

## New director leads Catholic Charities

By Karen Bonar  
The Register

**S**ALINA — Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas welcomed Megan Robl as its new executive director on Aug. 24.

A Salina native, Robl was familiar with Catholic Charities' mission growing up and also in her previous work at the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

"My parents have always really believed in the mission here, and that was passed on to me," she said. "I prayed a lot and decided to apply. Because we were in COVID, my life slowed down a lot. I did a lot of thinking about my purpose and what I was passionate about."

"On a personal level, it was very exciting for me to be able to combine being Catholic with a professional career, because normally it's so separate."

Robl grew up in St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish, where she attended religious education classes.

"I remember sitting in religious education class in fourth grade, learning about our gifts from God and that we should give them back," she said. "I have flashbacks to that classroom. I know my natural talents and strengths and I thought about if it was a good fit for me to (come to Catholic Charities)."



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

**Megan Robl was announced as the new executive director of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas on Aug. 24. Catholic Charities is the social justice arm of the Salina Diocese. In 2019, it served about 9,000 individuals across the 31 counties within the diocese.**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES** serves all 31 counties within the Salina Diocese, encompassing almost 27,000 square miles. There are physical offices in Salina, Manhattan and Hays, and several times every week,

mobile outreach is provided at an additional 20 communities across the diocese.

"I got to go on a mobile outreach trip to Beloit, helping clients face-to-face and really getting to meet those people," Robl said. "It

was eye-opening. It was a heart-warming experience. There's something special about looking at someone in the face, having a conversation, being able to share a smile and help meet their needs."

While the organization is under the umbrella of the Salina Diocese, it serves a broad community.

"You don't have to be Catholic to receive services,"

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## October is Respect Life month; let us respect all life

When COVID-19 struck our world and country, I applauded our elected officials for doing all they could to save lives. In fact, I even wrote to one government official thanking them for their efforts. But then I added, "I also hope that people, especially in the government, will see why we are so passionate about defending life in the womb. We value all life. We see all



**Bishop Jerry Vincke**  
Diocese of Salina

life as sacred, including those in the mother's womb."

October is Respect Life month. It seems this is what is needed the most in

our world — respect for life, from the moment of conception to natural death. The Church proclaims that human life is a gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities to God, to self and other; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence. There are many sins

against human life in our culture, including sex trafficking, racism, pornography and murder. However, for this article, I want to focus on abortion. I realize that some people get upset when the Church focuses "too much on abortion." While we see people protesting today for one cause or another, the human life in the womb does not have a voice. We must be the voices

for them. In many ways, the Church is supposed to be like a mother bear. It should do anything it can to protect her cubs. The Church wants to protect all her children, especially the unborn.

St. Teresa of Calcutta said it so well: "The greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion, which is war

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### Marriage Mass

Diocese makes adjustment to annual marriage Mass celebrations.

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### Farm awards

Three families honored for farming family land for more than a century.

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### Radio reach

Divine Mercy Radio in Hays continues to expand.

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## AROUND THE DIOCESE

# Faith is central pillar of marriage

By Karen Bonar

*The Register*

**C**OLBY — It was love at first sight when Francis and Geri Landry met on Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

"It's a special day for us; we always celebrate the day we met," Geri said. "We were engaged within a month. Out of the clear blue he asked me if I would marry him. It was a whirlwind."

The couple's courtship lasted six months, and they were married on June 24, 1967, in Massachusetts, where Geri grew up.

"We were in the right place at the right time. God had a plan," Geri said.

She grew up on the East Coast, and was in Colorado Springs, Colo., working at the deaf and blind school during the week and waitressing at a night club on the weekends. Francis, who was the manager of the A&W Restaurant in Colby, was spending the winter working carpentry in Colorado because the restaurant was closed during the winter months.

"I was interested as soon as I walked in," Francis said. "I tried to get her to dance with me, but she said no because she was busy waiting tables. I said I would come back the next night."

When he returned, Geri said she quizzed her boss.

"It was a place where you saw the same customers again and again and again," she said. "I asked, 'Who is the guy at the end of the bar? He keeps asking me to dance,' and she said, 'Give me your tray and go dance with him.'"

Frank Sinatra's "Strangers in the Night" was the first song they danced to, and it's been "their song" ever since.

**THE COUPLE WED ON** the feast of St. John the Baptist.

"We had the wedding readings all picked out and the priest said it was the feast of John the Baptist,



Colby residents Francis and Geri Landry have been married for 52 years. "If you trust in God, you'll get through," Francis said. "You'll get through anything. God is in charge."

*Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register*

and we weren't allowed to have the wedding readings," Geri said.

In those days, she said weddings were in the morning; the couple wed at 11 a.m.

"You did a daytime dinner and daytime dance right after the wedding dinner," she said. "Then afterwards, everybody went back to my mom and dad's place where they continued to party."

The festivities included Francis' extended family,

who traveled from Nova Scotia to attend.

**AS WITH MANY** long-married couples, Francis and Geri said the wedding was only the beginning. Faith, they said, was a central pillar of their marriage.

"If you trust in God, you'll get through," Francis said. "You'll get through anything. God is in charge."

The couple's faith was tested throughout their child-bearing years as com-

plications arose in each one of their six pregnancies.

"We miscarried the first baby and it was devastating," Geri said. "All of our pregnancies were difficult. I threatened to miscarry every one, but I got to keep three babies."

One of the most difficult points in their life was when their daughter Mary died at birth.

"That was the lowest part of our lives that we went through," Geri said. "The

church community supported us, brought meals in, even if we didn't know them. People I didn't even know came to the hospital.

"One woman lost her baby a month before we lost Mary, and she found out at the library I had lost a baby. I had a sign on the door and told the nurses I didn't want any visitors, but she came right in and said, 'I know what you're going through, just read these,' and handed me a book of poems from Helen Steiner Rice. I had never seen this woman in my life, but God directs people."

**SURRENDER TO GOD** is another lesson the couple learned throughout their marriage.

"For me, marriage is not our plan," Geri said. "I wanted to have a good time and see the world."

"When mom and I traveled across Kansas in the '60 Chevy, I said, 'Oh mom, the poor people who have to live here!'"

Little did she realize that she would marry a Kansan and live for more than five decades in western Kansas.

"I wasn't thinking about God's plan," she said of her youth. "Young people who think they have their life all set in stone should really pray and ask, 'What is God's plan for me?'"

**WHILE THE COUPLE MET** in Colorado, they settled in Kansas, where Francis managed the A&W.

"We got married in June, and the doctor that owned the A&W called us for a meeting," Geri said. "They told us they were moving out of town and would have to sell the A&W. They said they would like us to buy it, but we didn't have a penny to our names. Francis ran it for two years before we bought it."

The couple owned the venture for 30 years before selling it and retiring.

They have three living children, three children in heaven and eight grandchildren.

## Marriage Anniversary Masses to be celebrated in home parishes

By The Register

**SALINA** — This year's efforts to honor couples celebrating milestone anniversaries in marriage will look different.

In years past, the bishop has celebrated Mass in person with recipients. This year, however, the decision was made to shift the celebration from the large Masses to honoring couples in their home parish.

"Recognizing some of our couples fall into the high risk category, we still want to recognize and honor them for being great witnesses to the sacrament of marriage and family life in our diocese," said Rick Binder, the director of family life for the diocese. "We want to be sure they are wit-

nesses in their own community."

The intention is that parishes will honor couples celebrating their first anniversary, or an anniversary ending in "5" or "0." Binder said ideally, the celebration will be Oct. 25 in all parishes throughout the diocese, but due to local schedules may be another weekend before Advent begins.

"We want to use prudence and caution but still recognize them for their great witness of faith in marriage," Binder said.

Certificates will be mailed to couples after the corresponding weekend they are honored.

RSVPs are being accepted online at [salinadiocese.org/family-life](http://salinadiocese.org/family-life) or email [rick.binder@salinadiocese.org](mailto:rick.binder@salinadiocese.org).

### Marriage Anniversary Masses

For all couples celebrating their first anniversary or an anniversary ending in "5" or "0."

More information is available at:  
[salinadiocese.org/family-life](http://salinadiocese.org/family-life)



BISHOP'S CALENDAR

October 2020

7-8

Jesu Caritas, Wichita

8

Kansas Catholic Conference, Wichita

11

Confirmation, St. Frances Cabrini, Hoxie

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Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

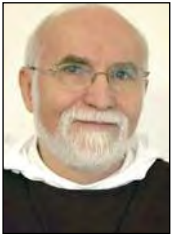
Publication Title: The Register. Publication Number: 397-740. Filing Date: Sept. 10, 2020. Issue Frequency: Semi-monthly. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12. Annual Subscription Price: \$0. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: P.O. Box 1038, 103 N. Ninth St., Salina, Saline County, KS 67402-1038. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: P.O. Box 1038, 103 N. Ninth St., Salina, Saline County, KS 67402-1038. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Publisher: Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke, P.O. Box 1038, 103 N. Ninth St., Salina, KS 67402-0980. Editor: Karen Bonar, P.O. Box 1038, 103 N. Ninth St., Salina, KS 67402-1038. Managing Editor: Karen Bonar, P.O. Box 1038, 103 N. Ninth St., Salina, KS 67402-1038. Owner: Diocese of Salina, P.O. Box 980, 103 N. Ninth St., Salina, KS 67402-0980. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent of More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None. Tax Status: The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Aug. 28, 2020. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Number of Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): 16,269. Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541: 162. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541: 0. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, County Sales and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS: 0. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS: 0. Total Paid Distribution: 162. Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 16,107. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 0. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS: 0. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail: 0. Paid electronic copies: 0. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution: 16,107. Total Distribution: 16,269. Copies Not Distributed: 50. Total: 16,319. Percent Paid: 1%. Printed in the Sept. 25, 2020, issue of this publication. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. Brenda Streit, circulation manager, Sept. 10, 2020.

Wichita Spiritual Life Center to host retreat with Father Jacques Philippe

By The Register

WICHITA — When original plans fell through for a retreat directed by Father Jacques Philippe, a prolific writer on modern Catholic spirituality, plans were adjusted. The retreat, which will be the first ever in-house virtual retreat, will be Oct. 31 - Nov. 1.

Several options exist for attendees. Those interested may register to stay overnight at the Center for the full retreat experience, or they can also choose to commute in daily. Those who come to the Center will be able to listen to Father Philippe's pre-recorded talks and participate in a live group Q&A session with him over video conference, as well as enjoy the prayer time, sacraments, meals and quiet space that the Center has to offer.



Father Jacques Philippe

If participants cannot come in person to the retreat, the Center is setting up to provide the option to attend the retreat live via Zoom.

A final option is purchasing a recording of Father Philippe's talks, which were recorded just for this event, and listen to them in the future.

Father Philippe is a member of the Community of the Beatitudes in France. He primarily devotes himself to spiritual direction and preaching retreats internationally.

To register, visit the SLC website, [slcwichita.org](http://slcwichita.org), or call (316) 744-0167.

OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTION

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

*of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.*

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# Pandemic seen affecting people's mental well-being, not just physical health

By Susan Klemond  
*Catholic News Service*

**S**T. PAUL, MINN. — As COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc physically, even bringing death into some people's homes, the shutdown this past spring and the virus' continuing effects also have impacted mental health.

As a result, more people in the Twin Cities area, including those who hadn't previously experienced mental illness, have sought counseling assistance during the crisis by phone, online and — as restrictions lifted — in person, said several therapists and priests in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

"This pandemic brought obviously physical ramifications for some folks who got sick but (also) a lot of fear and anxiety," said Father Matthew Malek, a Conventual Franciscan priest and counselor at St. Bonaventure in Bloomington, Minn. "A lot of folks have lost or been reduced in their degree of employment, worried about their children, worried about perhaps relatives or friends that live in care facilities — big disruptions."

**THE DISRUPTIONS HAVE** caused isolation, stress, anxiety, substance abuse and other problems, especially for those already diagnosed with mental illness, therapists say. And while faith has been a support, not receiving the Eucharist and other sacraments as people try to avoid contracting or spreading the virus has contributed to depression, especially for the elderly.

Isolation has been a major stressor that has resulted in more gaming and more sexual and chemical addictions, therapists say.

"The lack of human connection is causing such distress," said Melissa Nichols, a licensed marriage and family therapist at Family Attachment and Counseling Center in Chaska, Minn., who belongs to St. Hubert Parish in Chanhassen.

