



Ending the emptiness

By Karen Bonar
The Register

SALINA — After 48 days of Mass being offered via live-stream only, Bishop Jerry Vincke initiated a gradual re-opening of parishes on May 5.

“Thank you for your endurance and faith during these days,” Bishop Vincke wrote in a letter to the faithful, dated May 1. “Many of us have come to realize how much gathering as God’s family to hear his word and share the Eucharist really mean to us. Please know that we miss you. We all desire to be together again.”

While Mass may be resumed for the public, he acknowledged the implementation will likely be different in each parish.

“The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation remains in force until further notice,” Bishop Vincke said.

Please see **FATHER / Page 13**

Please see Bishop Vincke’s guidelines for Mass on p. 13



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Bishop Jerry Vincke stands in the middle of an empty Sacred Heart Cathedral on Good Friday, April 10, prior to the live-streamed Good Friday services. Churches throughout Kansas were empty from March 17 to May 5 due to stay-at-home orders.

St. Isidore Day featured online component this year

By Karen Bonar
The Register

SALINA — While only a dozen people attended at the annual St. Isidore Day on May 15 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina, the audience — and hopefully awareness — of the event reached beyond those in attendance.

“We’ve been planning on working around the pandemic since March,” said Art Befort, president of the Salina Diocese Rural Life Commission.

Instead of hosting the annual event in the western portion of the diocese, it was held at the cathedral, with a live-stream of the Mass available online.

“There’s another level we have access to when we have streaming

and other people can watch it,” he said.

In addition to the live-stream of the Mass and also the “blessing of the flock,” the commission invited priests from around the diocese to bless flocks and fields, and uploaded videos and photos to share on May 15, the feast of St. Isidore, the farmer.

“The benefit is we had more clergy involved this year,” Befort said. “I think there were some additional things we were able to do this year that we haven’t done before, and odds are we wouldn’t have done them otherwise.”

Extra efforts this year included a video from Father Damian Richards, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish

Please see **PRIESTS / Page 7**

Bishop Jerry Vincke blesses Josie, a horse belonging to Greg Brenneman, a farmer who lives in Solomon. The bishop blessed animals outside of Sacred Heart Cathedral on May 15 as part of the annual St. Isidore Day celebration



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Anniversary

Six priests celebrate milestones this year.

Page 8-9



Novena

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, patroness of the diocese, is June 19-27.

Page 15



FAITH magazine

Coming in June — watch for it in your mailbox.



Baptism during pandemic

By Karen Bonar
The Register

ELLIS — While the baptisms of Savannah and Marc Downing's older children included extended family and friends, the April 15 baptism of their youngest, Leah, was noticeably different.

"I think it will always be one that we will remember because of all the craziness that was going on at the time," Savannah Downing said.

Originally, the couple planned a late March baptism, but shortly before the scheduled date, Mass was closed to the public due to COVID-19.

"I called Father Dana (Clark) and asked if we should reschedule," Savannah said. "He left it up to me. I thought, 'Maybe in a

couple of weeks, things will be better.'

"After a few weeks, it was evident this wouldn't go away any time soon, so we decided to go ahead and have her baptized."

WITH LARGE EXTENDED families, sacramental celebrations are often big affairs for their family.

"For all of our other baptisms, we've had a lot of aunts, uncles, cousins and both sets of grandparents at the baptism," Savannah said. "It was just a small group — our immediate family and also Marc's parents, who stood in for the godparents. Her godparents live in Hays, but wanting to keep the gathering around 10 people, we decided to have Marc's parents stand in."

The Downings have four older children: Emma, 11;

Maggie, 9; Coleman, 7; and Charlotte, 2. For each of those baptisms, the sacrament was celebrated following a weekend Mass.

"There was no Mass going on, so we just picked a day during the week at 10 in the morning," Savannah said. "The kids wanted to know why we were going on a Wednesday, by the kids rolled with it, the way I think kids do."

Traditionally, the family and friends will go out for a meal or gather for a reception — including a cake — following the baptism. Absent friends and family, they opted to pass on the baptismal party.

"The one nice thing because this was immediate family only, it was more intimate and focused on the fact that the important thing, which was her being baptized," Savannah said.

BAPTISMS

Leah Mae Downing, daughter of Marc and Savannah Downing, was baptized on April 15, 2020, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

Luna Criley Gelino, daughter of Justin and Katrina (Kriley) Gelino, was baptized April 19, 2020, by Father Steve Heina at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Clifton.

Ezekiel Joseph Andrew Prediger, son of Patrick and Cassandra Prediger, was baptized May 2, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Theodore Thomas Rourke, son of Eric and McKaleigh (Short) Rourke, was baptized March 28, 2020, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Lydia Marie Schmeidler, daughter of Clayton and Rheta Schmeidler, was baptized on April 30, 2020, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

John Kyril Taddiken, son of Shawn and Nicolette (Begnoche) Taddiken, was baptized April 12, 2020, by Father Steve Heina at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Clifton.

Davina Faith Windhorst, daughter of Skyler and Julia (Carvajal) Windhorst, was baptized April 12, 2020, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Social MEDIA

for The Salina Diocese



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BISHOP'S CALENDAR

June 2020

- 2 Finance Council, 4 p.m., Salina
- 7 Confirmation, 8 a.m., Holy Ghost, Sharon Springs
Confirmation, 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph, Bird City
- 18 Catholic Charities, 6 p.m., Salina
- 24 Confirmation, 6:30 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual
Help, Concordia
- 27 Judy Kvasnicka, Mass for Consecrated Virginity, 10
a.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
Confirmation, 5 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Hays

JUNE PRAYER INTENTION

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

may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

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Milwaukee, WI 53215-1924
www.apostleshipofprayer.org

CATHOLICS CALLED TO ACTION

Catholics in the Diocese of Salina are being encouraged to stay better informed by signing up for the Kansas Catholic Conference email list. Go to KansasCatholic.org and click the link to get email updates. Also available via that link is an online tool for finding out who your State Senator or Representative might be and how to contact them.

The Kansas Catholic Conference's Chuck Weber is also hosting interactive online "zoom meetings" for groups of any size. Email request/questions to Chuck@KansasCatholic.org.

Diocese of Salina CFO

The Diocese of Salina is accepting resumes for the position of CFO.

The Chief Financial Officer directs and oversees all financial activities for a very busy organization.

Scope of work has oversight for 86 Catholic parishes, Catholic Charities, the Salina Chancery Finance Office and 15 schools covering 31 counties in Kansas. This role is responsible for monthly financial reporting, providing expert analysis of reports and data, audits, internal controls, asset management and advising the Bishop in financial matters.

Position Requirements

- BS Business Administration or Finance (MBA and/or CPA desired).
- Minimum of 10 years of accounting and finance experience, with at least 5 years in a leadership role.
- Expert level skills and experience in financial analysis and budgeting.
- Able to strike a balance between managing the day-to-day finance function and strategic planning and implementation. Healthcare contract experience preferred.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Experience/knowledge of Catholic organizations, non-profits, parish and clergy strongly preferred.

To request a full job description or to ask questions about this opportunity, please email Kim Hoelting, HR Director at kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org. EOE.

Salina Diocese summer programs canceled

By The Register

SALINA — Due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the Salina Diocese's summer youth programs, Totus Tuus and Prayer and Action, were canceled. The announcement was made May 6.

"Both of these youth pro-

grams have been transformative for our youth, parishes and communities for many years," Bishop Jerry Vincke wrote in a statement.

This summer would have been the 15th summer of Prayer and Action in the diocese.

"The decision was made

after considering feedback from parents, youth ministers, pastors, health officials, Chancery staff and government officials — both local and national," the bishop wrote.

The Salina Diocese Youth Office will issue full refunds to parishes and individuals who registered.

CSJ sisters cancel on-site events, makes distance options available

By The Register

CONCORDIA — The Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia has canceled the 2020 Theological Institute featuring Father Anthony Gittins, C.S.Sp. The 2021 Institute is still in planning stages and Father Gittins has been scheduled for the 2022

Institute.

Additionally, the May 27-31 Summer Quilting Marathon has been canceled. Many of the other events at Manna House of Prayer in Concordia will still be available as the COVID-19 situation changes.

The Discover Camp, orig-

inally scheduled for June 11-13 has been canceled.

Even with cancellations, distance learning will be offered for some events. Please follow Manna House of Prayer on Facebook, visit mannahouse.org or email retreatcenter@mannahouse.org for the latest updates on events.

Vatican workers sanitize St. Peter's Basilica

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — In preparation for the May 18 resumption of public liturgies in Italy and a morning Mass with Pope Francis at the tomb of St. John Paul II, Vatican workers cleaned and sanitized the inside of St. Peter's Basilica May 15.

Vatican workers also will sanitize the other basilicas in Rome: St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls, according to a communique from the Vatican press office.

An accompanying video showed workers wearing protective masks and clothing, cleaning and disinfecting the floors and various surfaces inside St. Peter's Basilica.

Andrea Arcangeli, vice director of the sanitation department for Vatican City State, told Vatican News in the video that they were using detergent on the floors and a bleach-based solution sprayed onto surfaces.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says evidence suggests COVID-19 may survive for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials, but that it can be easily inactivated by chemical disinfectants.

Arcangeli said they will be able to reduce the viral and bacterial load on the surfaces, but it will never reach "zero," which would require

the kind of sterilization practiced in operating rooms.

