



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

DEC. 27, 2024

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

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Merry Christmas from Bishop Gerald Vincke

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
-John 3:16*

As we enter the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, may the birth of Jesus our Savior fill you and your family with an abundance of peace and hope!

Hope does not disappoint! God bless you always.

+ Gerald J. Vincke

IHM parish celebrates remodel

BY DONETTA ROBBEN
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Father Nick Parker was as joyful as a child on Christmas morning as he prepared to reopen his church, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. Thus, it was fitting that Fr. Nick chose Sunday, Nov. 24, not to adore Jesus in the manger, but to worship Christ the King of the universe.

Looks of amazement, "wow," "beautiful," "heavenly," came from the people who opened the doors for the first time to this remodeled church dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"It looks like a basilica in Rome," said parishioner Eric Brown, who has been to Rome twice with his wife, Jaelyn.

The public enjoyed a self-guided tour of the church before the rosary and Mass began at 2:30 p.m.

"Spectacular, stunning, all for the glory of God," Bishop Gerald Vincke said in his homily. Bishop Vincke celebrated Mass with Fr. Nick, along with 21 fellow priests, along with Deacon Dave Kisner. Twenty-two altar servers participated in the reopening Mass, laying flowers and roses at the feet of Mary's statue.

Immaculate Heart of Mary began in an auditorium, meant to serve as a temporary church until a church and rectory could be built. That space served as the church for more than 50 years when Fr. Don Zimmerman began a campaign to raise money to build the church. He recalled that seven houses had to be vacated along 19th Street, and the city of Hays needed to approve vacating Milner Street to have the land needed to build the current church.

Five years into the campaign, Fr. Don was re-assigned, and Fr. Kevin Weber became the pastor of IHM and oversaw the building of the new church, which was dedicated by Bishop Paul Coakley on March 14, 2010.

Parishioners knew at some point the plan was to finish the basement, paint the church and complete the stained-glass windows. The completion of the church was left to Fr. Nick, who became pastor in July 2019.



COURTESY PHOTO, LORI APPELHANS

Bishop Gerald Vincke, along with priests of the diocese, celebrates the reopening of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

There was a blueprint for the basement, the building committee had been set up and there was a

little money raised, but a major fundraising campaign had not begun when Fr. Nick arrived.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Together, on mission

On December 24, Catholics around the world began a Jubilee Year, a celebration that marks the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of the Lord. The slogan for the year is "Pilgrims of Hope," as we are invited to embark on a journey of hope and peace.

As a diocese, we are going to embark on a spiritual campaign of "Adoration for Peace." All of us desire peace in the world, in our families and in our hearts. Praying for others can and will bring hope to them. We will share more information on this spiritual campaign in next month's issue.

Another way to bring hope to people is to walk with them. I want to invite you to consider this year's theme for the Eucharistic Revival which is "Mission." This National Revival is what led us to host our own Eucharistic Conference this past summer in Hays. More than 1,000 people attended the conference. The event was so profound that another Eucharistic Conference is scheduled for 2025! Bishop Joseph Espaillat reminded us repeatedly that the Eucharist leads us to mission.

Will you please join me in being on mission? The Eucharistic Revival Committee has designed a

program called "Walking with One." I really like this initiative based on four easy steps.

Identify: Don't just pick someone. Ask God whom he wants you to accompany on their journey home to the Church. He will point you to the person he has in mind and open doors for the conversations that need to happen.

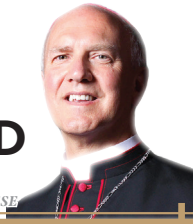
Intercede: As soon as the Lord lays someone on your heart, begin to pray for them! Ask God to remove obstacles in their way and help you accompany them well.

Connect: Look for ways to build a deeper relationship with this person. Get together with them for coffee or lunch. Listen deeply for promptings from the Holy Spirit as you get to know your friend's joys and struggles. Share with them some of your own.

Invite: Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. When the time is right, invite them to take the next step in fostering a personal relationship with Jesus and the Church. This might mean joining you for a small group or Mass on Sunday.

Let us journey forward in faith and hope, bringing Christ's light to those we meet.

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



Esperanza," ya que se nos invita a embarcarnos en un camino de esperanza y paz.

Como diócesis, vamos a iniciar una campaña espiritual llamada "Adoración por la Paz." Todos deseamos paz en el mundo, en nuestras familias y en nuestros corazones. Orar por los demás puede y traerá esperanza a ellos. Compartiremos más información sobre esta campaña espiritual en la edición del próximo mes.

Otra forma de llevar esperanza a las personas es caminar junto a ellas. Quiero invitarte a reflexionar sobre el tema de este año para el Avivamiento Eucarístico, que es "Misión." Este Avivamiento Nacional es lo que nos llevó a organizar nuestra propia Conferencia Eucarística el pasado verano en Hays. Más de 1,000 personas asistieron al evento, el cual fue tan profundo que ya se ha programado otra Conferencia Eucarística para el 2025. El Obispo Joseph Espaillat nos recordó repetidamente que la Eucaristía nos lleva a la misión.

¿Te unirás a mí en esta misión? El Comité del Avivamiento Eucarístico ha diseñado un programa llamado "Caminando con Uno." Me

gusta mucho esta iniciativa basada en cuatro pasos sencillos:

Identificar: No elijas a alguien al azar. Pídele a Dios que te muestre a quién quiere que acompañes en su camino de regreso a la Iglesia. Él te señalará a la persona indicada y abrirá puertas para las conversaciones necesarias.

Interceder: Tan pronto como el Señor ponga a alguien en tu corazón, ¡comienza a orar por esa persona! Pídele a Dios que elimine los obstáculos en su camino y que te ayude a acompañarla bien.

Conectar: Busca maneras de construir una relación más profunda con esta persona. Reúnanse para tomar un café o almorzar. Escucha con atención las inspiraciones del Espíritu Santo mientras conoces las alegrías y luchas de tu amigo. Comparte también algunas de las tuyas.

Invitar: Sigue las inspiraciones del Espíritu Santo. Cuando sea el momento adecuado, invítalo a dar el siguiente paso para fomentar una relación personal con Jesús y la Iglesia. Esto podría significar unirse a ti en un grupo pequeño o asistir juntos a la Misa dominical.

Sigamos adelante con fe y esperanza, llevando la luz de Cristo a quienes encontramos en el camino.

+ Gerald L. Vincke

Reverendísimo Gerald L. Vincke
Obispo de Salina

REFLECTION:

The Synod on Synodality gathered for a month in Rome in October. It produced a document that highlights the talents and dignity of the laity. Here are three things that we can ponder from the synod in the Jubilee Year:

1. How can we invite the people, the laity, to recognize their baptismal dignity?
2. How can we as a diocese utilize the gifts and talents of the laity for the church?
3. How can we form people to be on mission and invite people into friendship with Christ?

You are not forgotten:

A LETTER TO MIGRANTS FROM THE BISHOPS OF KANSAS

"Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."
John 14:27

To our dear migrant brothers and sisters in Christ,

We understand these are uncertain times for many. With that in mind, the Kansas Catholic Bishops of Kansas wish to first and foremost express to you our prayerful support and solidarity. Please be assured that you are not forgotten, and your Church stands with you. You and your families are a cherished gift to the world. We give thanks for you.

No matter what the future holds, we hereby pledge that the Catholic Church in Kansas will continue to accompany and serve you with every possible

resource. We will continue to advocate for your just treatment and dignity within the framework of the law.

Your worthiness as a treasured child of God is not dependent on your legal status in this or any other country. You are a beloved daughter or son of God, made in His Divine Image, and redeemed by Jesus Christ on Calvary.

May God bless you and grant you peace.

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann

Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas

Most Reverend John B. Brungardt

Bishop of Dodge City

Most Reverend Carl A. Kemme

Bishop of Wichita

Most Reverend Gerald L. Vincke

Bishop of Salina

No estás olvidado:

UNA CARTA A LOS INMIGRANTES DE LOS OBISPOS DE KANSAS

"Paz, os dejo; mi paz os doy; Yo no os doy como el mundo da. No se turbe vuestro corazón, ni tenga miedo." Juan 14:27

A nuestros queridos hermanos y hermanas migrantes en Cristo,

Entendemos que estos son tiempos inciertos para muchos. Con eso en mente, los Obispos Católicos de Kansas desean ante todo expresarle nuestro apoyo y solidaridad en oración. Tengan la seguridad de que no serán olvidados y que su Iglesia está a su lado. Ustedes y sus familias son un regalo preciado para el mundo. Damos gracias por ti.

No importa lo que depare el futuro, por la presente prometemos que la Iglesia Católica en Kansas continuará acompañándolo y sirviéndole con to-

dos los recursos posibles. Seguiremos abogando por su trato justo y dignidad dentro del marco de la ley.

Su dignidad como hijo apreciado de Dios no depende de su estatus legal en este o cualquier otro país. Eres una hija o un hijo amado de Dios, hecho a Su Divina Imagen y redimido por Jesucristo en el Calvario.

