



St. Ann's Mission

Est. 1885.

Belcourt, North Dakota

# St. Ann's Mission News

*Among The Chippewa and Metis - flooding Hearts with a River of Grace!*

## Mission Possible: Spring Break Trips to the Turtle Mountains

March found three different groups of college students coming to spend their spring breaks visiting and serving us here in the Turtle Mountains. One group was from Steubenville, Ohio, one from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and one from our own state of North Dakota. They had the opportunity to do a little bit of everything from cleaning, to renovating, spending time at the retirement home, putting on Stations of the Cross, etc. They had the opportunity to experience some good Turtle Mountain cooking, and according to Franciscan University student Regina Simon "Each of us learned from the humble example of those we met what it means to love." The three groups really enjoyed their time here, and we are so thankful they came!



## The Pastor's Desk Fr. Jeff Eppler, SOLT

Praise the Lord! God continues to do great things here at St. Ann's during this Year of Mercy! This Easter Vigil we were blessed to have 10 Baptisms and 24 Confirmations. On the following Saturday, April 2, our Bishop John Folda confirmed 126 children, 94 of them were our kids and the rest belonged to our other parishes here in the Turtle Mountains.

There were so many we had to have Mass in the gym since the church wasn't spacious enough. It was the largest group the Bishop had confirmed thus far during his tenure as Bishop of Fargo. We also had 52 who made their First Reconciliation. The Holy Spirit is definitely building the Kingdom of God through our young people.



Also on April 2 we had nine hours of prayer in the chapel at our Queen of Peace Pastoral Center in honor of the Feast of Divine Mercy. Parishioners sang the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the beginning of each hour from three o'clock until Midnight, a novena of hours. Each chaplet had a list of names of persons specifically prayed for during that hour. Lots of people participated and I'm sure the rays of Divine Mercy inundated many souls. During the month of April we have our parish Marriage Workshop for those preparing for the sacrament of Marriage and an all-girls Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat. In the month of May we will have another Marriage Workshop and bring our current school year to an end. Our summer camp for kids begins in June and goes through mid July.

The Holy Spirit continues to move and shake as our Charismatic prayer group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, has experienced growth ranging from 50-80 parishioners praising the Lord and learning to use the gifts of the Spirit. There has been an amazing amount of physical healing taking place through these meetings, as well as emotional and spiritual ones. God's mercy is truly inexhaustible.

As we have received tremendous blessings so far during this Year of Mercy, I pray that you too experience the wealth of His grace and love. We pray the Rosary after our daily Masses for all our benefactors and supporters, so know that you are being offered to the Lord through the Heart of Mary.

## St. Benedict's Parish

Greetings from St. Benedict's Parish! We wish you many blessings during this Easter Season. We wish to congratulate the ten children from our parish who received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation on April 2nd. Many thanks to our catechists for their hard work and dedication.

Be on the lookout for more info about our parish meal coming up this summer. Also, join us anytime for our Sunday Mass at 8:30am. God bless!

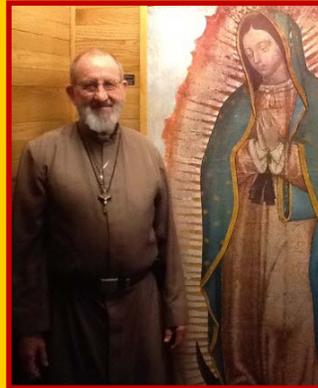


## St. John the Baptist Parish:

A very Blessed Easter to you! Praying that this season is one of peace and joy for all. We pray God's blessings down upon all those who made their Sacraments this past April 2nd, and especially upon our student from St. John's Parish.

Please check out our weekly Adult Faith Formation Class at 7pm on Wednesdays held in the St. John Parish Rectory. Also, be on the lookout for more info on our annual summer meal. You can find us on facebook, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in St. John, ND. Please join us for our Saturday vigil Mass at 5:30pm, and Sunday morning Mass is 10:30am.

