



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Father Andy Hammeke addresses the crowd at a recent fundraising dinner to support the seminarians in the Salina Diocese.

Serving up support

FUNDRAISING DINNERS TRIPLE IN NUMBER TO HELP SEMINARIANS IN SALINA DIOCESE

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

"If you bring it out here, we will definitely support it."

That's what a parishioner from Hoxie told the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Salina.

It was August 2022, and Mike Mense had just attended a seminarian fundraising dinner in Hays.

It was the first time the dinner — a long-standing tradition in Salina — had taken place in Hays.

"It was so inspiring to get to meet these incredible young men in person," Mense said.

The Foundation embraced the idea of extending the event to another city, and CEO Katie Platten and her staff immediately began planning a third dinner in Colby, approximately 110 miles northwest of Hays.

In just two years, attendance at the dinners rose from 150 in the lone Salina location to more than 450 among the three locations on



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Seminarians Jesse Ochs and Collin Thielen talk with a member of the crowd at the fundraising dinner.

consecutive nights in early August this year.

Those attending the dinners get to meet the seminarians, who mingle among the crowd and pick a table at which to sit during dinner — sometimes with total strangers. Father Andy Hammeke and Father Joshua Werth, co-vocation direc-

tors, then introduce the seminarians, who tell a little about themselves.

"I love watching our Kansas Catholics gather together in support of these men in their pastoral journey," Platten said.

Platten said she was pleased to "bring this celebration to the

MATCH WORK

An amount of \$100,000 has been donated as a challenge to the rest of the Diocese of Salina. Any donation to the seminarian education fund will be matched dollar for dollar while funds remain.



Anyone wishing to donate to the education fund can scan the QR code.

western half of the diocese because we could connect with so many more people."

She said she was particularly excited about the Colby dinner this year because three of the 10 current seminarians are from parishes in small towns within 22 miles of each other in northwest Kansas — and not far from Colby.

DINNERS, PAGE 5

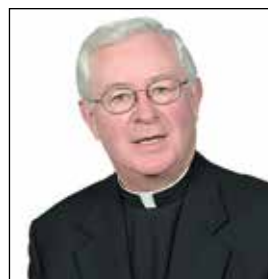
ENJOYING TIME

Bishop Jerry Vincke marks five years in Salina Diocese.
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CELEBRATING HIS LIFE

Diocese of Salina remembers Father Melvin Long and his service to parishes.
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The power of small groups

Many of you are familiar with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). FOCUS missionaries serve at college campuses across the country, including our own Fort Hays State University and Kansas State University. Their goal is to help college students encounter the love and mercy of Jesus. One of their main ways they help other students encounter Christ is through small group Bible studies or other formation models. FOCUS is very successful in this endeavor, as more and more college students are participating in small group gatherings.

As I travel around the diocese, I am encouraged by the number of Bible studies taking place in our parishes. It's a great way to meet other people and to share your faith with each other. There could be a women's group, a men's group or a couple's group. Some groups meet once a month, others every other week. Sometimes people meet solely during Advent and Lent.

I invite you to join a small group discus-

sion of our faith if you are able. The following are three options of what to focus on.

- Gather to discuss the upcoming Sunday readings.
- During this year of Eucharistic Revival, please consider using materials that are available on our diocesan website or on Formed.org.
- The Knight of Columbus has come up with its own small group study called Men of the Word. I think this program would be good for men.

Life can be busy, but our relationship with Jesus is our biggest priority. Perhaps you can invite people who haven't been practicing their faith to your small group. Leading others to Jesus is the best gift you can give someone.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

**GERALD
Vincke**
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



BISHOP'S CALENDAR

September

- 4 Labor Day, Chancery closed
- 5 Year of Mercy, Sequin
- 6 Year of Mercy, Hoxie
- 9 Divine Mercy Radio Fall Banquet, 6 p.m., Hays
- 10 Divine Mercy Radio Fall Banquet, 5 p.m., Salina
- 11-14 Clergy retreat, Wichita
- 15-16 TMP-M homecoming, Hays
- 17-22 IPF Bishop's Program, Mundelein, Ill.
- 24 Annual Holy Cross Mass in Pfeiffer, 3 p.m.
- 26 Year of Mercy, Oberlin
- 27 Year of Mercy, Selden
- 28 Year of Mercy, Leoville
- 29-1 Healing retreat, Manna House, Concordia

MAGAZINE UPDATE

The Fall 2023 issue of *faith* magazine has been canceled due to publishing issues. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding. The next issue of *faith* magazine will feature honoring the dead and is scheduled to arrive in mailboxes in early November.

MAUI FIRE DAMAGE

From Bishop Vincke:

I talked to the Most Rev. Larry Silva, bishop of Honolulu, and he told me about the devastation and hardship the people of Maui are experiencing following the fires. It is truly devastating and will be unbelievably hard to recover from.

If you would like to donate, Bishop Silva gave the following information:

1. For individual donations, go to <https://tinyurl.com/Maui-Catholic.com>.

2. If you would like to take up a group collection and send one check, please make the check out to the Diocese of Honolulu and send directly to Bishop Silva at the following address:

Most Rev. Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu
C/O Maui Fire Relief
1184 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Please keep the people of Maui in your prayers as they recover from this terrible tragedy.

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP VINCKE

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. Thank you for considering to attend.

Diocese remembers Father Melvin Long

BY KATIE HAMEL

THE REGISTER

Father Melvin Long was born Aug. 7, 1940, in New Almelo. He died Aug. 17, 2023.

Father Long's parents were Andrew and Regina (Otter) Long. He attended grade school at St. John's in Beloit, graduated from St. Francis Seminary High School in Victoria, St. Mary's University in Winona, Minn., as well as the American Theological Seminary at University of Louvain in Belgium.

He was ordained June 18, 1966, at St. John the Baptist in Beloit by Bishop Cyril Vogel.

One of the most notable accomplishments during Father Long's ministry was founding St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Salina in 1981. Father Long led the project, building

the parish from the ground up. The parish today is served by Father Keith Weber and has 684 families as regular parishioners. As the parish was being built, Father Long celebrated Mass in some interesting places, including the movie theater.

Father Long's priestly ministry included teaching positions at Marymount College, Bethany College and Cloud County Community College, but he was also called to minister in Europe. Father Long spent his seminary years in Belgium at the American Theological Seminary at University of Louvain. After his ordination, he was called back to Belgium to serve as a faculty member in 1973 and later served as leadership in the 1990s.

When Father Long retired in

2002, he moved to California due to health complications. However, his priestly ministry did not stop. He filled in at parishes across the country so priests could take extended sabbaticals. He also was part of the "Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America" and did cruise ship ministry for years.

In the May 2016 issue of The Register, Father Long stated, "I love ministry, and I love people. That's why I've continued (ministering) beyond retirement on a regular basis."

During his time in the diocese, his assignments were as follows:

- 1966-68: Parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.
- 1968-70: Parochial vicar at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia.
- 1970-73: Professor and chaplain at Marymount College in Salina.



Long

- 1973-78: Faculty at The American College of Louvain in Belgium.
- 1978-80: Pastor at St. Boniface Parish in Tipton and St. Mary Parish in Downs.
- 1980: Director of the Office of Diocesan Planning in Salina.
- 1981-88: Founding pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Salina while continuing work at the chancery.
- 1982-1990: Vicar general of the Diocese of Salina.
- 1988-90: Pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.
- 1990-92: Executive Vice President for Development of American College at the Catholic University of Louvain, working from Washington D.C.
- 1992-93: Interim President/Rector of American College at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.
- 1993-1995: Executive Vice President of American College at the Catholic University of Louvain, working from Washington D.C.
- 1995-2002: Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.
- 2002: Retired to California due to health complications.

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Deadline for advertising is Sept. 1.