Que Dios les bendiga y les conceda la paz.

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann

Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas

Most Reverend John B. Brungardt

Bishop of Dodge City

Most Reverend Carl A. Kemme

Bishop of Wichita

Most Reverend Gerald L. Vincke

Bishop of Salina

Dancing with devotion: Hispanic communities honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

By LORI LEISZLER
THE REGISTER

A hush settled over the packed pews of Seven Dolores Catholic Church in Manhattan. Midnight was near, and anticipation filled the air. Suddenly, the stillness was broken—not by words, but by rhythm. A steady drumbeat echoed through the church, joined by the swish of rattles in dancers' hands and on their vibrant costumes.

Clad in bright red and white, the dancers brought to life a timeless tradition of devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Their dance was both performance and prayer, celebrating Mexico's beloved patroness. Then, they joined those gathered to sing *Las Mañanitas*, a traditional serenade to Our Lady.

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, celebrated December 12, honors Mary's 1531 apparition to St. Juan Diego near Mexico City. To prove the encounter to his skeptical bishop, Mary caused

her image to appear on Juan Diego's cloak—still miraculously preserved. Her image, with one knee bent in the posture of dance, has inspired faith-filled celebrations blending devotion, art, and culture for centuries, especially in Hispanic communities.

At Seven Dolores, the festivities began with an 11 p.m. vigil Mass, drawing a devoted crowd prepared to stay up for midnight *Mañanitas*. After the Mass, the dancers took center stage, their every move steeped in historical and spiritual significance.

Speaking to the faithful, Father Rafael Indave Campos, Parochial vicar at Sacred Heart, reminded them of Mary's central role in their faith and protection in their lives. He reminded them that during the apparition she told Juan Diego, "Am I not here, I, who am your mother?"

Fr. Rafael continued, "And what is the fifth commandment? Honor your father and your mother. And she, Mary, is your



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Sacred Heart Cathedral's all-day Guadalupe celebration culminated in a lively parade in the street on Dec. 8.

mother in heaven."

Throughout the week, communities held events to honor the patroness of the Americas. Catholics across the diocese—many who had practiced for weeks and participated for years—joined the celebrations.

At Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina, the faithful were invited to pray a novena leading up to the feast day. Then, they celebrated all day on Sunday, Dec. 8, starting with *Las Mañanitas* at 5 a.m. The day unfolded with several dance performances in the gym, a live

reenactment of Juan Diego's story, and a grand parade after the noon Mass. They also hosted a complimentary breakfast and dinner for attendees. The parish celebrated again on Dec. 12, with traditional dancing after the evening Spanish Mass.

Through music, dance, reenactments, and prayer, the faithful transformed the entire week into a vibrant celebration of faith and culture, offering a powerful tribute to the Mother of God and a reminder of her enduring presence.

Bailando con devoción: Las comunidades hispanas honran a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Por LORI LEISZLER
THE REGISTER

Un silencio se apoderó de las bancas repletas de la iglesia católica Siete Dolores en Manhattan. La medianoche se acercaba y la anticipación llenaba el aire. De repente, la quietud se rompió, no con palabras, sino con ritmo. Un tamborileo constante resonó en la iglesia, acompañado por el sonido de los cascabeles en las manos de los danzantes y en sus vibrantes trajes.



LORI LEISZLER, THE REGISTER

La comunidad hispana de Siete Dolores, en Manhattan, celebra la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Ciudad de México. Para demostrar el encuentro a su escéptico obispo, María hizo aparecer su imagen en el manto de Juan Diego, que aún se conserva milagrosamente.

Su imagen, con una rodilla doblada en postura de danza, ha inspirado durante siglos celebraciones llenas de fe que combinan devoción, arte y cultura, especialmente en las comunidades hispanas.

En Siete Dolores, las festividades comenzaron con una Misa de vigilia a las 11 p.m., atrayendo a una multitud devota dispuesta a quedarse despierta hasta la medianoche para las *Mañanitas*. Después de la Misa, los danzantes ocuparon el escenario principal, cada movimiento cargado de significado histórico y espiritual.

Rafael Indave Campos, vicario parroquial del Sagrado Corazón, habló a los presentes del papel central de María en su fe y de su protección en sus vidas. Les recordó que, durante la aparición, ella le dijo a Juan Diego: "¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu Madre?"

El Padre Rafael continuó: "¿Y cuál es el quinto mandamiento? Honra a tu padre y a tu madre. Y ella, María, es tu madre en el cielo."

Durante toda la semana, comunidades de toda la diócesis celebraron actos en honor de la patrona de las Américas. Católicos de todas las edades, algunos que llevaban semanas ensayando sus actuaciones, muchos que llevaban años participando en actos similares, se unieron a las celebraciones.

En la catedral del Sagrado Corazón de Salina, se invitó a los fieles a rezar una novena previa a la fiesta. Luego, celebraron todo el día el domingo 8 de diciembre, empezando con *Las*

Mañanitas a las 5 a.m. El día se desarrolló con varios espectáculos de danza en el gimnasio, una recreación en vivo de la historia de Juan Diego y un gran desfile después de la misa del mediodía. También ofrecieron un desayuno y una cena gratuitos a los asistentes. La parroquia volvió a celebrarlo el 12 de diciembre, con bailes tradicionales tras la Misa vespertina en español.

A través de la música, la danza, las representaciones y la oración, los fieles transformaron la semana en una celebración vibrante de fe y cultura, ofreciendo un poderoso tributo a la Madre de Dios y un recordatorio de su presencia duradera.

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

January

1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Chancery Closed.
2-10	Region IX Archbishop & Bishops Annual Retreat, San Diego, CA.
12	150th Anniversary Mass, St. Bernard Parish, Ellsworth, 10 a.m.
13	Hanover Catholic School visit, 8:20 a.m. Mass
17	Manhattan Catholic School visit, 7:50 a.m. Mass.
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Chancery Closed.
23-24	March for Life, Washington, D.C.
27	CSW visit, St. Mary's, Salina, 8 a.m.
27	CSW visit, St. John's, Beloit, 1:30 p.m.
28	Red Mass, St. Joseph's, Topeka, noon.
29	Ignite Rally & Mass for March for Life, Topeka, 9 a.m.
29	CSW visit, St. Xavier's, Junction City, 2 p.m.
30	CSW visit, Colby and Oakley at S.H. Church, Oakley, 11 a.m.
31	CSW visit, Hays, Ellis and Plainville at I.H.M., Hays, 10 a.m.

Your generosity in action: Reflecting on a year of impact in the Diocese of Salina

As the year comes to a close, we have the opportunity to reflect on the incredible ways generosity has transformed lives across the Diocese of Salina. Through the faithful contributions to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, our community has touched hearts, deepened faith and strengthened parishes.

This past year, donors like you have made a remarkable impact:

- Faith Formation for Our Youth: More than 4,000 young people participated in parish religious education programs, learning to live their faith daily and strengthen their Catholic identity.
- Eucharistic Renewal: Over 1,000 people gathered for our first-ever Eucharistic Conference, experiencing inspiring speakers, adoration and the celebration of Mass to grow closer to Christ in the Eucharist.
- Summer Evangelization: Totus Tuus, a weeklong summer program of catechesis and worship, reached 25 parishes and engaged

**HEATHER
Hartman**
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



850 youth in growing their love for Christ.

- Celebrating Catholic Rural Life: With deep roots in our rural heritage, more than 100 participants celebrated the centennial of Catholic Rural Life,

including the chartering of the first university chapter in our diocese.

- Welcoming New Catholics: Nearly 160 individuals joined the Catholic Church through the Rite of Election, a beautiful testament to the power of evangelization.
- Protecting the Sanctity of Life: From the March for Life in Washington, D.C., with 100 participants, to the Respect Life Retreat attended by 175 Catholic school students, your support has defended life from conception to natural death.
- Strengthening Vocations and Clergy: Your generosity nurtures 14 seminarians, supports continuing education for our priests and

deacons, and provides for retired clergy who have faithfully served for decades.

Looking ahead, the need for ministry, outreach and support for families and parishes continues to grow. If you haven't yet had the chance to support the Bishop's Annual Appeal this year, we invite you to prayerfully consider renewing your gift before December 31.

Your contribution ensures we can continue these vital programs, support faith journeys across our diocese and respond to the ever-growing needs of our community. Together, we can deepen faith, share hope and bring the love of Christ to more people.

To make a gift, visit join.salinadiocese.org or contact the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Salina at 785.827.8746.

Thank you for being such an important part of our mission. Your generosity truly changes lives and strengthens the Church across the Diocese of Salina. May God bless you and your family this season.



Of stinky fish and faithful dogs

The book of Tobit has some pretty epic characters. Some of the main characters are a trusting young man, a beautiful girl, a blind dad, and an angel in disguise. The story is full of faith and hope, which we all could use more of. It also can tell us a lot about the Christian response to unexpected gifts, something I think is particularly needed around this time of year.

As the story goes, one day, a faith-filled young man named Tobiah heads out on a big adventure to help his blind dad. He is guided by the Angel Raphael, who is disguised as a human.

