

WEEKLY MEMO from BMW

Date: April 29, 2015
From: Bishop Michael W. Warfel
To: Clergy, Religious, Lay Ecclesial Ministers et al

This week (April 29th) I begin another 10 day road trip for confirmations/first communions and a few other activities (listening session at Sacred Heart, Glendive, Catholic Rural Life gathering, Sidney, Mayfair, Billings). On the 29th I have an interesting sacramental assortment with a baptism and a wedding along with the confirmations and first communions. Then it is on to St. Charles, Pryor on the 30th, St. Patrick's, St. Bernard's and Mary Queen of Peace, Billings on the 3rd; St. Anthony's, Laurel on the 4th; St. Matthew's, Sidney on the 5th; Our Lady of Lourdes, Poplar on the 6th; St. Joseph's, Plentywood on the 7th and then back to Great Falls.

There are several graduation celebrations I'll be attending: University of Great Falls on Saturday, May 9th; Billings Central Catholic, Sunday, May 24th; Great Falls Central Catholic, May 31st.

An update on the progress of Mary's Pilgrimage is as follows:

May 2–9 Sacred Heart, Miles City (with a May crowning)
May 16–23 St David. Broadus
Then there is a break, unless someone makes a request
May 30-June 6 St Peter, Wibaux
another break of a week
June 13–20 Our Lady of Lourdes, Poplar
June 20–27 St Anthony, Culberson
June 27-July 4 Immaculate Conception, Wolf Point.

Presently, there are no scheduled parishes after Wolf Point until the end of August. If you have not yet entertained joining this initiation and seeking protection for the Diocese through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I urge you to do so.

The Catholic Rural Life gathering will be at St. Matthew's Parish Hall in Sidney this coming Saturday, May 2nd. It looks as if it is shaping up to be a well-attended conference. If you are close by and have the opportunity, I invited you to participate. It promises to be quite informative.

St. Thomas Camp

In my travels around the diocese and visits to numerous parishes, I've noticed that not all parishes are making much mention of St. Thomas Camp. **I once again urge all pastors and parish administrators to make a strong**

appeal in your parishes to invite young people to attend the camp. The summer camp has great potential to be very successful and touch the youth who attend in a very positive and faith-filled way. But, it needs your help to promote it.

All parishes should have received the information to promote St. Thomas Camp. **Now is the time to talk with the young people that you know** between the ages of 10 (4th grade this year) and 18 (juniors this year) who need to know about this great opportunity. I have adapted this message from Mandy Bell.

I especially ask you to invite young leaders (high school) in your parish to the *Leadership Week, July 5-10.* Concern for the faith development of youth is a consistent theme I hear from parishioners throughout the diocese. St. Thomas Camp is one of the key ways that we can serve youth as well as assist those who serve youth directly to do it well. One of the most effective ways to do so is through peer ministry – youth on youth **I ask all pastors to speak with their youth ministers and ask them to seek out youth leaders from the parish, to invite them to the Leadership Camp and send at least one or two youth leaders to the Leadership Week!**

Both with the youngest of campers as well as youth leaders, they won't come if we don't encourage and invite them and let them know we need their input and ideas to help Youth Ministry grow in our diocese!



Located in beautiful Monarch, MT

Register Now
St. Thomas Camp
Summer 2015!

Registration, Health Form and Payment are
now ONLINE

Register Here

(or call 800-332-9998)

NEWS FLASH!

Bus Transportation from the east side of the state to camp!
Parents: Save days of driving and lots of money by reserving a spot

on the Bus to St. Thomas Camp!

Pick up sites will possibly be Glendive, Sidney, Wolf Point, Glasgow, Malta and Havre
For transportation reservations and more details, call Mandy at 406-263-7485

Camp fees are \$300 with a \$25 discount to all who register by May 1st

See photos and details at the [Camp Information Page](#)

[and Informational Flyer](#)

2015 Camp Dates:

July 5-10 Teen Leadership Week

Guys and Girls entering grades 9-12

July 12-17 Girls grades 7&8

July 19-24 Boys grades 7&8

July 26-31 Girls grades 5&6

August 2-7 Boys grades 5&6



Meet Jessica Packard, St. Thomas Camp Manager.

