

Catholic schools reopen across diocese

By Karen Bonar
The Register

HANOVER — The first day of school on Aug. 19 looked a little different this year at St. John's Catholic School.

Instead of parents walking their students to the classroom and taking traditional first day of school photos, families waited for their turn for temperature checks and screening questions prior to entering the building.

"We have a station set up at the front door," said principal Amanda Cook. "A nurse has volunteered to come in and will do a temp check and ask COVID questions and sanitize their hands."

Once children from one family unit are screened, they were permitted to enter the building.

"They will go directly to their classrooms, they won't be permitted to congregate," Cook said.

The school has 97 students in grades first through eighth. The plan is to stagger arrival time, so



Courtesy photo

Students line up at intervals outside of St. John's Catholic School in Hanover on Aug. 19 to await temperature checks on the first day of school.

not many will be milling about in front of the school. Additionally, Cook said there will be a monitor on each floor to ensure students go directly to their classrooms.

As in schools across the state and country, adjustments are being made to help minimize risk or exposure relating to COVID-19. With fewer than 100 students in the building, Cook said the challenges aren't as steep as other schools are facing.

"For the most part, I

think we can work without dividers," she said.

According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's website, as of Aug. 19, Washington County, where Hanover is located, only had two positive COVID-19 cases, compared to the counties that surround it with double-digit cases.

There will, however, be changes for the school year. In addition to temperature checks, screening questions and hand sanitizing, stu-

dents will be required to wear masks.

"We asked them to have two masks and a container to keep them in," Cook said. "I have allowed them to choose the mask they will wear. I think if they pick something they like, they are more likely to be willing to wear it."

Additionally, students will eat lunch in the classroom and water fountains have been turned off.

Cook, who is entering her second year as principal in

Hanover, spent 20 years teaching third grade before transitioning into administration. She said with a low COVID-19 count in the county, the hope is to return to school in a safe manner.

"Our parents and community has been very supportive," she said of the school's efforts to prepare for the year. "Most of our families have the mindset of 'Let's follow the rules, wear the mask and get back to school.'"

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Sister Pauline retires after 57 years in Catholic education

By Karen Bonar
The Register



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Sister Pauline Kukula, a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia, taught at Sacred Heart Junior High School for 33 years. She retired at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

SALINA — The first day of school is one Sister Pauline Kukula, CSJ, looks forward to every year.

"If you like to fall in love and you want to fall in love, brand new, over and over again, year after year, be a teacher," she said. "When it was August, I say, 'It's time to fall in love again!'"

"After 50 years, I would still get excited," she added with a laugh as she talked about the first day of school.

Except, this year will be different. An August with heartbreak.

Sister Pauline, who was a

teacher for 57 years, retired in May.

Her retirement marks the end of an era for Catholic education in the diocese. For more than 120 years, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia have taught at Catholic schools within the diocese. Sister Pauline was the only religious sister employed as a teacher for the 2019-20 school year. With her retirement, there are no more religious sisters teaching at Catholic schools.

"She's a role model. Not only for students, but for staff," said principal John Krajcek, "She taught how to lead prayer services for kids and teachers. As we would lead prayer services,

we would take our cues from sister."

ON AN OVERCAST Tuesday, 81-year-old Sister Pauline walked up the sidewalk at Sacred Heart Jr.-Sr. High School wearing a 100-watt smile, and delivered one of her signature lines: "We've got to be the sunshine in each other's lives today," she said cheerfully.

It's a line her students often hear on any dreary day.

She spent 33 of her 57 years in education within the walls of Sacred Heart Jr.-Sr. High School.

"She's legendary around

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Transplant

Father Mike Leiker received a new liver, which was donated by a member of the Salina Diocese, on May 22.

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Census concludes

Self-reporting count will end Sept. 30.

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Men's Conference

Annual conference adjusts, proceeds with social distance.

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'God-incidence' leads to new liver for Father Leiker

By Karen Bonar

The Register

COLBY — Father Mike Leiker will celebrate his first anniversary as a priest on Sept. 14 doing followup appointments relating to his liver transplant.

This is no coincidence.

In fact, the path to a transplant from a living donor is riddled with "God-incidences" rather than coincidences, said Brenda Kopriva, who donated a portion of her liver to Father Leiker.

"I read about it in The Register and prayed about it for about a week," she said, "and then started the process to see if I could match to be a donor."

As a surgeon at Citizens Medical Center in Colby, Kopriva said she had a professional experience that prompted her to explore the option of possibly donating.

"Shortly before this came up, I lost a patient to liver failure who was waiting on a transplant list," she said. "It was heavy on my heart when it happened. I know the road a liver patient goes down, and I told my husband, 'I know how terrible it can get. I just walked someone through this. I can have an impact on this person's life.'"

She had a passing familiarity with Father Leiker due to working at the hospital in Colby. He was assigned as the associate pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and made occasional hospital calls.

As she continued through the application process, Father Leiker began to cover Masses in Atwood from time to time. Kopriva and her husband, Jim, live in Atwood. They are also parishioners at St. John Nepomucene in rural Beardsley.

Father Leiker's assistance in Atwood allowed the couple's three children to see the potential liver recipient.

"I involved the kids from pretty early on," Kopriva said. "They were able to see his coloring, and we talked about how a new liver would help him become healthy."

"One big 'God-incidence' was my family getting acquainted with the story and the man behind the story. Seeing Father Mike at church was convenient and helped give them a better understanding."

THE TRANSPLANT WAS necessary because Father Leiker has an autoimmune condition called primary sclerosing (skluh-ROHS-ing) cholangitis (koh-lan-JIE-tis), which is commonly known as PSC. It is a dis-



Brenda Kopriva is pictured with Father Mike Leiker at Sacred Heart Church in Colby. Kopriva, who is a doctor at Citizens Medical Center in Colby and lives in Atwood, donated a portion of her liver to Father Leiker. Father Leiker's liver was damaged due to an autoimmune disease, and his medical team informed him a living donor would be the fastest way to improved health.

Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

ease of the bile ducts, which carry the digestive liquid bile from the liver to the small intestine. Inflammation causes scars within the bile ducts, which makes the ducts hard and narrow. Over time, it causes serious liver damage and liver failure.

"I wasn't nervous about being public (with my condition)," he said. "It was nice to put it out there because I know people had the question, 'Why is Mike yellow?'"

"It was a relief for other people to understand what I needed, and that it wasn't life-threatening. A lot of people said, 'That explains a lot of things' such as my skin color and energy level."

BECOMING A DONOR began online with forms and medical history, and later progressed to lab work. Kopriva said the process advanced, and phone interviews were held. The process took about three weeks, she said, and at that point, there was a pool of a half a dozen candidates.

"They wanted more than one option in case imaging or cardiac workup wasn't going to work for me to be a donor," she said. "Screening multiple potential donors at one time meant they wouldn't have to start the whole process over again if I wasn't a match. Time matters for transplant recipients."

Yet the idea of surgery or organ donation didn't make her uncomfortable.

"I'm very comfortable with the terminology and the concept," said Kopriva, who is a surgeon. "Part of why I was comfortable doing this was because I knew the liver would regrow like a starfish."

"The part they took from me would regrow in Father Mike, and mine would regrow. I knew this, but it was a foreign concept in almost everyone I talked to."

THOSE WHO WERE interested in exploring the option of liver donation contacted the Mayo Clinic directly. Father Leiker said they insulated him from the screening process.

"I had no idea how many people had signed up to see if they were a match for me," he said. "I didn't know where anything stood. The Mayo Clinic won't tell you what's going on until it's time to do something because they don't want to bring any false hope, which is good."

Kopriva was one of the potential donors and was eventually invited to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for imaging work. It was then when they told her she could contact the recipient.

"I was really nervous because I didn't know him that well," she said. "The first and only thing he wanted to talk about (during that conversation) was me, my family and what it meant to us. I wanted the conversation to be about him, but he wanted it to be about me."

When he began to think about a living donor, Father Leiker said he had reservations about potential donors with family commitments or young children. Kopriva's

children are ages 9, 7 and 5.

"She flat out told me, 'I'm supposed to tell you because you have the right to say 'no' if we're a solid match,'" Father Leiker said. "But she said, 'I don't know why you'd do that.'"

"I told her, 'I wouldn't know how I would deal with it if something happened to you.' Brenda basically said, 'You have to trust God.'"

Kopriva said she and her husband, Jim, discussed the surgery and potential risks before embarking on the process.

"I felt such assurance about it because I felt called to do it," she said of the liver donation. "I felt protected and safe. It was a blessing I had that other people — Father Mike and my husband — didn't have. I think it was harder on those guys than it was on me."

Their initial phone call was on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26.

"It was at the start of Lent, and he got emotional and said, 'This is going to be quite the Lent for me and you,'" Kopriva said.

INITIALLY, FATHER Leiker said the harvest and transplant surgeries were scheduled for March, but when the COVID-19 pandemic erupted, plans had to change. As hospitals adjusted protocols and schedules, Kopriva was also adjusting in the hospital where she worked.

"I was the COVID hospitalist and dealt with anyone who possibly had COVID," she said.

Father Leiker said a few weeks before surgery was scheduled, Kopriva touched base with him to ask him to wear a mask at the "drive by" bulletin handout scheduled at Sacred Heart Parish in Colby.

"I was feeling really horrible — my liver issues were flaring up — I had a fever," Father Leiker said. "Once I told her I had a fever, she told me to go to the ER. She'd already called the ER and told them I was coming."

Due to his fever and cough, he was quarantined, and was in close communication with Kopriva.

"It gave us the opportunity to know each other better," she said. "Before that, we just knew each other passing in the halls, but after that we got to know about each other's families, and he got to know how I became Catholic. It was important to solidify those bonds that affirmed to me that this is the right thing to do."

Because Kopriva knew a transplant was on the horizon, she was in touch with the team at the Mayo Clinic, to check on medication administration.

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BISHOP’S CALENDAR

September 2020

- 12 Divine Mercy Radio Banquet, Hays
- 13 Divine Mercy Radio Banquet, Salina
- 14-17 Clergy Days, Salina
- 21 Chi Rho Spiritual Monday, Manhattan
- 25-26 TMP Homecoming, Hays
- 27 Confirmation, 11 a.m., St. Mary, Ellis

All calendar items subject to change

SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

The Holy Father entrusts the Apostleship of Prayer to publicize his prayer intentions for the good of the world and the Church.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual Mass to honor the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, usually celebrated at Holy Cross Church in Pfeifer has been canceled due to COVID-19. It will be re-scheduled in September 2021.

A caption in the July 24 edition of The Register misidentified Holy Cross Church in Pfeifer. The Register apologizes for the error.

ANNIVERSARIES

Rich and Judy Bieker of Salina celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 27 with a summer family trip to Branson, Mo. Rich Bieker and Judy Geschwentner were married June 27, 1970, at St. Mary Church in Ellis. They are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Salina. They have three children, Chris of Frisco, Texas, Melissa Korb of Salina and Aaron of Frisco, Texas, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



Mr. and Mrs. Bieker

Victor and Patricia Olson of Manhattan will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 6. Victor S. Olson Jr. and Patricia McCormick were married Aug. 6, 1960, at St. Columbkilles Church in Blaine. They are members of St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

They have six children, Rosa Buser, Brenda Olson, Linda Bongers, Victor Olson III, Vicki Ekart and Todd Olson, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Mr. and Mrs. Olson

Ray and Anne Feldkamp of Manhattan celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Aug. 22. Ray Feldkamp and Anne Sedlacek were married on Aug. 22, 1950, at St. John Church in Hanover. They are members of St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

They have nine children, Jeanie Gerstner, John Feldkamp, Dr. Tim Feldkamp, Marilyn Morel, Mike Feldkamp, Debbie Nowak, Gregg Feldkamp, Mark Feldkamp and David Feldkamp, 29 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Feldkamp

Online event replaces annual seminarian dinner

By The Register

SALINA — On July 29, the Diocese of Salina announced its decision to cancel the Annual Seminarian Dinner, which was scheduled for Aug. 13. “We were saddened to cancel the in-person seminarian dinner,” Bishop Jerry Vincke said. “However, after lengthy discussions and prayer, we believe this is the most prudent decision for all involved. We also recently learned our seminarians would be unable to attend the dinner, due to restrictions placed on them by their seminaries.

