



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Gayle Mahin moved to rural Kansas during middle school, and never thought she'd return to north central Kansas to raise a family. She is pictured with husband, Caleb, and children (from left) Hazel, Warren and Drake near their home in rural Formoso on June 17.

Catholic Charities' July 18 annual fundraiser moves online

By The Register

SALINA — The Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas fundraiser will take a new platform this year, going entirely online.

On Saturday, July 18, at 7 p.m., the 2020 Annual Fundraiser for Catholic Charities will be streamed live on Catholic Charities website, www.ccnks.org.

While the annual event typically draws about 250 people to Salina, unknown gathering restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the Annual Fundraiser Committee to move the 15th Annual Fundraiser online, so it could be attended by everyone in the diocese.

"The Annual Fundraiser is the main source of funding for Catholic Charities," said Katie Platten, interim executive director and former board president of Catholic Charities. "We had to find a way to make this event happen this year. Our expenses have drastically increased due to our COVID-19 relief efforts, and we are currently seeing a spike in people needing rent and utility assistance."

WITH FOOD INSECURITY and evictions intensified by the coronavirus, Eric Frank said canceling this year's Catholic Charities Annual Fundraiser "was not an option."

Many of the people seeking assistance at Catholic Charities "have never asked for help before in their lives," Frank said. "They lost their jobs or had a reduction in income, and through no fault of their own, they now find themselves unable to provide food and other basic necessities and are at risk of

Please see **GREEN** / Page 15

Rural life grows on small-town mom

By Karen Bonar
The Register

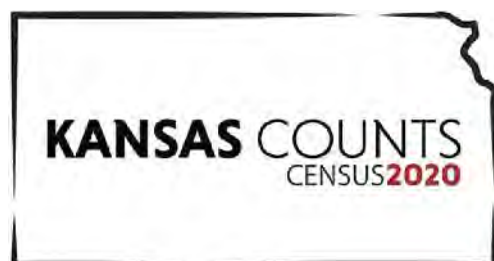
FORMOSO — On June 8, the population of Formoso grew by one when Gayle and Caleb Mahin's third child, Warren, was born.

"It wasn't until we had kids that I was like, 'Thank God that I'm here,'" Gayle said. "(Before kids), I fought moving to the country."

The young family are members of St. Edward Parish in Belleville, 20 miles east of their rural home in the small, north-central Kansas town.

WHILE THE FAMILY IS NOW comfortably settled in rural Kansas, it's not where Gayle pictured her life a dozen years ago.

Her aversion to small-town life was tied to moving to Mankato as a sixth-



grader.

"I had culture shock," she said of the change from Sterling, Colo. to Mankato. "(In Mankato), there were probably only 13 in my class in sixth grade. I probably had 400 in my class in Colorado."

She dreamed of eventually returning to Colorado.

"I loved the mountains. I loved Colorado," she said.

Gayle attended Wichita State University, and said the bigger city appealed to her.

"I love the city life," she said. "There was so much to do."

Gayle said she didn't make regular trips back to Mankato until her grandfather became ill.

"My grandma was alone after he passed away," she said. "I slowly started having more appreciation for small-town life, but I never wanted to go back. I didn't think there was opportunity."

She pursued a master's degree in social work at the University of Kansas in Kansas City and Lawrence.

"Once I decided on a master's in social work, I never felt I could become successful or have a job I enjoyed in a small town," Gayle said. "I thought I had to be in a city to be successful and find a job I like and enjoy."

And she was right — for a time. Her

Please see **APPRECIATION** / Page 10

Clergy changes announced; affects 17 priests, 22 parishes

By The Register

SALINA — New or changing assignments will affect 15 priests in the Diocese of Salina this spring and summer.

Father Andy Hammeke and Father Joshua Werth have been named co-vocational directors, which was

effective April 20.

The remainder of the changes will take effect July 1.

Sacred Heart High School in Salina will have Father Fred Gatschet and Father Andrew Rockers teaching religion classes.

Father Norbert Dlabal

will come out of retirement and return to western Kansas, this time to Atwood and Herndon.

A few minor changes include reassigning parish clusters, such as combining St. Andrew Parish in Abilene with St. John Parish in Herington, St. Philip Parish

in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo.

Additionally, a priest from the diocese of Gaylord, Mich., will assist at St. Joseph Parish in Hays and at the Comeau Catholic Campus Center (please see biography of Father Matthew Cowan on p. 12).

Clergy assignments can be found on page 3. Priests' biographies and other related stories may be found on pages 12-13.

Shuffling
spring
fundraisers

Schools around diocese
adjust efforts.
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Bishop's
Annual
Appeal

Faithful support
annual fundraiser.
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Waiting

Teacher gives
students advice
as they wait,
prepare to receive
their First
Communion.
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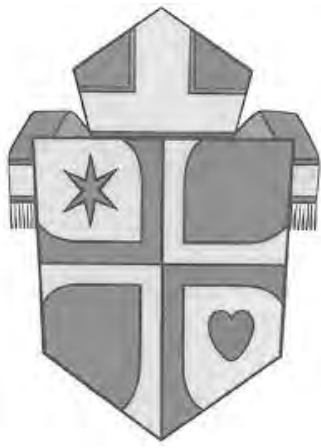
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OFFICIAL



The following clergy appointments are effective April 20, 2020:

VOCATIONS DIRECTORS

Father Joshua Werth and Father Andy Hammeke as Co-Vocations Directors.

The following clergy appointments are effective July 1, 2020:

PASTOR

Father Norbert Dlabal will come out of retirement. He is assigned Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood and Assumption of Mary Parish in Herndon.

Father Fred Gatschet will continue as the rector of the Cathedral and St. Joseph in Brookville, but will also teach at Sacred Heart High School.

Father Jarett Konrade, Pastor of St. John Parish in Beloit and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City.

Fr. Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

Father David Michael, HGN, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland and Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs.

Father Soosai Rathinam, HGN, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon, St. Theresa Parish in Mankato and St. Mary Parish in Smith Center.

Father Damian Richards, Pastor of St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Munjor

Father Randall Weber, Pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Abilene, St. John Parish in Herington, St. Philip Parish in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo.

Father Don Zimmerman, Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center and St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale.

Gerald L. Vincke
Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke
Bishop of Salina Diocese

PASTORAL CARE: PARISH CHANGES

Father Daryl Olmstead will no longer be the pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City but will remain the pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Tipton, St. Mary Parish in Downs and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne.

Father Mark Wesely will continue as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis and St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln, with the addition of St. Mary Parish in Glasco.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Father Matthew Cowan, currently a priest of the Diocese of Gaylord, Mich., as Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Hays and the Comeau Center at Fort Hays State University.

Father Peter O'Donnell, Parochial Vicar of St. Andrew Parish in Abilene, St. John Parish in Herington, St. Philip Parish in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo.

Father Ryan McCandless is still assigned as the chaplain at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School, but will also be the weekend assistance at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

Father Andrew Rockers, Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Cathedral and St. Joseph Parish in Brookville. He is also assigned as a teacher at Sacred Heart High School in Salina.

Keith D. Weber
Witnessed by
Father Keith Weber
Chancellor

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

July 2020

- 7-10 Seminarian trip
- 12 Baccalaureate Mass for Thomas More Prep-Marian High School, 11:30 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays
- 18 Catholic Charities Annual Fundraiser (online)
- 26 Confirmation, 1:30 p.m., St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays Confirmation, 6 p.m., St. Mary, Queen of Angels, Russell

Schools in Salina Diocese adjust annual fundraisers

By Allison Ochoa

The Register

When Kansas government officials imposed statewide restrictions to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March, school officials from the Salina Diocese's Catholic schools had to worry about more than just how to complete the school year. Volunteers and staff from many of the Diocese's schools scrambled to alter plans for their spring and early summer fundraisers, some of which were scheduled to happen only days after Gov. Laura Kelly issued declarations that shuttered schools and canceled large gatherings.

The annual auction to benefit St. John Catholic School in Beloit was scheduled for March 21. When the restrictions were implemented by the state, school volunteers had just one week to change the event from an in-person Mass, dinner and auction affair to an online-only auction. According to Principal Marcy Kee, the switch would not have happened without the help of a team of volunteers and the auction service the school uses for the annual event.

"It was a lot of work in one week, but thank God they were able to do what they did," she said. "It worked out really well, and we had more bidders for the auction than we would've had if we'd just held the event in the gym."

"It was different this year, but we did very well."

THE 37TH ANNUAL Sacred Heart Charity Auction to benefit Sacred Heart

Jr./Sr. High School in Salina was also intended to be held on March 21. Renee Thompson, the school's communication and events coordinator, said the decision to move ahead with the event with changes to the logistics, was difficult but positive.

"Our chairs for the event, Dahx and Colleen Marrs, were on a spring break trip when this happened so we were calling them asking what they felt we should do," she recalled. "After a lot of discussion, we decided, 'We've already got everybody geared up for it so let's do it!'"

Thompson said the work required to move from an in-person gala to an event held totally online was eased slightly by the fact that they had already planned to have the silent auction portion of the festivities online.

"But now that we couldn't have our live event, everything had to be online," she said. "We really had to take all the little details into account, but everyone pitched in, and we got it done!"

Like other schools' fundraisers, tickets to the Charity Auction were sold ahead of time, limiting the number of people who would be attending in person, however with the change in plans for the event, Thompson said the committee had to get creative with the way people could participate.

"We decided to open it up to anyone and everyone, and we emailed all of our alumni with the log-in information for the auc-

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JULY PRAYER INTENTION

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Mailing label update

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The census provides a chance to pause, look at our region

AS YOU PERUSE THROUGH this issue of The Register, you might pause and wonder, “Why did Karen spend time focusing on the census?”

It’s true, at first glance, something seemingly boring (like the census) might seem out of place in the pages of a Catholic newspaper. When someone mentioned it to me as a story idea toward the end of 2019, I dismissed it, too. Yet as I let the idea simmer at the back of my brain, I realized that the census is the perfect opportunity to explore stories I’ve had on my “to do” list for ages!

I was a reporter at the Hays Daily News in Ellis County for three years, and



Karen Bonar
Register editor

during that time, I heard plenty about the “brain drain” from western Kansas. Residents grow up in rural or small communities, but after college, never return to live or work in their small hometown.

It was an idea that intrigued me, but I never had the time or opportunity to write.

Similarly, I have heard for many years that numbers of Catholics are declin-

ing, and many are asking, “How can we keep youth, young adults or even older adults in the Church?”

A geek at heart, I love plowing through piles of data to see what they tell me. I also love to spin the wheels of a microfilm machine ... I can’t explain quite why, but it’s oddly satisfying!

ONCE I REALIZED that maybe the census wasn’t such a bad idea after all, I started digging. I found so much, in fact, that it won’t all fit into this issue of the newspaper. I have plans to start in this issue, and spend the next few issues sharing and exploring other

stories relating to rural Kansas*.

That’s one thing I love about journalism ... as storytellers, we have the opportunity and challenge of taking a mundane topic and seeing if we can apply it to the lives of our readers. Did I succeed in this issue? Maybe. Maybe not. You tell me!

