



A dream come true

NEW ST. ISIDORE'S CHAPEL OFFERS MORE ROOM FOR STUDENTS TO WORSHIP

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The bells in the tower of a beautiful new church in Manhattan began ringing at straight-up noon on Saturday, Jan. 28, signaling the start of a day of grand celebration.

Students, family and friends joined clergy and alumni scurrying around, making their way to the Alumni Center at Kansas State University, awaiting their cue to march across the street for a special, long-awaited ceremony.

Excitement was in the air on the unseasonably warm afternoon as 600-some people anticipated the dedication of the St. Isidore's Catholic Church.

"Oohs" and "ahs" could be heard as people got closer and closer to the 14,000-square-foot limestone church and student center at the corner of Anderson and Denison streets.

The crowd gathered on the front brick patio, and Bishop Jerry Vincke smiled as he stood near the front doors.

The bishop accepted the keys to the church from the contractor, knocked on the door and walked inside. And the celebration began.

The dedication ceremony part of the Mass included blessing the church and congregation with Holy Water, anointing the walls and the altar with Chrism oil, placing incense on the altar and lighting candles on the altar and all around the church.

During the sacred anointing of the altar, the bishop poured oil onto the altar, then rubbed the oil into the marble top with his own hands.



CLARK ARCHITECTS COLLABORATIVE, COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Jerry Vincke knocks on the door to have Father Gale Hammerschmidt, pastor, open the door to the new St. Isidore's church.

Bishop Vincke likened the ceremony to the baptism of a baby.

"(Parents) bring a baby to the waters of baptism and are asked 'What do you ask of God?' One could say that we are baptizing the Church today," he said.

Father Gale Hammerschmidt, pastor at St. Isidore's, could only shake his head after Mass while thanking everyone. Overcome with emotion, he once paused for several seconds before continuing on.

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CARSON ACKERMAN, COURTESY PHOTO

A look at the new St. Isidore's Catholic Church at nighttime.



WaKeeney church has new look

Christ the King Catholic Church in Trego County finishes renovation process and celebrates.

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History continues to grow in Beardsley

After more than 100 years, St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church receives new altar.

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Take time to reflect on the enormity of Jesus' sacrifice.
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Birthday wish

I recently read the following vocation story from a priest on the back page of the Knights of Columbus magazine, Columbia:

"It all started with a birthday wish: Richard, my son, for my birthday this year, I don't want you to get me anything. Instead, I want you to go do something. Please go to confession for my birthday. This bold request from my mother came at a turning point in my life. I was playing my last year of Division I golf and I had just decided that I would no longer pursue my childhood dream of professional golf. By this time, I had also grown tired of the classic college party lifestyle. So, I decided to honor my mother's birthday wish. In that confessional, I met Jesus Christ for the first time. My sin and brokenness were overwhelmed by his love and mercy. This left a permanent mark on my soul and set me off in a new direction – on a straight path to the priesthood where I now get to welcome other prodigal sons and daughters back into the loving embrace of God the Father. What a gift!"

This interesting vocation story reminds me so much of St. Jerome's encounter with Jesus. In prayer, Jesus asked St. Jerome what he could give him. Jerome accomplished many great works that he told Jesus about. Jesus said he didn't want those things as much as he wanted his sins.

As we begin the Lenten season, Pope Francis reminds us that Lent "is a time to reconsider the path we are taking and to

find the route that leads us home and to rediscover our profound relationship with God, on whom everything depends."

Furthermore, he stated, "The journey of Lent is an exodus from slavery to freedom and that the first step of Lent involves returning to the Father, by accepting God's forgiveness in the sacrament of confession."

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



Perhaps a garden image may help us. Before we plant our garden, we usually till up the ground to soften it so seeds may sprout and grow. Seeds have a difficult time sprouting in hard ground. The same with our

spiritual life. Confession softens our "hearts" from the hardness we can experience through sin and disobedience.

We are having a Year of Mercy in our diocese. The goal is for all of us to meet Jesus Christ in a new way. One of the ways we do this is by allowing the Lord to "till our hearts," especially through the sacrament of reconciliation. May we surrender to the one who desires us, who loves us more than anyone, and who desires to be in paradise with us forever.

And please don't forget to tell others what you want for your birthday.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

March

- 7 Year of Mercy, St. Isidore's, Manhattan
- 8 Year of Mercy, St. Francis Xavier, Junction City
- 8 Confirmation, 5:30 p.m., St. Francis Xavier, Junction City
- 9 Year of Mercy, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays
- 12 Year of Mercy, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Goodland
- 12 Confirmation, 11:30 a.m. (10:30 a.m. MT), Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Goodland
- 12 Confirmation, 3 p.m., Sacred Heart, Colby
- 13 Year of Mercy, Holy Ghost, Sharon Springs
- 14 Year of Mercy, St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays
- 18 St. John's Parish Auction, 6 p.m., Beloit
- 19 Confirmation, 11 a.m., Hill City and Damar at St. Joseph, Damar
- 19 Confirmation, 3 p.m., Sacred Heart, Plainville
- 22 Confirmation, 6:30 p.m., St. Fidelis, Victoria
- 26 Confirmation, noon, St. John the Baptist, Beloit
- 28 Year of Mercy, St. Thomas More, Manhattan
- 29 Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. Joseph, Hays
- 30 Chrism Mass, 11:30 a.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina

ALL INVITED

All people throughout the diocese are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at 11:30 a.m. March 30 at the Cathedral in Salina. The Chrism Mass reminds us of our oneness in Christ through baptism and its holy anointing, made possible by the ministry of the bishop and priests. Moreover, the Chrism Mass is also a key moment in which the unity of the bishop with his priests is manifested and renewed.

During the liturgy, the entire assembly is called to renew their baptismal promises; deacons and priests also renew their vow of obedience to the bishop and their commitment to serve God's people. At the end of the Chrism Mass, the Holy Oils are brought back to parishes for use in the coming year.

A light reception will follow in the parish hall after the Chrism Mass.

JESUS IS WAITING FOR YOU



Join us and discover the love and mercy of Christ and His desire to be with you

LEARN MORE AT SALINADIOCESE.ORG

YEAR OF MERCY
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA



CALL TO
share

PARTICIPATION WEEKEND IS MARCH 4-5



Catholic Charities
OF NORTHERN KANSAS

Pregnancy and Adoption Specialist/Therapist

On the job hunt? Good news! Catholic Charities is hiring a Pregnancy & Adoption Specialist/Licensed Therapist at our Hays office. This position is responsible for the Pregnancy Support, Adoption and Counseling Services provided from the Catholic Charities Hays office. Pregnancy Support involves helping mothers maintain a viable pregnancy and safely deliver a full-term, healthy infant by performing consistent case management from the time a mother enrolls in the program until six months post-delivery. Adoption services involves assisting prospective birth mothers and adoptive couples with the pre-adoption process through post placement. This position also provides professional counseling services to clients served by the Hays area office. To view specific qualifications and apply for this position, visit ccnks.org/careers

JOB OPENING

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WaKeeney church has new look

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Cold, breezy weather couldn't keep parishioners of Christ the King Catholic Church in WaKeeney from attending a long-awaited and important celebration for their church.

Nearly 250 attended a ceremony with Bishop Jerry Vincke and several priests for the dedication of the remodeling project at Christ the King.

There was tremendous support for the project – which began during Holy Week of 2022 – with 142 individuals, families and organizations contributing.

"This church is really beautiful, but really it is much more beautiful because you are here," Bishop Vincke told the congregation in his homily. "You are the Church. You are the temple of God."

He also gave examples how Christ the King Parish was able to be Christ to its community.

In the early years of the parish, Bethlehem Lutheran Church allowed the Catholics to celebrate Mass in their church basement until the Catholic Church was built in 1951.

In 1968, the Bethlehem Lutheran Church burned in a fire, and Christ the King parish returned its kind-



STACIE MINSON, COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Jerry Vincke is joined by several priests in celebrating a dedication Mass for the remodeled Christ the King Church in WaKeeney.

ness by allowing the Lutheran parishioners to hold their services in the Catholic church basement.

There were many parts of the celebration that were moving, but the blessing of the new stone altar was undeniably the most sacred of traditions.

"The Altar is sacred, nothing else can happen on the Altar, except the sacrifice of Christ," Bishop Vincke said.

During the ceremony, the bishop

sprinkled holy water on the altar. He poured Holy Chrism on the altar, formed in a cross, then rubbed it into the stone. Finally, he placed incense on the altar.

Following this anointing, the bishop went to all of the pillars, making a sign of the cross on each with the Chrism, blessing the walls of the church.

There was a large scope of work done in the church that included some much-needed repairs to the

electrical system, new energy efficient LED lighting, new furnace and HVAC, and insulation in the church walls.

The church was repainted, and additional stencils were added to existing stencils.

The altar area was leveled, and porcelain ceramic tile was installed throughout the church along with new outside doors with one handicap accessible door. In addition to the stone altar, other new structures are the ambo, the baptismal font and the tabernacle pedestal.

Father Charles Steier, pastor of Christ the King Church, took the opportunity to address his parishioners. He thanked them for their generous commitment in his nine-plus years in the parish when nearly \$1.8 million in new construction and improvements took place.

