



Dakota **Catholic Action**

Vol. 82 No. 10 **NOVEMBER 2023**



N.D. MARCH FOR **LIFE**

www.bismarckdiocese.com



What is it?

An annual fundraising event for the Catholic parishioners in the Bismarck Diocese, giving all Catholics an opportunity to support their favorite Catholic ministries over three days.

How does it work?

Anyone can click on the #GiveNDCatholic website link which will show them the different Catholic ministries highlighted by the Bismarck Diocese. Bishop David D. Kagan has selected the Catholic ministries he wants to highlight this year for our #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.

Donations up to \$25,000 for each diocese will be matched 1:1.

For more information, contact:



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Make your donation November 28-30 by visiting:

GiveNDCatholic.com

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Dakota Catholic Action



Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941

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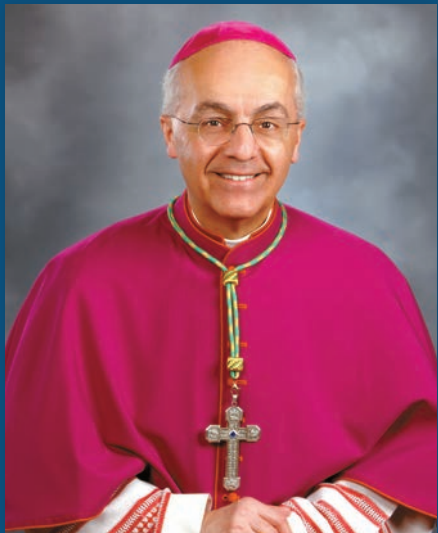
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FROM THE BISHOP

*Celebrating our role in
the communion of saints*

Bishop David D. Kagan

The month of November is a month that holds great importance for me. One reason being that it is the month of my birth and my baptism. I am most grateful to Almighty God and my parents for the gift of my life, my faith and my family. Another reason being that it is the month in which I was consecrated and installed as the Bishop of Bismarck.

However, November is not about me, but it is about the Church celebrating that article of our faith in the communion of saints. November 1, a holy day of obligation, is the Solemnity of All Saints. The day on which we offer to Almighty God, at Holy Mass, our praise and thanksgiving for all who have gone before us in the faith and now enjoy eternal happiness with Him in heaven.

The very next day, November 2, we celebrate the Feast of All Souls. While it is not a holy day of obligation, it is a day we should all be at Holy Mass and offer our prayers of supplication to Almighty God for all who have gone before us in the faith and are being purified of every stain of sin in anticipation of entering into the eternal happiness of heaven. The holy souls in purgatory cannot, any longer, help themselves by prayer, penance and works of charity but we certainly can assist them and hasten their

entrance into heaven by our prayers, good works and penances offered for them.

What these two days, which begin the month of November, should remind us of is that our permanent home is not here but is supposed to be heaven. Our lives here are a real time preparation for eternity and, if we want our eternity to be heaven, we must work for it by lives which are worthy of heaven and not hell. If you cannot recall what our faith in the communion of saints is, let us review.

The communion of saints is made up of all the saints already in heaven, the Church triumphant; all the holy souls in purgatory who will go to heaven, the Church penitent; all of us who are living in this world and continuing our preparation for eternal life with God, the Church militant. What unites all of us in this great communion is our faith and all the holy things, especially the Holy Eucharist and the other sacraments, which unite us to God in His Church and thus, to one another.

Let us make this November that month which we all enjoy because it is our month as Catholics and as members of the communion of saints in the Mystical Body of Christ, our wonderful Catholic Church. †

BISHOP IN ACTION



Staff photo: A behind-the-scenes look at the filming of Bishop Kagan’s weekly video blog with the trusty sidekick, his border collie, Tony, sleeping nearby. Watch Bishop Kagan’s video blogs on various topics of our faith on the diocese YouTube channel and social media.



**Holy Father’s Prayer
Intentions for November**

FOR THE POPE

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

BISHOP’S SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2023

Nov. 2	Mass for Legatus, Church of Corpus Christi, Bismarck, 6 p.m.
Nov. 3	Remembrance Mass for Miscarriage and Infant Loss, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Confirmation at the Church of St. Patrick, Crosby, 11 a.m.
Nov. 5	Confirmation at the Church of St. Anthony, Linton, 10:30 a.m.
Nov. 6	Mass for Deceased Clergy, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 11 a.m.
Nov. 7	Gold Mass, University of Mary, Bismarck, 10 a.m.
Nov. 12-15	USCCB Meeting, Baltimore
Nov. 17	Confirmation at the Church of the Ascension, Bismarck, 7 p.m.
Nov. 19	Confirmation at the Church of Queen of Peace, Dickinson, 11 a.m. MT
Nov. 20	Holy Hour with New Priests, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 7 a.m.
Nov. 20	Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 8 a.m.
Nov. 21	Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 8 a.m.
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 8 a.m.
Nov. 26	Confirmation, Church of St. Joseph, Killdeer, 8:30 a.m. MT
Nov. 30	Priest Benefit Association Meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck, 11 a.m.



N.D. MARCH FOR LIFE – BISMARCK, N.D. OCTOBER 6, 2023

#NDMarchforLife



Answering the call to the diaconate

Sonia Mullally
DCA Editor

We rejoice that God has raised up the diaconate within the Church in service to His people.

With his recent ordination, Deacon John Burke, has been added to the ranks of servants for our diocese. He was ordained by Bishop Kagan on Oct. 20 at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. Deacon Burke serves the parishes of St. Charles in Bowman, St. Mary in Marmath and St. Mel in Rhame.

John’s call to the diaconate was born from a deep feeling of being drawn to service of the Church during his life. He’s held various roles of service at his parish, be it the finance council, building committee and faith formation teacher. It’s in these positions of service that opened his heart to thoughts of the diaconate.

It was his former pastor, Fr. Paul Eberle, who first planted the seed for a vocation to the diaconate a few years ago. In passing, Fr. Eberle asked John if he’d ever considered becoming a deacon. At first, John was resistant to the idea. But after consideration with his wife, Amy, they decided to give it a try.

Five years of formation within the diocesan diaconate program have led Deacon John to this point.

“My feelings, thoughts and emotions leading up to ordination covered the entire spectrum—from peaceful and resolute all the way to questioning if I’m making the right decision,” Deacon John admitted. “It’s definitely been a process of discerning the ‘good spirit’ from the ‘bad spirit.’ Going through the five-day retreat before ordination was a grace-filled time filled with affirmation.”

These years of formation are filled with intense prayer, discernment, as well as many days of classroom study and spiritual formation.

