



Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. May this time be one of peace and gratitude for many.
Blessings,
Bishop
Jerry Vincke



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Jerry Vincke with the "other bishops" on All Saints Day celebrated at St. Mary's Grade School in Salina.

Learning from the Synod

Many people have had questions on the Synod on Synodality and what impact it has on the Church and our diocese. The following are my thoughts and some explanations on what happened.

1. Advocate: Pope Francis reminded everyone that "the protagonist of the synod is the Holy Spirit."

2. Listening and accompanying: What the synod desires is for the Church to listen more and accompany others, especially those who are hurting, in a very polarized society. One idea mentioned is having married couples accompany engaged couples.

3. Importance of the laity: There were 365 voting members who met in working sessions six days a week from Oct. 4 to 28.

Several of the members were the laity. Synodality, they said, "values the contribution all the baptized make, according to their respective vocations," and thus "constitutes a true act of further reception of the (Vatican) Council." The synod report called for "more creativity in establishing lay ministries



FILIPPO MONTEFORTE, TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Pope Francis takes part in the opening session of the 16th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Oct. 4.

according to the needs of the local churches, with a particular involvement of young people."

Are there ways our diocese can be more creative in the involvement of lay people, especially young people?

4. Synthesis: After the synod discus-

sions, a 41-page synthesis was produced. It was broken up into three parts: 1) convergences; 2) matters for consideration; and 3) proposals that emerged from the

dialogue on issues discussed under the headings of synodality, communion, mission and participation.

5. Divergence: A topic discussed was the church could use more welcoming pastoral approaches, especially to people who feel excluded but also acknowledged fears of betraying church teachings and practices. One of the divergences stated, "if we use doctrine harshly and with a judgmental attitude, we betray the Gospel; if we practice mercy 'on the cheap,' we do not convey God's love."

6. We not I: One of the best articles on the synod came from someone who attended. He mentioned sitting with other people from different cultures and different ideas on the Church. However, everyone is one in Christ. He mentioned the best part for him was realizing it was "we not I." We are called to be in communion with one another.

7. Mission: The report said ultimately the purpose of synodality is mission. It stated, "As disciples of Jesus, we cannot shirk the responsibility of demonstrating and transmitting the love and tenderness of God to a wounded humanity."

8. Ongoing: The assembly's discussions set the stage for a

year-long period of reflection that will culminate in the second and final synod assembly in October 2024 on the same topic.

They Synod on Synodality is not something new, but might be different for some people. I kept going back to something Pope Francis discussed in his first encyclical, "The Gospel of Joy." He challenged the Church to be bold and creative in reassessing its approach to evangelization: "Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: 'We have always done it this way.'" Instead, the Holy Father proposes a culture of encounter and accompaniment, "standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be." With "patient expectation and apostolic endurance" the art of accompaniment "teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5)"

Come Holy Spirit.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

**GERALD
Vincke**
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



SPECIAL CONTENT

November is known as the Month of the Dead. In this issue, we feature stories on the topic.

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TIME TO CELEBRATE

Anniversaries evoke special memories.

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DIOCESE BRIEFS

NRRO announces fund

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) announces the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, scheduled in parishes throughout the Diocese of Salina on Dec. 9 and 10.

In 2022, parishioners contributed \$49,185.05 to the collection.

"We are privileged to support those who have dedicated their lives to tireless service, and we are immensely grateful for the continuing generosity of U.S. Catholic donors to this vital cause," said John Knutsen, director of the NRRO.

Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests — collectively known as women and men religious — have selflessly served for decades without significant financial compensation. However, due to escalating health-care costs, numerous U.S. religious communities face a substantial gap between their elderly members' needs and the financial resources available for their care. Many religious orders experience insufficient retirement savings.

The 2022 appeal demonstrated Catholics' tremendous generosity by raising \$27.6 million. These funds from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection provided financial assistance for retirement needs for 297 U.S. religious communities.

The NRRO coordinates the annual national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes financial assistance to eligible religious communities to help care for their aging members.

To address the deficit in funding among U.S. religious orders, the Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious collection in 1988.

The NRRO is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

For more information, visit retiredreligious.org, or contact Robin Cabral, Campaign Director, by phone at (508) 685-8899 or by email at robincabral@retiredreligious.org.

Statement on violence in Holy Land

WASHINGTON — In response to the escalating Israel-Hamas war, Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, renews his call for peace.

"The war in the Holy Land is playing out in real time before us with its mounting casualties, the growing humanitarian disaster, and the potential for violent

regional and international escalation. The Oct. 7 terrorist attacks of Hamas which initiated this war must be condemned. We renew the call for the release of hostages and protection of civilian populations. At the same time, we affirm continued efforts to allow humanitarian access, including corridors for those seeking safety, and urge Congress to provide support for relief efforts. As Pope Francis reminds the world, 'War is always a defeat; it is a destruction of human fraternity.'

"We continue to pray for the victims caught in this cycle of violence as well as the regional and international actors who are being drawn into the conflict. We must not grow weary of offering our prayers and support for peace and justice for all concerned. A lasting solution respecting the rights, needs and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians remains essential to these ends.

"With passions enflamed in our own communities, online and around the world, we must guard against any tendency to sow hatred against other people or faiths. As the Second Vatican Council teaches, 'The Church reproves, as foreign to the mind of Christ, any discrimination against men or harassment of them because of their race, color, condition of life or religion.'

"As Christians, we look to Our Lord and unite our prayers to those of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, who in his recent letter to his flock, recalls the words of Christ, 'In the world you will have tribulations, but take courage, I have conquered the world.' (John 16:33)"

The month of the dead

November is commonly known as the month of the dead, and the Church takes special care in remembering those who have died. First, there is All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and All Souls' Day (Nov. 2), which are annual days recognized by the universal Church to celebrate all the saints in heaven and to pray for all who have died.

Within the Diocese of Salina, each November, the priests of the diocese gather together to celebrate a special Mass in remembrance of all the deceased priests who have gone before.

In honor of this month, read a recap of the Mass for deceased priests, as well as commentary from two diocesan priests on different aspects of honoring and remembering the dead. Lastly, the most recent issue of *faith* magazine, which came out in early November, highlights the importance of a Catholic funeral Mass and honoring the dead. You can find the issue online: <https://salinadiocese.org/publications/>.

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

December

- 2** Year of Mercy, St. Francis
- 3** Year of Mercy, Bird City
- 5** Year of Mercy, Plainville
- 6** Year of Mercy, Stockton
- 8** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Chancery closed
- 10** Year of Mercy, Vincent
- 10** Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
- 17** Year of Mercy, Colby
- 19** Year of Mercy, Oakley
- 20** Year of Mercy, Angelus
- 25** Christmas, Chancery closed
- 26** Chancery closed
- 29** Seminarian Family Gathering and Runnin' Revs, Salina

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Priest reaches for new heights

In honor of Veterans Day (Nov. 11), read about Father Wolesky's involvement with Civil Air Patrol.

By KATIE HAMEL
THE REGISTER

While Father John Wolesky never served in the military, he was part of something special, other than the priesthood that is. For 15 years, Father Wolesky was a part of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

CAP serves as the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. It was formed during the earliest days of World War II, on Dec. 1, 1941, to mobilize the nation's civilian aviation resources for national defense service. It is an organization of citizen airmen who are committed to serving America.

Father Wolesky's involvement began in 1993. But his love of planes began long before that.

"I was always a tinker-er," Father Wolesky said. "I loved everything that ran and worked on a lot of different machines."

That fascination with machines attracted him to airplanes. But he learned to fly for practical reasons.

"I hate driving," he said. Father Wolesky grew up in Minnesota. He came to serve the Diocese of Salina in 1967, and he knew he wouldn't be able to make the long drive home from Kansas to Minnesota to see his family. So he found himself an instructor, bought a plane and learned how to fly.

"It took me a little longer to learn

how to fly since I was older. But I flew for 50 years," he said.

One day in 1993, while at the Salina airport, Father Wolesky was working on his airplane and stopped for a coffee break when he noticed a bunch of older guys in military fatigues. He walked over to visit with them and learned they were from all over Kansas and were conducting a practice search and rescue. This was his first encounter with CAP.

Father Wolesky told them he was a Catholic priest who could also fly airplanes, and they asked him to be their chaplain.

"All the trainings were on the weekends, so I couldn't attend because of Mass and my duties as hospital chaplain. But I went to what I could and did some flying for them," he said.

"It was a really fun group. I learned a lot about flying, and they learned about religion."

The group regularly met on Mondays for meetings, and Father Wolesky compares the meetings to his growing up years and his involvement with Boy Scouts. On the weekends, the group would work with middle school and high school aged children, training them on how to properly use radios, responding to transmissions as well as practice search and rescue flights. The kids who participated in the program were then able to bypass certain

training programs if they chose to join the Air Force. Father Wolesky did a little flying for them. He used his own airplane, and they gave him a little gas money in exchange.

But one of the best things about his involvement with CAP was the camaraderie.