“It is our sincere hope that we can all gather together in honor of our seminarians at the 2021 Annual Seminarian Dinner.”

The Salina Diocese has eight seminarians. If a seminarian is ordained as a priest, it is estimated in his lifetime, he will:

- Celebrate 20,000 Masses
- Hear 30,000 confessions
- Perform 700 baptisms
- Preside at 230 weddings
- Officiate at 450 funerals.

The purpose of the seminarian dinner is to honor current seminarians and raise funds for their education.

In place of the in-person dinner, the diocese provided a virtual opportunity for parishioners to meet the seminarians, receive an update from the vocations office and listen to comments from Bishop Vincke. Those videos can be found on the diocesan Youtube page (@Salina_Diocese)

and social media platforms. This online event also came with a matching opportunity. A couple of anonymous donors will match all gifts to the Seminarian Dinner at the rate of \$1 for a \$1, up to \$40,000. All gifts to the Seminarian Dinner given between July 29 to Sept. 15 will receive this match. To make a donation, please visit <https://salinadiocese.org/development/seminarian-dinner>.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Shearer, director of stewardship and development, at beth.shearer@salinadiocese.org or Katie Greenwood, annual gifts and event coordinator, at katherine.greenwood@salinadiocese.org or call (785) 827-8746.

Seven Dolors centennial celebrations pushed back

By The Register

MANHATTAN — While the current Seven Dolors Church in Manhattan was dedicated two years after the Spanish flu pandemic concluded, the church’s centennial, which was scheduled to be celebrated with multiple events this year, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We were very sad to postpone our celebration,” said Father Kerry Ninemire, pastor of Seven Dolors. “Everyone was so looking

forward to it. But to have the full and family celebration that everyone in the parish wanted, and that the church building deserved, we had not choice in these COVID-19 times but to postpone — hopefully next year in September.”

Parishioners began preparing for the centennial, with a major church renovation. It was completed, the church interior completely updated, and rededicated on Nov. 4, 2018.

The church, Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was founded in 1880. The current building was dedicated on Oct. 31,

1920, and cost more than \$66,500.

The renovation, which was complete in 2018, was a multi-million dollar project. Additionally, Catholic Extension contributed a \$60,000 matching portion for the historical preservation. In 2019, the church received awards from the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance (an Award of Excellence in Historic Preservation) and a Preservation Merit Award from the Kansas Preservation Alliance, honoring the excellence in preserving the church’s historic nature during the project.

WEDDINGS

Ethan Mac Bechard and Elizabeth Kalista Nobert were married June 5, 2020, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Msgr. Barry Brinkman witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Matt and Christy Bechard. Parents of the bride are Larry and Kara Nobert. Witnesses were Brian Castro and Olivia Nobert.

Brett Hertel and Kendra Werth were married July 4, 2020, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are John and Laura (Flax) Hertel.

Parents of the bride are Craig and Rosalind (Kreutzer) Werth. Witnesses were Marc Hertel and Lori Leiker.

Sheldon Nelson and Nikole Schroeder were married July 11, 2020, at Sacred Heart Church in Colby. Father Richard Daise witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Paul and Sheryl (Sowers) Nelson. Parents of the bride are Kriss and Lisa (Kough) Schroeder. Witnesses were Bryon Sowers and Kristi Bird.

Nathan Rohr and Tiffanie Thiede were married June 23, 2020, at St. Nicholas of Myra

Church in Hays. Father Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Richard and Kay (Dinkel) Rohr. Parents of the bride are John and Cassie (Miller) Thiede. Witnesses were Brent Rohr and Rachel Luedders.

Braiden Werth and Mindy Gower were married June 27, 2020, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Kent and Shawnda (Balthazor) Werth. Parents of the bride are Michael and Amy (Babcock) Gower. Witnesses were Austin Werth and Michaela Gower.

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Publisher: Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke, Bishop of Salina
Editor: Karen Bonar, newspaper1@salinadiocese.org
Advertising/Circulation: Brenda Streit, newspaper@salinadiocese.org
Business Manager: Jennifer Hood, finance@salinadiocese.org

P.O. Box 1038, Salina, KS 67402-1038
(785) 827-8746, Fax (785) 827-6133
salinadiocese.org/the-register

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Deadline for advertising is Aug. 31.

Mailing label update

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A campaign to send a hug

SUMMER IS USUALLY a lot of fun in our homes. The elderly enjoy getting outdoors for picnics, gardening and community outings, especially when they include a stop for ice cream.

Not so this year! As summer wears on with no end to the pandemic in sight, the mandated social isolation is beginning to take a serious toll on our elderly residents.

In many of our homes, the residents have been living in forced isolation in their rooms since late March. Direct contact with family and friends has been forbidden for the last five months. While people from many walks of life have been incredibly generous in sending messages to our residents and helping us to provide for their physical needs, and we have been able to use technology to ensure screen contact between the elderly and



Sister Constance Veit

Little Sisters of the Poor

their loved ones, screen time cannot fully replace person-to-person connections with loved ones and socialization with fellow residents.

The longer the pandemic lasts, the more concerned I am about the isolation of the elderly. It's bad enough for our residents, but I can't even begin to imagine how lonely it is for seniors who live by themselves, especially in rural areas and regions that lack adequate internet service — an estimated half of all Americans lack high-speed internet service at home — or for those unfamiliar with communication technologies many of us take for granted.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, celebrities of all types have reached out online to lift our spirits and remind people that we are all in this together. "Alone together" has become a popular catch-phrase, but what about the 50 percent of Americans — including many seniors — who lack internet access and who are especially vulnerable to the scourge of loneliness?

I'M AFRAID THAT THE marginalization of frail seniors could become the new normal. A recent study carried out by the National Bureau of Economic Research suggests that both economic damages and loss of life from COVID-19 might best be limited by "a simple targeted policy that applies an aggressive lockdown on the oldest group and treats the rest of the population uniformly."

The NBER working paper

(May 2020) states that gains from "targeted policies" can be substantially increased by combining them with additional measures such as increasing the "social distance" between the oldest group and the rest of the population, reducing visits to older relatives and segregating the times when different demographic groups can go to grocery stores and pharmacies.

Such measures are referred to as a form of "protective custody" intended to protect the elderly.

After seeing our residents suffer through five months of lockdown, concepts such as "targeted policies" and "protective custody" make me cringe. Surely our society can do better than this for our seniors!

Feeling the weight of these issues, I read our Holy Father's message to young people on July 26, the feast

of SS. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. He asked the young to perform "a gesture of tenderness towards the elderly, especially the loneliest, in their homes and residences, those who have not seen their loved ones for many months."

"Dear young people," he said, "each one of these elderly people is your grandparent! Do not leave them by themselves. Use the inventiveness of love, make telephone calls, video calls, send messages, listen to them and, where possible, in compliance with the healthcare rules, go to visit them too. Send them a hug."

Let's get inventive and find ways to make sure that our elders never feel marginalized or forgotten, no matter how long the pandemic lasts!

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

Learning to treasure time, not fast forward it

RECENTLY I WAS reminded of an important lesson about time. At this point in my life, I should understand that God's timing is always perfect. But the human side of me is impatient, desiring prayers answered on my timeline.

An early morning walk with my friend, Jennifer, illustrated this in a way that made me reconsider how I was looking at time. When we met to walk the trails near her neighborhood, she asked for an update on our house.

We sold our home a few months ago and have been waiting to move into our new place. Unfortunately, we've met with repeated delays, disappointments and some seemingly deceptive "bait and switch" tactics from the builder. I vented to my friend about how the builder promised one thing,



Patti Lamb

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

and then delivered something different.

I complained that our move-in date couldn't come soon enough, and harshly stated that each additional week they pushed the closing back felt like an eternity. I'd soon eat those words.

Jennifer kindly listened to my diatribe and empathized with my situation.

Next, I turned the conversation to her. I asked for updates on her family. Did her daughter pursue becoming a resident advisor (RA) on campus in the fall? What succulent dish did her husband make recently with his

smoker? How is onboarding remotely going with her new job?

"Well, my news isn't good," she said. She went on to share that her mother had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Surgery didn't prove effective, and her mother — given her age — wished to be comfortable at home without further treatment. She rejoiced over the wonderful medical staff and the exceptional care they are providing to her mother.

JENNIFER EXPLAINED TO me that she plans to treasure each moment spent with her mom. She talked about some things that she and her siblings would do with her mom, when her mother was having days good enough to engage with family.

"God's timeline," she added.

In that moment, my friend helped me to do something she has a knack for — deliberately viewing life through a lens of wisdom and faith.

Psalm 90:12 came to mind: "Teach us to count our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart."

Here I was fussing over minor inconveniences and wishing time away so that we could move in already. Instead, I should be appreciating each season and each moment, present to God and to others. I was embarrassed that I had been viewing time in the opposite manner as my friend. I was wanting to hit "fast forward," and Jennifer was cherishing each day.

I fondly recall a story my friend, Father Bob Gilday, recounted from a homily by John Cardinal Wright in 1972. I'm paraphrasing, but

the homilist posed this question to a group of seminarians: "If the plane goes down on the way back to the U.S. from Rome after your ordination, would you feel that life had been wasted since you prepared for years to be a priest and life would end before you could serve as one? If so, then you haven't understood or lived life well." He implied that their lives would have significance anyway, even if they never achieved their goal.

I need to stop with statements like, "I'll be happy when..." and appreciate the present in whatever form it takes. I'll try to do better at seeing time as a gift from God, and an opportunity to love and serve those he's placed around me.

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

A Psalm to This God

DID YOU EVER WONDER whether your image of God has changed over time? When I was a little girl, I always addressed God as Father. That was the image I grew up with, and it was fine. I never questioned it. That's simply the way things were. As I got older and was shaped by life experiences, I began to see that my notion of God had never been stagnant, had always been changing, even without my knowing it! And I realized that the image of God was only limited to my imagination. What a surprise to realize how my image of God had continued to evolve over the years and was alive!

During a yearly retreat, I found myself pondering this God of surprises in a new and more mindful way. I



Sister Gilla Dubé

Register columnist

looked at my image of God and took stock of my life and this intimate relationship that I've had with God. Whether living moments of darkness or light, I realized that God is ever present, faithful and loving, patiently waiting. God never stands still. More and more I've come to believe that each of us comes before God to be nourished and to nourish, to bless and be blessed, to break and be broken, to offer and be offered — all for the life of the world. But it's not just any god but This God! And that makes

all the difference!

THIS REALIZATION LED me to a Psalm of Thanksgiving:

This God works the land from sunup till sundown, and returns home every evening, compelled by the homecoming ... This God intimately knows the soil and the terrain and all peoples and creatures and knows when the planting and harvesting are at their best, with each crop, in every season, across every land ... This God knows the hearts of all creatures, the heart of creation and how to nourish for the most life ... This God is as masterful at working the land for its bounty as tending the soil of the heart ... This God never loses sight of hearth and home and invites every per-

son and living thing to be part of the journey ... AND SO I GO! ...

This God eagerly comes home to me after laboring in the fields, never tiring of open arms that accompany the daily welcome ... This God knows where the path is and goes to any length and depth to find me when I stray, then brings me home and loves me more than ever! ... When weeds impede my view and I lose sight of the path and become lost, This God is never lost and never loses sight of me ... never stops being prodigal ... never stops reclining at my table ... never stops sitting at my feet ... never stops wanting to touch the hem of my garment ... never stops longing to come home to me! ... This God desires me! Who I am and how I am make a dif-

ference? When I lift up my sisters and brothers, when I reverence Earth, This God is also lifted up and revered. And when I turn away by what I do and what I fail to do, what I say and fail to say, This God is diminished and This God's dream THAT ALL BE ONE is violated! ... May I walk more tenderly in a world that This God so loves and has made holy and so desperately wants whole! ... AND MY ANSWER IS "YES!" ...

This prayer of thanksgiving emerged as I contemplated This God of my life. I invite you to write your own prayer of thanksgiving to This God who loves passionately in ways we can't begin to imagine.

Sister Gilla Dubé is a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia. As a staff member at Manana House of Prayer, she participates in programs and program planning.

