

Dakota Catholic Action

Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941

THIRST 2016 schedule announced

A tentative schedule for the upcoming THRIST 2016 has been released. The three-day event, sponsored by the diocese will be held at the Bismarck Event Center Oct. 28-30.



Friday, October 28

Doors Open/Registration / Chaplet 3:00 pm of Divine Mercy

5:30 pm Mass

8:30 pm

Keynote I: Fr. Dwight 7:15 pm

Longenecker

Children's Program: Cat.Chat **Breakout Session 1:** Concert by

Audrey Assad, Address by Dr. Ray

Guarendi

Saturday, October 29

Doors Open/Registration 7:30 am **Morning Prayer** 8:30 a.m.

Keynote II: Leah Darrow 9 a.m.

Children's Program: Cat.Chat

10:30 a.m. Mass

Youth Program: Leah Darrow 1:45 p.m. Breakout Session 1: Dr. Ray

Guarendi, Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Fr. Scott Traynor, Fr. Paul Becker,

Fran Beach

Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00 pm Youth Program: Audrey Assad 3:30 p.m.

Breakout Session 2: Dave and Joan Maroney, Apostles of the Interior Life, Fr. Scott Traynor, Fran Beach, Spanish Session

Breakout Session 3: Msgr. James 4:45 p.m. Shea, Dave and Joan Maroney, Fr.

Paul Becker, Women's Vocation Panel, Men's Vocation Panel

6:30 pm **Evening Prayer**

Keynote III: Msgr. Thomas 7 p.m.

Richter Children's Program: Cat.Chat

Penance service/Eucharistic 8-10 p.m.

adoration

Sunday, October 30

Morning Prayer 8:30 a.m.

Kevnote IV: Judy Hehr 9 a.m. Children's Program: Cat.Chat

Breakout Session 4: Audrey 10:15 a.m.

Assad, Bishop John Folda, Judy

Hehr, Sr. Thomas Welder, OSB, **Spanish Session**

Keynote V: Cardinal Edwin 12:30 p.m.

O'Brien 2 p.m. Mass

- THIRST 2016 is free of charge. This schedule is tentative and subject to change.
- Spanish sessions will be offered this year.
- Eucharistic adoration will take place at the event facility throughout the conference.
- Members of the Apostles of the Interior Life will be providing spiritual direction.
- Tune into Real Presence Radio for interviews of select THIRST speakers.

Register online at: www.bismarckdiocese.com/thirst2016



Photo by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

During his ordination on May 31 at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Fr. Doug Krebs kneels in front of Bishop Kagan as priests of the diocese look on.

Vocations boom continues for diocese

By Patti Armstrong

The vocations boom continues in the Bismarck Diocese.

Two men were ordained in May-Doug Krebs to the priesthood and Greg Luger to the transitional diaconate. Six more men have recently been accepted to the formation program with two still considering. The diocese will have 29 men in formation for the priesthood this fall.

To get a better idea of the dramatic increase in vocations that have occurred in recent years, take a look at the ordination numbers from the past three decades.

During the 1980's there were 12 men ordained who currently serve this diocese and during the following decade, a total of 16 men were ordained. Then, in 2000-2009, there were 24 new priests. During the first six years since 2010, there have already been 13 ordinations.

The power of prayer

Seventeen years ago, an informal group at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit began praying together for one hour every Monday night before the Blessed Sacrament, asking God for an increase in vocations. It was in response to a Sunday homily a few years earlier by Fr. Thomas Kramer (now deceased), the pastor of Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

He had shared that the average age of our priests in the diocese was in the fifties. Factoring in the number of seminarians at the time and those expected to retire, the five-year projection was bleak. "Pray for vocations," Fr.

Kramer pleaded.

And so people

prayed. "For vocations to the priesthood" was an ever-present intention at Masses. Schools prayed daily and groups included it in their prayers before meetings. It was that plea that also led to the formation of the Monday prayer group dedicated to vocations.

The group continues with around a dozen members, many of them present since the beginning. The reason, as some of the members have explained, is that they never again

Priest ordinations of those serving the **Diocese** 1980-89 - 121990-99 - 162000-09 — 24 2010-Present — 13 in six years

want to take our priests for granted.

Vocations follow adoration

Rita Ciavarella is credited with starting the group. "I flew out to a conference in St. Louis that was encouraging adoration to pray for vocations," she explained. "My son Louis was in the seminary there at the time. I was terrified because I had never flown before, but Louis convinced me that this was important."

She learned that in dioceses where there was Eucharistic adoration for vocations, an increase in priests usually followed.

When Rita returned home, she received permission from Fr. Kramer to invite people

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A LOOK **INSIDE**

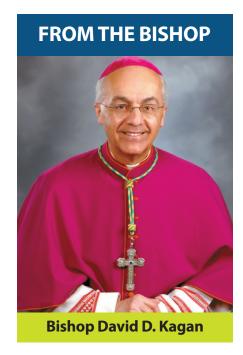


Life-changing retreat Search weekends help teens and young adults grow in faith and friendships.....Page 4



Seminarian gatheringSt. Bernard Parish hosted a getaway for diocese seminarians in BelfieldPage 10

August is a month of feasts



he month of August for the Catholic Church is truly a month of solemnities and feasts all celebrated at the holy altar of God. I urge all of you to attend and participate at Holy Mass as often as possible during this month, even if you may be on vacation. We can never take a vacation from our first vocation to holiness. There is no better way to nourish our personal holiness, our sanctity than to receive the abundant graces offered and bestowed on us from the reverent and worthy participation at Mass.

Let me illustrate what I mean about August being a month of feasts. Of the 31 days in the month

of August, all but six days have a particular memorial, feast or solemnity assigned to them. If a solemnity falls on a Sunday, it is celebrated and not the proper Sunday in Ordinary Time; if a memorial or a feast falls on a Sunday in Ordinary Time, the proper Mass of that Sunday is celebrated.

I will list the saints honored during August along with the day their memorials, feasts or solemnities are celebrated.

They include: St. Alphonsus Ligouri (1), St. Eusebius of Vercelli and St. Peter Julian Eymard (2), St. John Vianney (4), Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major (5), The Transfiguration of the Lord (6), St. Sixtus II and Companions and St. Cajetan (7), St. Dominic (8), St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein -9), St. Lawrence (10), St. Clare (11), St. Jane Frances de Chantal (12), St. Pontian and St. Hippolytus (13), St. Maximilian Kolbe (14), The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15), St. Stephen of Hungary (16), St. John Eudes (19), St. Bernard of Clairveaux (20), St. Pius X (21), The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (22), St. Rose of Lima (23), St. Bartholomew (24), St. Louis and St. Joseph Calasanz (25), St. Monica (27), St. Augustine (28), The Passion of St. John the Baptist (29).

As you can see, the month of August presents to us a wonderful array and, in a certain sense, a microcosm of the Communion of Saints. What I would encourage you to do is read the lives of each of these holy men and women. As different as each one is from the others, what they have in common is what we all have in common as members of the Communion of Saints-the Apostolic Faith received in baptism, and the other sacraments, which increase in us the Divine Life and conform us more closely to Jesus.

Of course, what we do with these abundant graces received throughout our lives from the sacraments is entirely up to each of us. How we ought to use these graces in every circumstance is modeled for us by these great and holy women and men of August and every other month in our year of grace and favor from the Lord.

If you cannot get to Mass every day during August, please make the effort to attend and participate at Mass on The Transfiguration of the Lord, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin, the feast of St. Bartholomew and The Passion of St. John the Baptist.

May this month of August be a month of great graces for each of you.

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE AUGUST 2016

- Presbyteral Council Meeting, Aug. 2 Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck 10 a.m.
- Aug. 3 Annual Mass and Visit to St. Gabriel Community, Bismarck, 9:30 a.m.
- Annual Canonical Visit to Carmelite Monastery, Hague
- Home on the Range Annual Champions Ride, Home on the Range, 1 p.m. MT
- Serra Club Mass and Dinner Aug. 8 for Summer Gathering, Church of Ascension, Bismarck, 5:30 p.m.
- Mass and Luncheon with Aug. 9 Minot Serra Club, St. John the Apostle, Minot
- 50th Anniversary Mass and Aug. 14 **Dedication of Mary statue,** Church of St. Mary, Golva, 5 p.m. MT
- Installation Mass of Fr. David Richter, St. John the Apostle, Minot, 6 p.m.
- Real Presence Radio interview, 9 a.m.
- · All-staff Mass, Bishop's residence chapel, 8 a.m.
 - Directors' Staff Meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, 9:15 a.m.
- Aug. 22 Installation Mass of Father John Paul Gardner, Fort Yates, 11 a.m.
- Aug. 25-27 Region VIII Provincial Bishops' Meeting, Alexandria, MN
- Parish Expansion Fund Aug. 30 board Meeting, Center for **Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck** 11 a.m.
- Annual Dickinson Catholic Schools Board Meeting, Dickinson, 11 a.m. MT

BISHOP IN ACTION



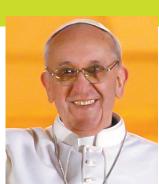
Photo by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

Bishop Kagan rides along the course in a cart driven by Fr. Josh Waltz during the Seminarian Golf Fundraiser Tournament held on July 18 in Mandan.



