



WEEKLY MEMO from BMW

Date: June 20, 2014
From: Bishop Michael W. Warfel
To: Clergy, Religious, Lay Ecclesial Ministers et al

The recent ordination at St. Patrick's Co-cathedral for nine men to the permanent diaconate was truly an inspirational liturgy with an overflow assembly. The next ordination will be for Deacon David Wilkins and Deacon Garret Nelson. David will be ordained a priest at St. Ann's Cathedral on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 and Garret will be ordained a priest at St. Patrick's Co-cathedral on Thursday, June 26, 2014.

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) released a Special Report this spring on *Nurturing Vocations to Religious Life and Priesthood: The Impact of a Volunteer Service Year*. According to their research, there is no shortage of Catholics who very seriously consider a religious vocation (13% of never-married male Catholic teens and young adults and 10% of never married female Catholic teens and adults). Their finding is that there is need for a more thorough understanding of how the Church can shepherd more of these individuals into discerning and following the call they are hearing. The strong suggestion was that young adults be encouraged to consider a volunteer year with a Catholic faith-based organization, e.g., Jesuit Volunteers.

I would like to remind you again to remember the priests serving in the Diocese. On Friday, June 27th, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Church universal observes "World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests." Helpful resources to observe this day in the parish may be found at www.worldpriestday.com/world-priest-day-theme

Catholic Rural Life is collaborating with Catholic Relief Service to implement the Farmer to Farmer program. The program promotes sustainable economic growth, food security and agricultural development. They are looking for volunteer technical assistance from US farmers, business people, universities, etc., to help develop productivity, to access new markets and conserve environmental and natural resources. Volunteers work with farmers, producer groups, rural businesses and service providers. Volunteers are not paid, but all expenses are covered by CRS, including pre-departure costs (passport, visa, vaccinations), airfare, lodging, meals and in-country transportation. Presently there are around 500 projects in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. Length of volunteer service is generally for several weeks. For more information contact Beth Hyer at: beth@ncrlc.com or www.farmertofarmer.crs.org.

The **Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Serve** program begins this weekend, June 21st through July 4th. Hopefully this is a program that you've considered implementing at your parish. Ample materials are available at www.Fortnight4Freedom.org. Even if you have not arranged for the full program, it would be good to highlight the theme of

religious freedom during this time. Given the incidences of infringement of religious freedoms around the world, it is important to address it.

If you've not yet checked out Catholic Rural Life, I invite you to take a look at their website and sign up for their monthly newsletter. There is much that they offer that applies to communities in rural Montana. Their website is www.ncrlc.com.