



## Consecration of the Family

to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Story on  
page 5.

www.wyocathregister.org

April 2011

Volume 58 - Issue 13

# WYOMING CATHOLIC REGISTER

## Parish Life & Leadership Task Force Summary

by Fr. Carl Gallinger



configuring of parishes and missions and the evaluation of alternative staffing, e.g. Pastoral Life Coordinators. The Bishop asked the Task Force to keep in mind the availability of Sacraments, primarily Eucharist & Reconciliation in making their recommendations.

The preliminary work of the Task Force focused on creating a process whereby as many parishioners as possible could participate. Parish listening sessions were developed and then held throughout the Diocese in January and February of 2011. These listening sessions afforded parishioners an opportunity to learn about the current situation of fewer priests, share feelings, hopes and needs about the challenge we face and make recommendations if their deanery had one or two fewer priests. The clergy of the Diocese were also invited to meet in deaneries in March and offer their recommendations if the Diocese had from one to five fewer priests.

The Task Force recently met with Bishop Etienne to review the results of the parish listening sessions and deanery clergy listening sessions. It was noted that many people were unaware of the situation since they are always served by a priest at weekend liturgies. It was also reported that many people were disappointed and saddened by the situation, but hopeful that we can arrive at a solution that serves God's people without overtaxing our clergy. Many parishioners

were willing to sacrifice a resident pastor for the sake of another community, trusting their spiritual needs would be met. Bishop Etienne reiterated his commitment to priestly leadership for our parishes and has worked diligently with religious communities and bishops around the world to find available priests to serve in Wyoming. He is also working with Fr. Bill Hill, Diocesan Vocation Director, to promote locally "grown" priests. Vocation Ministry is a critical factor in our new Diocesan Strategic Plan; a topic also covered in this publication.

The Task Force is now preparing for deanery listening sessions to be held in May. Every parishioner is invited to attend. The focus of these final listening sessions will be to respond to the recommendations made thus far in the process. You will have the opportunity to critically evaluate the best distribution of clergy in your deanery and our Diocese. You are strongly encouraged to attend a listening session. Please watch your parish bulletin for dates and times.

During the parish listening sessions, we heard a broad spectrum of ideas, from the use of technology to the use of deacons and lay leaders. In addition, suggestions were made to look at: one priest at St. Anthony's in Casper, twin St. Patrick's in Casper and Glenrock, remove the diocesan priest from F.E. Warren Air Force Base, twin Pine Bluffs with a parish in Cheyenne, remove one priest from Sheridan, twin Sundance and

Newcastle, twin Saratoga and Rawlins, twin Evanston and Kemmerer, twin Worland and Thermopolis or Greybull and Worland.

Following the deanery sessions the Task Force will meet in June to finalize their recommendations to Bishop Etienne. The Task Force wants to thank Bishop Etienne for his commitment to this process, the clergy who have embraced this challenge and to parishioners who have so graciously offered their suggestions. Please continue to pray for the ongoing work of the Task Force and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Cheyenne.

## Second Collection for Japan

Second collections were taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Cheyenne for the victims of the Japan earthquake and tsunami. Money will be sent to Catholic Relief Services toward this effort. The amount of money collected will be reported in the next issue of the *Wyoming Catholic Register*.

The Diocese of Cheyenne is challenged to meet the pastoral needs of her people with fewer priests. This has been a growing trend, not only in Wyoming, but throughout the United States. We are currently faced with several priests near retirement and several priests who are serving past retirement age.

In the fall of 2010, Bishop Etienne formed the Task Force for Pastoral Leadership. Members on the Task Force are lay and clergy, men and women, from both small and large communities in the Diocese. The responsibilities given by the Bishop are: the best distribution of clergy; possible re-

# The Word of God Speaks

by Fr. Rob Spaulding



*"When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his own word, proclaims the Gospel,"* (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 29).

Furthermore, "He is present in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church," (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 7). Powerful words to be sure, but do we really believe them? Do we really believe that Christ is present in a real way when the scriptures are proclaimed during the celebration of the Eucharist? This third installment preparing for the implementation of the revised Roman Missal will reflect on the Liturgy of the Word and its relationship to the transforming power of the Eucharist.

One of the greatest gifts that preparing for the revised Roman Missal offers is the chance to reflect more deeply on the way our communities pray the Eucharistic Liturgy. While the actual changes we will experience during most of the Liturgy of the Word are minor, attending to them will hopefully draw us into the power of this part of the liturgy.

It is important to note that while the prayers of the Mass are being retranslated, the texts from Sacred Scripture will remain the same. The most notable change will be the dialogue before the proclamation of the Gospel. As in the introductory rites, the proclaimer of the Gospel will say, "The Lord be with You," and we will respond, "And with your spirit." After the Gospel is announced, we will respond, "Glory to

you, O Lord," instead of "Glory to you, Lord." Because the changes surrounding the proclamation of the Word are few, we have even more chance to reflect on the importance of the Liturgy of the Word.

