



**"WE CAN'T  
THANK ALL OUR  
FAMILIES AND  
PARISHIONERS  
OF THE DIOCESE  
ENOUGH FOR THE  
SUPPORT THAT  
THEY GIVE US,  
WHETHER IT BE  
MONETARY OR  
PRAYERS  
OR LETTERS OF  
ENCOURAGE-  
MENT. IT ALL  
MEANS A LOT."**

**Kade Megaffin,  
seminarian**

## DINNER WITH FAMILY

**Kade Megaffin talks with  
those in attendance at a  
seminarian fundraising  
dinner.**

MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

## Second dinner a blessing to participants

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Bishop Jerry Vincke might have said it best: "Vocations come from our families."

With that statement, Bishop Vincke thanked all the families in attendance at last week's seminarian fundraising dinners in Salina and Hays.

More than 300 dinners were served as all gathered as one big family on two different nights to support the seminarians of the Diocese of Salina.

Nine young men studying at three different seminaries in either Missouri or Colorado were introduced at both dinners as they each told the audience a little about themselves. The number of seminarians actually grew to 10 as a surprise late addition was accepted as a seminarian the week of the dinners. Six of this year's cohort are new seminarians.

"We are retiring priests faster than gaining them," said Father Andy Hammeke, co-vocations director along with Father Joshua Werth. "So,



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

**Father James Maruthukunnel Thomas talks with Collin Thielen, a seminarian, at one of the meals.**

this is a great number for us. A lot more young men are thinking about a calling to the priesthood, and people's prayers are being answered."

Approximately 165 attended the annual dinner Aug. 10 in Salina. The event in Hays the following evening, the first time it was in Hays, was near

capacity as 148 of the 150 tickets were sold.

"There is something so special going on in our diocese right now," said Katie Platten, CEO of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Salina.

Platten said she and other committee members started talking last year about adding an additional dinner in Hays.

"There is so much support for vocations in the western part of our diocese," Platten said. "We wanted to give those folks easier access to the dinner and be able to celebrate with the seminarians."

"This was a success, wouldn't you say?" she asked with a big smile on her face following the dinner.

The Thielen family from Park — approximately 60 miles west of Hays — wholeheartedly agreed.

"We were so pleased to hear that there would be a dinner in Hays this year," said Esther Thielen, mother of seminarian Collin and Father Luke, a priest in the diocese.

**DINNER, PAGE 12**

### PRAYER AND ACTION

Youth volunteer time during summer to help communities.

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### RESULTS ARE IN

Results of the Synod of Synodality for the regional dioceses.

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# How do we respond?

I'm sure everyone knows the Value Them Both Amendment failed to pass on Aug. 2. Following the verdict, I had several people ask me, "What comes next?" As the weeks have passed, I've been able to think and pray about this. The answer that came to my heart is that all of us are called to become more like Jesus in the Eucharist and to love more and more. In giving himself in the Eucharist out of love for us, Jesus says to us, "This is my Body given for you." This is what we are called to do as well – to give our Body, our life, for others more and more.

I believe the verdict of the "no" ultimately means more people will suffer and grow distant from God. People make decisions based on what they think will bring them happiness, even those who choose abortion believe their choice will bring them happiness. But as Catholics, we know the greatest, ultimate happiness comes from knowing God. When a person chooses anything that goes against God, it ultimately leads to a life filled with sadness and anger.

The Church (you and I) needs to continue to be there for these people who are looking in all the wrong places for their happiness. We need to help bring healing and peace to their souls. We are called to love them even more.

While we do this, we must also prevail in our fight to protect the unborn. The morning after the election, I was struck by the second reading in the Office of Readings from the breviary. The reading came from St. Barnabas. He wrote, "Love your neighbor more than your own life. Do not kill an unborn child through abortion, nor destroy it after birth."

We must always love our neighbors. We must always protect the unborn. Even

though the majority of our state voted "no," wrong is still wrong, regardless of how many people believe otherwise.

In the book of Deuteronomy (30:19), the Lord speaks to us: "I call heaven and earth today to witness against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him."

God is asking us to choose life. We must remember it is not us but God that people are running from.

But we know from Scripture that God will leave the 99 to go after the lost sheep. In the meantime, we will continue to love.

I think now is a great time to be a saint. I recall what St. Maximilian Kolbe said to others before he was arrested, put into prison and sentenced to death at Auschwitz during World War II. "Do not forget to love," the saint said.

St. Maximilian knew he would be treated horribly and yet, he never forgot to love. That is why he became a saint. Another great saint who I think of is St. Teresa of Calcutta and her famous poem, "Do Good Anyway." She reminds us to keep doing "good" and "forgive them" no matter what others do. As she reminds us, "in the final analysis it is between you and God. It was never between them and you anyway."

May we never forget to love.

In Christ's service,

*+ Gerald L. Vincke*

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

**GERALD  
Vincke**  
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



## BISHOP'S CALENDAR

### September

- 5** Labor Day, Chancery closed
- 10** Holy Hour followed by Mass, 4 p.m., Immaculate Conception, Grinnell
- 10** Mass at Sacred Heart, 7 p.m., Park
- 11** Holy Hour followed by Mass, 7 a.m., St. Agnes, Grainfield
- 11** Mass, 10 a.m., Sacred Heart, Park
- 11** Mass, 3 p.m., Holy Cross Church, Pfeifer
- 11** Divine Mercy Radio Banquet, 5 p.m., Salina
- 17** Auction, 6 p.m., St. Mary's, Ellis
- 18** Confirmation, St. Michael, Chapman
- 19-23** Priests Convocation, Kansas City, Kan.
- 25-30** IPF Bishop's Program, Mundelein, Ill.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Pilgrimage with our Vietnamese brothers

By BISHOP JERRY VINCKE  
THE REGISTER

I have become friends with several Vietnamese families in Salina. Many of them have talked about their annual Marian Days in Carthage, Mo., and encouraged me to attend. Not really knowing what to expect, I decided to go this year. I am so happy I did. It was one of the most memorable days I have encountered as a bishop.

I was able to celebrate Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was preceded by a long Marian procession that lasted a few hours. It was beautiful to see so many people honoring our Blessed Mother. I was deeply inspired by their faith and love. Most of the people slept in tents. It was hot and the liturgies long, but their love of God and our Blessed Mother was evident.

Being there reminded me of talking with a priest in Michigan who escaped from Vietnam in the 1970s. He told the story of being shot at while on a boat. He ended up in the water, where the gunshots continued. Knowing he would be shot if his

head went above the water, he survived by putting a reed in his mouth and breathing with the reed slightly above the water. He also talked about not eating or drinking for several days while on a boat to America.

The Vietnamese people have suffered greatly over the centuries and still do today in Vietnam. Another Mass was celebrated in honor of the Vietnamese martyrs (St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions) who died out of love for Jesus and his Church. Their martyrdom was some of the most horrific in all centuries. Some were burned alive, others beheaded, their bodies mutilated, and some were tortured with the use of psychoactive drugs. Many were branded on the face, and towns known to hold Christians were wiped out.

We remember them and celebrate the love, strength and fortitude of the Vietnamese faithful. St. Andrew Dung-Lac and the Vietnamese martyrs, who embraced suffering rather than renounce their faith – pray for us.

## PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS

### Effective Aug. 10, 2022

Father Leo Blasi: Chaplain of the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Movement in the Diocese of Salina, in addition to his other canonical assignments.



Blasi

### Effective Aug. 13, 2022

Father Peter O'Donnell, J.C.L.: Reappointed Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Salina for a term of three years, renewable, in addition to his other canonical appointments.



O'Donnell

## EXALTATION

Holy Cross Church in Pfeifer will host a Mass in honor of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross at 3 p.m. Sept. 11. Bishop Jerry Vincke and Father Jim Moster will be concelebrants. Music will be provided by Trilogy. Seed wheat will be blessed. A social will follow the Mass. Everyone is welcome.

## DID YOU KNOW?

All issues of faith magazine and past issues of The Register can be found online at <https://salinadiocese.org/publications/>

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# 'Do not be afraid'

**SPEAKER AT MEN'S CONFERENCE PUSHES PARTICIPANTS TO LEAVE COMFORT ZONE**

By ALLISON OCHOA

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Armed with personal stories of his time serving as one of Pope St. John Paul II's bodyguards, former Swiss Guard Dr. Mario Enzler challenged the attendees at the 11th annual Diocesan Men's Conference to step out of their comfort zones and answer the call of God in their lives.

Held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays, the Aug. 13 conference was themed "Called to Protect: Family. Life. Truth." With Enzler as the keynote speaker, the event focused on embracing the roles men are called to live out in their personal and professional lives.

In his opening address, Enzler provided a brief biography of Pope St. John Paul II, highlighting the former pope's love of young people, the great losses of his parents and siblings early in his life, and his acceptance of God's call in his vocation. Citing the saint's oft-repeated reminder, "Do not be afraid," Enzler said Pope St. John Paul II knew the Lord was calling him out of his comfort zone and asking him to trust, a trust Enzler himself would eventually be asked to exercise.

Enzler was training as a sniper in the Swiss Army when he was called to apply for the Swiss Guard. Shortly after arriving to begin his service at the Vatican, he met Pope John Paul II.

"He sandwiched my hand (between his) and said, 'Thank you for coming to serve who serves. Remember, Mario, never be afraid because God is always one day ahead of you.' That day radically changed my approach to life," he said.

The attachment to a comfortable life is something Enzler warned the attendees against, citing Pope St. John Paul II's example of leadership through suffering, sacrifice and prayer.

"The longer he prayed, the more absorbed he became, to the point where he almost became taken up as though nothing in the room could pull him back," he said.

