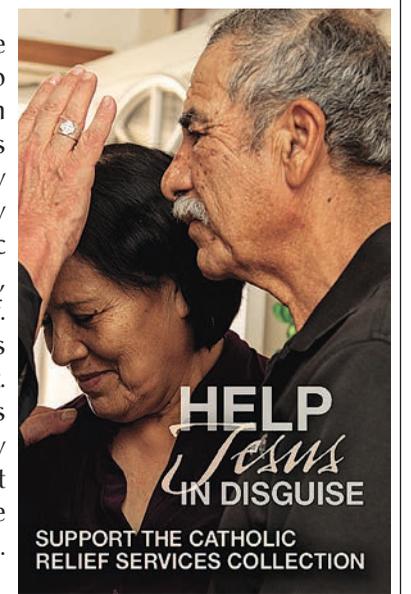


# THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 33 No. 5 March 2019

As Christians, we embrace Jesus' call – to reach out to our neighbors, our Lord in disguise. Our neighbor is everywhere; in every country on earth, there is need. By supporting the **Catholic Relief Services Collection**, you provide more than relief. Often, you are giving families and communities a new start. Consider sharing your blessings with the less fortunate. You may not recognize their faces, but you will know whom you are serving. It's Jesus in disguise.



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## Catholics gather to advocate on issues of importance to the Church

by Aldean Hendrickson  
Prairie Catholic correspondent

**ST. PAUL** - Do Catholics have a voice in politics?

The answer to this question was a resounding “Yes” for those who gathered in Saint Paul for “Catholics at the Capitol” on Feb. 20. The event sought to educate and energize Catholics from across the state to be involved as faithful citizens in the political process.

The day was organized the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the public policy of the Catholic Church in Minnesota and a ministry of the state's Catholic dioceses (Winona-Rochester, St. Cloud, Duluth, Crookston, New Ulm, and the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis). Like the first Catholics at the Capitol in 2017, this daylong event brought together over 1000 Catholics



Catholics at the Capitol was a day of prayer, inspiration, education, and advocacy. During the morning program at the River Centre in St. Paul participants heard from inspirational speakers including Hollywood actor Jim Caviezel, Archbishop Charles Chaput, and Gloria Purvis along with music by Catholic musician Danielle Rose. (Photo by Dianne Towalski/Central Minnesota Catholic)

from across the state – not just from all six dioceses but from all 90 state senate districts for a truly representative expression of faithful citizenship.

Prior to the day's events, all seven of Minnesota's Catholic bishops concelebrated an early morning Mass at the Church of the Assumption in downtown Saint Paul.

Homilist Bishop John M. LeVoir of the Diocese of New Ulm spoke of how the work of the day was a sharing in the prophetic mission of Jesus Christ, something all of us share by virtue of our baptism. He pointed out that, “As citizens of this country, we have the right to propose Catholic social teaching,” something that no one of good will should find threatening.

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## Pope to focus on 8 points in 'all-out battle' against abuse

by Courtney Grogan  
Catholic News Agency

**VATICAN CITY** – Following the Vatican abuse summit's Feb. 24 closing Mass, Pope Francis outlined eight points that the Church will focus on in an “all-out battle” against the sexual abuse of minors to, he said, “turn this evil into an opportunity for purification.”

“We need to recognize with humility and courage that we stand face to face with the mystery of evil, which strikes most violently against the most vulnerable, for

they are an image of Jesus,” Pope Francis said.

“For this reason, the Church has now become increasingly aware of the need not only to curb the gravest cases of abuse by disciplinary measures and civil and canonical processes, but also to decisively confront the phenomenon both inside and outside the Church,” he continued.

The pope's closing address for the Vatican sex abuse summit Feb. 21-24 was filled with statistics on the overall phenomenon of all child sexual abuse worldwide, most of

which occurs within the context of the family, Francis pointed out. However, these statistics can only provide explanation of the phenomenon, but not the meaning behind the acts, the pope said. The meaning behind child sex abuse comes from “the present-day manifestation of the spirit of evil,” he said, later adding that consecrated persons who commit such crimes become “tools of Satan.”

“Today we find ourselves before a manifestation of brazen, aggressive and destructive evil,” he said. “We need to take up the

spiritual means that the Lord himself teaches us: humiliation, self-accusation, prayer and penance. This is the only way to overcome the spirit of evil. It is how Jesus himself overcame it.”

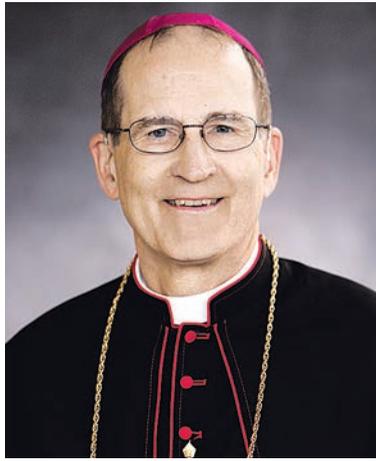
Building upon the World Health Organization's “Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children,” the pope presented eight guidelines to aid the Church in “developing her legislation” on the issues.

The eight guidelines can be summarized as follows:

1. A “change of mentality” to

(Continued on page 10)

# Be Not Afraid *Infanticide*



Bishop John M. LeVoir

In a statement issued on Feb. 2, 2019, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, KS, and Chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities wrote: "A law recently passed in New York not only legalizes abortion essentially for any reason through all nine months of pregnancy but removes any protection for children born alive after abortion. This legislation is evil, pure and simple. And it shocks the conscience to see such evil legislation greeted with raucous cheers and standing ovations. Most grieving to our Lord of Life is that those who advocate for abortion put their eternal souls in jeopardy."

Furthermore, on Feb. 25, the United States Senate failed to advance the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act – legislation that would prohibit infanticide by ensuring that a child born alive following an abortion would receive the same degree of care to preserve her life and health as would be given to any other child born alive at the same gestational age. Archbishop Naumann wrote that this failure by the Senate "should horrify and anger the American people."

The New York abortion law and the failure of the Senate should urge us to work and pray more earnestly than ever that the hearts of our citizens will be converted from the promotion of death to the promotion of life.

We must do all that we can to assure that a woman has all the help that she needs to give birth to her baby and that after birth, both are cared for.

Archbishop Naumann offers this short prayer for our use: "Jesus, Lord of Life, transform the hearts of all elected leaders to recognize that infanticide is wrong and must not be tolerated. Open hearts and minds to recognize and defend the

precious gift of every human life."

## Chapter 11 Reorganization

March 3, 2019, marked the second anniversary of the Diocese's filing for Chapter 11 Reorganization under the United States Bankruptcy Code.

Reorganization provides the diocese a process to fulfill its obligation, as much as possible, to victims and survivors of clergy sexual abuse of minors, while continuing to carry out its ministry.

Sexual abuse by clergy and the failure by Church leadership to prevent such abuse has caused deep wounds in the hearts of victims and survivors, and in the Body of Christ, the Church. I cannot apologize enough to the victims and survivors of abuse.

We must continue to work and pray for the healing of these wounds and to assure that we do all that we can to prevent abuse.

During the two years that the diocese has been in bankruptcy, it has had three mediation sessions in an attempt to resolve the bankruptcy. At each of these sessions progress has been

made. Also, I have had questions about the bankruptcy and have attempted to answer them as best that I can. However, the entire bankruptcy process is largely out of the control of the diocese. We must abide by the decisions of the bankruptcy court. To date, nothing has been decided for certain and the diocese is doing its best to cooperate with the court.

For more information on the bankruptcy and other matters concerning the abuse crisis, please see the diocesan web site at [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org). Please keep the victims and survivors in your prayers.

## Lent and Easter

In his Lenten message for 2019, Pope Francis calls us to conversion from sin and death to life in Christ. He writes: "All creation is called, with us, to go

forth 'from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God' (*Rom 8:21*). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving."

It is good to keep in mind that our Easter will be only as joyful as our Lent is penitential.

*Bishop LeVoir's March-April 2019 calendar can be found at [www.dnu.org/calendar/](http://www.dnu.org/calendar/).*

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## THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

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## Pope's Lenten message calls for conversion

*In his message for Lent, Pope Francis warns that once God's law is forsaken, the law of the strong over the weak takes over.*

by Linda Bordoni  
*Vatican News*

**VATICAN CITY** – Pope Francis is calling on the faithful not to let the Lenten season of grace pass in vain, and to live as children of God acknowledging and obeying his law, in particular in regards to our brothers and sisters and to creation.

