, the Rosary was led by Father Jaimon Dominic, pastor of Saint Laurence O'Toole, and nearly 55 parishioners from both Saint Laurence and Saint Paul's Newman Center (Laramie) prayed together in the dark of the evening, while holding lit votive candles.

The prayer intention for the Rosary was for peace in the Middle East, in keeping with Pope Francis' worldwide request to pray for peace in this ravaged area of the world.

Director of Faith Formation Eduardo Saenz, Saint Laurence, presented a brief history of the Rosary, including the origins of the feast. He related the struggle for peace in 1571 – when the feast was first established – to current events throughout the world. This brief history of the Rosary was particularly helpful to the OCIA candidates who were present.

Each candle signified the recitation of one Hail Mary. Between each set of ten, a much larger candle, held by one participant, was lit as each Our Father was prayed.

Feedback about this beautiful evening was positive, and it encouraged in many participants a desire to experience more bi-parish prayer gatherings. The hand of God was made evident in the Rosary's success, as the needed number of people for the rosary beads were present, and the few extra people prayed without candles.

Some miracles change the course of history such as the victory at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. Other miracles are small, like filling up a 55-person Living Rosary on short notice. All miracles, however, are breathtaking.

Thank you, Our Lady of the Rosary!
Thank you, Lord Jesus!



Photos Courtesy of Gemma Szott

Holy Name Church builds a new altar

Jess Yeigh, Facilities Manager, Holy Name Church, Sheridan

*“Don’t make something unless it is both necessary and useful; but if it is both necessary and useful, don’t hesitate to make it beautiful.”
The Shaker Design Philosophy*

Holy Name Church recently found it necessary to replace the Altar, which was damaged more than 20 years ago in a misguided act of vandalism that damaged several pieces of furniture in the sanctuary, but most dire was the altar.

Through the passage of time, the original defacement to the altar worsened, and, during cold and hot seasonal changes, the damage escalated as the stone expanded and contracted. In fall 2022, a piece of the original marble fell away and more threatened to follow. With no way of repairing the existing altar, installed in 1974, the time had come for replacement.

A decision was made to begin the process of building a new altar. Many hours of careful thought and consideration followed. A design both appropriate for the architecture of Holy Name’s sanctuary and in line with current ecclesiastical and liturgical thought was eventually decided upon.

Canon Law 1236 §1. states, “According to the traditional practice of the Church, the table of a fixed altar is to be of stone, and indeed of a single natural stone. Nevertheless, another worthy and solid material can also be used in the judgment of the conference of bishops. The supports or base, however, can be made of any noble material.”



Photo courtesy of Tom Redle and Julie Este

With these guidelines, the selection of quarter sawn white oak was made for the stipes (the base). In this case, the parish was fortunate to have access to lumber from a single 500-year-old oak tree that had been harvested in Minnesota. This was nearly all AAA quality, which is extremely rare, and, in this case, an excellent match for the existing interior paneling and pews of the church, all of which are constructed of oak.

Once oak was chosen for the stipes, the search for an appropriate material for the mensa (altar top) began. Holy Name was again blessed to find a beautiful slab of granite with a black background and deep brown and white quartz veining that complemented other materials within the sanctuary perfectly.

Design and material selected, the building process began in earnest; a local carpenter began construction. With such an important project, a method of traditional joinery seemed appropriate. No nails were used in the framing. All the joinery of the frame consisted of hand-cut mortise and tenon work and sliding dovetails. The entire surface was paneled over with white oak, and the plinth and corbel dovetailed together for strength and longevity. A two-tone approach would give greater depth, so the plinth and corbel were ebonized (a process that darkens wood to make it look like ebony). This involves a very old method where steel wool is dissolved in vinegar and the resulting solution is applied to oak, causing a chemical reaction that turns the wood black and yet the wood’s grain remains visible. After ebonizing, the entire surface received approximately 12 coats of tung oil. Constructing the altar took a total of 162 hours.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10...

Parish and School Updates Always Are Welcome!

Tell us how your parish or school is responding to God’s call to be coworkers in his vineyard.