The Dakota Catholic Action is funded in part by the annual God's Share Appeal.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for August



Universal: Sports

That sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world.

Evangelization: Living the Gospel That Christians may live the Gospel, giving witness to faith, honesty, and love of neighbor.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow the Diocese on Twitter @BisDiocese

and follow Bishop Kagan @VescovoDDK

Champions Ride marks 60th year

Home on The Range event is August 6

A popular Home On The Range event hits a major milestone this year.

It's the 60th anniversary of the Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match. Thirty Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) cowboys will be riding tough, bucking horses and competing for the title of champion. The PRCA has now sanctioned the event as extreme bronc riding.

All the western and family fun takes place Aug. 6 at 1 p.m. (MT) at the Home On The Range arena, exit 7 on Interstate I-94.

The Champions Ride Match is much more than a great western and family event. It is a fundraiser for Home On The Range. When first proposed in 1957, the purpose was to raise money for the boys who received care at the ranch, and bring guests there to learn more about the facility.

In 1959, Fr. William Fahnlander was assigned to western North Dakota to help Fr. Cassedy. When Fr. Cassedy died that same year, Fr. Fahnlander was chosen as director for Home On The Range and to help with the Champions Ride. He was a rodeo enthusiast and actively participated until his retirement.

The rodeo committee has been working hard to add extra events and activities to make it special. It all begins Friday night at the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame in Medora. Past rodeo cowboys have been invited for a Champions Ride Reunion. There will be a social and live music as well. A Calcutta auction of the cowboys entered in this year's rodeo begins at 7 p.m.

There's plenty to do before the rodeo, including hayrides, children's activities, live music and an introduction of the cowboy dignitaries in attendance. Snow cone booths, concessions and soda drinks will be available during the rodeo. After the rodeo and prize presentations, a special one-of-akind ride-off between last year's champion and another cowboy will take place.

Home On The Range and the Champions Ride Match have survived for 60 years because of the dedication of its friends, supporters and beneficiaries. To purchase advance rodeo tickets or make a donation to Home On The Range visit www. hotrnd.com.

About Home on The Range

Home On The Range originated in 1950 under the vision of Fr. Elwood Cassedy. His dream was to have a place for boys to call home—to have guidance, structure, an education and someone who cares about them. This philosophy continues to be the backbone of Home On The Range's programs today.

Most of the children at Home On The Range have experienced unimaginable trauma in their short lives. Many have adopted survival skills just to get by because they or a family member have been abused, or their parents or custodians weren't



Submitted photos

The 2015 Champion Wade Sundell. Courtesy of Robin Blankenship, RB Photography.

there to care for them. A majority of the children just want to feel safe, have consistency, stability and receive empathy. At Home On The Range the boys and girls are given the personal compassion they seek and the therapeutic treatment they need.

Home On The Range is a nonprofit organization operated under the auspices of the Diocese of Bismarck. The facility is licensed to care for 46 boys and girls, ages 12-19.

-Submitted information



Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard presenting flags at Champions Ride in 2014.



Fr. William Fahnlander presenting trophy and prize rifle to one of the original founders of the Match, Jim Tescher, in 1965.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Everyone's invited to the 60th anniversary of the Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match at Home on the Range in western North Dakota. All the western and family fun takes place Aug. 6 at 1 p.m. (MT) at the Home On The Range arena, exit 7 on Interstate I-94. Home On The Range and the Champions Ride Match have survived for 60 years because of the dedication of its friends, supporters and beneficiaries. To purchase advance

■ HOTR Champions Ride Aug. 6

■ Bioethics seminar Aug. 12-13 The University of Mary, in partnership

rodeo tickets or make a donation to

Home On The Range visit www.hotrnd.

with the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC), is hosting a bioethics seminar Aug. 12-13 at the Gary Tharaldson School of Business on campus. Scheduled topics include: ethical and religious directives for Catholic health care; contraception,

sterilization and natural family planning (NFP); sexual assault protocols; ethical approaches to complications before and after birth; reproductive technologies; stem cell research, care and respect for the dying; advanced planning for the end of life and more. Register online at www.umary. edu/bioethics. For more information, contact the Director of Bioethics, Dr. Karen Rohr, at kmrohr@umary.edu or 355-8113.

Chant Camp Aug. 15-19

St. Anne's Church in Bismarck is offering an opportunity for children ages 7-17 to learn about singing and reading sacred music during a Chant Camp Aug. 15-19. No prior musical experience is necessary. Families from any parish of the diocese are welcome. Attendance is required each day of camp. The fee is \$50 per child and \$25 per sibling. No child will be turned away because of financial hardship. Scholarships are available through the diocese's Office

of Divine Worship. Children will be given musical and liturgical training to keep for life. Register online by Aug. 1 at www.stannesbismarck.org/chant-

■ Catholic Charities Sunday in September

The weekend Masses on Sept. 24-25 are dedicated to bringing awareness and support of the services offered by Catholic Charities of North Dakota. Information will be available in parishes or learn more at www. catholiccharitiesnd.org.

Search weekends

Search for Christian Maturity is a weekend retreat experience sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Bismarck. The weekends are for anyone of high school or college age (at least 15 years old). Search weekends are held at the Badlands Ministries Camp just south of Medora. Upcoming weekends for 2016-17 are: Oct. 14-16; Dec. 9-11; Jan. 20-22; March 3-5; and April 21-23.

■ Volunteers needed for THIRST

Join us October 28-30, 2016 at the Bismarck Event Center for THIRST 2016. This exciting and free event has something for all ages and backgrounds. Featured guests include: Edwin Cardinal O'Brien, Dr. Ray Guarendi, Audrey Assad, Leah Darrow, Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Cat.Chat, and others. Volunteers are needed in various areas including: security, signage, facility planning, information committee, and food coordinators. Contact Holly Krumm at hkrumm@ bismarckdiocese.com.

■ Marriage encounter weekends

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are Nov 11-13 in East Grand Forks, Minn. and that same weekend in Medora. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: ndwwme.org or contact Rob and Angie at 701-347-1998.

Changing hearts for God's glory

By Amanda Evinger

When Marcy Moore went on a Search retreat in the mid-1970s, something was profoundly transformed within her, and she hasn't been the same since.

"On the retreat, I realized that God accepts me for who I am, and I saw that He works in mysterious ways," Marcy says. "I also got to meet people who believed what I believed and it gave me the support I needed to go forward in my faith."

And, as a faithful steward of God's gifts, Marcy has been able to give back for all she received from Search—and then some.

"For the last 40 years, I have really enjoyed helping with Search retreats. My husband Steve also started helping with the retreats when our son Anthony served as a student director, and my daughter Stephanie has been involved with the program as well," Marcy explains. "Steve and I now enjoy helping at the retreats and volunteering in the office. We want to help young people grow in Christian maturity through Search. When the young retreatants first come, they often look confused and sad, but by the end of the week there is a huge change in their attitude about how they look at their faith and who they are."

Upcoming retreats

will take place

Oct. 14-16 Dec. 9-11

Search for Christian Maturity is a weekend retreat experience sponsored by the diocese. The weekends are for high school and college-age young adults who are at least 15 years old. Although the program is rooted in and backed by the Catholic faith, it is open to young people of any denomination or creed. Search weekends are held five times throughout the year in a remote setting of the Badlands Ministries Camp south of Medora.

"The Badlands Ministries Camp is a wonderful facility," Marcy comments. "It is very welcoming, and you can feel the presence of God there. It has dorms and a beautiful little chapel. Just to have an opportunity to drive out to that area is phenomenal in itself!"

The locale provides a quiet place to think, talk, question and wonder about life and faith in an accepting and challenging environment. The retreats feature various talks, which are mostly given by a team peer group. There are also sessions on Christian marriage given by a priest, a nun and a married couple.

"The talks are given by peers so that the retreatants can relate on a one-to-one basis about the things they deal with as young people," Marcy explains.

There is also confession and adoration on Saturday night finalizing the weekend, which is filled with the power of God's mercy in a remarkable way.

"Search helps teens grow in their faith in so many ways, and enables them to see why we do what we do as Catholics," Marcy says. Sometimes the teens teach more than the adults do!"

Paige Rising, a student at the University of Mary, who has been part of 13 Search weekends, raves about the ministry, which has given her the fellowship she has longed for.

"Search has made a huge impact on my faith life by showing me that there are other people my age out there that hunger for a deep and meaningful relationship with Christ as well," Paige says. "The events at Search are awesome, and God certainly is present at them, but the most important aspect of the retreat is the people who are there. Search has given me an opportunity to create lasting friendships with faith-filled people who are also searching for a deeper connection with God."

Ashley Becker, also a University of Mary student, can't say enough great things about Search. She has gone on many Search weekends in the past few years, and last year, was invited to be a student director.

"Search started a thirst and hunger for me to grow in my faith," she says. "It also provided a support group for me to grow in my faith, and it has also opened other opportunities for me to go on other retreats and do other faith activities. I feel I have grown closer to God on each retreat. Each one of them is different and special in their own way. I liked being a director because you receive more by giving more. Just knowing I have come to a point where I have an influence on others, and they have an influence on me, is reassuring. To be able to give back to a program that has given so much to me is very rewarding."