"And we only owe \$100,000 after this," Father Steier said. "Thank you, my brothers and sisters, for your tremendous support. Without you, this would not be possible."

Father Steier also thanked Father Francis Coady for his work as liturgical consultant for the project. In 2016, a new parish center hall and offices were completed, along with a new parking lot.

History continues to grow in Beardsley

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The story of the new altar at St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church in rural Rawlins County began more than 100 years ago.

Excavations for the basement and foundation began June 10, 1916, and the cornerstone was laid July 16, 1916. Work continued all summer into late fall with the farmers of the area hauling materials from Beardsley, 8 miles away. They hauled eight railroad cars of red brick to the site. When the church construction was completed, three bells were installed. There have been no additions to this original structure.

The high altar was purchased for the church by the Catholic Workman organization for \$750.

The windows throughout the church were made of art glass and were furnished by the St. Josef Art Glass Co. of St. Joseph, Mo.

The dedication of the church took place May 31, 1917. Bishop Cunningham represented the Concordia Diocese, Father John Hahn, from Orleans, Neb., preached the sermon in English, and Father Proco-

pis Neuzel, from Lisle, Ill., preached the sermon in Bohemian.

Post Vatican II, Frank Vrbas built the new altar and Wilfred Skolout painted it. It was first used Nov. 29, 1964, the first day that the priest faced the people during a Mass said entirely in English.

Now, more than 100 years after Joseph Kanak came to northwest Kansas from Wisconsin to install the original altars in St. John's, his great-grandson, Jordan Hagler, and his grandson, Vince Kanak, built a new altar of sacrifice for St. John's. The original communion railing doors were used to build the new altar. The altar plan design concepts were created by Father Frank Coady.

"I truly feel honored to be a part of this project," Jordan said. "It was enjoyable working with my Uncle Vince as he is a master craftsman and comes from a long line of carpenters. It was a nostalgic feeling measuring the altars that my great-grandfather worked on and trying to replicate the work that he and his company



COURTESY PHOTO

Renovations were recently made at St. John Nepomucene Church in Beardsley.

created. I am amazed at the level of detail they achieved with the tools being used over 100 years ago. I think our ancestors would be proud of our work."

The altar was blessed during Mass on Jan. 14, with Bishop Vincke and Father Joseph Asirvatham, current pastor of St. John's, celebrating the special occasion.

Editor's Note: Please see the full story plus pictures posted at www.salinadiocese.org.



Bishop Jerry Vincke was in attendance for the dedication.

Catholic Schools Week deemed a success

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

If attendance records were kept for Catholic Schools Week, Amanda Cook would have to be near the top of the list for the Diocese of Salina.

Cook, principal of St. John's Catholic School for grades 1-8 in Hanover, is a St. John's alum who is in her 24th year of teaching or administrative duties at her alma mater.

And Cook says she still looks forward to the week's activities each year.

This year, Cook added Olympic-style races, which turned out to be a favorite for many.

It was one of numerous activities in the diocese from Monday through Friday, Jan. 30 to Feb. 3, as schools celebrated events around the theme "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."

In Beloit, Salina and Hays, high school students joined the youngsters in elementary and junior high schools in their cities in various activities and Mass with the bishop.

Administrators, teachers, staff, students and parents all across the diocese will tell you that one of the most enjoyable days of CSW is when Bishop Jerry Vincke and Superintendent of Schools Geoff Andrews visit their schools.

"I remember seeing all the youth that filled the church last year for Mass, I got really emotional," said Patti Park, principal at St. Mary's Grade School in Ellis. "The church was absolutely packed, and it was so heartwarming."

That was Park's first year at St. Mary's. A long-time teacher in the public school system in Hays, Park took over as principal at St. Mary's before the 2021-22 school year.

Each year during CSW, students from St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Grade School in Plainville join the Hays



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

One of the favorite days for students — no matter what grade — during Catholic Schools Week is when high school students join those at the elementary level for activities.

Catholic Schools — Holy Family Elementary and Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior-Senior High School — for Mass in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Park had grown up in the Catholic faith and had heard about Catholic Schools Week even while working for Hays USD 489. But the firsthand experience was something she said really tugged at her heart.

These days, Park still finds herself thankful for the support of St. Mary's families, especially when it comes to transporting students on the 15-mile trip to Hays during CSW.

"Parents volunteer for all our activities during that week," Park said, "but they are especially interested in helping transport kids to the Mass. The families here are amazing."

Cook talked of similar support from St. John's families.

St. John's students are able to invite a family member or special friend to attend Mass with them. Some bring their parents or grandparents, and some invite a high school student from Frankfort.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Vincke makes a point to join the students in the congregation for a question-and-answer time either during his homily or after Mass.

"We even have some college kids come back for it," Cook said.

Tuesday of CSW in Hanover happened to be the day Bishop Vincke and Andrews visited Hanover. And St. John's students and staff were treated to something

special.

One of the activities at St. John's has been people telling their vocation stories.

"We had never heard Bishop Vincke's story, and he told it," Cook said. "The students seemed really interested that he had been

involved in athletics. It was really good for them to hear that he is human too, but also someone who they really need to show their respect to."

Bishop Vincke and Andrews began the week in their hometown of Salina with Mass at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church for Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School and St. Mary's Grade School.

Then they traveled to Beloit to say Mass for students at Beloit-St. John's grade, middle and high schools, as well as those from Tipton Catholic High School.

Following Tuesday morning's Mass at Hanover, the next stop was at Abilene, where they were greeted by staff, students and parents of St. Andrew's Elementary School.

Wednesday featured a morning Mass at Seven Dolores in Manhattan for Manhattan Catholic Schools and an afternoon one at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City for St. Xavier Catholic School.

Thursday was a trip out west to Colby to visit students from Sacred Heart Grade in Colby and St. Joseph Grade in Oakley.

The week then concluded with the multi-school Mass at Hays.

"What an amazing week," Andrews said in a group email to the principals. "Catholic Schools Week exceeded all expectations. The joy, hospitality and excitement in our schools is real. You can truly feel Jesus Christ alive in our schools. Thank you so much for your leadership in planning all the events that went on."

While it's a lot of work for those planning the week, Cook said it's all well worth the effort.

"Every day I get told 'best day,'" she said, "until the next day."

Holy Family's Dinkel honored as distinguished teacher

By THE REGISTER

Chris Dinkel, longtime teacher at Holy Family Elementary School in Hays, was honored at the annual KAIRS Banquet in Topeka earlier this month after receiving the Distinguished Teacher Award for the Diocese of Salina.

KAIRS is the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious

Schools — the state's largest organization of non-public schools.

Dinkel will retire in May after committing her entire 42-year career to Catholic education for the youth of Hays and Ellis County. She began teaching at St. Joseph Grade School in Hays (the predecessor of Holy Family

Elementary) in 1981. Her career that spanned parts of five decades involved teaching grades 2, 4, 5 and 6 in all subject areas.

She has been an active team member outside of the classroom as well. She served as co-chair of the steering committee for school im-

provement, helping lead the school faculty in its accreditation process. She serves as the fifth/sixth-grade faculty representative on the school's Foundations Team that leads efforts to improve the school's climate and culture.

Dinkel will leave behind a legacy of excellence in academic achievement, faith formation and love.



Dinkel

DEDICATION, FROM PAGE 1

"I am humbled by the hundreds and hundreds of people who have so appreciated this mission that we have been on," he said. "I'm so grateful to God that he put the right people in the right place during this journey."

One of those "right people" was Father Gale himself.

A Kansas State alum, Father Gale knew of the ongoing discussions about a new church. When he was assigned to serve as pastor at St. Isidore's in 2017, he heard about it immediately. By the next year, he and the board had begun an ardent fund-raising campaign that raised \$11 million toward the \$18 million project.

Less than five years later, the dream became reality.

After a new student center was built, the old church was demolished. During construction of the new chapel, Mass was at the Alumni Center or the student center.

Now, visitors to St. Isidore's are greeted by a large, ornate baptismal font as they enter the chapel. Eyes are drawn to the wooden vaulted ceiling. A stunning golden mosaic in the front of the marble altar from Italy draws them closer to the front of the church.

Stained glass windows of St. Isidore (chapel's namesake) and St. Robert Bellarmine (student center) were saved from the old chapel and are in plain view over the choir loft above the back of the chapel. Those windows also can be seen from the



JACOB BENTZINGER, COURTESY PHOTO

A large crowd gathered for the dedication Mass for St. Isidore's church.

outside, standing over the front doors.

"The Catholic Church is the world's largest proponent of beauty, because one of God's attributes is beauty," Father Gale said. "If you design something beautiful, you are indeed honoring God."

"As much as the building is beautiful, it's even more beautiful today, because you are in it," Bishop Vincke said, particularly addressing the students. "That's why this church exists. You are Christ's body, the Church. This church is a gift to you."

Either expanding St. Isidore's or building a new church had been discussed for many years. More than 1,500 students attend Mass at St. Isidore's on any given weekend. The old church held about 425 people, with 80 more seats in the library to watch Mass on video.

The new chapel will seat

650, with additional chair seating for overflow.

