

Bishop Gerald Vincke presides over the Chrism Mass on the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

## Priests gather for Chrism Mass



Father Ryan McCandless leads the procession of clergy into Sacred Heart Cathedral.

BY KATIE GREENWOOD  
THE REGISTER

SALINA – On March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, the Chrism Mass, was celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral in downtown Salina.

The Chrism Mass is one of the most significant celebrations of the liturgical year. Clergy from every part of the diocese traveled to partake in the Mass.

There are three purposes to the Chrism Mass:

- It is the annual gathering of the whole diocesan Church around its bishop and arranged according to their respective ministries: lay faithful, deacons, priests, lectors, choir, cantors, etc. Due to COVID, only a limited number of lay faithful were able to attend the Chrism Mass this year.

- It is the time when the bishop blesses the holy oils – the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism – that will be used in all the parishes for the celebration of certain sacraments.

CHRISM, PAGE 7



Clergy renew the vows they made the day of their ordination to the priesthood.

### DISPENSATION ANNOUNCEMENT

BY THE REGISTER

Bishop Gerald Vincke has announced the dispensation from attending Mass will be lifted on Pentecost weekend,

which is May 22 to 23, in the Diocese of Salina.

The dispensation will still be in place for the elderly, those who are immune-compromised, those

who are sick, etc. Bishop Vincke is writing a pastoral letter on the importance of attending Sunday Mass.

This pastoral letter will be

distributed throughout the diocese.

You will also be able to listen to the pastoral letter on our website, [salinadiocese.org](http://salinadiocese.org).

#### OFFICIAL ORDERS

A decision is made about St. Anthony Church in St. Peter. Page 8



#### CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Customers cast an indelible mark on store volunteer. Page 11



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# A witness to the resurrection

Many years ago, I was at a conference that discussed St. Gianna Molla, the mother who willingly gave her life to preserve the life of her child. The speaker said something I will never forget, "Why would someone do something like that? Because she knew she would live with God forever."

Another inspiring story of someone who knew she would live forever with God is Blessed Chiara Corbella, a young wife and mother who died June 13, 2012. Her life is a beautiful testament to the resurrection to eternal life.

When Chiara was 18, she met her future husband, Enrico, at a youth pilgrimage. After much discernment, they married each other when she was 24 years old.

Soon thereafter, Chiara became pregnant with her first child, Maria. However, Maria was born, baptized and died 30 minutes later because her skull and organs did not develop properly.

Chiara conceived another baby, David. Despite finding out he too would die shortly after birth, she also chose to carry him to term. She began to witness and give pro-life talks about the blessings God gave them through those pregnancies.

"God gave us two special children, but He asked us to accompany them only until birth. He allowed us to hold them, baptize them and return them to the hands of the Father," Chiara said. "There was a peace and joy that was unlike anything else we had experienced. Thanks to Maria and David, we fell more in love with eternal life, and we stopped having fears about death."

Despite the suffering and setbacks, Chiara and Enrico did not close themselves to life. Shortly afterwards, they were pregnant with Francesco. During the fifth month of pregnancy, Chiara was diagnosed with cancer of the tongue. After much prayer, the couple decided to wait to begin the treatments until Francesco was born.

Following Francesco's birth, Chiara began intense treatments of radiation and chemotherapy.

The cancer became worse and spread throughout her body. The doctors did not offer much hope for a cure. Chiara remarked that, "Even if the Lord heals me, the greater miracle will have been that he helped my family and I live this trial in peace."

Chiara died at the age of 28. More than 1,000 people gathered in Rome for her funeral celebration, her "birth into heaven." The priest at her funeral said, "Don't ever say to Chiara's son that his mom died for him, but that she gave her life for him."

Chiara was a witness to the resurrection of Jesus. At her funeral, Enrico read a letter written by Chiara to her son before she died. The following is part of that letter:

*"Whatever you will do in life will have meaning only if you see it in light of eternal life. If you are truly loving, you will realize from it that nothing truly belongs to you, because everything is a gift. As St. Francis says, the opposite of love is possession. Your dad and I loved your sister and brother, Maria and David, as we love you, knowing though that you don't belong to us. And so, should everything be in life. Nothing you have is ever really yours because it is a gift that God gives you so that it may bear fruit."*

*"Don't ever get discouraged, my son. God never takes anything away from you. If he takes away, it is only because he wants to give you so much more. Thanks to Maria and David, we fell more in love with eternal life, and we stopped fearing death. You see, God took away, but he did it to give us a bigger and more open heart ready to welcome eternal life, even here in this life."*

*"Your dad and I married without anything, but we put God in the first place in our lives, believing in the love that he was asking of us in this big step in our lives. We were never disappointed."*

*"We know that you are special and that you have a great mission. The Lord has wanted you from eternity, and he will show you the way to follow if you just open your heart to him."*

*"Trust in him – it's worth it."*

*"Love, Mom and Dad"*

Blessed Chiara reminds us that God's love is stronger than death. This love was like a fire in her heart, and it spread to others. All of us are called to be a witness to the Resurrection, each in our own way, each in ways that God invites us to, spreading like a fire on the earth.

In Christ's service,

*+ Gerald L. Vincke*

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

**GERALD  
Vincke**  
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



## BISHOP'S CALENDAR

### May

- 1 St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration, 5 p.m., St. Joseph, Bird City
- 9 Tipton Catholic High School Graduation, 10 a.m., St. Boniface, Tipton
- 9 St. John Catholic High School Graduation, 1 p.m., St. John the Baptist, Beloit
- 11 Women Religious Appreciation Mass, 11 a.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
- 13 Memorial Mass for Mothers, 2 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia
- 14 St. Isidore Day, 10 a.m. Central time to 5 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Goodland
- 16 Sacred Heart High School Graduation, 3 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
- 17 St. John Eighth Grade Graduation, 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist, Hanover
- 22 Thomas More Prep-Marian High School Bachelorette Mass, 11 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays
- 22 Thomas More Prep-Marian High School Commencement, 2 p.m., Al Billinger Field House, Hays

## MAY PRAYER INTENTION

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

### Universal Intention

The world of finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

## PROMISE TO PROTECT



## PLEDGE TO HEAL

## COMPROMISO PARA SANAR

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

The victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Salina:  
Maria Cheney, LSCSW  
Contact her at 866-752-8855 #1067 or  
P.O. Box 2984, Salina KS 67402 or  
[reportabuse@salinadiocese.org](mailto:reportabuse@salinadiocese.org) or  
[www.reportandprotect.com](http://www.reportandprotect.com).

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

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service:  
800-276-1562 or  
[www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

Si has sido abusado o fuiste víctima de alguien que representa a la Iglesia Católica... Por favor confía en la posibilidad de esperanza, ayuda y sanación. Te alentamos a que te presentes y hables. Nuestra coordinadora de asistencia a las víctimas está disponible para ofrecer apoyo en tus necesidades, para ayudarte a presentar una queja formal de abuso ante las autoridades correspondientes y para hacer una cita personal con el obispo o su representante, si lo deseas.

El coordinador de asistencia a víctimas de la Diócesis de Salina:  
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[www.reportandprotect.com](http://www.reportandprotect.com).

Secretaría de Protección de Niños y Jóvenes,  
Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU.

Servicio de Denuncia de Abusos de Obispos Católicos:  
800-276-1562 o  
[www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

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# Celebrating one of God's great gifts

BY GINA LUEGER  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

*"I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love."*

This quote from Mother Teresa was one of my favorites before I had enough lived experience to truly grasp what she meant. But as I progress through my vocation of motherhood, it has gradually taken on a deeper significance.

As a stay at home mother, it is easy to focus on my "domestic church" and leave the work of evangelization to the professionals. I have often thought; "There will come a time when my kids are older that I will be available to evangelize, but now is not that time."

But it is in this very season, amid the messes, the homework, the sibling rivalries, the drama, the unending list of daily challenges that we are called to love until it hurts. Through every challenge we receive through parenting our children, there lies an opportunity to love more deeply, more perfectly, to love until it hurts. Yet through these moments of painful self-surrender, we grow in our capacity to love.

As couples welcome children into their family, love is multiplied. That love between spouses, between parents and children, and between brothers and sisters then serves as a witness to the very love of God. The intentional and sacrificial



COURTESY PHOTO

**At St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit, many are responding to building a culture of sacrificial love within their homes. Within the last calendar year, more than a dozen babies have been welcomed into the parish community. From left, Lucia Holdren, Judah Niewald, Dominic Knappert, Zelig Thomas, Jacinta Lueger, William Oberle, Mary Strathman, Bo Pruitt, Luke Ellenz, Gabriel Dlabal and Brendan Griffith. At bottom is Silas Lomax.**

witness of a God-centered family is perhaps the most profound means of evangelization we have.

When asked about being open to God's plan for life, here is what a few mothers had to say:

- "God slowly stretched our hearts by us saying 'yes' just one child at a time. Being part of our Catholic community, I have never felt alone or ostracized because of that decision." – Marci, mother of 8.
- "We've even been asked if we would consider birth control. God

spoke louder. He said, 'Trust in me with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding!' He has blessed us more than we could have imagined, and we are at peace." – Alex, mother of 1.

- "We feel so grateful to live in a community that respects the sanctity of life and recognizes the beauty in living in accordance with God's will." – Molly, mother of 3.

It matters not to God what season of motherhood you are in, how many children you have or how

"good" of a mother you are. Consider the words of G.K. Chesterton: "The most extraordinary thing in the world is an ordinary man and an ordinary woman and their ordinary children."

When we selflessly present our ordinary gifts to our great God, he blesses us beyond imagination until there is no more hurt, only more love.

*Gina Lueger is a wife and mother. She is a parishioner at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.*

## Manhattan church celebrates Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

BY KATIE GREENWOOD  
THE REGISTER

In 2020, the St. Joseph Eucharistic Adoration Chapel in Manhattan was set to celebrate a significant milestone – 25 years of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in the Manhattan community. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the special anniversary celebration was postponed and has yet to be rescheduled.

The history of the Chapel dates to Nov. 23, 1994. On that day, Father Larry Grennan, pastor of Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, received a letter from the Most Rev. George Fitzsimmons that granted permission to pursue Perpetual Adoration of the Holy Eucharist in the chapel of the Seven Dolors Parish Center. His letter stated, "This private devotion of Adoration of the blessed Sacrament can be a blessing for the individuals, as well as for the parish and the entire universal Church."

### PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

#### March 2020: 25th-year recipients

Phyllis Allerheiligen, Carolyn Anderson, Dale Anderson, Mildred Armstrong, Richard Bachamp, Tanya Bachamp, Coleen Beck, Joe Beck, Rhonda Briggs, Wanda Bruckerhoff, Richard Bryant, Sherry Butler, Kathy Buyle, Ken Buyle, Jolene Campbell, Tom Church, Mike Crubel, Rita Crubel, Diane Deaver, Tom Deaver, Beth Demel, Dennis Fair, Janet Finney, Carl Haag, Maggie Haag, Fred Hagen, Steve Haug, Bella Haynie, Judy Hedman, Diane Heerman, Mark Innes, Lucille Johnson, Dennis Jones, Vicki Kabriel, Ronald Katz, Mary Knapp, Maureen Konz, Linda Lake, Scott

Lake, Lee McDermott, Robert McDermott, Bob Morin, Dan Mulhern, Kathleen O'Neil, Lindy Rubash, Marla Schmidt, Sam Schmidt, Colleen Scroggin, Deb Shepek, Steve Shepek, Dan Strohmeier, Christine Tawney, John Thomason, Clay Umscheid, Esther Umscheid, Debbie Vilkanskas and Mary Wataha.

#### March 2021: 25th-year recipients

Mary Ann Fleming, Kent Hampton, Dolores Kemnitz, Tress Mitchem, Terry Mulhern, Jane Mullen, Toni Murphy, Chris Stephens, Delores Thomas and Maureen Wells.

The chapel began Perpetual Adoration on March 19, 1995. Since that time, Richard and Tanya Bachamp have been regular adorers.

"When the announcements started coming out on the opening of the Adoration Chapel, we decided it was something we would like to do," Tanya said. "We wanted it to be a sacrifice to make it meaningful, as well as fulfilling. From experience with being up at night with children and foster chil-

dren, we knew the world comes alive at 4 in the morning. While looking at the schedule, 3 a.m. on Tuesday morning was open. And that has been our Adoration hour for 26 years."

The 3 a.m. Adoration hour has been everything the couple could want.

"The morning hours are quiet and gentle," Tanya said. "The world is at peace for just a few hours and is a very peaceful time to spend with oneself, each other and God. We pray the Rosary

together and then quiet time, most of the time. Because we are the only ones in the Chapel, it also gives time to discuss things on our minds and sometimes take care of family problems on neutral ground with no one around."

Not only does the morning Adoration hour provide time for prayer and reflection, but so does the walk home.

"When we leave Adoration, it is always exciting what we will run into –

raccoons and rabbits running around, along with an occasional fox," Tanya said. "And, in the springtime, the birds are so noisy we cannot even talk to each other. We have encountered college boys playing laser tag – yes, at 4 a.m. We have seen the full moon, the red moon and comets soaring across the nighttime sky."

Tanya encourages others to consider making a holy hour.

"Our Adoration hour has been more fulfilling than we ever thought it would be," she said.

"It is a time to reflect in solitude and really figure out what one truly wants to do with their life. When we discover ourselves and grow in our faith, God is also listening and giving us answers, whether we realize it or not."

The Manhattan community would like to recognize and honor the adorers who are celebrating 25 years of perpetual Adoration in March 2020 and March 2021, respectively.



# Schools adapt to technology

BY MAKENNA ALLEN  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Just more than a year ago, the nation fell into a time of trial that affected individuals of all ages and backgrounds from across the country. Students of all educational levels were affected by the transition to remote learning that occurred almost overnight. The students of the Salina Diocese Catholic Schools were no exception in this scenario.

In fact, approximately 6,000 students in the 15 schools of the diocese saw their educational experience for the remainder of the semester altered in a way no one could have foreseen. When schools were required to move completely online in March 2020, the individual schools within the diocese had to act quickly. Due to the existing infrastructure within the system, educators in the area believed the transition would best be facilitated via platforms such as Google Classroom and Zoom.

Geoff Andrews, superintendent for the Salina Diocese Catholic Schools, suggested the change was a challenge for teachers who had to teach themselves the best manner of utilizing the platforms while continuing to educate students. However, the teachers were able to quickly adapt and learn from their experiences as well as those of their coworkers.

"Change is not easy, but teachers and students have persevered and keep picking up new skills along the way," Andrews said. "Teachers have been able to lean on each other for assistance throughout the pandemic."

Technology coordinator for Sacred Heart and St. Mary's Grade School, Bob D'Andrea, played a central role in assisting teachers. He worked throughout the pandemic to provide training for teachers learning how to record their lectures and create their Google Classroom accounts.

According to D'Andrea, many of the upper elementary grades and high school students had existing Google Classroom accounts. In fact, there was a surplus of Chromebooks available for grades seven and eight as the schools had already been working to institute a one-to-one ratio.

St. Mary's Grade School also found itself in a strong position to tackle education from home as it had recently been able to purchase an excess of HP Stream laptops at a discount. Thus, as the schools transitioned to virtual education, students were able to check out this form of technology to take home.

Yet another advantage the Salina schools had during this time came as a result of a change that began years ago.

**TECHNOLOGY, PAGE 5**

*"I am seeing more and more teachers giving more and more assignments through Google Classroom, which is fine. But I don't want to see that to the point of (losing) that personal contact, where the teacher actually walks up to the desk and puts a hand on the kid's shoulder and says, 'You're doing fine.'"*

**Bob D'Andrea**  
technology coordinator



## Something to truly celebrate this year

**C**ongratulations, graduates.

In most years, people view high school graduation as a stepping stone for what is next. Yes, there is celebration, cake, cards to open and family visiting, but all of you have your eyes set on the next goal you want to achieve.

Goals that might include attending college, joining the military or entering the workforce. Do not lose sight of those goals. However, take time for yourself and your classmates to reflect on what you have accomplished in the last 15 months.

You completely changed the way you received in-

struction. What you had known for 11 years of school totally shifted from the classroom to your bedroom — from desks to kitchen tables, couches and bean bags.

As a school administrator, it was the most challenging situation I have had to navigate in 15 years. I cannot fathom what it was like as a teenager. The Class of 2021 deserves a standing ovation.

When I think of what the Class of 2021 will take away from the pandemic, a few things come to mind:

1. The ability to adapt and overcome.
2. Flexibility in schedules and task.
3. Patience with each other and leaders.

However, the main contributing factors for success for the Class of 2021 is the presence of genuine relationships

in their daily lives. The above characteristics are great to possess, but what gets us through difficult times are the relationships we have with those around us.

During the pandemic, you

found ways to connect with each other to complete a project, level up in a video game, continue your Snapchat streak or to just check in with a friend.

My prayer for the Class of 2021 is you all grew closer in your relationship with Christ during this time. Were you able to build on the faith foundation your parents provided for you throughout the years? I am sure many of you are like me and spent more time in prayer than ever before — taking time daily to check in with God and listen to what he is telling us.

Wherever you go after graduation, please make it a

priority to find others who bring you closer to God and make you a better person. You are going to encounter a lot of different scenarios in the coming years. Surround yourself with great people and keep God at the center, and your life can be everything you imagined and more.

I challenge you to get involved in your local parish. Serving as a lector, Eucharistic minister, cantor, greeter and many other areas will bring you great joy.

Congratulations and best of luck.

*Geoff Andrews is superintendent of Catholic schools in the Salina Diocese.*

**GEOFF Andrews**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT





# Youth opportunities abound

By THE REGISTER

Every summer, the diocesan youth ministry office coordinates three different programs for young people to attend: Junior CYO Camp, Totus Tuus and Prayer and Action.

“Last year, we had to cancel our summer youth programs because of COVID,” said Sister Barbara Ellen Apaceller, director of youth ministry. “Because of that, I think many of our young people are so hungry to become involved in our programs and be together again.”

Elle Eilert, 2021 Prayer and Action team leader, encourages youth to take the plunge and sign up for a summer faith experience.

“Growing up, I was blessed with opportunities to attend everything in the diocese, from CYO Camp to NCYC,” Eilert said. “Through these programs, I was given unique opportunities to develop my faith, especially through the witness of others at Prayer and Action. I still remember praying with Megan Bates in the grotto before Mass in Hays, listening to Kade Megaffin’s talk on chastity in Concordia, seeing my sister Meg share about her faith as a team leader in Beloit, and so much more. Prayer and Action also enabled me to develop relationships with other dynamic youth, many friendships that I still treasure today. This summer, I have been invited to share the abundant life of

Christ with the youth and, in some way, accompany them to the Father’s house. There is no experience quite like Prayer and Action. I am overjoyed to be on the team this summer. If you’re considering signing up, take the leap of faith and give Christ an opportunity to work in your heart. I promise you won’t regret it.”

**Junior CYO Camp (May 29 to June 1)** – The theme for camp this year is “Know you are loved... have you been told lately?” The camp is hosted at the Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City. Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students are eligible to attend. The experience includes opportunities to attend Mass and receive

faith formation, along with activities such as canoeing, horseback riding, archery, swimming and more. Spots are limited to 160 individuals due to COVID-19 restrictions and are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact the Youth Ministry Office for more information.

**Totus Tuus** – A summer program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship. This year, the curriculum will focus on the Ten Commandments and the Joyful Mysteries. The diocese is sponsoring three teams (each team consists of two men and

two women). The Totus Tuus leaders will begin the summer in Wichita for a weeklong intensive training. Following, the teams will travel to a different parish each week, hosting a five-day catechetical program for grades first through 12. The grade-school session is hosted during the day. The middle and high school program is in the evenings. The week is filled with faith, fun and friendship. Contact your parish to register.

**Prayer and Action** – A low-cost, summer mission experience hosted at the local level that serves the people of the Salina Diocese. The Prayer and Action experience is facilitated by a team of six dynamic college students who are on fire for their faith. This year, Prayer and Action will be hosted in Oakley (one college week and three high-school weeks) and Beloit (three high-school weeks). Participants arrive Sunday evening and remain until Friday morning. They spend the mornings in service – painting, cleaning, doing yard work and performing other meaningful tasks for the poor, handicapped and elderly. The evenings are spent in fraternal faith formation, along with times of fun. Contact your local parish to register for Prayer and Action.

For more information on any of these programs, contact either your local parish or the Youth Ministry Office at (785) 827-8746 or email [barb.apaceller@salina-diocese.org](mailto:barb.apaceller@salina-diocese.org).



Pope Francis greets an Iraqi official on his visit to Iraq.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE VIA VATICAN MEDIA

## Pope Francis visits Iraq

By NABIH BULOS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BEIRUT – Pope Francis landed in Baghdad on a breezy Friday afternoon in March to begin an unprecedented visit to the land revered as the birthplace of the patriarch Abraham and the site of the Garden of Eden. But the Christian community waiting to greet Christendom’s most prominent figure was one exhausted by decades of conflict.

“Pope Francis did what he is encouraging all of us to do – to reach out to the forgotten and those who are suffering,” said Gerald Vincke, bishop of the Salina Diocese. “I am certain that his visit was a tremendous blessing to the Christians in Iraq as well as to all the people there. I pray that it has a lasting impact of peace for them.”

