



War and our response

When they put Jesus to death, they probably thought, “We don’t have to worry about him anymore.” Their “problem” did not go away. The resurrection of Jesus and his life, love and mercy spread to every corner of the world. How? Through the apostles and disciples who were witnesses of his life, death and resurrection.

Many people in our world think getting rid of a person will solve their problems. It doesn’t. Many of us are taken aback, and rightly so, by what happened in Israel by Hamas. One person from Israel described it as 9/11 and Pearl Harbor in one day as Hamas invaded, attacked and killed many innocent lives including the elderly and babies. The rhetoric is strong. Hamas and others want to eliminate the country of Israel and the Jewish people from the face of the earth. Israel’s response is to eliminate Hamas. Countries and people have a right to defend themselves. Will the “problem” ever go away by killing the other?

As people in Kansas far away from the war, what is our response? Jesus is asking us to be his witnesses of his life, death and resurrection. I know this song might be a little corny to some, but the words, “let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me” are needed. We might not be able to travel to Israel to help them or care for the Palestinian Christian children who are not affiliated nor want anything to do with Hamas. But we can still play our part.

St. Francis of Assisi said, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.”

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Jerry Vincke talks about the instability in the Middle East at a special Mass in Salina.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Parishioners pray during the special Mass.

How can we be people of peace and have an effect on the situation in the world? The following are a few suggestions:

1. Pray the rosary for peace in the

world. Our Blessed Mother at Fatima asked us to pray the rosary for peace and to end the war that was taking place then. Let’s listen to our Mother’s advice.

2. Spend at least five to 15 minutes of prayer each day, perhaps in silence and letting the Holy Spirit renew your soul. Silence and quiet can give us peace in the midst of the noise of the world.

3. Confession: Is there something in your heart that is troubling you? Run to God’s mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Peace will follow.

4. Do one small act of charity a week or day with the intention of helping Jesus and the people who are hurting.

St. Paul exhorts us, “Therefore, in the light of all that it means to be in Jesus Christ, do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 1:11).

In Christ’s service,

+ *Gerald L. Vincke*

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

FRESH BEGINNING

St. Thomas More Parish unveils new church.
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GET THE MESSAGE

Students hear from nationally known speaker.
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Diocese welcomes Father Rafael

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Bishop Jerry Vincke has noted on various occasions that the number of Hispanic immigrants in the Diocese of Salina will only continue to grow. In his efforts to try to see to the needs of the Latino community, Bishop Vincke said, "I belong on a board of bishops for Cross Catholic International, an organization that provides aid to the poor in 30 countries, many in South America. A member of the board that serves for Cross Catholic International is Msgr. Ted Bertagni. During a conversation with him, I mentioned that we could use another Spanish speaking priest in our diocese. Msgr. Ted asked around and found out that a bishop in Venezuela was willing to send us Father Rafael after his time spent in Rome. When I was with Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos in Goodland, we called the bishop and he told us about Father Rafael, that he was a good priest in good standing in the Church. We are blessed to have Father Rafael with us."

Father Rafael said, "I give thanks to God for the local church of Salina, that with such generosity and love has invited and welcomed me. I ask that the Lord will give me the grace to serve him with generosity with you and among you, giving you my best."

Father Indave Campos recently returned to Venezuela after completing his Licentiate in Canon Law at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome.

"He really hit the ground



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Rafael Indave Campos speaks at a recent event.

running here at the Cathedral," said Father Fred Gatschet, pastor of the Cathedral parish. "He has been very well-received by the people. We look forward to him getting his driver's license and getting more accustomed to life in Kansas so that he can help out at other parishes in the diocese that have significant Hispanic populations."



Indave Campos

Coming to the United States is a complicated and involved process. "This past March, my bishop in Venezuela gave me the message that another Venezuelan priest had

told him of the need for Latino priests to help with the immigrant population in the United States," Father Rafael said. "About a week later, Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos called me on behalf of Bishop Vincke, describing the situation in the diocese and explaining to me the need for priests to work with the Hispanic community in the Diocese of Salina. At that time, he needed various documents

such as a birth certificate, and various diplomas, as well as a letter from my bishop giving me permission to come to the Diocese of Salina. From the beginning, I was ready to go."

Father Rafael's arrival in Kansas on Sept. 14 was his first trip to the United States.

"One thing that has impressed me is the degree to which everything is organized, which I admire greatly," he said. "In my first days here, I have noted the deep faith and joyful sense of community of the people here."

Adrian Aranda and his entire family are involved in many aspects of parish life at the Cathedral.

"It is a blessing of God that he has come to us and is interested in being with us and working with us. I am happy that he will be able to help Father Fred. For me, a priest is more important than the president of the United States. It is my hope that all the community will be united behind our two priests because it is they who bring us to Christ," Aranda said.

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

November

- 1 All Saints Day, Chancery closed
- 2 Memorial Mass for deceased priests, noon, Sacred Heart Cathedral
- 3 Catholic Charities annual adoption Mass, 6 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral
- 4 Year of Mercy, Dorrance
- 5 Year of Mercy, St. Joseph Parish, Hays
- 7 Year of Mercy, Holyrood
- 8 Year of Mercy, Wilson
- 11-16 USCCB general meeting, Baltimore
- 16-18 NCYC, Indianapolis
- 23-24 Thanksgiving, Chancery closed
- 28 Year of Mercy, Glasco
- 29 Year of Mercy, Minneapolis
- 30 Year of Mercy, Lincoln

SEMINARIAN FUND

Double your gift and help educate our seminarians

We have received an additional \$100,000 gift ready to be matched to benefit seminarians. Any donation to the seminarian education fund will be matched dollar for dollar while funds remain. Scan the QR code to donate online or send a check to PO Box 1696, Salina, KS, 67402.



RETREAT



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Jerry Vincke introduces Father Trinity Savariyar at the annual clergy retreat that took place in mid-September at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita.

PUBLICATIONS DRIVE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I hope you enjoy our communications and publications as much as I do. I hear so many good things from people around the diocese. Some really like our beloved Three Bald Guys. But others love our *faith* magazine and The Register and always tell me that they read every issue "cover to cover."

One of the first things I did when I became a bishop here was to establish a communications office and add a magazine to our publications. One of the best ways of being a disciple who makes other disciples is through communicating the Good News.

When you support our Communications and Publications Drive, you are helping share the

good news across the four corners of our diocese and beyond. Please consider making a gift to support this very important effort in our diocese. May God bless you, your families and all your endeavors and plans.

*In Christ's service,
Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke
Bishop of Salina*

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THE REGISTER

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Hearts and hands working together

St. Thomas More parish dedication

By MARC AND JULIE ANDERSON
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

"You'll never forget it."

That's what Bishop Jerry Vincke told the faithful gathered for the dedication Mass he celebrated Oct. 8 for the opening of the new St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Lasting nearly two hours in length, besides the regular Mass parts of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the special Mass included additional rites, all of which were explained in the commemorative program intended as a keepsake of the parish's milestone.

"The rites of anointing, incensing, covering and lighting the altar express in visible signs several aspects of the invisible work that the Lord accomplishes through the Church in its celebration of the divine mysteries, especially the Eucharist. During the ceremony, the altar is anointed with holy chrism. This sacred oil makes the altar a symbol of Christ, who, before all others, is 'The Anointed One.'"

The program goes on to say that "incense is burned on the altar to signify that Christ's sacrifice there, perpetuated in mystery, ascends to God as an odor of sweetness and also to signify that the people's prayers rise up pleasing and acceptable, reaching the throne of God (Rev. 8:3-4). The lighting of the altar reminds us that Christ is 'a light to enlighten the nations' (Luke 2:32); His brightness shines out in the Church and through it in the whole human family."

Thanking everyone from donors to contractors who were involved in the project, Father Frank Coady wrote in the program, "The current project began, like so many, 'to address some specific needs such as carpeting and paint.' Once we put together a vision committee, they began to identify other needs. The vision expanded once we presented it to the councils, and then again when we presented it to the diocese. Along the way, it seemed a little frightening at times, but the faith and generosity of parishioners encouraged us to keep going. For all this, I am humbled and grateful. It is amazing what can be accomplished when many hands and hearts work together."

