

THE REGISTER

salinadiocese.org

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

October 23, 2020

Pope signs new encyclical, 'Fratelli Tutti,' on Oct. 3

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Calling all people of goodwill to care for one another as brothers and sisters, Pope Francis urged people not to despair of making the world a better place but to start creating the world they want through personal action and political lobbying.

Pope Francis signed his new social encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship," at the end of Mass Oct. 3 in Assisi. The Vatican released the text the following day.

"Human beings have the same inviolable dignity in every age of history and no one can consider himself or herself authorized by particular situations to deny this conviction or to act against it," the pope wrote in his encyclical.

The Vatican released the more than 40,000-word text on Oct. 4.

The pope had been rumored to be writing an encyclical on nonviolence, and, once the COVID-19 pandemic struck, many expected a document exploring in depth his repeated pleas for the world to recognize the inequalities and injustices laid bare by the pandemic and adopt corrective economic, political and social policies.

"Fratelli Tutti" combines



Photo by Catholic News Service / via Vatican Media

Pope Francis signs his new encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship" after celebrating Mass at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, on Oct. 3.

those two elements but does so in the framework set by the document on human fraternity and interreligious dialogue that he and Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo, Egypt, signed in 2019.

The encyclical takes its

title from St. Francis of Assisi and is inspired by his "fraternal openness," which, the pope said, calls on people "to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives."

The title, which literally

means "all brothers and sisters" or "all brothers," are the words with which St. Francis "addressed his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel," the pope wrote.

That flavor, explained throughout the document,

involves welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, listening to and giving a hand up to the poor, defending the rights of all, and ensuring that each person, at every stage of life, is valued and invited to con-

Please see ENCICLICAL / Page 8

Diocesan publications seek reader support via annual drive

By The Register

SALINA — The Register, the newspaper of the Diocese of Salina, and Faith magazine are delivered to all registered parishioners. To be able to continue to do that, however, requires some help.

Today's issue includes a donation envelope. Every household is asked each year to donate \$25, roughly the cost of printing and mailing the publications.

In a letter in this issue of The Register, Bishop Jerry

Vincke encourages financial support for the paper (please see page 3 for full letter).

"This very important publication has a special place in the hearts of many people," Bishop Vincke wrote. "I know of many elderly ... who eagerly await the next copy of The Register each month."

"The Register unites our parishes and people in a way that makes us one big family."

The Register is delivered on the fourth Friday of each month. Faith magazine was

added to the publication schedule and was first published in February 2020. It is delivered quarterly.

BOTH THE DIOCESAN newspaper and magazine are delivered to all registered parishioners in the diocese, as well as subscribers from outside the diocesan boundaries.

Today's issue includes a donation envelope to be able to help with Bishop Vincke's vision of evangelization through communication.

The Register began publication in the Salina Diocese in November 1937. Until 2013, The Register was mailed only to those who subscribed. In January 2014, the publication model changed, and the newspaper was sent to every household registered with a parish in the diocese.

To accommodate the increased printing and mailing costs — from 5,500 to about 17,000 copies — the decision was made to reduce publication from

weekly to twice monthly — on the second and fourth Fridays (from 2014-19). In 2020, the paper's publication switched to a monthly format.

Instead of selling subscriptions, The Register would seek a \$25 donation from each family to underwrite the additional costs of the newspaper and magazine.

In addition to each household receiving diocesan publications, each edition is available online at salinadiocese.org.

#iGiveCatholic

Salina Diocese prepares to participate in annual giving day on Dec. 1. This is the third year for parishes, schools and organizations in the diocese to participate.

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Salina Diocese prepares to participate in #iGiveCatholic

This will be the third year of participating in national campaign

By Karen Bonar
The Register

SALINA — With #GivingTuesday approaching on Dec. 1, the Salina Diocese is again preparing to participate in the annual #iGiveCatholic campaign.

This is the third year the diocese will participate in the annual event. In 2018, more than \$280,000 was raised for parishes, schools and organizations across the diocese. Last year, more than \$387,000 was raised for organizations within the diocese.

One opportunity for parishes, schools and organizations to maximize donations is via matching pools. A matching pool was provided by the 24/7 Travel Stores to any educational fund through #iGiveCatholic. This includes all schools in the Salina Diocese, as well as the Seminarian Education Fund, and matched \$1 for every \$1 donated. A donor can receive a maximum match of only \$1,000. Every participating organization is eligible to receive up to \$5,000 of the match. In Manhattan, donor Phil Howe offered a \$60,000 match to Manhattan parishes and schools. The matching grant matched \$1 for \$1 to any of the Manhattan parishes or Manhattan Catholic School. For

schools in Manhattan, both matches could apply concurrently.

IN 2019, THE SALINA Diocese had three organizations in the top 25 nationally for dollars raised: Manhattan Catholic Schools (No. 5), Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas (No. 18) and St. Isidore Catholic Student Center (No. 25).

"The Salina Diocese is a shining star for other dioceses to emulate, proving that success with a giving day is not dependent on the size of your organization or diocese or the wealth of your geographic area, but upon the dedication, execution and communication of the effort, and the heart and faith of the people and organizations who participate," said

Previous #iGiveCatholic funds raised in Diocese

2018: \$280,000
2019: \$387,000

Julie Kenny, #iGiveCatholic national program director, upon the completion of the 2019 campaign.

#iGiveCatholic was launched by the Archdiocese of New Orleans in 2015, and in 2019 it helped raise more than \$7.1 million for more than 1,700 ministries in 39 (arch)dioceses across the country.

Advanced giving begins on midnight Nov. 16, with donations being accepted online at salina.igivecatholic.org through 11:59 p.m. Dec. 1. The minimum online donation is \$25. Payment via the following cred-

it cards are accepted: MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express. In addition, donors giving \$100 or more will have the option to pay by bank account debit (ACH). Another option is for donors to send donations directly to the organization with a designation for #iGiveCatholic. The offline donations may be entered manually and will be counted toward the donation total.

All donations are tax-deductible and irrevocable and will be for the designated use of the chosen charity.

For more information about iGiveCatholic in the Salina Diocese, contact Annual Gifts and Event Coordinator Katie Greenwood at katherine.greenwood@salinadiocese.org or (785) 827-8746 x 23.

CARES Act: Ideas for stewardship and tax planning in 2020

By Steve Schons, CFRE

Despite the major interruptions the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, the vital work of the Church continues in our diocese, parishes, ministries and the myriad of other programs. In the midst of all that is going on, many are looking forward to coming together inside the doors of our churches and once again experience the sacraments and fellowship with their Catholic family.

Meanwhile, Congress continues to respond to the pandemic with new legislation. The most recent piece of legislation is called the CARES Act. I would like to outline a few items in this Act that may favorably affect you or a loved one.

1. \$300 TAX DEDUCTION FOR NON-ITEMIZERS. So you don't itemize on your federal return? You are not alone. The vast majority (about 90 percent) of tax filers do not itemize since the standard deductions have increased so significantly. But, with the new legislation in the CARES Act, 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 which tax bracket you belong. For an individual in the 24 percent federal tax bracket, this will save \$72.

2. CHARITABLE DONATION DEDUCTION INCREASES TO 100 PERCENT AGI FOR ITEMIZERS. In a typical tax year, once a taxpayer's AGI is calculated, 60 percent of AGI has been the maximum amount of a charitable deduction avail-

able in that tax year. (For example: if an individual has an AGI of \$75,000, then during that tax year, their maximum charitable deduction for donations made would be \$45,000). However, with the new CARES Act legislation, Congress has granted a charitable deduction opportunity, for those who itemize, up 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.

Also included in the CARES Act is the waiver of Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) on an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for 2020. Even though RMDs are waived, you can still use your IRA to get a tax break on giving to charity. If you normally give to charity, do it with qualified charitable distributions from your IRA. The funds are directly transferred from your IRA to a charity, like your parish, and excluded from income. If there were RMDs, this would go towards satisfying the RMD, but even if there are no RMDs this year, this is a better way to give to charity and reduce your taxable IRA balance at the same time. Only IRA owners and beneficiaries who are age 70 1/2 or older qualify for this, though.

IN FEBRUARY, I WROTE about the SECURE Act. By far, most of the feedback I've had is regarding the children who are named beneficiaries on an IRA. In December, Congress passed the SECURE Act, limiting stretch payments to IRA beneficiaries to 10 years. If you planned to benefit your children with your IRA, your heirs will now pay higher taxes on the inheritance they receive from you.

When you revisit your estate plan, consider funding a Testamentary Charitable Remainder Unitrust with your IRA balance. This plan can provide lifetime payments to your heirs and spread out the taxes on their inheritance.

One further thought given the ups and downs with the current market: Many in dioceses around the country have found Charitable

Gift Annuities a wonderful way to receive a guaranteed income stream. A person might be surprised by the benefits. One can exchange low-performing stock, CDs or cash for guaranteed life-time fixed payments. If the person makes the gift of an appreciated asset, he or she will not have to pay capital gains when the annuity is funded. Also, Charitable

Gift annuitants benefit from a tax deduction this year and a portion of the payments could be tax-free.

As usual, this information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Consult your personal financial advisor or tax attorney for information specific to your situation.

Steve Schons, CFRE, is the director of stewardship and development at Diocese of Fargo, N.D. Reprinted with permission.

SAVE THE DATE



#iGIVECATHOLIC

#GIVINGTUESDAY

DECEMBER 1, 2020

Salina.iGiveCatholic.org

Please consider a gift to The Register

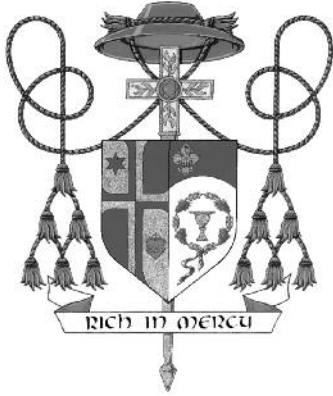
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since 1937, The Register has been a mainstay in our diocese. This very important publication has a special place in the hearts of many people. I know of many elderly, those most impacted by COVID-19, who eagerly await the next copy of The Register each month.

