



## Lifetime of devotion

COUPLES HONORED AT ANNIVERSARY MASSES IN SALINA DIOCESE

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN

THE REGISTER

"This is one of my favorite Masses to celebrate," Bishop Jerry Vincke announced at the Jubilee Celebration of Marriage at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays late last month.

That's the way he began the annual anniversary Mass, celebrated in two cities to honor couples in the Diocese of Salina who are celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries.

"It's a joy and a privilege to be with you here today," he said. "Thank you for letting us celebrate with you and honor you. Thank you for being witnesses to God's love. You are living sacraments."

Couples who are celebrating anniversaries for their first year, every milestone anniversary ending in a 0 or 5, or any couple who has been married more than 70 years can register for one of the Masses.

Nearly 100 couples were honored between the two Masses this year, ranging in anniversaries from one year to 75. The first celebration was Oct. 16 in Salina. The second was Oct. 30 in Hays.

The highlight of the day in Hays was the announcement of three couples who are celebrating 70 or more years of marriage this year.

Smiles abounded across the church as Leonard and Maxine Zerr from Quinter made their way to the front of the church, and the bishop announced their 75th anniversary.

"It is a long time," Leonard quipped, and Maxine added "we're going to go for 80."

The Zerrs were married Oct. 7, 1947, and were looking forward to a big celebration with family. A bout with COVID derailed that get-together, but both said the anniversary Mass was a grand way to celebrate, too.

ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 2



Couples celebrating at least 70 years of marriage pictured with Bishop Jerry Vincke are, from left, Wif and Eileen Leiker (70 years), Leonard and Maxine Zerr (75 years), and Mary and Hank Pfannenstiel (70 years).

MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

### LEADING THE WAY

Diocese of Salina blessed with 10 seminarians.  
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### SPREADING THE WORD

Publications Drive vital to growing Catholic faith in region.  
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# End of the year, end of life

I recently watched a Formed.org video titled “The Story of Death/Eternal Rest.” In the video on death, the narrator alludes to something that we all know. Although there is medicine and cures that can extend the days of our life, we can’t stop the certainty of death. Death is one problem that the greatest doctors cannot solve.

Death is something we don’t want to think about. Most of us distract ourselves with other things so we don’t have to think about our death. The truth is that we all want to live forever.

As many of you know, the liturgical calendar for the Church does not follow the calendar year. Our liturgical year ends with the readings focused on death, and we celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day. It is fitting our liturgical year ends with death because death comes to us all. Leaves fall and the seasons change. The darkness is prolonged, and the days are colder.

The new liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the person who does save us from eternal death — our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God comes to us to save us.

Advent is a special time to prepare our heart and minds to let Jesus enter our lives more deeply. We need a Savior, and Jesus loves to save us if we allow him. Already at Christmas, we will see signs of Jesus’ desire to save us. He is laid on a manger made of wood. He will die on the wood of the cross to save us. After his birth, he is wrapped in swaddling clothes. During his passion, he will be stripped of his clothes. Jesus was

born in Bethlehem, which means “house of bread.” He will become the food of everlasting life.

Will we allow Jesus to love us? What will our response be to such amazing love? I am reminded of a friend of mine who came home from work and sat on the couch and started to read the newspaper. His little daughter came near and said, “Daddy, can I sit on your lap?” The father said, “No, I am busy.” The girl begged again, “Please, daddy.” Once again, the father said, “No. Can’t you see I am busy?” His daughter simply stayed there waiting.

Finally, the dad said, “Come on up here.” The little girl jumped in his lap, kissed him on the cheek, and said, “Daddy, I love you,” and then ran off. Allowing his daughter to come to him and experience her love is similar to allowing Jesus to come to us in the midst of our busy lives. Sometimes, all Jesus wants to do is tell us he loves us.

As we celebrate the close of one liturgical year and the beginning of another, let us take extra care this Thanksgiving weekend to give thanks to God for the blessings he has bestowed, especially the love and life given to us through Jesus.

*P.S.: By the way, the Diocese of Salina pays for a subscription to Formed.org that allows all faithful to access inspiring content. Learn how to sign up on page 4 of this issue.*

In Christ’s service,

*+ Gerald L. Vincke*

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

**GERALD  
Vincke**  
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



## ADOPTION PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for that children are a gift from you and that their angels are always in your presence in heaven. Today, we pray for (name of child or unknown/unborn child God has already chosen for us) who is in need of a new family better able to care for, nurture and love them.

We also thank you, Father, that you have given loving hearts to (name of prospective adoptive

parents) and that they feel called by their love for this precious child to begin the adoption process. You know the difficulties they have gone through and the prayer and effort they have put into their decision to adopt.

We pray that the adoption process will run smoothly and that the doors will open so this child may become a permanent part of this new family. We pray for wisdom and discernment for all

doctors, lawyers, social workers, judges and court staff that they will work in the best interest of this child. We also pray for your provision of the resources of money and expert advice needed for the prospective parents.

We pray for the birth mother that you will give her courage and hope. We pray for the birth father that you will give him wisdom and compassion. Amen.

## BISHOP’S CALENDAR

### December

- 2** Feast of St. Francis Xavier Mass, 5:30 p.m., Junction City
- 3** Oakley school auction, 6 p.m.
- 4** Blessing of the Church Mass, 10:30 a.m., Christ the King, WaKeeney
- 8** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Chancery closed
- 16** Mass, 7:55 a.m., Manhattan Catholic Schools, Seven Dolores
- 17** Seminarian family Mass & luncheon, 11 a.m.
- 17** Runnin’ Revs basketball game, 6 p.m., Sacred Heart. Jr./Sr. High, Salina
- 20** Christmas Mass & meal, noon, Ellsworth prison
- 26** Chancery closed



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Participants take part in the special Anniversary Masses in the diocese.

## ANNIVERSARY, FROM PAGE 1

“This was a very nice celebration,” said Maxine, who will turn 94 on Christmas Day. “I’m so glad we were able to make it here today.”

Wif and Eileen Leiker from Hays celebrated their 70th anniversary May 1, and Hank and Mary Pfannenstiel, Hays, will reach that milestone Nov. 29.

All three couples are in their 90s and agree faith and family have been the foundation for the longevity of their marriages.

“Believe in each other and work together,” the Leikers said.

“Have a lot of patience,” the Pfannenstiels added.

In his homily, Bishop Vincke compared the love of Jesus to a married couple.

“Jesus loves us in good times and in bad,” he said. “He knows all about us but loves us anyway. That’s the same thing married couples say as well.”

One of the most enjoyable parts of the celebration is when the bishop greets each

couple at the front of the church after Mass, congratulates them and asks them how they met.

As the anniversary years gained on 40 and 50 — and beyond — several of the answers to that question were at wedding dances, on blind dates, while attending college and cruising down Main Street in Hays.

Some couples were high-school sweethearts, and one couple said they got together after they were introduced by the husband’s ex-girlfriend.

A lot of answers provoked laughter from the audience, making for a comfortable atmosphere and topics of conversation when they all gathered in the parish hall for a reception afterward.

“I love asking people how they met each other,” Bishop Vincke said, adding it sparks a conversation and is a good way to get to know the couples a little better.

Each couple took a photo with the bishop, who handed them a certificate.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA • VOLUME 85, No. 11



**THE REGISTER**  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

Publisher: Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke, BISHOP OF SALINA

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P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980  
Phone: (785) 827-8746; Fax: (785) 827-6133; [salinadiocese.org/publications](mailto:salinadiocese.org/publications)  
Supported by an endowment established by Msgr. Raymond Menard (1912-2006), editor of The Register, 1944-1971 and 1975-2006

The Register (USPS 397-740) is published the fourth Friday of the month by the Catholic Diocese of Salina, 103 N. Ninth, Salina, KS 67401-2503 and is mailed to all registered parishioners in the diocese. A \$35 annual subscription is required for all others. Periodical postage paid at Salina, Kansas, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Register, P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980.  
Next issue is dated Dec. 23.  
Deadline for news is Dec. 1.  
Deadline for advertising is Dec. 1.

