



Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941



Our Lady of Victory... Pray for us!



Submitted photos

It is the hope, prayer and intentions that the chapel will inspire and lead students, faculty and all who enter to a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercession of our mother, Mary.

A LOOK INSIDE



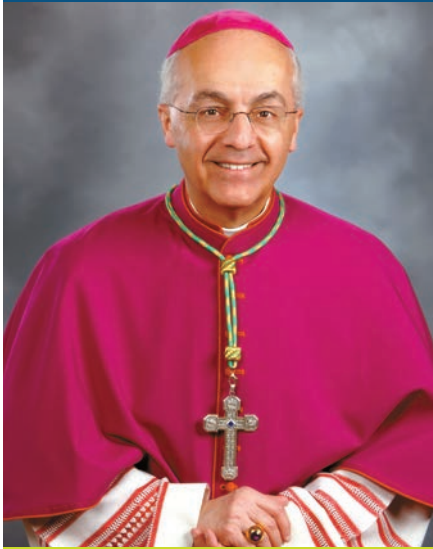
A larger-than-life tribute to the Virgin Mary encircles a small patch of land outside a Mandan parish Page 3



Join us Oct. 30 at the Bismarck Event Center for THIRST 2021—a free diocesan Eucharistic conferencePages 6-7

Follow Him through the eyes and life of Our Mother

FROM THE BISHOP



Bishop David D. Kagan

With the month of October in our year of grace and favor from the Lord, we celebrate a month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. This most beautiful and uniquely Catholic devotional prayer is at once an excellent summary of Our Blessed Lord’s life on earth, but also an opportunity to look at and follow Him through the eyes and life of Our Blessed Mother.

In fact, October 7 is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, and I would like to review here the four sets of Mysteries of the Rosary. This beautiful devotional prayer may be prayed in private and in public; it may be prayed alone or in a group. If we indeed pray the Rosary with the mind and heart of Our Blessed Lady, like her we come to love Jesus in the way she loved Him, because as He was the center of her life, He will be the center of our lives.

The Joyful Mysteries, recited on Monday and Saturday are the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity of the Lord, the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple and the Finding of the Lord in the Temple. These five mysteries put us in touch with the infancy and youth of Jesus.

The Mysteries of Light, recited on Thursday are the Baptism of Jesus, the Wedding Feast of Cana, the Proclamation of the Kingdom with the call to Conversion, the Transfiguration and the Institution of the Eucharist. These five mysteries invite us to follow Jesus in His public ministry and,

like Our Blessed Lady, to hold all that we see and hear from Him in our hearts.

The Sorrowful Mysteries, recited on Tuesday and Friday are the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning with Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross and the Crucifixion. These five mysteries should help us understand how terrible sin is and how terrible our sins are but also, they reveal the depth of the merciful love God has for each of us if we only repent of our sins and return to Him.

The Glorious Mysteries, recited on Wednesday and Sunday are the Resurrection, the Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption and the Coronation of

Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth. These five mysteries should give us the same joy and longing for Jesus in Heaven that Our Blessed Lady had on that first Easter Sunday and for the rest of her earthly life. It is God’s will for each of us that we be with Him for all eternity and our lives here are to be that good preparation to see Him face to face.

Commit to say the Holy Rosary every day in the month of October. No one is so busy or so important that he or she cannot take 20 minutes from every day to pray the Rosary. If you already do this every day, please continue, if you want to start then do so. No one is ever disappointed by taking the time to pray the Rosary.

BISHOP IN ACTION



Submitted photo

During the rite at the inaugural Mass at the Our Lady of Victory Chapel, Bishop Kagan lit candles for the lighting of the church while saying, “Let the light of Christ shine brightly in the Church, that all nations may attain the fullness of truth.”

BISHOP’S SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2021

- | | |
|---|--|
| Oct. 1 • Worldwide Children's Eucharistic Holy Hour, Christ the King, Mandan, 1 p.m. | Oct. 15 • Diaconate Ordination, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 2 p.m. |
| Oct. 3 • Confirmation at Church of St. Jerome, Mohall, 11 a.m. | Oct. 16 • Mass at St. Joseph, Mandan, 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 4 • Red Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 5:30 p.m. | Oct. 17 • Confirmation at Church of St. Joseph, Williston, 1:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 6 • Real Presence Radio Interview, 9 a.m. | Oct. 18 • White Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 5:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 7 • Mass at St. Vincent's Care Center, Bismarck, 11 a.m. | Oct. 21 • Kenrick- Glennon Seminary Board Meeting, 3 p.m. |
| Oct. 10 • Confirmation at Church of St. John the Apostle, Minot, 10:30 a.m. | Oct. 22 • Candlelight Gala, University of Mary, Bismarck, 5 p.m. |
| Oct. 10 • Confirmation at Church of Our Lady of Grace, Minot, 2 p.m. | Oct. 24 • Confirmation at Church of St. Anthony, Linton, 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 11 • Mass and Dedication of the Servants of the Children of Light Convent, Mandan, 4:30 p.m. | Oct. 26 • Tribunal Annual Meeting, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck, 12 p.m. |
| Oct. 14 • NDSU Banquet, University of Mary, Bismarck 5:30 p.m. | Oct. 28 • Staff Meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck, 10 a.m. |
| Oct. 15 • Cabinet Meeting, Chancery, Bismarck, 10 a.m. | Oct. 29 • Mass for Thirst Volunteers, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 8 a.m. |
| | Oct. 30 • Mass for Thirst, Bismarck Event Center, 6 p.m. |

SOCIAL MEDIA



Search “Bismarck Diocese” on YouTube for videos from the Church in western N.D.



Follow the Diocese on Twitter @BisDiocese and follow Bishop Kagan @VescovoDDK



Visit our website at www.bismarckdiocese.com Get news, photos, videos and more from around the diocese.



Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BismarckDiocese

Get status updates, photos, videos, and links and share them with your friends.



Dakota Catholic Action



Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941

Publisher: Most Reverend David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L., Bishop of Bismarck

Editor: Sonia Mullally, smullally@bismarckdiocese.com
Center for Pastoral Ministry - Diocese of Bismarck USPS0011-5770
520 N. Washington Street, PO Box 1137, Bismarck, ND 58501-1137
Phone: 701-222-3035 Fax: 701-222-0269
www.bismarckdiocese.com

The Dakota Catholic Action (0011-5770) is published monthly except July by the Diocese of Bismarck, PO Box 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502-1575. Periodical postage paid at Bismarck, ND, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to address below.

Dakota Catholic Action, PO Box 1137, Bismarck, ND 58501-1137

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

A walkable rosary

Outdoor devotional at Mandan parish provides prayerful space

By LeAnn Eckroth
DCA Writer

A dignified, yet larger-than-life tribute to the Virgin Mary encircles a small patch of land outside Spirit of Life Catholic Church in Mandan.

With the month of October in the Church year devoted to the Holy Rosary, there are few places that offer the opportunity to literally walk the journey of Jesus Christ through the eyes of his beloved Mother Mary. In the green grass and fresh air, nestled in a secluded area off the parking lot, the public is invited to pray and walk the devotional at their leisure.

The Rosary Walk, measuring 75x100 feet, offers the faithful an outdoor setting to seek intercession and comfort from the Blessed Mother. The large-scale beaded devotional seen today is the third version of the Rosary Walk on the church grounds.

The original Rosary Walk consisted of a stone formation inside a wooded area behind the church, said Dave Trnka, a member of the Knights of Columbus Spirit of Life Council 1468. It was completed in 2006 with help from an Eagle Scout project and provided a special place to pray in private away from city noise.

Yet, Ed Helbling, a Knights member, envisioned more for the site, said Knights member Ryan Bleth. While the rock formation gave a natural environment to pray, its stones became misaligned. In 2009, the Rosary Walk was upgraded in the same location with the very large wooden rosary built and designed by Helbling (who has since moved out of the state). It was installed by the newly chartered Knights Council members and loyal parishioners. It became the new Council's first visible project.

"The Knights are involved in Mary and devotion," Bleth said. "We decided to offer it as another means of prayer."

