



# THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

JUNE 28, 2024

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

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# REVIVAL

## Encounter Christ this summer

BY LORI LEISZLER  
THE REGISTER

Crossing over the Missouri River on a bridge seems like nothing for Someone who walked on water.

Two thousand years ago, 12 people noticed the miracle. Earlier this week, crossing the Amelia Earhart Bridge in Atchinson over into the Benedictine Abbey, Jesus drew a crowd.

Christ headed a Eucharistic procession as part of a group walking across the nation that has finally made its way to Kansas.

The pilgrimage, known as the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, went through Benedictine Abbey before heading to Topeka, where Bishop Gerald Vincke helped lead the procession.

While some parts of the pilgrimage are public, a select group of faithful, called Perpetual Pilgrims, gave up their entire summer to accompany Christ on the trip.

"It's beautiful because we're able to give our experience and also give our prayers at the same time," said Patrick Fayad, a Perpetual Pilgrim for the route going through Kansas.

"For me, the way that I have been changed has been a little bit every single day spending time with our

Lord," Fayad said. "I'm a little better at depending on him, I'm a little better at loving him. ... I'm slowly becoming a person who loves the Lord a lot more and is a lot closer to Him."

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will end this summer in Indianapolis, Indiana. There it will kick off the National Eucharistic Congress, July 17-21, a gathering of Catholics to encounter Christ and experience spiritual renewal.

At the National Eucharistic Congress, people will listen to keynote speakers, experience impact sessions and celebrate the sacraments.

This will be the first National Eucharistic Congress in the U.S. in 83 years, coming back at a time when many in the Church are calling for a revival of faith and devotion.

The emcees for the national congress are Fr. Josh Johnson, Sr. Miriam James Heidland and Montse Alvarado.

"We are blessed to have several people from our diocese attending the National Eucharistic Congress," said Bill Meagher, Director of Youth Ministry and Religious Education for the diocese.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



There's still time to register for the National Eucharistic Congress, July 17-21, and the Salina Diocese Eucharistic Conference, Aug. 9-10.

PHOTO BY MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

## Fr. Don making a difference for 50-plus years



COURTESY PHOTO

Fr. Don Zimmerman on his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

One of his favorite songs is "Go Make a Difference."

So it came as no surprise to many in attendance at Fr. Don Zimmerman's 50th jubilee celebration that was the song he chose for the recessional from St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

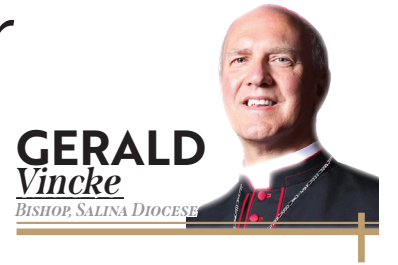
A popular motorcycle-riding priest whose footwear of choice is a pair of cowboy boots, Fr. Don was overwhelmed at the turnout for his special day.

He shouldn't have been.

Former parishioners, relatives and friends from near and far made the trip to show their support. About 400 were served at the dinner that included a cake with a model of him and his beloved Harley Davidson on top.

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# The Greatest Love | El Gran Amor



**GERALD Vincke**  
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE

I am getting more and more excited about the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in a few weeks. I know there are quite a few people from our diocese attending, including our seminarians. I have been following the Eucharistic pilgrimages taking place throughout the country. This week, I traveled to Benedictine College and Topeka to take part in the pilgrimage.

I think the increased focus on the Eucharist is good for our country and families. St. Peter Julian Eymard said, "Let us never forget that an age prospers or dwindles in proportion to its devotion to the Holy Eucharist. This is the measure of its spiritual life and its faith, of its charity and of its virtue." I pray that all families will increase their devotion to the Holy Eucharist, for as the families go, so goes the world.

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Love. Saint Mother Teresa said, "When you look at the crucifix you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much he loves you now."

Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist is Holy Communion. He desires to be in communion with us now and for eternity. This reminds me of a communion song that goes: "I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy."

A few years ago, I received a book titled, "The One Thing." The author shared how he ran a business and was involved with a lot of things which caused very ordinary results. But when he focused on the one thing most important to him, his business flourished. Can we make the Eucharist "the one thing?"

About ten years ago, while I worked in Rome, I went to Sicily with my sister and her husband. We were looking forward to all that we were going to see. Soon after we arrived, it began to rain heavily and didn't stop until we had to leave on this short trip. People said they hadn't seen it rain like that in 40 years! We had to stay indoors for much of the trip. But it was a great trip for me for this reason. We celebrated Mass and the Gospel reading was the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. We know the story. It had been revealed to Simeon that he would not see death before he had seen the Messiah. When Simeon held Jesus in his arms, he said, "Now, Master you may let your servant go in peace...for my eyes have seen your salvation." Even though I couldn't see "things" in Sicily, I felt an enormous

amount of peace because I encountered the love of God in the Eucharist—the "one thing!" No matter what happened that day, whatever life brings us then and now, we have the one thing necessary: the presence of Jesus with us and in us.

This love of the Eucharist is the greatest love. It's a presence greater than anything that can happen to us in the world. The Eucharist brings us peace that the world cannot give. We all have storms in our life; the Eucharist is the constant presence of peace in our hearts.

I often think of how our phones, television commercials and computers often tell us that if we look like this, or do this, or have this, then we will be loved.

Jesus is the one who loves us as we are. He knows the mistakes we make, the struggles we have, and invites us to "come to me" ... our greatest love

*Gerald L. Vincke*

The Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke  
Bishop of Salina

*Me emociono cada vez más por el Congreso Eucarístico en Indianápolis en unas semanas. Sé que hay bastantes personas de nuestra diócesis que asistirán, incluidos nuestros seminaristas. He estado siguiendo las peregrinaciones eucarísticas que se están llevando a cabo en todo el país. Esta semana, viajé a Benedictine College y a Topeka para participar en la peregrinación.*

*Creo que el aumento de enfoque en la Eucaristía es bueno para nuestro país y nuestras familias. San Pedro Julián Eymard dijo: "Nunca olvidemos que una era prospera o disminuye en proporción a su devoción a la Sagrada Eucaristía. Esta es la medida de su vida espiritual y de su fe, de su caridad y de su virtud". Rezo para que todas las familias aumenten su devoción a la Sagrada Eucaristía, porque así como van las familias, así va el mundo.*

*La Eucaristía es el Sacramento del Amor. Santa Madre Teresa dijo que "cuando miras el crucifijo, entiendes cuánto te amó Jesús entonces. Cuando miras la Sagrada Hostia, entiendes cuánto te ama ahora".*

*Jesús en el Sacramento de la Eucaristía es la Sagrada Comunión. Él desea estar en comunión con nosotros ahora y por la eternidad. Hay una canción de comunión*

que dice así:  
"He recibido al Dios vivo, y mi corazón está lleno de alegría".

*Hace unos años, recibí un libro titulado, "Lo Único". El autor compartió cómo dirigía un negocio y estaba involucrado en muchas cosas que causaban resultados muy ordinarios. Pero cuando se enfocó en lo más importante para él, su negocio prosperó. ¿Podemos hacer de la Eucaristía "lo único"?*

*Hace unos diez años, mientras trabajaba en Roma, fui a Sicilia con mi hermana y su esposo. Esperábamos con ansias todo lo que íbamos a ver. Poco después de llegar, comenzó a llover intensamente y no paró hasta que tuvimos que irnos de este corto viaje. Tuvimos que quedarnos en el interior durante gran parte del viaje. Pero fue un gran viaje para mí por esta razón. Celebramos la Misa y la lectura del Evangelio fue la presentación de Jesús en el Templo. Conocemos la historia. Se le había revelado a Simeón que no vería la muerte antes de haber visto al Mesías. Cuando Simeón sostuvo a Jesús en sus brazos, dijo: "Ahora, Señor, puedes dejar a tu siervo irse en paz... porque mis ojos han visto tu salvación". Aunque no pude ver "cosas" en Sicilia, sentí una enorme cantidad de paz porque encontré el amor de Dios en la Eucaristía—¡"lo único"! No importa lo que sucedió ese día, lo que la vida nos traiga entonces y ahora, tenemos lo único necesario: la presencia de Jesús con nosotros y en nosotros.*

*Este amor a la Eucaristía es el amor más grande. Es una presencia mayor que cualquier cosa que pueda sucedernos en el mundo. La Eucaristía nos trae una paz que el mundo no puede dar. Todos tenemos tormentas en nuestra vida; la Eucaristía es la presencia constante de paz en nuestros corazones.*

*A menudo pienso en cómo nuestros teléfonos, los comerciales de televisión y las computadoras nos dicen que si nos vemos así, o hacemos esto, o tenemos aquello, entonces seremos amados.*

*Jesús es quien nos ama tal como somos. Él conoce los errores que cometemos, las luchas que tenemos, y nos invita a "venir a mí"... ¡nuestro gran amor!*

## OFFICIAL PRIEST ASSIGNMENT CHANGES

### Effective July 1, 2024:

Father Trevor Buster: (On loan from the Diocese of Wichita) is appointed Parochial Vicar and Assistant Chaplain of St. Isidore Catholic Student Center Parish in Manhattan, with residence in the parish rectory, Manhattan.

