



THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD

**Immaculata
House offers
women space**
to encounter Jesus

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

PAGE 4

**2023-2024
Necrology**
of the Diocese of
Sioux Falls

NECROLOGY

PAGE 14

Give your spouse
space for their own
faith journey

MARRIAGE MATTERS

PAGE 24

Ask the master to send laborers for his harvest

Bishop Donald E. DeGrood
Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Sioux Falls



I remember so clearly the deep impact my first Communion had upon me. I knew it was something sacred that was happening. With the reception within, it brought joy and peace.

Shortly after that, I was asked to start serving Mass. I remember being close to the altar, present to what was happening on it, and there was a deep stirring within my heart of the incredible gifts of the sacred. The humble country parish priest, Father Francis Pouliot, was such a beautiful inspiration to me, just being a humble and kindly shepherd to his flock.

When he would celebrate Mass, the sacred became so evident. God was stirring within my heart the desire to be set aside for the sacred. Little did I know at that age exactly what that meant. I would later come to discover that God was calling me to be a priest.

I remember, as well, all the obstacles that were in the way for me. Certainly my own sense of inadequacy, the fear of what I would be asked to do, and how the evil one worked hard on me to fill me with fear: fear of stepping forward and presenting myself to the Church for the discernment of holy priesthood. But there were great prayer warriors in my family and in my parish and beyond.

Perhaps they saw the same thing happening within my heart, and I have

zero doubt that it was God's grace and the fervent prayers of the good people of God who came to know me, that God was so gracious and kind to me, even as I resisted responding to the call of priesthood.

We hear in Matthew's Gospel that at the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them, because they were troubled and abandoned like sheep without a shepherd. And the exact same is true today. People are filled with worry, fear and confusion and are distraught by what's happening in the world, in our country and sometimes even within our Church. So what is Jesus' response? He said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Mt 9:37-38).

My brothers and sisters, what's needed in the Church today is fervent prayers from all of us that God will send holy vocations to the priesthood, the consecrated life and to the diaconate. It's hard in today's world to discern a vocation because there are so many distractions, temptations and many opportunities for other things. The evil one does not want more priests, deacons and consecrated sisters, brothers or consecrated virgins. And yet, the remedy, as Jesus knew back then, is the same today—yes to God is yes to happiness for ourselves and others.

The remedy is those who are willing to give their life in service of the sanctification of others. If only I would have known what an incredible gift it is to be a priest, and now to be a bishop. As I look back, I would not have been so reticent. I realize now that the reticence was my own humanity, my own frailty and the work of the evil one to keep me from wanting to die to myself and to lay down my life and love for the service of the salvation of souls.

Looking back, if I had to do it all over again, I would have said yes, a fervent and strong yes. I cannot adequately describe what an incredible gift it is when the sacred enters into one through Holy Orders. I remember that experience as a deacon, that radical transformation, not unlike in Confirmation, that happened from within me that brought joy and peace.

Little did I know what an incredible gift it would be to baptize babies, adults and teach those in Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults classes, to be able to give first Communion, to hear the confessions of souls who are striving to get their life in right order with God. What an incredible gift it is to see the sanctity of a holy marriage, to be the celebrant. What a gift to be the one at the deathbed of souls in their last moments before God calls them home.

God has made it clear to us through the Gospel that we are to beg the Father to ask for an abundance of laborers for the service of the salvation of souls. Let us pray that God will give those who are being called to be a priest, a consecrated sister or brother, a deacon or a consecrated virgin to have the courage to present themselves to the Church for the discernment of God's holy will, for that which is sacred and holy.

God will not leave us abandoned or troubled. Rather, he wants more souls to serve in the sacred offices and the sacred call of salvation of souls. Let's pray for that gift so that God may continue to send many for the harvest.

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

- 2 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph*
- 3 4:00 Mass celebrating the 125th anniversary of St. William Parish, Ramona
- 4 11:00 Diocesan Pastoral Council, Catholic Pastoral Center
- 5 4:30 Operation Andrew Dinner, St. Pius XII Newman Center, Brookings
- 7 Catholic Community Foundation board meeting, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 9 10:00 Confirmation for St. Martin of Tours Pastorate, St. Benedict Parish, Yankton
- 9 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph*
- 10 - 14 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Baltimore, Maryland
- 16 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph*
- 21 11:00 Priest Council, Catholic Pastoral Center
- 22 8:45 St. Agnes Catholic School Mass, Vermillion
- 23 5:00 Mass in the Pastorate of the Holy Angels, TBD
- 24 8:30 Mass at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Dakota Dunes
2:00 Confirmation for Pastorate of the Holy Angels at St. Peter Parish, Jefferson
- 25 6:00 Operation Andrew Dinner, St. Thomas More Newman Center at USD, Vermillion

*Broadcast on Keloland TV or livestream via sfcatholic.org

Inside November 2024

4 MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP
Immaculata House offers women space to encounter Jesus

8 COVER STORY
Seeking the face of God



12 GUEST COLUMN
Limbo: What are we to believe?

13 NECROLOGY OF THE DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

22 DOES THE CHURCH HAVE AN ANSWER?
Christianity introduced the world to human dignity



24 MARRIAGE MATTERS
Give your spouse space for their own faith journey

26 FAMILY PRAYER
Teach your children the virtue of justice

29 CATHOLIC DATING 101
Overcoming the past to move forward in dating

31 DIOCESAN EVENTS

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Officials of the Diocese of Sioux Falls

As of Sept. 24, 2024:

The Most Reverend Donald E. DeGroot, upon receipt of the decree of excommunication issued by the Very Reverend Vien Nguyen, SCJ, provincial superior, decreed the incardination of Reverend Thi Pham as a priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Thad Pals, Chancellor



By *Laura Melius*

A desire to provide a loving and prayerful space to serve young women in discernment of their vocations was first placed in Sara Hofflander’s heart through prayer.

“I would receive an understanding of what this group would be like, how the Lord wanted to use it to impact young women, and an experience of his great love and delight in the work,” Sara, head of school for St. Joseph Academy, recalled.

Although she was hesitant at first to pursue this calling, Sara continued to feel God tugging at her heart to move forward. As she continued to pray, she began to experience a new and unexplained peace. “These times of prayer would leave me with a supernatural experience of peace and joy, even while at times I had my own personal fears to contend with.”

Still unsure whether to pursue the endeavor, Sara finally felt an unexpected, but clear call from God through an interaction with her daughter.

“One day, my young daughter came up to me with a Bible open to Ezekiel 3, and she asked me to read it,” she explained. “It described how the Lord was calling Ezekiel

to speak to his people, and that if he did not, then he would be responsible for their souls. That impacted me very strongly, and I began to reach out to people to brainstorm how this group could come into being.”

STEPPING FORWARD BOLDLY

Sara met with Bishop DeGrood to get his feedback and determine what the next steps would be. He fully encouraged the idea, and in the first year, he attended a retreat and suggested the living space that is now being used.

“Bishop has always been very encouraging,” Sara said, “and has at times confirmed how he sees the Holy Spirit moving through these young women. I am grateful for the ways that he has expressed the important value of feminine vocations in the life of the Church. He is also very good at encouraging in young people a disposition of deep receptivity and openness to God’s plan.”

Sara also talked with Father Jordan Samson, at Christ the King Parish in Sioux Falls at that time, who was also very supportive of the idea and having the house on the Christ the King Parish campus.

“He was grateful for the opportunity to have young women in that space who would be sharing a prayerful life,

growing in Catholic community and helping to build up the young adult ministries that are active on the Christ the King campus,” she said.

The diocesan Office of Discipleship and Evangelization reached out to offer support as well, and what had once seemed like a distant possibility came together rather quickly.

Immaculata House, a house of prayer for young women, opened in the fall of 2022 in Sioux Falls. On a practical level, the house provides a place for prayer, formation and fellowship. On a deeper level, Immaculata House provides an opportunity for greater intimacy with the Lord, interior freedom and a greater understanding of God’s particular calling for each of the women’s lives. Immaculata House asks for women to commit one year (9-12 months) to the Lord to grow both in relationship with him and with other young women in an authentic Catholic community. The option of a second year can be considered if it would be found to be beneficial in discernment.

Immaculata House is not a convent or a religious community. “The intent is to help young women to know the heart of Jesus and to discover that love in his plan for their life, whatever his plan may be. It is a temporary way of life that points outside of itself to something more,” Sara explained. She added that Immaculata House has some of the same structures associated with religious life, such as a shared morning holy hour, regular spiritual direction, meals together, formation and an encouragement toward holy hospitality and mission.

As the formation of the house was developed through prayer, its name was revealed through the same. During Mass on the Feast of Pentecost, Sara said she repeatedly, interiorly, heard the words “nirmal hriday.” At first dismissing these words as nonsense, Sara said she suddenly realized that Nirmal Hriday was the name of Mother Teresa’s first house, which means “pure heart.”

“I then realized that the ultimate goal of the house was to cultivate interior purity of heart that is capable of receiving from God. This is the disposition of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” she said.

Sara further explained that Immaculata is also a nod to the Mariology of St. Maximilian Kolbe, who referred to Mary as Immaculata to reflect her spousal relationship with the Holy Spirit. “He recognized that there are two Immaculate Conceptions, uncreated and created. The Holy Spirit is the uncreated Immaculate Conception proceeding eternally from the Father and the Son.”

LIVING IN DISCERNMENT

Initially, three women lived at the house, and the number has since fluctuated between three and four women living there at a time.

The women at Immaculata House begin their days with morning prayer together before the Blessed Sacrament each day at 6:30 a.m. All of them have jobs or school that they attend during the day, and they are encouraged to attend daily Mass. Meals are shared together on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Jacey Hilkemann, a former resident, lived at Immaculata House for one year. She was first introduced to the women of Immaculata House through events hosted by Christ the King Campus Ministry, now known as St. Patrick’s Newman Club, and Ecce Ancilla Domini, a Sioux Falls area women’s vocations discernment group that provides support and guidance to young women.

“When I attended events, such as sharing a meal with the School Sister of Christ the King of Lincoln, Nebraska, or the Fiat Dinner with so many other young women, I loved seeing how the women of the Immaculata House lived and interacted with each other, and that was so attractive to me,” she said.



Bishop DeGrood celebrates Mass at the Immaculata House on the Feast of the Annunciation.

Jacey applied and interviewed to live at Immaculata House during her last semester of college, as she was at the same time entering the workforce and preparing to move. “I just knew I wanted to take full advantage of living in intentional community, surrounding myself with good people, having a structure and order of life, and praying the Liturgy of the Hours. All of this together created a disposition to open myself up to receive all that the Lord wanted to give me, to live and be free,” she explained.

Courtney Holt, a current resident of Immaculata House, has lived there since January 2023, and she plans to continue for an additional year. As was the case with Jacey, Courtney was first made aware of Immaculata House through events hosted by *Ecce Ancilla Domini*. A recent college graduate, Courtney moved there seeking to make more time and space in her life for the Lord to speak about where he wanted to lead her. “I also desired to make more time for prayer each day, grow closer to Jesus, and get to know more of his love for me,” she added.

Courtney said she did not move into the house with any big expectations, but she was looking forward to having a community of women around her to support and encourage her in a life of prayer. “My heart was ready for whatever the Lord had planned for me during my time in the house,” she said.

CHALLENGES DO COME

Living at Immaculata House is not without its challenges. “It was hard to get up to pray in the morning sometimes,” Courtney said, referring to early morning prayer, “but it was always a joy to pray with others who encouraged me to stay faithful to the Lord.”

She was also often called to look beyond herself. “I’ve grown a lot during my time at Immaculata House because living in community invites me to go beyond my self-centeredness to serve my housemates. When I live alone, I am not given the opportunity to grow in love for my neighbor as Christ called us to do, ‘love one another as I have loved you,’” she explained.

