



# Dakota Catholic Action

Reporting on Catholic action in western ND since 1941



## Chrism Mass<sub>2014</sub>

The annual Chrism Mass kicked off Holy Week in the Bismarck Diocese as the priests in western N.D. gathered at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck on April 14 to renew their priestly vows. At the Mass, Bishop Kagan blessed the three oils used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the year. (Photo by Matthew Kurtz)

## Bishop hears concerns at Tioga forum

**By Cecile Krimm  
Tioga Tribune**

Bishop David Kagan of the Bismarck Diocese came to Tioga March 6, facilitated by talk radio host Scott Hennen of KTGO and Tioga geologist Kathy Neset, who hosted a forum at her company headquarters north of town.

Kagan lauded the “heroic degree” to which local leaders are attempting to meet the challenges in the Bakken region. He said the oil boom represents an opportunity for all Christians to do good works.

The discussion included other Catholic clergy, farmers, contractors, city leaders from Tioga and Stanley, along with a crew camp operator and representatives from the University of Mary, all coming together to talk about the booming population and an almost out-of-control economy.

Threaded throughout the forum were anecdotes illustrating a moral imperative in the Bakken region to address the greed among landlords and the human needs of the many “broken” people who have been attracted by the promise of high-paying jobs.

“It just breaks your heart,” said the manager of Tioga’s Pinnacle travel center.

Pinnacle’s Sam Fredin described how hard it has been to cobble together a work force and want to help employees, only to learn one of them—an 18-year-old girl—was living in a tent for two months.

“As a company, we can only do so much,” he said.

Stanley City Commissioner Dennis Lindahl echoed that theme, calling on the religious community to help fill some of the gap.

“There’s an underside to this

*Continued on Page 3*

## Future takes shape for Dickinson Trinity

DICKINSON – Dickinson Catholic Schools (DCS) leaders are moving forward after a fire allegedly started by former principal Thomas Sander destroyed portions of Dickinson Trinity High School in early March.

DCS president Steve Glasser announced April 10 that Trinity students will be back in their building when the 2014-15 school year commences on August 25. In fact, cleaning has progressed so that the graduation ceremony for the class of 2014 will be held in the Trinity auditorium on May 25.

Looking toward the future, the first step is to get the 250 students in grades 7-12 back on the Trinity campus, said Monsignor Patrick Schumacher, chairman of the Dickinson Catholic Schools board of directors. The central part of the building (which houses the main offices and library directly above) has been enclosed with walls and will likely need to be razed, he said, pending testing on steel beams, joists and masonry walls. However, the school’s west wing will be usable by the fall, which

will spare DCS \$1 million in annual relocation costs.

By mid-May, DCS administrators plan to have a clearer idea of what the Trinity campus will look like in the future—as well as how long it will take and what it’s going to cost.

An eventual move of the DCS elementary students (who are currently housed at two schools adjacent to the Churches of St. Wenceslaus and St. Patrick) to the Trinity campus is being considered as part of the long-term plan for the school system. Administrators envision a hub of offices, gyms and cafeterias between two schools—one housing elementary students and another for grades 7-12. Schumacher compared the layout to that used on the campus of Shanley High School and Sullivan Middle School in Fargo.

Moving toward that goal, Steve Habeeb, a Boston architect, will be in Dickinson with his team in early May to conduct a feasibility study on how to best use the existing facilities. In the meantime, cleaning will continue in the still-usable cafeteria and “two marquee core

spaces:” the auditorium and Knights of Columbus Activities Center gymnasium, which can hold 2,300 people. Schumacher called the gym “some of the most valuable gym space from Minot to Rapid City and Bismarck to Billings.”

ServiceMaster Recovery Management has employed 60-70 people working 12-hour shifts since the fire cleaning books, papers, desks, auditorium chairs and other equipment in the school. The cost to clean the 109,000 square foot structure and its contents is estimated to reach \$2.5 million.

“Despite the unfortunate event on March 3 and the disruption to our students, the board of directors is moving in a clear direction and we are in a good position,” Schumacher said. “We have an immediate plan for the fall as well as a long-term plan for the next 50 years.”

### A LOOK INSIDE



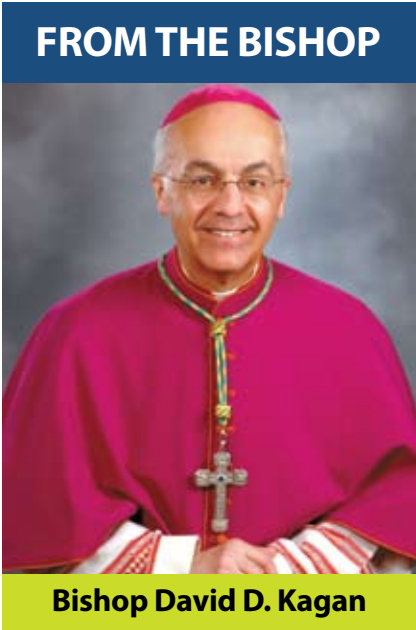
**Retired priests get a Wii**  
Local students donate Nintendo Wii to retired priests as part of a school service project.....PAGE 5



**Spanish Mass debuts in ND**  
Dickinson, Williston lead the charge as the diocese seeks to expand ministry to Hispanics.....PAGE 6



# God lives!



By the time you receive the May issue of our diocesan newspaper we will have celebrated our Catholic Church’s greatest feast, Easter Sunday, as the culmination of the Paschal Triduum. While the holy penitential season of Lent came to an end, we began the shortest (in number of days) but most solemn liturgical season in our year, the Paschal Triduum, beginning the evening of Holy Thursday and ending with the evening of Easter Sunday. I want to assure each of you that I offered the Church’s liturgies during these days for your intentions and for the continued growth of all of us in the Diocese of Bismarck in our faith, hope and charity.

What do we learn from this most sacred time in our lives? The act of supreme love which Jesus gave to us under sacramental signs at the Last Supper, He gave up in His flesh to His Father for us on the altar of the cross on Good Friday. With His descent to the faithful and holy dead on Holy Saturday

and His glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday, we learn that **God lives and is a most loving and merciful God.** What a gift and what a lesson for each of us! **In spite of all of our sins, He does not stop loving us and waiting for us to return to Him.**

The next fifty days of the Easter season give us the grace-filled chance to live what we began during Lent and take it to the next level of holiness of life. The Paschal Triduum not only helps us remember how merciful God has been to us, it reveals to us our own future in God’s plan, if we wish to be a part of His plan. Our future is not here but it is in heaven. Jesus Christ has literally given this future back to us—along with every means to make our future a reality. He will never repeat His holy passion, death and resurrection again; it is not necessary. What is needed is our firm resolve to not do anything that will be an obstacle to having the future He has given us.

As we know, the month of May in the life of our Church, by long and rich custom, has been dedicated to the honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A good way to fully involve ourselves in the glory and graces of the Easter season is to pray the holy rosary each day. Place yourself next to Mary and as you pray each mystery of the life of Jesus, think with the mind and heart of His mother. She loved Him totally and her entire life and her very person revolved about Him and His life. His joys and sorrows were her joys and sorrows; His glory is now her glory with Him in heaven and, all of this is ours if we want it and seek it in and through His Church.

May all of us continue to have and enjoy a most blessed Easter season. May Jesus Christ be praised!

BISHOP’S SCHEDULE	
May 2014	
May 1	• Liturgy for Ministry of Acolyte, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.
May 2	• Speak to Cathedral Young Adults and Catholic Credence, South 40, Lincoln, 7:30 p.m.
May 3	• University of Mary Commencement, Civic Center, Bismarck, 1:30 p.m.
May 4	• Confirmation at the Church of Epiphany, Watford City, includes the Church of Our Lady of Consolation, Alexander, 10:45 a.m. • Confirmation for the Church of St. Wenceslaus, Dickinson, 4 p.m. MT
May 5	• Confirmation at the Church of St. Joseph, Mandan, 7 p.m.
May 6	• Annual Mass and Pastoral Visit to St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck, 10:30 a.m.
May 7	• Confirmation at the Church of Ascension, Bismarck, 7 p.m.
May 9	• Confirmation at the Church of St. Bonaventure, Underwood, 7 p.m.
May 10	• Pastoral visit to the Church of St. Mary, New England, Mass at 5 p.m. MT
May 11	• Confirmation at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Reeder, includes the Church of the Holy Trinity, Hettinger, and the Church of the Sacred Heart, Scranton, 10:30 a.m. MT • Confirmation at the Church of St. Anne, Bismarck, 5 p.m.
May 13	• Catholic Charities General Board Meeting, Bismarck, 12 p.m. • Blue Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 6 p.m.
May 14	• Confirmation at the Church of St. Bernard, Belfield, includes the Church of St. Mary, South Heart, 6 p.m. MT
May 15	• Leadership Formation Day with the University of Mary, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck
May 16	• Home on the Range Board Meeting, Home on the Range, Sentinel Butte, 2 p.m. MT • Home on the Range Spring Banquet, Home on the Range, Sentinel Butte, 5 p.m. MT
May 18	• Confirmation at the Church of St. Patrick, Dickinson, 8 a.m. MT
May 20	• Real Presence Radio interview, 9 a.m. • Presbyteral Council Meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck, 10 a.m.
May 21	• Confirmation at the Church of Corpus Christi, Bismarck, 7 p.m.
May 22	• All-staff Mass, Chancery chapel, 8 a.m. • Directors’ Staff Meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, 9:15 a.m.
May 25	• Graduation at Bishop Ryan High School, Minot, 2 p.m.
May 28	• Real Presence Radio Spring Live Drive guest, 9 a.m.
May 29	• Light of Christ Catholic Schools Board meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, Bismarck, 1:15 p.m.
May 30	• Anniversary Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 3 p.m. (See page 13)

## BISHOP IN ACTION



Bishop Kagan incenses the altar to begin the 2014 Chrism Mass at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck. The event, held on the Monday of Holy Week, is a diocesan-wide Mass in which the sacred oils used throughout the year are blessed and consecrated. All priests of the diocese also renew their ordination vows at the Chrism Mass. (Photo by Matthew Kurtz)



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## SOCIAL MEDIA

**You Tube** Search “Bismarck Diocese” on YouTube for videos from the Church in western N.D.

### Sister Mary Star vocation story

Sister Mary Star of Evangelization, a native of Center, N.D., shares the story of her path to the religious life and Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara (also know as the Servidoras).



**Watch videos at <http://vimeo.com/bismarckdiocese>**  
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Get news, photos, videos and more from around the diocese.



## Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for May

- **Media.** That the media may be instruments in the service of truth and peace.
- **Mary’s Guidance.** That Mary, Star of Evangelization, may guide the Church in proclaiming Christ to all nations.