Donor: ‘I feel like this is God’s work’

From page 2

“The liver transplant team was trying to figure out how she knew I was having the transplant, because they hadn’t even told me a date yet,” Father Leiker said. “She said, ‘I’m the donor.’ They were flabbergasted she was the doctor taking care of me and also the donor.”

ONCE CLEARED FROM HIS flare-up, the surgical date proceeded.

On May 22, the right lobe, which was about 60 percent of Kopriva’s liver, was transplanted into Father Leiker.

Due to COVID-19, hospital visitors were limited.

“We would have lunch and reassure each other everything would be OK,” he said.

The duo granted permission for their medical teams to share updates with the other following the surgery.

“We would see each other as we were doing our walks in the halls,” Father Leiker said. “It was nice to check on each other because we weren’t allowed to have anybody with us.”

Kopriva said the most noticeable aspect of recovery was fatigue.

“The whole liver regenerates in three weeks,” she said. “I spent the first week sleeping a lot. After that, it was a slow climb out of taking naps. After four weeks, I was back to work.”

But back to work with restrictions. She was not permitted to lift anything heavy for eight weeks following surgery.

“It has made me a better surgeon to be on the other side,” Kopriva said. “Now I understand better what patients go through. I also understand what limitations I place on them mean for their lives.”

Father Leiker’s liver is also back to full size, and because the organ is considered “foreign” by his body, he will have to continue on anti-rejection medications for the rest of his life.

LOOKING BACK, Father Leiker said he understands more fully why his doctor encouraged him to explore the option of a living donor.

“One of the things that he said was, ‘You’re not sick enough to be on the list, but if you can find a living donor, and we can do this, your quality of life will change immensely,’” Father Leiker said. “Until I experi-

enced it, I had no idea what he meant.

“The day after surgery, I knew there was something different. I could feel a difference. I knew I was tired from the anesthesia, but it wasn’t the chronic fatigue, the beat up feeling I had all the time.”

Yet the changes he noticed aren’t only internal.

“One day, a couple weeks after surgery, I was outside and noticed my skin tone,” he said. “I realized I was white. It was a normal skin tone. A few weeks later, I noticed the whites of my eyes were white, not yellow.

“I experience something new every day — things that I didn’t realize I was missing.”

FAITH WAS A CENTRAL thread of the entire experience — for both the donor and recipient.

“It was good to have that bond. Being able to celebrate Mass together was so huge and powerful, so reassuring,” Father Leiker said. “Our shared Catholic faith was huge. Not just her and I sharing that, but my doctor sharing that as well. There was trust we had going into it that, ‘God’s got this.’

“Brenda and I had Mass

together in that private chapel the day before surgery. It was phenomenal — a wonderful celebration of life. We prayed for the care team and surgeons, doctors, everybody involved. It was a special moment.”

The opportunity to grow a friendship and share their faith prior to the procedure was something Kopriva said she valued.

“We had talked about some of the limitations Father’s disease placed on his ministry,” she said. “He felt he had so much more to give but was not physically able. It resonated with me.

“I also feel called by God to serve through my career, and having a restriction on that would be very difficult. With the transplant, I saw a chance to help Father Mike heal and serve the God he loves at the level he feels called.”

GRATITUDE IS another aspect of the experience — but one they don’t quite know what to do with.

“I knew I was thankful for Brenda and the others who signed up to see if they were a donor, but I didn’t know how to be thankful. I didn’t know what ‘being thankful’ looked like until

“Our shared Catholic faith was huge. Not just her and I sharing that, but my doctor sharing that as well. There was trust we had going into it that, ‘God’s got this.’”

Father Mike Leiker

after surgery,” Father Leiker said.

Kopriva said her willingness to explore the option to donate was a simple act of following what she felt was God’s will.

“I don’t feel like this is my work,” she said. “I feel like this is God’s work and a whole lot of people’s gift.”

Kopriva pointed out her family in Atwood assisted with caring for her kids in her absence, and the hospital permitted her to take four weeks off for the surgery and recovery.

“This happened through a willing person that has a ton of blessings surrounding them,” she said. “I don’t feel like I did anything but be willing.”

FAITH AND REASONS

Rules in the Church

Q Why does the Catholic Church have so many rules?

A We often see this question in regards to our Catholic faith.

Why all the rules? I think there to be two basic answers. First, these rules protect us, and secondly, they allow us to be free. I know this sounds counter intuitive that rules actually bring us freedom, so I will provide you a couple analogies to explain.

Let us start with these darn face masks we all seem to love so much. While seemingly nobody likes wearing a mask, most all of us prefer wearing a mask to the shutdown of society we experienced in March and April of this year. These masks help to protect us from a dangerous virus, and the rules mandating us to wear masks provide us the freedom to travel, to visit others and to live.

My second analogy involves the rules of the road. We know them well, and most of us follow them. We drive on the right side of the road, and we stop at red stoplights. Because we follow these rules, we are free to drive while having conversations with family and friends, and we are free




Father Gale Hammerschmidt
Diocese of Salina

even to sing a song or two while listening to Spotify or the radio. Imagine driving without laws. It would be chaos. We would be continually on edge, driving nervously and defensively hoping to avoid certain disaster. Again, particular rules exist to lead us into freedom and protect us from harm.

Now let us shift to the “rules” of the Church. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church has come to the wisdom of knowing that there are things in this world we need to avoid as we strive to live an authentic and abundant life. From the most basic golden rule to the deepest intricacies of the moral law, we understand that all of these rules exist to protect us from evil, and to give us the freedom to be coheirs to the Kingdom, and sons and daughters of the living God.

Father Gale Hammerschmidt is the pastor of the St. Isidore Student Center in Manhattan. E-mail questions to him at faithandreasons7@gmail.com or write him at P.O. Box 1038, Salina, KS 67402.

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“We [Christians] are, all of us, called to be women and men whose lives are as bread broken for God’s people. We are broken to be bread for their hunger, food for their journey, taste for their delight. And as we journey with these people whom God has redeemed and called to the Reign of God, we must not hesitate to eat at their tables, partake of their bread, for without them, we are women and men of no purpose. Our lives only find meaning when we mingle with the lives of our people.”

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Spiritual check-in with bishop

By Bishop Jerry Vincke

IN THIS EDITION OF The Register, you will find an article on Father Michael Leiker's story of having liver transplant surgery (*please see story, p. 2*).

I remember when Father Michael approached me last year about his condition and a conversation he had with his doctor. The doctor asked Father Michael how he thought he was doing. Father Michael said, "I think I am doing fine." The doctor replied, "I don't."

He told Father Michael that he could continue living the way he had for another 10 years, but would steadily get worse. This conversation with his doctor was the impetus to look for a liver donor. Amazingly, they found a donor, Brenda, living only 30 minutes away in Atwood. (Since Father Michael's surgery, I have talked to two people who have been waiting for a liver transplant for several years but to no avail. My heart aches for them).

DURING THIS PANDEMIC, many people have gotten sick throughout the world. Many people have died. COVID will continue to be with us. Many more will get sick. Many more will die. People will also continue to get sick and die from other diseases and accidents. As humans we want to be well physically. As children of God, it is important to be well spiritually. In a world marred by sin and division, we can easily get discouraged — even angry. How are we doing in our relationship with our Lord? Are we fine, or is Jesus stirring in our

hearts desiring to give us more?

Jesus desires us, and desires to be in relationship with us, giving us more of himself. This relationship begins with prayer. There are many ways to pray, but I want to share a way to pray that I find helpful in developing my relationship with the Lord, especially when I am dealing with a difficult situation. I may have sifted through a situation intellectually, but still be dealing with it in my heart. It's called the "ARRR" method — yes, it sounds just like a pirate! It is based on having an honest conversation with God.

As St. Teresa of Avila said, "For mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who loves us."

THE ARRR METHOD is coming to the Lord as you are. It can be used anytime during the day or in any circumstance. We find a perfect example in our Blessed Mother's Annunciation. It goes like this:

- **Acknowledge** what you are feeling in your heart. Acknowledge what you are really feeling in your heart, not what you think you should feel or what you wish you could feel, or how you think God wants you to feel. For example, one might acknowledge, "I am worried about getting COVID"; "I am afraid to die"; "I feel betrayed by a friend"; "What that person did or said to me stings"; "That person annoys me"; "I'm upset because my life is not what I thought it would be because of ..."

Example of the Blessed

Mother: "Mary was 'troubled' and pondered what the words of the Angel meant."

- **Relate** those feelings/experiences to God. Don't bury them. Don't just think about them. Tell him honestly how you feel. Speak to him from your heart. Lay it down at the foot of the cross, into his hands.

Example of the Blessed Mother: "Mary asked, 'How can this be?'"

- **Receive** by listening to what God wants to offer you. Is he calling you to forgiveness? To healing? Receive his presence and love and promise to be with you. This is an important step. It takes patience and trust and a listening heart.

Example of the Blessed Mother: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you."

- **Respond** to what you received from God in gratitude and with a renewed heart.

Example of the Blessed Mother: Mary's fiat, "May it be done unto me ..."

THE ARRR METHOD MAY not be a help to everyone, but I know it helps me go from just thinking about things to actually praying about them. It's handing them over to God rather than trying to figure out things on my own. Recall what St. Paul said to the Romans, "Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us" (Rom 8:35,37).

So, how are you doing? Physically? Spiritually?

DEATHS

Vernon "Luke" Auen, 88, of Manhattan, died May 9, 2020. A graveside service was held May 12 by Father Frank Coady at Kansas Veterans Cemetery, Fort Riley.

Matthew David Becker, 45, of Manhattan, died May 7, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 24 by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery in Purcell.

Laurice V. Bedros, 82, of Manhattan, died April 23, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 26 by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, in Minneapolis, Minn.

Rita A. (Pfannenstiel) Bieker, 94, of Hays, died April 22, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 10 by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Robert Joseph Breen, 63, of Clinton, Okla., died July 11, 2020. A memorial service was held July 20 at Neill-Schwensen-Rook Funeral Home in Clay Center by Father Donald Zimmerman. Burial was in SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery.

Ann Dunne, 91, of Manhattan, died May 1, 2020. A graveside service was held May 5 by Father Frank Coady at Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan.

Jean Kelly, 98, formerly of Junction City, died July 19, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 23 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was at Fort Riley Cemetery.

Phyllis J. Malone, 89, of Manhattan, died March 25, 2020. Burial was in Summerfield Cemetery, Summerfield.

Sister Geraldine Milke, 88, of Concordia, died July 16,

2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 20 by Msgr. Barry Brinkman in the Motherhouse Chapel. Burial was in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery.

She was born July 7, 1932, in Hays to Joseph and Caroline (Rohleder) Milke and was baptized Geraldine Agnes. She entered the novitiate on Feb. 14, 1951. On Aug. 15, 1951, she received the habit and was given the name Sister Constance; she later returned to her baptismal name. She pronounced first vows on Aug. 15, 1952, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1955. She was a Sister of St. Joseph for 69 years.

Sister Geraldine received a diploma in Nursing from Marymount College in Salina in 1955. She worked in hospitals staffed by the sisters of St. Joseph in Belvidere, Ill., Grand Island, Neb., Atwood, Concordia, Salina and Manhattan. She retired to Nazareth Motherhouse in 2006.

Sister Geraldine was preceded in death by her parents and four siblings.

Memorials for Sister Geraldine Milke may be given to the Sisters of St. Joseph Health Care/ Retirement Fund or the Apostolic Works of the Sisters; P.O. Box 279, Concordia, KS 66901.

Marcia Ann Ortmann, 36, of Manhattan, died Jan. 14, 2020. A graveside service was held April 24 by Father Frank Coady at Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan.

Francis "Bones" William Pieschl, 89, of Hoxie, died June 12, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 17 by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Burial with military honors was in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery, Hoxie.

Carson James Ringer, an infant, of Concordia, died July 20, 2020. A graveside service was held July 24 by Father David Metz at St. Peter Catholic Cemetery in Meredith Township.



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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Ellis graduates honored



Courtesy photo
Graduates from St. Mary Parish in Ellis were honored July 12 at a Sending Forth Mass. Front row (from left) are Breonna North, Clara Crawford and Rylee Werth; back row, Landis Fischer, Zachary Eck, John Gamez and Jacob Eck.

