Light of Christ Catholic Schools capital campaign achieves major campaign milestone

Shovels have officially started moving dirt at the site of the new St. Mary's Central High School in north Bismarck.

The official groundbreaking was held Sept. 17 with a Mass presided over by Bishop Kagan at the site of the new construction.

On Sept. 7, Light of Christ Catholic Schools (LOCCS) celebrated reaching more than 80 percent of their capital campaign goal with 1,300 students and numerous family members and supporters present at a public announcement at the current high school location.

“The passion and energy by the campaign cabinet have been critical factors as we’ve raised more than $38 million of our $46.5 million goal,” stated Vern Dosch, capital campaign chair. “This effort has been blessed by God and will touch the lives of countless students and their families for generations to come.”

The new campus will include its own soccer and football field and a chapel to seat more than 600 people, thanks to the generous donation of Ken and Marilyn Keller. The Kellers were recognized at the event for their commitment to creating the Our Lady of Victory Chapel on the new SMCHS campus.

“God has blessed me and my family and we wanted to share it with Light of Christ because of the impact this school system has had on us,” shared Ken Keller. “I want the new St. Mary’s Central High School campus to provide the best facilities in the state to benefit my grandchildren and their children.”

The capital campaign to make improvements throughout the Light of Christ school system kicked off January 1, 2016 with an ambitious plan. This included improvements to the existing three elementary schools, the consolidation of grades 6-8 in the St. Mary’s Middle School Academy located in the current St. Mary’s Central High School (SMCHS) and building a new St. Mary’s Central High School. The Academy will take over the entire SMCHS facility in 2019, the projected date for the new school to open.

The campaign also includes the establishment of a future viability endowment that will fund ongoing maintenance and improvements for the school system.

“As president Gerald Vetter often states, ’It all started 140 years ago when the Benedictine nuns got off the train,’” stated Bishop David Kagan during the public announcement on Sept. 7. “This is an historic time for Catholic education in central North Dakota. I want to thank the thousands of people who have contributed through prayer and generosity today, and especially to Ken and Marilyn Keller for their belief in Catholic education.”

Continued on page 8
Call upon Our Blessed Mother’s intercession

BISHOP’S SCHEDULE OCTOBER 2017

Oct. 1  • Confirmation at Church of the Little Flower, Minot, 11 a.m.

Oct. 3  • Blessing and Installation of Abbot Daniel Maloney, OSB, Assumption Abbey Church, Richmond, 10:30 a.m. MT

Oct. 8  • Confirmation at the Church of St. Joseph, Dickinson, 10:30 a.m. MT

Oct. 12 • Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Board of Trustees meeting, St. Louis, Missouri

Oct. 13 • World Wide Children’s Holy Hour, Church of St. Mary, Bismarck, 1 p.m.

Oct. 15 • Confirmation at the Church of St. John, Minot, 10:30 a.m.

Oct. 16 • White Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 17 • Real Presence Radio interview, 9 a.m.

Oct. 19 • Diocesan Youth Rally Mass, University of Mary, Bismarck, 7:30 a.m.

Oct. 22 • Confirmation at the Church of St. James, Sherwood, 11 a.m.

Oct. 24 • Annual Region VIII Tribunal meeting, Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, 12 p.m.

Oct. 29 • Confirmation at the Church of St. Joseph, Williston, 1:30 p.m.

FROM THE BISHOP

Bishop David D. Kagan

T he month of October is traditionally dedicated to Respect Life and to the Most Holy Rosary. We Catholics see an essential connection between honoring Our Most Blessed Mother, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, and praying for an end to the intrinsic evils of abortion, euthanasia, artificial contraception and racism. Of course, it is always and everywhere a spiritual and temporal good to pray for an end to these terrible evils by asking Our Blessed Mother’s fruitful intercession before the throne of her Divine Son. Jesus listens to His Most Beloved Mother.

When we pray the Holy Rosary, whether we pray the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous or Glorious Mysteries, we are accompanying Our Blessed Mother as she follows Jesus through His earthly life fulfilling the will of Our Father. It is said that the Rosary is the “poor man’s Bible.” This means that to know and pray the mysteries of the Rosary is to enter into the life and times of the Incarnate Son of God. It is no wonder that the Holy Rosary is one of the most popular and frequently offered prayers that Catholics use to increase and strengthen their faith. It is such a powerful and efficacious prayer that we can offer either in private or in public, and while having a month in the year dedicated to it is a very good thing, we should make praying the Holy Rosary a regular and, if possible, a daily part of our prayers.

Since this month of October has been designated as Respect Life month, there is no better way to support the true Respect Life cause than to pray the Holy Rosary. When we seek in all sincerity and truth the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, the Mother of God, to truly change the hearts and minds of all who see these intrinsic evils as goods and even human rights, we are doing a very good work of mercy and charity. When we pray the Holy Rosary, seeking Our Blessed Lady’s assistance in the cause of life, we need to ask Her to obtain for us the actual graces of courage and charity as we pray and work for the restoration in our nation of that essential respect for all human life from its first moment of conception to its natural death.

We see that Our Blessed Mother’s intercession with Her Beloved and Divine Son is having the desired outcome. More and more abortion mills are closing, more and more Americans are concluding that abortion is a true evil, those who promote the ideology and the culture of death through abortion, euthanasia, and other artificial means of degrading human life and human dignity are being exposed and marginalized. However, as encouraging as these developments are, we need to persevere in our prayers and to act with courage and charity on what we pray for.

Please keep this month of October special in your personal daily life and in your family lives by praying the Holy Rosary, by praying for a return to the objective truth of the inherent dignity and worth of every human being living inside and outside of the womb. To respect and protect human life, we must first give love and respect to the Author of all human life.

BISHOP IN ACTION

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Elevating their voices

Children take part in chant camp

By Amanda Evinger

Getting children fascinated with sacred music may not be as tricky as one would think.

“Children respond very well to chant, and it comes to them so easily,” said Fr. Wayne Sattler, pastor of the Church of St. Anne in Bismarck. “Sometimes children may not feel that they can sing, but they find that they can chant. It is an easy melody that is catchy and attractive to them. It may not be the most flashy, but when it is introduced to them at a young age, they understand it.”