Sharing a story about observing the pope in such an intimate moment of prayer, Enzler told the audience the pope later approached him, handed him a rosary, and said,



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

**Mario Enzler talks to the participants at the 11th annual Diocesan Men's Conference on Aug. 13 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.**

"Mario, the rosary is my favorite prayer, marvelous in its simplicity. Take my beads. Make them your most powerful weapon. And next time, join me."

Enzler challenged the conference attendees to carry a rosary on them at all times.

"If you start, this is the way you will fulfill your masculinity," he said. "As men, we must call on Mary all the time. Call to her on a daily basis. Doing so will turn you from a pessimist into an optimist. It will turn you from a feeble spirit to being a real man."

"The devil is after manhood, and he wants to destroy fatherhood. Once he has that under his control, he starts attacking spiritual fathers, and he just grabs one priest at a time."

"My desire for all of you is to understand it's time to stop doing more. Be more. Change the narrative in your heart, and you'll understand it's an amazing opportunity to discover the beauty and power in your charism. Your gifts aren't meant just for oneself but are given to you for the good of the Church and her mission. Become spiritual Swiss Guards."



**Nick Hammeke, left, and his father, Curtis, speak at the men's conference.**

Enzler also discussed the abandonment of faith that has become a hallmark of today's culture.

"We live in a culture that promotes self and teaches kids to think the world revolves around them," he said. "Pope St. John Paul II called this the culture of death. The negative effects are evident, and this is why our society needs us and our manhood. We're in a spiritual war zone where we're surrounded by the walking wounded, so we need spiritual Swiss Guards to go out as the bombs are falling. We are called to engage with the world in which we find ourselves."

Enzler encouraged the

men in attendance to reject woke culture.

"Constantly ask the Lord to help you be awake, not woke," he said. "Constantly ask the Lord to be a virtuous man."

"Be men. Be real men. Pray to the Blessed Mother. The stakes could not be higher. Each of you is called to become a saint, so let's start working on that goal."

In addition to Enzler's addresses, the conference featured an opportunity for Reconciliation, Adoration, Mass with Bishop Jerry Vincke and a brief talk given by Curtis and Nick Hammeke about being the father and brother of a priest — Father Andy Hammeke, chaplain of the Comeau Catholic Cam-

pus Center in Hays.

Steven Matthews, a seminarian for the Diocese of Salina from St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City, said the day's presentations, particularly Enzler's comments on trusting God, resonated with him on a deep, personal level.

"In the past, I've let fear rule my life and now I'm being called to step out of my comfort zone," he said.

Matthews joined other seminarians in leading a decade of the rosary during the morning's Adoration period and served at the conference's Mass.

"God's calling me to a more courageous lifestyle," he said. "I'm being called to something greater than myself, and I'm grateful for that opportunity."

Paul Schrick, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish in Colby, attended the conference with his son Joseph and his father, Deacon Tom Schrick.

"It's just nice to be around other men who have the same feelings and experiences as you in trying to grow as men of faith," he said. "It's reassuring to know you're not alone and that you're all in it together."



# Youth say 'yes' to God at VBS

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Vacation Bible School is a one-week program for young children that keeps them learning and on-fire for their faith during the summer months. The week typically includes arts and crafts, interactive games, worship music and dramatic skits, all of which are tools used to further educate young children about God.

In the Diocese of Salina, dozens of parishes host VBS for their students. The program is made possible only by the generosity of time and talent from the many volunteers.

Parishes have the options to choose different VBS themes. In Victoria, the VBS program utilized was the Cool Kingdom Party Vacation Bible School created by CatChat productions.



COURTESY PHOTO

A group photo of Cool Kingdom Party VBS participants and volunteers at St. Fidelis Spiritual Life Center, Victoria.

This program focused on Mary's "yes" to God.

Both volunteers and students grow in love and faith following VBS.

"The CatChat curriculum is awesome and is very engaging for our bigs and littles," said Jennifer An-

derson, who helped lead the preschool and kindergarten group in Victoria.

"We love this week and love seeing Jesus work through us all to help share our faith with our growing youth."

But it is also obvious that

not only are the kids having a great time, they are also coming to love and understand their faith even more. In one session at Victoria, the question "How is Jesus a good king?" was answered by upcoming third-grader Devyn Hunter.

"He doesn't command," Hunter said.

At this same setting, the children were asked, "What is the ultimate reward for obedience to God's will?"

Maverick Scherrer, another upcoming third-grader, answered with, "freedom."

Two profound answers were given that unveiled that the goal of the weekend had been accomplished. The students were able to express that the Catholic faith is more than a set of laws and commands, rather it is all about love and true freedom.

"Out of the mouths of babes, God spoke to myself as I sat there in awe of these two very profound truths, shared by the children," said Jennifer Brungardt, director of religious education at Victoria.

## Summer youth program popular in diocese

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

April Mick didn't join the Catholic faith until she met her future husband while both were attending college at Kansas State University.

This mother of four — now raising her family in Osborne with husband Chris — is grateful their children can participate in programs that promote the Catholic faith.

The Mick siblings joined hundreds of youth doing just that this summer in Totus Tuus sessions across the Diocese of Salina.

College students and seminarians from the diocese traveled to 18 different towns for week-long sessions of the popular summer program.

The participants, who have just completed grades 1 through 11, learn early on in class that Totus Tuus is Latin for "Totally Yours," then immerse themselves into a week of classes, activities and worship — with some fun thrown in.

In Osborne, the week begins with a parish potluck for all to get acquainted and ends with a water balloon fight on the last day.

"My kids love Totus Tuus," April Mick said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our kids to witness someone choosing to walk their faith, and we hope they can be inspired by that."

She said her entire family looks



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Totus Tuus teachers deliver a lesson to students during a summer session in the Salina Diocese.

forward to Totus Tuus every year.

"These college students are great role models," April said. "Our kids see that young adults are making good choices and that life is a choice you have to make every day — to treat others like Jesus would have treated people."

The program begins in mid-June and ends in July. The teachers attend a training session for 10 days in Wichita prior to the

program's start.

Sam Stone from Salina, in his second year of teaching this year, said he learns just as much as the Totus Tuus participants.

"You learn that there is a different set of skills for each class," said Stone, who will be a senior this fall at Kansas State, where he is majoring in business management. "And each of us teachers has a different style. Watching



A student listens intently to a teacher in a Totus Tuus session this summer.

the dynamics of the kids in the classrooms and keeping them engaged, I think we all learn a lot from each other."

Robyn Logan, another Totus Tuus teacher from Salina, agreed.

Logan is an elementary education major who will be a junior at Kansas State this fall. She said she was grateful for the hands-on experience in the classroom while getting to share her faith.

Logan said she welcomed the opportunity to give back after being impacted by college students in another diocesan youth program when she was in high school.

"I participated in Prayer and Action in high school, and those leaders really helped form my faith," she said. "After that, I knew I wanted to be a leader, so I decided to get involved with Totus Tuus."



# Walking side-by-side in relationships

This year, I was blessed to attend the seminarian dinner in Hays as Foundation staff and the annual men's conference as a "writer." (Allison Ochoa covered the men's conference, and I tagged along as she taught me how to actually work as a journalist.)

At both events, the importance and sacredness of fatherhood struck me.

At the seminarian dinner, it was the reality of spiritual fatherhood that moved me. I listened with rapt attention as Father Joshua Werth spoke on the priesthood. Without priests, without men answering Christ's call, there would be no Mass. No Eucharist. No reconciliation. I've always known that but hearing it brought a deeper awareness to the reality.

At the men's conference, Dr. Mario Enzler, an engaging and enigmatic speaker, said the devil's first tactic in the spiritual war between the light and the dark is to attack the father. In attacking the

father, he attacks the family. And as the family goes, so does society.

Why does he attack the father?

My first reaction is to think of the Trinity. The closest reflection of the Trinity we have in our world is marriage. God the Father gives himself fully to God the Son. God the Son receives the gift in full from God the Father. And the perfect love between them is the Holy Spirit.

A husband reflects God the Father by giving himself to his wife. The wife reflects

God the Son by receiving the gift from her husband. And the love between them is a child, who reflects God the Holy Spirit.

If a man is meant to be a dim reflection of God the Father, doesn't it make sense that the devil would try to destroy our relationships with our earthly fathers? Because in doing so, he distorts the true image of God the Father. And if we have a broken relationship with our heavenly Father, to the point where

we reject his love, the devil wins.

Wow. The mission of fatherhood is essential to the salvation of our world.

As a woman, I am obviously never going to be a father. I am a wife and will one day be a mother. So what is my role in all this?

At mine and Nathaniel's wedding, the second reading came from St. Paul and reflected on the obedient and submissive wife. I love this reading, but I know there are those

who do not. But I think maybe they misunderstand what "submissive" means.

The meaning of the word submissive has lost its sacredness. Submissive doesn't mean a doormat. It doesn't mean I have no voice and simply acquiesce to whatever Nathaniel tells me to do. Submissive means "under mission." As a wife, I am "under the same mission" as my husband. I as his equal, his comple-

mentary part, aid him in his mission.

My husband's mission is to lead me and our children to heaven. That is a mission I will gladly support.

Following the men's conference, Nathaniel and I reflected on his mission as husband/father and mine as wife/mother. We decided to write out what that means. First, we listed out "Who are our priorities?" The first was God. Second, each other. Third, children. Fourth, everyone else. We then identified how we will serve each person.

Doing this put our young marriage into a perspective centered on God above all else.

I wonder what God will do with our "yes."

*Katie*

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

**KATIE Hamel**  
CREATIVE EDITOR



## Homeowners impacted by mission

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

It's called "Prayer and Action," and there was a lot of both going on around the Diocese of Salina this summer.

College and high school students from around the diocese gathered in Manhattan and Phillipsburg for eight weeks in June and July to provide service for residents in need.

They painted, cleaned, provided yard work — or any number of other projects the homeowner might come up with.

