

Dakota **Catholic Action**

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“I am with
you always.”

— *Matthew 28:20*



THE EUCHARIST: SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF OUR FAITH

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Source and Summit: *A Eucharistic Congress*



June 2, 2023
Bismarck Event Center

Mass with Bishop Kagan - Eucharistic Adoration - Confession

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6 **THE EUCHARIST: SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF OUR FAITH** Diocesan Eucharistic Congress Event on June 2

8 **SHARING THEIR GIFTS FOR CHRIST AND THE PARISH** Daughters of Virtue group started at Church of St. Joseph in Mandan By LeAnn Eckroth

11 **LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY** Learning to Pray with the Church's Sacred Music By Patti Armstrong

12 **FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CHURCH** Christopher Dodson Receives Papal Honor By Sonia Mullally

15 **THE LORD HAS TRULY BUILT THIS HOUSE** Major renovation at St. Joseph in Twin Buttes

22 **OBITUARY** Sister Carol Axtmann, OSB



Page 8: Daughters of Virtue group started at Church of St. Joseph in Mandan



PAGE 15: Major renovation at St. Joseph in Twin Buttes



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Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941



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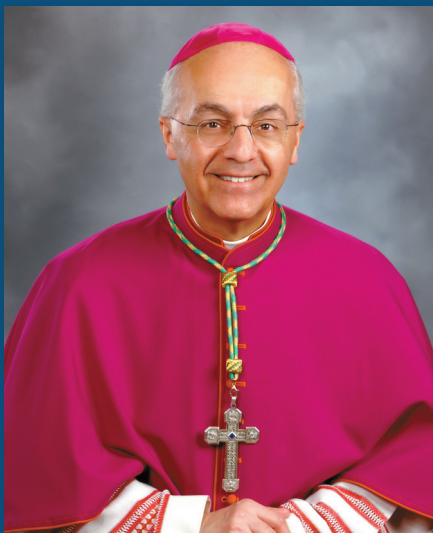
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FROM THE BISHOP

*Have a most Blessed Easter
and Easter Season!*

Bishop David D. Kagan

During the season of Lent, especially in the Year A cycle of readings, we listen to and meditate on that moment in the earthly life of Jesus when He is transfigured on the mount in the presence of Peter, James and John. The reputable Catholic theologians and scripture scholars all agree that the Transfiguration of the Lord is a glimpse given to the disciples and eventually the world, of the true divinity and glory of Jesus as God. However, it reveals to us that this is also to be our destiny if we obey the command of the Father to listen to Him, Jesus, in Whom the Father is well-pleased. It also reveals to us that the glory of the Lord will come but only after His Passion and death, as He tells Peter, James and John.

We are now at that time when the Passion, death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus are upon us. Are we ready for this? Has our Lenten discipline prepared us to be able to participate in the Mass of the Lord's Supper, to participate in His Passion, and to wait in faithful prayer and vigil for the day of all days, Easter Sunday?

Let us hope and pray that we can say "yes" to those questions with complete and joyful truthfulness! Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum are the most

intensely spiritual days in the life of the Church and its year. Beginning with Palm Sunday and taking us day-by-day with Jesus in this week, we have the grace-filled opportunity to put our sins behind us through the sacrament of penance. We walk with the Lord in imitation of Our Blessed Mother, St. John and St. Mary Magdalen in His Passion and death, but also to His glorious Resurrection. Imagine their grief and sorrow, but also imagine their joy to see Him and touch Him on that first Easter day!

Let us meditate on this truth. Jesus did all of this for us, not because He had to but because in obedience to the Father and as God, He wanted to and for no other reason than that He loves each of us with an eternal love. Jesus has given our true lives back to us. Do we know this? Does this truth make any difference to us? If we answer yes, then our yes should be clearly visible in our words and actions which will be an imitation of Him.

May this coming Easter Sunday and the entire Easter season be a cause for our abiding joy, and may we be ever more faithful to Him Who has restored us to life and reopened the gates of Heaven for those who love Him and long to be united to Him in Paradise. Have a most Blessed Easter and Easter Season! †

BISHOP IN ACTION



Photo by Deacon Joe Krupinsky: Bishop Kagan greeted residents of Bismarck's Marilac Manor assisted living facility during his annual visit and Mass there on March 15.



Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for April

FOR CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE

APRIL 2023

April 1	Palm Sunday Vigil Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 5 p.m.
April 3	Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 11 a.m.
April 3	Women's Care Center Board Meeting, Chancery, Bismarck, 5 p.m.
April 6	Mass of the Lord's Last Supper, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 6 p.m.
April 7	Good Friday Service, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 3 p.m.
April 8	Easter Vigil Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 8 p.m.
April 14	Cabinet Meeting, Chancery, Bismarck, 10 a.m.
April 15	Confirmation at the Church of St. Lawrence, Flasher, 10 a.m.
April 17-20	Spring Clergy Conference, Bismarck
April 22	Confirmation at the Church of St. Bernard, Belfield, 10 a.m. MT
April 23	Confirmation at the Church of St. Charles, Bowman, 10 a.m. MT
April 27-29	Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue
April 29	University of Mary Graduation, Bismarck Event Center, 2:30 p.m.
April 30	Knights of Columbus State Convention Mass, Our Lady of Victory Chapel, St. Mary's Central High School, Bismarck, 7 a.m.
April 30	Confirmation at the Church of St. Pius V, New Salem, 11 a.m.

Diocesan Eucharistic Congress Event on June 2



Msgr. James Shea



Fr. Brian Gross



Shelly Preszler



On the Feast of Corpus Christi Sunday 2022, the bishops of the United States launched a three-year plan for Eucharistic Revival to help the faithful to establish and foster a real, sustained and lively friendship with Christ.

The Eucharistic Revival is to be celebrated in three phases with year one (2022-23) being the diocesan year. To mark this year in our local diocese, you are invited to an event called “Source and Summit: A Eucharistic Congress” on Friday, June 2.

