

# THE DRAIRIE CATHOLIC

*Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm*

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 37 No. 6 April/May 2023



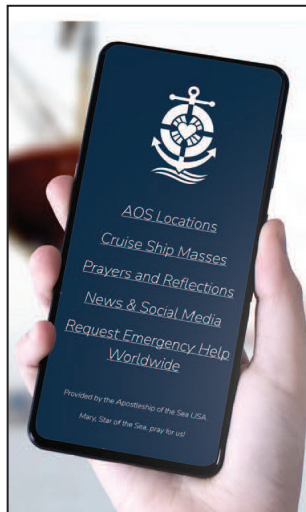
## May: the Month of Mary

During this month of May, we as Catholics pay special honor to our Blessed Virgin Mary. This month is also a part of the Easter season which lasts 50 days. During this time we celebrate the liturgy of the Resurrection of Our Lord as we await Pentecost (May 28), the moment in history when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. To honor Mary, join Bishop Chad W. Zielinski on Sunday, May 7 for an evening Marian Rosary Procession that will begin at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Sleepy Eye. For details, visit [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org).

# THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm

Minnesota's Most Rural Diocese Diocese of New Ulm Vol. 37 No. 6 April/May 2023



Collection is May 20-21  
in most parishes  
in the Diocese of New Ulm

## Support the Catholic Communication Campaign

WHERE DO YOUR DONATIONS GO?  
Half of the collected funds remain in this diocese to support local communications projects. The other half support the collective communication work of the Catholic bishops of the United States as well as other national projects in the U.S. and around the world.

## Eucharistic presence of Christ in the Church focus of Bishop Lucker Lecture

by Deacon Mike McKeown

**REDWOOD FALLS** – With a focus on the Holy Eucharist as the heart of the Church, the 2023 Bishop Lucker Lecture, sponsored by the Diocese of New Ulm, was held on Monday, March 13 at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls. Attendees and those viewing via live stream were treated by a most informative and inspiring presentation by National Eucharistic Revival preacher Fr. Michael Monshau O.P.

Fr. Monshau, who is currently serving as professor and formator at the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., is one of a handful of national preachers selected by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to assist with enkindling the flame of Eucharistic faith for the current nationwide Eucharistic Revival.

After a brief opening prayer, Fr. Joshua Bot, associate pastor of the Holy Cross Area Faith Community (New Ulm, Searles, West Newton Township), and former student of Fr. Monshau, offered an introduction and welcome to his former professor and formator. “Fr. Michael was one of the greatest blessings I received as I was preparing for the priesthood,” Fr. Bot said. “He was my formator and mentor for three years when I was in seminary. Any problem that I experienced, I could come and share it with him.”

In his presentation, “The Mystery We Believe, Celebrate, and Live,” Fr. Monshau offered a balanced overview of the development of Eucharistic thought and practice from history, theology, and scripture. His talk focused on the theme of, “How do we live the Eucharist?” both as individuals and as a community.



National Eucharistic Revival preacher Fr. Michael Monshau O.P. was the 2023 Bishop Lucker Lecture presenter. Fr. Monshau serves as professor and formator at the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

Fr. Monshau stressed the need to “reclaim the balance” as we approach God in Eucharistic worship while, at the same time, seeking to recognize the Eucharistic presence of Christ in

the Church community. “We need to balance the vertical (directed toward God) and the horizontal (directed toward others) aspects of the Eucharist,” he explained. “Let’s not forget that we’re with

each other at worship, that’s a rich part of it, but that’s not why we’re here. We’re here to adore Almighty God first and foremost.”

Emphasizing the importance of regular Eucharistic adoration in our particular vocation, Fr. Monshau urged his listeners: “The most important place for your parish priest to be during the course of a week is on the floor in front of the tabernacle. The best way to be a loving husband or wife or parent – you learn it in front of the tabernacle enjoying the Sacred Presence.”

Fr. Monsau’s presentation is available online on the Diocese of New Ulm website, [www.dnu.org/bishop-lucker-lecture](http://www.dnu.org/bishop-lucker-lecture).

*Editor’s note: Deacon Mike McKeown is director of Religious Ed. & Adult Faith Formation, [mmkeown@dnu.org](mailto:mmkeown@dnu.org).*

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Visit us online!  
[www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org)

## Supreme Court allows full access to abortion pill

by Tyler Arnold  
*Catholic News Agency*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – An abortion-inducing drug used to kill preborn children up to 10 weeks’ gestation will stay on the market as a legal battle over the pill continues following a decision Friday, April 21, 2023, by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The court’s 7-2 ruling blocks a lower court order that would have taken the drug mifepristone off the market as the court considers a lawsuit over whether the drug was validly approved. Four conservative justices joined the court’s three liberal justices in the ruling. Justice Clarence



WASHINGTON, DC – A 2021 pro-life gathering outside the Supreme Court building. (photo by Katie Yoder/CNA)

Thomas and Justice Samuel Alito dissented. President Joe

Biden praised the Supreme Court’s decision. “I continue to

stand by FDA’s (Food and Drug Administration) evidence-based approval of mifepristone, and my administration will continue to defend FDA’s independent, expert authority to review, approve, and regulate a wide range of prescription drugs,” Biden said in a statement.

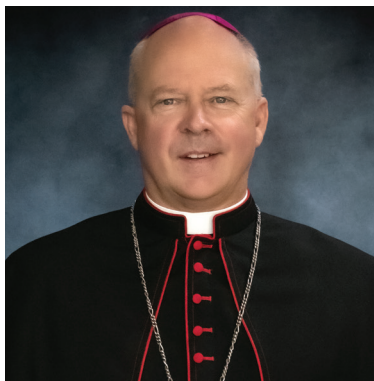
The lawsuit was filed by the pro-life Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, which is being represented by Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) in court.

ADF Senior Counsel Erik Baptist

*(Continued on page 8.)*

## diocesan church

### *That they may have life*



by Bishop Chad W. Zielinski

#### *Corpus Christi procession June 15, 1995, in Monterrey, Mexico*

As a seminarian in the summer of 1995, I took part in a Spanish language immersion course in Monterrey, Mexico. While there, two other seminarians and I were assigned to work with Fr. Jose in a parish in the Archdiocese of Monterrey when we were not attending class. This parish assignment provided numerous pastoral opportunities to be immersed in the Mexican Catholic culture. Fr. Jose briefed us about the upcoming major celebration for “Jueves de Corpus Christi” (Corpus Christi Thursday) that we, as seminarians, would be involved

in. The Solemnity of Corpus Christi in Mexico is celebrated in June on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday. My experience participating in Eucharistic processions up to then was limited to inside a church building or a procession around the city block of the church building.

I vividly recall that as we gathered on Thursday midday, a marching band was the first group to show up. I asked the priest for a reason for the marching band, and he looked at me quite dismayed, saying: “It is for Our Lord.”

Gradually, people would gather, and in time there would be two more marching bands. I grew up in a small town, and my parade experience was nothing compared to this group of hundreds getting into formation; one marching band at the head, one somewhere in the middle, and one at the end. Behind the first marching band were six men carrying a platform built upon two large wooden beams. There were loads of beautiful flowers around the periphery of the platform, with a smaller heightened platform in the middle covered in white. This is where the monstrance was placed

with Our Lord’s Eucharistic presence. Covering the entire platform was a very regal-looking canopy. It reminded me of pictures of antiquity when the servants of a king or queen would carry them in a procession. The other seminarians and I held a candle, a processional Cross, or incense.

Before the procession began, I wondered why all these people, along with this ornate platform, canopy, and marching bands, were gathered just to go around the block. Little did I know that the procession would last four to five hours and wind its way through the various streets of the local area for what seemed like several miles!

As the marching band fired up the enthusiasm of the crowds in the procession, we made our way through the parish and school grounds. As we entered the first neighborhood, I was shocked to see thousands of people, five to 10 people deep, lining the streets. They were in their Sunday best, displaying an array of colors that reflected their local cultural attire. As the canopy with Our Lord passed by, they would lay bouquets of flowers on the street. I

vividly have imprinted in my mind several individuals kneeling on cement streets with tears rolling down their faces. People were bowing, falling to their knees, showing a profound belief and love of Our Lord in their pious actions.

Throughout the procession, we would periodically stop at a home that displayed an ornate altar in the front yard near the street. The monstrance would be placed on the altar, the prayers that accompanied adoration would be said, and the priest would offer benediction to the thousands gathered in the area.

As the procession moved along, with thousands lining the street, some people would join us for part of the distance. I recall them chanting passionately, “Viva El Cristo Rey!” (Long live Christ, the King). I would later learn that this chant originated from the oppression of the Church during the mid-1920s in Mexico, when priests and lay faithful were imprisoned, beaten, or martyred for the public practice of their Catholic faith or for simply wearing clerical attire. I was deeply moved by the display of

passion, publicly proclaiming that Jesus is their king.

