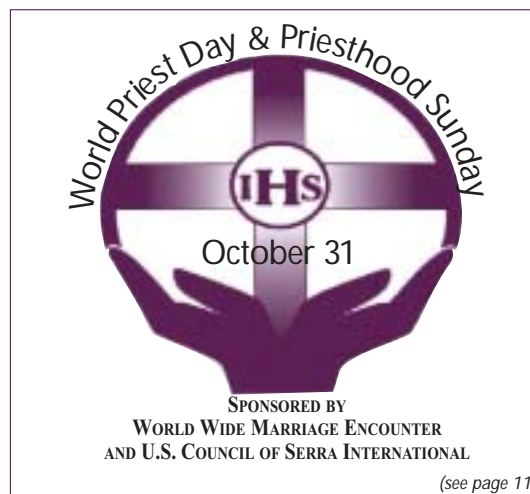


THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 25 No. 2 October 2010



Protecting the nature of marriage focus of state bishops' initiative

New Ulm – The Minnesota Catholic bishops have launched a new effort aimed at preserving marriage as the union of one man and one woman by sending out a letter and DVD to Minnesota Catholics on the Church's response to legislation recently introduced at the state Legislature that would change the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

The package was mailed to all registered Catholics in the Diocese of New Ulm on Sept. 22.

In his letter accompanying the DVD, Bishop John M. LeVoir of the Diocese of New Ulm emphasizes the importance of Church teaching on marriage in responding to the bills.

Quoting from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, he states, "The

marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love, has been founded and endowed with its own special laws by the Creator. By its very nature it is ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children (CCC, no. 1660)."

Commenting on this passage, he writes that "marriage, through the sexual union, includes the possibility of the generation of children." This teaching has important

repercussions for same-sex acts. "They are contrary to the natural law," he writes, again quoting the Catechism. "They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved (CCC, no. 2357)."

The bishop goes on to address the question of whether persons with same-sex attractions are discriminated against because they are denied marriage. "Such persons are not discriminated against because

God created marriage as the union of a man and a woman, not the union of two persons of the same sex," he says. "Only persons of the opposite sex have a God-given right to marriage."

During the 2010 legislative session, five bills to redefine marriage were introduced.

The main part of the DVD, entitled "One Man One Woman, Marriage and the Common Good," explains the importance of preserving marriage in the current legal system

as the union of one man and one woman. The production was sponsored by the New Jersey Catholic Conference. The DVD also includes an introduction by Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The DVD was produced and mailed with funds raised specifically for the project. No funds from the general treasuries of the six participating dioceses were used in the effort.

Editor's note: Joe Towalski of The Catholic Spirit contributed to this story.

Senior High Rally Oct. 24 at Willmar Senior High School

Willmar – High school youth will gather Oct. 24 at the Willmar Senior High School gym in Willmar for the diocesan sponsored Senior High Rally. The event will run from 1-7 p.m. and will include Mass with Bishop John M. LeVoir, supper and a dance.

Keynote for this annual event will be internationally known speaker and musician Tony Meléndez. Audrey Assad will perform a pre-event concert from noon – 1 p.m. Assad is a Christian singer and musician who just released her first solo album, "The House You're Building." Dr. Monica Breaux will lead a breakout session for adults, "Raising Healthy Teens."

The Rally is open to high school youth along with their parents and chaperones.



Who is Tony Meléndez?

For most people, playing the guitar is difficult. For Tony Meléndez it comes naturally even though he doesn't have arms, he has recorded seven albums, performed hundreds of concerts and played for the pope six times using his own unique style.

So, how does someone play the guitar without arms? For Meléndez, it's all in the toes. With the guitar

lying upright on the ground, Meléndez sits in a chair, his toes strumming the chords to play the music. "The main thing is tuning," he said. "I just had to listen and try to find the sound that correlates with each chord. I play all by ear."

Meléndez was born without arms as a result of his mother's prescribed use of the drug thalidomide, which in the early 1960's was given as a

way to alleviate morning sickness. By the time it was banned in 1962, over 5,000 children had been born with severe disabilities.

While most people would consider not having arms a drawback in life, Meléndez looks at this as a positive. "For me, not having arms has been a blessing. It has opened doors. Someone that plays the guitar with their toes is more unique!" For further information on Meléndez visit www.tonymelendez.com.

To register for the Senior High Rally contact your local parish, call 507-359-2966, or e-mail cblickem@dnu.org.

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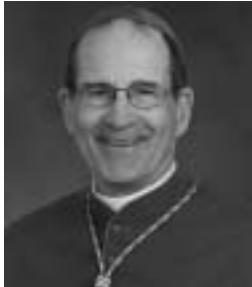
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BE NOT AFRAID
Diocese to embark on Capital Campaign



Bishop John M. LeVoir

When I was appointed the bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm, my first thoughts were not centered on a Capital Campaign. In fact, having a Capital Campaign never crossed my mind. So why am I initiating a Capital Campaign now?

A short while after becoming the Bishop of New Ulm, it was brought to my attention that the diocesan Pastoral Center was at the end of its useful life. That caught me by surprise, since the building looks like it is in very good shape and it has been well maintained. It was explained to me that the infrastructure has deteriorated to a critical extent. After inspecting the building and working in it, I have seen and experienced the problems.

The main problem is that in the construction of the building in 1959, all of the utilities were encased in the

poured concrete walls. Electricity, plumbing, and HVAC (heating, ventilating, and air conditioning) are all inside the poured concrete. Due to condensation, the utilities have deteriorated over the years and now are critically compromised. Since the utilities are encased, it is not possible to locate the problems with them with any precision. Even if they could be located, portions of the solid concrete walls would have to be demolished in order to get at any problem. The task of infrastructure repair and maintenance is nearly impossible.

The diocesan Property Committee had studied the problems with the building and had recommended to Bishop John C. Nienstedt that a new Pastoral Center be constructed. The committee procured estimates from YHR Partners (an architectural firm from Moorhead, Minnesota) for a new building and for a retrofitting of the present building. The estimates were nearly the same. I asked that other buildings in New Ulm be considered for the Pastoral Center, but upon doing some research, no available building would meet the diocesan needs. Hence, the decision to build new.

Many will recall that the two deacons from Winona (Deacons Green and Fuller) did a feasibility study in the diocese to determine if it was indeed

feasible to run a Capital Campaign to procure the funds necessary to construct a new Pastoral Center. The answer that they came back with was "yes." The diocese then contracted with the Steier Group from Omaha, Nebraska, to conduct a Capital Campaign to raise the necessary funds. The campaign is entitled *Christ Our Life* to remind us that all we are and all we have comes from Christ, and as Christ was generous with us, we should be generous in sharing whatever we have with others.

Being a pastor for so many years, I instructed the Steier Group to make the campaign as "parish friendly" as possible. This they did in several ways. First, each parish will be given a goal (1.12 times annual plate revenue). However, the Capital Campaign will not only collect funds for the diocesan Pastoral Center, it will also collect funds to meet the needs of the parishes that choose to address their needs through the campaign. For each campaign dollar collected, then, these parishes will receive fifty cents and the diocese will receive fifty cents, until the diocesan goal is met. Then, all monies collected subsequently will go to the parish.

Second, the dollars collected for the parishes will not be subject to the

usual diocesan assessment on such funds. They will be "assessment free" to the parishes.

Third, the parishes will be asked to give their full effort to the campaign through prayer and stewardship. Having done that, if a parish has not reached its diocesan goal, so be it.

I know that some of the faithful in the diocese are not fully aware of who works at the Pastoral Center and what they do. A concerted effort will be made during the campaign to inform people on the identity of the Pastoral Center staff and what they do for the diocese. I hope that this will demonstrate the need for the building which is planned.

The plans for the building were drawn up by YHR Partners. There has been a concerted effort to make the building as compact and efficient as possible, with an eye to the future. During the campaign, the plans will be made available for people to view. The plan is for the building to be in the German-Bavarian style, but identifiably Catholic.

