



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

DEC. 23, 2022



Stained-glass from The Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria

Peace be with you

Recently, I celebrated Mass at an assisted-living residence in Salina. Before Mass, I asked the residents their names but then also asked them that for which they would especially like to pray. Some of them mentioned their families, but most of them said “for peace in the world.” In some ways, I was surprised by their response. Even though they had their aches and pains and a great deal of suffering, they didn’t mention themselves. They simply wanted peace.

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



I think all of us want peace — peace in our world, peace in our country, peace in our families, and peace in our hearts. Isaiah tells us that, “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). We celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

PEACE, PAGE 2

GROWING IN FAITH

Teens get opportunity to reunite at CYO convention.

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NEVER FORGETTING

Deceased priests in Salina Diocese remembered at special Mass..

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Annual Appeal passes goal; bishop thanks diocese for help

By **KATIE HAMEL**
THE REGISTER

Faithful across the Salina Diocese continue to generously support the 2022 Bishop's Annual Appeal — Call to Share.

Gifts surpassed the \$2 million goal, with \$2,059,063 million pledged as of Dec. 1.

"The Holy Spirit is alive in our diocese, and the work he is doing is almost too much to share," said Bishop Jerry Vincke. "There are a lot of wonderful things going on, and I am really excited about our diocese and the things that are happening. But it's really because of you. The people who have encountered Christ in a deep way and just want to share the love of God with others. You make our diocese by your generosity."

The mission of the Diocese of Salina is to be disciples who make disciples through witnessing by faith, hope and love. The appeal is the primary way this mission is funded.

Last year alone, the vocations office brought in a class of 10 seminarians, six of whom are new. Elderly priests received the health care and retirement they needed. Bishop Vincke was able to travel throughout the diocese and spend his time doing what he loves best — being with the faithful and sharing the

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As of Dec. 1, a total of \$2,059,063 has been pledged to the 2022 Bishop's Annual Appeal - Call to Share.

A total of 3,624 people have donated to the mission, with an average gift of \$568. The participation rate in the diocese is 23.4%.

To make a gift, visit [join.salinadiocese.org](https://salinadiocese.org).

To see how the generosity of those who donated have helped, visit <https://salinadiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CFDS-2022-impact-report-2.pdf>.

love of Christ. New events and ministries were offered throughout the diocese.

Gifts to the appeal support seminarians, permanent deacons, and active and retired priests at all stages of their vocation. Gifts sponsor events like the annual men's and women's conferences and Rural Life festivities that allow for participants to grow in relationship with God and each other. Gifts support the inspiring messages that are found in our diocesan publications, podcast and social media. Gifts make it possible for young people to learn how to lead a life of service to others and Christ. Gifts do these things and so much more.

"It is because of your help, your generosity, that our

diocese can do so many wonderful things to help in the mission to be disciples who go and make other disciples," Bishop Vincke said. "That is what we are all about. It is because of your help that we have been able to touch the lives of so many people in our diocese and inspire them to a deeper relationship with Jesus. Thank you for your irreplaceable role in our mission."

Catholic Foundation CEO Katie Platten says, "This is such an amazing time to be a part of the Diocese of Salina," she said. "I believe there is something truly special going on — people are coming together and giving our diocese a real sense of renewal and growth."

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

January

- 2-5** SEEK23 Conference, St. Louis
- 14** Blessing of the Altar Mass, 6 p.m., St. John Nepomucene, Beardsley
- 16-19** Clergy Renewal Days, Wichita
- 20-21** March For Life, D.C.
- 23-24** March For Life, Topeka
- 28** St. Isidore's Church dedication, Manhattan
- 29** Blessing of the Altar Mass, 10:30 a.m., Christ the King, WaKeeney
- 30** Catholic Schools visits, 10 a.m. at St. Mary's, Salina, and 2 p.m. at St. John's/Tipton, Beloit
- 31** Catholic Schools visits, 8:30 a.m. at St. John's, Hanover, and 1:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's, Abilene.

CELEBRATION



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hill City had an installation/25-year priesthood celebration for Father Ernest Amoako-Opare on Nov. 27. Bishop Jerry Vincke came to install Father Ernest in both Damar and Hill City parishes that day, followed by a luncheon for all parishioners.

PEACE, FROM PAGE 1

Obviously, we can't stop the war in Ukraine or other places, but we can certainly pray for peace. We can also be people of peace, as the song states, "let peace begin with me." A simple remedy for peace in the new year: less noise and less curiosity and more silence and more listening to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Pope Francis commented, "Standing before the crib, we contemplate what is

central, beyond all the pretty lights and decorations. We contemplate the child. In his littleness, God is completely present." He is the Prince of Peace!

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

PASTORAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES SPRING 2023

THEO 1013 Introduction to New Testament (3 hour course)

This course focuses on the literature, theology and development of the New Testament. Students will explore questions of authorship and critical methods of biblical interpretation from within the perspective of faith. Jesus's urgent message about the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God into this world provides the theological center of New Testament studies and the grounding for Christology, Ecclesiology, Morality and Missiology.

Time: 8:15 a.m. to noon Saturday mornings.

Dates: Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18.

Location: This course will be offered over Zoom. To be in a Zoom class, one will need a computer with a microphone and camera.

Cost: 3 hour college course for credit, \$150*; 3 hour college course for enrichment, \$75* *Does not include textbook.

Instructor: Father Reggie Urban is a diocesan priest in retirement.

THEO 4881 Eucharist — Our Wake-up Call (1 hour course)

Our U.S. bishops invite us to take a

three-year deep dive into the great Mystery of Mysteries — the Eucharist, source and summit of our faith, source and summit of our mission. Jesus asks disciples if they can drink the cup he drinks. In Eucharist we say yes. When we drink that cup as Jesus drank, we are transformed into the one body of the living Christ, always dying and always rising for the salvation of the world. "Eucharist — Our Wake-up Call" is an attempt to test the waters, to explore how one can truly make our "amen" to the Body and Blood of Christ a "yes" to Jesus's haunting question. As the Bishops guide us, we explore gratitude,

transformation and journey as at the heart of our yes.

Time: 6 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings.

Dates: Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14

Location: This course will be offered over Zoom. To be in a Zoom class, one will need a computer with a microphone and camera.

Cost: 1 hour college course for credit, \$50*; 1 hour college course for enrichment, \$25* Please add \$5 for each course for postage and handling. *Does not include textbook.

Instructor: Father Robert Schremmer is a diocesan priest in retirement.

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Faith, family celebrated at convention

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

From the bishop's message on Saturday morning to a lot of farewells at mid-day Sunday, teenagers from around the Salina Diocese got a chance to reunite with old friends while also making some new ones at the 2022 CYO convention.

Attendance on Nov. 12 to 13 for diocesan Catholic Youth Organizations almost doubled that of a year ago at the annual event in Salina. A total of 280 students from parishes in 20 communities came together to listen and learn and pray — and to learn more about their Catholic faith.

Bill Meagher, director of religious education and youth ministry for the diocese, said he thinks that moving the conference from the busy spring semester to fall was one reason for the rise in numbers.

"There's still room for growth," Meagher said, "but I like the trend."

Meagher and his team scheduled a variety of speakers, ranging from the leading shepherd of the diocese, Bishop Jerry Vincke, to college speakers and those serving on the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC).

"Jesus needs you in this world to be witnesses of his love," Bishop Vincke told the students at the opening presentations. "I can't be everywhere, so your bishop needs you in this world."

Keynote speaker Joel Stepanek mixed humor with real-life stories explaining how they paralleled with parables from the Bible.

Meagher said he had heard Stepanek speak at a conference in Washington, D.C., and immediately set his sights on getting him to Salina.

"I really liked his message and the way he connected with young people," Meagher said of Stepanek, vice president of Parish Services for Life Teen International, based in Mesa, Ariz., who has a passion for youth ministries.

The students also heard from students their own age as well as Lexie Wasinger, Grant Ginther and Tiffany Pfeifer, all graduates of Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays.