Mailing label update

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A five-year celebration

Bishop Gerald Vincke recently celebrated his five-year anniversary in the Salina Diocese. Katie Hamel, editor of The Register, sat down with him to discuss his time in Kansas. He was ordained and installed as bishop Aug. 22, 2018, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

It's been five years since you were ordained and installed as the bishop of the Diocese of Salina. How does it feel?

I love the Diocese of Salina and the people that make up the diocese. It's home to me now. It's been a joy to meet so many people of the diocese.

Has being a bishop been what you were expecting?

In some ways yes, but in other ways no. When I first got here, I thought driving to Hays was a long drive. Now, it's a short drive. People in our diocese are used to driving, and so am I now. I knew I would celebrate the confirmations, but I have enjoyed going to visit the parishes more than just confirmations. It's been wonderful to meet so many of the faithful throughout the diocese.

There are special things that only a bishop can preside over, such as confirmations, priestly ordinations and the Chrism Masses. Tell us your experience with these Masses.

These are always joyful occasions. I enjoy talking with those getting confirmed before Mass and getting to know them. I have only ordained two priests since I have been



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Jerry Vincke hugs a parishioner at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City before Mass.

here. We have a lot of hopes for the future regarding priestly vocations. And the Chrism Mass is wonderful because the faithful and priests are gathered together with the bishop as a visible sign of the one Body of Christ.

One of the first things you did when you became the bishop was to visit each parish in the diocese and celebrate a Mass of Healing. This was in response to the clergy abuse scandal and Theodore McCarrick living in the diocese. Why was this important to you?

I think it was important to be with the people during this very difficult time and to listen to them and hear their thoughts and concerns. I wanted to let them know that God will bring good out of evil and encourage them to keep the faith even in difficult times.

For over a year, you were named temporary apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Dodge City in addition to remaining the bishop of the Diocese of Salina. What were the hardships during that time, as well as some of the blessings/memorable moments?

I found the time visiting the Dodge City diocese to be a great blessing in so many ways. Our dioceses are somewhat similar because we are both rural dioceses. But at the same time, it's different, too. I still pray for their diocese.

In 2020, Covid was a reality, and Masses were closed to the faithful. It was a hard time for everyone. What was your experience during this time?

That was a very difficult time for everyone. There were so many decisions to make, so many answers to so many questions. We probably had one of the shortest periods of time without Sunday Masses amongst all the dioceses in the U.S. Yet, it felt like forever. Perhaps the most important thing I could do is to pray and have peace and calm. As St. Teresa of Avila reminds us, "all things are passing."

Pope Francis began the synod on synodality, and the diocesan phase is now complete. What were some of the things you learned after having several listening sessions with the faithful of the diocese?

Well, in some ways it was kind of what I thought. There were lots of opinions from people who love the Church.

The Eucharistic Revival is ongoing right now. What have you been most excited about with the revival?

I am just excited that people are talking about the Eucharist. Some of the events that parishes have come up with are exciting. A lot of parishes are adding more Eucharistic Adoration times. Pope Francis invited us to spend more time in adoration.

You're currently several months into your "Year of Mercy." How have these visits been going?

Wonderful. Each parish (the priest and the pastoral council) is coming up with the schedule, so every visit is different in some ways. I want people to

know of God's merciful love and our call to be merciful to others. I think most of all that it's been good to listen to the people. So many people are hurting and in pain because of something that has happened in their lives.

What have been some of the greatest hardships?

Oh, there are always some regrets, some decisions that I have made. At the same time, I trust that God will bring even a greater good from the mistakes that I have made.

What are your hopes for the people of our diocese?

My greatest desire is that all people in the diocese will respond to the saving love of Jesus for them. I hope they will encounter God's love for them. Additionally, we have an influx of migrants moving to our diocese, which is a great blessing in so many ways. I am hoping we can find new ways to reach out to them. We need to go to them. I also have hope that the laity will see the importance of their baptismal call to be disciples of Jesus. This means being a disciple in the workplace and home as well as getting involved with our parishes in some way. We are all called to be disciples who make other disciples.

Any regrets?

Perhaps not getting involved as much with other religious denominations.

Is there anything you need from the people of the diocese? Anything you want us to know?

The Church needs you. Do not be afraid. I hope and pray that people will continue to pray. Having a relationship with Jesus is the most important thing we can do.

Bishop Jerry Vincke gives a homily.

MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS



Hays, Plainville welcome new principals

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Superintendent Geoff Andrews chooses a theme each year for the Catholic school principals of the Salina Diocese when they meet in Salina just before the beginning of the school year.

The theme for this year's principals' get-together earlier this month was "Kick It Up A Notch — Bam!"

Two principals in particular are ready to kick it into high gear as they prepare for a new school year.

While elementary schools in Hays and Plainville will greet new leaders in Mandy Meagher and Sara VonFeldt, both are familiar faces in their schools.

Meagher will take over as principal at Holy Family Elementary School in Hays after serving in the same position for three years at Colby-Sacred Heart. Meagher's two sons are both graduates of Holy Family, where her daughter, Emma, will be a fifth-grader this year.

VonFeldt will begin the 2023-24 school year as principal of Sacred Heart Grade School in Plainville, where she has taught sixth grade most of her first 18 years there.

"It is great that both our new principals this year have great familiarity with the buildings they have been called to lead," Andrews said.

VonFeldt hit the ground running at Plainville-Sacred Heart, a school at which she has 20 years



Sara VonFeldt, left, and Mandy Meagher talk earlier this month at the annual principals' meetings prior to the school year.

experience. Before her first year at Sacred Heart in 2005-06, she served as a substitute teacher there for two years.

When she learned last fall that the principal's position would be open this year, VonFeldt began taking classes over the Christmas interim for her administration degree.

VonFeldt said she is looking forward to leading the "great group of staff and faculty" at Sacred Heart.

"They work really well together so they know what each other is thinking," VonFeldt said. "We collaborate on a lot of things, and the staff and

teachers are the ones who make the school. I'm here to keep us on the right track."

VonFeldt said she will miss the classroom setting, but she will still teach religion classes for the upper grades as well as helping out with the STREAM advanced science class (science, technology, religion, engineering, art and math).

Meagher, a native of Colby and a graduate of her hometown's Catholic school, said leaving Colby-Sacred Heart was a tough choice. But she is glad to be back in Hays with her family. Her parents still live in Colby, so she was

able to spend a few days a week there while leading Sacred Heart since 2020.

Meanwhile, her husband, Bill, remained in Hays with their children and was grateful for help he received from several family members.

Now, Meagher is back in town and welcomes the challenge of taking on the principal's role for a much larger school.

"Holy Family has been such a big part of our family for such a long time that I thought it would be great some day to be back here," Meagher said. "I'm really excited to get started."

While Sacred Heart-Col-

by does not have a principal on site as of yet, Andrews is confident in the model he has chosen in going forward.

Tom Meagher, assistant principal and business manager at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior-Senior High School in Hays, will take on principal duties while working closely with the Sacred Heart secretary and Father Brian Lager, the school chaplain.

"Tom provided mentoring for Mandy while she was at Colby-Sacred Heart," Andrews said, "and we believe he will be a great interim leader as we continue the search for their next principal."

Youth ministry serves important role

When I was in high school, I was lucky enough to serve as a Diocesan Youth Council member under the leadership of the late Sister Barbara Ellen. I have such fond memories of that time, and the other night I decided to go searching through my old memory boxes. I knew CYO and youth ministry was a large part of my teenage years, but every single box I opened was full of mementos from that time in my life. Wooden name tags from CYO camp (they look the same as they do today), programs from CYO Convention, printed pictures from camp and even handwritten letters.

Now, as our youngest son prepares to take his first steps into

college life, I am grateful for the impact that youth ministry has had on his journey, as it eases his transition into a larger world. He has attended Prayer and Action, NCYC, CYO Camp, March for Life, CYO Convention and about any other thing he can sign up for with the church. Through all of this, he has already "met his people."