On the journey, Tobiah is suddenly attacked by a giant fish. The angel, calm and collected, tells him to keep part of it because it will come in handy later. Tobiah does so without hesitation, trusting the angel's guidance.

As they continue on their journey, Tobiah meets a beautiful girl. They want to get married, but she, much like a princess in fairy tales of old, is guarded by a monster who would hurt any brave knight who tried to free her.

The angel instructs Tobiah to use the fish to defeat the monster. Though it seems unlikely, Tobiah trusts him anyway and brings out the fish. And it smells so bad that it scares the monster away.

Afterwards, Tobiah keeps part of the fish, because the angel says it will be useful later.

Tobiah and his beautiful bride return to his father's home at last. The angel then tells Tobiah to rub the rest of the fish on his father's eyes, and it will cure his blindness. He does it. No questions asked. And his dad is healed. Raphael eventually reveals himself, and all of them praise God.

This story is one of my favorites in the Bible—not just because of its wild twists and turns, but because of its powerful example of faith. Every time someone faces a challenge, they are told to take heart. “Courage, father.” “Courage, my daughter.” They face the present bravely, trusting God's plan for the future.

Each character shows incredible faithfulness: the father to Tobiah, Tobiah to his wife, his wife to him, and Raphael to Tobiah. But most of all, they are faithful to God.

I've read this story at least a dozen times. Recently, I reread it as a way to prepare for the upcoming jubilee year, as the story has always given me great hope. Upon rereading, I realized there was another faithful character, one I'd never noticed before: a dog. It's only mentioned twice.

“When the young man left home, accom-

panied by the angel, the dog followed Tobiah out and went along with them.” Then they returned, “and the dog ran along behind them.”

What better symbol of faithfulness, than man's faithful canine friend.

As some of you are reading this, you might be at home with your family, celebrating the Christmas octave. That looks different for everyone. The first Christmas was, after all, messy. It came about in a rather unexpected, but beautiful way.

I wonder what this story about Tobiah can tell us about the faithful response to unexpected gifts. Maybe you're asking God for something in this season and He's answered with something unexpected. Maybe you're encountering new people or unique opportunities. I invite you to reflect, and turn to God through all of it. Maybe your honest prayer can be, “Lord, please work through this unexpected gift to bring healing into my life.”

As we journey into this Jubilee Year of Hope, may we take inspiration from the book of Tobit. Let us have faith, accompany one another and trust in God's plan—even when it means facing challenges as strange as fighting a monster with a stinky fish.

**LORI
Leiszler**
EDITOR OF THE REGISTER



JANUARY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Pope's intentions:

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Diocesan intentions:

Lord, we ask for your blessing on this New Year. Please grant us health, peace, and the courage to follow Your will. May our hearts be open to Your love, our hands ready to serve others, and our voices be ready to bring Christ to all we meet.

REMINDER



Did you take a photo of your church decorated for Christmas? Please send photos to communications.office@salinadiocese.org along with the name of the parish. Thank you!



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IHM REMODEL, FROM PAGE 1

Then, COVID-19 hit, and the project was put on hold.

Nearly five years later, the church was completed. It includes a parish hall and meeting rooms in the basement and a church which combines contemporary architecture with Romanesque art.

Dominant when entering the church is the image of Mary painted in the dome above the altar.

"I love our dome," Fr. Nick said. "There are many symbols and images that are incorporated into it. There's the seven sorrows. There's part of it that refers to the book of Revelation. There's part of it that represents the Immaculate Conception. There are just so many elements in the dome.

"But my favorite part of it is the eyes because in so many other images of Mary, she's looking out to the people. In this image, she's looking at the altar, and I think that can tell people what devotion to Mary is all about."



COURTESY PHOTO, LORI APPELHANS

A dominant feature in the remodeled IHM Church is the painting of Mary in the dome above the altar.

The upper ceiling represents the 12 feast days of Mary on the liturgical calendar. The stained-glass windows in the upper part of the church represent a title of Mary.

The Josh and Megan Schroeder family, which has six children

ranging from 11 months old to 11 years, was excited for the reopening. Their second child, Riley, will be making his First Holy Communion in the newly remodeled church. Josh, along with his brother-in-law, Chase Bird, own Cabi-

nets by Phoenix and completed much of the cabinets, trim and specialty wood work in the confessionals.

"A hundred years from now my great grandchildren can say their great and maybe even great-great grandfather was part of this building project," Josh said.

When asking Fr. Nick what he was going to do now that the church project is complete, he replied, "I think I might be a priest."

...

In honor of its rededication, IHM assembled a booklet explaining its parish history as well as a description of all the beautiful new paintings and statues. These booklets are available at the parish office, 1805 Vine. It also will be uploaded to the IHM website at www.ihm-church.com in the near future and can be found by clicking the "Reopening & Remodeling" button on the main photo rotation.

Cemetery Mass at Cuba unites faithful

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

On Saturday, November 2, All Souls' Day, the forecast called for a rainy morning in Cuba, Kansas. But the weather proved to be a blessing—a little breezy, with rain holding off just long enough for Mass at St. Isidore Cemetery.

This Mass marked a special occasion: the first use of a recently installed altar. The old altar, previously stored on the property of a parishioner in Courtland, had been offered to Fr. Ryan McCandless. "Dan Kuhn told me it just needed a good home," Fr. McCandless said. With the help of John Krob, Wayne

Pachta, and Raymond Baxa, the altar was placed in front of the cemetery's central crucifix. Plans are in place to set it permanently after the winter.

Fr. McCandless had long envisioned a cemetery Mass after discovering some worn-out vestments and other sacred items in need of proper disposal. "Several vestments were moldy or threadbare. The Church teaches us to bury or burn such items, as they've served their purpose and remain sacred," he explained. Since the cemetery is close to the church, it seemed fitting to pair the burial of these objects with a Mass.

All Souls' Day was the perfect choice, aligning with the first Saturday

Masses Fr. McCandless recently introduced. More than 30 parishioners from St. Edward, St. George and St. Isidore attended, including Dwayne Kolivoda, whose family donated the large crucifix behind the altar.

Many were touched by the opportunity to honor their ancestors and founders of Cuba, Kansas.

"Our Catholic faith reminds us that these souls mattered—and still matter—in God's plan," Fr. McCandless said.

After the short Mass, children helped bury the sacred items near the crucifix. Among them was a small armless corpus from an old crucifix. As Raymond Baxa lowered it into the

ground, a child asked, "How is Jesus going to stay warm out here?" A simple, caring question that moved everyone present.

As the congregation returned to their cars, the first sprinkles of rain began to fall—a gentle reminder of the blessings that marked the day. Fr. McCandless hopes this will be the first of many cemetery Masses to come.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEELY MEINECKE AND JANE BAXA

Father Ryan McCandless celebrated a Mass on the newly installed cemetery altar in Cuba before having a burial of religious items with help from the community.



Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home

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Giving thanks by giving back:

STUDENTS TRAVEL TO ITALY FOR SERVICE TRIP

By LORI LEISZLER

THE REGISTER

Over Thanksgiving break, 11 seniors from St. John's Catholic High School in Beloit, accompanied by a priest and eight adults, traveled far from home for the holiday to serve their brothers and sisters in Christ in Rome.

The group left on the Monday before Thanksgiving, excited to spend two weeks in Italy. But this wasn't just any class trip—it was a blend of history, faith and service.

The seniors got the idea to make the trip when they were just juniors in an entrepreneurship class. Luckily for them, they had guidance from teacher Alan Holdren, who used to live in Rome, and they had support from their community.

Holdren, a former EWTN Vatican Bureau Chief in Rome, still reports occasionally for EWTN; but for the students at St. John's, he's the English teacher.

When his students had the idea to go to Rome for a mission trip, he had them take steps to see if it would even be possible. They talked to the school, the board and their parents, and then began fundraising.

"We'd been talking about taking a trip to Rome, and these kids made it happen," Holdren said. "In the end, they came up with \$45,000 in basically a month and a half. It was obviously something people wanted for them, and they wanted it for themselves, too."

With the funds from donations and student-led fundraisers, the class was able to pay its way and for its sponsors: Fr. Andrew Rockers, Holdren and Principal Marcy Kee.

The group was also joined by several parents and other adult sponsors, including Craig Johring, founder of a group called Hope of the Poor. Johring and his group lead mission trips in Mexico City, helping people on the streets there in many ways. He had always wanted to offer people mission trips to Rome, and he was excited to join the Beloit students on their mission.

On the second day of their trip, the group visited St. Peter's Basilica and got right to work, serving the poor around St. Peter's with WeCare, a Roman apostolate. The next day they went to a general audience with Pope Francis, then spent much of the day with students from the Pio IX School, doing joint outreach in the area.

On Thanksgiving morning, the students got up early to participate in the traditional 5K Turkey Trot around Vatican City. They also celebrated the holiday by preparing and sharing



COURTESY PHOTO, ALAN HOLDREN

St. John's Class of 2025 visited with John and Ashley Noronha (far left) on the second day of their trip. The Noronhas, who founded a nonprofit called the Truth & Beauty Project, gave the students and sponsors an explanation of the background of St. Peter's Square and Basilica.

a Thanksgiving meal for the needy at WeCare, serving several dozen people near the Vatican.