Wasinger, now assistant



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Joel Stepanek was the keynote speaker for the annual CYO convention Nov. 12-13 in Salina.

director of engagement for St. Pius X Parish in Granger, Ind., encouraged the students to be patient while making their way through their winding faith journey. Ginther and Pfeifer, current university students at Kansas State, focused on present-day challenges of a practicing Catholic on a college campus.

"My relationship to my faith when I was younger was attached to my parents, deep-rooted and valuable but not really personal to me," Wasinger said. "But as I grew in my faith in college, I found peace in trusting God in difficult times. I learned not to try to control things but to trust God."

Following a day and a half packed with activities and speakers that included Eucharistic adoration, confession, Mass and a Saturday night dance, students headed for home — with time to sort through all they had heard.

"I just really needed to hear the messages that were



Students at the CYO convention listen to Stepanek's message.

said (at the convention)," said Ella Carter from Norton, a member of the DYC.

She said she thought the speakers did a masterful job of resonating the messages with the young people.

Hannah Zarybnicky from Hanover said she thinks the convention was a good "warm-up" for the National

Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) next year in Indianapolis. Nonetheless, she still thinks attending the local diocesan convention is invaluable.

"NCYC is a great experience," she said, "but these local conventions are where we can develop great relationships with the people we meet and work with throughout our own diocese."

Meagher was obviously pleased with the turnout and wanted to thank all who helped make it a success, including parents.

"We're incredibly grateful for the adults who are willing to give up the weekend to hang out with the kids in Salina," he said.

Many parents are thankful for the opportunity as well.

Megan Augustine, who

remembers attending the CYO convention as a high school student, is now an adult sponsor for her parish's youth group in Colby.

She and Amanda Tremblay from Hoxie sat and reminisced at Saturday night's dance, watching the youngsters unwind after witnessing several important and powerful messages.

Augustine said she appreciated the night prayer the group said together before heading off to their hotels, as well as the morning prayer to begin Sunday morning's session.

"I think this is great for the kids to learn about traditions and the Eucharist, and they seem to have really liked it," she said. "It will be interesting to hear what sticks with them from the weekend."



Students spend time in prayer and reflection before Mass.

The Eucharist, Christmas and trust

When we think about Christmas, most of us will start to think about Christmas trees, nativity scenes, Christmas lights and presents. We think about spending time with our families, singing carols and going to sleep so Santa can visit our homes. Hopefully, we also think about Christmas Mass, the birth of Jesus and the hope that comes from the birth of one extraordinary Child. There is also a beautiful Eucharistic message and challenge for each of us during Christmas.

Satan hates Christmas and has worked hard to create a celebration for the world to partake in that has nothing to do with the birth of Christ. If Satan can't change the truth, he will do everything possible to distract us from the truth. I am certainly not the Grinch or Scrooge, but I think an essential

question is being asked of each of us this Christmas season. That question is: In who or what will we put our trust?

Will we put our trust in money, power, prestige and ultimately ourselves, or will we put our trust in the one born homeless, poor and powerless in the eyes of the world?

To many, Jesus and his birth seem too simple and plain to be the birth of a God. He didn't come with power or might but was poor and helpless. He wasn't born in a palace but was born in a manger. He wasn't put in excellent clothes and laid in a bed made of gold but instead was wrapped in rags and laid in a feeding trough. He wasn't born in the world's most influential town but rather in the simple village of Bethlehem.

Those paying attention will be able to see the beauty of his birth and its Eucharistic connection. Bethlehem's name means "house of bread" and is the same place where

God sent the prophet Samuel to find King David. Jesus was born in a feeding trough fitting for the one God destined to be food for all people. The angels first brought the message of Jesus's

birth to shepherds so they may run to adore the great shepherd of us all. People came from all over the world to come and worship Christ as we still do today. We leave our homes or jobs to go to a Church and kneel before Christ, who is just as present to us in the Eucharist as he was that first Christmas night.

People are going to tell us it is just bread or wine. They will tell us it is

too simple and God isn't truly present to us today in the Eucharist. The world doesn't see the Eucharist's value and will tell us instead to put our trust in all the money, power and might of the world. We must never forget that we are in the world but not of the world. We are aliens and sojourners and must keep from worldly desires that wage war against the soul. (1 Peter 2:11)

May we follow the example of the shepherds, magi and all who sought out the baby Jesus to worship and adore him that first Christmas night as we spend time before the Blessed Sacrament, Christ truly present to us, on the altar at Mass, in the monstrance at adoration, and in the tabernacle in our church.

Bill Meagher is director of youth ministry and religious education, and director of family life in the Diocese of Salina.

BILL Meagher
DIOCESE OF SALINA



iGiveCatholic has another successful campaign

By ALLISON OCHOA
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Each year, Catholic churches, schools, charities, and organizations across the U.S. promote the Tuesday after Thanksgiving as iGiveCatholic Day. The campaign coincides with Giving Tuesday, an effort to promote donations to charitable causes. This year the Diocese of Salina raised more than \$717,000 for 36 different ministries. Nationwide, more than \$18 million was raised.

"#iGiveCatholic is turning into the Foundation's signature annual fundraiser for parishes, Catholic schools and other Catholic

ministries," said Katie Platten, Foundation CEO. "Not only does the Foundation underwrite all the registration fees, we were also able to offer \$30,000 in direct Foundation matches this year to help jumpstart the campaign for these wonderful ministries."

Funds raised in the diocese, and in the early giving period leading up to Nov. 29, will be utilized for a variety of needs.

"A great example of projects and success for this year was St. Andrew School and St. Andrew Parish in Abilene," said Corrina Hudsonpillar, donor advisor for the Catholic Foundation

for the Diocese of Salina. "St. Andrew Parish needs a new roof. They were able to raise over \$57,000 for this. St. Andrew School raised \$88,725."

Examples of other projects include facility and technology improvements at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan and upgrading the security system at Sacred Heart Grade School in Colby. Many parishes, schools and organizations will use donations for daily needs and to support programs already in place.

"Several of our churches have capital campaigns going on right now, so they are utilizing iGiveCatholic

as an opportunity to add to their fundraising efforts for their capital campaign," Hudsonpillar said. "The individual organizations can put as little or as much effort into it (as they choose). Additionally, it is a great opportunity to raise money for a special project without having to do a separate fundraiser or collection."

Hudsonpillar hopes future iGiveCatholic campaigns will grow across the Salina Diocese and that organizations will capitalize on the support offered by the Catholic Foundation.

"We would love to see more local matches for

organizations and overall, be able to maintain and increase the number of dollars raised," she said. "We also love seeing the creative way organizations promote it and we look forward to seeing even more creative advertising and messaging in future years. We will provide any assistance they might need as it relates to advertising materials, getting signed up and entering donations, etc. We know that many offices are short-staffed and we are here to help however we can to make their iGiveCatholic experience a positive and fruitful one."

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO RETIRED CLERGY

FR. HENRY BAXA
FR. NORBERT DLABAL
MSGR. JAMES HAKE
FR. JAMES HOOVER
FR. LARRY LETOURNEAU
FR. MELVIN LONG
FR. LEROY METRO
FR. JEROME MORGAN
FR. DONALD PFANNENSTIEL
FR. DANIEL SCHEETZ
FR. WILLIAM SURMEIER
FR. BASIL TORREZ
FR. ALVIN WERTH
FR. DON ZIMMERMAN

PRIEST'S NAME
C/O OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO SEMINARIANS

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Learning to turn to God in times of need

In being married, I have quickly realized that blissful, idyllic marriages are the stuff of Hallmark movies. My marriage is wonderful. I am very happy. But I've learned that, just as one makes the daily decision to choose to love their spouse, they also make the daily decision to choose to be happy. Some days are easier than others.

Nathaniel and I bought a house that was a fixer upper — just about every room needed some type of remodel. When I first moved in, my kitchen was a neon pink. I had a fridge that sounded like a rocket ship about to launch itself into the atmosphere and there was no stove. I'll spare you the horrors that were the other rooms in the house, but just know the kitchen was one of the better rooms.

We had done a lot of work prior to me moving in, but we didn't manage to complete all the tasks that we wanted to. And so, I moved into a construction zone, and we attempted to consolidate two people's lifetime of possessions into one home.

