



Dakota Catholic Action

Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941

To serve as Christ did



Deacon David Fleck (foreground) and Deacon Brian Lardy stand before Bishop Kagan for the final blessing.

Photos by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

Two men ordained permanent deacons

Pope Paul VI described the deacon as “the interpreter of the needs and the desires of the Christian communities, and the sign or sacrament of Christ the Lord Himself who came not to be served but to serve.”

The need for this “servant role” has led to 36 classes of permanent deacons ordained for the diocese since 1981. Among the newest are Deacon David Fleck and Deacon Brian Lardy ordained Oct. 15 by Bishop Kagan at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

Deacon David entered with a special

perspective having served as the director of the diaconate office for the past 16 years. His experience employed by the diocese guiding the formation for men seeking the permanent diaconate as well as his desire to pursue his own vocation brought him to this point.

“My personal call to the diaconate has unfolded quietly over several years,” David explained. “There was a time shortly after college

when I seriously discerned both a consecrated religious vocation as well as diocesan priesthood, and I spent time as a seminarian for the diocese. So, my heart has had a certain attraction to holy orders for many years.

Continued on page 3

A LOOK INSIDE



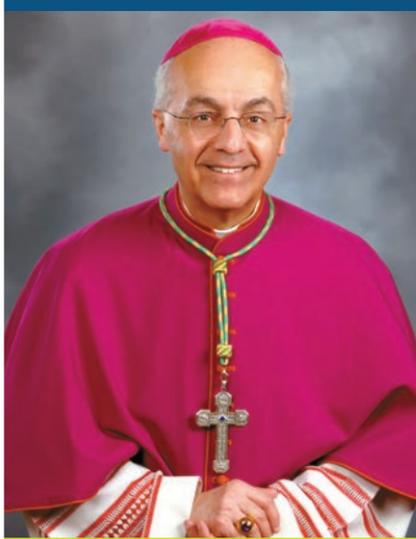
Cathedral 75th
The 75-year-old parish will soon kick off a celebration to commemorate this historic moment for the diocese Page 5



Seminarians ordained
Seminarians, Grant Dvorak and Jake Magnuson, were ordained to the transitional diaconate Sept. 30 Pages 8

The month of communion of saints is upon us

FROM THE BISHOP



Bishop David D. Kagan

The month of November in the Church's year of grace and favor from the Lord holds a special place in our Catholic life. It is referred to as the month of the communion of saints. It is also the month which ends our current year with the Solemnity of Christ the King and begins our new year of grace and favor from the Lord with the First Sunday of Advent.

I would like to review why

this month is so important for us as Catholics. November 1 is the Solemnity of All Saints and November 2 is the Feast of All Souls, two days which remind us, who are alive and striving to live and perfect our faith, that our time on this earth has been determined by Almighty God. This should not frighten us but, on the contrary, gives us every reason to hope and to live our lives so that when He calls us to Himself in death, we are prepared to go to Him and receive our particular judgement.

Whenever we profess our Catholic faith, one of the articles of this faith is our belief in the communion of saints. We are reminded that it is our faith which unites us not just to one another now, but it unites us with every saint in heaven and with every holy soul awaiting heaven and being purified of every stain of sin in purgatory. The saints in heaven assist us on earth and the souls in purgatory with their prayers and merits; we on earth can assist the souls in purgatory with our prayers and sacrifices and we should do this often. The holy souls in purgatory, as have

the saints in heaven, assist us with their good example of lives lived for and in and with the Lord while they lived on this earth. Thus, we understand this communion of saints as not just a nice idea, but it is a living relationship which spans time and eternity and of which each of us is a member. The first two days and feasts of November give us an opportunity to exercise that membership in the communion of saints in the best way possible, by participating at Holy Mass.

The last Sunday of our Church year is the Solemnity of Christ the King. On this Sunday, we are reminded that it is Jesus Himself Who will return to earth at the end of time as the just judge of all mankind. His return will be the general judgement when all will rise from the dead and body and soul will be reunited for all eternity, either in heaven or in hell. Again, this great day gives us every reason to strengthen our faith and hope in His merciful grace and use that grace to purify

ourselves of every sin and all the effects of sin.

Finally, the Sunday following is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of our Catholic New Year of grace and favor from the Lord. It is also the season for our preparation to celebrate the Church's second most important day, the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus, the beginning of our redemption by the Son of God made Man. Advent is to be a time of increased prayer, increased good works of charity and definite penance as a preparation to receive the Lord into our hearts and lives on Christmas. What we do in Advent as a preparation should continue to be a part of our lives on Christmas and beyond. What better way to come to know, to love and to serve the Lord Jesus than to wait on His coming and then, like the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, live with Him and follow Him?

Enjoy this holy month of November.

BISHOP IN ACTION



Photo by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

Bishop Kagan offers a blessing as processes down the center aisle of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on Oct. 4 for the annual Red Mass. This Mass celebrates with those involved in the administration of justice—judges, attorneys, law professors, law students and government officials.

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2021

- | | |
|---|---|
| Nov. 2 • Mass for Deceased Clergy, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 11 a.m. | Nov. 12 • Cabinet Meeting, Chancery, Bismarck, 10 a.m. |
| Nov. 3 • Gold Mass, University of Mary, Bismarck, 10 a.m. | Nov. 14 • Confirmation at the Church of St. Leo the Great, Minot, 11 a.m. |
| Nov. 4 • Parish Expansion Board meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck, 11 a.m. | Nov. 15-18 • USCCB meeting |
| Nov. 4 • Confirmation at Church of the Ascension, Bismarck, 7 p.m. | Nov. 21 • Confirmation at the Church of St. Joseph, Killdeer, 10:30 a.m. MT |
| Nov. 6 • Altar Dedication Mass, Church of Queen of Peace, Dickinson, 4 p.m. MT | Nov. 22 • New Priest Workshop Holy Hour and Mass, 7 a.m. |
| Nov. 10 • Real Presence Radio interview, 9 a.m. | Nov. 23 • New Priest Workshop meeting, Radisson, Bismarck, 9:30 a.m. |
| Nov. 10 • Women's Care Center fundraiser, Sixteen03 Main Events, Bismarck, 5 p.m. | Nov. 25 • Thanksgiving Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 8 a.m. |
| Nov. 11 • Priest Benefit Association meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck, 11 a.m. | Nov. 29 • Real Presence Radio banquet, Bismarck Civic Center, 5:30 p.m. |

SOCIAL MEDIA



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



Bishop David Kagan
@VescovoDDK

Following

Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time, Sunday: true discipleship is self-sacrifice out of love for Jesus and others. It brings suffering which is always an opportunity for grace. Let us embrace the Cross and carry it for love of Him.



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



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/Bismarck Diocese

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



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Two men ordained permanent deacons

Photos by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

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“However, it was about two years ago, during Lent, that the attraction intensified and a deeper, more personal call from the Lord came into focus for me to serve him as a deacon. The call also harmonized well during this time with my wife and children which is a key component of discernment for a married man with a family.”

Each man hears and responds to the call differently and on God’s time.