"What I see is increased anxiety with adults, particularly because all their stuff has moved online," she

Tips for coping with COVID-19 related stress

- Accept that the situation is tough and might continue to be for a while. Reach out to friends, family, counseling and medical professionals, if necessary. Mental health is as important as physical health. (Father Malek)
- Seek connection with God. COVID-19 challenges can be numbing, so spend time with him. Meditate on God's provision and protection through the Psalms and Bible passages such as Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." (Stokman)
- Increase the capacity to accept uncertainty through meaningful connections with others and prayer. (Stokman)
- Control thoughts by practicing gratitude. The mind is a battlefield. Wake up and think of three things to be thankful for. In the evening, reflect on the day, identify three things that went well and thank God for them. (Nichols)
- Do acts of kindness. It can benefit the giver as much or more than the one receiving a kindness. Helping others can be the biggest action taken against anxiety and depression because the feeling of doing something gives more control over those problems. (Nichols)

said. "They are becoming more scattered toward the end of the day, more depressed and so they're really looking at how to have contact."

When people feel isolated, they tend to ruminate about what's wrong or scary in life, and fear can almost be crippling if they're already diagnosed with chronic mental illnesses, said Father Malek, who has helped people understand that it's OK to admit they're having difficulties and to get support.

Without distractions to keep them from thinking about problems, Nichols said some of her clients who have experienced trauma are more prone to suicide.

Suicide is on the rise overall, noted Dan Stokman, a therapist and director of Novare Counseling Center in St. Paul, because "too much isolation, too many losses, too much stress on the system and for too long lead to a breakdown and the resulting feeling of despair."

Almost 11 percent of American adults surveyed by the Centers for Disease Control in June said they'd seriously considered suicide during the previous 30 days. By comparison, another government survey showed that just 4.3 percent had thoughts about suicide in 2017.

In treating clients who may or may not have suicidal thoughts, Nichols said, she often pairs trauma therapy with a type of counseling that involves the client inviting Jesus into the image of their memory for

healing. She also sometimes uses prayer therapy.

Another problem affecting more people is anxiety, which feeds on uncertainty, especially when people have a low tolerance for the unknown, said Stokman, a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in West St. Paul.

Being home together was good for some families, but for others, anxiety, stress and substance use increased the risk of problems, such as domestic violence, Father Malek said.

**ANXIETY CAUSED BY** losing jobs and struggling to provide for families has affected rural parishioners at Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Montgomery, Minn., which includes St. Canice Parish in Kilkenny and is clustered with St. Patrick Parish in Shieldsville, said Father Tom Niehaus, the pastor.

"The stress that creates and talking with them (parishioners have said), 'We don't have the money to pay our bills. We don't know what this is going to look like, we're not even talking week to week, (but) day to day,'" he said.

Recognizing the pandemic's effects on mental health helps people check on others, Father Malek said.

"It isn't oftentimes about offering solutions or help," he said. "Sometimes the most important part (is) being present and listening, and also perhaps if someone seems to be experiencing some really heavy symptoms ... to encourage folks or support people in pursuing treatment."

THE REGISTER

Official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Salina Vol. 83, No. 9

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

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

Supported by an endowment established by Msgr. Raymond Menard (1912-2006), editor of The Register, 1944-1971 and 1975-2006.

The Register (USPS 397-740) is published the fourth Friday of the month by the Catholic Diocese of Salina, 103 N. Ninth, Salina, KS, 67401-2503 and is mailed to all registered parishioners in the diocese. A \$25 annual subscription is required for all others. Periodical postage paid at Salina, Kansas, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Register, P.O. Box 1038, Salina, Kansas, 67402-1038.

**Our next issue is dated Oct. 23.**  
Deadline for news is Sept. 28.  
Deadline for advertising is Sept. 28.

Mailing label update

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# Makers of sacramental wine, altar bread suffer economic hit due to pandemic

By Ian Alvano

Catholic News Service

**W**ASHINGTON — With the global pandemic practically shutting everything down for months, the sacramental wine and altar bread business has suffered like other businesses in the country, with COVID-19 preventing most indoor public celebrations of the Mass.

Catholics are, for the most part, unable to attend Mass in person and receive the Communion host and consecrated wine. And in cases where Mass can be attended by a small congregation that must adhere to health and safety protocols, like social distancing, mask wearing and hand sanitizing, Catholics still might not want to receive Communion.

“Nothing has kept this winery from fulfilling its mission the last century and a half, until now,” said Will Ouweleen, who is the vintner at the O-Neh-Da and Eagle Crest vineyards in Conesus, N.Y., in the state’s Finger Lakes region. Hemlock Lake is home to the vineyards, which also produce table wines.

“Things are not well. Easter this year was effectively canceled. You were encouraged to stay home and have a spiritual Communion,” he said. “What that means for O-Neh-Da Vineyard and other vineyards is there is no demand for sacramental wine. We have made very few sales since mid-February.”

Ouweleen said that he, his wife, Lisa, and a neighbor were doing “the work of 1,000 monks.”

Although business has taken a hit, he explained, the vineyard has not laid off a single employee and it continued to pay part-time employees even though they haven’t been required to go to work. The future looks unpredictable for the vineyard because what is unknown is how people will respond to drinking wine out of the Communion cup once public celebrations of Mass resume regularly.

The winery, which is in the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., was founded to make sacramental wine by the first bishop of Rochester, Bishop Bernard McQuaid, in 1872. It is one of the few remaining wineries in the world to make sacramental wine from locally grown grapes. More about its history can be found at [www.purewineonline.com](http://www.purewineonline.com).

“We are facing an existential threat here like nothing the winery has seen,” Ouweleen said, adding that he doesn’t know what the future holds. There will be “a need for sacramental wine because priests must celebrate Mass,” but the faithful do not have to take



Photo by CNS /courtesy Monastery of St. Clare)

**Sister Anne Bartol, a Poor Clare, prepares altar breads at the Monastery of St. Clare in Langhorne, Pa., in this undated photo. The nuns make up to three million altar breads at their bakery each year but halted production this summer as the coronavirus pandemic reduced demand for Eucharist at U.S. parishes.**

the wine if offered at Communion because “the body, blood, soul and divinity is present in the host completely.”

**IF COMMUNION IS BEING** distributed in churches that are reopening in a limited capacity for Mass, right now it is the host, and not consecrated wine, that is offered, so O-Neh-Da has not seen its demand go back up.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Catholics are not required to receive Communion under both forms, because the Real Presence is received under one form alone, as Ouweleen stated. Also, it is not always possible for a church to dispense Communion under both forms.

“Since Christ is sacramentally present under each of the species, Communion under the species of bread alone makes it possible to receive all the fruit of Eucharistic grace,” the catechism says. “For pastoral reasons this manner of receiving Communion has been legitimately established as the most common form in the Latin rite. But ‘the sign of Communion is more complete when given under both kinds, since in that form the sign of the Eucharistic meal appears more clearly.’”

O-Neh-Da Vineyard sells directly to about 1,500 churches in New York state, Pennsylvania and Washington. It sells the rest of its wine through distributors. About 95 percent of the churches the vineyard sells to are Catholic, but its customers also include Orthodox, Episcopal and Lutheran churches.



Photo by Chaz Muth / CNS

**Sister Anne Bartol, a Poor Clare, holds a bag of altar bread she and other nuns prepared to sell to parishes throughout Pennsylvania at the Monastery of St. Clare in Langhorne, Pa., Aug. 13.**

Normally, the vineyard sells around 15,000 cases of wine in fall and spring. However, sales were few this spring because of the pandemic.

**HOWEVER, TWO ORDERS** of women religious who make altar bread and ship it out across to churches around the country — the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Mo., and the Poor Clares of the Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare in Langhorne, Pa., have seen a small increase in sales since churches have slowly reopened. But they still have a huge surplus of altar breads.

Benedictine Sister Ruth Elaine Starman talked about her religious order’s business picking up slight-

ly.

“Parishes started opening up again, so we saw a bit of an increase in sales beginning with the first part of June and gradually increasing as more parishes have opened up again,” she said.

Sister Ruth explained that sales are not back to normal because the COVID-19 shutdown meant there would be no Easter Mass, and that was rough on the Benedictine sisters.

Easter is one of the main times the nuns sell their altar bread, so they saw their sales decrease dramatically. As of now, “the presider’s bread,” as she called the altar bread for the celebrant of the Mass, is selling much better than the bread used for Communion hosts for the laity.

“The presider’s bread is still selling. But (sales of) the people’s hosts with parishes shut down have fallen way down. Our sales were below 5 percent through April and May. Interestingly enough, we make low-gluten hosts for celiac sufferers, but those sales were steady and currently (in mid-July) were probably at about 40 percent of sales for our low-gluten bread,” she said.

Along with the Benedictine Sisters, the Poor Clares have seen a gradual increase in sales, as well. Sister Anne Bartol said the Poor Clares were getting about three orders per week, a dramatic decrease from their usual 40 or 50 orders a week, but at least they were getting something.

“Around mid-March perhaps, we started getting a big drop off in orders,” Sister Anne said. “We have two different types of clients: ones who call and the people who have our standing order. We kept sending our standing orders and within a month and two to three weeks of that, they started calling in saying, ‘Cancel my order.’ Basically, we’ve been at a standstill since late March.”

The Poor Clares usually send out multiple orders of altar bread to not only Catholic churches but to a few Protestant accounts, as well.

“In terms of total individual hosts, it’s about 750,000 a month,” Sister Anne said about what the nuns normally sell when there isn’t a pandemic. “Thirty-two bags is 8,000 hosts. That’s for one account or one order,” she added.



# God's perspective is always more gentle than our own

**RECENTLY, I WAS** shopping for some artwork for our new house, as we continue to settle in. We're finally beginning to unpack our boxes and hang decorations to make it feel more like home.

I was leaning toward midcentury modern prints, which are typically minimalist and often geometrical. Our new residence is much different than our former home. The colors and materials that went with our prior place don't quite seem to complement the new space.

"Do you like this one?" I asked my husband, as I scrolled through some abstract art prints I was considering. I thought his vote might help me narrow down my choices.

"The toddler scribbles piece is OK if that's what you like," he said.



**Patti Lamb**

*Archdiocese of Indianapolis*

I was startled by his reaction.

We looked at the same piece of artwork and saw it quite differently. I saw it as a soft print in a beautiful blue hue, imagining it as faded tracks of a person's journey from a bird's-eye view. Scribbles didn't come to mind.

This reminded me of a recent time when I viewed a photograph in contrasting ways.

A few years ago, my five sisters and I went to our parents' house to power clean as a way to help them out. Then in their 80s, they weren't as agile as they once

were. We came bearing cleaning supplies galore and some serious elbow grease.

Before we left, my mom took a picture with my sister's phone of dad with his six daughters.

My sister shared the photo via phone with the family.

**I WAS HAVING** a particularly low day and allowing myself no grace, and what I heard in my head was this: "Eek! Clearly, I am overdue for a hair highlight and I should probably take more care when applying makeup. Also, it's definitely time to retire that black puffer jacket. And note to self: Try to get away from that frozen smile pose and be more natural."

Fast forward to a couple weeks ago. My sister presented me with the photo from that day on a beautiful

stretched canvas, declaring it an early Christmas present.

"I couldn't wait until Christmas to give it to you," she said.

"I wanted you to have it sooner, so you can remember and cherish that happy day," she added.

A tear involuntarily rolled down my cheek. I viewed the photo in a distinctly new way. My dad was healthy, smiling and his heart appeared to be full. I looked at my dad, whom I miss dearly now that he is back with God, surrounded by his daughters, all clustered around him with no social distancing required. I saw five sisters whom I couldn't appreciate more, as they are my go-to prayer warriors and dearest friends.

I thanked my sister profusely for the gift, which has

a special place in my home. In fact, it's taken the place where that modern artwork would've gone. This piece brings me much more joy.

A new prayer I'm learning is this: "God, please help me to see as you see."

In a world of Photo-shopped and filtered images, I need to pray to look more through our creator's lens, giving grace as he modeled. We live in a society separated by opposing political views, trepid and emotionally spent during a pandemic. In my mind, the only way onward and upward is to see through God's eyes, knowing that he's already won the victory, and to make a concerted effort to nurture our relationship with him.

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

## There are two types of 'saint-makers'

**IF THERE IS ONE THING** for sure, God made us all to be saints. Let me be clear here, we don't all have to become Saints, but before you enter heaven, you will be a saint. It only makes sense that if we are called to sainthood, then God is going to put people and circumstances in our lives that help us to accomplish this goal. This thought brings me to a term that I ran across somewhere long ago — "saint-makers." Unfortunately, I don't know where the term originated, so I can't give proper credit.

Just as the term implies, saint-makers are people we encounter in our lives who help us on our path to holiness. There are two types of saint-makers.

The first is those good, holy people you hang around with who encourage



**Lisa Schartz**

*Register columnist*

and challenge you to grow in your faith. They walk alongside you and provide that excellent example that we all need in our lives.

