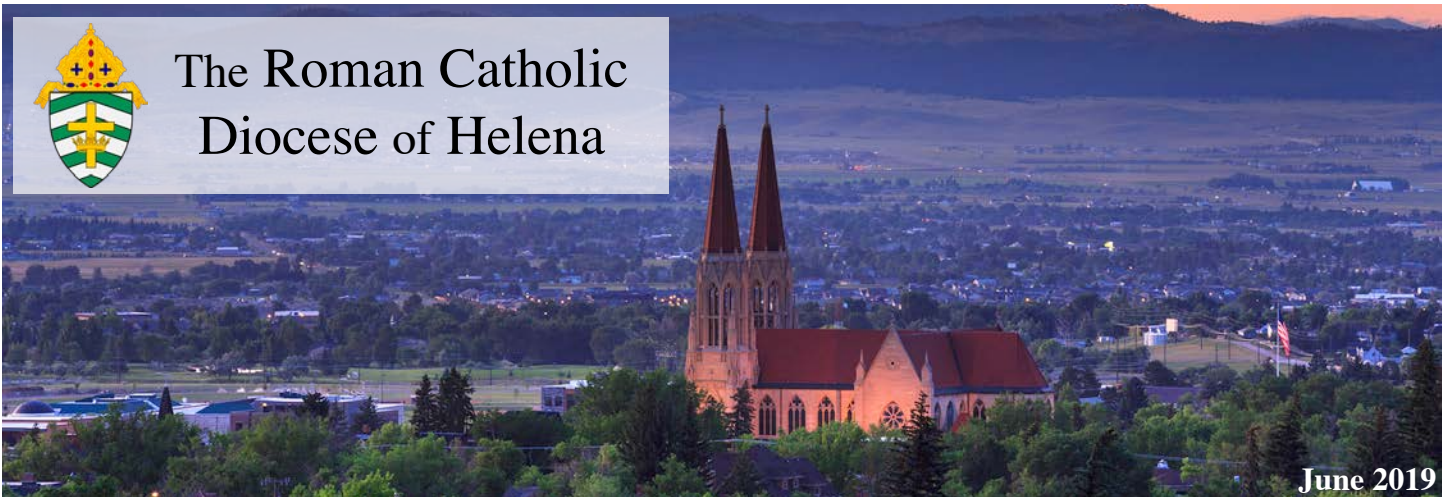




The Roman Catholic Diocese of Helena



June 2019

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Gratitude, Fidelity and Life in the Holy Spirit

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I write to you on the eve of Memorial Day with solemn thanksgiving for those who have given their lives in honorable Service to our Country in order that we may remain one nation, under God and with liberty and justice for all. I ask you to pray for those still serving in the Armed Services, that the Lord protect them and guard their hearts and minds and souls as they seek to secure peace and freedom throughout the world.

I also offer thanksgiving to God for the opportunity to travel to all the deaneries of our diocese to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in Kalispell, Browning, Missoula, Bozeman, Butte and Helena. While each celebration reflected the uniqueness of the parishes and our diocesan college that the candidates represented, their unity in the Holy Spirit was abundantly visible and very much engaged. The experience made me reflect on the truth of Sacred Scripture that, even though we may be many and differ greatly, we are one Body, one Spirit in Christ. The outpouring of grace in these sacred celebrations reminded me of the vows made in marriage: "... in good times or in bad, in sickness and in health I will love and honor you for the rest of my days". The "Amen" spoken by the confirmed in response to being sealed in the Holy Spirit by the blessing with sacred chrism was an affirmation of these words as Christ's bride, holy Church.

Jesus Christ is the ever-faithful bridegroom, promising never to deceive us or leave us abandoned. He is the one who has fully paid the price for our salvation upon His Cross. He breathed the Spirit upon the early Church as the first fruits of His resurrection glory, the same

Spirit that raised Him from the dead and that is the peace that He alone can give. That breath is sustained in the grace of the Sacraments we receive in this present time and place.