Stan Weber, who attended KSU in the early 1980s, said he remembers the church being full 40 years ago.

Weber, who played quarterback for the Wildcat football team from 1980-84, spent a lot of time at St. Isidore's. He and his wife are both alumni of K-State, and all four of the couple's children attended KSU — and St. Isidore's. Weber, the longtime color analyst for K-State Sports Network, still frequents the church.

"St. Isidore's has always been a big part of our lives," he said. "It's a great place to be for young people making informed choices about their faith."

Dave Dreiling, one of the lead donors for the project, agreed. "This project tugs at my heart like nothing else," he said. "These 18- to 22-year-

olds are making the decision on their own faith, not that of their parents. They are getting involved and developing their faith, and a lot of them will be active parish members decades from now."



CLARK ARCHITECTS COLLABORATIVE, COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Vincke blesses the new altar with Holy Water.

After much planning and meeting with focus groups that included alumni and students, a Neo-Gothic traditional architecture was chosen for the design. All along the way, the architects took students' suggestions seriously.

"I'd say 99 percent of the students said they wanted the church to look like a

church," Father Gale said. "We weren't going to do anything other than traditional."

One stakeholder in the project for many years who wasn't present, Dr. Jack Peterson, was recognized at the dedication. Peterson was a former K-State professor and chair of the St. Isidore Foundation Board who led the charge for building a new church. He lost his battle with lung cancer last September and didn't get to see the project to completion.

Nonetheless, Peterson's legend will no doubt live on for generations to come.

ST. ISIDORE'S A BEACON FOR KSU STUDENTS

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN

THE REGISTER

There are as many reasons that students decide to attend a certain college as there are academic majors.

Several young adults who attend Kansas State University in Manhattan are quick to tell you why they chose to further their education in the Little Apple.

Their major, if you will, could be called Faith.

"I chose K-State because of St. Isidore's," Jamie Kuhlman from Oakley said of the Catholic campus center where she attends daily Mass and a plethora of other activities. "Then my cousin was a senior here and on the leadership team. She had me help out and go to the events. It was a great way to start college."

Emily Genereaux, a junior from Clyde, echoed those sentiments.

"One of the main reasons I wanted to come to K-State was because of St. Isidore's," she said. "A friend who went to the same high school as me was attending K-State, and she told me about all the good experiences she had here."

Both Kuhlman and Genereaux say the welcoming atmosphere at St. Isidore's made an impression on them right away as freshmen.

Now in their third year at KSU, that duo — co-presidents of St. Isidore's student leadership team — hopes to draw even more students to worship in St. Isidore's spacious new home.

On an unseasonably warm Saturday afternoon in late January, Kuhlman and Genereaux gathered with hundreds of others in a dedication ceremony for the church that will seat 650.

Now, there will be no more crowding into a small



CLARK ARCHITECTS COLLABORATIVE, COURTESY PHOTO

Avery Werth, a Kansas State student from Hays, visits with Bishop Vincke after the student Mass on the evening of the St. Isidore's dedication.

worship space for Mass with overflow on folding chairs in an adjoining room and a video screen in the library.

It's a dream-come-true for many — one that has been a long time coming.

But students like Kuhlman and Genereaux were drawn to St. Isidore's long before completion of the 14,000-square-foot church.

Kuhlman and Genereaux, along with Grace Gorges from Clearwater, all arrived on the K-State campus in the fall of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. A lot of classes were online, and students felt isolated.

Gorges moved into her residence hall on a Friday, and a friend asked her to attend a vigil Mass at St. Isidore's that night.

"I felt immediately pulled into the community," Gorges said. "It was a great blessing. St. Isidore's has been such a huge part of my college journey."

That college journey for those students included successfully pursuing their degrees. All are on schedule to graduate in May 2024.

"Going into my freshman year I was able to meet a community of other people at St. Isidore's who were already prioritizing their faith," Gorges said.

St. Isidore's has also had a positive effect on students who didn't grow up Catholic.

Ridge Pinkston, a senior from Kingman, was an active member of the Methodist church. He said some experiences in high school "pushed him in the direction" of finding out more about the Catholic faith.

"The first weekend after my parents dropped me off on campus, I walked in the doors at St. Isidore's and was welcomed in immediately," said Pinkston, who joined the Catholic church in 2019.

Pinkston is a history major and is particularly interested in architectural history. He was instrumental in helping choose the traditional Neo-Gothic architecture theme for the new St. Isidore's after the building committee listened to students' suggestions for what type of church they wanted.

Pinkston said the dedication weekend was somewhat surreal, especially the first student Mass at night that followed the main dedication ceremonies that afternoon.

Genereaux said the church showcases a new beginning for students.

"It gives you a sense of hope," Genereaux said, "a hope for our generation and the future of the Catholic Church."

The Eucharist and its lesson about stewardship

There is a part in Mass that happens in every single Mass that I hadn't thought too much about until COVID hit. It is the part where the congregation presents the gifts of bread and wine to the priest, which we call the presentation of the gifts. It is an opportunity for us to bring our very best to God and offer it to him. We freely and willingly bring up our finest bread and wine and are excited to bring our gifts to the altar. Through our baptism, we have been anointed as kingdom priests, and we get to join in this offering by offering our very selves to God.

The question is, what gift can we offer that is worthy of our God? Fortunately, we don't have to worry about that question because God will take our gift, perfect it and make it a worthy gift for us.

This is why we pray these words — (Priest) Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father. We, the congregation, respond with this: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Church.

Then God does something truly amazing for us; he gives us our gifts back, but they are not the same. Jesus has taken our gifts and transformed them into the greatest gift in the world, his very body, blood, soul and divinity. He gives his very self back to us to nourish, strengthen and transform us so we can become more like him and spend eternity with him in heaven.

A few minutes later, we see our gifts returned to us, but as a gift only God can give. Every Mass, we see this miracle happen before our eyes. As we continue to see God's love and generosity at every Mass, we learn to trust God more and grow in our willingness to give him all we are and have. We realize that this is what God does with all things that we offer up to him.

When we give God our time, talent and treasure, we watch him take those gifts, transform them, and use them to help others in the world. As if that

wasn't enough, we also see God give those gifts back to us, but with God, we know that they are always returned to us better and more perfect than what we gave. Giving God our lives and what we

have will always lead to incredible blessings for the world and ourselves. God asks us to trust him, give our gifts to him freely and willingly, and watch the amazing things he will do with those gifts.

At times, we will all have moments where we struggle to trust God. It is great to know that in those moments, we can always go to Mass and watch as our gifts of bread and wine become the very body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ given back to us. We are reminded of God's amazing works and generosity and are reassured that we can always put our trust in the one who created us, has loved us for all eternity, and gave up his very life so we may spend eternity with Him in heaven.

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

BILL Meagher
DIOCESE OF SALINA



COURTESY PHOTO BY TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Relics of St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia and Blessed Carlo Acutis will be on display in the Diocese of Salina from March 19 to 25.

Relics coming to diocese

BY THE REGISTER

As part of the ongoing Eucharistic Revival efforts in the Diocese of Salina, the diocese is excited to announce Relics of St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia and Blessed Carlo Acutis, patrons of the National Eucharistic Revival, will be touring the diocese in March. They will arrive March 19 and stay until March 25.

Details were not finalized at the Register's print deadline but will be available on the website at www.salinadiocese.org. The public will have multiple opportunities to visit and venerate the relics. The Vatican International Exhibition - Eucharistic Miracles of the World will also accompany the relics. This exhibit is a traveling exhibit that details many of the Eucharistic Miracles that have happened around the world. We are blessed to have this exhibit provided to us by Divine Mercy Radio.

Blessed Carlo Acutis was known for his great love and devotion to the Eucharist. He often prayed before the Blessed Sacrament, offering his sufferings for the Church and the Holy Father. His life of faith is an inspiring example to young people everywhere of how to trust in God's providence despite hardship.

On Oct. 10, 2020, Pope Francis gave his approval of Carlo's beatification. He has become an important intercessor for the national Eucharistic Revival. As a role model for youth, Carlo reminds us all of our

need to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ through adoration and devotion to the Eucharist. He encourages us all to seek out moments of prayerful contemplation in front of the Blessed Sacrament, trusting that Jesus will comfort us in our time of need. May we all be inspired by the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis and live a life of devotion to Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia, known as the Bishop of the Tabernacle, lived an incredible commitment to Eucharistic Adoration. His devotion was exemplified in the organization of the Union Eucaristica Reparatoria (Eucharist Reparation Union). The order sought to extend its mission beyond just reverence for the Eucharist and actively help those in need by caring for the sick, poor and abandoned children.

His dedication eventually led to him being appointed as bishop of Palencia, Spain, shortly before his death in 1935. St. John Paul II beatified him in 2001, and Pope Francis canonized him in 2016. St. Manuel's love for the Eucharist and willingness to give of himself continues to inspire Catholics today. St. Manuel's legacy lives on through his devotion for the Eucharist and all those he helped during his time as bishop.

Check out www.salinadiocese.org for updates and information on where you may visit and venerate these Relics.

Crowds hear wisdom from Hart

BY THE REGISTER

Having been started in 2006, the Women's Spirituality Day continues to provide women an annual day of wonderful renewal.

