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Vibrant Vision Celebration Picnic

Sat., Sept. 14
5:00 p.m.

Parish
Dining Room

All are invited

Watch
for more details!

Fall 2024



Our Lady's Messenger

We welcome Fr. Artz!

We are blessed to welcome Fr. Eric Artz as the new Parochial Vicar for Our Lady of Grace parish! Fr. Artz was ordained to the priesthood on June 11 by Bishop David Kagan at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck.

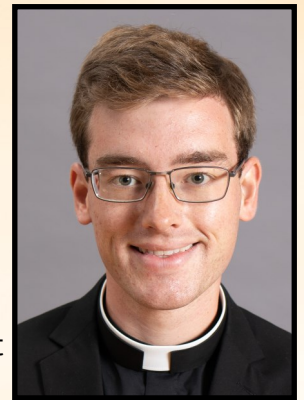
“It was a very profound day to receive this great and magnificent gift from God, in that my being was configured to the very person of Jesus Christ in his priestly identity,” Fr. Artz said. “As a priest, it is my great joy and also my duty to be available to give the sacraments, which is a way that Jesus has chosen to love us, to serve us and to be with us. Giving these great gifts that God desires for his people is what I’m most looking forward to.”

As Parochial Vicar, Fr. Artz said he is happy to be able to assist Fr. Adam Maus in his role as pastor of the parish. In addition to celebrating Masses and offering the sacraments, Fr. Artz will be teaching students who are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation, helping to lead the high school youth group, and serving in many other ways at Our Lady of Grace. He will also be an instructor of religious education at Bishop Ryan Catholic School.

“Being a student for 20-plus years, I want to give back to others, especially in the context of religious education, allowing others to grow in love of God and be moved by the great intellectual treasures our Church has, just as I was moved by my many inspiring teachers and those who articulated their love of God and desire to be saints.”



Fr. Eric Artz presides over a Mass of Thanksgiving, the day following his ordination, at St. Therese the Little Flower, Minot.
(photo by Lucas DeMers)



(Continued on page 11)



*Father Adam Maus
Pastor*

**OUR LADY OF GRACE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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(701) 852-3002

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Website:

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Instagram:

OurLadyofGraceMinot

YouTube:

OurLadyofGraceMinot

Our Mission:

Our Lady of Grace Parish is a community of faith that encourages stewardship through word, sacrament and service.

“Parish Planned Giving and Legacy Committee” formed

Last October I was contacted by Ron Schatz, the Director of Mission Advancement at the Diocese, with an opportunity to be amongst the first parishes to develop a “Parish Planned Giving and Legacy Committee.” The purpose of such a committee would be to educate parishioners on the importance, and gift it is to loved ones, to have a plan upon death that respects one’s wishes, reflects our Christian faith and dignity, and exemplifies good Christian stewardship.

After he explained his idea I was very quick to say yes because I recognize the gift it is to a family when one has pre-planned for the foreseen and unforeseen; their funeral, having a will, designated guardians for children, having a good healthcare directive in place, and a power of attorney.

Our Parish Planned Giving and Legacy Committee was formed in October of 2023 and with the help of Ron Schatz and Bryan Winterberg, of the Bismarck Diocese, we have spent this last year preparing materials and a plan for both educating and assisting parishioners in end of life planning. All those on our committee have been a tremendous help and they know what a gift it is when a family member has planned ahead, and what a tragedy it can be when they didn’t plan. Pre-planning truly eases the burden of grieving loved ones.

At the time I am writing this there are a number of things that are still being prepared, but some of the materials we have created, and will have available for people, include, 1) an Our Lady of Grace Funeral Planning Guide 2) a guide for planning your legacy, which will help one walk through and consider the different aspects of estate planning, having/making a will, medical care directive, etc.

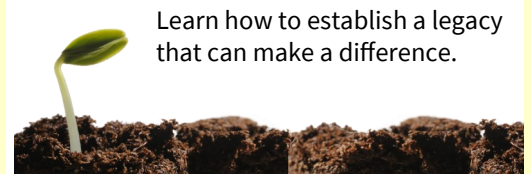
I’m excited to invite you to attend our first “**Pre-Planning - Planned Giving - Legacy Seminar**” here at Our Lady of Grace, **November 24th at 2 P.M.** in the dining room. At this seminar we will talk about the gift of pre-planning for one’s funeral, having a medical care directive, and having a will. There will be professionals there to speak about pre-funeral planning, the benefits and considerations of estate planning, considering OLG in your planning, and having a will. This will be a wonderful event and opportunity to learn about things that we might not have considered or wanted to consider yet. I hope to see you there.