St. Peter's Basilica has been closed to tourists and visitors since March 10. The Vatican has held a number of private, livestreamed services from the basilica in the presence of a reduced number of faithful and a pool of photographers.

Pope Francis was scheduled to offer his morning Mass on May 18 at the tomb of St. John Paul II in the basilica in memory of the 100th anniversary of his birth. As of May 15, the Vatican had not given a date for when the basilica would be opened again to the public.

The process of sanitizing all of Rome's parish churches began May 13. Following a request from the Vicariate of Rome, the city of Rome has called on the Italian army and the city sanitation department to sanitize all of Rome's parish churches in preparation for the resumption of public liturgies May 18.

The army has 80 teams of hazardous-material specialists active throughout Italy in decontaminating and sanitizing needed areas, reported SIR, the news agency of the Italian bishops' conference. Nine of those teams will be dedicated to decontaminating all 337 of Rome's parish churches.

The army is disinfecting the outside area of each church and place of worship, while the parish priest

will have to request and indicate which areas inside the church they have permission to decontaminate, Brigadier General Giovanni Di Blasi told La Repubblica May 13.

"It is a wonderful example of institutional cooperation for the sake of getting the city back up and running and for the sake of all citizens," said Rome's mayor, Virginia Raggi, who attended the cleaning of the first church, St. John Bosco, in the southeast of the city.

The citywide cleaning came after the Italian bishops and government agreed May 7 on a protocol to allow the public to be present for liturgical celebrations starting May 18.

The protocol specifies the guidelines each church and the faithful will have to follow to help safeguard public health. The restrictions will include wearing facial masks inside the church, social distancing and asking people to not go to church if they are showing flu-like symptoms or know they have been in contact with someone who has recently tested positive for the coronavirus.

"All of us — priests, especially — will do everything to guarantee respect for the rules, to guarantee social distancing, safety measures, so that when celebrations begin, they can be done in an orderly fashion," Auxiliary Bishop Gianpiero Palmieri of Rome told La Repubblica.

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Our next issue is dated June 26.

Deadline for news is June 1.
Deadline for advertising is June 1.

Mailing label update

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Looking forward to the ‘tail wind’ the sacraments provide

SINCE JANUARY, I have been training for the Biking Across Kansas (BAK) event. As the weather is becoming warmer, I’ve shifted my training from an indoor “bike trainer” to the open road.

Even after the event was canceled, I still continue to train, because I enjoy getting out on the road — especially during the shelter at home period we recently experienced.

Father Steve Heina, who has participated several times in the BAK, handed out a few nuggets of wisdom to me as I embarked upon my training. One such tip was, “Whenever it’s a windy day, get out on the road and ride straight into the wind, because it seems like you never get a tail wind on the actual BAK.”

On a Sunday in March, I was putting this into practice, riding into a northwest wind on my way to the local



Karen Bonar

Register editor

zoo (which is about 10 miles west of Salina). The road is one I’ve traveled many times — albeit in a car.

Never before have I thought of the road as particularly hilly, but after about five miles of riding into the wind, realized I hadn’t yet passed my friend’s house. I glanced up, saw the rolling prairie ahead of me and the black trail of road that rose among those hills.

Immediately I thought, “I should turn back now, I’m not going to be able to make it up those hills in the wind.”

And then I looked down.

I looked at the pavement passing beneath me and

focused my gaze on the white line on the side of the road. “Just follow the white line,” I told myself. “Just look six feet ahead of you and keep your eye on that line.”

I continued at my steady pace, with my head bowed, leaning into the wind.

AS I CONTINUED TO PUSH mile after mile, I reflected that our current situation with the uncertainty of COVID-19 is a little bit like that ride. If we look up, we can feel overwhelmed by the uncertainty of it all and feel insecure about whether or not we will be able to continue to function in daily life.

As parents who find ourselves at home with young children, we wonder, “Will I be able to cobble my child’s education along until in-person classes with their teachers resume?”

As employees, we won-

der, “Will my employer begin to make cuts? Will I be one of them?”

As people of faith, we wonder, “Where is God in all of this mess?”

Yet there are no easy answers. All we can do is wait. Wait out the storm. Keep pedaling. Keep climbing the hill.

One thought that brought me consolation as I rode into the wind was, “The tail wind is going to be awesome on the way home! It’s going to be so much easier!” And it was.

On the way to the zoo, it took me nearly five minutes to ride a mile; on the way home, with the wind, it was about three-and-a-half minutes per mile. What a difference that extra push can make!

I think of this and continue to relate it to the spiritual life — as we were physically removed from the sacraments, it was like

pedaling straight into the wind, fighting our hardest to keep moving forward. The ever-present assistance of sacramental grace we are accustomed to was absent.

Yet slowly our parishes are beginning to re-open, observing essential social distancing practices. We are able to return to the Lord’s table and receive the Eucharist, which nourishes our souls.

As we continue to adjust as life unfolds, I look forward to the time when we can stand in line for Reconciliation without thinking, “Am I six feet away from the person in front of and behind me?”

Let’s all keep pressing forward, and I am eagerly looking forward to the day when we feel the full strength of the tail wind behind us.

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

In all things, charity (even pandemics)

YOU’VE PROBABLY had enough of advice from experts by now. The news is full of them. Your social media feed is full of them. And they’re all full of statistics and certainty about what you should be doing this week and next.

But please don’t tune me out. I’m here because I have no expertise in anything related to the pandemic. I’m writing because I’m suffering what you’re suffering.

Much of what I do has been affected by the virus. For a teacher, the day begins when you walk into a classroom. For much of this semester, the classrooms were empty. Likewise, for grandparents, fulfillment arrives when the grandchild is in your lap or in your arms — and lately we’ve seen our grandchildren only on screen.

I’m frustrated. I’m also full of opinions about how everything’s been handled.



Scott Hahn

Franciscan University of Steubenville

What’s more, I can show you the experts who share my opinions. If you disagree with me — as many people do — you’re probably just as passionate, and you probably have experts just as big, if not bigger.

Which brings me to the greatest source of sorrow in the pandemic. An occasion that should be uniting us is dividing us. We’re allowing our differences of opinion to drive us apart, even in the Church.

This is more than wrong. It’s evil.

I understand that we’re dealing with important matters here. When we talk about the disease, we’re

talking about bodily life and death. When we talk about the denial of the sacraments, we’re talking about spiritual life and death.

BUT THESE ARE ALL prudential matters. There is room for difference of opinion. We are free to believe what we wish. We can disagree and belong to the same family. The Catholic Church is spacious, and even canonized saints have differed sharply about important human matters.

What we must not do is have contempt for one another. What we must not do is allow resentment to enter our relations. These are the deadliest poisons on Earth, and they will kill love — in our homes, our parishes, our dioceses and beyond — if we allow them to get anywhere near us.

It’s OK for us to be disappointed, frustrated and

even angry. But the proving ground of our righteousness is not in the way we express these emotions to one another. It’s in the way we express them to God. If you’re angry, tell your anger first to God. Tell him at length. He can take it. Tell him all about it before you express it to anyone else — and when you do tell it to others, know that God is with you and listening.

As much as I’ve hated this forced inactivity, I have to admit that God is bringing much good out of it.

So many of our families have had their faith renewed in ways they hadn’t thought possible. We’ve watched Mass together and prayed a family rosary. We’ve shared meals together and played board games.

So many clergy have shown astonishing creativity in thinking up new ways to minister to their people.

They’ve had live-streamed Masses and socially-distanced Confessions. Our older priests learned new technology to make everything work.

We’ve also seen the Catholic internet explode with rich content — video, audio, podcasts, memes and texts. Some sites report that their traffic has increased more than a hundredfold. Indeed, much of that content is produced right here in our diocese.

“We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him (Rom 8:28).”

Be keen to show him your love — by loving his Church and his children, even when they disagree with you. Even if they’re wrong.

Scott Hahn is the Father Scanlan Professor of Biblical Theology and the New Evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and the founder and president of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

Unprecedented times

THE COVID-19 pandemic that honors no national, racial, political or religious boundaries is showing us that we are sisters and brothers to every human being born on this little planet. While it forces us to isolate, to practice physical distancing, the pandemic has become a strange unifier. We Catholics recognize that we are a world Church, a global community, but lately we have been celebrating “virtual Masses” and attempting to maintain “community” without communion.

Even on Easter Sunday, our holiest of feast days, we celebrated “at a distance” for the good of all. We are practicing a sort of sacramental “abstinence” with Catholics all over the world,



Sister Catherine Michaud

Register columnist

and searching for ways to be one while separated, to be the Body of Christ who does not gather.

Pondering our “unprecedented” situation, I began looking ahead at the readings for the Sunday liturgies through the month of May. To my surprise, I saw Jesus’ followers in the days immediately following his resurrection attempting, also, to cope with an unprecedented set of circumstances. Their leader had been executed as a criminal which did not reflect well on them; in fact,

they were being excluded from their traditional Jewish communities. Word was out that Jesus had risen from the dead — how could they explain this? They had no clear plan for their future; yet, they found themselves surrounded by growing numbers of individuals wanting to join them, many seeking baptism, others needing their care and calling them to magnanimity and heroic grace. Everyone expected of them a faith in Christ Jesus that they did not know they had — a faith that ultimately empowered them.

