



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

DEC. 22, 2023

JOY TO

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



THE SALINA DIOCESE
CHANCERY OFFICE

THE WORLD

"A God who became so small could only be mercy and love."

St. Therese of Lisieux

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Recently I received a Christmas letter from a couple that I presided at their wedding 15 or so years ago. The mom wrote about some of the blessings her family has experienced in the last year, and then said:

"Sometimes these simple blessings aren't always obvious until suffering through a loss or tragedy. After our son, Ezekiel, passed to the Father in December 2020, for two years we tried to reconcile and accept such pain with Faith, but could only see darkness. Today, God's light is shining through. We know we weren't able to change our hearts or console our sadness on our own. The Lord has been patient with us and has been waiting to show us his tenderness in this situation. Everything happens according to his plans and purposes, even the death of a child."

We write about this to wish you a very merry and peace-filled Christmas, not focusing on the sentimentality of the

Nativity, or Santa, or gifts or copious amounts of delicious baked goods (oh boy, do we love our goodies), but because Christ was born in the darkness of a stable to bring light to our hearts. We bless God this Christmas because it is true that he breaks the night for us, crushing the lie that darkness lasts forever. He has shown us his humility to come as a babe and enter our situation of suffering just to say, 'I love you.' We've seen his coming to us, just as we are, and we hope that he shows this love to you this Christmas."

I couldn't have written a better Christmas message to you. Jesus knows our pain, sufferings and rejections. There is no place in our life he won't go to heal. He crushes "the lie that darkness lasts forever." Jesus,

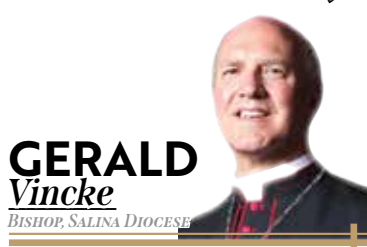
thank you for coming to us.

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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



**GERALD
Vincke**
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE

A TRIP TO INDY

Students in Diocese
of Salina take a
journey to NCYC.
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HAVING A GOOD HEART

High-schoolers learn key
component to competition
is sportsmanship.
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One last time

This issue of The Register is a bitter-sweet one for me, as it is my last issue as editor. My last day as editor of the paper and writer for the Catholic Foundation will be Dec. 31. I'll remain as editor of *faith* magazine for the year 2024, and I might still freelance a few articles for the paper here and there, but that'll be all I do with regard to my employment.

It was a hard decision, but an easy one all at the same time.

It was hard because I have loved my two years as editor of the paper. I've so enjoyed the 24 issues I've overseen and put together. I love the people I work with — Nick, Brenda, Matea, Diane, Kim and Darlene. You might not recognize some of their names as so much of what they do is behind the scenes, but I never could have done my job without them. They mean the world to me, and I will miss them.

I love writing. I love telling stories and sharing my thoughts on faith and family with all of you. I love the thrill of a deadline and the satisfaction when the paper is sent to print. There is so much of my job that I love. So yes, choosing to leave the paper was hard. But it was also easy.

It was easy because I love being a wife and a mother. Ignatius is starting to walk now — can you believe it? Not even a year old, and he's walking. He says "mama" and "dada." He waves at every single thing that moves. He loves being read to and playing fetch with the dog. And he's got a smirk that just lets you know he will be ornery. He's going to be a big brother next year — and there will be two sweet children who fill up the hours of my day with love and joy — as well as tears and stinky diapers and all the things that come with having a newborn and a 15-month-old in the home. I love

being a wife and mom. So yes, choosing to leave the paper was easy.

This is my last paper as editor. There's a weird finality to it, but it is good. It is good to close this chapter of my life. But before I do, I need to say thank you.

Thank you for letting me be your editor. Thank you for reading my stories and being gracious towards me when I began. I truly didn't know what I was doing when I started in January 2021. I still don't quite know, but I have a bit of a better idea.

Thank you to the many kind men and women who wrote me little notes and emails of encouragement. I do my best to save all of them. You have no idea how much I have appreciated those kind notes over the years. Thank you.



KATIE Hamel
CREATIVE EDITOR

I've always tried to follow God's will for my life. I don't do it perfectly, but I do try. Saying "yes" to the request to become the editor was a leap of faith. And I hope my "yes" glorified God.

I'm excited to see where my "yes" to staying home to be with my children will take me. I wonder what God will do with my "yes." Something beautiful I bet.

In the meantime, please pray for my little family as we adjust to our new life. I am so grateful to my husband for supporting and encouraging this decision. I couldn't do it without his strength. So please, pray for our little family who will be meeting a fourth member next spring. Know that I'll be praying for you.

Thank you again ... for everything.

Katie

Katie Hamel is the creative editor of diocesan publications.

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

January

- 1 New Year's Day, Chancery closed
- 2-4 SEEK24, St. Louis
- 7 Blessing of St. John the Baptist Church, 10 a.m., Beloit
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Chancery closed
- 15-18 Priest Renewal Days, Wichita
- 23 Red Mass, St. Joseph's, Topeka, March for Life
- 24 Ignite Rally, Mass & March, Topeka, March for Life
- 28 Year of Mercy, Sacred Heart Parish, Park
- 29 Catholic Schools Week, Oakley and Colby
- 30 Catholic Schools Week, Hanover and Abilene
- 31 Catholic Schools Week, Manhattan and Junction City

CANDLE LIGHTING



CYNTHIA HAYNES, COURTESY PHOTO

Father Mathew Chacko lights the first candle on the traditional Advent wreath recently at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oberlin. A candle is lit for each of the four Sundays before Christmas as Christians around the world prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

REMINDER

• Did you take a picture of your church decorated for Christmas? If so, send it to the Chancery via email at communications@salina-diocese.org.

• In observance of Christmas, the Chancery offices will be closed Dec. 25 and 26. Offices also will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Chancery will be closed Jan. 15.



JOIN US FOR THE RUNNIN' REVS GAME



DECEMBER 29, 2023 @ 6:00PM

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL - 234 E CLOUD ST, SALINA, KS 67401

RUNNIN' REVS GAME IN SALINA WILL TAKE PLACE AT 6:00 P.M. AT SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL. THIS IS A FREE EVENT TO HELP SUPPORT SEMINARIANS AND RAISE AWARENESS FOR VOCATIONS! PLEASE JOIN US!

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We can't stop now — we've come so far

Absolutely amazing things are happening in the Diocese of Salina. To name a few:

- We have a brand new ministry focused on young adults. Jake Schroeder of Hays is now our young adult ministry coordinator. His role is to coordinate events across our diocese so young adults, both single and married, can mix and mingle in a faith-filled, safe environment. Stay tuned for more details as he develops a schedule — coming soon to a location near you.
- Scott and Clare Stramel of Salina are now managing our Respect Life program. They are a lovely Catholic couple who are committed to helping us reinforce the Catholic vision that every life be glorified and treated with respect from conception to natural death.
- The Foundation is working to

put together a diocesan wide Eucharistic Conference right here in our diocese on Aug. 9 and 10, 2024. This could end up being the biggest event our diocese has ever celebrated, and we will be sharing with one another the love Jesus has for us in the Eucharist.

You make each of these things possible with your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. As of Dec. 1, more than 3,300 families have expressed their love and commitment with a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, and I cannot tell you how grateful we are that you have walked alongside Bishop Jerry Vincke and his dream of what our Church can and should be.



KATIE Platten
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

• We are getting so close to our goal. But we are not there yet. We still need \$350,000 to make all these missions a reality. Together, we can be disciples of Jesus on mission. We need you.

Can you help us close this gap?

Make our diocese even better than before? If you have not yet made your gift, would you help

us now? If you've already given a gift but find yourself more blessed than usual as the year closes, would you consider a second gift to get the appeal over the finish line so we can ensure the support of our ministries?



Let's unite in this final push towards the goal of achieving every diocesan mission, and let's

HELPING OUT

Here are some ways to make a gift to support the Bishop's Annual Appeal:

- Scan the QR code below or visit join.salinadiocese.org.
- Send a check to: Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina, PO Box 1696, Salina, KS 67402-1696.
- Gifts of securities or grain.
- Recommend a grant from your donor-advised fund.
- Direct a distribution from your retirement account.

reaffirm our commitment to this precious work that extends beyond the walls of our churches and into the lives of those we serve. God bless you.

Katie Platten is CEO of the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina.

Church mourns Father Torrez

By THE REGISTER

Father Basil Torrez was born June 14, 1929, to Jose and Dionisia (Villalobos) Torrez in Kanopolis. He died Dec. 5, 2023, at the age of 94.

Father Torrez was one of 12 children. He attended high school in Kanopolis before later going to Conception, Mo., for seminary. He was ordained May 26, 1956, at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop Frank Thill.

An article from the 1980s shares that one of Father Torrez's passions and hobbies was designing quilts. A favorite of his was a quilt he designed that depicted his family tree. He also enjoyed cross-stitching, collecting music boxes and being involved with high school athletics.