The second type is probably the one you will relate to the most. These are those people who drive you nuts for one reason or another. These are the people who you are in frequent contact with and probably cannot avoid as much as you might like. They know how to "push your buttons," and you usually find yourself angry, upset, or otherwise doing — or maybe just thinking — very un-saintly

things.

How can these people possibly be helping you to become a saint? I'm glad you asked. The first thing to consider is, "What don't I like about this person?" Often the people that bother us most are those most like ourselves. It's rather like God is holding up a unique mirror in hopes you'll recognize where you may need to grow yourself.

**IF YOU GET UPSET** because someone is always very controlling and wants to micromanage everything, honestly consider if that might be something you do. If you get upset because someone must tell one last story, are you angry because it wasn't you that related that final story? Perhaps the person who volunteers for everything bothers you

because you don't volunteer but know you probably need to do so. It's not always easy to admit that what bothers us in others also bothers us in ourselves, but it's usually worth considering.

Second, if you are confident that it is not a mirror you are looking into, then how can you grow and respond differently to this person? Maybe if it's that controlling person, you can say a prayer thanking God for sending a person to do the job and who cares enough to try to do it well. Maybe if you get angry every time you encounter your saint-maker, you can consider what virtue(s) you need to grow into to overcome this anger. Maybe God is calling you to grow in patience or temperance? Perhaps it's a call to be less judgmental or more merci-

ful. One thing is certain; you are not going to change them, so discover how God wants to change you. You may even find that when you change, they respond differently.

Lastly, ask yourself who you are a saint-maker for and why. Hopefully, you can see yourself in that role of a kind, holy friend encouraging others on the path to sainthood. Don't fool yourself into thinking you aren't the other type for someone, too. You may be both for the same person at different times. If you can recognize traits in yourself that may indeed bother others and begin to work on those, then perhaps you will find yourself more and more being the type of saint that others are wanting to follow.

*Lisa Schartz is a parishioner of St. Andrew in Abilene.*

## Chasing the perfect Kansas Catholic candidate

**WHILE OBSERVING** political campaigns in the news or online, it can certainly be tempting to "check out" and walk away from the messiness of choosing our civic leaders.

This cannot be an option for Catholics. Lives are on the line.

"An authentic faith," teaches Pope Francis, "always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it."

Changing the world happens through public policies (laws) that lift up and protect the life and dignity of the human person. Electing



**Chuck Weber**

*Kansas Catholic Conference*

civic leaders who reflect Catholic values, principles and public policy positions is a grave responsibility.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers an insightful guide called Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, accessible online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

In their introduction to Faithful Citizenship, the American Catholic bishops

declare, "The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed."

**THE THREAT OF** abortion is also the preeminent public policy priority of the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Last year's ruling by the Kansas State Supreme Court in the abortion case Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt cleared the path for Kansas taxpayer-funded abortions, abortions for minors without parental knowledge or consent, and late term abor-

tions. Legal scholars say this and more is likely not a matter of "if," but "when."

The only viable option for pulling Kansas back from the precipice of virtually unlimited abortion is a state constitutional amendment called Value Them Both. Passing the amendment is a two-step process. It begins at the Statehouse in Topeka where legislators must first pass a measure placing Value Them Both on a statewide ballot. Then the people of Kansas can decide with their vote.

Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry cheered when Value Them Both failed to pass the Leg-

islature. Now is the time for your voice to be heard.

There is no such thing as a perfect candidate and there are more issues to consider beyond abortion. But we desperately need lawmakers with the courage to vote, "Yes" on Value Them Both.

Ask questions. Be sure to know where candidates stand on this issue. If you haven't done so, register to vote now. Kansas provides for advance voting in person and by mail. Request a ballot by mail from your county election office.

*Chuck Weber is the executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the four Kansas bishops.*

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## FAITH AND REASONS

## Finding, keeping hope

**Q** What are the signs of hope today in our parishes?

**A** When life becomes overwhelming, that is when our faith gets tested, we may be tempted to succumb to excuses. We may withdraw to such an extreme that we no longer are open to life-giving relationships. Yet, we have reasons for hope. With God's help, a tendency to withdraw or to generate excuses can be overcome.

A sign of hope is weddings. In the midst of uncertainty, and in the midst of a culture where we wonder if permanent commitments are possible, men and women are choosing to respond to God's call towards the vocation of marriage. For current or newly married couples, you are a sign of God's love, a love that is generous, constant, and awe-inspiring. Young families who are active in their Catholic faith are especially appreciated. Your presence in our parishes brings hope to all of us.

**ALL SACRAMENTS ARE** signs of hope. It's on the parish level where Jesus is most directly encountered. Whether it's a sacrament of initiation, a wedding, a sacrament of healing, or some down-to-earth fellowship, your local Catholic parish is where you can expect access to God's graces. What a gift that is! When you see adults who are open to the RCIA process, that reminds us that we have something worth pursuing. It is evidence that we have something worth celebrating.

For you, isn't it wonderful when you are in position to accompany a friend as they are discovering God's love and when they are operating from a high level of confidence? You may even assist them along the initial steps in achieving their goals. You may support them when they are in need of healing. You might take delight in the witness they are providing by the sacrifices they make in living out their vocation. It is similar in parish life.

Parishes are a classic location where we are equipped for mission. It is where we are renewed in the hope that we have in the saving power of Jesus Christ.

**IF YOUR EXPERIENCE** has included a dwindling version of hope, we might consider why that sometimes happens. Unfortunately, some people are so broken that seeing hope, energy and growth in another person might yield them to feel threatened and to



**Father Peter O'Donnell**

*Diocese of Salina*

ignore you. Engaging in a two-way dialogue can often rebuild that bridge, but not always right away. The hard work of loving another person is worth the effort, not only because it can be rewarding but because it is our job as disciples of Christ. Often we discover some surprising outcomes when we simply seek to reanimate our surroundings and when we are willing to be drawn up into God's redemptive transforming work.

To my brother priests, I invite you to be intentional about watching for signs of hope in our parishes. You are in position to celebrate signs of growth — through sacraments, programs, projects, and in the lives of those whom you accompany. I will try to be mindful of how to best serve God's people in my parishes and in the Tribunal. Sickness, loss, divorce and demographic changes are all burdens that we are vulnerable to, yet we have reasons to not succumb to discouragement or to excuses.

In 1 Peter 3:15, we are challenged to be ready to provide a reason for our hope. I have offered some thoughts when it comes to our parishes. Perhaps this overlaps with what sustains your hope. This has value, and it is especially significant when our faith is tested.

*Father Peter O'Donnell is the parochial vicar of Abilene, Herington, Hope and Elmo. He is the Judicial Vicar and the Archivist for the Diocese of Salina. He received a license in canon law in 2017. E-mail questions to him at faithandrea.sons7@gmail.com or write him at P.O. Box 1038, Salina, KS 67402.*

**Stella Adella Augustine**, 92, of Ellis, died July 18, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 22 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Ellis.

**Donald K. Baker**, 73, of Clay Center, died Aug. 23, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 29 by Father Don Zimmerman at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center. Burial was in SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Clay Center.

**Michael V. Bruna**, 76, of Hanover, died Aug. 13, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 18 by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover.

**Alicia Christine Brull**, 31, of Hays, died July 25, 2020. A private funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Damian Richards at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Burial was in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Munjor.

**Duane Louis Dorshorst**, 62, of Oberlin, died Aug. 11, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 14 by Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos at Immaculate Conception Church in Leoville. Burial was in Oberlin Cemetery.

**Bernice Ann Erichsen**, 90, died Aug. 20, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 22 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Junction City.

**Sister Ann Glatter**, 91, of Concordia, died Aug. 8. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 11 by Msgr. Barry Brinkman in the Motherhouse Chapel. Burial was in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery.



She was born March 28, 1929, in Amherst, Neb., to Vincent and Anna (Franke) Glatter and was baptized Mary Alice.

## DEATHS

She entered the novitiate on Feb. 2, 1948. On Aug. 15, 1948, she received the habit and was given the name Sister Ann Vincent, later changing to Sister Ann. She pronounced first vows on Aug. 15, 1949, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1953. She was a Sister of St. Joseph for 72 years.

Sister Ann served the community as gardener at the Motherhouse for 60 years. In addition to lawn and yard work at the Motherhouse, Sister Ann refurnished chairs and chapel pews and worked in ceramics.

Sister Ann was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and three sisters.

Memorials for Sister Ann Glatter 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.

**Mary Joan Gorman**, 92, of Mission, died Aug. 5, 2020. A graveside service was held Aug. 9 by Father John Wolesky at St. Patrick Cemetery, Chapman.

**Brenda Kay Kaus**, 68, of Norton, died Aug. 28, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 31, by Father Jose Kumbulka, CMI, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Norton.

**John W. Keller**, 75, of Manhattan, died Aug. 12, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 15 by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Regina C. Kobuszewski**, 100, of Hanover, died Aug. 2, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 6 by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover.

**Ashlie Koerperich**, 32, of Visalia, Calif., died June 30, 2020. Services were held July 18 in Visalia. Burial was in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery, Hoxie.

**Elmer J. LeBlanc**, 77, of Salina, died Aug. 1, 2020. A

graveside prayer service was held Aug. 6 by Father Steven Heina at St. Joseph Cemetery, St. Joseph.

**Benjamin Partida**, 15, of Junction City, died Aug. 7, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 15 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

**Helen Mary (Weber) Pfeifer**, 88, formerly of Ellis, died July 16, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 21 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Ellis.

**Alvin Louis Schoenberger**, age 68, of Ellis, died June 27, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 2 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Ellis.

**James H. Schroeder**, 91, of Grinnell, died July 19, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 21 by Father James Thomas, CMI, at St. Paul Church in Angelus. Burial was in St. Paul Cemetery, Angelus.

**Johanna Seley**, 88, of Chapman, died July 29, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 6 by Father John Wolesky at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Burial was in St. Patrick Cemetery, Chapman.

**Ralph Suther**, 90, of Manhattan, died Aug. 13, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 18 by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Burial was in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Blaine.

**Donald Wasylik**, 75, formerly of Junction City, died Aug. 2, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 6 by Father Frank Coady at Saint Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was at St. Patrick Cemetery, Vinecreek.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

# Salina attorney served on council for USCCB

By Karen Bonar  
The Register

**S**ALINA — Salina attorney Norman Kelly recently concluded a term on the National Advisory Council (NAC) for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

“The idea behind all of this is to give a perspective to the bishops that they might not have,” Kelly said, “to help provide a view of what the parishioners in the pew think.”

The NAC was established in 1968, with the intention to provide external feedback for the bishops. It is currently comprised of 40 to 45 members from across the country, with a mix of lay men, women, clergy, religious and bishops.

“It’s a true cross-section of the United States,” Kelly said. “It’s the whole gamut of views. The group brought a very interesting mix of people. Someone from New York City versus someone from North Dakota versus someone from L.A. would have different perspectives on the same issue.”

Kelly, who served from 2015-19, said the NAC often met in September, in advance of the bishops’ gen-



Norman Kelly

eral fall assembly. “The USCCB has an administrative committee, and they send us issues they want us to analyze, usually the hot topic issues of the day,” Kelly said.

**ONE RECENT TOPIC** was racism. The USCCB approved a pastoral letter against racism on Nov. 15, 2018, titled “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love.”

“They had us look at the earlier version and dissect it,” Kelly said, and added that the NAC gave extensive feedback about the first draft. “They (the bishops) took it to heart and extensively revised the letter. When they re-wrote it, it came back to us. The consensus was the second was much better done and indicative of Catholic views in America.”

The group also reviewed Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si* (“On Care for our Common Home”).

“They wanted our feedback of what the average Catholic in the pew would think of it,” Kelly said.

“There were perspectives all over the board.”

The most high-profile topic the committee dealt with was the clergy sex abuse of minors.

“It was a hot-button topic,” Kelly said. “It was a huge issue with varying views. They had us look at different related topics and ask what we thought. The questions were, ‘Were we doing enough? Were we eradicating the problem? Were we taking the proper steps?’”

In addition to meeting as a large group to discuss the issues placed before them, members of the NAC broke down into smaller groups.

“Many of these issues are very emotional,” Kelly said. “They were very sensitive and the bishops need to know how everyday Catholics view them, what it means in their life, their diocese, their parish.”

**WHILE SOME TOPICS** were contentious, others involved administrative issues, such as the canonization process for potential saints.

“The diocese will give a summary of the person and tell about their life and reason (the individual should be canonized),” Kelly said. “Then the bishops get a list

of our votes and they know a group of 45 people what the feeling is on the issue.”

Regional examples of men who are currently in the canonization process include Father Emil Kapaun, a priest from the Diocese of Wichita who died in 1951, during the Korean War. Another is Blessed Stanley Rother, a priest from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Okla., who was martyred in 1981 in Guatemala.