At least one Phillips County resident said the work the students accomplished was the answer to prayers he almost couldn't have dreamed of coming true.

"I'm speechless, just speechless," homeowner Larry Weinman said. "This is the hardest working group I've ever seen, and I can't say enough good about them. I had a tear in my eye watching them one day."

The team scraped and painted Weinman's garage, carted items to the curb for trash pickup and performed several other tasks for the man who is dealing with some health issues and has lived alone since November after his wife, Carolyn, passed away.

"It's so good to see young people who want to work and help somebody," said



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

**Students with the Prayer and Action teams scraped paint from houses and helped clean up yards during summer service.**

Weinman's sister, Janice Giedd, who lives next door.

The Prayer and Action service ministry was started in the Diocese of Salina more than 15 years ago by Father Gale Hammer-schmidt and the late Sister Barbara Ellen Apaceller, CSJ.

High school students from across the diocese join college student leaders for a week of working, praying and serving others. After working all day around town, the students gather at night for prayer, fraternity and relaxation.

Laura Meyer, who will be a senior at Benedictine College this fall, was one of



the program team leaders. She said she couldn't wait to get involved after watching her older siblings participate in Prayer and Action.

Jamie Kuhlman from

Oakley was another team leader, who will be a junior at Kansas State this fall.

"I just really like watching the joy from everyone we help," she said, "even for

simple work we do."

Rick Smith, the junior and high school youth minister at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan, was one of the adult sponsors who accompanied one team this year.

"This is such a rewarding experience," said Smith, who has joined Prayer and Action teams on site nearly every year since taking on that position. "I notice especially in the smaller towns how this work impacts the entire community. That's something these students will always remember."

Ruby Wierhan, who lives in the small Phillips County town of Kirwin (population 200), can attest to that.

"This is Kirwin. Anything is a happening," she said, laughing. "I've had numerous cars come by this week, and it's great for the townspeople to see these young people working so hard."

Wierhan moved to Kirwin from South Africa approximately seven years ago to be near her son and his family. She works several jobs and has had limited time for completing necessary projects around her house.

"This is absolutely a godsend," Wierhan said. "This is such a beautiful team — how fast and diligently they worked and how joyful they were. I never saw anyone with a long face even while working in the heat. They are truly an inspiration."



# Participants see history on 2, 8 wheels

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

An idea that started as a ride to advocate wellness for area bicyclists three years ago has evolved into a fundraiser for four Catholic churches in the Hays area.

Add the fact that more than 50 non-bicyclists got to participate this year, and the 2022 Tour die Kapellen was deemed a huge success.

As committee members for the Tour die Kapellen — which is the German translation for Tour of the Churches — were making plans for this year's annual event, they came up with the notion for adding a bus tour as well.

On the second Saturday of July, 55 people eagerly boarded a chartered bus in Hays and joined 200 bicyclists on a tour of churches in the small Ellis County communities of Catharine, Victoria, Pfeifer and Munjor.

Bicyclists from as far away as Florida, and several other states, and as old as 79 signed up for the riding portion of the event. They had the choice of riding different distances, ranging from 15 to 100 miles.

The idea for the bus tour was a hit from the start, and registration for seats filled up early — with a waiting list.

An entire family from the Kansas City area took part in the bus tour. Rob and Maria Flynn brought their three young children to join Maria's



COURTESY PHOTO

**Participants in the Tour die Kapellen take a moment for prayer prior to a ride.**

parents, Alan and Juanita Stecklein, on the tour.

Maria Flynn grew up near Munjor, so she is familiar with the rich Volga-German history and Catholicism in the county. It's something she wanted her children to experience with their grandparents.

Eleven-year-old Declan, along with his 8-year-old brother Teddy and 6-year-old sister Remy, took it all in, reading plaques that hung in the churches and climbing long stairways into the choir areas.

"The entire day was so much fun," Maria said, "but what I thought was most important was for our kids getting to see and feel those traditions and to experience the spiritual part of it. They learned how impor-

ant those churches are to the community and the sacrifice it took to build them and to maintain them now."

Lifetime Ellis County resident Mary Kay Schippers gave the group interesting history lessons from the time they boarded the bus in Hays. As the bus meandered along county gravel roads, Schippers told how each town started with the building of the church — the anchor of the community.

"I learned some things I didn't know before," Maria said. "It was so interesting to see how this all started, to hear more about the history of the Volga-German Catholics."

At each stop, the tourists were

treated to music from a group of local and area musicians as they entered the church. Healthy snacks and water also were available for riders (both on bikes and the bus).

Proceeds from the event are given to one of the four parishes each year for improvements for their church.

Greg Schmidt, a parishioner of St. Catherine Church in Catharine, proudly pointed out the new paint job his church received from last year's tour.

The St. Fidelis Basilica in Victoria was the recipient from the fundraiser the inaugural year in 2019. The event wasn't held in 2020 because of the pandemic.

The St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor will receive this year's funds. The Holy Cross Shrine in Pfeifer is slated to benefit from next year's tour, which has been set for July 8, 2023.

The tour idea started among bicycling friends Kay Werth, Kathy Rome and Ron Leiker from Hays. The event takes a lot of planning, and that trio is thankful for all the people who volunteer to help each year.

"This absolutely wouldn't happen without the help of so many people who volunteer — and our sponsors," Werth said. "This is a way of showing off our beautiful churches, and we want to see this event grow each year. We are so blessed that volunteerism is so characteristic of this area."

## Composer, pianist performs sweep of concerts in Kansas

BY DONETTA ROBBEN  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Acclaimed composer, virtuoso pianist and inspirational speaker Eric Genuis will be performing a sweep of concerts through central and western Kansas on Sept. 20 to 22.

Genuis will be performing Concerts of Hope for prisoners at Ellsworth and Norton correctional facilities. He will be performing for students at Sacred Heart Junior and Senior High School in Salina as well as at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior and Senior High Schools and Holy Family Elementary School in Hays. Parents are encouraged to attend the school concerts as Genuis talks to the students, in a humorous manner, about the music they listen to and how to enjoy the classical genre.

Two public concerts will be performed. The first will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sept. 21 at Marymount Properties,

2030 E. Iron, Salina. The second will be at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 1805

Vine, Hays.

Genuis, along with world-class violinists and a cello player, perform all original music that gives rise to a unique musical experience with universal appeal.

Genuis shares his gift of

music with what he calls, "the forgotten," prisoners, memory care facilities and PTSD veterans.

"What a pleasure to listen to not only a world-class pianist and composer, but an artist whose music translates beyond its genre to lift the audience to belief and hope in the power of the human spirit," said actor Jim Caviezel. "I have been honored to be present at

several of Eric's concerts, every time with a unique audience nuance. Those present felt the power of Eric's music, and his words clearly elevated people."

There will be a freewill

offering at Genuis' public concerts to help pay his travel expenses and to allow him to continue to perform his Concerts of Hope, which is a 503(c)3 organization.



Genuis



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Did you know Bishop Vincke sends out an email to the faithful once a month? Sign up today by scrolling to the bottom of the diocesan website.

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Foundation adds new member

By KATIE HAMEL  
THE REGISTER

Torrie Gregg is a new face at the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina, but she is certainly not new to serving the Diocese of Salina.

On Aug. 8, Gregg began her role as the development assistant for the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina.

Gregg replaced long-time staff member Melanie Melander, who transferred to the Diocese of Salina Finance Department.

A Hays native, Gregg graduated from Fort Hays State University in 2022 with a bachelor of business administration degree in management. Prior to that, she attended Thomas More Prep-Marian.

During her years as a student, Gregg was highly involved in the diocesan CYO Convention as a youth council member, St. Nicho-

las of Myra CYO president and Prayer and Action participant. Upon entering college, Gregg spent her summers serving on the diocesan Totus Tuus teams, and most recently, the diocesan Prayer and Action leadership team this past summer. While at FHSU, Gregg served as the Catholic Disciples media coordinator and director of Crossroads for the Comeau Catholic Center.

“We are so excited to welcome Torrie to the Catholic Foundation. She has just the right skill set for our needs,” said Foundation CEO Katie Platten.

“I’m very excited to join the Foundation staff and serve the people of our diocese in a way I haven’t been able to before,” Gregg said. “It will also be a fun opportunity to work in an environment centered on the most important thing in my life, which is my Catholic faith.”



T. Gregg

Award winners

CATHOLIC MEDIA HONORS COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

By THE REGISTER

Members of the communication team for the Diocese of Salina recently won honors from the Catholic Media Association for their work.

Katie (Greenwood) Hamel, editor of the diocesan newspaper The Register and magazine *faith*, won several awards, as did Matea Gregg, assistant editor and photographer of both publications.

Hamel and Gregg, along with graphic designer Jenny Pomictor of FAITH Catholic, won two awards for their submissions from *faith* magazine. They won first place for Best Reporting of the Celebration of a Sacrament (“Discovering



Hamel



M. Gregg



the beauty of the Mass”) and second place in the Best Explanation of Marriage category (“The day heaven was within reach”).

In addition, Hamel and Gregg received a second-place award in the category Best Diocesan Video Fundraising Appeal.

Gregg also earned third-place honors for Best Use of Social Media, as well as honorable mention recognition for Best Podcast Series for the St. Joseph series featured on the diocesan From the Heart podcast.

Kim Hoelting, human resource director for the diocese, said she was

pleased – but not surprised – with the honors.

“We here at the chancery think we have a top-notch communications team,” Hoelting said. “These awards show that others feel the same way about their work. We are very happy for this recognition – for the communications team and for the entire diocese.”

“We were very honored by the recognition our publications and communication efforts received,” Hamel said. “Everything we do is oriented towards our diocesan mission to evangelize, and we will do our best to continue sharing the Good News of Christ across our diocese.”