Both women found that living in a faith-filled and like-minded group was invaluable in their discernment. “It was the first time since moving out of my parents’ house that I was living with women who were striving to do good and desired the same for me,” Jacey said. “It was evident how much each of the women I lived with, and those involved with the Immaculata House, cared about me and for me. Life would have been so much harder to manage if I didn’t have the habit of prayer and the accountability from these women. I never expected the



Mass is celebrated in the chapel of the Immaculata House during its first year.

incredible challenges and great gifts the Lord allowed through my ‘yes’ to him.”

Courtney added, “Living in community provided a lot of support in my discernment because the other women encouraged me to stay faithful to the Lord in prayer, which allowed me to be attentive to the desires the Lord had been stirring within my heart.”

Furthermore, the house gave the women the space and time to recognize their God-given gifts and abilities. “I was able to recognize what it is I enjoy doing, and what it is I am good at, and then put them into action to provide my time and talents to the Church,” Jacey said. “I was becoming more fully myself when I became more like Christ.”

The house’s spirit of hospitality leads the women to regularly host priests, propaedeutic seminarians, family, friends and college students at the house to share meals and fellowship. “Multiple times throughout the year, they have hosted religious orders,” Sara said. “For these events, they invite other young women from the local community, and



we share a meal, conversation and prayer together. Within a short amount of time, we were hosting events with religious orders that were drawing 20 or more women at a time.”

Courtney explained that each religious sister brought unique experiences to their home. “One of the sisters from the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth was on home visit, and so we invited her, and she shared her vocation story with us and about her community. We invited the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus to come and share with some women about their community and what religious life is. They taught me that life with God is full of joy and laughter. The Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George came to Sioux Falls because they were putting on an event for college students, and we were able to hang out and play games with the sisters.”

Jacey appreciated the opportunity to welcome all of their varied guests. “It felt like such an honor to share our feminine gifts to receive them, serve them, love them and make them feel welcome in our home,” she recalled.

A PLACE OF WELCOME

Immaculata House’s hospitality reaches outside of their home as well. The women regularly host combined events with the St. Patrick Newman Club, which is based out of Christ the King Parish. Additionally, two clothing swaps have been held at Immaculata House for area women in the past year.

“Women from surrounding colleges could bring their unwanted clothes to our house, and we would organize it into piles,” Courtney explained. Later that evening, the house was opened for women to come and choose clothing for themselves. Clothes that were not given away to these women were then donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store.

As they reflect on their time at Immaculata House, both Jacey and Courtney welcome prayers for all who are currently living and discerning their vocations at the house, that they may experience the deep love God has for each of them.

“I also ask that you pray for the young women across the diocese, and especially those within your own parish, that they may come to know God’s great love for them as his beloved daughters,” Jacey added.

Financial donations to help support events for area young women are also always welcomed and appreciated.

All young women who are currently in college or recent college graduates who would like to live with other Catholic women in community, prayer and formation are encouraged to consider applying to live at Immaculata House.

“Recognizing my desire and then actually saying, ‘yes,’ and making a decision to live at the Immaculata House is one of the greatest gifts that I will forever be thankful for,” Jacey said.

Looking toward what the future holds for Immaculata House, Sara continues to prayerfully seek God’s will in this mission. “In my prayer for Immaculata House, I have often received that this is a place where Jesus wants his heart to be known and loved. Ultimately, any goal tends toward that end.”

Laura Melius is a freelance writer and director of religious education at All Saints Parish in Mellette. She has a degree in English education and a certificate in Catholic catechesis.

LEARN MORE

For more information on religious life for young women, please visit *Ecce Ancilla Domini* at www.sfwomensdiscernment.org.

A work of reparative love...

SEEKING THE



An artist's rendering of the new chapel at the Carmelite Monastery in Alexandria

...in the heart of North America!

FACE OF GOD

By the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph Monastery, Alexandria, South Dakota

“**I**n paradisum deducant te angeli....” May the angels lead you into paradise.... For the first time in our 27 years on the prairie, we sang the committal antiphon for one of our own. Sister Teresa of the Child Jesus had passed away two days before on the 15th of June this year, and her funeral was drawing to a close as we accompanied her casket to the enclosure door.

For 70 years in Carmel and even before that, throughout her almost 90 years, she had sought the face of God. At that moment of committal, we sincerely prayed that the Beatific Vision in all its glory was hers.

Her journey began in 1953 when at 18, she left home in New Mexico to enter the Carmel of Guadalajara, Spain. In 2006, it brought her back to the U.S., where our Carmel here in Alexandria welcomed her, only nine years after Bishop Robert J. Carlson had received us to pray for the priests and faithful of his diocese, living and deceased. Sister Teresa walked the Camino (The Way of the Cross or Stations) 365 days a year, often before 5 a.m. lauds, even behind her walker until a month before her death. And knowing her love, prayers and sacrifices for our community and the Diocese of Sioux Falls, her walk with God continues on behalf of us all.

At the sixth station, Veronica's veil wiping the face of Jesus, did she pray that that same face would be imprinted on the souls of the living and revealed for all eternity to the souls

that had passed? For the greatest suffering of the souls in purgatory is not seeing the Face of God. We do not know, but when asked three weeks before her death if she had a message from her hospital room for the sisters, she said, “Keep loving and repairing.”

Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus as revealed to the Carmelite Sister Mary of St. Peter in 1844 had taken hold of our community, and Sister Teresa pointed to that as her legacy. This devotion aims at repairing the sins of idolatry, profanation and irreverence—blasphemies against the first three commandments of God, for which the Holy Face of Jesus continues to suffer indignities today.

Desiring others to join us in this reparation of offering God the face of his Son, thereby assuaging his just anger and obtaining mercy for sinners, is the primary reason we wish to dedicate our new chapel to Jesus’ Holy Face.

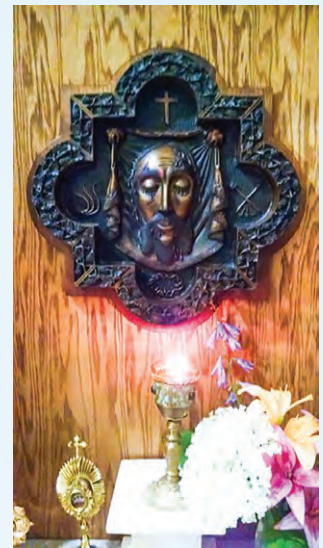
Called by our Lord “the most beautiful work under the sun,” the “honor of Carmel” (our mother foundress, St. Teresa of Avila in a vision to Sister St. Peter), “destined to save society” (Pope Pius IX), it is the mother, or the greatest of all, devotions because it is directed to God in

“Jesus, you are the star that leads me on; you know that your dear face is my heaven here below.”
– St. Therese



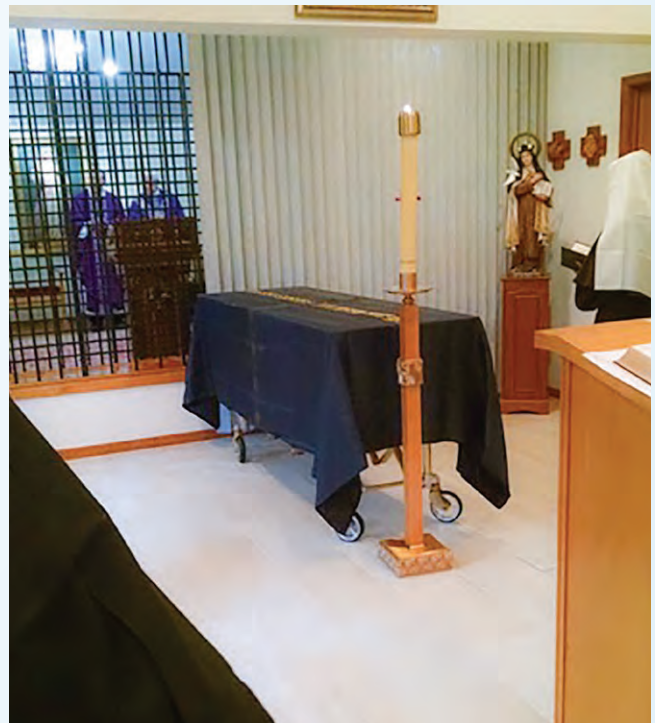
himself. It was the favorite devotion of St. Therese of Lisieux, who even added the title “Holy Face” to her religious name.

From her former Calced Carmelite National Shrine in Chicago, we rescued seven large beautiful stained-glass windows (8’ x 17’), which tell the history of Carmel, the life of our Lord and our Lady, and portray several saints in brilliant colors. These have been refurbished in the name of loved ones, and we seek others who will do the same for the construction we hope to begin in 2025, the centenary of the canonization of St. Therese.



“Lord, let us see your face and we shall be saved.”
(Ps 80)

With the Chapel of the Holy Face of Jesus and its incumbent sacristies as the focal point of the work, the expansion of our monastery will also include rooms required by our growing community: an enlarged nuns’ choir, nine cells, larger recreation room, library, applicant/visitor suite, resident chaplain’s quarters, dispensary and



Sister Teresa's wake and funeral.



Adoration (Sr. Teresa) at the Monastery at Christmas

infirmery. In fact, we actually turned our current guest room into an infirmery for Sister Teresa the last two weeks she was with us, enabling us to accompany her in her last hours.

But we could not accompany her to the grave; there was no room for the long-cherished cemetery within our present enclosure. How salutary it is to visit the grave of a loved one, not only during November, but year-round! TSP, Inc. architecture firm in Sioux Falls, working in conjunction with Notre Dame-trained church architect, William Heyer of Ohio, have additionally designed a beautiful place of rest for our sisters in our enlarged enclosure, opposite the majestic Chapel of the Holy Face.

For now, our dear Sister Teresa is interred in the church cemetery of St. Mary of Mercy in Alexandria, awaiting the day of transferal to ours. Meanwhile, we have asked her to

lead the souls in purgatory in rallying their loved ones and others here on earth to assist us in this cause for the greater honor of God. These holy and powerful “fundraisers” will have a fitting memorial in the sanctuary window across from the nuns’ choir.

Assured of their salvation, the holy souls in purgatory are also called “poor souls” because they cannot free themselves. A gift made in their memory will not only build the Chapel of the Holy Face of Jesus but will also lessen their pain and speed their entrance into heaven, where they will intercede for their benefactors before the face of God for all eternity. Our grateful prayers will accompany the same benefactors, as no doubt Sister Teresa’s will too, until you behold his face, the end of our journey!

As this article was being composed, we were presented with an image of Veronica’s veil that had been touched to the actual Veil of Veronica in Rome on June 17, 2024, the day of Sister Teresa’s funeral. Lord, shine your face upon your servant. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

“Our Lord has promised me that all those who defend his cause in this work of reparation...he will defend before his Father; at their death he will purify their souls by effacing all the blots of sin and will restore them to their primitive beauty.” – Sister Mary of St. Peter



Those interested in getting involved in or knowing more about raising the Chapel of the Holy Face of Jesus and the expansion of the monastery are encouraged to send their contact information (name, address, phone and email) to:

Discalced Carmelite Nuns
 Monastery of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph
 P.O. Box 67
 Alexandria, SD 57311

You may also send us your prayer requests or call 605-239-4382. May God bless, Mary keep and St. Joseph protect you and yours for your goodness to us!

“Here in Carmel, there is nothing, nothing but God. He is all, he suffices, and one lives for him alone and for his glory...in this life of prayer and contemplation, interceding always for his people before the face of God.”

– St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

HE IS STABLE

A Night for Grieving Hearts to Find Rest in His Peace

Offered in two locations

Tuesday, December 3rd from 6:30-8:00pm

St. Therese Catholic Church, Sioux Falls

Featured Presenters:

Father Kevin O'Dell and Rob McCoy

And

Tuesday, December 10th from 6:30-8:00pm

Immaculate Conception Parish, Watertown, SD

Featured Presenters:

Father John Lantsberger and Amber Kolousek



THE LOURDES CENTER

Each evening will include presentations about finding the light of Christ in the midst of grief.

Warm your heart and soul with a candlelit ceremony, cookies, cider and the anticipation of Christmas.