I feel compelled to also confess I’d been procrastinating filling out the census (anyone else in the same boat?). I made the assumption that it was a long, drawn-out process. In the course of interviews for this paper, I realized it was only nine questions, and they didn’t even ask anything that felt too personal, like

income level or religious affiliation. In all, it took me about eight minutes (I know this because I did a Facebook live video of me filling out the census form — it was riveting — ha! ha!).

SO, please sit back, enjoy a few stories ... and if you haven’t already, please fill out your census form!

** I have an asterisk here, because when I originally interviewed and photographed the Hagler family, it was the end of February ... my “plan” was to start the census stories in the March issue, but COVID-19 threw all of those plans out the window! While I hope and plan to include more stories, it feels difficult to become too attached to plans, as they seem to be constantly changing these days!*

Karen Bonar is the editor of The Register and a parishioner of St. Mary, Queen of the Universe in Salina.

Finding God in the pandemic

MAY AND JUNE ARE usually full of celebrations, from Mother’s Day and first Communion to proms, graduations and weddings. These events are rich in meaning for individuals and families, representing personal accomplishments and obstacles overcome, the investment of effort and resources, intergenerational bonds and the hopes and aspirations of the young.

Milestones like these are marked by rituals and time-honored traditions, and they are often surrounded by much pomp and circumstance. But they can also be weighed down by expectations which are nearly impossible to satisfy — finding the wedding dress of one’s dreams, coming up with the best prom proposal ever, or snapping the perfect photo as graduation caps are gleefully tossed in the air!

Obviously, things are different this year. In this season of pandemic, many expectations will be left unfulfilled, many dreams deferred. Although our



Sister Constance Veit
Little Sisters of the Poor

experience of proms and graduations is mostly limited to our youthful memories, we Little Sisters have our own rituals and traditions, many of which we have been forced to suppress during the pandemic.

Some Sisters were forlorn at the thought of not being able to celebrate Holy Week, the most significant time of the liturgical year. For others, having to care for dying residents from behind masks, face shields and isolation gowns has been a distressing experience.

As Little Sisters, we have long-held traditions surrounding the care of the dying. We keep vigil with them, taking turns to maintain a prayerful and supportive presence at their bedside until God takes them to himself. We take

pride in creating what we consider the ideal ambiance in a dying person’s room — from gentle touch and special sheets to soft music and lighting, fresh flowers and hospitality carts stacked with snacks for family members. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and a regular rhythm of rosaries and other devotions are also central to this tradition. After death, we prayerfully prepare their bodies for burial and help the families to plan their wake and funeral.

IN MANY CASES THESE treasured rituals have been impossible to maintain during the pandemic. With the required isolation precautions, fewer Sisters and staff on hand due to illness, and in some cases without the possibility of the sacraments, we just have not been able to ensure the same level of personalized care that we usually expect of ourselves.

Recent events in our ministry, as well as the experience of young people I

know who are graduating this spring, have led me to reflect on the burden our expectations place on us. We’ve grown accustomed to being in control and making things happen, to doing whatever it takes to fulfill our expectations. The pandemic has forced us to realize that we are not really in charge and that we cannot control events on a global scale or sometimes even in our own household.

It’s legitimate to mourn the highly anticipated moments we’ve missed out on and feel robbed of due to the pandemic. It’s valid to grieve over our inability to care for others like we usually do. But the virtue of Christian hope should keep us from allowing our personal hopes and aspirations to be dashed. Humble trust in God’s providence should help us to accept our own poverty and to find the silver lining in our current situation.

Let’s embrace the moment in which we find ourselves — for God has permitted these circum-

stances and he is waiting for us to recognize his presence in them and to use them to the best of our ability to grow deeper in faith, hope and love!

Many milestones will go uncelebrated during these months of pandemic, but let’s be creative in making memories that will be cherished even more than if our original plans had gone off without a hitch! Let’s help the young to become the next great generation by rising to the unique challenges of this moment in history!

Thinking about the unfulfilled expectations of these past weeks, I find solace in the words of one of the early Christian writers, “Do not be always wanting everything to turn out as you think it should, but rather as God pleases, then you will be undisturbed and thankful in your prayer.”

I pray that you will find reasons to be thankful in these difficult days.

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

God’s timing can be mysterious

IF YOU’VE EVER READ this column, you’re probably aware that we’ve put our home up for sale three times over the past several years. First, we tried for sale by owner (FSBO), and that deal fell through. I didn’t understand why it shook out the way it did, especially given fervent prayer by me and my trusty band of prayer warriors.

Next, we enlisted the professional help of a realtor who came highly recommended. Again, I activated the prayer tree and asked friends to storm heaven. In addition to the St. Joseph statue we originally buried, I borrowed one from my friend Rosemary since she’s a devout Catholic, and I thought her statue would deliver better results. Apparently, however, it wasn’t our time to move. When that realtor didn’t



Patti Lamb
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

work out, we took a six month pause to catch our breath.

Thinking the third time would be a charm, we enlisted the help of another acclaimed realtor. Prayer ensued. I requested another house blessing (as if the first one 15 years ago had worn off) and our deacon kindly acquiesced. This time, however, I changed my prayer up a bit.

My prayer went something like this: “Please, God, let this buyer be the one. But let your will be done, God, not mine.” (Admittedly, I still put holy water on the front doorknob.)

No buyer. No sale. We embraced God’s will, thanking him for our wonderful home and our beloved neighbors. We repainted, redecorated and settled in.

FAST FORWARD TO MAY 1. I was mowing the yard and I noticed a car circling the street. The driver pulled up alongside me, so I shut off the mower.

Nutshell version: “Sorry to bother, but I wondered if you might be willing to sell your house,” she said.

I was confused. I told her there are two other houses on our street for sale.

She shared that she was interested in our house before, but the timing wasn’t right. Her realtor suggested that she ask if we would entertain her request, even though it wasn’t on the market.

I talked it over with my husband, and we agreed that we would be willing to sell, but only based on particular stipulations. They viewed the house 36 hours later, made an offer the next day, and asked to expedite inspection, appraisal and closing. By the grace of God, it all worked out and within 21 days, start to finish, we were out of our home with all of our possessions in storage and living at my mother-in-law’s, thanks to her kindness.

The buyer’s family was happy, as she’s expecting her fifth child this month and her husband will soon be deployed again. It seems as if both of our prayers were answered in God’s perfect timing. God is good. All the time — even when his timeline looks different from ours.

I circled back to the May

1 entry in my “God Calling” devotional:

“Delay has to be — sometimes. Your lives are so linked up with those of others, so bound by circumstances that to let your desire have instant fulfillment might in many cases cause another, as earnest prayer, to go unanswered ... Delay is not denial — not even withholding. It is the opportunity for God to work out your problems and accomplish your desires in the most wonderful way possible for you.”

I share this not to brag, but to witness that God is glorified in all things. I’m learning that God’s plans are bigger than mine, and he doesn’t disappoint.

Patti Lamb is a freelance writer from Plainfield, Ind. Her columns appear in The Criterion, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Schools adjusted fundraisers in a variety of ways

From page 3

tion,” she said. “The night of the event, three of us came up to the school and we hosted a Facebook livestream event. We showed off the auction items, and we did some trivia. Several of our school families and supporters watched together from home, and then they could call in or post comments. We still got some of that personal feel and some interaction, and we received good feedback about those efforts.

“Most pleasing to us, though, is that we had alumni in other states who were able to get online and bid,” she added.

Those who had already purchased tickets could donate the cost of their tickets toward the “Itemless Item,” an auction listing that raises money for the purchase of specific items for the school, or they could receive a refund. Thompson said most ticketholders chose to make the donation.

Overall, “Our base net profit was just a little less than last year, but people were very cooperative and open to the changes,” she said.

FOR THE FAMILIES OF ST. Andrew Elementary School in Abilene, the Race for Education fundraiser looked different than expected, taking on a virtual element, but it has proven to be a success.

“We included a COVID-19 update in the mailing explaining that we would be making adjustments,” Principal Christina Whitehair said. “The note explained that we were going forward

with the event, but families facing difficult financial circumstances were asked to offer prayers for our school this year instead of a financial gift. We kicked the fundraiser off live on our Facebook event page. We had students complete their walking/running with their families on their own and submit photos to our Facebook event page.

“To date we have raised over \$13,000. We are very grateful for the wonderful support during difficult times.”

FOR OTHER SCHOOLS across the diocese, staff and volunteers made the difficult decisions to postpone spring fundraisers.

“Our largest fundraiser for the year — our school auction — was scheduled for March 28 but had to be postponed,” said Shawn Augustine, Principal of St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Junction City. “It was difficult not having this because it is always such a fun event, and it typically raises approximately \$100,000 each year which is a crucial part of our school budget. Our current plan is to hold it in late October or early November, but if we are unable to, due to the pandemic, we will look into having a smaller virtual auction then and a live auction in late March or early April (2021).”

FATHER LEO BLASI, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and Sacred Heart Grade School in Plainville, and St. Thomas Parish in Stockton, said the school’s three annual fundraisers have all been postponed.

The Spring Carnival,

originally scheduled to take place on April 26, has yet to be rescheduled, “But if we have it, it will be live and in-person,” Father Blasi said. “There may be an option for placing online bids, but that is not settled.

“Our auction is normally in July, but because we are concerned with donations during the shutdown, we have postponed it. We are looking at the new year as a possible reschedule date. We are having our June golf tournament, but we did have to push it back several weeks.”

TMP-MARIAN JR./SR. High School’s annual Auction for Christian Education, originally scheduled for April 24, has been rescheduled for July 17 and 18.

“We waited until the first of April to decide, just not knowing what was going to happen,” said Troy Ruda, TMP-Marian Advancement Director. “We were sold out [of our 500 tickets], but it was fairly easy to push the pause button.”

Ruda said the challenges in rescheduling the event — the school’s largest fundraiser — included the uncertainty of how things were going to play out with the pandemic and its related restrictions, as well as the scheduling of other fundraising events held by Fort Hays State University and the local school district.

“We didn’t want to step on anyone’s toes,” he said. “We worked with representatives from FHSU and USD 489 to make sure we found a solution that accommodated everyone. We also wanted to give people breathing room between the time the state opened up and us having a large-scale event. We felt comfortable that we could have it in July.”

Rescheduling the auction to the middle of the summer presented one more challenge in that the Al Billinger Fieldhouse, the

location for the annual event, is not air conditioned. Ruda said the school and volunteers have taken steps to ensure attendees are physically comfortable both with the expected hot weather and social distance recommendations.

“We will have temporary air conditioning in the building for everyone’s comfort level, and we’ll be using these temporary units for the school’s graduation ceremony the week prior as well,” he said. “We will also be a little more spread out this year, using the canteen, the gym and the wrestling room for the event.

“We feel very comfortable working within the state and Ellis County Health Department guidelines for the auction.”

Ruda said TMP-Marian is planning to return to the normal schedule for the auction in the spring of 2021.

WHILE THEIR ANNUAL school auction and dinner event was moved from March 28 to Sept. 19, St. John’s Catholic School in Hanover is also anticipating a return to a normal fundraising schedule in the 2020-21 school year. For now, though, this year’s rescheduled event will take place with only minor changes to the original plan.