# The Catholic laity and parish life

By Bishop Kagan

Jesus, the Son of God, founded the Roman Catholic Church on His 12 Apostles and chose St. Peter to be the visible head of the other Apostles and disciples. This same arrangement of the Church has continued down through the centuries and will continue until the end of time.

The nature and visible structure of the Church founded by Jesus is hierarchical: the pope, as Successor of Peter, is responsible for the universal Church; the bishop, as a successor of the Apostles, is responsible for a local church or diocese; the pastor, appointed by the bishop, is responsible for a parish.

In practical terms, what does this mean for you, the Catholic laity? There are several important things to keep in mind when you respond to your pastor’s requests for cooperation and participation in parish life.

■ All of our parishes are territorial, that is, all have set, physical boundaries.

■ Every Catholic living within the boundaries of a parish is considered by the Church to belong to that parish.

■ If Catholics wish to officially belong to a parish other than the one in which they live, only the bishop can give permission after receiving a written request.

■ Every parish in the Diocese of Bismarck, for civil purposes, is incorporated separately and the officers of each civil parish corporation are: bishop as president, vicar general as vice-president, pastor as secretary/treasurer, and two lay Catholic parishioners as trustees appointed by the pastor.

■ In a parish, only the pastor may sign any and all official documents for or from the parish, such as checks, sacramental certificates and all contracts. At the request of the bishop from the pastor, the bishop may allow another person to sign such documents in the absence of the pastor.

■ Every parish in the Diocese of Bismarck is required by Church law to have a Finance Council and a Pastoral Council. These two councils are advisory and do not have any decision-making responsibility. The Finance Council is to help the pastor with advice in the right stewardship of the parish’s assets and liabilities. The Pastoral Council is to help the pastor fulfill his responsibilities regarding the educational, spiritual and liturgical life of the parish.

■ In every parish, the Catholic laity are encouraged to participate in its liturgical life as extra-ordinary



Bishop David Kagan

ministers of the Holy Eucharist, sacristans, readers, ushers and greeters, and permanent deacons; in its spiritual life as leaders of prayer groups and participants in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; in its educational life as leaders of Bible study groups, teachers of religious education, adult faith formation and RCIA.

■ All of these areas of parish life, in addition to serving a term or terms on the parish Finance or Pastoral Council, are the responsibility of the pastor to guide for the spiritual and temporal benefit of all in the parish and in the diocese.

Since I became the Bishop of Bismarck two and a half years ago, I have been not only edified but heartened by the active practice of our Catholic faith by you, the lay faithful, but also by your good and devout participation in parish and diocesan life. Please continue this for the strengthening of your own faith and parish life and for the continued setting of the good example for your children and grandchildren.

Finally, I ask one favor from all of you: Please continue to pray for all of our priests, but especially for your parish priest and continue to pray for an increase in vocations among the young men and women of our Diocese of Bismarck to the priesthood and the consecrated life.

## Bishop hears concerns at Tioga forum

Continued from Page 1

Bakken development and I think that underside is very much driven by envy and greed,” Lindahl said. “People have come to the area and have really attempted to pillage.”

Rural Ray resident Tom Wheeler said it’s impacted him in ways he doesn’t like. “Most people, including myself, have changed,” he said. “I’m somewhat ruder.” He said that’s a reflection of the rudeness he often encounters, though he has also met some people he hopes will become permanent residents.

Wheeler said he doesn’t see the impending milestone of 1 million barrels of oil production per day as anything to celebrate.

Lindahl asked for prayer to address the “gigantic” moral decay in the region. Rev. Gary Benz of Stanley said he’ll do more than pray and he’ll ask others to do more, too.

“We have a number of anonymous millionaires in our parishes,” said Benz, who need to be challenged to help with affordable housing, which nearly every one of the nearly two dozen participants expressed is a major need. “We’re going to challenge the people who have been blessed with this Bakken oil to ask them, how are you giving it back?” said Benz.

Prayer is important, said Benz, but “there has to be practical charity as well.”

Kagan heard from Tioga Medical Center CEO Randall Pederson about the bad debt accumulated by the local hospital and the dearth of volunteers available to serve the ambulance squad. Pederson said

the lack of mental health facilities available in the region is “scary at times.”

Newly hired Tioga Community Developer Melissa Koch said many of the issues faced by local employers—including escalating labor costs—would be helped if there was more affordable housing available. The idea that the free market will right itself, said Koch and others, is one that produces little hope.

“We can’t continue to wait for things to level out,” said Koch.

Stanley Public Works Director Byron Kleven said, “Every company has to supply their own housing in order to survive this ‘free enterprise’ system going on here.” One example of a community out of kilter, he said, is when a town of 2,500 people has 600 hotel rooms.

“We do not have food services to supply all of these people,” he said. Having come to the area from Mayville, Kleven said he doesn’t believe people in the rest of the state can truly appreciate the pressure on small towns in oil country. Neset echoed that belief.

“I don’t necessarily think we’re being heard in Bismarck,” she said.

She hopes Bishop Kagan can be another voice in Bismarck who will relay just how serious are the human needs in oil country.

“You can’t hear it and understand it,” agreed Russ Newman, of the Newman Signs family, out of Fargo. Newman said he’s been on a three-week trip to the Bakken—a trip that has “opened my eyes.”

As the discussion concluded, Kagan shared some advice he said

he received from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. When faced with overwhelming need, “It’s an opportunity to do even greater good works for everyone.”

He said funds are set aside for at least one full time counselor for the north region of the diocese, a position he hopes can be filled this summer. But even that program has been hampered somewhat by the lack of available housing.

He said the church is also working on increased resources for Spanish-speaking Catholics. He urged the participants at the meeting to persevere and set good examples for others.

Not all of the stories shared at the forum were negative. Travis Kelley, head of Target Logistics’ Bakken operations shared how his own family’s quality of life has been transformed by coming to North Dakota.

“Our kids thrive up here,” said Kelley, who worked away from his Arizona-based family for a couple of years following the 2008 recession, but the family has since reunited in North Dakota. It’s a lifestyle many other Bakken oil field workers can only dream of.

“I think a lot of these companies have figured out now they have to provide a greater quality of life to their employees,” said Kelley.

As far as Kagan is concerned, that’s an obligation all Christian’s share.

“We are to be our brothers’ keeper. That’s an obligation, really, none of us can give up,” he said.

Reprinted with permission by the Tioga Tribune

## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS



**Bishop of Bismarck  
David D. Kagan,  
D.D., P.A., J.C.L.**

The following appointment, with the permission of Bishop David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L., was effective **March 20, 2014.**

**The Reverend David A. Richter**

• Will serve as assistant dean of the Bismarck deanery



Fr. David Richter

The following appointments, with the permission of Bishop David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L., are effective **July 1, 2014.**

**The Reverend Paul C. Eberle**

• Currently pastor of the Churches of St. Anthony (Mandaree) and St. Joseph (Twin Buttes)  
• Will serve as a spiritual director at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (St. Louis, Missouri)



Fr. Paul Eberle

**The Reverend Roger A. Synek**

• Currently pastor of the Churches of St. Anthony (New Town), St. Bridget (Parshall), Sacred Heart (Plaza) and St. Elizabeth (Makoti)  
• Will be pastor of the Churches of St. Anthony (New Town) and St. Anthony (Mandaree)



Fr. Roger Synek

**The Reverend Darnis Selvanayakam, MSFX**

• Will be parochial administrator of the Church of St. Joseph (Twin Buttes). He will continue as parochial administrator of the Churches of St. Joseph (Killdeer) and St. Paul (Halliday)



Fr. Darnis Selvanayakam

**The Reverend Teji John Thanippilly**

• Currently parochial vicar of the Church of St. Joseph (Mandan)  
• Will be parochial administrator of the Churches of St. Bridget (Parshall), Sacred Heart (Plaza) and St. Elizabeth (Makoti)



Fr. Teji John Thanippilly

**The Reverend Robert P. Shea**

• Currently studying at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Rome, Italy)  
• Will be parochial vicar of the Church of St. Mary (Bismarck), as well as part-time instructor at St. Mary’s Central High School (Bismarck) and diocesan ethicist for health care



Fr. Robert Shea

**The Reverend Sebastian Stephen**

• Currently parochial vicar of the Church of St. Joseph (Dickinson)  
• Will be parochial vicar of the Church of St. Joseph (Mandan)



Fr. Sebastian Stephen

**The Reverend Thomas J. Grafsgaard**

• Currently parochial vicar of the Church of St. Leo the Great (Minot) and part-time religion instructor at Bishop Ryan High School (Minot)  
• Will be parochial vicar of the Church of St. Wenceslaus (Dickinson) and chaplain and instructor at Trinity High School (Dickinson)



Fr. Thomas Grafsgaard



# Family that reaches beyond the numbers



2013-14 Bishop Ryan Lady Lions: Front row (left to right): Maddie Lipp, Laurin Leidholt, Anika Rovig, Maddie Wald, Sydney Landsiedel, Sheyenne Schmidt. Back row (l to r): Asst. Coach April Nakatani, Asst. Coach Heather Lizotte, Kelly Kasper, Macy Christianson, Gabbie Bohl, Hannah Stewart, Morgan Kroeger, Lexie Kroeger, Asst. Coach Cody Mueller, Coach Julie Stewart. (Photos by Michelle Schmidt and Sara Kasper)

## Bishop Ryan girls claim second straight state basketball title, 57th consecutive victory

By Jaimie Brunner

When it comes to the game of basketball, there are a lot of numbers involved; shots, rebounds, turnovers, wins and losses. Numbers are just part of the game.

If you ask Bishop Ryan girls basketball coach (and mathematics instructor) Julie Stewart about numbers, she could probably give you a pretty good breakdown of the stats on paper, but she'd be the first to admit that beyond numbers, the kids on the floor are what's most important.

The Bishop Ryan girls wrapped up a second consecutive undefeated season with their second consecutive Class B title on March 22 at the FargoDome, capping a run of 57 wins in a row that ties them with Larimore for most consecutive wins by a Class B girls team in North Dakota.

Those are numbers Coach Stewart is humbled by, but standing on a chair in the middle of a sea of purple and white at a celebratory gathering after the

game, her message wasn't about wins and losses or streaks and percentages, it was about the girls she coaches.

"These girls play for each other, for their families, for their school, and for God," she said. "It's important to them to do the right thing."

According to Stewart's coaching method, fundamentals are important and defense leads to offense, but the underlying philosophy is that what the girls do off the court—who they are and how they conduct themselves—is just as important as what they do on the court.

It's a lesson that hasn't been lost on the girls.

"It's not just about learning to play basketball," senior Anika Rovig said. "These girls and all of my coaches have made me grow as a person."

