



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

JUNE 27, 2025

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

INSIDE:

MEET THE TEAMS

• Summer missions start, teams begin ministry work.

Page 2

HONORING GOD BY CARING FOR YOURSELF

• Lessons from a Catholic therapist in being a good steward of yourself. Page 6

ON THE ROAD WITH KAPAUN AND ROTHER

• Diocesan Trip visits local hero, strengthens faith.

Page 7

DISCIPLES ON MISSION

• Year in Review reflects on Catholic schools' success. Page 8

RECENT RETIREES

• Flax and Marin celebrate years of service to Catholic schools.

Page 10

HEARTS BURNING FOR CHRIST


• Communications Director Bill Meagher delves into his recent pilgrimage to Italy.

Page 16

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Triple blessing *Diocese gains three new priests*

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

On a special day for the Diocese of Salina, three men were ordained priests at the same Mass on May 31.

The Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina was overflowing with family, friends and fellow parishioners who gathered to watch Bishop Gerald Vincke ordain Frs. Kade Megaffin, Jesse Ochs and Adam Urban.

It was a joyous occasion for the entire diocese, celebrated on the 50th anniversary year of another trio of priests who were ordained in 1975.

The last time three priests were ordained at the same time in our diocese was 2017, and there were few – if any – triple ordinations in all those decades that spanned two centuries.

“People have been praying for vocations in our diocese for a long time, and their prayers are being answered,” said Fr.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Gerald Vincke prepares to ordain Frs. Adam Urban, Jesse Ochs and Kade Megaffin in an overflowing Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina on May 31.

Andy Hammeke, vocations director for the diocese.

More than 80 clergy members – bishop, priests, deacons – led the three transitional deacons up the aisle before Mass.

During his homily,

Bishop Vincke thanked the new priests for saying ‘Yes’ to God.

“Like Mary took Jesus to the Temple,” he told them, “in your life as a priest, it will be a continuous visitation, taking Jesus to

others.”

Addressing the congregation, Bishop Vincke said, “He chose these three men to serve all of us.”

The two-hour ceremony featured the Rite of Ordination, which included the Promise of the Elect and the Litany of Supplication where the candidates prostrate themselves as the congregation sings the litany.

That was followed by the laying on of hands and prayer of ordination, then the anointing of the priests’ hands and handing over the bread and wine.

The new priests were all smiles during the recessional.

On the feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ, one emotion all three expressed as they began their journey as representatives of Christ on earth was gratitude.

“I’m looking forward to administering the sacraments, and excited to be back in the Salina Diocese

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EF3 tornado shatters homes but not hope

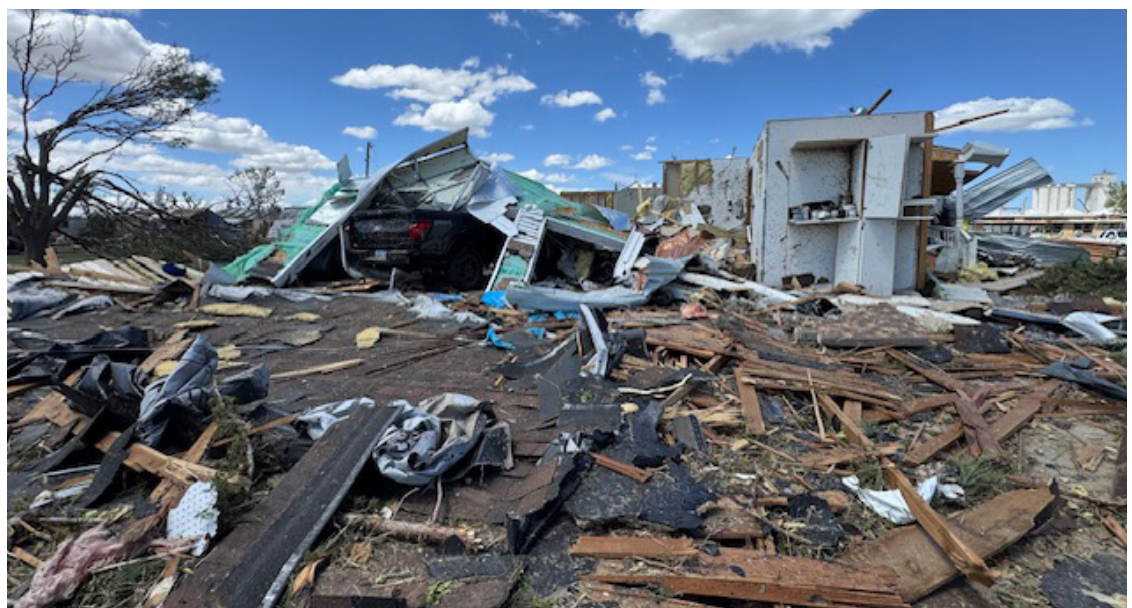
BY ALLISON OCHOA
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

“You don’t have a house to come home to.”

For Leona Dickman of Grinnell, hearing these words from her son cemented the reality of the destruction that was left after an EF3 tornado ripped through the small town in Gove County on Sunday, May 18.

“It was God’s plan that I was out of town for K-State’s graduation that weekend,” Dickman said. “I was on the phone with my sister and had turned on the TV, and we were tracking the storm headed toward Grinnell. All I could do was lie on the couch and pray.”

Dickman soon received a call from a neighbor con-



COURTESY PHOTO

The EF3 tornado that ripped through western Kansas in May leveled houses, devastating the Grinnell community, but miraculously no one died in the storm.

cerned for her safety, and once she assured him she was safe, he told her about

the damage to her property. Shortly after that call, she spoke to her son who

confirmed her home was gone. Due to continued

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Take Courage: Christ has conquered the world

Jesus said, "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." (John 16:33)

These words from our Lord feel especially poignant today. Our world is often unsettled—rattled by divisive rhetoric, shaken by wars and the threats of war, and burdened by deep-rooted hatred and misunderstanding among peoples. In the face of such turmoil, we cry out with hopeful hearts: Come, Lord Jesus!

In these troubling times, we are reminded of the urgent need to pray—for peace, for conversion, and for a renewal of love for God and each other. In our own diocese, we are in the midst of a spiritual campaign to promote Eucharistic Adoration. As Catholics, we know that Jesus is our peace—the peace the world cannot give. He is present in our churches. And amid the

trembling of nations, Jesus remains our unshakable rock.

Our Blessed Mother also invites us to participate in bringing peace to the world. At Fatima, she urged the faithful to pray the Rosary for the sake of the world. Her message remains just as relevant today. Let us not grow weary of responding to her maternal plea.

While it's easy to be consumed by headlines of conflict and despair, there are also powerful signs of spiritual awakening. For example, during Easter this year, Google reported a 373% increase in searches for "how to become Catholic" between April 20 and 26. This surge reflects a growing curiosity and yearning for faith—perhaps even a hunger for something eternal in an unstable world.