These connections have become a source of comfort and confidence as he prepares to enter a college campus with thousands of unfamiliar faces.

As parents, witnessing our children embrace their faith and

find a sense of purpose within the Church is a source of joy. It fills us with joy and comfort knowing our son's transition from a small high school to a bustling college campus will be smoother because of the connections he forged through youth ministry.

The importance of this ministry in the Catholic Church cannot be overstated. It goes beyond merely keeping young people engaged within the faith community; it empowers them to be active participants and leaders within the Church and society.

As I look back on my own jour-

ney and forward to my son's, I am reminded of the significance of supporting programs like youth ministry. By contributing to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we can help ensure young people continue to have access to these transformative experiences. Our gift supports the growth of faith communities and provides opportunities for the next generation to discover the profound impact of our beautiful faith. Will you join me in making a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal to support youth ministry? Make your gift at join.salinadiocese.org.

Heather Hartman is director of development for Catholic Foundation in the Salina Diocese.

**HEATHER
Hartman**
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



Opportunities vs. difficulties

You might have read that title and wondered how this could relate to the Eucharist and the Eucharistic Revival. I have been a part of athletics for my entire life and have coached for the last 20 years. The most important lesson I have learned along the way is how important your mindset is and how much it affects your actions and outcomes.

We have preached for a long time to our guys that whenever the word nervous pops into your head, you immediately flip it to excited. Those two feelings are the same feelings, but one puts you in an attack mode, and one puts you in a defensive mode. You can't change your feelings, but you can change how your mind classifies the situation and decides to use the information it has received to move forward.

"Meagher, what does this have to do with the Eucharistic Revival?"

I was recently thinking about all the negative statistics and downward

trends we see happening regarding our faith, and the Holy Spirit put the word "opportunities" in my heart.

Immediately, my mindset went from discouragement to excitement, and my energy immediately picked up. A huge weight was lifted from my heart, and I started seeing all the opportunities we have every day to help people experience God's love and see their value and dignity through his eyes. It changed how I viewed the same statistics I looked at earlier.

Only 33% of Catholics believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist turned into the thought that two-thirds of the people I encounter in the Church can have their lives changed drastically by experiencing the miracle of the Eucharist. We are not playing defense anymore but are playing

offense and showing people Jesus loved them enough to die for them. In fact, he loves them so much that he provides his very body and blood as nourishment for their journey toward heaven.

The depressing statistics on people leaving the Church became an exciting opportunity when I realized so many people are looking and searching. This is a truth-seeking group that we can show the depth and beauty of the teachings of the Church and help

them know God's love for them. We actually get to accompany them on their journey and be with them as they experience the life-changing effects that Christ has on their lives.

When you think about it, as evangelists and disciples, we live in pretty exciting times. If you want to make a difference in people's lives and help bring the Gospel message

to those who don't know Christ, then you are living at the right time.

Almost everyone we encounter needs to hear about God's love and the transforming way he wants to change their lives. Almost everyone we encounter needs to see themselves not through the world's cruel lenses but through God's loving eyes and, maybe for the first time in their lives, realize their true value and dignity.

The fourth invitation of the parish year of the Eucharistic Revival is a missionary sending. We are challenged and invited to bring God's Eucharistic love to all we encounter. What an exciting time for us to be alive and an honor to be part of this incredible "opportunity" to bring Christ to those around us who desperately need to hear of and feel his love. It is time to get to work.

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

BILL Meagher
DIOCESE OF SALINA



Some advice for students this year

With the start of the school year, my siblings have been on my mind. Specifically, my brother Nicholas who is beginning his freshman year of college and my baby brother Levi who is beginning preschool.

We all go through big life changes and transitions, but it's these two I think about as I share my unsolicited big sister advice during times of change.

1. Change is scary. It's OK if you have hard days or things aren't what you were expecting or wanting. Look to God in the hard moments. He'll be there. Maybe what you're experiencing isn't what you

were expecting, but I promise that God will make it good.

2. Surround yourself with people who are going to help you get to heaven. They say that we are all the sum of our five closest friends. Make sure those five friends are people who make you the best version of you.

3. Spend 15 minutes outside every day. Feel the sun on your face and dig your toes in the grass. It'll do wonders for the soul.

4. If you ever feel things are out of control, make your bed. It won't really change anything, but at least

your room will be a little cleaner.

5. Talk to God every day — either recited or spontaneous prayer (or both if you can). God is the best listener. And when you feel him move your heart, always tell him "yes."

6. Call your mom (as many times as you need).

7. Ask for forgiveness quickly and grant it readily.

8. Take care of your body. You only have one. Make sure you are eating right and exercising frequently.

9. Find something that makes you laugh every day.

KATIE Hamel
CREATIVE EDITOR



10. Foster a grateful heart. Think of three things every day that you are grateful for (and make sure you are telling God thanks).

11. Do your homework. There is virtue to be found in obedience and discipline.

12. Don't beat yourself up when you make a mistake. We all make them. Make amends where you can and do better next time.

13. Turn off your screens. Your phone is meant to be a tool, not an extension of your person. It's OK to turn it off and interact with the world.

14. Have fun. Experience life and live it to the fullest. But be wary, the world will tempt you with shiny, flashy

things. Remember that the best life is one that is lived in service of God.

15. Never forget that you are a beloved, chosen, unrepeatable, wanted child of God. Your identity rests in him. There is nothing you can do and nothing that can happen to you that will ever take that away.

As we all face changes and transitions life throws our way, let's embrace each new season with a grateful heart and a joyful soul.

Katie

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

DINNERS, FROM PAGE 1

Jesse Ochs and Collin Thielen are members of Sacred Heart parish in Park, while Luke Friess is from Hoxie's St. Frances Cabrini parish.

It costs at least \$50,000 per year for each seminarian's education that includes tuition, room and board, retreats and other expenses associated with the program. Those costs are covered through the diocese in a variety of ways, including the fundraising dinners, annual seminarian collection, a portion of the Bishop's Annual Appeal and more.

"The diocese invests so much on seminarian education because these young men represent the future of our church," Platten said. "The financial support that comes out of these events is really just manna

from heaven."

That kind of support is not lost on the seminarians.

"I have received a tremendous amount of both spiritual and financial support during my time in seminary," said Ochs, who is entering his seventh year of his pastoral journey and is scheduled to be ordained a deacon in April. "It has been an incredible blessing to receive all that I have during my seminary years."

Just like in Colby, three seminarians at the Hays dinner were from the immediate area — all from Hays parishes. Brothers Kade and Max Megaffin are members of St. Joseph parish, and Adam Urban grew up in St. Nicholas of Myra parish, where

his father, Steve, is a deacon.

Rounding out this year's seminarian cohort and their home parishes are Holden Giefer, St. Isidore Student Center, Manhattan; Kyle Pfeifer, Seven Dolors, Manhattan; Joseph Schones, Sacred Heart, Arkansas City; and Matthew Ralls, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Wichita.

Ralls, in his first year with the Salina Diocese, was discerning the Benedictine Order when he met Schones at a retreat and decided to enter seminary education through the Salina Diocese.

"(Schones) told me there's something special going on here in the Salina Diocese," Ralls said. "There's an energy, a movement going on here that's very exciting."

Mense gives a lot of credit for that movement to Bishop Jerry Vincke, and he believes the positive vibes are being felt across the entire diocese. Bishop Vincke has visited each parish and is a familiar face at numerous events since he was ordained and installed as the bishop of Salina in August 2018.

"This positive movement is absolutely what we need in our church, and we have it now," Mense said. "I firmly believe it's showing up in our seminarians and our young priests."

"The momentum is going in one direction, and that's up, and it's going to continue to build because of our leader. It starts at the top, and I'm so proud to be a member of this diocese."



First Communion - St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, April 16

From left, Toby Brockmann, Bennett Myers, Jarah Owens, Adalynn Creamer, Ava Hoch, Gavin Smith, Kalan Dolechek and Father Michael Elanjimattathil.