### Effective upon arrival:

Father Vincent John, CMI: (On loan from


the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (C.M.I.), St. Thomas Province, India) is appointed Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish in Salina, with residence in the Cathedral rectory, Salina.

### CORRECTION from May issue of The Register:

Father Brian McCaffrey: Released from assignment as parochial vicar of St. Mary

Queen of the Universe Parish, Salina, and Chaplain of Sacred Heart Jr./Sr. High School and appointed Priest in Residence of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hays, chaplain of Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School, and assistant Vocations Director for the Diocese of Salina, with residence in the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish rectory, Hays (once completed).

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# THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

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## BISHOP'S CALENDAR

### July

- 4 Independence Day-Chancery closed
- 7 150th Anniversary Mass for St. Philip Parish, Hope, 4:30 p.m.
- 12 38th Annual Bishop George Fitzsimons Memorial Golf Tournament, Salina
- 13 Catholic Charities Green Tie Celebration, SCC, 6 p.m.
- 15-16 FOCCUS Pastor Summit, Indianapolis, IN
- 17-21 National Eucharistic Congress, Indianapolis, IN
- 27 Polka Mass, St. Wenceslaus, Wilson, 4 p.m.
- 31 Seminarian Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn, Salina, 6 p.m.

## JULY 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 intentions:

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

### Diocesan intentions:

Lord, we ask you to watch over and protect all of those working in the fields during harvest. Please keep them safe, give them the grace to overcome obstacles, and grant them good weather.

## Determined St. Martin parish celebrates restoration project

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

St. Martin of Tours Church in Seguin is made up of one large family, a key word for the 25 Catholic families in the small unincorporated town in northwest Kansas.

The St. Martin family has been beating the odds for more than 100 years. St. Martin, built in 1906, survived a tornado and a fire before a second tornado in 1925 completely demolished the church, which was rebuilt in 1931.

The last time it was remodeled was in 1978, so this generation of parishioners bonded together this past year for a restoration project to help preserve the church for future generations.

A leak in the roof accelerated the project, which was soon launched for restoration from top to bottom, including the basement.

A planning committee was formed for the Spanish-colonial style church, which is fashioned after its patron saint from France, and began to meet weekly for a year. The restoration was finished this spring and



COURTESY PHOTOS, ISABELLA OSTMEYER

**Bishop Gerald Vincke pours oil over the newly restored altar at St. Martin's. The new altar allows parishioners to see the Last Supper image, which was concealed by the old altar.**

dedicated on May 26.

The design team, led by parishioner Cheryl Ochs, worked to ensure that all corners of the church were addressed, diligent about restoring it to meaningful and correct liturgical style.

Every decision by the committee, which included Melanie Lager and Dana Gerdes, was made in respect to bringing back lost tradition as well as education to generations past, present and future.

Improvements included the purchase of a new altar, ambo and baptismal font, and

moving the St. Ann statue to a more visible part of the church.

The new sacrificial altar features pillars that match the original back altar, which was restored. The open model of the new altar allows those in attendance to see the beautiful photo of the Last Supper on the back altar that had been restricted from view for many years.

Insets in the baptismal font also match the altar pillars, and the ambo matches the altar as well.

The organ and piano were moved to the original choir loft.

The design team even enlarged and framed old photos of the 1931 tornado as part of another historical recount of the church.

New arches accent the large back altar as well as each side of the sanctuary, and the pews were refinished.

"We all learned so much about our faith during the renovation," said Melanie Lager, a member of the design team. "It was an incredible experience. We felt guided by the Holy Spirit every step of the way."

Dear Friends in Christ:

I'm writing to extend a heartfelt invitation to our annual seminarian fundraising dinners – an evening dedicated to the men who have said "yes" to serving God and His Church as seminarians for the Diocese of Salina.

The evening will include a delicious dinner, heartfelt testimonials from our seminarians, and an opportunity to come together as a community united in faith and purpose. It is a chance to celebrate the future of our Church and to show our seminarians that they are cherished and supported by their diocesan family.

Supporting our seminarians is a cause that is near and dear to my heart. These young men have answered the call to serve our Church, and it is our privilege and duty to support them on their faith journey. Your contributions are vital in supporting the education and religious formation of men prepar-

ing for the priesthood in our diocese. With your generous support, we hope and pray these men will become great priests for future generations of Catholics in our community.

We invite you to join us in celebrating the gift of vocations at one of our seminarian dinners. However, if you are unable to attend, we ask that you consider making a generous gift to support our seminarians.

Let us continue to pray for our seminarians as they discern their call to the priesthood. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

May God continue to bless you in all of your endeavors and plans.

In Christ's Service,

*+ Gerald L. Vincke*

The Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke  
Bishop of Salina

## ANNUAL Seminarian FUNDRAISING DINNERS

JULY 31

SALINA

HILTON GARDEN INN

5:15PM

AUG 1

COLBY

CITY LIMITS

5:15PM

AUG 2

HAYS

ROSE GARDEN BANQUET HALL

5:15PM

## RSVP TODAY!

visit [bit.ly/salinasems](http://bit.ly/salinasems)  
to register

If you have any questions, please call Corrina Hudsonpillar at 785-639-2100.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS  
Bishop Gerald Vincke elevates the Host at his 25th anniversary Mass at St. Fidelis in Victoria.

## Bishop Vincke celebrates 25th anniversary of priesthood

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

"I love this diocese so much."

Those were the words Bishop Gerald Vincke told the full house at his 25th anniversary of priesthood earlier this month.

More than 400 parishioners across the diocese had sent in RSVPs for the big day. And event planner Corrina Hudsonpillar, donor relations and communications manager for the diocese's Catholic Foundation, said several more showed up for the Sunday afternoon Mass at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria.

It was obvious our shepherd's sentiments were mutual with his followers, who lined up down the hallway of Victoria Elementary School afterward for a reception in the gymnasium.

Bishop Vincke cruised the crowd, thanking parishioners from every corner of the diocese for their support.

There were young and old, college students home for the summer and even folks from outside our diocese in attendance.

Lance and Jada Sharp and their five children from Leonardville, a small town about 30 miles north of Junction City, made the 2.5-hour trip.

Ditto for Roy Cummings from Goodland, located in one of the farthest western counties of the diocese.

Cummings has traveled to all 50 states and visits many Catholic churches along the way. He said he has never seen anything like the following of Bishop Vincke.

"I saw Elvis in concert three times, and this is better," Cummings said. "Bishop Vincke is a fine, fine man and such a great leader."

Cummings had met Bishop Vincke before, and they ran into each other before the anniversary Mass.

"He remembered my name and where I was from," Cummings said. "Amazing. When I saw

the notice about this Mass, I RSVPed the next day."

The day wouldn't have happened if the bishop had his way. Not one to promote himself, he tried to steer the chancery staff away from a large celebration.

They wouldn't hear of it and convinced Bishop Vincke how much the people of the Salina Diocese support him. So in essence, he agreed to have the celebration for his people.

Nearly 50 priests, deacons and seminarians helped escort the bishop into and out of the church.

Bishop Vincke admitted in his homily that he was nervous, not comfortable concentrating on himself.



He told of 10 lessons he has learned since being named bishop of the Salina Diocese six years ago. After being ordained a priest on June 12, 1999, in Lansing, Mich., he held assignments in his home state as well as in Rome for 5 years.

Bishop Vincke

was named a Monsignor in 2015 and was ordained our diocese's leader on Aug. 22, 2018.

At his anniversary Mass, he talked about learning that people are more important than "things" and that we should rely on the Blessed Mary and the Holy Spirit to lead us.

The 10th lesson, Bishop Vincke stressed, was not to play football with second-graders on the playground. The congregation laughed, many knowing of his unfortunate

2023 accident in Hays. While playing quarterback in a touch football game at Holy Family Elementary, the bishop slipped while eluding a defender, fell and broke his nose.

Playing among the youngsters at recess is not unusual for Bishop Vincke. He is comfortable conversing with parishioners of every age while traveling to the 86 parishes around the vast diocese that encompasses 26,000-plus square miles.

"I'm blessed to be the bishop of this diocese," he told the congregation at his anniversary Mass. "Thank you for your love and support as we work together to be disciples of Jesus."

Those who get the privilege to work with Bishop Vincke day in and day out feel blessed as well.

"I look up to him so much as a mentor," said Bill Meagher, director of the diocesan offices of Youth Ministry, Religious Education and Family Life. "I learn and grow by watching the way he works with people and how he lives his life with his faith."

To learn more about Bishop Vincke's 25 years of priesthood, check out the online May issue of The Register at <https://shorturl.at/DATph>.

