St. Teresa of Calcutta once told this story: "Once I found a child on the streets. I took him to our children's home and gave him a bath and some clean clothes, but he ran away. He was found again by somebody else, but he ran away a second time. After we found him, I said to the sisters, 'Please follow that child and see where he goes when he runs away.' When the child ran away a third time, they followed him and there, under a tree, was his mother. She had put stones under a small earthenware vessel and was cooking some food she had found. The sister asked the child, 'Why did you run away from the home?' And the child answered, 'But this is my home because this is where my mother is.'"

"Home is where the mother is. For us who have lost our mothers, we realize this even more by their absence. For the boy, the food that was cooked was fine because it came from his mother. It was the mother who hugged her child. It was the mother who knew him. It was the mother who always welcomed him."

We remember that Christ was born in Bethlehem, but today he comes to us like a little child desiring to be loved in our homes. Are we ready to receive him? At Christmas, a startling reminder is that when Mary and Joseph were looking for any place, so many people said to them, "There is no room at the inn."

As I travel around the diocese on a regular basis, I have found out more and more that life is messy, especially in our homes. Perhaps you already knew that, and so did I, but listening to people helps me realize everyone’s life is filled with so many ups and downs in our homes. There are disappointments for those who were hoping for a better life, there are those who are struggling with pain and suffering, those that feel abandoned, families who are distant from one another, those who are fearful of what the future might hold, and those who are chained with the thoughts of the certainty of dying.

Amid the messiness of life, our Savior, who was born in a messy manger where animals lived, enters our reality to redeem us and fill us with the peace that the world cannot give.

May our houses be homes of compassion and forgiveness where love, peace and joy reign.

Love begins at home. May we welcome Jesus into our homes.

In Christ’s service,

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

Stained glass window located in St. John the Baptist Parish, Hanover. Photo by Amanda Cook
The Catholic Conversations Drive supports the evangelization efforts of diocesan publications and online communications efforts. The drive is still ongoing. To watch a short video and learn more about the mission of diocesan publications, visit https://salinadiocese.org/office/communications/catholic-conversations-drive/.

A gift of $35 would offset the cost to produce, print and mail the diocesan publications. Make an online gift by visiting the above link. Or write a check payable to the Salina Diocese – Catholic Conversations Drive, and mail to P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980.

“Our publications are one way we evangelize the hearts of the faithful, and your gifts are what make that possible,” said Katie Greenwood, creative editor. “Already, I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many. I hand sign each thank you note, and when I do, I pray, ‘Have mercy on this person.’ It’s a short little prayer, but I make an effort to pray it with each letter signed as a small token of gratitude.”

Parishes across the Salina Diocese are invited to submit photos of their churches decorated for Christmas. The photos will be shared on the diocesan Facebook page throughout the Christmas season. Email photos to communications.office@salinadiocese.org by Dec. 30.

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

For true human fraternity We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

The Chancery building in the Diocese of Salina will be closed Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. The Chancery is also closed Dec. 31 in observance of New Years Eve.

The Catholic Conversations Drive, and mail to P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980.

January
10-13 Priest Renewal Days, Wichita
19-23 March for Life, Washington, D.C.
21 Topeka Life Rally, Topeka
24 Kansas Bishop’s Legislative meeting and Red Mass, Topeka
30-Feb. 5 Catholic Schools Week

Words can move us to action, reduce us to tears, stun us into silence, incite us to laughter and bring us to quietly ponder. Words are more powerful than we realize. Words can light the lamp of God’s Word.

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

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God is always there to dust us off and help

W riting is something that just comes naturally to me. I don’t really know how to explain it except that I’ll sit down at my computer, start typing, and then I have a story in front of me.

And as the months have passed where I’ve served as editor, I’ve learned that the best stories are the ones that flow naturally from mind to fingertips on the computer. The times when I’ve had to scratch my head and force a story to appear have always resulted in pretty terrible writing. So, when my deadline for December quickly approached, and I had yet to have any sort of inspiration for this column, I wondered what was wrong.

It wasn’t until the night before my final deadline it occurred to me that it had been several weeks since I had sat down and intentionally prayed. And I’m kind of embarrassed to admit that because it was just a few months back I wrote about the importance of silence and stillness with the Lord. And here I am admitting I did not follow through with silence and stillness.

When I made the realization my prayer life had become Jacksonville, I sat myself down, blew off the dust from my prayer journal and asked the Holy Spirit to remind me how to pray.

In this story I remembered this wonderful daily devotional series I once called “Conversation with God,” and I began the hunt searching for the series.