For more information or to submit your update, send email to Diana Marie Waggener
dwaggener@dcwy.org.

Sharing the Good News Across the Diocese of Cheyenne

HOLY NAME CHURCH BUILDS A NEW ALTAR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9 ...



Pictured above is the corner on the original altar where the marble fell off. Photo courtesy of Tom Redle and Julie Este



The hard work of dismantling the damaged altar took many willing hands. Photo courtesy of Tom Redle and Julie Este



Bishop Steven anoints the new altar with Chrism, making the altar a symbol of Christ. Photo courtesy of Tom Redle and Julie Este

The stone mensa was cut and carved, and, by May 2024, the altar was ready for installation.

The process of organizing the removal of the existing altar and consecration of the new altar was scheduled. This involved the help of many parishioners and, eventually, Bishop Steven, who graciously placed the dedication of Holy Name's new altar on his schedule.

Seeing the people of Sheridan come together to facilitate the final step was the

most powerful part of this process. After the demolition of the original altar, which was more than 2000 pounds, the careful removal of the stone and its eventual burial seemed a minor task. With this Herculean task complete, the new altar was installed, and we were ready for the final step.

The dedication of the altar was held June 22, 2024. The ceremony was beautiful and carried out with great joy and reverence, and all those who attended were moved by both the importance of the Mass, as well as the thoughtful manner in which this

undertaking occurred. As important as the ceremony was to the parishioners of Holy Name, it also was a milestone for Bishop Steven, as such an event is rare.

The Shaker Design Philosophy has been fulfilled, and what made it most "beautiful" was our lovely community coming together to fulfill Holy Name Church's need.

Rawlins couple sets an example of discipleship

Mary Kay Albrechtson, President, Saint Vincent de Paul, Rawlins



In spring 2024, GT and Sarah Larson received a plaque from the Wyoming Hunger Initiative for their 30-plus years of volunteering with Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Rawlins.

GT and Sarah have volunteered at the Food Pantry weekly (and sometimes daily) to distribute food to those most in need. The Wyoming weather never stopped them from serving others, and, even during the COVID-19 lock down in 2020, GT and Sarah refused to quit volunteering.

Pictured at left: GT and Sarah Larson and Reverend Florante Marcelo, pastor of Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Rawlins, hold the Hunger Initiative plaque. Father Florante serves as the spiritual director for Saint Vincent de Paul.

Mary Kay Albrechtson photo

The story of Saint Hubert Mission Church and its happy ending

Sue Myers, Buffalo, Saint John the Baptist, Buffalo/Saint Hubert, Kaycee

Along a quiet stretch of highway in the Sussex Valley ten miles east of Kaycee, sits a small church with a sign that reads: “ST. HUBERT’S CATHOLIC CHURCH.”

The church is flanked on three sides by open fields in which antelope graze beside domestic horses. The south side runs along the Sussex highway, but just beyond are hay fields nourished by water from the nearby river. For nearly 57 years, Catholics of southern Johnson County have attended this church.

Once home of the Sutton school, the building was vacated and unused for years. Time is no friend to an empty building and this one was in bad shape; however, Reverend John Cody from Saint Anthony parish in Casper saw possibility in that building. At the time, Catholics in the Kaycee area were attending Mass in any available building, and Father Cody, who was living in Midwest and serving both the mission church there and in Kaycee, determined that turning that building into a church would make it easier for him to care for his parishioners.

After securing the support of the congregation (approximately 20 families), the next step was to buy the property, which included the old schoolhouse and the 68 acres of land on which it sat. A parish committee met with the owners, Charley and Clarice Mayor, with a proposal to purchase the property, but Mr. Mayor was not interested; however, he did agree to a long-term lease.

Father Cody immediately began working toward the goal of providing the faithful in Kaycee their own place of worship. Parishioners soon realized that, in addition to being a dedicated priest, Father Cody also was a skilled carpenter, handyman, and crew leader. A fund-raising committee assisted with the expenses. As the project neared completion, church families pitched in to scrub, paint and polish, and provide for other necessities, while Father Cody contacted priests across the Diocese of Cheyenne, offering to take any used church fixtures that they no longer used. He obtained the needed items.

