Tom Osborne was the head football coach and athletic director of the University of Nebraska for several decades. He was known for excellence on and off the field, and was also known for his quiet, mild, modest and consistent behavior.

On Feb. 7, Nick Compagnone was inducted into the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) Hall of Fame at their annual banquet in Topeka.

Bob Voboril, the past superintendent of the Catholic Schools in Wichita, noted Compagnone might just be the “Tom Osborne of superintendents.” He mentioned Compagnone’s steady and quiet demeanor and approach. “I think that Dr. Compagnone is a man who will be appreciated more after he is gone than during his working years,” Voboril said. “Nick was never one for headlines or complaints. Thank you for honoring Nick’s quiet but reliable leadership. He is most deserving.”

Compagnone and his wife, Cindy, have devoted their careers to serving students and have been models for Catholic education across the state of Kansas. Besides his work in the Diocese of Salina and as the president of KAIRS, Compagnone convinced the Kansas State Board of Education to recognize AdvancED, National Lutheran School Accreditation and the Association of Christian Schools International as equivalent to Kansas State Accreditation.

At his speech, Compagnone noted teachers and principals do not have their own legacies, but the legacies of those students they served.

St. Mary’s Grade School teacher Monica Gawith said Compagnone has been a vital part of Catholic education. “Dr. Nick Compagnone has worked tirelessly during his career in the Salina Diocese to ensure students receive a quality Catholic education,” she said. “He has supported teachers, staff, students and their families in countless ways over the years and has been an inspiration to many while serving at St. Mary’s. It is amazing to see generations of students coming back through our building whose lives were positively impacted by Dr. Compagnone and his guidance of our school.”

Teacher Kayla Roberts added, “Dr. Compagnone has made a lasting, positive impact on so many students as well as teachers over the years. I am so proud of this well-deserved honor he has received, and I feel so fortunate that God placed me at St. Mary’s Grade School under his faithful and caring leadership.”

Compagnone has served for four decades in the Diocese of Salina. Much like Coach Osborne, he has done it in a quiet, humble and consistent way.

“The commitment that Dr. Compagnone has for Catholic education goes above and beyond the walls of St. Mary’s Grade School. He has been the guiding light for Catholic schools throughout the state of Kansas by being our advocate at the state level. The work of Dr. Compagnone will continue to be seen in Catholic schools many years to come,” said St. Mary’s teacher Sarah Torrey.
Favorite time is upon us this Lenten season

Recently, some high school students asked me what my favorite liturgical season in the Church was. Christmas and Easter are seasons we all await with great anticipation. However, I look forward to the Lenten season the most. Lent invites us to ask the questions we are called to examine every day. “How am I doing in my spiritual life?” What is my relationship with God and with others?

Much like the beginning of a new year where we hope to eat healthier and exercise, the Lenten season brings the hope of repentance from sin in our lives and the conversion of our hearts to the very life of Jesus. Of all the events of Jesus, we have in our everyday life, our spiritual health should always be the top concern for all of us. Jesus reminds us, “What good is it if you gain the whole world but lose your soul in the process.” (Mark 8:36) Just as we exercise and eat healthy for the good of our bodies, we also pray, fast and give alms for the good of our body and soul.

This reminds me of a book someone gave me written by a business owner. The author said he was in business but always kept on getting frustrated when things did not go as well as had hoped. What changed for him was when he and the company did the “one thing” necessary for his life and business was when he and the company did the “one thing” necessary for his business and his personal life every day. When it comes to our spiritual life, what is the one thing necessary for you every day? Is it prayer? Attending Mass? Acts of charity? Listening and being attentive to others?

The 40-day season of Lent begins March 2 and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday, the week prior to Easter. The Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke, Bishop of Salina, tells us, “By the solemn 40 days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.” (CCC 540)

While in the desert, Jesus was tempted by the evil one. Unlike Adam and Eve in the garden, Jesus chose to listen and place His trust in His Father. We, too, are tempted by the evil one, whose whole goal is to lead us away from God and His love for us — as well as to cause division among us. The evil one is a liar, the great accuser, divider and destroyer. To whom do we listen? Whom do we keep company with?

Catherine Doherty, a great mystic and spiritual writer, said, “Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves. What is it that stands between God and me? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and our life, and the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment’s hesitation.”

Her image of tearing out what separates us from God and others reminds me of what a religious sister told me, using a farming image: “For Lent, I just want the Lord to till up all the weeds in the garden of my heart.”

May we give Jesus permission to do whatever He desires for us this Lent. There is no better time than Lent to repent and convert ourselves to Jesus. The new news, of course, is Jesus desires to heal us of anything that keeps us separated from his love for us. The remedy for sin and our wandering hearts is Jesus himself. He is waiting for us with open arms.