In the end, being open to serving God means being open to receiving the presence of God, especially in the midst of our busy and hectic lives. In many ways, a Search weekend is the perfect way to unplug from the business of life and heed the loving words of Christ.

The cost to go on a Search weekend is \$75. Scholarships are available. The retreats start on Friday evening and run through Sunday late afternoon. Upcoming retreats will take place Oct. 14-16 and Dec. 9-11.

Fr. Keith Streifel, pastor at St. Joseph in Dickinson, serves as the spiritual director for the Search ministry. For more information, visit bismarckdiocese.com/search1 or contact the Search Office at 204-7185.



Submitted photos

Student directors Luke Huber and Paige Rising with the weekend's theme banner in December 2014.



Students participate in group activities during the weekend.



A popular activity at Search is hiking the butte and taking advantage of the beautiful landscape of the North Dakota badlands.

University of Mary students earn bioethics scholarship

Their heroic work throughout the world is saving lives

Respecting and valuing all human life as God intended are the core of what Arina Grossu and Kelly Suter do each day in their careers. While one is helping shape public policy on Capitol Hill, the other is helping mankind on the frontlines of crises around the world.

Their daily witness to what Pope Saint John Paul II called the "culture of death" helped provide a firsthand account of current bioethics issues and the right perspective to earn the \$1,500 scholarship from among 23 students enrolled in University of Mary's Master of Science in Bioethics program—one of only two offered in the United States.

This inaugural bioethics cohort at Mary will graduate in April 2017 and consists of professionals in fields such as healthcare, public policy, law, coaching and the priesthood. Because of its popularity, the University of Mary had to create a waiting list for next year.

"I speak, write about, and represent human dignity issues



Arina Grossu

ranging from conception to natural death in the public square," said Grossu, the director of the Center for Human Dignity at the Family Research

Council. "My areas of expertise are abortion, women's health, bioethics, pornography, sex trafficking and assisted suicide."

National television programs and publications have featured Grossu. Her articles can be found at www.frc.org.

"It is a privilege to have the opportunity to use my knowledge and training to help shape public policy," said the 33-year old Grossu from Washington, D.C. "Scientific and medical technologies can be ethical, unethical, or neutral. It is important to distinguish the bioethical implications of technologies: do they uphold the dignity of human life and improve it, or do they use or destroy human life? Science and medicine must be always at the service of human life and must use only ethical means to achieve its purpose."

Suter is the senior nurse of medical planning and preparedness and an experienced disaster relief nurse on the emergency response team of International Medical Corps (IMC). She is always on standby to deploy to a crisis as a nurse team leader or a field site manager.

"My most recent deployments include the war in South Sudan, the Ebola outbreak in Liberia and Sierra Leone, an earthquake in Nepal and Ebola preparedness in Guinea Bissau," said Suter, a native of Petoskey, Mich. "The line between right and wrong is often blurred and difficult for even the most stringent



Submitted photos

Kelly Suter, who works in crisis health care relief, poses with a group of children during earthquake recovery in Haiti.

moralist to distinguish. I have the responsibility to understand what is moral and ethical. Relief work often places health care workers in high stress situations, with few resources and limited support. During those times, it can be especially difficult to distinguish what is ethical from what is unethical. More than once I have had to help a fellow healthcare worker understand why hastening the death of a suffering and neardeath patient is not an act of compassion—even in the midst of war, disaster or crisis."

Last year, in the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, Suter, 30, documented her thoughts in a weekly diary on the IMC website. "It didn't take long to learn that fear is actually a friend here in

West Africa, as it leads to vigilance," she wrote. "That fear, combined with the inability to let your guard down for even a moment, is like carrying a gorilla on your back all day."



Kelly Suter

In her Catholic upbringing, as the second oldest in a large family with five other siblings, caring for others comes naturally. Suter's caring for others became very personal when her youngest sibling was born with Down syndrome.

"The first time I had to defend my little brother because of his disabilities, I was 8, I was determined and I was terrified to oppose an adult," said Suter. "That was the first time I saw a human being decide another life was of less value than their own and I was determined to never allow that to happen again."

Suter and Grossu have both witnessed humanity at its worst and finest. Still, their Catholic faith is strong and their spirit is selfless.

"Even though I know that I could get sick, and that I could be one of them that doesn't survive, I'm OK with that because I'd rather be here helping than home and safe," Suter said in an interview with the television show "60 Minutes."

"I am committed to standing up for the most vulnerable people in our society," said Grossu, who's been involved in standing up for women and their preborn babies since high school. "As Pope Saint John Paul II said so eloquently, 'A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members: and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying."

Both women believe the University of Mary's strong Catholic identity and its partnership with the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC), mean that the scholarship they received will deepen their knowledge of bioethical issues at a world-class level.

To learn more about the University of Mary bioethics program, contact the Director of Bioethics, Dr. Karen Rohr, at kmrohr@umary.edu or (701) 355-8113. For more information on the Aug. 12-13 bioethics seminar or to register for the event online, go to www.umary.edu/bioethics.

— Submitted information



Arina Grossu works in Washington, D.C. to help shape public policy on social issues.



Bioethics Seminar at Mary Aug. 12-13

The University of Mary, in partnership with the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC), on Aug. 12-13, brings together world-renowned experts to make sense of all the emerging ethical dilemmas and policy obstacles. The event takes place at the Gary Tharaldson School of Business on the campus of the University of Mary in Bismarck.

Some scheduled topics include:

- Catholic health care
- Contraception, sterilization and NFP
- Sexual assault protocols
- Prenatal and neonatal complications
- Assisted reproductive technologies
- Stem Cell Research
- Care and respect for the dying
- Advanced planning for the end of life

"The objective of the NCBC's Two-Day Seminars is to train those engaged in the healthcare ministry and other interested individuals, to effectively represent the Church's moral teaching in their various institutions as it is summarized in 'The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services,'" stated Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., the director of Education and Ethicist at NCBC.

Other ethicists presenting with Pacholczyk include Dr. John Brehany, Dr. John Di Camillo and Dr. Marie Hilliard.

"People from all over North Dakota, the United States and abroad attend the twoday seminar," said Dr. Karen Rohr, associate professor and director of Bioethics and Faculty Formation at the University of Mary. "Anyone can attend the seminar. They do not have to be enrolled in the NCBC yearlong certification program to attend. Some people take it to enhance their existing knowledge and or to get the Catholic perspective in bioethics. Technological advances are making it imperative that healthcare providers understand and manage emerging ethical dilemmas as they occur and have the skills to guide patients, families, clinicians, and ethics committees toward resolution."

For more information on the seminar or to register for the event, go to www.umary.edu/bioethics. To learn more about the University of Mary bioethics program, contact the Director of Bioethics, Dr. Karen Rohr, at kmrohr@umary.edu or (701) 355-8113.

6 Dakota **Catholic Action AUGUST 2016**

raditude for faithful service On behalf of Bishop David Kagan, the Diocese of Bismarck extends congratulations and gratitude to those serving within the diocese celebrating special anniversaries of profession to religious life.

Sr. Carol Axtmann, OSB 60 years

■ Sacred Heart Monastery, Richardton Sr. Carol was born into a devout Catholic family in the small town of Orrin, N.D. As her hometown did not have a high school, she joined her older sister at Sacred Heart Academy, choosing to enter the convent in her senior year (when the convent was located in

Minot).



Sr. Carol Axtmann, OSB

After attending Minot State Teachers College for a year, she began a 30year teaching career. During that time she continued

her education, earning a B.A. from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., and eventually a M.A. in theology from Mount Angel Seminary, Mount Angel, Ore. In Minot, she taught at Little Flower and St. Leo's grade schools and Bishop Ryan High School; in Fallon at Sts. Peter and Paul School; and she was a founding member of the community's St. Benedict's Academy in Bogotá, Colombia, where she taught a total of 14 years in her three tenures there.

After receiving her degree in theology, Sr. Carol went on to become a certified pastoral care chaplain where she served in Bismarck and Garrison as well as in Rochester, Minn., before moving in 2011 to the Subiaco Manor in Dickinson as resident manager for the housing complex for independent living for the elderly.

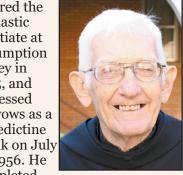
Within community, Sr. Carol serves on the monastic board and council as well as on the Sacred **Heart Benedictine Foundation** board. She specializes in handmade caps and scarves, as well as greeting cards for the gift shop.

Fr. Francis Wehri, OSB 60 years

Assumption Abbey, Richardton

Fr. Francis was born on a farm near Haymarsh. He attended parochial school at St. Clement's Church for his elementary education. For high school and junior college, he came to Assumption Abbey in Richardton.

Fr. Francis entered the monastic novitiate at Assumption Abbey in 1955, and professed his vows as a Benedictine monk on July 11, 1956. He completed his seminary



Fr. Francis Wehri, OSB studies and was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1961.

Fr. Francis has given his life to youth by working in the field of education. After his ordination he taught at the Abbey School, was the principal and served in other capacities as well.