Father Torrez



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Basil Torrez distributes communion during Mass in 1981.

tin, Seguin; St. Frances Cabrini, Hoxie.

• 1958 — pastor of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Kanopolis; St. Joseph, Brookville; St. Mary, Holyrood; with care of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Salina.

• 1960 — administrator of St. Phillip, Hope; with assistance at St. Andrew Elementary, Abilene.

• 1965 — pastor of Holy Cross, Pfeifer.

• 1967 — pastor of Holy Ghost, Sharon Springs; St. Peter, Wallace.

• 1977 — pastor of Immaculate Conception, Grinnell; St. Paul, Angelus.

• 1983 — pastor of St. Augustine, Washington; Ss. Peter and Paul, Morrowville.

• 1993 — pastor of St. Michael, Collyer; St. Anthony, St. Peter.

• 1999 — retired to Collyer.

In the letter announcing his retirement, Father Torrez said, "I have always liked western Kansas. I started my priestly life in Hoxie and Seguin, and most of my priestly life has been spent in western Kansas."

Mass of Christian Burial was Dec. 12 at St. Michael Church, Collyer, with burial in St. Michael Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to the St. Michael Cemetery fund.

Words of support and memories can be left for the family at www.schmittfuneral.com.

Diocese remembers Sister Lewter

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Sister Patricia Lewter died Nov. 25, 2023, at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia. She was 88 and a Sister of St. Joseph for 69 years.

She was born April 25, 1935, in Las Cruces, N.M., to Perry and Rosemary Heep Lewter, the oldest of two children, and was baptized Patricia Louise. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia, on Sept. 9, 1953. On March 18, 1954, Patricia received the habit of the Sisters of St. Joseph and was given the name Sister Rose Helen, later changing back to her baptismal name. She pronounced first vows March 19, 1955, and final vows March 19, 1958.

In 1967, Sister Patricia Lewter received her bachelor's degree from Marymount in biology, followed by a master's degree in counseling in 1976 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She taught in schools staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Chicago; Kansas City, Kan.; Grand Island, Neb.; and in Plainville and Salina. She was one of three sisters to open Manna House of Prayer in Clyde. She served as pastoral minister in Joplin, Web City and Neosho, Mo.; and Montrose, Colo. In 1981, she co-established the nonprofit counseling center, Center for Enriched Communications in Grand Junction, Colo. In May 2018, Sister Patricia retired to the Motherhouse.



Sister Lewter

Sister Patricia Lewter was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by one brother, Thomas Lewter. A Bible vigil service was Nov. 28 in the Nazareth Motherhouse Chapel with Sister Agnes Irene Huser as the eulogist. The Mass of Christian Burial was Nov. 29 in the Motherhouse Chapel, Father Barry Brinkman presiding. Burial was in the Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery. Chaput-Buoy Mortuary, Concordia, was in charge of arrangements. Memorials for Sister Patricia may be given to the Sisters of St. Joseph Health Care/Retirement Fund or the Apostolic Works of the Sisters; P.O. Box 279, Concordia, KS 66901.

NCYC: 'Fully Alive'

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Ask any teenager — or any adult for that matter — exactly what NCYC stands for, and it might take them a few seconds to come up with the acronym's official name.

But it probably wouldn't take anyone who has attended the National Catholic Youth Conference long to say what NCYC means to them.

Impactful, phenomenal, breath-taking, life-changing are just a few of the words people use to describe their experience after attending the conference, which takes place every two years in Indianapolis.

This year's theme of the event at which 12,000 youth from across the country attended was "Fully Alive." And alive they were, from the time they stepped into Lucas Oil Stadium for Thursday's opening general session.

The Christian brother music duo For King + Country got things rocking from the get-go with their lively concert.

Sister Josephine Garrett from Texas, an exuberant master of ceremonies, was accompanied by popular singer-songwriter-storyteller Steve Angrisano for each of the general sessions that covered the unfolding of the five landmarks of salvation history: creation, human dignity, incarnation, resurrection and the Eighth Day.

The three-day event featured breakout sessions,



EMMA ROBERTS, COURTESY PHOTO

Hundreds of students and adult sponsors from the Diocese of Salina gather for Mass together as a group.

Masses, adoration and reconciliation throughout the days.

As always, the Salina Diocese was well represented with 700 students, adult sponsors and clergy attending. Most of the diocese's contingent traveled in 12 chartered buses, while a few traveled cross country in private vehicles.

Salina's own Bishop Jerry Vincke said a Mass for those from the diocese on Friday evening, and he also presided at one of the early morning Masses at the historical St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in downtown Indianapolis.

Youth directors for each of the parishes were surprised when they were recognized at one of the

general sessions.

"We're so blessed to have so many good people in the Salina Diocese," said Bill Meagher, director of youth ministry, religious education and family life for the Salina Diocese, "especially the amazing leadership in the parishes for our youth."

Event organizers might have saved the best for last.

The final Mass that featured 12,000 youth in the Indianapolis Colts' Lucas Oil Stadium included nearly 200 priests and 17 bishops.

"That was phenomenal," Meagher said. "There are very few times in your life where you will have 17 bishops at a Mass that you attend."

Bishop Joseph Espallat from the Archdiocese of

New York gave a dynamic and moving homily that kept everyone — young and old alike — on the edge of their seats.

The 46-year-old Espallat, the youngest bishop in the country and one of the youngest in the world, used a little humor while his listeners hung on his every word.

"If we want to be fully alive, we need to choose joy over fear," he said. "God is calling us to live out our vocation and to live it out in joy."

Bishop Espallat didn't mince words while delivering his transparent message, and students were definitely listening.

"Every single topic you could ever cover, he covered

in one homily," participant Mia Lang from Hays said.

"Everyone was in such full attention to what he was saying. It was amazing."

"Seeing so many people our age sharing the Catholic faith is amazing," she added. "I was impacted with how many people are there because they choose to be there, and they believe the Catholic faith is so important."

The youth were challenged to carry on that spirit when they returned home.

"It is up to you and me to bring light into the world," Bishop Espallat told the crowd. "If we're alive, we can give others life. Jesus started with 12 apostles. We have 12,000 here today, so we can change the world."

Lang, a senior at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School and a member of the Hays CYO group, was attending NCYC for the second time. She said she is ready to accept that challenge.

"At NCYC, you feel like you're up in the clouds; you feel so free," she said. "But you leave there, and you know you're going back to your everyday life."

Lang came up with a plan how to change the world one person at a time even before she returned to Hays on the overnight bus trip home.

"I think we can make a difference leading by example," she said. "If people see the joy you give by your service and your leadership, they will eventually say, 'I want some of that.'"

LARGE CITY ATMOSPHERE NO PROBLEM FOR SMALLER PARISH PARTICIPANTS

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Students from across the Diocese of Salina participated in this year's National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, from as far west in Goodland to the east in Hanover.

Because of their geographical location, there were even a few students from two other dioceses that joined the Salina contingent.

Students from Holyrood, which is in the Salina Diocese, team up with others from small towns in central Kansas to attend Wednesday night religion classes at Immaculate Conception Parish in Claflin.

Also part of that CYO are students from the Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Bushton and Holy Family Parish in Odin.

The parishes in Claflin and Odin are in the Dodge City Diocese, while

Bushton is in the Wichita Diocese.

"They let us tag along with them a few years ago, and we are very thankful for that," said Shelly Davis, who helped coordinate the NCYC trip for that quad-parish group.

Whether a member of the largest group from Hays' tri-parish CYO or from a smaller parish, a lot of students start making plans even before they reach high school to attend NCYC someday.

Aiden Hekele — the one participant from tiny Odin — said he definitely was looking forward to making his second trip this year. His first trip was in 2021 while the country was still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I thought NCYC might be larger and better this year, and it was," Hekele said. "The general sessions were incredible, and the songs

helped bring out your faith. The homily at that final Mass was unbelievable. It just gave me jitters."

Another cluster of parishes from small towns was from St. Fidelis Basilica in Victoria, St. Boniface in Vincent and St. Ann's in Walker.

Jeanna Wellbrock, the CYO sponsor for the Victoria group, said the NCYC experience was so moving for one of her students two years ago that the parishes helped raise enough money to send students to the alternate NCYC event in Long Beach, Calif., last year.

Because of huge numbers at the biennial event in Indianapolis (on uneven years), the organization began hosting one in California on even years.

"So, we're starting plans," Wellbrock said, "to go back to Long Beach next year."



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Victoria CYO got front-row seats at one of the concerts.

Sportsmanship at heart of event

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The Diocese of Salina decided to take a proactive approach for its Catholic schools to help create a positive environment and improve sportsmanship at athletic events to counter the alarming increase of ejections the past few years.

Forty students from the five diocesan high schools gathered in Russell for a sportsmanship retreat last month.

