



Synod of Synodality

BISHOP: PARTICIPATE IN JOURNEY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have just begun the opening of the Synod on Synodality for every diocese in the world. There are many questions and perhaps even confusion about the synod. This part of the synod is about listening – listening to the Holy Spirit and listening to others. Synod means journeying together. It means taking the time to listen to another's story. It means listening to people we normally don't talk with. It means listening to people we might not agree with. It means listening to people who are marginalized. Why is this important? Because every human person is a member of our family.

The Synod is meant for everyone to participate. That includes you. How can you participate? By following a three-step process.

1) Please take the time to listen to another person's story, perhaps someone you have been meaning to talk with but haven't for one reason or another. Perhaps a neighbor, perhaps someone in church whom you have seen but haven't had a conversation with, perhaps someone who is struggling, someone that you may have different views on politics and the Church, someone who is poor.

2) After listening to their story, ask them, "How has the Church journeyed with you? Is there anything you feel the Church can do to help you or do better?"

3) Write a short summary of what you learned from that person. Then please send that summary to the Chancery either via a letter or going to our website and submitting it on the diocesan synod page under the bishop's office. (<https://salinadiocese.org/office/bishops-office/diocesan-synod/>)

Each diocese is asked to collect these "stories" and write a report on the answers. This report will be sent to the Vatican by April. In the fall of 2023, there will be a synod of bishops to discuss synodality. Let us pray together so that the reflections and exchanges of this endeavor might help us rediscover the joy of being the People of God who journeys together, listening to everyone.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

EVENT IS IMPORTANT TO SALINA DIOCESE

By KATIE GREENWOOD

THE REGISTER

What is a synod?

A synod is more than the bishops reflecting on a particular topic and advising the pope. It is a process which involves the faithful. It is a journey of discernment, in which the people of God are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church. Through listening and sharing, the faithful will seek to understand what the Holy Spirit's will is for the Church as she continues in her mission to evangelize the whole world.

Why is this synod important?

All synods are important, but this particular synod impacts the Salina Diocese in a unique way. The Holy Father has asked that every diocese listen to what is on the hearts of the faithful. After a period of listening, diocesan leadership will submit a report to the Vatican that details the thoughts of faithful in the Salina Diocese.

The hearts and opinions of Salina diocesan faithful will be heard in the Vatican. Because of this, it is important for the Salina Diocese to play its part in answering the questions the Holy Father posits. Perhaps, the faithful of our diocese can assist the Holy Father in guiding the Church in such a way to better fulfill her mission.

How is our diocese participating in the synod?

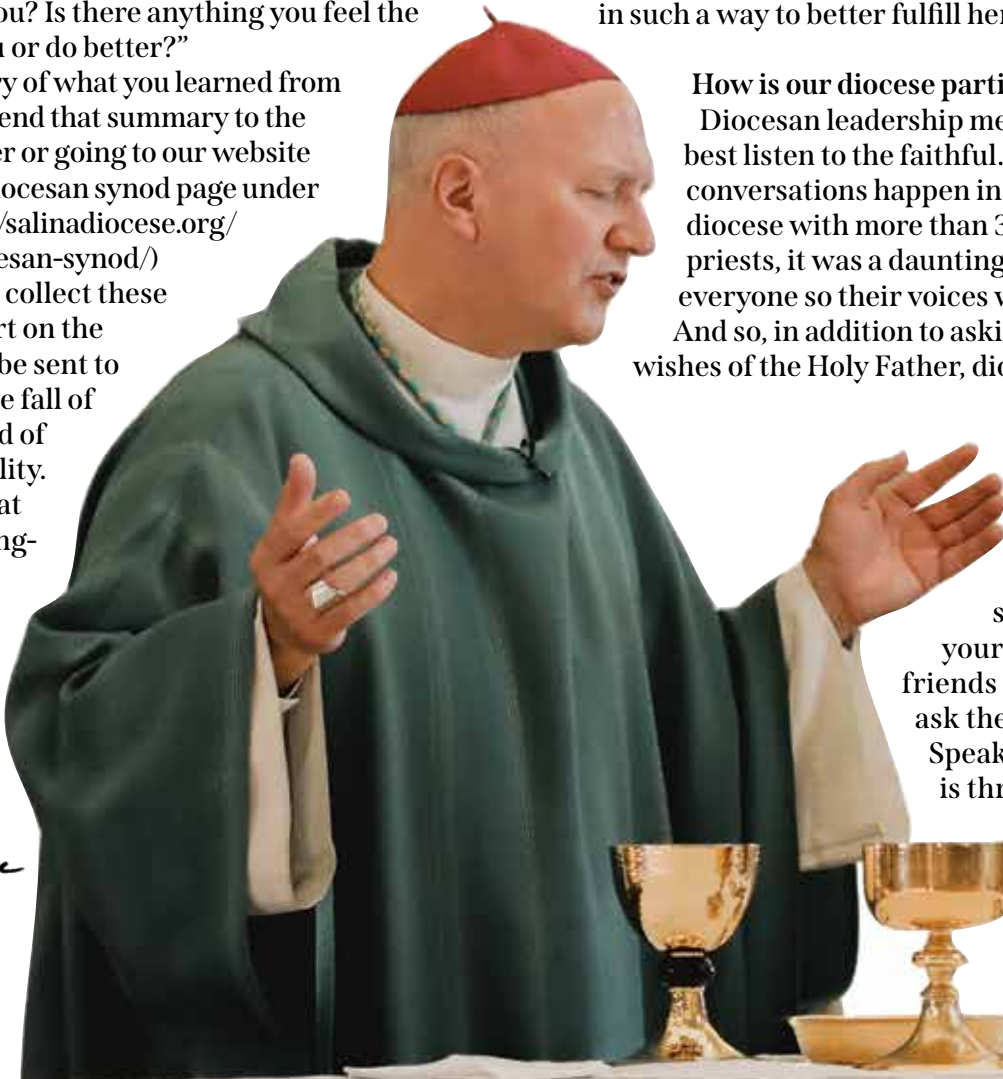
Diocesan leadership met numerous times strategizing how to best listen to the faithful. It was determined the most authentic conversations happen in intimate, one-on-one settings. But in a diocese with more than 36,000 Catholics and only 40 active priests, it was a daunting task trying to find a way to listen to everyone so their voices would be heard.

And so, in addition to asking clergy to assist with fulfilling the wishes of the Holy Father, diocesan leadership is asking for help.

How can I help?

You can help by simply listening, and then let our diocese know what you hear. Our request is that you take some time to speak with your spouse, your parents, your siblings, your children, your coworkers, your friends ... speak to the people around you and ask them questions. Listen to their answers. Speak with them about the ways the Church is thriving, and the ways the Church is hurting. And then, take a moment to write down their answers and submit it to diocesan leadership.

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ON THE ROAD

Students take
NCYC trip.
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CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Together, we
create hope.
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#iGIVECATHOLIC

St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center

Catholic Conversations

St. Francis of Assisi Church

Divine Mercy Radio

Sacred Heart Grade School

St. Mary Church and School

St. Francis Xavier Parish

St. Francis Xavier School

Manhattan Catholic Schools

St. Thomas Moore

St. Joseph School

St. Nicholas of Myra Church

Comeau Catholic Campus

St. Mary Grade School

St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish

Prayer & Action / Totus Tuus

Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High School

St. Andrew Grade School

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Thomas More Prep - Marian Jr/Sr High School

Holy Family Elementary

St. John's Catholic Schools

St. John The Baptist Parish

Clergy Care Diocese of Salina

St. Andrew Church

St. Boniface Parish

St. Agnes Church

St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish

Tipton Catholic High School

Sacred Heart Parish

St. John's Grade School

Sacred Heart Grade School

Manhattan
Diocese of Salina

Munjoy
Hays

Colby
Ellis

Junction City
Junction City

Manhattan
Manhattan

Oakley
Hays

Hays
Salina

Salina
Diocese of Salina

Salina
Abilene

Hays
Clay Center

Salina
Salina

Hays
Hays

Beloit
Beloit

Salina
Abilene

Tipton
Grainfield

Russell
Tipton

Plainville
Hanover

Plainville

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GIVING TUESDAY IS NOV. 30

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Publisher: Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke, BISHOP OF SALINA

Editor: Katie Greenwood, THEREGISTER@SALINADIOCESE.ORG

Communication director: Colleen Augustine, COMMUNICATIONS.OFFICE@SALINADIOCESE.ORG

Advertising/circulation: Brenda Streit, NEWSPAPER@SALINADIOCESE.ORG

Business manager: Jennifer Hood, FINANCE@SALINADIOCESE.ORG

P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980

Phone: (785) 827-8746; Fax: (785) 827-6133; salinadiocese.org/publications

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Playing the ‘game’ by God’s pursuit, rules

I was with my family at a St. John’s-Beloit football game. Father Jarett Konrade was seated a short distance from us. And as we tried to watch the game, Levi (the 3-year-old) decided he wanted to play tag. After being told, “Not now,” by every sibling he asked, Levi ventured over to Father Konrade. “Chase me!” he exclaimed. To which Father Konrade bolted upright and began to chase the giggling Levi all around in one gigantic circle. With cassock flying and one step of his equaling 10 of Levi’s, Father Konrade inevitably tagged Levi. Levi enjoyed being “it” for a mere two seconds. When he realized Father Konrade had fancy footwork

that made it near impossible for him to be tagged, he hollered, “Stop moving!” Very unsportsmanlike of him. But he’s 3. Upon realizing Levi would soon have a hysterical tantrum if he failed to tag him, Father Konrade slowed down. And Levi gleefully tripped over himself as he rushed to tag him. In the moment, we all just enjoyed watching the brief game of tag that took place. We had all forgotten about the football game at that point. But looking back, I thought about that game of tag in a new light. Our God is one of pursuit. He’s

constantly chasing after us, longing to bring every lost sheep back into the fold. But we’re also called to pursue him, to lead lives pursuing his will for us. Father Konrade chasing Levi was like those moments in the spiritual life that are full of consolation. Those moments when God seems so close. Levi chasing Father Konrade was like those moments in the spiritual life that are full of desolation. The moments when God feels far away. But the thing is, even though Father Konrade seemed so far away to Levi, he wasn’t. He was always right there. And when Levi was close to

despair and a 3-year-old sized tantrum, Father Konrade moved closer. And as Levi and Father Konrade chased each other around the circle, it was almost easy to forget who was chasing who. It’s so good to remember that our God is always seeking us, always chasing. He longs to be united with us. And if our hearts are open to his saving grace, he’ll always “catch” us, no matter where we are in life.