In this year's Lenten message, the pope invites believers to prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed, warning that "Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests."

The pope's Lenten message was released on Tuesday during a press

conference at the Holy See Press Office. The theme chosen this year is "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (*Rom 8:19*).

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 6, and will conclude on Holy Thursday, April 18, the beginning of the Easter Triduum.

"Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them."

This is one of the key passages of Pope Francis' Lenten message for 2019. Reflecting on a verse from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, the pope highlights how the season before Easter must be a time to "welcome Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives," and attract "its transforming power to all of creation."

### Fasting, prayer, almsgiving

Appealing to the faithful to not allow this season of grace to pass in vain, Pope Francis says that if "the Lent of the Son of God was an entry into the desert of creation to make it become again that garden of communion with God" that it was before the original sin, Christians today are invited "to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving."

Fasting, the pope says, means turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity; Prayer teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego; Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us.

If we follow this journey, he said

it "is possible to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness."

### Conversion

The path to Easter, therefore, demands that "we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion, and forgiveness" the pope said pointing out that it is a call that involves the whole of creation.

This "eager longing," this expectation of all creation, Pope Francis says, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails.

The full text of the Holy Father's Lenten Message can be found on the Vatican website <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>.

# Four from diocese recognized for distinguished service

**NEW ULM** – Bishop John M. LeVoir of the Diocese of New Ulm has selected four Catholics of the Diocese of New Ulm to receive the 2019 Diocesan Distinguished Service Award. The award is given to individuals in recognition of outstanding service in some leadership capacity to the diocese.

The awards were presented by Bishop LeVoir following the annual Bishop Lucker Lecture held March 11 at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls.

This year's recipients are:

**Deacon Bruce Bot** has served for six years as a representative on the diocesan Pastoral Council and one year as an executive committee member of the Christ Our Life Capital Campaign, the campaign that raised funds for the construction of the new diocesan Pastoral Center. Bot also served as a parish committee head for the campaign.

Bot was among the second class of permanent deacons to be ordained in the diocese in 2018. As a deacon, he currently serves the Church of St. Edward in Minneota where he has been a member for 56 years. In his parish, Bot played a role in helping to establish the parish endowment fund. Additional service to the parish includes 15 years of service on the parish administrative council, seven years as a religious education teacher, three years as an RCIA instructor, 30 years as a lector and choir member, 12 years as extraordinary minister of Communion, and six years as Communion minister to the homebound.

Bot is also a Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator.

A farmer by trade Bruce and his wife Juanita have been married for 30 years and have five grown children.

**Christopher Hansen** contributed to the development of the diocesan Third and Fourth Plan for Parishes in conjunction with his service on the Shepherd of Souls Area Faith Community Pastoral Council.

In his parish of the Church of St.

John in Darwin, he was active in the Parish Council and served on the Parish Administrative Council for over ten years. He has been involved with and chaired the parish annual fall festival, and serves as usher at Mass. He also assists with maintenance of the church facilities and is very generous to the parish.

Hansen is a charter member of the James A. Hansen Council 13122 Knights of Columbus, serving as Grand Knight from 2004 to 2005 and again from 2015 to 2017.

A life-long resident of the Darwin area, Hansen has served as a city council representative and mayor. In recognition of his involvement in numerous town organizations, projects, and celebrations in both Darwin and Dassel, in 2002 he received the Dassel Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Volunteer of the Year award. He is also the chair of the board for the Darwin Area Community Legacy Foundation.

**Msgr. Eugene Lozinski** serves as chancellor of the Diocese of New Ulm as well as associate judge of the diocesan Tribunal office, and pastor of the Divine Mercy Area Faith Community (Church of St. Paul, Comfrey; Church of St. Michael, Morgan; Church of the Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth; and the Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye).

For the past 25 years he has served as diocesan moderator for the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Presently he serves as Spiritual Advisor to the Associates of the National Council of Catholic Women. From 2006-2008 he served on the National Council of Catholic Women Board of Directors as chairman of the moderators.

Since 1974, he has held several positions in the diocesan Tribunal: defender of the bond (1974-1983); advocate (1977-1978); and associate judge (1983-present). From 2002-2008, Msgr. Lozinski served as diocesan regional Vocation Director. He also has served on the diocesan Priest Personnel Board, the diocesan Priest Pension Board, and the Diaconate and Lay Ecclesial Ministry Committee.

Since 2003 he has served as the Bishop's Delegate for the



Bishop John M. LeVoir (second from left) smiles with recipients of the 2019 Diocesan Distinguished Service Award which he presented to them following the Bishop Lucker Lecture March 11 at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls. The award is given to individuals in recognition of outstanding service in some leadership capacity to the diocese. Award recipients pictured from left: Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, Ronda Mathiowetz, and Deacon Bruce Bot. Not pictured: Christopher Hansen. *(Photo by Carol Hacker)*

Permanent Diaconate and since 2007 as a member of the Admissions and Scrutinies Committee for the Permanent Diaconate. He currently serves as a member of the diocesan Review Board for Sexual Misconduct, the diocesan Corporate Board, the diocesan College of Consultors, the diocesan Priests' Council, the Bishop's Cabinet, as well as the Board of Directors of the Friends of San Lucas.

Msgr. Lozinski is a member of the Canon Law Society of America and since 2011 he has

been a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

In 2005, Msgr. Lozinski was named Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of Monsignor by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.

**Ronda Mathiowetz** has been actively involved for many years with the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW).

Within the Council, she served a two-year term (2009-2011) as NUDCCW Region 2 president

followed by DCCW treasurer (2011-2013). She served as DCCW vice president from 2014-2016 and DCCW president from 2016-2018. For the last five years she has served as DCCW representative to the New Ulm Diocesan Committee on Parishes.

Since the 1980's, Mathiowetz has been involved in Riverbend TEC (Together Encounter Christ) serving on the TEC leadership Council. From 1982-2017 she served as a TEC lay director and from 1998-2002 as the National TEC Council region and state representative.

A member of the Church of the Japanese Martyrs for 38 years, Mathiowetz has served as parish CCW president for one year, a confirmation and youth ministry teacher for 20 years, a guitarist and song leader for 33 years, an extraordinary minister of Communion for 36 years, and a lector for 36 years. Mathiowetz has also served as parish festival chairperson, parish council member and chairperson, and Area Faith Community Council chairperson.

Ronda and her husband Brian have been married for 37 years and have four adult children and nine grandchildren. The couple has operated Mathiowetz Construction Company in Sleepy Eye for 28 years.

## Sr. M. Joanna Buckley takes on new leadership role in Schoenstatt community



Sr. M. Joanna Buckley, ISSM, has been appointed to serve on the general council of the Secular Institute of Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in Schoenstatt, Germany.

Prior to the Feb. 15 appointment, she served as provincial superior of the United States province. In

her new position, Buckley will be responsible for representing the sisters in the English-speaking countries.

A native of Redwood Falls and a graduate of Redwood Falls High School, Sr. Joanna attended the College of St. Benedict for a year where she studied music and theology before entering the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. She continued her studies and received her degree in theology and religious education from Marquette University in Milwaukee. Sr. Joanna made her final commitment to the secular institute in 1998.

Schoenstatt is a Catholic lay

movement that strives to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the example and guidance of Mary. The movement was founded on October 18, 1914, by Fr. Joseph Kentenich in the Schoenstatt valley in the Rhine region of west-central Germany. The Sisters' community, as part of the Schoenstatt movement was founded on Oct. 1, 1926.

Currently, the Sisters serve in connection with nine Schoenstatt shrines in the United States and four in the islands of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. A Schoenstatt shrine and retreat center is located in the Diocese of New Ulm in Sleepy Eye.



## No Tengas Miedo *El Infanticidio*

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

En una declaración emitida el 2 de febrero del 2019, el Arzobispo Joseph F. Naumann de Kansas City, KS, y presidente del Comité de Obispos de los Estados Unidos sobre actividades Pro-Vida escribió: “Nueva York aprueba ley que no solo legaliza el aborto durante toda la gestación y elimina toda posible protección para los niños nacidos vivos después del aborto. Esta legislación es simplemente perversa. Conmociona la conciencia ver una legislación tan perversa y llena de ovación con fuertes vótores. Lo que más hiere a nuestro Señor de la Vida es que quienes abogan por el aborto ponen en peligro sus almas eternas.”