“We are in the planning process to see if we’ll change the theme,” said Amanda Cook, St. John’s School Principal. “Our original theme was ‘March Madness!’”

Cook said the past and continued generosity of the school’s supporters has positioned the school to brave the change with little concern.

“We have a very supportive community who goes above and beyond for our school,” she said. “People understood [the need to postpone]. Thankfully, we’ve been very blessed in past years so we can withstand the change.”

“It was difficult not having this because it is always such a fun event, and it typically raises approximately \$100,000 each year which is a crucial part of our school budget.”

Shawn Augustine
Principal, St. Francis Xavier, Junction City

The alteration in plans for the auction also led to changes in other fundraising events for the school. Cook said the St. John the Baptist Parish holds a bazaar to benefit the school each September. Now with the rescheduling of the auction, volunteers are working to reimagine the event. Plans include a spinoff of the original event to be held in June that will feature a take-out meal that can be picked up curbside.

BETH SHEARER, DIRECTOR of Stewardship and Development for the Salina Diocese, says it is important to remember that despite the pandemic, the desire to give is still strong.

“We have all been impacted by this situation, but people continue to care, and when they want to show how much they care, they give,” she said.

Noting anecdotal evidence that she has heard locally as well as from her colleagues across the country, Shearer said philanthropists are looking for ways to make an impact. It is now up to the organizations to share their needs.

“Don’t be shy about sharing your needs,” she said. “Our mission goes on and so does our need for funding. If you’re not asking, you’re not giving people the opportunity to help.”

Diocese of Salina CFO

The Diocese of Salina is accepting resumes for the position of CFO.

The Chief Financial Officer directs and oversees all financial activities for a very busy organization.

Scope of work has oversight for 86 Catholic parishes, Catholic Charities, the Salina Chancery Finance Office and 15 schools covering 31 counties in Kansas. This role is responsible for monthly financial reporting, providing expert analysis of reports and data, audits, internal controls, asset management and advising the Bishop in financial matters.

Position Requirements

- BS Business Administration or Finance (MBA and/or CPA desired).
- Minimum of 10 years of accounting and finance experience, with at least 5 years in a leadership role.
- Expert level skills and experience in financial analysis and budgeting.
- Able to strike a balance between managing the day-to-day finance function and strategic planning and implementation. Healthcare contract experience preferred.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Experience/knowledge of Catholic organizations, non-profits, parish and clergy strongly preferred.

To request a full job description or to ask questions about this opportunity, please email Kim Hoelting, HR Director at kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org. EOE.

Diocese of Salina: Catholic Charities Executive Director

The Diocese of Salina is accepting resumes for the position of Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas.

The Executive Director oversees and manages all activities related to the ministries of Catholic Charities. As the leader, strategic planning and execution of the vision/mission are a top priority. This role includes oversight for the daily operations, 15-20 programs, grants, marketing, fundraising, visibility in 31 counties and the utilization of a support team of 25 in 3 locations within the diocese. The position reports to the Chancellor for the Diocese and works very closely with the Catholic Charities Board of Directors.

To request a full job description or to ask questions about this opportunity, please email Kim Hoelting, HR Director at kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org. EOE.

Position Requirements

- BS Business Administration or Social Services related fields of study is preferred.
- Prefer a minimum of 5+ years of non-profit leadership experience, with budget, fundraising, asset and supervisory management.
- Strongly prefer experience with delivering services to those most in need.
- Preference will be given to those applicants with a work history related to the social mission/teachings of the Catholic faith.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills needed for this collaboration with other non-profits, parish/clergy and visibility in the 31 counties served by the diocese.

Faithful across diocese pledge more than \$1.4 million to appeal

By The Register



SALINA — People across our diocese continue to give generously to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal — Call to Share. To date, more than \$1.4 million has been pledged and will make a difference in parishes and ministries across the diocese.

Keep watching for the “Call to Share Gifts in Action” graphic in The Register. This is a visual reminder of the programs

and ministries supported by gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Call to Share is one of the primary ways that most Catholics in the Diocese of Salina participate in the mission of the diocese. This annual appeal is a yearly opportunity for Catholics to contribute directly to the ministries of the diocese, which then serves the local parishes.

The goal for the 2020 Bishop’s Annual Appeal is \$1.6 million. Gifts given to Call to Share help: form seminarians to become priests, provide retirement and healthcare for local clergy, provide ministries that help evangelize, educate youth and adults, offer administration and aid for students in the 15 local Catholic schools, and provide a diversity of other ministries. Nearly 90 percent of the funds raised are spent on programs that directly benefit individuals and every parish. The other

funding helps the general administrative operations of the diocese.

Gifts to the appeal make a difference. All donors are joining in partnership with the diocese to provide the services that enhance and sustain Catholic life in local parishes. Furthermore, donors are extending Christ’s service and love beyond the diocese, to the nation and the world.

GIFTS CAN BE PLEDGED or given any time before Dec. 31. While everyone is invited to make a gift, it

might not be feasible for everyone right now. It is hoped that those who can give will do so.

Pledging over time may make a gift more comfortable. Electronic gifts can be made through the diocesan website at <https://salinadiocese.org/development/bishop-annual-appeal>. For more information or to make a gift of appreciated stocks, IRAs, or commodities, contact Beth Shearer, Director of Stewardship and Development at (785) 827-8746, ext. 42, or beth.shearer@salinadiocese.org.

Send news and photos to newspaper1@salinadiocese.org

Racism in any form is intolerable, Vatican official says at U.N. hearing

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Speaking at a special U.N. discussion about racism and police brutality, a Vatican official repeated Pope Francis’ recent remarks: “We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.”

Speaking about demonstrations in the United States following the killing of George Floyd by police, Pope Francis also said, “At the same time, we have to recognize that violence is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.”

Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic, the Vatican’s permanent observer to U.N. agencies in Geneva, shared the pope’s words June 18 as the U.N. Human Rights Council held an “urgent debate on current racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality against people of African descent and violence against peaceful protests.”

“Racial discrimination in

all its forms is absolutely intolerable,” Archbishop Jurkovic told the meeting. “All members of the human family, made in the image and likeness of God are equal in their inherent dignity, regardless of race, nation, sex, origin, culture or religion. States are called to recognize, defend and promote the fundamental human rights of each person.”

Michelle Bachelet, U.N. high commissioner for human rights, introduced the discussion by noting that “since the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis last month, a wave of massive protests has surged forward — not only across every state in the United States, but also in dozens of countries in Europe and all around the world.”

Floyd’s death, an “act of gratuitous brutality,” she said, “has come to symbolize the systemic racism that harms millions of people of African descent — causing pervasive, daily, lifelong, generational and too often, lethal harm.”

The killing of Floyd, an African American, at the

hands of a white officer, Bachelet said, “has become emblematic of the excessive use of disproportionate force by law enforcement against people of African descent, against people of color and against indigenous peoples and racial and ethnic minorities in many

countries across the globe.

“We need schools and universities that are free of bias; economies that give truly equal opportunities and fair treatment to all; political institutions that are more responsive and inclusive; justice systems which are truly just.”

Sacred Heart – Colby

ELEMENTARY TEACHER

Description
Sacred Heart Catholic School is seeking an Elementary teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

SHS will provide a strong academic program with emphasis on Christian values. The students who attend our school are the most important people associated with our institution. All students deserve the right to succeed. It is the intention of the school to encourage positive self-esteem in order for this goal to be accomplished. The

View more information and fill out a professional application, please visit www.sacredheartcolby.com/school

Submit a resume, college transcripts, credentials, three letters of reference, current Kansas teaching license:

Kara Herrman
585 N. French Ave.
Colby, KS 67701

individuality of each person is respected and his or her potential is fostered through a program with good, well-rounded classroom instruction. Spiritual guidance, good classroom curriculum, personal attention and the recognition of the educational program offered at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Colby. We are committed to serving each student in the best possible manner with God as our main focal point.

Benefits include a single health insurance policy, leave for personal & illness.

If you have questions or need some clarification, email kdherrman@gmail.com or call (913) 575-6176.

Sacred Heart – Colby

PRINCIPAL

Sacred Heart Elementary School in Colby, Kansas is seeking to fill the position of Principal.

Qualifications:
Demonstrated commitment to the development of Christian spirit and a Catholic community of faith within the school environment. Master’s degree in Education Administration and supervision with experience in administration and teaching. Active member of the Catholic Church.

Preference given to candidates who have ability to communicate and work collaboratively with and excellent staff. Competitive salary and benefits commensurate with credentials and experience.

Submit a letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference and university credentials to:

Kara Herrman
585 N. French Ave.
Colby, KS 67701

If you have questions or need some clarification, email kdherrman@gmail.com or call (913) 575-6176.



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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Census participation essential for all communities

By Karen Bonar

The Register

Your response matters. This is the simple message going out across the country as city, county and community leaders are encouraging all residents to fill out the 2020 Census.

"People don't understand your county and city funding is tied to the census. The federal funding counties receive is tied to the census numbers," said Kim Reynolds, the executive director of Cloud Corp., Concordia, as well as the chair of the Complete Count Committee for Cloud County.

Reynolds, who is a parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Concordia, moved to town more than two decades ago.

"A lot of programs our people use like school lunch programs are tied to federal money (via population counts)," she said. "In the county we average above 55 percent of students who are on free and reduced lunches, so we need those dollars to help with the school lunch programs."

It's not only school breakfast and lunches. The federal government gives grants for housing, special education, Head Start, Medicaid, community facility loans, sewer replacement, street replacement, housing rehab ... and the list continues, she said.

"It's not out of greed that motivates us," Reynolds said. "As a community and as a county, we look at the community. We are thinking about the people we know that utilize these programs. Having a cut in that funding could be detrimental to a household."

AS THE CHAIR OF THE Complete Count Committee, Reynolds said she has been coordinating with 15 others throughout the county to



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Kim Reynolds, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia, is the executive director of Cloud Corp in Concordia, and works with economic development. She is working to encourage all residents to participate in the census.

promote census responses.

For 2020, Reynolds said the census is urging residents to input the information online, and the local Complete Count Committee made preparations with the local library. The group was prepared to hit the ground running, but the Frank Carlson Library in Concordia closed March 16.

"The 60 and older population were calling saying, 'I don't have computer access, I always went to the library,'" Reynolds said.

Reynolds had the phone number handy to direct residents to call the information in (1-800-923-8282). Additionally, the census questionnaire was mailed to every household. They ran into another snag, however, with the mail.

"They don't deliver the questionnaire to P.O. boxes," Reynolds said. "A lot of people get their mail at the P.O. Box rather than their home."

The Catholic signatories were part of a larger multi-faith effort to encourage participation in the decennial census, which is a constitutional mandate.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, one of the signatories, has long been part of Faith in Public Life's "Faithful Census" initiative, said Sister Ann Scholz, a School Sister of Notre Dame, who is LCWR's associate director of social mission. LCWR also has signed on to the Census Bureau's National Partnership Program, she added.

"We've been spreading the word about the critical importance of the 2020 census count," Sister Scholz said.

There are two "populations" that Reynolds said are often undercounted: the young and the elderly.