"Once the youngsters were gone, us guys and gals would go to Tucson's, a good eating place in south Salina," he said. "We'd go there and sit around and have 99 cent beer. We'd sit around to talk. At first, I didn't have a whole lot to share.

Then when I listened to them, they were remembering the camaraderie of military and the memories of basic. And I realized I had six years of basic training ... in the seminary. We had uniforms and schedules and had to be at a certain place at a certain time. It was a great parallel between seminary and military. We were all taught discipline."

Father Wolesky was with CAP for 15 years, even serving as state chaplain at one point, and he has a lot of memories of his time. He laughs as he shares one memory when he was called to search for the source of an emergency transmission.

"I flew with a college kid. There was an emergency transmission. No one knew the source, but it was headed west," he said. "We found it near Wilson and then lost it again. By that time, we realized it was on

the interstate. We chased it all the way to the Colorado border before we got out of range and had to return. The Colorado Highway Patrol picked up the chase, and it turned out to be a balloon in the back of a semi trailer that had been bumped and was sending out the transmission."

Searching for transmissions happened fairly frequently, "but it was usually never serious."

Another group Father Wolesky was involved with was the National Association of Priest Pilots (NAPP). He, along with Father Alvin Werth and the late Father Merlin Kieffer flew to many of the meetings, trading off whose plane they would fly.

"Father Alvin was the president for a while, and I was the treasurer at one point," he said.

"This group of flying priests was like belonging to another diocese. We'd talk flying, but we talked about our parishes. Some were bishops, some were religious, some were from overseas."

While Father Wolesky no longer has his own airplane, and he doesn't fly as much — he does still fly.

"On a nice day when the weather is good, I'll go fly for a short distance or so," he said.

While he doesn't fly like he used to, Father Wolesky remains grateful for the friendships and experience he gained from his time in both the CAP and NAPP.



Wolesky

Bishop honored to celebrate Mass for deceased priests

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Bishop Jerry Vincke told the congregation at a recent Mass that "the best thing we can do for someone is to have a Mass offered for them."

That is one of the reasons why he said he feels honored to celebrate the annual Mass for deceased priests who served in the Diocese of Salina.

Seventeen priests joined Bishop Vincke at the altar of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina on Nov. 2 to celebrate the priests and bishops who have served the diocese since 1887.

As has become tradition, two priests — Father Dan Scheetz and Father John Wolesky — read all 199 names on the deceased list before the start of the Mass.

"When I hear those names every year, I think how one day I'm going to be on that list, and I think of you praying for us," Bishop Vincke said. "Think of all the Masses those priests offered every day. Today, we return



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Jerry Vincke prepares for communion during the special Mass on Nov. 2 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

the favor by offering one for them."

The most recent name added to the deceased list was Father Melvin Long, who died Aug. 17. Both he and his younger brother, Galen, served for many years in the diocese. Father Galen died in February 2012.

The Longs' youngest sister, Joyce Highland, and her husband, John, were able to make the trip from their home in Beloit for this year's Mass and were honored to bring up the gifts during the offertory.

Joyce talked about growing up as the youngest sibling (and only girl) in a

family of eight.

"My brothers sure took care of me, that's for sure," she said with a laugh.

Getting the opportunity to attend the Mass of celebration that included two of those brothers brought back good memories for Joyce.

She remembers Father Melvin being the first priest

ordained in his home parish of St. John the Baptist in Beloit after those ordinations had traditionally taken place in Rome.

"Our parents were making plans to travel to his ordination," she said, "and then we got word that it was going to be in Beloit."

Joyce laughed when recalling a surprise for her family when they learned that all the priests attending the ordination were coming to their house for a meal.

"We had to figure out something the morning of the ordination," she said. "We had to run to the store to get a lot of groceries."

Bishop Vincke talked about the diversity of those who have gone before us.

"They had different abilities and served a variety of ministries," he said. "Some served in bigger parishes, others in small, rural areas. I'd just like to thank all the priests for laying down their lives for us, their day-to-day faithfulness. May our brothers who have gone before us rest in peace."

Seeing anger turn to peace during Mass

At a Sunday Mass awhile back, I sat in my pew boiling mad. Who even knows what I was mad about, but I was mad. I sat holding little Ignatius who was blissfully unaware of my mood and kept smiling up at me, and next to Nathaniel, who was fully aware of my mood and wisely gave me my space. Plus, we were in Mass, so talking wasn't really an option.

I sat there feeling all the anger and through gritted teeth began to pray for the Holy Spirit to bring peace to my heart. When peace did not immediately envelop me, my anger turned into sadness. I was at Mass and my heart was seemingly the furthest it had ever been from peace and gratitude.

I began to wonder if I should refrain from receiving the Eucha-

rist. It had been a while since I had gone to confession, and my heart was hard that day, not exactly a welcome environment for Christ the King. I was truly unworthy.

As I reflected on my worthiness and lack thereof, I realized that even on my best days, even on the days when my heart is reverent, full of peace and gratitude, I am still truly unworthy to receive the Eucharist.

What a depressing thought. So then I started to go from anger to sadness to depression (all in about 15 minutes of internal conflict) because I would truly never be worthy. I would never be good enough. I should probably be refraining from the Eucharist at every single Mass.

But then, the Holy Spirit seemed

to whisper to my angry, sad, depressed heart.

"Mass isn't about you. It's about him."

With a start, I began to focus in on this new thought. Reflecting on my own unworthiness and littleness wasn't the point. Mass isn't about me and what I can do for God.

Mass is about God — the sacrifice of Christ, the gift of his body and blood. Mass is about his greatness and what he wants to do for me.

And he wants to give himself to me, completely and fully in the gift of the Eucharist. Even in my littleness and unworthiness, I am enough as I am.

Peace did enter my heart, and I did receive the Eucharist. The

graces of the Mass dispelled the anger from my heart, and I was grateful.

All this to say, the best thing to do in our darkest moments is to go to Jesus. Yes, we are all unworthy of him, but he wants us anyways.

P.S.: As a disclaimer, the Church teaches that if one is in the state of mortal sin one must refrain from receiving the Eucharist until after having gone to the sacrament of reconciliation. A mortal sin is defined as a grave matter and having been committed with full knowledge and full consent.

Katie

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

KATIE Hamel
CREATIVE EDITOR



Spanish language deacon formation in works

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Considering the growing population of Spanish speaking Catholics in the Diocese of Salina, Bishop Jerry Vincke has announced the inauguration of a program of study and formation for the eventual ordination of men whose primary language is Spanish to the permanent diaconate.

The program has been entrusted to Deacon Jorge Rivera, parishioner of Sacred Heart Cathedral and a deacon for the Salina Diocese for the past 10 years, as well as Father Rafael Indave Campos who recently arrived from Venezuela and is serving as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Father Rafael has been a priest for 31 years and recently earned a licentiate degree in canon law from Holy Cross University in Rome. Also serving on the team is Father Fred Gatschet, rector of the Cathedral who speaks Spanish, has been ordained more than 30 years and has spent all those years serving the Latino community in the diocese in some capacity or another in Hays and Salina.

"I am excited that we are starting a diaconate formation program for our Hispanic community. Our diocese is blessed with a growing Hispanic population, and the diaconate program will be another way for us to bring the good news of Jesus to them in the future," Bishop



COURTESY PHOTO

From right, Father Fred Gatschet, Father Rafael Indave and Deacon Jorge Rivera review Spanish language materials for the newly announced formation and education program.

Vincke said.

"I like the idea," said Deacon Rivera. "I won't feel bad anymore if I have to be gone."

"The deacon formation program for me was very difficult because of the language barrier. It seems to me that this program is necessary if we want to have more Spanish speaking deacons."

As would be expected, Deacon Rivera has had joyful and difficult experiences in his ministry.

"Being able to serve at the altar and do baptisms are great joys to me," he said. "(But) it is not easy being a leader in the Latino community as a deacon. There are a lot of demands on me, especially if the pastor does not speak Spanish. It was very difficult for me to get up in front of people and give a homily. I have had to work a lot on that."

Deacon Steve Frueh, Salina Diocesan director of deacons, sees the program as an opportunity to grow Catholic ministry in a

special way.

"There is a great need for deacons in the diocese who can speak Spanish," he said. "I would encourage any Spanish speaking man who believes he may have a vocation to apply for this program of studies and formation."

"Our English-speaking

deacons have certainly enriched the Church in our diocese over the past couple of decades," Father Gatschet said. "We have been aware for some time of a number of men from the Latino community who have expressed an interest in the diaconate, but the language barrier made their pursuing this vocation nearly impossible. The Spanish language program for deacon formation will follow the same course of studies as the English program with Father Rafael and myself doing most of the teaching."

Father Rafael observed: "It is a response from the Church to the need for formation and evangelization. God continues to call to those who generously want to respond to contin-

ue Christ's work of salvation in his Church."