Whether as random victims of chaos or targets of organized sectarian violence, Iraqi Christians have suffered the same fates as many of their compatriots. But their numbers – whittled down by emigration from a high of 1.4 million before 2000 to a paltry 250,000 now – point to a community in danger of vanishing altogether.

POPE, PAGE 14

## TECHNOLOGY, FROM PAGE 4

According to D’Andrea, the schools had begun to gradually replace teachers’ desktop computers with laptops.

“That really paid off because now the teachers were able to take (their laptops) home,” D’Andrea said.

This alteration provided additional connectivity for teachers who had access to the technology necessary to connect with students virtually.

“A lot of people with a desktop don’t have cameras and microphones,” D’Andrea said. “They were all built into the laptops, so they were able to come in and take their laptops home.”

This infrastructure allowed educators to focus on ensuring technology was implemented correctly. D’Andrea created a variety of training videos through Zoom that were posted to Google Classroom through

YouTube.

Meanwhile, D’Andrea also worked to overcome another challenge facing members of the diocese. In fact, an issue for many teachers and students arose as they battled for an adequate WiFi connection. With all members of the family learning and working from home, access to sufficient bandwidth quickly became a necessity.

“The schools in the diocese have been able to stay pretty current with technology over the years, but not every household had WiFi, so that was a struggle,” Andrews said. “Bob D’Andrea worked with a company that provided WiFi to rural families. This was a huge help for families.”

Indeed, D’Andrea worked with Mobile Beacon, a nonprofit organization, to

provide hotspots to teachers in need of greater bandwidth. Overall, Mobile Beacon gave away 800 Chromebooks, laptops and hotspots throughout Kansas. As a part of the program, 25 Chromebooks were donated to each school within a 25 to 30 mile radius of Hays, Salina and Emporia.

Even as students have returned to in-person learning five days a week, Andrews emphasized the importance of implementing technology in the classroom.

“Since the start of the ‘20-’21 school year, schools have contributed to the increase in technology in the classroom,” Andrews said. “Interactive boards, cameras, microphones and Chromebooks are in each school, and teachers contin-

ue to learn new ways to incorporate technology in their classes.”

D’Andrea echoed that sentiment and added new use of technology provides new solutions for old issues.

“It has benefitted the students,” D’Andrea said. “It has given us some options for students that are going to be out long-term where the parents no longer have to go through the expense of a tutor, or we don’t have to hire people to go in after hours.”

Both Andrews and D’Andrea agree these innovations are a part of the diocese’s school system for good.

While D’Andrea endorsed the benefits provided to students through the use of Zoom and Google Classroom, he also suggested the virtual learning cannot completely replace face-to-face instruction.

“I am seeing more and more teachers giving more

and more assignments through Google Classroom, which is fine,” D’Andrea said. “But I don’t want to see that to the point of (losing) that personal contact, where the teacher actually walks up to the desk and puts a hand on the kid’s shoulder and says, ‘You’re doing fine.’”

Nevertheless, Andrews believes technological innovation within the diocese can be utilized in the future to enhance and personalize learning for each student. Furthermore, this form of technology will be essential to building on the strong foundation of community within the school system and beyond into the greater community.

“Technology has brought us closer together,” Andrews said. “The pandemic did not just impact one community. It has touched us all in one way or another and we have been there to support each other.”





# We witness by love

By KATIE GREENWOOD  
THE REGISTER

St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, "When you know how much God is in love with you, then you can only live your life radiating that love."

The way God loves man and man is called to love God is the love of agape. Agape is the highest form of love. It is a supernatural, unconditional, divine, self-giving love. In so many ways, man cannot fathom being loved in this way. But God loves every person in this way, and when a person learns of the radical and irrevocable love of God, lives are transformed.

One way love is shared

across our diocese is through education efforts. People learn of God's love by coming to know who God is.

The Salina Diocese provides many opportunities for people to come to know God's love more fully through education and formation efforts such as children, youth, adult and clergy education ministries. Additionally, the Salina Diocese expresses love through acts of service by supporting the cost of diocesan operations and giving to national collections. The Salina Diocese is financially committed to supporting these efforts by designating \$360,000 of the

appeal goal to education, \$180,000 to diocesan operations and \$30,000 to national collections.

A gift to the 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share is one way the faithful can witness by love. By your gift, we bear witness to love as the faithful within our diocese and around the world are educated and provided for.

To join in the mission of witnessing by love through a gift to the appeal, visit [join.salinadiocese.org](http://join.salinadiocese.org)

For more information, contact the Development Office at (785) 827-8746 or email [development@salina-diocese.org](mailto:development@salina-diocese.org).



# Farmers attend Rural Life event

By THE REGISTER

On March 13, members of the Rural Life Commission gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. The day started with a morning Mass with Bishop Vincke and was followed with a series of presentations and a small luncheon.

Farmers and ranchers from across the diocese gathered for fraternity and discussions on living out their faith through work. This year's seminar was a hybrid experience, available both in-person and online. In total, nearly 50 individuals participated in the event.

The mission of the RLC is to foster spirituality within the rural community.

"We cannot forget our spirituality," said Art Befort, RLC president. "Sometimes, we get wrapped up in all the things we need to do. If we take care of our spirituality first, the rest will follow."

RLC's hope is that when rural individuals are exhausted, short on cash, options, time or tempted to improve the bottom line at the expense of their land, livestock and reputation, the RLC can provide the necessary tools to inspire individuals to incorporate faith into their business and personal life.

The day's presenters included: Pastor Brad Roth of the West Zion Mennonite Church from Moundridge, Dr. Dan Thomson from Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Science, Dr. Janice Swanson from Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Stephanie Eckroat, the Ellis and Trego county coordinator.

In Pastor Roth's presentation, he emphasized and challenged the attendees to "be present and pray."

"At heart, our vocation consists of being present in love in our rural communities and praying in love for those communities," he said.

Bishop Vincke echoed this sentiment.

"I'm so thankful to the RLC for their efforts to be present to the rural families of our diocese," he said. "Through their programs, I've come to more fully appreciate what it means to be a farmer in western Kansas. I've learned the deep connection our farmers and our rural communities have with God's creation through their work and stewardship of the land and animals."

To learn more about upcoming RLC events, contact Art Befort at (785) 282-4732.



# Priests visit seminarians

By THE REGISTER

In March, co-vocations directors Father Joshua Werth and Father Andy Hammeke visited the seminarians at Conception Seminary College in Missouri and St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver.

At Conception, they spent time with Adam Zarybnicky and Trent Logan. Conception Seminary College is run by Benedictine monks, and its monastery is on the same campus. Since the monks live in close quarters and many of them are elderly, their COVID restrictions have been more intense.

The seminarians have had less freedom this year and have had to find creative ways to spend their downtime. During the visit, the vocation directors and seminarians prayed together, shared multiple meals and hung out in the evening. Father Joshua even attended a class.

At St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, Father Joshua and Father Andy spent time with seminarians Luke Friess, Jesse Ochs,

Kade Megaffin and Brady Hutchison. They have had lighter COVID restrictions at their school.



Werth



Hammeke

During the visit, Father Andy, Luke, Jesse and Brady teamed up against four other seminarians for a game of basketball. Kade would have played, but he was on retreat.

Thanks to Father Andy's non-existent defense and irrational confidence from beyond the arc, the Salina team dropped the first two games. However, Luke's cross-country stamina and Jesse's timely 3-pointers were too much for the opponent in the final two games, and the Salina guys walked out with their heads held high. They were able to go out for supper as a group the last night in Denver.

At both places, Father Joshua and Father Andy had the opportunity to meet with each seminarian individually and catch up on the latest regarding their formation and discernment. They hoped to be able to visit Deacon Brian McCaffrey at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana in April.

# Memorial Mass set for May 13 in Concordia

By THE REGISTER

A Memorial Mass for mothers who have lost children at any stage of life is taking place at 2 p.m. May 13 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia. Bishop Vincke will preside. A brief presentation and light reception will follow. The Mass is open to all, but the

primary focus will be on mothers.

"I like to connect this Mass to Mary," said Rick Binder, director of Family Life. "It was Mary who stood at the foot of the cross when her son died.

It was her heart that was pierced. Mary can relate to all mothers who have lost a child."

To register for the Memorial Mass, visit <https://salinadiocese.org/events/memorial-mass-for-mothers/>.



## REMINDER

Don't forget to attend the St. Isidore festivities May 14. The day begins at 10 a.m. Central time with opening prayer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland. For more information, visit <https://salinadiocese.org/office/rural-life/st-isidore-day/>.



DID YOU KNOW?

The word Chrism comes from the word Christ, which means “the anointed one.” Those who are baptized into Christ have become sharers in his priesthood, members of his body, conformed to his likeness.

There are three oils blessed at the Chrism Mass:

- The Oil of the Sick is used to anoint people who are seriously ill or dying.
- The Oil of Catechumens is a pre-baptismal oil. As its name suggests, it is used to anoint those who will soon be baptized, either in the same ceremony (usually infants) or earlier in the day (as with adults on Holy Saturday, some hours before the Easter Vigil).
- The Oil of Chrism is used for various post-baptismal anointings: after the baptism of infants, but in the same ceremony; in Confirmation; and in the ordination of priests and bishops.

The priests of the Salina Diocese all responded with “I am” as Bishop Vincke led them to renew their priestly commitment:

- Beloved sons, on the anniversary of that day when Christ our Lord conferred his priesthood on his Apostles and on us, are you resolved to renew, in the presence of God’s holy people, the promises you once made?
- Are you resolved to be more united with the Lord Jesus and more closely conformed to him, denying yourselves and confirming those promises about sacred duties towards Christ’s Church which, prompted by love of him, you willingly and joyfully pledged on the day of your priestly ordination?
- Are you resolved to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and the other liturgical rites and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching, following Christ the Head and Shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls?

To watch the 2021 Chrism Mass, visit: <https://salinadiocese.org/office/communications/media-library/>.



Father Fred Gatschet distributes communion to the Madre sisters.

MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

CHRISM, FROM PAGE 1

• It is a time for the gathering of the ordained. The Chrism Mass celebrates the institution of the priesthood by providing an opportunity for the priests to renew their priestly commitment.

In the homily, Bishop Vincke spent time reflecting on the three purposes of the Mass. But then, he addressed the clergy, specifically.

“It is fitting that we will renew our vows to the priesthood on the Feast of the Annunciation, the day of Mary’s fiat,” he said.

He recalled his time as a director of vocations. He was visiting a classroom and the students were sharing stories on the most influential priests in their lives – the priests who were heroes. One of the students got up and asked, “How can a priest be a hero if he doesn’t get the girl in the end?”

