



## Taking communities by storm

### PRAYER AND ACTION PROVIDES MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES FOR TEENS

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

A thunderstorm might have temporarily paused their outdoor jobs. But once inside out of the rain, they continued their mission work without skipping a beat.

One of the many lessons college and high school students learn during the summer while participating in the Prayer and Action program is how to improvise.

So when a mid-June rainstorm in Clyde forced participants indoors, they flooded the Park Villa Nursing Home with joy.

The youngsters scooted up to the tables and began chatting with residents as if they had known them their entire lives.

Some talked about work they were doing on the outer walls of the residents' home at Park Villa. Others explained why they had paint all over their arms and legs. And still others enamored their listeners with teenage talk of whatever came to mind at the moment.

All the while, young and old alike were enjoying a snack of cookies and lemonade.

"The work they are doing outdoors on our facility is great, but this is amazing," said Lela Haswell, activities director at Park Villa. "The residents absolutely get so much out of visiting with these young people."

Jolie Girard, a high school student at Clifton-Clyde, said she signed up for Prayer and Action this year because she thought it would be fun to help out her community.

In the process, she made friends with 95-year-old Clifton resident Rita Alexander.

While visiting together, they discovered Jolie knows two of Rita's grandchildren.

"We're friends now," said Jolie, who lives on a farm near Clyde and works at a restaurant in Clifton, a



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Jared Littrell, a member of the Prayer and Action leadership team, plays guitar and sings while other students gather to listen and sing during downtime in the evening.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Clyde cousins Cohen Girard, center, and Cooper Girard, behind Cohen, and Jared Littrell, Clay Center, visit with Alice Jaster, a resident at the Park Villa Nursing Home in Clyde.

small town a few miles east of Clyde. "And she told me to come by her house if I ever needed a place to stay. It's so nice to know the people I'm helping."

All Rita had requested was for some of her windows to be cleaned. "They scrubbed the dirt off my

(cement) porch, and I didn't even ask them to do that," Rita said with a huge smile. "And then I saw some of them pulling bindweed out of my lawn. It was fun to hear where they all came from. What a good bunch of young people – what great workers."



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Gus Hanson from Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood paints a local home.

But Prayer and Action isn't all about work.

The week involves a lot of spiritual growth as well.

**ACTION, PAGE 9**

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

Time capsule reveals view of world 25 years ago.

Page 3



### CENTURY OF LOVE

Rawlins County siblings are one of a kind.

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# A disciple of the Eucharist

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901 to 1925) was the only son of a prominent wealthy Italian family in Turin. He could have easily led a life of indulgence focusing on himself, but instead chose to live a life for others.

What made him care so much for others? He said that just as Jesus visited him in the Eucharist, he wanted to return the favor by going to visit Jesus in the poor. What a profound understanding of the Eucharist. Once a friend observed that when Pier Giorgio finished praying in the church, he waved a little farewell towards the tabernacle. Then he went on mission.

We spend time with Jesus in prayer and we receive Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass and then we are invited to go into the world by being Jesus for others and seeing Jesus in those around us, especially the poor and those most in need.

As a teenager Pier Giorgio made friends with the poor by giving them whatever they needed — his money, his shoes, his overcoat. He once visited a disfigured leper and was questioned by others about why he did it. He explained, “How rich we are to be in good health. The deformation of that young man will disappear in a few years when he enters paradise. But we

have the duty of putting our health at the service of those who haven’t it. To act otherwise would be to betray the gift of God.”

Pier Giorgio was a normal child. He loved getting together with his friends. He would lead mountain climbing trips to breathe in the beauty of God’s creation.

He loved telling jokes. His parents were not too keen on Pier Giorgio helping others. It was not until his funeral in which hundreds of the poor attended his funeral in which they appreciated his service to others. A saint once said the poor in heaven pray for those who helped them on earth.

Pier Giorgio died at age 24. In his pocket was a list of people he desired to visit and help. Now it’s our turn.

Note: Our beloved Catholic Charities is having its annual auction dinner July 29. Can you help? They help those in need so much. Please go to <https://ccnks.org/> for more information.

In Christ’s service,

*+ Gerald L. Vincke*

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

**GERALD  
Vincke**  
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



## BISHOP’S CALENDAR

### August

- 1-3** K of C Supreme Convention, Orlando  
**8** Seminarian dinner, 5:15 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, Salina  
**9** Seminarian dinner, 5:15 p.m., City Limits, Colby  
**10** Seminarian dinner, 5:15 p.m., The Strand, Hays  
**11** Runnin’ Revs, 6 p.m., TMP-Marian, Hays  
**12** Men’s Conference, 8 a.m., IHM, Hays  
**13** St. Francis Cabrini Church 75th anniversary celebration, 3 p.m., Hoxie  
**13** Year of Mercy, St. Francis, Munjor  
**15** Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Chancery closed  
**29-30** Jesu Caritas, Salina

## PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS

### Effective July 1

#### Deacon Mark Roberti:

Assigned to diaconal ministry at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Minneapolis.



Roberti

### Effective July 7

#### Father Thiruthuvadoss

“Trinity” Savariyar: Appointed parochial vicar of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.



Savariyar

## NIGHT OF HEALING

Join Father Joseph Asirvatham, Father Leo Blasi and other priests from the Diocese of Salina for a healing service. The Night of Healing Faith will be Aug. 11 at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 625 River St., in St Francis.

The evening will commence at 6 p.m. with exposition and adoration. Confessions will be heard by the priests.

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

The healing service for the sick and those in physical, emotional or spiritual need will begin at approximately 7 p.m.

Light refreshments and conversation will follow.

For more information, call (785) 332-2680.



Asirvatham



Blasi

## CALLED AND GIFTED

Every person has gifts. Every person has a mission from God. Often, we don’t know exactly what that looks like. I strongly encourage you to attend a workshop “Called and Gifted” on Oct. 21 at the parish center at St. Patrick’s Parish in Great Bend. The Called and Gifted workshop will help you discern and develop your charism and what God is asking each person to do. The workshop will help guide you to recognize gifts given to you by the Holy Spirit

through baptism and confirmation. These gifts enable you to accomplish things for God above and beyond your natural abilities. Please know that I find the Called and Gifted workshop to be one of the most important things a person can do. What is God calling me to do?

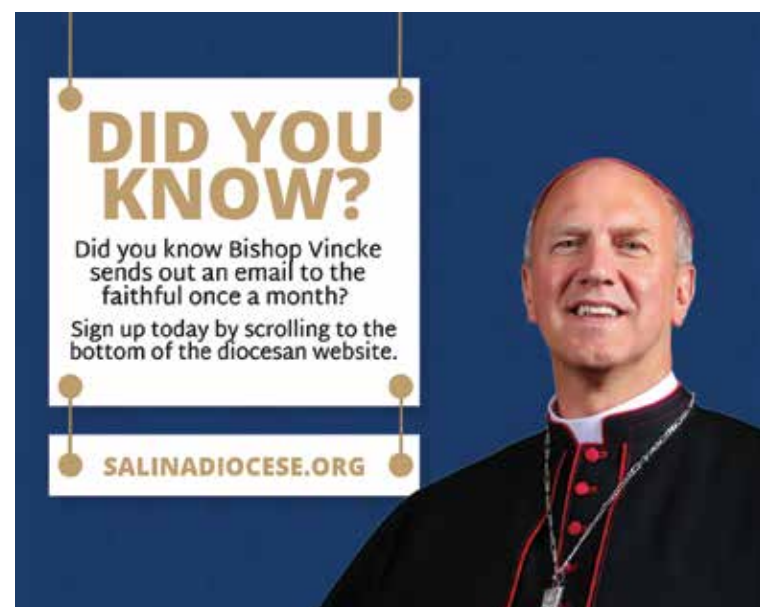
To register, contact Luke Blair at (620) 792-1396 or email [pastoralassistant@gbprinceofpeace.org](mailto:pastoralassistant@gbprinceofpeace.org). Thank you for considering to attend.

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA



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

Editor: Katie Hamel, [THEREGISTER@SALINADIOCESE.ORG](mailto:THEREGISTER@SALINADIOCESE.ORG)

Advertising/circulation: Brenda Streit, [NEWSPAPER@SALINADIOCESE.ORG](mailto:NEWSPAPER@SALINADIOCESE.ORG)

Business manager: Jennifer Hood, [FINANCE@SALINADIOCESE.ORG](mailto:FINANCE@SALINADIOCESE.ORG)

P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980

Phone: (785) 827-8746; Fax: (785) 827-6133; [salinadiocese.org/publications](http://salinadiocese.org/publications)

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# Time capsule reveals memories

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Anticipation mounted with every grinding cut that an electric saw made into a 6-inch white PVC pipe.

Students in the confirmation class at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays watched the group of adults standing at a side table, eagerly awaiting the opening of a 25-year-old time capsule.

Instructors and a student from the 1998 St. Nicholas confirmation class that had buried the time capsule huddled around the table as the final cut opened the cylinder.

The suspense came to a sudden halt when Cody Marintzer laid down his saw and dumped out a pile of sludge. Water had gotten into the sealed container.

Gasps of disappointment could be heard as a few muddy articles dropped onto the table. Marintzer, parish life coordinator at St. Nicholas, reached in and pulled out a clump of still-wet paper all stuck together.