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# Diocese blessed with 10 seminarians

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Every year, the Diocese of Salina makes a poster featuring the group of seminarians for the upcoming school year.

The poster is distributed to parishes and Catholic schools across the diocese, asking for prayers, especially during National Vocations Awareness Week (Nov. 6 to 12).

The 2022-23 poster shows that the calling to the priesthood is alive and well, particularly in the north-west portion of the diocese. Ten young men are pictured as seminarians in different levels of their journey.

Six of the seminarians grew up in a 60-mile stretch along Interstate 70, in towns ranging in size from Hays (population 20,800 with four Catholic parishes in the city) to the tiny town of Park in Gove County (population 117).

Four are graduates of Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays. And Father Andy Hammeke, co-vocations director for the diocese, said that is not a coincidence.

"We are blessed in our diocese to have great families, great Catholic schools, great Catholic college centers and great youth programs," Hammeke said.

And he should know. Hammeke, the chaplain at the Comeau Catholic Campus Center at Fort Hays State University, is a TMP-Marian graduate who spent a good portion of his childhood and teenage years in Hays.

The priest with whom Hammeke shares duties of co-vocations director is Father Joshua Werth,



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

**There are 10 seminarians currently in the Salina Diocese.**

another Ellis County product, who is pastor of parishes in Ellsworth and Kanopolis and chaplain at Ellsworth Correctional Facility.

Father Hammeke is thankful for the support seminarians continue to receive from the diocese.

"We are proud of the guys we have in seminary," he said, "and I think we have these opportunities, along with people's prayers and God's providence, to thank."

The current Hays contingent of seminarians features two brothers, both who admitted they thought their vocation would be as the head of a household with a wife and children.

Kade Megaffin is in his fourth year of seminary education at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver with a projected ordination year of 2025. His younger brother, Max, is in

his first year at St. John Vianney.

Another family connection is Collin Thielen, a second-year seminarian at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo. He is the younger brother of Father Luke Thielen, who was ordained in 2016 and serves as pastor of parishes in Oakley and Angelus.

But their parents say it wasn't a case of Collin just following in the footsteps of his older brother. Collin's mother, Esther, said their youngest son said from the time he was in grade school he wanted to be a priest when he grew up.

True to his word, Collin entered the seminary fresh out of graduation from Quinter High School in 2021.

Collin's hometown is Park, also the home of Jesse Ochs, who is attending St. John

Vianney. Along with Kade Megaffin, Ochs has a projected ordination year of 2025.

Kade Megaffin said he began thinking about the priesthood as a vocation while in college at Fort Hays State.

However, that wasn't the case for younger brother Max.

"I had a really good job, but I had this empty feeling," said Max, who began discerning about a year ago.

"It became 100 percent clear that money doesn't make you happy," Max said. "The more I had, the less content I was. I had a conversion of heart and faith, and I'm confident that I'm doing what God wants me to do."

Kade said he was somewhat surprised, but pleased, when Max began asking questions about the seminary.

Max is pleased he was placed at the same school as his brother.

"Ultimately, it's the bishop's decision where we are placed, what's best for each of us," Max said. "But I was really glad to hear that I would be going to St. John Vianney, too. Kade and I have gotten closer as we've gotten older, and he has served as a mentor to me. I look forward to that continuing while in seminary."

Coincidentally, two other TMP-Marian graduates — Michael Lager and Brady Hutchison — also are currently attending St. John Vianney.

TMP-Marian actually has five alumni in the seminary

at this time.

Hays native Adam Urban had been working as a youth director for the Dodge City Diocese for two years when he decided to pursue the priesthood. He decided to remain in that diocese and is now in the same class at St. John Vianney with Kade Megaffin.

Not to be overlooked, the eastern part of the Salina Diocese is also well represented this year.

Kyle Pfeifer is from Manhattan and attending Kendrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis. Steven Matthews from nearby Junction City is serving a pastoral year before entering the seminary in the fall of 2023.

Two seminarians who didn't grow up in the Salina Diocese complete the 10-member class for this school year.

Joseph Schones is from Arkansas City, which is in the Wichita Diocese. However, that diocese's cut-off age for accepting seminarians is 35. Schones is 36, so he chose to apply for seminarian education in the Salina Diocese. He is serving a pastoral year.

Holden Gieffer is from Leavenworth, which is part of the Archdiocese of Kansas City. He decided to serve in the Salina Diocese after attending college at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

In honor of National Vocations Awareness Week, let us continue to keep these men in our prayers.

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BY THE REGISTER

In November 2019, The Diocese of Salina announced every parish and all parishioners would receive free access to Formed.org, an online video streaming service with exclusively Catholic content. The diocese has renewed their subscription for another year, making this the fourth year faithful can access content for free.

"It is a blessing to be able to offer everyone access to Formed.org for another year," said Bill Meagher, director of youth ministry, family life and religious education. "Formed.org is a collection of some of the best Catholic programs available — from sacramental programs, movies, audiobooks, and E-books on various topics. This program gives our families access to thousands of resources, hours of learning and wholesome entertainment."

Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Colby, Father Brian Lager, said the programming options offer much more than just Catholic content.

"We do love the different programs that are made available," he said. "We often point parents to different programs that teach about the sacraments, offering them an opportunity to learn more about the sacraments. We love that it is a convenient way to send them a quick video as to why we as Catholics do what we do. It is a great asset to our faith formation programs."

Be sure to view the graphic to learn how to sign up for your free FORMED subscription. Contact Bill Meagher, bill.meagher@salinadiocese.org or call (785) 827-8746 with any questions.

## Tax credits aid students

BY KATIE PLATTEN

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The leaves are turning, and the weather is getting cool and crisp as we approach the holidays. During this fall season, many of us are thinking about finalizing our 2022 charitable giving.

The Scholarship Granting Organization for the Catholic Diocese of Salina (SGO) is a ministry of the Diocese of Salina that provides financial scholarships to students in 11 Catholic grade schools and four Catholic high schools across the diocese.

Qualifying students include any "new students" to a Catholic school in kindergarten through eighth grade who attended a public school the prior year. All students entering kindergarten who qualify for free and reduced lunch are eligible to apply.

The SGO was created in response to the 2014 Kansas legislation that introduced the tax credit for the Low-Income Student Scholarship Program. This program allows a donor to make a contribution to the Scholarship Granting Organization and receive a generous tax credit. The SGO then turns these donations into tuition support for low-income students who wish to attend a Catholic school in our diocese.

This program helped to fund

27 new students across the diocese in the 2021-22 school year, and 79 students have applied for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. Generous donors across the diocese are making this possible.

Here is how the tax credits work:

- Assuming the donor can use all the Kansas tax credit in one year (if not, it can be carried over for future years), a donation of \$10,000 would have a net cost of \$3,000, or \$10,000 minus the \$7,000 (70%) Kansas credit.

- Then, the donor could deduct the remaining \$3,000 on their federal tax return.

It is a wonderful way to leverage your charitable donation and put children in Catholic schools.