After the chuckles from the pews faded, Bishop Vincke continued.

“But we priests do get the girl. We have the Blessed Mother,” he said.

Bishop Vincke talked about the words that Our Lady of Guadalupe said to St. Juan Diego.

“Am I not here, your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the fountain of your joy? Are you not in the fold of my mantle, in the cradle of my arms?”

Bishop Vincke shared that the Blessed Mother promises to be there. From her



Father Vincent Thu Laing holds up the communion host before the words of consecration.

heart, she promises: “Wherever you go, I will go. You will never be alone.”

He invited the priests to turn to the Blessed Mother in times when they feel misunderstood, alone, confused or inadequate.

He reflected on two common themes from the life of the Blessed Mother – her awareness of God’s presence and her perpetual, uncompromised “yes” to God’s will. The priests were invited to imitate Mary’s example and turn to her often.

“We always have Mary,” Bishop Vincke said. “And

one day, we will die. But we will not be alone. We will be placed in our Blessed Mother’s

arms. It’s better than anything any hero could ever want.”



Bishop Vincke leads the clergy in prayer.



# Demolition of St. Anthony Church in St. Peter

April 8, 2021

To all who have a connection with St. Anthony Church, St. Peter, Kansas:

Several months after I arrived as the bishop of the Diocese of Salina, a woman told me that she was concerned about the statues and other religious articles at St. Anthony Church in St. Peter's. I had never heard of that church before.

St. Anthony's had been closed 20 years earlier.

Sometime later, I visited the church in the small town.

There were discussions on what to do with the church building and the interior.

After much prayer and discernment, on April 8, I issued a decree relegating St. Anthony Church in St. Peter to profane, but not sordid use. It is a formal decree required by Canon Law, and many are likely asking what does this mean? I am writing this letter as a less formal supplement to the official decree. "Profane use" is a term used by the Church to describe closed parish churches that will no longer be used as churches. It is also commonly referred to as a "decommissioning," "secularizing," and "desacralizing." By decree, the church loses its dedication or consecration as a sacred place. After the dedication or consecration has been removed, the building may be demolished or, if it is appropriate, used for other non-sacred purposes. However, they may not be used for "sordid" or unseemly purposes.

This is not a decision I or the diocese have taken lightly. Church buildings are sources of memories and anchors of faith in the lives of many of the faithful. In these buildings, we receive the Sacraments, marry our spouses, baptize our babies and pray for our beloved dead. While Christ's Church will survive until the end of time, no such promise exists for any given church building. After consulting with many people in the surrounding area of St. Peter, the clergy of the diocese, architects and contractors and the diocesan Finance Council, the decision had to be made to bring down the St. Anthony church building. Following are some of the reasons:

- The population in St. Peter and the surrounding area has been in steady decline for decades and shows no sign of reversing. St. Peter is not accessible by any road suitable for high traffic either paved or unpaved, so it is unlikely to see any future growth or rebirth.
- The former school building was sold and is now in a serious state of disrepair. We do not want to see the same thing happen to the church building.
- Little, if any, maintenance has been done to the church since it was merged with WaKeeney and Collyer more than two decades ago. It is steadily disintegrating.
- Doing some simple cosmetic repairs and repainting is not enough. To restore the church, which is what would be required were it to be saved, the following would be required to be done. None of this is optional or can be simply put off to the future:
  - o The roof and guttering need to be replaced.
  - o The ceiling on the inside of the church needs to be replaced due to water



## DECREE

(Prot. No. GV2021-002)

*In nomine Domini. Amen.*

### Relegation of St. Anthony Church in St. Peter, Kansas to profane, but not sordid use.

Whereas St. Anthony's Parish in St. Peter, KS was merged with Christ the King Parish in WaKeeney and St. Michael Parish in Collyer in 1999 due to changing demographics and fewer available priests;

Whereas the state of the St. Anthony church building in St. Peter has fallen into disarray, and its necessary restoration would be burdensome and unwise;

Whereas the population since 1999 in the area has not increased in a manner to justify restoration;

Whereas the parish leadership and former parishioners have requested the demolition of the church building as expressed in the October 15, 2020 letter by Fr. Charles Steier, who is pastor of the parishes which St. Anthony's merged with, which includes a summary of the background of consultation that has already occurred;

Whereas from prayerful study and consideration it has been determined that the St. Anthony Church building should no longer be used for divine worship;

Whereas I have prayerfully considered the alternative options, desires, concerns, and recommendations presented by the presbyteral council, interested parties, and other consultative bodies on this matter;

By this decree, in accordance with the prescriptions of canon 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, I hereby decree that St. Anthony Catholic Church in St. Peter, Kansas shall be relegated to profane, but not sordid use, and the contents of the church can be properly repurposed in such a manner that the intention of donors and other relevant considerations are upheld.

This present decree shall take effect immediately.

The disposition of the ongoing ownership of the property is to be determined after consultation with the pastor, the diocesan finance office, and in accordance with ecclesiastical and civil law.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Salina on this, the 8th day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one.



+ Gerald L. Vincke  
Most Reverend Gerald L. Vincke  
Bishop of Salina  
Corey Lyon, JCL  
Chancellor

103 N 9TH ST | SALINA, KS 67401 | 785-827-8746 | SALINADIOCESE.ORG

Peter and the surrounding area has been in steady decline for decades and shows no sign of reversing. St. Peter is not accessible by any road suitable for high traffic either paved or unpaved, so it is unlikely to see any future growth or rebirth.

• The former school building was sold and is now in a serious state of disrepair. We do not want to see the same thing happen to the church building.

• Little, if any, maintenance has been done to the church since it was merged with WaKeeney and Collyer more than two decades ago. It is steadily disintegrating.

• Doing some simple cosmetic repairs and repainting is not enough. To restore the church, which is what would be required were it to be saved, the following would be required to be done. None of this is optional or can be simply put off to the future:

- o The roof and guttering need to be replaced.
- o The ceiling on the inside of the church needs to be replaced due to water

damage. Black mold damage needs to be contained and cleaned.

o The boiler and all the related plumbing need to be replaced.

o The air conditioning needs to be replaced.

o The two small bathrooms need to be torn out and replaced with one large unisex bathroom that would comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

o The plumbing associated with the bathrooms needs to be replaced.

o The floor needs to be replaced with either new carpet or a new hard surface floor.

o All around the inside of the church, places where there has been water damage needs to be repaired.

o The wiring will at least need a serious inspection. The whole church may need to be re-wired.

o The interior of the church needs to be re-painted.

o While not strictly necessary, it would be nice to have the pews re-finished.

o The organ will need to

be repaired or replaced.

o There is black mold damage under the carpet and in the ceiling where water has leaked.

o Repair work is needed on the stained-glass windows where some have been broken. The large rose window could simply fall out at any time.

• The cost of all this work would be at least \$300,000. Assuming that sum could be raised, an additional \$1 million would need to be raised and prudently invested for the perpetual care of the building.

• Even if the \$1.3-plus million could be raised, there are serious moral questions about spending that kind of money on a building that will see such little use.

• Insurance will be expensive. Catholic Mutual will not insure buildings that are not in regular use. We would need to go to the open market and find an insurer who would insure the building for replacement cost of the building and contents. That would be expensive assuming we can even find an underwriter who would be interested

in insuring the building.

Some questions and answers:

1. Why can't the church be taken over by a private board who will assume the responsibility for restoring it and taking care of it?

While there might be some who want to see the St. Anthony Church building saved, there is no guarantee others will want to step forward and keep the project going when these people have passed. Such a board would be responsible for seeing to the mowing of the grass, cleaning of the interior, maintaining the plumbing, boiler, air conditioning, doing regular inspections of the building to keep ahead of needed maintenance, repairs, etc. Will there be interested people 25 or 50 years from now who will embrace these duties? Since that is unlikely, then a future group of people will be faced with the same decision that now confronts us.

2. Is the church building just going to be torn down with nothing to remember it by?

No. If there are funds remaining after demolition costs are paid, a memorial will be put either on the site or in the cemetery so future generations will know St. Anthony Church once served the town of St. Peter and the surrounding area.

3. What is going to happen to all the contents of the church?

The diocese will establish a list as to who will get first, second, third and so on pick of the contents. Some of the larger pieces such as the old high altar, the statues, hanging light fixtures, etc., will be warehoused so they can be re-purposed in future churches and church renovation projects. There will certainly be an opportunity for people who have an emotional attachment to the church to acquire an artifact or two by which to remember the church.

I hope this helps to explain what is being done and why. This decision is not going to please everyone, but given the circumstances we find ourselves facing, I feel it is the best that we can do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

+Gerald Vincke,  
Bishop of Salina



# The Eucharistic Miracle of Ferrara

THE REGISTER

One of the greatest mysteries of the Catholic faith is the Eucharist. However, in 2019, a Pew research study indicated 69% of Catholics do not believe in the True Presence of the Eucharist.

With permission from the Blessed Carlo Acutis Institute, The Register will run a series of authenticated and corroborated Eucharistic miracles that have occurred through the ages. The series was created by Blessed Carlo.

Born in 1991, Carlo grew up with a deep faith and devotion to the Eucharist. Additionally, he was an amateur computer programmer. One of his more well-known accomplishments is documenting Eucharistic miracles from around the world and



cataloging them onto a website (<http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/Liste/list.html>) he created before he died of leukemia.

**Eucharistic Miracle of Ferrara, Italy | 1171**  
On March 28, 1171, the prior of the Canons Regular Portuensi, Father Pietro da Verona, was celebrating Easter Mass with three confreres (Bono, Leonardo and Aimone). At the moment of the breaking of the

consecrated Host, it sprung forth a gush of blood that threw large drops on the small ceiling vault above the altar. Histories tell of the “holy terror of the celebrant and of the immense wonder of the people who crowded the tiny church.” There were many eyewitnesses who told of seeing the Host take on a bloody color and having seen in it the figure of a baby. Bishop Amato of Ferrara and Archbishop

Gherardo of Ravenna were immediately informed of the event. They witnessed with their own eyes the miracle, namely “the blood which we saw redden the altar ceiling vault.” The church immediately became a pilgrim destination and later was rebuilt and expanded on the orders of Duke Ercole d’Este beginning in 1495.

There are many sources regarding this miracle. Among the most important is the Bull of Pope Eugene IV (March 30, 1442), in which the pontiff mentions the miracle in reference to the testimonies of the faithful and ancient historical sources. The 1197 manuscript of Gerard Cambrense, conserved in Canterbury’s Lambeth Library, is the oldest document that mentions the

miracle. The miracle received recent attention in the “Gamma Ecclesiastica” (Budding of the Church) by historian Antonio Samaritano. Another document which dates March 6, 1404, is the Bull of Cardinal Migliorati, in which he grants indulgences to “those who visit the church and adore the Miraculous Blood.” Even today, on the 28th day of every month in the basilica, which is currently under the care of Saint Gaspare del Bufalo’s Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood, Eucharistic Adoration is celebrated in memory of the miracle. And every year, in preparation for the Feast of Corpus Christi, the solemn Forty Hours devotion is celebrated. The eighth century of the miracle was celebrated in 1971.