In 1966, Fr. Francis was asked to go to Bogotá, Colombia, to work there in the school. He was named rector of Colegio San Carlos, a position he held for 49 years, until the end of June 2015. He developed a very good reputation as a school administrator and he maintained the highest standards for Colegio San Carlos. Fr. Francis has received many medals, citations and recognitions for his contribution to education in Colombia.

In addition to his administrative duties as Rector of Colegio San Carlos, Fr. Francis has served several terms as prior of Monasterio Benedictino de Tibatí. At present, he is on the prior's council at Tibatí and is admissions director for Colegio San Carlos.

Fr. James Kilzer, OSB 25 Years

■ Assumption Abbey, Richardton Fr. James Kilzer, OSB, was born in Elgin and grew up on the family farm near Bentley, N.D. He attended elementary school in rural Hettinger County, completing his high school education in New England and Mott.

Fr. James completed high school in 1981 and then went to Eastern Montana College, Billings, Mont., for two years studying sciences and computer programming. For a time he was involved in "Up With People," a music and dance troop that travelled around Canada, the U.S., Scandinavia and Germany. Fr. James attended Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio and received a B.A. degree in theology. In September 1989, he came to Assumption Abbey as a candidate; in March 1990 entered the novitiate and made his profession in March 1991. After making

final vows in 1994, he attended St. John's School of Theology, Collegeville, Minn. earning a Master of Divinity in May 1998. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 27, 1998.

Fr. James has had various jobs at the Abbey. He was assistant vocation director as a junior monk and did a lot of outside speaking engagements on behalf of the community. He participated

in Life in the Spirit Seminars for several years, as well as working with Camp ReCreation and serving on their board. In 2002, he was Fr. James Kilzer, OSB



named oblate director; and in 2008, named assistant business manager. At present, he continues in these two positions as well as working in maintenance.



Social Media Tips for Parents

Be reasonable and try to set reasonable expectations. Not allowing your child to be on their favorite social site is like removing his or her social life. Instead of being protective, it can shut down communication and send kids "underground" where they're more at risk. It's too easy for them to set up other accounts

and profiles from anywhere, including friends' houses or even a cell phone.

Talk with your kids about how they use social media. Your kids are the ones to consult about their social-Web experience. Help them understand basic safety guidelines, such as protecting their privacy (including passwords), not harassing peers, never talking about sex with people they don't know, avoiding in-person meetings with people they "meet" online, and taking care in what they post – because anything people put online can be grabbed, reworked, and used against them.

Support critical thinking and appropriate behavior because no laws or parental-control software can protect better than a child's developing good sense about safety and relationships. Research shows that kids who are aggressive and mean online toward peers or strangers are at greater risk of becoming victims themselves. So teach them to be good citizens and friends online as much as offline.

place in your home - not in kids' rooms - to help you stay aware of their online time and activities. This way, you can encourage a balance between online time and their offline academic, sports, and social times. It's important to remember that there are also many ways kids can access the Internet away from home, including on many mobile phones and game players.

Try to get your kids to share their profiles and apps with you, but be aware that they can have multiple accounts on multiple services and devices. Be aware of the apps they use on all of their devices and use search engines and the search tools on socialnetworking sites to search for your kids' full names, phone numbers and other identifying information. You're not invading their privacy if they're putting personal info in public "places" online. If their pages are private, that's a good thing, but it's even better if they share it with you.

For more information on keeping kids safe, call (701) 323-5626.



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Spiritual and administrative leadership

Sister Nancy celebrates 25th jubilee

By Jill Ackerman

Looking back at the past 25 years, Sister Nancy Miller admits she would have never believed one day she would serve as prioress for the sisters she had admired and respected as a college student.

As prioress for eight years, Sister Nancy was the spiritual and administrative leader in the monastic community. She found it rewarding to get to know the sisters at a much deeper level.

"It was a gift to spend time with them, learn about them and their ministries, because ultimately, their care is my responsibility. It is only through knowing people that you can care for them. The tendency is to treat everyone the same, but the reality is that everyone has their own unique personality and needs."

Sister Nancy celebrated her 25th anniversary of monastic profession on June 18 during Eucharistic Liturgy at Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel.

Discerning her calling

She was born and raised in Harvey, N.D. She became familiar with the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery when she was a student at the University of Mary. She saw the loving way they cared for one another, with joy and a real devotion to serving God and others. It moved her deep within her heart.

"As I considered where God was leading me in my life, becoming a sister seemed like a real option for me. If I didn't try it, I knew I would always wonder, 'What if?'"

When she first entered community, Sister Nancy says she never looked too far down the road. She committed herself to each phase of discernment, always feeling called to go deeper with her relationship with God and allowing God to take her through each step.

Focusing on the present

This approach serves her well even today, as she continues to focus on the present, rather than the end. Her focus on each step of the journey helped her earn her Bachelor of Science in business administration and a Master of Management at the University of Mary.

Her 17-year span of ministries, before being elected prioress, includes serving as bookkeeper and administrative assistant at Annunciation Monastery and various positions at the University of Mary. As assistant manager, then manager, of the university bookstore and as director of Campus Ministry, she became closely involved with many aspects of campus life.

Through her involvement on various boards and committees, Sister Nancy established close relationships with leaders serving at the sisters' sponsored ministries: the University of Mary and CHI St. Alexius Health/CHI St. Alexius Health Garrison.

"I deeply appreciate the level of expertise, commitment and values that are demonstrated in these great institutions of higher education and healthcare."

Looking to the future

Sister Nancy looks forward to an exciting future for the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery. Her hope for the community is that "we will forever be relevant in the Church and in society —where we model our core values of prayer, respect, hospitality, community and service for others. If we can do that for our world, we offer the very best of ourselves. God's gifts aren't meant to keep, but to be given away."

She encourages women to consider religious life as an option for living prayerfully and joyfully. "The greatest gift of living in community is seeking God together, each day, on our journey

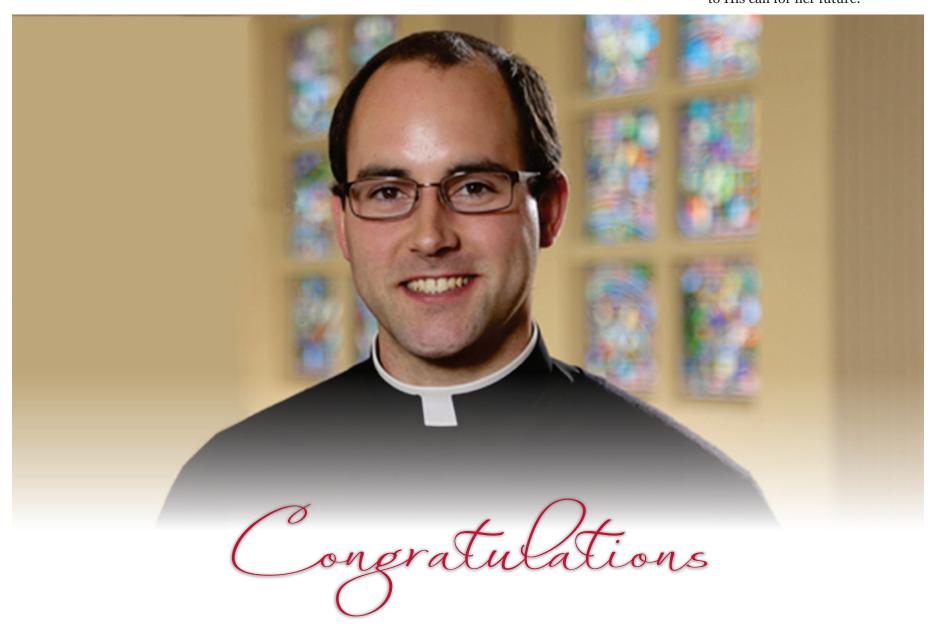


Photo by Deacon Joe Krupinsky
Sr. Nancy Miller celebrated her 25th
anniversary of monastic profession on
June 18.

to God. We support and challenge one another along the way. Each of us grows in ways we may not have grown without being a part of this community."

Without the responsibilities of prioress, Sister Nancy plans to take some time to travel and spend time with family. She says, "I'm OK with being in a state of transition. I think all of us are in a state of transition; nobody knows what God has planned for us on any given day, or any given hour, for that matter. We are always moving toward something."

Just as Sister Nancy allowed God to lead her through each step of becoming a sister, she will listen to His call for her future.



SJV Alumnus Fr. Douglas Krebs

from the seminarians, priests and staff of Saint John Vianney College Seminary





Vocations boom continues for diocese

He has heard those prayers.

Fr. Josh Waltz, Vocation Director for the diocese, said that in order to illustrate how well our diocese is doing now, he uses a per-capita comparison with the diocese of

"The Detroit Diocese has around 1.5 million Catholics and 34 seminarians," he said. "We have around 60,000 Catholics and 26 seminarians; that's one for every 2,300 Catholics. For the Detroit diocese to have that same number per capita, they would need to have 650 seminarians."

According to Fr. Waltz, the response to the priesthood for our diocese is Scriptural: "The harvest is rich but the laborers are few; beg the harvest master to send out laborers for his harvest" (Matthew 9: 35-38).

