



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

AUG. 23, 2024

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

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Go forth! Let the Holy Spirit lead you!



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Seminarian Max Megaffin, Dcn. Kade Megaffin, Dcn. Jesse Ochs, Bishop Joe Espailat, and Fr. Andy Hammeke watch as Bishop Gerald Vincke lifts up Christ in the Eucharist during the closing Mass of the Eucharistic Conference in Hays.

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The bishop from the Bronx got a taste of Kansas, and the Diocese of Salina got a taste of the bishop from the Bronx.

When their weekend ended together at an outdoor Mass on Saturday afternoon, it actually wasn't the end at all.

More than a thousand people from across the diocese and beyond attended the Eucharistic conference on the campus of Fort Hays State University the weekend of Aug. 9-10.

The message from Bishop Joseph Espailat from the get-go was just that – get going!

The keynote speaker for the conference, Bishop Joseph from New York, talked about the four pillars of the National Eucharistic Revival: reinvigorating worship, personal encounter, robust faith formation and missionary sending.

Those pillars also were paramount at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Ind., two weeks prior to the conference at FHSU.

At the top of that list is the Eucharist.

"The Eucharist has to be everything," Bishop Joseph said. "Nothing will supplant Jesus in the Eucharist."

Bishop Joseph didn't mince words in his deliveries of refreshing

candor and kept his audience engaged with his energetic delivery.

His message was loud and clear. "We want to start a fire, not a program," Bishop Joseph said. "And we are on fire when we proclaim the word of Jesus Christ."

Bishop Jerry Vincke, the leader of the Salina Diocese, had first heard this auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York last November at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis.

The 12,000 youth in attendance at NCYC, and adults as well, were inspired by this energetic dynamo, who at 47 years old is the youngest bishop in the United States.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Diocese hosts seminarian dinners Men get boost heading into school year

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Deacon Jesse Ochs has attended many a fundraising dinner in the Salina Diocese during his seven years as a seminarian in the Diocese of Salina.

What better way than to save the best for last.

Dinners held on consecutive nights in Salina, Colby and Hays were their last as seminarians for Ochs and fellow Deacons Kade Megaffin and Adam Urban. They are on schedule to all be ordained priests in May 2025.

At the final 2024 dinner in Hays, the seminarians received a standing

ovation.

"This is the best one ever," Dcn. Ochs said. "They all stood for us!"

"Each dinner definitely has a different vibe," said Corrina Hudsonpillar, donor relations and communications manager for the Salina Diocese Foundation.

"These dinners are so good for the seminarians and good for us laity to get to know them better," Hudsonpillar added. "I think it gives them a boost heading into the fall semester."



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Kyle Pfeifer, a seminarian from Manhattan, wholeheartedly agreed.

"These dinners are the best part of the year," said Pfeifer, who grew up in Seven Dolores of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

"We're in the seminary for nine months out of the year, and we don't get to see the people we are going to serve for the rest of our lives. But we get to meet a lot of people at the dinners."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Reflecting on the Eucharistic Conference

It's been a great summer. Looking back on it, I think of my 25th anniversary celebration, which I'm still grateful for your support and kindness. And then there was the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, which was an amazing encounter with Jesus and so many people celebrating the gift of the Eucharist. And then it culminated in our own Eucharistic conference on August 9 and 10 at the Comeau Campus Center at Fort Hays State.

Bishop Joseph Espaillat from the Archdiocese of New York traveled all the way from the Bronx to be our keynote speaker. To say that he is a powerful witness of the gospel is an understatement. He was on fire. His message, among many, was that the Eucharist takes us out, brings us out of ourselves to be on mission.

In a recent homily at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, he mentioned that he visited the Diocese of Salina, and called it "the bellybutton of America!" I prefer it being called the heart of America, but that's not so bad.

He stated that we are called to receive the Lord and adore the Lord, and then we are sent forth to be on mission. Indeed, together we are all called to be disciples of Jesus on mission.

So many people have told me how much they appreciated the talks, the opportunity to see people from across our diocese, the outdoor Mass, and especially adoration on Friday night. I received a beautiful email from someone, a young mother with many children. She said this after attending the conference:

"I felt the presence of Jesus for the first time in a long time since attending adoration and confession Friday night. I am at peace and have a new love for Jesus that I have never felt before. My heart longs for more."

This is the fruit of the Eucharistic Conference: people encountering the love and mercy of Jesus, for many of them in a new way. This is what Jesus desires. This is what the Church desires, and this is what I desire for you.

Can I suggest something? Could all of us simply begin to



Bishop Jerry Vincke prays over Bishop Joseph Espaillat before the keynote talk on Friday night of the Eucharistic Conference.

make a holy hour each week? Jesus gives us peace and is a presence that's greater than anything that can happen in the world. It's spending time with the Lord that we discover what Jesus desires for us as we listen for his voice.

Looking ahead, we've already discussed the possibility of doing another Eucharistic Conference next year, most likely the second weekend of August. 2025 is a Jubilee Year, and Pope Francis stated that the Jubilee year having the central message of "Hope does not disappoint."

I am asking the Holy Spirit to continue to guide our diocese. I like this quote from St. Bede the Venerable, "Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where He will."

Jesus always desires to give us more! I want to thank everyone who attended the conference, and I pray that many more will attend next year's conference and experience the love and mercy of Jesus in a new way.

+ *Gerald L. Vincke*

The Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke
Bishop of Salina

Ha sido un gran verano. Al mirar hacia atrás, pienso en la celebración de mi 25º aniversario, por la que sigo agradecido por su apoyo y amabilidad. Luego estuvo el Congreso Eucarístico en Indianápolis,

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paz y tengo un nuevo amor por Jesús que nunca había sentido antes. Mi corazón anhela más."

Este es el fruto de la conferencia Eucarística: las personas encontrando el amor y la misericordia de Jesús, para muchos de ellos de una manera nueva. Esto es lo que Jesús desea. Esto es lo que la Iglesia desea, y esto es lo que deseo para ustedes.

¿Puedo sugerir algo? ¿Podríamos todos simplemente comenzar a hacer una hora santa cada semana? Jesús nos da paz y es una presencia que es más grande que cualquier cosa que pueda suceder en el mundo. Es pasando tiempo con el Señor que descubrimos lo que Jesús desea para nosotros cuando buscamos escuchar su voz.

Mirando hacia el futuro, ya hemos discutido la posibilidad de hacer otra conferencia Eucarística el próximo año, probablemente el segundo fin de semana de agosto. 2025 es un Año Jubilar, y el Papa Francisco declaró que el mensaje central del Año Jubilar es "La esperanza no decepciona."

Estoy pidiendo al Espíritu Santo que continúe guiando nuestra diócesis. Me gusta esta cita de San Beda el Venerable: "Despliega las velas y deja que Dios nos guíe a donde Él quiera."

¡Jesús siempre desea darnos más! Quiero agradecer a todos los que asistieron a la conferencia, y oro por que muchos más asistan a la conferencia del próximo año y experimenten el amor y la misericordia de Jesús de una manera nueva.

que fue un encuentro increíble con Jesús y con tantas personas celebrando el don de la Eucaristía. Y luego culminó en nuestra propia conferencia Eucarística los días 9 y 10 de agosto en el Comeau Campus Center en Fort Hays State.

El obispo Joseph Espaillat de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York viajó desde el Bronx para ser nuestro orador principal. Decir que él es un testigo poderoso del evangelio es una subestimación. Estuvo a fuego. Su mensaje, entre muchos, fue que la Eucaristía nos saca de nosotros mismos para estar en misión.

Afirmó que estamos llamados a recibir al Señor y a adorar al Señor, y luego somos enviados a la misión. En efecto, juntos estamos todos llamados a ser discípulos de Jesús en misión.

Muchas personas me han dicho cuánto apreciaron las charlas, la oportunidad de ver a personas de toda nuestra diócesis, la Misa al aire libre, y especialmente la adoración el viernes en la noche. Recibí un hermoso correo electrónico de alguien, una joven madre con muchos hijos. Dijo esto después de asistir a la conferencia: "Sentí la presencia de Jesús por primera vez en mucho tiempo desde que asistí a la adoración y la confesión el viernes por la noche. Estoy en

DID YOU KNOW?

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share helps support vital programs and ministries within our diocese. Give today via the QR code or at join.salinadiocese.org.