The mood quickly turned to excitement as Emily Hartman and Mary Kay Schippers began recognizing writing on some of the papers Marintzer carefully separated from the blob.

Hartman is a Hays native and lifetime member of St. Nicholas Parish, and Schippers — Hartman's aunt — was one of the teachers for the 1998 class along with her husband, Dan.

Even after folks from years



Framed items and the stone that covered a 25-year-old time capsule are displayed in back of the church at St. Nicholas of Myra in Hays.

ago had left the parish hall, Marintzer was determined to salvage as many memories as possible. He patiently pulled apart several more notes and carefully laid them on the table to dry.

When it was all said and done, he had uncovered a rosary, a crucifix, notes and prayer cards.

Hartman said each student and teacher were instructed to place something special in the time capsule in 1998.

Pieces of one story that were rescued were the history of the church.

"It was like a mystery and had more of an impact that it wasn't all intact," said Hartman, who was baptized, confirmed and married in the St. Nicholas Parish. "It



Cody Marintzer saws into the time capsule while Father Damian Richards watches and two members of this year's confirmation class, Eli Dreiling and Mattias Marintzer, hold it steady.

showed how we can find some good even in not-so-good situations."

After the Schippers couple had left for another commitment, Marintzer uncovered other pieces of another typed page that Mary Kay had typed about her family.

A friend later texted Mary Kay photos of the note. "Seeing my personal message brought tears to my eyes," Schippers said.

Hartman is still an active member of the St. Nicholas parish with her husband, Lance, and their four children, ages 4 to 12. She said she has enjoyed telling her children about the time capsule the past few years.

Hartman realized last year the 25-year-anniversary of the time capsule was approaching when her aunt ran across some photos of the 1998 class.

So Hartman, who is on parish council at St. Nick's, informed Father Damian Richards of the upcoming date.

Father Damian had seen the stone covering the time capsule outside the church when he became pastor of St.

coming quickly."

The marker was dated March 14, 2023, for the opening but Father Damian wanted to wait to open it until July when the current confirmation class gathered for its retreat.

One of the most preserved items in the time capsule was a laminated page with information (including photos) about the Tim and Ruth Schumacher family, which was placed in the time capsule by their son, Jeremy.

Coincidentally, Jeremy happens to be the first baby baptized in the St. Nicholas church, which was completed in 1985. St. Nicholas officially began as a new parish in Hays in July 1983 and held a lot of its services in private residences and at Hays High School before the new church building opened.

Terri Braun, in charge of the maintenance staff at the parish, cleaned up some items and framed them in a shadow box that also includes a photo of the 1998 class she found in a scrapbook. The display is in view for all to see in the gathering space of the church.

Father Damian said a photo of the 2023 confirmation class will be included in the shadow box before hanging it in the church conference room.

"It was exciting being right there, watching and not knowing what to expect," Hartman said. "When Cody first unfolded that pile of paper, mine was right there in the center. I recognized my handwriting. What a great feeling. I'm so thankful to him for being so meticulous about saving as much as he could."

Nick's in 2020.

"That's what pastors do when they get to a new parish," he said, "open doors, look in closets — what's over here, what's down there. I saw the marker, but you know how time catches up with you. Someone told me last fall about the time capsule, and I made the connection that 2023 is



Emily Hartman, left, listens while Mary Kay Schippers, one of the 1998 confirmation class teachers, tells the story of the time capsule.

**JOIN US FOR THE  
RUNNIN' REVS GAME**

**AUGUST 11, 2023 @ 6:00PM**  
AL BILLINGER FIELD HOUSE - 1701 HALL ST, HAYS, KS 67601

RUNNIN' REVS GAME IN HAYS WILL TAKE PLACE AT 6:00 P.M.  
ON AUGUST 11 AT TMP-M AL BILLINGER FIELD HOUSE THIS  
IS A FREE EVENT TO HELP SUPPORT SEMINARIANS AND  
RAISE AWARENESS FOR VOCATIONS! PLEASE JOIN US!

# Sowing seeds of vocation with your gift

One of the best parts of working at the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Salina is often getting a front-row seat, watching encounters with Christ happen right here in our diocese. An example of this is witnessing the remarkable journey of those called to the priesthood. I grew up on a farm in the northern part of our diocese and have many fond memories of the summer harvest. I'm reminded of harvest when I think about the transformation that takes place from discernment to seminary to ordination and beyond.

Every journey begins with a seed — in this instance a seed of vocation planted within the hearts of those called. Seeds need to be nurtured to grow — our seminarians are nurtured by the vocations office, their parish community, their friends and their families. They are nurtured through our prayers, encouragement and sup-

port. Eventually they blossom. They become confident in their calling and show us their perseverance along with an unwavering commitment to their vocation.

Recently I was lucky enough to spend time with a seminarian, vocations director and retired priest. While it might sound like the beginning of a joke — a seminarian, vocations director and retired priest walk into a church — I guarantee that spending time with these men will leave you just as inspired as I was.

While being filmed for a video for our seminarian fundraising dinners, Father Norbert Dlabal shared his vocations story and the fact that he actually left the seminary at one point. Spoiler alert: He returned to the seminary and the rest, as they say, is history. Father Norbert Dlabal recently celebrated 51

years as a priest. He might be “retired” now, but he still covers Masses across the diocese. It's a wonderful opportunity for him to visit parishes he once served in and to catch up with old friends or an opportunity to meet new members of the diocese. A priest's job is never done, especially in a diocese where there is a need for more priests.

At the other end of the journey to priesthood is Kade Megaffin, a seminarian for the Diocese of Salina. Kade is attending St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver and will be in Theology III this fall. Transitional deacon ordination has been scheduled for April 6, 2024, for Kade, Jesse Ochs and Adam Urban. While I sat in a pew at St. Joseph Parish, watching Kade be interviewed for a video, I couldn't help but imagine Kade standing

before his parish someday. He candidly shared his story, including the mix of emotions he felt discerning a vocation, and the appreciation he has for everyone who has supported him on this journey. You can feel the excitement in his voice and the pride he has for being called to the priesthood. I left the church that day filled with anticipation and excitement for these future leaders of our church, doing what they have been called to do.

Helping guide and nurture seminarians like Kade along their journey is Father Andy Hammeke, co-vocations director for the Diocese of Salina. Recently I visited Father Andy and Sandy Losey, office administrator for Comeau Catholic Campus Center and assistant in the vocations office. We talked about the upcoming seminarian events and the many exciting things going on. I left their office almost exhausted from

hearing about their hectic schedule but excited about the future of our diocese. It was another one of those moments where I felt blessed to be in this position — witnessing these men go from visiting the seminary to ordination.

None of this could happen if it wasn't for the amazing

support of people across our diocese. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal — regardless of the size — enables us to equip

these men with the necessary tools and resources to become strong spiritual leaders. By supporting them, you're sowing the seeds for a future where faith continues to flourish. We all play a role in their journey. I invite you to walk beside them with a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

To learn more about the appeal or to make a gift, visit [join.salinadiocese.org](http://join.salinadiocese.org).

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



**CORRINA Hudsonpillar**  
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



## Say 'yes' to God

By MATTHEW RAWLS  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

A few weeks ago, Father Andy Hammeke called to congratulate me on officially becoming a seminarian for the diocese. I was tingling with excitement and learned I would be starting my summer assignment in only two weeks. My world, it seems, was about to change forever.

Everything I had done up until this point, all the decisions I've made and relationships I've accumulated through the years have led to this one singular path. It felt like I was turning in my two weeks notice to my previous life; and what a joy it has been so far. I feel more at peace with myself and the world than I have ever been, and this is only the beginning for what he has planned for me. Though there is still an uncertainty about what his plan might be, I place all my trust in him and take refuge knowing all of this was made possible because I said yes to God.

It's funny how God works in our lives, isn't it? He doesn't clearly make himself known to our senses, for he doesn't want to interfere with our free will. However, if we take the time, and pay attention, he works within the whispers of our hearts. Saying yes to God starts by saying “yes” to these whispers. They are little inclinations which appear throughout the day which prompt us to act according to what God wants for us. Maybe it's a small act of charity which brightens up somebody's entire week. Perhaps it's the gift of good counsel to a friend, or even showing kindness to a stranger. Maybe we have even fallen away from the Church and are thinking about coming back. Whenever we hear that whisper, we can ask: What is God placing in front of me, and how does he

want me to respond? It's how we respond to these whispers which helps build trust in God. This is how hearts are transformed.

Sometimes it's hard to hear these whispers, especially amongst all the noise and interference of our busy lives. The fruits of modern life are plenty, but so are its spoils. If we are not discerning in how we approach our daily lives, we might not even hear God whispering in our own hearts. This was especially true in my life. I spent many years in silence to God's call. I had everything I thought I needed: a good job, great girlfriend, nice cars, motorcycles, video games. All of these things gave me a semblance of happiness and satisfaction;

however, there was still a void within my heart. As the years went by, I could feel that void growing larger, and I started to realize no matter how many things I accumulated, if God was not involved, there was no real happiness.