KATIE Greenwood CREATIVE EDITOR

Katie

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

BISHOP’S CALENDAR

December

2

Divine Mercy Radio Care-A-Thon, 4 p.m.

3

St. Francis Xavier Feast Day Mass, 5:30 p.m., Junction City

8

125th Anniversary Celebration Mass, 5 p.m., Immaculate Conception, Grinnell

11-12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina

12

Manhattan Mass of Thanksgiving, 6 p.m.

18

Seminarian Family Advent/Christmas Mass and Luncheon

18

Runnin’ Revs, 6 p.m., Salina

GOSPEL READINGS

Dec. 5

Second Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist preached the coming of the Lord.

Dec. 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist tells the people that he baptizes them with water, but someone mightier will baptize them with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Dec. 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:39-45

The pregnant Mary visits her cousin, Elizabeth.

Dec. 26

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Luke 2:41-52

As a young child, Jesus was found in the temple after three days.

PRAYER INTENTION

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

Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SAINTS, FEASTS

“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

3	Francis Xavier, Priest	7	Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor
		8	The Immaculate Conception
		12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
		14	John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor
		25	Christmas
		26	Stephen, the First Martyr
		27	John, Apostle and Evangelist
		28	Holy Innocents, Martyr

Diocese remembers Father Meitl

BY THE REGISTER

The Rev. Roger Meitl passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 22, 2021 at the Catholic Care Center in Bel Aire where he resided since 2014. He was born April 3, 1933, to John and Bertha (Ypma) Meitl in Leoville and was baptized by the late Father Martin J. Schmitt. Father Meitl’s grade and high school education was received in the Leoville parochial schools in which the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Concordia taught. He was encouraged to study for the priesthood in the Diocese of Salina by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor John Wolf and he began studies at Conception Seminary, Conception, Mo., in September, 1951. There he followed the regimen of priesthood studies under the guidance of the Benedictine Fathers of Conception Abbey.



Meitl

The last three years of his priestly training were spent at Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, where he was taught by the Vincentian Fathers. As a student of Kenrick Seminary, Roger continued his interest in choir and glee club work. He was secretary of the Kenrick Mission Society and took part in activities of the Rural Life Society. The Rev. Roger Meitl was ordained into the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Church in Leoville on Saturday, March 14, 1959. His First

Solemn Mass was at the Immaculate Conception Church, Leoville, on Saturday morning, March 21, 1959. After Father Meitl’s ordination, he served in the following capacities:

- 1959-61, assistant at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe, Salina, and taught at Sacred Heart High School.
- 1961-62, assistant at Sacred Heart, Plainville.
- 1962-63, administrator at St. Wenceslaus, Wilson.
- 1963-67, administrator at Sacred Heart, Esbon, and St. Mary’s, Smith Center.
- 1967-73, administrator at St. Mary the Assumption, Clifton, and St. Bernard’s, Clara, as well as administrator of the mission, St. Michael parish, Kimeo.
- 1973-82, pastor at Sacred Heart, Colby.
- 1982-84, pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays, and pastor of the mission church, Our Lady, Help of Christians, Antonino.
- 1984-87, pastor at St. Mary’s, Russell.
- 1987-93, assistant at St. John the Baptist, Beloit; pastor at the mission parish St. Mary Church, Jamestown, (until it closed in 1989), and chaplain at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia; St. Joseph’s Hospital and Mount Joseph Senior Village in Concordia.
- 1993-2005, pastor at St. Joseph’s, Oakley; Immaculate Conception, Grinnell, and St. Paul’s,

Angelus.

- 2000-2002, canonical pastor at St. Frances Cabrini, Hoxie, and St. Martin of Tours, Seguin, (oversight of international priests).
- 2002-2003, canonical pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Goodland, (substituting for pastor on sabbatical).
- 2003-2006, canonical pastor at Sacred Heart, Oberlin; Sacred Heart, Selden; and Immaculate Conception, Leoville, (oversight for international priests).
- 2005-2012, pastor at St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis, and St. Joseph’s, Bird City.

Roger celebrated his 50th year Jubilee in 2009. After 53 years of service, he retired to the Catholic Care Center in Bel Aire. Roger enjoyed traveling and was fortunate to travel internationally several times. He enjoyed researching the genealogy of the Ypma’s and Meitl’s. Roger was pre-deceased by his parents, his sisters, Genevieve (Meitl) Campbell, Sister John Bosco (Jackie (Meitl) Kenney), brothers Sylvester, Gerald, Elmer, Ernest and Walter. He is survived by one brother Harold and many nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian burial was Oct. 30 at Immaculate Conception Church in Leoville. Father Meitl was laid to rest in the adjacent church cemetery next to his parents. Memorials may be given to Immaculate Conception Church, Leoville.

TMP students grow self, city

By ALLISON OCHOA

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Putting students' faith into action and making them better disciples are the goals of the Senior Capstone Project at TMP-Marian High School in Hays. Now in its second year, the program has the 41-member class of 2022 undertaking projects to benefit the community in numerous areas including Catholic education, social services and recreation.

"(The inspiration) behind this project is Ephesians 2: 19-22, where St. Paul talked about building upon the foundation of the apostles and Christ being the cornerstone," said campus minister Bill Meagher. "Our students are no longer just students of Catholic education. They are now going out and using that Catholic education to serve the community."

Near the end of each student's junior year, they developed a proposal for the project they wanted to initiate. Some projects were designed by individuals, and others were designed for small groups. Among the requirements for the assignment, Meagher said the students were to incorporate one of the seven corporal and one of the seven spiritual works of mercy. The students then defended their proposals in front of a committee and received feedback on ways to

adjust elements of their plans before diving into them during their senior year religion class.

Grace Pope and Emma Dinkel are focusing their efforts to benefit a new transitional housing initiative they learned about through a Faith in Action program they participated in at TMP. They will be partnering with an already-established community golf tournament to raise money to provide for ongoing needs of the facility.

"When we approached the First Call for Help staff about our idea, they were really excited," Pope said. "They had the money to start, but this would help support them in the future."

"We're piggybacking on the existing golf tournament and creating a fundraiser through competitions and other smaller (activities) during the event."

The pair are in the process of meeting with local business owners to secure sponsorships and donations for the tournament, which will be in the spring.

"A lot of them are surprised at how responsible we are to take on a project like this, but they are all willing to help," Dinkel said.

Learning to build partnerships is also part of the work Maggie Baalman, Jessica Herrman and Julia

Meitner are investing in their grant-funded project to remodel a basketball court at the newly completed ARC Park, a fully accessible recreation complex located in northwest Hays.

"The new court will be useful for little kids and kids with or without disabilities," Baalman said. "It'll have two regular-sized goals and two shorter goals."

The group has partnered with several local entities, including Fort Hays State University students and faculty, the City of Hays and the Heartland Community Foundation to secure funding and assistance with labor and supplies.

"We paid for our supplies through the grant money we received, and the FHSU Concrete class is helping us with the labor, which also provides a learning experience for (those students)," Herrman said.

Baalman, Herrman and Meitner have also been in regular contact with City of Hays representatives and local businesses to receive guidance on choosing materials such as paint, bench types and basketball goals.

"We hope to have all the concrete finished this fall before it gets too cold," Baalman said. "Then we can put the finishing touches on everything in the spring."

The trio has learned to build on their respective strengths to get their work completed and work within the deadlines their community partners set for various aspects of the job.

"Each of us has an area we're focusing on, from art and color, measurements and planning, to math and logistics," Meitner said.

The capstone projects are just two of several being completed during the fall semester. Students are also working on initiatives to improve the school's baseball and softball facilities, support the St. Joseph Food Pantry, enhance TMP-Marian's promotion of events and activities and assist at Holy Family Elementary School. Additional projects will be launched and completed during the spring semester. All projects will be graded and are part of the students' graduation requirements.

"The ultimate goal is to give the kids an opportunity to show they've learned the faith and can take that faith out to make a difference in their community," Meagher said. "We also want to adjust the mindset of people regarding what teenagers can do in their communities."

"Our parishes and lots of our community members sacrifice so our schools can exist. This is a return on that investment."

AROUND SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE



St. Andrew's Grade School in Abilene honored Vietnam veteran Jack Olson on his 70th birthday. Olson has volunteered at St. Andrew's for 30 years and retired this year. He was given a Quilt of Valor made and quilted by Vicky Simenson. She is wrapping him in the quilt as part of the special presentation. Olson and his wife, Brenda, are both veterans and have volunteered for years at the school. The students have mailed out 300 letters to veterans this year that include a link to a special "Thank You" dedication video they made. The following week, veterans visited each classroom and the Kansas National Guard brought military vehicles for the kids to learn about. The students hung up patriotic decorations, including special VIP flags flying outside the school to honor special veterans. The VIP flags are a fundraiser. Funds raised will be donated to Honor Flights for Veterans.



To honor the year of St. Joseph, the students at St. Joseph School in Oakley created a schoolwide project. The school made a mural out of wooden popsicle sticks. Each class wrote traits of Joseph on each stick. The wooden sticks remind that Joseph worked with wood as a carpenter. Some of the students' favorite words were father, kind, protector, servant of God and faithful. Students used the wooden sticks to create symbols that stand for St. Joseph's life. On the left, there is a house because St. Joseph built a home for the Holy Family. The heart represents that St. Joseph loved his family and provided for them. Inside the heart the words Joseph, Mary and Jesus are found. On the right is a church because St. Joseph is the protector of the whole Catholic Church. The shield inside the church represents that St. Joseph protects the church with all his prayers. The cross inside the church shows that St. Joseph helped take care of Jesus on Earth so he could die on the cross for us. St. Joseph is important to the whole Church, but is especially important to students at St. Joseph School. Prayer: St. Joseph, you protected Jesus when he was here on earth so that he could die for us. Thank you for protecting the Holy Family and the Church. Please pray for us and help protect us and our families as well. Jesus, help us to be more like St. Joseph every day.