“The Lord has definitely had a hand in sustaining me during the five-year formation process,” Deacon John said. “Through the support of my family and fellow classmates in the program, this has become a reality. Also, realizing that this is the Lord’s diaconate has given me peace.”

Going forward, Deacon John assumes the role of all deacons within the diocese. Their duties are to help make the daily work of priests to be carried out with greater effect. Deacons assist at Eucharistic liturgies, perform baptisms, witness marriages, preside at funeral rites, give benediction during Eucharistic adoration, teach the faith on various levels and serve as chaplains in hospitals and prisons. Deacons are also often a strong presence within the communities in which they serve through working with the poor and those in need. In many ways, the presence of deacons creates avenues for more people to encounter Christ.

Deacon John said he sees himself continuing to teach the faith to youth because he finds it very rewarding, among many other ministries in the parishes that he serves.

Deacon John added, “During the recent five-day retreat someone told me that one of the reasons God called me to this vocation was that I will probably enjoy it. That affirming comment has given me another reason to smile while serving at the altar.”✙



Staff photos: Deacon John and Amy Burke with Bishop Kagan following ordination Mass on Oct. 20.



Deacon John and Amy Burke’s three youngest children brought forth the gifts to Bishop Kagan.



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



The newly ordained deacon was vested with the deacon’s stole and dalmatic by his former pastor at the Church of St. Charles in Bowman, Fr. Paul Eberle (center), and the current pastor there, Fr. Ben Franchuk (right).



Deacon Burke assisted Bishop Kagan at the altar.



Immediately following Mass, Deacon Burke was congratulated by the clergy assembled in the gathering space.

Bishop David D. Kagan has issued the following official appointment:

The Reverend Brandon Wolf to be the Pastor of the Church of Saint Patrick, Dickinson, North Dakota, effective December 1, 2023.



Encounter the Eucharist at Bismarck’s Church of Corpus Christi

In response to the three-year National Eucharistic Revival called for by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, several parishes around the diocese are offering events, during the parish phase, to facilitate an enkindling of love and devotion to Jesus’ Real Presence in the Most Holy Eucharist.

The Church of Corpus Christi in Bismarck is offering “Encounter Nights”— a series of evenings to draw the faithful deeper into their relationship with Jesus. These Encounter Nights will be opportunities for Scripture, meditation, reflections by clergy, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, sacred silence, praise music and the sacrament of reconciliation to cultivate a reverent atmosphere for an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist.

The events began in October, but there are three more Encounter Nights to attend. The Tuesday, Dec. 12 event will focus on the meaning of the Holy Mass and feature the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song. After the new year begins, mark your calendars for two additional Encounter Nights on Tuesday, Feb. 27 and Thursday, April 18. All events will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Special event on April 9

During this parish phase of the National Eucharistic Revival, the diocesan Office of Continuing Education for Clergy invites the laity of the diocese to a special presentation on the Eucharist by Dr. Lawrence Feingold on Tuesday, April 9 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Church of Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

Feingold was born of a Jewish father and Protestant mother and raised without religious beliefs. He and his wife, also Jewish, converted to Catholicism in 1989 after his love for art brought him to Italy. Upon



Submitted photo: Monsignor Patrick Schumacher, pastor of the Church of Corpus Christi in Bismarck, processed with the Eucharist in the monstrance for the Feast of Corpus Christi in June 2023.

completing his academic studies at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, and Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Jerusalem, he taught at the Miles Christi House of Formation in Argentina and Ave Maria University in Florida. Currently, Dr. Feingold is a professor of theology and philosophy at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis where a number of diocesan priests have attended and our seminarians continue to study. He will be in Bismarck to present at the Spring Clergy Conference and will offer an evening for the laity to learn more about the Eucharist. All are invited to attend this presentation.†

—Submitted information

Fall Dinners

Two-day festival in New England Nov. 4-5

The Church of St. Mary in New England is hosting a two-day fall festival on Saturday, Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5. At the Memorial Hall on Saturday will be “Dueling Pianos” with Fun Pianos at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. This is a fundraiser event for ages 21+. Tickets are \$50 for general admission with a cash bar. There is also a clergy Calcutta and silent auction. At the St. Mary’s cafeteria on Sunday, Nov. 5, a turkey dinner and all the trimmings will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children aged 6-12 and free for ages 5 and under. There will also be bingo starting at 2 p.m. with a guaranteed \$500 blackout and a raffle drawing for prizes.



Breakfast in Gladstone Nov. 19

The Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Gladstone is holding their annual fall breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the KC Hall. The menu is homemade sausage patties, scrambled eggs, homemade farmer hats with homemade chokecherry syrup. Free will offering will be taken. There is also a raffle.

Dinner in Beach Nov. 19

The Church of St. John the Baptist in Beach is hosting their parish dinner on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu is roast beef and ham, cheesy potatoes and all the trimmings. A free will offering will be taken.

Event in Lefor Dec. 3

The St. Elizabeth parish in Lefor will host their annual church raffle fundraiser on Sunday, Dec. 3 beginning with a KC Memorial Mass at 10:30 a.m. Brunch begins at 11 a.m. at the Lefor KC Club, serving farmer hats and sausage patties, with auction and bingo to follow. Raffle drawings and a light lunch after bingo.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Remembrance Mass Nov. 3

A remembrance Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kagan on Friday, Nov. 3 at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend, especially parents, grandparents and siblings who grieve the loss of a child resulting from miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion or early infant death.



Mass for Deceased Clergy Nov.6

The public is invited to attend the annual Mass for Deceased Bishops, Priests and Deacons celebrated by Bishop Kagan on Monday, Nov. 6 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: Fr. Damian Dietlein, OSB (12-30-22), Fr. Casimir Paluck (1-29-23), Fr. John O’Leary (1-31-23), Deacon Eugene Morman (5-11-23) and Deacon Joe Mathern (7-24-23).



Marriage Encounter Weekends

The mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter is to proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in the Church and in the world. Experience a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and discover the beauty of your relationship. The next Worldwide Marriage Upcoming weekends in the region are Nov. 17-19 in Medora and Feb. 9-11, 2024, in Mandan. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at ndwwme.org or contact Rob and Angie at Applications@ndwwme.org or 701-347-1998.



March for Life Pilgrimage, Washington D.C.

Registration is now open for the diocesan pilgrimage to the 2024 national March for Life in Washington D.C. The event is a peaceful gathering of people who march on Capitol Hill as a witness to the dignity of unborn life. Abortion is still legal in 28 states. Because of this, we will continue to march in the defense of life from conception to natural death in our nation. This year’s pilgrimage will be from January 15-20, 2024, and includes sightseeing of the area along with the annual march. For more information and to register, please visit www.bismarckdiocese.com/march. Registration closes on Friday, Dec. 1.