The overall diocesan goal for the Capital Campaign is \$7.5 million. It will be conducted and pledges collected over a three-year period of time. The components of the goal

(continued on page 4)

Bishop's October Calendar

1 Sleepy Eye: 8:20 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Homecoming Mass.

Sleepy Eye: 7 p.m. St. Mary's Football Field. Homecoming Football Game.

2 Fairfax: 4 p.m. Church of St. Andrew. Confirmation.

3 Green Isle: 7:30 a.m. Church of St. Brendan. Mass.

Arlington: 10:15 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Confirmation.

Olivia: 5 p.m. Max's Grill. Bishop's Guild Dinner.

4 Vatican: Ordination to the Diaconate of Aaron T. Johanneck. (Oct. 4-8).

9 Sleepy Eye: 5:30 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Institution of Acolyte for the Permanent Diaconate.

10 Henderson: 10 a.m. Church of St. Joseph. 150th Anniversary Mass.

12 New Ulm: 9:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Diocesan Staff Meeting.

Olivia: 1 p.m. Church of St. Aloysius. Priests' Council Meeting followed by College of Consultors Meeting.

Olivia: 5 p.m. Max's Grill. Capital Campaign Executive Committee Meeting.

13 New Ulm: 10:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Children's Holy Field Trip.

Bird Island: 6 p.m. Church of St. Mary. Operation Andrew Dinner.

15 New Ulm: 8:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Homecoming Mass.

New Ulm: 1 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Vocations Team Meeting.

New Ulm: 7 p.m. Johnson Park. Homecoming Football Game.

16 Ghent: 5:30 p.m. Church of St. Eloi. Pastor Installation of Fr. Jeremy G. Kucera.

Green Valley: 7:30 p.m. Church of St. Clotilde. Parochial Administrator Installation of Fr. John A. Nordick.

17 Tracy: 10:30 a.m. Church of St. Mary. Confirmation.

New Ulm: 6 p.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Lectio Divina Prayer Group Gathering.

18 Sleepy Eye: 7:30 p.m. Schoenstatt on the Lake. Rosary.

19 New Ulm: 10:30 a.m. Catholic Pastoral Center. Priest Personnel Board Meeting.

21 St. Paul: 3 p.m. The St. Paul Seminary. Board of Trustees Meeting.

23 Franklin: 4 p.m. Church of the Sacred Heart. Pastor Installation of Fr. Jeffrey P. Horejsi.

(continued on page 4)

Highlights

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 2010

According to Church law (Canon 511),

"In each diocese, to the extent that pastoral circumstances recommend it, a pastoral council is to be established whose responsibility it is to investigate under the authority of the bishop all those things which pertain to pastoral works, to ponder them and to propose practical conclusions about them."

Membership of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is comprised of representatives from diocesan committees and councils, and two representatives from each region, who meet four times each year with the bishop.

Meeting Highlights

◆ The council welcomed two new members, both from Region 2: Arnolda Fischer of the Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye, and David Moldan of the Church of St. Mathias, Wanda.

◆ Bishop John M. LeVoir spoke briefly about the Fourth Plan for Parishes, which is under development. According to Bishop, the priorities of the diocese, to be reflected in the Fourth Plan, follow the priorities of the U.S. Bishops. The theological foundation of the plan will come from documents of Vatican II on the mission of the laity, which proceeds from Christ's three-fold mission as priest, prophet, and king, and the mission of the ordained, which is a participation in the teaching, shepherding, and sanctifying roles of Christ.

◆ Bishop LeVoir also spoke about the collaboration being explored between New Ulm Area Catholic Schools and St. Mary's School in Sleepy Eye, with the help of Meitler Consultants. Because of declining enrollments and rising costs, the schools are investigating how they can better control expenses and share faculty members and administration. In October, Meitler will make presentations to the parishes of NUACS and St. Mary's with their specific recommendations.

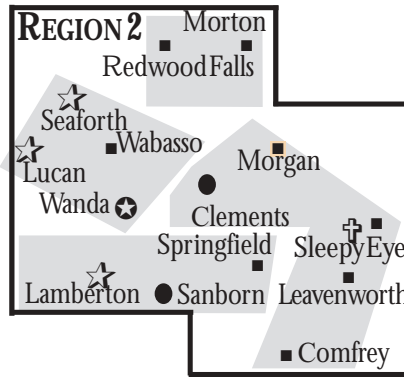
◆ Bishop LeVoir announced that the third edition of the Roman Missal has been approved by the Vatican. Publishers are now working on new versions of their missals, and implementation is slated for the First Sunday of Advent in 2011. Bishop LeVoir encouraged council members to read *The Prairie Catholic*, which continues to publish articles on the new translation, as well as visit the USCCB Web site, which has excellent resources on the topic.

◆ Dan Rossini, the diocese's coordinator of staff, gave an update on the capital campaign. He said that a parish needs assessment survey conducted in May and June revealed that parishes have substantial financial needs that can be addressed by the upcoming campaign. The campaign will be structured so that half of the funds raised will go to the parishes, with the other half going to the diocese for a new pastoral center. Since the second week of July, a consultant from the Steier Group has been at the Pastoral Center to guide the campaign efforts.

◆ Tom Keaveny, director of Catholic Charities for the diocese, gave an update on the organization's activities and initiatives over the past year. Catholic Charities advisors have strongly encouraged maintaining the organization's four core services of individual, marriage and family counseling; pregnancy counseling, adoption support and respect life services; parish and community response to tragedy; and transition and grief services. People who need immigration services are referred to Catholic Charities in the dioceses of St. Cloud and Winona, while those who need guardianship services or financial counseling are referred to Lutheran Social Services.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls.

Divine Mercy AFC to now include Morgan and Clements



KEY: *(from the Third Plan for Parishes)*

- ☆ Small Parish
- ⊛ Proposed Future Oratory
- Oratory
- Parish
- Area Faith Communities
- ⊕ Hispanic Worship Site

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Parishes and the pastoral leaders in Region 2, Bishop John M. LeVoir has decided to reassign the Church of St. Michael in Morgan and its oratory, the Church of St. Joseph in Clements, to the Divine Mercy Area Faith Community, effective October 1, 2010.

The Divine Mercy AFC now consists of the Church of St. Michael in Morgan, the Church of St. Joseph in Clements, the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, the Church of the Japanese Martyrs in Leavenworth, and the Church of St. Paul in Comfrey. The Vine and Branches AFC, which St. Michael and St. Joseph have left, now consists of St. Raphael's Church in

Springfield and the Church of St. Joseph in Lambertson, along with its oratory, St. Thomas in Sanborn.

Following discussion of this proposed AFC change at several meetings during the previous year, the Committee on Parishes made its unanimous recommendation to the bishop at their regular meeting on Sept. 8.

In proposing the change to the bishop, pastoral leaders and area pastoral councils in the affected AFCs cited a number of reasons. Foremost was the difficulty of a single priest to serve as pastor and sacramental minister of three parishes and two oratories in the Vine and Branches AFC.

Also entering into the equation was the greater possibility of children in grades 7-12 from St. Michael to attend the Catholic high school at St. Mary's.

Pastoral leaders of both affected AFCs planned to announce the realignment to their parishioners the weekend of Oct. 2-3.

Seminarian Aaron Johanneck called to the Order of the Diaconate



Aaron Johanneck

Aaron T. Johanneck of the Church of St. Mary, Seaforth, and a Diocese of New Ulm seminarian currently studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, will be ordained to the diaconate by the Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda D.D., J.C.L., J.D., on October 7, at the Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican City.

Johanneck has completed Theology III and will be assigned to the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm, for an internship until his return to Rome for his fourth year of studies in preparation for the priesthood.

Johanneck is the son of Thomas and Constance Johanneck of rural Wabasso.



No Tengas Miedo

La Diócesis de New Ulm Empezará una Campaña Capital

por Obispo John M. LeVoir

Cuando fui nombrado el Obispo de la Diócesis de New Ulm, mi primer propósito no se centraba en una Campaña Capital. De hecho, tener una Campaña Capital nunca se me vino a la mente. Entonces, ¿porqué estoy iniciando una Campaña Capital ahora?

