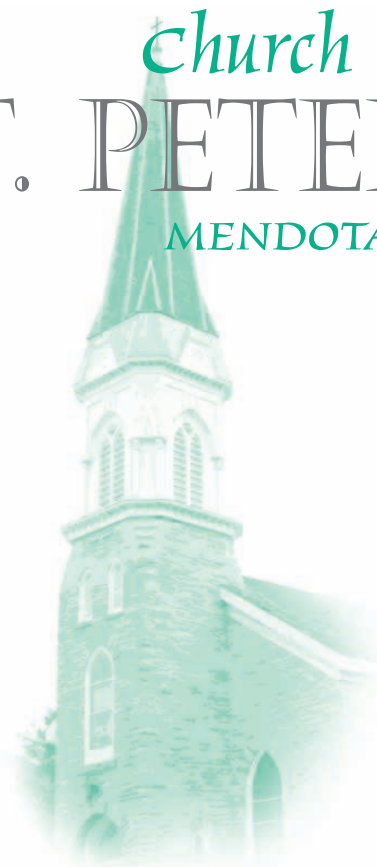


Church of ST. PETER MENDOTA



PASTOR:

Fr. Steven Hoffman 651-452-4550
Deacon Tim Hennessey 651-905-4301

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Lisa Amos 651-905-4304

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Mary Jubenville 651-905-4307

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION:

Kathy Raible, Director 651-905-4311
Elizabeth McCanna, Youth Coordinator 651-905-4312
Beth Halbert, Sunday School Coordinator ... 651-905-4313
Religious Education Information Line 651-905-4314

MUSIC and LITURGY:

David Dunst, Director 651-905-4323

COMMUNITY LIFE COORDINATOR:

Anne O'Keefe 651-905-4308

OFFICE STAFF:

Rita Holien, Bulletin-Website Coordinator... 651-905-4302
Carolyn Rynders, Parish Assistant 651-452-4550

MAINTENANCE:

Tom Deshler 651-905-4322
John Raible 651-452-4550

Parish Office: 651-452-4550

Office Hours: 8 am-4 pm Monday through Friday

Fax: 651-456-0646

E-mail: church@stpetersmendota.org

Parish School: Faithful Shepherd

651-406-4747, www.fscsmn.org

3355 Columbia Drive

Eagan, MN 55121



SUNDAY MASSES (all in the Main Church)

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9 am and 11 am

WEEKDAY MASSES (all in the Historic Church)

9 am Monday-Friday

HOLY DAYS As announced.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fridays, 8 to 8:45 am and Saturdays 3:30 to 4:45 pm
and also any time by appointment.

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Mary LeClair E-mail: maryleclair62@gmail.com
or call the parish office at 651-452-4550.

July 31, 2016
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OUR VISION

We envision St. Peter's to be a dynamic and growing parish through our: expressions of faith and worship, service to one another and the broader community, welcoming new members, compassion and ministry in pastoral care, and stewardship of God's gifts and blessings.

OUR MISSION

The Church of St. Peter, the first Catholic parish in Minnesota, serves as a cornerstone of faith and heritage, where we welcome all to celebrate and live as the Body of Christ. We embrace our commitment to continue this founding legacy, care for future generations, and advance the Kingdom of God.

Reflections from our Pastoral Associate

Many who know me know that I love to play with food. Not “playing” like my sons have a tendency to do, if left alone at the table with their dinosaur-shaped chicken nuggets. I enjoy learning about food, how to prepare it, how it affects our health and our moods, planning menus, and sharing my experiments - successes and failures alike - with others. Food, in all its forms and facets, with its ability to fuel us and give us pleasure, is an important topic to me.

Likewise, of all the rich and beautiful facets of our Catholic faith, the sacrament of nourishment is tremendously important to me. It is the certainty of Christ made flesh being offered for us and to us again and again, that first drew me back into loving relationship with God. It is this promise that anchors me here.

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) As it relates to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, there are two implications.

The first is a comfort - God took on human life in all of its fullness and with all of its limitations, to share our hopes, weaknesses, sufferings, joys, rejections, enemies, friendships, work and even death.

The second is sometimes much harder for us to reconcile ourselves with - God became our neighbor. He is in the house next door, the kids who keep us up with their loud music, the woman we know who always has a complaint, the drug dealer on the corner, the lonely widow no one visits, the child with leukemia, the family in the back pew with the crying toddler, and others so unknown to us we don't even consider them. I suspect that, like me, the tragedies and challenges of the last few months, have you steeling yourself before opening the morning paper, turning on the TV news, or scrolling through your Facebook feed. What might have happened now? Will there be any evidence of remedy? How many of my friends will I be compelled to block from my news feed today, because I can't read one more negative post or article that chooses one side over another and disregards anyone who doesn't see the world exactly as they do?