This August, a Chant Camp session was held at St. Anne’s. It was attended by 52 children ages seven to 17. Each campfire began with a gathering game, followed by vocal warm-up exercises, and the singing of Liturgy of the Saints. The campers were then split into three different choirs for rehearsals. Each choir had special music in preparation to sing for the weekend Vigil Mass (the concluding activity of the camp), some of which was in Latin. The camp also included time for snacks, recess, and lessons on topics such as the liturgy and the history of sacred music. The camp concluded with awards and prizes, for accomplishments like “smooth tone” and “joyful expression.”

This encouraged each of them to strive to give their best during the camp week and work on virtues specifically needed as singers for holy Mass.

The camp session was directed by Lillian Bielinski, who works at St. Anne’s, assisting with the children’s choirs and singing and playing the organ for Masses. Lillian holds a Master’s Degree in Sacred Music. Sara Schuster, Director of Music at St. Anne’s, also helped to coordinate the camp, along with the help of the following University of Mary students: Yasilina Schneider, Dominick Goettle, Anne Storick and Abigail Landsteiner.

“During the week, the children learned about the origins of the Mass and the history of Gregorian Chant, and even had the opportunity to compose their own chants,” Lillian said. “One of my favorite moments of the week was when the youngest choir, the Cherubim (ages 7-9), sang their chant compositions for each other. I was amazed with their creativity as many of the children picked beautiful prayers such as ‘Jesus, I trust in You,’ or entire Bible verses and sang them with melodies that musically emphasized the most important words.”

Brad and Christa Wiederholt are grateful that their sons, Samuel, 10, and Gabriel, 8, had such an impressionable experience at Chant Camp.

“It was great to see our children having fun with such an ancient and beautiful part of our faith,” Christa said. “We also loved that our children had the opportunity to be with the camp leaders, who love their Catholic faith and love singing. We feel that it was a wonderful experience for them to sing the Latin chants during the Mass. And, since they both study Latin for school, it was good to see them use the language in such a meaningful way.”

In the end, the campers walked away with an invaluable gift—that of becoming well acquainted with a musical language that speaks the words of Mother Church herself. “Chant Camp offered so much to the children as well as the leaders,” Lillian shared. “We give the children great music, and we see how far they can go with it. I feel it is so essential for children to be exposed to chant because it is a treasure of our Catholic faith. As the documents of Vatican II state, Gregorian Chant is ‘of inestimable value, greater than that of any other art.’ It is a music exceedingly praised by our Church as a means to unite and elevate us in prayer.

Most importantly, learning more about Gregorian Chant also helps children draw nearer to Christ, their eternal friend, who musically emphasized the most important words.”

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Most importantly, learning more about Gregorian Chant also helps children draw nearer to Christ, their eternal friend, who continually offers Himself in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

“In general, knowing how to sing Gregorian Chant gives children a way to participate more fully in the Mass,” Lillian said. “Furthermore, I think Chant gives children a sense of the sacred and formation in Catholic culture. I loved witnessing the campers enthusiastically for music and their love for God and each other. It was a joy to spend a week singing together!”

Father Sattler observed, “What a sad mistake it would be to somehow regard Gregorian Chant as an ancient relic of the Church.”

He went on to explain how “to this day the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) continue to instruct us on how the main place should be given, all things being equal, to Gregorian chant, as being proper to the Roman Liturgy.” (41) And that ‘it is desirable that they know how to sing together at least some parts of the Ordinary of the Mass in Latin.’ (41) The desire of the Church remains clear. Gregorian Chant is the music written particularly for the sacred liturgy, and Latin is the language of the Universal Church.”

In an article on St. Gregory the Great, Fr. Prosper Gueranger explains: The Roman Liturgy, which owes to him [St. Gregory the Great] some of its finest Hymns, may be considered as his work, at least in this sense, that it was he who collected together and classified the prayers and rites drawn up by his predecessors, and reduced them to the form, in which we now have them. He collected also the ancient chants of the Church, and arranged them in accordance with the rules and requirements of the Divine Service. Hence it is, that our sacred music is called the Gregorian Chant, which gives such solemnity to the Liturgy, and inspires the soul with respect and devotion during the celebration of the great Mysteries of our Faith.

Father Sattler reflected on how true he found this to be in his past pastoral assignment when he taught the children how to chant the Latin proper of the Mass. The parents soon commented on how their children were all chanting the “Sanctus”, and “Agnus Dei” at home, and were very excited when it came time to implement it at Sunday Mass.” The Chant Camp hosted at St. Anne’s these past two years has proven to bear the same fruit, it serves to further engage the children in the Liturgy.

There’s hope to host the chant camp again next August. For more information, email Lillian Bielinski at lillianbielinski@gmail.com or call Sara Schuster at St. Anne’s parish office at 701-223-1549.
Building relationships and changing lives
Three pregnancy clinics in the diocese serve those in need

As October is designated as “Respect Life Month,” our hearts are turned to the issue of abortion. As October is designated as “Respect Life Month,” we are reminded of the importance of protecting human life from conception to natural death. This month is dedicated to raising awareness about the necessity of life, and it is a time to reflect on the value of human life in all its stages.

Three pregnancy clinics in the diocese of Bismarck serve those in need—Dakota Hope Clinic in Minot, Badlands Choice Clinic in Dickinson in 2015, and FirstChoice Clinic in Bismarck in 2015. All three were born out of the conviction that underserved women, men and teens need to continue to provide the people of the diocese with great love and dedication for the families who walk through their doors. All three clinics currently offer pregnancy testing, ultrasound, decision-making seminars, pregnancy education and support—every service for free. All focus on the needs of the client as a whole, including aspects such as medical, emotional, educational, material, and spiritual, during and after the pregnancy.