"If that baby takes a breath of air on April 1, then count 'em," she said. "If they haven't been born prior to April 1, then they would not be counted this year."

Reynolds said she thinks the population age 65 and older can tend to be skeptical about items they receive in the mail.

"That age group is targeted so much by scammers, I think they are concerned about whether or not it's true," she said.

ACCORDING TO CENSUS data, the population of Cloud County peaked in 1890, with more than 19,000 residents. The population rose and fell for several decades, but since 1940, has experienced a steady decline.

This trend is one seen across rural Kansas, said Xan Wedel, the state data

In messages being sent before Census Day, April 1, to LCWR members, Sister Scholz said LCWR wants to make the point that "we know that in past censuses, millions of people of color, children and immigrants have gone uncounted."

"We believe this undercount," she continued, "has resulted in systemic injustice resulting in underfunding of resources that we all use, like schools, hospitals, critical infrastructure and — a new twist that's going out in my emails ... we think that it's even resulted in the underpreparation for critical health emergencies like COVID-19."

SISTERS SIGNALING their support for the U.S. census

June 22-28 has been designated as a time to "Call for the Count," a week-long, concentrated campaign to promote self-response to the 2020 Census.

RESPOND TO THE CENSUS:

my2020census.gov
1-800-923-8282

Self-reporting concludes Oct. 31.

center lead at the Kansas State Data Center at Institute for Policy and Social Research at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

"The northwest Kansas regional population in 2010 was 96,833. This was six percent lower than the 2000 Census," she said. "Current population estimates indicate continued population loss for most counties except Ellis, Logan and Wallace."

The Institute for Policy and Social Research considers northwest Kansas as 18 counties: Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton, Phillips, Smith, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Graham, Rooks, Osborne, Wallace, Logan, Gove, Trego, Ellis and Russell counties.

She terms the population shift "urban migration."

"We had a lot of farm-based jobs before 1940," Wedel said. "As our farms got larger and larger, they need fewer people to operate them because of modern technology. With less demand in rural employment, people move to urban areas with more employment opportunities."

In 2010, she said, more than 50 percent of the state's 2.8 million people lived in five counties: Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Wyandotte and Douglas.

"We have 105 counties, but more than half the people live in five of them," she said. "There's almost a million people living in the top

two counties."

WHILE MANY RURAL areas in Kansas have shrunk in population, Riley and Geary counties, home to Junction City, Fort Riley and Manhattan, have experienced consistent growth.

Jason Hilgers, the Deputy City Manager of Manhattan, is also a parishioner of St. Thomas More in Manhattan. The population of Manhattan and Riley County, on the eastern edge of the Salina Diocese, has increased by 15 percent or more in every decade since 1910.

"Population factors are centered around the university and Fort Riley," Hilgers said.

For many years, the 1st Infantry Division was housed at Fort Riley. He said it moved away in 1995, then returned in 2006.

"It impacted us from an economic standpoint," Hilgers said. "Manhattan is an entitlement community, and we get \$500-600,000 annually for community block grants."

The city pushed hard in 2010 to reach all of its households, with the goal of reaching a population count of 50,000 residents in the census.

"If you're under 50,000 residents, then you compete at the state level with other cities that are under 50,000 for funding," he said. "Getting over the 50,000 threshold has resulted in millions of dollars from the federal government for our city."

While the trend has been historically increasing, he said the numbers could dip for the 2020 census.

"We have roughly 20,000 students, give or take," Hilgers said. "It's grown from 2000 to 2016, and the last four years, there were declines (in enrollment)."

Universities are being

Please see POPULATION / Page 8

Catholic organizations urge communities to respond to U.S. census

By Mark Pattison

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A baker's dozen of Catholic organizations, from dioceses to religious orders to Catholic Charities affiliates, have signed on to a joint statement urging all to take part in the 2020 U.S. census.

"We affirm the right of all people to participate in the 2020 census and remain committed to helping our neighbors be counted," said the statement, issued March 26 by the group Faith in Public Life. "All people, regardless of race, religion or immigration status have God-given dignity and it is imperative that our government counts every person living in this country."

"reflects our faith, and it reflects our belief in the life and dignity of each and every person. Catholic teaching is grounded in the absolute dignity of each and every individual," Sister Scholz said.

"God counts us. Certainly we can do no less in our decennial census. We're each made in God's image and endowed with God's spirit. No matter our creed, our race, our gender, our immigration status — we're worthy of being counted," she added.

"A full and accurate count lays the foundation for a healthy democracy and healthy communities. By completing the census and encouraging our communities to do so, we claim our

rightful political representation in Congress and fulfill our responsibility to our neighbors and to future generations," the Faith in Public Life joint statement said.

Mail from the Census Bureau was sent to millions of U.S. homes March 12. Inside the envelope was a distinct 12-character code that would allow the recipient to complete the brief — five to seven minutes — census questionnaire online. Residents also may complete a census form by phone or mail.

Information is available online at <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond>

Due to COVID-19, the census self-response phase concludes on Oct. 31.

Residing Rural Atwood couple chooses to return to hometown to work, raise family

By Karen Bonar
The Register

ATWOOD — With deep ties in Rawlins County in northwest Kansas, Andrea and Jordan Hagler never considered any other location to call home.

“I just love it here. I grew up out in the country, I love the country, love our community and I love our church,” said Andrea, who is 34 years old. “It was important to come back.”

Her husband grew up about 15 miles south of Atwood.

“There is something about the farm life that was engrained,” Jordan said. “If you grow up that way, you just know you want to come back.”

“I love the wide open spaces, the country, the farm life,” Andrea chimed in.

Her great-great grandparents settled in rural Beardsley, near St. John Nepomucene Church.

Jordan’s family moved to Kansas because of the church.

“His great-grandpa on the Kanak side came out from Wisconsin to St. John’s to measure the altars to be built,” Andrea said, adding the great-grandfather worked for Josef Svoboda furniture company. “He went back to Wisconsin, built the altar, and came back to install it. When he was back, he met a local girl in the area, and that’s how that side ended up here.”

The main altar and side altars of St. John Nepomucene Church — which are still in use today — were built by Jordan’s ancestors.

AS WITH LOVE OF THE LAND, faith was woven through the fabric of their childhoods.

“The way we were brought up, we prayed together before every meal, said morning and evening prayer together, prayed the rosary together,” Andrea said. “Faith is just a way of life. It was something that was instilled in me as a kid.”

The couple’s 4-year-old son,

Atwood population

1900	486
1910	680
1920	919
1930	1,106
1940	1,408
1950	1,613
1960	1,906
1970	1,658
1980	1,665
1990	1,388
2000	1,279
2010	1,194

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Aidan, built block on the living room floor as Andrea continued.

“It’s the same thing with Aidan,” she said. “We take him to church with us, pray before every meal, pray morning and bedtime. He enjoys praying.”

The couple’s son is a sixth-generation member of the parish; Andrea and all four of her siblings were married in the church, and she is still an active parishioner.

JORDAN AND ANDREA MET during high school and began dating during his senior year at Atwood High School. The duo attended Kansas State University in Manhattan and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., where they studied optometry.

They each had an interest in the medical field, and it was important to find something that would meld their rural background with professional interest.

“I was debating between medical school and optometry school, knowing I wanted to come back to a rural area,” Andrea said. “My senior year in college, I was in the choir loft (during Mass) and one of the doctors got a call and had to go to the ER on Christmas Eve. I didn’t want to be on call 24/7.”

Which is why optometry felt like a more attractive option than family medicine.

“If I wanted to live in a big city, I probably would have gone the med school route, but in a rural area, optometry was more appealing to me,” she said.



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Andrea and Jordan Hagler met during high school at Atwood High School, and moved back to their hometown upon completing their college studies. The couple lives in Atwood with their 4-year-old son, Aidan. “I think it’s the attitude in high school. (They) want to go out and do something big with their lives. They think in a rural area it can’t be done — that you have to go to a big city and that there are more opportunities in the big city. We just love it back here. It’s all we ever wanted to do since high school — come back to the area.”

As they progressed through school, they remained committed to returning to their rural roots.

“Even optometry school, all the other kids knew they would go to big cities. They were like, ‘You’re

going to western Kansas when you’re done?’” Jordan said. “Many taking the board (exams) were going to Kansas City and Wichita.

“The mentality was that you have to go to a big city to make

this work. We were the only ones taking the boards who planned to work west of Hays.”

While the vastness of the plains can seem empty to some, with emptiness between rural commu-

nities, the couple said it works in their favor. The duo works for Vision Source, with five doctors in six offices: Atwood, Colby, Oakley, St. Francis, Goodland and Burlington, Colo.

“In a strange way, it’s been a better opportunity,” Jordan said. “We don’t get as influenced by the Walmarts.”

Please see COUPLE / Page 10

Fast facts: Census 2020

- The U.S. Census is required by law (U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 2) and has been conducted every 10 years since 1790.
- The Census Bureau includes every person living in the U.S. — regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Residents are counted at the address where they usually live and sleep.
- Population numbers derived from the decennial census are used to distribute over \$6 billion in federal funds to Kansas every year.
- Every uncounted person costs the state of Kansas approximately \$2,082 in federal funding.
- If 1 percent of the Kansas population is uncounted in the 2020 Census, the state of Kansas could miss receiving nearly \$604 million in federal funding over a 10-year period
- Census data is used to determine federal, state and local voting districts.
- Government, businesses and other stakeholders use census data for infrastructure and transportation planning; emergency preparedness, disaster relief, education funding, health tracking and disease control, and a multitude of other things.
- Businesses and government agencies consider population trends when choosing places to locate, which in turn boosts economic growth.
- As the census is only a once-every-10-years process, it is crucial to get the count right. If Kansas is under counted, we will be shortchanged for a decade.
- Under current federal law, the bureau cannot share census responses identifying individuals with the public or other federal agencies, including immigration authorities and other law enforcement, until 72 years after the information is collected.

Source: kansascensus.org

Population could result in financial loss for communities, representation loss nationally

From page 7

more competitive to attract students, he said.

“You can get reciprocal tuition at Oklahoma State and in Arkansas,” Hilgers said. “They’re looking to honor in-state tuition (for students from Kansas). There are financial breaks to travel to those schools.”

With this knowledge, Manhattan is diversifying as it recruits businesses.

“We can’t sit back and rest on our laurels,” Hilgers said. “It takes real effort (to recruit new businesses). We’ve focused on becoming more attractive as a community — to attract faculty, staff and other industries to Manhattan because it’s a very competitive world out there.”

WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS, REYNOLDS SAID they are supposed to be counted in the city or county where they attend college, not the address where their parents reside. For students who live in dormitories, she said the university takes care of the paperwork.

Yet this year provided unforeseen complications when state universities announced the closure of on-campus classes on March 12 and 13.

Census day was April 1. “The census said the college kids are to be counted in the city or county where they would have been if the shutdown did not happen,” Reynolds said. “The problem is, however, that everything shut down and sent the kids home mid-March.”

ANOTHER ASPECT THE CENSUS AFFECTS is voting districts.

Allen Dinkel is the city manager in Junction City, but was born west of Schoenchen in Ellis County.

