



SDNB

Salina Diocesan News Bulletin <http://salinadiocese.org/home/sdnb>

Volume 432

January 2017

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD is New Years Day, Sunday, January 1, 2017. The Chancery will be closed all day on Monday, January 2, 2017 in observance of New Year's Day.

REGION IX BISHOPS' ANNUAL RETREAT: I will be attending with my brother Bishops January 3-10, 2017.

CLERGY RENEWAL DAYS - January 16-19, 2017 at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. As usual all active diocesan priests are expected to be in attendance. Retired, religious priests and deacons are welcome; however, please let Fr. Ninemire know your plans so he can plan accordingly. See the Office of Continuing Education of Priests section for more information.

THE PERSONNEL BOARD WILL MEET during the Clergy Renewal Days during the lunch break on Tuesday, January 17th. Note any priest who has not already contacted Fr. Barry or the Bishop, please do so as soon as possible, prior to the January Renewal Days of your desire to do so and you will be able to meet with Board during the gathering in Wichita.

JANUARY 22ND IS THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V WADE, the Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion in our land in 1973. This day is to be observed as a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. Please refer to the Ordo for the liturgy of this day. This anniversary challenges us to continue our prayer and efforts to promote a greater respect for human life and legal protection for the most innocent and vulnerable in our midst, unborn children. I plan to attend the March for Life in DC this year along with 3 bus loads of pilgrims from our Diocese. **Special appreciation to Deacon Scott Watford, Diocesan Respect Life Office Coordinator for planning and coordinating this event.**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OBSERVED JANUARY 29 THRU FEBRUARY 4, 2017 was founded in 1974 as a joint project of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2017 is "**Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.**" The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities—small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged. Catholic Schools Week is a celebration of all the elements of our school that make it such a great place for students, parents, faculty, staff, friends, and the entire parish community. Schools typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses, and other activities for students, families, parishioners, and the community at large. I will be celebrating at seven different locations (involving 11 schools) this year with faculty, students and in some instances grandparents as well.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP (cont.)

WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE will be celebrated in the Church on February 2, 2017 (Celebrated in Parishes February 4-5). In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

LENT - ASH WEDNESDAY – March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Lent is a time of grace and renewal for the entire Church, especially for the catechumens and candidates preparing for initiation during the Easter Triduum. The three traditional ascetical practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are important pillars for a faithful experience of Lent.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - RITE OF ELECTION will be as follows:

Sunday, March 5, 2017, 3 p.m., St. Nicholas of Myra Parish, Hays

Sunday, March 12, 2017, 3 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina

I will again be sending letters to the candidates and the catechumens. Please refer to the Office of Liturgy Section for deadlines and more information.

THE CHRISM MASS, Thursday, April 6, 2017, 11:30 a.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral. A luncheon will follow. Please see the Office of Liturgy Section for more information.

FR. JOHN WOLESKY will be celebrating his 50th anniversary of priesthood on Saturday, March 11, 2017 with Mass at 4 p.m., celebrated by Bishop Weisenburger at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Solomon. All priests and deacons are invited. There will be a come and go reception following Mass in the parish hall until 8 p.m. **They respectfully request an RSVP to Daylene Tracy (785 655 2221) or via email at daylenetracy@msn.com so they can plan seating and have enough food for all.**

OFFICE OF VICAR GENERAL

PAPAL BLESSINGS: New information has been released from the office of Papal Charities about Papal Blessings from Rome, thus we have amended our instructions on how to submit requests. The following link gives you all the information you need, along with an application form to fill out: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/institutions_connected/elem_apost/documents/rc_elemosineria_doc_2_0130218_benedizioni_en.html. Once you have filled out the application, please send it to Brenda at the chancery office. **DO NOT** send or fax the forms in yourself. They must first be **signed by the Bishop or the Vicar General and stamped with the Diocesan Seal**. Once this is done we will send the forms in for you. When you receive the parchment there will be instructions inside the envelope on how to make payment. **DO NOT** send payment in along with your application. The parchment will no longer come to the chancery office so we ask that you please let us know when you receive it. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Streit at the chancery at 785-827-8746.

OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL (cont.)

