

STEWARDSHIP SPOT: All of the people in today's readings—the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

“The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother.” St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Abortion and Women's Health

Abortion is obviously a traumatic experience from which women can suffer great emotional and psychological stress.

Post abortion research conducted by the Elliot Institute reported its survey of women eight weeks after they had undergone an abortion. Forty four percent complained of nervous disorders, thirty six percent said they experienced sleep disorders, thirty one percent said they regretted their decision and eleven percent admitted they had been prescribed psychotropic drugs by their doctor.

Research also shows that abortion can lead to infertility, by increasing the risk of miscarriages and ectopic pregnancy.

There also appears to be a correlation between abortion and later development of breast cancer, the incidence of which has increased dramatically. In 1960, one out of every fourteen women developed breast cancer. Today, approximately one out of eight women develop this cancer. A 1996 report published by the British Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health looked at 23 previous studies and found that abortion increases the breast cancer risk by thirty percent. You might ask whether there is any biological rationale for increased breast cancer after an abortion. The answer appears to be yes; a woman who has an abortion is unprotected internally from exposure to high levels of estrogen when a pregnancy is abruptly terminated.

It seems evident that a woman's biological body was not made by God to withstand the abortion procedure.
By Pro-Life Articles Author

Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

Are you being called to be St. John's delegate to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana **July 21-24, 2024?** Every parish in the West River diocese is being encouraged to send representatives to this historic, spirit-filled event who will, afterwards, help our parish grow in love of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. If you are being called to go or want to suggest the name of a fellow parishioner, please contact the office ASAP. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

“If we but paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in this Sacrament, I am sure that the thought of Christ's love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude.”

St. Angela of Foligno

news and resources at <https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/>

ANIMA CHRISTI: Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me; Blood of Christ, inebriate me; Water from the side of Christ, wash over me; Passion of Christ, strengthen me; O good Jesus, hear me; Within your wounds hide me; Separated from You, let me never be; From the evil one protect me; At the hour of my death, call me; And close to You bid me; That with your saints, I may be, praising You forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Select-A-Gift You can mail to: Select A Gift, PO Box 366, Custer SD 57730 Please make checks out to Custer Ministerial Alliance and put 'Select A Gift' in the memo line. Thank you for your support over the years!

AN ACT OF CONTRITION (*outside the confessional*): O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they [have] offend[ed] Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen



Thank you for your generosity in the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!

Liturgical Minister Schedule

WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG/LITURGICAL-MINISTER-SCHEDULE

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

AN ACT OF CONTRITION (during a confession): My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen

~ FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES ~

Contact Amy Julian or Linda Drake (FAMILYLIFE@DIORC.ORG or 605/343-3541) for more info on any FLM-sponsored event or visit WWW.RAPIDCITYDIOCESE.ORG/FLM

Courage is an international apostolate which ministers to persons with same-sex attraction (SSA) who desire to live chaste lives following the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. **EnCourage** is a ministry within Courage dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children, and other relatives and friends of persons who experience SSA. Members in both groups support one another through discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Contact COURAGE@DIORC.ORG for info on Courage. Contact ENCOURAGE@DIORC.ORG for info on EnCourage. Or call 605/787-3837 for either ministry.

The "Flame of Love" Cenacle meets on Thurs. evenings at 6:30P at the home of Delores & Dennis Dahm: 25308 Sidney Park Rd. Contact the Dahms at 605/673-5333.

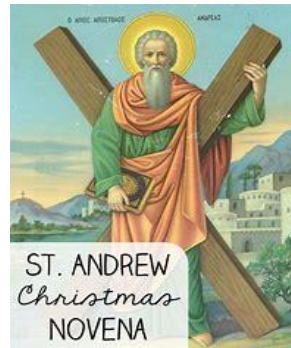
The Parish Lending Library is available during Office Hours, Tues-Thurs 9-12. Please sign out any books you borrow on the Check-Out Sheet inside the door.

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2023 For persons with

disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. (See also <http://www.popesprayerusa.net/>)

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



What is the Saint Andrew Novena? It is a devotion, also known as the Christmas Anticipation Prayer, that starts on the feast day of St Andrew the Apostle, November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve. It consists in reciting the prayer found below 15 times each day of the novena period. Its exact

origin is unknown, but it is believed to have begun in Ireland during the 19th century. This is a very meditative prayer that brings about graces, increases our awareness of the real focus of Christmas and prepares us spiritually for His coming.

Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.

Amen. Recite the above prayer 15 times a day from November 30 to December 24

Monthly Devotion (Dec)
Immaculate Conception



O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.