In Christ’s service,

By Pete Burak

By Pete Burak
Special to The Register

Starting Ash Wednesday, Catholics enter the season of Lent, where we are called to fast, pray, give alms and prepare for the joyful celebration of Easter. Mary of us, however, approach Lent simply as an uncomfortable time of reluctantly “giving up” X or “doing more Y.” We just try to survive Lent until we can sate our increasing hunger for dessert, Insta-gram, alcohol or the snooze button. Also, for the record, I don’t find meat as badly as I do on Fridays in Lent. Things changed for me when I started asking Jesus to transform my understanding of this liturgical season. Immediately following his baptism, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, where he fasted and prayed for 40 days and 40 nights. It was a time of preparation and temptation before his earthly ministry began in earnest.

Then, in one of those beautiful moments when Scripture both states the obvious and provides hope for all of us, Matthew 4:2 says, “… and afterward he was hungry.” While it’s consoling to know Jesus had hunger pangs, I invite you to consider his time in the desert from a different perspective.

While fasting is extremely valuable, and intentional discomfort can discipline us as we grow in holiness, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness not just to make him hungry, but also to demonstrate the power and necessity of solitude and silence. Without intentional withdrawals from the distractions and noise of the world, we run the risk of missing the still small voice of God and remaining trapped in our old habits and desires. Solitude is not necessarily the same isolation, but time alone with God, without noise, trains us to find ourselves in him.

Jesus’ time without food, water and companionship didn’t weaken him, but strengthened him. He left the desert more equipped for the mission ahead. Let’s eagerly meet the Lord in this desert this Lent, and remember Easter is not simply the finish line of Lent but the starting line of our new life in the resurrected Christ.

PRAYER INTENTION

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

A Christian response to bioethical challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

BISHOP’S CALENDAR

March

4-6 Pathways Retreat
5 Confirmation, 4:30 p.m., Seven Dolons, Manhattan
6 Rite of Election, 3 p.m., Salina
7 Confirmation, 5 p.m., St. Thomas More, Manhattan
9 Confirmation, 5:30 p.m., St. Francis Xavier, Junction City
9 St. Andrews School Mass, 1:30 p.m, Abilene
11-12 Conception Seminary College-Board of Regents Rite of Election, 3 p.m.
17 St. John’s Benefit Auction, 6 p.m., Beloit
18 St. John’s Benefit Online Auction, 6 p.m. (Preview on the 18th with a social event at 7 p.m.), Beloit
20 Confirmation, 10 a.m, Sacred Heart, Park City
20 Confirmation, 2 p.m, Sacred Heart, Colby
23 Confirmation, 7 p.m, St. Joseph, Hays
26 Sacred Heart Auction, 6 p.m., Salina
26 Confirmation, 6:30 p.m, Immaculate Heart, Minneapolis
27 Confirmation, 10 a.m, St. John the Baptist, Beloit
27 Anniversary of the St. Joseph Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, 5:30 p.m, Seven Dolons, Manhattan
28 Confirmation, 6 p.m, St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell

SAINTS, FEASTS OF MARCH

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SAINTS, FEASTS OF MARCH

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

4 March
St. Katharine Drexel
5 St. Casimir
St. Perpetua and Felicity
7 St. John of God
9 St. Frances of Rome
9 St. Dominic Savio
17 St. Patrick
18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem
19 St. Joseph
23 St. Turibius de Mongrovejo
25 Annunciation of the Lord

BY PETE BURAK
Special to The Register

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**ALYSSA MIKKELSON: TRIP WAS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

**By Alyssa Mikkelson**
**Special to The Register**

Jan. 19, 2022

The night before our March for Life, I had so many butterflies in my stomach. I was dreading the 24-hour bus ride and I was overlooking the real reason I was traveling to Washington, D.C. I was going to the nation’s capital to protest the unjust laws of abortion. I would make a difference for something greater than I ever could have imagined.

That morning, as I boarded the bus, I finally started to feel good about my decision to go. About four hours into the drive, we had stopped for a bathroom break at a gas station in Missouri. Everything seemed OK until I walked out of the gas station. There were police cars in a town with buildings.

Unfortunately for us, a man had backed into our bus, hitting the rear end. The freeze had left all over the parking lot, which meant our bus had to be taken all the way to D.C. After almost two hours, they decided to move us to a different bus with no windows. The replacement bus was waiting for us in St. Louis.

During lunch, we watched the movie Unplanned. The movie shared the story of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood employee who realized the truth about the company. We learned most abortion doctors tell patients abortion is the only choice they have. The movie was emotional and shared truths most people don’t want to see.