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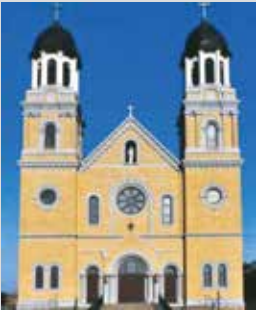


**CELEBRATION**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
COUNCIL NO. 2365  
WILL CELEBRATE THE  
100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE CHARTER  
AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH  
IN DAMAR, 107 OAK.

**4 P.M. MASS  
SUNDAY, SEPT. 4**

CELEBRATED BY BISHOP JERRY VINCKE AND PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE.





**P**lease take some time to read the following report that was written in response to the Synod on Synodality. This report is a summary of the findings from the 15 dioceses that make up Region IX (the dioceses of Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri). We submitted our own diocesan report to the region committee. The findings from our report were incorporated into this one. If you would like to read the diocesan report, visit [salinadiocese.org](http://salinadiocese.org).

I would like to thank Father Frank Coady and his committee who organized our diocesan-wide synod on synodality. But most especially, I would like to thank all the people who participated in our synod sessions. Our region report will be sent to Rome. This will eventually lead to a gathering of the bishops in Rome in a few years.

*Bishop Jerry Vincke*

### **Synod on Synodality Report from Region IX**

**1.** Called to "scrutinize the signs of the times" (Gaudium et Spes #4) and to reflect on our journey as church, the dioceses of Region IX came together to share our experiences and to respond to the call of the Spirit to "grow as a synodal church (Preparatory Document)."

**2.** Region IX comprises the 15 dioceses in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. These states along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers lie at the center of the continental United States. They include a few large cities, many smaller cities and towns, and large rural areas. There are many smaller rural parishes. The population of the area is increasingly diverse due to migration within the country and internationally. Growing diversity enriches us culturally and challenges us to be aware of biases and of other human rights issues. These aspects of our location are part of what we bring to our experience of and dreams for the church.

**3.** The dioceses in the region took a variety of approaches to Synod listening sessions. Some worked primarily through parishes and Catholic schools; others held diocesan sessions. Some worked with other institutions and groups both Catholic and non-Catholic. Some held sessions in more than one language. Some used surveys; others stressed in-person gatherings. Still others encouraged one-on-one conversations. Several dioceses had projects already in process and integrated the Synod into those. Not all dioceses included demographic information about the participants. Those that did reported varying degrees of success in hearing from all sectors of the population. The following represents our effort to synthesize the findings reported by the 15 dioceses.

### **Communion**

#### **Eucharist as Source and Center**

**4.** Virtually every diocesan report from this region placed a major

# SYNOD OF

emphasis on the church as communion. This is consistent with the fact that relationship is a fundamental human need, and with the call of the church to be, as People of God, "a sign and instrument of the communion to which all creation is called (Lumen Gentium #1)." The communion to which all are called is, in fact, a sharing in the very life of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Lumen Gentium #2).

**5.** In each diocese, those who participated in the Synod activities reported positive experiences of the church as communion. Many of those experiences centered on the Eucharist as the source and summit of our unity. They rejoice in the Real Presence of Christ and in His self-gift to us. That experience of communion with Christ strengthens them in their personal faith. It also connects them with one another as members of the Body of Christ. Many participants in all dioceses love the universality of the Mass and the fact that it connects us not only with our local church, but with Catholics throughout the world and even with those of the past and future.

**6.** Because the Eucharist is so important, respondents appreciate ways in which the church helps them strengthen their belief in and devotion to the Eucharist. Most importantly, they want to experience good celebrations of the Mass in which all are moved to reverence for what is happening, and to full participation in the liturgy. Good music and good homilies are most frequently mentioned, although people disagree on what makes them good. Other values include catechesis, spiritual talks, parish missions, study groups, and retreats that emphasize Catholic belief in the transformation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. Groups also said participation in other sacraments, especially Reconciliation and Eucharistic devotions, such as Adoration and Benediction, strengthen their faith in the Eucharist and its centrality in their lives. Some people feel their parish is doing a good job in this regard, while others say a great deal more could be done.

### **Need for spiritual renewal**

**7.** Many Catholics are saddened when they see a drop in the number of people, especially young people, who attend Mass regularly; and when they hear about Catholics who no longer believe in the Real Presence. They believe the church could help by attending to the quality of liturgies, by providing more and better catechesis, and by promoting Eucharistic devotion and prayer.

Some members from a number of dioceses spoke of witnessing what seems to them a lack of reverence at Mass and attribute that to people not understanding the awesome mystery in which they are privileged to participate. Individual Catholics could personally invite someone who is not in the pews to attend Mass with them.

**8.** Sadly, celebration of the Eucharist is also experienced as an area of division within the church. The most common issue regarding the liturgy is the celebration of the pre-Conciliar Mass. One report referred to "liturgy wars." Almost every diocese reported that some members are frustrated that opportunities to celebrate the Mass in that form have been abridged. On the other hand, some people are frustrated that not everyone embraces the Conciliar liturgy. The differences of opinion sometimes reach the level of animosity. People on each side of the issue reported feeling judged by those who differ from them. Another issue has to do with integration of diverse cultures within a parish. Having different Masses in different languages may allow each member of the parish to participate in their first language, but does it promote communion among all parishioners?

**9.** Another major issue regarding the Eucharist is the fact that some are excluded from receiving. Again, most dioceses reported that members experience grief when non-Catholic Christians and people who are divorced and civilly remarried are denied communion. Some members believe the church's practice amounts to exclusion that is opposed to the example of Jesus. Others believe that the limitations are an important aspect of respecting Catholic teaching.

**10.** An issue peculiar to this time in history has to do with closure of churches during the early portion of the COVID pandemic. Nearly every diocese in the region reported that some members were disappointed or angry about the closure and believe that the action of church leaders amounted to a failure to uphold the importance of the Eucharist in the life of Catholics.

### **Shared Faith**

**11.** The long tradition of Catholic teaching is another treasured source of unity within the church. Dioceses reported that participants expressed a high regard for Catholic teaching and for its nearly 2,000-year history. In every diocese, one expression of that regard is a desire to learn more about it. Participants of every age and demographic group spoke of the need for lifelong formation. They would like to see

more opportunities for Bible study, in-person and online courses, lectures, small-group discussions and convocations among other offerings. Catholics also perceive Catholic tradition in different ways. Some understand it to mean that church teaching does not change. In several dioceses, participants wish for a return to traditional teaching or suggest we need a "back to basics" approach to catechesis. Others welcome change as an aspect of our living tradition. Whatever their perspective, people long for a deeper understanding of Catholic teaching, and the opportunity to ask questions and to reflect together on ways to apply the teachings of the church to their lives.

**12.** Members of all dioceses also wish the church would do more to support their spiritual growth by exposing them to many aspects of the rich heritage of Catholic spirituality. They ask for retreats and other opportunities to pray and reflect together as well as for encouragement in their individual spiritual lives.

### **Welcoming one another in community**

**13.** While the Eucharist is central, Catholics want to experience communion within their parishes in other ways as well. As one report put it: "People want to be known, valued and loved." Every diocesan report included some comments about parishes being and/or failing to be welcoming communities. As in other areas, people's experiences of the church vary widely. People who are active in their parishes seem to experience the parish as a place where they are welcome and where their participation is valued. A number of reports spoke of some parishes having "cliques" so that it was difficult for new members to find a place. Others said simply that parish members need to develop a welcoming attitude and practices of reaching out to new members. A frequent suggestion was the formation of small groups in which parishioners could get to know and support one another, growing together in faith.

**14.** Special challenges arise when parishes are closed or combined, forcing people who were at home in one parish to develop a new set of relationships. Closures and mergers result in larger parishes or in "mission" parishes served by a priest who must drive a great deal and whose presence in the parish is limited to sacramental administration with even time for that being limited.

### **Wounds in the church**

**15.** Diocesan reports described the





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need to heal three major wounds if the church is to be the community it is called to be: polarization, clericalism and the sex-abuse scandal.

**16.** Polarization is rife within our world today and sadly is affecting the church as well. One area of polarization has already been addressed above: the pre-Conciliar liturgy. Polarization is found along other lines as well. In some cases, the political divisions in the U.S. are allowed to divide members of a parish or diocese. One group may condemn another for supporting a certain party or candidate. Discussions of church teaching can devolve into arguments. The labels “liberal” and “conservative” are often applied in a derogatory manner to those who have a different opinion regarding the interpretation and application of church teaching. Respondents in one diocese asserted that there is no safe place for discussion of difficult issues. In several dioceses, respondents noted that at times even the bishops seem to be at odds with one another, causing confusion and fear among the laity.

**17.** In the Synod Preparatory Document, Pope Francis identified clericalism as a major obstacle to communion and synodality in the church. Respondents from throughout Region IX seem to agree with him. Many said the church doesn’t listen to the laity or that lay people are given little to no part in planning and decision making, whether in the parish, the diocese or the universal church. Some identified specific instances in which their concerns had been silenced by a pastor. Others stated lay people are not allowed to take initiative in the church without the blessing of the priest and that decisions made at all levels are clergy-driven.

**18.** Every diocesan report included the message that the great wound of the sex abuse scandal is far from healed. Those who were victimized continue to deal with the pain of that experience. They need and deserve on-going support. The whole church continues to suffer from the loss of credibility and from the evidence that members of the hierarchy were more concerned to protect the institution than they were to protect its members — even its most vulnerable members. Many people are afraid to trust the church or the clergy because of the dishonesty and abuse of power that went on for decades and in so many parts of the world. Church leaders must continue to acknowledge honestly and humbly the wrong that has been done.