In fact, one woman told me that she looks forward to reading The Register to her mother living in assisted living.

As you probably know, the Diocese of Salina is one of the largest territorial dioceses in the United States. The Register unites our parishes and people in a way that makes us one big family. For many parishioners in our diocese, The Register remains the primary source for Catholic news and information.

Thanks to your generosity, we are able to mail The Register to every Catholic household in our diocese. We are asking for your help once again so that we can continue this much needed service.



I also want to thank all those who help make The Register possible, especially Karen Bonar, our editor, and all those who write articles and provide photos. We are indebted to the businesses and other organizations that support The Register as advertisers and help keep our costs as low as possible. Thank you for supporting these people, as well.

An envelope for your donation is enclosed in this issue, and I am grateful for your consideration. Please send your gift, payable to The Register, P.O. Box 1038, Salina, KS 67402. You may also make your donation online at salinadiocese.org.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

The Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke • Bishop of Salina

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Plainville Life Chain



Courtesy photo

The annual Prayer Chain of Life was held Oct. 4 at Sacred Heart Church in Plainville. This is an annual event to recognize the need to respect life from conception to natural death.

Vocation weekend in Colby



Courtesy photo

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Wichita, visited Sacred Heart Parish in Colby on July 25-26 for a vocations weekend. Members of the Daughters of Isabella (pictured with the sisters) served coffee and rolls after Mass for a meet-and-greet with the Sisters.

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

November 2020

- 5 Priests' Mass for deceased priests, live streamed at 11 a.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
- 6 Catholic Charities Adoption Awareness Mass, noon, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
- 7 First Saturday Mass, 8 a.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
- 8 Vocatio, 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
- 16-17 USCCB Virtual Conference
- 24 St. Mary's Catholic School Thanksgiving, Salina
- 26-27 Thanksgiving; Chancery closed
- 30 St. Andrew Catholic School Mass, Abilene

NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

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

that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

Universal Intention

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. *We pray*

Apostleship of Prayer
1501 S. Layton Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53215-1924
www.apostleshipofprayer.org

CORRECTION

In the Century Farm Award stories in the Sept. 25 issue of The Register, the original owners of the Reichert farm were incorrectly identified. The Original Family Owner (date acquired) was Isidore and Agatha Reichert (1920).

The Register apologizes for the error.



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www.masstimes.org



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Our next issue is dated November 27.

Deadline for news is Oct. 26.
Deadline for advertising is Oct. 26.

Mailing label update

Please make the correction on this form and return to:
The Register, P.O. Box 1038, Salina, KS 67402-1038
or go online at salinadiocese.org

Attach old mailing label here
and print the corrected information below.

Name _____
Address _____
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Please consider supporting diocesan publications

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR, when I come to you as the editor of The Register and ask for your support of this newspaper. Much like public radio, we rely on the support of our readers to keep this newspaper going.

I won't bore you with rehashing the bishop's letter or any information from the story on page 1, but I will tell you what a complete joy and honor it is to serve as the editor of a Catholic newspaper.

Recently, I had reason to pause and think, "This spring will mark my fifth year at The Register." Becoming your editor was



Karen Bonar

Register editor

something I never sought out. As I've been reflecting on this professional milestone, I feel like the last year has definitely been the best — so far!

About a year ago, I had the joy of traveling to Indianapolis and meeting up with our massive contingent at the National Catholic Youth Conference. The con-

ference was, of course, moving, but the closing Mass was iconic for me.

I WAS STANDING ON THE floor of the stadium, photographing the myriad of priests who were processing in, watching them reverence a statue of Our Lady and thought to myself, "This is my job. I never could have imagined I'd be physically standing in the middle of one of the largest Catholic youth gatherings as a member of the Catholic press, documenting this moment in history." It was extremely powerful.

Being the eyes and ears for you — my readers — is not only an honor, but a joy. Equally important to me is the trust and relationship I have nurtured and had the joy to see flourish over the years. I'm immensely moved when the subject of a story follows up months or years later with an update on their life, reflecting on the peaks and valleys. Equally moving is the deep trust many subjects have placed in me to tell deeply personal stories. The vulnerability they have shown is something I respect and strive to honor in my story-

telling.

Another aspect I've come to love over the years is unexpected notes from readers. Often, it happens at this time of year, when readers send in their donation with a brief note. I treasure reading them! In fact, I have a few taped to my computer monitor, to encourage me when the going gets rough. I'm even surprised when I recognize names from my past (Hi Mrs. S., my high school librarian from Wichita!).

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

Little Sisters and religious liberty: Debunking the myths

AS LITTLE SISTERS OF the Poor, we find our joy in sharing our lives with those whom many in our society would prefer to forget — the elderly poor.

Our mission calls us to live far from the spotlight, but in the past seven years we have found ourselves in the public square more times than we could have ever imagined or desired.

Despite three wins at the Supreme Court, an executive order and a new rule that protects us and other nonprofit religious groups from the unconstitutional HHS contraceptive mandate, our legal saga is not yet completely over. Several states and many politicians have promised not to rest until they succeed in stealing our hard-won exemption from the HHS mandate away from us.

For many of our Sisters, this time in the public eye has been a source of anxiety and a chronic distraction from our mission of caring for the elderly. We are grateful for the many people who have reached out to support us and assure us of their prayers.



Sister Constance Veit

Little Sisters of the Poor

However, we have also been subjected to criticism, derision and even death threats. We'd like nothing better than to return to our mission unhindered by the fear of millions of dollars in fines. But our name still appears in the daily news cycle and much of what is said about us is inaccurate.

To clarify the confusion, I would like to respond to some of the most common questions and criticisms we face, including the following: 1) You shouldn't be involved in politics; 2) You seek to impose your religious beliefs on people who do not share your faith; 3) You do not care about women who are prescribed hormonal contraceptives for a variety of health issues; 4) Your religious liberty claims are really nothing more than a cover for discrimination.

First. We are, and always

have been, apolitical. We have been very distressed by the politicization of our case. We never wanted this fight, and after our victory at the Supreme Court in 2016 we thought it was over.

WE WERE RELIEVED beyond measure to retreat from the limelight and return to our mission of caring for the elderly without the threat of multimillion dollar fines hanging over our heads. But then a number of states sued to take away our hard-earned exemption. Faced with the possibility of huge fines once again, we had no choice but to return to court.

Second. We are not trying to impose anything on anyone. We feel that others have repeatedly tried to impose their values on us by insisting that we cooperate in the provision of services that are incompatible with our Catholic faith. We wish only to remain faithful to our own deeply held beliefs.

Our employees come from many different reli-

gious backgrounds, and they are free to use contraceptives. These are readily available through many channels, often at no cost, without our involvement.

Third. We understand that many women are prescribed hormonal contraceptives to treat serious health issues. Catholic teaching has always allowed the use of contraceptives for legitimate therapeutic purposes. So, our employee health plans have always covered them in this context.

Fourth. The accusations of discrimination have been particularly hurtful to us. Throughout our 181-year history, we Little Sisters of the Poor have cared for needy elderly persons of every race or religion, even in a number of predominantly non-Christian countries.

We employ individuals regardless of race or religion and welcome the collaboration of people from diverse walks of life.

We believe that our willingness to care for and work with anyone is one of the truest ways to live out the religious faith that animates

our ministry.

As we near the election, religious liberty matters will likely be at the forefront of political discussions. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has released a document entitled *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* (<https://www.usccb.org/of-fices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>). In the document, the USCCB states: "As Catholics, we are part of a community with a rich heritage that helps us consider the challenges in public life and contribute to greater justice and peace for all people."

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us all more aware of our interdependence as brothers and sisters in one human family. We pray that this heightened sense of solidarity will foster a stronger sense of civility and mutual respect so that all Americans can freely live according to their sincerely held religious beliefs.

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

Sometimes we need to write our own headlines

RECENTLY, I SHARED with my sister that I was having a "valley" week. The news coming at me from every direction seemed negative and frightening. At one point, I actually had to stop myself from checking the headlines on my phone before getting out of bed. Otherwise, my day was doomed before my feet even hit the floor.

Then there's talk in social circles, at work and even in line at the grocery store about the upcoming election, our economy, the virus which I shall not mention, unemployment claims, and just a sense of hopelessness in general. This is not to mention the loneliness being experienced by those who haven't seen friends and family for months.

Everyone seems to have his or her opinion about who or what will fix the lay-



Patti Lamb

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

ers of issues that envelop us. And that all comes with pontificating and finger pointing.

Then my sister sent me something she saw on Facebook. While I'm one of the few people on the planet who is not on Facebook, I appreciated what she sent to me that day.

Jeannie sent me a post from a woman named Beverly Geer that had been reposted by many on Facebook.

The post said: "Sometimes I just want it to stop. Talk of COVID, protests, looting, brutality. I lose my way. I become convinced

that this 'new normal' is real life. Then I meet an 87-year-old who talks of living through polio, diphtheria, Vietnam protests and yet is still enchanted with life.

"He seemed surprised when I said that 2020 must be especially challenging for him.

"NO,' HE SAID SLOWLY, looking me straight in the eyes. 'I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines. I see the world through the people that surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big. Therefore, I just choose to write my own headlines: Husband loves wife today; Family drops everything to come to Grandma's bedside; (he patted my hand) Old man makes new friend.

"His words collide with

my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with a renewed spirit. My headline now reads Woman overwhelmed by the spirit of kindness and the reminder that our capacity to love is never-ending," she wrote.

The author went on to encourage readers to apply this to their own lives and rewrite their 2020 headlines. She suggested even having our children participate, so that our headlines become a sort of gratitude journal.

Her post ended with this statement: "It's a quick reminder of everything that is right when lots of things seem to be falling apart."

It was if my reset button had been hit. I was reminded me to stop gobbling up headlines like a Pac Man

character. Instead, I must rely on my internal compass, turning to God as navigator.