This event, at the Bismarck Event Center, will offer the attendees a chance to strengthen their friendship with Jesus. The theme is “I am with you always” based on the words of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew 28:20.

“Our Eucharistic Congress on June 2 furthers the goal of the National Revival by bringing together Catholics from our diocese to gather for a day of deepening our faith and understanding of the centrality of the Holy Eucharist in the life of the Church and in our own lives,” expressed Bishop Kagan. “Presentations, times for prayer and adoration and the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass gives opportunities to encounter the Lord Jesus so that when all return to their homes and parishes to begin the parish phase of the National Revival, they will bring Christ with them in a most intimate way.”

Featured speakers will include Msgr. James Shea, president of the University

of Mary, Fr. Brian Gross, pastor of Church of Epiphany in Watford City and Our Lady of Consolation in Alexander, and Shelly Preszler, layperson from the diocese and parish director of evangelization at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Kagan added, “What I hope and pray for all who come to the Congress is that their lives are enriched and energized by Jesus Who wants to accompany them in their homes, workplaces, parishes and schools.”

Event on June 2

Register for the Eucharistic Congress on the diocesan website at bismarckdiocese.com/eucharisticcongress. All events will be held in the exhibit halls of the Bismarck Event Center. Doors open at 8 a.m. with registration. Adoration and confession will be available right away. Morning prayer will be at 9:45 a.m. with the main events starting at 10 a.m. Two keynote speakers are scheduled before lunch. A third keynote speaker will follow lunch. A Eucharistic procession and holy hour will begin at 2:30 p.m. The day concludes with Mass with Bishop Kagan at 4:15 p.m. There is no fee to attend.

“I would tell anyone who asks about attending the Congress not to hesitate but come. If the Holy Eucharist is a part of their lives or they want to return to a fully active sacramental life, the Congress is an excellent way to begin,” shared Bishop Kagan.

Next two phases of Revival

Year two (2023-24) is the year of the parish revival. During the parish year, pastors will invite their parishioners and staff to become even more truly and deeply Eucharistic communities. This is done through small groups, increased exploration of the sacrifice of the Mass, Eucharistic adoration, catechetical studies on the Real Presence of Christ, parish-sponsored processions and other activities to enable deeper encounters with Our Lord in the Eucharist.

Year three (2024-25) concludes the revival with the year of sending out on mission. During the third year, the Church will gather for the first National Eucharistic Congress in almost 50 years, where approximately 80,000 Catholics are anticipated to draw close to Jesus in the Eucharist by way of a pilgrimage to Indianapolis from July 17-21, 2024. The intended fruit of the Congress is to prepare the faithful from around the country to go out to the peripheries of their communities as “Eucharistic missionaries” rekindled with the flame of divine charity for those around them. †

—Staff report



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



An invitation from the Bismarck–Mandan Serra Club

April 1	Fr. Thomas Wordekemper, OSB	April 16	Seminarian Joseph Schon
April 2	Deacon Jeff Baranick	April 17	Fr. Jarad Wolf
April 3	Fr. Boniface Muggli, OSB	April 18	Deacon Jim Belohlavek
April 4	Sr. Agatha Muggli, OSB	April 19	Br. Alban Petesch, OSB
April 5	Fr. Odo Muggli, OSB	April 20	Sr. Gemma Peters, OSB
April 6	Lay Ministers	April 21	Fr. Basil Atwell, OSB
April 7	Sr. Michael Emond, OSB	April 22	Seminarians & Religious in Formation
April 8	Fr. Brandon Wolf		
April 9	Religious in Formation	April 23	Fr. David Zimmer
April 10	Deacon Daniel Barone	April 24	Deacon Robert Bohn
April 11	Fr. Valerian Odermann, OSB	April 25	Sr. Denise Ressler, OSB
April 12	Fr. David Morman & Kenyan Missionaries	April 26	Seminarian Ben Weigum
April 13	Sr. Margaret Nelson, OSB	April 27	Fr. Charles Zins
April 14	Sr. Annette Dobitz, OSB	April 28	Deacon Steve Brannan
April 15	Bishop David Kagan	April 29	Fr. Jeff Zwack
		April 30	Sr. Patricia Schap, OSB

Daughters of Virtue group started at Church of St. Joseph in Mandan

By LeAnn Eckroth
DCA Writer

An alternative niche has been molded for girls at a Mandan parish.

Daughters of Virtue launched in August of 2021 at the Church of St. Joseph to train girls and young women to become sacristans. The ministry is geared towards young ladies from grades three through 12 and any moms/women who would like to help facilitate it, said Shawna Helbling, secretary, and director of youth ministry at the parish.

“Fr. Josh Waltz, our pastor, had been thinking about having only our young men as altar servers for a long time,” she said. Father Waltz, a former vocational director for the diocese, found many young men who decided to discern a vocation to the priesthood would say that their time as an altar server was instrumental fostering their discernment.

As the parishes opened back up after pandemic closures, Fr. Waltz found it an ideal time to make the switch, Helbling explained.

“As the world continues to blur what it means to be masculine and feminine, we as Catholics believe there is inherent dignity to all human persons, but there are real differences between the sexes and these differences are what make each unique and special,” she said. “Scripture tells us that men are called to serve the Church and women are called to care for the living Christ and minister to His needs. We want



Submitted photos: Sarah placing the monstrance on the stand while Peyton observes.

to empower our young men and young women to be able to discern what God wants of them in their lives and do it in a positive way.”

Helbling thought it was important to find a different role for the girls willing to take part in parish ministry.



Daughters of Virtue, (l-r) Kylee, Rosie and Kya, bringing vessels back to the sacristy.



Peyton and Adalyn learning how to properly set the priest vestments before Mass.

Her daughter had been one of the first female altar servers at the parish. So, Helbling approached Waltz with another way the young girls could serve.