## Small beginnings, but big expectations of God

I grew up near a small town called Clara. It’s in Washington County. No one lives there anymore. The parish was closed two and a half months after I was ordained in 1973.

My parents were farmers. We had wheat, milo, corn, alfalfa, cattle and approximately 1,200 chickens. I milked the cow, so I got out of most of the chicken stuff. I am the oldest of eight, six boys and two girls, in that order. I did have a stillborn sister ahead of me. She’s buried in Cuba, Kan.

For first grade, I went to the one-room country schoolhouse at the Diamond Center. I liked it. It’s between the Clifton corner and Linn. I was there for one year. I remember we had a Christmas program, and I had to kiss a girl. But I got the mumps, so I didn’t have to. I’ve never been happier to be sick in my whole life.

For second grade, it was the same kids, but we moved to the Clara country school. Eventually, I moved up to Haddam rural grade school. There were approximately 23 to 25 kids in the class. At first, I was intimidated because I thought I’d be behind.

All the grades were in the same room, so the teacher would alternate her lessons between the grades. I don’t know what the other kids were doing, but I listened to all of the lessons. So, I learned a lot.

In high school, I participated in basketball, football and track. In football, I was the middle linebacker. I never thought much of it, but I had gotten strong because of all the farm work I did. We were always moving bales of hay. There was one guy that I hit in practice, and he told me afterwards he’d never been

hit so hard in his life.

When growing up, I worked on the farm. Back then, everything was so small. It took days to do what they do in hours now. There weren’t cabs on the tractors. So, when you were on them, you got cooked. Sometimes, you could use an umbrella, but only on the non-windy days, which doesn’t happen often in Kansas. But you were close to the earth, and the work was dirty and slow. I liked the work, but I was lonely in the field by myself.

When I was in eighth grade, some of my friends went to minor seminary. I wanted to go, too, but my dad said, “Hell no.” He told me I had to finish high school. It was a good decision. But I still thought about seminary. I just wanted to “go and see.”

After high school, I decided to go to seminary. My parents weren’t surprised because they knew I had the desire back in eighth grade. When I went to talk to Bishop Cyril Vogel about it, he said, “Two great men were going to Rome, and I was going to seminary. I don’t know if he actually thought I was one of the great men.”

Before going to seminary, everyone called me Charles. But when I got to theology seminary, there were four guys in my class named Charles. A few of them went by Chuck. My middle name is Lee, so I decided to combine it, and that’s how people started to call me Charlie.

I went to St. Mary’s in Kentucky. We had Latin 10 hours a week. I really enjoyed Latin. I also liked Greek a lot. Languages are exciting

and precise. English is sloppy. But Latin has structure, and Greek was a challenge. In Greek, there are 600 forms of verbs, and you have to get it right. I found that exciting. I also enjoyed liturgy classes.

None of my classes were difficult. Academics were pretty easy for me. Since I went to small schools growing up, I was able to get special, individualized attention so it prepared me. But I was not a good speller. I could always remember the words; I just couldn’t spell them.

We had rigid schedules. We had to be up at 5:30 a.m. Then, we had classes and prayer the rest of the day. At 9 p.m., a bell was rung three times and it was Grand Silence. No one could talk. Most seminarians just went to bed, but I remember the guys on the third floor would sometimes bowl in the hallways. You could hear the bowling ball as it rumbled down the hallway. It took a long time for them to get caught.

After St. Mary’s, I went to Conception Seminary in Missouri. Father Don Zimmerman and I were neighbors. He had a music box in his room. I made a habit of walking into his room, winding it all the way up, and then walking out. So, at my ordination, he gave me the music box as a present. Since then, we’ve given it back and forth to each other every few years. It’s like a game of tag.

I really liked Conception. The monks treated everyone like Christ, and the classes were excellent. The only thing bad was the food. For my last year of seminary, I

went to Kendrick. I didn’t like it as much, but the food was great.

I was still discerning the call to priesthood. I was just there to see. It took six years before I was truly convicted. It was a gradual growth, and it didn’t happen all at once.

Finally, on June 8, 1973, I was ordained by Bishop Vogel. Back in the day, you were ordained at your home parish. My home parish of Clara was too small to hold all the guests, so I was ordained at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Concordia. More than 400 people came. It was a beautiful day, just after a rain, and there was no wind.

There are many blessings to being a priest; it’s all sort of meshed together. I guess if I had to take it apart, it would be the people who I’ve served. I don’t know who taught who, if I taught them or if they taught me. You go to every parish hoping you can give something, but oftentimes, you receive so much more than you give. I also love to preach, I love to celebrate the Eucharist, and I love prayer.

I remember in seminary, I would always tell people, “I am still discerning whether or not I have a vocation to the priesthood, but I am sure I do not have a vocation to the seminary.” Some seminarians look forward to further education after ordination. I did not. I wanted to serve the people that God, through the bishop, entrusted to me.

My advice to young men who might be discerning a call to the priesthood: Just respond to the invitation of Jesus “come and see.” That’s what I did.

*Father Charles Steier is pastor at Christ the King Parish in WaKeeney and St. Michael Parish in Collyer.*

**CHARLES Steier**  
PASTOR





# McCaffrey ordination set for June

By KATIE GREENWOOD  
THE REGISTER

The ordination of Deacon Brian McCaffrey from the transitional diaconate to the priesthood is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. June 5 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. The ordination Mass is open to all, and a light reception will follow immediately in the Hall of Bishops in the Cathedral.

McCaffrey is concluding his studies at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Ind.

"I can't express my excitement in finally reaching ordination to the priesthood," he said.

While McCaffrey eagerly awaits the day of his ordination, there is one point within the liturgy that he is particularly excited for.

"The part of the ordination rite I'm most looking forward to is the laying on of hands," he said. "After the bishop lays his hands on my head, all the priests present will do the same. I've always found this to be a very moving part of the ceremony."

McCaffrey will celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving, commonly known as a "First Mass," at 2 p.m. June 6 at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

McCaffrey grew up in Manhattan and is the son of Michael and Patricia McCaffrey. Growing up, he was a parishioner of St. Thomas More.

As the date of his ordination draws near, he expresses gratitude to the strong, faith community that has provided support.

"I'm grateful to everyone who has supported me over the years, and I ask that you please continue to keep me in prayer in these final days before ordination," McCaffrey said.

The priestly ordination of McCaffrey will be the second ordination for Bishop Vincke.

"We are very blessed that Deacon Brian will be ordained as a priest for our diocese," the bishop said. "He loves the people of our diocese and wants to serve them. He has a deep desire to bring Jesus to the people and the people to Jesus."



McCaffrey

## PRIEST JUBILARIANS

At the Chrism Mass, five priests were honored for celebrating jubilee anniversaries: Father James Grennan for 70 years; Father Basil Torrez for 65 years; Father Harvey Dinkel, OFM for 60 years; and Father Beryl Gibson and Father Michael Elanjimattathil, both for 25 years.

*"I am thankful for the many years of service and love bestowed upon the people by these fine priests. We are eternally grateful for their ministry. To help people encounter Christ is the best gift we can give someone, and these priests have done just that for so many years."* — Bishop Jerry Vincke

### Father James Grennan, 70 years

*"I have been greatly blessed and very happy for these past 70 years. I am honored to serve the people."*

Ordained May 13, 1951, at the old Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop Frank Thill.



Grennan

#### Assignments:

1951 — St. Michael Parish in Collyer, Christ the King Parish in WaKeeney and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hill City  
1954 — St. Paul Parish in Delphos and St. Mary Parish in Glasco  
1958 — Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon, St. Theresa Parish in Mankato and later St. Mary Parish in Smith Center  
1961 — St. Joseph Parish in Oakley  
1968 — Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan  
1971 — Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville  
1983 — St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish in Russell and St. Joseph Parish in Dorrance  
1993 — St. Thomas Parish in Stockton and St. John Parish in Logan  
2001 — Retired to Russell

### Father Basil Torrez, 65 years

*"I have really enjoyed being a priest and being with the people. I have been blessed to make a lot of friends. The people have been so good to me."*

Ordained May 26, 1956, in Sacred

Heart Cathedral by Bishop Frank Thill.

#### Assignments:

1956 — St. Martin Parish in Seguin and St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie  
1958 — St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kanopolis, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in North Salina  
1959 — Added St. Joseph Parish in Brookville and St. Mary's Parish in Holyrood  
1963 — St. Phillip Parish in Hope  
1965 — Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer  
1967 — Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs and St. Peter Parish in Wallace  
1975 — Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell and St. Paul Parish in Angelus  
1983 — St. Augustine Parish in Washington and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Morrowville  
1993 — St. Michael Parish in Collyer and St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter  
1999 — Retired to Collyer

### Father Harvey Dinkel, OFM Capuchin, 60 years

*"It has been a great honor to serve the people for so many years and bring Christ to them through the Sacraments, especially through the Eucharist."*

#### Assignments:

1955 — St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, Md.  
1956 — St. Mary's Fraternity, Herman, Pa.  
1958 — St. Francis Fraternity, Washington, D.C.  
1962 — St. Augustine Fraternity, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
1963 — St. Fidelis Fraternity, Victoria  
1970 — St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Hays  
1976 — St. Charles Borromeo Fraternity, St. Louis  
1977 — Holy Cross Fraternity, Thornton, Colo.  
1978 — St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Hays  
1985 — St. Elizabeth Fraternity, Denver  
1993 — St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Denver  
2004—present St. Fidelis Fraternity, Victoria



Torrez



Dinkel

### Father Beryl Gibson, 25 years

*"I have very much enjoyed being a priest."*

Ordained May 18, 1996, by Bishop George Fitzsimons at SS. Philip and James Church in Phillipsburg.



Gibson

#### Assignments:

1996 — St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City  
1997 — St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan  
1997 — Sacred Heart Parish in Colby  
1998 — Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays  
1999 — St. Francis Parish in St. Francis, St. Joseph Parish in Bird City and St. John Nepomucene Parish in Beardsley  
2005 — Retired to Phillipsburg

### Father Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI, 25 years

*"I am blessed. First and foremost, I am blessed because Jesus Christ loved me enough to die for me upon the cross and teaches me how to carry my cross daily. Secondly, I am blessed to be given the honor and privilege to consecrate bread and wine, by the power of the Holy Spirit, into the Body and Blood of Christ."*



Elanjimattathil

Ordained on Jan. 3, 1996, by Bishop Vijay Anad Nedumpuram, CMI at St. Joseph Church in Mannanam, Kerala, India.