Like my car GPS says to me when I make a wrong turn, "recalculating route."

Instead of reading a newsfeed, I now try to spend my first waking moments talking to God, and then make some time to just listen and not fill the space.

I'm trying to focus on the wonderful headlines my family and friends write daily, celebrating the little victories, knowing that God is still at the helm and all will be well.

"Kids defeat parents in three-day Scrabble match."

"Three generations gather for virtual baby shower."

As you refocus, what are your good headlines?

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

Diocese makes plans for March for Life in D.C.

By The Register

SALINA — The Salina Diocese is sponsoring a group to attend the 2021 March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 29, but the trip will look slightly different this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead of an extended bus ride from Kansas to the east coast, Rick Binder, director of the Respect Life Office for the Salina Diocese, said the decision was made to fly.

“Right now, airline tickets are inexpensive,” he said. “If attendees book soon, the flight would be cheaper than the bus would be.”

Due to the fluctuating nature of air travel, Binder said, the diocese is handling all arrangements for attendees once they arrive in Washington, D.C. — hotel and transportation to and from the march and related events.

“Some people have expressed they like the idea of flying,” Binder said. “It appeals because it could mean a shorter timeframe. You will only be gone from Thursday to Saturday, as opposed to Wednesday to Sunday.”

While participants must book their own flights, Binder said it is essential they register online with the diocese, so appropriate hotel reservations may be made. Those who wish to

attend should plan to arrive in D.C. by late afternoon Jan. 28, with anticipated departure from Reagan National after 2 p.m. Jan. 30.

ANOTHER CHANGE THIS year will include surrounding events.

“Many of the activities, such as the evening rallies and Mass with the other dioceses of Kansas, are unlikely to happen,” Binder said. “The pilgrimage will focus on the march itself and will still include a visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, but other activities will be limited.”

Additionally, Binder said, hotel rooms will be limited

to two per room, unless a single room is requested (for an additional cost).

“This year it’s more important than any year in recent memory to attend the March for Life,” Binder said. “Everything is getting lost in the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an opportunity to stand up and preach the truth and stand up for the truth.”

“I think now more than ever we need to have a presence, even knowing it will be a smaller presence, but we still need to be present.”

THE EXPECTED COST per person for hotel and transportation upon arrival in D.C. is \$200. The deadline to register is Nov. 20. The full payment of \$200 is due

with registration. Online registration or mail-in registration is available. Make checks payable to Salina Diocese Respect Life Office, P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402, attention: March for Life.

The cost of travel to/from Washington, D.C., must be paid by the individual. Registration form and medical/waiver forms, are available at salinadiocese.org. All plans are subject to change.

Binder said those purchasing airline tickets should confirm details about refund/rebooking options with the airline.

For questions, or more information, contact Binder at rick.binder@salinadiocese.org or (785) 827-8746.

Together Strong: Life Unites is theme of March for Life set for Jan. 29

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The Sept. 10 announcement of the theme for the March for Life — Together Strong: Life Unites — made it clear the annual national event, in some form, will proceed next Jan. 29.

But details of how the march, rally and pro-life conference, which together have drawn as many as 100,000 participants in past years, will cope with COVID-19 self-quarantine restrictions in the District of Columbia were not part of the announcement.

Asked on EWTN’s “Pro-Life Weekly” program that evening about whether people should start making plans, Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, said, “You know, everybody has to make that decision on their own. You know, considering their own situations, et cetera.”

She added, “But I certainly would be (making plans), and I obviously will be there this year. I think that standing for life and standing for inherent human dignity of every life from conception to natural death is all the more important this year when there is so much unrest, so much division in our country. We need to show that we are stronger together and that love and life unite us. They make us stronger.”

In July, Mancini said, “We will continue to discern throughout this year what steps should be taken,” regarding pandemic restrictions.

Social distancing and masks aren’t the issue. Washington health authorities require a 14-day self-quarantine for visitors “participating in non-essential travel” from high-risk areas. The quarantine is adjusted every two weeks, and as of Sept. 8, was extended to visitors from 30 states.

That’s a particular obsta-

cle for the many high school and college groups who arrive on long-distance bus rides which have, over the decades, become the pulse of the event.

“If D.C. is still requiring a two-week quarantine for out-of-state travelers, I don’t see a way for us to attend,” said Ed Konieczka, assistant director of university ministry at the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D. “We are taking care of the details that we can and recognizing which things are out of our control.”

THE UNIVERSITY typically sends around 200 students and staff members to the march, and in 2018, some 20 students flanked President Donald Trump in the Rose Garden at the White House when he addressed the Mall rally on a video link. This past January, Trump addressed the rally in person, becoming the first president to do so.

The alternative to a Washington trip, Konieczka said, will be a rally that day

in Bismarck. “We have been approached by the Diocese of Bismarck with a request to coordinate efforts to have the biggest March for Life event ever at our state capital. We have a shared vision for a large event, where any of our students unable to travel to D.C. will join with members of the diocese.”

Planners of state marches face the same uncertainty. “Right now with COVID and the restrictions, we are playing it by ear in Chicago,” said Denise Zabor, office manager for Illinois Right to Life.

March for Life has taken place in Washington every January since 1974. It’s always held on a date near the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s 1973 rulings, Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, which legalized abortion on demand.

“I believe it’s the rallying point for all of pro-life America,” said Dave Bereit, the founder of 40 Days for Life, who co-hosted the theme announcement with Mancini.

Among those making remarks during the announcement were Carrie Severino, president of Judicial Crisis Network, and U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., who chairs the bipartisan Pro-Life Caucus in the House of Representatives.

“One of the most significant decisions a president has to make is who to put on the federal courts,” Severino said. She warned of the danger of judges “who think it is their job to invent new constitutional rights.”

WHILE TRUMP recently provided a list of future Supreme Court nominees, Severino observed, Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, a Catholic, “won’t tell us who he’ll put on the court” and he supports “using your federal tax dollars to pay for abortions. The choice couldn’t be more clear.”

“(After) the eight years of Obama-Biden, which didn’t even enforce existing laws protecting conscience rights,” Smith said “significant pro-life progress has been achieved” by Trump’s executive orders and his leadership.


The announcement video included a cameo from Vice President Mike Pence, a longtime supporter of the March for Life, who said, “Stand for life. Because life is winning.”

Editor’s Notes:

- The March for Life website, marchforlife.org, provides ongoing information and updates.
- The Salina Diocese is organizing a March for Life trip. Please see story (above) for details.

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DEATHS

Dennis V. Bollig, 70, of Ellis, died Aug. 6, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 15 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Burial was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Ellis.

Larry D. Bowman, 70, of rural Agenda, died Sept. 12, 2020. A graveside memorial service was held Sept. 17 by Father David Metz at Hollis Cemetery.

Father Bennett Colucci, OFM Cap., of Hays, died Sept. 24, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept.



29 at St. Fidelis Basilica, Victoria. Burial was in the Friar's Plot in the parish cemetery, Victoria.

He was born Oct. 22, 1930, in Hillsville, Pa., to Pasquale and Pasqualina (Citarelli) Colucci and baptized Pasquale Jr. He entered the Capuchin Franciscan Order in 1951 and received the name Bennett. He was ordained a priest in 1957.

He was a missionary priest in Puerto Rico, served in Denver at Marycrest High School, and was the associate director and chaplain of Samaritan House for the homeless. He then moved to Hays and served on the pastoral care team at Hays Medical Center, becoming its director in 2001. He retired in 2005, moved to St. Fidelis Friary in Victoria, and moved to Via Christi Village in 2017.

Father Colucci was preceded in death by his parents and seven siblings.

Memorials are suggested to The Capuchin Province of Mid-America, Inc.

David E. Demars, 73, of Concordia, died Sept. 29, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 3 by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Burial with military honors was in St. Concordia Cemetery, Concordia.

Lois Elaine Meitl, 91, of Oberlin, died Sept. 25, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 1 by Father Carlos Ruiz Santos at Immaculate Conception Church in Leoville. Burial was in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Leoville.

Emmylou Sarsozo, 45, of Overland Park, died Aug. 24, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 3 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Matthew Heerman, 36, of McAllen, Texas, died Aug. 20, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 22 by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Burial was in Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan.

Firma Jean "Jeannie" (Rupp) Rome, 75, of St. Peter, died Aug. 20, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 24 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

Ronald Louis Thyfault, 91, of Hays, died July 15, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 5 by Father Henry Saw Lone at St. Joseph Church in Damar. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Damar.

Brian C. Foster, 59 of Wichita, died Aug. 10, 2020. Graveside services were held Aug. 18 by Father Steven Heina at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Clyde.

Mary Frances Wasinger, 76, of Ellis, died Sept. 23, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 28 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Burial was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Ellis.

Vernon L. Windholz, 85, of Ellis, died Sept. 27, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 30 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Burial with military honors was in St. Mary Cemetery, Ellis.

What we can learn from those who have gone before us

IN THE TRADITION OF the Catholic Church, the month of November is set aside for the remembrance of All Souls. We pray for those who have gone before us. I am reminded of St. Monica's special request to her sons before she died, "Bury my body wherever you will; let not care of it cause you any concern. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be." It is at the altar of sacrifice where we offer Jesus to the Father as the only acceptable sacrifice; but we also offer ourselves and those for whom we pray, especially our deceased loved ones, to our Father.

At the last parish I served at in Michigan, they had a wonderful custom of putting the names of all those who died in the past year on banners displayed during the month of November. These banners were a beautiful way to remember them. We also invited the families of all the deceased to come for a special Mass of remembrance. When I gazed at the list of names on the banners, I was reminded of the faces of the people who died and their families. Looking at the names also reminded me of my own mortality, that one day my name will be placed on a banner of the deceased, too.

