



WEEKLY MEMO from BMW

Date: October 17, 2014
From: Bishop Michael W. Warfel
To: Clergy, Religious, Lay Ecclesial Ministers

I returned to Great Falls early morning last Saturday following a wonderful trip through much of Italy with 34 parishioners from around the Diocese. Of the many highlights was a personal interaction with Pope Francis. I presented him a beaded cross from parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Lame Deer (three of the parishioners were on the trip). I asked him to pray for us as we pray for him. We had a brief moment of prayer followed by a big smile from him. Photo is on the diocesan Facebook page.

Rich Moog, the new Diocesan Business Manager is continuing to assess a number of previous practices and decisions made over the years in the Business Office but with the eyes of a CPA. One of his assessments is that it would be much better for the diocesan offices to return to a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Yes, this is a bit of a yo-yo move but hearing his analysis, it makes a lot of sense. This means that diocesan offices and parishes will be back on the same fiscal year.

On another matter related to parish assessments, after meeting with pastors who have parish schools, I am rescinding the decision to move from a 40% limit to a 25% limit for deductions. Thus, the former formula of 40% will remain in place for this coming year. This does not mean that the formula cannot be reviewed in the future. The decision was based more on the fact that the parishes involved had already made budgetary decisions and were caught off guard.

Mandy Bell has accepted a six month contract position for youth and young adult ministry. This will allow the Diocese to not lose momentum that has been growing as a result of much of her efforts to organize youth ministers in the Diocese. It will also assure that we will be able to do the initial planning and preparation for St. Thomas Camp this coming summer at Monarch. The intent remains to seek a permanent Youth and Young Adult Minister in this coming year.

The *Engagement Through Stewardship* seminar is coming up very soon. There is a good group of clergy signed up for the seminar on Friday, October 24th as well as a sizable group of laity for the following day, October 25th. I highly suspect that it is not too late to sign up for it. Please contact Judy Held.

Catholic Extension Calendars: please seriously consider getting 2015 calendars for your parishioners. Catholic Extension is one of the major revenue sources for this and other

Home Mission dioceses. The calendars in addition to raising revenue for dioceses like our own, also provides a simple way to evangelize. Also, unlike any other company, 100% of the proceeds go back into programs for Home Mission dioceses. Their website is www.catholicextension.org.

World Mission Sunday, which is celebrated this Sunday, October 19th, is organized by the Propagation of the Faith. It is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. As described by Pope John Paul II, World Mission Sunday is "an important day in the life of the Church because it teaches how to give: as an offering made to God, in the Eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world" (see *Redemptoris Missio* 81). Please remember to pray for the mission of the Church.

This year, All Saints Day, November 1st, falls on a Saturday. As such, it is not a holy day of obligation. I would suggest celebrating either a vigil on Friday or Saturday morning, or both, for this Feast. Sunday, November 2nd is All Soul's Day which begins with the vigil on Saturday evening and through Sunday.