EVERY DAY SINCE THE coronavirus lockdown, I have heard one astonishing story after another about extraordinary acts of gen-

erosity and selflessness by ordinary people: The anonymous doctor in Spain who begged people to write letters to those isolated in hospitals, struggling and alone. The Sikh volunteers in Melbourne, Australia, who have delivered at least a thousand meals to individuals in self-isolation. The chefs in England, here in the U.S., and elsewhere around the world who are preparing millions of meals for vulnerable people during this crisis. The medical staffs, cleaning staffs, laboratory staffs in hospitals who risk their lives and the lives of their families every day to care for others. The workers in grocery stores everywhere who live with the threat of the coronavirus daily. The musicians who

create venues to try to spread messages of faith and hope in this dire time. The technicians who have gone to work to create disinfectants, ventilators, antiviral medications, etc. I think I have seen the mysterious multiplication of face masks and toilet paper — and yes, sometimes loaves and fishes!

As we participate in the Sunday liturgies, let’s allow the readings from the Acts of the Apostles and the First Letter of Peter draw us in week-by-week to show us our place among the Apostles and disciples in building the Body of Christ during threatening, unprecedented times.

Sister Catherine Michaud is a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Purified event rescheduled for Sept. 9 in Hays

By Karen Bonar
The Register

HAYS — The event, Purified, originally scheduled for March, has been rescheduled for Sept. 9 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1805 Vine St., Hays.

The event, which runs from 7 to 9 p.m., features what international speaker and author Jason Evert calls a “mini-retreat.”

Parents and teens are invited to an evening to discuss love, dating and relationships with Evert.

“We believe the parents

are the primary sex educators, but they need to be equipped with that task,” Evert said. “One thing I tell them is, ‘Your teen doesn’t need to be excited to go to a chastity talk in order to bring them. It’s my job to get them interested in the subject.’”

The event will include a talk by Evert, as well as Eucharistic adoration, praise and worship and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Evert said the event is one parents can bring youth ages 13 and older to, but leaves it up to a parent’s

discretion.

“Parents need to be empowered to have this message at home,” Evert said. “The ‘out of sight, out of mind’ mentality doesn’t work. Some kids will start asking questions sooner than parents expect. Every kid is different, which is why the parent is the best one to educate the kids, and we need to equip them effectively.”

Topics will include internet safety and accountability for mobile devices.

“It’s a nightmare to keep up with all of the technology, but with some clicks on

the computer, you can set up some things so you know what’s going on.”

“Very few teens want to go to a chastity talk,” Evert continued. “If they come kicking and screaming, that’s fine with me. Whatever it takes to get them there.”

Tickets purchased for the spring event will be honored for the Sept. 9 event.

To purchase tickets, go to chastity.com/purified/#tickets.

For parents who wish to discern if the content is appropriate for their children, Evert said they may

“We believe the parents are the primary sex educators, but they need to be equipped with that task.”

Jason Evert
Chastity speaker

preview some of the talk at chastity.com/video.

For more information, visit chastity.com/purified, call (785) 827-8746 or email familylife@salinadiocese.org.

FULL-TIME RELIGION INSTRUCTOR NEEDED

Sacred Heart Jr-Sr High School in Salina, KS is now accepting applications for a Religion Instructor for the 2020-2021 school year. Interested applicants are asked to send a letter of application and resume to:

John Krajicek, Principal
Sacred Heart Jr-Sr High School
234 East Cloud
Salina Kansas 67401
or email: john@sacredheartknights.org

Director of Faith Formation: St. John / Lawrence

St. John Parish in Lawrence, KS is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. This person would develop, articulate, and administer a vision and direction for parish faith formation programs. He/she would oversee all faith formation programs and evaluate their effectiveness; develop/implement ideas and programs that would be available for parishioners from womb to tomb. Ideal candidate will be a bilingual (English/Spanish) practicing Catholic who holds a degree in Catechesis or Theology and/or has equivalent work experience (2-4 yrs) relating to faith formation. This person would also have strong knowledge of Catholicism, intercultural competence in ministry, interpersonal skills, proven organizational and leadership skills and computer/technology competencies. See full job description and requirements at www.sjevangelist.com. This position is eligible for the Archdiocesan benefits package with start date of July 20, 2020. Send cover letter and resume to:

Fr. John: frjohn@saint-johns.net (subject line: DFF)
or
1229 Vermont Street,
Lawrence, KS 66044

First ceremony for consecrated virgin in diocese is June 27

By The Register

SALINA — On June 27, Judy Kvasnicka will become the first consecrated virgin in the Salina Diocese.

The event will take place at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral, and all are invited (while following appropriate social distancing guidelines in place at the time).

“Consecration does not involve a vow of obedience, but the Bishop does become my ‘spiritual father’ and in a



Judy Kvasnicka

special way I belong to the Diocese of Salina,” Kvasnicka said.

She said there are only about 250 consecrated virgins in the United States.

“This has been an interesting process for me,” Kvasnicka said.

While she was aware of the vocation for about a dozen

years, it was in 2018 when she began serious discernment. She approached Bishop Jerry Vincke and continued the formation process.

A Salina native, who grew up attending Sacred Heart Cathedral, she currently resides in Salina, where she is a parishioner of St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish.

Kvasnicka is a graduate of Salina Central High School and Benedictine College.

DEATHS

Daniel “Dan” H. Fraser, 80, of Concordia, died April 9, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 14 by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Burial was in Pleasant View Cemetery, Ames.

Clint Alan Froelich, 39, of Hays, died April 12, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 15 by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

John August Juene-mann, 80, of Oberlin, died March 21, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 24 by Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos at Sacred Heart Church in Oberlin. Burial was in Oberlin Cemetery.

Bernice Justyna, 94, of Concordia, died March 29, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 3 by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Burial was in St. Concordia Cemetery, Concordia.

Beverly June (Simmelink) Remus, 90, of Cawker City, died April 18, 2020. Funeral service was held April 24 by Father Daryl Olmstead at SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Cawker City.

Wayne Edward Windholz, 72, of Victoria, died April 11, 2020. Due to gathering restrictions relating to COVID-19, a private service was held by Carmelite Father Michael Elan at the Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary in Russell. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery in Gorham. A memorial Mass will be held at a later date.

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FAITH AND REASONS

Embracing, living a covenant life amid difficulty

Q Can we live the covenant with God, even in times like this?

A Yes, it is possible. I would be bold enough to say that now especially is the time for us to have hope — and the time for us to live according to God’s covenant.

What do we mean by covenant? It involves an agreement where something is expected from one party and something is expected from the other party. Since this involves God and since it involves a long series of covenants that we read about in the Bible, we are talking about something profoundly sacred.

What do we mean by hope? It is a gift from God which we cooperate with by our joyful anticipation of the redemption that God



Father Peter O'Donnell
Diocese of Salina

continues to unfold for us in our experience. Instead of operating out of fear, anguish, despair, or desperation, we encounter the risen Christ and operate from a standpoint of knowing who we are and how to best live out our mission.

Recently I’ve been reading my journal from 2008. By doing so, I’m reminded of some ways that God was working in my life back then. It was an exciting time of joyful anticipation as I prepared to be a parish priest. If you’re married, perhaps the months leading up to your wedding and the months leading up to the birth of a child were

moments of hope for you. Memories like that help us to connect with God, with one another and with God’s mission for us.

The Sacrament of Marriage is a covenant that is designed to witness the love of Christ and the Church in recognizable ways. For those called to this vocation, it’s your path to holiness, and it’s an opportunity for others to benefit as they see you live out the sacramental covenant that you get to participate in. Some days, it may feel more like “have to” rather than “get to.” Thank you for the sacrifices that you make on a daily basis to follow Jesus, to teach and to build up the Church.

WE WILL REMEMBER spring of 2020. We all have a version of a test of faith that we are dealing with. For some, it’s a lack of

social interaction — at least face-to-face in-person connections. For others, it may be seeing the same people every day — and being more irritable — and wondering how to best survive the ordeal. Behind all of that is a deep yearning, a desire for peace, adventure, something new, and a longing to rest in communion with God and with one another. The decisions you make today to love — this is your path towards living the covenant with God. By cooperating with God’s graces, we are continuing the mission of Jesus.

While we wait for peace, restoration and authentic rest in the Lord, we creatively ponder what the Lord is asking of us today. With childlike trust, we wonder when and how Jesus is going to bring about new life in our experience. We pray for ourselves

and for our parishes. Even though one of my parishes is the town of Hope, sometimes, even here, despair and discouragement can creep in. But once we dig deep and reconnect with the Lord, then the joyful anticipation emerges, “What will restoration look like today?” “How and when is the Lord going to bring light into the darkness?”

Yes, it is possible to live the covenant with God today. It’s not only possible, it’s an invitation to rise above our present circumstances and share in God’s vision for us and for those we love. It is worth giving all that we have in order to respond to God’s love for us.

Father Peter O'Donnell is pastor of Herington, Hope and Elmo. He is the Judicial Vicar and the Archivist for the Diocese of Salina. He received a license in canon law in 2017. E-mail questions to him at faithandreasons7@gmail.com or write him at P.O. Box 1038, Salina, KS 67402.

Vatican releases book of pope’s homilies, prayers for ‘difficult times’

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican published a free downloadable book of Pope Francis’ prayers and homilies responding to the trial and suffering of the coronavirus pandemic.

Titled “Strong in the Face of Tribulation,” the book also contains suggestions for Catholics who are unable to receive the sacraments due to restrictive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The book, which was released April 21, is available in English, Italian, Spanish and French and will be updated several times a week “with new homilies and

other interventions made by the pope,” said Andrea Torielli, editorial director of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication.