Poco tiempo después de convertirme en el obispo de New Ulm, llamé mi atención el hecho de que el Centro Pastoral Diocesano estaba al final de su vida útil. Eso me tomó por sorpresa, ya que el edificio se ve como si estuviese en muy buenas

condiciones y que ha sido bien mantenido. Me explicaron que la infraestructura se ha deteriorado hasta un punto crítico. Después de inspeccionar el edificio y trabajar en él, he visto y experimentado los problemas que existen.

El principal problema es que en la construcción del edificio en el año 1959, todas las instalaciones fueron enclavadas en paredes de hormigón armado. Las instalaciones eléctricas de fontanería y de climatización (calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado) están todas en el interior del hormigón armado. Debido a la condensación, las instalaciones se han deteriorado en los últimos años y ahora están en estado crítico. Dado que las instalaciones están enclavadas, no es posible localizar los problemas en ellos con alguna precisión. Incluso si pudieran ser localizados, partes de las paredes

sólidas de hormigón tendrían que ser demolidas a fin de solucionar cualquier problema. Las tareas de reparación y el mantenimiento de la infraestructura son casi imposibles.

El Comité Diocesano de Propiedad había estudiado los problemas con el edificio y había recomendado al Obispo John C. Nienstedt que un nuevo Centro Pastoral sea construido. El comité consiguió cotizaciones de YHR Partners (una firma de arquitectos de Moorhead, Minnesota) para la construcción de un nuevo edificio y para la rehabilitación del edificio actual. Las cotizaciones fueron casi las mismas. Pregunté que otros edificios en New Ulm podrían ser considerados para el Centro Pastoral, pero al hacer algunas investigaciones, no había ningún edificio disponible que reuniera las necesidades de la Diócesis. Por lo tanto, la decisión fue construir un nuevo edificio.

La campaña se titula Cristo es nuestra Vida para recordarnos que todo lo que somos y lo que tenemos proviene de Cristo, y como Cristo fue generoso con nosotros, debemos ser generosos en compartir todo lo que tenemos con nuestro prójimo.

Siendo pastor por tantos años, solicité al Grupo Steier hacer la campaña tan "amigable para la parroquia" como fuera posible. Esto lo hicieron de varias maneras.

En primer lugar, a cada parroquia se le dará un objetivo (1.12 veces los ingresos anuales proyectados). Sin embargo, la Campaña Capital no sólo recaudará fondos para el Centro Pastoral Diocesano, sino que también recaudará fondos para satisfacer las necesidades de las parroquias que elijan afrontar sus necesidades a través de la campaña. Entonces, por cada dólar recolectado por la campaña, estas parroquias recibirán cincuenta centavos y la diócesis recibirá cincuenta centavos, hasta alcanzar el objetivo diocesano que se ha puesto como meta. A partir de ahí, todo el dinero recogido posteriormente irá a la parroquia.

A las parroquias se les pedirá que den su pleno esfuerzo a la campaña a través de la oración y la administración. Una vez hecho esto, aun cuando una parroquia no ha alcanzado su objetivo diocesano, que así sea.

Sé que algunos de los fieles de la diócesis no son plenamente conscientes de quienes trabajan en el Centro Pastoral y qué es lo que hacen. Un esfuerzo concertado será hecho durante la campaña para informar a la gente sobre la identidad del personal del Centro Pastoral y lo que hacen para la diócesis. Espero que esto demuestre la necesidad de la construcción como está prevista.

El objetivo general diocesano de la Campaña Capital es de \$7.5

Cristo nuestra Vida
Padre celestial, te damos gracias por habernos creado a tu imagen y por enviarnos a tu Hijo, quien revela el sentido de la vida y quién es nuestro Redentor. Tratamos de hacer tu voluntad siempre y esto es cierto con respecto a la Campaña Capital de la Diócesis de New Ulm. Envíanos tu Espíritu Santo para que nos ayude a ser administradores generosos conforme nos esforzamos por satisfacer con nuestras donaciones a las necesidades materiales de nuestra diócesis y de nuestras parroquias. Para este propósito, pedimos la intercesión de la patrona de nuestra diócesis, Nuestra Señora de New Ulm. Te pedimos todo esto a través de Cristo nuestra Vida. Amén.

millones. Se llevará a cabo y se recolectarán los aportes a lo largo de un período de tres años de tiempo. Los componentes de la meta se presentarán en el material de la campaña.

Soy optimista sobre el éxito final de la campaña. Pero, les pido que todos trabajen y oren en la medida de nuestra capacidad. He compuesto una oración para la Campaña Capital, que hace hincapié en que la voluntad de Dios se debe de cumplir. Les pido que hagan esta oración frecuentemente.

Bishop's pastoral letter

(continued from page 2)

will be presented in the campaign material.

The campaign will have a silent phase that will conclude in December 2010. During this phase, major gifts to the campaign will be solicited. A pilot wave will begin after the first of the year, 2011. This wave will consist of those parishes that have asked to be in the first wave. These parishes have immediate needs that will be met by the funds collected. There will be two other waves that will take place through the fall of 2011.

I am optimistic about the eventual success of the campaign. But, I would ask that we all work and pray to the best of our ability. I have composed a prayer for the Capital Campaign which emphasizes that God's will be done. I ask you to pray this prayer frequently.

Christ Our Life

Heavenly Father, we thank You for creating us in Your image and for sending Your Son, Who reveals the meaning of life and Who is our Redeemer.

We seek to do Your will always and this is true with regard to the Capital Campaign for the Diocese of New Ulm.

Send us Your Holy Spirit to help us to be generous stewards as we strive to fulfill with our donations the material needs of our diocese and of our parishes.

For this intention, we ask the intercession of the patroness of our diocese, Our Lady of New Ulm.

We ask all of this through Christ Our Life. Amen.

Bishop's calendar

(continued from page 2)

23 Fairfax: 6 p.m. Church of St. Andrew. Pastor Installation of Fr. Jeffrey P. Horejsi.

24 Winthrop: 8 a.m. Church of St. Francis de Sales. Pastor Installation of Fr. Jeffrey P. Horejsi.

Gibbon: 10 a.m. Church of St. Willibrord. Pastor Installation of Fr. Jeffrey P. Horejsi.

Willmar: 3 p.m. Willmar High School. Senior High Rally.

26 Sleepy Eye: *Good Leaders, Good Shepherds.*

27 Darwin: 6 p.m. Church of St. John. Operation Andrew Dinner.

28 St. Paul: 6 p.m. Town and Country Club. The St. Paul Seminary Rector's Dinner.

29 New Ulm: 10 a.m. Holy Trinity Middle School. NUACS Board of Directors Meeting.

New poll: Americans continue to oppose tax funding for embryonic stem-cell research; support ethical alternatives

Washington – As the U.S. Senate prepared to hold a hearing on human embryonic stem-cell research (hESCR), a new public opinion poll showed that a plurality of Americans (47 percent) opposed federal funding of stem cell research that involved destroying human embryos, while only 38 percent supported such funding. The poll, conducted by ICR / International Communications Research, surveyed 1,006 adults September 8-14. It was commissioned by the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Survey respondents were informed that stem cells can also be obtained from adults, placentas from live births and other ways that do no harm to the donor, and that scientists disagree on whether stem cells from embryos or from such alternative sources may end up being most successful in treating

diseases. Fifty-seven percent favor funding only the research avenues that do not harm the donor, while only 21 percent favored funding all stem-cell research, including research that involves killing embryonic human beings.

"The Senate should not be misled on this important issue," said Richard M. Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB's Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. "Most Americans do not support federally funded research that requires destroying human embryos. They want their tax dollars used for stem cell research that is ethically sound as well as medically promising – the kind of research that has attracted the interest and commitment of more and more stem-cell experts in recent years."

The new poll also shows continued overwhelming opposition to human cloning, whether to provide

children for infertile couples (83 percent against) or to produce embryos that would be destroyed in medical research (76 percent against). A comparison with three identical polls conducted by ICR in August 2004, May 2005, and May 2006 shows a consistent level of moral concern on this issue on the part of the American public.