Dakota Hope Clinic, in its four short years, has scheduled more than 2,000 clients, serving the needs of more than 518 individual clients who are primarily in their 20s and often have no health insurance. “About 70% of those tested have a positive pregnancy test and about 50% are at risk for choosing abortion,” Director Nadine Smetana said. “At the same time, today, abortion has become the ‘top of the mind’ response. Students are being pressured face additional pressures due to the issue of sexuality impact and medical professionals in an ecumenical event features a team of local educators, youth ministers, and medical professionals in an interactive discussion on the risks of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and take charge of their fertility.

The FirstChoice program gives our staff the in-depth knowledge needed to truly be the ‘sexual health experts’ in our community. About 518 of our clients are primarily in their 20s and often have no health insurance. Approximately 70% of those tested have a positive pregnancy test and about 50% are at risk for choosing abortion. One third of women between the ages of 20 and 24 are at risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and take charge of their fertility.

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Deeper respect for life
Faculty take part in dignity of the human person pilgrimage

By Patti Armstrong

The stark contrast between a brutal de-humanizing concentration camp in Dachau, Germany and the respect for all humanity at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France was part of a pilgrimage/retreat that 41 faculty members from the University of Mary’s School of Health Sciences attended this past August.

The 11-day “Dignity of the Human Person” pilgrimage was inspired by University President, Msgr. James Shea, to impress faculty and ultimately students, with a deep respect for life. “I wanted them to see what happens when medical science turns away from the care of the human person, then I wanted them to see what happens when it turns towards the dignity of people,” Msgr. Shea explained.

Lourdes is especially dear to him; a place he has visited many times, including many years ago to discern if he should be a candidate for the job of university president and a year ago to take the architect of the school’s own Lourdes-inspired grotto.

Taking the entire department that is specifically dear to caring for people, came about through the generosity of a group from Palm Springs that belongs to Legatus, a Catholic Leadership organization. Msgr. Shea had been leading a retreat for them every summer and shared with them his dream for such a pilgrimage. The Legatus group offered to pay the expense of the trip if they could come along.

“Being faculty in the school of health sciences in a Catholic University, the dignity of the person has always been at the forefront of our thought,” Dr. Jodi Roller, Dean, School of Health Sciences, explained. “Through the pilgrimage, every feeling about human dignity became more profound.”

With 300 professional students that will interact with these pilgrims, Roller said that the minds and hearts of students who are their successors in health care will also change. “It will have an exponential effect on today’s cultural mindset,” she said.

The group began in Paris, seeing an art display and a museum on the history of medicine, then travelled to the hills of southern Germany to Eichstatt, the home of St. Walburga’s Abbey. The Abbey, which will celebrate its 1000th anniversary in 18 years, is one of 36 Benedictine monasteries including our own Annunciation Monastery. The pilgrims joined the sisters for vespers and Mass and were blessed by the liquid known as St. Walburga oil that has flowed from the saint’s bones for over 1,000 years.

The defilement of humanity

From Eichstatt, they went to a concentration camp in Dachau and learned of the horrors that had been inflicted on those deemed inferior by the Nazis, such as Jews or members of the state such as Catholic priests who spoke the truth. The pilgrims heard about medical experiments inflicted on prisoners, walked through the barracks, and saw the room prisoners were gassed to death in and the two crematoriums that burned their remains.

William Littlefield, an instructor with the university’s Emerging Leaders Academy, described Dachau as profound. “I tried to emotionally and spiritually place myself in the mindset of a prisoner;” he said. “Upon entering the gates of Dachau, I felt this overwhelming sensation of stillness and darkness surround my very being.”

Every step of the way, he said they witnessed inhuman conditions such as the prisoners’ barracks with three levels of wall-to-wall bunk beds. Each bed held four prisoners with no space between beds and no barrier insulation nor ventilation.

Upon seeing images of prisoners, Littlefield said he was overwhelmed. “We cannot describe the looks of sorrow and shame on these prisoners,” he said. “Seeing their sunken eyes, as well as literally every bone in their bodies was depressing. We were shown a photo of kill prisoners thrown together in a pile. Many of us from our group lost it at this point because it was simply too much to take in at once. These victims didn’t even look like humans; they looked like piles of bone and skin.”

That experience, according to Littlefield, impressed on everyone just how fragile our human rights are and how crucial it is for those rights to be protected. “Members of the School of Health Sciences here at the University of Mary have a great responsibility moving forward,” he said. “We must understand how important it is for us to gently shape and form not just the minds, but also the hearts of our future healthcare leaders.” He noted the importance of ethics in healthcare. “If we do not properly form our youth, we will simply repeat what the Nazis did all those years ago.”

Healings at Lourdes, France

On the day after, the group visited the Nuremberg courtroom where those responsible for the Holocaust were tried. From there they went to Lourdes, France, stopping for Mass in Toulouse at the tomb of St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron of universities and students.

They stayed in Lourdes for five days. Some of the time was spent in direct service to the sick and disabled pilgrims who come to bathe in the miraculous spring, which was revealed to St. Bernadette Soubirous during an apparition in 1858. Each day, the group joined thousands from around the world in Eucharistic procession led by people in wheelchairs and stretchers and the candlelight rosary procession every evening.

Dr. Alessandro de Franciscis, the medical officer and president of the Medical Findings Office in Lourdes, spent time lecturing the group and led them on a tour through the hospital.

As medical professionals, the group could be inducted into the medical bureau. They had the opportunity to hear a case history of a reported miraculous cure and meet the man. The group was asked to vote on whether the case should move forward for further investigation. It was a unanimous “yes” based on the mandatory criteria: a diagnosed incurable disease with a permanent, spontaneous cure, and no natural explanation. There have been only 60 miraculous cures the Church has officially attributed to the water at Lourdes.

By the end of the Lourdes experience, before returning home, Roller said the entire group shared how deeply touched the whole experience had been. “These pilgrims have internalized thoughts about human dignity in a more profound way,” she said. “Teaching about human dignity will become more explicit in our mission.”


Father Robert Shea giving the homily at a Mass in the grotto.