Keep in mind the legislation established a \$500,000 maximum annual gift per taxpayer for receiving a Kansas income tax credit. The Salina Diocese

fund established a minimum gift of \$1,000 to process a Kansas income tax credit. The Kansas Legislature allocates \$10 million per year for this tax credit program. The state tax credits are issued on a first come, first served basis. Once the limit is reached, credits will be unavailable until the beginning of the

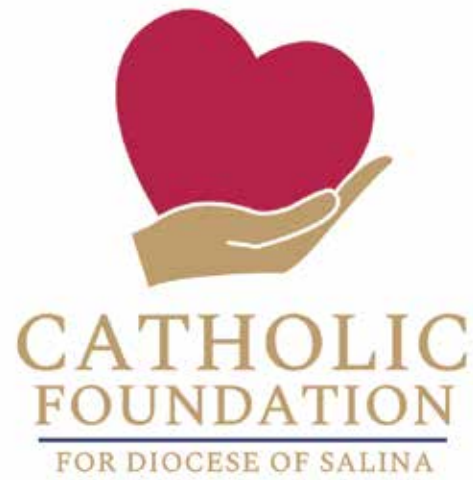
next tax year.

As always, consult your tax advisor to verify your ability to utilize the state tax credit and federal tax deduction.

If you are interested in 2022 tax credits and in creating a wonderful

opportunity to help students who are most in need and grow our Catholic school system, contact Catholic Foundation staff Laurie Trautwein or Katie Platten for more information at laurie.trautwein@salinadiocese.org or katie.platten@salinadiocese.org.

*Katie Platten is the CEO of the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina.*



## Finding a sense of peace

I received the sacrament of anointing of the sick recently. I'm fine for those who are wondering. Receiving the sacrament was unlike anything else I had done before. I've had people pray with me before. I've been prayed over before. But never have I received the sacrament of the anointing of the sick.

I sat in a pew with Nathaniel next to me, his arm over my shoulders and his free hand holding mine. I bowed my head and cast my eyes downwards. Bishop Vincke celebrated the sacrament and stood in front of us.

For some reason, I was nervous. I was a little worried about what I was supposed to do, and I didn't know what to expect. I wondered if I even had a right to the sacrament, or if I was silly for requesting it.

As Bishop Vincke began praying, tears filled my eyes. My body felt tense, and all my insecurities seemed to pummel me. And then, the bishop reached the point in the sacrament where he lay his hands over my bowed head.

When he did this, he prayed. I really don't even know what he said. But as he continued to pray, I imagined it was God the Father who stood before me and breathed the Holy Spirit into my being. A wave of peace and calm washed over me. It felt as though I was encased in the warm, safe, protective embrace of the Father who loves me.

I let myself rest in that calm. And when it came time, I looked up with the infinite trust of a small child as I offered my forehead and hands to be anointed.

All in all, the sacrament really didn't take all that long. But it felt as though a lifetime had passed, and the person I had been prior to and after reception

were two completely different people.

As we walked out of the church, even Nathaniel commented that I walked with a new sense of peace. I told him how I felt a wave of calm wash over me, and he said he knew the moment I was referring to. He felt the tension and anxiety leave me.

For so long, I had incorrectly believed you needed to be on the brink of death in order to receive the sacrament. And quite honestly, I didn't really even understand what was so special about the sacrament. It seemed kind of weird to me that praying over sick people was on par with the other sacraments.

When I started researching for the most recent issue of *faith* magazine (be sure to check it out if you haven't), I began to understand the sacrament a little better. And then when I received the sacrament, I came to more fully know just how precious and important this sacrament is.

Because of the sacrament, I look forward with greater anticipation, joy and confidence at what is to come. Because I know that whatever happens to us in this life, God's grace will always sustain.

You don't have to be on death's door to receive the sacrament. I promise I'm fine, but I did have a legitimate reason. If you think you have a reason to receive the sacrament, do it. It's worth it.

KATIE  
Hamel  
CREATIVE EDITOR

*Katie*

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





Chapman confirmation Sept. 18 at St. Michael's. Front row from left, Sara Cook, catechist, D.J. Won, Abigail Martinez, Reece Langvardt, Alison Gavilan-Pena and Ethan Calovich. Back row from left, Father Peter O'Donnell, Ray Whitehair, Weston Langvardt, Justin Blocker, Brayden Lexow and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



Sacred Heart Grade School in Plainville celebrated All Saints Day in style with the students dressing up as their favorite saints.



St. Joseph Grade School in Oakley hosted Grandparent's Day on Sept. 9. Grandparents enjoyed Mass, having lunch with their grandchildren, spending time in the classrooms and on the playground, and a few games of Bingo.

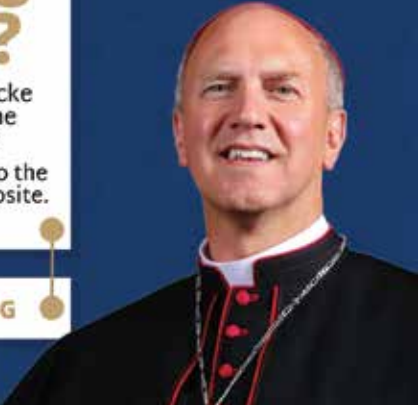


The St. Aloysius Altar Society, Osborne, hosted "Eucharistic Miracles" from Oct. 16 to 23. More than 145 people from Osborne, Downs, Cawker City and Tipton viewed the exhibit.

### DID YOU KNOW?

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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*\*We have a new mailing address!\**



# Yearbook earns national honors

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

The quote by a Roman philosopher “it is quality rather than quantity that matters,” has been used in a variety of ways during numerous centuries.

St. Xavier High School in Junction City can attest to that philosophy.

The 2022 yearbook, produced by one of the smallest schools in the state, was recognized on the blog of the national publishing company, TreeRing, as one of the staff's favorites.

The work of the mass communications class of four students was featured on the TreeRing website, praising St. Xavier for its creative yearbook cover, “Xopoly.”

The entire yearbook cover — front and back — resembled a Monopoly board, with the squares all relating to St. Xavier High School.

Sandra Becker, the St. X yearbook sponsor and mass communications teacher, said the school uses this particular California-based company because for every yearbook sold, TreeRing plants a tree.

In describing the judging process for its annual awards and recognition, TreeRing said “although it might seem harsh to judge a book

by its cover, it's reality. The cover holds the book together while introducing the theme and its visual elements.”

In developing the cover, the students used spaces such as directions to “draw a prayer card, attend mass and name of the school mascot.”

One of the favorite squares was “Challenge Mr. Becker to a chess game. Draw a Miracle card,” in reference to math teacher Alex Becker, a chess whiz. He is a former state scholars' bowl champion during his high school days at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays and now coaches the St. X chess team and scholars bowl team.

“We never smiled so much over being sent to detention,” was one of the remarks about Xopoly on TreeRing's blog.

That was in reference to Xopoly's “Go to Detention” corner square as a takeoff from Monopoly's “Go to Jail,” showing St. X Principal Shawn Augustine pointing to the detention square.

Now, Xopoly can be seen by anyone visiting TreeRing's website.

Sandra Becker said she and her yearbook staff, as well as the entire



Becker said using those colors offers another teaching moment.

Royal blue is the traditional color reserved for Mary, our Blessed Mother. Gold symbolizes the kingship of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Together those colors remind the students of their reliance upon Mary and her son.

Becker is looking forward to watching another excellent product unfold and another chance to work with a group of talented teenagers.

“You get close to kids in that class because you work with them so intently,” Becker said. “The environment is terrific. They all work together. All are here for the right reasons.”

school, were excited for the recognition and proud of her students.

“It's a joy to see kids working on something together because they enjoy it, not because they have to do it,” Becker said of the mass communications class, which is an elective.

She thinks the students' next yearbook will be just as rewarding — and enjoyable — to produce.

The theme for the 2023 yearbook is “Follow St. Xavier's Yellow Brick Road,” featuring the school colors of royal blue and gold.

## Student-athletes represent diocese well at state

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

National Catholic Schools Week takes place annually in late January across the United States to celebrate Catholic education in our country.

However, the Diocese of Salina believes every week is worth celebrating Catholic education. A vital part of that education is participation in extracurricular activities, where students in the diocesan schools have been busy this fall.