"It's a two way evangelization," Holdren said. "It's them bringing God's love to the people they meet, and then it's the people that they meet, especially the poor, bringing God's love to them."

Senior Clare Meyer agreed. "Of all the incredible opportunities and memories I have brought home from this trip, my most meaningful experiences were the encounters I experienced with those living in the arms of St. Peter's Basilica. While serving the poor on the streets of Rome, I was blessed to gain new friendships that I will remember for a lifetime."

The day after Thanksgiving, they volunteered at a men's shelter run by the Missionaries of Charity and took in the sights at the Coliseum and the Ancient Roman Forum.

They rounded out their week in Rome with a Seven Churches Pilgrimage, retracing the steps of St. Philip Neri at major places of prayer in the area. The students took the opportunity to pray together at each place and celebrate Mass.

After spending the week serving in Rome, the group went on a spiritual Italian road trip.

For adult sponsor Lindy Meyer, Clare's mother, the pilgrimage aspect held deep personal meaning. Lindy shared how the saints and places they visited were spiritually significant for their entire family. Clare got to visit Assisi, where her namesake St. Clare lived, and to pray at the tomb of St. John Paul II, her confirmation saint. The

group also attended Mass at the basilica of St. Catherine of Siena, Lindy's confirmation saint.

Among the many historic sites they visited, the students also saw the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a modern patron of youth. Their visit came just a week after Pope Francis announced that Acutis will be officially canonized during the Jubilee of Teenagers in April 2025.

The students finally said their goodbyes and left on Dec. 6, the Feast of St. Nicholas, taking with them the spirit of service and the experience of a lifetime.



COURTESY PHOTO, ALAN HOLDREN

Students climb the steps of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

To celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope, The Register will be sharing a story highlighting hope, pilgrimage and prayer each month. You're invited to read and reflect on hope in your own life, and ponder how God is drawing you nearer to Himself. Interested in going on pilgrimage? See the Salina Diocese website for upcoming opportunities at Salinadiocese.org.

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School Notes 

Catholic schools celebrate successful finish to the first semester

By **DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN**
THE REGISTER

Students at Catholic high schools in the diocese stacked up next to some of the best while competing in contests around the state during the first semester.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Seniors from two of the high schools have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program for their scores on its qualifying test. The program is an annual academic competition for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships.

Miguel Weber from St. Francis Xavier, Junction City, has been named a semifinalist in the program, placing him in the top 1 percent of U.S. students who took the test.

Following the next step in the process – which requires submitting an application, essay and SAT and/or ACT scores – Miguel will learn in February if he advances to the finalist level.

In addition, Sam Schroeder from Thomas More Prep-Marian, Hays, received commended student status from the program, placing him in the top 3 percent nationally.

KANSAS STATE ECO-MEET

St. John's of Beloit defended its title from a year ago at the Kansas State Eco-Meet held at Camp Aldrich and the Kansas Wetlands Education Center in Barton County.

The 20-team meet featured schools of all sizes from across the state. But the Blujays, coached by Joe Holdren, didn't back down from anyone.

The A-team from St. John's (enrollment 51 students) scored a total of 348 points to beat Shawnee Mission North (enrollment 1,476) by 37 points. And the St. John's B-team also placed in the top five.

In eco-meet contests, participants compete against each other in two lab-style tests on

Kansas flora and fauna and must act out a skit about Kansas wildlife.

FHSU MATH RELAYS

The St. John's Blujays won the Class 1A division in the Fort Hays State University Math Relays for a 13th straight year, more than doubling the score on second-place Mankato-Rock Hills.

The Blujays' 73.5 overall points placed them third among all classes (1A-6A). Also in 1A competition, Tipton Catholic's team placed fifth.

Salina-Sacred Heart was runner-up in the 2A-3A division of the Math Relays competition, where Thomas More Prep-Marian, Hays, finished fourth (just .5 points out of third place).

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

TMP-Marian senior Teagan Gottschalk

qualified for the Kansas Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (KYEC) next semester after taking home top honors in the Ellis County YEC in November.


Teagan, who led several schoolmates in winning cash prizes, won the \$1,000 first-place prize for her "Gotcha Gutters" project. That also earned her the FHSU Entrepreneur-of-the-Year award.

The state competition will be held at Kansas State University in Manhattan in April 2025.

GIRLS STATE GOLF

TMP-Marian's girls golf team closed out a successful season by winning its regional tournament and qualifying its entire team for the Class 3-2-1A state golf meet.

TMP-M finished out of trophy contention at state, but the Monarchs did have an individual medalist in freshman Brynn Schoef, who finished in a tie for 14th.




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Sacred Heart dedicates new chapel space

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Much like a theme from a popular baseball movie, "If you build it, they will come," John Krajicek said he was confident students would spend more time with our Lord if they had better access to the school chapel.

Krajicek, principal at Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School in Salina, has seen a marked increase of students visiting the chapel now that it's in plain sight every day.

The chapel was relocated from the back of the school to the front, doubling its space in its new location which was formerly the school library.

"There has been an increase in students and staff stopping by the chapel since we moved it to the front of the building," Krajicek said. "Students now walk by it eight to 10 times a day. With the tabernacle and a lit sanctuary lamp in clear view, one cannot help but be reminded that Christ is right there and always present among us."

With adequate room for all students and staff to attend at the same time, Bishop Gerald Vincke celebrated a Mass and blessed the

new chapel earlier this semester.

"This is a beautiful place to pray, to pour your heart out to Jesus," Bishop Vincke told the congregation at the dedication Mass on November 7. "Congratulations to the whole community."

The dedication of the new chapel kicked off a capital campaign that will include converting the former chapel to a band room, building a new fitness facility and renovating the existing weight room into a modern art studio.

The library has temporarily been moved to a nearby

classroom which will be converted into the Knights Academic Center.

Krajicek, in his 28th year as principal at his alma mater, said moving the chapel from the back of the school to the front has been a long-time coming.

The timing had never seemed quite right as repairs to infrastructure and other building improvements often took precedence.

"We had a chapel; it just wasn't very big, and there were other critical needs in the building," Krajicek said. "But we thought it was time to get this done. It's like we finally are able to move Jesus to the

"IT'S LIKE WE FINALLY ARE ABLE TO MOVE JESUS TO THE FRONT OF THE TABLE, WHERE HE BELONGS."

JOHN KRAJICEK, SACRED HEART PRINCIPAL



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Gerald Vincke blesses the new chapel at Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School in Salina on November 7.

front of the table, where he belongs."

Krajicek said he jumped at the chance when he got the blessing from his superiors to proceed with the chapel renovation that now can accommodate all 185 students in grades 7-12 and staff.

"This move exemplifies who we are and our mission as a Catholic school," he said. "We are here to educate the whole person – spirit, mind and body. We exist to pass on our faith to our students."

The new chapel features the original altar from when the school was built in 1960 and new wooden pews that Krajicek hopes to see used often with Sacred Heart students and staff as well as their families and community members.

"We are hearing very positive comments on its beauty, yet its simplicity, and how students easily access the chapel before school, during lunch and after school," he said. "It's a tremendous blessing and gift for our school community."

HOLIDAY SERVICE DAY FOR ST. ANDREW'S, ABILENE



LORI LEISZLER, THE REGISTER

BY LORI LEISZLER
THE REGISTER

The fourth and fifth graders at St. Andrew's Elementary School in Abilene have a little bit more to be thankful for this Christmas season, and it's the spirit of giving back.

Earlier in the school year, they worked on a giving project, raising money for the needy. Students worked jobs around their community and homes, asking for free-will donations.

After Thanksgiving, the students brought together their funds, totaling over \$2,000, and decided to "adopt" 11 angels through the Salvation Army and make donations to birthright groups.

The students planned their budgets during school, going online and comparing costs then making a list. Then, on December 6, the

students took their lists and went on a shopping spree to buy items for people in need.

"It's my favorite day of the whole year," said Jayme Randles, the 4th grade teacher who first brought the project to St. Andrew's.

"We've now done it for six years," she continued. "It started out as something just for the fourth graders, but they loved it so much that we started including the fifth graders, too, because they wanted to do it again."

This year's group raised more than expected, so the students were able to spend some extra on toys to donate to the Salvation Army, too.

"And they love that part," Randles said. "The point is to give, and this is the result of their hard work."

May God's love
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College students encounter God's love on retreat

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

An experience to connect Christ with fellow students was created by a Fort Hays State University student back in 1998.

A weekend that was coined "Crossroads" has impacted countless students for 26 years, and this year featured an all-time high of 36 participants.

The weekend retreat is led by a team of students from FHSU's Comeau Catholic Campus Center and welcomes all Fort Hays State students to attend.

Crossroads is rich in tradition and provides an opportunity for students to grow in fellowship, indulge in the sacraments and discover God's love.

While the location has changed over the years, Crossroads now takes place in Munjor at the former Munjor Elementary School.

This year, Blessed Carlo Acutis was selected as the retreat saint due to his dedication to the Eucharist and saintly life in this modern world. Retreat participants and staff took the time to follow Blessed Carlo Acutis' example to step away from the world.

FHSU senior Ted Skalsky found Crossroads especially impactful.

"Crossroads had a big impact on my life," he said. "The retreat really inspired me to not

only become closer to Christ but also gave me an opportunity to connect with other people who had a similar passion for Jesus as I did, which has created lifelong friendships."

FHSU junior Sam Vesper said, "The staff helped me to truly understand Agape love. I've never so easily felt Jesus' love and presence like I did during Crossroads."

The weekend begins on a Friday evening with dinner at the campus center, then moves to Munjor until lunch on Sunday.

Throughout Crossroads, students hear peer testimonies; attend Mass, confession, and adoration; engage in fellowship activities and discussions;

and enjoy Christ's presence.

"Because of the effort and structure put into the retreat, I saw Jesus Christ's love and work throughout the weekend with the people who went,"

said FHSU junior Karla Segoviano, a first-time participant. "I will cherish the memories made and the lessons learned."

Freshman Ethan Schoepner agreed.

"Crossroads was a great experience to escape away from all the noise of the world and spend a weekend with Jesus," he said. "I

feel more connected to the Catholic community here at FHSU as a result of it and am grateful to Fr. Andy (Hammeke) and the Crossroads team for creating this experience!"



COURTESY PHOTO, ANNE WHEATON

Students at the Crossroads Retreat gather together for prayer during a benediction service at St. Francis of Assisi church in Munjor.

On mission: Instructing the unlearned

BY MARIA RILEY

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Mary Todd, long time resident of Manhattan and parishioner at Seven Dolores parish, embodies the Spiritual Work of Mercy of Instructing the Unlearned. For over 40 years, she has served as a catechist in faith formation classes ranging from 3rd grade through teens. Professionally she was trained as a clinical psychologist and retired from Kansas State University as the Director of the Women's Center in 2014.

Today, kids and teens are bombarded with distractions that can keep their attention away from their faith, the one thing that can bring them the peace and joy they desperately desire. Thanks to catechists like Todd, each Wednesday night students have an opportunity to learn about the rich faith of the Catholic Church through the parish faith formation program.

For her, catechesis isn't about memorizing facts and information. Rather, Todd's priority is instilling a deep desire to know, love and please Jesus. She does this in part by respecting the dignity of every student entrusted to her.

At the beginning of each year she gives her students notecards to submit what they would like to learn about life and the faith throughout the year. She said she never considers a question too silly and answers every inquiry



COURTESY PHOTO, MARIA RILEY

Mary Todd, middle, shares a smile with children after a Wednesday night catechism class in Manhattan.

with a thoughtful, dignified answer. Without fail, every year she receives questions about why we were created and what is the meaning of life. This can only be understood through the lens of our loving father who created us from love for love.

"Kids are hungry for bliss and happiness and love, and the only place they can find that is in faith," Todd said. She said that kids are starving, and feeding them spiri-

tual food is just as important as material food. Thanks to Todd and other catechists who give their time every week, the souls of the children of our diocese are getting their fill.

Todd has been volunteering as a catechist for so long she said she can't imagine her life without it. When she was battling cancer, the Lord continued to give her enough strength to teach each week at faith formation. She said that over the years, whether she was sick or well, working or retired, her favorite hour of the week was spending time with her students, sharing her love of Christ.

Todd experiences joy at the wonder and awe of a student understanding a concept for the first time, but she also deepens her own faith through the experiences, questions, and witness of the kids.

"I get to rediscover the beauty and joy of Jesus each year!" Todd said.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said, "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea." This quote has inspired Todd in her service to the kids and teens of Seven Dolores parish. At the end of the year she knows she has succeeded not by their memorization but if she has taught the students to yearn for Jesus.



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Salina Catholic Schools celebrate 2024 Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive



BY JEREE HUGHBANKS
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER,
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS

This October, Salina Diocese Catholic Schools partnered with Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas for the annual Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive, collecting an impressive 894 cases of diapers valued at \$12,812. These contributions will bring relief to families in need throughout northern Kansas, showcasing the power of community and faith in action.

Geoff Andrews, superintendent of schools for the diocese, shared his reflections on the drive's impact, "The incredible outcome of the Happy Bottoms diaper drive is both humbling and inspiring. It reflects the heart of our mission: Together, let us be disciples of Jesus on mission. Through this drive, our students and teachers lived out our call to serve others, demonstrating Christ's love in action by meeting the needs of families in our diocese."

The diaper drive concluded on November 8, with donations dropped off at Catholic Charities' locations in Hays, Manhattan and Salina. Students pitched in, helping Catholic Charities staff unload and organize the diapers for distribution.

Andrews recalled one moment that left an impression. "Seeing students come out on their day off, braving the rain to help load diapers into vehicles, was unforgettable," he said. "Their actions were a clear example of the lessons we strive to instill about generosity and service."



Braving the cold rain, Catholic Charities staff and Sacred Heart High School students worked together to load diapers into Catholic Charities vehicles during the 2024 Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive. These students gave up their day off from school to ensure local families in need have access to clean diapers.



Thomas More Prep-Marian students display the diapers they collected for the 2024 Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive.

Now in its third year, the Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive highlights the ongoing collaboration between Catholic Charities and the Catholic schools.

Andrews expressed his gratitude to everyone

involved. "I'm incredibly thankful to the students, families and faculty for their generosity," he said. "Their efforts have provided comfort, dignity and hope to countless families. A special thanks to Catholic Charities for organizing this meaningful project and making it so easy to participate."

This shared mission of service and compassion is at the heart of the partnership.

"The students, families and faculty of Salina Catholic Schools have truly inspired us with their incredible generosity and servant hearts," said Megan Robl, executive director of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas. "The success of the Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive is a testament to the power of faith and community coming together. These donations will bring comfort and hope to local families and babies in need, and we are so grateful for the love and compassion that made this possible."

As these donations are distributed to families in need, the success of the Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive serves as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when a community comes together with purpose. Through their contributions, students, parents and faculty have made a lasting impact, proving that even small acts of kindness can ripple out in big ways.

PREGNANCY RESOURCE ACT TAX CREDITS

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas has been approved for the Pregnancy Resource Act Tax Credits! Contributions to our pregnancy support program will qualify for a 70% tax credit through December 31, 2024. Here's how your contributions can make a difference:

- **Counseling and Support:** Guidance and encouragement throughout the pregnancy journey.
- **Pregnancy & Infant Items:** Access to diapers, wipes, baby clothing, maternity clothing, car seats, breastfeeding supplies, formula, blankets, and more.
- **Financial Assistance:** Help with expenses related to pregnancy and preparing to bring the baby home.
- **Adoption Support:** Comprehensive support for birth mothers and adoptive

families to ensure a smooth and compassionate adoption process.

Here are a couple of details about the Pregnancy Resource Act Tax Credit:

Application Process: Complete a form with your contribution, and we'll handle the submission to the Kansas Department of Revenue on your behalf.

Carryover Option: If your credit exceeds your tax liability, the amount can carry over for up to five years.

For more details about the tax credit program, you can visit the Kansas Department of Revenue Tax Policy - Pregnancy Resource Act Tax Credit at <https://www.ksrevenue.gov/prtaxcredits-pregnancy.html>, or

reach out to Jessica Allen, Director of Development, at jallen@ccnks.org with any questions. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support mothers and babies in need!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

During this Christmas season, your generosity shines as a true blessing, bringing love, hope, and faith to those in need. Because of you, lives are touched, and our community is stronger.

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10:30 AM **KANSAS MASS FOR LIFE**
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March from TPAC to the Capitol; Rally on the Capitol steps

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• Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Chancery Closed

Jan. 2-4
• SEEK25 Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah

Jan. 20
• Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Chancery Closed

Jan. 24
• National March for Life

Jan. 26
• Holy Family Chili Feed and Bazaar, 4 p.m., Hays

Jan. 27-31
• Catholic Schools Week

Jan. 29
• Kansas March for Life

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

Western Kansas treated to lively, joyful presentation

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

More than 1,200 parishioners from the Diocese of Salina and even a couple of other states poured into the Colby Event Center on November 20 with hopes of being inspired by internationally acclaimed speaker and author Chris Stefanik.

The presentation was called “Reboot! A Life-Changing Event” – and one teenager from the Salina Diocese took it seriously from the get-go.

During the first part of his presentation that centered on joy, Stefanik said he would take the time to sign books or anything his listeners wanted signed during a break about midway through the evening.

Colton Metzler from Ellis stood patiently in line, then took off his left boot – or in this instance, his shoe – with his prosthetic leg attached and handed it to Stefanik to sign.

“This is the coolest thing I’ve ever signed in my entire life,” Stefanik said, holding up Colton’s prosthesis for the crowd to witness.

The feelings for Stefanik were mutual for Colton, who was sporting the prosthesis because of a congenital condition that prompted amputation above his ankle when he was barely a year old.

“His talk was amazing, so I thought it would be cool to have him sign my leg,” the 16-year-old high school sophomore said. “What I really

liked is that he spoke on our level. We talked about his presentation all the way home.”

Like several other parishioners, Colton traveled to the Reboot! presentation with fellow members of his youth group at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ellis.

Stefanik’s lively presentation held the crowd’s attention all night long. At one point, he jumped up on a chair in the audience to get his point across.

He mentioned the words joy and gratitude numerous times while giving out practical advice how to apply both to everyday life.

“Joy is your strength,” he said. “We’ve seen all of society turn upside down because of ingratitude. Gratitude is the key to unlock the smile on your face. God created you for joy. (Ways) of how to live your joy begins NOW!”

Committee members from Sacred Heart Parish had been advertising Reboot! since May, and they were thrilled with the outcome.

Required to sell a minimum of 500 tickets, the committee hoped to get to 1,000 by show-time.

“This surpassed all our expectations,” committee member Laura Schwarz said of the 1,200-plus final tally, “and we have been hearing nothing but positive comments about it.”

Schwarz said Fr. Brian Lager, pastor at Sacred Heart, first brought up the idea of bringing a vibrant speaker of Stefanik’s caliber to western Kansas.

“We are hearing from people that they would



COURTESY PHOTO, EMMA ELLIOTT

A crowd at the Colby Event Center watches as speaker Chris Stefanik reaches for a Sharpie to sign the prosthetic leg of Ellis teenager Colton Metzler during Stefanik’s November presentation.

like to have some kind of presentation like this as an annual event,” Schwarz said.

Colby residents Ron and Maria Baalman

showed up early to get front-row seats. Maria passed the time by flipping through a booklet from Real Life Catholic that was handed out to ticket holders as they entered the arena.

The small group “Living Joy” guide in the booklet features 10 rules to live by: give thanks, practice silence, love yourself, have fun, engage your body in the battle for joy, make friends, rest, serve, frame your mind with faith, and Jesus IS the journey.

“I’ve heard of these 10 steps before,” Maria said. “... follow them, and you can have a great life.”

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Generous support fuels #iGiveCatholic success

The spirit of generosity and stewardship continues to shine brightly in the Diocese of Salina as we celebrate the remarkable success of this year's #iGiveCatholic campaign. Held annually on Giving Tuesday—the Tuesday following Thanksgiving—this special day allows Catholics to unite and support the parishes, schools, and ministries they hold dear.

In 2024, 33 organizations across the Diocese of Salina participated, raising an impressive \$605,964. Nationally, over 1600 Catholic organizations joined forces to raise \$23.3 million. Once again, the Diocese of Salina ranked in the top 10 in the country among participating dioceses – this year at number seven among 37 dioceses with five organizations ranking in the top 75 nationally.

Comeau Catholic Campus Center in Hays ranked 27th in the nation among all participating organizations, raising \$111,430. This was a tremendous 53% increase over their 2023 campaign. Funds will support opportunities such as hosting well-known speakers, retreats like Crossroads and SEEK, bible studies led by FOCUS missionaries, student

dinner and so much more. The Comeau Catholic Campus Center team created several videos, bringing their mission to life and showcasing their vibrant ministry.

St. Andrew's Elementary School in Abilene raised over \$80,000, which will help upgrade technology and assist with general operating expenses. A generous anonymous matching gift provided significant support for their campaign. The funds raised will enable the school to purchase updated iPads for teachers and students as well as Promethean boards for classrooms.

St. John's Catholic Schools in Beloit had another successful #iGiveCatholic campaign, raising nearly \$60,000. Known for their creative fundraising efforts, this year's campaign included a talent show featuring supporters of all ages demonstrating skills ranging from athletics to cooking, wood crafting, dancing, musical skills and many more! A special highlight of the videos included a guest appearance from none other

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than Pope Francis. That's right, Pope Francis. During the campaign, a group from St. John's visiting Italy had the incredible opportunity to meet His Holiness in St. Peter's Square. Videos can be viewed on their #iGiveCatholic page - <https://salina.igivecatholic.org/organizations/st-john-high-school-and-middle-school-beloit> - be sure to check them out!

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City raised over \$50,000, a 26% increase over last year. Other participating organizations in the diocese will be using the money raised through the #iGiveCatholic campaign for renovations/remodeling, parish ministries, and overall operating expenses. Over 1000 gifts were received from over 900 donors to support these important causes.

This outpouring of generosity reflects our shared commitment to building a stronger Church and supporting the vital work being done in our communities. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year's #iGiveCatholic campaign a resounding success!

St. John's hosts Advent by Candlelight event

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Beloit, hosted nearly 250 women to kick off the Advent season with an "Advent by Candlelight" event on Sunday, December 1.

The evening featured a presentation by Mary Lenaburg, a Catholic speaker and author of the bestselling book "Be Brave in the Scared," which earned a 2020 Excellence in Publishing Award from the Association of Catholic Publishers. She has given keynotes at conferences internationally and has appeared on Catholic radio, television and podcasts.

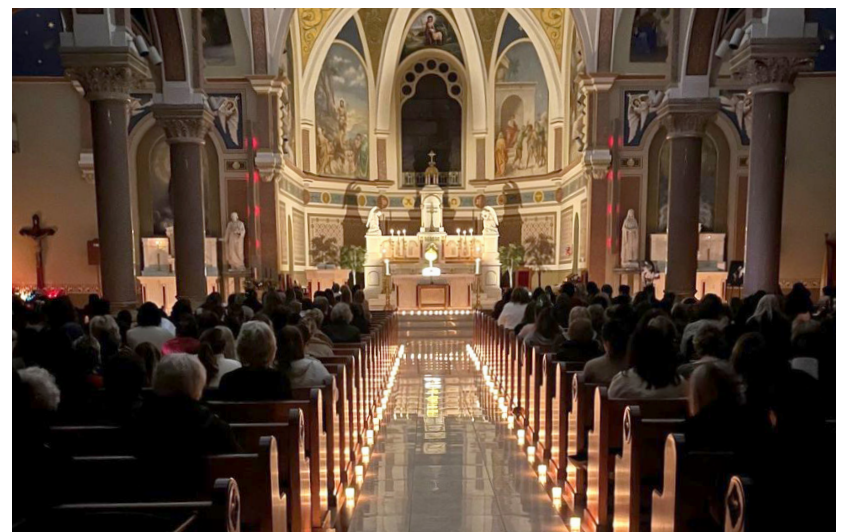
Lenaburg's talk was a reflection of her family's experience of caring for their severely disabled daughter,

Courtney, for 22 years before her passing in 2014.

"Through Courtney's life and journey, I witnessed how love transforms everything," she said. "As we embrace the call to love as God loves us, we discover the power to bring hope and light into even the darkest moments."

The evening included wonderful fellowship, delicious food, and a candlelight praise and Eucharistic Adoration time at the church with music performed by Terri Dunstan and Heather Isbell.

"Thank you to all the people who had a hand in this beautiful evening," said Carla Winkel, St. John's parishioner and attendee. "I didn't want it to end!"



COURTESY PHOTO

Attendees of the "Advent by Candlelight" event enjoy the opportunity for praise and Eucharistic Adoration with music performed by Terri Dunstan and Heather Isbell.



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COURTESY PHOTO
 Sacred Heart Parish, Atwood, hosted an Altar Servers Appreciation Day and refreshing training on November 13, 2024. Trainers were Nicholas and Amelia Bowles.



COURTESY PHOTO
 Altar server recognition on November 24, 2024, at St. Bernard, Ellsworth.



COURTESY PHOTO
 Knights of Columbus in Hill City had a memorial Mass for passed members and their widows on November 3, 2024, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



COURTESY PHOTO
 A group of Hill City CYO members from Immaculate Heart of Mary attended the convention in Salina.



COURTESY PHOTO
 St. Bernard and St. Ignatius YFF students attend Adoration on the first Wednesday of each month for the first 15 minutes of class.



COURTESY PHOTO
 Russell St. Mary's Queen of Angels 1st grade CCD class learning about preparing for the birth of Jesus and making Advent wreaths!



PHOTO COURTESY OF CYNTHIA HAYNES
 The Sacred Heart Altar Society of Oberlin held its annual Christmas Party on December 4 in the church basement. Attending were (from left) Alice Stanley President Ruth Wolfram, Pauletta Bieker, Vice President Judy Ostmeyer, Secretary Teresa Shaughnessy, Regina Stanley, Mary Gutchewsky, and Mirla Coleman. (Not pictured: Cynthia Haynes.)

Womens Spiritual Day of Reflection

"Spiritual Life and the Battle We Face: The Battle to Receive Love"

SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2025
 9am-3pm

St. Bernard Catholic Church
 911 N Kansas Ave Ellsworth KS

9:00am Mass followed by retreat
 Free Will Donation Lunch at noon

To register please contact
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 elainepeters@yahoo.com
 or call/text 785-534-0546

Sponsored by Salina Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

BAPTISMS

Sebastian Costa Ball, son of Joshua and Natalia Costa Ball, was baptized November 17, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Archie Christopher Best, son of Heath and Mackenzie Best, was baptized November 9, 2024, by Fr. Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie.

Sophia Caritas Mary Clark, daughter of Levi and Megan Clark, was baptized November 3, 2024, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Camille Louise Connolly, daughter of Ryan and Ally Connolly, was baptized November 10, 2024, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Evelyn Rose Copple, daughter of Cody and Regan (Casey) Copple, was baptized November 17, 2024, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina. Godparents are Eastin Koester and Kody Koester.

Josephine Marie Dowell, daughter of Matthew and Tynan Dowell, was baptized November 3, 2024, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Lucia Valeria Eastes, daughter of Joel and Raquel Eastes, was baptized November 30, 2024, by Dcn. Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Bennett Stephen Eck, son of Brian and Frances Eck, was baptized November 30, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Brooks Michael Eilert, son of Connor and Abbey Eilert, was baptized November 24, 2024, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Charlotte Marie Flack, daughter of Gary and Lacey Flack, was baptized November 3, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Amelia Joy Gantenbein, daughter of Levi and Katelyn Gantenbein, was baptized December 1, 2024, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Emma Catherine Gantenbein, daughter of Levi and Katelyn Gantenbein, was baptized December 1, 2024, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Cecilia Lilwynn Aurelia Heidenreich, daughter of Stephan and Brittany Heidenreich, was baptized December 1, 2024, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Ciera Dawn Kraemer, daughter of Andrew and Tina (Swingler) Kraemer, was baptized November 17, 2024, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina. Godparent is Angela Bierman.

Briar Leroy Lehmkuhl, son of Nicholas Lehmkuhl and Lexi Schamberger, was baptized November 24, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish in Russell.

Clara Marie Leiszler, daughter of David and Kristen (Kliethermes) Leiszler, was baptized November 30, 2024, by Fr. Francis Hund at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Clifton. Godparents are Mark and Lindsey (Herrs) Leiszler.

Olivia S. Marcellais, daughter of Joseph and Brianna Marcellais, was baptized December 1, 2024, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Amelia Mae Marcellais, daughter of Joseph and Brianna Marcellais, was baptized December 1, 2024, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Harrison Dean Marcellais, son of Joseph and Brianna Marcellais, was baptized December 1, 2024, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Kendal Marie Martin, daughter of Luke and Madison Martin, was baptized November 30, 2024, by Fr. Mike Leiker at SS Peter and Paul in Clay Center.

Levi Ross McNeil, son of Christopher and Melissa McNeil, was baptized November 16, 2024, by Fr. Mike Leiker at SS Peter and Paul in Clay Center.

Mya Michelle Pfeifer, daughter of Kyle and Baylee (Werth) Pfeifer, was baptized November 24, 2024, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Graham Humphrey Plante, son of Justin and Emma (Humphrey) Plante, was baptized December 1, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Clare Marie Sambets, daughter of Chandler and Megan Sambets, was baptized November 10, 2024, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Zelie Katherine Schuster, daughter of Gregory and Abigail Schuster, was baptized November 24, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Kennedy Christine Soler, daughter of Michael and LeAnn Soler, was baptized November 23, 2024, by Fr. Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Jude Fredrick Taylor, son of Andrew and Emalee (Ratliff) Taylor, was baptized November 29, 2024, by Rev. Mr. Kade Megaffin at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Alexander Santiago York-Galvez, son of Christian York and Briseida Galvez-Aguago, was baptized December 1, 2024, by Fr. Vincent John at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina. Godparents are Cesar and Lizeth Aguago.

SEND US YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT
Submit funeral, baptismal or wedding info to theregister@salinadiocese.org

Two Capuchins pass away in Hays

BROTHER JOSEPH MCGLYNN

Brother Joseph McGlynn, OFM-Cap, 81, beloved cook for St. Fidelis Friary and the Capuchin Spiritual Life Center in Victoria, Kansas, for 17 years, passed away on November 29, 2024, at HaysMed in Hays.

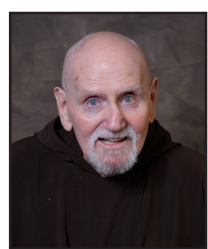
Born Dennis Gerald McGlynn in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 3, 1943, he was the son of John and Alice (McKendry) McGlynn. At 16, he began his postulancy with the Capuchins, adopting the name Joseph. He made his first profession as a Capuchin lay brother on August 22, 1961 and his lifelong commitment on August 22, 1964.

Brother Joseph initially served in domestic roles, including tailoring and cooking, for friaries in Annapolis, Maryland, and Victoria, Kansas. In 1977, he joined the newly formed Province of Mid-America and expanded his roles.

But Joseph also became a pioneer in new callings for lay brothers! He was Mid-America's first lay friar to serve (for five years) as a fraternity vicar, and then as the first to serve (for 10 years) as a guardian. Both appointments required special indults from the Holy See.

During these years, Joseph also became involved in the earliest formation efforts of the Province. He directed the pre-postulancy program 1979-86, and then the postulancy program 1986-95.

He was also a member several times of chapter steering committees, and in 1986 became the first lay member of the provincial council, serving nine years as such. Brother Joseph was a delegate to the first International Capuchin Assembly on



BR. JOSEPH MCGLYNN

Capuchin identity in Poland in 1992.

His ministry extended beyond the friaries to campus ministry at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, and to Secular Franciscan fraternities in Kansas.

Brother returned in 2007 to Victoria, and as the late Fr. Gilmary Tallman described it, to "his den, his nest, his grazing ground, his realm in the kitchen," eventually having served his brothers' culinary pleasures over 39 years of his 69 years with them. He was a great cook, one

brother stressed.

In the kitchen, Joseph also held court, listening and asking question. "Some people are problem solvers," Gilmary said. "He is a problem hearer. Some people give advice, he gives attention."

Fr. Earl Befort added, "Joe was always kind and concerned about all the brothers. After Don Debes had his stroke, Joe took great care of him. Every day when we said office, Joe would sit with him and show him where and how to find the right prayers and do so most patiently. Joe will be deeply missed."

Joseph was predeceased by his parents, his brothers John, Charles, Msgr. Daniel, and Robert, and his sister Sheila, and is survived by his brother James, sister Eileen McGarrity, and 19 nephews and nieces and their 43 children and grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was held December 5 at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. Burial in St. Fidelis Cemetery. Services were in the care of Hays Memorial Chapel Funeral Home. The full obituary can be found at www.haysmemorial.com.

FATHER FELIX PETROVSKY

Fr. Felix Rudolph Petrovsky, O.F.M. Cap., 94, senior friar of the Capuchin Province of St. Conrad, died at Via Christi Village, Hays, on Dec. 10, 2024. He had been a professed member of the Capuchin Franciscan Order for 74 years, and a Catholic priest for 69 years.

Born on May 23, 1930, in Ford City, Pa., to Rudolph P. and Marie Gertrude (Erkens) Petrovsky, Felix was part of a family with deep ties to the priesthood. Relatives included Fr. Benedict and Fr. William Erkens of Pittsburgh, Fr. Werner Erkens of Cologne, and his cousin, Fr. James F. Petrovsky of Greensburg.

After attending St. Mary's Grade School in Ford City, Rudolph began studies for the priesthood at St. Fidelis High School Seminary in Herman, Pa., in 1943, earning a bachelor's in philosophy in 1952.

Meanwhile, he entered the Capuchin Order at St. Conrad's Friary in Annapolis, Md., in 1949. He received the name Felix, and he professed vows on July 14, 1950.

Felix's training for the priesthood continued at Capuchin College in Washington, D.C., and he was ordained a priest by Bishop John M. McNamara in the crypt church of the then still-under-construction National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on June 4, 1955.

After further studies, he taught at St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays in 1957 as prefect of discipline and teacher of math and science, for 13 years.

Meanwhile, he continued studies in education, math, science, and English, assisted priests in western Kansas parishes, and from 1968 served as part-time associate pastor at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

In 1970, after the military academy

merged with a high school seminary to form Thomas More Prep, Felix left academia to focus on pastoral ministry and service to the Third Order of St. Francis, later transformed by Pope St. Paul VI into the Secular Franciscan Order, and also in other apostolates.

For 21 years (1970-78 and 1983-96), Felix was either pastor or associate pastor of Capuchin-staffed Kansas churches in Hays, Victoria, Walker, Antonino, Schoenchen, and Lawrence.

Felix began serving as director of the Franciscan Third Order in Victoria in 1970, and in 1980, when the Order had begun to direct itself, he became the province's spiritual assistant to the Secular Franciscan Order and served as such till 1983 and again from 1995 till he suffered a stroke in 2011. He was also spiritual assistant to the Our Lady of the Mountains OFS regional fraternity and various local fraternities.

Much of Father's priesthood was spent in the confessional. For 19 years it was his principle assignment.

Also known for tireless service, he was involved in numerous leadership roles and committees.

Fr. Felix was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Mary Catherine Dinga, and nephew, Frank Dinga, Jr. He is survived by five nieces: Mary Albers, Joan Lane, Madonna Reider, Loretta Kiedrowski, Yvonne Horner, their 18 children and 28 grandchildren, and many cousins and their families.

Mass of Christian Burial was held December 16 at the Basilica of St. Fidelis, Victoria. Burial in St. Fidelis Cemetery. Services were in the care of Cline's-Keithley Mortuary. The full obituary and details can be found at www.keithleyfuneralchapels.com.



FR. FELIX PETROVSKY

WEDDINGS

Martin Beikman and Kinley Mongeau were married November 30, 2024, at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Andy and Mary Beikman. Parents of the bride are Matt and Janelle Mongeau. Witnesses were Jaime Mullins and Kalli Windholz.

Derek Buessing and Jessica Herrman were married November 23, 2024, at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards, Fr. Andy Hammeke and Fr. James Shaughnessy witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are William and Sandra (Koelzer) Buessing. Parents of the bride are Troy and Tina (Brungardt) Herrman. Witnesses were John Wasinger and Maggie Baalman.

Daniel Cyre and Debra Catlin were married October 26, 2024, at St. Anthony's Church in Miltonvale. Witnesses were Matthew Cyre and Lindsey Forslund.

Grant Ginther and Elle Eilert were married November 15, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Matthew Davied witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Douglas and Melissa Ginther. Parents of the bride are Doug and Beth

Eilert. Witnesses were Kenton Ginther and Meg Malone.

Travis Del Ochs and Emily Elizabeth Ebert were married September 21, 2024, at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Don Zimmerman witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Kevin and Margo Ochs. Parents of the bride are Chris and Julie Ebert. Witnesses were Greta Nevarez and Sam and Taylor Ochs.

Ray Winkel and Darlene Sporleder were married on November 16, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are †Cecil and †Bernice Winkel. Parents of the bride are †Darrell and †Ruby McKechnie. Witnesses were Mark Winkel and Diane Kumar.

Patrick Ryan Zenk and Arica Lovette Alexander were married November 9, 2024, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Eric and Nancy Zenk. Parent of the bride is Tammy Alexander. Witnesses were Claib Harris and Charlie Harris.

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FUNERALS

Lowell Wayne Culley, 78, died October 19, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 9 at SS Peter and Paul in Clay Center. Fr. Mike Leiker presided. Burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

Evan Eugene Goltl, born April 15, 1939, died October 29, 2024, at Hays Medical Center. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 9 at St. Joseph Parish in Damar. Fr. Ernest Amoako-Opare and Fr. Henry Saw-Lone presided.

Phyllis Jean Otter, 83, died November 21, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 27 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in New Almelo. Fr. Joshua Werth, Fr. Vincent Thu Laing and Fr. Dan Scheetz presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, New Almelo.

Virgil J. Pfannenstiel, 89, died November 10, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 14 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Fr. Damian Richards and Fr. Curtis Carlson, OFM Cap. presided. Burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Munjor.

Steven Prockish, 76, died August 28, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 8 at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan. Dcn. Larry Erpelding presided. Interment at St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery, Wamego.

Shirley Ann Racette died October 8, 2024. Mass of Christian Memorial was celebrated October 25 at

St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde. Fr. Steven Heina presided. Burial in Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clyde.

Ilene Marie Ross, 88, of Lincoln, NE, died October 25, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 16 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde, KS. Fr. Steven Heina presided. Burial in Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clyde.

Nora Anne Sylvester, 3, died October 27, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 9 at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt presided. Inurnment at a later date.



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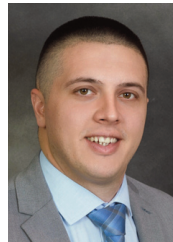
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Adoration Corner

To celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope, The Register will be sharing a reflection, resource or story about adoration each month. You're invited to read the reflection below and ponder how during the Christmas season, we see the small Christ child and desire to adore Him. Please consider taking the opportunity this season to visit and adore Christ, present in the Eucharist.

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

As I sit in front of a tiny white Host, I am reminded of the beauty of things that are veiled. With Christmas upon us, the thought of an eternal, omnipotent God coming to us as a little baby is one of those veils that readily comes to my mind. I think, too, about Christmas celebrations, candy stuffed into warm



woven stockings and wrapping-covered gifts under prickly pine trees. A veil allows the opportunity for mystery, and with mystery comes wonder and awe and questioning and wrestling.

As I sit in front of a tiny white Host, I am face to face with a veil that fools my eyes, but captivates my soul. In the silence of adoration, my soul bathes in a mystery of love that goes beyond words. My creator and I, present in the same moment, the same space. A sacred silence where my mind can gnaw on beautiful, curious mysteries alongside the One who can walk any road, no matter what bush or thorn lies in the path.

As I sit in front of a tiny white Host, I cry out, and am cradled in quiet majesty, like a babe being lifted in its mother's arms. Sitting in front of this veiled mystery, there is peace in my littleness. In every dark, scary night, I cry out, and am gently soothed back into sweetest dreams.

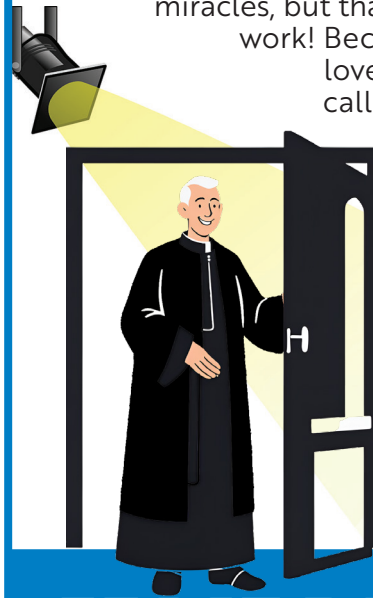
SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS

St. André Bessette was a humble man from Canada, and he had a really big heart for God. Young André had a hard time with school because he was often sick and weak. But he was very kind and worked hard. He wanted to help people, so he joined the Congregation of Holy Cross.

He was given the job of being a doorkeeper at a school. Every day, he welcomed visitors with a big smile and kindness. Soon, people noticed he had a gift for making them feel better and helping them with their problems. André loved St. Joseph and would pray for anyone who was sick or sad, and many people felt better after his prayers.

News about his kindness and prayers spread quickly, and more and more people came to ask him to pray for them.

André always said he wasn't the one performing the miracles, but that St. Joseph and God were doing the work! Because he helped so many people feel loved and gave them great hope, he was called the "Miracle Man of Montreal." He even helped build a church for St. Joseph, which people still visit today.



ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE
"THE MIRACLE MAN OF MONTREAL"

FEAST DAY: JANUARY 6

A beautiful gift we were not expecting

My wife and I were married on December 27, 2008. It was a Saturday evening, and before we headed out on our honeymoon, we needed to go to Mass that Sunday. One of the priests at our wedding stayed in the same hotel as us that evening. He graciously offered to have a Mass for us and our families that Sunday morning at the hotel. We had been so busy with wedding things we didn't realize until that morning that our first Mass together as a new family would be with the families that raised us on the Feast of the Holy Family. That Mass will always be a beautiful memory in my heart.

BILL Meagher
 DIOCESE OF SALINA



The Feast of the Holy Family is a beautiful reminder that God has given us the ultimate example of what family life can and should be. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph weren't just the Holy Family in name but lived out the virtues every family is called to embody. They also remain with us, ready to pray for our families, offering strength and hope for today's challenges.

Saint Joseph, though often silent in Scripture, speaks volumes through his actions and is a model of fatherhood—strong yet gentle, humble yet courageous. He protected Mary and Jesus with unwavering dedication, even in moments of uncertainty, like fleeing to Egypt to keep them safe. Fathers today can look to Joseph as a guide for leading their families with love, providing physical safety and spiritual direction.

Mary, too, is a perfect example of a mother and a disciple of Christ. Her openness to God's will—seen in her "yes" at the Annunciation—shows us how to trust God's plan. Mary nurtured Jesus with tenderness and unwavering faith as a mother, just as she nurtures us today as our mother.

One of our greatest responsibilities as parents is to pray for our children. When children are young and under our care, we pray for their growth, health, protection and faith. But prayer doesn't stop when they grow up and move out. Adult children will face many challenges—some that we may never see—and our prayers remain a powerful way to cover them in God's graces.

Today, families face tremendous pressures from a culture that seeks to undermine their unity and holiness. Satan knows the family is foundational to God's plan, and he attacks

it relentlessly. That's why praying for all families is more important than ever. By asking the Holy Family to intercede for us, we call upon their prayers and strength to bring healing, love, and faith to homes worldwide.

The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that our families are sacred spaces where love, faith, and joy can thrive. This year, the Feast of the Holy Family is on Sunday, December 29. Jesus, Mary and Joseph—Pray For Us!



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

✂️ Cut this out and pray with your family!