Diocese celebrates 2012 Chrism Mass

Priests, deacons, seminarians, parish directors, diocesan curia and staff, religious superiors, and the lay faithful from across the Diocese of Winona gathered to witness the blessing and consecration of the Holy Oils and to rejoice in the renewal of our priests’ commitment to serving Jesus Christ and His holy Church, during the Chrism Mass at St. Pius X, Rochester, on April 2, 2012.

The Chrism Mass, one of the principal expressions of unity in the local Church each year, traditionally takes place during the Holy Thursday Mass. However, in dioceses where it is difficult for the clergy and people to gather, it is allowed on another day near Easter. In the Diocese of Winona, the Chrism Mass is held on the Monday of Holy Week.

Each year, Bishop Quinn consecrates the sacred chrism used in the sacraments of initiation, holy orders and the dedication of churches and altars, and blessed the oils used in the blessing of the sick and the catechumens.

In Baptism, all Christians are plunged into the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ; they die with Him, are buried with Him and rise with Him; they share in His royal and prophetick priesthood. In Confirmation, Christians receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit for the strength to carry out the apostolate. In Holy Orders, a priests’ hands are anointed so that he may act in the person of Christ. The Oil of the Catechumens is used in the period of the catechumenate and in the baptism of infants and young children. As the oil of salvation, it gives strength in preparation for receiving sanctifying grace. The Oil of the Sick is used to anoint the sick by offering them a remedy for an illness of mind and body, and strength to be united to the passion of Christ for the good of the whole Church.

After the Chrism Mass, the oils are distributed to the parishes, religious homes, hospitals and other Catholic institutions in the diocese for use throughout the next year.

Following the blessing of the oils, the priests of the diocese renew their commitment to the priesthood and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ the High Priest. They responded to questions from Bishop Quinn, who asked if they will continue to be faithful to their calling as priests of Jesus Christ and to serve the people of God in the diocese. Nearly 100 active and retired priests of the diocese participated in the rite of recommitment.

Bishop Quinn celebrated the Chrism Mass on April 2, at St. Pius X, Rochester. The Chrism Mass is an opportunity for the priests, deacons, seminarians, religious and lay faithful from the diocese to gather together and witness the blessing and consecration of the holy oils and the priests’ commitment to serving Christ and His Church.

Hermits celebrate 25th anniversary in diocese

Nestled deep in the countryside near Houston, Minn., the Hermits of St. Mary of Carmel are preparing to celebrate their 25th anniversary of living in the Diocese of Winona this year.

The origins of the Carmelite order are traced to hermits who lived on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the late 12th and early 13th centuries. They built one of the first chapels in the Holy Land and dedicated it to Mary, Mother of God. The Founding Fathers of the Carmelites were first known as the Hermits of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, then Brothers of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and eventually, the Order of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

The Hermits of St. Mary of Carmel (HSMC) is a community of Carmelite nuns who live a hidden life of silence and prayer in imitation of the humble and simple life of the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth. The community was founded in 1980, with the original members living in northern Wisconsin. In 1987, they moved to a beautiful location near Houston, Minn., in the Diocese of Winona, where they have lived since.

Currently, four sisters and Fr. David Wechter, a Trappist priest, live in solitude at the hermitage. The purpose of their life follows the life of the first Carmelites on Mount Carmel - a life of solitude and contemplation, within a framework that allows for complete liberty for individual development under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Every vocation, particularly a call to the hermitage, is a total surrender to faith and to the unconditional love of Christ.

The sisters are servants of the Church, modeling their lives after Mary by praying for the people...
Easter Joy
The joy of the Risen Christ, who conquered sin and death, fills us with hope and courage and assures us that the Holy Spirit’s redemptive work can never be defeated. Throughout the Easter season, the readings from Scripture remind us that the Risen Christ is the crucified one, who is transformed and can appear to his disciples. Christ is no ghost or projection of the disciple’s imagination. Jesus Christ is real and living and is present, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist. What a gift to us and what an expression of divine love and hope, that Jesus Christ is present, body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist and wishes to enter into our lives and be the food to nourish us to eternal life.

Religious Liberty
The Catholic Bishops of the United States have issued a strong and challenging document titled, “Our First, Most Cherished Freedom.” As Catholics and citizens, we participate in the democratic process and we make our voices heard by those elected to serve the common good, in order to protect the freedom of religion for all people. The Health and Human Services mandate has received wide attention and has met with strong opposition. The mandate would force religious institutions to fund services that are contrary to their moral teachings and give government the authority to determine which religious institutions, colleges, universities, hospitals and social service agencies, are truly religious, in order to qualify for an exemption from the mandate.

Archbishop William Lori stated it very clearly when he testified before congress, “This is not a matter whether contraception maybe prohibited by the government. This is not even a matter of whether contraception may be supported by the government. Instead, it is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception or sterilization, even if that violates their religious beliefs.” Excerpts from the document, Our First, Most Cherished Liberty, are found in this edition of the Courier and the full text can be found at http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/our-first-most-cherished-liberty.cfm.

