



WEEKLY MEMO from BMW

Date: June 27, 2014
From: Bishop Michael W. Warfel
To: Clergy, Religious, Lay Ecclesial Ministers et al

I would like to welcome **Father David Wilkins** and **Father Garrett Nelson** to the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. It is a delight and a joy to have such energetic priests to share priestly ministry in Eastern Montana. For those of you who were not able to attend their ordination liturgies, they truly were inspirational. May we have many more young men to respond to the call to priesthood here in Eastern Montana! **Don't forget to pray for priests** on Friday, June 27th, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as the Church universal observes "World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests."

Sr. Kathleen Kane, after a number of years, has decided to resign from her position as Victim's Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. Over the years she served in this capacity she has provided exceptional service and has been a compassionate voice to those who have alleged that they were abused in some manner by clergy or religious serving in eastern Montana. Until such a time that a successor is chosen, responsibilities for Victim's Assistance Coordinator will fall to Anne Beckley.

Sign up for the **World Youth Day Pilgrimage in Krakow, Poland** is ongoing. To date, there are around 10 individuals signed up. For those receiving this on parish staff, please continue to promote it. These kinds of experiences do much to inspire young adults and strengthen their faith.

The **World Meeting of Families** will be held in Philadelphia September 22nd through 27th. While the Vatican cannot officially commit to Pope Francis being on the agenda, there is a clear indication that Pope Francis will be at the World Meeting of Families. In light of likely interest, I have asked Darren Eultgen to make some initial plans for a pilgrimage of parishioners from Eastern Montana. It would be helpful to have some indication of interest. Hopefully, the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings can gather a contingent of pilgrims for this event. In a general way, I would ask that you let Darren know if some of your parishioners would be interested in being a part of a pilgrimage to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. It is my hope to have a group of around 40, more or less.

There was quite a bit of interest in the request for opinions on marriage and family regarding the October Extra-ordinary Synod on the Family. Results were sent in from around the world. These have been collated and studied by staff at the Vatican Offices. The *Instrumentum Labores* (Working Document) is supposed to be out by the end of the month. Of course, the "end of month" must be understood in framework of "Vatican time." Nonetheless, when it comes out, it should reflect the concerns of Catholics from around the world to be addressed at the Extra-ordinary Synod on the Family.

I will be sending out a Pastoral Letter that I drafted up on Natural Family Planning to all priests, deacons and parish life coordinators. The memo going out with it will provide directions on how I would like it to be distributed to engaged couples as well as used as a part of marriage preparation.

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

Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, Catechists and Volunteers who serve the young people of our Diocese are invited to be inspired at a Youth Ministry Retreat, **August 22-24, 2014, at St. Thomas Camp in Monarch, MT.** "Share in the Master's Joy" is the theme of this retreat for men and women, led by gifted youth minister and presenter, Andrew Brown. You can be assured of great fellowship, a beautiful setting, wonderful food and joy-filled spirituality at this much deserved retreat for both staff and volunteers. The weekend will begin at 5:30pm on Friday and conclude after Sunday Mass and a meeting on "Next Steps" for Youth Ministry. To reserve your spot, please e-mail mandybell@nemont.net or call 406-263-7485. Retreat costs will be covered by the Thieltges Grant and an optional free-will offering.

Anne Beckley and Shanny Murphy in our Human Resource department are busy working on the upcoming benefits programs. If you have not seen the webinar from Friday, June 20th or Monday, June 23rd please go to the diocesan website (www.diocesegfb.org) and listen to them, then complete the paperwork to sign up for new benefits. There are many changes coming, so please get your paperwork in today. Of you know of individuals who have not submitted their forms or have questions, have them call Anne or Shanny at 800-332-9998. **Deadline for all paperwork is July 7th.**