



Ministry Mosaics

by Deacon Vernon Dobelmann

Story and photos
on page 4.

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January Institute Focuses on **Strategic Pastoral Plan**

Bishop Paul D. Etienne gathered more than 170 individuals from around the state of Wyoming to work on a Strategic Plan that will lead the Catholic Church in Wyoming for several years to come. The event took place at the Plains Hotel in Cheyenne on January 18, 19, 20. The large contingent of Wyoming Catholics included priests, deacons, religious sisters, diocesan personnel and lay leadership representing every parish in the state.

As Bishop Etienne stated in his blog of January 20, "People came with open hearts and open minds, ready 'to get to work' on the second phase of outlining our diocesan strategic pastoral plan." Bishop Etienne further states, "Our strategic plan seeks to open us to the power of God working within us, and challenges us to do our part in cooperation with God's work in and through the Church."

Father Mike Carr, Vicar General of the Diocese of Cheyenne, stated, "It was a wonderful gathering and the ability of so many Catholics from Wyoming to be together discussing our faith was very energizing for all of us. Praying together, planning together, and celebrating at the Cathedral brought a great sense of hope. The gathering gave me new life, now we must continue the work with honesty, in dialogue with one another."

Ed Boenisch, a parishioner of St. Mary's Cathedral in Cheyenne, serving as one of the Task Force Leaders (Catechesis), stated, "I was encouraged because of the creativity, willingness, and energy I could see, hear and feel from both laity and clergy alike. From my perspective, they saw themselves as fellow travelers willing to make new roads by walking, yet fully aware but not limited or demoralized by the past or some of the challenges that exist. We do not yet have a Diocese of Cheyenne pastoral plan. That will come in July. So, in the meantime, I pray all the more, struggle to let go of concerns, offer my time and whatever talents I may have to further the Kingdom on earth even knowing

that there will be steps backwards or sideways as we move ahead. I know in my soul that the Spirit is alive and will set ablaze our willingness to know and bring about God's will. I could feel that Presence for those 14 hours or so. I am excited about the new life that will come to the Catholic Church in Wyoming."



Bishop Etienne January Institute 2011

The Task Force Leaders and priorities named are: Monsignor James O'Neill and Reverend Rob Spaulding, Renewed focus on the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist; Chuck Harkins and Dan McCarthy, New Evangelization; Deacon Kim Carroll and Ed Boenisch,

Catechesis; Amy Larsen and Larry Hell, Youth and Young Adults; Betsy Flaherty and DJ Cunningham, Family Life and Vocations; and Father Mike Carr and Matt Potter, Stewardship.

Address at Freedom Prayer Rally

by Bishop Etienne

I welcome this opportunity to be with you today as we come together to pray for our nation, our beloved State of Wyoming and our leaders. I welcome as well the opportunity to address some of the present challenges before us. Central to many of our challenges is a proper understanding of the dignity of the human person. Key to addressing this challenge is a proper understanding of the legitimate relationship between politics and faith and a proper understanding of the long-standing and legitimate role of the separation of Church and state.

With your permission, I will offer a few thoughts, and close my reflections with a prayer.

I wish to offer some thoughts primarily for the deliberation of our legislators as they begin a new legislative session. I do so in this setting not only as a Bishop of the Catholic Church, but also as an American citizen. I offer these reflections as one who cherishes my freedom to believe and worship as I choose, while at the same time, honoring the religious freedom of others.

SACRED ORIGIN OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS: "Natural Law"

Continued on page 2

In the Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers held that Truths are "self-evident". They stated that individual human rights are endowed by our Creator. With such language and wisdom, our Founding Fathers acknowledged a Sacred Origin of human rights. With such language and wisdom, they also seemed to grasp the fact that the Truths endowed by the Creator are "self-evident," meaning; they are attainable to every man and woman, of any and all times, through the power of human reason. In other words, there is a "natural law" written on the hearts of every human person. This "natural law" is at the heart of sound society; it is at the heart of our human dignity.

It is this universal truth – "self-evident" to any and all people – that is at the heart of legitimate laws that govern nations and people. Any law not subject to and flowing from the "natural law" is in essence not a true law – and when and where such laws exist, by nature, they do harm to the human person, which is to do harm to society at large. A perfect example is our nation's present law legalizing abortion.

The challenge in a democracy such as our own is when truth is defined by the "majority." Such truth is not universal, because it is subject to change over time; subject to change with each election season. This is why it is critical for our laws to be rooted in the "natural law" – universal truth – which is discernible by human reason to people of every time and age.

With this language and wisdom outlined by our Founding Fathers, I would pose a question to the American people and public leaders of our own time: If we acknowledge, as did our Founding Fathers, that our individual human rights are endowed by our Creator, and thus have a Sacred Origin, does it not neces-

sarily follow that the individual who bears these rights has his or her foundation in the same Sacred Origin? The obvious answer to this is "Yes."

With such logic and appeal to the "natural law" written in the hearts of every human person, we come to understand the sacredness of every human life. The same "natural law" leads us to acknowledge not only the Sacred Origins of human life, but also the human origins of each individual, this human origin being the love of a husband and wife, one man, one woman.

Church and Government Working Together:

Church and Government share common interests; the human person and the good of society. A long standing priority of the Church has been to define and defend the dignity of every human person, while at the same time a primary goal of government is the safety and security of its citizenry and the right ordering of society. As I understand it, the role of separation between Church and state is to provide that no one religion dictates to the Government, and vice-versa, that the Government not impede the legitimate freedom of any individual to worship as he or she chooses. However, such legitimate checks and balances do not mean the Church is not allowed to help guide and shape the moral conscience of our public life. The Church does not dictate to government, nor does it desire to, but she does have a legitimate voice and role to play in helping those in leadership understand the truest nature of the human person, whose person and relationships are at the heart of properly ordered society.