In addition to scholars bowl meets and musical events, students participating in a variety of sports have represented their schools well, culminating in some all-state performances in October.

State competition for the schools began Oct. 17, when the Thomas More Prep-Marian High girls' golf team from Hays participated in the Class 3-1A state meet in Hutchinson. Although the Monarchs didn't qualify for the second day of play, Monarch junior Ashley Hipp did make the

cut and went on to finish eighth overall.

Later that week, the Beloit-St. John's/Tipton volleyball squad won its sub-state tournament in Beloit, qualifying for the Class 1A, Division II State Championships at Emporia.

Two of their biggest fans at the state tourney Oct. 28 were Bishop Jerry Vincke and Superintendent Geoff Andrews. And the Blujays didn't disappoint.

St. John's/Tipton won its first two matches of the day and closed out pool play with a 2-1 record to advance to Saturday's finals.

Bishop Vincke was pleased he was able to find some time in his busy schedule to be on hand to watch the Blujays, who came home with a fourth-place finish.

“I love to attend school activities and school auctions when my schedule allows,” Bishop Vincke said.

Not only did he get to visit with folks from the two communities which the Blujays represent, but Bishop Vincke was able to



COURTESY PHOTO

**Members of the Beloit-St. John's/Tipton volleyball team are shown at the Class 1A, Division II state tournament in Emporia with Bishop Jerry Vincke and Superintendent Geoff Andrews.**

see parishioners from other communities across the diocese as well.

Hanover, which is home to St. John's Catholic School — in the far northeast portion of the diocese — also was playing at that state tournament, as was Grainfield-Wheatland/Grinnell, which is located in the western part of the diocese.

Bishop Vincke recognized some of the Hanover players from when they attended the Catholic grade

school there.

“I got to see a lot of people, as well as watch some really good volleyball,” he said. “It was a great time.”

Meanwhile, about 60 miles north of Emporia in Wamego, diocesan schools fared extremely well in state high school cross country competition.

Beloit-St. John's finished as state runner-up in the boys' Class 1A race, while the Salina-Sacred Heart girls' team placed third in

Class 2A.

The St. John's boys were led by sophomore Jonas Letourneau's sixth-place individual finish, and juniors Chris LaRocque and sophomore Nicholas Niewald also were in the top 25 at 22nd and 24th. The Sacred Heart girls were aided by the 13-14-18 finish of juniors Grace Dorzweiler and Eva Matteucci and sophomore Caroline Stone.

The Sacred Heart boys and St. John's girls also had some runners compete individually. Sophomore Brady Wells and senior Jace Douglas from Sacred Heart both finished in the top 20 of the 2A race in 12th and 19th place, respectively, while senior Jane Letourneau from St. John's was 25th in the girls' 1A race.

In other team competition at Wamego, TMP-Marian's girls placed sixth in 2A. Two Monarchs were able to place in the top third of that race as senior Sophia Allen was 30th, followed by sophomore Ella Bain in 31st place.



# Project a learning experience

THE REGISTER

Sophie Seibel's fourth-grade class at St. Mary Grade School in Ellis is taking on the school recycling program for a second year.

After a trip to the recycling center, the students worked on posters and presentations so they could pass on the information to the rest of the classes.

Seibel said she told the students what can be recycled and what not to place in the recycling containers as well as the importance of recycling.

"It is our job to educate, collect, sort and take the recycling to the Ellis Recycling Center," she said.

Seibel reiterated that recycling is a way of living out the seventh theme of Catholic Social Teaching: "It is our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, to care for the earth and to make good use of the gifts God has given us."

Seibel and her student teacher, Angel Mong, load up all the recycling in the back of a pickup each week.

Different students are responsible for helping as weekly recycling crew members. Those students, along with Seibel and Mong, take the articles to the Ellis Recycling Center.

Once they reach the center, the



Fourth-graders from St. Mary Grade School in Ellis have been using a service-learning project to aid their community.

students separate all the recycling into the correct containers. Then they watch as a recycling center employee pushes the buttons to



Fourth-graders load recyclable materials to be taken to the recycling center.

crush the plastics and flatten the cardboard into bundles, which are then transported to a recycling center in Hutchinson by semis.

Not only is this a service to the community but also a fun hands-on learning experience for the students.

When asked why we recycle, student Beckem Jimenez said, "To help save our earth. If we recycle, some things that we would throw away could be used to make other things. So why not recycle and keep more things out of our landfill?"

COURTESY PHOTO

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## RUSSELL CYO

The Russell CYO group led Mass recently at St. Mary, Queen of Angels Church in Russell.



# Drawn to military and the clergy

By THE REGISTER

In honor of Veterans Day, two clergy members who were former military were interviewed about their service.

There are many priests from the diocese who have served in the military, and their stories will be shared later.

To our veterans everywhere, thank you for your service.

**Father Jim Moster, OFM was ordained a priest for the Capuchins in 1976. He is currently pastor of St. Fidelis Basilica in Victoria, St. Ann Church in Walker and St. Boniface Church in Vincent.**

**Branch:** Army  
**Years:** 1966-68

**Rank upon exiting military:** Specialist E-5 (Military Personnel Specialist)

**Best part of the service:** "Best part of the service is that I had opportunity for daily Mass and time at night to develop a real relationship with the Lord in prayer. Loneliness can be a motivation to search for someone."

**Worst part of the service:** "It was part of my job to give soldiers their records and their orders as they departed for various parts of the world — many to Vietnam. They were headed to war, which bothered me where I was serving. I had approached the chief warrant officer of personnel and told him I was volunteering to go to Vietnam. He looked at me and said, 'Young man, you're not going anywhere. Just go back to work.'"

**Funniest memory:** "When I was in basic training at Fort Polk, La., the company commander was preparing us for a big project one day. He asked how many of us had a driver's license. We responded by a show of hands. Then, how many have a commercial license, and again hands were raised. Finally, how many have a heavy-equipment license. Some raised their hands. He selected those guys to run the wheelbarrows and instructed the rest of us to crawl on the ground and pick up cigarette butts. I am sure that I had seen many of those cigarettes from previous projects."

**Awards:**  
• Post Soldier of the Month  
• National Defense Service Medal  
• Good Conduct Medal

Following service in the Army, Father Moster entered seminary and was ordained a priest in 1976. After several assignments as a pastor, he was assigned to the VA Hospital in Topeka to train as a hospital chaplain. He served there with



COURTESY PHOTO

**Father Leo Blasi served in the U.S. Army from 1985 to 2014.**

faculties from the Archdiocese of the Military from 1991 to 2010.

"Serving as a VA chaplain is somewhat different than a military chaplain in one of the branches of the armed forces. However, dealing with ill and disabled veterans in a stable environment with no particular external threat is a challenge involving internal and spiritual life struggles. A priest of course helps people in all walks of life find the resources in faith to deal with life and questions of meaning. Dealing with veterans in this setting, one is confronted with acute and intense questions — often life threatening. Some folks in these situations have faith resources on which to help them find healing and hope. Many do not."

**VA Awards:**  
• Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Hands and Heart Award, Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center, 1996  
• TEAM Awards, for work on the alcohol and drug treatment team, Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center, 1996

**Greatest lesson learned:** "What I have learned from my time in the military and in service to the veterans, as well as all of life, is that we are presented with many challenges from which we learn and grow in our ability to be of service to God's holy people everywhere. I would hope to have learned enough to be of sufficient service in the Church and that I would at least do no harm."