Además, el 25 de febrero, el Senado de los Estados Unidos no logró avanzar el proyecto de ley de sobrevivientes del aborto de Born-Alive – la legislación que prohibiría el infanticidio al garantizar que un niño ya nacido después de aborto reciba el mismo grado de atención para preservar su vida y salud como se daría a cualquier otro niño nacido en la misma edad gestacional. El Arzobispo Naumann escribió que este fallo del senado “debería atemorizar e indignar al pueblo estadounidense.”

La ley de aborto en Nueva York y el fallo del senado deberían instarnos a trabajar y a orar más que nunca y fervientemente para que los corazones de nuestros ciudadanos se transformen de la promoción de la muerte a la vida. Debemos hacer todo lo posible para asegurar que toda mujer cuente con toda la ayuda que necesita para dar a luz y después del nacimiento, ambos reciban el cuidado necesario.

El Arzobispo Naumann ofrece esta oración breve para nuestro uso: “Jesús, Señor de la Vida, transforma los corazones de todos los líderes electos para reconocer que el infanticidio es inconcebible y no debe ser tolerado. Abre los corazones y mentes para reconocer y defender el precioso don de cada vida humana.”

### Reorganización del Capítulo 11

Este 3 de marzo marcó el segundo aniversario de la reorganización financiera, Capítulo 11 del código de bancarrota. La reorganización proporciona a la diócesis un proceso para cumplir con su obligación con las víctimas y sobrevivientes de abuso sexual de menores por parte del clero, mientras la diócesis continúa llevando a cabo su ministerio. El abuso sexual por parte del clero y el incumplimiento de los líderes de la Iglesia por impedir dichos abusos ha causado heridas muy profundas en los corazones de las víctimas y sobrevivientes, y en el cuerpo de Cristo, la Iglesia. Debemos continuar trabajando y orando por la sanación de estas heridas y para asegurarnos de hacer todo lo posible para evitar el abuso.

Durante los dos años de bancarrota, se ha llevado a cabo 3 sesiones de mediación en un intento por resolver la bancarrota. Todo el proceso sobre la bancarrota está fuera de las manos de la diócesis. Debemos acatar las decisiones del tribunal de quiebras. Hasta la fecha, no se ha decidido nada con certeza y la diócesis está haciendo todo lo que está a su alcance para cooperar con la corte. Para obtener más información sobre la bancarrota y otros asuntos relacionados con la crisis del abuso, ir a [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org). Por favor, le pido sigan orando por las víctimas y sobrevivientes.

### La Cuaresma y la Pascua

Este año el mensaje del Papa Francisco por la Cuaresma nos llama a la conversión del pecado y la muerte a la vida en Cristo. El escribe: “la creación, expectante, está aguardando la manifestación de los hijos de Dios’ (Rm 8:21). La Cuaresma es un signo sacramental de esta conversión. Invita a los cristianos a encarnar el misterio pascual de manera más profunda y concreta en su vida personal, familiar y social, sobre todo mediante el ayuno, la oración y la limosna.” Es bueno tener en cuenta que nuestra Pascua será tan gozosa como la Cuaresma es penitencial.

## United States is in a somber mood after news of McCarrick’s laicization

by Rhina Guidos  
*Catholic News Service*

**WASHINGTON** – The accusations surrounding former U.S. Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick have been hanging over U.S. bishops and faith communities in the dioceses and archdioceses where he served – New York, Metuchen and Newark in New Jersey, and Washington – since last year.

Even though the Vatican stripping McCarrick of his clerical status Feb. 16 was expected, the news cast a somber mood over those faith communities already grappling with what had happened while he was among them in the past and whether the Vatican’s decision can help the Church in the U.S. move forward.

In announcing its decision, the Vatican said McCarrick was found guilty of “solicitation in the Sacrament of Confession and sins against the Sixth Commandment with minors and with adults, with the aggravating factor of the abuse of power.”

“It is profoundly disheartening and disturbing to know that a church leader, who served and led our Archdiocese of Newark for 14 years, acted in a way that is contrary to the Christian way of life as well as his vocation as a priest of Jesus Christ,” said Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark in a statement following the announcement.

“To all those abused by clergy, especially the victims of Theodore McCarrick, I continue to express my profound sadness and renew heartfelt apologies for the lifelong suffering you have endured,” he said. “I support your continued healing and uphold my commitment of prayer for you. I also ask my brothers and sisters in Christ to pray for those victimized by clergy and for the transgressors as well.”

James Grein, one of those who have publicly said he was abused by the former cardinal, said in a statement released by his attorney



(Photo by CNS/Paul Haring)

that “today I am happy that the pope believed me.”

“For years I have suffered, as many others have, at the hands of Theodore McCarrick,” he said in the statement. “It is with profound sadness that I have had to participate in the canonical trial of my abuser. Nothing can give me back my childhood and I have not taken any pleasure in testifying or discussing what happened to me. There are no winners here.”

However, Grein, who provided Vatican officials with accounts that McCarrick sexually abused him as an 11-year-old child, including during confession, said he was “hopeful now I can pass through my anger for the last time. I hope that Cardinal McCarrick will no

longer be able to use the power of Jesus’ church to manipulate families and sexually abuse children.” “This great historical and holy situation is giving rise to all Catholics and victims of abuse across the world,” he said. “It’s is time for us to cleanse the Church.”

As of the day of the announcement, McCarrick was believed to be living in a small religious community of Capuchin Franciscans, St. Fidelis Friary, in rural Victoria, Kansas, where he had been ordered to go by the Vatican to live since late September “a life of prayer and penance” until the accusations against him could be examined.

“Mr. McCarrick will continue to reside at the St. Fidelis Friary in Victoria until a decision of permanent residence is finalized,” said Bishop Gerald L. Vincke, who heads the Diocese of Salina, Kansas, which is where the friary is located.

The decision whether to remain there after the Vatican’s action seems to rest with McCarrick and the religious community of Capuchins, which according to its website is made up of five priests and one religious brother. When

(Continued on page 6)

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# ChristLife program invites parishioners to encounter Christ

***“The ChristLife program was a beautiful, enlightening, and growing experience for me, in both my continuing Catholic formation growth and also my relationship with God. It was a small time commitment that yielded a big return for me in self growth and also growing closer to God and the plan he has for my life.”***

– BONNIE MOHR  
HOLY FAMILY, SILVER LAKE

by Therese Bussen

The Catholic Church is more known to the world by her doctrines; what’s not as widely known or understood is that the Gospel, the heart of Catholicism, is an invitation to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Having a relationship with Jesus is at the very heart of the faith – it is the most essential part. ChristLife founder and director Dave Nodar created his parish-based evangelization program for this very reason.

“We need to encounter him personally. The majority of Catholics are infant baptized, and we rarely ratify our baptism with a personal relationship with Jesus. They don’t know it’s a possibility, or how to do it,” Nodar said.

He explained that most of people’s experience of handing on the faith has been one of a top-down, schoolroom style – but this is not the place to begin.

“We’ve put the cart before the horse. Evangelization has to precede catechesis – there has to be a conversion first,” Nodar said.

Nodar, who was familiar with evangelization methods from his personal experience in renewal movements, saw the need in the Church, heard the call, and acted.

“During the early ‘90s, I just had a growing conviction that I should start an evangelizing ministry based on the writings of [St. John Paul II],” Nodar explained.

He quoted St. John Paul II, how he and other popes called this time in history one that needed a “new

evangelization,” where the Church could once again reach the ends of the earth, “if we respond with generosity and holiness.”

So, ChristLife was born. In the last eight years, the program solidified its curriculum into three-course DVD’s, “trying to make evangelization practical and doable for parishes, and make it relevant to Catholics who have dropped out, as well as people who are unbaptized,” Nodar said. Each of the three programs runs once a week for seven weeks, and it follows a simple model: discover, follow, share.

The first course is “Discover,” and its aim is simply to proclaim the Gospel to participants, offering an opportunity to encounter Jesus and begin a personal relationship with him.

“It focuses on the kerygma, the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord,” Nodar said.

He explained that the Gospel is something we should never assume someone’s heard; a participant in ChristLife, who was a lifelong Catholic said, “I’ve never heard this, and now my life is changed,” Nodar recalled.

***“ChristLife showed me how to pray, encouraged me to read scripture and to make time for Jesus. It brought me to a place of peace by teaching me how to forgive . . . ChristLife gave me the courage to spread the Good News. I am very much an introvert but I quickly learned that God qualifies the unqualified . . . I have done things I never would have imagined doing to share my fire for Christ.”***

– Bridget Essen, St Pius X, Glencoe

“We’re not talking about devotionals; they don’t feel pressured. It’s really more of an experience,” he added.