Senior Sydney Landsiedel, who was sidelined with a knee injury during the 2012-2013 season added, "Without these girls and Coach Stewart, I would

not be wearing the uniform that I was wearing tonight because last year there were times when I was struggling to get back to play basketball, and I'm so thankful for

at the state tournament are "second generation" Lions with at least one parent who attended Bishop Ryan. Coach Stewart, a 1985 grad and Lady Lions basketball standout herself, knows all about "Lion Pride," and it's something she sees displayed every day on the court and in the classroom. She can also attest to the amazing support group surrounding the team made up of brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

"It's these girls and all the support they have around them. I'm just lucky to be a part of it," she said, then joked to the crowd, "I don't even know what you're all doing here."

In the end, Coach Stewart says it's something she'll never forget. "They really are special kids and they built a foundation for our program. They're each other's number one fans; they love each other, and they play this game for something a lot bigger than themselves. It shows, and I get to see it every day."

"They're each other's number one fans; they love each other, and they play this game for something a lot bigger than themselves."

them helping me and supporting me through this."

In a way, every team becomes family, but with this year's Lady Lions team, "family" went a step further.

Nine of the 11 girls who played



The Bishop Ryan Lady Lions haven't lost a game since 2012. With 57 wins in a row, the team is tied with Larimore for most consecutive wins by a Class B girls team in North Dakota.



# Students donate Nintendo Wii to retired priests

By Matthew Kurtz

Have you ever wanted to go bowling with a retired priest? Or play a round of golf? Or maybe even a boxing match? Now you can.

Thanks to the generosity of students at the Light of Christ Catholic Schools of Excellence 7th and 8th grade Academy, the seven retired priests living at Emmaus Place in Bismarck recently became proud owners of a Nintendo Wii entertainment system.

The new Wii at Emmaus Place was made possible by a service project at the school. Crafted after “the Parable of the Talents” in the Bible, each student was given \$10 that they could use however they wished, keeping in mind that the goal was to maximize the gift to accomplish greater good in the community.

“Emmaus Place said they had priests here who could use help with some technology issues,” explained physical education and health teacher Amy Heuer. “We got a couple of kids who really understand computers, iPads and cell phones to come and help out.”

But before they came, the students used the money they raised to purchase the Wii. In addition to teaching the priests to navigate their iPads, they set up the Wii and challenged them to a game of bowling.

“It was hard to figure out the TV right away, but other than that it was pretty easy,” said Joseph Richter, an eighth grader. “Each one of them has their own [technology issues], but they’re not all that complex really.”

The kids were happy to lend their inherent technological skills to the priests, and the priests were grateful for their assistance and company.

“It’s fun to have an afternoon



Fr. Marvin Klemmer shares a laugh with the students during a Wii Jeopardy match at Emmaus Place, the Bismarck Diocese retired priests’ residence. There are currently seven priests living at Emmaus Place: Fr. Raymond Aydt, Fr. Jerry Kautzman, Fr. Klemmer, Fr. John O’Leary, Fr. Jacob Schumacher, Fr. Ed Wehner, and Bishop Emeritus Paul Zipfel, the newest resident. Fr. Casimir Paluck will be moving into the residence in July. (Photos by Matthew Kurtz)

with the kids here. Most of us got gypped out of our nap time, but I think this is better than napping,” Emmaus Place resident Fr. Ed. Wehner said with a smile.

“It really makes them feel connected to the community,” commented Theresa Mizuer, coordinator of retired priest services for the Bismarck Diocese. “A priest spends his whole life connected to a faith community and to have people of all ages, especially the young people, express a desire to spend time with them brings [their lifelong service] to fulfillment.”

The purchase of the Wii “barely put a dent in the total amount of money raised” by the project, according to Heuer. And indications are that the game console will be used at Emmaus Place.

“I’m afraid I could spend a lot of time on that,” admitted Wehner after beating Fr. John O’Leary in a bowling match. “We’re not that physically active. This will give some opportunity for us to just

have fun together.”

The prized piece of entertainment at Emmaus Place for many years has been the pool table. But now, especially whenever younger priests visit, Mizeur imagines “both active and retired priests will be enjoying some good socialization and healthy activity with some exercise involved” since the Wii has many games that require physical movement.

After beating the retired priests in bowling, the students tested the group to a Wii Jeopardy showdown. However, the retired priests wouldn’t be denied as their wisdom passed the Jeopardy test.

“I hope [the students] gain an understanding that as you get older, you don’t lose your intelligence, that there’s still a child at heart inside that body,” Heuer said. “I hope they’re more willing to reach out to people who are getting up there in age.”

“I think the students see that the life of a priest is rich and full,” Mizeur added. “And if God is calling some of them [to be

priests], they’ll know that life [as a priest] is enjoyable..live it!”



Fr. Ed Wehner challenges Fr. John O’Leary to a bowling match on the new Nintendo Wii entertainment system donated to Emmaus Place by junior high students from the Light of Christ Catholic Schools of Excellence. In addition to setting up the Wii, the students also helped some of the retired priests with their smart phones and iPads.

# Missouri Bishop visits Minot to lead Lenten mission

Event was St. Leo’s first parish mission in decades

By Grace Fisher

Having concluded what he feels was a very successful Lenten mission at the Church of St. Leo the Great in Minot, Fr. Justin Waltz has decided to make it an annual tradition for the parish. As far as anyone could determine, there had not been a mission at St. Leo’s since the days of Monsignor John Hogan in the 1950s. The event was held March 30-April 1 with Bishop Edward M. Rice of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Mo., as the mission presenter.



Bishop Rice speaks during the parish mission he led at St. Leo’s in Minot. Rice is currently Bishop in Residence at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Missouri, one of five seminaries currently housing seminarians from the Bismarck Diocese.

“We felt this was spiritually the next step for the parish, and the people were ready for it,” Waltz said, referring to a continual increase in daily Mass attendance, daily adoration, and a substantial increase in confessions being heard at the parish. A mission for the parish would provide an opportunity for the desired encounter with Christ that so many at St. Leo’s were looking for, he said.

Waltz indicated to the parish early this year that a Lenten mission would be a key component of the spiritual aspect of his pastoral plan. He had offered the challenge of organizing this mission to his two associate priests, Fr. Jadyn Nelson and Fr. Thomas Grafsgaard.

They wanted the event to provide people with exposure to eucharistic adoration, confession and the recitation of the rosary and divine mercy chaplet. Searching for a speaker, Grafsgaard recommended Bishop Rice, having known him since his days in seminary training. Nelson then made arrangements for the bishop to come to Minot and organized the schedule for the event.

“It was clear from day one that



Bishop Edward Rice (center), who has served as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of St. Louis since 2011, traveled to Minot to offer a parish mission for the Church of St. Leo March 30-April 1. He is pictured with, from left, Deacon Mike Woiwode, Fr. Jadyn Nelson, Fr. Justin Waltz and Fr. Thomas Grafsgaard at St. Leo’s. (Photos by Michael J Photography)

the mission was a success but the final night was more than we could have imagined,” Waltz noted. Attendance increased to more than 200 for the event’s final session and there were many comments from parishioners who said they had gotten so much out of it, he said. The three priests and the bishop then heard confessions for two full hours that evening.

Bishop Rice focused his

presentations on the topics of holiness, the sacraments of reconciliation and the holy Eucharist, and the spirituality of Holy Week. He specifically explained the gift of confession and why Catholics don’t just tell God they’re sorry for their wrongdoings in the privacy of their thoughts. All Catholics are called to holiness, he said, and holiness is found in the normalcy of everyday life.



# Spanish Mass debuts in western ND

By Matthew Kurtz

During a recent trip to the meat department at a Dickinson grocery store, Fr. Keith Streifel met a woman in need.

“My husband and I are looking for Mass. We’re looking for the sacraments...for confession,” she told him. She wasn’t speaking English.

After a short conversation in the Spanish language with the Peruvian woman, Fr. Streifel was pleased to inform her that his parish, the Church of St. Joseph in Dickinson, could indeed meet her spiritual needs.

Responding to a clear need in the rapidly changing landscape of western North Dakota, the first Spanish Mass was offered in Dickinson in June 2013. Ever since, Spanish Mass has been offered on the first Sunday of each month at St. Joseph.

PEOPLE OF GREAT FAITH

The story is very similar in Williston, the heart of North Dakota’s oil patch.

After being ordained a priest in June and beginning his first assignment at the Church of St. Joseph in Williston, Fr. Joseph Evinger quickly noticed the large Spanish-speaking population at Williston’s only Catholic parish.



Fr. Joseph Evinger

“About 80 percent of them don’t know any English at all. Their faith brought them to the English Mass, which they don’t understand, yet they still come,” Evinger explained. “They have a great desire to know more about the Catholic faith, but

the language barrier makes it difficult for them to ask around [about the faith].”

As a result, Spanish Mass debuted in Williston on Sept. 29, 2013 and continues on the second Sunday of each month as well as on special feast days like Christmas, Easter and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. As many as 90 people have attended.

Thanks to a few years of Spanish instruction in college and a seven-week mission trip to Peru, Evinger, a New Hradec, N.D. native, was able jump in and begin saying Mass in Spanish. The structure and rituals are the same; the only difference is the language being spoken.

Prayerfully focusing on the Mass itself was difficult during his first Spanish Mass, Evinger said, but his confidence and comfort level increases with each non-English Mass he celebrates. He writes his homily in English, then sends it off to a parishioner’s sister on the west coast for translation into Spanish.

“Maybe in the future I can write [homilies] myself in Spanish, but for now my Spanish isn’t that fluent. I have it in my schedule to study Spanish three times a week.”

CATHOLIC MEANS “UNIVERSAL”

Last spring, Fr. Sebastian Schmidt from Richardton’s Assumption Abbey was invited to assist with a Lenten reconciliation service in Dickinson. Since he had served at the Abbey’s priory in Bogotá, Columbia and gained a familiarity with Spanish, the Dickinson priests wanted him to exclusively hear the confessions of the Hispanics who attended.

“He was there over an hour

after the rest of us were done,” Streifel said.

Now, Schmidt is the main celebrant at Dickinson’s Spanish Masses, which typically draw 50-75 people. In Williston, Fr. Biju Antony, one of the diocese’s priests from India, also celebrates Mass in Spanish.

The goal is to begin educating more Hispanics about their Catholic faith and about the Mass, since many “don’t know the essence of what the Mass is,” Evinger explained, noting that many have the desire to attend Mass and learn more, but simply don’t make it a priority in their life.

“They’re looking for Jesus. They’re looking for meaning in their life,” he said.

The Dickinson and Williston communities have largely welcomed the Hispanic population, according to the priests. However, anxiety still exists for those not comfortable communicating with those who can’t speak English. Fr. Streifel says simple kindness goes a long way.

“Welcome them, receive them. Just recognize them and say, ‘I’m glad you’re here.’ For those who don’t speak English, I have some great smiles for them and they have great smiles for me.