A committee of representatives from Seven Dolors and St. Thomas More parishes, Manhattan, continues to experience growth.

It is necessary to address feminine issues of mothers, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, friends and Catholic females.

On Jan. 28, Sarah Hart returned for the third time. Sarah Hart is one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music today.

Her dynamic energy, sense of humor and deep faith make her retreats an unforgettable experience.

She especially enjoys exploring topics on women's ministry and spirituality.

"Sarah Hart was a spiritual, engaging, down-to-earth speaker. I loved the personal stories and the music," said Kathy Stevenson, Olpe.

"Sarah poured love and light into us. She led us through the process of loving ourselves and each other with joy," said Kelly Smith of Manhattan, who was one of the 126 attendees.

Another women's conference will take place in 2024. Karis Ratcliff, Salina, said it was a lot of fun, very inspiring and a joy to meet other women. She said she can't wait to return next year.



Hart

Stations OF THE CROSS

During the Lenten season, take a moment to journey with Jesus on his walk to Calvary. Take a moment to reflect on the enormity of the sacrifice he made. He died for you. What will you do for him during this precious season?

St. John Nepomucene
Parish, Beardsley



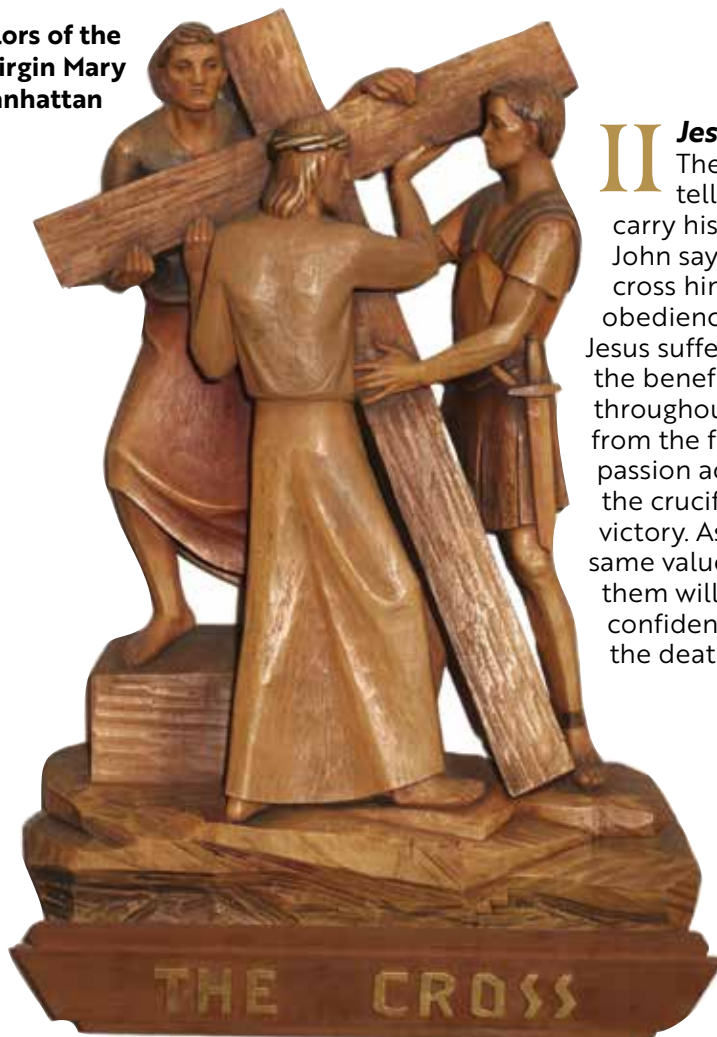
I Jesus is condemned to death
The holy, just and true was judged by sinners and put to death. Yet, while they judged, they were compelled to acquit him. Judas, who betrayed him, said, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." Pilate, who sentenced him, said, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person," and threw the guilt upon the Jews. The centurion who saw him crucified said, "Indeed, this was a just man." And so, much more. On the last day, "They shall look on him whom they pierced"; and he who was condemned in weakness shall judge the world in power, and even those who are condemned will confess their judgment is just.

Father Larry Letourneau, retired

St. Joseph
Parish,
Dorrance



Seven Dolors of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Parish, Manhattan



II Jesus carries his cross
The gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke tell us that Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry his cross to Calvary. But the gospel of John says deliberately that Jesus carried the cross himself. (Jn 19:17) John emphasizes the obedience of Christ to the will of his Father. Jesus suffered his passion and death willingly for the benefit of God's people. He was in command throughout. The term Good Friday is derived from the fact that on that day we read the passion according to the gospel of John where the crucifixion of Christ is not a defeat but a victory. As followers of Christ, we realize the same value in the crosses of our lives. We accept them willingly and shoulder them resolutely, confident of the eternal glory we inherit from the death and resurrection of Christ.

Father Earl Meyer, OFM, retired

III Jesus falls the first time
It hurts to fall. Children bruise their knees and elbows when they fall. But as one gets older, the bruises get more severe and painful. Then falling is more likely to include black eyes, bloody noses and even broken bones. And if one is carrying a load, and the load comes crashing down on top of them, the pain is more than doubled. It is multiplied several times over. Jesus had just taken up the cross, but it wasn't the weight of the cross so much that caused his first fall; it was the weight of "the sins of the world" which he had taken upon himself. In Psalm 38, we read, "my sins have fallen upon me, the result of my own folly. It is a weight too heavy to bear." It wasn't the sins of Jesus that had fallen upon him. He had no sin. It was our sin. And even for Jesus it was almost "a weight too heavy to bear." And he fell. But his love for us moved him to get back up and keep on going so he could reach Calvary, pour out his blood and cleanse the world of sin.

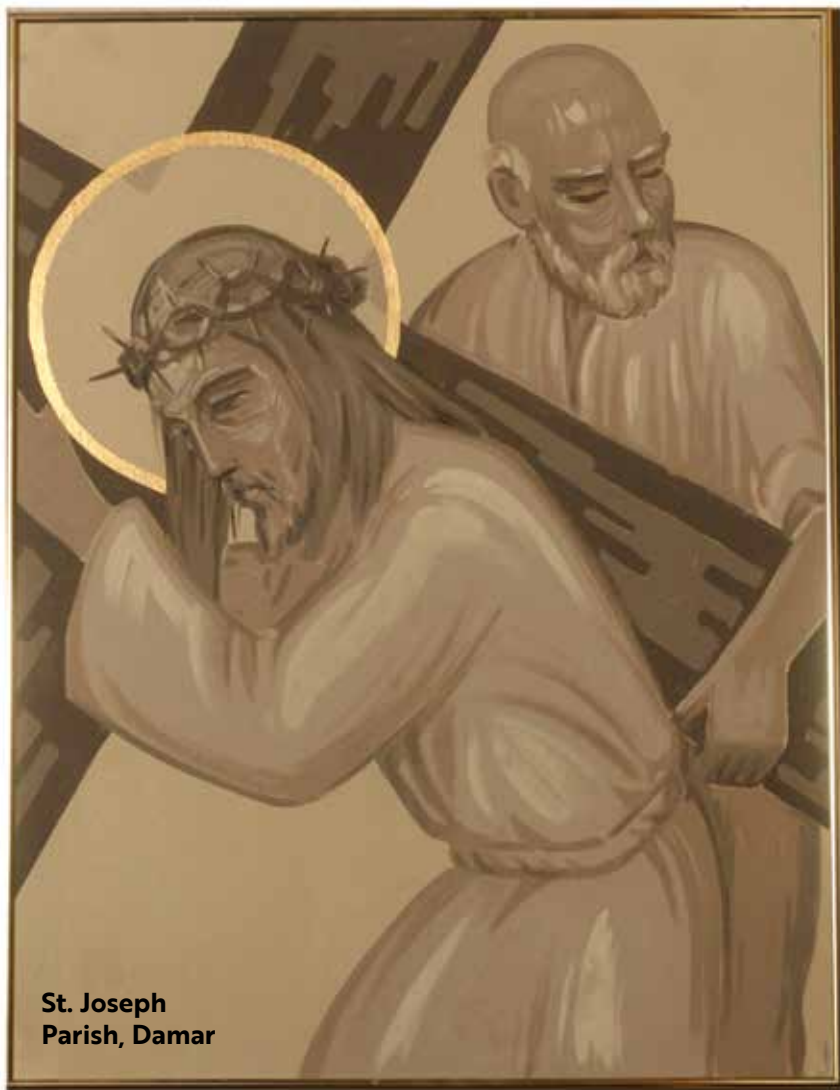
Father Norbert Dlabal, retired

IV Jesus meets his mother
Eyes meet — telling layers and layers of care of solace, of worry, of grief — far beyond what any words could speak. Remembering birth and dreams of youth, now fading with violence of the cross. Helpless to save, standing on hopelessness. This sorrowful mother silent, quaking. Confused again with God's plan. Good news? Can fiat be dredged up once more to lose? Jesus feels double pain looking into her eyes. Seeing loss and suffering echoing. Yearning to save her from this ending.