**Father Leo Blasi was ordained a priest in 2017. He is currently pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Plainville and St. Thomas Church in Stockton.**

**Branch:** Army  
**Years:** 1985-2014  
**Rank upon exiting military:** CW4 (Chief Warrant Officer)

**Best part of the service:** "Best part of the service was serving God and country ... and flying helicopters."

**Worst part of the service:** "Being away from family and home so much."

**Funniest memory:** "In

Warrant Officer Training, our personal areas had to be perfect, a place for everything, and everything in its place. Part of the training was to elevate stress to the maximum level while teaching important 'officer' protocols. After a training event, we returned to the barracks, and it looked like a bomb had gone off. Beds, desks, lockers, personal items were all strewn everywhere. The training officers must have had a ball tossing the place. We were all exhausted. We looked around at the mess (a little stunned, I am sure) and went to the center of the bay (the only place where there was no stuff) and sat on the floor to eat our MREs (meals ready to eat). The TACs (training,

advising, counseling officers) came in and saw us sitting there, a little stunned themselves, and started screaming at us trying to get us riled. Nobody moved. Nobody even looked up. At some point, the TACs quit shouting and started laughing. They had never seen anything like us before, and they could not keep acting mad. They canceled the rest of the drills for the day and allowed us to put our spaces back in some semblance of order before lights out. Of course, we still had an inspection in the morning, which we all failed miserably, but there was no shouting or berating at the formation. I guess they figured they had reached maximum stress already. I got to be good friends with some of them later. I could never have been a TAC officer though."

**Awards:**  
• Master Aviator Badge (Wings)  
• Meritorious Service Medal  
• Air Medal  
• Army Good Conduct Medal  
• Army RC Achievement Medal X 3  
• National Defense Service Medal with bronze star  
• Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
• Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

• Humanitarian Service Medal  
• Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star  
• Army Service Ribbon  
• Overseas Service Ribbon  
• RC Overseas Training Ribbon  
• Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/M device X 2  
• NATO medal  
• Kansas National Guard Service Ribbon w/ Sunflower Device X 4  
• Kansas Army National Guard State Emergency Duty Service Ribbon X 2  
• Kansas National Guard Counter Drug Service  
• Oklahoma National Guard Service Ribbon  
• Oklahoma Army National Guard State Emergency Duty Service Ribbon  
• California National Guard Commendation Medal  
• Louisiana National Guard Commendation Medal

**Greatest lesson learned:** "Never leave anyone behind. This rings even more true in the priesthood than it did in the military."

**Similarities between military and priestly service:** "For the military to be functional, it must be family: brother/sister to the right and the left, and you have to be willing to give it all. I bring that same familial love and dedication to the priesthood ministry. The transition was easy."



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Manhattan Catholic Schools	Manhattan
Office of Youth Ministry	Diocese of Salina
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish	Goodland
Publications Drive	Diocese of Salina
Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish	Salina
Sacred Heart Grade School	Colby
Sacred Heart Grade School	Plainville
Sacred Heart Jr./Sr. High School	Salina
Seminarian Education Fund	Salina
Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish	Manhattan
Ss. Peter and Paul Parish	Clay Center
St. Andrew Parish	Abilene
St. Andrew Grade School	Abilene
St. Boniface Parish	Tipton
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish	Salina
St. Francis Xavier Parish	Junction City
St. Francis Xavier School	Junction City
St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center	Manhattan
St. John's Catholic Schools	Beloit
St. John the Baptist Parish	Beloit
St. John's Grade School	Hanover
St. Joseph Parish	Hays
St. Joseph School	Oakley
St. Mary Parish and School	Ellis
St. Mary Grade School	Salina
St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish	Salina
St. Nicholas of Myra Church	Hays
St. Thomas More Parish	Manhattan
Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School	Hays
Tipton Catholic High School	Tipton



Visit: [Salina.iGiveCatholic.org](http://Salina.iGiveCatholic.org)

Don't forget to support these Catholic ministries on Giving Day, Nov. 29



# Four exercises for the four Sundays of Advent

Somewhere between 1942 and 1945, my uncles made several visits home from the war front in France and Germany. Those times were indelibly imprinted on my young memory; five long years of watching and waiting and hoping and praying — that our brothers and uncles, sons and friends would return safely.

I was a young child during those years, but I have never forgotten what it was like when one of my uncles was able to come home on furlough. We'd get the news via a Western Union telegram and then a new kind of waiting and preparation began — the cleaning, meal preparation, the bedroom, the favorite things available (if they could be bought). Days before, an air of excitement permeated not only the house, but also the neighborhood. It seemed like "everyone" eagerly awaited his arrival. When the actual day arrived, everyone spent it — no matter where they worked or what they were doing — checking their watches or the clock almost moment by moment, re-examining train schedules and calling the station for any updates. An hour before the train was to arrive, we would gather at my grandmother's house, hardly containing our excitement. I watched them all and saw how everyone was united in one great wave of happiness and eager expectation. Then someone, usually my father, would say, "It's time." Into cars we scrambled for the 10-minute ride to the station. My strongest memory is standing on the station platform listening for the train whistle. Everyone was quiet, watching and listening; every head was turned in the direction from which the train would come. As the train came into view, my dad would pick me up so I could see. With great noise and billows of smoke and steam, the train slowed, then

stopped. My grandmother stood in the center of all of us; then the conductor opened the door, put down the stool and there he was — my Uncle Jim or my Uncle Max. Dad would lift me up high and eventually my uncle would spot me and grab me in a bear hug. I would think: He really is here. He really came home.

What I've just described is what

Advent should be for us spiritually. Don't let this brief but spiritually packed season of grace get away from you. It is too precious, too full of God's gifts, to miss.

## Spiritual exercises

Here are some spiritual exercises to help your Advent be spiritually fruitful.

**First Sunday of Advent:** See Psalm 25: "To you O Lord, I lift up my soul. Your ways, O Lord make known to me; teach me your paths." Then, look at 1 Thessalonians 3:12 "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Take this first week of Advent and ask yourself some questions in light of these Sunday readings.

- Do I seek to know and do the Lord's will in my daily life? How can I grow in this area during Advent? Just choose one area to change or grow.

- Is there a relationship where love is weak or broken? What can I do to im-

prove the situation? Ask the Lord to show you one thing you could do or change or refrain from doing.

To seek the Lord's will through his word, to grow in love in one relationship is a very concrete way of watching and waiting for the Lord so that your heart is more ready for him this Christmas.

**Second Sunday of Advent:** See Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11.

- Do you pray for those you love — regularly?

- Do you ask God through his Holy Spirit to help you love him more?

Address these two areas in your life in this second week of Advent. As you do, God will generously respond to your desire to grow in love. You will find new strength, new desire

to follow him.

**Third Sunday of Advent:** Read Philippians 4:4-7 and Luke 3:10-18. I would call this third Sunday of Advent the "What should we do Sunday." The crowds ask John the Baptist what they should do to prepare for the coming of the Messiah, and he tells them, "Be just in all your dealings, be merciful and generous to the poor."

- Ask yourself — Am I? Is there any way I am failing in these areas? What can I do or change? Try to make your decision concrete in this week.

Paul tells the Philippians: Joy and thanksgiving should characterize your dealings with others. The Lord is near. Be thankful.

- Does your "house" reflect those desires?

- What can you do or change to be more ready to receive him? Ask the Holy Spirit for strength and wisdom.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Luke 1:39-45. Mary had just received a momentous, life-changing announcement. She could have used a little time for herself — almost any woman would feel that way — yet she traveled to the hill country to care for her older cousin, Elizabeth.

We have almost a week until Christmas. Where do

you need to forget yourself and meet the needs of another? I guarantee you, if you reach out, you will know Christ's pleasure in you and, even better, he will find, as a result, more of a home in your heart. There is no joy in life greater than that.

"Behold, O Lord I come to do your will."

- Am I able to pray that prayer from the reading to the Hebrews 10:5-10? Am I able to make that prayer my own?