Closer to home, a local priest recently shared

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



with me a beautiful encounter at an assisted living center, where a woman expressed to him her heartfelt desire to join

the Church. These stories of conversion of heart are not isolated; they are echoing across our diocese and beyond. People are seeking peace—true peace found only in Christ.

As a chancery staff, we pray morning prayer together as a staff each day of the week. Each day we pray for those that have left the faith and pray for them to come home.

It is true—there will always be wars and fighting, there will always be the poor. We desire change in our world. However, to encounter Jesus and his love and mercy is the greatest gift we can give someone. Take courage. Christ has conquered the world.

JULY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Diocesan intentions:

Lord, keep our farmers and workers safe from harm this harvest season. Grant them strength, favorable weather, and may this harvest season bring forth an abundance that glorifies You and provides for all in need. Amen.

TENED VALOR: CRISTO HA VENCIDO AL MUNDO

Jesús dijo: "Les he dicho esto para que tengan paz en mí. En el mundo tendrán tribulación, pero ánimo. Yo he vencido al mundo." (Juan 16:33)

Estas palabras de nuestro Señor hoy resultan especialmente conmovedoras. Nuestro mundo con frecuencia está trastornado—sacudido por discursos divisivos, estremecido por guerras y amenazas de guerra, y cargado de un odio profundo y una incompreensión persistente entre los pueblos. Frente a tanta turbulencia, clamemos con esperanza en nuestro corazón: ¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

En estos tiempos difíciles, se nos recuerda la urgencia de orar—por la paz, por la conversión, y por una renovación del amor a Dios y entre nosotros. En nuestra propia diócesis, nos encontramos en medio de una campaña espiritual para promover la Adoración Eucarística. Como católicos, sabemos que Jesús es nuestra paz—una paz que el mundo no puede dar. Él está presente en nuestras iglesias. Y en medio del temblor de las naciones, Jesús permanece como nuestra roca inquebrantable.

Nuestra Santísima Madre también nos invita a participar en la obra de traer paz al mundo. En Fátima, ella exhortó a los fieles a rezar el Rosario por el bien del mundo. Su mensaje sigue siendo igual de vigente hoy. No nos cansemos de responder a su súplica maternal.

Si bien es fácil dejarnos consumir por los titulares llenos de conflictos y desesperanza, también hay signos poderosos de un despertar espiritual. Por ejemplo, durante la Pascua de este año, Google reportó un aumento del 373% en las búsquedas de "cómo hacerse católico" entre el 20 y el 26 de abril. Este aumento refleja una creciente curiosidad y sed de fe—quizás incluso un anhelo por lo eterno en medio de un mundo inestable.

Más cerca de casa, un sacerdote local me compartió hace poco un hermoso encuentro en un centro de asistencia para adultos mayores, donde una mujer le expresó su profundo deseo de unirse a la Iglesia. Estos relatos de conversión del corazón no son casos aislados; se están repitiendo en toda nuestra diócesis y más allá. Las personas están buscando paz—la verdadera paz que solo se encuentra en Cristo.

En la chancillería, rezamos juntos la oración de la mañana cada día laboral. Cada día oramos por quienes se han alejado de la fe y por aquellos que están llamados a regresar a la Iglesia.

Es verdad: siempre habrá guerras y conflictos, siempre habrá pobreza. Anhelamos un cambio en nuestro mundo. Sin embargo, encontrarse con Jesús, con Su amor y Su misericordia, es el mayor regalo que podemos ofrecerle a alguien. Tened valor. Cristo ha vencido al mundo.

SUMMER MISSION TEAMS



Prayer and Action

Front (L-R): Riley Chrisler, Michelle Zarybnicky and Emma Weiner. Back: Joshua Juenemann, Connor Kuhlman, Craig Kuhlman and Ethan Weiner.



Totus Tuus

Front (L-R): Jacob Schmelzle, Clare McKain, Gus Hanson, Jane Letourneau, Ivan Jirak, Emma Roberts, Mary Hogan and Felicity Clark. Back: Geoffrey Zohner, Sydney Goetz, Melissa Zimmerman, Allison Buessing, Jensen Brull, Caden Becker, Emma Mick and Ella Juenemann.



HEALING HOPE AFTER THE STORM, FROM PAGE 1

severe weather and downed power lines, Dickman was unable to return home to see the destruction for herself until the next day.

Fellow Grinnell resident Dennis Moos watched the destruction unfold outside his front door.

"I live in town, but our farm is about a quarter of a mile west," he said. "I was standing in the doorway when I saw debris flying through the air, and I just knew the farm had been hit. We had a renter living out there, so I went out to check on him. The house had been hit and a lot of it had crumbled down into the basement, but he was able to crawl out through a window."

Once he knew his renter was safe, Moos said he came back to town to check on the church. As the Parish Council chairman for Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, he wanted to see if the church had sustained any damage.

"The top of the church – the main roof – was gone, but the ceiling inside the church was perfect. There even seemed to be a glow around the tabernacle from the sunlight coming through the windows," he said.

Moos said there was also a hole punched in the north end of the parish center where dinners and other events are held.

As the secretary and organist for the parish, Dickman was also concerned about the damage to the church.

"The only thing protecting the inside besides the good Lord in the Eucharist was the ceiling between the upper deck and the roof," she said. "A glass window was gone which let in some mud and fiberglass debris, but Fr. James [Thomas] said the reason the church wasn't hurt was because the Eucharist was in there. He went ahead and had Mass there on Wednesday because he said the people need God more than ever now."

On Monday, May 19, volunteers from around northwest Kansas and across the Salina Diocese poured in to assist the community in the cleanup efforts. A small contingent of Knights of Columbus members and a group from Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas were among those volunteers.

Knights of Columbus General Agent Darin Reed said the state Knights of Columbus council immediately made money available through their Emergency Disaster Aid Program. Several Knights from Hays, Ellis, Grinnell, and Oakley traveled to Grinnell Monday morning to help.

"We went out and gave gift cards to every family affected by the tornado, and one of our field agents got 16 cases of water donated so we handed that out as well," he said.

Reed said Council 2773 in Angelus, Kan., covers the Knights from Grinnell. At approximately 145 members, the council and community are small, but they are one of the most fraternal communities in



COURTESY PHOTO

Catholic Charities staff members Kimberly Feldt (Hays office) and Melissa Herrera (Salina office) assist with tornado cleanup efforts at the Grinnell grade school following the May 18 storm. Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas continues to support families in the area with both immediate and long-term recovery assistance.



COURTESY PHOTO, DARIN REED

Knights of Columbus helped provide cleanup assistance and care, like handing out water bottles, after the EF3 tornado hit Grinnell and destroyed homes.

western Kansas. He said Knights from the Grinnell area helped introduce the team members to the families who were in need of assistance. Reed added that because of that fraternal brotherhood every member is involved in helping and will continue to offer assistance to those affected.

"We're not just here to help Catholics or brother Knights," Reed emphasized. "We're here to help everybody affected."

Similarly, the staff of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas, which covers the entire Diocese of Salina, is working to bring relief to the people of Grinnell.