Jan. 21, 2022

On the day of the march, we were all still tired. During breakfast, we had the chance to talk to Father Andy Hamilton. After having for a couple of years of my school’s chaplain, we were excited to talk to him about what had been going on at school and see how he had adjusted to Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays.

Following mass, we drove to the pro-life rally. Standing in front of the Washington Monument with almost 150,000 other pro-life advocates was an experience I will never forget. I heard speakers whose testimonies brought tears to my eyes, and I was reminded of what the gift of life is.

The march taught us to defend the lives of the innocent, but what is forgotten is we should protect all life, including those mothers who were swayed into making the heartbreaking decision to abort. I have never been so proud to stand with classmates, friends, priests and family and be an advocate for the movement.

The march itself was a surreal experience. Standing at the top of Capitol Hill and looking down at the hundreds of thousands of people who marched alongside me was mind-blowing. It brought tears to my eyes to watch my dad and my younger sister experience the joy of life right beside me.

That night, we had the opportunity to go on a trolley ride. We got to see the Lincoln Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial and the Marine Corps War Memorial.

Jan. 22, 2022

On Saturday morning, we traveled to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. It was one of the most amazing churches I had ever seen. It was carved from a cave and had murals of saints decorating the walls. We were blessed with the opportunity to have a Mass there with students from the Salina Diocese. I was given the honor to read at Mass, and it was such a blessing to be able to look up and see the whole congregation appreciating the Mass and being so reverent.

Father Andrew Rockers, Father McCaffrey and Father Hammelmecke celebrated the Mass for us. The Mass was beautiful, and I could tell everyone in that church could feel God’s presence.

After visiting the Basilica, we went to Arlington National Cemetery. Watching the changing of the guard was a humbling experience. The dedication those soldiers put in, and the respect of every- one who came to see that watch was incredible. Another site at the cemetery was the eternal flame that was over the grave of John F. Kennedy. Father McCaffrey had been on the trip many times before, so he acted as a tour guide for us. Getting back on the road was a rough transition from the many miles of walking we had been doing, but Father Rockers led the whole bus in a Rosary.

Jan. 23, 2022

The last night on the bus, I got almost no sleep, and I don’t even know how many times someone was vomiting. We had a long breakfast with Father McCaffrey and Father Rockers, a group Rosary and many games of Mario Kart. Around 130 p.m. we stopped in Manhattan, Kansas.

On the ride from Manhattan to Salina, a few of the Concordia girls and I sat next to Father Rockers and Father McCaffrey. We asked them question after question, ranging from their favorite breakfast food to how they decided to become priests. After many laughs and answered questions, we arrived back in Salina. The experience has helped me to know the priests better on a different level was so much fun, and I am so thankful to have priests who I can talk and relate to. The trip overall was amazing I learned so much, and I feel so strengthened in my pro-life beliefs.

A few days after the trip, I learned my confirmation saint, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, was so much more than I thought. I originally had chosen her because I thought I was going to be a pediatrician when I grew up. Even though that career choice changed, I have been able to see her medallion on my neck every day. I recently found out she is also the patron saint of unborn children and pro-life advocates. After learning this, I am reminded God always works in His own timing.

Alyssa Mikkelson is a senior at Sacred Heart Jr. Sr. High School in Salina.

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**TREVOR MEYER: TRUTH AND LOVE ALWAYS WIN**

**By Trevor Meyer**
**Special to The Register**

This year, a group of 30 students from Fort Hays State University went on the March for Life. We were fortunate enough to pilgrimage with the Diocese of Salina. Although we did not ride the buses to Washington, D.C., we still had an adventure getting there.

On Wednesday, all 30 students made the trip to Wichita as we were set to fly out at 6 a.m. All the guys stayed up very late, so my parents were gracious enough to let us stay at their house and the bonus being the able to get them up at a decent time.

The ladies were scattered and stayed with various people around the Wichita area. Us guys decided it would be a good idea to stay up until 1:30 a.m. in the morning, and we ended up waking up at 3:30 a.m. to get to the airport on time.

We arrived in Washington, D.C., around noon. We were able to get our metro tickets and get to the hotel in a timely manner. Once we were in there, we kind of went all day and waited for our shuttle to take us to the National Mall and just walked around and looked at all the buildings.

Once we were done with that, we headed back to the hotel and got there right in time to join the rest of the students from Salina. It was a perfect end to the night as we were able to pray for the unborn and legal entities.

We all got up the next morning and got to breakfast at 7 a.m. Then we loaded onto the buses and went to the Church of the Nativity Mass. It was incredible as we were there with many different groups from Kansas. Bishop Veit delivered a beautiful homily that gave us hope and passion for what we were doing.