Plainville graduates honored



Courtesy photo
High school graduates from Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville were recognized at Mass on July 12. Pictured are Carly Ferland, Kaiden VanSchuyver, Father Leo Blasi, Jared Casey and Melinda Ruder.

Census self-reporting closes Sept. 30

By Karen Bonar
The Register

IN FOUR AND A HALF weeks, the self-reporting portion of the 2020 census will conclude.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the self-reporting aspect of the census was scheduled to conclude July 31. However, due to shut-downs in many states, the schedule was adjusted — originally to the end of October, and more recently, shortened to the Sept. 30 deadline.

“A lot of programs our people use like school lunch programs are tied to federal money (via population counts),” said Kim Reynolds, the executive

RESPOND TO THE CENSUS:
my2020census.gov
1-800-923-8282
Self-reporting concludes Sept. 30.

director of Cloud Corp., Concordia in the June 26 edition of The Register. “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.”

Additional stories relating to population issues were featured in the July issue of The Register (Catholic population trends). This issue features a historical look at Catholic schools, which have a relationship with public schools.

Colby graduates honored



Courtesy photo
Sacred Heart Parish in Colby honored graduates at a Sending Forth Mass on July 19. Front row (from left) are Hallie Vaughn, Brittany Foss, Brielle Bange and Lyndzee Fellhoelter; back row, Jill Stephens, Brysen Barton, Cade Lanning, Matthew Gardner, Kailey Shields, Ryan Voss and Tyler Harry.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Junction City youth are confirmed



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City received Confirmation on June 23. Front row (from left) are Justina Craig, Grace Lichtensteiger, Juliana Cota, Chris Flores and Lane Svoboda; second Row, Daniella Beers, Tyler Martinez, Jakob Black and Casey Sexton-Snow; third Row, Christopher Beers, Timothy Nguyen, Zane Khoury, Bryan Finagan, Kenny Nguyen, Clarissa Okara and Jesse Engstrom; back row, Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, Ryan De La Cruz, Gunner Darnell, James Craig, Gabriel Luna, Catechist Dan Culbertson and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

Collyer RCIA



Courtesy photo

Dr. Nicole Walt (left) was received into full communion of the Catholic faith on July 26 at St. Michael Church in Collyer. Father Charles Steier was celebrant and Angela Walt (right) was sponsor.

Bird City youth are confirmed



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Joseph Church Parish, Bird City, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Francis, received Confirmation on June 7. Front row (from left) are Grace Wright, Kierra Penka, Kierstyn Penka, Itzel Perez, Julian Perez, Kiki Yanez, Meritza Mayorquin and Anitizia Mayorquin; second row, Alondra Perez, Adrianna Herrera, Vivian Yanez, Soledad Scanchez, Javier Yanez, Alondra Gomez and Caleb Todd; back row, Father Joseph Asirvatham, HGN, Jesslynn Houtman, Pricilla Cruz, Yahir Enriquez, Fernando Herrera, Chris Espino, Jade Ketzner, Dylan Ketzner and Bishop Jerry Vincke

Atwood RCIA



Courtesy photo

Members were welcomed into full communion of the Catholic faith on July 25 at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood. Pictured (from left) are: Father Norbert Diabal, Ralph Pitner, Jerry Schnee, Anita Schnee and Deacon Mark Vrbas.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Confirmation



Courtesy photo

Youth at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays received Confirmation on June 27. Front row (from left) are Amelia Herrman, Ellie Kats, Elsie Chartier, Tessa Befort, Alejandra Robles, Madelyn Rozean, Mia Lang, Adrian Normandin, Caden Becker and Rylie Atkerson; second row, Deacon Dave Kisner, Brnlynn Albers, Andrea Zarate, leesha Guzman, Sydney Meier, Aliya Seib, Emma Basgall, Tanner Boxberger, Connor Stanton, Trace Hale and Lynkon Vahling; third row, Catechist Jana Fross, Megan Gottschalk, Harley Werth, Arely Maldonado, Katie Gutierrez, Elizabeth DelReal, Kimberly DelReal, Jazmin Soto, Evan Balthazor, Jadyn Zimmerman, Henry Meitner, Jacob Mader and Mario Valencia; back row, Father Nick Parker, Catechist Tom Drees, Ashley Hipp, Brynn Kinderknecht, Erika Linn, Cristian Tinoco, Catechist Tammy Klaus and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

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Annual Men's Conference adjusts, proceeds

By Allison Ochoa
The Register

HAYS — On Aug. 15, nearly 150 men gathered in Hays for the annual Diocese of Salina Men's Conference. The conference, held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, focused on the theme "Men of God Men of Mary," as it corresponded with the Solemnity of the Assumption.

While the event looked similar to past conferences, alterations were made to the day's format in response to local and state mandates regarding COVID-19-related safety.

"We're used to having 300-plus men here and using two facilities — the church and Holy Family Elementary School," said Rick Binder, director of the Salina Diocese's family life office, which coordinates the conference. "This year, out of concern and respect for what Holy Family needs to do as they prepare for the school year, we limited ourselves to only utilizing the church. We also lowered our attendance limit to 150 people to provide for social distancing, and we flipped the format, holding Confession and Mass first thing in the morning which kept the event moving."

In his homily, Bishop Jerry Vincke explained how the Blessed Virgin Mary's example was one for all men to follow, particularly in this time of uncertainty.

"It comes down to this: it's a matter of faith or fear," he said. "That's what Mary teaches us; to have faith in the midst of everything life throws at us."

Citing examples from the five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, Bishop Vincke reminded the attendees that Mary continually said, "Yes," to God's call and she wants them to do the same. He challenged those in attendance to be heroes by following her and being men of faith.

"Our mother will take us to where she is and where she desires us to go," he said. "That's where she wants to lead us — to her son."

Keynote speaker Patrick Coffin, host of The Patrick Coffin Show podcast and former host of the Catholic Answers Live radio show, discussed the dogmas of Mary and their relevance to life in the current culture of our country. He also addressed the confusion that reigns in society today because of the lack of examples of true masculinity.

"In 2016, it felt to me like culture was galloping toward the abyss, but now, the abyss is galloping toward us," he said.

Citing issues such as gender fluidity, the "72 gender options people can choose



Photos by Steven Balderrama / For The Register

Bill Meagher attends the Men's Conference on Aug. 15 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays with his sons, Thomas and Andrew. Attendance at the annual event, which is sponsored by the Salina Diocese, was limited to 150, rather than more than 300.

from for their Facebook profiles," the redefinition of marriage, cancel culture and toxic masculinity, Coffin said society is galloping toward chaos and the challenge toward men is all the more urgent.

"Baptism calls us to be the servant leaders of our families," he said. "We are the secret service details for our families. So, the challenge is there, but more than the challenge, the grace is there. Grace is enough, and it is sufficient to get you to the finish line."

THE CONFERENCE ALSO included a presentation titled "Fathering Fathers" by Father Andy Hammeke, newly appointed co-director of vocations for the Diocese of Salina.

"There are all kinds of reasons nowadays that young men aren't serious about the fact that they might be called to the priesthood," Father Hammeke said. "One of the biggest ones is that they're a little bit scared of what their parents might think, especially their dads."

He offered advice on how men can support their sons and brothers who express interest in entering the seminary to discern a vocation to the priesthood. Additionally, he refuted four common misconceptions people have about men who choose this path, but reminded the attendees that God didn't worry about those misconceptions when sending his own son into the world and giving him up for the good of humanity. Father Hammeke concluded his presentation by encouraging the men present to be supportive of those being called to the seminary and priesthood.

"I hope that if your son, or a friend of yours, or your brother ever comes to you

and says, 'Dad, I'm really open to this and I'm thinking about seminary,' that you'll be there, with him in that moment, and say, 'Alright, I'm with you. I'm in your corner,'" Father Hammeke said. "Trust that as he marches on in life, there's not much more he could ever do that brings more meaning, more joy, than serving in the priesthood of Jesus Christ."

Bill Meagher of Hays attended the conference with his sons Thomas and Andrew.

"I thought it was awesome," he said. "Patrick Coffin's presentations were excellent. Father Hammeke has an incredible understanding of the priesthood, and he gave us a perspective that I think is good for us lay people to hear."

"My boys loved it and were still talking about it later that afternoon and the next day."

Tom Bayuk, a parishioner from Christ the King Parish in WaKeeney, echoed Meagher's sentiments.

"The conference was exceptional," he said. "Every time we go to this conference, they're making the point that it's up to us — men of faith — to stand boldly against the onslaughts from a society that's not going in the right direction, and it's a constant battle."

"It's an amazing feeling you get from being in a group of men of faith like that. It's reassuring that there are men of faith out there that are refueling their souls in probably the most important time in this country."

The conference is available to be viewed in its entirety on the Salina Diocese's Facebook page. The 2020 Diocesan Men's Conference recording can be found under the videos link.



Tom Bayuk, right, from Christ the King Parish in WaKeeney, listens to speakers at the annual Men's Conference. The day included several speakers, Mass and Confession.



Tym Bonilla, a parishioner at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina prays during the conference.



Students from Plainville Catholic School are pictured with Sister Ligouri (center) and Sister Evangeline Thomas (right) in 1928.

SALINA — While the Salina Diocese is rural, it keeps pace with the nation-wide Catholic education trends.

Nationally, about 1.7 million students are currently enrolled in Catholic schools, said Kevin Baxter, the chief innovation officer the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

"We were last at that number at about 1920," he said, and added the curve of Catholic education has expanded and shrunk on a national scale, with a peak in 1965.

"There was tremendous growth," Baxter said of Catholic education in the 1960s. "At that time, we had about 5.5 million kids in Catholic schools."

IN THE SALINA Diocese, there were 16 elementary schools in 1900, which catered to about 1,800 students. According to the Official Catholic Directory, in 2019, the diocese had 11 elementary schools that served about 1,600 students.

In 1960, there were 10 Catholic high schools (parish and private) and 20 grade schools. A decade later, in 1970, the number dropped to seven high schools (parish and private) and 14 elementary schools.

The Second Vatican Council concluded at the end of 1965, and Father James Hoover said the changes were being implemented.

"After Vatican II, schools were closing right and left," he said. "Bishop (Cyril) Vogel told me, 'Don't let anyone close.'"

Father Hoover served as superintendent of Catholic schools for the Salina Diocese from 1971-80 and as director of religious education from 1972-80. Once appointed, Father Hoover said he visited dioceses around the region, searching for a sustainable answer for Catholic education. A prevailing concern at the time was the diocese would dictate how all schools would operate.

"I challenged them and told them that every parish would be on their own," he said. "They would have to

raise the money and have to make it work independently. The pastor, the teachers, the school council had to make it work. They knew they could raise the money to keep their schools going."

IN ADDITION TO TEACHING in both public and parish schools over the years, Father Hoover attended St. Francis Xavier School in Junction City.

"The sisters were the secret in Junction City, as they were in a lot of towns," Father Hoover said.

The assignments for the school year were always handed out on Aug. 15, and he said the arrival of the sisters was always a memorable event.

"On Aug. 16, we had guys gathered through the town watching for them," he said. "We didn't have cell phones then, but we had other ways of getting the word out. By the time the sisters got there, 20 cars would be there with fathers and mothers watching."

"As soon as they got there, the kids would carry the suitcases up to the rooms. Then we'd eat with the sisters on the porch or on the grass, and we kids would love every moment of it. We were just thrilled when our favorite teacher came back."

SISTER BERNADINE Pachta, CSJ, is the archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia. She spent about a decade working in schools, as a young sister, teaching in Junction City, Pfeifer, Collyer and Salina.

The school in Pfeifer was a public one but had religious teachers.

"We would have Mass early and teach religion first thing, then from 9 to 4 was school," Sister Bernadine said. "That was especially common in Ellis County and western Kansas. That was the tenor of the times. You think somebody might raise their eyebrows and say, 'Sisters can't be in the (public school) classroom,' but that wasn't the case in Kansas."

She recalled wearing her full habit while teaching in the public school without any incident. In fact, she said the sisters felt welcomed as teachers in public schools.