**"I'M BLESSED TO BE THE BISHOP OF THIS DIOCESE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS."**

**-BISHOP GERALD VINCKE**

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# On Mission: Caregiver Marilyn Dinkel visits the sick



COURTESY PHOTO

Marilyn Dinkel, back, shares a laugh with Cora Schulte, Det Younger, Theresa Dreiling and Jane Seba.

BY CORRINA HUDSONPILLAR  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

In our communities, there are unsung heroes - disciples of Jesus on mission. To them, their actions may seem ordinary, but those around them recognize the love and compassion they radiate. One such remarkable individual is Marilyn Dinkel from Victoria.

Dinkel's caregiving nature defines her. She moved to a house next to her parents to help take care of them, showcasing her selflessness. For 35 years she worked at the local hospital, supervising employees with special needs. While working at the hospital, she took the time to get to know the employees, and how they best learn and help them keep routines to be successful.

After leaving her work at the hospital, Dinkel's compassionate journey continued by taking care of a local lady, Marjorie Rome, who used to be Dinkel's first-grade teacher.

Dinkel would sit with her, take her to appointments, etc. Dinkel said she truly felt that God had put Marjorie back into her life, and her passing in May 2023 left a void. Upon Marjorie's death, her family's generosity blessed many others by gifting her belongings instead of selling them. Dinkel distributed Marjorie's belongings to those in need - the local historical society received pictures, clothing went to local cancer patients, crucifixes went to a mortuary, and other items benefited St. Fidelis Parish Victoria and people in need in their community.

Cora, another local lady, witnessed Dinkel's care for Marjorie and asked to be on "the list." No such list existed but Cora knew that she wanted Dinkel to help her out when she needed it. Cora now resides in Homestead in Hays, but Dinkel remains by her side -whether for appointments or a simple outing.

Dinkel's service extends to Bernadette Younger, who echoes the sentiment that

"thank you" falls short of expressing her gratitude for Marilyn. Acts of service, like driving to Burlington, Colorado for a trip and detailing her car, leave lasting impressions. Dinkel said she simply feels that God has blessed her so that she can bless others.

But it doesn't end there. Dinkel's weekly routine includes assisting a 93-year-old Victoria resident with trips to Hays, logging thousands of steps as they explore stores together. And then there is the gentleman to whom she brings a banana split every day. She estimates that in the past 18 months, there have only been a handful of days that he hasn't gotten his banana split.

"A banana split a day keeps the doctor away," Dinkel said.

Beyond caregiving, she also shares meals with her neighbors in the community.

"Food tastes better when shared with others," she said.

Her love of God's creatures extends to animals; she feeds the birds and once fostered dogs until she realized she couldn't keep them all. Now, her four dogs are her faithful companions.

While it's easy to see the difference Marilyn makes in the lives of those around her, she is quick to recognize that she receives just as much joy back from them. She feels that God put us here to help each other, something she is a testament to each day through her acts of selflessness.



**TOGETHER**  
LET US BE DISCIPLES  
OF JESUS ON MISSION

## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY



Feed the Hungry



Give Drink to the Thirsty



Clothe the Naked



Shelter the Homeless



Care for the Sick



Visit the Imprisoned



Bury the Dead

## A mission of mercy

Together, let us be disciples of Jesus on mission. This is the new mission statement that Bishop Vincke has given the Diocese of Salina, and it is a beautiful challenge to each of us to consider our mission in life. As I have been thinking about this mission, I have thought about how much it connects with our baptism.

When we were baptized, we became sons and daughters of God. An indelible mark was placed on our souls that claimed us for Christ. In that moment, we became disciples of Christ and will spend our lives learning from Him and modeling our lives after His. We sit at the feet of the Master, listen to His words, and watch His example. We are disciples.

The very next thing that happens is that we are anointed priests, prophets, and kings. We become kingdom priests who bring our sacrifice to Mass to be offered up on the altar. We become prophets who speak God's words to others, and we become kings who are called to have kingship over ourselves and our passions and desires. We are no longer just normal humans floating through life but are on a mission to grow in holiness and bring others to Christ. Together with all the other baptized faithful, we are on a mission.

One way we can bring Christ to others is through the works of mercy. These are actions that we can do that extend God's love and mercy to those in need. The church teaches that there are two categories of these. The first is the spiritual works of mercy. These are acts of compassion aimed at people's emotional and spiritual needs.

The second category is called the corporal works of mercy.

These are acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

We will spend the next six months highlighting the different works of mercy and showing the difference that people around our diocese are making in people's lives by living out their mission and performing these works. There are amazing people all over our diocese doing amazing things for others. We are excited to look at each of the works of mercy and see how we are being called to bring God's love and mercy to those around us.

### Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- Admonish the sinner. (Correct those who need it.)
- Instruct the ignorant. (Share our knowledge.)
- Counsel the doubtful. (Give helpful advice.)
- Comfort the sorrowful. (Comfort those who suffer.)
- Bear wrongs patiently. (Be patient with others.)
- Forgive all injuries. (Forgive those who hurt us.)
- Pray for the living and the dead.

### Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Visit the imprisoned.
- Shelter the homeless.
- Visit the sick.
- Bury the dead.

**BILL Meagher**  
DIOCESE OF SALINA



# Elementary school teacher retiring after 43 years

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

**T**eresa Schrant made learning fun, and she will tell you that she enjoyed her lifetime profession of working with elementary school students as well.

After 43 years of teaching at Hays Catholic Schools, Schrant has decided to retire from her full-time gig.

Following a 17-year stint at St. Joseph Grade School, Schrant moved with the St. Joseph staff and students when Holy Family Elementary School was formed in 1998.

Coincidentally, Holy Family is in the same building where Schrant went to grade school when it was called Jefferson East. And her church, Immaculate Heart of Mary, formerly occupied the space that is now Holy Family's gymnasium.

"It's always been home to me," she said. "... always will be."

Krystal Randa had Schrant as her fourth-grade teacher in the mid 1990s, and Randa's son, Kenton, was in Schrant's last class this year.

Randa said she has many good memories about her fourth-grade year and was hoping that Kenton would be assigned to Mrs. Schrant's room when he entered fourth grade nearly 30 years later.

"She was always so organized," Randa said. "For me – and my son – we like a teacher with a schedule laid out and knew what was coming."

She added that Schrant also was a favorite for her daughter, Paisley.

Randa said that Schrant let Paisley and a friend stop by the fourth-grade classroom in the morning en route to their first-grade room to say Hi to their older brothers, who were in Schrant's class.

It was just all in a day's work for Schrant.

"I love making learning fun," she said. "But I was a strict teacher. Some parents were hesitant to get me for their child, then told me later they were glad they did."

Holy Family students usually look forward to fourth grade, no matter what classroom

they end up in.

That's the year they get to participate in the pancake race, which Schrant began several years ago. The fourth-graders, their parents and faculty compete in a race the day before Lent in an activity that draws the entire school outdoors to watch.

It was one of several out-of-classroom activities she was a part of while teaching youngsters for parts of five decades.

Schrant said she looks forward to spending more time with her own family in retirement. Her three sons and their families all live in Kansas.

But she will always think of Holy Family as family, too.

The Holy Family family rallied around Schrant when she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2018, eventually had a stem cell transplant and missed half a year of

**Teresa Schrant with her "Grand-students" -- the children of students whom she also taught years ago. Every year, she takes a photo with any new "grand-students" in her homeroom and puts it in a Fourth Grade Memory Book to capture special moments for her class.**



COURTESY PHOTO

**Above: Teresa Schrant celebrates her retirement, standing outside of the school's main doors. The artwork was created by her nephew who was up on school grounds until midnight preparing this special M&M retirement greeting for his Aunt Teresa.**

**Left: Back (L-R): Kenton Randa, Lexi Peters, Mrs. Schrant, Nicholas Brown. Middle row: Anne Hertel and Layne Whitmer. Front: Elliott Basgall, Twynn Tetuan, Jade Whitmer and Lola Gerber.**

school.

"I missed the kids and the classroom so much back then," she said, "and I'll miss being there next year when that bell rings at 7:45."

That's why she still plans to help out at the

school, especially a couple of days a week, helping get fourth- and fifth-grade altar servers ready for Mass.

Schrant taught second grade for a short time but said fourth grade was her favorite age.

"Fourth-graders ask a lot of questions, and they just get it," she said. "They have a good sense of humor, like to have fun. That makes teaching – and learning – easier."

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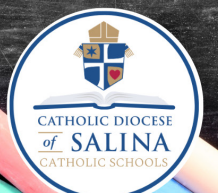
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# A banner month for Knight, Monarch, Blujay athletes

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Two diocesan high schools put on quite a show in a 12-day span in May, collecting trophies and medals galore during post-season action across various athletic arenas.

Sacred Heart, Salina, and Thomas More Prep-Marian, Hays, each featured a state champion in the process as the Knights won a ninth consecutive state team title in golf, and Monarch junior Shalee Gottschalk was the 100-meter hurdles champ at the 2A track and field finale.

Sacred Heart began the schools' successful run by winning its 2A regional golf tournament in Atchison on May 14.