BISHOP'S CALENDAR

September

- 1 Mass and Rededication, St. Bernard, Ellsworth, 10 a.m.
- 1 Mass, Jr. CYO Camp, Junction City, 5 p.m.
- 2 Labor Day, Chancery Closed.
- 4 Renovation Completion Mass, St. Andrew, Abilene, 1:30 p.m.
- 8 Confirmation, St. Mary's, Downs, 10 a.m.
- 8 Divine Mercy Radio Banquet, Colby, 5 p.m.
- 15 Annual Holy Cross Mass, Pfeifer, 3 p.m.
- 16-19 Clergy Retreat, SLC, Wichita
- 21 Rite of Acolyte, St. Fidelis Basilica, Victoria, 5 p.m.
- 22 St. Padre Pio Celebration, Mass & Reception, St. John's, Beloit, noon.
- 27 TMP/Marian Homecoming, Parade & Game, 5:15 p.m.
- 30-Oct. 4 SPES Conference, Denver, CO

SEPTEMBER 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:

For the cry of the Earth. We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Diocesan intentions:

As a new school year begins, we pray for all our students, that they may be filled with a thirst for knowledge and a desire to grow in wisdom. May you always guide their steps and protect them from any harm. We ask You to bless their teachers, administrators, and staff with patience, understanding, and inspiration. May they be instruments of Your love and truth, nurturing each student.

SEMINARIAN DINNERS, FROM PAGE 1

Pfeifer was accompanied by his mother, Gina Pfeifer, at the Salina dinner as she came from her home in Wichita to support her only son.

The next night in Colby, one of the new seminarians, Gus Hanson, received a big surprise with 11 family members attending as well as a few others from his home parish of St. John Nepomucene in Beardsley.

While Dcn. Ochs proclaimed this year's final dinner in Hays as "the best ever," he also enjoyed the Colby venue for a second straight year.

Dcn. Ochs is one of six seminarians from a three-county area in northwest Kansas, including another from his home parish – Collin Thielen.

The dinners, traditionally held in Salina, expanded to Hays in 2022. The Foundation added a third dinner in Colby last year.

This year's total attendance of nearly 500 for the three-night event set a new record.

"It's an extremely busy time of year with people taking vacations before school starts," Hudsonpillar said. "For people to take an evening out and support our vocations office is pretty impressive."

Three of the northwest Kansas seminarians are from the same parish, including two from the same family.

Luke Friess will be joined this year by his younger brother, Gabe, and Ethan Weiner (both in their first year). All are members of St. Frances of Cabrini Parish in Hoxie.

The seminarians were introduced at each dinner, giving those in attendance a little bit of information about themselves.

The Friess brothers were attending their older brother's wedding in California, so a video of



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

The seminarians prayed a Divine Mercy Chaplet with Bishop Jerry Vincke at Sacred Heart Cathedral before heading to the Salina Seminarian Dinner on July 31.

them thanking diocesan supporters was shown at each dinner location.

Hays is another city with three seminarians, the aforementioned Deacons Megaffin and Urban and Megaffin's younger brother, Max.

The Megaffins are members of St. Joseph Parish, and Urban grew up in the St. Nicholas of Myra Parish.

Completing the list of this year's first-year cohort is Marshall Fike from St. Joseph Parish

in St. George, which borders on the Salina Diocese and the Archdiocese of Kansas City.

Fike attended Kansas State University in Manhattan and decided to join the seminary in the Salina Diocese. The same holds true for Holden Giefer, a K-State graduate whose home parish is St. Francis de Sales in Lansing.

Joseph Schones from Arkansas City's Sacred Heart Parish and Matthew Ralls from Wichita's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish grew up in the Wichita Diocese but are now part of the Salina Diocese cohort.

It costs more than \$50,000 per year for each seminarian's education that includes tuition, room and board, retreats and other expenses associated with the program. Those costs are covered through the diocese in a variety of ways, highlighted by the seminarian collection.

Hudsonpillar was pleased with this year's turnout for the dinners, which serve as key fundraising efforts for the seminarians.

"A lot of people get to know the seminarians from either Totus Tuus or Prayer and Action," Hudsonpillar said of two summer diocesan programs across the diocese. "So that has been a really cool thing. This year's dinners were a great success. I think it's something that will just continue to grow."

SUPPORT OUR FUTURE PRIESTS!

Your generosity helps fund the education and formation of seminarians in the Diocese of Salina. Every gift makes a difference! To donate visit bit.ly/salinasems, scan the QR code or mail a check to PO Box 1696, Salina KS 67402.



Happy 100th birthday, Marcella!

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

It isn't every day you get to celebrate a milestone birthday with a room full of 200 other people.

But that's what Marcella Steinhauser from Abilene got to experience in July at one of the annual diocesan seminarian dinners in Salina.

She knew the celebration wasn't really for her. But when you turn 100 years old, you celebrate life every chance you get.

So Marcella sat at her table and graciously accepted birthday greetings after it was announced at the dinner that there was a centenarian in the house celebrating her 100th birthday that very day.

Marcella wouldn't have ordinarily attended the dinner. She still drives her own car, but she doesn't travel out of town by herself anymore.

But Sarah Geiger, a friend of hers from St. Andrew's Church in Abilene, had an extra ticket and called Marcella that morning to see if she would like to accompany her to the dinner.

Marcella said she thoroughly enjoyed the meal and the program while sitting with Sarah and other diocesan parishioners at her table.

"It's so nice to touch base with people of your own faith," she said.

During the program, those attending got to hear a little from all 14 seminarians.

"It overwhelms me that we have so many young men willing to serve God and His people," Marcella said.

"They all look so young," she added, glancing across the floor at the seminarians visiting with the crowd.

Most of the seminarians are in their 20s, and a few in their 30s – which all seem young to

Marcella.

Then there is Gus Hanson, the youngest seminarian in our diocese for the 2024-25 school year. Gus graduated from Rawlins County High School in Atwood in May and will enter seminary as an 18-year-old.

Marcella just shook her head at hearing his age. When she was 18, the United States was in the middle of World War II.

Now here she is, 82 years later, thinking about making plans to attend next year's seminarian dinner.

"I feel wonderful," she said. "I still have my own hips – and my own teeth."

Marcella said she was looking forward to her family coming to Abilene for a big birthday bash the following weekend and the stories she would have to tell them about her surprise pre-birthday celebration three days earlier.

SEPT. 1: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

On this day the faithful are invited to join Pope Francis in prayer, celebrating the gift of creation and reflecting on how we can heal our relationship with creation.

The day of prayer calls people to ponder the wonderful power of God in creating the world, as well as

the beautiful universe that resulted from it. This is a special opportunity to unite with your community in prayer.

This year, Pope Francis has set the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation to have a theme of "Hope and Act with Creation." As the pope

said upon announcing this theme, "May our lives become an opportunity to sing our love for God and care for our common home."

This opportunity encourages faith communities to live in a spirit of social friendship, marked by universal fellowship, Christian

peace and the stewardship of our common home.

The pope's message for the day states, "The protection of creation, then, is not only an ethical issue, but one that is eminently theological, for it is the point where the mystery of man and the mystery of God intersect."

Let us pray for peace in our communities

Friends, if perhaps you have been living under a rock for the past eight months, I am here to inform you that this is a presidential election year.

I am sure that all of you have a vivid memory of our last presidential election four years ago, and the division we experienced within our communities. Pondering those days, sends my thoughts to the lyrics of a Buffalo Springfield song of the mid 1960s (well before I was born). The song informs us, "There's battle lines being drawn, nobody's right if everybody's wrong."

Interestingly, Americans of the 1960s were also singing a different song with different lyrics, "what the world needs now is love sweet love." The messages of these tunes ring true sadly, still today. We, as humans, are interesting creatures. On one hand, we recognize our need for harmony and peace, yet on the other, we continue to shout at our opponents, blaming them for all that is wrong with our age.

In these recent weeks we have been gifted with the "Olympic Experience." A two week



period when all people of all nations come together to support their home team. A nice bit of relief, I would say.

While uniting over gymnastics, track and field, and basketball is great, would it not be more glorious if we found something just a bit more important to bring us together. Perhaps Prayer! Good news; in September, the bishops of the United States are calling for a World Day of Prayer for peace in our communities. So let us pray.

It is so important for us begin to understand that we are children of a loving God who truly cares for us. When we deeply recognize this, we soon begin to discover that those with whom we most frequently argue are also loved by this same Father.

I think this to be the main point: If we were to see our enemies, as loved by God, it would indeed change things in our hearts, and it is only through prayer that this can happen.

Please don't get me wrong, I am not saying that the discussion of political topics isn't important. I am also not saying that there aren't right or wrong

ways of approaching certain topics, I am simply saying that I think our approach to the discussion is all wrong.

Most people, in their hearts support a cause or a political view because they feel it to be the right thing, most likely they feel it to be the best way to love others. Perhaps they are completely wrong, but it is important to presume they support this cause with good intent.

If our goal is true communication and peace, it must be encountered through patience and a striving to understand others' points of view. The "battle lines being drawn" approach is never fruitful. We cannot discover truth when all we want is to knock somebody's head off, as the saying goes.