Administrators and coaches chose leaders from among their student body to represent their school at the retreat.

One of the main topics was sportsmanship and how to become leaders in treating everyone with respect at events, including officials and opponents.

At least one high school saw effects of the retreat immediately.

Later in the day after returning from the conference, sophomores Alyssa Englert and Cassidy Jahnke could be seen in their school library jotting down ideas to show their basketball coach at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Junction City.

Englert said they came up with ways she and her teammates might be able to



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Chet Kuplen, CEO/founder of Sports in Kansas, speaks to students at the sportsmanship event in Russell.

reach fans, to let them know they were expected to be more respectful to officials and to the other team.

"We wrote how everyone can show good sportsmanship in their roles," Englert said. "... not just us players and coaches but parents and other fans, too."

Shawn Augustine, principal at St. Francis Xavier, said that although Englert and Jahnke are some of the younger students in the high school, they wound up on the list that he and Activities Director John Keating made of who show strong leadership qualities.

"These two are all about positivity," Augustine said. "I thought the presentations were phenomenal, and it was obvious it enlightened the

students. It fired up my students a lot."

While some schools chose athletes to attend the conference, others chose class leaders such as presidents and vice presidents of each class.

"I think this will be of great benefit," said Tyson Gates, junior class president at St. John's Jr.-Sr. High School in Beloit.

Students gathered with their schoolmates over a working lunch for ideas to present to the whole group.

Gates, a three-sport athlete at St. John's, and his group talked about improving the student section and getting grade school students more involved in displaying positive spirit at games.

Scott Goodheart, director

of officials for the Kansas State High School Activities Association, was one of the presenters at the retreat and talked about the shortage of officials in the state, encouraging students to get involved.

Officiating is not only a good way to stay involved in sports but is a good way to meet people and also serves as a "great money-making gig for college students."

Earlier in the conference, the audience heard from Chet Kuplen, founder and CEO of Sports in Kansas, an online media outlet that provides coverage of high school sports.

Kuplen not only talked about sportsmanship but also the power of social media, both good and bad. His main message was "think before you post."

Teenagers are well-aware of the dangers of social media, ranging from cyberbullying to invasion of privacy to identity theft.

However, Kuplen's presentation gave examples of how past social media postings — no matter how insignificant they may seem at the time — can be tracked by future employers while researching job applicants.

"Anything you post has the ability to go viral at any time, and often times, you're guilty

by association," he said.

"What you do now on social media will follow you the rest of your lives.

"It becomes your choice how to use it. I'm not telling you not to post. I'm telling you to be careful."

Bill Meagher, director of youth ministry for the diocese, also is head boys' basketball coach at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior-Senior High School in Hays. He and Geoff Andrews, superintendent of schools for the diocese, came up with the idea to host the retreat.

Meagher stressed how sportsmanship and leadership can be synonymous with high school sports.

"Leadership is one of the things you can learn through athletics," Meagher told the students, thanking them for their attendance. "If you stand up to your peers for what's right, you're going to grow as a person tremendously."

Kuplen agreed.

"You guys are group leaders, the face of your schools, and people look up to you," he said. "The first place others are going to check out on social media is what you're sharing, so you represent more than just yourselves. You can spread positive influence."

Learning never stops for teachers

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

A day away from school to connect with others in their field of expertise is usually met with open arms for teachers and administrators at Catholic schools in the Diocese of Salina.

There is usually a featured speaker and networking with others, which features 15 schools at multiple grades.

That was the case again this year when they gathered at the Sacred Heart High School gym in Salina.

But most of those attending would agree that breakout sessions with other diocesan teachers at their grade level are the highlight of the day.

"That is what I looked forward to all day," said Laura Meyer, a first-grade teacher at St. Mary's Grade School in Salina.

Meyer, a recent graduate of Benedictine College in Atchison, is in her first year of classroom teaching. She said she collaborates a lot at her school with the other member of her St. Mary's first-grade team, longtime teacher Jackie Kack.

"But it was nice to hear about the different curriculum that other

schools are using," Meyer said.

Meyer said she has already used a practice program for math and English that she learned about at the in-service.

"I thought it could be really useful when I heard about it," she said, "so we've broken it out, and my kids love it."

Meyer admitted another reason she thoroughly enjoyed the in-service during her rookie year of teaching.

She is a graduate of St. John's High School in Beloit, where her uncle, Ken Meyer, is the counselor. So she ran into him and several other St. John's teachers.

"It was fun for me, because the people from St. John's were all excited to hear how my first year is going," Meyer said.

Meyer just had to cross the parking lot to attend the in-service events at the Sacred Heart High School gym.

But teachers like Cheryl Germann, who made the 90-minute trip from Tipton, didn't seem to mind putting in some road time. She said she finds the breakout sessions especially helpful.

Because she teaches at Tipton

Catholic High School (enrollment 14), Germann doesn't have a team teaching the same subject.

At Tipton, and other small schools like hers, Germann is a one-person team in her academic discipline. In addition to teaching English for grades 7 through 12, she also is the yearbook sponsor as well as serving as the coach for speech and drama.

"I think the breakout sessions are the most productive part of the in-service day," Germann said. "It gives us the opportunity to network with other teachers and to see what other schools are doing to meet the needs of their students."

She said she has "gleaned ideas for new novels to teach, picked up new pieces of curriculum and adopted best practices that were shared by other English teachers in these sessions."

"It gives me new ideas to implement," she said, "and that has a positive impact on what happens in my classroom."

Diocesan Superintendent Geoff Andrews, a former teacher and coach himself, said he thinks about overall goals and school improvement plans when he sets the agenda

for the in-service days.

"There is more need for data analytics and hands-on projects now," he said, "and there is more stream learning in the classroom."

The 235 teachers, staff and administrators got to hear from Dan Whisler, a former science teacher who now is an education consult for TRANE's BTU Crew™ PBL Energy Education Program. The BTU Crew is a K-12 STEM education program that takes a project-based learning approach to help students learn about energy while increasing their analytical and problem-solving skills and exploring future careers.

"Energy is the lifeblood of our society," Whisler said while sharing how to help students analyze data. "For students to have a connection to the data makes it real for them."

Whisler, who grew up in Salina and now lives in Hutchinson, commended those present on continuing to seek knowledge on reaching students in different ways.

"Students are growing up in a very different world than I did," he said. "But I love teaching. It's one of the toughest challenges these days, but you are difference makers."

Christmas and the Eucharist

We are currently in the season of Advent as we are preparing for Christmas. One of the things we do during this season is remember what the world was like before Christ was born. We remember the darkness, the waiting and the hopelessness that filled the world. There is value for us in remembering what the world looked and felt like then. It is good for us to experience the darkness and quiet of Advent. It can be a real challenge for us, but we can find growth and graces even in that challenge.

One of my favorite childhood memories was going with my father when he played organ for the Christmas Eve Mass. The music and celebration were great, but my favorite

time was the drive home. I loved seeing our community so quiet and shut down. There were no businesses open, and hardly anyone was out driving. They were all home with their family, and Christmas Eve was full of silence. For some reason, I really enjoyed seeing the entire world shut down and prepare to celebrate Christmas the next day.

I often tried to imagine what it was like that first Christmas morning when all creation joined the angels in singing joy to the world. I so badly wished I were there to see and hear all the Earth rejoicing that the long-awaited Messiah was born.

Humans often take for granted the

incredible blessings we have in our lives, and the Eucharist is one of those things. We have only known a world where we can receive the Eucharist and forget that there was a time when we didn't have that opportunity.

What a gift it is for us to go to any Catholic Church in the world and be in the physical presence of Christ in the tabernacle. He is always there and waiting for us to come and spend time with him.

Christmas is full of Eucharistic ties. The town of Bethlehem means "House of Bread." Jesus was born in a manger and laid in a feeding trough. He was conveying to us from his very birth that he was sent to save us and to be

the very nourishment we need on our journey toward spending eternity with him in heaven.

I don't think it is an accident that during the Eucharistic Revival Parish Year, the calendar has us celebrating the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve on the same day. What a great day for us to celebrate both the quiet of Advent and the joy, light, noise and celebration of Christmas, all on the same day. It is an opportunity for us to go to Mass and receive the Eucharist twice that day. What a gift and an incredible chance to start and end our day by receiving the very body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus.

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

BILL Meagher
DIOCESE OF SALINA



The power of giving in the Diocese of Salina

The spirit of philanthropy and stewardship remains vibrant here in the Diocese of Salina as we celebrate another successful #iGiveCatholic campaign. #iGiveCatholic takes place on Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, and is the day to support your favorite charitable cause.

This year, more than 2,900 Catholic parishes, schools and ministries participated in the annual campaign nationwide — 37 of those were in the Diocese of Salina. These participating organizations were able to raise \$870,051, which was \$153,000 more than 2022. More than \$20 million was raised nationwide for #iGiveCatholic.