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OCTOBER 2017
There are many opportunities: different ways to plant the seeds, good soil. The soil may resemble the soils Jesus talks about in Matthew 14. As sowers, we are often reminded of the parable of the sower. We are sometimes described as sowers, not just the staff in the spiritual department. All the staff at Home On The Range offer encouragement and praise, congregations will pray for your young adult or invite them to help with activities within their church, volunteers come out to minister or speak, and through our members encourage the children to be involved in school, community events, and local events.

One female resident noted, “I wish I could be a more active sower, but I have had to fix and heal myself before I can do anything else. I have matured into the great young woman I know I can be. I have found the light at the end of my tunnel. I am thankful for all those who have cheered me on and have had positive influences on me. I also appreciate those who support me in my beliefs and decisions. I have forgiven those who have hurt me and it feels relieving that I have found God.”

Another resident added, “I never really knew a lot about God and I’m still learning and always will be.”

I go to Chapel almost every week and go to church every Sunday. I try to go to bible study and prayer group whenever I can. I never went to church growing up and when I did it wasn’t the right reasons. But now I go because I want to learn more about God and what He has done for me and what he continues to do for me every day. I’m trying to get to it where I can sing in front with the worship team and I’m really excited about it too. I want to thank God for everything He has done for me without me even knowing it. And I fully believe in the saying “God doesn’t put things through anything you can’t handle.”

We are all sowers of the seeds that are planted in the boys and girls here. We respectfully ask for your continued prayers for the children and staff, and ask that you consider prayerfully a donation to support the Home On The Range.

Home On The Range is a special project supported by the North Dakota Knights of Columbus. Home On The Range is licensed to care for boys and girls ages 12 – 19. The facility is under the auspices of the Catholic Diocese of Bismarck and is located in western North Dakota near the town of Sentinel Butte. For more information, or to make a tax-deductible contribution to the spiritual department, go to www.hotrd.com.
Meet the newest sister

Maria Huber makes her first profession

On August 6, on the Transfiguration of the Lord, Maria Huber made her first monastic profession. She is now Sister Maria, a Benedictine Sister of Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck. Sister Maria, 27, is the oldest of seven children in her family that lives in Strasburg. Sister Maria answers some questions about her love of God, her monastic community, and family.

Q: What are the most powerful or rewarding things you learned during your novitiate year?

As a novice, I experienced the everyday life in the monastic community in a deeper way. I think I will really miss the consistent schedule I had during the novitiate year. It has a rhythm to it and it is grounding. I seem to function better with a schedule. I really found value in journaling and doing art to relax and get centered.

I appreciate the support of the sisters during my year as a novice. Having been through the novitiate themselves, they understand the challenges and the joys that come with it. The sisters prayed for me and encouraged me. They shared stories and occasionally brought me little gifts to brighten my day. I really got to experience what it means to be “community.” My novice director, Sister Agatha Muggli, was a wonderful resource for me, as were all of the sisters who have made my time here so enjoyable.

The novice taught me how to balance my life better and how to cope with stress or events around me. I have really found value in journaling and doing art to relax and get centered.

Q: How do you and your family members, feel about the fact that you are now called “Sister” Maria?

Ever since I was a little girl, I have felt drawn to God, the saints, and to Church. Attending the University of Mary helped solidify my call. I minored in theology and discovered a vocation to the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery. Each step brought me closer to God and becoming a sister.

I’m still getting used to the “Sister” part! At home everyone calls me Maria, except for the locals in town who call me, “Hi Sister!” My sister, Mary, asked if she has to call me Sister Maria. Of course, they can call me Maria. And I think my sister, Laura, knew I’d become a sister even before I did! My mom said she is proud to be the mother of a sister. That is really nice.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

We teach our young children all sorts of ways to keep themselves safe. We teach them to watch for cars, to look both ways before they cross the street, to buckle their seatbelts, and to wear helmets when riding their bikes. But, much more than that, safety is not taught until much older — until sometimes, it is too late. They think kids are too young. It is too scary. But it is never too soon, and it doesn’t have to be a scary conversation. Here are things 6 things that could help your child be less vulnerable to sexual abuse:

1. Talk about body parts early.

Use proper names for body parts, or at least teach your child what the actual words are for their body parts. Feeling comfortable using these words and knowing what they mean can help a child talk clearly if something inappropriate has happened. Tell your child: “Mom and dad might touch your private parts when we are cleaning you or if you need cream — but no one else should.”

2. Tell your child that body touches might tickle or feel good.

If they are on a play date or a sleepover.

3. Tell your child that no one should ask them to touch you there. Not friends, not aunts or uncles, not teachers.

This is an important point to discuss with your child. When you ask a young child what a “bad guy” looks like they will most likely describe a cartoonish villain. You can say something like, “Mom and dad might touch your private parts when we are cleaning you or if you need cream — but no one else should.”

4. Have a code word your children can use when they feel unsafe or want to be picked up.

As children get a little bit older, you can give them a code word that they can use when they are feeling unsafe. This can be used at home, when there are guests in the house or when they are on a play date or at a sleepover.

5. Tell your child that a body touch might tickle or feel good.

Many parents and books talk about “good touch and bad touch,” but this can be confusing because often these touchs do not hurt or feel bad. Use the term “secret touch,” as it is a more accurate depiction of what might happen.

6. Tell your child that these rules apply even with people they know and even with another child.

This is an important point to discuss with your child. When you ask a young child what a “bad guy” looks like they will most likely describe a cartoonish villain. You can say something like, “Mom and dad might touch your private parts when we are cleaning you or if you need cream — but no one else should.”

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

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 has a special responsibility to protect today’s children and young people, and to provide a safe environment for worship and discernment. In order to fulfill this responsibility, the 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.

We teach your child skills to prevent sexual abuse. For information, call 701.223.5626.
Shovels with special meaning

Each shovel at the groundbreaking ceremony had a special purpose. Each represented a group of people that has contributed to the success of the capital campaign. They included: Gerald Vetter, President of LOCCS, representing staff, teachers and administration; Reed Ruggles, Principal of SMCHS, representing staff, teachers and administration of SMCHS; Fr. Jared Johnson, Chaplain of SMCHS, representing past, present and future chaplains; Bishop David Kagan, President of Light of Christ board of directors, representing the Catholic community of the diocese; Msgr. Thomas Richter, Vice President and Chairman of the Light of Christ Board and Rector of Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, representing the five pastors of the Bismarck Catholic community; Lauren Boteford, SMCHS Student Council President, representing the student body; Dr. Ron and Ruth Knutson, donors of the land, representing contributors beyond the Catholic community; and the community shovel, representing all who have sacrificed, prayed and donated for the project.