“This book is intended to be a little help offered to all, so as to know how to discern and experience God’s closeness and tenderness in pain, in suffering, in solitude and in fear,” Torielli wrote in the book’s introduction.

Due to the rapid spread of the coronavirus, he said, the world is “facing a state of affairs that until just a few weeks ago would have seemed unimaginable, like the premise of a science fiction film.”

“Thousands of people are gravely ill, thousands have

died,” he wrote. “Many families mourn their loved ones, to whom they were unable to stay close, to whom they were unable to say farewell, and who were cremated without the possibility of a funeral.”

Another sad reality in the time of the coronavirus is the solitude faced by thousands who, in their final moments, are unable to receive the sacraments or be surrounded by loved ones, but instead are accompanied by doctors and nurses who are “pushed to their limits.”

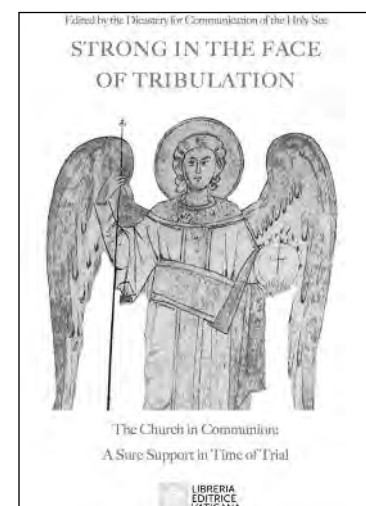
“We all owe a debt of gratitude to them, as they fight on the front line for people’s lives every day,” he wrote.

Tornielli said that civil servants, volunteers helping

the poor and the elderly, as well as priests and religious men and women “who share the sufferings of their people” also must be remembered.

For Catholics, he added, not participating in the liturgy or the sacraments, “aggravates this condition of uncertainty, discomfort and confusion.”

Nevertheless, Torielli said the Church’s invitation to “renew our faith in the risen Christ” has sparked creativity, especially among priests who, through the use of technology, “make themselves present in the life of their communities and families confined to their homes in semi-deserted cities.”



The Vatican published this free downloadable book of Pope Francis’ prayers and homilies.

Editor’s Note: The book in English can be downloaded at <https://www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/strong-in-tribulation.-20042020.pdf>

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Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Linda Struble greets Josie, a horse that was blessed as part of the annual St. Isidore Day Celebration on May 15 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. The annual celebration of farming was live-streamed from the cathedral, and photos and videos from around the diocese were shared on the diocesan Facebook page.

Priests celebrate by blessing fields around the diocese

From page 1

in Beloit, St. Mary Parish in Smith Center, St. Theresa Parish in Mankato, St. Mary Parish in Glasco and Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon. In the video, Father Richards explained the life of St. Isidore.

Additionally, Father Michael Leiker blessed fields in Colby, Father Antony Kulandaijesu, HGN, blessed flocks and fields near Wilson and Father David Micheal, HGN, blessed fields south of Esbon. All photos and videos were shared on [Facebook.com/SalinaDiocese](https://www.facebook.com/SalinaDiocese) on May 15.

“We didn’t have much for attendance, but have we learned a bit more about St. Isidore as a diocese? Yes,” Befort said. “In the end, were we effective? Who knows, but we’re pleased with what transpired.”

AS IN YEARS PAST, THE bishop offered Mass in celebration of the saint’s feast day.

“St. Isidore and his wife, Maria, wouldn’t pass the Hollywood litmus test,” Bishop Jerry Vincke said in his homily. “There wasn’t great thunder coming down. They simply walked with God.”

The couple worked their entire lives for one landowner, farming the fields.

“He was content with his life because they knew the love of God for them,” the bishop said. “They didn’t feel the need to grasp after things. They were simply content knowing that God was with them.”

Bishop Vincke said it is important to take the life of prayer as an example of how to begin all of life’s tasks.

The second noteworthy aspect of their life, he said, is their concern for the poor.

“Farmers do so much. I don’t think people realize what they go through to get crops out. I think they need blessings, especially this year. I want to support all the farmers who have lost so much during the pandemic.”

Linda Struble
Salina

“They didn’t have a whole lot, but they were always concerned about giving and helping those in need,” he said. “People would follow them home, and there Maria and Isidore would always provide a meal for them.”

Bishop Vincke referenced Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato si* (On care for our common home), published in 2015.

“Everything is connected: our relationship with God, our relationship with others and our relationship with the Earth, too,” he said. “It’s all connected. How we treat one affects how we treat the others as well.”

The bishop reflected on an early-May hail storm in the Salina area.

“A farmer told me a beautiful story. He went out to check on his cows in the hail storm, and the mother cows were lying down and the calves were all tucked underneath the cows,” Bishop Vincke said. “It’s a natural instinct for mothers to care for their child. Even cows show us the way.”

FOLLOWING MASS, THE bishop went to the east lawn of the cathedral to bless a dog (Sadie) and horse (Josie) owned by Greg Brenneman, from Solomon.



Courtesy photo

Father Michael Leiker blesses a field on the Koster’s farm near Colby on May 6 as Brett Koster holds the prayer book.



Linda Struble, a parishioner from Sacred Heart Cathedral was present for the events and greeted Josie the horse after she was blessed.

“We’re small crop farmers, and I love animals,” she said, adding this was her first time to attend St. Isidore Day.

She lives on an 80-acre farm west of Salina.

“Farmers do so much,” she said. “I don’t think people realize what they go through to get crops out. I think they need blessings, especially this year. I want to support all the farmers who have lost so much during the pandemic.”

Bishop Vincke said St. Isidore’s life is an example to be grateful for what one has.

“So often, even in my own life, I say, ‘If only this were to happen’ or, ‘If I were in a different spot’ or, ‘If this was taken care of...’” he said. “St. Isidore just did his daily duties with devotion and love.”

“They say, ‘Bloom wherever you’re planted.’ And also, bring holiness to the temporal world by loving God, loving others and loving God’s creation.”



Courtesy photo

Father Antony Kulandaijesu, HGN, blessed flocks and fields near Wilson.

Six priests celebrate anniversaries

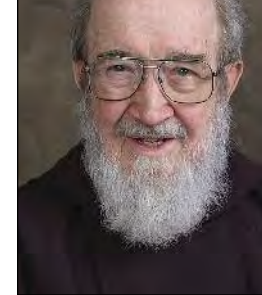
By Karen Bonar
The Register

SIX priests for the Salina Diocese will celebrate anniversaries this year. Celebrating 65 years of priesthood is Capuchin Father Felix Petrovsky. Celebrating 60 years of priesthood are Msgr. James Hake, Father James Hoover, Father Merlin Kieffer, Capuchin Father Earl Meyer and Capuchin Father Gilmery Tallman.

CAPUCHIN FATHER FELIX PETROVSKY

Celebrating 65 years as a priest is Father Petrovsky, who will turn 90 on May 23.

"I didn't plan to go 65 years (as a priest), but the Lord let me do it," he said with a laugh.



Capuchin Father Felix Petrovsky

He entered the seminary with the intention of becoming a diocesan priest in his native Pennsylvania, due to two uncles who were diocesan priests. Yet, his high school seminary was

run by the Capuchins.

"Most of the Capuchins I knew impressed me with their joy and happiness," Father Petrovsky said. "I thought, 'I want to be one of those.'"

Several years after being ordained a priest, he was assigned to St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays.

In all, he spent nearly 40 years serving Catholics in Ellis County at: St. Fidelis Parish in Victoria, St. Mary Parish in Ellis, St. Ann Parish in Walker, St. Joseph Parish in Hays, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Antonino, St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen and St. John's Nursing Home in Hays.

"Wherever I was at, I always found something good," he said. "Whatever assignment I had, that was my favorite at the time."

Father Petrovsky said he had intended to celebrate his anniversary with family, but due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, they won't be able to visit.

MSGR. JAMES HAKE

Celebrating 60 years as a priest is Msgr. Hake.

"As, I think, most priests would agree, the greatest joy of my priesthood over these years is that of having the great privilege of celebrating the Eucharist with and for the people," he said.



Msgr. James Hake undated file photo

"This, by far, is the greatest gift Christ has given us; and it's by far, also, the greatest privilege a priest can have, to be able



Register file photo / Courtesy photo
Capuchin Father Felix Petrovsky, right, celebrates his First Mass on June 12, 1955, in St. Mary Church in Ford City, Pa. "The deacon and sub-deacon were my two uncles, Bill and Ben Erkens, priests of the diocese of Pittsburgh," Father Petrovsky said.



Register file photo
Msgr. James Hake proclaims the Gospel on March 28, 1985, in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina



to share that gift with the people of God. This would also be true of the other Sacraments."

As a young boy, Msgr. Hake said he knew he wished to enter the priesthood. He attended high school and college seminary at Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo.

He spent several years in parish work before being named vice-chancellor of the diocese in 1964. Msgr. Hake served in many roles at the diocesan offices, including 27 years as chancellor and 26 years as vicar general. During those years, he worked with many clergy members.

"Among the greatest surprises of the priesthood for me is the deep sense of fraternity among the priests and also with the bishops I've been privileged to serve," he said. "I count it a great blessing not only to have been a pastor, but at the same time to have served in the Diocesan Offices over these many years."

Msgr. Hake has worked on the Marriage Tribunal since 1964.

"It continues to be a joy and great satisfaction to be of some help to people who are in need of healing because of difficulties in past marriages," he said.

Msgr. Hake retired from active parish ministry in 2012 and lives in Salina.

