INDEX

From the Bishop’s Desk ......................... 2
Obituaries ........................................ 4
Making Sense Out of Bioethics .............. 5
Cardinal Burke Visits Bismarck ............ 6
Priestly Ordination 2013 ................. 8-9
Ag Attitudes ................................. 12
Town & Country Celebration ........... 13
Calendar of Events ......................... 15

THIRST 2013 schedule announced
BISMARCK – More details and a tentative schedule of events have been released for THIRST 2013, an event sponsored by the Diocese of Bismarck in cooperation with the University of Mary that will be held at the Bismarck Civic Center Oct. 25-27, 2013.

Friday, Oct. 25:
5:30 p.m. Mass
7:30 p.m. Concert by The Thirsting
9 p.m. Eucharistic adoration/penance service

Saturday, Oct. 26:
8:30 a.m. Morning prayer
9 a.m. Cardinal Timothy Dolan keynote
10:30 a.m. Mass
2:15 p.m. Breakout session 1 (Fr. Scott Traynor, Peter Herbeck, Jennifer Fulwiler)
3:30 p.m. Breakout session 2 (Fr. Nathan Cromly, Debbie Herbeck, Jennifer Fulwiler)
4:45 p.m. Breakout session 3 (Peter and Debbie Herbeck, Chris Stefanik, one-hour men's religious retreat, one-hour women's religious retreat)
7:25 p.m. Post-Abortive Ladies (PALS) testimony
7:40 p.m. Dr. Margaret Schlientz keynote
8:45 p.m. Eucharistic adoration/penance service

Sunday, Oct. 27:
9 a.m. Morning prayer
9:30 a.m. Dr. Edward Sri keynote
10:45 a.m. Breakout session 4 (Sr. Bethany Madonna, Sherry Weddell, Dr. Edward Sri, Apostles of the Interior Life)
1:30 p.m. Msgr. James Shea keynote
3 p.m. Mass

“An indelible mark will be etched on your souls”
Six new priests ordained in Bismarck

BISMARCK – Thursday, June 13 proved to be historic for the Diocese of Bismarck as it gained six new diocesan priests on a single day for just the second time in its history.

The faithful packed the main sanctuary and basement at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck—and countless others tuned in to KFYR-TV’s broadcast and webcast—as Bishop David Kagan laid hands on the six men, permanently changing their souls and drawing them into “the most intimate union any man can enjoy with Christ.”

After a grace-filled Mass that lasted over two hours, Patrick Cunningham, Joseph Evinger, Thomas Grafsgaard, Jared Johnson, Corey Nelson and Robert Shea joyfully processed down the Cathedral’s main aisle for the first time as priests, only to be greeted by a sea of applause from the nearly 100 priests in attendance who had assembled in the church’s gathering space.

For more coverage of the 2013 priestly ordination, see pages 8 and 9.

Hundreds join in special procession with Cardinal Burke

BISMARCK – Making the first official public visit of a cardinal to western N.D., Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke led hundreds in a eucharistic procession through the streets of Bismarck on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 2.

Cardinal Burke traveled to the diocese at the invitation of his friend and seminary classmate, Bismarck Bishop David Kagan. The two studied theology together in Rome for four years beginning in 1971.

“I have the impression of a very Catholic diocese where people are very serious about their Catholic faith, and the bishop has told me that, too; he has been very happy since he came here [in Nov. 2011],” commented Cardinal Burke. “There’s an honest and sincere approach to life here. It’s very inspiring to me.”

Cardinal Burke was the principal celebrant at the Cathedral’s 11:30 a.m. Mass and delivered a homily about the gift of the Eucharist to Catholics. “How fitting it is to extend our worship of the body and blood of Christ by carrying the most Blessed Sacrament in procession in our city. It is Christ Himself, body, blood, soul and divinity who is blessing the city and diocese,” he said in his homily.

After the procession, Cardinal Burke guided an hour of eucharistic adoration with a personal meditation, then traveled to Assumption Abbey in Richardson, N.D. to lead a private week-long retreat for priests of the Bismarck Diocese.

For more coverage of Cardinal Burke’s historic visit, see page 6.
BISHOP’S SCHEDULE

August 1-31, 2013

August 1
- Finance council meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, 10 a.m.

August 2
- SERRA Club Mass and dinner, Church of Christ the King, Mandan, 5:30 p.m.

August 3
- Home on the Range rodeo, Sentinel Butte, 1 p.m. MDT

August 4
- Mass and picnic in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Church of St. Gertrude, Raleigh, 11 a.m.

August 5
- Expansion Fund board meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, 11 a.m.

August 6
- Light of Christ Catholic Schools board meeting, Center for Pastoral Ministry, 1:15 p.m.

August 21
- Light of Christ Catholic Schools kick-off event, St. Mary’s Central High School, 6:30 p.m.

August 22
- All-Staff liturgy, Chancery chapel, 8 a.m.

August 25
- Mass and installation of Fr. Stephen Folarunso, Church of the Holy Trinity, Hettinger, 11 a.m. MDT; Annual parish picnic at the annual Town & Country Mass at the Abbey by Cardinal Burke which was blessed the fields, animals and implements which are all visible signs of God’s care for His children. The highlight of the day was, of course, the holy sacrifice of the Mass, which was offered in praise and thanks to Almighty God for His goodness and as a pledge of our will to use His blessings for the good of others and as a means to save our souls.

A North Dakota summer packed with blessings

By the time our August issue of the Dakota Catholic Action arrives at your household, a great many blessings for our diocese and our state will have been given to us and celebrated by us in the last two months.

Let’s review these gifts and signs of God’s love and mercy to us all. In June alone, our entire state of North Dakota was blessed in abundance with the ordination to the sacred priesthood of two priests for the Diocese of Fargo (Fathers Sean Mulligan and Troy Simonson on June 7) and six priests for the Diocese of Bismarck (Fathers Patrick Cunningham, Joseph Evinger, Thomas Grafsgaard, Jared Johnson, Corey Nelson and Robert Shea on June 13). In addition, on June 19 John T. Folda was ordained and installed as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Fargo.

However, there was more in June. On the solemnity of Corpus Christi (June 2) we were honored to welcome Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke to the Cathedral as the principal celebrant of the holy sacrifice of the Mass at 11:30 a.m. who then led us in our eucharistic procession and preached at our holy hour of eucharistic adoration and benediction later that afternoon. The priests of our diocese were then led on our annual retreat at Assumption Abbey by Cardinal Burke which was a wonderful week of spiritual renewal and fortification of all of us.

Our good God continued to bless our diocese as we celebrated the annual Town & Country Mass at the Richter farm in Menoken on June 30. With the very generous support of our Catholic people from St. Hildegard (Menoken) and Sacred Heart (Wilton), as well as many joining us from several surrounding parishes, we blessed the fields, animals and implements which are all visible signs of God’s care for His children. The highlight of the day was, of course, the holy sacrifice of the Mass, which was offered in praise and thanks to Almighty God for His goodness and as a pledge of our will to use His blessings for the good of others and as a means to save our souls.

July has continued to be a month in which we celebrate our Catholic faith by closing a second Fortnight for Freedom as we pray and work to defend and foster our human right to religious liberty. A joyful celebration of the Catholic people of St. Elizabeth parish in Lefor on Sunday, July 7 marked the completion of a most beautiful redecoration of the church. It was a beautiful opportunity to thank God for His continued blessings and to recall the deep roots of the Catholic faith in that area as well as across our entire diocese.