In every diocese, the bishops have requested that there be an observance of A Fortnight for Freedom from June 21 to July 4, 2012. This observance will begin on eve of the Feast of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher on June 21 and end on Independence Day. During the Fortnight for Freedom, there will be a rally with Professor Theresa Collett, St. Thomas’ School of Law, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Rochester on June 26, at 7 p.m. Prayer cards will be distributed at all the parishes to be used at home and I will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on June 21, at 12:10 p.m. to pray for religious liberty. Also, during our evangelization event, Turning Our Gaze To Christ, we will reflect on religious liberty, at the 8 a.m. Mass on Saturday, June 23.

Annual Diocesan Appeal
I am very grateful for the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Winona who have contributed to the Annual Appeal that supports diocesan programs, services and staff salaries. Your generosity inspires me to be more generous in my life. Thank you for digging deeper and for every sacrifice you make. I do not take your generosity for granted and I pray for you at every Mass I celebrate. I am also aware of the leadership of the pastors, who greatly contribute to the success of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. God bless all of you.

Priest Assignments
Every year, in the spring, some priests are assigned by me to different parishes. I realize that change can be difficult for both the priest and the parish. Parishioners became adjusted to the pastoral leadership of the priest and worry about what the new pastor will be like and how he will fit in with the parish community. The priest has the same concerns, as he leaves a parish community he has learned to love and now, must learn all new names of people, a new parish history and traditions.

Priests usually stay for a term of six years but usually not for more than twelve years. When a pastor is transferred by me, be patient, because it takes only a short time for a pastor and parishioners to bond and move forward. In Christ, we become His Body and through the Eucharist, the one eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ is manifest, which is the one priesthood that all priests share with their parishioners.

Priests are assigned by the bishop and are not hired by the parish, because the bishop has the fullness of Holy Orders and has the responsibility to oversee the pastoral care of all the parishes in the diocese. I take great care in sending a priest to a parish and I pray for the priests who serve you and for vocations to the priesthood. The list of priest assignments will be published in the June issue of the Courier.

Closing
The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and often May Crownings are celebrated in parishes and Catholic schools. Mary is the first disciple and she heard the Word of God and she fully accepted God’s plan for her life. Mary is the model of the Church and as the Mother of God, she intercedes for us as Our Mother. I hope you pray the rosary everyday and entrust your life to her. O Mary, conceived without original sin, pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Rev. John M. Quinn

Bishop John Quinn, Very Rev. Richard Collett, Vicar General, Very Rev. Thomas Melvin, Vicar for Clergy, are pictured here with Pope Benedict XVI during their Ad Limina visit to Rome in March. Approximately every five years, each bishop has the opportunity to meet with the pope and Vatican officials to give an account of the state of their diocese.
**Bishop’s Calendar - May 2012**

**May 2, Wednesday**  
7 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Rose of Lima, Lewiston with St. Anthony, Altura; Immaculate Conception, Wilson

**May 3, Thursday**  
10 a.m. - Holy Hour, Bishop's Chapel

**May 4, Friday**  
10 a.m. - Meeting with Mother General Mary McGreevy and the Sisters of Mercy  
7 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Joseph, Owatonna with Christ the King, Medford; Corpus Christi, Deerfield

**May 5, Saturday**  
10 a.m. - Confirmation at Sacred Heart, Owatonna with Holy Trinity, Litomysl  
5:30 p.m. - Evening prayer and dinner at BHM

**May 6, Sunday**  
2 p.m. - Confirmation at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus Kostka with St. John - Winona, Holy Trinity - St. Paul - Minnesota City and St. Mary - Minneiska

**May 7-8, Monday-Tuesday**  
Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, Champion, WI

**May 9, Wednesday**  
12 p.m. - IHM Seminary Finance Council, Winona  
7 p.m. - Confirmation at St. Joachim, Plainview and Immaculate Conception, Kellogg

**May 10, Thursday**  
10 a.m. - Holy Hour, Bishop's chapel  
1 p.m. - Youth Leaders Meeting, Cathedral, Winona  
5:30 p.m. - Mass at Federal Prison, Waseca

**May 11, Friday**  
5 p.m. - IHM Seminary Baccalaureate Mass, IHM

**May 12, Saturday**  
8:30 a.m. - SMU Baccalaureate Mass, St. Thomas More  
11 a.m. - Undergraduate Commencement, SMU

**May 15, Tuesday**  
1:30 p.m. - Present Grand Prize Award for Rosary Essay Contest, Loyola High School  
6 p.m. - Mankato Serra Burse, Applewood Restaurant, Mankato

**May 16, Wednesday**  
11 a.m. - Mass - Alverna Center (Priests’ Retreat)  
5 p.m. - Annual Guest House Reception, International Event Center, Rochester

**May 17, Thursday**  
1 p.m. - Bishop’s Cabinet  
7:30 p.m. - Baccalaureate Mass - Lourdes High School, St. Pius X, Rochester

**May 18, Friday**  
7 p.m. - Confirmation at St. Peter & Paul, Mankato with St. Joseph the Worker

**May 19, Saturday**  
6:30 p.m. - Knights of Columbus State Convention Banquet, St. John the Evangelist, Rochester

**May 20, Sunday**  
11 a.m. - Mass - Knights of Columbus State Convention, St. John the Evangelist, Rochester  
12 p.m. - Confirmation at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, St. Mary and St. Casimir, Winona