“We don’t want to start a separate community, but rather help folks come together as one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church,” Streifel said.

## Diocese receives grant to establish Hispanic ministry

BISMARCK – The Diocese of Bismarck has been selected as one of 10 dioceses in the U.S. to participate in a new grant initiative offered by the Catholic Extension Society, Bishop David Kagan was notified in February.

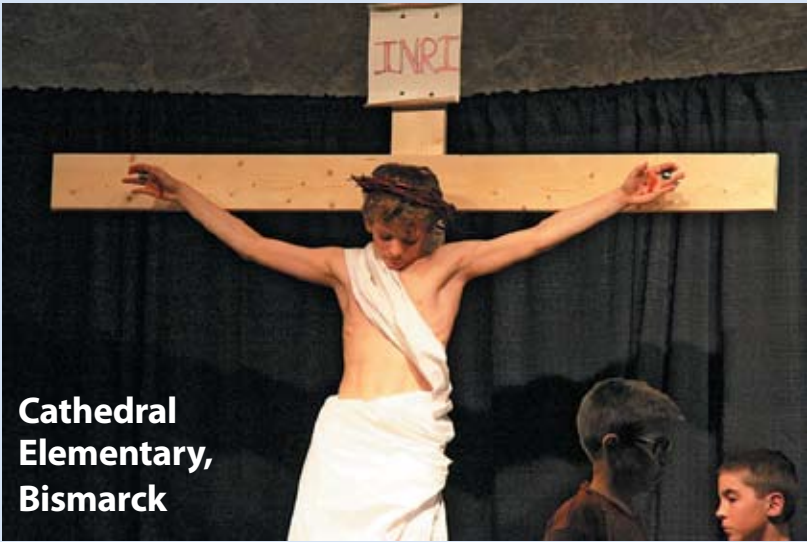
The U.S.-Latin American Sisters Exchange Program will provide funding for three religious sisters from Latin America to come to western N.D. and help establish a Hispanic ministry program. While the sisters work and minister in the Bismarck Diocese, they will receive education and training so they can return to their religious community after five years and expand their community’s ministry.

“Bishop Kagan shared that several of our pastors had expressed concerns that their parishes were not able to minister effectively to our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters,” explained Ron Schatz, who wrote the grant application as director of stewardship and resource development for the Bismarck Diocese. “Either the pastor and/or the parish staff did not speak Spanish, or they didn’t have the necessary resources.”

There are many different areas of parish ministry in which the religious sisters will assist, including sacramental preparation, liturgical minister training and catechesis. The religious sisters will be able to help every parish in our diocese minister effectively to all of our Spanish-speaking parishioners.

“In researching this grant, I thought it would be a good fit for our diocese. I am thrilled that we have been selected for grant funding for this unique opportunity,” Schatz said.

# Living Stations of the Cross



Cathedral Elementary, Bismarck



St. Elizabeth, Lefor

Students across the diocese presented “Living Stations of the Cross,” a physical representation of the traditional Catholic Lenten devotion that walks through the 14 “stations” or scenes in the passion and death of Jesus Christ. A group of home schooling children ages 4-8 put on a presentation at the Church of St. Elizabeth in Lefor on April 4. The fifth grade class of Mr. Larry Grundhauser at Cathedral Elementary in Bismarck offered their version at the school gym on April 16. “Children, through the effort of acting the agonies of Jesus in the Stations of the Cross, get involved deeply,” commented Fr. Biju Chitteth, parochial administrator at the Churches of St. Mary (New England) and St. Elizabeth. “It is one of the best ways of initiating the children in the stewardship of the Church through time and talent.”





# God's Share Appeal

*“Give alms from your possessions...  
Almsgiving is a worthy offering in the sight  
of the Most High for all who practice it.”  
- Tobit 4:7, 11*



My Dear Sisters and  
Brothers in Christ,

Our 57th Annual God's Share Appeal is upon us. This appeal is very important to the diocese as your gift helps to fund the spiritual, pastoral, educational and temporal works critical in forming our families, children and all individuals yearning for the love and mercy of God.

This year's goal is \$3,200,000. With your donation, we will be able to provide the critical funding that enables the Catholic Church in western North Dakota to form our youth and adults in our faith, promote the dignity of life and marriage, and foster vocations to the priesthood.

Your gift to the God's Share Appeal helps provide all of the programs and services that are highlighted in the following pages. Please read on to learn how these offices dispense the Lord's tender mercies to thousands of individuals and families in our diocese.

I have chosen, *“Give alms from your possessions... Almsgiving is a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who practice it.” Tobit 4:7, 11*, as the theme for our 2014 appeal. When you reflect on this theme, I hope you are inspired to prayerfully discern how God has showered you and your family with so many gifts and blessings.

You play a very important and necessary role in our diocesan family! I need you and your prayers and financial support to keep our church alive and vibrant to serve you and your loved ones for generations to come. We simply cannot continue to do the Lord's work without your support.

I am so profoundly grateful to you for your continued prayers and financial support you give to the annual God's Share Appeal. May the Lord's abundant blessings be yours today and always.

May God bless you and all that we hope to accomplish in the powerful and loving presence of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David D. Kagan".

Most Reverend David D. Kagan  
Bishop of Bismarck



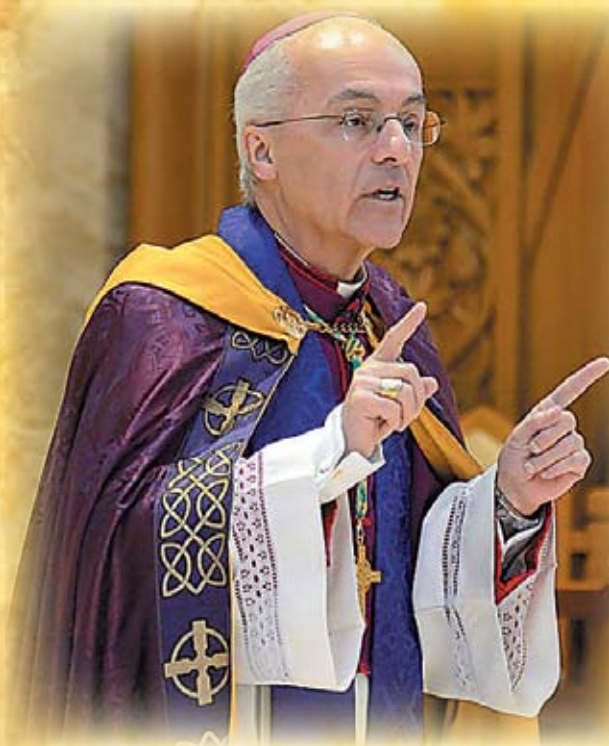
## Diocese of Bismarck

# May 3-4, 2014



# Doing God's Work

For more interesting pictures and information on each office, please visit our diocesan website:  
[www.bismarckdiocese.com](http://www.bismarckdiocese.com)



Your donation to the 2014 God's Share Appeal supports all of the programs and services provided by the following offices:

- Archives
- Bishop's Office
- Canonical Services
- Chancery Office
- Communications
- Continuing Education for Clergy Education
- Faith Formation – Adults
- Family Ministry
- Fiscal Office
- Missionary Activity
- Permanent Diaconate
- Planned Giving/Foundation
- Respect Life and Natural Family Planning
- Stewardship and Resource Development
- Vicar for Presbyters
- Vocations
- Worship
- Youth Ministry/Search

## STEWARDSHIP AND THE GOD'S SHARE APPEAL

The God's Share Appeal is based on the concept of Christian stewardship. Stewardship is centered on the daily recognition that we are not the absolute owners of ourselves, our time, our talents, or material goods. Rather, we have received every gift of nature and grace from God. Through baptism we are called to use our time, talent and treasure in a responsible manner for our families, our parish communities, the pastoral, educational and religious ministries of the diocese, and for the global ministries of the universal Church. Stewardship is not about just giving in order to fill a need. It is about living a life that shows gratitude to the Lord for our lives, our skills and our resources.

## STEWARDSHIP IS...

Receiving God's gifts gratefully  
Nurturing God's gifts responsibly  
Sharing God's gifts justly  
Returning God's gifts abundantly

This year's God's Share Appeal theme, "Give alms from your possessions...Almsgiving is a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who practice it" (Tobit 4:7, 11) reminds us that our sacrifices are pleasing to God. By supporting the work and ministry of the programs and services funded by the God's Share Appeal, you are able to work in communion toward fulfilling your role as a devoted steward.

Please consider one percent of your income as a gift to the 2014 God's Share Appeal. Make your pledge today. Thank you for being good stewards of God's grace.

## CONSIDER DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES

1. Make a pledge rather than a one-time gift.
2. Have your gift automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.
3. Use your credit card or debit card to make your gift.
4. Make your gift online at [www.bismarckdiocese.com](http://www.bismarckdiocese.com).
5. Increase last year's gift by a percentage or a specific dollar amount.
6. Pledge one percent of your income.
7. Make your gift using stocks, bonds, grain, livestock, securities, real estate, or other personal property, which may have greatly increased in value. Should you be considering this type of gift, contact the Office of Stewardship and Resource Development at (701) 222-3035 for assistance.

Annual Household Income	1% Pledge	Down Payment	11 Monthly Payments
\$12,000	\$120	\$10.00	\$10.00
\$24,000	\$240	\$20.00	\$20.00
\$48,000	\$480	\$40.00	\$40.00
\$60,000	\$600	\$50.00	\$50.00
\$90,000	\$900	\$75.00	\$75.00
\$120,000	\$1,200	\$100.00	\$100.00
\$180,000	\$1,800	\$150.00	\$150.00

Your gift supports the Office of Vocations. Currently, we have 12 seminarians in formation, and one of them is scheduled to be ordained on June 12, 2014.



Your gift supports the Office of the Permanent Diaconate which coordinates the recruitment and training of deacon candidates. Currently, we have 79 Deacons with 18 men in formation.

The Office of Youth Ministry coordinates the Search weekends, the High School Youth Rally and the Jr. High Youth Rally. Your donation to the God's Share Appeal helps keep our future leaders active and alive in our Catholic Church.



Your donation supports all of our priests and deacons during the Spring and Fall Clergy Conferences. These are two of the programs planned by the Office of Continuing Education for Clergy.

Your contribution supports all of our 19 retired priests who are a tremendous gift to our diocese. Fr. Marv Klemmer, Fr. Ray Aydt, Fr. Ed Wehner and Fr. Jerry Kautzman enjoy visiting with friends and family.



Your donation supports all of the programs offered through the Office of Adult Faith Formation. One of these programs is the training offered to each parish so they can conduct the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) which is the process for welcoming adults into the full communion of the Catholic Church. Bishop Kagan poses here with the RCIA catechumens and candidates.



