



Holy Spirit

Catholic Parish and School

February 18, 2018

Worship Centers: Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 201 44th St. South Holy Family Chapel, 2800 Central Ave.
Parish Offices: 201 44th St. South Great Falls, MT 59405 Phone: (406)452-6491
Parish Office hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. – Noon
Fax: 452-6495 Email: hsparish@holyspiritgf.org Website: www.holyspiritgf.org

School: 2820 Central Avenue Phone: 761-5775
Email: jwichman@holyspiritgf.org web: www.holyspiritgfschool.org

Check out FORMED.org Our parish code is PGMYJZ

WE, the people of Holy Spirit Catholic Parish of Great Falls, Montana, created by God, centered in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, are sharing our journey of faith,

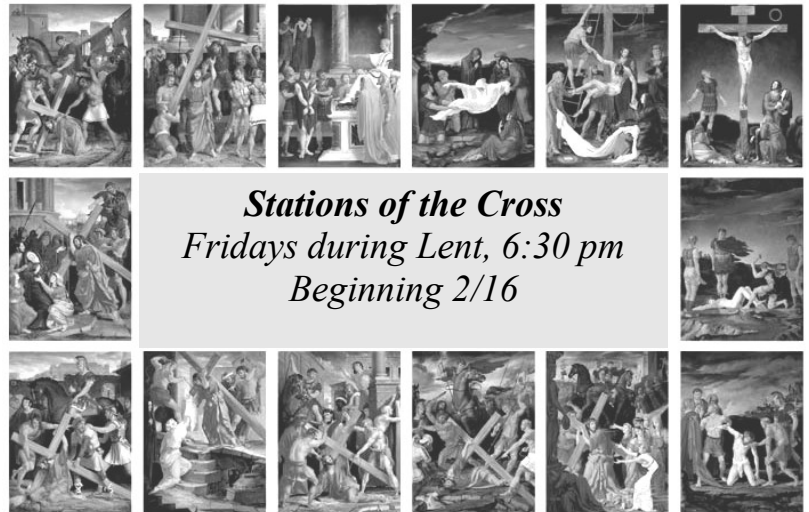
WE are committed to upholding our faith, strengthening our families, and being a joyful people of prayer.

WE strive to be the Lord's presence on earth by welcoming and ministering to all people with compassion and hope. Rev. March 1999

"We can think of Lent as a time to eradicate evil or cultivate virtue. A time to pull up weeds or plant good seeds. Which is better is clear, for the Christian ideal is always positive rather than negative." ~ Ven. Fulton J. Sheen

A MUST ATTEND EVENT **To enhance your LENT!**

Thursday Feb. 22, 5:30-7:45 pm
A Chicken Bisque Soup & home-made bread **supper**, music,
Social Justice **Presentation** "Call to
Ministry/Raising Awareness,
A testimony on lifelong commitment
to poverty and Great Falls community poverty statistics. We will finish
with a **meditation**.
Bring the whole family!



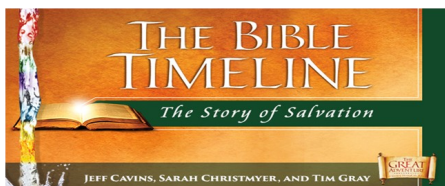
Stations of the Cross
Fridays during Lent, 6:30 pm
Beginning 2/16

Fellowship Dinner!
February 17, 5:30 pm
Hosted by Lady of Snows Circle
Please join us!

Due to the flu season
being so bad in Montana and Great
Falls, the Bishop is strongly suggesting
we refrain from the distribution of the
cup of the Precious Blood until there is
a curb in the number of victims. He
also recommends a verbal greeting for
the sign of peace and to hold hands
only with family members
during the Our Father.
Thank you for your understanding.

You can understand the Bible!

If you want a better understanding of our faith, and a deeper relationship with God, then you should join us for **The Bible Timeline Study**.
You are still welcome to join us! We meet at 1 pm on Sunday
afternoons in the parish hall.



The First Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018

Holy Spirit Parish Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Daily Mass Schedule

Holy Spirit Day Chapel:

Tuesdays 5:15 p.m., Wednesdays & Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

Park Place (3200 15th Ave. S) **2nd** Wednesday each month 2:30

Highgate (3000 11th Ave S) **3rd** Wednesday each month 1:30

Holy Family Chapel (2800 Central Avenue) Fridays 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturdays - 2-4 pm, Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 pm
or by appointment with a priest.