Jessica is from Wichita, KS and is a veteran Counselor from Catholic Heart Workcamp and Totus Tuus. She is currently studying Middle School Math and Science Education at Wichita State University. Stay tuned for more from Jess and photos of our new Counselors as they are hired.

[Visit our website](#) for a Calendar of Events, the "Harvest" Newspaper online, Stewardship Webinars, World Youth Day Pilgrimage Registration, Policies, Forms and much more!

Nepal Earthquake Relief

As you are likely aware, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal in the late morning of April 25 just 50 miles northwest of the capital, Kathmandu, toppling buildings and homes, causing widespread panic, and claiming more than 4000 lives at the present count. The earthquake struck the Kathmandu valley, which is densely populated with nearly 2.5 million people. Tens of thousands of families are sleeping outside in Kathmandu and require shelter and protection from the cold and relentless rain, which has worsened conditions. Aftershocks continue—one reaching 6.7 magnitude and another 5.4 magnitude—increasing fear, causing further damage to buildings, and interrupting rescue operations. Most markets in Kathmandu are closed. People urgently need basic essentials. Shelter, blankets, safe water, food, medical care, hygiene and counseling are priorities. Hygiene and sanitation are critical to preventing waterborne diseases.

To this end, the USCCB in consultation with Archbishop Paul Coakley, Chairman of the Board of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, Chairman of our Committee on National Collections has requested dioceses to make an appeal for emergency relief. All funds will be used to support the efforts of CRS as we respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter and medical care as well as the long-term needs to rebuild the communities in the regions affected after widespread destruction.

Though you may choose to take up a second collection for this appeal, I am not directing you to do so. I do ask that each parish announce this appeal in your parish bulletins and direct parishioners to Catholic Relief Services.

Checks from the collection may be sent to the diocesan business office for forwarding to CRS or directly to CRS, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21297-0303 (“Nepal Earthquake” in memo line). Additional information on the U.S. Catholic community’s response to this emergency and how U.S. Catholics can help can be found at www.crs.org and www.usccb.org.

In case you find it helpful, I have also attached a sample parish announcement concerning the collection and an update from CRS on the relief efforts to date.

SAMPLE PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT - A 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal in the late morning of April 25, toppling buildings and homes, causing widespread panic, and claiming thousands of lives. Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of our brothers and sisters affected by this powerful earthquake. Please join with the Catholic community across the United States in responding to our suffering brothers and sisters through a special appeal for the work of Catholic Relief Services in Nepal. CRS is the official humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the U.S. and is already responding to urgent needs for shelter, water and food in Nepal. For more information, go to CRS.org. Additional information on the U.S. Catholic community’s response to this emergency and how U.S. Catholics can help can be found at: www.crs.org and www.usccb.org.

April 27, 2015 OVERVIEW - A 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal in the late morning of April 25 just 50 miles northwest of the capital, Kathmandu, toppling buildings and homes, causing widespread panic, and claiming more than 3,900 lives. The devastation and toll on human life is still becoming clear as rescue workers access the affected areas and populations. The earthquake struck the Kathmandu valley, which is densely populated with nearly 2.5 million people. Kathmandu's streets and squares are covered in rubble and many are feared trapped in collapsed buildings. Many buildings, including historic sites, are destroyed or unsafe. Tens of thousands of families are sleeping outside in Kathmandu and require shelter and protection from the cold and relentless rain, which has worsened conditions. Aftershocks continue—one reaching 6.7 magnitude and another 5.4 magnitude—increasing fear, causing further damage to buildings, and interrupting rescue operations. Most markets in Kathmandu are closed. People urgently need basic essentials. Shelter, blankets, safe water, food, medical care, hygiene and counseling are priorities. Hygiene and sanitation are critical to preventing waterborne diseases.

CRS RESPONSE - CRS is providing 10,000 families (50,000 people) with emergency shelter materials, blankets, water treatment and hygiene kits. Given the scale of the disaster, we expect to expand relief activities to additional families. CRS is working with Caritas Nepal to identify the most pressing needs in the hardest hit districts between Kathmandu and Pokhara, and will scale our operations accordingly.