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Diocese of Fairbanks     -     November 2016     -     Volume 21 Number 9
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November
1 All Saint’s Day: Bishop celebrating Mass at Catholic Schools (Holiday of Obligation)
2 Bishop celebrating Mass at Pioneer Home
2 Safe Environment Review Meeting
3 Catholic Trust & Finance Council Meetings
6-10 Bishop at Installation of the Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, Anchorage
10-12 Bishop at Mount Angel Seminary, Portland, Oregon
12-17 USCCB Meeting at Baltimore, Maryland
18-25 Bishop on Vacation
24-25 Chancery Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
26 Installation to Ministry of Acolyte of Seminarian Fredrick Granheim at Sacred Heart Cathedral
27 St. Raphael, 25th Anniversary Mass
Nov. 30 - Dec. 9 Bishop visiting Y-K Region

December
8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holiday of Obligation)
16-20 Bishop visiting Stebbins & St. Michael
21 Bishop celebrating Mass at Pioneer Home (Chancery Closed)

Diocesan Mission Statement

We are people of God in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fairbanks. Blessed with a rich variety of backgrounds and talents, we strive to be a living reflection of the Universal Church.

Through our baptism, we continue Christ’s mission to further the kingdom of God through the human family. We share our living faith by proclaiming the Gospel in word and example. Together we celebrate Christ’s presence in worship and sacraments.

In a spirit of justice, mercy and love, we dedicate ourselves not only to minister to the people in the urban and rural areas of our diocese but also to minister to the world community.

Diocese of Fairbanks Newsletter

Ministering is a regular publication of the Catholic Diocese of Fairbanks which serves northern and western Alaska. Its purpose is to provide a regular opportunity for all ministries throughout the Diocese to share information so that our tremendous diversity may enrich our common mission of service to the people of our diocese.

If you have questions or suggestions for articles, please contact David Schienle at the Chancery at (907) 374-9500 or library@cbna.org. Newsletter prepared by David Schienle for Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska.

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Bp. Chad Zielinski

Special Credit:
KNOM Radio Station
My Dear Brothers & Sisters in the Lord’s Vineyard,

I completed a two-week seminar with the newly ordained bishops of the Evangelization of the Peoples. I had the incredible honor and blessing to share these days with bishops from around the world. I heard about the good work of the Church in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Bermuda, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, East Timor, Venezuela, Suriname and the list goes on. The Church is thriving in many of these areas even amidst some very hostile persecution.

In this two-week seminar, we listened to presentations from the various offices of the Vatican that provide support to the life of the Church. Pope Francis meets with the various staff of these offices regularly, so they are very aware of his heart and mind as shepherd of the universal Catholic Church. We had the joy of meeting Pope Francis in person and listening to a brief talk by him.

The responsibilities of a bishop are noted in many different Church documents. Amidst all these documents and finer details of responsibilities, the role of shepherd and teacher stands out. Yes, Pope Francis has appointed me as bishop “shepherd” of the Diocese of Fairbanks. However, I have come to see that this is a great responsibility, and at times it has overwhelmed me. After reflecting on the Gospel for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time on September 18th, I hear Jesus reminding us of varied ranges of responsibility. We are all equal in dignity and different in role. So, the proverbial “light has come on” as we say. I recognize my responsibility as shepherd is a shared ministry. You have your hearts, minds and souls totally immersed in this ministry as you serve the good people of God in your respective parishes. I am sure there are times that many of you reflect on the work that needs to be done and have similar feelings of being overwhelmed and thinking, “I cannot do all this.”

I believe that Jesus turns to us with greater responsibility when he sees our capacity to surrender all to him and trust in him. I find that the more I surrender to Christ, He opens my eyes to see with His eyes. Yes, there is an incredible amount of work to be done but there are “incredibly gifted people” to make it happen. As I chatted with the bishops from various countries, they shared very similar thoughts. It seems that one of their top concerns is the need for more catechists who are well formed in their faith. This is very much a reality in the Diocese of Fairbanks.

As we move forward with the development of the Office of Faith and Family Formation, I would really like to push this concept of an intimate encounter with Christ. First, we do this by simply acknowledging a desire to ask for grace to surrender all our concerns to Christ and be filled with Him. I believe this is the first step before any formal training. I believe it is in the inner recesses of the heart and soul that we encounter Christ. And Christ wants each person right now where they are with just the smallest flickering of a flame of desire. As Pope Francis says, “I want to see a Church that is dirty and wounded.” He means we do not need to be perfect or “have our stuff together” before we approach him.

So, I ask all of you in various leadership and formation ministries and those of you in the pews to please take up the Holy Father’s invitation along with me. As he said, “I need their help, their capacity and desire to love Christ and one another.” I too very much need this help and want you to recognize that we all share in this responsibility. I am so grateful and appreciative to all of you for the sacrifices that you and your families make.

Lastly, I ask for your input about this first step. We need to sound the alarm, and I know there are many great people to help as I have met them in so many parishes. Also, I know Fr. Robert welcomes your insights as well as he forges ahead to serve all of you.
I appreciate your time, your ideas and any prayer you can dedicate to this.