There's an old saying, if you want to make God laugh, just make plans. It's easy to take this phrase at its comedic face value, but overlook the underlying wisdom. Of course our world is constantly in a state of change, but that's OK. He wants us to trust him — to surrender to his love. That surrender is the easiest hard thing we can do. We are creatures, by nature, that love freedom. However, if we open our hearts, we find freedom lies within that surrender, that willingness to say yes. God wants to transform our hearts, to make us more like Jesus in every possible way. He is always here, ready to love us. It starts with a whisper, and all we have to do is say “yes.”

*Matthew Rawls is a seminarian for the Diocese of Salina.*

**MATTHEW Rawls**  
SEMINARIAN



## TOTUS TUUS



Father Joseph Kieffer and the Totus Tuus team of Candace Taylor, Atalee Amthor, Josh Juenemann and Connor Kuhlman are pictured with the youth of St. John the Baptist in Hanover. The team was in Hanover the week of June 18 to 23.

# Daily struggles with simple answers

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in you. I must confess I am not a very trusting person by nature. The best example is how long it took me to learn to swim. I can remember sitting there on the little kids' side of the pool while my friends would play in the deep end. I wanted so badly to join them but found myself struggling to trust that the water would hold me up like everyone else. I stayed in the safe end, where I knew my feet could touch the ground and I could save myself if needed.

I honestly did try to relax and float, but just at the moment when the water would take over and support me, I panicked and would pull myself up. My dad, who I knew loved me and would do nothing to harm me, would tell me to trust him, but I just couldn't. I'm afraid that even if God came down and told me it would be OK, I would still put my trust in myself and my hand on the side wall or my feet touching the bottom of the pool.

Trust is tricky for many of us, but also something we need to develop. It is a choice we make and

not something that can be earned. That is why it is so special when we make that decision, especially in our faith life. Placing our trust entirely in God is a no-brainer and, on paper, seems easy. We know he loves us, wants the best for us, sees everything and desires only our good. He is also all-powerful and all-knowing. He seems like an easy person to trust.

However, in reality, our journey often mirrors the struggles of St. Peter. At the very moment when we are on the brink of allowing God to work miracles in our lives and affect transformative change within us, we recoil, divert our gaze from him and revert to relying on ourselves. God calls each of us to trust him wholeheartedly and surrender ourselves completely. He invites us to abandon our self-reliance and embrace his divine providence's limitless power and wisdom.

Trusting God wholeheartedly requires vulnerability and a willingness to relinquish control. It necessitates surrendering our

fears and doubts and actively opening ourselves up to God's plan for us, opening ourselves up to his grace, love and mercy. We allow him to guide us through life's challenges and uncertainties, knowing his wisdom surpasses our own and his love for us is unwavering.

While deciding to trust can be challenging, the rewards are immeasurable. By trusting God, we embark on spiritual growth, transformation and profound

intimacy with our creator. We learn to let go of our perceived control and embrace the beauty of surrender. In doing so, we discover God's faithfulness surpasses our wildest expectations and his plans for us are greater than anything we could ever imagine.

Trust is a precious and indispensable quality in our faith journey. Just as my struggle to trust the water hindered my ability to swim, my current reluctance to trust God wholeheartedly inhibits my spiritual growth. By choosing to surrender ourselves completely, we open the door to

experience the profound love, grace and transformation that God desires for each one of us.

If you struggle as I do in trusting God, here are three things that have helped me. I hope they are fruitful for you as well. First, I look to our Blessed Mother's response to God and repeat her beautiful words, "Let it be done to me according to your word." These are perfect words and encouragement when I struggle to trust God. Second, I look at Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Again, we see an example of words and an example to follow as Jesus prayed, "not my will but yours, Father." Finally, I pray this prayer over and over throughout every single day: Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in you.

When I struggle to trust, these have helped me let go and trust. I hope they can do the same for you.

In this crazy world, I pray you and I will always have the courage, wisdom and strength to make the daily choice to put our trust in God.

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

**BILL Meagher**  
DIOCESE OF SALINA



## Making a list that starts with Jesus

I'm currently reading a book about creating and maintaining holy friendships. It's been a great read so far and has already challenged me to ponder the relationships in my life.

At one point, the question is posed: "Who are your five closest friends?"

I closed my eyes and thought about who those people would be. I was pretty stoked to realize my five closest friends are people

who are helping me get to heaven.

Then, a second question was posed: "Did Jesus make your list?"

Talk about a gut punch. Jesus didn't make my list. People who love Jesus made my list. People who are searching for heaven made my list. But Jesus didn't make my list.

I realized that I talk about Jesus all the time. It's quite literally in my job description to talk about him.

But I don't talk to him. I think that at some point I

confused the two. However, talking about something (or in this case someone) is different than actually experiencing it.

Upon realizing Jesus did not make my top five — I started to reflect on why that would be, and I realized that I have been

an inactive, passive participant in my relationship with him.

I attend Mass. I recite prayers. My body is engaged ... I am physically sitting in the pews and speaking the

words.

But the rest of me is elsewhere. My thoughts are racing to remember if I took meat out of the freezer to thaw for supper and then wondering what I'm making for supper. My heart is wrapped up in gazing at my husband and my child.

It is good that my heart loves my husband and child. It is good that my mind is planning ahead.

But is it good that these things happen at Mass or in prayer?

When the priest elevates the body and blood of Christ ...

Re-read that — the *body* and *blood* of the Son of God who died for me ...

Should I really be thinking about what to make for supper?

Instead, shouldn't my heart be caught up in the person who loves me perfectly, who loves me more than I could ever imagine. Shouldn't my thoughts be directed towards him? Shouldn't my body kneel before him in complete reverence, acknowledging he is the King of the Universe?

That's the way it should be. But it isn't.

I think it's pretty human to be easily distracted and to lose sight of what is most important. But just because it's the norm doesn't give me the excuse to keep doing it.

All this to say, I want to live such a life that when someone asks me, "Who are your five closest friends?" Jesus makes my list.

I want my relationship with Jesus ... with God ... to be the most important relationship in my life.

God already loves me perfectly. He can't love me better. He can't love me more. He loves me fully and completely.

If I want my relationship with him to improve, the change needs to come from me.

The crazy thing is that if I ask him to help me love him more, he'll help me.

So what does it take to be close friends with Jesus? I'm not quite sure, but I figure setting aside time to talk to him every day might be a good place to start.

*Katie*

*Katie Hamel is the creative editor for the Diocese of Salina.*

**KATIE Hamel**  
CREATIVE EDITOR



**Divine Mercy RADIO**

Along I-70

KGOH 89.1, Colby  
Colorado border to Quinter

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Quinter to Ellsworth

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**Other Stations**

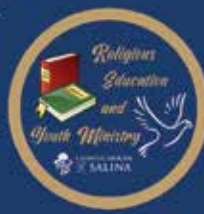
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and  
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### 2023 JR CYO CAMP

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE DUE TO RENOVATIONS-  
IT ENDED UP BEING THIS DATE OR NOTHING—SO  
WE ARE GOING TO GIVE IT A TRY

(LET'S MAKE LEMONS INTO LEMONADE)  
THE SAME GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ELIGIBLE  
TO ATTEND (6TH-8TH GRADE 22-23 SCHOOL YEAR)

SIGN-UP DUE AUGUST 15TH—PLEASE HELP US GET  
THE WORD OUT!



SEPT 2ND-4TH (LABOR DAY WEEKEND)  
SATURDAY MORNING - MONDAY AFTERNOON

# Knights donate to pregnancy centers

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Kansas State Council of the Knights of Columbus has donated \$71,000 to eight pregnancy centers throughout Kansas. The donations were raised at the 122nd annual Kansas Knights of Columbus State Convention, where \$61,000 was raised or pledged to support the Aid and Support After Pregnancy Program (ASAP), an initiative to help moms and their new babies. The first \$50,000 donated will be matched by a 20% grant from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council in New Haven, Conn.

The Knights' ASAP initiative will enhance the significant resources the Knights and local councils already provide to mothers and their children, both born and unborn. Donations were allocated to two pregnancy resource centers in each of the four Catholic Dioceses of Kansas.

Centers receiving grants of \$8,875 included Mary's Choices, Topeka; Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic, Kansas City, Kan.; Pregnancy and Family Care, Iola; Open Door Pregnancy Center, Hutchinson; Life Choices Ministries, Manhattan; Hope's Place, Sherman County Regional Pregnancy Support Center, Goodland; Birthright of Great Bend; and Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas, Dodge City.

"These centers are often the lifeline new mothers and their babies need, offering vital support when needed the most," said Michael Grothoff, State Deputy for the Kansas Knights of Columbus. "Often these centers operate on funding from local sources alone and over 80% of centers receive no government funding."

By the very nature of their founding, Knights of Columbus members are called to care for

the widow and orphan. The Knights of Columbus believe in the dignity and worth of every human life, and work tirelessly, through prayer and action, to support mothers and their children. In 2021, Knights of Columbus donated \$4.6 million and 469,000 volunteer hours to pregnancy centers and maternity homes, providing maternity and baby clothes, diapers, food and other items to women and children.

Founded in 1882 to assist working-class and immigrant Catholics in the United States, today the approximately 2 million members of the Knights put their faith into action through a broad range of charitable causes locally, nationally and internationally through financial contributions and hands-on service. To join a local council, visit [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus).



Hope's Place, Sherman County Regional Pregnancy Support Center in Goodland.