The Diocese of Salina consistently ranks in the top 10 in the country for dollars raised among participating dioceses — this year at No. 8 among 50 diocesan partners. Three of our organizations ranked in the top 50 in the

nation, and four more ranked in the top 100.

"We are beyond grateful for the donors who provided challenge grants for this year's campaign. It just gets better and better. I love watching our big, beautiful Catholic family come out and support all our parishes, schools and ministries," said Katie Platten, CEO for Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina.

St. John's Catholic Schools in Beloit was the top fundraiser in the diocese, raising \$275,382. This amount put them seventh nationally. If you don't follow them on Facebook, I suggest you take a few minutes to check out the St. John's Catholic Church-Beloit Facebook page and the creative videos they posted. In one of the videos, Father Jarett Konrade attempts to make the "longest playground shot ever" — which gained

national attention on Aleleia.org, a Catholic online publication. The joy and excitement on the faces of the children in the videos will truly warm your heart. Even Bishop Jerry Vincke joined in the fun and issued his own challenge. Hopefully, St. Nick brought Bishop Vincke some comfortable walking shoes as he must hold up his end of the challenge by

walking a day to St. John's Church. Stay tuned.

St. Andrew School in Abilene had another successful year for #iGiveCatholic. This year, they raised \$72,190 for two important needs. The first of those was to support "Cecilia's Room," a new music/art/storm shelter in memory of their beloved friend, Cecilia Graf, who died in a tragic accident three years ago. What a beautiful way to remember

Cecilia and bring joy, happiness and safety for all the children who will use it for years to come. The school also raised money for general operating expenses. With an increase in students comes an increase in expenses, and gifts from the campaign will help offset continually rising costs.

Comeau Catholic Campus Center in Hays well exceeded their goal of \$60,000 for this year's campaign, allowing them to spark a fire in the hearts of the next generation. With the \$72,879 raised, they can continue to serve students by bringing in speakers for events, retreats for Crossroads and SEEK, bible studies led by FOCUS missionaries and student dinners and gatherings.

Other participating

organizations will be using the money raised through the #iGiveCatholic campaign for projects such as renovations/remodeling, updating security systems, parish ministries, a new organ and overall operating expenses. As diverse as the projects funded might be, the thread that ties them together is the spirit of gratitude and generosity.

In response to the #iGiveCatholic campaign, more than 1,100 individuals have contributed to support the various Catholic causes that resonate with their beliefs, reinforcing the shared commitment to giving thanks and giving back within our diocese.

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

CORRINA Hudsonpillar
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



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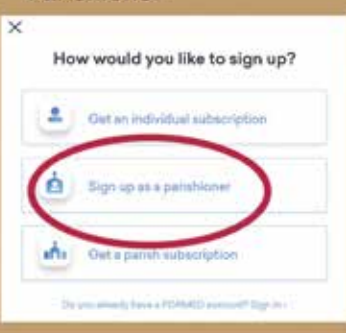
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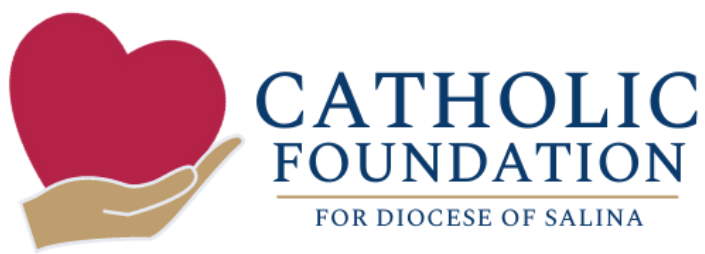
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Communications and Publications Drive

The Communications and Publications Drive supports the diocesan communications office to inform and inspire all Catholics through media and the written word.
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Seminarian and Clergy Fund

The diocese supports clergy at all stages of their vocation, from seminarians to diaconate to active and retired priests.
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Parish Support

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A November to remember for schools

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

November was a busy month for students in high schools across the diocese as they competed in several contests, highlighted by two team championships for St. John's High School in Beloit.

The Blujays were crowned champions of the Kansas Eco-Meet on Nov. 2, and a week later, they won their 12th consecutive Class 1A title at the 44th annual Math Relays competition at Fort Hays State University.

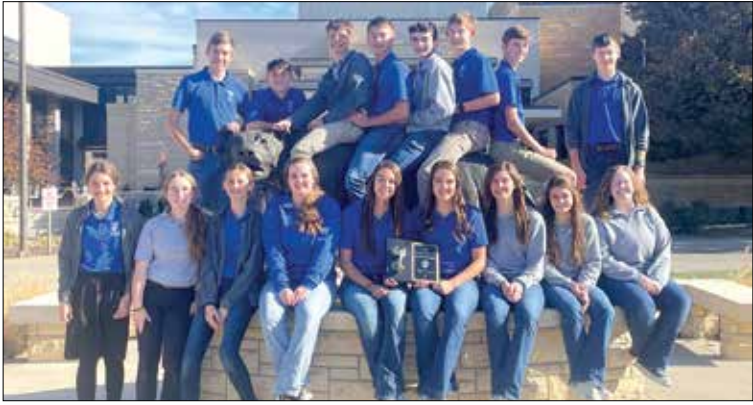
Three St. John's students were members of both the Blujays' championship math and science teams: juniors Nicholas Niewald, Jonas Letourneau and Henry Holdren.

The state eco-meet, sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, is an interscholastic competition for students interested in wildlife biology in Kansas.

St. John's championship effort in that meet was quite impressive.

After finishing second a year ago, St. John's claimed top honors, beating returning champion Shawnee Mission South, a Class 6A school in the Kansas City area with 1,590 students. Enrollment at St. John's this year is 51.

The competition includes testing over their general knowledge of a Kansas ecosystem, a scavenger hunt and an interpretive skit.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Class 1A champs from Beloit-St. John's High school from FHSU's Math Relays.

Niewald finished second in the shortgrass prairie division and led a 1-2 finish for St. John's in the mammalogy category, where classmate Letourneau finished second.

Math relays

St. John's scored 91 points in dominating its division, more than doubling the score on runner-up Mankato-Rock Hills. The Blujays' point total also placed them third overall among all schools in classes 1A through 6A. St. John's has placed in the top five for seven straight years and is the only school to hit that top-five mark in 10 of the last 11.

The Blujays' secret to success was consistency. They recorded numerous top-10 individual and team finishes in grades 9 through 11, led by first-place efforts of juniors Henry Holdren, Gianna Horinek, Jonas Letourneau and Nicholas Niewald and

freshman Emma DiNuzzo.

Two other diocesan schools also placed high in team competition. Salina-Sacred Heart won the Class 2A-3A team title for a second straight year, while Hays/Thomas More Prep-Marian finished second in that class.

Sacred Heart's team total also placed the Knights in the fourth slot in the overall team standings. Sacred Heart had just two individual first-place finishes (both by senior Andy Marshall) but collected numerous points through many other top-10 placings.

TMP-Marian also won two individual titles — by junior Samuel Schroeder and sophomore Choi Emmet.

Students who are members of Catholic parishes in the Hays area helped Hays High School fare well again, too, as the Indians finished second in both the Class 4A-5A-6A division and in overall scoring.




COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Class 2A-3A champs from Salina-Sacred Heart High School from FHSU's Math Relays.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Beloit-St. John's state championship team from the Kansas Eco-Meet.



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Artwork by Sister Carmella Thibault, CSJ

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Celebrating Christmas in Myanmar

Originally published in *Rawlins County Square Deal*.

BY ROSALIE ROSS AND FATHER HENRY SAW LONE

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Father Henry Saw Lone, the parish priest at Sacred Heart in Atwood and St. Mary's in Herndon, shares stories about Christmas of his boyhood in his hometown of Myanmar in Burma near the border with Thailand.

"In most of the country, the citizens are Buddhist, but where we lived the majority are Christians. The Christmas celebration is always a communal one where I grew up. It is a celebration as a family, as a local community and as a parish community at large.

In Myanmar, December is a month of peace and serenity, the weather is getting cold, but not extremely so. Beginning Dec. 1, people greet each other with "Sweet December" and a deep Christmas spirit erupts to fill all the towns and villages.

Christian communities decorate their churches and

homes with some stars and Christmas images. It is the custom for some young men to go out in the forest and cut down three of the tallest bamboo they can find. They will be placed in front of the church by Christians. A large bamboo star is placed on top with streamers of wild flowers flowing down. Young people gather wildflowers from nearby fields and fasten them together to drape around the inside of the church, too.

Different age groups go around to greet by singing Christmas carols to their neighbors, friends and relatives.

They might go caroling door to door from early December to Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, the people gather for community Christmas celebration. They come from the hills, the valleys and the plains. They come with a blanket on their shoulders to prevent the cold and rain. They play flutes and drums in their different ethnic groups, tribes and villages.

You can tell by their colorful attire representing

where they come from. Together they wait for the priest to celebrate Christmas for them.

