



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Helena

NEWSLETTER

May, 2017

In This Issue

Diocesan Financial News
Diocesan Pastoral Council
ACA Distributions Report
Chrism Day Celebration
Doug Tooke Steps Down
CYC Convention 40th Year
Women's Retreat
Legendary Lodge Summer Camps
FDOH Sponsored Forum in Butte

Coming in August

Priestly Ordinations
Justice Outreach Project
Bishop Thomas at Indian Days
Diocesan Financial News
Diocesan Seminarian Gathering
UM Guatemala Mission Trip
Legendary Lodge Camps
Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Publication Cycle

August 2017
October 2017
December 2017
February 2018
April 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Pope Francis addressed the 27th annual Technology Entertainment and Design (TED) Conference on April 24th. In his TED Talk, he aptly named the future for us all when he said, "To Christians the future does have a name, and the name is Hope." The newsletter that you are reading is just one manifestation of the future named Hope. Its publication will strive to keep you in touch with the parishes and ministries of the Diocese in a practical way.

After Easter, it is my joy to travel throughout the Diocese celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with our young people and their families. The deep faith and abiding hope of our people is a true sign of the presence of our Resurrected Lord.

Thank you to all who participated in the recent Parish Input Process. The parish reports confirm that the wisdom of the faithful will be a key element in diocesan pastoral planning. The Diocesan Pastoral Council will review parish insights this month and begin to form a new five-year pastoral plan for our Diocesan Church. The Council will seek parish participation again this fall as our steps continue in this important work.

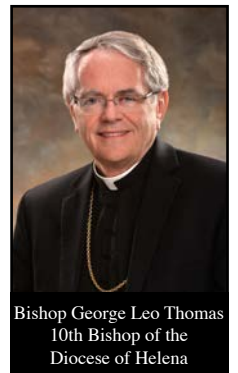
As we move forward toward the celebration of Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit among us on June 4th, please join me in prayer that the same Holy Spirit will move powerfully through our Diocese. I ask you to remember our youth as they come together this summer at Legendary Lodge for a deepening of their faith.

I also ask your prayers for Deacon Joseph Paddock and Deacon Kirby Longo as they prepare for priestly ordination on June 23rd, that their hearts and hands be prepared for service as priests in our Diocese. Their call represents an invitation to the "Future named Hope" to find, in all the newness of this beautiful season, a profound yearning for the Source of all Life.

In Christ,

Most Reverend George Leo Thomas

Bishop of Helena



Bishop George Leo Thomas
10th Bishop of the
Diocese of Helena

Tooke Leaves Diocesan Role, Continues in Youth Ministry

Doug Tooke, Diocesan Youth Events Coordinator and former Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, left diocesan work May 1, 2017. Doug came to the Diocese through his work as a youth minister at St. Matthew's Parish in Kalispell and Catholic Youth Rural Outreach in the Kalispell Deanery. In 2007 Doug expanded his ministry and began as Director of the Diocesan office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.



Tooke with the 2016/2017 CYC Board Officers

Doug's development of the ministry saw innovation, empowerment and an unflinching investment of energy. Over the last ten years Doug's leadership has helped make the Diocese of Helena synonymous with excellent youth and young adult ministry in the U.S.

Doug communicated his thoughts via Facebook: "I am thankful for the ten years I have spent in diocesan youth ministry serving Bishop George Leo Thomas and the incredible young hearts of the Diocese of Helena. It is with joy and sadness that I have decided to resign from my current position as Director of Youth Ministry Events. I love youth ministry and will continue to serve the field. I will continue to work as a youth minister at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish and as Executive Director of Monarch Catholic Ministries."

We pray for abundant blessings as Doug continues to share his gifts in youth ministry and for the continuation of excellent youth ministry in our diocese.

Diocesan Pastoral Planning Process Gathers Parish Input

Bishop Thomas called forth a new Diocesan Pastoral Council in September of 2016.



The Pastoral Council is made up of representatives from each of the six deaneries in the diocese. The council is charged with synthesizing the hopes and needs of our diverse diocesan communities into a new pastoral plan.