While holding to the truth, let us pray for a calmness of heart that can lead to fruitful discussion. Peace in our nation, peace in our communities, and peace most especially within our hearts can only come through prayer and directly from the Lord our God.

Take steps for a holy family life

Parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, Satan is a bully, and he doesn't want you to read this column or do the three things I am going to suggest. He is working hard to create an illusion and can't stand anyone who reveals his lies. In the words of William Shakespeare, Satan "doth protest too much," and he is showing his cards by the way he overreacts to anyone who speaks the truth about marriage and families.

Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the three children who witnessed the Marian apparitions at Fatima, predicted that there would be a great battle between Christ and Satan and that battle would be over marriage and the family. Many believe that we are currently in the middle of that battle. Satan is aggressively attacking our young people, especially their understanding of marriage and family. I think there are three things that we need to be doing to help our children.

The first thing all parents can do daily to help their children is to continue to grow in their love for their spouses and truly live to love and serve them. Your marriage and the family it created are the most important things for your children and their future. You are teaching them unconditional love, how to love others more than yourself, how to sacrifice for those that you love, and how to serve. The strong love and bond between a husband and wife are a mighty fortress that protects your children from Satan and his demons.

Nothing is more important than the family; nothing can replace it if it falls apart. I always hear people talking about the ills of our country and culture. The single biggest way you can positively impact the world, your country, your community, and your kids is by going home and loving your spouse. Put them first in your life, and never let your kids see anything but two people who love

and are committed to each other.

The second thing all parents need to do is pray daily for their child and their future vocation. Some are called to holy orders and religious life, while others are called to the vocation of holy matrimony. Pray daily that your children may be open to God's call and willing to follow Him to the vocation He calls them to. Also, we need to get

in the habit of praying for our child's future spouse. The person they marry will tremendously impact their life, and we can already be sending grace their way by praying for them long before they even meet. Someday, they will be part of your family, so why not pray for them now? I would also recommend you encourage your young person to join you in praying for their future spouse. You can use one of the prayers on our Salina Diocese Family Life website.

We should also encourage them to pray for themselves so that God may grow and develop them into good future husbands, wives, fathers, and mothers so that when they meet their future spouses, they are ready to be the people their future spouses need them to be.

The third thing all parents need to do is read the book *Get Married* by Brad Wilcox. Brad is a Professor of Sociology and Director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia. Wilcox studies marital quality, marital stability, and the impact of strong and stable marriages on men, women, and children. He writes about why we need to forge strong families to save civilization.

You will need this information to combat the "education" that all our young people are getting from their social media. His book will arm you with the research and knowledge you need to help you guide your children through muck, mess and lies that our current culture is trying so hard to sell to our young people as truth.

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Every day is Grandparents Day for Wallace County family

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Since the late 1970s, our nation has set aside a day to recognize and honor some special folks in our families – grandparents.

But ask a certain teenager in Wallace County in northwest Kansas, and she will tell you that she honors her grandparents. Every. Single. Day.

Whether it's the first Sunday of September after Labor Day (the official date for Grandparents Day) or a cold morning in December or a scorching hot afternoon in July, Jaelyn Dawn Ita is honoring

Gary and Donna Haislip.

While Jaelyn has called them Grandpa and Grandma her entire life, the Haislips are the only parents that Jaelyn has ever known.

Jaelyn was 19 months old when she was involved in a tragic vehicle accident in Nebraska that took the lives of both her parents and her 15-year-old half brother.

Another sibling in the vehicle, half-sister Marti Ita, recovered from her injuries and continued living with her biological mother.

Jaelyn was strapped securely in her car seat between her mother and Marti in the back seat of the vehicle.

Although the toddler received only a scratch in the accident, she was suddenly left without parents – but not without family.

Gary and Donna were in their late 50s and were enjoying their roles of doting grandparents when their lives changed in a split second on that afternoon in May back in 2009.

But there was never any doubt who would be raising Jaelyn.

Amidst the grief of dealing with the loss of their daughter, her husband and their grandson, the Haislips gathered with family on both sides and all agreed who should take Jaelyn home with them.

The Haislips picked up their granddaughter several days after funeral services and took her to their ranch south of the small town of Wallace in northwest Kansas. It's been home ever since.

"I didn't know how I was going to do it when we brought her home," Donna said. "Now, I don't know what I'd do without her."

The Haislips talked with Jaelyn about her parents from the time they took her into their home.

"We told her that her mommy and daddy had to go away," Donna said, "that they lived in heaven with God and that we would see them again someday."

Donna said having Jaelyn with them helped with their losses.

"We had something to hold onto yet," Donna said. "She's a spitting image of her mother, and she acts like her, thinks like her."

Raising Jaelyn Catholic

Raising another child came naturally for the

Haislips, who had raised two children of their own. That they would fully involve her in the Catholic faith was just as certain.

Jaelyn received the sacrament of Confirmation this past spring, and it was a special time for her and her family.

"My grandparents have always made sure that I attended Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation growing up," Jaelyn said.

She learned how to help with chores around the ranch and is heavily involved in her school, ranging from sports to service and academic organizations, all the while maintaining a 4.0 grade-point average.

"She's kind of an old soul, really well-rounded," Donna said. "We've been exceptionally blessed. She's very self disciplined. We have never had to tell her to do her homework."

Jaelyn also is an altar server at her church – Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Sharon

"I was so young, and it felt like they were my Mom and Dad," Jaelyn said. "It always has."

What about when friends' parents – much younger than hers – show up for school activities?

"It's all I've every known, so I didn't think anything of it," Jaelyn said. "Most kids would say they wish they could have their grandparents around all the time."

Having Gary and Donna around all the time became old hat to Jaelyn and her friends from early on. Part of raising their granddaughter, they thought, was attending all her activities.

"They are probably at more events than some parents are," Jaelyn said.

A grand life

Even while the Haislips have taken on the role of parents for Jaelyn, one can still hear the pride of grandparents while listening to the them talk about their granddaughter.

Grandpa Gary's eyes sparkle while telling how Jaelyn – a junior at Wallace County High School in Sharon Springs – lettered in four sports her sophomore year: volleyball, basketball, track and golf.

He got emotional while talking about how his granddaughter is always willing to help classmates with their schoolwork.

"She doesn't even know she's that good," he said. "She makes our job pretty darned easy."

Like any teenager, Jaelyn rolled her eyes at all the compliments.

Grandpa and Grandma admit there are a few times when she acts like a normal teenager and that it's hard to tell her "No."

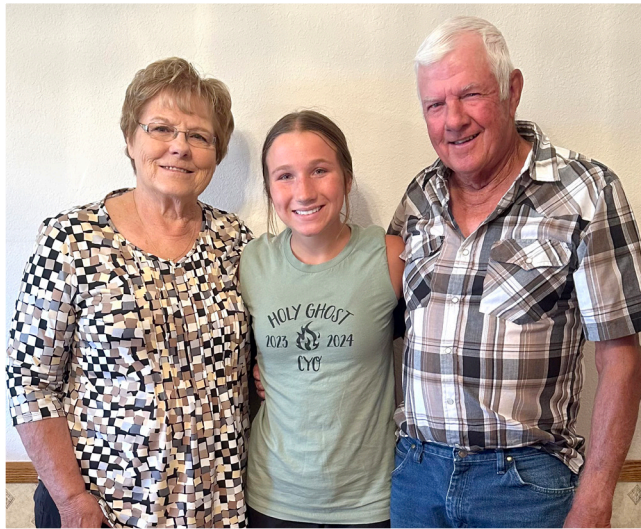
"We have to be on our toes, that's for sure," Donna said.

The Haislips wouldn't have it any other way.

"Sometimes she says, 'I think you love me too much,'" Donna said. "I guess we are kind of doting."

Grandparents Day 2024 will be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 8. The national holiday is so highly thought of that it even has an official flower, the forget-me-not, and an official song, "A Song for Grandma and Grandpa."

Rest assured, Jaelyn will never forget what her grandma and grandpa did, have done, are still doing and will continue to do for her.



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, THE REGISTER

Jaelyn Ita, raised by grandparents Donna and Gary Haislip, celebrates Grandparents Day all year long.



COURTESY PHOTO

A favorite pastime for Jaelyn Ita growing up on the family ranch was fishing with Grandpa Gary.

Springs. And one of her favorite organizations is Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"With FCA, we learn a lot of how to promote Christianity in our school," she said. "We say an 'Our Father' before every game."

She also helps coach youth sports and works a variety of part-time jobs, including as a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Hope Springs nursing care facility in Sharon Springs.

The Haislips are quick to say that "it takes a village to raise a child."

"It's a small town. There is plenty of help. Her friends' parents have always been good about taking her to things, too," Donna said. "She's not sitting at home with two old people by any means."

They all smile as Donna said "two old people." The Haislips, now in their 70s, admit that keeping up with a busy teenager has actually kept them young.