Two days later, TMP-M had a day to remember, claiming 2-1A regional titles in both baseball and softball on the same afternoon that the Monarch girls' track and field team claimed runner-up honors at their 2A regional meet to qualify several individuals for state.

Sacred Heart and TMP-M gave fans quite a show in the regional title baseball game in Hays with TMP-M coming out on top of the 5-4 thriller to advance to state. Sacred Heart, ranked No. 1 in the state in 2-1A for a good part of the season, finished with only three losses this spring – all to TMP-M.

However, the Sacred Heart golf team couldn't be stopped. The Knights placed four golfers in the top 10 in winning another state crown, led by senior Mike Matteucci's runner-up effort. It was his second straight top-two state finish after

winning it all last year.

Senior teammate Walker Tuttle nabbed his third straight top-four state finish by tying for fourth, and in a twist of irony, junior Luke Newell finished third for the third straight year.



COURTESY PHOTO

**TMP-M's Shalee Gottschalk won four medals at the 2A state track and field meet.**

Also in state golf, St. John's-Beloit finished as team runner-up in the sand greens competition, led by the seventh-place tie of senior Chris LaRocque.

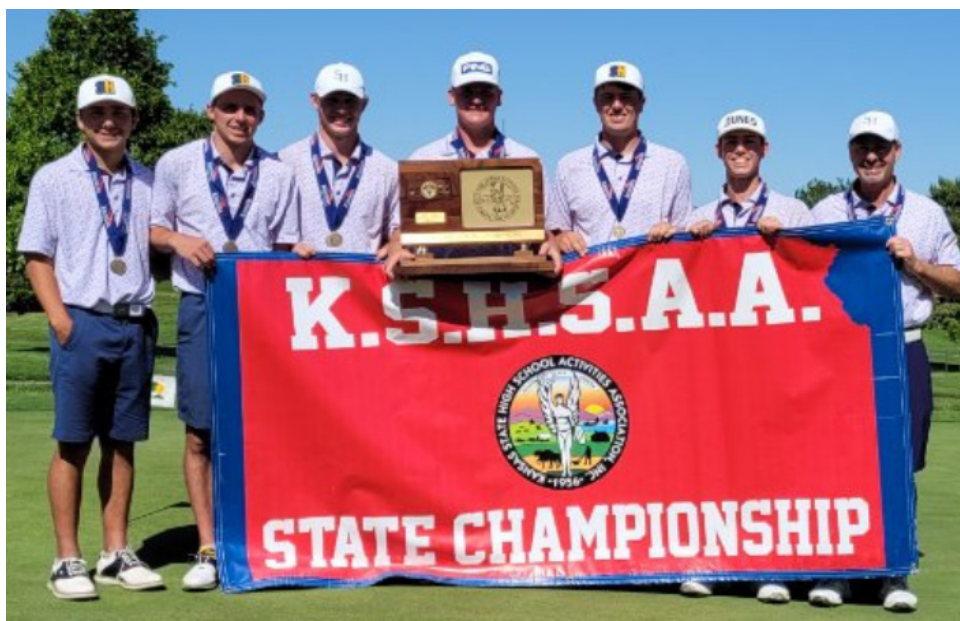
TMP-Marian's baseball team won its first-round game at state before losing a one-run heart-breaker to eventual state champ Medicine Lodge in the semifinals and eventually finishing fourth.

The Monarch softball team lost its first game at state but will return all but one player next season, including its two

starting pitchers – who were freshmen this year.

TMP-M sent several athletes to the medalist podium at the state track meet the final weekend of the 2023-24 school year, led by Gottschalk, who was a four-time medalist.

In addition to her gold-medal performance in the 100m hurdles, Gottschalk finished second in triple jump and third in the 300m low hurdles and was a member of the Monarchs' third-place 400-meter relay team.



COURTESY PHOTO

**The Salina-Sacred Heart Knights hoist a state championship golf trophy for a ninth consecutive year.**

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mselzer@sjoakley.org or call 785-671-4451  
• Elementary Teacher

### Ellis

Email Patti Park, ppark@stmarysellis.net or call 785-726-3185  
• Elementary Teacher, K-6 TBD

### Hays

Email Mandy Meagher  
mmeagher@hfehays.org or call 785-625-3131  
• Classroom Aid  
• Kitchen Helper  
• Maintenance Worker  
• Afterschool Care Workers

### Junction City

Email Shawn Augustine  
augustines@saintxrams.org or call 785-238-2841  
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• K-12 Counselor  
• Elem. Teacher  
• PreK-12 Aide  
• MS Girls' Basketball Coach  
• HS Boys' Basketball Coach  
• Substitute Teachers (Current Kansas Teaching License or Substitute License Required)

COURTESY PHOTO



## Little Apple Little Flowers complete Wreath One virtues

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Little Apple Little Flowers Girls Club celebrated the completion of their Wreath One virtues during a tea party and badge ceremony held in the St. Thomas More utopia room in Manhattan.

These 25 girls, ranging in age from kindergarten to sixth grade, earned badges representing nine Virtues including Hope, Faith, Obedience, Piety, Truthfulness, Love of God, Love of Neighbor, Humility and Industry. To earn this honor, participants encountered Memory Scriptures, Saints and Bible stories for each virtue.

Sixth-grade students and founding

members, Claire Grennan and Aubrey Mick, earned two Saint Project Medals for their leadership during meetings and contribution to the Catholic community through volunteerism. Fourth and Fifth grade students Lila Kohler, Annika Mick, Taylor Roberts and Kaitlyn Vilkanas received their Jr. Leader rose rings.

This local group is part of the larger Little Flowers National Organization that promotes Catholic teachings and St. Theresa's "little way of love" as young ladies learn from the lives of saints through songs, crafting, service and fellowship.

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## FR. DON, FROM PAGE 1

Tim and Sandee Werth made the trip from Hays. Fr. Don had married them in 1996 when he was pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary church. He baptized their oldest son, and the couple has stayed in touch with Fr. Don even after he left Hays.

"I wouldn't have missed it," Sandee said of the celebration. "He was, and still is, such a personable, caring priest."

If an award for coming the farthest would have been given, Sister Rita Schwarzenberger would have won hands down. Sister Rita, who grew up in Collyer, has served for several years abroad and came all the way from Nigeria to help her cousin celebrate.

"He has visited me in Nigeria twice," Sister Rita said, "so I knew I needed to be here today."

Fr. Don called it his 50-plus-1 celebration. He was ordained on June 2, 1973; therefore, 2023 was actually his 50th anniversary of priesthood.

But St. Thomas More was undergoing a major renovation last year, so he decided to wait a year for people to "be able to mingle and visit from table to table" in the large parish hall.

Bishop Jerry Vincke, who concelebrated the anniversary Mass, thanked Fr. Don for "serving with the heart."

Fr. Don retired in 2017, only to be called out of retirement twice because of a need somewhere in the diocese. And he still fills in whenever he can.

"He wants to serve," Bishop Vincke said. "His heart is always willing to serve."

## Where it all began

Fr. Don grew up on a farm 7.5 miles southwest of Collyer, the oldest of seven children of Joseph and Martina Zimmerman.

He said he was in sixth grade when his



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, THE REGISTER

Fr. Don simulates riding his motorcycle beside his anniversary cake depicting him and his Harley Davidson.

father made an indelible comment to his sons.

"I can still hear my father saying, 'One of you boys ought to think of becoming a priest,'" Fr. Don said. "I had four younger brothers, so I kind of thought he was talking to me."

Fr. Don never forgot it. When it came time to enter high school, he decided to give the seminary a try.

St. Francis Seminary in Victoria was only about an hour from his home. But St. Francis was full at the time, so Fr. Don ended up at St. Francis de Sales High School in Oklahoma City. From there, he went to Conception (Mo.) Seminary College and Kendrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.

The priesthood has taken Fr. Don to many places, much farther than he ever imagined growing up in a two-story farmhouse.

"From the second-story window, I'd see the lights of WaKeeney," Zimmerman said of a town of less than 2,000 residents but still much larger than his tiny hometown of Collyer. "I would dream of places beyond WaKeeney."

That dream came true in many ways. Following his ordination, he coincidentally was never assigned a parish west of Hays. But he enjoyed every assignment he was given over the years while serving in parishes as far north as Belleville and as far east as Manhattan.

His favorite parish? That was an easy answer for him.

"There was an expression back in the '70s, 'Bloom where you are planted,'" he said. "Wherever I was, that was my favorite place."

Fr. Don was a serious runner in his younger days and has run three marathons. He has visited numerous other countries. He has traveled the country on his motorcycle, once logging 12,000 miles in 10 weeks. But it was always good to get back home to his parish.

"The core thing was the liturgy, of course," he said, "and the people – just the privilege of being a part of people's lives, whether a baptism or a wedding or a funeral. Often, when you are visiting people who are sick, you come away being strengthened by the one who is ill. You establish a lot of wonderful relationships over the years in parishes. I've been most blessed by their faith and commitment."