During his homily, Bishop Vincke thanked everyone in attendance for participating in the Mass, telling them it's probably the only time most of them would ever see the dedication of a church.

"You'll never forget it," he said, adding later, "it's a little longer, but it's worth it."

Continuing his thoughts, Bishop Vincke said he first wanted to



MARC AND JULIE ANDERSON, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Jerry Vincke pours Chrism oil on the altar at the dedication Mass of St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.



MARC AND JULIE ANDERSON, COMMUNICATIONS

Father Frank Coady addresses the crowd.

"thank God for his amazing love for us, his mercy, his compassion," all of which he said have guided the people of St. Thomas More Parish.

Elsewhere, the bishop said he wanted to thank the parishioners.

"I want to thank all of you, the parishioners of St. Thomas More," he said, noting it was the third dedication in Manhattan over which he has presided.

He also celebrated dedication Masses at Seven Dolors Church and St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center at Kansas State University.

"It's amazing what you have done for the Catholic community," he said.

Besides the Catholic community, the contractors, the volunteers and the donors, the bishop also thanked all of the priests and deacons who attended. There was one, however, who earned a special word of gratitude — Father Coady, pastor of St. Thomas More Parish.

After a long applause, Bishop Vincke noted Father Coady "is like a loving parent" due to his willingness to help other parishes and other dioceses with their renovation projects.

Finally, the bishop turned his attention to the artwork above the altar, asking the artist, Barbara Waterman-Peters, a native of Topeka and a master artist, to stand and be recognized publicly.

Friends with Father Coady for a



MARC AND JULIE ANDERSON, COMMUNICATIONS

The altar is incensed at the church.

number of years, Waterman-Peters was approached about doing the piece four years ago but started the work nine to 10 months ago, finishing it a month prior to the dedication.

"What a honor and privilege it was," she said.

Writing in an email prior to the dedication Mass, Father Coady described the artwork as "a floor-to-ceiling altarpiece which includes a number of paintings, telling the story of salvation. On the left, the old covenants are depicted: Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Moses. In the center triptych is pictured the new covenant in Christ. The left panel shows His birth; the center panel, the crucifixion; and the right panel, the resurrection. The far right panel is a blank canvas on which hangs the processional cross during Mass."

During the homily, Bishop Vincke shared he'd had the opportunity to stand before the artwork prior to the Mass.

"I had chills. I just stood there," he said. "My heart was just pounding. It is beautiful and amazing. It tells

the whole salvation story. It is why we are here."

He noted the panel that depicts the creation of Adam and Eve.

"Every one of us is created by our loving God including Adam and Eve," he said.

Pointing to the four animals at the top, the bishop said they represent the four Gospel writers — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, depicted by a man, a lion, a bull and an eagle. And finally, turning his attention to the bottom of the artwork, he said the abundance of Eucharistic symbols including wine, grapes and bread as well as a pelican (which gives of his own flesh for its young to eat). All of the scenes, he said, are painted against a familiar backdrop, that of the Flint Hills.

"What we celebrate, what happens on this altar — the salvation that we receive from Jesus, the sacrifice of Jesus for us is present on this sacred altar. ... What happens on this altar is the most important thing that happens in the world. Jesus gave his life for you and I so that we can communion with him."

Evangelizing through our publications

So, I usually use this column to update you on my family or share my latest brilliant thought or reflection on the faith. In keeping with that theme — Nathaniel is wonderful. Ignatius is the cutest baby in the entire world. And God

is good all the time.

But for today, this column is going to be a little different. I hope you still read it.

I am asking you to consider making a gift to support our communications and

publications efforts within the Diocese of Salina. Every gift is appreciated because every gift is needed. I'll explain more, but I wanted to ask you outright front and center.

I believe so strongly in the work of our communica-

tions and publications. We receive comments, emails and letters every month from people sharing their newfound love and excitement for the

faith because of something our diocese produced.

We are evangelizing. We are

helping people encounter Jesus. It is the greatest joy in the world to help someone else come to know Jesus.

But we cannot do it without you. We need you to help bear the financial responsibility of making all these efforts and initiatives available to families throughout our diocese. We have been

blessed to be able to produce content in the past for so many, and we would like to continue doing so.

If you have ever laughed at one of Bishop Vincke's stories in his monthly e-news; if you have ever read a story in *faith* magazine and been brought to tears; if you have ever clipped out a photo of your grandchild in The Register; if you have ever tuned in to The Three Bald Guys while on a drive, checked out an event on our website or heart-reacted a social media post, please, please consider making a gift.

We want to do beautiful work for God and for you. To ensure we can continue to do so, consider helping

us by making a gift. You can do so by using the enclosed envelope in this issue of The Register or by making a gift online at: salinadiocese.org/office/communications/com-pub-drive/.

Additionally, there will be an envelope in the upcoming issue of *faith* magazine.

I strongly believe in the work we do, so I am asking you to help.

Thank you in advance for any contribution you can make. God is good all the time.

God bless.



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



KATIE Hamel
CREATIVE EDITOR



DID YOU KNOW?

A gift to the Communications and Publications Drive supports:

- Bishop Vincke's monthly e-newsletter updating the faithful on all the diocesan happenings and sharing little stories about his travels.
- *faith* — our quarterly magazine that teaches the faithful stunning truths about the faith.

- The Register — our monthly publication that covers news and events across the diocese.
- From the Heart podcast where members of the diocese doing important work can share their mission, or people can share inspirational stories.
- Three Bald Guys who spend more time

laughing than talking sometimes but are a complete joy to listen to.

- Social media platforms that share information on saints, diocesan news, parish events and are completely filled with gorgeous pictures.
- A website anyone can access to learn about any event going on in the diocese.

#iGiveCatholic begins soon

BY THE REGISTER

The Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina will once again sponsor the annual #iGiveCatholic campaign for the Diocese of Salina. This is the sixth year parishes, schools and other Catholic ministries can take advantage of this exciting fundraising opportunity.

Celebrated annually on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #iGiveCatholic is a Giving Day that kicks off the charitable season and brings the Catholic community together to give thanks and give back.

In 2022, the Diocese of Salina was a high performer with a national rank of 10th out of 42 participating dioceses and other organizations. #iGiveCatholic was once again a success, with a grand total of \$718,226 raised from 1,140 donors for 36 varying ministries.

This year, advanced giving opens Nov. 13, beginning at midnight. The campaign

culminates with the final giving day occurring on #iGiveCatholic Tuesday, which is Nov. 28. Donors can make secure, tax-deductible donations to participating organizations by visiting salina.igivecatholic.org. Offline gifts of cash and checks are also accepted and should be given directly to the organization of the donor's choice during the same time period.



Scan the QR code anytime between Nov. 13-28 and give to the Catholic ministry of your choice.

Development assistant Torrie Gregg and donor relations and communications manager Corrina Hudson-pillar of the Foundation are overseeing this year's campaign.


"#iGiveCatholic is a great way to support our parishes, schools and ministries in the Diocese of Salina," Gregg said. "One recommendation we have for returning and first-time participants is to secure local matches and to leverage social media to reach more donors. One of the most beautiful things about

#iGiveCatholic is that it brings a spirit of generosity that spreads far beyond one day or one community. What better way to celebrate the season of Thanksgiving than by giving back to the organizations that we care most about in our faith journey?"

Statistics have shown that having a match for your participating organization dramatically increases the success of dollars raised. If you are interested in becoming a match for your local parish, Catholic school or ministry, please reach out to them directly or to the foundation. Being a match is an excellent way to make a significant contribution to a cause you believe in while motivating others to join you in creating positive change in our faith community.

The participating organizations, as of Oct. 9, can be found listed on the next page.

Questions about #iGiveCatholic? Contact Gregg at torrie.gregg@salinadiocese.org or Hudson-pillar at Corrina.hudsonpillar@salinadiocese.org.