In Christ’s peace,

† Most Reverend Chad W. Zielinski
Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska

Bishop Chad Zielinski meeting Pope Francis.

Bishop in the village of Assisi, St. Francis Basilica in the background.
“We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.” - Pope Francis, 9/16/13

The Catholic bishops of the United States are pleased to offer once again to the Catholic faithful our teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents our guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. We urge our pastors, lay and religious faithful, and all people of good will to use this statement to help form their consciences; to teach those entrusted to their care; to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue, and to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching. The statement lifts up our dual heritage as both faithful Catholics and American citizens with rights and duties as participants in the civil order.

Document:
English: http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/faithful-citizenship/

Video: Faithful Citizenship 101: Overview Presentation on Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship
https://youtu.be/ZYHZx7Ke-L0

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence. You are essential to its success. Your generous donations will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes.

Together, we can make a difference in families and communities across the United States. Please donate prayerfully and generously. Thank you.

For over 43 million Americans, there is a thin line: between eviction and home, between hunger and health, between unemployment and work, between anxiety and stability. This line is the Poverty Line. For a family of four, that line is $24,257 a year*.

First Feast and Faith of the Year A Success!
On October 11, the city parishes held their first Feast and Faith Young Adult Gathering at Grizzli’s Pizza. Over 40 young people between the ages of 18-35 attended a talk presented by Fr. Robert Fath on the principles of Catholic social justice related to the upcoming presidential election. Attendees discussed how to participate in the election process while still holding to Catholic faith and morals. In the days following the discussion, ideas were being exchanged on Facebook and other social media.

Feast and Faith is a variation on the highly popular young adult program Theology On Tap, started in Illinois in the early 1980’s to keep young adults engaged and active in their faith by presenting topics of interest in a casual environment. Topics range from discussions on faith and morals to popular culture and its intersection with our beliefs. Feast and Faith is presented monthly in Fairbanks and is open to young adults, married or single, 18-35 years old. A free meal is provided to those attending.

The next Feast and Faith gathering will take place on Wednesday, November 16th, beginning at 6:30 PM at Miguel’s Mexican Restaurant on Airport Way, next to Planet Fitness. Father Greg Vance, SJ, will be our featured presenter speaking on Catholic imagery in J.R.R. Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings trilogy. Young adults who bring a friend with them to the November meeting, who has not previously attended a Feast and Faith gathering before, will have themselves and their friend entered into a drawing for a $50 gift certificate to Silver Gulch Brewery in Fox.

For more information, contact Fr. Robert Fath in the Office of Faith and Family Formation (374-9511) or check out the office’s Facebook page at: http://www.facebook.com/dioceseoffairbanksfff.
Online Catechetical Training
This year the diocese has been experimenting with online training for catechists assisting with religious education in parishes and the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks. We have partnered with Fides Catholic Apostolate based in Florida. Through a mixture of online videos and an interactive bulletin board system, participants (over 15 of them) in the Fairbanks area are working through a 5-week class on the Creed. While there have been a few hiccups with the technology at times, it is our hope that we can continue to use Fides for catechist training as well as future training for men discerning the permanent diaconate. To check out the courses being offered by Fides, visit their website at: https://fidesformation.com/.

New Rite of Matrimony Approved for Use
In the late Spring, the USCCB received approval to publish an updated Rite of Matrimony for the Church in the United States. The new rite could start being used on September 8th but is mandatory beginning on December 30th, 2016. All ministers throughout the diocese should order the new rite and begin to familiarize themselves with the changes that have been made. On Saturday, November 19th, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Father Robert Fath will offer a short overview of the new rite for ministers along the road-system. More information will be forthcoming regarding the location.

National Vocation Awareness Week
The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, November 1-7, 2016. This observance, sponsored by the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations, is a special time for parishes in the U.S. to foster a culture of vocations for the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life.

Pope Francis, in his message of April 26, 2015, on the 52nd Day of World Prayer for Vocations states; “Responding to God’s call means allowing Him to help us leave ourselves and our false security behind, and to strike out on the path which leads to Jesus Christ, the origin and destiny of our life and our happiness.” The Holy Father stresses, “The Christian vocation, rooted in the contemplation of the Father’s heart, thus inspires us to solidarity in bringing liberation to our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest.”

National Vocations Awareness Week is designed to help promote vocation awareness and to encourage young people to ask the question: “To what vocation in life is God calling me?” Parish and school communities across the nation are asked to include, during the first week in November, prayer and special activities that focus on vocation awareness.

In addition to encouraging vocations among our young people, be sure to offer special prayers for our three current seminarians: Conor Baer, Ben Doudna, and Fredrick Granheim. Encourage parishioners to write our seminarians so that they know they have the prayers and support of all of us as they continue to discern their vocation. If you wish to write to our seminarians:

Mr. Conor Baer
Mount Angel Seminary
1 Abbey Dr.
St. Benedict, OR 97373

Mr. Ben Doudna
Mount Angel Seminary
1 Abbey Dr.
St. Benedict, OR 97373

Mr. Fredrick Granheim
Sacred Heart Cathedral
1300 Peger Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

With the loss of two priests (Fr. Nelson and Fr. Ted) in the last month it would also be a wonderful encouragement to our priests and religious throughout the diocese if, during National Vocation Awareness Week, they too received notes of encouragement and prayer for their continued well-being and ministry.

