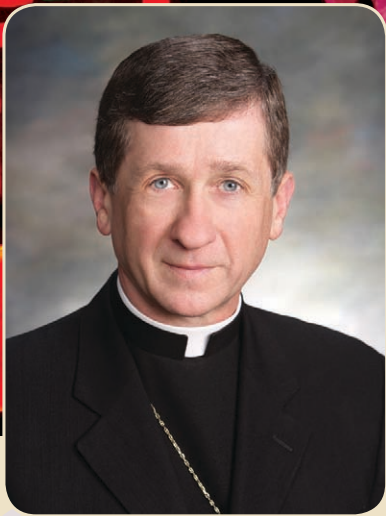


Message from Bishop Cupich



The St. Martin Monastery property has been a blessing to our diocese over the years. Now, it will be an even greater blessing, allowing us to greatly expand our Catholic school system by using facilities there that can easily be adapted into classrooms for children pre-school through fifth grade. Moving the younger children to the beautiful, secure facility at *Terra Sancta* will create more room for a middle school at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, giving more children the opportunity of a Catholic school education."

Bishop Blase Cupich
Diocese of Rapid City

Catholic education gave me the vision that God and the world are not separate. God infuses his life into all that we are and do. This is what makes life worth living!"

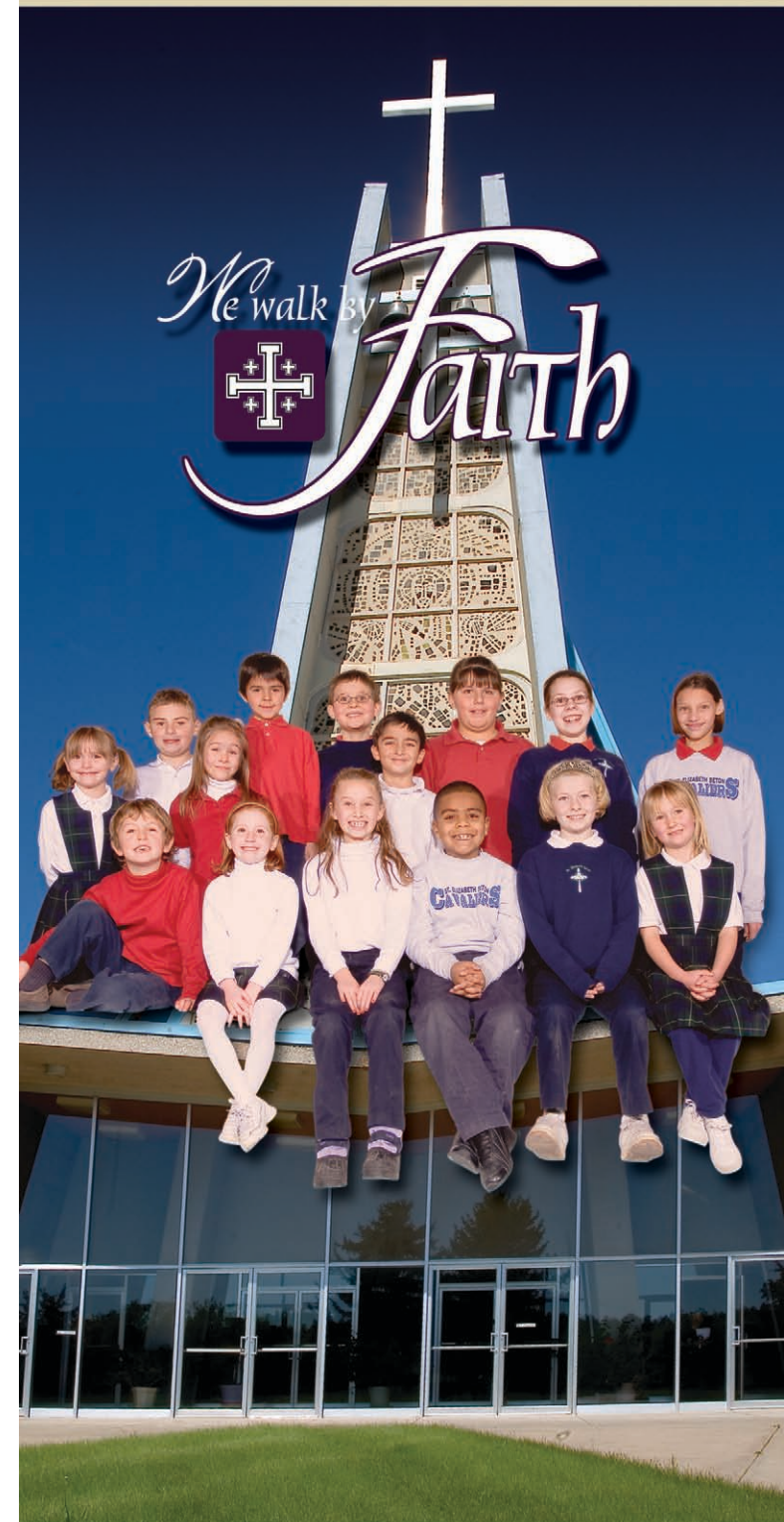
Father Peter Kovarik
Pastor of Hot Springs,
Custer, and Edgemont
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Elementary School at *Terra Sancta*