I see a few things happening that cause me to ponder the disconnect that I see every day among the people I know and encounter.

The first is that more of them are growing increasingly hopeless that much is going to change, while simultaneously digging their heels into the ground of their opinions. It is hard to fault them, because everyone is dug in, and so we - all of us - are less confident in soft landing

on the field of debate and conversation.

At the same time, I see on Facebook, read on blogs and even hear in Weight Watchers meetings, the modern version of chain letters and bumper stickers with flowery and appealing sayings about loving God and being kind to one another. People who don't even know they are hungry - starving- for Jesus Christ are nonetheless at least moved to find sparks of hope.

However, the third and most disturbing thing I see in this is that very few are coming to the realization that the answer to the growing hopelessness they feel is there in the easily copied, stripped down but appealing one-off daisy posts we scroll by every day. What if we were all to truly take His Word to heart and read those words through that lens? What if every news article, commentary and internet post was interpreted only in the context of God's great sacrifice and plan, whatever its source and level of agreement with our own views?

This then, I believe, is what the world needs from us today. We, those who not only believe but are nourished by Him day after day, have a unique and privileged opportunity to share what we know is the answer.

Embracing the story of God's coming among us carries the responsibility to reflect upon what meaning it has in our own lives. We must ask ourselves, “Am I truly allowing myself to be affected by the Food of my faith?” If so, then we will be driven to respond differently, to redefine “neighbor,” to be less prone to dig in, to read and watch, touched from the inside outward as Christ, to choose not to scroll by but to say, “There is Hope. His name is Jesus, and He has already saved you.”

Eucharistic Adoration Coordinator Opening

After six years of generous service coordinating our Eucharistic Adoration with grace, dedication and love, George and Jane Vasiliou will be moving on to the next place God is leading them to share their many gifts. Although we are sad to see them leave this ministry, we are excited for whatever they will be applying themselves to in the future. Thank you George and Jane, for your time, your prayers and your commitment.

This also opens the door for whoever God is calling to this ministry now. The Vasiliou's will work with whomever comes forward. If you have a devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, organizational talents and a willingness to work with Fr. Steven and Lisa Amos in bringing the gift of Eucharistic Adoration to as many as possible here at St. Peter's, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org. Co-coordinators or teams are also welcome.

Religious Education/ Faith Formation (RE/FF)

Religious Education Preschool through Grade 8

Please remember to register for the 2016 - 2017 school year if you have not yet done so. Register online by going to St. Peter's website at www.stpetersmendota.org and clicking on the Faith Formation tab. In the drop down box, click on RE/FF Registration for 2016-17 and follow the directions located there. **The registration deadline was May 15. There will now be a late fee charged.** Please note that this is only for children ages 3 ½ yrs through Grade 8 in the fall of 2016.

Religious Education Programs (Preschool – Grade 8) for 2016-2017

- **Sunday School:** For ages 3 ½ through Kindergarten. Classes are held on Sunday mornings during the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Classes begin September 25, 2016.
- **Grades 1 - 5:** Classes are held on Wednesdays. There are two sessions: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Classes begin on September 28, 2016.
- **Grade 6 - 8:** Classes are held on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Classes begin on September 28, 2016.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Preparation

- When you register your child for the Grade 2 class, he/she is in the First Reconciliation and First Eucharist programs.
- The Grade 2 classes are mostly held on Wednesdays and follow the Elementary schedule. However, there are several Tuesday evening classes that both child and parent need to attend.
- Children in Catholic schools must be prepared for the sacraments at their parish. Catholic schools do not prepare children to receive Reconciliation or First Eucharist.
- If you wish for your child to receive First Eucharist, he/she must first participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- If your child is older than Grade 2 and needs to be prepared for these Sacraments, please contact Kathy Raible at kraible@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4311.

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651-406-4747, www.fscsmn.org

FSCS Seeks Music Teacher

Part Time Music Teacher Needed

Faithful Shepherd Catholic School is seeking a part-time Music teacher for grades 4-8. The successful candidate will be responsible for classroom instruction, grades 5-8 choir, and weekly Mass music. If interested, please email Mike Randall at mrandall@fscsmn.org, or call him at 651-262-2885.