Part of the work and teaching of the Church is to help expound the Truth and to properly form conscience according to this Truth that is known by human reason and enlightened by faith. This work goes on in the private life of every believer, including those elected to public office. It is in this private sphere of faith that

the Church properly teaches and helps every human person develop to their full potential and understand their proper relationship and responsibility to others, to the world, and to God. It is from this private practice and formation in the faith that we all enter into the public realm of politics.

Thus, the electorate has an obligation to vote according to their conscience, and elected officials also carry a heavy responsibility to bring their own personal conscience and convictions, (properly formed through faith) to their public duty which is the promotion and defense of the human person and the good of society.

My dear friends, I wish to assure you of my prayers for all our people, the citizens of this great state, and the people we elect to represent us. I promise to do my best to be a sound moral voice helping to properly form the values and consciences of our people, and to assist our legislators any way I can to properly understand the present day human condition as well as the "natural law" that guides us all.

Please allow me to simply close with a prayer, in the language of my Roman Catholic Tradition:

Good and Gracious God, Creator of all, hear our prayer this day for our nation, state and our duly elected officials. Grant us Your guiding Light to know the laws You have written in our hearts. Grant us the grace and Wisdom to know Your Truth, Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life of every person. Grant that we may walk always in the paths of His Truth, that the laws of our land may mirror Your Divine Justice. Grant that we may grow in our reverence for the sacredness of the life You create. Help us to live in right relationship with each other, the world You created, and especially with You, our Creator. We ask all this in the name of Jesus your Son, who is Lord forever and ever. AMEN

Living and Giving in Christ: Unity through Diocesan Ministries

Living and Giving in Christ: Unity Through Diocesan Ministries is the name of our diocesan appeal for 2011 and will kick off the weekend of April 30 and May 1.

Living in Christ means responding to Him and the needs of His people. The Holy Spirit is at work right now, today, renewing our church and inviting us to live a life that is centered in our Lord, Jesus Christ. Inviting us to:

- Strive for unity among our many members as the one body of Christ.
- Lead people to Christ and bring Christ into the context of every human life.
- Strengthen our efforts to teach and for members in their knowledge of our faith.

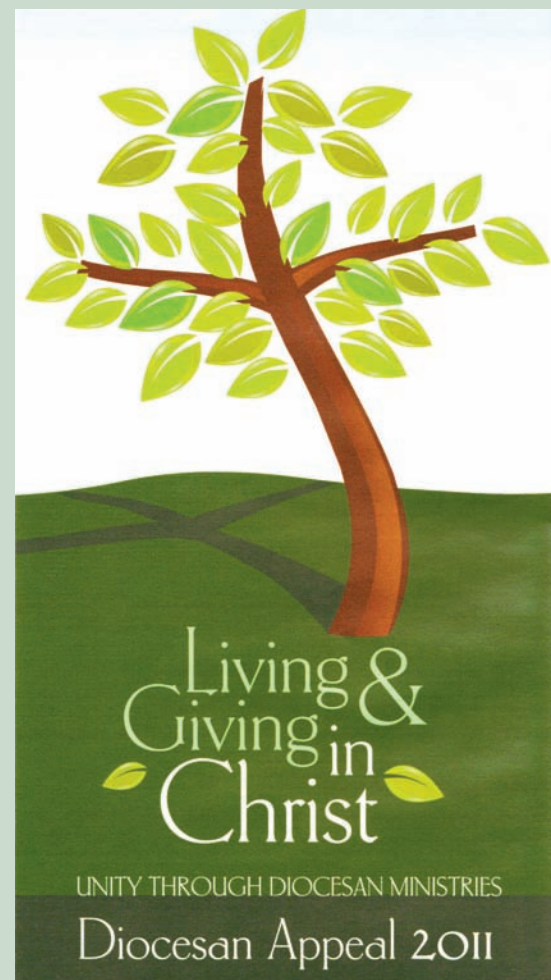
As members of the Diocese of Cheyenne, we are part of a living heritage of 124 years of faith. Since 1887, Catholics in Wyoming have helped to nurture and care for this diocese just as you do today. It is through the grace of God and the generosity of our members that this diocese is sustained. When you care about something, you also care for it. Our diocese is blessed! We pray in gratitude for the stability that has sustained our diocese for so many years. We may be smaller than many of our neighbors, but we are blessed with firm faith, a strong sense of community, quality Catholic schools, and a solid financial position. These are things we care about. These are things we need to care for.

A thriving diocese doesn't just happen on its own. Just as members have sustained this local church for 124 years, we need you to play an active part in sustaining the diocese today. One important way that you can help is by making a contribution for the financial health of the diocese.

Why give? Because it helps us and it helps you. Those who have given have told us that they appreciate having a tangible commitment or goal for diocesan financial support as part of their overall family budget. Pledging a gift today helps the diocese by being able to manage and plan the budget of our spiritual family, our diocese. It is difficult to maintain a commitment to programs when we are uncertain about the financial commitment we can expect from each member of our diocesan community. Your gift is an offering of gratitude back to God for blessings received. It is a commitment to care for the spiritual family He has entrusted to you.

We can never be too aware of God's goodness and the reality that all I am and all that I have comes from the hand of a loving God. Jesus gave His all for us, and we are to share our gifts and blessings so that together, in our compassion and stewardship, we can, in unity, provide the programs and ministries needed within the Diocese of Cheyenne.

Watch your mail for more information about Living and Giving in Christ: Unity Through Diocesan Ministries. Thank you for supporting our diocese.



Results of Recent Appeals

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:9 – 10)

With these words Jesus tells us about answers to prayer. Our prayers were for a generous response from those in our diocese for three appeals for donations. We always knew people in the Diocese of Cheyenne were willing to support our priests and our seminarians. We were not disappointed.

The St. Joseph's Society Clergy Retirement Fund appeal that took place in December, 2010, raised nearly a quarter million dollars to help take care of our retired priests. The Seminarian Education Fund appeal that took place in January, 2011, raised \$110,000 that will go towards the education of the men in formation who will be our future diocesan priests. And our special appeal to enable our three Vietnamese seminarians to travel home for the first time in three years raised enough money to get them there.