Ken and Marilyn Keller (left) and Dr. Ron and Ruth Knutson were honored as major donors to the project. The Knutson’s donated the land and the Keller’s recently announced a donation to build the Our Lady of Victory Chapel on the campus.
2017 God’s Share Appeal

"Your Every Act Should Be Done With Love."

- I Cor. 16:14

A Special Thank You to our Parish Leadership
Priests, chairpersons, secretaries, and all the individual
campaign volunteers who gave so freely of their time
and talent to make the annual God’s Share Appeal a huge success.

If you have not yet made your donation to the
2017 God’s Share Appeal but would still like to support
Bishop Kagan’s ministry, you may do so by sending
your donation to:

God’s Share Appeal, PO Box 1137, Bismarck, ND 58502-1137

"Thank you for your generous support of the
2017 God’s Share Appeal."

Figures as of September 1, 2017

Total Number of Donors: 10,511

Total Commitments: $3,319,233

2017 God’s Share Appeal Goal: $3,257,000

DEANERY 1 - BISMARCK AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARISH GOAL GIFTS</th>
<th>RATE</th>
<th>RATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary, Bismarck</td>
<td>$13,155</td>
<td>$12,197</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Hildegarde, Menokin</td>
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<td>$25,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Boniface, Underwood</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart, Wilton</td>
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<td>$6,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony, Linton</td>
<td>$8,581</td>
<td>$5,940</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Michael, Linton</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sts. Peter &amp; Paul, Strasburg</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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DEANERY 2 - MANDAN AREA

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DEANERY 3 - DICKENSON AREA

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<th>TOTAL GIFTS</th>
<th>RESPONSE RATE</th>
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</table>
| Bishop Kagan’s ministry, you may do so by sending
your donation to:

God’s Share Appeal, PO Box 1137, Bismarck, ND 58502-1137

"Your Every Act Should Be Done With Love."

Figures as of September 1, 2017

Total Number of Donors: 10,511

Total Commitments: $3,319,233

2017 God’s Share Appeal Goal: $3,257,000

DEANERY 4 - MINOT AREA

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<td>St. Agnes, Kienande</td>
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<td>Immaculate Conception, Minot</td>
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<td>Little Flower, Minot</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Grace, Minot</td>
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<td>50%</td>
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<td>St. John, Minot</td>
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<td>St. Leo, Minot</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart, White Shield</td>
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DEANERY 5 - WILLISTON AREA

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<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart, Sorrento</td>
<td>$8,541</td>
<td>$4,160</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OCTOBER 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ Parish Mission in Beach Oct. 8-12

The tri-parish communities of St. John the Baptist (Beach), St. Mary’s (Medora), and St. Mary’s (Golva) will host a parish mission with Fr. Ken Garoc on October 8-12 in Beach each evening from 7 to 8:15 p.m. The mission theme is “Why Be Catholic?” The titles of his talks are: Sunday - “What Did Jesus Do or Teach of Spirituality?” Monday - “Why Do We Do That As Catholics?” Tuesday - “Jesus the Divine Mercy.” Wednesday - “Two Obstacles to Healing” and Thursday - “How to Pray the Mass.” A healing service will be held Wednesday evening and Mass on Thursday evening. There will also be opportunities for reconciliation each evening. Everyone is invited. Call Wendy or Bobbie at 872-4153 or email at sjohn@midstate.net with questions.

■ 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 2017-2018 are: Oct. 13-15; Dec. 1-3; Jan. 19-21; March 2-4; and April 20-22. More information can be found at www.bismarckdiocese.com/search1.

■ Mass at Carmelite Chapel Oct. 13

Twelve days after the Feast of St. Therese, there is the 100th Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima. October 13 was the final day of Our Lady’s appearances, too. There will be a special Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the Carmelite Chapel in her honor that day followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which will conclude with Benediction at 5 p.m. All are welcome. It is only when God has His rightful place in the lives of individuals, that society will be rightly ordered and that there will be respect for all human life; and it is then that the world will have peace. This is what Our Lady came to tell us at Fatima.

■ Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Oct. 14

The public is invited to attend the Bismarck Diocese’s annual White Mass, which will be held on Monday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. The special Mass honors physicians and those involved in the medical field.

■ Minot parish hosts play Oct. 18

St. Therese, Church of the Little Flower in Minot is hosting the stage production Sister Strikes Back on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. on Ann Nicole Nelson Hall on the campus of Minot State University. Sister Strikes Back is the second show in the Late Nite Cateracthe series. Tickets for the one night performance are $4.00 each and available at the church, online at www.brownpapertickets.com/events/3066245, and at the door. Groups are welcome. For tickets or more information, contact Linda at the parish office 701-838-1520 or Littleflowerfinance@juno.com.

■ Sister host live-in experience Oct. 21-22

The Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, invite single women who are interested in learning about religious life to an “Ever Wonder?” vocation live-in experience Saturday, Oct. 21 at 1 p.m. to Sunday, Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. This unique opportunity allows women to participate in the monastic community life of the Sisters. There is no charge, but pre-registration is required. Meals and a private room are included. For more info or to pre-register, please call or text Sister Hannah Vansomy at 701-425-9734 or e-mail hvansomy@gmail.com.

■ Marriage encounter weekends

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a private weekend away from distractions of daily life for couples in good marriages. Give your marriage this gift. The next available weekend is Nov. 10-12 in Medora. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, visit nwvme.org or contact Rob and Angie at 701-347-1998.