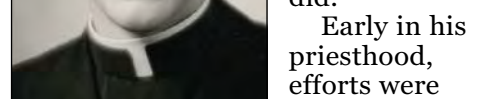


Register file photo
Father James Hoover, in an undated file photo. Father Hoover served as the Superintendent of Catholic Schools from 1971-80.

FATHER JAMES HOOVER

Also celebrating 60 years as a priest is Father James Hoover.

"I celebrated real big when I hit (my 25th anniversary)," he said. "I was one of these ones who pushed and burned the candle at both ends. I thought, 'Those guys don't live too long,' but I did."



undated file photo
Father James Hoover

Early in his priesthood, efforts were made for him to attend school to earn a Canon Law degree, but

something always came up to prevent those studies.

"I like Canon Law, but I didn't want to sit in the office all day long," Father Hoover said. "I wanted to be out among the people."

He said he was involved in schools for more than four decades. During that time, he taught at both the public and Catholic high schools in Beloit. From 1963-66, he led local efforts to establish the North Central Vocational Technical College, which



File photo courtesy of TMP
Capuchin Father Earl Meyer taught science, physics, chemistry and electronics at St. Joseph's Military Academy in Hays, which later became Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School. He taught at the schools from 1963-83, which included two years as vice president of the military academy.

is now called North Central College in Beloit.

"We can have kids turn out of high school in Beloit. If the kids don't go to college, they can go to the vo-tech school," he said. "When they graduate, they can be certified in a profession."

He also taught in the public school in Mankato, where he served as pastor of St. Theresa Parish.

In addition to being in the classroom, he served for nearly a decade as Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

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

He visited Catholic schools across the state of Kansas, as well as in Nebraska and Missouri in an effort to research the best options.

"I came home and spent a whole afternoon and whole night thinking and praying and thinking ... and I had the answer when I woke up that morning," Father Hoover said. "They were concerned the Chancery would take it over. It was so simple. I challenged every parish to run their own school. You have to raise the money, and you have to make it work."

The desire to be a priest was one he experienced at a young age. Father Hoover said he was 8 years old, working in the silo of his family's dairy farm. He was praying as he was assisted in filling the silo and eventually became stuck in the mounds of silage.

"It was starting to get up to my chest, but I wasn't worried," Father Hoover said. "God got me into this, he would get me out."

Eventually, when the grain was up to his chin, his older brother peered into the silo, saw the stuck child and pulled him out. The next day, Father Hoover said he told his parents of his desire to become a priest.

Initially unsure about his parent's reaction, Father Hoover said he sat to

talk with his father about the desire.

"(My father) said, 'You made me the happiest man in the whole Church today. I often prayed that one of my boys would be a priest,'" Father Hoover said. "He said, 'But I'm going to pay for it.' I told him, 'The diocese will pay for it,' but my father said, 'I owe God on this one. I will pay.'"

Being a priest for six decades is a milestone Father Hoover said he is surprised to reach. Yet the central theme of his priesthood is simple.

"We're in this to serve, not to take," he said. "The most gratifying thing — outside of church — was serving people. Serving them always."

He retired to Concordia in 2011, where he served as the chaplain of the Nazareth Motherhouse until 2019. He is currently the chaplain of Mt. Joseph Senior Village in Concordia.

FATHER MERLIN KIEFFER

Father Kieffer said he is "amazed I've been able to serve this long" about his six decades of priesthood.

His seminary experience began at St. Francis Seminary in Victoria, where he was part of the first graduating class in 1952.

"I've been in ministry since I was 26," he said. "I enjoy it. I had a lot of different assignments over the years. I

got through them all with the grace of God, and hopefully a graceful manner with people."

For nearly 20 of his 45 years of active priestly ministry, Father Kieffer was involved with education at

some level. Early in his priesthood, he taught at the Catholic high school in Concordia, then at Luckey High in Manhattan. For five years, from 1980-85, he served as the Superintendent of the Schools of the Salina Diocese.

Several years later, he was the pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit, with pastoral supervision over its K-12 Catholic school system. During his tenure, he initiated the annual school auction fundraiser.

While he had plenty of experience administrating education, Father Kieffer said he enjoyed his sabbatical in the late '80s. He spent the fall semester as a graduate student at Notre Dame in a special renewal program of theology, Scripture and spirituality for priests and religious. He spent the first part of 1989 in Ein Karim, Israel, studying Scripture, Biblical archeology and geography.

"I've enjoyed preaching the Gospel through the Scriptures, especially the New Testament," he said. "I enjoyed being in Israel because the Scriptures became more interesting through that experience, and I used that in my preaching."

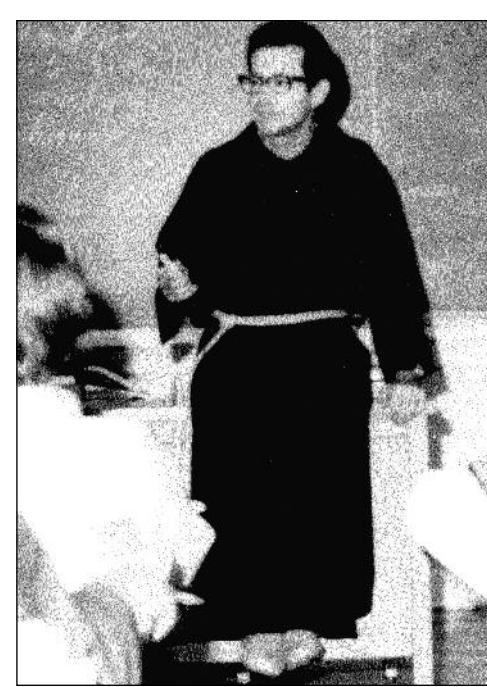
Father Kieffer said he has traveled to Israel five times.

In July of 2005, Father Kieffer retired from pastoral administration due to some health problems. He retired to Manhattan and began assisting in sacramental ministry at Seven Dolors Parish.

Shortly after his retirement, he made a pilgrimage to Lourdes, where he bathed in the waters.

"I was having some physical problems with my back and heart," he said. "I asked for three things: healing of my physical problems, to have the health to continue to minister for a lot of years, and that the problems I had would be mitigated. That was answered shortly after I got back."

Hospital ministry is one area he said has developed a deeper appreciation for over the years.



File photo courtesy of TMP
Capuchin Father Gilmery Tallman teaches in an undated file photo. He spent 20 years in Catholic education in Ellis County.

"Early in priesthood, it seemed like a chore I liked least," Father Kieffer said. "I never thought I would enjoy visiting the sick in the hospital, but I enjoy it and miss it during COVID-19. I enjoy seeing and comforting and offering the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick."

CAPUCHIN FATHER EARL MEYER

Also celebrating 60 years of priesthood is Father Meyer, who was assigned to Ellis County to serve as a faculty member at St. Joseph Military Academy.

"After I finished my priesthood studies, I got a graduate degree in physics," he said. "We were staffing a number of schools, and I had a propensity to those kinds of studies."

He served as a director of student life, as well as vice president of St. Joseph, and later served as a faculty member when Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School was formed. He taught science, physics, chemistry and electronics.

"I always enjoyed teaching," Father Meyer said. "I enjoyed the faculty. They were good Catholic men and women who were examples to the students. I made friends for life there."

In addition to teaching duties, he was assigned to Our Lady Help of Christian Parish in Antonino and St. Francis Parish in Munjor.

"I'm happy that happened, it got me into working in parishes, and not just teaching," Father Meyer said. "It kept me fully in the priesthood. That was a very happy experience for me."

He would later serve as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Hays, and has worked in various roles at St. Fidelis Parish in Victoria. In all, he has served for 38 years in Ellis County.

The fraternity of priesthood is something Father Meyer said he enjoys, and it is not limited to his Capuchin brothers.

"The diocesan priests have been very good to work with and very cooperative," he said. "I'm very impressed with them and their camaraderie with us religious order priests."

CAPUCHIN FATHER GILMARY TALLMAN

A Hays native, Father Tallman entered the high school seminary in Victoria.

"I always wanted to be religious," he said. "It could have been the Carmelites or Trappists, but I was from a Capuchin parish in Hays, and I always knew them. Most of us knew the friars very well. They would come to the classrooms of the schools we were at. We got to know them very well and saw that they were very faithful to their vocation — that's what they lived for. They were always very kind to everybody, especially us kids."

Father Tallman entered the seminary with his twin brother, who eventually discerned out of a religious vocation.

After he was ordained, he spent a few years on the east coast before returning to his native Ellis County to serve. In all, he spent about 38 years at St. Francis Seminary in Victoria, St. Joseph Military Academy and Thomas More Prep in Hays, St. Fidelis Parish in Victoria, St. Ann Parish in Walker, St. Boniface Parish in Vincent, Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer and St. Joseph Parish in Hays.

"It was not unusual to stay close to home, but I did not expect to stay there," he said. "You go wherever you're transferred. I always thought I'd be sent to Puerto Rico, but I never did go down there. I would have liked to see what Puerto Rico was like and be a missionary."

Over his six decades as a priest, he said he moved more than a dozen times.

"It was very hard for me to leave my assignment, but once you get to the new place, you don't mind at all," he said.

Father Tallman spent about 20 years in Catholic education in Ellis County, serving at both St. Joseph Military Academy and Thomas More Prep in Hays.

"All in all, teaching was what I liked to do more than anything," he said.

With a master's degree in English, he taught English language and literature classes.

"When you teach, every class is different and every student is different," Father Tallman said.