Helbling, described as a faithful man, was a member of the Bismarck-Mandan Woodturners. He applied his skill to his passion. For months, Helbling toiled to replace the rock formation with handcrafted and polished beads on his special lathe. Each bead is likened to the size of cantaloupe. Helbling provided all the bead materials upfront and the chains to support them.

"It was a prayerful thing for him," said Bleth. "The beads are made mostly of pine. Ed did the work and refinished them so they



Large markers signify the different mysteries.

could endure the elements." Fellow Knights and parishioners also cleared trees, installed lighting and drilled the posts to hang the chains linking the mega beads. The volunteers installed station markers to mark the mysteries of the Rosary and prepared concrete posts.

Dan Frank, another member of the Knights, purchased and donated metal benches for people to rest and pray, a statue of Mary with an arched trellis—placed prominently in the center—and the metal Corpus of Jesus for the Rosary Walk cross.

Trnka said the Rosary Walk found its third location about three years ago in a southeastern part of the church grounds in a cleared area. "We moved it when the new rectory was built. We wanted a place outside that was open."

Member Raymond Morrell said the construction crew at the rectory site were generous and loaned equipment to make a clearing for the existing rosary site.

"We took it down and redid it all. It was a puzzle to put together," Trnka said.

Bleth said the Rosary Walk has been a popular finish for the local Walk for Life involving Mandan's three Catholic parishes—Christ the King, St. Joseph and Spirit of Life. "They say the Rosary to end the walk."

The Knights of Columbus members continue to maintain the Rosary Walk today. Trnka has done his part in the upkeep of the large beads, buying his own lathe for replacing "to figure out how to do them."



A statue of Mary with an arched trellis stands prominently in the center of the Rosary Walk.



The Rosary Walk is located on a small patch of land outside Spirit of Life Catholic Church in Mandan.

Father Todd Kreitinger, pastor of the parish, said he personally uses the site to pray for petitions. "It is a visible expression of one of our devotions." He witnesses various groups, individuals,

homeschoolers and families use the site. "It's been a visible connection to the parish," Bleth said.



PRAY FOR THE PRIESTS, RELIGIOUS, DEACONS SERVING OUR DIOCESE AND THOSE IN FORMATION AND LAY MINISTERS

An invitation from the Bismarck-Mandan Serra Club

Oct. 1	Fr. Bruce Krebs	Oct. 17	Sr. Lawrence Fischer, OSB
Oct. 2	Deacon Don Nistler	Oct. 18	Fr. Shannon Lucht
Oct. 3	Seminarian Logan Obrigewitch	Oct. 19	Deacon Ross Reiter
Oct. 4	Br. Placid Gross, OSB	Oct. 20	Br. Maximilian Kenny, OSB
Oct. 5	Fr. Doug Krebs	Oct. 21	Sr. Terence Glum, OSB
Oct. 6	Seminarians and Religious in Formation	Oct. 22	Music Ministers
Oct. 7	Sr. Rosemary DeGarcia, OSB	Oct. 23	Fr. Greg Luger
Oct. 8	Lay Ministers	Oct. 24	Fr. James Kilzer, OSB
Oct. 9	Fr. Todd Kreitinger	Oct. 25	Deacon Kris Ringwall
Oct. 10	Deacon Bob Nutsch	Oct. 26	Sr. Nancy Gunderson, OSB
Oct. 11	Br. James Hanson, OSB	Oct. 27	Seminarian Ben Wanner
Oct. 12	Sr. Joseph Dukart, OSB	Oct. 28	Fr. Adam Maus
Oct. 13	Msgr. Gene Lindemann	Oct. 29	Deacon Dennis Rohr
Oct. 14	Deacon Robert Olson	Oct. 30	Deacon Randy Schmidt
Oct. 15	Br. Stephen Johnson, OSB	Oct. 31	Seminarian Josh Hill
Oct. 16	Liturgical Ministers		

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for October



Intention for evangelization - Missionary disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

“ . . . Live a Life Worthy of the Calling You Have Received. . . ”

Part Two: To the Clergy and Religious

Editor’s note: This article is a continuation of Bishop Kagan’s commentary (which began in the Aug. 2021 issue) on his recent pastoral letter regarding knowledge of the Catholic faith.

As with my two previous articles in the August and September issues of this diocesan newspaper commenting on my pastoral letter, so too with this month’s article, I presume that you have read or are reading this pastoral letter on your own. No brief commentary can be a substitute for reading the actual document; a commentary can only offer some further insight to what you have read.

I would like to comment further on what I wrote about the distinct but related vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, lived in the Church and for the Church and the world. The sacred Scriptures are filled with references to those set apart to serve God and His people as priests, prophets and teachers. It is in the very person of Jesus that we find revealed the full nature and purpose of the priesthood and the perfect model of the consecrated life lived in poverty, chastity and obedience for the glory of God, the sanctification of the world and the salvation of souls.


In the pastoral letter, I stress the need for the bishop and his priests and deacons to understand the nature of their call to the priesthood of Jesus Christ and to cultivate this vocation by serious and faithful daily prayer, meditation and study, and by a dedicated pursuit of their pastoral ministry by imitating Jesus and His sacrificial love for the Father and all others. This applies without exception to religious men and women, and they do this by committing themselves daily to the Christ-like living of His evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience in community. In both cases, the priesthood and the consecrated life do not exist outside of or without the Church itself for such is the Lord’s will. They have their nature and purpose for the glory of God and the salvation of souls because of Jesus Christ.

The priesthood and the consecrated life of the Catholic Church are such only because they are an imitation of Christ.

Question: What are the seven deadly sins?

Answer to last month’s question: The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

“... Live a Life Worthy of the Calling You Have Received...”



A Pastoral Letter
The Most Reverend David D. Kagan, D.D.,
P.A., J.C.L.
Bishop of Bismarck

To read the pastoral letter online go to the diocesan website at bismarckdiocese.com/letters and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Locals attend annual meeting of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem



Submitted photo

Local knights and dames, along with Msgr. Gene Lindemann and Msgr. Patrick Schumacher, attended the annual meeting of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem – Northern Lieutenancy held in Sioux Falls in August.

In mid-August, local knights and dames traveled to the annual meeting of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, held in Sioux Falls this year.

Among the highlights was the Mass of Investiture and the Mass of Promotion, celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Diocesan priests, Msgr. Gene Lindemann and Msgr. Patrick Schumacher, also attended.

History of the Order

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land have been a common and encouraged practice, beginning shortly after the crucifixion of Jesus. As you can easily imagine, there are many sacred sites to visit. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is often regarded as the most venerated, as it encompasses both Jesus’ crucifixion and burial

sites.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was first constructed by Constantine the Great in the 4th Century. Over the years, persecutions of Christians intensified, and the holy sites and pilgrims needed protection. The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is one of the oldest organizations within the Catholic Church. It was founded in the 11th century at the end of the First Crusade and for almost 950 years it has stood as a witness and protector for the people and the historical Christian sites in the Holy Land. The term equestrian refers to the chivalric and knightly nature of the Order.

The Order today is estimated to have approximately 30,000 members around the world in

60 lieutenancies. Financial gifts and contributions made by the members of the Order directly support and impact the Holy Land. The Order also aims to strengthen in its knights and dames the practice of the Christian life, in fidelity to the Supreme Pontiff.

Members are invested and promoted within the Order through their local lieutenancy.

North Dakota joins South Dakota, Minnesota, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa to form the Northern Lieutenancy of the United States. Locally, the Diocese of Bismarck has several clergy, including Bishop David Kagan, invested in the Order, as well as a good number of the lay faithful from the diocese.