Search weekend dates

Search for Christian Maturity is a weekend retreat experience which provides youth an opportunity to think, talk, question and dive deeper into their faith. The weekends are for any high school or college age person at least 15 years old. The program is both rooted in the Catholic faith and open to young people of any denomination or creed. Search weekends are held five times throughout the year at the Badlands Ministries Camp just south of Medora. Cost for the weekend is \$75. Partial scholarships are available. Remaining weekends for the 2023-24 season are: Dec. 1-3; Jan. 12-14; Mar. 1-3; and Apr. 12-14. Find more information at bismarckdiocese.com/search1.



Pilgrimage to National Eucharistic Congress

Embark on a transformative spiritual journey! The Bismarck Diocese and the University of Mary warmly invite you to join us on a seven-day pilgrimage (July 16-22, 2024) to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Take part in a historic gathering of missionary disciples and experience what promises to be a “new Pentecost” for the American Catholic Church. Register today at www.umary.edu/NEC.



Post-abortion support

If you or someone you know has experienced an abortion either recently or in the past and are dealing with the aftereffects, contact the staff at Dakota Hope Clinic. This life-affirming clinic based in Minot offers a post-abortion support program called “Discover Peace.” This support program is offered in a small group setting, giving individuals the chance to share and heal, surrounded by those who have been in similar situations. A new Discover Peace support group is being offered soon. The course will run Monday nights from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, including location, go to dakotahope.org and click the post-abortion support tab under the free services tab to fill out a confidential form and the program facilitator will contact you.



The Red Mass recessional guided by the Knights of Columbus.

RED MASS 2023

Photos by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

The Red Mass is a long and venerable custom in the Church to celebrate for those involved in the administration of justice— judges, attorneys, law professors, law students and government officials. The term derives from the color of the red vestments worn by the priest-celebrant as well as from the red robes traditionally worn by judges in the Middle Ages. This custom originated in Europe in the 13th century. In the U.S., the first Red Mass was celebrated on Oct. 6, 1928 in New York City at old St. Andrew’s Catholic Church. It was attended by the judges of the New York Court of Appeals, members of the New York Supreme Court, many other judges, professors of law, attorneys and legislators. The Red Mass is the celebration of the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit. It invokes the guidance of God the Holy Spirit Who is the source of wisdom, counsel, understanding and fortitude, graces bestowed on all those who exercise judicial authority. †



Bishop Kagan holds up the Blessed Sacrament during the Red Mass on Oct. 9.



Raising the book of the Gospel at the altar, Deacon Brent Naslund assisted at the Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on Oct. 9.



Concelebrating at the Red Mass were (l-r): Msgr. Gene Lindemann, Fr. Keith Streifel and Fr. Josh Ehli.



Bishop Kagan offers a blessing to those in attendance as he exited Mass.

Our Lady of the Prairies grotto honors Mary

Amanda Evinger
DCA Writer

“Love our Lady and make her loved... Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for her rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother.”
– St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

After Don Kraemer went on pilgrimages to Fatima, Lourdes and Medjugorje, he brought something especially precious back with him. It wasn’t a souvenir or a photo album—it was a profound desire in his heart to honor Our Lady by building something truly beautiful for her.

“I saw some of the great architecture over there, and it inspired me to see if I could make something special with stone,” he shared. “So, about 22 years ago, I started building the grotto. Arnie Jorges helped me for a little bit to get the frame up, and then I worked on it alone in my free time over the next seven years.”

The lovely work of Catholic architecture, often referred to as “Our Lady of the Prairies Grotto,” is located on Don’s farm south of Dickinson, and features a stunning statue of the Blessed Mother holding Jesus.

“I wanted to do something unique, and I had never seen a stained-glass rosary built into a grotto, so I decided to build one into the ceiling, with beads that are about two-and-a-half inches in diameter,” he explained. “The inspiration to include the Star of

David into it then followed that idea, since Jesus was born of Jewish ancestry. I built the star into the floor beneath the pedestal on which the statue stands, and curving around it I inscribed the scriptural words, ‘Come away and rest awhile.’”

The grotto is cut in a diamond shape like a ballpark and made of a metal frame.

“I am a sheet metal person, so I used copper and welded it all together,” Don explained. “Sadly, my dad passed away before I got to finish it. When it was finally done, I told myself, ‘I didn’t build this thing, the Holy Spirit did!’ Building it was my way of showing respect to God and providing a place for people to pray.”

One prayerful addition led to another, and gradually the grotto was completed. Ultimately, it was a gift which was born out of the humble heart of one of God’s servants, created all for His glory and the honor of His Mother.

“When people take the time to personally build a grotto themselves, it is such a great sign of their faith,” said Fr. Keith Streifel, who serves as pastor

of Spirit of Life Catholic Church in Mandan. “I know that it was a testimony of Don’s faith, as well as that of those who have come to visit his grotto. They had an experience of Marian devotion there which brought them to a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ and Our Lady’s intercession in their everyday lives. Many incredible shrines and grottoes have come out of this kind of love and faith.”

Since its founding, various priests have visited the grotto, bringing Our Lord’s presence there in a meaningful way. Years ago, the grotto was blessed by Fr. Kenneth Phillips when he served as pastor of St. Joseph’s Parish in Dickinson. Furthermore, Fr. Keith Streifel used to offer Holy Mass at the grotto each summer (weather permitting) when the Knights of Columbus would sponsor a picnic and Mass event there.

“It is located in a very quiet, peaceful outdoor setting; and it is a wonderful place for people to come and spend time in nature,” Fr. Streifel said. “Visiting the grotto gives people the opportunity to step out of their regular routine and allow their eyes and ears to be more attentive to what God is doing in their lives.”

The grotto is accompanied by a cross planted on top of a nearby hill, along with a path leading up to it. Overall, Our Lady of the Prairie Grotto bears witness to the genuine, fervent faith running through the hearts and souls of the good people of North Dakota.

“When people come to a beautiful grotto like this, they can’t help but wonder what is going on here—where did it come from and why was it built?” Fr. Streifel noted. “It gives them an opportunity to see how another person has put their faith into practice. It is a drive for them to get out there, but this gives them a great way to make a pilgrimage to the Blessed Mother, and give honor to Our Lady and beg for her intercession.”



Submitted photo

Unfortunately, about three years ago, a round of severe storms severely damaged Our Lady of the Prairies grotto, and its survival was uncertain.