**PRIOR TO BISHOP**

Edward Weisenburger nominating him to serve on the NAC, Kelly said he didn’t know the group existed. Yet his involvement helped open his eyes to the global nature of the Catholic Church.

“To me, it was spiritually opening to see people with good minds who had a very different view of how to deal with an issue than I did,” he said. “The issues of the time impact Catholics differently in different locations.”

The fact that the USCCB has an advisory group consisting of a cross-section of Catholics from around the country is encouraging, he said.

“I was very impressed with the bishops,” Kelly

said. “They didn’t want you to just tell them what they want to hear. They were adamant about that. I think they’re trying to change and become more adaptive and responsive.”

“It came through loud and clear that our bishops truly care and want to do what the teaching of Christ are. They want to do it right. There are always different opinions, but the bishops care.”

In addition to serving on the NAC, Kelly has served as the diocesan attorney for the Salina Diocese for several years, while maintaining his law practice at Norton, Wasserman, Jones & Kelly, L.L.C.

Kelly was recently selected for the seventh consecutive year to be included in the *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in the practice area of Personal Injury Litigation — Defendants. The *Best Lawyers* is a peer-review publication in the legal profession.

“Norman is an outstanding lawyer who always wants to do the right thing. He deeply cares for our diocese and people,” Bishop Jerry Vincke said. “He is fair and trustworthy. We are extremely blessed to have him serve for our diocese.”

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us!

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Clifton youth receive First Communion



Courtesy photo  
Youth at St. Mary Parish in Clifton received First Communion on Aug. 1. Top row (from left) are Father Steve Heina and Catechist Ann Marshall; bottom row, Elsie Begnoche, Hayes Knoettgen, Bradley Schwab and Marcella Taddiken.

Hays First Communion



Courtesy photo  
A youth at St. Joseph Parish in Hays received First Communion on Aug. 9. Pictured (from left) are Father Matthew Cowan, Miriam Schroeder and Father Brian Lager.

Russell youth receive First Communion



Courtesy photo  
Youth at St. Mary, Queen of Angels, Parish in Russell received First Communion on Aug. 30. Front row (from left) are Emma Schneider, Adison Hoch, Bryleigh McKenna, Vivian Dreiling and Ava Schwartz; back row, Father Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI, Charles White, Damon Becker, Leighton Dinkel, Mahlik Fischer, Adam Hoch, Colton Mullender and Christopher Martinez.

Belleville First Communion



Courtesy photo  
Youth at St. Edward Parish in Belleville received First Communion on Aug. 8. Pictured (from left) are Zane Gieber, Ava Cornwell, Father Henry Baxa and Jacob Pachta. Not pictured, Ruth Feight.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Concordia youth Confirmed



Courtesy photo

Youth from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia received Confirmation on Aug. 30. Front row (from left) are Kristina Kindel, Karson Lister, Francisco Ayala, Keely Kindel, Daegen DeGraff, Brandon Wahlmeier and Michelle Bombardier; second row, Acacia Kindel, Aubrey Stahlman, Brigham Chavey, Clare Meyer and Even Bombardier; back row, Father David Metz, Andrew Henderson, Katelyn Reedy, Kyle Kling, Taylor McDaniel, Jacob Barr and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

Minneapolis Confirmation



Courtesy photo

Youth at Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis received Confirmation on July 29. Pictured (from left) are Father Mark Wesely, Henry Martinez, Jr., Olivia Rolph, Robert McKain, Abby Myers and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton youth Confirmed



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Salina received Confirmation on Aug. 15. Front row (from left) are Levi Losey, Ryker Nelson, Kersti Nelson, Lauryn Mikkelsen, Ally Richards, Lani Richards, Avery Richards, Gabrielle Ptacek, Jett Samuelson and Maximus Maes; middle row, Emily Streeter, Josten Fischer, Annabelle LeSage, Ryan Schmitz, Callie Yohe, Dylan Esch, Bayleigh Schneider, Cruz Bradley, Carson Fouard, Brody Farthing, Angelica Alvarado and Rebecca Ryan; back row, Cameron Yohe, Caroline Brady, Brady Howard, Trey Clarkson, Brin Hecker, Abram Jennings, Trent Berland, Cooper Ivey and Kaden Budke.

Podcast launches about Father Kapaun’s life

By Christopher Riggs  
*The Catholic Advance*

WICHITA — A podcast that focuses on topics related to Father Emil Kapaun has launched.

“The Foxhole with Father Kapaun” carries on the heroic priest’s legacy of encouragement by connecting listeners with ordinary people who are fighting on the front lines of faith, often in extraordinary ways,” said Scott Carter, the coordinator of the diocesan Father Kapaun Guild.

“Servant of God Emil Kapaun made it his mission to unite his men in hope despite having to live in the

darkness of a North Korean prisoner of war camp.”

“The Foxhole with Father Kapaun” is available at [kapaunsmen.com/foxhole](http://kapaunsmen.com/foxhole), on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and other popular podcast venues.

Father Kapaun is a priest of the Diocese of Wichita who died a heroic death in 1951 in a North Korean prisoner of war camp. His cause for sainthood is now being considered by the Vatican.

The podcast is produced by a Kapaun’s Men team and features guests such as Catholic speakers Chris Stefanick and Michelle Benzinger, military veteran Vice Admiral Jim Crawford, as



well as ordinary men and women whose insight offers inspiration and strength for life’s daily battles.

**AN UPCOMING EPISODE** features an interview with a Catholic Medal of Honor recipient, Pat Brady, a “dust

off” helicopter ambulance pilot in Vietnam who, like Father Kapaun, put his life on the line to rescue his fellow soldiers. He and his team of pilots rescued more than 20,000 wounded soldiers during one nine-month period. That episode was released on Sept. 11.

Kapaun’s Men are men committed to fighting their daily spiritual battles with Father Kapaun as their model.

Jason Searl, the chairman of Kapaun’s Men, said the podcast, conducted by Kapaun’s Men M.C. Joe Farris, helped Kapaun’s Men groups stay connected during the pandemic quar-

antine.

“Several months ago, at the outbreak of the quarantine, we began hosting a weekly conference call at 6:30 a.m. each Wednesday,” he said. “We began to record the calls, recognizing that the encouragement they provided could be a boost for others who couldn’t make the live call-in time.”

Searl said they now want to share the podcast with the public. “The podcasts are a great way to continue our mission to carry on Father Kapaun’s legacy of hope and inspiration and, hopefully, help his cause for sainthood.”



# Kansas farmers mentor farmers in Africa

By Karen Bonar  
The Register

**FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN THE SALINA** Diocese are plowing the way on a new pilot project, connecting U.S. farmers to those in Africa.

The project, Missio Invest Farm Mentorship Program, is the brainchild and a collaboration between Father Steve Heina and Missio Invest, which was founded by the National Office of The Pontifical Mission Societies.

"This is a form of stewardship for our farmers," said Father Heina, who is the director of the propagation of the faith office at the Salina Diocese. "I believe our Kansas farmers are some of the best, most talented, most dedicated in the world. There's something significant to anyone to being able to be a steward of a great gift. Part of stewardship is sharing gifts in love and justice with others."

**WHEN DAMAR-AREA FARMER TOM BENOIT** heard about the pilot program via his pastor, Father Henry Saw Lone, he jumped at the chance.

Benoit assumed responsibility for his family's 200-head dairy at age 21 and ran the program until 2004, when his children moved away to college and adulthood. At that time, he transitioned to hay, corn, milo and wheat on about 11,000 acres.

He is paired with Father Mark Kitili, who farms about 80 acres in Kenya.

"It's a good fit with Father Mark, because he puts up a lot of hay," Benoit said.

As a dairy farmer for most of his life, Benoit was involved with the Land O'Lakes corporate board. As part of the board, he traveled to Rwanda and South Africa to visit the organization's mentoring program for dairy farmers. When the opportunity arose to become a peer mentor for an African farmer from the comfort of his own combine, Benoit said he jumped at the chance.

"I fell in love with Africa. I got involved with the Land O'Lakes board, which is huge helping people in Africa, so to me this is a natural fit for what I've been doing," he said. "It's not about for wealth for Father Mark. He's doing it so he can help others. He uses the money from the farm for the church, school and to help the locals."

The duo communicate primarily through a smartphone app called WhatsApp, which permits text messaging, photo sharing and audio or video calls.

"Father Mark has a passion for farming. He puts his heart and soul in it," Benoit said. "He will send me a fast WhatsApp and say, 'I got six bags of beans done today.' He's upbeat and excited."

In addition to talking about the daily tasks of farming, he said, they are developing a friendship.

"He knows I have a daughter getting married soon, and he is always asking about her and wants to know about our family," Benoit said.

And Benoit said he hopes some of his professional connections can assist Father Kitili on the farm.

"I'm trying to get a company in there and get him started with soil samples," he said. "I think, through Land O'Lakes, they can help him. Then we can get deeper into fertilizer and chemicals that could help his crops."

**THE IDEA TO PAIR KANSAS FARMERS WITH** those in Africa took several years to develop. First, Father Heina enlisted the help of Tom Murphy, who retired after working in the agriculture industry for more than 30 years, was concluding his tenure as the president of the Rural Life Commission for the Salina Diocese.

"We can't relate to them about tractors, but



Courtesy photo

**Women hand-shuck corn in Zambia. Through the Missio Invest Farm Mentorship Program, Kansas farmers and ranchers connect with those running agricultural operations in Africa.**

we can talk about population of plants, the fields, rainfall and when to plant and what to plant," Murphy said, "but we have to be cognizant of the fact that they have no mechanization at all."

Murphy worked with Father Heina to develop the outline for the pilot program, and once approved by the Missio Invest board, began the process of implementing their plans.

While he was initially nervous about the cultural differences, they were able to find common ground.

"We're developing a relationship (with the farmers in Africa) and seeing what comes from it," Murphy said. "I was nervous to show them pictures of how we do things here, knowing some of their machines are similar to those our ancestors used."

Father Andrew Small, OMI, is the president and CEO of Missio Invest. He said the organic way this project developed is exciting.

"The Church's global presence really comes alive when different dioceses or parishes unite to put the Gospel into practice," he said. "Missio Invest encourages a spirit of enterprise and stewardship that allows farmers from the U.S. to share wisdom, experience and faith with those around the world and, we hope, vice versa. Everyone has something to contribute. We're excited to see this program grow and flourish."

**JOEY AND MATT THIELEN FROM DORRANCE** were recruited to work with Sister Mary Chilengwe, of the Sisters of Child Jesus, in the Archdiocese of Kasama in Zambia.

Sister Mary's congregation has care of three farms, totaling about 1,900 acres. The farms produce and sell eggs, chicken, fish, beef, goat meat and corn. The farm provides food and income for local schools, orphanages and communities, and hires many local labors.

The introduction to the farm mentors were made in February, and Sister Mary said she has gleaned new ideas from her mentors.

"Before, we had been using traditional means of farming," she said. "Now we are thinking of farming as a business, since we have seen farms from outside. It is an eye opener to me. I am learning a lot and trying to do some of these things at our farm."

As with Sister Mary, Benoit said Father Kitili has been analyzing the farming operation with more of a business mind lately. He utilized one of the Missio Invest loans to purchase a bigger tractor and bailer for his hay.

"He did a financial plan of what he could



photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

**Joey Thielen plants cover crop for cattle grazing on Sept. 3 in Dorrance. "The biggest difference I see right now is they're threshing and harvesting totally by hand," he said of the religious sister who lives in Zambia who they are mentoring. "They have labor available there, and machinery is not available."**



Courtesy photo

**The Benoit family gathers in rural Damar during wheat harvest this summer. Tom Benoit, who farms about 11,000 acres, mentors Father Mark Kitili, who farms about 80 acres in Kenya.**

do with the bigger tractor and bailer," Benoit said. "He realized he could bale his own crop faster and would have time to custom bale for other farmers."

**JOEY THIELEN SAID IT'S BEEN INTERESTING** connecting with farmers in different cultures.

"I know they're not going to be able to adapt everything that we do here, but there is some possibilities for improvements," he said. "The biggest difference I see right now is they're threshing and harvesting totally by hand. They have labor available there, and machinery is not available."

The other hurdle some of the counterparts in Africa faces is resources.

"They have a tractor, but they cannot afford the fuel, so they plow with their oxen," Murphy said. "But they found people in the village who will plow if they give them a share of the food."

One surprising development came about when Murphy was looking at the background of a picture Sister Mary sent via WhatsApp. Murphy asked her if they utilized the jackfruit trees he saw in the background, and she said no.

