



Tour marches on

BISHOP MAKES STOPS THROUGHOUT DIOCESE AS PART OF YEAR OF MERCY

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Residents of Brookdale Senior Living in Junction City enjoyed a special treat one afternoon in early March when Bishop Jerry Vincke visited their facility.

"We missed bingo today, but it was worth it," Josephine Rago said with a smile, probably echoing the thoughts of the other residents as well.

The visit to Junction City and St. Francis Xavier Parish is part of Bishop Vincke's Year of Mercy tour around the vast Salina Diocese, where he plans to visit all 86 parishes by April 2024. Year of Mercy began on Ash Wednesday 2023 in Norton.

Year of Mercy is part of the bishop's "Rich in Mercy" theme he chose for his motto when he was ordained the bishop of the Salina Diocese in 2018.

"I pray this is a time when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will come upon our diocese," Bishop Vincke said in an event-opening video.

The priest and parish council from each parish come up with an agenda for the bishop's visit. He usually visits with the parish council, hears confessions and celebrates Mass. Some parishes schedule their confirmations for their Year of Mercy visit.

At Junction City, the bishop met with the pastor, finance and school council members, in addition to visiting the school and the senior-living facility.

The bishop's warm greetings, big smile and listening ear endeared him to young and old alike, from the residents

at Brookdale to second-graders at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School.

He listened attentively as Rago, sitting beside her older sister, Ruth, explained how Brookdale



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Jerry Vincke greets resident Barbara Steiner at Brookdale Senior Living during his Year of Mercy Tour.

residents could go for manicures every other week.

"Wow, every other week. Do you get to do pedicures, too?" Bishop Vincke asked.

The room was abuzz with many answers to that question.

"The food here is really good, too," Rago added.

Fellow resident Barbara Steiner informed the bishop she had been "watching him" after she first met Bishop Vincke at the Wilson Czech Festival approximately

four years ago.

"We were so impressed with how outgoing he was," Steiner said. "So we were really looking forward to seeing him today."

Steiner told the bishop she had



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Second-grader Preston Ellis tells Bishop Vincke who he is portraying on dress-up day at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Junction City.

grown up near Ellsworth in the Salina Diocese but spent the past few years of her life in Great Bend,

which is part of the Dodge City Diocese.

TOUR, PAGE 3

SCOUTING PHENOM

Teenager's effort allows him to pursue Eagle Scout designation.

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SHARING A VISION

Event shows impact of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas.

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Who knows?

Most of us don't remember the homilies we have heard. Hopefully, though, homilies are like food. We might not remember what we ate in the past but know we are getting nourished.

However, there is one homily I remember vividly from 30 years ago when I was in the seminary. A retired priest told a story about a father and son from the Civil War times. The son had a horse he loved. One day, the horse broke out of its pen and ran off. Their neighbor came over and told the father, "It's too bad that your son's horse ran off." The father replied, "Who knows what is good or bad."

Well, a few days later, the horse came back, but he also brought back with him a dozen other beautiful horses. The neighbor came over and told the father, "Wow, it's so good that you have all these horses now." The father replied, "Who knows what is good or bad." A week later, the son was training one of his new horses when he fell off the horse and broke his leg. You guessed it — the neighbor came over and said to the father, "It's too bad your son broke his leg." And you guessed it again, the father's response was, "Who knows what is good or bad."

A few days later, a battalion fighting in the war came to recruit the son for battle. He couldn't go because of his broken leg. The whole battalion was killed during a

battle. The son later was part of the reconciliation and peace terms between the north and south.

The moral of the story is this: We can judge what is good or bad, but we are also invited to trust that God can and will bring good out of every "bad" situation in our life and that ultimately, God is in control. I

think of St. Patrick. Born in Britain,

he was kidnapped to serve as a shepherd in Ireland. Several years later, he escaped and went back to Britain. It was there that he felt the Lord calling him back to Ireland to bring the good news to the people.

This was all God's design.

Another example is Jesus' death on the cross. For the apostles, this was probably the worst day of their life. But God chose that day and that cross as a means to bring the greatest good that history has ever and will ever know — the resurrection of Jesus and all of us. Then it will be for eternity always "good."

Trust in God. He constantly assures us, "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope." (Jer 29:11).

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

**GERALD
Vincke**
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



BISHOP'S CALENDAR

April

- 1 Confirmation, 6 p.m., St. Edward's, Belleville
- 2 Year of Mercy, Solomon and Gypsum
- 3 Year of Mercy, Antonino
- 4 Year of Mercy, Schoenchen
- 5 Year of Mercy, Atwood
- 6 Year of Mercy, Herndon
- 7 Good Friday, Chancery closed
- 9 Easter Sunday
- 10 Easter Monday, Chancery closed
- 11 Easter Mass, noon, Ellsworth Correctional Center, Ellsworth

POPE: LEARN FROM SYNOD

By JUSTIN MCLELLAN
Via UCCSB

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Tomorrow's priests are called to be "missionary disciples" in light of the church's synodal journey, Pope Francis told U.S. seminarians.

Speaking to the Cleveland-based community of St. Mary's Seminary on March 6, the pope said learning to listen, to walk together and to bear witness to God are "essential" characteristics of priestly formation that are principles of synodality.

The current Synod of Bishops opened by Pope Francis in October 2021 seeks to gather input from all baptized members of the church to inform discussions among the world's bishops on building a listening church. The bishops will meet in Rome in two sessions, the first in October

2023, and then again a year later.

Pope Francis urged the seminarians to listen to God by making room for him in their lives every day and praying in silence before the tabernacle.

"Never forget the importance of placing yourselves before the Lord to hear what he wants to say to you," he said. "Listening to the Lord also involves the response of faith to all that he has revealed and the church hands on."

The pope told them walking together does not only mean forming strong bonds with other seminarians, but also with their bishop, local priests, consecrated men and women and lay faithful.

He explained how "listening to God and walking with others bears fruit in our becoming living signs of Jesus present in the world."

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

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JOIN US

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Gerald Vincke on Thursday, March 30, 2023, 11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

Please join us to celebrate the gift of the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood at the Chrism Mass; where priestly vows are renewed, and Holy Oils are blessed and dispersed throughout the diocese for use in the sacraments during the next year.



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TOUR, FROM PAGE 1

She moved to Brookdale in October, welcoming the return to familiar territory. “I’ve always been for the Salina Diocese,” Steiner said, getting a smile from Bishop Vincke.

All got quiet when he asked the circle of residents if they had any advice for the bishop.

“Oh, I don’t know if I can give the bishop any advice,” Steiner said, shaking her head.

But Rago came up with one.

“You can keep him here,” she said, grabbing the hand of Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, the beloved pastor at St. Xavier.

“Oh, believe me, I’ve tried,” Bishop Vincke said.

After 10 years of serving the Salina Diocese, Father Kulandai — affectionately referred to as Father G — will conclude his duties at St. Xavier this summer and return to his home country of India this fall.

Reaction to the bishop’s visit at St. Xavier was similar to that at Brookdale — and even more energetic.

Second-graders in Bryn Morgenstern’s classroom took turns telling the bishop who they were portraying on “dress-up day” at the school.

Adults looking on were particularly impressed with a youngster portraying Jackie Robinson as he quickly and accurately answered questions about the former athlete, a baseball legend who played second base for the Brooklyn Dodgers and whose jersey number was 42.

The bishop closed out the day with a holy hour and confessions, the confirmation Mass and a reception and dinner.

He then returned home to Salina, preparing for his



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Holy Hour services are a part of Bishop Jerry Vincke’s Year of Mercy tour.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Jerry Vincke visits with the parish council and school administrators at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

visit the next day — at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

The Salina Diocese covers 26,685 square miles.

It stretches 305 miles from Hanover in northeast Kansas near the Nebraska

border in Washington County to Sharon Springs in Wallace County.

It’s even farther (320 miles) from St. Francis in far northwest Kansas in Cheyenne County to Herington in the southeast part of the diocese in



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Jerry Vincke listens to second-graders at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Junction City.

Dickinson County.

And the bishop is adamant about visiting every single parish.

“Someone told me when I first got here,” he said, “that mercy needs to start somewhere, and it might as well start in the Heart-land.”

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY 2023 - CHRIST THE KING PARISH, WAKEENEY



From left, Wilbert and Marilyn Wildeman, Darrin and Michelle Brungardt, Father Steier, Gary and Sue Benish and Donnie and Kate Shubert.



From left, Hardy and Dawn Howard, Norman and Roxie Geist, Father Steier, Donald and Janet Geist and John and Phyllis Richards.

Freshman a scouting phenom

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN

THE REGISTER

Janis Curit has high aspirations.

A freshman at St. Francis Xavier High School in Junction City, Janis wants to attend a military academy after graduation and study political science and history.

Janis is certainly on track to building a solid resume, especially with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

He earned the highest rank of scouting last fall as a 14-year-old when he completed his Eagle Scout requirements.

