



Hall of Famer

ST. MARY'S PRINCIPAL COMPAGNONE COMPARED TO LEGENDARY COACH TOM OSBORNE

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

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



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Mary's Principal Nick Compagnone was inducted into the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools Hall of Fame on Feb. 7. Pictured with Compagnone at the ceremony is his wife, Cindy.

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.

**MARCH
FOR LIFE**

Attendees to this year's event give firsthand accounts.

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**STATIONS OF
THE CROSS**

Take time on Fridays during Lent to reflect on God's work.

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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 and duties 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 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, April 14. The Catechism 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 trust?

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 us? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, 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 more to Jesus. The great 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,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



BISHOP’S CALENDAR

March

- 4-6** Pathways Retreat
- 5** Confirmation, 4:30 p.m., Seven Dolors, Manhattan
- 6** Rite of Election, 3 p.m., Salina
- 6** 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
- 13** Rite of Election, 3 p.m., Hays
- 18** St. John’s Benefit Auction, 6 p.m., Beloit
- 19** 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
- 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 Dolors, Manhattan
- 30** Confirmation, 6 p.m., St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell

SAINTS, FEASTS OF MARCH

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

St. Josemaria Escriva

- 3** St. Katharine Drexel
- 4** St. Casimir
- 7** Ss. Perpetua and Felicity
- 8** 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

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.

MEET JESUS IN THE DESERT THIS LENT

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. Many 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 satiate our increasing hunger for dessert, Insta-

gram, alcohol or the snooze button. Also, for the record, I never want 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 as

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 the 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.

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Below are testimonials from two students in the Salina Diocese who participated in the 2022 March for Life in Washington, D.C.

ALYSSA MIKKELSON: TRIP WAS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

By ALYSSA MIKKELSON
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Jan. 19, 2022

The night before 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 and be a part of something greater than I ever could have imagined.

That next 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 surrounding our bus.

Unfortunately for us, a man had backed into our bus, hitting the radiator. Antifreeze had leaked all over the parking lot, which meant our bus would not be taking us all the way to D.C. After almost two hours, they decided to move all 48 kids and chaperons from our bus onto the two other buses. It was a pretty cramped ride for a while, but we were told a replacement bus was waiting for us in St. Louis.

The hardest part of the first day was trying to fall asleep.

Jan. 20, 2022

The next morning, you could tell no one had a good night's sleep. We were all groggy and cranky, but we persevered and made our way to Cracker Barrel. After spending an hour trying to wake up a bit, we played some bus games led by Lindy Meyer, who came with the Beloit kids.

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.

We arrived at our hotel in Arlington, Va., around 5 p.m. After showering and getting ready for our next activity, we walked to a church in downtown Arlington. There, we celebrated adoration with Thomas More Prep-Marian and Beloit students. We were led by Bishop Jerry Vincke and Father Brian McCaffrey. It was a beautiful service and a wonderful way to celebrate the Eucharist.

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 Hammeke. After having him for a couple of years as 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.

After breakfast, we made our way back onto the buses, and we attended Mass with fellow Kansans. The Mass was led by Bishop Vincke. With him were other priests from Kansas.

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 really means.

The march taught me we should 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 Washing-

ton, 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 Hammeke celebrated the Mass for us. The Mass was beautiful, and I could tell everyone in that room 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 everyone who came to 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 not even coffee was going to help. We had a long breakfast with Father McCaffrey and Father Rockers, a group Rosary and many games of MarioKart. Around 1:30 p.m., we stopped in Manhattan for Mass.

On the ride from Manhattan to Salina, a few of the Concor dia girls and I sat up front 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 of getting 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 would be a pediatrician when I grew up. Even though that career choice changed, I still wore her medal around my neck every day. I recently found out she is also the patron saint of mothers, unborn children and pro-life advocates. After learning this, I am reminded God always works in mysterious ways.

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

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 with my family, as my parents were gracious enough to let us stay at their house and the bonus being the airport is only 20 minutes away.

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 3:45 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 all went our own way. The guys went to the National Mall and just walked around and looked at all the various 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 diocese for adoration. It was a perfect end to the night as we were able to pray for the unborn and legislation to end abortion.

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 was incredible as we were there with many different groups from Kansas. Bishop Jerry Vincke delivered a beautiful homily that gave us hope and passion for what we were doing. We then loaded up the buses and headed for the March.

