



# Dakota **Catholic Action**

Vol. 83 No. 3 **MARCH 2024**



**AFRICAN MISSION APPEAL** MARCH 2-3

[www.bismarckdiocese.com](http://www.bismarckdiocese.com)



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Vocations Jamboree March 12-14**  
Join the University of Mary for its 8th annual Vocations Jamboree March 12-14. Meet members of religious communities from around the country, ask questions, schedule personal meetings with representatives and learn more about opportunities to serve God and the community. The keynote address will feature Montse Alvarado, president and COO of EWTN News on Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. in the Lumen Vitae Center on campus. For a full schedule and free registration, visit [umary.edu/VocJam](http://umary.edu/VocJam).



**Diocesan Chrism Mass March 25**  
All are welcome to join Bishop Kagan as he celebrates the Chrism Mass on Monday, March 25 at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit during which he consecrates the sacred Chrism and blesses the other oils. The Chrism Mass reminds us of our oneness in Christ through baptism and its holy anointing, made possible by the ministry of the bishop and his priests. Seating for the public will be limited.



**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 Encounter Weekends in the region are March 22-24 in Valley City and April 27-28 in Owatonna, Minn. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at [ndwwme.org](http://ndwwme.org) or contact Rob and Angie at [Applications@ndwwme.org](mailto:Applications@ndwwme.org) or 701-347-1998.



**Presentation on the Eucharist on April 9**  
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 at 7 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. He is currently a professor of theology and philosophy at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis.



**Lay Catholic leadership night April 11**  
All are welcome on Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. to an evening at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit featuring Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop Emeritus of Phoenix, and author of “Into the Breach,” and Cristofer Pereyra, President and CEO of Tepeyac Leadership, Inc. Learn about the mission of Tepeyac Leadership, Inc. and the opportunity to invest in the next generation of lay Catholic leaders for civil society. There will be a reception following Bishop Olmsted’s talk.



**Corazon weekend April 19-21**  
Are you or someone you know struggling in a marriage? The diocesan program for troubled marriages called Corazon (Spanish for heart) is available the weekend of April 19-21. Couples who are in a marriage in crisis are encouraged to attend. All confidences are kept and privacy for anyone inquiring about or attending a Corazon weekend is a priority. For questions, contact Amanda at 204-7205. For couple registration or additional information, visit [bismarckdiocese.com/corazon](http://bismarckdiocese.com/corazon).



**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) 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](http://www.umary.edu/NEC).



**Steubenville St. Paul July 25-28**  
Registration is now open for the annual diocesan trip to the St. Paul Steubenville Conference this summer. The Steubenville Conferences are hosted by Franciscan University and provide youth the opportunity to encounter Christ in a powerful way through testimonies, talks, fellowship, the sacraments and adoration. This year’s Steubenville Conference trip will be to St. Paul, Minn. from July 25-28. For more information or to register, go to [bismarckdiocese.com/steubenville](http://bismarckdiocese.com/steubenville) if you are interested in attending or serving as a chaperone (+18).

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**ON THE COVER:** The annual African Mission Appeal is March 2-3. For more information on the programs, see pages 6-13.



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Dakota Catholic Action



Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941

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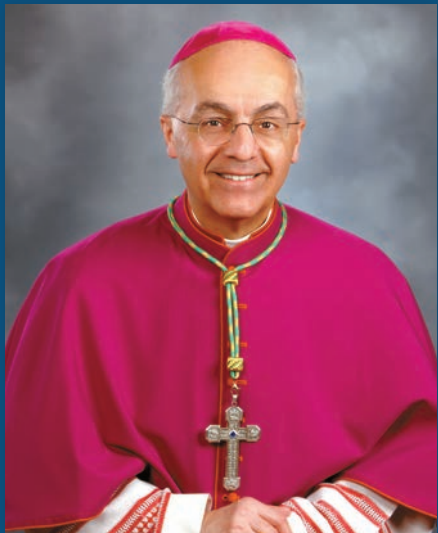
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FROM THE BISHOP

Three distinct liturgical seasons in March

Bishop David D. Kagan

This year, the month of March presents us with three liturgical seasons. These three seasons are all related to each other, but they are distinct. For the majority of the month, we continue to celebrate the great penitential season of Lent; then from Holy Thursday through Holy Saturday, March 28 to March 30, we celebrate the Paschal Triduum. Then, on March 31, we celebrate Easter Sunday and, with this solemnity, we begin the joyous Easter Season which ends with the solemnity of Pentecost.

So, this March is a very busy and important month for all of us spiritually. What we had begun on Ash Wednesday, we should be faithfully doing each day. When we received those blessed ashes on our foreheads and heard the call of the Church to repent and be faithful because our lives are not our own but come from and belong to God, what did we do?

What has been our response to rid ourselves of sin and its effects on our lives? Have we committed ourselves to daily prayer? Have we decided to participate at Mass each day of Lent? Have we chosen to be charitable to others and perform good works of corporal and spiritual mercy? Have we taken on

a real penance in Lent and deprived ourselves of something we want or need?

Those blessed ashes we received mark us as Catholics who are serious about obeying the Lord’s call to repent and believe. This is how we begin and live the season of Lent which is a time of tremendous grace for us. Lent leads us to Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum, the holiest days of our year and they should be the holiest days of our lives. To be faithful to Jesus during Lent prepares us to be faithful to Him beyond Lent and beyond the Easter season.

Lent is meant to help us understand better that to follow Jesus we must walk the Way of the Cross and do so with resolve and courage. Lent helps us understand better why Jesus reveals to us that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and that if we want to go to heaven following Him is the only way.

May this month be a time of great grace and consolation for us. The last day of this month is the day of Easter. It is the day of the Lord’s Resurrection which is the day of our salvation. Have a most blessed and happy Easter and Easter season! †

BISHOP IN ACTION



Bishop Kagan blessed the ashes at Ash Wednesday Mass on Feb. 14 at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck.



Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for March

FOR NEW MARTYRS

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

BISHOP’S SCHEDULE

MARCH 2024

Mar. 3	Confirmation at the Church of St. Mary, Foxholm, 10:30 a.m.
Mar. 4	Women’s Care Center Board Meeting, Chancery, Bismarck, 5 p.m.
Mar. 8	Cabinet Meeting, Chancery, Bismarck, 10 a.m.
Mar. 10	Confirmation at the Church of St. Nicholas, Garrison, 11 a.m.
Mar. 15	Home On The Range Board Meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck, 12 p.m.
Mar. 17	Confirmation at the Church of Sacred Heart, Glen Ullin, 10:30 a.m.
Mar. 19	Mass for Dedication and Altar Consecration, Church of Saint Anne, Bismarck, 5:15 p.m.
Mar 21	Expansion Fund Meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck, 11 a.m.
Mar. 23	Confirmation at the Church of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Stanley, 10:30 a.m.
Mar. 23	Palm Sunday Vigil Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 5 p.m.
Mar. 25	Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 11 a.m.
Mar. 28	Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 6 p.m.
Mar. 29	Good Friday Service, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 3 p.m.
Mar. 30	Easter Vigil Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, 8 p.m.





## Come and see the African Mission in action as a short-term missionary

The Bismarck Diocese established a mission to serve the children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic in Africa by sending four missionaries there in 1990. Since then, several clergy and laypeople have followed their vocation 8,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to continue the efforts established there nearly 35 years ago.

Bishop Kagan recently announced a new opportunity called the short-term missionary program. The Bismarck Mission will welcome people who have a desire to “come and see” the mission and share in its life on a short-term basis (three weeks up to six months). An opportunity to experience a different culture in a country which became independent from the United Kingdom rule in 1963. Our mission is located near Kissi, in Kenya, East Africa, near the equator, in beautiful highlands surrounded by fields of tea.

### *Missionary opportunity*

Over the years, you may have read articles in the *Dakota Catholic Action* and watched the videos at your church when it was time for the annual African Mission Appeal. Those avenues for learning about and supporting the mission are good and fruitful, but now the possibility exists for volunteers to travel to Kenya and experience the mission on a short-term basis.

It's a rare opportunity to be the hands, feet and voice of Christ in Kenya by serving our brothers and sisters through the various programs



*Missionary Kathy Pepple*



*Missionary Wes Pepple*



administered by the mission. It is also an opportunity to allow oneself to be shaped and formed by people of deep faith who live in poverty. The heart of the mission is the education program that serves over 450 orphaned and vulnerable children.

God's plans are always better than ours and at times we don't clearly understand how His handiwork is interwoven in our lives. He provides challenges in our lives and our job is to identify them and meet and accept those challenges, recognizing God's handiwork. A short-term visit may help you to discern the call to serve in a longer three-year term at the mission. Not many people can make such a long-term commitment for various reasons but for those who can and would like to volunteer for a shorter period, the short-term missionary program provides you that opportunity.

There are many ways that one can support the mission—prayers and financial means to name a few—but it is a privilege and heartwarming to witness first-hand the effects, the fruits born, and



*Administrator Fr. David Morman*





*Missionary Kathy Pepple*

the hope given because of the generosity of the people in the Bismarck Diocese. You get to see the smiles on the faces of the children and hear their expressions of gratitude when they are given their monthly ration of maize (corn), their small stipend or have their school and uniform fees paid. You will be able to hear delighted children when they have achieved higher school grades earning them a kuku (chicken), a mattress, cooking oil or other gifts for their Christmas or Easter present. You will experience expressions of gratitude when a family has received supplies to build a simple house or was

the recipient of a bred heifer which will eventually provide milk for a family to drink. You will receive warm hugs and firm handshakes when a mama receives a bucket and water filter which will provide safe drinking water for her children or when the mission has paid a child's medical care or for a pair of glasses that otherwise could not be afforded. You will see and witness, first-hand, the profound joy despite poverty that permeates daily life and witness the pain that poverty brings which can be very hard. All these experiences, whether painful or joyful, will help to expand your hearts and minds and deepen your relationship with God.

We invite you to "come and see."

*Support the mission*

For more information on the diocesan African Mission, view this year's appeal video or donate, go to our website at [bismarckdiocese.com/african-mission](http://bismarckdiocese.com/african-mission). †

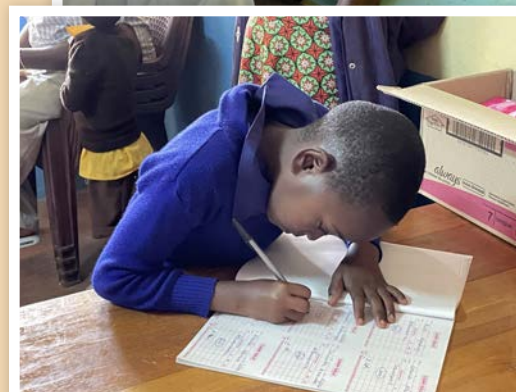
*Written and shared by Kathy and Wes Pepple, our missionaries serving in Kenya, and Chuck Reichert, diocesan Director of the African Mission.*



## Promotes the well-being of mind, body and soul

*mind*

The heart of the Mission is the education program that serves over 450 orphaned and vulnerable children. Education lifts people out of poverty. We pay school tuition and uniform fees. We challenge each child to work to the fullness of his or her potential and award academic progress. A modest monthly allowance and an allotment of corn maize for them and their families is also given. †





# body

We promote good health at wellness seminars. Those we serve get information on health, nutrition and hygiene, and good relationships. Nurses and doctors examine each child to diagnose conditions like malaria, cholera, ringworm, amoeba, respiratory ailments, tonsilitis, eye problems, brucellosis and anemia among other diseases. Once diagnosed, the child is treated. †



# soul

For spiritual well-being, we encourage our children to be active in their churches and religious education. We send children to youth conferences and festivals. At every gathering, we talk about the values of Jesus. Priest administrator of the African Mission, Father David Morman, celebrates Sunday and daily Mass and assists with confessions. †







## WATER WITH BLESSINGS

Our most successful program is Water with Blessings established in 2019 for mothers and women who care for sick and elderly family members. Water borne illnesses are common among the people. A simple bucket and filter purifies water of 99.99% of biological contaminants. To date, we have trained 1,100 women. A properly maintained filter will last up to ten years. These women express their gratitude in song and dance to the people of the Bismarck Diocese for their generosity. †



## SHAMBA

As announced last year, we purchased a shamba, a plot of land to consolidate our programs and services. We raise cows, chickens and goats in our new barn that are then given to the orphans or others to care for and feed their families. A new house was built for missionaries and will allow us to host family, friends and visitors. †



For more information on the diocesan African Mission, view this year's appeal video or donate, go to [bismarckdiocese.com/african-mission](http://bismarckdiocese.com/african-mission).