■ Prayer Day Nov. 15

Pro-life advocate Jeanne Mancini brings her message of “Pray and Work: Building a Culture of Life” to the free and popular annual Prayer Day celebration, Wednesday, Nov. 15 at the University of Mary. The event begins with a prayer breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in Chick’s Place, followed by Mancini’s keynote address in the adjacent and new Lumen Vitae University Center’s Founders Hall. The festivities conclude after the 11:30 a.m. Mass held in the Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel. Those attending are strongly urged to register online at www.umary.edu/prayerday, calling Ed Konieczka at (701) 355-8102, or emailing at umin@umary.edu.

■ WYD 2019

The 34th World Youth Day (WYD) will take place in Panama City, Panama, Jan. 22–27, 2019. The event will be hosted during the winter to avoid the country’s rainy season, which occurs in July and August — the traditional dates for WYD. The diocese’s Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will be coordinating a trip. Due to the timing of WYD 2019, the trip will only be offered to those who

Diocese of Bismarck
2017 High School Youth Rally
Registration only $25
Visit www.bismarckdiocese.com/high-school-youth-rally-for-more-info!

Thursday, October 19, 2017
1:00-10:00 PM
University of Mary, Bismarck

Shepherding young women on the path of purity, sexuality, and chastity is a sacred role entrusted to parents. Mothers, especially, year for effective strategies and answers. The Woman in Love Mother Daughter Retreat helps you deliver God’s remarkable good news about sexuality. The retreat leads mothers and daughters on a journey that weaves engaging talks with powerful prayer and extraordinary fun to create an experience of a lifetime!

Retreat Cost: $175 for Mother + 1 daughter
For more information contact: Tara Brooke - Director of Family Ministry at (701) 204-7209 or Carrie Davis - Director of Youth Ministry at (701) 204-7208
The “Hail Mary” is the most common prayer in the Rosary and of the prayer Christ Himself taught His disciples (Matt. 6:9-13). Father” prayed at the beginning of each mystery are the words that are written or find their roots in sacred Scripture. The “Our essential prayers prayed on the beads of the rosary use words meditations on events or teachings found in the Bible. All three meaning in the Bible. The 20 mysteries of the Rosary are

In fact, the prayers of the Rosary find their very source and exclusive. Without the Word of God there would be no Rosary, and the Rosary are not opposed to each other, they’re not mutually

To best respond to this question, one must be aware that the Bible didn’t tell them to read the Bible? Isn’t reading the Bible more important than praying the Rosary?

In fact, the prayers of the Rosary find their very source and meaning in the Bible. The 20 mysteries of the Rosary are meditations on events or teachings found in the Bible. All three essential prayers prayed on the beads of the rosary use words that are written or find their roots in sacred Scripture. The “Our Father” prayed at the beginning of each mystery are the words of the prayer Christ Himself taught His disciples (Matt. 6:9-13).

The “Hail Mary” is the most popular prayer in the Rosary and begins with the words of greeting to the Virgin Mary from the Archangel Gabriel and her cousin St. Elizabeth (Luke 1:28, 42). The Third prayer known as the “Glory Be” has its roots in the book of Revelation 4:8.

The Holy Rosary makes absolutely NO obstacle to the Word of God. In fact, the Rosary makes the Word of God more apparent and allows us to fathom its depths and allows the soul to commune with The Word Himself. The Rosary doesn’t prevent the Word of God any more than plates or silverware prevent one from eating a meal. The Rosary places NO obstacle to the Word of God anymore than a telescope obstructs an astronomer’s view of the heavens.

On Sept. 30, the Church celebrates the feast day of one of her greatest Scripture scholars St. Jerome. Perhaps the most significant remark he made about the Scriptures was “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ!”

Saint Jerome was not mincing words. It is our duty as Christians to know the sacred Scriptures because understanding them is essential to knowing Jesus Christ. But, reading only the Scriptures does not mean I know Christ. Memorizing passages of Scripture and reciting them chapter and verse for all to hear may be a good practice, but it does not necessarily make one holy. Holiness can only come from Christ, and Christ can only be found in prayer.

The Rosary simply and powerfully achieves this by the intercession of Our Mother Mary who knows Christ better than those who wrote the Bible. By pondering the Word of God with His Mother, we need the intercession of the Blessed Mother as much now as we did 100 years ago when she appeared to the young children at Fatima. She will show us her Son, the Word of God. Pray the Rosary every day.

Ave Maria!

Fr. Gardner is pastor of St. Peter in Fort Yates and the Catholic Indian Mission, as well as the satellite parishes in Cannon Ball, Porcupine, Selfridge and Solen. 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.
I could not fathom 50 inches of rain in one year—much less at one time. So, as I watched the news of the hurricanes that hit the southern part of our homeland, I reflected on my luck.

Yes, the lack of moisture in the Bismarck Diocese has affected everyone. But, the devastation of the drought is nothing like five feet of water in your living room or the nursing home where loved ones and I live and reside.

We need water. The adult human body is 60% water. Water makes up 75% of the heart and about 85% of the lungs.

So, as I watched with the images of the devastation from the impacts of Mother Nature, I thought, "Boy, am I lucky!

It is dry, but I am not cleaning up sewer water from my kitchen cupboards, digging holes to bury animal carcasses or similar pestilence-related events.

In a way, I felt guilty because the amount of panic that has been generated by the dry conditions appears minimal when contrasted with people’s lives that seemed to float back into the sea. In fact, I was downright thankful, which led to more guilt.

My guilt was front and center as I went about preparing for the coming winter months checking cattle, baling straw, hauling hay, cleaning machinery or preparing corrals. Guilt is not necessarily a bad thing—if it causes me to act in a way that brings about penitence.

One of the ironies of the devastation from the weather extremes of this year has been that water—or lack of it—has been central to it all. The biggest irony for Catholic Christians is that water is the particle used in baptism.

In that vein, I thought about my body being 60% water. I reflected on how I need water, how my heart and lungs need water to keep me alive. The conclusion: I need to make sure I keep hydrated.

So, I asked myself, do I keep my soul “hydrated”? Do I make sure that I make full use of the sacraments, which are available to me where I can receive God’s graces to “hydrate” my soul?

Am I making the conscious choices to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist regularly? Do I fulfill the commitments of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and marriage in the same way that God calls me?