A significant contribution of the Second Vatican Council to the worship life of the church was the expansion and revision of the Lectionary for Mass. Before the council, Catholics heard only 1% of the Old Testament and 17% of the New Testament. Now we hear 17% of the Old Testament and 71% of the New Testament. Although the exposure to scripture has expanded, my worry is that we have not given sufficient attention to how the scriptures are proclaimed and heard.

This article began by asserting that when scripture is proclaimed in the liturgy, it is God who is present and speaking to the assembly. This belief is the foundation for the Word of God being proclaimed aloud and not read silently during the celebration of the Eucharist. Proclaiming the scriptures aloud expresses their original design. The Bible was compiled for public proclamation, not just for private devotion. In the revised Missal, the Order of Mass clarifies that the people do not merely sit...we "sit and listen."

As most of us know, listening can be very challenging. And yet, it is as listeners that we are asked to encounter God's presence in the Word. The Word is fulfilled in our hearing. If we seriously engage God's proclaimed Word, we must work at listening. While our world often tells us that, "seeing is believing," in our worship, we proclaim that through our listening and hearing

the Word of God, our hearts are moved and belief results. The ancient Jewish creed is not to see, but to hear O Israel the Lord your God is one. Creation itself was a speech act...and God said...and so there was light. In the beginning was not book or script or image or text, but in the beginning was the Word. In the Liturgy of the Word, we confront not just text, but presence and yes, communion. God not only speaks to us, but speaks us into being through the proclamation of the Word.

As we think about implementing the revised Missal, we should ask questions about what resources we will use to help the community participate. Many worshipping communities provide printed copies of the readings for all to follow. This was never the vision of the church and should not be encouraged. God speaks to the people in the **proclamation** of the Word, not in the common silent reading of the Word. Is your parish ready to take seriously the task of listening to God speaking?

If we are going to attend to listening, we must also attend to proclaiming. As a Church, we must continue to grow in the ministry of proclaiming the Word. If we as proclaimers believe that God uses us as instruments to become present to the community, we must strive to be the best tuned instruments possible. We need to practice and to seek training to become even better proclaimers. We need guidance and evaluation. One helpful resource might be the "Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word," available from Liturgical Training Publications. We must also ensure that the proclaimed Word is able to be heard by the community. Do our sound reinforce-

ment systems ensure that all can hear what is being proclaimed?

The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Profession of Faith and the Prayers of the Faithful. There have been a number of revisions to both the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds. The revised Missal makes it clear that the Apostles' Creed may be used in place of the Nicene Creed (especially during Lent and Easter). It is important to remember that our beliefs are not changing, but some of the words used to express this faith will change. All of the changes may be found at: <http://uscgb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml>.

Finally, I would like to suggest that each of us has a role to play in preparing to experience an encounter with the Word during the Mass. Part of being able to listen to the Word might be having prepared by reading the word before coming to Mass. There are a number of great resources available to facilitate this. Each of the resources listed below contain the readings for Mass along with brief reflections. The tradition of our Faith is clear: The Word of God Speaks. Are we ready to hear?

**Give us This Day**  
<http://emarketing.litpress.org/public/vwS0/Fgk/subscribe>

**Living With Christ**  
<https://sfsdata.com/livingwithchrist/Subscribe.aspx>

**Magnificat**  
<http://www.magnificat.com/english/abo1.asp>

## Diocesan Stewardship - 2010-2011 Tithe

### 1st - 2nd - 3rd Quarters

#### 1st Quarter:

Catholic University of America	\$3,500
Zambia Mission Fund	\$2,500
Conception Abbey	\$2,000
Food Bank of the Rockies	\$4,822
Catholic Relief Services (Pakistan & Haiti)	\$4,821
Bread for the World	\$2,500
Catholic Charities - Archdiocese of New Orleans	
Gulf oil relief	\$4,822
Total	\$24,965

#### 2nd Quarter:

Pontifical North American College	\$5,000
Zambia Mission Fund	\$2,500
Black and Indian Mission	\$10,500
Food Bank of the Rockies Reserve	\$5,000
Reserve	\$1,965
Total	\$24,965

#### 3rd Quarter:

Church in Latin America	\$2,750
Church in Central/Eastern Europe	\$2,500
Zambia	\$2,500
Catholic Relief Services - Japan	\$10,000
Our Lady of Deliverance - Syriac Catholic Diocese	\$7,215
Total	\$24,965

## WYOMING CATHOLIC REGISTER

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Cheyenne  
 P.O. Box 1468  
 Cheyenne, WY 82003  
 Phone: 866-790-0014  
 Fax: 307-637-7936  
[www.wyocathregister.org](http://www.wyocathregister.org)

Publication and Editorial office:  
 2121 Capitol Ave.  
 Cheyenne, WY 82001

The Wyoming Catholic Register is published quarterly by the Diocese of Cheyenne. Periodical postage paid at Cheyenne, Wyo., and additional offices (USPS 693-960, ISSN 0746-5580). Postmasters, send address changes to: The Wyoming Catholic Register, 2121 Capitol Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001.