If that wasn't hard enough, we

also have two very different set of priorities, and two very different work ethics.

Nathaniel's priorities are more security related. His focus was on a garden that would sustain us, a fence that would protect us, and a wood stove that would keep our drafty, lack of central heat house warm in the winter.

My priorities were about making our house a home. I wanted the rooms to be open and airy. I wanted the drop ceiling taken down, all the walls painted, and carpet installed upstairs. I wanted a kitchen and bathroom that I wasn't embarrassed about.

Regarding work ethic, we're both hard workers. But we're both motivated by different things. Nathaniel is very much a procrastinator who believes the due date is the "do date," and the projects he works on are motivated by whatever he feels like doing that day. Whereas I live in a world of deadlines and like to accomplish my tasks ahead of schedule. I also love lists. There's a special thrill in

marking something off a list.

A planner married a procrastinator. I'm sure that has never happened before.

So not only were we newlyweds who were learning how to live with each other, we were also project managers of an overwhelming house remodel. I think Nathaniel handled the stress of change a little better than me. He's more laid-back than I am.

There were days I was stressed. Days I was mad at Nathaniel for his selective blindness when it came to projects that I thought were priorities. Days I was disappointed that the responsibilities of being adults prevented us from escaping the world for a weekend getaway. There were days I was just plain moody, bummed or felt unappreciated.

It was (and still is) easy to wallow in my own self-pity on those days. But I quickly learned the days I chose to be self-centered were the days that most harmed my marriage. Marriage is about being a gift

of self, being self-sacrificial. And it's not just one day out of the week we're called to die to self. It's every day of every week for the rest of our lives.

I'm learning to turn my days of stress, anger and moodiness to God in prayer. I'm learning to take those feelings and turn them into acts of service for Nathaniel (i.e. making his favorite meal on the days I'm mad at him, when really my preference is to tell him to go find his own supper).

In doing these things, I have found a deeper joy in my marriage, but I've also discovered a deeper sense of interior peace. My life is fuller and more complete when I hand everything to God. And while I am not a perfect wife, and I will never be a perfect wife, I can do my best to be the wife God calls me to be. And maybe, that will be enough.



KATIE Hamel
CREATIVE EDITOR

Katie

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



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We have a new mailing address!

JOBS

Advancement director vacancy
Manhattan Catholic Schools

Manhattan Catholic School is looking for an advancement director. The position is responsible for creating, implementing and executing the fundraising events and to manage all donor activities. The job includes managing social media/website. To request a full job description or additional information about this vacancy, contact Kim Hoelting, HR director, at (785) 342-0819 or email kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org.

SOIL HEALTH U

The Rural Life Commission of the Diocese of Salina is one of the sponsors for this year's High Plains Journal's Soil Health U & Trade Show. The two-day event will be Jan. 18 and 19 at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina.

Soil Health U is designed to provide attendees with a roadmap to better soil health and increase productivity and profitability. This event includes a diverse lineup of keynote speakers, educational breakout sessions, engaging panels and a trade show of soil health-adjacent exhibitors.

Rural Life will be sponsoring Chris Grotegut. His 10 a.m. session Jan. 19 is titled "Water use and aquifer recharge, a fine balance." Grotegut is from Dawn, Texas, and specializes in food production including specialty grains, seeds and alfalfa for cattle, sheep and swine. He is also a veterinarian whose practice specializes in medicine, surgery, general practice, reproduction medicine and food animal medicine.

Visit <https://soilhealthu.net> for information about topics, the trade show and registration.



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Join us Thursday, January 19, 10 AM to hear our sponsored speaker

Chris Grotegut

"Water Use and Aquifer Recharge, a Fine Balance"



Thank you Salina Diocese area FFA chapters!

Teachers continue development

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Each generation of students has its own set of uniqueness and habits — and even concerns.

Catholic school teachers in the Diocese of Salina got some insight at November's in-service in Salina on how to connect with Generation Z students (those born between 1997 and 2012).

A variety of speakers talked and gave presentations at the day-long event.

Mike Ribble from Manhattan spoke about the tech-savvy Gen Z'ers and how the technological world into which they were born into has had both positive and negative effects on them.

Ribble, a 1985 graduate of Salina-Sacred Heart High School, is now the director of technology for USD 384 in Manhattan.

He spoke on the intersection of technology and our faith, talking about digital etiquette. He gave teachers tips on helping students understand what it's like to be safe online with his presentation, "Digital Citizenship: Safe, Savvy and Social."

"Focus on using the tools to do the things that we should," Ribble said, "understanding what we should do while avoiding those we shouldn't."

Joel Stepanek, a popular inspirational speaker from Mesa, Ariz., told the teachers that "every generation is the product of the generation before."

Stepanek was in town as the keynote speaker for the CYO convention the following day and stepped in to talk to the teachers as well

on Friday.

"These students define our culture," he said, calling Gen Z'ers the "visual generation."

Lexie Wasinger, a lifetime member of the Salina Diocese who attended Catholic schools through 12th grade in Hays, stressed to the teachers the importance of their everyday influence in their classrooms.

Wasinger, now the assistant director of engagement for St. Pius X Parish in Granger, Ind., is a 2015 graduate of Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays.

She impressed upon the teachers just how important their jobs are, even when it might seem like they aren't getting through to students.

"I didn't necessarily appreciate in high school how much my Catholic school education prepared me for college," Wasinger said. "But every year since high school I've had a deeper appreciation for my TMP education. My experiences were shaped and guided by my foundation even though I didn't realize it until after I graduated."

Breakout sessions allowed teachers to visit with their same grade-level counterparts from other schools, and numerous teachers with five-year anniversaries at their schools were recognized for their contributions.

Geoff Andrews, superintendent for the diocesan Catholic schools, told the teachers that every day "they have the opportunity to have an impact on the entire diocese."

Andrews was pleased with



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Geoff Andrews, superintendent of schools in the Salina Diocese, speaks to those in attendance at the in-service in November in Salina.

the turnout. Nearly 200 teachers attended the event, with representation from all 15 schools.

"Hopefully the teachers were able to see some benefit of getting together with colleagues," Andrews said, "and gained some insight from speakers that will help them in their classrooms."

Father Kevin Weber, pastor of St. Mary Queen of the Universe parish in Salina, celebrated a Mass for the teachers, filling in for Bishop Jerry Vincke, who was unable to attend. Father Weber had one clear message for the congregation in his homily.

"If the bishop could be here today, he would say thanks to all of you," Father Weber said. "Bishop Vincke is a very thankful bishop, and he appreciates the positive influence you have in the lives of our young people."



Teachers and administrators take part in Mass during the in-service.



Lexie Wasinger talks to the group.

TEACHERS CELEBRATE IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN CAREERS

BY THE REGISTER

Following are the 39 teachers in the diocesan Catholic schools recognized for years of service at November's teacher in-service day in Salina.

Key: Holy Family (Hays, Elementary, PreK-6); MCS (Manhattan Catholic Schools, PreK-8); Sacred Ht.-P (Plainville, Elementary, K-8); Sacred Ht.-S (Salina, Jr./Sr. High, Grades 7-12); St. Andrew (Abilene, Elementary, PreK-5); St. John's Elem. (Beloit, PreK-5); St. John's Middle/High (Beloit, Grades 6-12); St. Mary-E (Ellis, Elementary, K-8); St. Mary-S (Salina, Elementary,

PreK-6); St. Xavier (Junction City, St. Francis Xavier, PreK-12); TMP-M (Hays, Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High, Grades 7-12).

35 years

Carol Thomas, St. John's Middle/High.

30 years

Peggy Sager, St. Mary-S.

25 years

April Pfeifer, St. Mary-E.

20 years

Kathy Amrein, TMP-M; Cheri Gillis, St. Mary-S; Travis Johnson, Sacred Ht.-P; Julie Jueneman, MCS; Marcy

Kee, St. John's Elem.; Christina Whitehair, St. Andrew.

15 years

Krista DeMars, St. Mary-S; Kristen Dinsmore, St. Xavier; Tyler Haas, Holy Family; Richard Koshgarian, Sacred Ht.-S; Rose McFarland, TMP-M; Andrew Niewald, St. John's Middle/High.