The weekend of July 13 and 14 was a truly great time as we celebrated the canonization of the first female Native American saint, Kateri Tekakwitha, as a part of our observance of the Year of Faith. Our Native American Catholic brothers and sisters came from across North Dakota and elsewhere to thank God for His gift to our Church of this lovely young woman.

Let us thank God daily for all of His blessings. Let us use them for His honor and glory and for the building up of our holy Catholic Church!
Freedom from busyness

By Michelle Duppong
Year of Faith Coordinator

I don’t know about you, but I feel that a “busyness” pandemic is sweeping the nation and western world with the common side effects of stress, burnout, unhappiness, restlessness, fatigue, anxiety, etc. We try to break free, yet find our default response to “How are you?” is “I’ve been so busy!” It’s as if we subconsciously fear that others will think we’ve been slacking off by not being productive. I’ve been there. How about you?

By allowing our lives to be in a constant swarm of activity, life is being drained out of us! As a result, our families, friends, our relationship with God and we ourselves suffer. This spring I read in the winter 2013 CARA Report (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) that in a survey given to people who attend Mass only at Christmas and Easter, 70 percent responded that the reason for this is that they are TOO BUSY. Busyness is a real problem, and it has infected most, if not all of us.

Human beings are made in the image of God and are both spiritual and physical beings. God gave man the greatest privilege of all His creatures when His son, Jesus Christ, took on our form as a human being and became man. Therefore, Satan and his minions are bent not only on destroying each of our souls, but our bodies as well. On top of striving to follow the Church’s teaching and love every person, have you found it difficult to get the sleep you need, eat healthily, get exercise, find time for hobbies and spend quality time with family and friends? Yep, I thought so. God is the author of order, and we thrive when our lives are ordered according to His design. Holiness is found in the ordinary tasks of daily life—each of us can be holy! Here are a couple of tips to achieve ordered living:

• Make time for God each day. Plan your day around God. The saints say that it is necessary for the laity to spend 30 minutes a day in prayer, a.k.a. simple conversation with God. Start with five minutes and work your way up to 30 over several weeks or months.

• Your vocation (marriage, holy orders, consecrated life or chaste single life) is your path to holiness. Spend quality time with your loved ones each day. For those who are married, a natural place to do this is a family dinner.

• Keep Sunday as a day of rest and holy leisure. Don’t let items on your to-do list creep into this precious time. Enjoy “being” rather than “doing.”

• Keep work within limits. It may take up a good chunk of your waking hours, but don’t let it take over everything. You’ll never get everything done, so surrender your day to God and literally ask Him to show you what He wants you to do.

• God has appointed a mission to you that only you can do. Do not sacrifice this “great” mission for endless “good” activities you could engage in. This is a common tactic of the enemy to distract us from God’s will and ensue us. Be on guard!

• Along the line of the last point, do your kids a favor and limit the activities they are involved in, so you can spend more time with them and they can cherish the time with their family.

• Now, I’m not claiming to have mastered living down, “but I can testify to the fruits that striving for it has borne in my life: peace, joy, freedom (especially from feeling that I have to get everything done and be in control), a deeper appreciation for those around me, and ease in being with God throughout my day, among other graces. May each of us be the saint God has made us to be!

August indulgence opportunities:

A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who visit, and there devoutly recite an Our Father and the Creed, the Cathedral or parish church on August 2, the day of “Portiuncula” indulgence.

To gain a plenary indulgence one must be detached from sin and must fulfill the following three conditions: a sacramental confession within eight days, receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, and pray for the intention of the Pope. If those requirements are not met, the indulgence is partial. Taken from the Manual of Indulgences published by the USCCB in 2009.

By Michelle Duppong

Effective June 14, 2013:

The Reverend Shane A. Campbell
• Formerly parochial administrator of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (Bismarck)
• Now deacon at the Churches of Spirit of Life (Mandan), St. Anthony (St. Anthony) and St. Martin (Huff)

Deacon Gary Mizeur
• Formerly deacon at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (Bismarck)
• Now deacon at the Churches of Spirit of Life (Mandan), St. Anthony (St. Anthony) and St. Martin (Huff)

Deacon Anthony Ternes
• Formerly deacon at the Churches of Spirit of Life (Mandan), St. Anthony (St. Anthony) and St. Martin (Huff)
• Now deacon at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (Bismarck)

Effective June 24, 2013:

The Reverend Rajendran Anandan, M.S.F.X.
• From the Missionary Society of St. Francis Xavier (MSFX), India
• Now parochial administrator of the Churches of St. Jerome (Mohall), St. James (Sherwood) and St. John (Lansford)

Effective July 1, 2013:

The Reverend Stephen O. Folorunso
• Formerly parochial administrator of the Churches of Holy Trinity (Hettinger), Sacred Heart (Reeder) and Sacred Heart (Scranton)
• Now pastor of the Churches of Holy Trinity (Hettinger), Sacred Heart (Reeder) and Sacred Heart (Scranton)

Effective on August 1, 2013:

The Reverend Sebastian Stephen
• From the Diocese of Pulaski, India
• Will be parochial vicar of the Church of St. Joseph (Dickinson)

The Reverend Teji John Thanippilly
• From the Diocese of Kottapuram, India
• Will be parochial vicar of the Church of St. Joseph (Mandan)

Liturgical Calendar - August 2013
Doing double duty as a bishop

By Tanya Watterud

For 11 months, Bishop David Kagan oversaw both of the Catholic dioceses in North Dakota. While bishop of the Bismarck Diocese, Bishop Kagan also took on the role of apostolic administrator for the Fargo Diocese when it was without a bishop.

“I became the administrator when Archbishop Aquila became the archbishop of Denver,” Bishop Kagan said. The appointment took effect “at the moment Archbishop Aquila was installed.”

Archbishop Samuel Aquila had been Bishop of Fargo since 2001. His appointment as archbishop of Denver left the Fargo Diocese without a bishop. Kagan was installed on July 18, 2012, when he was also ordained and installed as the eighth Bishop of Fargo.

Bishop Kagan said he was surprised by his appointment as apostolic administrator. 

“Priests and bishops, too, are asked to do extra things periodically. You do your best,” he said. “What I would usually do is set aside Fridays each week and make that my day to be in Fargo, weather permitting,” Bishop Kagan said. He remembers only one day in December when he couldn’t travel due to ice.

“It has been a very good experience,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed it. It was kind of a nice way of learning a little bit more about the state of North Dakota.”

On Fridays, Bishop Kagan would usually celebrate Mass at 6 a.m., then he and his dog, Dash, would get in the car at about 6:30 a.m. and drive to Fargo.

“Don’t think that after the first six or nine months it lightens up. Your schedule fills up,” and “Don’t think that after the first six or nine months it lightens up. It just keeps going.” Bishop Kagan said he told Bishop Folda, “Don’t worry what you’re going to do from day to day. Your schedule fills up,” and “Don’t think that after the first six or nine months it lightens up. It just keeps going.”

Bishop Kagan knew Bishop Folda before he was appointed as Bishop of Fargo. “He’s a great fellow, a superb priest and an excellent choice,” Bishop Kagan said. “I’ve known him for several years from my time as vicar general in the Rockford Diocese.” The Rockford Diocese was the first diocese other than the Lincoln Diocese to send seminarians to St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Neb., where Bishop Folda had served as rector.