A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

A thanksgiving prayer
Father in Heaven, Creator
of all and source of all good-
ness and love, please look
kindly upon us and receive
our heartfelt gratitude in this
time of giving thanks.
Thank you for all the graces
and blessings you have
bestowed upon us, spiritual
and temporal: our faith and
religious heritage. Our food
and shelter, our health, the
loves we have for one another,
our family and friends.
Dear Father, in Your infinite
generosity, please grant us
continued graces and bless-
ing throughout the coming
year.
This we ask in the name of
Jesus. Amen.

Students from Catholic
schools across the Diocese
of Salina give thanks for the
blessings in their lives.
What are you thankful for?

**St. John's Grade School,
Beloit**
The rain because it makes
the grass grow.
Madden Bergman

Good food like pizza.
Max Dunstan

The sun to help the plants
and the night to sleep.
Lewis Greenwood

Pumpkins and myself.
John Paul Tighe

**Holy Family Elementary,
Hays**
God and Jesus and Mary.
Ty Dreiling

My dog, family and
friends, food, shelter, school
and toys. I'm thankful for
these things because they
help me live a happy life.
Kelton Legleiter

Food so I can eat, a roof so
my head doesn't get wet
when rain falls.
Annie Hertel

The food we have, the
water we can drink, the
homes we have to live in,
the schools we can learn in,
and the friends we have.
Last, but not least I'm
thankful for our families.
Felecity

My family. I'm thankful
for having a home to live in.
I'm thankful for having a
school to learn about Jesus
and God. I'm thankful for
having a teacher.
Brooke

**St. Joseph Grade School,
Oakley**
My parents, shelter, food,
the Church, teachers, water
and to have a stepdad.
Breckyn Selensky

The life that I have.
Cameron Brooks

Having a family and a roof
over my head and being
alive and my cat.
Faith Kuhlman

That my baby sister is
healthy.
Johnnie Ottley

Mommy.
Stella Bixenman

My dump truck.
Colter Brown

**Manhattan Catholic
Schools**
My family, my grandma
and grandpa, and my warm
house.
Elizabeth Burger

The saints, God, my mom

and dad, and my grandma
and grandpa.
Rylan Stefek

My family, my life, my
parents, food, and my
freedom.
Kaitlyn Vilkanskas

My mom and my dad, my
sister, my sweet cats, clean
water, and the United
States.
Logan Feldkamp

**St. John's Catholic School,
Hanover**
My family, house and my
new twin brothers.
Lyla Dragastiin

The farmers in the fields
so we will have food to eat.
Coy Fritschi

My God, my family and
my cousins.
Ella Jueneman

My dad because he takes
me hunting and my mom
cooks good food.
Brooks Bruna

All the army people who
died for us to give us freedom.
Kipton Bruna

My parents.
Brett Becker

My family, my friends, my
relationship with God, the
roof over my head, food and
my health.
Blake Jueneman

I am thankful for my fami-
ly because they are nice. I'm
also thankful for God
because he is loving and
caring and takes care of the
sick. I am also thankful for
the army who serve our

country and those who gave
their lives for us. I am also
thankful for church where I
can worship God.
Lucas Schlabach

**Holy Family Elementary,
Hays**
My family because they
let me go to the Arc Park,
my mom because she cooks
dinner, my dad because he
gives me donuts in the
morning, and my brothers
and sisters because they
play with me in the morn-
ing.
Charlie Hartman

**St. Francis Xavier Catho-
lic Schools, Junction City**
My mom giving me more
baby sisters than baby
brothers.
Fiona Benson

My house, my family,
Jesus, and God.
Conner Hausauer

My mom who makes
delicious food.
Delaina Okara

Soldiers who are on ships
like the battleship Olympic.
Bernhards Curit

My grandma giving me
LEGOs all the time.
Darren Dennis

Books, specifically Wings
of Fire books. I'm also
thankful for my family and
teachers.
Aurora Benson

That we don't have spell-
ing words this week.
Oliver Folgert

Trains because I like to
watch them and learn about

them. I like everything
about trains.
Teagan Black

That my great-grandma
and grandpa are alive. Most
people don't get to meet
their great-grandparents.
Caleb Justin

My family. They take care
of me and make sure I'm
alive.
Camryne SanMiguel

Life. That's the only thing
I can think of besides video
games.
Sebastian Guthrie

**St. Andrew Grade School,
Abilene**
My dog. Wherever I go,
he chases me.
Caleb Evans

Alligators, my friends,
and my family.
Chase Reed

Lions, cheetahs, cats, my
whole family, God and
everybody.
Veronica Brooks

Food, my mom, my
brother, and my dad.
Ella Strunk

**St. Mary Grade School,
Ellis**
I am thankful for the
people in my life who trust
me, make me happy and
give me advice.
Kori Whited

I am thankful for the
people in my life that give
me hugs and hang out with
me and the people who
comfort me.
Coltan Mader

AROUND SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE



The K-State retreat team hosted an event with confirmation students Oct. 16 and 17 at Sacred Heart School in Colby. Back row from left, (eighth-grade confirmation): Luke Shull, Isaac Schroeder, Cobin Curry, Eric Schroeder, Zach Kistler, Coryl Carman, Makenzi Rhymer, Austin Gerstberger and Caleb Cersovsky. Front row from left, (K-State retreat team): Robert Jennings, Dominic Victor, Aubrey Kaiser, Robyn Logan, Olivia Roberts, Jasmine Morey and Austin Bradley.



Eighth-grade students at Manhattan Catholic Schools made their own holiday soaps for an auction during STREAM class recently. They had to problem-solve to get the soap to the right consistency after trial and error.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students within the Diocese of Salina take part in a past National Catholic Youth Conference.

Students take NCYC trip

BY THE REGISTER

On Nov. 17, more than 600 young people and their sponsors from the Salina Diocese traveled to Indianapolis. They joined approximately 11,000 young people from all over the country for the biannual National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). The theme this year is Ablaze.

NCYC explains the theme as, "The second chapter of the book of Acts tells about the coming of the Holy Spirit. At NCYC 2021, we will call upon the Holy Spirit to descend upon our young Church and set them Ablaze for the Lord."

NCYC is a national event where young people get a

chance to listen to national speakers, meet people from all over the country, go to adoration, confession and Mass. It is a powerful three-day event that will help the young people encounter Christ and become better disciples.

Director of youth ministry Bill Meagher says, "We want to thank the many people in our communities who generously help our young people attend this conference," said Bill Meagher, director of youth ministry. "They could not afford to attend without your help. Thank you for investing in our young people and their faith development."



OUR PRAYER

Please join us in keeping the young people and their sponsors in our prayers:

Grant that our young people and sponsors reaped many joys from their experience at NCYC.

Let their hearts be open to the call of Christ in their lives. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

MARCH FOR LIFE

BY THE REGISTER

The annual March for Life is Jan. 21 in Washington D.C. Once again, the Salina Diocese will be leading a pilgrimage.

To register for the pilgrimage, applications must be submitted to the Respect Life Office by Dec. 1. The full payment must also be submitted at that time.

To access the registration form, visit <https://salinadiocese.org/office/respect-life/>

Basic registration is \$350. There are other optional activities that come with an

additional cost, such as the Moonlight Monument Tour.

"We would love to see every parish within the diocese represented by one or more people for the upcoming pilgrimage," said Rick Binder, Respect Life coordinator. "In a world that has lost its sense of respecting life at every stage, this is a great opportunity to bring awareness to the sanctity of life. And even more so, it's a way to shine a light of hope to a broader nation and bring that hope back to our own local communities."

Tax information important to donors

BY THE REGISTER

Last year, the federal legislation referred to as the CARES Act created several charitable tax benefits for donors. Those charitable tax benefits were generally extended into 2021, when the stimulus package was signed Dec. 27, 2020. The incentives apply only to cash contributions to charities and do not apply to contributions to supporting organizations or public charities that sponsor donor-advised funds. Cash includes payments by check, credit or debit card, or electronic transfers from a bank account.

For non-itemizers, donors can still deduct charitable contributions

A special tax provision allows taxpayers to easily deduct up to \$600 in donations to qualifying charities on their 2021 federal income tax return.

The CARES Act allowed for an additional deduction for charitable gifts made in cash of up to \$300. This provision is extended into 2021 for taxpayers filing single/separately. And new in 2021 is an additional deduction for those married and filing jointly. Joint filers, who don't itemize, will be allowed to take a deduction of up to \$600 in cash contributions to charity this year.

Nearly nine in 10 taxpayers now take the standard deduction and could potentially qualify for this benefit in 2021.

If donors itemize deductions

The adjusted gross income (AGI) limit

for cash contributions to qualifying public charities remains increased for individual donors. For cash contributions made in 2021, a donor can deduct up to 100 percent of their AGI (formerly 60 percent prior to the CARES Act).

Existing carry-over rules still apply, so if donations this year exceed a taxpayer's AGI deduction limits, they may carry forward excess deductions for up to five subsequent tax years.

If giving from a corporation

The AGI limit for cash contributions also remains increased for corporate donors. In 2021, corporations can deduct up to 25 percent of taxable income, formerly 10 percent prior to the CARES Act.

What about IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)?

An IRA charitable distribution (sometimes referred to as a QCD) allows individuals aged 70½ or older to make gifts from a qualified IRA plan directly to a charity of their choice. The CARES Act did not change the rules around the QCD. But know that individuals may donate up to \$100,000 a year using the IRA charitable distribution. Making a gift like this allows a donor to avoid paying income tax on the IRA distribution as it is paid directly to the charity. And if they are 72 and older, the transfer of funds counts towards their annual Required Minimum Distribution from their IRA.

If interested, contact the IRA custodian.