“I didn’t know if I was going to be able to rebuild it, but I decided to take the project on about three years ago, and I finished it last fall,” Don said.

Over the years, many have enjoyed visiting the grotto. In fact, it was even featured in one of Cliff Naylor’s books, *Dakota Day Trips: The Road to Rural Wonders*. Cliff Naylor is known for his “Off The Beaten Path” stories on KFYR-TV.

“A few tour buses have made their way out here, and some of the teachers from town have taken their students out here to see it,” Don said. “It is a really nice, private place to visit. You can’t see it from the road because it is hidden behind trees. People can come visit freely as long as they are respectful and don’t drive on the lawn or grass around it.”

If you would like to visit the Our Lady of the Prairies grotto, please call Don Kraemer at 701-690-0633. †

Church of Saint Anne invites you to an

Advent Novena

Nightly, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

December 14 through December 22

Church of Saint Anne in Bismarck

Refreshments to follow December 15 and December 22

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| • December 14 – Fr. Paul Gardner | • December 19 – Fr. Josh Ehli |
| • December 15 – Fr. Russ Kovash | • December 20 – Msgr. Patrick Schumacher |
| • December 16 – Fr. Josh Waltz | |
| • December 17 – Fr. Steven Vetter | • December 21 – Fr. Jared Johnson |
| • December 18 – Fr. Jeff Zwack | • December 22 – Fr. Kregg Hochhalter |

OBITUARY SISTER RUTH FOX, OSB

Sister Ruth (Marlene) Fox, 87, a member of the Sacred Heart Benedictine Sisters in Dickinson, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Funeral Mass was held Sept. 18 at Assumption Abbey Church in Richardton. Interment was in Benedictine Sisters' Cemetery, Richardton.



Sister Ruth (Marlene) Fox was born January 24, 1936, at Stanley, N.D., and enjoyed growing up on their family farm. She attended country school for eight years, then Van Hook Public High School. After two years she transferred to the Benedictine Sisters boarding school, Sacred Heart Academy, in Minot. After graduation in 1953, she entered the novitiate of Sacred Heart Convent and made her monastic profession a year later, at the age of 18.

The next years were spent alternating between teaching at St. Nicholas School, Garrison, and at Sacred Heart Academy, Minot, and going to college at St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph, Minn., and Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. In 1965, Sr. Ruth was appointed formation director and, in 1973, the sisters elected her to the position of prioress, in which she served two four-year terms. Then a two-year sabbatical gave her the privilege of studying scripture and theology in Israel, Rome, and St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

In 1990, after several years as campus minister at Dickinson State University, Sister Ruth was elected president of the Federation of Saint Gertrude, an association of 18 monasteries of Benedictine

women in the United States and Canada. This nine-year position gave her the opportunity for international travel including several trips to Rome. She conducted retreats in several Benedictine monasteries, published numerous articles on spirituality, and wrote a book on monastic leadership titled *Wisdom Leadership*. From 2000 to 2005, she guided the ecumenical Benedictine Spirituality Center at the monastery, until she was again elected prioress of the monastery for six years. Sister Ruth compiled the history of our community from 1910 to the present, played organ for daily monastic liturgies, oversaw the monastery archives, and assisted with housekeeping chores.

Sister Ruth was a member of the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue Board and spent three months in India on a monastic exchange program. She was a member of the American Benedictine Academy and its president from 1986 to 1999. She was also a member of the International Commission of Benedictine women—a worldwide endeavor of uniting monastic women.

In addition to religious life leaderships, she was involved in the broader Church. She was the first president of the Sisters Council of the Diocese of Bismarck, the Dickinson State University Committee, Diocese of Bismarck committee for ongoing education of the clergy, Diocese of Bismarck Pastoral Council.

Due to failing health, Sr. Ruth moved to St. Vincent's in Bismarck in the fall of 2022.

Sister Ruth is survived by her religious community members and many nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were her parents Albert and Ruth, sister, Ina, and brothers, Kendall, Bryce and Galen.†

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Bismarck Catholic Physicians Guild members with Bishop Kagan after Mass.

WHITE MASS 2023

Photos by Deacon Joe Krupinsky

The annual White Mass was held on Oct. 16 at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit celebrated by Bishop Kagan. The Bismarck Catholic Physicians Guild was founded on Feb. 3, 2010, by Bishop Paul Zipfel's letter of intent allowing the guild to execute their charter. Several local physicians, through the Catholic Medical Association, applied and were then granted the local charter. Made up of Catholic physicians of the United States and Canada, the Catholic Medical Association allows medical professionals to grow in the spirit of Christ in their personal and professional lives and extend that to their patients. Guild members take an oath to uphold the principles of the Catholic faith and morality related to the science and practice of medicine. At this Mass, guild members renew this oath and new members are inducted. This year, four new members were welcomed. †



Msgr. Tom Richter (background), guild chaplain, observed as one of the four new members signed the official oath.



Deacon Harvey Hanel assisted Bishop Kagan at the altar. As a pharmacist in Bismarck, Deacon Hanel is a member of the guild. He serves at the Church of St. Hildegard in Menoken.



40 Hours Devotion

HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

NOVEMBER 17-18-19

In this second year of the National Eucharistic Revival, the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck joyfully invites all diocesan faithful to be a part of 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration and prayer. The mission of the Eucharistic Revival is to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist. Come spend a couple minutes or an hour with Jesus to grow in friendship with Him.

SCHEDULE

Livestreamed events can be found on the Cathedral website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

6:00 pm Opening Mass with Homily by Msgr. Tom Richter (LIVESTREAMED)
7:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Eucharistic Adoration begins and continues throughout the night.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7:15 am-8:00 am Confessions
7:25 am Recitation of the Rosary
8:00 am Daily Mass (LIVESTREAMED)
8:30 am Coffee and Donuts
8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Saint Thérèse Adoration Chapel
9:15 am Sermon by Msgr. Tom Richter and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (LIVESTREAMED)
10:00 am-11:00 am Family Holy Hour - Families with young children are especially invited to this hour.
4:00 pm-5:00 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Vigil Mass (LIVESTREAMED)
6:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm-9:00 pm Healing Service facilitated by Fr. Brian Gross - Confessions - Adoration continues throughout the night.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

6:00 am Simple Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
6:45 am Mass
7:30 am-8:00 am Confessions
8:00 am Mass (LIVESTREAMED)
10:00 am Mass
11:30 am Mass
1:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
6:00 pm Evening Prayer, Homily by Msgr. Tom Richter, Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament (LIVESTREAMED)
7:00 pm-9:00 pm Reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres at Broadway Grill & Tavern, Bismarck

40 HOURS PREACHER



Monsignor Tom Richter
Pastor of Queen of Peace
Catholic Church, Dickinson

ADORATION SIGN UP

To sign up for adoration during the 40 Hours Devotion, visit cathedralparish.com, scan the code below, or call the Cathedral parish office at 701-223-1033.