Even during this time of uncertainty, there were so many people who came to the March for Life. It gave me even more hope for our country. My generation is truly the pro-life generation. Being surrounded by hundreds of thousands of people, I

was able to witness the Holy Spirit moving through all us. The compassion and love the people have at the March for Life is not out of hatred for those in the abortion industry, but it is out of love. I believe it is truly the most peaceful protest in the world.

After making our way from the mall to the Supreme Court, we were able to pray for those who have the power to overturn abortion and for those who need healing. When we finally regrouped, as it is hard to stay together in the March, we once again split up. But most of us met up at Pentagon City where there is a mall.

One thing I did notice was that in such a large city like Washington, D.C., I found that the Catholic bubble was so small as I was running into people that I have known my whole life. We ended the night with a tour of the city. My personal favorite stop was the Lincoln Memorial. I was able to stand right where Dr. Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

It reminded me that although our country has gone through a lot, truth and love have always won, which gave me hope.

We woke up a little later Saturday, but we still were able to grab a quick breakfast before we went to

the Basilica. Here we went to Mass and were able to see a beautiful church. If you have never been, I would highly recommend. After getting to see the Basilica and attending Mass in the Crypt Church, which is in the basement of the Basilica, we loaded the bus and went to Arlington.

This was a beautiful and peaceful last stop before we went back to the hotel and went to the airport. I think the best story that came out of the trip was when we were waiting on our flight in D.C. A pilot noticed my shirt, which had a March for Life quote. He leaned in to ask if Father Andy Hammeke and I went to the March. We proceeded to tell him about the experience, and before he left, he thanked us for going to the March.

It goes to show that there are more people on our side than we think and that we truly have to continue to do our part. We all must stand for life, especially with how pivotal it is now. This is my seventh March for Life, and I will continue to go each and every year until Roe v. Wade is overturned.

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.

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY & PARTICIPATION

By **ALLISON OCHOA**
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Human dignity, the capacity of people to grow in community, marriage and the family, and every individual's call to participate in society are the elements of the Catholic Church's social theme of Call to Family, Community and Participation. At Sacred Heart Grade School in Plainville and St. John's Catholic High School in Beloit, lessons on this theme are learned both inside and outside the classroom.

"It's engrained in our culture, and I think we really excel at this," said Sacred Heart Principal Scott Brown.

Brown said his pre-K through sixth-grade students work to affect lives locally and around the world. They regularly donate to the local food pantry and have recently widened their focus to include support of children throughout the world through the Operation Christmas Child program and support of American troops serving overseas. Prior to

the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sacred Heart students also were regularly involved with the local nursing home.

"We talk a lot with the students and staff about the fact that we're like a family. Most of the students have a good understanding of what it means to be a family and to participate in things. The younger kids see what the older kids are doing and want to do it, too, so they carry (this theme) on as they get older."

In Andrew Niewald's Marriage and Family class at St. John's Catholic High School, the emphasis is on the preeminence of the vocation of marriage, how marriage plays a pivotal role in God's plan for humanity, and how central marriage and family are to cultures.

"This is a platform for us to discuss issues like what is marriage? How does it function? What does it look like? What is God's plan for marriage? And then understanding how marriage plays a pivotal role in God's plan," said

Niewald, who has taught the class to St. John's students for nearly 15 years. "Kids like the idea of dating, but they haven't thought a lot about marriage beyond their wedding day, and they may not quite understand what having a family means or entails."

Niewald said the course's discussion-based curriculum is divided between fall and spring semesters. In the first semester, the senior students examine dating, marriage and family life. During the second semester, they focus on Theology of the Body.

"I'm giving them subject matter they'll think about in the future," Niewald said. "We're setting the table for what they're going to ask in five years."

Brown and Niewald have seen the fruit of their schools' efforts to teach the importance of Family, Community and Participation as their students transition to public school or to college and the real world.

"They continue to participate in that call to family even as they

move on to public school," said Brown of his Sacred Heart students. "They're involved in a lot of different projects when they go on to the public school, and I think it's also in the nature of their own families to participate and serve in the community. We saw that when we had a lot of fires in the area — we're a small community so people rallied behind those who were affected."

