



Small-town stewardship



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Parish volunteers Roger Schuster, Diane Wildeman, Denise Gillespie, Mark Heier, Janice Manhart, Carol Reitcheck and Dwayne Holzmeister gather in St. Agnes Church in Grainfield on July 18. Volunteers from the congregation pitched in to assist in painting the church's interior, as well as making other improvements to the church.

By Allison Ochoa
The Register

Stewardship Renewal

Stewardship is the disciple's response to God's call. Listen and become a disciple in your local parish. Many parishes throughout the Salina Diocese will invite parishioners to renew their stewardship this fall. All are invited to generously share time in prayer, talent in ministry and treasure to support the parish, Church and community.

GRAINFIELD — The parishioners of St. Agnes Parish put stewardship into action this summer as they gave the interior of their church a facelift that they hope will last for several decades.

"A local gentleman noticed several cracks had formed on the walls just above the baseboards in several places, perhaps due to the church building settling, and he suggested a new baseboard and patching," said St. Agnes Parish Council member Janice Manhart.

After having the necessary repairs made by a construction company from the area, the parish council knew their budget would likely not enable them to afford to hire a firm that

specializes in painting churches, so the council members got creative.

"We knew a local woman, Carol Rietcheck, who paints houses so I asked her, 'Would you like to paint Jesus's house,'" recalled Manhart.

Rietcheck, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell, agreed and began work in mid-June.

INITIALLY, THE COUNCIL members intended to only paint the walls that had been repaired. However,

they quickly realized that a fresh coat of paint — the first in approximately 40 years — and a few other elements would bring a new look to the entire space, so they mobilized an army of volunteers from the parish who generously donated their time, talent, and in some cases, treasure, to bring the project to life.

"Several of the men from the parish worked to remove the pews so other parishioners could scrub and wax the floors, and then they reinstalled the



Courtesy photo

Landon Heier, left, uses a lift in sanctuary to change lightbulbs to LED lights while Carol Reitcheck, right, paints the walls.

pews," said Manhart. "We had a few men who were in charge of all the electrical work, and then we had three ladies from the parish

council who worked with Carol every day. They took things down for cleaning,

Please see CHURCH / Page 6

Hays dedication

School dedicates the year to the Sacred and Immaculate hearts.

Page 2



Suicide stigma

Discussing the gamut of struggles, reality after the death of a loved one.

Pages 6-11



Marriage

Honoring couples with long-lasting marriages.

Page 16





Father Mike Leiker ordained Sept. 14



By Karen Bonar

The Register

SALINA — Tears streamed down the face of Father Michael Leiker as each priest imposed hands in blessing upon his ordination to the priesthood Sept. 14 in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

“The ordination was everything I thought it would be and more,” said Father Leiker, 46. “The laying on of hands after the Litany of Saints was the most profound experience. There were so many graces ... I could not stop weeping. It was so powerful.”

The ordination was the first time Bishop Jerry Vincke imposed hands in ordination as a bishop.

“Are you a little nervous?” Bishop Vincke asked Father Leiker during the homily, which received a nod.

“Me, too,” the bishop quickly added.

BISHOP VINCKE BEGAN HIS HOMILY WITH AN apology.

“I want to apologize to all of you for the delay in Michael’s ordination, for any inconvenience this may have caused you including financially because of the change of the date,” Bishop Vincke said. “I ask for your forgiveness.”

Originally planned for June, Father Leiker’s ordination was re-scheduled for Sept. 14 — the feast of the The Triumph of the Cross.

“It’s very fitting you’re getting ordained this day,” Bishop Vincke said. “The cross represents suffering, but it also represents redemption. You know as well as anyone that suffering. That taking up your cross and following Jesus hasn’t always been easy. It’s been difficult, but you also know it leads to redemption and salvation.”

Taking on the cross means fusing one’s life to Christ, the bishop said.

“It means that when you are celebrating Mass, you are united with Jesus who offers himself to the Father,” Bishop Vincke said. “It also means those words that you say are not only Jesus’ words, but they’re going to be your words, ‘This is my body, I’m giving it all to you.’ Everything I’ve got. Every ounce of blood will be poured out to the people in love.”

Please see **PRIEST** / Page 2

Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register
Bishop Jerry Vincke lays hands in ordination of Father Mike Leiker on Sept. 14 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

Pope Francis designates October as Extraordinary Month of Mission

By The Register

SALINA — As a celebration of the 100th anniversary of *Maximum Illud*, Pope Francis designated the entire month of October as Extraordinary Month of Mission.