The second course is “Follow,” which draws upon the lives of the saints, prayer, sacraments, and spiritual warfare.

“It’s basic Catholic discipleship. Most people haven’t heard how to have a personal prayer life,” Nodar said.

One parishioner who went through the program said on the ChristLife blog, “This series helped teach me the way to pray, taught me



According to the website, the ChristLife program equips Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so that all people might personally encounter Jesus Christ and be transformed into his missionary disciples. The ministry partners with parishes, clergy, religious, and lay persons who are seeking to answer the Church’s call for the New Evangelization through evangelization and outreach. Pictured is ChristLife founder and director, Dave Nodar.

how to forgive, especially how to forgive myself . . . I hadn’t gone to confession for over forty years. With the inspiration of this course, I was guided back to confession and Holy Communion.”

them best reach their parishioners. “We’re not effectively acquainted with how to evangelize people,” Nodar said. “It’s not enough just to give away DVD’s, so we do training – and there’s an archdiocesan one [in Denver] in November.”

The trainings teach parish members first that they are not simply leaders. They are facilitators in a discussion, Nodar said. They’re there to “establish relationships,” where personal interaction and one-on-one invitations to the program are key.

They also cover practicals like administration and leading conversations, and they especially stress the role of the Holy Spirit in the work of evangelization.

Since the program’s start eight years ago, over 75,000 people have gone through the courses in parishes as well as other countries.

“[The courses are] not just an intellectual experience, it’s about interior

transformation . . . the answer [to our culture] is getting back on mission,” Nodar said.

For more information on ChristLife visit [christlife.org](http://christlife.org).

*Editor’s note: Freelancer Therese Bussen’s article originally appeared in the Denver Catholic.*

**Interested in bringing ChristLife to your parish? Contact Deacon Mike McKeown, director of Adult Faith Formation for the Diocese of New Ulm, 507-233-5310, [mmkeown@dnu.org](mailto:mmkeown@dnu.org)**

***“ . . . My faith as a Catholic was comfortable. After attending [ChristLife] I would say my faith as a Catholic is on fire! The program opened my eyes to the fact that my faith was shallow. I felt uncomfortable standing up for my God in a public setting, with family, and with friends. Because my wife and I attended together our lives are simply better. Our prayer is deeper, our love of God is deeper, and our faith is stronger.”***

– TOM OLLIG, HOLY TRINITY, WINSTED

# Archbishop Chaput: "Faith matters because it drives us to do what is right"

(Continued from page 1)

What's so bad about the Beatitudes?" he asked. "What's so bad about the works of mercy?"

The morning program at St. Paul's RiverCenter began with a keynote address by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, widely regarded as one of the most eloquent defenders of religious liberty among the United States bishops. "Faith matters," he said, "because it drives us to do what is right." He reminded participants that faith and belief were part of the Founders' vision for our country. They "presumed the existence of natural law and natural rights ... inalienable and guaranteed by a Creator." If we as a country lose sight of that faith, the rights that are based on it "become the product of social convention" and, lacking foundation, can be eroded away as society changes. (Read the full text of Archbishop Chaput's address at <http://catholicsatthecapitol.org/wp-content/uploads/19.0219-Chaput-Speech.pdf>.)

Other highlights of the morning included a conversation by emcee Gloria Purvis with the two top Minnesota state legislators: House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler (DFL) and Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R), both of whom emphasized the value – and indeed the necessity – of individual citizens making their voices heard by their elected representatives. Senator Gazelka told the crowd that visits from constituents always have priority for legislators, and that respectful, Christian witness is most effective in such meetings. Representative Winkler called hearing directly from constituents "the most powerful thing at the State Capitol."

United States Senator Amy Klobuchar (DFL) addressed the crowd via a pre-recorded video message in which she expressed praise and gratitude for "the many ways your church has shown moral leadership" on important social issues.

Finally, Hollywood actor Jim Caviezel wowed the crowd with a passionate exhortation to Catholics to heed their baptismal call to "reach out to help others in their darkness." He stressed the importance of being open to God's will with examples from his own



Catholics from the Mankato and North Mankato area met with Minnesota State Senator Nick Frenz (DFL) (far left) of District 19 during Catholics at the Capitol on Feb. 19. Participants encouraged their representatives to support pending legislation regulating surrogacy in the state, as well as a number of bills to provide support to children and their families during "The First 1000 Days of Life."

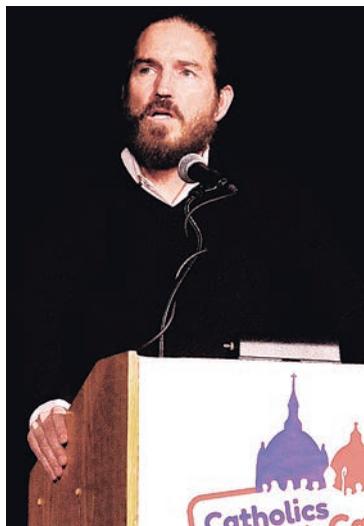
(photo by Aldean Hendrickson)

career journey, including his life-changing experience of playing the part of Jesus in the 2004 film *The Passion of the Christ*. Very few of us are called to be public figures, he told the crowd, "but all of us – and I do mean all of us – are called to be advocates of the Holy Spirit in our spheres."

After a box lunch, participants boarded buses for the State Capitol where they divided into groups for pre-arranged meetings with state senators and representatives. Participants were supplied with prepared materials and talking points to advocate for two current legislative initiatives: regulations preventing exploitation of women and children by for-profit surrogacy arrangements, and a package of bills called "The First 1000 Days" aimed at providing a range of much-needed support to mothers and their children from birth through the child's second birthday.

During a meeting with a group of Catholics from Nicollet and North Mankato, Senator Nick Frenz (DFL, District 19) shared the advice he recently gave to a group of students from a Catholic school. "Don't let anyone talk you out of your values," he said.

At the close of the day, Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan (DFL) praised and thanked the crowd of political advocates for the work they were doing as faithful citizens. Quoting her mentor, *Sojourners Magazine* founder Jim



Hollywood Actor Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ" in 2004, addressed the audience of more than 1,000 offering an inspirational message about following Jesus today.

(photo by Alyssa Duet)

Wallis, she drew a cheer from the packed Capitol Rotunda with the declaration: "Faith is personal, but never private."

Pope Francis has called participation in politics "one of the foremost works of charity." Catholics at the Capitol 2019 not only provided Minnesota Catholics encouragement, but also education to put into action that work of charity, and help ensure that, through what Archbishop Chaput called our "witness of nobility, dedication, and love" we can change hearts, and change our country for the better.

# McCarrick laicized by pope

(Continued from page 4.)

the choice was made of a place where then-Archbishop McCarrick could reside while a decision on his status was being weighed, Bishop Vincke had said that in allowing McCarrick to live in the diocese, he had to reconcile his feelings of "disappointment, anger and even resentment" toward him.

On Feb. 16, the bishop thanked the religious community of Capuchins "for their charity and compassion shown to all who seek refuge in the church, as well as the remarkable people of Victoria for their mercy in this difficult situation." He added that he hoped the Vatican decision "may help bring healing to all affected by sexual abuse and those hurt by this scandal."

The coming days no doubt will bring more questions about what the decision means in the historical spectrum of the Catholic Church at all levels.

Massimo Faggioli, a church historian and professor of theology at Villanova University in Philadelphia, said the decision is theologically important because it would signal that sexual abuse is incompatible with priesthood. "It would become part of the discussion on what's the meaning of 'ontologically changed' by priestly ordination," he said. "Canonically, it would not be the first time, but the first for a cardinal who ecclesiologically is one of the members of the presbyterium of the bishop of Rome. Symbolically, the laicization of McCarrick would be acknowledging the wound inflicted on the pope himself."

The day seemed to be one of reckoning as brother bishops and organizations that once had worked with, and sometimes praised, the former prelate for his work grappled with the Vatican's pronouncement.

The University of Notre Dame almost immediately announced it was rescinding the honorary degree it conferred on him in 2008, a decision the school had said it would take action upon once the Vatican reached a final conclusion on the accusations, given that McCarrick had maintained his innocence.

McCarrick said in a June 20 statement, following his announcement that he was stepping down from the College of Cardinals, that he had "absolutely no recollection" of abuse accusations that surfaced after U.S. newspapers reported detailed accounts that he exposed himself and sexually molested at least two boys in his early years as a priest -- accusations that spanned almost five decades and were too old to legally prosecute.

Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley called the pope's action "important in administering justice" for McCarrick's "crimes and sins" but "it cannot in and of itself provide healing for those so terribly harmed by the former archbishop's scandalous violations of his ministry or for their families."

Church leaders "are rightfully judged by our actions and not our words," he continued. Apologies are part of the healing process but without action "they ring hollow in light of the revelations of sexual abuse by clergy that have come forth during the past year and almost 20 years prior."

The Church's leadership "must enforce accountability for cardinals and bishops if we hope to have the opportunity to engage the laity in the work of tangible change in the church," Cardinal O'Malley said.

The Archdiocese of Washington, where McCarrick last served in his 60 years of priesthood and where he was a well-known and ubiquitous figure, said in a brief statement that the imposition of the penalty "underscores the gravity of his actions."

"Our hope and prayer is that this decision serves to help the healing process for survivors of abuse, as well as those who have experienced disappointment or disillusionment because of what former Archbishop McCarrick has done," the statement said.

Pope Francis has convened the heads of bishops' conferences from around the world for a summit on sex abuse set for Feb. 21-24 at the Vatican.

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# Texas archbishop: The border 'emergency' is not what you think

**EL PASO, TEXAS – (CNA)**

The reputed migration emergency is ultimately not about people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, but about caring for the disadvantaged and the difficulties migrants and asylum seekers face in their efforts to reach safety, Archbishop Gustavo-Siller of San Antonio has said.

The archbishop, speaking at a Feb. 27 press conference in El Paso, cited claims that the U.S. is in a national emergency due to border crossings from undocumented immigrants.

“Well, we were at the border yesterday,” he said. “The emergency is not here.”

“The emergency is what people are going through to try to come here to have peace, to have understanding, to have respect, and to have a genuine welcome,” said the archbishop. “All the rhetoric that has been building up about how bad the other people are, has built up to this ‘national emergency,’ which is a lie.”

While not mentioning President Donald Trump, the archbishop spoke weeks after the president declared a national emergency as part of his efforts to secure funding for a southern border fence. He said there is a “border security and humanitarian crisis” there, claiming that the border is a major entry point for criminals,

gang members, and illegal drugs. The Trump administration has strengthened U.S. deportation efforts and worked to prevent people from claiming asylum from entering the country, citing the low rate of successful asylum claims. The administration’s efforts have faced judicial obstacles.

About 70,000 people a year claim asylum after crossing the border without documentation. There are about 1.1 million asylum cases pending in immigration courts, and about 20 percent of applications for asylum are approved, the Associated Press has reported.

For Archbishop Gustavo-Siller, leaders need to unmask the situation at the border and present the truth the way they see it. He rejected the use of the rhetoric of a national emergency to keep people out, emphasizing that people can request political asylum as an international right.

In his experience, the U.S. side of the border does not suffer from an emergency. Rather, there is “loving care” and people who come forward, well organized to meet the needs of border crossers. When 200 people recently entered the U.S. in search of need, he said, people were ready to serve them. “The emergency is how we are going to take care of those who are discriminated against, and those who are disadvantaged,”



Members of the migrant caravan took temporary shelter in a stadium in Mexico City on their way to the United States border, Nov. 8, 2018. (Photo by David Ramos/CNA)

said the archbishop.

The group of bishops known as the Tex-Mex Bishops Conference come from both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. They have regularly met for 25 years.

Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso said every bishop from both sides of the border had attended parts of the latest meeting. “Every border community, contrary to some expectations, is a community that extends across the border, and it goes both ways,” he said.

“In fact, the very lifeblood of our communities is our connection with our neighbors, with our family across the border.”

Corbett cited the recent deaths of two Guatemalan migrant children in the custody of U.S. officials. “We’re here to say ‘no more.’ Migrants deserve much better and our border communities deserve much better,” he said.

Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville stressed the need to speak with, listen to, and see with open eyes “the experience of the immigrant.” These are “people the world often does not have time to talk to.”

“We create policies without talking to people who are affected by them,” he said.

“It’s so important for us as pastors to be in contact with the very concrete experiences of families,” he continued. “It is the work of the Church to be hospitable,” he continued.

“Pope Francis insists to us that we must attend also to the spiritual need of the poor,” he said, adding that the worst form of discrimination is “not to announce the good news to the poor.” This is part of evangelizing, and the start of evangelizing is “the act of human contact and respect.”

Dylan Corbett, director of the Hope Border Institute, said the Tex-Mex bishops’ gatherings over the decades shows their longstanding commitment “to our border communities, and those who live in them and those who travel through them: asylum seekers and migrants.”

The current gathering differed from others because of the additional actions with faith leaders of different traditions. “Everyone is concerned about what is going on right now. Right now is a dramatic moment for our country,” Corbett said. Leaders of faith are “here to say we stand in solidarity with the migrants.”

## Clergy holiness focus of diocesan gathering

**WILLMAR -** Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, D.Min., Ph.D., was the presenter for a day of continuing formation and education for clergy on Feb. 12 at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar. The title of his presentation was *The Holiness of Priests: A Chastity of Heart and an Absolute Humility*. Despite the inclement winter weather, 32 clerics (priests and deacons) of the Diocese of New Ulm attended including Bishop John M. LeVoir.

A priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, Msgr. Rossetti is a licensed psychologist, an international speaker and consultant, and the author of several books focused on the clergy child sexual abuse crisis.

For 17 years, he served as the Executive Vice President and then the President and Chief Executive Officer of Saint Luke Institute in



Msgr. Stephen Rossetti was the day’s presenter during the Feb. 12 Pastoral Leader Days held at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar.

(photo by Msgr. Douglas Grams)

Silver Spring, Md., a residential treatment program for clergy and religious men and women.

Msgr. Rossetti assisted the U.S. bishops in drafting the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and is currently a

consultant for the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. He currently teaches Pastoral Studies at Catholic University of America in Washington.

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and *Healing*

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# Ask a Canon Lawyer



by Fr. Mark Steffl, STL, JCL

It can seem strange, even to Catholics, that a previously married non-Catholic would have to go through the process of having his/her marriage declared invalid by a Catholic Tribunal. How is it possible that a divorced couple, neither of whom have had any contact with the Catholic Church throughout their marriage, should have to go through a Catholic diocesan tribunal to have their marriage declared null?

To begin with, the Church takes marriage so seriously that she presumes that even marriages between baptized non-Catholics are valid (and sacramental) marriages (even if the couple themselves, or the denominations they belong to, do not hold this to be true). Even if a marriage between two

**This month's question:**  
**Why would a person need to get an annulment if neither they nor their former spouse had ever been Catholic?**

baptized non-Catholics is not a "church" wedding (such as two baptized non-Catholics married by a justice of the peace), it is still held by the Catholic Church to be a sacramental marriage between those two individuals until it is proven to the contrary.

Our Lord Jesus is so very clear in his words in scripture that a person who is already married cannot marry another individual (see Mt 19:3-6 and Mk 10:6-9). The Church applies this to all who wish to get married. This is not about "Church rules" but rather the Church implementing what the Lord taught so clearly in the Gospels about the bond of matrimony not being able to be broken if it is a valid one.

This question comes up when a divorced non-Catholic desires to marry a Catholic. In the Church we speak of one's "freedom to marry"—and because marriage

bonds are presumed to be valid and permanent, not everyone who wishes to get married is "free to marry." This is where the tribunal comes in.

The "annulment" process that happens in a diocesan Marriage Tribunal examines individual marriages where the common (shared) life of a husband and wife has ended, and who have suggested that there was something missing at the time of the wedding that prevented the marriage from being a real bond between a man and a woman. Until proven otherwise, the Church assumes that any marriage between a man and a woman is a valid (and usually also a sacramental) marriage.

The Church uses criteria that are established by sacred Scripture, are summarized in a definition found in the Code of Canon Law (can. 1055 §1): "The marriage

covenant, by which a man and woman establish between themselves a partnership of their whole life, and which of its own very nature is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children, has, between the baptized, been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament." So when a component of this definition is shown to be missing, it is then that a marriage can be declared "invalid" by a diocesan Marriage Tribunal (this is commonly referred to as an annulment).

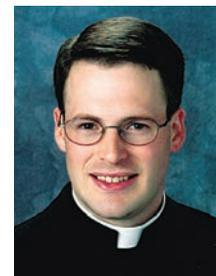
When I was studying the Catholic Church law on marriage, I was surprised myself when an instructor mentioned that although it is not common in the United States, in other places that are predominantly Protestant countries, non-Catholics will sometimes approach a Catholic Marriage Tribunal to examine the validity of their marriages because their own denominations do not have such a process and do not even require such an investigation,

in order to give their own consciences peace.