St. Andrew Dinner
Wednesday, November 17th, the priests of the diocese will be hosting a St. Andrew Dinner at the St. Ignatius Residence. The dinner is open to young men (high school age and older) who would like to learn more about a vocation to the priesthood and religious life. The evening begins at 5:30 PM with Evening Prayer, followed by dinner and conversation about priesthood. The purpose of the dinner is to introduce young men to the various ways that God has called the priests of the diocese to their vocations and to help them listen more intently for the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. For more information, contact your pastor or get a hold of Fr. Robert Fath at 374-9511.
In mid-August, three men from Petoskey, MI, with the support of their parish community and families, journeyed to St. Marys to take on some much overdue maintenance work on the parish center. Jeff Haven, Bob Fate, and Danny Monshor spent about eight days using their skills to improve the foundation and the building. Days were spent under the building working on the foundation that was rotting. Roof repair and the installation of new windows seems to have stopped the leaks that caused a wall and some flooring to need replacing. Then there were the cosmetic details – new carpeting, paint inside and out, new cove base, replacing crosses and numbers on the Stations of the Cross, finishing off the arctic entrance, new gravel around the building, and attending to little things that only builders would notice. These three men topped off the work by hanging the bell that has been down for quite some time and which the parishioners have been longing to hear again. All was done with humor and care.
Above the banks of the Andrefsky river lies the weathered Church of the Nativity in St. Marys, Alaska. The 43-year-old church was showing the stress from the harsh climate. With its leaking roof, deteriorating foundation, and crumbling walls, the church building needed some care.

St. Marys was founded in 1943 when it was decided to move the Catholic Boarding School in Akulurak to higher ground. To be closer to their children, families moved along with the boarding school, establishing St. Marys village. For the first 20 years at the new boarding school, local Yup’ik Catholics worshiped in the school chapel. Parishioners longed to have their own worship space, and in 1973, the Church of the Nativity was built.

Keeping up with repair in remote bush Alaska is not an easy task. The resources and funds are quite limited. When St. Marys church was built, the Diocese had 41 priests, 8 religious brothers, and 28 religious sisters. Today, the number has declined to 15 priests, 26 active deacons, 2 religious brothers, and 4 religious sisters. The pool of church-builders has become limited with the declining number of church workers. The Church of the Nativity is subsidized by the Diocese, receiving funds to maintain operation. The Mission Diocese receives most of its funding from donations from outside the diocese. Last month, the diocese lost Fr. Ted Kestler, S.J., who was the pastor of St. Marys church. He was 72 years old at the time of his death, and was caring for three additional parishes. As pastor he was unable to make the necessary repairs without help. When the Petoskey Men arrived to help repair the church, they were welcomed with great enthusiasm and appreciation from local parishioners.

The Inspiration

The notion of traveling to Alaska to help repair a church was initiated when Bob Fate and Jeff Haven attended a presentation given by Bishop Chad Zielinski at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish, in Petoskey, Michigan. Bishop Chad had returned to his former diocese where he was ordained. He was traveling through the Diocese of Gaylord as part of an appeal for assistance for the Diocese of Fairbanks. Jeff described the moment he felt the desire to volunteer, “It was staggering that our Catholic brothers and sisters and their churches were in such need, and we were both surprised

+ Fr. Ted Kestler, S.J. with Bob Fate.  
Bob Fate preparing to replace flooring.
under St. Mary’s Church, leveling building and removing old pilings.

Local volunteers in St. Marys, Steven Kelly and Michael Tai.

that volunteers weren’t performing missions there.” At the end of the presentation, Jeff Haven turned to Bob and said, “Let’s go do a mission there.”

Bob and Jeff were willing to fund the trip themselves but their pastor, Fr. Denny Stilwell, felt that it was very important for St. Francis Xavier parish to support the mission, so the group started raising funds in their local parish. They were able to raise the entire $5,300 needed through St. Francis Xavier, Knights of Columbus Council #923, and the Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord, Bishop Raica. Three local building supply companies, Preston Feather Building Centers, Home Depot, and ProBuild, donated over $1,000 in tools.

Though the group had plenty of eager volunteers, due to the challenges in logistics, the group was asked by the Diocese of Fairbanks to limit the mission to three people, so Jeff approached Danny Monshor, a very close friend and relative, to inquire if he had any interest in joining the mission. Bob Fate and Danny Monshor are licensed contractors and Jeff Haven is a self-taught carpenter, plumber, and electrician.

In April, Bob and Jeff discovered that the trip was approved through an email from Bishop Chad and Diocesan Engineer, Cindy Jacobson, saying “I understand you’re coming to Alaska this summer to help us?” Jeff turned to his wife and said, “Honey, I guess I’m going to Alaska!” With official approval, travel arrangements were quickly made while Cindy compiled a list of repair projects. Fully funded through donations, The Petoskey men were able to cover all their travel expenses, and the shipping of their tools and food. They brought
their own food in order to be self-sufficient, not burdening the parish. The diocese provided the building materials and some specialty equipment needed for the project.