"We went out on Monday with water and hygiene items from our stock of supplies, and we made contact with the Emergen-

cy Manager of Gove County," said CCNK CEO and Executive Director Megan Robl. "We volunteered to help organize the food, hygiene, household and clothing items that were coming in. We do this every day at Catholic Charities so we felt we could relieve the pressure in this area because they were being inundated with donations."

CCNK staff members were in the community for several days immediately after the tornado helping process those donations, assisting with cleanup, and working with the multi-agency resource center through the American Red Cross to provide assistance to affected families.

"We had immediate financial assistance available in the form of a \$25,000 grant from Catho-

lic Charities U.S.A.," Robl said, adding that donations have been pouring in from across the Salina Diocese. "By 9:00 Sunday night – the night of the storm – we were already receiving financial donations that we were able to use over the next couple of days."

"In disaster situations like this, we work with families on a case-by-case basis," she continued. "We'll work with them to determine what's being covered by insurance and what are those things that can help make life a little easier now or in the future. We let the families decide where that help is most useful – whether it's paying a bill or helping restock a kitchen with utensils [that had been destroyed by the storm]. It's a matter of seeing a need and stepping in to fill it on

behalf of donors across northern Kansas."

In the aftermath of the storm, a common thread of gratitude emerged.

"The Lord was with us... He was here," Moos said.

"We've heard a lot of comments from people saying, 'I guess God wants me here,' or, 'I guess God has a plan for me,'" said Dickman. "There were a few minor injuries, but thankfully no one went to the hospital that night. We didn't lose any lives that night."

All donations to the Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas Disaster Relief Fund through the month of June will go directly to help the community of Grinnell. Donations made after June 30 will go to the general disaster relief fund.



Join Us!
Green Tie
CELEBRATION

2025 Catholic Charities Annual Fundraiser
SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025
SALINA, KANSAS

Reserve your seat: ccnks.org/greentie

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS, FROM PAGE 1

and ministering to the people of God in Kansas,” Fr. Jesse said.

Fr. Kade agreed, also thanking so many for their support through the years.

“The gift you have given by allowing me to study to become a priest has radically changed my life,” he said. “You gave me the chance to grow in relationship with Jesus. In gratitude, I hope to return the favor as His priest!”

“First and foremost, I thank the Lord for his call,” Fr. Adam said. “We spend so much time in seminary and years of formation to get to this moment, and then it’s here. We walked into church and walked out entirely different people. It was such a surreal moment. It’s very powerful, life changing.”

Celebrations, First Masses

A reception in the cathedral’s Hall of Bishops followed the ordination Mass, and people stood in line for blessings from the newly ordained priests.

Many who were unable to attend the Mass watched the ordination online.

There were receptions and celebrations all weekend, highlighted by the new priests’ First Masses.

As is custom for a priest’s First Mass on the Sunday following his ordination, he chooses someone close to him to give the homily.

Fr. Kade chose Fr. Gabriel Sabado, a former seminarian and classmate of Fr. Kade’s at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver. Fr. Gabriel was ordained a priest two years ago and now serves in the Diocese of Phoenix, Arizona.

At the same time Fr. Kade was saying Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hays, Fr. Jesse was offering his first Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in Park. His homilist was Deacon Luke Friess, a fellow seminarian at St. John Vianney.

Fr. Adam’s first Mass was Sunday afternoon at his home parish, St. Nicholas of Myra in Hays, where his spiritual director in seminary, Fr. Daniel Barron, gave the homily.

Following their First Masses, each priest presented their parents with traditional gifts.

The mothers received a mantergium, a hand towel which was used for the anointing of her son’s hands with holy chrism during his ordination. The fathers were given their son’s first confessional stole he used for the celebration of his first Sacrament of Penance.



Fr. Kade, Fr. Jesse and Fr. Adam reflect during their ordination to the priesthood on May 31.

MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS



FOR GREATER GLORY

Top: Newly-ordained Fr. Kade Megaffin hugs his mother after giving her a blessing.

Middle: Fr. Jesse Ochs shares a smile during his first Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in Park.

Bottom: Fr. Adam Urban elevates the Host during his first Mass at St. Nicholas of Myra in Hays.

Next Steps

Frs. Kade, Jesse and Adam are ready, excited and eager to begin their first assignments as parochial vicars.

Fr. Kade will serve St. Andrew Parish, Abilene; St. Francis Xavier Parish, Junction City; and St. Michael Parish, Chapman, where Fr. Peter O’Donnell is pastor.

Fr. Jesse: Sacred Heart Parish, Colby; St. Joseph Parish, Oakley; and St. Paul Parish Angelus, where Fr. Brian Lager serves as



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

The three priests prostrate themselves before the altar at the ordination Mass on May 31.

pastor.

Fr. Adam: St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish, Salina, where Fr. Kevin Weber is pastor. Fr. Adam will also serve as chaplain of Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School.

Ask those priests celebrating their 50-year jubilees this year, and they will probably tell you it’s all worth it.

Fr. Don Pfannenstiel retired a few years ago, Fr. Kerry Ninemire is set to retire this summer, and Fr. Daryl Olmstead is still active.

Meanwhile, 10 seminarians will return to their studies in a few months to continue their journey

toward priesthood.

Several more are scheduled to join them in their first year of seminary and will be introduced at the annual seminarian dinners this summer – July 30 in Manhattan and July 31 in Hays.

“We have a bishop who is passionate about promoting vocations, and the weekend was extremely hopeful for the diocese,” Vocations Director Fr. Andy said. “The (ordination) weekend was a spiritual boost for the Diocese of Salina, and I hope even more men are open to the call of priesthood.”

New diocesan priests receive papal blessing

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Newly ordained priests in the Salina Diocese usually have a few weeks following their ordination to grab their breath before starting their first assignment in July.

Frs. Kade Megaffin, Jesse Ochs and Adam Urban – ordained on May 31 – decided to take advantage of that time.

They left on June 8 for a two-week trip to Italy, influenced by a recommendation from a priest while they were in seminary.

One of the highlights of the trip was getting to see Pope Leo XIV during a weekly Wednesday General Audience.

They made a simple sign and held it up as the pope rode by in the Popemobile, asking him if he wanted a blessing from “newly ordained priests from Kansas.”

Pope Leo saw the sign and stopped to receive their blessing, then blessed them as well.

They said, “The crowd around us was going crazy!”

Frs. Kade and Adam had attended high school together at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays. Both then also stayed close to home for

college, attending Fort Hays State University.

They both eventually ended up at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, where they met Fr. Jesse from western Kansas.

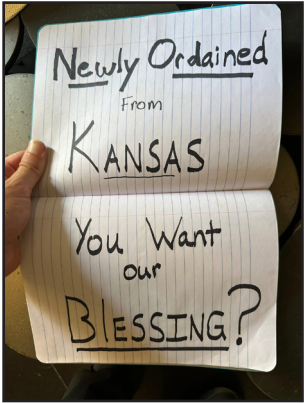
With all three being on the same track to be ordained the same year, they attended a lot of the same classes and became close friends.