—Submitted information

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION			
USPS Form 3526, October 2020			
1. Publication Title: Dakota Catholic Action			
2. Publication No.: 0011-5770			
3. Filing Date: October 1, 2021			
4. Issue Frequency: Monthly, except July.			
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 11			
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$0			
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 520 N. Washington St., Bismarck, ND 58501			
8. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Office of Publisher: PO Box 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502-1575			
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: Most Rev. David D. Kagan, PO Box, 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502-1575 Editor: Sonia Mullally, 520 N Washington St., Bismarck, ND 58501 Managing Editor: Sonia Mullally, 520 N Washington St., Bismarck, ND 58501			
10. Owner: Diocese of Bismarck, 520 N. Washington St., Bismarck, ND 58501			
11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None			
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates): Tax purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months.			
13. Publication Title: Dakota Catholic Action.			
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Sept. 2021			
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			
Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		Average No. Copies Each Issue During preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
Paid Circulation (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions		24,500	24,500
(By Mail and (2) Mailed-in-County Paid Subscriptions		21,522	21,423
Outside the (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail		0	0
Mail) (4) Paid Distribution by Other USPS Classes		0	0
Total Paid Distribution		21,522	21,423
Free or (1) Free/Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies		0	0
Nominal Rate Dist. (2) Free/Nominal Rate In-County Copies		0	0
(By Mail and (3) Free/Nominal Rate Other Copies USPS Classes		0	0
Outside Mail) (4) Free/Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail		0	0
Total Free/Nominal Rate Distribution		0	0
Total Distribution		21,522	21,423
Copies not Distributed		2,978	3,077
Total		24,500	24,500
Percent Paid		100	100
16. Electronic Copy Circulation:			
		Average No. Copies Each Issue During preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies)		0	0
Sonia Mullally, Editor			

Opportunity for a plenary indulgence at Thirst Conference

The upcoming diocesan Thirst Eucharistic Conference on Saturday, Oct. 30 offers an opportunity for a plenary indulgence in the Year of St. Joseph.

Pope Francis dedicated the year—from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021—to St. Joseph. The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting an indulgence during this year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, and the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.

One of the ways to receive an indulgence during the year of St. Joseph is to participate in a “Spiritual Retreat of at least one day which involves a meditation on St. Joseph.” Bishop Kagan has confirmed that attendance at the 2021 Thirst conference qualifies as such a retreat so that one may gain an indulgence by attending and fulfilling the other conditions as outlined below. The conference will also provide opportunities for attendees to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation and receive Holy Communion so that one may fulfill all the conditions on the same day.

An “indulgence” is defined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 1471) as “a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.”

After one celebrates the sacrament of reconciliation and confesses their sins to a priest, the priest offers absolution and the penitent is forgiven of sin and his/her communion with God is restored thus saving us from “eternal punishment” which is damnation. After absolution, there are still side effects of sin that continue to linger and punish one’s soul, this is known as the “temporal punishment” of sin. Temporal punishment is the effect of one’s unhealthy attachment to things of this world and it must be purified either here on earth or after death in purgatory so that one may be free to enjoy eternal life with the Lord. An indulgence removes the temporal punishment of sin partially or totally (“plenary”) for those on earth and can even be merited for those in purgatory.

There are certain requirements (one must be “duly disposed ... under certain prescribed conditions”) to be met for one to receive an indulgence. Only one plenary indulgence can be gained per day. One must be in a state of grace during the time the indulgence is completed. To be in a state of grace, the faithful must be Catholic and not excommunicated or in a schism.

In addition to being in a state of grace, the Catholic must:

- have an interior disposition of complete detachment from sin,

- even venial sin;
- have sacramentally confessed their sins;
- received the Holy Eucharist;
- prayed for the Pope’s intentions.

What does praying for the intentions of the Pope mean? This is left to the choice of the person performing the indulgence, but the suggestion is an “Our Father” and

a “Hail Mary.” It is best, but not required that celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation, receiving of Holy Communion and praying for the Pope’s intentions all happen on the same day that the indulgenced work takes place. If that is not possible, it is sufficient that these rites and prayers be carried out within 20 days before or after the

indulgenced act. The Oct. 30 event at the Bismarck Event Center provides an opportunity to fulfill all requirements for a plenary indulgence in one day—in one location. For more information on the Thirst Eucharistic Conference and to register, visit: <https://bismarckdiocese.com/thirst>.
—*Thirst Planning Team*

St. Joseph

Faithful Protector of Mother and Child

The infant Christ “came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph” (PC 5). The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come.

While the angel of the Lord appeared to Mary to announce that she would bring forth the Savior of the world, it was revealed to Joseph in a series of dreams how God’s plans would be brought to fulfillment. As Pope Francis highlights, “God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child” (PC 5).

Dear St. Joseph, help us to imitate your faithful trust and courage.

Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, “in every situation, Joseph declared his own ‘fiat’” (PC 3). His “yes” to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph’s devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.

During this Year of St. Joseph, each of us can find in him “an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble” (PC, Intro). Joseph shows us how to say “yes” to life, despite our own fears, frailties, and weaknesses. For it is Joseph who was “chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true ‘miracle’ by which God saves the child and his mother” (PC 5).

May we, too, be miracles in the lives of those who are most in need, especially at the beginning and end of life. Dear St. Joseph, you who were “able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence” (PC 5), help us to imitate your faithful trust and courage.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Two to be ordained permanent deacons

Two men are currently completing formation in the permanent diaconate program and are scheduled to be ordained on Friday, Oct. 15 by Bishop Kagan at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. The candidates and their wives are David and Mary Fleck (Church of Saint Anne, Bismarck) and



David Fleck



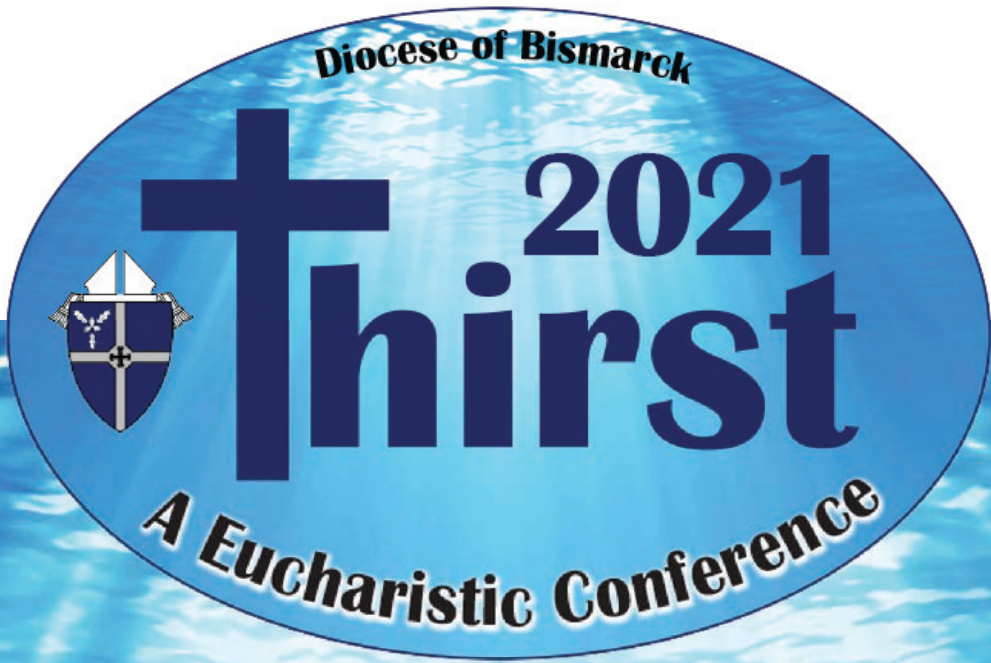
Brian Lardy

Brian and Tammy Lardy (Corpus Christi, Bismarck). These men are the 36th class of permanent deacons to be ordained for the diocese. Please pray for these two men as they prepare to serve the people of the diocese as permanent deacons. Watch for a full feature story highlighting these men and their vocation stories along with photos from their ordination in the November issue of the Dakota Catholic Action.