Another chant that was repeated countless times was “Señor, Danos sacerdotes, Danos muchos sacerdotes, Danos muchos santos sacerdotes” (Lord, give us priests, Give us many priests, Give us many very holy priests). I was touched by the zealous request to God for priests. Some would walk with me to pray and offer support.

All of this honor, love, and devotion of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist remains alive in my heart, mind, and soul today. What a priceless blessing that increased my love for the Eucharist.

#### **JOIN the procession!**

In carrying out this very ancient tradition of the Church, I invite you to join me in a Corpus Christi Procession on June 11 in New Ulm. For details and a Q&A about Corpus Christi processions, please see page 8 in this issue of *The Prairie Catholic*.

### Bishop’s calendar

**May 4** – May Crowning at St. Mary School, Bird Island

**May 5** – Meeting with diocesan auditors, Diocesan Pastoral Center, New Ulm

**May 7** – Marian Procession from Schoenstatt to Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye

**May 10** – May Crowning at St. Edward School, Minneota

**May 13** – Holy Cross AFC Confirmation, Church of St. Mary, New Ulm

**May 16** – Presbytery Day, Priests Council, and College of Consultor meetings, Church of St. Mary, Willmar

**May 17** – Committee on Parishes meeting, St. Aloysius, Olivia

**May 20** – Unification Mass, St. Isidore AFC - Church of St. Francis, Benson

**May 21** – New Ulm Area Catholic School and Loyola Catholic High School, Mankato Graduation

**May 23** – Priest Personnel Board meeting, Diocesan Pastoral Center, New Ulm

**May 24** – Diocesan Finance Council meeting, Diocesan Pastoral Center, New Ulm

**May 25** – Diocesan Priests Pension Board meeting, Diocesan Pastoral Center, New Ulm

**May 26** – Holy Trinity High School, Winsted Graduation

**May 28** – St. Mary’s High School, Sleepy Eye Graduation.

**June 1** – USCCB Subcommittee on Native American Affairs meeting

**June 11** – 11 a.m. Mass at Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm

**June 11** – 4 p.m. Corpus Christi Procession, from Diocesan Pastoral Center to Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm

**June 12-15** – USCCB General Assembly

*Editor’s note: Calendar represents the bishop’s schedule at the time “The Prairie Catholic” went to press.*

### Diocese annual report indicates strong financial position

by Carol Hacker, director  
Office of Finance

The Statement of Activities for the fiscal year 2021-22 (see page 3), reflects a strong financial position, with net assets of 17,059,000 on June 30, 2022. Net assets did decrease from the fiscal year 2020-2021 overall by \$933,000, primarily due to an unrealized investment loss of \$1,156,000 in our Endowment Funds.

Through the generosity of our benefactors, the Diocese of New Ulm was blessed with contributions and bequests totaling \$246,297 including \$20,000 in contributed services. Parishes directly supported the diocese’s work through contributions of \$1,589,000 to the Diocesan United Fund (DUF). The Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA) applied \$850,589 of donor gifts to support the work of several outreach ministries. The DMA donations remain restricted, only to be used for designated diocesan ministries. The diocese strives to be good stewards of these gifts through its ministries.

#### **Diocesan expenses**

Administration accounts for 31% of the diocese’s total expenses. Evangelization and Catechesis ministries account for \$628,616; Worship and Spiritual Life ministries account for \$76,131; Social Ministries account for \$673,499; and formation and care of clergy account for \$609,756.

Bishop Chad W. Zielinski was installed as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm on Sept. 17, 2022. One of the bishop’s primary goals is to create an Office of Evangelization. The director of this office will assist the bishop in all diocesan initiatives focused on evangelization, missionary discipleship, and Eucharistic Revival efforts. The office will primarily focus on implementing the bishop’s vision - inviting all people to know Christ Jesus, live the joy of the Gospel, and fulfill the great commission in a lifetime of missionary discipleship.

*For questions concerning the 2021-22 Statement of Activities, contact the diocesan Office of Finance, [chlacker@dnu.org](mailto:chlacker@dnu.org).*

## THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

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# DIOCESE OF NEW ULM

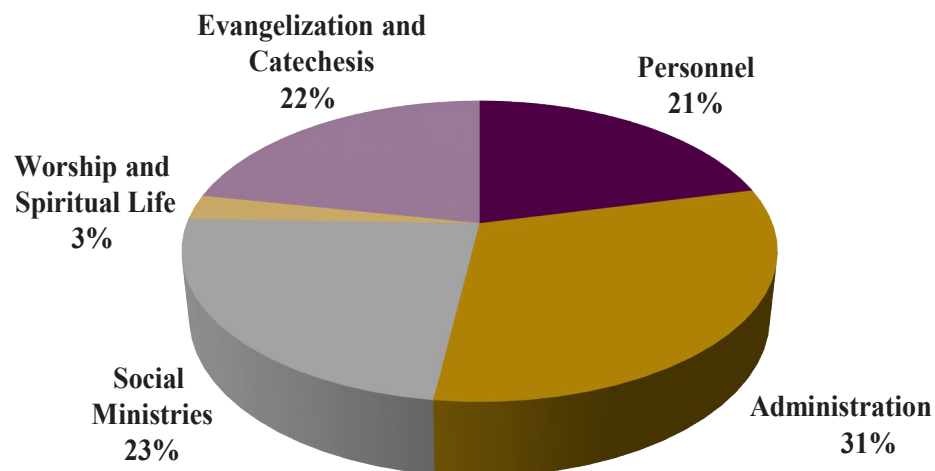
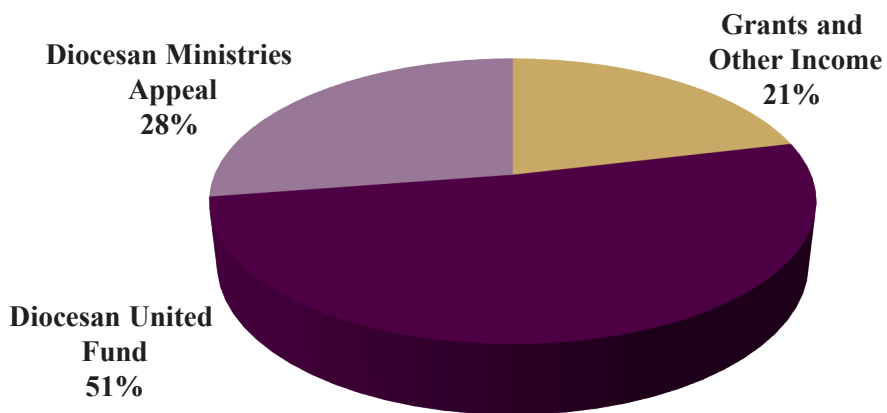
## Statement of Activities

(July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Totals 2022	Totals 2021
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Diocesan United Fund	\$ 1,588,833			\$ 1,588,833	\$ 1,573,705
Diocesan Ministries Appeal <i>(applied to designated ministries only)</i>		850,589		850,589	784,982
Contributions and bequests	130,298	75,701	20,298	226,297	724,925
Grants		124,184		124,184	77,799
Contributed services	20,000			20,000	34,000
Interest and dividend income	114,158			114,158	132,157
Net unrealized and realized gain			(1,155,864)	(1,155,864)	2,215,866
Program income	160,444			160,444	102,357
Other income	13,219			13,219	53,533
Satisfaction of program restrictions	1,357,873	(1,357,873)		-	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b> <i>(see pie chart below)</i>	<b>\$ 3,384,826</b>	<b>\$ (307,399)</b>	<b>\$ (1,135,566)</b>	<b>\$ 1,941,860</b>	<b>\$ 5,699,324</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Administration	\$ 886,940			\$ 886,940	\$ 973,644
Evangelization and Catechesis	628,616			628,616	448,307
Worship and Spiritual Life	76,131			76,131	81,467
Social Ministries	673,499			673,499	567,321
Personnel	609,756			609,756	568,986
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> <i>(see pie chart below)</i>	<b>\$ 2,874,942</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 2,874,942</b>	<b>\$ 2,639,725</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE OTHER ITEMS</b>	\$ 509,884	\$ (307,399)	\$ (1,135,566)	\$ (933,082)	\$ 3,059,599
Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness					248,000
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	\$ 509,884	\$ (307,399)	\$ (1,135,566)	\$ (933,082)	\$ 3,307,599
Assets at beginning of year	5,996,046	2,221,178	9,774,802	17,992,026	14,684,427
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 6,505,930</b>	<b>\$ 1,913,779</b>	<b>\$ 8,639,236</b>	<b>\$ 17,058,944</b>	<b>\$ 17,992,026</b>

**2021-2022 REVENUES \$1.9 MILLION**

**2021-2022 EXPENSES \$2.84 MILLION**





por Bishop Chad Zielinski

*Procesión del Corpus Christi  
15 de junio de 1995 en  
Monterrey, México*

En el verano de 1995 siendo un seminarista participé en un curso de inmersión en español en Monterrey, México. Cuando no teníamos clases junto a otros dos seminaristas fuimos asignados a trabajar con el Padre José en una parroquia de la Arquidiócesis de Monterrey. Esta asignación nos brindó numerosas oportunidades pastorales para sumergirse en la cultura católica en Mexico. Padre Jose nos informó sobre la próxima celebración de “Jueves de Corpus Christi” en la que nosotros estaríamos involucrados. La Solemnidad de Corpus Christi en México se celebra en junio el jueves después del domingo de la Santísima Trinidad. Mi experiencia en las procesiones eucarísticas se limitaba al interior de la iglesia o a una procesión alrededor de la cuadra.