10 years

Shawn Augustine, St. Xavier; Cristy Dinkel, Holy Family; Megan Everett, St. Mary-E; John Hamilton, Sacred Ht.-S; James Harris, TMP-M; Robert Leikam, TMP-M; Bill Meagher,

TMP-M; Tom Meagher, TMP-M; Melissa Schoepf, TMP-M; Jordan Schwartz, Sacred Ht.-S; Melissa Smith, St. Mary-S.

5 years

Janell Antholz, Sacred Ht.-S; Jeff Bates, St. John's Middle/High; Jackie Baxter, St. Mary-E; Alex Becker, St. Xavier; Tonja Bisnette, St. John's Elem.; Shawn Denton, TMP-M; Travis Grizzell, TMP-M; Holly Irvine, MCS; Molly Schoendaller, MCS; Olga Silverman, Sacred Ht.-S; Catherine Tremblay, MCS; Denise VanDegrift, Sacred Ht.-P; Karen Whisman, St. Mary-E.

Dinkel to retire from Holy Family

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Administrators were pleased with Chris Dinkel's teaching style during her half-day stints at St. Joseph Grade School in Hays — so much so that they hired her on full time the following year.

That was 41 years ago, although she is still trying to wrap her mind around the fact she has taught elementary school students for parts of five decades.

After thousands of days of impacting young students' lives by day and grading papers by night, Dinkel will retire from Holy Family Elementary at the end of the school year.

Teachers celebrating five-year anniversaries in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Salina were recognized at the annual diocesan teacher inservice day in Salina last month.

Although her anniversary date was not one of those five-year increments, the audience applauded Dinkel for her service — and her longevity.

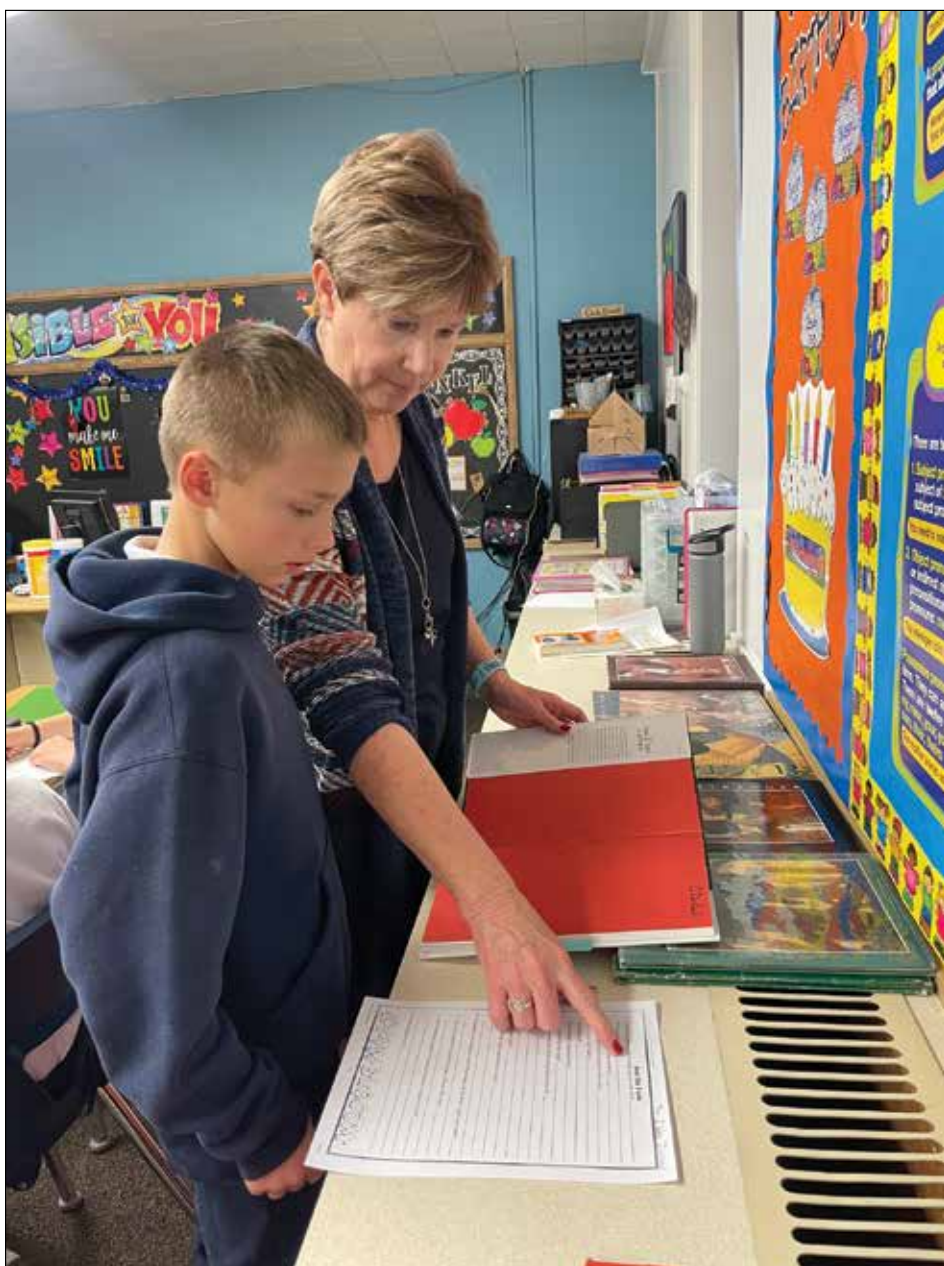
Dinkel's roots at Holy Family Elementary run deep.

It was the fall of 1981 when she decided to move from her position as a special education paraprofessional in Hays USD 489 to a part-time gig as a reading/math/language specialist for second-graders at St. Joseph, Holy Family's predecessor.

The following year, a third full-time homeroom was added for that grade level, and well, the rest is history.

Through the years, Dinkel taught second-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders.

Her favorite? All of them.



COURTESY PHOTO

Helping students learn has been part of Chris Dinkel's DNA for more than four decades with Hays Catholic Schools.

"I totally enjoyed every group I taught," she said. "Each day is a new day in elementary school."

Dinkel, who grew up on a farm in Grinnell in western Kansas, said she had always thought of becoming a veterinarian when she grew up because she wanted to work with animals.

However, after helping students at the elementary school her senior year, she realized how much she liked working with young children.

After graduating from Fort Hays State University with a degree in elementary education in 1980, Dinkel accepted the special education position in the local school

district before moving to St. Joseph.

Once there, she said she never considered leaving.

"I think this is where God put me, and that's where I could do my best work for my faith and the children," she said. "I felt at home in the Catholic school system."

St. Joseph students moved to a new home across town at Holy Family Elementary in 1998, and both Dinkel's daughters, Krystal and Kelsie, attended St. Joseph or Holy Family.

She said she will miss the children, especially two of her four grandchildren, third-grader Kenton Randa and his younger sister, kindergartner Paisley.

"I'll miss seeing those two kids every day of the school year," she said, "and I'll miss all the kids. There is such a genuine uniqueness about each child. They are so truthful; what they say is how they truly feel."

Dinkel's husband, Lenny, lost a lengthy battle with kidney cancer earlier this year. And she looks forward to spending more quality time with family in retirement.

By late spring, she will have the time to travel to see her other family members. Besides the Randa siblings, she has two grandchildren in the Kansas City area (3-year-old Oliver and 1-year-old Mya Bausch).

But the folks at Holy Family — and the memories made through the years — will always hold a special place in her heart.

They also will get to still see Dinkel from time to time.

"Oh, I'll keep my (teaching) certificate and still substitute teach at Holy Family," she said. "I can't just quit."

Catholic schools win team titles at Math Relays

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

One diocesan Catholic school continued its winning tradition, and another began one at last month's Math Relays at Fort Hays State University.

Beloit-St. John's tied for first in the Class 1A division with Osborne, each scoring 81.5 points. It was the 11th straight time in as many years of competing in Math Relays that the Blujays finished atop the 1A standings.

