



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

MAY 28, 2021

Welcome home

Time to show gratitude in return to Mass

In Genesis, we read the story of Abraham as he is about to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Just as he is about to kill his only son, an angel appears before him. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son."

Who of us with a son, grandson or brother could do what Abraham was willing to do? How much do you love them? Could we be that devoted to God and kill them if he asked us to? If he asked you to kill them for your sins and not theirs? This Scripture reading foretells the story of God the Father and his only Son. God sacrificed his only son — for us.

Imagine the love you have for your son, grandson, brother — then multiply that by a million. That is God's love for His Son and for us. God is perfect love.

Now, the following comes from the book *Rediscovering Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly. After COVID, this story applies to our lives in a way it didn't before.

Imagine that you are in your car driving home from a day at work or from feeding cattle. You turn on the radio and hear a news story about a little village in India where some villagers have died suddenly, strangely, of a flu never seen before. The American Center for Disease Control is sending some doctors to help the local authorities.

A few days go by and on Sunday, you hear another news story. Several networks are carrying small snippets of the story; thousands of Indian people have now died from this strange, but deadly flu. Monday morning comes, and it is not just India. The flu has moved to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and now all the news and cable channels are covering the story. People are starting to wonder and maybe be a little bit scared.

Then suddenly, some countries start to close their borders to people from the Middle East. But it is too late — the flu has shown up in France. Now it is panic time. Apparently, you have the disease a week before you even know you have it, which is one reason for its rapid spread. You have four days of awful symptoms and then you die.

RETURN, PAGE 13

STEVE
Frueh

ST. MARY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE



DISPENSATION LIFTED

By THE REGISTER

Pentecost weekend, May 22 to 23, Bishop Gerald Vincke lifted the dispensation from attending Mass on

Sundays and holy days of obligation in the Diocese of Salina. The dispensation remains in place for those with valid reasons, such as

the elderly and the sick.

A pastoral letter titled "The crucial importance of attending Sunday Mass" was mailed to all registered

parishioners in the diocese.

You can read the pastoral letter by visiting <https://salinadiocese.org/news-and-updates/pastoral-letter>.



ORDINATION UPCOMING

Deacon Brian McCaffrey will be ordained into priesthood June 5 in Salina.

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DID YOU MISS IT?

Take a look at the most recent edition of *faith* magazine.

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Game-changer

Paul said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” (Acts 19:2-3)

While St. Paul was bringing the Gospel to the people of Corinth, he encountered people who had never heard of the Holy Spirit. We encounter many people today who have heard of the Holy Spirit, but do not have an intentional relationship with the Holy Spirit. Do we realize that we have God living in us? Do we personally know him today?

The mission of every baptized Catholic is to evangelize — to bring others to encounter Christ and his saving love. The Church has promoted the work of evangelization for decades with, one could say, limited success. Some people join the Church, while many leave. We all know people who have left the faith.

We are anxious to talk about sports, shows, our pets, our favorite restaurants and what is happening in our world. How many of us are willing to talk about our faith with others? Many of us want to bring people to Jesus, but don't know how or are afraid to.

Yet, we are missing our mission in life if we don't evangelize the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis stated, “I implore the Holy Spirit to come and renew the Church, to stir and impel her to go forth boldly to evangelize all peoples.” He then added, “Let yourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit, in freedom; and please don't put the Holy Spirit in a cage!”

Pete Burak, director of i.d.9:16, the young adult outreach of Renewal Ministries who came to speak at our men's conference a few years ago, writes that what we need is a game-changer. A game-changer is one who enters a game and changes the outcome dramatically. We can say that the Holy Spirit is a game-changer. (One friend of mine even said the Holy Spirit is a rock star.)

We need a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit more than ever in order to bring people to Jesus.

On May 23, we celebrated Pentecost

Sunday. In this sacred event, the birthday of the Church, something happened to the apostles that changed their lives forever. Jesus had ascended to the Father. But the apostles were not alone. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon them.

What is the Holy Spirit? Some of the early Church fathers spoke of the Spirit as being “the kiss that sealed the love of the Father and the Son.” The Holy Spirit is the love generated from the mutual and self-giving love that God the Father has for his Beloved Son, Jesus. This love is poured into our hearts. Isn't this amazing?! This gift of the Holy Spirit can be a game-changer for us as well.

There was something different about those who received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Receiving the Holy Spirit was the ultimate game-changer.



GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE

After receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the disciples boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ despite those who told them to not speak that name anymore. Before receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter denied even knowing Christ. After receiving the Holy Spirit, he said he needed to obey God rather than men.

Those filled with the Holy Spirit were ready to die as martyrs. We know that many indeed were martyred for their faith. They were willing to die for Christ because they had found Christ more precious than life. Do we feel the same?

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the early Church. What is the difference between the Church in Acts and the Church today? It's the same Church Christ founded. We have received the same Holy Spirit, not a lesser quality, not a lesser amount.

Acts is 28 chapters long. It is still being written. May we continue the story of the Church by evangelizing the Gospel through the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

JUNE PRAYER INTENTION

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

Universal Intention

The Beauty of Marriage

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

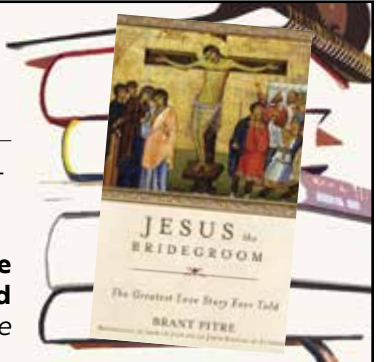
June

- 4** Vocatio Rosary and Potluck Dinner, 5:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Salina
- 5** Priestly ordination, 10:30 a.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
- 13** Confirmation, 10:30 a.m. Mountain time, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Goodland
- 16-18** USCCB meeting, virtual
- 20** Confirmation, 10 a.m., St. Boniface, Tipton
- 26** Confirmation, 10 a.m., St. Thomas Aquinas, Stockton
- 26** Confirmation, 5 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays
- 27** Altar Dedication Mass, 10:30 a.m., St. John the Evangelist, Herington

BISHOP'S BOOK

Bishop Vincke's recommended book for the month of June:

Jesus the Bridegroom: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told
by Brant Pitre



SAINTS, FEASTS OF JUNE

“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** Justin, martyr
- 2** Marcellinus and Peter, martyrs
- 3** Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs
- 5** Boniface, bishop and martyr
- 6** Norbert, bishop
- 9** Ephrem, deacon and doctor

- 11** Barnabas, apostle
- 13** Anthony of Padua, priest and doctor
- 19** Romuald, abbot
- 21** Aloysius Gonzaga, religious
- 22** Paulinus of Nola, bishop
- 22** John Fisher, bishop and martyr
- 22** Thomas More, martyr
- 24** Birth of John the Baptist
- 27** Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor
- 27** Feast day of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, patroness of the Diocese of Salina
- 28** Irenaeus, bishop and martyr
- 29** Peter and Paul, apostles
- 30** First martyrs of the Church of Rome

VOCATION POTLUCK

By THE REGISTER

The annual seminarian potluck is scheduled for June 4 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Salina. The evening will begin with a rosary for vocations at 5:30 p.m. in the church. A meal will immediately follow in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend. Please bring one main and one side dish to share. Dessert,

drinks and table service will be provided.

As in the past, the potluck has occurred the evening before the priestly ordination for our diocese. Deacon Brian McCaffrey will be ordained to the priesthood for the Salina Diocese at 10:30 a.m. June 5 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. All are welcome to attend the event.

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Mailing label update

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Seeing a child-like love for Christ in ourselves

Dear readers,

In the month of April, parishes were sending in their First Communion photos. I took great joy in looking at the smiling faces of so many beautiful ladies in white and handsome men in black.

I even attended a First Communion this year. It was on accident. I was out of town one weekend, and the parish I happened to go to was having First Communion. Even though I didn't know any of the communicants, it was a wonderful sacrament to witness.

But as I watched, I started to wonder if the children understood the depths of the sacrament they were about to receive, if they under-

stood they were about to enter an intimate union with God.

As I worried over their readiness, it caused me to reflect on my own. Sometimes, I'm not fully engaged at Mass. Countless times I've been distracted by work, life or the person's outfit a few rows ahead.

Inevitably, I'd feel guilty. There I was, at Mass, about to receive the Eucharist, which is literally the source and summit of the Catholic faith, and I was thinking about someone's outfit.

I think it's easy to slip into an attitude of indifference, partially because we will

never be able to fully understand the richness of the gift of the Eucharist.

But that doesn't stop us from appreciating it.

My little brother, Lewis, is 6 years old. He also happens to be the light of my life, and I adore him. He's my godson, so it's fine. But I distinctly remember a conversation we had with each other a few months back.

I asked him who he loved most in the world. I was hoping he'd grin and say, "Katie." I have been training him to say that since he first started talking.

And he just looked at me and said, "I love Jesus the most." At first, I was slightly

bummed that the years of training him to respond "Katie" had worn off. But mostly, I was so moved by his simple answer.

I asked him how much he loved Jesus, and he stretched his little arms as far apart as he could and said, "I love Jesus thiiisss much. As big as the whole world to infinity."

That's a big amount to love somebody.

But his simple answer made an impression on me. Obviously, Lewis doesn't comprehend the fullness of theological teaching when it comes to God, but he understands Jesus is someone who deserves to be loved "as big as the whole world to infinity."

So, when it comes to

approaching the Eucharist, it's OK we don't fully understand the magnitude of what we are about to receive. We can always keep striving to learn and better appreciate the sacrament.