Recuerdo vívidamente cuando nos reunimos ese jueves al mediodía, la banda fueron los primeros en llegar. Le pregunté al cura porque había una banda y me miró bastante conternado y me dijo: “Es para Nuestro Señor.”

Poco a poco, la gente seguía viniendo y luego dos bandas más. Crecí en un pueblo pequeño y mi experiencia con los desfiles no fue nada comparada con este grupo de cientos de feligreses que seguían viniendo; una banda a la cabeza, la otra banda en algún

*Para que tengan vida*

lugar en el medio y el otro al final. Detrás de la primera banda había seis hombres que llevaban una plataforma construida sobre dos grandes vigas de madera. Habían muchas flores hermosas alrededor de la periferia de la plataforma, con una plataforma elevada más pequeña en el medio cubierta de blanco. Allí se colocó la custodia con la presencia Eucarística de Nuestro Señor. Cubriendo toda la plataforma había un toldo de aspecto muy majestuoso. Me recordó a las imágenes de la antigüedad cuando los sirvientes de un rey o una reina los llevaban en procesión. Nosotros como seminaristas sosteníamos un cirio, una cruz procesional o un incienso.

Antes que empiece la procesión, no podía comprender porqué todas estas personas, la plataforma ornamentada, el toldo y las bandas, para una procesión alrededor de la manzana. ¡Poco sabía que la procesión duraría de cuatro a cinco horas y recorrería las diversas calles del área local por lo que parecían varias millas!

Mientras la banda generaba el entusiasmo entre la multitud en la procesión, pasamos por la zona parroquial y la escuela. Cuando entramos al primer vecindario, me sorprendió ver a miles de fieles, alineadas en las calles. Estaban bien vestidos y sus prendas con una variedad de colores reflejando su atuendo cultural. Al pasar el toldo con nuestro Señor, las personas dejaban ramos de flores en la calle. Todavía recuerdo como si fuera ayer como muchos arrodillados en las calles de cemento llorando y ver sus lágrimas caer en sus rostros. Observaba sus acciones piadosas como la gente se inclinaba, caía de rodillas, mostrando una profunda reverencia y amor a Nuestro Señor.

A lo largo de la procesión, nos

deteníamos periódicamente en una casa que exhibía un altar decorado en el patio delantero cerca de la calle. La custodia se colocaba en el altar, se recitaba las oraciones que acompañaban la adoración y el sacerdote ofrecía la bendición a los presentes.

Mientras avanzaba la procesión y miles en plena la calle, recuerdo los feligreses cantando apasionadamente, “¡Viva El Cristo Rey!” Después me enteré que este canto se originó a partir de la opresión de la Iglesia a mediados de la década de 1920 en México cuando los sacerdotes y fieles laicos fueron encarcelados, golpeados o martirizados por la práctica pública de su fe católica o simplemente por vestir atuendo clerical. Me conmovió profundamente su gran pasión de proclamar públicamente que Jesús es su rey.

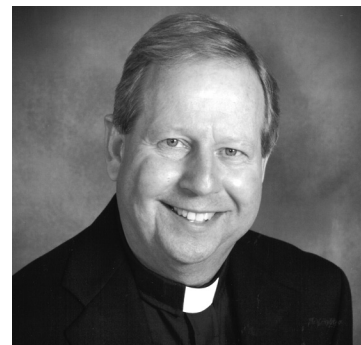
Otro canto que se repitió muchas veces fue “Señor, Danos sacerdotes, Danos muchos sacerdotes, Danos muchos sacerdotes Santos.” Me conmovió como pedían a Dios por sacerdotes fervientes. Algunos caminaban al lado mio para rezar y ofrecer apoyo.

Hoy, todo ese honor, amor y devoción por Nuestro Señor en la Sagrada Eucaristía permanece vivo en mi corazón, mente y alma. Vivirlo en persona fue una bendición invaluable que aumentó mi amor por la Eucaristía.

Para llevar a cabo esta tradición tan antigua de la Iglesia, los invito a ustedes fieles cristianos de esta diócesis, a que se unan a la procesión de Corpus Christi el Domingo, 11 de junio en New Ulm. Para más detalles sobre el Corpus Christi, ver la página 8 en esta edición del *The Prairie Catholic*.

Golden Jubilee

*Fr. Breu to mark 50 years of priesthood*



Fr. David Breu

On May 27, 2023, Fr. David Breu, a retired priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, will celebrate his 50th anniversary of priestly ordination.

Fr. Breu was ordained to the priesthood in 1973 at the Church of St. John the Baptist in Searles by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler.

Throughout his years of active ministry, Fr. Breu served in a

number of parishes in the diocese including the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye (with teaching responsibilities at St. Mary’s High School), the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm (with teaching responsibilities at Cathedral High School), the Church of the Holy Rosary in North Mankato, the Church of St. Mary in Beardsley, the Church of St. Dionysius in Tyler, the Church of St. Genevieve in Lake Benton, the Church of Ss. Peter and Paul in Ivanhoe, the Church of St. John Cantius in Wilno, the Church of the Holy Rosary in Graceville, and the Church of St. Anthony in Browns Valley (Diocese of St. Cloud).

Although he retired from full-time active ministry on June 28, 2017, he continues to assist part-time in the Spirit of Life Area Faith Community (Graceville, Madison, Ortonville, and Rosen).

Update on safe environment efforts in Diocese of New Ulm

by Aldean Hendrickson, director Office of Safe Environment

Since the Catholic bishops of the United States adopted the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002, the uniform and systemic response to child sexual abuse has been an initiative of the utmost importance to the Catholic Church in this country.

While efforts toward what has come to be known as “safe environment” or “safeguarding” were already underway in many U.S. dioceses – including the Diocese of New Ulm – prior to that date, it was in that year that the entire body of Catholic bishops in this country jointly committed to implementing a standardized and comprehensive approach to responding to cases of the sexual abuse of children and making far-reaching efforts to ensure as much as possible that such abuse did not happen going forward.

Recently, the Diocese of New Ulm has been rolling out the newest version of the *Protecting God’s Children* awareness training program from VIRTUS, a comprehensive program that assists the Church in being a safe haven for children and a platform for preventing child sexual abuse within the Church and society in general. Every employee and

volunteer in parishes and Catholic schools within the diocese, as well as diocesan staff and clergy, are required to receive this standard training, which takes place in a live group session lasting about three hours.

The new version 4.0 of this training, while maintaining the same format and overall content as earlier versions, features entirely new video components that were meticulously revised to minimize any “dated” aspects and to most efficiently deliver the needed information in a clear and memorable fashion. This training focuses on giving individuals the knowledge they need to notice possible signs of abuse and the confidence to effectively report such concerns to the proper authorities if and when required. Such training is an essential piece of the ongoing project of doing what we can, as the People of God, to make our parishes, churches, and schools safe environments for all of God’s children.

Anyone interested in becoming a facilitator for the VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children program in the Diocese of New Ulm should contact Sherry Kalow skalow@dnu.org or (507) 233-5308.

**A**n anyone who has suffered sexual abuse or exploitation by clergy or church personnel of the Diocese of New Ulm should immediately report such misconduct to local law enforcement. They are encouraged to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator or the Bishop’s Delegate in Matters Pertaining to Sexual Misconduct, 1421 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073, phone: 507-233-5313, for counseling or assistance, if that is desired.

**T**oda persona que haya sido víctima de abuso o explotación sexual por parte del clero y personal de la Iglesia de la Diócesis de New Ulm debe reportar dicha mala conducta a las autoridades policiales inmediatamente. Se les exhorta ponerse en contacto con el Coordinador de Asistencia para víctimas o el Delegado del Obispo en cuestiones sobre el mal comportamiento sexual, 1421 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073, teléfono: 507-233-5313, hay consejería o asistencia disponible si así lo desea.

# A warm Guatemalan welcome – Part 2

*Bishop Zielinski reflects on pastoral visit to San Lucas Toliman*



**Bishop Zielinski continues his reflection on his first pastoral visit as bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm to the San Lucas Toliman Mission in Guatemala in January.**

*For Part 1 Reflection, see the March edition of The Prairie Catholic (online at [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org)).*

by Bishop Chad Zielinski

Friday, January 27

There is a common expression in Spanish asked early in the morning, *Como amaniciste?* Translated, “How was your rising?”