## Feelings about the hierarchy

**19.** Lay participants in many dioceses expressed great appreciation for local bishops and priests. At the same time, a significant number expressed a certain distrust of the hierarchy in general. Some faulted the bishops for not speaking up more forcefully on social issues and for failing to provide a consistent message. Similarly, with regard to the current pope, some are happy with his leadership while others expressed disappointment, describing him as either too liberal or too

conservative. Comments on his being “too liberal” outnumbered comments in the two other categories, namely that he is “too conservative” and that people are happy with his leadership.

## Participation

**20.** A vital aspect of communion among persons is shared responsibility and participation in the life of the community. The Synod on Synodality picks up on the call of the Council for all members to participate not only in the liturgy but in the entire life and mission of the church. Above all, everyone is called to live a holy life, a life that bears witness to the abundant grace God constantly pours out on the world (Lumen Gentium #5).

**21.** Synod participants in several dioceses felt the Synod process marks an important step in that direction, or that it can be an important step if the church follows through and integrates synodality into all its work. The documents of Vatican II speak of the universal call to holiness and of the call to us to recognize the many gifts given by the Spirit to different members for the sake of the whole church. The diverse charisms are to be celebrated and called forth so that the life of the church may be enriched and its mission fulfilled.

**22.** Diocesan reports from Region IX indicated respondents view increasing lay involvement in a positive light. They would like to see further support for lay ministry. They believe lay ministers should be allowed greater responsibility in parish planning and administration. One diocesan report identified the need for a collaborative model for church ministries. Another called for the application of the principle of subsidiarity.

**23.** Besides encouragement, lay ministers need adequate preparation for the ministries they undertake. They need support in developing their spiritual lives as the foundation for their ministry. They also need a strong foundation in the teachings of the church and a clear grasp of their role in the church.

**24.** Many participants throughout Region IX see increased lay participation in the church as part of the necessary response to the priest shortage. A great deal of what must be done in a parish does not require ordination and many lay people have administrative and organizational skills. They could relieve pastors of some of the burden, freeing priests to be present and to develop relationships with people of the parish — something both priests and lay people desire. Some priests would need help with letting lay people take over parish tasks for which they seem convinced they have final responsibility and must therefore have the final word in all things. Some felt removing the requirement for priestly celibacy, and therefore allowing married priests, could be a change that alleviates the strain caused by the priest shortage.

## The Issue of Exclusion

**25.** Like the call to communion, the goal of full participation is related

integrally to inclusivity, which will require a great deal of prayer and work going forward. The issue of welcome was mentioned previously in the discussion of communion. For various reasons, not everyone feels welcome in their own parish. Even those who felt that their parish was generally a place of welcome and warmth acknowledge that whole groups do not feel welcome or valued in the church at all. Groups most often cited as feeling ignored, left out, or rejected by the church are young people, women, LGBTQ+ people, divorced people, elderly people, members of other Christian denominations, and people of diverse cultures. The reasons people feel left out of the community vary from group to group and likely even from parish to parish.

**26.** Only two dioceses reported a significant percentage of participants in the Synod were young. Both of those dioceses worked through their Catholic schools to hear from younger people. All dioceses did hear from some young people and many of those said they felt a lack of connection with the church. In general, young people seem to feel not listened to and/or that the church is irrelevant to their generation. Their ideas, gifts, worldview, struggles and questions are not addressed or in some cases even acknowledged. Some parishes offer nothing to engage young people once they are confirmed. Young adults, single and married, feel they have no place to belong. The young see themselves as more accepting of others and better at forming community. They assert that the church should make use of their gifts. A concern in a number of dioceses is that young people are being drawn to other churches where they find more opportunities to be involved. They may also be attracted by energetic preaching and music.

**27.** Many women see themselves as excluded because there are few women in leadership or decision-making roles. Thus, their experience is not taken into consid-

eration as church policies are developed. Some women feel that others view them as “second-class Catholics,” or that church leaders do not treat them with respect. They find this to be the case even as women provide a majority of the volunteer work in the parishes. The question of ordaining women was raised in nearly every diocese, whether to the diaconate or to the priesthood. Some believe women will not take their proper place in the church until they can be ordained while others disagree, believing women can be given positions of influence without being admitted to ordination.

**28.** People who identify as LGBTQ+ believe they are condemned by church teachings. If they participate in any church activities, they feel the need to hide who they are in order to be tolerated, let alone welcomed. Family members and friends of those who are LGBTQ+ are also hurt by the lack of welcome. They often feel torn between remaining in the church and supporting their loved ones. The issue of welcoming LGBTQ+ people, and the difficulty of doing so given church teaching, arose in nearly every diocese.

**29.** A significant number of reports included comments that divorced people feel judged by others in the church, in some cases even if they have gone through the annulment process but certainly if they have not done so. The annulment process is experienced as unduly burdensome and judgmental as well.

**30.** Elderly people often feel forgotten and ignored, especially if health or other issues keep them from being present at Mass. These include people who have spent years as active contributing parishioners.

**31.** Members of cultural minorities find that at times the language, traditions, music and art precious to them are ignored or rejected by those involved in planning parish liturgies and other activities. Some parishes do better in this regard than others do, but policies at all levels need to be inclusive. Immigrant populations especially conveyed the importance of the Church supporting their spiritual and material needs, and were disheartened when works of charity were not coupled with attention to issues of systemic injustice.

SYNOD, PAGE 10



Pope Francis

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



## SYNOD, FROM PAGE 9

**Mission**

**32.** The church exists not for self-preservation but for mission. Pope Francis continually invites us to go out to the margins, to walk with one another, especially with those who think differently than we do and with those in most need. Diocesan reports indicated some Synod participants focused on evangelization and mission, while others seemed to concentrate on their own needs or the needs of parish members. Where dioceses reported pastoral plans or goals, they included evangelization, service, and/or outreach among their commitments. One report cited Pope Francis' call to "smell like the sheep."

**33.** Dioceses reported a number of responses to the call to evangelization. Some are eager to evangelize and want to help spread the Catholic faith to others. On the other hand, a significant number of Catholics seem to shy away from it. Some say it just isn't done; religion is a topic to be avoided in conversations outside of one's own family or faith community. Sometimes they can't even speak freely there. Many are certain they would fail at any such effort; they are not sufficiently knowledgeable to speak with others about their faith. There is a clear need for the institutional church to help people share their faith in everyday life and interpersonal relationships.

**34.** A few diocesan reports addressed the call to serve those in need. When that topic was included, it was listed as a cause for joy in a parish or diocese. People expressed admiration for those engaged in service. One diocese heard from respondents who said they would like to see the church provide more opportunities to serve. Participants describe service as one way to grow in unity and in Christian faith.

**35.** Several dioceses made special efforts to engage with people who are perceived to be marginalized in the church and in society: with those who have left the church, with members of cultural minorities, with those who have been imprisoned, with those who are homeless, with others who feel they are not welcome.

**36.** Some dioceses also reached out to people of other Christian denominations and spoke of ecumenical relationships and cooperation. Ministers of other denominations expressed keen interest in developing those relationships. Young people in several dioceses expressed interest in ecumenical discussion as well as cooperation in service projects.

**37.** The synthesis committee was somewhat surprised at the lack of expressed interest in ecumenical discussion and by the fact that very few dioceses reported that respondents had much to say about Catholic Social Teaching or about care for our common home.

**What's next?**

**38.** The Synod sessions did not yield specific action plans but pointed more generally to areas that need addressing. Certain themes resound throughout the diocesan reports read by this committee. They include: the need for a strong program of life-long faith formation emphasizing spiritual growth and deepening understanding of church teaching, the need to develop communities in which all feel welcome, the need to grow in the ability to listen to one another and to develop collaborative methods for working together at all levels within the church.

**Life-long faith formation**

**39.** The need for faith formation has been mentioned numerous times already in this report. It arises in connection with participation in the liturgy and appreciation for the sacraments, a grounding in and finding unity through church tradition, a desire to participate more fully in the work of the church, and the call to evangelization and mission. Every diocese concluded this is one of the things we need to do.

**40.** Decades ago, Catholic schools were seen as the primary place for catechesis, supplemented by catechism classes for children who did not have access to the schools. Nearly all religion classes were taught by priests and religious. Today, Catholic schools reach a small and diminishing percent of young people, especially in rural areas. The responsibility for parish religious education programs falls almost entirely to lay people. The church recognizes parents have a primary responsibility for passing on the faith to their children. People are increasingly aware that adult faith requires adult formation. Education in the faith continues beyond graduation from grade school, high school and college. We grow as persons throughout our lives, and lifelong faith formation needs to account for this evolution.

**41.** Providing faith formation will require investment of resources. There will be a need for well-prepared teachers, and for materials, equipment, space and time. The resources of many parishes and dioceses already seem stretched, thus determining needs will require careful planning and discernment.

**Becoming communities where all are welcome**

**42.** If all people are to feel

welcome in the church, we will need to approach the stranger in a welcoming manner. If all of us are to grow together as community, we must listen to one another without passing judgment, let go at times of our need to be right, and develop the ability to learn from others. The value of simply listening is a clear message of the Synod process. People must be able to speak honestly on even the most controversial topics without fear of rejection. We must be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things. That will require an understanding of what is central to the identity of church, diocese and parish; and what changes can help us grow rather than to feel threatened. Faith formation can help us develop greater understanding and grow in trusting the Holy Spirit who, as the Adsumus prayer reminds us, is "at work in every place and time."

**43.** As noted above, whole groups of people feel the teachings of the church preclude their sense of being welcome in the community. We need to examine the way in which certain teachings are presented, to demonstrate that we can be faithful to God without giving the impression that we are qualified to pass judgment on other people.

