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St. Mary's

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Bulletin Additional News

March 22, 2015

**GRATEFUL REFLECTIONS ON THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:** Yesterday afternoon, as I headed home from confession at St. Michael's Church, pretty white snowflakes began to fall around my face. The biblical image of white snow symbolizing restored innocence through God's forgiveness has resonated with me for years, since the day of my first confession in second grade. Walking out of the church building that day, after receiving this sacrament for the first time, the snow on the ground spoke volumes. It was not just ordinary snow or dirty snow, stained by traffic. It was a dazzling white, sparkling like diamonds.

Now, as I walked away from the church, I was again touched by gratitude for this wonderful sacrament of God's mercy with which we, undeservedly, are blessed whenever we choose to come. I have found so much grace in this Sacrament to strengthen me in my struggle against sinful tendencies.

As Dillingen Franciscan Sisters, we are to receive this wonderful Sacrament "regularly and frequently" and "in responsibility and freedom" (Constitutions 3:11). We are also advised that "this forgiveness so freely given us must become visible in our communities and in our encounters with others. (3.7) Our gratitude to God for His mercy should flow over into mercy and love for others. (by) Sr. Christina M. Neumann – St. Anne's

<https://ourfranciscanfiat.wordpress.com> (Please take the time and check out their blog.)

 **In Sympathy** St. Mary's remembers in our prayers the family of Carmen Del Valle. Carmen passed away on March 11<sup>th</sup>. May she rest in peace.

The **2015 March Campaign at St. Joseph's** continues in full swing; we would like to thank those who have been able to help us help others, and invite those who would still like to participate to keep bringing in those donations! Over the last 10 years, because of the generous support of people like you, St. Joseph's has been able to provide local neighbors in need with over 2.8 MILLION pounds of food -- This number is astounding! Although each year's total poundage is slightly smaller than that, there is no shortage of people asking for our assistance; in fact Food Pantry visits have continually increased year after year. Your donations, as always, are tax-deductible and provide a direct benefit to neighbors in need; all proceeds raised during the March Campaign remain in our local area. If you have any questions about how we use your donations, or if you would like more information about the Food Pantry that you can share with others who may want to help, please call (701)795-8614 or email [StJosephsSocialCare@gmail.com](mailto:StJosephsSocialCare@gmail.com).

**Rachel's Vineyard Retreat: April 17-19:** If you or someone you know has suffered from the physical, emotional, and spiritual effects of a past abortion, there is hope for healing. Rachel's Vineyard offers a safe, non-judgmental, and confidential weekend retreat for anyone: women, men, grandparents, and siblings who struggle with the feelings of loss that can accompany an abortion experience. The weekend begins on a Friday night and concludes on Sunday afternoon. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is scheduled for April 17-19, 2015 in Hankinson. For more information, or to register, please call Ruth at (701) 219-3941 or email her at [ruch@i29.net](mailto:ruch@i29.net) All calls are confidential.

**New Evangelization Summit - April 24/25, 2015.** Be inspired, receive formation, and connect with other Catholics at the New Evangelization Summit. Join over 4,000 Catholics across the USA and Canada for this premier conference on the New Evangelization. The conference will feature Scott Hahn, Fr. Michael Gaitley, Ralph Martin, Patrick Coffin, JoEllen Gregus, Fr. James Mallon, Ken Yaskinski and Michael Dopp. The NES has been designed to inspire you and help you live out your personal call to evangelize. FARGO is incredibly excited to be a host site for NES. The conference will be webcasted live from Ottawa to Fargo. Register now at [www.newevangelization.com](http://www.newevangelization.com) Fargo Location: Shanley HS; 5600

25<sup>th</sup> St. S, Fargo. Doors open at 6pm Friday and finishes by 4:30pm Saturday. Cost: \$50/participant. For questions, call 701.356.7908

*"Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice out there calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice in here calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God."*—  
**Thomas Merton**

Homemade baked goods and new craft items needed for the **Grand Forks Senior Center Spring Bazaar** on March 27. Please drop off at 620 4th Ave S (4th Ave & Cherry St) by 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 26 or by 8:30 am on Friday, March 27. And if you want to do some shopping yourself, join us at the Bazaar from 8:30 am to 1 pm! Proceeds will benefit the programs at the Grand Forks Senior Center.



**Are You Called to Serve this summer? Is God calling you to be a Young Disciple?** In 2001, the Diocese of Fargo, ND began a volunteer ministry to meet the needs of the youth in our rural parishes. This ministry is called the Young Disciples Teams. Through their witness marked by the joy and hope of Faith, the Young Disciples' Teams seek to challenge others to love Jesus Christ and to embrace the life of His Church.

Young Disciples camps include daily mass, lessons, crafts, games, songs that centered on Scripture and Catechism. It is the Young Disciples' goal and mission to teach the younger generations the beauty and depth of the Catholic faith. **Summer Missionaries Needed:** We are looking for missionaries (men and women), between ages 18 to 30 who love Jesus and the Church and yearn to grow in their faith. The summer teams spend ten weeks running vacation Bible schools. The term is 10 weeks this summer, May 14<sup>th</sup>-July 28<sup>th</sup>. Team members will have a break from June 27<sup>th</sup>-July 3<sup>th</sup>. **All team members will receive pay of \$1500** plus the opportunity to raise sponsorship funds on top of that. Potentially a team member could end the summer with more money in pocket than working a typical summer job. Contact the Young Disciples office for more information; [www.youngdisciples@fargodiocese.org](mailto:www.youngdisciples@fargodiocese.org) or call 356-7909.

**A Spiritual Medjugorje Pilgrimage** is scheduled for departures from Bismarck, Minot and Fargo on October 26, 2015 – November 5, 2015! If you are interested, please call Jon or Pam Kossan at 701-530-9310 as soon as possible, as they are limited to the first 35 pilgrims registering. You are invited to call that same number if you have any questions about the pilgrimage.

**Jr. High Rally** will soon be here! **Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 9:00am until 8:30pm is the date and time for Rally.** This year it's being held at **Holy Spirit Catholic School, 1420-7<sup>th</sup> Street North, in Fargo.** All students who are in the **6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited** to attend this all day event planned especially for them by the Catholic Youth Advisory Council (CYAC). This all day event includes **keynote speaker, Fr. Peter Anderl**, who will talk to us about infusing our faith the athletic teams we participate in, the music we listen to, the technology that we use, the relationships we build, the chaste life style we should have and our family roles. **Our workshops** in the afternoon will have a different style, a new twist that includes conversation between our Jr. High guests and with CYAC students...Jr. High kids will love them! We also offer reconciliation, adoration, a Eucharistic procession and Mass. And last but not least, come meet Lee Roessler and his band. You will love his sound and his interactive style with the crowd. To register, please contact your Parish Priest, DRE or Youth Minister! Deadline to register is Wednesday, March 25. CYAC will be waiting for you at the doors!!!

**The Bethesda Society** is having their annual Spring Salad Luncheon on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at Valley Memorial Homes – 4000 Valley Square, 4000 24<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Grand Forks, Tickets will be \$8.00. Special fundraising projects this year are for the Chaplaincy Ministry Program and other resident and tenant needs.

\*\*It seems that spring has finally sprung. While you are working on your spring cleaning, be sure to spruce the temple of your heart as well. Add 1370 AM/1280 AM/106.3 FM, your Catholic radio station, to your dial at home and in the car and tune into **Real Presence Radio.** \*\*

**FYI: If your little one can't wait, there is a rest room conveniently located at the *back* of the church.**