It was the second day of my pastoral visit to the San Lucas Toliman Mission, and I was awakened early, at 3:30 a.m., as the roosters responded full-throatedly to the approaching day. Their morning trumpeting seemed to usher in the sun’s rising and God’s presentation of the order of the day. Shortly following, there was the sound of what appeared to be a large animal (later determined to be an active house cat) scampering back and forth across the roof of where I was staying.

With all this anxious activity, I rose at 4 a.m. to make some splendid Café Juan Ana, a coffee produced, roasted, and packaged in San Lucas. My favorite part of the day is praying the Liturgy of the Hours with the smell of strong coffee wafting through the air.

Shortly after 8 a.m., I walked to Colegio Monseñor Gregorio Schaffer, the area elementary school located just a couple blocks from where I was staying. The children lined the street waving yellow flags and chanting *Bienvenidos* (“Welcome” in Spanish). They were singing at the top of their lungs. I was deeply touched and profoundly humbled by their welcome. I took a tour of the school which traces back to 1968 when it was founded by the Mission’s pastor at the time, Fr. Greg Schaffer and the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Today, the school provides education annually to over 650 preschool through sixth-grade students.

Fr. Greg believed that you could change society through education, and when he arrived in Guatemala in 1963, those in extreme poverty had little access to decent education opportunities.



Bishop Zielinski received a special welcome from the area children as they gathered in front of their school, Colegio Monseñor Gregorio Schaffer, waving yellow flags, singing songs, and chanting “*Bienvenidos!*” (“Welcome” in Spanish). *(Photo submitted)*

### Blockhouse construction

One of the San Lucas Mission’s major programs involves building homes for families. According to the Friends of San Lucas website, <https://sanlucasmision.org>, the need for dignified, earthquake-resistant housing in San Lucas and the surrounding communities is constant. Through the financial support of generous donors to the Mission, 540-square-foot block houses, including a concrete floor, plumbed indoor bathroom, and a fuel-efficient stove, are being built.

I was able to witness first-hand the fruits of the construction program when I met a young woman and her child who were waiting to move into one of the block homes. In the meantime they were living in a simple one-room house covered with a tin roof, a dirt floor, and a single bed. There was no dresser or storage container, so clothes were kept in large shopping bags hanging by a nail on a wooden post that supported the roof and walls.

I was also able to be present at a dedication of a block house by the director of the construction program, who signed an agreement with the family that was to move in. The architect and builder were also present. It was

an honor to extend a blessing over the home. Although the house was extremely small, with a bathroom and three rooms, it was soon to be home to three generations of family members who were brought to tears as they shared their deep gratitude for the gift of the house, which cost about \$12,000.

The construction program also provides families with cement cooking stoves that are properly vented to a chimney. I have been told that poor ventilation has resulted in high numbers of lung problems.

### Rural medical program

Later that day, I visited the Mission’s small rural clinic that focuses on infant malnutrition, education, and care. Many shops on every block offer soda pop, potato chips, cookies, and candies. This diet of heavy sugar and processed foods has caused a significant rise in diabetes among the native people.

A significant part of the clinic’s operations is educating mothers on a balanced diet for their children. This program has had a direct impact on the health of those residing in small rural communities.



One of the many beneficial programs of the Mission is the construction of 540-square-foot block homes that include a concrete floor, a plumbed indoor bathroom, and a fuel-efficient stove. Bishop Zielinski was present and blessed a newly built home as it was presented to one of the families during a dedication ceremony. *(photo courtesy of Friends of San Lucas)*



Fidelina Gonzales Misa of San Lucas stands beside one of the fuel-efficient stoves that are being made available to families through the Mission’s construction program.

*(photo courtesy of Friends of San Lucas)*

### Women’s Center visit

Fr. Greg was very instrumental in establishing a Women’s Center that provides training for various skills. I visited rooms where sewing, weaving, and clothesmaking were accomplished. Cooking classes are also offered, and there is a natural medicinal herb garden on the Women’s Center campus. These educational resources allow women to learn a skill or trade, sell their products, and enjoy social time. It is a most impressive center that provides opportunities in a society that is a male-dominated workforce.

### Honoring the late Fr. Greg

Around 2 p.m. that day, I celebrated with the people a special Mass in honor of Fr. Greg Schaffer who died May 24, 2012, from lymphoma/cancer. He was 78. “Padre Schaffer” was a Diocese of New Ulm priest who served the Mission for 48 years. The choir during Mass consisted of schoolchildren and was most impressive. They sang with great joy!

Following Mass, everyone gathered outside in front of the

church, where a memorial of Fr. Greg was erected. There was a formal ceremony with various leaders offering speeches about how Fr. Greg impacted the community of San Lucas Toliman and 16 other neighboring communities. The memorial ceremony also included unveiling a set of Fr. Greg’s footprints that were imprinted in a concrete block. I was asked to bless these footprints marking the 50 years since Fr. Greg’s historic walk from the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol to San Lucas Toliman to raise awareness and donations for the Mission’s life-changing work. A small memorial plaque was gifted to me to take back home.

Following the memorial, we processed to Fr. Greg’s place of rest at the community cemetery. A lot of flower arrangements were presented, more singing and loads of fireworks were lit.

I was exhausted at the end of the day and turned in early.

*Stay tuned! The bishop’s final reflection on his pastoral visit to Guatemala will appear in the June Prairie Catholic.*

## Prayer service held in Ivanhoe offers hope and healing for those in attendance

by Deacon Mike McKeown  
Director of Healing Ministry

**IVANHOE, MINN.**— On March 26 at the Church of Ss. Peter and Paul in Ivanhoe, an opportunity for prayer and Adoration for Hope and Healing took place. Over 200 people attended the afternoon service. This was the sixth time since 2018 that the Diocese of New Ulm has offered an event like this.

Hosted each time by an Area Faith Community (AFC) in the diocese, the opportunity is meant to foster a greater devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to address the need for spiritual healing in our parishes.

The prayer service began with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a Gospel reading and homily by Bishop Chad W. Zielinski.

During his homily, the bishop read the Gospel reading of the “Woman at the Well” from John 4. He pointed out that this woman (also known as St. Photina) found in Jesus all that she had been thirsting for. The bishop also spoke about Lazarus being restored to life by Jesus.

The bishop reminded those gathered of Jesus’ words “unbind

him” as Lazarus emerged from the tomb. “Jesus also wants to heal us so that we can be unbound from our sins,” the bishop explained.

### Hope and healing

The day’s liturgy included adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, and opportunities for individuals to receive prayer for physical, spiritual, and emotional healing. Bishop Zielinski and five other priests heard confessions for an hour and a half. Four prayer teams comprised of members of the diocesan healing ministry prayed with individuals for over two hours.

Fr. Ron Huberty, pastor of Christ the King AFC, was encouraged by the turnout. “The response and participation of the people was incredible,” he said. “People continue to ask when we can do something like this again.”

Following the service, Fr. Huberty commented on how many people attended whom he had never seen before. Fr. Huberty said the day served as a great opportunity for building community. “Even when the event was over, people wanted to stay and continue visiting,” he said.

### Eucharistic Revival

Bishop Zielinski was grateful for

the hospitality of the Christ the King Area Faith Community (St. Genevieve, Lake Benton; St. John Cantius, Wilno; St. Leo, St. Leo; St. Peter, Canby; Ss. Peter & Paul, Ivanhoe; and St. Dionysius, Tyler) and the positive response of those who attended.

“This was the first Adoration for Hope and Healing that I have led since arriving in the Diocese of New Ulm,” said Bishop Zielinski.

“I was most impressed by the large number of the faithful of God who thirsted for the living and healing waters of Jesus in Holy Adoration and Reconciliation. Like St. Photina (the woman at the well), they left enlightened by Christ to share this Good News with others,” the bishop said. “What a great blessing to the Diocese of New Ulm as we continue our Eucharistic Revival journey.”

For upcoming healing liturgies or to host an Adoration for Hope and Healing in your parish or AFC, contact the diocesan Office of Worship, [www.dnu.org/worship](http://www.dnu.org/worship) or the Office of Healing Ministry, [www.dnu.org/healing-ministry](http://www.dnu.org/healing-ministry).

## Bishop announces new priest assignments

**NEW ULM** – Upon the recommendation of the Priest Personnel Board, Bishop Chad W. Zielinski has made the following priest assignments.

### Effective June 27, 2023:



**Fr. Jeremy Kucera** appointed pastor of St. Raphael, Springfield; St. Joseph, Lambertton; St. Thomas (Oratory), Sanborn (Vine and Branches AFC).



**Fr. Brendan Rolling** appointed parochial administrator of St. Andrew, Fairfax; St. Willibrord, Gibbon; St. Francis de Sales, Winthrop (All Saints AFC). In addition, he will serve as director of Vocations.