Holy Spirit Chapel is open for prayer before the

Blessed Sacrament: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4 pm
Friday 8:30 - 12.

Mass Intentions:

Mon., 2/19 - 8:30 am - Mary Philipps (sp int)	r/b kitchen crew
Tues., 2/20- 5:15 p.m. - +Harriet Biedscheid	r/b Maronicks
Wed., 2/21- 8:30 a.m, HF - ++Gene & Alice Meyer	r/b Meyer Kids
(Highgate) 1:30 pm - +Dave Dickman	r/b J & M Muretta
(Park Place) 2:30 pm, - +Ellie Scow	r/b R Liston
Thu., 2/22- 8:30 a.m - Anne Trunkle (sp int)	r/b S Krumvieda
Fri., 2/23- 8:30 a.m., HF - +Don Rearden	r/b L Diekhans
Sat., 2/24- 4:30 p.m.- +Kathy Marko	r/b C Nardinger
Sun., 2/25 - 8:30 a.m- Parishioners	
- 11:00 a.m.- Michael Ernst (sp int)	r/b Kelleys

Readings for next week: Second Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

2nd Reading: Romans 8:31b-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Coffee & Rolls Schedule

Feb 18: Knights of Columbus

Feb 25: Holy Spirit Catholic School

Bus Schedule:



Feb. 24: Cecilia Fuhrman, Therese Griffith

Feb. 25: Tony & Gus Nunez

What's Happening This Week...

Sunday:	Elem. Formation - 9:45 am	Sts. P&P
	Bible Timeline study - 1:00 pm	hall
	Youth Group ski trip -	Showdown
	Ministry Retreat - 2:30 pm	church
Tuesday:	Christian Service Comm. - 6:30 pm	Sts. P&P
	Worship Comm. - 7:00 pm	conf. Rm.
	<i>Perfectly Yourself</i> study group - 7:00 pm	Sts. P&P
Wednesday:	Elem. Formation - 6:30 pm	Sts P&P
Thursday:	Soup & Bread: "Call to Ministry" - 5:30 pm	Hall
	RCIA - 7 pm	Sts. P&P
Friday:	Stations of the Cross - 6:30 pm	church
Sunday:	Elem formation - 9:45 am	Sts. P&P
	Bible Timeline Study - 1:00 pm	hall
	Youth Group - 6:30 pm	Sts. P&P


Wit & Wisdom

"Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters." ~Albert Einstein

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Douglas Krings	Pastor
Dcn. Bill Medved	Deacon
Dcn. Pete Woelkers	Deacon, Adult Formation
Mark Meyer	Parish Administrator
Mary Dupuis	Worship, RCIA (Becoming Catholic)
Aubrey Rearden	DRE/Youth Minister
Cindy Eultgen	Christian Service/Elementary Formation
Mary Wingerter	Administrative Assistant
Chuck Osterman	Maintenance

Liturgical Ministers for February 24, 25

	4:30 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
 Holy Spirit Catholic Parish	★ Sub requested ~ log in to Web Terminal and accept the sub		
Bread Baker	V. Adkins H. Stubbs		
Holy Wash		C. Fuhrman	
Sacristan	S. Mohler	Monique Nickol	D. McFadden
Greeter	S Dunston/V Pedro D Medvec/H Vacek	C Ingman/DKoth J. & K. Wichman	J. Baje/G. Wilson J. & H. Houghton
Usher	F. Handwerk A. Klundt	J. Collins C. McKelvey	C. Rostad N. St. Claire NOT FILLED
Cross	R. Frazier-Harris	G. Thomas	A. Kasayka
Altar Servers	C. Hallahan B. Lorenz	C. Collins N. McKelvey	R. Harrington C. Kasayka
CLW		Catherine Lysterly	J. Bishop
Reader	B. Medvec M. Leach	T. McGonigal T. Hodges	E. Kasayka M. Kasayka
Gifts	Frazier-Harris Family	Thomas Family	S. Dalen « L. & M. Francis
NOTE: Euch Min: During this time of Flu, with the cup being withheld, the first 5 ministers to check in will be assigned as ministers. Pray that this ends soon.	W. Baker E. Becker T. Ewalt L. Ewalt Hans Fehres K. Frazier-Harris Abigail Leggett K. Leggett R. McDunn J. McKenna S. McKenna M. Ouellette B. Polacek K. Reed P. Woelkers	L. Durocher J. Durocher J. Gort K. Hodges I. Kelley E. Kelley S. Kohut K. Lakner K. McGuire C. Neu T. Neu V. Smith H. Smith J. Thomas P. Woelkers	T. Balyeat H. Boysun G. Boysun K. Byrne P. Byrne J. Byrne C. Christiaens L. Francis M. Francis S. Harrington Doug Nicholson Mike Stimac B. Williamson V. Williamson P. Woelkers

Care for Creation by Recycling

Bins are S. of Sts. Peter & Paul Center along the N. edge of the parking lot. Newspapers, Cardboard, and Aluminum.