Looking to the future, he noted, "We hope that this program of formation will be successful. The diaconate by its very essence is one of service and always under the direction of the bishop. The deacon serves as an ordinary minister of Holy Communion and the Word (proclaiming the Gospel at Mass and giving homilies) and fulfills a significant mission in the Church. This gives his ministry a singular importance in the organization and service of the Church and makes the deacon's ministry valuable and necessary."

After the initial contacts and interviews, classes and formation are expected to begin sometime in 2024.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE of SALINA

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9 DAY MARRIAGE NOVENA
WITH PRAYERS, REFLECTIONS & RECIPES

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Family Nights involve making and sharing a meal and playing a game or activity together. We will help with suggestions & have a special guest help us with recipes!

Step 2
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Join us from December 22nd to December 30th in praying the Novena for Marriage and Family. You will be joining families from all over the diocese in praying this together.

Step 3
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Ask the Holy Family to intercede for your family and all families worldwide.

Stay Tuned For More Information On How To Join Us For This Challenge!
We will have special guests provide recipes, game ideas, and activities that you can do with your family. We will also provide the prayers for each day of the Novena.
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Salina Diocese Office Of Family Life

2,617 interruptions

I was recently given a book suggestion by seminarian Luke Friess while recording our most recent Three Bald Guys podcast. The book is titled “The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry” by John Comer. I was instantly interested as I often feel hurried and stressed like so many.

One of the statistics that stood out to me was the average smartphone owner touches or interacts with their phone 2,617 times daily. The research also shows the average American with a smartphone is on the phone for two and a half hours daily. At first, I wanted to resist that number and say it was impossible. Then, I made the mistake of paying attention to myself during the day and didn’t like what I saw.

I noticed my phone was constantly in my hand, and I was constantly checking it. I sometimes checked it even when I didn’t have a notification. I was nervous I would miss a notification and the world might end if I didn’t respond fast enough.

I tried sitting it in the other room,

but all that did was turn into the best workout I had in months. I was constantly walking into the other room whenever I heard a notification. My steps were racking up almost as fast as my concern for myself and humanity.

The book has a line about how Satan doesn’t come to us today as a scary monster but simply as a notification during prayer. I began to notice how it seemed like the times when I was connecting to God either by thought or in active prayer were the times I always got a notification. That notification ripped me out of prayer and back into this world and all its worries. I remembered a time recently when I took my phone to Mass and felt the buzz of notifications as soon as Mass started. I remember being distracted and a mess because I couldn’t check what was happening.

I then remembered another line in that book. The author asked

what kind of life we would live if we connected to God 2,617 times daily. We would all be in a great place spiritually and living lives of peace. Spending that much time with Jesus would help us to be incredible disciples of his. It would transform our lives and the world.

So, I have two suggestions for myself, and all my fellow distracted notification

readers. First, let’s commit to saying a short prayer whenever we hear a ding,

buzz or ring. As the Psalms tell us, we can turn this Pavlovian impulse into a reminder to be constantly connected to God throughout our day. We can fill our day with short prayers for us, our families, others or the world. Let’s turn this possible distraction into a constant reminder to pray.

Second, let’s eliminate the phone when attending Mass, adoration, Scripture reading or prayer. Most of you are probably way ahead of me on this one, but I bet a few of

you struggle like I do with this. Let’s challenge each other to put our phones on silent and in another room to be fully present with God in those moments. If we do that, we can have deep, intimate conversations with God and eliminate Satan’s ability to interrupt those amazing moments.

I am not necessarily advocating you or I get rid of our phones. I know phones are great tools that help us do God’s work and connect with people. But I hope if this is a struggle in your life like mine, you will join me in taking these two challenges. Imagine what God can do in our lives as we better focus and connect to him without distraction.

I would suggest that as we start to fight these temptations together, we also commit to praying for each other as we undertake these tough challenges. God knows we will need some grace to detox from the notification fix.

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

BILL Meagher
DIOCESE OF SALINA



COURTESY PHOTO

These six men are in the process of preparing to be ordained permanent deacons. Recently, they were installed in the ministry of Lector. Front row from left, Timothy Donohoue, Daniel Wahlmeier and Bill Meagher. Back row from left, Deacon Steven Frueh, Harry Hardy, Bishop Jerry Vincke, Mark LaValley, Dave DiNuzzo and Deacon David Kisner.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

A special White Mass was held Oct. 22 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Salina.

Diocese celebrates White Mass

BY THE REGISTER

A White Mass for healthcare workers in the diocese was celebrated by Father Keith Weber on Oct. 22 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Salina.

Approximately 30 people were in attendance, with the majority being current or retired healthcare workers.

One attendee shared her nursing license lapsed more than 10 years ago after more than 60 years of being a nurse; however, her mindset of “once a nurse, always a nurse” remains.

Father Weber shared in his homily that when Jesus said “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and render unto God what is God’s,” that working in the ministry of healthcare is a way to return to God what belongs to him. God gave the gift of time to care for those

most in need, whether it’s 2 p.m. on a Tuesday or 2 a.m. on a Sunday. God also gave the gift of talent to understand the science of medicine and to use that knowledge to help others. God also gave the gift of treasures in the relationships developed with fellow associates and with patients to show the presence of a loving God in every encounter experienced in healthcare.

“Father Weber’s homily was beautiful,” said Tracey Biles, chief mission integration officer for Ascension Via Christi and a member of the board of directors for Salina Regional Health System. “His words helped renew my personal commitment and calling to serve in the ministry of healthcare and from the smiles on the faces of those around me, I believe many others felt the same way.”



JEREE HUGHBANKS, CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Bishop Jerry Vincke engages with the faithful during the Adoption Mass on Nov. 3 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. The special celebration was hosted by Catholic Charities in honor of Adoption Awareness Month.

Celebrating Christ as our King

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year (which will be Nov. 26), the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early 20th century, in Mexico, Russia and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI's encyclical gave Catholics hope and — while governments around them crumbled — the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever. Jesus Christ "is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind" (*Quas primas*, 7).

Christ's kingship is rooted in the Church's teaching on the Incarnation. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both the divine Lord and the man who suffered and died on the cross. One person of the trinity unites himself to human nature and reigns over all creation as the Incarnate Son of God. "From this it follows not only that Christ is to be adored by angels and men, but that to him as man angels and men are subject, and must recognize his empire; by reason of the hypostatic union Christ has power over all creatures" (*Quas primas*, 13).

The Church calls us to acknowledge Christ's kingship with our whole lives:

He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, 'as instruments of justice unto God.' — *Quas primas*, 33.

Today, religious freedom for many people means we can believe whatever we want in private, but when we enter the public square or the marketplace, we may not speak of anything that relates to our faith. However, the Church acknowledges the reign of Christ, not only privately, but publicly. This solemnity encourages us to celebrate and live out our faith in public. "Thus by sermons preached at meetings and in churches, by public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed and by solemn processions, men unite in paying homage to Christ, whom God has given them for their King" (*Quas primas*, 26).

For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life. When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

Jesus our bridegroom, fully given in the Eucharist

BY CODY MARINTZER

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

One day many of us will never forget is our wedding day. There was so much preparation to prepare us to give our beloved the permanent and total gift of ourselves. But what brought us to this point? At some point in our relationship, we were no longer satisfied with keeping our relationship in a perpetual state of dating. We knew the only way to fully give ourselves to the other person was to enter into the beautiful gift of the holy state of matrimony.

I remember on our wedding day (no matter what else was going on), what was always present in my mind was how close we were to being united in this sacred bond. I also remember one of the readings we chose as it is the one many people cringe at. We used Ephesians 5, which discusses submission. I remember it because our priest opened our eyes to the reality of these words of God and what they truly meant. (Thank you, Father Jason Borkenhagen.) Not the antagonistic, misogynistic view that many people mistakenly think St. Paul is espousing. Instead, the beauty of this reading taught us how to uphold one another in our God-given roles and sacrifice for the good of the other — to be under the mission of each other's salvation.

I will not go into a long explanation of St. Paul's writing, but I would like to offer some examples of how to sacrifice for the good of others. These would be the five love languages. Anyone who has been through Catholic Engaged Encounter or has been through marriage preparation has probably learned about them. They are the five ways people experience being loved by others. Your top two are the ones that are most dominant in your life. They are: 1. Acts of service. 2. Words of affirmation. 3. Gifts. 4. Quality time. 5. Physical touch. Something that is a hard lesson to learn is it is not actually about knowing your love language. This can be difficult because we can be selfish and want to focus on how our

spouse is or isn't speaking our love language. The real purpose of the exercise is to know your spouse's love language so you can build them up, which helps them see the love of Christ through your actions. I am not always the best at it, but my wife's day can go from pretty rough to a breath of fresh air if all I do is clean the bathrooms (pun intended).