During this time of uncertain- ness, we were the only group who came to the March for Life. It gave me even more hope for our country and our future generations. Being surrounded by hundreds of thousands of people who had been doing, but Father Rockers led the whole bus in a Rosary.

On the ride from Manhattan to Salina, a few of the Concordia girls and I sat next to Father Rockers and Father McCaffrey. We asked them question after question, ranging from their favorite breakfast food to how they decided to become priests. After many laughs and answered questions, we arrived back in Salina. The experience has helped me to know the priests better on a different level was so much fun, and I am so thankful to have priests who I can talk and relate to. The trip overall was amazing I learned so much, and I feel so strengthened in my pro-life beliefs.

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**Trevor Meyer is a senior at Fort Hays State University. He is majoring in management information systems and minoring in marketing.**
Students learn 7 themes of CST

By Geoff Andrews Special to The Register

In our country, individuals always hear about social justice issues. These can be polarizing topics on the political spectrum and in our classrooms.

However, our Catholic faith provides great framework to learn and understand these issues.

The seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) are oriented towards the same goal — to treat each person with respect and dignity and to strive to see every person the way God sees them.

The seven themes of CST are taught each day throughout Catholic schools. At a recent diocesan-wide teachers’ in-service, faculty learned how to incorporate the themes into their lesson plans.

In the following stories, you will read about the different ways Catholic schools educate our students on these teachings through creating a Christ-centered and compassionate environment.

Geoff Andrews is the superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Salina.
SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

LIFE & DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON
Every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, every life is sacred, and the dignity of human life must be protected from conception to natural death.

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY & PARTICIPATION
God did not create human beings to live in isolation, but to live in a community of love. It is our right and our duty to participate in society and to seek the common good of all.

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES
Every human person has a right to life and to those things which will allow for their well-being. At the same time, every human person has the responsibility of upholding the rights of others and of promoting the common good.

OPTION FOR THE POOR & VULNERABLE
One of our duties is to provide for the needs of the poor and to protect the vulnerable, so that their rights are also respected and so that they also can participate in the building up of society.

THE DIGNITY OF WORK & THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS
Work allows human beings to build up society and find personal fulfillment. Therefore, there is a great dignity in work. To protect this dignity, the rights of workers must be upheld.

SOLIDARITY
We are one human family, and so we must promote justice and peace in society by upholding the rights and dignity of others and promoting a society of love.

CARE FOR GOD’S CREATION
We give honor to God by caring for His creation. Therefore, it is our responsibility to be good stewards of creation, to care for the earth, and to make good use of the gifts God has given us.
Week of life-changing events brings focus

The road to America and the priesthood

I was born July 5, 1950, in Kerala, India. My parents were farmers, and I was the oldest of six. We were Catholics. Traditionally, if I remember correctly, my great-grandparents on both sides were both Catholic. When I was a grade school student, nearly the neighborhood was all Hindus. There was only one other Catholic family that I recall, that's how I came here.

My grandmother was not Catholic. Since I was in a religious order, I had to do some study of the faith, so I had to decide if I wanted to be a Catholic and if I wanted to embrace that faith. I eventually did make that decision and was baptized. She believed in God but didn't have any concept of a relationship with him. She believed in the tangible aspects, like the provision of food. She preferred if I would join.

I was hardly 16 when I began to think about being a priest. The reason I chose the Carmelites is because of my neighbors. The lady next door had a brother who was a Catholic priest. Whenever he visited, he encouraged me and asked if I would join. My grandmother was not very happy. She knew the Carmelites lived very poor and simple lives with frugal food. She preferred if I be a priest, I would become a diocesan priest.

Since I was in a religious order, I entered the novitiate after learning Latin and Syriac. Most of these two languages, I forgot by this time. It was a period of training we undergo before taking the religious vows. Then I went to the major seminary where we learned philosophy and theology along with many other topics relevant for priestly ministry.

Before I could do philosophy, I needed to have a bachelor's degree. So, I went and got a degree in chemistry. I was ordained a priest in December 1977. After my ordination, I was sent to do post-graduate work in chemistry. As a religious priest, it is not necessarily required that you do parish ministry. We live in a community. Since I was good at studies and loved chemistry, I was sent to do that. I scored in the high first class.

The following year after post-grad, I was assigned as a lecturer in chemistry at a college. It was a government job. This college was managed by our congregation. I taught for 26 years. I also got registered for a part-time research program with a nearby school of medicine in biochemistry and took my Ph.D. Along with that, in 1994, I became the principal (president) of the college for nearly 12 years. Once I became an administrative head, I no longer had to teach the whole time. I couldn't only work one or two hours a week, it was theory classes.