But maybe we merely need to adopt the spirituality of a child as we approach the Eucharist. A simple awe as we enter into union with Jesus, the person we are called to love "as big as the whole word to infinity," the person who loves us even more than that.



KATIE Greenwood
REGISTER EDITOR

Katie

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

AROUND THE DIOCESE



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Daryl Olmstead hosted a seder meal for the juniors and seniors at Tipton Catholic High School. From left, Casey Weisel, Paige Hollerich, Leah Brummer, Hayden Griffin, Anna Towner, Dalton Schmitt, Jaylyn Weise and Aaron Hake.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Junior Apologetics class at St. John's in Beloit welcomed Holden Rohlfing to school recently. Rohlfing is a professed "agnostic atheist." Topics of discussion with the students included a wide range of beliefs such as evolution, scientific theory and St. Thomas Aquinas' five proofs of God's existence.



COURTESY PHOTO

The students of Manhattan Catholic School celebrated Arbor Day by planting trees as the mayor of Manhattan gave the Arbor Day proclamation and Father Kerry Ninemire gave a blessing.



COURTESY PHOTO

The annual St. Joseph School Carnival in Oakley was April 25. It was a parish event that brings St. Joseph School, church and community members together. The day provides food, games and prizes. Isabelle Urrego tosses the bag at the clown as Megan and Samantha Smith watch.

Students see driving risks up close

By MAKENNA ALLEN
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

It only takes one moment of distracted driving for an individual to make a mistake that can change countless lives. The National Safety Council estimates that in 2019, nearly 39,000 people died in car crashes on roads in the United States.

According to the John Krajicek, principal of Sacred Heart High School in Salina, many of these deaths are preventable. With the help of students and sponsors alike, the high school set out on a mission last month to raise awareness for safe driving practices through its Drunk Driving Simulation.

On April 12, Sacred Heart High School welcomed students to a live-action simulation hosted in its parking lot. This is the third time the school has coordinated with local sponsors to put on the simulation for the students of Sacred Heart.

According to Krajicek, the event is a joint effort that is coordinated by the SAFE student organization. SAFE (Seatbelts Are For Everyone) is a club that promotes good driving practices for mem-



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Students at Sacred Heart High School in Salina take part in a live-action driving simulation.

bers of the high school. This year, the club has been working to conduct bi-monthly seatbelt checks for students.

Marisol Banda, a senior and president of SAFE, suggested the importance of hosting the Drunk Driving Simulation despite the challenges of scheduling events in a year altered by COVID.

She set out to coordinate the student-led activity with adult help.

Help included sponsors such as the Salina Police and Fire departments, Salina Rescue and LifeSave Trans-

port. The groups all played specific roles in the simulation. Other participants included a local mortuary and the parish attorney.

Also involved in the simulation was a towing company that provided transport of vehicles that had been badly damaged in a collision. All participating groups gathered in the high school parking lot where members of SAFE posed as actors. Meanwhile, first-responders prepared for their roles in the scenario.

With the set-up complete, 200 SHHS students gathered into portable bleachers

for the opportunity to watch the drama unfold. Krajicek highlighted the emotional impact of the event as students observed the scenario from the crash to the 911 call and beyond.

Throughout the course of the action, several students depicted individuals who had been injured in the crash. They were transported from the scene by various modes provided by first-responders.

According to Banda, the process that had once seemed like play-acting became more real and emotionally charged for the

students and actors alike.

"At first, you don't think of it as something serious. But when you get into the role as the character of someone who got in an accident or a friend who died, it turns into a whole different story," Banda said.

Following the re-enactment, students had the ability to participate in a debriefing conversation with first responders.

"After we have the accident, we have a debriefing with the student body and the first-responders who do this on a daily basis," Krajicek said. "They become very emotional because they have to live this every day. They're the ones that have to deal with it."

Unfortunately, these first-responders are not the only ones who must struggle with the difficulties that arise from crashes resulting from distracted and drunk driving.

"It changes people's lives forever. And that's what we really want to impact," Krajicek said. "Not only does it change the people in the accident, but it changes the families of everyone involved in those accidents."

Inaugural scholars bowl provides excitement

By KATIE GREENWOOD
THE REGISTER

On April 19, the first diocesan middle-school scholars bowl meet took place at Sacred Heart High School in Salina.

Teams from Manhattan Catholic Schools, St. Francis Xavier in Junction City, St. John's in Beloit, Sacred Heart in Salina and Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays were all in attendance.

Aaron Brockman, Manhattan Catholic Schools math teacher and scholars bowl coach, was the mastermind behind the diocesan meet.

"We have very bright kids at MCS," Brockman said. "So, I try to get them to as many meets as we can. It's a good way for our academically inclined kids to have an opportunity to compete."

Last year, Brockman was working on arranging a Riley County meet for the middle schools. Everything was in motion until COVID effectively caused them to cancel the meet.

This year, Brockman once again arranged a Riley County meet. In



COURTESY PHOTO

Students competed in the first middle-school scholars bowl for Catholic schools in the Salina Diocese.

doing so, he was inspired to reach out to Geoff Andrews, superintendent of Catholic schools, and inquire if a middle school diocesan meet could be a possibility.

Andrews sent out an email to the schools, and there was an immediate interest. The schools pulled together to make the meet a reality. Centrally located, Sacred Heart High School in Salina offered to host, and a traveling trophy was made.

The meet looked like a typical

scholars bowl meet, with one exception. A religion category was included, making each round 19 questions. There were two pools of play, eighth-graders and seventh-graders.

Manhattan Catholic Schools won the eighth-grade pool, and St. John's Beloit won the seventh-grade pool.

"Hopefully, this was the start to an annual tradition for our diocese," said Rusty Lueger, St. John's

Beloit math teacher and scholars bowl coach. "Not only was there good competition, but this was also a great opportunity for students across the diocese to get to know one another."

Brockman said the event allowed students a competitive atmosphere in something other than sports.

"I was an athlete growing up," he said. "I ran cross country and track and played basketball. I love sports, but I've loved coaching scholars bowl. I want all the kids to have an opportunity to shine, either in sports or academics."

The intention is to continue the diocesan tradition of the middle-school meet, with aspirations to one day have each Kansas diocese host a similar event for their Catholic schools.

"I would like to see the other dioceses do what we did," Brockman said. "Then maybe we could have the top two teams from each diocese compete. It would be nice to start working towards that."

"I'm just glad there are other people who are excited about it as I am."

The Eucharistic Miracle of Weiten-Raxendorf

SPECIAL TO 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. This 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 Weiten-Raxendorf, Austria | 1411

In the parish church of Weiten, a thief broke into the sacristy and got hold of a consecrated Host he slipped into one of his gloves.

According to reports from the village of Weiten, the theft occurred in 1411.

The thief then mounted his horse, intending to make for the nearby village



of Spitz. Instead of taking the main road, he chose a lateral one that passes through the valley of Muhldorf.

When he arrived at the spot that today is marked by a chapel in honor of the miracle, his horse halted and would not move no matter how much the man beat him.

Some laborers working in the surrounding fields came to help. But there was no way to make the horse move; it stood still as a statue.

Then without warning, the animal leaped to a gallop, and the Host hidden in the rider's glove dropped to the ground without anybody noticing.

A few days later, a Mrs.

Scheck from Mannersdorf passed by the spot and saw the Host encircled in a strong light. In great wonder, she picked it up and noticed the consecrated Host was broken in two parts but remained joined together by threads of bleeding flesh.

The woman was greatly moved and, at her own expense, built a small chapel in thanksgiving on the spot.

As news of the miracle spread, many pilgrims came to the place. Later, it was necessary to build a bigger church to contain the great crowds that came every year in pilgrimage in order to honor the precious reliquary.

Taking a journey of faith

I grew up in Goodland. I have an older brother and a younger sister. My dad was in the Federal Aviation Administration, and my mom was a piano teacher. We were a musical family; mom played the piano and organ. She taught all of us. I played piano all through college.

Growing up, I would say I was a good student. I always got good grades at least. Athletic-wise, my sport was tennis. I loved tennis. I haven't played in a long time. I still would if anyone would want to play.

We were your average, good Catholic family. We went to Mass every Sunday. We went to Confession probably once every three months. Faith was always a part of the household. I guess I never knew how rare that was until later in college. It was just normal for us.

I was a public-school kid, but I went to parish religious education classes. Even so, I give credit to my faith being formed at home. Every week, we would sit down at the table and read our weekly religion lesson, and my parents would go over that with us. If we had questions, we asked our parents.

After high school, I decided to go to Fort Hays State University to study instrumental piano. I wanted to be a band teacher. At this point, I hadn't really thought too much about the priesthood.

I had to go to college a week early. On my first day, this girl runs up to me and says, "Hi. I'm Jen. Are you Catholic?"

I was taken aback. It was a holy day of obligation. She invited me to go with her to a birthday party right after Mass. That's how they got me. From that point on, this group of Catholics always invited me. I was fortunate to fall into a good group of friends right away.

I become involved in the Comeau Catholic Campus Center. My faith exploded there. I had a lot of great friends. We went to Mass and Adoration. We prayed the Rosary and chaplets. But we also had a lot of the good fun college kids have – football, movies, beach volleyball, frisbee. We had a lot of fun together. It was cool being around people my age who were into their faith.

After freshman year, I knew I wanted to enter the seminary. But since it was so late in the school year, I decided to continue with my education. I found out that, if I worked really hard, I could get my bachelor of arts in music after only three years. Once I got that, I would go to the seminary.