The Trip

Because many of the original pilings which consisted of logs had rotted away, the main focus was on lifting and leveling the church. They also were to repair the roof, and replace rotted walls and drywall. There was a total of 18 projects in 3 different parishes, including building a new bell tower at St. Marys. From the time they left Michigan until they returned home, the trip lasted 11 days.

Sr. Kathy Radich, the Y-K Region Coordinator for the Diocese, said, “one of the most important things they did was mentor two local young men.” St. Marys residents, Steven Kelly and Michael Tai joined the volunteers, and were a tremendous help. Michael helped part of the time and Steven volunteered every day, working up to 12-15 hours day with the Petoskey men. So impressed were the Petoskey men that they wrote a letter of recommendation for Stephen who was looking for work. Jeff, referring to Steven and Michael, said, “We shared our food, praised them, shared our faith...”

With the extra helping hands, the Petoskey Men were able to complete the lifting and leveling of the church a full day early. It was hard work, lifting and jacking up the church, hauling out rotten logs and piles of garbage, and hauling the 100-pound pilings under the church. Because they were ahead of schedule, it allowed Jeff to travel to Marshall’s church to install a waterless toilet and travel to Pilot Station to do some electrical repairs while Bob and Danny finished all of the painting inside and out, built and mounted the bell tower, and spread the gravel for the new driveway in addition to numerous other projects at St. Marys.

Jeff said that his work in Marshall and Pilot Station was challenging, and he had a tight time line. “Due to the fact that I had never before installed a waterless toilet, had minimal tools available and no idea what was available in Marshall to work with, and only a couple of hours to figure out how to install this thing before we had to catch the 5:20 PM flight to Pilot Station. Let’s just say I felt a little pressure. Luckily, I was able to cobble some tools together and figured out how to install and vent the toilet without too much difficulty. Then I was able to remove a broken water pipe from the crawlspace behind the bathroom and run the waste tube down through the floor, and attached it into an unused sewer clean-out by making a fitting out of duct tape....we (Jeff and Sr. Ellen Callaghan, OSF) finished at 5:00 PM and made it to the airport in time to catch the 5:20 PM to Pilot Station. At Pilot Station that evening, I replaced ballasts in some of the ceiling lights that had apparently been burned out for a couple of years. I also replaced numerous cracked and broken fluorescent light covers.”

Native Culture

One of the rewards of volunteering was the exposure to the local native culture. The group was able to attend a potlatch ceremony, welcoming back students to the local school. There was native dancing with Fr. Ted participating in the ceremonies. The children apparently had not
seen too many bald people. When one child came up and rubbed the top of Jeff’s head saying it felt like a puppy, he was soon surrounded by children rubbing the top of his head. Another wonderful experience that took place before Sunday morning Mass was witnessing a female elder perform a native ceremony in Yu’pik, complete with incense and eagle feather. Then Father Ted immediately celebrated a Catholic Baptism during the Sunday Mass. The local people were so grateful for the volunteers that they shared their traditional foods such as moose goulash, salmon, and Akutaq.

Jeff shared that Steven was so appreciative of the the Petoskey men that he gave them a gift. “The night before we left, Stephen walked down to the church and told us his mother, his family, had a gift for us for all we had done for them while we were there. He took off his backpack and took out three fresh, cleaned silver salmon and gave them to us as a gift. The enormity of the gift was not lost on us. We were honored and it was difficult to not get a little emotional. We had him come back the next morning before we left and gave him some gifts we had brought, as well as the letter of recommendation that we had made up and all signed to hopefully help him find employment.”

The Impact

The experience was not only rewarding to the Church of the Nativity parish. Jeff shared, “I can honestly say for me personally that it’s changed me. It’s solidified what a gift our Catholic faith is. To see Fr. Ted and the Sisters give so much of themselves in such harsh, unforgiving surroundings has inspired me to make changes in my life here.” By not having to hire a repair crew the diocese probably saved somewhere between $36,000 and $40,000. Jeff said, “so we’re very proud of the fact that we were to create such a positive impact on the budget.”

When asked what he enjoyed most about the project, Jeff replied, “To me this is almost the hardest question to answer because there’s a lot of layers to it, but if I personally had to pick what I enjoyed most it was being able to accomplish everything that was most important to Fr. Ted, Sr. Kathy, and Sr. Ellen, and make them happy and proud of their little church. Being able to give Sr. Ellen a toilet so that she didn’t have to haul a honey bucket up and down stairs. Building a base for the pulpit so Fr. Ted didn’t have to prop it on a cardboard box during Mass. Building a new bell tower so the bell could be rung for Mass for the first time in six or seven years. There was nothing I didn’t enjoy quite honestly.”