We are immensely grateful for the generosity and open hearts of the people of the Diocese of Cheyenne. Thank you for sharing your gifts and answering this stewardship call.

Holy Family Church in Afton

by Deacon Bill Hill



Photo Courtesy of Catholic Extension Society

As he was driving out of the parking lot at Holy Family Church in Afton, Fr. Joseph Geders, the former pastor at Our Lady of the Mountains parish in Jackson, remarked that "somebody would be going to jail if the Fire Marshall had attended Mass". On that particular Sunday in the late summer of 2009, the pews had been full, people were sitting in the confessional, standing in the back of the church, sitting on folding chairs in front of the door and standing on the porches at the open doors. The congregation was clearly outgrowing the present building and the time to make a decision was clearly at hand.

Holy Family had begun raising money in 2002, under the leadership of Fr. Carl Beavers, to construct a new church at a site north of the town of Thayne in the center of the Star Valley. The fund raising project had been steadily raising money, but not enough to begin con-

struction. Fr. Geders realized that something different would have to be tried to get the project moving.

He decided that pursuing a design-build approach to the project might make it feasible. He contacted a building contractor in Jackson who believed that the timing was right to bring the project in for a manageable sum of money. The architect was contacted about doing the design for a fixed fee and the contractor, Peter Stewart of Stewart Construction, agreed to manage the project free of charge. The cost analysis for the new church revealed that \$240,000 additional dollars would be needed to start construction.

While the Diocesan Building Committee reviewed the concept, designs, and plans, a grant request was prepared and submitted to Catholic Extension Society, the entity that had assisted in the initial construction of the Star Valley church in 1977. Bishop Etienne had visited the Afton church shortly after his ordination, and had enthusiastically endorsed the project after meeting with the parishioners. The project received the endorsement of the Diocesan Building Committee after their review in the summer of 2010, and the parish waited to hear the outcome of the grant request.

In early November, Matt Potter, Director of Development for the diocese, received the joyous news that Catholic Extension had issued a dual challenge to the Star Valley congregation. If they could raise \$60,000, Extension would provide \$180,000, enough to begin construction. If the parish could raise \$100,000, Extension would provide \$200,000. If the challenge amounts were raised, the additional funds would allow the parish to finish the classrooms in the lower level, which were being delayed to bring the project in at the lowest possible cost.

Along with the good news that Catholic Extension Society had issued the challenge came the sad news that Fr. Joe Geders was being transferred to Rome to head up the Financial Office of the Vincentian Congregation. To alleviate the loss of Fr. Joe's leadership, Bishop Etienne asked Deacon Bill Hill to help keep the project moving forward. With the Bishop's support, the parish is continuing to move ahead with the project, regrouping behind the leadership of Fr. Marcelo, the Parish Administrator, and moving forward with the fund raising. Funds have been coming in, and the parish is confident that groundbreaking will happen in the spring of 2011. People who are interested in donating to help the parish may send donations to Holy Family Catholic Church, PO Box 231, Afton, WY. 83110. If you have questions or desire additional information, contact Deacon Bill Hill – (307) 389-6005 or bill2hill@bresnan.net.

Benedictine Sisters in Dayton



In 1983, the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration responded to the request of Bishop Hart that they come to the Diocese of Cheyenne. After residing temporarily in Casper and Big Horn, the community settled at Dayton. Since 1989, San Benito Monastery, the only women's monastery in the diocese, has been located on thirty-eight acres of meadow and woodlands at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains. It is just six miles from the beautiful Tongue River Canyon.

The sisters describe themselves as a "monastic, contemplative community, living according to the Rule of St. Benedict, with a particular devotion to Christ in the Eucharist." Their primary ministry is prayer. The sisters say, "We pray for all people of every time and place." The sisters respond to all requests for prayer. Guests of all faiths are welcome to share in their liturgy and to experience the peace of their sacred space. With about fifteen sisters in the entire state, the services of the six sisters who form the community are much in demand. The sisters are available for retreats and spiritual direction at the monastery. The sisters also give instruction on prayer and the Scriptures. Guests and retreatants have the opportunity to experience the presence and beauty of God in nature, in the quiet of the chapel, and in the hospitality of the sisters. For individuals who want to share in their monastic spirituality there are Benedictine Oblates, Christian adults who are formally affiliated with monastery in order to seek God more intentionally. Groups of oblates meet monthly in Gillette and Casper, as well as at the monastery.

The sisters are entirely self-supporting through their gift shop, Monastery Creations. The shop stocks a variety of items: hand-crafted soaps, salves, lotions, bath salts, lip balm, candles, jams, bread dip, crafts, cards, tapes, CDs, religious articles, and books. Some of these items are available online, at www.monasterycreations.com. Individuals are also welcome to visit the shop in person, where they may browse through the entire selection. The sisters truly believe that their life of prayer bears fruit in joy-filled creativity, so that as St. Benedict said, "in all things God may be glorified."

For a number of years, the sisters supported themselves through the re-distribution of altar breads baked at their motherhouse in Clyde, Missouri. The re-distribution was discontinued when the sisters realized that this duplicated the work being done there. The sisters there have just celebrated the centennial year of altar bread production.

Once baked over an open fire, and then over one gasoline stove, altar breads are now produced with the help of advanced technology, as well as dedicated employees. Production has grown to over 2 million breads baked each week. The sisters supply bread for churches in the United States, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Canada, Ireland, Russia, New Zealand, Australia, and Japan. In recent years, with the full support of the Office of the Secretariat for the Liturgy of the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops, the sisters have also produced low gluten bread for those suffering from celiac disease. Those suffering from this condition cannot ingest any gluten, a protein found in wheat. The low-gluten altar bread is made with wheat starch and water. The gluten content is less than 0.01%, and is safe for most celiacs to consume. The sisters say that they are "performing the work of our hearts and our hands while praying for those who use our breads, for the parishes and priests, and for each person in our world."