Jaelyn doesn't think of them as anything but her parents, no matter what their age.



COURTESY PHOTO

Although Donna Haislip says that selfie photos are not her forte, she still manages to catch some smiles with her cell phone.

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Nurturing faith: CCD "Little Flowers" blossom on Saint Pio pilgrimage

By STEPHANIE PORTER
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

As the academic year drew to a close at Saint Theresa Catholic Church in Mankato, I found myself reflecting on the growth and dedication displayed by our young parishioners, affectionately referred to as our "little flowers." This year was profound for me as a mother, as I witnessed my oldest of four children growing his faith and doing so by personal choice. In their earnest pursuit of spirituality, our youngest members serve as beautiful reminders of our beloved patron saint, Thérèse of Lisieux, lovingly known as "The Little Flower."

At the heart of Saint Thérèse's spirituality lies her renowned "Little Way," a path to sanctity characterized by simplicity and unwavering trust in God. Inspired by her example, I sought to commemorate our "little flowers" and their steadfast commitment throughout this year. Through my search, I discovered the Saint Pio chapel nestled within Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beloit, Kansas.

This chapel, the first of five to be established in partnership with the Saint Pio Foundation, holds a precious relic of Saint Padre Pio. On May 8th, our CCD group embarked on a purposeful pilgrimage to this sacred site, guided by Father Jarret Konrade. His insightful reflections on the church's resilience following a devastating fire served as a testament to the strength of our Catholic community and highlighted the many "little ways" in which parishioners contributed to Saint John's restoration.

Gathering around the relic of Saint Padre Pio, Hebrews 6:12 echoed in our hearts, "...so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who, through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises." Father Jarret's poignant reflections on Saint Padre Pio and the miracles attributed to his intercession inspired us to consider the transformative power of prayer in our own lives. Personally, his gentle reminder to acknowledge the presence of my guardian angel in prayer resonated deeply.

As a farmer's wife, I am familiar with the concept of growth as an active process requiring care and dedication. Just as we tend to the soil to ensure the flourishing of crops, I recognize the importance of cultivating and nurturing the faith of our "little flowers." Each day presents an opportunity to provide the nourishment and support they need to thrive spiritually.

I encourage other CCD groups within our diocese to consider organizing their own pilgrimage to the Saint Pio chapel at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church. Just as little flowers bloom, may our faith blossom through this journey.



COURTESY PHOTO

The St. Theresa's CCD classes of Mankato did a pilgrimage to St. John's Catholic Church Beloit on May 8 to view the St. Padre Pio Relic. They were treated afterward to ice cream and play time on the playground equipment.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

The relic is housed on a side altar at Saint John's Church in Beloit. To celebrate Saint Pio's feast day, the church will be hosting a special noon Mass with reception following on September 22.

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Saturday

9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mass offered at 6 p.m./ 9 a.m. on 1st Saturday

Sunday

9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mass offered at 10 a.m.

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The reliquary will be removed from the side altar from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. as an opportunity to venerate and touch it.

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Principals meeting emphasizes mission in Catholic education



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Diocesan principals met to discuss mission and catechesis on July 31 in Salina.

BY LORI LEISZLER
THE REGISTER

Salina Diocese principals met July 31 to start off the new school year. A major theme from the day and a goal for this year – living out the diocesan statement of “Together, let us be disciples of Jesus on mission.”

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Geoff Andrews spoke during the morning session on the call to be a disciple.

Andrews said, “I remember talking with the Bishop about goals for the diocese, and he said, ‘We’re not called to maintain, we’re called to be on mission. We can’t just do the bare minimum.’”

To go above and beyond, the principals spent the rest of the day working together, gaining skills and resources to bring back to their communities to help more teachers and students grow in learning and faith.

Andrews delved into living that missionary life, discussing how principals can bring faith and friendship into their buildings.

“Authentic friendship means having mutual love and support on your faith journey,” Andrews said. “This one we gotta work really hard on for students and staff. We might not see it right away, but rather years down the line. We’re making a long term impact.”

Making an impact also looks like making upgrades on buildings and current systems. In addition to several schools leading campaigns to improve and add on to their buildings, the diocese is excited to see additional student resources in schools.

In particular, the principals discussed how our diocesan schools will be rolling out a new program to give students access to a licensed therapist this year. The program, Counslr, would give students the opportunity to have a safe, 45 minute, online texting session with a licensed therapist.

Later in the day, Bishop Jerry Vincke said Mass for the group, and shared how much of a blessing Catholic education is. “To bring a person to Jesus is the greatest joy you can give someone,” he said.

Bill Meagher, Director of Youth Ministry and Religious Education, closed the meeting with a practical overview of the corporal works of mercy, and how teachers can include them in education and pass that joy on to students.

Meagher said, “We help young people get a prayer life, and that’s a hard thing to do. And yet, it’s the most important thing we can do.”

DIOCESE WELCOMES LANGDON TO COLBY-SACRED HEART

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Some people meet their future spouse while attending the wedding of a friend or relative.

For Troy Langdon, it was the next step in his professional education journey that he learned about while attending his daughter’s wedding in Colby last fall.



TROY LANGDON

After hearing about the opening for the principal’s position at Sacred Heart Grade School in Colby last September, Langdon decided to check it out.

After a 34-year career in public education, Langdon had thought about working in a Catholic school someday but didn’t know it would happen this way. He had joined the Catholic Church while in college after meeting his future wife at Fort Hays State University.

“It was ironic that I heard about this opening at my daughter’s wedding,” Langdon said. “My wife and I talked about it a lot on the way home from there. It was a true blessing.”

By November, he had accepted the Sacred Heart position for the 2024-25 school year.

Langdon has spent the last five years in Osborne as Superintendent of USD 392 as well as serving as elementary school principal.

After finishing out the 2023-24 term in Osborne, Langdon and his wife, Brenda, are now back in familiar territory. He grew up in Winona, only about a half hour from Colby; he also has a

“Oh, yes, this is pretty close to my old stomping grounds,” said Langdon, who has a daughter living in Colby and siblings in Leoti and Goodland.

The position at Sacred Heart – with an enrollment of about 100 students in preschool through fifth grade – came open in the spring of 2023 when then-current principal Mandy Meagher accepted the principal’s position at Holy Family Elementary School in Hays.

So Laura Schwarz, director of education at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, served as interim principal for the school for the past year.

“We are so grateful for everyone who stepped up and helped out,” said Geoff Andrews, superintendent of schools for the Salina Diocese.

Andrews mentioned Kathy Elliott, long-time school secretary, and Father Brian Lager, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, as kingpins in helping run the school, along with Tom Meagher from Hays, who served as principal-of-record for Sacred Heart during the interim.

Now, Sacred Heart has a full-time leader back on deck.

Langdon said it’s obvious how much parishioners love their school as witnessed by the completion of a new playground project and some remodeling in the classrooms.

And he said he is “excited to work with the home and school board, parish council and the finance council” as well as leading the school.

“I’m very student oriented; they’re No. 1,” he said.

“We wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for students. And I really care about my staff and want to help them out in any way I can.”

He got his first glimpse of what it will be like working in the diocese at an annual gathering of diocesan principals in Salina in late July. There are 15 schools in the diocese, serving students from preschool through 12th grade.

“Everyone was very welcoming and willing to help when I needed it. It was like I was one of them from the get-go,” he said. “I’m honored to call them friends and colleagues. This has been a true blessing and calling from God. It solidified that moving to Colby was the right move for me and what I needed in my life and career.”