Bishop Kagan is grateful to Archbishop Aquila for the help he offered when he was appointed Bishop of Bismarck. “He’s a wonderful priest and bishop. . . From time to time I’ll call him and ask what’s going on in Colorado that’s keeping him on his toes,” he said.

“Just like with priests, bishops build up a great fraternity,” Bishop Kagan said, and he looks forward to working with the newest bishop in the state, Bishop John Folda.

- - -

Deacon Ward Arthur Johnson

Ward Arthur Johnson Sr., 83, of Bismarck passed away July 4, 2013 at the Baptist Home in Bismarck.

Ward was born Dec. 22, 1929 at Highland Park, Ill. to Clifford and Ida (Moen) Johnson. He was raised in Marshfield, Wis. and Chicago. At the age of 17, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard and served in the South Pacific, Hawaii and Duluth, Minn., where he met his wife, Elizabeth (Betty) Pietrowski. They were married at St. Clements Catholic Church on July 18, 1953.

Ward went to work for the former Northern Pacific railroad in Duluth and continued there after the merger. He worked in the roundhouse eventually transferring to the engine crew as an engineer. He retired after over 42 years of service.

Ward led an active life. He was a Cub Scout leader when his sons were young. He always had a love of flying; he took flying lessons, received his license and owned his own plane. He liked to fly to Minot on Sunday mornings after church for breakfast.

Ward was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Bismarck VFW Post No. 1326.

In 1985, he was ordained a permanent deacon in the Catholic church. He served Christ the King parish in Mandan. His main ministry was visiting shut-ins and people in the hospital. After he retired, Ward and Betty traveled around the country. They settled in Yuma, Ariz., in the winter and joined St. Joseph the Worker, a small parish in Wellton, Ariz., where he served as deacon for three years.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; four daughters, Penny (Lance) Barker, Burns-ville, Minn., Peggy (Ed) Fox, Olympia, Wash., Wanda Johnson, Augusta, Ga., and Beth (Darcie) Handt, Bismarck; three sons, DuWayne (Sara), Wedgefield, S.C., Robin (Kathy), Lakeville, Minn., and Joe, Fargo; 13 grandchildren, Claire and Philip Fox, Jeremy Johnson, Christine Johnson, Rebecca (AJ) Besancon, Noah, Seth and Mara Johnson, Kelsey, Emily and Ethan Handt, Krystal (Kyle) McLean and Nicole Johnson; two great-grandchildren, Gavyn McLean and Cameron Johnson; one brother, Wayne (Dorothy), Farmington, Mo.; one sister, Barbara Morgan, Tomah, Wis.; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents; one son, Ward “Bud” Jr.; his brother, Ken (Gerry) Sanders; his stepfather, Ed Gustafson; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Obituaries

Bishop Kagan earns prestigious national Catholic press award

Bishop of Bismarck David Kagan was awarded the Bishop John England Award at a luncheon Thursday, June 20 during the Catholic Media Convention in Denver, Colo. The award is the Catholic Press Association’s highest honor for publishers and recognizes publishers in the Catholic press for their defense of First Amendment rights, such as freedom of the press and freedom of religion.
Many individuals and business owners are struggling in conscience about whether to purchase health insurance coverage, either for themselves or for their employees, on account of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Mandate. A provision of PPACA (ObamaCare), the Mandate requires “preventive health services” to be covered by all health insurance issuers and all group health plans. Those insurance plans must provide coverage (with no co-pay) for the full range of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved contraceptive methods for women. These include not only surgical sterilizations, but also potential abortion-causing agents such as Plan B (the morning-after pill), intrauterine devices (IUDs) and another form of “emergency contraception” known as Ella. This drug, which the FDA acknowledges may also work against the life of the embryo “by preventing attachment (implantation) to the uterus,” can be taken up to 5 days after sex.

The chief moral concern, of course, is by purchasing such mandated coverage, an individual would be subsidizing pharmaceutical abortions, contraceptives and sterilizations for others, and business owners would similarly be subsidizing these procedures for their employees. They would “materially cooperate” in the commission of various evils by others, but the debate on this matter hinges on whether that material cooperation should be considered “immediate” or “mediate.” Immediate material cooperation — when your assistance is essential to the evil action — is never morally permissible, but mediate material cooperation — when your assistance is incidental or remote from the bad activity itself — may be allowable under temporary extenuating circumstances. It could be allowable as long as the cooperator manifests resolute opposition to the evil and takes reasonable steps to limit and ultimately eliminate that cooperation. This is a key difference between allowable toleration and tacit approval.

In evaluating the specifics of the HHS mandate, the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) has reached the provisional conclusion that paying premiums for a policy that also includes coverage for the above-mentioned procedures, devices and drugs (while opposable) would not “bring about” the evil action of the principal agent, and hence would represent mediate material cooperation on the part of the individual owner of the policy. Such a payment could be made, albeit under protest. Thus, the position of the NCBC is that individuals purchasing insurance under the HHS Mandate should be considered to do so as mediate material cooperation assuming a proportionately serious reason, and a lack of suitable alternatives, and an ongoing effort to resist/oppose this unjust mandate through suitable alternatives, and an ongoing effort to resist/oppose this unjust mandate through

My grandfather, the hero

Mass at Cathedral. If you go tomorrow, he’ll be there, left side of church, far left end of the pew, about halfway up.

“What do I like about it? It’s not liking. It makes my day, I can handle anything that comes along then.” A tear snuck down his cheek.

Today, much of Grandpa’s energy is consumed by caring for his wife of 68 years, Grandma Dorothy, who is battling Alzheimer’s.

“I’m at Mass because I wanna be, not because I have to be. If I don’t go, the day doesn’t seem right, nothing seems to go right.”

Grandpa started early—he served Mass as an altar boy every morning as a youngster and came to be known for his faithfulness in the service, serving Mass during the war. “Maybe that’s why the good Lord’s been good to me.”

When rain and snow would leak into the Cathedral’s tower overlooking Bismarck, Mgr. Garvin asked him to help install glass into its windows. He made the fix, but not before writing his name inside the tower. “If you’re afraid of heights it’s the wrong place to be.”

God has guided Grandpa with His loving hand for 90 years, always keeping him in the right place. Without that guidance, I literally wouldn’t be here.

Raised on “cold milk and puffed wheat,” Grandpa Joe has lived 90 years of simplicity and service, heroism and humility. In 2006, he received a letter informing him that he was supposed to have been awarded the Bronze Star, one of the most highly regarded awards in the US military, among other medals. Not one for drama or exaggeration, he says he doesn’t know why they wanted to give them to him.

“There’s no winners in war because everybody suffers. I never realized how much Grandpa suffered, or even continues to suffer from those experiences. All I know is that he found a winning formula to make it through life’s trials.”

Cling to Christ with all your might.
On the feast of Corpus Christi, when Catholics commemorate the body and blood of Christ, Cardinal Raymond Burke celebrated Mass and led the diocese in a procession in the streets of Bismarck.

“It is Christ Himself, body, blood, soul and divinity who is blessing the city and diocese.”

“Let our hearts be always filled with wonder and joy at the great mystery of God’s love for us in Jesus Christ, above all in his eucharistic sacrifice.”

“There’s an honest and sincere approach to life here. It’s very inspiring to me.”