I RECENTLY READ AN interesting article by Capuchin Father David Songy in the Porter, the publication of the Capuchin Franciscans. He begins referring to the Gospel in



Bishop Jerry Vincke

Diocese of Salina

which Jesus heals the paralyzed man, while asking the question, "Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk?'" He then asks the question, "If Padre Pio were ministering today, how would he counsel the many people paralyzed by fear of COVID-19?" His response, "Ask for forgiveness first."

What Father Songy explains is that while St. Padre Pio was known for many miracles, he always insisted they were less important than salvation. He writes that "his chief concern was that people return to God, experience his mercy, and rediscover the beauty and joy of being a Christian." Father Songy then summarizes by stating, "Perhaps Christ's question of us today might be: 'Which do you want, to have your sins forgiven, or to be free of this illness?' Having our sins forgiven leads to salvation, while being made free of illness is a temporary gain."

VISITING GRAVES AND praying for those who have died is a corporal work of mercy. It is also a benefit to our own spiritual lives. It helps us to stop and think, "Why am I here?" "What is the meaning of life?" "What happens when I die?" "Will I go to heaven?" Indeed, visiting graves can have a profound impact on us. This

was the case for St. Katharine Drexel. Born into a very wealthy family (her father was a world-renowned banker), Katharine's parents died in 1885, leaving her and her two sisters with millions upon millions of dollars of inheritance. Even in her wealth, however, her soul was not at rest. She wrote, "European travel brings before the mind how cities have risen and fallen, risen and fallen; and the same of empires and kingdoms and nations. And the billions and billions who lived their common everyday life in these nations and kingdoms and empires and cities, where are they? The ashes of the kings and mighty of this earth are mingled with the dust of the meanest servant."

I ONCE HEARD A Benedictine priest share a story of an elder monk who was diagnosed with cancer. After going to his doctor, he came back with the news: His cancer was terminal. After several weeks of this diagnosis, he came upon two younger monks who often did not respect the elder. He said to them, "I noticed that you are much more kind to me now that I am dying. The truth is, we are all dying."

Remembering that we will die, too, is not a bad thing. We are meant for so much more. It helps to put this life in context, that Jesus is the answer to all of life's deepest questions in our hearts. It all starts with Jesus' desire to be in eternal communion with us. As Pope Francis said, "It's not whether we live or die, but whether we belong to the Lord or not."



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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Sisters celebrate Jubilarians despite COVID-19

By Cathy Doud
For The Register

CONCORDIA — Every year the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia gather from near and far to celebrate those sisters achieving Jubilee anniversaries. A Jubilee anniversary is a significant milestone of years that a sister has been in Community. Usually that gathering is in early June, at the summer assembly in Concordia.

But this year COVID-19 precautions made the assembly and Jubilee celebration impossible. With the Motherhouse closed to all outside visitors — including friends, family and even those sisters residing out of state — both the assembly and the Jubilee celebration were cancelled/postponed in hopes that the situation would soon improve.

The next plan was to move the celebration to fall assembly in October. Unfortunately, as summer went on, it became clear that the assembly would be canceled again. But what about Jubilee?

Thanks to the marvels of technology, the Jubilee celebration took place Sept. 20, just without guests in atten-

dance. Using the Nazareth Motherhouse’s large auditorium and dining rooms for social distancing, face masks and hand sanitizer for safety, and a live video stream to include family and friends, Jubilee was able to go on, just in a slightly altered form.

This year the sisters celebrated Jubilee anniversaries for Sister Rose Beatrice Dreiling, 75 years; Sisters Rita Ann Mazanec and Alice Marie Stalker (deceased), 70 years; Sisters Jeanne McKenna, Betty Maschka, Rita Plante and Beth Stover (deceased), 60 years; and Irmã Joana Maria das Graças de Sousa, 50 years.

Sister Rita Plante, in Silver City, N.M., was unable to attend due to travel restrictions but was able to watch the event live with friends from her home. Likewise, Irmã Joana Maria das Graças de Sousa celebrated in Teresina, Brazil.

The sisters who were unable to attend, as well as those sisters who passed on this year, were on everyone’s minds during both the celebratory Mass and dinner and reception that followed.

PRESIDENT JEAN Rosemarynoski, CSJ, welcomed everyone both present and



Sisters celebrate their Jubilee on Sept. 20. Front row (from left) are Sisters Rita Ann Mazanec and Jeanne McKenna; back row, Sisters Rose Beatrice Dreiling and Betty Maschka.

via video to the celebration and acknowledged the difficulties that COVID-19 presented for the gathering. “Obstacles can not dampen our celebratory spirit and gratitude for each of

you and your life among us. The Jubilee theme is Lives Blessed and Given, Sister Jean said. “As Pope Francis has said about the vocational call, ‘The call makes us bearers of a promise and at the same time asks of us the courage to take a risk — a risk with God and for God. When we first felt the attraction of a life of conse-

cration, we were surprised by an encounter, and at that moment we glimpsed the promise of a joy capable of bringing fulfillment to our lives. Responding to God’s call involves putting ourselves on the line and facing great challenges.’ “We are mindful of your numerous self-sacrifices, your unending and unconditional love, and your unwavering belief in the unfolding mystery of God for which you have poured out your life,” Sister Jean said. “Each of you has brought a unique and distinctive contribution to the sisters of St. Joseph. Your contribution has helped define who we have been, who we are today and gives us a foundation for the future. We are profoundly grateful to you and for you.”

Mass began at 11 a.m. The Jubilarians were honored for their dedication to consecrated life and renewed their vows before the community. The Jubilee Program followed at 12:45 p.m. with original poetry readings by Sister Jodi Creten and original music by Sister Dian Hall. The Jubilarians were recognized with anecdotes about their years of service and honored with gifts from the Community.

To view a video of the Mass or the Jubilee program, visit the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia’s website, csjkansas.org.

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Encyclical builds on social teachings

From page 1

tribute to the community, the pope said. It also means supporting public policies that do so on a larger scale.

Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomed the encyclical as “an important contribution to the Church’s rich tradition of social doctrine.”

“Pope Francis’ teaching here is profound and beautiful: God our father has created every human being with equal sanctity and dignity, equal rights and duties, and our creator calls us to form a single human family in which we live as brothers and sisters,” the archbishop said in a statement. “God’s plan for humanity, the pope reminds us, has implications for every aspect of our lives — from how we treat one another in our personal relationships, to how we organize and operate our societies and economies.”

Building on the social teachings of his predecessors, Pope Francis’ document once again strongly condemns the death penalty and makes an initial approach to declaring that the conditions once used to accept a “just war” no longer exist because of the indiscriminately lethal power of modern weapons.

ST. JOHN PAUL II IN “THE GOSPEL OF Life,” published in 1995, cast doubt on whether any nation needed to resort to capital punishment today to protect its people; developing that teaching, Pope Francis in 2018 authorized a change to the Catechism of the Catholic Church to make clear that “the death penalty is inadmissible.”

Signaling the start of a similar effort to respond to the current reality of warfare, Pope Francis in the new encyclical raised the question of “whether the development of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the enormous and growing possibilities offered by new technologies, have granted war an uncontrollable destructive power over great numbers of innocent civilians.”

“We can no longer think of war as a solution because its risks will probably always be greater than its supposed benefits,” one of the main criteria of just-war theory, he said. “In view of this, it is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria

The text of the pope’s encyclical in English can be found online at

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.htm

elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a ‘just war.’ Never again war!”

AT THE HEART OF THE NEW encyclical’s appeal to Catholics is a meditation on Jesus’ parable of the good Samaritan and particularly on how Jesus takes a legal scholar’s question, “Who is my neighbor?” and turns it into a lesson on being called not to identify one’s neighbors but to become a neighbor to all, especially those most in need of aid.

“The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the good Samaritan,” the pope said. “Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked by without showing compassion for the sufferings of the man on the roadside.”

“The parable,” he continued, “shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbors, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good.”

Pope Francis used the encyclical “to consider certain trends in our world that hinder the development of universal fraternity” and acting as a neighbor to one another, including racism, extremism, “aggressive nationalism,” closing borders to migrants and refugees, polarization, politics as a power grab rather than a service to the common good, mistreatment of women, modern slavery, and economic policies that allow the rich to get richer but do not create jobs and do not help the poor.

“The pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realization of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our styles



Photo by Paul Haring / CNS

The Basilica of St. Francis is seen as Pope Francis celebrates Mass at the tomb of St. Francis in the crypt of the basilica in Assisi, Italy, Oct. 3. The pope signed his new encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship” near the tomb of St. Francis.

of life, our relationships, the organization of our societies and, above all, the meaning of our existence,” he said.

Anna Rowlands, a British theologian invited to help present the document at the Vatican, said the text’s “golden thread” is about discerning “what gives life” and helps everyone to develop their full potential and flourish.

“The whole theme of the document is about the way in which we’re called to attend to the world as Christ attended to the world,” paying attention to reality rather than “evading it and avoiding it,” and praying for the grace to respond as Jesus would.

When people ask, “Who is my neighbor?” often what they really want to know is “Who is not my neighbor?” or “Who can I legitimately say is not my responsibility?” Rowlands said.

Pope Francis called for catechesis and preaching that “speak more directly and clearly about the social meaning of existence, the fraternal dimension of spirituality, our conviction of the inalienable dignity of each person and our reasons for loving and accepting all our brothers and sisters.”

He also used the encyclical to strongly reassert a traditional tenet of Catholic social teaching: “the universal destination of goods” or “the common use of created

goods,” which asserts, as St. John Paul said, that “God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favoring anyone.”

The right to private property, and the benefits to individuals and society of protecting that right, Pope Francis wrote, “can only be considered a secondary natural right.”

“The right of some to free enterprise or market freedom cannot supersede the rights of peoples and the dignity of the poor, or, for that matter, respect for the natural environment,” the pope said. “Business abilities, which are a gift from God,

should always be clearly directed to the development of others and to eliminating poverty,” especially through the creation of jobs that pay a living wage.

Pope Francis, Rowlands said, “wants to rehabilitate this idea of social friendship and social peace in the face of an all-pervasive social violence, which he sees running through the economy, running increasingly through politics, running through social media.”