#iGIVECATHOLIC

#GIVINGTUESDAY

November 28, 2023

Abilene St. Andrew Grade School St. Andrew Parish Beloit St. John's Catholic Schools St. John the Baptist Parish Clay Center Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Diocese of Salina Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas Divine Mercy Radio Office of Youth Ministry Ellis St. Mary Church and School Hanover St. John's Grade School Hays Comeau Catholic Campus Center Holy Family Elementary Thomas More Prep - Marian Jr/Sr High School	Junction City St. Francis Xavier School St. Francis Xavier Parish Manhattan Manhattan Catholic Schools St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center St. Thomas More Parish Salina Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High School St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish St. Mary Grade School St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish Tipton St. Boniface Parish Tipton Catholic High School
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Participants as of October 6, 2023
Visit Salina.iGiveCatholic.org

Having faith in the storms of life

I heard a story the other day, and I don't know where it originated from, but it is about a farmer who needed to hire a farmhand. He interviewed several candidates but couldn't find one he liked. Finally, a young man showed up whom the farmer wanted to hire.

His final question to the young man was, "Why should I hire you?" The young man replied, "Because I can sleep through terrible thunderstorms." This answer confused the farmer, but he liked the young man and hired him anyway.

Several weeks passed, and one night, the farmer and his wife were awakened by a ferocious thunderstorm. They got up and ran around to ensure everything was ready for the storm. They noticed the young man was nowhere to be found to help with the preparations. The farmer cursed to himself and asked, "Why did I hire the young man who can sleep through the storm? What was I thinking?"

As they began to prepare, they found somebody had already closed the shutters on the farm. The farmer ran outside to put things

away but found the tractor and all the farm tools were already in the shed. He even found the generator full of gas, ready to go if needed. That is when the farmer realized why the young man could sleep through a storm. He was prepared and didn't have to worry about anything.

Immediately after hearing this story, I thought about all the great saints of our faith and the holy people we encounter in our churches.

They always seem so peaceful and seem to handle troubles without fear. I often find myself admiring them and the way they live their lives. They have learned to put their faith in the Lord and to prepare for the storm.

When the storm hits, and we know storms will hit us all, they have nothing to fear. They trust the Lord with their lives and don't fear anything that can happen to them in this life. They also know they are headed to a better place when they die. They don't have to live a defen-

sive life with fear, having to control everything, and can live an aggressive life knowing they have nothing to lose.

As always, you are probably asking yourself, Meagher, what's this got to do with the Eucharistic Revival? The answer is that we, too, will have storms in our lives, and the faithful reception of the sacraments is the gift that can allow us to sleep through the storms.

God has given us the sacraments to pour out grace into our

lives. These graces are what we need to be strong in our faith and to be who God designed us to be. They allow us to put our trust in God and not ourselves and to have the peace of knowing that even if we died, we would be in heaven with Jesus Christ.

There is so much power in the sacraments. Baptism claims us for Christ and puts an indelible mark on us that says to Satan, hands off. This soul is mine, not yours. The Eucharist is the very body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ given to

us so we may be strengthened for our journey back to him for all eternity. Confession can instantly free us from the chains of sin that have a stranglehold on us. Father Carlos Martin, an exorcist, was asked which was more powerful, a confession or an exorcism. He said a single sacramental confession is a thousand times more powerful than an exorcism.

"We do an exorcism just to get them back into the sacramental life of the Church," Father Carlos Martin said.

Regular reception of the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist helps us live the lives God designed us to live and be at peace even during the harsh storms of our lives. We will have no fear because we are prepared. Then, like the young farmhand, we too can sleep through the storms knowing our trust is in the Lord who created us, protects us and has loved and will love us for all eternity.

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

BILL Meagher
DIOCESE OF SALINA



Pope issues call for climate change measures

By DANIEL PAYNE
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

Pope Francis recently released a new document on the environment that he has described as the "second part" of his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and which warns of "grave consequences" if humanity continues to ignore the threat of climate change.

The apostolic exhortation, titled *Laudate Deum* ("Praise God"), is meant to address what Francis in the document calls the "global social issue" of climate change. The pope said that in the eight years since *Laudato Si'* was published, "our responses have not been adequate" to address ongoing ecological concerns.

"Climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community," the pope wrote in the document, arguing that its effects are borne by the world's "most vulnerable people" and that the climate issue is "no longer a secondary or ideological question."

Francis wrote that the effects of climate change "are here and increasingly evident," and warned of increasing heat waves and

the possible melting of the polar ice caps, which he said would lead to "immensely grave consequences for everyone."

"No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest on the part of the earth that are only a few palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone," the pope said.

Warns of 'resistance' to climate science

Environmentalism has long been a favorite topic of Francis. *Laudato Si'* was heralded at the time of its publication as a revolutionary papal document for its emphasis on Catholic ecological responsibility.

Then-U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops President Bishop Joseph Kurtz called the encyclical "our marching orders for advocacy." The document launched the *Laudato Si'* Movement, which bills itself as a "broad range of Catholic organizations and grassroots members from all over the world" walking "on a journey of ecological conversion."

In the earlier document Francis conceded that the



Church "does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics," but in the exhortation this week the Holy Father took a more forceful line, criticizing those who "have chosen to deride [the] facts" about climate science and stating bluntly that it is "no longer possible to doubt the human — 'anthropic' — origin of climate change."

"It is not possible to conceal the correlation of these global climate phenomena and the accelerated increase in greenhouse gas emissions, particularly since the mid-20th century," Francis wrote. "The overwhelming majority of scientists specializing in the climate support this correlation, and only a very small percentage of them seek to deny the evidence."

Francis said in the document that what he described as a "technocratic paradigm" has "destroyed" the mutually beneficial relationship with the environment that humans have at times enjoyed. Humanity's "power and the progress we are producing are turning against us," the pope argued.

Francis noted climate mitigation efforts over the years have been met with both "progress and failures," though the pope expressed hope that next month's 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference could "allow for a decisive acceleration of energy transition, with effective commitments subject to ongoing monitoring."

He argued, however, that longtime global diplomatic arrangements have failed to

meet the challenges of the climate emergency.

"It continues to be regrettable that global crises are being squandered when they could be the occasions to bring about beneficial changes," he wrote. The world, he argued, should look toward "the development of a new procedure for decision-making" to solve global problems.

The pope pointed to what he described as the "spiritual motivations" of climate action, noting that the Book of Genesis records that, upon his creation of the universe, "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

"Praise God" is the title of this letter," Francis wrote at the encyclical's conclusion. "For when human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies."

Francis since 2015 has been active in warning about the potential devastation posed by climate change. In 2021, he launched the Catholic Church's seven-year "*Laudato Si'* action plan," which he described as the Church's part in "a new ecological approach that can transform our way of dwelling in the world."

They said 'Yes'

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK SET FOR NOVEMBER

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The dictionary defines vocation as "a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation."

Most seminarians preparing for the priesthood would call it more of a calling. So, too, would the Sisters of Immaculate Heart of Mary from the Wichita Diocese who are teaching in the Hays Catholic schools this year.

Lay people, well, they talk about starting to volunteer for their parish. And all of a sudden, it

seems like 10, 15, 20 years or more have gone by and they're still volunteering.

National Vocation Awareness Week — this year scheduled for Nov. 5-11 — is dedicated to "promote vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life through prayers, invitation and education."

This issue of The Register will feature the 10 seminarians and the four IHM sisters. However, we will also spotlight a lay person who gives of herself to her local

parish day-in and day-out. Mary Kratky wouldn't call what she does for the St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson a vocation, but it certainly is.



Father Hammeke

Father Andy Hammeke, co-vocations director for the Salina Diocese, said he is amazed what God can do through each person if they surrender their lives to him.

"When we are open to God's will and give him opportunities to reveal his will to us, good things

happen," Father Andy said. "We are fortunate to have many witnesses to this kind of surrender throughout our diocese."

"I'm thankful for our 10 seminarians who have said 'yes' to seminary. I'm thankful for the IHM sisters who said 'yes' to serving in our diocese," he continued. "And I'm thankful for the faithful all over the diocese who say 'yes' daily to the will of God. It is exciting to imagine what God will do in the Diocese of Salina if all of us say 'yes' to him daily."

Urban, Friess back home again

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Adam Urban had one goal in mind from the time he was a young boy growing up in Hays. That was to become a doctor.

But following a winding path that took him to full-time religious ministry in another diocese, Urban returned to the Salina Diocese this year. He is completing his last two years of formation at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver before being ordained a deacon in 2024 and a priest in 2025.

