



MIRACLE



of life

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget you, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hand; your walls are continually before me."

Isaiah 49:15-16

BY MELISSA OHDEN
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Gospel reading from July 7, Isaiah 49:15-16, is a source of comfort for so many. Recognizing that no matter the rejection or suffering they face in the world, they're remembered by the Lord.

For many women who have experienced an abortion and men who have been involved in an abortion, this verse brings meaningful comfort as they remember their lost child.

As I attended Mass with Bishop Jerry Vincke and parishioners from across the Diocese of Salina, we gathered to pray for and discuss the Value Them Both Amendment, which Kansas voters will head to the polls for on Aug. 2.

During this time, the Gospel reading struck me with significance.

As I told the group in attendance, "My birth mother never forgot me, even though she attempted to abort me."

Yes, you read that correctly. My birth mother, Ruth, at age 19, was forced by her mother, my maternal grandmother, to abort me.



Her story is the often-untold story of women across our nation and around the world. Ruth deserved unconditional love, support and resources like those identified for the women and families of Kansas at helpingkansaswomen.com. What she received was a secret, forced abortion, bypassing hospital regulations and procedures at the hands of her mother, a nurse and nurse educator in the community. That abortion put her life in danger and was meant to end mine.

Abortion is the taking of innocent human life. It's not pleasant to hear about, talk about or see. As you see me today, though, as a wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, pro-life leader, what you don't see is what that abortion did to me — so I'll

spare the worst details and share a little bit about that procedure, as hard as it is to face.

My medical records reflect that through five days, in August 1977, I soaked in a toxic salt solution that was delivered into the amniotic fluid surrounding me in Ruth's womb, being poisoned and scalded to what was meant to be my death.

OHDEN, PAGE 3



COURTESY PHOTOS

Melissa Ohden with her birth mother, Ruth.

TIME TO VOTE

One final push for Value Them Both Amendment.
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CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Donation provides new vehicle for Hays office.
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Honoring elders in our diocese

Recently, I was talking to someone who told me a fascinating story. His son was involved in a terrible car accident. For many nights, the man and his wife stayed in the hospital with their child.

One day, they didn't spend the night at the hospital. The next morning, they went to visit their son and apologized for not being there through the night. Their son replied, "It's OK. Your grandpa stayed with me."

Of course, the parents didn't know what he meant, and they further questioned him.

Their son said, "The grandpa who smoked." And he proceeded to describe how his grandpa looked. He described him perfectly, even though he had never met this great grandfather who had long since passed.

This story reminds me of what St. Francis de Sales said about the transfiguration of Jesus when Peter, James and John could recognize Moses and Elijah, even though they had never met them in person. St. Francis writes that in heaven, we'll be able to recognize even our grandparents whom we have never met.

Grandparents are an incredible blessing to us. They have passed on the faith to us. Many were immigrants who toiled hard in a new land, but they never forgot their faith or its importance. Many built the churches we worship in today.

The Church recognizes the World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly on the fourth Sunday of July, which is July 24. Pope Francis gave a homily in honor of this day and he said,

"A long life — so the Bible teaches — is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance. Blessed is the house where an older person lives. Blessed is the family that honors the elderly."

Perhaps we can all say a little prayer or visit our grandparents to thank them for all the love and support they have given us.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

**GERALD
Vincke**
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



BISHOP'S CALENDAR

August

- 1-3** Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention, Nashville
- 5-7** Marian Days, Carthage, Mo.
- 9-10** Jesu Caritas, Salina
- 10** Seminarian Fundraising Dinner, S.C.C., Salina
- 11** Seminarian Fundraising Dinner, The Strand, Hays
- 12** Runnin' Revs basketball game, Hays
- 13** 11th annual Men's Conference, IHM, Hays
- 14** Rural Life Day, St. Fidelis, Victoria

PRIESTS MOVES

Effective July 1, 2022

Father John Schmeidler:

Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Smith Center in addition to his other canonical assignments.

Father Jarett Konrade and Father Andrew Rockers:

Pastoral care of St. Theresa Parish in Mankato and Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon as priests in solidum, with Father Jarett Konrade appointed as moderator. This appointment is in addition to their other canonical assignments.

Father Andrew Rockers:

Chaplain of St. John's Catholic School in Beloit in addition to his other canonical assignments.

Effective Aug. 10, 2022

Father Curtis Carlson, O.F.M. Cap.: Pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Antonino and St.



Schmeidler



Konrade



Rockers



Carlson

Anthony Parish in Schoenchen.

Father Earl Befort, O.F.M. Cap.:

To remain Pastor of St. Catherine Parish in Catharine.



Befort

Finding peace with Surrender Novena

I've been thinking about what to write for this column. There seems to be a lot happening in the world. Roe was overturned. Kansas is in the limelight and at a crossroads with the Value Them Both Amendment. There's a war going on in Ukraine with Russia, and there is strife and discord in so many other countries (including ours). Gas prices are continuing to climb, as are groceries. And the harvest wasn't nearly as abundant as we had hoped.

It can be overwhelming and heavy if we think about it for too long.

So, what can we do about it?

I don't know about you, but I've started praying the Surrender Novena. It's a nine-day prayer, and

each day you say a different one. My favorite day of prayer is Day 5. God speaks so generously and gently with the words, "And when I must lead you on a path different from the one you see, I will prepare you. I will carry you in my arms. I will let you find yourself, like children who have fallen asleep in their mother's arms, on the other bank of the river. What troubles you and hurts you immensely are your reason, your thoughts and worry, and your desire at all costs to deal with what afflicts you."

At the end, you close by quietly praying 10 times, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to you. Take care of everything."

I've started whispering that to myself when I become anxious, overwhelmed, scared or stressed.

It's pretty contrary to my nature to surrender. You can ask Nathaniel, but I am very much a person that likes to be in control. Living in a world where it seems like there

is so much swirling outside of my control has been hard. Which is why I turned to the Surrender Novena.

This prayer hasn't changed the circumstances of the world, but it has helped me guard my interior peace. It helps me to be like a child and trustingly rest in the Father's arms. And maybe, by guarding my own peace, I'll

change "my" world. If not the circumstances, at least the perspective.

I encourage you to also pray the Surrender Novena. It's a wonderful prayer that helps increase trust in the promises of the Father. If you're interested, check it out here: catholicexchange.com/the-surrender-novena-let-jesus-take-care-of-everything.

In the meantime, let us pray, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to you. Take care of everything."

Katie

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

**KATIE
Hamel**
CREATIVE EDITOR



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Final push for Value Them Both

By **DEBBIE DENEALT**
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Our diocesan Pilgrimage to the Polls is almost finished. We have only a week until Aug. 2. If you have already voted, thank you for voting yes. We must join together in passing the amendment.

The most important thing for Catholics and others to know is that if Value Them Both does not pass, the abortion industry will operate in Kansas with virtually no restrictions or regulations. This means you and I will almost certainly have to pay for abortions with our tax dollars. Parents will not be able to know their teenage daughter is getting an abortion.

In fact, every Kansas law touching on the question of abortion is now, in the words of the Kansas Supreme Court, “presumed unconstitutional.” Without Value Them Both, Kansas will be one of the most extreme states in America for abortion law.

Here’s the latest rundown:

What does the Value Them Both Amendment do?

It makes sure Kansas can stop painful, late-term abortions (live dismemberment abortions) and protects other limits on the abortion industry. It does not ban abortion.

Does Value Them Both Ban abortion?

The only thing it bans is



COURTESY PHOTO

The Daughters of Isabella and Knights of Columbus in Hays entered the Wild West Festival parade July 2 asking for a “yes” vote regarding the Value Them Both Amendment.

Please vote on Aug. 2. Please invite many others to join you and vote “yes” for the Value Them Both Amendment.

taxpayer-funded abortions.

Why is it even needed with Roe being overturned?

By overturning Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court simply moved the question of abortion to the states. Now it’s up to the citizens of Kansas to have their voice heard regarding abortion.

Does Value Them Both

impact ectopic pregnancies, miscarriages, etc.?

No. Anti-amendment forces are waging a campaign of confusion.

Kansas has a very clear legal definition of abortion-K.S.A. 65-6701(a).

- The treatment for an ectopic pregnancy is not an abortion.
- The treatment for miscarriage is not an abortion.
- The treatment for septic uterus is not an abortion.

Does Value Them Both have anything to do with birth control, IVF or fertility treatments?

No. Value Them Both has nothing to do with birth control, IVF or fertility treatments.

This is our last chance to return to the commonsense regulations we had before the Kansas State Supreme Court made their radical ruling in 2019. Since their ruling, abortions have increased by 13% and half of our abortions are now performed on out-of-state residents coming to Kansas. We are fast becoming an abortion destination.

Your “yes” vote on Value Them Both will help Kansas laws on abortion to once again be reasonable — valuing both women and unborn children.

Debbie Deneault is the Salina Diocese coordinator for VTB and regional director in north-central Kansas for Value Them Both Coalition.

LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

A few weeks ago the Gospel for Sunday’s Mass was on the Good Samaritan. We know the story well. A scholar of the law asks Jesus, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus turns it around and asks him what he thinks. The scholar summarizes the law by stating we must love God and our neighbor. Jesus tells him that “you have answered correctly; do this and you will live.” But then the scholar asks Jesus who “is my neighbor?”

Jesus replies with the scene of a man who fell to robbers and was beaten and left for dead. The priest and the Levite did not help, but only the Samaritan. Jesus asks the scholar, “Which of these three was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?” The man replied, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Pope Francis encouraged us to pray that we may love others as God loves them. This leads me to the Value Them Both Amendment. We believe God loves both the parents and the baby in the womb. We are called to be the neighbor who helps our neighbors. Can we be a neighbor to the pregnant mother? Can we be a neighbor to the baby in the womb?

Please “go and do likewise” by voting “yes” for the Value Them Both Amendment.

Bishop Jerry Vincke

OH DEN, FROM PAGE 1

The abortion should have lasted approximately 72 hours, but by either my stubborn will or their medical struggles, they didn’t succeed in inducing Ruth’s labor until long past 72 hours.

During the course of those five days, my birth mother endured significant emotional, mental and physical pain, and the medical professionals began to worry she, too, might lose her life.

Of course, the intention was always for me to lose mine. Except, I didn’t.

On that fifth day, Aug. 29, the day in which we remember the beheading of St. John the Baptist, I was delivered at St. Luke’s Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa, in the final step of that

saline infusion abortion. The expectation was I would be delivered as a successful abortion — a deceased child — but by the grace of God, I was born alive. Babies like me were termed “the dreaded complication of abortion” by an infamous abortionist decades ago. Sadly, abortionists aren’t alone in this perspective.

When I learned my story at the age of 14 from my adoptive parents, I was devastated — not only to learn that my biological mother attempted to abort me, but also to learn that demands were made to leave me to die. It wasn’t until nearly two decades later I learned that this demand was made not by my abortionist, as my

adoptive parents were told, but by my maternal grandmother.

After years of suffering and silence, God’s plans of restoration and reconciliation in my life and my birth mother’s life slowly but surely unfolded.

In 2007, I obtained my medical records, which detail the abortion procedure and notes from a doctor that I was likely 31 weeks gestation, not the 18 to 20 weeks the abortionist had written on my records, when I was rushed off to the NICU that day by a nurse unwilling to follow my grandmother’s orders.

Through those records, I also learned who my birth parents are, as their names were accidentally not blacked out. Due to family

secrets that I never could have imagined, it wasn’t until 2013 that I was finally connected with Ruth. Imagine my shock to learn she had been told the abortion had been successful, and I had died in the abortion as was planned. Imagine her suffering for three decades, believing my life had been ended. Imagine our tenuous first attempts to communicate and establish a relationship. But the Holy Spirit brought us together and allowed us to walk our forgiveness and love. Ruth is now a part of our family. My 7- and 14-year-old daughters know our stories, but more importantly, they know our family is one that is formed out of love, forgiveness and

mercy.