When I turned 53, I had to retire according to the government rules. And then, Bishop Coakley needed a priest. Father Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI was already here, so that's how I came here. THOMAS, PACE 10

Oldest living priest in diocese dies: Father Grennan

By The Register

Father James Grennan was born Dec. 28, 1924, north of Beloit to William James and Mary (Doyle) Grennan. He grew up near James- town in St. Mary Parish. He was the second youngest of a family of 13. He went to Jamestown High School for two years and finished high school and college at St. Louis Preparatory Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained May 13, 1951, at the old Sacred Heart Cathed- ral by Bishop Frank Thill.

In 1951, he was named paro- chial vicar at St. Michael Church in Delphos and St. Mary Church in Glasco. In 1953, he was named pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Lex- ton, St. Theresa Church in Mankato and later St. Mary Church in Smith Center. In 1961, he was named pastor of St. Joseph Church in Oakley. In 1968, he was named pastor of Seven Dolors Church in Manhattan. In 1971, he was named pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Plainville. In 1983, he was named pastor of St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell and St. Joseph Church in Dorrance. In 1993, he was named pastor of St. Thomas Church in Stockton and St. John Church in Logan. He retired to Russell in 2001.
The Stations of the Cross during Lent are a devotion and practice that can bring people into a deep and true realization of what God has done for them. We have infinite dignity and worth in God’s eyes: Even if you had been the only person on the earth, God would have sent his Son to die for you — that is how deeply God values us, each of us. Therefore, make the stations and ponder what Christ suffered that you might inherit eternal life.

When you begin to pray — whether in the church or at home — kneel and make an act of contrition. Then, as you are able, reflect on each station. Give each one a few moments of meditation. Pray the Our Father after each station.

---

I
Jesus is condemned to death for me. He is taking all my sins on himself so I do not have to die forever. He accepts this gruesome punishment on my behalf.

II
Jesus carries his cross. He bore all the weight of my sin and the sins of all the world on his shoulder. (If I tried to carry the weight of just my sin, I would be crushed.) Christ carried all our sin.

III
Jesus falls the first time. The weight is too much on a body already scourged. He bows under the weight and the terrible injuries already inflicted. Lord, forgive me for my sin that contributed to that crushing weight, forgive me.

IV
Jesus meets his mother. There are no words to describe the pain that Mary bore as she watched her Son suffer in such agony. Each, in their own way, yields to the will of the Father for our salvation.
The Stations of the Cross

V

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross. Lord, thank you for helping me to carry my crosses. May I in turn help others to carry the crushing weight of their sorrow.

VI

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. Such a small gesture in such a time of horror, yet Jesus rewards even the smallest act of charity, of kindness, of mercy — and blesses those who perform them. May I never despise small acts of kindness — those I give and those I receive.

VII

Jesus falls the second time. What a desperate moment when our strength won’t hold out, when we are helpless in the midst of enemies — even with friends we can feel humiliated. Jesus bore that humiliation for you and for me. We are never alone — even in the most challenging of times. He has gone before us.

VIII

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem. He comforts them as they try to minister to his needs. This is the call to the whole body of Christ — in suffering, give and receive. God will be very present to our needs while we tend to the needs of others.

IX

Jesus falls a third time. How physically crushing, how helpless, how humiliating, yet he does it for us.

St. Theresa Church, Mankato
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church, Osborne
St. Agnes Church, Grainfield
Sacred Heart Church, Ebson
St. Thomas More Church, Manhattan
X

Jesus is stripped of his garments.

and again in every step and action of that torturous route to Calvary, he is degraded and humiliated beyond speech. Yet he bore it all in silence — he who could have risen up and destroyed all his persecutors bore it on our behalf, that we might inherit life, not death.

St. John the Evangelist Church, Logan

XI

Jesus is nailed to the cross. It is a miracle he is still alive, and he chooses to be, that he might drain the cup of suffering to the last drop for you. How can I return gratitude by the way I live my life?

St. Mary Church, Smith Center

XII

Jesus dies on the cross. To all the onlookers this was the end. A man with big plans and big ideas is gone just like every other human being. But there were some at the foot of the cross who still held a flicker of hope that he was the Messiah, that he would live, that his promises would come true. How great is your faith?

St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Clifton

XIII

The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross.

How infinitely sad must have been those moments as Mary held him in her arms, as they washed his body, as the sky darkened and the wind grew stronger. It all seemed to be over — he was gone.

Sacred Heart Church, Colby

XIV

Jesus is laid in the tomb. The disciples scatter; confusion and fear, anger and doubt must have assailed them all. But Mary waited.

