



WEEKLY MEMO from BMW

Date: November 26, 2014
From: Bishop Michael W. Warfel
To: Clergy, Religious, Lay Ecclesial Ministers et al

For those who haven't heard yet, I injured my Achilles tendon playing racket ball. Following an MRI and a visit with the surgeon, I'll be utilizing a boot with lifters for the next six weeks or so. Fortunately, it does not appear that I'll be needing surgery.

Early this week, Fr. Denis Keane said good-bye to the parishioners of St. Agnes Parish in Red Lodge. Fr. Keane was diagnosed with a serious illness and decided that he wanted to be closer to family in Ireland. I spoke to him prior to his departure. He is very much at peace with the move back to Ireland but there was obvious difficulty leaving behind the parishioners whom he has come to love as well as loved him much. Please keep him in your prayers. Fr. Greg Staudinger has agreed to provide sacramental and pastoral coverage to St. Agnes in lieu of Fr. Denis departure from the parish.

I'll be continuing my pastoral visitation. This weekend I have plans to visit St. Mary Parish, Chester, Sacred Heart Parish, Inverness and Our Lady of Ransom Parish, Hingham. Darren Eultgen will schedule listening sessions for these parishes soon. Though not scheduled yet, I expect to pay a visit to Columbus, Absorkee and Red Lodge in early December.

The closing date on my present residence in Great Falls is set for December 23rd. I plan to be out before then and will be moving into St. Joseph's 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. The reason for the move is to reside in a place that is much simpler not to mention smaller and requires much less maintenance and care.

Next year's World Meeting of Families – which Pope Francis has confirmed he will attend – will be a “tremendous catechetical moment” for the Church and a great opportunity for a powerful catechesis on the dignity of marriage, the uniqueness of marriage, the importance of family for the Church and society. Given the confusion that much of society has about the nature of marriage, it is important to present a true vision of marriage and family. The event will certainly be an opportunity for evangelization, especially to the expected one million attendees at the papal Mass.

The World Meeting of Families occurs every three years and is an international gathering to both celebrate and re-energize the family's role in society and discuss the challenges facing today's families. It was begun by Pope John Paul II in 1994. The next gathering is scheduled for September 22-27, 2015 in Philadelphia, and Pope Francis confirmed last week that he is planning to attend. Canterbury Pilgrimages, a

well-known Catholic tour agency, will be helping us to organize a pilgrimage from eastern Montana.

I continue to serve on the Board for Catholic Rural Life. It is a great organization that provides a lot of good and helpful information to people with lifestyles and livelihoods like many of our parishioners in Montana. If you have not yet checked out their website, it is WWW.NCRLC.COM.

One of the programs sponsored by both Catholic Rural Life and Catholic Relief Services is the "Farmer to Farmer" program. This program involves a 2-4 week visit to areas of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia by those who can provide a degree of technical assistance in the areas of (agronomy, horticulture, business planning, organizational management, marketing, accounting, etc.). Expenses are fully covered by CRS (visa, vaccinations, airfare, lodging, meals and in-country transportation). Support from CRS staff is provided before, during and after the trip. For more info or to apply, contact www.farmertofarmer@crs.org.

I will be facilitating a day retreat for K of C members on Saturday, December 6th at the Poor Clares Convent in Great Falls.

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.

I pray you will enjoy the harvest of thanks as you gather with those you love this Thanksgiving.