Life Choices Ministries in Manhattan.

## PASTORAL MINISTRY FORMATION

**To register or for more information, contact Coleen Stein by email at [cstein@dcdioocese.org](mailto:cstein@dcdioocese.org).**

### Fall 2023

#### THEO 3003 Christian Morality and Social Issues (Core Course - 3 college credit hours)

**Instructor** — Bishop John B. Brungardt.

A study of basic Christian beliefs about the origin, destiny and meaning of the human person, the nature of Christian life as the fundamental commitment to follow Christ, and the moral principles that flow from this. Students will explore the importance of genuine freedom in the Lord, the universal call to holiness, the dignity of the human person, charity, and social justice.

**Class dates** — Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 28, Nov. 4, 11.

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

**Saturday mornings** — 8:15 a.m. to noon.

John B. Brungardt was ordained in 2011 as the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. He received a B.A. in physics from Benedictine College, an M.A. in physics from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Kansas State University. He received an M.Div. and an M.A. in moral theology from the Pontifical College Josephinum seminary.

#### THEO 4881 Amazed...by Liturgy-for Liturgy (Elective - 1 college credit hour)

**Instructor** — Father Robert Schremmer.

**Class dates** — Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26.

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

**Tuesday evenings** — 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Pope Francis asks, "How do we continue to let ourselves be amazed at what happens in the celebration under our very eyes?" He invites us not just to learn more about liturgy, especially the Eucharist, but learn more from the liturgy. He shares: What we say and do in liturgy means a great deal. What liturgy says and does to us means even more.

In response to his call to be formed for and by the Liturgy and to our U.S. bishops' call to Eucharistic Revival, "Amazed" is a course that seeks to learn the language of symbol. Pope Francis, as well as Pope Benedict, believe liturgy leads us into the mystery using symbolic actions and signs and that we can increase our capacity for becoming "capable of symbols" by employing the ancient practice of mystical reflection.

With the Holy Father's letter, "I Have So Desired," we will go on retreat with him, and dialogue with his prompts and cues that invite us to meet Jesus anew in the liturgy.

Students will be encouraged to consider the bishops' invitation to fall more deeply in love with Jesus, by reflecting on their participation in Sunday Eucharist using the mystagogical method of Pope Benedict XVI.

Particular attention will also be given to adoration of the exposed blessed sacrament with a method that seeks to allow the time of adoration to flow from the

sacrifice of the Mass and to deepen the hunger for communion with Christ and the rest of the Church.

**Text** — The Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, On the Liturgical Formation of the People of God (Desiderio Desideravi), with commentary by Kevin W. Irwin.

Father Robert Schremmer

is a diocesan priest in retirement. From 2001 to 2019, he served as vicar general. He holds an MA degree and MTh degree from St. Thomas School of Theology, Denver. He began teaching in the Pastoral Ministry Formation Program since its inception in 1998. He has taught the core

course, "Theology and Methods of Ministry," seven times and a number of one-hour courses such as: Crash Course in Vatican II, 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Mysterious Mystagogia, The Hunger Games and the Good News, Equipping for Ministry at Mass, Navigating Charisms.

12TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE

# ANSWERING THE CALL

— TO HONOR AND DEFEND —

**AUGUST 12TH, 2023**  
**8:00AM - 12:30PM**

**IMMACULATE HEART**  
**1805 VINE ST. HAYS KS**

REGISTER ONLINE BY VISITING [SALINADIOCESE.ORG/OFFICE/FAMILY-LIFE/](http://SALINADIOCESE.ORG/OFFICE/FAMILY-LIFE/)

FR. SEAN KILCAWLEY

FR. JARETT KONRADE

FR. GALE HAMMERSCHMIDT

FR. ANDREW HAMMEKE

# Supporting a Bishop's fund for Corporal Works of Mercy within the Catholic Diocese of Salina

BY CAPTRUST

We invite you to join us in building a discretionary fund for emergency needs in our diocese, carrying out the Corporal Works of Mercy as outlined in Matthew 25:35-46. These works include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead.

To support these important acts of mercy within the Catholic Diocese of Salina, Ron and Aimee Gfeller of Walker, Kansas, established the Matthew 25 Fund through the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina (CFDS). This fund, named after St. Matthew, aims to provide the necessary financial resources to help our brothers and sisters in emergency need within our own Salina Diocese family. Our primary goal is to support the Salina Diocese's mission of facilitating personal encounters with the person of Jesus while protecting those in need.

While the purpose of this fund may seem to mirror many of the services provided by Catholic Charities, its focus is to allow the Bishop the funding and

discretion to meet individual emergency corporal needs within our diocese. And so, while Catholic Charities has a specific protocol and formal programs to help people in our Diocese, this fund will allow the Bishop to direct funds in an emergency or special situation that may fall outside of the scope of Catholic Charities. Katie Platten, CEO of the Catholic Foundation, says "sometimes things happen in the diocese that create a need for emergency funding. Matthew 25 gives Bishop Vincke the funds and flexibility to respond quickly. It is such a blessing!"

The Matthew 25 Fund follows a liberal spending policy, prioritizing current needs and allowing a larger percentage of gifts to be distributed annually. The fund is not permanently endowed through the Foundation. This approach enables a higher percentage of gifts to be distributed annually, ensuring more immediate impact. Each year, gifts amounting to \$10,000 or ten percent of the fund's value, whichever is greater, will be distributed to support the Bishop's ability to care for the poor and vulnerable through Corporal Works of Mercy within the Catholic Diocese of Salina.

Our investments are managed in accordance with Catholic values,

guided by principles found (or hidden) in Sacred Scripture and Catholic Social Teachings, and discerned through prayer and the Holy Spirit. Different from other funds, the Matthew 25 Fund's investment makeup is not evaluated against a predetermined benchmark on an annual basis. Instead, it is assessed through an internal scorecard that is consistently monitored by the fund's seed donors, advisors, and the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina (CFDS). This ongoing monitoring ensures that the fund's investments align with its mission and objectives, fostering responsible stewardship of

the funds entrusted to us. The investment strategy and monitoring are implemented at a cost that is fair and reasonable to all.

If you would like to donate to the Matthew 25 Fund and help build a way to help more people in our Diocese, please send a check to Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina – Matthew 25, P.O. Box 1696, Salina, KS 67402-1696 or scan the QR code below. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Katie Platten at (785) 827-8746, Ext. 20, or [katie.platten@salinadiocese.org](mailto:katie.platten@salinadiocese.org)

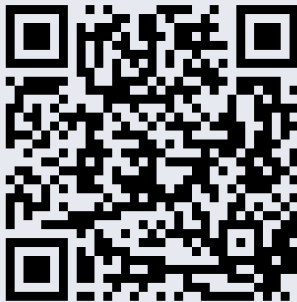


**CATHOLIC  
FOUNDATION**  
FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA

## FREE Planning Resources

Deciding how to create your legacy often falls to the last item on a to-do list, but being prepared and having your plans in order is important for you and your family. That's why we created helpful guides with tips and considerations available to you for free.

Download your free guides today by scanning the QR code or visiting [mylegacysalinadiocese.org/guides](http://mylegacysalinadiocese.org/guides)



## DONATE FROM YOUR HARVEST

Now could be a great time to turn bushels of grain into a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share and potentially save on taxes and deduct the cost of production.

## WONDERING HOW IT WORKS?

The farmer notifies the elevator that the harvest commodity being delivered or stored is to be given to the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina. The elevator will contact the Catholic Foundation, who will then sell the grain at market rate to the elevator. The elevator will send a check to the diocese. The farmer who donated the commodity will receive a gift letter and acknowledgment from the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina.

## MAKE YOUR HARVEST COUNT!

To learn more about making a gift of grain, please call 785-827-8746, Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina.



## New Tax Laws In Effect

2023's new laws include retirement changes that may affect your saving and your giving.

### Increase in required minimum distribution (RMD) age

Retirees must now begin taking taxable withdrawals at age 73 in 2023, up from the previous 72. (That goes up to 75 by 2033.)

This change gives you more time to save (or, in a wobbly economy, for your stocks to recover). You will enjoy additional tax-free growth.

### Adjustment of the annual limit on direct gifts to qualified charities from your IRA

Currently, those 70½ or older can give up to \$100,000 directly from

their IRA to a qualified charity without paying income taxes on the distribution. Beginning in 2024, this number will be adjusted annually for inflation.

### New way to fund a life income gift: a distribution from your IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you can

fund a charitable gift annuity by making a one-time election of up to \$50,000 (without being taxed on the distribution) from your IRA. Note: This opportunity comes with special rules, so contact us to see if this option is right for you.

# Men's conference offers friendly competition

BY ALLISON OCHOA  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Three challenges have been issued to the men of the Diocese of Salina. Meeting those challenges means "Answering the Call to Honor and Defend" at the 12th annual Diocesan Men's Conference on Aug. 12.

The conference, which will be at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays, will feature adoration, the opportunity for confession, Mass and presentations by four priests speaking on a variety of topics important to Catholic men of all ages. Father Jarett Konrade will speak on the Eucharist and its effects. Father Andy Hammeke's presentation will focus on creating a home environment that fosters vocations. Father Gale Hammerschmidt will provide advice to fathers about helping their children stay involved in the Catholic faith after their children leave home.