It is the Holy Spirit who prepares the house of our hearts and minds. If we ask, he will do the work.

- Are you willing to make that surrender? God's grace can work miracles if we assent. As someone once said to me, "The Holy Spirit is a gentleman. He only comes where he has been invited." My prayer is that you will invite him more fully into your life this Advent; if you do, Christmas will find you rejoicing in the home of your heart, in the presence of a Savior who loves to save.

A very merry and blessed Christmas.

*Sister Ann Shields works for Renewal Ministries, a Catholic Evangelistic organization. She is an author, speaker and host of Food for the Journey.*

**SR. ANN  
Shields**  
SGL



CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
of SALINA

JOIN US FOR THE ADVENT  
FAMILY CHALLENGE!



### Step 1

Commit to a Family Night during each week of Advent.

Family Nights involve making and sharing a meal and playing a game or activity together. We will help with suggestions & have a special guest help us with recipes!



### Step 2

Pray the Novena for Marriage and Family with us.

Join us from December 21st to December 29th in praying the Novena for Marriage and Family. You will be joining families from all over the diocese in praying this together.



### Step 3

Go to Mass together on the Feast of the Holy Family (December 30th)

Ask the Holy Family to intercede for your family and all families worldwide.

Stay Tuned For More Information On How To Join Us For This Challenge!

We will have special guests provide recipes, game ideas, and activities that you can do with your family. We will also provide the prayers for each day of the Novena.

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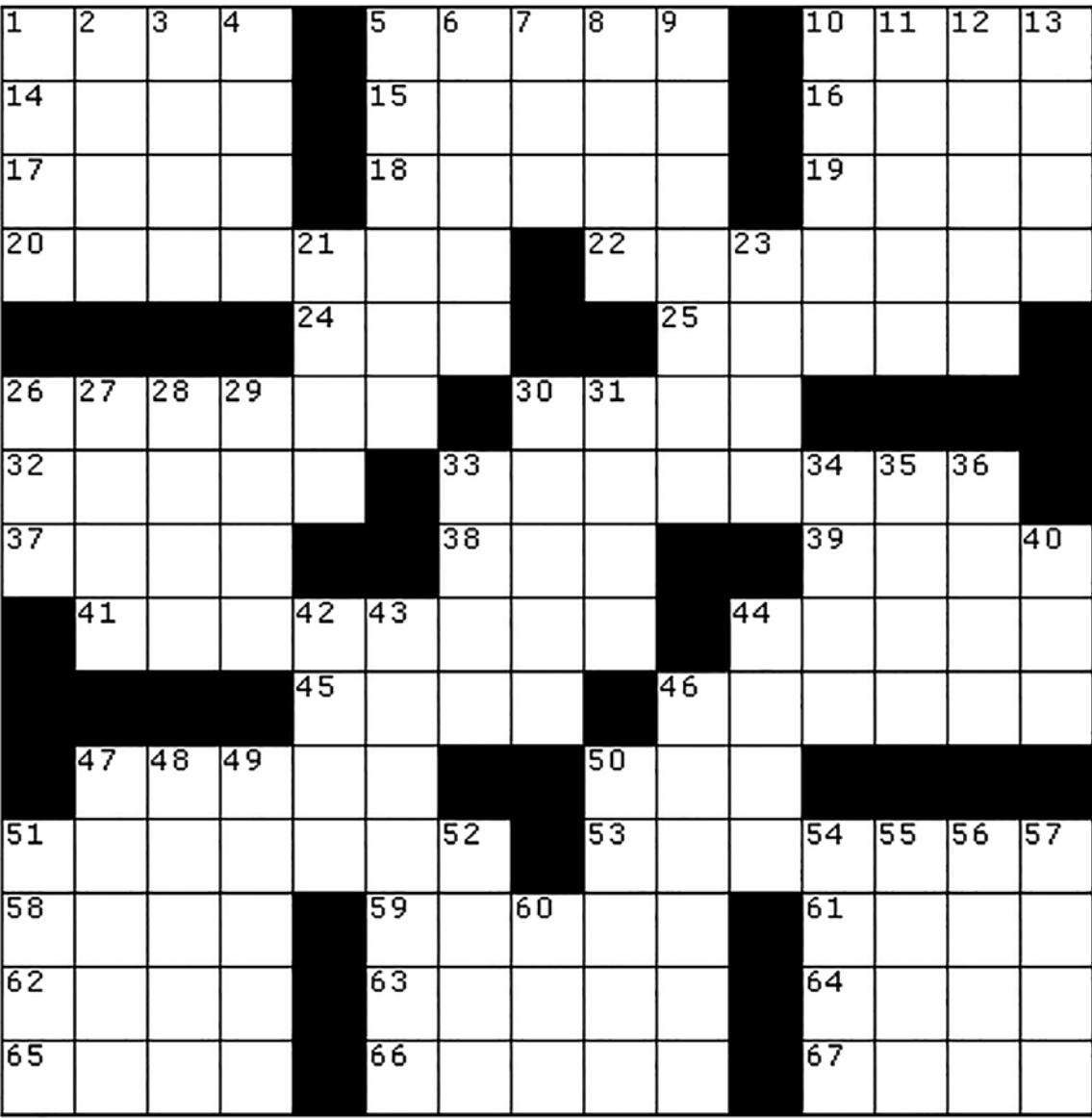
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CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**

1 Tattle

5 Canned chili brand

10 Baby's "ball"

14 Comedian Jay

15 Waitress on Cheers

16 Cain's brother

17 Grain

18 Glorify

19 KJV pronoun

20 Trick

22 Church officials

24 Accomplished

25 Jeers

26 Brand of cold remedy

30 OT book of prophecy

32 Had by Joseph, Joseph and magi

33 Jesus

37 Rip

38 Every

39 U.S. Air Force

41 Continuously

44 Western capital

45 Sanctified

46 Fourth son of Ham

47 Walking (KJV)

50 Expression of surprise

51 Altar server
- 53 Samson's evi wife

58 Daring

59 Supply

61 Deceive

62 Soft cheese

63 Nabs

64 Off-Broadway award

65 Soon

66 Blustery

67 Precede
- DOWN**

1 Alliance

2 Sister of Rachel

3 Negative (prefix)

4 Pear type

5 Picturesque

6 Levied

7 Creative work

8 Lump

9 Italian astronomer

10 Shower

11 Hate

12 Annoying noises

13 Beers

21 \_\_ and Eve

23 Ego

26 Midwest summer time

27 Mined metals
- 28 Orderly

29 Biblical weed

30 Joyful

31 Merely

33 Go boating

34 Tiny particle

35 Continent

36 Rocket builders

40 Bog

42 Sailors "hey"

43 Dabbing

44 Phoenician god

46 Trashy

47 Squirrel's dinner

48 Folded sheet of paper

49 \_\_ days (long ago)

50 Grown-up

51 Word meaning father

52 Twin brother of Jacob

54 Object of false worship

55 Oil

56 Capital of Western Samoa

57 Obey

60 Bro.'s sibling

Answers on Page 14



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Sister Joanne Holloman, Provincial Superior, Sister Katie Flanagan, Sister April Cabaccang and Sister April Hoffman.

Kansan professes vows to Salesian order

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Sister April Hoffman, formerly of St. Phillip Church in Hope, was one of three Salesian Sisters (Daughters of Mary Help of Christians) who professed perpetual vows during a special Mass on Aug. 5 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Hawthorne, N.J. The other sisters included Kathryn Flanagan of Florida and April Cabacang of Canada.

It was a significant day for their order, as it marked the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1872 by Sister Mary Mazzarello.