**May 21, Monday**  
Premier Bank Clergy Golf Outing, Owatonna Country Club

**May 23, Wednesday**  
12:30 p.m. - DOW Deposit and Loan Board, Pastoral Center

**May 24, Thursday**  
10 a.m. - Bishop’s Cabinet Holy Hour, Bishop’s Chapel  
12 p.m. - Finance Council

**May 26, Saturday**  
10 a.m. - Dean’s Meeting, St. Theodore, Albert Lea  
11 a.m. - Presbyteral Council, St. Theodore, Albert Lea  
1 p.m. - Bishop’s Cabinet

**June 1, Friday**  
11 a.m. - Mass - Rochester Serra Club & Sisters of St. Francis, Assisi Heights, Rochester

**June 3, Sunday**  
11 a.m. - Hispanic Confirmation, Queen of Angels, Austin

**June 6, Wednesday**  
11 a.m. - Minnesota Catholic Conference Meeting, Pastoral Center, Winona

**June 7, Thursday**  
10 a.m. - Bishop’s Cabinet Holy Hour, Bishop’s Chapel

**June 8, Friday**  
6 p.m. - Social and Dinner - Winona Catholic Schools Foundation Recognition Dinner, Visions Event Center, Winona

**June 10, Sunday**  
10:30 a.m. - Mission Helpers of the Holy Savior Profession of Vows, Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Winona

**June 13-14, Wednesday - Thursday**  
USCCB - Atlanta

**June 15, Friday**  
12 p.m. - Priestly Ordination of Deacon Jason Kern, Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Winona

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**Diocesan Evangelization Event**

**Father Leo Patalinghug**

On June 22-23, 2012, the Diocese of Winona will gather at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester for a diocesan “Evangelization Event” – Turning Our Gaze to Christ. The goal of this important gathering is to proclaim anew the Good News of Jesus Christ to God’s people here in southern Minnesota, and to promote within our diocesan Church the “new evangelization” called for so clearly and so often by Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict.

A speaker for the gathering will be Father Leo Patalinghug, a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and currently a member of the faculty at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary where he directs the Pastoral Field Education Program for future priests. Father Leo hosts a web and cable cooking show, along with his published cookbook and website, goes under the name Grace Before Meals. He calls it a movement that promotes the importance of families preparing and eating meals together.

A popular conference speaker with a growing national reputation for his ability to connect with teens and their parents, Fr. Leo has appeared at events across the United States and Canada. He also enjoys working with students at campuses, as well as actively participating in prison ministry work.

Born in the Philippines and raised in the Baltimore area, Fr. Leo actually developed his love for cooking while attending the seminary, at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. There, he became friendly with several Italian restaurant owners and learned how to make new dishes, and loves the process of preparing a meal, as much as he does sharing it with a table full of friends.

Fr. Leo was ordained in 1999 and served as a parish priest for five years at St. John’s Church in Westminster, Maryland. He was often invited to his parishioners’ homes for dinner. To their surprise, he would turn the table and cook for them, using these opportunities to build friendships and engage in relaxed conversations in the kitchen. Those memorable and unstructured times spent making a meal together proved to be the inspiration for Fr. Leo’s first book, Grace Before Meals: Recipes for Family Life.

Fr. Leo studied philosophy at Theological College at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He also holds advanced theological degrees from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He holds a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and has won a national championship in full-contact stick fighting.

In addition to the conference sessions for the event, there will also be an opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration, celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and an evening outdoor concert to close the event. To learn more about the event and to register, go to the diocesan web page (http://www.dow.org/SUMMEREVENT.aspx).

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**Eleven Day Pilgrimage to Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi and Glorious Rome**

**November 5 - 15, 2012**

Only $3193 per person from Omaha or Chicago  
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Includes roundtrip air, First Class Hotels, tours, transfers, baggage handling, most meals, and much more!

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Father John Vukulaskas Jr  
Saint Andrews Church  
PO Box 07  
Sibley, IA 51249  
(712) 754-3311 or  
johnvukulaskas@gmail.com
Diocese celebrates Holy Week at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Many of the diocesan seminarians stayed in Winona to serve during Holy Week at the Cathedral.

Gazing on Christ through the Rosary
A personal reflection

Annie Holtz - Pacelli Catholic Schools, Austin

The Rosary provides unique insight on the life and experiences of Christ, in His human and divine natures. The Rosary allows us to create analogies between Christ’s encounters, and our own. By praying the Rosary, we can more fully understand the true holiness and pureness of Christ’s life.

Through my own personal experiences, I have found the Rosary to be an exceptional form of prayer and I believe it has the ability to offer a broader sense of absorption and comprehension on the life of Jesus Christ. I have found many correlations between His existence and mine. Like Jesus, I must strive to be compliant and respectful to both my parents and all others around me. When I have difficulties, I turn to Jesus to give me guidance and support.

