

#### Summer, 2016 Volume 58 Number 3

#### Catholic Rural Life

(ISSN 1089-6570) is published by Catholic Rural Life (CRL) for its members. Our mission is to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ for the social, economic, and spiritual development of rural America with responsibility for the care of God's creation. By providing spiritual, educational, and advocacy assistance, CRL helps rural people shape their futures and lead lives of dignity.

#### CRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne Bishop of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Most Reverend Michael W. Warfel Bishop of Great Falls-Billings, Mont.

Most Reverend Edward J. Weisenburger Bishop of Salina, Kan.

> Most Reverend Brenden Cahill Bishop of Victoria, Tex.

**Mr. Ron Rosmann** Rosmann Family Farms, Harlan, Iowa

Reverend Gregory Mastey Pastor of Holdingford Area Catholic Community, Holdingford, Minn.

Sr. Esther Mary Nickel, RSM St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver, Colo.

Reverend Larry Snyder VP of Mission, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.

Ms. Anne Cullen Miller President, Catholic Community Foundation, St. Paul, Minn. Mr. Kelly Spiering

Farming is not just an occupation, but a calling from our Creator to a relationship with

photo: shutterstock.com

the earth.

Spiering Family Farms, Powell, Wyo.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Ennis STAFF: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT Peg Louiselle

POLICY COORDINATOR Robert Gronski COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Cari Donaldson

PROJECT COORDINATOR Annie Brickweg BOOKEEPER Mary LeVoir



MAGAZINE DESIGN Jared Roddy



Contents

# **Feature Stories**

The Call for Agricultural Leaders

<b>Advocate for Family Farmers</b> Doug Peterson is a man on a mission. — By Robert Gronski	9
<b>Technology &amp; Agriculture</b> Agriculture must advance, but its ideals must remain rooted in faith – By Cari Donaldson	12

### Sharing the Gift of Agriculture

Ron Rosmann recounts the lessons he learned on farming from his father — By Ron Rosmann

## **Commentaries**

### Faith and Farming Are My Vocations:

Seventy years of working God's earth and still learning	14
– By Fr. Nick Renner	

#### Faith, Farms & the Environment:

A Need for Dialogue and Conversion 18 – By Robert Gronski

### **News and Notes**

Kansas Family Honored

CRL News	4
<i>In This Issue - Executive Director Jim Ennis</i> The Birthing of <i>The Vocation of the Agricultural Leader</i>	6
The Sts. Isidore and Maria Exemplary Award	20