While he served at St. Joseph, and later TMP, Father Tallman was the vice president, academic dean and president.

AROUND THE DIOCESE: CLASS OF 2020

Catholic high schools honor graduates

**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
BELOIT**

Brandon Bates
Landon Eilert
Emily Eilert
Lyddia Eilert
Braden Dameron
Jacob Gengler
Sarah Gunderson
Brady Palen
Bren Peters
Caitlin Strong
Jadyn Rosebaugh
Benjamin Walter
Elizabeth Witt

**THOMAS MORE PREP/MARIAN
HIGH SCHOOL
HAYS**

Ethan Wendell Lee Atherton
Ethan Paul Brummer
Hailey Elizabeth Casey
Kallyn Ila DeWitt
Tanner Lynn Diehl
Tyson Mark Dinkel
Colby James Dreiling
MaryKathryn Frances Dwyer
Noah Bleu Flynn
Braden Lucas Fry
Noah Daniel Gibson
Wyatt Victor Graff
Katie Maureen Hale
Abigail Leigh Heimerman
Carson Andrew Jacobs
Brandon Paul Karlin
Lucas Benjamin Kraus
Brady Thomas Kreutzer
Aylin Esmeralda Olivas
Traven Justus Parrott

Abigail Kathleen Peeler
Weston Joseph Pfeifer
Ruth Juanita Pina
Preston Jay Renz
Ryan Tyler Richmeier
Adell Dionne Riedel
Blayne Nolan Riedel
Mason William Robbins
Madison Elizabeth Rohr
Jenna Ann Romme
Bryson Elliott Rupp
Margaret Marie Speno
Haleigh Jorja Spray
Connor William Staab
Nathan Levi Stark
Ryan Blake Stoecklein
Colton Andrew Viegra
John Paul Wasinger
Ethan Joseph Werth
Lane Westin Werth
Travis Andrew Wierman

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SCHOOL
JUNCTION CITY**

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Youngmin Jeon
Audrey Lichtensteiger
Nara Moon
Griffin Powers

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SALINA**

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Chloey Ray Bohm
Ethan Lewis Buckner
Citlaly Delay Campa
Kaiden Nicholas Carter

Camden Charles Chapin
Ally Brianne Cochran
Sydney Alexandra Everett
Isaiah David Faerber
Hannah Marie Goetz
Tate Matthew Herrenbruck
Nathan Ryan Ivey
Blaise Alexander Kaiser
Grace Elizabeth Martin
Alyssa Gabriella Maya
Isaac Lee Motes
Bryan James Nouanlasy
Amber Dawn Palen
Manuel Alfonso Panuco
Anna Elizabeth Pearson
Aidan William Pilcher
Landon James Power
Mark Allen Prendergast
Gabriela Rodriguez-Torres
Audrey Grace Smith
Jaylee Elizabeth Straub
Sadie Ann-Marie Van Riper
Rachel Lauren Weis
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BISHOP OFFERS REFLECTION FOR GRADUATES

Dear Graduates,

Peace be with you!
Congratulations on graduating from your high school. You are graduating during a very difficult time in our world, a time when many are afraid of the future and of death. I pray that you are not afraid. God has big plans for you, specific plans that he has given to you and no one else.



**Bishop Jerry
Vincke**

I want to share a story of a young person, much like yourself, who embraced life and death. His name is Matteo Farina. Matteo (Matthew) grew up in a Christian family in Italy with one sister, Erika.

Like many of you, Matteo was interested in many things such as music and sports. He fell in love with a high school friend, Serena. Later, he said this was the "most beautiful gift" the Lord could give him. Integrated with all his loves was also a deep faith.

During one Lent, he read the Gospel of Matthew. He also prayed the rosary every day. He

Please see ANYONE / Page 11



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Check out the diocesan Facebook page, or the "stories" on the Instagram feed.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Anyone can be a saint

From page 10

had a deep desire to bring others to the faith because he wanted to share the kingdom of heaven with them.

He once wrote about this desire, saying, "I hope to succeed in my mission to 'infiltrate' among young people, speaking to them about God. I observe those around me, to enter among them as silent as a virus and infect them with an incurable disease, love!"

COVID-19 has affected everyone in our world in some capacity. And yet, this virus will end someday. It will not last. What lasts forever, the most essential thing in our life, is what Matteo wanted to infect everyone with, the love of God for them. Just as viruses spread, Matteo wanted to spread the love of God to the world.

When he was around 13 years old, Matteo was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He experienced a lot of painful headaches. He called his situation "one of those adventures that change your life and that of others. It helps you to be stronger and to grow, above all in faith."

WHEN DIFFICULT TIMES happen in our lives, we can either run to God or run from God. Matteo chose to run to God.

Over the next six years, Matteo experienced several brain operations, chemotherapy and other treatments for the tumor. Despite this, he continued to live the life of an ordinary

teenager. He went to school, hung out with his friends, especially Serena, and even formed a band. His love for our Blessed Mother strengthened during this time and he consecrated himself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

He once reflected on friendship, saying, "I would like to feel more involved in the group, without having to renounce my Christian principles. It's difficult. Difficult but not impossible."

This is a battle that we all face. How do we stand up for the faith amidst friends and others who are opposed to our beliefs? Matteo often thought about the faith and the "difficulty of going against the current." He once wrote, "When you feel that you can't do it, when the world falls on you, when every choice is a critical decision, when every action is a failure ... and you would like to throw everything away, when intense work reduces you to the limit of strength ... take time to take care of your soul, love God with your whole being and reflect his love for others."

EVENTUALLY, MATTEO'S condition worsened and after a third surgery, he became paralyzed in his left arm and leg. He would often repeat that, "we must live every day as if it were the last, but not in the sadness of death, but rather in the joy of being ready to meet the Lord!"

Matteo died surrounded by his friends and family on April 24, 2009.

In early May, Pope Francis announced that Matteo is up for canonization as a saint. His life reminds us all that we, too, can be saints in life. Do not be afraid!

National shrine in Washington celebrates two 100-year milestones this year

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — On May 16, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington — the largest Catholic church in North America and one of the 10 largest churches in the world — marks the 100th anniversary of the blessing of the land on which it was built.

At 9:30 a.m. on May 16, 1920, Archbishop Giovanni Bonzano, apostolic delegate to the United States, celebrated Mass and blessed the site of the future national shrine. More than 6,000 people attended the event, including 1,500 Knights of Columbus and 500 Daughters of Isabella.

"In many ways, this was the first pilgrimage to the national shrine, as Catholic groups from across the country gathered to witness the event," says a history of the basilica on its website, www.nationalshrine.org.

The altar used at the Mass was used by the first

Catholic bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll, and dated to 1774.

Bishop Thomas Shahan, who seven years before had presented to Pope Pius X a plan to build a national church in honor of Mary in Washington, delivered the homily during this historic Mass. Father A.L. Gabert, professor of plain chant at The Catholic University of America, directed a choir of 487 voices that included members of the university's affiliated religious communities and 100 children from St. Vincent's Orphanage.

THE PLACING OF ITS first stone of the future national shrine — the foundation stone — took place Sept. 23, 1920. This significant event marked the beginning of the construction of the church. The Great Depression and World War II delayed its completion until 1959.

Since that time, the national shrine has always remained a work in progress with the continual additions of stained-glass windows, mosaics, statues,

dome work and chapels. More than 70 chapels and oratories — which are similar to chapels but do not have altars — are located throughout the shrine.

It was named a basilica in 1990, and on Dec. 8, 2017, the inner Trinity Dome Mosaic was dedicated, completing the last interior area in the Great Upper Church that had remained unadorned.

A celebration of the centennial of the placement of the foundation stone will begin with Mass Sept. 20. Washington Archbishop Wilton Gregory, chairman of the national shrine's board of trustees, is scheduled to be the principal celebrant and homilist.

This Mass will inaugurate a yearlong celebration that will include special Masses, concerts, pilgrimages, exhibits, and other events to commemorate this historic milestone of "America's Catholic Church."

Editor's Note: A timeline of the history of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception can be found online at <https://www.nationalshrine.org/history/#timeline>.

Concerts aim to foster hope, unity among faithful

By Catholic News Service

CHICAGO — Catholic Extension's online concert series aims to lift people's spirits during a time of struggle and uncertainty caused by the pandemic, while also promoting the vitality of the Catholic faith in the poor communities in U.S. mission dioceses supported by the Chicago-based organization.

Twice weekly, Catholic Extension hosts watch parties of livestreamed concerts on its website, [\[catholicextension.org\]\(http://catholicextension.org\), and its Facebook page from various artists across the country. These include a Christian rapper from Arkansas, Jaime Torres \("El Serio"\), Mariachi Nuevo Santander from South Texas, Jossie Santiago from Puerto Rico and many others.](http://catholicexten</p>
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CATHOLIC EXTENSION launched "Songs in Solidarity" March 31 to support mission dioceses across the country who, already struggling for daily survival, have been thrown into further turmoil because of COVID-19.

The concert series invites those watching to join Catholic Extension in solidarity to support the communities from where the various artists hail. The money raised will be used to directly help mission dioceses that already operate on

limited budgets and have been adversely impacted by the complete loss of weekly collections due to church closures.

In a news release on the "Songs in Solidarity" series, Catholic Extension said it is seeking more artists to perform in the concerts and urged those interested to contact Veronica Avila at vavila@catholicextension.org for more information.