My favorite way to pray the Rosary is in meditation for someone else. I can feel myself connecting with God in honor of that person. The most spiritually connected Rosary I have ever prayed was for Joe Lewison. It was a really difficult time for me, and I meditated upon my memories with him and also upon his life in heaven. I often have difficulties praying the Rosary, but I find strength in things beyond myself. Praying in honor of someone else helps me to realize the full potential of the prayer. The Rosary is a great form of meditation and it can be truly inspiring. The Rosary is not so much about the content of the text, but as the sincerity and truth behind the action itself. When we pray the Rosary with an open heart and open mind, in honor of something beyond ourselves we can fully utilize the power of the prayer. I honestly believe that is where the beauty of the prayer lies, in the purpose and intent of the prayer. That day we all prayed the Rosary for Joe Lewison, was such an inspiring form of prayer, and quite honestly, I have never felt closer to God. Hearing everyone say those powerful words in honor of something beyond ourselves was an incredibly invigorating experience. In our joint focus on something so pure and righteous, I felt the power emitting from the harmonious words intertwining with each other into one solid prayer. The Rosary is a marvelous form of prayer that should be utilized in a joint focus more often because of the unique insight it offers into the eyes and mind of Christ.

Upper Left: Bishop Quinn baptized five catechumens at the Easter Vigil Mass. Here, he is baptizing Nick Hatting of WSU.

Upper Right: Nine were confirmed during the Easter Vigil Mass at Cathedral. Bishop is pictured anointing Chad Moore, who is accompanied by his sponsor, Aaron Lofy.

Right: The Easter Vigil celebration began outside with the blessing of fire and the paschal candle, the Light of Christ.

An ART Contest Sponsored by the Diocese of Winona Office of Faith Formation

Eligible Students: All Faith Formation and Home School Students
Divisions: Students in grades 4-6, 7-8 and 9-12

The Challenge: Pray the Rosary every day for a week and then create a work of ART that reflects the theme—Gazing on Christ Through the Rosary.

Significant Dates and Rules
April 11, 2012: Faith Formation classes say the Rosary using the Glorious Mysteries to kick off ART Contest.
June 15, 2012: Due date for “entry forms” to be received at the diocesan office.
June 22-23, 2012: ART must be presented in person at the diocesan event, “Turning Our Gaze to Christ,” being held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. Free entry to the student to the event is included with registration for the ART contest. Diocese will announce the overall ART contest winner for each division at the closing ceremonies for “Turning Our Gaze to Christ.”

Prizes
Prizes will be awarded for the top ART from Faith Formation and Home schools in grades 4-6, 7-8 and 9-12.

People’s Choice Award
“People’s Choice Award” will be given based on votes collected by people attending the event. Voting for the People’s Choice Award will be available both Friday and Saturday morning. The display of your ART is encouraged.


For more information on “Turning Our Gaze to Christ,” go to www.dow.org.

Diocese of Winona • 65 West Sanborn Street • PO Box 588 • Winona MN 55987
Phone: 807-464-4643 • Fax: 807-464-8106 • Email: faithformation@dow.org
Diocese launches feasibility study

The Diocese of Winona has just launched a feasibility study to determine the level of support for a diocesan-wide capital campaign.

Representatives from the Steier Group, a Catholic development and fundraising firm, are here in the diocese conducting interviews. They are seeking feedback on three proposed needs: priest retirement fund, improvements to Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary and renovations to the diocesan pastoral center.

“We want to hear from as many people as possible so we can gauge their interest in addressing these three urgent needs,” said Joel Hennessy, Director of Mission Advancement for the Diocese.

During the 12-week study, parishioners will have a variety of ways to give their opinions. While some people will be personally interviewed, others will have the option to mail in a survey, go online to answer questions, or attend a focus group.

“More details about how to participate will be coming in late May and early June,” said Hennessy.

Participants will be given a fact sheet that outlines each of the three needs and how the diocese would like to address them. Right now the cost to address all three is estimated between $18 and $20 million.

The information collected during the study is confidential. The results will be used to recommend if the diocese should proceed with a major fundraising effort and what it can expect to accomplish.

“We are very excited about the study and hope people will take the time to give us their opinions,” said Hennessy. “We are one Catholic family and need to make this decision together.”

The Steier Group has developed a number of successful efforts including a $51 million campaign in the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin and a $49 million campaign for the Sioux Falls, S.D. Catholic Schools.

Seeds of Faith: Catholic School Tuition Assistance Endowment

At its April 19 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Diocese of Winona Foundation released the funds for distribution in endowment earnings from the Seeds of Faith Catholic School Tuition Assistance at $100,000 for the 2012-2013 school year.

Catholic schools, deeply rooted in the rich heritage of the diocese, represent a treasure that must be guarded with great diligence. The Seeds of Faith campaign, established to assist these local schools, was designated to provide supplemental tuition assistance to parents and caregivers who seek a Catholic education for their children and who demonstrate financial need. The distribution of funds in 2012 will follow the existing application and selection process as promised in the case statement for the endowment fund in the Seeds of Faith campaign.

“…the diocese will establish a $2,000,000 endowment fund designated to provide tuition assistance to parents who seek a Catholic education for their children and who demonstrate a financial need. This endowment also will respond to a special need to provide tuition funding for the newly arrived immigrants in our diocese.”

If a household is in financial need, the family is encouraged to contact their pastor to apply for the Seeds of Faith Catholic School Tuition Assistance fund in the 2012-2013 school year. Seeds of Faith Scholarships are need-based, and the funds are available only to families who are not able to enroll their students in Catholic schools because of limited income and work opportunities.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee that will make recommendations to the bishop for the award of scholarship funds. Every family that applies will receive a letter acknowledging receipt of the application and then, later in the summer, informing them as to whether an award has been made. Recipients will be informed of the committee’s decision in late June and monies are directly deposited to the school accounts of those who receive assistance. Scholarship funds can be used only for the 2012-2013 academic year; they may not be used to pay overdue tuition.