The keynote address will be given by Father Sean Kilcawley, a nationally recognized speaker on the Theology of the Body, human love and pornography addiction. A priest for the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., Father Kilcawley serves as the director of the office of family life in the Diocese of

Lincoln and as the theological advisor for IntegrityRestored.com, a non-profit organization that seeks to restore the integrity of families affected by pornography by providing education and resources to individuals, spouses, parents and clergy; to both heal and prevent wounds inflicted by the sexualized culture. Father Kilcawley will speak to conference participants about protecting themselves and their families from Satan.

Bill Meagher, director of the diocesan office of family life, said the importance of this conference lies in the opportunity for men to come together to pray, worship and grow.

"Iron sharpens iron, and men challenging each other to grow is a great thing for our diocese. We all need encouragement from others as we fight the good fight towards holiness," Meagher said.

The inaugural challenges issued by the Office of Family Life are a way to encourage men to register and invite their fathers, sons, brothers and friends to join them in "Answering the Call." Meagher said the challenges are a way for men to step up and strength-

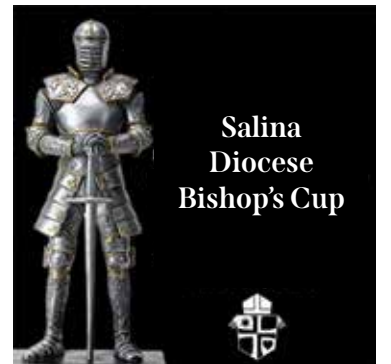


en each other in their respective vocations as well as make an impact on the communities to which they belong.

The first challenge is the Parish Challenge; the parish with the most men in attendance at this year's conference will take home the St. Joseph Traveling Trophy. The second challenge, the Knights of Columbus Challenge, will reward

the Knights of Columbus council with the most members in attendance with the Salina Diocese Bishop's Cup. The final challenge is the Catholic School Challenge. The Catholic school with the highest percentage of attendees will earn ice cream for their entire school to be awarded during Catholic Schools Week in early 2024.

Meagher said he hopes the



conference and the challenges issued will inspire men of several generations — fathers, sons, grandfathers — to participate and learn how to honor and defend their families and the Church.

"I hope they will meet some new friends from around the diocese and hear some things that they can take back with them to grow and help others in their parishes and communities," he said.

Visit [salinadiocese.org/news-and-updates/12th-annual-mens-conference/](https://salinadiocese.org/news-and-updates/12th-annual-mens-conference/) for more information or to register.

## Diocesan staff members honored for work

BY THE REGISTER

The Communications Office for the Diocese of Salina was proud to receive two first-place awards during the annual Catholic Media Association conference that took place in June in Baltimore.

Katie Hamel and Matea Gregg won first place for their production of the kickoff video for the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share. Hamel is the creative editor, as well as does behind the scenes work for the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina. Gregg is the interim communications director. Hamel wrote the script, and Gregg brought it to life through video footage and uplifting music.

Director of development Heather Hartman was not surprised the team received the award, saying: "The video captured the essence of the Bishop's Annual Appeal and conveyed the diocese's message effectively. It was a heartfelt endeavor, and it connected with the faithful and encouraged support for the mission of the Catholic Diocese of Salina. Congratulations on a well-deserved award."

To watch the award-winning video, visit [www.youtube.com/@](https://www.youtube.com/@)



**Matea Gregg, left, and Katie Hamel won first place at the recent Catholic Media Association conference.**

SalinaDioceseKS.

Also winning first place for best diocesan podcast series was Three Bald Guys. Three Bald Guys is a series featured on the diocesan podcast "From the Heart." Regulars on the show, Geoff Andrews (superintendent of Catholic schools),



**The Three Bald Guys crew of Father Jarett Konrade, Geoff Andrews and Bill Meagher, along with Matea Gregg.**

Bill Meagher (director of religious education, family life and youth ministry) and Father Jarett Konrade (pastor), along with Gregg were pleasantly surprised to receive first place.

"Hopping in the podcast studio with Father Jarett and Bill is one of my favorite things to do," Andrews said. "We are able to talk about our faith and share stories from across the diocese. Being a part of Three

Bald Guys has allowed me to grow in my faith as well. When my hair started to thin 20 years ago, I did not know this would be part of the plan."

Three Bald Guys is in its second season of production. CMA had this to say about the podcast:

"These casual, friendly podcast hosts present a unique series where they discuss important topics in life, the Church, and the world. Each episode has multiple segments to create variety and consistency. The enthusiasm, comedy and warmth of the hosts as they have heartfelt conversations engages listeners. It's refreshing to hear them learn and grow together."

All episodes are available on the diocesan website or anywhere you listen to podcasts.

"A big congratulations to our communications team and our three bald guys," said Bishop Jerry Vincke. "The team does a great job at promoting the mission of our diocese. As for the Three Bald Guys, I know more and more people who are listening to the podcast. They do a great job at mixing humor with more serious conversations about the faith."

ACTION, FROM PAGE 1

The teams usually arise by 6:30 a.m. or at least in time to get to Mass by 7:15. After Mass, they do a “walking rosary” — where the participants walk several blocks saying a rosary — followed by 20 minutes of reflection time in the church.

One group then eats breakfast while others pack their lunches for the day and place them in a large cooler. Then they change into work clothes and get to work.

After a morning of getting set up and starting jobs for the day, they break for lunch, then work until 3:30 that afternoon.

Following their showers — which this week in Clyde were done at the local high school locker rooms — there is free time to hang out until dinner.

The students take turns preparing dinner from groceries mostly bought from local stores.

Then it's praise and worship and singing and skits — and most nights, a few hours rest.

They sleep on sleeping bags and air mattresses in parish halls or high school gyms and start all over the next morning.

For the leadership team (made up of college students), it's nine weeks of preparation and work. But some enjoy it so much, they keep coming back year after year.

One of those is Jamie Kuhlman from Oakley, a senior-to-be at Kansas State University, who is in her sixth year of Prayer and Action — first as a high-schooler, then as a member of the leadership team.

“I love it,” Jamie said. “I get to grow in my faith in such an easy way.”

The feeling often is much the same for the residents of the communities.

“Sometimes people are just lonely and want someone to talk to,” said Sienna Wingerson, a member of this year's leadership team. “It helps them see and remember the goodness of the world.”

Jamie agreed. “A lot of times you notice all these high school kids are strong in seeing Jesus in the Eucharist but not so strong in seeing him in other people,” she said. “What a great opportunity for them to experience this.”



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Cohen Girard, Clyde, and Jalyssa Sabatka, Colby, pray before the Blessed Sacrament following reconciliation services.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Prayer and Action participants are able to spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the evening.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

From left, Claire Denny, Natalie Wederski, Jolie Girard and Paityn Tenbrink join together during praise and worship.

FAMILY AFFAIR AT PRAYER AND ACTION

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Spending a week during the summer helping people in their own diocese is a family affair for many high school students in the Diocese of Salina.

Parents from parishes with participants join their sons and daughters as adult sponsors at work sites in the Prayer and Action program, and several groups of siblings often participate together as well.

Two families were well represented at the Clyde and Clifton sites this summer.

Twin sisters Cassandra and Melissa Zimmerman and Anthony Halbgewach are all busy this summer preparing for their first year of college.

But they made time in their schedules to participate with their younger siblings in Prayer and Action.

Cassandra and Melissa are from Colby in the northwest part of the diocese. They were joined the third full week of June by their younger sister, Allison, who will be a junior in high school this fall.

The Halbgewach brothers are from Ellsworth in the south-eastern section of the diocese, and this year, Anthony brought along younger brothers Brady, a junior-to-be, and JT, a sophomore.

Anthony is headed this fall to Fort Hays State University, where he plans to major in construction management.

He got some experience in that program this summer while participating in Prayer and Action for the third consecutive year.

The team took care of a number of chores for homeowners that ranged from painting and cleaning to tree trimming and weed pulling to just spending time visiting with the elderly.

“It's neat to meet people from other parts of the state, so I was really looking forward to this,” Anthony said. “But the best part is seeing the happiness on homeowners' faces when we do something for them.”

Like Anthony, the Zimmerman twins are experienced participants and wanted to take part one more year before heading off to college — Cassandra to Wichita State University and Melissa to Emporia State University. This marks the first year all three Zimmerman sisters participated together.

Cassandra said she is a “little more introverted” than her twin sister and that Prayer and Action has helped bring her out of her shell.

“Prayer and Action is faith-based so you don't feel like you have to fit into all the social standards,” she said. “And there's nothing like the interaction with nursing home residents and homeowners you are helping. The community makes you feel welcome right away.”

# More than a century of sisterly love

## Rawlins County trio enjoys faithful, long life together

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Three sisters sit at a table eating their lunch in a well-known location that overlooks a beautiful lake in Atwood.

It's obvious who is the eldest, the one looking out for her younger sisters. Her name is Julia, and when Julia speaks, Lucy and Frances listen.

On a spring day in May, Julia tells her siblings they can't have dessert today because they didn't eat their vegetables.

Lucy probably didn't care because her birthday was coming soon, and she knew she would get to eat cake then.

A couple of weeks later on June 11, Lucy did indeed get that cake. So did Julia and Frances, because celebrating special days are commonplace in this facility — the Good Samaritan Center.