“When I was born 64 years ago, there was six congressional districts,” he said, and added Kansas is down to four seats in the United States House of Representatives (there are 435 members total).

“If we don’t grow or don’t get accurate counts, we risk dropping to three congressional districts,” he added. “Going from four

seats to three would be a big deal. The “Big First” (District) would get even bigger.”

Reynolds said losing seats is a possibility.

“In 2010, states like Illinois and Iowa and Missouri lost a congressional seat,” she said. “Those are Midwest states. When you’re looking at losing representation at the federal level, that’s huge for your state.”

Wedel said Kansas had eight seats in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1894-1934. Due to population decline, the state lost a seat in 1930, 1940, 1960 and 1990.

“If rural Kansas doesn’t respond to the census, they’re giving up their voice,” she said.

CURRENTLY, ALL RESIDENTS ARE encouraged to fill out the census form that was mailed to their house, Reynolds said. The survey is also available online at my2020census.gov.

Right now, she said the “self reporting” phase is still ongoing.

As of June 22, the self-response rate in Kansas was 65.4 percent; the national self-

response rate was 61.6 percent.

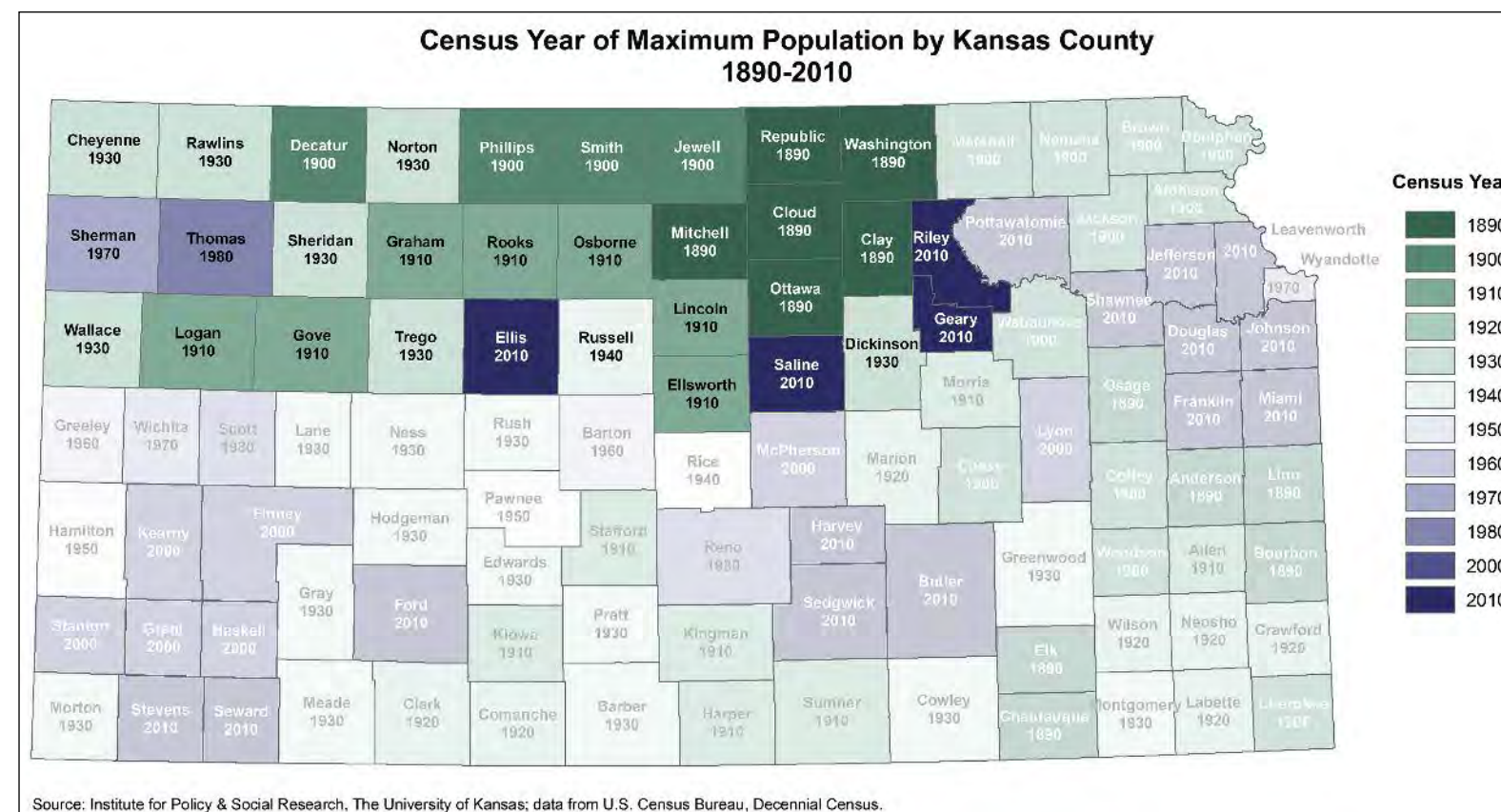
While the overall response rate is strong in Kansas, the response rate is lower in more rural counties, such as Cheyenne County, where the self-response rate is about 53 percent, with 19 percent of residents utilizing the online submission option. In contrast, Saline County has almost a 71 percent response rate, with more than 55 percent of residents submitting their information online.

Wedel said COVID-19 has slightly altered the census timeline. Normally, census workers would be visiting homes that have not responded during the summer months. The census is typically wrapping up by July 30, but this year, the self-reporting deadline has been extended to Oct. 31.

Wedel said the census has been whittled down to nine questions.

“They used to ask income and job and what time do you leave for work and ‘Do you have complete plumbing facilities in your house,’”

Please see CENSUS / Page 10



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Couple set sights on returning to rural Kansas

From page 9

"There's a big need in the rural areas," Andrea added. "It's kind of a blessing. Nobody (from our college) wants to come out to this area, and we want to."

With an aging population in northwest Kansas, Jordan said it's important to maintain medical access in the rural communities.

WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 1,200 residents, Andrea said the community makes efforts to retain its young adults. Toward the end of her high school tenure, someone from community development visited her class to talk about rural opportunities.

"They asked if anyone wanted to come back (to Atwood after college)," she said. "I was the only one



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Jordan Hagler examines a patient's eyes in the Vision Source office in Atwood on Feb. 25.

who raised my hand.

"I think it's the attitude in high school. (They) want to go out and do something big with their lives. They think in a rural area it can't

be done — that you have to go to a big city and that there are more opportunities in the big city."

Andrea said Jordan knew the local optometrist.

"I think it's the attitude in high school. (They) want to go out and do something big with their lives. They think in a rural area it can't be done — that you have to go to a big city and that there are more opportunities in the big city."

Andrea Hagler
Atwood resident

"I knew there was one in the process of retiring here in Atwood," she said.

"They said, 'We'll be ready to bring someone new on by the time you're done

(with optometry school)," Jordan added.

The couple was able to return to their hometown, and work in the community. Andrea works in Atwood, Colby and Oakley, while Jordan maintains office hours in Atwood, Colby and Goodland.

"We just love it back here," Andrea said. "It's all we ever wanted to do since high school — come back to the area."

Both grew up on a family farm.

"We both grew up farming, and we still like to farm, even though we're eye doctors," Jordan said.

"Some people have big ambitions and want to get away from the 'boring,' but I think you can see the beauty in the small or simple stuff if you know what to look for."

Census responses are confidential

From page 9

she said. "All of those questions were pulled out of the decennial census after 2000. In 2010, we had the simplified version."

The questions include names and ages of those in the residence, as well as if the home is rented, owned free and clear or has a mortgage.

"All responses are confidential, it is safe (to respond)," Wedel said. "Under law, the data is confidential for 72 years. It is illegal for the Census Bureau to share this information, even with others in the federal government."

The questions surrounding income, religious affiliation, etc., are now in The American Community Survey, she added.

"I WOULD REALLY LIKE people to know how important the census is, and how it affects programs that are vital to our community and our residents' survival," Reynolds said. "This isn't about the government trying to track down where you live and what nationality you are. It's just, 'Let us know how many people live in your household so we can fund programs accordingly to how many people live in your community.'"

Wedel said it's important to have a full view of the state.

"The census really paints a picture of who we are. Every household we miss is a missing pixel in the picture," Wedel said. "This is why it's so important to count everyone and count them in the right place."

Appreciation of rural life grew slowly over time

From page 1

first job after college was in Grand Island, Neb., where she worked as a school social worker for the alternative middle school.

"I fell in love with it," Gayle said. "Caleb was willing to do whatever he needed to do to come to Grand Island. It wasn't until later, as I got older, I grew more in appreciation for my grandma and small-town life."

WHILE CALEB LEFT HIS hometown of Courtland to attend college at Fort Hays State University, returning home was an option he wanted to keep open. He talked about the desire to return home with the guys in his graduating class.

"Ten of us talked and said it'd really be cool if we could move back home and make it work," Caleb said. "A lot of those guys had family farms to go back to. I was jealous, because they had something to go back and take over."

Because Caleb had no family farm to draw him home, he began exploring other employment options near his hometown. On Easter weekend of 2010, he said he asked Gayle's grandma about how she began working in crop insurance.

"She was 80 then and still running the little crop insurance agency all by herself," he said. "A couple months later, she had me taking my test to get licensed."

He began selling crop insurance with Loretta, in addition to a few other jobs.

CALEB WAS WARMING TO the idea of returning to rural Kansas, but Gayle was not. "We had been dating for

awhile, and I thought things were getting serious and was excited about our future," Caleb said. "Gayle accidentally texted me instead of one of her friends saying, 'This guy wants to move home to podunk Kansas, and I don't think I can make this work.'"

As the couple continued to date, and as her grandmother eventually gave the business to Caleb in 2013, Gayle said her perspective about small-town living began to shift slightly.

"Once we got serious and engaged, I knew something would have to change," she said. "He was still willing to go to Colorado, but I knew his heart was at home. He hated the city. He would have been miserable. Once we got to the serious point of wanting to have kids, we knew we needed family nearby to support us."

"I guess it comes down to when you love someone, you have to do what's best for both of you, not be selfish about it."

The couple wed in 2013, and Caleb split his time between Courtland and Grand Island, where Gayle worked for the first year of their marriage.

As the couple became serious about moving to rural Kansas, Gayle said she wanted a little space from the communities they grew up in — Mankato and Courtland.

"I didn't want people knowing my business or noticing if the bathroom light was on in the middle of the night," she said.

They looked at a three-bedroom house on the outskirts of Formoso.

"I looked at this house and was like, 'I could never live in Formoso, are you

kidding?'" Gayle said. "I turned this house down multiple times."

Yet eventually, they bought the house and made it home.

ONE STRUGGLE CALEB said the small community faces is dilapidated properties.

"There are so many houses that have fallen in and have been abandoned and not been cared for," he said.

A prime example was the house down the road from them. While run down, it had a solid structure and roof.

"I wanted to save that house from further deterioration — to try and stop the trend of all the housing that's been abandoned and not cared for. I thought we could turn it into a rental house and save a nice property from falling in," he said. "Then Gayle brought up the idea of a hunting cabin. That's why we went down that road. We thought, 'We'll try it out for a year, and we can rent it out or sell it.'"

With a rural location and few hotels, Caleb said the house gets plenty of visitors through VRBO or Air B&B website bookings.

"It's a little different type of lodging that people can cook and do their laundry," he said. "Like their own little home."

He and a friend are currently working on improvements of another property that they will similarly list; and Caleb and Gayle manage another Air B&B property in Formoso for a family member.

WHILE ONCE GAYLE FELT like success hinged on a large population, she cur-

Formoso population

1910	453
1920	374
1930	381
1940	293
1950	271
1960	192
1970	180
1980	166
1990	128
2000	129
2010	93

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

rently works as a virtual fitness and nutrition coach, connecting with clients online.

"You can make anything work any place," she said. "You can be successful anywhere ... if you are willing to put in the work! We've had so much support from the community and our family. It's made it a lot easier."

A convert to Catholicism while pregnant with their oldest, Gayle said Caleb's family was a model for love, support and faith.

"His family is amazing. They showed me what a family is and does for each other," she said. "I wanted to be united in faith with my husband. I admired his family's mores and values. They modeled things for me that I never saw as a kid."

But it's something she's working to provide for her own children, Drake, 4, Hazel, 2, and newborn Warren.

"I think small-town life is really beneficial. I feel like it's a safe place to raise kids," Caleb said. "Everybody pitches in to be sure kids are doing what they're supposed to and being safe and looking out for each other in that way. I feel like the whole community helps raise the kids."

2020 Kansas legislative session ends in disappointment

TOPEKA — The 2020 Kansas Legislative session ended in disappointment. Three state representatives from the Diocese of Salina sided with the Kansas abortion lobby in successfully killing the most important legislation of our generation — the Value Them Both State Constitutional Amendment for Life.

“Kansas is no longer pro-life,” laments Chuck Weber, executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, the voice of the Kansas Catholic Bishops on matters of public policy. “Social justice begins with the right to life. Without this amendment, laws protecting pre-born babies and mothers in crisis will almost certainly be eliminated.”

Kansas’ Supreme Court ruled our 1859 Constitution contains a nearly unlimited right to abortion, eliminating the legal basis for nearly all abortion-related laws including parental consent, clinic licensing, informed consent statutes and taxpayer funding bans.

The Value Them Both Amendment states that abortion is not a constitutional right, restoring to Kansans, through elected legislators, the ability to regulate abortion. Legal experts affirm an amendment is the only way to make Kansas pro-life again.

The two-phase process requires that both state legislative chambers adopt the amendment by a 2/3 majority. Every Kansan, regardless of party affiliation, may then vote on the amendment. Republicans Rep. Don Hineman (R) of Dighton, Rep. Tom Phillips (R) of Manhattan and Rep. Bill Pannbacker (R) of Washington joined every



Chuck Weber

Kansas Catholic Conference

Democratic state legislator to prevent Kansans from having a voice on this critical issue.

Rachel Sweet, lobbyist for Planned Parenthood in Kansas expressed her gratitude to the Democrats and Republicans who supported the abortion industry, “I am grateful to the legislators who stood up today, no matter their reasoning, to reject this bill...”

Weber said there were no legitimate explanations or excuses for voting ‘no’ — particularly for those who claim to be pro-life.

“If you are pro-life, you vote ‘yes,’” he said. “If you want unlimited, un-regulated tax-funded abortion in Kansas, you vote ‘no.’ None of the excuses offered justifies a ‘no’ vote because nothing is worse than helping the abortion industry kill more babies in Kansas and destroy their mother’s lives.”

VALUE THEM BOTH and Medicaid Expansion were closely connected. The Catholic Bishops of Kansas supported Medicaid Expansion, but only after the passage and protection of Value Them Both by the Legislature. Due to the State Supreme Court’s ruling, Medicaid abortions financed with Kansas taxpayer dollars, will almost certainly happen.

“If Medicaid Expansion passed without the protection of the state constitutional amendment,” Weber

said, “the problem of taxpayer-funded abortion was projected to be even worse. This has been documented in other Medicaid Expansion states, and it would almost certainly happen here.”

Weber said if Value Them Both had passed, the logjam preventing a vote on Medicaid Expansion would have been broken, and it would have likely passed.

“The 2020 Legislative Session was a disappointment on many levels with a few legislators preventing action on important issues,” he said.

THE KANSAS CATHOLIC Conference will continue to work tirelessly for the Value Them Both amendment. On one level, Kansans will weigh in on the Value Amendment by helping determine who is elected to the legislature this August (primary) and November (general election). Only with authentically pro-life legislators will Value Them Both pass during the 2021 legislative session.

“Above all,” Weber said, “let’s increase our prayers for all elected officials during these trying times.” The Kansas Rosary Crusade, approved by all the bishops of Kansas, is a powerful spiritual tool. Learn more at www.KansasRosaryCrusade.org.

Chuck Weber is hosting in-person or online interactive “Zoom meetings” for groups of any size. Contact him with a request or question at: Chuck@KansasCatholic.org

Sign up for policy updates from the Kansas Catholic Conference by going to www.KansasCatholic.org and clicking the link for email updates. That link also leads to an online tool for finding out who your State Senator or Representative might be and how to contact them. The Kansas Catholic Conference will also be conducting a nonpartisan voter registration drive in parishes.

FAITH AND REASONS

How to support vocations

Q What is the biggest deterrent for young people considering a vocation to priesthood or religious life?



Father Jarett Konrade

Diocese of Salina

A It seems that although there are a variety of factors that would keep a young man from entering the seminary, (i.e. celibacy, financial difficulty, fear of the unknown) the factor that ranks No. 1 in recent studies continues to be parental disapproval.

I have spent some time reflecting upon why this might be. I think in our culture today, we can become quite self-focused, and we often forget the way our words and actions deeply affect those around us. In addition to this, it’s easy to get caught up in the quest for earthly happiness and forget about the fact that we are pilgrims on a journey to eternal happiness with God in heaven.

FOR EXAMPLE, HOW many married couples reflect regularly on their vocational responsibility to do everything within their power to help their spouse get to heaven? This is part of the call within the vocation of marriage, and it’s easy to allow the urgent issues of our daily lives to keep the question of “salvation of spouses” on the back shelf.

In this same thread is the topic of parents who would discourage their children from pursuing a vocation to priesthood or religious life. I’m sure most parents who would fall into this category are most often purely moti-

vated by a desire for a successful and happy life for their children. However, there is obvious confusion in our world as to what will provide that happiness; and I think sometimes parents too quickly buy into the world’s equation for success.

DO WE EVER CONSIDER the deeper repercussions of such an act of discouragement? For example, what if God is calling your child to priesthood or religious life and you influence him/her to say no? Not only are the souls of our children affected in rejecting God’s call in their life, but also think of all the people that God had planned to influence and even bring to salvation through the words and actions of his priest or religious sister or brother.

Once again, I bring it up as an opportunity for reflection for ourselves, for our children and for our grandchildren. What are we doing proactively to make sure that our own children and grandchildren are open to God, wherever he may be calling them? God forbid that we should ever discourage a young person from giving his/her life totally and faithfully to Jesus Christ and his Church.

Father Jarett Konrade is the pastor of St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. E-mail questions to him at faithandreasons7@gmail.com or write him at P.O. Box 1038, Salina, KS 67402.



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Michigan priest assigned to Hays

By The Register

Father Matthew Cowan will move from the Great Lakes in northern Michigan to the Great Plains of Kansas to serve as a priest for the Salina Diocese.

"Both sides of my family have small dairy farms and so it was interesting to compare the size difference between some of the farms I passed in Kansas," Father Cowan said of a trip to Kansas.

He is assigned as parochial vicar of St. Joseph in Hays and will assist at the Comeau Catholic Campus Center at Fort Hays State University.

A native of Petoskey, Mich., Father Cowan was ordained June 28, 2015, by Bishop Bernard Hebda.

IT WAS DURING HIS



Father Matthew Cowan

freshman year at Michigan State when Father Cowan said God prompted him to explore a priestly vocation.

"I discerned religious life with the Jesuits and Franciscans," he said. "After a year or two, it became clearer I am not called to live as a religious priest and shortly after was accepted by the Diocese of Gaylord (Mich.) for diocesan seminary."

Being a missionary was something that presented itself later in his discernment process.

"Shortly before priestly ordination, I had a tug on my heart that made it seem as though at some point during priesthood I would

be open to a missionary term," Father Cowan said. "I assumed it would be in a place like Alaska or Northern Europe, however, we must simply try and do God's active will and follow where that leads."

HE HAS BEEN TO KANSAS a few times and enjoyed the experience.

"The people I've met in Kansas seem very clear-minded and polite and down to earth, which reminded me of something I've always liked about the greater Midwest," Father Cowan said.

In addition to his priestly vocation, Father Cowan said he enjoys reading, hunting, fishing, hiking and camping.

"Kansas itself has its own beauty and the rolling hills were larger than I expected," he added.

Biographies of reassigned priests

Father Norbert Diabal has been the retired the retired priest in residence at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan since 2019.

He was ordained June 10, 1972, at St. Wenceslaus Church in Wilson by Bishop Cyril Vogel. In 1972, he was named parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. In 1976, he was parochial vicar at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish - St. Isidore Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. From 1976-87, he was director and co-director of Vocations. In 1980 he was chaplain of students at Marymount College in Salina. In 1981, he was named pastor of Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan. In 1983, he was named chaplain of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish - St. Isidore Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. In 1991, he was named pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Tipton and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City. In 1997, he served as a missionary in Peru. In 2002, he was named Sacramental Minister at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Salina. In 2002, he was named Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland and Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs. In 2015, St. Francis of Assisi in St. Francis and St. Joseph in Bird City were added as parochial administrators. In 2018, he was the priest in residence at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Father Fred Gatschet has been the rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral since 2019.

He was ordained May 22, 1993, at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan by Bishop George Fitzsimons. In June 1993, he

was named Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. In June 1999, he was named to the Comeau Catholic Campus Center in Hays. From 2001-12, he taught religion class at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays while continuing at the CCCC. From 2013-19, he was the parochial administrator of St. Joseph Parish in Hays.

Father Jarett Konrade has been the pastor of St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Munjor since 2015.

He was ordained May 28, 2005, by Bishop Paul Coakley at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

In 2005, he was named parochial vicar at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish, Salina and was the chaplain and a teacher at Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School in Salina.

In 2008, he was named full-time director of the Office of Priestly Vocations with residence at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

In 2011, he was named parochial administrator of St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson, St. Joseph Parish in Dorrance and St. Mary Parish in Holyrood. He continued as director of vocations and Boy Scout director.

In 2012, he was named to St. Robert Bellarmine Parish - St. Isidore Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. He continued as director of vocations and Boy Scout director. He was director of vocations until 2014.

He served as the associate

Please see BIOGRAPHIES / Page 13

DEATHS

Wayne Lee Bennett, 32, of Greenville, S.C., formerly of Junction City, died April 8, 2020. Private services were held April 24 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN.

Gary Lee Eddy, 73, of Junction City, died May 14, 2020. Graveside services were held by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Mary's Cemetery, Junction City.