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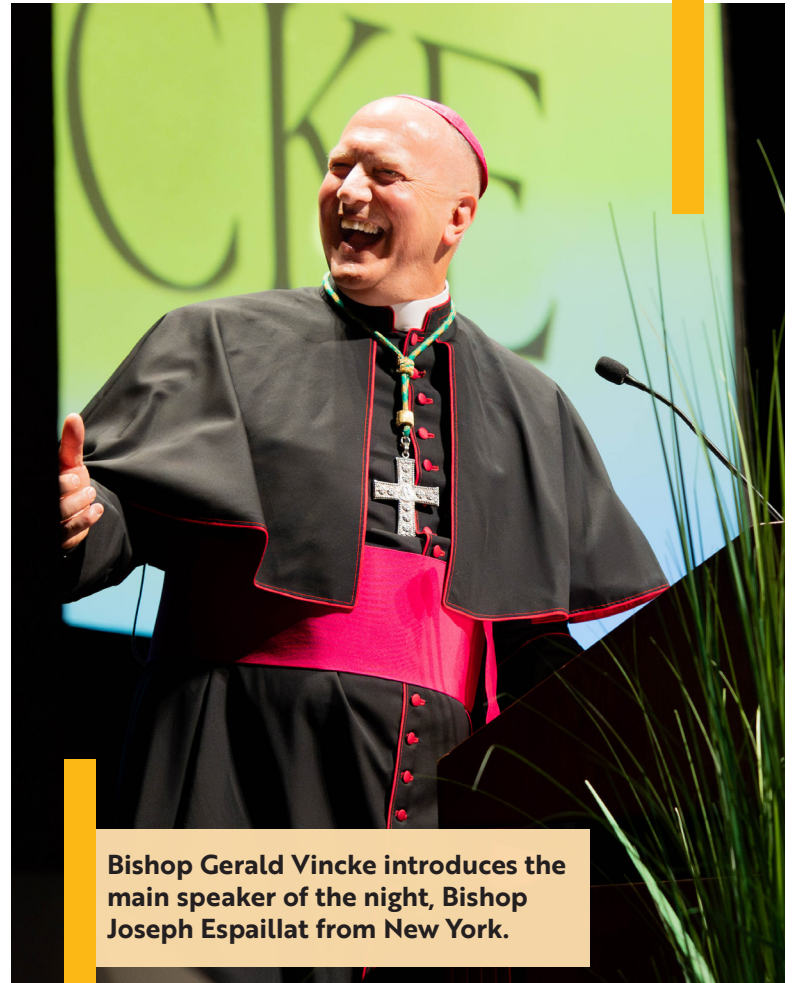
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The monstrance rests on the altar before adoration on the first night of the conference. This monstrance, belonging to the Community of Our Lady Queen of Peace, places Christ in the center of Mary's heart. The Community has plans for St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit, to become the second Catholic church in the U.S. to be recognized as a Star on the Mantle of Our Lady, a place for prayer for peace.



Bishop Gerald Vincke introduces the main speaker of the night, Bishop Joseph Espaillat from New York.

Eucharistic Conference, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bishop Vincke immediately began asking Bishop Espaillat to come to Kansas to speak.

At the same time, the leader of the Salina Diocese charged his chancery staff to begin planning a conference.

Knowing that a lot of people from Kansas and the Salina Diocese wouldn't be able to attend the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Bishop Jerry charged his staff with holding a Eucharistic Conference of its own.

Bill Meagher – director of youth ministry, religious education and family life for the diocese – formed a committee of 12 that planned and pulled off the conference in six months time.

Hays became the chosen site

After the committee considered several different venues in cities across the diocese, Hays turned out to be the perfect location when FHSU's Comeau Catholic Campus Center offered to sponsor the event.

Father Andy Hammeke, chaplain of the Catholic Campus Center, had been wanting to bring a conference of this type to the FHSU students he serves at the campus center. So he and the CCC took the lead in hosting the conference.

"The Holy Spirit was guiding us the whole time," Meagher said. "That's one of those things that the Holy Spirit always does, guides us to the right place."

And the right time.

Bishop Espaillat indicated that August was the best month for him to find open dates, and he agreed to serve as the keynote speaker.

"I'd never been to Kansas before," Bishop Espaillat said, adding that he would go anywhere to talk about Jesus. "I am crazy about Jesus."

The special visitor from the Big Apple was

treated to the wide open spaces of western Kansas on the drive from Salina with Bishop Vincke.

That experience was heightened during Friday night's Eucharistic Adoration in the cool night air on FHSU's outdoor quad – sandwiched between the main buildings of the campus and laden with lush green grass and 100-plus year-old trees.

The quad was as beautiful as ever and cleansed from recent moisture and temperatures usually foreign to mid-August summer days.

Temperatures for the weekend, on the heels of 100-degree days the week before hovered right around the mid- to low-70s.

"This was a special gift from God to have this kind of weather," said

Father Gale Ham-

merschmidt, who served as emcee for the event along with Sister Amy Marie Havlet, vocation director for the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb.

Fr. Gale is a native of Hays who now serves as chaplain at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center at Kansas State University in the Little Apple of Manhattan, Kansas.

He was pleased that the conference could be held in his hometown.

"Hays is the place where I learned about God and first encountered the Catholic Church," he said. "It will always be a special place to me."

Catholics filled FHSU's quad

Saturday's day-long conference began with another powerful talk by Bishop Joseph, followed by numerous breakout sessions. It was an uplifting day that culminated with the

afternoon Mass that drew nearly 1,500 Catholics to the FHSU grounds.

Two of those were former Hays residents, Jeff and Tina Wick, who now live in Wamego – which is part of the Archdiocese of Kansas City.

Tina Wick had attended the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, and she said the inspirational event was life-changing.

"What I experienced from the Eucharistic Congress, I wanted my husband to have a taste of it," she said. "I think the conference in Hays was phenomenal. It goes to show that people are wanting to continue the fire of the Holy Spirit to touch people's souls – and to keep this revival going."

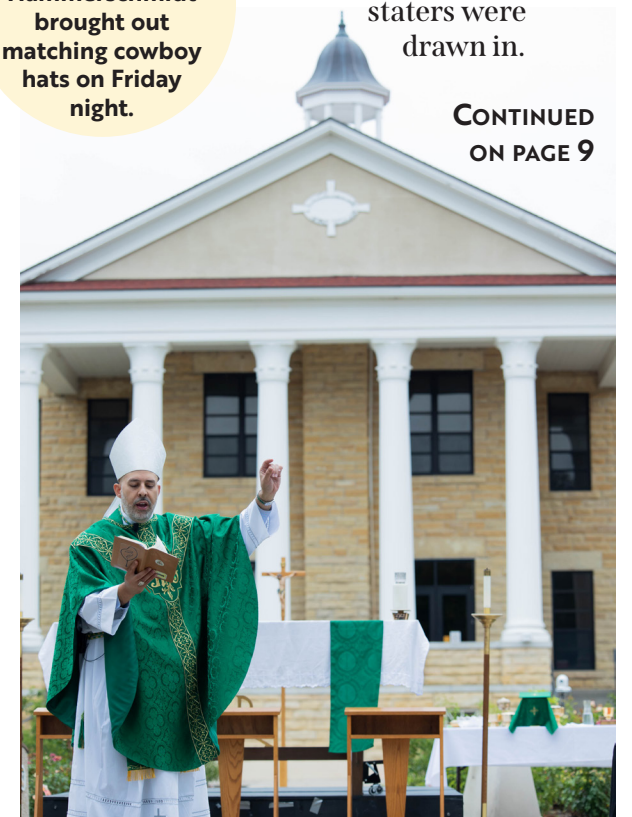
While the majority of those attending the event at FHSU were from the Salina Diocese, even some out-of-staters were drawn in.



Emcees Sr. Amy Marie Havlet and Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt brought out matching cowboy hats on Friday night.



Speaker Braden Johnson discusses understanding the hearts of young people during a breakout session.



Bishop Espaillat preaches during the final Mass on Saturday, August 10.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Jacob LeBlanc from Louisiana, who was attending a three-month educational program in Manhattan, learned about the Eucharist Conference from some fellow Catholics.

When LeBlanc learned his work schedule was open for that weekend, he signed up online and even checked the “volunteer” box to help out at the conference.

“I kept hearing everyone talk about the conference, and it sounded like it was going to be something really special – and it was,” LeBlanc said. “I think it was empowering to

hear the bishop from New York. I liked that he told us to not just let this be an event we attended, to do something with the information we got. I feel inspired to do that.”

Fr. Andy was inspired to “see our diocese come together like this.”

“I have high hopes to see how it affects the people of our diocese in years to come,” Fr. Andy said.

Meagher agreed.

“I’m really excited to see where the Holy Spirit takes us from here,” he said. “I think He’s working in our diocese and has a plan

for us.”

Even before the conference had ended, Meagher was fielding questions about whether or not there would be a similar conference held in the future.

Meagher smiled as he answered, “We’ll see what our bishop says.”

Editor’s note: Please see Bishop Vincke’s column on page 2 for a reflection on the Eucharistic Conference and his hopes for the future.



(Left) During adoration, students brought up photos of all the patron saints of churches in the diocese and placed them beside the altar.



(Above) Fr. Jarett Konrade speaks on how people can expand Eucharistic adoration in their own parishes.

(Left) Seminarians, deacons and priests process over from the Comeau Catholic Campus Center to the Quad for adoration with the bishops.



(Above) Bishop Espallat, Bishop Vincke, and Dcn. Adam Urban adore Christ on Friday, August 9, in the Quad at Fort Hays State University.



(Above) Volunteers from across the diocese stand ready to check in visitors outside of Sheridan Hall.



(Left) Sr. Mary Agnes, IHM, shares about how to foster a deeper reverence and devotion to the Eucharistic Lord through the example of Saint Thomas Aquinas.



The 10th National Eucharistic Congress opened with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament led by Bishop Andrew Cozzens of the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota.



Bishop Vincke joins the opening procession at the Eucharistic Congress.