“I first felt the call to the diaconate during a Cursillo weekend I attended in 2011,” Brian explained. “On the way home from the weekend, I mentioned to a friend that I thought I may be called to be a deacon. It took several additional years of prayer before I submitted my application to the diaconate director for the formation program.”

The five-year program includes academic instruction, spiritual and human development as well as practical pastoral experience. Upon completion, each man is prepared to minister as a deacon in parish and other ministerial situations, to preach the Gospel, to serve the poor and assist during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy of the Church.

“My emotions were all over the board—excited, scared, nervous and all the way to the feeling of not being ‘enough’ to be a deacon,” Brian shared.

David and Brian studied, learned and discerned together for the past five years. David, having been on both sides guiding the program for many years and now having received holy orders himself, can certainly understand the range of emotions.

“As I’m sure with most men who have approached holy orders, there was a mixture of thoughts and emotions at play,” he said. “I was excited for sure, but there was also a sense of the magnitude of such a call from the Lord and all it entails. Consequently, I became more and more aware of my personal inadequacy to fulfill the vocation. Fortunately, the Lord moved my heart from that place of inner poverty to a new appreciation of his goodness, his fidelity and his desire to be the deacon in and through me and to live his ‘diakonia’ (ministry/service) through me as I encounter others. There is great peace and freedom in that truth.”

Both men have relied on their years of experience and formation as well as on their families’ support as they transitioned from the years of formation to serving in their parishes.

“Prayer and my loving and supportive wife are the two things that sustained me throughout the instruction and formation,” Brian said. “Of course, it has been a huge help to have David beside me these past years, initially as the director but more recently as a fellow classmate.”

Brian and his wife, Tammy, have two daughters, two sons-in-law and two granddaughters. He’s assigned as a deacon at the Church of Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

David also credits his prayer life and the gift of his family in sustaining him over the years of formation. He and his wife, Mary, have six children. David is serving as a deacon at the Church of Saint Anne in Bismarck.

“The primary sustenance for any vocation essentially comes from someone trying their best to live in communion with God through a life of habitual prayer and the sacraments of the Church,” David shared. “There is no inner life, and no ability to hear or answer a call from the Lord, without those factors. Although lived imperfectly, that is what I have tried to do over the years to listen and to follow the various paths my life has taken.”

“I am also extremely blessed to be married to a woman who understands this and tries her best each day to live in such communion with our Lord. ‘A good wife is a generous gift,’ as Sirach says. I have been richly blessed through my wife and through her support as a friend and fellow disciple of the Lord.”

As the men have begun service in their parishes, they reflected on the role of the deacon as they preach and teach, assist at Eucharistic liturgies, witness marriages, preside at funerals and wakes and administer Holy Communion to the sick and dying, among other work.

“The very nature of the ministry of a deacon is to give oneself away, to put the other first,” David explained. “Joy naturally comes from this. It is the joy, and paradox, of Christian discipleship. To give is to get, and in this case, joy. So, in one sense I’m looking

forward to ‘enjoying’ all of it. It will be a privilege and a joy to serve others through the Church’s Liturgy, especially the Holy Eucharist. I also have a deep love for the elderly, stemming from a close relationship I had with my maternal grandmother. I look forward to the treasures found in that ministry.”

Because of the vibrant presence of deacons in the Diocese of Bismarck, more people are encountering Christ each day and are receiving the message of hope and healing that He offers.

As Brian eloquently stated it, “I think the most enjoyable thing about being a deacon is simply walking with people and encouraging them in their faith life.”



(l-r) Deacon David and Mary Fleck and Deacon Brian and Tammy Lardy with Bishop Kagan following their ordination on Oct. 15.



Bishop Kagan laid his hands on Deacon David Fleck during the ancient gesture designating the conferral of the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Bishop Kagan greets Deacon Brian Lardy for the fraternal kiss of peace.



Deacon David Fleck assisted Bishop Kagan with incense at the altar.



Deacon Brian Lardy with his hands between Bishop Kagan’s to promise respect and obedience to the bishop and his successors.

Ladies of Another View on the air

Local talk show about to mark first year anniversary

There's nothing wrong with preaching to the choir. They need to be bolstered, too. But opportunities to share a Catholic message beyond a Church audience can be challenging to find.

Two Catholics in the Bismack Diocese were offered such an opportunity. Mary Graner and Patti Armstrong were invited to be co-lead hosts for the TV talk show "Ladies of Another View" on BEK TV, a secular program where their Catholic faith is welcome. It is not a religious program, but religion is welcome.

The hour-long show which airs 4:30-5:30 Monday through Friday has guests in-studio and from across the country via Zoom. Topics range from politics, health and science, inspiration and faith. They also have a "My Hometown" series where they visit North Dakota's small towns highlighting their history, stories, and values.

"I worked as a journalist in the secular media for many years, switched to Catholic media, and now I'm back in the secular world but as a Catholic," Armstrong said. "It's so refreshing that whatever topic we cover, we don't have to check our faith at the door. I have to admit I resisted at first because I've never worked in broadcasting, but I soon realized what a unique opportunity this was to live out my faith in a new way."

There are several other hosts who rotate in, representing various other denominations. Graner and Armstrong determine the topics and invite guests, often tapping into dynamic Catholic leaders.

At the start, Fr. Josh Ehli came to bless the BEK studio and several priests from the diocese have been guests on the show. Father Josh Waltz, pastor at St. Joseph in Mandan, has been on a few times to reflect on the culture. During the previous legislative session, when the bill to force clergy to break the seal of confession in cases of child abuse was introduced, Fr. Dominick Bouck, chaplain at University of Mary, came onto the show to explain the Church's perspective that breaking the seal of the confessional is not an option for priests.

There have been other notable Catholic guests such as Msgr. James Shea, president of the University of Mary, to talk about his best-selling book, "From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age," Austin Holgard, a graduate of the University of Mary's master's program in bioethics discussed the problem of using human DNA in experiments, and Dr. Carmelita Lamb explained the University's Native American educational opportunities. Other notable guests include: exorcist Msgr. Stephen Rossetti; the world's leading psychiatric consultant on demonic activity, Dr. Richard Gallagher; Dr. Thomas Hilgers, founder and director of the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and author of "The Fake and Deceptive Science Behind

Roe v Wade;" Attorney Paul Jonna defending pro-life activist, David Daleiden, who exposed videos of Planned Parenthood officials discussing fees for body parts of aborted babies; and Fr. Robert McTeigue author of "Real Philosophy for Read People" and radio host and producer of "The Catholic Current" speaking about the danger of proposed federal transexual medical mandates.

Derrick Bulawa, CEO of BEK, a rural communications cooperative, developed the BEK News channel as an extension to their mission of communications and building upon their successful BEK Sports channel.

"When the mainstream and social media began to aggressively censor the message and block distribution of information, it was clear that other sources for information needed to develop," Bulawa said. "And it needed to be an organization that didn't have a national narrative. We have five news programs now and more are coming."

"The Ladies of Another View" program started late last summer with a discussion between neighbors—the Bulawas live two doors down from the Armstrongs.