Besides, it's a big deal when someone celebrates their 104th birthday — especially when their older sister, 105-year-old Julia, and the baby of the family, 101-year-old Frances, are sitting on either side of her.

Everyone in town knows these centenarian siblings, and they are a big deal every day.

Natives of Rawlins County, the three girls born to Florian and Frances Holub attribute their longevity to hard work and strong faith and, of course, listening to what Julia tells them.

They all grew up working alongside their dad on the family farm. The older girls began their Catholic upbringing at St. John Nepomucene Parish in Beardsley and later attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Atwood.



From left, Atwood sisters Frances Kompus, Lucy Pochop and Julia Kopriva enjoy an afternoon of reminiscing at the Good Samaritan Center in Atwood.



One of the highlights on Wednesdays for sisters Julia Kopriva, far left, and Lucy Pochop, third from left, is attending Mass in the chapel at the Good Samaritan Center. Also pictured are another Good Samaritan resident, Jackie Urban, second from left; activities director Marie Sis, far right; and Father Henry Saw Lone at the altar.

The St. John church was completed the same year Julia was born (in 1917).

"We even went to church on Saturdays for catechism," Julia said. "And in the summertime, we went into town every day for two weeks of catechism."

"The only time we missed church was because of muddy roads," Lucy added, "and then we prayed at home."

All three Holub sisters married farmers, and thus a life of hard work continued.

They raised their families within 20 miles of each other and often spent time together, especially on

Sundays and holidays.

On this particular day, Joanna Shormann, one of Julia's daughters who lives in Colorado, was visiting her mother and her aunts at the Good Samaritan Center. Joanna's younger brother, Marty Kopriva, joined them from his farm near Atwood.

"We have great memories of being able to spend so much time with all our cousins and aunts and uncles," Joanna said as Marty nodded his head in agreement.

"I can remember Aunt Lucy helping Grandpa on the farm," Marty added. "I rode in the truck with Lucy when I was a little boy."

There were a lot of smiles and laughter while reminiscing about the wonderful life they agree they were blessed with.

They remembered driving the tractor on the farm, walking 2 miles to school in Beardsley and listening to the radio before they got a television.

They talked about how they were born at home and how they grew up speaking Czech — both sets of grandparents were immigrants from Czechoslovakia — and learned to speak English



Some of the family's favorite photos of the siblings are one of 1-year-old Julia taken in late 1918 or early 1919 and one of the three sisters during their younger years — Frances (4 years), Lucy (6) and Julia (8). Courtesy photos

when they went to school.

"I remember them teaching me one English word at a time," Frances said of her older siblings.

The Holub sisters grew closer in their later years.

After their children were grown and their spouses had passed away, Julia Kopriva, Lucy Pochop and Frances Kompus moved into Atwood and at one time lived in three apartments next to each other and played cards together nearly every night.

Frances and Lucy moved to the Good Samaritan Center a few years ago and became roommates again just like they did in childhood. Julia continued to live on her own independently until shortly before her 105th birthday.

Once all three were reunited under one roof last year, they continued to visit each other, play bingo and attend Mass together on Wednesday, and eat every meal together — where Julia has the last say.

"Well, they say I boss them around," Julia said with a smile.

"But do we listen?" Frances asked, prompting a laugh from everyone around them.

"We absolutely love having

the sisters here with us," said Marie Sis, activities director at the Good Samaritan Center. "We are honored to have them live here."

To know "the sisters," to which they are affectionately referred, is to love them.

They are well-known in the area and have even gained national attention. When Frances turned 100 in 2021, the sisters were featured in a story in USA Today.

These girls could have been an ideal backdrop for Norman Rockwell, one of America's most popular storytellers of the 20th century, with his detailed, sentimental paintings of everyday Americana.

Collectively, the Holub sisters celebrated 100-year-old birthdays together 13 times.

To those who know them, the Holub sisters' story is better than a Norman Rockwell painting.

*Editor's note: This day with the Holub sisters (May 24, 2023) will always remain a special memory for all involved. Frances passed away on June 28, and Julia and Lucy now are adjusting to life without their "baby sister." But like everything they have faced in life, Joanna says "their faith will get them through."*



Praying the rosary is something the sisters have done their entire lives since they were youngsters.

CROSSWORD

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Answers on Page 14

RURAL LIFE DAY

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The 2023 Rural Life Day will be at 3 p.m. Aug. 13 at St. Joseph’s Church in Oakley, featuring the Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm awards. The awards are presented to families who have lived on farms, have farmed land or owned farms in the diocese for 100 years or more. With each award, the family relates a brief (five minutes or so) history of how the family came to own or live on the farm, as well as significant events of the family during the past 100 years, and the importance faith played in these family events. Refreshments will be served.

Applications for the Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm Award are due

Aug. 1. Families who have lived on farms, have farmed land, or owned farms in the Diocese of Salina for 100 years or more are eligible to apply.

For application forms, check under Rural Life on the Diocese of Salina website.

St. Isidore’s Day will be observed May 15 in the West Central Deanery.

For more information about any of these events, to submit your family application or to host next year’s St. Isidore’s Day, contact Father Rich Daise

at St. Joseph Parish in Hays, 215 W. 13th, Hays, KS, 67601, or call (785) 625-7356 or email frrich@sacredheartcolby.com.

**Did you know?**  
More information about Rural Life activities in the Diocese of Salina can be found online at <https://salinadiocese.org/office/rural-life/>.

Event deals with overcoming abuse

By Katie Hamel  
The Register

A project several years in the making is finally coming to fruition. In 2019, Bishop Jerry Vincke and members of the Safe Environment Office met to discuss the possibility of hosting a healing retreat for victims of abuse. COVID interrupted the vision, and plans were put on hold for a short amount of time.

But their patience has been rewarded, and the diocese will be hosting a healing retreat for victims of abuse the weekend of Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

Safe environment program coordinator Wendy Backes will be facilitating the event.

“This retreat is important because so many are hurting,” she said.

The retreat weekend will take place at Manna House of Prayer in Concordia, beginning at 5 p.m. Sept. 29 and ending at noon Oct. 1. The retreat will include sessions ranging from the testimony of a survivor of clergy abuse to ways to heal and move forward. There will be time for socialization, prayer and more.

The keynote speaker is Kathleen “Kathy” Damman, OFS, of the Diocese of Lansing. Damman is a native of Michigan. She grew up in Detroit and attended a Catholic primary school. Before retiring in 2018, Damman cared for people as both a hospice patient care technician and para-educator for adults with developmental disabilities. She is also a professed Third Order Secular Franciscan and has served her Orders Fraternity as treasurer and counselor. Damman has been married for 45 years with three children and seven grandchildren.

“I’m so honored and grateful to be asked to speak and assist with the healing retreat in September,” she said. “What a privilege it will be to walk with others on their journey. By sharing my personal testimony as a survivor of clergy sexual abuse, my hope is that others may come to know God’s unconditional love and that healing and wholeness is possible.”

Catherine DiNuzzo of Beloit will serve as the retreat master. She is a licensed professional counselor and operates

DiNuzzo Counseling LLC, offering traditional counseling from a Catholic perspective in virtual format.

DiNuzzo has been in private practice since 2010. She is faithful to the Magisterium and operates her practice in that same manner. DiNuzzo earned her master’s degree in counseling and human services from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. Prior to her private practice, she worked for several years in schools and in agency counseling, namely with veterans, working with PTSD. DiNuzzo specializes in helping clients overcome anxiety and depression, as well as other concerns. In addition, she offers counseling for married couples and couples preparing for marriage. DiNuzzo has been married for 17 years with four children.

“This healing retreat will be a place where survivors of abuse can feel seen, heard and given tools to help with their healing,” DiNuzzo said. “The goal is to help those who are hurting and to create a place and time to help invite Jesus into their wounds and to walk on their journey of healing with them.”

Judy Zimmer of Herington will assist wherever needed with the retreat. However, her main focus will be helping survivors with spiritual practices as a method to continue healing. Zimmer will offer an introduction to spiritual practice covering the techniques and methods involved and how they fit into one’s daily schedule.

Janet Eubanks of Concordia will assist Backes with facilitation. Eubanks is the director of religious education and safety coordinator at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia. She has experience with facilitation and leading events through her active involvement in her parish.

Finally, Bishop Vincke and Father Mike Leiker will celebrate Mass and lead prayer services.

“I hope that the healing retreat will be a blessing for those who attend,” Bishop Vincke said. “We are blessed with a team of professionals who will guide the retreat.”

For more information, email [wendy.backes@salinadiocese.org](mailto:wendy.backes@salinadiocese.org) or call (785) 827-8746.

# Charities helps those living with hope

By OLIVIA AYRES

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

When Mary Ann stepped through Catholic Charities' doors for the first time in 2008, she had no idea it would be a continued place of refuge for her family throughout the next 15 years. Mary Ann, who resides in Manhattan, came to Catholic Charities for the first time after her family encountered financial difficulties that put them on the brink of homelessness.

"When I first came to Catholic Charities, my family was in a situation where we were staying at a homeless shelter. I went to Catholic Charities hoping they could help us find a place," Mary Ann said. "They directed us, and within two days they helped us find a place to live and helped with the deposit. I was treated like a human being, like I was somebody. Without the resources and support of Catholic Charities, my family would probably have been homeless."