It is a time of joy. There is a bazaar with street vendors, dancing and sharing. You can find an entirely different language or ethnic groups. Though many and different, they have a commonality.

They are Christians. However, many Buddhists and other religions show their solidarity by donating foods and lodging.

The day ends with a dinner of sticky rice packed with banana leaves, to eat with chicken, fish, pork, meat with country's sake and milk tea. We have fun before Christmas by hunting or fishing at the river with friends so we can share good meals and cooking fish packed with banana leaves cooked on the grill.

Lively conversation fills the air. Everyone is excited to come together. There is traditional dancing, singing and games leading up to midnight Christmas service at the church. There is a beautiful service with flowers, the crib, the lights and all other decorations.

We have another special service in the morning.

One of the memories I enjoyed was a Christmas story and the Christmas pageant in church. I remember Sister Geraldine asked me to play the role of St. Joseph. It was a great honor to be Joseph standing near Mary surrounded by beautiful angels, shepherds and animals. No wonder these memories influenced me to become who I am today. When we were little, we got new clothes only at the Christmas season for the whole year. Mom would dress us as best as she could. I remember once I was naughty and refused to let her comb my hair. Almost everyone wears new clothes at Christmas and enjoys the event together.

When we were boys, the tradition of gift exchange, Santa Claus and Christmas trees were not common. However in more recent times people began to do those things. The celebration of Christmas was visible at hotels, restaurants and shipping centers beginning the first of December.

All in all, Christmas

celebration in Myanmar is always a communal one. It was a time of family celebration and the community sharing blessings with one another.

Then tragedy struck

The people of Myanmar are going through dark days. Since the military coup when the country's armed forces seized power in 2021, there has been civil war everywhere. Myanmar has been turned into a slaughter ground. It is not safe for people to gather to celebrate Christmas. There have been no community nor church gatherings for two years.

As I write this, most of my siblings and relatives in the country have been displaced. They are living in refugee camps or deep in the forest. They have nowhere to go, no help can reach them. Many refugees are fleeing to neighboring countries. Two million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

I am praying the people in the United States and the rest of the world will become aware of the situation in Myanmar to give a helping hand.



Henry Saw Lone

Miracle of the Nativity

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

2023 is the 800th anniversary of an extraordinary miracle.

The year was 1223 and, for most Christians, sacred scripture was all but inaccessible. Few lay people could understand Latin, and the Church didn't communicate in any other language. Only one exception existed: many Europeans enjoyed watching miracle plays, which translated Bible stories into their own languages and helped people appreciate the nature of Christ's earthly works.

Finding himself profoundly affected by his own pilgrimage to Bethlehem, St. Francis of Assisi wanted to help people in his community appreciate the absolute humility of Christ's birth. St. Francis believed it was

impossible to appreciate the full depths of God's love, which was brought to fruition in the lowest of births, without being able to see it firsthand. He began to take inspiration from those miracle plays.

St. Francis obtained the pope's permission to create the first living Nativity. He would do it in the small Italian village of Greccio using torchlight, living animals and a small

manger filled with hay to recreate the night of Christ's birth. St. Francis chanted the Gospel story and shared a passionate homily about the kind of divine love that would make God willing to take the form of a homeless, impoverished immigrant at his birth.

For the first time, people could experience the wonder of Christ's birth in full. It was breathtaking.

As his sermon ended, St. Francis bent his head toward the manger to kiss the statue of the infant Jesus. At that moment, both he and others saw the little statue come to life and smile.

And the miracle didn't end there. The hay from the manger was kept by those who witnessed the smile of the infant Christ, and it was found to contain many healing

properties.

Today, many Christian homes proudly display the Nativity during the holiday season. Often, these scenes include a figure of a humble man in monk's habit, who represents the saint responsible for the tradition, and the miracle he helped bring about on that long-ago Italian night.



CELEBRATION



COURTESY PHOTOS

TOP: Young people from Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish perform a play, reenacting the appearances of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego that took place in December 1531. **ABOVE:** More than 100 "Danzantes" prepared by practicing three evenings per week since early September to learn the dance steps for the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Joseph School first-graders are thankful. Front row from left, Nolan Zerr, Owen Thompson, Zane Chrisler, Seth Kuhlman and Brexton Munk. Back row from left, Ryan Ottley, Vera Helus, Madelynn Bretz and Nyla Bley.

Nyla Bley: I am thankful for my family, cat and dog. My favorite Thanksgiving food is pumpkin pie.
 Madelynn Bretz: I am thankful for my family and for the flowers. My favorite Thanksgiving food is Oreo pie.
 Zane Chrisler: I am thankful for my family and my dog Luna. My favorite Thanksgiving food is ham.
 Vera Helus: I am thankful for animals that give us food and my family. My favorite Thanksgiving food is pheasant nuggets.
 Seth Kuhlman: I am thankful for the hunters, my family and dog. My favorite Thanksgiving food is pumpkin pie.
 Brexton Munk: I am thankful for my family, grandma and grandpa. My favorite Thanksgiving food is turkey.
 Ryan Ottley: I am thankful for God and things. My favorite Thanksgiving food is turkey meat.
 Owen Thompson: I am thankful for my whole family and Toby. My favorite Thanksgiving food is turkey and corn.
 Nolan Zerr: I am thankful for my family and snow to play in. My favorite Thanksgiving food is fried turkey.



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Mary's 29th annual parish auction was Oct. 14 in Ellis. Parishioners, families and friends gathered to celebrate in Mardi Gras "And All that Jazz" theme to raise funds for the school and church. Bishop Jerry Vincke and Superintendent Geoff Andrews and his wife, Valerie, from Salina, were in attendance. More than \$20,000 was raised for the school bathrooms remodel project that will be matched by the Wiesner Foundation. The quilt was put together by a group of women called Good Hope Quilters who meet each week in Ellis to create quilts to give to families of low income. This quilt was made especially for the St. Mary's annual parish auction in appreciation to Father Dana Clark and St. Mary's Church for the use of the Sisters' House for their quilting and to the local community for all its amazing support and donations. The fabric was donated by the Kohl family.

Soil Health U upcoming

BY DAVID AND LINDA EDELL
 SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Rural Life Commission of the Diocese of Salina is one of the sponsors of this year's High Plains Journal's Soil Health U & Trade Show.

The two-day event will be Jan. 17 and 18 at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina. Soil Health U is designed to provide attendees with a road map to better soil health and increased productivity and profitability. This event includes a diverse lineup of keynote speakers, educational breakout sessions, engaging panels and a trade show of soil health-adjacent exhibitors.

The Rural Life Commission serves the mission of the Catholic Church by promoting the care of God's creation and the welfare of the people who depend on it within the diocese. Its goals are: to foster the spiritual formation of the people relating specifically to the vocation of agriculture, to promote an economic environment that sustains family farms and rural communities, to be an effective voice in the public forum for Christian values on rural issues and to educate

RURAL LIFE CELEBRATES

The Salina Diocese Rural Life Office is associated with National Catholic Rural Life, an organization celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Rural Life is charged with helping to keep those in agriculture connected with their Catholic faith.

We will be celebrating the 100th year of Rural Life with an event **Feb. 29** at St. Isidore Catholic Student Center on the campus of Kansas State University. Catherine DiNuzzo will be the keynote speaker. She is a licensed professional

counselor and author of "The Catholic Guide Through Anxiety: Sacred Heart Mental Wellness."

Father Brian Werth summed up Rural Life mission perfectly in the homily he gave for St. Isidore's Day at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover in 2022: "Farming takes an amazing amount of faith (to help produce) the most perfect and bounteous gift of all; the growing of wheat and grapes to produce the products that will be transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ."

people on the social teachings of the Catholic Church as they relate to rural issues.

Sponsorship of the event fits within the framework of our mission, "Nurturing Rural Life Through Faith." To help solidify the mission, the Rural Life Commission will be leading a prayer service to open the Soil U event at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 18.

This event shows that land as a resource when treated with care, can continue to provide for farmers and ranchers even when times are tough. Soil Health U

attendees will learn how to unleash the power of healthy soil. Much like the holistic spiritual teaching of the Catholic faith, this conference will provide important ways to help to promote holistic stewardship of the land and to help ensure its sustainability from generation to generation.

Salina Diocese area chapters of the Future Farmers of America will be providing assistance at the event. Visit the SoilU website, <https://soilhealthu.net>, for more information.