I found the book I needed, blew the dust off as well, and read the devotional for the day. Lo and behold, it was on “beginning again.”

A line that stood out to me was, “Our love for our Lord will express itself in constantly beginning again.”

The devotional spoke about how easy it is to fall into spiritual mediocrity. It is so easy to recite a prayer with one’s lips, but not with one’s heart. It’s also pretty easy to slip into habitual venial sin. Personally, sometimes I’ll congratulate myself on a job well done avoiding mortal sin, but I will completely ignore the fact that I’ve fallen into habitual venial sin. And it’s the habitual venial sins that sneak up on you and drive wedges between you and God.

The important thing to remember in all this is we’re all going to mess up. We’re all going to fall to hubris, impatience and mediocrity in prayer. But God takes our frailty into account. He looks at us with such love, his heart sad and heavy when we fall, and glorious and rejoicing when we stand up again.

I like to think of the image of a father helping his small child to walk. When the small child falls, does the father become angry with him? Does he grow impatient? No. He lovingly reaches out to his small child and helps him stand. And when the child stands up once more and attempts to walk, the father is right there with him. He knows we can always begin again. Thanks be to God.

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

Following God’s divine plan into the priesthood

I was born Sept. 25, 1965, in Myanmar, Thataung province. The name of the village is Lornaro just like Colorado.

As for my family, I had wonderful parents. They were Catholics. My father was a Buddhist convert. I have a mixed family background. I have two sisters and one brother. I am the baby.

My mom was always Catholic. My dad was a very strong Buddhist. When he married my mom, he became a Christian. But my aunts and uncles on my dad’s side remained Buddhist, so he was separated from his family a bit. But he was a wonderful man, and I love his background.

My mom was a homemaker and the family backbone in different careers. He had served in the military and then Electric Power Corp. He provided for us very well. For school, I walked 15 miles every day from my village to the village where my school was. Sometimes, my brother and sisters would accompany me, and I rode on their backs.

When I was in sixth grade, I was recruited by the local priest to go to a minor seminary. I was there until I was a senior. It’s like a normal school, but you have to be chosen. I was happy I was chosen. So were my parents. I was only 14 when I went to a minor seminary. We had a long, Italian missionary priests. We all watched them, and they were our heroes. They influenced and inspired me to discern my vocation.

I also had the privilege to serve as an altar boy, and that was when I laid prostrate, a gong is rung by tribal people. It was striking for me. It is hard to describe that moment.

Thousands of people were at my ordination, but there was one sad thing for me. Three days before my ordination, my mother unexpectedly died. her death was very sudden and surprising. It was tragic. I almost did not become a priest. But through the encouragement of my family and friends, I went forward. I don’t know, maybe God was telling me something.

We have a tradition during priestly ordinations is for the parents to walk their son down the aisle and present their son to the Church. My dad had passed away while I was in seminary, and then my mom right before my ordination. So, my sister presented me.

After ordination, my first assignment was as an assistant parish. I was there for four years. Then, the bishop asked me to go to Rome. I went there and studied for four years. Every day, I would see St. Peter’s Square.

After Rome, I returned to my home country. But what was funny, in 2002, I went to World Youth Day in Canada. While there, I decided to visit the United States because I wanted to pray at Ground Zero. But, when I crossed the border, they gave me a lengthy visa. So, when I was back in my home country, we had two priests invited to go to Salina, but I was not able to go. However, the two priests who were invited were unable to get their visas. But I had planned that I would travel to Ground Zero. I think it was God’s divine plan.

I came to Kansas in 2003. I was trained to help a chaplain at St. Francis Hospital for one month. It was there where I got my driver’s license. I also learned American English.

I then came to the Salina Diocese. First, I was assigned to Sacred Heart Cathedral. Then to Oberlin, Leaville and Selden. In 2009, I was assigned to Hill City and Damar, where I remain.

My favorite part of being a priest is being with the people and celebrating Mass. I really enjoy religious education of children and the RCIA classes.

Personally, I have a devotion to St. Joseph. He is my patron saint, and Joseph was my father’s name. Plus, we buried my mom on March 17, and I was ordained right after the feast of St. Joseph. I think it was by St. Joseph’s intercession that I was ordained as planned. And now, my parish is St. Joseph in Damar. I often imagine the picture of St. Joseph leading Mary and Jesus to Egypt, and as he said to them, “Don’t be worried, I am here.”

One thing I love about St. Joseph is he is always embracing Jesus. Even when he had his own struggles, he held Jesus constantly. We need to do that, too. Sometimes life is hard. But if you are living with Jesus, everything will be fine.

Father Henry Saw Lone is pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Damar and Immaculate Conception Parish in Hill City.