So, what does this have to do with the Eucharist? We live in a very self-centered, self-absorbed world. But amidst all this, Christ gives us the ultimate example of sacrificial love in offering his very life for us. 1. He didn't wait for us to sacrifice first. Christ washes his disciple's feet and teaches us to do as he does. 2. He isn't sitting around complaining that he is the only one doing anything, waiting for someone to compliment him. He has given us his love letters (the Bible) so we may hear him speak to us daily and know how much he cares for us. 3. He doesn't count the cost. He just gives. Along with dying for us, he has made himself available in his gift of his body, blood, soul and divinity in his Eucharistic presence. 4. He waits for us to visit him (fully present) in any Catholic Church in the tabernacle and in adoration. 5. Jesus holds nothing back. He gives himself completely to us every time we receive him at Mass. No two people can be more intimately united than a purified soul receiving him fully present in the Eucharist.

Jesus has given us the perfect example of love and has invited us into this most amazing relationship with him. So, how are we entering into a relationship with Christ? Do we avoid conversation until we need something, or do we speak to him daily as we would our spouse? Do we begrudgingly sacrifice our time on Sunday to appease our God, or do we go to Mass knowing that receiving him in the Eucharist is the culmination of our relationship with him? Do we treat Mass like something we must do, or do we see it as our wedding day?

Tax Credits Increase to 75% for Catholic School Student Scholarships

BY KATIE PLATTEN



The State of Kansas tax credits have gotten even more valuable to Kansas taxpayers, making it easy to consider the gift

of a Catholic education as 2023 winds to a close.

The Scholarship Granting Organization for the Catholic Diocese of Salina (SGO) is a ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Salina that provides financial scholarships to students in 11 Catholic grade schools and 4 Catholic high schools across the diocese.

This program is helping to fund 96 new students across the diocese in 2023-2024 school year. Generous donors across the state are making this possible and getting a nice tax credit to boot.

Here's how the tax credits work: assuming that you can use all of the Kansas tax credit in one year (if not, it can be carried over for future years), your donation of \$10,000 would have a net cost to you of \$2,500, or \$10,000 minus the \$7,500 (75%) Kansas credit. Then, you could deduct the \$2,500 as a federal itemized deduction. It is a wonderful way to leverage your charitable donation and put children in Catholic schools!

The SGO was created in response to the 2014 Kansas legislation that introduced the tax credit for the Low-Income Student Scholarship Program. This program allows a donor to

contribute to the Scholarship Granting Organization and receive a generous tax credit. The SGO then turns these donations into tuition support for low-income students who wish to go to a Catholic school in our diocese.

Do note that the legislation established a \$500,000 maximum annual gift per taxpayer for receiving a Kansas income tax credit. The Salina fund established a minimum gift of \$1,000 to process a Kansas income tax credit. The Kansas Legislature

allocates \$10 million per year for this tax credit program. The state tax credits are issued on a first come, first served basis. Once the limit is reached, credits will be unavailable until the beginning of the next tax year.

If you are interested in 2023 tax credits and in creating a wonderful opportunity to help needy students and grow our Catholic school system, please contact Catholic Foundation staffer Laurie Trautwein or Katie Platten for more information.

Laurie.trautwein@salinadiocese.org or katie.platten@salinadiocese.org.



**CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**
FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA

Tax Smart Ways to Give

BY CORRINA HUDSONPILLAR

Supporting the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina in a tax-smart way allows you to make a charitable contribution while taking advantage of available tax deductions and benefits. While giving cash to a charity is sometimes the quickest, most convenient way to give, there may be other ways to maximize your charitable donation.



Each of these methods offers unique benefits over traditional cash donations, particularly in terms of tax efficiency and potential impact on your overall financial plan. We encourage you to consult with your financial advisor or tax professional to discuss which method is most suitable for you.

Regardless of the way you choose to support a cause that is important to you, such as the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina, it's a good idea to contact the charity that you are donating to so that they can be aware of the incoming gift and understand your intentions for it. They may have specific appeals or funds that you wish to support, and it will ensure they provide you with any necessary information such as the tax identification number for forms.

CONTACT THE CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION FOR DIOCESE
OF SALINA FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON WAYS TO
SUPPORT THE MISSION OF
THE DIOCESE.



HEATHER HARTMAN

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS



If you are over age 70.5, you may give a gift from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) as a tax-free distribution to a qualified nonprofit, such as the Diocese of Salina. Once you reach 73 years of age, you're required to start making withdrawals from your pre-tax retirement accounts -including your 401(k)s and IRAs. The minimum amount you are required to take out each year is called your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA counts towards your RMD for the year. The amount of your donation is not counted toward your taxable income, which may help you save on income tax.

To make a QCD, you'll have to fill out an IRA Charitable Distribution Form and submit it to the custodian of your IRA - or the institution that manages your account. The distribution must be made directly from the institution to the charity, such as the Diocese of Salina, to qualify as a QCD versus a regular RMD.

STOCK



Consider donating shares of appreciated stock - which are shares that have increased in value over the time that you've owned them. If you have held the asset for more than one year, you can deduct its full fair market value, regardless of what you originally paid for it. By donating stock, you can save on both capital gains tax and income tax. Because of these savings, your donation can be larger, making your gift go further than if you were to sell the stock and donate cash.

To donate stock, fill out a stock transfer form from your brokerage or the financial institution that manages your stock assets. You will indicate the stock you wish to donate and which charity you wish to donate it to.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS



If you have a donor-advised fund, you can give to the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina through that fund. This method lets you donate to a charity, get a tax break in the same year, and then suggest donations from the fund to back your chosen causes over time. With a DAF, your contributions can grow tax-free through investments, potentially providing extra funds to support the causes you care about. Using a DAF makes it convenient to support various organizations at your own pace.

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Why I don't like sympathy cards

BY FATHER NICK PARKER

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

It's not that I am against the concept of sympathy cards. In fact, in times of mourning, it is absolutely important to do what we can to console the sorrowful. The problem is I have found myself in the situation in which, time and time again, I am searching for a sympathy card for a friend or family member, and no matter how hard I try, I just can't find the right one. This is why I don't like sympathy cards.

Aesthetics

I will start with the most menial issue — the aesthetics. The general designs of the vast majority of sympathy cards are nice enough. Most often, one will find floral motifs or images of nature, including birds, butterflies and such. As lovely as they are, there does occasionally arise an issue. At the risk of stereotyping, and for lack of a better term, these designs mostly come across feminine.

I should be clear, there is nothing wrong with this — half the time. These designs, however, do not always speak to the male psyche. Again, I risk stereotyping here, but during times of mourning, men will frequently put on a brave face, strive to be a symbol of strength for others, and hide any display of grief. At the same time, though, men need to grieve as well. It might be helpful if more sympathy cards reflected this.

Poor theology

Having commented on the appearance, I now move on to the much more important topic of poor theology. Many sympathy cards will try to offer some sort of short reflection or consoling words. Yet it is almost impossible to do so without incorporating some sort of concept on the nature of death and mourning. Unfortunately, there are a number of ways in which the vast majority fall short.

1. Fixated on the past

In St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, he writes, "We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope" (1 Thes. 4:13). It is interesting how St. Paul offers this comment on those who have no hope. How do those without hope grieve? In essence, those without hope are helpless in the darkness of sorrow. There is nothing for them to do, except to wallow in the memories of the past.

This is actually one of the reasons why Catholics do not have eulogies at funeral Masses. Granted, there often is memory of the past to some extent. However, our primary purpose is not to

wallow in the memories of the past, as those without hope do. Instead, we look to the future. We look towards salvation. Nonetheless, it seems many sympathy cards do just that — wallow in the past. Using statements such as, "Hoping your memories bring you comfort," or "Wishing you strength as you think back on your memories," these phrases fail to offer true consolation.

Memories are important. They are treasures we should hold dear. Still, memories, in and of themselves, can never truly bring consolation, but by themselves, will only drag one further down into the darkness and misery of reliving all that is lost. It is only in the light of hope in eternal salvation that one will find comfort. It is only when memories are coupled with looking towards heaven that one can receive consolation.

2. Degradation of the human person

In sorrow and mourning, there are a number of phrases people find beautiful and enlightening. At the same time, we must always be careful such sayings avoid a degradation of the unique dignity of our loved ones.

A) Another angel in heaven. A common misconception is that, after death, humans turn into angels. In reality, this is not true. The truth is much greater. In the letter to the Hebrews, we read, "But to which of the angels has he ever said: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool?' Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:13-14). This passage clarifies that there is a distinct difference between humans and angels; this distinction is meant for all eternity.

Yet because of this, we see in the human person a dignity all its own. When sentimental sayings indicate we become anything other than human, this degrades the human person. Our hope for our friends and family is not that, in the Heavenly Kingdom, they are transformed into "something else." Instead, we wish for them to live forever in the fullness of who they are meant to be. We don't want to learn to love another creature, but we wish to love our dearly departed for who they truly are. This is the joy of living the fullness of our humanity in heaven.

B) They live on in you. Some of these phrases revolve around ways, outside of God, the person will live on. Sympathy cards will state, "They continue to live in all they have done," or combining the previous topic, "They will always live in the memories you cherish." One of the more common themes is, "They live on in you."

As nice as these sentiments

might seem, questions arise, "But what happens when their deeds are forgotten. What happens when I am no longer here to continue their legacy? If they live on in these earthly things, when these earthly things are gone, does that mean our loved ones are gone forever?"