"People loved it. In the

years I taught, I'm pretty sure I didn't have anyone who wasn't Catholic," Sister Bernadine said. "A lot of that area is very Catholic."

Sister Sally Witt, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, Pa., recently published a book titled "Beyond the Frontier: The History of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, KS." Part of the history chronicled includes the sisters' relationship with Catholic education.

"In 1909, when the sisters accepted the school at Park, the residents arranged that they would come as employees of the school district," Sister Sally wrote. "A year later, they went to Leoville under the same plan (p. 91)."

"According to the general practice in their public schools, sisters held religion classes first thing in the morning. The other lessons, which were to be separated from religion, followed (p. 179)."

Father Hoover said during his priesthood, he was a substitute teacher at the public high school in Mankato.

"I didn't get paid anything, and I could not discuss religion unless the kids brought it up," he said. "But if they brought it up, we could talk about it."

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WAS a commitment from a parish and community.

According to the "Parochial History Questionnaire" dated April 12, 1962, from Atwood, the parish rallied to build a Catholic school. The total cost of the building was almost

\$170,000 in 1954, and many parish members volunteered time and skill to complete the project. Volunteers unloaded more than 36,000 bricks and 2,400 sacks of cement, which were used in the building.

Yet it wasn't only the school that was required for sisters to teach.

"We cannot bring sisters into the parish unless we provide adequate living for them," the historical document reads. "The plan has been — and still is — to convert the present parish house into a sisters' convent and to build a new rectory for the priests."

While initial plans called for the Sisters of St. Joseph

Catholic schools in the Salina Diocese reflect national trends

STORY BY KAREN BONAR • THE REGISTER



The parochial school, St. Joseph Catholic School, was built in 1885, near St. Joseph. Pictured are students standing in front of the St. Joseph Catholic School. This photo was taken before the fire that destroyed the original frame church in 1908 (visible on the right side of the photo).

of Concordia to staff the school, it was the School Sisters of Notre Dame, with motherhouse in Omaha, Neb., who provided the first instructors for the Catholic school in Atwood.

Other religious orders who taught in the diocese include The Sisters of the Precious Blood from Wichita, Sisters of St. Agnes from Fond du Lac, Wis., and the Sisters of St. Benedict from Atchison.

A SIGNIFICANT, VISIBLE change over time in schools is the educators.

"In 1920 or so, about 96 or 97 percent of the staff of Catholic schools were mostly women religious," Baxter said, and added the remaining were lay teachers. "That percentage has completely flipped now about 96 to 97 percent of staff is laity, and only three or four percent is religious."

The Sisters of St. Joseph mirrored this trend, wrote Sister Sally.

"The decline in the number of sisters had immediate effects on the small schools in western Kansas. Congregations with large schools could reduce the number of sisters by one or two, but that was not possible where there were only two or three classroom teachers (p. 237)," Sister Sally wrote.

The decline of sisters and schools continued in the late '60s.

"In 1968 and 1969 alone, the sisters left a total of 13 schools. Nine were parish schools, three were public schools and one was their own apostolic school," Sister Sally wrote.

"This was painful, unprecedented and unforeseen. While large schools throughout the country could continue with fewer sisters, this was not possible for the many small schools of the Concordia sisters (p. 241)."

One such school was St. Ann's School in Clyde, where sisters had taught for 81

years before the school was closed in 1969. The sisters departed from both Catholic and public schools, leaving the public schools in Tipton and Antonino in 1974.

In 1970, there were 56 teaching positions open, but only 32 sisters available to fill them. At the time, the sisters served 30 elementary schools (19 within the Salina Diocese) and six high schools (five within the diocese).

In May, the final Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia, Sister Pauline Kukula, CSJ, retired from Sacred Heart Junior High School in Salina. There are now no religious sisters teaching in Catholic schools within the diocese (story on p. 1).

WHILE SOME OF THE rural schools in the Salina Diocese closed due to low numbers, Baxter said the NCEA has been exploring enrollment.

"When I became a principal in 2001, if you were under 200 kids, you were on

the closure list," he said.

When the NCEA examined Catholic school enrollment nationally, it found that 1,500 of 6,000 Catholic schools across the country have enrollment of 150 kids or less. Of the 15 Catholic schools in the Salina Diocese, five had fewer than 100 students in the 2019-20 academic school year: St. Joseph (Oakley), St. John (Hanover), Tipton Catholic (Tipton), Sacred Heart (Plainville) and St. Mary (Ellis).

While the assumption once would have been to close small schools, it isn't always the case now.

"If you have three dozen kids in your high school, if it's financially sustainable, it's considered a healthy school," Baxter said. "If you can be fiscally stable with 100 kids in school, that's OK."

One area the NCEA is exploring is collaboration for small schools.

"One thing we're thinking through now is if we blend a micro and virtual school model," he said. "With a Catholic micro-school model, we have strong faith formation and Catholic identity, academic excellence and it is fiscally sustainable. Can we take online instruction and mold something creative and innovative for a small community?"

ANOTHER FACET OF Catholic education is its relationship with public schools. Baxter said the economics are significant.

"We estimate we save the country about \$22 billion in education funding every year," he said of Catholic schools. "If kids (enrolled in Catholic schools) went to public schools, it would cost the country an additional \$22 billion."

Sister Sally said Catholic schools in Rooks County had a direct relationship with the public schools.

"The school building at Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville was condemned in late summer 1959," Sister Sally wrote. "It was almost time for the new school year to begin, and the local school district would have found it difficult to take in 200 additional students at short notice ... by remaining during the interim, the sisters had helped to save the school district between \$15,000 and \$20,000 (p. 210)."

CONTINUING TO PROVIDE Catholic education is important, Father Hoover said.

"Without Catholic education, you don't have values," he said. "Without values, you have nothing."

Baxter said faith provides an anchor and guide for students during their formative years.

"A faith-based education is vitally important to ensuring we're educating kids to be whole people," he said, rather than focusing solely on academics. "We know education at its root is forming people, mind, body and soul. A faith-based education addresses that we want kids to be smart, good, but also civically engaged. We're teaching them not just successful in business or industry. We want them to be good people."



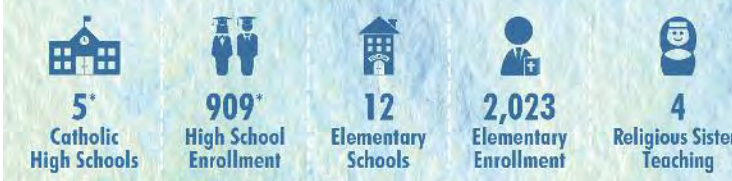
Sister Luella Hake, CSJ, is pictured at St. Mary's School in Herndon in 1969. Four religious orders of sisters taught at dozens of Catholic schools across the Salina Diocese over the course of history.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE SALINA DIOCESE

NW Kansas Population: n/a Number of Catholics: 40,056



NW Kansas Population: 325,116 Number of Catholics: 50,113



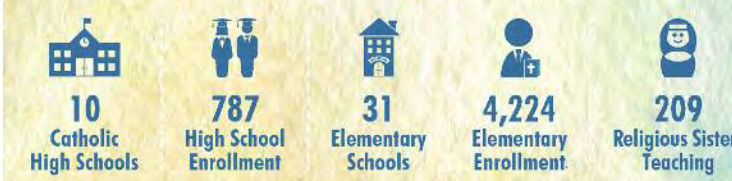
NW Kansas Population: 348,387 Number of Catholics: 61,011



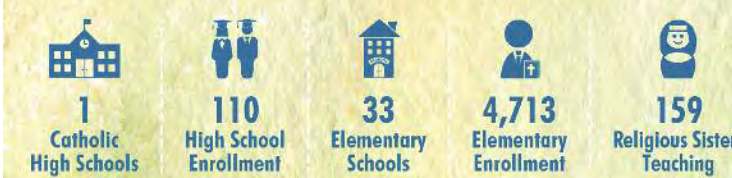
NW Kansas Population: 358,385 Number of Catholics: 53,416



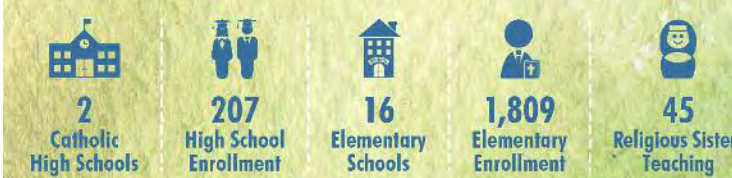
NW Kansas Population: 339,775 Number of Catholics: 43,000



NW Kansas Population: 359,218 Number of Catholics: 35,179



NW Kansas Population: 323,273 Number of Catholics: 2,030



*Parish and private Catholic schools combined

SOURCE: Official Catholic Directory

Beloit family embraces full-time education from home

By Karen Bonar

The Register

BELOIT — With baby Fulton nestled in her lap chewing on a wooden rosary, Amanda Ring helps her 7-year-old son, Dominic, sound out words from his phonics book.

"We didn't set out to be homeschoolers," she said. "It happened by accident."

Their oldest, Noah, is 13, and the journey began with him.

"We went on a tour for preschool, and Noah just seemed a little young," she said. "We thought we'd just homeschool for preschool. We enjoyed the flexibility and doing everything at home with him, especially seeing him learn to read. Then we said, 'Maybe we'll just homeschool for kindergarten, too.'"

"It just grew from there. It's a natural extension of how we parent."

THE FAMILY'S SCHOOL day begins on a set of red chairs, as Amanda and her husband, Brian, lead their seven children in prayer. Once complete, Brian heads to his home office where he works as an accountant, and Amanda sets to educating the children.

Each has a backpack, their own set of books and daily assignments that must be completed.

As 10-year-old Isaac works his way through his math lesson on the one computer they all share for school, Noah lounges in a chair, reading aloud from "Made for Greatness" by Ginny Kochis to his mother. The day's lesson includes Mother Angelica, including her insistence at God's will for her to build a TV station. As Noah and Amanda discuss the virtues relating to the story, 3-year-old Caeli twirls around, her pink dress flying.

"I have lofty visions about what the domestic church looks like," Amanda said, "but often, it looks like this. Having a deep theology conversation with a 13-year-old while the 3-year-old



Photos by Karen Bonar / The Register

Amanda Ring (center) answers a question for Bella while holding baby Fulton. Ring homeschools her children in Beloit. Also pictured (from left) are Noah, 13, Isaac, 10 (in red chair) and Dominic, 10.



Dominic Ring works in his handwriting book, "Writing Our Catholic Faith" by Universal Publishing.

runs circles around me and the baby is drooling on me in the ergo."

WHILE NOT FORMALLY structured, there is a routine to the day.

"It really cuts down the number of people clamoring for my attention or asking permission or don't know what assignment they're doing next," she said. "Our days always follow the same routine."

The routine begins with

the family's prayer, and then the children rotate through assignments on the computer, while their siblings work at the dining room table.

Once Fulton, the baby, falls asleep, Amanda will work one-on-one with Simon, who is in kindergarten.

Initially, Amanda said she resisted the idea of recess during their school day.

"But I realize how impor-

"I thought I couldn't teach a kid to read. It was terrifying ...and then I realized I taught my son to read."

Amanda Ring

tant it is for the kids to break things up," she said. "Not only does it let the kids burn off some energy and let me take a break, but if someone is struggling with something, I'll pull them in and work one-on-one with them while everyone else is occupied."

The essential subjects are complete by noon, and the afternoon is spent on individual interest projects, ranging from computer coding to piano to baking.

INITIALLY, homeschooling was a convenient way to have flexibility for when her husband needed to travel.

"But when my oldest was

in first grade, I looked into homeschooling from the perspective of a part of my vocation as a mom," Amanda said. "It was initially something nice to do, but eventually it was a calling and a way of family life."

While she felt called, it didn't necessarily mean she felt qualified.

"I thought I could do preschool, but some things scared me," Amanda said. "I thought I couldn't teach a kid to read. It was terrifying."

"I picked up a phonics book because I didn't want him to be behind when he went to school, and then I realized I taught my son to read."

ONE FEAR EARLY in the experience was inadequacy.