Through that peace and immersed in the Truth that sets us free from the glamour of evil and the destructive division of sin, we are enabled to seek to live our vows to Him, to renounce sin and Satan so as to live as His espoused.

When we falter or fail to remain faithful or are confused and filled with doubt in the Lord's presence within and among us, we can still rekindle the fire of God's love in our vows with a firm purpose of amendment. Through this, we do not allow anything or anyone to separate us from the love God has for us, nor deem any experience in this holy union to be one of irreconcilable differences, but instead an opportunity for contrition that enables us to live the covenant that has wed us to Him. Through this promise we are forgiven, sustained and challenged to live with sacrificial love the Faith we profess and share the hope that Faith engenders.

Come Holy Spirit and enflame in our hearts and minds and souls the fire of God's love and, through the Holy Eucharist. Rekindle that fire in times of sickness, times that are very difficult and in times that are joyful and robust. Instruct our hearts so that we may remember Him in the breaking of the Bread and the sharing in the Cup and in living out our promises as His spouse, the Church.

In Jesus Name we pray, Amen! Alleluia!

Msgr. Kevin O'Neill
Diocesan Administrator

Carroll Inaugurates New President and Graduates 315 Students

Cody Tredik
Communications Staff

It's been a busy spring at Carroll College, as the campus officially welcomes new president Dr. John Cech, and says goodbye to 315 graduating students.

On Friday, April 26, the school formally inaugurated Dr. John Cech to the Office of the President. Dr. Cech was selected by the Carroll Board of Trustees alongside a 13-member search committee in March of 2018. A Butte native, Dr. Cech has 30 years of experience in higher education in Montana, most recently as the Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education for the Montana University System, where he was responsible for Academic, Research, and Student Affairs for the State.

At the inauguration ceremony, president Cech was introduced by his friend and former colleague, Dr. Waded Cruzado, president of Montana State University. Dr. Cech spoke of his priorities as president while setting the coming year as The Year of the Student, highlighting his commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience for Carroll students: "Our focus on students and

Some of the recommendations which will be put into action include a school for professional and graduate studies, a Nursing Simulation

Center and an expansion of the nursing program to include opportunities for Master's degrees. A new major and minor in Catholic Studies, makes Carroll the only institution to offer such a program in the entire Pacific Northwest, and 1 of only 38 in the U.S.

Two weeks later, Dr. Cech celebrated his first graduation as Carroll's 18th president.

Students, families, faculty, and staff began commencement festivities on Saturday, May 11 with the Baccalaureate Mass at the Cathedral of St. Helena. Msgr. Kevin O'Neill presided, with Chaplain Fr. Marc Lenneman, former president Monsignor Joseph Harrington, Fr. Tom O'Donnell, and Fr. Christopher Lebsock concelebrating. In his homily, Fr. Lenneman gave three words to think about for graduates: commencement, commitment, and commission:

"I hope that you've encountered the love of Jesus in your time at Carroll, because that love makes all the difference, but that love makes a demand on you today, and everyday going forward. It demands that you begin something today, commencement. It demands that you live your life with intentionality and purposefulness, commitment. It demands that you give your heart, mind, soul, and strength to the only thing that is worthy of you: the work of the kingdom, commission."

That afternoon, the commencement ceremony began in the PE Center. Among the degrees conferred, Carroll celebrated its first master's level graduates with four students receiving a Master of Accountancy. Faculty, staff, and students were awarded for their accomplishments during the school year, and three faculty members announced their



Graduating Students (photo: Carroll College)

retirement: Associate Professor of Nursing Kim Garrison, Associate Professor of Nursing Donna Greenwood and Professor of Fine Arts Ralph Esposito.

Dr. Cech concluded the school year with a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi with Fr. Lenneman and a group of Carroll students. There, he also began discussions to establish a remote campus in Rome.

Video of the inauguration ceremony can be found at carroll.edu/inauguration

Video of the Baccalaureate Mass at the Cathedral of St. Helena can be viewed at diocesehelena.org



Dr. John Cech at the Cathedral of St. Helena (photo: Carroll College)

undergraduate teaching, our Catholic identity, and the fact that we're based on a liberal arts foundation will all be central for our future success. However, higher education in Montana, and the United States, is changing. Our campus-wide planning efforts this year produced several key recommendations to help us grow this college, each of which will be made through the lens of our mission and service to our students, community, state, nation, and world."