In the 129-year history of the Catholic Church in Alaska, we have been blessed by people volunteering their time, sharing their talents, and donating to the church. Reflecting on 1 Peter 4:10, “as each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” The Diocese of Fairbanks wants to thank Bob Fate, Jeff Haven, and Danny Monshor for sharing their God-given gifts with the parishioners of the Church of the Nativity. We also want to thank all those who have given to the Diocese. The Diocese of Fairbanks could not be what it is without your support. Thank you.
A huge thank you to those parishes who have already submitted names for youth and adult safe environment training. Congratulations to Chevak who was the first parish to do so! They were closely followed by St. Marys, Toksook Bay, North Pole (St. Nicholas), Mt. Village, and Immaculate Conception (Fairbanks). Let’s continue working together to make this a banner year with early on youth training and adult preparation.

For ongoing training, VIRTUS offers our diocese complimentary opportunities for reading online monthly training bulletins. To sign up, visit Virtusonline.org. We have a limited number of slots available. Those who are registered but haven’t used this informative and free opportunity for the past year will have their name deleted so other interested parties may use it. Priests and administrators are strongly encouraged to use this service.

Our Safe Environment library for training children includes age appropriate materials pertaining to personal safety that conforms to Catholic teachings. Please call this office for obtaining the use of these through our free lending library. We also have training dvd’s for teachers and adults who work with youth.

Here’s something to think about when someone wishes to work with children: background checks work. Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children. If an adult has had difficulty with some boundaries that society sets, such as not driving while intoxicated or not disturbing the public peace, he or she may have difficulties with other boundaries, such as not hurting a child. Never forget that offenders lie. (USCCB)

This is why the Fairbanks Diocese requires all adults (including youth 16+) who work with children must first have a background check. Remember, two adults should always be in a room with a child or children. Keep doors locked that are not being used so a child cannot be trapped or forced into a bad situation within our parish and school.

If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, call Barbara Tolliver at 374-9516 or email barb@cbna.org. Blessings, and keep up the good work!

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**Official Catholic Directory**

The following parishes are overdue with submitting their Official Catholic Directory form. These forms need to be sent to David Schienle immediately or the Chancery can not report your information for next year’s Official Catholic Directory. If you have any questions feel free to contact David Schienle at library@cbna.org or (907) 374-9555.

- Alakanuk - St. Ignatius Church
- Aniak - St. Theresa Church
- Barrow - St. Patrick Church

- Bethel - Immaculate Conception Church
- Chefornak - St. Catherine of Siena Church
- Emmonak - Sacred Heart Church
- Kalskag - Immaculate Conception Church
- Newtok - Holy Family Church
- Nunam Iqua - St. Peter Church, mission of Alakanuk
- Pilot Station - St. Charles Spinola Church
- St. Michael - St. Michael Church
- Unalakleet - Holy Angels Church
KNOM Radio Station Dedicates the Tom & Florence Busch Digital Studios

By David Schienle

On July 14, 1971, the first official broadcast was heard: “Announcing the world’s newest radio station! This is KNOM, Nome, Alaska!” Forty-Five years later, the first Catholic radio station in the United States continues its award-winning tradition. This October the station dedicated its new “Tom & Florence Busch Digital Studios.” Times may have changed, but the quality of their broadcast has not.

The new digital studio is to help continue the station’s efficient production while allowing technicians from out-of-state to troubleshoot by remotely tapping into the station. Named after early volunteers, Tom and Florence Busch, it carries the memory of Tom, who passed away suddenly in 2010. Tom had witnessed changes to the radio station over the years.

The radio station was the dream of many who saw radio as a new way of serving and evangelizing. In 1968, a group of lay volunteers was organized and they helped plan and fundraise construction of the new radio station. The use of volunteers was an important element of operating the station. The first volunteer was Noralee Irvin, a volunteer at St. Marys. She worked in Nome part-time and donated her pay...
while volunteering at the station. Following shortly behind Noralee was Theresa “Tweet” Burik, also a volunteer from St. Marys Catholic Boarding School. She would become Office Manager of the station, volunteering for 20 years, until Bishop Kaniecki asked her to become his secretary at the Chancery in Fairbanks. Volunteers did not just work at the station; to help fund it, volunteer nurses would work at Nome’s hospital and donate their salaries.

One of the earliest volunteers was Tom Busch who arrived in Nome in 1970, to serve as Chief Engineer. One of his first tasks was dynamiting a 20 foot hole into the permafrost soil to make a concrete foundation for the station’s radio tower. He would see the construction of the tower and station, even being there for the station’s first broadcast. After working at KIAK in Fairbanks for two-years, he returned to KNOM in 1975 to become its General Manager, the first salaried employee of the station. He returned just in time to meet his future wife, Florence Francis, who was one of the volunteers that year. They married in 1977.

Tom served KNOM as its General Manager for 30 years. During that time, he saw many volunteers and changes to the station. In 1979, KNOM received the first of many Gabriel Awards for Radio Station of the Year. He saw the transition from vinyl records, to tapes, to digital. In the early 90s, construction began on the new volunteer housing and station buildings. In 1993, the station was expanded to broadcast FM. In 1997, the station had its first website, www.knom.org. The station survived several one-hundred-year storms such as the ones in 2004 and 2005. In 2008, the station created a Twitter account. In 2010, they added online coverage of the Iditarod sled-dog race.