The new 5-year pastoral plan will guide diocesan priorities through a collaborative process and represent the input and perspective of missions, parishes and deaneries across the diocese.

The council concluded its Formative Stage in January. Formative Stage gatherings included consultation with Bishop Thomas and chancery directors. The council learned about the current stewardship of diocesan finances, ministries and personnel.

The Parish Input Process concluded this month. The council will now review the identified priorities and needs that were garnered through engaging the faithful.

In the fall of 2017, parishes will be called upon again to consider what the council has gathered through the process.

Following that consultation, the form of the the pastoral plan will be articulated and presented to Bishop Thomas.



Is Belief in God Irrational?

Jeanne Saارينen

Director, Foundation for the Diocese of Helena

That's the question The Veritas Forum asks, as it invites students and faculty to ask life's hardest questions. With a commitment to courageous discourse, the Forum puts the historic Christian faith in dialogue with other beliefs and invites participants to pursue Truth together.

Supported by a grant from The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena, the Montana Tech Catholic Campus Ministry brought the Veritas Forum to Butte in February.

"There is something electric about the exchange of ideas. The free flow of original and deep thoughts is the ferment that is at the Genesis of the wonder of Greek philosophy. Cultivating it is one of the most meaningful missions of Academia," shared Fr. Patrick Beretta, Montana Tech Chaplain.

The forum began with NOtre Dame Philosophy Professor, Meghan Sullivan, sharing the journey by which - to her own surprise - she became convinced by the Truth. This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Montana Tech Professor of Ethics, Patrick Dudley.



Participant and Fr. Beretta (back) dialogue at Veritas Forum.

The Veritas Forum is one of 45 parish and ministry projects funded by the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena in 2016.

To learn more, contact Jeanne Saارينen: (406) 389-7051, jeanne@fdoh.org www.fdo.org

Diocesan Financial Recovery Update

Jim Carney
Director, Diocesan Financial Services

The Trinity Center development located in Helena, MT off the Interstate 15 Custer Avenue interchange is a joint venture benefitting the Resurrection Cemetery Association (RCA) and the depositors in the Diocese of Helena Deposit and Loan fund (D&L Fund). Prior to the Diocese of Helena bankruptcy proceedings, the RCA owned about 95 acres between North Montana Avenue and Interstate 15. Most of this land was undeveloped property without utility services and located in Lewis and Clark County.

As part of the diocesan exit from its Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, a trust was established to meet two important obligations of the Diocese and the RCA which it administers.

First, as you may know, the RCA has an obligation to provide perpetual care for the deceased whose families bought cemetery lots in the past. That perpetual care obligation has increased over the years and without some sort of dedicated income, that obligation can-

not be met. To meet this ongoing perpetual care obligation, Trinity Center developed a self-storage facility on vacant, undeveloped RCA land.

The net proceeds from this facility will be used to maintain the cemeteries in Helena, Butte and Missoula that are owned by the RCA. RCA continues to own this property.

Helena Self Storage, as this 483-unit facility is called, is fully constructed and currently in the "lease up" phase. It is managed by an outside management firm knowledgeable in the self-storage industry. It will likely take several years to become net cash flow positive and begin to provide funds necessary for the "perpetual care" promised to families who purchased burial lots at RCA cemeteries.

It will likely take several years to become net cash flow positive and begin to provide funds necessary for the "perpetual care" promised to families who purchased burial lots.

Second, Trinity Center has also begun to develop the remaining RCA property on the site for eventual repayment of diocesan obligations to D&L Fund depositors. Those depositors did not receive any distributions from the diocesan bankruptcy. Instead, like the self-storage facility, the undeveloped property

owned by RCA will be developed for the benefit of these depositors, including parishes in the diocese.

Construction has recently begun on the first five-acre development which has been annexed into the City of Helena. That five acres will contain a hotel currently under construction. It is a 95-room Home2 Suites® by Hilton. It will be managed by Hilton Management Services. The hotel is currently scheduled to open around February 1, 2018.