“A few years back, a priest told us that we should travel after ordination,” Fr. Adam said. “He told us that might be the only time we get off like this for the rest of our lives. As our ordination approached, we collaborated and decided that since none of us had ever been to Italy, it would be very fitting as new priests to visit Rome.”

They decided to start at the north end of the country and make their way south,

visiting some of the “most beautiful and historic churches in the world,” Fr. Adam said.

He added that they were especially looking forward to visiting St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City. They made contacts beforehand with some of the parishes, requesting to say Mass at some of those historical churches.



COURTESY PHOTO

The priests held up a small sign at the pope’s General Audience, capturing Pope Leo’s attention and letting them bless him and then receiving a papal blessing in return.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS



CARLEIGH ORLOWSKI, ORLOWSKI + PHOTO



Top: Fr. Adam, Fr. Kade and Fr. Jesse show off their new priestly robes after their ordination at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.

Circle: Fr. Kade prays the consecration prayer at his first Mass.

Middle: Pope Leo XIV gave a blessing to the newly-ordained priests on May 18.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bottom: Fr. Adam, Fr. Jesse and Fr. Kade took a special trip to Rome in June after their ordination. During their adventures, they even met Pope Leo XIV.

BISHOP’S JULY CALENDAR

- 4 Independence Day, Chancery Closed.
- 11 S.H.H.S Endowment Golf Tournament, opening prayer, Salina.
- 12 Catholic Charities Green Tie Affair, S.C.C., 6 p.m.
- 13 150th Celebration for St. Peter Church in Aurora. Mass at 3 p.m.
- 16-18 Encounter Conference, Toledo, Ohio.
- 22-24 Bishop’s classmates reunion.
- 30 Annual School Principals Mtg., Mass at 12:05 p.m., S.H. Cathedral.
- 30 Seminarian Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, 5:15 p.m.
- 31 Seminarian Dinner, Rose Garden Banquet Hall, Hays, 5:15 p.m.

ANNUAL Seminarian FUNDRAISING DINNERS

RSVP TODAY



SCAN HERE OR VISIT
BIT.LY/SEMSONFALINA



Wednesday July 30th
5:15pm | Manhattan, KS
Hilton Garden Inn
410 S. 3rd Street

Thursday July 31st
5:15pm | Hays, KS
Rose Garden Banquet Hall
2350 E. 8th Street

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

A second chance: Michael's story

By JEREE HUGHBANKS

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER,
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
OF NORTHERN KANSAS

When Michael first walked through the doors of Catholic Charities three years ago, he was desperate for help. Struggling with addiction and caught in a cycle of instability, he slept wherever he could, sometimes at a friend's place, sometimes not at all.

But when he stepped inside and saw the crucifix on the wall, something in his heart told him he was in the right place.

Melissa Herrera, Emergency Assistance Coordinator, recognized right away that Michael needed a second chance. She had seen him around town and knew the people he stayed with—and that he often got kicked out. With honest compassion, she told him, “When you’re ready to change, come back and see me. I’m going to help you.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael, a client of Catholic Charities, visits with Emergency Assistance Coordinator Melissa Herrera, who helped him take meaningful steps toward stability and a fresh start. Michael credits Melissa—and others’ generosity—for helping him regain confidence, dignity and hope.

Michael did come back—on his own. “I’m ready,” he said. He had made the decision to change his life.

Because of you, Michael received food, support, and help finding a safe place to stay. He found work—flipping signs on street corners in the heat. It wasn’t much, but it was a start. When

Melissa learned he previously worked at a local restaurant, she encouraged him to ask for his job back. They welcomed him and his boss helped him rent an apartment of his own.

“You made me feel like I was a person,” Michael shared with Melissa. “You helped me be more confi-

dent about myself.”

One rainy night, Melissa saw him walking home from work through a heavy thunderstorm. The lightning was sharp, and Michael was frightened.

Michael was stunned when Melissa offered him a ride.

“I knew God was going to send somebody,” he said. “But I didn’t know it was going to be you. You were a Godsend.”

On the ride home, he mentioned that a bike would make getting to work easier. Melissa shared the need with the team, and thanks to a generous donor, Michael had a bike just days later!

But there were still barriers. He had no ID or birth certificate, Melissa connected him with paralegal to order one online. After 150 days, it finally arrived. That simple document opened doors to even more stability.

Today, Michael is thriving.

ing. He’s working, living in his own home, and proud to say he’s been sober for two and a half years—and says it’s going to stay that way.

Michael lives by the words, “Thank the Lord for what He’s done, what He’s doing, and what He’s about to do.” And he knows he couldn’t have done it without the support of people like you.

You made this possible. Michael says it best: “Thank you for everything. Keep doing what you’re doing. You’re doing an awesome job helping the community.”

Because of your generosity, Michael found hope—and a way forward. Thank you for making that possible!

To hear more of Michael’s story in person, join us at this year’s Green Tie Celebration on July 12, 2025, from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. at the Salina Country Club. Visit www.ccnks.org/greentie to learn more and reserve your seat!

Even Jesus rested: Honor God by caring for yourself

By LIZZY HOLLWEDEL

LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELOR

You’ve heard it on every flight: “In an emergency, put on your oxygen mask before assisting your child.” The idea is simple—if you don’t care for yourself first, you won’t be able to care for anyone else.

John 15:5 says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Going to God first to “supply all your needs” (Philippians 4:19), is crucial. Your vocation is immensely important and the people you love are gifts. But so too are YOU a gift—also worthy of care.

When we hear the term “self-care,” it’s easy to think of bubble baths or spa days. But real, well-ordered care of body and soul is about stewardship. Scripture tells us, “Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit... You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)

God gave us a mind, body and soul through which to love others. St. Thomas Aquinas is known

for explaining how grace builds upon nature. Our natural, human needs matter to God. When we push past our limits for too long, we don’t just suffer—we begin to lose the capacity to show up fully for the people we love. That might look like overwhelm, racing thoughts, difficulty being present, becoming easily upset, or even resentful. These are real signs that something in your life may need care—not condemnation.

In my work as a Catholic therapist, I often see how people of faith fall into the pattern of ignoring their needs to the point of burnout, all while operating as if Jesus does not see value in their care for themselves.

However, when you look at the life of Jesus, you see that while He lived sacrificial love to the highest degree, He also modeled rhythms of rest and renewal.

In Mark 6:31, when the disciples were so busy ministering that they “had no time even to eat,” scripture says, “Jesus said to them: ‘Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’” If anyone could have justified continuous service

without pause, it was Jesus. Yet He stepped away, and invited His disciples to do the same.

In John 21:12, Jesus invites His friends: “Come have breakfast.” He tended to their bodily needs, just as He had throughout His ministry. If the Son of God made space for rest, community, and nourishment, why do we think we’re supposed to go without?