# Marriage: Mutual & Lasting Fidelity

by Deacon Vernon Dobelmann, Director of Pastoral Ministries

*"I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life." (Rite of Marriage)*

That is quite a commitment being expressed in two short lines, but it is one that can be lived out successfully with an outpouring of love, God's grace and a lot of prayer.

The blessings that come from a good marriage are simply phenomenal. Taking a few minutes to speak to a couple married for many years can quickly reveal some fascinating stories highlighting the "good times and the bad." These stories of commitment reflect the presence of love and forgiveness that make it possible to truly live with mutual and lasting fidelity.

As we enter into the popular time of year for wedding celebrations, it is clear that many people still see the Sacrament of Marriage in a very positive light. The institution of marriage is not obsolete as some have suggested, but it is an institution that deserves to be strengthened and solidified to better withstand the assaults from contemporary culture. Attempts to ridicule and redefine marriage in the media and in political circles

make it clear that greater diligence needs to be maintained by the Church in regard to instructing and forming the faithful so that there may be a more thorough understanding of this Sacred Covenant.

The word "commitment" may sometimes appear to have a negative connotation in modern society. It can be viewed as something to be avoided at all costs. In our Catholic tradition we see it as something to be embraced. Statistics make it painfully obvious that the difficulty of living a life of commitment as a married person is something that cannot be ignored. The pain and grief that afflicts a family when divorce enters the equation is immense, and society as a whole is feeling the ripple effects of the dismantling of the domestic church—the home. That is why it is imperative that the Church continue in its efforts to build up and strengthen the institution of marriage and family life.

Marriage preparation classes have long been part of the process to get married in the Catholic Church. However, the preparation for marriage begins long before that time. It actually begins in earnest at birth. A child learns about love, compassion, for-

giveness, and all the other virtues from his/her earliest days. Through the example of parents the child learns about commitment and service. This process carries on through childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. By the time a young man and woman become engaged a lot of preparation for marriage has taken place. Some of this will be very helpful as the young couple moves forward while other things that have been learned and assimilated may not be such an asset to developing a mature and lasting relationship.

The six to twelve months leading up to the wedding are packed with a multiplicity of activities. The Church expects some of this activity to be focused on the "lifetime" of the commitment and not just the wedding day itself. While understanding the joy and excitement centered on the wedding day, there is also much hope and anticipation centered upon the pledge, "I will love you and honor you all the days of my life." It is in recognizing the need for God's grace to live out this vow that the couple will wholeheartedly embrace the challenges and struggles of married life while savoring the overabundance of blessings as well.

The Church holds the Sacrament of Matrimony in high esteem. The presence of holy families strengthens both our Church and society, and so, the Church strives to support and build up the institution of marriage. This is much more than just the marriage preparation process right before the wedding. It is done through teaching about the Sacrament of Matrimony in our religious education classes all through the years of schooling; it is supporting marriage enrichment programs like Worldwide Marriage Encounter; it is helping those couples who are struggling in their marriage with individual counseling as well as programs like Retrouvaille; it is also helping those who have suffered through the painful reality of divorce.

"Take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Rite of Marriage) May these words and the rings which are exchanged between a man and woman on their wedding day be a bond that is truly created for a lifetime of mutual and lasting fidelity.

## Longest Married Couple in Wyoming

Matilda & Victor Schaff, Thermopolis, Wyo



Matilda & Victor Schaff, 73rd Anniversary

World Wide Marriage Encounter of Wyoming recognized Matilda and Victor Schaff of Thermopolis, Wyoming as the longest married couple in Wyoming on Valentine's Day weekend 2011. On February 12, 2011, representatives from WWME had the pleasure of meeting and reminiscing with the Schaff's about their life together. Victor and Matilda Schaff celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary November 24, 2010. They were married in the St. Charles Catholic Church in Bowman, North Dakota in 1937. February 17, 2011, Matilda celebrated her 90th birthday and February 20, 2011, Victor celebrated his 95th birthday.

Victor and Matilda grew up in the western badlands of North Dakota. Following their

marriage, they relocated to Laurel, Montana in 1942, then on to Thermopolis, Wyoming in the summer of 1946, where they have lived ever since. They are parishioners of St. Francis Church in Thermopolis.