Cardinal Burke visits Bismarck

Cardinal Burke lives in Rome and is a sort of “chief justice” of the highest judicial authority of the Catholic Church. He was previously archbishop of St. Louis, Mo. and bishop of LaCrosse, Wis.


Photo by Deacon Joe Krupinsky and DCA staff.
A thank you for a cardinal's friendship

Minot woman has ties to Cardinal Burke

By Matthew Kurtz

As soon as Anastasia Vickerman discovered that Cardinal Raymond Burke was coming to Bismarck, she knew she had to try to meet him. She simply wanted to say thank you—thank you for all he had done for her great aunt.

The late Kathleen Candell was a holy woman and a lifelong resident of Eau Claire, Wis. With scores of Catholic art, a crucifix that was a personal gift from Mother Teresa, and rosaries around every corner, Great Aunt Kathleen was unabashedly Catholic.

“When I was younger I was able to spend the summer with her,” said Vickerman, a member of the Church of Our Lady of Grace in Minot. “You knew it was a Catholic home; you said grace at every single meal, including breakfast!”

Those prayers at breakfast time during her stays at Great Aunt Kathleen’s made Vickerman realize she could do better in her faith.

“Saying grace at breakfast was the first indication that I wasn’t on the right path,” Vickerman explained. “I became hungry for what [Great Aunt Kathleen] knew of God. She simply wanted to say thank you—thank you for all he had done for her great aunt. I became hungry for that.”

When Kathleen’s health worsened, Burke indeed sent his prayers from the Vatican. “Be assured that I am praying for your mother and will today offer the holy Mass for her intentions and the intentions of the family,” Cardinal Burke wrote in an email to her family the day Kathleen died.

When Kathleen’s health worsened, Burke responded by saying, “I will pray for you and I will call Cardinal Burke and he will pray for you also!”

St. Kateri a “light in the darkness” for all of us

BISMARCK — Marking what was possibly the largest organized celebration in the U.S. of St. Kateri Tekakwitha’s first feast day as a saint, members of North Dakota’s tribal nations and others gathered at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck July 13-14 to commemorate one of the Catholic Church’s newest saints.

“This celebration is an awesome gift to the diocese. It’s a way to come together and thank God for the gift of a saint,” said Fr. John Paul Gardner, parochial vicar at the Church of St. Peter on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. “Her people were inspired by her life, her devotion and her vision of God. We want to have that same vision. We’re coming here saying, ‘Kateri, help us, help me to see Jesus. Help me to love Him.’

Festivities began Saturday evening with a grand entry procession that included representatives from many of the state’s Catholic parishes that serve its five Native American reservations. Both Bishop of Fargo John Folda and Bishop of Bismarck David Kagan were honored with a star quilt gift from the tribes. Each bishop was wrapped in the quilt, which symbolizes being wrapped in the loving mantle of Jesus’ mother Mary, the “morning star.”

After the demonstration of different forms of native dance, a period of eucharistic adoration was held, which included a healing service and confessions. The next day, Mark Thiel, an archivist of native Catholic collections at Marquette University, presented on St. Kateri’s life. Mass was served and the event ended with a round dance, or a dance that includes all native and non-native people that celebrates life and harmony.

“It’s now universal,” Fr. Roger Synek said of Kateri’s canonization, which took place last October, making her the first female Native American saint. “It’s good for us to see that we are a Church, and as a Church, it includes everybody.” Fr. Synek serves four parishes on the Fort Berthold Reservation.

Fr. Gardner wants graces from the celebration to continue to inspire all Catholics, especially Native Americans. “St. Kateri is a doorway for them, a light in the darkness for them. If she could be here and speak to us, she would say, ‘Come to Mass. If you have sins, if you have burdens, come to the priests and there will be forgiveness for you.’ I hope this conference grows that desire in people’s hearts. Come to Mass!”

Anastasia Vickerman, Minot, had the opportunity to meet Cardinal Burke during his visit to Bismarck. Above, she shows Cardinal Burke a prayer card she had given to her late aunt Kathleen Candell that had a personal message on the back. (Photo by Deacon Joe Krupinsky.)
It really helped inspire men who wanted a high standard. " Expectations had never been clearer. The nightly desertion for a young priest to begin his work as vocation director. "Standards for difficult days," Richter admitted.

2002. No priestly ordination in 2003. No ordination in 2004. "They were asking a disease. "To promote the priesthood in that climate was like promoting a disease. "Nationally, priestly vocation ministry was really in trouble," Richter explained. "To promote the priesthood in that climate was like promoting a disease."

The six men to be ordained prostrate themselves before the altar while the congregation sings the Litany of the Saints, asking all of heaven to pray for the men. Prostration is a symbol of the men surrendering their lives to Christ and His Catholic Church.

"It's Christ's work:

By Matthew Kurtz

It started with a simple phone call. Six years into his priesthood, the Rev. Monsignor Tom Richter received a call from Bishop Emeritus Paul Zipfel informing him of his next assignment: director of vocations for the Diocese of Bismarck.

From one perspective, the time couldn’t have been worse for a young priest to embark on the crucial task of building up and sustaining the priesthood in a diocese. Just weeks before the call came, U.S. bishops had met in Dallas in June 2002 and approved the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The explosion of the priest abuse scandal was roaring and the Church was wrestling with how to respond. "Nationally, priestly vocation ministry was really in trouble," Richter explained. "To promote the priesthood in that climate was like promoting a disease."

The Bismarck Diocese had just eight seminarians in formation in 2002. No priestly ordination in 2003. No ordination in 2004. "They were difficult days," Richter admitted.

However, from Richter’s perspective, the time couldn’t have been better for a young priest to begin his work as vocation director. "Standards had never been higher. Expectations had never been clearer. The nightly news made it clear to any young man that if he was considering the priesthood, it’s not a place for a person who has problematic tendencies. It really helped inspire men who wanted a high standard."

While the public face of the priesthood suffered, the work of the Holy Spirit continued, quietly and intensely pursuing hearts for Christ, including the heart of Bismarck’s new vocation director.

Screening 101

While reflecting on his 11 years as vocation director in western N.D., Richter shared some tricks of the trade. He quickly learned that, amid the abuse scandal and as the diocese’s "gatekeeper," the director of vocations must "ask the difficult questions" and "have the frank conversations" with potential seminary candidates. "If the screening process and acceptance process are done well, a diocese ends up with a group of men who are following Christ. And men who are following Christ are confident men. And confident men are attractive men to other secure men and they’re threatening to insecure, envious men. And so a dynamic develops where they attract others who are also being drawn by the voice of God,” Richter said. "In a trite way, the birds of a feather flock together. That bird is the Holy Spirit."

The dynamic proved effective. During Richter’s tenure, the diocese accepted an average of at least four men into seminary formation each year while two out of every three men was ordained a priest. Most dioceses would be happy with 40-50 percent of their seminarians being ordained, Richter said.

"Every day in front of the Blessed Sacrament I would beg Jesus for at least four men. I would harass Him," Richter chuckled. "He gave more than I was asking."

In addition, all 50 men accepted were "home-grown western N.D.
Six new priests ordained in Bismarck

June 13, 2013

Brought to fulfillment

After 11 years, Msgr. Richter admitted he’s realized that he isn’t a young priest anymore.

“There’s a natural step that has occurred,” he explained. “I’m now sitting in the place of a mentor to young priests, or somewhat of an older brother to younger priest brothers who were seminarians when I was vocation director.”