Our need

It is a great problem to have, but St. Elizabeth Seton School is bursting at the seams. Almost all of the original twenty classrooms have been split into two rooms to allow additional sections of each grade. Over the years, other programs have been added to the curriculum, such as technology, fine arts, and physical education. The gym also serves as the lunchroom. Every class, every program, every activity is currently challenged by space limitations.



Early on, Catholic education taught me the importance of bettering myself. It taught me to push myself mentally, physically, and spiritually. Students at Catholic schools are taught to realize the potential they have, instead of letting their gifts go waste."

Zachery Finley
St. Thomas More '06

Our opportunity

The purchase by the diocese and the Rapid City Catholic School System of the St. Martin Monastery from the Benedictine Sisters will allow additional space for the growing Catholic school system. Additionally, the school section of the building can be adapted quite easily to meet the academic and spiritual needs of the pre-school through fifth grade students in a spacious, safe, and secure setting.

Moving the younger students to the *Terra Sancta* campus will allow the current St. Elizabeth Seton building to become a middle school. It will alleviate the need to schedule classes for the middle school students at St. Thomas More High School, leaving more space and flexibility at the high school. Moving the grade school to *Terra Sancta* will improve the ability of the Rapid City Catholic School System to provide quality education for students in pre-school through fifth grade for many years to come.

The whole school system will be able to continue to grow, serving the needs of the Catholic community and the community at large.

The Rapid City Catholic School System enabled our children to benefit from attributes rarely found collectively within an educational institution: a Catholic/Christian environment, strong academics, successful extracurricular activities, and a profound sense of community."

Dr. Mike & Mary Statz, Parents



Estimated cost

An estimated budget for this first phase for the elementary school is \$4,989,006. This figure also includes a ten percent overrun allowance.

Together, with God's gracious hand, we can make this dream a reality and continue the great work we are doing in our Catholic schools."

Fr. Michel Mulloy
School Board Member

A mission of the whole Church

I applaud the wisdom of diocesan leaders in their plan to establish a new elementary school on the *Terra Sancta* grounds. By relocating the pre-school through fifth grade classes to *Terra Sancta*, we set the stage for the expansion of our middle school, making possible system-wide growth."

Barb Honeycutt

Superintendent of the Rapid City Catholic School System

Catholic education is a mission of the whole Church. Not only do children and families attending our Catholic schools benefit, but so do the diocese and the Catholic Church at large. The mission of the Rapid City Catholic Schools is "**Developing Personal and Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition.**"

We are preparing leaders of tomorrow and providing for them, just as our ancestors did for us. They made great sacrifices to build the churches and schools which we have inherited, now it is our turn to build on what we have received. It is our turn to leave a legacy of faith to those who will come after us, our children, and their children, for many decades to come.