I need to do so because I need the graces of all the sacraments. They are the “water” for eternal life. Care to join me?

Odermann lives with his wife, Leona, on the family farm in Bilings 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).

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**What does Catholic Charities do, anyway?**

Before I joined Catholic Charities as a diocesan worker, I didn’t really know what it did either. Like perhaps many of you I had maybe heard of people adopting through Catholic Charities, but that’s all I knew. I didn’t know about the AASK program, or Guardianships for adults with intellectual disabilities, or all the Counseling Services offered. I didn’t know that Catholic Charities also provided numerous volunteers to sandbag during the flood in Fargo and over $1,000,000 in assistance to those affected in Minot. I’m guessing most other people didn’t know about these programs either. My hope (and observation) is that the level of awareness is greatly improving through events such as Catholic Charities Sunday. However, there are still too many people in need who don’t know about us, and many others still waiting who are counting on us.

This Sept. 23-24, we celebrated our third Catholic Charities Sunday. The idea was new to us, but not an original idea. A number of dioceses in the United States celebrate a yearly Catholic Charities Sunday (or even a Catholic Charities Month) to raise awareness and support with a second collection. Catholic Charities North Dakota and its counterparts elsewhere are blessed to have a close relationship with and receive hundreds of thousands of dollars from the national Catholic Charities USA organization, but we remain independent as a separate nonprofit organization. The funds raised are used to support our programs locally.

We were formed through the Fargo Diocese, parishes and members, and are a living expression of our faith in action and living out the Lord’s call to love our neighbors in the world today. For over 90 years, Catholic Charities North Dakota has served members of all faiths with programs for children, families, individuals with intellectual disabilities, and others in need of help. Each year, we serve over 2,000 people directly and touch the lives of countless more through education and outreach across the state.

Our North Dakota Bishops have called Catholic Charities one of the best kept secrets in the Church. This is great, except we shouldn’t be kept a secret! Often called the “social arm of the Church” we follow the Catholic Social Teachings as our mission statements: Guided by our values, Catholic Charities North Dakota serves those in need and advocates for the common good of all. We do this by providing four primary programs, and other services such as disaster relief as needed.

The AASK program is a collaboration between Catholic Charities North Dakota and Path ND, Inc. AASK funds permanent homes and stable families for children in foster care in the State of North Dakota child welfare system. Last year, 338 kids found their forever family. Over 40 North Dakota kids are looking for a family to call their own.

Our social workers meet with women and men experiencing an unintended pregnancy, offering them education and support including parenting resources and adoption information. Social workers also assist with families interested in adoption, offering options to adopt within the state, from out of state, and internationally. Last year, 31 women experiencing unintended pregnancies were supported throughout their journey.

Our clinical therapists work with individuals, couples and families on relationship issues, stress, anger management, and anxiety or depression. Clients may receive care as few as 3 or as many sessions as needed. Last year, 937 clients had hope re-stored while struggling with life’s challenges. No one is turned away because they can’t pay.

Our professional staff serve as court-appointed guardians for adults with intellectual disabilities to ensure they have an appropriate place to live, receive proper medical attention and obtain necessary support services. Last year, 467 adults with intellectual disabilities received services to live their best life. However, 103 adults with intellectual disabilities are still waiting to have their needs met.

This year during Catholic Charities Sunday, we were excited to share a new, shorter video with you introducing our staff who do such great work. If you happened to see the video, you can watch it on our website (www.catholiccharitiesnd.org) and share with anyone who might need our services.

Our main message though, that we ask you to consider, is this: They count on us, can we count on you?

Prososki is the Director of Development and Community Relations for Catholic Charities North Dakota (CCND). For more than 90 years, CCND and its supporters have been putting their faith in action helping people and changing lives. Chad can be reached at info@catholiccharitiesnd.org or 701-235-4457.

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Keep your soul hydrated

**James Odermann**

**Featured Columnists**

**Ag Attitudes**

**Chad Prososki**

**Thank you for your support**

On Catholic Charities North Dakota Sunday!
Sex in accord with reason

An article published in 2012 in *The Atlantic* described the sexual practices of the Aka and Ngandu people who live in the tropical forests of central Africa. Researchers Barry and Bonnie Hewlett, anthropologists from Washington State University, found that the Aka and Ngandu men and women commonly had sex—sometimes engaging in sex multiple times in a single night. They also discovered that practices of, and even the concepts of, homosexuality and masturbation appeared to be largely unknown to the groups: “In both cultures, men and women view sexual intercourse as a kind of ‘work of the night.’ The purpose of this work is the production of children—a critical matter in an area with a very high infant mortality rate. Semen is understood by the Aka and Ngandu to be necessary not only to conception, but also to fetal development. A woman who is already pregnant will see having intercourse as contributing to the production of children. But the Hewletts did find that their informants—whom they knew well from years of fieldwork—‘were not aware of these practices, did not have terms for them,’ and, in the case of the Ngandu, they sign and that our concern was about the rights of all churches. Several legislators seemed unable to grasp my point and continued to think that if they got protections this particular sign—about which I had no idea—the Catholic conference would hold it against them.

That same year, I was asked if the conference was concerned that a particular proposal would be a burden to a Catholic hospital. I explained that it would not, but more importantly that the conference mission was about health care for all, not about keeping open Catholic facilities. And so it was.

The Catholic bishops advocate for school choice because parents have a fundamental right to choose the educational setting for their children and because all children have an inherent right to an education. We would advocate for school choice even if the state had no Catholic schools. The North Dakota Catholic Conference opposes anti-religious law (anti-Sharia) bills, even if they were amended to protect Catholic canon law, because everyone should have their religious rights respected.

The conference supports refugee resettlement because of the church’s teaching on immigration, not because Catholic Charities of North Dakota receives funding for resettlement. It doesn’t.

It supports the common closing laws because communities need a shared time for recreation, not because it wants to make people attend church on Sunday morning. The claim that the conference is not there with Bannons’s comments on the ridiculous scale.

The North Dakota Catholic conference has long advocated for health conscience rights for all and has been working with craft legislation that would give opt-out rights only for those procedures that Catholic hospitals opt out of such abortion and sterilization. Human rights belong to all health care workers, not just to those with a particular faith or none.