While working at KNOM, Tom met several KNOM volunteers who would become priests working in the Diocese. Notably, former volunteers Fr. Mark Hoelsken, S.J. and Fr. Ross Tozzi. Fr. Hoelsken was part of the volunteer group of 1974-76 and again in 1977-78. Fr. Ross Tozzi arrived in 1989 as part of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and he stayed for three years. Even after leaving Nome, he would summer in Nome to help with their accounting. He became a diocesan priest on July 14, 2001, on the 30th anniversary of the station’s first broadcast. Fr. Ross was ordained just a block away from the radio station, at St. Joseph’s Church, in Nome.

It was fitting that Fr. Ross Tozzi helped dedicate the new Tom & Florence Busch Digital Studios. During his homily he said, “On this joyous occasion of the inauguration of KNOM’s digital studios, I bring the good tidings of our Bishop Chad Zielinski from Fairbanks. We congratulate and honor the many people who have served over the course of 45+ years. KNOM is truly an award winning radio station. We humbly ask our Lord to continue to send workers into the vineyard, dedicated men and women like Tom and Florence Busch who will: utilize technology with a human heart; express God’s compassion with tenderness; communicate with listeners one on one to help build and empower a sense of family; open doors to the divine.”
and welcome strangers; and who empower people to place their abilities and gifts at the service of the common good.”

Tom would become Development Director, handing the reigns of General Manager off to his friend Ric Schmidt in 2005. Ric continues the 45-year long mission of the radio station, this day. Every year, a new batch of lay volunteers arrive, contributing to the station and being influenced by their experiences. The dream of a Catholic radio station in Alaska lives on.

KNOM is a self-supporting radio station. To donate to the station visit www.knom.org. If you are interested in volunteering at the station or know someone who is interested, go to http://www.knom.org/wp/volunteer-for-knom-radio/ to learn more.
Timeline:
KNOM Radio Station History
from KNOM Website: http://www.knom.org/wp/our-mission/our-history/timeline/

1973
KNOM covers the very first Iditarod Sled-Dog Race: in part, using retired, 1950s-era taxicab radios.

1979
KNOM receives its very first Gabriel Award for Radio Station of the Year.

1984
KNOM transitions from vinyl records (LPs and 45 RPMs) to audio tapes for its regular music broadcasts.

1991
The original Community House – a 50-year-old building originally intended to be “temporary” housing – is finally demolished. Construction begins on the new volunteer dormitory. A new 80-foot tower is also built to house KNOM’s microwave dishes.

1993
KNOM signs on from its new studios, now completed. For the first time, the station broadcasts in FM, as well as AM.

1994
KNOM switches from analog tapes to a computer system for its broadcast audio.

1996
KNOM begins broadcasting 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, thanks to a major upgrade in the station’s computer system.

1997
KNOM goes online with the first iteration of this website: www.knom.org. The Nome Static – our newsletter – also goes online, with its first electronic issue.

1999
It’s a red-letter year for awards at KNOM. The National Association of Broadcasters honors the station with a Crystal Award (for Excellence in Community Service) and a Marconi Award (for Religious Station of the Year). The Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals gives KNOM its eleventh Gabriel for Radio Station of the Year, and the Alaska Broadcasters Association names KNOM the Alaska Community Station of Year.

2003
For the very first time, KNOM covers the Iditarod Sled-Dog Race online. Iditarod fans read race news from KNOM and listen to interviews from the trail at knomonthetrail.org; the site also “live-blogs” the minute-by-minute happenings of the Nome-Golovin Snowmachine Race.

2004
A powerful storm raises the ocean level by ten feet. The town of Nome loses electricity as ocean water floods homes and tosses immense logs and rocks the size of watermelons across Front Street.

2005
Nome is hit by a “once in a hundred years” storm – again (for the second year in a row!). The town loses power, and KNOM’s generator keeps the station on the air for 134 hours until electricity is restored.

2010
Powered by its standby diesel generators, KNOM is a conduit for emergency information; the station provides live, continuous coverage, as listeners tune in for news and information using battery-powered radios.
Prayer for Vocations

In three weeks time, the diocese lost two dedicated priests. Fr. Nelson Marilag served St. Raphael Church and St. Mark’s University Parish, in Fairbanks, and visited Immaculate Conception Parish, in Kalskag; Holy Family Church, in Holy Cross; St. Patrick Church, in Barrow; St. Theresa Church, in Aniak; and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, in Russian Mission. Fr. Ted Kestler, S.J., ministered in St. Catherine of Siena Church in Chefornak; St. Lawrence Church in Mountain Village; St. Charles Spinola Church in Pilot Station; and Church of the Nativity in Saint Marys. They will be greatly missed.

We are grateful for both priests’ service to the people of the Diocese of Fairbanks and ask that you join the Diocese in praying for vocations.

O God, Father of all Mercies, Provider of a bountiful Harvest, send Your Graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of You.

Open the hearts of Your children that they may discern Your Holy Will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ.

Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church’s needs, through Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Forever Strong - DVD

A troubled young rugby player is given the choice between jail or playing for a rival team coached by a man known for building not only championship teams, but championship boys. Based on a true story, Forever Strong offers stand up and cheer sports drama combined with the consequences of a strong ethical code to achieve victory on and off the field.