The final hurdle in the quest for the Kaycee community faithful to have their own church was met on May 16, 1957, when a Warranty Deed was filed by Charley Mayor in which Saint Hubert Church became owner of the property with the stipulation that “for so long as the same is used by the Grantee for general church purposes, but when such use is discontinued, the land shall revert to the Grantors.”



Courtesy Photo

The name “Saint Hubert’s” was chosen by future church members to honor Bishop Hubert M. Newell. Bishop Newell returned the honor as celebrant at the church’s dedication ceremony.

In Fall 1967, Father Cody moved to Saint Hubert to live, making a tiny one-room apartment in the north end of the church; thus, becoming the parish’s first and last resident priest. Unknown to his parishioners, Father Cody was terminally ill and had received permission by the bishop to live at Saint Hubert as long as he was able. In February 1968, he left the diocese to spend his final days with his sister in Iowa.

For a few weeks after Father Cody left, the church was in limbo. Eventually, the bishop decreed that Saint Hubert would become a mission church linked with Saint John the Baptist Church, which continues today.

Reverend James Powers, pastor of Saint John the Baptist Church, was reassigned to Saint Anthony in Casper. He was succeeded by Father James Ruddy, who found that the newly-installed indoor plumbing could not survive the cold winter; the pipes froze and broke.

For a brief period, Mass was celebrated in the Kaycee Methodist Church, but the final decision was to celebrate Mass at Saint Hubert, no matter what! Through the years, different priests made minor changes like exchanging pews for chairs and chairs for pews. Only one priest, Reverend Joe Daly, decided to restore the indoor plumbing – only to have the pipes freeze and burst that winter.

The rustic church continued to be a spiritual and social meeting place for Catholics in southern Johnson County. It was faithfully attended to by each Saint John the Baptist pastor, with Mass celebrated every first and third Sunday of the month.

Although the idea of updating the church was tossed around at various times, nothing happened, and no solution to the plumbing problem was found. After Father Jim Heiser became pastor of Saint John the Baptist in 2022, bringing Saint Hubert up to date became a challenge, as well as a way of recognizing its parishioners for their faithfulness.

Father Jim consulted with a member of the Saint John the Baptist Board of Directors Phil Gonzales, who then volunteered his time and talents to address whatever problems existed with Saint Hubert’s church building. The two then met with Saint Hubert parishioners and with Saint John the Baptist Finance and Parish Councils to determine what kind of financial support the proposed project would receive. Once the project was approved, preliminary work began.

In Spring 2023, Gonzales, his co-worker Jeremy Turk, and a few volunteers tore into the church, gutting the interior down to the framework. They found that the walls, which had no insulation, were heavily infested with mice, and, in some places, were lined with abandoned honeybee hives. Gonzales and his team worked steadily throughout the summer to completely mitigate and upgrade the interior of the church building.

The work now is complete, and Masses are held the first and third Sunday of each month at 2 p.m.

Toward creating a culture of protection and healing

Teresa M. Klatka, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Diocese of Cheyenne

In 2022, the Diocese of Cheyenne offered three private screenings of the documentary film, *Procession*, which tells the stories of six survivors of sexual abuse by clergy. Parishes that hosted screenings were Holy Name Church (Sheridan), Church of the Holy Trinity (Cheyenne), and Saint Paul's Newman Center (Laramie). The intention of the Diocese of Cheyenne was that these gatherings would be for the family of the Catholic Church, so that members could process their concerns and questions, while focusing on the healing of victims, protecting the children, and continued transparency in the Church.

I attended the gathering at Saint Paul's Newman Center where Bishop Steven voiced his longing for the Catholic Church to be a place of healing from the pain caused by this abuse. His respectful response to allegations, the efforts to engage with victims and their families, and his willingness to participate in parish discussions demonstrate this commitment. He is not alone in his endeavors.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was first published in 2002 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to establish principles and procedures both to ensure a safe environment for children and youth as well as to provide a path for reconciliation. Recent activities and findings indicate growth toward creating a culture of protection and healing in the Catholic Church.