HENRY Saw Lone was born Sept. 25, 1965, in Myanmar, Thataung province. The name of the village is Lornaro, just like Colorado.

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SAINTS, FEASTS OF JANUARY

*“Let us turn to the example of the saints. They were people like us, fresh 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. Josemaría Escrivá
Ellis students doing their part

By Patti Park

God calls us all to be good stewards of the earth. The fourth-grade students at St. Mary’s School in Ellis took that call to heart. At the beginning of the school year, students along with administration, spearheaded a recycling program for the school.

The fourth-graders began the process by visiting the Ellis Recycling Center, where they learned the benefits recycling brings to the community and which items the center would accept. After their trip, the students distributed recycling bins to every classroom, the office and the lunchroom.

Student groups then visited the primary grades, explaining the value of recycling, sharing a story about it and passing out coloring books that had been provided by the recycling center. The fourth-graders then made posters which they displayed throughout the school. Each week the class collects the recycling bins, sorts the contents, then delivers them to the recycling center.

Despite this lack of experience, it did not slow down the Blujay scholars. St. John’s captured their 10th straight 1A title, while also finishing third overall (1A-6A).

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Fifteen students from St. John’s Catholic High School in Beloit ventured to the Fort Hayes University campus Nov. 11 for the 42nd annual Math Relays competition. Due to COVID-19, the competition was canceled last year. As a result, only four students remained from the group that took first overall two years ago. In other words, 11 of the students were competing for their first time.

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Parishes remember lost opportunities

By Katie Greenwood
The Register

Amid the COVID pandemic, many things were lost. Family members passed away, weddings, graduations and reunions were missed and much more. The communities of Clifton and Clyde looked for a way to commemorate these losses.

Father Steve Heina said the idea came from a webinar he had watched that the Salina Diocese Development Office had recommended to him. He said the webinar was about welcoming people back. He took the idea to his parish council, and they tweaked the idea to fit the needs of their parishes.

All three events took place before or after the regularly scheduled Sunday Mass. Father Heina read the names of the deceased prior to Mass. The deceased did not have to be directly affiliated with the parishes. Parishioners were free to submit names of any person they knew who had passed away and did not receive the benefit of a traditional funeral.

Following Mass, the Clifton parish hosted a breakfast gathering. The Clyde parish had a display with symbols of COVID-related losses in the parish hall.

Additionally, a local counselor was invited to speak to the faithful at both parishes. He was there to recommend services to individuals who were struggling with the losses and reality of the pandemic. Contact information for counselors and grief support groups was also made available.

“The underlying theme of the planning and execution of these special events was to help people commemorating their dead,” Father Heina said. “There is considerable and painful division among our people about the pandemic in general. Some people see the pandemic as very real and destructive. Other people see the pandemic as insignificant and think precautions are unnecessary. We consciously decided not to focus on those perspectives, but instead focus on the losses of people and events that were beyond their control — be it the loss of a loved one, sickness, loss of work, reality of isolation. We wanted to show that the pain of those losses can be commended to God.”

Deadline extended for first phase of synodal process

Further explaining the decision to extend the deadline, the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops notes it evaluated the requests, always seeking the good of the Church, “aware that a synodal Church is a Church that listens, and considering that this first phase is essential for this synodal path.”

The Synodal process Pope Francis officially launched the two-year synodal process, themed “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission,” on Oct. 10. A week later, on Oct. 17, the diocesan phase was kicked off in dioceses across the world.

Why Kansas is at center of national fight for life

By Lucrecia Nold
Special To The Register

For the first time in decades, Catholics and the wider pro-life community have reason to hope. America’s legal system may be on the verge of further empowering states to protect moms and babies through regulation of the abortion industry.

But within that sense of encouraging elation, there is an urgent, cautionary message specific to Kansas.

Arguments made before the United States Supreme Court in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization on Dec. 1 focused on the defense of a Mississippi law that limits abortion after 15 weeks. If the U.S. Supreme Court upholds this law, states may be allowed more flexibility to enact commonsense regulations of the abortion industry. This would mean voters would be empowered to have a greater say in matters related to the protection of life.

The abortion industry views this possibility as an unmitigated disaster. For defenders of unborn life and protectors of women, it would be an answer to countless prayers.

But even if the US Supreme Court were to side with Mississippi, a massive problem remains in Kansas. No matter what happens at the federal level, in our state, the abortion industry will be able to “do business” in a virtually unlimited and unregulated environment.