Richter was named rector of Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck last July, where he now leads two of his former seminarians (Fr. Nick Schneider and Fr. Jared Johnson) as they minister to the needs of the parish. The Cathedral parish has “claimed my heart,” he said, and he is ready to move on, humbly realizing there are others who can more effectively fill his shoes.

As he stood near the altar of the Cathedral this past June 13 (the place where he had been ordained a priest exactly 17 years earlier), Richter felt a powerful sense of grace and fulfillment as he presented six men to Bishop Kagan to be ordained priests, a number reached only twice in the history of the small Bismarck Diocese. “It would be difficult to find a better way to end,” admitted Richter. He found consolation in the words used at the ordination Mass and throughout the various steps of a man’s seminary formation: “May the Lord, who has begun this good work in you, bring to fulfillment.”

Ready to move on, Richter said his ministry with vocations has made him a better priest, more deeply dependent on Christ. When he speaks of his accomplishments over the last 11 years, he credits not himself, but the bishops who led him and ultimately God. “A vocation director has to be utterly convinced that in the end, Jesus is the vocation director. I have consistently said that I don’t convince anyone to be a priest. That’s God’s job. He’s the one who chooses men. It still amazes me 2,000 years out, Christ is still calling.” It’s up to us to answer.
Soon-to-be Saint JPII, lions appear in Minot

By Loretta Johnson
Religion Editor, Minot Daily News

Two majestic hand-carved solid marble lions, a statue of Pope John Paul II and a large brick sign adorn the area surrounding the main entrance of St. Leo’s Catholic Church in Minot. The lions were a gift from specific contractors who worked on the major project at St. Leo’s in 2011 were asked for donations toward the lions but not all of them did. The project involved a new roof on the church and 100 percent tuckpointing, which means taking the white grout off the masonry and some of the old red mortar out and replacing it with the red mortar that matches the brick and the original historic mortar color.

“The project was tight on the profit but Fr. [Austin] Vetter was pressing the contracting team hard from the start for some sort of give back,” Sachs said. He added that BRC decided to press for the lions as a “give back” from the contracting team. Building Restoration Corporation, Dalson Roofing, Solid Construction, Midwest Heating and Cooling, and Northern Plumbing and Heating were on board for the lions. Not all contractors donated to the cause.

“The drafter at BRC designed the lions. We contracted for various reasons,” Sachs said. “I called and said ‘Father I have something really special for you that I would like to bring by. A donation to the church.’ Waltz said he replied with a simple ‘OK.’”

“Then one day the individual appeared with a delivery truck and in the back of the truck was this beautiful statue of Pope John Paul II,” Sachs added. “Father I have something really special for you that I would like to bring by. A donation to the church.”

“The lions are large and are solid marble,” Waltz said. “They are drilled in and glued in place. They’re not going anywhere, he said with a chuckle in his voice.

“We have a deep gratitude for the donation,” Waltz said. “It was a pleasure working with the contractors. Plus the workers, the contractors and we at the church all benefited spiritually from the project. Everybody took something away from the project.”

The donor of the statue of Pope John Paul II would like to remain anonymous, Waltz said.

He added that in the midst of the whole restoration project of the sanctuary an individual called and said “Father I have something really special for you that I would like to bring by. A donation to the church.”

Waltz said he replied with a simple “OK.”

“Then one day the individual appeared with a delivery truck and in the back of the truck was this beautiful statue of Pope John Paul II,” Waltz said. The statue was a gift from specific contractors who worked on the project. Building Restoration Corporation, Dalson Roofing, Solid Construction, Midwest Heating and Cooling, and Northern Plumbing and Heating were on board for the lions. Not all contractors donated to the cause.

“The individual felt that with me being a young pastor, it would be a great gift for me because I am a member of John Paul’s generation,” Waltz added. There are several generations of priests, Waltz added. “I would be called one of the generation of John Paul’s Soldiers. I went to the seminary during his time and I benefitted from his papacy all the way to the end. I was ordained shortly after his death.

“Every pope brings his own ‘flavor’ to the papacy and where the pope goes the church goes,” Waltz said. “I have a deep, deep devotion to John Paul II.”

“The bronze statue has made a journey around the church. It was first located in the church but has now found a place on the east side of the church. Bronze metal statues traditionally should be outside,” Waltz said. “We tried many different spots inside the church and he finally found his resting place outside. The statue is sort of a testament and a sign of his watchfulness not only to the people coming into the church but also to the youth.”

The lions were a gift from specific contractors in the restoration project at the church in 2011.

The statue was made by a man of Middle-Eastern origin and he has since died. It is one of several that were contracted for various reasons and the individual who gave it to the church came into possession of it and wanted to give something to St. Leo’s.

“The individual felt that with me being a young pastor, it would be a great gift for me because I am a member of John Paul’s generation,” Waltz added. There are several generations of priests, Waltz added. “I would be called one of the generation of John Paul’s Soldiers. I went to the seminary during his time and I benefitted from his papacy all the way to the end. I was ordained shortly after his death.

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Waltz added, “There’s something very spiritual when I see his hands and how they are extended over Minot High School-Central Campus. As the students come and go each day, whether they are Catholic or non-Catholic this man was about all youth and making sure they got to heaven. In some mystical way, perhaps he is watching over them.”

“Editor’s note: Pope Francis cleared Blessed John Paul II for sainthood July 5 after the approval of his second miracle, the healing of a Costa Rican woman suffering from a brain aneurysm on May 1, 2011—the day JPII was beatified. His first miracle was the curing of a French nun of Parkinson’s disease three years ago. The Vatican said JPII should be officially canonized a saint “within a year.”
Jubilarians

Fr. Henry Schneider – 60 years Retired, Minot
Fr. Henry was born in Ray, N.D. in 1927 and was ordained a priest in 1953 by Bishop Lambert A. Hoch. He served first as the Church of St. Leo (Minot), was the dean of the Minot deanery from 1973-1977 and was pastor of the Church of St. John the Apostle (Minot) for 32 years until he retired from active ministry in 2002. He has always enjoyed traveling and climbing and currently resides in Minot.

“...it was wonderful working with the people and saying Mass every day was probably the biggest joy I’ve had. I’m very grateful for everything the diocese has done for me, for the bishops and for all the support they’ve given.”

Sr. Agatha Muggli, OSB – 50 years Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck
Sister Agatha is novice director at Annunciation Monastery, chair of the Initial Formation Committee, a liturgist, musician and organist. She is vice president of the Federation of St. Benedict, an active member of the American Benedictine Formation Conference and serves on the Mission Effectiveness committee at St. Alexius Medical Center. Her great love of the outdoors was nurtured by life on the family farm near Miles City, Mont.

“As life has gone on, I have come to appreciate and prize the rich dimensions of community, especially the liturgy, prayer and Eucharist -- enhanced through music.”

Fr. Terrence Kardong, OSB – 50 years Assumption Abbey, Richardton
After being born in Minneapolis, Minn., Fr. Terrence came to Assumption Abbey for high school and junior college since he had three uncles at the Abbey. He pronounced his vows as a monk in 1957 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1963. He taught at the Abbey and at the University of Mary and has published 10 books on the Rule of St. Benedict and other topics. Fr. Terrence has traveled internationally giving conferences, classes and retreats and is currently the editor of a quarterly journal of the community, especially the ones on Sunday. For this I have to study the Bible on a regular basis.”