To borrow from the Catholic Library, visit the Chancery at 1316 Peger Rd, Fairbanks. The library is open from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.
To everyone, but especially to the Yup’ik people, I would like to share some things about my twin brother, Ted, (Teddy) Theodore Edward Kestler. We started life as two cells in our mother’s womb, almost 73 years ago. When we were born my mom and dad got a big surprise. I came first, which I always reminded Teddy, but the doctor said, “there is another one”…Teddy. The Holy Spirit was with us because we were very small. Ted weighed just over 3 pounds and I weighed just over 2 pounds. In 1943, it was a miracle that we lived.

I have often thought from the start that God had a plan for us. From a very young age, Ted wanted to be a priest. When other kids played army or baseball, Ted played being a priest. Back then the service was in Latin and he memorized the whole Mass.

We went to a Jesuit church and school. Our dad died when we were young and we moved to the farm. We had lots of chores and we had to have jobs to help my mom who was very ill and could barely afford to care for us. Ted worked as a box boy, riding his bike to work on weekends. He never complained. Once I needed a dress for the prom and didn’t have enough money. Ted gave me his money he was saving. So many times in his youth he helped others, asking nothing in return.

Ted was a math wiz and he helped so many students so they could graduate. Teddy knew his vocation early in life. He wanted to be a Jesuit and to help others. After his second year of college, he entered the Jesuits. After many years of study, he was ordained. As you know he taught high school and college. Teddy loved teaching and thought that it would be his vocation. God had another plan, he was sent to Alaska to work in the interior.

We all worried because Ted was not very handy at fixing things. We were concerned he would not survive in the wilderness. The priest that he took over for could fix anything, so Ted put a sign in the post office, “New Priest, can’t fix anything, needs help.” He had lots of help and found his calling.

The Jesuits brought him back to Gonzaga to help educate the young Jesuits. He asked to return to Alaska to live and work in your villages. For 26 years he was at home there.

I wish I had the words to tell you how much he loved you all. Ted and I were very close, we shared our lives but it was with you that he felt the spirit of God, your kindness to others, your sharing, your helpfulness, and your deep faith. Ted would say, “if only the rest of America could share your cultural values.” He always said, don’t worry about me, the villagers watch out for me and I watch out for them.

The last few years Ted has not been well and he worried that he would not be able to stay with you. I believe that Teddy will always be with you. I feel his presence and it gives me peace. He loved helping, teaching and sharing with you. Teddy took a vow of poverty but whatever he had he shared with others. He was my hero and I know he is at peace. I want to thank you for helping him to have such a wonderful journey.
Fr. Nelson Rivera Marilag, a missionary priest in the Diocese of Fairbanks, died suddenly on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at the Saint Ignatius Residence. He was 55 years old.

During his time in the Diocese of Fairbanks, Fr. Nelson was assigned as a visiting priest to Immaculate Conception Parish, in Kalskag; Holy Family Church, in Holy Cross; St. Patrick Church, in Barrow; St. Theresa Church, in Aniak; and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, in Russian Mission. He was Parochial Vicar of St. Raphael Church and St. Mark’s University Parish, in Fairbanks. He also assisted at Sacred Heart Cathedral and he served as the Chaplain for the Filipino Ministry, and to the Fairbanks Correctional Center.


In 2002, he transferred to the United States, serving as Parochial Vicar of St. Anthony Parish, in the Archdiocese of Anchorage. He volunteered to assist the Filipino Catholic Community in Barrow in 2010, flying back and forth from Anchorage to Barrow. Fr. Nelson
transferred to the Diocese of Fairbanks in 2012 to better serve the Filipino communities of Barrow and Fairbanks. He helped form the Filipino Catholic Community in Fairbanks and started the annual Simbang Gabi’ services at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

He became a United States Citizen on May 5, 2013. It was one of his proudest moments. Fr. Nelson loved Alaska and the people he served. He had an infectious laugh and a cheerful sense of humor. People wanted to be around him. When asked if he minded the constant travel and sometimes-harsh environment that a missionary priest in Alaska endures he answered, “I can handle it all just fine. That’s why I am here. I want to help. I want to be sent where I am most needed.” He will be remembered for living very simply, very humbly, and for treating people with extreme graciousness. He will be missed, especially by the people he served, his priest community, and by the staff of the churches and chancery offices. Sr. Marian Leaf, OSF, who resides in Aniak, Alaska, writes: “My four parishes are deeply grieved at losing him. But, I believe a person who dies suddenly, without warning, always leaves a gift. Fr. Nelson’s gift to us is a reminder of what is really important in life, a gift reminding us where our life is leading us, and a gift reminding us how much we love each other. Death always has a way of reminding us of our love.”

Fr. Nelson preached that you never know how God is going to call you. He discovered his calling to the priesthood by playing basketball in school, which would eventually lead him to the seminary and to the priesthood.