The research on this is compelling. Studies show that a parent’s well-being directly impacts their child’s physical and emotional health. For example, parents experiencing untreated depression or anxiety significantly increase the risk of their children developing those same struggles (Goodman & Gotlib, 1999; Park et al., 2020). The truth is this: your health doesn’t just affect you. It impacts the people you love most.

St. Francis de Sales put it clearly: “Take care of your health, that it may serve you to serve God.”

Pause and ask yourself: what are you offering those you love? Are you pouring out from a place of fullness—or from depletion? If your loved ones were only cared for



PUBLIC DOMAIN, PEXELS IMAGE

as well as you care for yourself, would they be well loved?

Maybe there is an area of your life that needs more care and support, from both God and others. So what would putting on your “oxygen mask” actually look like for this place that needs more care?

It might mean time away from your to-do list to spend time with God, nourishing your body with good food, staying hydrated, and moving in ways that help you feel alive. It could look like watching a sunset, going for a walk, or getting the sleep you need to be present to those around you. Maybe God wants to love you through others—whether it’s laughter with loved ones, being vulnerable in community, or

finally working through wounds that keep disrupting your peace. It might mean investing in spiritual direction—or working with a therapist. Catholic therapy is one of the ways that grace builds upon nature, working towards peace and healing through stewarding your mental, emotional, and relational health!

To sum up Luke 12:27–28, if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you!

If Catholic therapy is on your heart, find us at luxcounselingllc.com or email clientcare@luxcounselingllc.com. We’d be honored to walk with you on your journey to stewarding the gift of your life well.

On the road with Kapaun and Rother

I met my fiancé at a school named after Fr. Emil Kapaun, so when I heard the diocese was leading a pilgrimage dedicated to him and Blessed Stanley Rother, I jumped at the chance.

Nor was I the only one eager to learn more about the local heroes who inspire us. On June 17-18, I was joined by over 40 people, and we were led by the lovely Carolyn Berens, who made the entire trip run smoothly.

Our group travelled to Oklahoma City on the first day, spending hours at the shrine dedicated to Blessed Stanley Rother.

Originally from rural Oklahoma, Rother served as a missionary priest in Guatemala in the 1970s, during a time of brutal violence. Even after his name appeared on a death list, he returned to his

parish, saying, "The shepherd doesn't run at the first sign of danger." He was martyred in 1981 and beatified in 2017. His shrine was opened in 2023, and it's the biggest Catholic church in Oklahoma.

Several members of our group seemed deeply touched by the quiet beauty of the shrine, calling it a spiritually profound experience. I appreciated having so much time to reflect and to ponder the question of, "What would I be willing to do if God asked?"

The next day, we travelled back to Kansas and visited St. John Nepomucene Church in Pilsen, home of Fr. Kapaun.

Fr. Kapaun served as a U.S. Army chaplain during

LORI Leiszler
EDITOR OF THE REGISTER



the Korean War, where he risked his life to serve. He eventually died in a prison camp. He was declared venerable in February this year.

Kapaun's heroism and sacrifice led the bishop of Wichita to eventually name a school after him: Chaplain Kapaun Memorial High School, which later became Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School.

As providence would have it, after I graduated from college I started working as a journalism teacher at Kapaun Mt. Carmel, before I started working on this newspaper. Fr. Kapaun's legacy is carried on in the students and teachers there, a legacy of service.

It's this heart of service that I see reflected in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



COURTESY PHOTO

The diocese led a pilgrimage to the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and St. John Nepomucene, Pilsen, hometown of Venerable Fr. Emil Kapaun.

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Disciples on Mission:

A school year of growth, grace and gratitude

By GEOFF ANDREWS

SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
FOR THE DIOCESE OF SALINA

As our Catholic schools across the Diocese of Salina take a well-earned summer break, I reflect with gratitude on a year marked by growth and grace. Now in my fifth year as superintendent, I remain inspired by the students, educators and parishioners who make our school communities so vibrant.

We've lived our diocesan mission—Together, Let Us Be Disciples of Jesus on Mission—with purpose and joy. It's a blessing to witness faith and learning come together in our Catholic schools each day.

Service and Generosity

This year, students put faith into action. Through partnerships like our fall diaper drive with Catholic Charities and raising over \$5,000 in the Baby Bottle Campaign, our schools supported life-affirming programs. Locally, students hosted food drives, served neighbors, wrote cards to the elderly, and gave generously of time and talent.

Health and Wellness

We continued our commitment to student well-being by establishing mental health partnerships in seven of our schools, utilizing the Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT) program through KDADS. This initiative has been a game-changer in addressing students' needs, and we're excited to expand these services to all 15 schools in the diocese next year.

Reflections from Seniors

This year's seniors offered powerful testimony about the impact of their Catholic education. Many spoke of the ability to



COURTESY PHOTO

Catholic Schools Superintendent Geoff Andrews (back right) pilgrimaged to Italy in June with a group of students and community members.

pray freely, attend Mass weekly, and experience a deepening of faith side-by-side with close friends. One senior wrote, "The opportunity to attend Mass, have access to adoration, and pray daily all at school...not many people have that opportunity." Others shared how their teachers challenged them to pursue both academic excellence and virtue, describing a deep sense of community and formation of lifelong friendships.

Growth in the Diocese

From projects to new programs, our schools are growing:

- St. Andrew's (Abilene) added classroom space and renovated key facilities.
- St. John's (Hanover) is renovating and expanding its beloved church.
- Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High (Salina) completed Phase 1 of its capital campaign, adding a chapel—with more enhancements to come.
- Love 'N' Learn Early Childhood Center (Salina) underwent a

full renovation to provide an exceptional environment for our youngest learners.

- TMP-Marian (Hays) broke ground on a Creative Learning Building.
- St. Mary's (Ellis) added a new walking trail.
- Tipton Catholic is soon to add a community building that will enhance educational and extra-curricular opportunities.
- We are encouraged by the faithful efforts taking shape in Plainville and Junction City, where parish and school leaders are working together to help their Catholic schools thrive.

Religious Life

The IHM Sisters completed their second year of joyful teaching in the Hays Catholic Schools. We look forward to welcoming the Marian Sisters from Lincoln next school year, as they begin ministry at St. John's in Beloit,

Beyond the Classroom

Students engaged in rich learning experiences—from local field

trips and mission work in Denver to visits to Venerable Emil Kapaun's church and the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Colorado. A few lucky students even made the WIBW evening news during the papal conclave simulation when Pope Leo XIV was announced—a lively moment that brought Church tradition to life!

In November, seniors from St. John's in Beloit traveled to Rome to serve the poor. While they were there, they even had the incredible opportunity to meet Pope Francis!

And earlier this June, 15 students, along with their parents, Fr. Jarrett Konrade, Fr. Brian McCaffrey, and myself, completed a pilgrimage to Italy, with stops in Naples, Assisi, and Rome. We prayed together, walked in the footsteps of saints, and deepened our call to discipleship in unforgettable ways.

