

Catholic schools continue to thrive in Diocese

By Dave Johnson
Superintendent

The Catholic schools in this diocese are wonderful. The students who have been blessed by having been part of them over the years are among the most successful men and women in this diocese, this state and in this country. To be clear, their success does not just include large things, it includes the small, everyday sacrifices, their continued participation in the faith, their recognizing the Lord in the simple, mundane and redundant actions of daily living and the desire to continue faithful, loving families.

The diocese is alive with new school construction and expansion. Only one school has decided to drop two of its grade levels at this time. Laramie is on a five-year plan to expand the school and become even more visible and active in the St. Laurence Parish. Gillette is adding grade levels and is expanding. Riverton is reaching out to Native Americans and to Lander, and students from both of those parishes are enjoying excellent formation at St. Margaret's. Sheridan is studying construction and has procured additional land for the future. Casper is breaking ground on an ambitious project and new school that will include elementary and middle school components and space to add a high school in the future, should it be desired by the tri-parish union. Cheyenne has just completed its grand and new school close to the cathedral that operates



**MINISTRY
SPOTLIGHT**

pre-k three through middle school.

With eager pastors and competent principals throughout, the state of our schools and the education and religious formation of our children is in good hands.

The new and excellent Wyoming Catholic College is moving into its third year.

As we anticipate the selection of our new and holy bishop, our report on the state of Catholic education in this diocese will be positive.

May I respectfully single out the inspiration of the Lord in Fathers Gary Ruzicka, Thomas Ogg, Cliff Jacobson, James Schumacher, and Kevin Koch, Robert Fox and August Kouene in their efforts and actions to grow and expand Catholic facilities and education in their diocesan communities? This Diocese is holding its own nationally in adding and expanding its efforts. A number of other dioceses are not as fortunate. Naturally the hope is



Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dave Johnson (back to camera) leads tours of the new St. Mary's School atrium during dedication ceremonies held in January. The new school is one indication of the vibrant Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cheyenne.

Register file photo

that other parishes will be able to rise and move toward acquiring a Catholic school in the near future. The need is great, the result is great, the harvest is great and the religious formation and family life focus is crucial.

A great note of thanks and appreciation is hereby extended to the wonderful principals who are leaving at the end of this school term. We welcome Janet Materi as the new St. Mary's principal.

Carol Ricken is departing St. Mary's School in Cheyenne to continue working in her brother's ministry as Bishop of Green Bay, Wis.

The effects of her work that includes the opening of the brand new St. Mary's

School will long be felt and remembered. The highly effective Iris (Prevedel) Bonsell in Rock Springs is retiring at this time. She just spearheaded a renovation of facilities at Holy Spirit School. How can we do

without her! Let us also thank Bishop David Ricken for his deep interest in the religious formation and education of the children of this Diocese and thanks also to Diocesan Administrator, Father Michael Carr, in the absence of a bishop.

Parents! Think family! Think Catholic education for your children wherever and whenever you can. In an ever expanding hedonistic and secular world, Catholic schools stand as a bastion in holding evil and faithlessness at bay.

World and Nation

World celebration of the Year of Priests begins June 19

Special web site tells of events set

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has set up a Web site to mark the Year for Priests, a worldwide celebration from June 19 of this year to June 19, 2010.

Pope Benedict XVI chose to begin the Year for Priests on the feast of the Sacred

Heart of Jesus, a day of prayer for the sanctification of all priests.

The pope also designated St. John Vianney as the universal patron of all priests on the 150th anniversary of the saint's death.

The saint, who is also known as the Cure of Ars, is the patron of parish priests.

The Year for Priests Web site is www.usccb.org/yearforpriests.

The site includes the pope's message for the occasion and the announcement of the plenary indulgence in conjunction with the celebration.

The site also offers

specially commissioned prayers for priests and laity.

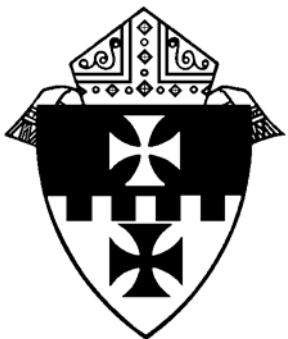
The pope's messages and the prayers are available in English and Spanish.

Throughout the year, the secretariat also will use the site to publish monthly articles about the priesthood written by prominent Catholic women.

Other activities in the Year for Priests include a retreat on the national level and a gathering of priests in Rome for the celebration's culmination.

Further details about the national retreat will be available on the site.

Diocese of Cheyenne Confirmations and RCIA (Easter Vigil) 2009



RCIA

Baptisms up to 7:	83
Baptisms over 7:	61
Candidates:	186
Catechumens:	115

Confirmations

Confirmation masses held:	22
Parishes and Mission Churches:	37
Young people confirmed:	616