The conference strenuously opposes any religious exemptions that apply only if a church primarily serves its own adherents. People have the right to serve wherever they want.

Whether it is advocacy for the poor, health care for all, the rights of the unborn, protection of all human life, the importance of faith or God’s creation, the importance of adherence by allegiance to Catholic doctrine, engage in public policy not out of self-interest, but out of respect for the dignity of every human life. Against a world that is motivated by self-interest, Catholic social doctrine takes a stand for all human persons.

One does not need to be Catholic, however, to recognize and respect the inherent dignity of all persons. It is knowable by reason and should be respected by all public policy.

Once we ignore or fail to recognize this universal principle, we project our own self-interest onto others. We assume that every person and institution is motivated by self-interest onto others. We assume that every person and institution is motivated by adherence to Catholic doctrine, engage in public policy not out of self-interest, but out of respect for the dignity of every human life. Against a world that is motivated by self-interest, Catholic social doctrine takes a stand for all human persons.

Among such practices we find those included in marriage: masturbation, sodomy, and bestiality. They are not wrong because of sexual activity, while not contrary to nature in that sense, are still wrong because they have the potential to raise children. Because the act is done in a way that the due care and education of children is not provided for. This is implied, for example, when men and women who are not married to each other engage in sexual activities, in such actions as adultery, fornication, incest or sexual assault.

St. Thomas noted that the sexual act is one to which we humans, like all animals, are naturally inclined, and as such it would be a grave error to assert that the act could be evil in itself. Nevertheless, the manner in which the act takes place and the details surrounding it are essential to determining whether the act occurs in an authentically human way, that is to say, in a way that is “secundum naturam” (in accord with nature) and in accord with the dictates of reason.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He served as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. He also serves as a professor of bioethics at the University of Mary in Bavaria. Self-interest is not love.
Prayer Day features leading pro-life advocate

Public invited to event Nov. 15 at University of Mary

Providing a home away from home is a major concern of the Newman Center. College campuses across the nation. Catholic campus ministry known as bisonCatholic at the St. Paul’s Newman Center on the campus of North Dakota State University in Fargo serves the next generation of Catholics as they venture away from their home parishes to attend school each year.

A fundraising banquet will be held at Bismarck on Thursday, Oct. 5 at the University of Mary. Keynote speaker is Mark Barteck, Area Director with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). The event will be held in the dining facility, Chick’s Place, with the social beginning at 5:30 p.m. and dinner and program at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of the fundraising banquet is to reconnect with past supporters and introduce new people to the ministry of the Newman Center that serves the 4,000+ Catholic students at NDSU. There is no charge, but those who attend will be offered the opportunity to make a financial gift.

The local contact, Al Wolf, will serve as a table host at the event. He can be reached at 701-220-0615 for more information or to reserve a seat.

Sr. Jeanette Hinds, O.S.B.

Sister Jeanette Hinds, 93, a member of Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, died Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, at CHI St. Alexius.

Mass of Christian burial was held Sept. 11 in the Chapel of Annunciation Monastery. The burial was held Sept. 11 in the Chapel of Annunciation Monastery.

Carolyn Ann Mancini (Sister Jeanette) was born Sept. 30, 1923, Breckenridge, Minn. She grew up in Wahpeton.

In 1946, she entered Annunciation Monastery and as a novice received the name Sister Jeanette. She made monastic profession on July 1, 1948.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in music and a master’s degree in music education. An elementary music teacher, she also gave private lessons on the piano and violin for about 40 years. Sister Jeanette taught music in Catholic schools and parishes in Bismarck, Mandan and Dickinson. She will be remembered most for her presence and service at St. Mary’s School and Parish in Bismarck.

In addition to teaching music, she was a church organist for more than 50 years. From 1987-97, she helped in general liturgies. She was a St. Mary’s parish visitor at the two hospitals in Bismarck and Euchre (Ouachita Parish) in Mandan.

In 1980, she began playing the violin in the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra. This was one of the great joys of her life. For about 30 years she performed with the orchestra.

Sister Jeanette is survived by her brother, Thomas, and two sisters, Helen (Hoffman) and Joan (Ferebee), all of Wahpeton.

Memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary’s Church, Wahpeton, at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 14. Burial will be in the Annunciation Monastery Cemetery.

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Guest Al Wolf visits with Father Jerry Kautzman

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Serial Mullally, Editor

pro-life advocate Jeanne Mancini brings her message of “Pray and Work: Building a Culture of Life” to the free and popular annual Prayer Day celebration, Wednesday, Nov. 15 at the University of Mary.

The event begins with a prayer breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in Chick’s Place, followed by Mancini’s keynote address in the adjacent and new Lumen Vitae University Center at Founders Hall. The festivities conclude after the 11:30 a.m. Mass held in Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel.

To characterize Jeanne Mancini as the leader of the “pro-life generation” wouldn’t be overstating the influence she has on those millions of young adults—ages 15 to 29—who have become the champions and the voices for the unborn. She has become the face of the movement over the years since she became president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund in 2012—the small national organization committed to restoring a culture of life in the United States, most notably through the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. held on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Simply put, Mancini is their biggest cheerleader on a pro-life playing field that has many players—church organizations, clergy, religious groups, colleges across America, students at all levels and their parents, and many more. Many of them were present last January on the national stage at what many would regard as the largest, most successful and most powerful March for Life event in its history. Like she does every year, Mancini orchestrated it to perfection, from start to finish. Joining her were about a dozen special guests like Vice President Mike Pence and University of Mary student Katrina Gallic—all speaking at the pre-march rally on the mall of the Washington Monument, followed by the hundreds of thousands of them who marched down the streets of D.C. to the U.S. Supreme Court led by over 600 students from the University of Mary.

The 2017 Prayer Day event is free and open to the public. Those attending are strongly urged to register online by visiting www. umary.edu/prayerday, calling Ed Konieczka at (701) 751-4802, or emailing University Ministry at umin@umary.edu.

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All are invited to attend!

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