Applications are to be completed by parents and submitted to the pastor or school principal. The deadline for all applications is May 31, 2012; all applications must be postmarked or delivered at Pastoral Center by the close of business on that date if delivered.

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www.smumn.edu

Check out how Saint Mary’s makes private college affordable: www.smumn.edu/finaid
Marriage: the foundation of society

Pope Benedict XVI recently addressed Bishop Quinn and the other Bishops of our region with the following words: “...as Blessed John Paul II observed, the future of humanity passes by way of the family (cf. Familiaris Consortio, 85). Indeed, ‘the good that the Church and society as a whole expect from marriage and from the family founded on marriage is so great as to call for full pastoral commitment to this particular area. Marriage and the family are institutions that must be promoted and defended from every possible misrepresentation of their true nature, since whatever is injurious to them is injurious to society itself’ (Sacramentum Carilalis, 29).”

Fully aware that Minnesotans will be given the opportunity this November to vote “Yes” on the Marriage Protection Amendment, Pope Benedict advised: “…particular mention must be made of the powerful political and cultural currents seeking to alter the legal definition of marriage. The Church’s conscientious effort to resist this pressure calls for a reasoned defense of marriage... Defending the institution of marriage as a social reality is ultimately a question of justice, since it entails safeguarding the good of the entire human community and the rights of parents and children alike.”

One way that we can give a reasoned response is by using the facts that the Church has gathered for us. Here are five areas where marriage impacts our society and why, for the children’s sake, we should be concerned about protecting marriage.

Family
1. Marriage increases the likelihood that fathers and mothers have good relationships with their children.
2. Children are less likely to thrive in complex households.

Economy
3. Divorce and unmarried childbirth increase poverty for both children and mothers, and cohabitation is less likely to alleviate poverty than marriage.
4. Parental divorce (or failure to marry) appears to increase children’s risk of school failure.

Physical Health and Longevity
5. Children who live with their own two married parents enjoy better physical health, on average, than do children in other family forms.
6. Married people, especially married men, have longer life expectancies than do otherwise similar singles.

Mental Health and Emotional Well-being
7. Cohabitation is associated with higher levels of psychological problems among children.
8. Married mothers have lower rates of depression than do single or cohabiting mothers.

Crime and Domestic Violence
9. Boys raised in non-intact families are more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal behavior.
10. Married women appear to have a lower risk of experiencing domestic violence than do cohabiting or dating women.

Confidence in the Sacred Heart of Jesus

When the Sacred Heart blesses an undertaking, He makes it fruitful. That’s the original meaning of the verb “to bless”: to be fruitful. But we must be true devotees of the Sacred Heart, and that means much more than simply to receive Holy Communion on the first Fridays from time to time or recite the litany a couple of times a year or hang his picture on the wall for a nice Catholic decoration. No, we must unconditionally trust in His Heart. He once said to a privileged soul, Sister Benigna Consolata Ferrero: “If I am good to all, I am very good to those who confide in Me. Do you know which souls take the greatest advantage of my goodness? They are those who hope the most. Confident souls steal my graces!”

Confidence is the word. It is not an ordinary hope compounded by solid conviction. It is a precise quality of the soul that distinguishes it: It is “a confidence”, He says. A confidence that remains mindful of the promises of the Sacred Heart; He mediates upon them profoundly. He knows that Jesus’ word cannot fail, and from this He draws His confidence. If danger threatens, surrounds, and even dominates him, He always preserves his serenity. In spite of the imminence of the risk, He says with the psalmist: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; what can I fear? The Lord protects my life; who will make me fear?” (Ps. 26)

A confident devotee remains mindful of the promises of the Sacred Heart; He mediates upon them profoundly. He knows that Jesus’ word cannot fail, and from this He draws His confidence. If danger threatens, surrounds, and even dominates him, He always preserves his serenity. In spite of the imminence of the risk, He says with the psalmist: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; what can I fear? The Lord protects my life; who will make me fear?” (Ps. 26)

Imagine the most anguish-filled extremities in the temporal order and apparently insuperable difficulties in the spiritual order; none of this will alter the peace of a confident devotee of the Sacred Heart. Unforeseen calamities may pile up around Him the ruins of his happiness; this devotee, always master of himself, will continue calmly in the fulfillment of his duties.

He will simply turn to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a certainty that increases in proportion to the degree that He feels himself deprived of human help. He will pray with a more vibrant ardor and, in the darkness of the trial, continue on his path, hoping in silence for the hour of God.

A confidence like this is without doubt, rare, but if it does not attain this minimum of perfection, it does not deserve the name of confidence. Unfortunately, the majority of Christians do not imitate such confidence. We seldom approach the Sacred Heart in the hour of trial. Indeed many of us do not even launch that cry for help which Jesus awaits in order to come to our assistance. What a fatal negligence! Jesus wishes to give the solution to the extraordinary difficulties of life directly, while He leaves to secondary causes the resolving of ordinary difficulties... But it is always necessary to cry out for divine help. That help the Sacred Heart gives us with pleasure.