	Schedule:	
Weekend	Newspaper	Cardboard
3rd (Feb. 16-22)	G. Kushnak	R. Shipley
4th (Feb. 23-Mar. 1)	D & P Birkenbuel	C. Nowak

The weekend starts on Friday (shifts are Friday to Thursday).

School Newspapers: Greg Bonilla

**Call Parish Office for information on RCIA,
Adult Formation or Marriage Preparation**

RCIA (Becoming Catholic) — a new team is forming! *Weekly* Thursday sessions, for unbaptized and those baptized in another faith tradition, every **Thursday, 7:00PM, at the Sts. Peter and Paul Center**. Enter from the parking lot, thru the door marked RCIA; the room is on the left. For initial contact Mary Dupuis at the parish offices 452-6491, ext 206.

RCIA Adapted for Children: for children age 7 or older who are not baptized, or baptized in another faith tradition: contact Mary Dupuis at the parish offices 452-6491.

Young Adult Ministry

Aubrey Rearden 452-6491 ext. 207 aubrey@holyspiritgf.org
Cell Phone: 868-6713 (call or text)

Hops & Hope

We're back in action!!! Looking for a casual opportunity to connect with other Catholic young adults? Hops & Hope is a great option to do just that. Come join us the last Thursday of each month beginning **February 22nd** @ Boston's at 6:30pm, we'll provide the food!

Youth Ministry

Aubrey Rearden 452-6491 ext. 207 aubrey@holyspiritgf.org
Cell Phone: 868-6713

Youth Group Sunday Nights 6:30-8:15pm

No Youth Group this Sunday February 18, 2018.

See you next week!

Calling all high school youth!!! **CYC Convention** in Helena is scheduled for March 9-11. Registration materials and are available in the book rack in the entrance of the church.

SEARCH 2018

March 16-18, 2018 Central Catholic High School

Search is a weekend retreat open to all high school youth who are looking to motivate, develop, and strengthen your personal relationship with Christ. It is 48 hours to focus your energy on spiritual growth. There will be talks, fund group activities, discussions, GREAT food and unique prayer experiences throughout the weekend. Cost for the weekend is \$50, applications are available in the parish office and will be handed out at Youth Group tonight. They must be returned to Aubrey no later than Sunday March 4, 2018.

Sacramental Preparation

Paige Nicholson 870-0706 pdnicholson1@charter.net

Please contact Paige Nicholson (our new Sacramental Prep Coordinator) to visit about preparation for Completion of Initiation (1st Sacraments). If you have not already turned in your registration form for Sacramental Prep. please do ASAP; those forms are available in the book rack in the entrance of church.

Encounter others with Catholic Relief Services: Join us with 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States during the 40 days of Lent as we encounter our neighbor. The first week of Lent we encounter Majid, where he, his family and others in Iraq, are forced to flee violence searching for stability. How are we to welcome the stranger and those searching for safety? Pick up a rice bowl, visit crsricebowl.org for more info.

Elementary Faith Formation

Pre-K thru 5th gr.

Sun. 9:30—10:45 am or Wed. 6:30—7:30 pm

@ Sts. Peter & Paul Center

Cindy Eultgen 452-6491 ext. 208 cindy@holyspiritgf.org



Classes this week: Sun 2/18 & Wed 2/21

Next week: Sun 2/25 & Wed 2/28

Holy Spirit School

Jim Wichman - Principal Melissa Hallahan, Vice-Principal
Judy Flint & Robin Verzuh, Administrative Assistants
Colette Longin, Development Director, clongin@holyspiritgf.org
761-5775 www.holyspiritgf.org

Are you wondering about a new school experience for your child? HSCS could be the ticket! We have so many opportunities for students including competitive sports programs, Science Club, Junior Toastmasters, and field trips for all ages! We enjoy weekly Mass, community service projects, praying together and playing together! Our students head into high school with the foundations of faith, knowledge, and service from their well-rounded education at HSCS. And with smaller class sizes, our teachers really get to know their students! We have an amazing village of parents, staff, students and alumni, and we invite your child, and you, to come be part of it! Schedule a tour today by calling 761-5775! For more information on the school please visit our website holy-spiritgfschool.org.