This means taxpayer-funded abortion will almost assuredly become a reality here at home. Protections for minor girls and parents’ rights to be involved in their young daughters’ major medical decisions will vanish. In fact, almost every existing restriction on abortions previously placed on the abortion industry will be presumed unconstitutional and unenforceable.

How can this be? It’s because the Kansas State Supreme Court ruled in 2019 that abortion in Kansas is a nearly unlimited right in a case called Hodges & Nauser v. Schmidt.

As other states move to protect women and babies, the court moved Kansas sharply in the opposite direction. Already, the abortion industry is outing Kansas as its “haven” and a “beacon” in the Midwest.

A year later, after decades of decline, the abortion rate in Kansas jumped almost 10%. Much of that increase came from residents of surrounding states — Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma and others — who traveled to Kansas as an abortion destination.

Shockedingly, 52% of abortions in Kansas were performed on out-of-state travelers in 2019. Fortunately, Kansans have a chance to change the trajectory of this life and death scenario. A state constitutional amendment called Value Them Both was on the ballot for a vote of the people on Aug. 2.

If a majority of voters choose “Yes” and the Value Them Both amendment passes, Kansas pro-life laws will once again be constitutionally and enforceable. Kansas can again be pro-life.

What can you do? Learn more at wwwValueThemBoth.com. Also, if your parish has not already hosted a Value Them Both presentation, ask your pastor for his approval and blessing to request a presenter by emailing speakers@ValueThemBoth.com.

Lucrecia Nold is the policy specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference. She can be reached at Lucrecia@KansasCatholic.org.
Pilgrimages planned in January

By The Register

Respect of life from conception until natural death is an important mission and tenant of the Church. The Salina Diocese offers two pilgrimages for the faithful to participate in.

• The March for Life is on Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C. While registration is no longer open, the diocese asks the faithful to keep all those marching for life in their prayers. If you missed the deadline and still have a desire to go, reach out to Rick Binder at 785-827-8746 or email rick.binder@salindiaocese.org.

• IGNITE and Rally for Life – Located in Topeka on Jan. 23, the Rally for Life is a great alternative for those unable to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

IGNITE for Life is an opportunity for all of those who believe in the sanctity of life from the moment of conception to come together to pray and stand in public witness for the defense of unborn children in Kansas and throughout the United States.

The IGNITE for Life event takes place every year near Jan. 22, which is the National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. This year, the main prayer intention is for the passage of the Value Them Both Kansas constitutional amendment on Aug. 2. IGNITE will kick off with praise and worship music from the band All Things I Am, followed by messages from pro-life speakers including keynote speaker Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life. Then, the Kansas bishops and priests will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Finally, all are invited to march to the state capitol to join the Kansans for Life Rally. While the event is free, registration is encouraged. To find out more information or to register for the event, visit https://archkck.org/profile/activities/ignite/.

SUCCESS

#iGiveCatholic campaign shatters last year’s numbers

By Katie Greenwood

Special to The Register

Yet again, #iGiveCatholic campaign was a radial success for entities within the Salina Diocese. This year, a grand total of $858,388 from 1,083 donors for 34 varying ministries, the 2021 #iGC campaign surpassed the 2020 grand total of $492,556 for 826 donors for 32 organizations.

This year, the Catholic Foundation for Salina Diocese oversaw the 2021 #iGiveCatholic campaign. As a whole, the high-performing Salina Diocese was nationally ranked fifth out of 40 organizations. #iGiveCatholic co-coordinators Katie Platten and Melanie Melander credit those results to the dedicated efforts of coordinators at the local level. The Tuesday after Thanksgiving is nationally recognized as Giving Tuesday. For the past four years, the Salina Diocese has participated in the #iGiveCatholic campaign and has partnered with GiveGab, an online giving platform designed exclusively for nonprofits to raise funds and manage supporter engagement quickly and easily.

The role of the Catholic Foundation was to establish the partnership with GiveGab, cover participation costs, and solicit diocesan-wide match opportunities, push social media efforts, offer prize money and serve as a resource to all participating organizations.

While the Catholic Foundation made the #iGiveCatholic campaign possible, it was the responsibility of each participating entity to manage and coordinate local efforts. The dedicated resilience and innovative efforts of the local entities was impressive, resulting in 10 organizations from the Salina Diocese earning spots in the top 100 performing organizations nationwide. Several strategies were used at the local level to ensure successful campaigns. Many entities sought local matches from generous people within communities. Others doggedly communicated about their campaign through frequent communications via social media, bulletin announcements and in-person visits. Social media was pushed to the limits with videos and posts. And finally, a few entities partnered with peer-to-peer fundraisers, asking individuals with powerful testimonies to share their experience with their parish or school.