COURTESY PHOTO

Diocesan pilgrims return from Congress with newfound zeal for Eucharist

BY MARC AND JULIE ANDERSON
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

INDIANAPOLIS – Powerful. Inspiring. Moving. That’s how diocesan pilgrims described the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. They were among 50,000 to 60,000 who traveled for the event.

The Congress, held July 17-21, began as pilgrims from the four Eucharistic pilgrimage routes came into Lucas Oil Stadium in downtown Indianapolis.

Adoration followed, led by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota. Bishop Cozzens serves as the chairman of evangelization and catechesis for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and spearheaded the Congress and the National Eucharistic Revival campaign which began in 2022 and continues through Pentecost next year.

“It was really powerful to see everybody just worshipping our Lord,” said Ethan Weiner, a seminarian from St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Parish in Hoxie.

After adoration, the evening moved into a revival session, a pattern repeated nightly. Each session featured some of the most well-known speakers, apologists and music ministers within the Church today, including Dr. Ben Akers, an associate professor of theology at the Augustine Institute who also oversees Formed.org; Trent Horn, an apologist with Catholic Answers; and Jonthan Roumie, who plays Jesus in “The Chosen.”

Daily Mass, opportunities for confession and a Eucharistic procession through downtown Indianapolis also provided pilgrims a myriad of ways to grow in their Eucharistic zeal.

One speaker that moved Weiner was Trent Horn.

“He showed us three different ways of how to defend the Eucharist,” Weiner said, adding Horn used passages from the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation to make his points.

Weiner said Protestant friends often ask him where Catholic teachings are in the Bible. The reality, he said, is Eucharistic teaching

can be found throughout Scripture, something he appreciates more as a result of Horn’s presentation. The new insights, he said, will allow him to “be better at evangelization.”

For Deacon Jesse Ochs from Sacred Heart Parish in Park, unforgettable moments included the celebration of the different Masses. On July 18, he participated in the morning Mass celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York. As he processed into Lucas Oil Stadium, he admits to being awestruck.

“That was unbelievable,” the deacon said, adding, “just looking at the stadium and seeing all of the people and that wasn’t even all of the people at the conference. They had another option to go to Mass somewhere else. ... It just gave me continued hope for the Church to see how many people are faithful still.”

Danny Deaver, from St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton, agreed, saying, “It’s like Jesus bringing new life into the world. It was awesome.”

Bringing new life into her parish is the hope of Barb Elbracht from St. Theresa in Mankato.

Elbracht said, “We’re talking about how we want to change our Eucharistic adoration, and then we’re also talking about we might use some of the technology (i.e. rosary apps) that we’ve experienced to encourage others by maybe each week featuring a different site that will maybe attract or expose a different group to these websites and apps.”

Seminarian Luke Friess, also from Hoxie, said bringing new life into the Church was the whole point of the Congress.

“We, the participants at the Eucharistic Congress, proclaimed Jesus Christ as king each night of the Congress during communal Eucharistic adoration. I hope each of us will now daily proclaim him king of our lives and allow him to transform our lives how He desires. ... Allowing His divine life to flow through us and completely make us new, we are able to more effectively offer the good news of His salvation to our families, our parishes, our diocese, and the world, one personal interaction at a time.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Deacons and seminarians from the Salina Diocese made the trip to the Eucharistic Congress, despite delays in travel for many of the pilgrims along the way.



COURTESY PHOTO, MARC ANDERSON

Barb Elbracht attends the Renewal Morning Impact session on July 18.



COURTESY PHOTO, MARC ANDERSON

The family of Danny Deaver, from St. Mary of the Assumption in Clifton, take a quick family photo during the first day of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Aug. 31-Sept. 2

• Jr. CYO Camp, Rock Springs Ranch, Junction City.

Sept. 1

• St. Joseph's Annual Chicken Dinner, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., VFW, Clyde.

Sept. 1

• World Day of Prayer for Creation.

Sept. 6-8

• Permanent Deacon Retreat, Wichita.

Sept. 7

• Divine Mercy Radio Banquet, 5 p.m., Hays.

Sept. 8

• Divine Mercy Radio Banquet, 5 p.m., Colby.

Sept. 9

• Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities.

Sept. 15

• Annual Holy Cross Mass, 3 p.m., Pfeifer.

Sept. 16-19

• Clergy Retreat, Wichita.

Sept. 21

• Rite of Acolyte, 5 p.m., St. Fidelis Basilica, Victoria.

Sept. 22

• St. Padre Pio Celebration, Mass & Reception, noon, St. John's, Beloit.

Sept. 25

• Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Annual Festival, 2:30 p.m., Leoville.

Sept. 27

• TMP-Marian Homecoming Parade & Game, 5:30 p.m., Hays.


Sept. 27-29

• Engaged Encounter weekend, Victoria.

Sept. 29

• World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Celebrate the Rite of Acolyte,
Sept. 22 at 5 p.m. | St. Fidelis Basilica, Victoria.



Candidates for the permanent diaconate completed their classwork learning how to preach July 21-27, 2024, at St. Meinrad School of Theology, St. Meinrad, Indiana. Please join them for the Rite of Acolyte, Sept. 22. Front (L-R): Tim Donohue, Harry Hardy, Jr. and Dave DiNuzzo. Middle: Fr. David Scotchie (instructor), Bill Meagher, Dan Wahlmeier and Mark LeValley. Back: Deacon Steve Frueh, Deacon Mike Robinson, and Deacon Wayne Talbot.

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

Catholic author to host book signing in Hays



SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Messenger Catholic Books and Gifts will offer a book signing for Elizabeth Schmeidler's latest novel, "Eye Has Not Seen," on Saturday, August 31, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Messenger, 115 W. 10th in Hays. Online: TraditionalCatholicStore.com


Schmeidler has authored six novels, children stories, and dozens of inspirational stories featured in various spiritual publications. Folks in our diocese may recognize her as a previous pro-life speaker, retreat leader and guest columnist for The Hays Daily News and the Register.

She said, "I thought I might be done with writing until my 12-year-old niece exclaimed, 'Please write another book! Yours are the only books I like to read!' With that seed planted, I promised to ask God for guidance if another book was His will. It sure didn't take long for Him to answer! My wheels began turning immediately, especially when I

considered the impact an exciting story that celebrated family values and the Catholic faith could have on my seven granddaughters, six of whom belong to my son and daughter-in-law, who own the Messenger.

"So far, the reviews are wonderful! Adult readers, along with my niece and granddaughters, thoroughly enjoyed the mystery/suspense, adventure, plot twists, and heartfelt moments that made them laugh and cry. The story is filled with hope, something we all desperately need, and life lessons make for great dinner-table conversations. Mothers, especially, will enjoy it and appreciate being able to give their teenager a book they don't have to screen first.

"I feel so blessed," Schmeidler said, "to be able to leave my family a tiny glimpse of my love for God and His perfect plans; yet, in keeping with the title ... only in Heaven will they fully see the depth of God's love ... or mine."



Holy Cross Church in Pfeifer will be hosting a Mass to commemorate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Sunday, Sept. 15 at 3:00 p.m. Bishop Jerry Vincke, Fr. Jim Moster and Fr. Reggie Urban will be the celebrants. Music will be provided by Trilogy. Seed wheat will be blessed. BBQ social following Mass. Genealogy books available. Everyone is welcome.

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Divine Mercy Radio to celebrate 14th Annual Appreciation Banquet

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

HAYS, COLBY – Divine Mercy Radio is gearing up for their 14th Annual Appreciation Banquet to be held in Hays Sept. 7 and in Colby Sept. 8. The entertaining and informative Joe Heschmeyer, a staff apologist for Catholic Answers Live, will be the featured speaker. Catholic Answers Live airs from 5 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday on Divine Mercy Radio.

In addition to being an apologist, Heschmeyer is an author, speaker, blogger and podcaster. He

earned a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and a philosophy degree from Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, as well as a theology degree from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. Heschmeyer currently lives with his wife and children in the Kansas City area.

The title of his talk in Hays will be “Pope Peter,” while his talk in Colby will be titled “What’s the Big Deal about Mary?”

The banquet in Hays will begin with a social

hour at 6 p.m., followed by a meal and program. It will be held at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2350 E. 8th St.

In Colby, the banquet will also begin with a social hour at 5 p.m., followed by a meal and program. It will be held in the City Limits Convention Center, 2227 S. Range Avenue.

Tickets are \$60 if ordered after Aug. 18. No tickets can be sold after Sept. 1. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to: Appreciation Banquet, Divine Mercy

Radio, 108 E. 12th St., Hays, KS 67601 or by calling (785) 621-4110. Tickets can also be purchased online at dvmercy.com. Please state which banquet you will be attending, Hays or Colby. For more information, as well as the menu, go to dvmercy.com and click on the banquet tab.

