

Fr. Simon Sez

Suicide Prevention Training for Faith Leaders: I attended this all-day training last Tuesday conducted by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Avera Behavioral Health. The focus was on South Dakota farmers and ranchers having increased stress which is leading to the increased need for mental health ministry and resources for communities on suicide prevention, intervention, postvention, and grief. If anyone is struggling with mental health, call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org. Helplinecenter.org has free 988 info, materials and a download “Healing After a Suicide Loss.” Go to sdsuicideprevention.org/SDSP for SD suicide prevention resources. Survivors Joining for Hope has a financial assistance program for survivors of suicide loss at resilienttoday.org or calling (605) 202-8988. Avera has a Farm & Rural Stress Hotline at 1-800-691-4336. They say ask the question, “Are you thinking about suicide?” “When it comes to suicide prevention, asking directly in a caring way can help provide hope, change the course of a life and prevent indescribable pain. So, speak up if you see the signs that someone might attempt suicide.” Go to Avera.org/AskTheQuestion. The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers works to bring Catholic mental health ministry to every parish. Go to catholicmhm.org. See various brochures posted on our bulletin boards.



Against the Current Diocese Email Newsletter: Did you know the diocese has a weekly email newsletter? This

newsletter is full of carefully curated Catholic content, including our Sunday Scripture Series, a weekly challenge, tips on living your baptismal call of missionary discipleship, new and fun ways to bring your faith into everyday life, news from the week through a Catholic lens, and much more. Visit sfatholic.org/newsletter to sign up!

Bishop’s Charity Fishing Tournaments: These are scheduled for Monday, June 5th at Big Stone City - Douthitt Park and Monday, June 12th, at Pierre - Oahe Downstream Recreation Area (located 5 miles north of Pierre) to benefit seminarian education and formation. We are excited to gather again in support of the future priests of our diocese! Join us as a sponsor, participant, or donor! To register your team contact the Catholic Community Foundation at 605-988-3765, or on-line at www.ccfesd.org.



What Are We To Do?: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Easter



Acts 2:14, 36–41
Psalm 23:1–6
1 Peter 2:20–25
John 10:1–10

Easter’s empty tomb is a call to conversion.

By this tomb, we should know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah, as Peter preaches in today’s First Reading.

He is the “Lord,” the divine Son that David foresaw at God’s right hand (see Psalms 110:1, 3; 132:10–11; Acts 2:34). And He is the Messiah that God had promised to shepherd the scattered flock of the house of Israel (see Ezekiel 34:11–14, 23; 37:24).

As we hear in today’s Gospel, Jesus is that Good Shepherd, sent to a people who were like sheep without a shepherd (see Mark 6:34; Numbers 27:16–17). He calls not only to the children of Israel but to all those far off from Him—to whomever the Lord wishes to hear His voice.

The call of the Good Shepherd leads to the restful waters of Baptism, to the anointing oil of Confirmation, and to the table and overflowing cup of the Eucharist, as we sing in today’s Psalm.

Again on this Sunday in Easter, we hear His voice calling us His own. He should awaken in us the response of those who heard Peter’s preaching. “What are we to do?” they cried.

We have been baptized. But each of us goes astray like sheep, as we hear in today’s Epistle. We still need daily to repent, to seek forgiveness of our sins, to separate ourselves further from this corrupt generation.

We are called to follow in the footsteps of the Shepherd of our souls. By His suffering He bore our sins in His body to free us from sin. But His suffering is also an example for us. From Him we should learn patience in our afflictions, to hand ourselves over to the will of God.

Jesus has gone ahead, has driven us through the dark valley of evil and death. His Cross has become the narrow gate through which we must pass to reach His empty tomb—the verdant pastures of life abundant.

St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology (www.stpaulcenter.com)