The range of high-performing organizations included frequent flier entities such as Manhattan Catholic Schools to small-town parish and school successes in places like Abilene, Beloit, Junction City and Ellis to first-time participants such as the Comeau Catholic Campus Center at Fort Hays State University.

“We were grateful for the substantial matching gifts provided by various local supporters of the Catholic faith in the Manhattan area,” said Megan Umscheid, coordinator for Manhattan Catholic Schools, which ranked ninth nationally. “Our matching gifts, paired with all our 150-plus donations, made the difference for our school and has become a great formula not only to raise funds, but also to create a sense of excitement, celebration and gratitude. One major appeal to #iGiveCatholic for the MCS community is the idea that a large group of people can come together during a short window of time to make a collective impact.”

GIVE, Page 7

Support of annual appeal strong

By The Register

Faithful across the Salina Diocese continue to generously support the 2021 Bishop’s Annual Appeal – Call to Share.

Gifts surpassed the $1.85 million goal, with almost $2 million pledged to date.

The Call to Share appeal is one of the primary ways the diocese funds its mission to be disciples who go out and make disciples. Nearly 90% of the funds raised are spent on programs that directly benefit individuals and parishes in every corner of the diocese. These ministries include

- 722 individuals received new life through baptism
- 621 individuals received the gifts of the Holy Spirit through confirmations
- 820 individuals received the Eucharist through first communion
- 216 couples participation in the sacrament of marriage
- 650 individuals received the honor of a Christian burial
- 1 man received the sacrament of Holy Orders

Because of your gift, experiences for youth and the evangelization work of diocesan publications and the communications office. Because of the generosity of faithful across the diocese, Catholics were able to encounter Christ and deepen their faith. Many individuals across the diocese received sacramental preparation through diocesan and local parish efforts, thus being able to fully receive sacramental graces.

“I am so inspired by the people of our diocese and how graciously and loyally they help to fund the many important missions of our church,” said Catholic Foundation CEO Katie Platten.

“We are truly blessed with our Catholic community here in Kansas.”

To make a gift, visit join.salindiaocese.org
Audit reflects safe environment program

By THE REGISTER

SALINA — The Diocese of Salina has been found compliant with all audited articles within the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People for the three-year period 2018 to 2020 audit period. The announcement was made by Bishop Jerry Vuncevic after receiving official notice from StoneBridge Business Partners of Rochester, N.Y., a national firm contracted by the training and background check record review team of the bishops, who are specially trained to review diocesan compliance in accordance with the USCCB charter.

“Our safe environment office has an annual paper audit, but this time we participate in what they call an ‘on-site audit,’ which is a more extensive process,” Bishop Vuncevic said. “The interviews were conducted via phone and Zoom this year; typically audits are done physically coming to the diocese to review files and conduct interviews. I am happy to say that we passed with flying colors. I am thankful for Wendy Backes, Corey Lyon and Kim Hoelting for their hard work. May we remain vigilant in protecting the safety of our young people.”

The diocesan audit was led by Wendy Backes, safe environment program coordinator, and Kim Hoelting, director of human resources.

In 2020, diocesan policies, programs and systems were updated in accordance with the 2018 Charter revisions. These extraordinary efforts and this year’s successful audit reflect how the diocese is responding to the requirements of the charter.

• Ensuring employees, volunteers, educators and others who have access to the CMGConnect database (where volunteers in schools and parishes are registered) have their background checks completed and are up-to-date.

• Ensure employees, volunteers, educators and others who have access to the CMGConnect database (where volunteers in schools and parishes are registered) have their background checks completed and are up-to-date.

• In July 2020, the role of the Victim Assistance Coordinator was changed to be able to walk schools and parishes with regard to the impact of child sexual abuse, how to prevent child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, boundaries and mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse.

• In August 2020, the Safe Environment Program Coordinator and their assistants visited each school principal and priests with regard to the impact of child sexual abuse, how to prevent child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, boundaries and mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse.

• During this period, the communication between schools and Chancery administration and to continue to use the resources provided by the diocese as part of its continuing education efforts.

• Between November 2020 and January 2021, more than 30 parish/school audits were conducted. During this period, the Safe Environment coordinator met with school principals and priests to discuss these audits.

• With the assistance of Hoelting, the office was able to identify employees and staff at every parish/school. Ensuring those individuals were able to complete the necessary safe environment training and background check.

• During this period, the communication between the Safe Environment Office and Lay Review Board increased, ensuring the policies and procedures related to Safe Environment are reviewed regularly.