Fr. Maus



PRE-PLANNING PLANNED GIVING Legacy Seminar

Sunday, November 24th at 2 P.M.
Our Lady of Grace Dining Room



Learn how to establish a legacy that can make a difference.



National Make-A-Will Month!

Protect what matters to you most – create your own will today!

Did you know that **August is National Make-A-Will Month**? It's an annual observance that emphasizes the importance of creating your own will. There are several important reasons why you might want to complete this important task.

Security: Creating your own will and estate plan allows you to communicate important financial and healthcare decisions so you are prepared for whatever the future may hold.

Peace of mind: A will allows you to provide for the people and pets you love, so you know that no matter what, they will be supported, the way you want them to be supported.

In less than 20 minutes, write or update your will for free!

The Bismarck Diocese has a partnership with FreeWill, an online service that makes it simple, cost-free and accessible to create your own will. Nearly 67% of American adults do not have an estate plan, missing a crucial element of Catholic stewardship.

Here's how it works:

1. From the convenience of your home, log in at **FreeWill.com/bismarckdiocese**.
2. Select a username and password.
3. Begin typing your information.
4. Once completed, your free will is ready to print.
5. You sign and notarize with a local notary public. *
6. DONE!

Takes about 20 minutes to complete.

It's easy and 100% FREE!

If your circumstances should ever change, it's easy and FREE to log back into FreeWill and change your will, then print the updated copy and have it notarized again.

**In the state of N.D., for a will to be legal, you MUST sign your will in front of a notary public. Most banks, insurance offices, investment offices and public libraries have notary publics who can witness your signature.*

For more information, contact Ron Schatz at (701) 204-7202 or schatz@bismarckdiocese.com or Bryan Winterberg at (701) 415-0399 or bwinterberg@bismarckdiocese.com.



IMPORTANT DATES

August

14 - 7:00 PM Vigil Mass for Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15 - 9:00 AM Holy Day Mass Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15 - 5:30 PM Holy Day Mass Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

18 - 3:00 PM Spanish Mass & Fellowship

September

1 - 3:00 PM Spanish Mass & Fellowship

2 - Parish Office Closed (Labor Day)

2-6 Diocese of Bismarck Clergy Conference

8 - Blessed Mother Mary's Birthday

8 - 8:30 AM - Noon KC Breakfast

8 - 9:20 - 10:20 AM CGS Catechist and Aide Orientation meeting

11 - 4:00 - 5:00 PM CGS Catechist and Aide Orientation meeting

11 - 5:30 - 6:30 PM CGS Catechist and Aide Orientation meeting

14 - 5:00 PM Vibrant Vision Celebration

15 - Fr. Maus' Marian Shrines Trip

15 - 3:00 PM Spanish Mass & Fellowship

16 - 6:00 PM Dakota Hope Clinic Banquet

18 - 4:00 - 5:10 PM First Wednesday Faith Formation Classes (K-Gr. 5)

18 - 5:30 - 6:40 PM First Wednesday Faith Formation Classes (K-Gr. 5)

21 - 9:00 AM- 3:30 PM Seven Sisters Retreat

22 - 9:20 - 10:20 AM First Sunday Faith Formation Classes (Preschool-Gr. 5)

25 - 7:00 - 8:30 PM First Wednesday Faith Formation Classes (Gr. 6-8)

October

2 - 7:00 - 8:00 PM Confirmation Orientation meeting (students & parents)
Option 1

6 - 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM KC Breakfast

6 - 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Respect Life Fair with Baby Shower

Participation in the National Eucharistic Procession – Marian Route at Bemidji, MN

by Gloria Aberle

My daughter, Lisa, heard of the Eucharistic Congress as she was reading a book on Blessed Pier Gorgio Frassati, of whom she has a special devotion. He often attended Eucharistic Congresses. Searching the internet, she came across the 2024 National Eucharist Congress to be held in July in Indianapolis, IN. She became quite excited and thought we should participate in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. As she continued her search, she found Lake Bemidji was the closest for my three daughters and me to attend the startup of the Marian Route.

We started on Friday, May 17th and were present for the opening celebration at the Sanford Center at 5:30 PM. The auditorium was packed with 3,000 to 3,500 people. The evening began with a welcome by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of the Crookston Diocese and Bishop Daniel J. Felton of the Diocese of Duluth.