My mom was ecstatic I was going to seminary. For the most part, most of my friends and family were supportive that I had made the decision.

In 2003, I entered Mundelein Seminary in Chicago. Also there at the time were Father Jarett Konrade, Father Joshua Werth and Father Joseph Kieffer. I was a small-town kid in Chicago. It was massive culture shock.

Back home, I used to love driving around and walking up and down the streets, waving and saying hello to everyone. No one ever questioned it. It was so different being in a place that was so crowded.

But you get so many opportunities in the seminary. I traveled to Kentucky, Montana and Tennessee for different events and ordinations. I got to see how varied the states are. But then, I also got to go to Mexico for immersion. I even went to the Holy Land for two and a half months, with a stopover in Geneva, Switzerland.

But of all the places I traveled to, the seminary was by far the most diverse place I have ever been in my entire life. You have people from everywhere – people from Peru, Venezuela, Poland, Uganda, Vietnam, Korea. You have people from different cultures within the states.

You have people from all over, and we're put together in tight quarters. And we have to learn about their history and experiences of the Church within their home cultures. And you're trying to make friends but messing up sometimes. It was the most diverse place.

Seminary was hard, but it was also kind of fun. When I began, I was the youngest person at the seminary, so I called everyone "kid" to combat it. I enjoyed the academics.

**NICK
Parker**

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



PARKER, PAGE 12

CONFIRMATIONS



St. Francis Xavier, Junction City

Confirmation was in Junction City on March 10. Front row from left, Ben Phillips, Sierra Smith, Landon Berry, Avrie Darnell, Madison Brown and Iliana Zamarano. Middle row from left, Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, Imrich Robison, Crystal Sexton-Snow, Rebecca Peterson, Elaina Schmidt, Ian Phouisagnieme, Pablo Gaytan III and David Hurley. Back row from left, Heston Jahnke, Naythan Hall, Logan Gold, Noah Fields, Creytin Sanner, Keira Jones and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



St. Thomas More, Manhattan

Confirmation was at St. Thomas More in Manhattan on March 7. Front row from left, Alessandra Porres, Avery Koeneke, Isabel Gantt, Avery Hafliger, Lindsey Smith, Olivia Honeywell, Donna Collado, Carys Carver, Joslyn Holthaus and Charlotte Jones. Second row from left, Father Fred Gatschet, Angelina Ellis, Natalee Hall, Ava Hornung, Molly Swistek, Emma Thurston, Mariah Haug, Claire Shamburg and Saylor Salmans. Third row from left, Father Gale Hammerschmidt, Dawson Tajchman, Zachery Goscha, Keenan Schartz, Benton Kerr, John Hager, Aidan McGlynn, Macoy Linck and Anthony Belin. Back row from left, Father Frank Coady, Jackson Knetsche, Alex Deeds, Kaiden Siebert, Jay Tatum, Aiden Bailey, Drew Tatum, Tyler Gagnon, Jacob Steeves and Bishop Jerry Vincke. Not pictured: Ava Bahr.



St. Fidelis Basilica, Victoria; St. Boniface, Vincent; St. Ann, Walker Confirmation was Feb. 7 in Walker. Front row from left, Vance Hockersmith, Carson Werth, Makenna Wellbrock, Macy Hammerschmidt, Raegan Winter and Taylor Anderson. Middle row from left, Lane Schmidtberger, Jarron Schmidt, Jaxon Dinkel, Jaci Vonintel, Brooklyn Nowak, Thaddeus Wohler and Tanis Brungardt. Back row from left, catechist John Braun, Bishop Jerry Vincke and catechist Yvonne Braun.



April 23 was Wear Blue day to bring awareness to child abuse prevention. Chancery staff wore blue to show their support for the efforts of the diocesan safe environment office. Back row, from left, Sister Barbara Ellen Apaceller, Kim Hoelting, Geoff Andrews, Wendy Backes and Brenda Streit. Front row, from left, Karen Ducharme, Susan Goodman, Matea Gregg and Katie Greenwood.

Staff celebrate Child Abuse Prevention month in April

By THE REGISTER

The Safe Environment Office at the Salina Diocese is committed to maintaining safe environments for children to learn, pray and grow. Specifically, the Safe Environment Office is responsible for implementing and overseeing the full diocesan response to the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

While the mission of this office is year-round, specific recognition for the efforts and diligence of this office is celebrated during the month of April, which is Child Abuse Prevention month. Within the diocese, this month was honored by presenting a Certificate of Recognition to Sandy Losey, safety coordinator at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays. Additionally, Chancery staff celebrated Wear Blue day to bring awareness to child abuse prevention.

The Safe Environment Office ensures the safety of children and young people by providing educational training programs, conducting presentations and

providing resources and materials to minors at diocesan schools and parishes in relation to the directives of the Charter.

Along with training, the Safe Environment Office oversees background screenings of each trained adult.

"My joy is my job. I have been working in the Safe Environment Office for almost six years, and yet every day looks very different," said Wendy Backes, Safe

Environment program coordinator. "I enjoy communicating and collaborating with 'my' 77 site safety coordinators at the schools and parishes in the diocese and sharing

this ministry of protecting children with them. This is not a job that is always fun and glamorous. But to be with my colleagues as we do this job together, we can bring hope and happiness to the children in our diocese. God is found in all our work. So, if we do it well, we give him glory."

To learn more about the work of the Safe Environment Office, visit <https://salina-diocese.org/office/safe-environment/>.



IN THE KNOW
— WITH FATHER JOE

Supporting your diocese

Dear Father Joe:

Should I give to our local diocesan appeal? If so, why?

I get lots of questions from parishioners about the wider Church's fundraising efforts, specifically the once-a year Bishop's Annual Appeal. It's an important topic; so, let me share my thoughts with you on this.

First of all, in my parishes, as in most, we take up collections every week that we can. We do this because we need money to operate. The money goes to the practical and the mission. In terms of practical, the biggest expense is salaries and insurance. In the budget at both of my parishes, that is by far the biggest expense, even with our painfully underpaid employees.

Beyond that, we spend a significant amount of our resources ministering to the spiritual needs of our parishioners.

Neither the practical, nor the ministerial, would be possible if we didn't take up collections every week.

I would assume this is the norm for most parishes.

Now, if we take the diocese we are within, we will see that it has the exact same needs, but on a much bigger scale. The diocese needs to do what individual parishes do, but without a weekly collection.

Instead, it counts on us to take up one big collection each year so it can minister and help every parish in our diocese.

To sum it up folks, once a year, the diocese asks each parish to step up and support the work that it does. Just as parishes must pay employees, cover insurance, care for the poor and needy, educate kids and minister to those in need, the diocese has those exact same needs and yet cannot/does not do a weekly collection.

I could go on and on. I genuinely feel a holy and joyful burden to share with everyone I can what a blessing the diocese is for us, and it's my hope that by sharing this all with you, you get a sense of why it's such a good thing to support the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share.

As for me, I've already made my pledge to support my diocese. I ask you to do the same.

Father Joe Krupp is a former comedy writer who is now a Catholic priest in the Lansing Diocese and a writer for faith magazine. @Joeinblack

RESOURCES

Make a gift, today! Join salinadiocese.org
Read *faith* magazine to learn more about the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share: <https://catholicmagazines.org/magazine-archive/faith-salina/salaa2021>

FEEDBACK

The Communications Office would like your feedback!

Help us better serve you by filling out this quick survey by visiting <https://salinadiocese.org/news-and-updates/communications-survey/>.

Thank you for your assistance.

10TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE
AUGUST 14TH, 2021 - IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY - HAYS

MEN OF HOPE

REGISTER TODAY
VISIT [SALINADIOCESE.ORG](https://salinadiocese.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION

FEATURING:

BISHOP JERRY VINCKE
CELEBRANT

CHRIS RAGGETT
EVENT HOST

FR. DALE WARMERSCHNIDT
EVENT HOST

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

THE MOST REVEREND GERALD L. VINCKE
BISHOP OF SALINA, INVITES YOU TO

SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021
5:30 p.m.

FOR AN EVENING WITH THE SEMINARIANS

PLEASE WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS



Sacred Heart, Atwood
Pictured with Father Norbert Dlabal and Deacon Mark Vrbas are, front row from left, Beau McQuitty, Ollie Schnee, Kayla Paz, Brigitte Rodriguez and Atticus Micek. Back row, from left, Dana Juenemann, Connor Rippe, Colt Lankas, Mason Davis and Didier Sanchez.



St. Edward, Belleville
First Communion in Belleville was May 9. From left, catechist Sarah Baxa, Shaylee Morris, Kegan Keeling, Father Henry Baxa and Arianna Reeves.



St. John the Baptist, Beloit
First Communion in Beloit was April 18. Front row from left, Miles Litton, Colt Eilert, Mary Meyer, William Peters, Clare Walter, Joseph Konrade, Olivia Sutter and Dominic Ring. Middle row from left, Katana Gilley, Maria DiNuzzo, Ainsley Krier, Reed Adams, Levi Peters, Lincoln Bergmann and Philomena Knappert. Back row from left, Luke Eitzmann, Kasen Martin, Kaylee Housh, Joley Isbell, Lennyx Stewart and Kash Pruitt.



St. Michael, Chapman
First Communion in Chapman took place April 24. Front row from left, Cheyenne Kelly, Madison Cook, Lauren DeArmond and Kinsey Acheson. Back row from left, catechist Abby Anderes, Wakeen Whitehair, Father John Wolesky and Nolan Langvardt.