## Families take part in children's adoration at Williston parish

Sonia Mullally  
DCA Editor

In St. Luke's Gospel, Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

That's just what the youngsters are invited to do during children's adoration at St. Joseph's in Williston. A children's holy hour began at the parish in the spring of 2023 and is offered one Thursday and one Saturday per month. Organizers say there are typically about three to seven families who attend, bringing about 6-15 children, aged newborn to about 10-years-old.

"The greatest value of children's adoration is providing an opportunity for the kids to simply be in the presence of Jesus. Setting aside a time specifically for the children allows them to approach Jesus in the Eucharist and develop a real, intimate friendship with Him in a manner attuned to their beautiful, childlike hearts. Jesus isn't just an idea to them, but a real person with Whom they can speak. It also provides an opportunity to teach the kids how to pray," said Fr. Greg Hilzendeger

During Fr. Greg's time as associate pastor at St. Joseph, he was approached by a parishioner with the idea for children's adoration and was open to

it immediately. Father Greg is now the pastor at parishes in Hettinger, Reeder and Scranton, but has fond memories of helping the children develop a closer relationship with Jesus in the Real Presence.

"It was beautiful to see the response of the children," Fr. Greg said. "We often underestimate what children are capable of in the spiritual life, but, given some guidance and instruction, they can have a profoundly loving relationship with Jesus. It comes quite naturally to them."

"There is a reason that Jesus told us that we need to become like little children to receive the kingdom of God. It was so moving to hear their little voices as they sincerely spoke to Jesus in the Eucharist. The kids truly seemed to love our time in prayer. After the first time, I never had to invite them to come up to the altar to pray. When they knew it was time, or even before, they would come up and gather on their own. They were always so excited to help me set up and loved simply being close to Jesus."

Parishioner Katie Monson, who brought the idea to Fr. Greg last spring, credits father's ministry for fostering the love of Christ within the parish.

*"I like singing 'Father, I adore you' during adoration and reading books to the younger kids." – Felicity, age 7*



Submitted photos: Children gather at the altar for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

*"The greatest value of children's adoration is providing an opportunity for the kids to simply be in the presence of Jesus."*

*– Fr. Greg Hilzendeger*

"It can be difficult for parents of young children to find quiet time for prayer, and even more difficult to find childcare and get to the church during the hours of adoration. Children's adoration at St. Joseph's not only introduces children to the abiding Eucharistic presence of our Blessed Lord, but it also provides caregivers an opportunity to come and adore," she said.

Katie explained the basic layout for each week, "Every hour begins in the back of the church with a brief catechesis of what Eucharistic adoration is, what will take place and a review of some of the instruments (monstrance, thurible, incense) and vestments (cope, humeral veil) used. Then, the priest walks to the front of the church amidst an excited flock of children. They kneel, and we sing "O

Salutaris Hostia." Each priest has his own style of guiding the children in prayer for about 15 minutes. They use memorized prayer, litanies, silence, prayers of gratitude and petition and so on."

Father Paul Eberle, pastor at St. Joseph's, sees the benefits of the holy hour for the children and the parents.

"The parents love having the opportunity to bring their young children to Eucharistic adoration," Fr. Paul said. "They feel blessed to pray with their children and introduce them to adoration. When the children are in O'Neill Hall engaged with their projects, the parents can spend quiet time in adoration, which they appreciate."



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“Thank you, God, for the best adoration I’ve ever been to.”  
– Beckham, age 5

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Children participate in a learning activity in the adjacent church hall while parents are afforded the opportunity to adore the Lord in the main body of the church.

Some parents might be hesitant to bring their children to adoration. It’s sometimes easier to keep them occupied during Mass, however, there’s little disguise for active children during the quiet time of adoration. But organizers want to stress that all are welcome to attend.

“I have been to a couple of these with my 8-month-old and 3-year-old — we are far from perfectly behaved and it has been such a blessing for me to be able to bring myself and my babies before the Blessed Sacrament. Truly a blessing to have a time to come adore when you don’t need to worry about bothering others if your baby starts crying!” said, Michaela, mother, and St. Joseph parishioner.

Father Paul is encouraged by the heartfelt participation by the children.

“The children love coming to adoration. They engage by including their own petitions when asked what they would like to pray for,” Father Paul noted. “They pray for their sick and deceased family members, for their parents and brothers and sisters, for their gardens and pets, and anything else they can think of! They sing along with our adoration song and gaze intently at the Eucharistic Host, allowing God’s love to shine upon them. They are so innocent, and it is inspiring to watch and listen to them pray.”

It’s the chance for participation and making them feel involved that some children thrive on. “The children are excited to help set up and put away kneeling cushions. When they help Fr. Eberle put on the cope and humeral veil, you can see what a privilege it is for them to be given such a task.”

Father Paul added, “Children’s adoration introduces the children to the sacredness of the Eucharist and helps them to learn to pray to God from their heart at a young age. It teaches our children to trust that God is present, loves them and cares for them. The activities that Katie guides in O’Neill Hall after our time of adoration are instructive about our faith and the kids are so engaged. I am convinced that their time in adoration and the faith projects will leave lasting memories and deepen their faith life as they grow.”

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“I like when we spend time with Jesus at the start and end of adoration. I like to play with my friends and read books while Mommy prays.” – Judah, age 4

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One of the craft projects completed by the children.

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“Everything is my favorite at Children’s Adoration!” – Joseph, age 3

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One mother, Haley, who attends with her children said she’s grateful for the opportunity.

“Children’s Adoration at St. Joseph’s has illuminated a great desire for my young children to spend more time with Jesus. They ask frequently when the next children’s adoration will be! I am grateful for the time and effort put into this ministry to bring it to fruition. Jesus says, ‘Let the little children come to me.’ This ministry provides children of varying

ages a hands-on, engaging experience with the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Before the monstrance they learn practical ways to pray and give thanksgiving to God, and practice what reverence looks like before our Lord and Savior. Saints are in the making with this unique experience. I look forward to the ways the Lord increases my faith and that of my children’s through our time of attendance at Children’s adoration.” †

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“It is a peaceful and beautiful time!” – Stephanie, mother

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# New movie tells Michelle Duppong’s story

Patti Armstrong  
DCA Writer

The world premiere of *Radiating Joy: The Michelle Duppong Story* was shown simultaneously in two North Dakota locations on January 25, the day that would have been Servant of God Michelle Christine Duppong’s 40th birthday.