Christian Service

Cindy Eultgen 452-6491 ext. 208 cindy@holyspiritgf.org

Fellowship Dinner: This weekend. Saturday after the 4:30 pm Mass. Hosted by the Snows Circle, join us for Meatloaf, salad, veggies, rolls, & dessert Feb. 17.



Bereavement Ministry: a third planning meeting

will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 6:00 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul, you may enter off of 44th St. (from the front) or the alley behind (a shorter walk), all are welcome! Call Cindy for info.



Your contributions to the **Parish Relieve funds** (the Yellow Envelope via the collection basket or electronically) assists individuals in need through organizations such as **Family Promise**. Their thank you letters are posted on bulletin board along with some statistics from Sharon Odden, Executive Director: *2017 closed with an 86% success rate placing 19 of the 22 families we served ***over the last 3 years, we have served 81 families made up of 152 children and found permanent homes for 60 families** (who were once on the street, doubling up with family or friends or farming out their children are now sleeping in their own warm beds)*these children can now concentrate on school. **Thank you for the very real part that you play in our continued success.** We hope that you will visit our web page at

www.familypromisegf.org and like us on Facebook at Family-Promise-Great-Falls. Of course you are always welcome to visit us in person!



Stewardship



We leave the Ordinary Season behind for a few weeks as we, the Church, take time to retreat into the desert of our lives, to reflect on the call of Jesus within our spirits. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the center of everything we consciously choose in the Lenten Season. We closed our Family Promise week on February 11 having served 11 people (2 large families). These families are close to moving into their own homes. Please continue to pray for Family Promise Monsignor House. It is our Holy Spirit almsgiving every Season in the Church year.

We hosted a Family Promise training in the Parish Hall this past Thursday. Thank you to all of our parishioners who participated in the training led by Sharon Odden, Director for Family Promise Great Falls.

If you would like to be part of the team that organizes Family Promise for the Monsignor House please call Kathie Malby at 781-5033.

"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...." - Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

Worship

Mary Dupuis 452-6491 ex. 206 mdupuis@holyspiritgf.org



Musicians Rehearsals Wednesdays at 7:00pm. You are invited to join the music ministry ~ All voices and most instruments are welcome to help lead the music. For more info, contact Kody Diekhans at (406) 799-2626.

Q What happens at the Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names?

A On the First Sunday of Lent, the Church celebrates this rite with the catechumens. Most dioceses celebrate it at the diocesan cathedral during a Liturgy of the Word and not a Mass. After the homily, the catechumens are presented to the bishop. As their names are called, the catechumens may stand in their place or move into the sanctuary near the bishop so the assembly can see them. Once they are called, the bishop questions the godparents and the assembly to ensure the catechumens' readiness to be admitted to the sacraments of initiation. Then the bishop invites the catechumens to inscribe their name in the Book of the Elect. After everyone has signed the book, the bishop declares the catechumens to be members of the elect who will celebrate initiation at the next Easter Vigil. The liturgy continues with intercessions for the elect, a special prayer over them, and a dismissal.

Timothy A. Johnston, © 2017 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Art by Paula Wiggins.



S45

Parish Council of Catholic Women



PCCW is sponsoring a parish wide event on Saturday, March 3 at 10 am. We will be cleaning all the pews. We invite all men and women, and youth needing community volunteer hours. Bring a bucket, microfiber cloths, and we will supply the cleaner. Refreshments will be provided.

Courtesy Announcements

Big Sky Cum Christo is accepting application for Team Members and Candidates for upcoming Weekends, being held at the Heisey Center in Great Falls. Men's weekend is April 12-15 and Women's is April 19-22. Applications are online at www.bigskycumchristo.org and deadline is March 1. Call Chris Christiaens 590-4406 or Monica Woelkers 750-1668 for more information.

The Ursuline Centre is looking to fill a part-time cook position. The hours include a combination of days, evening and some weekends. Cooking or restaurant experience and background check required. Please submit resume to: Ursuline Centre 2300 Central Avenue Great Falls, MT 59401 or call 452-8585, ext. 104 for more information.