At the altar were (l-r): Deacon Lloyd Krueger, Fr. David Richter, Fr. Jady Nelson, Fr. Adam Maus.

BLUE MASS HOSTED IN MINOT

Photos by Lucas Lloyd Productions, LLC

On Sept. 14, the first-ever Minot Area Blue Mass was celebrated by Fr. David Richter at St. John the Apostle.

A Blue Mass is an opportunity for Catholics and non-Catholics to come together to pray for, and celebrate all active, retired and deceased law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel who serve the community. Prayers are also offered to God for His continued protection over those who serve in this capacity. The color blue, predominantly worn by the men and women in service, provides the name for the Blue Mass.

Tanya Watterud, a parishioner at Our Lady of Grace, attended and had these words to say about the Blue Mass, "As a mother of a police officer, I am grateful to all who planned and celebrated the Blue Mass in Minot."

Msgr. Joseph J. Raith Assembly 787 provided Honor Guard for the Blue Mass.

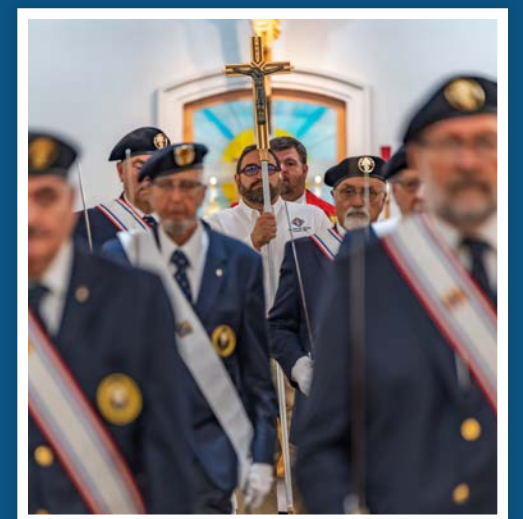
Knights of Columbus Council 1150 provided prayer coins that were blessed and available for those who have served or are currently serving as law enforcement officers, firefighters or emergency medical personnel. Council 1150 also provided a light reception after Mass in the parish hall.

May God Bless all law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel who have served/are serving the community. †

—Submitted information



Tokens of appreciation were given to the different emergency personnel in attendance. Pictured here is the visor clip displaying a prayer for police officers.



Blue Mass recessional guided by the Msgr. Joseph J. Raith Assembly 787 Honor Guard at St. John the Apostle in Minot.



CATHEDRAL of the HOLY SPIRIT

519 RAYMOND STREET, BISMARCK • 701-223-1033

CATHEDRALPARISH.COM/40-HOURS-DEVOTION

Bringing Jesus to the World Through the Family



Eucharistic series offered at Spirit of Life

LeAnn Eckroth
DCA Writer

A new monthly series at Spirit of Life Church in Mandan aims to spark a renewed faith formation in the Eucharist.

The Spirit of Life Eucharistic series opened Sept. 19 with a talk on the topic of “The Eucharist Throughout History.” The presentations continue every third Tuesday of the month through May 21, 2024. Talks begin at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The next topic, on Nov. 21, is “The Eucharist Makes the Church.”

Father Keith Streifel, pastor of Spirit of Life, said the first installment was well received using a speaker-audience format with around 30 people attending. “A number of people came and said, ‘I’ll come back again,’” he noted. “They enjoyed it. The first presentation was an overview—the history of the Eucharist from the Old Testament until now.”

Father Streifel and Karen Eggers, director of faith formation for Spirit of Life parish, are the primary speakers.

Inspired by National Revival

The series of presentations was inspired by the National Eucharistic Revival called for by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Church leaders pointed toward a lapse in both belief and comprehension of the Real Presence in the Eucharist to prompt the revival. The revival launched nationally on the Feast of Corpus Christi

in June 2022 and focused on the diocesan level for the first year. Then, on that same feast in 2023, the revival shifted locally to the parish phase.

“There was a survey done of Catholics in America which told us that many people didn’t understand or hold the basic belief of the Church that the Eucharist is Jesus. Many would incorrectly say it’s a symbol or they would say that Jesus is present with the bread and wine,” Fr. Streifel explained.

He added there is clearly a need for greater practice of worship in the Church. “Only a certain percentage of Catholics show up for Mass. If we understood what we were receiving, if we understood the gift of the Eucharist, the gift of Christ Himself, then we’d be fighting to get into the pew.”

Yet, he said, that isn’t happening.

Purpose of the revival

Father Streifel explained that there are four main purposes for the national revival. They are: reinvigorating worship, growing personal encounter with Jesus through the Eucharist, sparking a robust faith formation and sending forth on mission. It is intended that more people would worship as we should with our whole heart and whole mind.

“The purpose to engage in deeper formation is that we form our minds, our understanding and, from that, our lives and our actions more deeply reflect what the Eucharist is. We turn our focus to Jesus



“Only a certain percentage of Catholics show up for Mass.
If we understood what we were receiving, if we understood the gift of the Eucharist, the gift of Christ Himself, then we’d be fighting to get into the pew.”
– Fr. Keith Streifel

being present in the sacraments, to Jesus giving us Himself.”

The series of presentations at Spirit of Life will also focus upon the practice of the Mass and its meaning for Christians as human beings. All of this goes together for a complete understanding of who we are in our Catholic faith and who the Church is.

“Those who attend can use what we are talking about to understand that the Eucharist is the source, the font, the place where we get who we are and the summit. The Eucharist being Jesus is Who we have been aiming for all along and Who we will be aiming

for in eternity. We become who we receive in the Eucharist,” Fr. Streifel said.

Risk of complacency

October’s presentation explored Bishop Kagan’s latest pastoral letter titled “It is the Lord!” The letter explains, in simple detail, the sacraments of the Eucharist and reconciliation.

Father Streifel said that there is a risk of Catholics “going through the motions” when they do not understand the Eucharist and that Jesus is fully present within it.



“If we can see and understand what is really going on; if we can see how great it is for us to participate in the Mass, then it becomes less tempting to be distracted by all of the other things in our life. And rather to let us bring Christ’s presence that we receive in the Eucharist to all those other things,” he said.

The Eucharist is a movement. From the Mass, we see Jesus’ presence, receive Him in the Eucharist, in turn, then take that out into the world and share it with others in all that we say and do.