For his project, Janis cleaned up a mile-long trail along the Kansas (Kaw) River near Fort Riley that had been closed to the public because of poor conditions. Janis added a concrete patio for visitors to overlook the river and placed benches around the trail as well.

Because of the length and detail involved with the project, Janis received the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award.



COURTESY PHOTO

Janis Curit is honored as an Eagle Scout by U.S. Rep. Tracey Mann, R-Kan.

Then this semester, he received the fourth — and final — Catholic Scout emblem “Pope Pius XII.” After completing four scout workbooks, he was awarded the rare “Catholic Faith Pillars” pin.

Not surprisingly, Janis is heavily involved in a variety of school activities.

He has participated in cross country and basketball this year and plans to run track for the

Rams this spring.

A member of the state-qualifying scholars bowl team, Janis also participates in his school's Future Business Leaders of America chapter and is an altar server at school and parish Masses.

Janis first got involved in scouting as a first-grader in Hawaii, where his father, Richard, was stationed in the U.S. Army.

The den leader for the Tiger Cubs at his school asked for volunteers, and his mother, Inga, obliged.

Inga is especially proud of her son's most recent accomplishment of completing the Catholic workbooks.

“I like scouting because it's safe,” she said. “I want more families to know what Catholic scouting is all about. God created nature, and appreciating nature is part of what scouting is about, not just getting awards.”

Richard was stationed in 2016 at Fort Riley, from where he

retired as a sergeant first class in 2018. The Curit family decided to remain in the Junction City area, and Janis began school at St. Xavier as a sixth-grader.

A big part of being an Eagle Scout is giving back to one's community.

Janis is an assistant Senior Patrol Leader for his troop and wants to become a Senior Patrol Leader.

“I want to help younger scouts rise up and learn everything they need to become an Eagle Scout themselves,” he said.

One of those younger scouts he is mentoring is his 8-year-old brother, Bernhards.

There are 138 merit badges for Boy Scouts to pursue. Janis has 128 of them.

“I want to earn the next 10 by the time I'm a senior,” he said, “maybe even in the next year.”

Remember, Janis is a 15-year-old high school freshman. But don't bet against him.

Diocesan schools excel at state scholars bowl

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN

THE REGISTER

Students at Salina-Sacred Heart High School enjoyed a lot of success in academic contests during the month of February.

On Feb. 2, the Knights won their Class 2A regional scholars bowl tournament at Inman. Nine days later, they clinched their second consecutive state scholars bowl championship in the 2A season finale at WaKeeney.

It was the fourth top-four finish at the state scholars bowl meet for Sacred Heart, which finished fourth in 2020 and second in 2021 before winning it all last year.

Members of the team were seniors Jace Douglas, Stephanie Silverman and Markus White, juniors Jason Marrs and Andy Marshall and sophomore Abram Anderson.

A week after the state meet, Douglas, White, Marshall and Anderson were part of the school's team that placed first at the Regional Science Olympiad at Fort Hays State University to advance to competition in May.

“We certainly have a lot of good combinations of kids right now,” said David Green, the head coach for the Knights' scholars bowl squad. “In each of these competitions, there are a lot of the same kids and some different ones, too.”

Green is following in the footsteps of his stepdad, Roger Duell, a longtime scholars bowl coach at Bennington.

He said his team's willingness to put in the time to practice while juggling other school activities has paid big dividends.

“The students are excited about keeping up the tradition,” Green said. “These past few years, the kids have really been putting in the work and are excited about doing well.”

Green also credits his assistant coach, Anna Bonilla-Gordon, who rotates attending meets with Green during the season and also is in charge of the school's junior high scholars bowl team.

The Knights edged another school from the Salina Diocese in the championship round-robin at the state scholars bowl meet.

Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays, coincidentally, is coached by Isaac Dennis, a college friend of Green's. Sacred Heart had won its pool, and TMP had finished first in its pool, sending both schools into the finals.

TMP actually led Sacred Heart about midway through their finals match before the Knights came back to win by a slim margin. That helped Sacred Heart finish the finals round undefeated and claim the championship trophy.

TMP and two other teams tied for second in the finals, and the Monarchs ended up in third place because of tiebreakers. That capped a successful season that saw the Monarchs win their fifth consecutive league title, as

well as the 2A regional crown at TMP.

Other schools in the Salina Diocese that qualified for state were Beloit-St. John's and Junction City-St. Francis Xavier, which both participated in the Class 1A Division II season finale.

St. John's went undefeated in pool play to reach the finals. The Blujays won two matches but lost three close matches on tiebreakers in the finals. Nonetheless, they wound up claiming the fourth-place medals to close out a year that ranked among the best in St. John's history.

St. John's, which finished undefeated at league and regionals, also won the Salina Central meet while competing against much larger schools and finished runner-up in four other tournaments.

St. Xavier was making its second trip to state in the six-year coaching stint of Alex Becker, a math teacher at the school who had won back-to-back state titles as a student at TMP during his high school days.

St. Xavier missed out on state hardware this year by the narrowest of margins. The Rams went 2-3 in pool play, losing their chance to move on to the finals after dropping their last match on a tiebreaker. However, Becker already is looking ahead to next year as the Rams lose just one team member to graduation this spring.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Salina-Sacred Heart's Class 2A state championship scholars bowl team.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Hays/TMP-Marian's scholars bowl team that placed third at 2A.



COURTESY PHOTO

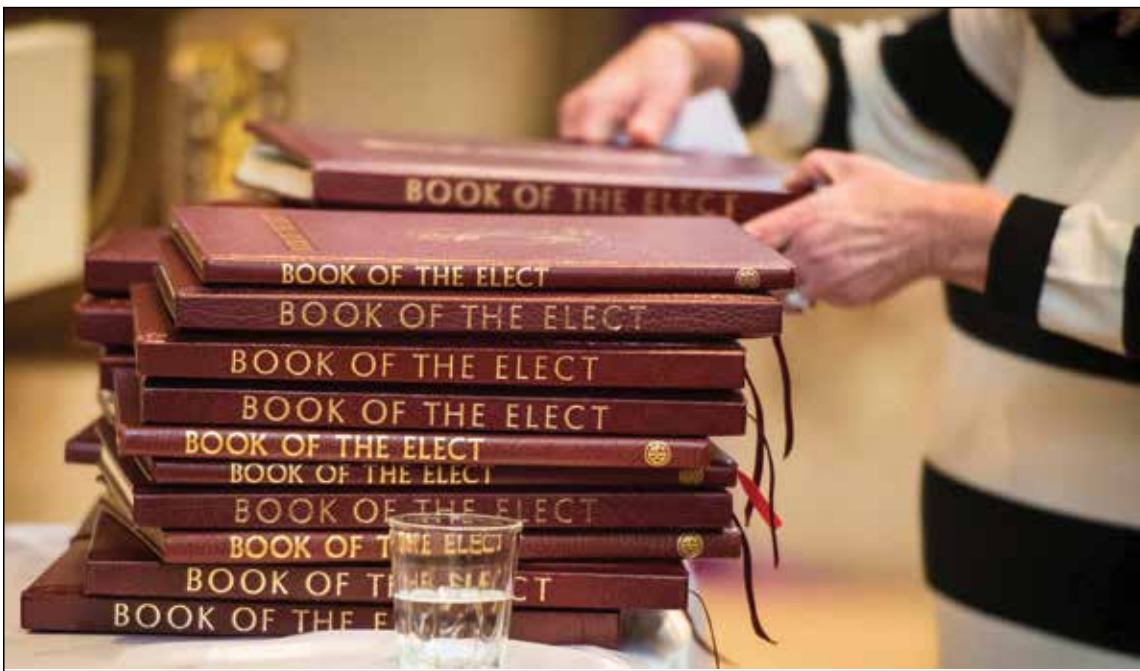
Beloit-St. John's placed fourth at the Class 1A DII state scholars bowl tournament.



COURTESY PHOTO

Junction City's St. Francis Xavier High School qualified in Class 1A DII.

RITES OF ELECTION



By THE REGISTER

The annual Rites of Election were recently celebrated in Hays and Salina. A total of 95 catechumens and candidates participated, along with their sponsors and family members.

The Rite of Election opens the third period in the journey of the catechumens (those not baptized) and candidates (those already Christian but desiring to come into full communion with the Catholic Church). This third period is called the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. Those on the journey to the Easter Sacraments enter into a more intense time of prayer.

During this period, their desire for the Easter Sacraments intensifies through prayer and penitential practice. The parish prays for them as well, and parishioners are encouraged to offer up some of their

Lenten penances for those discerning.

On the morning of Election, the catechumens sign the Book of the Elect, signifying their intent to continue their journey to baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. That afternoon, this book is brought to the Rite of Election and presented to the bishop, who signs it. From that time on, these people are no longer referred to as catechumens, but as the elect.