MORE INFORMATION
OR TO SIGN UP



www.thelourdescenter.com



UPCOMING RETREATS

SILENT RETREATS

Men's Silent Retreats

January 16-19, 2025

February 6-9, 2025

June 19-22, 2025

Women's Silent Retreats

February 20-23, 2025

March 27-30, 2025

June 26-29, 2025

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Broom Tree Days of Recollection begin at 10 a.m. and consist of conferences, time for Adoration, Mass, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day ends in mid-afternoon. Because lunch is also served, we ask that you please register. A prayerful donation is requested.

November 12, 2024

Be Transformed by the Renewal of your Mind: Head, Heart & Holiness
-Directed by Dr. Chris Burgwald with Father Tom Anderson

December 10, 2024

Living in the Tension

-Directed by Father James Mason

SPECIAL RETREATS

Healing Retreats

2025 date coming soon

Couples Retreat

March 7-9, 2025

123 Saint Raphael Circle, Irene, SD 57037
605-263-1040 | broomtree@sfcatholic.org

REGISTER FOR
RETREATS ONLINE

broom-tree.org

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and Confidence



BISHOP
O'GORMAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



CULTIVATING A FUTURE WHERE FAITH, LOVE, AND SAFETY CONVERGE
TO EMPOWER YOUR CHILD ON THEIR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

Limbo: What are we to believe?

An excerpt from “*Death and Afterlife in the Bible and the Church: Developing Traditions in History and our Final Hope*” by Father Michael Wensing

Limbo has been defined historically as that state of happiness in the afterlife enjoyed apart from the beatific vision of heaven. There is no Church dogma on limbo (though it will forever remain a popular cliché in the English language for a kind of immobile in-between state of existence). The new Catechism of the Catholic Church does not even mention it. It was never taught, even if proposed, as a matter of faith and morals.

A popular kind of catechesis and theological proposal arose out of the medieval discussions concerning the possible state of happiness of the innocent unbaptized or the just person of good conscience who died not knowing Christ or being baptized in Christ, which was deemed necessary for salvation as reflected in John 3. Surely God would be merciful to such people, such as the thinking and, somehow, they should fit under God’s will of universal salvation for his human creatures.

It was proposed that such poor souls would have an eternity of natural happiness, but without the vision of God. Many a child grew up learning about limbo in their religious education classes. However, in the last century, the Scriptures have come to be understood to show that any eternal happiness would require union with God and beholding his “face,” a popular biblical image for happiness.

It is natural that the Lover and the beloved need to behold one another in any eternal bond of union. We can trace some confusion arising because of the historical status of occasional early writings in Christianity about the “limbo of the fathers.” For instance, this term was used by the early Church Father Clement of Alexandria (ca. 159-215 A.D.) who maintained that it was not right that these (the righteous who lived and died before Christ) should be condemned without trial, and that those alone who lived after the coming of Christ should have the advantage of the divine righteousness.

Jesus’ descent to the dead after his crucifixion as reflected in 1 Peter 3:19 and Ephesians 4:8-9 were used as primary Scriptures in these writings. Luke 16:22 speaks of the “bosom of Abraham,” which both the Western Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church, following early Christian writers, understood as a temporary state of souls awaiting entrance into heaven. The “limbo of the fathers” included humankind all the way back to and inclusive of Adam and Eve. These two were never proclaimed saints (those canonized) by the Western Church, but the eastern Orthodox did proclaim them

saved and even have a feast day in their honor on December 24.

From the early Church, an ancient homily is still read each year in the Western Church, as well as in the office of reading for Holy Saturday while keeping vigil for Easter. It speaks about the descent of Jesus to the dead, to the faithful dead, and he searches for and finds the first parent and speaks to him (the second Adam speaks to the first Adam). In an early sermon by St. Ephrem the deacon we read, “after his death he came upon Eve.” Thus, one can imagine why it is held that they and many of their descendants were invited to the gates of paradise, which had been opened by Jesus’ crucifixion and death.

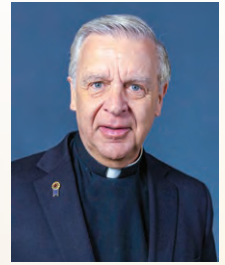
The “limbo of the fathers” was not imagined as a permanent state as was the later development in popular catechesis about the limbo of infants and others. There is no doctrine or early tradition about the limbo of infants. However, at some later time, medieval theologians said that the limbo of infants (*limbus infantium* or *limbus puerorum*) is the hypothetical permanent status of the unbaptized who die in infancy, too young to have committed actual sins, but not having been freed from original sin. Such theologians were confronting the necessity to come to faith in Jesus Christ and being born again and baptized to be saved, and this kind of limbo became a popular teaching for a number of centuries.

Part of putting limbo behind us in the last century was influenced by further reflection on the so-called “baptism in blood” or “baptism of desire” being extended to the innocent young ones or to righteous adults of good conscience. The Church has the long tradition of celebrating the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, murdered by Herod, children two years down to infancy who were never baptized. Their blood in death on account of the Christ child was seen as a supreme example of their own spiritual baptism in blood.

Thus, today, funerals for unbaptized children in the church tend to be more joyful and hopeful in celebrating Divine Providence caring for the innocent ones. Even the custom of burying the unbaptized outside of the consecrated ground of a church cemetery or in a special designated area for such deaths is no longer a custom. Hope commands the day, hope in the infinite mercy of God, and hope in what might have been otherwise in a person unbaptized if all the obstacles to knowing Christ had been removed. For “[God our savior] wills everyone to be saved to come to knowledge of the truth” (1 Tm 2:4).

INTERESTED IN READING MORE?

Father Michael Wensing’s book, “*Death and Afterlife in the Bible and the Church: Developing Traditions in History and our Final Hope*,” is available on Amazon.



Father Michael Wensing is a senior priest in our diocese. He holds a licentiate in Sacred Theology.

2023-
2024

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Necrology

OF THE DIOCESE
OF SIOUX FALLS

Aberdeen, Presentation Heights

Sr. Eileen Ford- Oct. 21; Sr. Janice Klein- Feb. 12; Sr. Janice Mengershauser- Mar. 18; Sr. Consuelo Covarrubias- Mar. 28

Aberdeen, Sacred Heart

Jean Weber- Sept. 3; Ann Enger- Sept. 12; Virginia Russell- Oct. 5; Judy Hornaman- Oct. 5; Marilyn Finley- Oct. 7; Margaret Guhin- Oct. 8; Cade Hanson- Oct. 19; Geraldine Schmidt- Nov. 10; Kathleen Pfeifer- Nov. 18; James Ullrich- Nov. 21; Ron Rivett- Dec. 9; Melvin Geffre- Dec. 15; Robert Coyle- Jan. 1; Francis Herman- Jan. 3; Roberta Perman- Jan. 6; Betty Sanders- Jan. 24; Katheryn Ellingson- Jan. 24; Susan King Schutz- Mar. 7; Evelyn Hagen- Mar. 9; Rosemary Bain Calvin- Apr. 10; Travis Rux- Jun. 12; Robert Gruman- Jul. 7; Lawrence Arneson- Jul. 11; John Cowles- Aug. 6; Dennis Goebel- Aug. 7; Thomas Bunt- Aug. 23; Ralph Peterson- Aug. 30

Aberdeen, St. Mary

Beverly Roth- Sept. 15; Doris Patten- Sept. 15; Erv Wagner- Sept. 24; Kari Murtagh- Oct. 14; Emily Buttar- Oct. 17; Joan Sahli- Oct. 17; Mabel Jacob- Oct. 18; Jean Rosebrock- Nov. 27; Connie Kaup- Dec. 4; Bill Streifel- Dec. 9; Marjorie Campbell- Dec. 12; Charlie Murano- Dec. 16; Patricia Waltman- Dec. 20; Helen Lesnar- Dec. 27; Charyl Zacher- Jan. 9; Gerald Biegler- Feb. 11; George Imbery- Mar. 14; Tillie Mehlhaff- May 7; Frances Lux- May 12; Kenneth Miller- May 16; Gertrude McBurney- May 21; Sharon Nikolas- May 28; James Kaiser- Jun. 5; Marjorie Vogel- Aug. 26

Aberdeen, St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center

No deaths recorded.

Alexandria, St. Mary of Mercy

Delores Peterson- Mar. 21

Alexandria, Monastery of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph

Sr. Teresa of the Child Jesus- Jun. 15

Arlington, St. John

Dennis Dorn- Dec. 7; Norbert Andrzejewski- Dec. 12

Armour, St. Paul the Apostle

Patricia Loneman- Dec. 10; Mardell Dockendorf- Jan. 27; Herbert Ruff- Feb. 18; Janice Bruning- May 19; Jeanne Soulek- May 25

Beresford, St. Teresa of Avila

Gwen Bickett- Oct. 28; Margaret Hustrulid- Nov. 14; Kaydence Nygaard- Dec. 9; Maureen Birgen- Jan. 3; Mary Moore- Mar. 9; Veronica Muller- Mar. 23; Madonna Manning- Apr. 20; Maureen Moriarty- May 4; Barb Leist- May 5; Rita Rasmussen- Jul. 24; Brian Lounsberry- Aug. 11

Big Bend, St. Catherine

Alberta Gayton- Sept. 30; George Comes Flying- Jun. 7; Keith Horse Looking- Aug. 21

Big Stone City, St. Charles

Dorothy Prasnicky- Jan. 26; Dorothy Tillman- Feb. 12; Peggy Folstrom- Mar. 3

Bowdle, St. Augustine

Rose Schmaltz- Nov. 26; Dwayne Leboldus- Feb. 23

Brandon, Risen Savior

Clyde Bigelow- Sept. 1; Ingrid Doom- Sept. 14; Daniel Stasica- Sept. 18; Barbara Peschong- Oct. 10; Edwin Lewis- Nov. 1; Ronald Heller- Nov. 5; Austin Waller- Nov. 26; Constance Lindner- Nov. 21; Rachel Wiese- Jan. 12; Tara Simonson- Feb. 12; Phyllis Swanson- Mar. 13; Karen Nelson- Apr. 18; Romana Adajar- Apr. 26; Mary Dickey- Jun. 5

Bridgewater, St. Stephen

Bernard Weber- Sept. 19; Donald Schwans- Dec. 21

Britton, St. John de Britto

Verona Wilgers- Jan. 18; Jonn Hickey- Feb. 2; Angel Tchida-Gutierrez- Feb. 19; Robert Henley- Mar. 12

Brookings, Pope Pius XII**Newman Center**

Eleanor Taylor- Mar. 26

Brookings, St. Thomas More

Rita Barnett- Sept. 27; Benjamin Myers- Sept. 28; Kathleen Fromelt- Oct. 16; Matthew Otteson- Oct. 26; Edmund Jacobsen- Nov. 13; Joan Bennett- Nov. 29; Thomas Klosterman- Jan. 14; Michael Vaske- Jan. 18; Sandra Wilber- Feb. 9; Bernard Duffy- Apr. 24; Mary Ann Benz- Apr. 25; Douglas Filholm- May 4; Jerome Toutges- May 14; James Connelly- May 21; Sharon Barnes- Jul. 5; RoyMoni Garcia- Aug. 3; Pedro Medina- Aug. 8.