INFORMATION, PAGE 11



DIOCESE MATCHES

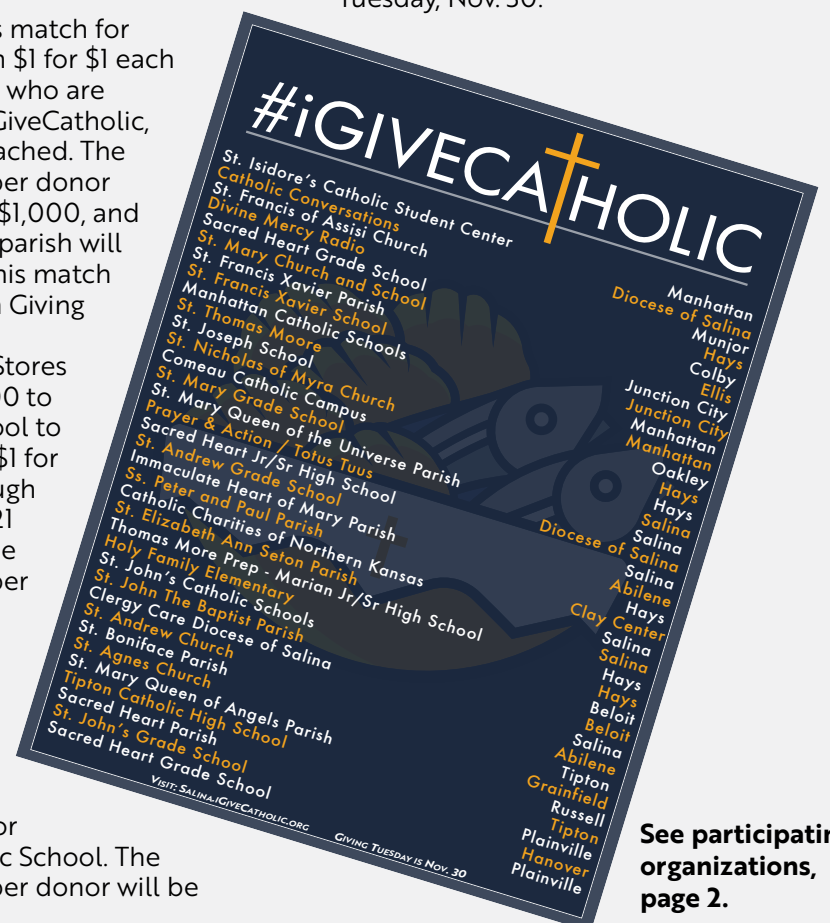
We are proud to say we have three diocesan matches.

- The anonymous match for parishes will match \$1 for \$1 each gift to our parishes who are participating in #iGiveCatholic, until \$25,000 is reached. The maximum match per donor household will be \$1,000, and the maximum per parish will be \$5,000. Note, this match is only available on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30.

- The 24-7 Travel Stores match offers \$5,000 to each Catholic School to be used to match \$1 for each \$1 given through #iGiveCatholic 2021 until expended. The maximum match per donor will be \$1,000.

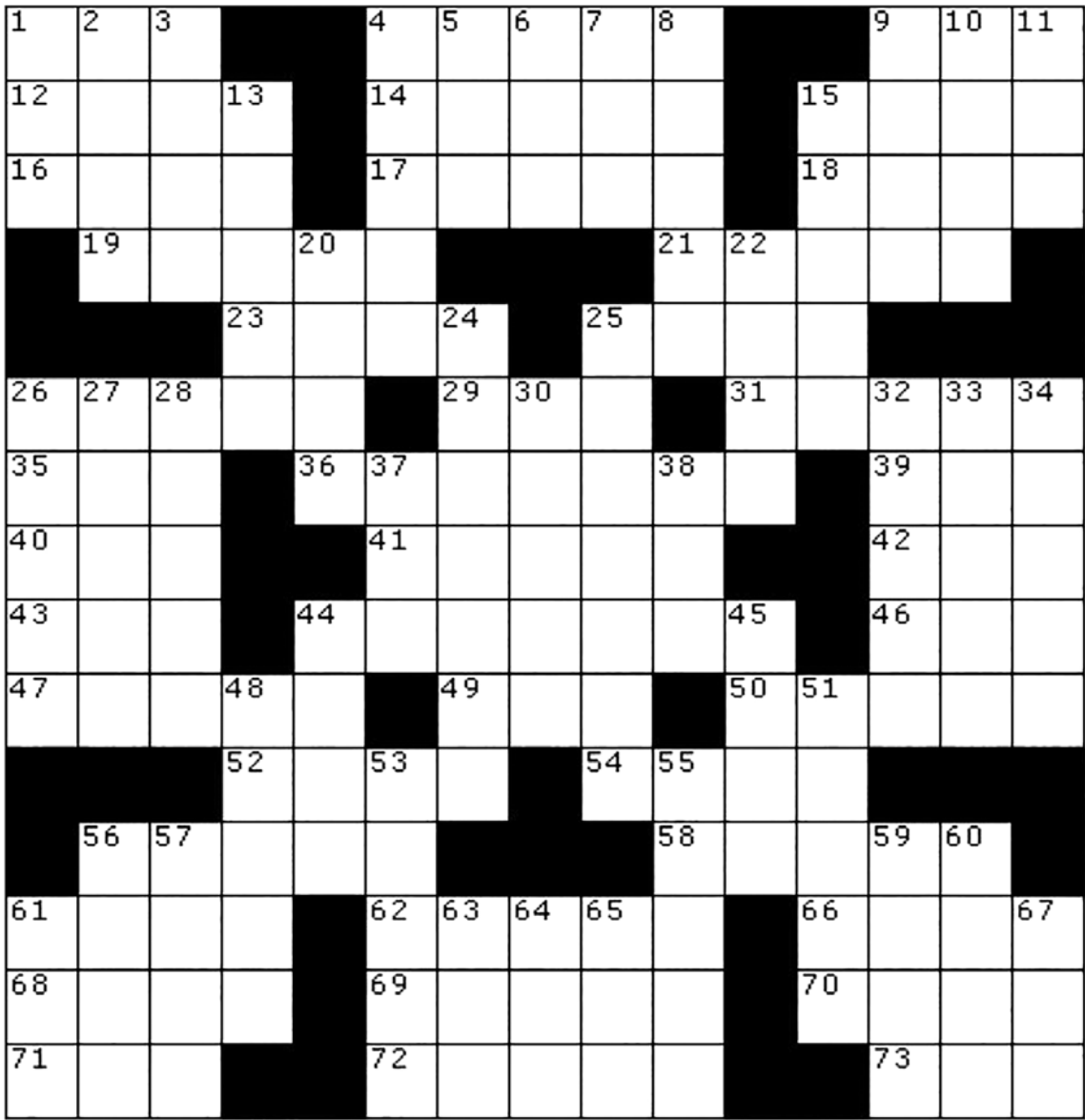
- The Phil Howe match is \$60,000 and will provide \$1 for \$1 each gift made to a Manhattan parish or Manhattan Catholic School. The maximum match per donor will be

\$1,000. Matches continue through Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30.



See participating organizations, page 2.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**

1 Charged particle
4 Christ
9 Food and drug administration (abbr.)
12 Greek god of war
14 1997 Madonna movie
15 Story line
16 Artist Chagall
17 Withered
18 ___ your neighbor
19 Glances at
21 Biblical Greek word for love
23 Territory held in fee
25 Sailors "hey"
26 Piers
29 Licensed practical nurse
31 Tribe of Israel
35 Wing
36 Explored carefully
39 Hubbub
40 Liberal (abbr.)
41 Crippling disease
42 Middle
43 Soviet secret police
44 Biblical unit of length
46 Expert
47 Ridiculing (remark)
49 Escudo
50 Musical "slow"
- 52 Foray
54 Pull
56 Greets
58 Award
61 Pocket bread
62 Home
66 Revise
68 Astrigent
69 Brother of Moses
70 Biblical word for You idiot!
71 Slide on snow
72 Statement of beliefs
73 Male

DOWN

1 A name of God
2 Spoken
3 A Roman emperor
4 Father of King David
5 Adam's wife
6 Mr.
7 Southwestern Indian
8 Wife of Abraham
9 Unsuccessful
10 Bird; symbol of Holy Spirit
11 Dined
13 Jeer
15 Dramas
20 How Judas betrayed Jesus
- 22 Instrument to guide oxen
24 Dumbfounded
25 Paul preached here
26 Hikes
27 Adjust
28 Jewish teacher
30 Tugs
32 Villain in book of Esther
33 Decree
34 Cowboy show
37 Central processing unit
38 Long, long time
44 Accomplishment
45 Cement
48 How God sometimes communicates
51 NT church leader
53 Son of Abraham
55 Make right
56 A land flowing with ___ and honey
57 Decorative needle case
59 First man
60 Plague of Egypt
61 Old-fashioned Dads
63 Forbid
64 Unrefined metal
65 Buck's mate
67 Convert into leather

Answers on Page 14

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA



On Sept. 23 to 26, Daughters of Isabella of the Salina Diocese attended the state circle convention in Hays. During the event, members participated in Mass, memorial service, business sessions, local and state officer installation, along with social time and community service. For the community-service project, individual circles from across the state donated items for Blessing Bags. More than 600 bags were completed and divided among the four Kansas Catholic Charities. Elected state officers from the Salina Diocese are Lynn Kasper, past state regent (St. Francis Circle No. 232, Wilson), Dana Hollerich, financial secretary (St. Rose Circle No. 205, Tipton) and Judy Corley, (St. Charles Circle No. 287, Gorham.) Front row from left, Elaine Wycoff, MaryLou Van Eaton, Betty Harkersmith, Rosanne LaBarge, Deb Kindeknecht and Lisa Morton. Second row from left, Geri Zerr, Elaine Weber, Brenda Hutchinson, Emily Nuttle, Sara Rudman, Margie Nicholson, Jacque Jacobs, Peggy Feltus, Milli Baalman and Maria Baalman. Third row from left, Jackie Skolout, Sheila Boos, Gini Augustine, Pam Novak, Lisa Steiner, Dana Hollerich, Tamosa Cisneros, Geri Augustine, Marian Ptaschek and RosAnn Tonne. Back row from left, Lynn Kasper, Father Andrew Bergkamp, Stephanie Schumauker, Marie Hartwick, Natalie Windholz, Theresa Garnhart, Raina Hrabe, Joann Berens, Renee Hoffman, Barb Zimmerman, Patty Wolf, Stephanie Dechant, Janet Koener, Deb Klaus, Debbie Baier, Alex Williams, Theresa Brierton, Kathleen Bieker, Jeanne Struckhoff, Vera Erlich, Phyllis Schitt, Dorothy Brokes, Judy Corley, Susanne Suchy and Ilene Schwarz.



