



WEEKLY MEMO from BMW

Date December 5, 2014
From: Bishop Michael W. Warfel
To: Clergy, Religious, Lay Ecclesial Ministers et al

I'll be moving out of my present residence next week in order to clear the house for the next residents. As I noted before, I will be moving into the St. Joseph Rectory in Great Falls as an interim residence. This will provide adequate opportunity to look around and not be rushed into locating another residence that would not be suitable.

I will be facilitating a day retreat for KC members and families from Great Falls this coming Saturday at the Poor Clares Convent in Great Falls. There are around 20 signed up for the retreat so far. On Sunday, December 7th, I'll be at Immaculate Conception Parish, Fr. Benton. This will be an occasion, not only to celebrate the parish feast day, but an opportunity to bless their new rectory.

On Monday, December 8th, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, patronal feast of the United States. There evidently has been some confusion about it being a holy day of obligation given that it falls on a Monday. Please note: the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Christmas are the two specific feast days on the liturgical calendar that the obligation remains.

I have scheduled pastoral visits for St. Michael Parish, Absorkee on Saturday evening, December 13th and St. Mary Parish, Columbus and St. Agnes Parish, Red Lodge on Sunday morning, December 14th.

The Temporal Matters Policy indicates that annual financial statements must be submitted to the Diocesan Business Office no later than September 15 for the prior fiscal year ending June 30. As of the day of this writing there are still 46 parishes and missions that have not turned in their financial statements. I will be sending out individual letters to those pastors in the next couple days. I can't stress enough the importance of getting the information in as it has a bearing on Care & Share assessments, COF, CBA and a number of other calculations. Without this information from every parish and mission goals and assessments cannot be expected to be sent in a timely manner.

Please remember to keep Deacon Carlos Malaver-Parada in your prayers as he prepares for his priesthood ordination on Tuesday, December 16th. The ordination will

be celebrated at St. Ann's Cathedral at 6:00 PM. An early dinner for the priests will be provided at 4:00 PM at St. Ann's Annex.

Looking ahead to February, February 8th, the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita, is the National Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Human Trafficking. I ask that you touch upon this issue at your Sunday Masses on Sunday, February 8th and include petitions in the Prayer of the Faithful. There are several helpful websites dedicated to this: www.usccb.org/shepherd and www.usccb.org/stopslavery. Also, the theme Pope Francis has designated for the 48th World Day of Peace is "Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters."

National Migration Week will be held January 4 – 10, 2015. The theme of the week is "One Family under God," which brings to mind the importance of family in our daily lives. This reminder is particularly important when dealing with the migration phenomenon, as family members are too often separated from one another for long periods of time. In addition to traditional types of material, including bulletin inserts and prayer cards, we will also be launching other exciting initiatives in anticipation of the 2015 National Migration Week. I encourage you to make use of the resources which are available at: <http://www.usccb.org/nationalmigrationweek>.

Many Catholics in the United States have inquired how they can help with the Ebola crisis in West Africa. Archbishop Coakley, Chair of Catholic Relief Services Board of Directors, asks that all dioceses consider taking up a second collection, at a time convenient for your diocese, to support the work of the Church in combating Ebola. These contributions will help save countless lives of those caught in a desperate situation not of their own making. After the outbreak, CRS committed \$1.5 million of its emergency funds and sought support from various donors to further its work in fighting the virus. Without a vaccine or cure, the best weapon against Ebola is information about how to avoid contracting and spreading it. That is the focus of CRS' effort, working with the local Church.

I will leave it up to each parish to determine whether they would like to take up a special collection for this cause. Donations to this effort can be sent to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21297-030, with "Ebola Collection" on the memo line. Also, let us not forget to pray for those suffering from the effects of this deadly disease and for the men and women of CRS for their work on our behalf against this and so many other threats to the life and dignity of God's family around the world.

For the Year of Consecrated Life, the Holy See has announced various means by which the faithful may obtain a Plenary Indulgence. The decree is as follows:

Indulgences for the Year of Consecrated Life

The Holy Father, on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life, will concede plenary indulgences, with the customary conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic

communion and prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) to all members of the institutes of consecrated life and other truly repentant faithful moved by a spirit of charity, starting from the first Sunday of Advent this year until 2 February 2016, the day of the closure of the Year of Consecrated Life. The indulgence may also be offered for departed souls in Purgatory.

Indulgence may be obtained:

- In Rome, in participation in the international meetings and celebrations established in the calendar of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life, and pious reflection on for a suitable period of time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate approved form, and invocations of the Virgin Mary;

- In all the particular Churches, during the days devoted to consecrated life in the diocese, and during diocesan celebrations organized for the Year of Consecrated Life, by visiting the cathedral or another sacred place designated with the consent of the Ordinary of the place, or a convent church or oratory of a cloistered monastery, and publicly reciting the Liturgy of the Hours or through a suitable period of time of devout reflection, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate approved form, and pious invocations of the Virgin Mary.

Members of the Institutes of Consecrated Life who, on account of ill health or other serious reasons are prevented from visiting these sacred places, may nonetheless receive Plenary Indulgence if, completely detached from any type of sin and with the intention of being able to fulfil the three usual conditions as soon as possible, devoutly carry out the spiritual visit and offer their illness and the hardships of their life to God the merciful through Mary, with the addition of the prayers as above.

To facilitate this access to divine grace by means of pastoral charity, the Apostolic Penitentiary Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, who signed the decree, asks that the canons, members of the Chapter, the priests of the Institutes of Consecrated Life and all others able to hear confessions offer themselves willingly and generously to the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and regularly administer Holy Communion to the sick.