When I think about the Value Them Both Amendment, I think about Ruth — who deserved resources, support, unconditional love. I think about me — a baby who deserved better than to be painfully scalded and poisoned. I think about my daughters and generations who, God willing, will be born through them. They never would have lived if that abortion would have been successful.

Ruth’s life has value. Mine has value. We both should have been valued as such. A vote “yes” on the Value Them Both Amendment is a vote that upholds the lives of women like Ruth and children like me.

Melissa Ohden is a social worker and national author.

Students learn 7 themes of CST

NO. 7 — CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

By KATIE HAMEL
THE REGISTER

"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."

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ... Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good."

Teaching children that taking care of creation is an essential part of loving their neighbor and living the Gospel. Both Manhattan Catholic Schools (MCS) in Manhattan and St. Mary's Grade School in Salina model this tenant of Catholic social teaching.

"We often take elements of God's creation for granted," said Mike Hubka, MCS principal. "People once thought we had unlimited resources, and we didn't worry about the impact of how we refine our resources had on the environment. In much the same way that we have to maintain our own bodies and minds as God's creation, we must responsibly maintain our environment as God's creation."



COURTESY PHOTO

MCS Stuco members recycling. From left, Ian Kull, Charles Fuemmeler, Lucas Peschel and Lydia Wassenberg.

Every Friday afternoon, the MCS Student Council gathers the recycling from throughout the buildings that the students and staff have collected during the course of the week. The students take everything to the recycle dumpster, which is also utilized by Seven Dolors Church and others in the community.

"We recycle to keep the earth that God gave us clean," said seventh-grader Hadley Minnich.

In addition to recycling, the various classes at MCS are taught to appreciate God's creation by learning about why leaves change colors and how

plants are one of many ways God shows his love for us.

Kindergarteners at MCS share: "We read books about what plants need. Then, we set up the bulbs with small rocks for the roots to hold onto, just a little water, and put them in the window. Later, we observed the changes and measured the roots and stems."

After working on the project at school, students took the bulbs home and were encouraged to think about a good spot — one that would have sunlight and where the bulb would be visible so they would remember to

water it and where they could enjoy it. This was an intentional way for the students to take care of a piece of God's creation.

St. Mary's Grade School in Salina is also committed to care for God's creation. For several years now, they have fostered care of creation through a community garden. The produce is shared with the community. The garden also provides lessons in caring for the soil, using natural resources, and nurturing fruits and vegetables.

It also serves as an ecosystem as students observe the interaction of plants and animals. The rabbits and rodents take shelter and food from the garden while birds flock to find nutrition.

New last school year, the school received 14 seedlings of trees. During the winter months, classrooms are adopting the young trees in their developing stages. In the late spring, the trees will be transplanted into a natural habitat.

As the Gospel says, "Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them."

It is the hope the lesson to appreciate creation and trust that God will provide will be instilled into every student.

Ss. PETER & PAUL CHURCH, CLAY CENTER



Graduation, May 15

Front row from left, Maggie Sleichter, Caitlyn Hood, Hailey Sharp, Shelby Siebold and Gloria Beamesderfer. Back row from left, Jaden Link, Lane Musselman, Father Kerry Ninemire, Carson Floersch, Deacon Mike Robinson and Jared Littrell.



Vacation Bible School, June 6 to 10

Front row from left, Rhett Wietharn, Delilah Luke, Emmie Griffiths, Maggie Lenhart, Oliver Richling, Pete Speltz, Paisley Richling, Kinzie Sharp, Otto Luke, Brayden Speltz, Cash Dunn and Alex Hood. Second row from left, Harper Graham, Gracie Speltz, John Sleichter, Logan Thomas, Rece Speltz, Hadley Easterberg and Sawyer Griffiths. Third row from left, Kellen Speltz, Brier Chaffee, Rylee Griffiths, Raegan Griffiths, Emerson Easterberg, Brielle Wolf, Hunter Graham and Corbin Blackwood. Back row from left, Emmett Peterson, Andi Miles, Braden Brownell, Brodie Brownell, Braeden Peterson, Colton Sharp, Coy Chaffee, Jeanese Luke, Jaelyn Michaud and Ellie Griffiths. Not pictured, Ryder Schwab, Brady Friedrich and Harper Hubka.

NFP week scheduled for end of July

By ALLISON OCHOA
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Diocese of Salina will join the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in celebrating National Natural Family Planning (NFP) Awareness Week, July 24 to 30.

"This event is hosted annually by the USCCB and is always scheduled to commemorate the anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* on July 25 as well as the feast of Ss. Anne and Joachim on July 26," said Lindy Meyer, NFP consultant and coordinator of this year's activities in the diocese.

As the USCCB explains, *Humanae Vitae* is St. Pope Paul VI's papal encyclical "which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood."

In addition to helping distribute promotional materials regarding NFP, the Diocese of Salina's office of Natural Family Planning and the FertilityCare Center will be hosting a variety of events to celebrate the national event locally.

"We'll start our week on Sunday, July 24 at 1 p.m. with a virtual introductory session to the Creighton Model FertilityCare System of NFP. This will be a joint session with several of our FertilityCare practitioners," Meyer said. "On Monday, July 25, at noon, we'll have a virtual presentation 'Exploring *Humanae Vitae*: A Priest's Perspective' by Father Brian Lager. He will explain what *Humanae Vitae* is and how it is lived



out. Later in the week, we'll feature a presentation regarding the medical application of NFP, and we'll highlight testimony from couples who practice NFP. They will discuss how they live this out in their marriage and the fruit that's born of it.

"These testimonies will be very real," Meyer said. "It won't be sugarcoated. NFP is challenging but it is worth it."

Natural Family Planning is an umbrella term that encompasses a variety of methods. Meyer said the awareness week is about teaching individuals to embrace the teachings of the Church, the teachings of *Humanae Vitae*, encouraging an openness to life and teaching a respect for God's design for the marital act.

She emphasized that NFP is a tool for non-Catholics as well, and the benefits can be seen from a religious or secular standpoint.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Diocese of Salina FertilityCare Services Center will be recognized for 20 years of affiliation with the FertilityCare Centers of America (FCCA) by its board of directors on July 28 at their annual reception during the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals annual meeting in St. Louis. This anniversary

for our diocesan center gives evidence of two decades of quality services in FertilityCare and NaPro-TECHNOLOGY provided to the members of the Salina Diocese and north-central Kansas communities by our diocesan FertilityCare Practitioners and Medical Consultant.

"Contraception is destroying women's bodies and has brought on a whole new set of medical burdens," Meyer said. "Natural Family Planning is about respecting and responding to your health and wellness without the use of chemicals, devices, or barriers. Rather, it's about observing the naturally occurring signs of your body to avoid or achieve a pregnancy, or to simply gain knowledge about how your body is working. A woman's reproductive system is intertwined with the

other systems of her body, and it serves as something of a fifth vital sign. NFP is a great tool for learning to take care of the whole person and the whole body."

Information and links to the Diocese's NFP Awareness Week events can be found via the diocesan Natural Family Planning office website at salinadiocese.org/office/natural-family-planning or through the Diocese of Salina FertilityCare Center's social media pages. Search for SalinaFertilityCare on Facebook and Instagram.

Trip to France was a life-changing opportunity

By COLLIN THIELEN
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Our pilgrimage to France felt like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and it probably was for most of us. Throughout the seven days, we experienced many moments of awe, whether because of an incorrupt body of a saint, a beautiful cathedral/basilica or amazing food. Jesse Ochs, Kade Megaffin, Brady Hutchison, Kyle Pfeifer, myself, Father Andy Hammeke and Bishop Jerry Vincke, along with the Dodge City seminarians Carson Haupt, Adam Urban, Esteban Hernandez, Jonothan Lemus and Vocations Director Father Wesley Schawe, all enjoyed this pilgrimage together.

We went to many different places, including Paray le Monial, Lyon and Nevers. But for most of the trip, we were in Ars.

In Ars, we stayed at the seminary for the Society of

St. John Mary Vianney. It was a beautiful property that was just a little outside of Ars. Throughout the pilgrimage, some seminarians and staff were helpful in telling us the best way to travel and setting up travel plans. The seminary also served us exquisite food for lunch and supper. For breakfast, we had corn-flakes and baguettes. It was interesting to find out the French rarely refrigerate their milk. For breakfast, they served us warm milk and boxed room-temperature milk. For every meal, you could count on there being baguettes and cheese on the table.

We walked into Ars almost daily. When we did, we usually went to the Basilica of St. Sixtus. The basilica is unique because it was built in three sections, each built at a different time. When you first walk in, you will find yourself standing in the oldest part of the basilica,



From left, Father Andy Hammeke, Jesse Ochs, Kade Megaffin, Kyle Pfeifer, Brady Hutchison, Collin Thielen and Bishop Jerry Vincke stand in front of St. John Vianney's body.

which is the section St. John Vianney preached in when he was the pastor of Ars or Curé d'Ars.

The second oldest section lies just beyond the oldest section. It is the beautiful sanctuary and part of the nave (where the congregation sits). There are two beautiful side altars dedicated to St. John Vianney, one of which is where his incorrupt body lies. Only his face appeared to have a wax

coating, and the rest of his body was left as is. For the first couple of days we were there, St. John Vianney's incorrupt heart was in a case by his body. Usually, it is in its own chapel outside of the basilica. We had the privilege of celebrating Mass on the altar where his body is kept, and we also were allowed to use St. John Vianney's personal chalice he used when he was alive. His altar is also preserved in

what is called the basilica's crypt. It looks like a chapel, but it has a raised wooden platform for a sanctuary and a tabernacle with the Blessed Sacrament. We were able to celebrate Mass there as well.

We saw many beautiful churches, ate interesting food and got lost a few times. But it was an experience I will never forget. I enjoyed spending time with not only our guys but also the guys from the Dodge City Diocese. On several occasions, the people giving us tours spoke Spanish, so Esteban, Jonathan and Father Wesley were especially helpful since they are fluent in Spanish. I want to thank Bishop Vincke for planning this trip and everyone who made it possible through prayers and generous donations. Thank you, and may God bless you.

Collin Thielen is a seminarian in the Diocese of Salina.

Seminarians vital in Salina Diocese

By KATIE HAMEL
THE REGISTER

For the 2022-23 school year, the Diocese of Salina hopes to have nine seminarians. These seminarians come from all over the diocese and are in the process of studying to become priests for the future generations of Catholics.

In the month of August, the diocese takes time to honor the seminarians. There are four events this year, all of which seek to raise vocational awareness and garner financial support. The average cost to support one seminarian is \$50,000. This year, the

cost to support the seminarians could be up to \$450,000.

Annual Seminarian Dinners

Would you like the opportunity to meet the seminarians? This year, there will be two annual Seminarian Fundraising Dinners. The first is Aug. 10 at the Salina Country Club in Salina, and the second is Aug. 11 at The Strand in Hays. The evening includes a cocktail hour, dinner and a short program. Both events begin at 5:15 p.m. The ticket price per person is \$60. To register, visit salinadiocese.org/events.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

We are fortunate to have several generous donors that are passionate about seminarian education. Together, they have provided a great match to kick off our fundraising. Currently, the match is at \$85,000.

Your gift will be matched \$1 for \$1, as funds are

available.

Make your gift, today. To donate online, use the QR code or visit salinadiocese.org/office/catholicfoundation/general-donations/.

Or send a check to the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of



Salina.

Runnin' Revs

Looking for a chance to see our seminarians play basketball against youth from around the diocese?

Be sure to attend the Runnin' Revs game Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. at Al Billinger Fieldhouse on the campus of Thomas More Prep-Mar-

ian in Hays. The event is free.

Seminarian collection

The annual seminarian collection is set for Aug. 13 to 14. This collection takes place in every parish across the diocese and supports the tuition, books, board and summer ministry expenses of our current seminarians, as well as recruitment of future seminarians. To make an online gift, use the QR code or visit: salinadiocese.org/office/catholic-foundation/general-donations/.