Dcn. Nathan Scheidecker

Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Nathan Scheidecker

On June 28th at the Cathedral of St. Helena, Deacon Nathan Scheidecker, of Butte, MT, will be ordained to the priesthood for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Helena.

While the diocese awaits Pope Francis' appointment of a new bishop, The Most Reverend Michael J. Warfel, Bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings will preside.

Scheidecker will then serve as Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of Saint Helena for a three-year term.

FDOH Grant Supports Catholic Marriages

Jeanne Saarinen
Director, Foundation for the Diocese of Helena

Love is in the air in the Flathead Valley. St. Matthew Parish in Kalispell has built a successful "Date Night" ministry that is now becoming a community-wide endeavor.

In 2017, the parish successfully applied for a grant from the Foundation for the



Katie and Kevin Donahue at the Valentine's Day date night event, 2018.

Diocese of Helena to help married couples of all ages and stages to rediscover the joy of marriage. Their application had a compelling message: "The enemy hates the Sacrament of Marriage and is ferociously attacking it. We believe by enriching marriages, a healthier and happier society

will be generated and the Church will be strengthened for future generations".

The "Date Night" team of volunteers is committed to providing couples with enrichment tools, education, mentoring and hope. The ministry includes workshops, retreats, and evenings out where couples enjoy an inspirational time together and are equipped with tools to strengthen their marriages.

Mary and Korey Davidson are one of the many couples blessed by the ministry and said: "It's given us opportunities to truly reconnect on a deeper level, and we have learned more meaningful ways of loving each other. It's been such a blessing for our marriage, and we have met so many wonderful friends as well! It's beautiful to see so many faith-filled couples come together, connect and learn from each other."

Once a year they go off campus for a special Valentine's Date Night event, with around 60 couples attending. It offers a decorated venue, social hour, catered dinner, guest speaker, and prizes. Childcare is provided. "It's a beautiful evening to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage," shared

Jeanne O'Connell, the marriage ministry coordinator. This year the event sold out. Angela Schnieders had this to say about the ministry: "My husband and I are newlyweds and also new to the Flathead Valley, but almost from the first day of our arrival last summer we have been embraced by the parish community, and through events like Date Night we now have rich friendships with couples across multiple generations."

O'Connell reports that the ministry continues to grow and is supported by participant fees, fundraisers, and business sponsors. When the parish wanted to expand and build upon the successful ministry the Foundation was pleased to assist with a second grant. O'Connell explained, "We're adding a sequence of marriage-related events, including a date night boat cruise on Flathead Lake and a parish mission with a marriage focus." She added that the program's success is evident, "What's exciting too is that other parishes in the area are becoming more involved in the ministry."

The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves and strengthens the people, parishes, ministries and apostolic mission of the Diocese of Helena. Its annual grants program supports a wide variety of projects, from small capital improvements to bible study programs to youth events. Grant application and guidelines can be found at www.fдох.org. The deadline to apply is June 28.

Diocese Adds Livestream for Events and Cathedral Masses

The Diocese of Helena will livestream video of events and selected Masses celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Helena. Video will be streamed and subsequently added to a video archive. Plans are to stream the significant liturgies of the Church and our diocese as possible.

Thus far, archived videos from 2019 include: Chrism Mass with Archbishop Sample, Carroll College Presidential Inauguration Mass, Carroll College Baccalaureate Mass and Pentecost Sunday Mass.

Livestream broadcasts will be announced via the Facebook page for Roman Catholic Diocese of Helena. Livestream and archived video are viewable at www.diocesehelena.org.

Women's Retreat 2019
at Legendary Lodge

LIVING A GRACE-FILLED LIFE
~ GRATITUDE ~

With: Sr. Noreen Walter, SCL
July 19, 4 p.m. to July 20, 5 p.m.