"I hope they'll have a good understanding that there are things bigger than themselves and that they'll continue to serve the community wherever they decide to live," he said.

Niewald has had past students approach him to express how his class affected them as they approached their own relationships and marriages.

"I've had some kids approach me and say, 'I didn't understand fully at the time, but I do now,'" he said. "It's my hope that they learn God's plan for marriage and that it's greater than any human can plan for."

LIFE & DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

By **ALLISON OCHOA**
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Catholic Church has long been known for its stance on the sanctity of human life and its efforts to protect life from conception to natural death. For the students at St. John's Catholic School in Hanover and St. Andrew's Elementary School in Abilene, learning the Catholic Social Teaching of Life and Dignity of the Human Person begins with respect.

"We have a family atmosphere in our school, so we work hard to show dignity and respect to students, staff and parents, and we want to model that respect for all people," said St. John's Principal Amanda Cook.

St. Andrew's Principal Christina Whitehair echoes that goal.

"We always teach the students that we respect each other, and we respect life," she said. "Respect for everyone is the overall theme in our school — that we need to show love for everyone no matter how alike or different they are from us."

Students from both schools regularly participate in activities and events to show their support for life at all stages.

"We support the life chain event here in town, we pray for mothers expecting babies, and we celebrate new life with the kids when new

siblings arrive," Whitehair said. "Last year, we had to celebrate Grandparents Day virtually, and we had a lot of grandparents who Zoomed in. But this year, they were able to come in-person. We also prepare Christmas ornaments and cards that we deliver to the nursing home and to several shut-ins."

St. Andrew's students have also collected items to be donated to Birthright, delivered May baskets to several elderly area residents, provided decorations for Meals on Wheels meal deliveries, and created a virtual video tribute to local veterans — many of whom were 90-years of age or older — on Veterans Day, thanking them for their service.

The students at St. John's Catholic School have been engaged in similar activities in their own community, even overcoming challenges to maintain relationships with residents of the local long-term care facility.

"A lot of people have commented that the interaction between our students and the people in the long-term care home is wonderful," Cook said. "Last year, we created a video during Catholic Schools Week

that we sent to the facility, and it was shown to the residents. Our students in Faith in Action raised over \$1,500 to purchase items needed to support the activities they do with the residents, and we sent them hand-drawn valentines and Valentine's Day cookies to show them they're in our hearts and we still pray for them and think about them often."

"It's been more challenging with the COVID pandemic, but we've worked hard to continue that interaction with the residents despite the challenges because we know a little effort on our part makes their day," she said. "The long-term care residents are people these kids know, and the kids are just naturally really good with the elderly."

Both principals recognize the need for educating their students on the difficult elements of the Church's teaching related to support for life, and they aim to do so appropriately for the students at each level.

"How we approach death also helps students learn about the life and dignity of the human person," Whitehair said. "For example, when we lost a student to a tragic accident

a year and a half ago, we talked to students about how precious her life was and how God brought her into our lives for a very special purpose. Even though we miss her dearly, we understand that her life was a special gift to us, and we can treasure the time we had with her."

"Because our students are so young, we don't get into talking about abortion, but we teach them that we must do whatever we can to help the expectant mom, no matter the circumstances," she said. "We try to teach them that they can have a huge impact on the world by the little things they say and do."

At St. John's, Cook teaches eighth-grade religion in addition to her duties as principal, and in that class, she works to instill a respect for life and the dignity of each human being.

"We talk about real-life situations in pregnancy, but not just the situations where the unwed teen is faced with pro-life decisions," she said. "We also talk about concerns in a normal pregnancy. We use real-life applications to make the point that there are a lot of other decisions they will more than likely face in marriage and life. It is important that they also understand that we should approach all pro-life issues with love and respect, because all life is important."

See upcoming issues
of The Register for
additional stories on our
Catholic schools and
Catholic Social Teaching

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

As I write this, one week has passed since Nathaniel and I were married. I might be biased, but it was a beautiful wedding. We were married at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit surrounded by family, friends and tons of scaffolding. There was a fire at the St. John's church in June. As a result, the church is covered with incomprehensible amounts of scaffolding.