The motherhouse in Clyde, Missouri, houses the central administration and health care facility. The first 3 years of formation take place there. The sisters currently have one postulant and two junior sisters in their formation program. The sisters also have a monastery in Tucson, Arizona. Their main works are the publication of Spirit & Life, a bi-monthly magazine, the sewing of liturgical vestments, and hosting many local groups for spiritual enrichment. The sisters of San Benito invite you to share in their liturgy or to visit their gift shop. They welcome all comers with listening hearts and hospitality. They invite you to ask for prayer over the phone or through their website, which is www.benedictinesisters.org.

Ministry Mosaics

by Deacon Vernon Dobelmann



The sun glistens off of the snow-capped mountain peaks creating a majestic tapestry of beauty. Likewise, the various pastoral ministries that take place in each of our parishes create a mosaic masterpiece of similar grandeur as the love of God glistens in the hearts of people growing in wisdom and grace. The dedication and faithfulness of our clergy, religious, and laity who serve in a multitude of pastoral roles is truly phenomenal. The Gospel message continues to be proclaimed with great joy and clarity throughout our diocese.

Due to the geographical distances that separate our parishes, we can sometimes feel isolated in our ministerial endeavors. However, recent events provided some opportunities to come together on a larger scale. The January Institute saw many leaders gather in Cheyenne to work on the diocesan strategic pastoral plan. Immediately following the Institute the Weekend for Life was upon us. People from across the state gathered in Cheyenne to learn, pray, and march to our state capitol

in a silent and prayerful witness of the sanctity of life.

The vibrancy of faith among our youth continues to be evident. We have 82 pilgrims making plans to attend World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain this August. There are also young people planning to attend ND Vision this June at Notre Dame. Lastly, plans are now being made for the annual gathering of youth at the NCYC Conference in Indianapolis this fall. In addition to these larger gatherings, many of our youth have had opportunities to attend retreats and conferences on a smaller scale throughout the state.

Religious education is an ongoing endeavor for students of all ages. Many of our parishes consistently offer enrichment programs for adults as well as children and adolescents. RCIA programs are actively preparing adults for the sacraments of initiation at Easter. In addition to individual parish offerings, adult education and faith formation is available on-line to everyone through Boston College for a very affordable rate. Opportunities to grow in knowledge and understanding of the faith are abounding throughout the diocese.

A diocesan-wide assessment of fifth grade students is being conducted to help determine the areas where we can improve in religious education instruction for our

children. The information obtained from this assessment tool will help solidify our evaluation of the curriculum, textbooks, and teaching methodologies currently employed. Hopefully, we will be affirmed in what we are doing well and gain new insights to develop more effective approaches where improvement is needed.

Finally, the multitude of ways people are putting their faith into action is creating a magnificent mosaic of charity and justice. Living out the corporal works of mercy truly brings a Catholic presence into our communities in a very profound way. The advocacy efforts are also well-noted as dedicated people have spent countless hours at the state capitol in recent weeks to encourage legislators in their solemn task of enacting laws which truly build up and strengthen the people of this great state. This is no small task in today's culture in which many people seek to remove God from all aspects of public life.

The ministry mosaics being put together throughout the diocese are diverse and unique, but the love of God shines through in each piece. It requires the presence of each one of us doing our part to be a complete picture. How do you fit into the ministry mosaic masterpiece?

After Three Years, Seminarians Anticipate Visit to Family

by Fr. Bill Hill, Vocations Director

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam- Three families eagerly await the return of their sons from their Catholic missionary work in a foreign land. For three years, their sons have worked to prepare themselves to share the Gospel, to preach, to pray, and to be spiritual shepherds in a culture very different from their own. In a few months, these families will celebrate the return of Duy Nguyen, Hiep Nguyen, and Linh Vu from their seminary formation for the Diocese of Cheyenne.



Hiep Nguyen and Family

Conception, Missouri- Wyoming seminarians Hiep, Duy, and Linh continue their preparation to serve the people of the Diocese of Cheyenne. Hiep is preparing to complete his philosophy studies and move to another seminary to study theology in the fall. Linh and Duy continue their studies of the English language, working to be able to speak and minister the Gospel proficiently in the United States.

When asked what they most anticipate upon their return, all three men were unanimous in saying "I'm excited to see my family again!" Hiep has two new nieces that he has never hugged, his sister has joined a religious community, and his brother started a new business. Duy's family built and moved into a new home and his brother is experimenting with different vegetable crops on the fam-

ily farm. All of these men look forward to sharing their experiences of Wyoming and Conception Seminary with their families.

Wyoming- The Catholic people of this state continue to sustain our three Vietnamese seminarians with prayer, outreach, and financial support. The funds needed to fly these men home were raised among the Catholic people of the Diocese of Cheyenne. "I can't imagine being away from my family for three years," said one donor. "Their mothers must be missing their sons terribly!"

Linh said, "I am excited to visit my family, but I am also excited to continue my formation. If God wills it, I want to be the best priest for the people of our diocese!"



Duy Nguyen and Family

When not at seminary, these three call three Wyoming parishes "home." Hiep stays at St. Margaret's in Riverton, Linh at Holy Spirit in Rock Springs, and Duy at Holy Trinity in Cheyenne. They also enjoy being able to spend time in Wyoming's amazing outdoors. Hiep is working to improve his snowboarding skills. Linh looks forward to the day that he can go afield and hunt. All three are excited about a lifetime of service to Catholics in Wyoming. While they may not be home in Wyoming this summer, Duy, Hiep, and Linh will pray for their extended family in

the state. They return to their original home so that they may prepare better for service in their new home. Let us all pray for safe and blessed journeys for them.

Sidebar:

Why do we have three Vietnamese seminarians in formation for Wyoming?

We simply do not have enough men entering seminary from Wyoming. A decision was made to address the needs of the Catholic people of Wyoming by inviting these three men to discern if God is calling them to serve the Diocese of Cheyenne as priests.