Or feel free to make a gift via your local parish envelopes.

Two from Hays become new staff members

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Sandy Losey always thought she would work for a Catholic institution until retirement, something she had done for all but a handful of years of her professional career.

She just didn't expect it to be in a different location.

After more than 30 years and numerous job titles and responsibilities at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays, Losey will join the staff at the Comeau Catholic Campus Center at Fort Hays State University.

At the center, Losey will serve as an administrative assistant and assistant director for vocations for the Diocese of Salina. Father Andy Hammeke, chaplain of the Comeau CCC, is co-vocation director for the diocese.

Father Hammeke is familiar with Losey's work. He attended his last three years of high school at TMP-Marian, from where he graduated in 2007.

He said he is fortunate to have Losey join the team at the campus center.

She wore many hats at TMP-Marian through the years while working in the office of development. And her younger brother, Father Mike Leiker, is serving a parish in Manhattan.



Losey

WRITER JOINS DIOCESE PUBLICATIONS

By RANDY GONZALES
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Longtime Hays journalist Diane Gasper-O'Brien has joined the communications staff of the Diocese of Salina as a freelance writer.

O'Brien retired from Fort Hays State University in June, but she didn't stay retired from writing for long.

A lifetime resident of the Diocese of Salina, she began work for The Register in July. Her primary focus will be coverage of the

Catholic schools and youth events in the diocese.

O'Brien has been writing stories about local, area and regional people and events since the late 1970s, getting her start as a student at FHSU.

While her entire professional career was spent at The Hays Daily News and FHSU, O'Brien has also written for several other publications, including area magazines and The Register.



Gasper-O'Brien

One of her beats at the Hays Daily was education, so she is familiar with several of the Catholic schools in Hays and western Kansas.

She is an enthusiastic storyteller — an art she first learned as a youngster while attending Tipton Catholic Schools — and storytelling is part of her DNA.

"I am honored to join the communications staff of the Diocese of Salina and to

continue this journey for which I have had a passion for many years," O'Brien said. "I look forward to continue sharing the stories of our Catholic faith and other good news of this diocese."

O'Brien and her husband, Rex, are members of St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

They enjoy following FHSU and other local athletics and visiting their son, grandson and his family in eastern Kansas.

"Sandy brings a great deal of wisdom and experience to our office," Father Hammeke said. "She will be immediately helpful in her vocations assistant role; having a brother as a priest has made her more familiar with the seminary process. She will have a big impact on both our ministry to college students and in our vocations department."

Losey wasn't looking for another job. But when she learned of the new position at the campus center, she was intrigued.

"I definitely feel God's hand in this," she said. "I feel at peace that this was the right thing to do."

A Hays native, Losey grew up attending Catholic schools and graduated from TMP-Marian in 1982. All five of her siblings also are TMP-Marian graduates, as are both her daughters. She also attended FHSU after high school.

"My faith life is a big piece of who I am, and I feel this whole path is one that God led me on," Losey said. "It is pleasing to see that with these college stu-

dents, their faith life still continues. In my heart, I

know these young people want to be there."



Bishop Jerry Vincke invites you to attend the

ANNUAL SEMINARIAN FUNDRAISING DINNERS

Two events in 2022!

AUG 10 2022
5:15 PM
Salina Country Club
2101 E. Country Club
Salina, KS

AUG 11 2022
5:15 PM
The Strand
1102 Main Street
Hays, KS

We sincerely hope you will attend one or both events!

RSVP at salinadiocese.org/events

Rural Life Day is Aug. 14

By DAVID AND LINDA EDELL
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Rural Life Commission will host Rural Life Day for 2022 at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 14 in Victoria. The event will begin with a prayer service at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. The signature event of Rural Life Day is the Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm Awards.

The Weber Century Farm Awards are presented to families who have lived on farms in the Salina Diocese, have farmed land in the diocese or owned farms in the diocese for 100 years or more. Each family who receives the award will relate a brief history of their family farm, from the original settlers to the current generation. The familial stories always highlight the importance of faith in their continued working with the land.

One hundred years as a family farm is an amazing achievement. In the past 100 years, life and nature have thrown many curve balls at the family farm. These families would have worked through six wars, endured the "Dirty '30s," ridden the rivers of at least four economic depressions or recessions, the "Dry '50s," endured the roller coaster ride that is commodities speculation, and many other regional historic economic and familial impacts. It's no wonder these family stories are a treasure trove of faith, family and love within the Diocese of Salina.

Applications for the Century Farm Awards can be found at salinadiocese.org in the Rural Life Office section. The form can be downloaded and completed on a computer or tablet. Fill out the application as completely as possible. We are asking for a main contact for the application. Include a family history, with family member succession information.

Applications are due no later than Aug. 1. They can be mailed to: Rural Life Commission, 215 W. 13th, Hays, KS 67601. They may also be emailed to Father Richard Daise at frich@sacredheart-colby.com.

For more information, contact Father Daise at (785) 625-7356, Tom Murphy at (913) 558-9223 or Francis Goeckel at (402) 239-8519.

RLC committee changes

By DAVID AND LINDA EDELL
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On July 1, the Rural Life Commission announced its new executive committee for 2022. Francis Goeckel, St. John the Baptist in Hanover, will be taking over the reins as chair for the commission. Linda and David Edell, St. Mary's Parish in Smith Center, will be the chair-elect. Art Befort, St. Mary's Parish in Smith Center, will serve as past chair.

The Rural Life Commission reorganized into an executive committee with the positions of past chair, chair, chair-elect, moderator and bishop of Salina. This reorganization will help ensure continuity of leadership within the commission. Each year, the commission will elect a new chair-elect to observe and learn the duties of the chair. The chair-elect is a three-year position. The following



Goeckel



Befort



Linda Edell



David Edell

year, the chair-elect will become chair, and in the third year, become the past chair.

Other office members of the committee include Mary Guttieri, Seven Dolores in Manhattan, will serve as secretary. Sister Janet LeDuc, Clay Center, who will serve as treasurer. Father Rich Daise, St. Joseph Parish in Hays, continues to serve as moderator. Bishop Vinke remains a permanent



member of the commission. Other members of the commission include Justine Dlabal, Wilson; Anita and Tony Horinek, Colby; Father Brian Lager, Colby; Bill and Karen McCune, Plainville; Tom and Jo Murphy, Sylvan Grove; and Richard Polcyn, Russell.

The commission's goals are to foster the spiritual formation of the people relating specifically to the vocation of agriculture, promote an economic environment that sustains family farms and rural communities, be an effective voice in the public forum for Christian values on rural issues, educate

people on the social teachings of the Catholic Church as they relate to rural issues, and create a structure that sustains the Rural Life Commission. The Rural Life Commission also supports the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Each year the RLC, Nurturing Rural Life Through Faith, supports St. Isidore's Day, MISSIO mentoring program, Rural Life Day, Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm Awards and the Rural Life Conference.

For more information, visit the Diocese of Salina website and click on the Rural Life Office.

WEST POINT CADETS



Two Eagle Scouts from Troop 41 have been accepted to West Point. Boy Scout Troop 41, chartered by St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church of Junction City, has 32 Boy Scouts in the troop. Troop 41 has two senior scouts, Aidan Gold and Tyler Engstrom, who graduated high school this year and have been accepted to West Point. They were sworn in as West Point cadets on June 27. Their graduation date will be in 2026.

MEN'S CONFERENCE

The 11th annual diocesan Men's Conference is scheduled for Aug. 13 at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. Registration opens at 7:45 a.m., with the conference beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding with lunch at 12:30 p.m.

The theme for this year's conference is "Called to Protect: Family, Life, Truth." The featured keynote speaker is Dr. Mario Enzler. Enzler is the dean of Cameron School of Business at University of St. Thomas in Houston, and he speaks all over the world on the role St. Pope John Paul II

had in helping him become a better man, executive and leader. He is a former musician, Swiss guard and Swiss banker. He and his wife founded a classical-curriculum academy in New Hampshire when they struggled to find adequate education options for their children.

Bishop Jerry Vincke will be the main celebrant, and Father Jarett Konrade will serve as emcee.

To register for the event, visit salinadiocese.org/events. Tickets are \$35 for an adult, \$15 for a student and \$10 for a son.

11TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE

CALLLED TO PROTECT

FAMILY. LIFE. TRUTH

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. MARIO ENZLER
Former Swiss Guard, serving Pope John Paul II and
Dean of Cameron School of Business at University of St. Thomas

AUGUST 13TH, 2022
8:00AM - 12:30PM

IMMACULATE HEART
1805 VINE ST. HAYS KS

REGISTER ONLINE BY VISITING SALINADIOCESE.ORG/OFFICE/FAMILY-LIFE/

Changes in schools didn't change passion

I was born May 27, 1970, in Kansas City, Kan. My dad was from the Armourdale area of Kansas City, Kan., and my mom is from northeast Oklahoma. I am an only child.

We lived in Kansas City for two years after my birth. In 1972, we moved to Overland Park, where we lived until my parents moved to Hays in 1994.

I give my mom the credit for where I am today. Mom is a convert to Catholicism. It's not that my dad was bad, being a cradle Catholic, he just was not deep in the faith, like mom was. Once I got into school, mom put her faith into action by becoming a CCD teacher.

I was 7 when I first thought of becoming a priest. We were sitting in the back of church, which made us back-row Catholics. I had never thought much about the priesthood, but on this particular Sunday, I started watching what the priest was doing, especially at the preparation of the gifts, and I thought it would be neat to do that someday.

When I told my parents about the thought of priesthood, they laughed. They said every Catholic boy thinks that way but once you get older and meet girls, you will forget about it. Thank God I did not forget, but kept thinking about being a priest.

I began my education at Pawnee Elementary in Overland Park. I went there until the sixth grade when my grades started to decline. I was not the best student, but I would say average.

Before sixth grade ended, mom and dad transferred me to Queen of

the Holy Rosary, which was a prominent Catholic school at the time in Overland Park. The school was under the leadership of the Ursuline Sisters of Paola. Sister Kathleen Condry, OSU was the principal.

Unbeknownst to me, Sister Kathleen and my parents had a conversation about my education. I left the public school over spring break and went to the Catholic school. I was told there was no room in the sixth grade, so I was placed in the fifth-grade class. As it turned out, that was the plan for me to take sixth grade over. My grades and even my spiritual life improved in the Catholic school environment.

In 1985, I graduated from eighth grade. Since most of my classmates were going to Bishop Miege High School in Roeland Park, that is where my parents wanted me to go. However, I was still thinking about the priesthood and I wanted to attend Savior of the World, the high school seminary operated by the Archdiocese of Kansas City. As fate would have it, I won out.

I went to Savior of the World for my freshman and sophomore year. At the time, there were 77 students in grades nine through 12. At the end of my sophomore year, there were 44 students. With low enrollment and financial issues, the decision was made to close the seminary.

Even though the seminary was

closed, the archdiocese decided to keep the program going, just at Maur Hill Prep School in Atchison. There were 15 of us seminarians who went with the program, but by the end of the year, two of us were actively involved. The seminary program just did not have the same atmosphere as it did, so I made the decision to leave and go elsewhere for my senior year.

I transferred to the new St. Thomas Aquinas in Overland Park and was a member of the first graduating class of 1989. Following my senior year, I attended Johnson County Community College for two years.

Before the end of my second year, I remembered I had picked up a booklet at Savior of the World about St.

Meinrad College and School of Theology, since I was still thinking about the priesthood. The college accepted independent students, which meant I was not affiliated with a diocese. I flew to southern Indiana for a "Come and See" weekend in 1991 and fell in love with the place. As fate would have it, within a week I received a letter of acceptance and entered the college seminary as a junior.