**Leadership and participation in the church**


**44.** It is important to note that in many dioceses, lay respondents voiced deep appreciation for their local bishops and priests. A number of bishops say the

experience of the Synod has helped them better understand the people to whom they are called to minister. As local churches and the church universal, we need to build on the positive relationships but also address the wounds left by the sex-abuse scandal and the frustrations of those who believe they are not heard or appreciated. Young people need to receive the message that their presence, their ideals and their desire to serve are appreciated. Women and members of ethnic and cultural minorities should be welcomed into more leadership roles and influence, and their leadership should be visible to the whole church. Lay leadership in general needs to be welcomed and enhanced as a standard aspect of church operation.

**45.** One key to improving collaboration among clergy and laity will be communication. Lay members in quite a few dioceses said they want greater transparency regarding decision making.

**Building on the work of the Synod**

**46.** The diocesan reports show the Synod is describing a new path for the church in which all members take responsibility for the church's mission, and where all are welcome, grow together in faith and worship, and confidently offer their gifts for the sake of the whole community. Many have welcomed that direction with enthusiasm and a renewed hope, others with a certain skepticism. We continue to pray and work together to open our hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



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**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,  
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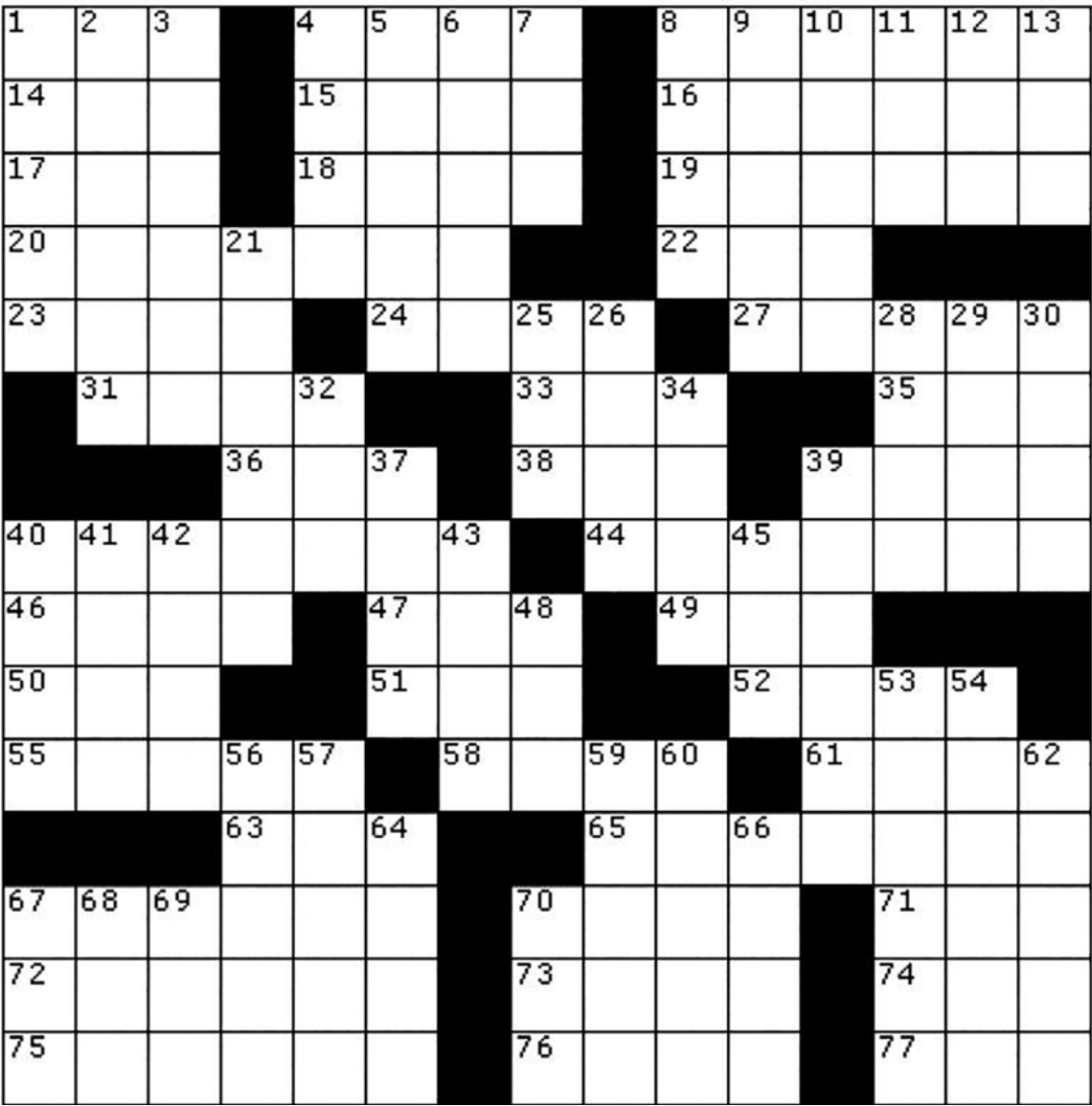
Auction

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CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**

  - 1 Ocean
  - 4 Pottery ingredient
  - 8 Hoofed mammals of S.E. Asia
  - 14 Lawyer's title
  - 15 Plague of Egypt
  - 16 Unseal (2 wds.)
  - 17 Computer part
  - 18 Son of Seth
  - 19 Hovel
  - 20 Trip
  - 22 Attack
  - 23 Farm building
  - 24 Metal fastener
  - 27 Demise
  - 31 Baby powder
  - 33 Wrath
  - 35 Her
  - 36 Perish
  - 38 Cain fled to this land
  - 39 Careen
  - 40 Ailment
  - 44 An angel
  - 46 Eve's garden
  - 47 School group
  - 49 Oolong
  - 50 The patience of \_\_\_
  - 51 Compass point
  - 52 All right
  - 55 First letter in Hebrew alphabet
- DOWN**

  - 1 Factions
  - 2 Clothing brand name
  - 3 Husband o Priscilla
  - 4 Fly
  - 5 Wires
  - 6 Oak seed
  - 7 Affirmation
  - 8 Flip
  - 9 Louse
  - 10 On earth \_\_\_, good will toward men
  - 11 No room for them in the \_\_\_
  - 12 Track
  - 13 Mole
  - 21 The \_\_\_ Rule
  - 25 Old Testament city
- 26 H.S. dance
  - 28 Afloat
  - 29 KJV pronoun
  - 30 Place for the wicked
  - 32 Central Intelligence Agency
  - 34 Alter
  - 37 Sports channel
  - 39 Tan colors
  - 40 \_\_\_ vu
  - 41 Object of false worship
  - 42 Southeast by east
  - 43 Gas burner
  - 45 Executive
  - 48 Marvel
  - 53 Clothing
  - 54 Color
  - 56 Tall post
  - 57 "wreak \_\_\_"
  - 59 Gusher
  - 60 Speak up
  - 62 Disturbance
  - 64 Word written on the wall (Daniel)
  - 66 Chances of winning
  - 67 Teaspoon (abbr.)
  - 68 Fight
  - 69 Samuel's mentor
  - 70 Wing

Answers on Page 14

Pilgrimage to Wisc. set for September

By Sharon Witzell  
Special to The Register

The Catholic Diocese of Wichita, along with spiritual director Father Jim Mainzer, is offering a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Wisconsin on Sept. 12 to 17.

Approximately 70,000 pilgrims have visited the 100-acre shrine every year since its dedication in 2008. The shrine is located on a wooded hill outside the city. It is a place for the faithful to foster devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and serves the spiritual needs of those who suffer poverty in body and soul. It has become a place of prayer for many seeking the intercession of Our Lady.

Guests will be inspired to walk the trail up to the Rosary Walk area and the Stations of the Cross. For those with limited mobility, the shrine has a fleet of golf carts and volunteers who transport visitors around the site. The shrine also has St. Joseph the Workman

and St. Kateri Tekakwithwa devotional areas, a memorial to the unborn, stations of the cross and more.

The itinerary is full of attractions, lively entertainment and culinary delights. The first stop will be at the Basilica of St. John and the Amana Colonies in Iowa. Pilgrims will then travel to the Wisconsin Dells, where they will take part in an open-air sight-seeing trolley tour, a horse-drawn carriage ride through Lost Canyon and cruise through the upper Dells area amid towering cliffs, rocky islands and fantastic natural formations. Pilgrims will also visit a world-famous cheese company, the photography studio that made the Dells famous and sit in on a magic show.

The cost is \$1,139 per person for double occupancy. A \$75 deposit per person is required. For reservations or a flyer, call Village Travel at (316) 721-4455. Visit [guadalupeshrine.org](http://guadalupeshrine.org) for details and photos.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

Pope's prayer intention for September

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

Diocesan prayer intention for September

For a greater awareness of human trafficking in our state and the wisdom and courage to find ways to stop it.

BRIEFS

Many underage victims of human trafficking are students. No community, school, socioeconomic group is immune. Cases of child trafficking are found in every area of the country. Be

alert. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 ([sistersagainsttrafficking.org](http://sistersagainsttrafficking.org))

RUNNIN' REVS



Seminarians and priests from the diocese competed against high school and college students in the annual Runnin' Revs game in Hays. For the first time in years, the Runnin' Revs won the game.

MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

FIRST COMMUNION



Brooks Bonar received his First Holy Communion on June 29 at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina. From left, Father Jerome Morgan, Brooks Bonar and Father Jeremy Huser, priest from the Diocese of Wichita.





COURTESY PHOTO

Father James Blount, SOLT, speaks to the faithful at the Marian Eucharistic Mission.

## Mission supports 'Flame'

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On April 29, the Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, 120 pilgrims traveled from throughout the Diocese of Salina as well as from Washington, Illinois, Wisconsin, Nebraska and South Dakota for the day and a half Marian Eucharistic Mission at Sacred Heart Church in Plainville. The mission was part of the Flame of Love movement. Flame of Love is an association of the faithful with a devotion to the graces that come forth from "the flame of love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Father Leo Blasi, who was recently appointed chaplain of the movement, describes it this way.