It can seem frustrating, especially to non-Catholics, to go through this process for a previous marriage before entering a new one. I always mention to them that we should all be grateful that the church takes the bond of marriage so seriously.

**NEXT COLUMN:** When can I ask for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?

**Do you** have a question regarding canon law that you would like to see answered here? E-mail [The Prairie Catholic](mailto:cclancy@dnuc.org) at [cclancy@dnuc.org](mailto:cclancy@dnuc.org). In the subject area indicate "Ask a canon lawyer."



*Editor's note: Fr. Mark Steffl serves as the Diocese of New Ulm's canon lawyer and is the judicial vicar of the diocesan Office of the Tribunal.*

## Feast day of St. Paul VI added to universal calendar

by Courtney Grogan  
*Catholic News Agency*

**VATICAN CITY** – Last month the Vatican announced that Pope St. Paul VI's feast day will be celebrated annually on May 29 as an optional - not obligatory - memorial.

"Before and after becoming pope, Saint Paul VI lived with his gaze constantly fixed on Christ whom he considered and proclaimed as a necessity for everyone," Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, commented on the papal decree.

With this declaration, published Feb. 6, the pope who guided the Church through the Second Vatican Council will have his memorial inserted into the renewed General Roman Calendar and liturgical books that he promulgated in 1969.

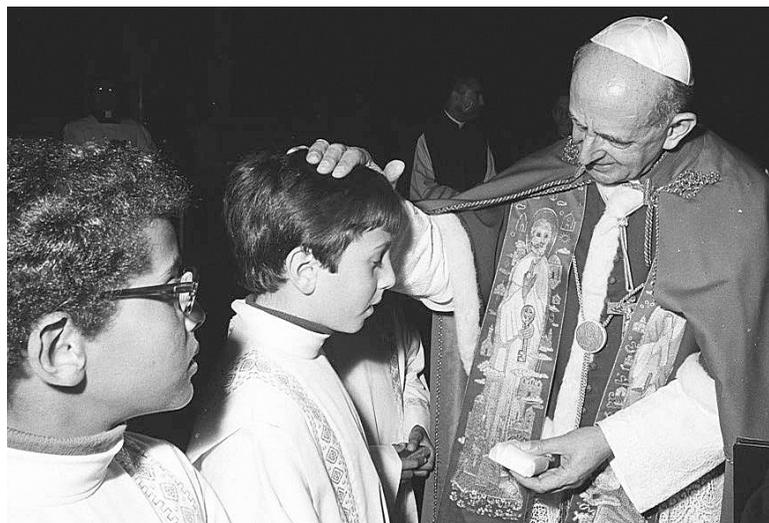
The date of the memorial, May 29, is significant as the ordination anniversary of Paul VI – then Giovanni Battista Montini – to the

priesthood in 1920. Just four years later, Montini began his service to the Holy See, serving both Pope Pius XI and Pius XII. He was made Archbishop of Milan and then a cardinal before being elected pope in 1963.

"A saint is someone who brings divine grace to fruition in what they do, conforming their own life to Christ. Pope St. Paul VI did this by responding to the call to holiness as a Baptized Christian, as a priest, as a bishop, and pope, and he now contemplates the face of God," Cardinal Sarah wrote.

The feast day for canonized saints is typically chosen as the date of their death, or "birth to eternal life," Sarah explained, but Pope Paul VI died on August 6, 1978, a date which is already celebrated in the Church as the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

Just before his death, Paul VI wrote in his meditation, *Pensiero alla morte*, "I pray that the Lord will give me the grace to make of my approaching death a gift of



On March 27, 1975, in Vatican City, Pope Paul VI celebrates Maundy Thursday (*Lavanda Piedi*) during Easter Week.

*(Photo by Vatican Media/CNA)*

love to the Church. I can say that I have always loved her and I feel that I have lived my life for her and for nothing else."

For Paul VI, "the Church was always, indeed his constant love, his principal concern, the object of constant reflection, the first and most fundamental thread of his whole pontificate. He wished

nothing other than the Church would have a greater knowledge of herself in order to be ever more effective in proclaiming the Gospel," Sarah said.

With the papal decree, the Vatican also published the new texts for the memorial of St. Paul VI to be added to the Roman Calendar, Missal, Liturgy of the Hours,

and Martyrology.

Paul VI was canonized by Pope Francis on Oct. 14, 2018, along with Oscar Romero, and five other new saints. As pope, Paul VI oversaw much of the Second Vatican Council, which had been opened by Pope St. John XXIII, and in 1969 promulgated a new Roman Missal. He died in 1978, and was beatified by Pope Francis Oct. 19, 2014.

Apart from his role in the council, Paul VI is most widely known for his landmark encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which was published in 1968 and reaffirmed the Church's teaching against contraception in wake of the sexual revolution.

Cardinal Sarah explained, "Like St. Paul he spent his life for the Gospel of Christ, crossing new boundaries and becoming its witness by proclamation and dialogue, a prophet of a Church facing outwards, looking to those far away and caring for the poor."

## St. Anastasia in Hutchinson to host this year's 60th annual NUDCCW convention



by Betty Thooft  
NUDCCW president

Women of the diocese are invited to attend the 60th annual convention of the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (NUDCCW) to be held Saturday, April 27 at the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson. This year's convention theme is Proclaim the Gospel to All.

On behalf of the DCCW, I welcome everyone (women

and men) to come and learn more about the issue which will be addressed at this year's convention: domestic violence and its effects.

The gathering will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 7 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. The day will include two keynote speakers (morning and afternoon), Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. LeVoir, lunch, 2019 Woman of the Year presentation, silent auction, and drawings.

The morning presenter will be Kathy Bonner, a national and international motivational speaker with over 36 years of experience. Her expertise includes producing and editing *Women Healing the Wounds*, a nationally distributed brochure on domestic violence and also a book on mentoring titled *Mentors of the Past . . . Models for the Future*. Bonner is

from the Diocese of Orlando, Fl.

The afternoon presenter will be Amanda Sieling who currently is teaching in the field of criminal justice at Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall. As a former assistant county attorney for Yellow Medicine County, Sieling is an experienced and knowledgeable speaker on delinquency, abuse, and cases of neglect. She is a member of the Church of St. Mary in Cottonwood.

For a complete schedule of the day or a registration form, visit the NUDCCW website [www.nudccw.org](http://www.nudccw.org). Register with your parish CCW president by April 11 to receive the discounted registration fee of \$35. Registrations postmarked after April 11 will be \$40. Financial assistance is available. Contact your parish CCW president for more information.

## Consider using your talent to serve the Church

by Ronda Mathiowetz  
NUDCCW Leadership Commission

For many of us, the word "leadership" is a bit scary and perhaps only means extra responsibility that many of us do not want. However, the Letter to the Romans might suggest that "leadership" is what all of us are called to every day. "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness." *Romans 12:6-8*

If your gift is baking, perhaps consider contributing to the bake sale. If your gift is reading, think about becoming a lector. If your gift is communication, become involved in visiting a shut-in. Maybe your gift is music. The parish choir would be a great spot for you. The opportunities are endless.

Leadership can be as simple as becoming more involved in the Council of Catholic Women. Consider signing up for a CCW

opportunity that you have not tried before. Your parish Council of Catholic Women as well as the Diocesan Council affords us so many opportunities to grow in our faith and become closer to Christ.

Leadership is not just holding a position on a board: it is realizing our God given talents and using them to serve our Church and

communities. Every gift shared, no matter how great, makes a difference.

As Saint Mother Theresa says, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

May each of you find a way to share your gifts.

*United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota  
In re Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Case No. 18-33707*

### DIocese OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Diocese, a parish in the Diocese, a school in the Diocese, or have any claim against the Diocese, you must file a claim by April 8, 2019.

For more information, visit [www.dowr.org](http://www.dowr.org)

For U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota information, visit [mnb.uscourts.gov](http://mnb.uscourts.gov)

For advice about your rights, contact an attorney

## Lent – a good time to rely on 'Abba' for all your needs

by Fr. Craig Timmerman

Last summer I had the amazing experience of not talking for 30 days! No, really!

I made a unique retreat called the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. This retreat uses sacred scripture and a format developed by St. Ignatius to draw one into the intimate friendship of Jesus meditating on his life, death, and resurrection. I was led by a spiritual director from the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha. What I discovered was the secret of Jesus' heart: calling God 'Abba'.

