



Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to our young people the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation.

Give their parents that faith, love, and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood or religious life.

Let Your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents and let Your grace sustain them.

Amen.

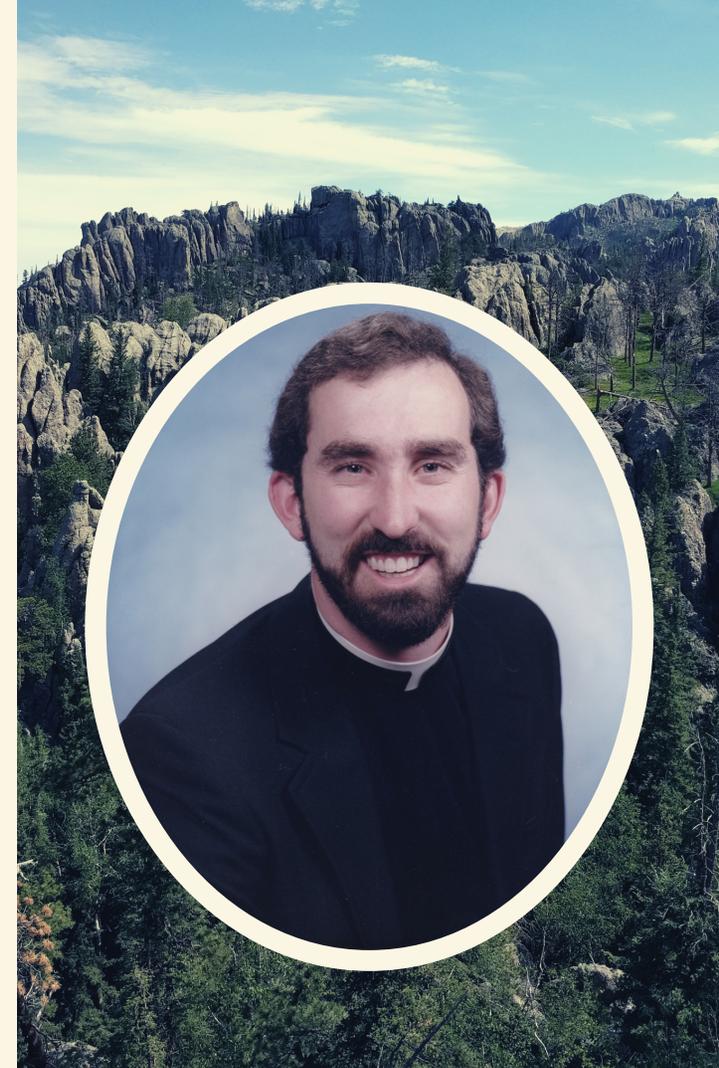
Have questions?
Want to know
more?

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In Steel and Stone

BUILDING FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND FAMILY



THE REV. PETER KOVARIK
MEMORIAL



TO CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT
VOCATIONS IN THE DIOCESE
OF RAPID CITY

FR. PETER KOVARIK

hometown vocation

Peter Mark Kovarik was born to Marge and Richard Kovarik on January 7, 1964 in Rapid City. He was baptized at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on January 19, 1964, attended Perpetual Help Grade School, and graduated from St. Martin's Academy in 1982. After attending the major seminary at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, MD, Peter was ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ by Archbishop Charles Chaput on June 6, 1991 at the Cathedral. He began his priestly ministry at Blessed Sacrament Parish and served as pastor in various parishes across the diocese.

Fr. Peter received an award for excellence for his ministry as a chaplain at the Fort Meade Veteran's Hospital. He was actively involved in many diocesan committees and boards, and notably took a sabbatical to attend the Institute for Continuing Theological Education at the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City.

Fr. Peter enjoyed landscaping and gardening at his various parishes. He was also an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hiking, flying, boating, hunting, and snowboarding among other outdoor activities. He appreciated home-cooked meals and spending time with parishioners, extended family members, and friends.



"PETER HAD A DEEP CONNECTION TO THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA. HE REVELED IN THE EXPANSIVENESS OF THE PRAIRIE AND THE GRANDEUR OF THE BLACK HILLS. MOST OF ALL HE HAD A HEARTFELT KINSHIP TO THE COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE HE SERVED. THROUGH EVERY DAY EVENTS LIKE SHARING A MEAL, A NATURE WALK, OR COMMEMORATING A LIFE EVENT, HE HELPED BRING GOD INTO PEOPLE'S LIVES IN A SPECIAL WAY.

TO CELEBRATE HIS LIFE, THIS MEMORIAL AT THE CHURCH WE'VE CALLED HOME FOR OVER 50 YEARS WILL BE A TRIBUTE TO HIS DEDICATION TO GOD AND TO THOSE HE SHEPHERDED TOWARD A DEEPER FAITH."

- the Kovarik Family

WHAT IS THE MEMORIAL?

As the Cathedral embarks on a historic effort to create additional space necessary to accomplish its mission of living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are identifying those men and women who, throughout the years, have helped to shape the hearts and souls of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are honoring those in our diocese who have accepted our Lord's call to priesthood and consecrated life. At the Cathedral, the Seat of our Bishop, we are commemorating those who dedicated their lives to serving our parishes across western South Dakota.

Through the memory of Fr. Peter's life, an example of a hometown boy's commitment to his Catholic faith and community, we are preserving a concrete testimony to his life and legacy in our new Parish Hall.

HOW CAN I GIVE?

Through your pledge to *In Steel and Stone*, you can designate a specific amount, or pledge, to the Fr. Peter Kovarik Memorial. Please indicate on your *In Steel and Stone* commitment card your intent to designate your pledge. Those who give in Fr. Peter's name may be publicly recognized unless they indicate otherwise.

To encourage and support this effort, the Kovarik Family has generously offered to match designated pledges made in Fr. Peter's name up to predetermined amount.

Please join us as we offer our prayers and support to the future of our parish family and promote the vocations of our future priests.

WHAT IF I ALREADY PLEDGED TO "IN STEEL AND STONE"?

Thank you for your pledge! You can still retroactively give to this effort. You may:

1. Fill out a new commitment card with a separate pledge to *In Steel and Stone* designated to the fund
2. Contact the Campaign Office to adjust a previous pledged commitment

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