In addition, a restaurant/retail pad immediately adjacent to the hotel is being finished for lease or build to suit. This space remains available for a restaurant or other retail operation.

Also, in connection with the development of the first five acres, much of the infrastructure for the entire site will be constructed, including the extension of Sanders and Jordan streets connecting through from Custer Avenue to Montana Avenue.

The Trinity Center project will continue to identify potential development opportunities that may exist at the site.

Trinity Center has a website that envisions a full development of the entire RCA property and can be found at www.trinitycenter.com.

Diocese Celebrates Chrism Day

Cody Tredik
Communications Staff

The faithful of the Diocese of Helena gathered for the annual Chrism Day in Helena on April 3rd. Representatives from every parish in the diocese attended for the blessing of Holy Oils at Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, which were then distributed for the administration of sacraments throughout the year.

Some also came to St. Mary's Catholic Community earlier in the day to hear guest lecturer Fr. Ron Lewinski of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Lewinski is a pioneer in the pastoral implementation of the Rite of Initiation for Catholic Adults (RCIA), and is an author and international speaker on pastoral life. He currently serves as the Delegate for Parish Transformation in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

"It was a wonderful session," said Patti Cassidy, Director of Faith Formation at Christ the King Parish in Missoula. "He was very affirming of everything that we are doing as a parish currently, and challenged us to always be shooting higher in how we evangelize and love."

The Chrism Mass followed, and joyfully celebrated the coming together of peoples from our diverse diocese, beginning with Liturgy of



Bishop Thomas adds Balsam to the Oil of Chrism

the Word. The first and second readings were proclaimed by two presidents of our Montana colleges, Dr. Tom Evans of Carroll College, and Dr. Waded Cruzado of Montana State University, the latter giving the reading in Spanish.

The gospel was proclaimed by Deacon Steve Barry of Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Helena, and Fr. Lewinski delivered the homily.

"As Church, bishops, priests, and deacons, lay ministers and indeed all the baptized, we are held accountable to Jesus' self identifying proclamation of His mission, which he hands out to us symbolically through these blessed and consecrated oils tonight," Fr. Lewinski said. "Our charge is to travel with these oils

in every direction, and to do what these oils represent...these holy oils remind us that we have work to do." Parish delegates then processed forward with the holy oils for blessing. The oil for the sick, the oil for Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism were all blessed by Bishop Thomas, who then added Balsam to the Chrism, and breathed on it to recall Jesus breathing on the disciples as he imparted the Holy Spirit to them.

Prayers of intercession were offered by individuals from around the diocese in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Hausa.

Following the Liturgy of the Eucharist Bishop Thomas offered his thanks for the contributions of so many that culminated in a beautiful liturgy and a day of affirmation and exhortation.

A reception and dinner followed in the St. Thomas Aquinas Commons at Carroll College. The bell of the Cathedral rang in joyous acclaim as the diocesan community departed for the reception, and eventually to return to their respective parishes, looking ahead to the coming celebration of Easter.



Dr. Tom Evans gives the first reading



Bishop Thomas visits with youth after CYC Convention Mass

Youth Convention Celebrates 40 Years

Cody Tredik
Communications Staff

The conference room erupted in cheers as the countdown clock hit zero to commence the 40th annual Catholic Youth Coalition Convention at the Raddison Hotel in Helena.

308 high school youth and adult chaperones representing 40 faith communities from around the Diocese of Helena, and 3 parishes in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, gathered from March 17-19 to celebrate their faith with their peers. The theme for the weekend was "Thirst," with most speakers emphasizing not only God's great thirst for us, but also the thirst that we have that only God can truly satisfy.

Emcees Bailey Strader and Peter Holman,

both seniors from Missoula, walked the crowd through the weekend with ice breakers, games and introductions for each presenter.

Fr. Bart Tolleson of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish in East Helena then led a conversation about Reconciliation and Adoration. After exposing the blessed sacrament, he processed out with priests from the diocese to hear the confessions of the youth in attendance, while adoration took place at the main stage.

