

World Day Of Prayer Events Set For Today

Church Women United of Yankton will be celebrating World Day of Prayer at 2 p.m. Friday, March 1, in the Gathering Place at Avera Sister James Center (Majestic Bluffs), 2111 W. 11th St., Yankton.

The theme this year was created by a group of women in France, "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me." Refreshments will be available after the event. Free will offerings will be accepted.

Church Service And Fish Fry Slated For Tabor

TABOR — Members of the Tabor America Legion invite the public to join them for church at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 2, and finish with a fish fry at 6-8 p.m.

The menu will include fish, potato salad and coleslaw. All Proceeds go to a new floor at the American Legion

Messiah In The Passover Demonstration

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER, a vivid and exciting demonstration showing how Jesus fulfilled the ancient feast of Passover, will be held at 6:30 p.m. March 13 at the First Assembly of God Church.

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER will be conducted by Brian Crawford of Chosen People Ministries. Chosen People Ministries is an over one hundred-year-old mission that was founded in 1894 by Leopold Cohn, a Hungarian rabbi who came to believe that Jesus is the Messiah promised by the Hebrew Scriptures. From humble beginnings in Brooklyn, New York, Chosen People Ministries has grown into a worldwide ministry to "the Jew first and to the Gentile."

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER begins with the traditional Passover Seder table — complete with all the articles of this important Jewish celebration. The speaker will explain the symbolic meanings of the various items of the Passover feast and highlight their relationship to the Last Supper that Messiah celebrated with the disciples, giving special emphasis on the redemptive significance of the crucifixion.

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER gives the Christian community insight into Jewish traditions so that the Jewish roots of Christianity can be better understood. This program also helps the Jewish and Christian communities understand their common heritage.

This meeting is open to the public, and First Assembly of God Church would like to invite the Christian as well as the Jewish community to attend. The church is located at 801 W 25th St. in Yankton. For more information please call 605-665-6362.

Spring Theology Institute Set For Yankton

Yankton's Sacred Heart Monastery announces its Spring Theology Institute on Saturday, March 16, running from 9 a.m.-noon in the Monastery Chapter Room in Yankton. The Rev. Thomas Nairn, OFM, will present, "Moral Decisions at the End of Life: Bringing Comfort and Healing to the Sick, the Dying, and the Lonely."

Fr. Nairn is a Franciscan priest and is senior director of ethics for the Catholic Health Association of the United States. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School and has taught in the U.S., Australia, Zimbabwe and Singapore. He has published many articles on health care ethics and has recently edited two volumes on Cardinal Bernardin's consistent ethic of life. He also provides ethics education for Avera leadership.

This Institute is third in the "Moral Matters" series on moral decision-making. Father Tom Nairn will focus on the moral principles surrounding health care decisions, focusing on end of life issues and their concrete application. His presentation should be of interest to all who have or will have to struggle with treatment decisions with family members, as well as medical professionals who work with terminal patients on a daily basis.

All are welcome to attend this free event. For planning purposes, register by e-mailing S. Marielle at mfrigge@mtmc.edu or calling 605-668-6000. For further information or to print out a flyer, you may find the Theology Institute page at http://www.yanktonbenefictines.org/PC_TheologyInstitute.html.

Pink Sisters Pray In Battered Area



The cloistered Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, better known as the "Pink Sisters" begin morning prayers in Mount Grace Chapel, February 15, 2013. The chapel and convent sits in the College Hill neighborhood of north St. Louis.

BY DOUG MOORE

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ST. LOUIS — During the day, the blocks surrounding St. Louis's Mount Grace Convent seem to reflect the tranquility inside the cloister walls. With the exception of the hum of traffic on nearby Interstate 70 and the church bells that ring hourly, it's a quiet neighborhood.

But as night falls, that all changes.

Gunfire fills the air. Police cruisers roam the College Hill neighborhood, officers frequently stopping to talk to those on the streets. City leaders often refer to this northeast neighborhood as one of the city's most dangerous.

Inside the convent, 24 cloistered nuns pray.

The order, better known as the Pink Sisters because of the color of their habits, prays around the clock. Since the convent and chapel opened in 1928, there has always been at least one sister kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament.

"This place is much different," said Sister Mary Catherine Smith, who came here 50 years ago. The superior of the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, Smith said the neighborhood changes began in the early 1980s when a guard had to be posted outside the chapel.

"Things started to get bad. People were getting accosted."

Visitors returning from prayer in the chapel would find their cars

broken into, she said. The chapel, once open 24 hours, now closes when the sun goes down. Copper thieves have stolen guttering at Mount Grace, but the sisters themselves have not had any problems.

"The Lord has really been protecting us," Smith said.

The changes made by the sisters reflect the decades-long decline of the neighborhood. A recent spate of violence has made College Hill a priority for police.