At the University of Mary, a dinner at the Crow’s Nest cafeteria was hosted prior to the movie. Three rooms were set up to accommodate the over 1,000 people who came, including Michelle’s parents Ken and Mary Ann and sister Renae. Michelle was a FOCUS missionary team leader at UMary’s inaugural year for FOCUS on their campus 2010-2011, the last of her six years at four colleges as a FOCUS missionary.

The movie was also shown at the North Dakota State University’s St. Paul Newman Center in Fargo. Michelle graduated in horticulture at NDSU and was very involved at the Newman Center just as all her five siblings were.

The National Denver office of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students, a Catholic outreach program for college students) hired Anderson Art Productions to document Michelle’s life through interviews with loved ones. She also appears in the movie herself in several videos including one she made to promote the first Thirst Eucharistic conference in Bismarck, an event that she began while serving as the director of adult faith formation for the Bismarck Diocese beginning in 2012.

Michelle had noted that the first Thirst conference in 2013 was an opportunity to get closer to Jesus. “As He was dying on the cross, he said, ‘I thirst,’ and that thirst is He thirsts for each of our souls; He wants us to be with Him forever in heaven.”

Memories and images gleaned from 30 hours of interviews recreated Michelle’s life from her vivacious girlhood on the windswept prairie of their Haymarsh farm (40 miles from Bismarck) to the cancer diagnosis on December 29, 2014, and passing away at age 31 on December 25, 2015. An earlier 50-minute movie about Michelle had been made as a training video for FOCUS volunteers, but this 75-minute movie is 90% new material.

## Memories of Michelle

Monsignor James Shea, University of Mary President, explained prior to the showing, “We are constantly trying to inspire our students to embrace a life of deep faith and joy and Michelle brings that home for them. Her example helps us to begin to embrace difficulties in our own lives. Our stories are very different from hers, but all of us in our own way are called to embrace our crosses and share the faith. This film is a how-to manual to inspire sanctity. Michelle made holiness real.”

Fellow Focus Missionaries and students Michelle had encountered shared their memories. Here are a few:

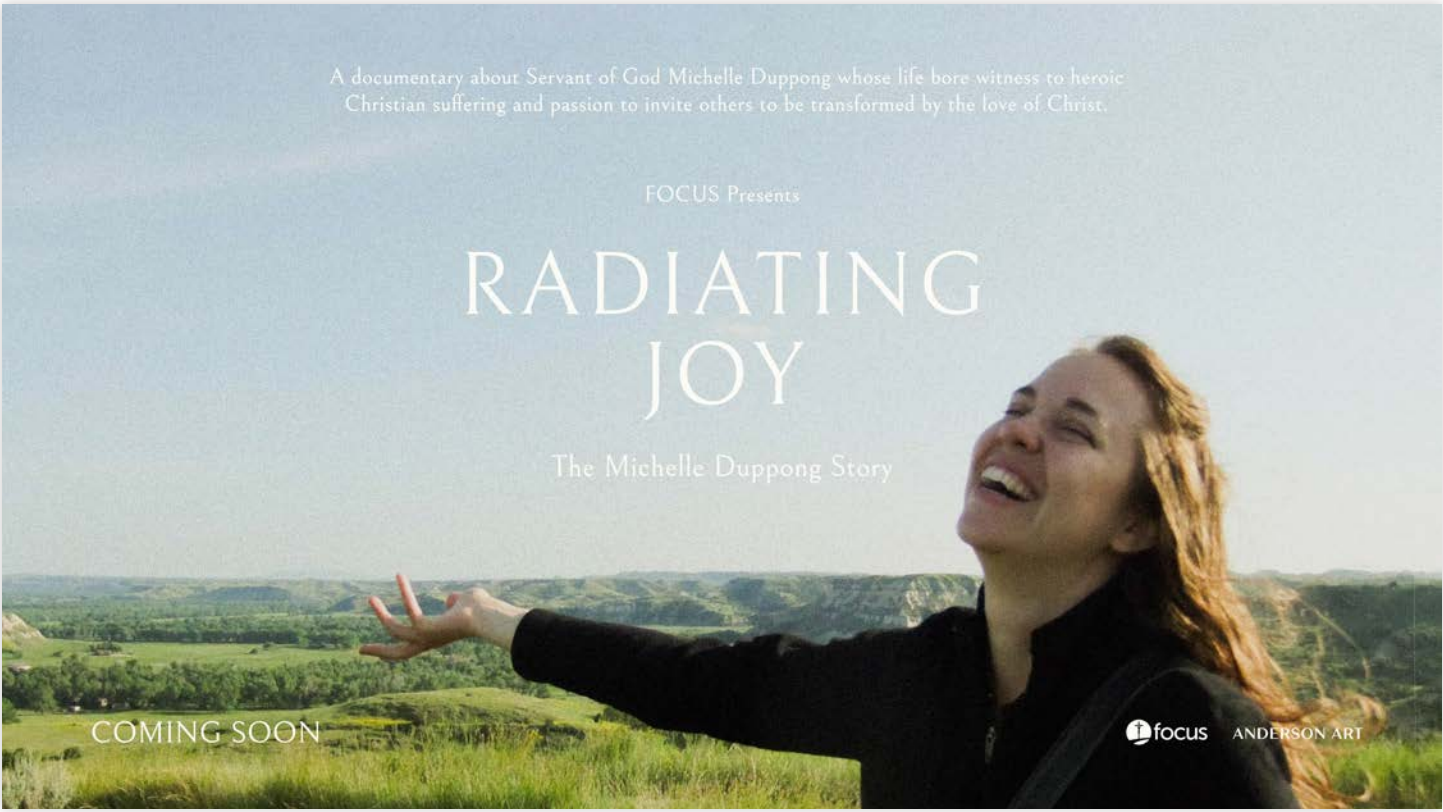


Photo courtesy of FOCUS: “Radiating Joy: The Michelle Duppong Story” is the new movie recently released.

*“Don’t worry about what lies ahead. Realize there’s hope, and in the end, love wins; God wins; it’s His plan.”*  
– Michelle Duppong

“She had a deep joy that was contagious.”

“She was not all pious walking around with a halo over her head. Michelle was a goofball. She was also natural at invitation.”

“She saw something in me and that’s why I’m here, that’s why I’m a priest.”

“I was afraid of religious life [becoming a nun]. Michelle recognized my call to religious life.”

“She had such a strong and lasting impact on my conversion.”