BULLETIN INSERT FOR JANUARY - Human Trafficking Awareness month. **LEARN** about human trafficking in this country and particularly in your state and area. **US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** (sistersagainstrafficking.org)

OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION OF PRIESTS

JANUARY RENEWAL DAYS: will be January 16-19, 2017. These days begin with supper at 5:30 p.m. on Monday. Fr. Tony Cutcher from the St. John Vianney Center will address us on Tuesday. Christopher Hall will address on Tuesday and Wednesday on Patristics. The cost is \$350 payable to the diocese. We will conclude on Thursday at noon.

We are expecting all active and diocesan priests to participate in the January Renewal Days. Retired priests are most welcome and encouraged to participate.

In order to plan for room assignments and meal planning, please contact Fr. Kerry Ninemire no later than **Friday, January 6:**

IF you are an active diocesan priest and will **NOT** be attending; or

If you are a retired diocesan priest and **WILL BE ATTENDING;**

Deacons: As noted in a previous email, you are welcome to participate. You may come Tuesday evening and be present for the presentations on Wednesday/Thursday. The cost for deacons is \$200 payable from your sponsoring parish and payable to the diocese.

CONVOCATION: September 18-22. This will be held at the Pastoral Center in Kansas City, KS.

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

PARISH EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS: Please be advised the Parish Employee Handbooks have been revised. The revised employee handbooks can be found on the diocesan website under *Human Resources*. Please have all new hires sign the Employee Acknowledgement Form (last page of the handbook) and kindly place in the employee's personnel file.

Please advise all current employees that the Employee Handbook has been revised. They do not need to sign another Employee Acknowledgement Form. If you have any questions, regarding any of the revisions, please contact Pamela Sullivan (pam.sullivan@salinadiocese.org) or [\(785.820.8704\)](tel:785.820.8704) Ext. #18).

PRIEST STATISTICS: An updated list of Priest statistics is included with this edition of the newsletter.

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR (cont.)

It is with mixed feelings that I announce the retirement of our beloved and much appreciated Mrs. Darlene Streit. It is difficult, if not impossible, to sum up her achievements, her loyal dedication to her faith and our Catholic Church over the past thirty-six years. Darlene has served the Chancery since October 1980. We all recognize Darlene for her unconditional dedication, grace, and congeniality.

I have had the honor and privilege of working with her for only three of the thirty-six years. It did not take me long to realize she has one of the most beautiful souls ever to grace this earth. She continually displays a gentleness and kindness that we all strive to possess in our lifetime. I am proud and honored to say she is a colleague; but more importantly, she is my friend.

Although Darlene will be taking time to enjoy God's beautiful gift of life, she has agreed (with much plotting and begging) to continue to work eight hours each week beginning January 1, 2017. She will work Mondays 8:00 – 5:00.

Please feel free to email her your well wishes and gratitude at darlene.streit@salinadiocese.org.

On another note, it is with great pleasure to announce Mrs. Stefanie Gasper Adam has joined the Catholic Diocese of Salina Chancery staff. Stefanie has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant with the Chancellor's Office. Stefanie attended Kansas State University and Cloud County Community College. She has previously worked at the law firm of Norton, Wasserman, Jones & Kelly as a paralegal. Stefanie's husband, Jeff Adam, is an attorney working in Salina. Stefanie and Jeff have three daughters who attend St. Mary's Grade School. Stefanie and her family are registered parishioners at St. Mary Queen of the Universe in Salina. Stefanie's email at the Chancery is stefanie.adam@salinadiocese.org. If you happen to see Stefanie at the Chancery please drop by her office and give her a warm welcome.

The days and hours Stefanie will be scheduled to work at the Chancery are Monday through Friday, 8:30 – 3:30, beginning January 1, 2017.

OFFICE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

I am pleased to announce that the Office of Safety and Security has good news to share. The Diocese of Salina is in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2015/2016 Charter audit period.

As we embark on a new year, continue to keep your parish spreadsheets current, continue safe environment training for "new" people, and update others as they come due. Please continue sending bulletin announcements to our office, and be sure our office has received your Testimony of Compliance form for Safe Environment training for students, as they were due by January 1, 2017.

Attached please find the January Edition of our newsletter, *The Shepherd*. How will you serve God this year.... in your parish, in your school and within your family?