70 person limit
women 21 and over

register at:
www.showmyevent.com

Legendary Lodge Camps
REGISTER NOW BEFORE CAMPS ARE FULL!

H.S. Leadership Camp - June 23-28
Jr. High Camp #1 - July 7-12
Jr. High Camp #2 July 14-19 FULL
High School Camp - July 21-26
Boys 5th & 6th Grade - July 28 - Aug 2
Girls 5th & 6th Grade - Aug 4-9

Register at:
legendarylodge.org

Worship-Space Chairs Available

The Diocese of Helena has 280 cloth-covered wood-frame chairs for a church worship space available in the Helena area. There is no cost for the chairs but they will need to be picked up and transported by any new owner. The window to take advantage of this opportunity closes in late July of 2019. Call (406) 475-0308 if interested.



Celebration of Mass at Running Eagle Falls



Youth help put on a community-wide meal

J.O.P. Centerpiece of New CST Online Course

Dan Bartleson
Director, Communications

“Justice means I love them all the same,”



Youth pray with a member of the Blackfeet Tribe

explains Patricia Devereaux, a local Blackfeet and parishioner of Little Flower Parish in Browning, “that’s what Jesus calls me to do.” For over a decade Patricia, Little Flower Parish, and the Blackfeet people have been inviting youth from across the diocese to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation for a week-long cultural immersion experience. The week is called Justice Outreach Project (J.O.P.) and it offers a transformative experience of faith through solidarity.



Photo from J.O.P. 2018 during North American Indian Days

focus of J.O.P. is to build strong friendships among the Blackfeet and youth of our Diocese. Centered on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST), young people, Youth Ministers and adult chaperones spend the week working, playing, and praying alongside tribal members. The immersion includes experiencing the rich culture and deeply rooted Catholic faith of the Blackfeet People.

“I have heard [CST] referred to as the ‘great, hidden treasure of the Catholic faith,” says Kevin Molm, the Manager of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry “We have al-

ways had profound experiences at J.O.P. and wanted to share the blessings of this ministry beyond the simple week each summer. Plus, we needed high-quality content to teach the principles of CST that was both accessible and relevant to youth in Western Montana.”

Over the past year, Molm has spearheaded a project to meet those challenges in a single project. The project is centered around an online curriculum that will be available throughout the diocese. It features the principles of CST as students explore papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents while the spirit and character of the Blackfeet give the course a real-world context with short, visually stunning videos.

Funding came as a welcome surprise at 2017’s Son Light Gala to benefit Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Legendary Lodge. Mike Patterson, a long-time friend of Bishop Thomas and lifelong Catholic issued a generous donation challenge to other attendees. His challenge was fully funded with enthusiasm, setting a new record for giving at Son Light. Mike has since passed away while his hallmark generosity, that has touched so many, lives on in the hearts and minds of our young people and their families.

The new course will be available online at dohyouth.org in July of 2019. Offered as a core facet of youth ministry formation and catechesis, it will also be available for any individual or group that is interested. A



Youth learn the spiritual and cultural significance of building teepees

preview of the video content and introduction to 2019’s J.O.P. is currently available at dohyouth.org.

Justice Outreach Project

High School Students! Join us for a week of labor, cultural exchange and fellowship, as we engage the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

**July 9-14, 2019
Browning, MT**

Register through dohyouth.org



"[Religious] freedom remains one of America's most precious possessions. And, as my

brothers, the United States Bishops, have reminded us, all are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it."

- Pope Francis

Beginning June 22, the Feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops celebrates Religious Freedom Week. Join Catholics across the United States as we seek the kingdom and find Strength in Hope.

Visit www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek for prayers, reflections and action items that correspond to the following days.