**Fr. Brian Mandel** appointed parochial administrator of St. Francis, Benson; Sacred Heart, Murdock; St. John, Appleton (St. Isidore the Farmer AFC).



**Fr. Jeff Horejsi** appointed pastor of St. Anthony, Watkins in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Philip, Litchfield, Our Lady, Manannah; St. John, Darwin (Shepherd of Souls AFC).



**Fr. Cornelius Ezeiloaku** appointed parochial vicar of St. Peter, Canby; St. Leo, St. Leo; Sts. Peter & Paul, Ivanhoe; St. John Cantius, Wilno; St. Genevieve, Lake Benton, St. Dionysius, Tyler (Christ the King AFC).



**Fr. Mike Doyle** appointed parochial vicar (senior associate) of St. Anthony, Watkins; St. Philip, Litchfield; Our Lady, Manannah; St. John, Darwin (Shepherd of Souls AFC).



**Fr. Tanner Thooff** appointed associate director of Vocations in addition to serving as parochial vicar at St. Paul, Comfrey, St. Michael, Morgan; Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth; and St. Mary, Sleepy Eye (Divine Mercy AFC).

### Fr. Garrett Ahlers granted

permission to enter into discernment and formation with the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

### Effective July 1, 2023



**Fr. Phil Shotzko** to retire as director of Mission Office.



**Fr. Jerry Meidl** appointed director of Mission Office and to continue to assist in the Holy Cross AFC: Cathedral, New Ulm; St. Mary, New Ulm; St. John the Baptist, Searles; St. George, West Newton Township.

For a listing of diocesan clergy and where they are currently serving, visit [www.dnu.org/about](http://www.dnu.org/about).

## Diocese of New Ulm seeks director to lead new Office of Evangelization



The mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of New Ulm is to be the loving face of Christ to others by imitating Jesus as Priest, Prophet, and King. In the faithful pursuit of that mission and through the intercession of St. Photina, the diocese seeks a full-time director for the Office of Evangelization.

The director of the Office of Evangelization assists the bishop in implementing all diocesan initiatives focused on evangelization, missionary discipleship, and Eucharistic Revival. The director’s primary focus will be implementing the bishop’s vision - inviting all people to know Christ Jesus, live the joy of the Gospel, and fulfill the great commission in a lifetime of missionary discipleship.

The position will assist in establishing a shared understanding of evangelization, equipping individuals and area faith communities to live in the spirit of missionary discipleship, and implementing a cohesive plan of evangelization and outreach centered on the Eucharist, mindful of the cultures and communities within the diocese.

For a complete job description, visit the Diocese of New Ulm website, [www.dnu.org/employment](http://www.dnu.org/employment) or email [pforst@dnu.org](mailto:pforst@dnu.org), (507) 233-5301.

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## BECOMING CATHOLIC: *Finding Jesus through the journey of a child*

by Elli Gifferson  
Prairie Catholic correspondent

**NEW ULM** – Sometimes, we feel like Colton teaches us more than we teach him,” Ashley and Dustin Reinhart, parishioners of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm, describe raising their eight-year-old son, Colton.

A second grader at Jefferson Elementary School in New Ulm, Colton, as most boys his age, greatly enjoys swimming, jumping on the trampoline, playing outside, and his electronics. However, Colton was born with Leber’s Congenital Amaurosis, a genetic disorder that affects annually approximately one in every 40,000 newborns and accounts for the vast majority of cases of childhood blindness.

Although Colton lacks vision, he can perceive light. But blindness does not hold him back from experiencing the joys and adventures of life. This year specifically, Colton continues to embrace his gifts and inspire those around him through his remarkable journey to receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time. “Colton has such a great personality, and he is so funny!” says Heather Hacker, Colton’s parish faith formation instructor. “He is inquisitive, curious, and always asking questions,



Colton Reinhart of New Ulm receives the Holy Eucharist for the first time on Sunday, April 23, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm.  
*(Photos by Christine Clancy)*

including whether or not I drove my ‘junker car’ or my SUV to class each night. [But] I think his biggest superpower is his reading and vocabulary. [It’s] out of this world!” Hacker said.

Colton’s knowledge of reading and writing Braille is so advanced that in 2021 he was one of the top ten finalists in the Braille Challenge, an annual competition that stretches across North America. Even more impressive, Colton was only a kindergartner then and, thus, the youngest finalist in the Apprentice Category, comprising first and second-graders. “His knowledge and memorization of prayers also

amazes us,” said Ashley. “He is a positive and happy kid who brings so much joy to our family.”

Hence, in raising Colton, Ashley and Dustin always strive to ensure that their son has every opportunity possible to grow and succeed personally and spiritually. In preparation for Colton’s faith formation, the Reinharts began researching potential options to enable him to participate more actively with his peers while also engaging deeper in his course materials. Ashley credits Jessie Griebel, the former Cathedral director of Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation, for discovering the Xavier Society for the Blind in New York that provides free faith-based materials to the blind and visually impaired. It was the perfect fit for the Reinhart family.

Fast forward two years, and the Xavier Society continues to partner with Colton and his family to transcribe and emboss his faith formation textbooks in Braille, empowering him to read along with and to his sighted classmates. “We were thrilled to receive Colton’s faith formation books in Braille,” said Ashley. “Colton’s faith has really grown this year as he has prepared and had First Reconciliation and is now ready to receive the Eucharist.”

Likewise, Hacker attests to Colton’s spiritual journey, sharing that, “It’s been so fun to watch him grow not only through God’s Word in our lessons but also



Colton Reinhart is pictured with his parents Ashley and Dustin and brother Caleb along with Mass celebrant Msgr. Douglas Grams.

through different practices we have done in preparing for the Sacrament of First Communion.”

As part of his faith formation, Colton has had the opportunity to explore various features and areas of the inside of the church using his sense of touch in order to paint a mental picture, whereas most parishioners rely solely on their vision.

As Hacker explains, he has practiced genuflecting, bowing, and how to properly place his hands in preparation for receiving the Eucharist. Whereas most students have learned these traditional religious practices by visually watching others, Colton has had the unique opportunity to learn through touch and auditory instruction, including Biblical narratives and the events of Jesus’ life. Hacker said, “Colton is absolutely an auditory learner, so seeing him learn through the stories we share of Christ is so amazing.”

Overall, Colton’s journey to receiving the Eucharist has been very meaningful to him. “Colton is excited to become closer to Jesus

through receiving the Eucharist,” said Ashley. “He is looking forward to experiencing the Eucharist that we’ve been talking so much about, and he’s been learning about at home, church, and in faith formation,” she said.

Ashley and Dustin feel so blessed and thankful, not only for the beautiful gifts of their two children, Colton and his older brother Caleb, but also for the incredible faith support provided by their parish community. “Raising Colton has opened up so many opportunities that other families may not have in the people we’ve met and the experiences we’ve had,” said Ashley. “[Our parish] has been wonderful and so supportive of Colton and our family.”

During this time of Colton’s journey of witnessing his spiritual growth, Ashley and Dustin have become more aware of their own faith. “It has brought us back to the basics of the Church. Being able to witness Colton prepare for the Eucharist through the eyes of a child is magical!”

## June Eucharistic Congress expected to draw 5,000!

**WINONA, MINN.** – Bishop Robert E. Barron is excited to announce his plans to host a large Eucharistic Congress in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester this summer. Entitled “This is My Body” the event will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, in Mankato at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center. It will include talks on the importance of the Eucharist from well-known speakers including Bishop Barron, Dr. Timothy O’Malley, Barbara Heil, Dr. Hosffman Ospino, Sr. Alicia Torres, and Sr. Emy Ychikawa.

There will be opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, and will conclude with a Mass celebrating the Feast of *Corpus Christi* followed by a Eucharistic Procession.

New Ulm’s bishop Chad Zielinski, will be among the 5,000 people expected to gather in Mankato in June to partake in the event.

Registration is now open. To learn more about the Congress and to register visit [www.eucharist.dowr.org](http://www.eucharist.dowr.org).



REFLECTIONS ON THE SACRED LITURGY BY BISHOP CHAD W. ZIELINSKI

[www.dnu.org/liturgy-matters](http://www.dnu.org/liturgy-matters)

Visit [www.dnu.org/liturgy-matters](http://www.dnu.org/liturgy-matters)  
to learn more about the Mysteries of the Sacred Liturgy.  
[New reflections posted weekly.]



# Bishop Zielinski to lead Corpus Christi procession in New Ulm; all welcome

**NEW ULM** – On Sunday, June 11, 2023, the Feast of Corpus Christi, Bishop Chad W. Zielinski invites the faithful from throughout the diocese to participate in a family-friendly Corpus Christi Eucharistic procession.

The procession, led by Bishop Zielinski, will begin from the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1421 6th Street North (overlooking the New Ulm Medical Center). There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered at the Pastoral Center chapel beginning at 3 p.m.