Your donation supports numerous programs and services provided through the Office of Family Ministry. Four of the many programs are the Premarriage Workshops for couples planning to become married, the Retrouvaille Program that helps parishioners who are in hurting marriages, the annual Celebration of Marriage Day, and the annual Town and Country Celebration.

## WE RESPOND AS DISCIPLES...

After reflecting on the importance of the indispensable works of formation, outreach and education funded through the God's Share Appeal and how you can help: Please **reflect** on the many gifts you have received from God, including your financial blessings. Next, **pray** about how God wants you to use the gifts He has entrusted to your care. Then, **decide** how you will share your blessings with those in need and support the mission of your diocesan Church. Please prayerfully discern how you will respond to God's generosity in your life by making a generous pledge to the God's Share Appeal that impacts thousands of lives in western North Dakota each year.

*"Give alms from your possessions...Almsgiving is a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who practice it."*  
- Tobit 4: 7, 11

The Office of Communications assists Bishop Kagan in communicating with people of all ages in a variety of ways – through the Dakota Catholic Action newspaper, weekly video messages on the diocesan website and through his Twitter account.





## Consecration to Mary in Hebron

A total of 56 participants (20 men and 36 women) from the Church of St. Ann in Hebron joined their pastor, Fr. Jeffrey Zwack, and Bishop David Kagan in making a Consecration to Mary. The group used the "33 Days to Morning Glory" retreat program and made the consecration on March 25, the feast of the Annunciation. The occasion was celebrated with a special blessing at Mass and a social gathering afterwards. Six residents from the Marian Manor Nursing Home in Glen Ullin (inset) also joined in the program. All participants received a certificate and a Miraculous Medal to remind them of their commitment on this special day. (Submitted photos)



## Obituaries

### Deacon Edwin Wesolowski

Deacon Edwin A. Wesolowski, 75, passed away on March 24, 2014, at St. Vincent's Care Center, Bismarck.

Ed was born March 27, 1938 in Grand Forks, the son of Edwin and Catherine (Ebertowski) Wesolowski of Warsaw. At age 5, his mother died so he spent much of his time on a farm near Warsaw with his maternal grandparents, John and Martha Ebertowski.

In February 1957, he volunteered to serve in the Army. He was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany and worked with classified information as a clerk typist for two years. He returned to the United States in February 1959 and remained on active reserve until his honorable discharge in July 1963.

Ed graduated from the University of North Dakota in



Deacon Edwin Wesolowski

1966 and worked for the U.S. Geological Survey in Bismarck as a hydrologist, at the USGS as a water quality specialist and supervisory hydrologist, and for the Bureau of Reclamation to work on the Garrison Diversion Project.

In February 1962, he married Joy Korynta of Ardoch and the couple raised four children. Ed was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus and was very active at the Church of St. Anne, serving as a lector and eucharistic minister for many years. He was involved with many diocesan programs including pre-marriage preparation, baptismal classes and Bible studies.

Ed was ordained a deacon in 1999 at the Church of St. Leo in Minot. He served as a deacon at the Churches of St. Anne, Ascension and St. Mary in Bismarck until he retired from active ministry in 2006.

### Sister Jeanne d'Arc

Sister Jeanne d' Arc, 96, Sister of Mercy of the Holy Cross, died March 20 at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill, Wisc.

Sister Jeanne d' Arc was born

September 10, 1917, in Sheffield, N.D., daughter of the late Anthony and Marianna (Reiter) Kilwein and given the name Celestine. She entered Holy Cross Convent in Merrill, Wisc., on September 10, 1933, and celebrated her First Profession on August 22, 1937.

Sister attended Model High School in Dickinson, North Dakota and during her 77 years of ministry was present in classrooms in Haymarsh, N.D., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Merrill, Wisc. among other locations.

### Sister Del Rey Kuhn, OSB

Sister Del Rey Kuhn, OSB, 89, of Mother of God Monastery, Watertown, SD died March 26, 2014.

Viola Kuhn was born on a farm in Glen Ullin, N.D. on March 10, 1925 to Peter and Celestine (Emineth) Kuhn. She was the oldest of nine children. Following high school, Viola attended Mount Marty College in Yankton, S.D. and graduated with a major in history and a minor in education. In 1966 she obtained an MBA at the University of Notre Dame.

Viola entered Sacred Heart

Convent in Yankton in 1944. She was given the name Del Rey. Following her profession of Monastic Promises, she was sent to Selfridge, N.D. where she began her teaching career. Sister Del Rey also taught at Stephan Indian Mission, Aberdeen, Kranzburg and Pierre, S.D.; Glen Ullin and Richardton, N.D.; and York, Neb. In 1961, she became a founding member of Mother of God Monastery.

She is survived by two sisters (Alma Jean and Kathleen), two brothers (Pat and Richard), numerous nieces and nephews and the Sisters of Mother of God Monastery. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters (Irene, Gladys and Donna) and brother Victor.

## Diocese seeks scouts for St. George Trek

BISMARCK – The Bismarck Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting is seeking male and female applicants for the St. George Trek on July 8, 2015 in Albuquerque, N.M.

The St. George Trek is a high-adventure hiking trip at the Philmont Scout Ranch designed to help young men and women discern their vocation. Youth, under the guidance of selected priests, religious and seminarians, spend 11 days hiking the beautiful trails of Philmont Scout Ranch in the Sangre de Cristos range of the Rocky Mountains in northern New Mexico. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting sponsors the event.

Candidates must be 15 years of age on or before July 1, 2015 and must be able to handle the physical demands of mountain backpacking.

The registration form can be found at <http://nccs-bsa.org> under the "Youth" tab. Completed forms should be sent by June 1, 2014 to: Deacon Harvey Hanel, 1918 S Grandview Ln, Bismarck, ND 58503.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ■ NFP instructor training

Interested in becoming a certified NFP instructor for the Bismarck Diocese? A training in the Billings Method of Natural Family Planning will be held in Bismarck on June 5-8, 2014. Why become a Billings Method teacher? You will be joining teachers in over 100 countries around the world in teaching the simplest yet scientifically researched method available. Candidates need not be current users of the method to apply. Women are able to teach as an individual or a married couple. For more information, including an application packet, please contact Amanda Ellerkamp at [aellerkamp@bismarckdiocese.com](mailto:aellerkamp@bismarckdiocese.com) or 701-590-2837.

### ■ Bismarck's Ascension turns 40

The Church of the Ascension in Bismarck will celebrate its 40th anniversary as a parish with a special Mass with Bishop Kagan on June 29 at 11 a.m. All are welcome to join in a catered picnic after the Mass.

### ■ Quilt show

Attend the annual quilt show/sale Sat., May 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Church of Corpus Christi in Bismarck. There will be over 100 quilts for sale made by the Caring Hearts Quilters and the group will also be donating

many of the quilts. There is a raffle of a queen size quilt as well as other quilts. Come and enjoy a wonderful show and refreshments. Contact Susan Tschider with questions: 471-0816.

### ■ Iconography workshop

Instructor Nicholas Markell will be leading an iconography workshop June 23-28 at the Church of Spirit of Life in Mandan. The workshop teaches Byzantine iconography and the spiritual symbolism of the icon writing process. Participants will create the icon of the newly declared St. John Paul II during the workshop. Markell will also offer a public presentation on feast day icons on June 26 at 7 p.m. Call 701-663-1660 for more information.

### ■ Fort Berthold Catholic Congress

The parishioners of the Church of St. Joseph (Twin Buttes) would like to invite you to the annual Fort Berthold Catholic Congress to be held May 30-June 1. Together we will celebrate our Catholic faith. On Friday there will be a supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by a youth traditional dance and the showing of a movie about St. Kateri's life. Saturday entails a 2k walk followed by lunch, guest speakers, and Mass in the afternoon. The evening wraps up with supper, rosary, and eucharistic adoration. On

Sunday, Bishop Kagan will be present to offer our confirmation Mass at 11 a.m. followed by a picnic, special music and talks by some of our elders.

### EVENT SUBMISSIONS

**DEADLINE:** The *Dakota Catholic Action* is published monthly except for July. Material deadline is noon the first Friday of the month for the following months' publication (ex: first Friday in January for the February issue of the DCA). Recurring or ongoing events must be submitted each time they occur to be included.

**ACCEPTED MATERIAL:** Brief notices of upcoming events hosted by diocesan parishes and institutions. Items are published on a space available basis.

### SUBMITTED ITEMS MUST INCLUDE:

- For consideration each event must be listed individually and include:
- Time and date of event
- Full event description including related times
- Complete address of event venue
- Contact information of individual responsible for submitted material

**E-MAIL:** [mkurtz@bismarckdiocese.com](mailto:mkurtz@bismarckdiocese.com)

**MAIL:** DCA Calendar, PO Box 1137, Bismarck, ND 58502-1137





Krebs (center, in white) is joined by, from left: Fr. David Zimmer, Fr. Austin Vetter, his aunt Sister Lavonne Krebs, SSND, Fr. Joshua Ehli and seminarian Jordan Dosch after the April 6 Mass in Rome. (Photos by Pontifical North American College)

# Krebs receives Ministry of Acolyte in Rome

ROME – On April 6, during Mass in the Immaculate Conception Chapel of the Pontifical North American College (the American seminary in Rome), Archbishop Jorge Carlos Patr3n Wong, the Secretary for Seminaries at the Congregation for the Clergy in the Vatican, conferred the Ministry of Acolyte on 53 seminarians, including one from the Diocese of Bismarck, Douglas Krebs.

As part of the rite, the archbishop placed a paten—a small plate of precious metal that contains the hosts of wheat flour used in the Mass—into the hands of each candidate and said, “Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church.”

As acolytes, the seminarians are commissioned to serve at the altar at Mass, assist in the purification of communion vessels, and are charged to take Holy Communion to the sick.

Krebs is currently in his second year of theological formation for the priesthood and will have two



Bismarck seminarian Douglas Krebs is handed the paten during Mass April 6 where he received the Ministry of Acolyte. As an acolyte, Krebs is commissioned to serve at the altar at Mass, assist in the purification of communion vessels, and take Holy Communion to the sick.

additional years of studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood in the Bismarck Diocese.

Reception of the Ministry of Acolyte follows reception of the Ministry of Lector, which was conferred upon Krebs last year. It precedes ordination to the transitional diaconate, which is scheduled to take place at the end of the following year.

# Key facts: Human Life Amendment

## BACKGROUND

North Dakota voters will have an opportunity to enact the proposed Human Life Amendment this November. The proposed amendment to North Dakota’s state constitution provides as follows:

“The inalienable right to life of every human being at any stage of development must be recognized and protected.”

The proposed amendment was passed by a bi-partisan majority of both the House and the Senate of the state legislature.