Divine Mercy Radio began in 2010 with 88.1, KVDM, Hays. Five years later they expanded to 88.1, KRIT, Great Bend. Then, in 2020, 101.7 KJDM, Lindsborg/Salina went on the air as well as

105.7, KMDG, Hays. The original station, KVDM in Hays, began airing Catholic classic radio. In 2023, the fifth Divine Mercy Radio station went on the air – 89.1, KGOH in Colby. Soon, the 105.7 KMDG, Hays station will begin broadcasting via a translator station on a frequency of 107.3 in the Hill City area. Divine Mercy Radio is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization relying on the generosity of its listeners as well as business underwriters.

WEDDINGS

Jack Thomas Blumer and Sydney Wray Brands were married June 28, 2024, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Matthew Davied witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Steven and Deborah Blumer. Parents of the bride are Glenn and Kristen Brands. Witnesses were Dave Blumer and Ava Schemper.

Brice Robert Brummett and Casey Nicole Taylor were married July 12, 2024, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Jason and Lynnette Brummett. Parents of the bride are Gene and Catherine Taylor. Witnesses were Brady Brummett and Katie LeCompte.

Jeff Heimann and Brooklyn Bussen were married July 27, 2024, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Bill and Teresa (Becker) Heimann. Parents of the bride are Jason and Carrie (Collins) Bussen. Witnesses were Scott Heimann and Emma Buss

Kyle Joseph Hummel and Hannah Evelyn Knigge were married July 20, 2024, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Peter O’Donnell witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Roger and Sheila Hummel. Parents of the bride are Steven and Julie Knigge. Witnesses were Ryan Hummel and Halle Dolechek.

Luke Anthony Koppes and Elisabeth May Girton were married June 29, 2024, at St. Joseph’s Church in St. Joseph. Fr. Mike Leiker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Brad and Catherine Girton. Parents of the bride are Sheldon and Danelle Koppes. Witnesses were Rhett Koppes and Emma Girton.


Jesse Samuel Rice and Josephine Grace De Los Santos were married July 20, 2024, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Rodney and Jonnette Rice. Parents of the bride are Nile and Cara Santos. Witnesses were Eddie Tilton and Emma Degenhardt.

Jacob Alexander Santillan and Vivian Theresa Vu were married July 13, 2024, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Charles and Angela Santillan, Jr. Parents of the bride are Tam Vu and An Thi Mai. Witnesses were Brandon Santillan and Lillian Le.

Colton Vajnar and Hayley Burks were married August 3, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Matthew Davied witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Curt and Mary Ella Vajnar. Parents of the bride are Eric and Deidra Burks. Witnesses were Conrad Vajnar and Hannah Dlabal.

Gideon Scott Wells and Maggie Jene Schwartz were married July 27, 2024, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Steven and Faye Wells. Parents of the bride are Michael Schwartz and Amanda Schwartz. Witnesses were Dayton McGroarty and Haley Crawford.

Tyler Jeffery Zentner and Emilee Rose Ebert were married July 6, 2024, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Deacon Adam Urban witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Arlen and Sunni Zentner. Parents of the bride are Brian and Jennifer Ebert. Witnesses were Aaron Zentner and Breleigh Ebert.



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KGOH 89.1, Colby
Colorado border to Quinter

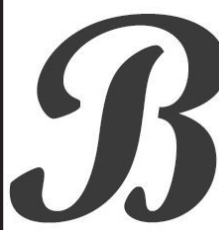
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BAPTISMS

Annie Renee Bellerive, daughter of Stephen and Emily (Hollingsworth) Bellerive, was baptized July 21, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Matteo Lee Cardenas, son of Stiven and Kendra Cardenas, was baptized July 7, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew Church in Abilene. Godparents are Damian Cardenas and Koryn Zey.

Jazmin Diaz, daughter of Diego Diaz and Sandra Montoya, was baptized July 21, 2024, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparents are Hugo Diaz and Fabiola Martinez.

Lawson Valentine Dreher, son of Daniel and Abigail Jewell, was baptized August 3, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Sean Ellis Evans, son of Christopher and Sheila Evans, was baptized May 26, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew Church in Abilene. Godparent is LeeAnna Humphrey.

Ember Mae Gottschalk, daughter of Daniel and Bailey (Hensely) Gottschalk, was baptized June 30, 2024,

by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Kaden James Haug, son of Derek and Madison Haug, was baptized July 27, 2024, by Dcn. Kade Megaffin at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Frida Sarahi Valerio Ibarra, daughter of Sigifredo and Martha (Ibarra) Valerio, was baptized May 25, 2024, by Fr. Joseph Kieffer at Sacred Heart Church in Greenleaf.

Lucy Rae Leiszler, daughter of Mark and Lindsey (Herrs) Leiszler, was baptized August 4, 2024, by Fr. Francis Hund, assisted by Fr. Steve Heina, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Clifton.

Caleb Michael Lueger, son of Russell and Gina Lueger, was baptized June 30, 2024, by Fr. Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Waylon Thomas Provost, son of Kyle and Miranda (Snyder) Provost, was baptized May 25, 2024, by Fr. David Metz at Sacred Heart Church in Greenleaf.

Evelyn Ann Sipe, daughter of Christopher and Rachel Sipe, was baptized August 4, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Elizabeth "Betty" Bachofer, 98, died June 30, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 10 at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Fr. Kevin Weber presided. Burial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Salina.

Rose Egger, 82, died June 24, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 1 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Inurnment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

Kenneth Graves, 60, Salina, died July 6, 2024. Funeral service was July 12 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Fr. Peter O'Donnell and Fr. John Wolesky presided. Burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chapman.

Marilyn Lou Jensen, 69, died July 14, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 18 at The Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. Fr. James Moster, OFM Cap., presided. Burial in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Cemetery, Atwood.

Donna Johnson, 87, died May 14, 2024. Burial was a graveside service only at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Salina. Fr. Brian McCaffrey presided.

Susan Mary Kimminau, 71, died July 23, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 26 at St. John the Baptist

FUNERALS

Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in St. Theresa Cemetery, Mankato.

Lucille Wanda Kuhn, 70, died July 24, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 27 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

Steven Lewis, 71, Wakefield, died June 24, 2024. Funeral service was celebrated July 1 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Fr. Peter O'Donnell presided. Burial in Madura Cemetery, Wakefield.

Stanley John "Stan" Mayers, 65, died July 27, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 31 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards and Fr. Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery, Hays.

Amanda Metzler, 28, died June 19, 2024. Memorial service was held at Yorgensten-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home in Manhattan. Burial service was July 6. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Inurnment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

Paul F. Miller, 89, died June 30, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 26 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Fr. Frank Coady and Fr. Donald D. Zimmerman presided. Interment at St. Peter's Cemetery, Willowdale, KS.

Andrew "Andy" Odell, 90, died July 13, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 23 at Immaculate Conception Church in Solomon. Fr. John Wolesky presided. Burial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Solomon.

Anita L. Ouellette, 75, died July 6, 2024. Private family graveside service was July 19 at Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clyde. Fr. Joseph Kieffer presided.

William A. "Bill" Patzell, Jr., 89, died April 23, 2024, at Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 29 at Seven Dolors Church. Fr. Kerry Ninemire presided, with Fr. Michael

Scully and Fr. Randal Weber as concelebrants. Burial in Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan.

Kenneth J. Pfannenstiel, 84, died June 23, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 28 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Munjor.

Charlotte "Charlie" DeVerne Roets, 92, died July 20, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 24 at Immaculate Conception Church in Solomon. Fr. John Wolesky presided. Burial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Solomon.

Floyd Robert Rohr, 93, died July 11, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 16 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Curtis Carlson, OFM Cap., and Fr. Alvin Werth presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Kolten Schmidt, 28, died June 27, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 10 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Inurnment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

Linda Jean Wahlmeier, 81, died June 26, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 13 at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo. Fr. Joshua Werth presided. Inurnment in St. Joseph Cemetery, New Almelo.

Shirley Weigel, 89, Hays, formerly of Plainville, died June 16, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 20 at Sacred Heart Church in Plainville. Fr. Leo Blasi presided. Burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Maxine Therese Wicks, 94, died July 16, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 20 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Andrew Rockers presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery, Beloit.

Ruth E. Zimmerman, 91, died July 12, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 17 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.



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Catholic Charities hosts Green Tie Celebration

SUBMITTED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES

On July 13, 2024, Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas hosted its annual Green Tie Celebration at the Salina Country Club. The event brought together community members for an evening filled with compassion and hope, highlighting the impact of their support on those in need across the diocese.

The celebration showcased the generosity of donors whose contributions support a variety of programs, including financial and housing assistance, personal care and basic needs, pregnancy and adoption services, and counseling.