"The more we have people praying and asking the Father for workers, the more they are going to come forward," he said. According to him, there are prayer apostolates among contemplative orders and in nursing homes and other types of prayer support throughout the diocese including holy hours by the priests themselves.

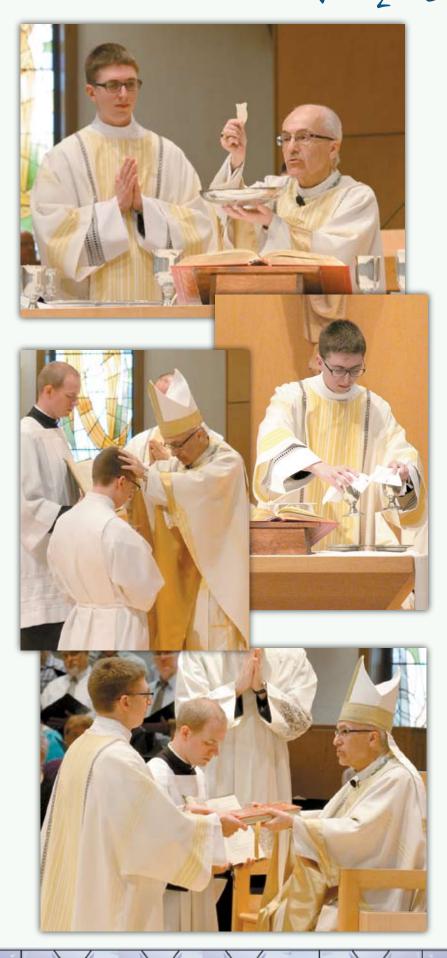
"I would say that the fact we are doing so well here is a tribute to prayer," Fr. Waltz said. "It is the binding force."

The vocation prayer group is open to anyone who wants to come pray at the small chapel in Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on Mondays from 7-8 p.m. Many other parishes in the diocese also have holy hours for vocations. Check with your local parish for

There are a few lay groups within the diocese dedicated to foster, affirm, and promote vocations. The Vocations Club in Minot assists people with all vocations; Bev Cushing at 839-6635 can be contacted for more information. In addition, there are two diocesan chapters of the Serra Club that support vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life. Contact Bismarck chapter President Lonnie Decker at 258-5697 or Mike Ruelle in Minot at

Greg Luger ordained transitional deacon May 23

- John 15:16



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Seminarian getaway held in Belfield

St. Bernard Parish hosts gathering

By James Odermann

Seminarians for the priesthood from across the diocese gathered in Belfield June 12-14 for fun and fellowship. The gathering, informally titled "Seminarian Getaway: Unload and Unwind," was sponsored by the Belfield Knights of Columbus Council 6310.

Knights of Columbus Council 6310 members Steven Vetter, newly elected grand knight, and Roger Decker spearheaded the three-day event that included active participation from over 30 member knights. The Catholic Daughters also assisted.

Nearly all of the 29 men who are studying for the Catholic priesthood for the diocese participated in the event. Two men going through the discernment process also participated, along with a number of priests from across the diocese.

The Belfield Knights of Columbus council has been active in encouraging women and men to answer the call to a religious vocation. For nearly 30 years, the council has sponsored a Lenten fish fry and other fundraising events, with much of the money raised going to fund vocation education.

Decker and Vetter hatched the idea to "do something special for the seminarians" after Vetter's brother, Nick, who is a seminarian, paid a visit to the community.

"This was done for the seminarians," Decker said to the seminarians at the parish and community supper. "It is you who are the future of the church and we need you."

The event included prayer, visiting and interaction with local farmers and ranchers, who are experiencing problems on their land from prairie dogs. One of the activities included a day of thinning the prairie dog population while getting to know the laity, who are members of the St. Bernard Parish.

Father Josh Waltz, diocese director of vocations, spoke to the importance of the seminarians seeing the laity as members of the church to be served, especially in a small community like Belfield, noting the diocese is made up of a lot of small towns.

"It was great to be out in a small town because lot of times small towns don't get to see all the seminarians," Waltz said. He noted a majority of the seminarians attended the event where they received "a lot of amazing generosity" from the laity and lot of good benefactors.

Waltz said the attraction of small towns, which is "something very unique to North Dakota," is also an attraction for seminarians. "We have a lot of young men that are signing up because of the fraternity and the love of the parishes, the support of the laity."

He said the support of pastors for events like a seminarian getaway is great. Including Fr. Josh, other priests participating



A large group of seminarians, priests and Belfield Knights of Columbus Council 6310 members attended a gathering in Belfield hosted by the council in mid June.



Submitted photos

Diocesan seminarians gathered around a fire pit to relax and enjoy fellowship with brother seminarians, other priests and laity during a recent gathering sponsored by the Belfield Knights of Columbus Council 6310.

were Fathers Justin Waltz, Chris Kadrmas, Adam Maus, Shannon Lucht and Bill Ruelle.

The interaction with local agricultural producers was also an important part of the activities. Waltz was especially impressed with the emotion displayed by the landowners who needed help with the prairie dog harvest.

He told those assembled at the supper, "Last night (Sunday night) from what I could tell, as much as a farmer can get choked up, the guys (council members) got choked up..."

Decker said the commitment of the Knights of Columbus Council 6310 to vocation development is very strong. "A religious vocation is such a special calling and our council felt a need to go beyond the fundraising of the Lenten fish fry. These young men are studying to be priests, the future shepherds of our Church. The 'Seminarian Getaway: Unload and Unwind' event was one that we as knights could show our support for our seminarians."

He reiterated Waltz's theme of parishioners getting to know the seminarians. "This also gives us a chance to interact with each other, learn about the needs of the seminarians and lend support. We wanted to show the seminarians there is much support for their commitment and there are many women and men in the diocese who support them," Decker said.

Grand Knight Vetter added, "The main purpose was to bring all of the seminarians together as a group where they could mingle with no outside pressure or demands. It was also important to make this be an enjoyable and relaxing venue where fellowship amongst each other can be achieved."

Over two-dozen people and/or businesses joined in supporting the event financially. "Our sponsors generously donated because they realize the important role that priests play in keeping our church strong and able to serve the members of our parish and community," Decker said. "The relationship of the future priests is so important in the formation process, because they will be the shepherds of our

Waltz said the experience was very good and thanked the Belfield

Knights of Columbus Council 6310 for their efforts. "We have seminarians who are going to be amazing priests but none of that is possible without the support of the laity," he said, mentioning the welcome by the St. Bernard's Parish community was great. "I didn't know what to expect (when asked to participate). I did not expect the food, the generosity . . . If you guys are up to it, I would like to make this an annual thing."

Decker said the getaway would not have to be a prairie dog hunt but could be something "unique to the Belfield community that very few other places in the state can offer."

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The Diocese of Bismarck is firmly committed to the health and protection of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. With the hope of healing the pain and suffering from sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, we encourage anyone who has suffered from this abuse to please come forward and let us know. To report allegations of sexual abuse, please contact: Dale Eberle, Chancellor, Diocese of Bismarck, PO Box 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502-1575. Phone: 701.223.1347 or 1.877.405.7435. The complaint form and policies can be found on the diocesan web site at http://www.bismarckdiocese.com.

CODE OF PASTORAL CONDUCT

The Catholic Church must be exemplary: Clergy, staff, whether diocesan or parish, and volunteers are held accountable for their behavior. To enable the highest level of accountability, there must be a clear and unambiguous definition of appropriate behavior. To this end, this Code of Pastoral Conduct is defined for the Diocese of Bismarck and it provides a foundation for implementing effective and enforceable standards for all personnel. View the Code of Pastoral Conduct at http://www.bismarckdiocese.com.

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(I-r) Renee Schwartz, Seminarian Logan Obrigewitch, Melissa Honeyman, and Seminarian John Windsor at a recent community gathering in Belfield. Honeyman and Schwartz attended in support of their nephew Logan and his brother seminarians.

A priest in the family is a special blessing

By James Odermann

A priest in the family is a special blessing to all members of the immediate and extended family. The journey to ordination is long, arduous, and filled with a need for prayers.

Melissa Honeyman of Bismarck and Renee Schwartz of Dickinson, who saw their faith grow as members of the St. Bernard Parish in Belfield, are filled with emotion and prayer for their nephew, Logan Obrigewitch of Beulah.

"I am very proud of him and feel blessed to have him in my family," Honeyman said. "I pray for him daily."

Logan's roots run deep in Belfield. His grandparents Maurice (Meetz) and Bernice Obrigewitch have been long time members of St. Bernard's Parish. Logan's father, Greg was a member of the parish from infancy. Greg and his wife Rhonda moved to Beulah where they fostered Logan's faith growth as members of St. Joseph Parish.

His grandparents and aunts have been close to Logan and his twin brother, Hunter, since their birth. "I always knew the boys had a lot of good in them," Schwartz said. Logan and Hunter have a sister Hannah.

Both aunts and the grandparents were present at a public community reception for the diocese seminarians hosted by the Belfield Knights of Columbus Council 6310 on June 13. Nearly 100 people attended the event where members of the St. Bernard's Parish community and the Belfield area were able to meet and greet the seminarians.