Go out on mission

The third and final phase of the National Eucharistic Revival is that Catholics are sent out on mission. It’s a way to challenge Catholics to rekindle their missionary hearts to go out and share the gift of our Eucharistic Lord with the world. By Lent, Fr. Streifel

has plans in the works to lead the parishioners on a mission, although he isn’t revealing those details yet.

“One aspect within our faith is that we send people as missionaries. On one hand, it is sending people to other places. On the other hand, it is recognizing that the Eucharist makes us missionaries right where we are. The challenge isn’t just to send some people somewhere, but rather we are equipped to bring Christ wherever we are,” he said.

It is impossible for the clergy to reach everywhere, noted Fr. Streifel. The faithful are being asked to do their part to bring Christ to others in big and small ways.

“If we are to live out what Jesus wants the Church to be, we have to all be sent,” he added.

The National Eucharistic Revival is aimed at helping the faithful realize receiving the Eucharist, not as a thing, but as the person of Jesus Christ Who came and comes to save us. The series at Spirit of Life looks to rekindle the spirit within Catholics to recognize Christ in the Eucharist, be strengthened by Him and share Him with others.

Details on future series topics of the Spirit of Life Eucharistic series will be posted in the church bulletins and online through May 21, 2024. All are welcome to attend every third Tuesday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. The planned topics are: Nov 21 - The Eucharist Makes the Church; Dec. 19 - Christ’s Mass; Jan. 16 - The Eucharist and the Dignity of the Human Person; Feb. 20 - Lenten Parish Mission; March 19 - Preparing to Receive; April 16 - Eucharistic Miracles/The Miracle of the Eucharist; and May 21 - The Eucharist and the Holy Spirit.

Please note that several parishes throughout the diocese are planning special events surrounding the parish phase of the National Eucharistic Revival. This article presents the details on just one of our parish’s events. Please check with your pastor to see what might be being planned within your parish to commemorate the revival. †

UNIVERSITY OF MARY PRAYER DAY

NOVEMBER 15, 2023 | 3 PM



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Father John Riccardo
Executive Director, ACTS XXIX
Creator of "The Rescue Project"

Schedule of Events

3 pm: Keynote, "Getting Clarity on Mission,"
Founders Hall

4:30 pm: Solemn Vespers and Mass,
Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel

7 pm: Prayer and Healing Service,
Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel

Event is free and open to the public.

Register at umary.edu/PrayerDay

 **UNIVERSITY**
of MARY | *for Life.*



MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Genetic privacy: should law enforcement have access to your newborn's blood?

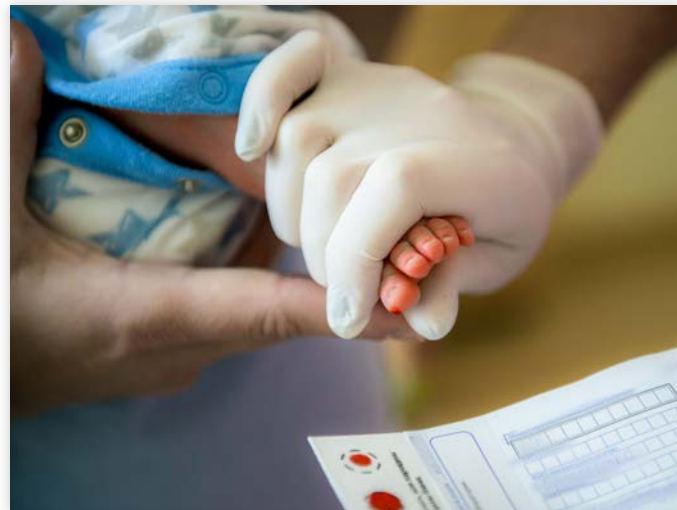
Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

Many parents and concerned citizens would probably be surprised to learn that their children's blood samples are being accessed by law enforcement agencies without their knowledge or consent.

In 2021, the State Police of New Jersey sought access to a blood sample from the Newborn Screening Laboratory, a sample belonging to a child who had been screened nine years earlier as a newborn. They wanted to perform DNA analysis so they could try to connect the child's father to a crime committed nearly 25 years earlier.

Filed away for a long time, these original paper medical forms, with spots of dried blood on them, contain the DNA of newborns. By obtaining the child's bloodspot sample without a warrant, the state police were able to maneuver around the requirement to establish probable cause before seeking a warrant for a mouth swab from the suspect. The DNA results obtained from the child's blood were used to submit an affidavit of probable cause, and a warrant was then issued for a mouth swab from the father. Following the analysis of his swabbed DNA, he was criminally charged.

Every baby born in New Jersey—and most other states as well—is required by law to be tested for a number of diseases and disorders, often within 48 hours of birth, as part of a newborn screening program. By pricking the heel of the baby, hospitals and medical facilities collect blood samples from



virtually all newborns in the U.S. Many states retain the dried blood samples after the initial testing has been completed. Upwards of four million newborns are tested annually.

The goal is to identify a range of conditions and diseases in newborn babies, in the hope of reducing their severity through early treatment. One of the most notable success stories involves a condition called phenylketonuria (PKU). When babies with PKU eat foods containing phenylalanine—an essential amino acid found in many common foods—they can suffer permanent brain damage. Before standardized newborn blood screening, families discovered that their child had the condition only after the child developed brain damage. With the advent of newborn screening for PKU in the 1960s, families could be told whether their child had the

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 Senior Ethicist 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



Servant of God

Michelle Christine
DUPPONG

Jan 25, 1984 – Dec 25, 2015

A laywoman who dedicated her life to evangelization and showed Jesus to others while suffering with cancer

Jesus, I praise and thank You for the life of Your servant Michelle Duppong. In her life and suffering, she joined You in Your thirst for souls and embraced the cross offered to her. Following her example, I ask for the special grace of... and, if it brings You greater glory, that she be honored by Your Church. Jesus, I ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

With ecclesiastical approval of Bishop David D. Kagan
Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota

Please report any special favors granted to
duppongcause@bismarckdiocese.com

condition right after birth. They could then use a special diet to prevent permanent brain damage from occurring.

Notwithstanding the praiseworthy and commendable project of trying to improve health outcomes for newborns, these blood spot samples are often collected without getting informed consent from a newborn baby's parents, and, in some states, the samples may be retained and stored afterwards, even for decades. Many parents are unaware not only of the existence of the screening program but also that blood was drawn from their newborn. It can come as a shock to discover that their family's genetic privacy may have been violated when law enforcement receives access to their child's stored blood sample without their knowledge or consent and without a warrant.