Father Jerome Morgan, retired

St. Francis
Xavier Parish,
Junction City





St. Joseph
Parish, Damar

V Simon helps Jesus carry his cross

If he had willed, Jesus could have born his cross alone, but he permits Simon to help him, in order to remind us that we must take part in his sufferings and have a fellowship in his work. His merit is infinite, yet he allows his people to add their merit to it. The sanctity of the Blessed Virgin, the blood of the Martyrs, the prayers and penances of the Saints, the good deeds of all the faithful, take part in that work which, nevertheless, is perfect without them. He saves us by his blood, but it is through and with ourselves that he saves us. Dear Lord, teach us to suffer with you, make it pleasant to us to suffer for your sake, and sanctify all our sufferings by the merits of your own.

Father Larry Letourneau, retired

St. Mary Parish,
Downs



VII Jesus falls the second time

On his way to Calvary, Jesus had already been scourged at the pillar, crowned with thorns and had fallen once under the weight of the world's sins which had been laid upon him. As the Prophet Isaiah had said, "the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all." (Is 53:6) He had already lost a great quantity of blood, which weakened him, and he fell a second time. This second fall reopened all those former wounds. But he had still not reached Calvary. His work of redemption was not yet finished. And so, he roused himself to get back up and keep on going. His love for sinful humanity would not let him rest quite yet, and so he got up to go again.

Father Norbert Dlabal, retired

The Basilica
of St. Fidelis,
Victoria



VIII Jesus meets the holy women

The women of Jerusalem have had many occasions to weep: their position in their culture, for their children, and on occasions when they were taken advantage of. And now, a painful occasion — to see an innocent man condemned to death. They can do nothing but watch a man who has done so much good being condemned to death. Watching such injustice brings a heavy heart. My heart weeps for my savior.

Father Jerome Morgan, retired



St. Patrick Parish,
Lincoln

VI Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

There is a subtle contrast of this station with the previous one, a comparison of the willing Veronica with the reluctant Simon of Cyrene. Veronica boldly defied the executioners of Christ to wipe his bloody face in contrast to Simon of Cyrene who was forced to carry the cross of Christ. Both provided assistance to the exhausted prisoner on his way to Calvary. Simon was compelled, he had no choice. Veronica took the initiative against the powerful, cruel oppressors. She is an example of the many heroic women in Scripture and Christian history who have bravely denounced injustice and provided loving care for the oppressed. Veronica is a challenge to all Christians to be active rather than passive, to step forward and promote gospel values in a world that denies and even suppresses them.

Father Earl Meyer, OFM, retired

IX Jesus falls the third time

Satan will have a third and final fall at the end of the world, when he will be shut up for good in the everlasting fiery prison. He knew this was to be his end, and he had no hope, but despair only. He knew that no suffering which he could at that moment inflict upon the Savior of all would rescue him from that inevitable doom.

St. Columba
Parish,
Elmo



But, in horrible rage and hatred, he determined to insult and torture while he could the great King whose throne is everlasting. Therefore, a third time he smote Him down fiercely to the earth. O Jesus, Only-begotten Son of God, the Word Incarnate, we adore with fear and trembling and deep thankfulness your awful humiliation,

that you who are the Highest, should have permitted yourself, even for one hour, to be the sport and prey of the Evil One.

Father Larry Letourneau, retired

X Jesus is stripped of his garment

Garments are more than clothing.

They are an expression of a personality, often the identity of a vocation. But they are only an outward symbol of an inner reality which is not dependent on externals. The practice of stripping garments from the condemned at a crucifixion was an effort to remove their human dignity. But that cannot be done to a person of integrity. The divine mission of Christ could not be denied, regardless of cruel treatment. The opposite has prevailed in history. The crucifixion of Christ has become the hallmark of the Savior of mankind. When we are tempted to deprive others of their rightful virtues, we should reflect on this station: our belittling of others strips us of our imagined virtue, bares our sins and clothes our opponents in their rightful honor.

Father Earl Meyer, OFM, retired



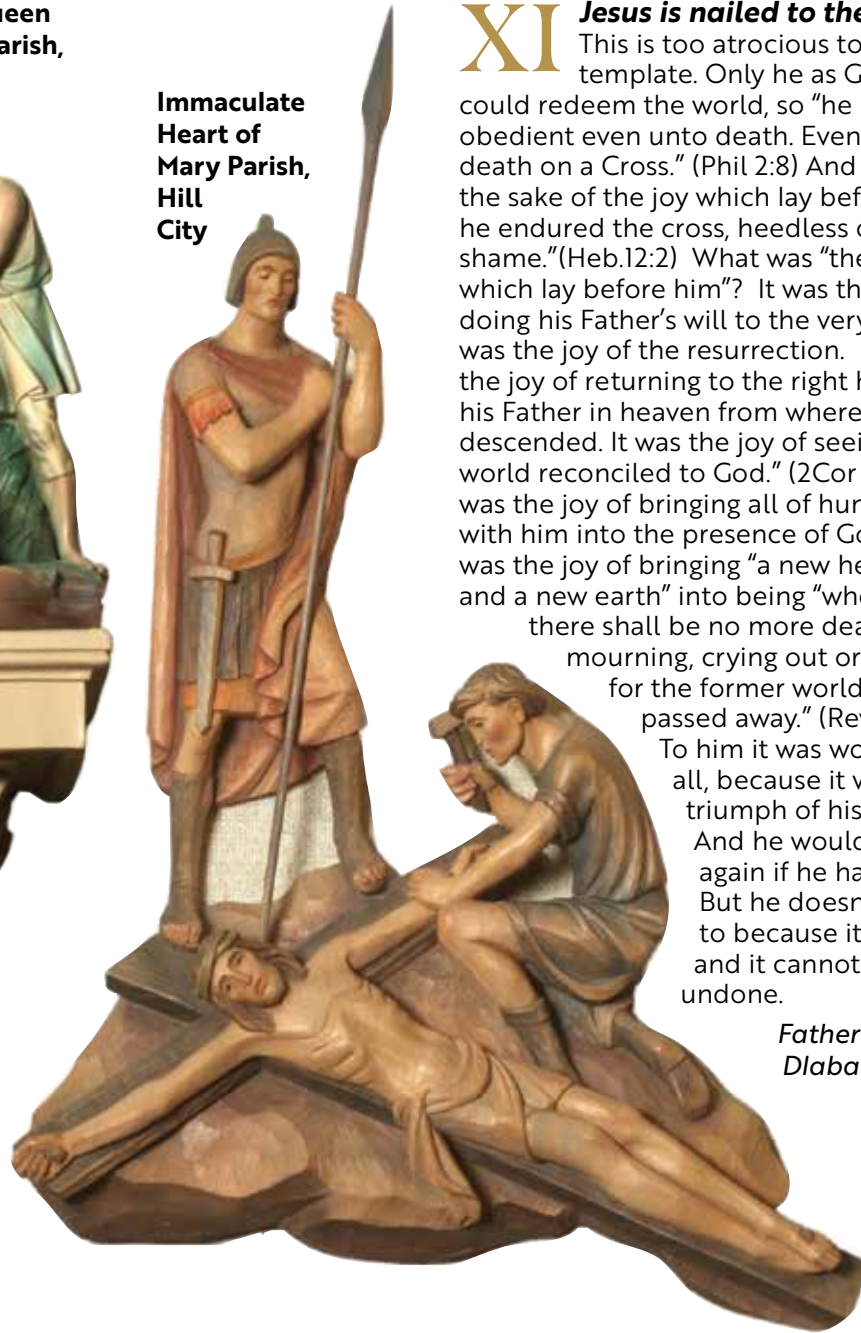
St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish, Russell

XI Jesus is nailed to the cross

This is too atrocious to contemplate. Only he as God could redeem the world, so "he became obedient even unto death. Even to death on a Cross." (Phil 2:8) And so, "For the sake of the joy which lay before him, he endured the cross, heedless of its shame." (Heb.12:2) What was "the joy which lay before him"? It was the joy of doing his Father's will to the very end. It was the joy of the resurrection. It was the joy of returning to the right hand of his Father in heaven from where he had descended. It was the joy of seeing "the world reconciled to God." (2Cor 5:19) It was the joy of bringing all of humanity with him into the presence of God. It was the joy of bringing "a new heaven and a new earth" into being "where there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away." (Rev 21:4)

To him it was worth it all, because it was the triumph of his love. And he would do it again if he had to. But he doesn't have to because it is done, and it cannot be undone.

Father Norbert Dlabal, retired



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hill City

St. Mary's Parish, Ellis

**XII Jesus dies on the cross**

Jesus may be placed on the cross. Thorns may be heavy on his head. Nails may have pierced his flesh. The weight of his body may make it difficult to breathe. His work is not done. He still must forgive a condemned man. He still must forgive the soldiers who crucified him. He still must take care of his mother, now all is accomplished. Now, he hands off any remaining undertaking to us. Now, he dies.