## PURPOSE

North Dakota’s legislature has passed a variety of strong, common-sense pro-life laws. These include ensuring that women are given full disclosure of information prior to an abortion, making sure parents are notified if their daughter is seeking an abortion, and prohibiting children who are partially born from being killed by an abortionist before their birth can be completed.

Unfortunately, the wealthy abortion industry regularly challenges North Dakota’s pro-life laws and attempts to persuade judges to invent a state constitutional right to abortion as a way of overturning these laws. The Human Life Amendment will give the state needed legal protection against a judge inventing a right to abortion, as recently happened in Fargo.

Ruling on the validity of two laws passed by the legislature to protect the health and safety of women receiving

abortions, Judge Wickham Corwin claimed that the North Dakota constitution contains an implicit right to abortion. The Human Life Amendment will give the state needed legal protection against these attacks.

## AMENDMENT SUPPORTERS

The amendment is supported by “ND Choose Life,” a coalition of pro-life, pro-family, women’s and religious organizations including the North Dakota Catholic Conference, North Dakota Family Alliance, North Dakota Life League, Love Them Both, North Dakota Right to Life and the North Dakota chapter of Concerned Women for America LAC, among others. The coalition’s web site is NDChooseLife.com.

## AMENDMENT OPPONENTS

Groups such as Planned Parenthood and the Center for Reproductive Rights oppose the amendment just as they oppose any common-sense law that reduces abortion. In a prior campaign in North Dakota regarding religious liberty, the abortion industry was responsible for virtually all of the funds used to oppose the amendment.

## TAKE ACTION

To stay up-to-date with the latest information regarding the ND Human Life Amendment, sign up to receive email updates at NDchooselife.com or follow ND Choose Life on Facebook & Twitter.

*Printed with permission by ND Choose Life*



## North Dakota Catholic Conference

### Press Release

103 South Third, Suite 10  
Bismarck ND 58501  
701-223-2519  
Fax: 701-223-6075  
ndcatholic.org  
ndcatholic@btinet.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Date: March 14, 2014 Contact: Christopher Dodson, Executive Director (701-269-2644)

## Catholic Bishops Welcome Settlement, Warn of Other Attacks on Common Sense Laws

Bismarck, North Dakota -The North Dakota Catholic Conference, speaking on behalf of the Roman Catholic bishops of North Dakota issued the following statement on the announcement by Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem that the Red River Women’s Clinic is dismissing its attempt to nullify new safety laws for abortions.

## Statement of the North Dakota Catholic Conference on Settlement of Abortion Lawsuit

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem announced today that the Red River Women’s Clinic has agreed to dismiss its lawsuit against a 2013 law requiring that abortionists have admitting privileges at a local hospital. The abortion clinic had challenged the law, claiming that it did not have to comply with the new safety standards because of an alleged right to abortion in the North Dakota Constitution.

The North Dakota Catholic Conference welcomes this development. So long as abortion is legal, the health and safety of women having abortions must be protected. We are pleased that the abortion clinic decided to comply with this common sense law rather than tie up the courts with its attempt to invent an unfettered right to abortion.

Nevertheless, North Dakotans should be concerned that the clinic and its out-of-state lawyers are still trying to nullify common sense laws passed by the North Dakota legislature. The only way to prevent this abuse of the legal system and this disregard for women’s health and safety is to pass the Human Life Amendment on the November ballot. The amendment, which will be Measure One, will prevent judicial nullification of reasonable legislation that protects human life, including the lives of women having abortions.

3rd Annual

Blue Mass

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck

May 13, 2014, 6 p.m.

All are invited.

The Blue Mass is an opportunity to pray for all active, retired and deceased law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel.



Run to Win

1 Cor. 9:24

MICHELLE DUPPONG



Bringing “being” back to human beings

With summer right around the corner, the pace of daily activity seems to pick up. On the one hand, most people are absolutely elated to get out of the house after such a long winter, but on the other hand, they fear escalating into pure busyness. Don’t let yourself and your family get ensnared in the busyness trap once Memorial Day rolls around.

Something to keep in mind: Satan hates you—everything about you! He not only wants your soul to be eternally separated from God, but he wants to destroy your body, too. If he can’t keep you from God through mortal sin, he’s going to try to distract you from the mission God has entrusted to you—the thing that only you can do. The world screams to be a *human doing* rather than a *human being*.

It’s like that part of *The Lord of the Rings* where Frodo, the one who’s chosen to carry the ring symbolizing temptation and sin, collapses to the ground out of sheer exhaustion ready to give up on his mission when Galadriel, an elf likened to our Blessed Mother, appears to him in a vision, extends her hand to him and says, “This mission has been appointed to you, Frodo of the Shire. If you do not find a way, no one will.” He takes her hand and is pulled back up with renewed strength and vision.

To ensure that Satan doesn’t get the upper hand in our lives, we need to prioritize the activities in our schedules. St. John Paul the Great encouraged us in his 1998 writing *Dies Domini*:

*“Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ! Yes, let us open our time to Christ, that He may cast light upon it and give it direction. He is the One who knows the secret of time and the secret of eternity.”*

Here’s where you can start:

**1. Time for God:** When are you going to spend time in conversation with God today? If you’re too busy to pray, you’re too busy, period. Prayer is a must! Stop the excuses. If you want to go heaven, it’s a good idea to get to know God now, don’t you think?! As Americans, much stress is put on being productive and seeing results, and this carries over into our spiritual lives. We want to *do* rather than *be*, but we can’t do God’s will if we don’t spend time asking Jesus what his will is. Blessed Mother Teresa said,

“The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls.”

**2. Your primary vocation (priesthood, consecrated life, or marriage):** This, by its definition, is your path to holiness, so this must trump all of your activities apart from your time with God. Make the time you spend with your family or others involved with your vocation meaningful—they want your love, not merely more *things*. Remember that 70’s song “Cat’s in the Cradle”? Don’t let that be the ballad of your life.

**3. Rest/recreation/holy leisure:** Do not put off what you enjoy, what makes you fully come alive, for the sake of your work. This is why we get burned out! God gave us Sundays to relax, worship Him, and to spend time *being* with others. Plus, we need a snippet of this daily, not just Sundays. “The alteration between work and rest, built into human nature, is willed by God himself...[Rest] is something ‘sacred,’ because it is man’s way of withdrawing from the excessively demanding cycle of earthly tasks in order to renew his awareness that everything is the work of God” (*Dies Domini*).

**4. Work:** This is a necessary part of life—there’s no getting around it. However, it can overrun our lives and take precedence over the people in our day. How are you being a light in the workplace? How are you trying to make someone else’s day better? The immortal souls God places in our path are more important than the most pressing project.

Time is a free gift we are given, but with this gift comes great responsibility. Every action we do should be ordered to our ultimate end: heaven.

C.S. Lewis shares in his book *Mere Christianity*:

*“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next...It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective...Aim at heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in;’ aim at earth and you will get neither.”*

Ask yourself: How do I want to spend my time? vs. How am I spending my time?

■ Duppong is director of adult faith formation for the Bismarck Diocese.

Ag Attitudes

JAMES ODERMANN



Responding to God’s grace: A choice

The presentation of the calf in the birthing canal of the heifer was perfect. The delivery was difficult. I could see the heart beating through the calf’s chest cavity. I noticed the calf was not breathing.

I knelt on the ground, reached down, wiped the calf’s nose, clamped its mouth shut, blocked one nostril and puffed into the other nostril, hoping to initiate its breathing. Five seconds later I started to massage its chest and diaphragm, like its mother would do with her tongue.

All the newborn heifer calf had to do was to accept the air that was everywhere. I prayed it would—and miraculously I could see breathing start. The breathing was labored at first, eventually developing into a rhythm, accepting the air and wanting to live.

The calf still had some hurdles to overcome. I continued to massage the calf, rubbing its nose, head, underbelly and legs. It became more and more alert and I whispered “Thank you, God.”

So, as I wiped the dirt, amniotic fluid and other debris off my hands, I thought of the presence of God’s grace. The calf had access to all the air in the world. It just had to start to breathe and want to live. Air is everywhere, a necessity to sustain life.

In my world, God’s grace is everywhere—and God gives me that grace unconditionally. God’s assistance through grace is infinite. **The key is that I have to be open to accepting and to using the grace in a way that is good and pleasing to God.**

Rising off my knees, I began a self-examination. God is always there and God is present in so many ways. God wants me to answer the call to be a disciple. The decision—just like the calf’s decision to breathe the ever-present air of this earth—is mine.

As I walked over to attend to the new mother cow, my head was reeling with images of how God gives me the option to decide how I will be part of God’s world. My lot in life is a series of conscious

choices that I make.

Living with God through the Trinity should be a delightful experience. That does not mean everything is easy, goes my way and strokes my ego. Rather, the delight in living means accepting the challenges of life and turning

“Living with God through the Trinity should be a delightful experience. **That does not mean everything is easy.”**

them into the joy of being a disciple of Jesus.

True discipleship of Jesus means serving God by serving others. This means accepting God’s grace offered constantly in life. It means commitment to being open to God’s love in the many forms manifested to me.

Life presents many situations—and it is up to me to turn challenges into opportunities in which I can show God’s ever present love in life.

I hope I can answer the call. 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).



PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The Diocese of Bismarck is firmly committed to the health and protection of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. With the hope of healing the pain and suffering from sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, we encourage anyone who has suffered from this abuse to please come forward and let us know. To report allegations of sexual abuse, please contact: Dale Eberle, Chancellor, Diocese of Bismarck, PO Box 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502-1575. Phone: 701.223.1347 or 1.877.405.7435. The complaint form and policies can be found on the diocesan web site at <http://www.bismarckdiocese.com>.

CODE OF PASTORAL 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 Pastoral Conduct is defined for the Diocese of Bismarck and it provides a foundation for implementing effective and enforceable standards for all personnel. View the Code of Pastoral Conduct at <http://www.bismarckdiocese.com>.



Balancing Church & State

CHRISTOPHER DODSON



The danger of ideologies  
Reflecting on 20 years with the ND Catholic Conference

This spring marks my twentieth year with the North Dakota Catholic Conference. People often ask what I have learned about politics and politicians during these twenty years. Three lessons stand out to me.

First, most people, including most lawmakers, are neither entirely “conservative” nor “liberal.” The truth is that most of us live in a world of shades. Even the most tight-fisted fiscal conservative will loosen the purse strings for a cause close to her heart. Self-proclaimed “progressives” can shudder at the breakdown of social norms.

Second, most legislators want to do what they think is right for their constituents and the broader population. Self-interest, power grabbing and revenge make for good political dramas on television—and they do exist—but most legislators are there because they care about making society better for others.