There was a bit of poetic beauty in the scaffolding. Churches are places of beauty with the purpose of honoring and giving glory to God, but our church was being repaired and restored. And I think that repair and restoration of the place of beauty is a metaphor for our own lives. Our lives are meant to be in service and love of our heavenly Father. But every single one of us has some repair work that needs to be done. Wounds that need to be healed. Habitual sins that need to be broken.

But the mess doesn't mean our lives are any less beautiful. As long as we remain dedicated to our purpose, as long as we know, love and serve God, there will always be beauty.

My own life was pretty messy

the weekend of our wedding.

Thursday morning, the day of the rehearsal, we got a phone call that my grandma was rapidly declining in health. She had been battling lung cancer. We were told she was expected to die by the end of the day. I don't know how to describe the sadness I felt. But the greatest pain came from the fact that my grandma was close to death and had never been baptized. She believed in God but grew up in a home where baptism wasn't a necessity.

I've never beseeched our God more desperately and ardently than I did that day, begging him to open her heart to baptism. I know I wasn't the only member of our family praying.

My grandma was baptized at 2 p.m. Thursday afternoon. The joy I felt at that moment outweighed any sorrow.

Friday was the wedding. I was so excited to marry Nathaniel, but also, I was a bundle of nerves and anxiety. My insides were a jumble of emotions I didn't have time to process. I was able to spend some quiet time in prayer

with Nathaniel before the wedding. He always has a calming presence on my soul. But I didn't feel true peace and ease until the moment we said our vows to each other. The moment Nathaniel looked me in the eyes as he held my hand in his and claimed in front of God as our witness that I was his wife brought me a rush of peace and dispelled any anxieties. And when I looked into his eyes, it was with great confidence and peace that I took him to be my husband.

While our vows were an intimate and blessed moment of our wedding Mass, both Nathaniel and I agree the most awe-inspiring moment was during the consecration. We knelt before the altar and were eye-level with the Eucharist. Bishop Vincke and 13 other priests from our diocese celebrated the Mass. Kneeling before the Eucharist and watching as every priest spoke the words of consecration in unison, their hands all mimicking each other as they prayed — it was the most powerful, intimate and humbling mo-

ment of my life.

Saturday afternoon, I learned my grandma passed away. And while I was sad, I was also hopeful. Hopeful because she had been baptized. She was the adoptive daughter of a loving and merciful God.

I pondered her death for a while. And the thing I keep coming back to is this. The three most happy, most awe-inspiring and most peaceful moments of our wedding weekend were the baptism of my grandma, the exchange of vows between husband and wife and the action of the Eucharist.

Three sacraments.

Amid the mess of life, amid the "scaffolding," Christ remained. Regardless of our changing circumstances, Christ remains constant. Beauty and purpose in the mess.

What beautiful, messy and glorious lives we lead.

Katie

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

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, as far as I know, my great-grandparents on both sides were both Catholic.

When I was in grade school, most of the neighborhood was all Hindus. There was only one other Catholic family.

We had two types of farming, perennial and annual crops. Our perennial crops were coconut, rubber trees, coffee, tea, cardamom, pepper jack fruits, mangoes and some other spices like cloves. Our annual crops were rice, ginger, turmeric, banana and some other tubers. But the bananas in India are different than the

kind we get here. We had a number of varieties of bananas and mangoes. We had so many fruits.

I worked on the farm all through my schooling. When I was 7, my family moved north looking for better land and prosperity. But we still had the farm. After high school, I did not do any farming. After high school, I joined the Carmelite order.

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 over there had a brother who was a Carmelite 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 college. It was a government job. This college was man-

aged 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 bio-chemistry 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 probably only taught one or two hours a week, and it was theory classes.

When I turned 55, 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, PAGE 10

JAMES Thomas
PASTOR



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 Jamestown 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 Cathedral by Bishop Frank Thill.

In 1951, he was named parochial vicar at St. Michael Church in Collyer and its mission parishes Christ the King Church in WaKeeney and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hill City. In 1954, he was named pastor of St. Paul

Church in Delphos and St. Mary Church in Glasco. In 1958, he was named pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Esbon, 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

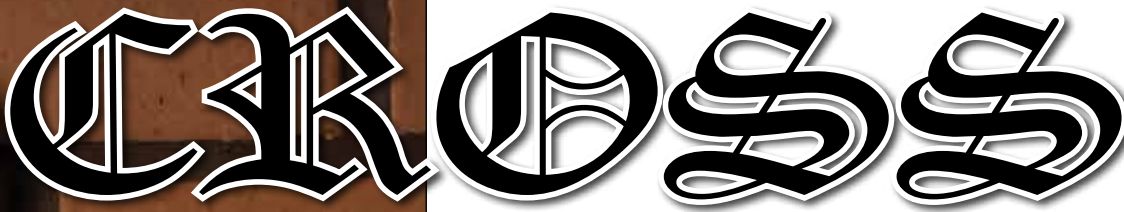


Grennan

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.

