

The Nome Static

KNOM Radio Mission
PO Box 190649
Anchorage, AK 99519
(907) 868-1200

Transmission 724: June 2024

Visit us at knom.org

Dear Friend,

On June 2nd we celebrate the real presence of the body of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist – the Feast of Corpus Christi. “You are what you eat” is a saying one hears regularly. And it’s true. Eating shapes our identities, defines who we are. Food highlights ethnicity, nationality, and defines holidays and celebrations. We pour ourselves into those meals out of love.

The same thing happens every time we attend Mass. We gather as a community for a meal. When we receive the body of Christ we are challenged to become Jesus’ eyes, hands, and feet. We are sent out to the world with compassion to do good.

“We are what we eat.” We become the Body of Christ.

In the land of the midnight sun, KNOM radio waves provide spiritual communion prayers to remote regions of Western Alaska and to those unable to attend Mass in person. Thanks to you, KNOM can continue this important mission. We feel blessed every day by your kindness, generosity, and most importantly your friendship. If you have any prayer intentions or if you would simply like to say hello, we would love to hear from you.

Nome’s “Prom Closet” Sparks Styles & Smiles

The daughter of Ric and Lynette Schmidt has been busy. Rosa Wright, née Schmidt, is both a math teacher and the junior class advisor at Nome-Beltz Middle High School. She noticed that students attending the prom were underdressed due to limited options.

Nome high schoolers face many challenges when hunting for the right formal attire, such as cost, online shipping delays, and sizing differences. Wright wanted to ensure that all



Above: Nome Beltz senior Jeremiah Miller browses items at the Prom Closet at Nome-Beltz Middle High School. Photo courtesy of Sarah Swartz, KNOM.

students could fully partake in the occasion, regardless of their wardrobe limitations.

Wright posted on Facebook asking for clothing donations, resulting in an overwhelming response from a variety of contributors ranging from Anchorage to Nome to a former resident of Nome now living in the lower 48. Inspired by this outpouring of support, Wright established what she dubbed as the “Prom Closet,” a resource offering complimentary formal wear to students in need. Students are enjoying this resource, as one senior, Jeremiah Miller noted, “I’ve been using the prom closet, it is so helpful. Not everything is used, some of it is brand new, never been used or touched at all. So it’s really nice.”

Items in the closet are available for more than just prom. Costumes are borrowed and used in Nome-Beltz theater productions.

To donate formal wear, both womens and mens, contact Rosa Wright at rwright@nomeschools.org



Above: Quannah Chasinghorse at the Met Gala. Hair by Paula Peralta, make-up by Katey Denno, and accessories by Heather Dickson. Photo courtesy of Rafael S. Oropeza, used with permission.

Alaska Blooms in the Garden of Time

The 2024 Met Gala showcased “Garden of Time”-themed fashion. A notable attendee was model and actress Quannah Chasinghorse, a member of the Alaska-based Hän Gwich’in tribe. She has attended the Met three times and always makes a commitment to represent her heritage. This year, she worked with Tlingit artist, Heather Dixon, who designed the forget-me-not flower accessories, including a belt, earrings, and hair pieces. Dixon also incorporated caribou hair and moose hide.

In an interview, Chasinghorse said, “Living in Alaska, I’ve probably found between five to 10 forget-me-nots in my entire lifetime. That’s how rare they are,” Chasinghorse says of the Alaskan state flower. “They are a tiny, delicate flower. They’re really low to the ground and are so beautiful and have this pretty blue color... When you find and see them, it’s like a rare delicacy.”

Sharing the Word in Western Alaska

Today we celebrate Jesus leaving us a most important and precious gift: his presence, his own body and blood. At Christmas, we celebrated Jesus’ coming to us in history, being born into our earth. Today we celebrate Jesus’ coming to us in this mystery.

It is difficult to understand how these little pieces of bread become Jesus’ body and that the wine becomes Jesus’ blood, but this is what Jesus told us at the Last Supper: “This is my body, and this is my blood.” Jesus, really present in bread and wine!

What faith we need to believe this! What a great gift we have been given! What will we do with the gift we have received? How will we show care and respect for Jesus in this bread and wine? How will we show respect for those that receive Jesus in bread and wine? Are we grateful for Jesus’ presence in this sacred meal?

And how will you share the word this week?

— Patrick Tam, Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 2, 2024

Alaskan Athletes Get Seal of Approval

Youth from all over Alaska gathered in Anchorage in late April for the Native Youth Olympics. Athletes competed in events rooted in Alaska Native tradition, such as the wrist carry and the two-foot high kick. The seal hop is generally regarded as the most grueling of all.