Bryant, St. Mary

Roxanne Kerkvliet- Apr. 22

Canton, St. Dominic

Lynda Standley- Oct. 14; Leonard Block Sr.- Oct. 30; Margaret Baldwin- Nov. 3

Centerville, Good Shepherd

Darrell Frederickson- Nov. 10; Duane Andersen- Nov. 16; Deborah Pease- May 10

Chamberlain, St. James

William Willrodt- Mar. 27; Mae Donovan- Apr. 29; Byron Klocker- Apr. 29; Diane Sharping- May 15; Ann Thiel- Jun. 27; Frances Petrak- Jul. 13

Clark, St. Michael

Sharon Brannan- May 5; Deloris Battest- May 28

Clear Lake, St. Mary

Leroi VanErdwyk- Apr. 18; Alice Hagen- May 31; Dennis Schieber- Jul. 10

Colman, St. Peter

Dolores Merges- Jan. 8; Carole VanHecke- Jan. 11; Antoinette Voelker- May 26; Dennis VanDam- Jun. 19; Roland Luze- Jul. 31; Roger Schmidt- Aug. 28

Dakota Dunes, St. Teresa of Calcutta

Joyce Ann Barnes- Nov. 22; Anna Marie Szczepanik- Dec. 1

Dante, Assumption

Thomas Beeson- Sept. 17; Mary Cimpl- Sept. 26; Gary Beeson- Feb. 11; MaryAnn Kasal- Apr. 26; Pam Carda- Jun. 4

Dell Rapids, St. Mary

Lola Zwart- Oct. 23; Quintin Nemmers- Nov. 1; Kathryn Davis- Nov. 21; Eugene Hoffman- Nov. 22; Peggy Smith- Nov. 27; Bette Kuper- Dec. 12; Leah Kistler- Jan. 14; Marcella Rave- Apr. 4; Janet Clark- Apr. 22; Dianne Kroger- May 20; Betty Bunkers- Jun. 20; Tom Hansen- Aug. 2

DeSmet, St. Thomas Aquinas

Report not submitted.

Dimock, SS. Peter and Paul

Anna Mae Hofer- Sept. 19; Patrick Weber- Sept. 29; Mary Jo Zwinger- Nov. 25; Mary Schoenfelder- May 31; Shelby Hohn- Jun. 10

Eden, Sacred Heart

Michael Bergeson- Oct. 26; Verona Knebel- Nov. 12; Mary Ellen Heitmann- Nov. 17; Abigail Samson- Jan. 19; Margaret Thuringer- Feb. 8; George Krista- Mar. 15; Raymond Noonan- Apr. 16; Rosa Lee Opitz- Jun. 24; Randall Janisch- Jun. 11; Theresa Barrett- Aug. 19

Elk Point, St. Joseph

Teresa Kyte- Dec. 8; Diane Donnelly- Dec. 9; Marvis Schmitz- Dec. 17; James Cody- Mar. 20; Margarito Torrez- May 5; Daniel Veatch- May 9; Clyde Rosenbaum- Jul. 20; William Chicoine- Jul. 26

Elkton, Our Lady of Good Counsel

Lavon Culhane- Jan. 17; Tom Klosterman- Jan. 26; Jack Hegerfeld- Apr. 20; Teresa Wiskur- May 18

Emery, St. Martin

No deaths recorded.

Epiphany, Church of Epiphany

Arnold Scheuren- Dec. 24; Elta Zens- Jan. 5; Harley Zens- Mar. 23; Agnes Kampshoff- Jul. 30

Estelline, St. Francis de Sales

Report not submitted.

Eureka, St. Joseph

Helen Imberi- Dec. 5; Erwin Heier-
Apr. 26

Faulkton, St. Thomas

John Eschenbaum- Oct. 14; Beverly
Hanson- Dec. 15; James Brewer-
Jan. 5; Raymond Duncan- Jan. 24;
Justine Sunne- Feb. 29; Brandon
Clement- May 23; Lloyd Wager-
May 23; Stanley McCloud- May 27;
Sharon Holmes- Jun. 15; Raymond
Pottebaum- Jul. 16

Flandreau, SS. Simon and Jude

Deanna Jueschke- Sept. 8; Linda
LeBrun- Sept. 28; Clair Collins- Nov.
9; Delores Johnson- Dec. 4; Thomas
Corcoran- Apr. 1; Mary Powers- Apr.
22; Henry Burggraaf- May 22; Scott
Duncan- Jun. 20; John Hess- Aug. 15

Florence, Blessed Sacrament

Margie Lambert- Oct. 23; Vincent
Flemming- Nov. 8

Fort Thompson, St. Joseph

Larry Blaine- Sept. 3; Sherry
Morgan- Sept. 5; Martin Navarro-
Nov. 9; Matthew St. John- Dec. 27;
Vincent Brown- Jan. 12; Cynthia
Miller- Jan. 29; Emma Touche- Apr.
8; Clarice Wind- Jun. 12; Theodore
Sargent- Jul. 27

Garretson, St. Rose of Lima

Royce Quamen- Nov. 11; Lilah
McNamara- Dec. 24; Eugene Horst-
Aug. 24

Geddes, St. Ann

Dennis Oberbroekling- Feb. 18

Gettysburg, Sacred Heart

Joan Hagemen- Sept. 16; Amy
Cordell- Oct. 16; Lillian DeKnikker-
Nov. 17; Royce Simon- Dec. 28;
Norma Marks- Jan. 26; Glen Emmert-
Mar. 23; Dorothy Eliason- Apr. 7;
Derek Buthe- Apr. 20; Shirley Rush-
Jul. 16; Daniel Beringer- Jul. 26

Grenville, St. Joseph

Richard Dargatz- Nov. 9; Joanita
Johnson- Feb. 5

Groton, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Eugene Prunty- Oct. 8; Larry Schelle-
Jan. 14; Karen Wegleitner- Jan. 26;
Russell Sass- Feb. 19; Patsy Cutler-
Feb. 26

Harrisburg, St. John Paul II

Donna McGuire- Dec. 12

Hartford, St. George

Randy White- Oct. 8; Sharon Wold-
Oct. 9; Benjamin Goehring- Oct.
18; David McCoy- Oct. 27; Helen
Phillips- Dec. 18; John Trapp- Apr.
21; Lillian Matthies- Jun. 10; James
Andresen- Jun. 20

Henry, St. Henry

Ron Dylla- Jan. 13

Herried, St. Michael

Eleanor Berndt- Sept. 14; Raymond
Weisbeck- Oct. 30; Rondia Carver-
Nov. 17; Joseph Weinzirl- Mar. 7

Highmore, St. Mary

Report not submitted.

Hoven, St. Anthony

Donald Seigny- Sept. 29; Betty
Hageman- Oct. 15; Donald Hageman-
Oct. 16; Gordon Huber- Oct. 26;
Corinne Dahlquist- Nov. 11; Duane
Karst- Dec. 11; Royce Hackl- Dec.
25; Alice Simon- Jan. 29; Virginia
Hawkinson- Feb. 4; Gary LaFurge-
Mar. 30; James Rundall- Nov. 25;
Toby Klocker- May 29; Patty Simon-
May 31; Joyce Schaefer- Jun. 24;
Edward Theunissen- Aug. 8

Howard, St. Agatha

Barb Peschong- Oct. 10; Maynard
Bender- Oct. 20; Kathleen Fromelt-
Oct. 26; Marlene Breuer- Nov. 5;
Nila Weidler- Jan. 18; Johnny Beck-
Jun. 17

Humboldt, St. Ann

Kenneth Struck- Dec. 30; Sophie
Jensen- Mar. 10

Huntimer, St. Joseph the Workman

Magdalen Siemonsma- Sept. 13

Huron, Holy Trinity

Joshua Kogel- Sept. 4; Robert
Hirtzel- Sept. 20; Monte Boetel-
Sept. 26; Larry Ransom- Sept. 29;
Teresa Gouveia- Oct. 4; Loren
Nelson- Oct. 15; William McManus-
Oct. 14; Rolland Muilenburg- Oct.
23; Joan Lundeen- Oct. 23; Ann
VanOverschelde- Nov. 30; James
Rounds- Dec. 3; Peggy Heinz- Dec.
19; Mary Kuni- Dec. 26; Doris Ronan-
Jan. 1; Gary Peterson- Jan. 6; Macy
Davis- Jan. 9; Lucy Steilen- Jan. 18;
Theresa Upchurch- Feb. 12; Barbara
Lund- Feb. 21; Robert Entwisle- Apr.
1; William Eining- Apr. 2; Robert
Burckhartzmeyer- Apr. 3; Nancy
Balvin- Apr. 25; Joshua Weber- May 7;
Kenneth Witte- Jun. 1; Danny Gross-
Feb. 23; Patricia Barnette- Jun. 13;
Neil Poulisse- Jul. 7; James Noonan-
Aug. 31

Idylwilde, St. Boniface

James Weier- Sept. 22; Michael
Schweitzer- Nov. 2; Patrick Dangel-
May 12

Ipswich, Holy Cross

Carmelita Sauer- Sept. 24; Loretta
Thares- Oct. 3; David Ertz- Oct. 5;
Genevieve Haar- Oct. 7; Francis James
Kadlec- Dec. 23; Inez Hatle- Feb. 14;
Peter J. Geditz- Jun. 12; Viola Marie
Gillick- Jul. 31; Eugene Hammrich-
Aug. 21

Jefferson, St. Peter

JoBeth Waters- Oct. 19; Rick
LaFleur- Oct. 22; Michael Hanson-
Jan. 10; Pauline Allard- Jan. 16; Lois
LaFleur- Jan. 20; Peg Dailey- Mar.
30; Andy Ness- May 1; Veronica
Trometer- May 14; Connie Ann
Bledsoe- May 18; Peggy LaCroix-
Jun. 15; Greg Hanson- Jun. 25; Irvin
Soule- Jul. 9; Phil Bosse- Aug. 7; Pat
Connors- Aug. 10



Kimball, St. Margaret

Quincy Boeding- Sept. 1; Wayne Sinkie- Sept. 9; Cathy Blasius- Nov. 13; Loraine Larson- Jan. 7; Marie Korzan- Jan. 9; Cynthia Lutter- Mar. 30; Shirley Hildebrand- Apr. 7; Lucille Kubik- Aug. 15; Lonnie Kubik- Aug. 20

Kranzburg, Holy Rosary

Mary DeVries- Oct. 1; James Lenards- Nov. 27; Clarice Thyen- Apr. 25; Marilyn Haider- Aug. 13

Lake Andes, St. Mark

Harold Miller- Jan. 23

Lennox, St. Magdalen

Duane Woods- Jan. 14; Michael Harrington- Mar. 2; Ruby Nordman- Jul. 29

Leola, Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Patrick Shaffner- Apr. 8

Lesterville, St. John the Baptist

Ronald Pavel- Jan. 3; Michael Karolowicz- Jan. 15; Carol Becker- Feb. 2; Mildred Walloch- Jul. 5

Madison, St. Thomas Aquinas

Matthew Westbrook- Oct. 15; Richard Belatti, Sr.- Oct. 23; Ronald Uthe- Oct. 29; Cathy Blasius- Nov. 13; Jerome Lenz- Dec. 23; Elaine Kearin- Dec. 26; Loren Becker- Jan. 2; Katherine Deremo- Jan. 19; Jesse Bruns- Feb. 20; Terry Ryan- Mar. 8; Donald Neises- Apr. 1; Joan Duffy- Apr. 3; Karen Sterzinger- Apr. 4; Marjorie Even- May 17; Billie Felker- May 24; Michael Oswald- Aug. 2; Mary Jo Siemonsma- Aug. 9

Marty, St. Paul

Josephine Cournoyer- Sept. 7; Thurman Cournoyer, Sr.- Oct. 6; Elaine Little- Dec. 3; Patricia Buechler- Jan. 18; Kathleen Honomichl- Jun. 1; Perry Picotte- Jun. 8

Marty, Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

No deaths recorded.

Mellette, All Saints
John Francoli- Apr. 19

Milbank, Daughters of St. Mary of Providence
Report not submitted.