National collections

Bishop Kagan recently received letters of appreciation for the diocesan contributions to several national collections. In support of the Black and Indian Mission and through the generosity of the diocesan

faithful, \$22,612.13 was contributed to the cause that provides for the needs of our African American, Native American and Native Alaskan brothers and sisters. In another generous effort, the diocesan faithful gave \$4,282.07 to the 2020 Retirement Fund for Religious collection. The people of the diocese contributed \$33,792.49 to the Catholic Relief Services for their Rice Bowl Program. An amount of \$934.11 was contributed to the Society of the Propagation of the Faith for their work with the Pontifical Mission Societies in the U.S. Finally, \$3,195.30 was issued to the 2021 Pontifical Good Friday Collection to be benefited by the Holy Land Christians.



Saturday, October 30

A free one day Eucharistic Conference at the Bismarck Event Center to include keynote and breakout speakers and the celebration of Vigil Mass with Bishop David Kagan

Featured speakers:



Dr. Ben Akers is the Executive Director of FORMED.org, a streaming platform providing trustworthy and inspiring Catholic video, audio, and eBook content from the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, and more than 60 other partners, helping parishes, families, and individuals explore their faith anywhere. He is also an Associate Professor of Theology at the Augustine Institute Graduate School in Denver, Colorado. He and his wife are blessed to have five children.



Matt Fradd is the creator and host of the “Pints With Aquinas” podcast. He is the author and coauthor of several books including, *Does God Exist? A Socratic Dialogue on the Five Ways of Thomas Aquinas*. Matt earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in philosophy from Holy Apostles College & Seminary which also awarded him an honorary doctorate. He lives in Steubenville, Ohio, with his wife Cameron and their four kids.



Dr. Ray Guarendi is a Catholic father of ten adopted children, a clinical psychologist, author, professional speaker, and national radio and television host. His radio show, “The Dr. Is In” can be heard on over 440 stations and Sirius XM channel 130. His TV show, “Living Right With Dr. Ray” can be seen on EWTN Global Catholic Network and is aired in 140 countries.

The event will also include the **Diocesan Youth Conference** and a special **Vacation Bible School** for the youngest attendees.

Opportunities for adoration of our Lord and confessions will be available for all.

Registration is now open. To register and get updated information visit bismarckdiocese.com/thirst and bismarckdiocese.com/youthconference.

If unable to register online, mail the registration form below to:

Thirst Conference
Diocese of Bismarck
PO Box 1137
Bismarck, ND 58502-1137

This form is for registering for the conference only, NOT including the youth programs. If you are registering youth for Vacation Bible School (age 3 thru grade 5) and/or the Diocesan Youth Conference (grade 6-12), please complete your registration online at bismarckdiocese.com/thirst or call us at 701-222-3035 to request paper copies of youth registration forms mailed to you.

Household last name: _____

Total # attending Thirst Conference: _____

Phone number: _____

Primary email address: _____

Parish you attend: _____



Scan Me to Register



A free, one-day Eucharistic Conference, Thirst 2021 is set for Saturday, Oct. 30th at the Bismarck Event Center. Along with the breakout sessions for adults, the Thirst Conference will include:

VBS - Vacation Bible School

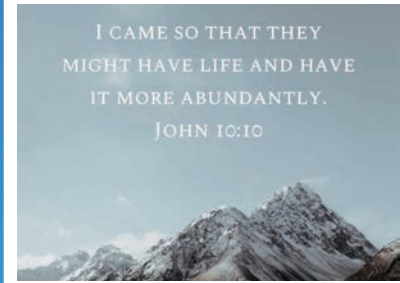
For whom:
Age 3 (potty trained) – 5th grade

Includes:
Prayer, Bible stories, Crafts, Games, and Snacks!

Registration: *Register by Friday, October 15*
The VBS portion of Thirst will accept the first 250 registrants. Make sure to register all youth so that they will be accounted for.



DYC - The Diocesan Youth Conference



For whom:
All 6th through 12th grade youth

Includes:
Prayer, small groups, breakout sessions, Confession, and Adoration

Registration: *Register by Friday, October 15*
The DYC will accept the first 275 registrants. Make sure to register all youth so that they will be accounted for (lunch will be provided for DYC participants only).

DYC Featured Speakers



Fr. Dominic Bouck



Matt Fradd



Sister Mary Joseph



Courtney Jerome

To register and receive regularly updated information, please visit bismarckdiocese.com/thirst and bismarckdiocese.com/youthconference.

Schedule

Saturday, October 30, 2021

- 8:45 a.m. Doors Open, Registration
Adoration and Confession available
- 9:30 a.m. Diocesan Youth Conference & Vacation Bible School doors open
- 9:45 a.m. Thirst Conference Begins
- 10 a.m. Keynote: Matt Fradd
- 11:15 a.m. Men Breakout: Matt Fradd
Women Free Time
- 12 p.m. Lunch
Vacation Bible School Lunch Dismissal
- 1:45 pm Vacation Bible School Resumes
- 2 p.m. Women Breakout: Dr. Ray Guarendi
Men Free Time
- 3 p.m. Keynote: Dr. Ray Guarendi
- 4:15 pm St. Joseph Meditation: Dr. Ben Akers
- 5 p.m. Diocesan Youth Conference & Vacation Bible School Dismissal
- 6 p.m. Vigil Mass with Bishop Kagan

The Thirst Conference is free and runs on volunteers

There are multiple volunteer time slots. You will receive an email and/or phone call with any additional required information or next steps after signing up. Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

Friday, Oct. 29

- Vacation Bible School Set Up
- General Thirst Conference Set Up

Saturday, Oct. 30

- Registration/Information Booth
- Hospitality/Greeter
- Speaker Vendor Booth
- Vacation Bible School
- Diocesan Youth Conference
- General Thirst Conference Tear Down



Go to bismarckdiocese.com/thirst and click the Volunteer button

Plenary Indulgence at Thirst

Pope Francis dedicated the year—from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021—to St. Joseph. The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting an indulgence during this year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, and the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. To receive a plenary indulgence, one must:

- Be in a state of grace
- Go to confession
- Receive the Holy Eucharist
- Pray for the Pope’s intentions
- Participate in a spiritual retreat for St. Joseph

Bishop Kagan of the Bismarck Diocese has confirmed that attendance at the 2021 Thirst conference qualifies as such a retreat so one may gain an indulgence by attending and fulfilling the other conditions as outlined above. For more details, see the article on plenary indulgences on page 5.

Thank you to our sponsors:



St. Joseph’s Parish
Roman Catholic Church
Williston, ND
St Boniface’s Parish, Grenora
St. John the Baptist’s Parish, Trenton



University of Mary professor’s book draws parallels between society today and life in the 18th century

By Tom Ackerman
University of Mary

The 18th Century, or the 1700s, known as the Age of Enlightenment, is historical proof that the more things change, the more they stay the same. The Enlightenment was a powerful and diverse cultural movement of the eighteenth century, trumpeting the merits of science, practical improvements, and polite interaction in the burgeoning public sphere of coffeehouses and cheap print media.

In Dr. Joseph Stuart’s recently-released book, “Rethinking the Enlightenment: Faith in the Age of Reason,” he investigates more than just the relationship between Christianity and the Enlightenment, but the interaction between two cultures, two lived realities, and two overlapping ways of life. “The Enlightenment was an exciting time of increasing networks of communication in ways resembling our digital age,” Stuart said. “People started drinking coffee during the Enlightenment,” he noted. “It kind of sped up modern life. It has been sped up ever since.

“Because the Enlightenment is often ignored as a source of religious inspiration, it needs to be remembered differently,” said Stuart, author and associate professor of History, and a fellow in Catholic Studies at the University of Mary. “To do that, we must rethink how it has often been portrayed as the root of secular modernity. Seen as opposing faith to reason, the Enlightenment is blamed for putting religion into terminal decline. Despite creating serious challenges and direct attacks on faith, however, the Enlightenment also opened new avenues for faith to flourish—Christian faith in particular. There was a fascination with the physical sciences then, as now. At that time, though, people more easily connected their scientific knowledge to God as the source of reason itself.”

Stuart also writes about the “Practical Enlightenment” when people like Benjamin Franklin invented bifocals, lightning rods, and vaccination. The steam engine that powered the Industrial Revolution was invented in 1712.