When I transferred to St. Meinrad College, I only took 58 credits with me from the community college. In meeting with the academic dean, Father Damian Schmelz, OSB, he asked me if I had declared a major. I asked him what that meant. He said I needed to declare a major and

receive 128 credit hours to graduate. I asked him what subject I had the most credits in. He looked at me and said, "English." So, that is how I became an English major.

As an independent student, we would receive mailings from the monastic vocation director. I liked the monks, the prayer time, the Benedictine spirituality, and of course, the bells. Being a monk seemed appealing, but I still felt God was calling me to be a diocesan priest out in the trenches.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, the college and theology students ate together. At this particular time, I was sitting at a long table with other students. Eventually, everyone left except for me and a theology student. He moved down to where I was sitting. He said, "Tell me your story." I told him about my journey, the ups and downs, joys and struggles. At the end, he said, "I think the Diocese of Salina needs you."

As it turned out, that theology student was Father Fred Gatschet. He asked me if I wanted to meet the vocation director for the diocese, Father Steve Heina. I said, "Sure, why not?" What would I have to lose?

I met with Father Steve and began the application process. Within a month, I also met Bishop George Fitzsimons. The bishop asked me why I wanted to serve in his diocese. I told him I felt God was calling me to be a diocesan priest. In the summer of 1992, I was formally accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Salina.

METZ, PAGE 11

**DAVID
Metz**
PASTOR



A year of growth with Christ

I struggle to find the words that adequately sum up my first year of seminary at Conception Seminary College, but if I had to choose one phrase, it would be dying to yourself. I know this sounds a bit harsh, so let me explain.

Dying to yourself means giving all your wants, fears and anxieties to Christ so there is room for him to mold you into the person he desires you to be. It is the process of submitting yourself to God's will and trusting in him completely. This process does not take one year; it takes a lifetime to "perfect," and even after a lifetime, there will still be more things to correct.

So, this first year of seminary truly felt like one step on this lifelong journey, albeit a big one.

Fortunately, I was not the only person starting along the path toward the priesthood. I met first-year seminarians from varying

dioceses attending Conception Seminary College, as well as students who had been there the past year. The more veteran students already had this figured out, but we first-year guys realized we were at the seminary for the same reasons — we all wanted to do the will of God.

This realization helped us form friendships we could rely on when things got tough. We bonded over sports, philosophy, classes and many other things. As the year progressed, the community grew increasingly closer.

The formation staff at Conception had a significant impact on my year as well. The four pillars of formation are spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral. We have instructors, also known as formators, covering one of the four pillars of formation. For example, I have one

spiritual director at Conception, and other seminarians might have a different or the same spiritual director.

The same applies to my chaplain, who covers human formation. The professors are part of the intellectual formation, and we have one monk who is the head of the pastoral formation.

Other than the professors, most of the formation staff is comprised of monks who live in Conception Abbey. The formators help us see how the Lord is changing us and helps us learn where the Lord is trying to change and shape us. They helped us give more of ourselves to God in everything we do.

Seminarians commonly say, "I didn't know I had so many problems until I came to seminary." I found this to be so true. As I allowed Christ to penetrate my soul

more and more, I found more things that needed improvement. I discovered I needed his grace more than I thought in many different areas of my life, which is one reason why this year was so great. I began learning how to let God take control and how to get out of his way. I am not a master at this, but I look forward to improving with the grace of God.

The field of study is another reason this past year has been fantastic. In college seminary, I primarily study philosophy. Philosophy requires critical thinking with multiple ways to get to an answer. This is different from the studies I experienced in high school because it seemed like every question had a strict correct answer with only one or two avenues to get that answer. This made high school studies simpler to memorize.

In philosophy, no matter

which route you take to answer a question, each step builds on the previous step. So, if one step is faulty, your entire argument fails. To make your argument as strong as possible, you must understand the concepts you are dealing with. I have enjoyed trying to move past memorization and move into a deeper understanding of the class material.

All in all, I have been blessed with a wonderful first year of seminary. I have enjoyed everything from friends to the formation and even the studies. I want to thank Bishop Jerry Vincke and all the priests in our diocese for their guidance and their continuous example of God's love. Thank you to all who support us with prayers and gifts and know that I and my fellow seminarians and the priests are praying for you as well.

Collin Thielen is a seminarian in the Diocese of Salina.

**COLLIN
Thielen**
SEMINARIAN



VALUE THEM BOTH

What you need to know.

VALUE THEM BOTH is the proposed state constitutional amendment up for a vote by Kansans on August 2nd. The amendment is a reasonable response to an extreme ruling by the Kansas Supreme Court in 2019 that declared abortion to be a virtually unlimited and unrestricted right. A simple majority YES vote on VALUE THEM BOTH corrects this horrific misinterpretation, restores the voice of the people, and protects both women and preborn babies.

ABORTIONS IN KANSAS

Since the 2019 ruling, two of our life saving and protecting laws have already been overturned and are no longer enforceable.

- ✗ Live dismemberment abortion ban, struck down April 2021
- ✗ Clinic safety, sanitation, and inspection law, struck down December 2021

We have seen an increase in abortions within our state, which hasn't happened in more than 25 years.

- 13% increase** in the overall annual number of abortions
- 17% increase** in live dismemberment abortions
- 16% increase** in abortions performed on out-of-state residents

WHAT WILL VALUE THEM BOTH DO?

Voting **YES** for VALUE THEM BOTH will:

- ✓ Restore our state Constitution to the way it was before the extreme court ruling cleared the path for virtually unlimited abortion in Kansas.
- ✓ Protect commonsense restrictions on the abortion industry and prevent taxpayer-funded abortion.
- ✓ Restore the voice of the people to regulate the abortion industry through their elected officials.

Who Supports VALUE THEM BOTH?

- ♥ All Kansas Catholic Bishops
- ♥ 200+ Kansas medical and mental health professionals
- ♥ Dozens of elected officials
- ♥ Democrats for Life
- ♥ Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists
- ♥ Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Kansas District
- ♥ Focus on the Family
- ♥ Concerned Women for America of Kansas
- ♥ Dr. James Dobson
- ♥ Family Research Council

"As a physician, it is my honor and duty to care for both patients—mother and child. Preserving reasonable laws is in their best interest. That's why I'm voting YES on August 2nd."

— Dr. Lisa Gilbert, board-certified family physician



When Do We Vote YES on This Amendment?

JULY 26:

Deadline for voters to apply for advance ballot

AUGUST 2: Election Day

- Every registered voter in Kansas is eligible to vote.
- To vote by mail, request an advance ballot from your county election office or go online at sos.ks.gov/elections/voter-information.html
- For early in-person voting, check with your county election office.

Praying for VALUE THEM BOTH

Catholics are also encouraged to:

- ✓ Pray the Rosary daily.
- ✓ Become part of the Memorare Army: benedictine.edu/faith-life/memorare
- ✓ Please make a holy hour at your local parish on either August 1 or 2.

The Catholic Church has consecrated the VALUE THEM BOTH campaign to the care of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn. All Kansas Catholics are asked to implore Our Lady's intercession for successful passage of VALUE THEM BOTH.

To show that we VALUE THEM BOTH in Kansas, please join fellow Catholics and other people of faith in voting **YES** on August 2nd.

Paid for by Value Them Both, Julie Samaniego, Treasurer



valuetheboth.com

Donation aids Charities' office in Hays

By OLIVIA AYRES
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Every day, Catholic Charities works to ensure the essential needs of those struggling throughout the 31 counties of northern Kansas are met.

While these services are the hallmark of our organization, they are only made possible through the generous patronage of people like you. You are the faces of hope that make the growing mission of Catholic Charities a reality. Two of these faces of hope that have recently made a substantial impact are Bill



and Paula Robben from Walker.

Being from western Kansas, Bill and Paula have a close familiarity with the Catholic Charities office in Hays. In April, when Bill and Paul attended a Thomas

More Prep-Marian auction in Hays, they were shocked to win a brand-new car during the prize

raffle.

"I put my raffle tickets in, and they picked our name out of the hopper," Bill said. "It was meant to be."

Holding Catholic Charities dear to their hearts, Bill and Paula knew the beloved



COURTESY PHOTO

Bill and Paula Robben recently donated a car to the Catholic Charities office in Hays.

home of their newly won vehicle.

"I knew from my daughter that the Catholic Charities' Hays office needed a smaller car for local errands," Bill said. "I did not

need the car, so it worked out well, and I was able to do it."

With rising gas prices, Bill and Paula hope their donation of a smaller vehicle will cut transporta-

tion costs for the Hays staff.

"I think the smaller car will be a money-saver for the staff, not having to fill up the large outreach van as much," Bill said.

If they are able, Bill and Paula encourage others to support Catholic Charities because of the wide array of services offered to local communities.

"There are people in need out there, and those that are able to donate should," Paula said. "Catholic Charities is a good organization helping local people, and they have a big service area."

If you are interested in making a gift in kind donation, visit ccnks.org/inkind.

PASTORAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES FOR FALL 2022

THEO 4023 Theology and Methods of Ministry (3 hour college course)

Instructor: Father Robert Schremmer.

This course offers a foundational theology of ministry rooted in baptism. Particular focus will be given to the role of the laity in ministry with various types of ministry being explored. This course provides experience and formation to enable the student to learn a variety of ministerial skills.

Saturday mornings, 8:15 a.m. to noon. Dates: Sept. 10, 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5. Location: This course will be offered over Zoom. To be in a Zoom class, one will need a computer with a microphone and camera. Cost: 3 hour college course for credit, \$150; * 3 hour college course for enrichment, \$75* *Does not include textbook.

THEO 4881 Loss, Grief, and Belief (1 hour college course)

Grief and loss are a consequence of human mortality. We lose family and friends. We lose our health, our mobility, our freedom. Ultimately, we face our own death. Can we find any meaning in all this? Since Christ redeemed us, what does that mean in the context of all the death around us? How can we live the resurrected life now? Since Jesus said that the Kingdom is now, can we actually experience that, or do we simply have to wait until a future day? The course will explore the various ways we can experience spiritual, psychological, and ritual healings that offer us redemption: the transformation into divine life that God is always offering the world.

Four nights, four topics,

three instructors

Psychology of Death and Dying

Instructor: Sister Joan Wolf.

On Oct. 4. When someone in our care is dying, it can be difficult to know how to help, what to say, how to respond to the person's wants, fears, or even puzzling gestures or confused talk. The goal of the class is to help us become more comfortable in accompanying another on their final journey and to grow in appreciation of both our own lives and our own inevitable deaths. "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted" (Psalm 34:19).

Making Sense Out of Violence

Instructor: Father Frank Coady.

On Oct. 11. We use our rational minds to search for meaning in our suffering. But can reason alone reconcile the contradictions that we experience in life? Perhaps the answer is not found by

the mind but by the heart. God, in Christ, does not offer a fix. God offers accompaniment. "For those who want to save their life will lose it and those who lose their life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25).

Handling Our Losses and Mourning Our Grievs

Instructor: Sister Francine Schwarzenberger.

On Oct. 18. Loss cuts deep into our very selves. Yet grieving our losses offers us the grace to open our souls to see new horizons, to discover new depths of inner courage. "There are trials through which we triumph by the power of God who loves us" (Romans 8:37).

The Healing Rituals of the Church

Instructor: Father Frank Coady.

The Church's healing rituals bring peace and closure. Liturgy transcends the rational mind, taking us to a scary but exciting place

where love is more powerful than death. This is a peace that the world cannot give. Sadly, not everyone takes advantage of the power of ritual. "We were buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Tuesday evenings, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Dates: Oct. 6, 11, 18, 25.

Location: This course will be offered over Zoom. To be in a Zoom class, one will need a computer with a microphone and camera. Cost: 1 hour college course for credit, \$50* 1 hour college course for enrichment, \$25* *Does not include textbook.

Please contact Coleen Stein, cstein@dcdiocese.org to register or for more information.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Leoville KS
Fall Festival
AUGUST 28, 2022
New Date!!