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1 Artist Chagall

5 French & Germany river

9 Syrian bishop

13 Water (Spanish)

14 Monte __

15 Trudge

16 Profit

17 Expression

18 Not ins

19 Slight

21 Palestinian body of water

23 Space ship builders

25 Vexation

26 Speak softly

29 The __ of God (Jesus)

31 Offers to consumers

34 Mouth part

35 Hunts

37 Every

39 First letter in Hebrew alphabet

41 Sandwich

42 Interest

43 South American country

44 Brother of Moses

46 Lemon

47 Jewish teacher

50 Power unit

51 South by east
- 52 Touch down

54 Day-time tv's Mr. Donahue

56 Hairdo

59 Major OT prophet

63 Baby powder

64 Colder

66 Go at it alone

67 National capital

68 Orates

69 Caper

70 Family group

71 Women's magazine

72 Otherwise
- DOWN**

1 They brought gifts

2 A king of the Amalekites

3 Destroy

4 Authoritative list of scripture

5 Band instrument

6 Dry

7 Soothing agents

8 Book near Acts

9 They had keys to kingdom

10 Melancholy

11 Wine bottle

12 Spots

14 Roman title
- 20 Movie "King"

22 Perish

24 One-celled animal

26 Applaud

27 Cargo vessel

28 Musical production

30 Club rule

32 Praises

33 Clean thoroughly

36 Cord

38 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. __

40 Tax collector (KJV)

42 To that time

45 Do unto __

48 Pub

49 Foment

53 Relating to a Duke

55 Smooth tightly twisted thread

56 Plague of Egypt

57 __ mater

58 Work the soil

60 OT book of prophecy

61 Alack's partner

62 Faith, __ and charity

63 What a nurse gives

65 Stretch to make do

Answers on Page 14

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastoral Ministry Formation Courses for Spring

To enroll or for more information, contact Coleen Stein, cstein@dcdioocese.org

THEO 4003 Christology (3 hour college course)

More than creed or culture, Christianity is a relationship with a person. Christology ponders who Jesus Christ is for us. The course aims to investigate the answers given in scripture and church tradition to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

Instructor: Father Terrance Klein.

Father Terrance Klein is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Ellinwood, and he chairs the committee for the continuing formation of priests for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. A former theology professor at leading Catholic universities, he is the author or co-author of many books. He writes a weekly homiletical column for the Jesuit ministry, America Press.

Time: 8:15 a.m. to noon Saturday mornings.

Dates: Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar. 2, 9, 16.

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

Cost: \$150 for 3 hour college course for credit; \$75 for 3 hour college course for enrichment (cost does not include textbook).

Please add \$5.00 for postage and handling.

Textbook: Mattias Neuman. "Christology: True God, True Man. Catholic Basics: A Pastoral Ministry Series." Chicago: Loyola Press, 2002.

THEO 4881 Roots and Wings – Source and Summit (1 hour college course)

"Roots and Wings - Source and Summit" (1 hour course) explores the Hebrew origins of sacrifice and Eucharist. The choreography-taking-blessing-breaking-giving- through which the risen Jesus comes to us, again

and again and again echoes the Passover Meal, which in Christian communities eventually becomes the Eucharist. "The breaking of the bread," the Eucharistic choreography through which we may recognize Jesus' presence, is fundamentally the choreography of exodus: liberation from bondage, embarking on a new journey, stepping into a new life of intimate companionship/partnership with God. Taking and drinking from the chalice of the blood of the covenant brings past covenants into the present and leads us into the future in mission.

Throughout, students will be encouraged to consider the bishops' invitation to reconsecrate themselves to the source and summit of our faith. Moving from the Last Supper to the Supper of the Lamb. Moving from offering a sacrifice to becoming a living sacrifice.

Instructor: Father Robert Schremmer.

Father Robert Schremmer is a diocesan priest in retirement. From 2001 to 2019, Father Bob served as vicar general. He holds an MA degree and MTh degree from St. Thomas School of Theology, Denver. He has been teaching in the pastoral ministry formation program since its inception in 1998. He has taught the core course, Theology and Methods of Ministry, seven times and a number of one-hour courses such as: Crash Course in Vatican II, 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Mysterious Mystagogia, The Hunger Games and the Good News, Equipping for Ministry at Mass, Navigating Charisms.

Time: 6 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings.

Dates: Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6.

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

Cost: \$50 for 1 hour college course for credit; \$25 for 1 hour college course for enrichment (does not include textbook).

Please add \$5.00 for each course for postage and handling.

Textbook: "Can You Drink the Cup?" Henri J.M. Nouwen.

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE



COURTESY PHOTO

Every year, Knights of Columbus Council No. 1661 dons the yellow vests and grabs boxes of Tootsie Rolls to raise money for special education needs across the state. This year their efforts raised \$1,497.25. Eighty percent of the contributions raised go to special education programs at USD 435 and the remainder to Kansas Special Olympics. Recently, a check was presented in the amount of \$1,198.14 to USD 435 Board of Education President Chris West by members of the Knights of Columbus. From left are Jon Anguiano, Chris West and Tony Geiger.

BOXES OF JOY



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

The Diocese of Salina collected nearly 1,300 boxes and approximately \$11,500 in donations for the Boxes of Joy program. Schools, PRE programs and parishes from across the diocese all participated. The Salina Diocese was asked by Bishop Jerry Vincke to participate in the program as he is on the board of directors for Cross Catholic Outreach.

Diaper drive fills need for many

BY JEREE HUGHBANKS

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

In a heartwarming display of compassion and unity, the Salina Diocese Catholic schools marked the success of this year's Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive.

The initiative, which united students, faculty, staff and parents, marked its second consecutive year with an outstanding contribution of diapers valued at \$13,998.68, surpassing the previous year's \$11,352.86 in diaper value. The donations from last year helped Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas assist more than 390 families with diaper needs across the diocese.

Throughout October, Salina Diocese Catholic schools rallied for the cause, resulting in a remarkable increase in contributions.

Geoff Andrews, superintendent of schools, expressed gratitude for the generosity displayed.

"Our students, teachers and families are absolutely wonderful and generous," he said. "Whenever they are called upon, they answer."

On Nov. 10, Catholic schools across the diocese delivered the collected diapers to Sacred Heart Junior/Senior High School in Salina.

Students and staff from St. Mary's Grade School and Sacred Heart Junior/Senior High School, along with Catholic Charities staff, joined forces to transport the diapers to the Salina warehouse where they will be distributed to families in need across the 31 counties of the diocese.

The following week, the Hays Catholic schools delivered their donations directly to the Catholic Charities location in Hays.

Megan Robl, executive director of Catholic Charities, emphasized the significant



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Mary's fifth-grader Landry Sprague smiles while organizing donated diapers in the Catholic Charities van.

cant impact of the initiative.

"The Salina Diocese Catholic schools have once again demonstrated their commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those in need," she said. "The increase in donations this year is a testament to their compassion and generosity. On behalf of the families who will benefit,

we are truly thankful."

Reflecting on the origins of the diaper drive, Andrews shared, "It started a couple of years ago with Megan and I just visiting about needs across the Salina Diocese and a desire to get our schools involved. I do not think either of us expected the outpouring of support we received the

first year."

Amid this success, a recent study shed light on the harsh reality that 47% of families in 2023 are grappling with diaper needs, leading to difficult choices like cutting back on essential food or utilities. This financial strain not only

impacts health but also hinders employment, with one in four parents missing work or school due to insufficient diapers for daycare drop-offs. Initiatives like the Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive play a vital role in supporting families facing these challenges.

"I recently spoke with a mom who benefits from the diaper program," Robl said. "She is a single mother with two young kiddos in diapers. She saw all the diaper drive photos on Facebook, and the generosity moved her to tears. She said it made her feel like less of a burden. That's the impact this drive has on real people in our communities."

As the diapers reach families in need across northern Kansas, the success of the Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive stands as a testament to the unwavering spirit of service within the Salina Diocese Catholic community.

Jeree Hughbanks is the communications manager for Catholic Charities.

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WEDDINGS

Brady Werth and Paris Wolf were married Nov. 11, 2023, at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Aaron Werth and Rochelle Werth. Parents of the bride are Preston and Julianne Wolf. Witnesses were Paton Stephens and Kiara Urban.

Jacob Showalter and Breonna North were married Nov. 25, 2023, at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Adam and Janice Showalter. Parents of the bride are Travis and Ava North. Witnesses were Michael Showalter and Abigail and Natalee North.

Justin Plante and Emma Humphrey were married Nov. 18, 2023, at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Father Damian Richards witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Zachary and Jennifer (West) Plante. Parents of the bride are Michael and Sara (Newell) Humphrey. Witnesses were Jared Plante and Sophie Humphrey.

Tyler Engel and Kaitlyn Burd were married Oct. 14, 2023, St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Darin and Jaqueline (Lang) Engel. Parents of the bride are Kevin Burd and Jennifer Reichert. Witnesses were Wyatt Engel and Maggie Robben.

Troy Basgall and Jennifer

Werth were married Nov. 4, 2023, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Daniel and Linda (Dinkel) Basgall. Parents of the bride are Craig and Lucy (Flax) Hutchison. Witnesses were Linda Basgall and Lucy Hutchison.

Jordan Albers and Audrey Werth were married Nov. 10, 2023, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Andy Hammeke witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Arthur and Monica Albers. Parents of the bride are Keith and Coleen Werth. Witnesses were Kolton Harting and Heather Strate.