Aren't we taking potential priests from a country that could use them?

No. Vietnam is a communist country, and the government places artificial restrictions on the number of ordinations the Catholic Church can celebrate every year. For a variety of reasons Duy, Hiep, and Linh were unable to pursue formation in Vietnam. Being a seminarian for the Diocese of Cheyenne is a blessing for them, as it allows them to pursue God's will in their lives.

Is it good to have seminarians from other countries?

While it helps us to remember that our Church is a worldwide community, it is not ideal to have seminarians from foreign countries. Please continue to invite young men to consider that God might be calling them to service in priesthood in our diocese!



Linh Vu and Family

National Catholic Schools Week

January 30 - February 5, 2011



Catholic Schools Week was celebrated January 30 through February 5. Although the weather was frigid at the beginning of the week, there were plenty of activities to warm the heart in our Catholic schools across the state. Here is a glimpse into a week that was prayerful, joyful, inspirational, and quite a bit of fun too.

There were many opportunities to pray including special Masses of celebration, prayer services, and an invitation to parishioners to pick a child or teacher to pray for specifically. Numerous moments of appreciation were shown to parishioners, teachers, parents, students, and benefactors. The generosity of people who embrace the ideals upheld by Catholic education is overwhelming, and this was a great opportunity to show a special token of appreciation. Annual Quiz Bowl Competitions, Talent shows, and other challenging endeavors stretched the mind, body, and spirit of our students. The fun activities were really diverse from school to school but all reflected the great Christian fellowship that is present in our schools. At times it may appear that Catholic Schools Week is a demonstration of "organized chaos," but the academic success and solid faith formation that is fostered in each of our schools year after year truly reflects that Catholic Schools are A+ for America.

Holy Name Catholic School in Sheridan, Wyoming is A+ for America.

Deb Wendtland, Holy Name Catholic School Board President, Father Jim Heiser, Pastor, and Mary Legler, Holy Name Catholic School Principal, kicked off National Catholic Schools Week with a local radio show raving about Holy Name Catholic School being A+ for the Sheridan community.

Next, we celebrated all weekend Masses with the Holy Name community. Students were in charge

of readings, petitions, gifts, greeters, ushers, altar servers, and music. Following, the students shared their displays and students made cookies in the Hall.

Monday, our very own Mayor Dave Kinskey, a Holy Name Catholic School alumni, made a proclamation noting January 30-February 4 as Catholic Schools Week. Mayor Kinskey shared his rosary collection and led the student body in Morning Prayer. We prayed over the Mayor asking God to give him wisdom as he governs our community. Afterward, we enjoyed muffins donated by the Holy Name Council of Catholic Women.

Tuesday, Holy Name Catholic School celebrated our awesome students. High school students who attended Holy Name lead the assembly in Morning Prayer and shared their fondest memories of their time at Holy Name Catholic School. Student Council asked the students to dress in 70's style and in the afternoon, the teachers honored their students with an assembly. Students participated in relays and teachers handed out certificates to the students.

On Wednesday, we hosted an alumni and volunteer lunch. The cafeteria was packed! Our oldest alumnus invited was Agnes Irwin who is 103 years old. This was a great time fellowship for all. After lunch, the primary grades went to Sugarland Ridge nursing home to share songs and fellowship with the residents.

Thursday, Fr. Jim Heiser and Fr. Ron Stolcis blessed each child's throat in remembrance of Saint Blaze. Our Holy Name Catholic School parents filled backpacks for families in the community that will go without food over the weekend and delivered them to local elementary schools.

Friday, we were honored to have Bishop Etienne celebrate school Mass with our school and community. Students participated in every part of the Mass, from singing to altar serving. Student achievement was highlighted with Honor Roll awards and a reception in the Holy Name Hall.



Holy Name Students Serving the Poor

In addition to these activities, our week was directed at serving and thanking the Sheridan community. First, our students hung posters in business windows thanking the town for 96 years of community support. All week long, our students fed the hungry at the local homeless shelter. In the Pre-kindergarten through Eighth grade family groups, we made and delivered Valentine's Day cards for the Veterans' Hospital. Our primary grades went to the nursing home to sing to the residents. In addition, Holy Name Catholic School staff sent necessities to the troops overseas. A project that we are particularly proud of was making a quilt and raising over \$700.00 to help defer medical costs for one of our students who is suffering from an inoperable midbrain tumor.

As you can see, God is certainly working through the students at Holy Name Catholic School. Holy Name Catholic School is A+ for our parish, our community, our students, and for our nation!



Holy Name Students, Bishop Etienne and Fr. Heiser



Priest Now Officially Part of Diocese

by Fr. David Erickson - Holy Rosary Parish, Lander



I moved to Wyoming in February 2007. I was granted a one year leave from Bishop Jenky of the Diocese of Peoria. It was not my first time to Wyoming. That would be August 1981 as I enrolled at Northwest Community College in Powell. At age 18, born and raised in the Chicago burbs, I was enthralled with the natural beauty of Wyoming and had a desire to live and work here. I began studies in Wildlife Management. On that first day upon my arrival, I was walking from "downtown" Powell back to the NWCC campus. Suddenly, an old fellow with a cowboy hat, driving an ole' pick-up truck with a rifle harnessed in rack, and his yellow lab wagging his tail in the back - slowed down, stopped, waved -- then drove on as he tipped his hat. Things like that just don't happen in Chicago. At that moment, I was forever endeared to the good people of Wyoming.

Through years of on and off again school and work, I would travel back and forth to Wyoming for camping, backpacking, and fishing. Ordained in 1997, each succeeding year would bring a couple trips over the Big Horns as I made my way to Sunlight Basin. Yellowstone and Jackson would become the point to return home. In 2004, I began to fulfill a boyhood dream of building a cabin in the mountains. Our Lady found me "a home away from home" outside of Bondurant. It was there I would spend the winter of 2007 in the peace and solitude many people only dream about. God is most good.