It is always a poignant moment for those journeying and for their sponsors and families. They travel to the Rite of Election, where they experience their oneness with many others around the diocese who are experiencing a similar path. There they meet the bishop. It is a moment of discovery that they are not merely joining a parish; they are joining a universal, Catholic Church.

Deacon Koerner
laid to rest in Hays

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Tom Koerner was a man of service. Those close to him agree he was most passionate about serving the Lord.

Koerner, a retired deacon in the Diocese of Salina, died Feb. 6 at age 79. He was laid to rest on Feb. 11 in St. Joseph Cemetery in his hometown of Hays.

"Deacon Tom absolutely loved our Lord and the Eucharist and wanted to share his faith," said Annette Hammeke, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays, the parish where Koerner served until his retirement.



Koerner

With Koerner's passing, the diocese lost its first member of the inaugural permanent deacon class that was ordained in January 2009.

Mark Roberti, also one of the first permanent deacons for the Salina Diocese, gave the sermon at Koerner's funeral mass.

"I could use a lot of words to describe Deacon Tom," Roberti said, "but the most appropriate one would be 'faithful Catholic.'"

Roberti talked about how we are all in this journey together and how we all have to help each other on that journey.

"Bon voyage, Tom," Roberti said. "We praise and thank God for having you as part of our lives."

Bishop Gerald Vincke celebrated the funeral Mass, which was attended by numerous priests and deacons. Bishop Vincke praised Koerner for his

service to the diocese and to the Lord.

"God loves us more than anyone," he said, "and Tom said 'yes' to that love. Jesus lives in us, and Tom took on that life, which included His suffering."

Koerner was a 1961 graduate of St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays. He joined the U.S. Air Force after graduation and was stationed in Korea and Okinawa during the Vietnam era.

His burial services featured military honors courtesy of the Hays VFW Honor Guard.



Hammeke said Koerner had a way of relating to old and young alike in the parish community.

"He was so giving to the religious education program," Hammeke said. "He helped us with our Advent program and had such a wonderful message for the students about baby Jesus. He was so loving."

Koerner served as a Hays City Commissioner and several positions in law enforcement: as a sergeant with staff development at Larned Mental Health Correctional Facility, a police officer with the Hays Police Department and a deputy with the Ellis County Sheriff's Department.

He was a member of the St. Mary's Third Degree Knights of Columbus Council No. 6984 and the Bishop Cunningham Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly.

Rosaries were said by the Third and Fourth Degree Knights councils at a parish vigil the night before Koerner's funeral.



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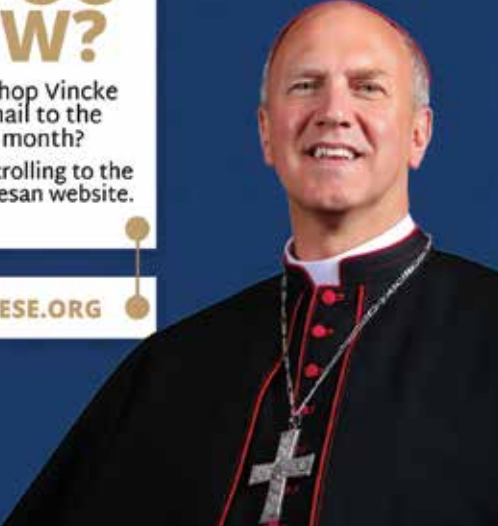
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The Eucharist and the Easter Triduum

One of my favorite things I have been a part of was the Easter Triduum Challenge at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Father Jarett Konrade was our pastor at that time, and he wanted a way to encourage everyone to celebrate the entirety of the Easter Triduum. He is passionate about the beauty and value of fully entering into the Easter celebration as we are meant to by the Church.

We had everyone interested sign up for the challenge and then those who completed the challenge were given a shirt on completion. More importantly, we had a packed church for the Holy Thursday Mass, Good Friday service and Easter vigil. It was one of the most memorable and amazing experiences I have had in the Church and made my family a lifetime participant.

Those three days have greatly influenced my faith development and understanding of the Eucharist. Like many of you reading this,

I grew up a Catholic. I always believed in the Eucharist's presence because everyone I respected and trusted told me it was indeed Jesus present in the sacrament. I never really thought too much of it or had to question its truth. It wasn't until I was teaching at Thomas More Prep-Marian and answering the questions from students that I realized I needed to dig in and learn more about the teachings on the Eucharist.

I read an amazing book titled Bible Basics for Catholics by John Bergsma during Lent prior to the Triduum Challenge, and it really opened my mind and heart. The book shows how all the covenants and the Old Testament point toward and help us understand the Eucharistic covenant. Everything is connected in one beautiful story of God bringing us into unity with him for eternity. In Adam, we see our willful decision to leave God and

his will for our lives. In Noah, we see his love for us and his desire to spend eternity with us. In Abraham, we see God say to him, "I myself will provide the sacrifice," as he points us toward the fact that his son, not Abraham's son, will be the sacrifice sent to save the world. We see in Moses the description of the sacrifice, an unblemished lamb that will pour out its blood to save all people. In David, we see the promise of a king who will rule, save us and bring us into his family with a new covenant. The sign of this new covenant

will be his very body and blood given to us to partake in, just as the Israelites consumed the lamb of the Passover.

We see in Jesus the fulfillment of God's promises through the Old Testament. As we look at Jesus on the cross, we see his love for us. We see the sacrifice God promised Abraham he would send. We see the true high priest who could only

offer that sacrifice for us. We see the king who has dominion over everything and the bread of life sent to nourish and strengthen us on our journey.

That Easter weekend, I saw this incredible story play out right there in front of me during those Easter Triduum days, and I am not too proud to admit I almost burst into tears as I heard the seven readings at the Easter Vigil. As those readings took us on a journey through salvation history, I began to understand better what Jesus had done for us and the gift the Eucharist was for each of us.

I felt like I was approaching the Eucharist for the first time during that Easter Vigil Mass, and I have not lost that feeling since then. I pray we may all continue to grow in our faith and understanding of the gift of the Eucharist and all Jesus did for us those three days a long time ago.

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

BILL Meagher
DIOCESE OF SALINA



Making summer plans

Summer is coming, and with it comes a lot of excitement for young people throughout the diocese. They are excited to be off of school and have some extra free time on their hands.

Summers can be a great opportunity for young people to grow in the faith and be further formed by their parents. As with any season of life, people change. Oftentimes, students return to school a different, more developed person than they were the year before.

I remember a homily Father Fred Gatschet gave at the opening school Mass for Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays a few years back. His message was the students were not the same they were when they left school the last May. They had grown, experienced things and, hopefully, matured. He advised them to accept and encourage that growth.

Parents have an important role in this. We must be present to our kids, and we must look to find opportunities for our kids to be surrounded by other great young people.

Take advantage of the freedom of summer by going to the lake, working in the backyard, taking a small trip or making an effort to eat supper together. We may not realize it, but these times spent with our kids provide some of the best opportunities for quality time with them. The better example we can be to our children makes it harder for Satan to get a hold of them. A strong family is like a wall to him.

While a strong family sets the foundation for a child's development, it is also important our young people have good peers surrounding

them. If young people have good friends who genuinely care about them, they will seek to improve themselves. They will challenge each other, keep each other accountable, and, hopefully, have a lot of fun experiencing life and its lessons.

Parents can help with this by encouraging their children to get involved with different programs at the parish and diocesan level. Encourage your children to take advantage of their parish CYO program or attend one of the diocese's many summer programs, such as the Jr. CYO Camp, Totus Tuus or Prayer and Action. These types of programs bring faith-oriented, like-minded kids together and foster wholesome friendships.

If you can, take that extra step and be involved with the summer programs as a sponsor or volunteer. Many hands make light work, and the presence of adults who are genuinely invested in the development of young people make a big impact.

But more than quality family time, our young people need prayers and sacrifices. The world they are growing up in is challenging. They need the graces of constant prayers to help them in the moments we can't be there. We can't influence every decision they make, but we can assure them of love and prayers.

So, let's start planning for our summer. These coming summer days are relaxing, awesome chances to help our young people grow and develop in their faith.

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

Strengthening our faith formation

Did you know your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share helps support religious education in our Catholic Schools and parishes across the diocese? Several new initiatives are underway that will help people grow in their faith, both individually and in their ministries, while also ensuring our next generation is immersed in the catechism. These initiatives are made possible through your generous gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share.

The diocese has started utilizing Franciscan at Home – Catechetical Institute to strengthen catechesis by providing the best formation possible. This tool is designed to help those who form others to grow in their own faith. Principals for our Catholic schools and Directors of Religious Education (DREs) in our diocese are participating in this online program. After these individuals have completed the courses, it will be rolled out to teachers at our Catholic schools and religious education teachers at our parishes. The principals and DREs will become the mentors, thus creating a deeper relationship while walk-

ing with each learner. The courses are designed to support and complement the faith formation happening in our schools and parishes. While some of the information may be a refresher of our faith, it can also provide new insight for some participants.