Justin Charles Reif and Cassidy Jo Crites were married Nov. 4, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hammer-schmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Marvin and Melissa Reif. Parents of the bride are Daniel and Lisa Crites. Witnesses were Jacob Davis and Addison Crites.

Jake Austin Patterson and Allyson Margaret Becker were married Nov. 18, 2023, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Father Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Jason and Jeannie Patterson. Parents of the bride are James and Christina Becker. Witnesses were Jackson Ness and Emma Tibbetts.

BY THE REGISTER

A total of 31 teachers from the diocesan Catholic schools were recognized for years of service at this year's teacher in-service day in November. They are listed by their school, name and years of service.

St. John's Grade School, Beloit
Debra Courville 5, Mary Elizabeth Eilert 15,
Teresa Heidrich 10, Linda Ludwig 10, Kelly
Peters 35, Alice Simmons 5.

St. John's Middle/High School, Beloit
Joseph Holdren 15, Marcy Kee 20, Amy
Gengler 5, Vanessa Martin 5.

Holy Family Elementary School, Hays
Madison Quimby 5, Ann Weber 40.

Manhattan Catholic Schools
Sherri Daveline 10, Jessica Golden 10, Julie Juenemann 20, Linda Terrell 10.

Sacred Heart Grade School, Colby
William Allen 5, Vanessa Best 10.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY EVENT

7 to 11 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Sullivan, 227 N. Santa Fe Ave., Salina.
This is the first Young Adult

Ministry event for the Diocese of Salina. Young adults ages 18 to 35 are welcome to attend and

meet other young adults in the diocese. This will be a social event with refreshments, dancing and games.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Pope's prayer intention for January

Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions

Diocesan prayer intention for January

For peace throughout the world and peace in our homes. May all nations, communities and families resolve their conflicts by giving themselves entirely to Christ, the Prince of Peace. May all leaders follow Christ's example and lead with love and mercy.

This Year, Make Protecting Your Family the First Resolution You Keep.

PLAN

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BAPTISMS

Pearl Marie Baldwin, daughter of Jacob and Richelle Baldwin, was baptized Oct. 28, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie.

Rowan Curtis Blundon, son of Jeffrey and Jackilyn Ann Blundon, was baptized Nov. 19, 2023, by Father Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary's Queen of Angels Parish in Russell.

Joshua Dean Brown, son of Justin and Hali Brown, was baptized Dec. 3, 2023, by Deacon Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Larson Michael Cook, son of Quin and Ashlie Cook, was baptized Nov. 24, 2023, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Sara Johanna Deneke, daughter of Luke and Amy Deneke, was baptized Nov. 19, 2023, by Father Mike Leiker at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center.

Paisley Jayne Elling, daughter of Kamrynn Elling, was baptized Aug. 13, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie.

Wynonna Sage Gasper, daughter of Austin and Sadie (Dinkel) Gasper, was baptized Nov. 18, 2023, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Haisley Jo Gassmann, daughter of William and Taylor (Maxfield) Gassmann,

was baptized Nov. 26, 2023, by Father Joshua Werth at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo.

Briar Jo Ginther, daughter of Bart and Trinity (Reuber) Ginther, was baptized Dec. 2, 2023, by Father Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

Wyndham Ford Hilger, son of Markus and Wendy (Zimmerman) Hilger, was baptized Nov. 26, 2023, by Father Harvey Dinkel OFM Cap. at Ascension Living Via Christi Village in Hays.

Bexley Veda Jean Jones, daughter of Adam and Natasha Jones, was baptized Nov. 4, 2023, by Father Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary's Queen of Angels Parish in Russell.

Kohen Paul Jones, son of Adam and Natasha Jones, was baptized Nov. 4, 2023, by Father Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary's Queen of Angels Parish in Russell.

Sutton Michael Karlin, son of Ross and Heather (Darnell) Karlin, was baptized Nov. 12, 2023, by Father Trinity Savariyar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Clement Athanasius Lager, son of Kevin and Melanie Lager, was baptized Aug. 19, 2023, by Father Brian Lager at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin.

Quinley Rae Landers, daughter of Jake and Kayla Landers, was baptized Nov. 12, 2023, by Father Donald D.

Zimmerman at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Karmen Jean Lang, daughter of Keaton and Sabrina Lang, was baptized Oct. 14, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie.

Sophia Cridling Lang, daughter of Keaton Lang and Alexis Boehme, was baptized Oct. 14, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie.

Laura Jayne Leftwich, daughter of Joel and Shannon Leftwich, was baptized Nov. 5, 2023, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Mason Dominic Mayers, son of John and Melissa (Wasinger) Mayers, was baptized Nov. 18, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Callan Michael Murphy, son of Lance and Morgan Murphy, was baptized Nov. 5, 2023, by Father Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary's Queen of Angels Parish in Russell.

Blake Nathaniel Roe, son of Colin and Jessica (Hertel) Roe, was baptized Nov. 5, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Lee Victor Shirley, son of Jace and Brooke (Vetter) Shirley, was baptized Nov. 26, 2023, by Father Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

Maya Bernadette Skerjan-

ec, daughter of Brennan and Bridgette Skerjanec, was baptized Nov. 25, 2023, by Father Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Jordie Lee Slipke, daughter of Easton and Morgan Slipke, was baptized Nov. 19, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie.

Rylan Elias Terry and Carter Ethan Terry, sons of Kathryn Terry, were baptized Nov. 27, 2023, by Father Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

Cleo Marlie Tomlinson, daughter of Mark Tomlinson and Rylie Cox, was baptized Nov. 23, 2023, by Father Daryl Olmstead at St. Alousius Gomzaga Church in Osborne.

Levi Floyd VanLoenen, son of Eric and Gina VanLoenen, was baptized Nov. 25, 2023, by Father Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Parish

in Hoxie.

Chancellor Lee Waymaster and Charles Nicholas Waymaster, twin boys of Troy and Crystal Waymaster, were baptized Oct. 22, 2023, by Father Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary's Queen of Angels Parish in Russell.

Ada Ross Weidmann, daughter of Andrew Weidmann and Allison Louthan, was baptized Nov. 12, 2023, by Father Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Kinley Lauren Werth, daughter of Braiden and Mindy (Gower) Werth, was baptized Nov. 12, 2023, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Zariah Nicole Wickham, daughter of Rusty and Katie (Clancy) Wickham, was baptized Nov. 3, 2023, by Father Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	M	A	R	C				5	S	A	A	R		9	A	B	B	A									
13	A	G	U	A			14	C	A	R	L	O		15	P	L	O	D									
16	G	A	I	N			17	A	X	I	O	M		18	O	U	T	S									
19	I	G	N	O	R	E		20					21	D	E	A	D	S	E	A							
							23	N	A	S	A		24		25	S	N	I	T								
26	C	O	O				29	L	A	M	B		30		31	S	E	L	S		32	33					
34	L	I	P				35	P	R	E	Y	S			36					37	E	A	C	H	38		
39	A	L	E	P	H		40					41	B	L	T		42	U	S	U	R	Y					
43	P	E	R	U			44					45	A	A	R	O	N		46	D	U	D					
							47	R	A	B	B	I		48		49		50	W	A	T	T		51	S	B	E
							52	L	A	N	D		53		54	P	H	I	L								
							56	H	A	I	R	C	U	T		58		59	E	L	I	J	A	H	62		
63	T	A	L	C			64	I	C	I	E	R		65		66	S	O	L	O							
67	L	I	M	A			68						69														
70	C	L	A	N			71	E	L	L	E			72	E	L	S	E									

ANNIVERSARIES

Trish (Lorson) and Dave Schimming, Manhattan, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a family gathering. They are members of St. Thomas More parish in Manhattan. The Schimmings were married Dec. 22, 1973, at

St. Columba Catholic Church in Elmo. They both graduated from Kansas State University. Trish is a retired registered dietitian and Dave is a retired CPA. The couple has one son, Paul (Alison Fahy) and one granddaughter, Ellie.

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DEATHS

Gary Virgil Chaput, 73, died Nov. 20, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 25 at St. Mary the Assumption Church in Clifton. Father Heina presided. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery.

Kenneth Marvin "Ken" Collins, 72, of Hays, died Oct. 22, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 26 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Don Zimmerman and Father Nick Parker presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Gregg Douglas Cooper, 74, of Hoxie, died Oct. 3, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 6 at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie. Father

Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial in St. Frances Cemetery, Hoxie.

Melvin J. Dinkel, 81, of Hays, died Oct. 21, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 25 at St. Catherine Church in Catharine. Father Earl Befort presided. Burial in St. Catherine Cemetery.

Alfred John Dreiling, 102, of Hays, died Sept. 8, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 4 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Father Nick Parker presided. Burial in Christ the King Cemetery.