In 2011 and in years following, dioceses and eparchies whose bishops and eparchs are members of the USCCB were asked to participate in an audit conducted by an independent entity, Stonebridge Business Partners, with the objective of ensuring the proper implementation of the Charter.

The results of the 2023 audit are encouraging. Of the 196 dioceses and eparchies asked to participate, all of them contributed for the first time. The 2023 Charter Audit results validated that the Diocese of Cheyenne is in full compliance with the Charter. The Audit results can be found on the Diocese of Cheyenne webpage:

(dcwy.org/resources-for-victims-survivors-and-others).

In addition, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., conducts an annual survey in which the Diocese of Cheyenne is a participant. Last year's results indicate that the number of historical allegations has been steadily decreasing nationwide. The overwhelming majority of allegations occurred or began in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The numbers indicate the progress the U.S. Catholic Church has made in both attending to the needs of the survivors of sexual abuse, as well as safeguarding the children, youth, and vulnerable adults in the present time.

Both adults and minors in Catholic schools and parishes who have participated in Safe Environment programs and procedures are witnesses to the active incorporation of articles of the Charter. The leadership of the Diocese of Cheyenne has

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE...



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:

Teresa Klatka Victim Assistance Coordinator 307-705-3869

FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Jean Chrostoski, Chancellor, jchrostoski@dcwy.org or 307-638-1530, ext. 105

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.

Si ha sido abusado o victimizado por personal de la iglesia,

Por favor crea que hay esperanza y sanación. Le animamos a que se presente y haga un reporte. Nuestra coordinadora diocesana de asistencia a víctimas está disponible para ayudarle a obtener apoyo para sus necesidades.

Si sospecha abuso hacia un menor, su primera llamada debe ser a la policía o al Departamento de Servicios para la Familia.

Si usted o alguien que conoce ha sido víctima de abuso sexual por parte de un miembro del clero o un empleado o voluntario de una parroquia en la Diócesis de Cheyenne, comuníquese con:

Teresa Klatka Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas 307-705-3869

PARA OBTENER ASISTENCIA INMEDIATA, COMUNÍQUESE CON:

Jean Chrostoski, Canciller, jchrostoski@dcwy.org o 307-638-1530, ext. 105

Por favor, comprenda que la Diócesis de Cheyenne está obligada por leyes civiles y canónicas a reportar el abuso sexual de un menor a las autoridades civiles. Se recomienda encarecidamente a cualesquiera personas que crean que han sido víctimas de abuso sexual que se lo reporten también.



The Diocese of Cheyenne presents A Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy



Rome | Assisi | Spoleto | Nettuno

12 DAYS - 10 NIGHTS | OCTOBER 17 - 28, 2025

LED BY THE MOST REVEREND STEVEN BIEGLER, DD, STL



Rome Highlights: the Basilicas of St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls, and St. John Laterean, the Cathedral of Rome; Trevi Fountain; the Pantheon; Piazza Navona; and the Colosseum. **Assisi Highlights:** the Basilicas of St. Mary of the Angels, St. Francis, St. Clare; and the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis. **Spoleto Highlights:** a guided tour of the Roman theater, the Rocca Albornoza papal fortress, Tower Bridge, Mascherone Fountain, Market Square, and the Cathedral. **Nettuno Highlight:** the Shrine of St. Maria Goretti.

Pilgrimage is an experience of conversion, of transforming one's very being to conform it to the holiness of God.
~Pope Francis



For a complete Itinerary and registration, send email to: Mary Schneider at Bishop@dcwy.org

TOWARD CREATING A CULTURE OF PROTECTION AND HEALING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12 ...

embraced this mission by changing and reinforcing many processes and policies directly related to work with minors and vulnerable adults. Most recently were the revisions to the document *Norms for Responding to Reports of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults, Revised Edition June 29, 2023* (found at: dcwy.org/safe-environment).