“He understood that this would leave a void for our young ladies who had been active in altar serving. After some prayer and discernment, the decision was made to start teaching the girls about how to be a sacristan and serving in many other roles in the Church.”

Organizers created a sacristan manual, started meeting and teaching the girls about the different vessels, setting up for Masses, and giving them time to pray and feel the true presence of Christ when they are serving as the sacristan.

“They are getting very similar training to what our altar servers are getting,” she said. About a dozen

girls attend the training program on a regular basis, she said. “We grow in every meeting and hope to continue to grow in the future.”

Helbling said the Daughters of Virtue started small, but organizers eventually want high school girls to mentor elementary school girls and the ministry’s middle school girls to be trained by adults.

“The excitement of the girls was something I thought I would have to kind of coax out of them, but boy I was wrong...”

“We want to give young women a sense of purpose in the Church as well, not just as sacristans. They can use their gifts and talents to participate in other ministries such as lectors, music ministry, ushering, caring for the altar

linens, caring for the altar and many other facets of what it looks like to serve the Lord and His Church other than just attending Mass.”

She’s found the group’s early enthusiasm strong.



Emma lighting candles on the altar for adoration while Peyton watches.

“The excitement of the girls was something I thought I would have to kind of coax out of them, but boy I was wrong. I started working with the young ladies who are in our school, partially because we can work out kinks and see how many young ladies that we need to fulfill the tasks at hand with them setting up their school Masses.”

Now, the girls assist with the weekend Masses as well.

“One of the things we have implemented is that the girls have a ‘uniform’ of sorts. The young ladies are encouraged to wear a white chapel veil and their ‘Sunday best’ or school uniform when they are serving as sacristans. This is no different than the young men who are asked to wear a cassock and surplice as they serve at the altar,” she said.

The veil is meant to be an external sign of a woman’s interior desire to humble herself before God, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

“If they choose to wear it other times, they are more than welcome to, but we want them to present themselves in such a way that they are serving Christ and are in the presence of Him while they are serving,” she said.

The veils are provided by the parish and the young ladies are given a special bag and hair clip to use with the veil.

The program is targeted toward young ladies in the Church who want to be more involved in their faith,” said Helbling. Participants must have received their First Communion. “Other than that, it is pretty open.”

Helbling expects as membership and experience grows, the group will find more opportunities and activities to share their gifts for Christ and the parish.

“As we have become more aware of the needs of the parish, we are not only training our young ladies to be sacristans, but we have made prayer blankets for our prayer blanket ministry, sent birthday and holiday cards (handmade and signed) to our elderly, homebound and nursing home parishioners, and wrapped and gathered gifts for our wish tree during Advent. We hope, in the future, to continue to fulfill more needs around the parish.”

The group meets once a month in the evening unless scheduled otherwise. Adult mentors are also needed and welcome to attend. For more information about the Daughters of Virtue, contact Shawna Helbling at 701-663-9562. †

Learning to Pray with the Church's Sacred Music

By Dr. Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka

"Lord, teach us to pray." Christ responded to this request of His disciples by teaching them the Our Father. As the catechism reminds us, this prayer becomes deeply embedded in our hearts, not only through rote repetition, but by its persistent presence in the Church's liturgy. Our Lord teaches us to pray, "for we do not know how to pray as we ought" so the Holy "Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness" (Rom. 8:26).

This aid that God gives us to pray does not stop with the Our Father. It is that which undergirds the whole of the sacred liturgy and the Church's guardianship of liturgical tradition. When we go to Mass, our mother, the Church, places words upon our lips, gestures within our body, thoughts upon our minds. All these prescriptions give us the tools we need to make an act of adoration, of self-offering to the Father, through the Spirit, united to the sacrifice of Cross re-presented at each Holy Mass. The Church's liturgy is truly a school of prayer and the most special place in which we encounter Christ.

The Church's sacred music, especially Gregorian chant, is integral to this school of prayer. Pope Pius X, in his writings on sacred music, teaches us that sacred music is that which beautifully and fittingly clothes the words of the sacred liturgy "proposed for the understanding of the faithful," helping those words to more deeply impact our minds and hearts. It forms an integral part of the sacred liturgy, and disposes us to better receive all the gifts and graces that God makes present to us in the Mass, especially in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist.

The Church invites us to learn to pray with this sacred music. Gregorian chant is a beautiful gift that the Church has handed down through the ages, and one that can produce many fruits in our spiritual lives. When sung well, the chant's beauty attracts us to the truth and goodness of

God, stirring up devotion and love for Him. Its Latin language allows us to pray with ease with our brothers and sisters from around the world, even uniting us to the Christians of the past who likewise prayed and sang these chants.



Dr. Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka

If you're interested in learning more about how to pray with Gregorian chant, and even to sing and read it, there is an opportunity to learn! April 14-15 there will be a sacred music workshop at St. Wenceslaus in Dickinson. There, we will pray the liturgies of the Church in chant, both Gregorian and in English adaptations. We will learn to read the square notes and sing it with beauty. And we will talk about the ways in which this incredible music can lead us to Christ. More information and sign-up are available on the St. Wenceslaus parish website: stwenceslausnd.com. I hope to see you there! †

Dr. Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka holds the William P. Mahrt Chair in Sacred Music at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, where she teaches the seminarians and directs the Catholic Institute of Sacred Music, which offers an extensive program of formation for lay people in sacred music. A native of Dickinson, she was recently inducted into the Trinity High School Hall of Fame for her excellence in service to the Church.



Christopher Dodson Receives Papal Honor

By Sonia Mullally
DCA Editor

The bishops of the Bismarck and Fargo Dioceses announced Christopher Dodson as the recipient of the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice—among the highest honors the Holy Father can confer on laypeople, deacons and religious.

Dodson was lauded for this service as the executive director and general counsel for the North Dakota Catholic Conference that serves as the public policy voice of the Catholic bishops of the state. Dodson, a University of California-Berkely Law School graduate, has been the conference director since 1995.

The Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice is given for distinguished service to the Church by lay people and clergy. It is the highest honor that can be awarded to laity by the pope. The award, established by Pope Leo XIII in 1888, means “For Church and Pope” in Latin. The diocesan bishop petitions the Holy See with the name and biographical information of the person whom he wishes to receive the award.

Dodson resides in Jamestown within the Diocese of Fargo so his diocesan bishop, Bishop John Folda, petitioned the Holy See for the award.

In his endorsement letter, Bishop Folda wrote of Dodson, “He is a married man of outstanding virtue who has spent his adult life in the service of the Church. In particular, he has served the Dioceses of Bismarck and Fargo as the Director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference. He has been instrumental in giving Catholic social teaching practical effect through his tireless work and expertise.”



Christopher Dodson (far right) was presented with the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice by Bishop John Folda and Bishop David Kagan at the dinner following the legislative Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on Feb. 9.

Accompanying Bishop Folda’s letter was a letter of support from Bishop Kagan regarding Dodson that stated, “Mr. Dodson has offered valuable service to the bishops of North Dakota for nearly three decades. He has been absolutely instrumental in protecting the interests of the unborn, safeguarding religious liberty, and promoting the Church’s social teachings in the public square. I know him to be a man of upright character and Catholic values.”

Dodson, who was received into the Catholic Church during law school, said he is profoundly grateful to receive this honor for his work with the conference and it “proves God’s love and ever-guiding hand.”



In his capacity as executive director, Dodson primarily works to draft and help guide the enactment of legislation on various issues including the protection of human life, religious freedom, the family and care for the poor.

He expressed gratitude to the bishops of both dioceses. “I feel called to do this work, but without [the bishops’] support, trust and prayers it would be impossible. For that, I am grateful.”

The bishops presented Dodson with the award at the dinner following the legislative Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on Feb. 9. The gold cross depicts the Apostles Sts. Peter and Paul with the inscription Pro Ecclesia (For Church) on the left and Et Pontifice (And Pope) on the right. The medallion’s ribbon is yellow and white, the colors of the papacy. †

The Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice depicts the Apostles Sts. Peter and Paul with the inscription Pro Ecclesia (For Church) on the left and Et Pontifice (And Pope) on the right.



RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election took place at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on Feb. 26. The catechumens were chosen by Christ and the Church, and accepted by Bishop Kagan, to become “the Elect,” and now enter the period of purification and enlightenment, with more intense preparation to receive baptism, confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. They were accompanied by their sponsors who testified on their behalf at the Rite.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Camp ReCreation Needs Volunteers

Camp ReCreation, a summer camp dedicated to serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, needs volunteers. Make a difference by sharing your time, talent or treasure with this life-changing experience held in Richardton, N.D. Counselors, teachers, task force, cooks, nurses, photographers, entertainers, etc. are needed for camp dates June 4-8 and June 11-16. Volunteers walk away with a renewed sense of understanding, compassion and knowing they made a difference. For more information, visit www.camprecreationnd.com or call 701-974-3774.



Living Chaplet of Divine Mercy April 24

The faith formation students at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary in Stanley will present the Living Chaplet of Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 16 at 3 p.m. at the church. The public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served afterwards.



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat April 28-30

Are you hurting from an abortion? Rachel's Vineyard is open to any woman or man who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion in any capacity. All inquiries/registrations are confidential. The next Rachel's Vineyard retreat in Western South Dakota will be April 28-30. For information about local retreats and other post abortion healing opportunities, contact Carol Kling at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com. For more information, contact the national office at 877-467-3463 or www.rachelsvineyard.org.



Women's Retreat in Stanley April 29

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary parish in Stanley is welcoming international speaker, Dr. Pamela Patnode, for a women's retreat on Saturday, April 29. She will share her experience as a wife, mother, Catholic author, educator and Benedictine oblate. Her talks will focus on living our Catholic faith day by day while exploring these topics: St. Benedict and the Search for Balance in Life; Truth and Prayer – A Look at the Psalms; and Leisure? Sabbath Rest? What's That? The day begins at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 and includes lunch. Register online at holynosarystanley.com. Call 701-628-3405 with questions.



Priesthood Anniversary Mass May 8

The public is invited to gather with the diocese and Bishop Kagan on Monday, May 8 for the anniversary Mass of the ordination of the holy priesthood. The Mass will be held at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck beginning at 11 a.m.



Blue Mass May 11

The annual Blue Mass will be held on Thursday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. Held during National Peace Officers Memorial Week, this special Mass with Bishop Kagan is an opportunity to pray for all active, retired and deceased law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel.



Steubenville Conference 2023

Registration for the Steubenville Conference 2023 is open through May 10. This summer, students in grades 8-12 are invited to attend the St. Paul conference for an exciting opportunity to become better equipped and empowered to live life to the full with Jesus Christ. The dates for the trip are July 27-30. Find the registration links on the diocesan website at bismarckdiocese.com/Steubenville. For questions, contact Ben Ottemoeller at bottemoeller@bismarckdiocese.com or 701-204-7208.

THE LORD HAS TRULY BUILT THIS HOUSE

Major renovation at St. Joseph in Twin Buttes

When Fr. Joseph Evinger arrived as pastor at the small church of St. Joseph in Twin Buttes in 2018, it was evident that the mice greatly outnumbered the parishioners.

The rodents were often present at Mass running across the ceiling tiles. The mice had good company each autumn when the army of carpenter ants moved into the main entryway of the church. Aside from the rodents and insects, the church was not functioning well and hadn't been for years.

The sacristy, confessional, furnace room and storage were all the same room. The room was next to the nave of the church so the furnace made it difficult to hear during Mass.

"Since there was no sound system, I quickly found out that turning the heat up a few degrees when I arrived and then turning it down as Mass began made it possible to hear the readings and homily," shared Fr. Evinger. "Since the building was hardly insulated, it would drop seven degrees in about 25 minutes. Once I heard the furnace beginning to start up, I knew it was time to wrap up my homily or lose my voice from having to speak so loudly."

