

E-news: 12/14/18

Appointments: I have recently announced the following appointments for the diocese:

Fr. Fred Gatschet as the Vicar General.

Fr. Richard Daise as the Vicar for Clergy.

Fr. Keith Weber as the Chancellor/Moderator of the Curia.

Corey Lyon will continue as the Vice-Chancellor.

Kyle Haugh as the Chief Finance Officer (effective as of December 3, 2018).

Fr. Peter O'Donnell will oversee the archives of the diocese.

Mass of Healing: As many of you know, my plan is to visit all the parishes within a year. I've really enjoyed celebrating Mass at different parishes throughout the diocese and getting to meet so many of you. Your warm welcome to me is much appreciated. I really appreciate your faith and love of your families. We really have some beautiful parishes and wonderful people in our diocese. I feel blessed.

#iGiveCatholic: Thank you to so many of you who gave to #iGiveCatholic on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. It was a huge success. Even though it was our first year, the Diocese of Salina was #5 among all 29 participating dioceses, based on dollars given. That was good news! But, even better, nine of our ministries were in the top 100 of organizations, based on dollars raised.

Prison: Last week, I went to the prison in Ellsworth to celebrate Mass. There were about 100 men present. Deacon Mark Roberti and Fr. Joshua Werth joined me. We baptized two men and confirmed three. Chuck Huslig does a wonderful job of preparing the men for the sacraments. Afterward, we all had a dinner together. I am going there on Christmas Eve as well.

Runnin' Revs: Next Friday, December 21, I will be joining our seminarians and priests in a basketball game versus some Sacred Heart High School students at 6:00PM at Sacred Heart High School. Anyone can attend. On Saturday evening, December 22, I will be playing in the St. Francis Xavier Alumni game in Junction City. Hope I don't get hurt!

Seminarians: Speaking of our seminarians, I will be with them next Friday for a Mass and luncheon with all their parents present too. They are on their winter break. I had a chance to visit all the seminarians this fall. They are wonderful men. I am thankful for them. Please continue to pray for them and an increase in vocations to the priesthood in our diocese.

Home: After celebrating Midnight Mass at the Cathedral and then with the Sisters of St. Joseph on Christmas morning, I am heading back to Michigan until January 2. From there, I am going to Chicago until January 9 for a Bishop's retreat at Mundelein Seminary. The retreat director is Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, the papal preacher. He is the author of one of my all-time favorite books, "The Gaze of Mercy."

Remembering: The other day, I celebrated Mass at Presbyterian Manor in Salina. I was reminded after Mass of how many residents have lost children over the years and how difficult the holidays are for them. May the Prince of Peace reach the hearts of all of them as well those who feel alone and forgotten.

Merry Christmas: I wish all of you and your families a very merry Christmas. The Father has given us his Son: for this indescribable gift we are full of joy!!! We have a Presence with us forever, immeasurably stronger than sin and death. May God bless you abundantly with His peace and presence.

Be assured of my love and prayers,

Bishop Vincke

Saint Quotes on Christmas:

“And in the end, everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child and Love.” Saint John Paul II

“We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another.” Saint Mother Teresa