Stations OF THE CROSS

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.



BY SISTER ANN SHIELDS
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

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.

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.



St. Mary, Help of Christians Church, Gorham

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.



St. Bernard Church, Ellsworth



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.

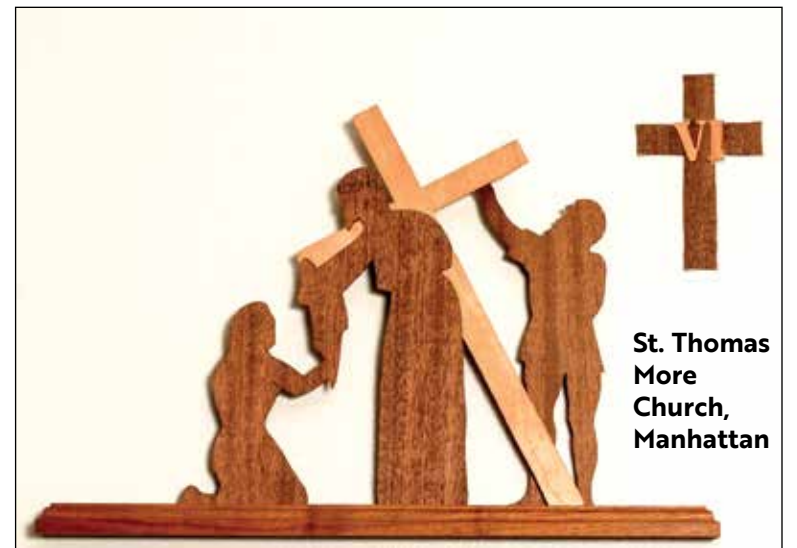
St. Philip Church, Hope

Stations OF THE

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.



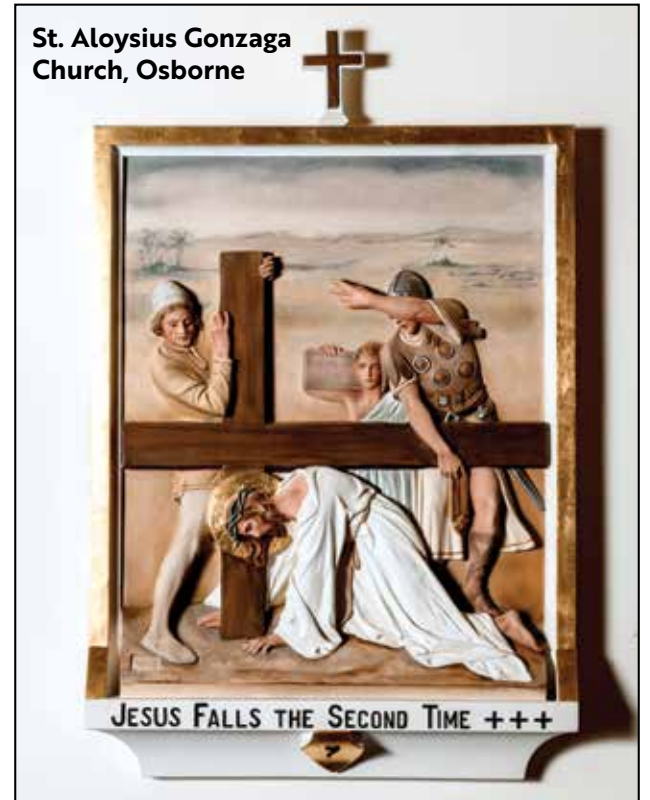
Sacred Heart Church, Esbon



St. Thomas More Church, Manhattan

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.