Academic Excellence

Our schools continue to perform strongly across multiple academic measures—including the Kansas State Assessments, Iowa Assessments, and the ACT. These outcomes reflect the commitment of our dedicated teachers and the supportive families who set high goals and work in partnership to achieve them. Academic rigor grounded in Catholic values continues to be a hallmark of our schools.

On Mission Year-Round

Though classrooms are quiet, our mission continues. Stay connected by following the Salina Diocese Catholic Schools Facebook page for stories of faith and updates from our schools.

May your summer continue to be filled with joy, rest, and renewal as we press on as disciples on mission—together.

Rural community celebrates St. Isidore Day

By DAVID EDELL

RURAL LIFE OFFICE

The Rural Life Office hosted its annual St. Isidore Day celebration on May 15 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Francis. Festivities began earlier on May 6 with an online novena honoring St. Isidore, patron of farmers and ranchers, organized by Deacon Ed Souza of Seven Dolors and St. Francis Xavier parishes.

Leaders from across the Salina and Dodge City dioceses, along with the national Catholic Rural Life office, led nightly prayers. Each evening began with a Rosary, followed by a different prayer theme. Between 20 to 35 people, including many from the

Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia, participated each night of the novena. Special thanks to the Sisters from Vietnam visiting the Mother House for providing an excellent acappella performance on the third day of the novena.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Francis, hosted the 10:30 a.m. Feast of St. Isidore Mass. Fr. Rich Daise and Fr. Henry Saw Lone presided over the Mass. There were approximately 20 people present for the Feast.

Following Mass, a meal was prepared and served by Callicrate Cattle, Co and owner Mike

Callicrate who then led visitors on a tour of the cattle operations. Callicrate Cattle is located a few miles outside of St. Francis.

Callicrate's operations attempt to lessen environmental impact on the dwindling Ogallala Aquifer that is vital

to the farming and ranching of eastern Colorado and Western Kansas and Nebraska. Callicrate explained that by feeding dryland barley to its cattle and hogs, avoiding irrigated corn produced from the declining Ogallala Aquifer, it is helping to slow the decline in the aquifer level.

The attendees were also led on

a tour of Callicrate Banding. The banding operation is a "city-wide" business that manufactures a less stressful ligation tool for use on livestock. Callicrate Banding utilizes a large number of local workers to help make the parts for their devices. St. Francis citizens work on a segment of the apparatus from their homes.

This lets them make an income, lessen time away from family and foster a sense of community ownership in the business.

The day was a fitting tribute to St. Isidore and his wife St. Maria. The qualities found in the lives of Isidore and Maria: commitment to family, social justice work, love

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



WHAT'S HAPPENING

July 27, 2025

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, grandparents of Jesus, pray for us!



- July 4**

 - Independence Day
- July 11**

 - SHHS Endowment Golf Tournament, Salina, opening prayer, 7:45 a.m.
- July 12**

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

 - 150th Anniv. Celebration, St. Peter's, Aurora, 3 p.m.
- July 19**

 - SacredTable training event, St. Mary's Parish Hall, Salina, 9 a.m.
- July 26**

 - S.H., Plainville Auction, Mass, 4:30 p.m., auction, 6 p.m.
- July 27**

 - World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.
- July 30**

 - Principals Meeting, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.
 - Seminarian Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, 5 p.m.
- July 31**

 - Seminarian Dinner, Rose Garden Banquet Hall, Hays, 5 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE, FROM PAGE 7

man who I am to marry at the end of this year, another teacher there who continually gives of his time and talents to serve the students and help them form close bonds in faith with their peers.

Many of his former students have entered seminary, contributing to the numbers that make the Wichita Diocese lead the nation in vocations, which can be attributed in part to Fr. Kapaun's legacy.

Not everyone can make a physical pilgrimage, but we're all called to journey toward holiness. Joining in the call might look like praying for the canonization of Blessed Rother and Venerable Kapaun. It might mean asking for their intercession, that more miracles may be attributed to them.

But, most of all, it means striving to be saints ourselves—right where we are planted, with the gifts God has given us.

KOLBE PRISON RETREAT

By Fr. KYLE BERENS
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

We all know the corporal works of mercy and we all try to live them out to the best of our ability. To be honest, I had never visited those in prison before being asked by Bishop Vinke to offer Sacraments for the men in the Ellsworth Correctional Facility a few years ago.

Like the other corporal works of mercy, I have found that my visits to the prison have left me more changed than the men themselves. Their example of deep conversion, courage in the face of daily adversity, dealing with loneliness, rejection and the woundedness of life is truly inspiring. It is not a job or an assignment to go visit them - it is a joy.

While not everyone can physically visit the imprisoned, I invite you to take part in something powerful. From July 10-12, we'll host our first Kolbe Prison Retreat at Ellsworth. This three-day retreat focuses on the saints, the catechism, reconciliation, and the Eucharist. These retreats began in Texas and have spread across the U.S., but this will be the first in our diocese.

What we need most are your prayers. Pray for the men attending, the volunteers, the staff, and those who can't attend. Imagine a prison filled with the Holy Spirit—men on fire with the mercy of Christ, even behind bars.

If you'd like to join our organized prayer effort, email prayforECF@avonel.com. We'll begin a novena to St. Maximilian Kolbe from July 1-9 and hope to organize parish holy hours during the retreat.

We're also raising \$3,000 to cover meals and supplies. Any extra funds will support future retreats here and possibly in Norton.

If you'd like to volunteer now or in the future, email me at frkyleb@gmail.com.

I call these men I have the privilege to serve "my contemplatives - my men." They live behind walls, set apart from the world and so many of them live beautiful lives of prayer. I truly believe that they can live a little taste of religious life "behind bars." Let us together visit those in prison and watch the Holy Spirit set them aflame and transform the world one heart at a time.



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4:00 pm

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5:30 pm

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6:30pm -

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RURAL LIFE, CONTINUED

for the land, service to the poor and a deep spirituality are qualities that exist in rural America. Neither a scholar nor a religious leader, Isidore stands out from other Spanish saints. St. Isidore is a kind of

"everyman's saint," serving as a model for those of us who find ourselves behind a plow or desk and not an altar. He shows us that all of us can and should aspire to sainthood.

Flax, Marin conclude long careers in education

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

When you meet up with Gene Flax, you're probably going to hear the same answer every time you ask how he is doing.

"Oh, better than I deserve," he will quip, grinning from ear to ear.

That's definitely what the Hays man feels about his last stint in the education field. Ditto for Anita Marin from St. Francis.

Flax and Marin retired from education this spring after spending the twilight years of their careers in positions they felt were "better than they deserved."

Flax's 37-year career in education came to a close after spending three years as assistant principal at Holy Family Elementary in Hays from 2022-25.

He had just completed his final year as athletic director at Ulysses High School in the spring of 2022 and was ready to retire then.

But that's when Rachel Wenzling, then principal at Holy Family, gave him a call. It had been approved with the diocese to hire an assistant principal, and he was her first choice.

Flax, who had primarily taught and coached in high schools, wasn't so sure at first.

"I was a little apprehensive being around elementary kids," Flax said. "It had been lot of years since I'd been around any that young other than my grandkids. But I decided to try it one year

and it turned into three years."

He was a natural fit in the hallways of Holy Family – and on the playground as well – ready to help out wherever and whenever necessary.

"He is such a servant, always willing to do whatever needed to be done to make everyone's job easier," said Mandy Meagher, who just ended her second year as Holy Family's principal. "He definitely was a positive impact all over the school."

Meagher said that true to form, Flax didn't want anyone to "make a fuss" over him the last day of school.

So she had to be creative and plan something several days before, and students enjoyed a "tie day" to honor Flax, whose everyday school attire was a dress shirt and tie.

Now, Flax is ready to spend more time with family and continue helping out on his brother's farm near Ransom.

But he will never forget his final tour in education.

"There are definitely some things I'll miss; you can't help but miss the people," he said. "This has really been the cream of the crop. Bottom line, I'm a blessed man."

A 'dream job'

Marin's 29-year career had included teaching in a small town of Nebraska since 2007. But she always had a goal of teaching in a Catholic school.



COURTESY PHOTO

Anita Marin's smile is something students and staff at Sacred Heart Grade School, Colby, will miss next year as she retired this spring.



COURTESY PHOTO

Preschooler Khivan Robles on "tie day" at Holy Family Elementary, Hays, with retiring Assistant Principal Gene Flax.

It was a good fit for all.

"Anita has a sense of calmness that we all strive to have ourselves," fellow teacher Amanda Juenemann said in describing Marin. "She loves her students, and teaching them the importance of having a relationship with God is a priority."

Marin said she will miss working with the youngsters but is grateful that she could spend her last years in the classroom at a school like Sacred Heart.

"My last three years have been my dream job; I wish I had done it 25 years ago," she said. "Where else can you go to Mass and to Adoration and help students understand their faith and let it grow? That's a dream job."

School Notes

Catholic school students successful in many arenas

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The diocesan Catholic schools were well represented in a myriad of events and activities – both academic and athletic – to complete the school year.

National qualifiers

Beloit-St. John's won the Kansas Envirothon (environmental education) competition for a second straight year and qualified for this summer's national competition in July in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

The team, coached by Joe Holdren, consists of seniors Jonas Letourneau, Nicholas Niewald and Henry Holdren and sophomores Myla Holdren and Canaan Letourneau.

The Blujays impressively beat out two large Class 6A schools, Manhattan and Olathe North, whose combined student enrollment is more than the entire town of Beloit.

Golden Knights

Despite losing four seniors off last year's state championship team, Salina-Sacred Heart claimed its 10th consecutive state title in boys' golf, beating out Syracuse by 17 strokes in

the 2A finale.

Beloit-St. John's had two state medalists at the state sand greens tourney in juniors Grant Goodaker, 4th, and John Mick, 8th.

Two golfers from Hays/Thomas More Prep-Marian won all-state individual honors: senior Heuer Brungardt, 9th, and junior Chase Drennon, 18th.

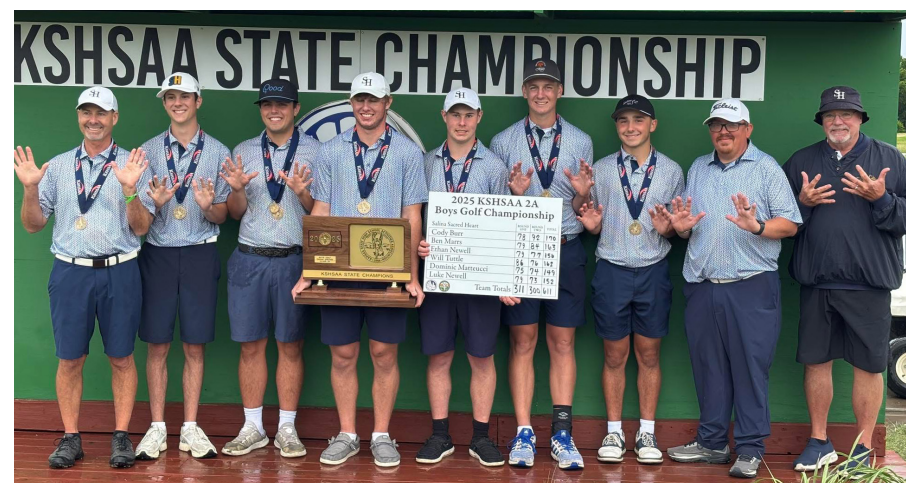
Sacred Heart was led by the third-place finish of sophomore Dominic Matteucci, while the Knights' lone senior, Luke Newell, placed fourth. Other members of the Knights' historic squad were juniors Cody Burr, Ben Marrs and Will Tuttle and sophomore Ethan Newell.

Budding entrepreneurs

Senior Teagan Gottschalk from TMP-M won a \$5,000 prize as one of the top eight finishers in the Kansas Youth Entrepreneurial Challenge in Manhattan for her "Gotcha Gutters" project.

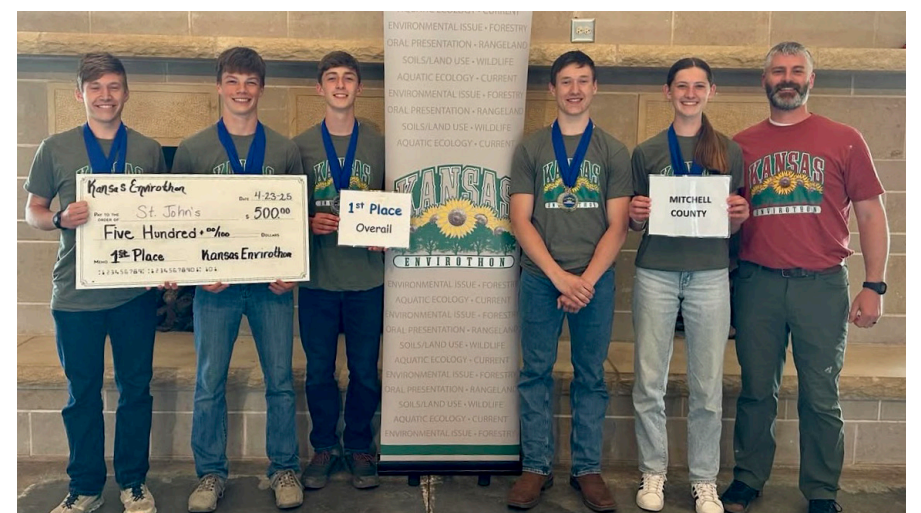
Also winning a cash prize was the team of St. John's juniors Ava Wiles and Lynelle Gengler for their presentation on their custom vinyl business.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



COURTESY PHOTO

Sacred Heart's 2A state championship golf team.



COURTESY PHOTO

St. John's state championship, national-qualifying Envirothon team.

SCHOOL NOTES CONTINUED

• In another skills competition, TMP-M senior Riley Frank claimed first-, second- and third-place honors from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters for various Monarch Hype videos.