The USCCB is undergoing its fourth revision of the Charter to provide better guidance based upon the research and the input of experts, the knowledge of trauma-informed care, and the inclusion of the voice of survivors and to ensure that the Church does not fall into complacency. These revisions promote accountability among Church leaders and invite all the faithful to cooperate in the mission to protect the vulnerable and heal victims/survivors of sexual abuse.

Some parish personnel encounter resistance among the faithful to submit to background checks or safe environment trainings. Deacon Thomas Berg, Junior Chancellor, Diocese of Columbus, reminds us that: “the Church is a mission organization and we want to go about our mission in a business and professional way.”

The mission of ensuring the safety of minors and vulnerable adults is spiritual in nature and can be recognized in the Scriptures in Jesus’ command to provide special care for widows and orphans; or when Jesus calls us, in parables, to be prepared; or when Saint Paul, in 1 Thessalonians, reminds us that “we are children of the day and children of the light.”

Transparency and communication are vital. There is an explicit obligation for all

individuals to report any kind of grooming or questionable behavior no matter how small. The attitude and awareness of clergy, staff, and volunteers, as well as those in the pews can impact the entire culture of a parish.

The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection along with the National Review Board are persistent in their activities to promote a culture of protection and healing. They offer an example of what it means to protect the position of the most vulnerable, create a space for healing, and become – in the prayerful words of Saint Francis – instruments of peace.

CCWyo invites you to prepare your heart and home this Advent

Katie Cassidy, Communication Manager, Catholic Charities of Wyoming (CCWyo)

Years ago, I received a Christmas card from a friend serving as a youth minister in urban St. Louis, Missouri. The card was hand-drawn by one of the students in her youth group. Pictured was a man, woman, and child, huddled together in the snow, waiting at the inner-city bus stop, wrapped in blankets, unprotected from the elements. Rather than a cheery “Happy Holidays,” or “Merry Christmas,” it simply read: “For many, there is still no room at the inn.” I have never been able to shake the connection between the Holy Family and the familiar, albeit, unsettling question: “Who is my neighbor?”

For Catholic Charities of Wyoming (CCWyo), “Who is My Neighbor,” has been a guiding theme throughout the past year; it was the focus for the board retreat in July; it is the inspiration for the multimedia youth contest; and it was the focus of discussion for five parish nights of reflection throughout October. “Who is my neighbor” is seeping into our conversation and into our consciousness, a timely gift.

Luke’s Gospel comes to life for the expert in the law, and for all who asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan and its command: “Go and do likewise.” The Word of God is alive, at work in the world, and within us. Advent is a good liturgical season to prayerfully consider this parable.

Did you know that there are many traditions held by the Church to help us prepare our hearts and our homes to welcome the newborn King?

One special tradition is the Advent Calendar. This year, December 1 marked the First Sunday of Advent and the first day of the Liturgical new year - Happy New Year! The Church celebrates the four weeks leading up to Christmas, as we remember the Incarnation of Jesus. Each week of Advent has a special emphasis – the first week celebrates Love; the second week celebrates Peace; the third week celebrates Hope; and the fourth week celebrates Joy. Purple and pink candles mark our approach to the Feast of the Nativity.

Catholic Charities of Wyoming offered the gift of an Advent calendar to all parishioners in the Diocese of Cheyenne. Copies were available in English and Spanish in parish bulletins the weekend of Christ the King Sunday, November 24, 2024. Copies still are available for download from the website (www.charitieswy.org).

Some historical background on traditions featured in the Catholic Charities of Wyoming Advent Calendar include:

- The Jesse Tree, a beautiful tradition of decorating a Christmas tree with ornaments or symbols to remind us of the prophecies foretelling the coming of the Newborn King. This tradition is named from Isaiah 11:1: **“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.”**

Whether this is a childhood tradition you want to recreate, or you are thinking about printing paper ornaments for your Sunday school class, the Jesse Tree is a simple, Scriptural walk through the Old and New Testaments in a way that illuminates the foretelling of the Savior.

- O Antiphons are an ancient tradition of song. Beginning on December 17 through and ending on December 23, we meditate on titles for the Messiah from the Old Testament, as the fulfillment of our hope.