#### Assignments:

1996 — St. Thomas Parish in Kozhikode, Kerala, India  
2001— Seven Dolores of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Manhattan  
2005 — St. Joseph Parish in Oakley, St. Paul Parish in Angelus, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Grinnell  
2013 — St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish in Russell and St. Mary Help of Christians Parish in Gorham

## CARRYING THE CROSS



COURTESY PHOTO

Men from Sacred Heart Parish in Colby participated in a Carrying of the Cross on Good Friday afternoon. They took turns carrying a heavy wooden cross for more than 7 miles, praying the Stations of the Cross along the way. They ended on the front steps of Sacred Heart Church.

## RUSSELL SERVICE



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Mary Queen of Angels in Russell received two candidates into full communion during the Easter Vigil on April 3. From left are Joe Dortland, sponsor; Lane Mai, candidate; Father Michael Elanjimattathil; Jay Wickham, candidate; and Jon Quinday, sponsor.



# Customers cast indelible mark

By OLIVIA AYRES  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Loyal volunteers are an essential part of any successful non-profit organization. These are the people who reflect God's love. Their commitment to service is unyielding, and their faith, ever-present.

Sandra Donovan is an example of this reflection. A former teacher, Donovan has been a devoted volunteer at Catholic Charities' Thrift Store since its inception four years ago.

"When Catholic Charities moved from Iron Street to its present location on South Ninth Street, there was a notice in all the parish bulletins expressing a need for volunteers," Donovan said.

Throughout her time at the thrift store, Donovan has become an integral part of the staff and a welcome face to all who enter.

"I've known her since I was in fifth grade. She was actually my teacher at Sacred Heart Middle School," said Cara Ivey, Catholic Charities volunteer coordinator and thrift store manager. "She is here every day. She knows the ins and outs of the thrift store business. I would not be able to do it without her."

Donovan said her volunteer work arose from a deep desire to grow in her faith.

"Giving my time to Catholic Charities is a chance to live out my faith in a concrete, personal way," Donovan said. "I find it rewarding. I get to touch other people's lives."

More than anything, Donovan said it is the costumers who have impacted her.

"I've learned that there are a lot more people within our community



COURTESY PHOTO

Sandra Donovan is a volunteer at Catholic Charities' Thrift Store in Salina.

who are in need than I ever realized," she said. "We have homeless people come in that are so appreciative of any help we can give them as far as using vouchers for their clothing."

Throughout her time at the thrift store, Donovan said several key moments have cast an indelible mark on her heart.

"One day, we had a grandmother who was buying children's clothes," Donovan said. "She told me that she was raising her grandchildren because the children's parents were not able to, and the thrift store gave her a chance to get good children's clothing at a reasonable price."

Stories like those inspire Donovan to continue to give her time to Catholic Charities.

## CALL TO ACTION

If you are interested in volunteering at the Catholic Charities Thrift Store or with their other programs in Salina, Manhattan or Hays, contact Cara Ivey at (785) 825-0208 or civey@ccnks.org.

"There is just something about her passion for Catholic Charities and the way she gives back to the community that is so special," Ivey said. "She has a big heart and loves working hard for us. Her support is undying."

Donovan's unwavering support for her community encapsulates the heart of the Catholic Charities mission, Ivey said.

"It's what we are all about, giving back," Ivey said. "She represents all of our values."

Donovan hopes that speaking about her own experience at Catholic Charities will inspire others to dedicate their time as well.

"I have enjoyed getting to meet all the different kinds of people who come into the store," she said. "If people are wanting the chance to touch other people's lives, Catholic Charities is a way to do that."

Donovan's continued dedication to Catholic Charities is not only a demonstration of faith, but a testament to how one person can impact the lives of so many.

*Olivia Ayres is communications coordinator at Catholic Charities.*

# Man 'sold' on helping area charities

By OLIVIA AYRES  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

After a team meeting discussing ways to support local organizations, automotive salesman Doniley Sexson was compelled to donate a portion of his commission earnings to a worthy organization that honored his faith.

Sexson, who is employed at Lincoln Automotive Group in Hays, said the company's idea to support charitable organizations within the community stemmed from a team effort.

"Our whole company believes in supporting local businesses and giving back to the community," Sexson said. "The entire team agreed that, for every vehicle we sold in the month of January, we

would donate \$50 dollars to a non-profit organization of our choosing."

When selecting an organization to support, Sexson expressed that Catholic Charities was an obvious choice. While he said it is his first donation to Catholic Charities, he has always been familiar with its work within the Salina Diocese.

"I've been Catholic all my life and have always known about Catholic Charities," he said. "I support everything they stand for."

Another reason Sexson was inspired to donate to Catholic Charities was its pro-life stance, as it echoes the teachings of the Church.

"One big thing for me is how much they support the pro-life movement,"



COURTESY PHOTO

Doniley Sexson, right, makes a donation to Catholic Charities in Salina.

Sexson said.

Catholic Charities provides free pregnancy support services to expecting mothers within the 31 counties of the Diocese of Salina.

Eric Frank, director of development at Catholic Charities, spoke to the selflessness of Sexson's donation.

"This is money from his

own paycheck," Frank said. "He certainly is setting an example of caring above his own needs for others in a time of crisis. It takes people like Doniley to meet the needs of our community every day of the year."

Frank also said Sexson's generosity can provide hope to those who are suffering in the diocese.

"His efforts may result in a mother having diapers and formula for her child or a family having the food to prepare for everyone in their home," Frank said. "Someone that may have lost their job now has help with gas to find another job. All it takes is someone to care enough to share their surplus and extend it to someone who may have hit a bad time in their life."

As for himself, Sexson is

happy he can see his money go to an organization he has a personal connection with, as well as one that aligns with his values.

"I am able to give something back to the community, and it's for something I stand up for and believe in," Sexson said. "If you are wanting to support your community, it needs to be for something you believe in. You want your money to go to a good cause."

The mission of Catholic Charities is only possible through the generosity of people like Sexson. His patronage demonstrates how one person can make a difference in the lives of those in need throughout our communities.

*Olivia Ayres is communications coordinator for Catholic Charities.*



# Myanmar struggling after military coup

**M**yanmar — more commonly known as Burma — is probably not a place that often crosses your mind. Myanmar is a country of approximately 55 million people in southeast Asia, situated south of Nepal and sandwiched between India and Thailand. It is also bordered with China.

Myanmar gained independence from Britain in 1948. It was ruled by the armed forces from 1962 until 2011, when the dictator's military regime gave way to a civilian government which is slowly leading the country towards democracy. Myanmar's first fair elections for decades took place in November 2015 and again in November 2020. In both elections, the opposition party, National League for Democracy and its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, won a landslide victory. The military regime claims electoral fraud after the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party performed poorly in the 2020 November election.

Allegations of voting irregularities could have been solved by dialogue, in the presence of neutral observers. Instead, Myanmar's military Army chief, Min Aung Hlaing, has seized power in the country in a coup on Feb. 1, abruptly halting the country's democratic transition and detaining the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and the democratically elected leaders while making up charges to hold them.

The reaction of the people of Myanmar has been resolute — hundreds of thousands of peaceful protesters have taken to the streets demanding a return of democracy and to end the military dictatorship, demanding respect

in the outcome of November's election and to call for the reversal of the coup.

Civil disobedience campaigns have spread across the country, with all walks of life including many activists, health professionals, doctors, nurses, writers, monks, priests, nuns, teachers, celebrities and youth being at the forefront of it. Their demands are to:

1. Release all detainees including President U Win Myint and state counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi immediately and unconditionally.

2. Recognize and respect the result of the 2020 general election, in which the ruling party, National League for Democracy, won by a landslide victory.

3. Convene the parliament according to the constitution, and to abide by the rules of law and principles of democracy to build a peaceful society of Myanmar.

Myanmar has been turned into a slaughter ground as we witness

each day the death of protesters. The ruthless killings continue in the military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters. Military and police slaughtered the civilians and arrested the peaceful protesters brutally and mercilessly. To me, it is a genocide. At least 800 civilians have been killed in the military's crackdown on protests and nearly 4,000 arrested, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a local monitoring group.

UN rights officials say the military is making increasing use of heavy weaponry including rocket-propelled and fragmentation grenades, heavy machine guns and snipers.

Myanmar has now gone dark. The military has completely shut down the internet, cutting off the country from the rest of the world.



COURTESY PHOTO

**The three-finger salute is a gesture that stands for solidarity and resistance in Myanmar.**

The military stopped the use of Facebook, where Myanmar civilians have been sharing news and Civil Disobedience Campaigns. I am greatly concerned for my families as I cannot contact my relatives and friends. My friends have not been able to contact their families either. Only when luck helps you then you can get to talk with them. What has happened is unbearably painful. It has shattered our people.

There are no news reporters in Myanmar. A CNN reporter was invited to Myanmar for only a few days, and we know some of the real news on the ground but now they are no longer allowed to stay in Myanmar.

There are many refugees fleeing to neighboring countries, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, adding to the 1 million already in need of urgent humanitarian assistance across the country.

The world's response to the Myanmar crisis has been too sluggish, too little too late and far from tough enough to prevent further deterioration. China and Russia have close ties to Myanmar's military regime and as permanent members of the UN Security Council, China and Russia are able to veto or delay the UN and Security Council Resolution on Myanmar sought by the United States.

The United Nations expert said Britain and the U.S. announced sanctions against military-owned businesses. However, sanctions risk collapsing the economy, throwing millions into poverty. Engaging the actors in reconciliation is the only path.

Myanmar is desperately in need of relief. The Church has a role to play. Pope Francis, as well as local Cardinal Charles Bo, have publicly condemned the coup and called for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in pursuit of the common good. Cardinal Bo suggested "to solve all disputes through dialogue. Peace is possible. Peace is the only way. Democracy is the only light to that path."

The international community needs to deal with the reality, understanding well Myanmar's history and political economy. Let us pray more people in the West become aware of the situation in Myanmar. We are praying here and asking all to join us.

May the world know Myanmar needs immediate help. Let us all assure our brothers and sisters of Myanmar that our prayers for an end to the violence are in force and that they are not alone in their monumental crusade for freedom and peace.

*Father Henry Saw Lone is pastor at St. Joseph in Damar and Immaculate Heart in Hill City. He is originally from Myanmar.*



**HENRY Saw Lone**  
PASTOR

## Lessons of a butcher boy

**"K**ill day" at our family's custom butcher shop was always serious business. Farmers and ranchers arrived early in the morning to unload cattle and pigs. By nightfall, the animals would be hanging in the cooler, destined to become cuts of beef and pork.