Bishop Robert Barron, of the Winona-Rochester diocese, opened the session at 7:00 PM with a very interesting reflection. A Holy Hour of adoration began at 8:30 PM with Bishop Felton presiding.

We attended Mass on Saturday at 10:00 AM with music provided by Aly Aleigha, and "The Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus" sisters from St. Paul. Archbishop Bernard Hebda was the celebrant. Sister Jude Andrew Link OP, and Father Mike Schmitz also gave presentations. Fr. Mike's encouraging message was, "Get out and Evangelize!" The Congress concluded at 4:30 PM, and at 9:00 PM we viewed fireworks over Lake Bemidji.

We attended the Pentecost Sunday outdoor liturgy at Itasca Pioneer Village at 10:00 AM on the 19th. The appearance of an eagle soaring above us at the start of the Mass was a sign to me of the power of the Holy Spirit over the United States of America. The presider of the liturgy was Bishop Cozzens.

The Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Procession began at the mouth of the Mississippi River following the Mass. This was truly an awesome experience to be present and to send the pilgrims on their two-month journey to the National Eucharistic Revival.

Seeing the many bishops, priests, seminarians, religious and lay families was a powerful scene to behold. It was good to see Garrett Aberle, a seminarian for the diocese of Fargo. His parents (Ricky and Christine) are members of Our Lady Grace parish in Minot. My daughter Bonnie saw Bishop John Folda from the Fargo diocese and her former parish priests of St. Joseph in Moorhead. My daughter Wendy came from St. John the Baptist parish in Savage, MN.

This was truly a very powerful and memorable weekend.

Parishioner Jeff Case also went to the start of the Marian Route. Read his story on page 7.

Gloria Aberle and her daughters: Bonnie Steen, Lisa Schriock, and Wendy Miller (taken at the Star of the North, Marian Route in Bemidji, MN)



Below left:

Mass to begin the procession.

Below right:

The Marian Route processions begins, from Itasca State Park to Indianapolis, IN.

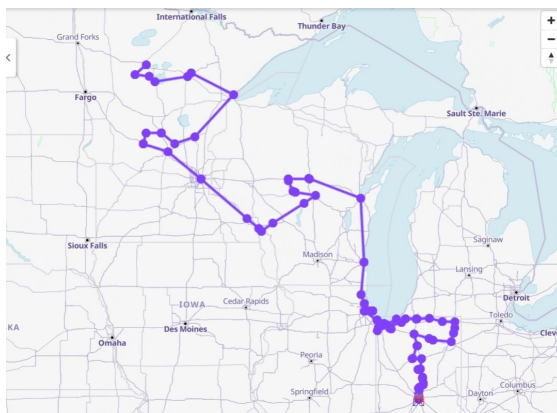


A Once in a Lifetime National Pilgrimage

The northern route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage began with the Holy Mass on the Solemnity of Pentecost in Itasca State Park.

The procession departed from the headwaters of the great Mississippi River, making its way through the Midwest and met up with the other three pilgrimage routes at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Thousands of pilgrims, including twelve perpetual pilgrims, walked alongside Jesus, traveling from city to city, attending daily Mass and adoring Jesus in adoration.

The Marian route is named for its visit to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Wisconsin which is the first and only approved Marian Apparition site in the United States.



(Continued from page 4)

- 6 - 3:00 PM **Spanish Mass & Fellowship**
- 6 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM **Confirmation**
- Orientation meeting** (students & parents) **Option 2**
- 10 - 6:00 - 7:30 PM **First Reconciliation Retreat** (Option 1)
- 11- 10:45 AM **ND March for Life Mass, March, & Rally (Bismarck)**
- 13 - 1:00 - 2:30 PM **First Reconciliation Retreat** (Option 2)
- 16 - **No Faith Formation**
- 20 - **No Faith Formation**
- 20 - 3:00 PM **Spanish Mass & Fellowship**
- 30 - 7:00 - 8:30 PM **First Middle School Youth Group** (Gr. 6-8)
- 31 - 5:30 PM **Holy Day Vigil Mass - All Saint's Day**