Bingo 2:30-4:30 **Supper 5:00-7:00**
Homemade Roast Beef, Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Rolls, Dessert.....
Free-will Donation

To-Go Orders Available
Questions: Call Peggy Ritter
785-470-7896

PROMISE TO PROTECT

PLEDGE TO HEAL

COMPROMISO PARA SANAR

If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church ... Please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. Our victim assistance coordinator is available to obtain support for your needs, to help you make a formal complaint of abuse to the proper authorities and to arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative, if you desire.

To contact the Diocese of Salina: 866-752-8855 #1067 P.O. Box 980, Salina KS 67402 reportabuse@salinadiocese.org www.reportandprotect.com

Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: 800-276-1562 or www.reportbishopsabuse.org

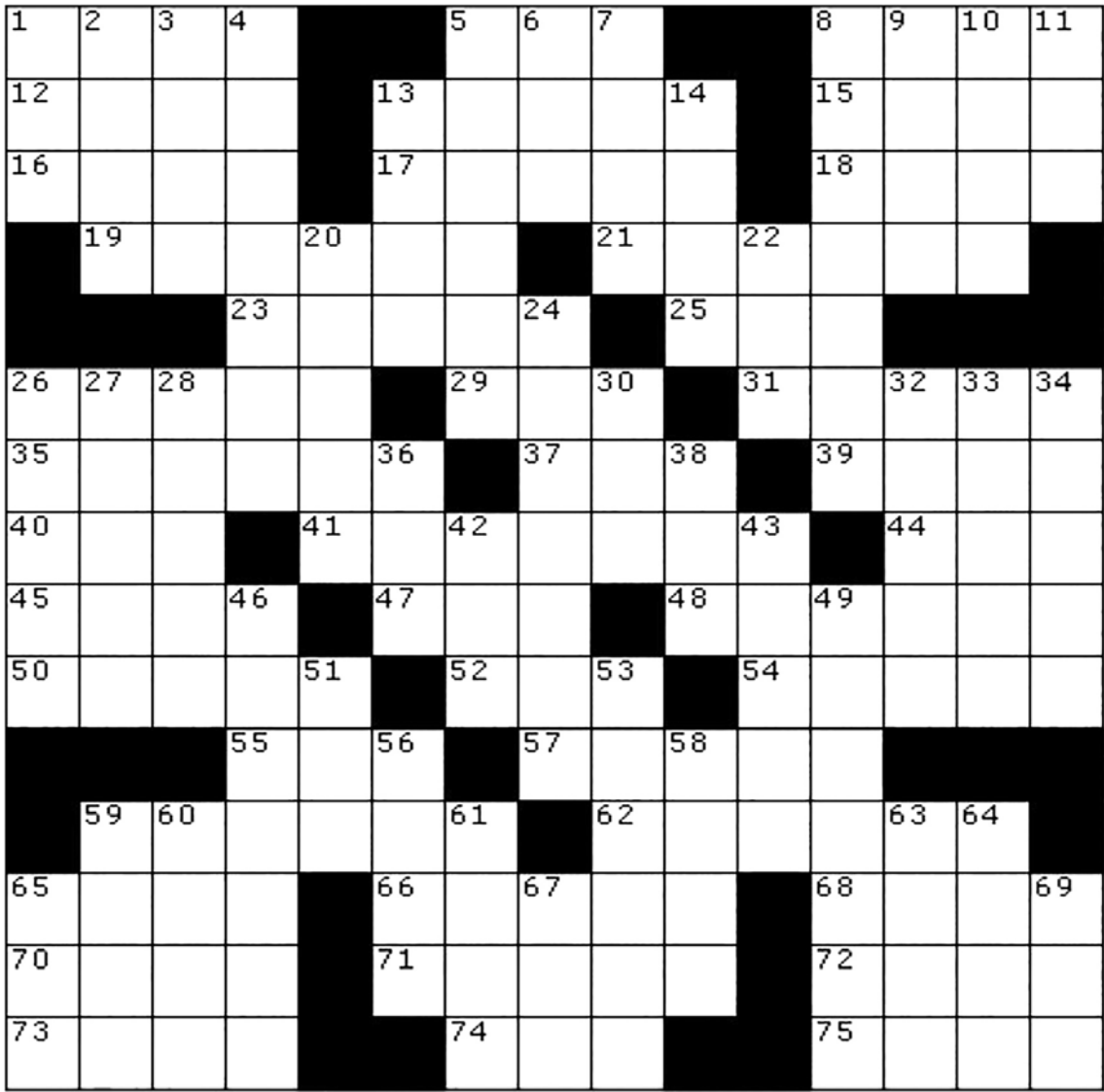
Si has sido abusado o fuiste víctima de alguien que representa a la Iglesia Católica... Por favor confía en la posibilidad de esperanza, ayuda y sanación. Te alentamos a que te presentes y hables. Nuestra coordinadora de asistencia a las víctimas está disponible para ofrecer apoyo en tus necesidades, para ayudarte a presentar una queja formal de abuso ante las autoridades correspondientes y para hacer una cita personal con el obispo o su representante, si lo deseas.

Para contactar a la Diócesis de Salina: 866-752-8855 # 1067 P.O. Box 980, Salina KS 67402 reportabuse@salinadiocese.org www.reportandprotect.com

Secretaría de Protección de Niños y Jóvenes, Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU.

Servicio de Denuncia de Abusos de Obispos Católicos: 800-276-1562 o www.reportbishopsabuse.org

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**

1 Middle East dweller

5 Hero sandwich

8 Jewels

12 Ear part

13 Book after Daniel

15 Fake butter

16 Baby's "ball"

17 Warning

18 Cabbage salad

19 Faze

21 Matthew, Mark, Luke or John

23 Mother-in-law of Ruth

25 Perceive

26 Active

29 North northwest

31 God of Islam

35 Coloring tool

37 Movie 2001's talking computer

39 Kill

40 Samuel's mentor

41 "___ Heaven" TV show

44 Extremity

45 Northeast by north

47 Evergreen tree

48 KJV word for wealth

50 Smudge

52 Old Testament city

54 Resources

55 Dickens' Tiny ___
- 57 Large brass instruments

59 Groups of related families

62 Why Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem

65 Dunking cookies

66 Finger extensions

68 Island

70 College head

71 Heron

72 Jewish calendar month

73 Snaky fish

74 Slide on snow

75 Opp. of love
- DOWN**

1 Loose gown worn at mass

2 Lion's comment

3 Word meaning father

4 Hippy

5 Serious

6 North American country

7 Floating ice

8 First 4 books of NT

9 Women's magazine

10 Dinner, for example

11 Plant

13 Aura

14 OT prophet

20 Biblical weeds

22 Body of water

24 Receive by bequest
- 26 Last words of prayers

27 State capital

28 Group of related families

30 Ashen

32 South American animal

33 Brother of Moses

34 Religious songs

36 Sport's official

38 Long-term memory

42 By way of

43 Villain in book of Esther

46 Countries other than Israel (Bible)

49 The anointed one

51 Eve's genesis?

53 Center cores

56 Word written on the wall (Daniel)

58 Prime

59 Elm

60 Genuine

61 Droops

63 U.S. Department of Agriculture

64 Strip

65 Poem

67 Gall

69 Before, poetically

Answers on Page 14

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

Small businesses

We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.

Diocesan prayer intention for July

For the passing of the Value Them Both Amendment and for the respect for all life, as well as a gentle, long rain for the people of western Kansas.

SPECIAL REPORT ON ROE V. WADE

By FAITH CATHOLIC

In a 6-3 decision June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its nearly 50-year-old decision on Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion in this country.

In 1965, all 50 states had bans in place against abortion, although some 20 states made exceptions to save the life of the mother, in cases of rape or incest, or if the fetus was deformed. However, the power to determine the legality of abortion was soon wrested from the states by the Supreme Court. In 1973, the Supreme Court declared most existing state abortion laws unconstitutional in its Roe v. Wade decision. In particular, the court ruled against any legislative interference in the first trimester of pregnancy and limited restrictions that could be applied to abortions in later stages of pregnancy.

The June 24 ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization was not totally unexpected due to the leak of an opinion draft a month earlier. The court ruling emphasizes that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States.

The Dobbs case focused on Jackson Women's Health Organization, an abortion clinic in Mississippi that challenged the state's law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The court's reversal of its long-standing abortion ruling brings abortion policy decisions to the state level. At least half of states plan to ban or restrict abortions with

this decision in place, and 13 states have trigger laws put in place set to ban abortions right away upon Roe's reversal.

Bishops on court decision

In response to the Supreme Court's June 24 decision, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued the following statement:

"This is a historic day in the life of our country, one that stirs our thoughts, emotions and prayers. For nearly 50 years, America has enforced an unjust law that has permitted some to decide whether others can live or die. This policy has resulted in the deaths of tens of millions of pre-born children, generations that were denied the right to even be born.

"America was founded on the truth that all men and women are created equal, with God-given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

This truth was grievously denied by the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade ruling, which legalized and normalized the taking of innocent human life. We thank God today that the Court has now overturned this decision. We pray that our elected officials will now enact laws and policies that promote and protect the most vulnerable among us.

REPORT, PAGE 16

METZ, FROM PAGE 8

Since my parents were retired, they decided to move to the diocese and become a part of the diocesan family. Looking at the map, Hays seemed to be centrally located, so that is where they moved in 1994. They became members of Immaculate Heart of Mary, which became my adopted home parish.

I was ordained in Immaculate Heart of Mary on May 31, 1997. It was just a great day. I'd say finally, after 22 years of school and a master's in divinity degree, I finally made it. Wow. Thank God.

My favorite part of the ordination rite was the prostration in front of the altar while listening to the Litany of

Saints. That's always very humbling. You surrender all to God and the Church. I remember being vested by Father Fred. It was a culmination of our time together since he recruited me to the diocese. I also enjoyed the sign of peace and being welcomed by my brother priests.

There was a good number of priests at my ordination. To think back now, some of those priests are gone, others are retired. Wow. Time has changed in these 25 years.

I had read the first five years of priesthood are always the toughest. In the seminary, there is the structure. You don't always have that in parish life and not one day is the

same. I had the book knowledge from the seminary but it was learning the hands-on things and always the unexpected.

The greatest blessing of being a priest is presiding at Mass every day. The Eucharist, along with helping people, is what drew me to the priesthood.

The greatest challenge is administration because it can bog you down. Priests never retire from being a spiritual father, but they do retire from administration. I also take things personally, which I am still working on. And it's strange, but one challenge is that sometimes the Mass becomes part of the job. For me,

during the pandemic, I started offering a private Mass, apart from the live-streamed Masses, and it helped me to fall in love with the Mass again.

My advice to those considering the seminary: Keep praying. Keep listening to God. There are so many voices calling out to us and vying for our attention. The one voice we need to listen to is God. God's word is living and effective. It says that in Scripture, and it applies to us today. I invite people to be open to God's voice and that call to service.

Father David Metz is pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia and St. Peter Parish in Aurora.

Honoring religious women jubilees

By THE REGISTER

In 2022, seven sisters of St. Joseph, representing 490 years of service, celebrated jubilee anniversaries. Each sister was asked to respond to the following questions:

What stands out to you about your years in religious life?

What do you cherish and how would you describe it?

75 Years

Sister Vivian Boucher

I was young and immature when I joined the community.

Religious life has been a life-long process of maturation for me. I am grateful for all the people who have helped me along the way, especially the more experienced educators who helped me learn to teach and assist children.

After the second Vatican Council, when other sisters were looking for other types of ministry, I decided to give my life to Catholic education.

I started in lower grades and gradually went from grade school teacher to high school teacher and then to principal.

I am thankful for friends who gave me companionship and joy for many years.

While I was living alone, those friends especially meant a lot to me. They were advisers who helped me over the rough spots.

I am most grateful for the opportunities to grow spiritually: the retreats every year, the theology workshops, the community meetings and the many special speakers throughout the years.