## Michelle’s last year

It was in the fall of 2014 when Michelle learned she had ovarian cysts. On December 29, surgery to remove them revealed stage 4 cancer. Her sister, Renae, who had a degree in nursing, accompanied Michelle through the next 12 months full of surgeries and hospital stays, until she went home for hospice and died on Christmas day in 2015.

Mary Ann explained that Michelle had much to endure that last year. “The pain she had from the tubes,” she said, “doctors admitted she would feel it with every breath.”





Photo by Mike McCleary, University of Mary: The film showing for a large crowd at the University of Mary on Jan. 25.

“It was torture for us just thinking about it,” Ken recalled. “For her, she just accepted it. There was a better purpose for this.”

Renae revealed, “In the last three months of Michelle’s life, I could see this radical abandonment. Whenever people came to see her, she did not want to focus too much on herself but to the other person in front of her.... She became a well-known figure at the hospital.”

Medical director of the cancer care center in Chicago where Michelle was last cared for, Dr. Leo Taiberg, shared, “We prayed all the time. They knew I was not religious or the same faith. She would put out her hands and say, ‘Let’s pray.’ Someone like Michelle is the example of a soul who always sees the good in everyone.”

### *Cause for canonization*

Toward the end of the movie are scenes from the All Saints Day Mass on Nov. 1, 2022 at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck, where Bishop Kagan officially opened Michelle’s cause for canonization. Once the lengthy diocesan investigation is complete, it will be forwarded to the cause for beatification

and canonization to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican in Rome. If approved, it will proceed from there for possible beatification and canonization.

Bishop Kagan explained that even after Michelle died, she remained alive in the hearts of many as her reputation continued to spread. Cards and letters began arriving at the Bismarck Diocese with personal testimony. He shared one of the dramatic stories.

“One person was pretty clear of describing her own cancer diagnosis. She prayed every day to Michelle and asked her intercession for a cure or at least to have the courage to bear the illness.”

The woman had an MRI done but the results baffled the doctor who asked if she was willing to do it again. “The doctor said: ‘I can’t explain this. I compared your last MRI with cancer that was continuing to progress. I can’t find any evidence of cancer now. I’d like you to come back in three weeks.’ She did come back and was still cancer free. ‘Your cancer was not responding to our treatments,’ the doctor said. ‘Now I can’t find any cancer anywhere. This is a miracle.’”



Photo by Mike McCleary, University of Mary: Bishop Kagan greeted Michelle’s parents, Ken and Mary Ann, at the showing.



Photo by Mike McCleary, University of Mary: After the showing, Michelle’s parents, Ken and Mary Ann, and sister, Renae, were guests at the “UMary Late Night Show” hosted by Fr. Dominic Bouck, director of university ministry and chaplain.

*“Michelle would not have wanted all the attention but what she always wanted to do is really happening—holding up her life to draw people to Christ.”*

*– Bishop Kagan*

“Michelle would not have wanted all the attention,” Bishop Kagan noted, “but what she always wanted to do is really happening—holding up her life to draw people to Christ.”

### *Family reaction*

Her parents, Ken and Mary Ann, expressed their thoughts following the movie. “The movie brought tears to my eyes,” Ken said. “We didn’t realize a lot of things she was doing at the time. Seeing that is getting to know her even more through others. Her goal was to bring people to Jesus and introduce them to Him and He would do the rest. It’s amazing to see that happening.”

“We’re so grateful at all the people who came out tonight,” Mary Ann said, “and what the University of Mary and people involved in the cause are doing for her to get the message out. It is a message of hope, and this is what Michelle wanted. Her whole thought

was, ‘Don’t worry about what lies ahead. Realize there’s hope, and in the end, love wins; God wins; it’s His plan.’

The movie was shown in a few select theaters during February in Denver, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C. FOCUS is looking at opportunities for a full theatrical release as well as streaming options. Once plans are determined, it will be announced.

### *The guild*

Earlier in the process, a group was established associated with Michelle’s cause known as the Servant of God Michelle Duppong Guild. It consists of individuals tasked with promoting an awareness of Michelle’s life. They have recently launched a website at [michelleduppongcause.org](http://michelleduppongcause.org). There is also a new email available to report a favor associated with Michelle at [duppongguild@bismarckdiocese.com](mailto:duppongguild@bismarckdiocese.com). †





*A fun day at Minot Bishop Ryan Elementary School.*



*Bishop Kagan and clergy at Mass at Minot Bishop Ryan School.*

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Students at our Catholic Schools enjoyed a week of fun and festivities to enhance and strengthen their faith including Mass, dress up days, games, contests, guest speakers and more. A highlight of the week is the annual Know Your Faith contest featuring high school teams from Dickinson Trinity, Minot Bishop Ryan, Fargo Shanley, East Grand Forks Sacred Heart, Bismarck St. Mary's Central and a new competitor this year, the School of the Holy Family in Mandan. †



*Dickinson Trinity hosted the Bismarck St. Mary's basketball teams.*



*The Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus took part in games at Dickinson Trinity Schools.*



*Students from the School of the Holy Family in Mandan at the Know Your Faith contest.*



*Bishop Kagan and clergy at Mass at Our Lady of Victory Chapel at St. Mary's Central High School.*



*The team of seniors, (l-r): Addison Arndorfer, Abigail Eberle and Adam Eberle, from St. Mary's Central High School won this year's Know Your Faith contest.*



*Bishop Kagan entered the Know Your Faith contest at St. Mary's Central High School.*



*Bishop Kagan celebrated Mass at the St. Mary's Academy in Bismarck.*



*Bishop Kagan celebrated Mass at Queen of Peace in Dickinson.*



# Retired dentist helps poor through ‘adventure dentistry’

Patti Armstrong  
DCA Writer

On most mornings when there’s not inclement weather, retired Bismarck dentist, Dr. Terry Deeter, rides his electric bike to morning Mass at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, combining God with a bit of recreation and adventure.

Such is also the style of his retirement begun in 2021 after four decades of practicing dentistry at Deeter Dental. He has dubbed it “adventure dentistry” and found ways to put God at the center of it.

Already a travel buff, retirement broke open Deeter’s horizons for both his dentistry and travel. He had considered using the added free time to volunteer, but quickly realized that he could use his dental skills to do so.

“I decided to call it ‘adventure dentistry’ because I like adventure,” he said. “I started last year in Alaska as a fill-in dentist at a typical practice in some of the fishing towns. Alaska is where I heard about the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica.”

He did some research on the missionaries and began planning his itinerary.