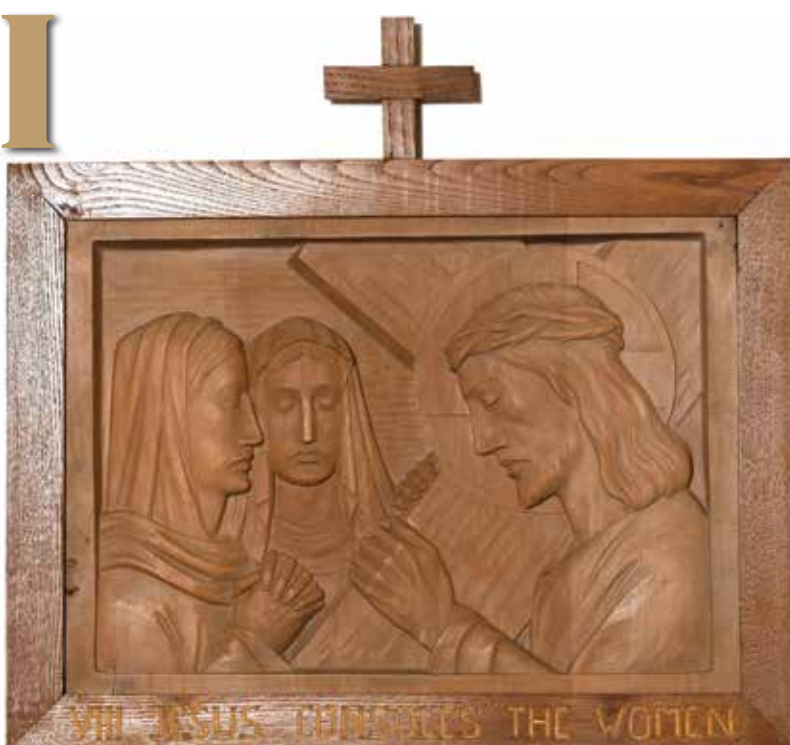
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church, Osborne



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.



St. Agnes Church, Grainfield

IX

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



St. Theresa Church, Mankato

CROSS

X Jesus is stripped of his garments. Again 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



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



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?



Sacred Heart Church, Park



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.

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 in the faith 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. With the help and encouragement of the RCIA team and the pastor, the catechumens reflect on their lives and their relationship to Christ. They prayerfully discern the nega-

tive influences that have controlled their lives to this point.

Examples of these influences could be consumerism, sexism, excessive nationalism, addictions to food or other substances or behaviors, undue fears and anxieties. These influences are considered demonic, and the Scrutinies are minor exorcisms, prayers by the Church to rid the catechumens of these influences so they might join themselves freely to Christ and live a new life in the Church.

While the candidates (those already baptized) do not ritually undergo the Scrutinies, they are encouraged to reflect deeply on

their lives along with the catechumens. The candidates and, indeed, all the members of the assembly would do well to name and confront the demons that continue to plague them and weaken their bond with Christ.

This period of purification and enlightenment is an important step in the catechumens' and candidates' preparation for the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

"I am excited to be with the people on these days," Bishop Vincke said. "It is a great way to be together as individuals take the next important step on their journey to Catholicism."

Your gift in action

BY THE REGISTER

Did you know your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share aids in the support of our Catholic schools?

Staffed by a superintendent and education coordinator, the Salina Diocese Office of Catholic Schools oversees the 11 Catholic grade schools and five Catholic high schools. Seeking to maximize opportunities for quality education in a Catholic setting, this office is committed to fostering an environment of support and coordination for Catholic schools, their principals, faculty and students.

To learn more about the work of this office, visit <https://salinadiocese.org/office/catholic-schools>.



Deacon attire sees change

BY DEACON STEVE FRUEH
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

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 their 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/liturgical rites/devotions; 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 284 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 Perma-

nent 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.

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 experiences with all kinds of people from other countries. Plus, we only spoke English in college, so I did not 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 came to the Salina Diocese in 2008. I was first in Oakley and Angelus as an associate, then in Seven Dolores 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 preaching and the people. 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 people. 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 33%. It makes me happy to see their vocations. I am happy to be there if they need me.

Father Thomas is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Park, St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield and Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell.

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**

1 10 liters (abbr.)