Mass has always been my guiding force.

I cherish very much the opportunity to assist Mass frequently.

I have never had any second thoughts about having joined this Community. It has been my life.

75 Years

Sister Mary Savoie

My desire as a young sister was to serve as a missionary in a foreign country. A need to remain in the United States and serve as a nurse educator superseded this desire.

Little did I realize that God would provide, but in a different way, for that desire such as participation in foreign ministries. For example, work in Eastern Europe came as an invitation from U.S. bishops that provided opportunities to collabo-

rate with sisters, some of whom spent years in prison under communist regimes.

I believe God led me to Eastern Europe for many reasons. Certainly a conversion that opened my mind and heart to become as expansive as I saw their lives to be. I am sure this chain of charity, which traverses the continents and the oceans, gives glory to God.

I believe God calls me each day to serve others. God is in charge of my life, and if I truly put my trust in God, God will enable me to reach out each day to the dear neighbor, especially those caught in the net of poverty.

70 Years

Sister Rose Marie Dwyer

My family nurtured my religious vocation from childhood. I was blessed to be No. 2 of 10 children. I learned chores, caring for babies and being there for others.

In high school in Leoville, Sister Zephyrine was sure I was to be a Sister of St. Joseph. It was exciting because I was to be involved with people, and that has been my whole life, my joy.

This call has led me to be of service to so many people.

I am most grateful about my life as a Sister of St. Joseph because I was called to go to Brazil.

I was always in the midst of a needy community. God found those places for me. I found the opportunities and transportation. Sometimes the transportation was borrowed horses, a motorcycle or a truck bed. In all of the villages there, wherever I went, I was simply a humble channel of love to all whom God wished to reach. Thank you God for using this lowly instrument as your divine plan so willed.

I had the opportunity to teach English to Hispanic workers.

The more I think about my life The more I know that I am always geared toward people — just to be there for people, reaching out to them, walking with them, being there for them.

It starts with people, and it ends with people.

I am so grateful for my CSJ community who allowed me to live those 40 years in Brazil and gave me so much support.

I am grateful to God for the rich life I have had and for God's presence in all of it.

70 Years

Sister Eulalia Kloeker

At a glance, my life divides



Front row from left, Sister Eulalia Kloeker, Sister Rose Marie Dwyer and Sister Sylvia Winterscheidt. Back row from left, Sister Regina Ann Brummel, Sister Christina Meyer, Sister Mary Savoie, and Sister Vivian Boucher.

into thirds. The first as an elementary teacher; the second as a staff member in a parish; and the third will be called "miscellaneous." Each had its mountain peaks and each had its hurdles.

A favorite image for me that I cherish has been to follow the light of the Holy Spirit. Long ago I found a verse card titled, "Rabboni." It reads in part as follows:

*When I am dying,
How happy I shall be,
That the lamp of my life
Has burned out for Thee...*

At one time, the light of a candle mesmerized me and I indulged in the craft of candle-making. Some were molded in sand, while others were fashioned in tin molds. One I made in multi-pastel colors burned well and was the focus of many small groups' prayer sessions. Those attending often fixed their eyes on the flame.

One experience was that of grooming others' hair. My hands were gifted in cutting hair. While attending formal training, I discovered I had held the scissors incorrectly for approximately 10 years. That was a good laugh on me.

As I celebrate this milestone, I thank my parents for their example of faith, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the parents of children and the aged for placing their trust in me.

70 Years

Sister Christina Meyer

Seventy years seems like a long time, and I am grateful for each day and everyone who has been with me on this journey.

Some of my most memorable experiences I recall are from years in pastoral ministry and being involved with RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). The transformation and growth in faith that I observed and experienced in the candidates was often, for me, a "wow."

I was also moved when accompanying those who were ill and on their journey to the next life. I was amazed and inspired in observing the letting-go when recovery from illness was no longer possible. I have always felt profound gratitude and blessings in being allowed in homes or hospitals with family during this most holy time and mysterious experience.

My community allowed me and supported me in this pastoral ministry, for which I am extremely grateful.

I am also very grateful for the ministry of Mission Coop. I have been involved with giving talks about the work of our sisters in Brazil for the past 11 years. This has taken me to many parishes in the dioceses of Kansas and Grand Island, Neb., where I have always experienced gracious hospitality from pastors and people.

For this, I am also very grateful.

70 years

Sister Sylvia Winterscheidt

I've enjoyed years of teaching, of parish ministry, and through spiritual direction, of helping others discover God's presence in their daily challenges and surprises.

As one called to be a Concordia CSJ, I cherish our charisma of "love of God and love of neighbor." I find examples of it in community living, in our ministries and in daily life.

I am especially grateful for an experience I had while being on staff at St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island, Neb. Our Christian Service Committee responded to the pastor's request to sponsor a Vietnamese family, coming from a

refugee camp that day. The family consisted of three adults, one teenager and five children.

We housed them in a small hotel for a few days while we explored suitable housing. Early the next day, I checked on their immediate needs. As I drove closer to the motel, I saw the two young boys gleefully running barefoot through the fresh fallen snow. This was my introduction to the joys and challenges of companioning refugees. Watching this family begin to rebuild their lives, seeing their deep Buddhist faith, enriched my life. I know God is not finished blessing my life.

This 70th anniversary is just a comma in my life's journey, not a period.

60 Years

Sister Regina Ann Brummel

Religious life for me has come to mean Jesus' call to share life in our CSJ Concordia community, including his friends and disciples. Jesus has brought us together with one another and with the dear neighbors without distinction.

One of the experiences of this solidarity that has been most significant for me is a "moment" when, after teaching in our schools in Plainville and inner-city Chicago, I became a Marymount College French instructor. An educational program led me to spend the 1975 summer in several countries of French-colonized West Africa. There, indigenous people called me to share a new way into the world.

This neighborhood is anywhere our sisters and brothers have been and are suffering through political and economic injustice. As a Sister of St. Joseph, I have found myself alive when I can engage in friendship, collaboration and service between and among the poor and voiceless. Native (indigenous) people have taught me this neighborhood is as close as our extended family and as near as all creation.

As I try to listen to the spirit of Jesus, the neighbors have continued calling me to solidarity with the poor and marginalized, especially in American Indian reservations.

The experience is a constant reminder that as long as I can share my gifts and talents, no matter where I serve in the world, my CSJ sisters are there with me also.



Boucher



Dwyer



Kloeker



Brummel



Savoie



Winterscheidt



Meyer

Participants enjoy CYO camp

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The Junior CYO camp at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch is an annual event Bill Meagher has always looked forward to.

The 2022 camp was extra special for Meagher, in his first year as director of religious education and youth ministry for the Diocese of Salina.

More than 200 middle-school students in sixth- through eighth-grade were in attendance for the four-day, Memorial Day weekend event – which was back to capacity after a few down years because of the COVID pandemic.

“We were so blessed this year to be back to normal for camp. We had great weather and amazing people helping with the camp,” Meagher said. “I am so grateful to all the counselors, seminarians, priests and adult leaders willing to give up their weekend to help the young people in our diocese grow in their faith.”

Meagher has been involved with the Junior CYO camp for more than 20



Father Andy Hammeke speaks to campers during the CYO camp at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch.

years, first as a 16-year-old counselor, then as an adult leader.

However, this was his first camp as the director of youth ministry for the entire diocese. He took over those responsibilities after Sister Barbara Ellen Apaceller, who had held that position for more than 35 years, died unexpectedly in June 2021.

“This camp was very important to Sister Barb,

and she would have been so happy that we could get back to total capacity this year,” Meagher said. “She would have loved the group of counselors we had helping and all the great young people from around the diocese who joined us as campers. I know she continues to pray for all the young people of the Salina Diocese.”

Counselors ranging in age

from high school seniors to college students arrived Friday night to prepare for the activities. Father Andy Hammeke, co-director of vocations for the diocese, said Mass for that group of young adults, who continued to make preparations for the campers throughout the day.

The campers arrived Saturday evening and split into groups of approximately 10 campers and two counselors each.

During the next three and a half days, the youngsters participated in a variety of activities, ranging from target shooting and archery to horseback riding, as well as swimming, volleyball, basketball and wall climbing.

Songwriter coming to Hays

THE REGISTER

The Salina Diocese Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) will host its first convention since the pandemic on Aug. 20 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. The theme for the day will be “Blessed Are You: The Beatitude Walk.”

Sarah Hart will be the keynote presenter. Hart is a musician, songwriter, mother and retreat



presenter. In 2013, she was invited and performed in St. Peter's Square before Pope Francis and 150,000 others. Her songs have been recorded by such artists as Amy Grant, Celtic Woman and The Newsboys.

Hart believes the reward in her travels comes in meeting people, sharing her stories, and having them share their experiences too.

To register, use the form on this page, or find the form online at salinadiocese.org/events.

For more information, contact Tammy Steeples by email at tsteeples@hotmail.com, or write to P.O. Box 99, Palco, KS 67657 or call (785) 737-8899.

SDCCW

Biennial Women's Convention

Featured Speaker:

Sarah Hart - *Blessed Are You: The Beatitude Walk*



AUGUST 20, 2022

ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA CHURCH (2901 E. 13TH ST., HAYS)

- 8:00 AM - Check-in opens
- 9:00 AM - Convention begins
- 9:15 AM - Presentation 1 by Sarah Hart
- 11:00 AM - Mass
- Noon - Lunch (catered by Gella's)
- 1:00 PM - Presentation 2 by Sarah Hart
- 2:30 PM - Break
- 3:00 PM - Business Meeting, Installation of Officers

REGISTRATION FOR SDCCW 2022 CONVENTION

NAME: _____ PARISH: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Register by August 12, 2022: Tammy Steeples, PO Box 99, Palco, KS 67657
Cost: \$30/person (includes lunch): Please make checks payable to SDCCW
Forms are available online at salinadiocese.org/events

Hotel rooms blocked at Fairfield by Marriott until
August 5, 2022
377 Mopar Drive, Hays, KS
(785-625-3344)

JOB OPENING

Director of Faith Formation

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION: St. John Parish in Lawrence, KS is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. This person would develop, articulate, and administer a vision and direction for parish faith formation programs. He/she would oversee all faith formation programs and evaluate their effectiveness, and develop/implement ideas and programs that would be available for parishioners from womb to tomb. Ideal candidate will be a bilingual (English/Spanish) practicing Catholic who holds a degree in Catechesis or Theology and/or has equivalent work experience relating to faith formation. This person would also have strong knowledge of Catholicism, intercultural competence in ministry, strong interpersonal skills, proven organizational and leadership skills and computer/technology competencies. 2-4 years of parish ministry experience preferred.

Please see full job description and requirements at: www.sjevangelist.com. This is a full-time position and eligible for the Archdiocesan benefits package with start date of August 2022. The position will be open until filled.

Please send cover letter and resume to Fr. John at: frjohn@sjevangelist.com (use DFF on subject line) or 1229 Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.



BAPTISMS

Jack Joseph Augustine, son of Joseph and Hannah Augustine, was baptized June 11, 2022, by Father Elias Chinzara at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Koda Graham Bamba, son of Daniel and Kayla Bamba, was baptized April 23, 2022, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Bree Sophia Brummer, daughter of Brian and Tracey Mans, was baptized Sept. 11, 2021, by Father Daryl Olmstead at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne.

Clara Jean Dunker, daughter of Jordan and April Dunker, was June 13, 2022, by Father Norbert Dlabal at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood.

Madilyn Rose Farrell, daughter of Thomas and

Shealyn Farrell, was baptized June 12, 2022, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Rowan Michael Flegler, son of Connor and Andrea Flegler, was baptized June 4, 2022, by Father Kerry Ninemire at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

Emmett Taylor Graves, son of Daniel Graves and Mia Lawson, was baptized June 12, 2022, by Father Kerry Ninemire at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

Elliot Rose Graves, daughter of Daniel Graves and Mia Lawson, was baptized June 12, 2022, by Father Kerry Ninemire at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

Salem Marie Kastens, daughter of Elijah and Rebecca Kastens, was baptized June 18, 2022, by

Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Luke Mark Lepak, son of Brian and Colleen Lepak, was baptized June 26, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Molly Sue Mick, daughter of Steven and Brooke Mick, was baptized Oct. 17, 2021, by Father Daryl Olmstead at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne.