Vocation Day for Young Men/ Daughters of God Retreat

The Saint Paul Seminary

Young Catholic men and women, ages 12-17, who are interested in deepening their faith and better discerning God's calling in their life, are invited to this one-day event on Saturday, August 20, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (check in is at 8:30 a.m.). The cost is \$15 per person or \$30 family maximum. Lunch will be provided. Register by August 1 to get a FREE Vocations Day t-shirt! Parents are invited to an informational session following the 9 a.m. Mass. For more information and to register, visit www.archspm.org/VocationsDay. If you have questions, please contact Patty McQuillan at 651-962-6890 or Nancy Schulte Palacheck at 651-291-4489.

New Preschool Program at Faithful Shepherd

Sign up now for Fall 2016!

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Lake Area Discovery Center to bring a NAEYC-accredited, Parent Aware preschool program (ages 3-5 years old) to Faithful Shepherd Catholic School, beginning in the Fall of 2016! Registration is now open.

Faithful Shepherd Catholic School Discovery Center is designed to meet children's individual needs and learning styles. We believe parents are the first and most important teachers, and we encourage parents to experience the center with their child. Faith is an important component of our curriculum. Lessons built on our Catholic faith are written into our curriculum and children participate in singing and worship.

For more information about the preschool program at Faithful Shepherd, visit www.fscsmn.org/discovery-center-preschool/.

ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY NEWS

Free Tours of the Historic Church

Have you ever wanted to hear more about the history of our parish? The Historic Church will be open for tours every Sunday from 12 noon to 2 p.m. now through Labor Day. You do not need a reservation and there is no fee for the tours. Feel free to stop in and learn about your community's very own historic site!



Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis asks us to "live this Year in the light of the Lord's words: 'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.'" (cf. Lk 6:36) Participate throughout the year by making a pilgrimage to a Holy Door at the Cathedral of Saint Paul or Basilica of Saint Mary, regularly receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and participating in the #MercyWorks video challenge. Find additional ways to **pray, learn and act** at www.archspm.org/Mercy.

The Catholic Watchmen

Catholic Watchmen Night

The Catholic Watchmen is coming soon to our parish! The mission of the Catholic Watchmen is to respond to Bishop Cozzen's call for Catholic men to live up to their duty to be protectors, providers and leaders of their families. To accomplish this task, Catholic Watchmen learn and practice Seven Disciplines. Watch for more information to attend Monthly Catholic Watchmen Nights starting in September. Each Catholic Watchmen Night runs from 6:30-9:00 p.m. with a video presentation, social time and group discussion. We plan to provide food and beverage, as well as time for adoration and confession. Watch for more information over the summer! If you would like to be part of the parish vanguard or Core Team planning group, please contact the Catholic Watchmen Point Man at your parish, Jim Lodoen at 612-201-2910. To learn more about this initiative go to www.thecatholicwatchmen.com.



Fall Festival Planning Has Begun



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016

One Mass 10 a.m.

Festival 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

New this year:



The St. Peter's Country Store will have crafts and baked goods galore!

This year's Raffle is bigger and better! The grand prize is \$5,000, the 1st place prize is \$2,000 and the 2nd place prize is \$1,000! We will only sell 1,000 tickets! So act fast! The cost per ticket is \$25. Tickets go on sale August 13/14.

The Marv Nissel Polka Band will get your toes a-tapping!



Returning Favorites are:

Pork dinner, silent auction, kids games, concessions, Gaga Ball, inflatable obstacle course, bingo, wine raffle, face painting, 4 Square Tug-O-War, Minute-To-Win-It games, Historic Church tours and more.



Country Store and silent auction donations will be accepted in the Parish Office starting on August 1.

Are you interested in volunteering or donating items?

Contact Gail Barta at 651-454-9552 or e-mail Anne O'Keefe at aokeefe@stpetersmendota.org.



**Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend**

The Week of August 1

Monday, August 1

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
7 pm Boy Scout Meeting, Ravoux Room

Tuesday, August 2

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:30 am Adoration Before the Blessed Sacrament until 6 pm, Historic Church
9:30 am Women's Bible Study, Ravoux Room
10:30 am Mobile Meals, Off Campus
7 pm Fall Festival Meeting, Conference Room 1

Wednesday, August 3

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)

Thursday, August 4

- 9 am** Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
7 pm AA Meeting, Classroom 5

Friday, August 5

- 8 am** Confessions, Main Church
9 am Mass, Historic Church (8:40 rosary)
9:30 am Anointings, Historic Church

Saturday, August 6

- 9 and 10:30 am**
 AA Meeting, Classrooms 2, 4
10 am Saturday Scripture Study, Community Room
3:30 pm Confessions, Main Church
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
5 pm Mass, Main Church
6 pm New Parishioner Registration, Gathering Space

Sunday, August 7

- 8:30 am and 10:30 am**
 Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
9 am Mass, Main Church
11 am Mass, Main Church
After 9 and 11 am Masses
 New Parishioner Registration, Gathering Space



Parish Pastoral Council

Joseph Towle.....651-683-9250
 Paul Hirsch.....651-431-1832
 Sarah Larsen.....612-384-1474
 Maria Schwartz.....651-452-1796
 Alice Sheeler.....651-457-8119
 Nancy Stanton.....651-686-9009

Parish Pastoral Council Email:

ParishPastoralCouncil@stpetersmendota.org

Trustees:

Jim Oricchio.....651-452-3587
 Helen Wilkie.....651-365-1334

Readings for the Week of July 31

Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/
 Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21
Monday: Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79-80, 95,
 102/Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-21,
 29, 22-23/Mt 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10-13/Mt 15:21-28
Thursday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:12-15, 18-19/Mt
 16:13-23
Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35-36, 39, 41/
 Mt 16:24-28
Saturday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt
 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36
Next Sunday: Wis 18:6-9/Ps 33:1, 12, 18-22/Heb 11:1-
 2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 or
 12:35-40

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Mass Intentions

The following are the intentions remembered by the priest at Mass:

Monday, August 1 - †Mary Brady
Tuesday, August 2 - Ed and Betty Hoey
Wednesday, August 3 - Jerry and Barb Hirsch
Thursday, August 4 - †Lloyd Cizek
Friday, August 5 - Mary Joanne Breidenbach
Saturday, August 6 - Mass For The People
Sunday, August 7- 9 a.m. - †Kevin Berry
11 a.m. - †George Zirnhelt

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Be Renewed by God's Mercy

Pope Francis said, "Let's not forget that God forgives and God forgives always." If you or someone you love is grieving the loss of a child or children to abortion, come and experience the compassionate mercy of Jesus Christ on our weekend retreat. Rachel's Vineyard Twin Cities' retreats are open to anyone impacted by abortion - women, men, grandparents, siblings and health care professionals. The next retreat is August 5-7, in the Twin Cities area. For more information contact Nancy at rachels@rvineyardmn.org, call 763-250-9313, or see www.rvineyardmn.org.

The Gift of Being Grand

The Gift of Being Grandparents

Mark your calendar to attend *The Gift of Being Grand Catholic Grandparent Conference* on Saturday, August 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with Anticipatory Mass at 4 p.m., at Mary, Mother of the Church, 3333 Cliff Road East in Burnsville to learn how you can be equipped to pass on a Heritage of Faith. Join others for a conference unlike any other, where you will:

- Hear what God says about the role of grandparents.
- Gain ideas to strengthen your relationship with both adult children and grandchildren.
- Discover how to encourage faith in your own children – it's never too late.
- Learn about a parish plan to equip other grandparents at your church.
- Connect with other grandparents for encouragement.
- Reclaim a vision for intentional grand parenting and building faith in your family.

Grandparents are invited to take part in a survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WJHYQ5Y. The results from the survey will be utilized at the conference and be part of a resource book. The conference will include presentations with Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Jeff Cavins, Judy Cozzens, Katherine Kersten and so much more. The cost is \$25 per person/\$45 per couple before August 1 and \$30 per person/\$55 per couple after August 1. Register online or send in a registration form. Find all details at www.CatholicGrandparenting.org. Contact Susanna Bolle at bolles@archspm.org or 651-291-4411 if you have questions.

Growing Through Loss

Grief Ministry Opportunities

St. Peter's is part of a coalition of local churches that presents Growing Through Loss, a program of support and information for persons who are experiencing grief. Small group facilitators are needed for this coming year. Training is provided.

If you are a good listener and wish to minister to those experiencing grief, this ministry may be for you. If you are interested in sharing your gifts in this wonderful ministry, please contact Lisa Amos at 651-905-4304 or lamos@stpetersmendota.org for more information.

Marriage Encounter

Renew or rediscover your love for each other by attending the August 13-14 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, 7984 West 257th Street in Farmington. For information or to register, visit www.marriages.org or you can call Mary Jackson at 651-454-3238.



Neighbors, Inc.