Jolene K. Emmel, 68, of Concordia, died May 25, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 29 by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Burial was in St. Concordia Cemetery, Concordia.

Esther Marie Fink, 73, of Junction City, died April 12, 2020. Graveside services were held April 23 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at Highland Cemetery.

Leola Gottschalk, 95, of Hays, died May 26, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 29 by Father Brian Lager at St. Joseph Church in Hays.

Lupe Jordan, 98, of Manhattan, formerly of Junction City, died May 15, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 21 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was in the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery, Fort Riley.

Carmen Kiser, 70, of Junction City, died March 24, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 30 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Junction City.

Melinda Lang, 96, of Hays, died May 5, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 9 by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Damien Paul St. Julien, 39, died May 9, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 20 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Junction City.

Kurt Leistner, 73, of Junction City, died May 7, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 23 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Junction City.

Betty J. Mattas, 87, of Wilson, died Feb. 21, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 24 by Father Tony Kulandaijesu at St. Wenceslaus Church in Wilson. Burial was in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, Wilson.

Judith Ann (Jody) Moloney, 82, died April 17, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 21 by Father Peter O'Donnell at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was in Vine Creek Cemetery, Ottawa.

Marcel Antione Nader, 36, of Junction City, died March 25, 2020. Graveside services were held April 6 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at Highland Cemetery, Junction City.

Florine M. Sanders, 94, of Hays, died May 13, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 18 by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Katherine L. Weber, 94, of Oakley, died May 17, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 21 by her grandson Father Ryan Weber and nephews, Father Kevin Weber and Father Keith Weber at Immaculate Conception Church in Grinnell. Burial was in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Grinnell.

Eddie Whitney, 96, of Norton, died May 22, 2020. A graveside service was held by Father Dan Sheetz at the Norton Cemetery, Norton.



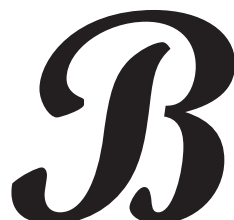
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Biographies of reassigned priests (continued)

From page 1

chaplain of the Comeau Catholic Campus Center at Fort Hays State University in Hays from 2015-19.

Heralds of Good News

Father Gnanasekar Kulandai has been priest administrator of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City since 2020.

He was ordained in 2009.

He joined the Salina Diocese in 2013 and was named parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. In 2014, he was named pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood and St. John Nepomucene Parish in Beardsley and Assumption of Mary Parish in Herndon.

Father Ryan McCandless

has been the parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Hays, associate campus minister of the Comeau Catholic Campus Center and the chaplain of St. Thomas More-Marian Prep Jr./Sr. High School in Hays since 2019.

He was ordained June 3, 2017, by Bishop Edward Weisenburger at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

In 2017 he was named parochial vicar / asst. chaplain of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish-St. Isidore Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Heralds of Good News

Father David Micheal has been parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit since 2016.

He was ordained a priest April 24, 2010, in Melavalady by Bishop Antonisamy Francis, Bishop of Kumbakonam.

In 2015, he was named parochial vicar at Heart Parish in Colby.

Father Peter O'Donnell has been the pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington, St. Philip Parish in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo since 2017.

He was ordained May 22, 2010, by Bishop Paul Coakley at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

In 2010, he was named Parochial Vicar at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe, Parish in Salina. In 2012 he was named parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

In 2013, he was named parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City while studying for canon law degree via online courses

In 2017, he concluded his canon law studies at St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada.

He has also worked on the marriage tribunal since 2017 and was named the diocesan archivist in 2018.

Father Daryl Olmstead

has been pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Tipton, SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City, St. Mary Parish in Downs and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne since 2015.

He was ordained June 7, 1975, at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe, Church in Salina by Bishop Cyril Vogel.

In 1975, he was named parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. In 1980, he was named associate campus minister at St. Robert Bellarmine - St. Isidore Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

In 1981, he was named pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Logan and St. Mary Parish in Densmore (part of a six-parish team ministry project — St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo, Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin, Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville and Sacred Heart Parish in Selden).

In 1983, he was part of a four-parish ministry team, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Logan, with St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hill City and St. Mary Parish in Densmore.

In 1985, he was named pastor of SS. Philip and James Parish in Phillipsburg, along with St. John the Evangelist Parish in

Logan and St. Mary Parish in Densmore. In 1991, he was named pastor of SS. Phillip and James Parish in Phillipsburg and St. Francis Parish in Claudell.

In 1995, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland.

In 2002, he was named parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit and St. Mary Parish in Glasco.

In 2003, he was named pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Mankato, Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon and St. Mary Parish in Smith Center. In 2005, he was named pastor of St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Munjor.

Heralds of Good News

Father Soosai Rathinam

Soosaimari was ordained in December 2006. He was a parish priest in India for seven years before accepting his first assignment abroad in the Salina Diocese.

He arrived in the diocese in August 2013, and was named parochial vicar at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe, Parish in Salina. In 2014, he was named parochial administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington, St. Phillip Parish in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo. In 2017, he was named parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville and St. Thomas Parish in Stockton. In 2018, he was named parochial vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover, and assisted at St. Augustine Parish in Washington and Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf, with residence in Washington.

Father Andrew Rockers has been pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland and Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs since 2019.

He was ordained May 30, 2015, at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop Edward Weisenburger. In 2015, he was named parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Cathedral and St. Joseph Parish in Brookville, Chaplain at Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School in Salina. In 2017, he was named parochial vicar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland and Holy Ghost Parish

in Sharon Springs, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Francis and St. Joseph Parish in Bird City.

Father Damian Richards has been the pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit, St. Theresa Parish in Mankato, St. Mary Parish in Smith Center, Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon and St. Mary Parish in Glasco since 2015.

He was ordained June 6, 1992, by Bishop George Fitzsimons at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

In 1992, he was named parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. In 1994, he was named parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

In 1995, he was named pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood and St. Mary Parish in Herndon. In 2006, St. John Nepomucene in Beardsley was added.

From 2005-15, he was the Diocesan Moderator for the Salina Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

In 2006, he was named pastor of St. Boniface in Tipton, SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City. In 2010, parochial administrative duties of St. Aloysius Parish in Osborne and St. Mary Parish in Downs were added. In 2012, he was named pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Osborne, St. Mary Parish in Downs and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City.

He also is the chaplain for Engaged Encounter for the Diocese (2001 to present) and is the spiritual director for the Cursillo movement in the Diocese (since its inception).

Father Randall Weber

has been the pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center and St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale since 2014.

He was ordained May 25, 1991, by Bishop George Fitzsimons at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Goodland.

In 1991, he was named parochial vicar at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan. In 1993, he was appointed parochial vicar of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

In 1994, he was appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi

Parish in St. Francis, St. Joseph Parish in Bird City and St. John Nepomucene Parish Beardsley.

In 1998, he was named pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington, St. Phillip Parish in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo.

In 1999, he was named pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Abilene; in 2003 he was appointed canonical pastor of St. Michael Parish in Chapman while continuing as pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Abilene.

In 2004, he studied Canon Law at Catholic University, Washington, D.C.

In 2007, he was appointed Vicar General with residence at the Cathedral rectory.

In 2012, he was named pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis and St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln while continuing as vicar general.

Father Mark Wesley

has been pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis and St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln since 2014.

He was ordained June 5, 1993, at St. Andrew Church in Abilene by Bishop George Fitzsimons.

In 1993, he was named parochial vicar at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe, Parish in Salina. In 1994, he was named parochial vicar at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

In 1997, he was named pastor of St. Francis Parish in Bird City and St. John Nepomucene Parish Beardsley. In 1999, he was named pastor of St. John Parish in Herington, St. Philip Parish in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo.

Father Don Zimmerman has been the pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Abilene since 2019.

He was ordained June 2, 1973, at St. Michael Church in Collyer by Bishop Cyril Vogel.

In 1973, he was named parochial vicar at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe, Parish in Salina.

In 1976, he was named pastor of St. Peter Parish in Aurora, St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale and St. Peter Parish in Meredith.

In 1978, he was named pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kanopolis, St. Joseph Parish in Brookville and St. Mary Parish in Holyrood. In 1982, he was named pastor of St. Edward Parish in Belleville, St. Isidore Parish in Cuba and St. George Parish in Munden.

In 1990, he was named pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. In 2002, he was named pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan. In 2015, he was named rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He retired in 2017.

In 2018, he was named parochial administrator of St. Andrew Parish in Abilene.



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Catechist has special message for children waiting for first Communion

By Joanne Ward
Catholic News Service

METUCHEN, N.J. — May is the month many eagerly await because it is the time many children receive first holy Communion. Sadly, this year the coronavirus has made pastors postpone this momentous milestone in the spiritual lives of waiting first communicants.

Not wanting her young students to think they have been forgotten, Coleen D'Amato, who has been preparing her 78 boys and girls to receive Jesus into their hearts sacramentally, decided to talk to them via social media.

In a heartwarming message to the children, D'Amato, who has served for the past three years as parish catechetical leader at Immaculate Conception Parish in Annandale, N. J., told her class: "I know that you have waited and longed to receive our Lord's Most Precious Body and Most Precious Blood in the holy Eucharist and you will."

She acknowledged they had done a lot of preparation for the sacrament and many parents had planned parties and family get-togethers for their special day, but now everything was put on hold because of the coronavirus.

Continuing, D'Amato said, "Sometimes it's hard to wait for something we really want, but you are going to have to be patient." She then posed a question, "Being patient can be hard, can't it?"

"I struggle with that, too," she added.

Having gotten the attention of her boys and girls, D'Amato then told them, "The good news is as much as you're waiting to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, Jesus can't wait to meet you there either." She said that while they are waiting they



CNS composite; photo courtesy the Harris and Marquez families

Crosby Harris and Constantin Marquez are seen with their first holy Communion art. Coleen D'Amato, the students' religious education instructor, invited the students to color photos of the chalice and host, and to pray as the second-grade students wait to receive their first Communion.

should pray to Jesus and ask him to help them be patient.

The catechist then went on to give the children some challenges. She had sent their parents links to pictures of chalices and hosts.

"Pick the one you like best and color it as best as you can, cut it out and hang it on your bedroom window," she instructed.

"When you wake up each morning and see your picture, I want you to say a special prayer to Jesus, and each night before you go to bed, I want you to say that prayer again," she added. D'Amato had sent the prayer to the parents.

"Jesus, I trust you and I will be patient while I wait to receive you in first holy Communion. Jesus, I love you. Jesus, I adore you. Jesus, I trust you. Amen," was the prayer D'Amato wrote for the children to keep by their bedside and say daily.

She said she had colored a picture of a host and chalice and showed them where it was on a window in her home office. "Every time I come in here, it reminds me to pray for you," she said.

SPEAKING AGAIN ABOUT her challenges to them, D'Amato asked the children

to send her a picture of their artwork, telling them if they wanted, they could be in the picture. She said she planned on doing something special with the artwork and would share it with them the next time they were together. She ended her special message saying, "Be patient, know that Jesus loves you, know that we all miss you at church, and we'll see you soon to celebrate. God bless."