"So many people complain about what is being said on the TV show "The View," so we wanted to find people who had traditional North Dakota values," he said. "The idea grew from there.

For this show, no one had been in broadcasting before. That was intentional, according to him. "All of the talent on BEK News manage their own content and it's actually what they believe, not what they are told to say," Bulawa said.

Armstrong was invited to be one of the hosts then tapped into Graner whom she knew through St. Mary's Central High School from serving on a parent/teacher organization together.

"Patti asked me out of the blue," Graner said. "She said that she had noticed I was good at fundraising and marketing and comfortable speaking with people. I love a challenge and it sounded interesting. I also wanted to be able to



Submitted photo

Co-hosts for the TV talk show "Ladies of Another View" on BEK TV, Mary Graner (left) and Patti Armstrong, lead the secular program where their Catholic faith is welcome.

help people see that there is another side to the news not being talked about on mainstream media."

From there, Graner and Armstrong began networking, looking for others who would like to join the show. They practiced for a month then went on air Nov. 30 of last year. I absolutely love doing this," Graner said. "People have come up to me to say they so appreciate that we are getting the truth out."

Father Josh Waltz, who has been a frequent guest to the show, is no stranger to broadcasting having done his Real Presence radio show "Sons of Thunder" with his brother, Fr. Justin Waltz. Many of his homilies are also posted on frwaltz.com. He appeared on "Ladies of Another View" to speak on faith without fear and give reflections on the culture.

"There are so many spins right now," he said. "A recent statistic came out that said people's trust in the media is at an all-time low. Part of the reason I agreed to be on the show was to give the true stance of what the Church believes."

Fr. Waltz has received a lot of feedback regarding those appearances. "I'm amazed at how many people watch it. I'll be at the grocery store and people will tell me they saw me on the show. It's reaching more people than you realize, one soul at a time, affecting some change. So many people want to complain but are not doing anything about it. This show is getting the truth out. You never know who's watching or, by God's providence, who may happen to hear something that will help them."

— Staff report

Bismarck Women's Care Center now independent of Fargo

One in six babies in Burleigh County start with Women's Care Center, thanks to strong ongoing support from generous donors throughout the local community. With such growth comes the need for local governance.

As of Oct. 1, 2021, the Bismarck Women's Care Center is no longer an offshoot of the center in Fargo but has its own independent board and fundraising. This is needed to support continued growth in our community.

In 2019, Bismarck became a

Women's Care Center, part of the largest, most successful pregnancy resource in the nation with 34 centers in 12 states. Bismarck served 447 women over the last year. Nine of 10 women chose life for their precious babies. Last year alone, 145 babies were born to the center's Bismarck moms.

"Because of great community support, Women's Care Center serves more moms and babies than ever before in Burleigh County," says Development Director Rebecca Obrigewitch.

"As we continue to grow, it's important to be good stewards of local resources."

Women's Care Center is hosting a new major fundraising event "Luxury Bingo" on Wednesday, Nov. 10. This one-of-a-kind event features high-end prizes, fabulous food, drinks and fun. Tickets are \$100/person, and you can register online at BismarckBingo.org or text "BismarckBingo" to 41444.

All proceeds support the life-saving efforts of the Bismarck center.

Women's Care Center not only provides free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds but offers individual counseling and parenting classes where moms and dads get great information and earn coupons to "spend" on brand new baby items in the on-site Crib Club store. The center's loving counselors are there before, and after, a baby is born. Women's Care Center is where families are built!

—Submitted information

Cathedral parish celebrating 75 years

By Sonia Mullally
DCA Editor

When the Bismarck Diocese's Cathedral was officially opened with a simple blessing on Aug. 30, 1945, there were many items lacking.

Among those items were a pipe organ, the chimes, iron and bronze grilles for the choir and organ loft, baptistry, art glass windows, statuary and stations, sanctuary and sacristy furniture and furnishings and stalls for the choir and gallery.

That's a long list, but the one thing it didn't mention was a parish. The Cathedral was not established as a parish until Jan. 1, 1947. Bishop Vincent Ryan's dream of building a grand Cathedral to tower over Bismarck and serve as a beacon for the Catholic people of the diocese, came to fruition, but it was nearly a year and a half after the structure was complete before it became a true home for its parishioners.

In December 1946, it was announced that there would be a separation of Bismarck's Catholic community into parishes—the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and St. Mary's—effective Jan. 1. A Bismarck Tribune article dated December 31, 1946, stated that a letter from Bishop Ryan read at the Sunday Mass established a dividing line for the two parishes. It had been announced that when the Cathedral was opened that the people would undoubtedly begin to divide themselves and the official division would take advantage of that. The division began at 5th street with the center line of the street becoming the dividing line.

The division left St. Mary's the much larger parish; however, the situation was expected to correct itself as the city grew. The Cathedral parish certainly did grow from the initial 250 families to nearly 1,500 families today.

75th anniversary celebration

The 75-year-old parish will soon kick off a celebration to commemorate this historic moment for the diocese.

"The focus of the celebrations will be community—building it and sustaining it," said Fr. Josh Ehli, rector of the Cathedral since December 2019.

Planned events include: 40 Hours Devotion; blessing of new outdoor nativity scene during Advent 2021; school art show in the spring of 2022; music recital also in the spring of 2022; Spirit Festival on June 4 (celebrated on the vigil of Pentecost, Cathedral's annual parish celebration; as well as parish pilgrimages to Rome with dates to be determined.

The cornerstone of these events, Fr. Ehli said, revolves around revisiting some of the rich history of the parish life. He said that seminarians assigned to the parish during the summer months were tasked with researching the history of the parish. It was through this research that they noticed an event that stood out in the history annals. It was a celebration of the 40 Hours Devotion before the Blessed Sacrament in which priests who had previously served at the parish were invited back to

be the guest homilist and speaker.

"Not only is this an opportunity to foster the great graces of Eucharistic adoration," Fr. Ehli noted, "it's somewhat sentimental for the parish to revisit these events to bring people together before the Blessed Sacrament and to spend time as a community—as a parish community."

The 40 Hours Devotion is a special 40-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. The event includes Eucharistic adoration in the main body of the church, Masses and confessions. Father Russ Kovash will lead a parish mission with a series of homilies for the three-day event on Nov. 19-21. Looking ahead, the planned homilist for 2022 is Bishop Austin Vetter.

The timing of the event is also intentional to celebrate the final week of ordinary time—marked by the Solemnity of Christ the King—just before the Church and her people launch into the somewhat hectic Advent season.

"It's 40 hours of around-the-clock adoration to calm us during the busy time of our lives as school gets into full swing and the holidays are just around the corner," Fr. Ehli added.

It's that community atmosphere that Fr. Ehli and the staff at the Cathedral parish are intentionally creating just before one of the busiest times of the year with the hope that it will sustain itself long beyond Advent.

The two other major events that will foster the parish community are the annual Spirit Festival and the Rome pilgrimages. The festival brings people together to enjoy food, music and fellowship that many look forward to on an annual basis.