Salina-Sacred Heart ran away with the 2A-3A team title by outdistancing the runner-up team by 28 points.

Sacred Heart's 100.5 total helped it finish second overall among all 41 schools, which included much larger schools in the 4A-5A-6A division.

Sacred Heart has placed in the top three of its division in the highly competitive event several times. But this was the first year the Knights claimed top honors.

Longtime Sacred Heart math teacher

Sondra Palen said "a real talented group of kids" is what helped the Knights over the top this year as they won numerous individual and team events while placing high in five of the six events.

St. John's also used consistency to remain at the top of the small-school division. The Blujays, who have become known as the team to beat in 1A, even scored the most points overall in 2018 and '19.

Rusty Lueger, in charge of Math Relays for St. John's students, said he wasn't even aware of Math Relays when he moved west to Beloit from Riley County in 2010.

He decided to take a team to the event, where the Blujays finished second. And their winning tradition was born.

St. John's finished first in 1A for nine straight years before the COVID pandemic forced cancellation of the 2020 Math Relays and broke their string.

"We had a goal of winning 10 years in a row," Lueger said. "I told them they just had to start another streak."

That the Blujays did, winning it all a year ago, then sharing the title this year.

The secret to the school's success?

"The students have built that tradition and want to keep it going," Lueger said. "They are supported by their parents and families to do well with their academic work, and they have bought in and want to do well."

Another diocesan Catholic school, Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays, placed in the top five in 2A-3A division.

The diocese was represented well by two other championship teams as 1A co-champ Osborne and Class 4-5-6A winner Hays High included members of Catholic parishes in those two towns.

Hays High won the large-school division for a fifth straight time — and was the top scoring team overall — with 130 points.

Diocese joins together to meet diaper need

By OLIVIA AYRES

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Imagine being forced to choose between buying diapers or putting food on the table. Or trying to clean and reuse a soiled disposable diaper because you can't afford a fresh one. While all new parents know the perils of diaper buying, the reality is, one in three Americans struggles to afford diapers at all.

That is why Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas and Salina Catholic Schools joined together this fall for the 2022 Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive. Throughout the month of October, students and faculty members across the diocese donated boxes of diapers to their schools with one goal in mind, to care and provide for the most vulnerable children in our communities.

This drive was born from the desire to deepen the relationship between the diocesan Catholic schools and local non-profits.

"While meeting with Catholic Charities executive director Megan Robl, we visited about how our students could get more involved serving in the diocese," said Geoff Andrews, superintendent of schools. "We knew that our schools are full of students and teachers with servants'



Students from Salina Catholic Schools helped with the Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive during October. The successful drive resulted in numerous loads of diapers that will aid families in need in the diocese.

hearts."

On a chilly October day, Catholic schools throughout the diocese came together to donate 307 cases of diapers to Catholic Charities, totaling more than \$11,000 in value. Many students even used their own hard-earned money.

Witnessing students give of their time and resources to support struggling families was awe-inspiring, Andrews said.

"Watching the St. Mary's and Sacred Heart students work together to help load the boxes was awesome to see," he said. "Especially because it was a day off of school for them, and they were helping in the cold."

Every diaper donated to the Happy Bottoms Diaper

Drive will aid Catholic Charities in supporting struggling families across northern Kansas this Christmas season and beyond. With diaper costs rising across the country, the drive could not have come at a more opportune time.

"The generosity of our Catholic school students and families is truly remarkable," said Megan Robl, Catholic Charities executive director. "This diaper drive exceeded our

expectations in its first year. You all stepped up in a huge way for families and children across our diocese who are struggling to afford clean diapers, which is something every child deserves. Thank you for your kindness."

In the coming years, both Robl and Andrews hope the Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive can continue to inspire students to band together to serve their fellow neighbors.

"We are all called to help



those in need," Andrews said. "Service projects offer students opportunities to put their faith into action."

Olivia Ayres is communications coordinator for Catholic Charities.

Special announcement from Catholic Charities

Almost 40 years ago, in 1983, Catholic Charities opened its first outreach facility in Hays. Services were provided by one employee from a rented space at 1201 Fort.

Scripturally speaking, 40 means something, as it brings to mind such qualities as repentance, newness, preparation for an important work or task, transformation, nourishment, growth and, ultimately, new generation and life.

Today, nearly 40 years after its original opening, we are excited to announce Catholic Charities in Hays has received the gift of a new home on Centennial Boulevard. This donated

building will offer a larger capacity, allowing our staff to better serve those in need across western Kansas.

While this chapter is just beginning, we can't wait to share updates and bring you along in this season of growth. This gift will bring new life to Catholic Charities, strengthening our mission and vision for years to come. Stay tuned.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

MEGAN Robl
CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Megan Robl, executive director of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas.



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HERE'S HOW IT WORKS	Age	Annual Payout Rate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed-rate annuity payments for life for either one or two people Immediate and future tax benefits A payment schedule tailored to your needs Knowing that you will help Catholics in need in our diocese 	60-64	4.5 - 4.8%
	65-69	4.8 - 5.2%
	70-74	5.3 - 5.8%
	75-79	6.0 - 6.8%
	80-84	7.0 - 7.9%
	85-89	8.1 - 8.9%
	90+	9.1%

For a personalized proposal, contact:
Heather Hartman - heather.hartman@salinadiocese.org

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THE DIOCESE OF SALINA



It is with tremendous gratitude that we thank you for helping the Diocese of Salina be disciples who make disciples through witnessing by faith, hope and love.

As you reflect on your blessings at year end, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift to support our mission.



Bishop's Annual Appeal - Call to Share

The appeal supports the mission of the Diocese of Salina to be disciples who make disciples through witnessing by faith, hope and love.
Help us be disciples.

Publications Drive

The Publications Drive supports the diocesan publications and the communications office to inform and inspire all Catholics through media and the written word.
Help us evangelize through storytelling.



Seminarian and Clergy Fund

The diocese supports clergy at all stages of their vocation, from seminarians to diaconate to active and retired priests.
Help us serve the clergy who have so faithfully served us.



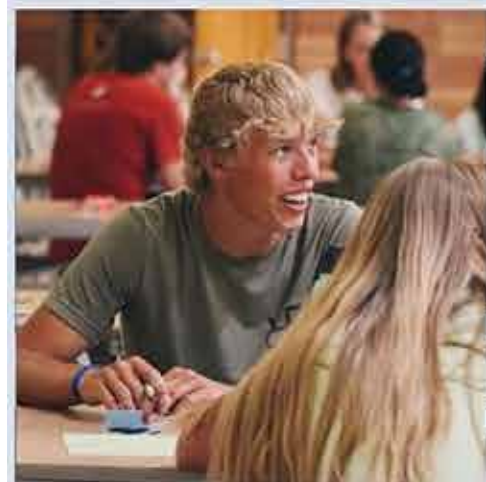
Parish and School Support

Parishes are the beating heart of Catholic communities. And the diocesan Catholic schools help students live out their faith.
Help us support the work of our parishes and schools.



Catholic Schools Scholarship Tax Credits

Make a Catholic education available to children in our diocese by contributing to the scholarship granting organization (SGO) and receive a 70% state tax credit!
Help us support students.



Where the need is greatest

There are many ministries at the diocese, such as youth, Hispanic, respect life and family life ministries and so much more.
Help us strengthen these awesome causes.



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or Corrina Hudsonpillar (corrina.hudsonpillar@salinadiocese.org or 785.639.2100)



Deceased priests honored at Mass

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Nearly 200 former servants of the Diocese of Concordia and the Diocese of Salina were honored at a Mass for deceased priests last month at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

Eighteen priests — either retired or currently serving in the diocese — joined Bishop Jerry Vincke in commemorating those who went before them in serving the people of western, central and north-central Kansas.

Father Fred Gatschet, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, talked about the kingdom of God in his homily.

"We are here today as a result of (the deceased priests') day-in and day-out service performing the sacraments for us," he said. "We have to be the ones who engage the world the way God would."