Other Christians pray with fervor but without constancy in difficult hours. If we are not heeded immediately, we quickly fall from an exalted hope into an unreasonable discouragement. We do not know the ways of the Sacred Heart.

He sometimes treats us like children; He plays dear at times because of the pleasure that He feels in hearing us call on Him. Why should we become discouraged so quickly when, on the contrary, we should cry out with greater insistence?

The Sacred Heart of Jesus only postpones His help in order to stir up our confidence. If He does not always grant what we ask, it is because He desires to keep us at His feet and to provide us with an occasion to insist with loving violence in our petitions to Him. He showed this clearly to the disciples at Emmaus, with whom He stopped at the end of the day just as He was forced to do by them.

Unshakable firmness is, then, the first characteristic of confidence. This fifth promise is much too important to be treated in a short article. In the next issue of the Courier we will investigate the second characteristic of the true confidence in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Second Promise of the Sacred Heart

“I will establish Peace in their families”

Come hear Raymond de Souza speak on the second promise of the Sacred Heart and know more about the authentic Peace of Christ, contrary to the false “peace” of the world – and how can families benefit from the true peace

Monday, May 17 - 7 p.m.
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Winona

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you".
-John 14:27

Followed by:

Why do Catholics call Mary “Mother of GOD”?
Shouldn’t be just “mother of Jesus”?

The RCR Apologetics Program – Real Catholic Replies by Raymond de Souza, KM
WSU Newman Center takes pilgrimage to New York City

By Caitlin Evans
WSU Freshman

Needing to raise another $1000 the weekend before leaving for the pilgrimage, it seemed like a big feat for some of us. We put all the money we needed and then some! 19 people and three minivans drove from Williamsport, Pa. After almost 20 hours of rolling in the mini-vans, we arrived at New York City, on Sunday afternoon.

The men spent part of the week with the Franciscan Friars of the Virgin of Matara (SSVM) and the women stayed with the Sisters of Life, experience to attend a holy hour with the Sisters of Life, experience to attend a holy hour with the Franciscan Friars of the Virgin of Matara (SSVM), praying the Liturgy of the Hours as well. Throughout the day, we worked alongside the sisters at St. Paul’s School in Harlem. At the school, we split up and completed a variety of tasks including: data entry, covering books, helping in the cafeteria, helping in class-rooms, reading with children, and making an audio recording of a book. We also played games at recess and ate lunch with the kids every day.

During the rest of the week, we followed the sisters’ schedule. In addition to attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and a Holy Hour daily, we prayed the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Liturgy of the Hours as well. Throughout the day, we worked alongside the sisters at St. Paul’s School in Harlem. At the school, we split up and completed a variety of tasks including: data entry, covering books, helping in the cafeteria, helping in class-rooms, reading with children, and making an audio recording of a book. We also played games at recess and ate lunch with the kids every day.

Almost in need of walkers, almost grateful. I wouldn’t take back a second of this trip, regardless of getting little sleep and feeling completely exhausted – it was completely worth it! The trip helped us to encounter the Heart of Jesus Christ in a deeper way, making us more ready to actively pursue whatever He calls us in life. I cannot speak for everyone, but I know many of us are now more open to God’s will in our lives, including being more open to religious life or the priesthood! Thank you to everyone who supported us on our pilgrimage. Please continue to pray that we have the courage to respond to whatever the Lord is asking us to do!

St. Stanislaus School hosts 'Vocation Day'

St. Stanislaus School hosted speakers for 'Vocation Day' on March 15. Sheila Blahnik, Vocations Director of the Diocese of Winona; Fr. James Benning, Pastor of St. Mary’s Church, Winona; and Sr. Mary Jo Baldus. Pictured above (L to R): Fr. James Benning, Sheila Blahnik, Mary Nix, Sr. Mary Jo Baldus and Fr. Thomas Melvin.

Prayer to know one’s vocation

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you.

But of them all, there is one especially by which you wish me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my heart, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen
Meet our Seminarians: Jonathan Fasnacht

Name: Jonathan Fasnacht
Parish: St. Anne, Janesville
Seminary: Sacred Heart Major Seminary - Detroit, Mich.

Family: My parents are Raymond and Marry. I am the youngest of five boys; Sam, Fr. Matt, Chris and Michael. I have one older sister, Julie, and MaryBeth, the youngest in the family. I am the proud uncle of five nephews and two nieces.

What brought you to seminary?

When I was in my first year of college at RCTC, Rochester, I was dating a young woman who I had met in my psychology class. As we dated, and I grew in love for her, I wanted so much for her to come to know Jesus, because I knew that he would make her happier than I ever could. As I tried to draw her closer to Jesus through prayer, and Mass, and the Scriptures I became closer to Jesus than I ever had been before. I hadn’t loved Jesus above myself, my own plans, and my own desires above myself. I was a child, but one day, while I was driving towards Rochester in my Honda, I suddenly realized that I was open to God’s will for my life. I realized that God had changed my heart, and that I wanted Him and His will for my life, and that I was free of everything else because I just wanted Jesus. I offered my whole life to Jesus not knowing what His will for my life was, but knowing that He was who I wanted, and that Jesus would give himself to me as I gave my life to Him. After continuing to date for another year or so, God led me out of the relationship because I was open to God’s will for my life for the first time since I was young, I felt strongly called to remain single for at least two years, so that God would be able to lead me where I was meant to go. God was tugging me towards seminary pretty quickly. After speaking with a missionary group called NET Ministries for one year, I entered seminary in May 2011. Then, I was allowed to choose two I would also mention Cal 2: 19-20.