“Amid the great material changes brought about by this Industrial Revolution, broken families as well as new job opportunities sent many rootless people wandering,” said Stuart, who’s been a faculty member at the University of Mary for 10 years. “Loneliness spread. The English woman Martha Clagget wrote of her childhood: ‘I was almost left to myself, my parents being greatly engaged in worldly affairs.’ Then, as now, broken families, alcoholism, and despair undermined social cohesion.”

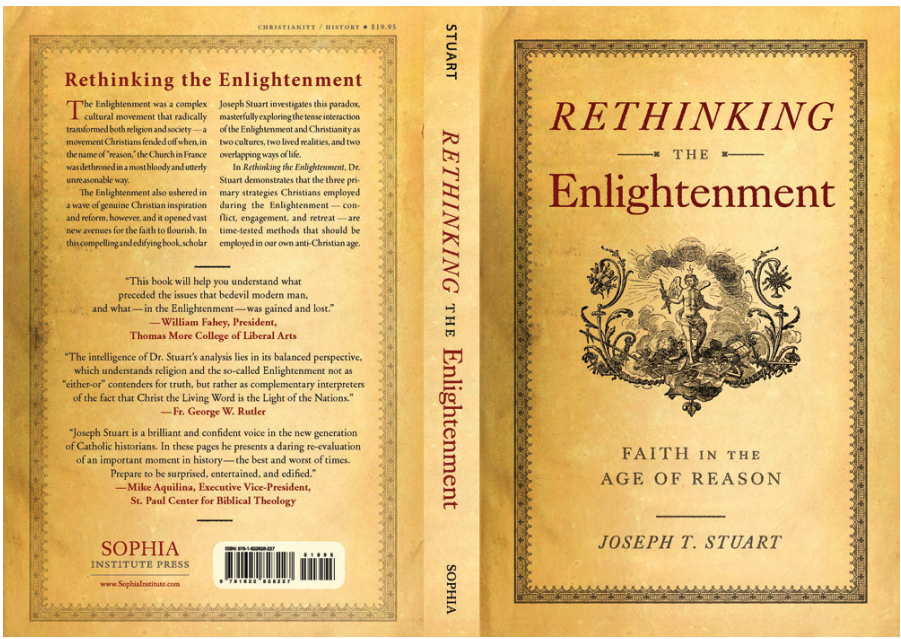
Like today, Stuart argues in his book, Christians interacted with the Enlightenment in three ways: through conflict, engagement and retreat.

Stuart sees these three

strategies of cultural interaction as a way of framing debates to ease societal discord today. Sometimes one must fight (conflict) for what is right. Other times one needs to engage others with an open mind. Or, one needs to know when to just leave others to their business and mind one’s own (retreat). Each strategy, he says, is necessary in different times and places.

“I wrote ‘Rethinking the Enlightenment: Faith in the Age of Reason’ as a reflection on interacting with diverse people in a divisive age—both today and in the eighteenth century,” said Stuart, who brought together not only his research, but that of many other scholars to write the book. “It is within this dynamic of different responses to modern culture that faith and reason can purify each other by questioning assumptions. This made for vigorous debate in the coffee houses, newspapers, and even papal courts of the eighteenth century.”

So, Stuart asks the question: How can we communicate with each other in order to accomplish practical tasks like road building or hammering out compromises



between our different views of the common good in our society?

“Rethinking the Enlightenment: Faith in the Age of Reason” reminds us of the importance of practical mindedness in human affairs over ideological rigidity. The Enlightenment fostered a culture of conversation in which a certain code of politeness tried to elevate human interactions. In this way, the Enlightenment worked against the kinds of boorish disrespect

and ideological divisiveness sometimes characteristic of the public sphere.”

“Rethinking the Enlightenment: Faith in the Age of Reason” is published by Sophia Institute Press and can be purchased on their website <https://www.sophiainstitute.com/products/item/rethinking-the-enlightenment>. It also appears on Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and at Mayo Pharmacy in downtown Bismarck



Safety Is More Than Crossing The Street

One in ten children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. You can never protect your child fully from ever being sexually abused, but you can do a lot to reduce your child’s vulnerability to sexual abuse and increase the chances they’ll tell you after something happens. It is just as important to talk to your kids about body safety as it is to talk to them about looking both ways before crossing the street. Given the statistics, your child is much more likely to be molested than to be hit by a car when crossing the street.

Ways of Approaching the Conversation

1. **Frame the conversation for yourself as a way of loving your child.** You don’t want to scare them (or yourself) in the process. Try starting from a loving place and not a scared place to help create the calm environment for your child. Speak from a calm, casual, and loving frame of mind when having these conversations. Reading books together can be a helpful bridge into these topics. Check out the bookstore to find one that feels like a good fit.
2. **Begin talking to them as young as 2 years old.** This may seem very early but children under 12 are most at risk at 4 years old. Young children understand and remember a lot more than adults usually realize. For example, when giving a bath, tell them where their private parts are and that the parent is seeing and touching them to clean them but that normally nobody should.
3. **Teach them the actual names of their private parts.** When you begin teaching them parts of their body like ears, eyes, and toes, also teach them the real names of their private parts like “vagina” and “penis” and not their “cute” names. This gives them the right words to use if someone is hurting them and makes sure the person being told understands what’s happening.
4. **Teach them that private parts are special.** When talking about this topic, it’s important to not create a taboo or dirty feeling around their private parts. Instead parents can teach their child that their private parts are so special that they’re just for them and no one else, unless someone is helping them keep their private parts clean, safe, or healthy.
5. **Explain that NO ONE should physically hurt them, and they should trust their instincts.** 90% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone they know. It can be anyone. Unfortunately, nobody is on the safe list. In fact, children are most vulnerable with family members and acquaintances. Make sure your child knows that no one can hurt their bodies no matter who they’re with – even when they’re with their parent. Support your child in trusting their gut instinct. By trusting their intuition, children will both be more empowered around making their own choices about who’s safe instead of relying primarily on what a parent told them.

But Here’s the Most Important Thing To Do. If you remember nothing else, remember this – these conversations should be ongoing, open, and casual.

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



2021 God’s Share Appeal

“Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness”
—St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians



“Thank You for your generous support of the 2021 God’s Share Appeal.”

A Special Thank You to our Parish Leadership

Priests, secretaries, and all the individual 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 2021 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
or by clicking on the “Gifting Opportunities” tab at bismarckdiocese.com.

DEANERY 1 - BISMARCK AREA

PARISH	GOAL	TOTAL GIFTS	RESPONSE RATE	PARTICIPATION RATE
Ascension, Bismarck	\$136,932.00	\$139,378.50	51%	45%
Cathedral, Bismarck	\$242,611.00	\$357,462.36	45%	40%
Corpus Christi, Bismarck	\$258,402.00	\$281,495.30	40%	36%
St. Anne, Bismarck	\$165,492.00	\$189,996.63	48%	43%
St. Mary, Bismarck	\$149,668.00	\$139,175.27	44%	36%
St. Hildegard, Menoken	\$29,090.00	\$32,400.00	56%	50%
St. Bonaventure, Underwood	\$13,807.00	\$9,565.00	59%	54%
Sacred Heart, Wilton	\$14,129.00	\$10,980.00	60%	52%
St. Catherine, Turtle Lake	\$7,411.00	\$6,520.00	75%	70%
St. Edwin, Washburn	\$14,388.00	\$10,460.00	42%	39%
St. Mary, Hague	\$8,989.00	\$8,642.00	51%	48%
St. Paul, Hazelton	\$8,175.00	\$10,160.00	57%	48%
St. Anthony, Linton	\$48,449.00	\$44,067.00	56%	51%
St. Michael, Linton	\$6,550.00	\$13,360.00	105%	97%
Sts. Peter & Paul, Strasburg	\$21,078.00	\$23,261.00	72%	69%
St. Katherine, Braddock	\$7,752.00	\$4,680.00	54%	51%