## New Priest Profile: Fr. Jim Mulligan, SOLT



Having grown up on the family farm in Missouri, I have always had a love for nature as well as our home parish that was central to our lives. After serving in the U.S. Navy, I was blessed to have a career as an airline pilot and met many wonderful people along the way. Yet, I still felt called to the priesthood and religious life.

What attracted me to SOLT was the love for the Eucharist, devotion to our Lady, and fidelity to the Magisterium of the Church. Once completing my studies in Rome, I was ordained in 2008. I have served in SOLT missions in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and New Jersey before being assigned to Belcourt, North Dakota, where I hope to continue serving God's people on the Turtle Mountain Reservation.

## St. Anthony's Parish:



Hello from St. Anthony's Parish! We wish to congratulate the eight children from our parish who received their Sacraments with Bishop John Folda. May God bless each one of them in their faith and many thanks to their families and catechists. If you are ever in the area, please join us anytime at St. Anthony's Parish for our 11:30am Sunday Mass. Blessed Easter to all!

## New Priest Profile: Fr. Michael Mary Mercy of Christ Crucified Wight, SOLT

I am the eldest of 15 children, 11 of us are alive on this earth seeking our Heavenly homeland. Both of my parents are here on this earth with us. My entire family grew up in South Central Montana, the Big Sky Country. All of us kids grew up on the Crow Reservation in Pryor, Montana.

I worked on the family farm and ranch after we moved back to Montana. It was during this time at the age of 11 when I heard Our Lord speak to my heart inviting me to the priesthood. Later on I worked in the construction industry and as a mechanic. I also had the opportunity to become a certified nursing assistant working in home health care as well as a nursing home, and a retirement community. My work in the Retirement Community allowed me to accept and discern my calling to the priesthood. At the age of 33 I answered the call and said "yes". It was in 2002 that I entered formation with Our Lady's Society.

As a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity I have served Central America as a Candidate and also Second Year Theologian. I spent two years studying philosophy in Corpus Christi, Texas. My Novitiate was at St. Joseph Parish in Capulin, CO; it was here as well that I served as a deacon for six months and my two years as a newly ordained priest. I also served on the Windriver Reservation in Wyoming at St. Stephen's Indian Mission. I begin my third year as a priest serving in the Turtle Mountains.



## St. Ann's Catholic School Update:

Jessica Plummer, School Secretary

In January, St. Ann's School participated in Catholic Schools Week, during which Catholic education is celebrated throughout the nation. Shanley High School in Fargo and Little Flower in Rugby were invited to the St. Ann's campus during this week to observe this celebration. All the students enjoyed activities such as sledding, playing music, listening to Native American Culture seminars, and praying together. Also, our St. Ann's Spinners Basketball Group performed at the state basketball Tournament in Minot in March. Way to go Spinners!



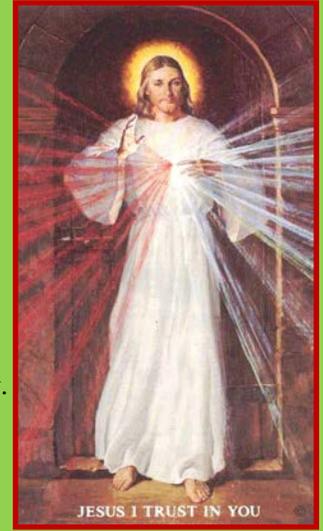
## Reflections on the Year of Mercy:

Amanda Trahan, Aspirant

On my journey of holiness, I have found that the little acts of Faith reveal the most vibrant colors of someone's true devotion. By 'act of faith', I mean, someone's response in a moment that test their personal spirituality. Whether the test comes in the face of fear, trial, temptation, confusion, or whatever else life brings. An act of faith is to live in trust of the truth that God does not abandon His children in providential care, guidance, protection, or love. In the Jubilee Year of Mercy, I have been discovering that there is a simple and lowly grace found in the acts of faith of just mindfully and wholeheartedly being a Christian.

As you know, Pope Francis has dedicated this year as the Jubilee Year of Mercy: a time of abundant grace to restore and bless the church through mercy, forgiveness, and solidarity. Although remedial, for me, I have found the Year of Mercy to be a tutorial in simply following directions. Whereas, God the Father has set aside the time to work on my faults and invite me back into right relationship with Himself by patiently taking His little girl back to the basics of trusting in His loving guidance.

For the opportunity of a plenary indulgence, the Holy Father has given the faithful criteria to guide them to pardon and goodwill: pray for his intentions, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, and be Christ to our brothers and sisters through spiritual and corporal works of mercy. So as to make an act of faith, we literally need to make a pilgrimage, by living in trust of Him as a mindful and wholehearted Christian. Pope Francis is not only inviting the Church to receive the mercy of God, but also to give the mercy of God. "Be merciful as your heavenly father is merciful," so that the Lord may be magnified through the lowly soul in which He has looked with mercy.



## Outreach Ministries to our Neighbors: Sandra Poitra, St. Michael the Archangel Parish



Okay, at first I was uncomfortable. I felt like we were intruding on them. A memory crossed my mind about when the Mormons came calling, I was never too eager to see them. How would we be greeted? Now...am I becoming the bible thumper? My-my, what thoughts. Luckily, it was a fleeting moment. I realized it was me, feeling out-of-place like a smudge left on the mirror; why, because I was about to do something out of my comfort zone. Oh shoot, we're here. I see the homes, we are greeted by Father Dennis, Sister Kateri and another lay person; there was a light breeze, snow on the ground, and the sun was shining. There was a chill in the air but not too cold to be walking about in the dead of winter. My husband, Eric, Father Dennis and I went one direction and the others in another. Okay, we had a route. Once I turned my focus to God's people instead of myself, a calmness came over me. I sensed a mission; God's mission. As we walked to each house the mission unfolded right in front of my eyes. How blessed to be a part of a plan to acknowledge and minister to your neighbor. Besides, I was in the presence of one of God's lead disciples who emanate God's light, how could this be troubling? So we knocked, introduced ourselves as from the Catholic

Church and gently offered prayers, or services of baptism, marriage, or a blessing of their home.

Smiles were shared before we left. A few turned us away or just didn't answer the door. For the most part, I was spiritually filled by giving my time to serve our God and reaching out to his people, our neighbors. One thought I kept repeating to myself was to not judge the people, their home or lifestyle; I wanted to be present with them, not above or better than them but earnestly with them. The exchanging acts of kindness and pleasant greetings settled my uneasiness, God does and will bridge the path to love, healing, and hope for a better tomorrow. The ministry calling is a spiritual act to live your faith by giving of self to share the faith and works of God. I want to say thank you to Father Dennis Mary Dugan for his leadership, Sister Kateri, and the laypeople for bringing hope to God's people at the neighboring housing sites.



**St. Ann's Mission Among the  
Chippewa and Metis**  
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**Be a Supporter of  
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St. Ann's Catholic School**

*Help produce the  
next generation of  
Native American  
Catholic Leaders*



**Contact US!**  
St. Ann's Office of  
Development and Stewardship

Call: 701-477-5601  
Email: [StAnns@utma.com](mailto:StAnns@utma.com)



**Serving the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa through five local parishes  
St. Ann's • St. Anthony's • St. Michael the Archangel • St. Benedict's • St. John the Baptist**

**ST. ANN'S 131ST ANNUAL NOVENA**



**July 22nd-July 31st, 2016**

Novena Prayers recited each day at the 7am and 5pm Masses in St. Ann's Church. St. Ann's Day Mass is held at the grotto at 11am, July 31st.

**Please join us for this beautiful Turtle Mountain Tradition!**

**St. Ann's 9th Annual Car Raffle**

**Grand Prize:** 2016 Chevrolet Trax

**Other Cash Prizes:** 4 cash prizes of \$250.00 each



Tickets: \$25.00 each / 5 tickets for \$100.00

**Begins May 7th, drawing held on July 31st.**

Proceeds Benefit the Priority Needs of:

*St. Ann's – St. Anthony's – St. Benedict's – St. John the Baptist – St. Michael's – St. Ann's School*