Sacred Heart Church, Park

Close by reading Psalm 30
Rites of Election slated for March

By The Register

Rites of Election are scheduled for 3 p.m. March 6 at the Cathedral in Salina and at 3 p.m. March 13 at St. Nicholas, Hays.

Pastors and RCIA coordinators are being asked to send in the names of catechumens (those not baptized) and candidates (those already baptized in another Christian faith but desiring to come into full communion with the Catholic Church).

Bishop Jerry Vincke will send letters of invitation to those catechumens and candidates.

The Rite of Election is one of several rites which are part of the RCIA process through which people are prepared to join the Catholic Church. It always takes place on the first and second Sundays of Lent, and initiates the third phase of the process: the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

This period is a spiritual journey, marked not so much by instruction as by prayer and fasting. Catechumens are aided in their final discernment by three Scrutinies which take place on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent.

The work of this office, visit https://salinadiocese.org/office/catholic-schools.

Deacon attire sees change

By Deacon Steve Frueh

Beginning March 6, the first Sunday of Lent, the deacon in your parish might not be recognizable.

Bishop Vincke has promulgated a new diocesan policy: Permanent deacons are authorized to reflect a clerical state by wearing a gray cleric shirt and Roman collar when engaged in their pastoral or ministerial settings. The deacons will not be wearing clerical attire when engaged in normal secular activities, e.g., employment, entertaining, going to the grocery store, etc.

The decision to dress in clerics is voluntary and at the discretion of the deacon. However, it is highly recommended a deacon wear clerical attire for significant diocesan events, e.g., Chrism Mass, ordinations, pictures for parish/diocesan directories or websites, etc.

Examples for wearing clerics include but are not limited to visiting nursing homes, hospitals, hospices, prisons/jails, home-bound parishioners; vesting at Mass and other parish liturgy rites/deductions; or other sacramental ministries, etc.

Why the change? When the permanent diaconate was re-instituted following Vatican II, it was left to the discretion of each individual bishop for his diocese as to whether deacons would wear clerics.

Since that time, many bishops throughout the United States have allowed their deacons to wear clerical attire in some form or another and the current trend has more dioceses following that policy.

Deacons, by the nature of their ordination, are clerics of the Church as are bishops and priests. Canon Law 234 states, “Clerics are to wear suitable ecclesiastical clothing according to the norms issued by the conference of bishops and according to legitimate local customs.” It is the custom in the United States that it will be left to the discretion of the local bishop as to how deacons represent their clerical state in his diocese.

Therefore, the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States states in paragraph 89 that, “Each diocesan bishop should . . . specify the appropriate clerical attire if it is to be worn.”

By wearing a Roman collar, black jacket and pants during his ministries, a deacon will not only witness to his parishioners but to others outside of his parish — even non-Catholics — as to whom he is “working for.” Jesus Christ.

The first witness would be in the very acts of Christ-like service that he is carrying out. The second would be by the clothes he wears just as the clothes a doctor, a nurse, a judge, the employee at McDonald’s, many nuns, religious sisters, and yes, even of a priest, convey who they are, what they are doing, and whom they represent.

Come the first Sunday of Lent, it might be even more obvious than usual whom the deacon is “working for.” Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church.

Deacon Steve Frueh is the director of the permanent diaconate at the Diocese of Salina. He ministers at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina.

Your gift in action

By The Register

Did you know your gift to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal — Call to Share aids in the work of this office, visit https://salinadiocese.org/office/catholic-schools.

THOMAS, FROM PAGE 6

I had never flown before. I had never even gone outside of India. But I was not nervous to come here.

Of course, there are many differences between India and Kansas. But because I had been the president of the college, I had experience with all kinds of people from other countries. Plus, we only spoke English in college, so I didn’t have too many problems with English.

The only problem was the accent. We learned British English and then for us, it becomes British-Indian English. But here, it is American English. You can understand the difficulty.

I arrived at the Salina Diocese in 2008. I was first in Oakley and Angelus as an associate, then in Seven Dolors in Manhattan. In 2009 I was appointed to Grainfield, Park and Grinnell, where I am to this day.

I give importance to all aspects of being a priest. Sacraments are the No. 1 priority, especially Eucharist and confession. It is important to give reflections during Confession. I enjoy teaching the kids of the parish. And I like giving homilies.

The celebration of Mass is important to me. All the sacraments are important, but the Eucharist is the sacrament we do every day. It is for the faithful. I don’t find anything which is exceptionally difficult. Sometimes, people don’t like me. You cannot please everyone. But it is OK.

I still like teaching. See, I can watch the kids of the parish, and I encourage them, especially when they are little, to be in touch with serving at Mass. I give them the sacraments. But I watch them to see which ones grasp it. And then I hope to encourage them to consider the priesthood.

