



WEEKLY MEMO from BMW

Date: April 11, 2014
From: Bishop Michael W. Warfel
To: Clergy, Religious, Lay Ecclesial Ministers et al

A series of mini-conferences will be offered in each of the five Vicariates on the importance of stewardship for revitalizing and energizing parishes. Pastors, Administrators and PLC's will be receiving a packet of information in the very near future. **Please make an effort to attend as well as encourage staff and other parishioners to attend.** I should add that this is not about fund raising but about stewardship! The dates and locations are; Holy Spirit Parish, Great Falls on April 30th; Sacred Heart Parish, Miles City on May 2nd; St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Billings on May 7th; St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Havre on May 21st; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Poplar on May 22nd. The presenters are members of the Diocesan Stewardship Council and are excited to share the eye-opening information they have learned from attending the Northwest Regional Stewardship Conference last September in Vancouver, Washington.

The Catholic Rural Life Conference will be held at St. Benedict's Parish in Roundup on April 26, 2014. It promises to be an informative gathering, especially since a central topic for the conference addresses a very relevant issue for rural residents of Montana. The gathering will feature a panel discussion on Oil, Gas and Coal Development and Implications of Rural Life. A special guest will be Jim Ennis, Executive Director of National Catholic Rural Life. The conference will be Saturday, April 26, 2014. Panelists, in addition to Jim Ennis are: Tom Richmond, Director of Montana Board of Oil and Gas; Hon. Kathy Bidegary, District Court Judge; Lockiel "Locky" Edwards, Montana Grain Growers National Policy Committee; Don Steinbeisser, Rancher and past member of the Montana House of Representatives and Senate; Fr. Jim O'Neill, Pastor of St. Matthew's Parish, Sidney. Given the impact of mineral development, I ask that you make an effort to attend as well as get the word out on this conference.

Once again, I ask that you **please remember to talk about the Care and Share Catholic appeal** in your respective parishes. There is a condensed schedule this year so it needs to be promoted. It is the primary funding source for diocesan offices.

The annual **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated at St. Ann's Cathedral at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 14th. A number of the priests have called in to RSVP but some have not. **If you have not indicated your attendance (or absence) as yet, I ask that all priests intending to come to the Day of Prayer and Reflection please contact Laurie at the Chancery. Also, for those parishes that will not have someone in attendance, it is important that you contact the Vicar Forane in your respective Vicariate to obtain the sacred oils prior to the Triduum.**

There are quite a number of celebrations for completion of the sacraments of initiation this spring. Upcoming dates and locations for Confirmation and First Communion are as follows:

- Tuesday, April 22nd at St. Ann's Cathedral, Great Falls (Bishop);
- Wednesday, April 23rd at Corpus Christi Parish, Great Falls (Bishop);
- Thursday, April 24th at St. Mary's Parish, Livingston (with St. Joseph, Big Timber) (Bishop);
- Friday, April 25th at St. Anthony's Parish, Laurel (with Sacred Heart, Bridger, St. Mary's, Columbus, St. Michael's, Absarokee, St. John's, Joliet) (Bishop);
- Saturday, April 26th at St. Raphael, Glasgow (with Queen of Angels, Nashua (Fr. Peterson);
- Sunday, April 27th at St. Benedict, Roundup (with St. Mathias, Ryegate and St. Teresa, Broadview) (Bishop); then at St. Leo's Parish, Lewistown (with Holy Family Winifred, Sacred Heart, Hobson, St. Anthony's, Denton, St. Rose of Lima, Stanford) (Bishop);
- Sunday, April 27th at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Great Falls (Fr. Krauth);
- Sunday, April 27th at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Poplar (with St. Anthony, Culbertson) (Fr. Peterson)
- Monday, April 28th at Immaculate Conception Parish, Wolf Point (Fr. Peterson);
- Tuesday April 29th at St. Matthew's Parish, Sidney (with St. Bernard's, Charlie Creek, St. Catherine's, Fairview, St. Michael's, Savage, St. Theresa's, Lambert) (Fr. Peterson);
- Wednesday, April 30th at St. Joseph's Parish, Plentywood (with St. Patrick's, Medicine Lake and St. Philip's, Scobey) (Fr. Peterson).

It is my prayer, that as we journey on during this most holy time for us as Church, especially through the celebrations of Holy Week, we would all appreciate ever more deeply the significance of the saving death of Christ by which our sins are forgiven and his rising from the tomb by which we are given the promise of eternal life.

May your celebration of Holy Week and Easter fill you with great joy!

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