## Missionaries of the Poor

The Missionaries of the Poor was founded in 1981 in Kingston, Jamaica and has expanded to missions around the world serving the Lord among the poorest of the poor in Jamaica, Africa, Haiti, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, East Timor and the United States.



Submitted photos: Dr. Terry Deeter, a retired Bismarck dentist, serves with others alongside the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica.

According to their website, Father Richard Ho Lung was associate pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Papine, Jamaica. He was troubled by the poverty, lack of family life and a sense of community there.

Father Ho Lung grew up poor in Jamaica with two sisters and a brother born to Chinese immigrant parents. He was educated by the Franciscan sisters in Kingston (the capital city of Jamaica) and then by the Jesuits at St George’s College. “He felt the call to respond more radically to the Gospel challenge,” the website explains. “Surrounded by desperate poverty



in Kingston where the poor suffered greatly, he had a strong sense that God was calling him to respond to their cry and to be with them in their suffering.”

Father Ho Lung made the difficult decision to leave the Society of Jesus and founded Brothers of the Poor, dedicated to the “service of the destitute to fulfill Christ’s desire to be present in this world, using us within His Mystical Body.” Since its founding, the Missionaries of the Poor have received both papal and episcopal approval for their work and constitutions. Today, there are over 550 brothers. “The poor possess a joy that is pure and highly contagious, for it doesn’t come from material comfort and prosperity but from the very gift of being alive each day,” Father Richard Ho Lung was quoted as saying.

Inspired, Deeter planned with them to offer dental services and headed out last December with 150 pounds of medical supplies in his luggage.

“The Missionaries of the Poor are taking care of people who have physical ailments where they are

totally unable to take care of themselves,” Deeter explained. “If an infant is born with defects, the child will be dropped off at their front gate.”

Deeter quickly set about assessing their existing dental clinic in serious need of an upgrade.

“Things sat there unused, so their warm, humid weather has broken down some of the supplies,” he said. “They did their best, but hopefully we can upgrade the clinic and provide care beyond just extracting teeth,” he said.

Around 80 patients were cared for in a week, with a lot of teeth needing to be taken out. Many people from the community in Kingston came for care. Surprisingly, no one needed an antibiotic. “I took out around 100 teeth and there were no infections,” he said. “I did not see one swollen face. People are pretty tough and easy to work on.”

Deeter explained that the mission has four separate homes and three monasteries of sisters and brothers.





*“The poor possess a joy that is pure and highly contagious, for it doesn’t come from material comfort and prosperity but from the very gift of being alive each day.”*

*– Father Richard Ho Lung*

“They take amazing care of their residents,” he said. “They are committed to these people for the rest of their life from infants to, I think, all the way up to someone who is 95.”

Local dental clinics, Prairie Rose Family Dentistry in Bismarck and several in Minneapolis have donated equipment such as chairs that will go to Jamaica in March in a shipping container. High-tech equipment and medical supplies usually have to be bought new. There are around 70 brothers at the Jamaican mission that he hopes to provide comprehensive care, too.

## Returning in May

“They are a pretty amazing bunch committed to a life-long vocation,” Deeter said. “I plan to go back in May and take care of them.”

Deeter is also planning another adventure joining his son-in-law, Jonathan Thompson, for three weeks in April to northern India in the Himalayas.

“He was a medic in Special Forces and did three tours in Iraq,” Deeter explained. “He comes back and graduates medical school from Michigan State University on May 5, then goes off to residency.

Jonathan found this and said, ‘Let’s go to India and make this mission.’ We will be providing medical and dental care with about 20 providers through the Himalayan Health Exchange.”

Although he is not sure what his next adventure will be after Jamaica and India, Deeter said he plans to continue adventure dentistry for many years.

“When you are on adventure, you climb one peak or hill and then you see the next one,” he said. “You don’t know what that next one will be until you climb the one and finish it.

“I was fortunate to be educated in dental care delivery which is a service that is easily transported and universally needed. Adventure dentistry is a win, win. I get to visit amazing places and interesting people in a setting that is unavailable to most tourists and to provide dental care. Jesus asks for mercy more than sacrifice. I’m blessed to be able to provide mercy through dental care.”

To donate for the dental clinic, go to MissionariesofthePoor.org and click “Our Missions” to get to “Jamaica – Kingston” and click “Donate.” There’s a space for you to specify it is for the dental clinic. There is no “middleman,” according to Deeter. It will be 100% donation. †



David Tamisiea

The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) marked the first time that an ecumenical council considered the Christian lay vocation as such. According to the Council in its dogmatic constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, the Christian lay faithful by virtue of baptism are united to Christ and thereby share in His redemptive mission, but what distinguishes them from the rest of the faithful in carrying out this mission is their “secular character” (LG 31).

But what does the Council mean by the laity’s secular character? The Council sums it up this way: “They live in the world, that is to say, they are engaged in each and all of the secular professions and occupations, and in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which, as it were, their very existence is woven” (LG 31). The laity’s secular character is to be distinguished from ideological secularism which denies any transcendent reality beyond this world and excludes in principle all religious affirmations of God and the afterlife. Rather, the laity’s secular character designates their life as Christians living and active in temporal affairs, that is, in the realm of politics, business, healthcare, law, education, culture, marriage and family life and all other things that pertain to life in this world.

The Council further teaches that the Christian lay faithful’s particular vocation is to order the temporal affairs of the world according to God’s will and to sanctify the world from within (LG 31). In other words, the laity are called by God to engage in secular affairs and direct them according to Christian principles and values. This vocation differs from that of the clergy, who are entrusted chiefly with the sacred ministry of the sacraments, preaching and pastoral care, and from that of consecrated religious, who publicly profess the evangelical counsels of poverty, chaste continence and obedience in a stable form of life totally dedicated to God.

Saint John Paul II likewise emphasizes the indispensable role Christian lay faithful have in bringing Gospel values into the world in his apostolic exhortation on the lay vocation, *Christifideles Laici*. According to John Paul, although Christ’s exhortation to His disciples to be salt, light and leaven in the world (Mt 5:13-16; 13:33) applies indiscriminately to all

## BALANCING CHURCH & STATE

### The Christian lay vocation and Catholic social teaching

Christians, this entreaty is specifically applicable to the laity due to their extensive involvement in earthly affairs. Like salt, light and leaven, the Christian lay faithful can and should profoundly influence the world from within in a manner that corresponds with the demands of the Gospel (CL 15).