Milbank, St. Lawrence
Tammy Adelman- Sept. 6; Barbara Schnaser- Sept. 27; Molly Sweeter- Oct. 23; Darwin VanHout- Nov. 17; Maria Fonder- Dec. 12; Diane Woods- Dec. 15; Lynette Pew- Jan. 7; Malie Quade- Jan. 7; Dennis Underwood- Jan. 8; Francis Murphy- Feb. 2; David Osterloh- Feb. 10; Thomas Hoeke- Feb. 24; Randall Wayne- Apr. 11; Ann Roehrich- Jul. 25

Miller, St. Ann
Steve VanZee- Sept. 4; Gene Brueggeman- Nov. 15; Barbara Sluneka- Nov. 25; LaVonne Puffer- Dec. 2; Donna Roth- Dec. 27; Marilyn Kolda- Feb. 3; Sharon Ross- Mar. 20; Leonard Hancock- May 22

Mitchell, Holy Family
Diane Fendrich- Sept. 16; Lois Kayser- Sept. 22; John Schroeder- Oct. 9; Robert Bartscher- Nov. 11; Betty Puetz- Nov. 13; Judy Kenton- Nov. 30; Rose Sell- Jan. 23; Larry Boehmer- Jan. 29; Tegan Titze- Feb. 28; Dolores Puetz- Apr. 2; Donna VanOverschelde- Apr. 6; Dorothy Iverson- Apr. 20; Barbara Morgan- May 3; Carol Kahler- May 11; Lois Heiter- May 13; James Lynde- Jun. 1; Claretta Cunningham- Jun. 18; Barbara Carroll- Jul. 6; Richard McEntee- Jul. 6; Reginald Mentele- Jul. 24; Mary Lou Dailey- Jul. 31

Mitchell, Holy Spirit
Julie Kunkel- Sept. 18; Mary Erpenbach- Nov. 11; Marie Erpenbach- Nov. 15; Devonia Oster- Nov. 22; Karen Krantz- Dec. 20; Roberta Herll- Dec. 28; Amie Honermann- Mar. 5; John Lauer- Apr. 20; Rose Anderson- Apr. 30; James Radke- May 3; William Anderson- Jun. 26; Francis Young- Jul. 16; Dale Magnuson- Aug. 7

Mitchell, Pro Ecclesia Sancta Brothers
No deaths recorded.

Mobridge, St. Joseph
Allen Mertz- Sept. 2; Robert Lipp - Oct. 23; Daniel Bleyle- Nov. 8; Kent Schneider- Nov. 11; JoAnn Omafray- Nov. 29; William Wetch- Dec. 14; Richard Keller- Jan. 15; Richard Christman- Feb. 25; George Turner- May 11; Darrell Bender- May 26; Jane Leibel- May 30; Shirley Reiss- Jun. 6; William Klucas- Jun. 12

Montrose, St. Patrick
Darrel Wicks- Jul. 21; Duane Bartmann- Aug. 22

Onida, St. Pius X
Leah Hertel- Mar. 5

Parker, St. Christina
James Christiansen- Sept. 15; Theresa Deelstra- Feb. 15; Caroline Gross- Apr. 13; Carol Fitzgerald- Jul. 9

Parkston, Sacred Heart
Arliss Schaefer- Nov. 9; Florence Taylor- Jan. 2; Lucille Leischner- Jan. 18; Merylin Boehmer- Apr. 7; Gary Koster- May 21; Easton Wagner- Jun. 17; Hattie Magera- Jul. 29; Francis Fergen- Jul. 31

Pierre, SS. Peter and Paul
Katherine Cox- Sept. 14; Henry Kusters- Oct. 17; Craig Smith- Oct. 31; Jill Wellhouse- Nov. 9; Rochelle Oakland- Dec. 5; Don Zeller- Dec. 7; Mathew Bernard- Dec. 9; Kenneth Cox- Jan. 9; Stephen Swath- Jan. 20; Darlene Reiser- Jan. 27; Bernard Stoeser- Mar. 9; Joyce Keller- Mar. 11; Lawrence Venner- Mar. 24; Elizabeth Anton- May 27; Gordon VanAsh- Jun. 14; Robert Mitchell- Jun. 18; Jaqueline Marso- Aug. 16; Mary Daley- Aug. 22; Eugene Thorpe- Aug. 25

Plankinton, St. John
Philip Schmidt- Feb. 12; Victoria Fay- Jul. 4

Platte, St. Peter the Apostle
Gerald Schieffer- Jan. 3; Mark Pranger- May 24

Polo, St. Liborius
Thomas Peterson- Nov. 10

Ramona, St. William
Russel Fischer- Oct. 22; Kevin Malcomb- Mar. 19; Shirley Palli- Mar. 22

Redfield, St. Bernard
Maureen Bob- Aug. 5; Terrance Mackey- Aug. 6; Raeleen Heffernen- Aug. 7; Tammy Dudley- Aug. 27; Joan Campbell- Oct. 27; Douglas Edgar- Nov. 23; Gloria Roos- Dec. 15; Marcus Cleberg- Apr. 5; Joann Huber- Apr. 7; Wilfred Eschenbaum- Apr. 8; Amerallis Garman- May 1; Helen Muellenberg- May 17; John Ell- Jun. 20; Bruce Berg- Jun. 28; Jerry Hardie- Aug. 30

Reville, Annunciation
LeRoy Stricherz- Sept. 3; Blake Sime- Oct. 4

Roscoe, St. Thomas the Apostle
Florence Malsam- Sept. 16; James Flannery- Nov. 13; Paul Joseph Malsam- Mar. 24; Sebastian Scherr- Jul. 25; Leonard E. Schmidt- Aug. 19

Rosholt, St. John the Baptist
Avis Brandenburger- Sept. 11; Wilfred Foltz- Oct. 9; Allen Thompson- May 21; Kathleen Kass- Jul. 24

Salem, St. Mary
LaVern Yost- Oct. 9; Darlene Lauck- Dec. 2; Patricia Heumiller- Dec. 8; Doug Heiberger- Jan. 21; Gregor Streff- Apr. 2; Gertrude Kayser- Apr. 28; Darrell Tuschen- May 9; Jacalyn Watkins- May 23; Carol Steinmetz- Jul. 15; Genevieve Blindert- Aug. 16; Joan Stiefvater- Aug. 28; Doris Cumbee- Aug. 29

Scotland, St. George
Eugene Kvasnicka- Oct. 31; Marie Ulmer- Nov. 16; Delphine Kokesh- Dec. 23

Selby, St. Anthony

Josephine Holder- Dec. 11; Ronald Kusters- Dec. 17; Genevieve Hahne- Jan. 18; Judith Lippelt- Apr. 20; Walburga Zambo- May 4; Virginia Vetter- Jul. 4

Sioux Falls, Cathedral of Saint Joseph

Jerome Collins- Sept. 4; Janet Crowe- Oct. 3; Geraldine Zimmer- Oct. 20; Gregory Hanson- Nov. 1; Marwan Hanna- Nov. 9; Robert Hoffman- Nov. 16; Nancy Clarey- Dec. 16; John Akok- Jan. 18; Joann Crawford- Jan. 22; Marleen Hirsch- Jan. 28; Matthew Cordell- Feb. 4; Monica Hennings- Feb. 13; Carolyn Anderson- Feb. 23; Vivian Page- Mar. 7; Paul Bangasser- Mar. 18; June Gunn- Apr. 9; Shelley Rasmussen- Apr. 10; Karen Murphy- Jun. 12; Šušu Awte Dabi- Jun. 27; Gerald Barnett- Jul. 5; Edward Dahlhoff- Jul. 13; Norbert Miles- Jul. 13; Jeremy Carlson- Aug. 22

Sioux Falls, Christ the King

Gerald La Vergne- Sept. 19; Donna Kistler- Oct. 5; Ruth Garry- Nov. 5; Mylo Metz- Nov. 11; Clifford Wiese- Dec. 4; Charlotte Hunter- Dec. 21; John Ranek- Dec. 22; Devona Terlau- Dec. 31; Margie Even- Jan. 2; Eugene Kent- Jan. 5; Joseph Bassing- Mar. 15; Patricia Shelley- Mar. 25; Muriel Rossmeisl- Apr. 13; William Crum- Apr. 16; Dave Vickers- Apr. 28; Lynn Osterberg- May 10; Richard Rotert- May 15; Beverley Fischer- May 24; Shirley Jamison- May 26

Sioux Falls, Holy Spirit

Bernadette Willard- Oct. 22; Lavon Culhane- Jan. 12; Terrence Jorgensen- Jan. 18; Savannah Dickelman- Jan. 26; Allen Haiar- Feb. 9; Ronald Beavers- Feb. 13; Norma Brown- Feb. 22; Kevin Branick- Mar. 6; Don Lange- Apr. 2; Rex Livermore- May 19; Jeanne Boyd- Jun. 17; Carmela Mills- Jul. 5; Terry Nielsen- Aug. 10

Sioux Falls, Mater Ecclesiae Monastery

No deaths recorded.

Sioux Falls, Our Lady of Guadalupe

Daniel Lima- Dec. 18; Clementina Garcia- Jan. 19; Carlos Larreynaga- Mar. 30; Francisco Aleman- May 21

Sioux Falls, St. Katharine Drexel

Emily Gross- Dec. 14; Paula Herrmann- Jan. 13; Janice TerMeer- Feb. 17; Karen Lemig- Apr. 4

Sioux Falls, St. Lambert

James Gale- Sept. 5; Merrill Peltier- Sept. 8; Lisa Hembree- Sept. 18; Julius Schultz- Sept. 21; Margaret Mary Keisow- Oct. 6; Josephine Jurgensen- Oct. 22; Melanie Bucknell- Nov. 11; Kollette Austad- Nov. 18; Kurt Wilfahrt- Nov. 28; Dorothy Johnson- Dec. 20; Wi Reh- Jan. 3; Francis Weber- Jan. 16; Francis Knott- Feb. 3; Roger McCollar- Feb. 15; Doreen Zimmerman- Apr. 20; Karen French- Apr. 22; Patricia Hartman- May 1; Gordon Lovell- May 1; Dorothy Wiczorek- Jul. 1; Dorothy Gale- Jul. 5; Donna Hansen- Aug. 1; Nona Moore- Aug. 12; Roger Bartlett- Aug. 17

Sioux Falls, St. Mary

Rodney Sorrell- Sept. 9; Steven Ludens- Sept. 17; Maxine Hohn- Sept. 24; Terry Keiser- Oct. 11; Paula Chicoine- Oct. 15; Rita Keckler- Nov. 30; George Vanderloo- Dec. 26; Jacob Brakke- Dec. 30; Daniel Kennelly- Jan. 8; Ralph Flanagan- Jan. 14; Collette Broveleit- Jan. 30; Thomas Ulin- Apr. 16; Jerry Mayer- Apr. 28; Patricia Townsend- May 6; Steven Towns- May 11; Rita Wiebers- May 17; Steve McLaughlin- May 21; Gregory Naughton- May 24; Jean Cadwell- Jun. 2; Patricia Teeman- Jun. 15; John Knudtson- Jun. 26; Rozanne DuBois- Jul. 19; Carol Mack- Aug. 19; Eugene Marko- Aug. 28

Sioux Falls, St. Michael

Joseph Ostermann- Sept. 1; Daniel Miller- Sept. 21; Joan Seachris- Sept. 29; Joan McFall- Oct. 6; Eric Loneman- Oct. 16; John Shaver- Oct. 28; Jacqueline Duffy- Oct. 30; Larry Schmidt- Nov. 1; Jerry Delker- Nov. 21; Bernard Heinemann- Nov. 27; Deborah Czmowski- Dec. 10; Donald Zandstra- Dec. 12; Dorothy Schulte- Dec. 12; Donald Fischer- Dec. 16; James Boelter- Dec. 25; Mary Moe- Jan. 8; Donald Beaner- Jan. 19; June Hurley- Jan. 20; Joan Leafstedt- Feb. 1; Sharon Smithy- Feb. 7; Richard Jervik- Feb. 18; Karen Shaver- Feb. 21; Warren Friessen- Apr. 2; Gustavo Garcia- Apr. 14; Rolene Smidt- Apr. 17; Kay Zandstra- Apr. 18; James Denevan- May 17; Gerald Huls- May 22; Mary King- Jul. 21; Cheryl Isle- Jul. 13; John Stewart- Jul. 22; Eilene Benz- Jul. 28; Dorothy Bream- Aug. 8; Patricia Crevier- Aug. 25; Karen Koda- Aug. 27; Catherine Kerkaert- Aug. 28

Sioux Falls, St. Therese

David Brannan- Oct. 14; Geraldine Zimmer- Oct. 20; Rick Collins- Jan. 31; Luverne Fries- Mar. 28; Helen Kapperman- Apr. 27

Sioux Falls, Pro Ecclesia Sancta Sisters

No deaths recorded.