"I've really developed a love for the church and people all over," Urban said. "But this is home. It's a feeling of familiarity and warmth. I'm grateful that the Lord called me back to the Salina Diocese."

Luke Friess is back home, too.

He grew up in Hoxie as a member of St. Frances Cabrini Parish and went off to college at Benedictine College in Atchison to major in mathematics.

During his time in college, it all added up that "I needed to explore the possibility of becoming a priest because I kept feeling a tug on my heart that I needed to answer."

Following five years in the seminary, Friess left formation in 2021 "to see if I could find a place of deeper freedom to go down a different path or bring more conviction to my heart."

"I had a lot of fears around the priesthood," he said. "With the time away, the Lord slowly helped me

discover in many ways that the fears I had aren't necessarily things I need to eradicate. I began to live a more free heart, and as my freedom grew, my conviction to return to seminary grew stronger."

During his time away from the seminary, Friess took on a carpentry job in Hays with some friends from college.

"You have a lot of time for prayer and thinking when you're sanding cabinets," he said.

All the while, Friess stayed in contact with Father Andy Hammeke, the chaplain at Fort Hays State who also is co-vocations director for the Salina Diocese.

After much prayer — and cabinet sanding — he said he knew it was time to contact Father Andy about returning to formation.

"That was definitely a difficult phone call to make; the enemy is always trying to make us doubt and question our readiness," Friess said. "But I kept coming back to those moments of peace when the desire was strong. I realized that turmoil was the enemy, and I needed to trust in the Lord's voice."

Now, Friess is in the midst of a pastoral year at St. John the Baptist in Beloit before returning to St. John Vianney next year.

"There are always challenges, but there are also tremendous times of joy," Friess said. "I feel the Lord's presence in this decision."

He also appreciates the willingness of the church to allow men to return to



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Adam Urban, Hays, tells the audience a little about his vocational journey at a seminary fundraising dinner this summer. On the right is Luke Friess of Hoxie.

seminary after some time away.

"The idea of men taking a year or two off to grow more is becoming more acceptable," Friess said. "I remember back when I was leaving the seminary in Denver, and my future was very uncertain. But I also felt I had support."

Urban agreed.

"One of the misconceptions about seminary is that when a man makes the decision to go to seminary, it's very final," he said. "It's actually the opposite. It's a constant state of change for men."

Urban definitely has seen a lot of changes since entering college, where he became involved with Catholic Disciples at FHSU.

His passion to become a

doctor never waned even after his father, Steve Urban, became a permanent deacon at the family's home parish, St. Nicholas of Myra in Hays in 2013.

With just one year of undergraduate work at Fort Hays State remaining, Urban had already been accepted into medical school in 2015, with plans to take off to the University of Kansas following a summer of working in youth ministry in Dodge City.

That, coupled with his involvement at the Catholic Campus Center, served as the impetus for Urban to pursue a religious vocation.

He returned to Dodge City for a second summer in 2016, and "by that time in my life, I was convinced

that the Lord was calling me to do full-time ministry."

John Brungardt, bishop of the Dodge City Diocese, offered Urban the full-time youth ministry position when he graduated from FHSU. He said it was during those two years of serving in Dodge City that "I really got a taste of being a spiritual father, a mentor to a lot of young people."

"I view it as one long thread, and the Lord is leading my life with this thread," Urban said. "I feel a lot of confidence with my decision, because I know how the Lord is working. It also feels like a continuation of the journey that I started out on."

There are also two other seminarians from Hays besides Urban currently in formation — brothers Kade and Max Megaffin, both members of St. Joseph Parish. Urban and the Megaffins are graduates of Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays.

Friess is one of three current seminarians from the far northwest part of the diocese. Jesse Ochs, Park, and Collin Thielen, Quinter, both are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Park.

Representing the eastern portion of the diocese are Kyle Pfeifer, Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan, and Holden Giefer, St. Isidore Parish, Kansas State University.

Completing this year's list of seminarians are two from the Wichita Diocese, Joseph Schones from Sacred Heart Parish in Arkansas City and Mathew Ralls, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Wichita.

Sisters a valuable asset to education

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Administrators for Hays Catholic Schools, along with a lot of other Hays parishioners, were excited when they heard that sisters from the Immaculate Heart of Mary order out of Wichita would be moving to Hays for the 2023-24 school year.

Ditto for the four IHM sisters, who all have ties to Hays or the north-west Kansas area.

The HCS newcomers are all teaching religion and other classes — Sister Rose Marie Weber and Sister John Marie Zwenger at Holy Family Elementary School and Sister Mary Monica Augustine and Sister Mary Agnes Wasinger at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior/Senior High.

Sister Mary Monica is from Colby and attended Fort Hays State University before following her religious vocation. And while Sister Mary Agnes grew up in Wichita and attended school at Benedictine College in Atchison, her grandparents were from Ellis County.

Sister Rose Marie, who grew up in Hoxie, and Sister John Marie also both attended FHSU.

Sister John Marie's parents grew up in Ellis County. After a long career in the U.S. Air Force, Patrick Zwenger and his wife, Paula, have returned to their roots and live on a farm near Victoria.

While living in several different locations and studying abroad as the oldest child of a military family,

Sister John Marie had never lived in Hays until she came to college at FHSU.

She chose social work as her major "because I wanted to help people" but eventually changed her major to elementary education.

While visiting elementary schools as part of her coursework, Sister John Marie was moved by teachers praying with their students.

"I thought, 'I have to teach in a Catholic school,'" she said.

Now, Sister John Marie is fulfilling that dream as a religious sister. And she and Sister Rose Marie don't have far to go to school.

The diocese was able to secure a house close to Holy Family that the sisters immediately turned into a convent. The four-bedroom brick home now includes a beautiful chapel in the basement where the sisters begin their day in the early morning hours.

"I've been praying we could come to the Salina diocese and teach," Sister Mary Monica said. "It just hasn't been the right time until now."

The sisters have made their presence known at both schools in just a few short weeks.

One new program Sister John Marie and Sister Rose Marie have introduced at Holy Family is the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS).

The CGS is an experiential teaching method in an "atrium," where students learn by doing with visual aids as a catechist reads scripture and explains various items of the Mass. The stage area in the little theatre at Holy Family has been transformed into an atrium.

"It's amazing watching the little children watch for things during Mass that we have talked about in class," Sister Rose Marie said.

Mandy Meagher has been especially pleased with the sisters' presence at Holy Family Elementary in her first year as principal at the school.

"Having the IHM sisters in our building has been such a blessing this year," Meagher said. "They bring an incredible energy and joy to our students and classrooms. It is amazing how much they have impacted our school in such a short time."

Sister Mary Monica and Sister Mary Agnes have had similar impact at TMP-Marian.

An all-school rosary in Al Billinger Fieldhouse last month was

met with strong approval and is something the sisters would like to make a tradition at TMP.

"We asked Mr. Meitner (TMP-M Principal Chad) if we could bring the all-school rosary to TMP to help build community here because we had done it at other Catholic schools," Sister Mary Monica said. "With October being the Month of the Rosary, it's a beautiful devotion to our Blessed Mother."

Meitner said he has been impressed with the tremendous work ethic of the IHM sisters and the new ideas they are bringing to the school.

"Even more importantly, these women bring a peaceful spiritual presence to our classrooms, hallways and interactions," Meitner said. "Whether it's with their words or actions or just by their very presence in religious habits, the sisters are a loving reminder of Jesus' presence in our lives."

Sister Mary Monica said the IHM Mother Superior in Wichita recognized there is a desire to have sisters in the Salina diocese, and "she wants us to spread the love of God, to be present in multiple places."

All involved are pleased one of those places is Hays Catholic Schools.

"I'm not called to be a biological mother but rather a spiritual mother," Sister John Marie said. "We are helping little disciples follow Jesus."



Sister Rose Marie Weber



Sister John Marie Zwenger



Sister Mary Monica Augustine



Sister Mary Agnes Wasinger

Wilson resident a fixture at St. Wenceslaus Parish

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Following a long successful career in the education field, Mary Kratky says one of the first things she realized in retirement was she could say "no."