How are lay people to do this? Much of the answer to this question lies in Catholic social teaching. Catholic social teaching refers to a body of doctrine rooted in divine revelation that offers guidance for building a just, peaceful and charitable society. Beginning with Pope Leo XIII’s 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, Catholic social teaching has been developed over the past century and a half in papal, conciliar and episcopal documents. Catholic social teaching includes guiding principles for social life like the dignity of the human person, the sacredness of human life, the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity, the preferential option for the poor, the dignity of human work and the like.

While Catholic social teaching is addressed to the entire Church and all people of good will, it is in a particular way addressed to the Christian lay faithful on account of their secular character and vocation. This is because the responsibility for building, organizing and administering secular society belongs primarily to the laity, not to priests or religious (CCC 2442).

What does all this imply? For one, it means that lay Catholics have a duty to familiarize themselves with the Church’s social teaching and then put it into practice. As St. John Paul II observes, the lay faithful need sound doctrinal formation in Catholic social teaching: “This [need for doctrinal formation] is especially true for the lay faithful who have responsibilities in various fields of society and public life. Above all, it is indispensable that they have a more exact knowledge—and this demands a more widespread and precise presentation—of the Church’s social doctrine” (CL 60).

The more Catholic lay people learn about the rich heritage of wisdom found in Catholic social teaching, the better equipped they will be to build and organize a peaceful, just and charitable society concordant with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. †

*Tamisiea serves as co-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: Am I worshiping a false god by praying to Mary?

Fr. John Paul Gardner

My non-Catholic relative says I shouldn't pray the rosary because I am worshipping a false god by praying to Mary. I know they are wrong, but how can I better explain our Catholic Marian devotion?

The Catholic Church knows very well Who she worships and who she does not. She worships One God, the Most Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And she knows that the greatest expression of this worship is done by faithful participation in the Holy Eucharist. The first point to bring up to your relative is that Catholics know what correct worship is and are ready to help others come to understand right worship at Mass, following the instruction of Jesus Christ to "Do this in memory of Me." Catholics do not worship any other god. Not in the Mass or in any of her prayers, including the holy rosary.

Next, a theological distinction can be helpful—the difference between latria and dulia. Latria is the praise that is due to God alone. This form of praise, finds its fullest expression in this world during Mass. In comparison, dulia is the praise God desires us to give to the saints. How amazing is it for us to think that God, Who alone deserves all our praise and Whom we can never sufficiently praise, still desires us to honor Him by praising the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints! Praise of the saints (dulia) does not diminish our praise due to God alone (latria). The praise of the saints can be seen throughout the Old Testament in the honor shown to Abraham and Moses and many others. It is encouraged powerfully in St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews, "Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."

A further simple, yet powerful, theological distinction needs to be made regarding dulia. Although God desires us to honor all the saints, He also wants us to have a special praise due to His Mother and ours, the Blessed Virgin Mary. This exceptional praise given to Mary alone is called hyperdulia. We know God desires this exceptional praise of Mary because He Himself praises her when He sends the Archangel St. Gabriel to greet her using the words, "Hail, full of grace!" Then, shortly after her cousin St. Elizabeth, filled with God the Holy Spirit, praises her by saying, "Blessed art thou among women..." Even Mary herself, in her astounding humility, tells us "...All generations will call me Blessed." The exceptional praise the Catholic Church gives to Mary, hyperdulia, is clearly inspired by God Himself.

When we praise the Blessed Virgin Mary, as God desires, He is glorified and, at the same time, the devil, who tricked our first mother, Eve, is humiliated and cast out by the new Eve, Mother Mary. Since God desires us to rightly praise Mary, we can be confident that it is the devil who discourages and mocks this true and holy devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Those who are critical of the faithful who pray the rosary need to take care that they aren't doing the work of the devil, who hates the Virgin Mary and her rosary which bring many souls to the right praise of God.

The powerful Catholic tradition of praying the rosary before Mass is quite fitting. When the faithful meditate on the rosary, they are enabled to enter more profoundly into the right praise of God during Mass. God knows we cannot praise Him enough, so He has given us His own Mother to help us try! Ave Maria! †

*Fr. John Paul Gardner is parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. 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](mailto:info@bismarckdiocese.com) with "Question Afraid to Ask" in the subject line.*



## AG ATTITUDES

### Love means embracing the culture of God

James Odermann

Weather is a constant everywhere and plays a big part in determining rural life and what activities can or cannot be undertaken and/or finished. For example, if it is raining, I cannot cut hay, till the soil or drive in fields (unless I want to create scars by rutting up the land).

This winter has provided some stark contrasts on my family's weather monitor: early December +56F; January 10 -35F; January 27 +62F; what a rollercoaster ride.

I celebrated the sunshine as I enjoyed late January weather with my 3-year-old grandson. He was his usual self, asking questions about the surroundings while trying to dodge water puddles. It was a glorious moment on the prairie.

"Why did God make calves?" he queried. "What is snow made of? Can I skate on the ice? Why is that cow ramming that other cow?"

These were typical questions that I had heard before (from him and his older cousins in the past). But the last question was particularly interesting because I thought of it as a teaching moment.

"That was not nice of the one cow to ram the other, to try to hurt it," I said.

He frowned and said, "I thought our cows believed in God and Jesus and were supposed to be nice to each other, like Mom and Dad tell me to be with my sister and brothers."

I smiled to myself, picked him up and hugged him. "Yes, we are all supposed to be nice to each other, to love as Jesus loves us." He squeezed me and said, "I love you, Grandpa." My eyes moistened as I relished God's love through that youngster.

It made me realize God's love is everywhere. I just need to be open to the opportunities of seeing it and accepting that love.

Love, however, isn't always a hug and an "I love you." Sometimes, God sends a message of love by challenging me (or the optimist in me says provides me the opportunity to see situations from

a different perspective). Is the glass half empty or half full? Through what lens do I view my situation?

Lent started this year, ironically on Valentine's Day, the secular day of love when couples initiate, expand or recommit to a personal relationship, hopefully based on Christian love. Valentine's Day is a cultural day of romance throughout the world.

In the same spirit, Lent is a time of preparation for recommitment, a time when I can assess my relationship with God. I should more intensely scrutinize my decision-making regarding my commitment to God-like virtues.

Traditionally, the narrative has been "giving up something" for Lent. My grandson's hug caused me to realize I needed to "do more of something" for my family and friends, for the people within my sphere—and outside of my sphere.

There is roughly one month of Lenten preparation before the Easter season. What can I do extra to prepare myself?