• In July 2020, the role of the Victim Assistance coordinator was elevated. If anyone in the diocese has questions about reporting or needs someone safe to talk to, they can call/email our Victim Assistance Coordinator through a third-party reporting system, who will walk them through the process. The VAC was also provided the opportunity to help promote healing for survivors of child sexual abuse committed by any person from the Church or by persons outside the Church. Our VAC also aids victims and their families through counseling, support and other forms of outreach regardless of when the abuse occurred. These trained victims are available for as long as necessary for healing to take place.

• We are extremely grateful for the thousands of parishioners who have participated in our programs to safeguard children and to reach out to victims of sexual abuse,” Backes said.

For more information, visit salinadiocese.org, office/safe-environment/. Or contact Backes at 785-827-8476, Ext. 24 or email wendy.backes@salinadiocese.org.

GIVE, FROM PAGE 6

Umscheid credits the overall success of their campaign to matching dollars. She acknowledges the extreme generosity of the donors who gave the matches, along with the excitement and contagious attitude of the donors who took advantage of those matches. Cindy Oberhansley of Junction City led the parish and school efforts for their community.

She acknowledges her strategy was to keep the information front and center with the parishioners.

This meant building announcements, email blasts and in-person discussions.

Comeau Catholic Center kicked off with a strong peer-to-peer fundraising initiative and enjoyed the 77th national ranking.

“I believe our efforts were successful because of the support of our students to share their experiences and what the Comeau Catholic Campus Center means to them, their faith education and their ongoing journey to be faithful disciples,” said Macy Becker, coordinator.

“It was wonderful to get testimony videos from our students. Those videos got the most interaction of anything we posted, and donors truly enjoyed seeing the faces of the students they were impacting by giving.”

Overall, the 2021 #GiveCatholic campaign was a success for all participating organizations.

“After being on air on Giving Tuesday,” Platten said. “We were all absolutely blown away by the outpouring of love and support from the community. We hope that this trend continues through the years, helping all of our parishes and schools achieve their fundraising goals through this event.”

The reprieve following the end of the campaign was short-lived as the leadership team at the Catholic Foundation has already begun strategizing and thinking of new ways to improve the campaign for next year. “It is a possibility for us to get the #GiveCatholic campaign off to a great start,” Melander said.

Advanced giving for the 2022 #GiveCatholic campaign is Nov. 14, 2022. Giving Day is Nov. 29, 2022.

Meyer joins Salina Diocese staff

By THE REGISTER

SALINA — The Diocese of Salina welcomed Lindy Meyer as a natural family planning consultant.

Meyer was recently granted a renewal of her certification as a FertilityCare practitioner by the the Commission on Certification of the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals. The American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals is a professional organization dedicated to fostering, advancing and promoting quality natural family planning through service, education, leadership and research.

Meyer and her family reside in Concordia and are parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

“With over 20-plus years of experience in the field of natural family planning, Lindy Meyer is a blessing to have on the diocesan team,” said Corey Lyon, chancellor for the Diocese of Salina. “Education and awareness of Natural Family Planning is critical for the Catholic faithful. We are excited to take this important step forward. Investing time and resources in peer-to-peer fundraising campaigns is a great way for the families that make up our great diocese is essential for the future of the Church.”

“I am looking forward to serving the women and couples of the Salina Diocese while working alongside our dedicated practitioners to expand our diocesan NFP ministry,” Meyer said.
The attendees were encouraged to keep calling upon the Holy Spirit in their lives. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson challenged people to follow the apostles’ lead and take the Gospel message to everyone back home in their communities. Along the way, the speakers introduced many saints to the young people to use as role models for their lives and future evangelization.

“My favorite part of the trip was either Adoration or the diocesan Mass this year,” said Riley Chrisler, an attendee from Oakley. “It’s amazing to be in silence, kneeling on concrete, in a stadium with 10,000 youth across the country worshiping the same God. It was also incredible to interact with 600 students that I know or met from the Salina Diocese. I feel very blessed to be a part of such an amazing diocese.”

Director of youth ministry and religious education Bill Meagher said: “We are grateful for the wonderful people in our diocese who helped our young people participate in this conference. Your time and financial investment will have incredible returns for your parishes and communities. It was amazing to stand and watch as 14 buses of fired-up young people headed back to our diocese to spread the Gospel with their friends, family, parishes and communities.”

On Nov. 5, 1824, Nicolas Bernabeu, who had been an altar boy in the church of Onil since the time he was little, robbed the pyx that contained the Most Holy Sacrament and some objects dedicated to the religion from the church of Onil. The news of the sacrilegious robbery spread throughout the region that when the thief tried to sell the stolen objects to Alicante, he aroused the suspicions of the businessman, who then warned the authorities. Nicolas was arrested but did not want to reveal where he hid the pyx, which still contained the Eucharist. The faithful and the civil authorities looked for days all over the countryside, but the stolen goods were in the nearby town of Tibi where the thief lived.