OFFICE OF FINANCE

MILEAGE RATE: The IRS has announced a new current mileage rate used to calculate the deductible costs for travel. The recommended standard mileage rate for business is **53.5 cents per mile**. The Diocese will begin following this rate effective January 1, 2017.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

Mission Sunday: If your parish has not yet forwarded to the Propagation of the Faith Office the collection for World Mission Sunday (Oct 22-23, 2016), please do so as soon as possible. Please indicate in the check memo “World Mission Sunday.”

Missionary Childhood Association: Some parishes participated in the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) awareness and fundraising program through donations at the parish church nativity scene. If your parish participated, please forward contributions to the Propagation of the Faith office soon after the conclusion of this year’s Christmas season on January 9, 2017.

Mission Cooperative 2017: As we complete the contribution records for Mission Cooperative 2016, parishes are reminded that Mission Cooperative presenters are prohibited by diocesan policy from providing their own contribution envelopes to be distributed in parishes for this collection. Special Diocesan Mission Co-Op envelopes are provided each year to all the parishes. In February parishes will be asked to indicate the number of Mission Co-Op envelopes needed for 2017’s appeal.

Operation Rice Bowl: Operation Rice Bowl materials order forms should have recently arrived in your parish. Each parish is responsible for ordering the desired materials from Catholic Relief Services. This collection is taken up at the end of the Lenten season. If you have not received an order form for your parish materials, contact Catholic Relief Services directly at 888-277-7575 (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Time) or 877-435-7277 (after hours and weekends.) Or, you may go to www.crs.org and click on “About Us” and then “Contact CRS.”

OFFICE OF NEW EVANGELIZATION

Lenten Small Groups: Lent begins on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Parishes are encouraged to form small faith-sharing groups. Once again, the choice of materials is left to the discretion of the parish. The Diocese encourages the use of materials from *Disciples on the Journey*. Most materials are included in each participant’s booklet, and some optional, additional materials for youth and families are available for free online. This year’s booklets also include some brief discussion/reflection material based on Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si (On Care for our Common Home)*. For these materials and more information, go to www.disciplesonthejourney.org. Each parish is responsible for ordering their materials directly from *Disciples on the Journey*. Fr. Heina is available for support in planning and organizing these small groups; contact him at the Chancery or the parish in Clyde.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTER

Thank you for your support during The Register’s subscription drive. Enclosed you will find additional subscription envelopes for parishioners to fill out and return. Please place them in the back of the church or where ever you make information available to parishioners. Please feel free to contact The Register should you need additional envelopes. karen.bonar@salinadiocese.org or [\(785\) 827-8746 x 21](tel:(785)827-8746).

OFFICE OF PASTORAL MINISTRY FORMATION

1. The Spring course schedule is set. Please promote these courses, offered on ITV at the following locations: Manhattan, Salina, Hays, WaKeeney, Colby, Goodland, Norton and Concordia.

3 hour Core Course:

Theology of Church

Saturday mornings, 8:30 to Noon

Jan 21, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar 4, 18, 25.

A study of the nature of the Church as it has been understood through the centuries. The course begins with the New Testament, progresses through the Fathers of the Church, examines the ecclesiology of Vatican II and concludes with a study of post-Vatican II theologies of the Church.

Instructor: Trish Keller.

Ms. Keller has an MA in Literature from Fort Hays State University and a MA in Theological Studies from Newman University. She teaches English composition at Garden City Community College as well as religious education in her parish in Garden City. She taught this course in Spring 2013.

1 hour Elective:

Music and Liturgy

The class focuses on basic precepts of celebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy within the parish including principles for liturgical preparation and music selection. Attention is given to the Liturgical Documents that guide liturgical ministries, preparation that invites participation of assembly/congregation, and spirituality for liturgical musicians and ministers.

Lead Presenter: Gerard Chiusano, Plainfield, NJ

Presenter: Fr. Frank Coady, Manhattan

Coordinating Instructor: Fr. Bob Schremmer, Dodge City

2. Note that this information is on the diocesan website, salinadiocese.org. On the Home Page, click on Offices, then on Pastoral Ministry Formation. Registration can be done online at dcdiocese.org. From the Home Page, click on the left, "Pastoral Ministry Formation". Scroll all the way down to the bottom and click on "**To register for Pastoral Ministry Formation Courses, click here.**"
3. The Music and Liturgy Course is required for those working on a **Certificate in Liturgical Ministry**. More information on this certificate program is available at dcdiocese.org or on brochures available from Karen Taylor at the Chancery.
4. The "Theology of Church" course is required for those interested in being considered for diaconate formation.

OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE/NFP

2017 DIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE – SAVE THE DATE: With the start of the New Year, the Office of Family Life and NFP is excited to announce the speakers for the 2017 Men's Conference. Please post the included flyer in your Parish, and feel free to make copies and distribute to other organizations such as the Knights of Columbus or Parish Men's Groups. We would greatly appreciate if you would consider running a small blurb in your parish bulletin in the month of January announcing the date of the Conference.

Example:

Attention MEN! Mark your calendars now! The 2017 Diocesan Men's Conference is scheduled for Saturday August 12, 2017 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER DATES FOR 2016-2017

Feb. 10-12, 2017 - Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life-Victoria

Apr. 28-30, 2017 - Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life-Victoria

June 9-11, 2017 - Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life-Victoria

GOD'S PLAN FOR A JOY FILLED MARRIAGE SEMINAR DATES FOR 2016-2017

Dec. 3, 2016 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Concordia

Feb. 25, 2017 – Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Concordia

Apr. 1, 2017 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Concordia

June 17, 2017 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Concordia

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TOTUS TUUS (Summer 2017)

A large number of parishes have scheduled TOTUS TUUS for next summer. If you would like to have a team come to your parish please let us know as soon as possible.

June 3-9, 2017 1 opening

June 10-16, 2017 FULL

June 17-23, 2017 FULL

June 24-30, 2017 1 opening

July 8-14, 2017 FULL

July 15-21, 2017 2 opening

July 22-28, 2017 3 openings

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY SURVEY: Please have your Religious Education Coordinator and Youth Minister send their survey into the Office if they would like to be on the mailing list during the year. We want to make sure that the new people are on the list.

ACRE TESTS: ACRE testing materials are available through the Religious Education Office. Please email or call Karen Taylor to request and schedule a date.

OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

PRAYER AND ACTION: Russell will host Prayer and Action in June and Beloit will host Prayer and Action in July.

NCYC 2017: We have received some of the requested forms from the parishes that will participate in NCYC next November. If the youth from your parish are planning on going to Indianapolis for NCYC please make sure we have the name of the contact person who needs to get the mailings for this event. One mailing has already been sent to the contact people asking for number of rooms needed for their parish group.

OFFICE OF RESPECT LIFE

9 Days for Life [January 21-29, 2017] is the U.S. bishops' annual period of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person's life. While the overarching intention of the centerpiece novena is the end to abortion, each day focuses on a different aspect of respecting each other's God-given dignity. Download or sign up to receive the novena any of four ways: free mobile app, text message, email, or social media @ www.9daysforlife.com

March for Life

Four buses filled with 183 pilgrims from across the diocese will depart Salina on January 25th to attend the March for Life in Washington DC scheduled for January 27, 2017. Bishop Edward Weisenburger is currently scheduled to join the Salina pilgrims for the march. Buses depart Washington January 28th and are scheduled to arrive in Salina at about 4pm January 29th. Prayers and support are appreciated. There are no openings for additional pilgrims this year. Be thinking about next year.

Word of Life respect life petitions, bulletin briefs, and bulletin art for the month @ www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/word-of-life Simply click on the appropriate month and download. Also available in Spanish. These resources are from the USCCB and are free.

For updates, information, inspiration, and action items related to respect of all human life from conception to natural death, like the Salina Diocese Respect Life Office Facebook page @ www.facebook.com/officeofrespectlife

OFFICE OF MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

We ask that you immediately begin using the enclosed Templates for all PRE-NUPTIAL and DEFECT OF FORM requests. Please destroy the old copies of these forms and replace them with these revised ones.

If you choose to make your own copies, the suggested color for each form is outlined on the top insert. All of these forms are available as a MICROSOFT WORD document and can be requested by e-mailing Sister Carolyn at carolyn.juenemann@salinadiocese.org . Copies are also available as usual in the metal cabinet in the mail room on 2nd floor of the chancery.