Another new initiative underway is the Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK) test for second through 12th graders in

Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. These assessments will help our Catholic schools and parishes see where our

strengths are, as well as areas for improvement. It can also encourage leaders across the diocese to work together – learning from each other on ways to build an overall stronger knowledge of our faith.

Both new programs are being offered at no cost to the parishes or the Catholic schools, thanks to the generosity shown through gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. To learn more about the appeal or to make a gift, visit join.salinadiocese.org.

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

CORRINA Hudsonpillar
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



CALL TO SHARE
GIFTS IN ACTION

Reasons to Create A Will

By Corrina Hudsonpillar

Catholic Foundation for
Diocese of Salina



Instead of giving something up for Lent this year, what if you worked on a plan to pass something on? In addition to passing on your assets to your children or other family, maybe you'd like to make a gift to your parish, Catholic school, or the diocese? You can share your faith and values with future generations by creating a Catholic legacy. Have you been putting this off? With fewer than half of Americans having a will in place, it's clear that all of us can find a variety of reasons to procrastinate. Let's dispel some of these common myths.

Reason #1 – “I don't have enough assets to need a will.” You might possess more than you realize. Even if you don't own much, you'll need a will for other important decisions including guardians for your children and your plans for end-of-life decisions. Beginning with the birth of your first child, it is a great time to create your will and then review it for updates when there have been any life changes or significant increases/decreases in your assets.

Reason #2 – “It's too time consuming to create a will.” Life can always get in the way, especially when you are thinking about a future that doesn't include yourself in it. Planning is one way that you can provide security for yourself and your family, and to make sure your intentions are known. A will is one of the most important legal documents that will be drafted in your lifetime. Once in place, you can rest easy knowing that your family will be cared for, and your property will be distributed according to your wishes.

Reason #3 – “It's too expensive.” Again, remember that NOT having a will can be expensive. A few hundred dollars to create a will can pale in comparison to the cost of not having a will at all. Plus, by planning your estate now, you can also look at ways to take advantage of tax benefits. Upfront planning and money spent on a will today could save money in the long run for your family.

Reason #4 – “I'm not old enough to need a will.” Having a will is not just something older people do. If you are an adult with some assets or who has children, you really need to have a will. Things that can be included in a will range from your house, savings accounts, to investments. That 401K that you just started at your first job out of college – yes, that should be included in your will.

These are just a few reasons why someone might think that they don't need to prepare a will or think about estate planning. As you can see, most of these are intertwined and at the end of the day creating a will can be one of the best gifts you give your family and yourself – knowing that everything is in order.



CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA

The Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina – A Primer

By Katie Platten || Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina

As a reader of The Register, you've probably seen information about the Catholic Foundation. Ever wonder what we do here and how that impacts you, your parish, your Catholic school? Here's a quick rundown!

PASS-THROUGH DONATIONS

The Catholic Foundation accepts donations on behalf of any parish, Catholic school, or ministry in our diocese. Donors can use the foundation to donate matured stocks and securities, grain, and other types of gifts including a check in a lump sum, and then simply tell us how much goes to each of their favorite Catholic organizations or ministries – which really simplifies the giving process. Imagine giving out multiple gifts at once, and we take care of the details for you!

PARISH & SCHOOL SUPPORT

Anyone can go to www.salinadiocese.org online and make a gift to a parish or school. We will process the gift and remit it on to the organization as directed by the donor. Like pressing the “Easy” button!

ANNUAL APPEALS

The Catholic Foundation is the fundraiser for the diocese, and we conduct all the appeals, like the Bishop's Annual Appeal going on right now, as well as the seminarian education and publication annual drives. Anything you donate goes through the Foundation and then we send it on to the diocese as needed. Again, this can make it easy for you to write one check

and combine your annual appeal gift with other gifts you are making.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS & INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

We currently manage over 100 funds at the Foundation. About two-thirds of them are endowment funds, and the other funds are investment savings accounts. Many of our accounts have been set up not by parishes and schools but by people who wish to create their own fund. Regardless of who establishes the fund, our goal is that someday soon every parish, every school and every ministry will have at least one or more funds at the Foundation.

LEGACY GIVING

The finest gift you can give is a gift in your will, leaving a legacy of love to your favorite Catholic ministry. You can ensure that our Church will be around for the next generations of Catholics – and the Foundation can help you do that.

The bottom line is that the goal of the Catholic Foundation – what we exist to do – is to build a circle of support around our diocese, and her parishes, schools and ministries. You make it happen, and we just want to do everything we can to make it easy and convenient!



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ARE YOU AN ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY, ACCOUNTANT, FINANCIAL PLANNER, WEALTH MANAGER, INSURANCE ADVISOR, ETC.?

The Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina is currently developing a list of resources for members of our diocese to help in creating their Catholic legacy. If you are one of these trusted professionals, please send us an email – development@salinadiocese.org – with your contact information so we can include you on this list of professionals that are aligned with Catholic values and beliefs.

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Who was Blessed Stanley Francis Rother?

BY MARC AND JULIE ANDERSON

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Stanley Francis Rother was born March 27, 1935, in the small town of Okarche, Okla. He was the oldest child born to Franz and Gertrude Rother and grew up on a farm. He attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church and school.

In high school, he began to consider the priesthood. He completed his studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., and was ordained a diocesan priest May 25, 1963, for the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

In 1968, Father Rother answered the call to join the staff at the diocese's mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala.

For 13 years, he served the native tribe of the Tz'utujil, descendants of the Mayans, celebrating Mass in their language and helping to translate the New Testament for them.

Surrounded by extreme poverty among the Tz'utujil who lived in one-room huts and grew what they could on their small plots of land, Father Rother ministered to his parishioners in their homes. Due to having grown up in a farming community, he was able to help the people in the fields by bringing in different crops and building an irrigation system.

While Father Rother served as a missionary, a civil war raged



MARC ANDERSON, SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The martyr's body is interred in the shrine's chapel located behind the main altar of Sacred Heart Church in Oklahoma City. It was placed in the altar during the chapel's dedication Feb. 13.

between the government and guerillas.

The Catholic Church was caught in the middle, and thousands of Catholics — including some of Father Rother's parishioners — were kidnapped and killed. Eventually, Father Rother's own name appeared on a death list. For his own safety and that of his associate, Father Rother returned home to Oklahoma in 1980.

Writing in a Christmas letter that year, Father Rother said, "A shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger. Pray for us that we may be a sign of the love of Christ

for our people and that our presence among them will fortify them to endure these sufferings in preparation for the coming of the kingdom."

Father Rother returned to Guatemala to continue his ministry. At 1 a.m. July 28, 1981, three men entered the rectory at the mission of Santiago Atitlan and executed him. To this day, no one has been held accountable.

The people of Santiago Atitlan mourned the loss of their beloved "Padre Francisco" or "Father Aplas," as he was affectionately known. They requested his heart

remain in Guatemala where it remains encased in a shrine today.

In 2007, a cause for canonization of Father Rother was opened, and on Dec. 1, 2016, Pope Francis officially recognized Father Rother as a martyr — making him the first martyr born in the United States

and the first diocesan priest born in the U.S. to be beatified. The Rite of Beatification was Sept. 23, 2017.



A painting of Blessed Stanley Francis Rother hangs in the vestibule of the shrine's 2,000-seat church known as Sacred Heart.

A shrine dedicated to Blessed Stanley Francis Rother is located in Oklahoma City. Pilgrims will enjoy visiting the church and the shrine chapel as well as learning more about Blessed Stanley's life in the museum.

For more information about the shrine visit rothershrine.org.

Standing in awe of the Father

As I write this column, my baby boy is laying on the floor. He's kicking his little legs and swatting at the bright colored mobile that swings above him. He seems pretty content, but I've learned to not be tricked by those cute baby rolls and sleepy smiles. The little guy will be happy one second and then be wailing at the top of his lungs the next.

His name is Ignatius. He is a happy, healthy baby and was born Jan. 1, 2023. There must be a little of my editor genes in him — he arrived two weeks early.

I took the first nine weeks off work. And now, even though I've returned to work, I'm blessed to be able to work from home and hang out with Ignatius.

It's weird having a son. It's weird saying, "I have a son."

The day we brought him home was terrifying. They just walked us out the door and said, "Good luck. We'll see you at the first check-up." The first day I spent alone with him was even more terrifying. I cried a

lot that day. I was scared and overwhelmed with the responsibility of being his mother.

But hours turned into days, and days turned into weeks, and now, I'm not as scared. I'm still a little weirded out, but I'm not scared anymore. (At least, I'm not currently scared.)

When I look at Ignatius, my heart is more full than I ever thought possible. It's so different from the way I love my husband.

I marvel at my child. I look at those little fingers and toes in pure awe. Those little smiles and coos and ahhs he makes are my heart's greatest delight. The day he rolled over for the first time was the proudest moment of my life.