"The Flame of Love is a movement of the laity consisting of small groups (as few as two but can be two to six). The groups called Cenacles meet on a regular basis to spend time in prayer. The prayers are rooted in the Rosary and focus on blinding Satan with the flame of the Holy Spirit revealed in Mary's Immaculate Heart. Of course, any devotion to the Immaculate Heart ultimately points us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

Father James Blount, SOLT, an internationally

### UNITY PRAYER

May our feet journey together.  
May our hands gather in unity.  
May our hearts beat in unison.  
May our souls be in harmony.  
May our thoughts be as one.  
May our ears listen to the silence together.  
May our glances profoundly penetrate each other.  
May our lips pray together to gain mercy from the Eternal Father.  
Amen.

known priest of the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity – Georgia mission, led the mission. The mission began with Mass and was followed by the opening Unity Prayer.

Father Blount then led the pilgrims in a moving talk on the importance of living with Jesus as the Flame of Love in today's world. This was followed by a healing service, where Father Blount brought first-class relics for the pilgrims to touch. These included a robe worn by St. Parde Pio and the bones of St. Charbel, St. Pope Pius X, St. Annibale Maria di Francia and Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta. After praying with the relics, Father Blount gave a personal blessing and spoke in private with each individual.

The next morning, April 30, the Feast of St. Pope Pius

V, Father Leo Blasi led the pilgrims in the Flame of Love Rosary. Father Blount then delivered two more sessions, one on spreading love throughout the world and turning hearts back to Jesus through Mary, and the other on Mary's love for the United States. Bishop Jerry Vincke joined the group in the late afternoon, and the night ended with Mass, confessions, prayers of healing and a final rosary. The mission closed with the Unity Prayer.

Many of the visitors to the mission reported having a wonderful feeling of peace, and a number reported at least temporary relief from ailments presented for healing. We pray that those conditions continue to improve, and many more can be affected for those who present their needs to the Flame of Love in faith.

## Appreciation banquet coming

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Divine Mercy Radio is gearing up for its 12th annual Appreciation Banquet Sept. 10 in Hays and Sept. 11 in Salina. The guest speaker is Father Wade L. J. Menezes, CPM, of the Fathers of Mercy, based in Auburn, Ky.

"We're thrilled that Father Wade Menezes will be able to help us celebrate 12 years on the

air," said Donetta Robben, executive director of Divine Mercy Radio. "Father Menezes is an excellent speaker, and he often gives the spiritual

hour, but at 5 p.m., followed by a meal and program. It will be at Hall of Bishops at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 118 N. Ninth.

Tickets are \$60. No tickets can be sold after Sept. 1. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to: Appreciation Banquet, Divine Mercy Radio, 108 E. 12th St., Hays, KS 67601.

Tickets can also be

purchased online at [dvmercy.com](http://dvmercy.com). Please state which banquet you will be attending, Hays or Salina, and your meal choice, which is beef or chicken.

More information, as well as the menu, is at the website [dvmercy.com](http://dvmercy.com).

Divine Mercy Radio began broadcasting Dec. 20, 2010, in Hays with the station KVDM, 88.1. Five years later, it expanded into KRTT, 88.1, Great Bend. Two years ago, it began broadcasting on KJDM, 101.7, Lindsborg/Salina and on KMDG 105.7, Hays. Currently, the station is raising funds to build KGOH, 89.1 in Colby.

Divine Mercy Radio is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization relying on the generosity of its listeners.



Father Wade Menezes

## DINNER, FROM PAGE 1

Kade and Max Megaffin were also excited when they heard their hometown was hosting a dinner, and they are thankful for all the immense support as they pursue their vocations. Kade will be entering his fourth year of seminary education with a projected ordination date of 2025, while younger brother Max is a first-year seminarian.

"We can't thank all our families and parishioners of the diocese enough for the support that they give us," Kade said, "whether it be monetary or prayers or letters of encouragement. It all means a lot."

In addition to the Megaf-

fin brothers and Collin Thielen, three other seminarians are from the western part of the diocese: Jesse Ochs from Park and two others from Hays – Brady Hutchison and Michael Lager. The final four seminarians include Holden Gieffer from Leavenworth, Kyle Pfeifer from Manhattan, Steven Matthews from Junction City and Joseph Schones from Park City.

It takes approximately \$50,000 a year to fund each seminarian's education, which includes tuition, books, room and board, retreats and other expenses associated with the program. Those costs are

covered in a variety of ways, including from a portion of the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share, an annual seminarian collection, grants and endowed accounts, as well as gifts of grain and commodities from farmers.

Six individuals and a private foundation provided a combined donation of \$105,000 as a challenge to the rest of the diocese. Any donation to the seminarian education fund will be matched dollar for dollar while funds remain.

Anyone wishing to donate to the seminary fund can visit [salinadiocese.org/office/catholic-foundation/general-donations/](http://salinadiocese.org/office/catholic-foundation/general-donations/).



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Jesse Ochs, a seminarian, talks to a member of the crowd at one of the meals.



# Green Tie Celebration sees record success

By OLIVIA AYRES  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Catholic Charities 17th annual fundraiser, the Green Tie Celebration, was July 30 at Salina Country Club. More than 200 people joined together to provide hope to those across northern Kansas facing financial and emotional distress.

It was Catholic Charities' most successful annual fundraiser to date, with the evening itself raising more than \$150,000. Furthermore, all patron gifts to the Green Tie Celebration were matched up to \$160,000, doubling the impact of donations received.

"The Green Tie Celebration this year was exciting, outstanding, entertaining, rewarding, emotional and just fun, with so many caring and giving donors, not to mention a record-breaker," said Eric Frank, Catholic Charities director of development. "We are receiving more feedback than usual about how much fun it was,

and that everything was just right. It was the best event ever."

In a beautiful display of strength, those touched by Catholic Charities' services spoke during the fund-a-need portion of the live auction. Two of those faces of hope were Judy and Juan Rosado, whose Lincoln home was destroyed in a devastating house fire in December 2020.

Through the help of Catholic Charities' Financial and Housing Assistance Program, Judy and Juan could put a deposit down on their next home, giving them renewed hope after tragedy. By sharing their story, they provided countless families displaced by a disaster with life-changing support.

Brittanie Most, who at just 24 was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer, spoke of the assistance she received from Catholic Charities in helping her face costly medical expenses. Now cancer free, Brittan-



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Catholic Charities staff at the annual Green Tie Celebration fundraiser on July 30 at Salina Country Club.

ny's story of triumph raised funds to relieve the financial burdens of others facing a catastrophic illness.

Mary Hickman, who adopted her son Bryce from Catholic Charities 21 years ago, spoke to the gift of adoption, something that has enriched her family's life in immeasurable ways. Mary and

Bryce's story raised funds for Catholic Charities Pregnancy Support and Adoption program, to provide expectant mothers with vital baby items, such as diapers, wipes and clothing.

"These stories of hope could not have happened without your faithful and enduring generosity," said Megan Robl, Catholic Charities executive direc-

tor/CEO. "You have touched the lives of countless individuals and families throughout northern Kansas, ensuring they continue to have access to essential goods and services. With the needs ever-growing, we continue to count on your support to give hope to those struggling across our diocese. From the bottom of our hearts, we offer unyielding gratitude and can't wait to see you at next year's Green Tie Celebration."

If you weren't able to make it to the Green Tie Celebration, scan the QR code to watch the video.



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[hector.soler@kofc.org](mailto:hector.soler@kofc.org)



BAPTISMS

**Ella Quinn Brinker**, daughter of Jarret and Lindsay Brinker, was baptized June 19, 2022, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

**Leo Scott Campbell**, son of Cody and Ashley Campbell, was baptized July 10, 2022, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Frank Joseph Cummings**, son of Frank and Katie Cummings, was baptized July 3, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Breena Rae Cyphers**, daughter of Jordan and Annie Cyphers, was baptized July 10, 2022, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Brody Thomas Cyphers**, son of Jordan and Annie Cyphers, was baptized July 10, 2022, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Rose Cora Eilert**, daughter of Nicholas and Krysten Eilert, was baptized Aug. 7, 2022, by Father Richard Daise at St. Joseph Church in Hays.

**Banks Alan Gregory**, son of

Kyle and Shelby Gregory, was baptized July 23, 2022, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Cason James Greub**, son of Chester and Kelsey Greub, was baptized Aug. 7, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Maci Claire Harris**, daughter of Mitchell and Kyleen Harris, was baptized July 30, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Rip Lane Hunsicker**, son of Riley and Tori Hunsicker, was baptized July 3, 2022, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

**Indy Lee Hynek**, daughter of Lee and Ariel Hynek, was baptized July 16, 2022, by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover.

**Deekon Michael Lambert**, son of Michael and Danielle Lambert, was baptized July 10, 2022, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Kane Mitchell Lambert**, son of Michael and Danielle Lambert, was baptized July 10, 2022, by Father David

Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Asher Henry Leiszler**, son of David and Kristen Leiszler, was baptized May 30, 2022, by Father Steven Heina at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Clifton.

**Melissa Meraz**, daughter of Ramon and Elsa Sigalo Meraz, was baptized July 29, 2022, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie.

**Luis Carlos Parra**, son of Carlos Parra and Ruth Pina, was baptized July 31, 2022, by Father Nicholas Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

**Christopher Gerard Peters**, son of Jerry and Janaea Peters, was baptized July 10, 2022, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

**Haven Jean Peters**, daugh-

ter of Luke and Amber Peters, was baptized May 29, 2022, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

**Jocelynn Vy Pham**, daughter of Jayson and Phuoc Nguyen, was baptized July 17, 2022, by Father Ryan McCandless at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Jack Joseph Seifert**, son of Andrew and Molly Seifert, was baptized June 11, 2022, by Father Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

**Jace Avery Shoemaker**, son of Connor and Stacy Shoemaker, was baptized July 10, 2022, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

**Calista Rose Stallbaumer**, daughter of Aaron and Melinda Stallbaumer, was baptized July 17, 2022, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in

Manhattan.