The list is endless. Use time wisely: write a letter (or send a text or an email), make a telephone call (or use the FaceTime app), visit friends, shut-ins or the imprisoned. All in all, these actions require sacrifice and commitment to carry out Jesus' message of loving my sisters and brothers.

Yes, there is some depravation that is necessary to be prepared for and in the right frame of mind to hear the message of Jesus during the upcoming Easter season. God, however, is a God of action wanting me to relate to the needs of the world—and the people in the world.

The irony of Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day is not lost; God, through His Son Jesus, showed the perfect love. Jesus gave His life to save me, give me hope, give me a chance for an eternity of love.

I need to commit to a culture of a loving relationship with God. I need to embrace the humility of Jesus to earn heaven.

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).*





# MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

## Surrogacy and child trafficking

### Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

At the start of 2024, Pope Francis offered strong public criticism of surrogate motherhood. His willingness to speak out on this important topic has helped to pull surrogacy out of the shadows, where it has often been relegated, and shine some much-needed light on the children at the center of the process and their rights.

Surrogacy is often framed as a generous act, since the surrogate mother seeks to offer her own body to help another woman unable to carry a pregnancy. Judith Hoechst, who hired a surrogate to have a son, was quoted in a *National Catholic Register* article as declaring: “There’s nothing more selfless and more loving than a woman who says, ‘Let me share my uterus with you. Let me do for you what you cannot do.’”

When you examine it more deeply, however, surrogacy offers only the veneer of a selfless act. It relies on evil means to achieve a good end. It tends to be driven by the selfish slant of “entitlement thinking.” It often involves a coercive financial angle, as wealthy individuals offer significant remuneration to secure poor women as “volunteers.”

Pope Francis cut through much of the duplicity around this issue when he provocatively observed that surrogacy involves a form of “trafficking” of children, implying that children are being bought and sold, treated as property and often transported across international borders, which, all in all, sums up many contemporary aspects of surrogacy.

The whole process of surrogacy typically begins with the creation of children for implantation through *in vitro* fertilization (IVF), a practice that itself raises numerous moral objections.

Most fundamentally, IVF misappropriates the generative powers we have received from God that are ordered to procreating new life.

The powers we have are not meant be used any way we wish. For example, we have the power to use our hands to pick things up, to write and to reach out to help others. But that same power in our hands can be used in reckless and improper ways to hit people, to choke them or to otherwise harm them.

Just because we have the power to do something—or the fact that science may open up a new power to us—does not automatically mean we should utilize it.

Our power to procreate is a very special gift, meant to be shared in collaboration with God and our spouse in an exclusive manner. That we have the technical prowess to take hold of our sex cells and manipulate them to manufacture a new life constitutes a misuse of our God-given powers. We fail to respect our children’s dignity when we turn them into “projects” to be engendered in laboratory glassware and implanted into third party carriers. By such an approach, we end up twisting the designs of human sexuality and turning what is meant to be an act of love into an act of production.

Yet many people today have accepted the notion that children are a kind of “entitlement” or even a “right” to be claimed for themselves. This flawed thinking enables a facile movement into the twin evils of IVF and surrogacy, and ultimately encourages the trafficking of unborn children. Clearly, a child—or any person—is never a “right,” or a possession or a piece of property to whom we are entitled.

The only “entitlement” or “right” operative here would be the right of the child to be conceived uniquely through the marital act. Rather than being summoned into being in glassware and implanted into surrogates by fertility clinic employees in exchange for valuable consideration, children have the inalienable right to be conceived through the one flesh, body-to-body spousal communion of their parents’ marital embrace.

Having a sense of “entitlement” about children and imagining that I “deserve” a child corrupts the delicate order of our receptivity towards the mysterious gift of new life in marital sexuality.

Whenever we turn to IVF and surrogacy to satisfy the desire of adults for offspring, we override that delicate order of receptivity and arrogate to ourselves the right to control and even dominate our children. We pay to have them implanted into strangers who act as “gestational carriers.” We impose on them a multitude of “parental-role figures,” ranging

from the surrogate mother who becomes pregnant, to the woman who receives the baby afterwards, to the third-party egg donor. We multiply father-role figures, depending upon the source of the sperm. We trap our left-over embryonic children, potentially for decades, in the wasteland of frozen orphanages connected to fertility clinics. We carry out genetic testing and discard less-than-perfect embryos. We selectively reduce children when multiplet pregnancies arise.

The use of the term “deplorable” by the Pope is not excessive, but spot-on when it comes to describing these offensive aspects of surrogacy. His observations help refocus our attention on the runaway train that IVF and surrogacy have become and invite us to push back against the problematic-but-widely-endorsed approach that seeks to satisfy adult desires for children while largely ignoring the consequences to the kids. †

### 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

Mar. 1	Fr. Benjamin Wanner	Mar. 17	Sr. Idelle Badt, OSB
Mar. 2	Deacon Ken Wolbaum	Mar. 18	Fr. Jarad Wolf
Mar. 3	Fr. Benedict Fischer, OSB	Mar. 19	Deacon Ron Zachmann
Mar. 4	Sr. Patti Koehler, OSB	Mar. 20	Br. Stephen Johnson, OSB
Mar. 5	Sr. Kathleen Atkinson, OSB	Mar. 21	Seminarian Aaron Ripplinger
Mar. 6	Seminarists and Religious in Formation	Mar. 22	Sr. Ivo Schoch, SSND
Mar. 7	Fr. Terry Wipf	Mar. 23	Lay Ministers
Mar. 8	Deacon Wilfred Wolf	Mar. 24	Fr. David Zimmer
Mar. 9	Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus	Mar. 25	Deacon Bob Zent
Mar. 10	Br. Placid Gross, OSB	Mar. 26	Sr. Melissa Cote, OSB
Mar. 11	Seminarian Justin Croonenberghs	Mar. 27	Seminarists and Religious in Formation
Mar. 12	Deacon Jim Wosepka	Mar. 28	Fr. Charles Zins
Mar. 13	Sr. Rosanne Zastoupil, OSB	Mar. 29	Music Ministers
Mar. 14	Fr. Brandon Wolf	Mar. 30	Bishop David Kagan
Mar. 15	Deacon Stephen Young	Mar. 31	Fr. Jeff Zwack
Mar. 16	Br. James Hanson, OSB		

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](http://www.ncbcenter.org)





# 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: Deacon Brent Naslund, 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](mailto: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](http://www.bismarckdiocese.com).



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