November

- 1 - 9:00 AM **All Saint's Day Mass**
- 1 - 5:30 PM **All Saint's Day Mass**
- 1 - **Parish Office Closed** (All Saint's Day)
- 2 - 9:30 AM **First Saturday Adoration**
- 2 - 10:30 AM **All Souls Day Mass with First Saturday Devotion at OLG**
- 3 - 8:30 AM - Noon **KC Breakfast**
- 3 - 3:00 PM **Spanish Mass & Fellowship**
- 5 - 7:00 PM **Remembrance Mass**
- 6 - 5:30 - 7:00 PM **"Treasures of the Church - Marian Apparitions"** Event for families
- 10 - **No Faith Formation**
- 17 - Noon - 6:00 PM **Emmaus Retreat** at Bishop Ryan (Grades 6-9)
- 17 - 3:00 PM **Spanish Mass & Fellowship**
- 22 & 23 - **Dakota Hope Clinic's Festival of the Trees (ND State Fair Center)**
- 24 - 2:00 PM **Preplanning/Planned Giving Legacy Seminar**
- 27 - **No Faith Formation**
- 28 - 9:00 AM **Thanksgiving Mass**
- 28 - **Parish Office Closed**
- 29 - **Parish Office Closed**

"They just love coming here"

On Faith Formation Wednesdays, at about 3:55 p.m., I look out one of our church's south-facing windows and watch them rush across the lawn, cross the parking lot, and enter the church doors. With rosy cheeks from the warm weather (or cold weather, depending on the season), they hold the door open for their friends, talk about the excitement of the day, and hang up their backpacks and coats.

The older students (in second through fifth grades) climb the church's main stairs to the gathering space, greet Fr. Maus and other adults waiting for them, and enter the worship space to begin a new session of learning about our Lord. The kindergarten and first grade students go directly to their Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium classrooms, where they work with their hands, hearts and minds to explore the mystery of our faith at their level.

"They just love coming here!" the man who brings these students from the after-school program at Edison Elementary to our Faith Formation classes told me one day.

We love it when they come here, too!

The minds and hearts of children and teenagers crave a relationship with Jesus. Each of us is made in the image of God for love, and it is in Jesus where we find the deepest love imaginable. Jesus is here in the church, within the tabernacle, waiting to greet them each time they arrive.



Our priests, staff and many volunteer teachers, aides and helpers know we can't teach them everything they need to know about our Lord and our Catholic faith in the few hours we have with the children and teenagers each year. That foundation is built first in the home, as they watch their parents live out their Catholic faith. We can give them a glimpse of Jesus' love, though, and a taste of the beauty and joy of sacred Scripture and Tradition which unfold for us the truths of the Catholic Church.

We invite you to enroll your children and teenagers in the classes and youth groups at Our Lady of Grace. We also invite you to volunteer with our Faith Formation program and youth groups. Our parish children and teenagers need adult mentors who want to grow in the knowledge of their Catholic faith along with the students. Please see the accompanying article for more details, and please pray for our parish children and families as we embark on a new school year of Faith Formation.

By Tanya Watterud
Faith Formation Coordinator

Sign me up for Faith Formation!



It's time to register!

Registration continues for Faith Formation classes and Youth Groups for this fall.

The opportunities we offer include:

- ◇ Sunday classes for Preschool-grade 5 children, 9:20-10:20 a.m.
- ◇ Wednesday classes for Kindergarten-grade 5 children, 4:00-5:10 p.m. or 5:30-6:40 p.m.
- ◇ Wednesday classes for gr. 6-8 students, 7:00-8:30 p.m. about 2 times per month
- ◇ Sunday evening Confirmation classes for students in gr. 9 and higher, 6:30-8:30 p.m. about 8 times in the school year
- ◇ Middle School Youth Group
- ◇ High School Youth Group + high school Bible study opportunities

To register or to volunteer, pick up a registration form in the parish classroom hallway or visit our website at olgminot.org. The volunteer information is on page 4 of the printed registration form, and near the end of the online form.

Tuition for students is \$75/child, with a maximum of \$225/family. There is a discount of \$5/child if registration is completed by August 31. There is no tuition fee for children and grandchildren of those who volunteer as catechists and aides for the school year. Other volunteer positions may also qualify for no tuition. Background checks and adhering to the Code of Conduct and position descriptions is required of all volunteers. Scholarships are available to families in need thanks to generous donors who support the education of our children and youth. Our calendar follows the Minot Public Schools calendar, so there are no classes during school vacations.

If you have questions about the programs or about volunteering, please contact Tanya Watterud, Faith Formation Coordinator, at 701-839-6834 or education1@olgminot.org. We look forward to another year of Faith Formation!