Third, the greatest barrier to progress for any area of legislation is partisanship and ideology. This might seem to contradict the first two observations. After all, if most legislators are not completely conservative or liberal and they want to do the right thing, why would partisanship and ideology get in the way?

There are a few possible explanations for this apparent paradox. First, like it or not, the two-party system is entrenched in the United States. It is the setting in which any elected official must work. With that comes party discipline which can curb and sometimes quash the will and ability to do what the legislator thinks is right. Sometimes this comes with the ultimate goal of doing good in mind. Frequently a legislator must decide to “go with the party on this one” so that he or she can influence the party on another issue.

Additionally, two-party politics has, in more recent decades, tended to greater differences rather than commonalities. This was not always the case. Political scientists use to teach that the United States had a history of having two only slightly different centrist parties, unlike Europe. Both parties moved toward the center to capture the majority vote. When the voters

moved “left” or “right,” the center moved with them.

Whether the parties are following the people or the people are following the parties, both parties have more recently moved away from the center. This puts more pressure on legislators to stay disciplined and to break party ranks less frequently.

Ideology contributes to the problem because, even if most people are not completely conservative or liberal, they often think they are entirely one or the other. No matter what their views, people identify themselves according to ideologies such as “conservative,” “libertarian,” “progressive,” “anarchist.”

When it comes to political activities, it becomes too common and convenient to think of ourselves not as Catholics, but as progressives, Republicans, conservatives, or whatever. As a result, it becomes too easy to let ideology and parties get in the way of what we believe is right.

Pope Francis has recently reminded us that all ideologies fall short of expressing the whole truth of the human person. No ideology, whether it be socialism, libertarianism, liberalism, scientism, secularism, or any other “-ism” can answer the essential questions about

our existence, much less provide comprehensive guidance to questions about public policy. Turning to ideology or parties for political answers risks engaging in a form of idolatry. Rather than turning to the party or philosophies, the first question a legislator should ask when confronted with a proposal should be, “Based on what I know about my faith and what my conscience tells me, is this the right answer?”

So let’s pray that our lawmakers have the wisdom to discern the difference between the Truth and ideologies, between following Him or following parties, and the strength to act according to an informed conscience. And while you are at it, please pray for me and the work of the North Dakota Catholic Conference.

■ Dodson is executive director of the N.D. Catholic Conference.

Pope Frank

ABBEY NAGEL



Find yourself  
throwing plates?  
Try a pocket Gospel, Pope says

It’s often a struggle for ordinary people, like you and me, to relate the Gospel to our lives each day. Thankfully, Pope Francis knows this.

Have you ever noticed that he’s all about practicality? He understands what everyday life in the world entails and he wants to meet us there. Simply put, he wants his words to be practical enough to make a difference in our homes and families.

As usual, Pope “Frank” uses himself as an example. He’s always already acting on what he challenges us to everyday. Recently, he’s been encouraging people to start focusing on the Gospels each day. But he is practical about it. How can we focus on the Gospel throughout the day when we are constantly going from one thing to the next? Pope Francis suggests we do what he does—carry a small portable copy of the Gospel with us, in our purse or even in our pocket.

“At any time in the day I take the Gospel out of my pocket and read a little something, a short passage. There we find Jesus, Who speaks to us, in the Gospel! Think about this. **It is not difficult, and it is not even necessary to have all four of them:** we can carry just one of the Gospels, a little copy, with us at all times.”

Pope “Frank” is clear with us. His suggestion is simple. And to make it even easier, at his regular Sunday Angelus in St. Peter’s square on April 6, he handed out thousands of pocket-sized copies of the Gospel to the people there. He’s determined to get people to focus on what’s most important—Christ—throughout their days...even if that means he has to put a copy of the Gospel right in their hands.

Why is this so important to Pope Francis? He’s frank about that, too.

“To listen to Jesus, we need to be near to Him, to follow Him, as did the crowds in the Gospel who ran after him through the streets of Palestine.” He wants us to *listen* to what Jesus is telling us amidst the turmoil of each day. This can be accomplished by carrying a copy of the Gospel in our pockets (smartphone, anyone?), meditating on the daily Gospel readings from Mass each day, or even just opening the Bible over our lunch break, before work, before meals, and before bed.

Not convinced that the pope understands the life of ordinary people like us? Here’s what he recently said about marriage:

“We are well aware of the many difficulties and trials there may be in the life of a married couple... There are always arguments in marriages, and at times even plates are thrown.”

Yes, Pope Francis is talking about our kitchen plates. He isn’t sugarcoating anything for us. He even joked about bringing in the “United Nations peace-keepers” to solve our marital melees.

Then, as always, he relates these everyday struggles to Christ. We are human, he said, so we shouldn’t be discouraged when arguments happen.

“Love is stronger than the moments in which we argue. Keep alive the link with God, which is at the basis of the matrimonial bond.” This happens through prayer—or even a “little gesture: a caress.” A very physical and concrete suggestion from our pope.

We’ve seen it time and time again, but the examples of the pocket Gospels and plate throwing can remind us that our pope is someone who is real...and relatable. Just like Jesus. So it’s the least we can do to hear what he has to say. Hopefully we will remember Pope “Frank” and turn to the Gospel next time we find ourselves throwing plates in the kitchen.

■ Nagel is the executive assistant to the bishop at the Diocese of Bismarck. Her column on the words and actions of Pope Francis appears bi-monthly in the DCA.

Public Invitation  
to Clerics and Laity  
of the Diocese of Bismarck

With joy and thanksgiving to God, please join the Church of the Diocese of Bismarck as they gather with Bishop David Kagan for the  
Anniversary Mass of the Ordination  
to the Holy Priesthood for:

- Rev. Msgr. James B. Braaten (25)  
Rev. David G. Morman (25)  
Rev. Victor Feser, OSB (50)  
Rev. Raymond Dietlein, OSB (60)  
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Senger (60)
- Rev. Phillip J. Brown, S.S. (25)  
Rev. Dennis R. Schafer (25)  
Rev. John P. O’Leary (60)  
Rt. Rev. Lawrence Wagner, OSB (60)

Friday May 30, 2014 • 3 p.m.  
at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit  
520 N. Raymond Street, Bismarck, ND  
Reception to follow 4–5:30 p.m.  
(in the lower level of Cathedral)





# Questions I was afraid to ask

FR. KEITH STREIFEL



**Q: Do priests go to confession? Can they give themselves absolution? How often do they have to go?**

**A:** It sounds like a good idea: a priest sitting in a corner by himself, whispering into his own ear, “Bless me, me, for I have sinned.” Because if a priest could confess to himself then, “Can’t we all just tell our sins straight to God?” These questions get to the heart of the sacrament of penance.

Because our sins hurt others—and more importantly because God intends us to encounter Him in the sacrament of confession—there must be another person present. We need to speak and be heard. We need to hear and receive. This is humbling...even humiliating.

Confession is not about power. Power to forgive sins, given to the apostles and so to priests, is still God’s power. The priest is as much in need of that forgiveness as anyone who receives absolution from him. Reconciliation is first and foremost about an encounter with the Living God whose very nature is love. The power is Love (God) conquering sin. The power is Christ acting in the midst of the two gathered in His Name.

Priests have to go to confession only as often as everyone else in the Church. The precept of the Church says that we must confess once a year before receiving our annual communion during Easter. This is like saying, “I take a bath once a year, whether I need it or not.”

The person who takes a bath only once a year stinks, and everybody knows it except

perhaps the person who has gotten used to their own stench. Going to confession infrequently for a priest is like working at a fine restaurant and neither bathing nor washing hands while serving food. Priests touch what is precious, what is holy. We serve the Body of Christ to the Body of Christ in word and sacrament, in presence and prayer. **Reconciliation once a year is only enough to keep us from going septic.** A priest has to go to confession enough to touch the wounded, to feed the hungry, and to allow the odor of sanctity to predominate.

Pope Francis, who goes to confession every two weeks, is a good example of a priest. Recently, people were surprised to see him kneel at a confessional. The Holy Father knows he needs the sacrament; he almost never stops speaking about it. He knows that, **since penance is an encounter with the Living God, absolution can’t be a lonely act in a corner** by himself. And, as a good priest, Pope Francis knows that frequent reconciliation connects him with God, who is Love.

Priests are constantly confronted with the presence of God, just as husbands and wives are constantly confronted with the presence of their spouse. If they try to hide themselves or mute their affections, they will be found out. Love commands loving deeds and requires reparation when they are lacking. Priests, like spouses, want to love. So if priests are to be in right relationship with God, they have to go to confession.

■ Fr. Streifel is pastor of the Church of St. Joseph in Dickinson. If you have a question you were afraid to ask, now it the time to ask it! Simply email your question to [info@bismarckdiocese.com](mailto:info@bismarckdiocese.com).

# Making Sense out of Bioethics

FR. TAD PACHOLCZYK



## A path of renewal for the Catholic sterilized couple

Among married men and women who undergo surgical sterilization through a vasectomy or a tubal ligation, it has been estimated that anywhere from ten to twenty percent will come to regret the choice. Sometimes there may be an immediate awareness of wrongdoing following the surgery, while in other cases, as Patrick Coffin, radio host and author of *Sex au Naturel* notes, sterilized couples may “...drift for years before acknowledging that something between them is no longer in sync. After the initial pregnancy fear subsides, and the vision of 1001 erotic nights turns out be something of a scam, spouse may (subtly) turn against spouse while doing their best to ignore the silent, disturbing ‘presence’ of the choice they made.”

Their decision to seek out a permanent form of contraception can also affect their marriage in other important ways. As Dr. John Billings has noted: there is “an effect that is even more tragic than the clinical, and it is that in many cases the use of contraceptive methods in marriage has been followed by an act of infidelity of one of the members. It would seem that contraception diminishes the mutual respect of husband and wife... Additionally, the abandoning of self-control diminishes the capacity to exercise this self-dominion outside the marriage.”

The “abandonment of self-control” that can follow permanent sterilization raises ongoing spiritual and moral challenges for couples who later repent and confess the sin of having undergone a vasectomy or a tubal ligation. A unique and vexing problem arises because sterilized individuals may find themselves, as Patrick Coffin observes, “sorely tempted to delight in the very sex-without-babies mentality that led to the sterilization in the first place.”

Repentant couples, out of an abundance of spiritual caution, may thus wonder what they should do, and whether they are obliged to get a surgical reversal of the procedure. The Church has never declared this to be a required step, in part because of the risks and burdens associated with surgical interventions, in part because of the high uncertainty of a successful outcome, and in part because of the potentially significant expenses involved.

Even though a reversal may not be feasible or obligatory, the repentant couple may nonetheless become aware of the need to order their sexual activity and appetites in the face of their original sterilization decision and its extended consequences. They may recognize a pressing interior need to grow in the virtue of marital chastity and to engage in a lifestyle that authentically embodies their new, albeit delayed, rejection of the contraceptive mentality.