The pope is not despairing, she said, but realistic. “He wants to offer a vision of how you begin from the most local, most everyday and most concrete realities to build a culture of peace at every level.”

“The pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realization of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our styles of life, our relationships, the organization of our societies and, above all, the meaning of our existence.”

Pope Francis
“Fratelli Tutti”

Georgetown panelist: Encyclical offers alternative way of looking at life

By Mark Pattison

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis’ new encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” offers many things to consider for the church, its members and society.

But by combining what might seem to some to be disparate issues, “Pope Francis really provides us an alternative way of looking at our life, and something new can emerge at this moment,” said a member of a panel discussing the encyclical Oct. 5, one day after it was issued.

Pope Francis wants Catholics to determine “where our real loyalty is, where our commitment is, where we are in relation to the throwaway people,” said Franciscan Sister Nancy Schreck, who is program director of Excel Inc. in Okolona, Miss., which has a predominantly poor, rural and minority population.

“Pope Francis’ words give me lots of encouragement for my ministry here,” she added.

Sister Schreck, who is a former president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, was part of a panel on “Fratelli Tutti: Pope Francis’ New Encyclical on Human Fraternity and Solidarity,” sponsored by Georgetown University’s Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life.

There were parts of the encyclical that “personally made me uncomfortable and in a way challenged me,” said Edith Avila Olea, a board member of Bread for the World, former associate director for justice and peace in the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., and currently an immigrant advocate in Chicago.

SHE HERSELF IS A “DREAMER,” having come into the United States when she was 8 months old with her mixed-immigration-status parents.

“I can’t walk away from the hardship. I don’t get to clock in and clock out. I live with the uncertainty. I live with the constant anti-immigrant rhetoric. I live with the nightmares.

And from that constant drama, I don’t get the ability to walk away from that,” Avila Olea said.

But “Fratelli Tutti” serves as “an invitation to rest and an invitation to continue to hope. The cross is extremely hard, but there is a resurrection. I got that glimpse of air,” she said. “I have felt suffocated and overwhelmed so many times.”

If he were limited to a one-sentence summary of “Fratelli Tutti,” Cardinal Michael Czerny, undersecretary of the Migrants and Refugees section of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, said he would quote something he said he saw on social media: “If ‘Laudato Si’ (Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical on the environment) taught us that everything is connected, then ‘Fratelli Tutti’ teaches us that everyone is connected.”

“I think we have a good chance” to rediscover those connections, Cardinal Czerny said. “My hope is rekindled and I’m inspired.”

In society, he added, “we sub-

scribe to an ideal, without knowing it: We are self-made, prosperous orphans. We are self-made, but we don’t recognize God as creator. We are prosperous, but we consume everything. We’re orphans, we’re unconnected. We’re free, we’re totally free — and we’re alone.”

This is the mindset, Cardinal Czerny said, that “Fratelli Tutti” seeks to overcome.

SISTER SCHRECK TOLD STORIES OF St. Francis of Assisi to illustrate the connectedness Pope Francis seeks through “Fratelli Tutti.”

One was how he was “converted” when he could come to regard those suffering from leprosy as his brothers and sister. Another was his visit to Egyptian Sultan Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil during the Fifth Crusades “just to listen,” telling his companions to not mention anything about the sacraments.

When they returned to Assisi, “they brought back some Muslim customs, like the call to prayer.”

Encyclical highlights need for fraternity to counter war, cardinal says

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis’ social encyclical sees the need for human fraternity as more than just an abstract concept but as a concrete path toward peaceful coexistence in a world fraught by war, said Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

At the Vatican’s Oct. 4 presentation of the encyclical “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship” Cardinal Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the document shows that “fraternity is not a trend or a fashion which develops over time or at a particular time, but rather is the result of concrete acts.”

“In fact, if weapons — and with them, wars — destroy human lives, the environment and hope to the point of extinguishing the future of people and communities,” he said, “dialogue destroys the barriers in the heart and mind, opens up spaces for

forgiveness, and promotes reconciliation.”

In his address, Cardinal Parolin said that in today’s international climate, there is “an obvious contradiction between the common good and the tendency to give priority to the interests of states, even individual states.”

Citing the pope’s encyclical, Cardinal Parolin said the result of this contradiction is that “the multitude of the abandoned remain at the mercy of the possible goodwill of some.”

“Fraternity is the exact opposite of this,” he said. “It introduces the idea of general interests, those capable of forming a true solidarity and of changing not only the structure of the international community but also the dynamics of relationships within it.”

AS THE FIRST MUSLIM presenting a papal encyclical at the Vatican, Abdel Salam noted the significance of the new document for promoting

interreligious dialogue and praised the pope’s “ability to express the themes of human fraternity to the whole world.”

“It is an appeal to concord to a world in discord, as well as a clear message in favor of both individual and collective harmony with the laws of the universe, the world and life,” he said. “This notion relies on a clear reasoning that is rooted in the truth and is practicable in real life and in the real world.”

With its criticism of “ideologies imbued with selfishness and the loss of social sense,” the Islamic scholar said, the encyclical, along with the 2019 Document on Human Fraternity signed by Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar Mosque, “will restart the train of history that had stopped at the station of this world order and was rooted in unreasonableness, injustice, pride and colonial violence.”

“I hope that this encyclical,

together with the Document on Human Fraternity, shall be a strong deterrent against falsehood in all its forms and expressions, and that it can be the basis, or the most important factor for the birth of a new world order that relies on the sacredness of dignity and human rights — as the pope said — not on contempt, slavery and the exploitation of man,” he said.

“At the same time,” he said, “I hope that this encyclical will reach the hands of politicians and decision-makers alike and enlighten them to lead the world out of the unreasonable state that it is living today.”

Anna Rowlands, professor of Catholic social thought and practice at the University of Durham, England noted that “this letter has its roots in a specific interfaith encounter” and seeks to rally action in the name of the truths proclaimed by faith, beginning with the truth that all people were created by God.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic Charities assists with adoption, reunification

By Karen Bonar
The Register

SALINA — One lesser-known aspect of Peggy Crippen's job at Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas is providing support and assistance to adoptees who wish to connect with their birth parents.

"I was born late in my parents' life and lost a lot of family members before I was grown. I never knew my paternal grandparents," she said. "If I can give somebody that chance (to connect with their birth parents), I think it's important to know your family. There's always a biological connection, whether you're raised together or not."

A social services case manager in the Salina office, Crippen describes her work as "adoption search and reunion."

When an adoption was facilitated by Catholic Charities, she said the office maintains the records.

"In the state of Kansas, adoption records are open," Crippen said, "but not in every state."

Once an individual reaches the age of 18, they may contact the state of Kansas, or the adoption agency to obtain the information. She said that in the state of Kansas, two birth certificates are issued: one with the names of birth parents and the second with the names of the adoptive parents.

"The only person eligible to receive the original birth certificate is the adoptee," Crippen said, "but we can give them anything that is given to the court."

Often, adoptees want information about their birth families for medical records or to learn a health

history.

"Typically, they have some sort of contact through phone or letters or email," Crippen said. "Sometimes they meet in person. Sometimes they develop a relationship. Everything with adoption is very individual."

IT CAN BE SCARY FOR AN adoptee to reach out, she said.

"Birth moms (who are now older) have had another family, and (some) are not sure if they want to open that part of their life again," Crippen said. "There are so many angles to it. It's very complicated and there is so much emotion involved in it. It's hard for both sets of people."

She pointed out that only the adoptee is eligible to receive information, not the birth parents or any extend-

ed family. At Catholic Charities, Crippen said she will take information if a birth parent contacts her and put it into the file, should the adoptee wish to initiate contact in the future.

For those not adopted through Catholic Charities, Crippen said they should contact the agency or attorney who handled the adoption.

"If they're not adopted through Catholic Charities, I'll give them as many leads as I can," she said. "I think adoptees have the right to know as much information as they can and I want to help them do that."

Catholic Charities was founded in 1959 by Msgr. Alfred Wasinger, with a heavy focus on adoption. Through the years, the organization's services have expanded to include pregnancy support services.

Annual Adoption Mass is Nov. 6 in Salina

What: Third annual Adoption Mass
When: Noon Friday, Nov. 6
Where: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina

The annual Adoption Mass is hosted by Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas in November, which is National Adoption Awareness Month.

All are invited to attend, especially those who are adopted, who placed a child for adoption, have an adopted sibling, or work in social services or adoption.

Sisters reach out to assist children in western Kansas

By Cathy Doud
For The Register

CONCORDIA — The Women of the West — Beyond the Frontier, a western Kansas women's encounter group, is a group from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia who have banded together to address spiritual and physical needs in western Kansas. One of its first projects was gathering duffel bags, backpacks and personal hygiene items to donate to Saint Francis Ministries to aid foster children.

"There is a strong connection for the Sisters of St. Joseph to western Kansas," said Agrégée Sarah Ganser, committee member.

"Many of the sisters have deep ties to western Kansas," said Sister Marcia Allen. "Our hearts are there. Many, if not most, of us come from there. It is a place where we feel at home and we hope to be a home there for others."

"In the past, the (Sisters of St. Joseph) assisted in creating and empowering rural towns working as neighbors, educators, parish staff members, spiritual directors, health care workers and more," Ganser said. "This is a continuation of that heritage to further the connection in the present day. Our hope is to create connections within the communities of western Kansas. The expansiveness of western Kansas creates many needs but has many hidden resources. We wish to bring awareness of the love and mercy of God to empower communities to grow and heal with support from one another."

To kick off one of the committee's first projects,



Courtesy photo

Members of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia sort backpacks for foster children in western Kansas. Pictured from left are Agrégée Sarah Ganser, Agrégée Denise Schmitz, CSJ candidate Angela Jones and Sister Dian Hall.

they contacted Cher Richards, associate director of development and donor relations at Saint Francis Ministries, headquartered in Salina, to offer their assistance to children in the foster care system in western Kansas.