Mark your calendar for the next Great Falls Central Discovery Day on February 27th. Discovery Days are a great opportunity for current 8th graders to experience high school at Central for a day. Students will visit 9th grade classes in action, meet current Central students, and participate in an assembly to meet representatives from clubs, athletics, and music programs. Call the school Advancement Office at 216-3344 or email hsmith@greatfallscentral.org to reserve a spot.



Holy Spirit Parish supports 40 Days For Life! Our day to stand and pray peacefully near Planned Parenthood is Tuesday, February 27. Sign up for your preferred time slot at 40daysforlife.com/greatfalls or call Monica Woelkers 750-1668.

WEDDING RING FOUND after the 8:30 Mass on January 28. Please contact the office to claim.

The Diocese of Great Falls Billings is seeking 2 full-time temporary/seasonal grounds maintenance people for Mount Olivet Cemetery and other Diocesan properties. Duties include all aspects of lawn care as well as assisting in activities related to burials. Requires heavy lifting and strenuous physical work. Apply at diocesegfb.org, click on employment and fill out an application.

Single, divorced or widowed Catholic women age 18 and older are invited to participate in weekend retreats at St. Martin Monastery, Rapid City SD. This is an opportunity to "come and see" religious life and community living. Benedictine Weekends are held the 3rd weekend of every month (except June and July.) For more information contact Sr. Mary Wegher at (605) 343-8011 or email her at smarywegher@yahoo.com.



Saint Michael Radio ~ *FM 97.1
"Sharing the Splendor of Truth"



Catholic Church of Eastern Montana

DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

Founded 1904

Live the Gospel. Bring Light to the World

February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday

Dear Members of the Church of Eastern Montana,

The first lawsuit claiming sexual abuse by members of the clergy serving in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings was filed in February 2012. A second suit was filed in the summer of the same year. This eventually led to an initial mediation (March 2017 in Seattle) at which the decision was made to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization. This decision was agreed upon by all parties at the mediation. The bankruptcy was filed on March 31, 2017. Following the bar date of July 31, 2017, the total claims against the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings had risen to 86. Of the 86 claims against the Diocese, 22 are covered with insurance from Catholic Mutual. The remainder are uninsured, since they are alleged to have occurred before the Diocese first had insurance, which was in 1974. A second mediation (September 2017 in Reno) was unsuccessful.

On December 20, 2017, a separate additional complaint was filed asserting claims to real property and accounts of 14 parishes within the Diocese. The claims generally assert that parish savings and parish real property “belong” to the corporation of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Great Falls. The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings strongly disagrees with this claim and insists the Diocese holds these assets only in trust. We believe that the 14 affected parishes also disagree. These parishes include Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Billings, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Great Falls, Holy Spirit Parish in Great Falls (2), St. Bernard Parish in Billings, St. Patrick Co-Cathedral in Billings, St. Joseph Parish in Plentywood, St. Mary Parish in Livingston, St. Pius X Parish in Billings, St. John the Evangelist Parish in Baker, St. Bernard Church in Charlie Creek, St. Theresa Parish in Lambert, Corpus Christi Parish in Great Falls and St. Anthony Parish in Culbertson. These parishes have hired their own attorney to defend the parish assets which rightfully are theirs.

On Monday, February 12, 2018, Federal Bankruptcy Judge Jim Pappas stated that he was going to lift the stay on the cases of two of the 86 claimants and allow those two claimants to proceed to trial, which will be back in state court. Pursuant to long-established bankruptcy law, the Diocese’s filing of its Chapter 11 petition served to stay all of the abuse cases, which were pending in state court here in Great Falls. As Judge Pappas explained his decision, the outcome of those two lawsuits might serve to break the impasse at which the parties found themselves after that second mediation back in September. Those two claims allege sexual abuse from the 1970s and ‘80’s. It is not clear at this time when a trial would be scheduled. That is a decision which will be made by the state court judge to whom those cases were assigned. It is yet possible and hoped that an agreement could be made to resolve the claims prior to a trial. At the same time, Judge Pappas is going to allow a different lawsuit to go forward in the bankruptcy court, by which the claimants’ lawyers seek to establish that parish properties and funds really belong to the Diocese and therefore should be considered as available to be distributed to their clients. The parishes named in that lawsuit and the Diocese have separately answered those allegations, which we are contesting.

In the years since the abuse lawsuits were first filed, news articles and reports have periodically covered the ongoing process of these suits. Some of the reporting has been in error though most reports have been fair and accurate. I have had a number of meetings with priests of the Diocese and have tried to keep pastors thoroughly informed on these cases so that they could provide accurate information to parishioners. This letter is offered to you in order to keep you, the parishioners of the Diocese, updated and informed from my perspective, as Bishop of the Diocese.