My greatest grace was discovering this word in the heart of Jesus: Abba. Imagine Jesus as a young boy calling Joseph 'Abba' – loosely, it means 'Daddy.' Then, Joseph tells Jesus, "I am your Abba here on earth, but your real Abba is your Father in heaven."

As I prayed, reflecting on Jesus growing up in the Holy Family, I saw how his Abba always provided everything for the Holy Family: from a place to be born in Bethlehem, to keeping them safe in Egypt, to their daily bread in Nazareth. The Holy Family knew such peace and joy in their home, because Jesus, Mary, and Joseph all trusted Abba to always take care of them. Jesus spoke from his own personal experience when he said in Matthew: "Do not worry about your life . . . Your heavenly Father knows what you need. Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be given you besides."

Whenever we try to make things happen ourselves, we begin to cling to their success: Was my homily good enough? Am I a good priest? Or in families: Am I a good mother/father, husband/wife? Did I make the right decision? Am I succeeding at my work?

Instead of clinging to our Father, who provides everything for us, we adhere to these things. When I, like Jesus, place everything in the hands of my Abba, I realize that everything must come as a gift.

### What is Abba providing for me?

Jesus was able to receive everything as a gift from his Father: whether it was the day Abba provided food for feeding the 5,000 or the day he allowed the people of Nazareth to reject Jesus' message. One felt good, the other bad, even for Jesus.

However, Jesus knew that at every moment it was Abba's work. Even on the cross, he trusted himself into the hands of his loving 'Abba' – and 'Abba' raised him from the dead.

There is great freedom when we live this way, when we know God as Abba. Faith like this gives such peace and joy to our lives because everything is in his hands.

Yes, there are hurts and pains and ups and downs, but on the deeper level of faith, I trust Abba with it all. When I hurt, I can bury my face in my Abba's heart and let him comfort me. When I experience his blessings, I praise and thank him for everything with a joyful heart.

To help myself to do this, I try letting myself be 'nothing.' When I feel the pressure to succeed, cling, get anxious – I remind myself that I am nothing, that I can only receive everything from 'Abba,' and everything he gives is good. When I practice this interiorly, I find it brings me great peace. He will provide a good homily, or not – and use both for his purposes. He will provide enough money, or not – and use both for good. He knows how to use you, with your strengths and weaknesses.

As we enter into Lent, I encourage you to let go of those things you cling to, material and personal, and turn to 'Abba' to provide everything for you.



Fr. Craig Timmerman is pastor of the Good Teacher Area Faith Community (St. Peter, Canby; St. James, Dawson; St. Eloi, Ghent; St. Leo, St. Leo; St. Edward, Minneota.)

## FAITH IN THE PUBLIC ARENA

### *Finding common ground for the common good*

by Emily Zinos

When I came back to the Catholic Church 20 years ago, it was due in large part to the Church's public witness defending the sanctity of life in the womb. Since then, my experience of the Catholic faith has broadened my pro-life convictions into a concern for human life at every stage.

The Church's concern for the common good was on display for all to see at Catholics at the Capitol on Feb. 19 as over 1,000 Minnesota Catholics came together with one voice to defend the dignity of the human person. It was a beautiful day that left me feeling grateful for the opportunity to bring a consistent ethic of life to a wide scope of issues in political advocacy.

The morning was filled with encouragement and education, including my participation on a panel of local Catholics who have taken up the call of discipleship to be faithful citizens. I am involved with a global multi-partisan women's coalition, which advocates for those who have been hurt by the influence of gender ideology. The same principle that motivated me to offer help to pregnant women seeking abortion 20 years ago now motivates me to protect children from suffering the medical harms of the transgender issue.

In my work, much of my time is spent cooperating with people across the political spectrum, including many transgender-identified people, pro-choice feminists, and people who identify as lesbian or gay. In a time when many of us find ourselves living inside a "Catholic bubble," I see this aspect of my work as a gift that challenges me to "head for the periphery" and bring the love of Christ to those who are often overlooked.

My fellow Catholics at the Capitol panelist, Lynn Varco, captured this point in a quote he shared during our discussion, taken from the Epistle of Barnabas: "Do not live entirely isolated, having retreated into yourselves, as if you were already justified, but gather instead to seek the common good together." We cannot work for the common good all by ourselves; it is always a collaborative effort, and the goal is always a society where the dignity of every single person is acknowledged, and every person's contribution is embraced.

valuable lesson in finding common ground and working with legislators on both sides of the aisle. During the morning program we received practical tips about meeting with our legislators and discussing issues with them. This year, we focused on two issues: a bill that would ban commercial surrogacy, and a four-bill package highlighting the importance of the First 1000 Days of Life, from conception until a child's second birthday.

My afternoon lobbying companions included the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Franciscan Brothers of Peace, and high school students from St. Agnes, making us a group that not only donned habits but also represented the needs of the elderly, poor, and youth.

What a joy it was to find points of agreement with the three legislators we met with, even if we did not agree on everything. The presence and engagement of legislators from across the ideological spectrum throughout the day at Catholics at the Capitol highlighted the importance of working to find common ground for the common good.

Advocating for the poor and the weak is just one of the many ways we build a culture of life. The poor, the vulnerable, and the stranger are all just as worthy of the law's protecting hand as the unborn, and for the same reason: every man, woman, and child is created in the image of God.

That is not to say that all issues are of equal importance nor that those who propose harmful legislation should get a pass. It is to say that the evangelical witness of the Church demands our constructive engagement even with those with whom we disagree.

One of the keynote presentations from Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia underscored the importance of bringing a consistent ethic of life to the Capitol: "[A]ll of us are here today to live, to work, to do, as we struggle together for the dignity of the human person – all human persons, from the unborn child, to the poor, the weak, the immigrant, and the suffering . . . There are no pro-life Catholics or social justice Catholics – just Catholics."

*Editor's note: Emily Zinos is the mother of seven children and serves as the Minnesota coordinator for Hands Across the Aisle.*

## February Vatican abuse summit

(Continued from page 1)

focus on protecting children rather than "protecting the institution."

2. A recognition of the "impeccable seriousness" of these "sins and crimes of consecrated persons."

3. A genuine purification beginning with "self-accusation."

4. Positive formation of candidates for the priesthood in the virtue of chastity.

5. Strengthening and reviewing of guidelines by episcopal conferences, reaffirming the need for "rules."

6. The accompaniment of those who have been abused with an emphasis on listening.

7. Ensure that seminarians and clergy are not enslaved to an addiction to pornography.

8. Combat sexual tourism around the world.

"The Church's aim will thus be to hear, watch over, protect and

care for abused, exploited, and forgotten children, wherever they are," Pope Francis said.

"To achieve that goal, the Church must rise above the ideological disputes and journalistic practices that often exploit, for various interests, the very tragedy experienced by the little ones," he continued.

Francis said that, "the brutality of this worldwide phenomenon becomes all the more grave and scandalous in the Church, for it is utterly incompatible with her moral authority and ethical credibility."

Twice in his speech, the pope highlighted "the scourge of pornography" and its influence on violence against minors.

We need to "encourage countries and authorities to apply every measure needed to contain those websites that threaten human dignity," Pope

Francis said, adding that the Church should consider raising the age limit of the crime, specified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 of "the acquisition, possession or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors" to above its current limit of 14 years old.

"I would like to stress the important need to turn this evil into an opportunity for purification," Pope Francis said, thanking priests and faithful Catholics who have silently and faithfully lived out their vows of celibacy.

"The best results and the most effective resolution that we can offer to the victims, to the people of Holy Mother Church, and to the entire world are the commitment to personal and collective conversion, the humility of learning, listening, assisting, and protecting the most vulnerable," he said.

## President of USCCB issues statement at close of Vatican meeting on the protection of minors in the Church

**ROME (Feb. 24, 2019)** – Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston – Houston and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), issued the following statement on the final day of a four day (Feb. 21–24) meeting attended by presidents of bishops' conferences from across the globe.

Cardinal DiNardo's full statement follows:

"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth" (*Psalms 145:18*).

"These have been challenging, fruitful days. The witness of survivors revealed for us, again, the deep wound in the Body of Christ. Listening to their testimonies transforms your heart. I saw that in the faces of my brother bishops. We owe survivors an unyielding vigilance that we may never fail them again.

How then to bind the wounds? Intensify the Dallas Charter? Pope Francis, whom I want

to thank for this assembly, called us to 'concrete and effective measures.' A range of presenters from cardinals to other bishops to religious sisters to lay women spoke about a code of conduct for bishops, the need to establish specific protocols for handling accusations against bishops, user-friendly reporting mechanisms, and the essential role transparency must play in the healing process.