Eleven years after retiring from the Goodland school district, Kratky is learning the word "no" is still missing from her vocabulary list.

She moved back to her hometown of Wilson to be near family after a 38-year career of teaching and coaching middle-school students.

With free time on her hands, Kratky entertained the idea of getting involved with the youth of the community in some way or another as well as her home parish.

It didn't take long for her to accomplish both.

Soon after relocating, Kratky won a spot on the St. Wenceslaus parish council as a write-in vote.

"At the first meeting, they said, 'You used to be a teacher, why don't you take care

of religious education?'" she said.

Now the director of religious education for St. Wenceslaus, Kratky also takes care of all the altar linens. And when it's needed, she serves as a lector at Mass.

Along the way, she also got talked into helping coach a variety of sports at Wilson High School.

"I never married or had children, and I taught school for all those years, so those were my kids," she said. "I got so involved around youth, and when I retired that's what I missed the most was the kids. This was a natural for me."

Wilson High closed its doors at the end of the 2022-23 school session, so last spring was Kratky's final year of coaching at WHS.

The majority of those students went 17 miles north to attend school in Sylvan Grove. And of course, Kratky was asked to come help coach junior high basketball at Sylvan.

She declined that request



TED HUNT, COURTESY PHOTO

Taking care of the altar linens is just one of the numerous tasks for which Mary Kratky volunteers at St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson.

— at least for now — and said the extra time gives her even more opportunities for serving her parish.

Kratky is now helping out with confirmation preparation for nine St. Wenceslaus teenagers and is one of the trainers for altar servers.

"Anything they need

done, I do," Kratky said.

"Mary is very generous to spend her time in church activities," said Father Tony Kulandaijesu, pastor of St. Wenceslaus Parish. "She is always ready to help with any activities in the parish. She is a great asset to our community."

Although she grew up in Wilson, Kratky is not a native of Kansas — or even the United States.

Wilson residents Alois and Marie Kratky adopted a baby boy and a baby girl from an orphanage in Ireland in the early 1950s and raised them in rural America.

"I went to a country school growing up, so I could say I walked uphill to school every day," Kratky said. "That's an experience that I wouldn't trade for anything."

Nor would she trade her family that includes brother, Mike, who is nine days older than Mary. Both were about 6 months old at the time of their adoption and not related to each other.

Nonetheless, the Kratky

couple raised the babies as twins. Mike, who also lives in Wilson, and Mary are still close today. They have a younger sister, Joann, who lives in Colorado with her family.

Kratky said she views serving her parish and community as a way of giving back. She says she had a wonderful life growing up in Wilson and even got to play basketball and softball in college, at Kansas State University, in the early 1970s.

Kratky endured a bout of bad luck health-wise the past few years. She had neck surgery last year, then broke her hip in a fall last spring. But it didn't slow her down for long.

"Working with those kids was my reason for getting better and getting back to walking," Kratky said. "Now, I have to use a cane, but I can still get around. I've been blessed."

So, too, have a lot of youngsters — and adults as well — who have had the privilege of working with Mary Kratky.

Speaker delivers moving message

By CLAIRE HICKS

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On Oct. 11, the five Catholic high schools of the diocese got together in Salina for the Respect Life Retreat.

Pat Castle, the founder of LifeRunners, a pro-life ministry dedicated to fighting for the end to abortion, was the keynote speaker.

The first talk he gave served as an introduction to what abortion actually is.

"Abortion is the crown jewel of evil," he said. "There is nothing that Satan wants more than abortion."

He further said, "Children remind Satan of God."

Castle then told a story of a woman who had essentially died during Mass. Castle and his teammate, Bernadette, rushed to help and began CPR. Soon after they began resuscitation, the woman's eyes opened, and she gasped for breath.

After sharing the story, Castle asked, "How can we be that breath of life in our culture?"

After a small break, the students gathered for the final talk of the day. The entire theme of the talk was "defending schools in a false positive culture."

Society is bombarded with



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Pat Castle, founder of LifeRunners, speaks to the students from Catholic schools in the Diocese of Salina on Oct. 11.

what Castle calls "false positives." He explained some of the false positives surrounding abortion.

He said phrases like, "abortion is necessary" or "abortion is life-saving," give people a sense of safety around abortion when really, abortion is anything but necessary or life-saving.

"A mother's womb is the most dangerous place on the planet," Castle said.

Austin Gilbert, a student at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays, was most struck



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Students participate in the event.

by the abortion statistics Castle shared.

"The statistics were scary considering that no one knows the truth because abortion has become such a common thing to do," he said.

Emma Roberts, a student at Sacred Heart in Salina, said, "Initially, I was just very excited to get together with all of the kids in the diocese. I love seeing us come together as a family. I am very passionate about life and respecting life."

Castle shared his inspiration for why he started

LifeRunners.

"It began with an encour-



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Father Brian McCaffrey speaks to the students.

ter with a saint by the name of Padre Pio, who assisted me during the Pikes Peak Ascent. My mom asked St. Padre Pio to be with me, and at the exact time that she prayed that, she wrote 2:50 on a piece of paper. At 2:50, I looked at my watch, and St. Pio encouraged me at exactly the time of her intercessory prayer."

The students learned a lot from Castle and his ministry about what it takes to be a pro-life warrior. He gave the students a mission and "call to action" to be "all in Christ, for pro-life."

Students and adults alike were inspired to become more involved in the pro-life community, striving to protect not just the unborn, but all children of God, no matter their age or circumstance.

Claire Hicks is a student at St. John's Catholic Schools in Beloit.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Students from Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays interact during the event.

Diocese welcomes new directors of Respect Life Office

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Diocese of Salina announced the appointment of Scott and Clare Stramel as the new directors of the Respect Life Office. The young couple, with their shared passion and commitment to pro-life causes, will serve as leaders for the Diocese of Salina in promoting and upholding the dignity and sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death.

The Stramels come with an impressive background and involvement in pro-life activities

and initiatives. Their dedication to life issues is demonstrated through their personal beliefs and active participation and leadership in various community programs and initiatives. Their combined expertise and passion for life will help drive the mission of the Respect Life Office forward, fostering a culture of life within the diocese and the communities it serves.



Scott and Clare Stramel

Bill Meagher, director of the Office of Family Life for the Salina Diocese, expressed his enthusiasm about the appointment: "We are truly blessed to welcome Scott and Clare to our diocesan family. They are an incredible young couple who will do a great job of helping us promote life at all stages."

Scott and Clare shared their excitement about their new roles.

"We are thrilled for the opportunity to work together in the Respect Life office. Our hope is to bring greater awareness and change through the conversion of hearts so that all life, from conception to natural death, is considered both sacred and a gift from God. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us."

For more information about the Respect Life Office and its mission, visit the diocesan website (www.salinadiocese.org) or contact Scott and Clare (respectlife@salinadiocese.org – (785) 827-8746).

Cathedral organ pipes out new sounds

By Preston Sauers
Special to The Register

There's a power in sacred music, experienced in sacred spaces, that transcends our hearts and minds. To illustrate, stop for a moment and think about Christmas Eve Mass and that moment when the organ begins playing "O Come All Ye Faithful," and the entire assembly joins in one voice. It's an experience of sight and sound we can easily recall.

Pope Francis said, "Music has the ability to make a deep impression on moments in people's life, preserving them as a precious memory that has marked their existence."

As musicians rehearsed to create that moment at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Christmas Eve 2022, the pipe organ failed. Prior to that moment, there had been no shortage of challenges with the pipe organ through the years. Primarily, the problems were electrical in nature, the product of some close lightning strikes and several days of electrical surges and low voltage associated with the major



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Preston Sauers plays the newly refurbished organ at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

windstorm in December 2021. The need to remedy the issues was known, but the parish tried to limp along due to the concerns over cost and the other more urgent repair needs with the cathedral building itself.

Facing the new reality that the pipe organ was officially beyond repair and knowing the importance of having an organ for parish and diocesan liturgies,

Cathedral pastor Father Fred Gatschet, along with the finance and parish councils made the decision to complete an entire pipe organ restoration and console replacement. The project included a new, 4-manual Rodgers Infinity 489 console with state-of-the-art pipe interface technology, along with significant restoration work to address issues within the pipe chambers

from water damage along with years of incense soot and dust.