In the proceeding years, Mary Ann's family also received assistance for her grandson, who had severe health complications at his birth.

"My grandson was born with one kidney," Mary Ann said. "Jessica Sampson (director of family support services) made sure he had the things he needed to survive, such as food and his necessary electrolyte drinks."

While Mary Ann was apprehensive about approaching Catholic Charities for help at first, she said that leap of faith led to her life's greatest blessings.

"Catholic Charities means a lot to me," Mary Ann said. "I think a lot of people do not ask for help because they are afraid that they will be judged. You are never judged at Catholic Charities."

"Whatever I have needed help with, they have been there. And if for some reason they could not help me, they would find me assistance elsewhere."

Along with being a wife, mother and grandmother, Mary Ann is also a three-time cancer survivor, something she holds near to her heart.

Her prolonged history with disease was brought up again upon her husband's recent cancer



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Ann gets assistance from Renee Schur of Catholic Charities' office in Manhattan.

diagnosis. Mary Ann said it was Catholic Charities who checked in on their family during this fraught time.

"When my husband was diagnosed with cancer, Catholic Charities stepped up and asked us if there was anything we needed," she said. "Just when I felt like I had nobody to turn to, there was Catholic Charities."

Because of the generosity of donors like you, Mary Ann was able to receive the

support she needed at these three critical times in her life. She expressed that Catholic Charities not only carried her through these adversities, but brought her closer to hope.

"To me, hope means that you never give up," Mary Ann said. "There have been

times where I am so down and struggling. But when you have somebody that you can talk to and express how you feel and not be judged, it makes you feel good. Every time Catholic Charities has helped me, they make me feel like I count."

Mary Ann wants the

community to remember Catholic Charities is a place that welcomes all people, regardless of their background, beliefs or religious


affiliations.

"Just because its called Catholic Charities, it does not mean you have to be Catholic to receive services," she said. "It is not a matter of what your religion is, it's about what's in your heart."

With the Green Tie



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**Part-time Licensed Therapist — Hays**  
This position provides professional counseling services, both in-person and virtually via Doxy.me to clients served by the Hays-area office, approximately 20 hours per week. Catholic Charities is looking for a compassionate, driven and organized individual to support those in need across northern Kansas.

**Emergency Assistance and Office Coordinator — Manhattan**  
Catholic Charities is looking for an organized, codependent, and positive individual to fill the Emergency Assistance and Office Coordinator role in Manhattan. This position serves as the initial contact for guests of the Manhattan office. This position is responsible for the review of emergency assistance and serving as the liaison between vendors and the agency's financial director for payments. Key functions include office coordination, agency service liaison, and coordination of emergency assistance.

**To apply to any of the positions, visit [www.ccnks.org/careers](http://www.ccnks.org/careers)**

JOB OPENINGS

Ann urges those who are able to give and support those throughout northern Kansas facing financial and emotional hardship.

"Everybody needs to support them because there may be a time in your life when you need somebody. Catholic Charities is there for you," Mary Ann said. "We need these programs. We need people who care, and they care."

To learn more about the Catholic Charities Financial and Housing Assistance Program, visit [ccnks.org/financial](http://ccnks.org/financial).

Olivia Ayres is the communications coordinator for Catholic Charities.

Celebration Fundraiser coming up July 29, Mary

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS JOB BOARD

### Colby

Sacred Heart Grade School

Start: August 2023

• Principal

### Hanover

St. John's Catholic School

Start: August 2023

• Grades 6-8 English language arts and sixth-grade homeroom teacher

### Hays

Holy Family Elementary School

Start: August 2023

• Part-time para-educator

### Junction City

St. Francis Xavier Schools

Start: Immediately

• Administrative assistant/secretary

Start: August 2023

• Second-grade teacher

• Fifth/Sixth-grade math and science teacher

• 7-12 theology teacher

• 7-12 science teacher

• K-12 counselor

• Substitute teachers

### Manhattan

Manhattan Catholic Schools

Start: August 2023

• K-8 counselor

### Oakley

St. Joseph Grade School

Start: August 2023

• Third-grade teacher

### Tipton

Tipton Catholic Junior/Senior High School

Start: August 2023

• 7-12 science teacher

### Salina

Sacred Heart Junior/Senior High School

Start: August 2023

• Debate/forensics coach

• Head building and campus maintenance position

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](mailto:kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org).

BAPTISMS

**Lizeth Ayala-Duran**, daughter of Francisco and Maria Ayala, was baptized June 24, 2023, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Eli Anthony Baalman**, son of Coby and Megan Baalman, was baptized June 4, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Martin of Tours in Seguin.

**Kamden Gregory Baumann**, son of Kaid and Christa Baumann, was baptized June 25, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

**Tymber Jo Bruggeman**, daughter of Tate and Jennifer Bruggeman, was baptized June 24, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

**Hadley Theresa Casey**, daughter of Jeremy and Danielle (Deaver) Casey, was baptized June 16, 2023, by Father Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

**Billings Mae Champlin**, daughter of Shane and Hannah Champlin, was baptized June 17, 2023, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Christopher Jerome Fink**, son of Anthony and Paige Fink, was baptized June 18, 2023, by Father Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

**Waylon Lane Fraser**, son of Dalton and Jenna Fraser, was baptized June 10, 2023, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Lexi Ann Heigert**, daughter of Michael and Heather Heigert, was baptized June 11, 2023, by Deacon Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Ryder Joseph Kasper**, son of Paul and Brittany (Rohr) Kasper, was baptized June 4, 2023, by Father

Tony Kulandaijesu at St. Wenceslaus Church in Wilson.

**Turner Kirk Knight**, son of Kegan and Alicia (Hammeke) Knight, was baptized June 26, 2023, by Father Andrew Hammeke at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

**Violet Joyce Lane**, daughter of Greg and Lisa (Nemnich) Lane, was baptized June 18, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Sloan Loretta Mahin**, daughter of Caleb and Gayle Mahin, was baptized June 17, 2023, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**William Matthew Miller**, son of William and Bethany Miller, was baptized June 25, 2023, by Father Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Church in Chapman.

**Addilyn Miller**, daughter of Jared

and Kelsey Miller, was baptized June 4, 2023, by Father Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew Church in Abilene.

**Kolbe Dean Schuster**, son of Gregory and Abigail Schuster, was baptized June 18, 2023, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Hazel Grace Tajchman**, daughter of Alan and Chelsea Tajchman, was baptized June 25, 2023, by Father Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

**Boone Whitehair**, son of Cody and Hannah Whitehair, was baptized June 18, 2023, by Father Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew Church in Abilene.

**Ava Marie Whittington**, daughter of Antwan and Anna Bonilla, was baptized June 17, 2023, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Victoria native selected to position in Colo.

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Ellis County native, JoAnn (Younger) Seaman has been selected to be the new executive director of Mother Cabrini Shrine, effective Aug. 1. Seaman has dedicated her

34-year career to the shrine, serving as the development director since June 1989. Through the years, she has been responsible for all fundraising and marketing activities, including the annual gala.

Seaman received her master's degree in nonprofit management from Regis University and a bachelor's degree in communication and public relations from Fort Hays State University. She is a 1984 graduate of Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays. She is the daughter of Ethel and the late John C. Younger of Victoria.

The Board of Trustees have every confidence that the shrine will embark on an exciting new chapter under Seaman's leadership. The board along with the

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus pledge their prayers and support.



Seaman

Seaman said she loves her Victoria roots, crediting it as "a wonderful place to grow up." Her time at TMP and FHSU were both enjoyable experiences, and she loves coming home to visit family, but she also enjoys when people from "back home" in Ellis County are able to come out to visit the shrine, saying, "it's always great to catch up and get a taste of home." "I love that the shrine is

such a special, beautiful and serene place just minutes from Denver," Seaman said. "In addition, I love the charism and spirit of Mother Cabrini and the Missionary Sisters and the generosity of our donors and volunteers. Their love for the shrine continuously inspires me, and I feel so fortunate to have spent my career here."

Located in Golden, Colo., Mother Cabrini Shrine is a shrine in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

To learn more, visit <https://mothercabrinishrine.org>.

### 75th Anniversary

St. Frances Cabrini Church, Hoxie  
Sunday, August 13, 2023  
(We are hosting 75 hours of adoration preceding the celebration from 1 p.m. Aug. 9 to 5 p.m. Aug. 12)  
Sunday Mass 3 p.m.  
BBQ meal 4:30 p.m.  
Dance 6-9 p.m.  
(Meal and dance at Sheridan County 4-H Building)

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WEDDINGS

**Ian Fowler and Caroline Geiger** were married June 24, 2023, at St. Andrew Church in Abilene. Father Peter O'Donnell witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Randall and Mary Fowler. Parents of the bride are Tony and Sarah Geiger. Witnesses were Joseph Czikalla and Susanna Geiger.

**Brett Phillip Plattner and Shelby Brooke Carpenter** were married June 3, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Gary and Denise Plattner. Parents of the bride are Douglas and Tammi Carpenter. Witnesses were Kellen Russell and Ashley Carpenter.

**Charles Christian Morrison and Braelyn Jade Hoelting** were married June 10, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Charles and Debora Morrison. Parents of the bride are Lynn and Catherine Hoelting. Witnesses were Spencer Misko and Madison Jarman.

