



The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Helena

NEWSLETTER

The Diocese of Helena Joyfully Welcomes
Bishop-Elect Fr. Austin Anthony Vetter!

October 2019

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Pope Francis Has Appointed Fr. Austin Anthony Vetter as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Helena



On October 8, 2019, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, appointed Father Austin Anthony Vetter as the eleventh Bishop of Helena. Mass for his ordination as a bishop and installation as Bishop of Helena will take place at the Cathedral of St. Helena on Wednesday, November 20, 2019.

Austin Anthony Vetter was born in Linton, N.D., on September 13, 1967, to August and Loretta Vetter. The youngest of 12 children, he was raised on a farm and educated in the Linton Public School System. After graduation, he attended North Dakota State University and Cardinal Muench Seminary in Fargo, N.D. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy, he studied at the Pontifical North American College and the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Italy. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Bismarck by Bishop John F.

Kinney at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck, N.D., on June 29, 1993.

Father Vetter's first assignment was serving as Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Father Vetter was a religion instructor at St. Mary's Central High School in Bismarck from 1994 to 1999. In North Dakota, he served as pastor of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Center, St. Patrick's Church in Dickinson, and St. Leo the Great in Minot.

From 2004 to 2007, Father Vetter was an adjunct faculty member for the Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., where he taught The Spirituality of the Diocesan Priest. Father Vetter has held various roles in the Diocese of Bismarck, including serving on the Presbyteral Council, Priest Personnel Board, Vicar for the Permanent Diaconate, Master of Ceremonies to the Bishop,

and Director of Continuing Education of the Clergy.

Father Vetter served as Director of Spiritual Formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, from July 2012 through June 2018. He currently serves as Rector of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and is a Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Light of Christ Catholic Schools in Bismarck, N.D.

Bishop-Elect Vetter visited Helena on October 8th where he held a press conference, visited Carroll College, and celebrated noon Mass at the Cathedral of St. Helena before driving back to Bismarck. An online video of the noon Mass can be found at <https://diocesehelena.org>.

He will return to Helena on November 15th to prepare for his ordination and installation and for his new role as Bishop of the Diocese of Helena.

God's Call to Transforming Grace

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As Fall has now begun, so has the offering of opportunities to better know, love, and serve the Lord through our Parishes, Schools, and college campus ministries such as at Carroll, our diocesan college. Faith Formation Classes are available for families to register for both youth and adult educational learning experiences. Fall offerings include the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and the Rite for Children. Both serve as an invitation to journey with, and through, Christ and into the life of the Church. Catechists, ministers of the Liturgy of The Word and The Eucharist are encouraged to consider participation within their Faith Communities. All in all, it is a season of prayerful and willing response to the Lord as He calls us by name to be His own. It is a call to living out our Faith as stewards of the graces and blessings we have received.

One might say to themselves that their response does not make a difference in the overall life of the diocesan Church. That understanding cannot be further from the Truth. For that Truth is that each of us through water and the Holy Spirit is called to be saints! This call can be an overwhelming reality to come to accept, but it is real. And it needs to be answered in the affirmative for the Church and the world; the world of our personal lives, families, parishes, communities and beyond.

What would the future be like if one in ten individuals sought with all their heart and mind and soul and strength to become such a noble servant of God? What would the hallmarks of society be if every

Christian, with firm purpose and resolve, in good times or in bad, answered Christ by saying, "Here I am Lord, I have come to do your will in the goodness and light which images to the world the face of God"? Would there be a more significant share of peace and mercy and justice for all, and would that enable us to become all God has intended us to be? I answer, yes! The only way we can truly and completely fail at becoming saints is never to try; never respond; never serve and never love sacrificially. Why would we choose to refuse to grow through conversion and prayerful conversation and continuation of our pilgrimage of Faith?

It makes no sense to be complacent or to become merely an observer and commentator when we are capable of being a spark of divine love rekindling its fire in the lives of others. Perhaps no statue bearing our likeness will grace the parishes of the Church, but others will see in our eyes, and in our lives, the living out of the call of our names by Jesus - and be inspired to do the same. What a beautiful sight to behold, and its beauty is not fleeting!

You know, in responding, one may find they have discovered they should be living out their life in Christ within a religious order or as an ordained deacon or priest. How our diocesan Church would be blest by such a discovery! At present, there are only 12 Religious Sisters ministering in the Diocese of Helena. There is one Religious Brother, and there are 73 Diocesan Priests and seven additional Priests from different religious communities or countries. Of our



Diocesan Priests, 33 are over the age of 70; 14 are aged 60-69, and another 13 are aged 50-59.