Father Dan Scheetz and Father Joseph Kieffer read the names of all 198 deceased priests and bishops of the diocese. They alternated reading lists of priests, which were separated by the month they died.

Father Scheetz said he knew many names. A native of western Kansas, he was ordained in 1965 and served in numerous parishes before retiring in 2009.

Father Kieffer also is a native of the diocese and is currently pastor of three parishes in the northeast part of the diocese (Hanover, Greenleaf and Washington).

Both those priests had relatives on the deceased list, including Father Scheetz's older brother,



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Jerry Vincke leads communion during a special Mass for deceased priests in November at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.



Father Fred Gatschet delivers the homily at the event.

Joseph, who died in 2012.

Several family names were read more than once, such as the Senecal family. A diocesan history of deceased priests shows that three brothers from that family became priests. Three of their sisters also entered the religious life, as did two nephews.

A Weber family featured five brothers who became

priests in the 1800s, two who were ordained together.

Some priests and bishops served in the Diocese of Concordia, the predecessor to the current Salina Diocese. Some were natives of the United States, while others were born in other countries, dating back as far as 1810.

Some were noted for parts of American history that is carried on today.

According to the diocesan history book, Bishop John Baptiste Miede, for whom Bishop Miede High School in Kansas City is named, established his see in northeast Kansas in the early 1850s before it was even a state.

And the Rev. Valentine Sommereisen had met in Montana with Maj. Gen. George Custer — famous for fighting in the Battle of the Big Horn — during Custer's Yellowstone Expedition in

Salina Diocese today with three Catholic parishes, a Catholic Campus Center at Fort Hays State University and numerous parishes in surrounding small towns in Ellis County.

The oldest deceased priest on record is Rev. Louis Dumortier, born in October of 1810 in France. He came to the U.S. to continue his studies in a seminary in Missouri and traveled around central Kansas, offering the sacraments to Catholic settlers.

From the days of Rev. Dumortier to Rev. James Hoover — who died earlier this year, on April 5, about a month before his 88th birthday — the history of the diocesan priests is special.

"Our rich history goes way back," Father Scheetz said. "This is a great way to honor the priests who served our diocese."

May the Joy and Love of
the first Christmas night
be with you this sacred season
and throughout the New Year.

Christmas Blessings!

Artwork by Sister Janet Lander, CSJ

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Merry

Christmas

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FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**

1 Scorch

5 Paired sock

10 Pop

14 Foggy

15 Dickens' "___ of Two Cities" (2 wds.)

16 Garnish

17 Wager

18 Averages

19 Air (prefix)

20 Fish eggs

21 Gawk

22 Blocks of metal

24 An angel

26 A king of the Amalekites

27 Goof

28 Jesus turned water into wine here

29 Food and drug administration (abbr.)

32 Always

35 Bridge

37 Statement of beliefs

39 Song

41 Last

42 On earth ___, good will toward men

43 Car manufacturer

44 Small city

46 Ocean Spray's drink starters

47 Thai
- 48 Leg joint

50 Wing

52 Impoverished

53 First Christian martyr

57 Turn away from sin

60 Surprise attack

61 Bard's before

62 Sign

63 Picture

65 Goofs

66 Last word of a prayer

67 Ancient Italian

68 Poem creator

69 Wife of Joseph

70 Starts

71 Totals
- DOWN**

1 Bracelet ornament

2 Asian capital

3 Ancient Indian

4 Seed bread

5 Feeding troughs for animals

6 Coral reef

7 Biblical weed

8 Tree

9 Work out the etails

10 Canned chili brand

11 Dunking cookies

12 Soil

13 OT book

21 Paddle
- 23 Association

25 Cycles per second

26 Root beer brand (3 wds.)

28 Long, skinny boat

29 Terror

30 Prefix ten

31 City in Yemen

32 Rewrite

33 Permission to enter a foreign country

34 Decorative needle case

36 Fisherman disciple

38 Summary

40 Canadian territory

45 Countries other than Israel (Bible)

49 Con (2 wds.)

51 Headed

52 Lincoln's coin

53 The devil

54 King when Jesus was born

55 Goofed

56 Bird homes

57 Stray

58 Austin novel

59 Look searchingly

60 Capital of Italy

64 Jump

65 Environmental protection agency (abbr)

Answers on Page 14

School celebrates veterans at event

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On Nov. 9, St. Andrew's Catholic School students and faculty honored local veterans. The Veterans Day event began with members of American Legion Post 39 and VFW Post 3279 riders parading around the school on what one student exclaimed was "the coolest motorcycles ever."

After seeing the riders pop some wheelies, the students moved into the school gym. As part of the Veterans Day ceremony, students, faculty and guests heard members of the Honor Flight Organization speak about their mission to raise money to send veterans to Washington, D.C., Baltimore and other historical cities.

This year, as a service to veterans, St. Andrew's raised money for the Honor Flight Organization. Families could purchase an American flag with their veteran's name attached to the pole and flown in front of the school. This year, the Honor Flight flags raised more than \$250 for the organization.

St. Andrew's also presented five Quilts of Valor to members of the parish. Retired U.S. Army veteran and fifth-grade teacher Kristi Anguiano explained the history of the Quilts of Valor to all present. With their families surrounding them, the Quilts of Valor were awarded to: Ret. Comm. Sgt. Maj. Kevin Herrman, who served 39 years with the Army National Guard; Ret. Capt. Alex Hunter who served eight years with the U.S. Air

Force, Army National Guard, and 14 years active-duty Army; and Ret. 1st Lt. Keenam Simenson, who served 19 years in the U.S. Army. A fourth recipient was unable to attend but will be receiving his Quilt of Valor from the school. Ret. Sgt. Daniel Woods served two years with the U.S. Army and an additional 18 with the Kansas Army National Guard. Ret. Staff Sgt. Mark Biggs, who served 15 years in the U.S. Air Force, was given a Quilt of Valor earlier in November.

After the Quilts of Valor ceremony, the kindergarten through fifth-grade students performed a special tribute to all veterans by singing "Proud of our Veterans" led by music teacher Sara Buller. Second-grade teacher Shannon Woods shared about the POW MIA table, explaining the individual significance of each item on the set table near the front of the gym. The description is a reminder to remember the fallen, the missing or the imprisoned men and women of the U.S. military. There was a moment of silence while Taps was played by Buller on the trumpet. The ceremony finished with a rousing rendition of "God Bless the USA." Veterans mingled with other veterans, the students and the staff, and the veterans were invited to take pictures with students. Veterans stayed for lunch and spent time with their families and with students who had written them letters.

Sisters of St. Joseph open arms to Vietnamese counterparts

By SARAH JENKINS
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

It began in 2018 with a possibly suspicious email, the kind you might delete without a second look. Four years later, it concluded with the arrival in Concordia of four Dominican Sisters from Vietnam.

The story from that beginning to the end features bureaucracy, the pandemic, persistence and generosity — and it's almost as curious as that initial email.

"The email was lengthy and talked about sisters in Vietnam," said Sister Jean Rosemarynoski, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia. "At first it looked like a scam ... but for some reason I did not delete it."

The email was from Father Bao

Nguyen, a Jesuit priest in Baltimore, asking women religious in America to sponsor sisters from Vietnam, to come here to live and serve for two years. The program is called Formation Support for Vietnam and has helped more than 300 Vietnamese priests, brothers and sisters come to the U.S.

After agreeing to take part, the next step was applying for religious visas through the Department of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. That required an on-site visit from Homeland Security, which took almost a year to schedule.

Finally, "We were cleared for the sisters in Vietnam to apply for visas in January 2020."

Then the pandemic hit and nothing

happened for two years.

In February, Sister Jean heard from Father Bao again: Were the Concordia sisters still interested?

The answer was a resounding yes, even though the visiting sisters would be from a different congregation — which meant the Concordia congregation had to start the visa process again. But this time there was no need for the Homeland Security check and bureaucracy moved a little more quickly.

Technology also helped. The Concordia community met the Dominican Sisters of Go Vap, in Ho Chi Minh City, via Zoom.

"Our sisters have a sense that they know them and vice versa," Sister Jean said.