Sisseton, St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Robin Keeble- Oct. 31; Desiree Frederick- Nov. 24; Maria White- Dec. 5; Brenda White- Dec. 19; Donovan Keeble- Feb. 4; Sr. Patrice Colletti, SDS- May 20; Kathleen Barse- May 22; Sandra White- Aug. 13; Richard Adams- Aug. 14

Sisseton, St. Peter

Marlene Karst- Sept. 7; Norman Tchida- Sept. 10; Roy Kuehn- Sept. 13; Deloris Schneider- Oct. 30; Lois Tchida- Nov. 27; Elizabeth Rabenberg- Dec. 25; Luella George- Jan. 13; Lloyd Rowland- Mar. 7; Virgil Lotzer- Apr. 24; Judith Olson- Jul. 30; Sharon Haaland- Aug. 12

Springfield, St. Vincent de Paul

Francis Soukup- Dec. 30; Kenneth Varilek- Mar. 3

Stephan, Immaculate Conception

No deaths recorded.

Stickney, St. Mary

No deaths recorded.

Tabor, St. Wenceslaus

Ann Kloucek- Feb. 23; Edward Sykora- Apr. 14; Marvin Manas- Apr. 21; Jeanette Kotalik- May 11

Tea, St. Nicholas

Henry Satlak- Nov. 10; Barbara Stevens- Mar. 1; Cleta Lentsch- Apr. 9; Shirley Wetering- Jun. 28; Neil Rezac- Jul. 18

Turton, St. Joseph

Mildred, Dahlin- Nov. 23; LaVoy Woodring- Mar. 20; Eunice Hill Thome- Mar. 24; Robert Troske- Apr. 22; Robert Tennis- May 7

Tyndall, St. Leo

Joseph Hovorka- Sept. 23; La Mont Lange- Sept. 29; Arlo Schuurmans- Sept. 30; Deena Carda- Oct. 21; Margie Hovorka- Oct. 23; Ramona Eschen- Nov. 4; Allen Vacknitz- Nov. 14; Sharon Hauck- Dec. 18; Helen Kelly- Jan. 24; Howard Hajek- Feb. 1; Beverly Kreber- Feb. 10; Francis Varilek- Mar. 18; Aden Bisson- Jun. 9; Elton Rokusek- Jun. 10; Lorraine Rehurek- Jul. 26

Vermillion, St. Agnes

John Bernard- Sept. 14; Marie Ouellette- Oct. 10; Alice Kutilek- Nov. 4; Ron Madsen- Nov. 25; Maria Heimstra- Dec. 9; Bill Kennedy- Dec. 23; Gary Prasek- Jan. 23; Gerri Remmes- Feb. 17; Doug Mart- Feb. 24; Michalene Russell- Mar. 4; Maizie Ihnen- Jun. 5; Maureen Vanderhoff- Jun. 24; Margaret Rosenbaum- Jul. 28; Sue Paquette- Aug. 6; Steve Bierle- Aug. 12

Vermillion, St. Thomas More Newman Center

No deaths recorded.

Wagner, St. John the Baptist

Leo Soukup- Oct. 3; Elsie Bromert- Oct. 27; Dan Soukup- Dec. 28; Jon Jonas- Jan. 11; Faye Johnson- Feb. 29; James Clemens- Mar. 20; Wilbur Slaba- Mar. 21; Fred Soukup- May 2; Norman Woods- Jul. 30; Leonard Kocer- Aug. 21

Wakonda, St. Patrick

Wayne Beatty- Oct. 26; Mary Valentine- Jul. 6

Watertown, Holy Name of Jesus

Jim Tulowetzke- Sept. 5; Mildred Johnson- Sept. 9; Clark Adams- Oct. 27; William Frost- Oct. 30; Frances Roby- Nov. 4; Thomas Burns- Nov. 18; Lawrence Shriver- Dec. 2; Theresa Algard- Jan. 6; George Heller- Jan. 7; Brenda Brandenburger- Jan. 20; Patty Melin- Mar. 1; Ruby Reichling- Mar. 10; Rebecca Weber- Apr. 1; Rita Moes- Apr. 8; Ross Mitchell- Apr. 11; Evelyn DeVine- May 7; Opal Cartney- Jul. 3; Bernard Cordell- Jul. 10; Michael Guffey- Jul. 25; Virginia Jensen- Jul. 30

Watertown, Immaculate Conception

Brenda Pahl- Oct. 4; Dory Ries- Oct. 7; Arlen Murphy- Oct. 12; Leslie Staufer- Oct. 12; Alfred Fox- Oct. 20; Iva Lowe- Oct. 29; Jacqueline Brennan- Nov. 15; Sunny Kauffman- Dec. 2; Marjorie Van Well- Dec. 11; Pike Hemp- Jan. 26; Venard Cordell- Feb. 5; Eugene Popham- Mar. 1; Ruby Reichling- Mar. 10; Rose Pickering- Apr. 29; Helen Strohfus- May 6; Conrad Toutges- May 30; Mary McRoden- Jun. 5; Richard Hurkes- Jun. 19; Stella Ness- Jun. 20; Marlys Pischke- Jun. 22; Noah Comes- Jul. 9; Anthony Trautner- Aug. 4; Terrence Heyn- Aug. 12

Watertown, Mother of God Monastery

Report not submitted.

Waubay, Immaculate Conception

Orvis Jorgenson- Mar. 17

Webster, Christ the King

Felix Spiering- Oct. 14; Barbara Snaza- Oct. 16; Lorraine Erickson- Nov. 23; Royden Lamb- Dec. 21; Joan Shalley- Jan. 15; Francis Murphy- Feb. 2; Duane Rumpca- Feb. 10; James Becking- Mar. 9; Margaret Monson- Apr. 25; Alice Gebur- May 16; Terry Gaikowski- Jun. 27; Gary Hubsch- Aug. 27

Wessington Springs, St. Joseph

Report not submitted.

Westport, Sacred Heart

Darllys Marko- Aug. 3; Margaret Davis- Aug. 4

White, St. Paul

Spencer Murphy- Aug. 16

White Lake, St. Peter

Carla Jean Gillen- Oct. 7; Edwin Munsen- Jul. 5

Woonsocket, St. Wilfrid

Report not submitted.



Yankton, Sacred Heart

Ronald Hausman- Oct. 13; Dennis Kleinschmit- Oct. 24; Duane Wenzlaff- Nov. 1; Francis McDonald- Nov. 27; Diane Schramm- Dec. 4; Christian Hudson- Dec. 17; Carol Rockne- Dec. 19; Mary Sathe- Dec. 22; Donald Arens- Jan. 12; Marie Syring- Jan. 19; Jeanette Tramp- Jan. 22; Robert Stepp- Jan. 29; Natalie Schurman- Feb. 28; Mary Welchert- Mar. 2; Francis Varilek- Mar. 18; Gert VanLent- Apr. 25; Robert Muth- May 15; Joyce Combs- May 18; DelRae Dickes- May 27; Mary Haberman- Jun. 19; Florence Kribell- Jun. 20; Terrance Garvey- Jul. 14; Donald Kruml- Aug. 18; Glenda Lanning- Aug. 22

Yankton, Sacred Heart Monastery

Sr. Bernadette McGowen- Sept. 25; Sr. Erin Colgan- Jan. 20; Sr. Jane Frances Garcia- May 15

Yankton, St. Benedict

Daniel Wubben- Sept. 12; Donald Vogt- Oct. 1; Dale Svacina- Nov. 15; Janet Courtney- Nov. 27; Margaret Adley- Jan. 13; Thomas Thon- Jan. 18; Jane Rupiper- Mar. 6; Bernadette Westegaard- Mar. 16; Raymond Pravecek- Mar. 21; Connie Wieseler- Mar. 29; Ethel Goeden- Apr. 7; Evelyn Cimpl- Apr. 16; Calvin Starzl- Apr. 19; Archie Vavra- May 26; Max Brown- Jun. 15; Teresa Courtney- Jun. 24; Catherine Haich- Jun.; Laddie Kostel- Jun. 23; Ashley Stratman- Jun. 28; Cynthia Vyborny- Jul. 15

Priests/Deacons

Msgr. Edward Burian- Dec. 11; Deacon Leon Cantin- Mar. 14; Fr. Paul Josten- May 24

All the stillborn, miscarried and aborted babies.

Respectfully submitted by Brianna Wingen, Communications Office

What is the purpose of the Necrology?

The necrology appears every year in The Bishop's Bulletin, and its purpose is far more profound than a simple informational listing. As a spiritual work of mercy, praying for the dead is an important part of our Catholic faith and should be an important part of our personal relationship with Christ. We believe our prayers can be of tremendous benefit to those souls who have passed on and no longer have the opportunity to make sacrifices and pray for their own good.

Uniting the names of our departed brothers and sisters to the Mass is the fullest expression of praying for the dead. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is Christ's perfect sacrifice offered to the Father again. It is the pinnacle of our prayer here on earth and the ultimate well-spring of God's grace.

Outside of the Mass, the Church has various prayers that we can offer up for the faithful departed. Some prayers to consider are the Litany for the Faithful Departed, the Chaplet for the Dead and the Litany of the Saints. Consider also offering a fast or other sacrifice for departed souls.

These prayers are not without some benefit to us as well. God often allows our dimming love for our departed brother or sister to well up inside us again, renewing our memory of them and giving us strength in our toils. He often grants the grace of softening our hearts to those, both living and departed, who may have wronged us. Finally, our capacity for love is deepened when we return the gift of kindness in sacrifice and prayer to departed souls who showed us kindness during their earthly lives.



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Renae Kranz, Editor

Christianity introduced the world to **HUMAN DIGNITY**

Q

More and more people I know seem to be questioning God's existence. There even seems to be a growth in the number of people who don't even believe in God. Can you help me understand this and how I can respond?

A

This is an important question, as it addresses a real cultural trend, so we began to address it this summer and will conclude this month.

As mentioned previously, over the past 20 years, we've seen the development of a cultural trend called The New Atheism (TNA). This month, we'll look at some of the other things New Atheists take for granted, yet these things owe their existence to Catholic Christianity.

In every culture and civilization, there are certain ideas that act as fundamental principles to how people in that culture think, live and interact. These ideas are more "caught than taught," meaning there isn't a class in every kindergarten that explains these ideas to children, but rather they are simply "assumptions" most people operate by without really thinking about them.

In our culture (i.e. "the West"), most of these "operating assumptions" owe their origins to Catholicism. Among the most important of these is the notion of fundamental, inalienable human dignity, the idea that each and every human being has intrinsic and inherent worth, apart from whatever qualities or abilities they may or may not possess. This concept is absolutely essential to things we take for granted, but it was completely absent from the pagan world and made its appearance in world history only with the birth of Christianity. Why?

Because it was Christianity that emphasized that *all* of us are made in the image and likeness of God, irrespective of race, creed, sex or social standing. It was Christianity that introduced to the world the idea that each and every human being has unparalleled dignity and worth, and hence has value beyond measure.

Consider the fact that in pagan Rome, it was commonplace to abandon unwanted infants to the elements, and in fact, killing handicapped infants was obligatory. Or consider the standing of slaves, women and foreigners in pagan society: the idea that human beings were *unequal* was commonplace and seen as obvious prior to Christianity.

In fact, the very concept of a "person" as a being of innate and intrinsic dignity was born out of the theological

disputes of the early Church. It was in the early debates over Jesus' divinity and over the Trinity that Christianity gave the term "person" its modern meaning.

Interestingly, today we are seeing the decline of Christianity's influence and with it the decline of the idea that each and every human person is of inherent value. Denying the dignity of the embryonic human being is an obvious example, but it isn't the only one. Numerous "ethicists" now propose that newborns have less dignity than some primates, and hence that killing them would be ethical. Twenty years ago the scholar Peter Singer became famous (or "infamous") for attacking what he calls "speciesism," which denies that human beings are qualitatively different from other species and have inherent dignity unlike any other species.