4 Deprive

8 Struck (KJV)

13 Vane direction

14 Island

15 Singer Estefan

16 Carry

17 Former wound

18 Book near Acts

19 Group of related families

21 Kinds of stars

23 Caustic substance

24 A Nissan car

26 Reverberate

28 Aver

31 Splendor

35 Hoopla

38 Indigent

39 Fencing sword

40 Musical repeat

42 Dance

44 Jesus turned water into wine here

45 Object of false worship

46 Dim

48 Lease

49 Student residence

50 Feeding troughs for animals
- 52 A king of the Amalekites

54 Moral knowledge

58 Time period

61 Unskillful

64 Meaty

65 Contemporary

67 Ballet skirt

69 Football assoc.

70 Brand of oil

71 Adjoin

72 Ocean

73 Last words of prayers

74 Wise

75 Make a mistake
- DOWN**

1 Greek 'D'

2 Gripping surface

3 Legal

4 They visited Jesus

5 Computer key

6 Actor Alda

7 A Roman emperor

8 Splash

9 Mother

10 Spoken

11 Petite

12 Soothe

15 By the __ of God

20 Offer
- 22 Giant (2 wds.)

25 Pros

27 Oil cartel

29 Foliage

30 Publicist

32 Opaque gem

33 Word written on the wall (Daniel)

34 Type of moss

35 Vinegary

36 Extinct bird

37 Aroma

41 __ matter

43 Afresh

47 Tax

50 Miraculous food

51 Compass point

53 Lasses

55 Compressed

56 Present for sale

57 Shiny balloon material

58 Austin novel

59 Rove

60 Cutting tool

62 Parent teacher groups

63 Band instrument

66 Long time

68 Yank

Answers on Page 14

GOSPEL READINGS

<p>First Sunday of Lent March 6 Luke 4:1-13</p> <p>While Jesus was in the desert for 40 days, the devil tempted him.</p>	<p>Third Sunday of Lent March 20</p> <p>Readings dependent on presence of RCIA candidates.</p>
<p>Second Sunday of Lent March 13 Luke 9:28b-36</p> <p>Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John.</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday of Lent March 27</p> <p>Readings dependent on presence of RCIA candidates.</p>

The Eucharistic Miracle of Paris

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

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

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

Born in 1991, Carlo grew up with a deep faith and devotion to the Eucharist. Additionally, he was an amateur computer programmer. One of his more well-known accomplishments is documenting Eucharistic miracles from around the world and cataloging them onto a website (<http://www.miracolieuucaristici.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 1954 with a preface by Bishop Touze 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 Matifas of Busay who held the See of St.



Denis from 1290 to 1304: Easter Sunday, April 2, 1290, a man who hated the Catholic faith and did not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the consecrated Host was able to gain possession of a consecrated Host.

The man stabbed the Host with a knife, and the Host began to bleed. The blood filled the container in which he had placed the Host. Panic-stricken, the man decided to throw the Host into the fire, but the Host came out of the fire by itself. Desperate, he threw the Host into boiling water, and the Host freed itself from the water, hovering in mid-air and then taking the form of a crucifix.

Finally, he deposited the Host in the bowl of a parishioner of Saint-Jean-en-Greve, who brought it to her parish priest. Over the centuries, the Host remained in a small reliquary in the church of Saint-Jean. During the French Revolution, it was lost without a trace.

Here are some other equally significant facts: The ecclesiastical authorities, the people and the king decided to transform the home of the one who desecrated the Host into a chapel where the sacred Host would be kept; the confiscation of the house of Jonathas, called "The House of Miracles," by King Phillip the Fair which was registered in a bill of sale from 1291; the transformation of the house into an oratory after the Bull that was obtained from Pope Boniface VIII; the name of the "Rue du Dieu bouilli" (The street of God-boiled) given by the people of Paris to "Rue des Jardins;" the Eucharistic celebration in the Chapel des Billettes of the Department of Reparation on the second Sundays of Advent and Lent.

ONLINE AUCTION TO BENEFIT OLPH IN CONCORDIA

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

CONCORDIA — With the help of hansenonlineauction.com, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Concordia will host an online auction from Feb. 26 through March 5.

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.



Kristi Anguiano



COURTESY PHOTO

Sacred Heart High School scholars bowl team members, from left, Andy Marshall, Stephanie Silverman, Nate Elmore, Markus White, Noah Martin, Jace Douglas and Coach David Green.