Although we do hope our loved ones will make an impact in our lives and in the world around them, we must make sure there is a distinction between the impact and the persons themselves. Death on Earth is not the end of life itself. We do hope our loved ones will live on, but not in their deeds, nor in the lives and memories of their loved ones, but as their own unique, individual selves.

3. Canonization of the deceased — the heresy of universalism

Many cards, including Christian cards, will try to console with phrases about our loved one already in heaven. This is absolutely our hope and desire, to be forever with God in heaven. Still, such an immediate assumption in reality is not necessarily true. The notion all people will go to heaven is known as the heresy of universalism. Taking faith and salvation for granted can become detrimental to the faith and become quite harmful to the soul!

Several scripture passages speak of only the sinless entering into the Kingdom of Heaven (Psalm 24:3-14 and Rev. 21:7 for example). If this is the case, there is very little hope for any of us. Yet coupling this notion with Scripture passages referring to Purgatory (2 Mac 12:39-46 and Matt. 5:25-26) and the salvific work of Christ, we still have hope for salvation.

With this, we are still called to pray and atone for the sins of loved ones, hoping they will be welcomed quickly into the heavenly kingdom. In fact, this is the primary purpose of the funeral liturgy itself. There have been many statements and reflections from saints on the necessity of praying for the souls in purgatory, and how sad it is that there are many souls still in purgatory because they have no one to pray for them.

Therefore, as great and joyful an image it may be for our loved ones to already be in heaven, we must take caution to not be so presumptuous with their salvation. If we want our loved ones to be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom, we must continue to do our part in praying and atoning for the sake of their salvation.

The ideal sympathy card

Once again, the purpose of this article was not to state

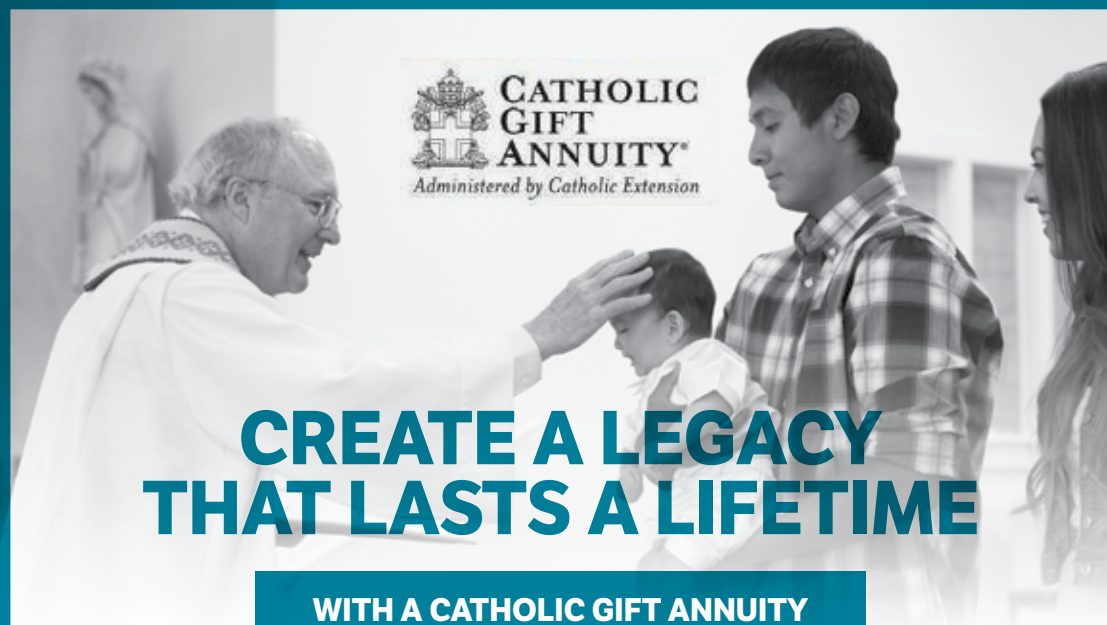
why sympathy cards are bad, but rather why so many miss the mark. There are some good ones out there, though. What would the ideal sympathy card look like?

First, although this is the lowest of priorities, it would be nice if there was a greater variety in the design as a whole, offering images that may be sentimental, but appeal to women and men in various stages of life.

Second, simple is often the best. In reality, during times of grief and mourning, not much needs to be said. A kind "Condolences" or "You and your loved one are in my prayers" can be all that is needed to give great comfort and consolation.

Finally, if there are any other messages, they should be messages of hope. Throughout this article, special care has been made to refer to hoping or looking forward to the resurrection; not a single phrase, however, has guaranteed it. We need to continue to live as people of hope. We hold onto the great worth and dignity of each person who has gone before us, we entrust them to the Lord, and we continue to offer what we can in hope of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father Nick Parker is the pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.



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	65-69	5.4-5.8%	
	70-74	5.9-6.4%	
	75-79	6.6-7.4%	
	80-84	7.6-8.5%	
	85-89	8.7-9.5%	
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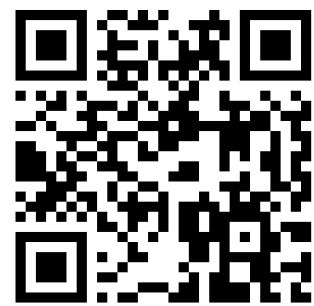
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
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#iGIVECATHOLIC

#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

Colby

Sacred Heart Grade School

Diocese of Salina

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
Communications and Publications Drive
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Office of Youth Ministry
Seminarian Education Fund

Ellis

St. Mary Church and School

Hanover

St. John's Grade School

Hays

Comeau Catholic Campus Center
Holy Family Elementary
St. Joseph Parish
Thomas More Prep - Marian
Jr/Sr High School

Junction City

St. Francis Xavier Parish
St. Francis Xavier School

Manhattan

Manhattan Catholic Schools
Seven Dolors Parish
St. Isidore's Catholic Student
Center

St. Thomas More Parish

Oakley

St. Joseph School

Plainville

Sacred Heart Grade School

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

Visit Salina.iGiveCatholic.org

Anniversaries evoke precious memories

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Some mentioned the solemnity of the Mass. Others talked about Bishop Jerry Vincke's homily, where he talks about the parable of the wedding feast. And all will surely remember the personal greeting from the bishop.

Nearly 100 couples with milestone wedding anniversaries in the Diocese of Salina were honored at Masses in Salina and Hays this year.

Couples who are celebrating anniversaries for their first through fifth year — and every five years thereafter — can register for one of the masses.

This year's contingent of anniversaries ranged from first to 71st, with nearly 20 of those celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries.

Couples were able to choose between the two dates and locations, and they often attend the one closest to their hometown.

However, John and Dorothy Moeder from Hays, who celebrated their 60th anniversary this summer, decided to attend the Salina event because they met several members of their family there.

It was a multi-occasion celebration for the Moeders as John's 80th birthday fell on the exact day of the Mass in Salina on Oct. 15, and Dorothy turned 80 eight days later. About a dozen family members were in attendance, then joined the couple for dinner at a local restaurant.

It was the first diocesan anniversary Mass the Moeders had attended, and Dorothy said she talked her husband into going after running across the notice in their parish bulletin at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Following the Masses, Bishop Vincke asks each couple how they met and chats with them after handing them a certificate and taking a photo with them.

The question evoked fond memories, Dorothy said. She and John met in high school at Schoenchen and had their first date the fall semester of their senior year.

Dorothy was a cheerleader and Don played basketball for the Schoenchen Bluejays.

"I watched exactly where I had to run after the game," she said with a laugh.

The Moeders have been together since.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Jerry Vincke hosted two special Masses recently to celebrate anniversaries in the diocese.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Participants at the event pray.

"I have been very blessed," Dorothy said. "God provided a good husband for me."

Another couple that chose the Mass the longer distance from their home were Robert and Beth Rut from St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover, who celebrated their golden jubilee July 13.

Beth said the date for the Hays Mass worked better in their schedule, and they have

fond memories of the three-hour trip to Hays. Hanover basketball teams played at the Class 1A state high school basketball championships several years when that tournament was in Hays, and their son was a member of some of those teams.

The Ruts were one of 60 couples that signed up for the Hays event, which was celebrated at St. Nicholas of



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Nearly 100 couples celebrated the Mass.

Myra Church.