St. Mary, Clifton
First Communion in Clifton was April 18. Pictured with Father Steve Heina, from left, are Warric Gelino, Remi Wurtz and Grady Wurtz.



Sacred Heart, Colby
First Communion in Colby was April 25. Front row from left, Brennen Ostmeier, Noble Finley, Jaxson Ohlrogge, Kadence Rodriguez and Levi Schroeder. Second row from left, Trip Boles, Bryer Reid, Syler Rhymer, Cashlyn Moss, Jaida Cersovsky, Londyn Mckee and Aria Garcia. Third row from left, Father Rich Daise, Elan Baalman, Marcus Johnson, Lucy Lager, Kaylee Wilson and Brielle Finley. Back row from left, Deacon Tom Schrick, Max Juenemann, Silas Horinek, Trae Williams, Kyle Bremenkamp, Gabe Cook, Brasen Fikan and Father Brian Lager.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia
First Communion in Concordia was April 11. Front row from left, Payzlee Shavely, Ava Day, Robert Talon Neihues, Bristol Jackson and Brinley Jackson. Second row from left, Jack Gilliland, Lincoln Fraser, Ayslynn Krier, Addison Willis, Brigham Kindel and Parson Link. Third row from left, Cooper Lamb, Beau Letourneau, Fallyn Atkins, Cooper Cox and Emilio Esteban. Back row from left, catechist Darlene Sipe, Father David Metz and catechist Karen Reedy.



St. Mary, Ellis
First Communion in Ellis was April 11. Front row from left, Kraytyn Blide, Brielyn Keller, Katie Hines, Breckyn Honas, Brooklyn Petz, Morgan Ferland and Sophie Seibel. Back row from left, Isabelle Fondoble, Eli Alvarez, Maverick Swagerty, Chase Aschenbrenner, Luke James, Brayden Chessmore, Braxton Morton and Olivia Eck.



St. Bernard, Ellsworth

First Communion in Ellsworth was May 2. Front row from left, Father Joshua Werth, Kynzie Barta and Hannah Reed. Middle row from left, Camden Thomasson, Jaxson Cole and Trevor Laas. Back row from left, catechists Tobina Norris and Andrea Reed.



St. John the Baptist, Hanover

First Communion in Hanover. Front row from left, Taelor Jueneman, Mason Schlabach, Laura Martin, Avery Jandera, Reagan Bruna, Nicholas Jueneman and Benjamin Jueneman. Middle row from left, Jayden Hynek, Landry Schwartz, Addyson Heiman, Weston Sedlacek, Cooper Bruna, Kendal Doebele and Parker Bruna. Back row from left, Miss Adam, Lauren Bruna, Carter Jueneman, Cora Meyn, Lake Kickhaefer, Ella Hynek, Dakota Lawrence, Greyson Sinn and Father Joseph Kieffer.



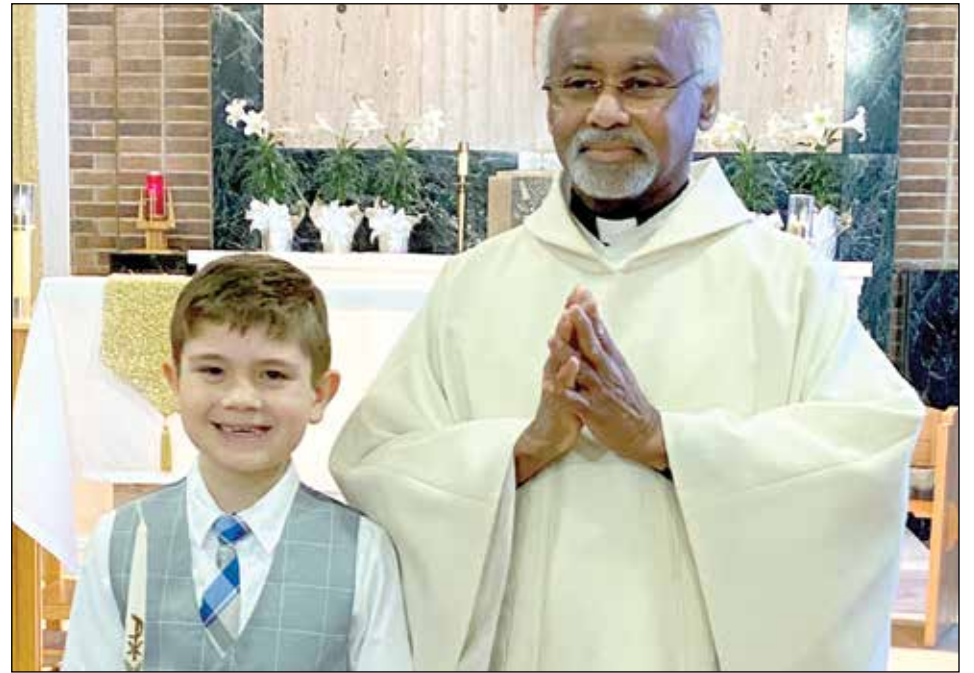
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hill City

First Communion in Hill City took place April 25. Front row from left, Cooper Riedel, Kaylee Wise, Izzy Zohner, Claris Harmon, Aspen Wolf and Jace Berland. Middle row from left, Ean Hart, Beckett Jilka, Kalan Stein, Cash Haynes, Landry Wells, Tyler Keith and Ethan Hart. Back row from left, catechist Courtney Zohner, Father Henry Saw Lone and catechist Wendy Keith.



St. Francis Xavier, Junction City

First Communion in Junction City was April 18. Front row from left, server Lyla, Lily Moreland, Emma Haden, Logan Whitaker, Macie Gebhardt, Matthew Heiss and server Jayden. Second row from left, Cassandra Smith, Jaden King, Laurel Eichhorn, Oliver Wagers, Luana Galvan-Chavarria and Delaney Sweisberger. Third row from left, Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, Emily Kadzevski, Silas Schoenhofer, Alfie Kadzevski, Mathias Schoenhofer and Sheldon Effland. Back row from left, catechists Betsy Liebau, Andrew Liebau and Michelle Koehn.



Immaculate Conception, Grinnell

First Communion in Grinnell was April 17. Rylan Dickman is with Father James Thomas, CMI.



St. Joseph, Hays

First Communion at St. Joseph Parish in Hays was May 2. Front row from left, Cash Howard, Sperry Mall, Collin Howard, Shawn Stahl, Bridget Staab, Jason Whitmer, Miley Vanek and Thomas McNeil. Middle row from left, Father Brian Lager, Gavin Giess, Michael Mackey, Alex Lee, Emma Smith, Kelsey Robben, Guinevere Schmeidler, Reese Wiley and James Ricketts. Back row from left, Lorelei Green, Brazos Fox, Claire Edmonds, Mack Dreiling, Soren Brungardt, Liam Bain, Nora Pinkney, Reid Pfannenstiel, Gianna Ochoa and Father Matthew Cowan.



St. Frances Cabrini, Hoxie, and St. Martin of Tours, Seguin

First Communion for the children of Hoxie and Seguin was April 11. Front row from left, Derek Schaffer, Finley Schippers, Madeline Watkins, Margaret Mary Lager and Caleb Oelke. Middle row from left, Dominic Mishler, Trace Ziegler, Ryan Bird and Dylan Mader. Back row from left, catechist Charlene Meier, Father Vincent Thu Laing and catechist Bridget Koster.



St. John, Logan

First Communion was in Logan on May 2. Father George Chalbham, CMI is with, from left, Yaresly Garcia, Yoselyne Garcia Parra, Yazmani Aiden Morales Parra, Helen Prew and Bryson Bolt.



St. Mary Queen of the Universe, Salina
Second-graders at St. Mary Queen of the Universe in Salina receive their first communion. Each student wears a mask that was embroidered with a chalice and host.



St. Thomas More, Manhattan
First Communion at St. Thomas More in Manhattan was April 11. Front row from left, Vivian Suther, Brayden Shoeb, Claire Ekart, Griffin Hoeme, Paxton Stream, Aiden Sunnenberg, Lilly Eyestone and Colton Kirk. Middle row from left, Retley Huninghake, Jayci Rapp, Ava Brokenicky, Haven Watson, Elizabeth Snider, Cooper Neuholder, Jackson Darnell, Nora Baumann and Father Frank Coady. Back row from left, Mallory Walker, Jaylie Runyan, Lennon Zeka, Adrian Castro, Morgan Strathman, Elliott Dunstan, Oliver Radi, Kambria Wise and Molly Malcolm.



Sacred Heart, Park
First Communion was in Park on April 18. Front row from left, Father James Thomas, CMI, Kyla Baalman, Bryson Polifka, Kendall McDonald and Bishop Vincke. Also pictured, catechist Teresa Selensky.



St. Wenceslaus, Wilson
First Communion in Wilson was April 4. Front row from left, Eli Brokes, Rayanna Beckman and Bo Brokes. Back row from left, catechist Theresa Berger and Father Tony Kulandaijesu, HGN.



St. Patrick, Lincoln
First Communion in Lincoln was April 25. Front row from left, Kai Frederking, Conor Schneider and Layne Nelson. Middle row from left, Chloe Koster and Leilani Holeman. Back row from left, catechists Anita Wirth, Father Mark Wesley and Sarah Diehl.