I am in a constant state of awe anytime I gaze upon him.

I'm in a women's group for Lent, and one of our recent reflections challenged us to think about the last time we experienced awe.

Awe is the feeling of standing in the presence of something that demands reverence. It is a mix of fear and wonder. It makes our hearts ache for God.

For the most part, I think people experience awe in the presence of God's creation. When we look at majestic mountains or stand on the shore of a vast ocean, our hearts can't help but reflect on the Creator. And so, I stand in awe of the child God created.

But the more I thought about it, the more I began to wonder if God the Father stands in awe of me. Does he too stand in awe of the child he created? Does he delight in his daughter? Does he laugh with joyful abandon as he gazes upon me?

I love my child with a fierce, reckless love. I think God loves us in a similar, more perfect, way.

Next time you marvel at your child, grandchild, godchild, niece or nephew, I

challenge you to take a moment to reflect on how God the Father must look at you. I promise he loves you with a fuller, more perfect love than you could ever imagine.

Katie

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

P.S.: How is everyone doing this Lent? Typically, I give up something, and I add something. I have been doing great on what I gave up. As for what I added ... not so much.

You know that song, "I Get Knocked Down" by Chumbawamba? That is how my Lent is going ... I get knocked down, but I get up again. You are never going to keep me down. I get knocked down, but I get up again.

Anytime I realize I did not fulfill my Lenten intentions, that song plays in the back of my head.

Inevitably, we fail with our commitment to our Lenten promises. For perfectionists like me, failure is hard to accept, which is in part why I have started mentally singing "I Get Knocked Down" with each little failure. It makes me laugh at my own shortcomings.

We are always beginning again in every season of life. We are human. We will fail. It is one of the humbling realities of our life. But God's grace will sustain us. Just as a father picks up his child who has fallen down, so too does God help pick us up, dust us off and help us to try again.

He doesn't resent us for falling.

Instead, he gives us the courage to press on.

If you're like me and have slipped up in some of your Lenten promises, do not let your failures keep you from trying again. Press on.

And if it helps, give yourself a little pump up song to keep you motivated.

I get knocked down ... but I get up again!

KATIE Hamel
CREATIVE EDITOR



Charities shares mission with community

By OLIVIA AYERS
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On Feb. 23, Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas hosted an open house at their Salina location, inviting community members to tour the facility, meet staff and learn about Catholic Charities' programs and services. The event was hosted by the Salina-Area Council of Ambassadors, a group of volunteers who help share the mission of Catholic Charities with the community.

Furthering community presence has been a long-standing goal of the organization, said Joyce Ratcliff, Salina-Area Council of Ambassadors chairperson. "For years, we have been wanting to show the community that Catholic Charities serves everyone, not just Catholics," Ratcliff said. "We wanted people to be able to meet the staff members of every program and learn about the services provided every day. We also wanted to give those who haven't seen the Salina thrift store a chance



COURTESY PHOTO

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas hosted an open house in Salina on Feb. 23.

to see what an impactful service it is. From offices in Hays, Salina and Manhattan, Catholic Charities' mission is to provide compassionate care to all those in need throughout northern Kansas. Their services include financial and housing assistance, personal care and basic

needs, pregnancy support and adoption, immigration legal services, counseling services and the Salina thrift store. February's open house offered an inside look into how these services impact the wellbeing of those struggling throughout northern Kansas — which includes a large portion of the Salina Diocese.



Catholic Charities
OF NORTHERN KANSAS

Contact information:
P.O. Box 1366
Salina, KS 67402-1366
(785) 825-0208

"The event was perfect because we got to interact with our donors, partners and supporters in a casual way," Ratcliff said. "We got to answer any of their questions and show them how the Salina facility

operates on a day-to-day basis." In the future, Catholic Charities strives to further strengthen their relationship with communities throughout the diocese. "We want to continue to bring people into our offices for a better understanding of what Catholic Charities does," Ratcliff said. "We were so pleased with all the people who attended and demonstrated what community involvement is all about." To schedule a tour of Catholic Charities or learn more about the ambassador program, contact Megan Spilker at mspilker@ccnks.org or call (785) 825-0208.

Olivia Ayers is communication coordinator for Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas.



Jessica Allen and Zoe Miller participated in the community event for Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas.

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Surrendering to God's call with joy

Editor's note: This article was first published in a recent issue of Religious Life Magazine, a publication of the Institute on Religious Life. It was written by the former Ashley Winters, who grew up in the Diocese of Salina in Plainville.

BY SISTER MARY FRANCESCA WINTERS, IHM

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

"Jesus, You can call me to religious life, just don't ask me to move far away ... don't make me wait very long ... and please, don't ask me to join the cloister."

That doesn't sound like much of a fiat, does it?

Looking back on my discernment journey, I am so grateful for the Lord's patience.

In the end, he didn't ask me to make any of these sacrifices, but I was all the more ready to respond humbly to his call once he helped me to let go of this resistance and be open to his will.

Growing up in Plainville, I did not think much about becoming a sister. I liked going to Mass on Sundays, but I didn't actively seek to grow in my faith.

When I started college in the fall of 2014, I became involved at the Comeau Catholic Campus Center at Fort Hays State University.

The campus center is just across the street from the university campus. It is a simple building with a chapel on one side and a lounge on the other.

As I met the students who frequented the campus center, I was amazed at how excited they were to be Catholic and how eager they were to follow God's will.

These new friends encouraged me to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament before and after my classes and to sign up for a Holy Hour during the 24-hours of Adoration that the campus center offered once a week.

In these silent encounters with our Lord, I became aware of the depth of his love.

While I knew a relationship with Jesus is central to any vocation, he seemed to hold my heart in a spousal way. Love for Jesus naturally progressed into devotion to his mother.

Wearing a crucifix and a Miraculous Medal also fostered my growing attraction to the passion of our Lord in union with Our Lady

of Sorrows.

Meeting different communities of sisters throughout the year (either at the campus center or at various Catholic conventions) was a positive experience for me.

As another gift, the Lord blessed me with a dormitory roommate who felt certain of a religious vocation and was starting the application process to enter the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) at the end of the summer. It was beautiful to witness her loving surrender as that time approached.

Though they had even less exposure to religious life than I did, my family was also encouraging. I talked to my parents often about the possibility of becoming a sister, and while the idea still seemed vague to them in many ways, they ultimately wanted me to follow the Lord's lead.

With all of these "luxuries" of love and support surrounding me, discovering my vocation was fairly calm and progressive. As my freshman year concluded, I recognized with confidence the Lord's invitation to belong totally to him.

This elated but also humbled me. But the question, "Who am I to be his bride?" was quickly followed by, "Who am I to refuse him?" Although he had made the path to his heart smooth and clear, I certainly complicated things when it came to discerning what community he wanted me to join.

In August 2015, my roommate joined the IHMs, and I began my sophomore year of classes. The haunting thought occurred to me, "What if I have to wait several years to enter the convent?"

This made me restless, but as I continued to pray, the Lord reminded me that what I really wanted (to be with him) was never excluded from my daily life. Because he dwells in my heart, I could converse with him any time of day.

Remaining close to him through the Eucharist and confession also helped me gain peace. In fact, I found renewed delight in simply walking with him as I patiently waited for the right community to be revealed.

Regarding actually visiting communities, it seemed obvious to start with the IHMs since they were only a few hours away. However, I

didn't think God would call me to the same community as my roommate.

Instead, I visited a few communities in the states surrounding Kansas, but they weren't the right fit. Soon, another question arose: "What if Jesus wants me to join a community clear across the country, or even, in another country?"

I dreaded the thought of being so far away from my family, but when I expressed this concern to a priest, he assured me if God was really calling me to a community far away, he would provide special graces for me and my family.

Soon, I actually found myself desiring to make such a daring leap of faith.

Perhaps my friend suggested it because she was aware

of my quiet nature and love for prayer, but the idea of contemplative life felt quite daunting.

An IHM who visited the campus center encouraged me to pray for the grace of a "spirit of neutrality" and to follow the Lord without fear.

After a few weeks, I received various materials about living under enclosure. One brochure expressed their life this way, "In the cloister, we seek to be attentive to the Lord who is so often forgotten."

Now, I could see more clearly the beauty of their vocation. Their prayers and sacrifices, all hidden behind the veil of the cloister walls, is an irreplaceable gift to the Church. I, too, wanted to console the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to pray for souls

throughout the world.

Midway through the spring semester, I decided to visit the IHMs, but my intention was to see my former roommate and to pray about which cloister the Lord wanted me to visit that summer. As soon as I arrived at the motherhouse property, however, I felt a warm sense of "coming home."

The sisters felt like family and each aspect of the IHM charism brought me deeper joy.

After making a few more visits, I entered the community in September 2016. Each year has brought greater gratitude for Our Lord's abundant gifts to me, and seeking to live out my vocation with fidelity is my daily response to his love.