Fr. Paul Becker – 40 years Corpus Christi, Bismarck
Fr. Paul devoted much of his early priesthood ministry to Catholic education in the Bismarck Diocese, first teaching at St. Mary’s Central High School (Bismarck) for the three years, then serving as chaplain and co-principal at Trinity High School (Dickinson) until 1978. He was the longtime chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital (Minot) from 1978-2002. Fr. Paul has been pastor of the Church of Corpus Christi (Bismarck) for 11 years.

“The last forty years have been a time of profound change in the world and in the Church. I have been blessed to be a part of many wonderful communities, parishes and ministries. I have been blessed by exceptional friends, co-workers and parishioners who have taught me much about people, life and faith. It is exciting to anticipate the years to come.”

Fr. Valerian Odermann, OSB – 40 years Assumption Abbey, Richardson
Fr. Valerian was born in the badlands near Belfield, N.D. in 1946. He professed vows in 1967 and was ordained a priest at Assumption Abbey in 1973. Shortly thereafter he was elected superior of the Abbey’s foundation in Bogotá, Colombia (Monasterio Benedictino de Tlati). He led the community to open a second school that continues to flourish today. He taught liturgy and spiritual identity in Colombia before returning to the U.S. to serve as chaplain and professor at the University of Mary in Bismarck for 23 years. He was Prior of Assumption Abbey from 1996-2004 before returning to Columbia to serve as Director of Formation in 2012. He now guides the young monks at the monastery (two novices and four postulants at present), is revising the Liturgy of the Hours for the community, and is writing a history of the monks in Colombia.

“I’ve spent many years serving salt-of-the-earth people, 25 of them producing young adults to grow as God would have them. The years don’t count as much as the many people — and they’ve brought blessings beyond measure.”

Fr. David Zimmer – 25 years St. John the Apostle, Minot
Just months before his ordination to the priesthood in 1988, Fr. David transferred from the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis to the Bismarck Diocese, where he first served at the Church of Corpus Christi (Bismarck). He was Judicial Vicar for the diocese for 8 years and has been pastor of the Church of St. John the Apostle (Minot) since the retirement of Fr. Henry Schneider in 2002.

“I remember with gratitude those people I have been privileged to meet and serve as their priest. The joys and the sorrows of being a priest have contributed to the sacredness of the vocation I have been called to live. Over the years, the laughter, the tears, the silence and the conversations have blessed me with the ongoing formation of living as a disciple of Jesus Christ.”

Fr. Selvaraj Periannan, MSFX – 25 years St. Pius V, New Salem
Fr. Periannan was ordained in Tamilnadu, South India and served as a missionary in Zimbabwe and Burma F assortment in his priesthood before coming to the Diocese of Bismarck in 2006. He was first assigned to serve the Churches of St. Agnes (Kenmare), St. Anthony (Donnybrook) and St. Joseph (Bowbells). Since 2012, he has been parochial administrator at the Churches of St. Pius V (New Salem), St. Martin (Center) and St. Mary Queen of Peace (Almont).

“God’s ways are wonderful and awesome! The Lord led me to serve in this diocese of fraternal caring and dynamic spirituality. I am delighted and grateful to thank all my previous and present parishioners who refine me by their extraordinary care and cooperation.”

Fr. Hugo Blotsky, OSB – 25 years Thermopolis, Wyo.
Fr. Hugo made his monastic vows at Assumption Abbey in Richardson, N.D. in 1960 and was ordained a priest in 1988. He served in the Bismarck Diocese for many years as chaplain at the University of Mary and St. Alexius Medical Center as well as at the Churches of St. Joseph (Man- dans), Christ the King (Mandan), St. Nicholas (Garrison), Immaculate Conception (Max) and Sacred Heart (White Sulphur) until he was asked to assist in the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyo. where he is currently pastor of the Church of St. Francis in Thermopolis.

“Every parish has a large percentage of parishioners who are the ‘walking wounded.’ I find that people hunger for spiritual direction in the midst of the secularism and relativism that tend to want to take over the culture. The will of God will never lead us to where the grace of God cannot sustain us. Do not be afraid!”

Br. Alban Petesch, OSB – 25 years Assumption Abbey, Richardson
After being born and raised in Montana, Brother Alban professed vows at Assumption Abbey in 1996. He has worked in the bookbindery and library at the Abbey and currently serves as kitchen master, master of ceremonies, sacristan and editor of Partners in Prayer. All the monks at the Abbey (as well as many guests) especially enjoy the good food produced by the Abbey kitchen under his care.
Secrets in the family
A mother reflects on her daughter’s abortions

By Andrew Chew

The following is written by Andrew Chew from the perspective of a woman whom he recently interviewed.

I will never forget the day I learned about my daughter’s abortions.

It was late at night; my husband and I were both fast asleep when the phone started ringing, jolting both of us awake. I got to the phone first and all I could hear when I answered the call was the voice of my daughter. For a moment I was shocked, taken aback and extremely angry with her. I very strongly felt that she was freezing me out. My daughter had always believed I was modeling all these things for our daughter – she had become this wild, raging, and furiously angry creature.

Her boyfriend was yelling too but when he saw us coming, he quickly turned to us and said, “I need to talk to you. I need to tell you that...” I just blew my mind. When we got home, my daughter didn’t want to talk. I felt so lost that I desperately needed to know something, anything. Who was the father? When did it happen? How did it happen? What had been going on all this while? And over the next few, very long days, small fragments of the story began to surface.

Both abortions had taken place within the span of two years. The father was the same for both of them, someone from a previous relationship. The first time she got pregnant, they aborted without telling anyone. But during the second pregnancy, they approached some friends of theirs, an older, married couple they both knew and trusted, for advice. This couple told them that they were not ready to have a baby and told K to go for an abortion.

I guess hearing this was one of the things that hurt me the most. I was hurt because the daughter I loved so much, whom I had tried to shield from harm all her life, had suffered so much. I was hurt because I had lost two grandchildren.

Part most of all, I was hurt because I felt like a complete and utter failure as a mother. Why hadn’t she talked with me?

The cold wind after that night in the park were the darkest of my life. I couldn’t talk to anyone, not my daughter, not even my husband. I felt as if I had sunk to the bottom of the ocean and there, utterly alone in the terrible blackness, I was being smothered by a thick, heavy shroud of burning hot shame.

A couple months later, I got a call from one of my closest friends telling me about Rachel’s Vineyard, a new ministry that helped people heal from the wounds of abortion. I needed some way to deal with the turmoil I was feeling in my heart, mind, and soul, so I signed up for the retreat.

I was uncomfortable at first being the only person there who hadn’t actually had an abortion, but that feeling gradually faded away. Over that weekend, God began teaching me how to breathe again, how to see light again. I discovered that I had a connection with the two babies that had been aborted. They are my two grandchildren.

I began to understand my daughter better, what she could have been going through, and why she might have made the choices she did. It gave me hope that I could learn how to love her the way she needed to be loved, and that I could somehow help her rediscover her own preciousness.

Reprinted with permission from Rachel’s Vineyard “Vine and Branches” Nov. 2011.

Catholic Daughters state officers announced

The North Dakota Catholic Daughters held their bi-annual convention in Medora May 3-5, 2013, which included the election of the following new state officers: State regent Kathy Kennedy (Harvey); 1st vice state regent Laurel Ann Dukart (Grand Forks); 2nd vice state regent Mary Baer (Belfield); State Secretary Bonita Erickson (Langdon); State Treasurer Deb Johnson (Fargo).

