The Dreamers

In 1899, poet William Butler Yeats wrote a powerful and plaintive poem that helps to capture an urgent challenge that we are now facing as a nation. “But I, being poor,” he wrote, “have only my dreams; I have spread my dreams under your feet. Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.”

September 5, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the signature immigration program of President Barack Obama. DACA allowed undocumented young adults, called Dreamers, to emerge from the shadows, seek temporary employment authorization and a reprieve from the ever-present fear of deportation.

With the stroke of a pen, some 787,580 young adults who came to the United States as the infants and children of undocumented immigrants were plunged into a maelstrom of fear and legal uncertainty. These people are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our churches and communities.

The United States Conference of Bishops had hoped for a different path to address the legal vagaries associated with the DACA program.

In July, the Bishops’ Conference urged Congress to continue administering the DACA program while working in an expeditious and bipartisan manner to find a compassionate and permanent legislative solution for DACA youth.

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Upon learning that President Trump had rescinded DACA with termination of the program after six months, the usually restrained USCCB called his decision “reprehensible.”

At least 20 State Attorneys General filed lawsuits challenging the President’s decision.

On the bright side, President Trump is on record as having said, “We will resolve the DACA issue with heart and compassion – but through the lawful Democratic process – while at the same time ensuring that any immigration reform we adopt provides enduring benefits for the American citizens we were elected to serve.”

We are also learning of encouraging developments taking place behind closed doors. Early reports say that the President is open to resolving the DACA crisis without tethering a resolution to the deal-breaking building of a border wall.

If we take our President at face value, then we must shift our attention to members of Congress and ask them to seize the moment.

What can you do?

I strongly urge our people to ask Congress to work with the Administration in creating a permanent and compassionate legislative solution to the DACA crisis.

As people of faith, we say to the DACA youth – regardless of your immigration status – you are children of God and welcome in the Catholic Church. We support you, pray for you, and will walk with you as your advocate and friend in your time of need. You are not alone.

Finally, we prayerfully reflect on the challenge issued by Pope Francis during his 2015 address to the U.S. Congress: “Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped our- selves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.”

In a word, I appeal to our Catholic community to open your hearts to the young Dreamer now living in fear.

Congress holds the key to their future.

Please do not tread on their dreams. Until Congress acts, dreams are all they have.
Vierra-McGill New Principal
St. Joseph's School

Dan Bartleson

Christina Vierra-McGill began July 1st as principal at St. Joseph Elementary and Middle School in Missoula. Her 29 years in education include 11 as an administrator, most recently as Principal at Assumption St. Bridget Elementary (K-8) in Seattle, Wash. Prior to that as teacher and then Principal at Madeleine Choir School (K-8) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Christina, and husband David, already had hopes to move to Montana when she saw the position opening in June. Their ties to Big Sky Country include David’s parents hailing from Havre and Chinook, and their son, Elliott, playing Football at Carroll College before starting at Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana. The opening at St. Joseph prompted David to inquire and find work locally even before Christina was hired as Principal. “We knew we wanted to move to Montana for awhile and when I saw the job opening in the one Catholic School (in Missoula), I went for it,” she said. “It wasn’t really our time table, but we’re definitely excited.”

Transitioning from Seattle to Missoula for her is a welcome change. “We have some acreage and some animals. We’re embracing it. We love the outdoors and the pace is healthier for us, we call it a quality of life move.”

Of St. Joseph School, she said, “We are blessed to be part of such a rich legacy, celebrating 144 years and pre-dating Montana’s Statehood, it’s unique in our country. I’m also just impressed with the dedication and eagerness of the faculty.” McGill is looking forward to engaging an energetic faculty this year, including in-house professional development in conjunction with the University of Montana. “We’ll continue to build skills to meet the needs of our diverse student body. We have students with varying socio-economic backgrounds, different cultural backgrounds and students with learning exceptionalities.”

She explained that having strong programs in Art, Music, P.E. and Technology are unique to a small school, but academic performance doesn’t suffer. “St. Joseph students consistently perform above state and national average on the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) test. I do feel the rigor begins at St. Joseph and continues at Sacred Heart. The priorities are right and the performance shows it’s working.”

As far as challenges, St. Joseph is looking for more students. “Like many Catholic Schools, it’s no secret we need to build enrollment,” she said, “but I’m optimistic. We’ve been around and will be proactive with visible and deliberate marketing.” She cites the growth in Missoula’s overall population as a positive as well as open house gatherings and tuition assistance. “This year, we’re doing things differently.”