"I realized the need to support children in foster care when I worked as a reintegration and adoption worker in the foster care system," Ganser said. "One of the heartbreaking moments was when children needed to be moved quickly. There were times when basic needs of hygiene items and bags in which to place the children's possessions were lacking."

"Ever since, I have wanted to find ways to increase the support so children in that moment know that just because they are moving does not mean they are dis-

pensable during an extremely emotional time. Being able to have a bag and the basic hygiene items can increase the confidence in the move by knowing material needs are met."

"Sarah reached out to me and then I reached out to my contacts in the western Kansas offices and asked what their main needs were, and backpacks and duffel bags are something they mentioned a lot," Richards said. "It is an item that they always need for the foster kids. A lot of times these kids are removed from a home unexpectedly, and they are leaving without anything. A backpack or a duffel bag — those are tools they can use to gather what few items that they do have and take them with them if they are moved to a different foster home."

Those on the committee

with Ganser include: Sisters Dian Hall, Beverly Carlin, Marcia Allen, Marilyn Wall, Agrégée Denise Schmitz and candidate Angela Jones. Praying sisters are Vera Meis and Gilla Dubé and Agrégée D.J. Rak.

THE GROUP ALREADY HAS gathered almost 40 backpacks for the project, as well as tubs of personal items like brushes, combs, toothbrushes, hand sanitizer and toothpaste. Additionally, small stuffed animals and pillows add a personal touch to the bags. Ganser and Sister Bev hope to deliver the collection of donated items to the Saint Francis Ministries offices in Hays in late October.

Since 1945, Saint Francis Ministries has been dedicated to the needs of children and youth. What began as a home for boys on the Kansas prairie is now a

multi-faceted child and family services ministry serving more than 31,000 people in Arkansas, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Illinois, Texas and Central America with a broad range of programs and services. Though rooted in the Episcopal tradition, Saint Francis Ministries is an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection, nurturing, and healing of children and families in body, mind and spirit.

In addition to supporting the needs of foster children, the Western Kansas Committee will continue to explore new ways to assist rural western Kansans.

"The needs or wants of families and individuals in rural western Kansas are the same, yet different, in that to access them they are not right at your fingertips, as you would find in cities such as Manhattan, Wichita or Kansas City," Schmitz said. "As a committee we are hoping to discover the needs of each town and how we can creatively offer workshops, retreats and spiritual direction, and enhance their spiritual needs without having to drive across the state to meet these needs."

The committee is exploring projects that are similar to the foster care backpacks, as well as ideas for retreats with individuals and parishes.

"By building on the unique strengths of each community, individuals increase their ability to overcome the difficulties of life and enhance the treasure of life in rural Kansas," Ganser said. "The ordinary gifts of acceptance and trust of each person will create new realities within the community."

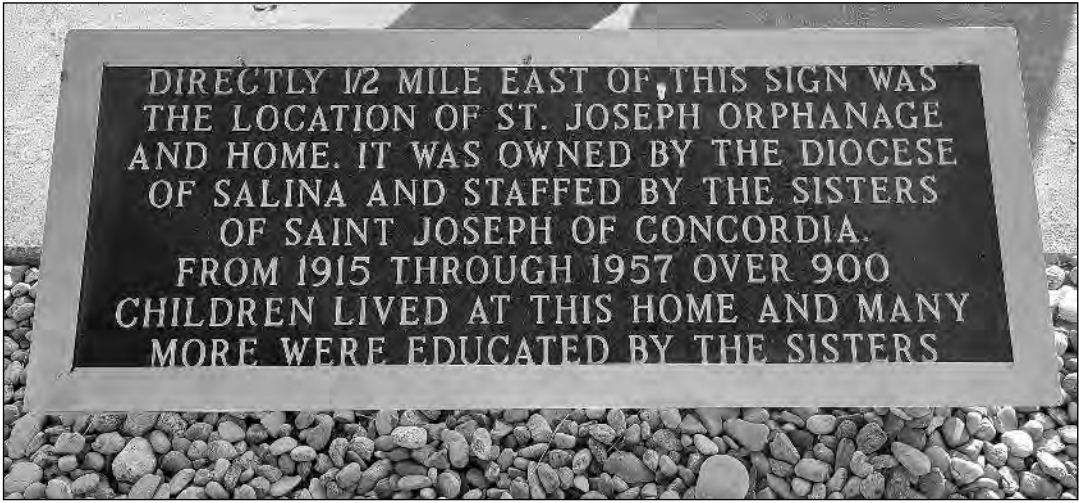
AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Joseph Memorial, Abilene, complete



Courtesy photo

The St. Joseph Home Memorial in the southeast corner of St. Joseph Cemetery in Abilene is now complete. This memorial was possible because of contributions from former residents of the orphanage, their descendants and former students of the academy once located in the same building. The actual location of the orphanage complex is visible from the memorial at the cemetery. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia ran the home until it was closed in 1957.



Russell RCIA member



Courtesy photo

RCIA Candidate Jim Cross was received into Full Communion with the Church on Aug. 26 at Saint Mary, Queen of Angels, Church in Russell.

Smith Center RCIA



Courtesy photo

New members were welcomed into the Church on May 31 at St. Mary Parish in Smith Center.

2020

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Kansans: Track your mail-in vote from start to finish

By The Leaven

KANSAS CITY — Because of the pandemic, more Kansans than ever are expected to be voting by mail this coming election.

But for those worried about the process, the state is offering something new. Voters can track the progress of their vote online.

Advance voting by mail is nothing new for Kansas voters; they've been doing it since 1996. Nor do voters need an excuse to receive a vote-by-mail ballot.

However, they do need to apply for it for each election, as a vote-by-mail ballot is sent out only at the request of the voter.

To vote by mail in the Nov. 3 election, you must: be registered to vote by Oct. 13, request an advance ballot by Oct. 27, then return the mail-in ballot by Nov. 3.

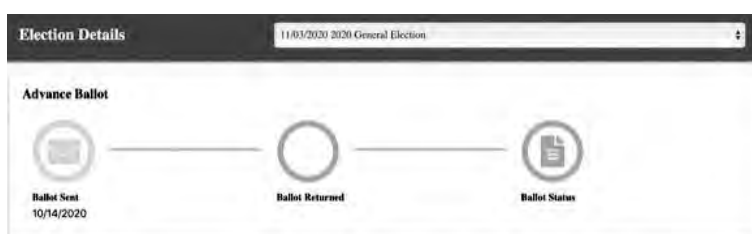
These can all be done with instructions from the website of the Secretary of State — sos.ks.gov — which walks a visitor through each step.

TRACKING YOUR VOTE

After registering for the election, you can track the journey of your vote by again going to the Secretary of State's website — sos.ks.gov — then clicking on the icon for "Elections," then on the symbol for "Ballot Tracker" at the bottom of the page.

This will take you to "VoterView" at: [myvotein fo.voteks.org](http://myvoteinfo.voteks.org). It will ask for some basic information in two stages, then will take you to the tracker itself. (See above photo.)

The tracker will register when your ballot is sent out to you, when the election



Key 2020 voting dates

Oct. 27: Deadline to apply for advance vote by mail ballot.

Nov. 3: Election Day. All mail ballots must be postmarked by this date.

Nov. 6: All ballots must be received via mail by this date.

office receives it, and the status of your vote: It will turn green when the ballot is accepted. If there is a problem with the ballot, the election office will contact the voter by telephone.

The state of Kansas is not the only entity that is providing voters with an easy way to stay on top of their vote.

"I am aware of a few counties in Kansas that have county-specific ballot trackers," said Katie Koupal, office spokesperson with the Secretary of State.

Voters in counties with county-specific ballot trackers can use both the service offered by their own county and Ballot Tracker through the Secretary of State.

To ensure that a mailed ballot doesn't get lost or delayed in the mail, voters can also hand-deliver their advance ballot to their local election office.

Furthermore, said Koupal, voters "can always contact their local election office if they have questions about the status of their application or if their ballot was returned and received at the local election office."

The local election office

workers are there to help. And by double-checking with them, voters can ensure that their ballot has reached the office in time and is eligible to be counted.

According to Kansas law, ballots may be counted prior to Election Day and are typically the first votes reported out on election night. But final tabulation can not be completed until polls close on Election Day.

REQUEST AN APPLICATION FOR ADVANCE VOTING BY MAIL

At sos.ks.gov, on the "Elections" page, go down to the "Election Forms" symbol. Click on this symbol. Now select from the top two choices listed: the English language or the Spanish language form called "Application for Advance Voting Ballot." By clicking on the letters "AV1" you can download and print the appropriate form.

Follow all directions. Once you have filled out the form, mail it to your county election office. The mailing address and fax numbers of all the county election offices in the state are listed on page 2 of this form.

Voters may vote by mail prior to election day in Kansas. Ballots will be mailed to those who apply beginning Oct. 14 for the general election. All ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day, Nov. 3, and received by the county election office by the close of business on Nov. 6.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Beloit scholarship winner



Courtesy photo

St. John Catholic High School Principal Marcy Kee presents a \$20,000 check to Emily Eilert. Eilert, a 2020 graduate, is the recipient of the 2020 Jane Sutherland McIney and Kelsey Gengler Hesting Award for Excellence. She is attending Kansas State University in Manhattan. Also pictured is Assistant Principal Joe Holdren.

Reverse parade in Hope



Courtesy photo

The 19th annual Hope Heritage Festival was Sept. 12 in Hope. This year, a "reverse parade" was held. Individuals or businesses created a float at their location and vehicles followed a mapped-out parade route to view each float. The theme, A Clear Vision for Hope 2020, was illustrated by St. Phillip Catholic Church with the verse: "When he had seated himself with them to eat, he took bread, pronounced the blessing, broke the bread, and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him; whereupon he vanished from their sight (Lk 24:30-31)." Pictured with the float are John, Regina and Pauline Polok.