In these situations, clergy and spiritual advisors will often encourage couples to pattern their sex life on the same cycle of periodic abstinence that fertile couples follow when using Natural Family Planning (NFP). During times of abstinence, the couples actively exercise self-control, thereby reordering the sensual and sexual appetites. This strengthens spouses in their resolve not to reduce each other to objects for pursuing sexual self-gratification. This is important because various forms of contraception, including permanent sterilization, often involve the phenomenon of the woman feeling as if she is being “used” by her husband.

Abstinence, therefore, assists couples in learning to express their mutual love in other ways. St. John Paul II explains this perspective in his famous work *Love and Responsibility*: “Inherent in the essential character of continence as a virtue is the conviction that *the love of man and woman loses nothing as a result of temporary abstention from erotic experiences, but on the contrary gains*: the personal union takes deeper root, grounded as it is above all in the affirmation of the value of the person and not just in sexual attachment.” In one of his weekly general audiences later as Pope, he further notes that “...continence itself is a definite and permanent moral attitude; it is a virtue, and therefore, the whole line of conduct guided by it acquires a virtuous character.”

Fertile couples who incorporate NFP into their marriages to avoid a conception often end up acquiring a different attitude towards life as they chart and practice periodic abstinence: they can have a change of heart and discern a call to have one or several additional children. A similar spiritual conversion to a culture of life might reasonably be expected to occur among some sterilized couples who resolve to live out an NFP lifestyle, perhaps becoming more open to adopting a child, or more open to other forms of spiritual parenthood in their communities such as Big Brother/Big Sister programs.

By abstaining during fertile times, then, the sterilized couple reintegrates the same positive behaviors that they might have practiced had they not chosen to be sterilized. In this way, the science of NFP offers the repentant sterilized couple a school of opportunity to acquire virtue within their marriage and their conjugal relations.

■ Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA

#### Test yourself!

- 1: Which Pope called for the Second Vatican Council?
- 2: What was the first diocese established in the United States? Who was their first bishop?
- 3: Which three sacraments use *Sacred Chrism* within the rite?

1: Saint John XXIII (canonized April 27, 2014)  
2: The Diocese of Baltimore, Bishop John Carroll  
3: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders (Ordination of Bishop and Priest)



Final Thoughts

MATTHEW KURTZ  
EDITOR



# When losing is winning

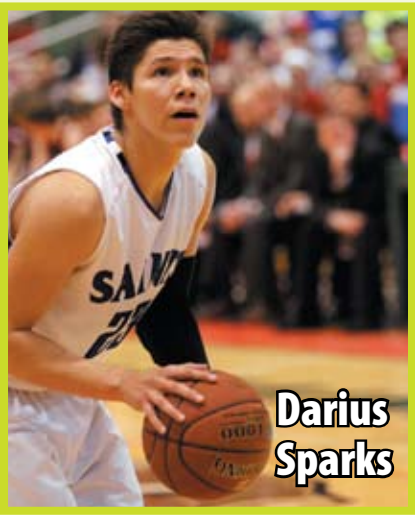
**“This is better than One Direction coming!” the fourth grader shrieked.**

Girls screamed, grabbed, hugged and took pictures with Darius Sparks, a surprise visitor to the aptly (and unmistakably) named “Sparks” traveling basketball team. Dreamy boy-bands aside, none of the girls cared that Sparks had recently lost a basketball championship.

They didn’t know that when Sparks was their age, finding his next meal and place to sleep was his primary concern. Not basketball.

A week earlier, Sparks and some of his teammates made another surprise visit. This time, the eyes of a team of fourth grade boys widened as their idols entered the gym. After some five-on-five, autograph signing and a game of lightning with the star-struck kids, Darius and his fellow seniors on the St. Mary’s Central High School boys basketball team started to realize they were a part of something bigger than themselves.

Four days earlier, the season ended for Sparks and his fellow Saints—a seven point loss in the N.D. state championship game. The sting of defeat and a sense of failure hit the team...hard.



Two months earlier, Sparks, 18, met his father for the first time. “I’m definitely a spitting image of him,” he said, a grin spreading across his face. In that moment, the loss was far from his mind.

**PUTTING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE**  
After sitting down with SMCHS seniors Ben Weisbeck, Grant Dvorak and Sparks one month after the championship game loss, it was clear that recovery was progressing at different speeds for each of them.

Case in point: Days before our visit, the players had just received a DVD of the fateful game. Sparks: “I watched it this weekend.”

Weisbeck: “I don’t know how long it’s going to be [before I watch it], but it’s going to be a long time.”  
Dvorak: “I’ll watch it some day. I don’t need any video to tell me what emotions I was experiencing that day.”

For Weisbeck, it was the bite of looking into his teammates’ eyes after failing to meet a goal they had set for themselves “back in fifth or sixth grade.” For Dvorak, it was the “sadness that it’s gone,” the loss of a brotherhood and the realization that life is quickly moving beyond the walls of SMCHS. While the basketball season offered a convenient distraction, he recognized that some “big decisions” in life are now looming.

In the case of Sparks, it was a familiar taste. “I’ve lost so much in my life,” he said. “And I always find a way to get back up.”

Sparks wasn’t just talking about basketball. In fact, he never had the opportunity to play on a team until the seventh grade. He arrived at SMCHS for the first time as a vulnerable freshman with a broken past. First taken into foster care at age 12, he moved from home to home and learned to “shoot the three ball” at the park near Jeannette Myhre Elementary School.

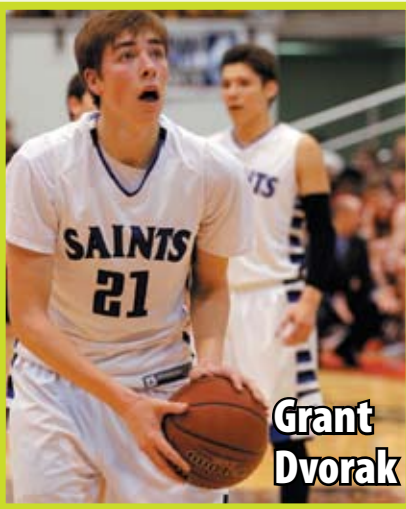
“I didn’t have a father growing up to show me what was right and what was wrong or to show me sports,” he said.

Instead, he found a team. “Great guys” that prayed with him, challenged him and taught him throughout his high school career. Friends, brothers, role models. A family centered on faith.

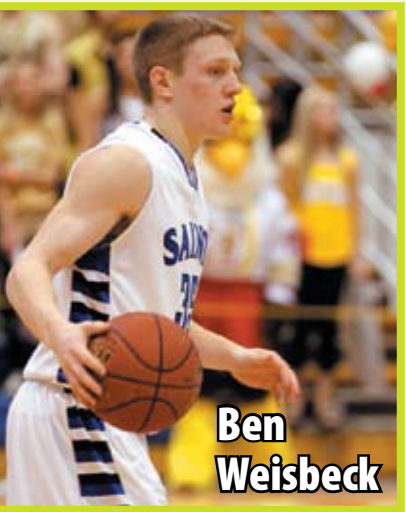
“No matter if you win or lose, you’re still praying,” Sparks said, referring to the team’s pre-and post-game habit. “It’s like outside in the real world with life. When something goes wrong, you shouldn’t stop praying, you shouldn’t forget about your faith. It’ll just go worse then. With your faith, you feel stronger. You feel like you have hope and there’s a brighter day.”

**THE REAL REASON**  
If you looked closely—reaaally closely—you would have noticed a mark on Ben Weisbeck’s basketball sneaker this season: G.W.  
“Many times throughout the season I had to remind myself the reasons why I was playing.”  
It’s a good question; and a deep one if you let it sink in. Why do we do what we do?  
Those initials are one reason why Ben plays basketball. G.W. stands for Gene Weisbeck, Ben’s grandfather. About 10 years ago, an undiagnosed condition

suddenly left Gene chronically dizzy, uncoordinated and off-balance. Once an active man who loved playing horseshoes, the accordion and bowling, he hasn’t been the same since.



“For 10 years he hasn’t given up. He has perseverance to move on. That inspired me so much,” Ben said. “I might lose, I might have a bad game, but it’s about so much more. If my grandpa can make it through all the suffering he’s been through, I can do that, too.”  
Gene wasn’t at the state championship game to see his grandson lose. In fact, he never made it to one of Ben’s basketball games. But he listened to every game, thanks to the radio.



Ben may never fully understand how his career impacted his grandfather; what went through his mind as he sat—suffering, listening and imagining his grandson driving to the hoop.  
Why does Weisbeck play basketball?  
“The real reason is to make an impact, to affect others and make a difference in the world. We didn’t take home the state championship, but I think we took home a lot more.”  
As Dvorak ponders his future—which he admits may not include basketball—he knows that championship trophies are nice, but it’s the intangibles that change lives.  
“[Playing basketball] made me a better man by allowing me

the opportunity to sacrifice every day,” he said. “It took emotional fortitude to get to practice every day. By putting it all on the line, we sacrificed for each other.”  
Sparks doesn’t know what his life would look like if it didn’t include the sacrifices his basketball brothers made for him...or the love he’s received from his foster parents and fans (including the infatuated fourth graders).  
“Whenever I look back on my life, that’s the one thing that comes to mind: I’m very blessed,” Sparks said. “I have everything that I could ever want. Now that I’m at that place, I feel like I need to be doing more and giving back to underprivileged kids or young adults who go through struggles. Kids need to see that there is hope. Once you’re given opportunities, you can go far.”  
“I’ve got the rest of my life to look forward to,” Weisbeck said in light of the loss. “We all do.”

**Take Care of Today**  
By Grant Dvorak  
*Take care of today said gruffy-old coach  
As we players sat around and waited,  
Attempting to listen and find the approach  
To play the tough game futurely dated.  
“Nothing can stop you,” he said to us,  
“From working your hardest on every play!”  
The only thing we had left to discuss  
Was the prayer we wouldst say that day.  
Lord, let us be focused on the task at hand,  
That we may use our skills and not be wary  
Of our opponents before us they stand.  
With thy mother’s intercession,  
“Hail Mary...”*

Photos by Darlene Weigel

## Sparks spearheads fundraiser for playground equipment

Darius Sparks, a senior at SMCHS in Bismarck, is raising funds to benefit the students of St. Bernard Mission School, a part of the Bismarck Diocese’s Catholic Indian Mission in Fort Yates, N.D.  
Sparks, once a student at the mission school, would like to improve its playground equipment. Checks can be written to Light of Christ Catholic Schools of Excellence and mailed to St. Mary’s Central High School: 1025 North Second Street, Bismarck, N.D. 58501. Enter “St. Bernard’s Mission School” in the memo.



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# Save the Date

**Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014**  
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