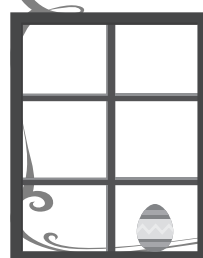
They have three daughters, Bernadine and Peggy, both living in Thermopolis, and Carole, living in Kaycee, Wyoming. They have 10 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and 2 great great grandchildren.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter initiated an effort to find the longest married couple in the United States. The longest married couple in each state was recognized, as well. WWME has been offering weekend experiences for over 42 years and is considered the original faith-based marriage enrichment program.

WWME has a presence in over 90 countries, which makes it the largest pro-marriage movement in the world. WWME offers married couples the opportunity to spend time together away from the busyness of the world to focus on their relationship. It offers tools for building and maintaining a strong, Christian marriage in today's world.

To learn more about WWME weekends online, go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org), or call 1-800-795-LOVE (English) and 1-800-599-AMOR (Spanish), or contact the WWME Office at (909) 863-9963.

Wishing Everyone in Wyoming a Happy Easter from



**THE GILL WINDOW COMPANY**

Locally owned and operated for 23 years!

1813 Pacific Ave. Cheyenne (307) 778-3037

[www.gillwindow.com](http://www.gillwindow.com)

**Wyoming's Oldest Credit Union**  
Serving our members since 1935

Our membership is open to everyone that lives, works, worships, or attends school in Laramie County, Wyoming.



**First Cheyenne**  
Federal Credit Union



A Community Chartered Credit Union - [www.firstcheyenne.com](http://www.firstcheyenne.com)

# Diocese of Cheyenne Strategic Pastoral Plan

The Strategic Pastoral Plan's six priorities were published in the parish bulletins, on the diocesan website, and on the Bishop's Blog. People were asked to submit their comments by email regarding these priorities. Thank you to everyone who sent in their comments. The Priority Task Forces will be meeting soon to discuss these comments with the possibility of inputting some of the comments into their reports. The Priority Task Forces will submit their final reports to the Bishop by the end of May.

## Diocese of Cheyenne - Strategic Pastoral Planning

The Vision Statement for the Diocese of Cheyenne contains six primary areas of focus. For each of these areas, a task force has been formed to establish the priorities to be accomplished in each of these areas.

### Vision: Liturgy and the Sacraments

- To encounter Christ through a renewed attention/focus on our full, active, and conscious participation in the Liturgy
- To deepen our knowledge and understanding of the transformative presence of Christ in the sacramental life of the Church
- To give witness to our Baptismal identity as members of the Body of Christ, a Eucharistic people
- To recognize and integrate into liturgical life of the church, the increasing cultural diversity of our diocese

### Vision: Catechesis

- Create lifelong, cradle-to-grave, faith formation experiences that will lead to changed hearts and renewed minds: a meaningful, personal encounter with our God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Form and equip a body of well-trained catechists
- Individually and collectively support our seven Catholic schools in Wyoming to ensure their continued existence and success
- Implement an accountability process to regularly measure, evaluate, and improve our catechetical work to ensure desired content (knowledge) and outcomes (behaviors and attitudes) are achieved

### Vision: New Evangelization

- Review and strengthen our efforts to sustain and grow the Catholic Community
- Focus on Active Membership, Focus on Inactive Catholics, Focus on Un-Churched
- Conversion & Renewal: Personal & Corporate Building Community through actions of:
  - Service & Witness
  - Public & Personal Invitation
  - Facilitation of Healing
  - Training (Catechesis)

### Vision: Family Life and Vocations

- To make Jesus Christ the center of parishes and homes through community building and faith formation:
  - To educate and emphasize to families and parishes the value and dignity of all human life
  - To use faith formation, particularly sacramental preparation, as moments to catechize and re-engage families
  - By exploring opportunities to bring all generations (and those in all situations of life) together for prayer, formation, and community
- To educate, promote, & support the sacrament of marriage and its effects on family, church, and society:
  - The Diocese will require strong marriage preparation classes in each parish
  - To increase the presence of Marriage Enrichment in the Diocese of Cheyenne and make them more accessible
  - To strengthen the Domestic Church
- To create, promote and encourage a culture of vocation among families and parishes so the faithful can recognize and respond to God's call:
  - To promote awareness and prayer for vocations throughout the Diocese
  - To increase the role of the laity in support of vocations
  - To create a professional vocations video to assist the Diocese in encouraging family & parish support

### Vision: Youth and Young Adults

#### Youth:

- Mission and Vision Statement – Define Diocesan-level mission and vision statements
- Parishes – At the parish level, provide support and training to help parishes bring youth into the life of the parish
- Programs – Put the Gospel message into action. Provide substantive formation in truth and spirituality
- Coordinator- (Diocesan and/or Deanery Level)
- Evangelization – focused on our youth with a personal call by the Bishop