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BAPTISMS

Cambry Elizabeth Anderson, daughter of Matthew and Brittany (Budke) Anderson, was baptized Sept. 6, 2020, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Matteo Sebastian Butler, son of Matthew Butler and Dayana Sanchez Barrios, was baptized Sept. 20, 2020, by Father Ryan McCandless at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Shayla Grace Cunningham, daughter of Terry and Crystal Cunningham, was baptized Aug. 22, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Cawker City.

Ezra Jerry Dronberger, son of Dylan and Ashley (Brinkman) Dronberger, was baptized Sept. 12, 2020, by Father Nicholas Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Jude Ryan Frisch, son of Adam Frisch and Jamie Elwood, was baptized Sept. 19, 2020, by Father Jose Kumbumkal, CMI, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Norton.

Andrew Colt Hogan, son of Christopher and Anna Hogan, was baptized Aug. 30, 2020, by Deacon Mike Robinson at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

Ashtyn Lyn Holsch, daughter of Kevin and Rebecca Holsch, was baptized July 19, 2020, by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. Augustine Church in Washington.

Faith Elysian Johnson, daughter of Garrett Johnson and Tabitha Schneider, was baptized Aug. 30, 2020, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Kate Marie Joy, daughter of Jay and Shanna (Knox) Joy, was baptized Sept. 12, 2020, by Father Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

Jack Ray Jueneman, son of David and Laramie Jueneman, was baptized Aug. 8, 2020, by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover.

Dawson McKay Kindel, son of James and Rebecca (Derousseau) Kindel, was baptized Oct. 4, 2020, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Graham William Klecan, son of Dr. Kurtis and Kaylan Klecan, was baptized Sept. 19, 2020, by Father Henry Baxa at St. Edward Church in Belleville.

Elliott Kade League, son of Kevin League and Raye Ann Solko, was baptized Sept. 20, 2020, by Father Norbert Diabal at St. Mary Church in Herndon.

Brindle Rose LeSage, daughter of Chris and Kim LeSage, was baptized Sept. 27, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Emery Rose Lowry, daughter of Colton and Kendra Lowry, was baptized Sept. 20, 2020, by Father Jose Kumbumkal, CMI, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Norton.

Mercy Jean Meineke, daughter of Philip and Keely Meineke, was baptized Sept. 14, 2020, by Father Henry Baxa at St. Edward Church in Belleville.

Ian Jacob Oborny, son of John and Natalie (Kramer) Oborny, was baptized Sept. 20, 2020, by Father Damian Richards at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor.

Eleanor Jean Popelka, daughter of Aaron and Lisa Popelka, was baptized Sept. 5, 2020, by Father Henry Baxa at St. Edward Church in Belleville.

Oliver Heath Radi, son of Russ and Elizabeth (Willis) Radi, was baptized Sept. 12, 2020, by

Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Eden Ann Richling, daughter of Riley and Michelle Richling, was baptized Sept. 13, 2020, by Father Don Zimmerman at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

Killian Wayne Schreiber, son of Michael and Glenda (Carlin) Schreiber, was baptized Oct. 4, 2020, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Lillie Mae Simmons, daughter of Jason and Amber (Budreau) Simmons, was baptized Sept. 6, 2020, by Father Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

Lucy Eleanor Stellpflug, daughter of Kyle and Tess Stellpflug, was baptized Sept. 9, 2020, by Deacon Mike Robinson at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

Asher Hayes Stenger, son of Jacob and Daniella Stenger, was baptized Oct. 4, 2020, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Mya Marlene Thomas, daughter of Cole and Lesli Thomas, was baptized Sept. 5, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

James Daniel Trahan, son of Adam and Jennifer (Armstrong) Trahan, was baptized Sept. 6, 2020, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Declan Karol Werner, son of Luke and Emily Werner, was baptized Aug. 22, 2020, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Olivia Norma Whitney, daughter of Cameron and Elizabeth (Leiker) Whitney, was baptized Aug. 9, 2020, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

Xavier Allen Zimmerman, son of Casey and Allison Zimmerman, was baptized Sept. 20, 2020, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

FAITH AND REASONS

Frequency is important for Confession

Q If a person has not committed any serious sin, is there still a need for annual Confession?

A Let's put it this way; how often do you need to say, "I'm sorry" to your spouse; or maybe your brother or sister? Do you only see a need to apologize when you do something "big" like committing adultery or physical abuse? Never needing to say you are sorry is not love, it is personal and spiritual pride. True love is when two individuals are able to challenge and confront one another in areas of weakness in order to encourage each other to become the persons God created them to be. "As iron sharpens iron, one friend sharpens another (Prv 27:17)."

As long as the two people in the relationship are human, this type of love will entail misunderstandings, mistakes and hurts; sometimes little and sometimes big. Therefore, a relationship of love cannot exist without frequent use of the phrase, "I am sorry." So, too, with the spiritual life, unless we reflect upon our humanness and the engrained characteristics of sin in our life and seek reconciliation for those flaws, no matter how small, we cannot grow in our relationship with God.

Obviously, we live in a "modern" world, which promotes "I'm okay, you're okay!" This world says that sin and weakness are terms of the past used by institutions such as the Church to keep weak-minded individuals in their place. Previous generations had long confession lines and short communion lines while today, confession is rare and Holy Communion is frequent for all. Is this a problem? Does sin no longer exist; are we Catholics no longer in strained relationships with God? I'm afraid it's more frequent than we are willing to admit. We need not look too far to come to grips with the reality that sin still



Father Jarett Konrade
Diocese of Salina

exists. One only need turn on the evening news or read through a few comments on social media. Therefore, we know it is still easy to recognize sin "out there" in the world, but do we recognize it, "in here," in the recesses of our own hearts?

ONE BIG QUESTION I receive is, "Father, what if I don't really have anything to confess?" Sometimes I would like to respond, "Well congratulations, if you're lucky, you might just be the first saint to be canonized while still alive." But seriously, my recommendation for those who can't think of sin is to spend some quiet time in front of Our Lord in the Eucharist and he has a tendency of revealing things to us of which we are sometimes not even aware.

Secondly, if you struggle with recognizing sin in your life, spend some time examining your conscience. There are a number of good examines on the internet or in various prayer books, many times based upon reflections from the Ten Commandments. As we continue to pray and ask God to help us see those sins, which might now be hidden, we will wonder how we ever survived before without frequent use of this sacrament.

The last aspect of this sacrament that we sometimes forget about is the fact that we receive God's grace in this sacrament, which is there to help us do better, to grow in faith and love with God. The second precept of the Catholic Church is "You shall confess your sins at least once a year." Does that frequency of seeking forgiveness work for any of your other important relationships? Obviously, this is a bare minimum for us as Catholics. This is why, for anyone seriously seeking to walk the path of holiness, many saints and scholars of the Church recommend at least once a month, if not every couple of weeks for reception of this sacrament. Let us re-examine this wonderful gift and continue to seek to be renewed with God so that free from the bonds of sin, we might draw others to the freedom and joy of life in pure relationship with Jesus Christ.

Father Jarett Konrade is the pastor of St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Email questions to him at faithandreasons7@gmail.com or write him at P.O. Box 1038, Salina, KS 67402.

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Value Them Both is essential in the upcoming election

According to official records of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, an average of nine preborn babies lose their lives each week in Kansas through a procedure known as live dismemberment abortion.

The legal path is now clear for taxpayer-funded/Medicaid-funded abortion in Kansas. Under the law, minor girls can get an abortion without the knowledge or consent of her parents. So-called "mail order chemical abortions" are now a real possibility.

Nearly every pro-life Kansas law on the books is now "presumed unconstitu-



Chuck Weber

Kansas Catholic Conference

tional," including bans on late term birth abortions, informed consent and even basic clinic sanitation standards.

These appalling facts — and much more — are the result of a devastating decision by the Kansas State Supreme Court in the April 2019 abortion decision in the case Hodes & Hauser v. Schmidt.

WHAT CAN KANSAS

Catholics do to help change this injustice?

Value Them Both is the proposed amendment to the Kansas Constitution that will safeguard both women and babies from an unregulated abortion industry.

Value Them Both restores to the people of Kansas, through their elected officials, the ability to regulate the abortion industry in a way that protects both mothers and their pre-born children.

Unlimited abortion hurts women and those in their wombs. Value them both places the power to regulate the abortion industry back in the people's hands, where it belongs.

Passing Value Them Both is a two-step process.

First, a "super majority" of the Kansas Senate and House must vote to approve placement of the amendment on a statewide ballot. Once that happens, citizens will vote. The amendment becomes part of the Kansas Constitution if it receives a simple majority of votes.

Passage of Value Them Both will again make our abortion laws enforceable and constitutional.

This past Legislative Session, Value Them Both passed the Senate, but came four agonizing votes short in the House. Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry had prevailed.

The Catholic Bishops of the United States have declared abortion to be the pre-eminent issue of our day. The Catholic Bishops of Kansas call Value Them Both their No. 1 legislative priority.

Before casting your vote this election, become informed about this and other issues by reading "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" (www.USCCB.org) and praying. Then, exercise your responsibility of faithful citizenship and vote.

Chuck Weber is the executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the four Kansas bishops. This article was cut for space; the full text is available at kansascatholic.org

Catholics say that for civility to prevail, common good must be served

By Dennis Sadowski

Catholic News Service

CLEVELAND — The incivility that was front and center during the first presidential debate sent Catholics across the country searching for answers about what they can do to calm the seas when people disagree.

While they said they have promoted finding common ground and the need for Catholics, particularly, to hear the call to civil discourse espoused by church leaders for years, they expressed concern that incivility is increasing nationwide, causing a chasm that will take years to bridge.

"Incivility has infected our country, and I think the world is appalled at what's going on in the United States," said Benedictine Sister Teresa Ann Wolf, director of the Glacial Lakes Multicultural Center in Watertown, S.D.

"When we forget that we're brothers and sisters in the human family, that we're all children of God, when we forget everybody is worthy of respect and dignity," she said, "that's when we open ourselves to the dark side of human impulses."