By the summer, I heard of this upstart Catholic college in Lander looking for a chaplain to backpack for three weeks in the Winds with their freshman students. I threw my collar into the mix and hiked many miles with these remarkable young people. After that trip,

Bishop Ricken asked me to cut short my leave and help out with their priest shortage. By October 2007, I was living in Lusk. In July 2008, I was surprisingly assigned to Holy Rosary in Lander. On December 22, 2010, Bishop Etienne officially incardinated me. I now belong to the good people of Wyoming forever.

Life can take many twists and turns on the path to heaven. God is with us every step of the way. The dreams we have, the disappointments we face, the trials and the struggles, the hopes and the desires - in all these moments God is ever present to lead, to guide, to inspire. Above all, God places people on our path that makes the tapestry a consistent whole - even if we're not there yet. I thank God for placing Bishop Jenky, Bishop Ricken, and Bishop Etienne on my path. I thank God for the parishioners I served at St. Matthew in Champaign and St. Mary's in Westville, IL. I thank God for the inaugural class of Wyoming Catholic College. I was with them on their first steps and will share their last steps as they graduate in the coming months. I thank God for Fr. Robert Cook, Dr. Robert Carlson, the faculty and staff of WCC. I thank God for Kristy Hart, Kathy Brillhart, John and Pat Bruch, and all the good people of St. Leo's in Lusk. I thank God for all the parishioners of Holy Rosary in Lander, Ascension in Hudson, and St. Brendan in Jeffrey City. I thank God for Dorene McIntyre and Carol DeLois and for all their hard work so little seen. I thank God for my brother priests and deacons far and wide. Oh yeah, I thank God for the man in the pick-up truck so long ago - a face and name I do not know - who took a moment to stop and wave and lead me on the path with you today.

OFFICIAL Incardination

The Reverend David J. Erickson has been incardinated into the Diocese of Cheyenne. This incardination became effective December 22, 2010. Father Erickson is the pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Lander.

Layman's Retreat Set for March

The Wyoming Catholic Layman's Retreat is scheduled for March 18-20, 2011, at the St. Anthony Church Parish Center in Casper.

Father James Schumacher of St. Laurence O'Toole Parish in Laramie will be the retreat master, and will discuss the Seven Virtues.

The Parish Center is located at 7th and Wolcott in Casper. Lodging is available at the Quality Inn; (307) 266-2400.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Tom Leman at (307) 473-1305 or Bob Knieval at (307) 265-3277.

Fort Bridger CCW to Host Deanery Meeting

The Fort Bridger Council of Catholic Women (CCW), St. Helen's Catholic Church, will host the Rock Springs Deanery Meeting on Saturday, April 9, 2011, in Fort Bridger, Wyoming. Registration materials will be mailed to each parish in the Deanery in mid-February.

Exorcism

A Movie on Exorcism in the Catholic Church

by Fr. Hugo L. Blotsky, O.S.B. - Pastor, St. Francis Church

A movie on exorcism in the Catholic Church, "The Rite" was released in movie theatres in many cities and towns across the nation, January 25. According to news reports, the movie is based upon a true life case of exorcism. The topic of exorcism has received much attention during the past two years. Because of the rise of Satanism and cult groups in Europe in recent years, the Vatican responded by offering training for priests to serve as exorcists. In November of 2010, Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Springfield, IL organized a two-day workshop on exorcism in Baltimore for 66 priests and 56 bishops.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Texas has said about exorcism, "Learning the liturgical rite is not difficult. The problem is the discernment that the exorcist needs before he would ever attempt the rite." All of us are faced with three spiritual worlds at all times: the Holy Spirit, the human spirit, and evil spirits. The exorcist needs to discern which spiritual world is influencing the person's behavior. Spiritual oppression and obsession are different from demonic possession. Exorcists in the U.S. dioceses keep a very low profile. In 1999, the church updated the Rite of Exorcism, cautioning that "all must be done to avoid the perception that exorcism is magic or superstition."

Exorcism has deep roots in Christianity. The New Testament contains several examples of Jesus casting out evil spirits from people, and the church notes these acts in the Catholic Catechism. Whether or not individual Catholics realize it, each of them undergoes what the Church calls a minor exorcism at baptism that includes prayers renouncing Satan and seeking freedom from original sin.

A major exorcism can only be performed by a priest with permission of his bishop after a thorough evaluation, including consulting with physicians or psychiatrists to rule out psychological or physical illness behind the person's behavior. The full exorcism is held in private and includes sprinkling holy water, reciting Psalms, reading aloud from the Gospel, laying on of hands and reciting the Lord's Prayer. The exorcist can invoke the Holy Spirit then blow in the face of the possessed person, trace the sign of the cross on the person's forehead and command the devil to leave.

"For the longest time, we in the United States may not have been as much attuned to some of the spiritual aspects of evil because we have become so much attached to what would be either a physical or psychological explanation for certain phenomena," Cardinal DiNardo said. "We may have forgotten that there is a

spiritual dimension to people." God is still in control of all situations. Jesus Christ has won victory over sin and evil. Jesus has defeated Satan through His Passion, Death and Resurrection. Satan is alive but yet defeated. Do not be afraid!

WYOMING CATHOLIC REGISTER

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Reporting Sexual Abuse

If you are aware of an incident of sexual misconduct and the suspected offender is a Church volunteer, Church employee, priest, deacon, or religious, you are encouraged to report the matter to the Diocese of Cheyenne.

Reports may be made by telephone or in writing to the following:

Deacon Rolland Raboin
Victim Assistance Coordinator
P.O. Box 1468
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307) 532-1571

Reverend Michael Carr
Vicar General
P.O. Box 1468
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307) 532-5556

Carol DeLois
Chancellor
P.O. Box 1468
Cheyenne, WY 82003
1-866-790-0014

Please understand that anonymous reports of misconduct compromise the ability of the diocese to follow up on such reports and to take disciplinary actions or other actions. It is the policy of the Diocese of Cheyenne to respond promptly and with compassion to all reports of misconduct. The Diocese will report the matter to law enforcement. You, yourself, may also, of course, report instances of sexual misconduct directly to Wyoming Child Protective Services, or the appropriate law enforcement agency.