Father Jerome Morgan, retired



St. Mary Queen of the Universe, Salina

XIII Jesus is taken down from the cross

He is your property now, O Virgin Mother, once again, for he and the world have met and parted. He went out to do his Father's work, and he has done and suffered it. Satan and bad men no longer have any claim upon Him and too long has He been in their arms. Satan took Him up aloft to the high mountain; evil men lifted Him up upon the Cross. He has not been in your arms, O Mother of God, since He was a child and now, you claim Him, when the world has done its worst. For thou art the all-favored, all-blessed, all-gracious Mother of the Highest. We rejoice in this great mystery. He has been hidden in thy womb, He has lain on thy bosom, He has been suckled at thy breasts, He has been carried in thy arms and now that He is dead, He is placed upon thy lap. Virgin Mother of God, pray for us.

Father Larry Letourneau, retired



St. John the Baptist Parish, Clyde

XIV Jesus is placed in the tomb

The Gospel of Matthew recounts the burial of Christ by Joseph of Arimathea: "He rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb." (Mt 27: 60-61) The goodness of Joseph is not to be diminished. But the faith of Mary Magdalene and her companion reminds us of the greater importance of meditating on the death of Christ. They lingered at the burial site, facing the tomb, reluctant to leave. They were searching for the deeper meaning of his death. His burial was not the end, there was more to come. We profit from lingering in our thoughts on the meaning of the death of Christ and what it merited for us. By the death of Christ, death does not have the last word for his faithful followers.

Father Earl Meyer, OFM, retired



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from the Diocese of Salina take part in the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Participants set focus on rally

BY ALLISON OCHOA
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

In late January, pilgrims from the Diocese of Salina traveled across the state and the country to stand in support of the unborn and the value of human life at all stages.

According to Rick Binder, director of the Respect Life Office for the Diocese of Salina, 74 individuals registered to join the diocesan pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life. Several more made the trip in smaller groups or on their own. While the overall participation numbers were down slightly from previous years, Binder said he believes those making the trip did so with the purpose of changing hearts and being witnesses to the value of life.

"It becomes an opportunity to witness — making it more than just a political statement," he said. "Everything we did on this trip allowed us to be immersed in prayer and actions that spoke to the value and dignity of every life."

On Friday, Jan. 20, the contingent from the Salina Diocese joined thousands of individuals from around the country at the March For Life Rally. The event featured special guests including former NFL coach Tony Dungy, actor Jonathan Roumie, best known for his award-winning role of Jesus in the drama series *The Chosen*, and Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla, the daughter of St. Gianna Beretta Molla. Following the rally, the crowd began its march up Constitution Avenue to the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

In addition to the main events of the rally and march, the pilgrims from the Salina Diocese partici-

pated in a tour of Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Binder said visiting the cemetery provided a time to reflect on life and the sacrifices of the brave military members that allow us to enjoy so many freedoms today. The tour of the museum put an emphasis on the value and dignity of every human life. The group also participated in a holy hour and Masses at two churches in the Washington, D.C., area, daily prayers together, as well as some sightseeing.

Alyssa Church, a freshman at TMP-Marian Junior-Senior High School in Hays, participated in the pilgrimage for the first time and said the entire trip had a deep impact on her.

"I didn't know what to expect, but it was really good to meet so many different people," she said. "It was very peaceful and even though there were so many people, it wasn't loud. So many people were there with their Bibles, or praying their rosaries, or holding their crucifixes. Seeing all those people there who believe in the same thing was amazing."

TMP-Marian sophomore Jake Brady echoed Church's comments. Attending the march for the second time, he said this first post-Roe versus Wade event was powerful.

"The energy was just amazing. People were celebrating a victory here," he said.

"It was so cool to hear all these different people talking about the same thing I believe in because the media doesn't really share that. I definitely want to go again next year."

RALLY, PAGE 11

DID YOU KNOW?

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

March 26, 2023

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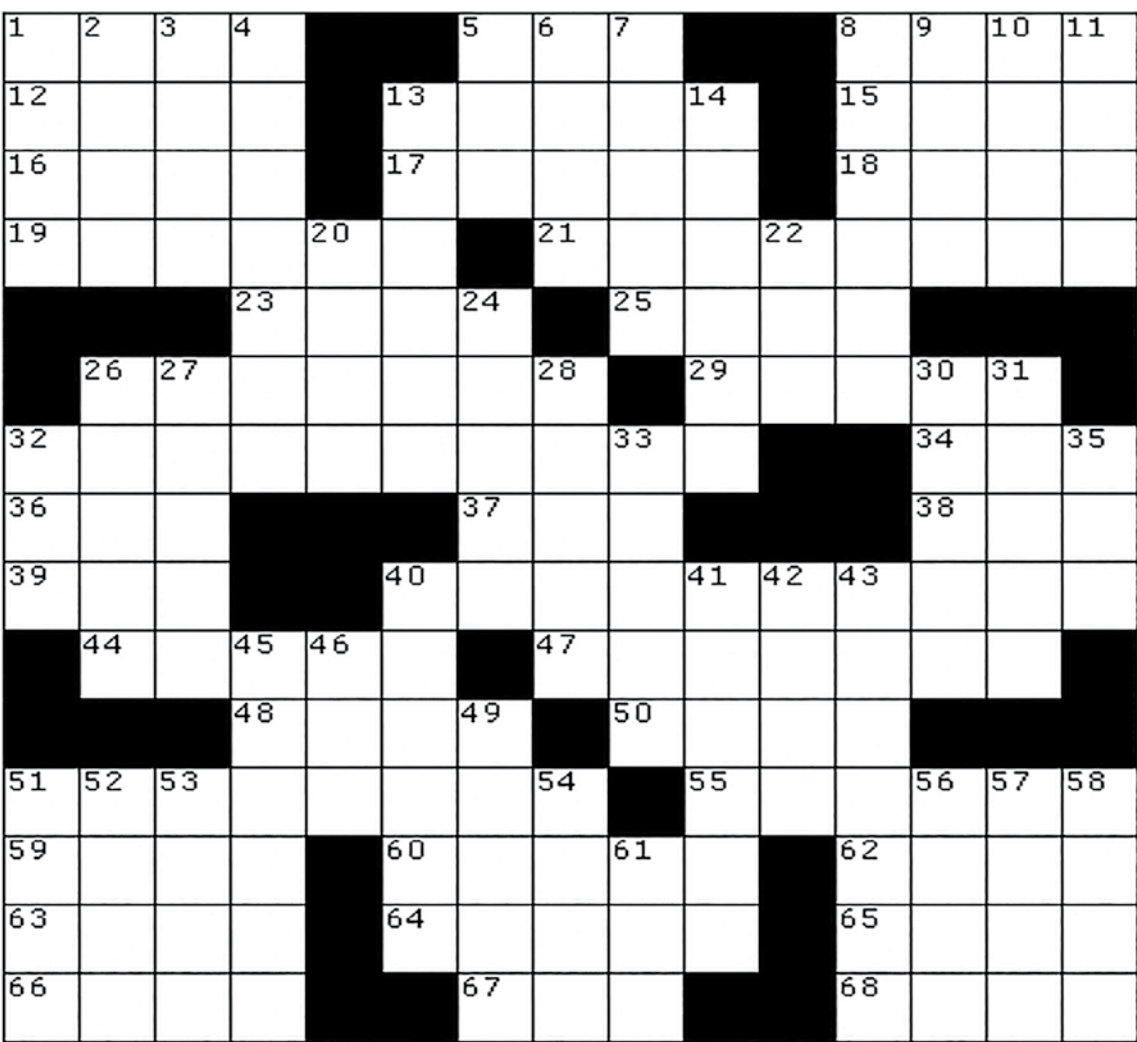
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Lunch will be provided
Mass will be offered at 4 p.m. for attendees

For more information:
Chris Niblock at 785-675-8703 tubandchris@ruraltel.net
Jacqui Haffner at 785-675-1608 57classic@catholic.email
Marty Cressler at 785-675-8765 martycressler@hotmail.com

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**

 - 1 Modish
 - 5 Government agency
 - 8 Shorten (abbr.)
 - 12 Air (prefix)
 - 13 Symbol of suffering
 - 15 Biblical weed
 - 16 Cereal ingredient
 - 17 With 32A & 67A, timely exclamation
 - 18 Catch
 - 19 Holy places
 - 21 Vipers
 - 23 Snaky fish
 - 25 Cashews, for example
 - 26 Saves
 - 29 Pa
 - 32 See 17A
 - 34 Cain fled to this land
 - 36 Strange
 - 37 2,000 pounds
 - 38 Thai
 - 39 Fib
 - 40 Atmosphere around the earth
 - 44 Irritated
 - 47 Custard filled pastries
 - 48 Declare
 - 50 Entertainer
- DOWN**

 - 1 Taxis
 - 2 Zeus' wife
 - 3 Iraq's neighbor
 - 4 Yield
 - 5 Time period
 - 6 What toast does, with "up"
 - 7 Quaking tree
 - 8 Affirm
 - 9 Farm building
 - 10 Imp
 - 11 Representatives
 - 13 Mountain cottage
 - 14 Pancake needs
 - 20 Adolescent
- 51 Brave
 - 55 Salvo
 - 59 Marrow
 - 60 Outline
 - 62 European monetary unit
 - 63 Dueling sword
 - 64 Type of car
 - 65 Mix
 - 66 Believe
 - 67 See 17A
 - 68 Search
 - 22 School group
 - 24 Strike (KJV)
 - 26 Radiuses
 - 27 NT church leader
 - 28 Saw logs
 - 30 Come on stage
 - 31 Thunderous sounds
 - 32 Volume (abbr.)
 - 33 First son of Cain
 - 35 Casino roller
 - 40 Takes in
 - 41 Slob
 - 42 El __ (Texas city)
 - 43 Batter's bane
 - 45 BB player __ Abdul Jabbar
 - 46 First woman
 - 49 Hooked up
 - 51 Chilled
 - 52 Uh-uh
 - 53 Beech, e.g.
 - 54 Daddy
 - 56 Pear shaped instrument
 - 57 A canal
 - 58 New __ (city)
 - 61 Key

Answers on Page 14

DONATION



Pictured at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church, Salina, are Knights of Columbus Council No. 8196 Grand Knight Jarod Haselhorst and Irl Johnson, president of Saline County ARC. Haselhorst presented a check for \$3,021.17 representing the proceeds from the annual K of C Tootsie Roll drive conducted Oct. 7 to 9.