The same held true for his role in bringing to the diocese the Retrouvaille program, which helps married couples facing difficulties in their relationship.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Your Gifts in Action: Engaged Encounter

Several times a year, couples from across the diocese gather in Victoria at The Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life for a full weekend to prepare for a sacramental marriage. Throughout the weekend, couples hear from a team of married couples and a priest who guides the conversations. It's an opportunity to talk intensively and honestly about their future together. The engaged couples privately discuss all aspects of married life – from desires, ambitions and goals to their attitudes about money, sex, children, family, and their role in the church and society.

It's a weekend away from the stresses of work, wedding planning and everyday life. It's an opportunity to grow closer to each other and in their relationship with their faith.

Brooklyn Bussen and Jeff Heiman, an engaged couple and recent attendees of an

Engaged Encounter weekend reflected on their time in Victoria.

"We felt like Engaged Encounter really prepared us because it made us take a whole weekend to talk through things. Since we had to stay the weekend there, it made us shut out other things in our lives and focus on our engagement. Being completely committed to each other that

weekend with no distractions was the most beneficial thing that we could have done."

Another advantage of immersive conversations is the opportunity to delve into discussions about faith. While some couples come into the weekend with varying backgrounds and outlooks on their faith, Brooklyn and Jeff were both raised Catholic. They took the opportunity to learn more about the other person's family background and how they were raised, which helped them better understand each other and how to merge these things to create their own family.

While preparing for a wedding can include plenty of tasks, one of the most important tasks is the spiritual preparation for the lifetime of mar-

riage.

"Our advice to other couples is to go into the weekend with an open mind! It is hard to go a whole weekend without looking at your to-do list, so naturally, we showed up and thought 'we just need to check this off the list'. We then realized that dedicating the weekend to our future marriage was something that needed to be done. We left the weekend with a better

understanding of each other and more in love than when we came," stated Brooklyn.

We are blessed in our diocese to have a great team of volunteer couples

and priests who use the gifts that God has given them to help young couples in our diocese. They invest their time and energy into helping young couples prepare for their sacramental marriage. They are supported by the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Salina. This ministry is dedicated to supporting and strengthening marriages and family life. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share helps support programs such as Engaged Encounter and assists parishes with programming, training and resources as they encourage family members in their pursuit of holiness. To learn more about the appeal or to make a gift, please visit [join.salinadiocese.org](http://join.salinadiocese.org).

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## FR. DON, CONTINUED

“Helping other people with their marriages helped me, too,” he said. “It’s been a good life, but like anyone, there were also some trials and testing.”

### Part of the journey

Fr. Don was faced with a major trial – and decision – his sophomore year of high school.

First, he had to decide between returning closer

to home for school and transferring to St. Francis Seminary (which by then had openings) or returning to his original high school in Oklahoma City.

He chose the latter, not knowing that his life would change forever a month later when his father died of a brain tumor.

Fr. Don’s mother, left with seven children to raise alone, put her oldest son in charge of a difficult

choice he had to make. Should he stay home and help with the farming or return to school in another state?

“Mother said, ‘Whatever you want to do, Donny, it’s OK,’” he said. “That shows the strength of our mother.”

He felt called to continue his discernment to become a priest and returned to school.

“It was the fall of 1962, and Vatican II had opened up, creating a lot of uncertainty for the church,” he said. “There were a lot of changes going on. There were over 70 guys in my high school freshman class, and only two were eventually ordained priests.”

One of those was young Don Zimmerman from western Kansas. Eight years later, Martina Zimmerman watched her oldest child ordained a priest. His dad would have been so proud.

Now, many decades later, Fr. Don knows he made the right choice.

Fr. Don, who appears younger than his 77 years, says he will continue filling in wherever necessary and attends some sort of service nearly every day at St. Thomas More.

After all, he can get there on foot.

“From my front door, through the parking lot and into the church office,” he said, “I can be there in a minute and 14 seconds.”



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, THE REGISTER

Father Don Zimmerman poses for photos with former parishioners Karen and Roy Spichal from St. George Parish, Munden, at his 50th jubilee celebration.

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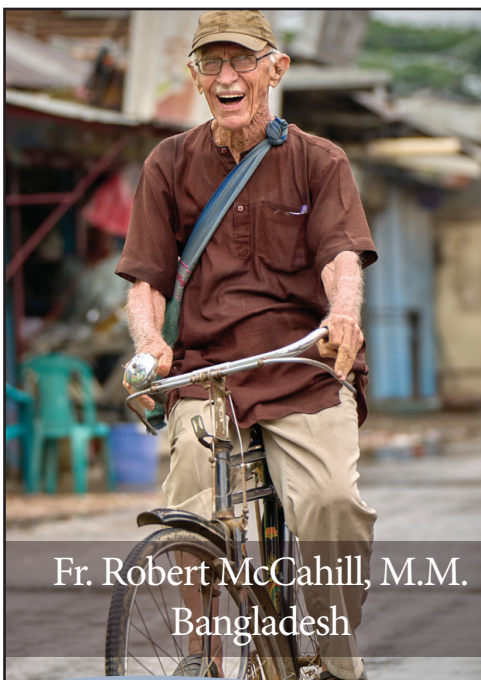
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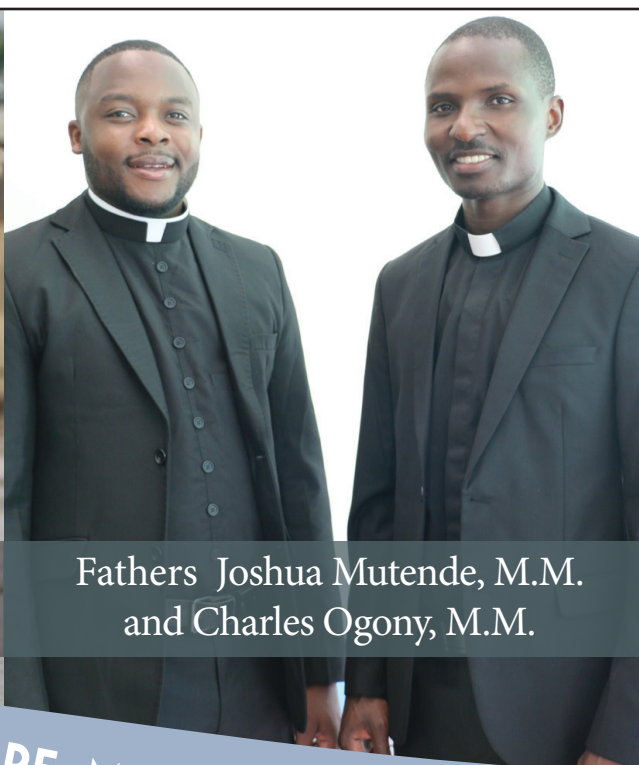
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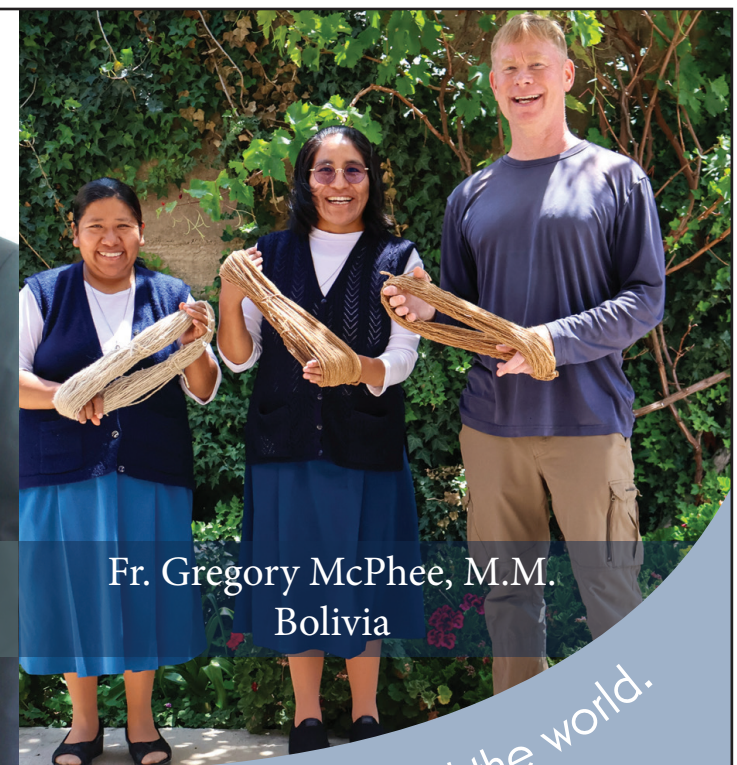
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**Graduates at St. Thomas More, Manhattan, May 19**  
 Front (L-R): Catechist Sean Keating, Lia Jimenez, Jayda Juenemann, Maxine Doering, Grace Geisbrecht, Allie Cloyd, Anna Wollenberg.  
 Back Row: Fr. Don Zimmerman, Catechist Bill Kennedy, Catechist Rick Smith, Miles Braxmeyer, Jake McCollough, Pierson (Steve) Linck, Carter Oehme, Jackson Radi, Deacon Wayne Talbot.