**Erick Douglas Janss and Brynn Mandell Carlson** were married June 10, 2023, at St.

Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Drew Hoffman and Father Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Timothy and Dagmar Janss. Parents of the bride are Marc and Sheri Carlson. Witnesses were Andrew Smith and Britt Carlson.

**Trey Samuel Kuhlmann and Ashlyn Sara Gillispie** were married June 17, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hammerschmidt and Father Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Jack and Deirdra Kuhlmann. Parents of the bride are Byron and Kathryn Evers. Witnesses were Liam Pasilas and Kamryn Gillispie.

**Grant Michael Herpich and Melissa Michelle Bohn** were married June 24, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Mark and Nancy Herpich. Parents of the bride are Rodney and Bethany Bohn. Witnesses were Cole Herpich and Emma Miller.

**Schuyler Douglas Mayberry and Jenna Marie Pelter** were

married June 24, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Mark and Stacey Mayberry. Parents of the bride are Scott and JoAnn Pelter. Witnesses were Eric McAntee and Kelsie Pelter.

**Aaron Dlabal and Hannah Burks** were married June 24, 2023, at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Father Andy Hammeke witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are James and Rosemary Dlabal. Parents of the bride are Eric and Deidra Burks. Witnesses were Ethan Dlabal and Hayley Burks.

**Tyler Broeckelman and Kaylor Gottschalk** were married June 24, 2023, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nick Parker witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Monte and Vicki Broeckelman. Parents of the bride are Kevin and Christine Gottschalk. Witnesses were Derrick Broeckelman and Brooke Gaughan.

**Alexis Schamberger and Nicholas Lehmkuhl** were married June 3, 2023, at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing witnessed the vows. Parents

of the groom are Randy and Teresa Lehmkuhl. Parents of the bride are Donald and Tammy Schamberger. Witnesses were Jeromy Bartz and Macy Keller.

**Jake Tiernan and Lydia Hoffman** were married April 15, 2023, at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Father Kevin Weber witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Steve and Stephanie Tiernan. Parents of the bride are Kevin and Lisa Hoffman. Witnesses were Justin Brummer and Hannah Hoffman.

**Jacob Burks and Haley Hollon** were married June 3, 2023, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Joshua and Erin Burks. Parents of the bride are Danny Hollon and Karen Leiszler. Witnesses were Caleb Burks and Jessica Wurtz.

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 August

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the gospel in their own lives.

Diocesan prayer intention for August

We ask for your blessing on all of those preparing to start a new school year. Please allow them to experience your presence in the gift of learning. Open their hearts to the excitement of new challenges and the many exciting opportunities this new school year will bring.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	A	P	R		C	A	P		7	B	U	M		10	C	I	A
13	R	O	E		14	E	G	O	15	U	S	A		16	A	I	L
17	K	I	N	G	D	O	M		19	R	E	G		20	A	L	I
				21	T	U	E		22	E	M	U		24	I	N	C
25	C	A	I	N		27	C	L	I	N	G		29	T	U	B	A
32	U	R	N		33	P	L	O	D	D	E	D		35	L	O	W
36	D	E	G	R	E	E	S		38	I	N	I	T	I	A	L	
				40	Y	A	M						41	T	A	I	
42	G	E	N	E	S	E	S		45				46	S	I	N	C
50	A	L	I		51	E	N	T	I	T	L	E		53	R	E	V
54	S	I	N	S		56	T	U	T	E	E		57	H	O	P	E
				58	E	R	R		60	T	S	P		61	H	A	S
62	D	E	V	I	A	N	T		65	H	E	E	D	I	N	G	
69	A	T	E		70	S	B	E		71	E	L	L		72	O	N
73	D	A	H		74	H	E	R		75	N	F	L		76	N	E

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DEATHS

**Monica "Nikki" Bader**, 35, died May 18, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 25 at Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Cawker City.

**Father Andrew Rockers** presided.

**Doris Dinkel**, 85, of Hays, died June 2, 2023. Funeral

Mass was celebrated June 6 at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. David Micheal, HGN, presided. Burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Hays.

**James "Nick" Lichter**, 79, of Havensville, died June 21, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 24 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Father Jonathan Dizon presided. Burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Clyde.

**Vincent Link**, 104, died June 5, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 22 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father Mark Wesely presided. Burial in St. Peter Cemetery in Meredith Township.

**Eugene D. Malir**, 91, of Wilson, died March 26, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 30 at St. Wenceslaus Church in Wilson. Father Jerome Morgan presided.

**Kenneth Charles Schmelzle**, 80, died Jan. 21, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 22 at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Mike Leiker presided. Burial in Flush Cemetery in Flush.

**Judy Ann Sorell-Katz**, 66, died June 11, 2023. Graveside service was June 24 at St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia. Father Steven Heina presided.

**Elizabeth (Clennan) Schmitt Talbott**, 81, Chapman, died May 5, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 9 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Father Peter O'Donnell presided. Burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Chapman.

**Myrene S. Soukup**, 76, of Wilson, died March 3, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 8 at St. Wenceslaus Church in Wilson. Father Tony Kulandaijesu and Father Leo Blasi presided.

Funeral Mass for **Jonah Walter**, infant child of Joseph and Erin (Meyer) Walter, was celebrated June 23, 2023, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Concordia. Father Brian Lager presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

**Joel R. Zumbrunn**, 36, of Junction City, died June 6, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 15 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Father Peter O'Donnell presided. Burial in Buckeye Cemetery in Abilene.



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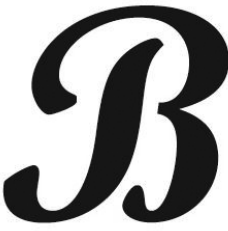
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# Bring generations together this summer

This summer, Catholics around the world are invited to participate in two exciting, inter-related events in the life of the church. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly was July 23, and World Youth Day is being celebrated in Lisbon, Portugal, during the first week of August.

To highlight his desire for the young and the old to deepen their bonds with one another, Pope Francis chose to draw the themes of these two celebrations from a single biblical passage — that of the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, found in the first chapter of St. Luke's Gospel.

This biblical passage is often associated with the advent season, since the visitation occurs between the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would become the mother of the savior, and the birth of her savior-son in Bethlehem.

But echoes of the visitation are quietly woven into our daily prayer life as Catholics. Part of the traditional Hail Mary prayer — Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb — is drawn from Elizabeth's greeting to her young cousin when the virgin arrived to visit her.

The Magnificat — the exuberant hymn of praise to God sung by Mary during the visitation — is repeated every evening, year-round, by all those who pray the liturgy of the hours.

As we sing this canticle day after day, it imprints itself on our memories and on our souls.

But I think that even as we repeat the Hail Mary and the Magnificat each day, we tend to take for granted the encounter from which these texts were born.

By focusing our attention on the visitation this summer,

Pope Francis is inviting us to find new meaning in this scene.

In his messages for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and World Youth Day, the pope presents the visitation as a significant intergenerational encounter.

"In the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth, between

young and old, God

points us towards the future that he is opening up before us," he wrote. "Indeed, Mary's visit and Elizabeth's greeting open our eyes to the dawn of salvation: in their embrace, God's mercy quietly breaks into human history amid abundant joy."

Pope Francis continued, "I encourage everyone to reflect on that meeting, to picture, like a snapshot, that embrace between the young mother of God and the elderly mother of St. John the Baptist, and to frame it in their minds and hearts as a radiant icon."

Following the pope's advice, we could add the first chapter of St. Luke's gospel to our summer reading list, especially verses 39 to 56.

The pope is asking us to do more than just frame an image of the visitation in our minds, however. He is also inviting us "to make a

concrete gesture that would include grandparents and the elderly."

He challenges us, "Let us not abandon them. Their presence in families and communities is a precious one, for it reminds us that we share the same heritage and are part of a people committed to preserving its

roots. ... Let us honor them, neither depriving ourselves of their company

nor depriving them of ours. May we never allow the elderly to be cast aside."

To the pope's suggestions that we reflect on the biblical text of the visitation and make a concrete gesture to include the elderly in our lives, I would like to add a third suggestion for this summer.

Just as it is important for the young to reach out to the old, the opposite is also true. If you are an older adult with young people among your relatives or neighbors, why not honor the spirit of World Youth Day by reaching out to them with a gesture of welcome or support?

Pope Francis really believes that the young won't make it without their elders.

He has said that if older people do not reach out to the young, the latter "will

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## POPE'S MESSAGES

**Pope Francis' message for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2023:** <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20230531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>

**Pope Francis' message for World Youth Day 2023:** [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/youth/documents/papa-francesco\\_20220815\\_messaggio-giovani\\_2022.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/youth/documents/papa-francesco_20220815_messaggio-giovani_2022.html)

no longer see the things that must be done to open up the future. ... If grandparents fall back on their melancholies, young people will look even more to their smartphones. The screen may stay on, but life will die out before its time."

Let's do all we can to make sure life does not die out before its time.

Whether you are young,

like Mary, or older, like her cousin Elizabeth, this summer set aside some time to reach out to someone who is not from your own age cohort. If you do, your life, and the lives of others, will be richly blessed.

*Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.*



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