Two weeks ago, about 80 police officers converged on the troubled neighborhood, where Police Chief Sam Dotson pledged saturation of law enforcement until the violence stops.

At least three murders have occurred in the neighborhood this year, as well as other shootings. The violence outside the convent does not go unnoticed inside the convent.

"We hear gunshots, oh yes, and we pray nothing happens here," Smith said. She has a good relationship with the police sergeant who works the neighborhood. Smith has his cellphone number but hopes she won't have to use it.

The sisters are known as perpetual adorers, lifting up in prayer the needs of every heart. That can be a heavy burden, but it's one to which the nuns have committed their lives. About 400 nuns share the mission at 21 other Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters convents around the world.

The sisters living here at the 2 1/2-acre compound are from the Philippines, Germany, Holland,

Brazil, Puerto Rico and the U.S. They range in age from 30 to 91. They seldom leave the immaculate grounds, restricting most of their outdoor visits to a large garden surrounded by a tall stone wall. The cloister sustains itself financially through donations for daily prayers.

The sisters pray for the safety of those in wars around the world. They pray for a "good successor" to Pope Benedict XVI, who is resigning Feb. 28. They pray for the priests who guide congregations.

And they pray for the safety of their neighborhood.

Prayer requests come in various forms, including email.

"Prayer requests received through this Web site cannot be acknowledged in writing, but be assured that we are remembering them before the Blessed Sacrament," states the convent site. "We are pleased to join our prayers to yours for the intentions that you submit to us."

The nuns keep watch on the outside world by subscribing to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and reading news on the Internet.

"We know our current needs," Smith said. There is never a short prayer list.

The Rev. Tom Krosnicki serves as chaplain at Mount Grace and lives next door to the nuns. He walks the neighborhood daily, serving as eyes and ears for the sisters, who leave for little else than medical appointments. They vote absentee.

(Eleven of the sisters did, however, attend the Mass delivered by Pope John Paul II at the Edward Jones Dome during his visit to St. Louis in January 1999. Their prayers at that time implored God to bring good weather.)

The role of the sisters is an important one, Krosnicki said, but is not enough to turn around a crumbling part of the city.

"Prayer is important, but there are some systemic problems that have to be addressed," he said. "Family life, education and jobs."

One of the most beautiful green spaces in the neighborhood is the convent garden, surrounded by a towering stone wall and off-limits to the public. The view to the outside is mainly of rooftops.

Even that restricted view gives a clear picture: gutters dangling, chimneys leaning, shingles gone.

Visitors to the convent are buzzed in and met in the lobby by a nun peering through a small window in a door. They are directed to a parlor off the lobby. A few minutes later, the superior sister enters, talking with visitors through a wall of clear plastic lattice work.

When the nuns pray in the chapel, they do so at the altar. A gate separates them from the rest of the sanctuary, where at any time during the day a few people slide into a pew to pray. An electronic counter tallies just more than 600 visitors in the 90 hours a week the chapel is open.

Cloistered nuns dedicate themselves to a life of isolation so they can devote their time to prayer. Smith pauses only slightly when asked if she and the other nuns get lonely.

"The Lord is a great companion," she said. The nuns have a social time each day, but their TV is seldom used. They watched Stan Musial's Mass and plan to watch the election of a new pope and his installation.

The nuns have a blog, but the last entry wished visitors a Merry Christmas.

French said the increased police presence seems to be paying off, and he's grateful for the support.

"If they get the three or four (people) at the center of it all, everything will calm down," French said. "The real test is going to be what happens when (police) reduce their presence."

Meanwhile, the nuns at Mount Grace will be praying. As their website states: "Every distress and hardship in the world should find a vigorous response in our prayer."

French, raised in Catholic school, is not one to argue with that position.

"Everybody's got their own approach," he said. "Surely, we accept prayers."

CHURCH SCHEDULES

Abundant Life

ABUNDANT LIFE MINISTRIES. Pastors Butch and Barbara Hladky, 517 Burleigh, Yankton. 665-0889. Open for prayer daily. FRI Shabbat Service 6pm Youth Service 7pm. SUN. 10am Worship.

Alliance of Renewal Churches

LIVING WATER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. Sun. 10am Yankton Middle School (2000 Mulberry) Weds. 7pm Prayer. David Olson, pastor. (605)260-2138.

Assembly of God

First Assembly of God, 801 W 25th. (605)665-6362 (office). SUN. 10 am: Bible teaching sermons WED. 6:30pm Midweek service and Bible study for all ages. www.yanktonassembly.com

Baptist

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, 100 E. Douglas, Kevin Caskey, pastor, 665-0066. SUN. 9:30am Sunday School, 10:45pm Preaching Service, 4pm Preaching Service. THU. 7pm Preaching Service.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, 303 Ohio St., Wakonda. Mike Lindsay, pastor, (605)759-5020. SUNDAY Worship. 11:00a.m. evening 6:00pm WEDNESDAY Bible Study 12Noon.