Father Josh Waltz, director of vocations for the diocese, termed the "Seminarian Getaway: Unload and Unwind" event a great success saying, "A major part of the reason is that we (North Dakotans) are the envy of America is because of stuff like this."

He thanked the Belfield Knights of Columbus Council 6310 for the group's commitment to vocations support, praising the members for their hospitality and generosity. "I am very humbled," he told those gathered at the informal community banquet.



Submitted photo

Diocese seminarians Grant Dvorak (left) and Jacob Degele (center) were each presented with \$500 gifts toward their formation costs by the Belfield Knights of Columbus Council 6310 representative Roger Decker.

Seminarians Dvorak, Degele given \$500 gifts

Two diocese seminarians, Grant Dvorak and Jacob Degele, were awarded \$500 gifts from the Belfield Knights of Columbus Council 6310 at the "Seminarian Getaway: Unload and Unwind" event held June 12-14 in Belfield.

Event co-coordinator Roger Decker and Belfield Knights of Columbus Council 6310 Vocations co-chairman Les Simnioniw presented each with a check for \$500.

Dvorak has been studying at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, DC. He is the son Allan and Carolanne Dvorak of Bismarck. His home parish is Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck.

Degele has been at St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He is the son of Jason and Julie Degele of Dickinson. His home parish is St. Joseph Parish in Dickinson.

The Belfield Knights of Columbus Council 6310 hosts a Lenten fish fry and breakfasts throughout the year to raise money to assist women and men in following their religious vocation. The council has also provided donations to Real Presence Radio.

—Submitted information

Congrats and Best Wishes!

Bishop Kagan and the Bismarck Diocese staff wish

Beverly Hulm

best wishes on her retirement after 32 years of service as an employee of the diocese.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!





State of North Dakota

OFFICE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Employer:

April. 2016

One or more of your employees has served on jury duty within the past 18 months and has told us that your company pays some or all of their salary while they are carrying out this function.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet imagined by man by which government can be held to the principles of its constitution." While trial by jury is a right guaranteed by both the U.S. and the North Dakota state constitutions, we understand that jury service does not come without cost and inconvenience to both employers and employees. There is no control over when an employee will be required to serve and no predictability regarding how long they will be away from work. This can mean canceling appointments, re-arranging production schedules, and covering staff shortages on short notice. For the employee there can be the stress of re-arranging transportation, child care, and work functions, as well as the loss of income. That is why we want to take a minute to thank you for voluntarily bearing some of the costs of protecting the right to a jury trial and easing the burden on your employees while they provide this service to their community.

We recognize that not every company can afford to offer this benefit to its employees and that your company does not derive a direct benefit from the cost, but you have chosen to make this a priority anyway and for that we offer our sincere appreciation.

Sincerely,

State Court Administrator



STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA COURT SYSTEM

Diocese of Bismarck

Whereas, the right to a trial by jury is one of the core benefits of American citizenship, and

Whereas, the obligation and privilege to serve as a juror are as fundamental to our democracy as the right to vote; and

Whereas, our system of justice depends upon citizens to serve as jurors; and

Whereas, all citizens should be encouraged to respond when summoned for jury service; and

Whereas, a continuing and imperative goal for the courts, and the broader community is to ensure that jury selection and jury service are fair, effective, and not unduly burdensome on individuals.

The North Dakota Court System extends its sincere appreciation to all employers who are able to support the jury system by paying their employees while serving on jury duty. In honoring the commitment of citizens who perform jury duty, you are reinforcing public confidence in the justice system, and disseminating an important and positive message about jury service.

Gerald W. VandeWalle
Chief Justice, ND Supreme Court

Sally A. Holewa
State Court Administrator

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Obituary

Rev. Edwin P. Wehner

The Reverend Edwin P. Wehner, 73, passed away on June

11, 2016, at CHI St. Alexius Health, Bismarck. Mass of Christian burial was held June 15, at the Church of Saint



Rev. Edwin P. Wehner

Anne in Bismarck, with the Most Reverend David D. Kagan, Bishop of Bismarck, officiating. Burial took place at St. Mary's Cemetery, Bismarck.

Father Wehner was born May 4, 1943, in New England, North Dakota, the son of Frank and Catherine (Simon) Wehner. He was raised in New England where he attended country school and St. Mary's Grade and High School.

He received his seminary education from Holy Cross Seminary, LaCrosse, Wisc., from 1961-1965, and obtained his theological education from St. Thomas Seminary in Denver from 1965-1969. He was ordained a priest at the Church of St. Mary, New England, on May 31, 1969, by the Most Reverend Hilary B. Hacker.

Father Wehner's first assignment was assistant pastor of the Church of St. Joseph in Dickinson until 1972. For the next four years, he served as assistant pastor at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. In 1976, he became chaplain and director of religious life and religious education at St. Mary's Central High School in Bismarck. At the same time, he became administrator of St. Vincent de Paul in Crown Butte. In 1984, he was appointed administrator of the Churches of St. Philomena, Selfridge and Sacred Heart, Solen, for one year.

Father Wehner then became pastor of the Churches of St. Theresa, Carson, St. John the Baptist, New Leipzig, St. Lawrence, Flasher, and St. Gertrude, Raleigh. From 1987 to 1991 he served as the director of continuing education for clergy and director of the division of ministry formation for the diocese. He also served as priest liaison at St. Mary's Central High School for the 1992-1993 school year.

His last assignment began in 1990, as pastor of the Church of Saint Anne in Bismarck. On July 1, 2013, he retired to the Emmaus Place in Bismarck. Along with parish duties, he was also involved in various diocesan works such as advocate and judge for the Marriage Tribunal, was a member of the Vocations Commission and Diocesan Pastoral Council, and chaplain for the Knights of Columbus in Flasher. He served as the Section 8 Ecclesial Priest in leadership for Marriage Encounter for North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. He also served as a presenting team priest on Marriage Encounter weekends as well as for the Pre-Marriage Seminars for engaged couples. He currently was the chaplain for the

4th Degree Bismarck Knights of Columbus.

Father Wehner is survived by his brothers Robert (Ruth) Lincoln, CA; Harvey (Anita) San Jose, CA; Arvin (Mary) Brookings, OR; Reverend Eugene Wehner, Kiserian, Kenya, East Africa, sister-in-law Roxann Wehner, Whitehall, MT, and several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Frank and Catherine Wehner, and his brother, Kenneth.

Sr. Johnita Meyer

Sr. Johnita (Ann Mary) Meyer OSB, 97, died June 1, 2016 at Saint

Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minn. Funeral Mass was celebrated at on June 7 at Saint Benedict's Monastery. Burial will be in the



Sr. Johnita Meyer

monastery cemetery.

Ann Mary Meyer was born on Oct. 28, 1918, to John J. and Margaret (Emineth) Meyer in Dickinson. She attended St. Joseph School in Dickinson and received her high school equivalency at Technical High School in St. Cloud, Minn.

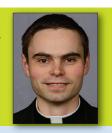
Ann Mary entered Saint Benedict's Monastery on Nov. 6, 1946, was received into the novitiate June 17, 1947, taking the name Sr. Johnita; made first monastic profession July 11, 1948, and perpetual monastic profession on July 11, 1951.

After her profession of vows in 1948, she experienced 30 years with three careers spent in healthcare at St. Cloud Hospital and St. Benedict Hospital in Ogden, Utah as a switchboard operator, in housekeeping and medical records. She also served in the business office at St. Benedict's Monastery and in food service at St. Cloud Hospital as well as St. Joseph's Home in St. Cloud and St. Benedict Monastery. In 1992, Sister Johnita started catering special monastery events, giving 15 years to serving the community in that role. Her service also included being a hostess at the monastery's Art and Heritage Place, working as an artisan for Monastic Enterprises and as a member of the formation community at Saint Benedict's Monastery, guiding women discerning a vocation to monastic life. In 2011, Sr. Johnita moved to Saint Scholastica Convent, where she undertook a ministry of prayer for the prioress and continued to serve in Monastic Enterprises.

Sister Johnita is survived by her Benedictine Community; two sisters, Doloris Schmidt, Dickinson, and Rose (Dominic) St. Peter, Bismarck; one brother, Richard (Dorathy), Dickinson; two brothers-in-law, Richard Frederick and Norbert Amann; two sistersin-law, Betty Meyer and Joan Meyer; and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents and nine siblings.

*Questions*I was afraid to ask

FR. JOSEPH EVINGER



Should I talk to Jehovah's Witnesses?

The simple answer is yes.

But when they show up
at your door ask yourself,
how much should I talk
to them? Should it be a polite
greeting or more extended?

I've heard many stories from folks about what they did when these well-dressed men and women showed up at the door. Some have told me they hid in the garage to avoid them. Some have turned out the lights like no one was home. Some have chased the dog after them. I've even heard someone say that he sprayed him or her with the pressure washer, as he happened to be washing the tractor at the time. I wouldn't recommend the last two approaches to anyone.

As Christians, we all know that we have the duty to respect the dignity of all humanity no matter their background. My suggestion to most of you, especially those who do not have apologetical skills, to simply give them a polite greeting saying you cannot talk at length. If they insist on giving you material, don't feel bad to politely deny it or after closing the door to throw it in the garbage.