Catholic Extension, which has been supporting the work and ministries of U.S. mission dioceses since its founding in 1905. It raises and distributes funds to support these dioceses, many of which are rural (including the Salina Diocese), cover a large geographic area, and have limited personnel and pastoral resources.



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Beatifications for May, June postponed due to pandemic

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican announced that due to the coronavirus pandemic, several beatifications scheduled for May and June will be postponed, including the beatification of a mentor and friend of St. John Paul II.

In a statement released at the end of April, the Congregation for Saints' Causes said the beatifications also would be delayed in order to respect social distancing measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"Due to the ongoing pandemic situation and the necessary prudential measures that must be taken regarding religious ceremonies involving the presence of numerous faithful, at the request of the bishops concerned, the beatifications that had been set for the coming months are postponed," the statement said. New dates for the ceremonies have not been set.

Among the beatifications that were postponed was

that of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, who was primate of Poland from 1949 until his death from cancer in 1981. He was Poland's youngest bishop when he was installed as archbishop of Warsaw and Gniezno during communist rule.

IN 1953, SEVERAL months after he was made cardinal, he was placed under house arrest after he called on the Catholic Church in Poland to resist against the communist government. He was released three years later after the events of the Polish October revolution that ended Stalinism in the country.

Among his proteges was the future St. John Paul II. When then-Father Karol Wojtyła was appointed auxiliary bishop of Krakow, the cardinal presented him to a group of priests, saying "Habemus papam" ("We have a pope").

In a statement released April 28, Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz of Warsaw said that postponing Cardinal Wyszyński's beatification was necessary because "people's safety must always come first."

"In view of this, once the pandemic is over, we will

organize the beatification ceremony in Warsaw in a decent, solemn and modest way that takes the consequences of the pandemic into consideration," Cardinal Nycz said.

THE CONGREGATION FOR SAINTS' CAUSES ALSO ANNOUNCED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BEATIFICATIONS OF:

- **SISTER MARIA RIPAMONTI**, also known as Sister Lucia of the Immaculate. Born in Italy in 1909, she was a member of the Handmaids of Charity. She died in 1954 and was to be beatified May 9.

- **MARIA VELOTTI**, founder of the Adoration Sisters of the Holy Cross. She was born in 1826 and died in 1886 in Casoria, Italy. She was to be beatified May 16.

- **FATHER CAYETANO GIMENEZ MARTIN** and 15 companions killed in 1936 during the Spanish civil war, who were to be beatified May 23.

- **SANDRA SABATTINI**, a young Italian laywoman who was active in helping the poor with the Pope John XXIII Community. Born in 1961, she died in 1984 and was to be beatified June 14.

'Spiritual adoption' project aims to foster connection, hope amid virus

By Catholic News Service

BOSTON — The Daughters of St. Paul have launched a "spiritual adoption" project as part of their #SpiritualCommunion online response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Spiritual adoption is a specific effort within #SpiritualCommunion for those on the front lines to be spiritually supported," the Boston-based religious congregation said in an April 22 news release. "Spiritual adoption also is designed to bring meaning, connection and hope to those feeling the effects of isolation in lockdown."

The release described the #SpiritualCommunion response overall as "an invitation sent out across the digital continent to reach and support the Catholic Church during the current pandemic."

The congregation's spiritual adoption project is aimed at COVID-19 patients, doctors, nurses and other first responders on the front lines as well as those in lockdown.

There are three aspects: It allows participants to become spiritually adopted, to have their loved ones become spiritually adopted or to become "spiritual adopters" themselves. All participants can sign up

online at www.tinyurl.com/SpirituallyAdopt. Then Daughters of St. Paul pair participants together and connect them virtually.

IN INITIAL TRIALS, EARLY participants in the spiritual adoption "have already begun sharing their gratitude, prayer intentions and inspirations to keep Christ at the center of their lives through the ongoing crisis response," the congregation said. To date, early participants have recorded overwhelmingly positive responses to spiritual adoption.

"The Daughters of St. Paul anticipate an increasing demand for Spiritual Adoption throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic," the news release noted.

Founded in 1915 in Italy, the religious congregation is part of the worldwide Pauline family, one of the 10 institutes founded by Blessed James Alberione, and operates in 50 countries around the world. Pauline Books & Media is an apostolic ministry of the Daughters of St. Paul and runs a dozen bookstores in locations in the United States and Canada.

Editor's Note: More about the Daughters of St. Paul can be found at <http://www.pauline.org>.

Traveling?

www.masstimes.org

lists Mass times and church locations nationwide and around the world.



Sacred Heart - Colby

PRINCIPAL

Sacred Heart Elementary School in Colby, Kansas is seeking to fill the position of Principal to begin July 1, 2020.

Qualifications:

Demonstrated commitment to the development of Christian spirit and a Catholic community of faith within the school environment. Master's degree in Education Administration and supervision with experience in administration and teaching. Active member of the Catholic Church.

Preference given to candidates who have ability to communicate and work collaboratively with and excellent staff. Competitive salary and benefits commensurate with credentials and experience.

Submit a letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference and university credentials to:

Fr. Richard Daise, 585 N. French Avenue, Colby, KS 67701

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Sacred Heart - Colby

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Sacred Heart Catholic School is seeking an Elementary teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

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Benefits include a single health insurance policy, leave for personal & illness.

View more information and fill out a professional application, please visit www.sacredheartcolby.com/school

Submit a resume, college transcripts, credentials, three letters of reference, current Kansas teaching license:

Principal Severson
wseverson@sacredheartcolby.com

Assistant Principal
Jessica Kannady
jkannady@sacredheartcolby.com

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Father Thielen: ‘Mass is meant for community’

From page 1

He reiterated the pandemic is not over.

“Ultimately, it is up to each individual to decide how much risk (s)he is willing to assume,” Bishop Vincke wrote. “If you are not comfortable yet being in a group of people, by all means, stay home. If you are healthy and wish to return to Mass and public prayer, we are in the process of re-opening both.”

While Mass may resume, and Communion will be distributed, the bishop said social distancing of six feet between individuals (who do not live in the same household) must be maintained upon entry/exit of church, in the pew and in line for Communion.

“Holy Communion should be received only in the hand until further notice,” Bishop Vincke wrote, and added there will be only one Communion line, and the Precious Blood will not be distributed.

Additionally, churches are to permit only one-third



Parishioners gather on May 9 for Mass at St. Joseph Parish in Oakley. “It’s nice to have people in the pews so they can respond,” Father Luke Thielen said. “The computer does not respond back.”

Courtesy photo by Anita Kuhlman

capacity for Mass. The bishop encouraged parishioners who have health concerns to continue to utilize online live-streaming Mass options.

“You are asked, in the most serious of terms, not to ‘church-hop,’” he wrote.

“If the parish in another location is offering services more to your liking than your own parish, please do not go to the other parish.”

AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH in Oakley, Father Luke Thielen resumed Mass May

5. “It’s nice to have people in the pews so they can respond,” he said. “The computer does not respond back. The Mass is meant for community, and so having it for an extended period of time without people is not

“You are asked, in the most serious of terms, not to ‘church-hop.’ If the parish in another location is offering services more to your liking than your own parish, please do not go to the other parish.”

Bishop Jerry Vincke

what I was ordained as a diocesan priest for.

“It’s good to have people back, to be with people, even if it is a six-foot bubble.”

The decision to re-open Mass in his community was made after an online meeting with the parish council.

“We’re in uncharted waters, so we’re running on the fly,” Father Thielen said. “Another interesting thing

Please see PARISHIONERS / Page 14

GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING PARISHES

From Bishop Jerry Vincke, May 1:

- The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation remains in force until further notice. If possible, consider attending a weekday Mass so as to keep the numbers coming to Sunday Mass manageable.
 - Those with compromised health, underlying medical conditions or experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend Mass.
 - If you are unable to attend Mass, please avail yourself to any of the live-stream Masses that are available online.
 - Social distancing of 6 feet between individuals must be maintained upon entry/exit of church; when seated in the pew (families may sit together); in the Communion line.
 - If you choose to attend Mass, please adhere to the following precautions:
 - Holy Communion should be received only in the hand until further notice.
 - There will only be one line to receive Holy Communion.
 - At this time, we will not be distributing the Precious Blood.
 - Please sanitize your hands before coming to church.
 - You are strongly encouraged to wear a cloth mask during Mass.
 - Churches will be limited to one-third of their capacity for Mass.
 - Communion to the homebound is still suspended until further notice.
 - Weddings, Baptisms and funeral Masses may be celebrated as long as social distancing requirements are met.
 - Masses for First Holy Communion and Confirmation have been postponed, as have liturgies to receive the RCIA Catechumens and Candidates into the Church. As long as social distancing can be observed, these Masses can be re-scheduled.
 - Gatherings and events such as Bible studies, adult education, coffee and doughnuts, etc., remain suspended until further notice.
 - Parishes where Eucharistic Adoration is practiced may resume provided social distancing is maintained.
- We ask that the faithful please understand that these guidelines cannot be uniformly applied throughout the diocese. Some counties and locales have had numerous COVID-19 cases, others have had few or none. Counties may continue to place restrictions on gatherings. The determining factor is population density. All of our church buildings are as different as the congregations who fill them. Please be patient and understanding if you hear that one parish is doing one thing and another parish is not doing the exact same thing.**
- Additional information will be posted on the diocesan website as it becomes available: salinadiocese.org.**

Parishioners slowly easing into attending public Mass

From page 13

here is the other local churches are kind of going off what we're doing — they have been following the guidelines (from the diocese)."