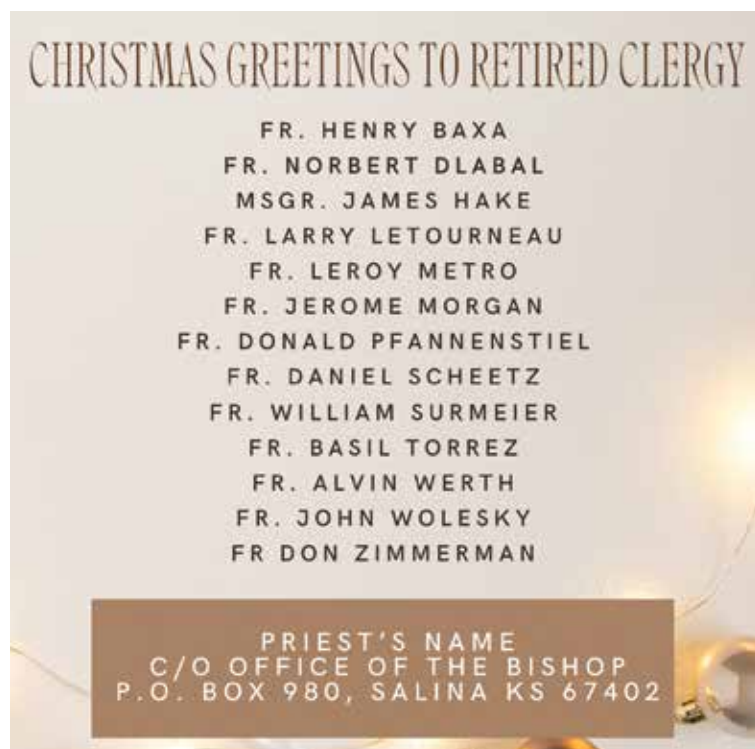
Andrew and Emalee Taylor did not know about the Mass until after Andrew — who plays piano for St. Nicholas music — was scheduled to play for the anniversary Mass.

The Taylors, celebrating their fifth anniversary this year, were amazed with the length of some of the marriages, which was topped by

Cletus and Mildred Klaus from St. Joseph Parish in Hays, who are celebrating their 71st anniversary in 2023.

They also were impressed with the bishop's diligence.

"The bishop knew a little about every couple when they came up; he really did his homework," Andrew said. "He made it so personal. You can tell he is so sincere."



CROSSWORD

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1 Divide

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10 Omelette need

14 Uneven

15 Mongolian desert

16 Helen of __

17 Chest

18 Little Mermaid’s love

19 Tiny body part

20 Excuse

22 Hot beverages

24 Samuel’s mentor

25 Marry secretly

27 Perilous

29 NT book before James

32 Genetic code

33 Winter hazard

34 Dapper

37 American state

41 KJV pronoun

43 Constellation

44 Plague of Egypt

45 Male children

46 Electronic mail

48 Day of the week (abbr.)

49 Cooking tool

51 Morning star

54 What’s fashionable

56 Large religion
- 57 Reverence

58 Last word of a prayer

60 Fundamental particle

64 Love

66 Pixies

68 Debonair

69 Leg joint

70 Flightless birds

71 Tapestry

72 Shriek

73 Satiated

74 Spools
- DOWN**

1 Southeast by east

2 Proximo abbr.

3 Misplace

4 Chemical compound

5 Sacred building

6 Maturity

7 Cake

8 Off-Broadway award

9 Borders English Channel

10 And so forth

11 Biblical word for Gentile

12 Gosh!

13 Monetary unit

21 Small city

23 Transgression

26 Hymn of praise
- 28 First king of Israel

29 Wallops

30 Reverberate

31 Was

35 British drink

36 Labors

38 Row

39 Land measurement

40 Successor

42 Catch sight of (KJV)

46 Love your __

47 Calm

50 Wing

52 Roman emperor

53 Contaminated

54 Unclean animals

55 Word written on the wall (Daniel)

56 Data

57 Alcoholic

59 Austin novel

61 Biblical weed

62 Elliptical

63 Loch __ monster

65 Conger

67 South southeast

Answers on Page 14

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

The seventh annual World Day of the Poor was Nov. 19. Pope Francis issued a message calling for all faithful to do even more in service of the poor. You can read the full text here: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/20230613-messaggio-vii-giornata-mondiale-poveri-2023.html>.

Below is an excerpt from his message.

“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tob 4:7). These words help us to understand the essence of our witness. By reflecting on the Book of Tobit, a little-known text of the Old Testament, yet one that is charming and full of wisdom, we can better appreciate the message the sacred writer wished to communicate. We find ourselves before a scene of family life: a father, Tobit, embraces his son, Tobias, who is about to set out on a lengthy journey. The elderly Tobit fears that he will never again see his son, and so leaves him his “spiritual testament.” Tobit had been deported to Nineveh and is now blind, and thus doubly poor. At the same time, he remains always certain of one thing, expressed by his very name: “The Lord has been my good.” As a God-fearing man and a good father, he wants to leave his son not simply material riches, but the witness of the right path to follow in life. So he tells him: “Revere the Lord all your days, my son, and refuse to sin or to transgress his commandments. Live uprightly all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of wrongdoing” (4:5).

2. We see immediately that what the elderly Tobit asks of his son is not simply to think of God and to call upon him in prayer. He speaks of making concrete gestures, carrying out good works and practicing justice. He goes on to state this even more clearly: “To all those who practice righteousness give alms from your possessions, and do not let your eye begrudge the gift when you make it.”

Immigration topic of event

By DEANNA KYMER
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”
Matthew 25:35

Many are familiar with this scripture, but are we ready to apply it to our everyday life as American citizens? The Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia welcomed people from around the country to a day of information on the sometimes controversial subject of immigration. The goal was to educate in a non-political, fact-based manner.

A Zoom presentation from Alyson Ball kicked off the day. Although Ball is a resident of Charlottesville, Va., she spends her winters in Arizona, only 30 miles from the U.S. southern border with Mexico. This geographical placement inspired her to learn more about current laws and regulations on immigration.

Ball said some of the different types of temporary visas immigrants can apply for include family, professional, diversity and humanitarian visas. All have a defined process that must be followed to be approved. Many immigrants have the misconception the U.S. has an “open border.”

Ball said the process for approval for any type of visa can be delayed, adding even more obstacles for the immigrants who try to follow the proper protocol to be allowed to stay in the country, even temporarily.

Ball left the crowd with a list of resources to keep up on policies and government data on the status of courts and detention. The National Immigration Forum provides a daily update on immigration issues. The Migration Policy Institute provides analysis, development and evaluation of migration and refugee policies at local, national and international levels, according to their website at www.migrationpolicy.org. There’s even a “Green Card Game” on the Cato Institute’s website at www.thegreencardgame.com. The game will allow Americans to see what it’s like to try to get a green card or permanent residence in the U.S.

The second presenter of the day was Rosey Vogan, a former Kansas resident. Since 1999, her home base is

Minneapolis, Minn. Vogan has been doing humanitarian aid and work mainly on the southern border with Mexico since 2017. One of the groups Vogan is a part of is Grannies Respond, a group that has come together with the vision “that all immigrants and asylum seekers are treated with respect and dignity as they seek refuge and asylum in the United States.” They work to help people reach their sponsors in the United States.

Vogan shared personal experiences with different people whom she has tried to help. People who are trying to escape circumstances of violence, climate change and extreme poverty.

The final speaker of the day was the founder of Annunciation House, a non-profit organization that sustains a network of shelters, facilities and services for migrants in El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico. Ruben Garcia was born in El Paso, a border community. Early in his life, he and his family would go back and forth across the border as a daily event.

“Immigration is not about the border,” Garcia said. “It has to do with what’s happening in our own backyards and with our families and neighbors.”

He urged attendees to speak with their neighbors, not to debate or change their minds, but to understand where they are coming from.

Garcia also shared his experiences with people who have been brutalized trying to cross the border. Annunciation House is often contacted to help victims of violence recover. They host guests with short to mid-term needs who stay for weeks or months. The service offered is to those most in need and to those who cannot be assisted by existing programs, agencies or offices. Garcia believes many buy into the idea that all refugees are dangerous.

“One idea that is non-negotiable across different religions such as Jewish, Christian and Muslim is from Matthew 25:35; ‘I was a stranger and you welcomed me.’ I am asking you to look at how you stand at the foot of the cross,” Garcia said.

To learn more about Annunciation House, visit the website at www.annunciationhouse.org.

A chapter ends, but mission continues

BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

In August, Eric Frank, the first director of development for Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas, announced his retirement, effective Oct. 31. He has been an integral part of the Catholic Charities mission for nearly 13 years, and he has been a driving force behind the organization's growth and success. Frank recently reflected on his time at Catholic Charities.

What motivated you to take on the role of Catholic Charities' first director of development 13 years ago?

That was a long time ago. I felt this was an opportunity from God and a new direction he wanted me to go. I prayed about it and talked to my pastor and two other people I looked up to. My initial goals were to see how far we could go, give it all I could, and see what God wanted to do.

How have your own personal values and beliefs influenced the way you approached your role, especially considering your strong faith?

God is my first priority, and I want to get as close to him as I can each day. I can't possibly go wrong with that mindset. That is what I think about most and do my best to do what is right.

Can you share some of the most significant achievements and milestones you've accomplished?

First of all, getting a database up and going was monumental, then getting professional-looking brochures, tablecloths and banner displays. Some milestones include growing the Green Tie Celebration and establishing a match; establishing a match for the Annual Appeal; receiving the three vans for the

outreach program; looking for and finding a new location for the Salina office; relocating the Manhattan office; and now working on the development of the new Hays location.