David Dreiling, 71, died Nov. 24, 2023. Funeral Mass was

celebrated Nov. 28 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark and Father Richard Daise presiding. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Matthew Alfred Ell, 78, of Glasco, died Nov. 16, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 18 at St. Anthony Church in Miltonvale. Father Mike Leiker presided. Burial in Glasco Cemetery.

Francis R. Esslinger, 85, died Nov. 15, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 20 at St. Edward Church in Belleville. Father Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial in Belleville Cemetery.

Neva H. Gatschet, 97, of Hays, died Nov. 5, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 9 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Father Richard Daise presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Darrell Genereux, 80, died Nov. 30, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 4 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia. Father Joseph Kieffer presided.

Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Richard W. "Rich" Geschwentner, 84, of Hays, died Nov. 12, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 17 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Doris Ann Hageman, 98, died Sept. 29, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 7 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Burial in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Cemetery.

Rosalie Pauline (Appel-hans) Heier, 87, of Hoxie, died Oct. 21, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 27 at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial in St. Frances Cemetery in Hoxie.

Lawrence "Lawdy" Herman, 87, died Nov. 7, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 13 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark presided. Inurnment in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Jerry Gene Kopsa, 89, died

Nov. 27, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 2 at St. Edward Church in Belleville. Father Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial in Belleville Cemetery.

Stella M. (Bixenman) Krannawitter, 98, of Colby, died Oct. 17, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 21 at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie. Father Brian Lager presided. Burial in St. Frances Cemetery in Hoxie.

LaVern A. "Ace" Leiker, 87, died Nov. 17, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 22 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Father Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Francis Cemetery in Munjor.

Millard Joseph Moore, 98, of Hays, died Nov. 28, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 4 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Father Joshua Werth presided. Burial in Fort Hays Memorial Gardens.

Harvey F. Munsch, 74, of Hays, died Nov. 30, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 5 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Father Richard Daise presided. Burial in St. Fidelis Cemetery.

Frances (Untereiner) Quakenbush, 96, of Hoxie, died Oct. 29, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 3 at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie. Father Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Park.

Julieta M. Randa, 86, of Hays, died Oct. 21, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 3 at St. Anthony Church in Schoenchen. Father Curtis Carlson presided. Burial in St. Anthony Cemetery.

Veronica "Fronie" Slothower, 99, died Aug. 24, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 30 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Father Daryl Olmstead officiated. Burial in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Cemetery.

Margaret Thibault, 99, died Sept. 18, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 25 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Father Daryl Olmstead officiated. Burial in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Cemetery.

Nicolette Lynn Unruh-Uhl, 36, died Nov. 3, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 10 by Father Donald D. Zimmerman at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Burial in Bergthal Mennonite Cemetery in Pawnee Rock.

Brian Wilson, 62, died Nov. 15, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 27 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde. Father Steven Heina presided. Burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Clyde.

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RECAP OF U.S. BISHOPS' FALL PLENARY IN BALTIMORE

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

BALTIMORE - The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathered Nov. 13 to 16 for their Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore.

The bishops began their plenary with a Mass for Peace at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with an afternoon of regional meetings. On Tuesday, the public sessions of the assembly began with the bishops sending prayers and a message to the Holy Father, as well as an address by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA addressed the body as USCCB president.

During the plenary, the bishops received updates on the following items: the 2021 to 2024 Synod of Bishops, the U.S. bishops' Eucharistic revival initiative and national congress, the Institute on the Catechism and the recently launched mental health campaign. They also had a canonical consultation and affirmed their support for the cause of beatification and canonization of Servant of God Isaac Thomas Hecker, priest and founder of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle (the Paulist Fathers); and also affirmed their support for a request from the bishops' conference of England and Wales asking the Holy Father to name St. John Henry Newman a doctor of the Church.

The bishops discussed several action items and voted on the following:

- 200 in favor, 21 against, and 17 abstentions to approve the reassignment of the Archdiocese of Las Vegas and the Diocese of Reno from Region XI to Region XII, prompted by the creation of a new ecclesiastical province by the Holy Father this past May;

- 225 in favor, 11 against, and 7 abstentions to approve a new introductory note and materials (bulletin inserts and a template video script) supporting the bishops' teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship;

- 228 in favor, 7 against, and 5 abstentions to replace the current USCCB Strategic Plan cycle with a newly proposed Mission Planning Process;

- 230 in favor, 11 against, and 1 abstention to affirm the reauthorization of the USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism;

- 231 in favor, 2 against, and 5 abstentions to approve the USCCB's 2024 proposed budget, presented by the Committee on Budget and Finance.

There were six action items pertaining to liturgical texts from the Committee on Divine Worship, and the Latin Church members of the USCCB voted on the following:

- The U.S. adaptations for the Liturgy of the Hours passed with 214 votes in favor, 3 votes against, and 2 abstentions. The approval of this requires a two-thirds vote of the Latin Church bishops, with subsequent confirmation and recognition

from the Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

- The bishops voted 222 votes in favor, 4 votes against, and 3 abstentions to authorize an amended process for the approval of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) Gray Book of Supplementary Texts for the Liturgy of the Hours.

- The bishops also voted 227 votes in favor, 3 votes against, and 0 abstentions to approve the request to inscribe St. Teresa of Calcutta on the General Roman Calendar as an Optional Memorial on Sept. 5.

During the assembly, the bishops voted for a confer-

ence secretary, as well as chairmen-elect of six conference committees. The bishops elected will serve for one year as chairman-elect before beginning a three-year term at the conclusion of the 2024 Fall Plenary Assembly. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City was elected in November as USCCB secretary to complete the term left vacant when Archbishop Broglio was elected as Conference president. Archbishop

Coakley's current term concludes in November 2024, and with his re-election during this plenary as USCCB secretary and the chairman of the Committee on Priorities and Plans, he will begin his new three-year term at the conclusion of the November 2024 plenary.

News updates, texts of addresses and presentations, and other materials from the 2023 plenary are posted to: www.usccb.org/meetings.



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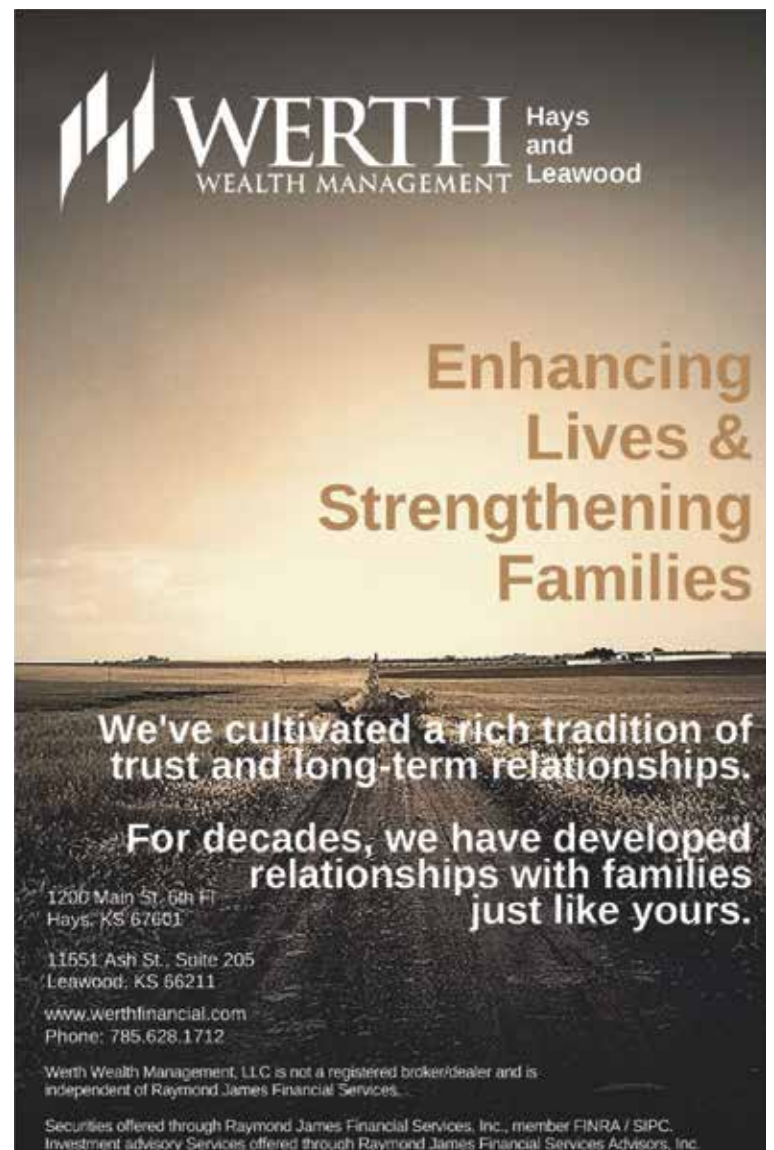
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Contact Father Daryl for more info:
Phone: 785 656 0336 Email: darylholmstead49@gmail.com

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