Manhattan Catholic Schools, Manhattan
Manhattan Catholic Schools second-grade students received First Holy Communion on April 18 at Seven Dolors Church. Front row from left, Mason Hampton, Scarlett Alcalá, Madison Hampton, Emma Dickson, Audrey Bruna, Erzsike Blevins and Jesse Francisco. Middle row from left, Rylan Stefek, Evelyn Doebling, Caroline Lackey, Elizabeth Burger, Alessandra Tenney, Emma Jean Millsap, Kaitlyn Vilkanskas and Rex Humerickhouse. Back row from left, Oscar Bosse, catechist Allyson Deaver, Ivan Irwin, Father Merlin Keiffer, Eli Lentfer, Oliver Foster, Father Frank Coady, Tate Thomson, Cristobal Giraldo, Father Kerry Ninemire, Logan Feldkamp and catechist Andrea Feldkamp.



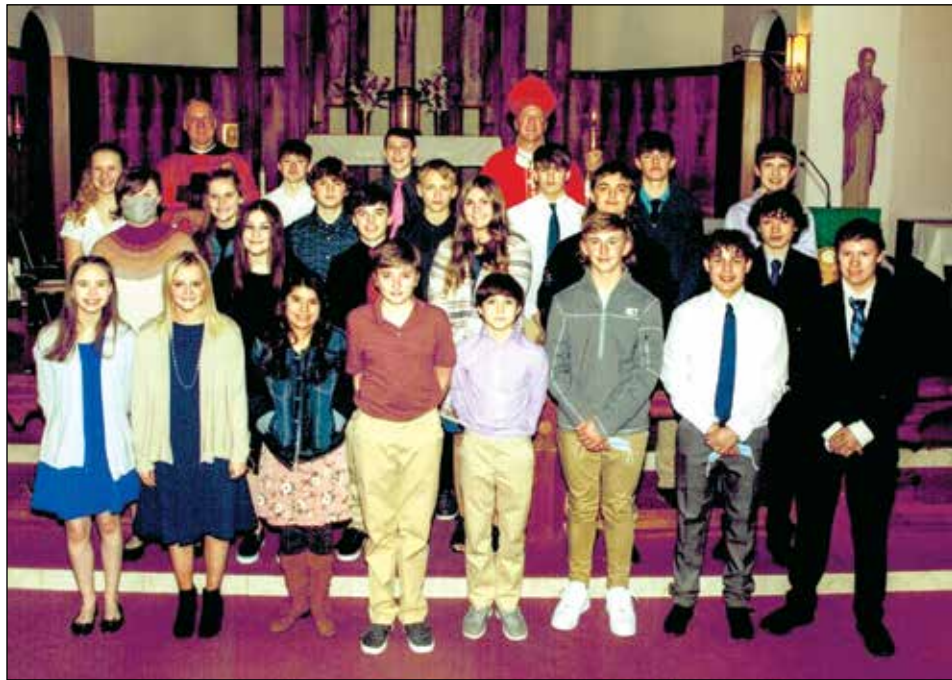
St. Joseph, Oakley
First Communion was in Oakley on April 18. Front row from left, Thomas Chrisler, Lexi Macias, Harloe Younkin, Maycee Younkin and Gus Grace. Middle row from left, Ava Glassman, Joseph Schrick, Owen Goetz and Parker Kahle. Back row from left, catechist Theresa Blair, Father Luke Thielen, Deacon Dennis Engel and catechist Tori Goetz.



Mary Queen of Angels, Russell
First Communion in Russell was April 18. Front row from left, Evan Dolechek, Nyliah Dinkel, Blayke Pasek, Maci Wieger and Scarlett Schneider. Back row from left, Preston Trout, Lizeth Martinez, Brooklyn Sohm, Noell Olson, Liam Axtell and Father Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI.



St. Mary, Smith Center
First Communion in Smith Center was April 18. From left, Justin Hughes, Father Soosai Rathinam, HGN, Ryker Mansholt and Benjamin Sheldon.



St. Andrew, Abilene

Confirmation was in Abilene on Feb. 10. Front row from left, Jentree McGivney, Taylor Gustafson, Clarissa Radabaugh, Brayden Simpson, Gage Taylor, Cade Hanney, Drew Hansen and Maverick Metzger. Second row from left, Haylie Olson, Marissa McKinney, Aaron Hartman, Abbygail Wilson, Dylan Krueger and Levi Hager. Third row from left, Tanith Elliott, Adin Bruna, Emery Moore, Austin Bruna, CJ Brooks, Cole Veal and Layton Randle. From back row left, Father Randall Weber, Hunter Taylor, Joseph Welsh and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



St. John the Baptist, Clyde and St. Mary of the Assumption, Clifton
Confirmation was in Clyde on April 14. Front row from left, Whitley Sikes, Julia Kindel, Mariah Almanza, Gabrielle Koch, Lily Rudolph, Skylar Kahrs, Hailey Begnoche and Zoie Gelino. Middle row from left, Thomas Bulleigh, Elisa Sorell, Alea Harvey, Kynnedi Steinbrock, Arabella Wernecke, Halle Benne and Seth LeClair. Back row from left, Gabe Walter, Coy Steinbrock, Bishop Jerry Vincke, Payton Fahey, Weston Girard and Father Steve Heina.



St. Mary, Ellis

Confirmation was in Ellis on April 17. Front row from left, Tyler Bongartz, Lucas Dinkel, Taegan Shannon, Addison Kohl, Alyssa Rome and Maleah Vine. Back row from left, Father Dana Clark, Macara Rohr, Isabella Eck, Natalee North, Toby Honas, Chason Fabrizius, Gavyn Wildeman and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



Sacred Heart, Atwood

Confirmation was in Atwood on April 11. Front row from left, Father Norbert Diabal, Carol Bedore, Mackenzie Heble, Kierstyn Domsch, Gabrielle De Waal, Travis Chvatal, Omar Sanchez, Rileyanne Merz, Ashlyn Livas, Lillian Rippe and Aaron McKain. Back row from left, Tori Ryburn, Sadie Sramek, Kim Shirley, Anthony Horinek, Jace Shirley, Eddie Hanson, Marvin Sanchez, Veanna Loucks, Rick Binder, Deacon Mark Vrbas, Ted Bussen and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



Sacred Heart, Colby

Confirmation was in Colby on April 18. Front row from left, Leigha Fellhoe- lter, Kaitlyn Carrillo, Alexis Gatz, Kimberly Cortes, Emma Johnson and Claire Denny. Second row left, Aden Reilley, Kenlie Miller, Jalyssa Sabatka, Alisabeth Barton, Natalie Wederski and Allison Zimmerman. Third row left, Jaxson Carney, Chelsy Weigel, Hailey Bolyard, Rylie Schippers, Karli Hills and Brenn Stanley. Back row left, Father Rich Daise, Dalton Bell, Carson Cook, Grant Stephens, Brayden Foss, Cai Lanning, Casen Carroll and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell

Front row from left, Camille Dortmund, Cassidy Hobbs, Emerson Nichols, Abigail Myers, Brittan Fritschen and Father James Grennan. Back row from left, Father Dan Scheetz, Father Michael Elanjimattathil CMI, Joshua Sohm, Andrew Roth, Jacob Windholz, Wyatt Evans and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

Preparing for the priesthood a special time

“Ordination is where you lay on the ground, right?”

I’ve been asked this question a number of times. It refers to one of the most memorable parts of the ordination rite, when the candidate lays prostrate on the ground while the congregation sings the Litany of the Saints.

I think the reason why this act of prostration is such a striking moment for so many people is because we don’t see it often. As Catholics, we do a lot of standing, kneeling and sitting, but it’s not often you see someone lay face

down on the floor during Mass.

Lying prostrate is a posture of prayer that has a lot of meaning. First, laying down symbolizes a sort of death, signifying the old self is dying so the new man can rise. In ordination, the priest must die to all his other dreams and desires, to the potential futures he may have had, so as to fully give himself to the Lord’s will. (In fact, in some monastic communities, a brother is even covered with a burial shroud as he lies prostrate before making his vows).

BRIAN McCaffrey
DEACON



Lying prostrate also symbolizes the totality of one’s commitment to God. The candidate is not simply bowing his head, nor is he only

bending the knee. Rather, he is casting his entire body – that is, his entire self – down before the throne of God. In being ordained a priest, he must give everything he has, holding nothing back.

Finally, prostration is an act of total humility and subjection to God’s will, as well as trustful surrender to God’s providence. Just

as Jesus lay prostrate in the garden before his passion (Matt 26:39), and in doing so abandoned himself to the Father’s will, so too must the priest completely surrender himself to the Lord, trusting in him alone.

In a way, then, this moment of prostration captures the essence of ordination, because in being ordained, a priest is laying down his life and giving all he has in service to the Lord and to his Church.

Deacon Brian McCaffrey is a transitional deacon who will be ordained to the priesthood on June 5.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT DEACON McCaffrey’s ORDINATION

Ordination in the Catholic Church, properly called Holy Orders, is the means by which a baptized male becomes a deacon, priest or bishop. The essential elements are the laying on of hands and the Prayer of Consecration, asking God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Election of the Candidate: When all has been prepared, Deacon McCaffrey will be called forward by one of the assisting deacons.

One of the co-vocations directors will present Deacon McCaffrey to Bishop Vincke. Bishop Vincke will ask, “Do you know him to be worthy?” The co-vocations director will answer, “After inquiry among the Christian people and upon the recommendation of those responsible, I testify that he has been found worthy.”

The family and friends of Deacon McCaffrey will express their assent to the choice by applause.

The Homily and Instruction: Bishop Vincke will address Deacon McCaffrey and the people on the duties of a priest.

The Promise of the Elect: Deacon McCaffrey will be publicly questioned by Bishop Vincke concerning his intention to be a priest and his readiness to accept the responsibility of the priesthood.