Federally funded ESCR has never garnered majority support in this poll, starting at a high of 43 percent over six years ago in August 2004. When informed of their options, most Americans consistently support funding only stem-cell research that does not require destroying embryos.

The ICR polls also consistently show opposition of 76 percent or higher to human cloning, whether for reproduction or medical research.

2003 and 2006, when HRT use dropped significantly, the breast cancer rates in the U.S. plummeted 18 percent!

Cancer is not the only problem: Contraceptive Technology cites numerous studies in which estrogen in contraceptives has been associated with increased risk of heart attacks, strokes, blood clots, and hypertension.

Progestin-only contraceptives – mini pills, injections, and implants – have been associated with risks of menstrual cycle disturbance, "excessive weight gain," hair loss, and depression. The injectable contraceptive Depo-Provera has been found to significantly decrease bone mineral density.

Hormonal contraceptives offer no protection against sexually-transmitted infections and diseases (STDs). In the U.S. alone, there are

First Choice Pregnancy Services to open in New Ulm



Linda Reising,
Executive
Director

New Ulm – First Choice Pregnancy Services, located at 1223 South Broadway in New Ulm, is a new non-profit agency that will begin its services this month.

Dedicated to helping women before, during, and after pregnancy, it is intended to be an active, visible entity providing a life-affirming choice to pregnant women. First Choice Pregnancy Services is affiliated with Total Life Care Centers, Inc.

Linda Reising, executive director, explains, "It will help women dealing with an unplanned pregnancy to recognize that they have a choice, and that with support, carrying their child to term is a realistic option which honors the dignity of both the

mother and the child."

Initially, the center will provide emotional and psychological support, along with material and educational resources, through a variety of services. These include free pregnancy testing, on-site and telephone counseling, professional referrals, material support for babies and their families, and educational programs. Soon free STD testing and ultrasounds will also be available.

With the prayers and assistance of many caring individuals willing to donate time, talent, and treasure, First Choice Pregnancy Services will be able to carry out this important work.

Financial donations can be made to FCPC care of Mike Harrington at Bank Midwest, 26 S. Broadway, New Ulm, MN, 56073. For more information or to volunteer, contact Linda Reising at 507-359-9800.

U.S. women seeking abortion were using contraception the month they became pregnant, and the presumed efficacy of condom use in preventing STD transmission has been shown in studies to be completely offset by complacency and "risk compensation" (more casual partners, less care in use). Planned Parenthood is fully aware of these increased risks, yet they want free contraception for all, perhaps so women can use their other services – emergency "contraception," STD screening and treatment, mammograms and Pap tests, pregnancy testing, and abortions. Is it not wiser and healthier to avoid these risks by respecting one's own dignity and the dignity of marriage?

Susan Wills is assistant director for Education & Outreach, USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. For more information on contraception, visit www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/contraception.

"Preventive services" that carry a high human cost

by Susan E. Wills

Planned Parenthood is organizing a national effort to have contraceptives included among the free "preventive services" under the new health care reform law (press release, July 14, 2010).

Normally preventive services mean vaccines, tests, screenings, etc. that are given with minimal risk to patients in order to prevent – or at least detect and provide an early warning of – serious illness and life-threatening conditions. Common examples: blood pressure and cholesterol screening for hypertension, mammograms for breast cancer, Pap tests for cervical cancer, and vaccines to prevent transmission of communicable diseases.

But prescription contraceptives don't prevent or screen for disease. Their purpose is to block the normal

functioning of a healthy reproductive system to prevent a person from being conceived or, once conceived, to keep him or her from being born.

Contraceptives cannot be considered "preventive services." Far from preventing diseases, contraceptive use has been associated with many harmful side effects and actually increases the risk of acquiring certain diseases.

The World Health Organization lists estrogen as a carcinogen. Estrogen is used in combined oral contraceptives (for example, the pill, the patch, the vaginal ring) and in hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for menopause. U.S. breast cancer rates soared as the number of women on HRT increased from the early 1980s to 2002, when the Women's Health Initiative trial was halted after finding elevated risks of breast cancer and stroke. Between

Bi-annual education convention held in Duluth

by Karla Cross

"We are People of Hope," was the theme for the bi-annual Minnesota Catholic Education Association (MCEA) Convention held on August 23-24 at the DECC Auditorium in Duluth. Attendees were on their feet for a good portion of the opening keynote presentation by Valimar Jansen and Tom Kendzia. The high-energy keynote address included song and storytelling. Jansen, provided the storytelling and was the song leader as Kendzia accompanied on the piano. (Kendzia has 15 collections of liturgical music published by Oregon Catholic Press.) The high level of participation that morning had convention participants energized for the rest of the day's events.



Bishop LeVoir enjoys a moment with principals Jody Stoffels (St. Anastasia, Hutchinson) and Diana McCarney (St. Philip, Litchfield) during a break at the MCEA Convention.

the 5-8 boys' choir. Students from the Diocese of New Ulm participating in the choirs were Alexandra Bosch (St. Joseph, Montevideo), Jordyn Feige and McKaia Ryberg (St. Mary, Sleepy Eye), Cassandra Johnson (St. Francis, Benson), Maria Reising (St. Mary, New Ulm), and John Reiter (Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer).

A musical composition was commissioned for the convention. It was created by Sr. Delores Dufner, OSB, and Fr. Michael Joncas. The song, *We are People of Hope*, was sung during liturgy and again at the conclusion of the concert. Dr. Axel Theimer, professor of music at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict and a world-renowned conductor, conducted the high school mixed choir. Teri Larson, the director of music at the Basilica of St. Mary's in Minneapolis and a director of numerous honor choirs, conducted the 5-8 girls' choir. Aaron Carpenter, associate director of the Land of Lakes Choirboys and music director of St. Joseph the Worker in Maple Grove, conducted

Six breakout sessions were offered over the two-day period. Presenters from the Diocese of New Ulm included Bishop LeVoir, Sr. Anna Marie Reha (director of Hispanic Ministry), Sandra Rickertsen (Catholic Charities counselor), and Karla Cross (director of Schools). Ann Przybilla (director of Worship) served on the choir planning committee and accompanied the high school student selections of the choir. Cross and Bryan Reising (director of Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation) serve on the Minnesota Education Leadership Forum of the MCEA. One of their tasks is to assist the MCEA staff in planning for this event.

Four granted recertification

At the conclusion of the August 23 liturgy at the 2010 Minnesota Catholic Education Association (MCEA) Convention August 23-24 at the DECC in Duluth, Minn., four lay women from the Diocese of New Ulm were part of a group of 17 state-wide lay ecclesial ministers receiving recertification endorsed by their respective bishop.

Bishop Paul Serba of the host Diocese of Duluth led those gathered in a blessing of these lay men and women on their accomplishment of being the first group being recertified since the program began in 2005. Certification is given for a five year period after which verification must be submitted acknowledging continuing formation has taken place which is applicable to goals set by the lay minister, approved by the local certification director and the State Board of Certification. Certification helps to ensure a high quality of ministry in parishes and



Bishop LeVoir with the four certified lay ecclesial ministers of the Diocese of New Ulm. They are: (l-r) Pamela Osborne, Church of St. Francis de Sales, Winthrop (Master Catechetical Leader); Shelly Mendiola, Church of St. John, Darwin (Professional Catechetical Leader); JoAnn Borchert, Holy Rosary, North Mankato (Master Catechetical Leader); and Deb Larson, Church of St. Joseph, Montevideo (Master Catechetical Leader).

demonstrates that ministers are trained and professionally recognized as competent.

Lay leaders in parish church leadership roles may contact diocesan certification director Karla Cross at the Pastoral Center for information regarding the

certification process. Interested individuals may also review the application materials at the Minnesota Catholic Education Association Web site, <http://www.mncatholiced.org>.

St. Paul Seminary welcomes largest enrollment in nearly three decades

St. Paul, Minn. – When seminarians from the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas gathered for their annual group photo at the start of the school year on Sept. 8, it was the largest such gathering since 1981.