Who is your favorite Saint?

My favorite saint is the Blessed Mother, of course. Besides being my model of how to follow Christ, she has also been so good to me, and she continues to be my #1 supporter!!

What is your favorite book of all times?

My favorite book of all times is The Lord of The Rings by JRR Tolkien. Hard to beat!!

What have been the most difficult parts of discernment?

For me the most difficult parts of discernment are trying to remain faithful to Jesus and His will, especially when life is faced with my own weakness and lack of conversion. Sometimes, for one reason or another, life can become a little more difficult and dry than usual. It’s at these times that I can try to get a little discouraged and frustrated. But these difficult spots can also be times of great gain and spiritual growth. Because in them, we are given another opportunity to choose God above all else. We are given the opportunity to humbly recognize our own lacking, and to turn to God for help. So, because God is so good, the most difficult times in discernment, as in regular life, can also be the most blessed times.

What do you consider to be one of the greatest challenges for a priest today?

To radically live a life of sacrificial love for Jesus Christ. This is one of the greatest challenges for priests in our times, but it is also the great challenge for all Christians (priests or not) for every age.

How did you come to know Jesus Christ?

By seeking him out in silence, prayer, Scriptures and the Sacraments. I have come to know Jesus and His love more and more. He has honored my seeking by revealing himself to me in all the ways that I’ve sought him.

What do you enjoy most about the seminary?

I enjoy living with other men who are focused on God, and who are also seeking him out in their day-to-day lives.
Unlocking the gate in our hearts, immigration reform

A Statement of the Catholic Bishops of Minnesota on the Need for Federal Immigration Reform, March, 2012

We, the Roman Catholic Bishops of Minnesota, are deeply concerned about the nation’s immigration policy. It is inconsistent, ineffective, and does not promote the common good.

The lack of an effective, coherent national policy has led to the introduction of many bills in state legislatures and around the country, including in Minnesota, that seek to address this complex issue of immigration.

Such bills are a response to the failure of the current federal immigration laws and regulations to halt illegal immigration and combat the economic, social, and fiscal impact this has had on many state and local governments.

To enforce a focused state legislation, however, often diverts immigrant families and criminalizes the efforts of those who work with immigrants. State legislation cannot repair a failed national policy.

Thus, we seek to reiterate our support for comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, as well as propose the relevant principles that should guide these reforms.

We recognize that finding solutions to the plight of immigrants today will sometimes necessitate the overcoming of boundaries in the heart, not just on the land. People erect walls for protection when they feel threatened.

At some point, however, we must reach out to human persons in need, and the demands of our common human nature compel us to open the gate in the wall, so that what human dignity demands is not denied to a sister or a brother. But before a gate finds its way into the walls outside, there must be a gate that opens in the heart.

This is what the Good Samaritan did: without denying the differences that keep Jews and Samaritans apart, he gave the assistance that was demanded of him by the universal love of God—the love of our common humanity—by supplying the basic human needs of a poor stranger.

Like the Samaritan, we must see all people, including immigrants and undocumented workers who may be different from us, as children made in the image and likeness of God, and fashion our response to their needs accordingly.

Reprinted from the May 2012 issue of The Courier.
Summer Splash 2012 for moms and daughters

School Sisters of Notre Dame invite moms and daughters to “Splash” into summer with a little bonding time on Good Counsel Hill, Mankato. Summer Splash is an annual event that includes a blend of activities designed to strengthen the mother-daughter connection and provide an inside look at the Sisters’ lives. The camp is open to any girl completing 6, 7 or 8th grade and her mom or a significant female adult. It begins at 1 p.m. on June 22 and ends at 6 p.m. June 23. Highlights include an overnight stay, creative and educational activities, BINGO with the senior sisters, time to enjoy the beautiful campus, and prayer in the glorious and serene Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Cost $60 per pair. Scholarships available. Contact Sister Mary Beth Schraml, mbschramlssnd@yahoo.com, 507-388-0618 (day), 507-389-2242 (evening) or register online by June 15 at www.ssncentralpacific.org.

Parish Events

St. Charles Borromeo Church, St. Charles will host its 22nd Annual Springfest celebration on May 19-20. Mass at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, St. Charles Borromeo. After Mass, everyone is invited to enjoy a Mexican Meal and Bingo. On May 20, Mass is at 10:30 a.m. at the Winona County Fairgrounds. After Mass, there is a chicken dinner, a live auction, bake sale, children’s games and a big ticket draw, and other activities. To purchase a raffle ticket or for more information, contact the parish office at 507-452-3294 or borromeo@hbcsc.net.

Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Winona Fr. Michael Cronin will give the presentation, “On Life, Death, Funerals” on Saturday, May 5 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Cost is $5/person or $15/family. (At the door, tickets will be $7/person or $20/family.) The first 10 families to purchase a family ticket will get a free Cat. Chat CD! For more information, visit: www.catchat.ca.