Asked how she decided to send her special message, D'Amato said once parishes were closed and public Masses and events canceled, she began thinking about her students who were to receive sacraments this year.

"One of the blessings of parish catechetical leaders is that we are always happy to share our ideas with each other," she said.

She explained that her message for her Facebook post and prayer "was a compilation of ideas" gleaned from other parish catechetical leaders, and email discussions with Carol Mascola, director of the Metuchen diocesan Office of Discipleship Foundation for Children, "as well as through various national and international faith formation and

“Jesus, I trust you and I will be patient while I wait to receive you in first holy Communion. Jesus, I love you. Jesus, I adore you. Jesus, I trust you. Amen.”

Coleen D'Amato

youth ministry groups on Facebook.”

"I put all of the ideas together," she added, "and shaped them into what I wanted to get across to my own first communicants, through my own personality and my own personal relationship with Christ."

A CATECHIST FOR MORE than 20 years, D'Amato noted that in addition to talking to her first Communion class, she hoped to evangelize their families as well as others who might see her message, which she shared on her personal Facebook page and was posted on her parish's and even the diocesan Facebook pages. She wanted people to know they were loved. The response was unexpected.

"I was surprised by how much I touched people that were not getting ready to receive communion for the first time," she said. "Many told me, 'I really miss Jesus. I really miss receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.'"

"I, too, really miss receiving Jesus, and I think that's true for all of us that are Catholic," stated D'Amato.

From the reaction she has received to her heartfelt message viewed by far more than just her first Communicants, it seems that once parishes are opened and the faithful return to Mass, many may receive Jesus as if it were their first time, too.

Conference, Knights urge Catholics to register to vote

By The Leaven

Archdiocese of Kansas City

TOPEKA — Many crucial issues will be in play during the upcoming election. Will Catholics be engaged as faithful citizens, or will they be MIA — Missing In Action?

The Kansas Knights of Columbus and the Kansas Catholic Conference are teaming up to conduct a summer non-partisan voter registration drive. Catholics need to keep in mind that, in order to vote in the Aug. 4 primary, they need to be registered by July 14.

"The Catholic voice is very often missing from the discussion of ideas and public policy today," said Chuck Weber, executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference. "We do what we can at the statehouse, but it is the Catholic in the pew who has a much more effective role to play."

"[Catholics telling] elected representatives how they feel about various issues is crucial. Additionally, Catholics can and should play an active part in determining who serves in those capacities. The first step is registering to vote."

INFORMATION ABOUT the registration drive will be given at parishes through pulpit announcements and social media. Those who want to do online voter registration can go to: KansasCatholic.org.

"The upcoming election cycle will be crucial for issues touching on the sanctity of life, religious liberty and the dignity of the human person," said Vincent Schiffiano, an incoming junior at Benedictine College in Atchison, member of the Knights of Columbus, and summer intern at the conference.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

WEDDINGS

Bart Ginther and Trinity Reuber were married June 6, 2020, at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood. Father Norbert Dlabal witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Bregette (Leibbrandt) Ginther and the late Mark Ginther. Parents of the bride are David Reuber and Patty (Stephens) Horinek. Witnesses were Blake Ginther and Hilary Chvatal.

John Anthony Wienck and Linda Jean Nelson were married Jan. 18, 2020, at Seven Dolours Church in Manhattan. Father Kerry Ninemire witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Ivan and Irene Wienck. Parents of the bride are Leland and Erma Nelson. Witnesses were Grant McKay and Shannon Brinkman.

BAPTISMS

Lochlan Taran Clay Base, son of Kenyon Base and Manon Pecher, was baptized May 16, 2020, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Colt Weston Clark, son of Patrick and Shanna Clark, was baptized May 16, 2020, by Father Jose Kumlumkal, CMI, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Norton.

Wrenlee Jean Hunsicker, daughter of Riley Hunsicker and Tori Tebo, was baptized May 17, 2020, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

Mikaela Nicole Ivy Crankshaw, daughter of William Crankshaw and Manon Pecher, was baptized May 16, 2020, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Shyloh Claudette Marie Crankshaw, daughter of William Crankshaw and Manon Pecher, was baptized May 16, 2020, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Lilah Faithe Jacobs, daughter of Kellen and Emily Jacobs was baptized May 24, 2020, by Father Jose

Kumlumkal, CMI, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Norton.

Aidyn Joseph Kinderknecht, son of Adam and Ashley Kinderknecht, was baptized May 17, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Liam Gabriel Nashi Manima, son of Serne Manima and Ashely Moeller, was baptized April 21, 2020, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Trace Michael McKee, son of Jance and Taylor (Weinland) McKee, was baptized May 29, 2020, by Father Richard Daise at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

Liam Noa Michel Pecher, son of Manon Pecher, was baptized May 16, 2020, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

Scarlet Rae Schroeder, daughter of Joshua and Megan (Dinkel) Schroeder, was baptized May 31, 2020, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Send news and photos to newspaper1@salinadiocese.org

'Green tie' fundraiser to focus on hope during difficult times

From page 1

losing their homes. The people in our diocese need help now more than ever. "Our generous donors are the reason that Catholic Charities has been able to step up and help so many people through this crisis. They are the heroes that are providing life changing help to families in need."



access to signature green cocktails and recipes and receive a reminder before the event begins.

15TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

This year's fundraiser is titled the "Green Tie Celebration."

Platten explained that green is the color of hope. "We decided on the title before COVID-19, but in light of the devastating impact it has had on families, promoting a theme of hope at the live event is even more important now," she said

Catholic Charities has worked hard to make it easy for everyone to access the live event on the website (www.ccnks.org) from computers, tablets, phones and smart TVs.

"The way we are gathering may have changed, but we are looking forward to a great night celebrating our donors, showing them how their donations are at work and the grateful people who have been impacted by their generosity," Platten said. "There will also be some special guests, an auction, a big surprise at the end and a great deal of fun packed into the event."

The event, which begins at 7 p.m., will conclude by 8 p.m.

Supporters are encouraged to register at www.ccnks.org to get updates, view auction items,

\$100,000 MATCH

Knowing that financial assistance is needed now more than ever, anonymous donors have offered a \$100,000 donation match, Frank said. Each donation made to Catholic Charities now through July 18 will be doubled.

"The \$100,000 donation match is such a blessing," he said. "Even though most people have been able to return to work, there were thousands of local people who were unable to work for multiple weeks. Many are still in a financial pitfall and need help to avoid eviction."

During the COVID-19 crisis, Catholic Charities has been a vital resource to struggling families in our diocese. The Mobile Outreach Vans traveled throughout the 31-counties distributing boxes filled with food; basic essentials like toilet paper, soap, shampoo, detergent, toothpaste and deodorant; as well as clothing and infant and adult diapers.

During one of their busiest weeks, Catholic Charities provided food for more than 8,500 meals, distributed bags of hygiene items to 231 families and distributed diapers to 74 moms.

"I couldn't believe those

statistics were from just one week," Platten said. "Every day, our employees are on the front lines, making sure that people's basic needs are met.

"(But) none of these vital services would be possible without our generous donors."

An executive order that shielded people from evictions, foreclosures and the disconnection of utilities, ended on May 31. It is expected that there will be a sharp rise in homelessness. As one of the few agencies that provide rent and utility assistance throughout the Salina Diocese, Catholic Charities has seen a recent spike in the number of people needing financial assistance.

"There are only three homeless shelters that allow families in our diocese, and space is very limited," said Platten. "Our communities are not equipped to help families if they become homeless, so it is important to keep them in their homes.

"I worry most about how this is affecting the children. This is traumatic for them, regardless of age. They need the stability of sleeping in their own beds in the comfort of their homes."

GREEN TIE CELEBRATION

As sign of the unifying message of hope, people are encouraged to wear green during the Green Tie Celebration on July 18.

Catholic Charities would like supporters to send pictures of "at home celebrations" that can be shared on the live streaming event. Additional information is available at www.ccnks.org.

Registration for the event and the auction bidding will go live on July 1.

There will be four live-auction items during the July 18 event; bidding for these items begins July 1. An additional item is dinner with Bishop Jerry Vincke at the home of Jeff and Mary Thompson. Tom and Katie Platten will co-host the dinner. This item also goes live on July 1, with the cost of \$1,000 per person and is limited to the first 20 people who make a reservation. To reserve your seat, visit www.ccnks.org or contact Jeanie Warner at (785) 825-0208 or jwarner@ccnks.org. Date and details are available on the website.

Donations and bids for auction items are accepted through July 18. All donations will be doubled, up to the \$100,000 match. Checks should be mailed to Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 1366 Salina, KS 67402 or online at www.ccnks.org.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Memorial Day blessing in Abilene



Father Don Zimmerman prays during the Mass where the newly refurbished Crucifix and statues at the Abilene Cemetery were blessed by Bishop Jerry Vincke May 25 on Memorial Day.

Courtesy photo by Dan Morton

Beardsley First Communion



Youth at St. John Nepomucene Parish in rural Beardsley received First Communion May 23. From left are catechist Jolene Reeh, Andy Hanson and Father Joseph Asirvatham. Andy is the son of Brian and Jacque Hanson.

Courtesy photo

Pope clears way for beatification of K of C founder

By **Cindy Wooden**
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, clearing the way for his beatification.

While the Vatican announced May 27 that Pope Francis had signed the decree, it did not announce a date for the beatification ceremony.

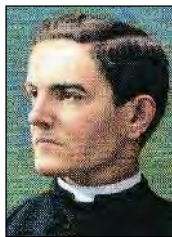
During the COVID-19 pandemic, previously scheduled beatification Masses have been postponed.

For beatification, the Vatican requires proof of a miracle attributed to the candidate's intercession, unless the candidate was martyred for his or her faith.

A statement from the Knights of Columbus said, "The miracle recognized as coming through Father McGivney's intercession involved an unborn child in the United States who in 2015 was healed in utero of a life-threatening condition after prayers by his family to Father McGivney."

Meeting with the board of directors of the Knights of Columbus in early February, the statement noted, Pope Francis said the organization has been faithful "to the vision of your founder, Venerable Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need."

"Father McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their



Father Michael McGivney

sleeves and put their faith into action," said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. "He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church.

Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of

society as he served widows and orphans in the 1880s."

Father McGivney was born Aug. 12, 1852, the eldest of 13 children born to Patrick and Mary Lynch McGivney in Waterbury, Conn.

In 1877, he was ordained in Baltimore by Archbishop James Gibbons for the then-Diocese of Hartford, Conn.

He fell ill during an influenza epidemic and died Aug. 14, 1890, probably from complications of pneumonia and tuberculosis.

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Sarah Hart is one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music today. Her songs of faith and workshops have touched the lives of thousands. Originally from Lancaster, Ohio, she has a degree in music from Ohio State University. Now based in Nashville, she's on the road a good part of the year, juggling a busy songwriting, recording, concert and event schedule.

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COST \$35 PER PERSON INCLUDES LUNCH.

SDCCW Meeting and Installation of officers will occur at 3:00 after the presentation by Sarah Hart.

Hotel rooms blocked at Best Western Hotel, 525 S 1st, Wacancy until August 21st. Rooms are approximately \$94 before taxes.