The Rome pilgrimages are what Fr. Ehli called the "thread" that can serve to bind it all together. He's willing to go to Rome as many times as there are people wanting to go. Having spent his seminary formation years there as well as a stint at a post with the Holy See, he's eager to share his appreciation for Rome with others. It's on these pilgrimages, exploring the food, art and faith of Rome, that he believes parishioners can



Father Tom Kramer celebrated Mass in the Cathedral in the late 1950s. Submitted photos



Since construction was completed in 1945, the Cathedral interior has changed quite a bit over the years.

really connect with each other and form bonds.

"More recently, we've put a lot of energy into young adults, women's Bible studies, men's groups and finding those opportunities for people to come together to create and foster community," he said.

He hopes to see more family nights on the schedule, too, and more events to focus on hospitality, an area he noted that the Catholic Church needs to do better. He's fully aware that a lot of people, especially younger, are what they call "nones" or "unchurched" having a weak or no religious affiliation. Father

Ehli says it's part of his job to give them resources and help them make connections.

The Cathedral church building is the bishop's and really belongs to everyone in the entire diocese, but it's Fr. Ehli's task, with the help and dedication of the associate priests and parish staff, to foster the parish life.

The public is invited to check the Cathedral website at cathedralparish.com or call the parish office at 223-1033 for more 75th anniversary celebration details and to sign up for adoration times during the 40 Hours Devotion.

What is the 40 Hours Devotion?

The 40 Hours Devotion is a period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance set aside at a particular location.

Why 40? In the Bible, the number 40 is significant: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional 40-hour period from our Lord's burial until the resurrection.

The 40 Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. A guest priest may be invited to give a series of homilies. Confessions are offered. There are also often special prayers such as vespers or evening prayer.

History of the devotion

The practice of 40 Hours Devotion originated in Milan about the year 1530.

Prior to this time, the Church did have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, but not in the format of this devotion. In 1539, Pope Paul III established a round of prayers by the faithful, before our Lord, made by the faithful themselves relieving each other in relays for 40 hours continuously.

In the U.S., St. John Neumann, the fourth bishop of Philadelphia from 1852-60, was a strong promoter of the 40 Hours Devotion. Unfortunately, at that time of the mid-1800s, a strong anti-Catholic sentiment plagued Philadelphia. So much so that, St. John worried that the 40 Hours Devotion would serve to feed this animosity and potentially expose the Blessed Sacrament to desecration.

A strange incident occurred which moved St. John to overcome his hesitation. One night, he was working late at his desk and fell asleep in his chair. The candle on the desk burnt down and charred some of the papers,

but they were still readable. He awoke, surprised and thankful that a fire had not ignited. He fell on his knees to give thanks to God for protection, and heard His voice saying, "As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so shall I pour out my grace in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to My honor. Fear no profanation, therefore; hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory."

He introduced the practice of 40 Hours Devotion at the first diocesan synod in April 1853. The 40 Hours Devotion was so successful it spread to other dioceses. At the Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866, the 40 Hours Devotion was approved for all dioceses of the United States.

Source: *Catholic Straight Answers* (catholicstraightanswers.com/what-is-the-40-hours-devotion/)



November 30 - December 2, 2021

Donations up to \$25,000 of each diocese matched 1:1

What is it?

An annual, joint fundraising event for the Diocese of Bismarck and the Diocese of Fargo, giving all Catholics in North Dakota an opportunity to support their favorite Catholic organizations and charities over three days.

How does it work?

Go to GiveNDCatholic.com to choose a Catholic organization, ministry or charity selected by each diocese. Bishop John T. Folda and Bishop David D. Kagan have selected the Catholic organizations and charities they want highlighted for this #GiveNDCatholic event.

Why?

This event helps kick off the charitable season, promotes year-end giving, and brings the North Dakota Catholic Community together to give thanks for all the blessings God has blessed them with and an opportunity to share their blessings with good Catholic organizations and charities.

What Catholic organizations and charities has Bishop Kagan selected for this year's event?

- Priest Retirement Fund
- Diocesan Office of Catechesis and Youth
- Diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry



GiveNDCatholic.com

Office of Catechesis and Youth



The Office of Catechesis and Youth provides information and resources for parishes in the areas of Pre-K through 12th grade catechesis/religious education, K-12 sacramental preparation, youth and young adult ministry, adult faith formation, and RCIA (becoming Catholic). The office also provides training throughout the year for parish DRE's, youth ministers, catechists, and pastors. The main goal of this ministry is to help young people of all ages encounter Christ and thrive as His disciples. Some of the programs and services provided/sponsored by the office include:

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Catechetical Leader Formation and Networking
- Catholic Youth Advisory Council (C.Y.A.C.)
- Diocesan Youth Conference
- March for Life Pilgrimage
- ND March for Life
- Rise Up Middle School Youth Conference
- SEARCH Retreats
- Seek Conference
- Steubenville Youth Conference
- The Cor Christi Institute
- The ROCK
- Videos, blogs and other resources
- Young Adult Ministry

Priest Retirement Fund



One of the greatest strengths of our diocese is the number of priests who have dedicated their lives to God and to the faithful people of western North Dakota. Our priests have baptized us, educated us, provided parish leadership, preached the Gospel, witnessed our marriages and buried our loved ones. As they grow older, they often face many years of retirement without a family to help care for them. They gave up family to serve us, so we must now come forward to care for them in their retirement years.

The Diocese of Bismarck has a Priest Retirement Fund. The official name, the Priest Benefit Association (PBA), is a defined benefit retirement plan covering all the retired priests in the diocese.

Currently, we have 12 retired priests. A total of 284 priests and bishops who have all passed away had also received retirement funds from the PBA.

The PBA is governed by a board of trustees who are all clergy. Over the years, the trustees have diligently strived to keep the retiree benefits at a level consistent with what was earned as an active priest. Annually, premiums are paid by the diocese and all the parishes to support the retirement fund. The board of trustees uses professional investment managers to invest their funds. The PBA has an annual audit by an outside accounting firm and every other year an actuary provides a valuation to make certain funding is on track to adequately cover the current retirees and all future retirees.

Office of Hispanic Ministry

Sr. Rosa is back! Sr. Rosa and two new members of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Guadalupe from Mexico (Sr. Alma and Sr. Norma) have started the Diocese of Bismarck's first Office of Hispanic Ministry.

In 2014-2019, the diocese received a five-year grant from Catholic Extension Society which paid for the salary and benefits of three religious sisters from Mexico to minister in western North Dakota. Sister Rosa was part of the original group who were a tremendous help in our parishes as most of our priests, deacons and parish staff spoke little to no Spanish.

Hispanic families wanted their children to be baptized and receive the other sacraments, but prior to the sisters' arrival, often were turned away because parish priests did not speak Spanish. Thankfully, these good sisters were able to minister to our Catholic Hispanic sisters and brothers which allowed them to fully participate in our Catholic



parishes. However, in June 2019, the five-year grant ended, and the religious sisters were required to return to Mexico as part of the grant guidelines.

Your financial support helps the Office of Hispanic Ministry with their salary and health insurance, their office travel expenses, and their Spanish educational materials they use in our parishes.

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

Part Three: To the Lay Faithful

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.