If you clearly are strong in your Catholic faith and feel the Lord is calling you to talk, I would say go for it. You may even invite them into your house for a cup of coffee. Being hospitable to others and treating others with great respect is one of the hallmarks of our faith. Thus, your showing hospitality will quietly tell them that you're credible. Ask them if they would be willing to pray with you. Prayer brings God into the picture, and by leading the prayer you will undermine the authority they claim to have as "the true witnesses of God." Pull out your Bible; after all, Catholics were the ones who compiled it. Likely they will not convert, but at least they will see that you can defend true Christianity.

If they have showed up at an inconvenient time for you to dialogue—it was usually when we were butchering chickens when I was young (no joke)—ask them to come back at a more

convenient time. Set up the possible meeting right away if you can, but remember to get their phone number if you need to cancel.

Here are a few pointers of what to expect about their beliefs. Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus is God. Thus, they say we cannot have a conversation or a personal relationship with Jesus, avoiding the fact that St. Stephen talked to him while being stoned, as did St. John throughout the book of Revelation (Acts 7:59, Rev. 21).

Jehovah's Witnesses have their own translation of the Bible. They will stress that one must love God above all things and love one's neighbor as oneself, which is true. They will point out the importance of God's kingdom to come with the new heavens and new earth, but deny that evervone who choses God at death will be with God for all eternity. For them heaven is only for a 144,000 and the rest have to live on the new earth away from God. The reality of hell doesn't exist for them as well as the immortality of the soul. They deny the celebrations of Christian holidays such as Christmas and Easter.

If you are looking to dive more deeply into what they believe, Catholic Answers offers some great help. Search "History of the Jehovah's Witnesses," "Strategies of the Jehovah's Witnesses" or "Stumpers for the Jehovah's Witnesses" in the search engine at www.catholic.com. You will find a vast amount of resources.

Finally, if it is clear that you should talk at length with them be sure to speak about the importance of knowing Christ as laid out in the Scripture writings of St. John. But most of all, allow the dialogue to cause you to grow more deeply in your relationship with Jesus Christ and his bride—the Church. Only Jesus can grow our hearts, and you might be the one who plants a tiny seed in another's.

■ Fr. Evinger is parochial vicar at St. Joseph in Williston. If you have a question you were afraid to ask, now is the time to ask it! Simply email your question to info@bismarckdiocese.com with the "Question Afraid to Ask" in the subject line.

Final profession for Sr. Michelle

Sr. Michelle Marie Evinger, daughter of Linus and Anne Evinger of Halliday, made her final religious profession with the Contemplative Sisters of St. John on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 3, in St. Jodard, France. She will soon be transferred to the priory of Princeville, Ill. Much heartfelt gratitude is given to God for the extraordinary grace given to Sr. Michelle Marie, and many prayers will be offered for her perseverance in her vocation.



AUGUST 2016 Dakota Catholic Action 13

Leap of Faith

We are all called to sainthood

"Momma, I can be a saint, you know," she said through ketchup-laced corners of her mouth. She paused from eating her hamburger at the local fast food restaurant with a curious look on her face.

I was caught a bit off guard, as this was a slight detour from the usual lunch conversation with my 9-year-old daughter. Our talks often revolve around happenings at school or complaints about her younger brother.

But I managed to answer, "You bet, you can."

My girl explored what it meant to be a saint in her CCD classes this past year and thoughts of the possibility popped into her head for some reason during our lunch outing. I was happy to encourage the rather unusual timing of the topic.

A common thread among many saints is that they might have been the most unlikely candidates, but stepped up against all odds and helped others or advanced a cause greater than themselves. Many of us want to help, but don't know where to begin. We want to make the world a better place for those

less fortunate. But, where do we start?

If you're familiar with the story of St. Katherine Drexel, you know of a young, wealthy heiress devoted to financing missions for American Indians and African Americans. She could have been a spoiled rich girl fulfilling her every desire. Not so, because her parents taught her that their wealth should be shared with those less fortunate.

Do we encourage our young people to foster their love for Christ and the Church?

After the death of her parents and contemplating their inheritance, she and her sisters were received in a private audience with Pope Leo XIII. They asked him for missionaries to staff their cause. To their surprise, the pope's challenge back at them was, "What about you? What are you going to do?" He challenged Katherine to start her own religious order to staff her mission.

Those would be life-changing words for anyone. It reminded Katherine that, in the end, every Christian man and women, by virtue of baptism, is called on a mission. She entered religious life and then ended up founding a religious order. Each of us is compelled to answer God's call, "What about you?"

In this case the pope's words—"What about you?"—were addressed to a young woman in her 20's with big plans. These words made her realize all the work to be done and she needed do her part.

How many of the young people in our parishes have similar big ideals, generosity of spirit, and openness to God's call? One of the biggest challenges for the Church is reaching out to young people and fostering the sense of personal responsibility as missionary disciples to spread the Gospel to the world.

Not unlike my young saintin-waiting who declared her intentions during lunch at a fast food restaurant that is open to accomplishing greatness in God's kingdom. I'm pretty sure my youngster doesn't have a solid plan in place of how to accomplish this, but she's open to the calling.

Do we encourage our young people to foster their love for Christ and the Church? Do we challenge them and make space for them to find their path? Do we find ways to encourage their enthusiasm and gifts to offer mercy and aid to their fellow man?

What about you? By sharing your joy and enthusiasm in serving the Lord, it will motivate others to follow suit. I'm not about to squash my daughter's aspirations to sainthood.

Can you do your part as was asked of St. Katherine Drexel? She stepped up when asked, "What about you?" Are you willing?

■ Mullally is the communications director for the diocese and editor of the Dakota Catholic Action.



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Light of Christ Catholic Schools

Ag Attitudes JAMES ODERMANN

Culture of agriculture should create familiarity with God

The culture of agriculture faces major challenges. And the pending clash (at least in North Dakota) was made more serious by the results of our primary election when North Dakota voters, by a huge margin, voted to not allow corporate farms for the swine and dairy industries.

The cultural clash is, in simplistic terms, an age-old challenge of the haves and the have-nots. The haves are business driven, making decisions based on maximizing economic returns from inputs. The have-nots are those smaller operators that are more content to embrace old-school concepts with less modernization and subsidize their lifestyle (or "piece of the country") with an off-the-farm job or less profit.

There has been, for a growing number of years, a facet of the

agriculture industry that has subscribed to the "bigger is better" philosophy—the concept that the efficiencies of size are far best for agriculture. Within this discussion has been the unintended consequence that American agriculture can "feed the world" using bigger machinery, improved technology and biology to answer the call.

While it is true the American agricultural producer has shown an ability to produce food like never before in history, the cultural clash comes in what is best for the resources. These resources are the air, land and water—but most importantly the people.

Agriculture is a business, big business, but the mindset of the people of North Dakota, at least from my vantage point taking into consideration the results of the primary election, is that people (in this case families) are more important than profits.

To say everything is rosy for the medium to small family operations is unrealistic. To say the sky is falling down is equally shortsighted. Opportunities abound within the industry. Education, self-discipline and satisfaction are key components in determining the road to travel.

So, as I reflected on this while circling fields this haying season, I had to question my commitment. Was the commitment financially motivated? Was my commitment to protecting the resources? Lots of questions popped into my mind.

In the same way, was my commitment to my faith as fervent as my commitment to my profession—and vocation? Is my prayer life active? Do I take time to reflect, to open my mind, body and

soul to hear God? Do I

see God in the world around me (the air, land, water and people)?

The focal point of my life (and the culture of agriculture) need not be the inputs on the farm, but rather the outputs that create familiarity with God. This requires a commitment to subject myself to God and to follow God's will humbly and compassionately. Effort is needed to overcome indifference.

It is not easy. I need and want to try. I pray I can succeed. Care to join me?

■ Odermann lives with his wife, Leona, on the family farm in Billings County. They are members of the Church of St. Patrick in Dickinson and assist with eucharistic celebrations there as well as at the Churches of St. Bernard (Belfield) and St. Mary (Medora).

Making Sense out of Bioethics FR. TAD PACHOLCZYK

Cremains and respect for the human body

In the famous story of David and Goliath, Goliath boasts to the young David that after he kills him, he will give his flesh "to the birds of the sky and beasts of the field." He conveys his profound disdain for David by speaking this way, deprecating even his corpse. This offends our sensibility that dead bodies should not be desecrated, but should instead be respectfully buried. Proper disposition and care of another's body also manifests our Christian faith in the resurrection of that body on the Last Day. Over time, this has evolved into a deeper understanding about the handling of corpses, including regulations surrounding cremation.

For Catholics, cremation is considered an acceptable form of handling the human body after death, although as noted in the Order of Christian Funerals, cremation "does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body.... The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in its rites."

Moreover, cremation can lead to problematic practices, which Cardinal Raymond Burke references in a Pastoral letter to the faithful in the Diocese of La Crosse in the year 2000:

"With the growing practice of cremation, there has also developed a certain lack of care for the cremated remains of the dead. Funeral directors who have been asked to store the cremated remains report that those remains often are left unclaimed by family or friends. Those charged with the arrangements for the funeral rites of the deceased should see that the cremated remains are interred or entombed at the earliest possible time..... It is not permitted to scatter cremated remains over a favorite place, and it is not permitted to keep cremated remains in one's home or place other than a cemetery.. The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and inter or entomb them in more than one place."