"You are the parent. As the parent, God will give you the graces to get through it," Amanda said. "No matter how frustrating the day is — if the kids aren't listening or the computer won't log into the

Please see VARIETY / Page 16

Tips for educating from home

- **Take care of yourself, as the parent.**

"It's hard because I'm an introvert," Amanda said. "As cliché as it sounds, if I take the time to wake up before the kids get up, if I sit and write in my prayer journal and read in my devotional — even for 15 minutes — I'm so much more present when the kids wake up."

- **Have a routine for the day.** It does not have to be a strict schedule, but a normal order of events helps children know what to expect.

- **Start with the littlest kids.** "I learned if I put one-on-one time with the littler kids for 45 minutes right at the beginning of the day while the bigger kids are working independently, it helps the younger kids when I need to work one-on-one with the older kids," Amanda said.

- **For younger children, have "school only" toys or activities.**

"The kids look forward to the things they can only do during school," she said. "It's really helpful if it's not available all day long."

- **Set clear expectations about when school work will be completed.**

- **Realize you might need to take breaks during the day that the kids might not take at school.** "The kids will go outside and play while I'm putting the baby down for a nap," Amanda said. When the baby takes an afternoon nap, "everybody has quiet time. I have a chance to have a cup of tea, read a book, get my head on straight, do things like fold laundry or get ready for dinner. We all have a break from each other. I feel like it really helps the kids get along better and helps me to be much more patient with the kids."

- **Everyone helps.** "Even the cleaning routine so it doesn't all fall on me," Amanda said. "Everyone is home making messes together. We're all here making messes, so we all help pick up."

- **Change of scene.** "It's really helpful when we can take school outside when the weather's nice," she said. "I can push someone on the swing while I listen to someone doing reading lesson. Sometimes everyone is crazy, and we'll put our shoes on and go for a walk to burn off energy."

- **Realize it might not look or feel perfect.** "Sometimes everything is crazy and we're out of sorts," Amanda said. At that time, she pushes pause on school. "We'll take a week to get the house back in order or work on things as simple as manners."

Schools creating individual plans for their building, families

From page 1

GEOFF ANDREWS, Superintendent of Catholic schools for the Salina Diocese, gathered with principals and pastors for the annual principals' meeting on Aug. 3-4 to discuss the upcoming school year.

"Each individual school has their own plan for moving forward with hope as we return to school," he said. "I like that we're giving them some flexibility to do what works for their school."

The theme, "Moving forward with hope," is taken from the National Catholic Educator's Association theme for this year.

"Our plans are a combination of NCEA's 'Forward with Hope' and KSDE's 'Navigating Change,'" he said. "When we return to school, our Catholic identity is front and center."

The annual principals' meeting was an opportunity to exchange ideas and strategies for those leading the Catholic schools.

"It's opened up really good dialogue," Andrews said. "I hope it can continue with all of our education. We



Courtesy photos

Michelle Selzer takes Shayden Selzer's temperature on the first day of school, Aug. 19, at St. Joseph Grade School in Oakley.

came together because of a pandemic, but how do we keep these relationships to move our schools forward?"

ANDREWS SAID HE IS coordinating with all of the schools, but the diocese is not creating the plans.

"We're letting the build-

ing leaders and pastors make those decisions about when to open," he said.

With more than 26,000 square miles in the Salina Diocese, Andrews said it's essential to understand that re-opening will likely look different in each location.

"Our leaders are trying to

make the best decision with the most current information that they have at that time," he said. "We've learned that tomorrow, we might hear something different and we'll have to pivot our plans."

As of Aug. 24, all Catholic schools were scheduled to open in August. This includes all students in the classroom for five days a week, with appropriate social distancing measures, mask wearing, temperature taking and hand washing.

"All are opening a little later than originally planned, but it gives us time to get all of the precautions in place," Andrews said.

Part of the preparation includes a digital aspect to education.

"One thing that I think is important that all of our schools continue to use the online learning," Andrews said. "Let's get students familiar with the platform in the classroom, and that way, if we do have to go remote, we're not thrown into it. It's used in the classroom, and the teachers and kids will be more familiar

with it."

Communication is key as the school year continues.

"We expect our leaders to develop trust with teachers and students and parents — to be present and visible and to over-communicate," Andrews said. "We want them to make sure they are getting the message out multiple times."

If health concerns arise during the school year, he said the Catholic schools will take a similar tack to the public schools.

"If or when something happens, we'll contact local health department and take their advice and do what we need to do at that time," Andrews said. "After spending a day and a half with our principals and pastors, I know we're in really good hands. I have also physically visited all of our Catholic schools this month."

"Our leaders are excited to get the kids back in the building. The teachers are ready to get back in the building. We all know everyone is ready to be back to some type of normal, and school provides that routine, especially for the kids."

Sister witnessed changes in education over the decades

From page 1

here," Krajicek said.

He has been at the school for two dozen years, and said no other teacher has been physically in the building for that length of time.

"She's transcended generations," Krajicek said. "She's taught kids and their fathers and grandfathers."

This was possible because when she moved to Salina in 1970, Sister Pauline taught for 13 years at St. Mary Grade School (first and fourth grades). She then moved to the junior high school in 1986.

"She was animated in front of the classroom and made it come alive, no matter what age group," Krajicek said. "Even though she was in her 80s, she could connect with the junior high kids. She knew where they were at, what their struggles were. She emphasized the human dignity in every student."

A NATIVE OF CLAFLIN, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia in 1957 at age 18. Her teaching career began in 1960 in Chicago.

"In 1960, we would have as many as 48 first graders my first year of teaching," she said. "You could have 60 because the expectations and structure were there."

She recalled a fellow teacher, Sister Joseph, had 60 seventh grade students one year in Chicago.

In the more rural areas of Kansas, however, she said it was common for one sister

"I think she's the ultimate master teacher. She loved her faith and loved her kids and brought her faith alive for her kids."

John Krajicek
Principal

to run a classroom for grades one through four, and another taught grades five through eight.

As the years past, educational theories continued to grow and change.

"You began to be aware of methods and individual needs," Sister Pauline said. "You became more aware of students who could learn quickly and others who needed resources or needed more hands-on learning."

The ability to identify a student's needs and connect with them individually is a strength she exemplified.

"I think she's the ultimate master teacher. She was born to teach," Krajicek said. "She had a love of faith, a love of her students and this talent to teach. You have all of these ingredients ... it was the perfect combination for a master teacher. She loved her faith and loved her kids and brought her faith alive for her kids."

Sister Pauline broke into a rap of the books of the New Testament to explain her theory for teaching.

"I was always strong with song and rhythm," she said.



Courtesy photo / CSJ archives

Sister Pauline Kukula teaches a junior high class in a January 2009 file photo. She was a Catholic educator for 57 years.

"I do a lot with multi-sensory learning. If you're going to learn the 27 books of the New Testament, make it into a song. If I teach precepts of the Church, I teach a number code with them. It's not just the brain. You see it and learn it and engage it. I think it's a very strong way to learn."

ORIGINALLY, SISTER Pauline said she resisted teaching the younger grades.

"When I first started teaching, I didn't want to teach first grade," she said. "I wanted to be a high school drama teacher. My heart turned to stone."

"One day, a little kid came in and couldn't get his hood off. I was trying to get this little knot out, and I thought, 'I'm this close to someone so fresh from God.' It was an awareness of the value of every person and their reflection of God's presence to you. It's the spirituality I see in the pri-

mary grades."

In nearly 60 years of teaching, Sister Pauline said she has taught every grade from first through tenth, except for the third and sixth grades.

She has grown and adapted as she worked her ways through the grades.

"I've loved junior high," she said. "In junior high, they're finding their growth. Out of chaos, God brings goodness and order."

Krajicek said Sister Pauline takes an interest in the total student.

"She encompasses the mission of Catholic education — the academic and spiritual, but also the social component," he said. "Even in February, she was sponsoring junior high dances. She would organize and plan them. She would be there supervising. Kids would have a blast. She'd be there setting up and there until the dance was over cleaning up."

A Sister of St. Joseph of

Concordia for 62 years, Sister Pauline said retiring from her vocation of teaching is difficult.

"I tell the students, 'I just love to be here with you kids. There's no place I'd rather be than with you in this classroom,'" she said.

Over the span of her career, Sister Pauline has taught in Chicago, Iowa, Great Bend, Beloit and Salina. She has no firm plans for retirement, rather to "slide into" it and enjoy a few hobbies.

"I did find as I aged, I wish I had the spunk I had in my 50s and 60s," she said.

Krajicek described Sister Pauline's dedication to teaching as a blessing.

"Sister had a love of faith — she epitomized a Catholic educator," he said. "Wherever that student was on their spectrum of faith development, she was willing to meet them where they were at. When you teach with love like that, it transcends. She has impacted so much of our alumni. They would come back to meet with her and invite her to attend their weddings and baptisms of their babies."

Krajicek said he will miss sister's spirit in the upcoming 2020-21 school year.

"You can't replace sister," he said. "I was just thankful for every year we had her. She's a role model — not only for students but for staff. She would work with them and teach with love. You could see God's work through her teaching."

Coming soon: Collection of the works of Sister Bette Moslander

By Cathy Doud

For The Register

CONCORDIA — “Fire and Passion: the Mysticism of Bette Moslander” is a new book and a labor of love for Sisters Marcia Allen and Gilla Dubé. The book is a compilation of excerpts from Sister Bette’s writings and talks and original chalk drawings from her personal journal, complimented by reflection questions written by Sister Marcia Allen.

Additionally, the interactive book will contain links to a dedicated website that will offer entire texts of her talks, as well as audio and video presentations. The book currently is in the printing process and will be available to the public soon. Once available, it will be announced on the Manna House of Prayer and Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia’s websites and Facebook pages.

“We chose the title ‘Fire and Passion’ because these words express the essence of her life,” Sister Gilla said. “The fire, the passion and the mysticism — these were the three descriptors that spoke to me of her life and spirit.”

FOR SISTER MARCIA, Sister Bette was mentor and friend, going back to when Sister Marcia entered the postulancy and Sister Bette was a novice. Sister Bette, who entered the Community with a Ph.D. in theology, taught the newest members, postulants and novices. From there, Sister Marcia worked closely with her in the 1970s when she was elected vice president of the community and Sister Bette was elected president. The two then worked together from 1980 to 2010 helping other communities with chapters, assemblies and working as consultants both in the United States and abroad.

“Everywhere she went



Courtesy photo

The writings of Sister Bette Moslander, who died in 2015, have been compiled into a new book, “With Fire and Passion: the Mysticism of Bette Moslander.”

she was always a speaker in demand,” Sister Marcia said. “She had a very charismatic presentation when she spoke and left a legacy of friendship around the world. And everywhere she spoke, people often would ask, ‘Can we have a copy of that?’

“She would start out with some sort of a script, and then ab lib, but nobody knew that. After she died, I decided that I would collect her written and oral works and see what could be made available. What we found dated as far back as the 1950s, and she was still teaching in 2010. That’s when I realized the task would be large.

“I kept trying to figure out how to grasp the essence of what she said, without simply publishing volumes and volumes of words. Finally the idea to take excerpts of her talks and make reflection opportunities began to surface. I discovered that Sister Gilla

would be able to edit and organize the material. So we chose the excerpts, and I created reflection questions for each excerpt. We then organized the material into themes seen through the lens of mysticism: Discipleship, Love, Creative Energy, Vulnerability, Inclusion. Samples of Sister Bette’s chalk art enhance and illuminate the themes.”

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT for the project came from Sister Sherryl White, a Sister of St. Joseph of Baden, Pa. who created a special website for Sister Bette’s works. “The website makes it possible for the reader to access an entire talk or text via audio or video or the written word. The reference given for each excerpt enables the reader to go to the website and find the whole text or talk,” Sister Marcia said.

“The guiding principle for me, and I’m sure for Sister Marcia, was the desire to honor the legacy of this

woman,” Sister Gilla said. “I came into this not knowing anything about Sister Bette except by reputation, her leadership background and popularity as a speaker. I started reading her work and immediately got swept into her spirit — her fire and passion. What’s fascinating to me is that what she wrote in the ’70s into the early 21st century is as relevant and prophetic today as it was then.