These and similar developments in our culture reflect the crumbling of another aspect of Christianity's legacy: the rational basis for morality. Atheists assert that you needn't be religious in order to do good, and they are right. Nonetheless, it remains true that without God, there is no *rational basis* for morality. That is, without God—and specifically the Judeo-Christian understanding of God—there is ultimately no *reason* for morality, no argument that provides its ultimate foundations. And some atheists acknowledge this: William Provine was a professor at

Cornell who said there is neither meaning, nor free will, nor an ultimate foundation for ethics in the universe.

And if his premise—God does not exist—is correct, then all of this follows. It's not that as a Christian I do good simply because I'm afraid God will punish me if I don't: it's that without God, "good" and "evil," "right" and "wrong" are ultimately meaningless terms. The Christian account for morality is that "good behavior" is what we are *meant* to do; it's part of what it means to be human, and it's part of our purpose for existence.

The truth is, without God there is no inherent purpose, and without purpose there is no rational foundation for morality. We are living off of intellectual capital that Christianity has bestowed upon us, but once our culture exhausts that capital, what will happen?



Be sure to check out the additional resources at sfcatholic.org/answer.

If you have a question you need an answer to, email rkranz@sfcatholic.org.

Chris Burgwald holds a doctorate in theology and is the director of discipleship formation for the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

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Give your spouse space for their own faith journey

By Katie Eskro

“I’ve recently become very involved in my faith, my prayer life has grown, and I want to share the joy I’ve felt having this deeper relationship with Christ. My spouse doesn’t seem interested in going deeper with me, and it’s put some strain on our marriage because I want to talk about it a lot. How can I get him to see the joy and join me on this journey?”

Jim and Ellen Kramp, parishioners at St. Mary Parish in Aberdeen, are no strangers to this question and dilemma, and their story sheds light on this difficult and often painful situation. Ellen fell away from her Catholic faith while in college. After marriage and starting a family, she had a desire to have her children baptized in the Church, and from there, a deeper desire to embrace the faith was born in her heart.

“I was thirsty for knowledge, and I longed for intimacy with Jesus,” Ellen said. Since then, Ellen has sought out and taken advantage of every opportunity possible to partake in educating herself in the faith and building a stronger prayer life.

Her husband, Jim, has not shared her enthusiasm. Ellen says that at first when she rediscovered her faith, she really wanted Jim to share the experience with her. “I wanted him to be on fire for the Lord like I am,” she said.

Ellen has learned over the years that oversharing her experiences and trying to pull Jim along with her has not only *not* helped Jim, but it’s also caused frustration on her part. She has learned

firsthand that trying to talk him into a deeper intimacy with God was not of benefit to Jim’s faith or their marriage. “I have learned that I cannot make him have faith; he has his own journey, his own path to truth,” said Ellen.

Jim has noted this change and agrees that Ellen has given him the space and time to grow in his own time and discover for himself what it means to be close to God. “I have not felt pushed by Ellen and I feel free to find my faith on my own,” Jim said. “I appreciate what she shares with me about the faith to help me discover my own way.”

At the beginning of someone’s faith deepening, it is natural and good to joyfully share with those closest to us what is happening. Growing closer to Jesus affects us deeply, and we would be remiss to not want to tell our spouse what we are experiencing.

Father Kristopher Cowles, vicar for hispanic ministry and parochial vicar for St. John the Baptist Pastorate, says couples should share deep thoughts, feelings and desires within their relationship, but that one should be cautious and thoughtful about what they choose to divulge.

“Sharing what you love is an important part of any friendship and especially marriage,” Father Cowles said, “but like with so many other topics, discern the situation with the guidance of the Holy Spirit as to how and when to share your experiences. We need to invite them rather than pull, push, drag, nag or insist against their will. Having an open mind and heart in conversations, [even] in which there are apparent differences, will always be important.”

Sharing our experiences and what we are going through, even if our spouses don’t quite agree or understand fully, can bring “intimacy and a union of mind and heart,” Father Cowles said. However, trying to tell our loved one that they need to change like we are changing infringes on their own path of freely choosing to follow Jesus and his Church more closely. And unless a person freely chooses, it is not a true conversion.

Sometimes oversharing and pushing our loved ones can even have the opposite effect we are hoping for. Often it’s not the people closest to someone who disciple them. Usually, our spouse’s path to truth and God is going to be different than ours. Father Cowles reminds couples to be mindful to “remember that we also struggled to follow Jesus faithfully and that our conversion is a gift that we did not merit.”

All of this speaks to the reality that a spouse’s role in encouraging their husband or wife to engage more deeply in their faith often looks like sharing exciting experiences through using “I” statements and steering clear of “you” statements, i.e. trying to tell our spouse what they should do in this area of their life.

For example, a spouse who goes on a religious retreat will likely come home on a retreat high and want to divulge to their spouse the exciting experiences they had. They might say: “I loved this retreat so much. I felt so close to Jesus. I want to try and fit more prayer and silence into my life.” This will likely be well-received by their spouse.

On the other hand, if the person who went on the retreat adds in something like, “You should go on a retreat. You would love it and learn so much; it could help you a lot,” they may be getting into territory that sounds a lot

more like telling their spouse they aren't trying hard enough or aren't good enough.

If a spouse does want to encourage their loved one to grow in the faith, there are many ways they can do that without using "you" statements that may just lead to defensiveness, and instead can build intimacy and trust in a relationship.

Here are five ways you can support your spouse and build intimacy and trust in sharing about your faith journey without sounding condescending:

1. Ask your spouse basic questions about how their day was and their life; then listen. Be empathetic without trying to fix their problems or trying to talk them out of perhaps a bad or challenging day or experience. Celebrate their positive stories without adding any critiques. This may seem unimportant, but these interactions build the foundation for a strong relationship and a marriage built on trust and mutual respect. Make time for these basic conversations just about the ins and outs of your life together.
2. Don't pretend you're perfect now because you are closer to God. Say you're sorry when you mess up (you will; we all do). Ask forgiveness, ask how you can make it up to them, and follow through on what they might ask, if it's reasonable.
3. Invite without trying to tell them what to do. For example, if your spouse doesn't attend Mass every Sunday with you, keep inviting them periodically. You can even use "I" statements like: "I love going to Mass with you. I feel so close to you when we're at Mass together." But steer clear from telling them it's a mortal sin not to

go to Mass, or getting exasperated with their choice to stay home.

4. Pray for your spouse. This is as much for you as it is for your spouse. Do you know who loves your spouse even more than you do? God does. Praying for your spouse not only can help them to be more open to God's grace, it's your reminder that God is in control and he has a plan. He will never give up on pursuing your spouse. Don't get in his way. Let his plan play out.
5. Lastly, and this goes for everyone regardless of their spouse's faith journey, invest in friendship with people who inspire you and who you trust. These friends can be a safe place to share all your experiences and to vent as needed about your frustrations.

All of this takes time and work. If you put the work in, and allow your spouse to freely move, you can find hope and peace regardless of how your paths unfold. At this point in Jim and Ellen's relationship, Ellen said: "I share most of my journey with Jim. He's supportive of my journey, always encouraging me to talk to God or asking me if I've prayed about something when it's bothering me."

The Kramp's don't always agree, but they do respect each other's journey. "[Jim] doesn't always agree when I share things about Catholic pedagogy or doctrine, but he engages in active conversations with me," Ellen said.

For Jim, he is happy and excited to witness Ellen's journey. "We are both still learning each day," he said. "I appreciate her support and grace, and I hope that I do the same for her."

Katie Eskro is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Aberdeen where she works as coordinator of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She has a degree in journalism and is pursuing a master's degree in philosophy.

ANNIVERSARIES

DIMOCK

John and Anne Murtha, 65th anniversary, Nov. 28, Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.

MITCHELL

Pat and Bobbie Clark, 50th anniversary, Nov. 29, Holy Family Parish.

PIERRE

Art and Mary Rezac, 70th anniversary, Oct. 16, Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.

TURTON

Tim and Cindy VanHatten, 50th anniversary, Oct. 26, St. Joseph Parish.

VERMILLION

James and Barbara Danielson, 55th anniversary, Nov. 22, St. Agnes Parish.

WATERTOWN

Rich and Vergene Comes, 60th anniversary, Nov. 14, Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

YANKTON

Gerald and Pat Harts, 60th anniversary, Oct. 3, Sacred Heart Parish.



For pictures, go to sfcatholic.org/bishopsbulletin or scan the QR code to visit our website.

Anniversary Submission Guidelines

We accept anniversary submissions for the following anniversary years: 25, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75. We include them in the issue of the month of the anniversary or the following month's issue. Submissions received for later issues will not be included. Photos will only be included in the sfcatholic.org website edition. Send a color photo, your anniversary information and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by Nov. 1 for inclusion in the January 2025 edition and Dec. 4 for inclusion in the February 2024 edition to:

The Bishop's Bulletin
523 N. Duluth Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Or email to:
bwingen@sfcatholic.org.



Teach your children the virtue of justice

By Lois Heron

That's not fair! It isn't just the exclamation from a child who lost a game anymore; it's the catchphrase of a self-absorbed society constantly looking for justice for causes they've adopted as their identity. This month, we will empower ourselves as parents and grandparents by clarifying the virtue of justice, and how we can help our children learn to be just in their relationships inside and outside the home.

Let's begin by defining the virtue of justice as St. Thomas Aquinas did: "justice is a habit that makes us capable of doing what is just, and of being just in action and in intention." The Catechism of the Catholic Church expands on the definition of a just person as having the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor and establish harmony in human relationships that promote equity with others (1807).

*How good and how pleasant it is
when [we] dwell
together in unity! (Ps 133:1)*

One of our highest goals for our home environment is harmony (another word for unity), because we learn to come together in mutual respect. Building a harmonious home goes beyond a fundamental desire to hear no quarreling or devouring of one another (Gal 5:15); it is habituating our family in equity to each other and for the common good of the family. Where do we start?

And justice for all

*Love and truth will meet; Justice and
peace will kiss. (Ps 85:11)*



Teach your children to be respectful. Consider that they are regularly exposed to unjust behavior like bullying, interrupting people, laughing at others, or harming others. Train them to see Jesus in others through your example.”

The entire narrative of the story of salvation is where love and truth meet, and justice and peace kiss. We can use age-appropriate Bible storybooks and then Bibles as guides for teaching the attributes God desires for us by using the “Where in the World is Waldo?” theme, looking for examples of God’s justice and man’s injustice in every story.

The parables of Christ are particularly helpful since they are short and simple but packed with a moral lesson. Jesus told more than 50 parables to teach us how to live in the Kingdom of God here on earth; at least 11 parables were about justice according to God’s way of doing things.

The term “ethics” is from a Greek word that means “habits,” among other things. What we want to model for our children is a familial relationship where we delight in each other, are dear to one another, and promote each other’s welfare by serving one another; this is the foundation of justice.

When we make just treatment of each other a habit in our homes, our children learn to be just to others. When we establish a pattern of a virtuous life in our homes, our children live that pattern with those around them. Wouldn’t that be refreshing to our culture?

You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.(Mi 6:8)

When we, as a family, approach reality from the vantage of goodness defined as mercy, we fortify the virtue of justice in our lives. Let’s do this! Below are some ideas for you.

Teach your children to be grateful. Learning to say “thank you” trains our children in gratitude. How does that teach the virtue of justice? They are learning to be fair to others by recognizing what others do for them. A thankful heart realizes everything is a gift.

Teach your children to be respectful. Consider that they are regularly exposed to unjust behavior like bullying, interrupting people, laughing at others, or harming others. Train them to see Jesus in others through your example. Refuse to allow gossip, complaining and backbiting in your own life, and it will rub off on your children’s lives.

Model prayer as a conversation with God where we thank him for all the good graces he favors us. We learn to tell him about our frustrations about the “unfair” things in our

lives, but ask him to help us treat others how we want to be treated. Make a habit of praying a daily Examen with your children; they learn to have conversations with Jesus as they review their day, and confessing to the Lord their unjust actions toward others helps build their spiritual muscle.

Prayer for Justice

Lord, I want to be a just person. You told us to love You above all else and to love our neighbor. Help me practice the virtue of justice by being patient with others and grateful for their lives. Please give me the grace to treat everyone justly and love them by being generous, respectful, honest, and kind.