Participation in the National Eucharistic Procession Marian Route at La Crosse, WI

by Jeff Case

I was very privileged to participate in the first day of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in the La Crosse, WI diocese on June 7th. One of four national Eucharistic Pilgrimage routes that began on Pentecost Sunday, the Marian route started in Lake Itasca, MN at the headwaters of the Mississippi River. All four pilgrimage routes coming from the four borders of the US met in Indianapolis, IN on July 17th, the beginning of the National Eucharistic Congress.



The day began with the transfer of the Eucharistic Procession from the Winona-Rochester diocese in Minnesota to the La Crosse diocese. Bishop Robert Barron of Winona-Rochester carried the monstrance about three quarters of a mile into La Crosse, where at a predetermined site, it was transferred to Bishop Gerard Battersby of La Crosse. Following a brief time of prayer and adoration, the procession continued the remaining three quarters of a mile to the La Crosse Center. I was honored to be part of the 35 plus 4th degree Knights of Columbus participating in this once in a lifetime segment of a National Eucharistic Procession.



The Answer Rally at the La Crosse center began with a series of reflections on the Eucharist and adoration, followed by the celebration of Holy Mass. We listened to Chris Stefanick give an enthusiastic presentation in

the afternoon on why Jesus Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament, is truly The Answer to all our needs, wants and cares. In the middle of worldly chaos, and our messy lives, Jesus is right here with us telling us repeatedly He loves us, and He willingly gives Himself to us in Holy Communion.

Next, we heard from Immaculée Ilibagiza, a Rwandan-American Catholic and author of *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*. She described how she survived during the Rwandan genocide. Amidst all her fear – believing she would never escape, that she would be tortured and murdered – she experienced the presence of God. A 22-year-old college student at the time and a member of the Tutsi tribe, she survived the genocide after hiding with seven other women for 91 days in the tiny 12 square foot bathroom of a pastor’s home.

Walking with Jesus, my brother Knights, and more than 2,000 bishops, priests, deacons, religious, seminarians and lay Catholics, was an experience I cannot yet fully express in words. At times it was very moving as I caught glimpses of people with rosaries kneeling on the sidewalk or on street corners as we passed by. I was overwhelmed with joy and gratitude to be part of a large mass of people publicly expressing our faith when I saw people looking down at the procession as we passed underneath an overhead crosswalk.

All the local Eucharistic Processions throughout the country, together with the four National Pilgrimages and the National Eucharistic Congress are of monumental importance to Catholics, our belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and our country. How can any Catholic not be grateful for his or her Catholic faith? His giving of Himself is endless in the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. At the end of Jesus’ discourse on the Eucharist, He asks the disciples, “Will you also go away?” Simon Peter responds, “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6: 67-68). Jesus Christ is truly the Answer.

Jeff stands with Matthew and Kai, two young pilgrims that are excited about the Eucharist.



Griffin Schaeffer entering Seminary

Dear Our Lady of Grace Parishioners,

As has been announced and published briefly in the bulletin, I will be entering seminary formation this fall. I wanted to take a little more space to expand and share a little bit of my story and discernment with you!

Seminaries exist to form men who may one day be ordained and serve as priests. Seminary is not simply a decision that a man makes; it is a calling that he hears. But, as you would imagine, there has never been a time where I have explicitly heard Christ call my name. Instead, He has given and left small hints through Truth, Beauty, Goodness, and what I think is His greatest gift, my friends.

I was active at Our Lady of Grace parish as a young boy; I attended faith formation classes and was frequently an altar server. Going to Mass each weekend, however, was nothing more than a box to check. My paternal grandparents, Leo and Ruth Schaeffer, were extremely active at the parish and lived lives of prayer and deep faith. I spent quite a bit of time at their house growing up and was always curious about their reliance on the



Griffin and Grant Schaeffer serve Mass for Bishop Kagan at the Our Lady of Grace 60th Jubilee.

sacraments and the Rosary. I went to public school kindergarten through twelfth grade, but their witness of living the Catholic faith influenced me to want to attend a Catholic university. Unlike my grandparents, the Catholic Church did not consume my life—but I wanted it to. I felt like I was living passively instead of living radiantly. Not only did I desire to learn what the Church taught and why, but I felt like I *needed* to know what the Church taught and why.

It became clear during my junior year of high school that I would end up at the University of Mary in Bismarck after I graduated from Minot High School. And I did.

The best way to describe how the University of Mary transformed my life is this: through the gifts of faith and grace, the Catholic imaginative vision overtook my life. The Catholic imaginative vision is the way the saved and justified Catholic lives, understands, and shares the life-saving news of the Gospel. A Catholic who has the Catholic imaginative vision sees not only everything, but every *thing* differently. Every “thing” is a gift from God and an invitation to give glory and thanks back to Him, the Divine and perfect artist.