Three of the women — Sisters Tran Thi Tinh, Nguyen Thi Tien and Hoong Thi Hoai — arrived just in time for the Concordia sister's October Assembly, where they were officially introduced to the congregation.

The fourth woman, Sister Tran Thi Thuy Tien, arrived a month later. Her religious visa was initially denied, only to be approved later.

Their congregation is one of 147 in 109 countries that make up the Dominican Sisters International Confederation. Together, the Confederation has nearly 19,500 Sisters.

After two years here, their goal is to return to Vietnam to help their community open a home for the elderly.

Musician strikes chord with Hays audience

By **RANDY GONZALES**
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

As the late afternoon sun streamed through the windows of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays one Sunday in mid-November, Tony Melendez's message of hope shone brightly.

Melendez, born without arms and with a club foot, easily could have descended into darkness.

Yet, after a papal kiss 35 years ago, the 60-year-old Melendez instead has traveled the world, spreading God's word.

After visits to 44 countries and every state, Melendez's message was received by more than 100 people in his Hays concert, where he not only sang but also played the guitar with his feet.

Pope St. John Paul II was so moved by Melendez's performance in a concert in 1987 that the pope kissed him and urged him to continue to spread a message of hope. The video of the papal kiss led to call after call seeking Melendez to perform and spread his message.

"I wasn't giving hope to anyone," before that moment, Melendez said. "I was living life, playing my guitar. Now, I see that in a different way."

In the concert at Immaculate Heart, there was an



COURTESY PHOTO

Tony Melendez performs at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

introductory video, which in one part said, "In the eyes of God, I'm complete."

When Melendez's mother was pregnant with him in Nicaragua, she took medication that contained thalidomide to relieve morning sickness, and the drug caused Melendez's birth defects.

The family immigrated to the United States when Melendez was young. When he was 7, Melendez spied a guitar in their home, and despite being told not to touch it, he soon began strumming random strings, making a racket.

"I didn't even know what I was doing," Melendez said.

When he was 16, Melen-

dez heard someone else playing the guitar and thought it was beautiful music. So Melendez kept practicing and practicing.

Look at him now. He can drive a car, he is married, and he has a family — just like other "normal" people.

"I always had that attitude of trying to do things," Melendez said. "Not having arms — this was pretty young — I wasn't afraid anymore of having people stare at me."

"I felt I can do it. Maybe not to your level, but I could do things. I remind people I never had arms, I don't even know what they're like. I was born without them. My

feet became my hands."

Melendez and his brother, Jose, both gave inspirational messages to the Hays audience. There also was humor. Melendez sat down and played the guitar with his feet while singing, "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

However, Melendez admitted that like anyone else, he's not always happy.

"Do I get a little down once in a while?" Melendez asked. "Yeah, if somebody said something very hurtful, it might bring me down a little bit, but not to the point I'm going to cry about it and hate life."

Melendez is too busy to be down for long. He travels 15 to 20 days a month now that

COVID-19 has loosened its grip. He will continue to perform, continue to spread his message of hope, for as long as people want to hear it.

He closed the Hays concert inviting the audience to join him on stage and to sing a final song together.

Mary Schroeder of Paradise and her daughter, Rebekah, a senior at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays, got out of their seats and joined Melendez on stage.

"Let's go sing it with him," Mary Schroeder said. "That would be fun."

Melendez's message resonated with mother and daughter.

"You hear at school 'you're next, you can do anything,'" Rebekah Schroeder said. "Sometimes it's nice to see somebody who has that difficulty, yet overcomes it."

"That was really cool," she added. "You really can do anything."

That likely was music to Melendez's ears. His message inspires others.

"If people remember me as giving hope, I would be grateful," Melendez said. "I know that would be something that God wanted."

"My faith has challenged me, especially with this papal kiss. It woke up something I've never seen before, which is that word, 'hope.'"



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of SALINA



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SNAPSHOTS THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE



St. Isidore’s in Cuba had its annual turkey supper recently. Those helping serve included Terry Benyshek, Terry Koch, Butch Gieber, Ken Baxa, Rod Blaha and Raymond Baxa. Many women helped in the supper as well. Father Henry Baxa attended the supper. St. Isidore’s will celebrate its 150th anniversary July 9, 2023.



On Nov. 20, religious education children helped out with Mass in Solomon by lectoring, taking up offertory, bringing up the gifts, serving, greeting and singing a special song after communion. Pictured from left are Gabriella Owen, Avery Smith, Kierstyn Coup and Quincy Coup.



On Nov. 19, St. Thomas More Catholic Church hosted a parish community service day. A total of 59 volunteers in the Manhattan community did various tasks such as yard work, raking leaves, painting and more to serve others.



The SDCCW Board met Nov. 16 at Father Daryl Olmstead’s lake house near Wilson. They set the date of the January workshop for Jan. 22 at Park, with Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. and lunch to follow provided at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The workshop project of preparing goody bags for Hope Place will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Hope Place is a pregnancy and family resource and support center located in Goodland. All women in every parish throughout the Salina Diocese are members of the Salina Diocese Council of Catholic Women even if they are unaffiliated with their own parish’s women’s organization, and are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Merna Zerr at (785) 673-9709. Pictured back row from left are Father Daryl Olmstead, Kathy Martin, Merna Zerr, Donna Swagger and Kathy Bannister. Front row from left, Elaine Peters and Albie Kuhlman.

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WEDDINGS

Joseph Charles Walter and Erin Marie Meyer were married Nov. 5, 2022, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia. Father Brian Lager witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are John and Paula Walter. Parents of the bride are Anthony and Yolinda Meyer. Witnesses were Joshua Blanton and Emilee Skidgel.

Luke Kaiser and Zoe Schultz were married Oct. 29, 2022, in Oakley. Father Luke Thielen and Pastor Larry Danforth witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Darrell and Trina Kaiser. Parents of the bride are Dan and Joann Schultz. Witnesses were Cody Collins and Livia Schultz.

Lucas Weigel and Allie Ifland were married Oct. 8, 2022, at St. Mary Church in Smith Center. Father Damian Richards witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Dean and Kathy Weigel. Parents of the bride are Tony and Lori Ifland. Witnesses were Nolan and Katelyn Billings and Ross Ifland and Adalynne Haresnape.

Lucas Bulleigh and Abigail Sikes were married Nov. 1, 2022, at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Father Steve Heina witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Jeff and Lorri Bulleigh. Parents of the bride are Rusty and Becky Sikes. Witnesses were Lauren Sikes and Collin Sikes.

Jerome Leo Baxa, son of Jonathan and Sarah Baxa was baptized Nov. 6, 2022, by Father Henry Baxa at St. Edward Church in Belleville.

Laikyn Jeen Brummet, daughter of Nathan and Skylar Brummet, was baptized Nov. 13, 2022, by Deacon Walt Slingsby at St. Anthony Church in Miltonvale.

Colsen John Clark, son of Austin and Cheyanne Clark, was baptized Nov. 20, 2022, by Father Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Church in Downs.

Parker Jay Clark, son of Austin and Cheyanne Clark, was baptized Nov. 20, 2022, by Father Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Church in Downs.

Molly Ann Downs, daughter of Chris and Jesi Downs, was baptized Dec. 1, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

Patton Joseph Downs, son of Chris and Jesi Downs, was baptized Dec. 1, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

Shepard David Downs, son of Chris and Jesi Downs, was baptized Dec. 1, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

Rhett Thomas Feldt, son of Kale and Jessica (Jackson) Feldt, was baptized Nov. 10, 2022, by the Rev. James Bello at St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Hays.

Valentine Rose Flores, daughter of Jose and Fredrica Flores, was baptized Nov. 20, 2022, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

Jackson Robert Gering, son of Josh and Susan

Gering, was baptized Nov. 20, 2022, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

Blair Elizabeth Jensen, daughter of Casey and Rileigh (Gardner) Jensen, was baptized Nov. 6, 2022, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia.

Kassidy Jane Kinser, daughter of Kyle and Kayla Kinser, was baptized Nov. 12, 2022, by Father Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Church, Chapman.