Winters





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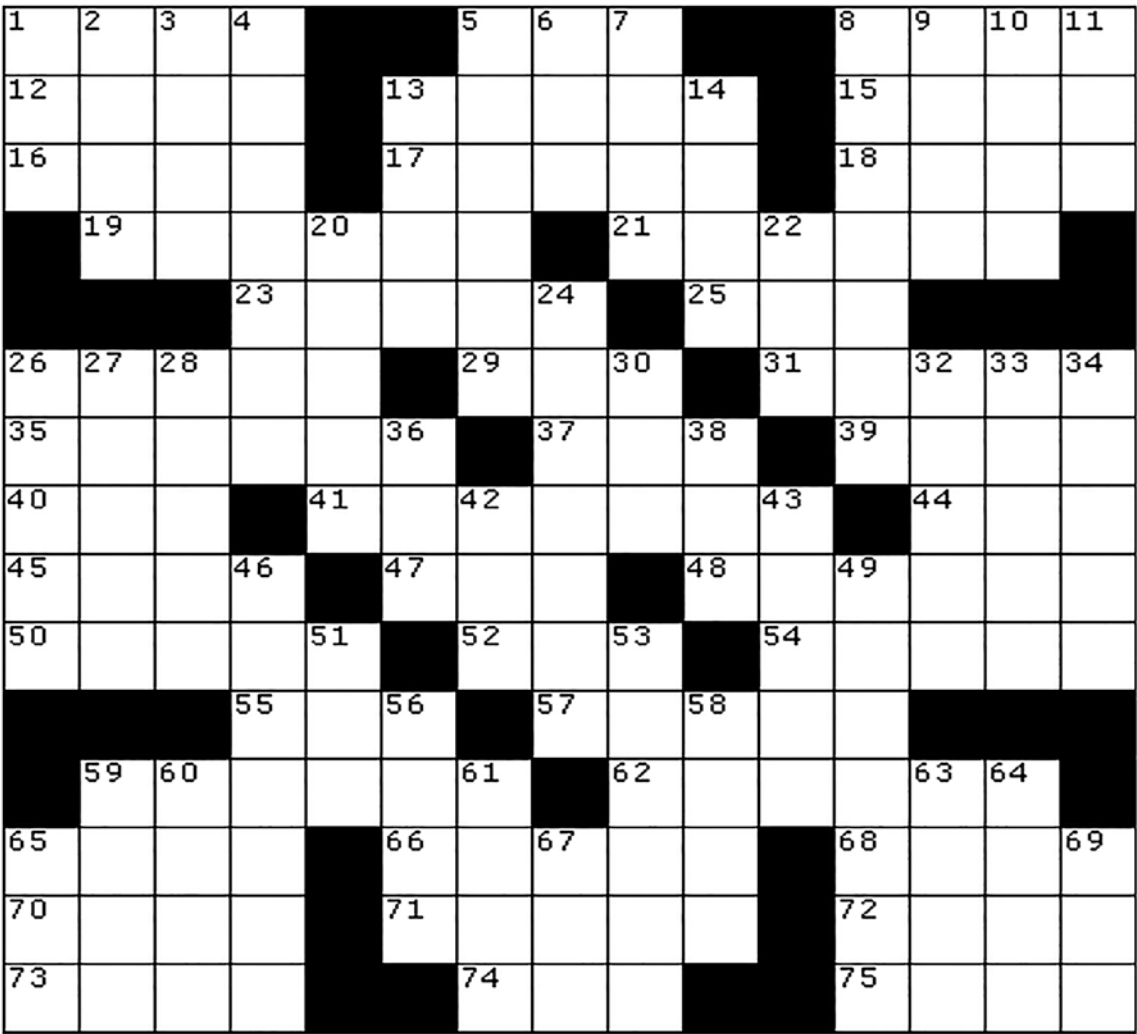
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CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**

1 Converse

5 School group

8 Spurt

12 Painter of melting clocks

13 Used to kill Goliath

15 Twin brother of Jacob

16 Trolley car

17 Poem division

18 Bird's home

19 Programming language

21 NT church leaders

23 NT epistle

25 Hades

26 City in Nebraska

29 Goddess

31 See

35 Forest gods

37 Boy

39 Girdle

40 Sky

41 King after David

44 Thai

45 Furrow

47 Caesar's twelve

48 Fourth son of Ham

50 Birch-like tree

52 Deoxyribonucleic acid (abbr.)

54 Small measurement 1/16 of a pound

55 Gloomy
- 57 Fairy Tale writing brothers

59 Confusion

62 Groups of related families

65 They brought gifts

66 half of diameters

68 Heroic

70 Band instrument

71 Symbol of suffering

72 Remake

73 Enact

74 Still

75 Flow out slowly
- DOWN**

1 Summer time zone

2 David's musical instrument

3 Like a wing

4 Paul's friend

5 Affliction sent against Egypt

6 Container

7 Stake

8 First book of Bible

9 Consumer

10 Talk back

11 Shelter

13 Scotsman

14 ___, frankincense and myrrh

20 Prevaricators

22 Division (abbr.)

24 Singing alone

26 City

27 Big water pipes

28 A vacation (2 wds.)

30 Surface to air missile

32 The devil

33 Son of Abraham

34 KJV possessive pronoun

36 Boston baseball team

38 Physician

42 Container top

43 Mother-in-law of Ruth

46 Bears

49 Fourth book of Bible

51 Zilch

53 Painter

56 Artist Chagall

58 Spring flower

59 Baby's "ball"

60 Freudian selves

61 Mother of Jesus

63 Fencing sword

64 Flank

65 Clean

67 Deer

69 Police officer

Answers on Page 14



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Manhattan recently attended the Kansas Catholic Campus Student Convention in Lawrence. Front row from left, Heidi White, Ann Langford, Bernadette Langford, Anna Jirak and Emily Genereux. Back row from left, Joey Lubbe, Robyn Logan, Aubrey Kaiser, Troy Sanson, Braden Dameron and Austin Bradley.

Retreat offers students guidance

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On Feb. 10 to 12, student leaders from St. Isidore's, Manhattan, attended the Kansas Catholic Campus Student Convention leadership retreat at the St. Lawrence Campus Center in Lawrence.

The intention of the retreat was to create a space for Catholic leaders within their own college campus centers to come together and grow in their desire to lead as missionary disciples.

"Attending KCCSC allowed us to intentionally reflect on where our campus ministry is thriving and provided a space for us to joyfully share our successes with other campus ministries, but also allowed us to reflect on our struggles so that we can start to better learn to serve the students of our parish and our desire to evangelize. Forming relationships with those you interact with is the key to revealing to them the heart of Jesus Christ," said Emily Genereux, co-president, Isidore's leadership team.

Group honors religious sister

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Sister Margaret Nacke will be honored along with other leading abolitionists from around the country who are fighting to end modern day slavery on March 25 at the Greek Annunciation Banquet Center in Columbus, Ohio. Sister Margaret Nacke, Sister of St. Joseph, Concordia, has been involved with anti-human trafficking initiatives for the past 11 years.

She has engaged in ventures that involve Adult Life Transitions with persons in the U.S. and abroad. As chair of Survivor Services Working Group, committee of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, she has been instrumental in creating programs that advance education about trafficking.

The Liberator Awards will be presented in the categories of: Individual, Volunteer, Organization, Law Enforcement/Public Servant, female and male Survivor of the Year, the Liberator of the Year and the Radical Abolitionist Award.

All proceeds from the evening will benefit future Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution outreach initiatives that help rescue missing children from being trafficked.



Nacke

CONFIRMATION



St. Thomas More, Manhattan — Feb. 19

First row from left, Riana Howells, Grace Werth, Lara Strother and Father Frank Coady. Second row from left, Catechist Rick Smith, Leanne Collado, Makayla Machin, Hannah Caycedo, Mia Dodge, Alexa Dierenfeldt, Meredith Baumann and Evelyn Suther. Third row from left, Deacon Larry Erpelding, Nicholas Dierenfeldt, Ellise Pruss, Kaitlyn Lagabed, Kenidy Lister, Grace Radi, Isabelle Peabody, Lynden Auckly and Schyler Gantt. Back row from left, Catechist Bill Kennedy, Brett Hopper, Ryan Heitmann, Alex Robinson, Colton Klecan, Eric Tiede, Cooper Sieben, Brayden Merrill, Drew Becker and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

Celebration of Jesus' mercy set for April 16

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Bishop Gerald Vincke has declared a Year of Mercy in the Diocese of Salina, and many parishes will celebrate with some special prayer or service on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16.

A solemn hour of prayer and benediction will be at 3 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays, at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe in Salina and Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Minneapolis. All services will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet in song, as well as prayers, music and meditation. Confessions will be heard during the service.

Other parishes throughout the diocese should check their parish bulletin for a service or attend a neighboring parish that has a Divine Mercy service.