Deacon McCaffrey will promise to discharge without fail the office of priesthood as a fellow worker with the Order of Bishops in caring for the Lord’s flock.

He will promise to exercise the ministry of the word, preaching the Gospel and teaching the Catholic faith worthily and wisely.

He will promise to celebrate faithfully and reverently the mysteries of Christ, especially the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for the glory of God and the sanctification of the Christian people.

He will promise to implore God’s mercy upon the people entrusted to his care through prayer. He will promise, with the help of God, to be united to Christ the High Priest and be consecrated to God for the salvation of all.

Then Deacon McCaffrey will kneel before Bishop Vincke and place his hands between those of the Bishop. He will then promise respect and obedience to the bishop and to his successors.

The Litany of Supplication: Deacon McCaffrey will lay prostrate on the ground. Prostration is an ancient posture that shows both the donation of one’s life to God and His Church, as well as supplication, which is asking God for the grace to live one’s life for God and the Church. During this time, all those present will sing the Litany of the Saints, invoking the prayers of the saints on behalf of Deacon McCaffrey.

The Laying on of Hands: Once again, Deacon McCaffrey will go to Bishop Vincke and kneel before him. In silence, Bishop Vincke will lay his hands on Deacon McCaffrey’s head. The laying on of hands -- rooted in Scripture and the Tradition of the Church -- signifies the conferment of the Holy Spirit and is one of the essential elements of the sacrament of Holy Orders. Next, all the priests present will lay their hands on Deacon McCaffrey.

Prayer of Ordination: Bishop Vincke will extend

his hands over Deacon McCaffrey and will pray the Prayer of Ordination, asking God to consecrate Deacon McCaffrey for the Order of Priesthood. This prayer completes the essential act of ordination and will confer the sacrament of Holy Orders upon Deacon McCaffrey, now a newly ordained priest. At the conclusion of the prayer, all present respond “Amen.”

Investiture with Stole and Chasuble: The newly ordained Father McCaffrey will remain standing. He will then be vested by one of the attending priests with the priestly stole and chasuble, symbols of his new office in the Church.

The Anointing of the Hands: Father McCaffrey’s hands will be anointed with sacred chrism. In the Old Testament, anointing had two purposes: to set something apart and to seal a blessing. Through this, his hands are consecrated -- that is, set apart -- so as to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass and impart blessings on the people of God.

The Presentation of the Gifts: Bishop Vincke will receive the gifts of bread and wine from the people for the celebration of the Mass. Father McCaffrey will kneel before Bishop Vincke, who will place the paten and chalice in his hands as a sign of the sacrifice of the people that he will in turn offer to God.

Fraternal kiss: Lastly, Bishop Vincke will stand and give the fraternal kiss, also known as the sign of peace, to Father McCaffrey, as will all attending priests. This gesture is a sign of welcome into the priesthood of Jesus Christ which they all share as brothers.

Family finds faith through fire

BY ALLISON OCHOA
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The first Friday of Lent 2021 will forever be etched in the memories of Jerry and Carol Freitag as the day they lost nearly everything.

The couple, who live in rural Ellis County and are parishioners at St. Boniface Parish in Vincent, had returned home after an evening in Hays on Feb. 19 and were preparing for bed when they smelled smoke. Realizing their home was on fire, Jerry and Carol immediately began making their way to the front door.

“I had grabbed my phone before we left the bedroom and I thought Jerry was right behind me, but he had gone back to get his bill-

fold,” Carol said. “I had run to the end of the sidewalk to dial 911, and by the time I got out that far, everything was in flames. When I turned around, I saw Jerry down on his knees in the doorway. If he had been one or two steps behind that point, I don’t think he would’ve made it.”

As first responders made their way to the scene, family and neighbors of the Freitag’s had arrived and were already in action, moving Carol out of the cold and into a waiting pickup, and loading Jerry into a utility vehicle to drive him closer to the road to meet the ambulance that would soon be arriving.

Firefighters from the rural fire department



COURTESY PHOTO

Carol and Jerry Freitag lost many personal belongings during a February fire at their residence in Ellis County.

responded to the blaze within 12 minutes, but the family knew there was little chance of saving anything from the flames. The fire consumed the house’s living room, dining room, utility area and den,

and left other parts of the home severely damaged though not completely burned.

While firefighters and other first responders worked to keep the fire from spreading, Jerry was

on his way to Hays Medical Center where emergency room staff prepared him to be flown to the burn unit at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis Hospital in Wichita.

During the next four weeks, Jerry received treatment and rehabilitation for the first and second-degree burns that covered 8% of his body. Carol and the couple’s children, Kelly, Krista, Kim and Kevin, took turns during the first week spending time with Jerry at the hospital.

When not at Jerry’s bedside, the family worked long-distance to sort through the aftermath of the fire.

FIRE, PAGE 13

Fairness, facts and media

This column is not a “fake news” rant. But as the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: “... journalists have an obligation to serve the truth ... in disseminating information. They should strive to respect, with equal care, the nature of the facts ...” (CCC 2497)

Nearly all news reporting on The Fairness in Women’s Sports Act, recently passed by the Kansas Legislature but (successfully) vetoed by Gov. Laura Kelly, is an example of de facto advocacy and unfairness cloaked as objective journalism.

This legislation, officially known as SB55, is a fascinating read. It can be accessed online at www.kslegislature.org using the “Find Bill” search box.

SB55 would have protected women and female athletes from the unfair physical advantages inherent in bigger and stronger biological male competitors. It would prevent situations like that which occurred in Connecticut where two teenage boys “transitioned,” identified as female, and then took 15 state track championships from nine girls who previously held the titles.

Women who testified in favor of SB55 included several champion University of Kansas athletes, a former Olympian and one of the first women from Kansas to take advantage of Title IX, the landmark law that guaranteed equal opportunities for college scholarships and participation previously reserved for men.

The news media – wholly adopting language and issue framing supplied by opponents like the Kansas LGBTQ+

lobby – claimed SB55 would “ban transgender” kids from sports.

This is simply untrue. It would not have impacted male or co-ed teams. Everyone gets to play.

The Fairness in Women’s Sports Act would have simply ensured athletic competition would take place on a level playing field for all Kansas students. The words “ban” or “transgender” are not found in the bill.

The news media narrative of a “transgender sports ban” carried the day. Proponents of SB55 were vilified as schoolyard “bullies.”

One Senate opponent outrageously declared there would be “blood on your hands” if SB55 passed.

It would be a mistake to shrug our shoulders and dismiss the loss of the Fairness in Women’s Sports Act as a meaningless political skirmish. Like other

aspects of Catholic Church teaching connected to contemporary culture, we find a valuable lesson.

Pope Francis has been clear about the evil of “gender ideology.” The Holy Father has been equally insistent about advocating a “Christian anthropology” and a “human ecology” that respects “our dignity as human beings” and “the necessary relationship of our life” to the “moral law, which is inscribed into our nature.” (Laudato Si’, pp. 154-155).

We can and should respectfully correct the secular scribes of our day. Let us also defend the unique gift, beauty and truth of human sexuality.

Chuck Weber is the executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference and can be reached at Chuck@KansasCatholic.org.



CHUCK Weber
KANSAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CONFIRMATIONS



St. Joseph, Hays

Confirmation at St. Joseph in Hays. Front row from left, Sianna Miller, Paige Schlyer, Chloe Purinton, Madison Kershner, Katelynn Boyer, Ella Bain, Ainsleigh Bain, Dylan Shuck, Samuel Schroeder and Father Matthew Cowan. Middle row from left, Morgan Munsch, Tessa Wentling, Laylah Gottschalk, Grace Schmeidler, Lillian Wellbrock, Ethan Pfanenstiel, Adler Brown, Madox Zimmerman, Kaden Haas and Father Damian Richards. Back row from left, Father Brian Lager, Mark Schuckman, Kara Bemis, Riley Frank, Marisa Wasinger, Caira Augustine, Claire Howard, Henry Speno, Heuer Brungardt, Bronson Neil, Cooper Lindenmeyer, Bryce Werth and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



St. Edward, Belleville

Confirmation in Belleville. Front row from left, Ethan Ines, Ally Bombardier, Shevee Morris, Gwendalynn Cole, Olivia Rieke and Benedict Baxa. Back row from left, Bishop Jerry Vincke, Avery Stindt, Aden Morris, Owen Cole, Connor Martin, Father Henry Baxa and Breanna Reeves.

PARKER, FROM PAGE 5

I was in seminary for five years. That was my first experience in a Catholic school. At Mundelein, I received my master of Divinity and bachelor of Sacred Theology. The STB started me on the path of one day pursuing further education. I didn’t know if I ever would pursue further education due to the priest shortage in our diocese.

During all this time, I never really doubted that I was called to the priesthood. Despite things going on around me, it wasn’t about whether I liked it or how I was feeling, it was simply what I was called to do. So, I was going to do it. Challenges are not an indication that you are not called to be a priest.

On May 24, 2008, I was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Coakley. Ordination day was great. I had asked Bishop Coakley for advice beforehand. He said normally ordination day is crazy, so he suggested I set time to escape before

ordination. So, I did. I set time to be alone. Then I went in and was ready to enjoy it.

Other than the promises themselves, my favorite part of the ordination liturgy was lying prostrate during the Litany of the Saints. It was incredibly humbling, and my sister sang the litany. It was a powerful part.

After the seminary, I had my first assignment at St. Mary Queen of the Universe in Salina as an associate. I was with Father Kerry Ninemire during that time. He was great. Being a priest was overwhelming in a good way. The seminary teaches you how to handle pastoral situations, how to hear confessions, how to celebrate Mass and say the homily. But it can never prepare you for the experience of the real thing – actually celebrating the sacraments and having that real interaction with people.

