



Faithful Footsteps

Walking Together in Faith on a Lifelong Journey

"I come to serve and not be served."

Corpus Christi OCIA class serves the littlest of His children

Early in 2023, Bismarck resident, Tracey Pruess, heard a story of a foster child entering placement with only two dirty outfits placed in a garbage bag. As a mom herself and having a pile of kids clothes she didn't know what to do with, she sat and just stared at the pile. "That child's story really bugged me." As a former foster child who was then adopted, Tracey knew she could do better. "We understand that safety is number one during these removals. Clothes is a last thought. So the idea for **Foster Hope** was born."

Foster Hope is an area 501(c)3 that collects gently used clothes, comfort items (like a stuffy or books) and fills suitcases with these items for kids to take from place to place. We also help meet the needs of various social service organizations like Morton/Burleigh County Human Services, Healthy Families, social workers in various schools, and PATH. Tracey stated, "We don't do furniture at this time, but if a need for a family comes through social services, we will post (online) for it."

This new organization has several big initiatives that started this past year, along with their suitcase donations:

- Hygiene Kits: They provide hygiene kits for foster kids as they go in to placement. Last fall, with a great donation from the Bismarck High Demonettes and Mary Mission, Foster Hope was able to start an off shoot of our Hygiene Kits called Tooth Fairies. Tooth Fairies work to get dental items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes into the hands of those that need them.
- Backpack Drive: Foster Hope was able to fill many backpacks with school supplies and donate to local schools for students who may not have had access to new school supplies for the 2024-25 school year.

Tracey recently spoke to the OCIA catechumens and candidates of Corpus Christi in Bismarck. During their time together, Tracey, Diane Huck, instructor and the students made tie-blankets to give to future foster children. Some had made these gifts in the past, while for others, it was a new experience. "I really enjoyed it and it helps others," stated one candidate. "I didn't know how needed foster care is in the area. I'm glad I could help a little bit."



Walking Together in Faith to these

UPCOMING EVENTS



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I training

Part A: May 29-31 and June 2-4, 2025, **Part B:** May 28-30 and June 1-3, 2026
Trinity Schools Early Childhood Center, Dickinson

Part A: July 14-19, 2025, and **Part B:** July 13-18, 2026
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Minot

Registration is open and filling fast! bismarckdiocese.com/goodshepherd

There is still room
to register for the
upcoming CGS
trainings!



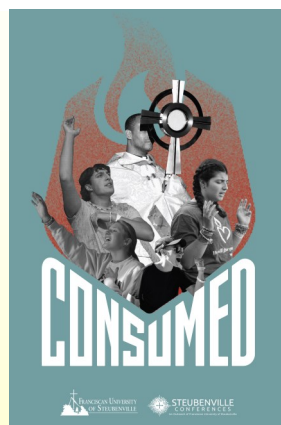
COR CHRISTI INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY

July 7-11 or July 14-18, 2025

Cor Christi ("The Heart of Christ") invites high school students to a living encounter with Jesus and the foundational teachings and practices of the Catholic faith. This initiative is born from the desire of a group of young priests and other dedicated believers to offer a new generation—through an intensive summer experience—the basics of the adventure of faith.

Steubenville St. Paul is SOLD OUT! The students and chaperones are raring to get on the bus, serve, pray and celebrate the Eucharist!

If you have students who would still be interested in going, please have them contact Deacon Ben Auch at benauch113018@gmail.com to be placed on the "Wait List". As summer plans come up, there are often students who cancel their tickets, thus opening up the door for another student to take their place.



Even though not all students will get to go, we really want to know if there is a need to reserve a fourth bus and more tickets for next year! The longer the wait list, the greater the need!!

Let's pack the buses!

Do you have a past event you would like to highlight or an upcoming event you would like to share? Email Diane at dhuck@bismarckdiocese.com with all the information, photos, quotations and more to be including in the upcoming issues of Faithful Footsteps.