When it comes to the ethics of blood testing programs, parents are entitled to full transparency, including complete and accurate information about why their baby's blood is being drawn. Those states that retain and store samples after the completion of immediate testing also have an ethical duty to inform parents of this practice and be sure that parents have an opportunity to provide informed consent not only for the immediate testing of their newborn, but for any subsequent uses of the blood sample, including possible future scrutiny of the sample by law enforcement, or by biomedical researchers.

The fact that our DNA and our genetic code contains important personal information about us means that our individual "bio-informatics" should not be used or brokered by others without our awareness and consent. Medical confidentiality should be reasonably safeguarded as part of initiatives like the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program. Legislative mandates requiring such newborn screening should thus allow parents to opt out, not only of the testing itself in the face of serious reasons, but also of long-term storage and subsequent uses of their newborn's biological samples, including by law enforcement.

Informed consent is also becoming important in the face of an ever-growing number of direct-to-consumer genetic testing options, like 23andMe and Ancestry.com. Companies should assure that customers can retain real control over their data. Genetic privacy is a subset of medical privacy, and even those who upload their DNA data to genetic genealogy databases should have the opportunity to provide consent for retention of their data and for disclosure of these data to any third parties.

Informed consent serves as an essential bioethical principle in biomedicine today by providing a concrete safeguard for the dignity of those receiving medical treatments, or otherwise involved in human medical experimentation or research. It should not be contravened without due process and substantial reason. †



BALANCING CHURCH & STATE

Facts and the law cannot be ignored concerning gender issues

Christopher Dodson

North Dakota recently enacted several laws related to gender and gender dysphoria that are either misunderstood or purposely mischaracterized by vocal opponents of the laws.

Let us start with some basic principles. The Catholic Church teaches and acknowledges that human beings are created male and female from fertilization. Sex is an objective reality that cannot be changed. To deny one's biological sex is to deny the dignity bestowed on us by God. Gender, therefore, cannot be separated from biological sex. The concept that gender is subjective or fluid is a man-made ideology contrary to objective, biological reality and disrespectful of nature and human dignity. These truths are not just doctrine. They are knowable through natural law.

For some people, their perceived gender does not conform to their biological sex. They should be treated with respect. Some of these individuals suffer from emotional distress due to the incongruence. This is known as gender dysphoria. Persons suffering from gender dysphoria should be respected and offered appropriate psychological treatment to treat the distress.

One of the laws enacted restricts applying non-psychological treatment to minors suffering from gender dysphoria. Additional principles from Catholic teaching apply to this issue.

The first principle is that a medical intervention must have a good intention. In the case of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and sex reassignment surgery the purpose—indeed, the only purpose—is gender transitioning or providing a step toward gender transitioning. They may

be called “gender-affirming,” but in reality, they act on the physical body so that it takes on the characteristics of the person's self-identified gender.

Certainly, some practitioners will contend that the purpose of these interventions is to alleviate stress or reduce anxiety, but the chosen method to address those conditions is gender transitioning. Gender transitioning is ultimately a fiction or a battle against nature. The body cannot change its sex and—going back to the first set of principles above—attempts to do so are contrary to the dignity of the person.

Another criterion for determining whether a medical intervention is ethical is whether the intended effect is achieved by a harmful action. In this regard, all three interventions used to achieve gender transitioning—puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and sex reassignment surgery—clearly fail.

Puberty blockers do only one thing. They suppress normal and healthy bodily development. The administration of cross-sex hormones does not treat any disease. It only interferes with the normal and healthy functioning of the human body. Sex reassignment surgery does not treat any pathology. It is the alteration or removal of healthy organs and tissue, an act also known as mutilation.

Some argue that as a result of these interventions, the individual might have less stress, anxiety or depression. These are what are called “consequentialist” appeals. They attempt to justify a harmful act by appealing to an indirect, though possible, good consequence. These arguments ignore, however, that the act itself harms the

body and that the act itself does not directly treat gender incongruence.

Unfortunately, violations of these principles of medical ethics have become common, which is why the legislature acted to protect children. Children should not be subject to medical interventions that harm, sometimes irreparably, healthy bodily functions, organs and tissues for the sake of forcing the body to look or feel like something it is not.

Another misunderstood new law concerns parental rights in public schools. The new law states: “Unless otherwise required by law, a school district, public school or public school teacher may not: a. Adopt a policy concerning a particular student's transgender status without approval from the student's parent or legal guardian; or b. Withhold or conceal information about a student's transgender status from the student's parent or legal guardian.”

It does not force a school to “out” a student's “transgender status,” as some school officials have claimed. It merely states that a school cannot adopt a special policy because of a student's status without approval from the parent and that the school cannot purposely withhold or conceal such information from the parent.

Some have claimed that concealing a child's transgender status is necessary to protect the child from harm by a parent. The law, however, does not apply when other laws—and there are many of them—require the school to protect the safety of the student. Moreover, if the child is at risk of such harm, appropriate authorities should be notified.

Understandably, emotions can run high when it comes to issues regarding gender. That is not an excuse, however, to ignore the facts and the law. †

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



An invitation from the St. Serra Vocations Apostolate of Bismarck Mandan

Nov. 1	Fr. Corey Nelson	Nov. 16	Deacon Joel Melarvie
Nov. 2	Fr. Jady N Nelson	Nov. 17	Fr. Christy Pathiala
Nov. 3	Deacon Br. George Maufort, SDS	Nov. 18	Deacon Mike Mellmer
Nov. 4	Fr. Valerian Odermann, OSB	Nov. 19	Lay Ministers
Nov. 5	Music Ministers	Nov. 20	Br. Symeon Rubbelke, OSB
Nov. 6	Sr. Kathleen Kuntz, OSB	Nov. 21	Sr. Susan Lardy, OSB
Nov. 7	Fr. Raphael Obotama	Nov. 22	Seminarian Deacon Ryan Martire
Nov. 8	Seminarian Dominic Schaeftbauer	Nov. 23	Fr. John Pfeifer
Nov. 9	Deacon Stephen Mays	Nov. 24	Deacon Gary Mizeur
Nov. 10	Fr. Logan Obrigewitch	Nov. 25	Deacon Eugene Morman †5-11-23
Nov. 11	Deacon Rex McDowall	Nov. 26	Sr. Renee Branigan, OSB
Nov. 12	Seminarians and Religious in Formation	Nov. 27	Deacon Brent Naslund
Nov. 13	Br. Alban Petesch, OSB	Nov. 28	Sisters Ministering in Fort Yates
Nov. 14	Sr. Nicole Kunze, OSB	Nov. 29	Sr. Madelyn Louttit, OSB
Nov. 15	Fr. Patrick Ojedeji	Nov. 30	Seminarian Deacon Eric Artz

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.