Women fill blessing bags as part of their community service project. Pictured, Lisa Morton, Margie Mickelson, Brenda Hutchison, Deb Klaus, Gini Augustine, Debbie Kinderknecht, Marian Ptaschek, Elaine Weber, Lynn Kasper, Norma Lang and Geri Augustine.

FAITH BRIEFS

Hartman joins Foundation
The Diocese of Salina announced Heather Hartman as the new donor advisor for the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina. Hartman brings many traits to the foundation and is known for being a strong leader, faith-oriented, dedicated to nonprofit work and having strong relationship-building skills. She has previous experience working with a local foundation for almost a decade, where she helped facilitate many successful Match Month Campaigns. Hartman and her family reside in Beloit,



Hartman

where they are parishioners of St. John the Baptist.
"I am thrilled to join the Catholic Foundation and help serve the Salina Diocese. I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to work in rural Kansas and help revitalize our communities. I look forward to building relationships with donors and supporting their charitable aspirations within our Catholic faith," Hartman said.
Katie Platten, CEO of the Catholic Foundation said, "Heather is going to be a great addition to the Foundation staff. She is committed to Kansas and understands our mission to build and maintain healthy Catholic parishes, schools and ministries."

Collection helps older religious
The Diocese of Salina will host the Retirement Fund for Religious collection Dec. 11 to 12. The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington, D.C. Proceeds help religious communities across the country care for aging members.
Last year, the Diocese of Salina donated \$40,335.81 to the collection.
"I am continually heartened by the overwhelming generosity of U.S. Catholics," said NRRO Executive Director Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco. "Even in difficult times, they find a way to

give back to those who have worked tirelessly to serve our Church and our world."
Hundreds of U.S. religious communities face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support them. Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests — known collectively as women and men religious — served for little to no pay. As a result, many communities now lack adequate retirement savings.
At the same time, health-care expenses continue to rise, and an increasing number of older religious require specialized services.
Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more.

DIOCESE, FROM PAGE 1

Diocesan leadership considered many options on how to conduct this synod in the Salina Diocese. And ultimately, this strategy was chosen because it facilitates heartfelt conversations among the faithful.

What kind of questions should I ask?

- What is the Catholic Church good at?
- What are things the Catholic Church could improve upon?
- To whom does our particular church “need to listen to?”
- How are the laity, especially young people and women, listened to?
- How do we integrate the contribution of consecrated men and women?
- What space is there for the voice of minorities, the discarded and the excluded?
- Do we identify prejudices and stereotypes that hinder our listening?
- How do we listen to the social and cultural context in which we live?

Where do I submit my written summary to?

You may submit your summary online: <https://salinadiocese.org/office/bishops-office/diocesan-synod/>

When do I need to do this by?

The diocesan phase of the

synod began Oct. 17 and will conclude in April. In order for your thoughts and opinions to be included in the document that will be sent to the Vatican, you are asked to submit your conversation summary by March 25 in order to be considered.

Prayers for a successful synod

Before you begin your conversation, take a moment to say the below prayer together. Invite the Holy Spirit to be present in your conversation.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together

in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us

find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.



Pope Francis has called a synod.

Bishop Jerry Vincke invites you to

LEND YOUR VOICE

and help guide the Church in her mission to be disciples who go out and make disciples.

Visit <https://salinadiocese.org/office/bishops-office/diocesan-synod/> for more information



CONVERSATION EXAMPLE

Below is a mock sample of what a summary of a conversation could look like.

Interview subject information:

Name: Luke

Age: 27

Ethnicity: White

Religion: Catholic

How long has this person been practicing his/her religion: All life

Summary:

Luke is a cradle Catholic who grew up in a good home. Both his parents were Catholic, and he went to Catholic school. He says that growing up the faith was just something he did because his parents did it. It wasn't until he was in the military that he really started to appreciate the faith.

He says, “We had chaplains. But I never realized how good I had it before I enlisted. Back home, there was always a priest. The Church was open. And there was daily Mass and weekly Confessions. I'll be honest, I didn't take advantage of that when I had it. But when I was in the service, I didn't have that anymore. Catholic chaplains are hard to come by.”

Luke said that the Catholic Church is good at

explaining theology. The Church has all the answers to the secular questions of the world. And the answers are all true. He says, “When you're enlisted, there are guys with a lot of different morals. And even though I was initially Catholic just because mom and dad told me to be, I still stuck by the faith. So, when the guys would go out to strip clubs, they'd invite me, and I'd say no. A lot of them thought I was weird because of that. But most of them respected me for standing by my morals. And a couple of them asked me why. The Church always had the answers, and I could explain my reasons in a way they understood.”

He says the Church could be better about putting themselves out there. Luke says, “We've got this great faith! And a lot of the rest of the world doesn't even know about it. I don't think we put ourselves out there enough. We need to be talking about the faith to the people around us. I never really did until the service, and it was pretty cool seeing people start to wonder and ask about the Catholic faith.”

The people he said the Church needed to pay more attention to are the military. With so few chaplains, a lot of the military don't receive the sacramental support or faith support they need.

BISHOP'S HOMILY

The following is the homily delivered by Bishop Jerry Vincke at the opening Mass of the diocesan synod Oct. 17 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

As always, the Holy Spirit provides the perfect Gospel reading for where we are at in our lives. Today, as we open the diocesan level of the synod that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked for, we hear of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and his third prophecy of the passion and what is to occur – that he will be handed over, be

condemned to death. That he will be spit upon, scourged, put to death and, after three days, will rise.

Just as the first two times in which Jesus spoke of his passion, the apostle's immediate reaction is an inept response. The apostles are slow in understanding. (I know what you are thinking—the same holds true today.)

The first time Jesus told of his passion, Peter rebuked Jesus and said no to suffering. Jesus responds by saying that whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel will save it.

The second time Jesus told his disciples of the passion, the apostles begin arguing who was the greatest. Jesus' response to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

And in the Gospel today, this third time he tells of his passion, we find James and John seeking the glory seats.

They couldn't have chosen a worse time to ask for this request. Imagine this for a moment, Jesus

says, "I am going to be scourged, spit upon, condemned to die," and James and John are worrying about having the best seats. The apostles seem a little clueless.

To sit at a ruler's right and left hand was a sign of power and prestige. They wanted to get the best seats before the other apostles, who then became indignant and upset with James and John because they asked first for what they deep down wanted – power and prestige. They wanted to be VIPs.

Jesus responds, "This cannot be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be

first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus knows full well that people in power and those who seek prestige often do not see the people on the periphery – those who are crying out for help spiritually and materially.

We, all of us, are journeying together with Jesus and everyone else. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked us to begin the synod on synodality. Synodality means journeying together. Pope Francis said that, "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium."

Today marks the beginning of the first phase of the synod, which will involve listening and consulting the people of God to help set in motion ideas, energy and creativity from all of us on the journey. "It is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission." I think the ultimate goal is to see everyone as a member of our family.

The first phase is all about listening to one another at the diocesan level. James and John wanted to tell Jesus what to do. Telling our desires to the Lord is a good thing, but what's better is when we say, "Here I am, Lord, your servant is listening." The same goes for listening to others. "The synod will succeed or fail to the extent to which we rely on listening to the Holy Spirit."

The questions that can be asked to one another are meant to "share with honesty and openness about their real-life experiences, and to reflect together on what the Holy Spirit might be revealing through what they share with one another." Some suggested questions include:

- To whom does our particular church 'need to listen to'?
- How are the laity, especially young people and women, listened to?
- How do we integrate the contribution of consecrated men and women?
- What space is there for the voice of minorities, the discarded and the excluded?
- Do we identify prejudices and stereotypes that hinder our listening?
- How do we listen to the social and cultural context in which we live?

"No one should be excluded from the process. We are asked to reach out to the peripheries, to those who have left the Church, those who rarely or never practice their faith, those who experience poverty or marginalization, refugees, the excluded, the voiceless, etc."

I have been fortunate to listen to a few talks of Cardinal Czerny who works in the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Holy See's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. I want to share some of his thoughts about the synod and the point of reaching out to others:

1. The Church needs to get out of itself, and go out to meet people, especially in the peripheries. The Church (all of us, priests, bishop, laity) shouldn't be about self-preservation but having a missionary impulse. Cardinal Czerny is echoing what Pope Francis said, "I dream of a missionary option that transforms everything ... instead of self-preservation." Cardinal Czerny said there are people who live close to us, but we often treat them as foreigners. No one is useless, no one is expendable. We are called to see them, encounter them, hear their story. That's what the synod is about.

2. An example Cardinal Czerny spoke about was migrants. There are some people whose first thought about migrants is whether they are legal or not. Can we first see them as a human person, a child of God and wonder whether they are thirsty or hungry? That person is a member of our family. Can we see them as that way, rather than a we versus them approach? Can we reach out to people who we normally wouldn't visit with?

3. Cardinal Czerny added that arguments do not change things or hearts. Learning the experience of the person changes things. What is their background of why they do what they do or their condition in life? He said let's talk about the people and their stories, not politics. We speak up for people, especially the poor, because we love them. They are our family.

So, how is this synod going to take place? Some bishops are relying on the priests to make this happen. Some are relying on the parish councils. I want all of us – the laity, the priests, the deacons, religious – to listen to others and to be listened to.

I am asking our Communications Office to share this information, on our website, social media, the parish bulletins and our publications. I invite you to listen to one another. Write a summary of your conversation, and send it to the diocese.