The Catholic Youth Coalition Board, a group of youth leaders who meet five times a year to plan and run the convention, performed a Gospel-themed shadow movement piece. After, the first youth keynotes of the weekend were delivered. Ray Shipman, a junior from Dillon spoke about the importance of having faith-filled friendships.

"We can't act alone," Shipman said. "We have each other to hold us accountable and to walk with us through the hard times. We need this Christian friendship! Jesus thirsts

for a personal relationship with you. Let these friendships around you help you in this essential relationship."

Saturday morning's first guest keynote, Mike Debus, from Overland Park, Kans., set his canvas on a rotating easel, and began to jump and spin across the stage as he tossed paint onto his rotating piece. The crowd watched to popular music as a colorful image of the virgin Mary appeared.

The first main session of the weekend featured Armando Cervantes the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Orange in California. He drew parallels between the bodies' physical desire to quench thirst with spiritual thirst, which is a need that only Jesus can fulfill.

"Do you and I really understand what it means to thirst for Jesus?" he asked. "To fulfill the scripture, Jesus said one more time, I am thirsty. What if I told you that that thirst was not for water, or something on a sponge, but maybe that it was for you and I."

The youth dispersed for workshops followed by gender sessions led by Kelly Ruby, the Youth Minister in Bozeman, and Fred Woelkers, the Director of Catholic Youth Rural Outreach in the Flathead Valley.

The evening celebration included dinner, followed by Mass at the Cathedral of St. Helena with Bishop Thomas, who remained after the final song for pictures and to spend time reconnecting with many youth.

Cervantes delivered a Sunday morning message of sending forth to quench the thirst for God in ourselves and others.

Finally, the Outstanding Youth Award was presented to Crissy Lubke of Hamilton and Tyrell Sylvester of Cut Bank. Submissions come from parish youth ministers in the diocese. The award recognizes outstanding participation in youth ministry.

UofM Campus Ministry Heads to Guatemala Mission

Cody Tredik
Communications Staff

The University of Montana Campus Ministry is preparing to take 12 individuals to the Guatemala mission this May to be immersed in the culture and faith of the people there. This 10-day experience from May 15-25 will include a diverse group of students and parishioners from UM in Missoula, UM-Western in Dillon, Montana State University in Bozeman, and young adult and adult parishioners of Christ the King Parish in Missoula.

The Diocese of Helena has had a mission presence in Guatemala since 1964. The mission is located at Santo Tomas la Union, about 66

miles west of Guatemala City, in the coastal highlands of the country. The mission contains Santo Tomas Apóstol Church, the center of the parish community, Clinica Maxeña medical clinic, and La Asuncion school about three miles away.

The mission serves nearly 40 communities, some of which are only accessible by foot. The University of Montana team will be based at the Santo Tomas church, and move out into the community from there to immerse themselves in the culture, and most importantly, learn about, and experience, the everyday lives of the people there.

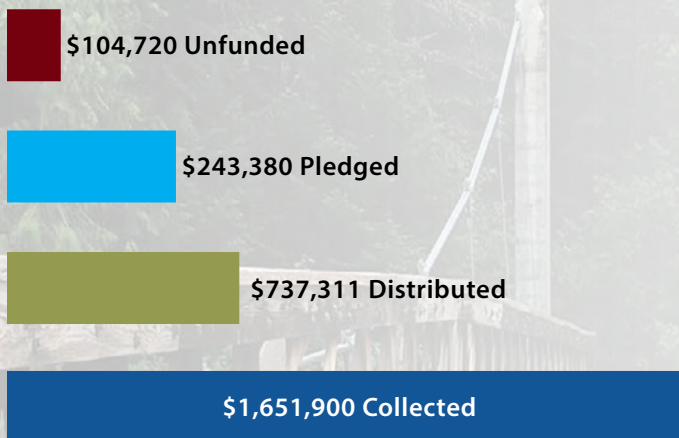
"I'm excited about the opportunity to experience how another culture expresses and lives the fullness of our Catholic faith in their local environment," said Kevin Molm, the campus

minister at the University of Montana, and the trip leader. "This trip is grounded in Catholic Social Teaching and our main focus is on experiencing how the poor in the mission territory shoulder their burdens. We hope to come to a greater understanding of how we can better live in solidarity with the poor and work toward the common good for all people."