To mimic the motion of a seal on land,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

competitors must hold their body in a push-up position and hop forward on their hands and toes without stopping or breaking form. Whoever hops the farthest wins. This sport harkens back to the traditional method of hunting seals.

At this year's seal hop, athletes and spectators alike heard an unexpected sound coming from the stands – the bellow of an actual seal! As it turned out, the “ooh-ooht” sound came from Samuel Mecham, a student in Anchorage who had perfected his seal call on hunts in his home village of Unalakleet. At the Olympics, he was using his skill to cheer on the athletes.

The seal call is as traditional as the race itself; generations of hunters have used the call to distract seals to get the perfect shot with their harpoons. The call could also be used to celebrate a hunter's successful return home. Even in the 21st century, the seal call is not without its uses; families sometimes use the seal-call to find each other when separated in cavernous stores like Walmart. Albeit in a different kind of wilderness, the seal call is still effective.



Above: NYO attendees participated in the blanket toss during the event. Photo courtesy of Vanessa Tahbone, used with permission.



Above: The Iditarod Trail's famous Burled Arch rests in pieces scattered across the ground with Old St. Joe's Church in the background. One of the pillars of the arch lays on the ground. Photo courtesy of Ben Townsend, KNOM.

A Re-Burled Arch

The Burled Arch, the iconic symbol at the Iditarod finish line, collapsed unexpectedly on Saturday, April 27th due to wood rot.

The finish line for the first Iditarod in 1973 was drawn in the snow with red Kool-Aid. Musher's wanted a more official marker, so an arch was built of burled spruce wood. This first Burled Arch marked the Iditarod finish until it was replaced in 2000. Its successor stood until its collapse mere weeks after this year's race.

Veteran musher Ramey Smyth will be building the new burled arch. The Smyth family has been building log homes since the late 1950's. In keeping with the tradition, Smyth hopes to use a cultivar of spruce for the new arch. Selection and construction may take several months.

“I was honored to be contacted regarding the rebuilding of the Historic Iditarod Arch that is emblematic of teamwork between supporters, mushers, dogs, villages, and all Alaskans. The arch symbolizes teamwork, dreams, sacrifices, challenges on a trail of hardships, storms, sweat, and tears,” Ramey said to Mushing Magazine.

The new arch is expected to be ready in time for Iditarod 2025.

Nome-Beltz High School Is on Track

After months of hard work, Nome-Beltz High School recently formed a track and field team for the first time in nearly a decade.

In the fall, cross country coach Ryan Fox proposed forming a track team as a means for more year-round running. With approval from the school and unanimous interest from his runners, he set to work. His fundraising efforts ranged from selling popcorn to running across 350 miles of untamed Alaskan wilderness. Norton Sound Health Corporation donated funds for the school to purchase equipment such as discus, relay batons, and hurdles.

Since the school lacks the quarter-mile track and equipment found in larger schools, Fox needed creativity to devise a training regimen for his team. For this he relied heavily on Dan Pardee, father of a team member and himself a decathlete. Working together, Fox and Pardee put the athletes through their paces to prepare them for their first meet.

In early April, Fox and his nine Nanooks traveled to Anchorage to compete in the Russ Edwards Big C Relay. Out of over 35 teams competing, they were the only team representing Western Alaska. The athletes from Nome entered events such as the one- and two-mile runs, relay races, shot put, and discus, all placing better than Fox had imagined for their first competition.



Above: Students on the Nome-Beltz Track and Field team pose for a photo on the indoor track at The Dome in Anchorage, Alaska. Photo courtesy of Ryan Fox, used with permission.

GM Update: Furnace and Doors at AM Site

As we are moving into spring, I wanted to share updates on our AM site doors and the furnace for the station. Currently, we've surpassed our goal of \$5000 for the doors replacement. The furnace fund is sitting at approximately \$10,000 of our \$35,000 goal. I want to thank everyone that has generously donated to both of those as they're both vital to our operations and staying safely on the air (not to mention warmly and dryly!). I appreciate all of you for your kindness and caring about our mission. It never ceases to amaze me how many people care about our little ol' radio station in Nome, Alaska! If you would like to learn more about what the funds are going to be used for, you can find the specific appeals on our website at <https://knom.org/give-2/>. I'm also always happy to speak to donors over the phone should you like a phone call to learn more.

Peace and blessings,
Miranda B. Musich, General Manager

For migrants fleeing their homes

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

— Pope Francis' prayer intention for June 2024



KNOM Radio Mission is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Please consider KNOM in your estate planning.