HARVEST INDEPENDENT BAPTIST, 100 W. 3rd, Mission Hill. Pastor Nathan Martin, 668-0708 (ch.) 665-1481 (home). SUN. 9:30am SS. 10:30am Worship. 5:30pm Worship. WED. 7:00pm Worship.

YANKTON BAPTIST CHURCH, SBC, 607 East 15th St., Yankton, 665-7587. SUN. 9:30am Bible study, SS; 10:45am Worship. WED. 7pm Midweek service.

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Baptist

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, SUNDAY: 9:00 Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 Worship Service. MONDAY: Service broadcast 7:30pm Channels 3 & 98. WEDNESDAY 6:30pm AWANA, 7-8th Grade Youth Group: 7:00pm 9-12th Youth Group, Adult Bible Study. Pastor Jon Cooke, Associate Pastor Rick Slattery. www.cbchurch.com 2407 Broadway, (605)665-5594.

Bible Church

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH, 10:30 am Sundays Call Pastor Joel Finck for more information. (605)760-4701.

Catholic

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Sts. Peter & Paul), Bow Valley, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen (402)357-2400. Mass: Saturdays 5pm

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Sacred Heart), Wyanot, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen. (402)357-2400. Mass times, Sundays 11am.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Immaculate Conception), St. Helena, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen. (402)357-2400. Mass: Sundays 9am

MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE, Peace Chapel, MMC campus. SUN. 10am Mass with the Sisters in the Bishop Marty Chapel. Public is welcome to attend.

SACRED HEART, 509 Capital, Yankton, Rev. Mark Licht. pastor. 665-3655 (office). SAT. 4:30pm Mass. SUN. 8am, 9:30am, 11am Mass. THUR. 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 7:30pm Confessions.

ST. AGNES PARISH: SIGEL, rural Utica. SAT. 4pm Mass, confessions 1/2 hour before Mass. Father Daniel Moris.

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Bloomfield, NE. Fr. Michael Schmitz SUN. Mass: 10:30am; TUE. Mass: 8am; THUR. Mass: 8pm. Confessions: THUR. 6:30-6:55pm.

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1500 St. Benedict Drive, Yankton, Father Ken Luff, 664-6214 (church). Masses: SAT. 5pm. SUN. 8:30am&10:30am.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC, Jordyce, Neb. Rev. David Fulton. SUN. 10:30am Mass.

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Catholic

ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH, Menominee, Neb., Rev. David Fulton, pastor. SUN. 8:30am Mass.

ST. BONIFACE CHURCH, rural Freeman/Idylwilde. March WEEK-END Mass Saturdays 6:15pm. Holy week: Holy Thursday, March 28th at 7:00pm. Good Friday, March 29th at 5:00pm. Easter Vigil, March 31st at 9:00am.

ST. COLUMBA CHURCH, rural Irene/Mayfield. March WEEKEND Mass. Saturdays 4:30 pm. Holy week: Holy Thursday, March 28th at 7:00pm. Good Friday, March 29th at 5:00pm Easter Vigil, March 30th at 8:00pm Easter Sunday, March 31st at 10:00am.

ST. GEORGE CHURCH, Scotland, SD. Sundays 9:30 am. March WEEKEND Mass. Sundays 9:30am.Holy week: Holy Thursday, March 28th at 7:00pm Good Friday, March 29th at 5:00pm Easter Vigil, March 30th at 8:00pm Easter Sunday, March 31st at 10:00am.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC, Lesterville. SUN. 10:30am Mass. Father Daniel Moris.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Constance, Neb., Fr. David Fulton, pastor. SAT. Mass: 7:30pm.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC, Wakonda, Rev. Scott Trayner, 624-2697. SUN. 8:30am Mass.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA, Crofton, Neb. Fr. Michael Schmitz. SAT. Mass: 8:00am & 5:30pm. SUN. Mass: 8:30am. WED/FRI Masses: 8:15am. Confessions: WED. 11am-11:30am, SAT. 5-5:20pm.

ST. WENCESLAUS, Tabor, (605)463-2336. Father Daniel Moris. SAT. 7pm Mass. SUN. 8:30am Mass.

THE HOUSE OF MARY SHRINE, 6-mi. W. Yankton, Hwy.52. Masses: Monday 8:30 through October. Masses Saturday 9:00 every Saturday. Rosary Sunday 4:00. Rosary 4:00. Open 7 days a week for prayer. thehouseofmaryshrine.org

Christian

KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 19th&Burleigh, 665-6317. Joseph Mason, Pastor. 9am-SS; Worship 10:15am. Wed.- 7pm Kids for Christ/Adult Bible Study. www.kingswaychristianyankton.org

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Church of Christ

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1114 West 12th, Yankton, 665-6379. SUN. 9:30am Bible study; classes for all ages. 10:30am Worship.