Community Events

Prayer Vigil and Public Witness against Abortion Most people are not aware that our local Semcac Clinic is a deleg-ate of Planned Parenthood, the nation’s leading abortion provider. If you are interested in creating public awareness about this travesty, please consider joining a local group from 3-4 p.m. each Tuesday in front of Semcac at 62 E 3rd Street in Winona for an hour of prayer. Contact Pat O’Donnell at (857) 540-4008 or pataodonnell@gmail.com or Will Goodman at (608) 696-7443 for further questions.

Secular Franciscans The Secular Franciscan Order (formerly TOS), St. Louis Fraternity, meets twice monthly in the chapel, St. John the Evangelist Church, 11th Ave. SW., Rochester. First Saturday Prayer Hour for Healing, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Third Saturday Prayer before, meeting, 6 p.m.

Schoenstatt Shrine Come to the Shrine on a Marian Pilgrimage Day! Tuesday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All in honor of Our Blessed Mother at Sleepy Eye Shrine and Schoenstatt on the Lake Retreat Center. Holy Mass by Monsignor Lozinski. Talks by Sr Marie Day & Sr Jessica Swedzinski. Devotions & Benediction with Dinner & Snacks. $20 RSVP 507-794-7727 or email schoenstatt-thelake@schoenstatt.org

Spring Event Calendar

May Event Calendar

Fr. Richard Loomis 60 years of priesthood Join us in honoring Fr. Richard Loomis as he celebrates 60 years of priesthood. Mass will be held on Saturday, May 27 at 10:30 a.m., at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Austin. There will be an immediate following Mass in Jennings Hall connected to the church in lieu of Mass. If you wish to make a donation in Fr. Dick’s name, please consider a donation to the “Ann Loomis Fund for the Children and Aging in India”. Please make checks payable to: DOW Ann Loomis Fund, P.O. Box 588, Winona, MN 55987.

Mass for Life and Marriage St. Mary’s Church, Winona, offers a Mass for Life and Marriage on both the first and third Thursday of the month, at a new time of 5:15 p.m. Occasionally, these Masses are not held because of a scheduling change or Holy Day. Call the church office at 507-452-5656 for updates.

Million Rosaries for Life The question is asked: Why should we pray at least one Rosaries for unborn babies? There are a number of answers, including the fact that the unborn babies have been the victims of the worst massacre in the history of mankind. Within the last 50 or so years, hundreds of millions of unborn human persons (and perhaps billions) have been killed surgically and non-surgically. And, it should be pointed out clearly: This abominable crime continues to happen. One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies prayer event is a time for the Church Militant to unite worldwide to engage in spiritual warfare against this culture of death. For young people, older people, and everyone else, the plea is made: Please pray at least one Rosary (May 4 - 6) for an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons. Pat Benedict St. Mary’s Parish, Winona, will offer a Rosary at 8 a.m. on May 6.

National Council of Catholic Women The Province of St. Paul and Minneapolis announces the upcoming Province Conference, to be held June 19-20. The event will be held at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Grand Rapids, Minn. The theme for the two day event is “Love in Motion”. Bishop Paul Sirba, Bishop of the Diocese of Duluth, will be the main celebrant at the opening liturgy. The keynote speaker will be Judy Powers, President of the National Council of Catholic Women. A speaker has been scheduled for each commiss-ion. A banquet with entertain-ment will be held on Tuesday night. Registration deadline is June 10. Cost for the event is $30 for one day, $45 for two days and the banquet is $75. Overnight accommodations are not included. Contact Conference registration fee. For more information call: Leona Barton, Conference Chair, 218-326-1122 or 218-328-5520 home.

Poland & Eastern Europe Tour 2012 Join a grand tour of Eastern Europe Oct 31-Nov 11, 2012. Includes Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Austria. Price of only $2699 per person includes airfare from MSPs, first rate hotels, tour buses, guides and meals. Call Fr. Steve Peterson at 507-346-7565 or Fr. Mike Cronin at 507-454-1974 for more information. Limited group size, so call now!

Traditional Latin Mass Schedule

Alpha, St. Alphonsus Liguori, weekly and daily. Sunday: 8 a.m. except second Sunday of the month variable.

Guckeen, Our Lady of Ransom, weekly. Sunday, 11 a.m., except second Sunday of the month, 9:15 a.m.

Mankato, St. Peter and Paul, first Saturday month, 9 a.m.

Rochester (Simpson), St. Bridget, first and third Sundays of the month, 1 p.m.

The Televised Mass

Offered as a service for the homebound and elderly. Every Sunday on the following stations: KTTC-TV, Channel 10, Rochester at 9 a.m. KEYC-TV, Channel 12, Mankato at 7:30 a.m. Donations for the contin-uation of this program may be sent to: TV Mass, PO Box 588, Winona MN 55987. Thank you for your donations to the TV Mass.
SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES’ ANNUAL APPEAL
Mother’s Day Weekend — May 12 & 13, 2012

PURSUE

justice & kindness

FOR
children
refugees
immigrants
families in crisis
vulnerable adults
uninsured individuals
unmarried women & their unborn children

REGARDLESS OF
race
faith tradition
or ability to pay

He who pursues justice & kindness will find life & honor.

Proverbs 21:21