For the weekday Masses, he said about three dozen have been attending.

"Those people were very respectful of not coming on the weekend like we asked," Father Thielen said, adding the original intention was to leave more room at the weekend Masses for those who work during the week.

Weekend Masses have not been over-crowded, so he will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments he feels are necessary.

"It's easier to loosen restrictions rather than make it tighter once again," Father Thielen said. "That's what we're going to do here."

IN FAR NORTHWEST Kansas, in Rawlins County, parishioners at the rural

parish of St. John Nepomucene were excited for Mass to resume.

"We are small enough that social distancing was easy, and of course there were many older parishioners who chose not to come that night," said parishioner Jolene Reeh. "The hard part was not standing around and visiting outside after Mass. We were told to get in our cars and go home. We called many people when we got home and apologized for not stopping to visit.

"We have talked about it since, and we all agree that even though we were physically together in the building, we were still missing out on a huge part of what makes us community."

Reeh said the parish is excited to celebrate First Communion for one of its second graders on May 23.

"There will no more waiting, but no pot luck celebration afterward," she added.

Father Joseph Asirvatham, HGN, is the pastor



Courtesy photo by Jolene Reeh

Parishioners gather May 9 at St. John Nepomucene Parish in rural Beardsley for Mass.

of the rural Beardsley parish, as well as St. Francis Parish in St. Francis and St. Joseph Parish in Bird City.

"We arranged systematically, sitting in the pews, how they would sit," he said. "We stick down tape where people could sit, then we blocked one pew for another to sit."

Families were welcome to sit together, and there were

designated seats for those households of only one or two.

"In St. Francis, we are sending letters to all of the houses that we are reopened," Father Asirvatham said. "We have enough space for people. We even arranged places for people to sit in the parish hall."

Numbers attending Mass

in-person are still low, he said.

"Some older people are attending weekday Masses, so those who are afraid of coming to a crowd," Father Asirvatham said. "I heard a lot of people are waiting a little more time before coming."

BECAUSE OF THE VAST geographic area the diocese covers, Bishop Vincke opted to let each pastor decide how and when to re-open Mass to the public. He acknowledged that some parishes will open more quickly, and others are delaying due to health concerns of the clergy, or because of elevated COVID-19 cases in the county where the parish resides.

"These guidelines are not perfect," Bishop Vincke wrote. "We are all in the middle of an experience that is new and disruptive to all of our lives. By mutual cooperation and the grace of almighty God, we will get through this."

As parishes reopen, mental and spiritual health care need attention

By James Ramos
Catholic News Service

HOUSTON — When parishioners begin returning to their churches as pandemic restrictions are gradually lifted, the buildings will look the same, but the environment might feel different because of new social-distancing measures.

For example, in Houston, a young adult woman who went to Sunday Mass the first weekend in May when her parish reopened for public Mass, said her initial excitement changed to anxiety and fear as she noticed others not following the parish's new guidelines for Mass attendance.

Her mind raced with distraction during the Mass even as she focused on the liturgy.

For her, despite the wearing of a mask and following every guideline, the uneasiness and concern may have been too much. Back home, she realized she was not sure if she would go back again the next weekend, especially after considering that the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese has still dispensed the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

"I really appreciated the measures the parish has taken to distance and sanitize, but the anxiety ... it was difficult to deal with," she said. "I may try daily Mass."

As churches reopen, favorite pews might now be blocked off, friendly faces might seem distant or unrecognizable behind masks, or those who remain at home might feel jealous of those who can attend Mass.

These experiences are "absolutely" normal, real and valid, according to Anabel Lucio Morales, a licensed community counselor at the Counseling and Behavioral Health Clinic at Catholic Charities in Galveston-Houston.

While she admitted other generations also have endured crises, this experience is "much more troubling" due to the constant news about it, which can increase anxiety.

"But we should not be governed by fear," she said. "We should use wisdom in making the best decisions for ourselves and family, and trust that God has not forsaken his people. We face a real danger, and we must adjust how we live life. But we should not live in fear

but rather in the peace that God gives us."

Parishioners need to remember these new measures are there for the health and best interest of everyone, she said.

"We are mind, body and soul" with the physical, emotional and spiritual sides that are all interconnected, she said. How we think is going to impact how we feel, she said. Negative or anxious thoughts will drive an anxious or nervous emotion.

As parishioners return to Mass, "we have a choice on how we are going to think about" new changes, Morales said. "When you get very strict or very rigid in your mentality, then that's going to set you up for being let down when

things change."

If the focus remains only on all the changes of how Mass will look, this will drive an anxious emotion or possibly a resentful emotion, she said, depending on how one views the measures advised by local officials.

While a more positive view of such changes may bring a different emotion, it might not make everyone happy. Still, it can "bring a little bit more ease and understanding to a changing situation," Morales added.

She also stressed there are "blessings that we can glean from this experience" and encouraged parishioners now to focus on what is right and not what is

wrong, which she said can be applied to any part of life: marriages, families, work and spiritual practices.

"If we only walk in thinking of all the things that we can't do the same way, then we're going to miss out on all the beautiful rituals that we still have the ability to practice," she said. "It's so important that our focus stays on the unchanging word of God, on his love, on the things that we still have so that we can stay connected with the body of Christ even if it means that it looks a little different."

Editor's Note: Find more resources, like videos about coping during the pandemic, are available online at <https://catholiccharities.org/our-services/strengthening-families/counseling>.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE



Courtesy photos

Along Vine Street in Hays, Holy Family Elementary School displays a message of encouragement, as part of the school's Race for Kindness. Typically, the school holds a spring fundraiser, The Race for Education, but due to the closure of schools for COVID-19, the school rebranded and took a new approach.

Race for Education takes new approach this year

By The Register

HAYS — The annual Holy Family Elementary Race for Education, originally scheduled for Friday, April 24, looked a bit different this year as the students moved to offsite education. Customarily, this operational fundraiser challenges students to run laps to earn pledges in support of the school. But with the onset of the COVID-19 virus, the school got creative.

Upon Gov. Laura Kelly's Executive Order 20-07, which closed Kansas schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year, the planning committee for the Race for Education pulled together and adapted the traditionally successful fundraiser from the Race for Education into the Race for Kindness.

Solicitations for the Race for Kindness fundraiser were sent to family and friends of Holy Family stu-

dents, both local and worldwide, to sponsor students performing acts of kindness for others.

"At a time when there are changes everyday due to COVID-19, we needed something that would work with social distancing," said Race for Education committee member Tina Herrman. "We ourselves needed a glimmer of hope. The kindness concept fits perfectly with our race motto of 'No matter where life's race takes you, faith takes you further,' and so we developed the idea."

Holy Family Elementary, located adjacent to Vine Street in Hays, has added the words "Hope" and "Kindness" to the fence alongside their property. Each student is challenged to add six designated acts of kindness to the fence written on colorful strips of paper. Once completed, the fence stands to represent more than 2,000 generous acts of kindness in a



Second-grader Kambryn Hamel sews masks for a Wichita nursing home on April 16 as part of the Race for Kindness.

world experiencing isolation both physically and emotionally. That is how kindness creates hope, as the message on the fence proclaims.

"The community has always shown support for our school, and now we have a great way to give back and support our community," Herrman said. "The students are spreading joy and kindness, especially



Students from Holy Family Elementary in Hays submitted their good deeds, which were woven into a message of hope.

now when we need God's light and hope."

The Holy Family Elementary Race for Education is a primary funding opportunity for Holy Family Elementary and the joint operating budget of Hays Catholic Schools, which includes Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School.

"I hope this may be a permanent improvement to our



Raeya Randa, a Kindergarten Prep student donates items to the blessing box at St. Nicholas of Myra Church on April 16.

annual Race for Education," said Holy Family Elementary Principal Rachel Wentling. "I had no idea how much our acts of kindness would evangelize our mission, that we are Christ to one another. It has been a blessing to watch it all unfold."

Race for Kindness initiative to Holy Family Elementary, 1800 Milner St., Hays, KS 67601. For more information or to support the effort, contact Wentling at rwentling@hfehays.org.



This image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is the original icon from when the first Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral was built in Concordia. Our Lady of Perpetual Help is the Principal Patroness of the Salina Diocese.

DIOCESAN NOVENA

JUNE 19-27

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke your powerful name, the protection of the living and the salvation of the dying. Purest Mary, let your name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, Blessed Lady, to rescue me whenever I call on you. In my temptations, in my needs, I will never cease to call on you, ever repeating your sacred name, Mary, Mary. What a consolation, what sweetness, what confidence fills my soul when I utter your sacred name or even only think of you! I thank the Lord for having given you so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. But I will not be content with merely uttering your name. Let my love for you prompt me ever to hail you Mother of Perpetual Help. Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me and grant me the favor I confidently ask of you.

(Follow this prayer with three Hail Mary's).

Your Help is Needed Now More Than Ever!

Because of generous donors like you, families throughout the Salina Diocese who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 health crisis have received boxes of food, hygiene items, diapers and financial assistance through Catholic Charities.

The Need is Great!

In just one week, Catholic Charities provided food for more than 8,500 meals, 231 bags of hygiene items and 74 boxes of diapers to families in our diocese. Hard working people, many who have never asked for help before, now find themselves without food and basic items like toilet paper and shampoo. Each day they are unable to work, edges their families closer to homelessness.

YOUR SUPPORT IS AN ANSWER TO THEIR PRAYERS!



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Dollar for Dollar, Your Donation to Catholic Charities will be matched up to

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