A woman named Teresa Carbonell found them Nov. 28, 1824, in the area called “la Pedera.” Immediately, the woman returned it to Onil where she was received with great celebration. Exactly 119 years later, on Nov. 28, 1943, Don Guillermo Hijarrubia, delegate of the archbishop of Valencia, confirmed the authenticity of the miracle, verifying the complete preservation of the Host contained in the stolen pyx.

To this day, one can admire the miraculous Host that has remained intact for almost two centuries in the parish church of St. James the Apostle in Onil. Every year, the Feast of Our Lord “Robat” is celebrated in memory of this Eucharistic miracle and the recovery of the Host.
**BAPTISMS**

Natalie Rose Bliss, daughter of Taylor and Kasandra (Huser) Bliss, was baptized Nov. 28, 2021, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

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

Brigder James Ginther, son of Bart James and Trinity Bridger James Ginther, son of Stephen and Miranda Ginther, was baptized Nov. 20, 2021, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Jessica Breidenstein, daughter of Christopher and Catalina Grace Breidenstein was baptized Nov. 20, 2021, by Father Norbert Dlabal at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood.

Haidyn Rayne Grant, daughter of Justin Wayne Grant and Aubrey Jo Gunter, was baptized Nov. 7, 2021, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Hogan Thomas Hutchins, son of Alex and Bridgette (Sappington) Hutchins, was baptized Nov. 21, 2021, by Father Nicholas Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Calvin Matthew Linden, son of Brett and Michaela (Mauck) Linden, was baptized Oct. 30, 2021, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Seguin.

Makenzie Grace Miller, daughter of Steven and Emily (Braun) Miller, was baptized Nov. 13, 2021, by Father Elias Chinazara at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

William Cantrell and Alison Schibi were married Nov. 6, 2021, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nicholas Parker officiated. Parents of the bride are Eric and Kelly Hahn. Parents of the groom are Aaron and Kerri Hahne. Parents of the bride are Mark and Cinthia Vrbas officiated. Parents of the groom are Eric Mitchell and Anna Shy. Parents of the bride are Michael and Abby Vetter. Parents of the groom are Eric Mitchell and Kerri Hahne. Parents of the bride are Michael and Kimberly (Miczek) Shirley. Parents of the bride are John James Serene and Sophie Humphrey. Parents of the groom are Eric Taylor and Sophie Humphrey. Parents of the bride are Matthew Schibi. Witnesses were Jake Cantrell and Arin Schibi.

Michael Hahne and Anna Pfeifer were married Nov. 20, 2021, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nicholas Parker officiated. Parents of the bride are Eric and Kelly Hahn. Parents of the groom are Andrew and Kayla Mitchell. Parents of the bride are David and Anna Schibi. Witnesses were Nathaniel Smith and McKenna Morss.

Jace Bennett Shirley and Brooke Alyssa Vetter were married Nov. 6, 2021, at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood. Father Norbert DiLabal and Deacon Mark Vibas officiated. Parents of the groom are Michael and Kimberly (Miczek) Shirley. Parents of the bride are Philip and Kristi (Dixon) Vetter. Witnesses were Lane Shirley and Abby Vetter.

Blake Taylor Spencer and Kenna Jean Pfannenstiel were married Nov. 13, 2021, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Father Damian Rodgers officiated. Witnesses were Nathaniel Werth and Ainsley Fagan.

Kyril Wolfe and Maggie Kuhn were married Nov. 13, 2021, at St. Edward Church in Belleville. Most Rev. James Conely officiated. Father Henry Baxa concelebrated.

**WEDDINGS**

Dawson Augustine and Lindsay Hurford were married Nov. 6, 2021, at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark officiated.

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DEATHS

Patrick C. LaBarge, 84, died Dec. 1, 2021. Funeral Mass was Dec. 6 at St. Peter Church in Aurora. Father David Metz officiated. Burial was in St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery in Aurora.

John Walter Allard, 77, died Nov. 8, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 19 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Father Frank Coady officiated. Interment in Kansas Veterans Cemetery in Manhattan.

Clarence Hake, 93, of Tipton, died Nov. 26, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 29 by Deacon Wayne Talbot at Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan. Father Frank Coady officiated. Interment in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery in Hoxie.

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 officiated. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

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 officiated. Burial was in Kansas Veterans Cemetery in Manhattan.