Chukwame Michael Onujiogu, son of Chukwame and Chinelo Onujiogu, was baptized June 5, 2022, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Olivia Renea Partida, daughter of Tomas and Anna Partida, was baptized June 11, 2022, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of

Myra Church in Hays.

Grace Kathryn Petty, daughter of Reid and Hannah Petty, was baptized June 25, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Haven Jo Pfeifer, daughter of Cole and Lanie Pfeifer, was baptized June 26, 2022, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

Felipe Tamaura Ryan, son of Jeffrey and Liza Ryan, was baptized June 26, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Kanen Layne Ubelaker, son of Kenton and Kelsey Ubelaker, was baptized Nov. 27, 2021, by Father Daryl Olmstead at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne.

Haven Jo Walker, daughter of Joshua and Kaylie Walker,

was baptized June 19, 2022, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

Isla Jean Williams, daughter of Zachary and Katie Lyn Williams, was baptized June 7, 2022, by Father Norbert Dlabal at St. Mary Church in Herndon.

Evalyn Marie Wolf, daughter of Tyler and Nichole Wolf, was baptized June 12, 2022, by Father Nicholas Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Jayce Niyat Yohannes, son of Yordanos Yohannes, was baptized May 14, 2022, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Jaylen Noah Yohannes, son of Yordanos Yohannes, was baptized May 14, 2022, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

WEDDINGS

Brady Jacques and Sydney Sulzman were married June 18, 2022, at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Witnesses were Kirsten Schilowsky and Devin Jacques.

Ross Karlin and Heather Darnell were married June 4, 2022, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nicholas Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Terrance and Kelli Karlin. Parents of the bride are Sharon Darnell and the late Jerry Darnell. Witnesses were Jordan Robben and Lexi Pfannenstiel.

Russell Mick and Nedra Auer were married Nov. 27, 2021, at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Father Daryl Olmstead witnessed the vows. Witnesses were Alan Mick and Eileen Mick.

Alexander Preston Taylor-Brown and Hannah Michelle Thibault were married Oct. 23, 2021, at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Father Daryl Olmstead witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are James Brown and Lee Taylor. Parents of the bride are Lonnie and Lea Thibault. Witnesses were Tony Marquez, David McClure, Taylor Courtois and Geri Beatty.

Easton Slipke and Morgan Leiker were married June 4, 2022, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. Father Vincent Thu Laing witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are William and Michelle Slipke. Parents of the bride are Farron and Amy Leiker. Witnesses were Chris Heim and Brianna Leiker.

Jay Ziegelmeier and Delany Weisel were married June 11, 2022, at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Father Richard Daise and Father Daryl Olmstead witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Matthew and Stella Ziegelmeier of Gem. Parents of the bride are Richard and Linda Weisel of Tipton. Witnesses were Todd Ziegelmeier and Haley Winkel.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	A	R	A	B			5	S	U	B		8	G	E	M	S		
12	L	O	B	E		13	H	O	S	E	A		15	O	L	E	O	
16	B	A	B	A		17	A	L	A	R	M		18	S	L	A	W	
	19	R	A	T		20	T	L	E		21	G	O	S	P	E	L	
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26	A	S	T	I	R		29	N	N	W		31	A	L	L	A	H	
35	M	A	R	K	E	R		37	H	A	L		39	S	L	A	Y	
40	E	L	I			41	S	E	V	E	N	T	H		44	A	R	M
45	N	E	B	N		47	F	I	R		48	M	A	M	M	O	N	
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70	D	E	A	N		71	E	G	R	E	T		72	A	D	A	R	
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In old age, they will still bear fruit

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On May 10, the Vatican released Pope Francis' message for the Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will be celebrated July 24. Last year, Pope Francis announced a new celebration in honor of all grandparents and the elderly to be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday in July. A portion of Pope Francis' address can be found below. To read the full



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text, visit slmedia.org/blog/pope-francis-message-for-2nd-world-day-for-grandparents-and-the-elderly.

*"Dear Friends,
Many people are afraid of old age. They consider it a sort of disease with which any contact is best avoided. The elderly, they think, are none of their concern and should be set apart, perhaps in homes or places where they can be cared for, lest we have to deal with their problems. This is the mindset of the "throw-away culture," which leads us to think that we are somehow different from the poor and vulnerable in our midst, untouched by their frailties and separated from "them" and their troubles. The Scriptures see things differently. A long life — so the Bible teaches — is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance. Blessed is the house where an older person lives. Blessed is the*

family that honors the elderly.

Old age is not a time of life easily understood even by those of us who are already experiencing it. Even though it eventually comes with the passage of time, no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise. The more developed societies expend large sums on this stage of life without really helping people to understand and appreciate it; they offer healthcare plans to the elderly but not plans for living this age to the full. This makes it hard to look to the future and discern what direction to take. On the one hand, we are tempted to ward off old age by hiding our wrinkles and pretending to be forever young, while on the other, we imagine that the only thing we can do is bide our time, thinking glumly that we cannot "still bring forth fruit."

Retirement and grown children make many of the things that used to occupy our time and energy no longer so

pressing. The recognition that our strength is ebbing or the onset of sickness can undermine our certainties. The fast pace of the world — with which we struggle to keep up — seems to leave us no alternative but to implicitly accept the idea that we are useless. We can resonate with the heartfelt prayer of the Psalmist: "Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent" (71:9).

Yet that same psalm — which meditates on how the Lord has been present at every stage of our lives — urges us to persevere in hope. Along with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil. If we trust in him, we will find the strength to praise him still (cf. vv. 14-20). We will come to see that growing old is more than the natural decline of the body or the inevitable passage of time, but the gift of a long life. Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!

For this reason, we ought to take care of ourselves and remain active in our later years. This is also true from a spiritual standpoint: we ought to cultivate our interior life

through the assiduous reading of the word of God, daily prayer, reception of the sacraments and participation in the liturgy. In addition to our relationship with God, we should also cultivate our relationships with others: first of all by showing affectionate concern for our families, our children and grandchildren, but also for the poor and those who suffer; by drawing near to them with practical assistance and our prayers. These things will help us not to feel like mere bystanders, sitting on our porches or looking out from our windows, as life goes on all around us. Instead, we should learn to discern everywhere the presence of the Lord. [2] Like "green olive trees in the house of God" (cf. Ps 52:10), we can become a blessing for those who live next to us."

The World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to proclaim once more, with joy, that the Church wants to celebrate together with all those whom the Lord — in the words of the Bible — has "filled with days." Let us celebrate it together. Let us make sure no one feels alone on this day.

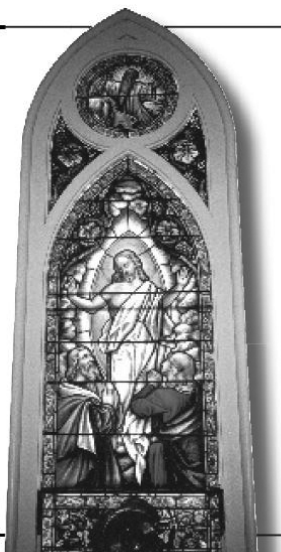
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St. Catherine Church, Catharine — May 1 and 8
From left, Emma Giebler, Bella Karlin, Catherine Quakenbush and Father Earl Befort.



Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Clay Center — May 1
Front row from left, Tenley Rott, Hadley Easterberg, Brier Chaffee and Brielle Wolf. Second row from left, Gabe Borgerding, Kellen Speltz, Tyson DeBauche and Collin Rothfuss. Third row from left, Chance Affolter, Grady Michaud, Father Kerry Ninemire, Colt Hoke and Deacon Walt Slingsby.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Concordia — May 1
Pictured with Father David Metz and catechists Karen Reedy and Michelle Ringer are, front row from left, Gracie Trost, Jaxon Dutton, Nash Farha and Mattelyn Knox. Middle row from left, Emma Gilsdorf, Callan Abitz, Carson Farha, Rhett Sipe, Trent Meuting and Rowan Lambertz. Back row from left, Ava Hanson, Zyker Starr, Keithen Fraley, Sterling Starr, Weston Ringer and Jodee Brown.



St. Boniface Church, Tipton — May 8
Front row from left, Marissa Jearldoe, Breckyn Brummer, Byntlee Winkel and Sadie Krier. Middle row from left, Adam Palen, Kate Ohnsat, Rhett May and Harrison Hake. Back row from left, Father Daryl Olmstead, Lela Arnoldy and Father Don Zimmerman.



St. Francis of Assisi Church, Munjor — May 1
From left, Father Damian Richards, Michael Hawkins and Ryker Riley.



Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Cawker City — May 8
From left, Maddilynn Mick, Ace Remus and Cohen Wise pictured with Father Andrew Rockers.

REPORT, FROM PAGE 11

"Our first thoughts are with the little ones whose lives have been taken since 1973. We mourn their loss, and we entrust their souls to God, who loved them from before all ages and who will love them for all eternity. Our hearts are also with every woman and man who has suffered grievously from abortion; we pray for their healing, and we pledge our continued compassion and support. As a Church, we need to serve those who face difficult pregnancies and surround them with love.

"Today's decision is also the fruit of the prayers, sacrifices and advocacy of countless ordinary Americans from every walk of life. Over

these long years, millions of our fellow citizens have worked together peacefully to educate and persuade their neighbors about the injustice of abortion, to offer care and counseling to women, and to work for alternatives to abortion, including adoption, foster care and public policies that truly support families. We share their joy today and we are grateful to them. Their work for the cause of life reflects all that is good in our democracy, and the pro-life movement deserves to be numbered among the great movements for social change and civil rights in our nation's history.

"Now is the time to begin the work of building a post-Roe America. It is

a time for healing wounds and repairing social divisions; it is a time for reasoned reflection and civil dialogue, and for coming together to build a society and economy that supports marriages and families, and where every woman has the support and resources she needs to bring her child into this world in love.

"As religious leaders, we pledge ourselves to continue our service to God's great plan of love for the human person, and to work with our fellow citizens to fulfill America's promise to guarantee the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people."

In March, the U.S. bishops pub-

lished a statement by bishop chairmen of the USCCB on the Catholic Church's commitment to standing with moms in need. Standing with Moms in Need "proclaims a vision for our society that upholds the truth that every human life is sacred and inviolable — a society in which the legal protection of human life is accompanied by profound care for mothers and their children. We exhort our nation to prioritize the well-being of women, children and families with both material resources and personal accompaniment so that no woman ever feels forced to choose between her future and the life of her child.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Goodland — May 1
Front row from left, Julian Pacheco, Brinley Windell, Clare Bentzinger, Breckyn Schulte, Winter Borders and Heath Sibley. Back row from left, Luke Linton, Creed Cure, Sunny Miller, Father David Micheal, Benton Horinek, Peyton Kannady and Raul Delgado Jr.



Holy Ghost Church, Sharon Springs — May 1
From left, Raudel Galvez, Sophia Penka, Brynlee Sexson, Oriana Romero and Father David Micheal.



St. Joseph Church, Oakley — May 1
Front row from left, Cory Smith, Elsie Helus, Johnnie Ottley, Brynn Halbleib, Delana Munk and Mason Ottley. Middle row from left, Rudy Smith, Faith Kuhlman, Paulinna Valencia, Isaac Kuhlman, Brecken Harrel and Alexander Bockwinkel. Back row from left, Robin Whelchel, Michelle Selzer, Deacon Mike Brundgart, Father Luke Thielen, Deacon Dennis Engel and Jessica Halbleib.