The seminary is welcoming 33 new seminarians this fall, bringing the total number of men studying for the priesthood to 92. The residence hall there is at full capacity.

The seminarians come from 14 dioceses in the United States, and from Ghana, Uganda and Peru. Forty of the men are preparing to serve as priests of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Samuel J. Wagner, from the Diocese of New Ulm, is currently starting his first year of theology at the St. Paul Seminary.

"Our strong enrollment reflects the growing number of men who are

answering God's call to the priesthood," said Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, rector of the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity. "Their witness offers hope for the future of our Church."

In addition, 62 lay people and members of religious communities are studying in the School of Divinity for their master's degrees in theology.

(courtesy of The Catholic Spirit)

Operation Andrew Dinners

Operation Andrew Dinners are informal dinners and conversations with Bishop John M. LeVoir, priests of the New Ulm diocese, and young men who are interested in learning more about diocesan priesthood. The dinners are sponsored by the diocesan Vocations Office and hosted by priest representatives of the six regions of the diocese.

Upcoming dinners:
Oct. 13 – Church of St. Mary, Bird Island. RSVP to Fr. George Schmit 320-365-3593.

Oct. 27 – Church of St. John, Darwin. RSVP to Fr. John Pearson 320-275-2915.

Nov. 8 – Church of St. Anne, Wabasso. RSVP to Fr. Todd Petersen 507-342-5155.

Parents/chaperones are welcome to help transport the youth and to attend the supper and presentation. Please RSVP for them as well.

Anyone interested in knowing more about vocations to the priesthood should visit www.ourmib.org or the Vocations Views Blog: [Fr. Todd.Blogspot.com](http://Fr.Todd.Blogspot.com).

Register now! for a new lay leadership initiative in the Diocese of New Ulm open to anyone who serves their parish community as a lay volunteer or paid employee. Entitled *Together in Ministry*, each session is being held at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Cost is \$10 per session. Sign up now for your session of interest, 507-359-2966; or visit www.dnu.org.

Oct. 23 - Ministry of Lector
Nov. 20 - Administrative Issues
Jan. 22 - Catholic Social Teaching
Feb. 26 - Pastoral Musicians

Mar. 19 - Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Apr. 16 - Catechists

School Sisters of Notre Dame form new province

Mankato – The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), a Catholic congregation of women religious, are reconfiguring and forming a new province in North America. The sisters of the current provinces in Mankato, Dallas, Milwaukee, and St. Louis are uniting next year as a new province. The inauguration day is June 12, 2011, on the day Christians celebrate the feast of Pentecost.

School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Central Pacific Province is the name of the new unit. The title refers to the central United States geographic location of the current campuses, the SSND ministries in the western and Pacific coast areas, and the sisters in Japan and Guam.

This province will have four campuses: the campus of Our Lady of Good Counsel (also known as the Provincial House) in Mankato; the campus of Dallas, which includes St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Miss., and offices in San Antonio, Texas; the campus of Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Elm Grove, Wis.; and the campus of Sancta Maria in Ripa (also known as the Motherhouse) in St. Louis.

More than 1,200 sisters will be united in the new province of SSND. Each city will continue to have an SSND presence, including regional offices, schools, healthcare facilities and ministry sites. While each campus brings similar gifts to the new unit, the main address for the new province will be at the campus of Sancta Maria in Ripa in

St. Louis.

This new SSND province is just one of many throughout the world; School Sisters presently serve in 35 countries. The other provinces in North America are the Atlantic-Midwest Province and the Canadian Province. Donors and supporters of SSND ministries will continue to be crucial to the success of the SSND mission.

"As an international congregation, we are looking at reconfiguring our provinces across the world to better respond to those we serve," said Sister Marjorie Klein, the leader of the SSND Mankato Province.

"Our mission," Sister Marjorie added, "is to respond to the needs of the poor, of women and children, through our many and varied ministries."

School Sisters have been in the United States since 1847, in response to a request for teachers to educate the children of German immigrants. They quickly became respected and requested as teachers for parochial and public schools, from preschools to universities. The sisters have been serving in the Mankato area since 1865.

For more information, call 507-389-4109; e-mail rjackson@ssndmankato.org.

Bishop and vocation team members gather with parents of seminarians, women religious

by Fr. Todd Petersen, director Office of Vocations

In August and September, Bishop John M. LeVoir and the diocesan Office of Vocations hosted two dinners that gathered couples from across the diocese.

Vocation team members Bishop LeVoir, Fr. Todd Petersen, and Margaret McHugh met with the parents of the diocesan seminarians as well as parents of young women from the diocese who have recently entered religious life or are currently in formation. Both gatherings featured prayer, food, laughter, and deep sharing.

Ron and Rhonda Wiering, parents of the newest priest of the diocese, Fr. Matt Wiering, shared their thoughts and feelings on seeing their son ordained just six weeks before. The other parents of seminarians talked about the pride they have in their sons, as well as their concerns which, they discovered, were shared. The parents of the young religious each took time to share a little about their daughters which included their daughters' journey of discernment and their own hopes and fears.

In the course of both meals, it became obvious that a vocation to the priesthood or religious life affects the whole family. It was discussed that just as their sons and daughters were in formation to take promises and vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, so too, in a way, were the families. They realized they had to let go of their



Parents of seminarians and our newest priest pictured with Bishop LeVoir are: (front to back, l-r) Greg and Marie Kodet, Fred and Margaret Rabaey, Sharon Illikman, Connie Johanneck, Audrey Wagner, Rhonda Wiering, Patricia Niemand, Mary Ahlers, John Illikman, Tom Johanneck, Mike Wagner, Ron Wiering, Carl Niemand, Rich Ahlers.
(Pictures by Fr. Todd Petersen)



At the recent gathering for parents of religious women are: (front l-r) Cathie Wallyn, Donna Schmitz, Margaret McHugh, Julie DeCock, Pat Huhn, Barb Verly. (Back l-r) Dr. Christopher Wallyn, Glen Schmitz, Mike McKeown, Gina McKeown, Bishop LeVoir, Bernie DeCock, Pat Verly, Don Huhn.

children and rely on Divine Providence, just as their children did in embracing poverty. They understood that their child's call to chastity changed the way that they would experience the love of their families, especially as many of the women religious would have limited time with their family. As these young men and women have had to grow in obedience, so too have the

parents – letting go of their own wills and desires for their children so that those in formation could follow God more fully.

There was tremendous joy and pride in each of the parents. Their children are responding to God's will, and nothing can bring greater joy than that.

A spiritual journey on two wheels; next opportunity Oct. 22



Pedal Pilgrims: Bill Riner, Phyllis Smith, Lynn Mergen, Mary Zupanc, Tim Mergen, Deb Dusich, Mary Lou Pivec, Cathie Eiler, Mike McNeil, (pastoral administrator at St. Gertrude), and Jim Hughes (support vehicle).

Forest City – This summer, nine bicyclists made the 20-mile pilgrimage from the Church of St. Gertrude in Forest City, through Watkins and St. Nicholas, to the Grasshopper Chapel in Cold Spring, Minn., for an outdoor Mass.

The Pedal Pilgrimage was both a physical and spiritual journey with prayer stops along the way. Most riders came from Litchfield; others from St. Cloud, Sartell, South Haven, and even Arizona. They were supported by two vehicles

driven by Wes Edwards of Litchfield and Jim Hughes of Darwin. Judy and Randy Barka of Watkins hauled the bikes back to Forest City after the ride.

On MEA weekend, Oct. 22, St. Gertrude's will sponsor a 30-mile pilgrimage culminating with prayer and dinner with the Sisters at the Monastery of St. Benedict in Joseph, Minn. While the prayer will reflect the Roman Catholic tradition, this pilgrimage is open to people of all faith traditions.

To register e-mail stgert@xtratyme.com with Pedal Pilgrimage in the subject line, or download a registration form from www.foministry.com/USMNR/CATHSGC. If registration is made by Oct. 15, arrangements can be made to get back to Forest City. Without prearrangement, pilgrims are responsible for getting home.