Right now, there are two men from this parish who are discerning the priesthood. Out of the six seminarians, we have 53%. It makes me happy to see their vocations. I am happy to be there if they need me.

Father James Thomas is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Park, St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield and Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell.
The Eucharistic Miracle of Paris

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 on a website (http://www.miracolieucharisticici.org/en/).

Liste/list.html he created before he died of leukemia.

Paris, France | 1290

There are numerous documents that testify to the events of this miracle. The Italian historian Giovanni Villani in Book VII, Chapter 136, of his celebrated History of Florence reports all the principal facts of the miracle. A deep study of the sources was done by Mrs. Moreau-Rendu in a work titled: A Paris, Rue des Jardins published in 1934 with a preface by Bishop Tonze who was the auxiliary bishop of Paris. The author, after a detailed list of documents, placed them under rigorous examination and declared with confidence the authenticity of the facts.

The best-known version of the story is found in the History of the Church of Paris written by the French archbishop, Archbishop Rupp, who tells of the Eucharistic miracle of Paris in the pages dedicated to the episcopate of Simon Mattias of Busay who held the See of St. Denis from 1290 to 1304:

Special to The Register

While Jesus was in the desert for 40 days, the devil tempted him.

Second Sunday of Lent
March 13
Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John.

Due to Covid-19, Father David Metz and the Finance Council decided to host an online auction this year instead of the annual Mardi Gras meal and in-person auction.

Several items will be available to bid on and feature: whole beef and hog packages, power tools, quilts, handmade wooden items, pies, cinnamon rolls and other food items, trips, vacation sites, and many more unique and interesting items.

Feel free to browse and bid on any item you might have an interest in for the benefit of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia, Kansas.
St. Andrew’s teacher receives honor

BY CHRIS WHITEHAIR
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools recently named Kristi Anguiano as the Distinguished Teacher of the Year for the Salina Diocese. The honor was announced at the KAIRS annual banquet Feb. 7 in Topeka.

Anguiano is a wonderful example of servant leadership. She has taught in the Salina Diocese for more than 30 years. Her first years were at St. Francis Xavier in Junction City, and she has taught at St. Andrew’s in Abilene for the past 21 years. Anguiano has served as a coach, mentor, teacher and leader with care, integrity, passion and dedication.

Anguiano has a strong faith, and she willingly shares this faith with others. She has served on the RCIA team at St. Andrew’s for many years, bringing numerous people into our church family. She serves as a lector and Eucharistic minister in the church as well, and is seen at many parish and school functions, always willing to help when needed.

Anguiano goes far above and beyond her basic teaching duties. She truly lives her life to serve God by helping and serving others through the many “extras” she helps with at St. Andrew’s. If there is a need, Anguiano is there to help. Many things that others don’t even think about, she quietly takes care of with no expectation of recognition.

Chris Whitehair is principal at St. Andrew’s School in Abilene.

Schools win titles

By The Register

On Feb. 12, schools across the state traveled to the KSHSAA State Scholar’s Bowl competitions. The schools of the Salina Diocese fared well. All four high schools that qualified for state broke into the final round, and two schools won state titles.

State champs — Tipton Catholic in Class 1A Division II
State champs — Salina-Sacred Heart in Class 2A
Fifth place — Beloit-St. John’s in Class 1A Division II
Sixth place — Hays-Thomas More Prep-Marian in Class 3A

Synod dates upcoming

By The Register

Synod gatherings in the Salina Diocese began Feb. 20 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center in Norton and the Downtown Hall in Tipton.

Please see below the date and times for upcoming gatherings in the Salina Diocese:

- Feb. 27 — 3 p.m., St. Edward Parish Hall, Belleville.
- March 6 — 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Colby.
- March 20 — 3 p.m., St. Nicholas of Myra Parish Hall, Hays.
- March 20 — 6:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Parish Utopia Room, Manhattan.
- March 27 — 2 p.m., St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish Hall, Salina.

Debbie Deneault, from St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Church in Salina, has volunteered to be the point person for the Value Them Both Amendment.

Deneault has a marketing degree and has worked for various newspapers in the past. She also has been an executive planning director.

Deneault is currently on a fact-finding mission gathering information on what each organization, including parishes, are doing for the Value Them Both Amendment.

Thank you in advance for talking with her if she calls your parish.
“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in God’s own image, destined to live for ever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

— Pope Francis

in his Address to the Bishops of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, July 17, 2013

Please join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia in prayer for the sanctity of all human life.
Giving back to the ones that helped

BY OLIVIA AYRES
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

For Yessenia Baquera, hard work is a value that has been instilled in her since birth. Born in Delicias, Mexico, Baquera’s family immigrated to the United States in 1994 when she was just 3. Her parents’ decision to journey to the U.S. was bred from the desire to give their children a better life, one filled with opportunity.