COURTESY PHOTO

Multiple people from the diocese took part in the journey to Washington, D.C.

RALLY, FROM PAGE 10

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, pro-life supporters in Kansas gathered in Topeka for the Kansas Mass, March and Rally for Life. The event featured a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Joseph Naumann of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kan., and concelebrated by priests from all the Kansas dioceses. Participants also heard a keynote address from Lila Rose, the founder and president of Live Action, a human rights nonprofit that specializes in the pro-life movement. Following the rally, attendees marched peacefully from the Topeka Performing Arts Center to the steps of the state capitol.

"Many of the people there were high school students holding signs and visuals featuring messages like, 'I am the post-Roe generation,' and, 'We will never abandon women or babies,' showing others what a peaceful protest looks like," said Clare

Stramel, a religion instructor at Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School in Salina.

Stramel and Father Brian McCaffrey coordinated the trip for a group of more than 40 students and chaperones representing the school.

"This was supposed to be the 50th anniversary of Roe versus Wade, but it's not because we've made major strides in the pro-life movement," Stramel said. "People also seemed to have a renewed purpose because the Value Them Both amendment failed to pass (in Kansas)."

"It was really cool seeing the students take ownership of what they believe, not participating to get a grade but simply to take a stand for what they believe in," she added. "We got to see a bunch of senators and representatives who are actively working to pass pro-life legislation. So, we celebrate the wins but keep actively fighting for life."

In Memoriam for Henry Emmery Cahoj

My Dad, Henry E. Cahoj, passed away a year ago at 89 years young. He was born to Joseph and Mary (Dvorak) Cahoj of Atwood, KS. He and his twin sister, Henrietta, were the 7th & 8th children to make a total of 10 children; 5 boys and 5 girls. Emmery, Cecilia, William, Agnes, Leonard, Edward, Henry, Henrietta, Mary Ann, and Carmelita. He loved his wife, Eldean (Reinert) Cahoj, and were married 56 years before her passing 11 years prior. Our parents had five children: Collette, Tonya, Brenda, Teresa, and Emery. He was an avid golfer, having a total of seven "hole-in-ones." He was passionate about golf, even though he didn't begin until he was 40 years old. Our Dad wasn't a perfect man, but strived to be better each and every day! He was reading the entire Bible for the second time until he lost sight in one eye. He continued reciting his daily rosary and the stations of the cross. Whoever was home would always sit beside him and read them with him. He ALWAYS fasted, his entire life, NEVER eating meat on Fridays throughout the year. He shared his faith with many by sending blessed scapulars / booklets to entire parishioners of ALL of northwest Kansas; a total of twelve towns! He worked diligently on this for 4 years, after the passing of our mother. He told me once that life sometimes doesn't get better. It gets harder, but we need to stand by our convictions of faith. God is more interested in our future, than our past; and the kind of person we can become. One of my Dad's favorite verses came from Proverbs: "let your heart trust in the Lord." He would want us all to live in the great faith that was given to us, and not let our hearts be troubled for any reason. We all miss our mom and dad, as they were great examples of their Faith.



Brenda D. (Cahoj) Weiser

Rural life, farmers focus of event

BY DAVID AND LINDA EDELL
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Rural Life Office of the Salina Diocese served as a sponsor for the Soil Health U and Trade Show, presented by the High Plains Journal, on Jan. 18 and 19 in Salina. This multi-year event is designed to support High Plains farmers by providing practical, useful and timely information that will impact progress on their operations. Program highlights included information sessions on water management, how healthy soil can increase crop yields and aquifer recharge, along with additional topics. Tony's Pizza Events Center hosted the first face-to-face meeting in two years for more than 400 attendees from 19 states and 47 vendors.

The Rural Life Office helped kick off the event with a welcome and invocation led by Deacons Ed Souza (Seven Dolors, Manhattan) and Walt Slingsby (Ss. Peter and Paul, Clay Center). The invocation began with a reading of Psalm 64 and call to respond by the people in attendance of "God, our God has Blessed Us." A portion of "The Holy Earth" by L.H. Bailey, titled "Reflection on our work," was also read. "The Holy Earth" speaks directly to the vocation of farmers everywhere to cooperate with God, keep the earth, and serve his brothers and



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Deacon Walt Slingsby and Deacon Ed Souza welcome guests to the Soil Health U and Trade show in Salina.

sisters with what he produces.

The invocation was followed by Jerry Hatfield's keynote, "What Is the Real Value of Soil Carbon: Path Toward Increasing Productivity and Profitability." Hatfield's opening talk seemed to sum up the overall conference objectives. He pointed out that by inter-cropping, using cover crops, practicing no-till methods, integrating livestock and restoring the biodiversity of the soil, farmers can take advantage of every gift God sends them.

Tim Streiff, program manager, Thriving in Rural Ministry, of the National Catholic Rural Life Office added, "I was impressed with the faith of all those

present, but we all know it takes a lot of reliance on God to be a farmer. All of the speakers who I heard there emphasized the reliance on God's providence and explained how we can use the techniques from nature to be better stewards."

As part of the sponsorship, the Rural Life Office hosted Chris Grotegut, a farmer, rancher and veteri-

narian from Hereford, Texas. His presentation titled, "Water Use and Aquifer Recharge, a Fine Balance," was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Brian Alexander titled "Regenerative Grazing – What's Your Plan?"

"Sometimes having faith and letting it happen makes things happen," Grotegut said. "What we did you would not have

done if you were a pure economist."

Streiff also found Grotegut's talk spiritual.

"His talk in particular reminded me of the words of Pope Pius XII when he said that rural communities must be producer-communities rather than consumer-communities and that we must give to our society – and to our land – more than we take out," he said.

The Rural Life Office would like to extend a thank you to all of its members and volunteers who helped with the event, as well as the Salina Diocese area FFA chapters for providing members who volunteered to help with the Soil Health U event.

Divine Mercy RADIO

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Adoption process a labor of the heart

By OLIVIA AYERS
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Raising a family and welcoming children into a nurturing, loving home is among Kelton and Jill Stecklein's greatest pillars of marriage.

That's why the Steckleins, who reside in Hays, were elated when they welcomed their son, Kolby, six years ago. However, their dreams of adding to their family came to a halt as they faced secondary infertility.

"When we were engaged, we knew we wanted to have a larger family relative to what is normal in this culture," Kelton said. "We were blessed to be able to have Kolby, a healthy little boy who is such a treasure of ours. As Kolby was getting older, we found ourselves having secondary infertility and not able to have a family the way we planned in our minds."

While the Steckleins were deeply discouraged by this unplanned setback, they were committed to welcoming a family in whatever way they were called. That's when they began contemplating adoption.

"Kelton has a good friend who has gone through the adoption process. So, adoption has always been something that was around us," Jill said. "Kelton and I felt that if we could have this really strong marriage and family unit, that we would want to expand on that love and offer it to other families who were needing more support for a baby."

Eager to continue their journey to parenthood, the Steckleins contacted Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas and enrolled in the adoption program.



The Stecklein family, Kelton, Jill, Kolby and Gianna.

"We did a fair amount of research, so we knew there would be time waiting, many processes like a home study, and the potential for birth parents to choose or not choose us," Jill said. "While these things were still hard to walk through, we knew what to expect. I call it a different type of labor. It was a labor of the heart."

The Steckleins had been waiting patiently and hopefully for three years when they received a call from Megan Pfannenstiel, Hays pregnancy and adoption specialist.

"The patience was growing on us. We knew it could happen, but it could be in a year or 10 years," Kelton said. "We were on our way

to Kansas City when we received a call from Megan saying there was a baby girl — our daughter Gianna — born yesterday and the parents want to place her for adoption and that they chose us to be the adoptive parents. We went from not even knowing about Gianna to signing adoption papers in less than 24 hours."

After hearing this life-changing news, the Steckleins promptly turned around to head to the hospital, silently praying along the way. When the time finally came for them to meet Gianna, a million thoughts were swirling through their minds.

"That first meeting we were nervous. Are we going to walk in and feel like this is still right? There was still a chance the decision could be changed by the birth parents," Kelton said. "We walked into the nursery and there she was. Jill walked over and took Gianna in her arms."

