

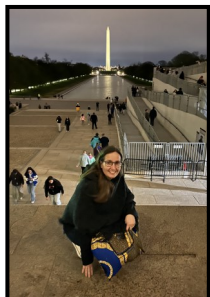


Faithful Footsteps

Walking Together in Faith on a Lifelong Journey

Where Two or Three are Gathered

Spring is upon us and so brings a time of new everything! For Diane Huck, Director of Catechesis and Youth, this meant new ideas, new support and new relationships with others “in the vineyard.” The first week of April, Diane met with 23 other new diocesan directors Baltimore, Maryland for the 2025 New Diocesan Directors Institute (NDDI), an uplifting annual event hosted by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). The four-day gathering offered a wonderful opportunity for participants to learn, reflect, and connect with others, all with the goal of strengthening their roles within the diocese to serve those who minister to young people within the Church.



The event was filled with a mix of inspiring workshops, engaging activities, and prayerful moments, all designed to deepen understanding of the responsibilities and spiritual practices needed for diocesan leadership. Throughout the sessions, participants explored the foundations of ministry with young people, the important role of diocesan directors, and both the internal and external responsibilities of their positions. Personal reflection and peer discussions helped attendees recognize their unique strengths and areas for growth, while offering guidance on how to align their work with their personal gifts.



Wednesday morning, attendees visited the USCCB offices in Washington, D.C., where they participated in advocacy training focused on amplifying the voices of those they serve. Led by USCCB staff, the session included advocacy workshops, small group discussions, and reflections on how diocesan leaders can better consult with and support young people. The NDDI concluded with a commissioning ceremony, where participants were honored for their dedication to ministry and empowered with the tools to continue growing in their leadership and service to the Church.



“I returned home feeling renewed in my position in Bismarck—not the overwhelming feeling I have after attending a big conference, but the nurtured feeling of being part of a family. These men and women in ministry have become a big support system for me and I look forward to connecting with them regularly to continue our connection and offer support and encouragement.”



Attending NDDI provides new diocesan leaders with the tools, support, and connections necessary to succeed in their unique roles within the Church, making it an essential opportunity for anyone involved in ministry.



Walking Together in Faith to these UPCOMING EVENTS

"Let them prefer nothing to Christ."

RB 72 Retreat

What: A retreat for girls entering 8th Grade
When: July 31-August 2, 2025
Where: Annunciation Monastery Bismarck, ND

For more information, contact Sister Marena
701-255-1520
marena@annunciationmonastery.org



Bis-Mar
Youth Group

BECOME
**TOTALLY
FIRE.**

Bring your own
camping chair!

6:30-9PM
JUNE 25TH 2025
Located at:
The Cathedral of the Holy
Spirit, Bismarck, ND

Join us for an evening of games, smores, Adoration, fire, and the HOLY FIRE! Come together as young people and let the Holy Spirit start to consume and transform your lives and the world!

**ATTENTION ALL
RISING 6-12 GRADERS**

"BE WHO GOD MEANT YOU TO BE AND YOU WILL
SET THE WORLD ON FIRE."
— ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA



COR CHRISTI INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY

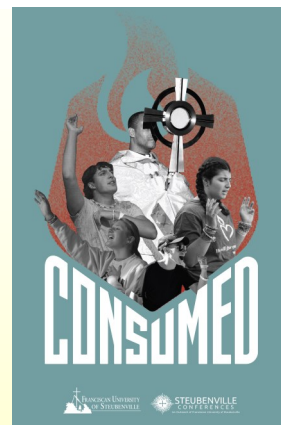
July 7-11 or July 14-18, 2025

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.

Bridging the Gap: Keeping Our High School Students Connected to Their Catholic Faith

As another academic year draws to a close, thousands of Catholic students nationwide prepare for one of life's most significant transitions: the journey to college. While this milestone brings excitement and opportunity, it also presents unique challenges to maintaining one's faith. Statistics show that up to 80% of Catholic students drift away from their faith during college years – a sobering reality that our diocese is actively working to change.



Enter Newman Connection, a national non-profit organization with an innovative program transforming how we support our young Catholics during their college or military transition. Through a new diocesan partnership with Newman Connection, we're ensuring that every graduating high school senior has the opportunity to maintain their Catholic faith journey from day one on campus or in the military.

"This isn't just about maintaining numbers – it's about souls," says Diane Huck, Director of Catechesis and Youth. "We're creating a bridge between our parishes, schools, and college campus ministries that helps our young people stay rooted in their faith during a critical time in their lives."

The program's approach is remarkably straightforward yet effective. Working with Catholic high schools and parishes throughout our diocese, Newman Connection helps connect graduating seniors directly to Catholic campus ministry at their chosen college or military base – before they even arrive on campus. Since 2009, the organization has successfully connected more than 600,000 students across over 800 college campuses nationwide.

Newman Connection offers peace of mind for parents concerned about their children's faith journey. "Many parents worry about their children maintaining their faith in college," notes Diane Huck. "This program provides a concrete way to help ensure their children have immediate access to a Catholic community and the sacraments when they arrive on campus."

The initiative's timing couldn't be more crucial. Recent studies by CARA indicate that young adults often begin distancing themselves from the Church before their college years, with over 60% reporting they stopped identifying as Catholic by age 18. However, early connection to campus ministry can help reverse this trend.

Participation in the program is free thanks to Newman Connection's donor-supported model. Schools and parishes simply share graduating seniors' contact information and college or military destinations, enabling campus ministry teams to reach out and welcome students from day one.

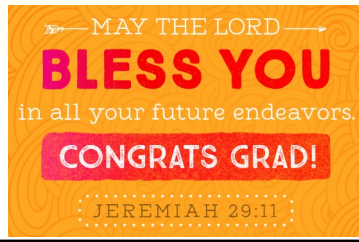
Diane emphasizes the program's significance for our diocese: "This partnership represents our commitment to accompanying young people throughout their faith journey, especially during crucial transitions. Every student deserves the opportunity to find a Catholic home away from home."

Catholic schools, parishes, and families interested in participating can contact Diane Huck, Director of Catechesis and Youth for more information. Together, we can ensure our graduating high school seniors remain connected to their Catholic faith throughout their college years and beyond.

Contact Diane Huck, Director of Catechesis and Youth at 701-204-7206 or dhuck@bismarckdiocese.com to implement the program

LOOK WHO'S WALKIN'

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



Recently, the 5th grade Titans attended daily Mass and learned the history of St. Joseph's Church in Dickinson! As they walked around town, they visited Jesus in seven tabernacles and learned so much about the beauty of our faith. They even embraced the rain in the afternoon!



April Family Faith Evening at St. Martin's Hazen - Catholic Jeopardy Style!!

🏆 We had such a fun time playing a friendly game of Catholic Jeopardy. The families played in teams, had some good laughs together, and learned new things about their faith! The Pucket and Guttormson families each won a spring gift basket for their victory!



To finish out the CYO year, St. Pius in New Salem, played Minute To Win It Games for some fun & friendly competition! Everyone enjoyed their time together!