#### Young Adults:

- Mission and Vision Statement – address young adult ministry specifically in parishes
- Parishes – encourage young adult leaders, meet their unique needs and involve them in parish life
- Programs – strive to identify and engage the young adult presence in the Diocese; foster community
- Evangelization – outreach to young adults using effective means (social media, etc.); a personal invitation from the Bishop to participate in the life of the Church

### Vision: Stewardship

- Move the majority of parishes to become stewardship parishes with active stewardship committees, enthusiastic tithing of Prayer, Service and Financial Resources by parishioners, and tithing by the parish itself
- Move the Diocesan Stewardship Campaign from the spring to the fall

## Save The Date, July 1, 2011 Sacred Heart Feast Day

A primary goal of our pastoral plan is to encourage and enable our people to grow in holiness; given that the first day of this new fiscal year is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, it is Bishop Etienne's prayerful wish to consecrate the Diocese of Cheyenne for the time span of this pastoral plan to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

For this special celebration, there will be a noon Mass on Friday, July 1, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Cheyenne. Bishop Etienne is asking each parish in the Diocese to celebrate a Mass that day. Understanding that our priests will more than likely be unable to attend the Mass at the Cathedral, the Bishop is asking that a small delegation of parishioners from around the Diocese be present at the Cathedral for this special Mass.

Besides the Masses and special prayers to be offered that day, the Bishop is also asking each family to participate by offering prayers of consecration in their homes as well as "enthroning" an image of the Sacred Heart in each home.

This devotion is a unique way to draw everyone's attention to the desire and call to keep Christ before us always, and to dedicate ourselves to His faithful service. It is suggested that each parish have an image of the Sacred Heart enshrined somewhere on the parish grounds or within the parish church, office, hall, or other prominent location. Parishioners are encouraged to prepare in advance with all they need, such as the prayers, images, statues, etc.

# Consecration of the Family -to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sacred Heart of Jesus, You made clear to Saint Margaret Mary Your desire of being King in Christian families. We today wish to proclaim Your most complete kingly dominion over our own family. We want to live in the future with Your life. We want to cause to flourish in our midst those virtues to which You have promised peace here below. We want to banish far from us the spirit of the world which You have cursed. You shall be King over our minds in the simplicity of our faith, and over our hearts by the wholehearted love with which they shall burn for You, the flame of which we will keep alive by the frequent reception of Your divine Eucharist. Be so kind, O divine Heart, as to preside over our assembling, to bless our enterprises, both spiritual and temporal, to

dispel our cares, to sanctify our joys, and to alleviate our sufferings. If ever one or other of us should have the misfortune to afflict You, remind him, O Heart of Jesus, that You are good and merciful to the penitent sinner. And when the hour of separation strikes, when death shall come to cast mourning into our midst, we will all, both those who go and those who stay, be submissive to Your eternal decrees. We shall console ourselves with the thought that a day will come when the entire family, reunited in heaven, can sing forever Your glories and Your mercies. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the glorious patriarch Saint Joseph present this consecration to You, and keep it in our minds all the days of our life. All glory to the Heart of Jesus, our King and our Father!

*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy, and My burden light."*  
(Matthew 11:28-30)

## What is the Enthronement?

The Enthronement includes with it the Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Act of Consecration gives expression to the profound meaning of enthroning the image of the Sacred Heart in our home.

By the words of the Consecration, we articulate the meaning of the Enthronement. We place our hearts totally into the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and we beg Him to be the source of our healing and strength, the medicine and nourishment by which our poor and wounded hearts are made strong and whole. The enthroned image of the Sacred Heart gives us the occasion to renew frequently, throughout the day, our act of consecration.

*The Enthronement encourages a lively faith in the Eucharist where Christ is present - who draws us into a Eucharistic unity.*

*The Enthronement creates an intimate relationship between the church and the home.*

*The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart is an external recognition of the loving kingship of the Heart of Jesus in the parish and in the Christian home. The parish and family show this recognition by giving the image of the Sacred Heart a place of honor and dedicating themselves to Him by an act of consecration.*

*The Enthronement is a visible and devotional means to invigorate the people and their families to a renewed, living view of their faith through an encounter with Christ.*

# Bishop Etienne Visits Parishioners

— Throughout Wyoming

by Matt Potter, Director of Development



Bishop Etienne visits with parishioners of St. Anthony Parish in Cody and St. Barbara Parish in Powell on March 21.

Bishop Etienne, along with Diocesan Director of Development Matt Potter, held receptions in several parishes to talk about the upcoming annual appeal, *Living and Giving in Christ*, which will kick off the weekend of April 30 – May 1. They recently traveled 1,500 miles in a 6 day stretch, meeting with people in 5 cities from 8 parishes.