Moving to being on my own was also terrifying. The

first time I was on my own was in Atwood, Beardsley and Herndon. But the people were fantastic and welcoming and encouraging. I was only 28 when I became a pastor, but it didn’t take me long to love it.

But I sort of shot myself in the foot. While I was still in the seminary, I was enjoying the academics, so I mentioned I would be interested in further education. Also, getting my STB made further education more feasible. Bishop Weisenburger eventually decided he wanted me to go back to school for further education. However, after falling in love with parish life, I didn’t want to go back, but I went. I received both my licentiate of Sacred Theology in Spiritual Theology and my doctorate in Sacramental Theology.

It was difficult getting back into studies, but I loved the classes. In fact, sometimes I’d sit in on extra classes simply because they

were so good. The advance studies are even better than the regular classes you get. I really liked it. My favorite class was on Eastern Catholic Spirituality. We studied everything from the Desert Fathers to more contemporary teachers, but it was all from the perspective of the Eastern Catholic Church.

I also learned that when people study theology, sometimes they just memorize the facts. But theology is more than that. It’s entering into the conversation of who God is. It’s sitting at the table and listening to all the thoughts from the great minds of the past, and then contributing your own thoughts to that conversation.

My dissertation was on marriage and is called “The Mystery of Sacrificial Love: A study of Deitrich von Hildebrand’s understanding of sacrifice in matrimony.”

My favorite part of being a priest would be the Sacraments – the Eucharist first, and Reconciliation

second. Sometimes, people are so afraid of confession. But sharing that they are forgiven and helping to give that hope is so good. And I also enjoy teaching.

I also like the people. People are so complementary to one another. I have a friend in Atwood, and he likes to tease me how I’ve spent most of my life looking at books and studying. However, one time we were putting a bookshelf together, and he asked me to pass him a Phillips screwdriver. I had to ask him if it was the flat one or the cross. Obviously, you can never know everything about everything.

For those who are discerning the priesthood, I think the primary question to ask yourself is, “Is this God’s call?” If you can say yes, then step two is to not look back. It never ended well for the people who looked back in the Bible.

Father Nick Parker is pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

FIRE, FROM PAGE 11

As family and friends began sifting through the rubble of the Freitag's house, they quickly realized the items that had survived the fire were a testament to the family's faith.

"I had just received a picture of the Divine Mercy but I hadn't put it in a frame yet, so it was laying on the counter," Carol said. "It should've burned because it was less than 4 feet from the room the fire started in, but it didn't."

Among the items that withstood the blaze and the more than 27,000 gallons of water that had been used to extinguish it were a rosary and a nativity scene — both made by Father Callistus Rectenwald, former pastor of St. Boniface Parish — the Divine Mercy image, a German prayer book from Carol's grandmother, Jerry's rosary and a crucifix that had hung in the home for more than 40 years. Other items included some clothing, furniture, a sewing machine and a few photos also survived.

"We have seen many blessings through the rubble," said Kelly Forell, Jerry and Carol's daughter. "There have been and will be more challenges, but there are lessons to be learned along the way."

One of those lessons for Jerry has been patience as he pushed through the treatments for his burns, including hours of physical, occupational and respiratory therapy. He also has worked to



COURTESY PHOTO

A February fire left extensive damage to the Ellis County home of Carol and Jerry Freitag.

come to terms with the lack of memories he has from his hospitalization due in part to the sedation and pain-relieving medicines.

"I had no idea about any of the things happening (at home)," he said. "It's frustrating to feel like you've lost four weeks of your life."

However, Jerry acknowledges he is healing.

"At my last appointment, my doctor joked, 'Can I see your ID, because you're not the same guy I saw arrive here a few weeks ago,'" he said.

The family has also been reminded of the importance of communi-

ty. From monetary donations from the Tri-Parish community of St. Boniface, St. Ann Parish in Walker and the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria, to donations of time and equipment needed to work on the site of their former house, the Freitags have been the recipients of an overwhelming amount of support.

"It's unreal," Carol said with tears in her eyes. "How do you accept all that?"

Father James Moster, O.F.M. Capuchin, pastor of the Tri-Parishes, said he believes the family's safety and the response of the



community are evidence of God's mercy.

"All of us are grateful for God's providential care and protection of this family," he said. "His manifest love and goodness are evident, and we can see that mercy and love through the people who have offered their support."

While the healing and rebuilding processes will take time, Jerry, Carol and their family know they have been blessed through the horrific experience.

"For whatever reason, the Lord isn't finished with them yet," Kelly said. "I hope they continue to look for ways to give back to the community as others have shared so much with them."

RETURN, FROM PAGE 1

The flu doesn't stay in France, however. Soon it has spread to other European countries. The president of the United States closes the borders. Even Americans overseas are not allowed to return home for fear of bringing the disease with them.

Later in the week, someone at work hollers to turn on the radio: It has reached America. Two women are dying in New York from it. The country is now really scared and going kind of crazy. The next few days, the flu is seen in other parts of the country: California, Oregon, Missouri, Ohio, Florida, Alabama and Kansas. It is sweeping the country, and no one — scientists, doctors nor the government — can seem to figure it out. Not only to cure it, but even to prevent it.

Suddenly, a cure is figured out. A vaccine. But it must be from the blood of someone who has not been exposed or infected by the disease. Someone who hasn't been touched, although it seems as though everyone has been.

Everyone is asked to go to

their local hospital and be tested. Long lines form throughout America. Neighbors, friends, relatives are all getting their fingers pricked to see if they might have what it takes to save mankind.

You and your family do your turn in line and have your blood drawn. While at the hospital, a nurse calls out your son's name. He has not been exposed or infected. Before you know it, they have grabbed him. You holler, "Wait a minute!" And the doctors say it is OK; they just want to double-check he is disease-free and the right blood type.

Five minutes later, the doctors and nurses come out to where you have been waiting, and they are hugging and crying with joy. It is going to work.

"Thank you, sir. Your son's blood is perfect. It is clean. It is pure. We can make the vaccine." The nearby people are all overjoyed. Their fears are calming a bit.

But there is a glitch, the doctors tell you. They need you to sign a consent form so they can draw your son's blood. You ask how many

pints? The doctor looks at you grimly, "We had no idea it would be a child. We need all his blood."

You are bewildered. Overwhelmed. Stunned. The weight of the world and mankind is on your son's shoulders. There is no other choice. They take you back to see him. You tell him you love him. Hug him, kiss him, crying over him, and the doctors say they must now begin. Lives depend on it.

Could you walk out while your son is saying, "Mom? Dad? Why have you abandoned me?" Remember what Jesus said on the cross on Good Friday: "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?"

A week goes by. They are having a ceremony to honor your son. By his blood, he has saved the world. But it cost him his life.

At the ceremony, though, some folks sleep through it, some folks don't even bother to come because they have better things to do — watching TV, sporting events, laziness. And some folks come with a pretentious smile and just pretend to care. You want to jump

up and say, "Excuse me. My son died for you. Don't you care? Does it mean nothing to you?"

I wonder, does God ever look down here at us at Mass and want to say, "Excuse me. My son died for you. Don't you care? Does it mean nothing to you?"

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). That is why we are Catholic. That is why we are here today. It means something. Every Sunday. Every day. Every Mass.

That brings me to this. On May 22 to 23, Bishop Vincke lifted the dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligations. That means once again, Mass is obligatory, unless you have a valid reason for missing Mass (illness, care of sick, age, etc.). If you miss Mass without a valid reason, it is a grave sin.

There is already a fear some folks won't return to Mass. Folks have gotten used to staying home and watching their parish Mass online, or maybe not even

watching Mass at all.

Please don't miss Mass — for the sake of your own salvation if nothing else.

But if you are tempted to skip Mass, try and remember that little boy who saved the world from the virus. Put that into the context of our virus that we have been suffering through. Put that into the context of the millions of lives — maybe even friends and family — that could have been saved if a little boy had stepped up and offered his blood as an antidote to COVID. Think of how relieved, happy and thankful you would be.

Now, put that into the reality of one man who did step up and save billions of lives from eternal damnation. Think of how relieved, happy and thankful we should be. Show God that gratitude. Show that gratitude every Sunday at every Mass.

Deacon Steve Frueh is assigned at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina. This article was adapted from a homily he gave in light of the COVID pandemic and the importance of returning to Mass.

ANNIVERSARIES

Leon and Verna Lee Musselman, of Clay Center, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary April 23. They were married April 23, 1966, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia. The late Msgr. Vincent LeMoine witnessed their vows.



PETER'S PENCE

The Peter's Pence Collection allows participants to support the Universal Church and help the Holy Father as he shows mercy to the neediest people around the world, in recognition of the common humanity shared by peoples of all ethnicities and religious backgrounds. In this spirit of mercy, Pope Francis helped the people of Iran when they suffered death and catastrophic damage from floods in March and April 2019. More than 10 million people suffered property damage, and the city of Ahwaz and numerous villages were evacuated. Two million people required immediate assistance. Pope Francis donated to direct relief efforts coordinated by the Iranian Red Crescent Society, in which Caritas Iran also participated. By participating in the collection, you join the Holy Father's efforts to show mercy to all in two ways: you support the ongoing activities of the Holy See, and you contribute to the charitable works of the Holy Father on behalf of those who are most in need. Our Catholic tradition calls us to provide for the material needs of the Church, and the Peter's Pence Collection is one of the opportunities we have to do so. When you answer the call, you build up the Church so it will continue to minister

to all for generations to come. For more, visit www.peter-spence.va/en.html. Prayerfully consider supporting this year's collection as an act of mercy and charity. Join brothers and sisters in faith to help Pope Francis in his ministry to the Universal Church and in reaching out to the most marginalized in our world. Thank you, and may God bless you abundantly.