Open House tours will be led by student and parent ambassadors who will highlight features of the school. Student ambassadors are identified by their teachers as confident and willing leaders while parent ambassadors include parents and some school board members. Children enrolled will take place while classes and activities proceed as usual. McGill hopes it will give people a look at the school in action. Attendees will then gather while she gives a general overview of the school mission, its curriculum and what makes the school unique. McGill hopes to make a strong connection through personalized follow up with each family that attends. Open houses are advertised on social media and yard signs throughout the valley and will take place Oct. 5th, Nov. 9th and Feb. 1st. from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Along with open house gatherings McGill cited the Companion Program that aids in tuition costs for families as a help for enrollment. She said, “Over 50% of families get some form of tuition assistance through the work of the (Loyola Sacred Heart) foundation. It’s our first priority that our priorities should be. When I attended Catholic School, parishes helped my mom with tuition. It’s nice to be part of a system with that same priority. By marketing the Companions Program we’ll help squash the myth that it’s too expensive.”

Her oldest Malorie, a Gonzaga graduate, attends the University of Washington School of Law while youngest, Abbie, is at St. Mary’s College of California. A product of, advocate for, and catalyst within Catholic Education, she contends, “Catholic school is the best investment we ever made.”

Women Religious Celebrate Jubilarians

Dan Bartleson

Women Religious in the diocese gathered with Bishop Thomas in the Brondel Center at the Cathedral of St. Helena on Sept. 16th. Monday morning at 8:00, the group took time to honor Jubilarians, or sisters celebrating over 25 years of religious life and service. Celebrating 60 years are Sr. Mary Agnes Hogan, SCL, and Sr. Dorothy Jean (DD) Casey, SCL, while Sr. Gretchen Wagner, CSJ, celebrates 40.

Originally from Anaconda, Sr. Mary Agnes Hogan, SCL, began teaching elementary school in 1959 in Chicago immediately after college. Work in education took her to Oklahoma and Kansas before she transitioned to Parish Ministry in 1969 and served in Nebraska and Missouri. After earning a certification in Clinical Pastoral Education, Sr. Hogan, then moved closer to home as Staff Chaplain at St. James Healthcare in Butte. After that, she headed up the Pastoral Care Program and Social Concerns ministries at St. Mary Catholic Community in Helena. Following a sabbatical, she returned to St. James in Butte to direct the Spiritual Care Dept. as well as Mission Services until 2011. Prior to retiring in 2015, Sr. Hogan also ran the Highland Hospice Chaplain. In retirement Sr. Hogan is active serving the homeless in Butte, saying, “Reaching out to the homeless is a new step for me, but it’s place I needed to go.”

Of her service, she said, “I am always grateful for the gift of my Baptism and God’s call to ministry in the context of religious life. I’m very blessed to have been a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth for 60 years. 35 of those years have been spent doing ministry in the diocese that I love, the Diocese of Helena.”

Born and raised in East Helena and one of 11 children, Sr. Dorothy Jean Casey, SCL, entered the Companion Program that aids in tuition costs for families as a help for enrollment. She said, “Over 50% of families get some form of tuition assistance through the work of the (Loyola Sacred Heart) foundation. It’s our first priority that our priorities should be. When I attended Catholic School, parishes helped my mom with tuition. It’s nice to be part of a system with that same priority. By marketing the Companions Program we’ll help squash the myth that it’s too expensive.”

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Coming to Carroll College

At the invitation of Fr. Stephen C. Rowan, Carroll College Interim President Fr. Kevin Grove, Asst. Prof of Systematic Theology at Notre Dame Will present: “Seeing With the Eyes of Christ” Trinity Hall Thurs. Oct 19th, 7-9 p.m.

Born and raised in Hobson, Mont. Kevin Grove was ordained a Holy Cross priest at Notre Dame in 2010. He served in two Michiana parishes before becoming a post-doctoral researcher at L’Institut Catholique in Paris, France, and then a research fellow at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study. In addition to his faculty work, Grove serves pastorally as a resident of Dunne Hall at Notre Dame.

Carroll College Vision and Call Fellowship Presents Q Union Conference Live Stream Video Presentations by David Brooks, of The New York Times, Kara Powell, PhD, of the Fuller Young Institute, and Propaganda, of Humble Beast Records Live Presentations by Carroll College Vision and Call Fellowship Students with dialogue to follow. Flex Theatre Thurs. Oct 26th 7-9 p.m.