Sister Teresa Ann has heard the insults and deni-

grating comments directed at the immigrants who turn to the ecumenical center for assistance and support. She said she is concerned the action of some political leaders has "given people permission to act on their worst impulses."

"Then we become more and more uncivil and insulting to others," she said.

Mary Rose Redlin, a center volunteer, has witnessed insults and in-your-face comments emerge in recent years in Watertown and surrounding areas in eastern South Dakota. She said people have cut her off when she attempts to bring a new perspective to their attention.

"They don't want to have a conversation," she said.

That worries Redlin, who said she feels the bonds of a strong democracy upon which the country is built are fraying. In response, she has turned to prayer, seeking ways to help restore at least a respect for differences.

Civility is a product of dialogue and conversation, said Susie Tierney, executive director of JustFaith Ministries.

She said dialogue promotes the common good, something which seems to be receiving less attention in U.S. society as people

focus on their own wants and needs with undue concern for those of others.

Similar concerns are held by observers such as Vincent Miller, professor of religious studies at the University of Dayton in Ohio.

Miller said that he feared U.S. society is losing respect for a "fragile web of social norms and practices that existed by common agreement."

POPE FRANCIS HAS LONG recognized the ruptures along ideological lines that are occurring, threatening the unity of the society as well as the Church.

Throughout his papacy, the pope's talks during weekly general audiences at the Vatican and his teaching documents have invited people to reach out to others even when it is difficult to do so.

Miguel Diaz, a professor in the department of theology at Loyola University Chicago and former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, said Pope Francis hopes that people "encounter" each other. He suggested that people heed the pope's call and open their minds and hearts as a step toward recognizing the dignity of others.

"Civility requires a certain degree of humility. When that's missing, it's difficult to engage with a conversation with another human being," Diaz said.

"To practice civility, the first thing is we must have in mind some rules of engagement. Those rules require us to listen to and listen for things. It requires good listening skills.

"Beyond the listening, it requires an attentiveness to the word and what words do. In the best of cases, words should be used to create and construct and not to constantly put down another human being. Words are given precisely to create a bridge, rather than to separate us from one another," Diaz said.

The Catholic community itself has been afflicted with shouting diatribes among its members, as well. The call to recognize each other as sisters and brothers as Sister Teresa Ann described has been ignored at times even by Catholics holding differing views of what they believe the Church should be emphasizing to bring people closer to God.

The Diocese of Camden, N.J., is among those working to address such differences. During the current

election cycle it has implemented the Civilize It program being promoted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for the 2020 election.

Matt Davis, diocesan director of Life and Justice Ministries, said that his office has utilized the program at listening sessions and discussions to explore the importance of respect for others, as called for in church teaching.

Developed in 2016 in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to help parishioners understand the importance of civility as a virtue, the Civilize It campaign has been adopted with a few tweaks by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for the 2020 election. The program stresses that respectful dialogue — rather than name-calling and nasty barbs — can occur among people with differing political views.



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Ellis youth Confirmed



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Mary Parish in Ellis received Confirmation on Sept. 27. Front row (from left) are Tridon Mitts, Taylor Seibel, Ava Reed and Kylee Pfeifer; middle row, catechist Eldon Pfeifer, Melody Swagerty, Carli Jo Fischer, Jennifer Cunningham and Macy Eberle; back row, Father Dana Clark, Landon Dinkel, Austin Carroll, Braelyn Born, Kennidy Amrein, Maggie James and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

Hanover youth Confirmed



Courtesy photo

Youth from St. John the Baptist in Hanover received Confirmation on Aug. 30. Front row (from left) are Elaina White, Michelle Zarybnicky, Madison Bruna, Allison Jueneman, Cloe Sinn, Kara Bruna, Madeline Bruna and Katelyn Schroller; middle row, Father Joseph Kieffer, Braelen Stallbaumer, Andrew Gugenhan, Matthew Schroller, Keagan Dimler, Philip Doebele and Bishop Jerry Vincke; back row, Colin Jueneman, Jacob Jueneman, Blake Hynek and Emmitt Jueneman.

Russell youth confirmed



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Mary, Queen of Angels, Parish in Russell received Confirmation on July 29. Front row (from left) are Payden Leiker, Gracie Weigel, Kaitlyn Nichols, Hannah Banks, Jaidyn Banks, Kalli Pfeifer and Gabriella Westbrook; back row, Father Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI, and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Junction City RCIA



Courtesy photo

RCIA Candidates were received into Full Communion with the Church on May 30 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City. Front row (from left): sponsor Sandy Leistner with Megan Meece, sponsor Joanna Zoeller with Brianna and Caden Zoeller, and sponsor Dan Culbertson with Cammyla Luciano-Cruz.; second row, sponsor Sharon Phillips with Robert Phillips, sponsor Tom Hollis with Catherine Hollis, sponsors Pamela and Pablo Gayton with Iliana Zamorano, and sponsor Paula Krueger with Kelly Flickinger; back row, sponsor Shannon Hughes with Michael Hughes, Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, and sponsor Mary Krantz with Jason Krantz.

Collyer sacraments celebrated



Courtesy photo

Sacraments were conferred Oct. 4 at St. Michael Parish in Collyer by Father Charles Steier. Front row (from left) are Connor Blackwill (First Communion), Cayden Walt (Baptism) and Taylor Walt (Baptism, First Communion); back row, Jeremy and Amy Blackwill, Derek Walt (sponsor), Sharon Stupelli (sponsor), and Tyler and Cristina Walt.

BRIEFLY

More than \$140,000 raised to support seminarian education

SALINA — August was a strong month for financial support for seminarians of the Salina Diocese. The seminarian dinner, originally planned to be an in-person event, went virtual because of COVID-19. Two anonymous donors each gave a matching gift of \$20,000, and the virtual fundraiser netted more than \$88,500.

The annual seminarian collection, which was Aug. 8-9, raised more than \$52,000, to date.

The average yearly cost (tuition, books and board, summer ministry expenses, recruitment) to educate one seminarian is \$50,000. The Diocese of Salina covers the cost to support the seminarians as they discern.

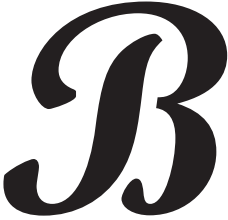
“Our seminarians will, hopefully, become the priests of our diocese for future generations of Catholics,” said Bishop Jerry Vincke, “I am grateful to every person who continues to support the seminarians.”

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~ Directors Steven Surber, John Surber and Don Waddington ~

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WEDDINGS

Alex Joseph Budreau and **Jennifer Jo Boley** were married Sept. 5, 2020, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Russ and Mia (Utt) Budreau. Parents of the bride are Mark and Connie (Trimble) Boley. Witnesses were Justin Gagna and Holly Gonzalez.

Austin Diederich and **Paige Doebele** were married Aug. 1, 2020, at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover. Father Joseph Kieffer witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Greg and Brenda Diederich. Parents of the bride are Gene and Julie Doebele. Witnesses were Jerod Diederich and Riley Doebele.

Jake Dreiling and **Rebecca Borger** were married Aug. 1, 2020, at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are David and Gail Dreiling. Parents of the bride are Eldon and Debbie Borger. Witnesses were Scott Befort and Melissa Amrein.

Riley Hunsicker and **Tori Tebo** were married Sept. 12, 2020, at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Fred Hunsicker and Linda Hunsicker. Parents of the bride are Brad and Sue Ann Tebo. Witnesses were Brayden Werth and Kristin Werth.

Ryan Pfeifer and **Polly Gorman** were married Oct. 10, 2020, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Deacon Steve Urban witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Danny and Rose Pfeifer. Parents of the bride are Francis and Andrea Gorman. Witnesses were Scott Englert and Leigh Purdy.

Robert Kriss Schroeder and **Pamela Anne Zarybnicky** were married July 18, 2020, at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover. Father Simon Baker, OSB, witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Robert and Jacque Schroeder. Parents of the bride are Jim and Kathy Zarybnicky. Witnesses were Brad Schroeder and Claire Zarybnicky.

Andrew Joseph Seifert and **Molly Mckenna Greene** were married Sept. 12, 2020 at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center. Father Don Zimmerman witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Scott and Dawn Seifert. Parents of the bride are Rick Greene and Mary Jensen. Witnesses were Alex Seifert and Brooke Swenson.

Kevin Walter and **Megan Smith** were married Sept. 19, 2020, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Bradley and Sandra (Ramos-de-leon) Walter. Parents of the bride are Ernest and Christina (Biermann) Smith. Witnesses were Jobani Balderrama and Emily Smith.

Shane and Gina Wagers had their marriage blessed Oct. 3, 2020, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, witnessed their vows. Parent of the bridegroom are Curtis Wagers and Constance Marie Garcia. Parents of the bride are Martin Oliver Woodruff and Jana Marie Woloszyk. Witnesses were Curtis Wagers and Janay Woodruff.

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

COMPROMISO PARA SANAR

If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church ... Please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. Our diocesan assistance coordinator is available to obtain support for your needs, to help you make a formal complaint of abuse to the proper authorities and to arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative, if you desire.

The diocesan assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Salina is Maria Cheney, LSCSW. Contact her at (785) 825-0865 or P.O. Box 2984, Salina, KS 67402.
reportabuse@salinadiocese.org

Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection,
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Si has sido abusado o fuiste víctima de alguien que represente a la Iglesia católica ... Cree en la posibilidad para la esperanza, la ayuda y la sanación. Ven y cuéntanos tu problema. La coordinadora diocesana estará disponible para atenderte en tus necesidades, para ayudarte a presentar una queja formal de abuso ante la diócesis y para que veas personalmente al obispo o su representante, si lo así lo deseas.

La coordinadora para la diócesis de Salina es Maria Cheney. Puedes contactarla al (785) 825-0865 o P.O. Box 2984, Salina, KS 67402.
reportabuse@salinadiocese.org

Secretaría de Protección de Niños y Jóvenes,
La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos