



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

JAN. 24, 2025

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

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Students SEEK Christ at Catholic Conference



COURTESY PHOTO

Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt and Fr. Trevor Buster accompanied a group of students from St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center to Salt Lake City, Utah, at the start of January for the annual SEEK conference. Although the students faced adverse weather on the way back, they returned safe and excited to grow in their faith.

BY LORI LEISZLER
THE REGISTER

Thousands of college students from around the country kicked off the new year by seeking an encounter with Christ at the annual SEEK conference. From January 1-5, Catholics gathered to experience Christ's love and reflect on the question: What am I truly seeking?

This year, the SEEK conference, organized by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), expanded its reach with events held simultaneously in Salt Lake City, Utah; Washington, D.C.; and Cologne, Germany,

marking a new chapter in its mission to bring young adults closer to their faith.

SEEK offers attendees opportunities for community-building, spiritual growth and faith formation through impactful talks, resources and prayer experiences.

This year's conference drew more than 21,000 attendees across its three locations. In Salt Lake City, SEEK featured inspiring talks by speakers like Fr. Mike Schmitz, Bishop Andrew Cozzens and Fr. Robert Spitzer.

Between talks, participants explored Mission Way—a vibrant hub where Catholic merchandise was showcased,

connections were made and attendees could occasionally spot well-known Catholic figures, including famous priests and nuns, mingling among the crowd.

St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan sent a group of college students to the Salt Lake City event, where they encountered a powerful sense of hope and community.

"My favorite talk was from Paul J. Kim," shared student Joshua Juene-mann, who was attending SEEK for a second time. "My main takeaway was that there's hope for me."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Don't lose hope, pope says as he opens Holy Door at Rome prison

BY CINDY WOODEN,
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME (CNS) — Wearing red vestments for the feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, Pope Francis knocked on the door of the church in Rome's Rebibbia prison complex and walked over its threshold.

After reciting a formal prayer before opening the prison's Holy Door Dec. 26, the pope took the microphone back to explain that he had inaugurated the Holy Year 2025 by opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica.

"I wanted the second Holy Door to be the one here, at a prison," he said. "I wanted all of us, inside or out, to have an opportunity to throw open the doors of our hearts and understand that hope does not disappoint."

Members of the penitentiary

police band played the official hymn of the Holy Year 2025 when the pope arrived, while about 300 people waited inside the church; they included just over 100 women and men serving time at Rebibbia, some of their family members, volunteers, prison staff, Rome Mayor Roberto Gualtieri and officials of the Italian justice department.

The door of the prison's Church of Our Father was decorated with a pine garland with white roses and silver-tinted pinecones. Inside the church, a manger with the baby Jesus sat in front of the altar. The inmates, with the help of volunteers, provided the music while a prisoner and a female guard did the readings.

The prayers of the faithful included a petition for governments to focus on rehabilitating



COURTESY PHOTO, CNS/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis knocks on the Holy Door of the Church of Our Father at Rome's Rebibbia prison Dec. 26, 2024, before opening it and presiding over a Mass with inmates, prison staff and Italian government officials.

and assisting all people, especially those who have made mistakes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

A campaign for peace

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

God loves us first. He desires to spend time with us, to heal us, and to bring peace to our heavy-laden hearts.

I am convinced that Eucharistic Adoration of Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, is the means to bringing peace to our hearts and our world. With this conviction, I invite you to join me as we launch a unique spiritual campaign in 2025 for our Diocese, entitled “Adoration for Peace.”

The goal of this campaign is to establish and grow consistent, weekly opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration in each of our 86 parishes. Through this effort, we hope to draw closer to Christ and bring His peace into our hearts, our families, and our world.

As we recently celebrated the Baptism of the Lord, we were reminded of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove. Similarly, at our own baptism, God’s presence came to dwell within us. How much would our lives change if we lived with a constant awareness of this divine presence? Jesus was always deeply conscious of His Father’s presence, yet He still set aside time to pray. We, as His disciples, are called to follow His example. Recall Jesus’ words to Peter: “Could you not stay with me for one hour?”

Jesus invites us to pray for peace in our world, our country, and our

families. Do you long for peace in your family? Spend time praying in Adoration. While we may not be able to travel to Ukraine, the Middle East, or Africa to proclaim peace, we can intercede through prayer, trusting that God hears and responds.

This initiative of Adoration for Peace comes at a time when the Church in the United States is promoting a revival of faith. The

Eucharistic Revival’s primary goal is to inspire the Church through a renewed encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist. This revival emphasizes the profound connection

between encountering Jesus in the Eucharist and living out our mission to bring His peace to the world.

It was this revival that inspired our Diocese to host our own Eucharistic Conference this past summer in Hays. With over 1,000 attendees, the conference proved to be a profound spiritual event that deepened many people’s faith. Building on that momentum, we have another Eucharistic Conference scheduled for August 9-10, 2025.

When we encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, we encounter the one who is love. This encounter transforms us and teaches us how to love. From this love flows mission. Adoration leads us to become disciples on a mission, bringing hope to those without hope and peace to those in need.

Please join me in this exciting endeavor. Together, through Eucharistic Adoration, we can draw closer to Christ and be His instruments of peace and hope in our world.

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



BISHOP’S CALENDAR

February

- 2** Confirmation, St. Thomas More, Manhattan, 5 p.m.
- 4** Light of Christ, Campus Ministry at Wichita State University, 7 p.m.
- 9** Confirmation, Christ the King, WaKeeney, 10:30 a.m.
- 12** Confirmation, Clifton/Clyde at Clyde, 7 p.m.
- 13** Baptisms and Confirmation, Norton Prison, 5:30 p.m.
- 14** Catholic Charities Ribbon Cutting, Hays, 9 a.m.
- 17-20** Clergy Renewal Days, SLC, Wichita.

UNA CAMPAÑA POR LA PAZ

“Vengan a mí todos los que están cansados y agobiados, y yo les daré descanso. Tomen mi yugo sobre ustedes y aprendan de mí, que soy manso y humilde de corazón, y encontrarán descanso para sus almas. Porque mi yugo es suave y mi carga es liviana.” Mateo 11:28-30

Dios nos ama primero. Él desea pasar tiempo con nosotros, sanarnos y traer paz a nuestros corazones agobiados.

Estoy convencido de que la Adoración Eucarística de Jesús, verdaderamente presente en el Santísimo Sacramento, es el medio para traer paz a nuestros corazones y a nuestro mundo. Con esta convicción, los invito a unirse a mí mientras lanzamos una campaña espiritual única en 2025 para nuestra Diócesis, titulada “Adoración por la Paz”.

El objetivo de esta campaña es establecer y hacer crecer oportunidades consistentes y semanales para la Adoración Eucarística en cada una de nuestras 86 parroquias. A través de este esfuerzo, esperamos acercarnos más a Cristo y traer Su paz a nuestros corazones, nuestras familias y nuestro mundo.

Al celebrar recientemente

el Bautismo del Señor, se nos recordó al Espíritu Santo descendiendo sobre Jesús como una paloma. De manera similar, en nuestro propio bautismo, la presencia de Dios vino a morar dentro de nosotros. ¿Cuánto cambiarían nuestras vidas si viviéramos con una conciencia constante de esta presencia divina? Jesús siempre fue profundamente consciente de la presencia de Su Padre, aun así, dedicó tiempo para orar. Nosotros, como Sus discípulos, estamos llamados a seguir Su ejemplo. Recuerden las palabras de Jesús a Pedro: “¿No pudiste velar conmigo una hora?”

Jesús nos invita a orar por la paz en nuestro mundo, nuestro país y nuestras familias. ¿Anhelas paz en tu familia? Pasa tiempo orando en Adoración. Aunque no podamos viajar a Ucrania, Medio Oriente o África para proclamar la paz, podemos interceder a través de la oración, confiando en que Dios escucha y responde.

Esta iniciativa de Adoración por la Paz llega en un momento en que la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos está promoviendo un avivamiento de la fe.

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 7

FAMILY PRAYER



Prayer for Love and Unity in the Family

Heavenly Father, We thank You for the gift of our family and the love that unites us. Teach us to love as You love—selflessly, generously, and with open hearts. May we reflect Your kindness and patience in our words and actions so that our home becomes a place of peace and joy.

Help us to grow closer to You and to one another through prayer, sacrifice, and acts of charity. Fill our hearts with Your grace and guide us in Your ways. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Cut this out and pray with your family!

FEBRUARY 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:

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ’s mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Diocesan intentions:

Lord, we ask you to bless the 2025 Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Salina. May it inspire renewal, unity, and deeper faith. May Mary’s intercession and witness guide us to grow in holiness and share Your love with others.

OFFICIAL PRIEST ASSIGNMENT CHANGES

Effective Dec. 4, 2024:

Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt: Released from assignment as Pastor Designate of Manhattan Catholic Schools in Manhattan, Kansas.

Fr. Leo Blasi: Appointed as Pastor Designate of Manhattan Catholic Schools in Manhattan, Kansas, while maintaining other canonical appointments in the Diocese of Salina.

Adoration coordinators gather to discuss Adoration for Peace diocesan spiritual campaign

By LORI LEISZLER
THE REGISTER

On January 9, groups of devout Catholics gathered in Hays and Salina to discuss initiating a spiritual campaign called Adoration for Peace 2025. The campaign aims to foster a deeper love for Christ in the Eucharist across all 86 parishes of the Salina Diocese. Spearheaded by Bishop Vincke and the diocesan office of evangelization, the effort seeks to expand or establish Eucharistic Adoration in every parish.

Each parish will develop its own unique Adoration plan, tailored to its schedule and community needs, with a volunteer-called an adoration coordinator—helping organize their parish's efforts.

To support the adoration coordinators, Andrew Niewald, president of the Adoratio Foundation and a parishioner at St. John's in Beloit, organized a lunch in Hays and a dinner in Salina to share information and resources to get started.

Niewald shared sobering statistics with those adoration

coordinators about the state of adoration in the diocese.

"Over half of the parishes in our diocese don't offer adoration to their parishioners," he said. "And of the roughly 28,000 Catholic adults in our diocese, 93 percent do not participate in adoration on any level."

Niewald emphasized the transformative power of adoration, calling it the "cheapest, most consistent, most effective form of outward Evangelization the Church offers."

Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt, Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of

Salina, also spoke at the coordinator gatherings, encouraging participants to invite people to adoration.

"It's not so hard to just simply say, 'Hey, you want to come and sit in silence with me?'" he said. "We all crave that silence in this crazy, busy world. And so this is going to be our goal. That's what we're seeking to do: to allow every single human being within our diocese, especially the Catholics, but also our friends who aren't Catholic, to encounter the

Lord in adoration."

The campaign's official launch is set for Ash Wednesday, March 5. After this date, parishioners may expect their coordinators or priests to invite them to commit to an hour of adoration.

Many of these increases in adoration hours are planned to take effect in June, aligning with the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Towards the end of the gatherings, Fr. Gale shared his personal journey of discovering adoration in his younger years before becoming a priest, and about the persistence of a woman from his parish in encouraging him to try taking an hour at St. Joseph's Adoration Chapel in Manhattan.

"I had never done adoration, prayed in adoration. And so I said, 'Come talk to me about it another time. You know, I'm quite busy.' A month later, she did... she came back next month, and then the month following," Fr. Gale re-



COURTESY PHOTO, LONDON EILERT

Andrew Niewald shares ideas for involvement with adoration coordinators at a lunch in Hays on Jan. 9.



called.

"Much like in the scriptures with the annoying woman at the door of the unjust judge, knocking, knocking, knocking, trying to get a just judgment. Eventually, I thought, 'I'm just going to take one of these hours of adoration, whatever they are, just to get this woman off my back.' ... So I started going to adoration ... and praying before the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist changed my life."

Fr. Gale's regular adoration hour at St. Joseph's Chapel profoundly transformed his faith, and he encouraged the coordinators to share similar invitations within their parishes, so that everyone can come to encounter Christ in the Eucharist.



Pope looks back on his life, urges people to look to future with hope

By CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- While calling himself an "old man" and saying he never expected to be pope this long, Pope Francis said he still has dreams for the future.

"We must not stumble upon tomorrow, we must build it, and we all have the responsibility to do so in a way that responds to the project of God, which is none other than the happiness of mankind, the centrality of mankind, without excluding anyone," the 88-year-old pope wrote in his autobiography.

"Hope: The Autobiography" was written with the Italian editor Carlo Musso beginning in 2019. The book was released Jan.

14 in its original Italian and in 17 other languages in about 100 countries. Random House published the book in the United States, and Penguin Random House Canada released it in Canada.

The original plan, Musso said, was for the book to be released after Pope Francis' death. But Mondadori, the Italian publisher coordinating the release, said the pope decided in August that it should be published at the beginning of the Holy Year 2025, which has hope as its central theme.

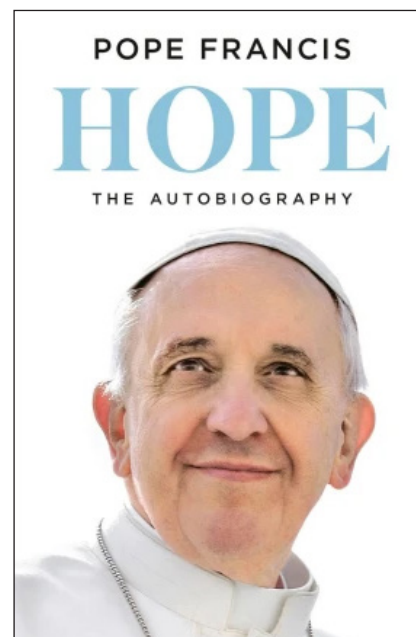
In several chapters of the book, Pope Francis directly addresses readers, including when he quotes St. John Paul II's words during the Jubilee 2000: "Do not

be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ!"

"If one day you are overcome by fears and worries," he told readers, "think of that episode in the Gospel of John, at the marriage at Cana (John 2:1-12), and say to yourselves: The best wine has yet to be served."

"Be sure of it: The deepest, happiest, most beautiful reality for us, for those we love, has yet to come," he continued. "Even if some statistic tells you the opposite, even if tiredness weakens your powers, never lose this hope that cannot be beaten."

Much of the book contains familiar stories of Pope Francis' past, his childhood and relationship with his grandmother Rosa,



COURTESY PHOTO, CNS/PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

his vocation and ministry as a Jesuit, his service as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and his election as pope in 2013.

The book can be purchased at penguinrandomhouse.com, and an extended version of this story can be found online at uscbb.org.



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Change of address?

Please contact us, letting us know what information needs updated.

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Hope in Action: Join the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal and transform lives across our diocese

Each year, the faithful from across our diocese are given a unique opportunity to unite as a diocese and make an impact far greater than any one person or parish could achieve on their own. Through gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share you can help bring His hope to life and join us as disciples of Jesus on mission.

The 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share kicks off on February 9th and 10th. This year's appeal carries the same powerful theme "Hope Does Not Disappoint" as the Year of Jubilee – a beautiful partnership in purpose and timing. The Bishop's Annual Appeal is an opportunity for us to put that hope into action by supporting the many ministries and programs that serve our diocese.

· Youth: Programs like Totus Tuus, Prayer and Action, Jr. CYO Camp, CYO Convention, and parish religious education inspire thousands of young people each year to grow in their faith.

· Faith community: Diocesan events like the Eucharistic Conference bring people

together to deepen their connection with Christ and one another.

· Sacraments: Your generosity supports the sacred moments that mark our faith journeys, from baptism to matrimony and beyond.

· Clergy: You help form and educate our 14 seminarians, provide ongoing support for our active clergy, and care for the priests who have dedicated their lives to serving us.

These are just a few examples of the ministries and programs made possible through the appeal. I invite you to take a few moments to read through the Bishop's Annual Appeal issue of faith magazine, arriving in your mailbox soon, to learn more about the impactful work your support helps to accomplish.

There is no better time to be a pilgrim of hope here in our diocese than now. Through your generosity, we can continue to transform lives and share the hope of Christ

CORRINA Hudsonpillar

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

CORRINA HUDSONPILLAR IS DONOR ADVISOR AT CATHOLIC FOUNDATION FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA.



DID YOU KNOW?

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps support vital programs and ministries within our diocese.

Give today via the QR code or at join.salinadiocese.org.



throughout our diocese. How to make a gift to support the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal:

- Online at bit.ly/BAA2025
- By check to: Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina, PO Box 1696, Salina KS 67402-1696
- Gifts of stocks, bonds or grain
- Recommend a grant from your donor-advised fund
- Direct a distribution from your retirement account

If you have any questions, please contact the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina: Heather Hartman (heather.hartman@salinadiocese.org), Corrina Hudsonpillar (corrina.hudsonpillar@salinadiocese.org) or call 785-827-7246.

"Hope DOES NOT disappoint."



Reflecting on the universal call to share hope

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

2025 has been officially declared a Year of Jubilee, and Pope Francis has called us to be "Pilgrims of Hope." This Jubilee Year is a time of great significance, inviting us to reflect on forgiveness, reconciliation and the renewal of our spiritual lives. It's an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Christ, share His love with others and become instruments of His hope in our world.

In the coming weeks, you will receive a letter from me about supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share. The Bishop's Annual Appeal is a tangible way to embody this hope and bring it to life in the Diocese of Salina. I want to thank everyone for your past sacrificial gifts to our Appeal and encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting this year's effort as well.

I was blessed to visit many of our parishes and encounter the faithful throughout the diocese this past year. These moments – whether in times of joy and celebration or hardship and sorrow – remind me of the deep kindness, faith and love that binds us together

as a diocesan family. If you've heard any of my homilies on these travels, you know how much I love this diocese, and I truly believe that we are one family, united on this journey with Jesus.

I am deeply grateful for the many blessings we have shared this past year and the opportunities I've had to connect with people from every corner of our diocese. Celebrating my 25th anniversary as a priest with so many of you was a humbling and joyous experience. The inspiring support shown for our 14 seminarians at our annual seminarian fundraising continues to ignite hope for more vocations in our diocese. I have also cherished the countless hours spent traveling to confirmations, where I've met many wonderful people and been inspired by their unique faith journeys.

Among the many highlights of the past year was hosting our first diocesan Eucharistic Conference – which brought together over 1,000 faithful from across our diocese and

beyond. It was such a success that we are holding another one in 2025, and I look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit continues to work in and through our diocese.

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, I invite you to reflect on how God is calling you to share His hope with others. Together, as disciples of Jesus on mission, we can bring His light into our communities and inspire others to live as Christ has called us to live. Please join me in supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share 2025.

Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity and love for our diocese.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

Most Reverend Gerald L. Vincke
Bishop of Salina

GERALD Vincke

BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE





2025-2026 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 1
VISIT: [GIVECFDS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://givecfds.org/scholarships)

Have questions while applying? Contact Torrie at torrie.gregg@salinadiocese.org or 785-827-8746



SCAN HERE TO APPLY



The Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina serves in many capacities, including managing endowment funds and investment savings accounts, some of which are dedicated to scholarships. We are excited to announce the availability of three scholarships for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.

MONSIGNOR CLEMENT A. KRUSE SCHOLARSHIP

The Monsignor Clement A. Kruse Scholarship honors his legacy of service to the Diocese of Salina, where he faithfully ministered in numerous parishes from his ordination in 1941 until his passing in 2006 at age 90. To qualify, the following must apply:

- ✓ Active registered member of a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Salina.

SUSIE DEGES SCHOLARSHIP

The Susie Deges Memorial Scholarship honors Susie Deges, a young leader in CYO whose life ended tragically before high school graduation. Established through an outpouring of support, the scholarship helps young Catholics pursue their educational dreams. To qualify, the following must apply:

- ✓ Active registered member of a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Salina.
- ✓ Active within their parish CYO group.

MARYMOUNT MEMORIAL TRUST SCHOLARSHIP

Marymount College, operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, opened in 1922 as a women's liberal arts college in Salina and became coeducational in 1968. After its closure in 1989, its scholarship expanded to support students attending any accredited Catholic college. To qualify, the following must apply:

- ✓ Active registered member of a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Salina.
- ✓ Attending a Catholic college as a full-time undergraduate student.

7 STEPS FOR CATHOLIC ESTATE PLANNING



Planning for the future is an act of faith and stewardship, ensuring that the blessings God has entrusted to us are used to support our loved ones and further His work. Catholic estate planning is a thoughtful way to align your legacy with your values, caring for your family while also making a lasting impact on your parish, community, and the Church. These seven steps will guide you in creating a plan that reflects your faith and provides hope for generations to come.

1 Determine the Priorities of your Estate Plan.

What do you want? Do you want a steady income for life to provide for yourself, your spouse, and your dependent children? Do you want to fund a particular parish, ministry, or Catholic school? Do you want to ensure the transfer of belongings and assets to family and friends? Any specific ministry or organization you want to bless? Perhaps all of the above?

2 Organize your Financial Records.

Gather and keep information on your employment data, bank accounts, insurance records, investment data, tax returns, wills, deeds, titles to property, etc. Keep them in a safe and accessible place – and make sure someone knows where they are being kept.

3 Educate Yourself.

Read articles, listen to podcasts, read books, and attend local estate planning seminars. There are many free resources to discover new and better ways to take care of all God has entrusted to you.

Choose your Advisors.

Gather your team of trusted professionals including an estate planning attorney, accountant, financial advisor, and insurance agent. Don't forget your priest or local parish administrator who can assist with discussing options reflecting Catholic values.

4

Preserve your Estate.

Review all the options for increasing, preserving, and transferring the assets of your estate. Consider tax-advantage vehicles that may be available to you. Many gift tools can be used to create income, receive tax deductions, and transfer assets.

5

Formulate a Plan & Put it in Action.

One way or another, everyone will have an estate plan when they pass away. You can either write it yourself – or the state will determine your plan for you based on the law. Having a plan in place is the only way you can distribute your assets according to your wishes.

6

Review & Revise your Plans & Documents Regularly.

Get in the habit of reviewing your plans and documents regularly, especially after any major changes occur in your life. Examples of this can be due to a birth/death, marriage/divorce, change in giving priorities, change in assets, or moving to another state.

7

Want to learn more about creating your Catholic legacy? Contact Heather Hartman or Corrina Hudsonpillar at the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina at development@salinadiocese.org or 785-827-7246.

Finance show airing on Divine Mercy Radio

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Ethan Lang shied away from the idea when first asked to do a faith-based show about finance on Divine Mercy Radio, a non-profit Catholic radio format serving central and western Kansas.

Lang – founder of Launch Wealth, a financial planning firm in Hays – thought he needed someone with whom to bounce ideas off of if he was going to tackle such a project as a radio show. And at the time, he was just starting his own business while still attending college at Fort Hays State University.

By the time he graduated, he had found that comrade in Cody Marintzer, catechetical director at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays.

“I didn’t want to just be just talking myself, thought I needed someone to have a conversation with,” Lang said. “I thought of Cody because he has a love for Divine Mercy Radio, a lot of people know him, and a lot of people like listening to him. He was a great fit.”

And so, the show Faith-Driven Finance was born.

The duo shows up at Divine Mercy studio about twice a month to record two or three segments at a time. The show airs each week at 11 a.m. Wednesday and at 10 a.m. Saturday on Divine Mercy at 105.7 FM.

It also can be heard on other FM stations at 107.7, Hays; 101.78, Salina; and 89.1, Colby; and also can be found on all major podcasts.

As they get settled into their chairs in the studio, Lang gives Marintzer two or three topics for them to approach for that particular segment.

“We have a really awesome intersection of topics,” Lang said. “Some are really faith based and how we think about money as Catholics. We want to help the people who historically think of money as evil and show them that it’s not. It’s a tool that God has given us.”

“There are other episodes that are very, very deep,” he continued. “Then, some of our episodes are about financial topics that have no morality to them but are



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, THE REGISTER

Ethan Lang, left, discusses finance and other topics with Cody Marintzer during episodes of Faith-Driven Finance at Divine Mercy Radio in Hays.

still important to know.”

From the get-go, the episodes are more of a conversation than a broadcast.

“This is great,” Marintzer said. “I get to ask Ethan questions, ones I am curious about myself, and it helps us to gel well. He has great knowledge on the wealth side. As a person who is an inceptor, I can ask him questions on the fly that are interesting to me.”

Lang stressed that while money isn’t everything in life, we need to be diligent with what we have.

“People are very emotional with money,” Lang said. “From personal experience, I see that people who are steadfast in their faith have a little more structure to lean on. Trust in the Lord to make better financial decisions.”

He said that going forward, they have ideas of

possibly expanding the show to other stations to stress how important the intersection of faith and finance is.

“I think the show is so important,” he said. “By no means are we forcing a specific doctrine on someone. It’s really just a conversation, getting people to think about managing money.”

TUESDAYS WITH THE DIOCESE: ADULT FORMATION AT NO COST

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

February 18:

The Lord’s Day.
Presenter: Fr. Ted Skalsky.

Event includes reflections on how we keep the Lord’s Day holy.

March 4:

The Synod is done. Are we done with Synodality?

Presenter: Fr. Robert Schremmer and guests. You are invited to join Bishop Jerry Vincke, Fr. Frank Coady and Georgina Paz as they share why

they are excited about synodality - that thing going on in our Church.

Fr. Bob Schremmer will moderate the conversation as a bishop, pastor and lay leader discuss a beginning of a long-term commitment of the Church in western Kansas to listen, accompany, and grow together in faith.

March 25:

Second Vatican Council - The Universal Call of Holiness.

Presenter: Fr. Frank Coady. Vatican II pointed out that all baptized people are called to holiness of life, not just clerics and vowed religious. How do the laity live that out, in prayer and in practice?

Sunday of the Word of God Jan. 26, 2025

Pope Francis established this special day in 2019 as an invitation for all Catholics to deepen their love for the Word of God through study, prayer, and reflection. As Pope Francis reminds us, “The Bible is not meant to be placed on a shelf but to be in your hands, to read often—every day, both on your own and together with others.”

RUNNIN’ REVS



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Participants in the Runnin’ Revs game Dec. 27 at Sacred Heart High School in Salina. This year’s winners were the Revs. This free event is held annually to support Salina Diocese seminarians and raise awareness for vocations.

Divine
Mercy
RADIO

Along I-70

KGOH 89.1, Colby
Colorado border to Quinter

KMDG 105.7, Hays
Quinter to Ellsworth

KJDM 101.7 Lindsborg/Salina
Ellsworth to Junction City

Other Stations

KRTT 88.1 Great Bend
and
KVDM 88.1 Hays (Classics)

Looking inward with grace and outward with love

As St. Augustine says, the greatest desire of the human heart is to look into the eyes of another and have a loving gaze returned.

Last June, The Register began a segment titled "On Mission," featuring ordinary people doing extraordinary works in our diocese. Each month, readers have been invited to read someone's story and then reflect on how they can also complete spiritual and corporal works of mercy in their own lives.

This month's work of mercy is a spiritual work of mercy—Rebuke the Sinner. And instead of focusing on a person doing the rebuking, I'd like to reflect on the sinner, which at times is each of us.

When I hear the phrase "rebuke the sinner," I don't immediately picture a loving gaze. Instead, my mind conjures an image of an angry Captain Hook from Peter Pan—pointing furiously, ready to lash out.

Perhaps you can relate to this feeling of being accused, as though a harsh spotlight has suddenly been cast on your flaws.

But rebuking, when done in the spirit of Christ, should not be an act of aggression or self-righteousness. Instead, it is an act of profound love, seeking the good of the other.

Consider the role of a parent correcting a child. A toddler who reaches for a hot stove-top may not understand why they're being stopped and might even feel unloved at that moment. But the parent knows better—the correction is an act of love meant to protect and guide.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to extend this same loving correction to one another—not with judgment, but with charity and humility. It is an act of genuine care to guide a friend or loved

LORI Leiszler
EDITOR OF THE REGISTER



one back to the path of righteousness. And while it is never easy to have tough conversations, they are often the deepest expressions of love.

Of course, before we can guide others, we must first examine our own hearts.

We must summon the courage to rebuke the sinner within ourselves.

One of the greatest blessings of being Catholic is the gift of confession, also called reconciliation. In this sacrament, we recognize the choices that have drawn us away from God and seek His mercy. The

word reconciliation comes from the Latin "cilia," meaning eyelash. True reconciliation enables us to look eyelash to eyelash with those we've wronged—and with God Himself.

This tender image of closeness and mercy aligns far better with St. Augustine's vision of our deepest human desire: to look into the eyes of another and have a loving gaze returned.

January often inspires us to set new goals. This year, I invite you to make holiness part of those goals. Consider daily prayer, regular Adoration, confession, or small acts of kindness as ways to grow closer to God.

And if you feel like your New Year's resolutions are already faltering, take heart—there's always another chance to start fresh. February 2, the feast of the Presentation (Candlemas), is a beautiful opportunity to recommit. It celebrates Christ as the light of the world, and it can inspire us to reflect on how we can better shine His light in our own lives.

Attached to this article you'll find a shortened examination of conscience from the USCCB. A prayerful review of it can help guide us in correcting the ways we've strayed and help us lovingly rebuke the

sinner within ourselves.

Rebuking the sinner, whether it's someone we love or ourselves, is never easy. True love seeks what is best for the other, even when it's hard—but it often takes even greater courage to first admit when we ourselves are wrong. Before we point fingers, we must look inward with humility, asking for God's grace to correct our own hearts. Let us turn our gaze to our Creator, who looks upon us with a loving gaze, and may we, in turn, reflect that love as we guide one another back to Him.

A BRIEF EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Christ's Two Commandments

How well do we love God and others? Do we love as Christ calls us to? In the Gospel of Matthew, Christ gives us Two Commandments: "He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments'" (Mt 22:37-40).

Not sure what love is? St. Paul describes it for us in his Letter to the Corinthians. Is this how you love God and others? "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quicktempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1 Cor 13:4-8).

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TOGETHER
LET US BE DISCIPLES
OF JESUS ON MISSION

UNA CAMPAÑA POR LA PAZ, VIENE DE LA PÁGINA 2

El objetivo principal del Avivamiento Eucarístico es inspirar a la Iglesia a través de un encuentro renovado con Jesús en la Eucaristía. Este avivamiento enfatiza la profunda conexión entre encontrar a Jesús en la Eucaristía y vivir nuestra misión de llevar Su paz al mundo.

Fue este avivamiento lo que inspiró a nuestra Diócesis a organizar nuestra propia Conferencia Eucarística el pasado verano en Hays. Con más de 1,000 asistentes, la conferencia resultó ser un evento espiritual profundo que fortaleció la fe de muchas personas. Aprovechando ese impulso, tenemos otra Conferencia Eucarística

programada para el 9 y 10 de agosto de 2025.

Cuando nos encontramos con Jesús en la Eucaristía, nos encontramos con Aquel que es amor. Este encuentro nos transforma y nos enseña cómo amar. De este amor fluye la misión. La Adoración nos lleva a convertirnos en discípulos en misión, llevando esperanza a los que no tienen esperanza y paz a los que la necesitan.

Por favor, únanse a mí en este emocionante esfuerzo. Juntos, a través de la Adoración Eucarística,

podemos acercarnos más a Cristo y ser Sus instrumentos de paz y esperanza en nuestro mundo.

SEEK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"All the saints have rough lives, but they stuck with the faith when it mattered," Juenemann said.

Hope was a recurring theme that Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt, pastor at St. Isidore's, also picked up on.

"It was exciting to hear many people talking about hope and the Jubilee Year in the Church," he said, "especially with the work that we've been doing here in our own diocese to focus on the Year of Hope."

While the conference was uplifting, the journey home proved to be an adventure. The group's return trip to Kansas was impacted by a winter snowstorm.

The group departed Salt Lake City and arrived in Denver, Colorado, at 3:30 a.m. to catch a few hours of sleep. Exhausted from

the late journey, they found relief and encouragement through the generosity of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Denver and its pastor, Fr. Nathan Goebel, who welcomed the students and gave them breakfast.

The group resumed their journey, eventually arriving back in Manhattan. However, their adventure wasn't quite over—they returned to find their cars buried under large amounts of snow. Despite the challenges, the students expressed gratitude for the experience and the connections they made along the way.

Plans for next year's SEEK conference are already underway. The organization hopes to expand even more, with conferences to take place in Denver, Columbus, Ohio, and Fort Worth, Texas.



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School Notes

Students successful in athletic and academic arenas

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Brian Gormley has grown to like a bye week in mid January when most other teams play in midseason tournaments.

Without the usual three games schedule for those tourneys, Gormley – head coach for the Salina-Sacred Heart boys' basketball program – is able to schedule non-league opponents, including three Catholic schools in the area.

In addition to fellow Salina Diocese schools St. John's-Tipton Catholic and Hays/Thomas More Prep-Marian, Sacred Heart also

has Hutchinson-Trinity of the Wichita Diocese on its schedule.

During those meetings with other Catholic schools, a few players gather at mid-court between the girls' and boys' varsity games to say a prayer with their coaches and a priest.

"We enjoy playing those games with other Catholic schools," Gormley said. "That's one of the reasons I'm not in a hurry to get into a midseason tournament, because we'd have to drop some non-league games."

The Knights' games with St. John's-Tipton Catholic and

TMP-Marian scheduled for the first full week of January had to be rescheduled because of a major snowstorm that swept the state.

The unexpected change in schedules and extra time off didn't seem to have a negative effect on Gormley's team, however.

Once back on the court, they won three games in a five-day span to remain undefeated at 10-0, then got in more practice time during their bye week before heading into their home game with rival Beloit High on January 28.

The fast start to this season has been welcomed by Gormley, especially after graduating seven seniors off last year's team that placed third at the Class 2A state tournament.

"We have some really capable shooters, and we had a very good JV team last year," he said. "But I think we're playing even better than we might have expected after losing all those seniors."

Scholars Bowl success

The scholars bowl program at Beloit-St. John's picked up this school year where it left off a year ago, when it went 18-2 in the postseason en route to a runner-up state finish in Class 1A,

Division II.

During November and December, the Blujays fielded 25 different teams for 21 meets at either the varsity or junior varsity level, placing in the top four 18 times (including seven first-place finishes).

This year's squad has already become the top overall team in St. John's history based on Coach Rusty Lueger's ranking system for top-four finishes. A total of 25 students competed at meets during the first semester, which represents more than half the school's student body.

On February 6, St. John's will host a Class 1A, DII regional meet, where two other Catholic diocesan schools – St. Francis Xavier-Junction City and Tipton Catholic – also will compete.

Hays/Thomas More Prep-Marian will host a Class 2A regional, whose field will include three-time defending state champion Salina-Sacred Heart.

Earlier this month, TMP-Marian claimed top honors at the Mid-Continent League tournament with a perfect 10-0 record.

The top three teams from each of the regional meets qualify for state competition on February 15.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Sacred Heart Knights have been hard to stop this season while racing to a 10-0 start, including this victory over Berean Academy in December.

Celebrations planned for Catholic Schools Week

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The anticipation leading up to Catholic Schools Week can be almost as exciting as CSW itself.

Students have just returned from a long winter break, knowing that spring break is several weeks away. So CSW provides something to look forward to.

"Especially at our elementary and junior high levels, it feels like huge homecoming weeks," said Geoff Andrews, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Salina. "They have spirit days (similar to what high schools do for homecomings), so there's a lot of excitement throughout the week."

The multi-year theme through 2026 for National Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 26-31) is "United in Faith and Community."

Andrews said that's an easy theme to plan activities around, because it's "what our schools are all about."

"We celebrate our faith every day. We are blessed to be able to do that in our Catholic schools," Andrews said. "And we have an extremely strong relationship with our communities because of our faith. This year's theme resonates at the heart of everything we do."

There is a plethora of different activities planned at the 15 Catholic diocesan schools, and students and staff especially look forward to a visit from Bishop Gerald Vincke.

This year, Bishop Vincke is scheduled to celebrate Mass at five different locations during CSW, with schools from other locations merging

at several of the Masses.

Because he will be participating in the Ignite Rally and March for Life Mass in Topeka on January 28, Bishop Vincke celebrated Mass before CSW with schools in Hanover and Manhattan.

Another treat for Salina Catholic Schools during CSW will be a visit from



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Here is a look at where Bishop Gerald Vincke will be celebrating Mass during Catholic Schools Week.*

Monday, January 27
8:05 a.m. – St. Mary Queen of the Universe, Salina
1:30 p.m. – St. John the Baptist, Beloit

Wednesday, January 29
1:30 p.m. – St. Francis Xavier, Junction City

Thursday, January 30
11 a.m. – Sacred Heart, Colby

Friday, January 31
10 a.m. – Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays

*Because of another commitment, Bishop Vincke celebrated Mass before Catholic Schools Week with the Catholic schools in Hanover and Manhattan.

Braden Johnson, a young Catholic speaker who gives talks at schools, conferences and parishes on living the Catholic faith as a young adult.

Johnson also spoke to

students at seven different locations the week before CSW when he also gave a presentation to parents and Hays CYO members at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

IT TAKES A DIOCESE! NOW HIRING

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Email Troy Langdon, tlangdon@sacredheartcolby.com or call 785-460-2813

- Elementary Teacher



Stories of Hope

ENTER BY MARCH 31ST!

WRITING CONTEST

High school and college students in the diocese are invited to participate in the Stories of Hope Contest!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Just respond to the question, "What does hope mean to you?" That can be through personal stories, community examples or reflections.

WINNING ENTRIES

Winners will be selected in two categories: one for high school students (grades 9-12) and one for college students. Winning entries will be shared by the diocesan communications team. Please visit salinadiocese.org or scan the qr code for more contest details and to submit an entry! We can't wait to see your story of hope!



Not interested in writing or entering the contest? Feel like it's not for you? Share a brief thought about what gives you hope (in a paragraph or less) at bit.ly/myhoperesponse, and your response might be featured in an upcoming issue of faith magazine!

Local author inspires young readers with stories of adventure and faith

By LORI LEISZLER
THE REGISTER

Maria Riley, a Manhattan-based author, is bringing her passion for storytelling and Christian living to Catholic schools across Kansas. This winter, at Sacred Heart Grade School in Colby, K-5 students were captivated by Riley's book, "Saint Joseph, The Foster-Father Saint," a tale filled with time-travel adventures and heartfelt lessons.

As a special treat, Riley visited Sacred Heart to read the story's final chapter aloud and share her insights on faith, creativity, and the unique journey to sainthood. When the folks at St. Joseph Catholic School in Oakley heard that Riley was coming that direction, they started reading the chapter book and asked her to stop by their school, too.

Jamie McClure, the librarian at Sacred Heart, was key in arranging Riley's visit after seeing how much students were enjoying the book.

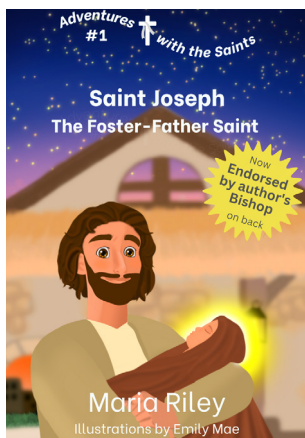
"The kids were very excited. They're really enjoying the story," McClure shared. "A lot of them have read Magic Tree House books, and this is similar in the way the characters go back in time or meet famous people. But Riley's book also brings in deeper themes, like understanding what it's like to be a foster child or to be adopted. That message of unconditional love and belonging is so important, and it's presented in a way that resonates with kids and families."

"Saint Joseph, The Foster-Father Saint," is the first book in Riley's children's book series,

Adventures with the Saints.

For Riley, writing is not just a profession but a God-given gift she uses to inspire others. In her talks with students, she encourages them to see their talents and interests as a way to serve God and others.

"Whenever I talk to students, I love to share that every one of them is called to be a saint,"



COURTESY PHOTO

Riley explained. "But that calling is completely unique to who they are. God uses our passions and talents to let us serve Him in ways that fit who we are. For me, that's writing. I've loved writing since I was a kid. I wrote my first 'book' in fourth grade and published my first novel as part of my graduate thesis. Writing is part of my path to sainthood, but it's not everyone's."

Riley uses relatable examples to help children see how they can embrace their own path.

"If you love playing sports, you're called to be a saint on the team—showing good sportsmanship, praying for your teammates. If you're a teacher or a parent, your path to sainthood is through your vocation. We're inspired by the saints, but we're never meant to be exactly like them. Each of us has a unique call to sainthood," she added.

At Sacred Heart, Riley's visit was more than a celebration of her book—it was a chance for students to reflect on their own gifts and how they can use

them to grow in faith.

As a special treat, the evening before she met with the kids at Sacred Heart, Riley met with the parishioners of Sacred Heart, and gave a talk for adults, about the universal call to sainthood and what it looks like to raise holy kids in a distracted, busy world.

"It doesn't have to be complicated or even really a lot of time," Riley said. "But it needs to be kind of constant where you work faith into everything a little bit, as opposed to, like, you spend an hour at church and then check that checkbox and then move on. But rather, you parents should talk about it in the car, or tell stories about your day and make sure you mention how you pray with your kid."

More information on the author and links to purchase books from the Adventures with the Saints series can be found online at mariarileyauthor.com/books.

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If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church ...

Please believe in the possibility for hope, help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. Our victim assistance coordinator is available to obtain support for your needs, to help you make a formal complaint of abuse to the proper authorities and to arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative, if you desire.

To contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator
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Si has sido abusado o fuiste víctima de alguien que representa a la Iglesia Católica...

Por favor confía en la posibilidad de esperanza, ayuda y sanación. Te alentamos a que te presentes y hables. Nuestra coordinadora de asistencia a las víctimas está disponible para ofrecer apoyo en tus necesidades, para ayudarte a presentar una queja formal de abuso ante las autoridades correspondientes y para hacer una cita personal con el obispo o su representante, si lo deseas.

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www.reportandprotect.com

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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



COURTESY PHOTO, CNS/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis crosses the threshold of the Holy Door of the Church of Our Father at a prison in Rome.

'DON'T LOSE HOPE,' FROM PAGE 1

Seated in his wheelchair in front of the church door, Pope Francis had prayed: "In the joy of Christmas, let us welcome the call of the Lord Jesus to follow him. He is the door of life, the hope that does not disappoint, the good news that saves."

"May the opening of this Holy Door be for all of us a call to look to the future with hope," he said. "Let us open our hearts to the mercy of God so as to celebrate with the whole church his unending love."

The Vatican press office had distributed the text of the homily the pope prepared for the Mass, but the pope did not use it.

Instead, Pope Francis spoke directly to the inmates. He told them that all Christians need to remind themselves that "hope does not disappoint, it never

disappoints. I need to think about this, too, because in life's difficult moments one thinks that everything is over, that nothing can be resolved. But hope never disappoints."

"I like to think of hope being like an anchor on the shore, and we, holding the rope, are there, safe because our hope is like an anchor" hooked into the earth. "This is the message I want to give all of us, including myself: Don't lose hope."

At the end of Mass, before greeting and shaking hands with each of the 300 people present inside the church, Pope Francis repeated his message. He told inmates, "Now, don't forget the two things we need to do with our hands: First, hang on to the rope of hope, hang on to the anchor by its rope, never let go; second, throw open your hearts, have an open heart."

Pastoral Ministry Formation spring classes offered

For more information about these classes, or to register, please contact Coleen Stein cstein@dcdioocese.org. Here are the upcoming PMF classes:

Theology of the Church (3 hour college course) with Fr. Robert Schremmer.

The Church can be brimming with life, filled with love, motivated by compassion, serving the poor and outcasts, only if it can become a community with servant leaders with open willingness to let the future unfold in the power of the Spirit of God.

Liturgy and ritual, especially Eucharist, provide the powerful presence of God unfolding within Jesus Christ. As over past centuries, there is an opportunity for the chaos we currently experience both personally and globally to open us up to the Church's mission to become and to nurture a dynamic web of relationships in which all humanity can find itself part of the wondrous whole that is the

Body of Christ.

Saturday mornings - 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Dates - Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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

Cost:

3 hr. college course for credit - \$150.00*

3 hr. college course for enrichment - 75.00*

Fr. Robert Schremmer is a Diocesan priest in retirement. From 2001-2019, Fr. Bob served as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. He holds an MA Degree and MTh Degree from St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, CO.

THEO 4881 Caring for Creation: Exploring Laudato Si' and Laudato Deum (1 hour college course) with Jaime Gil.

This formation course will introduce adults to the Catholic Church's teachings on ecological responsibility, focusing on Pope Francis'

encyclicals *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Laudate Deum* (2023). Participants will learn about the theological, moral, and spiritual dimensions of environmental care and be invited to reflect on how they can take concrete action to protect God's creation.

Tuesday evenings - 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Dates - Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11

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

Cost:

1 hr. college course for credit - \$50.00*

1 hr. college course for enrichment - \$25.00*

Jaime Gil was born in Michoacán Mexico, and he moved to the United States after graduating from high school. Jaime holds a Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry, and he is currently the Director of Faith Formation at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Fairview Heights, IL.

Reset & Recharge: A Lenten Retreat of Challenge and Restoration

BY DAVE DINUZZO

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Retreats have long been a cornerstone of Christian discipleship. The word "retreat" means "to withdraw to a quiet place" or "to draw back." Even Jesus retreated, fasting in the desert for 40 days (Matthew 4:1-11).

This Lent, Salina's Catholic Daughters of the Americas invite everyone to "Reset & Recharge: A Lenten Retreat of Challenge and Restoration"

on Saturday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish, Salina. Open to men, women, and high school students or older, the retreat features guided prayer, meditation on the Sorrowful Mysteries, break-out sessions and practical talks on spiritual growth.

Mass will be offered at 8 a.m., with sign-in and refreshments starting at 8:30 a.m. Led by Dave and Catherine DiNuzzo of St. John's Parish in Beloit, the retreat includes practical insights for

living faith daily. Dave, a Deacon-Candidate for the Diocese and founder of TrueManhood, and Catherine, a Licensed Professional Counselor and author of *The Catholic Guide Through Anxiety*, bring 20 years of experience giving talks and retreats.

To register, contact Marlene Bonilla at (785) 342-0130 or email SalinaCDA@gmail.com. Make checks payable to: "CDA Salina Court #1972" and mail to CDA Salina, 145 Millview Rd. Salina, KS 67401. When mailing, please include

names of retreatants, address and contact information, including cell number(s) in case of inclement weather.

The cost is \$35 per adult or \$60 per married couple, \$10 per high school/college student or \$70 per family. Lunch is included in the cost.

Register by March 3rd if possible, but day-of walk-ins are welcome.

Take this opportunity to "come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while" (Mark 6:31).

We look forward to seeing you March 8!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

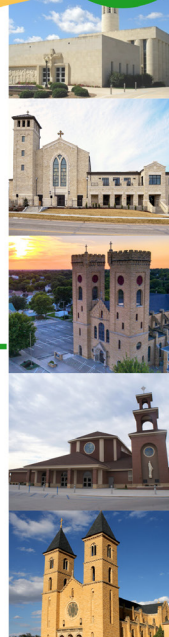
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A one-day prayerful tour of four designated Jubilee Churches throughout the diocese, and a visit to the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria!

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- INCLUDES MOTORCOACH TRANSPORTATION
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Call Carolyn Berens to answer any questions
or to make a reservation: 785-826-0440



Jan. 26-Feb. 1

• Catholic Schools Week.

Feb. 2

• World Day for Consecrated Life.

Feb. 7-9

• Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend, Victoria.

Feb. 8-9

• Bishop's Annual Appeal Kick-off weekend.

Feb. 9

• World Marriage Sunday.

Feb. 11

• World Day of the Sick.

Feb. 14

• Catholic Charities Ribbon Cutting, Hays, 9 a.m.

Feb. 23

• Sacred Heart School Carnival, Colby.

Grand Opening!

**Catholic Charities
Hays Office & Thrift Store
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For the complete job description or more info contact Sandy Losey at 785-259-1222 or sandy.losey@catholictigers.org. Resumes must be submitted by Jan. 31, 2025.

A Holistic Approach to Women's Health

Ladies, you are invited to a free night of socializing and discussion on "A Holistic Approach to Women's Health" presented by Teresa Kenney on Friday, February 7 starting at 6:45 pm. Teresa Kenney has been a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner for 24 years in Omaha, NE. She is an author, speaker and host of the "The Hormone Genius Podcast." Please join us at the St. John's School Gym, Beloit for free drinks and appetizers as we learn together. For more info or to RSVP, please email ktighe@gostj.com or 402-480-0236.

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— POPE FRANCIS
to the Bishops of Ireland,
Scotland, England and Wales,
July 17, 2013

*Please join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia
in prayer for the sanctity of all human life.*



BAPTISMS

Beata Edith Alford, daughter of Grant and Lauren Alford, was baptized December 8, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Loretta Marie Champney, daughter of Connor and Chloe Champney, was baptized December 29, 2024, by Fr. Mike Leiker at SS Peter & Paul Parish in Clay Center.

Titan Bartholomew Doxon, son of Robert Doxon and Jessica Horinek, was baptized December 28, 2024, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

Jude Emerson Eilert, son of Luke and Katherine Eilert, was baptized December 28, 2024, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Maevyn Engel, daughter of Tyler and Kaitlyn (Burd) Engel, was baptized December 15, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays.

Elliot John Fowler, son of Ian and Caroline Fowler, was baptized December 22, 2024, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Andrew's Parish in Abilene. Godparents are Ben Geiger and Susie Geiger.

Emberlee May Greenwood, daughter of Timmy and Jordi Greenwood, was baptized December 15, 2024, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Theodore William Kern, son of Tyler and Jessica Kern, was baptized December 7, 2024, by Fr. Mike Leiker at SS Peter & Paul Parish in Clay Center.

Paityn Jo Maxwell, daughter of Bailey and Casie Maxwell, was baptized December 22, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Rylan Joyce Maxwell, daughter of Bailey and Casie Maxwell, was baptized December 22, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Trystan Blayne Maxwell, daughter of Bailey and Casie Maxwell, was baptized December 22, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Kaid Clyde Mikinski, son of Bradley and Gabrielle (Briggs) Mikinski, was baptized December 29, 2024, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina. Godparents are Philip and Maureen Francois.

Jordy Ann Morrison, daughter of Charles and Braelyn Morrison, was baptized December 28, 2024, by Fr. Gale

Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Scottie Jade Morrison, daughter of Charles and Braelyn Morrison, was baptized December 28, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Evelyn Marina Oelschlager, daughter of Jerald and Perla (Yanez) Oelschlager, was baptized December 7, 2024, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

Sofia Isabelle Peck, daughter of Nathaniel and Araceli Peck, was baptized December 21, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Victor Isías Ramos, son of Luis and Nefertiti Ramos, was baptized December 21, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Daniel Alva Salter, son of Brandon and Wendy (Thiel) Salter, was baptized December 8, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Godparents are Kacper and Carleigh Orlowski.

Mary Elizabeth Salter, daughter of Brandon and Wendy (Thiel) Salter, was baptized December 8, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Godparents are Kacper and Carleigh Orlowski.

Harper Leigh Schmitz, daughter of Nathan and Madison Schmitz, was baptized December 22, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Beau Taylor Spencer, son of Blake and Kenna (Pfannestiel) Spencer, was baptized December 15, 2024, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Munjor.

Danielle Kate Stein, daughter of Kolby and Paige Stein, was baptized December 8, 2024, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Annalise May Stewart, daughter of Joshua and Kirstyn Stewart, was baptized December 15, 2024, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Braxton Lane Thompson and Jaxon Reed Thompson, sons of Jason and Bethany (Augustine) Thompson, were baptized December 28, 2024, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Parish in Ellis.

Graham Thomas Vandervoort, son of Jacob and Taylor Vandervoort, was baptized December 15, 2024, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Adopt-a-Family program brings Christmas joy to families in need

By JEREE HUGHBANKS

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER,

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS

This Christmas season, Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas offers heartfelt thanks to the donors and sponsors whose generosity brought hope and joy to over 120 families across the Salina Diocese through the Adopt-a-Family program.

"We are incredibly grateful to all the donors and sponsors who came together to bring Christmas joy to families in need," said Berta Jaquez, Director of Stabilization & Outreach Services, who oversees the program each year. "Your generosity ensures that many in our community will experience the warmth and hope of the holiday season."

The impact of this program is perhaps best expressed by the families themselves. Here are just a few of the heartfelt messages of gratitude shared by those who received support:

"Thank you would not quite express our degree of gratitude for your kindness, but, thank you. We are rejoicing and touched by Jesus shining His light through you to us. He is the reason for the season and we thank Him for all these blessings and you as well."

"My family couldn't express how thankful we are for adopting our family for Christmas. I'm sure the kids will be overjoyed with these gifts. Thank you so much!! I hope you have a wonderful Christmas!! Thanks again!"

"Thank you so much for all of your love and time you put into our family this Christmas season. We are so thankful you considered us and took the time to shop for me and my children. We are so blessed by you. I pray your holidays are wonderful and full of joy for you and your family. During this hard time for me, you have been the biggest help I can ask for; it filled the smile to last all year. I'm filled with so much joy. Thank you."

"To the amazing family that adopted us this year. Thank you so much for deciding to adopt us! I truly cannot express the gratitude I have for your help. This year has been extreme-

ly tough financially and emotionally, and your generosity has truly made this Christmas happen for our daughter. I will forever be grateful to whom ever donated for us and I will be sure to pass it forward when I am able. Thank you so much and Merry Christmas!"

"Thank you for blessing our family this holiday season. We appreciate it very much. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas. Thanks again for helping make a good Christmas for my family."

"Thank you very much for the gifts! We appreciate it more than you know! Merry Christmas!"

"Thank you for giving from your heart for my family for Christmas. May God bless you and your family. I will keep you in my prayers. Have a Merry Christmas and a great New Year."

"Thank you so much for helping me and my kids this year. It has been a hard year and with your help, they will have a Christmas. God bless you all!"

"Thank you for taking your time in putting together such thoughtful gifts for our family. We know that it comes out of your pocket as well as time out of your day. We greatly appreciate such generosity. We hope that many blessings come your way. Merry Christmas!"

"Thank you very much for everything. Our family is grateful for everything. Thank you again and Happy Holidays."

These words reflect the profound impact of this ministry, which embodies the love of Christ and the spirit of giving during this holy season.

The Adopt-a-Family program brings together individuals, families, parishes, and organizations who answer the call to make Christmas special for those facing hardship. Their kindness ensures that families in need feel seen, supported, and surrounded by love during the holidays.

To everyone who made this program possible, thank you for bringing the light of Christmas to families in need. Catholic Charities deeply appreciates your support and looks forward to working together in the year ahead to serve our community.

WEDDINGS

Cameron Ray Elkins and Ivy Jo Schmid were married December 31, 2024, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Kenneth and Christina Elkins. Parents of the bride are James and Merrily Schmid. Witnesses were Evan Fischer, Healy Funderburg and Payton Pierce.

Shane Michael Sachse and Elizabeth Rose Huskey were married December 28, 2024, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammer-

schmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Daniel and Julie Sachse. Parents of the bride are Thomas and Anita Wirth. Witnesses were Quinn O'Donnell, Andrew Schwinn and Anne Dohl.

Maximillian Woods and Juliana Clark were married December 21, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Benjamin and Stacy Woods. Parents of the bride are Levi and Megan Clark. Witnesses were Colby Bunger and Cecilia Clark.

FUNERALS

Donald Dean Boyer, 68, died December 19, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 27 at SS Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center. Fr. Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in Greenwood Cemetery, Clay Center.

Whilemena K. "Willa Kay" Gasper, 76, died November 16, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 14 at St. Boniface Parish in Tipton. Fr. Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Boniface Cemetery, Tipton.

Paul Theodore Graff II, 82, died December 21, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated January 3 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Andrew Rockers presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery, Beloit.

Bernard James Helget, 88, died December 19, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 28 at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Donald D. Zimmerman presided. Interment at Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan.

Linda (Neubauer) Kohlrus, 69, died December 10, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 14 at St. Mary's Parish in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Inurnment will take place at a later date.

Randall Dean "Randy" Major, 66, of Hays, died December 28, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated January 2, 2025, at St. Joseph Parish in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Burial in St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery, Hays.

Janice Lea (Hutfles) Sattler, 90, of Atwood, died Monday, January 6, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated January 10 at St. Mary's Parish in Herndon. Fr. Henry Saw Lone presided. Interment at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Herndon.

Janelle Slingsby, 43, died November 24, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 5 at SS Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center. Bishop Gerald Vincke presided. Burial in Greenwood Cemetery, Clay Center.

Douglas James Ubelaker, 73, of Osborne, died November 29, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 3 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne. Fr. Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Cemetery, Osborne.

Todd J. Van Schuyver, 46, died August 25, 2024, at his home in Plainville. He was born on January 12, 1978, to Anna Gravatt in Salina. He was adopted by David and Mary (Staab) Van Schuyver. Todd grew up in Plainville and graduated from Plainville High School in 1997. He was currently working at

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

By *THE RESE HORVAT*

At the outset of Jubilee Year 2025 focused on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," Catholics around the globe are being invited to observe the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life the weekend of February 1 and 2.

Pope Saint John Paul II instituted this observance in 1997 as an opportunity to recognize, celebrate and prayerfully support men and women religious who have professed evangelical counsels (vows) of poverty, chastity and obedience; made commitments to a stable state of life recognized by the church; and radically dedicated themselves in service to God, the church and the people they serve.

In the Midwest, a group named "Catholic Sisters of Kansas" is taking the lead to heighten awareness of consecrated religious life and its legacy of ministry dating to the 1800s. This currently includes the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison; Dominican Sisters of Peace, Great Bend; Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Wichita; the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth; the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia; and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita.

Nationally, there will be a virtual encounter of prayer for all members of consecrated life in the United States on Sunday, Feb. 2, the actual World Day of Prayer observance.

Later this year, Oct. 8-9 will be celebrated as a Jubilee for Consecrated Life with the theme of "Pilgrims of hope, on the way of peace."

For more information about this and other plans, visit nrvc.net and kscatholicisters.org.



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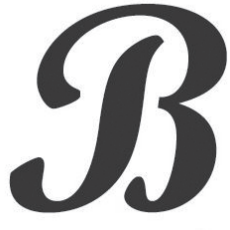
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Wilkins Manufacturing and had previously worked at Schulte Homes and Classic Cloth. He played Special Olympics Basketball with the Solomon Valley Larks and Hays Buffaloes. He was a member of Plainville Knights of Columbus and Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Todd enjoyed hunting, fishing, living independently, helping his parents, and hanging out with his nephews Kaiden and Chayse, brother Ryan and many friends.

Todd left behind his parents, David and Mary; brother, Ryan (Gina) Van Schuyver; sister, Carrie Van

Schuyver (Mike); nephews, Kaiden Van Schuyver and Chayse McCullough and Emily; and niece, Ayvra Van Schuyver.

He is preceded in death by his brothers, Scott David and Brent Michael.

Funeral Mass was celebrated August 30, 2024, at Sacred Heart Parish in

Plainville. Burial followed at the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to Solomon Valley ARC Larks or The Arc of Central Plains Buffaloes and may be sent to Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home, 320 SW 2nd Street, Plainville, KS 67663.

AROUND THE *diocese*



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the St. Anne's Sodality of St. Joseph Parish in Damar were ready to roll breakfast burritos for the Second Sunday Fellowship held after Mass on December 8. From left to right are Kathy Alphin, Cindy Balthazor, Kathy Atkisson (behind column), Sandy Benoit, Leona Newell, Jeannie Roberts and JoAnna Davignon.



COURTESY PHOTO

The St. Frances Cabrini Jr High CYO made and donated blankets, for the second year in a row, to Pregnancy Pathways, Inc., in Hoxie. The beautiful and warm blankets have been well received by over 20 single moms and their little ones in our area. The students have said they enjoy the fellowship with each other while creating the blankets and satisfaction of knowing they send a loving and meaningful message to the moms that receive them. Pregnancy Pathways, Inc., greatly appreciates these compassionate items to distribute during the winter months.

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~ Directors Steven Surber, John Surber and Don Waddington ~

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Adoration Corner

AN EXCERPT FROM COME OVER TO ME
A POEM BY FR. THOMAS DOMINIC ROVER, OP

Come over to me,
all you who are restless,
and I will teach you how to be quiet,
how to leave yourself alone.

Come over to me,
all you who are anxious,
even if I don't take your
anxiety away,
I will change it into
fresh currency,
as you turn your
cares
into greater
belief in my
caring.

Come over to
me, all you
who are lonely,
I was lonely too,
and could find
no place
to lay my head.

Come over to me,
all you who worry
what others really think
about you.
It doesn't matter.
They misunderstood me,
no matter what I did.

Come over to me,
all you who are always
talking and pleading
and explaining yourselves to others.
I know you inside out.
I know the worst.
So you can come to me
without any explanations.

Come over to me, all you whose great

plans for yourself have failed.
You don't know how lucky you are.
And others too.

Come over to me, all you who can't
stand yourselves.

I touched lepers, and once I called a
man out of a tomb who had been
stinking there for four days.

So come over to me -
I can stand just about
anything.

Come over to me,
all you who
can't stand
other people.
I know what
is behind
their misery. I
know the
worst in them
as I know it in
you. And I
embrace you
both.

Come over to me,
all you who fret
about the past.
I was there, I was part
of your past, and I have
forgotten all about it.
So be like me
and forget it too.

Come over to me, all you who can't live
peacefully in the present.
Come to me now, without reserve.
That is the way to live
peacefully in the present.

Come over to me,
all you who fear the future.
Do not fear. I am your future.



COURTESY PHOTO, MARJORIE HINDMAN
Eucharistic adoration at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish, Osborne.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS

St. Brigid of Ireland was a very kind and loving person who lived a long time ago, in the 400s, in Ireland. She is one of the most famous saints of Ireland, just like St. Patrick! Brigid loved God and wanted to help everyone around her.

When Brigid was a little girl, she was known for being generous. She worked on her father's farm, and she would give away food and things to people who were poor, even if it got her in trouble! As she grew up, she decided she wanted to serve God completely, so she became a nun.

Brigid started a special place called a monastery in a town called Kildare. It wasn't just for nuns but also for monks, and they prayed, learned and helped people in need.

People loved Brigid because she was always helping the poor, feeding the hungry, and taking care of the sick. She trusted God to provide what she needed, and sometimes, amazing things would happen—like food or supplies multiplying when they ran out!

St. Brigid is often pictured holding a cross made out of rushes, which is a type of plant. This is called a "St. Brigid's Cross," and some people still make them today to remember her and ask her to pray for them. She is known as a patron saint of babies, midwives, nuns, blacksmiths, dairymaids, chicken farmers, cattle, students, poets and sailors.



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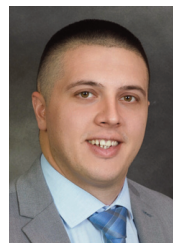
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