On average, there'd be about 7-13 people at Mass or if the "regulars" were away, as few as three would show up some Sundays. People might have asked, "Why don't they just close the parish?"

"This thought was the furthest from my mind," Fr. Evinger said. "In fact, a big desire to rebuild the church filled my soul. I brought it to prayer again and again and the Lord made it clear we needed to rebuild. It's not welcoming to anyone to have mice running around, ants crawling on the floor or a noisy furnace during Mass. So, I started to look for a general contractor in the summer of 2019."

However, one Sunday, father arrived for Mass and no one showed. He waited a few minutes and two ladies came, so he started. That day, driving back to his home in Killdeer, he felt quite discouraged.



The project included complete renovation inside and out.

"Why should I rebuild this church when only two people come to Mass?" he asked himself.

"So I brought it to Jesus and told Him that if He wants the renovation, He must bring one person back to the Church in the next two months, and it must be a man." Two weeks later, the husband of one of the parishioners started to attend Mass again after being gone for many years. He is a faithful Mass goer now.

"Jesus converting him gave me the strength, encouragement and desire to keep going forward. As Psalm 127 says, 'If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders labor.' This verse rang in my ear during the whole project. The Lord has truly built this house."

History of the parish

The history of St. Joseph's parish of Twin Buttes, located on the south side of Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, dates back to 1928 when the Mandan people, under the pastorship of Fr. Peter Fehrenbach, had a chapel built at Crow's Heart (about 10 miles upstream from Elbowoods on Highway 8) at the confluence of the Little Missouri and Missouri Rivers.



The main body of St. Joseph church was transformed during the renovation that began in 2020.

As Garrison Dam was built and Lake Sakakawea filled up, the church had to be moved to higher ground. It was moved about a mile south of the Elbowoods' bridge along Highway 8. This was 1951 and it stood there in use for about 20 years.

Since the people, during those 20 years, settled in the town of Twin Buttes four miles southwest of the church's location, it was decided that a new church should be built where the people lived. Construction for a new building began in September, 1971.

The recent renovation project kicked off August of 2020 with the removal of the entryway. The concrete for the addition was poured that September. In October, the wood framing began for the addition which would include a steeple. The inside demolition began also in October; this entailed removing ceiling tile, dry wall and cinder blocks. The church was dedicated and the restored altar brought over from the 1951 building was consecrated on March 19, 2022 (the Solemnity of St. Joseph). The gathering area was completed this February and the kitchen cabinets are being installed now.

Family of builders

The renovation turned into quite a family project for Fr. Evinger. An original contractor backed out due to Covid, so he turned to his brother.

A younger brother, Anthony, who owns A+ Construction, took on the job, and, older brother, John, owner of Quality Air and Electric, did the electrical work and installed a new central air system.

"Since I had much more time on my hands because of Covid restrictions, I was able to help Anthony on many occasions," Father added. "Saint Joseph, our intercessor and parish patron, was truly interceding for us. I had not done wood working since back in high school much less taken on a project like this. I thank St. Joseph for helping me build the altar backpiece, niches and altar rail to match the altar. A good portion of the wood from the old oak pews was used to make these items. The main wooden doors from the gathering area to the church are from the pews and the glass is from the old windows we took out."

This recent project stripped the building to its bones, Father explained. "All that remains from the 1971 structure are the concrete slab, steel frames and purlins;

everything else is new. From the original building below Lake Sakakawea, we have the bell dedicated on March 19, 1930. Also, we have the original altar which was restored, the images of the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart, and a small crucifix which now hangs in the sacristy.”

It was important to incorporate items from past churches to honor the legacy of those who built this parish community.

“Parishioner Diana Tomlin, through the years, has made the stained glass windows,” Father explained. “We made sure that the new windows would allow the stained glass to be reinstalled. There is one more window to be made. We received permission from Bishop Kagan to have one installed of Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk, a South Dakota native. To have stained glass windows made by one of our own parishioners is a big deal! Diana has been generous with her talents.”

Parishioner involvement

There has been much support from parishioners, Father noted. “The input that parishioners gave made it possible. Throughout, parishioners lent their equipment to move materials and do the exterior work, particularly Kenny Fredericks and his brother, Jeb, let us use their lifts and tractors. Greg and Michelle Grisham let us use their scaffolding. Since we had Mass in the building during the whole construction, every weekend, chairs needed to be dusted, set up and taken down. The parishioners were very good about helping.”

Reaction to the renovation from the parishioners, Father said, has been “absolutely amazing! The project turned out way better than any of us thought it could. Saint Joseph’s hand was truly in how it’s turned out. After the dedication Mass, one parishioner said to me, ‘Father, I never thought we would have a church that looked like a Catholic Church in Twin Buttes.’”

Funding for the project was from the generosity of the parishioners, the Three Affiliated Tribes working through Councilman Cory Spotted Bear and other visitors to the parish (particularly to Robert Franzen who gave the largest amount).



HISTORY OF THE TABERNACLE

In 1986, when St. Martin’s church south of Dodge closed and the building was taken down, a parishioner saved the tabernacle (installed there in 1908) instead of burying it with the rest of the materials. At some point, he brought it to St. Paul’s church in Halliday. When I arrived in 2018, I found it in the rectory basement. It’s a beautiful tabernacle weighing about 250-300 pounds. It was decided to use the tabernacle from St. Martin’s at the newly-renovated St. Joseph’s in Twin Buttes.

When we were having it gold-plated, it became clear it’s the oldest tabernacle in the diocese. It originates from likely Spain or northern Italy from the 1600-1700s. Since the key had been lost, we had a locksmith crack it open during which he ruined the lock. In installing a new lock, we broke the originality of the tabernacle and greatly diminished any monetary value it would have. I thought it more important that the Blessed Sacrament be kept safe than keeping the integrity or originality of the tabernacle. On the tabernacle it says in Latin, “Ecce panis angelorum” meaning “Behold the bread of angels.” This was inspiration for having so many statues of angels in the church. The people of Twin Buttes love angels.