These clearly articulated concerns remind us of our obligation to respect the remains of the dead, even in their ashen state. By becoming lax in our approach to handling cremains, we can easily betray the respect that is owed.

A story comes to mind involving a friend of mine who works as a pilot. He was asked to take up a passenger in a small plane for the "final repose of ashes" into the ocean. As they were taking off, he told the passenger, "Just be sure that you don't ever open that urn! It needs to be thrown overboard when I open the hatch window and give you the signal." The passenger, however, was determined to do it his way, and when the pilot opened the window, he popped off the top of the urn and tried to scatter the ashes at sea. Instead, the ashes were seized by the violent air currents and scattered throughout the internals of the airplane, among all the instrumentation and dials, and in the hair and clothing of both the

pilot and the passenger.

Another reason

to bury cremains in the earth or inter them in a mausoleum, rather than scattering them abroad, is to establish a particular place to be able to visit and pray for the soul of that person, in the physical presence of their mortal remains. The burial site serves as a point of reference and connection to the embodiment of that individual, rather than reducing them to a kind of vague and wispy nothingness.

Keeping grandma's ashes on the fireplace mantle or up in the attic alongside the antique paintings is another problematic practice that can easily end up downplaying or denying her human dignity, tempting us to treat her mortal remains as just another item to be moved around among our various trinkets

It can be helpful to encourage the family, and all who are involved with cremains, to think about ashes in a manner similar to how we'd think about a full body. Would we keep a casket and corpse at home for a few weeks? If not, then we shouldn't do the same with someone's ashes. Regrettably, many people are not thinking about cremains as the revered remnants of a fellow human being, but more as something to be disposed of whenever it's convenient for our schedule and budget. We don't approach fullbody caskets that way because we recognize more clearly the duty to bury our beloved dead. The sacred memory of our departed family and friends, in sum, calls us to carefully attend to their remains with authentic and objective gestures of respect.

■ Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

Changes at the diocese offices

The diocese has recently welcomed a new employee at the front desk of the Center for Pastoral Ministry.



Diane Weber joined

the staff in July replacing Beverly Hulm who retired from working at the diocese for 32 years. She serves as the main receptionist and administrative assistant to various offices within the diocese including family ministry and faith formation/youth ministry. Weber had recently retired after working in state government for the past 26 years.

Diane and her husband, Bruce, are members of Corpus Christi in Bismarck. They have one daughter and son-in-law, Marie and Jason Hallof and two grandchildren.

Chancery moves to C.B. Little house

The offices of Bishop Kagan and the chancery have moved to the C.B. Little house on the corner of Washington St. and Avenue A. The chancery provides administrative and clerical assistance for the bishop as well as diocesan records and reports. It coordinates personnel policies, facilitates diocesan ministries and services, and responds to requests from pastors, people of the diocese, national and international church bodies and the general public. The offices were previously located on Raymond St. just south of Cathedral School.

The historic home, built in 1902, was remodeled to accommodate the new offices. The diocese has owned the house since 1942. It has served as a convent and housed other diocesan offices. For a time from 2004-2014, the house was leased to the State Bar Association for office space.

Balancing Church & State

CHRISTOPHER DODSON

Mercy in anxious times

These are anxious times.

We have witnessed orchestrated acts of terror so senseless it boggles the mind. Nearly 65 million people are displaced worldwide and there seems to exist no will or agreement to resettle them. Mass shootings driven by hatred, despair, or mental instability seem to have become more commonplace. A U.S. Supreme Court driven by abortion ideology has thrown-out decades of legal precedent.

Never before have the presumptive nominees for president been so disliked by the American public. Christians and other religious minorities continue to face persecution and martyrdom around the world. Ideologically zealous bureaucracies are forcing people to embrace "gender philosophies" contrary to their religious beliefs and common sense. Some political candidates seek a return of the use of torture. Others support the use of drone strikes on civilians.

It is enough to think that we are living in W.B. Yeats' *The Second Coming:*

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,

The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere

The ceremony of innocence is drowned;

The best lack all conviction, while the worst

Are full of passionate intensity. But we've been here before. And,we will be here again. Yeats wrote his poem immediately after World War I, a war so violent, deadly, senseless, and sudden that it shook the Western world to its core. A mere 20 years later we experienced another world war.

How do we, as Christians, respond during troubling and chaotic times? Do we withdraw from the world, judging it irredeemable? Do we embrace the changes, gradually or quickly, "going with the flow" enough so we can still make a difference elsewhere?

Do we let our anxieties and passions overtake us and join a worldly movement fighting in reaction to the changes and chaos? Do we let our resistance become hatred of this world?

St. Paul instructs us to "have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Phil. 4:6) This does not mean, however, that we should withdraw from society and only pray. We are social creatures created to serve God and others. We serve others not only through individual acts of charity, but also through social and government institutions.

The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church has this to say about times of trouble: "When human authority goes beyond the limits willed by God, it makes itself a deity and demands absolute submission; it becomes the Beast of the Apocalypse, an image of the power of the imperial persecutor "drunk with the blood

of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (Rev 17:6). The Beast is served by the "false prophet" (Rev 19:20), who, with beguiling signs, induces people to adore it. This vision is a prophetic indication of the snares used by Satan to rule men, stealing his way into their spirit with lies. But Christ is the Victorious Lamb who, down the course of human history, overcomes every power that would make it absolute. Before such a power, Saint John suggests the resistance of the martyrs; in this way, believers bear witness that corrupt and satanic power is defeated, because it no longer has any authority over them." (382)

Three points come to mind when reading this passage. First, it relies heavily on the Book of Revelation, which was written during a time when persecuted Christians were tempted to lose hope. Second, the Beast of the Apocalypse, is not necessarily a ruler or world government. It could be a human-made ideology, like many of the false ideologies from the left and the right popular today. Third, the lesson is that, by the cross and resurrection, Christ

is victorious and overcomes every contrary power.

The *Compendium* goes on to note that we humans must perceive these truths and seek to fulfill, in social life, "truth, justice, freedom and solidarity that bring peace."

We cannot withdraw. Nor can we succumb to false man-made "solutions." Finally, we cannot be overcome by anxiety or despair. Mercy is not served by any of those reactions.

Ten years after Yeats' Second Coming, T.S. Eliot wrote Ash Wednesday. A passage of the poem expresses this Christian idea of being in the world, caring for the world, but not being of the world, all the while embracing St. Paul's call to prayer. He wrote:

Teach us to care and not to care Teach us to sit still.

Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.

Dodson serves as executive director of the N.D. Catholic Conference, the official liaison for the dioceses of Fargo and Bismarck in matters of public policy.



DECREE OF CONVOCATION

SECOND SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BISMARCK

The events of the last seventy-five years of the Twentieth Century and the first decade and a half of the Twenty-first Century in the life of the Universal Church and this local Church, have had a significant influence on the sacramental, educational, spiritual, liturgical, pastoral and disciplinary life of the Christian faithful. The Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, several World Synods of Bishops, the revision of the Code of Canon Law, and the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and its Compendium have had an immediate and enduring effect on the profession and practice of the Roman Catholic Faith.

Given these most significant events and since this local Church last convoked its First Diocesan Synod in 1924, The Most Reverend David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L., Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Bismarck, having consulted the Presbyteral Council in the years 2014 and 2015, has judged that circumstances warrant the convocation and celebration of a Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck. This decision is solemnly decreed and is effective as of Saturday, 6 August A.D. 2016, The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in accord with the norms of Canon 461 §1, and Canon 462 §1, of the Code of Canon Law, by this presents it is decreed that,

The Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck is to be convoked and celebrated on Wednesday, 9 November A.D. 2016, at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, North Dakota, at the hour of 10:30 A.M. Central Standard Time.

Moreover, in accord with the norms of Canon 463 §1 and §2, of the Code of Canon Law and the Instruction on Diocesan Synods of the Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, those persons called and named to be members of this Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck and bound to participate in it, are hereby appointed with this decree.

FDaniel D. Kegan

Episcopus Bismarckiensis

Given at the Chancery this 12th day of July A.D. 2016

late Blerle

Mr. Dale Eberle Chancellor





Team Dvorak, Kim Dvorak, Allan Dvorak, Grant Dvorak, Matt Mullally, are champions of the Seminarian Fundraiser Golf Tournament held July 18 in Mandan. Above, Bishop Kagan and Fr. Josh Waltz, vocations director, with the winning team and the diocesan seminarians in attendance.

At left, Bishop Kagan looks on as Anthony Bell tees off during the tournament.

Photo by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

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Mike Klabo Strasburg 701-580-9036 michael.klabo@kofc.org



John Kreitinger Dickinson 701-483-5466 john.kreitinger@kofc.org



Pat Dolan, FICF General Agent, Fargo (701) 298-9922 patrick.dolan@kofc.org



Bismarck

701-222-2755

Minot 701-837-0135 michael.vetter@kofc.org



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