"When I came back to the Cathedral in July of 2019, at least a major overhaul if not a total replacement of the organ was on my to-do list," said Father Gatschet. "The time had come, and with Bishop (Jerry) Vincke's blessing, we went ahead with the project."

A contract was signed with David Rankin of RankinOrgans150, Rodgers organ dealer for most


of Kansas. Rankin is no stranger to the cathedral instrument, no stranger to many organs across the diocese and state, in fact. Twenty years ago, the Cathedral was struck by lightning, causing significant damage throughout the building, including the pipe organ. His proposal was selected to rebuild, restore and upgrade the historic Kilgen pipe organ then.

David has continued to service and tune the instrument since.

After many weeks of meticulous work, the majestic Cathedral organ played again for the first time since Christmas on Aug. 27. The experience is unique, as music is not only heard, but physically felt.

Pipe organs are breathing instruments, controlled by large blower motors, wind lines and bellows — capable of powerful fanfare trumpet sounds to the softest of flutes. The uniqueness of these instruments are catalysts in the transcending experience of sacred music in the liturgy.

The dedication of the new console and refurbished pipe organ will take place at 3 p.m. Nov. 5.



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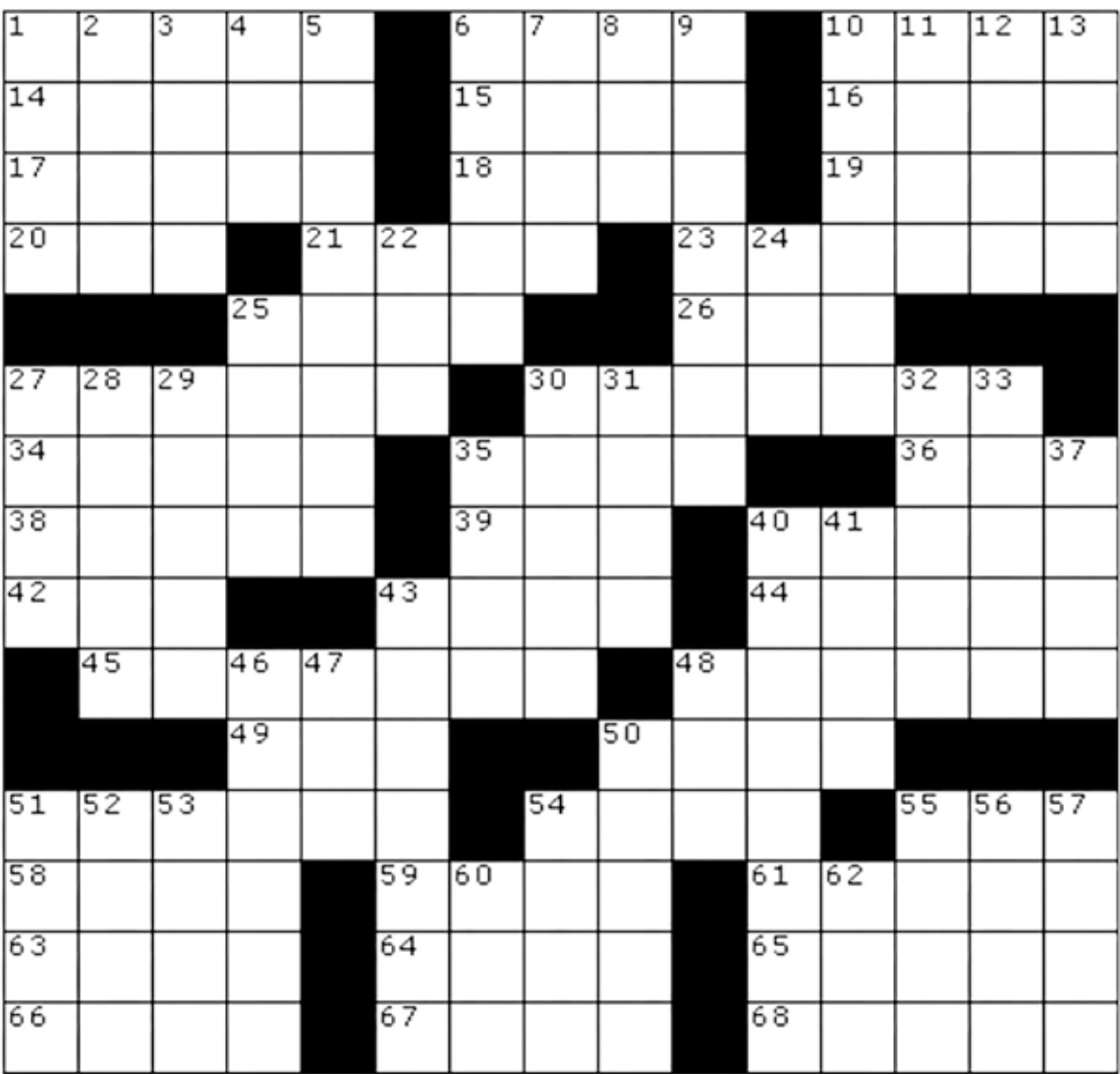
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19 Desperate
20 Tribe of Israel
21 Mr. Donahue
23 Imitation
25 Crispy squares cereal
26 Downwind
27 Honor your father and --
30 Hill where Jesus was crucified
34 Moral principles
35 Limbs
36 Cooking fat
38 Glistening
39 Hive dweller
40 Afloat (2 wds.)
42 Rooster's mate
43 Show your muscles
44 Plague of Egypt
45 Answered
48 Weight measurements
- 49 Fish eggs
50 Filth
51 Jogging clothes
54 Small bird
55 Cut grass
58 Slimly
59 KJV pronoun
61 Witless
63 Opp. of aft
64 Nimbus
65 Present time
66 Far away
67 Tuber
68 Biblical word for Gentile

DOWN

1 African country
2 Dalai __
3 Against
4 Guy
5 Biblical predictions
6 Add to a mixture
7 OT book of prophecy
8 Avenue
9 Recites
10 Body of water parted by God
11 East
12 Marketplace
13 Canal name
22 Possessive pronoun
- 24 Reverend (abbr.)
25 Jaw point
27 Fit together
28 The one left
29 KJV possessive pronoun
30 Statement of beliefs
31 Charge card
32 Stringed instrument
33 Output
35 Competent
37 Young girl
40 While being created
41 Brag
43 Spanish celebrations
46 Talking to God
47 Tons
48 Pastry
50 Had by Joseph, Joseph and magi
51 Settee
52 Weft
53 OT book of history
54 "as you __"
55 Neck hair
56 __ upon a time
57 Seven days
60 Shanty
62 Neither's partner

Answers on Page 14

Anniversary special for Nacke

By DEANNA KYMER
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

It's been more than 10 years since Sister Margaret Nacke had the inspiration that the Catholic Sisters should be involved in the fight against human trafficking. From that point on, she planted the seed that grew into the organization that for the past 10 years has been known as U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT). Sister Nacke has been instrumental in creating programs that advance education about trafficking nationwide in religious and secular communities.

This year, as USCSAHT celebrated 10 years of coming together to fight against modern slavery, they invited everyone to join them in Chicago for a long weekend in September to celebrate, educate and continue the fight.

The conference consisted of many opportunities to gain information. Workshops were presented about sextortion and human trafficking, trauma-informed care, child labor and human trafficking, and a legal panel.

The gathering would not have been complete without the acknowledgment of the role Sister Nacke had in the formation of the growing collaboration. Sister Nacke believes the Holy Spirit led her to the thought, "I wonder what the Catholic Sisters around the country are doing about human trafficking?"

At that point, she called Sister Ann Scholz, LCWR

staff member, who was receptive to the idea that they needed to take action. The project was named the Bakhita Initiative. Ten years later, Sister Nacke and Sister Scholz were recognized and named the official founders of the group at the conference.

A dinner in honor of Sister Nacke took place, and the new name for the organization was announced — Alliance to End Human Trafficking, Founded by the U.S. Catholic Sisters.