Achieving these goals will require the active involvement and collaboration of the laity. The Church needs their prayers, expertise, and ideas. As we have learned from diocesan review boards, a comprehensive range of skills is required to assess allegations and to ensure that local policies and procedures are regularly reviewed so that our healing response continues to be effective. All of the models discussed this week rely upon the good help of God's people.

I and the bishops of the United States felt affirmed in the work that is underway. Enhanced

by what I experienced here, we will prepare to advance proposals, in communion with the Holy See, in each of these areas so that my brother bishops can consider them at our June general assembly. There is an urgency in the voice of the survivors to which we must always respond. I am also aware that our next steps can be a solid foundation from which to serve also seminarians, religious women, and all those who might live under the threat of sexual abuse or the abuse of power.

In our faith, we experience the agony of Good Friday. It can cause a sense of isolation and abandonment, but the Resurrection is God's healing promise. In binding the wounds now before us, we will encounter the Risen Lord. In him alone is all hope and healing.

May I also add a sincere word of thanks to the many who prayed for me and for all that this meeting be a success."

Catholics at the Capitol was a

## St. John's University in Collegeville to host TEC Encounter annual gathering

**COLLEGEVILLE** – The TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) retreat movement will come together for its annual gathering at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., from July 12-14, 2019.

Each year, members of local TEC communities meet for three days of fellowship, resources, prayer, and networking. Anyone 18 or older who is involved in TEC, past or present, is invited to attend.

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is a recognized movement of the Roman Catholic Church, offering to youth and young adults an experience of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. Through

evangelization and catechesis, this intergenerational movement facilitates spiritual growth of youth and young adults with a community of adult mentors. TEC calls forth one's goodness for service in the Church and world.

The celebration is coordinated through the TEC Conference, the organizing body for the international TEC Movement. The gathering is designed to serve the spiritual needs of attendees as well as give them tools and resources to bring back to their local TEC communities.

Participants are invited to gather for liturgy, prayer, round table discussions, speakers, award

presentations, fellowship, and other activities to celebrate the great gift of TEC.

Nationally renowned author John Vitek will serve as the keynote speaker focusing on the event's theme, "Called by Christ, Affirmed in Love, Sent to Serve." Vitek is the co-author of *Going, Going, Gone! The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics*, and has personal TEC and diocesan experience.

Registration information and further details can be found at [www.teconference.org](http://www.teconference.org).

## Annual project supports Friends of San Lucas

**GUATEMALA** – The annual Mission of Love, sponsored by Friends of San Lucas, has begun and runs through March 31. Participants are asked to design a message of love in a way that can be sent by email.

Send emails to [friendsofsanlucasmission@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsanlucasmission@gmail.com) and donations to: Friends of San

Lucas, 4679 Cambridge Drive, Eagan, MN 55122.

Donations will purchase needed computers to help improve education at the Msgr. Gregorio School in San Lucas Toliman Mission in Guatemala.

The Friends of San Lucas supports the Mission in Guatemala, which

employs over 100 people working in all program areas. Almost all of the support for the work of the mission comes through private donations.

For further information visit Friends of San Lucas, [www.sanlucasmision.org](http://www.sanlucasmision.org).

## Diocese's Chrism Mass to be celebrated April 11



**OLIVIA** – The faithful of the Diocese of New Ulm are invited to attend one of the most sacred liturgies in the diocesan Church. The Chrism Mass will be held Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Church of St. Aloysius in Olivia. At this Mass, Bishop John M. LeVoir will bless the holy oils that will be used in parishes throughout the year. Priests of the diocese will also gather at this Mass to renew their commitment to priestly service. The *oil of the sick* will be used to anoint those who are ill or infirm; the *oil of catechumens* will be used in the Sacrament of Baptism and in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; and the *sacred chrism* will be used to ordain bishops and priests, to confirm, and to dedicate churches and altars. Following the liturgy the oils will be divided and distributed to the 68 parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm.

## Catholic Schools raffle raises record-breaking total

**ST. PAUL** – Frigid temperatures and record breaking snowfalls didn't stop Catholic school students and staff from setting a new record fundraising total in the annual Catholic Schools Raffle. Students sold over \$1.2 million worth of raffle tickets, making this the most successful year since the program began in 2009.

Since Jan. 11, students attending 89 Catholic schools in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota have been selling \$5 raffle tickets as part of the Catholic Schools Raffle, a fundraising program sponsored by Catholic United Financial.

Catholic United provided all promotional materials, raffle tickets and prizes for the program at no cost. Participating schools keep every dollar raised during the six-week ticket selling period, which ended Feb. 24.

On March 5, the raffle concluded with a prize drawing ceremony streamed live on the Catholic United Financial website. During the broadcast, the grand total of

\$1,217,135 was revealed to an ecstatic audience. That total is nearly \$50,000 more than the total raised in 2018.

Now in its tenth year, the Catholic Schools Raffle has raised more than \$8 million for Catholic schools in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The record breaking total was announced by former Minnesota Viking Matt Birk. A strong supporter of Catholic schools, Birk served as the raffle prize drawing ceremony emcee.

Funds raised by participating schools are used to enhance school programs and facilities, including funding field trips, building playgrounds, supplementing tuition costs and providing new education technology.

A list of participating schools, a video, photos, and a list of prizewinners and results are available at [www.catholicunitedfinancial.org/raffle](http://www.catholicunitedfinancial.org/raffle).

# THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 33 No. 5 March 2019



**NEW ULM** – Since last fall, parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm have been leading the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a process to educate and form those seeking full communion into the Catholic Church. One step of the RCIA is the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. This year the rite was held on Sunday, March 10 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. More than eight catechumens and 30 candidates representing more than ten parishes in the diocese are seeking membership in the Catholic Church. In the rite, catechumens are those wishing to join the Church who have not been baptized; candidates are those who have been baptized. Although winter weather kept most parishes away from attending the ceremony, those who were able to make it had the opportunity to pose with the bishop following the rite. Pictured with Bishop John M. LeVoi is candidate Andrew Warburton (left) and his sponsor Deacon Ken Noyes from the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall.

## catholic trends

**VATICAN CITY (CNA) – Pope Francis announced March 4** that the Vatican will open its archives on the pontificate of Pope Pius XII. Confidential files of the pope who led the Church during World War II will be made available next year.

“Serious and objective historical research” will be able to evaluate Pius XII’s “hidden but active diplomacy” “in its proper light,” Pope Francis said.

The pontificate of Pius XII has

been often misunderstood. Critics have accused him of indifference to the plight of the Jewish people during the Second World War, despite several already public documents which show the pope’s systematic efforts to assist Jews in Italy.

In the late 1990s, debate over whether Pius XII did enough to counter the Nazis reached a high point with the publication of the deeply controversial book, “Hitler’s Pope,” by British journalist John Cornwell. The

book was highly critical of Pius XII, charging that he was culpably silent – if not an accomplice – in the rise of Nazism.

“The Church is not afraid of history, rather, loves it and would like to love it more and better, as God loves it!” Pope Francis said in a meeting with Vatican secret archives personnel in which he made the announcement.

The Vatican archives for the entirety of Pius XII’s pontificate March 1939 – Oct. 1958 will open on March 2, 2020. The complete catalog is expected to include approximately 16 million documents.

Pius XII “found himself leading the Barque of Peter at one of the saddest and darkest moments of the twentieth century,” Pope Francis said.

He faced “moments of serious difficulties, of tormented decisions, of human and Christian prudence, which to some might have seemed reticent,” he explained. For this, some have criticized Pius with “some prejudice or exaggeration,” Francis added.

Benedict XVI declared Pius XII Venerable on Dec. 19, 2009, based on the recommendation of the committee investigating his cause.

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (CNA) – Australian Cardinal George Pell** was taken into custody after a court hearing Feb. 27 – jailed for the first time since child sex abuse charges against him were set for a hearing last May.

Pell, 77, is the former prefect of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy and former member of Pope Francis’ Council of

Cardinals. He was convicted in December on five counts of sexual abuse stemming from charges that he sexually assaulted two choirboys while serving as archbishop of Melbourne in 1996. He has maintained his innocence and plans to appeal. Pell remains jailed ahead of his sentencing this month.

Cardinal Pell has been banned by the Vatican from exercising ministry or having contact with minors. The Vatican has announced his case would be investigated by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

**Bishop LeVoi's  
Lenten Messages**

Listen weekly  
[www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org)