For the complete Sexual Misconduct Policy, go to www.dioceseofcheyenne.org.

Gathered As One

by Fr. Rob Spaulding



While I was studying in Chicago, I had the opportunity to celebrate Eucharist in a parish that took the task of gathering quite seriously. They understood that the Introductory Rites of our liturgy are about much more than providing a way to move presider and ministers through the church while the community prepares to listen to the Word of God. This particular Chicago parish referred to these fleeting moments of gathering God's people as their community's "return from mission." As this body of believers gathered, they came bringing the stories and experiences, the successes and failures of a week spent trying to live the gospel. They came to unite themselves with our God and with each other that they might be prepared to be fed and missioned again.

This article, which focuses on the Introductory Rites of our liturgy, is the second installment in a series trying to help us prepare to pray the Roman Missal that our church will begin using on the First Sunday of Advent this year.

In the last article, I outlined the main reasons for the revised Roman Missal. We looked at the change in principles of translation that required a new English version of our liturgical prayers. We were reminded that the revised Missal is primarily a new translation of the prayers we are already using. The revised Missal will also contain some new prayers for recently canonized saints, prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, as well as additional Masses for Various Needs and Intentions. Having previously set out the rationale for the revision, this installment is concerned less with the details of the coming alterations in language and more with an exploration of the purpose and possibility of our first minutes together as a worshipping community...the Introductory of Gathering Rites.

While brief in nature, the Introductory Rites are packed with meaning. Included in this ritual title are the Entrance Song and Procession, Greeting, Act of Penitence, Kyrie, Gloria, and Collect or Opening Prayer. We read in paragraph 46 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal that the purpose of these rites is to "ensure that the faithful who come

together as one establish communion and dispose themselves to listen properly to God's word and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily." In paragraph 47, we learn that the purpose of the Entrance Chant or Gathering Song is to among other things, "foster the unity of those who have been gathered." This is quite an undertaking for a few ritual minutes. Fostering the unity of the community and helping the faithful to come together as one as not easy tasks to be sure, but they are essential if the longed for Eucharistic transformation, not just of bread and wine, but of community and members, is to follow.

It is also during this ritual endeavor that we will first encounter the first revision to the liturgical prayer texts. The revised Missal has changed the words we use in our liturgical greeting. While the presider has new options for beginning this celebration, which ever formula he chooses (the simplest being, The Lord be with you), the response of the assembly will be and with your Spirit. Rest assured, this change is not intended to imply some false separation of your body and your spirit. It is a more literal translation of the Latin *et cum Spiritu tuo*. It also is an allusion to many of the greetings used by St. Paul in his writings. During these Introductory Rites, we will also experience changes in the Confiteor, and rather significantly the Gloria. There are good reasons for most of these alterations that are beyond the scope of this article. I would strongly encourage you to look at these texts by visiting the U.S. Bishops website at www.usccb.org or <http://www.revisedromanmissal.org/>. As Advent nears, you can expect to hear about formation programs offered in your local parish and deanery. I hope you will do all you can to prepare for this opportunity in our church.

Preparing to pray these revised texts is about so much more than learning new words. It is about letting these prayers speak to us anew. It is about letting this new language, challenging as it might be at times, open us up to new insights and images. I do believe the prayers we pray have the power to transform not just our thinking, but our lives.

The revised Missal gives us the opportunity to explore every action of our liturgy. As we have seen here, the potential for the ritual of gathering is tremendous. Whether we will realize that potential in

our liturgical celebrations will require a great deal of reflection on our parts. Think back to your last experience of gathering for worship. Did that experience foster the unity of the community? Did it help to prepare you not just to receive communion, but to become communion? My experience in Chicago shaped my image of this ritual moment in a powerful way. That community knew what it meant to gather...to prepare for the celebration of the Eucharist. They came to console and support one another. Most of all, they came to be fed by God's word and indeed, God's very self that they might be sent forth again...into the world...on mission.

Diocesan Website

The Diocese of Cheyenne website is under construction! In the very near future, perhaps by the time you're reading this, you'll notice that our website has a new look and feel.

After a great deal of discussion, the management team at the Chancery in Cheyenne decided to bring our website up to date. We heard many comments about the difficulty in navigating the site, the lack of new material, and the need for greater communication with the people across our diocese. We found a web designer in our own backyard. Denise Hawkins, Design4 Graphic & Web Design, (www.design4dmh.com) has undertaken this challenging project.

Our intent in changing the website is to make it more useful and friendlier to those who depend on it, as well as those who just want to see what's going on in their diocese. We think you'll like what you see. Please visit us at www.dioceseofcheyenne.org and see what we mean.

Father James Doudican – Priest for 62 Years

by Fr. Tom Kadera



It is 1948. Just three years earlier, the Allies defeated Hitler and Europe is in the midst of rebuilding. In Ireland, a young seminarian is about to finish his studies and be ordained. Like many young people, there is a sense of unknowing and wonder about what the future holds. One day he is summoned to the office of the seminary director who tells him that it would be a good idea if he went to Wyoming to serve out his priesthood. James Doudican had no idea where Wyoming was and when the director mispronounced Cheyenne, the young lad thought he was going to end up in China someplace. So, in December of 1948, Fr. James Doudican left family, farm, country, and all he had known up until then. Flying on TWA, he arrives ten hours later in Chicago, Illinois. There he is met by another priest from Ireland and they drive to St. Louis where Fr. Doudican catches the 9 o'clock train for Cheyenne, Wyoming. Eleven o'clock the next morning he arrives, and on time he points out, and is met by the pastor of St. Joseph's parish, Fr. Jerome Denk. One can only imagine what was in the mind of a newly ordained priest arriving in a land and country he did not know to spend the rest of his life serving the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Cheyenne. No it was not in China, but it was isolated, remote, and vast. The island that he had spent his entire life on and the location of a small family farm consisted of 35,910 square miles, and 26 Catholic Dioceses. He is now facing starting life in a single diocese of 97,818 square miles, almost three times the size.