Mass recessional at St. Anthony Parish in Cody



Bishop Etienne visits with parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish in Rawlins as they celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph with a parish dinner following Mass on March 19, 2011

Photos by Matt Potter

late March and early April saw Bishop Etienne, along with Diocesan Director of Development Matt Potter meet with hundreds of people in Casper, Rock Springs, Cody, Cheyenne and Gillette. The meetings were to rally support of the annual appeal, *Living and Giving in Christ: Unity Through Diocesan Ministries*.

All the meetings began with the most important celebration we have as Catholics: the Mass. Following Mass, those at the meetings had a chance to share in some refreshments

and mingle with other parishioners, local clergy and Bishop Etienne. Bishop Etienne then gave a presentation called "Partnerships in Diocesan Ministries" where he outlined his vision for the future of the Diocese of Cheyenne. Finally, Bishop Etienne asked for the continued and growing support of *Living and Giving in Christ* and for those in attendance to carry the message to family and friends that our Diocese is vibrant and bursting with enthusiasm, and that this is truly an exciting time to be a member of the Catholic Church in Wyoming.

# Celebration of the Sacraments

Deacon Vernon Dobelmann,  
Director of Pastoral Ministries

Years ago many of us memorized the facts about Catholicism through studying the Baltimore Catechism. We learned that a sacrament is "an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace." During this time of year we witness that outward sign repeatedly in a multitude of ways.

The Sacraments of Initiation celebrated at the Easter Vigil are a profound experience for the life of the Church. The symbols of water, oil, and light clearly depict our Christian call to holiness. This celebration further serves to remind all in the Church that the promises we have made are quite solemn. Expressing our belief in God and rejecting Satan and his empty promises invites each of us into a deeper relationship with God.

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist initiate us fully into the Body of Christ. Participating in the Easter Vigil and seeing people being initiated into the Church should stir the flame of love alive in all of us. We can renew our commitments, express our joy in receiving Christ in the Eucharist, and give thanks and praise to God for the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. It is an opportunity to encounter God in a very sincere and intimate way.

Many of our children also have the blessing of encountering God in new ways during these days as well. Typically, our second grade children receive their First Communion at this time of year. What a privilege it is to see the faces of these children light up with joy on this momentous occasion. It serves as a good reminder for

adult Catholics to recall the great treasure we have in being able to receive the Eucharist. This is a gift beyond measure, and it is certainly one that should not be taken for granted.

Although some parishes celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation prior to the Season of Lent, most parishes will celebrate this awesome sacrament during the Easter Season. The adolescents who receive Confirmation are challenged to make the faith their own. It is no longer just the faith of their parents and godparents; the faith becomes their own. This growing into a mature faith is a tremendous blessing for the young men and women experiencing this milestone in life. However, it doesn't happen by magic. There is a continued need for nurturing the faith through study and prayer for the rest of one's life. This is a concept often lost in the process; a mature faith requires an adult understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ. This does not automatically happen when one is confirmed. It requires a conscious decision to take up our cross daily to follow Christ. Thankfully, the power of the Holy Spirit gives us the courage to make that commitment.

The liturgical calendar of the Church provides a vast array of celebrations throughout the course of the year. The invitation, and the challenge, is for each of us to engage in these celebrations of the sacraments with full, conscious, and active participation. During this Easter Season, may we be filled with the joy of the resurrection and allow that joy to transform our lives. As we move toward the Feast of Pentecost, may we open ourselves to the promptings and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit so that the face of the earth may truly be renewed.

## Advertising

You will notice that this issue of the *Wyoming Catholic Register* contains something we haven't had in a while: Advertising!

The addition of advertising is more than just filling up space and actually serves several functions. One of those functions is that it offsets the cost of publishing the Register so that we can continue to bring it to you on a regular basis, as well as several special editions each year.

Advertising also provides a way for those businesses that support the Catholic Church in Wyoming to let us all know who they are and what they do. We strongly encourage you to patronize these businesses and to let them know that you saw their ad in the *Wyoming Catholic Register*.

If you would like to advertise in the Register, please contact Matt Potter, Director of Development at [mpotter@dioceseofcheyenne.org](mailto:mpotter@dioceseofcheyenne.org) or at (307) 275-0372.

We are immensely grateful to our new advertisers for their support.



# Happy Easter

From Bishop Paul Etienne & the Chancery Staff

## Safe Environments Training

by Carol DeLois, Chancellor

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, in place since 2002, requires everyone engaged in ecclesiastical ministry in the diocese and all diocesan and parish/school employees and volunteers who work with minors, the elderly and the vulnerable to complete a successful background check and Safe Environments Training. We have been blessed with several individuals representing the five deaneries who have provided this training for many years. However, some of the trainers have moved away or no longer wish to continue as trainers. Sometimes, it is a challenge to schedule the necessary trainings in a timely man-

ner, and weather can be a factor, since some trainers have to travel many miles to reach parishes in their deanery.