—Fr. Joseph Evinger



Father Joseph Evinger did much of the wood working himself since Covid restrictions freed up some time.

No more mice

Father noted that about 10 families attend Mass regularly. Also, those who come to the lake attend during the summer. Mass time is 2 p.m. central time every Sunday.

No longer in attendance are the mice who once nearly took over the place.

“After many years of trying to solve the mice problem, with no luck, when I arrived and saw how the rodents were coming in, I proposed to the parish a major renovation with one promise: ‘After the project is finished, the only way a mouse will be able to come in is through the front door like everyone else.’ This promise has been achieved. Of course, this was an opportunity to beautify the place like never before, all for the Lord,” Father said.

He added, “It is humorous though that the statue of a saint added to the church is St. Martin de Porres who had a problem with mice coming into the monastery kitchen. The Lord caused the mice to listen to Martin’s voice when

he simply told them to leave. For us, we had to rebuild the place. Saints Joseph and Martin are most likely laughing about it in heaven now. The church already had three statues: St. Joseph, Our Lady of Grace and, when St. Kateri Tekakwitha was canonized, Judy Fredericks bought one of her. Judy also purchased the one of St. Martin de Porres during the renovation. We chose St. Martin because he is the patron saint of mixed races. His mother was half native and half African. His father was a Spaniard who would be part European and part Asian.”

They are awaiting two seven and a half foot angel statues to arrive from Italy. Wall stenciling, floor inlays and a bit of work outside is planned before the project is declared finished.

“The Lord has been so good to us. St. Joseph has really seen the project through,” said Fr. Evinger.

—Staff report with contribution from Fr. Joseph Evinger, pastor of St. Joseph in Twin Buttes, St. Joseph in Killdeer and St. Paul in Halliday. †

OBITUARY SISTER CAROL AXTMANN, OSB

Sister Carol (Helen) Axtmann, OSB, a long-time member of the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery, died February 26, 2023, at St. Vincent's Care Center, Bismarck. Mass of Christian Burial was held March 2 at Assumption Abbey Church, Richardton, N.D. followed by burial in the Sacred Heart Monastery Cemetery.

Born in Rugby, N.D., April 8, 1937, she was the daughter of Christine and Nick Axtmann. Most of her childhood education was in Orrin, N.D. She graduated high school from Sacred Heart Academy, Minot. In 1955, she joined the Benedictine Sisters and made her perpetual profession on July 14, 1959.

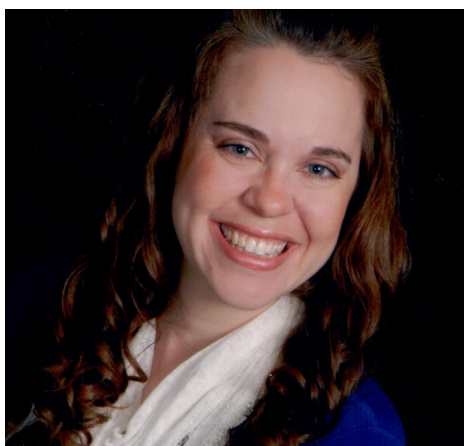
Most of her ministerial life was in education teaching grade school children at Little Flower, Minot; St. Peter and Paul, Fallon; St. Leo's, Minot and Ryan High School, Minot. She also spent 14 years teaching in the mission school in Bogota, Colombia. She had a B.A. in education. In later years, she went back to college and earned a master's degree in theology followed by Certification by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. She switched ministries from education to chaplaincy. She provided pastoral care at St. Vincent's Care Center, Bismarck; Garrison Nursing Home, Garrison; Madonna Towers,

Rochester, Minn. and at Subiaco Manor, Dickinson. From 2019 onward, she considered herself retired.



Sister Carol was an expert at knitting caps and gave hundreds to charities to distribute. She also made hundreds of rosaries. She had an artistic bent and made countless banners etc., for people and organizations. Sister Carol was an active participant in monastic life. She served on several boards and councils related to the works of the sisters. She was also the coordinator of the Sacred Heart Academy alumnae for many years.

Sister Carol is survived by her sisters: Mary Ann Schuster, West Fargo; Cathy O'Connell, Lakewood, Wash.; Alice Henderscheid, Center, N.D.; and brothers: Fr. David, Highmore, S.D. and George, Fargo. Deceased brothers are Fred, Ed, Tony and Paul. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews and her Benedictine Sister family at Sacred Heart Monastery, Dickinson. †



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



BALANCING CHURCH & STATE

Helping Catholic entities do the ministries God has gifted them to do

Christopher Dodson

In North Dakota, entities of the dioceses or affiliated with the Church do great work. One of the tasks of the North Dakota Catholic Conference is to help them do that work.

Catholic Charities of North Dakota has several programs connected to legislation and state government. When a court ordered what is now the Life Skills and Transition Center in Grafton to move residents with intellectual disabilities into community settings, it contracted with Catholic Charities so that it could act as guardians for the former residents. Funding for that program is essentially the state's responsibility. The funding must be reconsidered and appropriated by the legislature every session. The funding is, however, never enough.

More recently, the state asked Catholic Charities to serve as guardians for vulnerable adults. This program also needs an appropriation by the state.

Catholic Charities also has a contract with the state to operate the Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK) program. AASK provides services to children in foster care and to the families who adopt them. It is funded mostly by federal funds passing through the state.

Even when the state provides no funding, laws can affect how these programs operate. This is also true with other adoption services Catholic Charities provides. None of it is funded by the state currently. However, state law specifies many requirements for facilitating an adoption.