“Our challenge was to present Sister Bette’s spirit and depict a true picture of her life’s commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A critical piece, as least as far as I’m concerned, is not just the excerpts, but the reflection questions that accompany each excerpt. The personal reflection questions that Sister Marcia offers bridge the reader with the meaning and spirit of the

text and its implications for today and into the future.”

“We see this book as a personal reflection guide, a retreat guide, a group study guide,” Sister Marcia said. “There are no limits to possibilities in the use of this book. While the majority of her talks were given to women religious of various orders, she also spoke to various lay groups of women and men and priests’ organizations. Any talk she gave illuminated Gospel values and is applicable to any person who believes.”

HER MAIN THEME WAS the root of the Christian life and the mission of Jesus. “Christians have to rediscover the soul of the Christian message,” Sister Bette said.

“Sister Bette offered challenge and consolation to individuals looking for hope in ordinary time, and she spoke to that,” Sister Marcia said.

“She was obviously extremely bright, yet what drew me was her tenderness so evident in the texts that I studied. When she wrote, there was such love and such tenderness,” Sister Gilla said. “yet she had a way of challenging the status quo, challenging people not to settle for mediocrity.”

Sister Bette died on March 22, 2015. “Fire and Passion: the Mysticism of Bette Moslander” is being printed by Consolidated Printing in Salina for a summer 2020 release. To order email retreatcenter@mannahouse.org or call (785) 243-4428. Cost is \$19.95. Shipping and handling is \$4.50 for one book. Add an additional \$1 for shipping for each additional book. Please make your check payable to Manna House of Prayer.

Tipton fundraiser is online Sept. 5

By The Register

TIPTON — The annual Tipton Church Picnic and Alumni Celebration has canceled an in-person celebration this year, opting instead for a virtual event.

Pre-bidding for auction items will begin Sept. 1 at www.hansenonlineauction.com. The online-only portion of the auction will take place Sept. 5.

The popular raffle drawings will still take place. Entry forms may be downloaded from <https://www.tipton.schools.com/drawings>.

Raffle winners will be drawn during a Facebook Live video on the Tipton Picnic and Alumni Celebration Facebook Page.

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A Family Serving Families

Two women profess Agrégée vow with Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia

By **Cathy Doud**
For The Register

CONCORDIA — The Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia welcomed two new Agrégées on July 19. Carol Goodson and Robin Stephenson both made their agrégée Vow of Religious Profession at the Sacred Heart Chapel in the Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia.

Each woman took a unique path to finding their religious calling with the community in Concordia.

CAROL GOODSON

After retirement as a librarian from the University of West Georgia in 2015, a priest led her to ask God if she could possibly become a sister.

“Two days later my prayer was answered when I saw some information about the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia,” Goodson said.

“On my very first visit to Concordia in June 2016, I was so touched by the warm reception I got from the sisters.”

After profession, Goodson is returning to Georgia to begin new ministries in the Atlanta area.

In her previous ministry, she was president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in her parish in Carrollton, Ga. In that capacity, in addition to leading the organization, she visited the poor in their homes in order to assess their needs and pray with them.

“We nearly always provided financial assistance to them as well, usually with utilities or rent,” Goodson

said. “We also had a food pantry in the parish which was very heavily used, and we conducted a monthly distribution of frozen food to our clients.

“Once I have chosen a home parish, I will introduce myself to the pastor and ask what he needs, offering myself to do it. I was part of the RCIA team at my previous parish, and — as a convert — that work is very close to my heart. One of my long-term goals is to try to start a CSJ Associate group in my new home area.”

ROBIN STEPHENSON

Agrégée Robin Stephenson was facing retirement and trying to find a way to become closer to God. The Internet gave her a hand in finding the Sisters of St. Joseph.

“Initially I took an online personal inventory on whether religious life would be feasible. The inventory validated aptitudes toward religious formation,” Stephenson said.

She was coming up on 40 years of pediatric and school nursing, but didn’t really feel like she was done yet. Additionally, Stephenson wanted to draw even closer to God and the charism of inclusive service seemed to fit her vocational goals.

A native of Jacksonville, Fla., residing now in Portland, Ore., Stephenson has been a district school nurse in Beaverton, Ore., for the past 26 years, and anticipates retirement in 2021.

“I was married for many years, and then my marriage was annulled. I have two beautiful children who are now grown adults,” she said. “There is also a beautiful 5-year-old granddaughter that is one of the lights of my life.”

Stephenson said after



Photo by Cathy Doud / For The Register

Agrégée Carol Goodson and Agrégée Robin Stephenson profess their vow July 19 at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia.

finding information on the Sisters of St. Joseph, she contacted Lorren Harbin about four years ago. She visited in Concordia on her school summer break.

“I was instantly drawn to the sisters. Over the three years of discernment, I definitely felt like I wanted to be a part of this beautiful group of women and the work they do,” Stephenson said. “If I could just be a sponge to soak up some of their wisdom ... I just fit. It feels like a part of family when I’m with the sisters.”

Stephenson said she plans to continue living in Oregon and fulfilling her mission there.

“Currently I’m on the Eucharistic ministerial team at St. Mary’s of the Immaculate Conception at the Cathedral, however, the COVID-19 times have lessened that right now,” she

said. “I assisted with second-grade religious education and first reconciliation and Communion at the Cathedral last year.

“All the CSJ sisters with whom I have had the opportunity to be with have shown their soul, beauty and love. I pray it continues to rub off and influence the rest of my life.”

AGRÉGÉE VOW

Agrégée sisters are defined as women who commit themselves to active and inclusive love of God and the dear neighbor as expressed in the spirit and spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia. They are viewed as members of the congregation in almost every aspect, but there are a couple of significant differences:

- “Canonically vowed sisters” profess the vows of poverty, chastity and obedi-

ence, as defined by canon — or Church — law. As part of the vow of poverty, an individual sister relinquishes all personal wealth and income; at the same time, the congregation assumes responsibility for her economic well being for the rest of her life.

- Agrégées profess a vow of fidelity to the congregation, but it is noncanonical, meaning that it is not governed by Church law and is instead a private vow between that sister and the Concordia congregation. It also means that the agrégée does not relinquish her finances to the congregation, and the congregation assumes no financial responsibility for her.

Msgr. Barry Brinkman presided over the liturgy while Sister Jean Rosemarynoski, president, received the vow in the name of the Congregation.



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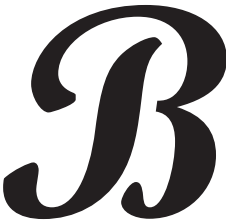
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Variety of homeschool options exist

From page 12

right website or the baby is teething — no matter how crazy it is, God will give you the graces to be able to handle it. It just might not feel like it in the moment.”

While much of the education happens in the home, Amanda said weekly field trips are (or before COVID-19 were) an integral part of the learning process.

“We might home school, but we’re not usually home,” she said. “We’re used to taking school on the road — having field trips. It’s been hard for me, too, even though I’m used to the kids being with me all day. I’m just not used to the at-home dynamic when everything was closed.”

The family also takes a few breaks throughout the year for travel, often on “nonpeak” times when most other families have children in school.

IN MARCH, GOV. LAURA Kelly issued an executive order, closing all schools in Kansas. Many schools around the country were also closed, shifting education from the classroom to the child’s home.

Everett Buyarski, the Director of Academic Services at Kolbe Academy in Napa, Calif., said there was a slight uptick in interest in Catholic homeschool offerings in the spring.

“At that time, none of us knew how long it would last,” he said. “Many of us were hopeful schools would reopen. Most parents waited it out.”

With a patchwork of reopening plans for schools across the country, Buyarski said interest crescendoed this summer.

“The interest in what we have has exploded,” he said.

Kolbe Academy was founded as a brick and mortar

school in 1980, but pivoted and began focusing on homeschool education in 1987. In 2013, it began offering online homeschool courses for grades 6-12.

While in previous years the school was concerned about screen time for primary students, Buyarski said they evaluated their process and adapted it, opting to add grades K-5 this fall.

Initially, plans were to have one class of online students per grade, but those filled quickly. A second class was added, which also filled quickly. In some grades, a third was added.

“We more than have more than twice as many students as we expected to have,” he said. “We capped enrollment and have a wait list. Our enrollment is up 60 percent for the 2020-21 school year. We’re adding 1,000 more students than we had last year.”

Buyarski said many of their new families never planned to homeschool, prior to COVID-19.

“Some dual income families felt remote learning didn’t work for them as parents were supposed to be working from home,” he said. “That’s the story nation-wide. They have said they can’t do another year of this. They’re looking for an established program that has been doing this.”

“The schools are doing their best (at online education), but this is our eighth year of doing online classes. This is what we do.”

The school’s online classes are completely filled, but it does offer textbook and lesson plans for all grades, he added.

Richard Grablin runs the marketing at Our Lady of Victory School in Post Falls, Idaho. They are the oldest Catholic homeschool company in the country, founded

in 1977.

“We’re a lot busier than we have been in past years around this time because of COVID-19,” he said.

Grablin said their program is entirely text books, lesson plans and “pen to paper” that mimic some aspects of a traditional classroom.

“Because schools have gone online, we have families who call and ask about online classes,” he said. “They sigh in relief because they say, ‘I’m sick of the online stuff.’”

AMANDA SAID BECAUSE she and Brian chose to homeschool their children, life looks a little different for them than it did for their friends and neighbors who began educating children from home in March.

“I’m managing my own expectations and using a curriculum I chose,” she said. “I can’t imagine how difficult it would be for parents who weren’t expecting to educate at home to do so, and to work within the expectations of the school district.”

Under any circumstance, educating children from home can be difficult, Amanda said.

“A lot of times, it feels like the Lord of the Flies in the moment, but looking back, I realize my kids learned, but in the moment, it might seem like things are crazy,” she said.

When first learning to educate from home, Amanda said it was important for her to allow herself — and her children — some grace.

“If all else fails, take a break. Take a breather. Put on some music, dance it out. Go find something fun to do together and come back later when everything is diffused and everything will be much, much easier,” she said.

BAPTISMS

Liam Dolan Boxberger, son of Dolan and Sarah (Schmidt) Boxberger, was baptized July 19, 2020, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Maren Eichhorn, daughter of Mike and Courtney Eichhorn, was baptized Aug. 8, 2020, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Lydia Louise Gutowski, daughter of Mark and Patti (Perkins) Gutowski, was baptized July 19, 2020, by Deacon Brian McCaffrey at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Hayes Everett Hentzen, son of Tony and Shanae (Barnes) Hentzen, was baptized July 18, 2020, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Gentry Reid Hertel, son of Jared and Alexis (Oliver) Hertel, was baptized June 26, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor.

Daniel Edward Hilger, son of Daren and Jenny (Wilkerson) Hilger, was baptized July 11, 2020, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Bennett Joseph Kitchen, son of Brian and Allison Kitchen, was baptized July 19, 2020, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Eloise Therese Lager, daughter of Marty and Abbie (Allen) Lager, was baptized June 28, 2020, by Father Brian Lager at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

Brecklyn Rae Legleiter, daughter of Brandon and Nicole Legleiter, was baptized July 5, 2020, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Adan Nathaniel Lopez-Chavez, son of Adan Urbano Lopez-Lopez and Maria Esperanza (Chavez) Lopez, was baptized July 18, 2020, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Blake Jose Martinez, son of Joseph and Katie (Holub) Martinez, was baptized July 11, 2020, by Father Norbert Dlabal at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood.

Boon William Metro, son of Jera Renee Metro, was baptized July 19, 2020, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Beau Lewis Raymer, son of Clint and Morgan Raymer, was baptized June 24, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Everett Luca Reif, son of Pierce and Tandra Reif, was baptized June 28, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Berkley Ann Schmidt, daughter of Tanner and Wendy (Fields) Schmidt, was baptized July 18, 2020, by Father Norbert Dlabal at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood.

Shaylee Rose Stremel, daughter of Cameron and Stephanie (Weber) Stremel, was baptized July 17, 2020, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Owen Orval Zabokrtsky, son of Ethan and Rachael (Lampe) Zabokrtsky, was baptized July 11, 2020, by Deacon Brian McCaffrey at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Ray Michael Zabokrtsky, son of Ethan and Rachael (Lampe) Zabokrtsky, was baptized July 11, 2020, by Deacon Brian McCaffrey at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic Charities annual fundraiser goes virtual for 2020

By The Register

SALINA — With more families in need than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas amped up efforts to make its 2020 fundraiser one for the books.