Devotion for Divine Mercy began in the 1930s when St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun, received special communications with Jesus in which he asked her to have this image painted to spread the message of his mercy.

Under the instructions of a spiritual director, St. Faustina, as she is known, wrote down her revelations with Jesus, which is now contained in her 600-page diary. In these writings, St. Faustina said all people are to call upon Jesus with trust, receive his mercy

PROMISES OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

According to the diary of St. Faustina, Jesus attached graces to the veneration of the image of the Divine Mercy. Jesus said, "I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: 'Jesus, I trust in You.' By means of this image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so, let every soul have access to it."

Venerate means to gaze upon in prayer and adoration. Many faithful people like to light a candle or place flowers by a religious image or statue as a sign of respect.

Jesus asked St. Faustina to display the image of His Divine Mercy publicly on Divine Mercy Sunday so all people could venerate His image.

Jesus said to St. Faustina, "My daughter, tell the whole world about my inconceivable mercy. I desire that the feast of mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy."

To prepare oneself for the graces Jesus has in store for them, they should pray the Novena of Divine Mercy, which begins on Good Friday and leads up to Divine Mercy Sunday. Novena pamphlets are available in the back of your church-

es or by calling Divine Mercy Radio, (785) 621-4110.

Bishop Vincke will be praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m. every Friday during Lent on Divine Mercy Radio, followed by the Stations of the Cross prayed by Father Joshua Werth. Beginning Good Friday and at 3 p.m. each day leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, Bishop Vincke will be praying the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet on the radio station, which is 101.7, Salina, 105.7, Hays, 89.1 Colby and 88.1 in Great Bend and in Hays.

This chaplet is also available on Divine Mercy Radio's website at dvmercy.com, click under programming and downloadable prayers. It is also available on Divine Mercy Radio's phone app. Just click a station to listen to, then touch the three bars in the upper left hand of the screen and click on prayers.

A plenary indulgence is granted to those who participate in Divine Mercy Sunday if these conditions are met: 1) Having the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin; 2) Sacramentally confessing sins; 3) Receive the Holy Eucharist on the day or vigil of the feast; and 4) Saying prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, which usually is an Our Father and Hail Mary. A plenary indulgence can be offered for oneself or for another soul.

prayers.

The Divine Mercy image is a painting of Jesus with two rays emerging from his heart representing the blood and water which flowed from the side of Jesus as his heart was lanced after he died upon the cross.

One is pale representing the water which makes souls righteous and signifies the sacrament of baptism. The other is red for the blood, which is the life of souls and signifies the sacrament of Holy Eucharistic. It is from these two sacraments that Jesus founded his church.

St. Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus said, "These two rays issued forth from the very depths of my tender mercy when my agonized heart was opened by a lance on the cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of my father. Happy is the one who dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him." (Diary number 299.)

St. Faustina died in 1938 at age 33. She was canonized a saint April 30, 2000, in Rome by Pope St. John Paul II. He said the Sunday after Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, would now be an official feast day of the Church as Jesus requested through St. Faustina.

Divine Mercy is not just for Catholics — it is for all souls. All Christians share in Jesus' mercy, and all are invited in this special hour of prayer.

and let it flow through us to others.

This mercy fulfills the message in Matthew's gospel that states, "Blessed are the merciful, for they

shall obtain mercy."

St. Faustina said in her diary that we "radiate" God's mercy to others by our actions, our words and our

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- Sacred Heart Grade School
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- Second- and Fourth-Grade Teachers
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- Start: Aug. 2023

JUNCTION CITY

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- Start: Aug. 2023

HAYS

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- Start: Aug. 2023

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- Tipton High School
- Start: Aug. 2023

JUNCTION CITY

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- St. Francis Xavier High School
- Start: Aug. 2023

TIPTON

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- Tipton High School
- Start: Aug. 2023

HAYS

- Sixth-Grade Math + one more subject
- TMP-Marian Junior/Senior High School
- Start: Aug. 2023

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- TMP-Marian Junior/Senior High School
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To request a full job description, inquire about wage/benefits or send in a resume, call Kim at (785) 342-0819 or email kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org.

D of I prepares for 100th year

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Hays Daughters of Isabella, Circle 254, is preparing to celebrate its centennial anniversary by inviting the public to a celebration banquet beginning with a social at 5:30 p.m. April 22 at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2350 E. Eighth in Hays.

Tom Krause, an inspirational and motivational speaker, will be giving a talk at the banquet titled, “You Make a Difference.” Krause has spent more than 20 years in the public school system and knows how to reach audiences of all ages with unforgettable presentations.

He is best known for his 20 contributions to Chicken Soup for the Soul books. He has also authored

several books including “Touching Hearts – Teaching Greatness, Stories from a Coach that Touch Your Heart and Inspire Your Soul,” “Teen’s Guide to Not Being Perfect” and additional publications. One of his books, “Go Big Blue,” is currently under movie production.

Tickets for the banquet are \$35 and can be purchased from Peggy Feltis, (785) 650-7809; Janet Koerner, (785) 623-3407; Geri Zerr, (785) 432-1028; Donnetta Pfeifer, (785) 628-1094; or Barbara Zimmerman, (785) 628-8074.

Daughters of Isabella is one of the largest Catholic women’s organizations in the world. It is known for its charity to church and community.



Simeon Joel Seiler and Amanda Todaychick were married Dec. 31, 2022, at Seven Dolors Catholic Church in Manhattan. Father Gale Hamerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Gary and Lea Ann Seiler. Parents of the bride are Mark and Judith Todaychick. Witnesses were Sloan Seiler and Sara Todaychick.

Jared Robert Bourek and Danielle Erin DePriest were married Jan. 7, 2023, at Seven Dolors Catholic Church in Manhattan. Father David F. Bourek witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Wayne Bourek and Carol Doerneman. Parents of the bride are Phillip DePriest and Tracy Milliman.

Bryan Willis and Anna

Hixon were married Jan. 14, 2023, at Seven Dolors Catholic Church in Manhattan. Father Ryan McCandless witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Dwane Willis and Sherry Renae Cole. Parents of the bride are David Hixon and Engra Rena Miles.

Brennan Scott Skerjanec and Bridgette Nicole Butler were married Feb. 11, 2023, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hamerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Joseph and Mary Beth Skerjanec. Parents of the bride are Michael and Coni Butler. Witnesses were James Skerjanec and Allison Blum.

Grant William Nichol and Katherine Anne Nichols

Weisenborn were married Feb. 11, 2023, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Eric Nichol and the late Shannon Nichol. Parents of the bride are Gregory Weisenborn and Charlene Nichols. Witnesses were Connor Callahan and Emily Linder.

Regan Lane Steele and Carley Renae Herrington were married Feb. 18, 2023, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hamerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Eric and Tammy Steele. Parents of the bride are Duane Herrington and Teresa Herrington. Witnesses were Hunter Marshall and Lauren Atchley.

Gender, theology event upcoming

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

St. Fidelis Basilica in Victoria is preparing to host an event for the entire family. Gender and the Theology of Your Body is a family-based event that invites parents as well as teens to learn what is the meaning of sex, gender and the human body. It combines Jason Evert’s presentation on Gender and the Theology of Your Body, with a time of prayer, adoration, and the sacrament of reconciliation for everyone.

Free resources will be distributed to every attendee so every member of the family can take items home to help them discover how their body as a man or woman reveals their identity and calling. The event will be from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m. April 24 at St. Fidelis Basilica, 900 Cath-

edral, Victoria. Topics include:

- The truth of masculinity and femininity are being questioned like never before.
- Discover how your body as a man or woman reveals your identity and calling.

Families are looking for answers to difficult questions in today’s society. This is why the Chastity Project has launched a new initiative called Gender and the Theology of Your Body. Tickets are available online at [chastity.com/](https://chastity.com/events/jason-evert-gender-theology-of-your-body-2/) or go directly to: <https://chastity.com/events/jason-evert-gender-theology-of-your-body-2/>. For more information, contact Jeanette Brungardt at (785) 639-5067 or by email at Fidelisyouth@ruraltel.net.



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Hector Soler
Field Agent
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hector.soler@kofc.org

BAPTISMS

Layke Oscar Gideon Base, son of Kenyon and Manon Pecher, was baptized Feb. 25, 2023, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Manhattan.

Lennox Carson Wrenn Base, son of Kenyon and Manon Pecher, was baptized Feb. 25, 2023, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Manhattan.

Blayke GERALYN Blazek, daughter of Brianna Marie Blazek, was baptized Feb. 5, 2023, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia.

Cooper Ryan Brantley, son of Ryan and Deandra Brantley, was baptized Jan. 15, 2023, by Father Ryan McCandless at Seven Dolores Catholic Church in Manhattan.

Rorie Nicole Delgado, daughter of Lorenzo and Kendra Delgado, was baptized Feb. 26, 2023, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Manhattan.