In the fashion of good Wyoming hospitality, and typical episcopal urgency, Fr. Denk saw to a little lunch before the 1 o'clock meeting with Bishop McGovern. Knowing talent when he saw it and wanting to take advantage of experience, the Bishop promptly assigned his new curate to farming. After all, Father had grown up farming and knew a lot about it. He would do well as a farmer at St. Joseph's Orphanage in Torrington; his first assignment as a priest. His duties for the next six months would be daily Mass and running the farm operations of the orphanage.

With the Irish wit and humor that Father is so well known for, he says, "In June I went to Rawlins, the parish not the prison. Perhaps it seemed like it at times." While at St. Joseph's, his duties included driving for Saratoga, Hanna, and Medicine Bow each week for Mass, and Bags once a month. Father Meyer, he says, believed that Mass should be celebrated at every pole along the highway. His weekly trip had a cumulative distance of 160 miles. A considerable distance in today's well heated and air conditioned automobiles at 65-75 miles an hour. This was 1949, and 50 miles an hour was considered fast and the air conditioning was the 2-50 model; two windows down and 50 miles an hour. Who knows what heat consisted of at the time; perhaps a cigarette and a warm coat? Oh, did I mention that as an associate pastor he did not have a car? Nope, only pastors owned vehicles in those days. However, Father Meyer was kind enough to let Fr. Doudican use his car. It seemed though that a Protestant minister in town took exception to this practice. Going door to door through town he collected money to purchase a car for Father to use.

Several other associate pastor assignments followed, oftentimes with no more responsibility given to him then answering the door or telephone and maybe teaching an occasional catechism class. It seems that pastors kept the responsibilities of pastoral care and

administering a parish pretty much to themselves and relegated the less significant duties to the associates. Eventually his first opportunity to be a pastor came. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi who was asked by Christ to "build my church," Father was sent to Jackson to build the church.

Life was very different in Jackson in 1963 than it is today. The parish population was small but growing and much of the population was seasonal and left the area during the winter months. Father lived in what he calls a "small room in the back of the church, with no insulation." This week, as I write this story, we have had -40 wind chills and ambient temperatures of -20. How does one live in a small room, with no insulation in a Wyoming winter? Father had an answer. With much of the population gone, parish income reduced to a trickle, Father decided that he would get a job at the local grocery store stocking groceries. That way he was able to increase the parish income, and keep warm while working. In the midst of this, he decides it is time to adhere to the orders given and build a church. So build he does. He buys the land, hires an architect, and begins building. O ops!! It seems he sort of forgot one small detail he didn't tell the Bishop. Or maybe he didn't exactly forget but, as he tells the story, when he approached the Bishop he was told, you have an architect, work with him and ask him your questions. Anyway, as his story goes, he built the church, no blue prints, no plans, and no money. Sounds like it should work. When the job was finished the bill was sent to none other than the Bishop. Now, I suppose if you are lonely, a long way from home, and wanting some mail that might be a way to get it. Yep, he quickly received a letter. He did not share the contents of the communication with me, but the resulting action was a fund drive in Jackson to pay for the property and church.

Since 1972, Father Doudican has had a special ministry to the sick, as chaplain of De Paul Hospital, and the V.A. hospital. I cannot begin to count the number of people who have shared stories with me about how Father Doudican ministered to a parent, child, or some other loved one at a time of illness or death. The stories are endless, as are the lives that have been touched by him. Still today, he celebrates Mass



Father Doudican

twice a week at the V.A. hospital, and once a week at one of the nursing homes in town. His devotion and commitment to care for the sick and dying is relentless. At the age of 93 he continues, if the weather allows, to walk the ¼ to a ½ mile to the hospital for Mass, and when the weather does not, he takes a ride. He continues to be faithful to the call to anoint a dying veteran whether it is 1 o'clock in the afternoon or 1 o'clock in the morning. It does not matter. I cannot help but wonder how many people have been helped on their journey to eternal life by the compassion, devotion, prayers, and ministry of Father Doudican. A farm boy from Ireland, who gave up family, friends, home, everything he had, to come to a place he never heard of to serve the people of God. The people of Wyoming have certainly been blessed.

In closing, I asked Father if he had any words of wisdom for a young priest just starting out his life as a priest. His response was threefold. Now listen up all you recently ordained priests. His words of wisdom for you: "Don't sell your car when you retire, prepare for retirement, and most of all keep active and continue ministering after you retire."

Father Doudican, thank you for letting me tell some of your story, thank you for your years of service, devotion, and dedication to the People of God, and most of all thank you, for showing me how to be a priest. May God continue to bless you, and in the fashion of an old Polish blessing, may you live to be 100 years.

Lenten Regulations

1. By the law of God and the custom of the Church, all Christians are required to do penance.
2. The season of Lent retains its penitential character. The days of penance to be observed under obligation are Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of the Lenten season.
3. Abstinence from meat is to be observed on all Fridays of Lent. The law of abstinence and fast is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
4. The law of abstinence forbids the consumption of meat. The law of fasting permits only one full meal a day.
5. The law of abstinence binds those who have celebrated their 14th birthday. The law of fasting binds those who have celebrated their 18th birthday and continues until they have celebrated their 59th birthday.
6. Pastors and parents should take particular care to educate the young to a true sense of penance and self-discipline. More frequent use of the Sacrament of Penance and attendance at daily Mass should be encouraged during Lent, as well as other practices of penance and self-sacrifice.
7. The Fridays of the year outside Lent remain days of penance, but each individual may substitute traditional abstinence from meat with some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance. These works should be considered a minimal response to the Lord's call to penance and conversion of life.
8. All priests and deacons are delegated to grant dispensations to individuals, families or groups from their parish and visiting their parish.