DEANERY 2 - MANDAN AREA

PARISH	GOAL	TOTAL GIFTS	RESPONSE RATE	PARTICIPATION RATE
St. Joseph, Beulah	\$40,701.00	\$45,683.85	50%	48%
St. Theresa, Carson	\$10,535.00	\$3,750.00	39%	37%
St. Martin, Center	\$12,059.00	\$8,305.00	45%	41%
St. Vincent, Crown Butte	\$7,547.00	\$11,420.00	52%	52%
St. Lawrence, Flasher	\$13,809.00	\$15,525.00	53%	48%
St. Peter, Fort Yates	\$4,213.00	\$2,800.00	9%	9%
Sacred Heart, Glen Ullin	\$26,794.00	\$25,674.00	95%	70%
St. Martin, Hazen	\$28,979.00	\$33,760.00	50%	47%
St. Martin, Huff	\$6,328.00	\$9,755.00	66%	59%
Christ the King, Mandan	\$88,729.00	\$94,825.00	48%	47%
St. Joseph, Mandan	\$128,216.00	\$105,926.00	42%	37%
Spirit of Life, Mandan	\$124,123.00	\$236,540.50	40%	34%
St. Pius, New Salem	\$20,649.00	\$15,082.00	44%	36%
St. Gertrude, Raleigh	\$6,475.00	\$3,678.32	67%	67%
St. Anthony, St. Anthony	\$7,179.00	\$16,680.00	54%	49%
St. Philomena, Selfridge	\$1,871.00	\$1,315.00	47%	40%
St. Elizabeth, Cannon Ball	\$172.00	\$0.00	0%	0%
St. James, Porcupine	\$835.00	\$0.00	14%	0%
St. Joseph, Grant County	\$2,572.00	\$5,590.00	90%	90%
St. Mary, Almont	\$3,652.00	\$4,150.00	81%	76%
Sacred Heart, Solen	\$714.00	\$565.00	56%	44%
St. Ann, Hebron	\$15,468.00	\$16,813.00	53%	48%

2021 God’s Share Appeal Goal:..... \$3,258,000
2021 Total Commitments: \$3,478,028
Total Number of Donors: 9,463
Figures as of September 8, 2021

DEANERY 3 - DICKINSON AREA

PARISH	GOAL	TOTAL GIFTS	RESPONSE RATE	PARTICIPATION RATE
St. John, Beach	\$41,777.00	\$28,939.34	74%	72%
St. Bernard, Belfield	\$41,464.00	\$30,397.50	56%	51%
Queen of Peace, Dickinson	\$125,473.00	\$110,768.80	54%	47%
St. Joseph, Dickinson	\$73,294.00	\$79,614.50	51%	43%
St. Patrick, Dickinson	\$127,902.00	\$102,003.78	53%	49%
St. Wenceslaus, Dickinson	\$94,018.00	\$75,085.00	52%	43%
St. Thomas, Gladstone	\$4,786.00	\$4,605.00	67%	62%
St. Mary, Golva	\$18,479.00	\$11,098.08	93%	93%
St. Paul, Halliday	\$7,693.00	\$8,895.00	68%	63%
St. Joseph, Killdeer	\$38,868.00	\$85,432.50	59%	58%
St. Elizabeth, Lefor	\$8,166.00	\$495.00	16%	13%
Sts. Peter & Paul, New Hradec	\$5,308.00	\$7,505.00	69%	67%
St. Mary, Richardton	\$29,998.00	\$24,240.00	52%	45%
St. Mary, South Heart	\$15,409.00	\$16,830.00	62%	58%
St. Mary, Medora	\$3,475.00	\$1,250.83	92%	75%
St. Stephen, Stark County	\$5,155.00	\$5,955.00	61%	54%
St. Charles, Bowman	\$33,422.00	\$33,450.60	57%	46%
Holy Trinity, Hettinger	\$22,067.00	\$14,890.00	46%	45%
St. Vincent, Mott	\$25,675.00	\$21,484.04	55%	51%
St. Mary, New England	\$28,088.00	\$25,163.00	60%	57%
St. Henry, Regent	\$8,737.00	\$11,065.00	64%	64%
St. John, New Leipzig	\$3,621.00	\$3,750.00	53%	50%
St. Mary, Marmarth	\$1,966.00	\$1,810.00	23%	23%
St. Mel, Rhame	\$3,320.00	\$7,652.50	61%	61%
Sacred Heart, Reeder	\$4,545.00	\$4,140.00	53%	53%
Sacred Heart, Scranton	\$10,687.00	\$4,982.29	44%	44%

DEANERY 4 - MINOT AREA

PARISH	GOAL	TOTAL GIFTS	RESPONSE RATE	PARTICIPATION RATE
St. Nicholas, Garrison	\$28,340.00	\$34,845.00	46%	45%
St. Mary, Foxholm	\$10,219.00	\$10,740.00	46%	46%
St. Philomena, Glenburn	\$7,161.00	\$8,595.00	70%	67%
St. Agnes, Kenmare	\$15,887.00	\$8,940.00	44%	44%
Immaculate Conception, Max	\$5,878.00	\$7,280.00	51%	51%
Little Flower, Minot	\$55,407.00	\$48,678.50	53%	49%
Our Lady of Grace, Minot	\$140,605.00	\$138,091.46	43%	37%
St. John, Minot	\$79,698.00	\$74,736.77	43%	40%
St. Leo, Minot	\$103,848.00	\$94,404.00	51%	48%
St. Jerome, Mohall	\$10,740.00	\$14,450.00	77%	69%
St. Ann, Berthold	\$7,570.00	\$10,030.00	68%	65%
St. John, Lansford	\$4,697.00	\$7,500.00	48%	48%
St. James, Sherwood	\$9,614.00	\$5,750.00	51%	49%
St. Joseph, Bowbells	\$5,107.00	\$5,735.00	56%	56%
Sacred Heart, White Shield	\$1,751.00	\$800.00	13%	13%

DEANERY 5 - WILLISTON AREA

PARISH	GOAL	TOTAL GIFTS	RESPONSE RATE	PARTICIPATION RATE
St. Patrick, Crosby	\$15,747.00	\$13,435.00	58%	54%
St. Anthony, Mandaree	\$7,901.00	\$11,793.00	31%	31%
St. Anthony, New Town	\$13,617.00	\$28,300.00	51%	46%
St. Bridget, Parshall	\$7,459.00	\$4,849.67	46%	39%
Holy Rosary, Stanley	\$33,637.00	\$61,730.00	52%	48%
St. Thomas, Tioga	\$16,317.00	\$12,852.00	50%	49%
Epiphany, Watford City	\$46,938.00	\$28,900.00	45%	43%
St. Joseph, Williston	\$84,052.00	\$132,090.93	36%	33%
St. John, Portal	\$4,213.00	\$3,289.60	76%	71%
St. Luke, Noonan	\$4,938.00	\$4,870.00	94%	94%
St. Boniface, Grenora	\$6,788.00	\$14,142.50	106%	94%
St. Joseph, Twin Buttes	\$4,056.00	\$1,130.00	15%	11%
St. Elizabeth, Makoti	\$3,594.00	\$1,805.00	69%	69%
Sacred Heart, Plaza	\$4,711.00	\$1,560.00	63%	50%
St. James, Powers Lake	\$8,366.00	\$12,970.00	43%	43%
St. Michael, Ray	\$8,518.00	\$6,630.97	50%	50%
Our Lady, Alexander	\$5,681.00	\$1,850.00	38%	19%
St. John, Trenton	\$7,125.00	\$5,425.00	40%	37%

Balancing Church & State

CHRISTOPHER DODSON



Abortion is ultimately ended through love

Recent legal and political developments have renewed attention to the possibility that Roe v. Wade and Casey v. Planned Parenthood, the two Supreme Court opinions that most shape abortion law, could be overturned or scaled-back. Such a decision would allow the states to restrict or even ban abortion.

In this respect, North Dakota is ready. It has already passed a post-20 week ban, a ban on the most-used second trimester abortion procedure, a post-fetal heartbeat ban, and a complete ban if Roe is overturned. The legislature does not need to reenact these laws. They would become enforceable to the extent allowed by the courts.