Confirmation - St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, April 23

Front row from left, Elsie Finkenbinder, Emma Finkenbinder, Elizabeth Morgenstern, Marissa Myers, Abygail Banks, Harlee Donovan and Nevaeh Weigel. Back row from left, Father Michael Elanjimattathil, Zachary Martinez, Graham Dreiling and Herbert Shumaker III.



First Communion - St. Joseph, Hays, May 7

Front row from left, Samuel Weber, Jace Leiker, Kynzie Leiker and Benjamin Stahl. Second row from left, Maria Dickman, Tracer Mall, Jacob Flax, Xavier Pfeifer and Grace Giess. Third row from left, Warren Chamblin, Eli Kroeger, Claire Lonnon, Hesston Harmon and Dez May. Back row from left, Evangeline Schmeidler, Julie Smith, Zipporah Schroeder, Levi Geist, Mason Hickert and Father Rich Daise.



Confirmation - St. Joseph, Hays, March 29

Front row from left, Kylie Leiker, Hannah Rose, Emily Hipp, Peyton Mackey, Brooke Bieker, Elsa Brungardt, Kenlee Vehige and Crystal Walters. Second row from left, Jett Edmonds, Brant Pfannenstiel, Joey Dintino, Jackson Gillespie, Michael Tiernan, Ernest Pfeifer, Emery Spray and Carson Pinkney. Third row from left, Ty Schmeidler, Spencer Munsch, Braxton Basgall, Brogan Albers, Tyler Davidson, Patrick Weber, Carter Myers and Cameron Hunt. Back row from left, Jacob Seib, Ari Patel, Gabe Atherton, Tanner Geist, Brandon Dague, Logan Baalman, Max Gerstner, Jacob Schroeder and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



Confirmation - St. Augustine/Sacred Heart, June 4

Front row from left, Abril Gomez, Britney Madera, Azul Saenz, Macie Gepner, Allison Cisneros and Madisyn LeDuc. Middle row from left, Father Joseph Kieffer, Lincoln Baker, Lucas Thompson, Alyssa Jueneman, Jayden Laflen, Anna Goeckel, Cesar Alvarado, Emiliano Martinez, Raul Gilberto and Bishop Jerry Vincke. Back row from left, Owen Svanda, Jacob Elliott, Tanner Baker, Seth White, Noah Hoover, Gavyn LeDuc, Ryan Sawin, Roberto Martinez.



First Communion - St. Wenceslaus, Wilson

From left, Emma Mahoney, Wyatt Brokes, Kendyl Hlaus, Kambri Kasper and Father Tony Kulandaijesu.



Confirmation - Sacred Heart, Atwood, June 18

Front row from left, Deacon Mark Vrbas, Zoie Horinek, Emma Draper, Nathalie Chacon, Michaela Rippe and Garrett Schroeder. Second row from left, Father Henry Saw Lone, Alexander Redinger, Braxton Dixon, Brandon Chvatal, Brayan Rodriguez, Ashton Rickford and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



Confirmation - St. Joseph, Bird City, June 18

Front row from left, Deacon Mark Vrbas, Hayden Ketzner, Arturo Medina, Andrew Wright, Kohen Pochop and Amy Yanez. Back row from left, Father Joseph Asirvatham, Pablo Bermudez, Brady Ketzner, Gabrielle Pochop, Abigail Wright and Bishop Jerry Vincke.

Students participate in great ‘Encounter’

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The more you practice something, the better the chance of it becoming a habit.

In an effort to provide more ways for the youth of the Salina Diocese to develop a habit of silent prayer and spending time in adoration, Bill Meagher decided to host an event just before the start of the new school year.

High school students from several parishes in the area participated in the “Encounter Christ!” event in early August.

“It’s such a crazy busy world out there, and these young people need the opportunity to go to adoration and just encounter Christ and listen to what he is trying to say to them,” said Meagher, director of youth ministry for the diocese.

The students gathered in the Marian Chapel at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior/Senior High School, a place in which Meagher — a former teacher there — said he has fond memo-



Madelyn Rozean spends time in prayer during adoration at the Encounter Christ! event in early August.

ries.

Meagher gave a brief description of each of the saints depicted in the stained glass windows in the chapel. He explained that Father Earl Befort, former chaplain of TMP-Marian, carefully chose saints with whom he thought teenagers could connect.

“This is one of the most beautiful places to go for silence and to spend time in prayer,” he said. “I hope you get a chance to feel and absorb that tonight.”

The students were able to learn a little more about Bishop Jerry Vincke, who was in attendance and told them why he chose “mercy” as his motto when he

was chosen as the new shepherd for the Salina Diocese.

Bishop Vincke was ordained Aug. 22, 2018 — the anniversary of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the God of mercy.

“God was rich in mercy, and I knew in my heart that was the motto I was supposed to have,” he said. “The world is going to be saved through mercy. It is so important to trust in God’s mercy.”

Braden Johnson, a college student from the Wichita area, spoke to students about the challenges of growing up in the Catholic faith in today’s culture and to always be on the lookout for ways of showing mercy.

“Sometimes God is calling us to mission to people down the hallway or across the basketball



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Braden Johnson speaks to students at the event.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Allie Thomasson kneels before the Blessed Sacrament.

court,” he said. “But you need to continue to grow closer to God. We can’t help others if we don’t have a relationship with God.”

Meagher was pleased with attendance and will continue to offer similar opportunities throughout the school year.

“I thought it was a great turnout,” he said. “For a group of kids to give up a Friday night to come and spend some silent time in prayer is so refreshing.”

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Students praying the Angelus during Totus Tuus.

A resounding success

TOTUS TUUS PROVIDES SEVERAL 'FAVORITES' FOR PARTICIPANTS

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Father Nick Parker smiled and nodded his head as youngsters raised their hands in excited anticipation of being called upon.

It was the final day for Totus Tuus 2023 in Hays, where 50-some youngsters in grades 1 through 6 gathered for Mass in the Marian Chapel at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior/Senior High School.

During his homily, Father Nick asked the students what their favorite part of the week had been, and they were eager to tell him.

Several said the Mass, and he could see the wheels turning in the their heads as he encouraged them to continue the lifelong process of learning about their faith.

"What you learned here this week, you can take with you and hold onto forever," said Father Nick, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. "These things can help you grow in the knowledge of your faith and love of your faith."

Numerous students across the diocese entering grades 1 through 12 this fall participated in the week-long Catholic youth program this summer. Four teams of college students taught classes in 20 towns across the 31-county area of the vast Salina Diocese during a six-week period.

Students in grades 1-6 attended morning and afternoon sessions, while junior high and high school



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Students pray the rosary together.

students gathered in the evenings.

Totus Tuus has become a tradition for many towns and cities, and parishes in Hays, Stockton and Plainville brought back the program after a hiatus of several years.

Members of the Sacred Heart parish in Plainville and St. Thomas in Stockton gathered together in Stockton for a Rooks County Totus Tuus program.

Cara Hillard, who signed up her two oldest sons — third-grader Henry and first-grader Jack — for Totus Tuus, was impressed with the college teams.

Cara's sons attend Sacred Heart Catholic Grade School in Plainville, so they are exposed to Catholic education all year long. However, she said, Totus Tuus gives the students a different perspective.

FAVORITES, PAGE 9



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Connor Kuhlman practices the Mass readings with students during a Totus Tuus session.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Participants laugh and react to a skit performed by the Totus Tuus leaders during a session this summer.

LEADERS OF TOTUS TUUS LEARN ALONG WITH PARTICIPANTS

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Parents talk for days, weeks, months about what their children learned in a week's time during the Totus Tuus program in their town. They might not realize how much this Catholic youth program impacts the instructors as well.

Four teams of college-age students made their way across the wide open spaces of the diocese from Hanover to Atwood — and nearly 20 other towns in between — this summer.