The Diocesan Handbook pages of these forms will be forthcoming within the next few months.

We appreciate your cooperation in changing to these revised Pre-Nuptial and Defect of Form request forms as well as the revised Preliminary Petition for Annulment form which was mailed a few months ago.

MISCELLANEOUS

Updates for the Diocesan Directory:

1. Parishes: Manhattan Rectory Phone # 320-5709 p.43 and p.73
2. Clergy: **Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt** email for Vocations-
vocations@saintxparish.org p.69
Fr. Steve Heina email: frheina@att.net p.70
Propagation of the Faith: propfaith@salinadiocese.org p.70
3. Parishes: St. Agnes Church Email stagneschurch256@gmail.com p.36

~ February 2017 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Catholic Schools Week	2 Groundhog Day Catholic Schools Week	3 Wichita- KCCSC Catholic Schools Week	4 Wichita-KCCSC ITV Class 8:30 am
5 Wichita-KCCSC Boy Scout Sunday World Day for Consecrated Life	6	7 Curia 1:30	8	9	10	11 ITV Class 8:30 am Engaged Encounter Weekend.-Victoria Belleville Conf.-6 pm w/St. Isidore & St. George at Belleville
12 Engaged Encounter Weekend.-Victoria Victoria Confirmation 10 am At St. Fidelis w/St. Ann & St. Boniface & St. Mary	13	14 St. Valentine's Day Priests Council	15	16	17	18 ITV Class 8:30 am Tipton Confirmation 6:00 pm, St. Boniface
19 Confirmation-Hays, St. Joseph, 10:30 am Confirmation-Manhattan, St. Thomas More, 5:30 pm	20 President's Day Teacher Renewal Day At TMP, Hays	21	22	23	24	25 ITV Class. 8:30 am
26 Mass of Thanksgiving- Sts.Philip & James, Phillipsburg 4:30 pm w/Parish dinner following	27	28				

MEN!

Save the Date!

Saturday August 12

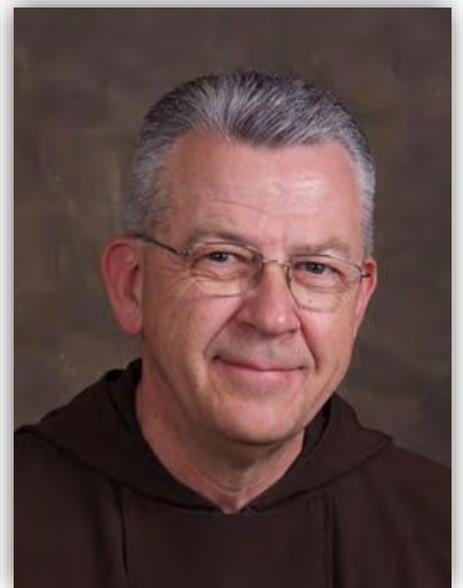
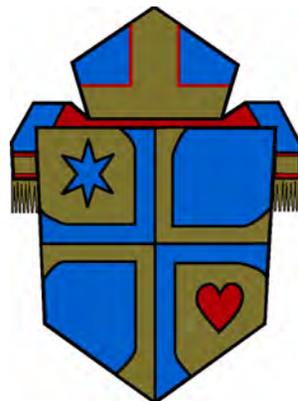
2017 Men's Conference

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Hays , Kansas



featuring



Dr. Ray Guarendi --- Fr. John Lager



Most Reverend Edward J. Weisenburger
Bishop of Salina
103 North Ninth Street
Salina, KS 67401

Dear Bishop Weisenburger:

We are writing to inform you that the Diocese of Salina is in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2015/2016 *Charter* audit period. We have reviewed this information and will be forwarding the documents to the Secretariat of Youth and Child Protection for use in the 2016 Audit Report.

Thank you for your cooperation and for participating in the data collection process.

Sincerely,

StoneBridge Business Partners

StoneBridge Business Partners
Rochester, New York

cc: Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

THE SHEPHERD

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."

~Jeremiah 3:15



Diocese of Salina Safe Environment Newsletter

January, 2017

Happy New Year!

As we put to a close this season of Christmas and embark on a new year, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for the work that you do in our Diocese, and share with you a letter the Bishop

received from Stone Bridge Business Partners this fall.