Decades after the fact, one memory from a particular day's slaughter is still vivid. A friend of my brother had laughed out loud when my dad put down a cow for butchering. Dad grimaced, then turned and growled at my brother, "Get him out of here. Now."

Kansans' stewards of land

and livestock know life is not a joke. It is to be treasured and honored. Whether spring wheat reaching toward the sky or quietly grazing farm animals, these are living gifts always worthy of our respect.

There is even a Kansas law "regarding acceptable forms of euthanasia" (quoting from a legislative summary document) of Kansas animals. Known as SB 189, the bill passed the Kansas House on March 25, 2015. That day, the Kansas House debated and passed SB 95, a ban on the horrific

practice of live dismemberment abortion of preborn children.

Remarkably, the practice of dismembering and aborting a child in utero is now constitutionally

protected by the Kansas Supreme Court in

wake of the Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt ruling.

According to data provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, an average of nine live dismemberment abortions, clinically known as "dilation and evacuation," are occurring each week in Kansas. A Kansas district

court, citing the Hodes decision, officially struck down Kansas' ban on the gruesome practice on April 7.

The fact of the matter is all abortion in Kansas for virtually any reason and at any time — even until the moment of birth — is unlimited and unregulated under the law laid out in the Hodes decision.

Kansas law provides protection to animals that it does not provide to the unborn child. This is the way the abortion industry wants it. It is profitable for them. Kansans have a chance to right this unspeakable wrong. It won't be easy.

The only reasonable and practical solution is passage of a state constitutional amendment. This amendment, placed on a statewide ballot by supermajority margins of both chambers of the Kansas Legislature, is called Value Them Both. It is our path back to sanity.

Opponents of Value Them Both are already spreading falsehoods. Don't fall for them. I encourage you to learn the facts. Go to [www.KansasCatholic.org](http://www.KansasCatholic.org) or [www.ValueThemBoth.com](http://www.ValueThemBoth.com) to learn more.

*Chuck Weber is executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference. He can be reached at [Chuck@KansasCatholic.org](mailto:Chuck@KansasCatholic.org).*



**CHUCK Weber**  
KANSAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



# The Holy Spirit and hearts of fire

Dear readers of The Register, When I was in college, I was asked to lead a women's Bible study. For three years, I met with the same group of girls for an hour a week. Our conversations and discussions covered a broad range of topics, and sometimes, we gathered to sit and just "be."

I remember one night we discussed the Trinity. The question: "Which Person of the Trinity do you have the deepest relationship with?" was posed to the group. For the most part, every woman answered that, in prayer, they consistently turned to God the Father or God the Son.

But there was one woman who said God the Holy Spirit.

I was fascinated by her answer. She talked about the deep joy that comes with having a fruitful relationship with the Holy Spirit. She shared about the unwavering confidence that comes when she turns to the Holy Spirit in times of anxiety or unease.

As she was speaking, I reflected on my own relationship with the Holy Spirit. In all honesty, the

Holy Spirit was oftentimes an afterthought. But as I listened to my friend, I ardently desired to deepen that relationship.

In one of my theology classes, it was required that we write a research paper. So, I used the opportunity to research St. Philip Neri, a saint renowned for his relationship with the Holy Spirit.

St. Philip Neri was known as the Second Apostle of Rome, and he is credited with the reformation of Rome during the Renaissance era. But his method of reformation was not loud or abrasive. It was not a speech or an action that you could pinpoint and say, "This. This is what changed all of Rome."

He was subtle and quiet. His reformation of Rome was one of invitation and fraternal relationship. It is said that, at night, he would walk the streets of Rome and engage in conversation with every person he encountered. His manner of engaging with others in sincere love lit the spark that eventual-

ly ignited Rome.

People were drawn to this holy man, and so they sought him out. Lay and religious alike flocked to him in droves, desiring to pray with him and converse with him.

It is because of the Holy Spirit that St. Philip captured the hearts of the people of Rome. All who encountered him were

amazed by his devotion to the Holy Spirit. In

fact, he was often described as having a "heart of fire." While this expression was used to describe the personality and character of St. Philip, this inner quality was demonstrated through physical attributes that were evident to all.

Many people who encountered St. Philip recorded the following observations: his body was often warm, his face was constantly flushed, and there were several accounts of individuals who reported that his heart would constantly beat violently within his chest as he prayed.

These attributes were often dismissed as insignificant,

and it wasn't until St. Philip was on his deathbed that he revealed the truth of a transformation within his soul that accounted for the presence of his multiple physical characteristics.

The iconic story of St. Philip took place while he prayed a devotion to the Holy Spirit the night before Pentecost in the year 1544. On the vigil of Pentecost, St. Philip was caught up in a mystical experience. He received a stigmata of the Holy Spirit.

St. Philip accounted the story of his experience to a fellow layman, who later revealed the mystical occurrence decades after it had happened in the following manner:

*"As the night passed, St. Philip was suddenly filled with great joy, and had a vision of the Holy Spirit, who appeared to him as a ball of fire. This fire entered into St. Philip's mouth, and descended to his heart, causing it to expand to twice its normal size, and breaking two of his ribs in the process. He said that it filled his whole body with such joy and consolation that he finally had to throw himself on the ground and cry out, 'No more, Lord! No more!'"*

This personal Pentecost stayed with St. Philip for the duration of his life. The experience motivated all that he did because he acted with the inner knowledge that the grace of the Holy Spirit resided within him.

The Holy Spirit enabled St. Philip to extend the invitation to others, bringing them into relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is responsible for his deep joy that was attractive to so many people.

As Pentecost approaches (May 23), we too are called to enter into deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. In doing so, we are better equipped to go forth and evangelize. We are better equipped to be missionary disciples who make disciples. And we can rest easy in the knowledge that, through the Sacrament of Confirmation, we too possess the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit. We too are called to have hearts of fire.



Katie Greenwood is the creative editor of diocesan publications and the annual appeal coordinator.



**KATIE Greenwood**  
REGISTER EDITOR

## Woman recognizes importance of journey

By ALLISON OCHOA  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

When Karen Meece came into full communion with the Catholic Church at this year's Easter Vigil Mass, it was the culmination of two years of study and discernment.

The Vigil Mass at St. Francis Xavier parish in Junction City was made even more special as she was accompanied by her husband, Christopher, who was baptized and received the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, and their 13-year-old son Liam, who received his First Holy Communion.

These members of the Meece family were three of the more than 100 individuals who were welcomed into the Catholic faith during Easter Vigil Masses across the Diocese of Salina on April 3.

Meece's journey to Catholicism began three years ago when she attended a convalidation ceremony for a friend's marriage at the parish.

"I became a Christian when I was about 5 years old, but my great aunt was Catholic, so I was vaguely familiar with the Catholic Church," she said. "As soon as I

entered St. Xavier (for the convalidation ceremony), I just thought, 'Wow, it's so peaceful.'"

That experience, combined with a desire to know Jesus more fully and to have their faith lives grow, led Meece and her family to begin attending Mass. She said the family experienced promptings to continue their attendance and ultimately to begin the RCIA process two years ago at the parish.

Because her husband was deployed at the time, Meece said she discerned that she should wait until he returned before joining the church; however, her daughter, Megan, was ready and came into full communion in 2020.

Upon Christopher's return to the United States, the family again began their RCIA studies, which led three of them to celebrate their reception into the Catholic Church at this year's Easter Vigil. Their daughter, Emma, is still discerning the faith.

"It was a really precious evening," Meece said. "I feel like I'm at the beginning of a journey, and I'm excited to see what the Lord is going to do."

The sentiment of being on a

journey is echoed by Chuck Burke, who received his First Holy Communion and Confirmation during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. John the Baptist parish in Beloit.

Burke, who had been baptized in the church as an infant, said his thoughts during the Mass were of the past as well as what is yet to come.

"I felt in complete awe of how far I have come," he said. "The thing I am most looking forward to now is continuing to grow and learn in my faith and building a deeper relationship with God."

Burke said that relationship was illustrated through the liturgy of the Easter Vigil, as well as through Father Jarett Konrade's homily.

"The bonfire to begin the Mass and the church being lit entirely by candlelight was beautiful, as was the analogy that Father used in his homily about the transition of darkness to light in our lives," Burke said.

Jon Konrade, director of faith formation and evangelization at St. John the Baptist parish, said from his perspective the welcoming of catechumens and candidates into full communion with

the Church was an experience he will not soon forget.

"It was just amazing to witness the excitement of God's grace at work," he said. "For many of them, it seemed they were running full force into the Church, and you know God pours out His spirit on those who say, 'Yes,' in that capacity — those who want to join the Church."

As the shepherd of these new members of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Salina, Bishop Gerald Vincke expressed his joy for them as well as his appreciation for the individuals who led them to this moment.

"I am very happy and excited for those that entered the Church at the Easter Vigil," he said. "Not only are they given 'new life,' but they give new life to the Church as well. They have been in prayers throughout the RCIA process."

"I am so grateful for all the RCIA coordinators who guided them on this beautiful journey. I am also so grateful to those people who had an impact on those joining the Church. Their witness to the faith is a tremendous gift to the Church."



## POPE, FROM PAGE 5

"We're living on borrowed time," said Emmanuel Khoshaba, secretary-general of the Assyrian Patriotic Party.

"As a politician, I'm supposed to give people hope, but the reality is, if things continue in this way, you won't see any Christians in Iraq within 10 years."

The papal visit, church leaders hoped, would staunch that exodus.

Pope Francis was greeted at Baghdad International Airport by a clutch of Iraqi political and religious leaders.

The first pope to visit Iraq traveled across the country once home to a variety of religious and ethnic communities that were later swept away by extremism, with Jews, Yazidis, Shabak and Turkmen all enduring pogroms in Iraq's violent recent history.

Pope Francis' trip came at a sensitive time. Iraq is grappling with a coronavirus spike that its battered health system is ill-equipped to handle.

After meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Kadhimi, Pope Francis called for an end to the

country's ongoing strife.

"Only if we learn to look beyond our differences and see each other as members of the same human family will we be able to begin an effective process of rebuilding and leave to future generations a better, more just and more humane world," the pope said at the presidential palace in Baghdad, adding there had been enough violence, extremism, factionalism and lack of forgiveness.

Although he came with a

message of fraternity among all religions, much of his itinerary reflected dark episodes for Iraqi Christians.

In Baghdad, Pope Francis held Mass in Our Lady of Salvation, the Syriac cathedral where Islamic State gunmen massacred dozens of worshipers in 2010. He

prayed for the victims of war in Mosul, once Islamic State's self-proclaimed capital of Iraq, where Christians were forced to convert or face death. He also visited Qaraqosh, a Christian-dominated town whose residents fled Islamic State's blitzkrieg in 2014.