Church of Jesus Christ

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS. 2300 Douglas, Yankton. Michael Maxwell (402)586-2645 Family History Ctr 665-0901. SUN. 10am Sacrament meeting.

Episcopal

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 517 Douglas, Yankton. Rev. James Pearson, (605)665-2456. Sunday 9:00 Serenity; 10:15 Holy Eucharist and Sunday School. Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist; 6:00 Soup Supper and Study.

Evangelical

Cornerstone Evangelical Church. Pastor Oliver Omanson, Stewart Elementary School; Morning Service 10 a.m. Wednesday College Bible Study 1306 Maple Street. Mike Stevens 665-8750.

EMMANUEL CHURCH We gather together for worship every Sunday at 9:30AM at the Yankton Middle School (2000 Mulberry Street). (605)665-0404 www.emmanuelyankton.com

Lutheran

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC: 305 W. 25th, Yankton, 665-8848. Rev. Dani Jo Ninke. SUN: 8:30am & 10:45 Worship, 9:45 Sunday School.

FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN, 44874 303rd St., Volin SD 57072, (605)267-2277. SUN. Worship Services 9:30am. Children's Education WED. Evening (WOW) 6:30-7:30pm.

FIRST AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 300 S. Carpenter St., Tripp. (605)935-6941 9:30am Sunday School; SUN. 10:45 Worship firsthope@santel.net

GAYVILLE-BERGEN LUTHERAN Pastor Ralph Egbert. (605)267-4342 (church) Church: 9:00am-GLC Worship, 10:15-SS, 9:15am-BLC SS, 10:30am-BLC Worship.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 200 South Wilson, Delmont. (605)935-6941. SUN 9am Worship. 10am Sunday school. firsthope@santel.net

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Lutheran

Martinus Lutheran Church, Utica. Pastor Dean Schroeder Sunday Divine Service 10:30am (605)589-3195 www.MartinusLutheran.org

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN, rural Irene. 263-3724. SUN. 9am Worship.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, LCMC/NALC, Menno. Pastor Theresa Jacobson Office 605-387-5241 Worship 9am, Brunch, SS 10:20am.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, LCMS, 12th and Elm, Springfield. Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. SUN. 8am Worship. 9am SS. THUR. 7pm Adult Bible study.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Synod, 201 E. 25th Street, Yankton, Pastor Christian Sulzle, (605)665-4793. Sunday 9:15 am Worship; 10:15 am Bible Study.1

South Dakota Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, MAIN STREET LIVING television program, 10a.m. (CST) on KDLT-NBC; and 11a.m. (CST) on KAUN-PAX; and 10a.m. (MST) on KKRA-PAX.

St. John Lutheran Church, Tyndall. Pastor Dean Schroeder. Sunday Divine Service: 8:30am (605)589-3195. www.StJohnsTyndallLCMS.org

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS), 1009 Jackson. David Gunderson, Pastor. SUN. 8am Worship, 9:15am Education Hour, 10:30am Worship.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 403 Broadway, Yankton, 665-7415. Worship: Saturday-5:30, Sunday-8:15./10:45 a.m.; SS, classes, Coffee fellowship-9:30a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Hartington/Crofton, NE, Amanda Jertson pastor; (402)254-6606. SUN. 9am Worship (Hartington), 10am SS (Hartington), 11am Worship (Crofton).

TRONDHJEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (AFLC), rural Volin. 263-3841. SUN. 9:15am; 10:30am Worship.

VANGEN LUTHERAN CHURCH, Mission Hill. 665-5426. Worship 9:30am.

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Non-Denominational

FAITH ALIVE, 501 Cedar St., Yankton. 665-4797. Contemporary Worship & Family Values. SUN: 10am service. WED. 7pm Care-Cells "Small Groups For Building Relationships" Various Locations.

GLORY CHRISTIAN CENTER, 901 E 11th St. Yankton. Gail Ryken, pastor, 665-2369. SUN. 10am Service. WED. 6pm Prayer. GC School, call (605)665-1988.

Presbyterian

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN (PC/USA), 206 E. 31st. 665-0448. Sun-10am worship, Coffee to follow. SS for kids 10:30am. Aired at 8pm Fri. on Ch. 3 & 98.

Reformed

RIVERVIEW REFORMED, 17th St. & Burleigh, Rev. Rodney Veldhuizen, pastor. 665-9204. SUN. 9:30am Worship, 10:15am SS. WED. Youth group & adult choir.

Seventh-Day

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST, 722 Locust St., Yankton, 665-1032. Worship Services: Saturday 9:30am & 11am. Pastor Nick Osborn (605)760-7791. Yankton Fruit Program.