Attached to each title is the beckoning, “Come,” followed by a short phrase giving us more ways to sing God’s praise. These prayers also can be found in the canticle of evening prayer for the week. In the graphic at right, is each O Antiphon listed in Latin, English, and with the Scripture reference, so you can listen for them in the readings and songs leading us to the crèche.

- Acts of Charity and Justice are fantastic ways to embrace this season of preparation. Although we often associate Lent with a season of penance, Advent is also a time of preparation, holding back a bit before entering into the Christmas feast. We also are encouraged to be reminded that Jesus comes to meet us in the margins – of our time, our finances, and our community.

We, at Catholic Charities of Wyoming, extend our best wishes for a peaceful and prayerful Advent and Christmas season. Our prayer is that the Advent calendar deepens your experience of this season of joyful hope, grounded in Christ’s love; and that in doing so, perhaps, opens you to God’s call.



December 17: *O Sapientia* (O wisdom), found in Isaiah 11:2

December 18: *O Adonai* (O Lord), found in Exodus 3 and Exodus 6:6

December 19: *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), found in Isaiah 11

December 20: *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), found in Isaiah 22:22

December 21: *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), found in Isaiah 9:2

December 22: *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), found in Isaiah 64:8

December 23: *O Emmanuel* (O God Who is With Us), found in Isaiah 7:14



Reverend Jason Marco takes U.S.A. citizenship oath



On October 24, 2024, Father Jason Marco (pastor of Our Lady of Peace, Pinedale, and Saint Anne, Big Piney) had *the best day ever* in Salt Lake City, Utah, when he took the U.S.A. citizenship oath. ***Congratulations, Father Jason!***

Reverend Jim Heiser retires from active ministry

Reverend Jim Heiser retired on September 1, 2024, after serving in the Diocese of Cheyenne for 19 years.

A child of the 1960s, Father Jim grew up in Warminster, Pennsylvania, where he attended Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School. As a young boy, whenever people asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, Father Jim's reply was, "I want to be a priest!" When he was in the eighth grade, his pastor asked Father Jim if he was ready to enter seminary.

"My tearful reply was no," says Father Jim. "I never thought of a priestly vocation again until after my divorce in 1986."

In August of 1980, he married the woman of his dreams, and, in December, 1981, he and his wife were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, Eric.

"In late 1985, my wife left our marriage, and I was granted full custody of our son" says Father Jim. "As my call to priesthood returned, I knew I had plenty of time to discern. My thoughts were, if I continue to hear the voice of God calling me to priestly ministry when Eric graduates high school, he'll go to college and I'll enter the seminary. And, as they say, the rest is history!"

Father Jim began his priestly journey as an associate pastor at Saint Matthew in Gillette (2005-2006). He then served



as pastor at Saint Mary Magdalene in Worland (2006-2010), Holy Name in Sheridan (2010-2016), and Saint Stephens Indian Mission on the Wind River Indian Reservation (2016-

2022). He completed his active service at John the Baptist in Buffalo (2022-2024).

When asked about his plans in retirement, Father Jim responds, "I hope to relax, travel, hunt, read, do priestly things, stalk wild asparagus, forage wild mushrooms, take daily walks, enjoy grand-parenting, soak in the mineral hot springs near my

new residence in Thermopolis, give thanks to the Lord, and ... keep smiling while enjoying the wonders of life! Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!"

Father Jim's love for the People of God in the Diocese of Cheyenne is made evident by his response to the question about favorite memories of his life as a pastor. "By far, my fondest memories of priesthood are my relationships with so many wonderful people whom I have met in my ministry! To me, life is all about relationship! And the many bonds that have been formed and nurtured during my time engaged in Sacramental ministry to so many wonderful people has been, and will continue to be, a blessed treasure – 'a pearl of great price!'"

Thank you, Father Jim!



Reverend Philip Vanderlin, OSB, celebrates sixty years professed!



Reverend Philip Vanderlin, OSB, (parochial administrator of Our Lady of the Mountains, Jackson; Holy Family, Thayne; and Chapel of the Sacred Heart, Grand Teton National Park, recently marked 60 years professed to the Order of Saint Benedict.

Father Philip (born James) joined the Abby in Richardton, North Dakota. He went to *Monasterio Benedictino de Tabati* in Columbia in 1967 and was ordained a priest in 1970. He eventually came to Wyoming to serve in Jackson.

The Diocese of Cheyenne bids farewell to Sister Ruth Ann, SCL

During September Institute, the diocese recognized Sister Ruth Ann, SCL, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, for her 34 years of service in Cheyenne, as she prepared to return to the Mother House in Leavenworth, Kansas, where her life as a religious woman began in 1960.

Sister Ruth Ann came to Cheyenne to begin her "dream job" as the first director of Holy Trinity Manor in 1990. She took up residence at 1714 Hot Springs with Sister Joan Williams, Sister Ann Lorraine Repp, and Sister Irene Hanley, all of whom worked at DePaul Hospital, which was built and owned by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

Taking seriously Jesus Christ's



command that we serve those most in need, Sister Ruth Ann did so in many ways. She was involved with the Ministerial Alliance, served on the board of

directors for Comea Shelter, supported Saint Joseph's Food Pantry, and was a member of the Interfaith Hospitality Network and Family Promise. In 2016, Sister Ruth Ann retired from Holy Trinity Manor, and she became more active in the Council of Catholic Women, serving as both vice-president and president.

A member of Holy Trinity Parish, Sister Ruth Ann served as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion and as a caring minister, taking Communion to the Homebound and residents of Nursing Homes.

"Saying goodbye is hardest when you love where you are," says Sister Ruth Ann. "Thank you for 34 years of being among a loving community. You remain in my love and prayers."



OFFICIAL ASSIGNMENT

Rev. Bryce Lungren was appointed Pastor of St. John the Baptist in Buffalo and the missions St. Hubert in Kaycee and St. Mary in Clearmont, effective September 1, 2024.



Pictured left to right: (Front Row) Social Media Manager [part-time] *Carmella Chavez*; Director of the Cheyenne Tribunal *Sarah R. Lauhead*, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Vicar General *Mary Schneider*; Chancellor *Jean Chrostoski*; Tribunal Case Instructor *Sister Carmen Maldonado, SSC*; (Second Row) Associate Director of Pastoral Formation [Youth and Vocations] *Theresa Meuer*; Executive Director of Human Resources *Tammy Skala*; Senior Accountant *Kaitlyn Gainer*; Executive Director of Communications *Diana Marie Waggener*; (Back Row) Director of Vocations *Reverend Brian Hess*; Chief Financial Officer *Daniel Placke*; Manager of IT Services *Neill O'Donnell*; **Bishop Steven Biegler**. **Not pictured:** Judicial Vicar *Reverend Tom Cronkleton*; Accountant *Paul Fuller*; Vicar General *Very Reverend Carl Gallinger*; Director of Catholic School Leadership *Kimberlee Gorr*; Accounts Payable Specialist [part-time] *Marian Holmes*; Vicar for Priests *Reverend August Koeune*; Catholic Social Teaching and Legislative Liaison *Deacon Mike Leman*; Director of Deacon Personnel and Formation *Deacon Joe Sandrini*; Project Rachel Coordinator [part-time] *Maria Ward*.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for your generous support of the Living and Giving in Christ: Unity through Diocesan Ministries annual appeal. We, who work in the Chancery Office, take seriously the importance of carefully stewarding your financial gifts and ensuring that your generosity is returned to you through our support of every parish across the Diocese of Cheyenne. Your kindness not only lights the way for those we serve, but also serves as a guiding star that leads us in our mission. Our interdependence helps us all to be good stewards of God's varied grace.

*In Christ's Peace,
Tammy Skala
Executive Director of Human Resources*

Living and Giving in Christ
Unity through
Diocesan Ministries

**To learn more
about the
offices and
ministries in
the Diocese
of Cheyenne
Chancery,
visit the
website!**