Sophia Anne Dreitz, daughter of Nick and Caitlyn (Moss) Dreitz, was baptized March 4, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Greer Marie Fahey, daughter of Brett and Dorian Fahey, was baptized Feb. 11, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Clay Center.

Quinlynn Marie Fahey, daughter of Shawn Fahey and Hannah Swihart, was baptized Feb. 11, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Clay Center.

Huntley Shawn Fromholtz, son of Whitney Ritter, was baptized Feb. 19, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Reinhardt Alexander Gregoire, son of Ryan and Laura (Augustine) Gregoire, was baptized Feb. 11, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Owen Jack Harms, son of Jacob and Sarah Harms, was baptized Feb. 4, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Alayna Mae Hilgers, daughter of Ricky and Cynthia (Riedel) Hilgers, was baptized Feb. 26, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Ngozi Stephanie Ike, daughter of Chukwuneke and Chibuzor Azubuike, was baptized Feb. 11, 2023, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Harper Marie King, daughter of Alex and Abby King, was baptized Jan. 22, 2023, by Father Mike Leiker at Seven Dolores Catholic Church in Manhattan.

Andie Marie Legleiter,

daughter of Matthew and Karlee (Brunner) Legleiter, was baptized Feb. 26, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Hays.

Guatemala Molina Leticia-Charlotte, daughter of Allan Guatemala and Gabriela Molina, was baptized Nov. 6, 2022, by Father Mike Leiker at Seven Dolores Catholic Church in Manhattan.

Emrie Jean Lyon, daughter of Abby and Scott Lyon, was baptized Feb. 5, 2023, by Father Brian McCaffrey at St. Mary Queen of the Universe in Salina.

Brooks Rhian Magallanes, son of Gilberto and Laura Magallanes, was baptized Feb. 12, 2023, by Father Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Cameron Rosemary Miller, daughter of John and Megan (Wendell) Miller, was baptized March 4, 2023, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Ridlee Jax Montoya, son of Kyle and Megan Montoya, was baptized Feb. 19, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Clara Leah Nelson, daughter of Jeffrey Nelson and Katelyn Hesting, was baptized Nov. 19, 2022, by Father Mike Leiker at Seven Dolores Catholic

Church in Manhattan.

Cannon Lee Parthemer was baptized Feb. 18, 2023, by Father Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Holden Dean Pfannenstiel, son of CJ and Nicole (Ritter) Pfannenstiel, was baptized Feb. 19, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Noah Allen Rupe, son of Jacob Rupe and Virginia Gonzales, was baptized Feb. 18, 2023, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia.

Murphy Jase Schippers, son of Jason and Jordan Schippers, was baptized Feb. 7, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie.

Smith Kaila Starnes, daughter of Dane and Valerie Starnes, was baptized Feb. 19, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's

Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Rosalia Louise Thoma, daughter of Brandon and Christina Thoma, was baptized Dec. 18, 2022, by Father Mike Leiker at Seven Dolores Catholic Church in Manhattan.

Jadynn Kameron Urquhart and Twyla Rae Urquhart, twin daughters of Jarod and Kaela Urquhart, were baptized Feb. 19, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Ayanna Sofia Virtucio, daughter of Armand and Joanne Virtucio, was baptized Dec. 10, 2022, by Father Mike Leiker at Seven Dolores Catholic Church in Manhattan.

Matthew Phillip Weber, son of Christopher and Jenna Weber, was baptized Dec. 4, 2022, by Father Mike Leiker at Seven Dolores Catholic Church in Manhattan.

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 April
We pray for the spread of peace and

non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

Diocesan prayer intention for April
We pray that this Lenten season we may grow in our ability to forgive and show mercy to others.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	C	H	A	T			5	P	T	A		8	G	U	S	H			
12	D	A	L	I		13	S	L	I	N	G	14		15	E	S	A	U	
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40	A	I	R		41	S	O	L	O	M	O	N		43		44	T	A	I
45	K	N	I	T		46		47	X	I	I		48	C	A	N	A	A	N
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65	M	A	G	I		66	R	A	D	I	I		68	E	P	I	C		69
70	O	B	O	E		71	C	R	O	S	S		72	R	E	D	O		
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DEATHS

Mary Ann Befort, 90, died Jan. 31, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 6 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery in Munjor.

Leona Boor, 89, of Hays, died Feb. 23, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 27 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nick Parker presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

John Ole Christensen, 84, of Chapman, died Jan. 18, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 4 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Father Peter O'Donnell and Father John Wolesky presided.

Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery.

Keith Elmore Christensen, 75, formerly of Concordia, died Feb. 17, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 24 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery.

Carissa Mary (Beilman) Gray, 37, died Feb. 15, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 20 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Kathleen Gross, 70, of Hays, died Feb. 14, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 21

at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father David Micheal, HGN, presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Tanner Joseph Haselhorst, 21, of Hays, died Jan. 1, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 6 at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church. Father Curtis Carlson, OFM Cap., presided. Burial in the church cemetery.

Elizabeth A. "Beth" Huston, 72, died Feb. 19, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 25 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Paul B. Irvine, 93, of Manhattan, died Nov. 11, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 16 at Seven Dolors Catholic Church in Manhattan. Father Ryan McCandless and Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Elbow.

William P. "Bill" Jackson, 80, of Pratt, died Jan. 8, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated

Jan. 16 at Seven Dolors Catholic Church in Manhattan. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in Mariadahl Cemetery in Olsburg.

Sister Clarene Kennedy, 80, died March 3, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 7 in the Nazareth Motherhouse Chapel. Father Barry Brinkman presided. Burial in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery.

Gene Kindel, 73, of Aurora, died Feb. 14, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 17 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Aurora. Father David Metz presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Deacon Thomas Koerner, 79, of Hays, died Feb. 6, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 11 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Bishop Gerald Vincke and Father Nick Parker presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Rita Marie Larsen, 98, of Concordia, died Feb. 4, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 10 at Our Lady of Perpet-

ual Help Catholic Church in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Burial in St. Concordia Catholic Cemetery in Concordia.

Cynthia Marie May, 92, died Feb. 22, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 25 at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Father Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Boniface Cemetery in Tipton.

Jeffrey "Jeff" John Morgan died Jan. 15, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 24 at St. Phillips Catholic Church. Father George Chalbham and Father Peter O'Donnell presided. Burial in the church cemetery.

Nina M. Reps, 84, of Concordia, died Jan. 24, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz presided. Burial at a later date.

Iris E. Sanders, 94, died Jan. 28, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 4 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Junction City. Father Sam Etim presided. Burial in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Junction City.

Marion Schumacher, 83, died Jan. 29, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 3 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery in Munjor.

Michael J. Silva, 66, of Olathe, died Jan. 2, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 14, 2023, at Seven Dolors Catholic Church in Manhattan. Father Ryan McCandless presided. Burial in Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan.

Rita VonFeldt, 93, of McPherson, died Jan. 26, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 31 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father David Micheal, HGN, presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

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and
KVDM 88.1 Hays (Classics)



Organizers celebrate FertilityCare Week

By ALLISON OCHOA

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Since its inception in 2010, Worldwide FertilityCare Week has become an annual event highlighting and promoting the use of the Creighton Model FertilityCare System (CrMS) and NaProTECHNOLOGY. In the Diocese of Salina, the Office of Natural Family Planning recognized the week of March 19 to 25 with presentations emphasizing the benefits of this method of family planning and understanding one's reproductive health.

"We want every woman to have access to the life-changing and life-affirming knowledge of how their body works," said Lindy Meyer, coordinator for the Office of Natural Family Planning and a certified FertilityCare practitioner. "Understanding your fertility, your reproductive health, is information every woman has a right to know."

Meyer and the team of practitioners and medical consultants who serve the diocese work throughout the year to promote the CrMS and NaProTECHNOLOGY. They host introductory sessions for anyone interested in learning the method, and they make themselves available to speak to parish groups, schools and health pro-

grams among others. Each March, the team participates in Worldwide FertilityCare Week.

The Salina FertilityCare team used its social media platforms to promote the various medical applications of FertilityCare. Information can be found by searching for SalinaFertilityCare on Instagram, or Diocese of Salina FertilityCare Center on Facebook. Additionally, two virtual presentations took place via Zoom and focused on specific applications of the FertilityCare system.

The presentation was

hosted by Meyer, practitioner Samantha Baker and Father Brian Lager. Links can be found on the diocesan webpage at salinadiocese.org/office/natural-family-planning/.

Meyer encourages anyone who is unfamiliar with Natural Family Planning, those who are curious and those who might be hesitant to start NFP to participate in an introductory session or reach out to any of the FertilityCare Practitioners in the diocese.

"Asking questions is an important part of learning

and discovery," she said. "All of our practitioners are happy to visit with anyone to discuss general questions

about NFP and cycle health. Together, we can explore if the CrMS is right for you at this stage in your life."



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