Originally penned in 1919 by Pope Benedict XV, *Maximum Illud* was an apostolic letter

“We are delighted to see that, under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, efforts to promote and develop the foreign missions have, in many quarters of the world, increased and intensified. It is Our duty to foster these enterprises and do all We can to encourage them...” Pope Benedict XV wrote.

Every year, the Church celebrates World Mission



Day during October said Father Steve Heina, the director of the propagation of the faith at the Salina Diocese. This year, the dates

are Oct. 19-20.

Pope Francis is taking the traditional document from 100 years ago and inviting the faithful to focus on spreading the Gospel, both at home and abroad, Father Heina said.

“During October, Pope Francis invites us — all baptized Christians — to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through prayer, med-

itation on the world of God and pilgrimage,” Father Heina said. “This is contrasting missionaries in foreign places, and instead focusing on all of us and our missionary responsibility.

“Pope Francis is prompting us to think of the true nature of missionary work and that is evangelization.”

Please see **MISSION** / Page 5

Giving Day

#iGiveCatholic returns to Salina Diocese Dec. 3.

Page 3



Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Veterans, farmers and teens are all populations who struggle with rising suicide rates.

Pages 7-10, 15

Visiting mission

Sisters from Concordia visits its mission in Brazil.

Page 12-13



THE REGISTER



Extraordinary Missionary Month: Baptized and Sent

By Father Kurian Kollapallil, MSFS

Pope Francis has set October 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month to foster greater awareness of *missio ad gentes* and to animate the missionary transformation of Church life and pastoral activity. *Ad gentes*, meaning “To the Nations,” is the title of the Second Vatican Council’s decree on missionary activity. Church by its very nature is missionary. Jesus after the resurrection called the disciples and sent them: “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28: 19-20).

The missionary activity of the Church never ends as the faith, which is handed over to us from our parents and grandparents, obliges us to faithfully hand over it to our contemporaries and to the future generations. Though we are not in the category of “new evangelization,” which calls each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message and go forth to proclaim the Gospel.

In the developed nations, there is a growing indifference and loss of faith, therefore such nations require “re-evangelization.” “New evangelization” is a call to take the Gospel to the places in which people have not yet heard of the Gospel.

Father Kurian Kollapallil, MSFS, is the parish administrator at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

MISSION MONTH LOGO EXPLAINED

The logo of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 is a missionary cross where the primary colors refer to the five continents. The Cross is the instrument and direct sign of communion between God and man for the universality of our mission, and through its vibrant colors, a sign of victory and resurrection.



The world is transparent because the action of

evangelization has no barriers or boundaries, it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Christian charity and the world transfigured in the Spirit overcome distances and open the horizon of our minds and hearts. The words ‘Baptized and Sent’ next to the image indicate the two characteristics of every Christian: baptism and proclamation.

Radiating Christ

WHEN I WAS THE DIRECTOR of our youth retreat center in the Diocese of Lansing several years ago, 12 major superiors from the Missionaries of Charity (St. Mother Teresa’s Order) from around the world spent six weeks at a nearby religious order’s residence. I was asked to be their chaplain during this time. After each Mass, the sisters recited numerous prayers together. The first prayer they recited was called Radiating Christ (also known as the Fragrance Prayer). This prayer was written by St. John Henry Newman, who will be canonized a saint on Oct. 13. The prayer, which all Missionaries of Charity



Bishop Jerry Vincke

Diocese of Salina

ty continue to pray after each Mass, is as follows:

“Dear Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being, so utterly, that our lives may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence

in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus! Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as you shine; so to shine as to be a light to others; the light O Jesus, will be all from you, none of it will be ours; it will be you, shining on others through us. Let us thus praise you in the way you love best by shining on those around us. Let us preach you without preaching, not by words but by our example. By the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love our heart bears to you. Amen.”

AT THE HEART OF THIS prayer, there is a desire by the Missionaries of Charity to bring Jesus to others so that they may experience God’s love and mercy.

Please see WE / Page 7

PLEASE SEE RELATED STORIES ON PAGES 7-10

TMP

Commons area dedicated Sept. 20 in conjunction with homecoming festivities.

Page 2



Century Farm Awards

Six families honored. Pages 12-14



Ag conference

Speakers discuss strength, struggle in rural, agricultural life. Page 16