Funded by the Murdock Trust, the Theology Dept. advises Vision and Call interns as they serve in our ministries and parishes. The first annual Q Union Conference seeks to, “…draw the community together to consider issues of faith and culture form the Catholic standpoint.” Eric Hall, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology & Philosophy.
New Approach to Cemeteries Service, Structure
Dan Bartleson

In May of 2016, the Diocese of Helena and the Diocese of Great Falls-Billing joined together to implement the Mission Acceleration Program (MAP) for Catholic Cemeteries in both dioceses. The MAP approach engages the expertise of Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services (CFCS) to strengthen the ministry, management, and services provided by our Catholic Cemeteries.

Initially a ministry of the Diocese of Oakland, CFCS approached services by separating ministry for families from the operational duties. A Family Service advisor provides outreach guidance to families, while the Sexton, or manager of operations, coordinates arrangements and cemetery operations. The model’s success and sound fiscal approach led to a growing consultation service offered to other dioceses.

Implementing the new model in Montana included hiring a Director of Montana Catholic Cemeteries, Dan Hash, who oversees the cemeteries in both dioceses. A Montana native, Hash started in June of 2016 after a career spanning 31 years in the military. He sees his work managing cemeteries and training personnel as a ministry to families, “In dealing with loss in my own life, it’s important to me that families know we’re there to take care of them.” One of his early goals was to establish the needed Family Service Advisors. Hash reported, “A full complement,” of advisors was established in December of 2016.

In the new model, families will spend time with a Family Service Advisor to express their needs and desires for a loved one’s resting place. “A Family Service Advisor’s ministry starts with taking the time to listen, they need to be great listeners,” said Hash. Advisors also help manage the process, often coordinating with mortuaries, funeral homes and local clergy. They help families understand the options available for their loved one at a cemetery and convey decisions to the Sexton.

The Sexton coordinates the physical aspects of arrangements and ensures that all is in place when a loved one is laid to rest. Sextons also care for and maintain the cemetery grounds, buildings, memorials and property. According to Hash, the management can be complex, “They do a lot. From repairs on sprinklers to hiring contractors to coordinating florists and ordering memorials. They have a lot of moving pieces depending on the situation.”

According to Hash the work of “Sustainable, beneficial and efficient services,” includes a number of options depending on parish life as well as particular offerings. In the Helena Diocese, three new columbaria have been added at Resurrection Cemetery (Helena), Holy Cross (Butte) and St. Mary (Missoula).

While the work of making cemeteries financially self-sustaining is an important goal, Hash’s commitment to families is clear, “We want them to know that their (loved one’s) resting place is taken care of in preparation for the Resurrection.”

If you would like additional information on the pre-planning process, please contact your local cemetery office or Dan Hash, Director of Montana Catholic Cemeteries at (406) 603-0365.

DPC Members, Megan Stout & Mandy Bell
Dan Bartleson

Bishop Thomas convened a Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) in April of 2016 to begin developing a new 5-year diocesan pastoral plan. The council is charged with synthesizing input from parishes and helping to develop plan recommendations.

Parishes held initial listening sessions earlier this year, discussing items for inclusion in the plan. Results went to the DPC, were consolidated, and will return to parishes for discussion and final recommendations. Following that, the pastoral plan will be articulated and presented to Bishop Thomas in 2018.

This September, I spoke with DPC members Megan Stout of St. John Vianney Parish in Belgrade and Mandy Bell of St. Joseph Parish in Libby. Stout is a wife and mother and volunteers at Divine Mercy Academy in Bozeman, where her son attends. Bell is a wife and mother, business owner and youth ministry consultant. She also co-coordinates the after-school program at Libby Public Schools.

Q: What did you think about being approached by your priest?

Megan Stout: I felt honored and that it would be a neat way to serve. I talked it over with my husband, and he thought I really should because it’s the direction of the diocese for the next five years. I thought it would be especially interesting to hear what people from other areas are experiencing and get their perspective.

Mandy Bell: Representing a small parish, getting time with the bishop and communicating with the diocese struck me as a really good thing. I viewed it as a great opportunity. I’m blessed in that I have the flexibility, with two part-time jobs and a very supportive husband.

Q: What was your experience of the DPC formation period?

MBS: The commitment was intensive with four or five meetings over six months. It was really helpful, though, and helped create a relationship among us at the beginning. It was good to learn about the prior pastoral plan and about the offices and functions of the diocese and how bankruptcy affected the diocese in comparison to before. Sr. Rita is great too, when she explains things it makes it exciting.

MB: Sr. Rita took great pains to make sure the council had a real picture of what was happening. It was really good getting to meet and have in-depth presentations on what’s happening in the diocesan offices and a better understanding of how a diocese works. Bishop’s candor regarding the last few years and future hopes was great. I really appreciated it. I thought it was ingenious and really pleasant to have a partner to get to know and introduce. We could really delve into another person’s perspective.

Q: What was the first parish listening session like at your home parish?

MS: Our parish had about 12 people including a number of young people. There was a lot of enthusiasm and everyone wanted to be involved. We prioritized 30 to 40 original ideas that were sent to the parish council. We split up by deanery and identified common themes. We also identified unique perspectives or ideas that were sent to the parish council.

Q: And the DPC meeting to process parish information, what was that like?

MB: In preparation for planning, we had just revitalized our parish council and we had over 50 people and met for almost three hours. We had great table discussions, mostly on parish priorities, ours and other parishes. We prioritized 30 to 40 original ideas that were sent to the parish council.

Q: What was the first parish listening session like at your home parish?

MB: We split up by deanery and identified common threads. We also identified unique perspectives or insights that would apply to similar faith communities. Common themes came up frequently that were shared by rural communities as well as urban parishes. The diocese has a lot of good and holy desires in common and it was neat to see that throughout our faith communities.

MB: Although I had to miss the meeting, I’ve been very pleased and thankful that Sr. Rita and Bishop Thomas have put so much into forming this council so they can go back and help our parishes. What I hope is that we can take the final document and make our own goals and objectives as a parish.
Community is precisely that, the community,” said “The greatest strength of the Missoula Catholic groups such as Full Grown Band. While gathered from the edge of the outdoor sacred space to a straight down the middle of the street, stretching to the numerous food vendors lining both sides of congratulations, attendees made their way down abuse, to utilize the great teaching ability of the brothers and sisters, to reach out to victims of continued work to minister to our Native American address the “unfinished business that lies before [Second Vatican] Council” through dedication to house of prayer.

The sunny evening kicked off with Mass outside in front of the church. Chairs were set up on the street, with the altar resting at the top of the granite steps. Bishop Thomas began his homily with a brief history of the building and community.

He went on to celebrate the many unique ways in which St. Francis has distinguished itself as a parish that has strived to “embody the vision of the [Second Vatican] Council” through dedication to sacraments, ministry, and service. Finally, Bishop Thomas concluded with a great challenge, to address the “unfinished business that lies before us a parish, a deanery, and a diocese.” This included continued work to minister to our Native American brothers and sisters, to reach out to victims of abuse, to utilize the great teaching ability of the Jesuit order to guide a confused generation on issues of morality, and to constantly continue all efforts to extend the table.

Following the celebration of Mass and some final congratulations, attendees made their way down to the numerous food vendors lining both sides of the street. Rows of long tables had been extended straight down the middle of the street, stretching from the edge of the outdoor sacred space to a large stage at the end of the block. While gathered at table, attendees could enjoy music from local groups such as Full Grown Band.

“We are very blessed to have people from every Missoula parish involved in putting on the event,” Fr. Carver said. “We also had close to 40 Missoula Catholic School students who helped to set up before and tear down afterward, and were happy to have a Carroll College student as one of our Lector’s.”

After several hours of fellowship, music, and dancing, the celebration came to a close.

Montana Catholic Schools’ Teacher Days
October 19th & 20th principals and teachers from all 24 Montana Catholic schools will gather in Butte for professional development. Thanks to a generous grant from the Butte Convention & Visitors Bureau, educators will spend the night in Butte and attend sessions at Butte Central High School, Montana Catholic Schools Superintendent, Dr. Tim Uhl said, “The Catholic Teacher Days are designed to assist our teachers in building collaborative networks. We are providing high-level content that will help our teachers develop their professional practices.”

Thursday’s program will include, a catechetical workshop for religion teachers on God’s Mercy by the Sophia Institute and a general session with speaker Roy Petitfils on working with adolescents and the anxiety epidemic among teens.

On Friday, attendees will gather for an All-School Mass at St. Patrick Parish, celebrated by Fr. Patrick Beretta and con-celebrated by all Montana priests connected to Catholic schools. After a breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus, breakout sessions will be offered by teachers themselves as well as guest speakers from Notre Dame on the integration of science and religion as well as presentation by the Association of Catholic Indian School Network. After lunch, teachers will gather in their grade-level groups for collaboration to improve instruction and facilitate networking. “We are designing subject, and grade-level, cohorts so our teachers, who often work in isolation, will have colleagues across the state,” said Uhl.


“A Very Positive Adventure”
Jeanne Saarinen
Director, Foundation for the Diocese of Helena
That’s how one participant described the Little Rock Scripture Study (LRSS) through Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Helena.

Classes run year round and are very popular. Over 50 classes have been offered at OLH. The next studies will focus on The Women of the New Testament, Book of Genesis, and the infancy Narratives of the Gospels. Classes are facilitated by both lay leaders and clergy. “I listen more closely to the readings at Mass and “It has brought the bible alive” were just a few of the many positive responses to the study.

“Mr. Shea and Deacon Steve Barry believe the LRSS helps build a stronger and more vibrant parish community, and the Foundation was pleased to help get the program off and running through our annual grants program. Two more parishes have since started the LRSS with the help from a Foundation grant - St. Ann (Butte) and St. Richard (Columbia Falls).

To learn more about the Little Rock Scripture Study, visit www.LittleRockScripture.org. For information on the Foundation’s grants program, visit www.FDOH.org.

Correction: The last issue stated that Josephine McDermott taught in Butte. McDermott did not teach in Butte.
Nurturing Vocations Through ACA Support

Dan Bartleson

With the October launch of the 2017-2018 Annual Catholic Appeal, donors have the opportunity to support the services and ministries that benefit our parishes, missions, the people of our diocese and the needy at the Guatemala Mission. Donations are allocated under the following categories:

Nurturing Vocations

Enriching Faith Communities

Building the Culture of Life and Family

Loving Our Neighbors

Forming Our Faith

Assisting Our Parishes and Missions

Honoring the Past and Serving the Future

Beginning with this issue, the Diocesan Newsletter will highlight the services and ministries associated with ACA allocations.

37 cents of each dollar support Nurturing Vocations and provide for the medical care, education, ongoing formation and retirement of our priests. It also includes permanent diaconate formation, seminarian education and vocation awareness promotion.

The Diocese of Helena is blessed to have 49 active and 28 senior status priests. Priests, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, participate in the priesthood of Christ and in addition to administration and managing the ministries of our parishes, our priests celebrate the sacraments and many serve in a variety of other capacities in their communities. They proclaim the Gospel at Mass, preach homilies, and teach in the name of the Church. They may baptize, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services. Deacons are also leaders who identify the needs of others, then, according to the U.S. Catholic Bishop's website, "marshal the Church's resources to meet those needs." Meeting the needs of others can take many forms for deacons. They often lead various ministries to Catholics as well as participate in or lead community efforts to help the poor or needy or to address issues in a way that reflects their ordination to service.

Deacons may be married men or single and often continue to pursue their careers or expand their ministry as they move toward retirement. In our diocese, deacons often provide critical sacramental and administrative support, especially as many of our priests have responsibility for more than one parish.

Currently, our diocese has 7 seminarians; five at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver Col., one at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, in Weston, Mass., and one at Mt. Angel Seminary, Mt. Angel, Ore. In addition to their studies, their formation can include service to the poor and marginalized, volunteer work in hospitals and community outreach, as well as ministry to youth and the elderly. Seminarians often spend their summers assigned to parishes in our diocese to serve the community and learn under the tutelage of our priests.

One cent of every dollar donated goes to Honoring the Past and Serving the Future. Honoring the Past includes Catholic cemetery perpetual care, and historical preservation of St. Ignatius Mission, St. Mary's Mission in Stevensville and St. Helena Cathedral. Serving the future provides for expenses incurred by the Delegate for Religious. (Information on the new approach to Catholic Cemetery services and management can be found on page 3.)

St. Ann Parish Marks 100th Year

Dan Bartleson

On July 13th St. Ann Parish in Butte celebrated 100 years as a parish community. Over 400 people gathered for Mass with Bishop Thomas and the banquet that followed on the grounds and in the parish peace garden.

Bishop John Patrick Carroll dedicated St. Ann in 1917 and invited the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) to start a parish school. With copper mining at its peak, and the Butte population at 93,000, the school opened with three sisters and 143 elementary students. By 1961, attendance reached 656. In his homily, Bishop Thomas remarked, “The BVM sisters formed children by their goodness, infused them with knowledge, and inspired them by their faithfulness and care.”

1917 also brought WWI conscription and loss of life in the war. Frenzied demand for copper brought mining accidents, labor disputes and riots. Spanish influenza epidemic also left families grieving further losses and working to find a way forward. These trials helped forge a resilient community that Bishop Thomas described as tough and tenacious, but also, “deeply reliant on the Providence of God.” He added, “Like Butte America, St. Ann is the classic comeback kid.”

In 1950, the second St. Ann Church and School was built by a volunteer labor force under the guidance of Msgr. John O’Conner. Now serving as the gathering hall, the larger church space was badly needed and the school grew from four classrooms to six with a new music room, library and Quonset-style gymnasium.

Today’s Church is the vision of Fr. J. Bruce Plummer who, Bishop Thomas noted, had a “familial connection to ordinary people,” and “affection for the ordinary blessings of Montana life.” Fr. Plummer’s love for Montana and its people is visible in the unique stained-glass that depicts agriculture, construction and homemaking as well as the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the Butte mining industry.

Bishop Thomas acknowledged Fr. Haffey’s 20 years as pastor calling him, “One of the finest priests I have ever known.” He also recognized Sr. Mary Jo McDonnell’s business acumen and “deep sense of social justice,” during her 34 years at St. Ann. The celebration paid special tribute to the many vocations to priesthood and religious life fostered there, including Fr. Joseph Finnegane, Fr. Ray Fleming, Fr. Ed Hislop, Msgr. Kevin O’Neill, Bishop George Leo Thomas, Sr. Marian Berry, SCL, Sr. Janet Rolando, BVM, Sr. Joan Nuckols, BVM, Sr. Mary Lex Smith, SCL, Sr. Sharon Smith, SCL, Sr. Susan Yerkich, SCL, Br. Patrick McCormack, CFC and Brother Francis Popish, CFC.

Fr. Haffey, with Deacons Bernie McCarthy and John Uggetti, convened a planning committee a year prior to the celebration. Fr. Haffey said, “We started with setting a date that would fit for Bishop and began plans for decorations, food and the liturgy. Our planners met six or seven times. Our deacons really made it all work.” Special arrangements included new banners, flower stands and preparing the peace garden.

“Things really ran with the décor, especially Colleen O’Leary, Betsy Palmer and Joanie Cassidy, and everyone worked to make it come together.”

While no longer operating a school, The long tradition of ministry, service and outreach continues with a full parish staff and abundant volunteers. St. Ann has programs for Religious Education, Youth Ministry and R.C.I.A. Weekly, St. Ann hosts 17 support group meetings, multiple prayer groups, a Little Rock Bible Study group and devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. St. Ann also hosts conferences and retreats with immaculate Ilabigaza, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide and presenting a healing retreat October 6th.
“From Conflict to Communion”
Lutheran - Catholic
COMMON COMMEMORATION
OF THE REFORMATION
ECUMENICAL VESPERS
SAINT HELENA CATHEDRAL, HELENA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 7:00 p.m.
The Catholic and Lutheran Communities of Montana gather with our Bishops to embrace a very special moment between Lutherans and Catholics throughout the world. Occasioned by the joint document of the two churches, “From Conflict to Communion,” we gather in prayer, memory, thanksgiving and confession. With our common faith in Christ, we look ahead to common witness and a continued journey forward for the sake of our shared mission to the world.

From Conflict to Communion marks the first time that Lutherans and Catholics tell together the history of the Reformation. They express regret over the pain that they inflicted on each other, but also give thanks to the theological insights that both parties contributed and the fruits of the reformation that they have both received. At the same time, the document emphasizes the common responsibility to bear witness to the Christian faith and work for justice, peace and the environment and fight poverty.

Ecumenical Vespers Presiders:

- **Bishop Jessica Crist**
  Bishop of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- **Bishop Mark Ramseth**
  Retired Bishop of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- **Bishop Michael Warfel**
  Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

- **Bishop George Leo Thomas**
  Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Helena

The Catholic and Lutheran Communities of Montana gather with our Bishops to embrace a very special moment between Lutherans and Catholics throughout the world. Occasioned by the joint document of the two churches, “From Conflict to Communion,” we gather in prayer, memory, thanksgiving and confession. With our common faith in Christ, we look ahead to common witness and a continued journey forward for the sake of our shared mission to the world.

All are Welcome!

To download the Document, Conflict to Communion, prepared by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation go to https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/From%20Conflict%20to%20Communion.pdf


**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: Matthew Christiaens, Tyler Frohlich, Nathan Scheidecker, Bishop Thomas, Shannon Augare, Kyle Tannehill, Codi Krueger, Fr. Marc Lenneman.