~Amen.



Lois Heron is a parishioner at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls. She is a writer and retired educator.

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Safe environment commitment of the Diocese of Sioux Falls...

...in order to be effective in fulfilling her mission to evangelize and to remain true to Christ's calling for us all, the Church's ministries and institutions must be safe places for both children and adults. The Diocese, therefore, pledges to preserve safe environments in all of its facilities and catechetical programs. Those clergy, religious, diocesan, parish and school employees, and volunteers who collectively carry out the Church's ministries, remain committed to fulfilling this solemn pledge to protect those children entrusted to her for formation in the Catholic faith.

Aware that some who have ministered in the name of the Church have caused harm, the Diocese of Sioux Falls also pledges to assist any who may have been harmed. As a diocese, we desire to help individuals heal from injury that has been caused to them. If you or someone you know has been abused, regardless of who caused the harm, please contact us. We promise to cooperate with civil authorities in any investigation. We promise to do our best to help facilitate a process for healing. Whether the need is for counseling, an opportunity to tell your story or something else, as a diocese, we are ready to assist.

Our chancellor or victim assistance coordinator can be reached toll free at 1-800-700-7867 or 605-334-9861. We will do our best to help.



Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls
 523 N. Duluth Ave.
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104
webpage@sfcatholic.org



Overcoming the past to move forward in dating

By Andrea Gibbs

In June of 1979, Pope St. John Paul II gave a series of speeches to the people of Poland, who had been living under decades of tyranny, saying, “You are not who ‘they’ say you are. Let me remind you who you really are.” John Paul II’s speeches were meant to help them recall their true identity in Christ.

This same sentiment can be applied to each of us individually today. Far too often, we allow the labels of others to overcome our awareness of being a beloved and worthy child of God.

Frequently, the most crushing of pointed labels comes from within dating relationships. When a relationship ends, it can leave a person carrying labels such as *worthless, used, damaged or unworthy*. In a trauma-filled or abusive relationship, the labels are often given by the significant other. In other scenarios, the labels are self-given as a person looks back with regret at their time in the relationship. Either way, the labels tend to feel heavy as the wounded desire to move on from their past.

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Many of us have dealt with regrets

from choices made in a dating relationship. We have gone into the relationship with strong convictions and boundaries laid out, but in the end, things turned out completely different. It is often a slow fade of choices that leads to one small compromise and then another. Taking time for self-reflection on how you want to move forward is important, as well as reflecting on the truth that there is nothing you can ever do that will make Christ love you less.

Our Catholic Church is here for us to offer hope and healing. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered daily as is the Eucharist in Holy Mass. There is strength to be found in turning toward our heavenly Father to admit our wandering ways and to run back into his open arms.

Maggie Steffen, a clinical counselor at The Lourdes Center, shares how friendships can help in choosing to move forward in virtue. “Seeking life-giving and holy friendships is another source of healing God likes to use,” she says. “Having friends who are also striving for virtue gives us a space to practice and prioritize healthy communication, boundaries and self-worth.”

SEEKING HELP

Whether it be a need to cope with individual regret or processing past trauma, seeking counseling and guidance can be both helpful and healing. There are many secular options available for psychological services online and we are fortunate to have The Lourdes Center to offer a local Catholic experience of counseling services. Seeking help gives a person the tools they need to move forward as an individual first and eventually into a healthy relationship.

Trauma can come in many forms such as assault, violence or any form of

abuse, such as sexual, verbal, mental or physical. Those dealing with any type of trauma need the space and time set apart to heal from their past experiences. According to the American Psychological Association, one of the long-term effects of trauma is strained relationships, which makes it even more crucial to process the past trauma rather than bury it.

According to Maggie, past trauma can interfere with moving forward into healthy relationships. “When an individual has experienced trauma, being in a healthy relationship can feel like a breath of fresh air, and it can feel completely foreign all at the same time.”

Maggie advocates for taking time to be single, to reflect and grow as an individual before beginning to date again. She suggests these areas to reflect on.

“Some common areas to be self-aware of when entering into a new relationship are: How do I communicate? What are my boundaries and how do I ensure they are respected? How well am I able to love myself?”

With these reflection areas in mind, a period of singleness gives space to find one’s identity in Christ first, before moving into a relationship again.

When regrets, sins or trauma feel overwhelming, we must first turn towards the Cross and remember Christ crucified and triumphant. Our woundedness is not greater than Christ’s triumph, and we must never be deceived into thinking so.

Pope St. John Paul II reminds us to not let the labels from others stick but instead to find first our identity as a beloved son or daughter of Christ. Whether it be dating or single, we are worthy of living lives that are healthy and filled with virtue.

Tickets selling fast for annual Christmas at the Cathedral

There's still time to get your tickets for this year's Christmas at the Cathedral. Six performances will be featured starting on Dec. 12 and ending on Dec. 15.

The theme this year is, "Go in Peace," and the concert will be directed and conducted by Dr. John Flanery. It will also feature actors Andrew and Teresa Henrickson. Andrew is the director of theater at Mount Marty College. Additionally, female soloist Shelly Jennings will be joined by male soloist Christopher Bailey for the performances.

"Christmas at the Cathedral 2024 'Go in Peace' is a first-hand account of the monumental events surrounding Jesus' birth through the experience of Simeon, who was told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he saw the Messiah, and Anna, who prayed night and day in the Temple in Jerusalem," said Mark Conzemius, producer and director of Christmas at the Cathedral. "Meanwhile, in the nearby town of Bethlehem, the Messiah was born to Mary and Joseph. In accordance with the law of the Lord, Joseph and Mary took their newborn son to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and to offer sacrifices in the Temple. Simeon was there and took Jesus into his arms and blessed God, saying: 'Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace...for my eyes have seen your salvation...' Anna also came forward, giving thanks to God and telling all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."

Christmas at the Cathedral supports the ongoing care and maintenance endowments for two local beacons of hope: the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House (an emergency homeless shelter) and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph.

Tickets sell fast. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit ccfesd.org.

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Women's Silent Retreats
Weekend of Silence (Nov, 1-3)

SPECIAL RETREATS

Men's 12 Step Retreat
(Nov 8-10)

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(Nov 14-15)

Women's Advent Retreat
Go In Haste (Nov 22-24)

Mixed 12 Step Retreat
(Dec 13-15)

Marriage Retreat
Surrendering to God (Jan 17-19)

NET Confirmation Retreat
(Feb 8-9)

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

November 12, 2024
Building Up The Body of Christ
Directed by, Deacon Mike McKeown

November 17, 2024
Living life fully alive; Mind, Body and Soul
Directed by, Dylan Reinhardt

December 10, 2024
Human trafficking in South Dakota
Directed by, Sister Teresa Wolf

January 14, 2025
To Be Determined
Directed by, Fr. Gregory Tscakert

OTHER EVENTS

Christmas Cantata
(December 7-8)

Vespers & Valentines
(February 14)

Get In Touch
46561 147th Street, Marvin, SD 57251
605-398-9200 or abbey@abbeyofthehills.org
REGISTER ONLINE AT: WWW.ABBEYOFTHEHILLS.ORG

Recitation of the Rosary

Fridays – The Rosary is recited for the faithful departed on all Fridays of the month at 10 a.m. in St. Michael Cemetery in Sioux Falls. Each Friday, the Rosary is offered for a different intention. Meet at the cemetery office parking lot for those who would like to walk.

Annual Prison Christmas Packages

Nov. 30 – The SD Prison Chaplains Association is once again asking for donations for those who are incarcerated. Christmas is a very difficult and lonely time for inmates, and this small gesture lets them know they are not forgotten. For some, it is the only gift they will receive. Please join us in this beautiful act of charity and corporal work of mercy, “visit the imprisoned.” Donations can be sent by Nov. 30 to SD Prison Chaplains Association, Christmas Sacks, 601 W 57th St., Sioux Falls SD 57108. Please write “Christmas Sacks” in the memo line or give electronically to www.convergeheartland.org/give and choose SDPCA Christmas Sacks. For more information, visit the Prison Ministry link on the Sioux Falls diocese website sfcatholic.org/prison-ministry. Email Mo Irvine at prisonministry@sfcatholic.org with questions.

Christmas Concert

Dec. 8 – St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Hoven is holding their 20th Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday at 3 p.m. For tickets, call Noreen at 605-948-2451.

Advent Mission

Dec. 9 – Christ the Light of Nations Pastorate invites you to attend this year’s Advent Mission at Holy Trinity Parish, Huron. Evening talks featuring Catholic speaker Chris Padgett will occur on Dec. 9, 10 and 11 at 6:30 p.m. each night. There is also a Bible study at 10 a.m. on Dec. 10, 11 and 12 for those unable to attend the night sessions. A children’s program will be held Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. and is open to all children. There is no cost to attend, but free-will donations are welcome.

Pray at Planned Parenthood with the Jericho Wall group

Tuesdays – Jericho Wall has returned to Planned Parenthood on 41st Street to pray the Rosary. Please join us every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in praying a special Rosary for the unborn, their moms and this nation. All are welcome.

Help for parents who have lost a newborn or pre-born child

If you’ve lost a child due to miscarriage, still birth or shortly after birth, the Angel Lee Cronen Memorial Fund is available to assist you in dealing with your loss by helping you secure a proper burial for your child. Most parents don’t know what to do when faced with this situation and are often unable to pay for the services involved. This fund exists to help during this difficult time. For more information, contact Deacon Bill Radio at 605-336-7390 or dcnwilliamradio@sfcatholic.org.

Parish Dinners

Nov. 3 – St. Paul Apostle Catholic Church, Armour, will hold their annual fall supper from 4-7 p.m. Serving roast beef, turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, salads and pies. Cost for senior citizens, \$13, adults, \$15, kids 6-12, \$6, kids 5 and under, free. For to-go dinners, call 605-680-3932 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Nov. 3 – St. Thomas More Parish, Brookings, will hold its parish dinner from 10:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Serving turkey, dressing, potatoes and much more. Carry-out meals are available. Tickets will be available at the door or in advance at the parish office.

Sacred Heart Monastery

Nov. 1 – Online *Lectio Divina* at 10 a.m., Fridays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Meet online for *Lectio Divina*, a time for praying with the Gospel of the following Sunday. To register any time, contact group leader Sr. Doris Oberembt OSB at doberembt@yanktonbenedictines.org. Include your email address.

Nov. 16 – Contemplative Mornings – Saturday, from 9-11:15 a.m. Contact Sr. Doris at 605-668-6022 or doberembt@yanktonbenedictines.org. yanktonbenedictines.org/contemplative.

Dec. 5 – Registration deadline for online Advent retreat, “Mary’s Song: An Invitation and Response,” on Sat., Dec. 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Brief presentations complement prayer, silence, and sharing, learning from Mary how to respond to God’s

invitations in our own lives. Go to yanktonbenedictines.org/advent-retreat for information, registration and cost.

Silent Personal Retreats – Contact us to reserve space in monastic silence for your personal retreat. You may choose to retreat privately or meet with a director. Contact us at yanktonbenedictines.org/silent-personal-retreats or 605-668-6292.

Spiritual Direction – Meet with a companion-guide to reflect on your experience of God in your life. One-to-one meetings are typically scheduled monthly; meet in person or online. BenedictinePeaceCtr@yanktonbenedictines.org or 605-668-6292.

The Lourdes Center

A God Who Knocks

Nov. 5 – A God Who Knocks is a four-week series exploring God’s power to heal and restore. The series includes presentations, reflection and discussion. Sessions will be held every Tuesday night from 6-8 p.m. starting Nov. 5 at Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in Sioux Falls. Visit thelourdescenter.com to learn more.

Mater Ecclesiae Monastery

Public Eucharistic Adoration:

All are welcome for eucharistic adoration and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the monastery chapel. Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Daily Holy Mass:

Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.

Prayer Requests:

It is our pleasure to support you in prayer. Please contact us with your requests. Call 605-336-2374 or make your request online at www.perpetualadorationsisters.org

Gift Shop:

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