**First Communion at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays, May 5**  
 Front (L-R): Wyatt Kostycz, Ava Bloom, Katelyn Hilger, Eli Baxter, Alexander Cano, Kendall Pfeifer, Damian Dechant and Sylvie Wolf. Second Row: Henry Chambers, Xrisse Ayarza, Cameron Feldt, Tucker Geist, Bridget Loving, Donovan Fraire-Cubillo, Arya Linder, Jose Pineda and Yaneli Gutierrez. Third Row: Vida Villsenor-Diaz, Reed Breit, Miden Pfannenstiel, Emery Knight, Mia Lang and Marina Valencia. Fourth Row: Lincoln Hamel, Brody Werner, Ian Madrigal, Rudy Washburn, Isabella Cabrera, Kaden Hall and Lana Schmeidler. Priests: Fr. Andy Hammeke, Fr. Trinity Savariyar, Fr. Nick Parker.



**First Communion at Saints Peter and Paul, Clay Center, Apr. 21**  
 Front (L-R): Levi Rott, Maggie Lenhart, Piper Rott, Rece Speltz, Asher Rott. Second Row: Kwalynn McMahan, Elias Lagow, Harper Hubka, Cashdyn Dunn, Kash Baumann, Eleanora Mellies. Back Row: Fr. Mike Leiker, Deacon Mike, Lance & Jada Sharp (catechists).



**Confirmation at Saints Peter and Paul, Clay Center, May 4**  
 Front (L-R): Khevey Pfizenmaier, Jarrin Brumfield, Shea Urban, Natalie Sleichter, Skylet March, Kamdyn Easterberg, Ethan Leitzel. Back: Mike Leiker, Noah Schmelzle, Lucas Hood, Will Koppes, Wyatt Schwab, Bishop Vincke.



**Graduates at St. Joseph, Oakley, May 12**  
 Front (L-R): Heather Sammons, Kenna Selzer and Karli Krier. Middle: Nolin Kuhlman and Ivan Jirak. Back: Fr. Luke Thielen.



**Confirmation at Sacred Heart, Colby, Apr. 28**  
 Front (L-R): Cambell Brzon, Ellie McCarty, Karson Wilson, Luc Schroer, Lukas Herrman, Jesus Vazquez, Joston Sabatka, Landrie McKee and Macy Schroeder. Middle Row: Fr. Brian Lager, Kenley Moss, Annica Prochazka, Harper Weber, Lux Vrbas, Hallie Bolyard, Kitty Anne Kough and Breckyn Kinderknecht. Back Row: Kruze Denny, Emery Fikan, Ceithen Carroll, Jett Rush, Jude Horinek, Jose Carrillo, Erick Torres-Veloz, Deacon Tom Schrick and Bishop Vincke.



**Confirmation at St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, May 13**  
 Front (L-R): Abby Strobel, Aubrey Birney, Madison Sohm, Taylor Birney, Jaden Ney and Lindsey Cole. Back: Teacher Brent Homeier, Zachary Axtell, Clayton Jacobs, Brock Homeier, Teagen Pfeifer and Bishop Vincke.



**Graduates at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia, May 12**  
 (L-R): Fr. Joseph Kieffer, Gracey Drury, Callie Parker and Carlisle Carlgren.



**Graduate at St. Joseph, Dorrance, May 11**  
 Anna Thielen with Fr. Tony and her parents Joey & Kelli Thielen.



**Graduates at St. John Nepomucene, Beardsley, May 5**  
 Abby Micek and Gus Hanson.



**First Communion at St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Osborne, Apr. 28**  
 Front (L-R): Addelyn Sigle, James Carlin, Everly Lyon, Kip Crossland and Corbin Mans. Back: Fr. Daryl Olmstead.



**First Communion at St. John Nepomucene, Beardsley, May 5**  
 Front (L-R): Aidan Hagler, Emily Sis, and Landon Martinez. Back: Marci Sis, Fr. Joseph Asirvatham, Deacon Mark Vrbas.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

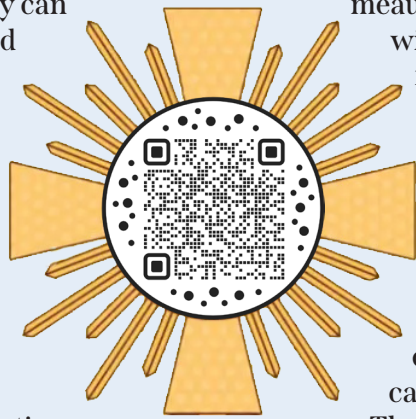
## ENCOUNTER CHRIST, FROM PAGE 1

"It will be a great experience for them, and I'm excited to see how they can bring back that experience and share it with all of us."

To continue the revival, the Diocese of Salina will also host a Eucharistic Conference of its own, Aug. 9-10, in Hays. This event is set to inspire and transform people of all ages across our entire Catholic diocese.

"That is part of the goal of hosting our own local Eucharistic Conference in our diocese," Meagher said.

"We knew that not everyone could make it to Indianapolis, so we wanted to bring part of that experience to them. We are fortunate



that Fr. Andy Hammeke and the Comeau Campus Center in Hays are willing to host this great event for us. It is going to be a special event for our diocese with incredible speakers, Adoration Under The Stars, confession opportunities, and it will finish with a big Diocesan Mass outside in the quad at FHSU. We hope you can join us."

The cost to attend the Salina Diocese Eucharistic Conference is \$30 per adult, \$20 per child with parents. More information can be found at [Salinadiocese.org](http://Salinadiocese.org) or at the link on the QR code.

**July 7**  
• 150th Anniv. Mass, 4:30 p.m., St. Philip, Hope

**July 12**  
• 38th Annual Bishop Fitzsimons Memorial Golf Tournament, 7 a.m., Country Club, Salina

**July 13**  
• Catholic Charities Green Tie Celebration, 6 p.m., Country Club, Salina.

**July 17-21**  
• National Eucharistic Congress, Indianapolis, IN

**July 27**  
• Sacred Heart School Auction, 5 p.m., Plainville

**July 27**  
• Polka Mass, St. Wenceslaus, 4 p.m., Wilson

**July 31**  
• Seminarian Dinner, 6 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, Salina.

*If you have any questions about an event listed here, please contact the parish/office/school directly.*

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

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# WALKING WITH WOMEN TO GROW IN HOLINESS

BY JENN HINNEN

I was blessed to attend the Women's Conference held at St. Thomas More in Manhattan. Being new to the area, this was my first conference and it far exceeded my expectations.

Our guest speaker was Sheri Wohlfert, a passionate Catholic wife, mom, grandma, speaker, writer and retired teacher. She also is a fan of the Holy Spirit, hot coffee, and spreading the love and joy of the Lord. Her mission is to spread the Gospel message in a practical, relatable, humorous way that invites, inspires, and challenges people to "See Christ" and "Be Christ" in the world.

First, Sheri reminded us how much we are loved. There are 122 instances of the word beloved in Scripture. Still, do we know we're beloved? Do we believe the Father loves us as freely as we love on a newborn? Do we gaze at the Father like a baby upon his parents?

Since I am currently expecting, that hit home. The joy and love I have for this little one growing inside me is a tiny glimpse of the Father's love for me and my child. I want to receive His gaze of love and return it back to Him!



**"The conference was a perfect respite for me as a busy mom, making it feasible for my schedule. I met other faithful women and was inspired to live my faith more fully."**  
-Participant Maria Riley

Sheri also spoke about how the Lord works most powerfully in our suffering.

In times of suffering she encouraged us to pray by thanking Him for the suffering, inviting Him into it, and then being open to whatever He does.

I've been doing this ever since the conference, and it's been such a gift.

Lastly, Sheri encouraged us to ask people how we can pray for them and then pray for them out loud on the spot. Hope and conviction filled my heart when she shared a wonderful story of how students from her school went around the neighborhood, knocked on people's doors asking how they could pray for them, and then praying for them on the spot. I want to do that, too! I'm going to be more intentional about asking people how I can pray for them and then praying for those intentions right then and there. It was a powerful conference and I hope something from this recap has touched you and will help you follow Jesus a little more closely.

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# The true impact of Catholic Charities

By MARIA RILEY

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas is an essential organization that supports people in need. They serve in 31 counties, from Manhattan to the Colorado border. The organization depends on donations from generous donors to maintain services for the most vulnerable in our communities.

The donated money helps Catholic Charities meet people's basic needs. Anyone struggling can apply for assistance with food, rent, utilities and prescriptions, as well as disability or catastrophic illness assistance, disaster relief and legal help with immigration. Beyond the service centers in Hays, Salina, and Manhattan, Catholic Charities employees travel monthly to 24 rural locations to deliver food and personal items to residents who otherwise would not have access to service.