By James Odermann

The summer has been a blessing beyond my wildest dreams: grass, hay and growing crops that have covered the countryside in a dark green color that is indicative of the life that has sprung from the prairies within the Diocese of Bismarck.

It was early May when the rain switch was flipped. Many areas were blessed with abundant rainfall (some complained it was too much) and the circle of life continued.

For many livestock producer families the question went from “Have we got enough grass to get through the season?” to “Can our live-stock adequately harvest the grass?” Agronomic producer families in the diocese were in the same boat: “Should we seed now or wait until it rains?” was replaced with “When will we be able to get into the field to seed the crop?”

Weather is something that seems to rule nearly everything we do. Weather is an all-consum- ing discussion point as we schedule our lives. And, for those in the food production business (the farmers, ranchers and gardeners of our diocese), weather is such an important aspect of life.

Personally, I check the weather multiple times a day seeking answers to multiple ques- tions, depending on the time of the year: Should I seed? Can I leave the seed cart in the field? Should I cut hay? Can I hay haul tomorrow, or the next day? Will I be able to haul cattle to or from the pasture?

It was during one of those website checks of the weather that I wondered how life would be if I checked in with God as often as I checked the weather. What would the result(s) be?

As I was circling the field cutting hay after one of my weather checks, I spent some time thinking about what would happen if I made God as high of a priority as my weather check-ins. Would I be so cavalier about God’s love for me? Would I be less concerned with the material wants of the world? Would I be able to establish a better and stronger relationship with my spouse, my children, my business associates? Would I be more understanding, empathetic and patient? Would I better understand Jesus’ unconditional love for me?

These were just some of the questions that popped into my mind. There are many other questions that are applicable as I considered my life and the relationships that I am able to have with my family, my friends and the land.

So, I thought I should go further. I experi- ence God’s love every day. Am I happy with my life? Am I bringing happiness to those who love me? Am I showing love and respect to those with whom I come in contact? It is a near endless litany of questions that pop into my mind.

As I reflected on my life on the land I recalled the commitment that Jesus made to me when he died on the cross. I owe God a lot more than I can ever receive.

I need to become a person of prayer, a person who spends time in reflection about the awe and wonder of God, a person who thanks God for the many gifts (which also include chal- lenges) of this world.

I pray I am up to the task. Care to join me?

Bismarck-area retreat offered for men and women struggling after abortion

If you or someone you love has experienced an abortion, a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat may provide the spiritual and emotional healing of Christ offering freedom from the shame and guilt you may carry.

A Rachel’s Vineyard retreat will be held
August 23-25, 2013 in the Bismarck area for anyone hurting after an abortion.

Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God’s love, forgiveness and compassion. The cost is $100 for meals, a private room and all retreat materials. Assistance is available for those with a financial burden.

For more information, please call or email
Carol Kling: 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com or visit rachelsvineyard.org.

Do I pray as often as I check the weather?

James Odermann

August 2013

AG ATTITUDES

Dakota Catholic Action
By Joyce McDowall
Director, Office of Family Ministry

A bright blue sky with white puffy clouds floating softly above set the tone for the 2013 Town and Country Celebration, hosted by the parishes of St. Hildegard (Menoken) and Sacred Heart (Wilton).

Driving into the farm all were welcomed by lines of neatly marked parking spaces set in a freshly cut hay field manned by smiling faces of ready men asking if one needed a ride on the golf cart. What an inviting way to greet the crowds at the Richter family farm, a space of land in south central North Dakota that has belonged to the Richters since 1934.

After months of planning and many hours spent setting up and arranging the “church tent” and “pews” of hundreds of white chairs, over 600 prayed, sang and worshipped in this setting of tranquility. First was the blessing of the animals, fields and machinery, then a delicious luncheon served by happy, helpful individuals — young and old. We were treated to accordion music that made you almost get up and dance as people ate and visited.

Mixtures of individuals, families, strangers and friends gathered among the big cottonwood trees or beside the newborn calves and lambs. Some watched the children petting the beautiful horses or the old, gentle farm dog, bringing memories of days gone by when people gathered more frequently at a slower pace to enjoy nature and family.

Al Gustin gave an inspiring presentation on the value of the family farm and the need to care for the earth and environment. His vivid description of the toil and hard work by our ancestors to create this beautiful diocese brought a lump to the throat and thoughts of thankfulness for all God has given us.

Bishop Kagan celebrated Mass with seven priests at his side under the large tent. Bishop’s homily praised the God who gave us all this beautiful land to care for and the community that gathered. Again, a lump in the throat when the choir of farm men sang a meditation song after communion.

It was indeed a beautiful, peaceful day of memories, thankfulness and awareness of how each of us is connected to the land whether we live in town or country. The words of the blessing song tell it best: This is holy ground / We’re standing on holy ground / For the Lord is present and where He is is holy.
At college, it’s all about the connection

Newman Connection helps campus ministry programs find Catholic students

By Matthew Kurtz

When Lindsey Stein left home in Hankinson, N.D. for college, her major goal was typical of most college freshmen: find people who are “like me.” Luckily, people who couldn’t have been more unlike Stein sought her out first.

Stein had begun drinking in the eighth grade and had wrestled with self-harm, depression and substance abuse ever since. When she set foot on the campus of the University of Mary in Bismarck the first time in 2011, she had her sights set on “the partiers.” But what she found was something different.

Universities vs. Catholic ministry?

Statistics show that 30 percent of Catholics aged 18-24 abandon their faith during college, according to a 2012 study by Georgetown University’s Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. While the need for solid Catholic campus ministry is greater than ever, the environment on campuses has changed over the years according to Fr. James Cheney, pastor at St. Paul’s Newman Center at North Dakota State University in Fargo. A few decades ago, college administrators were typically in full cooperation with campus ministry programs.

Now, Fr. Cheney said, many universities won’t release information on a students’ religious affiliation, making the mission more difficult.

With administrators focusing all their attention toward forming students’ minds and bodies at college, Fr. Cheney said the third dimension of the soul is often neglected. “Do [college administrators] want students to come out of the college experience as an engineer or do they want students to come out of the college experience as an engineer who wants to do the right thing? ”

Since campus organizations are no longer allowed to set up booths on campus during the first two weeks of classes at NDSU, Fr. Cheney and his staff have had to get creative in their efforts to find and connect with Catholic students.

Newman Connection

Realizing the need for solid Catholic campus ministry, the USA Council of Serra International, an organization that promotes vocations, launched College Connection for Catholics (CCC) nearly a decade ago, which recently became the Newman Connection.

The Newman Connection offers support to nearly 250 Newman Centers and other Catholic ministries on college campuses across the country. Now, Newman Connection aims to work with Catholic dioceses to gather information on students before they leave for college. They then pass that information to the Catholic campus ministers.

“We take those leads that are generated through Newman Connection and follow up with them through peer ministry and issue them an invitation to come over to the Newman Center and find out about our programs, get into Bible studies and all that kind of stuff,” Fr. Cheney said.

“We still have time to get kids’ names in for this coming year,” said Judy Cozzens, who served as national director of CCC before it became Newman Connection. “Parishes are doing it many different ways: Some parishes try to send out letters, some set up tables after Mass and ask parents and students to register.”