At 4 p.m., those gathered will process publicly as a group to the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity for a blessing and Benediction, followed by a barbecue in Washington Park, across from the Cathedral. *In case of inclement weather, visit the Diocese of New Ulm website, [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org).*

### Shuttle available

Parking will be available in the parking lot of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Participants may choose to walk to the Diocesan Pastoral Center (one mile up a large hill), or take a shuttle from the Cathedral, available from 3-3:45 p.m.

### So, what is a Eucharistic procession?

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. A Eucharistic procession, therefore, is a public witness of

the veneration toward the most holy Eucharist, conducted through public streets.

Following are answers to additional questions you may have:

### **Q. How will the Eucharistic procession be conducted?**

A consecrated host – the real and substantial presence of Jesus Christ: body, blood, soul, and divinity – is placed within a monstrance, which is then lifted and carried by the bishop or a priest who leads the faithful in procession. Like a pilgrimage, a Eucharistic procession typically starts at one holy place and ends at another. The procession serves as a reminder to the Catholic faithful of their spiritual journey toward eternal life with God.

### **Q. What is the objective of the June Eucharistic procession?**

As with Eucharistic adoration, a Eucharistic procession is an extension of the worship of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. When processing with the Holy Eucharist in a reverent, prayerful, and joyful manner, Catholics can honor Christ in the Eucharist and serve as witnesses to the intimate presence of God in the world and each individual. Eucharistic processions powerfully display the Incarnation, or God becoming human, and thus speak of his merciful love for all who journey to eternal life with him. For those



who participate in the procession, it is an opportunity to proclaim being Catholic and grow in their faith.

### **Q. Why is the diocese holding a Eucharistic procession?**

The June 11 Eucharistic procession will serve as the Diocese of New Ulm’s kick-off for the “Year of Parish Renewal” in the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative organized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to “renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.”

In late 2019, a Pew Study indicated what many had long suspected. Few Catholics, approximately 30 percent, fully believe in the Real Presence

of Jesus in the Eucharist. This stark reality inspired the bishops of the United States to action. More than an event or a program, they envisioned a true revival to rediscover the source and summit of our Faith through a deep commitment of prayer, pilgrimage, and worship on the part of the entire Church in the United States.

For more information about the National Eucharistic Revival, or to receive “*Cor Ad Cor*” (“Heart to Heart”), a regular newsletter with newsworthy updates, resources, and more, visit <https://eucharisticrevival.org>.

### **Q. What is the history behind the Eucharistic procession?**

Eucharistic processions first became a widespread practice in the life of the Church during the

celebration of Corpus Christi, this year celebrated on Sunday, June 11. The idea for this solemnity is attributed to St. Juliana, who lived in the 13th century. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI eloquently noted in a homily in 2007, “It was born for the very precise purpose of openly reaffirming the faith of the people of God in Jesus Christ, alive and truly present in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist. It is a feast established to adore, praise publicly, and thank the Lord, who continues ‘to love us to the end,’ even offering us his body and blood.”

Though directly connected to the liturgical feast of Corpus Christi, Eucharistic processions may take place at other appropriate times and places under the authority of the bishop and following liturgical norms.

### Have more questions?

For more information regarding the Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession in New Ulm on June 11, contact diocesan Office of Worship, (507) 233-5320, email [worship@dnu.org](mailto:worship@dnu.org).

**Good Christian Stewardship**  
Those attending the Eucharistic procession on June 11 are encouraged to bring to the Diocesan Pastoral Center a non-perishable food item for the area food shelf.

## Status quo on abortion pill for now

(Continued from page 1.)

said in a statement that the court’s decision follows common practice.

“As is common practice, the Supreme Court has decided to maintain the status quo that existed prior to our lawsuit while our challenge to the FDA’s illegal approval of chemical abortion drugs and its removal of critical safeguards for those drugs moves forward,” Baptist said.

“Our case seeking to put women’s health above politics continues on an expedited basis in the lower courts,” Baptist continued. “The FDA must answer for the damage it has caused to the health of countless women and girls and the rule of law by failing to study how dangerous the chemical abortion drug regimen is and unlawfully removing every meaningful safeguard, even allowing for mail-order abortions. We look forward to a final outcome in this case that will hold the FDA accountable.”

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved mifepristone in 2000, but regulations have fluctuated since its approval. The current rules allow a person

to receive the drug in person or through the mail and do not require the woman to be seen by a doctor before receiving it.

Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine filed a lawsuit arguing that the original FDA approval and subsequent regulatory changes did not follow legally required protocol. The lawsuit asks the court to declare the initial approval of the drug and subsequent regulatory changes to increase access to the drug unlawful.

The lawsuit argues that the FDA’s failure to follow protocol has caused many safety and health concerns to go unaddressed. This includes certain questions about the safety of the drug as well as safeguards that could prevent forced abortions. Numerous pro-life and Catholic organizations have voiced their support for the lawsuit.



To read the statement released by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops concerning the Supreme Court’s decision visit [www.usccb.org/newsroom](http://www.usccb.org/newsroom).

## St. John Paul II AFC hosts annual Quinceañera Retreat



**GLENCOE** – A Quinceañera Retreat sponsored by the Diocese of New Ulm Office of Hispanic Ministry was held on March 18 in Glencoe. The annual retreat, led by Elvia Peña, the coordinator for Hispanic Ministry for the St. John Paul II Area Faith Community (Glencoe, Silver Lake, and Winsted), prepared parents and girls for quinceañeras, the predominantly Mexican and Central American equivalent of a Sweet 16. Quinceañeras celebrate a young girl’s 15th birthday and her transition from childhood to adulthood. The celebration typically involves a Mass followed by a party.

## DCCW partners with Handmaids to offer a day of reflection, prayer, talks, and fellowship

by Jackie Finstad  
NUDCCW president

The Council of Catholic Women is organized in such a way that it reflects, to a large degree, the hierarchy of the universal Church. Starting at the grassroots level and working up, the chain goes up in geographical increments as follows: the parish is part of the deanery, the deaneries make up the diocese, the diocese becomes a unit of the province, and the province becomes a segment of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) which is an affiliate of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO).

Our parish CCWs are essential components in this worldwide organization of women's groups, bringing women together in a common mission – informing and educating through meetings, gatherings, and conventions to prepare members to serve the Church spiritually and physically. Working up and down the various organizational levels provides women the ability to engage similarly, yet differentiate based on cultural norms, while sharing in the needs of the Church and society.

The New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women recently partnered with the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus, a New Ulm-



On Feb. 18, 2023, the New Ulm DCCW and the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus offered a Women's Day of Reflection held in New Ulm. One of the day's presenters was Sr. Cora Marie who spoke on prayer.

(Photo by Jackie Finstad)

based community of women religious, to offer a Women's Day of Reflection.

In February, 32 women from around the diocese gathered in New Ulm for a day of talks, prayer, Mass, and fellowship. The enthusiastic, positive response to this event was immensely encouraging, and the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women look to continue to offer opportunities for women to grow in their relationship with the Lord and are actively looking at future dates for additional retreat weekends and days of reflection.

### Outstanding leadership!

For some leaders in the Council, their service time has come to an end. A sincere, heartfelt thank you

to our outgoing board members: Jane Imker, treasurer and Tracy Meyer, spirituality. These women have been a tremendous blessing to our NUDCCW Board. Each of you will be greatly missed!

### Save the dates:

May 23 – NUDCCW Leadership Training at St. Catherine's, Redwood Falls.

Aug. 24-26 – National CCW Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. The theme is Path of Renewed Encounter. Find more information at [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org).

*Editor's note: The annual NUDCCW Convention was held in April. Watch for coverage in the June Prairie Catholic.*

## Council of Catholic Women: Pass it on!

by Tiffany Hoffmann  
NUDCCW Leadership Commission

St. Francis of Assisi said, "For it is in giving that we receive."

As women, for the most part, our instinct is to care for others, whether it be their physical, emotional, social, or spiritual needs. Through involvement in the Council of Catholic Women (CCW), many opportunities are presented to its members to carry out this task outside the home.

In my experience, many women are accustomed to putting their needs last to fulfill the needs of others first, rarely asking what they will receive in return for their good works. But have you ever asked yourself what your parish or diocesan CCW does for you?



### Living out our faith life

The Council of Catholic Women offers spiritual strengthening and renewal through presentations at meetings, gatherings, and conventions. It positively impacts others, especially through Council

leadership roles, allowing women to grow in faith while encouraging others to do the same. The organization provides the satisfaction of knowing we are making a difference locally, nationally, and globally.

By participating in the Council of Catholic Women, you will experience the joy of fellowship, meeting new friends, making new connections, and forming fruitful relationships. Are you receiving these benefits from your parish or diocesan Council?

Consider helping your parish CCW promote their good works and the many wonderful benefits active members receive in return.