"I worked with a guy who is trying to mar-

ket jackfruit to third-world countries because they say one jackfruit tree can feed a family for a year," Murphy said. "It can be used to make flour and can be eaten in several other ways."

**ANOTHER FRUIT OF THE MENTORING IS** learning ways to improve efficiency. While not technically part of the program, Murphy said he was seeing photos of Sister Mary and those on the farm hand-shelling corn and hand-thrashing beans.

"It reminded me of our ancestors," he said. "To watch these sit in a pile of corn and shuck and shell, it didn't make any sense to me. I said, 'Would you use a hand sheller?'"

Sister Mary enthusiastically agreed it would improve their farming operations. Yet, as Murphy explored options, shipping a sheller to Zambia was cost-prohibitive due to freight and import fees. As he and Sister Mary continued to converse, Murphy said he explored options such as an electric sheller.

"But they can't use electric because they never know when they'll have electricity," he said. "So we found a diesel one."

Murphy communicated with Missio Invest, and the organization agreed to add it to their



Courtesy photo

**Sisters work at one of the three farms operated by the Sisters of Child Jesus, in the Archdiocese of Kasama in Zambia.**

website as an option where those interested can invest and help fund a portion of the sheller for Sister Mary's farm.

**THE MISSIO INVEST FARM MENTORSHIP** Program evolved over time, said Father Heina. He first learned about Missio Invest several years ago. Once he heard about their efforts to assist church-run farms in Africa, he approached them with the idea of a U.S. to Africa farm-mentoring program.

"This is a brand-new program," he said.

"We had to construct a mission statement and a job description for the mentors, trying to figure out what kind of information would be involved with the mentoring effort."

He and Murphy collaborated to draft a proposal, and once approved, the duo set out to recruit farmers and ranchers from the rural Salina Diocese. Once mentors were identified, they met in February for an orientation, and the project began.

"The goal is to share the basic, hands-on experience," Father Heina said. "It's also a matter of social justice that we have a responsibility in always as Church — spiritually,

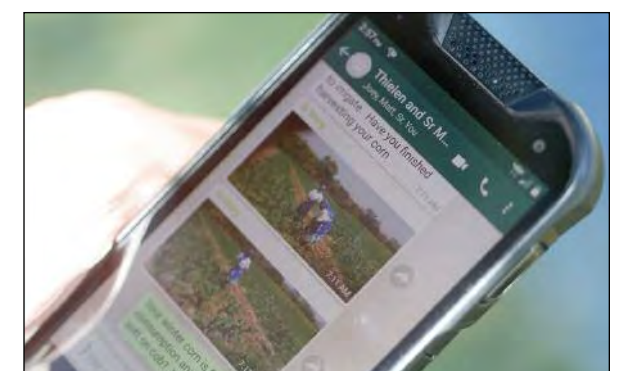


photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

**The Kansas farmers who are mentoring farmers in Africa communicate via WhatsApp on their smartphones.**

*"We can't relate to them about tractors, but we can talk about population of plants, the fields, rainfall and when to plant and what to plant."*

**Tom Murphy**  
Salina Diocese  
Rural Life Commission

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## CENTURY FARM AWARDS

# Three families receive

**By The Register**

**CLAY CENTER** — About 40 people gathered Aug. 16 to celebrate families who have farmed land in the Salina Diocese for more than a century. Each year, the Salina Diocesan Rural Life Commission presents the Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm Awards to Catholic families who have owned the same land for 100 years or more.

Three awards were presented Aug. 16 at SS. Peter and Paul Parish Hall in Clay Center, with Bishop Jerry Vincke.

The stories each family shared were uplifting and helped build appreciation for the commitment and value of family in agriculture.

The struggles farming families face today are different than a century ago, but faith is an underlying thread woven through each family's story.

The family farm history stories are presented as they were presented at the Rural Life Day.

Many told of immigrant ancestors beginning in western Kansas with little or nothing. The stories included testimonies of faith and the importance of their faith in God and his creation in making a new life on the Kansas prairies in the early Twentieth Century. The families were presented with a Century Farm plaque from the Rural Life Commission. Following the presentations of the family stories, refreshments were served.

**THE SALINA DIOCESE** Catholic Rural Life Commission is committed to helping rural communities and parishes remember that everyone is part of God's plan in feeding the world. The commission reminds farmers they are here to protect his gift of the Earth and to till it and care for it in order to pass it on to each generation. It also encourages those in agriculture to stay close to their God in daily prayer and thanksgiving for their gifts and blessings.

The award is named for Msgr. Weber, who headed the diocesan Rural Life Commission from 1958 to 1960 and from 1977 to 2002. In between, he was executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Msgr. Weber died in 2010 at the age of 93.

**ORIGINAL FAMILY OWNER (DATE ACQUIRED):**  
Vincent Coufal  
(1872)

**FAMILY OWNERSHIP:**  
John B. Coufal  
Tom V. Coufal

**By John Coufal**

This is the story of my great grandfather, Vincent Coufal, who was a homestead settler near Hanover.

Vincent Coufal was born in Privrat County of Chrudim, Bohemia, in 1839, and died in Hanover in 1929. He married Anna Vanaus in Bohemia in March 1867. She was born in 1847 in Bohemia and died in 1907 in Hanover.

A few months after their marriage, they traveled to New York City on a ship. They settled near Iowa City, Iowa, where they lived for four years. They moved in 1871 to the farm near Hanover, on the homestead purchased in 1872. To this union was born eight children: Joseph, John, Edward, Anna, Mary, Emilia, Lida and Barney. John and Edward were twins. They died in infancy on the long journey by covered wagon. The family lived on a homestead west of Hanover in Hanover Township. They lived in a dugout and had a lean-to stock shed and a hand-dug well.

In 1876, Vincent became a legal citizen of the United States of America.

In 1880, Vincent built a two-story limestone house. The stone was cut from a local stone quarry. It was still standing until the 1990s, when it was pushed down. He also built a

## COUFAL FAMILY

**Donna and John Coufal, Hanover.**

barn, which was made without one nail. It was made from hand hewn wood and wooden pegs.

He was put in the book of "The Forgotten Settlers of Kansas" and was considered a pioneer of Kansas.

Vincent was a man of many talents. He was the local dentist and stone mason, made loans to local farmers to get their homesteads started, and a farmer. He raised turkeys, chickens, ducks and cattle and worked the land. They had pears, apples and cherry trees on the farm. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover. He, along with many other church members, was one of the stone masons that helped build the Catholic church. The stone he used to build

his house was the same they used to build the church.

In later years, he owned a threshing machine with his son, Barney, and went from farm to farm with a crew to cut wheat. It was thought to be the first of its kind in Washington County.

His youngest son, Barney Coufal, John's grandfather, was given a quarter section of ground north of the homestead as a wedding present. He built a house from the Sears and Roebucks Catalog. He ordered it and it came by train with everything he needed: wood, nails, doors, windows, etc. He married Eulalia Cecilia Priest on April 28, 1914, in the Catholic church in Hanover. They had six

children; twin boys who died at birth, John (John's father), Cecilia, Iola and Agnes.

John Coufal (John and Tom's father) farmed with Barney and lived on the farm, even when Barney retired and moved into Hanover. John married Irene Marie Minder on Oct. 22, 1940. They had six children: John B., Leann, Tom and Jerry, who were twins, Patricia and Dorothy. He retired and moved to Hanover in 1977.

His son Jerry then farmed the ground along with brother John B.

Jerry died in January 1980, and Tom came home to farm with John B. John B. lives with his wife, Donna, on the farm. Tom and John B. farm the ground and raise cattle.

## DIEDERICH FAMILY

**ORIGINAL FAMILY OWNER (DATE ACQUIRED):**  
Hubert Diederich (1870)

**CHILDREN:** Bernard, Alexander, Peter, Margarit, Mathias, Hubert and Gertrude

**FAMILY OWNERSHIP:**  
Dean B. Diederich

**SIX GENERATIONS HAVE FARMED THE LAND** IN Lincoln Township, Washington County, Kansas, since Hubert Diederich claimed the land as part of the Homestead Act in 1870. Hubert homesteaded the land, living in a dugout by the creek. He walked from Waterville, which was where the railroad ended, with a sack of flour over his shoulder.

Hubert and his wife had seven children: Bernard, Alexander, Peter, Margarit, Mathias, Hubert and Gertrude.

Peter Diederich was the next to farm the land. He was born in the dugout in 1872. Peter farmed

using horses. The corn was shucked by hand and tossed into the wagon. The buildings and fences were constructed with native stone since there were no trees or other lumber. Farmers of this era are greatly admired for building with rock by hand, living in a dugout and working with no modern conveniences.

**BENEDICT DIEDERICH INTRODUCED THE USE** of tractors, which increased the land that he could farm. He farmed during the Great Depression during the "Dirty Thirties."

In 1948, electricity was brought to the farm making life much easier, especially for the farm wife.

Dean Diederich, his sons Greg and Mark, and grandsons Jerod and Ryan continue to farm the land in Lincoln and Kimeo Townships.

Dean met his wife, Mary Ellen, in Atchison at the twin colleges. Dean was the oldest of 10 chil-

dren. They have 41 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren.

Dean served as an officer in the Navy after graduating from St. Benedict's College in Atchison. While he enjoyed serving in the intelligence in the Navy, his heart was always with farming. He appreciated growing up with the work ethic and the freedom to run around on the farm. He wanted that for his children as well.

They raise wheat, corn, milo, beans and beef cattle.

While farming has many unknowns such as drought, insects, prices, etc., the crops are planted every year with faith and hope for a crop and decent prices.

Farming is still a dawn-to-dusk enterprise, planting crops and raising cattle with faith and trust in the providence of the Good Lord. God is good and has blessed the family with a good rural life.



## CENTURY FARM AWARDS

## Century Farm Award

## REICHERT FAMILY

**ORIGINAL FAMILY OWNER (DATE ACQUIRED):** Isidore and Agatha Reichert (1920)

Isidore Reichert, along with his wife, Clara, and three young daughters, Emma, Mary and Dorothy, left their native village, Schoenchen, Russia, and arrived in the U.S. in 1911.

Filled with faith, hope and dreams, Isidore wanted to own land and be able to feed his family and make a living. He came to Victoria, where Volga-Germans from Herzog, Russia, had settled beginning in 1876. He worked for farmers and started to save for his own place. Before this dream was realized, his wife died and Isidore needed a mother for his three small girls (ages 9-1). The local matchmaker got involved and found a widow, Agatha (Wasinger) Steinbock, who had recently lost her husband, Alois. Agatha and her four children, Josephine, Robert and Lidwina (Sr. Esther Marie) Werth and Joseph Steinbock were living on a farm southwest of Antonino in Ellis County. Isidore and Agatha married in 1913.

Their home, which Agatha and her previous husband built, was a dugout that was partially in and out of the ground. In 1914 and 1916 Isidore and Agatha added two more children to the family, Frank and Barbara, who were born in the dugout. Isidore worked hard farming what he could rent, but his dream was still alive to purchase land that would be his own. This dream was fulfilled in 1920 when Isidore bought the quarter of land that is the present site of the Reichert Farm. It was located one mile west and three-and-a-half miles south of Antonino. The price was \$8,725, and many speculated that Agatha and Isidore may have gotten in over their heads.

The subsequent years brought hard work and a constant struggle to survive on the treeless, drought stricken prairie. Isidore died in 1937, his son Frank Reichert inherited the farm and also the care of



Paulette Reichert, Luke Lundmark, Kalee Lundmark, Ethan Lundmark, Ella Lundmark (being held), Hannah Lundmark, Noah Lundmark and Larry Reichert, Antonino.

his mother. Frank farmed the land and started his family in 1944 when he married Martina Haas. Together they raised a family of eight children: Mary Ellen, Barbara, Paulette, Alvera, Frank J., Norma, Larry and Tom. The crops were wheat and irrigated corn/milo. They also milked cows and sold cream and eggs for grocery money. Frank spent many hours raising 200 laying hens, gathering eggs and sorting eggs by size into cartons for sale at the Hays grocery stores.

Throughout these years, Frank was able to buy three more quarters of land. Martina continued the work practiced by generations before, planting large gardens of potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, radishes, beets, lettuce, carrots, onions, beans, squash, pumpkins, watermelon and much more. She spent hours planting, hoeing, watering, picking and preserving. The family did not have a lot of money, but there was always plenty of good food. These were the years of the farm-to-table meals.

All the children participated in

farming, milking and gardening. Tragedy struck the family in 1955 when their farm home was completely destroyed by fire. A large ranch-style home was built to accommodate Frank and Martina's growing family.