Most of the teachers are college students at the two universities in the diocese, Kansas State in Manhattan and Fort Hays State in Hays. Two of this year's teams also included current seminarians in the diocese.

Seminarian Holden Giefer is a Lansing High graduate (in the Archdiocese of Kansas City). However, he attended college at K-State, where he earned electrical engineering and MBA degrees.

Giefer also wants to be a military chaplain in the U.S. Air Force, so he went through the ROTC program at K-State. That, coupled with a positive experience at KSU's St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center, contributed to his decision to discern as a seminarian for the Diocese of Salina and the Archdiocese of Military



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Seminarian Holden Giefer leads a class during the Totus Tuus program.

Services.

He said working Totus Tuus this summer and traveling around the diocese was a positive experience.

"This was a great way to know the diocese and the priests and parishes," said Giefer, the leader of Team 1. "It really affirmed my choice."

Mark Underwood — from Overland Park in the Kansas City area — was a member of one of the teams that taught in Hays.

He was familiar with the city because he is a student at Fort Hays State University.

But Underwood said he also enjoyed meeting residents of smaller northwest Kansas towns to which his team was assigned to teach. Two of those towns (Atwood and Ellis) each have a smaller population than his high school enrollment at Blue Valley Northwest.

"Each town is different; every one is

unique," Underwood said. "And I loved it."

This was the first Totus Tuus experience for Underwood, who is active with Catholic Disciples at FHSU's Catholic Campus Center.

"I thought about doing this, so I prayed about it and decided to give it a try," he said. "It was a great experience. It's changed my life."

Small towns and Totus Tuus were both familiar to Candace Taylor, a member of a 2022 team and whose hometown is Dresden (population 42).

However, being a team leader was a new experience for Taylor, one she said will prove invaluable for her budding career as an elementary school teacher.

"When I realized I was the only returnee on my team this year, I realized I could also be a leader," Taylor said. "It's also helped me learn a lot as a teacher with classroom management."

Teams received a warm welcome from parish families at every stop, providing everything from meals and snacks and lodging — and of course, youngsters eager to learn more about their faith.

"It's super cool," Giefer said, "to see their generosity and how they love their parish communities."

FAVORITES, FROM PAGE 8

"It was a good opportunity for our kids to see young adults immersed in their faith and that they are teaching it that way," she said. "It was good for them to see how that translates into how you become a faith-practicing young adult."

The Hillards carpooled to Stockton with other families from Plainville, and Cara said she enjoyed listening to the youngsters talk about the day's happenings on the return trip home.

"Our boys would bring up something that someone had said at Totus Tuus, and they would call the teachers by name," she said. "That's when you know they are really connecting with them."

Cara and other parents hope those conversations continue throughout the next year — until Totus Tuus 2024 rolls around.

"It was definitely a great experience," she said. "We'll be back next year."

Alyssa Church from Hays had traveled to nearby Ellis with friends for the middle/



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Atalee Amthor sits with her class to talk about the sorrowful mysteries.

"I really liked listening to their stories of how they got to know God better and have gotten more into their Catholic faith than when they were in high school."

Blaise Staab

high school program the past few years. She was so pleased to have the program return to her hometown that she helped out in a first-grade classroom during the day, then took part in high school activities in the evening.

"I enjoyed the young kids



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bristol Dooley and Fortunato Carrasco sing a hymn during daily Mass.

in the classroom," she said. "And at night, I liked the way the teachers told about their life stories, and then



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Joshua Juenemann laughs with his students during a class.

we would break up in small groups for discussion."

Blaise Staab, who belongs to St. Joseph parish in Hays, hadn't attended Totus Tuus since his early elementary school days.

He said he thought his age group connected well with the college teams because of their similarity in age.

"I really liked listening to their stories of how they got to know God better and have gotten more into their Catholic faith than when they were in high school," Blaise said.

And what would have been Blaise's answer to Father Nick's question of what the students were taking with them from their 2023 Totus Tuus experience?

"... that it's never too late to turn to God, to get closer to God."

Men in diocese hear 'good news'

By ALLISON OCHOA
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On Aug. 12, 290 men from across the Diocese of Salina gathered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays to answer the call — a call to honor and defend the Catholic faith as well as their vocation — at the 12th annual Diocesan Men's Conference.

Father Gale Hammerschmidt, pastor and chaplain of St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan, began the event by giving what he considered a slight departure from his usual humor-laced presentations. In his talk on how to keep your kids faithful, Father Gale related a few situations parents might find themselves in when their child has walked away from Catholicism or has rebelled against the faith.

"It's heartbreaking. But there is good news," he said. "The good news is that among all possible influences, parents exert the greatest influence on their children's religious practices."

Citing studies he's read on the issue as well as conversations he has had with the students he encounters at Kansas State University, Father Gale provided the fathers in attendance several methods to help shape their children's faith and encourage them to carry the faith into their own adulthood.

Father Andy Hammeke, chaplain of Comeau Catholic Campus Center in Hays and co-director of vocations for the Diocese of Salina, spoke about the importance of fostering vocations at home. He conducted informal interviews with the seminarians from the diocese, asking them what was helpful in their home life in helping them decide to pursue a vocation to the priesthood.

"The most important element is to go to Sunday Mass, no matter what," he said. "It is non-negotiable, and we should be making it the least expendable thing in the world."



Scott Stramel joins in prayer during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the men's conference.

He challenged the young men in attendance to "be open to the priesthood so you can hear God's call. If you're open to it, talk to God about it. If every single one of us did this and supported vocations, we would see an explosion of vocations in our diocese for years to come."

The third speaker of the morning was Father Jarett Konrade, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Focusing on the Eucharist, Father Jarett reminded the attendees that fatherhood is under attack and in the spiritual battle taking place, Satan is focused on taking down those like the men present at the conference. He encouraged them to leave behind the golden calves of the modern world — sports, video games, other forms of entertainment and anything that takes priority over their faith — and focus on Jesus, particularly in the blessed sacrament. He challenged the audience to make Eucharistic Adoration a regular part of their lives and to see the fruit that results from this practice.

The conference's keynote speaker was Father Sean Kilcawley from the Diocese of Lincoln,

Neb. Father Kilcawley addressed the issue of pornography and its prevalence in today's culture, giving the audience ways to navigate this issue with their own sons.

"The most common thing people want in a speech like this is, 'What are the best filters?' Well, filters are good, but they aren't the answer," he said. "Jesus said it's not what comes in from the outside but what comes from the inside that defiles. We have to learn to say 'no' to the things that are bad and 'yes' to the things that are good and the one who meets our needs."

"The world needs witnesses that it's possible to be free. Guard your Internet so you know what your kids are running into. Take away the loopholes. There are filters, but the more important thing is how are we learning to navigate our lives as men? Who's helping us? Have you surrendered your life to God? The Lord is enough for you. You can do more and be better, but there can be no excuses, no rationalization. Just Jesus."

In addition to the morning's speakers, the conference also



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Father Sean Kilcawley gives the keynote at the conference.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Father Jarett Konrade speaks on the Eucharist.

included Eucharistic Adoration, the sacrament of Reconciliation, and Mass with Bishop Jerry Vincke. The event ended with time for fellowship with the other men in attendance over lunch.

As a second-year attendee of the conference, Brett Schroeder, a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Colby, said one of the messages that resonated most was the emphasis on putting Mass and the Eucharist at the top of a person's priorities.

CONFERENCE, PAGE 11

K of C reaching out to Catholic men

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Kansas State Council is rolling out Cor, a new initiative to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue. Cor will inspire men and their Knights of Columbus councils to gather and invite all Catholic men of the parish to join.

The purpose of Cor is to draw men into a deeper relationship with Jesus and to gather and search their heart. In the heart lies true conversion, the foundation of a relationship with God.

