

FAITHFUL FOOTSTEPS

SEPTEMBER 2026 *Walking Together in Faith on a Lifelong Journey*

Outreach:

Those in attendance included youth ministers, parents, DREs, a Lutheran missionary and a diocesan director from Oregon!

Prayer:

Prayers were answered by the “yes” of each participant - we had over 35 in attendance allowing for a larger stipend to fund the day from the USCCB.

Community:

Lots of good conversation took place in the table groups at the end of each session.

“LISTEN, TEACH, SEND” BROKEN OPEN

More than 35 participants gathered on June 27th at the University of Mary to converse and understand the newest document from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Listen, Teach, Send: A National Pastoral Framework for Ministries with Youth and with Young Adults was approved by the USCCB in June 2024. It gives guidance for the Catholic Church in accompanying and evangelizing young people: youth (in junior high and high school) and young adults (in their late teens, 20s, and 30s). The methodology is rooted in the Gospel story of the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35) and invites pastoral leaders and families, in their engagement with young people, to imitate Jesus who listens attentively, teaches from the heart, and sends disciples into the world. The document begins with a preface letter addressed directly from the U.S. Bishops to youth and young adults and continues with the three-part framework text for pastoral ministers, families, and young leaders in the Church.



“SEND DISCIPLES INTO THE WORLD WITH COURAGE, COMPASSION, AND THE TOOLS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

Two presenters from the USCCB, Maria Parker and Dominic Lombardi, came from the Washington, DC, office via a grant obtained from the National Catholic Scouting organization. This grant provided funds to cover travel and lodging for this pair and breakfast and lunch for all in attendance.

Kleo Vetter, the new DRE at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit shared this: “Networking was huge for me. I got many ideas of how others do things. My focus kept coming back to evangelizing the family. Helping families find ways to include God even when they are traveling to sporting events on weekends, and in their daily lives. My goal is to get resources to families, so God is alive within their families. Other key points for me were to LISTEN. I'd like to get more youth participating within the Mass: readers, hospitality ministers. The speakers were practical and easy to listen to. I felt like we had meaningful conversations throughout the whole day.”

You can find the document online at
National Pastoral Framework YYA APPROVED5.pdf



“Calling Children by Name”

Kathleen Butler

catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com



“I have called you by name, you are mine,” says the Lord. (Is. 43:1) This intimate connection we have with God is a gift to be celebrated. Being named Kathleen, I’ve gone through life with people automatically assuming I want to be called “Kathy” or “Kate.” I don’t want to be called something else; my name is Kathleen.

When I meet my religious education students, the first thing I do is ask them their names and what they want to be called. The boy named Charles may not want to be called “Charles”—he might prefer to be called “Charlie” or “Chuck.” Even though there are two Ashleys in class, neither wants to be called “Ashley M.” or “Ashley R.” They want to be called “Ashley.” I respect that.

When I think of welcoming our students, I’m mindful to welcome them in a way that is inviting and open; such invitations can begin with something as obvious as calling them by the name they prefer. If there’s an unfamiliar name, I ask the child to help me pronounce it correctly.

A couple of years ago, I had a student named Dagmara. After making sure I was pronouncing it properly, I mentioned that I had never met anyone named Dagmara. She told me it was her Polish grandmother’s name and told me about her grandma. That was another Aha! moment for me. I started asking my students if they were named for someone in their family; many of them had a story and wanted to tell it. Suddenly, I had an easy icebreaker! The first day of teaching first graders naturally comes with some apprehension, and this was an easy way to help the children—and myself—relax.

I make sure that name tags reflect the names that children want to be called. There was a time when I had the students make their own name tags, but first-graders’ printing does not lend itself to being seen from several feet away. I make everyone’s name tags, but I have plenty of extra ones when someone’s needs to be replaced. No one gets a name tag with a name crossed out. Everyone’s name tag is clean and correct.

I also used to write the students’ names in a big marker on the outside of their textbooks before the first class, but I’ve since stopped doing so. Otherwise, Charlie’s book says “Charles” all year. I still write their names on the books, but now I wait a week or so after I know how they want to be called. Having a conversation about names on the first day lays a lot of good groundwork. It helps establish what the expectations are in class; we will call each other by our names, not “hey, you,” or “that kid,” or “teacher.” We will listen for our names when we take attendance. A conversation about our names and how we want to be called also provides the perfect introduction to the great love God has for us. I can talk about Jesus calling his disciples by name to help him tell the world about God’s love. I can remind them that at their Baptism, they were called into a life of faith that we’ll learn more about in the coming months. I can tell them, “What do you do when someone calls your name? You automatically look up to see who it is and say, ‘Yes, here I am.’”

This is what I want my students to know: God calls us by name, and a beautiful friendship begins.

Walking Together in Faith to these UPCOMING EVENTS



One Mission. One Movement.
One Million Connected.

GRADUATING SENIORS CONNECT HERE

Carry your Faith
Forward to college
and beyond.



signupnc.newmanministry.com



Scan QR Code

Emmaus Youth Retreat



As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."
So he went in to stay with them. Luke 24:28-29

Minot: Sunday, October 18, 2026 Bishop Ryan High School
Williston: Sunday, November 15, 2026 St. Joseph Parish
Dickinson: Sunday, February 28, 2027 Trinity High School
Bismarck/Mandan: Sunday, April 11, 2027 St. Mary's Central

All retreats run from 12:30 - 6:00 pm local time
with 5:00 pm Mass included - families may attend

This retreat experience is brought to your area by the University of Mary University
Ministry and the Bismarck Diocese. It aims to bring your parish youth closer to Jesus
in the breaking of the bread. The opportunity is open to grades 6-9 students in
preparation for Confirmation. The retreat will feature talks, activities, music,
Adoration, Mass and fellowship with other young Catholics.