## SAINTS, FEASTS OF MAY

"Let us turn to the example of the saints. They were people like us, flesh and bone, with failings and weaknesses, who managed to conquer and master themselves for the love of God. Let us consider their lives and, like bees who distill precious nectar from each flower, we shall learn from their struggles."

St. Josemaria Escriva

- 1 Joseph the Worker
- 2 Athanasius, bishop and doctor
- 3 Philip and James, apostles
- 12 Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs
- 12 Pancras, martyr
- 14 Matthias, apostle
- 15 Isidore
- 18 John I, pope and martyr
- 20 Bernadine of Siena, priest
- 23 Pentecost Sunday
- 25 Venerable Bede, priest and doctor
- 25 Gregory VII, pope

- 25 Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, virgin
- 26 Philip Neri, priest
- 27 Augustine of Canterbury, bishop
- 31 Feast of the Visitation

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Ellsworth to Junction City

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DEATHS

**Ann Leone Becker**, 69, died April 5, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 8 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Norton. Burial was in Norton Cemetery in Norton.

**Norma (Scheck) Brack**, 85, died March 1, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 4 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ellis. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Marlene Ann Corpstein**, 84, of Tipton, died April 2, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 6 by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Burial was

in the St. Boniface Cemetery in Tipton.

**Michael H. Haas**, 76, of Hoxie, died Dec. 15, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 18 by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie. Burial was in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery in Hoxie.

**Rita Marie (Riemann) Hockman**, 87, of Densmore, died Oct. 24, 2020. Graveside service was Oct. 31 at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Densmore. Father George Chalbham presided.

**Sheryl (Pearce) Flesher**, 72, died Feb. 26, 2021. Graveside

service was March 5 at St. Joseph Cemetery in St. Joseph. Father Steven Heina presided.

**Jerome Leonel Laurin**, 82, died Feb. 10, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 27 at St. Joseph Church in Damar. Inurnment was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Damar.

**Mary Kathryn (Prideaux) Leitner**, 90, died March 13, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 19 by Father Norbert Dlabal at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Atwood. Inurnment was at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Atwood.

**Donald B. Mense**, 82, of Hoxie, died March 15, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 20 by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie. Burial with military honors was in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery in Hoxie.

**Kathleen Lucia Ann Noll**, 85, died March 23, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 29 by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Burial was in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Flush.

**Teresa Reed**, 61, died Feb. 22, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 26 by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan. Inurnment was in Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan.

Hoxie, died Nov. 13, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 17 by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Martin of Tours in Seguin. Burial was in St. Martin Catholic Cemetery in Seguin.

**Mary (Otter) Schamberger**, 92, of Hoxie, died Feb. 7, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 12 by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie. Burial was in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery in Hoxie.

**Anthony "Tony" Seib**, 92, died March 31, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 7 by Father Damian Richards and Father Warren Stecklein at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Burial was in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery.

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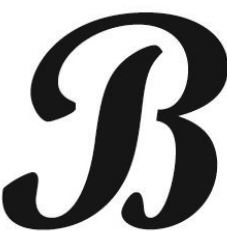
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**Patrick Urban Sr.**, 55, died Dec. 21, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 20 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ellis. Inurnment was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Florence (Bockman) Vahling**, 99, of Hoxie, died Dec. 25, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 2 by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie. Burial was in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery in Hoxie.

JOBS

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Junction City is currently accepting applications for an Early Childhood Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Applicants must have a current early childhood license in Kansas. Preferred for applicants to be practicing Catholics. An application is to be submitted through Kansas Teaching Jobs, to include resume and references. Please contact Principal Shawn Augustine at [principal@saintxrams.org](mailto:principal@saintxrams.org) if you are interested.

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## BAPTISMS

**Laken Dawn Baalman**, daughter of Cass and Alicia (Garrett) Baalman, was baptized Jan. 2, 2021, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Martin of Tours in Seguin.

**Eva Susann Barnes**, daughter of Spencer and Morgan (Vap) Barnes, was baptized March 21, 2021, by Father Rich Daise at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

**Gabriel Alexander Diabal**, son of Joshua and Brenna (Johnson) Diabal, was baptized Dec. 16, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit.

**Hallie Jane Eck**, daughter of Brian and Frances (Swint) Eck, was baptized March 20, 2021, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

**Eli James and Owen Alan Hilgers**, sons of Ricky and Cynthia (Riedel) Hilgers, were baptized March 7, 2021, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

**Lucia Christine Holdren**, daughter of Joe and Marci Holdren, was baptized Jan. 10, 2021, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit.

**Hazel Rose Lane**, daughter of Greg and Lisa Lane, was baptized March 21, 2021, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Madelyn Rose Lohrmeyer**, daughter of David and Kelly Lohrmeyer, was baptized March 28, 2021, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Silas James Lomax**, son of Joel and Amanda Lomax, was baptized March 21, 2021, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit.

**Willow Rose Mahin**, daughter of Ethan and Elizabeth (Pitts) Mahin, was baptized March 21, 2021, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Maximilian Joseph Malone**, son of Joe and Meg Malone, was baptized Dec. 27, 2020, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit.

**Koen Lawrence McKinney**, son of Rees and Therese (Campbell) McKinney, was baptized March 21, 2021, by Father Rich Daise at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

**Judah Joseph Niewald**, son of Andrew and Maria Niewald, was baptized Jan. 23, 2021, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit.

**Bo Samuel Pruitt**, son of Jeff and Tara Pruitt, was baptized March 27, 2021, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit.

**Bradley Robert Royse**, son of Craig and Amber (Watson) Royse, was baptized March 27, 2021, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

**Maverick Clayton and Willow Sky Sawgerty**, children of Swede Sawgerty and Christina (Gassman) Burgess, were baptized March 20, 2021, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

**Lux William Schuetz**, son of Thomas and Janessa

Schuetz Jr., was baptized March 13, 2021, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Wren Harper Skucius**, daughter of Daniel and Krista (Schmitz) Skucius, was baptized March 20, 2021, by Father Quentin Schmitz at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

**Zelie Marie Thomas**, daughter of Max and Andie Thomas, was baptized Jan. 31, 2021 by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit.

**Matthias Marshal Tremblay**, son of Wade and Amanda (Swager) Tremblay, was baptized Feb. 28, 2021, by Father Vincent Thu

Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie.

**Veronica May Vaccaro**, daughter of Andrew and Rachel (Kroner) Vaccaro, was baptized March 28, 2021, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

**Kolt Joseph Werth**, son of Brayden & Kristin (Huser) Werth, was baptized March 21, 2021, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

**Elyria Nicole Winger**,

daughter of Todd and Amber (Kemmerer) Winger, was baptized March 14, 2021, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

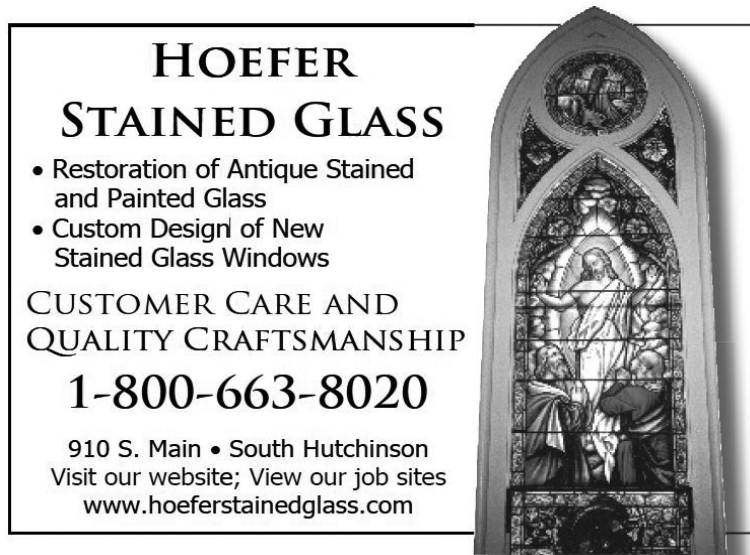
**Sutton Ray Wolf**, son of Chad Wolf and Lindsay Hager, was baptized March 21, 2021, by Father Rich Daise at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

**Jacob Lee Ziegler**, son of Brian and Laura (Huslig) Ziegler, was baptized Jan. 16, 2021, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie.



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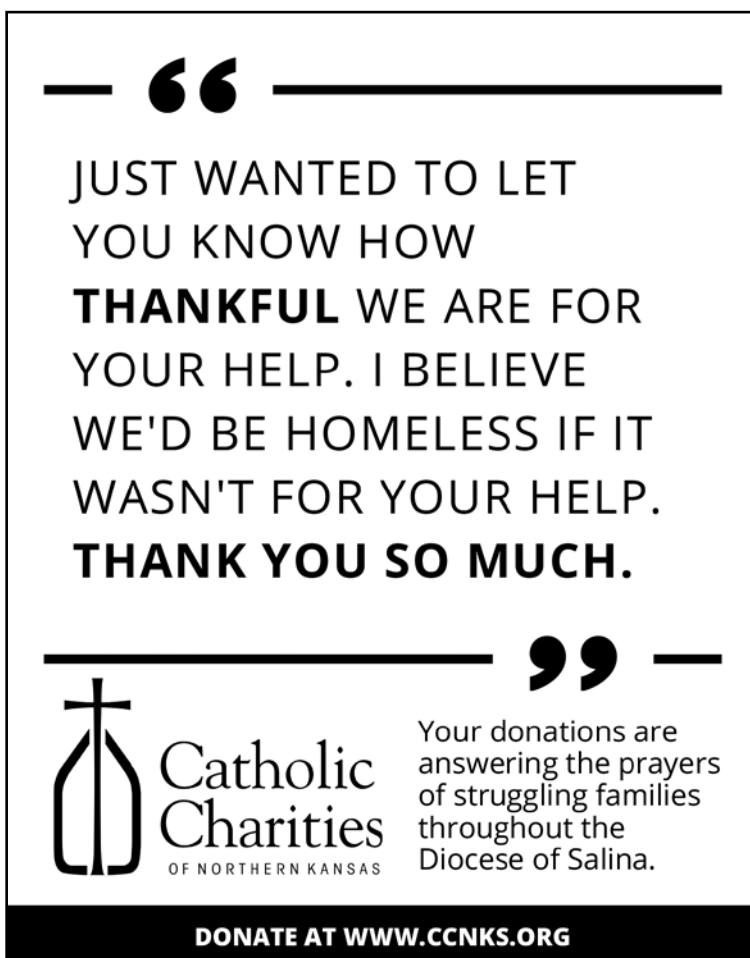


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