The absolute day of rest was Sunday. After attending Mass in Antonino at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, the family had a large breakfast of homemade sausage, farm eggs, butter, milk and Martina's home-baked bread and kuchen. This was followed by naps, reading and visiting grandparents and relatives. After a supper (usually baked chicken with all the trimmings), the children would head outside to play baseball with their father. Their mother would do the dishes and then would come out along with Mary Ellen to cheer on whoever was up to bat.

The farm was ready to be handed on to Frank's son, Lawrence John, in the latter '70s. The milk cows and the laying hens were no longer feasible, but Larry raised wheat, milo and feed and started a

cow/calf operation. He farmed full time until 1986 when he sought employment off the farm to supplement farm income.

Frank and Martina remained on the farm until they moved to Hays in 1992. Also in '92, Mike and Norma (Reichert) Pipkin became the family caretakers of the farm home and farmstead, making it a place of hospitality for the entire Reichert family. Larry continued to farm part-time till 2008 when he rented the land and pasture to area farmers.

Mike and Norma Pipkin moved to Sharon Springs in 2016 and the fourth generation bought the family farm home and farmstead.

Isidore's great grandchild Kaleena (Reichert) Lundmark, her husband, Luke, and their four children now live and raise chickens and grow a garden on the same ground which Agatha and Isidore tilled in the 1920s and '30s and where Frank and Martina raised their family from the '40s through '70s. Luke is a social studies/history teacher at Hays High and Kalee, a registered dietitian, home-schools their four children, Noah, Hannah, Ethan and Ella.

The Catholic faith was an integral part of the family's fabric of life centered around the parish. Frank and Martina started every day with morning prayers before breakfast. The children were required to participate in the prayers: the Morning Offering, the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love. At the noon meal the Angelus was always said and the supper meal was simply "Bless us O Lord. . ." The St. Isidore Novena was said at least twice a year, asking for God to provide the crops with moisture, protection from the destructive forces of nature, and an abundant harvest. Holy water was used to sprinkle whenever dark clouds threatened the house, crops and livestock. The rosary was also prayed during the month of May. Because of such a daily talk and walk with God, the family remains committed to the faith and is active in their faith communities.

## Farm mentoring program under Missio Invest umbrella

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materially and occupationally — to try to reach out to those in need."

Because it is a pilot project, there have been a few hurdles to overcome.

"It took some time to get the contact link set up," Father Heina said. "They have sometimes difficulty accessing the Internet."

Joelle Birge, vice president of lending for Missio Invest, helped create a solution for communication.

"Our loan recipients have a phone with free data for WhatsApp, but they might not have email unless they

go to town," she said. "They can use WhatsApp every day on their farm. It took some time to establish that connection on WhatsApp, but now it seems to be working well."

**MISSIO INVEST BEGAN IN 2014-15** AS AN offshoot of the Pontifical Mission Society. The intention was to help leverage resources for the global Catholic church.

"The national office decided to start with Africa, where the Church owns a lot of Church-owned land, including Church-owned farms," Birge said, adding there are priests and sisters

who oversee these properties. "The Society wanted to see if we can give those farms the resources they need to expand and become sources of food, jobs and training for their local communities, while also helping them to become profitable so they can create a sustainable income stream to support their social ministries."

Since its inception, Missio Invest has grown from giving loans in one country to seven within Africa. It also funds 36 loans to agribusinesses, totaling nearly \$4 million in loans.

"This is a way to leverage

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photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Matt Thielen and Tom Murphy talk in one of the Thielen family fields. Murphy helped draft the farm mentoring pilot project.



## AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Hanover seniors recognized



Courtesy photo

Seniors who attended religious education classes were recognized during Mass on July 12 at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover. Front row (from left) are Emma Bruna, Emily Hendrickson, Hannah Bruna, Kate Dimler, Taeghan Zabokrtsky, Julia Graff and MaKenna Jueneman; middle row, Taegan Schwartz, Isaac Bruna, Zachary Bruna, Zachary Zarybnicky and Jacob Bruna; back row, Cadlee Stallbaumer, Eric Gerleve, Caleb Martin, Garrett Pedigo and Tianna Lohse.

## Religious education begins in Hill City



Courtesy photo

Youth gathered Sept. 9 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hill City to begin the annual parish religious education year.

## WEDDINGS

**Kord Albers** and **Amber Klaus** were married Aug. 4, 2020, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Brian Lager witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Thomas and Tina (Depperschmidt) Albers. Parents of the bride are Neil and Sondra (Mermis) Klaus. Witnesses were Ben Prindle and Elissa Jensen.

**Jeffrey Lee Anderson** and **Kristie Mae Blochlinger** were married Aug. 15, 2020, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Darrell and Jureta Anderson. Parents of the bride are Michael and Pamela Blochlinger. Witnesses were Taylor Crumbaker and Karlie Blochlinger.

**Markus Hilger** and **Wendy Zimmerman** were married Aug. 8, 2020, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Jayme and Leann Zimmerman. Parents of the bride are Mathias and Constance Hilger. Witnesses were Chris Hilger and Bailey Nash.

**Alex Hutchins** and **Bridgette Sappington** were married July 25, 2020, at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. Father Nicholas Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Devin and Dawn Hutchins. Parents of the bride are Scott and Mary Sappington. Witnesses were Corbin Janssen and Elizabeth Sappington.

**Luke Klaus** and **Rachel Newell** were married July 18, 2020, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nicholas Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Alex and Dorothy Klaus. Parents of the bride are Dale and Julie Pfannenstiel. Witnesses were Scott Davied and Cassandra Davied.

**Adrian Misiak** and **Shaelyn Klaus** were married Aug. 2, 2020, at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. Father Christian Raab witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Barbara and the late Jacek Misiak. Parents of the bride are William and Brenda Klaus. Witnesses were Jerome Greener and Lacey Schippers.

**Christien Ozores** and **Kathryn Westerhaus** were married July 30, 2020, at Saint Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanansekar Kulandai, HGN, witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Adrian Ozores and Brooke Keeling. Parents of the bride are Gretchen Westerhaus and Matthew Westerhaus. Witnesses were Hannah Perkins and Trae McDaniel.

**Joshua Walker** and **Kaylie Reeh** were married Aug. 8, 2020, at Sacred Heart Church in Colby. Father Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Chris Walker and Michelle Manning. Parents of the bride are Bradley Reeh and Amy Weber. Witnesses were Devon Jones and Abri Weber.

**Layton Werth** and **Aubrey Habash** were married Aug. 8, 2020, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Lawrence and Michele (Ausmus) Werth. Parents of the bride are Edmond and Jeanne (Burmester) Habash. Witnesses were Kaleb Crum and Jewelina Depperschmidt.

Send news and photos to  
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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Multi-generation sacramental tradition

Program could expand

By Allison Ochoa  
The Register

**C**ATHARINE — The First Communion class at St. Catherine Parish in Catharine consisted of only two students this year, but Caden Giebler and Sophia Schmidt made history with their reception of this sacrament. Caden and Sophia were each the seventh generation of their respective families to receive their First Communion at the parish.

Having such a lengthy family history with the parish is significant in its own rite, but making the event even more special was the fact that 20 years earlier, their fathers, Tyler Giebler and Eric Schmidt, received their First Communion together. Additionally, approximately 52 years ago, Caden and Sophia's grandfathers — Rick Giebler and Greg Schmidt — celebrated their reception of the sacrament together.

"I didn't even realize [the significance] until my daughter mentioned it to me," said Rick.

Calling it an honor to have Sophia and Caden receive their sacraments in the same church as previous generations of their families, Greg said, "It's a lot different being on the other side and being able to watch



Courtesy photo

**Youth at St. Catherine Church in Catharine received First Communion on July 28. Pictured (from left) are Caden Giebler, Capuchin Father Earl Befort and Sophia Schmidt.**

them receive Communion. Everything's different now."

Rick and Greg both recalled their formation for those early sacraments in a class of 12 students at what was then St. Catherine School.

"It was a big class for Catharine," said Greg, "but our instructor, Irma Staab, well, she had us ready."

"Those 12 of us in that class, we made our First Communion all together and then got confirmed together, and then we grew up and several of us got

married around the same time," Rick recalled.

While the religion classes at St. Catherine have grown smaller over the years, the Giebler and Schmidt families were proud to celebrate this generation's first reception of the Eucharist in the parish that has been such an integral part of their history. The continued passing down of the faith is something that has both families looking toward the future.

"Hopefully there will be another generation that can do this together," Tyler said.

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the resources of the global Catholic Church to address food and security and poverty," Birge said.

The first investment was in 2016 in Kenya, and over the next few years expanded to Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Ghana, with expansion plans in Rwanda and Ethiopia.

Yet, she said, the support is not limited to the financial side.

"We've also given them on-the-ground training and technical assistance to help implement and use those loan funds to help their farms and institutions be sustainable in the long-term," Birge said. "That is where Father Steve comes in."

When he asked if Kansas farmers and ranchers might partner with those in Africa, she said the Missio board thought it would be a natural partnership.

"It's exciting to have a farmer-to-farmer relationship across thousands of miles from Kansas to Kenya and Zambia," Birge said. "When we kicked this off, the farmers in Africa were grateful and excited. I think it's exciting for them to have this connection to a successful farmer in the U.S. I think they really appreciate that support."

Father Heina said the mentoring relationship is enriching to the Kansas participants.

"I think our mentors are already experiencing a benefit from this relationship," he said. "It's a two-way street as they begin to get acquainted with the project managers and learn about their situations in Africa. There's something inspiring about these people who are so dedicated with very little physical resource. Even recognizing faith in their farming, it's different than we in America or Kansas experience it."

**THE PILOT PROGRAM** will continue, but Birge said she hopes Missio Invest can build upon it.

"I think we want to expand more in the Salina Diocese, and also would love to expand this across the country," she said. "I think what we've started here could really be a model for a way that all Catholics could get involved in this."

For more information about Missio Invest, visit [missioinvest.org](http://missioinvest.org).

For more information about how to support specific projects, such as the diesel-powered corn sheller, visit <https://bit.ly/3mDoUVU>.

# Organization provides an opportunity to live the faith

From page 1

Robl said. "We are acting and governed by the teachings of the Catholic faith. To me, this represents an opportunity for everyone to live out their faith.

"This is our faith in action, that's the most exciting part. So often, I think in the world we live in, our faith feels like it has to be separated by all other aspects of our life. Being here, we go out and live our

faith, whether or not we're talking about it, we're just doing it. There's no better way to show people God's love than by taking care of someone else's needs."

Bishop Jerry Vincke said he is excited for Robl to join the organization.

"She brings many wonderful experiences, and we are blessed to have her in this very important position," he said.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES** was founded in 1959 by Msgr. Alfred Wasinger, with a heavy focus on adoption. Through the years, the services have expanded and today include: emergency rent, utility and prescription assistance; mobile outreach vans with food/hygiene boxes to rural Kansas; support for families experiencing catastrophic illness or disabilities, pregnancy and adoption services; counseling; and relief from predatory debt.

"One of the things that was most surprising to me is the number of diapers that go out to families who need them," Robl said.

Through her family, she had a passing knowledge of Catholic Charities' mission.

"It amazed me to watch the evolution," she said,

"even seeing how much it's changed and grown in the last five to 10 years."

Catholic Charities is an organization with 15 full-time employees, seven part-time staff and more than 100 volunteers. With offices in Salina, Manhattan and Hays, more than 9,000 individuals were aided by the organization in 2019.

**AN ANONYMOUS** donor purchased and renovated the Salina building at 1500 S. Ninth St., Salina, in 2016. It was completed and Catholic Charities' headquarters was moved there in spring 2017.

"It's a tremendous gift to make this work possible," Robl said of the new Salina building. "We couldn't do everything we do without this physical space."

She said the new location directly impacted her during the COVID-19 work from home time period.

"During COVID, I would go on long walks with my dog, and every time I would be near the building, the digital sign would flip to say, 'Trust God,'" she said. "Every single time I walked by! Finally, I sat on the curb and emailed the staff I knew and thanked them for the

message. It's been a good reminder to me, through these trying times, how important it is to trust God."

**ROBL IS A GRADUATE** OF Kansas State University, with a bachelor's in mass communications and minors in business and dance. She is also a Salina Central graduate and parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. She worked as the stewardship coordinator for the Kansas State University Foundation in Manhattan, as a marketing assistant at Great Plains Manufacturing in Salina and most recently as the director of marketing and communications for the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

She said she is working to familiarize herself with all of the intricacies of the organization as she takes the helm.

"I love this place and I always have — both as a donor and through my work at the foundation," Robl said. "I had my eyes opened a lot when we came in here and met the staff and worked with them on initiatives. Every time we came, they were warm and welcoming."



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## AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Faithful continue to support parishes, diocese via online giving

By The Register

**SALINA** — Since March, faithful across the Salina Diocese have given more than \$48,640 online through a new online giving platform that the diocese has made available to all parishes within the diocese.