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

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 officiated. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.


Mary Lou (Herl) Schlick, 79 of Hoxie, died Oct. 31, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 8 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing, Father Brian Langer and Father Luke Thielen officiated. Burial was in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery in Hoxie.

Cher Ceralyn Boing Knudson, 54, of Aurora, died Nov. 4, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 8 at St. Peter Church in Aurora. Father David Metz officiated. Burial was in St. Peter Cemetery in Aurora.

Vicki Henard, 76, died Nov. 5, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 10 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial was in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Raymond Alvin McHillion, 87, died Nov. 3, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 11 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Father Frank Coady officiated. Inurnment was at St. Thomas More Memorial Walls in Manhattan.

LaVerne Dinkel, 86, died Nov. 23, 2021. Graveside service was Nov. 29 by Deacon Wayne Talbot at Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan.

Jeannie Marie (Laevenstein) Cher Geralyn Boling Knudson, 47, of Plainville, died Nov. 8, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 29 by Deacon Wayne Talbot at Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan. Father Steve Heina officiated.

Rita Mae Callaway, 92 died Nov. 23, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 29 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial was in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Clyde.

Norma Brunngardt, 83, died Nov. 1, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 8 at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark officiated. Burial followed in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

The Diocese of Salina offers multiple ways to reach its parishioners throughout the thousands of square miles it represents. One avenue is through the From the Heart Catholic Podcast. The podcast is posted online on the diocese’s website and features multiple episodes from influential people in the diocese. The episodes can be listened to online via the website, or through your smartphone. St. Augustine once said, “One loving heart sets another on fire.” We can’t wait to share stories and testimonies from our diocesan brothers and sisters that are straight from the heart. To access the site, visit https://salinadiocese.org/office/communications/from-the-heart-podcast/.
By The Register

During the month of November, in honor of the month of the dead, Bishop Jerry Vincke celebrated three Masses throughout the diocese to remember individuals who died during the pandemic. A fourth Mass was celebrated by Father Kerry Ninemire. During the pandemic, funerals were delayed or restrictions were placed on attendance. As a result, many individuals did not receive traditional funerals. Funerals are meant to both honor the dead, commending their souls to God. But funerals are also meant to bring hope, comfort and solace to the living.

“Many people were unable to attend the funerals of their loved ones. And there were some individuals whose funerals were very much delayed due to the pandemic,” Bishop Vincke said. “These Masses were a great way to gather together in prayer as we recalled our loved ones and commend them to the mercy and love of our Father. After Mass, I invited them to share a little bit about their loved one who died. It was a tremendous blessing to listen to their stories. My heart goes out to each one of them, and I greatly appreciate their deep faith.”

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

10 DAYS: NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 9, 2022

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Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas

Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas.
Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas

[Image: Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas.]

“Catholic Charities was the best resource I was given, I was never judged, and it was always a loving environment.”
Kaysee, Pregnancy Support Recipient

[Image: Catholic Charities]

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 at rachaelensen518@gmail.com

Enhancing Lives & Strengthening Families

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

[Image: Enhancing Lives & Strengthening Families]
It is with tremendous gratitude that we thank the people of the Diocese of Salina for your "yes" to supporting the many ministries of our diocese. Because of your ongoing support, we can continue in our mission to be disciples who go out and make other disciples through

witnessing by faith, hope and love.

As you reflect on your blessings at year end, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift to support the mission of our diocese. There are many ministries for you to consider.

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal - Call to Share is one of the primary ways the Diocese of Salina funds its mission to be disciples who make other disciples through witnessing by faith, hope and love. Nearly 90% of gifts fund the many ministries that serve the faithful of our diocese.

Before they were priests, they were ordinary men. Men who God called to do extraordinary things. The Clergy Care Fund supports clergy at every stage of their vocation. From time in seminarian or diaconate formation, to active ministry, to retirement, the Diocese of Salina is committed to serving its clergy, just as our clergy have faithfully served us for many years.

The Diocese of Salina produces two informative and inspiring publications, faith magazine and The Register, that seek to bring people deeper into the faith and relationship with Christ. Both publications are delivered to every registered household in the diocese at no cost to the recipient. The Catholic Conversations Drive directly funds the production, print and mailing of these publications.

Other opportunities to give
Parish offertory Where the need is greatest Catholic school support

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You may benefit from a charitable deduction on your tax return, even if you don’t itemize in 2021. Check with your tax advisor for details.

Questions? Contact Beth Shearer (beth.shearer@salinadiocese.org) or Heather Hartman (heather.hartman@salinadiocese.org) or call 785.827.8746