Cathy Boos, board member, attended the event with her husband, Don. "The mission of Catholic Charities helps all walks of life, not only Catholics," she said. "I am so proud to contribute to this great cause."

Throughout the evening, several clients and staff members shared their stories of hope and transformation, demonstrating how Catholic Charities has been a lifeline during difficult times.

Tynan Dowell from Beloit, who lost her 14-month-old daughter Clara in a tragic drowning accident, found solace in counseling through the Family Support Services.

Dowell said she was encouraged to set goals and take steps towards healing, which helped her find the strength to move forward. "Catholic Charities provides opportunities for people to grow, heal, and process their struggles," Dowell said, expressing her gratitude for the support she received.

Similarly, Trina and Michael Shockey faced medical complications that made expanding their family difficult. They turned to Catholic Charities for adoption support, and after years of anticipation they joyfully welcomed their son Oscar into their family. They expressed appreciation to Catholic Charities, who not only facilitated the adoption but also provided support to their birth mother. "Catholic Charities doesn't just say goodbye after the papers are signed," Trina Shockey shared. "They provide ongoing support and counseling."

Isaac Hicks, the community engagement and outreach coordinator at Catholic Charities in Manhattan, also shared how Catholic Charities has impacted his life.

Every week, Hicks travels to rural communities in our area to provide services to under-resourced areas. Before working at Catholic Charities, he felt a strong connection to the organization, having received help from the organization as a child. Hicks said, "From those experiences, I can personally attest to how much these life-saving efforts can impact the families we serve."

Megan Robl, executive director of Catholic Charities, said the Green Tie Celebration proved to be a tremendous success, thanks in part to an outstanding committee of volunteers and staff led by director of development Jessica Allen. "Their hard work

ensured a festive yet impactful evening," Robl said.

She also expressed her gratitude to all attendees and contributors. "Because of YOU, those facing financial and emotional distress throughout our

diocese will have access to critical resources," said Robl. "You bring life to these programs and hope to their recipients. None of it would be possible without the support of an amazing diocesan community."

Looking ahead, Robl invites everyone to mark their calendars for the next Green Tie Celebration, set for July 12, 2025. "We hope to see all of you there!"



COURTESY PHOTOS



DONATE YOUR PICKUP BAGS!

Got extra Dillon's Pickup bags lying around? Catholic Charities would love to take them off your hands! We use these bags to create hygiene kits for those in need in Northern Kansas.

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Sister Christina Passes Away

Sister Christina Brodie, 71, died July 25, 2024, at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia. She was a Sister of St. Joseph for nine years. She was born in New York City, NY Aug. 28, 1951 to William and Antoinette Tummolo Oakley, and was baptized Christina. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia, on Nov. 1, 2012. She entered the novitiate on June 13, 2015. She pronounced first vows on June 11, 2016 and final vows on Aug. 2, 2019.



Hands Across the Community ministry in Concordia. Sister Christina was preceded in death by her parents and one sister. She is survived by one sister, Diana Levett; and one brother, Bill Oakley and one son, Chris Brodie. A Bible Vigil Service was held July 29 in the Nazareth Motherhouse Chapel with Sister Marcia Allen as the eulogist. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 30 at the Motherhouse Chapel. Fr Barry Brinkman presided. Burial in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery. Chaput-Buoy Mortuary, 325 W. 6th St., Concordia, was in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be given to the Sisters of St. Joseph to benefit Helping Hands Outreach at Manna House.

She received a BA degree in history and communications from Livingston College. Christina had a 40 year career in marketing/advertising and media primarily in New York City but also in South Florida. She started the

Tuesdays with the Diocese: adult formation at no cost

6-8 P.M. "COME AND SEE" JOHN 1:45-46. JOIN ADULTS OF THE DIOCESES OF SALINA AND DODGE CITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FAITH. ATTEND ALL THREE EVENINGS OR JUST ONE. CONNECT VIA ZOOM USING YOUR OWN DEVICE. TO SIGN-UP AND RECEIVE THE LINK, GO TO DCDIOCESE.ORG/AF

Oct. 1:

The Second Vatican Council: How do Humans Participate in the Paschal Mystery of Christ? Presenter - Fr. Frank Coady.

The Paschal Mystery is the dying and rising of Christ that is exhibited not only in Jesus but in all of creation, of which, along with the Father and the Spirit, he is the author. The evening will explore the particular way that humans participate in that infinite Mystery.

Oct. 15:

Vanity Faith Searching for Spirituality Among the Stars. Presenter and Author – Fr. Terrance Klein.

The book, Vanity Faith, reveals how God can be found in the movies and on television, and how faith and culture can teach you more than you could have ever dreamed.

Oct. 29:

Ministry to the Sick and Elderly. Presenter - Fr. Robert Schremmer and guest speakers.

Fr. Bob will interview guest speakers who will share their experiences on accompanying the sick and elderly.

Pastoral Ministry Formation Fall Classes Offered

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THEO 3053 Sacramental Theology: (Core Course - 3 college credit hours) with Fr. Frank Coady:

Course Description - A study of the theological and spiritual underpinnings of the liturgy, with specific application to each sacrament. Most of the course will focus on the Eucharist.

Class Dates: Sept. 7, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9.

Location: This course is offered over Zoom. To be in a Zoom class, one will need a computer with a microphone and camera. Saturday mornings: 8:15 a.m. to noon.



THEO 4881 Introduction to Christian Spirituality (One Hour Course - 1 college credit hour) with Fr. Terrance Klein:

Course Description - An Introduction to Christian Spirituality: our understanding of the human person as created for communion with God in this life and the next, the forms and stages of Christian prayer, and basic principles for the discernment of spirits in the tradition.

Class Dates: Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24

Location: This course is offered over Zoom. To be in a Zoom class, one will need a computer with a microphone and camera. Tuesday evenings: 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.



CROSSWORD FROM PAGE 16

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS



St. Mother Teresa, born Anjeze Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in 1910, is known for her dedication to the poorest of the poor. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950, a group devoted to helping the hungry, the homeless, and all those who feel unloved or unwanted.



Her work began in Calcutta, India, where she opened hospices, orphanages and leper houses. She believed in seeing Jesus in every person. She won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her works of charity and mercy.

"Spread love wherever you go," she said. "Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

SAINT MOTHER TERESA

FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 5

DID YOU KNOW? PARISH & TOWN TRIVIA

Test your knowledge of a featured parish in the Salina Diocese!



This parish's church has a red cross for the crucifix because the workers thought there was too much brown with the brick, and color was needed.

The architect who designed this church was from Notre Dame, and did the work for free!



This town has an annual After Harvest Festival, the 3rd Sunday of July.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GRINNELL

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Impose a tax
- 7. Yearn
- 11. Deface
- 14. Celtic
- 15. Opp. of yeses
- 16. Bullfight cheer
- 17. Type of American Express card
- 18. Snare
- 19. What a nurse gives
- 20. Shade tree
- 22. For
- 23. Color
- 24. Incidental
- 29. Radios
- 31. Brother of Moses
- 32. Stamping tool
- 34. Wounds
- 35. Baths
- 36. Real busy
- 38. Summer skin color
- 39. Buck's mate
- 40. Pea holder
- 41. Villain
- 44. A ghost
- 46. Sanctified
- 47. Bustling
- 50. Sticky black substance
- 51. Packed
- 52. Pieces of wood

- 54. Pilate was one
- 56. Dowel
- 57. Nothing
- 59. Rock group
- 60. Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- 61. Muslim ruler
- 63. Pasta
- 68. Street abbr.
- 69. Achy
- 70. Biased
- 71. Scarlet
- 72. Fasten
- 73. Cousin of Mordecai

DOWN

- 1. Gone by
- 2. Drain
- 3. Put
- 4. Samuel's mentor
- 5. Tribe of Israel
- 6. Hot liquid burn
- 7. Picnic pest
- 8. Corporation (abbr.)
- 9. Biblical seat of emotions
- 10. Betrothed
- 11. Honor your father and ___
- 12. Attract
- 13. Niche
- 21. Region between Rockies and

- Ohio
- 24. Asia
- 25. Male parent
- 26. Iraq's neighbor
- 27. Distress call
- 28. Central Intelligence Agency
- 30. Cain fled to this land
- 33. Roman Empire sovereign
- 36. Child
- 37. "Raven" author
- 39. Plague of Egypt
- 41. Connecticut (abbr.)
- 42. In addition
- 43. Colorer
- 44. Box
- 45. Old woman
- 46. That woman
- 47. Emerge
- 48. Arm covering
- 49. Followed closely
- 51. Evil angels
- 53. Peter's other name
- 55. Locale
- 58. Italian money
- 62. Representative
- 64. Often poetically
- 65. Dit's partner
- 66. Tell a tall tale
- 67. Stray

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 14

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA • VOLUME 87, No. 8



THE REGISTER

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Mailing label update

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