**Quincianne Mae Steinfert**, daughter of Austin and Christy Steinfert, was baptized May 6, 2022, by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover.

**Lenin Rafael Talamantes**, son of Omar and Tressa Talamantes, was baptized July 31, 2022, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Vincent León Tatro**, son of Travis and Silvia Tatro, was baptized on July 24, 2022, by Deacon Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.



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WEDDINGS

**Tyler Bruggeman and Bailey Minge** were married July 16, 2022, at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Leoville. Father Mathew Chacko witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Gary and Alvera Bruggeman. Parents of the bride are Marvin Minge and Nelda Keith. Witnesses were Derek Bruggeman and Clair

Joens.

**Liam Schroller and Malari L'Ecuyer** were married July 9, 2022, at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover. Father Joseph Kieffer witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Doug Schroller and Mary Schroller. Parents of the bride are Dennis and Crystal L'Ecuyer.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	S	E	A		C	L	A	Y		8	T	A	P	I	R	S
14	E	S	Q		15	L	I	C	E	16	O	P	E	N	U	P
17	C	P	U		18	E	N	O	S	19	S	H	A	N	T	Y
20	T	R	I	G	21	G	E	R		22	S	I	C			
23	S	I	L	O		24	S	N	A	25	P		27	D	E	A
31	T	A	L	C		32				33	I	R	E		35	S
					36	D	I	E		38	N	O	D		39	K
40	D	I	S	E	41	A	S	E		43		44	M	I	C	H
46	E	D	E	N		47	P	T	A		48		49	T	E	A
50	J	O	B		51	N	N	W		52	O	K	53	A	Y	
55	A	L	E	P	56	H		58	A	E	R	O		61	I	T
					63	Y	A	M		65	A	P	66	O	S	T
67	T	W	E	L	68	V	E		70	A	V	I	D		71	L
72	S	A	L	O	73	O	N		74	L	E	N	D		74	R
75	P	R	I	N	76	C	E		76	A	R	E	S		77	E

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DEATHS

**Alan Eugene Barnes**, 56, died May 14, 2022. Celebration of Life Service was May 28. Father Steven Heina officiated. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Clifton.

**Lisa Baxa**, 58, of Cuba, died July 11, 2022. Funeral Mass was July 15 at St. Isidore Church in Cuba. Father Henry Baxa officiated. Burial was in St. Isidore Cemetery in Cuba.

**David Michael DeRousseau**, 66, died Dec. 27, 2021, Funeral services were May 2 at St. John the Baptist Church. Father Steven Heina officiated. Burial in Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Clyde.

**Jessica Ann (West) Doberer**, 64, died May 31, 2022. Graveside service was July 16 in St. Paul Cemetery in Delphos. Father David Metz officiated.

**Catherine Susan Ann (Wilson) Downey**, 77, died June 9, 2022. Celebration of Life Service was in Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Clyde. Father Steven Heina officiated.

**Sister Rose Beatrice Dreiling, CSJ**, 92, died Aug. 8, 2022. Funeral Mass was Aug. 11 at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia. Monsignor Barry Brinkman officiated. Burial in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery in Concordia.

**Janet Lynne (Reedy) Droge**, 63, died July 24, 2022. Funeral Mass was July 28 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

**Raymond L. Feldkamp**, 97, of Manhattan, died May 6, 2022. Funeral Mass was May 11 at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover. Father Joseph Kieffer, Father Don Zimmerman and Father Jerome Morgan officiated.

**Ronald "Ron" G. Gosselin**, 62, of Concordia, died July 19, 2022. Funeral Mass was July 25 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial was in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

**Donald Grelinger**, 79, died July 5, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 9 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Father Andrew Rockers officiated. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

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

**Leo "Bo" Hubert**, 82, of Belleville, died July 26. Funeral Mass was at St. Edward Church in Belleville. Father Henry Baxa and Father Michael Peterson officiated. Burial was in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

**Wilber G. Jueneman**, 89, of Hanover, died April 24, 2022. Funeral Mass was April 30 at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover. Father Joseph Kieffer officiated.

**John Nicholas Kaus**, 82, died July 21, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 27 at St. Martin of Tours Church in Seguin. Father Vincent Thu Laing officiated. Burial in Selden Cemetery in Selden.

**JoAnn E. (Detrixhe) Kempton**, 91, of Concordia, died July 18, 2022. Funeral Mass was July 23 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial in Nelson Center Cemetery in Huscher.

**Doreen Elizabeth (Wagoner) Kennedy**, 99, died June 18, 2022. Funeral Mass was June 24 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing officiated. Burial was in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery, Hoxie.

**Melvin "Bud" Dean Kennedy**, 93, died July 8, 2022. Celebration of Life Service was July 13 at Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home in Concorida. Father David Metz officiated. Burial at a later date.

**David Leikam**, 70, of Hays,

died July 19, 2022. Funeral Mass was Aug. 5 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards officiated. Burial in Kansas Veterans Cemetery in WaKeeney.

**Sister Charlotte Lutgen, CSJ**, 94, died July 15, 2022. Funeral Mass was July 18 at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia. Monsignor Barry Brinkman officiated. Burial in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery in Concordia.

**Richard "Dick" D. Lynch**, 72, died Nov 27, 2021. Celebration of Life Service in Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Clyde. Father Steven Heina officiated.

**Rosalie D. Meerian**, 93, of Hanover, died July 3, 2022. Funeral Mass was July 11 at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover. Father Joseph Kieffer officiated.

**Helen Pauline Nault**, 95, died April 12, 2022, Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial in Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Clyde.

**Geraldine Regina "Gerry" Neff**, 88, of Oberlin, died July 3, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 9 at Sacred Heart Church in Oberlin. Father Mathew Chacko officiated. Burial in Selden Cemetery in Selden.

**Dennis Lee Ouellette**, 73, died May 4, 2022, Funeral service at Ss. Peter and Paul

Church in Clay Center. Father Steven Heina officiated. Burial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Clyde.

**Michael N. Pahls**, 68, of Beloit, died July 16, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Father Daryl Olmstead officiated. Burial in St. Boniface Cemetery in Tipton.

**Lucille Peters**, 91, died July 3, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 7 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade officiated. Burial in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

**Mary Doris (Zimmerman) Reitcheck**, 84, died July 21, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 28 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing officiated. Burial in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery in Hoxie.

**Katie Rohr**, 91, died May 16, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 20 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nick Parker and Father Harvey Dinkel officiated. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

**Debbie M. Sallman**, 70, of Clyde, died Feb. 13, 2022. Graveside service was July 2 at the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Father David Metz officiated.

**Charlotte G. Settle**, 92, of Salina, died July 1, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 6 at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Father Brian McCaffrey officiated. Burial in All Saints Cemetery in Salina.

**Derek L. Sorell**, 68, died July 8, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 30 at St. Anthony Church in Miltonvale. Father Kerry Ninemire officiated. Burial in Miltonvale Cemetery in Miltonvale.

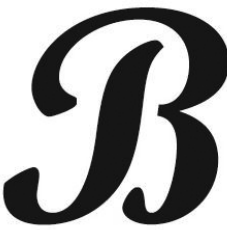
**Gary Bruce Thoman**, 70, of Concordia, died July 30, 2022. Celebration of life was Aug. 6 at Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home in Concordia. Monsignor Barry Brinkman officiated. Burial at a later date.

**Anita Thyfault**, 89, of Hays, died July 25, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 29 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards officiated. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

**Leo Paul Valcoure**, 76, died July 20, 2022. Graveside service was Aug. 1 in St. Concordia Cemetery. Father Steve Heina officiated.

**Gregory "Greg" John Wiesner**, 63, of Concordia, died July 22, 2022. Memorial Mass was Aug. 6 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Monsignor Barry Brinkman officiated. Burial at a later date.

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# Roth elected to K of C board

By THE REGISTER

Three new Supreme Directors were elected to the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors during the 140th Supreme Convention recently in Nashville.

Jamey Roth, immediate past state deputy of Kansas, along with Michael R. McCusker, immediate past state deputy of Tennessee and Alfredo Vela, immediate past state deputy of Texas, was one of the elected.

Roth's three-year term will begin Sept. 1.

Since becoming a college Knight in 1985, Roth has served in a plethora of leadership roles. He was state deputy from 2020 to 2022.

In that time, he led the Kansas State Council to Pinnacle Circle of Honor status two years in a row. Roth's professional career has been dedicated to

promoting the well-being of people with intellectual disabilities.

He and his wife own a facility that supports these individuals, and he advises schools, agencies and families about how to help them live more independently. Roth has also served on several state and federal task forces devoted to this issue.

A member of St. Fidelis Council 1867 in Victoria, Roth and his wife, Angie, are the parents of three

children and four foster children.

"Jamey Roth's selection to be on the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council is a consequence of his excellent work serving as the state deputy for the state of Kansas the last two years," said Bishop Jerry Vincke of the Salina Diocese.

"He is energetic and creative and will be a great blessing to Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and the Knights of Columbus."



COURTESY PHOTO

Newly elected Supreme Director Jamey Roth, immediate past state deputy of Kansas, with Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori.

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# Leap of FaithE

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*Making adoption an easier choice.*

Offers financial support for the ongoing, collaborative process that is open domestic adoption.

**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](http://www.nortonccf.org/leapoffaithe)

Leap of FaithE is a field of interest fund held at the Norton County Community Foundation / EIN: 48-1158543

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