## Mary, the model for motherhood in joy & sorrow

by Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M.  
*The Christophers News Note*

This year, Mother's Day falls on Sunday, May 14, just one day after the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Together, these two days make up a special weekend in this month already dedicated to our Blessed Mother. It is fitting that our celebrations of motherhood and Mary coincide because she is the guardian of mothers in this world. Mary is the model for motherhood in both joy and sorrow, and she shows the way of mercy at all times.

The story of Mary standing at the foot of the cross resonates with mothers in their deepest moments of suffering. When Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, behold, your son!" He was entrusting her to the care of John. He followed that by saying to John, "Behold, your mother!" So, He was entrusting John to her care as well, and by extension, He was entrusting us all to Mary's care.

The numerous and well-documented Marian apparitions that have occurred over the years confirm Mary's role as mother to us all and her profound connection to God. Credible Marian apparitions have occurred in many cultures at important moments in history, and the apparitions at Fatima remain among the most astounding.

Mary's final apparition at Fatima made international news, and it was reported that somewhere between 30,000 and 100,000 people made pilgrimages to the *Cova da Iria*, a field where Lucia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto pastured their families' sheep. There, the pilgrims witnessed Mary's promised sign as the sun broke through dark rain clouds and defied the laws of physics, dancing in the sky and, at one point, appearing to fall to earth before finally returning to its normal position, leaving the ground the people were standing on and their previously wet clothes completely dry.

In her appearances to Lucia, Francesco, and Jacinta, Mary

asked for prayers, reparations, and devotion to her Immaculate Heart, and she made statements about war and peace that proved prophetic throughout the 20th century. At every turn, her intervention at Fatima was marked by a profound care for humanity and the hope that we would follow Christ and discover the Mercy of God.

Mary's role as the mother of Jesus is the lens through which to understand why she is such a powerful intercessor for us. Consider the story of the Wedding at Cana, when Jesus turned water into wine at his mother's request. Midway through the gathering, she said to him, "They have no wine," and Jesus answered, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." At this point, Mary turned to the servants and said, "Do whatever he tells you."

What amazing confidence Mary had that Jesus would do as she asked even after he expressed displeasure at the request. This is the type of confidence we should have in asking for Mary's intercession because she will always bring our needs to the foot of the cross where all good things have been made possible in Christ.

In his actions at the Wedding at Cana, Jesus demonstrates the tremendous loyalty and respect we all owe to our mothers, who walk in the footsteps of Mary in the countless selfless acts they perform on our behalf. We should turn to the intercession of Mary to ask Christ to bless us with the same devotion to our mothers that he showed to his, so we can honor them this Mother's Day and throughout our lives.

*Editor's note: Fr. Ed Dougherty serves on the Christophers' board of directors. For a free copy of the Christopher News Note write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004 or e-mail: [mail@christophers.org](mailto:mail@christophers.org)*

# Ask a Canon Lawyer



by Fr. Mark Steffl, STL, JCL

The Code of Canon Law has 101 different “canons” or points of instruction regarding the Holy Eucharist. These relate to different aspects of our relationship as Catholics to the Holy Eucharist, such as:

- The Celebration of the Eucharist,
- The Minister of the Blessed Eucharist,
- Participation in the Blessed Eucharist,
- The rites and ceremonies of the Eucharistic celebration,
- The time and place of the Eucharistic celebration,
- The reservation and veneration of the Blessed Eucharist,
- The offering made for the celebration of Mass.

Two canons (*see inset*) introduce the theology of the Holy Eucharist.

## This month’s question:

What does Church Law say about reverence toward the Holy Eucharist?

The first of these speaks about how the Eucharist is a sacrifice: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ himself on the cross, to which we are able to unite ourselves. The canon quotes the documents of the Second Vatican Council, which refer to the Eucharist as the “source and summit” of all worship and the Christian life.

The Eucharist is described as the sacrament that unites us to Christ and each other, and everything the Church is, does, and hopes to accomplish in the name of Jesus Christ is united to the Holy Eucharist. Our identities as members of the Church unite us to the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and to each other.

Canon 898 speaks about how the members of the Church are to honor and revere the Holy Eucharist in practical and concrete ways: to be present at the Mass, and to receive the Holy Eucharist as often as one possibly can and with the greatest reverence and worship of the Risen Lord Jesus who is made present to us.

It also reminds “pastors of souls” (i.e., priests and bishops) of their responsibility to often speak and teach on the Eucharist and the great love and devotion with which we are to receive it.

As with anything we repeatedly do, it is very easy to become “rote” in receiving Holy Communion. We are fortunate that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is promoting a “Eucharistic Renewal” – reminding us of the great gift and treasure of the Holy Eucharist to our life of faith.

We are always to receive the Holy Eucharist as worthily as possible: free of mortal sin, and as free of all other sins as possible. Thinking back to when we made our First Communion (for many of us as young children), this is why we first made a sacramental confession of our sins: we should always connect these two sacraments in their importance.

The canon also reminds us that we should make time to worship and adore the Blessed Sacrament

*Canon 897* The most august sacrament is the Most Holy Eucharist in which Christ the Lord himself is contained, offered, and received and by which the Church continually lives and grows. The Eucharistic sacrifice, the memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord, in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated through the ages, is the summit and source of all worship and Christian life, which signifies and affects the unity of the People of God and brings about the building up of the body of Christ. Indeed, the other sacraments and all the ecclesiastical works of the apostolate are closely connected with the Most Holy Eucharist and ordered to it.

*Canon 898* The Christian faithful are to hold the Most Holy Eucharist in highest honor, taking an active part in the celebration of the most august sacrifice, receiving this sacrament most devoutly and frequently, and worshiping it with the highest adoration. In explaining the doctrine about this sacrament, pastors of souls are to teach the faithful diligently about this obligation.

in a deliberate way. Eucharistic Adoration (spending time before the Lord, present in a manner unlike any other way that the Lord is present to us) reminds us that the Lord Jesus promised to be with His Church and us always, and this is preeminently accomplished in the Holy Eucharist.

Over the last 2000 years, many saints have lived a great love, reverence, and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. One that is particularly poignant in her simplicity but great love is St. Thérèse of Lisieux, who said, “Go often to Holy Communion.

Go very often! This is your one remedy.”

**Next issue: What preparation is required to receive the sacraments? Do requirements vary between different parishes?**

If you have a question regarding canon law, email *The Prairie Catholic*, [cclancy@dnu.org](mailto:cclancy@dnu.org).

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

## MN bishops meet with lawmakers, advocate for policies that put families first



It is no question that the family plays an irreplaceable role as the first economic unit, the first classroom, and the first community that each of us experiences. And parents perform the irreplaceable work of nurturing the next generation of thinkers, artisans, and caregivers. As the Minnesota legislature crafts the next biennial state budget, deciding what to do with a 17-billion-dollar surplus, the state’s Catholic bishops are urging lawmakers to place families first in their considerations.

### Bishops at the Capitol

On March 23, 2023, the Minnesota bishops advocated at the State

Capitol. While Minnesota Catholic Conference staff are typically deployed to be their voice on legislative issues, the bishops make it a priority annually to advocate in person on key issues and to get to know legislators.

This year, they all met with Gov. Tim Walz and legislative leadership. They also met with Catholic legislators from their individual dioceses, something they found to be a rewarding experience. In total, the bishops had nearly 40 meetings and conversations with legislators throughout the day.

### Focus on families

The bishops highlighted the need to support Minnesota families who are struggling to try and keep up with the costs of inflation, and to combat the social difficulties families are encountering through, addiction, gender ideology, and social media. They boldly advocated for a robust, ongoing,



During a visit to the State Capitol in March, New Ulm’s bishop, Chad W. Zielinski, met with Senator Nick Frentz, a member of the Democratic–Farmer–Labor Party (DFL), representing District 19 in south-central Minnesota. *(Photo submitted)*

Child Tax Credit - a top priority for the Minnesota Catholic Conference. This session, there is bipartisan support for the idea of a Child Tax Credit amongst legislators and the Governor. The bishops are asking for the Child

Tax Credit proposal to reach more families who are facing financial stressors in today’s economy. That means, amongst other factors, that the income threshold should reach into the middle class, and that there should be no cap on the

number of children covered in a family.

Parents today are bombarded with the often-negative impact that social media is creating. The bishops advocated to prohibit the use of social media algorithms on children under 18 (H.F. 1503 / S.F. 2101), sharing first-hand stories from their pastoral experiences of helping families navigate the psychological strain that social media is having on the youth in their dioceses. As the bishops pointed out, it is often through social media, that seeds of gender theory are planted, fertilized, and start to grow.

By embracing gender ideology, today’s culture aims to blur the line between man and woman by ignoring the union between body and soul, and between our Creator and His creation. This ideology leads to viewing humans

*(Continued on page 11.)*

## COR Night presenter: “Trust in God’s plan for your life”

by Gabrielle Osborne  
Prairie Catholic correspondent

**OLIVIA** – Kristen Soley wanted to give God everything. “I knew that some saints were willing to suffer and die for God and that he gave them the grace to do that,” she said. So, she told God, “I’d be willing to suffer and even die if it meant other souls could be closer to you.” As she said this prayer, she thought of someone specifically who was living diametrically opposed to the Faith, and she followed up her prayer with, “For this one soul, I told Him I’d do whatever it’d take...”