As I noted above, these abuse suits were originally filed six years ago. It is likely that many people are wondering why it is taking so long to resolve them. Looking back, the first several years essentially involved waiting for the bankruptcy case with the Diocese of Helena to be resolved. The same attorneys involved with claims against the Diocese of Helena case are involved with the case against the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. It is only in the past couple of years that claimants’ attorneys began to concentrate on our diocese. This is what led to our filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The purpose of filing for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy was my attempt to seek a pastoral response that would be equitable to all those who were victims of abuse and at the same time allow the continuation of our ministries to the people of the Diocese.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

121 23rd Street South 406-727-6683
P. O. Box 1399 800-332-9998
Great Falls, MT 59403-1399 406-454-3480 (fax)
www.diocesegfb.org

At the present time, the Diocese, our insurer Catholic Mutual and the claimant's attorneys are at an impasse regarding what would fairly resolve the 86 claims against the Diocese. I have stated numerous times that my responsibility as bishop in this matter is twofold. The first is attending to the legitimate grievances and long-term harm inflicted upon someone by a minister serving on behalf of the Diocese. The second is providing pastoral support and spiritual guidance to present and future generations of the Diocese. It would be difficult for me to agree to a settlement that would severely, or even permanently, cripple the diocese.

In the mediations in which we have been involved, we have acted in good faith. As bishop, I truly want to have this matter resolved equitably and justly. I have personally met with a number of the 86 persons who have come forward and listened to their stories. They are quite compelling. At the same time, I am aware of the needs of other members of the Church who also have claims on the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings for pastoral care and spiritual support. It is unclear as I write this letter, what the next step will be in resolving this matter.

Most people are aware that we are not the sole Catholic diocese presently under Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. As I mentioned and as many of you may independently recall, the Diocese of Helena went through bankruptcy after it was faced with several hundred abuse claims. The Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis has been trying to resolve 453 abuse claims for longer than this diocese. Recently, US Bankruptcy Judge, Robert J. Kressel directed that the Archdiocese and the claimant's attorneys re-enter mediation. Having read his Joint Memorandum, I was struck by how well he expressed the issues involved in asking the various parties to come to a resolution. I quote extensively from his Joint Memorandum as a way to help you have some insight into the same process The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings is facing.

While the creditors committee seeks retribution for the wrongs suffered by victims, none of the people who committed the abuse in the first place or exacerbated it in the second place will suffer. The financial cost of compensation falls not on any of these people, but a completely different group of people. It falls on current employees, including priests, teachers, coaches, and on retired school librarians and others who have worked for the Archdiocese and the parishes and earned a modest retirement. The cost may fall on students at Catholic schools and their parents. It will fall on thousands of parishioners. And the cost will be born by beneficiaries of the charity and other good works by the Archdiocese and the parishes. So for all of the discussion about "the Archdiocese," "the creditors committee," "the parishes," "the insurance companies," this is really a case about people.

... a resolution of this case will require an agreement among the Archdiocese, the victims, the parishes, and the insurance companies. It means that those parties and their lawyers must put aside their desire to win and decide to put together a resolution that is fair to all of the people involved. The committee must put aside its desire for retribution. After all, whatever else the Archdiocese is, it is a corporation. Corporations do not suffer; only people suffer. The Archdiocese must put aside its desire to minimize pain, realizing that the personal pain its employees inflicted upon victims is inevitably going to result in financial pain being suffered by a new generation of parishioners and employees. The parishes who have been quick to blame the Archdiocese for the mess in which they find themselves, must consider the possibility of contributing something to compensate the victims of sexual abuse. The fact that the abuse may not be the legal responsibility of the parishes, which they vociferously argue, is hardly the point, anymore than their work to help the hungry and homeless are motivated by legal responsibilities. Even though the insurance companies have reached settlements, they too will have to return to the mediation process, in particular those that reached settlements with the debtor without the agreement of the creditors committee. While there is nothing nefarious about what they did, those settlements have certainly contributed to the creditors committee's animosity. (Case 15-30125, DOC 1172, Filed 12/28/17, Robert J. Kressel, US Bankruptcy Judge, US Bankruptcy Court District of Minnesota)

It has become obvious to me that a resolution is not going to happen any time in the near future. As we continue this process, I ask for your prayers that a just and equitable solution to these claims will occur.

In Christ,



Michael W. Warfel
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings