



# THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

Nov. 22, 2024

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

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## Diocese unites for Acts XXIX advent retreat



Lane and Hannah Nichols light an Advent wreath with their children. The four candles on the wreath represent the light of Christ entering the world, and they symbolize hope, peace, joy and love.

BY THE MOST REV. GERALD L. VINCKE  
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF SALINA

Three thousand people! That's an incredible number of people to think about in one place. Did you know that after St. Peter received the Holy Spirit, he boldly preached to the people—and that day, 3,000 were baptized? Wow!

What was it that St. Peter said to the crowd that stirred their hearts and led so many to convert? "Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that this Jesus, whom you crucified, God has raised up and made him both Lord and Messiah."

That's the first proclamation of the kerygma. What is the kerygma? The kerygma is the joyful announcement

that Jesus Christ is a living Person to be encountered, who through His Resurrection has defeated sin and death.

This is the greatest news of all, greater than any of our favorite teams winning games or having a billion dollars and having everything the world offers.

After St. Peter's powerful preaching, the people were "cut to the heart," and they asked, "What are we to do?" The proclamation demands a response. Peter's answer is clear: "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. For the promise is made to you, your children, and to all who are far off, whom the Lord our God will call."

The desire of Jesus is for every per-

son to encounter His love and mercy—through His victory over sin and death on the cross and in His Resurrection. This is my desire too. And so, during the four Sundays of Advent, our diocese is participating in the Advent Rescue Project from Acts XXIX, which is essentially a proclamation of the kerygma. In every parish of the diocese, every priest or deacon will preach on this theme. I invite you to see this as an Advent retreat, a time for each of us to reflect on the central message of our faith.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we will focus on God's creation. Everything God made is for us. Each of us is created in God's image. And He

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ADVENT OF RESCUE, FROM PAGE 1

loves us!

The second Sunday of Advent, we will focus on being captured. We know the story well. Adam and Eve were walking with God in paradise. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat from all the trees, including the tree of life, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Enticed by the serpent, Satan, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This is how sin and death entered the world. Satan's temptation was that "God doesn't really love you. God won't be there for you. You will be happier without God. Follow your own path." Of course, after Adam and Eve sin, Satan's temptation becomes, "You are not good enough for God. God doesn't love you anymore. You have no more hope for your life." So many people believe these lies.

But God's love is much greater than our sins, and He still desires to be with us in paradise. That's why, on the third Sunday of Advent, we'll focus on being rescued. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin and death by His death on the cross. Just as Adam and Eve were captured by sin and death through a tree, Jesus defeated sin and death through the tree of the cross. There is no salvation other than through Jesus. He gives up his life so that we might be with him for all eternity.

This incredible love demands a response. And that's what we'll focus on during the fourth Sunday of Advent: our response to the mercy and love of God. This is the most important decision we'll ever make.

My prayer for this Advent is that we will grow in deeper appreciation for what God has done for us through the kerygma. My hope is that we, too, will be "cut to the heart," and, like those early Christians, ask the Lord, "What are we to do?"

*+ Gerald L. Vincke*  
The Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke  
Bishop of Salina

¡3,000 personas! ¡Es increíble imaginar a ese número de personas en un sólo lugar! ¿Sabías que después de que San Pedro recibió al Espíritu Santo, predicó con valentía a la multitud, y ese día, 3,000 personas fueron bautizadas? ¡Guau!

¿Qué dijo San Pedro a la multitud, que conmovió sus corazones y llevó a tantos a convertirse? "Sepa con certeza toda la casa de Israel, que a este Jesús, a quien ustedes crucificaron, Dios lo ha resucitado y lo ha hecho Señor y Mesías."

Esa es la primera proclamación del kerygma. ¿Qué es el kerygma? El kerygma es el anuncio alegre de que Jesucristo es una Persona viva que puede ser encontrada, quien, a través de Su Resurrección, ha derrotado el pecado y la muerte.

Esta es la mejor noticia de todas, más grande que cualquiera de nuestros equipos favoritos ganando partidos o tener mil millones de dólares y tener todo lo que el mundo ofrece.

Después de la poderosa predicación de San Pedro, se "compungieron de corazón" y preguntaron: "¿Qué debemos hacer?" La proclamación exige una respuesta. La respuesta de Pedro es clara: "Arrepiéntanse y sean bautizados en el nombre de Jesucristo para el perdón de sus pecados. Porque la promesa es para ustedes y para sus hijos y para todos los que están lejos, a quienes el Señor nuestro Dios llame."

El deseo de Jesús es que cada persona sienta Su amor y misericordia, a través de Su victoria sobre el pecado y la muerte en la cruz y en Su Resurrección. Este es también mi deseo. Por eso, durante los cuatro domingos de Adviento, nuestra diócesis participará en el Proyecto de Rescate de Adviento, que es esencialmente una proclamación del kerygma. En cada parroquia de la diócesis, cada sacerdote o diácono predicará sobre este tema. Los invito a ver esto como un retiro de Adviento, un tiempo para que cada uno de nosotros reflexione sobre el mensaje central de nuestra fe.

El primer domingo de Adviento, nos enfocaremos en la creación de Dios. Todo lo que Dios creó es para nosotros. Cada uno de nosotros fue creado a imagen de Dios. ¡Y Él nos ama!

El segundo domingo de Adviento, nos enfocaremos en ser cautivos. Conocemos bien la historia. Adán y Eva caminaban con Dios en el paraíso. Dios les dijo que podían



BISHOP'S CALENDAR

December

- 9 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (observed). Chancery closed.
- 25/26 Christmas, Chancery closed.
- 27 Seminarian Family Mass & Luncheon, S.H. Cathedral, Salina.
- 27 Runnin' Revs basketball game, S.H.H.S., Salina, 6 p.m.

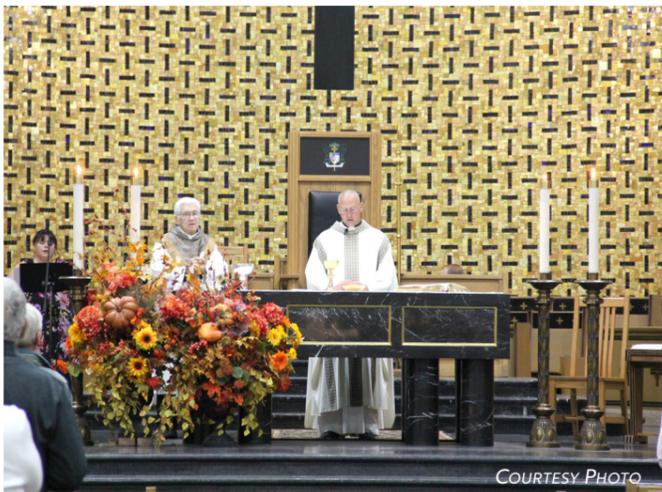
comer de todos los árboles, incluyendo el árbol de la vida, excepto del árbol del conocimiento del bien y del mal. Seducidos por la serpiente, Satanás, Adán y Eva desobedecieron a Dios y comieron del árbol del conocimiento del bien y del mal. Así fue como el pecado y la muerte entraron al mundo. La tentación de Satanás fue: "Dios no te ama realmente. Dios no estará ahí para ti. Serás más feliz sin Dios. Sigue tu propio camino." Claro, después de que Adán y Eva pecan, la tentación de Satanás se convierte en: "No eres lo suficientemente bueno para Dios. Dios ya no te ama. No tienes esperanza en tu vida." Muchas personas se creen en estas mentiras.

Pero el amor de Dios es mucho más grande que nuestros pecados, y Él todavía desea estar con nosotros en el paraíso. Es por lo que, el tercer domingo de Adviento, nos enfocaremos en ser rescatados. Dios envió a Su Hijo, Jesús, para rescatarnos del pecado y la muerte, con Su muerte en la cruz. Así como Adán y Eva fueron cautivos del pecado y la muerte a través de un árbol, Jesús derrotó al pecado y la muerte a través del árbol de la cruz. No hay salvación sino es a través de Jesús. Él da su vida para que podamos estar con Él por toda la eternidad.

Este amor increíble exige una respuesta. Y eso es en lo que nos enfocaremos durante el cuarto domingo de Adviento: nuestra respuesta a la misericordia y al amor de Dios. Esta es la decisión más importante que jamás tomaremos.

Mi oración para este Adviento es que cultivemos una mayor apreciación por lo que Dios ha hecho por nosotros a través del kerygma. Mi esperanza es que también nosotros seamos "compungidos de corazón" y, como esos primeros cristianos, preguntemos al Señor: "¿Qué debemos hacer?"

FAMILIES CELEBRATE AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES ADOPTION MASS



Fr. Jerome Morgan and Catholic Charities Ambassador Fr. John Schmeidler prepare for the consecration during the Adoption Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina on Friday, November 8. This annual celebration, hosted by Catholic Charities in honor of Adoption Awareness Month, recognizes families, birth mothers, and adoptive parents, celebrating the gift of adoption in the Diocese of Salina. "Celebrating the Adoption Mass with people who adopt children to share in their lives reminds me of how God adopts each one of us as sons and daughters to share in the eternal life of Jesus Christ. God's love abounds through adoption," Fr. Schmeidler said.



Steve and Margaret Haug, who adopted their four children through Catholic Charities, share their heartfelt story at the soup supper reception following the Catholic Charities Adoption Mass. The Catholic Charities Salina Ambassadors provided the meal for the reception, where families gathered to celebrate the beauty of family formed through adoption.



# Diocese remembers, honors deceased priests

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

The list of deceased priests for the 137-year-old Diocese of Salina surpassed No. 200 the past couple of years.

And like in years past, they were honored in a Mass in November at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

Twenty-five priests – currently active and retired – gathered around the altar as Bishop Gerald Vincke celebrated the special Mass on November 8.

Just before the start of the Mass, at straight up noon, the names of all the deceased priests were read, listed by the month of their passing.

Fr. Brian Lager, pastor at Sacred Heart, Colby, alternated reading the list month by month with Fr. Don Zimmerman, retired and now living in Manhattan.

“Today, we return to them what they (deceased priests) have done their whole priesthood, offering Masses for others,” Bishop Vincke said in his homily. “Today, we offer this Mass and our prayers for them.”

Hearing all the names of those gone before them read aloud brings back a lot of memories for the priests present at Mass.

That was especially the case for Fr. Don as he listened to Fr. Brian read the September list, which included Fr. Charles Steier, who had passed away just six weeks earlier.

Fr. Charlie, as he was known to many, attended the same seminary as Fr. Don, who gave the homily at Fr. Charlie's funeral Mass.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

**Bishop Gerald Vincke celebrates the Deceased Priests Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina, on Nov. 8, surrounded by a cadre of priests and deacons.**

After growing up on opposite sides of the diocese, Fr. Charlie and Fr. Don first met at Conception Seminary College in Missouri.

Just one year before being ordained priests, they were transferred to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis when Conception's School of Theology closed in 1972.

Being transferred their final year of seminary is somewhat unusual, Fr. Don said.

“We only had one year of formation left, and a change then is extremely difficult,” he said. “Fr. Charlie and I got each other through that diaconate year in St. Louis.”

Following graduation, they were both ordained in their home parishes in June 1973 and saw each other often through the years while serving at numerous parishes across the diocese before retiring.

Fr. Charlie could have been referred to as a builder priest, as he was involved with numerous building projects, both with new construction and major renovations.

He treated his parishes like family, said one of his brothers, Guy Steier.

“Family was important to him,” Guy said. “He was very engaging.”

Guy was 11 years younger than Charlie, who grew up the oldest of seven children of Melvin and Mildred Steier on a farm near Belleville.

Guy fondly remembers being an altar server at his older brother's ordination and also at Fr. Charlie's first Mass as a priest. Guy served as lector at several of Fr. Charlie's anniversary years as well as at his funeral.

It was a way of reciprocation for

his brother, said Guy, who shared that Fr. Charlie particularly got great joy of presiding at the weddings of siblings and nieces and nephews and baptizing numerous family members.

Fr. Don and Fr. Charlie returned to St. Louis in 2023 to participate in the celebration of their class' 50th anniversary year of their ordination.

“Fr. Charlie was the only one who was still active as a pastor,” Fr. Don said. “That was pretty special.”

## DID YOU KNOW?

One of the seven spiritual works of mercy is praying for the living and the dead!



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## DECEMBER 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 this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

### Diocesan intentions:

May this upcoming Advent season be a time of renewed commitment to prayer, reflection, and acts of charity as we open our hearts to experiencing the joy of Christ's birth this Christmas.

## CHAPEL DEDICATION AT SACRED HEART



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

**Bishop Gerald Vincke celebrates the dedication Mass of the new chapel at Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School in Salina in November. Formerly the school library, the new chapel is twice the size of the old worship space and can hold the entire student body and staff.**



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# Couples recognized for lifetime of love at diocesan Anniversary Masses



LORI LEISZLER, THE REGISTER

Joe and Vicki Schmidt, Sacred Heart-Atwood, were joined by their entire family (four children, their spouses and 12 grandchildren) for their 50th anniversary recognition at the Salina Anniversary Mass in November.

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Joe and Vicki Schmidt told their family they didn't want a big celebration for their 50th wedding anniversary in January.

Several months later, their children found the perfect venue to celebrate.

It turned out to be a bigger party than they expected, and they were even joined by Bishop Gerald Vincke.

The Schmidts, members of Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood, were recognized at the October anniversary Mass in Salina.

Two Masses held annually in Salina and Hays honor diocesan couples who are celebrating their first anniversary, those with wedding anniversaries ending in 0 or 5 and any over 70 years of marriage.

To top it off, three of the Schmidts' children and their spouses were recognized for celebrating one of those milestone years as well.

"We're fortunate we all live in Kansas," said Mandi McKinley from Manhattan's Seven Dolores Parish, who celebrated her 20th anniversary

with husband Wade this year. "So we thought this was an ideal opportunity for all of us to get together."

Also recognized for their 20th anniversary were Mandy's older sister, Tobina Norris, and her husband Chuck, who live in Brookville and are members of the St. Bernard's Parish in Ellsworth.

Their brother, Barry Schmidt, and his wife, Megan, are celebrating their 15th anniversary this year.

Although Barry and Megan live in Wamego – which is part of the Archdiocese of Kansas City – the Salina Diocese holds a special place in their hearts. Barry grew up on the family farm near Atwood, and the couple met while in college at Kansas State University in Manhattan and were married at KSU's St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center.

The couple's youngest son, Tanner, and wife, Wendy, have been married seven years. Although they weren't among the honorees this year, they still helped fill the three pews with the Schmidt family.

In all the Schmidt crew totaled 22, including 12 grandchildren ranging in age from a toddler to 17 years.

"That was the most beautiful day," said Vicki Schmidt, who continued to celebrate with her husband and family members afterward at a Salina restaurant.

The anniversary Masses are held each year in Salina and Hays, which also featured a multi-family celebration this year – all members of St. Nicholas of Myra in Hays.

Frank and Karla Stecklein, celebrating their 40th anniversary, were joined by sons Todd and his wife Brenda (30th) and Kelton and wife Jill (10th).

Bishop Gerald Vincke celebrates both Masses and after the final blessing, he brings up each couple for a photo shoot and to congratulate them.

He also asks the couples how and/or where they met, and answers this year ranged from meeting in kindergarten class to a Catholic singles club – and everything in between.

Deacon Mark and Cheryl Roberti, Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish-Salina, might have had the most unique answer this year.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Darlene and Ernie Kroeger, Hays, celebrated 70 years of marriage this year.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

John and Josie Braun attended the anniversary Mass in Hays before celebrating 70 years together on Nov. 20.

Both grew up in the United States and met while working at a hospital in Saudi Arabia in 1986. After returning to the states, they corresponded the old fashioned way (by U.S. mail) before marrying in 1989.

One couple – Garry and Jenny Pachta, members of St. Edward Parish in Belleville – talked of meeting in a milo field.

Jenny, roommates with Garry's sister back in the mid 1990s, accompanied her to the Pachta family farm one day during milo harvest.

"The rest, as they say, is history," Jenny said with a laugh.

Several couples at the anniversary Masses say they married their high school sweethearts.

Such was the case for the Schmidts from Atwood, as well as Ernie and Darlene Kroeger, St. Nicholas-Hays, who were married on August 21, 1954.

The Kroegers, who dated while in high school in Ellis, were one of two couples honored this year for celebrating 70 years of marriage.

John and Josie Braun from Victoria's Basilica of St. Fidelis attended the Hays anniversary Mass.

Their anniversary was on November 20, and they were looking forward to an anniversary Mass on November 23 at St. Fidelis, which all seven of their children and spouses planned to attend along with their 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Frank and Karla Stecklein, Hays, celebrated a milestone anniversary this year, as did their two sons, Todd and Kelton, and their wives.

# Always try to fix the broken mug first

The annual diocesan anniversary Mass in Hays has always been a favorite of mine to cover for The Register. There is usually some chuckling when Bishop Gerald Vincke asks each couple how and where they met.

It's always moving to hear the answers when some of the older couples, who have been married for decades, are asked what has kept them together all these years.

Well, we're getting to be one of those older couples. This year we hit one of those five-year increments of couples who are recognized at the Masses in Hays and Salina with our 40th anniversary.

What exactly has gotten my husband, Rex, and me through these 40 years?

I couldn't help but think of something that I had shared with friends on our wedding anniversary in August.

...

Earlier this summer, Rex's shaving mug fell into the sink in our bathroom. We both just stood there looking at each other as it broke in two, but I breathed a sigh of relief as I picked it

up.

*It hadn't shattered. It appeared to be a clean break.*

*We talked about how old the mug was—40 years old, in fact. It was a wedding gift from one of Rex's co-workers.*

*I could have ordered a new one, but I decided to salvage the broken one.*

*That's when I realized how that broken mug—and the decision to fix it—was kind of a reflection of our marriage, our family, our lives.*

*We had both been raised to fix things when they break instead of throw them away.*

*When the mug broke, I thought about how our 40th wedding anniversary was upcoming in a few weeks, and how we've seen just about everything in those 40 years.*

*That led me to thinking of those vows we took as we stood there on August*

*18, 1984—giddy before God and family and friends, ready to celebrate the*

*day, and probably not understanding fully the meaning of those words: for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish till death do us part.*

*Through these 40 years, we have learned how the better always makes the worse seem*

*not so bad. How the times of counting pennies made us realize that richness has little, if anything, to do with money—so with the family and friends*

*which God has gifted us, we have certainly been blessed with a rich life. How illness has made us appreciate our good health even more. And that we will love and cherish each other even*

*after our time here on earth has ended.*

*So I picked up the pieces of the mug, dug out my handy-dandy Gorilla glue and fixed it. Other than a very fine break line on the back side, one would never know it had been broken.*

*Sometimes scars from life are bigger than that break line; not all breaks are as clean as the one on the shaving mug. But somehow we keep finding the right amount of glue to fix them. And we are forever grateful for how the Holy Spirit continues to help lead us daily.*

...

So what exactly is the secret of making it through 40 years—and beyond—of married life together? For us, it's really not a secret at all. It's faith in God, trusting that He will give us strength to face whatever life happens to throw our way.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

**Rex and Diane O'Brien celebrated 40 years of marriage at the Anniversary Mass in Hays with Bishop Gerald Vincke.**

## A moving, teaching moment at the cemetery

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN

THE REGISTER

A group of youngsters showed up at the Catholic cemetery in Hays on October 30. And not a single one was dressed in a Halloween costume.

Most were wearing jackets or coats. Some even had donned stocking caps and gloves to participate in this special event on the crisp autumn evening.

Students in grades K-8 in the religious education program at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish joined their parents and teachers in a prayer service for loved ones buried in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Fr. Damian Richards, pastor of St. Nicholas, had led similar services for All Souls Day at several other parishes in which he has served over the years. He brought up the idea this year to Cody Marintzer, director of religious education at St. Nick's.

With All Souls Day falling on Saturday this year, Marintzer decided to schedule the service during the normal weekly time slot for the parish's faith formation classes.

"Praying for loved ones and knowing what All Souls Day is about is so important," Marintzer agreed. "We thought this could be one of those great teaching moments."

The crowd was pretty small 10 minutes before the start of the prayer service."

"Maybe it's just be a few of us praying over a lot of graves," Marintzer said. "But that's OK."

However, just like that, swarms of folks entered the gates of the cemetery, making their way down the gravel entryway to the gathering.

The new crowd of about 100 people all prayed at the abortion victims memorial, and Fr. Damian explained the importance of praying for loved ones on or around All Souls Day.

Groups then took off in different directions across the cemetery, looking for the graves of loved ones to bless with Holy Water and say the All Souls Day prayer.

"Mom and Dad know where Grandpa is buried; they know where to find the graves," Fr. Damian said. "So it's good to see so many parents with their children tonight."

Eight-year-old Hadley Leiker stopped to bless numerous headstones on her way to family graves.

Her parents, Michael and Sarah Leiker, were home tending to Hadley's newborn baby sister. So Hadley's grandfather, Larry Leiker, offered to accompany her to the cemetery.

He knew exactly where to lead Hadley up the hill to a spot he unfortunately knows all too well.

Grandfather and granddaughter were solemn as they read the prayer over the area that includes the graves of Larry's dad, his younger brother and his 7-year-old son Curtis.

Larry's son and brother died within about three years of each other in the mid- to late-1990s, and he talked about it being a tough



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, THE REGISTER

**Hadley Leiker, 8, sprinkles Holy Water on the grave of her maternal grandfather, Gordon Zimmerman, during a prayer service at St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.**

time.

He was visibly affected by the prayer service, which he thought was a beautiful way for the children to honor those who went before us.

"This is such a great thing to do

for these kids," Larry Leiker remarked as he glanced across the cemetery at the groups and individuals praying

over graves.

"It was so moving to see how respectful and reverent everyone was, praying for multiple different people," Marintzer said. "We were so blessed by the outcome."



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# TMP-M student plays in National FFA Band

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

He is president of the FFA chapter at his school, where he plays in the concert band and pep band. He is doing research for his Eagle Scout project and even finds time to serve on the Youth Leadership Board for the City of Hays.

Even with those activities on his plate, Preston Mermis thought it would be a learning experience to apply for a spot on the National FFA Band at the organization's national convention.

Mermis knew that only about a dozen trumpet players from all across the nation would make the cut, but he thought the application process alone would be fun. So he sent in his audition tape and written essay.

Imagine the surprise when Mermis, a junior at Thomas More Prep-Marian High in Hays, learned he had been selected as one of only three Kansans to play in the band.

Life got even better once Mermis

reached the convention, held October 23-26 in Indianapolis, Ind.

While working with nearly 80 other musicians from 35 different states, Mermis was made one of the four lead positions for trumpet players for the band.

The band held daily practices and put on 16 performances in seven days.

"It was one of the best experiences I've ever had as a musician," he said.

Mermis' parents drove him to Indianapolis several days early for his 10-day excursion, but they weren't able to stay in Indianapolis the entire time.

The Mermis family still was able to watch the band's performances, which were live streamed.

"We had a little watch party here at home," said Mermis' mom, Jennifer.

Rick Binder, advisor for the TMP-Marian FFA chapter, took several members to nationals to participate in the convention and

got to see Mermis perform first-hand.

"For them to come together from all over the country and sound that good that quickly was amazing," he said.

Binder described Mermis as "a quality young man," and that he fit right in with the prestigious national band.

Mermis remembers his two older brothers playing musical instruments while growing up and began playing the trumpet in sixth grade.

He enjoyed music so much that he picked up a couple of other instruments and is even wanting to try learning to play his grandmother's accordion that his family found when she passed away.

Mermis also has plans to try out for the 2025 National FFA Band.

For now, though, he is concentrating on playing even more of a leadership role in his school band as well as president of TMP-Marian's FFA chapter.

"I was impressed with how



COURTESY PHOTO

**Preston Mermis with his trumpet at the National FFA Band.**

quickly our ensemble worked with each other in less than 24 hours," he said. "I found a lot more opportunities to display leadership and want to bring that back to my chapter."

## Educators bond at Teachers' Institute

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Staff and teachers from St. Joseph Grade School in Oakley make an overnight trip out of the annual Teachers' Institute for the Diocese of Salina.

They take the 180-mile trek from western Kansas the day before the institute for some bonding time away from school.

They eat dinner at a restaurant "and enjoy each other's company," said Michelle Selzer, principal at St. Joseph School for PreK through grade 5.

Jennifer Bretz, third-grade teacher at St. Joseph and in her 15th year at the school, said the overnight trip is one of her favorite activities of the school year.

"It's a chance to get away from Oakley and do a lot of team building," she said.

Selzer has attended the Teachers' Institute for 24 years as an employee of St. Joseph, including six as the school's principal.

So, too, has Juanita Ottley, kindergarten teacher in her 25th year teaching at St. Joseph.

"We hardly have any turnover at our school," Ottley said. "We're like a big family. We don't always agree, but we respect each other's opinions."

That's the attitude that Deacon

Omar Gutierrez, the institute speaker this year, urged the teachers to embrace while sharing their faith and values with their students.

Gutierrez, from the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb., came to present his program on Catholic

Social Teaching (CST).

CST provides guidance in which the dignity of all people is recognized while caring for those who are vulnerable.

Dcn. Gutierrez talked about the challenges of modern society and gave tips on how to live Catholic Social Teaching in the real world.

"Jesus continues to do his work on

earth through us, and there is no greater profession than being a teacher," he told the audience. "You form human souls, and human souls are priceless."

Bishop Gerald Vincke had much the same message when he celebrated Mass for the teachers, thanking them for their service.

"It's been a long time since I went to grade school and graduated from high school," Bishop Vincke told the congregation in his homily. "I can remember every teacher and can name every one who had a tremendous impact on my life."

"Your students," he added, "are going to remember you the rest of their lives."



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

**Michelle Selzer, Cheryl Ostmeyer, Juanita Ottley and Jennifer Bretz pray during Mass at St. Mary's, Salina on Nov. 8.**



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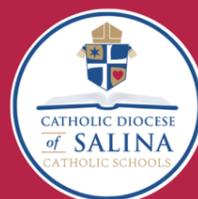


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# Teens called to discipleship at CYO Convention

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN

THE REGISTER

More than 300 teenagers got a huge dose of their diocese's mission statement at the biennial CYO Convention in Salina earlier this month.

CYO sponsors and other adult leaders of their parish youth groups from all across the diocese brought 350 high school students to the Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School campus for two days of jam-packed activities.

Following talks and presentations; prayer, Mass and Eucharistic Adoration; and fellowship, the participants had no doubt what their assignment was upon leaving Salina: Together, let us be disciples of Jesus on mission.

This group – more than twice the number than the last several diocesan CYO Conventions – was told to “be bold with your faith.”

“Use the Lord's strength and get out in front of it,” Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt told the students at his Sunday morning talk. “If you're not changing the culture in the room, then the room is changing you.”

Regional – and sometimes even national – presenters are often brought to these conferences.

However, this year, Bill Meagher had to look no farther for dynamic speakers than right here in our own diocese.

So he gave the chaplains of the two universities in the Salina Diocese a call. And Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt, St. Isidore's-Kansas State University, and Fr. Andy Hammeke, St. Francis-Fort Hays State University, obliged.

“When it comes to speaking on our mission and discipleship, no one is better than Fr. Gale and Fr. Andy,” said Meagher, director of the Offices of Religious Education, Youth Ministry and Family Life for the diocese.

Fr. Andy told stories of his time in college, showing the students how he might have reacted to challenges that they face daily.

Fr. Gale urged the students to “be informed.”

“Spend time getting to know God; you can't love what you do not know,” he said. “It's never been easier in the history of the world to know what the Catholic church is teaching than it is right now. Learn why we

MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS



Students join in praying the benediction at CYO Convention in Salina.



COURTESY PHOTO

Youth at the CYO Convention link arms during the party of praise on Saturday, Nov. 9.

believe what we believe. If I stand with God, I have hope.”

Meagher added sessions for the adult sponsors this year, with a representative from Y Discipleship – digital training for adults to teach teens – giving a couple of talks.

“We wanted the adults to come away with some tools to continue to grow their youth groups,” Meagher said.

“We are so grateful for sponsors who brought their students this weekend.”

Jalyssa Sabatka, a student from Sacred Heart Parish in Colby, said she fully appreciated a Q&A session with current college students as they told of their experiences of being Catholic on a college campus.

A senior at Colby High School, Sabatka is on the cusp of becoming a college student herself. She talked about how impactful this particular conference was to her and hopes others can continue using the inspiration they received over the weekend.

“I don't remember a lot about the CYO conference my sophomore year,” said Sabatka, who also



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. Andy Hammeke leads students in Eucharistic Adoration.

attended the national youth conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis, Ind., last fall. “But my faith from then to now is drastically different.”

“Now, I come back from these conferences more joyful,” she continued, saying she is looking forward to accepting the challenge of discipleship. “In my own school, my hometown, I just want to be more joyful and have people see God through that.”

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# Youth discover faith through shared experience at One Bread, One Cup

BY LORI LEISZLER  
THE REGISTER

Rick Binder, a campus minister at TMP-M, Hays, says his favorite topic to talk about is God. "And of that topic, one of my favorite things is One Bread, One Cup."

For Binder, and many Catholics around the country, One Bread, One Cup, abbreviated OBOC, is more than a normal retreat. It's a conference that makes a lasting impact.

"I can still remember July 6-10, 2004 was the first time I went," Binder said, "I've been back many times and it's new every time because Christ is new every time and we are new every time."

OBOC, held each summer at Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary & School of Theology in southern Indiana, invites high school youth groups and their adult leaders to grow as disciples and learn how to share their God-given talents in faith-settings.

Developing in the faith can be challenging for anyone, but especially for young folks growing up in a largely secular world. Over the last 20 years, Binder has noticed some startling stats: Only one in seven Catholic children on average stay connected with their faith on some level later on in life.

"But of the kids I've taken to One Bread, One Cup," Binder said, "it's closer to six out of seven. And they're not just committed to coming to Mass, but they're leaders in their communities in their faith and as adults go into different ministries and leadership services."



COURTESY PHOTO, AVERY WERTH

**TMP-M alumnus Avery Werth supports the canopy for a Eucharistic Procession during her One Bread, One Cup summer internship.**

Binder isn't the only person who raves about it, either. Chad Meitner, principal at Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr/Sr High School in Hays, took a group to OBOC over the summer and returned enthusiastic to share his experience.

"It's a great way of getting them more active in their faith," Meitner said. "And I loved getting to know the students from a new light. I think at first there can be some resistance, but then you get to St.

Meinrad, and they really know how to present Jesus and the faith to people coming in there."

"It's very hands-on," Meitner said. "They did prayer services, liturgy of the hours, too. Then they broke into groups based on ministries that the students wanted to do."

Meitner said for example students interested in music would do chants and sing choir with the monks, while students interested in the priesthood or liturgy would spend time learning about the Mass and how priests make homilies. The students get to break bread and grow in faith together.

Approximately 20 college-aged interns from across the country help facilitate the conference, spending about six weeks in the summer volunteering at St. Meinrad. This past summer, four of those interns were from Hays.

Avery Werth, a junior at K-State, went with the Hays CYO group when she was in high school at TMP. This past summer she returned as an intern, along with Ashton Hernandez and Tyson Dinkel from Hays, and Danielle Schroeder, a Colby native now TMP-M staff.

"The week I went as a high school participant was pretty impactful in my faith," Werth said. "Ashton and I both were in the focus of extraordinary ministers with Holy Communion. So we got to take in-depth classes on that, and listened to all these impactful Catholic speakers, and it was super enriching for my faith."

Werth emphasized the significance of the experience, stating, "One Bread, One Cup is probably the most formative thing for my faith that I've ever experienced, even having gone to Catholic school all of my life. This program just really solidified my faith for me, and it was cool, because as a high schooler, I got to make the decision to come and be impacted, and just opened my heart to the Lord."

Afterwards, Werth decided to return as a college intern, first in summer 2023 and again in summer 2024.

"I interned in Proclamation of the Word my first year, and then as the Associate Intern Conference Manager my second year, which is a position which oversees the rest of the interns. And in the job description, it's like a ministry of presence for the interns and making sure that everything's going well for them. Because if we as interns get our prayer life right, we'll be better able to empower high schoolers and create a place where God is able to work."



COURTESY PHOTO, CHELSIE NIEHAUS

**Groups from Hays attend the One Bread, One Cup conference each summer, and as TMP-M principal Chad Meitner says, "I know we're going to be sending kids there every year for as long as we can."**

**The July 5-10 group is shown above. Front: Avery Werth, Shyanne Yost, Sam Schroeder, Jake Brady, Breanna Seiler and Danielle Schroeder. Back: Rick Binder, Gayla Binder, Chelsie Niehaus, Chad Meitner and Ashton Hernandez.**

The interns led theological reflection groups each night, which Meitner called a highlight from his experience this summer.

"They'd get together with their teams, and share about their hopes and excitement," Meitner said. "I was seeing these students take on

**"BEING IMMERSSED IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT FOR FIVE DAYS CAN'T HELP BUT HAVE AN IMPACT ON PEOPLE."**  
-RICK BINDER, ON ONE BREAD ONE CUP

serious topics, and you know, you go for the students and you get it from your own life lens and perspective. Getting to hear the young adults say how they can help others find Jesus, it really challenged me to say just because I'm older and an adult and have an established lifestyle doesn't mean I can't do those same things."

Helping people find Jesus is what it's all about, and Werth said there were many opportunities in her internships where she saw God at work in people's lives.

"I don't think I'll ever forget from the internship just how much of an impact it made in individual high schoolers' lives in many different ways," she said. "There were a lot of different stories, but everyone left really grateful that they came and really excited about their faith."

She said during her first year as an intern, she encountered a high schooler who told her he really

wasn't interested in his faith and who felt forced to come for the week and didn't have any desire to get to know his faith better.

Werth said, "I was asking

all of the people I worked with, 'What am I supposed to tell this student?' I didn't know what to say."

The next day, the students had a reconciliation service.

"It's always pretty powerful for students," Werth said, "and after that service, he came up to me and said, 'I have been feeling alone for weeks, and for the first time ever, I feel like I have faith again. I feel like I want to know my faith.'"

"In that moment, I realized, that's why we're doing it, and then also, just the fact that I wasn't there to say anything—I wasn't supposed to say anything. The Holy Spirit worked through him. And I truly got to see that process of us creating a space and asking the Lord to work in it, and for Him to do so, and for that student to be so open to the Lord's call for him."

As Binder says, "Being immersed in prayer and sacrament for five days can't help but have an impact on people. And when you begin the day praying together and end it praying together and you are immersed in the sacraments with Mass and Reconciliation, it draws you closer to God."

Bishop Gerald Vincke strongly encourages religious education teachers in the diocese to consider promoting this summer program. Applications are currently open. To register a youth group, or to apply to be an intern, visit "One Bread, One Cup - Saint Meinrad" on Facebook or visit the website [saintmeinrad.edu/youth/summer-conferences/](http://saintmeinrad.edu/youth/summer-conferences/) to learn more.

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# AROUND THE diocese



COURTESY PHOTO

The St. Bernard's and St. Ignatius' YFF students and families had a special Hallowtide activity on October 30. Students dressed as their favorite saints and had an enlightening presentation on the Hallowtide Triduum, during which they had a Litany of Saints parade.



COURTESY PHOTO, CHRISTINA PRICE

Bishop Gerald Vincke shares a laugh with community members at Seven Dolores Hispanic Festival in Manhattan on Sept. 29.



COURTESY PHOTO

The 6th Grade Class at St. Mary's in Ellis hosted an All Saints Day Festival on October 30 for the whole school. Some of the activities included making trail mix, frosting cookies, playing games, word puzzles and coloring. (Above): Saints from L-R: Isidore, Martha, Rita of Acadia, Honore, Isabelle, Olivia, Terese, Anthony, Paul, Francis of Assisi, Sebastian and Marcus.



COURTESY PHOTO

Happy early Thanksgiving from Mrs. Ostmeyer's First Grade class at St. Joseph's, Oakley! (L-R): Asher Bond, Theia Manhart, Laexlen Rumback and Kayori Osborne



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Gerald Vincke, Father Kerry Ninemire, and a cadre of priests and deacons from across the diocese celebrated the Altar dedication at St. Xavier in Junction City on Saturday, October 12.

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# Pope declares Jubilee Year of Hope



LOLA GÓMEZ, CNS

In a normal year, around 7-10 million people visit Rome. In 2025, that number is projected to be closer to 30 million. As we strive to be "Pilgrims of Hope," the diocese has planned several pilgrimages to places of great spiritual impact, including the Vatican, the St. Jude Shrine in Chicago and the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Wisconsin.

## Diocesan challenges, pilgrimage plans underway

By LORI LEISZLER  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year of Hope. Jubilee years traditionally are times for great conversion and rejoicing in the Church. As we enter into this jubilee year, the pope invites the faithful to be "Pilgrims of Hope," both encountering hope ourselves and also bringing hope to people in need.

The Jubilee Year of Hope will officially start on Christmas Eve this year, with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and it will continue through to the Feast of Epiphany in 2026.

To celebrate the Jubilee Year closer to home, the Salina Diocese has already begun planning pilgrimages, prayer challenges and creative contests to unite people in hope. Folks can expect to see more resources and event information (outlined below) in the upcoming year. The people of the diocese are invited to embrace the challenges and opportunities to grow in hope together.

### A Million Memorares for Hope

The first resource that people can expect to see are postcards in their parishes, with the words, "A Million Memorares for Hope." One side of the cards will have the memorare prayer; the other side will be a space to reflect on what gives you hope, and who you're praying for.

Parishioners are encouraged to take a card home and pray the memorare with their family. Each card has slots to mark off every time people pray 10 memorare. After praying 100 memorare, you can put a stamp on the postcard and mail it to the chancery. Each morning that Bishop Gerald Vincke is in the office, he will pray over the cards for the intentions people have written.

The diocese's goal is to have a total of one million memorares for hope prayed by the end of 2025. May we entrust ourselves to Mary's care during this year of hope!

### Adoration for Peace 2025

As we deepen our faith during this Jubilee

Year, a new initiative is taking place, called Adoration for Peace 2025. This program encourages each parish to grow in love for Christ in the Eucharist. Bishop Vincke, along with the diocesan office of evangelization, has the goal of increasing or starting Eucharistic Adoration in all 86 of our current parishes. Because each parish has its own schedules and unique qualities, each community's final Adoration plan will be different.

The goal of Adoration for Peace 2025 is not to burden parishes, but rather to increase opportunities and encourage people to take advantage of the gift of time with Christ in the Eucharist.

As St. John Paul II once said, "From the Eucharist comes the strength to live the Christian life with zeal." This is a valuable opportunity for parishioners to enhance their spiritual lives by visiting Jesus in adoration.

### Youth Challenges

This year, families with children can participate in various contests and challenges designed to instill hope in the young. Schools and religious education programs will circulate resources like coloring pages featuring hope-filled saints and pilgrimage sites. Students will also be encouraged to engage in activities that support the needy, such as food drives and nursing home visits.

In the spring, high school and college students will be invited to take part in an essay contest exploring the theme of hope, responding to the question: "What does hope mean to you?" Winning entries will be showcased by the diocesan communications team. More details to come.

### Stories of Hope and Adoration Corner

In the upcoming year, The Register will feature stories centered on hope. Expect articles on topics such as vocations, responses

from the Memorare cards, personal testimonies, and biblical stories of hope.

Additionally, during the next year the Register will feature an Adoration Corner, which will be a designated space for reflections, resources and testimonies. If you or someone you know has either a personal reflection on adoration or a story of an experience they've had with hope; please reach out to [theregister@salinadiocese.org](mailto:theregister@salinadiocese.org) to share your experiences.



### Pilgrimages and Sacred Sites

Throughout 2025, we are called to walk the path of faith together, uniting our hearts and minds as "pilgrims of hope." We can do this in a literal way by going on pilgrimages to undergo spiritual growth and draw closer to God.

During this jubilee year, Pope Francis has designated five Holy Doors, which are special places symbolizing the transition from sin to grace. The five are located at St. Peter's Basilica, San Giovanni in Laterano, Santa Maria Maggiore, San Paolo Fuori le Mura and the Roman Rebibbia prison.

In addition to these Holy Doors, Bishop Vincke has designated several sacred sites in the Salina Diocese, encouraging parishioners to visit them and pray.

To help facilitate this travel locally and globally, the diocese is offering opportunities for folks to go on pilgrimage together during the year of hope.

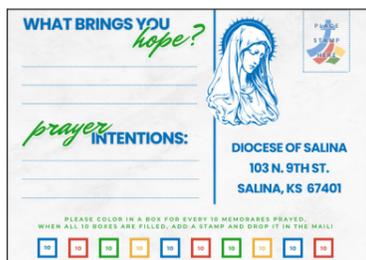
Pilgrimages to Rome will be led later in the year, with more information to follow.

Closer to home, people will have opportunities for one-day and two-day pilgrimages.

A one-day planned pilgrimage will visit many of the sacred sites in the diocese, beginning at the Cathedral in Salina and including stops at St. Isidore's in Manhattan and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays.

A two-day pilgrimage will focus on the intercession of Servant of God Fr. Emil Kapaun and Blessed Stanley Rother, visiting their shrines and growing in devotion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10



St. Jude and Holy Hill will be the destinations of a major shrines five-day pilgrimage as well. Pilgrims will traverse the country, visiting sites of hope, including the Holy Family Shrine in Nebraska; the National Shrine of St. Jude in Illinois; and the Our Lady of Champion Shrine in Wisconsin.

It's important to note that a pilgrim is vastly different from a tourist. The intent behind these pilgrimages is not to just encounter something beautiful with our eyes, but to have those encounters stir something beautiful within our souls, a turning back to God with hope. Please consider joining our diocese in these challenges and on pilgrimages, even pilgrimages of your own. Even moreso, please pray and reflect on how God is best calling you to draw nearer to Him this year.

**Opportunities for Indulgences**

During this Jubilee Year, the faithful can obtain plenary indulgences through specific acts. A plenary indulgence removes the temporal punishment for sins already forgiven, essentially cleansing one's soul.

To obtain special indulgences this year, the faithful can partake in any of the following and meet the conditions outlined. Please note that this list is not extensive, and more details can be found on the indulgences document released from the Vatican earlier this year:

- Pilgrimages to Rome: Visiting major basilicas like St. Peter's and St. Mary

Major, or spending time in prayer at other designated churches in Rome.

- Works of Mercy: Visiting prisoners, spending time with lonely elderly people, aiding the sick or disabled, and helping those who are in need.

• Acts of Penance and Service: Fasting, or abstaining for at least one day a week from "futile distractions" such as social media or television; donating to the poor; supporting religious and social works, especially in the defense of life in all phases; and supporting migrants, elderly and the poor.

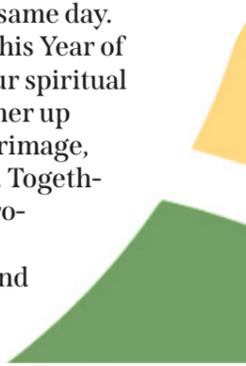
- Prayerful Visits: Spending time in prayer at sacred sites, like the ones designated by the bishop for our diocese.

No matter what people do for indulgences, it's important to note that there are conditions to fulfill for any indulgence:

- Detachment from all sin.
- Sacramental confession.
- Holy Communion.
- Prayer for the pope's intentions.

These conditions can be fulfilled within a few days of the acts performed, but ideally the prayer and Communion should occur on the same day.

As we embark on this Year of Hope, let's deepen our spiritual lives and lift each other up through prayer, pilgrimage, and acts of kindness. Together, we can foster a profound spirit of hope within our diocese and in the world.



**THE JUBILEE PRAYER**

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new

earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

**Amen.**



**Hope does not disappoint**



**EXCERPTS FROM POPE FRANCIS' DOCUMENT, "SPES NON CONFUNDIT," HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT. (ROMANS 5:5)**

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring.

The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation.

Let us even now be drawn to this hope! Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: "Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!" (Ps 27:14).



**DIOCESAN SACRED SITES**



📍 Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina



📍 St. Isidore's Student Center, Manhattan



📍 St. John the Baptist, Beloit



📍 Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays



📍 St. Paul, Angelus



📍 Catholic Charities of Northern KS, Salina

# Collection held for annual Retirement Fund for Religious

By **ROBIN CABRAL**  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

SALINA, Kan., Oct. 31, 2024 – The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is announcing the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, scheduled in parishes throughout the Diocese of Salina on the weekend of Dec. 7-8. In 2023, parishioners contributed \$46,629.38 to the collection.

Mr. John Knutsen, director of the NRRO, expressed his gratitude: “The unwavering support of the Catholic faithful in the United States continues to inspire us. Every contribution to the Retirement Fund for Religious makes a tangible difference in the lives of those who have given so much to our Church and communities.”

Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have often worked for little to no pay, leaving them with limited retirement savings. Today, religious communities face the challenge of caring for an aging population, with more than 20,000 religious being past the age of 70. The annual cost of their care exceeds \$1 billion,

highlighting the critical need for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

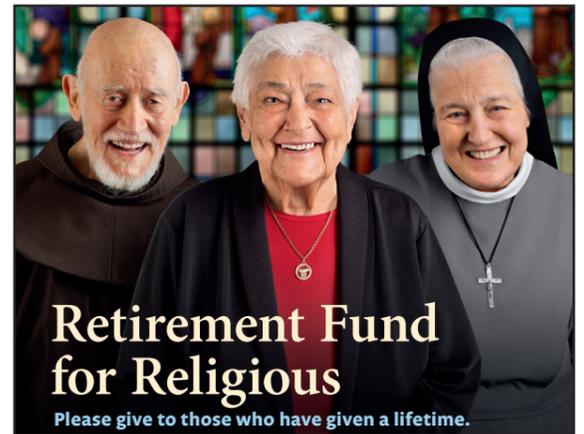
Since its inception in 1988, the collection has raised over \$1 billion. Nearly \$870 million has been distributed for direct care, while over \$103.5 million has funded self-help projects like collaborative health-care facilities. The collection also supports educational programs, enabling religious communities to plan for their long-term needs.

“By contributing to the Retirement Fund for Religious,” Knutsen emphasized, “members of the Catholic Church in America not only provide for the care of aging religious but also empower their communities to continue their vital ministries.”

In 2023, the appeal raised \$29.3 million, providing financial assistance for the retirement needs of 286 U.S. religious communities.

### About the NRRO

The NRRO coordinates the annual national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious



and distributes financial assistance to eligible religious communities. It is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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

# Catholic Charities lighting the path to hope

By **MEGAN ROBL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS

In a world often filled with doom and gloom, it’s important to remember that victories and positive moments happen every day, illuminating the path to hope. Just yesterday, as I chatted near the front office of Catholic Charities, the joyous sounds of celebration caught my attention. High-fives and laughter drew me to the service window, where a heartwarming scene unfolded.

Freddy, a valued member of our Catholic Charities family, was celebrating a significant victory with our front office staff. As a devoted single father raising two sons, Freddy has faced his share of hurdles, including high blood pressure and uncontrolled diabetes that kept him from working until he could stabilize his health.

Through these ups and downs, Freddy found essential support at Catholic Charities. He received Christmas assistance through our

Adopt-a-Family program, food for his family, and help with vital items that made everyday life a bit easier, enabling him to focus on his health and family. Our dedicated staff even assisted him in scheduling a DMV appointment for his driver’s license and navigating forms and online services—especially important since English is not his first language.

What truly shines in Freddy’s story is his commitment to staying connected. He regularly stops by to update our staff on his progress, reminding us all that no one should walk their journey alone. In a culture where loneliness is common, Freddy’s desire to share reflects our call as Catholics to serve others both physically and spiritually. Often, a listening ear and a word of support are all it takes to lift someone’s spirits.

Yesterday marked a joyful moment—Freddy’s face truly lit up as he announced that he had secured a job! His excitement symbolized not just a personal victory but also a promise of stability for his family. Freddy’s triumph

highlights the hope that lives in each of us, ignited by a caring and supportive community. Each person who walks through our doors carries stories of resilience and strength, reminding us that our shared humanity is the foundation of our faith.

As we reflect on Freddy’s journey, think about your own life. How can you be a source of support for those around you? How can your actions reflect the love and compassion that Jesus teaches us? Consider volunteering, donating, or simply reaching out to someone in need. Every small act of kindness contributes to a larger story of hope and renewal.

Freddy’s celebration is more than just his achievement; it’s a joyful call to action for all of us. Together, let’s continue to walk alongside one another as true servants of Christ and remember that every act of kindness helps light someone else’s path!

*To protect his privacy, the name of the individual in this story has been changed.*

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO RETIRED CLERGY

- FR. HENRY BAXA
- FR. NORBERT DLABAL
- MSGR. JAMES HAKE
- FR. LARRY LETOURNEAU
- FR. LEROY METRO
- FR. JEROME MORGAN
- FR. DONALD PFANNENSTIEL
- FR. DANIEL SCHEETZ
- FR. WILLIAM SURMEIER
- FR. ALVIN WERTH
- FR DON ZIMMERMAN

PRIEST’S NAME  
C/O OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
P.O. BOX 980, SALINA KS 67402

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO SEMINARIANS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ST. JOHN VIANNEY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY<br>1300 S. STEELE ST.,<br>DENVER, CO 80210         |  |
| DEACON KADE MEGAFFIN   | DEACON JESSE OCHS  |
| DEACON ADAM URBAN  | LUKE FRIESS  |
| MATTHEW RALLS  | MAX MEGAFFIN   |
| MARSHALL FIKE  | GABE FRIESS  |
| KYLE PFEIFER<br>St. Mary Queen of the Universe<br>230 E. Cloud<br>Salina, KS, 67401    | HOLDEN GIEFER<br>Kenrick School of Theology<br>5200 Glennon Drive<br>Saint Louis, MO 63119                 |
| COLLIN THIELEN<br>Conception Seminary College<br>P.O. Box 502,<br>Conception, MO 64433 | JOSEPH SCHONES<br>Sacred Heart Seminary<br>7335 S. Hwy 100 P.O. Box<br>429 Hales Corners, WI<br>53130-0429 |
| GUS HANSON<br>ETHAN WEINER   | ST. JOSEPH HOUSE OF FORMATION<br>145 S MILLWOOD AVE<br>WICHITA, KS 67213                                   |

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

*Feast of the*  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

This Solemnity has been transferred from Sunday, December 8, to Monday, December 9. It remains a Holy Day of Obligation on Monday.



- Dec. 1**  
• First day of Advent
- Dec. 3**  
• Divine Mercy Radio Fall Care-A-Thon, 3-6 p.m.
- Dec. 7**  
• St. Joseph Winter Blast Auction, Oakley, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 8**  
• Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation moved to Dec. 9)
- Dec. 12**  
• Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec. 14**  
• Young Adult Ministry Christmas Gala, The Sullivan, Salina
- Dec. 25**  
• Christmas
- Dec. 27**  
• Seminarian Family Mass & Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Hall of Bishops, Salina
- Runnin' Revs, 6 p.m., St. Mary's, Salina
- Dec. 31**  
• New Year's Eve

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

Fall  
Care-a-thon  
December 3 - 6  
7am - 6pm

Divine Mercy RADIO



**"Joy of the Gospel"**

## 2025 NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

There will be two buses full of students and others from the diocese headed to Washington DC to march for the unborn. These pilgrims will:

- Pray for the respect of all life during their 24 hour bus drive
- Attend prayer services, adoration and Mass
- Rally for Life at the National Mall
- March for Life along Constitution Avenue

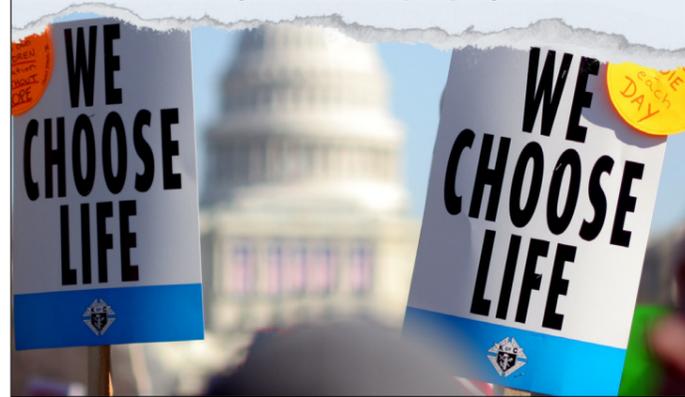
Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!



## RUNNIN' REVS GAME

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

**DECEMBER 27, 2024 | 6 PM**



## MANNA HOUSE ADVENT SERIES

December 4, 11, & 18  
~ 6:30-7:30 pm

Available via Zoom



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785-243-4428  
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[www.mannahouse.org](http://www.mannahouse.org)

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## YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS GALA

**DEC. 14, 2024  
6:30 PM**

THE SULLIVAN, SALINA KS  
CATERED MEAL

PLEASE RSVP  
BY DEC. 8



# End of Year Giving

The Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina offers various giving options that allow you to aid your parish, Catholic School, or ministry directly. You can even take advantage of tax-efficient giving options, making this an ideal time to support your faith with a gift before the end of the year.

## CASH

Giving cash is easy and the most popular way to make a charitable gift. We can accept gifts via mail:

PO Box 1696, Salina KS 67402 or online at [givecfds.org](http://givecfds.org).



## QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

If you're 70 1/2 or older, you can give from your Individual Retirement

Account (IRA) directly to a Catholic ministry through the Diocese of Salina and not pay income taxes on the gift. If you are required to take a minimum distribution, your gift could satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).



## LONG-TERM APPRECIATED SECURITIES

Assets (such as stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares and closely held stock) that have been held for at least one year and have increased in value can be a tax-efficient way to give. You could save on both capital gains tax and income tax by being able to deduct its full fair market value.



## GIFT OF GRAIN

Maximize tax benefits while supporting your faith. Turn bushels of grain into a gift and potentially save on taxes and deduct the cost of production. Simply provide the elevator with instructions for the transfer to the foundation. The foundation will work directly with the elevator to sell the grain and receive the proceeds.



## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

The Catholic Foundation is a charitable organization that may accept gifts from a donor advised fund (DAF). With a DAF, your contributions can grow tax-free through investments, potentially providing extra funds for the causes you care about.



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FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA

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# Year-End Giving Opportunities

## Seminarian Education Fund

Provide essential funding to cover recruitment, education, and living expenses for seminarians as they embark on their long path to the priesthood. We are currently blessed with 14 seminarians on their discernment journey.

## Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share

The appeal supports the mission of the Diocese of Salina through the multitude of ministries and programs that transform countless lives across the diocese each year. From the youth attending religious education to the retired clergy, the formation of seminarians, and much more – the appeal sustains the endeavors of our diocese.

## Communications and Publications

Help spread the good news of the things that are happening in our diocese, and the good news of Jesus Christ with media and the written word. Through The Register and faith, podcasts, website, and social media we can spread the good news across the four corners of our diocese.

## Catholic Schools Scholarship Tax Credits

Make a Catholic education available to children in our diocese by contributing to the scholarship granting organization (SGO) and receive a 75% Kansas income tax credit.



# SIX TIPS TO HELP PREPARE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By **CATHERINE DINUZZO**  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Mental health is a vast topic, and it can be especially challenging during the holiday season. For those who have experienced mental struggles like anxiety, the upcoming holiday season stands to be anything but “the most wonderful time of the year.” We all want to be excited about the birth of Christ, however, for many individuals, the events, gatherings, and interactions can be very difficult. Here, I hope to unpack for you six tips to hopefully help empower you to have a holiday rooted in healthy mental wellness that allows you to enjoy all the good the season offers.

1. Accept that this is a stressful time of year. Give yourself the courtesy to know that there are real and reasonable stressors added with parties, family time, special liturgies, gift shopping, work obligations and end-of-year deadlines, travel, weather concerns, and so on. Being ready for stress, anxiety, and concerns can help you make your way through the difficult times ahead.

2. Don't be a Bully... to YOURSELF! Once we accept the reality that the holidays might bring challenges and anxieties, the next step is to be kind to ourselves, and we do this by not being our own bully. Every one of us has been told over and over again that we should not be a bully and this is a widely accepted truth. However, we are often our own worst bullies and don't even notice it. Frequently, we say terrible and nasty things to ourselves that we would never say to someone else. The next time you are feeling anxious and start to have negative self-talk, ask yourself, “Would I say the same thing to a friend?” If not, then stop and give yourself the same kindness and love you would give to a friend.

3. During the holidays, you're likely to feel many simultaneous emotions, such as happiness, sadness, excitement, fear, trepidation, or self-conscious feelings. Feel them! It's okay to look ahead at the time you'll be spending with extended family and know that although you're excited to see your favorite aunt or cousin, you're perhaps not as excited to see some other family member. Or, you know that you're tired from the past year and want some quiet and alone time but attending your company Christmas party is a smart career move that you

should probably attend. There are countless scenarios where your emotions might seem in conflict – and they probably are – so be prepared and allow yourself to feel more than one thing at a time!

4. Give yourself permission to have boundaries. Boundaries are good and healthy, and preparing boundaries ahead of time is a good approach to mental health. Many Catholics believe that boundaries are unloving or unkind, but boundaries are safeguards against ongoing hurt, trauma, and toxicity. You have permission to set boundaries.

5. Know that anxiety is a natural response of the body to perceived danger. When the danger is real, your body activates the “fight, flight, or freeze” response. However, when the threat is irrational, your body responds with what I call the “anxious response” – feeling anxious about being anxious, which only intensifies the anxiety. Spend time acknowledging how your body is responding and determine whether your body's response to the perceived danger is rational (i.e. a bear coming at you) or irrational (“If everyone doesn't like the present I get them, they will hate me and I will have no friends.”) When the dangers are irrational, don't allow them to have control over your mental health, instead work through them, especially with the next suggestion...

6. Create Your Net. A net (which I refer to as a hammock) is a healthy tool to create for yourself so that you don't struggle through your mental health alone. Remember that God is right there with you, along with your guardian angel, and the communion of saints! (Two saints you might be drawn to for help with your mental health are St. Dymphna and St. John of God.) There are people in your life that you can trust and count on. Take the time to identify these safe and reliable people (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, clergy, spiritual director, etc.) that can be your hammock, and allow them to wrap you in their care and support just like a hammock wraps the body and supports you.

The holidays can be a blessed time, and they can be overwhelming – hopefully following these 6 tips can help your holiday season be a good one.

*Catherine DiNuzzo is a Licensed Professional Counselor, living in Beloit, Kansas. She travels across the US and internationally speaking at conferences, training individuals and running retreats. She operates her private counseling practice as well as SacredHeartMentalWellness.com, an online resource to help people live mentally well. Her book “The Catholic Guide Through Anxiety” is available on Amazon for a simplified method to understanding anxiety and some of the methods, tools, and strategies for overcoming it.*



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## KING OF ALL NATIONS IMAGE TO TRAVEL DIOCESE



This image and its devotion will visit parishes throughout the Diocese of Salina during Advent as it makes its way to the geographic center of the United States in Lebanon on Dec. 22.

For details of a specific event, please contact the parish office directly.

Friday, December 6	St Isidore, Manhattan Seven Dolors, Manhattan
Saturday, December 7	Seven Dolors, Manhattan St John Nepomucene, Beardsley St Francis, St Francis
Sunday, December 8	St Joseph, Bird City Sacred Heart, Atwood
Monday, December 9	St John the Evangelist, Herington
Tuesday, December 10	Immaculate Conception, Solomon
Wednesday, December 11	St Aloysius Gonzaga, Osborne
Thursday, December 12	St Aloysius Gonzaga, Osborne
Friday, December 13	Sacred Heart, Park
Saturday, December 14	St Agnes, Grainfield Immaculate Conception, Grinnell
Sunday, December 15	Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina
Thursday, December 19	St Mary, Ellis Sacred Heart, Plainville
Friday, December 20	Sacred Heart, Plainville
Saturday, December 21	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia Sacred Heart, Esbon
Sunday, December 22	Procession, Prayers of Reparation and Devotion at the geographic center of the United States, Lebanon, Kansas



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## 2024 Participants

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St. Andrew Parish

### Beloit

St. John's Catholic Schools

St. John the Baptist Parish

### Colby

Sacred Heart Grade School

### Diocesan Ministries

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas

Clergy Care

Communications and Publications Drive

Divine Mercy Radio

Seminarian Education Fund

Young Adult Ministry

### Ellis

St. Mary Church and School

### Hanover

St. John's Grade School

### Hays

Comeau Catholic Campus Center

Holy Family Elementary

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

St. Joseph Parish

Thomas More Prep - Marian Jr/Sr High School

### Junction City

St. Francis Xavier Parish

St. Francis Xavier School

### Manhattan

Manhattan Catholic Schools

Seven Dolors Parish

St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center

St. Thomas More Parish

### Plainville

Sacred Heart Grade School

### Salina

Love 'N' Learn Early Childhood Center

Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish

Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High School

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

St. Mary Grade School

St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish

### Tipton

St. Boniface Parish

Tipton Catholic High School

## December 3, 2024

## Sister Virginia Pearl Passes Away

Sister Virginia Pearl, 94, died October 19, 2024, at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia. She was a Sister of St. Joseph for 65 years. She was born in Rossville, KS, on June 24, 1930, to Thomas and Florence Doyle Pearl, the fifth of six children, and was baptized Virginia Lou. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia on September 8, 1958. On March 18, 1959, Virginia received the habit and was given the name Sister Thomas Ann, later changing back to her baptismal name. She pronounced first vows on March 19, 1960, and final vows on March 19, 1963.

Sr. Virginia received a B.A. in Education from Marymount College, Salina. She taught in parochial schools in Salina, Concordia and Pfeifer. In 1968 she changed her emphasis in education to Religious Education, which she taught in Clyde. In 1969 she earned the M.S. in



Education/Religious Studies from Loyola University in Chicago and continued to work as a DRE in Kansas and Colorado.

Upon retiring from teaching, Sister Virginia did pastoral work in Kansas City, MO and Great Bend, KS. Her last assignment before retirement was serving as Chaplain at Larned State Hospital. She moved to the Motherhouse in 2011.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings. She is survived by several nieces, nephews and extended family. A Bible Vigil Service was held Oct. 23 with Sr. Judy Stephens as the eulogist. The Mass of Christian Burial was Oct. 23 in the Motherhouse Chapel, Fr. Bob Schremmer presiding with concelebrant Fr. Barry Brinkman. Burial in the 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 Health Care/Retirement Fund or the Apostolic Works of the Sisters; P.O. Box 279, Concordia, KS 66901.

## MASS, MARCH AND RALLY FOR LIFE

On January 29, 2025, all are welcome to attend IGNITE for LIFE at the Topeka Performing Arts Center.

This event is held annually in recognition of the National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.

IGNITE for LIFE is a pro-life rally for the protection of preborn children and

the dignity of women facing unplanned or challenging pregnancies. The morning consists of praise and worship music, speakers and Mass with the Bishops of Kansas. Following IGNITE, all are invited to join in the Kansas March for Life to the capitol for the Kansans for Life rally. All events are free.

## Banking Leadership OPPORTUNITY

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
of SALINA

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Email Kim Hoelting  
for the full job  
description:  
kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org

## Prayer for the return of non-practicing Catholics

O Good Shepherd, you never cease to seek out the lost, to call home the stray, to comfort the frightened, and to build up the wounded. I ask that you bring them back to the practice of the Faith, and to remove all obstacles that prevent them from receiving your abundant mercy, which flows sacramentally through the heart of your holy Church.



Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, their Guardian Angels, their Patron Saints and the ever-prayerful St. Monica, may you pardon their sins and unshackle them from whatever hinders their freedom to come Home. For you, O Good Shepherd, have loved us to the end and offered yourself to the Father for the salvation of all.

*Amen*

### Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home

Concordia, Kansas ~ 785-243-2121 ~ chaputbuoy.com

### Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home

Belleville, Kansas ~ 785-527-2211 ~ tibbettsfischerfuneralhome.com

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## BAPTISMS

**Millie Grace Basgall**, daughter of Troy and Jennifer (Hutchison) Basgall, was baptized November 3, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Hays.

**Daylee Benitez-Hernandez**, daughter of Jeffrey Allan Riener and Megan Leigh Cahoj, was baptized June 16, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Elanor Bea Benne**, daughter of Brayson Lee Benne and Katherine Bea Davis, was baptized June 13, 2024, by Fr. Kerry Ninemire at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Hannah Mary Bussard**, daughter of Benjamin Jacob Bussard and Katherine Grace Eads, was baptized May 19, 2024, by Fr. Randal Weber at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Jiuwher Sterling Rostran Calixto**, son of Jiuwher Isaac Rostran Dubon and Lizdeni Marisol Calixto Villegas, was baptized July 21, 2024, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Alberto Javier González Cazares**, son of Gilberto González Martínez and Mayte Cazares, was baptized May 19, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Ernest Benjamin Chamblin**, son of Alexander and Cristina (Jimenez) Chamblin, was baptized November 2, 2024, by Rev. Brian McCaffrey at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays.

**Jose Geovany Cobadominguez**, son of John Phillip Duesing and Jessica

Rene' Hake, was baptized September 15, 2024, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Lillian Nicole Coba Dominguez**, daughter of Juan Roque Montoya Godina and Joanna Lisbeth Dominguez, was baptized July 28, 2024, by Fr. Rafaél Campos at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Caeli Marie Copple**, daughter of Ethan Lee Copple and Stephanie Elaine Copple, was baptized June 2, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Lorraine Avery Cox**, daughter of Jaron and Rebecca (Helm) Cox, was baptized October 5, 2024, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

**Calix Eugene Diehl**, son of Michael and Afton Diehl, was baptized November 3, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Parish in Chapman. Godparents are LeAnn Soler and Alex Gnadt.

**Ulysses Syrano Enderle**, son of John Thomas Enderle and Sharlene Isiss Enderle, was baptized June 9, 2024, by Dcn. Ed Souza at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Tucker Michael Hesting**, son of Joshua and Kelsey Hesting, was baptized September 29, 2024, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

**Lucy Faye Hinnen**, daughter of Bryan Hinnen and Jennifer Greene, was baptized July 21, 2024, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Hunter Isador Hughbanks**, son of Shawn and Jeree (Selensky) Hughbanks, was baptized October 20, 2024, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary's Parish in Salina. Godparent is Melinda Bruna.

**Isaac Francis Hynek**, son of Braden and Julie Hynek, was baptized September 29, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

**Elsie Rose Lang**, daughter of Ethan and Emily (Schippers) Lang, was baptized October 13, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays.

**Arturo Samuel Leyva Garza**, son of Jonathan Daniel Leyva Hurtado and Karla Guadalupe Garza Tamez, was baptized July 19, 2024, by Dcn. Ed Souza at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Zachary Lucas**, son of Douglas and Jamie Infanti, was baptized November 3, 2024, by Father Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Parish in Chapman. His godparents are Lucas Infanti and Meelani Hart. Proxy godparents are Michael and Afton Diehl.

**Nova Ha'ane Herron Mesa**, daughter of Jacob Frontada Mesa and Seana Eileen Herron, was baptized August 31, 2024, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Avery Cherie McClanahan**, daughter of Nathan and Cecily (Hemmy) McClanahan,

was baptized October 20, 2024, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary's Parish in Salina. Godparents are Nicole and Seth Hemmy.

**Hailey Norma Montoya**, daughter of Juan Roque Montoya Godina and Joanna Lisbeth Dominguez, was baptized July 28, 2024, by Fr. Rafaél Campos at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Levi Azael Murillo**, son of Jose Levi Murillo Saravia and Christina Marie Manalo, was baptized May 5, 2024, by Fr. Don Zimmerman at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Nickolas Allan Nickel, Owen Joseph Nickel and Logan James Nickel**, sons of Jeff and Michelle (Herzog) Nickel, were baptized October 20, 2024, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at St. Mary's Parish in Herndon.

**Noah Dean Northrup**, son of Andrew Northrup and Heidi Klaverweiden, was baptized September 28, 2024, by Fr. Kerry Ninemire at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City. Godparents are Justin Hinks and Katie Klaverweiden.

**Kase Kameron Parker**, son of Kameron and Samantha (Leitner) Parker, was baptized October 20, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays.

**Emerson Jae Patrick**, daughter of Jesse and Sarina (Gunderson) Patrick, was baptized November 3, 2024, by Fr. Vincent John at

St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina. Godparents are Sara Gunderson and William Wobbeking.

**Kendra Daleyza Paz**, daughter of Jose and Teresa Barraza Paz, was baptized September 28, 2024, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

**Jentry Joanna Riener**, daughter of Jeffrey Allan Riener and Megan Leigh Cahoj, was baptized July 13, 2024, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan.

**Blair Taylor Rohr**, daughter of Kaden and Jordyn Rohr, was baptized October 12, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish in Russell.

**Benjamin Clark Patrick Sinclair**, son of Jason and Alani Sinclair, was baptized October 2, 2024, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

**Lainey Ann Tebo**, daughter of Skyler and Morgan (Klaus) Tebo, was baptized October 19, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays.

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and

KVDM 88.1 Hays (Classics)

## WEDDINGS

**Alex Angel and Emma Clark** were married October 26, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Edgar Gaytan and Sandy Vargas. Parents of the bride are Joshua and Theresa Clark. Witnesses were Michael Quinn and Lucy Clark.

**Brett Berry and Kara Gabel** were married October 12, 2024, at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Leon and Dawn Berry. Parents of the bride are Curtis Gabel and the late Brenda Gabel. Witnesses were James Miller and Ashley Knoll.

**Alexander Bonebrake and Georgia Ubel** were married August 30, 2024, at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Lyle Bonebrake and Teresa Roesner. Parents of the bride are Christopher Ubel and Shanna Decker. Witnesses were Lyle Bonebrake and Teresa Bonebrake.

**Matthew James Helm and Ashley Marie Appelhantz** were married October 12, 2024, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Drew Dellasega witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Michael and Debra Helm. Parents of the bride are Charles and Tracy Appelhantz. Witnesses were Caleb Koerperich and Tanna Schnieders.

**Cole W. Pemberton and Ashlyn C. Thibault** were married October 19, 2024, at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne. Fr. Daryl Olmstead witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Jeff and Wendy Pemberton. Parents of the bride are Lonnie and Lea Thibault. Witnesses were Jake Pemberton and Taylor Courtoi.

**Andrew Robben and Kathlyn Engle** were married September 7, 2024, at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Brian Lager witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Gerald Robben and Maxine Huelsman. Parents of the bride are Allan Engle and Carol Sobba. Witnesses were Ethan Schwarz and Katelyn Dugan.

**Taten Schlochtermeyer and Michaela Musselman** were married September 21, 2024, at SS Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center. Fr. Mike Leiker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Mike and Rachelle Schlochtermeyer. Parents of the bride are Mike and Melanie Musselman. Witnesses were Cody Remington and Courtney Beffa.

**Lucy Ann Brown, 77**, of Russell, died October 15, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 22 at The Basilica of St. Fidelis, Victoria. Fr. James Moster, OFM Cap., presided. Burial in St. Fidelis Cemetery.

**Florence Peggy Brungardt, 89**, of Ellis, died October 20, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 25 at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Gorham.

**Brenda Burgardt, 60**, of Wichita, died October 18, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 24 at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

**Marvin L. Deters, 58**, died July 18, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 3 at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Leo Blasi presided. Interment in Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan.

**Paul Dinkel, 75**, died September 20, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated on October 19 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in

Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

**Joseph Gonzales, 86**, died October 12, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 19 at SS Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center. Fr. Mike Leiker presided. Burial service with Air Force Honors was at Greenwood Cemetery, Clay County, KS.

**Carl J. Hoefler, 95**, died April 16, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 22 at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt presided. Interment in Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan.

**Mary Joan McIlvaine, 84**, died June 22, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 9 at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Leo Blasi presided. Interment in Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan.

**Ray Navarro, 96**, died July 14, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 23 at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Leo Blasi presided. Interment in Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan.

**Kenneth "Kenny" Pfannenstiel, 76**, of Hays, died October 27, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 9 at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards and Fr. Reginald Urban presided.

Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

**Ida J. Roberts, 93**, Westmoreland, KS, died April 23, 2024. Gravesite service was celebrated at St. Patrick's Cemetery by Dcn. Ed Souza. Interment in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ogden, KS.

**Donald Eugene Rowison, 64**, died October 18, 2024. Funeral services were held October 25 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery, Beloit.

**John Rupp, 94**, died October 1, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 7 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

**Catherine C. Seyfert, 97**, died October 12, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 16 at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Father Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial at Greenwood Union Cemetery, Hunter.

**Esther (Engel) Weber, 95**, died October 25, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 29 at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Salina. Fr. Keith Weber presided. Burial at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Salina.

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# SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS



GRAPHIC BY SITIOINCREDIBLE

Our Lady of Guadalupe is a very special figure in Mexico and is loved by people around the world. In 1531, a peasant man named Juan Diego was walking up a hill near Mexico City, when he saw a beautiful lady surrounded by bright light.

She was the pregnant Virgin Mary, and she spoke to him in his own language, telling him to go to his bishop and ask him to build a church on that hill. Juan Diego tried to tell him, but the bishop didn't believe him.

Then, the Virgin Mary

worked a miracle! She made roses bloom in the winter and showed Juan Diego a picture of herself on his cloak.

The bishop saw the proof and this time he was amazed. The church was built!

The image on Juan Diego's tilma has not faded, even though the fabric--made of cactus fibers--should have worn out long ago! The tilma is on display in Mexico City, and scientists have studied it for years and still don't fully understand how the picture has stayed so vibrant.

Her story helped convert millions of people who had been worshipping false gods. Every year, people celebrate her with big parties, prayers and processions, remembering her message of love and hope. She is considered the patron saint of Mexico, the Americas and the unborn.

## Fun Facts

- The stars on the tilma are in the exact position they were in the sky on the night when the Virgin Mary first appeared to Juan Diego back in 1531.

- The stars from the constellation Leo, the lion, appear over her womb. The lion represents Jesus Christ, referred to as the Lion of Judah in the Bible.

## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: FEAST DAY DEC. 12

### Celebrating Christ the King: a call to reclaim hope

We are about to celebrate Christ the King Sunday, one of my favorite liturgical celebrations the Church has each year. I don't know about you, but it always seems that by the end of November, I will need this reminder of Christ's Kingship in my life and our world. This feast, which marks the conclusion of the liturgical year, gives me a much-needed understanding of Christ's sovereignty, not as a worldly ruler but as a King who reigns with love, humility, and justice. It reminds me that Christ's reign extends beyond national boundaries, ethnic divisions, or socio-political systems. Christ is the King of all creation,

**BILL Meagher**  
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when Christ will return in glory to establish his eternal kingdom.

This forward-looking aspect of the feast has always been a well-timed reminder to maintain my hope, even in the face of suffering,

injustice, and struggles. I am reminded that Christ's victory is already assured and that, as members of his body, we, too, will share in that victory.

We need not worry because victory has already been won. I can say that pretty easily, but I sometimes forget that message and get caught up in this world. I can always tell when that is happening because I begin to experience stress, anxiety, fear, and worry. I feel uneasiness begin to take over my life as I start to rely on myself and not God. My prayer life starts to lessen, and things go south quickly. That is precisely when I need the message of Christ the King Sunday. The Mass and readings that day quickly pull me out of this world and help me regain my eternal perspective of what is truly important and what is not. There are probably many people in our lives who could use this message.

I believe the Holy Spirit is inviting each of us this Christ the King Sunday to bring this message to others and to boldly proclaim the Gospel message to those around us who are struggling with the things of this world. In a world of

constant communication, it is sad how many people still need the gift of hearing about the love of Christ and the joy of Gospel message. Instead of waiting for others to bring Christ to them, let's commit that you and I, during this new liturgical year, by the grace of God, will overcome our fear and share the Good News with those around us.

Please join me in asking the Holy Spirit to fill us with the zeal and courage we need to bring the light of the Gospel to those around us. Let's invite them to join us as we respond to the call this Christ the King Sunday to turn our gaze to the heavens and focus our lives entirely on Christ.

#### Family Advent Prayer



God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of your love.  
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,  
As we wait and prepare for his coming.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen!



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Cut this out and pray with your family!