The work of Catholic Charities goes beyond just providing essential items and services. In-person and telehealth counseling is available for individuals, couples and families to help them navigate the difficult circumstances of life. The thrift stores in Salina and Hays provide head to toe outfits with changing seasons, as well as offer families an affordable place to shop, allowing them the dignity of choice at a discounted price. Families can be a part of the annual Adopt-a-Family program, which provides the blessings that we love to give and receive at Christmastime.

The loving staff of Catholic Charities also walk with women during pregnancy and assist them through parenthood or adoption. The staff of Catholic Charities live the truth that all people have dignity, from couples



COURTESY PHOTO

**Aulisha Bruton's relationship with Catholic Charities has helped her pursue her education and care for the needs of her four children.**

seeking to adopt, to mothers struggling with unplanned pregnancies, to the baby growing inside that mother's womb. Services are available to nurture and assist everyone involved in these challenging and often overwhelming situations.

In Manhattan, Aulisha Bruton has been benefiting from the assistance of Catholic Charities. During the Coronavirus pandemic, items like toilet paper and formula were difficult to come by. She applied for help from Catholic Charities.

"The whole organization is a blessing," Bruton said.

Over the past few years, she has received help in the form of food, utility bills, and household items. She says she wouldn't have made it without Catholic Charities.

When asked what has been the greatest help, she said, "It all was so helpful, I don't think I could choose just one. But if I had to, I would say the diapers and wipes."

Her family has also received vouchers for clothing from the Budget Shop in Manhattan. As the seasons change, her family is given the opportunity to shop for three complete outfits, including socks and undergarments. Bruton only uses the vouchers when the kids have grown and their old clothes no longer fit.

Bruton is the proud mom of four kids, two boys and two girls. She is also currently a student balancing her studies with the demands of her family. As a single mother, the support she has received from Catholic Charities has allowed her to pursue her education and continue to meet the needs of her kids.

In God's perfect plan, two parents work together to support and manage a family. When that is not possible due to extenuating circumstances, the loving hand of Catholic Charities helps devoted, hard-working moms like Bruton obtain the resources they need.

For her, the most profound impact from Catholic Charities isn't from the material goods, but rather the personal touch of the dedicated employees. The staff in Manhattan know Bruton and her kids personally. They even recognize her voice on the phone. Bruton reached out to Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas needing help, but she receives more than just a handout—she receives a relationship.

## Campus Center becoming light together

By ALLISON OCHOA

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

"Becoming Light Together" was the theme and message of the third annual Comeau Catholic Campus Center fundraiser in the spring semester. The event celebrated the success of the Campus Center's programs as well as the students who lead and participate in them.

Sharing the story of her journey to the Campus Center community, Fort Hays State University senior Yesenia Maldonado said she had been involved in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays as she grew up, but she still had many questions about the faith as she approached her freshman year in college.

"A friend asked me to go to an event at the Campus Center and [I figured] I didn't have anything to lose," she said. "But when I got there, I found I was embraced by a genuine community of Catholic students. They wanted to know about me. They met me where I was."

Maldonado credits the students she met at the Center, Fr. Andy Hammeke, and the sacraments offered each week with many of the changes she's experienced

during her time at FHSU.

"There's been a lot of growth as an individual, but especially spiritually," she said. "I have felt the love everybody here has for each other, but particularly the love they have for the Lord."

The 150 individuals in attendance also heard from Campus Center alumnus Gentry Heimerman and Campus Center Development Director Anne Wheaton.

Heimerman spoke of the legacy and impact the Center is having on students from across the state. Wheaton shared stories of current Catholic Tigers and how programs at the Center are helping foster a deeper love for and involvement in their Catholic faith. She likened the effect of the Comeau Student Center to the lighting of the Easter candle during the Easter Vigil Mass.

"It only takes one light, one soul, one encounter with the Lord," she said. "Your support is helping generations because once these students leave the Campus Center, they are equipped to go out and become disciples, spreading the Gospel message wherever they go from here."



COURTESY PHOTO, ANNE WHEATON

**Bishop Jerry Vincke celebrated Mass at the St. Francis Chapel for Becoming Light Together.**

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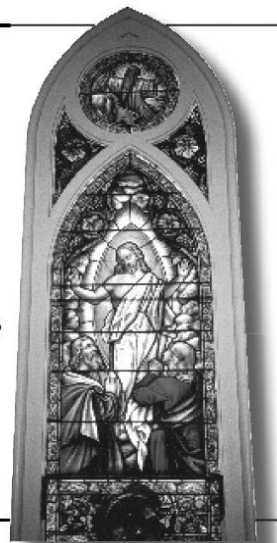
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## WEDDINGS

**Kevin Aldan and Jodine Lynn Demapan** were married April 12, 2024, at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan. Fr. David Voss witnessed their vows.

**Kyle Robert Byers and Emily Rose Nottingham** were married May 18, 2024, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hamerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are John and Patricia Byers. Parents of the bride are John and Rebecca Nottingham. Witnesses were Trent Byers and Madison Schieber.

**Matthew Joseph Corr and Alexandria Regan Andrade** were married May 25, 2024, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hamerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are David and Julienne Corr. Parents of the bride are Joseph and Carrie Andrade. Witnesses were Wesley Knudtson and Paige Treinen.

**Jerome Lance Crimmins and Julie Anne Ball** were married April 20, 2024, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Fr. Kerry Ninemire witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Jerome and Jody Elsasser. Parents of the bride are Edward and Barbara Ball. Witnesses were Jon Ray and Mollie Livingston.

**Victor Garcia and Yadira Sanchez** were married May 4, 2024, at Immaculate

Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Victor and Maria Gloria Garcia. Parents of the bride are Fortino and Leonarda Sanchez. Witnesses were Andres Lopez and Gloria Pacheco.

**Joseph Gillaspie and Yara Mendoza** were married March 19, 2024, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Edward and Kim Gillaspie. Parents of the bride are Cosne and Martha Mendoza. Witnesses were Winston Ruder and Nancy Vasquez.

**Anthony Joseph Hecht and Kamryn Elise Dillon** were married May 4, 2024, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Matthew Davied witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Joseph and Marjorie Hecht. Parents of the bride are Dennis and Angelique Dillon. Witnesses were Drayden Baumfalk and Chelsea Dillon.

**Isaac Hicks and Emma Schechinger** were married

June 1, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Church, Beloit. Fr. Andrew Rockers witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Robert Hicks and Samantha Hicks. Parents of the bride are Jeff and Mindy Grabowski. Witnesses were Tristin Duff and Evelyn Schechinger.

**Kyle Andrew Hornung and Kimberly Sue Konrade** were married April 6, 2024, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Fr. Kerry Ninemire witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Lawrence Hornung and Mary Elizabeth Klenke. Parents of the bride are Robert Konrade and Judith Ann Heiland. Witnesses were Mason and Addison Coates.

**Matthew Jacob Wasinger and Abigail Ruth McKinney** were married May 18, 2024, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hamerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Timothy and Annette Wasinger. Parents of the bride are Donald and Arvida McKinney. Witnesses were Troy Heidrick and Alyssa Mong.

## FUNERALS

**Teresa Almendarez**, 87, died March 27, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 1 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Fr. Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial was April 2 in the Kansas Veteran's Cemetery, Manhattan.

**Helen "Regina" Conroy**, 98, died Sept. 3, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 24, 2024, at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Fr. Andrew Rockers presided. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery, Beloit.

**Lyndon Joel "LJ" Cosgriff-Flax**, 22, died April 28, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 14 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hays. Fr. Richard Daise and Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

**David Ellenz**, 86, died April 24, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 11 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Tipton. Fr. Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery, Tipton.

**Betty (Honas) Haselhorst**, 83, died April 13, 2024. Funeral service was cele-

brated June 1 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Inurnment at St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

**Christopher K. Hrabe**, 65, Salina, died April 4, 2024. A Memorial Mass was celebrated April 13 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. Fr. Fred Gatschet, Fr. Kevin Weber, Dcn. Daniel C. Keiter and Dcn. Jorge Rivera presided. Burial at a later date at Stockton Catholic Cemetery.

**John M. McKee**, 70, died February 8, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 11 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Fr. Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Junction City.

**Donald Louis Noll**, 92, died May 6, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 14 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Fr. Donald Zimmerman presided. Interment at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Flush.

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## Sweet hope: Kandis' story



By MEGAN ROBL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS

Kandis' life dramatically changed when she discovered she was pregnant with her first child in 2019. Alone and facing uncertainty, she turned to the Catholic Charities office in Hays for help.

"I applied for WIC, for Catholic Charities, for anything that was really out there because I was by myself," she says.

Referred by another community resource, Kandis sought assistance through Catholic Charities, where she found a lifeline of

support and solutions to her challenges.

The Pregnancy Support Program provided crucial counseling, ensuring a healthy start for her growing family. "If they weren't there to help me with trying to find daycare and with clothes and with diapers, I honestly would probably be working nonstop to the point where I couldn't see my children just to afford those things," she says. "Having them there to help me have those things helps me financially and mentally."

From diapers to food assistance



COURTESY PHOTOS

and hygiene products, Kandis also found vital support for her family's basic needs. "They have diapers, wipes, diaper cream, food, hygiene kits, and even counseling," Kandis notes.