Home on the Range is a therapeutic working ranch under the auspices of the Bismarck Diocese. The facility provides education, therapy, spiritual guidance, and recreational and work activities. Some of its residents are within the foster care system. That system is, of course, directed by state laws and regulations. Home on the Range currently focuses on youth who have been or are at risk of being sexually trafficked. That requires special services. The North Dakota Catholic Conference is working with legislators and state administrators to find a way that the ranch can best serve these youth within the state's laws and parameters.

The Catholic Church has 34 Catholic schools in the state. North Dakota ranks near the top when it comes to placing regulations on nonpublic schools. Every nonpublic school must meet all the same requirements to operate that a public school must meet. Nonpublic schoolteachers must have the same licenses that public school teachers must have. Every legislative session these requirements might change. The North Dakota Catholic Conference works with the

State Association of Nonpublic Schools to monitor and respond to these proposed changes.

We also work to convince the state to provide some financial assistance to the parents who choose to send their children to a nonpublic school. All children have a right to state-supported education. Parents, as the primary educators of their children, have a right to choose the best educational setting for their children. The two rights are not mutually exclusive. School choice is a matter of justice.

North Dakota has 38 Catholic healthcare facilities. None of them are diocesan owned. They are owned by Catholic healthcare systems or religious communities. In more recent years, the facilities work with the legislature through their own systems, the North Dakota Hospital Association, or the North Dakota Long-Term Care Association. Sometimes, however, legislation might come up that impacts the ability of Catholic facilities to adhere to the ethical obligations of a Catholic entity. In these cases, the North Dakota Catholic Conference becomes involved. At the same time, the Church's teachings about the right of healthcare for all and the preferential option for the poor necessitate involvement by the conference on broader healthcare legislation.

Some ministries in the state are not officially Catholic but have a close relationship with the Church. Some of the pregnancy resource centers and Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home are examples. The first priority of the North Dakota Catholic Conference when it comes to these facilities is to ensure that they can do the work they do. Some people want to over-regulate or completely shut down these important pro-life ministries. The Catholic Conference watches for such proposals and works to defeat them.

The second priority for the conference concerning these facilities is to advocate for some financial assistance. The Alternatives to Abortion program was passed in 2005 to provide some financial assistance to these facilities when they help pregnant women choose life. This year, we hope to expand that program so state help is also available when they help new mothers, their infants and new fathers.

I sometimes look at my work at the Catholic Conference like this: I am a policy guy. I don't "do people service." I probably would not be good at it anyway. But God has given others that gift. They directly help people. They hold their hands, listen to their stories, protect them, sustain them and treat them. My job at the North Dakota Catholic Conference is to do what I can to make sure that they can do the ministries God has gifted them to do. †

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: Do I Have To Confess How Many Times I Committed A Sin?

Fr. Greg Luger

Catholics might question whether they need to remember how many times a sin was committed and confess that for a confession to be valid.

The answer to this question can be found in Canon 988 §1 of the *Code of Canon Law*: “A member of the Christian faithful is obliged to confess *in kind and number* all grave sins committed after baptism and not yet remitted directly through the keys of the Church nor acknowledged in individual confession, of which the person has knowledge after diligent examination of conscience.

When the Church commands us to confess all our grave sins in “kind” that simply means to confess what the sin is. Here, we need to express clearly to the confessor what the sin was in clear language. We ought not to be vague in our confession, but specific.

For example, if one of the faithful were to commit adultery, it would not be sufficient for him to confess that he committed some unnamed sexual sin, but rather he must confess, quite plainly, that he committed adultery.

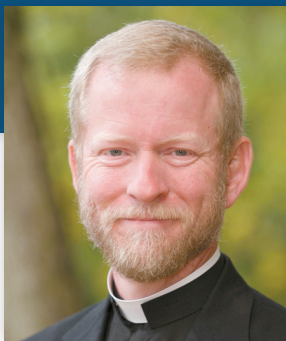
Another important aspect of confessing our sins in kind is also to inform the confessor of any circumstances that affect the nature or gravity of the sin. Let’s say there was a penitent who wanted to confess cussing in front of schoolchildren. If the penitent in question was a 15-year-old boy, that’s one thing, but if the penitent is a priest, that’s quite another.

Finally, regarding the “number” requirement. We are required to confess how many times we committed a mortal sin. Consider the mortal sin of skipping Mass on Sunday. There is a large difference between a penitent who has skipped Sunday Mass only once and a penitent who has not been to Mass in 15 years.

But what if the penitent doesn’t know exactly how many times he has committed a sin? In that case, he must simply do his best. It is sufficient, in this case, for him to say that he committed a sin “three or four times” or “many times” or something to the like, so that the confessor can get a good idea of how many times the sin has been committed (it is also important to note that if we legitimately forget one of our sins, that sin will still be forgiven by going to confession, but if we remember it later, we must include it in our next confession).

But why do we do all this? Why do we precede our confession with a “diligent examination of conscience” before going to confession? The reason is simple: our sins have offended God and wounded both our own souls and the Church. We must do our best to beg God’s mercy for each grave sin that we have committed by confessing them directly. We take ownership of our sins and lay them before the feet of our Most Merciful Savior when going to confession. Let us, therefore, remember the great mercy that Our Lord offers us in this great sacrament, and hasten towards it. †

Fr. Greg Luger is pastor at the Churches of 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 “Question Afraid to Ask” in the subject line.



MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Young Women Giving Themselves Away For Nothing

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

As internet pornography continues to make inroads into the daily lives of millions, greater numbers of young women are making the decision to participate in its production, with some even seeing it as a “path of empowerment” for themselves. They may hear about the “success stories” of porn stars, one of whom declared during a media interview a few years back that her breast implants were the best investment she had ever made, making her a multi-millionaire.

Young women today can indeed be tempted to “play the pornography card,” but as girls become women, parents and society face the important task of conveying to them that when they immodestly display their feminine attributes and participate in pornography, they end up objectifying themselves, trivializing their sexuality, and harming their interpersonal relationships.