Ss. Philip and James Church, Phillipsburg — April 30
Front row from left, Jase Noone, Hudson Laurin, Walter Swenson, Kara Ehm, Melanie Hernandez, Korie Ehm, Kalee Shelton and Anne Marie Gower. Back row from left, Tina Blew, Bryson King, Boone Wolf, Brynlee Bui, Father John Schmeidler, Katie Romo and David Romo.



St. John the Baptist Church, Beloit
Front row from left, Vincent Letourneau, Estelle Budke, Payton Bell, Lucille Mick, Selma Holdren, Julia Niewald and Jordan Lomax. Second row from left, Tyrian Dunstan, Mia Knapp, Jennings Stewart, Kaleb Griffeth, Rebekah Lueger, Leah Housh and Graham Jankowski. Third row from left, Jacob Konrade, John Borobia, Tatum Benson, Memphis Knapp, Thomas Holdren, Grayson Gengler and Aimee Gengler. Back row from left, Brandy Goddard, Father Andrew Rockers, Father Jarett Konrade and Debra Courville.



St. Andrew Church, Abilene — April 24
Front row from left, Riley Schremmer, Kyra Simenson, Koleson Hodges and Matthew Brewer. Second row from left, Shannon Mead, Ella Haslouer, Jayce Wilson, Natalee Elliott, Crayton Taylor and Blake Herrman. Third row from left, Diego Almaguer, Daniela Almaguer, William Pugh, Cash Emig and Aubrie Zook. Back row from left, Shannon Woods, Tony Geiger, Sarah Geiger and Father Peter O'Donnell.



St. Thomas More Church, Manhattan — April 24
Front row from left, Zizi Rodriquez, Zoe Shope, Annika Mick, Sofia Castro, Payton Meusborn, Caysen Holmes, Farrah Goodpasture, Maggie Bryant and Ellie Huninghake. Second row from left, Ava Shope, Taylor Roberts, Braeleigh Waddington, Juliet Francis, Leila Ornelas, Caitlyn Spencer, Charlotte Thompson, Mila Bowman, Jaryna Kowalik and Emmalynn Elkins. Third row from left, Beckett Rees, Gunner Driggs, Lucas Kohake, Demetre Evangelidis, Vann Castor, Patrick Griffin, James Middleton and Francis Enoch. Fourth row from left, Alexander Colvin, Karter Holthaus, Elijah Birkhead, Griffin Krush, Miles Bowman, Ian Craig, Jack Ackerman and Cutler Bailey. Back row from left, Father Frank Coady, Shannon Birkhead, Tanya Castor, Sybil Giefer, Katy Mulqueen, Olivia Nobert and Alicia Enoch.

CONFIRMATIONS



St. Andrew Church, Abilene — May 4
Front row from left, Elizabeth Brooks, Alondra Rodriguez, Levi Evans and Mylee McGivney. Second row from left, Kayden Thrower, Lane Hoekman, Tava Gustafson, Aiden Woods, Brigan Hanney and Timbre Jurgensen. Third row from left, Ashley Mead, Canyn Taylor, Jayce McAsey, Heath Hoekman, Taygen Funston, Oscar Almaguer and Ian Plunkett. Back row from left, Father Peter O'Donnell and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



St. Wenceslaus Church, Wilson — June 22
Front row from right, instructor Amy Charvat, Abby Dlabal, Olivia Crawford, Reagan Hansen, Alivia Koch, Alexis McCarter, Faith Soukup and instructor Kelly Thielen. Back row from left, Father Tony Kulandajesu, Connor Charvat, Cade Brokes, Braden Nelson, Hallie Thielen, Bishop Jerry Vincke, Tage Woodmansee and Sam Thielen.



St. Patrick Church, Lincoln — June 25
Front row from left, Kadin Schneider, Kadence Palmer, Kenzley Frederking, Connor Weber and Rose Koster. Second row from left, Logan Dail, Riley Obermueller, Clay Bates, Aiden Cooper and Hazel Metz. Back row from left, Father Justin Palmer, Father Mark Wesely and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays — June 25
First row from left, Deacon Dave, Morgan Greenwood, Cristian Luna, Erik Cisneros, Tammy Klaus (Catechist), Yarely Lopez, Erin Ruder, Scarlett Herrman, Braylee Kinderknecht, Ava Schumacher, Landon Herrman, Yesica Ontiveros, Mitzil Carrillo, Colin Haselhorst, Jacob Taylor, Creighton Fisher and Tyler Huynh. Second row from left, Tom Drees (Catechist), Father Elais, Eduardo Maldonado, Kynli Koenigsman, Lizzie Vajnar, Lindsey Hernandez, Olivia Werth, Reghan Byer, Audrey Gutierrez, Lexi Barnett, Addison Watson, Madison Ruda, Halle Billinger, Alyssa Church, Kaleb Roe, Joel Lopez, Eli Stein and Father Damien. Third row from left, Father Nick, Brooklyn Werth, Brooke Befort, Kaitlyn Komarek, Carson Liles, Ian Nehls, Diego Fernandez, Brayden Gilmore, Connor Breit, Dawson Ruder, Julian Olivas, Chase Drennon, Derek Becker, Easton Alexander, Sinai Armendariz, Dominic Depenbusch, Preston Mermis and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

GRADUATIONS



Beloit
From row from left, Assistant Principal Joe Holdren, Joseph Knappert, Gemma Clark, Maria Mick, Taylor Kibbee, Father Andrew Rockers, Principal Marcy Kee and Father Jarett Konrade. Second row from left, Logan Brummer and Ben Thompson. Third row from left, Jeremy Hicks and Xander Heidrick. Back row from left, Jaret Eitzmann and Cabyn Winkel.



Hanover, May 15
Front row from left, Madison Bruna, Allison Jueneman, Madeline Bruna, Lyndee Padgett, Katelyn Schroller, Michelle Zarybnicky and Elaina White. Back row from left, Father Joseph Kieffer, Braelen Stallbaumer, Emmitt Jueneman, Philip Doebele, Keagan Dimler and catechist Marie Bruna.

DEATHS

Maria Angelica Aleman, 70, of Junction City, died June 8, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 18 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai officiated. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

Daniel Pat Boller, 98, died May 23, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 27 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai officiated. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

Ross James Englert, 40, of Milford, died May 25, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 9 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai officiated. Burial in Kansas Veterans Cemetery in Manhattan.

Charlene Flax, 78, of Ellis, died June 19, 2022. Funeral Mass was June 23 at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark officiated. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Jake Anthony Geisinger, 21, of Selden, died June 2, 2022.

Funeral Mass was celebrated June 8 at Immaculate Conception Church in Leoville. Father Vincent Thu Laing and Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos presided. Burial in Calvary Cemetery in Leoville.

Teresa M. Grennan, 93, died June 28, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 6 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial in St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Jamestown.

Annie M. Guilmett, 91, died April 18, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 14 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai officiated. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

Iris Ann Hahn, 85, of Osborne, died March 24, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 2 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Father Daryl Olmstead officiated. Burial in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Cemetery in Osborne.

Sister Teresita Huse, 103, died July 4, 2022. She was a Dominican Sister for nearly 86 years. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 8 at the Sisters' Convent in Great Bend. Burial in Sisters' Resurrection Cemetery.

Sandra Jane LaRocque, 85, died June 1, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 6 at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Cawker City. Father Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Cawker City.

Jacob J. Mans, 65, of Osborne, died Nov. 28, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 3, 2021, at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Father Daryl Olmstead

officiated. Burial in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Cemetery in Osborne.

Gisela Maria Marchese, 94, died May 12, 2022. Committal service on May 24 in Fort Riley Cemetery. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai officiated.

Raymond Stanley Mayers, 103, of Osborne, died Sept. 14, 2021. Funeral Mass was Sept. 20, 2021, at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Father Daryl Olmstead officiated. Burial in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Cemetery in Osborne.

Laynete M. Mick, 78, of Osborne, died Sept. 25, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 29, 2021, at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Father Daryl Olmstead officiated. Burial in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Cemetery in Osborne.

Thomas Mika, 61, of Junction City, died June 13. Funeral Mass was June 24 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Kerry Ninemire officiated. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

Mary Ann (Hamel) Morris, 81, of Baileyville, died June 2, 2022. Memorial services celebrated June 30 at Chaput Mortuary in Clyde. Father Steven Heina officiated. Inurnment in Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Clyde.

Clarabel Van Nahmen, 88, of Junction City, died June 3, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai officiated. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

Mary Lou Pfannenstiel, died June 3, 2022. Funeral Mass

was celebrated June 10 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Father Damian Richards officiated. Burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery in Munjor.

Thomas "Tom" M. Price, 75, of Concordia, died June 8, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 15 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Milton Thomas Rawlings, 80, of Junction City, died June 3, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 17 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai officiated. Burial at a later date.

Sister Anne Martin Reinert CSJ, 90, died June 8, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 14 at the Motherhouse Chapel in Concordia. Monsignor Barry Brinkman presided. Burial in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery.

LeRoy Steckline, 91, of Ogallah, died June 24, 2022. Funeral Mass was June 28 at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark officiated. Burial in Kansas State Veterans Cemetery in WaKenney.

Josephine Urban, 96, of Ellis, died June 11, 2022. Funeral Mass was June 15 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Dana Clark officiated. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Joseph Yanda, 71, of Ellis, died June 12, 2022. Funeral Mass was June 17 at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark officiated. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Eldon C. Yarnell, 90, of Osborne, died Jan. 9, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 15 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Father Daryl Olmstead officiated. Burial in Osborne Cemetery.

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Man's selfless acts showcase his faith

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

In his 101 years of life, Paul Prellwitz never overlooked an opportunity to put others before himself.

"All of our family and grandchildren thought so much of him. He was just a good person," Marjorie Gregory said of her older brother.

Born in 1920 on his family's farm outside of Mahaska, Paul was the second eldest of eight children. Throughout his childhood, he helped his father tend to the family farm.

His rural upbringing taught Paul the importance of a strong work ethic.

"He started helping our dad with farming when he was only 11 years old," Gregory said. "He really valued hard work."

Upon graduating from Morrowville High School

in 1939, Paul went to farm for relatives in Utah before moving to California to work for Coleman Lamp and Stove Co. He eventually returned to Kansas, where he maintained his farm until his retirement. In 1995, Paul received the Monsignor John George Weber Century Farm



Prellwitz

Award for his dedication to his farm, which had been in

his family for more than 100 years.

Throughout his life, Paul committed his time and treasure to organizations he believed in. He served on church committees and parish councils and sang in the church choir. For more than 30 years, he was proud to mow the

cemetery at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, his home parish. Paul also always had an affinity for Catholic Charities, thanks to Father Alfred Wasinger, a lifelong family friend whose loyalty and spiritual counsel he greatly admired.

Paul passed away July 5, 2021, but he wasn't done helping others just yet. In his will, Paul designated a portion of his estate to

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas, along with several other organizations. Catholic Charities received an unrestricted gift of more than \$100,000 from Paul's estate.

"Because of Paul's incredible generosity, those in need throughout the 31 counties of northern

Kansas will continue to receive compassionate care and support they deserve," said Megan Robl, executive director of

Catholic Charities. "Paul's legacy and example of selfless service will continue on and inspire future generations."



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financial support

We award funds through an application process that adoptive and birth parents complete together, furthering the open adoption relationship that we hope will grow throughout the life of the child.

adoptive families

We understand firsthand the financial strain of adoption, which is why funds are available to help cover costs for adoptive families.

birth moms

Placing a child for adoption is a brave and difficult decision. Funds help support cost of living post-delivery, including mental health support.

about us

Leap of FaithE strives to support all involved in the adoptive process. Rooted with a focus of weaving strong relationships with sound mental health support, our foundation wants to hold hands with all parties involved to celebrate making adoption an easier choice. **Financial assistance is available through our foundation.** Scan the QR code above to learn more. www.nortonccf.org/leapoffaithe

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