Kandis shares her experience with counseling at Catholic Charities, highlighting the importance of a supportive environment. "Having counseling has also helped tremendously. I find it hard to open up to another person because of the fear of being judged," she reflects. However, with the patient and confidential support provided, Kandis found the courage to open up and seek guidance, ultimately finding solutions and relief.

During the Christmas season,

the Adopt-A-Family program brought joy and relief to Kandis and her children. "I don't know what I would have done if it was not for Adopt-A-Family. It would have been a very, very, very small Christmas," she says.

Today, Kandis proudly introduces herself as a mother of three: Parker, Matthias, and Jessica. Her resilience, coupled with the support from Catholic Charities and donors, is shaping a brighter future for her family.

"I see Catholic Charities as a part of my family because they've helped me form my family," she says with deep appreciation. "I do not know where I would be right now if not for their help."

Kandis' story testifies to the transformative power of community support. "I wanted to thank you guys so much for having Catholic Charities as an outreach to our community and for having been an outreach to my family. You guys have helped my family out so much, and I and other families really appreciate you."



## BAPTISMS

**Benson Baier**, son of Eric and Shelbie Baier, was baptized April 20, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew's Church in Abilene. Godparents are Ryan and Kelsie Wuthnow.

**Landon Baier**, son of Eric and Shelbie Baier, was baptized April 20, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew's Church in Abilene. Godparents are Matthew and Jaci Johnson.

**Kinsley Banks**, daughter of Bryan Howell and Shayna Banks, was baptized April 3, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI, at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

**Beckham James Bruna**, son of Alex and Jenna Bruna, was baptized October 29, 2023, by Fr. David Metz at St. John the Baptist in Hanover.

**Karley Ann Bruna**, daughter of Kent and Colleen Bruna, was baptized November 19, 2023, by Fr. David Metz at St. John the Baptist in Hanover.

**Michael Charles Bruna**, son of Rick and Kelsee Bruna, was baptized September 24, 2023, by Fr. David Metz at St. John the Baptist in Hanover.

**Sloane Marie Burr**, daughter of Ryan and Brigitte Burr, was baptized May 25, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hamerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

**Brenna Casey Chambers**, daughter of Connor and Bridget (Crandall) Chambers, was baptized May 19, 2024, by Fr. Brian McCaffrey at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina.

**Koa Joseph Disberger**, son of Blake and Tyanna Sellers Disberger, was baptized May 12, 2024, by Fr. Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

**Ezekiel Wilhelm Donovan**, son of Andrew and Rebecca Donovan, was baptized November 25, 2023, by Fr. David Metz at St. John the Baptist in Hanover.

**Brynnleigh Howell**, daughter of Bryan Howell and Shayna Banks, was baptized April 3, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI, at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

**Paisley Howell**, daughter of Bryan Howell and Shayna Banks, was baptized April 3, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI, at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

**Denton Leff**, son of Alex and Caitlyn Leff, was baptized April 7, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew's Church in Abilene. Godparents are Jacob Lopez and Chesney Fink.

**Wells William Numrich**, son of Nolan and Ragen (Strube) Numrich, was baptized May 11, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Jolene Sophia Palmer**, daughter of Sean Palmer and Kelly (Powers) Palmer, was baptized April 28, 2024, by Fr. Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Godparent is Stefanie Van Rankin.

**Archie Richard Peters**, son of Ian and Kaylee Peters, was baptized May 5, 2024, by Fr. Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

**Marisol Josefina Roacho**, daughter of Jonatan and Taylor Roacho, was baptized May 5, 2024 by Fr. Matthew Davied at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

**Avery Jean Rottinghaus**, daughter of Cody and Megan Rottinghaus, was baptized May 12, 2024, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in

Manhattan.

**Charley Schremmer**, son of Cody and Shannon Schremmer, was baptized April 27, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew's Church in Abilene. Godparents are Brandon Schremmer and Stephanie Dolan.

**Rudolpho John Sked**, son of Frank SanNicolas, Jr. and Corina Alforque, was baptized April 7, 2024, by Fr. Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Godparents are Alan Baletto and Tricia-Lyn Baletto.

**Ruby Stephens**, daughter of Damien and Michelle Stephens, was baptized April 21, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew's Church in Abilene. Godparents are Jacob Franz and Alli Franz.

**Laila Paz Vieyra**, daughter of Miguel Vieyra and Rubina Khair, was baptized May 11, 2024, by Fr. Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Godparent is Emily Vieyra.

**Luna Nadeen Vieyra**, daughter of Miguel Vieyra and Rubina Khair, was baptized May 11, 2024, by Fr. Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Godparent is Natalie Vieyra.

**Zora Luz Vieyra**, daughter of Miguel Vieyra and Rubina Khair, was baptized May 11, 2024, by Fr. Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Godparent is Reena Parrot.

**Aubriana Ann Winge**, daughter of Luke and Emily Winge, was baptized May 5, 2024, by Fr. Joshua Werth at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo.

**Rowdy James Winge**, son of Luke and Emily Winge, was baptized May 5, 2024, by Fr. Joshua Werth at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo.

**Josie Wuthnow**, daughter of Ryan and Kelsie Wuthnow, was baptized April 20, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew's Church in Abilene. Godparents are Quinton and Haley Wuthnow.

**Presley Wuthnow**, daughter of Ryan and Kelsie Wuthnow, was baptized April 20, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew's Church in Abilene. Godparents are Nathan and Bridgette Wuthnow.

**Reese Wuthnow**, daughter of Ryan and Kelsie Wuthnow, was baptized April 20, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew's Church in Abilene. Godparents are Eric and Shelby Baier.

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# Rural life celebrates St. Isidore's Day



COURTESY PHOTO

Fr. Rich prepares to bless a calf held by Gary and Kayleigh Blundon and Clayton Dingle.

By DAVID EDELL

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Rural Life Office once again sponsored St. Isidore Day on Wednesday, May 15. St. Mary Queen of Angles Parish in Russell served as this year's host. The celebration of St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers and ranchers, began nine days earlier with an online nine-day Novena.

The Novena was organized by Deacon Ed Souza, Seven Dolores, and featured leaders from nine parishes across the diocese: St. Peters & Paul, Clay Center; Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia; St. Gregory The Great, Marysville; St. Nicholas, Hays; St. Mary, Smith Center; St. Francis Xavier, Junction City; and Seven Dolores, Manhattan. The Novena began each night with a Rosary following a different prayer theme. Between 20 to 35 people, including many from the Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia, participated each night of the Novena.

St. Mary Queen of Angles Parish hosted the 11 a.m. Feast of St. Isidore Mass, with about 50 people attending. Fr. Rich Daise, St. Joseph Parish in Hays, presided over the Mass, assisted by Fr. Vincent Manuel, Fr. Norbert Dlabal, and Deacon Ed Souza.

Fr. Rich blessed animals being raised by Big Creek 4-H, Gorham, members. Gary and Kayleigh Blundon and Clayton Dingle had their calves blessed. Adeline, Candy and Jack Enger brought in their chickens to be blessed also. Fr. Rich also blessed the Kansas State University wheat test fields located near the Agrilead plant.

Ochampaugh led a tour of the Agrilead plant. Agrilead and its 11 employees manufacture coatings for seeds, spray adjuvants and soil wetting agents. These products assist seed planting, growth and increased yields, and help to preserve yield potential within the first 30-45 days of the crop's life.

Ochampaugh told the tour participants: "Thank you for visiting Agrilead today. Although some days it is easy to lose track, we know all good comes from above. God has

Following Mass, a meal was prepared and served by Jeff Ochampaugh, president of Agrilead, a Russell based farming support business. All of the Mass attendees enjoyed a meal of grilled chicken, corn on the cob, and cookies. Members of St. Mary parish also assisted.

blessed our company with a chance to steward and contribute our little part in the endeavor of feeding and clothing the world and along the way to make a difference in the ways He guides and directs us."

The day was a fitting tribute to St. Isidore and his wife St. Maria. The qualities found in the lives of Isidore and Maria - commitment to family, social justice work, love for the land, service to the poor and a deep spirituality - are qualities that exist in rural America.

Neither a scholar nor a religious leader, Isidore stands out from other Spanish saints. St. Isidore is a kind of "everyman's saint," serving as a model for those of us who find ourselves behind a plow or desk and not an altar. He shows us that all of us can and should aspire to sainthood.

Ochampaugh summed up the day very well: "We give thanks for the many blessings of our shared rural farm heritage and especially this day for the faithful example of St. Isidore."



COURTESY PHOTO

(Above) Agrilead Tour, Jeff Ochampaugh, speaks to the approximately 20 people who toured the facility.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jack Enger holds a chicken receiving a blessing from Fr. Rich Daise for St. Isidore Day.

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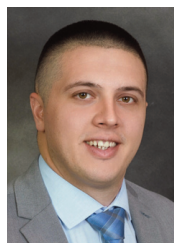
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