Reflect on any challenges you encountered and how you overcame them to achieve success.

I can't think of any one challenge that was bad or devastating. To overcome them, ask God to help you and never give up. It's never too late to make a goal; maybe it's just one more call or email or letter to the right donor. You never know how God is going to answer your prayer. The work we do is not ours but God's — we just work for him.

What have been the most memorable fundraising campaigns or projects you've been a part of?

One of the most memorable campaigns was the 60th anniversary to raise \$60,000 in 60 days with a \$60,000 match. The other most memorable was the appeal we used during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a handwritten letter asking for \$37 to help cover the cost of a food box and hygiene kit to provide emergency assistance. Both of these were extremely successful.

Can you share a specific moment that stands out as the most heartwarming experience you had while working at Catholic Charities?

I remember helping a grandfather at the front desk in the old building across from the Chancery. He was on a bicycle and had his granddaughter with him. She was maybe 2 years old, and he sat her up on the counter. They came in for a few food items. He didn't want much — we could have given him more food, but he couldn't carry it. He took just enough that he could carry it with him in a small sack and still ride home with his grand-

daughter on the bike somehow. I have always remembered that and thought that he was doing all he could do to make life a little better for them that day.

Were there any unexpected friendships you formed while working at Catholic Charities that enriched your experience?

Oh yeah, all of the donors that I met and got to know have enriched me as a human being and blessed me with their kindness, time and their example of helping others with their financial means and volunteering. They have all blessed me. Just thinking about them is humbling. All of these people care enough to give their hard-earned money to help someone else and most of them will never see or meet any of these families in trouble that they help. They have faith in us and trust that we will use their donation the best we can.

What is a particularly proud or fulfilling achievement where you felt that you made a significant difference in someone's life or in the community?

Working for Catholic Charities, along with my previous jobs in the nonprofit world, has been very fulfilling when you think about the results and how much progress we've made. It's rather gratifying to have people I know tell me about something I did to help them or that I did something that changed their life, and I don't even remember doing it. I'm most proud of my children, they are tremendous adults living life.

As you retire, is there a piece of advice that you'd like to pass on based on your experiences?

If it's important, don't ever leave God out of the planning. Sincerely ask God and pray that he will guide and bless what you are trying to accomplish — and be patient. Don't neglect

nutrition. Exercise, and stay in shape. Read important books like the Bible and pray. "If you fight for your limitations, you get to keep them."

How do you plan to spend your retirement, and are there any personal or professional goals you have for this next phase of life?

The first thing is to help my dad. His health is declining, but he's OK for now. I have a long list of things I want to accomplish, but I want to stay open to anything that God may have in mind and that will likely take patience and just being still. On the other hand, I find motivation in a line from the movie Shawshank Redemption, "Get busy living or get busy dying."

What is the legacy you hope to leave behind within the organization?

I always wanted the relationship of any donor to continue long after I'm gone. The relationship is not necessarily with me but with the organization. I don't want them to leave just because I do. It's the work — the mission — that's important, not me. And here's the thing: Our mission isn't stopping here. My last day, Oct. 31, marks the end of one chapter but the beginning of something new. So, I'd love for everyone to help me make an impact that will last long after my retirement party. Instead of traditional retirement gifts, I'm requesting support for renovating the new Hays building. And a generous donor has pledged a \$5,000 matching gift opportunity, which means all contributions will have double the impact. I can't thank everyone enough for the friendships, the support and the shared commitment to our mission. Your generosity, compassion and spirit have made a world of difference.

To make a gift in honor of Eric's retirement, visit www.ccnks.org/ericgift or mail donations to *Eric's Retirement Campaign*, c/o Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas, P.O. Box 1366, Salina, KS 67402-1366.



Frank

Allen takes over development of Charities

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Catholic Charities introduces Jessica Allen as the new director of development. With her unwavering passion for service and community, Catholic Charities is confident Allen will continue to build on the legacy of her predecessor, Eric Frank, who retired Oct. 31 after 13 years with the organization. Allen, a dedicated Catholic Charities ambassador since 2021, brings a wealth of experience and passion for service to her role.

"I'm thrilled to be part of the Catholic Charities family as the new director of development. It's an exciting new chapter, and I can't wait to work alongside the incredible donors, volunteers and staff here," Allen said. "Together, we'll continue to serve the wonderful families of northern Kansas, making a real, positive impact. I'm eager to connect

with our supporters and build on the strong foundation laid by my predecessor, Eric Frank."

With a bachelor of science degree in sociology and a minor in business from Kansas State University, her professional journey includes significant contributions to Salina Regional Health Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Greater Salina Community Foundation. Beyond her professional achievements, Allen has also demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to community service. For the past 15 years, she has been a dedicated volunteer with the Love, Chloe Foundation, embodying the spirit of philanthropy and compassion. Alongside her husband Matt and their four daughters, she also actively participates in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Parish in Salina.

"We are thrilled to wel-

come Jessica Allen as our new director of development. Her dedication to service, coupled with her impressive professional background, makes her an invaluable asset to our organization," said Megan Robl, executive director. "We look forward to the remarkable achievements and positive changes she will undoubtedly bring to our community."

Allen officially started her

role Oct. 9 and is set to work closely with the organization's supporters, learning from her predecessor's legacy and steering Catholic Charities toward new heights.



Allen

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Preparing for Advent

HOLY CROSS SHRINE

By **SISTER ANN SHIELDS**
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Each Sunday of Advent is a chance to reorient ourselves to the coming light of Christ. Use this weekly guide each Sunday of Advent to help you pray all throughout the season.

First Sunday of Advent

In this first week of Advent, let us focus on preparing our hearts and souls for the great feast of Christmas. We are, in a certain way, invited to the celebration of his birthday as we attend Midnight Mass or the Mass on Christmas morning. In Christ, there is no time barrier or limitation — we are not celebrating an anniversary. We are celebrating the real moment of Christ's birth. So we want to come prepared to celebrate. From a spiritual perspective, are my clothes dirty? Does anger or hatred, bitterness or jealousy soil the garment of my soul? Do addictions of any kind blind or deafen me to the voice of God? From what do I need to repent? What gift of myself will I give him this Christmas? Take some time — real time, not just a moment — and ask God what gift of yourself you could offer him this Christmas that would help you to be more his son or daughter, more his disciple. Take time this week to reflect.

Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist went before Christ to announce his coming and to help prepare those who would listen to be ready to receive him. Each of us is called, too, to prepare the way for the Lord coming anew into our heart. How do we do that? This week, think about whether your life reflects the truth that you belong to Christ. By your thoughts, words and actions, do you help prepare others to receive the Gospel in some needed area of their lives? How do we do that? St. Josemaria Escriva said this in a homily:

We have to act in such a way that others will be able to say, when they meet us: This man/woman is a Christian ... because he/she is willing to make sacrifices, because he is a man/woman of peace, because he/she knows how to love. (Christ Is Passing By, p.122)
Use this week to focus on your relationships

and on how you treat the stranger on the street, or in the store. Receive the mercy of God; give it to others.

Third Sunday of Advent

In this week, let us return to look at ourselves and ask, "How pure is my heart?" All of us have, unfortunately, taken on so many of the world's values and priorities: money, sex, power, appearance and material goods are too often used as the basis for setting personal goals. They can blind us to the true values: Read Matthew 15:1-20. Read it right now. These false values and others like them can render our souls unclean. When that happens, we can't "see" the beauty of Christ in our world and through others. We become deaf to his voice calling us to draw nearer to him. Read the passage from Matthew every day this week and ask God to enlighten you, to bring you freedom and give you the courage to embrace the values of Christ himself — one at a time over the next year. But start now — this Advent — with setting one new goal in life.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

We come to the fourth Week of Advent and I know things can get very busy. Preserve the time with Christ every day this week. You can, if you have made it a real priority. While it is not a full week, God's grace and mercy are not limited by time or by days. He has no limits, yet he waits for you to come to him! Take these last five days of Advent and draw near to the Blessed Mother, who waits to give birth to her Son. Remember, there is no limit on time and seasons with God: he is the eternal now. All the grace available at the first Christmas for those who came to worship him is there for you now. Each of these five days, come to the Blessed Mother and ask her to pray for you that you might be able this Christmas to kneel at the crib and say, as Mary did at the Annunciation: "Be it done unto me according to Thy Word." Sometimes, fear strikes us when we try to pray this way because we think, "I am not good; I am not holy." But we can't let this thought excuse us from praying such a prayer. All we need to do on our part is tell God this is what we want to do — surrender to his will, as Mary did.



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, THE REGISTER

Holy Cross Shrine in Pfeifer celebrated a special Mass on Sept. 14 to celebrate the feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The church was dissolved more than 30 years ago but remains open to visitors and for weddings and funerals. Recently, \$15,000 was donated from this year's Tour die Kapellen event and will be used as seed money for the church's window restoration. The church, located 10 miles south of Victoria, is open from 8 a.m. until sunset every day. Anyone wishing to schedule a tour can call Janice Seib at (785) 623-7955. Donations can be sent to Allen Roth, 1313 Steven Dr., Hays, KS, 67601. For general use or inquiries, contact Jerry Dreiling at (785) 650-3863 or St. Fidelis Basilica, Victoria, at (785) 735-2777.