For registration information: contact your parish DRE or Diane at dhuck@bismarckdiocese.com

SEARCH

FOR CHRISTIAN MATURITY
WITH, BY & FOR YOUTH

EXPERIENCE
GOD IN A
PERSONAL &
REAL WAY.

SEARCH IS YOUR
OPPORTUNITY TO THINK,
TALK, QUESTION AND
WONDER ABOUT LIFE AND
FAITH IN AN ACCEPTING
AND CHALLENGING
ENVIRONMENT.

WEEKEND YOUTH RETREAT

OCTOBER 9-11, 2026
NOVEMBER 13-15, 2026
JANUARY 15-17, 2027
MARCH 5-7, 2027
APRIL 16-18, 2027

REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION ONLINE!
SearchinMedora.com



9

Friday, October 9, 2026 at 12 PM - 2 PM

North Dakota March for Life
Bismarck Civic Center





For I was hungry and you gave me food...

One of the highlights - and most fun - parts of the recent Steubenville Conference Pilgrimage is participating in packing meals at Feed My Starving Children. See the photos and testimonies on the next page of this newsletter! An amazing opportunity to service this amazing organization is coming right to our backyards!

FOOD CHANGES EVERYTHING FEEDING KIDS. FEEDING SPIRITS. EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC meals are hand packed by volunteers and sent to an incredible network of partner organizations that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.

WHO WE ARE Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian nonprofit with a mission to see every child and person around the world healthy, nourished and whole — in body and in spirit. Since 1987, FMSC has packed and shipped more than 4 billion meals to over 100 countries. We work through trusted partner organizations who stay with communities for the long haul, helping them to move from relief to self-reliance.

Volunteers just like you can join hands with neighbors in your area to pack and fund lifechanging MannaPack® meals through FMSC MobilePack events.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Beulah is sponsoring a MobilePack to be held at their church 200 19th St. NW, Thursday, Sept 10- Friday, Sept 11. You can sign up to volunteer at Killdeer: www.fmsc.org/volunteer-listing.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Killdeer is sponsoring a MobilePack to be held at High Plains Cultural Center 100 5th Ave SW, Thursday, Sept 24- Saturday, Sept 26. You can sign up to volunteer at Killdeer: www.fmsc.org/volunteer-listing.

This event is open to volunteers ages 5-95! It is a fun, rewarding experience and a great volunteer opportunity for families, sports team, confirmation classes, and more! Sign up today!

Planning is underway for a MobilePack to be held in Bismarck in Spring 2027! Watch for details or contact Diane to help get this on the calendar!

‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25: 35, 40

WORTHY STEUBENVILLE ST. PAUL

July 24-26, 2026

SSP
ST. PAUL



"The first thing I talked about when I got home was definitely Feed My Starving Children. I had the best experience there and really felt like I was doing good in the world."



"My favorite chaperone was Tyler the seminarian!"



7/24/26

Boxes: 318

Meals: 68,688

Kids fed a daily meal for a year: 188

Cost: \$19,919.52

"I really like Feed My Starving Children it felt really good to know that we were changing peoples lives with out knowing them personally."

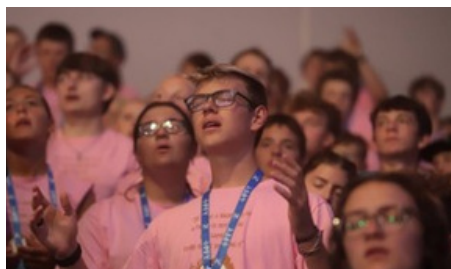


"Authentic peace and perfect joy... these things were part of (his) St. Francis' life... Not because of his own efforts, but because he possessed within himself true peace... a gift from God... when we invite the Lord into our hearts."

"I saw Jesus' face in the Eucharist during adoration for the women's group!"



"The first thing that I wanted to talk about when I got home was the adoration and the experience of reconciliation after 10 years."





"I love praying in front of Planned Parenthood even more. I feel it is so incredibly powerful especially with every one on the sidewalk, it is such a cool sight and experience that many don't do."



"I just have to say, my son came back a whole new kid. He said he wishes he could stay at Steubenville forever! He said adoration was so powerful - that he couldn't fight back all the tears. He has been reading his Bible instead of jumping on the Xbox and has been communicating with his peers about going next year. He also prayed a rosary that Friday night for my mother-in-law to be sober, and she said God spoke to her that night and she's been sober for 12 days. 💜 The power of prayer, especially when gathered in numbers, is a beautiful thing! Thank you for this opportunity for them."



Archbishop Bernard Hebda



"Our chaperones are #1!"



Look Who's Walkin' in Faith

CELEBRATING FUN AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS IN OUR DIOCESE THAT ARE SPREADING THE LOVE OF JESUS!



Queen of the Most Holy Rosary held Vacation Bible School on August 4- 6th. "Rain Forest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God"- Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunged into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They explored what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Kids attended Daily Mass (What a blessing!) and rotated to different extremely active and fun stations each day! A HUGE thank you to Father Jason, the adult volunteers, the 7 HS/JR High Crew Leaders and the 30 + participants! We had so much fun!



St. Pius New Salem and St. Mary Almont VBS! It is always so much fun getting to know all of these kids! Each one has a fun and unique personality. As you can see St. Pius' youth programs will continue to have many years of great success and participation! Thank you to everyone who helped again this year. What a privilege to have such incredible volunteers ...both teen and adult!!



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I
2025-2026 graduates



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I
beginners who will finish in 2027