When the time came for Gianna's biological parents to sign the adoption papers, the Steckleins relied on the power of prayer to intercede.

"At that point, in our mind and heart, we knew we could not imagine leaving Gianna, but it was still not completely within our control," Kelton said. "We decided to pray the Rosary. About 10

seconds after we finished our Rosary, Megan knocked on the door and said Gianna's biological parents signed the adoption papers. Our hearts were over-

joyed."

The Steckleins then had the opportunity to meet Gianna's birth parents, which was a deeply moving experience.

"We were able to tell them how grateful we were for the loving decision they were making," Kelton said. "You could see they loved Gianna so much; they were in tears. I promised Gianna's birth father that I would treasure her with everything I have. It was a powerful connection we will always remember."

Now, more than four months from that blessed day, the Steckleins say Gianna has enriched their family's life in countless ways.

"One of the nicest surprises has been the transition," Jill said. "Like, wow, we just had a surprise baby, but she was completely supposed to be here. Her big brother's excitement has been a big treasure, as well. We see what a gift adoption is. All of the prayer and people surrounding this experience makes it extra special."

The Steckleins urge all who are considering adoption to contact Catholic Charities, as it has helped toward their goal of growing their family.

"Don't be afraid of the unknown in the adoption world," Kelton said. "Go to prayer and trust the Lord and his timing. I could not recommend Catholic Charities higher. They have changed our life for the better in such a profound way. It is powerful to know they were not only working with us but praying with us."

To learn more about Catholic Charities Adoption Program, visit ccnks.org/adoption.



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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 March

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Diocesan prayer intention for March

Please pray, as we begin the year of mercy in the Diocese of Salina, that everyone in our diocese may know God’s love and mercy. Lord, give us all the strength to follow the welcoming call of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and follow that invitation to seek out the one who created us and has loved us for all ages. Help all people to know their value and how much you love each of us. Lord, we ask you to make us instruments of your love and mercy to our families, communities and all we meet.

BRIEFS

Workshop a benefit to many in diocese
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Many lives were blessed as a result of a cooperative workshop with Ladies Day and the Salina Diocese Council of Catholic Women on Jan. 22.

Members gathered at Sacred Heart Parish in the small town of Park to assemble 90 “Blessing Bags” for Catholic Charities of the Salina Diocese to distribute to those in need throughout the diocese.

Hope’s Place in Goodland was also a recipient of a large variety of donated products.

Featured speaker Susan Kirtland from Beloit, an Oblate of St. Benedict, shared a wealth of information on the “Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary” movement.

People who attended the event walked away with a deepened love of their Catholic faith.

Night of Healing Faith to take place in Tipton
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Join Father Daryl Olmstead, Father Leo Blasi and other priests from the Diocese of Salina for a healing service for the sick and those in physical, emotional or spiritual need.

The Night of Healing Faith will be March 3 at St. Boniface Church, 308 Gambinus in Tipton.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with exposition and adoration. Confessions will be heard by the priests during this time.

The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary rosary will be led by Father Blasi before benediction and reposition.

The healing service will begin at approximately 7 p.m.

Light refreshments and conversation will follow.

For more information, call the parish office at (785) 373-4455.

Ophelia Jean Champney, daughter of Connor and Chloe Champney, was baptized Jan. 1, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Clay Center.

Crosby Lee Diederich, son of Colt and Erika (Gisick) Diederich, was baptized Feb. 4, 2023, by Father Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

Haven Marie Hamel, daughter of Konnor and Anna Hamel, was baptized Jan. 22, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Clay Center.

Ignatius Eugene Hamel, son of Nathaniel and Katherine Hamel, was baptized Jan. 22, 2023, by Father Matthew Cowan at St. Joseph Church

BAPTISMS

in New Almelo.

Jacqueline Marie Kennedy, daughter of Kyle and Jennifer Kennedy, was baptized Jan. 29, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Martin’s in Seguin.

Ivy Jean Pfeifer, daughter of Kyle and Baylee (Werth) Pfeifer, was baptized Jan., 22, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary’s Church in Ellis.

Thaddeus Isacc Robinson, son of Harold and Kimberly (Weber) Robinson, was baptized Jan. 14, 2023, by Father David Micheal, HGN, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Owen John Schamberger, son of Clayton and Marissa Schamberger, was baptized Dec. 23, 2022, by Father

Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie.

Anne Marie Stephenson, daughter of Grant and Lindsey (Pacey) Stephenson, was baptized Jan. 22, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Ada Rose Woydziak, daughter of Wade and Emily (Miller) Woydziak, was baptized Jan. 21, 2023, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Allie Marie Ziegler, daughter of Justin and Kristen (Royer) Ziegler, was baptized Jan. 8, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

WEDDINGS

William George Gassmann and Taylor Louise Maxfield were married Dec. 31, 2022, at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo. Father Matthew Cowan witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Randy and Beth Gassmann. Parents of the bride are Bert and Johnne Maxfield. Witnesses were Johnathan Gassmann and Kylee Maxfield.

Matthew Erbert and Georgi Wilson were married Dec. 31, 2022, at St. Mary’s Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark witnessed the vows. Mother of the groom is Deb Erbert. Parents of the bride are Ron and Andrea Wilson. Witnesses were Kyle Hadley and Olivia Gassman.

Ryan A. Prosser and Maggie L. Thibault were married Sept. 24, 2022, at St. Aloysius Gonzaga in Osborne. Father Leo Blasi witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom

are Michael Prosser and Myra Cates. Parents of the bride are David and Susan Thibault. Witnesses were John Rouse and Andrea Cady.

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DEATHS

Warren Eugene Callahan, 78, died Jan. 27, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 2 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Deacon Buzz Harris presided. Burial in Veterans Cemetery Fort Riley in Manhattan.

Ivan D. Coonrod, 74, died Jan. 31, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 4 at St. George Church in Munden.

Father Henry Baxa and Father David Metz presided. Burial in St. George Cemetery in Munden.

Patricia Cuning, 83, died Jan. 10, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 20 at Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home. Deacon Wayne Talbot presided. Burial in St. Boniface Cemetery in Tipton.

Thomas C. "Tom" Gatschet, 96, of Hays, died Dec. 9, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 17, 2022, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Father Fred Gatschet and Father Richard Daise presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Terry Gnad, 72, died Jan. 8, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 14 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 7 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Hays. Father Nick Parker presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Michael L. Kieffer, 71, died Jan. 22, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 30 at St. Edward Church in Belleville. Father Steve Heina presided. Burial in St. Isidore Cemetery in Cuba.

Mary Jane Koerner, 79, of Munjor, died Jan. 14, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 19 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Munjor. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery in Munjor.

Michael Pacey, 72, of Olathe, died Jan. 24, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 28 at St. Anthony in Miltonvale. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in Miltonvale Cemetery.

Pamela Martin Redd, 44, of Concordia, died Jan. 22, 2023. Funeral service was Jan. 27 at Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Inurnment is at a later date.

Ralph C. Wellbrock, 81, of Hays, died Jan. 4, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 10 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Father Richard Daise presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Eddie Lang, 71, died Jan. 8, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 17 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Robert B. Moellering, 87, of Hoxie, died Dec. 30, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 4, 2023, at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial in St. Frances Cemetery in Hoxie.

Monica Wernette, 71, died Jan. 13, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 18 at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Clay Center. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in Greenwood Cemetery in Clay Center.

Harvey J. Werth, 86, of Hays, died Jan. 19, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 23 at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. Father Nick Parker presided. Burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Hays.

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Tanner Joseph "TJ" Haselhorst, 21, of Hays, died Jan. 1, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 6 at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Antonino. Father Curtis Carlson, O.F.M. Cap. presided. Burial in Our Lady Help of Christians Cemetery.

Delores Jane Hertel, 88, of Schoenchen, died Dec. 31, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 12, 2023, at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Father Curtis Carlson, O.F.M. Cap. presided. Burial in St. Anthony Cemetery.

Imelda Mae "Millie" Karlin, 88, of Hays, died Jan. 3, 2023.

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To submit a funeral, baptismal or wedding announcement, email theregister@salinadiocese.org

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Part-time office manager, Hill City

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hill City, is accepting resumes for a part-time office manager for the parish. The position is responsible for the A/R and A/P duties, plus clerical duties including payroll. Schedule is flexible, 15 to 18 hours per week. The position has a competitive wage range of \$14 to \$16 per hour. Share with us your work experience, what you are looking for in an opportunity, give us a chance to talk it over with you. To learn more about this job or to send a resume, email Father Ernest Amoake-Opore at ihm-catholicchurch@ruraltel.net. For a confidential inquiry, contact Kim Hoelting, HR director for the Diocese of Salina. Email address is kimhoelting@salina.diocese.org or by calling (785) 342-0819. This is a great work-life balance role combined with serving the Catholic faith.

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March 4 and 5 is participation weekend for the 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal — Call to Share. It is the weekend you will find pledge cards and envelopes



in the pews. You are welcome to fill out the pledge card and return it in the envelope provided or scan the QR code on the pledge cards to give online.



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Corrina Hudsonpillar is donor advisor for the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Salina.

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