QUESTIONS I WAS AFRAID TO ASK

Q: I feel Mass is boring; how can I fix that?

Fr. Gary Benz

As Catholics, we appear to have a disadvantage compared to other Christian denominations when it comes to our worship services: we seem a bit stodgy. Other churches have laser lights, live bands, fog machines and coffee bars; you can even take your latte into worship with you!

It's no wonder, we are told, that people leave the Catholic Church because, quite simply, our Mass is boring. But if people understood what really happens at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, maybe they would sing a different tune (preferably Gregorian Chant).

First, we often judge the worthiness of the Holy Mass by the *human* element, and thus we find it lacking: the homily was too long; the cantor was off-key; the reader lacked enthusiasm; among others. So, we find the Holy Mass boring and we “got nothing out of it.”

But have we ever considered going beyond our senses and tried to see the *divine* element of the Holy Mass, with the vision of faith? If we did, then indeed, we would never say that Mass is boring. For this, we seek the insights of mystics who were privileged by God to see what was truly happening at each Holy Mass. Saint Gertrude the Great was in rapture at every Holy Mass, because she saw the monastic chapel filled with choirs of angels, a choir of the apostles, a choir of martyrs, a choir of confessors and a choir of virgins, all singing the praises of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Then, she saw Jesus raise His hands and He lifted all the prayers and needs of God's people to the Father and from heaven came God's grace, which fell like gentle snow upon all those present to worship.

Granted, we have not been given this special privilege by God to see the true nature of the Holy Mass, as St. Gertrude the Great, but, in faith, we know that this lifting up of man to the heavenly liturgy does occur at each and every Holy Mass. We take comfort in the words of our Lord, “Blessed are those who have not seen, but still believe” (John 20:29). We believe in faith that when the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass begins, we leave earth for a while and join the saints and angels in the worship of the Blessed Trinity in heaven. You can never be bored in the enjoyment of God's beauty, glory and majesty.

Fr. Benz is pastor at Sacred Heart, Glen Ullin, St. Ann, Hebron, and St. Joseph, Grant County. 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 “Question Afraid to Ask” in the subject line.



AG ATTITUDES

Prayer is language for the theater of life

James Odermann

“What are you working on today?”

“I am not sure where to start but if you are looking for something to do, come on over and I can give you a list,” I answered to my son, laughing as I teased him. “And, bring the boys (grandsons aged 8 and 10) along. We will have some fun.”

It was a good exchange and a situation lived daily. Like most agricultural operations, there is an ever-changing series of events. There is never a lack of something to do, tasks (or work) that need be completed, all affected by the weather.

“Hello nana and papa,” the grandsons said in unison upon seeing grandma and me sitting down to eat breakfast.

God had blessed us with a beautiful day, already dawned. It was going to be my chance to visit about the grandsons' siblings, football, cattle, school and fun—all while working side-by-side and enjoying the teamwork of family.

There is something special about teamwork—and it is even more special when the team is your family. The youngsters are just learning, albeit at a slower pace, and that is helpful to someone like me, who has been informally dubbed “long of tooth.”

Yet, I don't let my age stop me from engaging the youngsters, cautioning them to be careful, teaching them about angles when moving or sorting livestock and just generally enjoying the reward of a beautiful fall day. An occasional calf slips by when sorting and I say, “We can get it back when done.”

And, that response caused my son to say, “You were never that complacent when I was their age.”

“Yeah, I know,” I responded with a twinkle in my eyes. “I was always go-go-go and didn't smell the roses like I could and should have. Thank you for giving me a second chance.”

“Oh, my goodness,” he said, as a smile broke onto his face.

This exchange got me to realize the presence of God—everywhere. God is in the people, in the stock or on the landscape.

I may sound like a broken record but the native—and natural—beauty of God is manifested so often in the little things easy to overlook.

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).

As an agricultural producer, I need to care for the resources of air, land and water. This noble vocation gives me a front row seat in the complex interactions of the circle of life, which includes billions of underground microbiological organisms that collaborate with soil, water and air to create nutrients for plant growth.

Plant growth offers sustenance to above ground life forms like me. I feel rewarded to be part of the team, which is involved in the simple, yet complex profession—the biology of ranching.

I get it. God created the world and everything in the world. The science of nature is an awesome theater. And, in that theater I am called by God to live in a way that is reflective of a much higher good embodied by Jesus. Succinctly put, my life needs to be a prayer: my thoughts, words and actions should be complementary to my sisters and brothers.

I am compensated with love from family, neighbors, friends and business associates, all who are part of my team. I need to recognize God is there, right alongside me through these relationships.

Recently, I attended the funeral mass for a young man who had played at our ranch. There were friends of the deceased young man who had come to pray, to say farewell to a friend, to support surviving family members.

I witnessed a congregation of hurting, loving people gathered at a sort of spiritual cocktail party. The grief in my heart for the family remained but the presence of my sisters and brothers praying with me was comforting.

Really, the biggest lesson was that the church was full of people who loved the team of the deceased man and his family. I needed to be there to pray for him and his team—with my sisters and brothers.

I also need to know prayer is more than asking God for things. Prayer is about peace and acceptance. I pray I can be more willing to quietly listen to God, who will calm me when I am anxious.

Care to join me? †



Dakota Catholic Action

Diocese of Bismarck
PO Box 1575
Bismarck, ND 58502-1575

PERIODICAL

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The Bismarck Diocese 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, Bismarck Diocese, 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 Bismarck Diocese and it provides a foundation for implementing effective and enforceable standards for all personnel. View the Code of Conduct at www.bismarckdiocese.com.

How to Keep Your Kids Safe Online

According to RAINN.org, more than 32 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation were reported by online platforms to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's Cyber Tip Line in 2022. Parents and caregivers can help promote internet safety by following these essential tips.

- Tell kids never to give out identifying information.
- Have kids use devices in common areas of the house so you can see and hear what's going on.
- Set aside time to join your kids online. Play their favorite game or watch TikTok together.
- Set parental controls on any device that connects to the internet
- Have kids let you know immediately if someone asks for pictures or personal information.
- Be aware of what apps your kids use and set a rule regarding whom you allow them to chat with.
- Set reasonable time limits on computers and smartphones.
Have rules around where devices live and can be used.
- Talk to older kids about sexting and cyberbullying.
Explain the long-term consequences of sending sexual messages or pictures.



Dakota Children's
ADVOCACY CENTER

www.dakotacac.org
701-323-5626

The Dakota Children's Advocacy Center provides and coordinates services for children who have been abused.