- **June 22: Sts. Thomas More & John Fisher**
- **June 23: Corpus Christi - Middle East Christians**
- **June 24: Nativity of St. John the Baptist - Faithful Public Servants**
- **June 25: Myanmar - End Persecution of the Rohingya**
- **June 26: Freedom to Serve in Foster Care and Adoption**
- **June 27: Persecution of Christians in Nigeria**
- **June 28: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Religion: A Public Good**
- **June 29: Sts. Peter & Paul - Religious Freedom for Incarcerated Persons**

Fire Damages St. Matthew's Parish

Cody Tredik
Communications Staff

The basement beneath St. Matthew's parish in Kalispell caught fire on the evening of May 12th, Mother's Day, causing substantial damage to the building.

Smoke was noticed by a parishioner from outside the church around 5:00 p.m. and emergency services were called shortly after. Quick action from Kalispell Fire Department firefighters and neighboring crews kept the flames from moving into the main floor and sacred space of the building. After about 30 minutes of knocking down the blaze, crews entered the basement, putting out hot spots and improving ventilation in order to save the stained-glass windows above. There were no injuries.

The next day, with the fire fully extinguished, fire crews reported that the basement was severely damaged, and the kitchen area where the fire is believed to have started was completely destroyed. So far, the cause is still under investigation. Though the flames were contained to the lower level, smoke damage has affected the main floor sacred space, including the pews and walls.

The restoration process has already begun with a Kalispell -based restoration company



Firefighters work to put out a blaze in the basement of St. Matthew Parish (photo: Daily Interlake)

working on deconstruction and smoke mitigation. Once the clean-up is complete, repairs can begin. The sturdy construction of the building will make the situation more manageable, but the church will remain closed to the public until any necessary rebuilding is complete.

Weekend liturgies are currently being held in St. Matthew's School around the corner from the church. Weekday Masses are cancelled until further notice.

Legislative Session Review

Matthew Brower
Executive Director
Montana Catholic Conference

With Montana's 66th regular legislative session having adjourned "sine die" on April 25th, it's time to look back at the fruits of our labors and review the fate of the bills supported and opposed by the Montana Catholic Conference.

Before addressing specific bills, here are a few interesting numbers from the session. There were:

- 3,324 Bill Draft Requests (bill proposals)
- 1,309 bills introduced
- 270,131 floor votes (yes, that many!)

The MCC officially supported 11 bills. Of those, three were passed and signed into law by the governor, three were vetoed by the governor and five bills failed to make it to the governor's desk having died at various stages of the legislative process.

We officially opposed 4 bills. Of those, two died in the process and failed to make it to the governor, one was vetoed by the governor and one bill passed and was signed by the governor but not until the problematic provisions which caused our opposition were removed.

While we want to "win" on all of the bills with which we are involved, the likelihood of that happening is often quite slim. Not surprisingly, the policy positions of the MCC don't predominately align with one party over another. Catholic Social Teaching, not politics, drives the positions we take on legislation.

The conference was happy to see both the ultrasound bill (SB 100) and the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act (SB 354) pass the legislature. However, those successes were short-lived as both bills were vetoed by Governor Bullock. Legislation to help expectant mothers and their unborn children will always be of highest priority for the MCC.

Thankfully, the governor did sign the bill to continue the qualified endowment tax

credit (SB 111) and legislation to revise laws related to the use of solitary confinement (HB 763). He also vetoed a problematic "sanctuary city" bill we opposed (HB 146).

Unfortunately, we were unable to get our bill to abolish the death penalty (HB 350) out of the House Judiciary Committee. While support for abolition continues to build, there's still work to be done. This is true of other criminal justice reform efforts as most of those we supported failed to make it out of committee.

We will now turn our attention to a variety of federal issues and preparation for Montana's 2021 session. We do so filled with hope and gratitude for all that faithful Catholic citizens do to bring a Catholic voice to the legislative process. Please know, your voice is needed and heard!

For more information about the MCC or to sign up for our Alert Network, visit www.montanacc.org. Also, feel free to contact me at (406) 442-5761 or director@montanacc.org.



The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Helena

NEWSLETTER

June 2019

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.*

Men in priestly formation for the Diocese of Helena



Dillon Armstrong



Matthew Christiaens



Tyler Frohlich



Dcn. Nathan Scheidecker



Kyle Tannehill