Fr. Cody Williams, the associate pastor at Christ the King, will be returning to Guatemala with the group after going to the mission as a University of Montana student in 2008. "We often think of going on a mission trip as a service project, but the reality is that these joyful people have so much to teach us." He said. "Their faith is such an important part of their lives and they bless us with a better view of the global church."

Building Bridges Remaining Faithful - ACA 2016

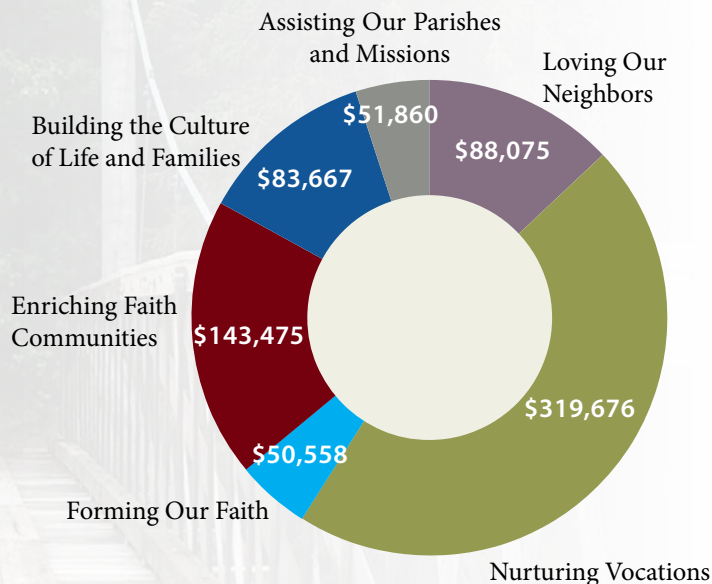
Campaign Progress



Gift envelopes are available in all Diocese of Helena Parishes. To make a one-time gift by credit card or direct debit, click Online Giving at: www.diocesehelena.org.

Questions or concerns may be sent to Glenda at: stewardship@diocesehelena.org

Distributions as of March 31, 2017 \$737,311



THE FULL ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL DISTRIBUTION REPORT CAN BE FOUND AT www.diocesehelena.org.

Legendary Lodge Summer Camps

2017 Schedule:

Jr. High Camp #1 - June 18-23

Jr. High Camp #2 - FULL!

High School Camp #1 July 9-14

H.S. Leadership Camp - July 16-21

High School Camp #2 - July 23-28

Boys 5th & 6th Grade Camp - July 30 - Aug 4

Girls 5th & 6th Grade Camp - Aug 6-11



Financial Assistance is currently available for partial or full cost of registration.

Contact Lois Synness at:

lsynness@diocesehelena.org

406-389-7068

For Camp Descriptions, Information & Registration visit:

legendarylodge.org

Fourth Annual Women's Retreat at Legendary Lodge

"Living, Loving and Learning - Paying Attention to God in Our Daily Lives."

Retreat Director, Sr. Noreen Walter, SCL is the director of the Marillac Center. She presents workshops and retreats throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Arrival: Friday, July 22 at 4 p.m.

Departure: Saturday, July 23 at 5 p.m.

Contact: Glenda Seipp gseipp@diocesehelena.org

Register: www.showmyevent.com



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Helena

NEWSLETTER



May, 2017

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Father, you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you.

Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons, and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open our hearts to hear your call.

*We ask this in Jesus name
Amen.*

Please Continue to Pray for Our Seminarians



From Left: Fr. Marc Lenneman, Nick Modrow, Nathan Scheidecker, Tyler Frohlich, Cody Kruegar, Bishop Thomas, Matthew Christiaens, Kyle Tannehill, Joshua Harrison, Deacon Joseph Paddock, Deacon Kirby Longo, Shannon Augare.