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Tipton Catholic High School scholars bowl team members, from left, Coach Trevis Tonne, Lauren Ellenz, Emma Jones, Leah Brummer, Casey Weisel, Josh Towner and Max Ketter.



Pope Francis has called a synod.

Bishop Jerry Vincke invites you to

LEND YOUR VOICE

as we listen to you and your hopes and dreams for the Church.

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



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.

VALUE THEM BOTH

By THE REGISTER

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



VALUE THEM BOTH

executive planning director.

Deneault is currently on a fact-finding mission gathering information on what each organization, includ-

ing parishes, are doing for the Value Them Both Amendment.

Thank you in advance for talking with her if she calls your parish.

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— POPE FRANCIS
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



COURTESY PHOTO

Yessenia Baquera

things I wanted. I was crushed but I was not going to give up."

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."

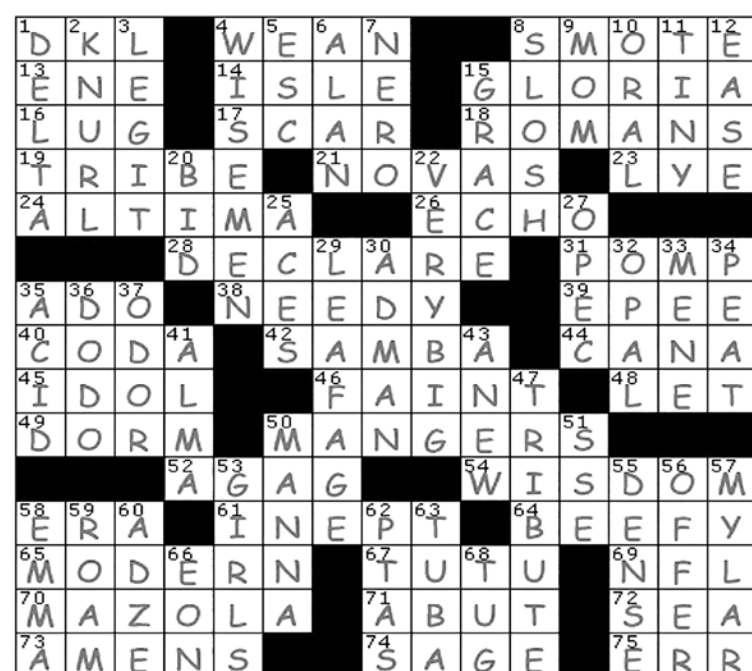
Baquera said if it were not for the obstacles she faced, she would not have the opportunity to help others in

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."

Olivia Ayres is the communications coordinator for Catholic Charities.

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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 Ceme-

tery 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.

John Ivanhoe Lewis, 56, died Aug. 10, 2021. Inurnment services were Nov. 12 at St. Joseph Cemetery in New Almelo. Deacon Brian Kirk officiated.

Nancy Hickert Kreutzer, 69, died Nov. 28, 2021. Funeral

Mass was celebrated Dec. 11 at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo. Father Kerry Ninemire officiated. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in New Almelo.

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 at a later date.

James Moloney, 80, died Jan. 3, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 8 by Father Frank Coady, Father Kerry Ninemire, Father Peter O'Donnell and Father Gnan-

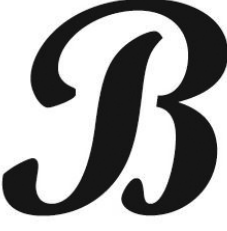
asekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was in Vine Creek Cemetery in Longford.

Ricky E. Hahn, 72, died Jan. 5, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 19 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial will be in Kansas Veterans Cemetery at a later date.

Albert J. Heier, 89, originally of Grainfield, died Jan. 4, 2022, in Springfield, Va. Memorial service was Jan. 11 at Demaine Funeral Home in Springfield. Private burial was Jan. 12. He was a priest for the Salina Diocese from 1958 to 1971

Phyllis Gates died Jan. 10, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 20 by 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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BAPTISMS

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

Maylie 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 Junghans, son of Matthew and Monica Junghans, 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 Snavelly, son of Tyler and Kylie Snavelly, was baptized Jan. 16 by Father David Metz at Our Lady of

Perpetual Help in Concordia.

June Templin, daughter of Austin Templin and Darean

Lara-Smith, was baptized Dec. 26 by Father Gnanasekar

Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

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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.

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