In a recent interview, Pamela Anderson Lee, the former *Baywatch* actress, revealed how her *Playboy* photo spreads and pornographic videos impacted her sons and left them in tears after being teased at school about her sex tape with their father and her ex-husband Tommy Lee.

She explained: “I wasn’t thinking when I was in *Playboy* that I was going to have kids soon and they were going to grow up and it was going to be embarrassing for them...”

“I remember one day after school Dylan came to me in tears and he was like, ‘Mom why did you do that tape?’ ...But I always thought I’d tell them, age-appropriate—but I never got the chance—they always found out before I could really talk to them about it.”

Her other son Brandon described it this way: “When I was a kid, I thought everyone knew things about me and my family that they never should’ve known. Everyone had this dirty little secret about my family.”

The powerful misappropriation of a woman’s sexuality through involvement in pornography can wreak havoc on multiple fronts.

Another front where chaos can arise as sexual mores shift is in the very delicate interpersonal area of sexual attraction that is ordered to connecting young women to young men through a stable marital commitment.

Many young women, for example, feel pressured to sleep with and cohabitate with dates and boyfriends to try to win them over and perhaps one day marry them. It should come as little surprise that these kinds of relational mistakes on the part of a young woman often lead a young man to ask the proverbial question: Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free? The unique influence or leverage that a young woman has with a potential future husband is squandered away.

A woman who is not sexually available before marriage is perceived and approached differently by men: they have to put in the effort to woo and win her, and later she is a “catch” and a “treasure” as she becomes a man’s “better half.”

In contemporary hook up culture, meanwhile, young women give themselves away for nothing, and men don’t have to woo anyone or bother with the complexities of interpersonal relationships or real-life intimacy skills.

As men are drawn into the addictive world of pornography, they similarly devalue women by reducing their gifts to a single highly sexualized dimension. This disrupts healthy patterns of attraction and courtship that are meant to lead to male-female friendship, bonding and marriage.

As Fred Rabinowitz, a psychologist and professor at the University of Redlands who studies masculinity has noted, young men today “are watching a lot of social media, they’re watching a lot of porn, and I think they’re getting a lot of their needs met without having to go out. And I think that’s starting to be a habit.”

Parents face a real challenge in trying to convey to their sons and daughters that their sexuality is a gift to be treasured, not squandered. At times, they may need to be very direct in how they share their values with their children.

The remarkable gifts of a woman—her “feminine genius” as Pope John Paul II used to refer to it—including the gift of her sexual nature and her interpersonal acumen, need to be esteemed and safeguarded. Over the course of civilization, these gifts have built up the family, protected children, supported men through the bond of marriage, and more broadly strengthened the life of society itself. We need great courage and resolve today to protect and advance these precious gifts. †

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



AG ATTITUDES

Forgiving and forgetting like God asks is the goal

James Odermann

This winter has been different in lots of ways for me. I contemplated that as I viewed the wonder of moisture (snow) falling softly from the sky, wrapping the trees, fence posts, roads and everything else under the sky in a pristine, white blanket.

It is a pretty sight from the kitchen window as I watched livestock frolic through the fluffy white material—until they come to a snowbank from a previous snowfall event. They were moving too fast to stop and into the snowbank they plunged, almost burying themselves and clawing to get on solid ground. They emerge looking like four-legged, powdered sugar donuts.

I chuckled as I watched the “corral winter olympics.” There was no stopping the friskiness, which to me was a sign of healthy animals.

Next, however, on the scene is the inevitable—the wind, which whipped the fluffy snow out of the trees, off the posts, across roadways and into rock-solid piles. Winter can be relentless, challenging and unforgiving.

I got to thinking about “unforgiving.” I reflected on a conversation my spouse and I had relative to forgiveness. The question posed was as follows: “Can I forgive without forgetting?”

The discussion at the breakfast table was not animated and had emerged from philosophical juxtapositions that sometimes come up from time to time. (No, it was not an argument but might have been had not cooler heads and thinking prevailed.) There was no rush to answer the question because there are no easy answers to the question: “Can I forgive without forgetting?”

Forgiveness is a quality missing in today’s world because shooting out another nasty comment via social media seems to be the norm. This negative approach seems frustrating and negative and is counterproductive to the good news that God proclaimed through Jesus. (Can you imagine the discourse on social media had it been around when Jesus was on earth?)

God has given firm instructions on how to act with decorum—and how to treat exploitation. God sent Jesus as the model and Jesus provided the template and offered sage advice:

I’m reminded of the passage: “If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions” from Matthew 6:14-15.

My deduction from St. Matthew’s words is choice—freedom of choice—given to my sisters and brothers, to me. God does not force anything, rather simply offering multitudes of grace so that I make good choices, seeking to know God’s will and responding in a way that highlights the love and goodness of God.

I am here on this earth because God chooses me, considers my life worth remembering. I have a life because God is in me, loving me infinitely.

So, I rhetorically asked, “When God forgives in the sacrament of reconciliation, does God forget?” God knows everything—always has and always will.

As a human, I am mystified by the infinite capability of God’s forgiveness, which is manifested by the multitude of chances given me. God does not “condemn” me for transgressions, rather providing me forgiveness—and “forgetting” the times I have been contrary to the way of God.

Rather, God is right at my side, offering grace so I forgive and forget, in the same way that God treats me, like the “Our Father” prayer says.

I pray I can forgive like God asks. 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).



Dakota Catholic Action

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

PERIODICAL

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The Diocese of Bismarck is firmly committed to the health and protection of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. With the hope of healing the pain and suffering from sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, we encourage anyone who has suffered from this abuse to please come forward and let us know. To report allegations of sexual abuse, please contact: Dale Eberle, Chancellor, Diocese of Bismarck, PO Box 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502-1575. Phone: 701-223-1347 or 1-877-405-7435. Email the victim assistance coordinator, Joyce McDowall, at victimassistance@bismarckdiocese.com.

CODE OF CONDUCT

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

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