Prohibiting abortions, however, is the not the end-goal of the pro-life movement, at least not from the view of the Catholic Church. The goal is to save and protect all human life. Prohibiting abortions in North Dakota may help, but it will not stop all abortions. Women will still face unexpected pregnancies. Some women will go to other states for abortions. Some might seek illegal abortions. To be ready, North Dakota must be ready to help those women so that they never consider abortion.

Who are these women? On average, about 1,200 abortions have been performed in North Dakota per year for the last 10 years, though the number is closer

to 1,100 in more recent years. Of those, about 830 are North Dakota residents. These neighbors are the women on which we need to focus.

The number of North Dakota pregnant women getting abortions has been mostly steady. In 2020 was 833, which is exactly the same number for 2019. The number for 2018 was 832. By numbers, there has been no perceivable trend in abortions on North Dakota residents. The lowest since 1998 was 750 in 2001. The highest was 918 in 2008. It has gone up and down, the average since 1998 being 837.

At the same time, however, the number of pregnancies in North Dakota has gone up. This means that the percentage of North Dakota pregnant women getting abortions has gone down. At one time, more than 10 percent of North Dakota pregnancies ended in abortion. Today, the percentage is around seven percent. The decline corresponds with economic conditions and the roll-out of the state’s alternatives to abortion program, which assists pregnancy and adoption centers.

Contrary to common belief, the vast majority, about 90 percent, of North Dakota women getting abortions are adults 20 years of age or older. Of the remaining 10 percent, less than three percent of the abortions are performed on minors. North Dakota has a

parental consent requirement that might explain the low number of abortions for minors, but that is only part of the story.

North Dakota has done a phenomenal job reducing teen pregnancies, without the massive funding of contraceptive programs seen in states with higher rates. It used to be that over 11 percent of all pregnancies in North Dakota were among teenagers. Today, that percentage is below four percent. Most of these pregnancies occur with “adult teens,” that is, 18- and 19-year-olds. Minors make up less than one percent of all pregnancies in the state. With that drop, we have seen a corresponding drop in the number of minors getting abortions. In short, our minor teens are getting pregnant less and having fewer abortions.

Although North Dakota has done a great job at reducing teen pregnancies and abortions, it has a problem with out-of-wedlock college-age pregnancies and abortions. Most of the women having abortions are in their 20s. About half have some college education. About 85 percent of them are unmarried.

These women are among the roughly 830 women a year who need our help now and when the Supreme Court might allow North Dakota to prohibit or restricted more abortions. They are our neighbors.

Consider this thought experiment. North Dakota has 235 Catholic parishes. If each made enough effort to help just three or four abortion-prone women to choose life each year, we could eliminate abortion among North Dakota women without legislation. The Walking with Moms program is a start. (Go to walkingwithmoms.com for more information.) Consider what could happen if all the non-Catholic churches joined in the effort. Consider also what could happen if the state committed resources to helping those women choose life like it does when it comes to fighting other social ills. Creating a culture of life where no woman ever considers abortion is job for both the private and public sectors.

There exists some hope that the courts may soon allow us to prohibit the evil of abortion. That is good news. We must not, however, focus all our energy and attention on the courts and legislation. Abortion is ultimately ended not by laws alone, but through love.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Red Mass Oct. 4
The public is invited to the Red Mass on Monday, Oct. 4 at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit at 5:30 p.m. This Mass celebrates with those involved in the administration of justice—judges, attorneys, law professors, law students and government officials.

Bishop Ryan Cor Christi Gala Oct. 9
The 19th annual Cor Christi Gala in celebration of the tradition and future of Bishop Ryan Catholic School is Saturday, Oct. 9. You’re invited to the Grand Hotel in Minot for a night filled with festivity and gratitude, a delicious meal, lots of lion pride, and this year—a special thank you honoring Pat and Sandy Butz. Social hour and silent auction opening to start the evening at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. with inductions and president’s address at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per guest. To purchase or for more information, call 701-838-3355 or visit the Bishop Ryan administration office.

Marriage Encounter Weekends
A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a private weekend away from the distractions of daily life for couples in good marriages. Give your marriage this gift. The next available weekends in the region are Oct. 8-10 in Buffalo, Minn. and Nov. 12-14 in Medora. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, visit ndwwme.org or Applications@ndwwme.org or 701-347-1998.

Fatima rosary rally Oct. 16
Everyone’s invited to join the Fatima rosary rally on Saturday, Oct. 16 at on the grounds of the N.D. State Capitol building on the corner of 9th Street and Boulevard (in front

of the water commission building). The rally includes public rosary with intentions, the Angelus, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Prayer of Total Consecration and the Divine Praises. The event is sponsored by the Bismarck-Mandan Knights of Columbus.

White Mass Oct. 18
The public is invited to attend the Bismarck Diocese’s annual White Mass, which will be held on Monday, Oct. 18 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.

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 2020-21 are: Oct. 8-10; Nov. 19-21; Jan. 14-16; Feb. 25-27; and April 8-10. More information can be found at www.bismarckdiocese.com/search1.

Campus Ministry at NDSU
Do you know a student attending NDSU this fall? Let them know about St. Paul’s Newman Center. St. Paul’s Newman Center is the bisonCatholic community. It’s a place where students come to encounter Christ on the campus of NDSU. Through the sacraments, bible studies, discipleship, retreats, and social activities, students are encouraged to pursue virtue. They are equipped to live a dynamic Catholic life amid a secular campus. Help an NDSU student set themselves up for success! Invite them to join

the bisonCatholic community by registering at bisonCatholic.org.

Hannah’s Hope infertility support group
Are you and your spouse, or someone you know, struggling with infertility? The Diocese of Bismarck Office of Respect Life facilitates a support group for couples suffering with infertility. The group is made up of other couples also walking the infertility path and is based on the teachings of the Church regarding infertility. The focus is on spiritual healing and moral support. Daily prayers are offered for all members by an appointed chaplain. For more information or to sign up, go to bismarckdiocese.com/hope or call Amanda at 701-204-7205.

Patriotic rosary at Spirit of Life
Come in prayer to heal our nation. A patriotic rosary dedicates one Hail Mary in a traditional Catholic rosary to each state of the United States and asks God’s protection and guidance for our nation. This will be said the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at Spirit of Life in Mandan. Please join as we come together and unite to strengthen our nation.

THIRST conference Oct. 30
Join us Oct. 30 at the Bismarck Event Center for THIRST 2021. This exciting and free event has something for all ages and backgrounds. Featured keynote speakers include Dr. Ray Guarendi, Matt Fradd and Dr. Ben Akers, Executive Director of FORMED at Augustine Institute. The Diocesan Youth Conference (for students in grades 6-12) will be held in conjunction with the conference again this year. New this year is Vacation Bible School for younger children. Watch for more details at

bismarckdiocese.com/thirst. General questions can be directed to Amanda at ajensen@bismarckdiocese.com or 701-204-7205 or Chris at ckraft@bismarckdiocese.com or 701-204-7208.

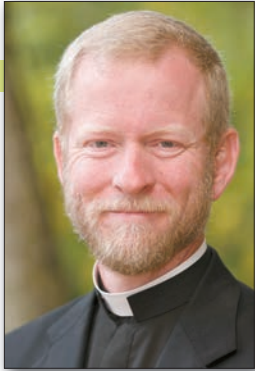
Passion Play pilgrimage 2022
A pilgrimage to eastern Europe featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau will take place July 2-12, 2022, touring Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Munich. The 11-day tour is hosted with Fr. Fred Harvey former pastor of St. Therese, Church of the Little Flower in Minot, and current pastor of Christ the King in Mandan. The cost is \$5,132 from Bismarck which includes land/airfare as well as taxes and airline surcharges. For more information, contact Linda Aleshire at 701-721-3723 or lindamaleshire@gmail.com.