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BAPTISMS

Juana Esmeralda Esteban Antonio, daughter of Juan and Marta Esteban, was baptized Oct. 15 by Father Joseph Kieffer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Concordia.

Michael Dustin Brannam, son of Dustin and Michelle Brannam, was baptized Oct. 1, 2023, by Father Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Wren Violet Burks and Isla Jane Burks, daughters of Brady and Andrea Burks, were baptized Oct. 15, 2023, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Mankato.

Magdalena Kateri Cadena, daughter of Santiago and Haley Cadena, was baptized Sept. 17, 2023, by

Father Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist in Beloit.

Eli Jerone Deverman, son of James and Shayna Deverman, was baptized Oct. 15, 2023, by Father Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Brooks Thomas Giller, son of Matthew and Jodie Giller, was baptized Oct. 22, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Collins Lea Giller, daughter of Matthew and Jodie Giller, was baptized Oct. 22, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Grayson Barry Giller, son of

Thomas and Mackenzie Giller, was baptized Oct. 22, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Maddux Jack Pfeifer, son of Cole and Lanie (Schmidt) Pfeifer, was baptized Oct. 22, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Brett Anthony Ptacek, son of Doug and Kelsi (Ihrig) Ptacek, was baptized Oct. 15, 2023, by Father Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary, Queen of Angels Parish in Russell.

Eli Nicholas Schartz, son of Michael and Beth (Augustine) Schartz, was baptized Oct. 8, 2023, by Father Richard Daise at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Kimber Holly Sibley, daughter of Ryan and Holly Sibley, was baptized by Father Joseph Kieffer at St. Peter Catholic Church in Aurora.

Annabella Rose Soto, daughter of Oscar Ivan Soto and Marie Therese Seybert, was baptized Oct. 15, 2023, by Father Henry Baxa at St. Edward Church in Belleville.

Rylee Mae Wiemers, daughter of Stephen and Megan Wiemers, was baptized Oct. 7, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Evenlynn Marie Windholz, daughter of Tyler and Melanie (Flax) Windholz, was baptized Oct. 21, 2023, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

WEDDINGS

Kyle Jones and Christy Moeder were married Oct. 21, 2023, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Bishop Gerald Vincke witnessed the vows. Mother of the groom is Candy Jones. Parents of the bride are John and Amy Moeder. Witnesses were Trystan Bingham and Jill Moeder.

Brandon Clay and Katelyn Dinkel were married Oct. 14, 2023, at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays.

Father Nick Parker witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Lindsey and Peggy Clay. Parents of the bride are Christopher and Kim Dinkel. Witnesses were Ryan Corkill and Joslyn Dinkel.

Blaine Burks and Porsche Cooper were married Oct. 14, 2023, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Eric and

Deidra Burks. Parents of the bride are Bruce and Melody Cooper. Witnesses were Derek Bogner and Allie Hayfliger.

Jaden Baxa and Torie Williams were married Oct. 14, 2023, at St. Edward Church in Belleville. Father Henry Baxa witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Kenneth Baxa and Penny Jernigan. Parents of the bride are Richard Williams and Heather

Goodwin.

Blake Perez and Sarah Greenwood were married Oct. 7, 2023, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade

witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Tony and Stacy Perez. Parents of the bride are James and Becky Greenwood. Witnesses were Garrett Mishler and Katie Hamel.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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PRAYER INTENTIONS

The Holy Father entrusts the Apostleship of Prayer to publicize his prayer intentions for the good of the world and the Church.

Pope's prayer intention for December

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs

which value their active participation.

Diocesan prayer intention for December

We pray for all persons suffering from war. May God hold them in his loving arms and give them the protection and strength they need. Lord, grant wisdom to all our world leaders and guide them in their efforts to seek peace.

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DEATHS

Connie Victoria Albers, 35, died Sept. 24, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 3 at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo. Father Vincent Thu Laing and Father Joshua Werth presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in New Almelo.

Gertrude Begler, 82, died June 19, 2023. Funeral Mass

was celebrated Oct. 23 in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided.

Mary Corah, 78, died Sept. 18, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 9 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Father Frank Coady presided. Inurnment in Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan.

Douglas Daugherty, 74, died Sept. 1, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 6 at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in Scottsville Cemetery.

Dolores Marie (Schmitt) Deneault, 94, died Oct. 23, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 30 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Concordia. Father Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Bernard Wayne Duskie, 89, died Aug. 4, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 21 at Ss. Peter and Paul Catho-

lic Church in Cawker City. Father Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Cawker City.

Patricia "Pat" Eilert, 69, died Sept. 4, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 13 at Snapp-Bearden Funeral Home and Crematory in Branson, Mo. Father Andrew Rockers assisted with the burial. Burial in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

Johanna Gnad, 93, died Oct. 8, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 14 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Christopher John Groff, 52, died Sept. 25, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 13 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Eileen R. Meyer, 98, died Sept. 2, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 28 at St. Edward Church in Belleville. Father Joseph Kieffer presided. Interment of ashes in St. George Cemetery in Munden.

Ronald "Ron" Lee Randall, Jr., 53, died Oct. 9, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 18 at Yorgensen-Meloen-Londeen Funeral Chapel in Manhattan. Deacon Buzz Harris presided. Burial in St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery in Wamego.

Duane Edwin Riedel, 69, died Aug. 11, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 20 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Burial in Veterans Cemetery in WaKeeney.

Shirley Ann Schmidt, 84, of Catharine, died Sept. 17, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 21 at St. Catherine Church in Catharine. Father Earl Befort presided. Burial in St. Catherine Cemetery in Catharine.

Amelia Fueser-Scraper, 85, died Aug. 29, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 5 at Roberts Family Funeral Home in Beloit. Father Andrew Rockers presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

Wilma Catherine Unrein, 91, of Hays, died Oct. 7, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 13 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nick Parker presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Kenneth Wagner, 82, died Oct. 8, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 12 at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Father Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Boniface Cemetery in Tipton.

Donald J. "Don" Waldschmidt, 80, of Hays, died Aug. 10, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 16 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Father Richard Daise presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

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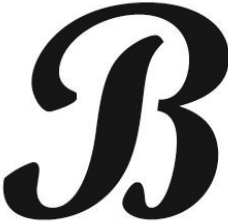
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Treating the deceased with respect, reverence

BY FATHER ANDREW ROCKERS
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

It might surprise many to learn the Catechism of the Catholic Church discusses the burial of the deceased in the section on the 10 Commandments, specifically in the article on the fifth commandment. It makes sense however when we realize that the fifth commandment, "You shall not kill," also encompasses the respect that is due to every human person, certainly while alive, but also after death. For the human body is an integral and essential part of the human person. As human persons, we are not our body or our soul by themselves, but our body and soul united as one. It is for this reason that the Church treats the body of the deceased with respect and reverence. "The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. ... it honors the children of God who are temples of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 2300).

As the Catechism mentions as well, it is also in light of the Resurrection and our baptism that burying the dead takes on a specifically Christian meaning. "Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life" (Rom 6:3-4). By our baptism we are united with Christ in his death and burial, while we await in faith and hope the day we will be united with him in his resurrection from the tomb. We bury the deceased as a sign and pledge of this hope. A hope that will be fulfilled at the second coming of Christ and the resurrection of the body.

Finally, the Catechism reminds us our bodies have been made temples of the Holy Spirit and therefore have been dedicated to God's honor and glory. We have been adopted as his children through baptism and become his dwelling place. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body (1 Cor. 6:19-20). This does not cease to be true when we have died, for our

bodies will be resurrected by God to glorify him for all eternity.

Now that we see more clearly how highly the Church values our bodies and the respect that is to be shown them when we have died, it becomes easy to see why the Church teaches it is a corporal work of mercy to bury the dead. "The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. ... The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding

the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead." (CCC 2447). The works of mercy are concrete ways that fulfill the second great commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love is to be shown to our neighbor not only while they are alive, but also once they have died. We show that love by praying for the repose of their souls, yes, but also by respectfully burying their body.

This has been a praisewor-

thy practice throughout the history of God's people. All throughout the Old Testament we see the people of God burying their dead. Tobit in particular is held up as a model of this corporal work of mercy (Tob. 1:16-2:8). But the greatest witness for the significance of burying the dead would be the burial of Jesus Himself. The Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene and the other women, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

all showed their great love for Our Lord by laying His Body in the tomb with such respect. We should follow their example in burying our dead with the same respect and love.

Father Andrew Rockers is the associate pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish, Beloit; St. Peter and Paul Parish, Cawker City; St. Theresa Parish, Mankato; and Sacred Heart Parish, Esbon. He is also the chaplain at St. John Catholic High School and Middle School in Beloit.



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