For these reasons, each pastor and school principal has been asked to send two or three individuals from their parish and school to attend a "training of the trainers" on June 10-11, 2011. Representatives from Girls and Boys Town in Omaha will provide the two-day training at St. Anthony's Parish Center in Casper. Having trainers on-site will expedite the requirements and allow trainings to take place in a timely manner. This will be the third training of trainers held in the Diocese of Cheyenne.

Deacon Vernon Dobelmann,  
Superintendent of Schools

Catholic schools have long been a tradition in our country with a presence dating back to 1606. A lot of things have changed in the course of 400 years but the positive impact of Catholic schools has been immense during this time frame.

According to the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the Third Council of Baltimore, which was held in 1884, demanded that every Catholic parish in the nation establish a school within two years. By 1900 there were an estimated 3,500 Catholic schools in the United States and that number continued to climb. Enrollment hit its peak in 1965 with almost 13,500 schools enrolling 5.6 million students. There has been a steady decline since that time and current statistics reveal that in 2011 we have 6,980 Catholic schools in the United States with an enrollment of 2,065,872.

There are nine dioceses that have fewer students enrolled in Catholic schools than the Diocese of Cheyenne. However, if the ranking is done by state, we come in last

place. Since our Diocese encompasses the entire state, we rank 51st in enrollment when compared to all the other states and the District of Columbia. We have 133 fewer students enrolled in Catholic schools than the state of Alaska which is composed of three different dioceses.

What does the future hold for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cheyenne? That is not a simple question to be answered easily. There are many factors that determine the "success" of a Catholic school. It is certainly a priority for our schools to pursue academic excellence while providing religious education and faith formation that is theologically sound and life-giving. It is my desire for each school to be an integral part of the life of the parish(es) in which it is located.

The mission of the Catholic school flows from the mission of the parish. This can basically be summed up in the mandate we see in Matthew's Gospel, "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News." Our schools are an intricate part of parish life and each parishioner is invited to share in the excitement of what our Catholic schools do to build up the Kingdom of God. It is not just about the stu-

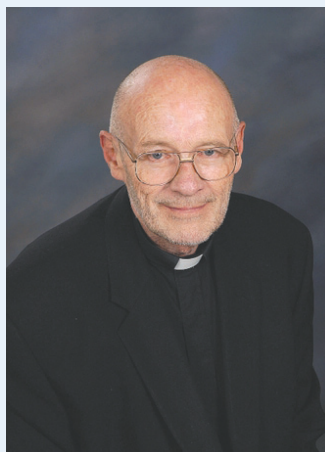
dents and their parents—it is about each member of the faith community sharing in the life and mission of Jesus Christ as carried on within the school community. Catholic schools have played a vital role in passing on the faith from one generation to the next, and that important role continues on today.

In recent months I have visited each of our parish schools. There is a lot of life and vitality present at these schools. Pastors, principals and teachers are working diligently above and beyond the call of duty to keep our schools flourishing. However, they can't do it alone. It requires the support of each and every parishioner to truly help our schools thrive. Thankfully, generous people are giving a multitude of hours of volunteer time in addition to their financial support to enhance our schools. These gracious individuals bring the light of Christ to our schools in some profound ways.

Leadership in a school is no easy task. Our pastors and principals dedicate a significant amount of time to the administrative requirements of a school. Principals work boundless hours well beyond the school day. Their presence at extra-curric-

ular activities, board meetings, fundraising activities, and so much more requires a substantial sacrifice of their time and energy. Teachers exhibit dedication to their important ministry time and time again, and they certainly aren't doing it for the money. A deep sense of gratitude fills my heart for the contributions that each one of these individuals brings to the school.

Are there significant challenges ahead for the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cheyenne? Absolutely! Can these challenges be met and overcome? Most definitely! It may require a lot of work and a great deal of prayer, but the potential for phenomenal success in our schools is present. It is my hope and prayer that our schools will not simply survive, but will thrive and grow for years to come. These institutions play a key role in providing opportunities for our children to learn our faith, our virtues, and receive a solid academic education as well. We truly minister to each child in a comprehensive manner—body, mind, and spirit. Working together, we will ensure that our children are truly growing in wisdom and grace.



## Official

The Reverend Jan Joseph Santich, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Wheatland and Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Chugwater, has been granted retirement, effective March 13, 2011.

*Dated March 18, 2011  
The Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL  
Bishop of Cheyenne*

*Carol DeLois  
Chancellor*

Father Jan Santich, recently retired. Thank you, Father Jan, for your tireless work compiling the history of the Diocese of Cheyenne and for your years of dedication to God's people in Wyoming.