Diocesan Safe Environment Program complies with USCCB Charter



by Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM
Safe Environment Coordinator

Once again the Safe Environment Program for the Diocese of New Ulm has good news to share following the completion of the annual audit. The Gavin Group, Inc. has deemed that the diocese is in compliance with the requirements set by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

In June of 2002 the USCCB approved the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which expresses the Church's commitment to deal appropriately and effectively with cases of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, employees, and volunteers. The development of the diocesan Safe Environment Program flows from the *Charter* and gives witness to our ongoing commitment to promote and protect the life and dignity of our children and youth.

Upcoming Safe Environment (VIRTUS) training sessions:
Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m. in Ortonville;

Audit Year
(July 2009 – June 2010)

<p>8,439 Children and youth trained through our schools and religious education classes</p> <p>712 Pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers trained in 42 VIRTUS sessions around the diocese.</p>	<p>838 Background checks done on employees, volunteers, and speakers coming into diocese:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 152 employee checks - 619 volunteer checks - 67 motor vehicle checks
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Oct. 16, 9:30 a.m. in Wabasso; Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m. in Fairfax; Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. in Minnetonka; and Oct. 30 at 9 a.m. in Manannah. To register online visit www.dnu.org or call (507) 359-2966.

The compliance of our diocesan program is a confirmation and positive indication of the successful efforts of our entire diocese to keep our children safe and to promote the healing and reconciliation of all those affected by sexual abuse.

As we celebrate what has been accomplished here in the diocese we also look forward to our new school year and our ongoing program efforts. In October and January the pastoral leaders, local safe environment coordinators, school principals, directors of religious education, teachers, and catechists will once again collaborate to train our children and youth in a faith environment that promotes their life and dignity as part of a Church that is a holy family of God.

If you or someone you know has been sexually exploited by a member of the clergy and you need to talk with someone about abuse, exploitation, or harassment, please contact the Diocese of New Ulm Victim Assistance Coordinator or the Bishop's Delegate in Matters Pertaining to Sexual Misconduct by Clergy, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; phone: (507) 359-2966.

Susted, o alguien a quien conoce, ha sido sexualmente por un clero y necesita hablar con alguien sobre abuso, o acoso sexual, por favor ponerse en contacto con el Coordinador de Asistencia para Víctimas de la Diócesis de New Ulm o con el Delegado del Obispo en Asuntos que Pertenece al Abuso Sexual por Cleros de la Diócesis de New Ulm, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; número de teléfono (507) 359-2966.

HIV/AIDS on the rise in Minnesota

2010 sees largest increase in past 17 years

by Fr. Paul A. Schumacher

The jump in HIV cases in Minnesota deserves our attention. We call to mind what the U.S. bishops said in 1989 with regard to persons with HIV/AIDS: – "We must keep them present to our consciousness, as individuals and a community, and embrace them with unconditional love. The Gospel demands reverence for life in all circumstances. Compassion – love – toward persons infected with HIV is

the only authentic gospel response." Yes, HIV/AIDS is still with us in greater force than ever in the State of Minnesota. Alarming statistics have come out that this last year in Minnesota the number rose to 368, the largest increase in 17 years.

We must remember that this is a 'preventable disease.' Each one must do what we can to inform, urge, and encourage people that this is preventable.

What can we do?

1. Urge everyone to respect their bodies and their sexuality as a precious gift from God.
2. Ask for education for our young people.
3. Talk to your children, your friends, your neighbors.
4. Write to your representative in local, state, and national government asking them to support HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and research.

(continued on page 11)

Benedict XVI and meeting with victim/survivors of sexual abuse

by Sr. Mary Ann Walsh

Reports on Pope Benedict's September 16-19 visit to England and Scotland where he met with victims of sexual abuse by clerics recalls the similar meeting that took place in Washington when the pope visited the United States in 2008. Cardinal Séan O'Malley of Boston was at that meeting. He recalls the event in the just released book, *Benedict XVI: Essays and Reflections on his Papacy*. (Full disclosure: I'm the editor.) The book is available in bookstores and on Amazon.com.

Here in Cardinal O'Malley's own words:

"Prior to Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States in 2008, much discussion took place about whether or not the Holy Father would address the clergy sexual abuse crisis. Once the pope arrived, his words and actions made clear that he would not avoid this painful reality. In the midst of Pope Benedict's second day in Washington, two of my colleagues from the Archdiocese of Boston and five survivors of clergy sexual abuse gathered in the chapel at the Vatican embassy for what turned out to be an historic and pivotal meeting with the pope. We spoke with the Holy Father about the impact of the abuse crisis, and heard his message of hope and reconciliation. For many Catholics in the United States, and members of the wider community, this meeting was the high point of the papal visit and one of the Holy Father's most important actions.

During our very prayerful and emotional encounter with the Holy Father, we were blessed with an extraordinary opportunity to witness Pope Benedict not only as the leader of our Church, but as our pastor.

The Holy Father took care to address each person individually and provided the survivors the time to speak freely. It was evident that at times they shared their painful experiences in a whisper. The Holy Father listened intently, often clasping the survivors' hands, and

responded tenderly and reassuringly. One of the survivors, unable to find words, conveyed her heartache through tears that spoke volumes with her 'sounds of sorrow.' Though we would not hear the pope's private conversation with the woman, by observing her moving from tears to a calmed, smiling expression, we knew that the pope had gently comforted her.

Later that day, she shared with us that the Holy Father had offered his congratulations on learning that she would soon be married. In doing so, the Holy Father helped her to experience a healing moment and to see a future that would hold the promise of renewed hope and joy."

Similar meetings have occurred since then and reveal the pastoral side of the pope who has taken strong steps to address the terrible human sin that has blighted the Catholic Church and been strongly condemned by him. The crime touches him deeply, as he indicated to reporters flying with him to the United States: "I am deeply ashamed and we will do what is possible so this cannot happen again in the future." He went on to say that it is a great suffering for the Church in the United States and for the Church in general and for him personally that this could happen. It is difficult for him to understand how it was possible that priests betray in this way their mission "to these children," he said.

Pope Benedict has enough staff to deal with painful and troublesome matters. That he chooses to become so personally involved in addressing this crisis speaks loudly of his caring, commitment, and leadership.

Sister Mary Ann Walsh is the director of Media Relations for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; mwalsh@usccb.org



from the desk of the DCCW President

by Audrey Prokosch
Redwood Falls

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her" (Luke 10:38-42).

We all possess traits of Mary and Martha. Mary represents prayer and devotion, or love of God. Martha represents good works, helping others, or love of neighbor. Most importantly though is that Jesus is the center of their lives. Through the New Ulm Diocesan

Council of Catholic Women tri-fold purpose of prayer, study, and service, we also can witness to the Gospel daily within the family, the community, and society.

The women of the Council of Catholic Women do a very good job of representing Martha. We serve at funeral lunches, teach CCD, sing in the choir, lector at Holy Mass, and are extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

We also need to represent Mary in terms of our spirituality. We need to take time to speak to our Lord and in return listen. We can lead the Rosary before Mass, partake in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, attend Holy Mass regularly and remember to pray with our families.

With this in mind may we follow the example of Mary and Martha. Joy in Jesus cannot be hidden in the heart. It will find expression in our words and actions. When we love God and love our neighbor, "we are not far from the kingdom of God!"

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The location for Region IV DCCW Fall Gathering was not available at the time the September Prairie Catholic went to press. It will be held at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Murdock on October 7. Registration is at 5:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 6 p.m.

Understanding our duties as Catholic voters

by Luanne Kucera
Silver Lake

With the 2010 midterm elections only a month away, understanding our duties as Catholics is critically important. Voting faithfully according to our Catholic teachings requires knowledge of candidates' positions and the issues of special concern for Catholics.

society, because they are always incompatible with love of god and neighbor. Such actions are so deeply flawed that they are always opposed to the authentic good of persons. . . They must never be supported or condoned. A prime example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion and euthanasia" (no. 22).



"... responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. . ."

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, no. 13

There are many moral issues to weigh, including abortion and other pro-life concerns, traditional marriage, immigration and poverty to name a few.

While not endorsing specific candidates, the Church can teach us to participate in shaping the moral fabric of society. It is a requirement of our faith and a part of the mission given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's Commandment to love one another. We, as Catholic voters, should use Church teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider their integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all voters to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self interest.

In weighing the issues, it is important to note that some issues carry moral weight than others. In their document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops state: "There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a

"Similarly, direct threats to the sanctity and dignity of human life, such as human cloning and destructive research on human embryos, are also intrinsically evil. These must always be opposed. Other direct assaults on innocent human life and violations of human dignity, such as genocide, torture, racism, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified" (no. 23).

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have developed a Web site, (www.faithfulcitizenship.org), to help prepare Catholics for political elections by reflecting on forming consciences for faithful citizenship.

In their *Faithful Citizenship* document, also found on their Web site, seven key themes of Catholic social teaching are highlighted that can guide participation in public life. Further information about the bishops' *Faithful Citizenship* document can be obtained by calling toll-free 800-235-8722.

Please join the Council of Catholic Women in prayer as this year's elections draw near and cast your vote in an informed manner based on Catholic moral teaching.

Bishop proclaims October 10 as Council of Catholic Women Recognition Sunday



Bishop John M. LeVoor signs a Proclamation for Council of Catholic Women Sunday, which will be October 10. Also pictured are Audrey Prokosch, Diocese of New Ulm CCW president, and Monsignor Eugene Lozinski, NUDCCW moderator. (submitted photo)

Bishop John M. LeVoor recently signed the proclamation declaring Sunday, October 10, 2010, as Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Recognition Sunday in the Diocese of New Ulm.

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is part of the National Council of Catholic Women, an organization established by the Catholic bishops of the United States some 90 years ago to offer

women the opportunity to increase their knowledge of the Church, strengthen their leadership skills, and deepen their spirituality through prayer and service. The motto of the Council of Catholic Women is "Catholic Women United in Prayer, Study and Service."

On the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Web site, (www.nudccw.org) Bishop LeVoor writes, "Those who belong to the CCW are women who love Our Lord and his Church. They give themselves unselfishly for the good of the parishes to which they belong. They put their faith into action."

CCW Recognition Sunday is a day to highlight the activities and leadership carried out by Catholic women. Parishes throughout the diocese will plan their observance on this date with the help of their local Council of Catholic Women.

Welcoming the New Roman Missal - an interview with Msgr. James P. Moroney



**NEW WORDS,
A DEEPER MEANING,
BUT THE SAME MASS**

Editor's note: On August 2010, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago announced the Vatican approval of the new Roman Missal English language translation. Implementation is set for the first Sunday of Advent 2011. Following is the second of four interviews conducted by Kevin Aldrich, author and educator, with Msgr. James P. Moroney, one of the foremost authorities on the new English translation of the revised Roman Missal. For further information on the new Roman Missal, visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site, www.usccb.org.

(photo courtesy of USCCB)

The Content of the New English Translation

by Kevin Aldrich

The new English translation of the new Roman Missal will soon be the way that most English-speaking Catholics around the world celebrate the Eucharist.

Recently, I spoke with Monsignor James P. Moroney, one of the foremost authorities on the new English translation of the revised Roman Missal. Following is the second in our four-part interview focusing on the need for a new translation, how the translation was prepared, and who is responsible for the Missal we will soon be using.

Monsignor Moroney, can you explain the Latin principle, *Lex orandi, lex credendi*?

Both the Roman Missal and the instruction *Liturgiam Authenticam* tell us that the Roman Rite is perhaps best defined by the rites and prayers of the Sacred Liturgy. This is a simple application of the ancient principle *lex orandi, lex credendi*, or, the practice of our prayer is the practice of our belief. How we pray best defines what we believe. This is one of the reasons why an accurate translation of liturgical texts is so essential to the life of the Church. We will never have a clear idea of what we

believe until we have a clear idea of the texts we have prayed in the Sacred Liturgy for over a millennium.

Briefly, what is the difference between "dynamic equivalence" and "formal equivalence" as methods of translating the Roman Missal into English? Can you give an example of a familiar passage that has been translated both ways for comparison sake?

The principles of translation applied in an earlier time sought to re-imagine the Latin liturgical texts in a fairly dynamic process which often reconfigured the text and obscured certain aspects of its real meaning. The more recent principles of translation seek to produce a beautiful and memorable translation which is, at the same time, able to be effectively proclaimed at the Sacred Liturgy and precise in its rendering of the meaning contained in the original Latin text.

A simple example would be in the peoples' response to the priest immediately before receiving Holy Communion when he raises the Sacred Species and declares: "Behold the Lamb of God . . ." We presently respond, "Lord I am not worthy to receive you . . .," while the new translation translates the original scriptural reference: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, but

only say the word, and my soul shall be healed."

Can you provide some examples of how the Latin Missal was badly mistranslated into English?

It is important, I would suggest, not to see the first translation as bad and the new one as good. The new translation is an improvement, based upon 40 years of experience by the bishops and the Holy See in effecting liturgical translations. This improvement is reflected in the introductory dialogue at the start of the Eucharistic Prayer, where *Dignum et iustum est* has been translated rather dynamically as *It is right to give him thanks and praise*. The new, more precise rendering is: *It is right and just*.

Cardinal George has commented that with the new translation's "formal equivalence" approach, multiple levels of meaning in the original texts are preserved and made accessible. Could you comment on this and give us a few examples?

The Collect (opening prayer) for Christmas day is a great example: *O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may partake in the divinity of him who humbled himself to share in our humanity*.

This new translation incorporates the Latin prayer's reflection on the betrayal of our God-given human dignity in the fall and its restoration in Christ. It also directly quotes the beautiful prayer used when water is added to the wine in the preparation of the gifts, a symbol of how we are transformed in the mystery of the incarnation. All of these important elements were missing from the prior translation:

Lord God, we praise you for creating man, and still more for restoring him in Christ. Your Son shared our weakness: may we share his glory.

One glaring change in the new English translation is in the repeated dialogue between the priest and the people. When the priest says, "The Lord be with you" why are we supposed to now respond with "And with your spirit"?

This dialogue between priest and people precedes every important liturgical prayer or blessing and is designed to prepare us to fully participate in the forthcoming rite. In the liturgy, only a priest says, "The Lord be with you." The priest is reminding the people of their baptismal sharing in Christ's Priesthood and how he now acts among those who gather in his name. On their part, the people pray that the priest might now act with that "spirit" he received in his ordination, as did the 70 elders who received a portion of the "spirit" which God had imparted to Moses in days of old.

Some have complained about the rhetorical style of the new translation. What are they objecting to? What do you say about that?

In our day, "formal rhetoric," once so common a way of speech, no longer enjoys the currency it once did. The Roman liturgical prayers, however, are written in a very formal style of high rhetoric. While we may find such a way of speaking less familiar than in previous generations, an accurate translation of the Roman liturgical texts require that their original high rhetorical style be respected and reflected in their translation into English.

* * *

Next month's installment will focus on the effects of the new translation.

School principals updated on the new Roman Missal changes



Catholic school principals gathered on Sept. 20 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in New Ulm for their annual fall meeting. Ann Przybilla, diocesan director of the Office of Worship, gave a presentation on the new Roman Missal English language translation.

(photos by Joan Weicherding)

New school leadership

The diocese welcomes two new principals and one teacher to a school leadership position. Left-right: Julie Vasek has accepted the position of lead teacher at Holy Family School in Silver Lake, Kathy Vondracek is the principal at St. Mary's School in Tracy, and Percy Linggen is the principal at St. Raphael's School in Springfield.



October 31 to celebrate and honor priests



Sunday, Oct. 31, is World Priest Day, sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, and Priesthood Sunday, sponsored by the Serra Club. It is an occasion to highlight the Sacrament of Holy Orders and to express gratitude to priests who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ and the Church.