Summer is a busy time in the food shelf. Kids are out of school and eating more meals at home, which can strain a family's budget. This makes Neighbors an even more important resource. We don't see as many food drives this time of year, since everyone is trying to take advantage of the nice weather, so we're thankful that we had a great spring and are generally able to keep up with demand. That said, there are a few things we could use. They're listed at the end of this article.

A big thank you to everyone who is growing produce for the food shelf! We have been seeing the harvest start to roll in, and it looks delicious!

Most Needed Items

Juice
Shampoo
Feminine Products
Toothbrushes
Laundry Soap
Shaving Supplies



Catechetical Institute

Continue to Learn and Live the Catholic Faith.

**Come discover the plan that will transform your work,
your marriage, your family, your community...
your life!**

This fall, the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute will begin another two-year course at The Saint Paul Seminary campus. This course is taught by some of the best instructors in the Twin Cities, such as Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Jeff Cavins, Deacon Joe Michalak, Fr. John Klockeman, Dr. Bill Stevenson, Dr. Todd Flanders, Christina Smith and more. The program follows the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and will make sense of all things Catholic, deepen your faith, and lay out the roadmap to heaven.

The classes are divided into four eleven-week modules and meet on Monday evenings, from 7 to 9 p.m, with two Saturday morning formative sessions per module. Applications are now being accepted **through July 31** (extended deadline), for the class beginning in September. For more information and an application to become part of the Class of St. Teresa of Calcutta, call (651)962-5028 or visit www.CIstudent.com.



Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests

A beautiful prayer ministry opportunity awaits you at St. Mary's Chapel at the St. Paul Seminary located on the University of St. Thomas campus in St. Paul. Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests is held each Thursday, September through May. Adorers commit to 1 hour shifts. The schedule coincides with the academic calendar for the University of St. Thomas. Two people are needed for each hour, with some hours being filled by three or four adorers. Adoration hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m with a break between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Mass is offered at 11:35 a.m. Please contact St. Peter's parishioner, Teresa Lodoen, at 952-707-0539 for further information or to sign up.



Three Great Options To Help The Bridging Mission

Through the effective reuse of donated items, Bridging improves lives by providing quality furniture and household goods to those transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. We serve over 80 households each week who are given a sense of dignity as they rebuild their lives.

ORGANIZE A BLANKET DRIVE – OUR GREATEST NEED THIS SUMMER!

What: Help us provide blankets for every bed we provide at Bridging! New and gently-used blankets/comforters of all sizes wanted; throw, twin, full, queen and king.

BOOK A GROUP VOLUNTEER PROJECT: HANDS-ON IN THE WAREHOUSE.

Where: Roseville OR Bloomington

Group Size: 5-25

Help us load/unload trucks, sort through donated goods, inspect linens and restock shelves.

SPONSOR A DRESSER-BUILD

Where: Roseville OR Bloomington OR a *location of your choice*

Group Size: 10 – 300+

Buy/sponsor and assemble new dressers for those in need. Kits in stock at Bridging. We'll help you determine how many dressers to build based on your budget and timeframe.

Visit www.bridging.org for more information.

You may call Sara King at the Bloomington location at 952-460-3750 or email her at sara.king@bridging.org.

You may also call Wendy Erickson at the Roseville location at 651-319-9295 or email her at wendy.erickson@bridging.org.

The Catholic Spirit's 15th Annual Leading With Faith Awards Banquet

Archbishop Bernard Hebda will present the "Leading With Faith" Awards at a noon luncheon banquet on Thursday, August 18, in Rauenhorst Hall, Coeur de Catherine Building at St. Catherine University, 2004 Randolph Ave., St. Paul. You are invited to come help us honor this year's winners. For reservations, go to www.archspm.org/Events. You can also call Mary Gibbs at 651-251-7709 or email her at gibbsm@archspm.org.

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**MISSION APPEALS FOR THE DIOCESE OF NAVRONGO-BOLGATANGA,
GHANA, WEST AFRICA**

As part of my visit to your parish for mission appeals, I'd like to share with you a brief biography of myself, the precise objective for the appeals and my connection to this project.

Rev. Fr. Solomon Yinwaat Soabil is my full name. I was born in 1972 in a small village located in Bolgatanga, Northern Ghana. After my graduation from college, I served one year of national service as a teacher before I entered the Saint Victor's Major Seminary, Tamale, also in Northern Ghana in 1994. After completing three years of Philosophy and four years of Theology, in addition to a mandatory one year of pastoral experience, I was ordained to the priesthood in August of 2002.