"During the height of the pandemic, there were no public Masses, and therefore no way to conduct an offertory," said Beth Shearer, director of stewardship and development for the diocese. "Because many of our parishes did not have online giving, the diocese worked to make it available to all parishes. This was an easy way for people to continue to support their parishes on a regular basis."

Online giving is a method many people utilize and are finding convenient.

"A donor told me how appreciative her family is that online giving is available in her parish," Shearer said. "It's a service she wished was available for many years, and now that it's implemented for all parishes across the diocese, this donor is able to give regularly, without interrup-



tion, even if she is not physically in her parish on a weekend."

While public Mass has resumed in many communities, Shearer said the online giving platform will remain active.

"Because we are continuing it into the future, we know every one of our parishes has online giving available," she said.

One benefit to the diocese's platform is that donors can set up recurring gifts.

"They are important because those Sundays where you happen to spend a week at the lake, your gift continues to support your parish," Shearer said. "Also, they provide a consistent level of support to the parish or the diocese. Because it is a regular weekly or monthly gift, it can be counted on and budgets can be set knowing these funds will come."

The online parish giving option is a direct example of how the diocese supports

parishes. During a time when many pastors were worried about the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of their flock, the diocese was able to provide an alternative offertory option to alleviate some of the financial stress.

**ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF** ongoing generosity is the Bishop's Annual Appeal — Call to Share. Money raised from this appeal helps support diocesan operations, which in turn can provide broad support for parishes, such as the online giving platform.

"People are continuing to be generous to this appeal," Shearer said. "Those who can give are doing so because they understand that not everybody can give. Those who can continue to be generous are being extra generous during times of crisis because the need is so apparent."

Online giving continues to be made available for every parish across the diocese. Parishioners can continue to support their parishes, even if they are unable to attend weekly Mass during these trying

times.

The 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal — Call to Share will also continue through the fall, with formal solicitation concluding around the end of November. But gifts will be accepted and processed through Dec. 31. Every gift given to the annual appeal ensures that the diocese can continue in its mission to serve its parishes and faithful.

Opportunities to give to the annual appeal occur every day. However, some parishes will be providing an in-pew participation weekend in the coming weeks to give their parishioners, who have not given yet, the opportunity to support the annual appeal. This weekend was originally scheduled for March, but when public Masses were canceled, that activity was postponed. In the coming weeks, parishes will begin having in-pew information available.

Making a gift to your parish or to the diocese will be met with many advantages this year due to the CARES Act, which includes legislation to encourage charitable donations. First,

all non-itemizers will receive a \$300 tax deduction on charitable gifts made up to that amount. A tax deduction reduces the adjusted gross income (AGI) that the federal government uses to calculate tax and determine the tax bracket for a taxpayer. For an individual in the 24 percent federal tax bracket, this will save \$72. Secondly, for those who itemize, the act increases the charitable donation deduction to 100 percent of AGI for the year 2020. There is also a carry-forward provision available for taxpayers who can't or don't need the full deduction in the year 2020. Financial advisors can provide the most current information.

"We are blessed by the parishioners, clergy, and religious across the diocese who continue to give to the Bishop's Annual Appeal — Call to Share and their local parishes, especially during these uncertain times," Shearer said.

For more information about the Call to Share or online giving for parishes, please visit [salinadiocese.org/development](http://salinadiocese.org/development).

## Bishop invites all to pray rosary through Nov. 21

From page 1

against the child. The mother doesn't learn to love but kills to solve her own problems. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love but to use any violence to get what they want. We must not be surprised when we hear of murders, killings, of wars or of hatred ... if a mother can kill her own child, what is left but for us to kill each other?"

In summary, St. Teresa is telling us we should not be surprised when we see so much violence in our world. The root of the problem is killing the unborn and the loss of the respect for the dignity of every human person. Jesus told us clearly

that if our foundation is not solid, we will fall. The issue of life in the womb is the foundation of our society. Once again, St. Teresa gave us some sound advice: "A country that kills its unborn will not survive."

Saying this, I want to recognize that someone who may be reading this article has had an abortion or knows someone who has. Please know that God's mercy and love for you is greater than any sin. Please experience God's love and mercy for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus is waiting to heal you and bring you his peace.

**OCTOBER IS ALSO THE** month of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Beginning on Sept. 8, I asked the faithful to join me in prayer and fasting from Sept. 8 (the Blessed Mother's birthday) until Nov. 21 (the Presentation of Mary in the Temple). Please join me in praying the rosary every day, fasting on Fridays, and making a holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament at least once a month (September, October and

November) during this time.

We have an important election coming up in November. Life is at the center of our choice. St. John Paul II reminds us: "You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real

help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion."

Please join me in praying for the respect of all human life, especially the unborn.

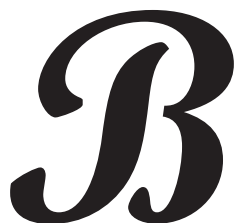
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# St. Francis native creates statues for St. Benedict's Abbey

By Karen Bonar  
The Register

**A**TCHISON — The bronze sculpture “The Holy Family’s Return to Nazareth,” will be unveiled Sept. 27 at St. Benedict’s Abby. The sculpture, which is part of the new Return to Nazareth Prayer Garden, was created by St. Francis native Kate Marin.

“It is difficult to put into words how much it means to me that this is the place my first professional work will reside forever,” said Marin, who is a 2012 graduate of Benedictine College. “A large part of my heart is there. I think it’s poetic the way the Lord brought all of this together. It was a sweet way to enter into the space of being a working artist.”

The project began with a gift from Mike and Mary Alice Easterday, who approached the abbey with the idea to create a prayerful garden.

“They approached us about creating a garden that would allow the person to engage in it — whether praying or walking among the statues — to have an

experience of walking with the Holy Family,” said Abbot James Albers, OSB.

As the project developed, Abbot James said it was important to partner with students, so two students from the school’s new architecture program were asked to design the garden. The students approached Marin and asked her to submit a proposal.

“All three of them prayed over this Gospel (Luke 2), and the fruit of that is what we will unveil,” Abbot James said. “I think it’s an extremely beautiful way to honor the Holy Family.”

**UPON HER COLLEGE** graduation in 2012, Marin worked as an adjunct professor at Benedictine.

“I really kept a strong relationship with the abbey,” she said. “I went to many Masses and had a spiritual director who was a monk. Their Masses, their spirituality, their liturgy were instrumental in my own faith journey.”



Kate Marin



Courtesy photo

**Clay sculptures of the “Holy Family’s Return to Nazareth” sculpture were cast in bronze and will be unveiled in Atchison on Sept. 27.**

This is Marin’s first commission as a professional artist and her second time working with bronze material. About a year ago, she returned to the Midwest from Italy, where she was completing her education at The Sacred Art School of Florence. The move state-side allowed her to be closer to the foundry in Colorado, which translated her clay sculptures into bronze.

The statues are slightly larger than life. The statue of St. Joseph is 7 feet tall; Mary’s is 6 feet, 4 inches; the rendition of 12-year-old Jesus is 5 foot, 2 inches.

“I made my Jesus at a

point where, even larger than life, he still stands a bit shorter than the visitors who will come to the site,” Marin said. “I thought it was tender for Jesus to gaze up at them.”

While the theme of returning to Nazareth is one Marin said could bring up images of the Holy Family returning after their exile in Egypt, she said the project coordinators took a slightly different approach. The inspiration came from Luke 2:51, “He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart,” referring to the Holy Family’s return to Nazareth after the finding of the child Jesus in the temple.

Abbot James said the subtext of the Gospel is one of obedience.

“The theme is of obedience, eventually to Christ’s obedience on the cross,” Abbot James said. “In the Gospel, the idea is Christ is obedient to Mary and Joseph, and also to the Father. From this obedience, love of the mercy comes to us. It’s one of the vows we take as Benedictine monks.”

Over about two months, Marin sculpted the life-size version in Loveland, Colo., to be in close proximity to her foundry, Art Castings of Colorado. Once sculpted,

the foundry made wax casts of the original mold taken from the clay figures. She had to make slight adjustments to the wax casts, and once satisfied, bronze was poured into the molds to create the statues. The statues are large and were created in multiple pieces. Once all pieces were complete, Marin said they were all welded together to create the final statues.

**A NATIVE OF** northwest Kansas, Marin said she always appreciated art, but never envisioned life as a professional artist.

“I think a lot of artists have memories growing up drawing or creating,” she said. “I know I was a creative kid, but I don’t have memories of having to make art all the time.”

She availed herself of the art classes available in high school, and when she went to Benedictine, opted to explore it further.

“I have a love for learning. I was excited to go to college and learn about things I’d never learned about, which was art,” Marin said. “I always really liked art, looking at paintings, seeing sculptures. It was always fascinating to me. I was always curious about it. Once I was in art classes, it was the language

Please see STUDIES / Page 20



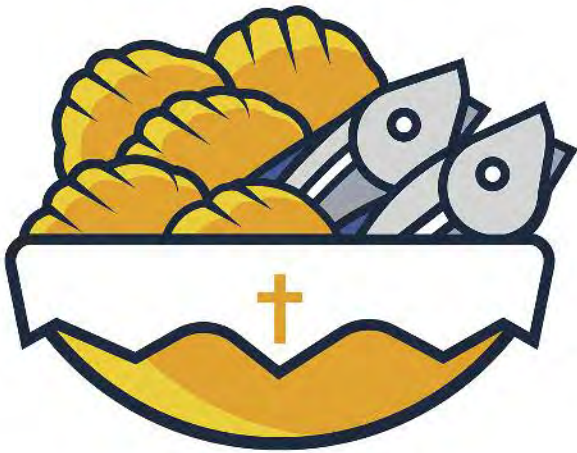
## Stewardship Prayer

God our Father, You are the source of life and every blessing. All that we have comes from You. Help us to walk in your ways as faithful disciples of Jesus. As good stewards of your many blessings, teach us to receive your gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them in justice and love with others and return them with increase to You, our Father.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, who came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.

Amen.

# SAVE THE DATE



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## BAPTISMS

**Alexandria Kaye Angelo**, daughter of Matthew and Courtney (Gilbert) Angelo, was baptized Aug. 9, 2020, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Ramona Suzette Arvizu**, daughter of Armando Arvizu and Jessica Schuler, was baptized June 25, 2020, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

**Elliott Russell Colvin**, son of Matthew and Amber Colvin, was baptized Aug. 16, 2020, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

**Charley Ryan Diederich** and **Chett Stephen Diederich**, twin sons of Colt and Erika (Gisick) Diederich, were baptized Aug. 1, 2020, by Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood.

**Nolan James Featherstone**, son of Brian and Mindy (Lang) Featherstone, was baptized Aug. 15, 2020, by Father Ryan McCandless at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

**Ella Grace Gaschler**, daughter of Eric and Kristen (Weber) Gaschler, was baptized on July 19, 2020, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

**Brendan Francis Griffith**, son of Kelly and Teresa Griffith, was baptized Aug. 7, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Cawker City.

**Coraline Joan Hartley**, daughter of Andrew and Pamela (Gentry) Hartley, was baptized Aug. 8, 2020, by Deacon Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Josephine Sage Hauschel**, daughter of Jacob and Tamora Hauschel, was baptized Sept. 1, 2019, by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. Augustine Church in Washington.

**Taylor Jo Heigert**, daughter of Michael and Heather (Zarger) Heigert, was baptized Aug. 8, 2020, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Llaysia Barraza Maldonado**, daughter of Ernesto Barraza and Laticia Maldonado, was baptized Aug. 22, 2020, by Father Norbert Diabai, at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood.

**Maverick John Martin**, son of Steve and Vanessa Martin, was baptized Aug. 9, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

**Cash Travis Mayer**, son of Travis and Audrey (Fuller) Mayer, was baptized Aug. 16, 2020, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Katelyn Marie Mondero**, daughter of Matthew and Natasha (Florian) Mondero, was

baptized Sept. 4, 2020, by Father Damian Richards at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor.

**Chesney Lace Neff**, daughter of Brandon and Cassie (Adams) Neff, was baptized on July 25, 2020, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

**Baker Breen Robinett**, son of Kellis and Staci (Breen) Robinett, was baptized Aug. 23, 2020, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Lucille Louise Rourke**, daughter of Alan and Ryan (Moos) Rourke, was baptized Aug. 23, 2020, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Eliza Nicole Sanders**, daughter of Latimie Sanders and Rebecca Draemel, was baptized July 12, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

**Michael Bradley Schroeder**, son of Adam and Elizabeth (Hanks) Schroeder, was baptized Aug. 15, 2020, by Father Richard Daise at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

**Peyton Kelly Sherlock**, daughter of Kellan and Devon

Sherlock, was baptized June 14, 2020, by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. Augustine Church in Washington.