We have 57 Parishes, and 38 Missions, and our need for vocations grows with the passing of each year. Thankfully, we do have five men studying in seminary formation, but you can see our great need in this crucial area of answering the Lord's call. Similarly, we face a shortage of marriages and families that are authentic communities of life and love as well as individuals who are committed, in the single life, to form themselves in a lasting and honest relationship with Christ.

Let us then with sincerity, and in truth, prayerfully ponder the opportunities that are before us to be responsive through grace to the presence of Jesus Christ within and among us. Let us lovingly challenge one another, and ourselves, to live our lives anew in and for our Lord, to the glory of the Father and through the Holy Spirit!

Blessings Always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin O'Neil". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Msgr. Kevin O'Neil
Diocesan Administrator

When this article was first written, a bishop had not yet been named by Pope Francis to be the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Helena. However, in providential Grace, the article exhorts us to be a saintly people, a people called to minister. And now, we have one called among us, to lead us in that ministry, to affirm us in that grace, and to challenge us in its hope.

-Msgr. O'Neil



JUNIOR HIGH RALLY

NOVEMBER 2 - GREAT FALLS

 DOHYOUTH.ORG



BE COURAGEOUS



FOR YOU ARE WORTHY

WHO: GRADES 6-8
WHAT: FAITH. FRIENDS. FUN.
WHERE: GREAT FALLS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Carroll College: Worship, Service & Evangelization

Fr. Marc Lenneman,
Chaplain & Director of Campus Ministry
at Carroll College
Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Helena

What a gift it is to serve here at Carroll. Every day I am privileged to witness the way God reveals the love He has for our students. And, what a blessing to be on a campus where each student, no matter their spiritual background, is encouraged to grow toward full maturity by embracing truth and being formed in virtue. Of course, at a Catholic college, we believe such growth points toward and finds its ultimate fullness in Jesus Christ (see Eph. 4:13).

In his Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, St. John Paul II notes that a Catholic university is “born from the heart of the Church.” This is especially true of Carroll College, with its unique relationship to the diocese of Helena. Thus, our work should intimately connect to the work of the Church as a whole. And what is that work? In his typically lucid manner, Pope Benedict XVI teaches that the Church has three essential tasks: to worship, to serve the poor, and to evangelize. Our ministry efforts on campus center on those vital activities.

First; worship. Carroll’s campus is alive with the graces that flow from worshipping Jesus Christ. All Saints’ Chapel is a worthy, joy-filled home for Carroll students to encounter Jesus in personal prayer, in Word, and in Sacrament throughout the week. A particular highlight each week is a packed chapel on Sunday evening where current students are joined by community members from Helena to offer themselves in worship at Mass. The Carroll family at prayer is always a blessing to behold. Join us whenever you are so inclined. If you can’t be with us in person, feel free to access our homilies here: <https://ccministry.podbean.com>.

The Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Christ among us, is found in every residence hall on campus, giving students a chance to experience Christ’s love in a quiet, profound way. The chapel in Trinity Hall offers Eucharistic Adoration from noon to 10 p.m. every day and is open to the public. We are blessed to be able to offer this special way of encountering Jesus to



Fr. Marc Lenneman Celebrates Mass in All Saints Chapel at Carroll College.

anyone who so desires.

Second; service. Right worship will always conduce to service, especially to those most in need. If you have had a chance to pray in All Saints’ Chapel, you’ve likely noticed the verse engraved on the facade of the balcony: “Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give” (Matt. 10:8). Carroll students did that this past Saturday as our first Service Saturday of the semester took place. Nearly 50 students brought their energy and effort to serve at five different Helena locations. This happens consistently throughout the year whether it be through weekly trips to God’s Love Shelter, visiting the elderly, or through one of our Headlights immersion experiences. Serving others, especially the poor, is the natural result of an authentic encounter with Jesus, who came “not to be served but to serve” (Matt. 20:28). It is our privilege and duty to share with others the blessings we have received.

Third, evangelization. Evangelization is an interesting word. Its Greek origin means, “good news.” To share the good news of the Gospel is of particular importance in a culture where many people have never heard of the love God has for them. We take that call seriously at Carroll. There are many ways to evangelize, the most effective and important being the witness of lives transformed by grace. Our retreats, faith formation groups, and

the presence of student ministers in the residence halls are all avenues by which the message of God’s love is proposed in an intentional way on campus. There is also a need and opportunity to proclaim the Gospel using the means that modern culture offers to us. With that in mind, I’d like to invite you to download our new Campus Ministry App for your smartphone. The app is full of resources to aid your prayer life and your faith formation. Use it yourself and share it with friends and family. Simply search the Apple or Android store for “Carroll Campus Ministry”.

These efforts to worship, serve the poor, and evangelize are mutually implicative. We do them so that we can fulfill our mission as a diocesan, Catholic college, a mission that is meant to reach far beyond the physical boundaries of the campus. We’re thankful for our distinctive identity, and we’re excited to continue to strive toward the fulfillment of what St. John Paul II said in 1999: “Carroll College is meant to be a beacon to the Church in the Northwest.” With much prayer, sacrifice, and dedicated work, we can become who we are called to be. Go Saints!



Students wave the Carroll Flag in St. Peter’s Square in Rome

Respect Life Month



Mathew Brower
Director, the Montana
Catholic Conference

C.S. Lewis once wrote, “There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

Each October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month and invites us to pause and reflect on the great gift of human life. Aware of the severe threats to human life and dignity facing us at home and abroad, each of us is called to consider how we can defend and safeguard those who are most vulnerable—the unborn, the refugee, the poor, the sick and the elderly, among others.

But in our reflection and call to action,

I think it behooves us to revisit the most fundamental questions. Who are we? Why is each person so precious? What is our dignity, and from where does it come?

The Psalmist writes, “What is man that you are mindful of him, and a son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him little less than a god, crowned him with glory and honor” (Ps 6:5-6).

Our faith answers the essential questions about the human person; From where have we come? What/who are we? Where are we going?

Both divine revelation and reason tell us we have a spiritual, immortal soul. We can do spiritual things that we couldn’t do if we were merely material. We are capable of abstraction and reflection, impossible for purely material beings. It is evident that, by nature, our soul is immortal, not subject to death.

Our destiny is an immortal, eternal one. Though our bodies are “dust” and it is to dust that they shall return, we are more than our bodies and those, too, will be resurrected and reunited

with our souls. If we were simply material destined to decompose and cease to be, then our ending would be that of dust or dirt or other purely material things. But that is not us, and a difference in destiny means a difference in our value, in our dignity.

God created each of us in his image. In Jesus, we have a common Father, making us all one family, called to love one another as Christ loves. Of all creatures on earth, it is we alone God has willed for himself, and he desires that we spend eternity with him. For this reason, he sent his only son to die for us and conquer death. How precious each one of us must be in God’s eyes!

As we celebrate Respect Life Month this October, let us ponder anew the gift of human life and the masterpiece that is each person. We are made to enjoy eternal life with the God who created us.

For more information about the Montana Catholic Conference, please feel free to contact me at (406) 442-5761 or director@montanacc.org.

Sr. Lynn Casey, SCL

Cody Tredik
Communications Staff

With the retirement of Sr. Lynn Casey, SCL, the Diocese of Helena says goodbye to the last Sister of Charity of Leavenworth residing in Helena. Her various ministries throughout her life showcase the breadth and depth of SCL’s service in the state of Montana.

Sr. Lynn was born in Havre, but raised in East Helena. Her parents were committed to Catholic education for her and her two sisters. She attended St. Ann’s grade school and Cathedral High School before leaving for the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, for college.

“I was so greatly influenced by SCL educators. They spurred on my love for teaching,” Sr. Lynn said. “And my call to religious life was an evolving call. I’d occasionally think about it throughout my life to that point, and would push it to the back of my mind.” It would be only two years at the University before her call was confirmed, and she entered the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in 1956.

Sr. Lynn’s first assignment was at North Central School in Butte. “Through my

time as an educator, I came to realize that I had a real gift in administration.”

This gift brought her back to school for a degree in Hospital Administration and Public Health from Yale. Her ministry led to successive positions in health-care and culminated in her service as the COO of St. Vincent’s Hospital in Billings in 1984.

From here she was recruited by Bishop Milone to be the Director of Chancery services for the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. She worked for Bishop Milone and, following Milone, Bishop Warfel until her retirement in December of 2012.

Retiring in Helena to be closer to family, Sr. Lynn served as a volunteer at St. Mary’s parish as well as with the Catholic Women’s Journey ministry. She became part of the planning committee and worked to put on six Journey retreats, the latest of which took place this fall.

“One of the greatest gifts and joys of my life has been mentoring others and working to call forth their talents, and then seeing them now in leadership roles,” she said. “And it’s been marvelous to witness Vatican II in action in the Journey ministry by seeing women plan and serve each other.”

Sr. Lynn now joins hundreds of Sisters throughout history who have served Montana in administration, education, and health care. All three ministries have been pillars of the community since their arrival in 1869 at the invitation of Fr. De Smet, founder of St. Mary’s Mission in the Bitterroot Valley. In many ways, the seminal service of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth serves as the foundation for the many Catholic ministries we see today.

“I’ve been so blessed to be an SCL both because of the great community and for the incredible opportunities in ministry. I’m grateful to be a part of the legacy of the SCL’s in Montana through all of the work that’s been done by all of the sisters, from hospitals and orphanages to schools and education.”



Sr. Lynn Casey, SCL

On-line Auction to Bolster GSM Ministry

Mary A. Bell
Board Member
Good Samaritan Ministries

Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM) in Helena was founded on the words of Christ, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Located at 3067 N. Montana Avenue, GSM is a function and mission of four Helena-area parishes: the Cathedral of Saint Helena, Saint Mary Catholic Community, Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, and Our Lady of the Valley Parish. Other non-profit organizations, churches, organizations, and individuals also provide support.

For nearly 40 years, GSM has served countless individuals and families of all faiths. With services based on Catholic Social Teaching, GSM operates an Assistance Program, Thrift Store, Job Training, and Advocacy for the disadvantaged.

Executive Director, Theresa Ortega, manages the Assistance Program and all associated staff. Four Helena parish pastors serve as advisors, while a Board of Directors provides oversight. The Board of Directors includes two representative members from each of the four parishes. Dr. John Ries, Chair of the Theology Department at Carroll College, serves on the Board and helps guide it in Catholic social teaching.

On Saturday, October 27th, from 3 pm to 6 pm, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Helena, GSM's annual fundraiser to benefit the Assistance Ministry will be held. The event is a mini-fashion show and on-line auction with the theme, "Jump into the Titanic Era...Virtually." Admission is by do-

nation, and attendees can enjoy beverages and appetizers while viewing available vintage collectibles and other items. Virtual "attendees" can participate in on-line bidding beginning at 5 pm. and ending at 6 pm on November 1st. The on-line bidding platform is at <http://bidpal.net/goodsam-fashionshow2019>.

Previously, GSM paid to hold the fashion show fundraiser at the Civic Center or other venues in Helena. The event included dinner and ticket sales helped offset a small portion of the cost. This year's changes will help make more funds available for the needy.

According to Theresa Ortega, "After prayer and reflection, we decided to simplify the event and be frugal, because our focus is to provide support for those in need. Social media and on-line bidding are new tools that we hope will help us raise much-needed funds, along with greater awareness, for our important work that remains true to the Church's social teaching."

Funds raised for the Assistance Program will provide help with emergency rent, utilities, medical prescriptions, baby diapers and formula, car repairs and many other needs. Essential items, including clothing and housewares, are available to the needy through the Thrift Store.

The Good Samaritan Thrift Store in Helena is open seven days a week. Income from the sale of donated clothing, household goods and furniture funds the administrative costs of GSM's other ministries. Donated clothing that cannot be sold is recycled as GSM strives to be considerate stewards of its donations and resources. It is a haven within the Helena community and a place "Where all are served with Dignity, Compassion, and Respect."

Giving as Witnesses to Christ

Glenda Seipp
Director, Stewardship Services

The message of Christ, the Good News, has remained the same for over 2,000 years. All are invited to be transformed by experiencing His life, His mercy and His love. Throughout our lifetime we are offered the opportunity to engage our unique gifts and passions as we find our own way back to God and at the same time to accompany others on their

distinct journey and encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. As we receive God's gifts, cultivate, and share them - we can't help but be changed.

We become Disciples through this conversion. Over time, our lives may become a bold proclamation of who God is. Our lives, our words, and our witness reflect the time in which we live and are our response to all that God calls us to be in Christ. Our lives are lived in sacred time. We are building the kingdom together through our own personal



FRAUD ALERT!

In his 1926 book, *The Richest Man in Babylon*, George Samuel Clason penned the admonition, "Better a little caution than a great regret." While we may not, as Clason, be seeking worldly wealth, our pursuits, even our good Catholic intentions, certainly profit from a healthy dose of caution.

In our often fast-paced lives, we may lay aside the care needed to be "wise as serpents" in the current digital wilderness. Unfortunately, this may earn us the regret end of Clason's bargain - especially when it comes to digital fraud and scams.

Ongoing scams continue to target the parishioners, friends, family members, and acquaintances of Catholic Priests in the Diocese of Helena. Scams come via email, text or phone messages that claim to come from a priest (or another church administrator).

Targeted individuals are typically asked to purchase items (i.e. gift cards) to aid someone in need. Reported on Television in January and March of this year, these scams have revived in various areas.

Please be vigilant. It is crucial to verify the source of any requests that require you to spend money or share personal information. If you believe you are the target of a scam related to your parish or the diocese, inform the individual who is being impersonated and contact the diocesan offices.

relationship with Christ and our shared concern for the family of God.

The ministries, services and programs funded by our Annual Catholic Appeal provide opportunities for the people of God to be accompanied, encounter Christ, be transformed and then, in their own way, give witness to the joy of life in Christ. All are invited to consider a gift that will reflect their journey, their gratitude and their commitment to the Calling to Fullness of Life in Christ as a steward of the Gospel message.



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NEWSLETTER

The Diocese of Helena Joyfully Welcomes
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October 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



Tyler Frohlich



Kyle Tannehill



Matthew Christiaens



Kaleb Mitchell