May is the Month of Mary

Article by Roman Flores, Catechetical Coordinator **May 1, 2023**

Today we begin May, the month dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The celebration of May as a Marian month fits well with the liturgical celebrations of Easter and Pentecost as we recall Mary's great joy in her Son's victory over death as well as her presence with the apostles prayerfully awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Our Lady is centuries old, dating back at least 700 years. In 1965 blessed Pope Paul VI wrote an encyclical on the month of May, focusing on the Virgin Mary. He wrote that the piety of the faithful has long dedicated the month of May to the Mother of God. He stated in his encyclical, *Mense Maio*:

"We are delighted and consoled by this pious custom associated with the month of May, which pays honor to the Blessed Virgin and brings such rich benefits to the Christian people. Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise."

The ways Mary is honored in May are as varied as the people who honor her. It is common for parishes to have a daily recitation of the Rosary in May and to erect a special altar with a statue or image of Mary. In addition, it is a long tradition to crown her statue. Often, the crown is made of beautiful flowers that represent Mary's beauty and virtue, and is also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate her virtues. This coronation is in some areas a large celebration, and usually takes place outside of Mass. Altars and coronations in this month are not just parish privileges. In homes, one can also participate fully in the life of the Church.

We all probably have our favorite images of Mary as well as our favorite devotions: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of Perpetual Help, the Miraculous Medal, etc. The many images and devotions express various aspects of Our Lady's vocation and mission. They help us to know the virtues of Mary and remind us to turn to her for her intercession.

We must give Mary a special place not because it is a long-standing tradition in the Church or because of the special graces that can be obtained, but because Mary is our Mother, the mother of the whole world and because she cares for all of us, interceding even in the smallest matters.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of the Church and therefore the example, as well as the guide and inspiration, of everyone who, in and through the Church, seeks to be the servant of God and the obedient agent of the promptings of the Holy Spirit. In our pilgrimage of faith, we always walk with Mary at our side. She is our model of faith, and she helps us with her prayers to live by faith. She teaches us to believe as she believed. Let us learn from her how to love and trust God completely and how to be faithful witnesses of the risen Lord. May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us and draw us closer to Christ her Son.



LOOK WHO'S WALKIN'

Celebrating fun and educational events in our Diocese that are spreading the Love of Jesus!



Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

1h · 🌐

This past weekend, our 7-12 youth group attended a retreat titled, "How to Hear God's Voice in Prayer." They learned more about who God the Father is, how to listen to His voice in prayer, and how to receive His love. There were talks given by Eve Merz, youth minister at the Cathedral, as well as multiple sessions of Eucharistic Adoration, and group activities. Our students had beautiful encounters with the Lord while on retreat!



Church of Saint Anne

1h · 🌐



Another amazing Theology on Tap at Saint Anne's! Who's ready for the next one?

#TOT #Faith&Friendship #stannes



Holy Rosary Stanley

37m · 🌐

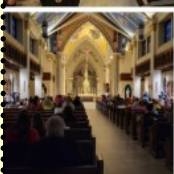
Generations of Faith was held at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary on Wednesday, February 26th to prepare for the upcoming Lent season. The evening started with the Holy Mass followed by supper and Lent activities. The activities began with a game of Lent Kahoot. It was quite competitive as Father Jason came out the champion by being the only contestant answering question #14 correctly! MS&C Beehler came in a close 2nd with Serafina Beehler taking 3rd. Grades 6-12 created a video, "If Jesus Replaced Your Cell Phone for a Day" to encourage limited cell phone usage during Lent. All ages participated in creating prayer cubes to be used during the Lent season. Many Lent resources were discussed and are available on a table in the gathering space. Door Prizes were given away that included: a crucifix surrounded by the Stations of the Cross, Bags of Caramel Corn with books from the Augustine Institute, and a beautiful Jesus Carrying the Cross Wall Cross. Wishing you a holy Lent that will draw you closer to Christ. Thank you to all who helped make the evening a great success!



St. Mary's Central High School

1h · 🌐

SMCHS had the last ROCK of the school year last night, with a special talk from Shayla Elm with Christ the City in Denver. She spoke about community, our call to find Jesus in the poor, and how to ask Him to give us his hands and feet to truly encounter and serve the poor around us...but also those poor of authentic relationships, those who are lonely and those who are struggling. The event included the opportunity for adoration and confessions.



Is your parish on Facebook? Do you use other Social Media platforms to share your successes and invite the crowds?

Tell us about it! We'd love to know how you are getting the word out about the happenings in your neck of the woods!