Currently, more than 11,000 Salesian Sisters around the world are dedicated to educating and being an expression of God's love among the young people. Sister April Hoffman's family, her godparents, former pupils and friends traveled to New Jersey to celebrate this joyous occasion with her. Her nephews, also of the Salina Diocese, had the special honor of serving for the Mass. The special Mass was livestreamed and allowed several parishio-

ners, friends and priests from Kansas to join in the celebration.

In her 10 years of formation, Sister April Hoffman taught at Port Chester, N.Y., grades second and seventh. She also taught in Naples, Fla., at St. John Neumann High School. Sister April then began her new assignment in Rome. She is studying Salesian spirituality and the Italian language in a two-year program. She was excited to be a part of the International Congress "Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Contribution to Education (1872-2022): Pathways, challenges and perspectives." She also was able to attend the canonization Mass for St. Artemides Zatti, an Argentinian Salesian Brother.

"For me, the day of my perpetual profession was a continuation of the many blessings God has given me," Sister April said.

"It was a chance to say yes once again to the invitation he gives each day, to follow him more closely together with my sisters in the service of the young."

Collection aids Catholic aging religious

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) announces that on Dec. 10 to 11, the Diocese of Salina will host the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection in parishes throughout the diocese.

Last year, parishioners in the diocese donated \$55,525.48 to the collection.

"The care of our aging religious presents an enormous financial responsibility," said Sister Stephanie Sill, NRRO executive

director and a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco. "It is our privilege to care for those who gave a lifetime of tireless service, and I feel we are deeply blessed by all the U.S. Catholic donors who have steadfastly contributed to this fund."

Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests — known collectively as women and men religious — served for little to no pay. With rising healthcare expenses, hundreds of U.S. religious

communities face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support their care. As a result, many now lack adequate retirement savings.

The 2021 appeal raised nearly \$28.5 million, and the NRRO distributed funding to 271 U.S. religious communities. Donations also underwrite resources that help religious communities improve elder care and plan for long-term retirement needs.



Religious and distributes financial assistance for retirement needs to eligible religious institutes. To help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious orders, Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious Collection in 1988.

For more information, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org), or contact Robin Cabral, campaign director, by phone at (508) 685-8899 or email at [robincabral@retiredreligious.org](mailto:robincabral@retiredreligious.org).



# Publications Drive continues

By THE REGISTER

Do you know how essential storytelling is? Stories are one way our beautiful faith can spread across our diocese.

Our annual Publications Drive is a fundraiser that supports the work of our publications and communications office. If you have been impacted by our diocese through the stories you've read, the videos you've watched, the podcasts you've listened to or the social media posts you've engaged with, please consider making a gift online at [salinadiocese.org](http://salinadiocese.org) or via the envelope insert found in this issue of The Register or the November issue of *faith* magazine.

Be sure to mail your donation to Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina, P.O. Box 1696, Salina, KS 67402-1696.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
of SALINA



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"The diocesan publications are inspirational, contain teaching moments about our Catholic faith and are filled with suggestions about everyday and life-long activities you can do to grow your faith. The articles are honest and sometimes cover hard topics, but there is such a brightness to the publications as they are filled with hope and good news that helps you sustain your faith. It is always fun to see school kids doing well, hear about the success of fundraisers, see how far along our seminarians are, hear about good things our bishop, priests and religious are accomplishing and know what other Catholic families and organizations are doing around the diocese. These publications help bring us together. They make you proud to be Catholic. And when the last page is turned on each of these publications, they make you especially proud to be a Catholic in the Diocese of Salina."

-Norman and Sherrie Kelly, Salina

[www.salinadiocese.org](http://www.salinadiocese.org)

### GIVE TO THE PUBLICATIONS DRIVE:

- Online at [salinadiocese.org/publications](http://salinadiocese.org/publications)



- Write a check to: Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina | P.O. Box 1696, Salina, KS 67402-1659

# March for Life registration available online

By THE REGISTER

The annual pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life is Jan. 18 to 22, 2023.

Registration is available online at [salinadiocese.org](http://salinadiocese.org). Transportation (chartered coach) and hotel is \$440. There is the option of going on a trolley tour Friday evening after the Life Rally and March for an addi-

tional \$40.

The pilgrimage begins with the blessing of the buses in the Chancery parking lot in Salina at 10 a.m. with a 10:30 a.m. departure time Jan. 18. Expected return time to the Chancery is 4 p.m. Jan. 22.

"The 2023 March for Life is more important than ever," said Rick Binder, director of Respect Life.

"The overturning of Roe v. Wade has caused an increased attack on the value and dignity of life. Every parish of the diocese should prayerfully consider sponsoring at least one or two representatives to go on the pilgrimage."

The deadline to register is Dec. 1.

If you are unable to attend the national march for life, the Rally for

Life in Topeka is an alternative. The Kansas Rally for Life is Jan. 24. The bishops of Kansas encourage all Catholics of Kansas to gather in Topeka to advocate for life.

The event begins at 9 a.m. with a rally and Mass celebrated at the Topeka Performing Arts Center and ends with a march to the Capitol in time for the noon Rally for Life.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
of SALINA



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Rawlins County Catholic Parishes life chain took place on the corner of Kansas Highways 25 and 36 on Oct. 2, followed by a biscuit-and-gravy brunch and welcoming of their new parish priest, Father Henry Saw Lone. The meal was prepared and served by the local Knights of Columbus.



Father Henry Saw Lone blessed many families and pets for Sacred Heart and St. Mary's CCD students and parishes in honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 5.



St. Joseph Grade School in Oakley hosted a Blue Mass for first responders on Sept. 13. The Mass was followed by breakfast, a question-and-answer session, and the students getting to check out the sheriff's vehicle and the ambulance.



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BAPTISMS

**Jayson Theodore Augustine**, son of Theodore and Colleen Augustine, was baptized Oct. 16, 2022, by Father Keith Weber at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Salina.

**Katie May (Brown) Burgett**, daughter of Lester and Pamela Swanek, was baptized Nov. 2, 2022, by Father Donald Zimmerman at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Allan John Corwin**, son of Colten and Shannon Corwin, was baptized Oct. 30, 2022, by Father Matthew Cowan at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo.

**Paisley Grace Geschwenter**, daughter of Jonathon and Mara Lang, was baptized Oct. 23, 2022, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary Church in Ellis.

**Blake Henlee Hertel**, daughter of Brett and Kendra Hertel, was baptized Oct. 23, 2022, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Anastasia Marie Hedlesky**, daughter of Nicholas and Amy Hedlesky, was baptized Oct. 16, 2022, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Ryan Joseph Hilger**, son of Daren and Jenny Hilger, was

baptized Nov. 2, 2022, by Father Jim Moster, OFM Cap. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

**Henry Osmar Jimenez**, son of Jose and Kayla Jimenez, was baptized Oct. 22, 2022, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays

**Connor Leo Jordan**, son of Christopher and Emily Jordan, was baptized Oct. 23, 2022, by Father Donald Zimmerman at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Paxton J. Richard**, daughter of Zach and Bethany Richard, was baptized Oct. 16, 2022, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Reign James Thomas**, son of Austin and April Thomas, was baptized Oct. 15, 2022, by Father Daryl Olmstead at St. Boniface Church in Tipton

**Khloe Mae Tiemeier**, daughter of Nathan and Jillian Tiemeier, was baptized Oct. 23, 2022, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Kelton Lee Ziegler**, son of Cal and Randi Ziegler, was baptized Oct. 22, 2022, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Hunter Edwards and Shanell Criswell** were married Oct. 29, 2022, at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Father Brian Schieber witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Steven and Susan Edwards. Parents of the bride are Steve and Cyrena Criswell. Witnesses were Cole Edwards and Shania Bretey.

**Dalton Good and Jaylinn Pfeifer** were married Oct. 22, 2022, at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Richard Daise

WEDDINGS

witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Jeff and Desiree Good. Parents of the bride are Sheldon and April Pfeifer. Witnesses were Clayton Good and Tiffany McCaffrey.