This was the thrust of the message Soley spoke to the youth gathered at COR Night on Feb. 26, 2023, at St. Aloysius in Olivia. Soley, a wife, mother of seven, and teacher at Holy Trinity in Winsted, was the keynote speaker at the event.

“Kristen’s message is a difficult, but important one: trust in God’s plan for your life, whatever that may be,” said Kevin Losleben, director of the diocesan office of

Youth and Young Adult Ministry, which hosts the event along with the COR team made up of youth from around the diocese.

“I trusted God and he took me up on this offer,” Soley continued. “But he is a gentleman. He is so good. He spent the next five years preparing me to suffer, to trust him completely. He gave me clues in prayer to strengthen me for the trials.”

Soley kept a journal, and she recounts one experience which prepared her for the suffering she was about to endure. In this experience, St. Claude de la Colombiere (spiritual director to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque) told her, “Regarding your prayers in your journal, it’s time.” Soley responded like Mary: “God, your will be done.”

But, like Mary, she was honest with God and acknowledged that it would be scary. She had a family, but if it meant that she could help their souls get to Heaven through



Kristen Soley  
COR night presenter

whatever suffering was to come, she trusted him because, “it was his plan anyway!”

In another experience, Soley saw an image of Jesus smiling as he took up his cross and felt God desiring that same joy for her which came through obedience to God’s will. Jesus assured her that, like an athlete’s muscles, her spiritual muscles would be built up through the trials that God sent her.

Things became more concrete when a friend prayed with Soley and her friend said, “You’re not dying, you’re dying to yourself. Let go and die to yourself every day.” Shortly after praying with her friend, Soley found out that she had cancer. But because she had been praying – and God had been preparing her through her prayer – what could have easily been a long season of fear, doubt, and confusion, quickly turned to one of joy, grace, and spiritual fruit.

Regular conversations with Jesus – who himself endured the worst pain imaginable out of love – led Soley to a radical disposition to suffer happily, even to die, if it was God’s will.

Many students at COR Night were blown away by the peace and joy, and even gratitude, Kristin had through her cancer journey. “I thought she was very real, and it was cool how much of an impact her story had on so many people,” said one student.

Another student described how fruitful it was to discuss the talk with her peers afterwards during the time set aside for small group discussion following the talk.

One youth group discussed how it was cool to hear her life story, as she was simply a mom within our diocese, “not just some big, random person.” Saints are living in our midst!

Soley shared that “as I grew closer to Christ, I wanted other people to have that privilege as well, because growing close to Jesus is transformative.” Indeed, just as the Apostles were witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus and thus spread the gospel throughout the whole world, Soley’s message may also spread throughout the diocese, the state, and perhaps even the whole world! Holiness is for everyone and can sometimes come through the most unexpected means. For Kristen Soley, God used cancer to bring about her sanctification and the sanctification of those around her.

## MN bishops advocate at state capitol

(Continued from page 10.)

as plastic, something that can be molded and reimagined at ease. Inundating youth with such gender ideology implants in them a confusion, on which some act and mutilate their bodies, causing irreversible damage. The bishops asked the governor and legislative leaders to re-think their push to make Minnesota a sanctuary state for “gender-affirming care” and to slow down the legislation that is being fast-tracked through the legislature. The bishops also expressed their opposition to and concerns over legalizing recreational marijuana and sports gambling due to the clear negative impacts these vices will have on those who are vulnerable to addiction.

The bishops also gave their support to the Earned Sick and Safe Time proposal which would provide workers the ability to earn one hour of time off for every 30 hours worked. This is vital to family life because illness in one’s life or family is inevitable. Caring for newborns, children, the sick,

and the elderly (and being cared for ourselves) is an integral part of family life that must be respected and promoted.

Unfortunately, many working people are forced to make impossible financial choices between caring for themselves or a loved one and missing a paycheck or even getting fired. This program is one more way we can put families first in Minnesota.

Lawmakers provided positive feedback to the bishops for their strong support over the years for providing an immigrant driver’s license. With access to a driver’s license not only can our immigrant brothers and sisters now access vehicle insurance, but it also most importantly helps ensure families will not be separated through deportation due to driving without a license.

### Modeling faithful citizenship

During all of their meetings, the bishops modeled faithful citizenship. Even in areas of disagreement, the bishops stood for the truth that the Church

teaches, while recognizing that these are difficult issues on which there are an array of considerations. They showcased the principled, not partisan, advocacy that the Church can provide, which allows for collaborative work on both sides of the aisle.

Consider living out your faithful citizenship by taking action on these important issues that will impact families across Minnesota. Visit the [MNCatholic.org/ActionAlerts](http://MNCatholic.org/ActionAlerts) to easily send a message, video, or phone call to your legislators urging their support for policies that put families first.

For more ways to advocate for policies that put families first, check out the Families First Project at [www.FamiliesFirstProject.com](http://www.FamiliesFirstProject.com) where you can find draft legislation to propose to your legislators and resources for a variety of policy proposals.

## God loves a cheerful giver!

by Bishop Chad Zielinski

As we gathered to celebrate the third Sunday of Easter, we heard the beautiful story of Jesus encountering the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. They were headed in the opposite direction of Jerusalem, where Christ suffered, died, and rose from the dead. Jesus turned, walked with them, and explained the scriptures, and in the breaking of the bread, their eyes were opened, and he vanished. They reflected: “Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?” (*Luke 24:32*).

This same encounter of the Risen Christ happens to us at the celebration of every Mass. Like the disciples, may we, with our hearts burning with the Good News within us, run forth with joy as missionary disciples.

I thank all of you, good people of God, for being so generous in sharing the outpouring of God’s abundant joy and love through your talents, resources, and time. God has given each one of us the most unique gifts and abilities, which overflow in great generosity with radiant joy. God bless you, and thank you for being such a generous giver in the Risen Christ.



For information about the DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL  
visit [www.dnu.org/dma](http://www.dnu.org/dma)



# catholic trends

## ST. PAUL – The Cathedral of St. Paul was filled to capacity



as Bishop-elect Michael J. Izen was ordained auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

A native of Fairmont, Minn., Bishop Izen was born on Jan. 12, 1967. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 28, 2005, by Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, as part of a relatively large ordination class of 15. Bishop

Izen has served as a priest in the archdiocese for the past 18 years. Pope Francis named him an auxiliary bishop on Jan. 5, 2023.

**WASHINGTON – On April 19, 2023, the U.S. Senate** voted 51 to 48 to reject a Congressional Review Act resolution that would overturn an interim final rule from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) which added abortion to veterans’ and dependents’ health benefits packages. In response, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and

president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued the following joint statement:

“It is a gross failure that the Senate did not pass this lifesaving resolution. Our heroes and their dependents deserve quality health care services, instead of policies to end the lives of their own children. Many veterans face tremendous life challenges, especially as the active duty experience too often involves significant mental health traumas and can be followed by a difficult readjustment to civilian life. It is inhumane to provide fully taxpayer-funded abortion (which itself can increase mental health risks) as a so-called solution to pregnancy, instead of resources needed to welcome a child and flourish as a family. We continue to urge Congress to prevent implementation of this harmful policy, and to provide instead real support for our military veterans and their loved ones.”

A joint letter to Congress from Archbishop Broglio and Bishop Burbidge on the Department of Defense’s and the VA’s abortion

policies can be read at [www.usccb.org/resources/Letter\\_DOD\\_VA\\_Policies.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/resources/Letter_DOD_VA_Policies.pdf)

**ROME –The Papal Foundation, a U.S.-based organization that** provides funding for Catholic projects around the world, was in Rome April 18-22 for its annual pilgrimage and meeting with Pope Francis. The foundation was founded 35 years ago in response to a wish from St. John Paul II to help meet the needs of the poor.

Stewards to the foundation donate their personal money to support projects specifically identified and requested by the pope, who is made aware of needs through his nuncios, or ambassadors, around

the world. The Papal Foundation examined the 141 requests for 2023 and will give the Vatican \$9.5 million to fund 114 grants in 57 countries. The foundation will also provide approximately \$4.8 million in scholarships and humanitarian aid in 2023.

“The foundation really looks for projects to fund in developing countries so that we can reach the most vulnerable and the poorest,” said Dave Savage, the foundation’s executive director.

For more information about the Papal Foundation visit [www.thepapalfoundation.org](http://www.thepapalfoundation.org).

## MARIAN ROSARY PROCESSION led by Bishop Chad W. Zielinski

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

7 P.M.

IN SLEEPY EYE

Procession begins at Schoenstatt Shrine and ends with Eucharistic Adoration, Marian hymns, and Benediction at the Church of St. Mary.

*Shuttle available from the church.*