The efforts of both the Serra Club and Worldwide Marriage Encounter are being combined to not only celebrate, but to affirm the men who commit their lives to the Lord and the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

This day is an opportunity for Catholics to thank, affirm, and share their love and support for our priests. For further information visit <http://wpd.wmme.org> or www.priestsunday.org.

Former long-time diocesan employee laid to rest

Rosemary A. (Lensing) Schueller, 86, of Burnsville, formerly of Franklin, died Sept. 19. Mass of Christian Burial was Sept. 24 at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Franklin, with burial in St. Patrick's Birch Coulee Cemetery, rural Franklin.



She was born Sept. 18, 1924, in Wabasso where she attended St. Anne's Catholic School and graduated from Wabasso High School and the Mankato

Community College's secretarial training program. On Sept. 8, 1947, she married Vern C. Schueller at St. Anne's Catholic Church, Wabasso. The couple had four children and made their home in Redwood Falls until moving to Franklin in 1954. Schueller was employed for the diocese for 30 years and was awarded the Diocesan Distinguished Service Award for "years of dedicated and efficient service as the administrative assistant for the Marriage Tribunal and her warm reception and respect for all who come to the Tribunal for this healing ministry."

Upcoming Events

Good Shepherd SERRA Club will meet Oct. 7 at Divine Providence Chapel and Marian Conference Room in Sleepy Eye beginning with Rosary and Mass at 7 p.m. followed by a program and lunch. Come early for Eucharistic Adoration. This month's speaker is Fr. John Ekwoanya. Call 507-747-2181.

Region 4 DCCW Fall Gathering will be held at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Murdock, on Oct. 7. Registration is at 5:30 p.m. and Mass will begin at 6 p.m. Speaker is Lois Byrne, PBVM, Catholic Charities.

Institution of Acolyte for the 11 deacon candidates of the diocese will be Oct. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye.

A Children's Holy Field trip will be held on Oct. 13 at 10:30 a.m. Bishop John M. LeVoir will preside over the Diocese of New Ulm's seventh annual event at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. Children will gather to pray the Rosary for life, families, and family life. To add to the field trip experience, some of the groups of children (with their chaperones)

are planning a visit to the Way of the Cross shrine in New Ulm. Others will tour the Pastoral Center, the Cathedral, as well as a trip to the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye. Children (and adults) of all ages are invited to attend and participate. For further information, contact Karla Cross, director of the diocesan Office of Schools, 507-359-2966; e-mail: kcross@dnu.org.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) Cycle 7 will be from October 24-November 27. VLCFF is an Internet-based e-learning initiative for adult faith and catechist formation. It is an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding and enrichment of their faith. VLCFF is sponsored by the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives of the University of Dayton (<http://vlc.udayton.edu/>) and the Diocese of New Ulm. Contact Bryan Reising, 507-359-2966; breising@dnu.org. Registration deadline for Cycle 7 is Oct. 14.

Riverbend TEC Weekend will be held on Oct. 31 in New Ulm. Call 507 723-4141; e-mail riverbendtec@newulmtel.net; www.riverbendtec.org.

The Light of the World Area Faith Community is hosting a Mission on Nov. 7-9. It will be led by the Sisters of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from Steubenville, Ohio. The overall theme of the mission is to proclaim the message of the Divine Mercy of Christ. Each of the evening presentations will be at the Church of St. Anne, Wabasso, at 7:30 p.m. beginning with Benediction and prayer followed by the message. Each evening will formally end with the praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Benediction, and an opportunity to venerate a first class relic of St. Faustina, as well as a free-will offering.

Each evening will last about 60-90 minutes. The themes for each night, respectively, are: the Divine Mercy Message and St. Faustina; the Call to Holiness; Reconciliation (with the opportunity for sacramental Reconciliation). All are welcome for any or all nights. Call 507-342-5190.

World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held Nov. 19-21 in Stewartville. Contact Jeff and Rondi Kodet at 507-644-3523; jrek@redred.com; www.wmmeSection8.org.

Parish Festival Fun!
visit www.dnu.org for dates and times.

HIV/AIDS

(continued from page 8)

5. Have compassion for those living with the disease.
6. Pray, pray, pray.

One Heartland

Since 1993 in Minnesota, One Heartland, a national non-profit organization committed to children, youth, and their families impacted by HIV/AIDS and other significant life challenges worldwide, has provided summer camp programs, and year-round support for children and families facing HIV/AIDS, foster care, homelessness, and other

troubling circumstances. Camp Heartland has provided over 7,000 week-long camping experiences to children and youth living with HIV/AIDS. It also strives to provide meaningful programming to youth living with HIV/AIDS in their transition to adulthood.

There is yet no cure, but we seemingly are getting close. Your compassion, support, and prayers make a difference for children, youth, adults, and families touched by this disease.

For more information contact: One Heartland, 4425, North Port Washington Road, Suite 107, Milwaukee, WI 53212; or Fr. Paul A. Schumacher, 460 Lake Street SW, Hutchinson, MN 55350, (320) 510-2286.

Fr. Paul A. Schumacher is director of AIDS ministry and is senior associate at the Church of St. Anastasia, Hutchinson.

INFORMATIONAL & REGISTRATION MEETING

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
(Jan. 14-24, 2011)
with Bishop John M. LeVoir

Meeting to be held Oct. 24 at 2 p.m.
Cathedral of the Holy Trinity (Parish Center)
605 North State Street in New Ulm

For more information call (952) 949-0065
info@magitravelinc.com or visit www.dnu.org for brochure.

Register NOW! Only 10 seats left.



THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 25 No. 2 October 2010



We proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.

- U.S. Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, Nov. 2001

Respect Life Sunday is October 3

catholic trends

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Oct. 24. As described by Pope John Paul II, World Mission Sunday is "an important day in the life of the Church because it teaches how to give: as an offering made to God, in the Eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world" (see *Redemptoris Missio*, no. 81). Pope John Paul II has also spoken of the Propagation of the Faith's General Fund of support, calling this a "central fund of solidarity." In a message delivered on a recent World

Mission Sunday, the pope said: "The offerings that will be collected [on World Mission Sunday] are destined for a common fund of solidarity distributed, in the pope's name, by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith among the missions and missionaries of the entire world."

Every year the needs of the Catholic Church in the missions grow – as new dioceses are formed, as new seminaries are opened because of the growing

number of young men hearing Christ's call to follow him as priests, as areas devastated by war or natural disaster are rebuilt, and as other areas, long suppressed, are opening up to hear the message of Christ and his Church. That is why the involvement and commitment of Catholics from around the world is so urgently needed. Offerings from Catholics in the United States, on World Mission Sunday and throughout the year, are combined with offerings to the Propagation of the Faith worldwide.

Catholic Charities USA, the 100-year-old social service network working to reduce poverty in America, released three books Sept. 27 during a reception at the U.S. Library of Congress during its Centennial Gathering. At the private gathering, Rev. Larry Snyder, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, was joined by 200 guests including contributing writers, editors, and designers who spent over three years researching and gathering

information for the books. *Catholic Charities USA: 100 Years and the Intersection of Charity and Justice* features contributions by renowned Catholic scholars and respected leaders in the Catholic Charities movement. It explores Catholic social teaching and the theological foundation for Catholic Charities; www.litpress.org. *Think and Act Anew: How Poverty in America Affects Us All and What We Can Do About It*, written by Rev. Larry Snyder, describes the near economic collapse of the American economy and its effects on people, providing the

US with an opportunity to think and act anew in dealing with the thousands-of-years-old problem of entrenched poverty; Amazon.com. *Catholic Charities USA: A Century of Service, Advocacy, and Convening* shares the history of Catholic Charities USA through photographs and essays. It honors those who founded the National Conference of Catholic Charities in 1910 and who worked throughout the last 10 decades to build Catholic Charities into one of the largest social service networks in the United States and a recognized moral voice for social justice. Release date pending.



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY OCTOBER 24

A day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice.

organized by Propagation of the Faith
visit www.vatican.va
for the Holy Father's Message