

WYOMING CATHOLIC REGISTER

Dec. 5, 2005

Issue #21

Volume #53

Diocese of Cheyenne — www.wyocathregister.org

In brief



Nearly 80 youth pledge chastity at Cheyenne retreat

St. Joseph's parish holds annual Chastity Retreat. Read about the young people's glowing praise on page 5



Guyana nurses welcome Wyoming donations

Maria Kidner returns from Guyana, with thanks for help with medical care. See page 4

May you have a ...



Joyous Advent

See pages 16 and 17

Celebrating Christmas in a special way

At the *Wyoming Catholic Register*, we wondered what special Advent and Christmas traditions were celebrated around the Diocese. Here are some of the special family traditions we found ...

St. Nicholas Day

Chuck and Lori Ruwart of Wheatland and their five children annually celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 6.

Chuck said it was one of his family traditions that they carried on.

St. Nicholas Day remembers the death of the much-beloved man who lived in third-century Turkey. He was known for his devotion to Jesus Christ, his work as the Bishop of Myra and the many acts, done in secret, to help the poor and needy.

One story tells of how three maidens had no money for a dowry and were destined to be sold into slavery. But each time, a bag of gold mysteriously appeared, believed to come from St. Nicholas, to provide the dowry.

It's said that the gold landed in shoes and stockings left by the fire to dry. That's where the tradition originated of children leaving their shoes out, awaiting gifts from the beloved saint.

The night of Dec. 5, the Ruwart's each line up a pair of shoes by the front door.

"We're not the kind of family that normally leaves our shoes out, but if you come by on the morning of Dec. 6, they're all there," he said. "It's pretty funny."

In the morning, the shoes are filled with cookies, candy and small presents like a pocket calculator or a book.

"It's not expensive," Chuck said. "The kids love it."

continued on page 16

Wyoming Catholic College announces new president

LANDER — Father Bob Cook, a priest from Casper who is helping develop Wyoming Catholic College has been named the first president of the institution, Bishop David L. Ricken, chairman of the board of directors, announced today. The appointment of Father Cook by the college's Board of Directors becomes effective on Dec. 8.

Father Cook has been greatly active in the development of the college over the past two years while also serving as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Casper. Bishop Ricken said that Father Cook will leave his parish on July 1, 2006, to devote even more of his time and effort to the college, which is being organized in Lander. The college will accept its first class of students in the fall of 2007.

Bishop Ricken stated that Father Cook is well qualified to lead the new college as it moves forward with plans to be a four-year liberal arts Catholic college which will also provide its students an opportunity to learn the practical virtues and wisdom that come from outdoor experiences such as hiking, camping, and horseback



Father Bob Cook

riding.

"Father Cook has served with distinction in this Diocese for the past five years,"

said Bishop Ricken, "and prior to his ordination in May of 2002, he was a practicing attorney as well as the founder of an important social service organization in the Denver area."

Bishop Ricken said the board was pleased to have Father Cook



Wyoming

“ I certainly believe the college will be a tremendous force for good, not only in Wyoming, but nationally as well. A return to a fundamental program of education ... is what is truly needed these days.”

as president because “he is himself the product of a liberal arts education, has experience in teaching both at his parish and at Casper College, and is gifted in his organizational abilities.”

Father Cook grew up in Rifle, Colo., and attended Regis College where he graduated magna cum laude with a Classical Bachelor of Arts degree in 1958. He then attended Stanford University Law School and, in 1962, received his LL.B., the equivalent of a doctor of jurisprudence.

Thereafter, Father Cook prac-

continued on page 14

Seminarians need your help

Seminarian
Education Collection
Dec. 10 and 11
Thank you for your
prayerful consideration

reported that total gifts received during the previous two collections exceeded a total of \$600,000. The two collections were held in Lent, 2003, and Advent, 2004. Pringle noted “the Bishop asked the faithful to support these efforts — and you did just that. We are all so grateful for the wonderful generosity of the people.”

“This is something that really impacts all of us in Wyoming. We need more priests. We are blessed

with many seminarians to meet that need. Now, we need to ensure that we can pay for their education. With the average cost of between \$25,000 and \$27,000 per seminarian, per year, we will face this need over the coming years. It is very gratifying to see the faithful take on the challenge so generously and most importantly, with their continued prayers,” Pringle added.

Bishop Ricken concluded, “God has given us so much and we are truly blessed. How wonderful to return, from your heart, a portion of what you have been given to support the education of our seminarians. May our Lord bless you richly during this most Holy season of Advent and Christmas.”

CHEYENNE — Bishop Ricken asks for our help in the upcoming special second collection for seminarian education scheduled to be held in parishes on December 10-11, the Third Sunday of Advent.

“I ask for your prayerful consideration and support for the education of our seminarians. For 20 years, we have been praying for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. God is answering our prayers. I now ask you to assist in the effort of funding our seminarians' education. These 13 men are called to serve our Church as priests. We are called to help these men become priests through their education,” added Bishop Ricken.

Tom Pringle, Director of Stewardship and Development,