**Ivan Robles and Johnae Blackmon** were married Oct. 15, 2022, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Deacon Dave Kisner witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Manuel and Hermelinda Robles. Parents of the bride

are Steve Blackmon and Sharon Tallman. Witnesses were Dustin Sander and Dayana Butler.

**Erik Scott and Olivia Nelson** were married Oct. 8, 2022, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Jeffery and LeAnn Scott. Parents of the bride are Jeffrey and Nicole Nelson. Witnesses were Colton Hull and MaKayla Nelson.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- The Divine Mercy Radio Fall Care-A-Thon will be Dec. 1 and 2.
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is Dec. 8. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Chancery will be closed.
- Retired Religious collection is Dec. 10 to 11. There are many resources online including bulletin announcements, social media posts, web banners, etc., available for free at: <https://retiredreligious.org/materials/>.
- Runnin' Revs basketball game is set for 6 p.m. Dec. 17 at Sacred Heart High School in Salina. All are welcome and encouraged to come out for fun entertainment and to show our support for our seminarians.

- The Chancery will be closed from 1 to 5 p.m. Dec. 19 and all day Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas.
- The Kansas Rally for Life is Jan. 24. The bishops of Kansas encourage all Catholics of Kansas to gather in Topeka to advocate for life. The event begins at 9 a.m. with a rally and Mass celebrated by the bishops of Kansas at the Topeka Per-

forming Arts Center and ends with a march to the Capitol steps.

**SEND US YOUR INFORMATION**

To submit a funeral, baptismal or wedding announcement, email [theregister@salinadiocese.org](mailto:theregister@salinadiocese.org)

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26	C	O	N	T	A	C		30	J	O	E	L					
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37	T	E	A	R			38	A	L	L			39	U	S	A	F
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65	A	N	O	N			66	G	U	S	T	Y		67	L	E	A

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 December

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations

committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Diocesan prayer intention for December

We pray that this Advent

season may be a time for us to invite Jesus into our lives, homes and families. May Christ transform our hearts and minds so we may be better disciples. Please Lord, give us the courage to bring the Christmas message of hope into a world that needs his light.

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DEATHS

**Joanne Marie Barton**, 84, died Oct. 13, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 18 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery in Munjor.

**Julius John "Curly" Bieker**, 90, passed away Oct. 22, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 27 at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial was in City Cemetery in Hoxie.

**Ralph M. Bieker**, 90, died Oct. 12, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 18 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial in St.

Frances Cabrini Cemetery in Hoxie.

**Larry M. Cox**, 63, died Oct. 22, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 28 at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark, Father Richard Daise and Father Kevin Weber presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

**Elizabeth Anne "Annie" Crough**, 66, of Clyde, died Oct. 27, 2022. Memorial Mass was celebrated Nov. 11 at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Father Steven Heina presided. Inurnment in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Solomon.

**John "Johnny" Edward Gamino**, 63, died Aug. 7,

2022. Graveside service was celebrated Oct. 14 in Sunset Cemetery in Manhattan. Deacon Wayne Talbot presided.

**Marcia Girard**, 80, of Solomon, died Aug. 26, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 30 at Immaculate Conception Church in Solomon. Father Larry Letourneau presided. Burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Clyde.

**Daniel Lee Jones**, 73, of Chapman, died Oct. 11, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 17 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Father Peter O'Donnell presided. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery in Chapman.

**Marilyn Leiker**, 80, died Sept. 29, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 3 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

**Frances Darlene Moritz**, 90, of Chapman, died Oct. 28, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 28 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Father Peter O'Donnell presided. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

**Kenneth Osbourn**, 96, died Oct. 5, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 18 by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Interment in Kansas

Veterans Cemetery in Manhattan.

**Jane Rae Pfannenstiel**, 87, died Oct. 21, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 28 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nick Parker presided. Burial in Kansas Veterans Cemetery in WaKeeney.


**Mary Elizabeth Ryan**, 100, of Solomon, died Oct. 22, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 25 at Immaculate Conception Church in Solomon. Father John Wolessky and Monsignor James Hake presided. Burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Solomon.

**Marissa Danielle Taylor**, 43, of Enterprise, died Oct. 4, 2022. Scripture service was Oct. 22 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Father Peter O'Donnell presided. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery in Chapman.

**Judith "Judy" Windholz**, 78, died Aug. 29, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 3 at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Father Brian McCaffrey presided. Burial in Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Salina.

**LaVerna Marie Younger**, 90, died Oct. 4, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 10 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father John Schmeidler presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

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# Seeking the spiritual side of dementia

The possibility of suffering from dementia later in life is a worrisome and unpleasant prospect for many of us. Most people I know would like to remain in possession of their mental faculties until the end. Stephen Post, director of the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics at Stonybrook University describes it this way:

"The leading symptoms of dementia are, frankly, terrifying: loss of memory, of language, and of reasoning ability. We all feel at least a slight anxiety about dementia because these dreaded symptoms seem to assault our very identities, to dissolve the autobiographical narratives that constitute the very story of our lives."

The dreaded symptoms of dementia can lead to spiritual temptations. The prospect of losing autonomy and control can lead some to despair and even attempt suicide.

What can we say about the meaning of a life-changing reality like dementia for ourselves and our loved ones? Could it be that God is seeking to carry out a particular spiritual work?

For some who face dementia, it can have the effect of getting them off the treadmill and detaching them from those aspects of their lives that may be binding them, whether it's work and career, hobbies or pastimes, or something else that may be drawing them away from a needed spiritual focus.

In one of his articles, Stephen Post mentions Peter, who through his struggle with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's, experienced a spiritual reawakening and encountered the Lord's grace:

"I'd say, 'Why did you let this happen to me? I had such a good career. Everything was going fine for me.' He would say to me probably, 'Well, why did you fight it? I was trying to lead you in this direction.' Oh, I didn't realize that. Well, I've come to the conclusion that everything has a purpose, so the Good Lord, He knows the best for you. So maybe this was to slow me down to enjoy life and to enjoy my family and to enjoy what's out there. And right now, I can say that I'm a better person for it, in apprecia-

tion of other people's needs and illnesses, than I ever was when I was working that rat race back and forth day to day."

It can be hard for a family, especially a spouse, to watch the slow destruction of a loved one's faculties. At times the person suffering from dementia can become so frustrated they are aggressive towards those around them. There is need for a great deal of patience and spiritual and social support in these situations.

The lives of caregivers tend to be upended and changed profoundly by caring for a family member, relative or friend with dementia, and the generous love they share is itself often sustained by faith in God. As caregivers watch their loved ones with "deep forgetfulness" disengage from the people around them, and from other previously important

reference points in their lives, they also witness the emergence of an unmistakable simplicity in those they care for.

In a 2010 essay, Mary Anne Moresco beautifully sums up her dad's and her family's transformative spiritual journey this way:

"My 83-year-old father has dementia. He can remember things that happened a lifetime ago like it was yesterday, but he often can't remember yesterday at all. ... My father needs this time in life. And we, his children, need it too. We need to glimpse into his past days, as he journeys backward. We need to show him love, as best as we can. We need to offer up our prayers for him. This time is useful. It is valuable. For everything there is a season, and this winter season of my father's life is part of what will help guide his soul into eternity. Dad, through his dementia

**TAD Pacholczyk**  
MAKING SENSE



contribute to spiritual growth, it almost always involves a great deal of suffering for all concerned, and the challenges should not be underestimated. Such moments, nevertheless, offer important opportunities to grow in grace, to slow down, to re-evaluate our priorities and to enter into a more profound relationship with Him who is our final destination and abiding hope.

*The Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.*

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