Lindie Lou Long, daughter of Anthony and Brooke Long, was baptized Nov. 20, 2022, by Father Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Church in Downs.

Peter Stephen Joseph Lyon, son of Corey and Megan Lyon, was baptized Oct. 29, 2022, by the Rev. Benjamin Sawyer at St. Peter Catholic Church in Aurora.

Saw Taw, son of Da Po and Eh Gay, was baptized Oct. 22, 2022, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie.

Vincent Taw, son of Saw Taw and Victoria ThuLaing Taw, was baptized Oct. 22, 2022, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie.

Adan Gabriel Vallejo, son of Gabriel Vallejo and Jazmin Garcia Villa, was baptized Nov. 12, 2022, by the Rev. Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays.

Oliver James Weber, son of Patrick and Mary Weber, was baptized Oct. 29, 2022, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie.

Isabella Opal Walter, daughter of Audra and Curtis Walter, was baptized Nov. 20, 2022, by Father Steve Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

ANNIVERSARIES

Don and Mary Billips, Hill City, celebrated 75 years of marriage. They were married Nov. 25, 1947, in Norton.

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 January

We pray educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and

most vulnerable above all.

Diocesan prayer intention for January

We pray that Christ may fill our homes, families, communities and world with peace this Christmas season. Lord, please fill our hearts with joy and love and give us the courage to bring the light of Christ out into the world.



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146	A	147	M	148	E	149	N	150	R	151	O	152	M	153	A	154	N	155	P	156	O	157	E	158	T
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DEATHS

Dean E. Alexander, 88, of Sachse, Texas, died Sept. 29, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 22 at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Clifton. Father Steve Heina presided. Burial in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

Lorene Elizabeth (Baxa) Ackerman (LaBarge, Brumbalow), 83, of Chapman, died Oct. 5, 2022. Graveside service was Nov. 6 at St. Peter's Cemetery-Meredith Township. Father David Metz presided.

Frances "Hankie" (Trower) Beckman, 92, of Hoxie, died Sept. 23, 2022. Graveside service was Oct. 8 at St. Martin of Tours Cemetery

in Seguin. Father Vincent Thu Laing presided.

Melvin H. Brummer 85, died Nov. 8, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 14 at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Father Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Boniface Cemetery in Tipton

Milton J. Dinges, 85, died Nov. 16, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 2 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards and Father Jerome Morgan presided. Burial in St. Anthony Cemetery in Schoenchen.

Dennis R. Douglas, 82, of Clyde, died Nov. 27, 2022.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 3 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Clyde. Father Steven Heina presided. Burial in Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Clyde.

Eugene Mathias Eck, 100, died Sept. 23, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 29 at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

Jerome "Jerry" J. Eilert, 80, died Nov. 7, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 12 at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Father Andrew Rockers presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

Linda L. Felber, 72, died Nov. 18, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 28 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Father Frank Coady presided. Burial in Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan.

Kevin Lee Geerdes, 53, of Hoxie, died Nov. 14, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrat-

ed Nov. 19 at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial in St. Frances Cemetery in Hoxie.

Alan "Skip" Beaty Jones, 82, died Nov. 13, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 21 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Father Donald D. Zimmerman presided. Burial in Kansas Veterans Cemetery in Manhattan.

Stanley F. Kohn, 65, of Concordia, died Nov. 10, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 17 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Marsha Kurz, 74, of Clay Center, died Nov. 21, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 28 at Neill-Schwensen-Rook Funeral Home. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in Aurora Cemetery in Aurora.

Melvin F. Mansfield, 95, of

Concordia, died Nov. 2, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 7 at Cha-put-Buoy Funeral Home in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Burial in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Concordia.

Lana S. Michaud, 73, of Concordia, died Oct. 28, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 7 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Merlin Moorman, 91, died Nov. 4, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 11 at Immaculate Conception in Solomon. Father John Wolesky presided. Burial in Mount Calvary in Solomon.

Marion Anthony Otter, 87, died Nov. 20, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 29 at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo. Father Matthew Cowan, Father Dan Scheetz and Deacon Brian Kirk presided. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, New Almelo.

Ronald Rome, 66, died Nov. 7, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 14, 2022, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Rosalita M. (Rottinghaus) Skeels, 85, of Concordia, died Nov. 27, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 2 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. Father David Metz presided. Burial in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Concordia.

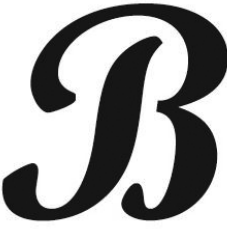
Kristopher "Kris" Thyfault, 46, died Nov. 23, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 28 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Anthony Cemetery in Schoenchen.

Charles R. Townsend, 92, died Sept. 25, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 30 at Roberts Family Funeral Home in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade presided.

Raymond F. Tremblay, 88, died Nov. 6, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 10 at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Father Steven Heina and Father John Wolesky presided. Burial in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Clyde.

George Hubert Zurmely, 93, of Chapman, died Nov. 25, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 30 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Father Peter O'Donnell presided. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery in Chapman.

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House passes same-sex marriage bill in final vote

By KATIE YODER

CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives voted 258-169 to pass the Respect for Marriage Act (RFMA) on Dec. 8, sending it to President Joe Biden's desk for his signature.

A total of 219 Democrats, along with 39 Republicans, voted "yea" to the bill. One hundred sixty-nine Republicans voted against it. One Republican voted "present" — neither yes or no — and four Republicans were recorded as not voting.

The bill, which would repeal the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and recognize same-sex marriages on a federal level, has drawn criticism from Catholic leaders for not providing strong enough protections for those who believe marriage is between one man and one woman — a belief in line with Church teaching.

Minutes before the vote, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Catholic, called the act a "historic step forward in Democrats' fight to defend the dignity and equality of every American."

"Today we stand up for the values the vast majority of Americans hold dear, a belief in the dignity, beauty, and divinity — divinity, a spark of divinity in every person — and abiding

respect for love so powerful that it binds two people together," the Democrat from California said.

The final vote comes after the U.S. Senate, with the support of 12 Republicans, voted to pass the RFMA on Nov. 29. If it passes now, Biden, also a Catholic, has pledged to sign it into law.

While it would not require any state to allow same-sex couples to marry, the RFMA would require states to recognize any and all marriages — regardless of "sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin" — performed in other states.

The U.S. bishops stated in a November letter to Congress that the bill's amendments do not sufficiently protect those with religious objections.

"The amended act will put the ministries of the Catholic Church, people of faith, and other Americans who uphold a traditional meaning of marriage at greater risk of government discrimination," the letter stated.

"Our opposition to RMA

by no means condones any hostility toward anyone who experiences same-sex attraction," the bishops emphasized. "Catholic teaching on marriage is inseparable from Catholic teaching on the inherent dignity and worth of every human being. To attack one is to attack the other. Congress must have the courage to defend both."

A United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' explanation appended to the letter read: "Given all this — that the bill establishes an affirmative, enforceable, comprehensive right to federal and interstate recognition of same-sex marriages but sets out religious liberty protections that are far from comprehensive, and are neither affirmative nor enforceable outside of the limited protections in Section 6(b) — it is fair to say that the amendment treats religious liberty as a second-class right."

Democrats blocked an amendment offered by

Republican Rep. Chip Roy of Texas that would have included explicit protections for Americans who believe marriage is between one man and one woman.

The same amendment, which has the support of the bishops, was previously introduced in the Senate by Sen. Mike Lee of Utah.

The RFMA represents one of the first legislative responses to the U.S.

Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in June. While the majority opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* said "this decision concerns the constitutional right to abortion and no other right," Democrats have pointed to Justice Clarence Thomas' concurring opin-

ion suggesting the court should reconsider all "substantive due process" cases, including the 2015 *Obergefell* decision on same-sex marriage.

DOMA, which the bill would repeal, is a 1996 law signed by President Bill Clinton that defined marriage federally as the union of a man and a woman, reserved federal benefits to heterosexual couples, and permitted states not to recognize same-sex marriages contracted in other states. DOMA was already effectively nullified by the 2013 and 2015 Supreme Court decisions *United States v. Windsor* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states.



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