In this brief commentary on this section of my pastoral letter, I address all of you, our lay brothers and sisters, regarding your essential place in the life of the Church and your specific vocation as lay members of the Church. If you have read or are now reading the pastoral letter, you will notice that part three stresses for you, the lay faithful, the importance and essential connection between your baptismal vocation to holiness and the mission each of you received when you received the sacrament of confirmation.

I approach this necessary element of your Catholic life by placing it in the context of your

participation in the three-fold office of teaching, sanctifying and governing within the Church as a compliment to what bishops, priests and deacons do by reason of their reception of the sacrament of holy orders. I say: “The laity's participation is different from that of the clergy and consecrated religious, but it is no less a real participation to which they have a right and a duty to accept and fulfill for the Church and for the world.” (PL, p. 19)

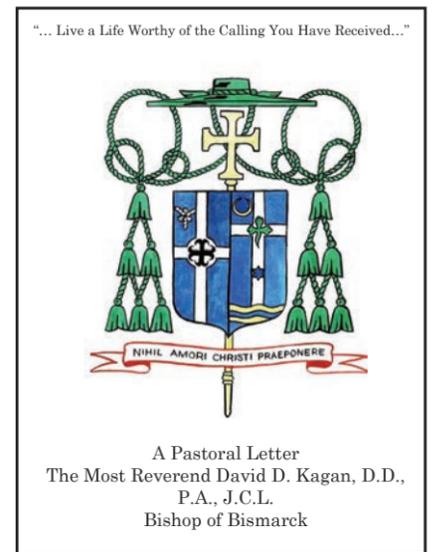
This necessary participation as I note can take any number of forms and while you cannot do all of it all the time, all lay men and women can do some of these things and do them well. This benefits you spiritually and the good example given by you has immeasurable value for others.

Your first vocation received in baptism is holiness of life; your

specific vocation as a spouse, parent or chaste single person is your God-given state in life in which you can and must be holy. When you are faithful to both of your vocations whether you are at home, at work or on vacation, whether you are with others or are alone, it is your right and duty to make yourself and others better by living a life which is an imitation of Jesus. Not to be afraid to actually be a faithful Catholic in public or in private is your special dignity within the community of the Church and in the wider community.

I urge you to read the summary of this part three of the pastoral letter but also to read the section of the Catechism which is noted in this part.

Question: Name the two general categories of saints.



Answer to last month's question: the seven deadly sins are: pride, covetousness, lust, envy, anger, sloth, gluttony.

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

Prayer Day is Nov. 17

One of America's top Catholic journalists to deliver keynote at the University of Mary

Any Catholic who follows some of the more popular Catholic news publications anticipates the stories written and insight provided by Kathryn Jean Lopez. She is a senior fellow at the National Review Institute where she directs the Center for Religion, Culture and Civil Society, and editor-at-large of *National Review*. Not only is she published by a wide variety of publications including the *Wall Street Journal*, *America*, *Stars and Stripes*, *The National Catholic Register*, *First Things*, but she is also a columnist at *Our Sunday Visitor's Newsweekly* and on the advisory board of *Angelus*. Lopez is usually covering the hot topics of the Church and is constantly updating her followers on social media. In today's social media world, when she speaks, the faithful listen and share with their friends.

And now, the University of Mary and its Saint John Paul II Center for University Ministry is honored to welcome Kathryn Jean Lopez to Bismarck and Mandan for the 44th annual Prayer Day event Wednesday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m., in Founders Hall of the Lumen Vitae University Center (LVUC). Her keynote, which is free and open to the public, will be followed by a Mass at 11:30 a.m. in Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel. The day concludes at 12:30 p.m., when attendees can enjoy lunch and fellowship for \$5 in the newly expanded Crow's Nest restaurant of the LVUC. Online (RSVP) registration is strongly recommended at www.umary.edu/prayerday, but lunch tickets will also be available for purchase at the event with registration opening at 9:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Marianne Hofer at umin@umary.edu or (701) 355-3704.

Lopez is co-author of the book *How to Defend the Faith without Raising Your Voice*. She is also a contributor to the book *Women Who Pray: Eleven*

Catholic Women on the Power of Prayer. She was awarded the annual Washington Women in Journalism Award for Outstanding Journalism in the Periodic Press from *CQ Roll Call* in 2016 for writing about Christian genocide

and persecution. Lopez speaks frequently on faith and public life, including on college campuses, as well as radio and television. A product of New York City Catholic education, she serves on a number of Catholic boards and

is a member of Cardinal Timothy Dolan's Pro-Life Commission. At the opening Mass of the Year of Faith in Rome in October 2012, Pope Benedict XVI presented her with a message to women throughout the world.



Talking to Your Children About A Crisis

In today's news, we see and hear about terrible events regularly. Children hear these stories too! Though they may not fully comprehend what's happening, children are perceptive and understand when stories are frightening or cause distress in their parents. These events can cause a significant rise in the amount of stress that children are forced to deal with and as a parent, you can help them deal with their stress and negative emotions in a healthy way.

First, it is important to let children work out their emotions. It is important to answer the questions children have honestly and to allow them to express the full range of emotions related to it (including fear or sadness). Ask your children how they feel about the event, and have them label their feelings. When your child tells you about their feelings, ask them what they would like to do about them and what you can do to make them feel better. Remember that no response is incorrect.

Second, if your child asks you questions, it's okay to answer them. It's important to make your child feel heard and also to help increase their understanding of the event. Let them know that no matter what you will always have a plan and you will be there to care for them. Then, if your child has questions about the specifics of an event – such as how or why it happened – you can talk through those questions according to your own values and how well you think your child will understand. Again, what's most important is to make your child feel heard, nurtured and safe.

Third, it's important to give your child a sense of safety. Try to keep a normal routine. If school is dismissed because of the crisis try to keep some sort of structure at home. Increase nurturing activities like spending time together, doing things that make you laugh, and physical activities like going for a walk. Set aside time daily to answer questions and to just talk about what is going on, even if you only have answers for tomorrow. And remember not to make promises about things that are out of your control. It might feel comforting to say that things will go back to normal soon, but that might not be the case.

Some children will want help, others will want to play, and others may want to help! Children of all ages can help out by collecting supplies donations. They can draw, write poems, or letters to those affected. Older children can give blood and help volunteer.

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

Diaconate ordination in Rome

Photos courtesy of the Pontifical North American College

Bismarck Diocese seminarians, Grant Dvorak and Jake Magnuson, were among the 21 men from the Pontifical North American College ordained to the transitional diaconate Sept. 30 in St. Peter's Basilica by Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington. Hundreds of family members, friends and students, including a contingency from North Dakota, along with Fr. Jordan Dosch, diocesan director of vocations, attended the Mass at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's.

"Today you become preachers, please do so with fidelity to the truth of the Gospel and the Church's tradition," Cardinal Gregory told the new deacons. "People are looking for inspiring preachers who challenge them, encourage them to deepen their faith and help them discover God's presence in their lives."