If students don’t sign up on their own, parents or friends can also go to newmanconnection.com and send a student an email invitation with a personal message asking them to connect with their campus’s Catholic ministry.

“Through their strong faith life and their support, it was easier for me to go through these big steps in the faith, like going to confession for the first time,” Stein said, noting that she found herself in the confessional after less than two months on campus. “You can grow together, you can challenge each other. I think it’s necessary to have good Catholic friendships. If I would’ve not been connected as soon as I got to college, I would’ve been more consumed into the sinful and dead life I was living.’

This need to continue educating students about their Catholic faith after they have left home is essential, Fr. Cheney stressed.

“We’ve need to be throwing everything we’ve got at the biggest potential for the future of the church,” he said. “We need to put forth our best effort. We can’t just forget about them.”

Parishes wanting to learn more can contact the Newman Connection office at 1-866-815-2034 or visit www.newmanconnection.com.

Faith-saving connection

At the time her freshman year of college began, Stein hadn’t gone to confession in six years.

“It was the Sunday of the weekend I got to college—the first Mass day,” Stein remembered. “My sister introduced me to a missionary from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and I was immediately struck by the joy of the way they carried themselves. The wheels started to turn in my brain.”

Despite the fact that they weren’t the type of people Stein was planning to connect with on campus, Stein was invited to join a Bible study and was surprised at the friendships she developed with other students striving to live out their faith.

“Through their strong faith life and their support, it was easier for me to go through these big steps in the faith, like going to confession for the first time,” Stein said, noting that she found herself in the confessional after less than two months on campus. “You can grow together, you can challenge each other. I think it’s necessary to have good Catholic friendships. If I would’ve not been connected as soon as I got to college, I would’ve been more consumed into the sinful and dead life I was living.’

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Connect To Campus Ministry!

Dear Student's Name,

Going away to college is tough and we know it. We heard you! We thought you'd be interested in hearing about the Newman connection on campus so that you could check us out. Please look at this program and get connected to Newman; they are here to help you when you need it. Times when we can't be there.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Your Name Here

www.newmanconnection.com

Make New Friends: Sign Up Today and we will reach out to you immediately to help you with your decisions. Move anywhere.

Get Connected Today!

Students can go to www.newmanconnection.com and enter their name, address and college selection to get connected with their Catholic campus ministry. Family or friends can also send a student an email invitation with a personal message.
The pilgrimage will include stops at the national shrine to the main studio of EWTN in Irondale, Ala. com. info: 701-204-7187 or mduppong@bismarckdiocese.

gram and fellowship in the St. Joseph auditorium. Fr. celebrating a 25th Jubilee of Ordination Mass Saturday, guest Sept. 28 from 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Discover key as an anniversary certificate. Mass begins at noon Bishop David Kagan beginning at 11 a.m. as well been married one week or 80 years, all are invited to share in the Mass and the celebration of Fr. "

With contraception out of the question, Mur

she knew had written a thesis on bioethics. After a

who had spoken at the retreat. The private meet

alized that she needed to learn to pray "the very

sexuality. She never learned anything in medi

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school. She didn't hear it from friends. It was

Born and raised Catholic, Murphy lived a ma

A family practice physician for 24 years and a

LEAVING THE PILGRIMAGE BEHIND Bismarck physician converts to NFP-only

By Matthew Kurtz

The scene is common across America. A woman walks into her physician’s office. Perhaps it’s a familiar pattern. Poinsettias. Endometriosis. A regular blooddraw.

After the consultation, the woman is given a prescription for the contraceptive pill. The problem will be solved and she’ll likely remain on the pill for a majority of her childbearing years. No questions asked.

But in Dr. Louise Murphy’s office, the scene plays out differently.

The “aha moment”

A family practice physician for 24 years and a member of the Church of Spirit of Life in Mandan, Murphy experienced a sudden change of heart that would eventually affect her use of contraception in her practice.

Born and raised Catholic, Murphy lived a majority of her life honestly unaware of the Catholic Church’s teaching regarding contraception and sexuality. She never learned anything in medi
cal school. She didn’t hear it from friends. It was never mentioned in the pulpit. When a parishioner spoke of contraception, Murphy re

alized that she needed to learn to pray “the very best I could.” A simple desire for prayer turned into attending a retreat. Attending a retreat turned into another meeting, then into a pilgrimage, who said that the retreat turned into another meeting. A course on spirituality between the pill and breast cancer may be drawn

for an extended period of time. A connection between the pill and breast cancer may be drawn

increased risk of heart disease in older women

she thinks isn’t right. “There are serious risks to

opposite. [Our church’s teachings] are some

certain women may be helped. Actually, it’s the

diseases and single parenting. Actually, it’s the

daytime for us. And that’s why I can tell you that my heart: a change that would heavily affect her use of contraception in her practice.

...and she is a saint. If we’re here on earth to help another get to heaven, then my motivation is to not only help her with her body medically, but to help her see things in the light of faith. Most physicians are thinking of the body. But as a Catholic physician, there’s a greater dimension. Now she wants to help women realize why the pill is bad for them.

“...she’s not only made for sexual pleasure, but she’s made for her fertility and that gives her value. That gives her something different. And that gives her a purpose for God. I cherish that in my gender and I want to further that in women, that they realize that they are made for some

good thing, and it’s an honor [to be a mother].”

Most physicians are thinking of the body. But as a Catholic physician, there’s a greater dimension. Now she wants to help women realize why the pill is bad for them.

“I feel a joyful spirit about it! I have learned things and it’s exciting to be able to bring a joyful message of hope to all kinds of women from all walks of life. It’s a chance for me of who may not know anything about it, as I knew nothing about it for many years of my practice.”

To learn more about Natural Family Planning in western North Dakota, visit bismarckalive.com/Office-Family

Dr. Louise Murphy is married with three children and is a mem

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Almost 1500 people are already registered. What are you waiting for?

Register online or send this form to THIRST, Diocese of Bismarck, PO Box 1137, Bismarck, ND 58502-1137.

“Let anyone who thirsts come to Me and drink”
John 7:37

Are you thirsting for something more? You are not alone.

THIRST is a conference for people of all ages and backgrounds who want to find meaning in their lives and answers to the desires of their hearts.

Events of the weekend include presentations by internationally renowned speakers, time for prayer, Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation, a concert by a rock band and more! Visit event.com/d/4ciP3j for details.

Who else do you know that is thirsting? Family, friends, neighbors, coworkers? Come to THIRST 2013 and bring your friends! The Lord is inviting...will you let Him quench your thirst?

Clearly print your complete name(s) as should appear on your name badge(s).

Name(s):________________________________________________________
Address:________________________________________________________
City:________________________ State:_______ ZIP:____________
Phone:____________________ Email:__________________________________
Parish:____________________

Adults _______ Youth (7th–12th Grade) _______ Children (Pre-K–6th Grade) _______

Parishes:____________________

Concelebrate Saturday morning Mass _______ Concelebrate Sunday Mass _______
Available for confession _______

Religious Sisters/Brothers _______

I would like to volunteer my services in the following areas:

☐ Registration
☐ Eucharistic adoration
☐ Making rosaries
☐ Information booth
☐ Facility set-up (Thursday, Oct. 24th)
☐ Facility tear-down (Sunday, Oct. 27th)
☐ Require special needs seating
☐ Other (general volunteer)

Find complete coverage of the ordination on pages 1, 8 and 9.