My first appointment was to a rural parish where I worked for one year as an assistant pastor. Later, I was transferred to Notre Dame Minor Seminary Senior High School to teach Religious and Moral Education, Christian Religious Studies and to be the Chaplain and Spiritual Director to both staff and students. In 2007, I was appointed the Diocesan Vocations Director, a responsibility which entails recruiting young men and helping train them to become priests for Mother Church. These were my assignments until August, 2014 when my Bishop, Most Rev. Alfred Agyenta, sent me to the United States to further my education.

I graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Educational Leadership and Administration in May from the University of Saint Thomas in St. Paul, and am continuing with the doctorate degree in Leadership. I am a resident of the Saint Paul Seminary, School of Divinity.

The Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga is one of the 20 dioceses of the Church in Ghana and is located at the extreme north of the country, where it shares borders with Burkina Faso and Togo. The Diocesan population, currently estimated at 3 million, is mostly rural and agrarian. The Catholic population, according to the recent statistics, is 135,474. These are distributed among a total number of 14 parishes and 4 Rectorates. The current number of priests, most of whom are quite young, serving in these parishes is 62. In the diocese, there are a number of religious men and women, as well as some dedicated lay faithful, who support the clergy in the pastoral ministry.

The challenges of the diocese are enormous. One of the challenges, which is the focus for the appeals, is health care for the rural folk. As part of the healing ministry of Christ, which has been handed over to us as a Church, the diocese runs a number of clinics and health centers in the rural areas to cater to the health needs of all, especially pregnant women and children. Providing adequate medical equipment, drugs and food for good nutrition for the people in these areas remains a big challenge for the diocese. With the support of the Missionary

Cooperation Plan, under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, I am here on behalf of my bishop and the entire Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga to solicit support from you, the parishioners, for our health care delivery program which is a backbone to realizing our vision to becoming a self-reliant local church within the next four years.

As a priest of the Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga, where I was born and raised, coupled with my work experience in it since I began my seminary formation, I am intrinsically connected to this project. Having lived and worked in a rural parish for one full year in the diocese adds to my knowledge of the health care system in the rural areas, thus making me passionately connected to the project and willing to share my experience with you. In my first station, not only did I administer the Seven Sacraments, but I also had to minister as an ambulance ‘driver’ so to speak. There were times I had to carry children or pregnant women on my motor cycle to the urban health centers for medical attention, because those within the rural areas are not properly equipped to handle slightly complicated medical cases, and needless to say, no ambulance services are available. In fact, the most challenging event in this ministry was when one day I had to carry a woman in labor on my motorcycle to an urban health center so as to save both the life of the mother and the unborn baby. If the rural health centers were properly equipped, the difficulty of travelling long distances to the urban centers to seek medical care would not be necessary. Therefore, as part of the Diocesan Strategic Plan (DSP), acquiring sources of funding to equip the medical centers to promote health care delivery for the rural folk is, no doubt, a move in the right direction.

“If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor; if the Lord does not watch over the city, in vain does the watchman keep vigil.” (Psalm 127)[126] So also, if the Lord does not come to our aid as His instruments of healing and comfort, our efforts will be in vain. Let us pray that the Lord may accept what we give back to Him in service to the poor and the weak so that when we reappear before Him, we may hear Him say, *“Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; ... I was sick, and you cared for Me.”*

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Solomon Y. Soabil. You can call me at

612-707-6631 or email me at soayinso@yahoo.com.

Thank you so much for your generosity. May the Lord grant each and every one of you your hearts’ desires. God bless you all!!!

Church of St. Peter



Sunday, October 2, 2016
10:00 am Mass, 11:00 am-3:00pm Festival

*Don't miss out on our
new attractions!*

\$5000.00 Grand Prize Raffle

Raffle tickets will go on sale beginning
August 13, 14 after each Mass
Only 1000 tickets will be printed
Grand Prize \$5000.00
1st Place \$2000.00
2nd Place \$1000.00
\$25.00 per ticket

The Marv Nissel Polka Band

Come enjoy a brat and beer and listen to some
polka music under the tent.

The Country Store

Cakes, cookies, crafts and more for sale

*Bring your family and
friends!*

Silent Auction

Pork Dinner

Kids Games

Concessions

Gaga Ball

Inflatable Obstacle Course

Bingo

Wine Raffle

Face Painting

4 Square Tug-O-War

Minute-To-Win-It Games

Historic Church Tours

Please contact Gail Barta with any questions, 651-454-9552
1405 Highway 13, Mendota, 50679