Of the many special, joy-filled moments during the liturgy, the new deacons are vested in deacon garb. Deacon Jake Magnuson was vested by his dad, Deacon Tom Magnuson (St. Therese the Little Flower in Minot). Deacon Grant Dvorak was vested by Fr. Doug Krebs, diocesan priest currently studying for a canon law license in Rome.

After completing their final year of formation in Rome, God willing, Grant, Jake and three other seminarians are scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Bismarck. Seminarians Paul Gardner, Logan Obrigewitch and Ben Wanner were ordained to the transitional diaconate last May and will complete their final year of formation at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.



Father Jordan Dosch, diocesan director of vocations, attended the Mass of Ordination to the transitional diaconate for Deacons Jake Magnuson (left) and Grant Dvorak (right) at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's.



Deacon Jake Magnuson embraced his dad, Deacon Tom Magnuson (St. Therese the Little Flower in Minot), after vesting.



Deacon Grant Dvorak placing his hands between those of Cardinal Gregory during the ordination rite.



Deacon Grant Dvorak was vested by Fr. Doug Krebs, diocesan priest currently studying for a canon law license in Rome.



Deacon Jake Magnuson is handed the book of the Gospels by Cardinal Gregory during the ordination rite.

Revisiting the Church's teaching on cremation

By Laton Lohmann

Special Contributor to the DCA

With the Feast of All Souls' Day upon us again in the Church calendar, it is a prudent time to revisit the Church's teaching on cremation. This day is a commemoration of all the faithful departed and the right and proper treatment of their remains is a reminder that the Church teaches that the body and soul are integrally linked.

Cremation is often a sensitive topic of discussion for the Catholic faithful. Older Catholics may remember a time when Church burials were forbidden for those willfully cremated. In 1963, the Holy Office (now known as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith or CDF) issued the Instruction *Piam et Constantem*. This instruction permitted cremation for the Catholic faithful if it was not done as an act of "a denial of Christian dogmas, the animosity of a secret society, or hatred of the Catholic religion and the Church."

This permission was incorporated into the Code of Canon Law in 1983 and the Eastern Code of Canon Law in 1990. The 2016 Instruction *Ad Resurgendum cum Christo* from the CDF affirmed this permission and gives the faithful guidance on the proper handling of ashes in the case of cremation. These norms are found in the Order of Christian Funerals.

While cremation is permitted for the Catholic faithful, there are

important rules that the faithful are obliged to follow to ensure that cremated remains are treated with proper dignity. The Diocese of Bismarck has specific rules contained in the statutes and appendices of the 2016 Diocesan Synod. These rules list the acceptable options for a Catholic burial in descending order of preference by the Church.

First Preference: Remains kept in bodily form at all funeral rites, including burial.

The Church teaches that burying the dead is one of the seven corporal works of mercy and that the burial of the body intact is the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body. In burying the bodies of the faithful, "the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body and intends to show the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity." (*Ad Resurgendum cum Christo*) Given the special dignity of the human body, it is then appropriate that the burial of a body be in a cemetery or other sacred place, such as a mausoleum or columbarium. This has been the tradition of the Church dating back to time of the first apostles.

Second Preference: Remains kept in bodily form at the main funeral rites (e.g. vigil, funeral Mass, or simple Liturgy of the Word), followed by cremation and then burial of all the cremated remains.

This second preference of the Church is to keep the body of the deceased intact for the funeral itself with the cremation and burial of the cremated remains occurring afterwards. This option allows for friends and family to pay their respects to the deceased and look upon them one last time as they attend the vigil or funeral Mass. Doing so also may help those attending the vigil or Mass to focus their prayers for the deceased that they are able to look upon.

Third Preference: Remains are cremated immediately after death, with the cremated remains present at all funeral rites, followed by burial of all the cremated remains as would a body.

The last preference is permitted, provided that the priest or deacon presiding at the vigil or funeral Mass affirms to the family of the deceased a) that cremation is not inspired by motives contrary to Christian teaching, and b) the cremated remains will be handled



with respect and integrally (all of them) buried or entombed in a timely manner as would a body. This second requirement should be especially noted, given rise to the popularity of family's keeping the ashes of the deceased in their homes.

As already mentioned, it is the ancient tradition of the Church that the faithful be interred in a cemetery or other sacred place. Therefore, cremated remains, as with a body, would properly belong in a cemetery or other sacred place and not in a person's place of residence. When considering these options, the Catholic faithful should be cognizant that these rules are not enacted to burden but to ensure the dignified treatment of the deceased.

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ Mass for Deceased Clergy Nov. 2

The public is invited to attend the annual Mass for Deceased Bishops, Priests and Deacons celebrated by Bishop Kagan on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. This Mass honors members of the clergy who have passed away in the previous year. This year, we remember in our prayers: Msgr. Joseph Senger (11-9-20), Deacon Ralph von Ruden (12-24-20) and Fr. Denis Fournier, OSB (1-12-21).

■ Gold Mass Nov. 3

University of Mary is hosting the fourth annual Gold Mass for scientists on Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel on campus. Bishop Kagan will celebrate this special Mass honoring the partnership between religion and science. Everyone and especially area scientists are welcome to attend. There will be a reception for scientists following Mass. For more information and to RSVP visit: bit.ly/goldmass2021.

■ Fall supper in New England Nov. 6

St. Mary's Church in New England is hosting a bingo night on Saturday, Nov. 6 in the parish center cafeteria. The evening will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. and supper of turkey and all the trimmings. Supper will be served beginning at 5 p.m. and a free will donation accepted. There's also a bake sale, raffle with cash prizes and silent auction. The silent auction can be viewed online at qtego.net/qlink/saintmarys.

■ Dueling pianos show in New England Nov. 13

St. Mary's Church in New England invites you to "Fun Pianos!" a traveling dueling pianos show on Saturday, Nov. 13 at the New England Memorial Hall on Main Street. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show at 8 p.m. Come

enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks and entertainment. The fundraiser is open to adults aged 21 and over. For tickets call 701-579-4312 or email at julienesm@ndsupernet.com. Cost is \$50 for general admission or \$60 for VIP seating.

■ Prayer Day at UMary Nov. 17

The University of Mary and its Saint John Paul II Center for University Ministry is honored to welcome Kathryn Jean Lopez to Bismarck and Mandan for the 44th annual Prayer Day event Wednesday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m., in Founders Hall of the Lumen Vitae University Center (LVUC). Her keynote, which is free and open to the public, will be followed by a Mass at 11:30 a.m. in Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel. The day concludes at 12:30 p.m., when attendees can enjoy lunch and fellowship for \$5 in the newly expanded Crow's Nest restaurant of the LVUC. Online (RSVP) registration is strongly recommended at www.umary.edu/prayerday, but lunch tickets will also be available for purchase at the event with registration opening at 9:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Marianne Hofer at umin@umary.edu or 701-355-3704.

■ Cathedral 75th celebration

As part of the celebration of its 75th anniversary, the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck will host a 40 Hours Devotion on Nov. 19, 20 and 21. The 40 Hours Devotion is a special 40-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. The event includes Eucharistic Adoration in the main body of the church, Masses, confessions, and Fr. Russ Kovash will lead a parish mission with a series of homilies. All are welcome to attend as much of the 40 hours as their schedule permits. Adoration during this event is open to everyone in the diocese. At

least two adorers are needed for each hour during the three-day period. Go to cathedralparish.com for a full schedule and to sign up for adoration or you may call the parish office at 223-1033.

■ 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 weekend in the region is Nov. 12-14 in Medora. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, visit ndwwme.org or Applications@ndwwme.org or 701-347-1998.

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

Balancing Church & State

CHRISTOPHER DODSON



Painful story of Indian boarding schools

How should Catholics react to the history of Native American boarding schools in the country?

Many North Dakotans know something about the Indian boarding schools. Our Native American neighbors remember the experiences they, family members or their ancestors had at the schools. Those memories, sometimes with fondness, sometimes with pain, are part of their family history. They are part of our history.

Nevertheless, the history of the schools received broader renewed attention after the discovery of hundreds of bodies and unmarked graves at former indigenous boarding schools in Canada. This renewed attention has resulted in various private and governmental efforts to investigate and address this part of our nation's and our Church's history.

The policy was engineered and conducted by the federal government, but the Catholic Church participated in the efforts. The idea was to force indigenous people to assimilate into "white American" culture by placing children in boarding schools around the nation. Although practices differed from school to school, the general policy was to strip them of their tribal identity, forbidding them from using their native language, requiring certain clothes, cutting their hair and making them attend Christian services. In addition, cruel physical abuse occurred. The schools operated from the 1870s to the 1960s.

The federal government ran 360 boarding schools in 29 states. North Dakota had 12 such boarding schools, some involving the Catholic Church.

Some of these schools were on or near reservations. The reservations themselves were attempts to break Indian communities of their way of life, especially for the nomadic tribes of the Plains.

Here is where the Church comes in. The federal government often required Christian denominations

to serve the reservations and boarding schools. In some cases, the government assigned denominations, which were mostly Protestant. In some cases, tribal leaders requested a particular denomination. On some large reservations in the Dakotas, elders requested and received Jesuits and Franciscans.

To the Catholic religious orders, this was missionary work. They were serving communities in need and bringing them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the same time, however, they became part of the country's systematic attempt to wipe out Indian culture and contain native peoples in what amounted to concentration camps.

Many of the Catholic religious men and women serving these communities came directly from non-English speaking countries. Ironically, they learned native languages only to forbid them in the schools they ran. While they learned English and became more "American" voluntarily, they cooperated in the federal government's program to forcibly do the same to indigenous peoples.

Despite the cruelty of the situation and the participation of Church ministers in it, many Native Americans embraced the Catholic faith, and it endures to this day. Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk, the holy man of the Lakota whose cause for canonization has been sent to Rome, is an example of one who embraced the Catholic faith without losing his Lakota spirituality.

But no amount of good can excuse the bad that was done by our government or our Church's people. The pain of the practices at the boarding schools lives on. The consequences of the forced reservation system are felt to this day.

How do we, as U.S. citizens and Catholics, confront this past? Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary, has started the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. The

initiative will review the nation's history with the boarding schools and give special emphasis to identifying burial sites.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops office supports the initiative. In response to the Interior Department's project, USCCB spokesperson Chieko Noguchi stated:

"We are deeply saddened by the information coming out of two former residential boarding school sites in Canada. We cannot even begin to imagine the deep sorrow these discoveries are causing in Native communities across North America.

"It is important to understand what might have occurred here in the United States. Therefore, we are following closely the announcement last week by the Department of the Interior of a formal inquiry into residential boarding schools. The United States Conference of

Catholic Bishops will look for ways to be of assistance.

"By bringing this painful story to light, may it bring some measure of peace to the victims and a heightened awareness so that this disturbing history is never repeated."

It can be tempting to dismiss what happened with a "the past is the past" attitude. Often, however, the past has never truly passed. The Church, especially, understands that we are connected to our past and our future. The federal government's investigation is a start, and it is a start that we should embrace.

Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk, pray for us.

■ 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.



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

An invitation from the Bismarck-Mandan Serra Club

Nov. 1	Fr. Adam Maus	Nov. 15	Lay Ministers
Nov. 2	Deacon Kenneth Schmit	Nov. 16	Sr. JoAnn Krebsbach, OSB
Nov. 3	Seminarian Dustin Johns	Nov. 17	Seminarian Ryan Martire
Nov. 4	Br. Herman Kim, OSB	Nov. 18	Fr. Jady Nelson
Nov. 5	Sr. Andre Hushka, OSB	Nov. 19	Deacon Al Schwindt
Nov. 6	Fr. Michael Taras	Nov. 20	Bishop David Kagan
Nov. 7	Deacon Ervin Schneider	Nov. 21	Sr. Susan Lardy, OSB
Nov. 8	Br. Charles McDaniels, OSB	Nov. 22	Fr. Raphael Obotama
Nov. 9	Sr. Ruth Margaret Karabensh, OSB	Nov. 23	Music Ministers
Nov. 10	Liturgical Ministers	Nov. 24	Sr. Laura Hecker, OSB
Nov. 11	Fr. Corey Nelson	Nov. 25	Fr. Patrick Ojedeji
Nov. 12	Seminarians & Those in Religious Formation	Nov. 26	Fr. John O'Leary
Nov. 13	Deacon Doyle Schulz	Nov. 27	Deacon Bob Stockert
Nov. 14	Fr. Boniface Muggli, OSB	Nov. 28	Fr. Valerian Odermann, OSB
		Nov. 29	Fr. Cas Paluck
		Nov. 30	Lay Ministers

Questions

I was afraid to ask

FR. GREG LUGER



Q: If I don't go to Mass every Sunday, am I a bad Catholic?

A: The short answer is yes. The reason for this is simple: we are bound by a most solemn obligation to attend Mass every Sunday.

The deeper question for this is "why?" To get to this answer, we first must look at the Old Testament. In the Book of Exodus, God gives Moses the Ten Commandments, the third of which is "Remember that thou keep holy the sabbath day." Moses gives a further explanation as to why in the Book of Deuteronomy: "Remember that thou also didst serve in Egypt, and the Lord thy God brought thee out from thence with a strong hand, and a stretched-out arm. Therefore, hath he commanded thee that thou shouldst observe the sabbath day" (Deuteronomy 5:15).

This is to say that the Jews were solemnly bound to keep the Sabbath in remembrance of what the Lord did for them in Egypt. Similarly, we the Catholic faithful are commanded to keep Sunday as the Sabbath (which was the practice of the Apostles, see Acts 20:7) because on Easter Sunday (remember that every Sunday is a mini-Easter) Our Lord won the victory for us over sin and death.

So, we clearly see why we must keep Sunday as a holy day. But why Mass? Here, we must understand what Mass is. We commonly call Mass "the Holy Sacrifice." The reason for this is that the one sacrifice of Christ, which He offered on the cross, is presented again in the Eucharist and offered to God the Father. Therefore, Mass is a pure and perfect sacrifice offered to God the Father through Jesus Christ and this is what we "owe" to Him.

The primary reason that we attend Mass is not what we get out of it, but rather what we offer (together with Christ) to God. Therefore, Mass attendance is a matter of justice, which is to say that our attendance at Sunday Mass is what is owed to God.

That said, is it a mortal sin to miss even one Sunday Mass? Can I go to hell for missing Sunday Mass only one time? Again, the simple answer is yes. To miss Sunday Mass, even once, is a serious offense against Almighty God.

Some might ask, "What about those who are seriously ill or are homebound?" Those who find themselves under these circumstances are exempt. For these people, Mass attendance is not possible and therefore they are not morally culpable for not attending.

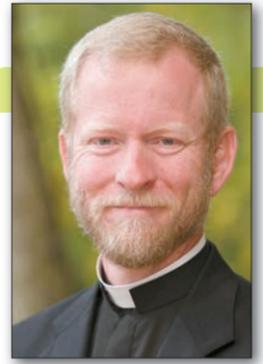
What must be mentioned, however, are things that do not exempt a person from the Sunday Mass obligation: vacation, work, hunting, fishing, sleeping in, golfing trip with college buddies, etc. Mass needs to be the excuse for which we miss everything else. Furthermore, in this country, Sunday Mass is abundantly available everywhere and easy to access.

Let us always approach the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with great love for Almighty God with hearts full of gratitude for what He has done for us.

■ Fr. Greg Luger is pastor of the Churches St. Jerome in Mohall, St. James in Sherwood and St. John in Lansford. 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.

Making Sense out of Bioethics

FR. TAD PACHOLCZYK



Decisions of consequence

I recently watched a compelling video prepared by a group called “Heartbeat International.” They provide women, who regret having taken an abortion pill, the chance to reverse their decision through a treatment involving progesterone. The protocol, though not yet officially “peer-reviewed,” appears to work well if the woman doesn’t wait too long, and the video includes pictures and rescue dates of many beautiful babies who have been saved this way.

What also caught my attention were the stories of several nurses working at Heartbeat International.

“I wanted to help out in a meaningful way,” one of them, named Amanda, said. “I was very excited to hear about abortion-pill reversal for the first time... I thought: God just brought that in front of me, and I think that’s what I’m meant to do.”

She went on to share a follow-up from two mothers whom she had recently assisted.

“They sent me pictures on WhatsApp after they had their babies. ... I’m so thankful for their courage and their bravery. They talked about how much they love their babies and I’m just so happy for them. I’m just so grateful God gave me that opportunity to speak with both of them.

I’ve never had this kind of fulfillment in any previous nursing job that I’ve had — that feeling of Yes! — I’m making a difference in someone’s life, ...a difference in eternity.”

Every child saved this way is someone who now enjoys the opportunity to grow up, go to school, get married, have kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. It clearly makes an incalculable difference for that child, as well as for untold others. An “eternal difference.”

Each of us would like for our lives and our

work to “make a difference,” and especially to make a lasting, impactful, and eternal difference.

It should come as no small consolation to understand that whenever we make deliberate moral choices for the good or turn away from what is wrong, we are already starting to make those “eternal differences.” Through such decisions of consequence, we align our own will with God’s, and contribute, in his wisdom, to rectifying the many patterns of sin around and within us. Such decisions enable us to collaborate with his all-encompassing redemptive plan.

In the field of bioethics, these “decisions of consequence” arise with great regularity. When one of our ethicists at The National Catholic Bioethics Center, for example, helps a husband and wife to understand the moral problems surrounding in vitro fertilization, not only can this help them avoid the tragedy of trapping their young offspring in “frozen orphanages,” but it can also help them reflect on deeper questions like, “What does our infertility really mean?” and, “How does God want us to be fruitful?” This can lead them to consider new paths of grace, like reaching out to kids in the community who are parentless, through mentoring programs such as Big Brother/Big Sister, or through pursuing the generous path of foster parenting and adoption. Such generosity is another “decision of consequence” where we stand to make an eternal difference.

Our “decisions of consequence” need not be great or lofty gestures; they can be quite simple. I recall a true story first relayed by John W. Schlatter in 1993, that has circulated widely since.

Bill was walking home after his junior high

school classes, his arms full of books and other items from his locker. At a certain point, everything spilled out of his arms, and another boy named Mark witnessed it and came over to help him pick it up off the ground, making some friendly small talk. The two of them decided to spend part of the afternoon together, playing games and goofing off. In succeeding weeks and months, they became friends.

Years later, Bill was reminiscing with Mark, and he brought up the day they first met.

“Did you ever wonder why I was carrying so many things home that day?” he asked. “I cleaned out my locker because I didn’t want to leave a mess for anyone else. I had stored away some of my mother’s sleeping pills and I was going home to commit suicide. But after we spent some time together talking and laughing, I realized that if I had killed myself, I would have missed that time and so many others that might follow. So, Mark, when you picked up those books that day, you did a lot more: you saved my life.”

In a sense, each day for us involves a walk along the threshold of eternity, through small and not-so-small gestures, even though we may not always see the full implications of each of our decisions. Each day we have a chance to make beautiful, potentially life-saving and indeed eternal “decisions of consequence.”

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Ag Attitudes

JAMES ODERMANN



Commitment through faith is crucial component of life

“God will provide!”

Throughout over four-decades of enjoyment in a career in agricultural production, that three-word expression has really resonated for me. There have been ups and downs but through the peaks and valleys, I can genuinely say that God has always been there.

To some, that may sound off base, a sort of hysterical commitment to the importance of faith in life. Was God present during a drought? Where was God during a flood? Did God care about how a garden for family sustenance, a grain crop or hay crop were beat into the ground by hail? Why did God bring that on to my neighbors and me, who are in this business of caring for the resources of land, water and air?

And was God the reason why prices dipped below the cost of production? Did God cause losses inflicted by natural disasters resulting in business failures, physical debilitation, mental health

anguish, family discord, etc. The list of negative impacts can be mind boggling—and overwhelming.

Yet, a self-examination of life reveals to me that God has been right there at my side—and especially during those valleys. It is hard to recognize (and accept) the frustrations of defeat like poor prices, drought, hail and other events which occur regularly throughout the world. The key is how do I react.

The mantra “God helps those who help themselves” echoes across the social media platforms today. And, as I walked through the pen of bawling, freshly-weaned calves, I had to agree. Yet, the question I had to ask myself was how do I help my sisters and brothers in Christ? How do I help myself? There is great satisfaction in helping others because the world is not about me.

I contemplated about the life of Jesus, how Jesus made the ultimate commitment to save me,

and all people of the universe. The crucifix on which Jesus hung is a reminder of faith, a real-life guarantee that there is something greater. God did provide for Jesus, just like God provides for me.

So, I sat on a feed bunk, rested and pondered. I tried to envision my world without God, a world where love and respect were nonexistent—and in some ways I am living in that world today.

Jesus died on the cross and God

provided an answer. I need to have faith, to accept the answers God gives, utilizing my time and talent to help recognize, appreciate and share God’s love. I pray that I use God’s grace to know that “God will provide.”

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).

Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for November



Universal intention - People who suffer from depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

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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.

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