As Saint John Henry Newman (one of my closest friends) writes, a university is a place to really see, understand, and live an integrated, disciplined, and joyful Christian life. The entire point of a university can be summarized in one word: friendship...friendship with the Person of Truth, friendship with the saints, friendship with authors and intellectuals, friendship with one's professors, and friendship with one's classmates. This is exactly what I experienced at the University of Mary. My friends mean the world to me, and Christ has used them to show me who I am and who I am meant to be.

There are two blessings that were extremely formative for me at the University of Mary. First, the first semester of my junior year and my entire senior year, I lived at the University of Mary Catholic men's fraternity. Our lives at the house revolved around the pillars of prayer, community, study, and hospitality. Father Jordan Dosch and a professor, Dr. Nathan Kilpatrick, mentored us men in the house. Living with men who embrace the Catholic imaginative vision and strive for virtue was incredible.



Griffin with the other men of the Fraternity of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati 2023-2024

Second, I was able to study at the University of Mary's Rome Campus the second semester of my junior year. *My vocational calling very clearly manifested itself during my semester in Rome.* To try to explain Rome in this short newsletter is impossible. We students lived in community with each other, had the great gift of taking an art

history course with one of Europe's finest and most revered English-speaking art historians, Dr.

Griffin (far left) in Dr. Lev's art history class in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere



Griffin (far left) in Dr. Lev's art history class in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere

history course with one of Europe's finest and most revered English-speaking art historians, Dr.

Elizabeth Lev, and were fathered and cared for by American seminarians, deacons, and priests studying at the North American Pontifical College. The art history class *deeply* pierced and penetrated my soul. (For context, we did not have class in the classroom; our art classes were in places like St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, and some of Rome's most historic churches.) Dr. Lev is my hero.



St. Peter's Basilica

Like Dr. Lev's art class and the chaplaincy program in Rome spoke to me in profound ways. One of my chaplains in Rome was Father Joshua Hill. I thought we were similar in a lot of ways, and I was drawn to his care, sacrifice, and passion. His example of a seminarian's (and priest's) life was exciting and attractive, and it was because of him that I really started to seriously consider seminary and develop relationships with our other chaplains.

I have come to embrace the gift of the present moment, I desire to live a radical life of holiness, and I want to give my life away in service and love. Thank you to all my friends, professors, mentors, and family members who have supported me and have formed me into the man I am. I also want to thank you, parishioners of Our Lady of Grace, for praying for me. I am excited to begin seminary formation and to live Heaven on Earth each day!

Deo Optimo Maximo!

Griffin Schaeffer

July 2024

D.O.M. stands for "Deo Optimo Maximo" which translates to "To the Greatest God."

Many, many, many graves, headstones, and funerary monuments in Rome have D.O.M. written on them. It is a good reminder that our lives are meant to give the greatest glory to God every single moment. Christians use this on graves because it signifies that giving glory to God is how they want to be remembered!

Welcome Sharon Pearson our new Parish Business Manager!

Sharon Pearson joined our staff on May 15 as our new Parish Business Manager. If you have not met her already, please stop by the parish office to say "hello"! She looks forward to meeting all of our parish members.



Sharon was the middle child of five children in her family, and her parents farmed south of Rugby. Sharon has worked in the accounting and finance fields throughout her career. She has one daughter, Faith, who will be a senior in the Lewis and Clark School District, Berthold, this fall.

This is the first time Sharon has had the opportunity to work in a church. "I'm so excited to be working for Our Lady of Grace, and getting to know the parishioners here," she said. "I've always wanted to go to daily Mass and now I am able to do that. I'm super excited to be working in a building where the Real Presence of Jesus Christ is every day."

She spoke about the vibrancy of Our Lady of Grace parish. "We have so many young people and young families that attend our church. There are several different events and ministries that encourage fellowship among our parishioners that the atmosphere is that of a family. I look forward to becoming much more involved in the church and getting to know all of you."

In addition to her duties with management of parish business and facilities, Sharon assists with the accounting work related to our current Vibrant Vision campaign for renovation and expansion of our facilities. "It's going to be fun seeing the changes and the growth in the parish" as a result of the campaign, she added.

Sharon fills the position formerly held by Deacon Steve Streit. Although he retired from his administrative role, he continues to serve as Outreach Coordinator for the parish, scheduling and finding volunteers to assist with visits to the homebound and hospitalized, conducting liturgies at care facilities, and other outreach activities. If you wish to become involved with our parish's outreach efforts, please contact the parish office at 701-839-6834.

Building relationships through campaign visits

Parish volunteers are reaching out and visiting with other parish members almost daily as our Vibrant Vision capital campaign progresses and those contacts are strengthening relationships within the parish.

As Harrison Foltz, volunteer campaign communications chair, noted recently, there are three projects involved with the current campaign. “The rectory improvements will provide a much needed update to our living space for our clergy, ensuring they can continue their work with the utmost support, as well as comfortably host traveling priests and seminarians. The new food pantry, currently serving 550-620 families monthly, will continue to address a critical need in our community, offering a dedicated space to help those facing food insecurity. Finally, the expansion of our parish center will allow us to accommodate more ministries, and help support the needs of our growing parish.”

“There have been a lot of positives,” Deacon Mohn Koble, co-chair of the campaign, said of the work required. People are now meeting parishioners that they may have seen in the pews at Mass, but had not yet formally met. As a result, personal relationships are being built as parish members come to know more about each other and as they focus together on the common goal of praying about and supporting needed changes in our parish facilities.

“This campaign is actually bringing our parishioners into more of a family setting,” Deacon Mohn said. Some of the volunteer visitors have expressed surprise and joy at the reception they have received from other parishioners, sometimes spending a couple of hours talking with each other rather than the few minutes needed to explain the campaign goals and opportunities for giving.

The willingness of people to serve as volunteers for the campaign has also been inspiring, Deacon Mohn said. As volunteer campaign co-chairs, Deacon Mohn and Sharon Johnson asked some of their fellow parishioners to join them in personally contacting people to encourage gifts and pledges to the campaign and prayers for the campaign’s success. That first group of volunteers, in turn, asked others to join them as volunteers. As a result, there is a strong team of volunteers helping to reach out to parish members.

“The volunteers are doing an excellent job,” Deacon Mohn said, “especially at this time of year when it’s difficult to reach people because of vacations. It’s so nice to see that they’re engaged and wanting to see this project go forward as much as I do. They have been very diligent in persevering. They’re doing it for themselves and their families and the rest of the parish community” who will all benefit from enhancements to the parish facilities.

With more than 1,300 families registered in the parish, it takes time to reach out to each family. So if parishioners are wondering why they haven’t yet been contacted, they should be assured that volunteers are doing their best to work through the list of families, Deacon Mohn said. Contacts will also be made through phone calls and mailings to be sure that all parish members have the opportunity to learn about the campaign and consider their personal pledges.



Women seeking help assisted parish in return

Volunteer campaign hospitality chair, Marietta Clemens, said several people have come forward to help serve food and beverages for the meetings and events that are part of the Vibrant Vision capital campaign. In fact, at one recent meeting, women who sought food assistance from the Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry showed their gratitude.

“Five volunteers from Endeavor Sober Living facility here in Minot helped serve the meal on July 11,” Marietta said. “The residents of this facility are clients of the Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry. These volunteers have complemented the number of parishioners who have helped with the meals served earlier during the capital campaign.”

More opportunities to volunteer with hospitality lie ahead as the campaign continues into September. Feel free to contact the parish office to offer to help with purchasing, making or serving food for campaign events, and Marietta will get back to you with what is most needed.

(continued from page 1)

Fr. Artz was born in Minot, the son of Bob and Brenda Artz. He and his identical twin brother, Nathan, their older brother, Austin, and his parents attended St. Therese the Little Flower Catholic Church in Minot and the brothers attended Minot Public Schools. Austin currently works as a lawyer in Bismarck. "He was a big inspiration of the faith to me," Fr. Artz said.

Fr. Artz's twin brother, Nathan, died from cancer in February 2015 when they were juniors in high school. Nathan was diagnosed as a high school freshman. "During that time, I saw a normal child grow into a saint by patiently receiving his suffering and allowing it to transform him into someone who waited for Jesus to be his Savior," Fr. Artz said. "For me as a high schooler, I was taught by Nathan, my greatest teacher, what it meant to be a Christian and that is to pick up your cross and follow Jesus out of love and joy, with faith and trust that God will provide."

While attending the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks with plans to become a doctor, Fr. Artz discerned his vocation to the priesthood. "I always had a desire to be a doctor and to help people," he said, "but the Lord made it clear that this desire would be fulfilled in a spiritual way by being a doctor of souls."

In May 2017, after attending UND for one year, Fr. Artz was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Bismarck by Bishop Kagan. He attended college seminary for three years at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, then attended Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, MO, for four years. "During this time of formation, I foremost learned how to pray, learned my identity as God's beloved son, and more deeply came to understand my desire and God's desire for me to become a father of souls."

Although it may seem that newly ordained priests come and go from Our Lady of Grace parish quickly, Fr. Artz said, "it is apparent that Our Lady of Grace is a parish that can help form young priests."

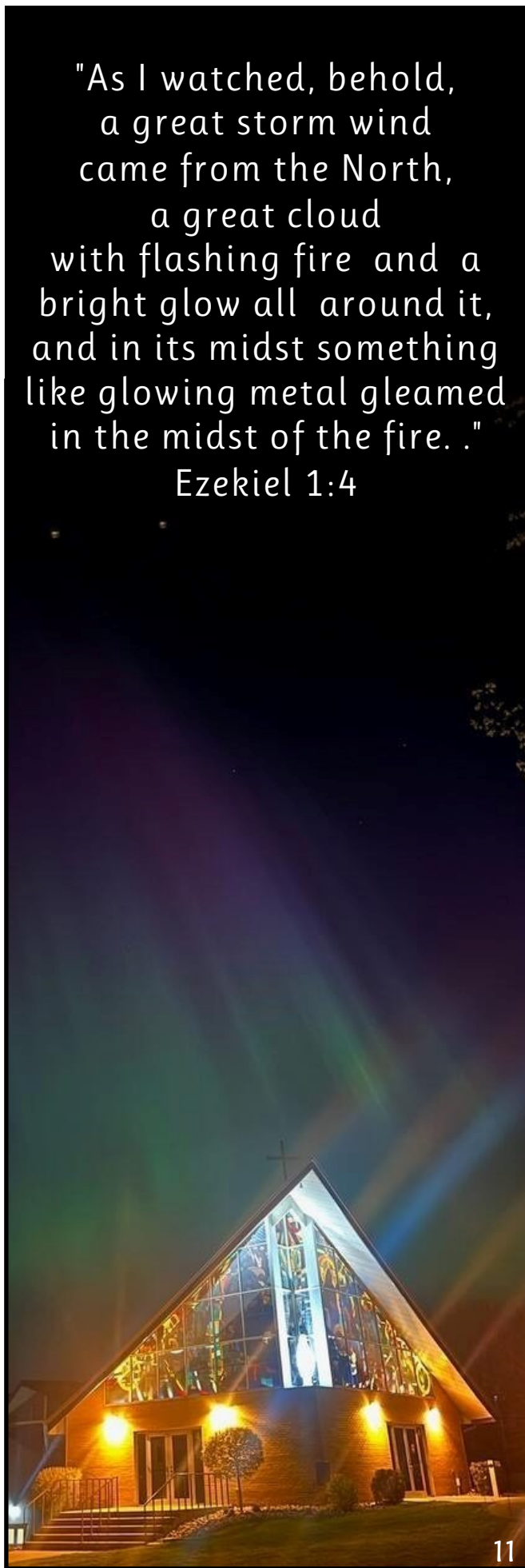
"It's clear that there's a lot to be learned from Our Lady of Grace" for a priest's first assignment in particular, he said. "I'm very excited to be formed by the people here."



*Newly ordained priests
Fr. Ryan Martire, Bishop David Kagan
and Fr. Eric Artz*

"As I watched, behold,
a great storm wind
came from the North,
a great cloud
with flashing fire and a
bright glow all around it,
and in its midst something
like glowing metal gleamed
in the midst of the fire."

Ezekiel 1:4



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*Our Lady
of Fatima*

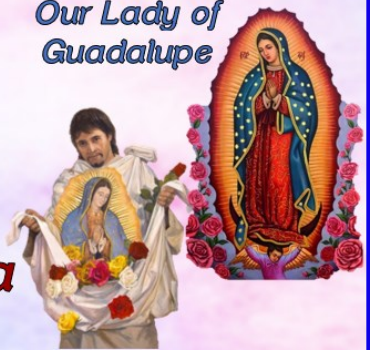


*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

Storytellers

Science Station

St. Juan Diego's Tilma



*Our Lady of
Guadalupe*



**Serving:
Stone-Fired Pizza**

At Our Lady of Grace
Wednesday, November 6
5:15 to 7:00 pm
Everyone Welcome!