**Lucia Jane Stadler**, daughter of Mark and Emilee Stadler, was baptized June 14, 2020, by Father Damian Richards at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

**Brielle Grace Taylor**, daughter of Andrew and Emalee Taylor, was baptized Aug. 2, 2020, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Henley Roslynn Wark**, daughter of John and Oriana (Beltran) Wark, was baptized Aug. 15, 2020, by Father Richard Daise at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

**Tucker James Wessling**, son of Ethan and Emily Wessling, was baptized Aug. 9, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

**Lily Marie Zimmerman**, daughter of Darrell Zimmerman and Ha Doan, was baptized on Oct. 3, 2019, by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. Augustine Church in Washington.

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## AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Annual Divine Mercy banquet adds Salina location

By Allison Ochoa

The Register

**HAYS** — Divine Mercy Radio celebrated two milestones in mid-September. The local radio network hosted its 10th annual Appreciation Banquet on Sept. 12 in Hays. The inaugural appreciation banquet for supporters and listeners of the network's newest station, KJDM 101.5 FM in Salina/Lindsborg, was held on Sept. 13.

"We call these appreciation banquets because they are our way to thank our donors for their support throughout the year and help build camaraderie with one another," said Divine Mercy Radio Executive Director Donetta Robben. "We also want to offer our listeners an opportunity to meet someone they hear on our stations."

This year, that keynote speaker was Dr. Ray Guarendi, host of The Doctor Is In. The call-in show is



Photo by Allison Ochoa / The Register

**Dr. Ray Guarendi signs books and talks with audience members following the Divine Mercy Appreciation Banquet Sept. 12 in Hays.**

broadcast three days a week on Divine Mercy Radio's stations.

In his presentation titled "Parenting Then and Now," Guarendi related lessons he has learned in his four decades as a clinical psychologist. As a father of 10,

he also called attention to the ironies and challenges in present day parenting.

"Experts today think self-esteem is the preeminent moral virtue," he said. "The culture is in trouble when it's placing psychological correctness over moral correctness,

asking, 'Is it normal?' rather than 'Is it right?'"

Guarendi reminded the parents and grandparents in the audience who are questioning or have questioned their success in raising the children entrusted to them that God does not expect

perfection.

"You were asked to do the very best you could to raise them the best you could," he said.

Both banquets included remarks from Bishop Jerry Vincke.

"I'm so happy we have Catholic radio in our diocese," he said, "but let's see if we can get Catholic radio everywhere in the diocese! We have a lot more to do and a lot more of our diocese to cover."

**ROBBEN PRESENTED AN** update on the state of Catholic radio, particularly related to Divine Mercy Radio. She explained the growth the Hays-based network has experienced over the past two years and shared news of the additional expansion that will be completed in the Hays area by early October. Additionally, Robben informed the attendees of changes to the platforms by which they can

Please see RADIO / Page 20

## Divine Mercy Radio expands throughout Salina Diocese

By Allison Ochoa

The Register

**HAYS** — For Divine Mercy Radio, the last two years have been filled with both expected and unexpected growth.

In late 2018, Divine Mercy Radio Executive Director Donetta Robben discussed expansion possibilities with Bishop Jerry Vincke. Robben said Bishop Vincke expressed interest in the station's growth and stated he would eventually like to have Catholic radio on the air in the Salina area.

"Bishop Vincke is very much an evangelizing bishop," Robben said. "He wants to reach as many souls as possible for the Lord and Catholic radio is one of those avenues."

In mid-2019, Divine Mercy Radio's board of directors were made aware of an opportunity to purchase a station license that covers Salina as well as a significant portion of central and north-central Kansas. Part of this region is located within the Catholic Diocese of Wichita.

"Bishop Vincke contacted Bishop [Carl] Kemme for us, as the city of license [for the station] is actually in his diocese," Robben said. "This was done before we pursued the Asset Purchase Agreement with the seller of the license."

Once the station's board of directors received approval from Bishop Kemme, it began negotiations with Radioactive, an Ohio-based company, for the purchase of the license. The purchase was finalized in December and construction

### Ways to listen to Divine Mercy Radio:

#### Listen online:

dvmercy.com has a "Listen Live" button for the 101.7 KJDM Salina or 105.7 KMDG Hays.

**Smartphone:** Download the Divine Mercy Radio app in either the app store or Google Play store.

**Smart devices:** Listen via Amazon Echo or Google Smart Home speakers.

started in March at the tower site near Lindsborg, the station's city of license. The new tower and all the related construction work for KJDM 101.7 in Salina/Lindsborg was completed in May and the station began broadcasting programming from the EWTN Radio Network as well as local shows on June 18.

**DURING THE** construction process for KJDM, an opportunity to purchase a second Radioactive station license arose. This station, which formerly aired a conservative talk radio format, serves the Hays area and covers a larger geographical region than Divine Mercy Radio's original Hays-based station KVDM 88.1 FM.

"We didn't really plan on expanding in Hays, but the opportunity was given to us," said Robben. "People in Russell and WaKeeney had been asking for us to expand so they could hear our station. The same people who were selling the license in Salina also wanted to sell their license in Hays, so it just opened up

for us."

The new Hays-area station — known as KMDG — will begin broadcasting in early October.

Robben said the contour maps the Federal Communications Commission use to determine signal reach in a specific geographic region indicate the population of KJDM's listening area to be 81,570 people. She and the board of directors are excited with the reach of the new station in central Kansas.

"We've been told that people are reaching the signal in their homes clearly in Minneapolis, Lincoln and Washington," she said. "It reaches further in the car — nearly to Beloit in the north, Junction City toward the east, Ellsworth in the west, and Moundridge to south."

According to contour maps for KMDG in Hays, the population within the signal area is approximately 39,961 people. This figure is an increase of 12,464 people from the population of the listening area served by the current Hays station KVDM.

"With a 6-bay antenna, we're hoping to reach Quinter to the west, Phillipsburg to the north, Rush Center to the south, and Ellsworth to the east," Robben said, "but we won't know that for certain until we're on the air, which should be somewhere around the first part of October."

"We're really hoping there's not a cut-off. We hope that as people travel east, they can start picking up KMDG in Quinter then around Ellsworth they'll just switch to KJDM which

should carry them all the way to Junction City."

Robben added that people traveling the I-135 corridor from north-central Kansas south toward Wichita on the I-135 corridor would be covered by Catholic radio for a large part of that journey.

The three Divine Mercy Radio stations serving the Salina Diocese are joined by a fourth station in the Divine Mercy Radio family, KRIT 88.1 FM located in Great Bend. KRIT reaches households in Great Bend and rural Barton County. There are approximately 18,912 residents in the KRIT listening area.

With the expansion of Divine Mercy Radio's network of stations, Robben said she has fielded numerous questions about programming and staffing.

While the new KMDG station will air current EWTN-network programming, "We will be transitioning 88.1 KVDM to EWTN Classics, which the EWTN network is currently calling ETWN Essentials," Robben said.

This station will air the Mass; some of EWTN's classic programming, including Mother Angelica's shows; prayers; and music. Robben anticipates adding some of the Divine Mercy Radio network's local programming to KVDM, as well.

There are no current plans to add additional employees or new physical studios, as the expansion stations receive their signal remotely from the Hays studio via high-speed internet, however, Robben has hopes

for a Salina studio office in the future.

"It is unbelievable that we made these deals last year," Robben said. "Had we known that the COVID-19 pandemic would hit in just a few months, we likely would not have signed the purchase agreements. But it must have been God's plan because there were so many people who couldn't get to Mass, and several people told us Catholic radio was their connection to the world. So, we are trusting in God, and what he wants is always the best thing."

**AS THE LEADER OF THE** diocese and its evangelization efforts, Bishop Vincke is appreciative of Divine Mercy Radio's expansion and what it will help do for residents in the diocese and beyond.

"I'm so thankful for Divine Mercy Radio in our diocese," he said. "Catholic radio is integral to our efforts to share the gospel as Jesus instructed. He said, 'Go, make disciples of people,' and Catholic radio is a great way to do that."

Bishop Vincke will join the staff and board of directors of Divine Mercy Radio for a blessing of the new KMDG station in Hays on Oct. 18. The public is invited to attend. Additional details will be communicated via each of Divine Mercy Radio's stations and on the network's website [dvmercy.com](http://dvmercy.com).

*Editor's note: There are two other Catholic radio stations in the Salina Diocese, St. Therese Radio in Abilene ([www.kgi.org](http://www.kgi.org)) and KKSJ 107.5 FM Catholic Radio in Beloit. These stations have a smaller broadcast range.*



## Radio helps grow faith

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hear Divine Mercy Radio's stations and programming.

"Being able to be heard via (phone or tablet) apps, two smart speakers, and different radio stations may seem like a lot, but it is enabling us to reach more souls for Christ."

The messages presented throughout the evening regarding the importance of Catholic radio and the importance of the faith in the lives of families resonated with attendees at both banquets.

Russell resident Patrick Hilger, who attended the banquet in Salina, said he and his wife Clara enjoyed the event and the messages shared by all the speakers.

"It was a wonderful event," he said. "This was my second time hearing Dr. Ray speak in person and he always has a fantastic presentation."

"My wife and I were struck, though, by how many lives Catholic radio touches. We can really evangelize through support of Catholic radio, because there are a lot of people listening who may not be going to church or who want to know about the Catholic Church. It's a fantastic way for people to learn about the faith or for

them to be drawn back to the faith if they've left the church."

**ERIC AND JACLYN Brown**, residents of Great Bend, attended the Hays event.

"I really liked Dr. Ray's presentation, as a lot of the things he talks about are really common sense, but I like how he puts a different perspective on it from a psychologist's point of view," Jaclyn said. "I also appreciated the comments Father Ryan [McCandless] made at the end of the banquet about the importance of parents. He tied it all together when he explained that as the family, we are the domestic Church; the ones who form vocations in our families and the ones who should be educating our children. There is no substitute for parents in forming children in the faith."

The Browns said Catholic radio has played a large role in helping them grow in their faith and they listen to Divine Mercy Radio's KRTT station daily.

"I listen in the mornings on the way to work and some of the topics have given me things to contemplate or take to prayer," Eric said. "It's always a good start to my morning and gives me good Catholic content to reflect on."

## Studies in Italy fueled passion for sculpture

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of my soul."

During college, she spent a semester in Florence. Upon her 2012 graduation with degrees in art and theology, she then returned to Florence and attended a month-long immersion program.

"The first week was sculpture and we were sculpting the portrait of a live model," she said. "It was life-changing because I had never sculpted, but I was pleased with my sculpture. I had struggled with painting and drawing, but sculpture was something I felt so fluent in."

"I got a taste for it and felt this was what I was made for, which was powerful. It was a language I could speak and I wanted to speak. I could lose myself for hours."

**SHE RETURNED TO** Kansas and worked for several years in order to return to study in Florence, which she did from 2017-19.

"By this point, I knew I wanted a classically trained education within the faith," Marin said. "I knew I wanted to make work within the Church."

*"God speaks in the silence. Art doesn't take words, you just need eyes to see. You can speak loudly with art without any words."*

**Kate Marin**  
Artist

In October 2017, she won first place for sculpture, Ecce Homo, in the first annual Regional Juried Christian Arts Competition and Exhibition presented by the Catholic Fine Arts Council of the Archdiocese of Kansas City.

"I spent so much time in Europe seeing those beautiful churches, seeing the integrity of design and art in those places," Marin said. "It makes such a difference in people's ability to pray, while surrounded by art and beauty. I love the idea of supporting that spirituality and infusing our culture with that spirituality."

"God speaks in the silence. Art doesn't take words, you just need eyes to see. You can speak loudly with art without any

words."

Being selected to create sculptures for her alma mater was moving.

"The monks mean so much to me and it is an honor and a joy to be able to install a work of sacrifice, prayer, and love that will hopefully be a gift to them for hundreds of years to come," she said.

The connection she felt to not only the project, but its final home, helped propel her through the process.

"On the hard days, when I was sculpting, I would think, 'This is a gift to the monks you already love,' Marin said.

**THE STATUES WILL BE** unveiled at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 27 at St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison. An optional Mass will be held prior to the unveiling, and an RSVP is required to attend, due to social distancing requirements. To inquire if space is available at Mass, contact [dstephen@kansasmonks.org](mailto:dstephen@kansasmonks.org) or call (913) 360-7897. The 11:30 a.m. unveiling is outside, and open to the public.

More information about Marin's work is available at [katemarinart.com](http://katemarinart.com).

**Read The Register online: [SalinaDiocese.org/publications](http://SalinaDiocese.org/publications)**

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