Footsteps of St. Paul pilgrimage 2022
Pilgrims are invited to follow the footsteps of St. Paul as he traveled and explored the world he knew including the places where the “Apostle to the Gentiles” preached and taught. This pilgrimage into the life and times of St. Paul will be from Sept. 19-30, 2022, leaving from Bismarck. The all-inclusive price is \$4,550 (except lunches). Monsignor Chad Gion will serve as the spiritual director of this trip sponsored by L.P. Pilgrimages. For more information, contact LeAnn Brand at 833-910-1545 or GaSales@lpjp.org. You can register and pay directly at the website www.lpjp.org. A deposit of \$400 is payable on booking with the second payment of 50% due April 20 and full balance due on June 20.

Making Sense out of Bioethics

FR. TAD PACHOLCZYK

The moral analysis of boxing



In 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic flame on international television, the issue of sports-induced brain damage was raised to new prominence. One of the greatest boxers in history, his evident frailty and overt Parkinson’s tremors led many to question the sport of boxing and its future. Since then, countless other athletes, not only from the world of boxing, but from football, hockey, mixed martial arts, soccer and beyond, have shared tragic stories of debilitating sports-related concussions.

Although many sports involve the risk of unintentional injuries, boxing for many raises the issue to an entirely different level. Indeed, it is important for us to inquire about the intended purpose or goal of boxing.

Literature describing the ancient practice of the sport of boxing makes it clear that Greek athletes sometimes suffered permanent injuries or even died during tournaments. During Roman gladiatorial boxing events, they basically fought to the death. Any sporting activity where the declared goal would be to kill one’s opponent would, of course, automatically raise serious moral objections.

Modern boxing has no such goal, though certain elements of bodily harm and violence continue to characterize the sport, with an average of 10 boxing deaths occurring each year since 1900. Among the more serious forms of harm that can occur from competitive boxing is physical damage to the brain. From January of 1960 to August of 2011, for example, 488 boxing-related deaths were reported, with approximately 65 percent of those deaths involving grave neurological damage.

If the goal of a professional boxing match is “just” to knock out the opponent to gain victory, the purpose of the competition itself still raises moral concerns, because participants are striving to inflict potentially serious harm to their opponent’s brain by causing a concussion, a type of traumatic brain injury.

Suffering a concussion can result in a

panoply of symptoms and problems, including fuzzy thinking, painful vision, harmful reactions to light, difficulties with memory and learning, and loss of the ability to focus. Sometimes repetitive brain trauma can result in progressive neurodegenerative disease with significant symptoms arising years later, including dementia.

Our ability to recognize and understand traumatic brain injury is continuing to improve with time. Several proteins, released by nerve cells when they are damaged following a concussion, can often be detected as “fluid biomarkers” either in the blood or in the cerebrospinal fluid. Testing for the presence of these proteins can aid in identifying and confirming even mild traumatic brain injuries that may not be obvious on first assessment.

Neurologists, of course, are among the first to emphasize that a concussion represents a serious medical condition. Treatment options generally remain limited, and tend to include the need for extended time to allow the neurological impairment to heal.

Young athletes can be so desperate to compete, nevertheless, that they will say they are fine after suffering an injury even when they are not, and seek to return to the competitive event. A second insult to the brain, without allowing for full healing of the first, can significantly increase the risk for prolonged symptoms.

Considering the intensity of competitive pressure, particularly among young people who may have a limited ability to consider the consequences of their actions and the potential future effects of injuries, the question arises whether there isn’t a broader moral obligation in the community to “save players from themselves” and for those around them to refrain from applying undue pressure to perform on young athletes. Regrettably, undue pressure to participate sometimes arises from parents and coaches, and outside mediators are sometimes needed to assure that young people’s best interests are protected.

One element of responsible gamesmanship in today’s sporting events involves the development and use of appropriate gear to protect athletes from accidental harm. Another involves the establishment of rigorous penalties for players and teams that intentionally seek to cause harm to their opponents during competitions and tournaments.

For the sport of boxing, however, such measures reveal a contradiction. If one were to completely protect a boxer, for example, with appropriate body padding to avoid injury, the sport would lose much of its energy and appeal, since causing injury is central to the process of engagement. If one were to be penalized for intentionally seeking to harm the other boxer, as may be done for other sports like hockey, again, boxing would become eviscerated of much of its core.

There are obvious meritorious considerations to boxing, like the intense training, personal discipline, and resilience involved, all of which are clearly valid on their own terms. St. Paul even uses the analogy of boxing to describe the way we should exercise heroic discipline in the Christian life (1 Cor 9:25-27).

But while there are various elements that can attract us to the sport, the violent goal of the engagement remains gravely problematic at a moral level. The sport of boxing not only risks serious impairment and even death, but poses many uncomfortable questions for us regarding our own appetites as spectators, and our willingness to allow for certain elements of brutality and even barbarism in the practice of sporting events.

■ 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. He also serves as a professor of bioethics at the University of Mary in Bismarck. See www.ncbcenter.org

Ag Attitudes

JAMES ODERMANN



Chores are a routine in life calling for spiritual growth

One of the ever-present duties of rural production, especially livestock production, is chores, routine jobs that require one to be present and physically complete tasks. Rural life chores involve lots of various activities but are necessary elements of successful operations.

Chores sometimes have a negative connotation because of their repetitive nature, whether it be on the farms and ranches or the households of the Bismarck Diocese. Chores are a necessary—and under-appreciated art form that motivates to move focus from myself to responsibilities outside of my bubble.

Whether I ride across the landscape, walk the fields, check the fences or other events that are

part of a routine—daily, weekly, or monthly—I reflect on the successes or failures of the aforementioned time frames. There is a need to review those events because it is important to celebrate the successes (which are a gift from God) and the evaluate the failures (which could be part of a message from God to reform and/or reframe my life).

The temptation exists to get chores done early because of tired legs, weary arms or overloaded mind. It is then that the temptation must be defied because there is great satisfaction in “doing it right.” Yes, slopping through the chores may not create immediate issues but “doing it right” creates contentment and prepares me for the next day with a positive

attitude.

I relate these chore experiences to the words of St. James and my spiritual life. It was the epistle on the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time that really rocked my world: Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. (James 21b-22).

I contemplated about that for some time, rhetorically asking, “Do I welcome the word of God? Am I a doer of the word?” The answers are a call for action, a self-examination of how well I do my spiritual chores.

Yet, St. James is not done (as is the case with all the biblical readings) because the challenge

of answering the call to complete spiritual chores is expanded in the 23rd and 24th Sundays of Ordinary Time. I am called to show no partiality nor judge my sisters and brothers based on appearances (money, skin color, leadership positions, etc.) Then, St. James, calls me to demonstrate my faith through works.

Ultimately, I am gifted with God’s word, asked to be a doer of the word. I need to get my spiritual chores done so that God is satisfied.

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).

Gifts from the Harvest

(Grain, Corn, Beans, Cattle, etc.)

Sharing Your Harvest ... more effectively

Cash basis farmers who harvest their crops in the fall and make their plans for spring planting often find that making charitable gifts is a great way to do tax planning. As with all charity and tax planning, one should first consult his/her financial and legal advisers. The example below, illustrates for many farmers, at least considering a “gift from the harvest” might be the most effective way to “share your harvest.”



The reasons such a gift might be advantageous are several, but the primary are:

- **Reduction of income** to the extent of the value of the commodity.
- Deduction of **production costs** from the past growing season.
- In many cases, elimination of the **self-employment tax** attributed to the commodity.
- Effective **reduction of adjusted gross income**, helping reduce the income on which tax is assessed, and allowing larger giving not limited to 50% of adjusted gross income.

Procedure Diocese of Bismarck

To accomplish a “gift from the harvest”, be sure to **contact our office at (701) 204-7202**. We can provide the forms and information by which your elevator may transfer ownership to the Diocese, your parish, school or other ministry directly prior to sale, thereby ensuring the favorable tax treatment desired by such a gift.

When you decide to make a “gift from the harvest”, make sure you give our contact information to the elevator, so we can take responsibility for the sale.

*“And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit.
It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.” Mark 4:8*

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. Email the victim assistance coordinator, Joyce McDowall, at victimassistance@bismarckdiocese.com.

CODE OF 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 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 Conduct at <http://www.bismarckdiocese.com>.



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