Dear Bishop Weisenburger: We are writing to inform you that the Diocese of Salina is in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2015/2016 Charter audit period. We have reviewed this information and will be forwarding the documents to the Secretariat of Youth and Child Protection for the use in the 2016 Audit Report. Thank you for your cooperation and for participating in the data collection process.

Sincerely,
Stone Bridge Business Partners
Rochester, New York

This letter represents a true commitment to the *Charter*, promise to protect and pledge to heal and we sincerely thank you for your ministry, as you faithfully implement the Safe Environment Program in your parishes and schools.

As a Community of Faith

As a Community of Faith, we are called to SERVE. As members of the church, Catholics are called to use their gifts in building up the Church and serving the broader community. We investigate ways in which God calls people to live and serve as Christians today.

Starting January 1, 2017, Corey Lyon will SERVE as the new Family Life Coordinator here at the Diocese. While taking on his new role, he will continue to serve as the Director of the Safety and Security Office and is also the Canon Lawyer in the Marriage Tribunal Office.

"My goal is to collaborate with all the offices in the Chancery, as the unifying element of each is FAMILY. The domestic church, the family, is the foundation of the Catholic World. If you don't have strong families, you don't have a strong a church ."



May this new year bring hope, joy and peace within our **families** as we continue to minister and SERVE God and the church.

Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline:

(Editorial Volume #)
785.825.0865

For the safety and the healing of children, the Diocese of Salina provides an Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline. Calls to this number will be answered by the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator.

Calls are confidential with the following exceptions:

- Any allegation of child abuse concerning those who currently are minors must be reported to the Kansas Protection Report Center
800.922.5330
as required by Kansas State Law and
Diocesan Policy:
- Any allegation of child abuse including sexual misconduct must be shared with the proper Diocesan authorities.

reportabuse@salinadiocese.org



Diocese of Salina
PO Box 980
Salina, KS 67402-0980

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is celebrated each church year on January 1st. There is no better way to begin the year than by honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary whose selfless life was devoted to her Son, Jesus.

As WE begin the new year, let us take a look at ourselves, families, parishes, schools and communities. How will we honor the mother of Jesus this year? As we begin many gatherings, let us do so through Prayer.

Let us pray for victims and survivors, and all who are involved in the work of Protecting God's Children. We pray to our Mother, and ask her to protect all children and vulnerable persons. Many of us are mothers and fathers who have their own children to watch and guide. They give tirelessly of themselves so others might have the opportunity to learn and live in safe environments. We remember those mothers and fathers, especially this New Year and ask God's blessings on their families. We remember that Mary's life was devoted to the good care and protection of her Son and to lead all to God the father. In this spirit we pray for her intercession to guide us throughout the year by propelling us to:

- Listen more to what our children have to say
- Be more mother and father and less friend to them
- Teach them gratitude by example
- Continue to learn
- Profess our values
- Spend more time with our children
- Impart good self-esteem to them
- Model honesty for them
- Be their greatest cheerleader
- Teach them about competition and fairness
- Be the chief witness to our children's lives
- Show care and concern about everything in their lives
- Celebrate moments
- Pray with them

Paul Ashton, Psy.D., Min.

May all of us join in union of prayer to bless all of the children and vulnerable people of the world. May we all have a blessed and Happy New Year!

Prayer for the Vulnerable

Gentle Mother of all Good Counsel, hear our prayers for those who are vulnerable and need your protection.

Guide their steps to persons and places that hold safe the love you have for your Son, Jesus.

We ask for your guidance and counsel to make good decisions as we seek to protect all of God's Children.

Never let us forget the important mission we have begun to protect all those whose voices are silent and unheard.

Dearest Mother, you know that our voices are small, but God's power working through us and with your intercession is all we need.

Amen



Remember...

All parishes are reminded to place the "Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline" announcement quarterly, in their Parish Bulletins.

Testimony of Compliance Forms were due January 1, 2017. Have you sent yours in?

Dates for on-site audits have been set for Parishes and Schools in the Western Vicariate (along with Manhattan and Junction City). Is your school/parish spreadsheet up to date and current?



Look for the next edition Of The Shepherd in April, 2017

OFFICE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

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**WE PROMISE TO PROTECT
AND PLEDGE TO HEAL**