Bishop Chad Zielinski issued a statement describing Fr. Nelson as “a quiet and reserved man who exemplified a genuine gentleness of spirit and a kindness and charity that knew no bounds. He fully embraced a true virtue of poverty, as his room appeared to be that of a man who lived an ascetical life. May his living witness be a reminder to us all to embrace the simple life, show a deep care and concern for others through our generosity by serving the Body of Christ.”

Fr. Theodore E. Kestler, S.J., a Jesuit and missionary priest in the Diocese of Fairbanks, died suddenly on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, when the rectory caught fire in Chefornak, AK. He was 72 years old.

At the time of his death, Fr. Ted was assigned as a sacramental priest to St. Catherine of Siena Church, in Chefornak; St. Lawrence Church in Mountain Village; St. Charles Spinola Church, in Pilot Station; and Church of the Nativity, in Saint Marys. During his years of service to the Diocese of Fairbanks, he had been assigned as pastor to Kaltag-Nulato Missions, General Superior of Jesuits in Alaska, was stationed in Fairbanks and then at St. Marys, and he was also a staff member of the Native Ministry Training Program, in St. Marys.

He was born December 18, 1943, in Tacoma, Washington. In 1962, he graduated from Bethel Senior High school in Spanaway, WA. He then attended Central Washington State College in Ellensburg, and Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. He entered the
Jesuit novitiate at Sheridan, Oregon on September 7, 1964. He studied at Mount St. Michael in Spokane from 1966-69, then taught geometry and mathematics at Gonzaga Preparatory in Spokane from 1969-72. He did his theological studies at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California from 1972-75.

As a priest, Fr. Ted’s first assignment was at Bellarmine Preparatory in Tacoma Washington teaching mathematics and theology from 1975-1980. He did his tertianship with the Jesuit Order in Spokane from 1980-81 where he became interested in the Alaskan mission upon seeing a map of Alaska on a refrigerator with a note that read, “Bishop Whelan needs a priest in Alakanuk.” With the Alakanuk assignment already filled, Fr. Ted was assigned to Kaltag, arriving in October 1980. Between 1980 and 1982, he taught at Gonzaga Preparatory coming back and forth to Alaska when able. After making final vows, on September 7, 1982, he was assigned as pastor to the Kaltag-Nulato missions. In 1985, he was appointed rector of St. Michael’s Institute at Gonzaga University. He returned to Alaska in 1991, after being chosen as General Superior of Jesuits in Alaska. As Superior, he stationed himself in Fairbanks then moved to St. Marys in 1993. At the same time, he became pastoral minister and an instructor in the Native Ministry Training Program in St. Marys. Due to the decline in the number of Jesuits in Alaska, the Alaskan Mission was attached to Oregon Providence in 1999. Fr. Ted ceased being Jesuit Superior of the region. He stayed in Alaska ministering at St. Marys for the last 17 years of his life. At various times from the year 2000, he additionally served at Pilot Station, Mt. Village, and Chefornak.

HIPOW Meets Goal
Thank You!
Cass Ferree, Development Director/HIPOW Coordinator

This 2016 HIPOW Auction & Dinner was a success! We surpassed our goal of $600,000 and the feedback has been positive. All of the money raised at HIPOW directly supports the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks. Thank you to our local parishes and Diocese for the continued support. Thank you also to everyone who volunteered, attended, participated in online bidding from afar, donated and sponsored the event. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Here are some of the items auctioned this year:
- RAM 4x4 Pickup Truck
- 2008 Chevy Cobalt
- Alaska Airlines Miles
- Certificates for Photography
- 2016 Ski-Doo Tundra Sport
- Dinners with PACE teachers, the Director of Schools, CSF Athletic Director and more
- Baskets of Legos, homemade jam, spa goodies, etc.
- Toys
- Gift certificates around town (restaurants, car washes, clothing stores, nail salons, etc.)
- Art
- Paddle boards
- Overnight stays at Chena Hot Springs, the Mayflower Park Hotel in Seattle and more

HIPOW is held each year on the second Saturday in October. HIPOW 2017 dates are October 13 and 14. Monroe Foundation, Inc. is tasked with raising approximately $1.1 million annually to support the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks. The HIPOW Auction & Dinner is our largest fundraiser.
Confirmations

Bishop Chad visited Tununak, Chefornak, Chevak, and Nightmute in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region from October 9-13.

Above - Confirmation at St. Joseph Church, in Tununak. Below - Confirmation at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, in Nightmute
With Thanksgiving to Almighty God
The Archdiocese of Anchorage

Invites you to
SAVE THE DATE
for the Installation Mass of the
Fourth Archbishop of Anchorage

The Most Reverend
Paul Dennis Etienne, DD, STL

Please join us for

Solemn Evening Prayer
November 8, 2016 – 7:00 pm
Holy Family Cathedral
Anchorage, AK

Mass of Installation
November 9, 2016 – 2:00 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Co-Cathedral
Anchorage, AK
Hear the **BEEP** where you **SLEEP**

Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.

For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one sounds, they all sound.

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.

- Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.
- Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

www.usfa.fema.gov
www.nfpa.org
Don’t Wait — Check the Date!
Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms. Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

1. Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.

2. Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

3. Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.

4. Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.

A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.

Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.

Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor’s phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it’s safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.