And it was.

One for the virtual books, that is. The July 18 fundraiser, coined The Green Tie Event, raised nearly \$315,000 and featured familiar faces such as Bishop Jerry Vincke and master of ceremonies Kevin Carrico. Yet it also embraced an entirely digital platform with the assistance of Salina Media Connection (SMC) which operates a local community TV station, on channel 21 in Salina, provided the equipment and a five-person team to operate the cameras and live stream the event.

"Canceling this event was not an option, because our budget did not account for the huge spike we have seen during the past few months," said Jeanie Warner, director of marketing and communications for Catholic Charities. "We are so grateful to the SMC staff for helping with this event, so that we could not only host the live event, but through video, allow viewers to meet the people whose lives have been changed because of their support."

"We were all nervous putting together a virtual event, since we are not technology experts or TV producers, but overall it went really well," she added. "We are so thankful for our committee who designed our set, put together auction packages and helped spread awareness and champion the event."

THE 15TH ANNUAL Fundraiser started with a video starring Bishop Vincke and the Master of Ceremonies for the Green Tie Event, Kevin Carrico.

"When you host a virtual event, it is easy for people to tune out, so we knew that we had to set the tone of the evening during our opening," Warner said. "We had



Courtesy photo

Auctioneer Charlie Moon wields the microphone during the Green Tie Celebration on July 18 at Catholic Charities' office in Salina. The event, which was virtual this year, also included master of ceremonies Kevin Carrico (center). It was filmed by Greg Stephens, executive director of Salina Media Connection and broadcast with the assistance of Salina Media Connection.

a fun idea, but we weren't sure what Bishop Vincke would think about it. It turned out even better than we expected. If you have not seen it yet, you should go to our website to watch it."

As Bishop Vincke stated in the video, Kevin Carrico has been hosting the Catholic Charities Annual Fundraiser since "Moses parted the waters," and he kicked off the live event in Catholic Charities training room which was transformed into a TV studio for the event on Saturday, July 18.

"Kevin does such a great job and never loses sight of the purpose of the event ... we are there to raise money to help families who are struggling," said Eric Frank, director of development. "This fundraiser makes up a huge part of our annual budget. This year, there are so many families who have never before asked for help, but with lost income during the COVID-19 crisis, they are unable to pay their bills. They are on the verge of homelessness, and they need help feeding their families."

WHEN THE EVENT concluded the evening of July 18, the video had been watched in 196 households across the diocese.

"After we learned that meant 196 different households watched all or part of our first virtual fundraiser, we were excited," Warner said. "We knew people were also holding watch parties

throughout the diocese so we probably reached more than 250 households. We are thrilled that so many people took time out of their lives to learn more about the work done at Catholic Charities and see their donations and prayers in action."

Catholic Charities has been on the front lines during the pandemic, providing food and hygiene boxes, laundry detergent, diapers, and other basic necessities.

Interim executive director Katie Platten praised the Catholic Charities staff in her message during the live event.

"I am absolutely amazed at the work we do here," she said. "It has been a fantastic experience. My husband Tom and I have been donors for many, many years, but to be here on the ground and see our dollars in action has been great!"

FOR THE 2020 Annual Fundraiser, a group of anonymous donors offered a \$100,000 Donation Match Challenge, matching donations dollar for dollar to help Catholic Charities reach the \$325,000 goal. There were also four auction items sold during the live auction that evening and an opportunity for 20 people to purchase tickets to a party honoring Bishop Vincke co-hosted by Jeff and Mary Thompson and Tom and Katie Platten.

The most sought-after package was the gourmet dinner by Father Frank Coady and sous chef, Father Kerry Ninemire. After the

dinner sold for \$5,000, the priests contacted staff during the live show and offered to sell another dinner to the second-place bidder at the price of their last bid of \$4,500.

WHILE THE LIVE broadcast ran smoothly, there was one glitch at the end of event which affected donations to the Fund-a-Need.

"When it came time for people to donate to the Fund-a-Need, we were surprised that more people were not donating," Warner said. "Especially since the surprise ending for the live event was that the last person to donate \$100 would receive a four-night stay in Colorado. It wasn't until the next day that we figured out that the mobile bidding app did not include the Fund-a-Need donation option. It was on our website, so some people were able to donate, but we know the glitch impacted our totals."

Catholic Charities has chosen to reopen donations to the Fund-a-Need project. The Kelly Mead Catastrophic Illness and Disability Funds offer financial assistance to families experiencing life-altering illnesses, injuries and disabilities.

Warner said that the people helped through these funds are typically experiencing their darkest times and have few options.

"These programs offer vital funding to people like Jessica, who was single mother in our pregnancy program. She had left an abusive relationship and then learned she was preg-

"This fundraiser makes up a huge part of our annual budget. This year, there are so many families who have never before asked for help, but with lost income during the COVID-19 crisis, they are unable to pay their bills."

Eric Frank
director of development

nant," Warner said. "She was saving money and planned to work until her due date. At 28 weeks, she went into labor and was rushed to a Wichita hospital where she remained on bed rest. When little Aryia was born a week later, her mother knew her little fighter would spend months in the hospital before she could bring her home."

The Catastrophic Illness and Disability Funds at Catholic Charities offers financial support for travel expenses, uncovered medical equipment and prescriptions as well as help rent and utilities.

"These two funds offer a lifeline to families, especially during this health crisis," Warner added. "Before March, many people who were going through cancer treatments or dealing with other illnesses would still go to work. But with their weakened immune systems, it is not recommended, and their lost income can be financially devastating their families."

Catholic Charities is still receiving donations but has not yet met their \$325,000 goal.

If you would like to support the Catastrophic Illness and Disability Funds, you can donate online at www.ccnks.org or send a check to Catholic Charities, C/O Fund-a-Need, P.O. Box 1366, Salina, KS 67402.



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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Plainville First Communion



Courtesy photo

Youth at Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville received First Communion on July 19. Front row (from left) are instructor Karla Ruder, Nevaeh Garrett, Kinsley Casey, Elizabeth Deutscher, Sydney Littrell and instructor Andrea Smith; back row, Elijah Molina, Trevyn Morris, Father Leo Blasi, Braylon Klein and Brantley Lawver.

Communion in Munjor



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Munjor received First Communion on June 14. Front row (from left) are Hayley Gerstner, Bella Bailey and Lovata Carter; second row, Makailyn Leiker and Tatuem Dickinson; back row, Father Jarett Konrade.

Victoria First Communion



Courtesy photo

Youth at the Basilica of St. Fidelis received First Communion on July 19. Front row (from left) are Cooper Jones, Cale Kuhn, Jack Windholz and Easton Washburn; second row, Graycee Herl, Cash Griffin, Harper Truan, Talyn Robben and Michael Schippers; back row, catechist Becky Scheck, Jalynn Hammersmith, Jaidyn Dinkel, Katherine Driscoll, Walker Robben and Capuchin Father John Schmeidler.

St. Joseph, Hays, Communion



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Joseph Parish in Hays received First Communion on July 19. Pictured are Father Brian Lager, Owen Bieker, Andrew Rose and Father Matthew Cowan.

Oakley First Communion



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Joseph Parish in Oakley received First Communion on June 28. Front row (from left) are Arely Vital, Bridgette Vital, Ellie Palmquist, Eli Samuelson, Axel Vital, Cameron Brooks, Kinley Weiser and Jicel Vital; middle row, Megan Smith, Karsyn Ottley, Eisley Remington, Kambrie Halbleib and Hope Kuhlman; back row, Theresa Blair, Deacon Dennis Engel, Father Luke Thielen, Deacon Mike Brungardt and Jessica Halbleib.

Communion in Downs



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Mary Parish in Downs received First Communion on June 21. Pictured: Clayton Hartsock and Korbin Hamilton with Father Daryl Olmstead and catechist Kathy Slipke.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Washington First Communion



Courtesy photo
Youth at St. Augustine Parish in Washington and Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf received First Communion on July 8. Front row (from left) are Emma Hammersmith, Clara Wurtz, Ashtyn Votipka and Whitney Jueneman; back row, instructor Trudy Cole, Colton Doll, Kendon Jueneman, Diomar Castro and Father Joseph Kieffer.

Osborne First Communion



Courtesy photo
Youth at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne received First Communion on July 25. Front row (from left) are Barrett Lix, Kirsten Mans, Sophie Mans and Norah Kendig; back row, catechist Jolene Mick and Father Daryl Olmstead.

Herington First Communion



Courtesy photo
Youth at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington received First Communion on June 14. Front row (from left) are Alaina Hight, Isabel Antoszyk, Jaelyn Rand, Colten Abeldt, Malachi Stroda and Clayton Kraemer; back row, Deacon Richard Kramer and Father Peter O'Donnell.

Leoville Sacraments



Courtesy photo
Youth at Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville were baptized and received First Communion on Aug. 26. Pictured (from left) are Molly Ritter, Myah Ritter, Adam Ritter, Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos and Ethan Shea.

St. Francis First Communion



Courtesy photo
Youth at St. Francis of Assisi Church in St. Francis received First Communion on June 21. Front row (from left) are instructor Marian Ochsner, Adrian Acosta, Aldo Mendoza, Casen Todd, Carter Downey and instructor Joan Gienger; back row, Anthony Palacios, Mayte Mayorquin, Father Joseph Asirvatham, Michelle Quezada and Melissa Martinez.

Leoville Sacraments



Courtesy photo
Youth at Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville received First Communion on Aug. 2. Pictured from left are Vincent Taylor, Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos and Parker Vahling.

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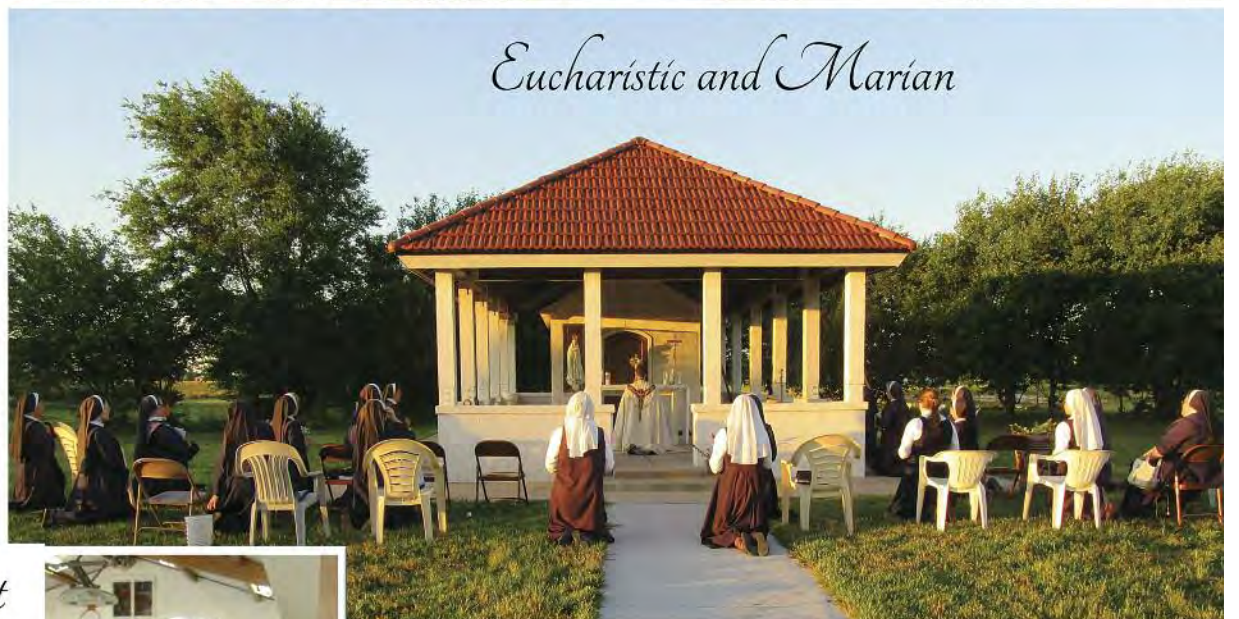
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