**gwin  
photography**

307-286-1620 | e-mail: info@gwinphotography.com

*Have you chosen  
a photographer  
for your  
wedding yet?*

**Gwin Photography  
specializes in  
wedding photojournalism.**

## MHP McGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLP

Certified Public Accountants and Consultants

# ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE CONSULTANTS

### Our Services

- Assistance with establishing bookkeeping procedures and controls.
- Accounting software installation, maintenance, and customization.
- Custom financial report writing.
- Training for Sage MAS 90/200, QuickBooks and Peachtree.

### Our Expertise

- Local consultants that can come to your site for personalized service.
- Remote access to assist you from our office saving travel time costs.
- Backed by a full service accounting firm including a computer hardware department.
- Our consultants are trained with backgrounds in IT and accounting so they can resolve problems more efficiently.

### Our Prices

- No Commission.
- Services charged at hourly rate or fixed project rate

314 W. 18th St. | Cheyenne, WY 82001 | Jennifer Gire | jgire@mhp LLP.com |  
<http://support.mhp LLP.com/software> | 307.637.2637

# To Whom it May Concern...

We enjoyed reading the editorial on Father James Doudican. He came to Glenrock in the early 70's. He was our pastor at St. Louis Catholic Church here for many years. He did not like the way the rectory was designed and asked my husband, Clifford Hunt, to come and remodel it for him. He wanted an archway from the living room to the kitchen, which really opened up the place. Cliff built bookshelves where the old door was and I painted the kitchen a bright Irish green for Father.

When we finished he wanted to take us to Jackson Hole for dinner. We agreed and he showed us the beautiful church he helped build in Jackson. We passed an old barn that had been converted into a house. He said, "Cliff, you should build Bonita a barn." I said, "I'm not a cow but that does sound interesting." When we got home, Cliff drew up a set of blueprints that looked like a barn and that is just what we did. He actually changed our lives and we enjoyed him for many years.

Father would come over often and bless each piece of stone that went up. He was a good friend and a good priest. We stop and see him when we come to Cheyenne. A truly great man.

Sincerely, Cliff and Bonita Hunt

We would love to hear from you. Drop us a line at [mpotter@dioceseofcheyenne.org](mailto:mpotter@dioceseofcheyenne.org)



## Chancery Staff Retreat

The chancery staff of the Diocese of Cheyenne recently enjoyed a retreat day at St. Walburga Monastery in Virginia Dale, Colorado. Brother Loughlan Sofield, ST, lead the day of retreat entitled "Collaboration in Ministry."

# Living and Giving in Christ: Unity Through Diocesan Ministries

*Living and Giving in Christ:* Unity Through Diocesan Ministries is the new name of our annual Diocesan Appeal. Most parishes will be kicking off this appeal on the weekend of April 30/ May 1. You will be receiving information about *Living and Giving in Christ* in your mailbox the following week.

*Living and Giving in Christ* is vital to the ministries of the Diocese of Cheyenne. Your contributions go to support:

- Clergy, in terms of vocations, seminarian education, diaconate formation, office of the Bishop, Chancellor, institutes and the Vicar General;
- Support of the Universal Church through the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Vatican;
- Pastoral ministries, campus ministries and Catholic schools;
- Office of the Tribunal, Development and Stewardship, Catholic Register

- Finance Office, benefits and systems, facilities and investment management.

We are very, very grateful for your generous support in the past and we pray that we can count on your support again this year.

Watch for your packet in the mail the week of May 1. Please give generously so that we may continue to serve the people of God throughout our Diocese. We encourage your prayerful discernment in determining how you can support *Living and Giving in Christ*.

For more information, contact Matt Potter, Director of Development at (307) 275-0372 or [mpotter@dioceseofcheyenne.org](mailto:mpotter@dioceseofcheyenne.org).



# HAMS FORK REALTY

Wishes You  
A Blessed  
Easter

717 Pine Ave. Kemmerer, WY 83101 • 307-877-2907  
FAX: 307-877-2909 • Toll Free: 866-278-1516  
[hrealty1002@qwestoffice.net](mailto:hrealty1002@qwestoffice.net) • [www.hamsforkrealty.com](http://www.hamsforkrealty.com)  
Cindy A. Gramke -Broker • Cell: 307-727-7169

OLD FASHIONED SERVICE FOR MODERN TIMES

## LARAMIE PEAK MOTORS

Ford  
Wheatland, Wyoming

4th Year

2305 North 16<sup>th</sup> St. • I-25 Exit 80  
Wheatland, WY • 307-322-2355

See our entire inventory at:  
[www.laramiepeakmotors.com](http://www.laramiepeakmotors.com)

Chuck & Lori Ruwart, Owners • Se Habla Espanol