Sister Nacke was chosen to present the Bakhita

Award, named after the Bakhita Initiative she founded so many years ago. The recipients are recognized for outstanding work to end human trafficking. It will be awarded annually.

This year's recipients are Talitha Kum, an international initiative against human trafficking and exploitation, and FADICA, a Catholic philanthropic network of foundations and donors supporting Catholic activities and initiatives.

Sister Nacke hopes to relay the importance of following through on an idea.

"It's humbling and amazing to realize what an idea and a phone call can do," she said.

Together with Jean Schaffer, SDS, and Scholz, SSND, a strong board was built that provided "guidance that put us on a solid path."

To learn more about The Alliance to End Human Trafficking, visit alliancetohumantrafficking.org/

Deanna Kymer is communications director for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia.



Nacke

Diocese offers Christmas blessings for others

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The Diocese of Salina has a chance to make Christmas magical for some impoverished children with a new service project called Box of Joy that it is launching this Christmas season.

Box of Joy is part of Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO), an international service organization.

Participating in this evangelization project was the idea of Bishop Jerry Vincke. He is a member of the board of directors for Cross Catholic Outreach, and he expressed his desire for the diocese to become involved.

Susan Goodman, education

coordinator for the Salina Diocese, has contacted the principals of each of the 15 Catholic schools in the diocese telling them about the project.

Bill Meagher — director of religious education, youth ministry and family life for the diocese — alerted directors of religious education about the project in his weekly newsletter as well.

"This is something that I hope our youth groups get involved with," Meagher said. "I think our kids here don't realize there are other kids who don't receive any gifts at Christmas."

Meagher said he doesn't know what to expect for participation in

the project's inaugural year in our diocese.

"But if we put any amount of boxes together and some young people receive Christmas gifts — ones who never have — that's a real worthwhile thing," he said. "I think it's really exciting for our diocese to participate in this."

A total of 3,000 boxes about the size of a shoe box are being shipped to the chancery in Salina and will be made available to schools and parishes.

Entire classes or any student in school, youth and adult organizations, and even individuals, are encouraged to take part.

The boxes are to be filled with items such as toys, clothing or school supplies that total approximately \$20.

The boxes need to be delivered to the Salina Chancery by Nov. 29. They will then be shipped to Miami, where CCO members will add to each box a rosary and a booklet in the child's own language that tells "The Story of Jesus." The boxes then will be shipped to children in the Caribbean, South America and Central America.

More information on the project can be found at the diocesan website at <https://salinadiocese.org> or by calling the chancery at (785) 827-8746.

Volunteering is a breath of fresh air

My involvement with Catholic Charities began by being invited to join the Manhattan office's advisory board approximately 15 to 20 years ago. It didn't take long to learn how Catholic Charities' mission was to fulfill various aspects of Catholic social teaching. The Church teaches human life is sacred and the dignity of the individual is foundational for a moral vision for society.

Jesus drew so many connections between love of God and love of neighbor. One cannot profess to love God and then not respond to the needs of other human beings. In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus speaks of

feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, assisting the sick and so on. "What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

Catholic Charities does these things in so many ways: through outreach services by taking food and hygiene items throughout the diocese; helping to shelter or pay rent; providing counseling services; giving pregnancy support and adoption services;

assisting those in need of medical transportation and care, etc.

One of the pillars of the diaconate is service. While this has been a great fit for me as a deacon, volunteering for Catholic Charities is for



anyone with an inclination to get actively involved in serving the poor and needy. My wife, Donna, has also become a committed volunteer and

advocate for the work of Catholic Charities. We now team up on many of the volunteer activities. She has brought several of her friends on board as volunteers.

After serving on the Manhattan advisory board and the executive board of directors, I just can't get away from Catholic Charities — and I don't want to. Volunteering to stock shelves with product, gathering empty banana boxes and filling them with food, and writing short articles about Catholic Charities for parish newsletters and bulletins to get the good word out helps me to serve and stay connected to this very important aspect of our church.

Larry Erpelding is deacon at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.



LARRY Erpelding
DEACON

Hays junior high students enjoy learning at career fair

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Junior high students have a few years to decide on a career they want to pursue after graduation from high school.

Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays got an early glimpse of some at a career fair in September.

Carol Brull, who retired from TMP-Marian Junior High as a language arts teacher three years ago, had arranged a similar event when she taught at the former Kennedy Middle School several years ago.

"And the kids just loved it," she said.

So she decided to give it a try at TMP.

Last spring, Brull sent out a survey to students who would be in sixth, seventh and eighth grades this year, asking them to rank six different careers they would



MELISSA SCHOEPP, COURTESY PHOTO

Darrell Schmeidler, Hays, talks to students about the farming profession during the career fair.

like to learn more about this fall.

She was pleased with the interest that community members showed as volunteers to participate.

Each student saw four different presentations during the day during their regular class periods, learning about occupations that ranged from medical and health professions to architects, farming and ranching to culinary arts, military

careers to graphic design — and many more in between.

Some presenters brought visual aids with them, and others just sat among the students and talked and answered questions.

Most of the presenters were from the Hays area, with a couple coming from out of a town as well, and

some presented as many as four times.

"We just told them to give the students a general idea what a typical day was like for them," Brull said.

Dr. Daniel Sanchez, a doctor at the Rooks County Health Center in Plainville, gave three presentations on his medical profession and one on his hobby as a licensed pilot.

Phil Kuhn, local chef and entrepreneur, presented two sessions on culinary arts and two on entrepreneurship.

Brull's son, Peter Brull, traveled from Lawrence to present.

"He told the students that when he graduated from high school, he wasn't sure what an architect did," said Carol Brull, emphasizing the importance of early educa-

tion on a variety of careers.

She said she remembers asking her other son, while driving home from the Kennedy Middle School event years ago, what he had learned that day.

"I learned that I don't want to be an attorney when I grow up," she said.

Brull, whose education career spanned 45 years in Ellis County Catholic schools, still volunteers at TMP-Marian.

"I think this is so beneficial for students," she said. "We have wanted to do it for years, but we couldn't find the time. It's pretty time consuming. But now I have the time."




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COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Jerry Vincke attended a football game at St. John’s-Beloit for the school’s state assessment honors from last spring.



DEB MEYERS, COURTESY PHOTO

Sacred Heart parishioners gathered for a Rosary Rally for America on Oct. 14. The rally was organized to offer public prayer for the needs of our country and ask God’s blessings upon the people. The annual international public rosary crusade is coordinated by the America Needs Fatima campaign.



DAN THALMAN, COURTESY PHOTO

Many Washington County supporters of our country’s fundamental right to life attended Washington County’s Life Chain event Oct. 1 near the junction of U.S. Highway 36 and Kansas Highway 15. A great number of the group will be making the diocesan pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the 2024 March for Life in January. Passersby showed support by responding with honking horns, smiles, waves, and “thumbs up.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Sacred Heart Church in Atwood hosted a CCD kickoff Sept. 6 with a Mass by Father Henry Saw Lone.

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

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BAPTISMS

Edena Elora Adoki, daughter of Gnindou Adoki and Tchilalo Tafati, was baptized July 30, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

Whit James Bachura, son of Aaron and Kaley (Broeckelman) Bachura, was baptized Sept. 3, 2023, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Leo Matthew Becker, son of Alex and Ivelis Becker, was baptized Sept. 17, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

Bristol Mae Bennett, daughter of Cody and Danielle Bennett, was baptized Sept. 23, 2023, by Father Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary, Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Leah Marie Broadway, daughter of Alexander and Kelsi (Ruth) Broadway, was baptized Sept. 10, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Bowe Elliot Browning, son of Christian and Amanda (Fricks) Browning, was baptized Sept. 9, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Daxton Dale Drake, son of Derek and Nicole Drake, was baptized Sept. 30, 2023, by Father Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

Briggs Oliver File, son of Jonathan and Jessica (Eilert) File, was baptized Sept. 3, 2023, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Ranibell Shura Frubi, son of

Laudis Frubi Che and Estella Angafor, was baptized Sept. 17, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

Greyson Scott Gabel, son of Nathan and Kelli (Oppliger) Gabel, was baptized Oct. 1, 2023, by Father Trinity Savariyar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

Ethan Eugene Gaschler, son of Drew and Amy Gaschler, was baptized Sept. 17, 2023, by Father Donald Zimmerman at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Weslee Dale Moore, son of Curtis and Annessa Moore, was baptized Oct. 1, 2023, by Father Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

Cayson Grant Murphy, son of Grant and Madison (Roth)

Murphy, was baptized Sept. 3, 2023, by Father Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary, Help of Christians Church in Gorham.