*In Christ's service,
Most Reverend Gerald L. Vincke
Bishop of Salina*



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week. Please contact Principal Shawn Augustine at principal@saintxrams.org for more information. Check us out: great school, families and team to work with.

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WEDDINGS

Aaron Bachura and Kaley Broeckelman were married May 8, 2021, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade wit-

nessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Ed and Marita Bachura. Parents of the bride are Mike and Sharla Broeckelman. Witnesses

were Daniel Bachura and Corbyn Schroeder.

Lucas Brull and Megan Gottschalk were married April 10, 2021, at Immaculate

Heart of Mary in Hays. Rev. Earl Befort, OFM Cap., witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are James and Anne-Marie Brull. Parents of the bride are Jude

and Lora Gottschalk. Witnesses were Jacob Brull and Heidi Gottschalk.

Thomas James Campbell and Karlie Jo Blochlinger were married April 17, 2021, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia. Father David Metz witnessed the vows. Parents of the bridegroom are James and Julie (Hough) Campbell. Parents of the bride are Michael and Pam (Loughry) Blochlinger. Witnesses were Lucas Pistulka and Kristie Anderson.

Austin Gasper and Sadie Dinkel were married April 24, 2021, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. Father Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Joseph and Judy Gasper. Parents of the bride are Jason and Shelly Dinkel.

Nathan Joseph Gieber and Stephanie Margaret Lichtenauer were married April 10, 2021, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia. Father David Metz witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are David and Martina (Bremerman) Gieber. Parents of the bride are William and Sharon (Pater) Lichtenauer. Witnesses were Ty McKenzie and Grace Rohrer.

Jonathan Lang and Mara Geschwentner were married April 24, 2021, at St. Mary Parish in Ellis. Father Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Witnesses were Troy Nodine and Kennedy Burgess.

Luke Peters and Amber Robinson were married April 10, 2021, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Daniel and Elaine Peters. Parents of the bride are Lyn Robinson and Jenny Almond. Witnesses were Matthew Peters and Jessica Patton.

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BAPTISMS

Graylee McCrae Boydston, daughter of Monte and Deidre (Davis) Boydston, was baptized April 11, 2021, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Parish in Ellis.

Arlo Bernard Thomas Bruna, son of Adam and Valcyra Bruna, was baptized April 26, 2021, by Father Henry Baxa at St. Edward Parish in Belleville.

Ewan Joseph Denton, son of Shawn and Kara (Gross) Denton, was baptized April 25, 2021, by Deacon David Kisner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

Rexley Elizabeth Diehl, daughter of Michael and Afton Diehl, was baptized April 17, 2021, by Father

John Wolesky at St. Michael Parish in Chapman.

Cameron James Farha, son of Garrett and Amber (Hein) Farha, was baptized May 1, 2021, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia.

Doreen Elizabeth Hodges, daughter of Daniel and Gwen (Lang) Hodges, was baptized April 11, 2021, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

Kinsley Marie Hopper, daughter of Kenny and Audrianna Hopper, was baptized April 17, 2021, by Father Don Zimmerman at St. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center.

Kace John Juenemann, son of Brian and Megan (Wentz) Juenemann, was baptized April 4, 2021, by Father Jose Kumlumkal, CMI, at St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo.

Eleanor Rose Leiszler, daughter of David and Kristen Leiszler, was baptized April 10, 2021, by Father Steven Heina at St. Mary Parish in Clifton.

Warren Wilson Mahin, son of Caleb Mahin, was baptized April 18, 2021, by Father Henry Baxa at St. Edward Parish in Belleville.

Bentley Stanley Pfizenmaier, son of Kevin and Ashley Pfizenmaier, was baptized April 25, 2021, by Father Don Zimmerman at St.

Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center.

Kollins Rae Rogge, daughter of Adam and Jamie Rogge, was baptized April 11, 2021, by Father Steven Heina at St. Mary Parish in Clifton.

Serena Raynel and Kadra Jo Ryburn, daughters of Shane and Tori (Sramek) Ryburn, were baptized April 25, 2021, by Father Norbert Dlabal at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

Lena Elizabeth Sherley, daughter of Daniel and

Annette Sherley, was baptized April 18, 2021, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Lucy Marie Stamm, daughter of Alexander and Joan (Dreiling) Stamm was baptized April 3, 2021, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Parish in Ellis.

Emma Marie Zimmerman, daughter of Kyle and Sara (Dreiling) Zimmerman, was baptized May 1, 2021, by Father Earl Befort at St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen.

DEATHS

Louis Eugene Boling Jr., 75, died July 26, 2020. Memorial Mass was celebrated April 29 at St. John the Baptist in Clyde. Father Steve Heina presided.

Steve C. Chartier, 93, died March 6, 2021. Graveside service was April 9 in St. Joseph Cemetery in St. Joseph. Father Steven Heina presided.

Margaret L. Derousseau, 90, died April 11, 2021. Funeral service was celebrated April 16 by Father Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Burial was in Mount Hope Cemetery in Clyde.

Phyllis L. File, 82, died April 15, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 21 by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

Gloria A. Hamel, 88, of Concordia, died April 21, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 26 by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Burial was in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Dorothy Ann (Engelbert) Kolarik, 92, died April 8, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 12 by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

Robert "Bob" Steimel, 74, of Concordia, died April 23, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 29 by Father David Metz and Father Henry Baxa at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia with the Knights of Columbus honor guard. Burial was in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

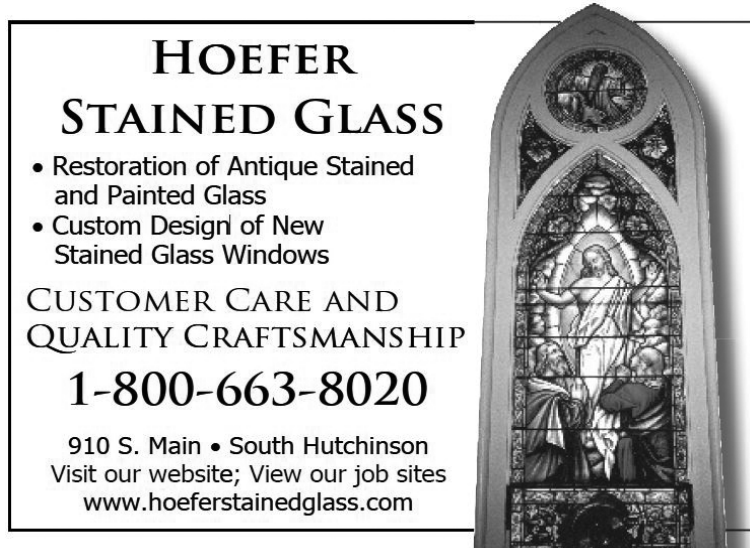
Wilda J. Waldmann, 75, of Beloit, died April 14, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 20 by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.



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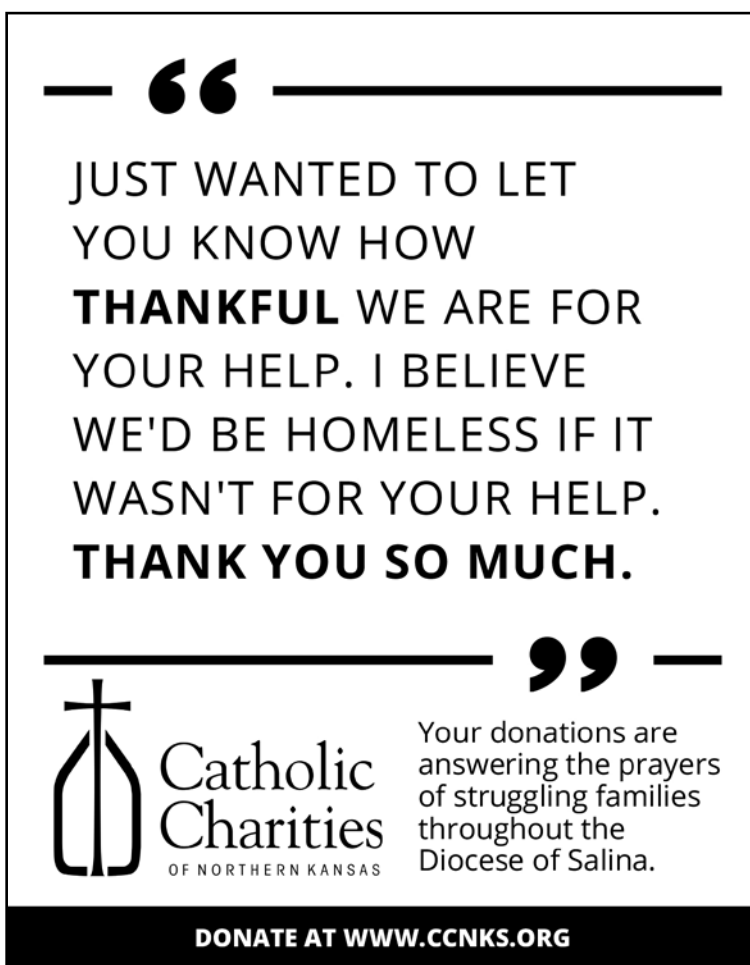
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