However, because Baquera was not born in the U.S., she was not granted legal status when her family immigrated. Not having legal status presented Baquera with many obstacles, most notably it restricted her ability to gain employment or enroll in college. “All my life, I wanted to go to college and make my family proud,” Baquera said. “When I graduated high school, it hit me that I did not have the status to achieve the opportunity to work, she capitalized on every opportunity to gain employment.

In 2012, there was hope when the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy was enacted. The policy granted individuals who were brought to the U.S. as children the ability to receive a renewable two-year period of authorization. This authorization made these individuals eligible for a work permit so they could gain employment in the U.S. Through the help of the Immigration Program at Catholic Charities, Baquera’s DACA application was approved.

Baquera described the moment as life-altering. “I still remember receiving my work permit in the mail,” Baquera said. “I could not believe that little card was going to make it so much easier to achieve my dreams.”

Now that Baquera had the ability to work, she capitalized on every opportunity to gain employment.

She worked at McDonald’s, as a receptionist at Salina South High School, a dispatcher at the Salina Police Department, as well as a children’s counselor at Central Kansas Mental Health Center. On top of undertaking all those responsibilities, Baquera was completing college courses to further her education. Though this journey was at times difficult, Baquera says her strong work ethic never faltered.

In 2020, Baquera learned Catholic Charities’ Immigration Department was hiring. Knowing the impact Catholic Charities had on her life, Baquera applied for the position and was asked to interview. After the interview process, Catholic Charities offered her the position of immigration and Hispanic services specialist.

Baquera describes the opportunity to work for an organization that has given her so much as a dream realized. “Working at Catholic Charities means so much, I am incredibly grateful,” she said. “I am giving back to the place that has and is still helping me. My mission aligns with the mission of Catholic Charities, which is to make this world a better place.”

Baquera said if it were not for the obstacles she faced, she would not have the opportunity to help others in similar positions gain legal status.

“Everyone can make an impact. Working at Catholic Charities is my way to make an impact,” Baquera said. “Yes, there was a lot of tears and darkness in my life, but I am proud to say this is my story. Maybe if it would have been easier for me, I would not have ended up here. All the adversities I went through shaped me into a better woman. I am exactly where I need to be.”

Olive Ayres is the communications coordinator for Catholic Charities.
DEATHS

Catherine A. Lowers, 80, of Concordia, died Jan. 15, 2022. Memorial service was Jan. 20 at Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Concordia.

Darwin “Buck” Knox, 86, died Jan. 5, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 11 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Clifton. Father Steven Heina and Father Joseph Kieffer officiated. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery in Clifton.

Kenneth Holmes, 97, of Tipton, died Jan. 4, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 7 by Father Kenneth Wehrs and Father Daryl Olmstead at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Burial was in St. Georges Cemetery near Munden.


Dorothy Beckman, 100, died Dec. 25, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 7 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial will be in Kansas Veterans Cemetery at a later date.

James Moloney, 80, died Jan. 3, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 8 by Father Frank Coady, Father Kenny Ninemire, Father Peter O’Donnell and Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was in St. Mary’s Cemetery in Junction City.

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Bible crumbling,
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BAPTISMS

Ralphael Sylvester Baker, son of Nathan and Samantha Baker, was baptized Nov. 7, 2021, by Father Matthew Cowan at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo.

Haylie Burch, daughter of Corey and Erin Burch, was baptized Jan. 22 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Lair Arthur Jungnans, son of Matthew and Monica Jungnans, was baptized Jan. 2 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Camden Kramer, child of Clint and Haley Kramer, was baptized Jan. 8 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Roslynn Belle Smith, daughter of Marcus and Kelsey (Galloway) Smith, was baptized Dec. 26 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Slade Grayson Snavely, son of Tyler and Kylie Snavely, was baptized Jan. 16 by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Concordia.

June Templin, daughter of Austin Templin and Dareae, was baptized Dec. 26 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

WEDDINGS

Nathaniel Hamel and Katherine Greenwood were married Feb. 11, 2022, at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Bishop Jerry Vincke and priests of the Salina Diocese witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Curt and Kelly Hamel. Parents of the bride are James and Rebecca Greenwood. Witnesses were Dean Carr and Alexandra Oberle.

SPAGHETTI DINNER
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
March 20, 2022
Nazareth Motherhouse • 1300 Washington, Concordia

MEAL TICKETS
$8 — Must be reserved by Friday, March 11

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