Levi Thomas Oborny, son of John and Natalie (Kramer) Oborny, was baptized Sept. 24, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor.

Ariana Athena Orsini, daughter of Javier and Andrea Orsini Jr., was baptized July 30, 2023, by Father Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

Maria Grace Palen, daughter of Blake and Britney Palen, was baptized Sept. 24, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Eleanora Elise Rankin,

daughter of Benjamin and Morgan Rankin, was baptized Sept. 10, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Bowman Dale Schinstock, son of Mitchell and Jordan Schinstock, was baptized Sept. 30, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Henry Tobias Wickham, son of Jay and Ashly Wickham, was baptized Sept. 17, 2023, by Father Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary, Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Saoirse Lilly Wiseman, daughter of Aaron and Caitlyn Wiseman, was baptized Sept. 10, 2023, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City.

WEDDINGS

Skylar Mechtley and Audrey Lichtensteiger were married Sept. 16, 2023. Father Kerry Ninemire witnessed the vows. Witnesses were McKayla Mann and Eileen Lichtensteiger.

Andrew Rowland and Brianna Rohr were married Sept. 2, 2023, at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Father Richard Daise witnessed the vows. Parents of the

groom are Mike and Christie Rowland. Parents of the bride are Doug and Terri Rohr. Witnesses were Thaddeus Martin and Paige Molstad.

Drew Michael Surface and Lissette Danielle Vaca were married Sept. 15, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Michael

and Wendy Surface. Parents of the bride are Cesar and Lucy Vaca. Witnesses were Clayton Perry and Vanessa Alvizo.

Tracy Gerard Schmitz and Morgan Sue Ann Poole were married Sept. 16, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Joseph and Amy Schmitz. Parents of

the bride are John and Michelle Poole. Witnesses were Austin Schmitz and Megan Poole.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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14	H	A	G	A	R	15	D	O	V	E	16	E	S	A	U
17	A	M	I	N	O	18	M	E	E	T	19	D	I	R	E
20	D	A	N			21	P	H	I	L	23	E	R	S	A
						25	C	H	E	X	26	L	E	E	
27	M	O	T	H	E	R					30	C	A	L	V
34	E	T	H	I	C		35	A	R	M	S				
38	S	H	I	N	Y		39	B	E	E		40	A	T	S
42	H	E	N				43	F	L	E	X	44	B	O	I
							45	R	E	P	L	I	E	D	
							49	R	O	E		50	D	I	R
51	S	W	E	A	T	S		54	W	R	E	N		55	M
58	O	O	Z	Y			59	T	H	E	E		61	I	N
63	F	O	R	E			64	A	U	R	A		65	N	O
66	A	F	A	R			67	S	T	E	M		68	G	R

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 November
We pray for the Holy Father; as he

fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Diocesan prayer intention for November
We remember the faithful from the Diocese of Salina who have gone before us to make it more universal.

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DEATHS

Gary Dean Appleby, 82, died Sept. 22, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 27 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia.

Father Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial in St. Paul's Catholic Cemetery in Delphos.

Raymond Bennett, 83, died

Aug. 18, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 23 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in Kansas Veterans Cemetery in WaKeeney.

Thomas Boos, 84, died Sept. 24, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 30 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Richard Joseph Budke, 81, died June 25, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 1 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

Michael Wallace Danielson, 72, died Aug. 4, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 8 at St. John the Baptist in Clyde. Father Steve Heina presided. Burial in St. Thom-

as More Church in Manhattan.

Gregory A. Hibberd, 72, died July 25, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 3 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in Kansas Veterans Cemetery.

Mary "Lolly" Veronica Hibberd, 72, died July 26, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 3 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in Kansas Veterans Cemetery.

Ivan Kozar Sr., 77, died Sept. 3, 2023. Funeral Liturgy outside Mass was celebrated Sept. 11 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Father Frank Coady presided. Burial in Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan.

Francis Krier died Sept. 15,

2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 22 at St. Boniface Parish in Tipton. Father Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Boniface Cemetery in Tipton.

James Rodney McChesney, 86, of Clifton, died Sept. 4, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 8 at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton. Father Steve Heina presided. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Clifton.

Dorothy Mae Morris, 89, died Sept. 16, 2023. Grave-side service was celebrated Sept. 22 at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Clyde. Father Steven Heina officiated.

Ruth Rago, 101, died Sept. 4, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 23 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

Helen A. Schaffer, 100, died July 15, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 17 at Roberts Family Funeral Home in Beloit. Father Andrew Rockers presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

Doneva Sparks, 83, died Sept. 15, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 22 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City. Father Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial at a later date at Wrenford Cemetery.

Marilyn Deane Vossman, 92, died Aug. 27, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 1 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

Thomas Wasinger, 84, died Sept. 7, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 11 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Hays.

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ALL SAINTS' DAY AND ALL SOULS' DAY

All Saints' Day What is it?

This is a day to honor all the saints and martyrs of our Catholic faith. Saints include any person who has attained heaven. While there are probably millions in heaven, All Saints' Day tends to focus on the known saints the Catholic Church recognizes, such as Pope St. John Paul II, St. Joseph, St. Therese of Lisieux, and so on.

When is it celebrated?

It is celebrated annually on Nov. 1 and is a holy day of obligation. Please be sure to check with your local parish for Mass times.

What can I do to honor this day?

- Talk about different saints and their stories with your children at dinner.
- Go to Mass together as a family.

All Souls' Day What is it?

This is a day to honor the faithful departed, specifically, those who have died, but not yet attained heaven. The Catholic Church teaches that souls must be perfected and purgated before entering heaven. The prayers of the faithful on earth help those in Purgatory to more quickly enter into heaven.

When is it celebrated?

It is celebrated annually on Nov. 2. It is not a holy day of obligation, but it is a day of prayer.

What can I do to honor this day?

- Pray for the poor souls in purgatory.
- Visit the graves of your loved ones.

Did you know?

Burying the dead is a corporal work of mercy, and praying for the dead is a spiritual work of mercy.

POPE ANNOUNCES PRAYER VIGIL, DAY OF FASTING

By MATTHEW SANTUCCI

CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

Pope Francis at the end of his general audience Oct. 18 announced another day of prayer and fasting for an end to the Israel-Hamas war.

"I have decided to call for a day of fasting and prayer on Friday, Oct. 27," the pope said.

It will be "a day of penance to which I invite sisters and brothers of the various Christian denominations, those belonging to other religions, and all those who have at heart the cause of peace in the world, to join in as they see fit," the Holy Father continued.

The vigil will take place at 6

p.m. in St. Peter's Square, where the faithful will join the pope to participate in "an hour of prayer in a spirit of penance to implore peace in our time, peace in this world. I ask all the particular Churches to participate by arranging similar activities involving the people of God," the pope said.

The Holy Father's announcement comes after the Catholic Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, called for a global day of prayer and fasting, which took place Oct. 17, "to deliver to God the Father our thirst for peace, justice and reconciliation."

The Holy Father's an-

nouncement was preceded by his renewed appeal for peace in the Holy Land.

"Our thoughts turn to Palestine and Israel," the pope said. "The number of victims is rising and the situation in Gaza is desperate. Please, let everything possible be done to avoid a humanitarian disaster. The possible widening of the conflict is disturbing, while so many war fronts are already open in the world. May weapons be silenced, and let us heed the cry for peace of the poor, the people, the children."

"Brothers and sisters, war

does not solve any problem: It sows only death and destruction, foments hate, proliferates revenge. War cancels out the future ... I urge believers to take just one side in this conflict: that of peace. But not in words — in prayer, with total dedication," he concluded.

The Holy Father's comments come as the death toll continues to rise in the conflict-ridden area. The United Nations issued a press release stating "a staggering" 4,200 people have been killed and "over 1 million people (have been) displaced in just 10 days."



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