Can we ask the Holy Spirit who we are called to listen to? Personally, I think of the prisons, our neighbors and migrants. Can we listen to their story? Can we see them as a member of God's family and our family?

May the Holy Spirit guide us on this journey together. I am excited about what the Holy Spirit is doing in the Church. Our Lady of Perpetual Help, patron of our diocese, pray for us. St. Francis of Assisi, secondary patron of our diocese and lover of the poor and marginalized, pray for us.



The Eucharistic Miracle of Erding

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.miracolieucaistici.org/en/Liste/list.html>) he created before he died of leukemia.

Eucharistic Miracle of Erding, Germany, 1417

A poor peasant of Erding could find no way to improve his economic state, despite working many hours every day. His neighbor on the other hand, who did the same work, succeeded in living prosperously.

One day, the peasant asked his neighbor how he had succeeded in earning so much, and the man confided to him that his success was owed to the fact that he kept the Bless-

ed Sacrament in his house. The poor peasant, ignorant in the faith, thought the Blessed Sacrament was a type of amulet and decided to imitate his neighbor.

He went to Mass on Holy Thursday and after receiving communion, hid the Host in his clothes and left the church with it.

During his journey, however, his conscience began to accuse him, so he decided to bring the particle back. During the trip, the Host slipped from his hand and disappeared in the air. He searched everywhere without finding it.

Terrorized by what had happened, he immediately ran to inform the pastor, who immediately went to the spot where the Host had disappeared.

As soon as he arrived, the priest saw the particle resting on a clump of dirt, emitting a bright light. He approached to pick it up, and it again flew up in the

air and disappeared. The priest alerted the bishop, who decided to go in person to the site of the miracle.

Again, the particle flew up in the air.

The bishop and the townspeople then decided to build a chapel in honor of the Eucharistic wonder. There were so many crowds of pilgrims that flocked there that in 1675, local authorities decided to construct a new and bigger sanctuary in the baroque style.

On Sept. 19, 1677, Bishop Kaspar Kunner of Freising blessed the new church, which was dedicated to the Most Precious Blood. Various relics were brought to the sanctuary among which was that of the Most Precious Blood of Christ.

Since 1992, the sanctuary has been under the care of the monks of St. Paul of the Desert.

Sister's work featured in book of essays

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Journeying with Joseph is a new collection of Josephite essays created especially to commemorate the Year of St. Joseph. It was compiled by editor Mary Cresp, RSJ.

Sister Marcia Allen, CSJ, was contacted in the spring to be a contributor to the book. Her chapter titled, Joseph, the Cordial Servant, is the third chapter featured in the section titled, Part One: Joseph's Foundational Inspiration.

Cresp is a Sister of St. Joseph from South Australia.

"It's a book of essays about the Sisters of St. Joseph in Australia and it's more focused on the Australian experience of St. Joseph," Sister Marcia said.

"The editor asked me if I would do a chapter on the spirit and spirituality of the Community. I agreed to do that. As it turns out, I'm the only person in the U.S. who actually wrote for the book — everyone else is a member of their community in Australia. They call themselves the Religious of St. Joseph rather than Sisters of St. Joseph. So they are RSJs instead of CSJs."

Sister Marcia met Sister Mary in 2003.

The book is available at <https://atfpres.com/product/journeying-with-joseph-josephite-essays-for-the-year-of-st-joseph>.



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Warm wishes for a wonderful Christmas season with family and friends.



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Salina Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Speaker Event

Join Catholic women from across the diocese as they share in their faith. All women are invited. There is no cost.

09 JAN | **1 PM - 4 PM**

Sacred Heart Cathedral - Hall of Bishops
118 N. Ninth Street
Salina, KS 67401

Questions? Contact Rachel Elsen
rachelelsen518@gmail.com



Speaker TBD
| Value them both amendment



Mother Miriam, Daughters of Mary, Mother of Israel's Hope | Conversion Story

Together, we create hope

"Unity happens when we walk together."

Pope Francis

"Together, we can" is much more than the theme for our 2021-22 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal. Because of you, it's something that happens every day here at Catholic Charities. Individuals and families facing unimaginable circumstances walk through our doors feeling isolated, anxious, and desperate for help. They feel truly alone.

Thanks to you, these individuals and families experience the love and mercy of Jesus through the ministries of Catholic Charities. When they feel compassion and acceptance, some of their burdens are lifted, and they can begin to see hope for a brighter future. Because of you,



they have someone to walk with them on their journey, every step of the way. You become part of their story of hope and healing through your faithful generosity.

Your continued support remains crucial to the growing mission of Catholic Charities throughout northern Kansas, and we still need your help to keep moving forward.

The Schmidt Foundation, along with anonymous donors, has provided a Together, We Can Donation Match, which means your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000. No gift is ever too small to make a big impact on the life of someone in need.

To make a tax-deductible donation, you can give securely online at www.ccnks.org/annualappeal.

As you will read in the following stories, your help truly does make a real and lasting difference. Together, we can keep providing help and restoring hope to our neighbors in need. God bless you.

Megan Robl is executive director of Catholic Charities

A love born from the heart: An adoption story

By OLIVIA AYRES

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Nearly 21 years ago, as Mary Hickman held her infant son Bryce for the first time, she looked into his eyes and felt the peace of God telling her she had made the right decision.

She then embraced Bryce's birth-mother as they both wept. Hickman knew her son's birth-mother had made the ultimate sacrifice by placing him for adoption. In doing this, she was giving Hickman the gift of motherhood.

Motherhood is something Hickman always felt called to. However, upon receiving the news that she could not bear a child naturally, she felt an even deeper vocation to adopt.

It was a vocation she said was born from faith.

"Father Bill Surmeier was the then pastor at St. Nicholas, my parish in Hays. Throughout the years, he would talk about Catholic Charities in his homilies, and I knew they dealt with adoption," Hickman said. "It was placed on my heart to talk with him, and he provided me with so much information about Catholic Charities' Adoption Program.

After proceeding with the adoption process, months passed, and Hickman received a call that would

change her life forever.

"I will never forget the day that I got a call saying that there was a birth mom who saw our profile and wanted to talk with us," Hickman said. "She was in Nevada at the time working with the Catholic Charities there."

After their conversation, the child's birth-mother selected Hickman to be her baby's mom.

The next step was to fly to Nevada for the birth, which Hickman describes as a life-changing experience.

"I was not in the room when he was born, but I got to hear his first cry and that was amazing," Hickman said. "I remember when I got to hold Bryce for the first time and that overwhelming emotion. I did not know what it was going to be like, was it going to feel natural? But when I looked into his eyes, and he looked at me and then he closed his eyes. He had the most peaceful look on his face, almost saying, 'I am going to be OK.'"

Hickman said adoption has deepened her ability to recognize the true sanctity of life.

"One of the biggest blessings adoption has given me is truly realizing that life is a gift, that kids

are a gift and shouldn't be taken for granted," Hickman said. "Another blessing is I never had the chance to go to the March for Life and Bryce has gotten to go twice. It has impacted him in an extremely powerful way. When you are adopted and attend something like that, you see it differently. He could have been a statistic, but he was going as a living, breathing teenager."

While Hickman does not share a biological relation to Bryce, she said their love was formed from something much deeper.

"Adoption is so handwoven by God. There's a child in one mother's womb and she realizes she can't give this child the life that she wants, she then love's him enough to let him go," Hickman said, "That child is then born from the heart of his adopted mother, and God orchestrated all of that."

Almost 21 years old, Bryce is a junior at Kansas State University working towards his bachelor's degree in architecture. Hickman is incredibly proud of the man Bryce has grown into. She says if not for the gift of adoption, her son's life could have looked completely different.

"When I look at what Bryce has brought to my life, if it was not for

Catholic Charities and God orchestrating that connection, Bryce would not be Bryce," Hickman said. "He would be another kid in another town with different friends, he would be completely different from who he is today. What a blessing that I got Bryce. I got to be his mom. Even though he did not physically come from my body, I got to be the one that was blessed to wipe his tears and experience all of his life."

Hickman advises all those discerning adoption to hold true to their faith and stay constant in the truth that God's plan is greater.

"What I would say to those contemplating adoption is to trust God, pray to Mary and to not be afraid to reach out to Catholic Charities to find out about the process of adoption," Hickman said. "Be willing to open your heart because it is without a doubt the most abundant blessing that God will give you. There are so many kids that need an adoptive parent, and you have so much love in your heart to share."

If you or someone you know is interested about Catholic Charities' Adoption Program, visit ccnks.org/adoption

Olivia Ayres is the communications coordinator for Catholic Charities.

INFORMATION, FROM PAGE 6

The donor will need to fill out a distribution form indicating which charity or charities they would like to receive the gift(s). Gifts may be made for a specific purpose, such as capital improvements or Catholic education, or simply given without restriction allowing the charity to use it where it is needed most.

Appreciated securities
While the CARES legislation only applies to cash contributions, remember another tax advantageous way to give is through appreciated securities. When giving stock or securities (stock, bonds, mutual funds), the donor may be eligible for a double tax benefit. First, the donor

receives an income tax deduction for the full, present, fair market value of the assets and secondly, the donor may completely avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation of the assets. This is one of the easiest gifts to give and one of the most useful in accomplishing a donor's philanthropic goals.

General tax reminders
The gift must be received by the charity or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2021, to qualify for this year's tax benefits. Keep good records. Special record-keeping rules apply to any taxpayer claiming a charitable contribution deduction. Each gift over \$250 will require an acknowledgment letter

from the charity before filing a return. And retain a canceled check or credit card receipt for contributions of cash. As always, donors should consult with their tax and legal advisors when considering their charitable giving. This article is not intended to be, nor should it be relied upon as tax advice.