The word Cor is Latin for the word heart and the root of the word courage. Faithfulness, courage and virtue begin with the heart and are the inspiration for the Cor initiative. While the details of the content and structure of the Cor gatherings are left to individual councils, they all include elements of prayer, faith-formation and fraternity.

Cor provides the opportunity for men to meet Christ, to strengthen their bond of brotherhood, and to prepare themselves for the coura-

geous mission of evangelization.

The Kansas State Council began working on the development of the Cor initiative in July. State Deputy Mike Grothoff has put together a team of Knights from each diocese in the state. Dan Culbertson will serve as the state director. Culbertson and his team will make themselves available to help guide and instruct the parish priests, district deputies and grand knights in implementing this initiative.

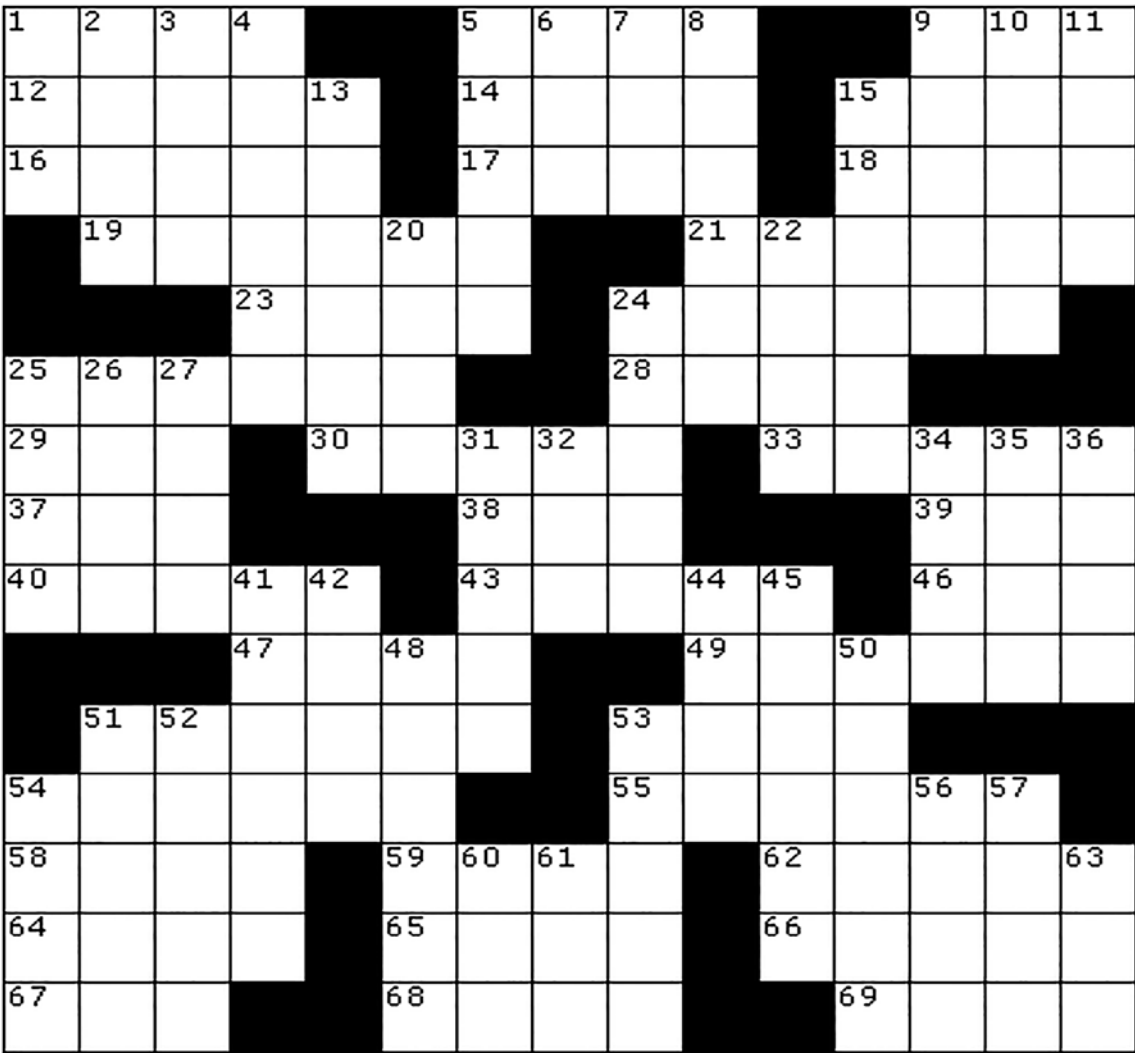
"The Knights of Columbus has a solid structure in place in which to build programs such as this to bring Catholic men together to serve the Church and community," Grothoff said. "With this structure in place with Dan and his team, the Knights are investing more profoundly in our faith for all Catholic men to form themselves more deeply in the faith while forming a bond of fraternity through this initiative."

Culbertson added the Cor gatherings are "intended to be a time of intentional time

of prayer, faith-formation and fraternity that will strengthen the souls of our Catholic brotherhood."

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.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**

 - 1 Compass point
 - 5 Biblical weed
 - 9 Past
 - 12 Not as false
 - 14 Voiced
 - 15 Self-righteous
 - 16 What Israelites ate in desert
 - 17 Tear
 - 18 One who inherits
 - 19 "___ and stones"
 - 21 Render capable
 - 23 American river
 - 24 Where Noah's ark landed
 - 25 One of the apostles
 - 28 Invitation abbreviation
 - 29 Status ___
 - 30 Smooth tightly twisted thread
 - 33 School assignment
 - 37 Ref
 - 38 Old Testament city
 - 39 Freudian term
 - 40 White poplar
 - 43 Taunt
 - 46 Battle of nations
 - 47 Whirl
- DOWN**

 - 1 Short-term memory
 - 2 Long time periods
 - 3 Baseball's short hit
 - 4 Junior's namesake
 - 5 Trunk
 - 6 Exist
 - 7 Bolted
 - 8 NT church leaders
 - 9 One-celled animal
 - 10 Remorse
 - 11 Villain
 - 13 Wife of Jacob
 - 15 Flats' opposites
- 49 Retaliate
 - 51 Moocher
 - 53 Twofold
 - 54 Lunges
 - 55 Oldest
 - 58 Canal
 - 59 Object
 - 62 Acclaim
 - 64 Rank
 - 65 Go at it alone
 - 66 Brakes
 - 67 Owns
 - 68 Identical sibling
 - 69 Stair
- 20 Egg-shaped fruit
 - 22 Central church part
 - 24 Athletic field
 - 25 Greenish blue
 - 26 Without feeling
 - 27 Drug
 - 31 Mythical deity
 - 32 Fib
 - 34 Stitched
 - 35 A king of the Amalekites
 - 36 Past times
 - 41 Written account
 - 42 Border
 - 44 First king of Israel
 - 45 Avoids
 - 48 Stop
 - 50 Picks
 - 51 Pope's governing organization
 - 52 Constellation
 - 53 Evil angel
 - 54 Cain's brother
 - 56 Coin machine
 - 57 Sticky fastener
 - 60 Pull
 - 61 Samuel's mentor
 - 63 Cooking measurement

Answers on Page 14

CONFERENCE, FROM PAGE 10

"I can relate to that. Sometimes it feels inconvenient (to find a Mass) to attend when you're traveling, but you know you need to go," Schroeder said. "When you plan to make Mass attendance part of the trip from the start, it's easier to make it a priority."

For John Donley, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Brookville, the overall conference experience was something he wanted to share with his three teenage sons.

"I knew after I attended the first year that I wanted to share it with my sons. It hits home to see so many men, a lot of whom are from our diocese's rural communities, being willing to take the time to attend. All of us are trying to be better men. Leaning on each other and finding out you're not alone can be an eye-opener."



FATHER ANDY HAMMEKE SPEAKS ON HOW TO FOSTER VOCATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Jerry Vincke regularly travels the diocese to participate in parish events. In July, he made a stop in Hays to participate in the Tour die Kapellen, a bicycle and bus tour of several Catholic churches in Ellis County. See the September issue of The Register for a recap of the tour and a spotlight on some of those parishes.

RADIO BANQUET

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Divine Mercy Radio is gearing up for its 13th annual appreciation banquet Sept. 9 in Hays and Sept. 10 in Salina. A couple from the Eternal Word Television Network, Jack and Johnnette Williams, will be guest speakers.

The banquet in Hays will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m., followed by a meal and program. It will be at Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2350 E. Eighth.

In Salina, the banquet will also begin with a social hour, but at 5 p.m., followed by a meal and program. It will be in the Hall of Bishops at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 118 N. Ninth.

Jack Williams is the general manager of EWTN Radio as well as the host of "Open Line," which airs at 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Johnnette Williams is the executive producer of the "Women of Grace" television program and host of the radio program, "Women of Grace," which airs at 10 a.m. Monday through Thursday on Divine Mercy Radio.

"Both Jack and Johnnette have interesting stories," said Donetta Robben, executive director of Divine Mercy Radio. "They both came into their faith in adulthood, and they both lost their first spouses to cancer. Their mutual work at EWTN brought them together, happily united in marriage."

The title of their talk will be "Speaking Truth to Darkness: The Call of Radio for Such a Time as This."

Tickets are \$60. No tickets can be sold after Sept. 1.

Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to: Appreciation Banquet, Divine Mercy Radio, 108 E. 12th St., Hays, KS 67601. Tickets can also be purchased online at dvmercy.com. Please state which banquet you will be attending, Hays or Salina. If attending the banquet in Salina, indicate if your meal choice will be beef or chicken.

For more information, as well as the menu, go to dvmercy.com.

Divine Mercy Radio began in 2010 with 88.1, KVDM, Hays. Five years later it expanded to 88.1, KRTT, Great Bend. Then, in 2020, 101.7 KJDM, Lindsborg/Salina went on the air as well as 105.7, KMDG, Hays. The original station, KVDM in Hays, began airing Catholic classic radio.

In May, the fifth Divine Mercy Radio station went on the air — 89.1, KGOH in Colby. Divine Mercy Radio is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization relying on generosity of its listeners and underwriters.





COURTESY PHOTO

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas has supplied numerous families in need with basic supplies, including groceries.

A refuge of hope

BY OLIVIA AYRES

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Every month, Catholic Charities outreach vans travel throughout the 31 counties of northern Kansas to deliver essential food and hygiene items to rural neighbors in need who are encountering food insecurity.

One person who has been impacted by these outreach services is Cathie, a wife and mother from Beverly. Last year, Cathie's life was turned upside down after a breast cancer diagnosis forced her to leave her job. To be closer to his wife, Cathie's husband also changed jobs amidst her health battle, creating substantial income loss in her family. These economic constraints, along with the influx of medical bills, made it difficult for Cathie and her husband to provide for their family.

"Having an illness drains you mentally," Cathie said. "You are constantly worrying about how you are going to pay your bills or even buy groceries. The expense of food and hygiene was a tremendous burden for our family."

That's when Cathie heard about Catholic Charities outreach services and started going each month to receive supplemental food and hygiene items for her family.

"When you have cancer, it is really hard to get assistance," Cathie said. "If it wasn't for Catholic Charities coming to our community, we would not have been able to make ends meet or keep our boys fed. It lifted our burdens."

Cathie said that before receiving items from outreach services, even the smallest things could dramatically increase her grocery bill.

"The littlest things like toilet paper, laundry soap or even toothpaste — you don't realize how much that can cost on your grocery bill," she said. "Without Catholic Charities, I wouldn't have been able to buy these things. I don't know what I would have done."

Without the generosity of donors like you, Cathie's family would not have had the nourishment and care they needed to live out their

daily lives.

"Receiving items for daily living for my family helped tremendously," Cathie said. "It took some of the weight off our shoulders during a time of trials and struggles. My family was treated with dignity and helpful hands."

Cathie said outreach services provide families like hers, who are living in rural communities, with access to critical support.

"We look forward to that van that comes once a month and gives us hope," she said.

Olivia Ayres is the communications coordinator for Catholic Charities.

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Please send resume to bhawk@myexchangebank.com



AROUND THE DIOCESE



COURTESY PHOTO

Three people recently completed the Level 1 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training in St. John. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a religious experience involving children and adults that will deepen one's relationship with God. The children receive presentations that are deeply rooted in scripture and liturgy, allowing the child to have a unique relationship with God with the assistance of an adult. The adult receives training that is rich in the understanding of scripture and liturgy, theology and prayer, as well as the pedagogy of the young child, helping the adult to see what face of God the young child most needs in order to enter into a relationship with God. From left are Mona Marrs and Susan Hellmer, Salina; Monica Miller, formation instructor; and Jaclyn Brown, Hays.

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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

JOB OPENINGS

BAPTISMS

Lucy Ann Anderson, daughter of Eric and Anne Anderson, was baptized July 23, 2023, by Father Mike Leiker at Ss. Peter and Paul of Clay Center.

Blaise Thomas Berg, son of Chase and Julie (Schroeder) Berg, was baptized July 9, 2023, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Thea Jane Cook, daughter of Matthew and Kathleen (Dougherty) Cook, was baptized July 30, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St.

Nicholas of Myra Church, Hays.

Logan Derron Valentino Duncan, son of Geoffrey Duncan and Hannah Salvo, was baptized June 24, 2023, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Selena Miabella Duncan, daughter of Geoffrey Duncan and Hannah Salvo, was baptized June 24, 2023, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Sophia Mackenzie Duncan, daughter of Geoffrey Duncan and Hannah Salvo, was baptized June 24, 2023, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Branch Daniel Duskie, son of Wyatt Duskie and Morgan Duskie, was baptized July 29, 2023, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Mankato.

Oskar Graden Easterday, son of Frank and Laura (Barger) Easterday, was

baptized July 15, 2023, by Father Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood.

Riley Patton Eggleston, son of Marcus and Brittany Eggleston, was baptized July 29, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie.

Brock Joseph Eilert, son of Stephen and Ruth Eilert, was baptized April 30, 2023, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Charlie Joseph Ellenz, son of Brad and Lyn (Gengler) Ellenz, was baptized May 7, 2023, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Levi Wayne Fox, son of Lucas and Lindsey (Weber) Fox, was baptized July 29, 2023, by Father Trinity Savariyar at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays.

Westin Michael Gierhan, son of Adam and Amanda Gierhan, was baptized July 15, 2023, by Father Mike Leiker at

Ss. Peter and Paul of Clay Center.

Gentry Jean Groff, daughter of Justin and Jessica (Dechant) Groff, was baptized July 30, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Rylee Quinn Gross, daughter of Tanner and Angela (Landis) Gross, was baptized Aug. 6, 2023, by Father Trinity Savariyar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Tyler Wayne Hesting, son of Joshua and Kelsey (Gengler) Hesting, was baptized April 9, 2023, by Father Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Brynlee Ann Kingsley, daughter of Brandon and Kaylee (King) Kingsley, was baptized July 15, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Reece Joseph Lloyd, son of Cody and Jenny Lloyd, was baptized July 30, 2023, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

Abigail Ursula Lueger, daughter of Russell and Gina (Sanders) Lueger, was baptized March 19, 2023, by Father Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Mateo Sanaji Smith, son of Vincent Smith and Mallory Caycedo, was baptized July 16, 2023, by Father Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Helena Bernadette Soltero Celaya, daughter of Felipe and Mary Soltero Celaya, was baptized June 4, 2023, by Father Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Lucia Milagro Soltero Celaya, daughter of Felipe and Mary Soltero Celaya, was baptized June 4, 2023, by Father Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Bruen Robert Stroh, son of Brent and Trisha Mae Taraya, was baptized July 15, 2023, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Rhett Joseph Thomas, son of Max and Andie (Marsell) Thomas, was baptized June 23, 2023, by Father Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Cly Evan Vaughan Jr., son of Cly and Ashlee (Farmer) Vaughan, was baptized June 24, 2023, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Amelia Mae Porsch, daughter of Tristan and Taylore Porsch, was baptized July 29, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie.