Couple visits St. Joseph churches

By KATIE GREENWOOD

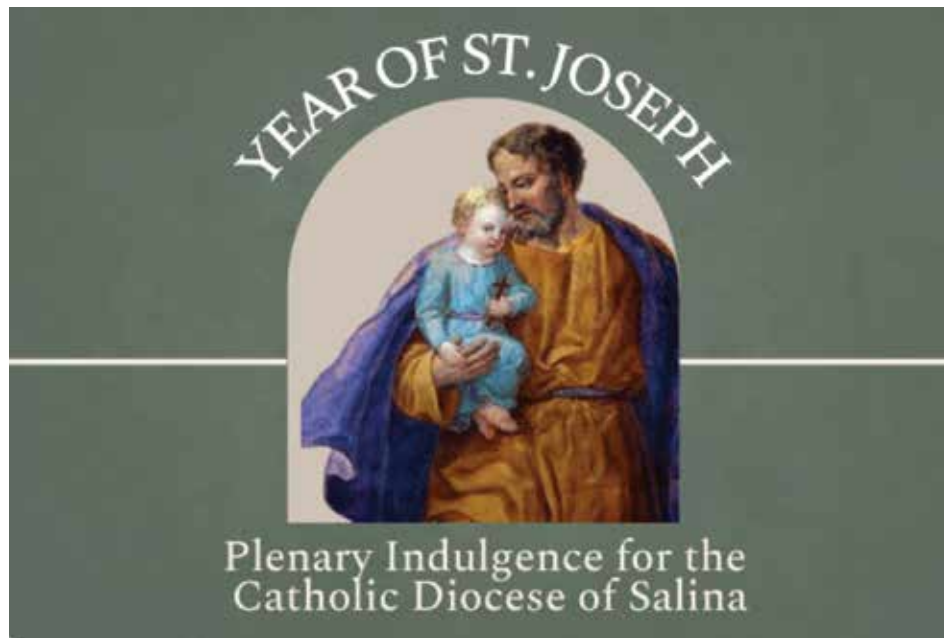
THE REGISTER

For the year of St. Joseph, the Salina Diocese announced an opportunity for the faithful to gain a plenary indulgence upon visiting a church dedicated to St. Joseph. The opportunity will end Dec. 8, at the close of the year of St. Joseph.

Dedicated pilgrims, Mel and Marge Bergkamp have only one church left to visit in the Salina Diocese.

Mel and Marge were first introduced to the idea of the St. Joseph pilgrimage in the Wichita Diocese. In April, they were invited by their nieces and nephews to visit the St. Joseph churches. Both Mel and Marge are originally from the Wichita Diocese, so they were familiar with the churches, and oftentimes, they had ties to the churches.

"Our day began with Mass and the Rosary at St. Joseph Church in Wichita, where my grandparents attended when they retired from farming," Marge said, reflecting on the day in the Wichita Diocese. "Then, we went to St. Joseph Church in Conway Springs, which



is my home parish. Melvin and I were married in this church. The next church was St. Joseph Church at Ost near Cheney Lake. This was my mother's home parish. My grandparents and Melvin's grandparents are buried there. The fourth stop was St. Joseph Church in Andale, where Melvin's sister and brother-in-law are buried. Our last stop was the St. Joseph Church in McPherson. What a wonderful day."

Mel and Marge then took to visiting the St. Joseph churches in the Salina Diocese. They started with Oakley and Hays. On another trip, they traveled to Dorrance. In August, they journeyed to Damar, New Almelo and Bird City. They have until Dec. 7 to visit the church in Brookville before ending their pilgrimage.

"The churches are so unique and so beautiful," Marge said. "It took something so special as a year

dedicated to St. Joseph to motivate us to visit these churches, and we are so grateful.

"The opportunity to gain multiple plenary indulgences is such a huge blessing. We can receive pardon — either full or in part — from the temporal punishment due because of our sins while we are still here on earth. We can also gain an indulgence for souls in purgatory."

In addition to the plenary indulgence, Marge said: "My devotion to St. Joseph began because of my connection to St. Joseph Church and St. Joseph Grade School in Conway Springs. Through the years, it has grown and even more so with the declaration of the pope for this to be the year dedicated to St. Joseph. The pilgrimages have increased that devotion with the time spent visiting the churches and spending time praying the Litany of St. Joseph and other prayers in his honor."

To learn more about the year of St. Joseph and plenary indulgences, visit <https://salinadiocese.org/news-and-updates/year-of-st-joseph>.

Applesauce and the spoon

By AMBER MARTIN

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

As a mother of three young boys, I have often found that viewing my children from the perspective of a parent gives me a humble glimpse of how God must view me. I find him speaking to me in little ways through my vocation of motherhood. I have learned some great spiritual lessons through these glimmers of insight tucked into everyday moments of life.

For example, recently at snack time my 2-year-old requested applesauce. I agreed and went to the kitchen to get it for him. As I walked to the kitchen he began crying out, "I need a spoon. I need a spoon." He didn't even have the applesauce yet, but he was already fussing about needing a spoon to eat it.

I reassured him that of course I wouldn't give him applesauce without also giving him a spoon. I went back to getting the applesauce and the spoon, thinking how crazy it was that after all our meals and snacks together, my child feared that I wouldn't provide him with something as basic and obvious as a spoon for his applesauce. Did he really have such little faith in me?

But I had to stop in my tracks when I heard a whisper from that inner voice in my head that said, "And yet, how often do you come to God with the same worries?" Ouch.

I let that interaction wash over me the rest of the day. Time and

time again God has provided for me in unexpected ways. He promises to always be there for us. Countless Bible verses encourage us to trust, have faith and rely on God in his goodness and mercy.

Yet, how often am I like a toddler in a high chair, worried that I will get applesauce and no spoon? I have a need, and I doubt that God will provide. I have a dream, and I wonder how it could possibly come true. I have a desire in my heart, but I worry it won't be fulfilled. I see suffering all around me and wonder how good can possibly come from it. I simply don't trust God to be God.

In our worries, in our struggles, in our times of doubt, let us hear the voice of our loving Father asking us to trust him. Bring it all to him. Even more so than the greatest earthly parent, he knows what he is doing, and he is good. He will not hold out on us. "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him." (Matthew 7:9-11).

May we in life's most difficult moments remember that when our God gives us applesauce, he will surely also give us a spoon.

Amber Martin is a parishioner at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. She works part-time as a dietitian and full-time as a mother of three boys.

Grinnell church celebrates 125th

By LEONA DICKMAN

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On Dec. 8, the feast of the patroness of Immaculate Conception Church in Grinnell, the Grinnell parishioners will celebrate 125 years as a parish, with Bishop Vincke celebrating the Holy Day Mass. There will be a lasagna supper afterwards. All present and former parishioners are invited to attend the 5:30 p.m. Mass and supper.

Leading up to the day, the Parish Council wanted to have 125 hours of Adoration. This will be quite an undertaking for our small parish, and we hope to get participation from outside our parish.

The Immaculate Conception Church was a station served by the Capuchin Fathers of Hays, as early as 1896. Services were held in the Arlington Hotel, Odd Fellows' Hall and private homes. In 1906, the parish of Grinnell was started by Father Van Speybrock, a Capuchin from Collyer. After organizing the parish of nine families, he began immediately to construct a church.

Theodore Tholen and George Lynch saw the need for a church and made trips through the surrounding territory begging for help to build one. They collected \$1,500. Through their efforts, the \$3,000 edifice was built by contractor Ned Hemmert of Angelus. Some of the people

involved in the building were: Henry Mense, Joe and Henry Broeckelman, George Lynch, George Haverkamp, Ludmilla Holdforth, Peter Meier, Theodore Tholen, William Baalman, Herman Dickman and the Tholen brothers, John, Tony and Henry.

The church was dedicated by Bishop Cunningham of Concoridia.

In 1908 to 1910, Father John Faerber became the resident priest. The parish being too small, was financially unable to support a priest, so it again became a mission of Collyer, with Father Bruno Ziegenfuss being pastor until Father Michael Dreiling arrived in 1913. Father Dreiling expressed that the church building was poorly constructed and tower half wrecked. It had to be dismantled in order to save the building from ruin. The indebtedness of the church amounted to \$1,100. The debt was contracted partly on reconstruction of the church and partly on building the barn and the purchase of miscellaneous articles by Father Faerber. In 1913, the parish consisted of 25 families, mostly German and English.

There is more history in a hardbound book that was put together for the Centennial in 1996. The books will be available for a freewill offering at the celebration.

BAPTISMS

Catalina Grace Breidenstein, daughter of Christopher and Jessica Breidenstein, was baptized Oct. 23, 2021, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Cassidy Michael Brown, daughter of Logan & Jerica (Dinkel) Brown, was baptized Sept. 11, 2021, by Father Steve Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

Cordelia Grace Dowell, daughter of Matthew and Tynan (Honn) Dowell, was

baptized Nov. 7, 2021, by Father Henry Baxa at St. Edward Church in Belleville.

Clayton Pierce Downie, son of Derrick Vaughn Downie and Stephanie Erin Doyle, was baptized Oct. 23, 2021, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Noralee Parrish Duskie, daughter of Drew and Shannon Duskie, was baptized Oct. 17, 2021, by Father Andrew Rockers at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Cawker City.

Dominick A. Muna Jr., son of Dominic and Jolla Ogo, was baptized Oct. 9, 2021, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Pearce Roane Sahlfeld, son of Braden and Summer Sahlfeld, was baptized Oct. 2, 2021, by Father Joseph Kieffer at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Cawker City.

Zeppelin Kyle Schmidt, son of Lucas Allen Schmidt and Kristen Ann Starr, was baptized Oct. 22, 2021, by

Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Sterling Cooper Starr, son of Brandon Starr and Erica Denhom, was baptized Oct. 22, 2021, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Charles Everett Suellentrop, son of Greg and Lisa (Henderson) Suellentrop, was baptized Sept. 26, 2021, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church

in Junction City.
Navee Dawn and Noaa Lynn Sweeney, daughters of Kenneth and Lacey (Hamblet) Sweeney, were baptized Oct. 16, 2021, by Father Elias Chinzara at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Bonnie Sue Ziegler, daughter of Michael and Jessica Ziegler, was baptized Oct. 3, 2021, by Father Andy Hammeke at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina.

WEDDINGS

Dane Basgall and Janae Kraus were married Oct. 9, 2021, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Daniel and Janice Basgall. Parents of the bride are Paul and Deb Kraus. Witnesses were Dustin Schreurs and Rebecca Look.

Austin Craig Budreau and Marah Lynn McIlvain were married Oct. 9, 2021, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Russ and Mia Budreau.

Parents of the bride are Terry and Jeri McIlvain. Witnesses were Morgan Schoen and Audrey White-Dold.

Daman Glover and Kaitlin Merz were married Oct. 16, 2021, at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood. Father Norbert Dlabal witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Lynn and GERALYN Glover. Parents of the bride are Doug and Vanessa Merz. Witnesses were Jarrett Carpenter and Arielle Miller.

Derek Joseph Henry and Danae Lynn Gennette were

married Oct. 16, 2021, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Timothy Henry and Colette Boeckman. Parents of the bride are Todd Gennette and Diana Stupka. Witnesses were Scott Henry and Heather Gennette.

Blake Quillen and Brianna Davis were married Sept. 25, 2021 at the old St. Joseph Church in rural Clyde. Father Steve Heina witnessed their vows. Witnesses were Colin Sikes and Savannah Hoffman.

LeRoy J. Splichal and Karen M. Carter were married Nov. 6, 2021 at St. George Church in Munden. Father Don Zimmerman witnessed their vows.

Wade Woydziak and Emily Miller were married Oct. 16, 2021, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Ryan McCandless witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Matthew and Amy Woydziak. Parents of the bride are Patrick and Lea Miller Jr. Witnesses were Trayce Dinkel and Brandi Zimmerman.

Beloit church receives designation

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

BELOIT — St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beloit has been designated a “Star on the Mantle of our Lady, Queen of Peace,” by Comunità Regina della Pace, Poland.

Comunità Regina della Pace (Community of Queen of Peace) is a Catholic, international apostolate created in 2008 to foster peace and reconciliation among people and nations of the world through Eucharistic Adoration. The initiative was conceived as a response to numerous calls of Our Lady and out of desire to fulfill the spiritual legacy of the great Advocate of Peace, St. John Paul II.

“The idea of rediscovering peace has been constantly on my mind in the past year as growing societal unrest descended upon the United States through political rhetoric, Covid-19, and many other divisions and dysfunctions within family units, churches, communities, and states,” said Father Jarett

Konrade, pastor of St. John’s.

Father Konrade, in collaboration with Bishop Vincke and the St. John’s parish council, sought a means of consistently and intentionally participating in a prayer movement for peace. It was during this time in late 2020 that they learned of Comunità Regina della Pace and their International Network of Prayer for Peace. St. John’s is only the second parish in the United States to be designated as a Star on the Mantle of our Lady and joins approximately 60 other parishes worldwide with the distinction.

A solemn inauguration and blessing of the parish’s incorporation is planned for 10 a.m. Dec. 12, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with Bishop Vincke presiding. Representatives of Comunità Regina della Pace will join the celebration via livestream.

For more information, visit www.stjohnsbeloit.org or www.reginapacis.pl/en.

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Sister Philonise professes first vows

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia welcomed a new member as Sister Philonise Keithley fulfilled a lifelong dream and professed first vows as a canonical sister Oct. 9 at the Nazareth Motherhouse.

Sister Philonise might not have taken the expected road to become a sister, but she always knew — since she was just 7 — that she wanted to make that commitment.

Sister Philonise grew up on the south side of Chicago and attended Catholic schools her entire life. That's where she first met a sister.

"My first-grade teacher was so kind and patient. She played with us. She taught us about everything from Mass to confessions," she said. "I knew this was my calling even at that age."

Sister Philonise continued on in Catholic schools and attended a Catholic Dominican college. She felt a calling to the Dominicans and to living a life of service, but she knew then it wasn't the right time for her.

"Then life happened," she said.

But she said when she spent time with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, and experienced how they treated and embraced each other, she was immediately hooked.

Now that she's spent years in the formation process,



COURTESY PHOTO

Sister Philonise receives the blessing of the Community of Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia after her profession of vows in the Sacred Heart Chapel in the Nazareth Motherhouse.

and made a move to Kansas, she is more than ready for the next step in her spiritual journey.

"I haven't had a day of regret," she said.

"I've always been drawn to working with the elderly. That's my passion. Especially people suffering with dementia."

"I'm always interested in

hearing people's stories. I'm always all ears."

Currently, Sister Philonise is located in Hoxie, where she, along with Sister Denise Schmitz, practice their ministry in the small western Kansas community. They moved to Hoxie in July. Previously, they both worked out of Manna House of Prayer in Concor-

dia. They call the Hoxie ministry "Manna House West."

It's a big change from Chicago.

"But I love it," she said. "The people have been so welcoming."

"I enjoy having the flexibility to be present in people's lives. Whether it is helping with a blood drive, at the thrift store ... there is so much to do in the community."

The theme of the ceremony was, "There is a sacred thread connecting us to one another."



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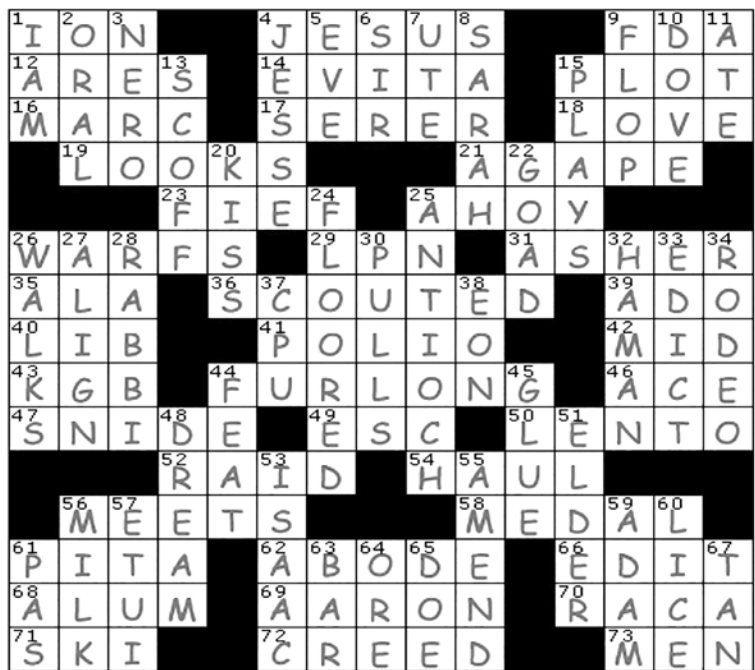
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DEATHS

Paul L. Blochlinger, 76, of Concordia, died Oct. 4, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 8 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Burial was in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Mary T. Burnham, 81, died Oct. 23, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 1 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai presided. Burial followed in Kansas Veterans Cemetery in Manhattan.

Georgeida Celene Coons, 94, died Nov. 17, 2020. Funeral Mass was Sept. 18, 2021, at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Graveside services were that afternoon at St. Mary Cemetery in Clifton. Father Steve Heina officiated.

Ursula A Cutsinger, 100, died Oct. 21, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 27 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai presided. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery in

Junction City.

Leroy J. Deaver, 87, died Oct. 2, 2021. Funeral Mass was Oct. 8 at St. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center. Father Kerry Ninemire officiated. Burial was in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Clay Center.

Michael Gennette, 80, of Concordia, died Sept. 24, 2021. Graveside service was in St. Concordia Cemetery on Oct. 17. Father David Metz officiated.

Meryl Grosshanes, 82, of Minneapolis, died Aug. 31, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 5 at Immaculate Conception Church in Minneapolis. Father Mark Wesely presided. Burial was in Highland Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Kenneth Hammerbacher,

69, of Belleville, died Oct. 24, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 29 at St. Edward Church in Belleville. Father Henry Baxa presided. Burial was in Belleville Cemetery.

Henrietta Haselhorst, 90, of Hays, died Oct. 27, 2021. Funeral Mass was Nov. 2 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards, Father Dan Scheetz, Father Bill Surmeier and Deacon Steve Urban presided. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Dorothy L. Havel, 93, died Oct. 16, 2021. Funeral Mass will follow at a later time.

Duane Langvardt, 83, died Sept. 17, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 30 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar presided. Burial was

in St. Mary's Cemetery in Junction City.

Gary Arien Lapo, 85, died Oct. 15, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 23 at St. Edward Church in Belleville. Father Henry Baxa presided. Burial was in Belleville Cemetery.

Dwaine O. Nault, 94, died April 17, 2021. Graveside service was Sept. 4 in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Clyde. Father Steve Heina officiated.

John Kyle Nault, 69, died Dec. 18, 2020. Graveside service was Sept. 24, 2021, in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Clyde. Father Steve Heina officiated.

Gladys Mae Peterson, 87, of Concordia, died Sept. 21, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 27 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Jamestown.

Christine Reichert, 56, died Aug. 27, 2021. Graveside service was Sept. 2 in St. Mary Cemetery in Clifton. Father Steve Heina officiated.

Alex Riedel Jr., 87, died Oct. 29, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 5 at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark officiated. Burial followed in St. Mary's Cemetery

Janice A. Ruiz, 78, died Oct. 18, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 26 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Father Frank Coady presided. Inurnment was in Kansas Veterans Cemetery in Manhattan.

Margie Marie (Broeckelman) Schoenfeld, 63, died Oct. 21, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 26 at St. Joseph Church in Oakley. Father Luke Thielen presided. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Oakley.

Rex Eugene Swihart Jr., 77, of Concordia, died Oct. 20, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 26 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz presided.

Ralph Waldschmidt, 90, died Oct. 24, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 28 at St. Mary Parish in Ellis. Father Dana Clark officiated. Burial followed in Kansas State Veterans Cemetery in WaKeeney.

Rosa Lee Whitmer, 83, died July 3, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 9 at St. Joseph Church in Dorrance. Father Tony Kulandajesu and Father Norbert Dlabal presided. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Dorrance.

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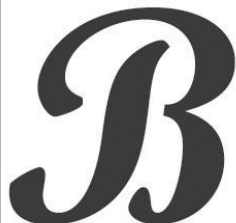
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