Charlotte Marie Rose, daughter of Nathan and Amanda Rose, was baptized July 29, 2023, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

Brigham Dean Werth, son of Lee and Meghan (Long) Werth, was baptized July 23, 2023, by Father Trinity Savariyar at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays.

Nicole Jae Whisman, daughter of Davis and Karen (Martin) Whisman, was baptized June 10, 2023 by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.



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WEDDINGS

Austin Steven McNorton and Megan Elizabeth Goeckel were married July 1, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Steven and Cara McNorton. Parents of the bride are Charles and Marla Goeckel. Witnesses were Jordan Griffitt and Haley Forbeck.

Alex Duncan Trumble and Tori Kaitlyn Matta were married July 1, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Douglas and Deanna Trumble. Parents of the bride are John and Karin Matta. Witnesses were Matthew McAllister and Amy Levin-Plattner.

Noah Thomas Bumgardner and Shawn Rae Serpan were married May 15, 2023, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Thomas Charles Bumgardner and Julie Collett (Eberspacher) Bumgardner. Parents of the bride are Steven Ray Serpan and Michelle Renee (Meade) Goff. Witnesses were Samuel

Bumgardner and Monica Michaud.

Nolan Robert Conrad and Paige Nicole Liston were married July 15, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Jeffrey and Brenda Conrad. Parents of the bride are Gregory and Julie Liston. Witnesses were Mitch Shulfer and Abbey Liston.

Trey Jordan Kuhlman and Brylie Josephine True were married July 22, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Kevin and Michelle Kuhlman. Parents of the bride are Eric and Donna True. Witnesses were Trevor Kuhlman and Delaney James.

Gregory Jack Giardino and Haley Christine Mermis were married July 22, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Greg Giardino and Yota Giardino-Fogle. Parents of the bride are Chris and Rayleen Mermis. Witnesses were

Parker Turner and Madi Mermis.

Andrew Calvin Brandt and Bryson Elizabeth Thomas were married July 29, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed the vows. Mother of the groom is Kiersten Brandt. Parents of the bride are Rob and Lori Thomas. Witnesses were Nick Freitas and Elizabeth Lies.

Andrew Jay Wiley and Katherine Anne Moeller were married May 25, 2023, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Michael Dean Wiley and Sarah Ann (Lukima) Wiley. Parents of the bride are Timothy R. Moeller and Tamera Jean (Cole) Moeller. Witnesses were Tamara Moeller and Shawna Serpan Bumgardner.

Andrew Kyle Dieckmann and Maura Elizabeth Kennedy were married July 29, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Kevin and Kristine Dieckmann. Parents

of the bride are Jay and Maggi Kennedy. Witnesses were Jackson Balcom and Olivia Kennedy.

Cameron David Augustine and MacKenzie Paige Girardot were married June 3, 2023, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Shawn D. Augustine and Heather Lynn (Schoenberger) Augustine. Parents of the bride are Alfred Joseph Girardot IV and Karen Lyne (Martin) Girardot. Witnesses were Heather Augustine and Karen Girardot.

Trevor Brett Lowell and Kendra Lynn Scott were married July 29, 2023, in Belleville. Deacon Steve Heiman witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Kevin and Amber Henke, as well as Bill and Crystal Lowell. Parents of the bride are Brent and Rachelle Scott. Witnesses were Madison Scott and Kash Henke.

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 September

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Diocesan prayer intention for September

We pray that we may always desire justice in our world and that we may always respond with mercy to those who suffer injustice.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	S	E	B	S		5	T	A	R	E		9	A	G	O			
12	T	R	U	E	R	13		14	O	R	A	L		15	S	M	U	G
16	M	A	N	N	A		17	R	E	N	D		18	H	E	I	R	
	19	S	T	I	C	K	S			21	E	N	A	B	L	E		
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25	A	N	D	R	E	W		28	R	S	V	P						
29	Q	U	O		30	L	I	S	L	E		33	E	S	S	A	Y	
37	U	M	P				38	A	I	N					39	E	G	O
40	A	B	E	L	E		43	T	E	A	S	E		46	W	A	R	
		47	E	D	D	Y			49	A	V	E	N	G	E			
	51	C	A	D	G	E	R		53	D	U	A	L					
54	S	U	R	G	E	S			55	E	L	D	E	S	T			
58	E	R	I	E		59	I	T	E	M		62	E	C	L	A	T	63
64	T	I	E	R		65	S	O	L	O		66	S	T	O	P	S	
67	H	A	S			68	T	W	I	N		69	S	T	E	P		

ANNIVERSARY

Bill and Deb Scheef, Salina, celebrated their 50th anniversary with a dinner and celebration hosted by their family. They are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in Salina. The Scheefs were married Aug. 11, 1973, in Ashland, Neb., at St. Mary's Catholic Church. They both graduated from the University of Nebraska and devoted their careers to education. Deb retired



after teaching elementary and special education for 40 years. She also taught

preschool for St. Mary's Grade School in Salina. Bill retired after 43 years teaching high school English, as well as coaching and sponsoring extracurricular activities. The couple have three children: Katie Whelchel, Julie Dick (Cody) and Andrew Scheef (Whitney). They also have six grandchildren: Emilee, Rylee, Aubree, Olivia, Landen and Palmer.

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DEATHS

Dennis F. Bartak, 78, died Dec. 23, 2022, in Lincoln, Neb. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 29 at St. George Church in Munden.

Father Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial in St. George Cemetery.

Paul Dreiling, 75, died June

13, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 16 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Ivania Finigan, 50, died June 16, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 1 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in Nicaragua.

Joyce Marie (Jacob) Gallagher, 92, died July 24, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 28 at St. Frances Cabrini in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial at later date.

Yandel Garcia, 17, died June 21, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 29 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gale Hammerschmidt presided. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery.

James "Jim" Koch, 73, of Clyde, died July 8, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 15 at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Father Steven Heina presided. Burial in Mount Calvary in Clyde.

Aylin Olivas Ortega, 21, of Hays, died July 25, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 29 at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. Father Nick Parker presided. Burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Hays.

Gerald Parrick, 81, died April 6, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 24 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai presided. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery.

Barbara Rawlings, 81, died Jan. 25, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 3 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai presided. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery.

Randall R. Schmidt died July 4, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Father Richard Daise presided. Planned burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Kathleen Margaret (Hammer) Weigel, 81, of Oakley, died July 12, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 17 at St. Joseph Church in Oakley. Father Luke Thielen presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Oakley.

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MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Participants in the Aug. 11 Runnin' Revs basketball game at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School.

DID YOU KNOW

- The Salina Diocese now has priest trading cards available to help with fundraising. The cards will be available at several events. Packs of six are available for \$5 and all proceeds will be donated to the office of vocations. Collect, trade and, most importantly, pray for our wonderful priests.
- Jr. CYO Camp will be Sept. 2 to 4. The event is for students in sixth through eighth grades and takes place at Rock Springs.
- To stay up to date on all the happenings in the Salina Diocese, visit www.salinadiocese.org, and click on the "Events" icon in the center of the page. It contains a list of daily happenings at parishes throughout the diocese's coverage area.

SEND US YOUR INFORMATION

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

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Holy Cross Church in Pfeifer will be hosting a Mass to commemorate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 3 p.m. Bishop Jerry Vincke, Fr. Jim Moster and Fr. Reggie Urban will be concelebrants. Music will be provided by Trilogy. Seed wheat will be blessed. Social following Mass. Everyone is welcome.



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