Worth the wait

TMP-M senior Paige Schlyer took advantage of her last shot at winning a state medal, claiming the Class 2A girls' discus title while also placing third in shot put.

It was only the second year of high school track for Schlyer, who missed her first two seasons because of injury.

Teammate Shyanne Yost kept alive a family tradition at state with her eighth-place finish in high jump. She medaled at state in that event every year, as did her older sisters Savannah and Kassidy.

Other TMP-M state medalists this year for the girls were freshman Piper Simpson, 2nd, pole vault; senior Tessa Wentling, 7th, high jump; and senior Macara Rohr, 7th, triple jump. Sophomore Jackson Gillespie placed eighth in the boys' 100m dash.

• Also claiming gold was St. John's junior Ed Horinek, who won the triple jump in 1A boys' action, placed seventh in long jump and was a member of the third-place



COURTESY PHOTO

TMP-Marian's Paige Schlyer, 2A state discus champ.

COURTESY PHOTO

St. John's Edward Horinek, 1A state triple jump champ.

4x100-meter relay team along with senior Nicholas Niewald and Henry Holdren and junior Cadyn Brummer.

Other St. John's all-staters: senior Tyson Gates (3rd, boys' 110m high hurdles, and 8th, 300m inter. hurdles); and girls' 4x800 relay, 7th (junior Lynette Gengler and sophomores Myra Holdren, Christiana Niewald and Olivia Tight).

• Also in 1A, Tipton senior Carlie Brummer, 5th, javelin.

• Sacred Heart's girls had several medalists in 2A, led by senior Caroline Stone (6th, 1600m; 7th, 3200m; and 7th, 4x800m relay).

Joining her on that relay team, which placed fourth, were sophomores Adi Lee and Mia Hamilton and junior Skyler Douglas.

Other state notes

• Baseball – TMP-Marian qualified for the 2-1A state tourney, where it lost to eventual state champion Pittsburg/St. Mary's-Colgan in the first round.

• Boys' tennis – Teaming up in doubles play for just the second meet this season, Sacred Heart junior Ben Disberger and sophomore Jonah Kaumans won their first-round match at the 3-2-1A state meet before falling in the next round.



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**Sacred Heart, Colby, April 27**

Front (L-R): Braya Ackerman, Ella Ostmeyer, Brooklyn Reid, Blakely Moss, Mallory Newell, Hailey Wederski, Reata Tuma, Reign Finley and Sadie Finley. Middle front: Irlanda Mar, Olivia Prochazka, Ailen Garcia, Emma Schroeder, Quinn Denny, Pia Horinek and Remy Stephens. Middle back: Allen Mendoza, Carson Parker, Merrik Garcia, Miguel Vazquez, Timothy Schwarz, Miguel Ibarra, Elam Juenemann and Fr. Brian Lager. Back: Gabriel Garcia, Martin Garcia, Bennett Dixon, Pierce Fikan, Samuel Garcia, Deacon Tom Schrick.

**St. Joseph, Hays, May 4**

Front (L-R): Seth Staab, Kimber Mall, Stella Wilkens, Lahna Denton, Magdalene Schmeidler and Cohen Baczkowski. Middle: Joanna Shaver, Nolan Roths, Rhett Pfannenstiel, Anthony McNeil, Andrew Ochoa, Avianna Gottschalk. Back: Catechists Jerry and Renee Michaud, Fr. Fred Gatschet and Catechist Debbie Nunnelee.

**St. Francis of Assisi, Saint Francis, May 3**

Front (L-R): Daniel Escarcego, Vannya De La Mora, Gail Ponce de Leon and Aislin Mascarro. Back: Joan Gienger, Catechist and Fr. Richard Daise.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hill City, May 11**

Front and center: Wrynna Reidel and Kinsley Summers.

**Sts. Peter and Paul, Clay Center, April 27**

Front (L-R): Josie Schaefer, Rhett Wietharn, Reagan Richter, Emmie Griffiths, Paisley Richling and Pete Speltz. Middle: Clara Baumann, Kinzie Sharp, Emma Lund, Callie Baumann, Delilah Luke and Eli DeBauche. Back: Catechist Jada Sharp, Deacon Walt Slingsby, Father Mike Leiker, Deacon Mike Robinson and Catechist Lance Sharp.

**Sacred Heart Plainville**

Front (L-R): Wesley Pfannenstiel, Julian Akoh, Hallee Becker and Hudson Hageman. Back: Denise VanDegrift (teacher) Lucas Gosser, Jack Hillard, Fr. Michael, Starzyn Sharp, Isabella Deutscher and Sara VonFeldt (principal).

**Immaculate Conception, Solomon, April 6**

Front (L-R): Cassidy Koster, Charlie Benson and Olivia Adamson. Back: Oliver Koerperich, Catechist, Patty Francis, Fr. Wolesky and Jace Smith.

**St. Fidelis, Victoria, May 4**
(with May Crowning)

The Daughters of Isabella member who had the honor of crowning the Mary statue was Arlene Wittman, escorted by (back, L-R) Collins Gagnon, Ben Schulte, (front) Maggie Brungardt, Hunter Hoffman, Mya Bucher and Nash Pfeifer.

**St. Thomas, Stockton, April 27**

Front (L-R): Finley Peterson, Treyvin Mongeau, Carson Riener, Owen Muir and Ryker Whitney. Back: Fr. Michael Raj Kothalamuthu.

**St. Agnes, Grainfield, April 27**

Front (L-R): Kendall Zerr, Kaylen Flinn, Eli Zerr, Avery Manhart and Marie Beesley. Back: Father James and Charlotte Manhart.

**Our Lady Help of Christians, Antonino, May 24**

Front (L-R): Jozi Downing and Lane Boyer. Back: Fr. Job Varghese, OFM Cap.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
*Call to share***YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION**

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CONFIRMATION

**Sts. Peter and Paul, Clay Center, April 27**

Front (L-R): Deacon Walt Slingsby, Chloe Rott, Madeline Crutcher, Jenette Begnoche, Clairra Wolf, Father Mike Leiker and Catechist Kathryn Benson. Middle: Lane Sharp, Chloe Pfizenmaier, Bria Link, Mea Affolter, Angel Avalos and Deacon Mike Robinson. Back: Bishop Vincke.

CONFIRMATIONS AND GRADUATIONS



Immaculate Conception, Solomon, May 4
Front (L-R): Catechist Caleb Smith, Isabella Owen, Julianna Owen, Jordan Gray and Jackson Crippen. Back: Fr. John Wolesky, Sheila Klover, Ivan Owen, Ryan Gray, Patricia Haas and Bishop Vincke



Sacred Heart, Colby, March 9
Front (L-R): Marisol Perez, Grecia Garcia, Elizabeth Hills, Fiona Schroeder and Brinley Wiegert. Middle: Fr. Lager, Maria Schroeder, Liam Baalman, Anthony Schippers, Brynnley McLemore and Bishop Vincke. Back: Deacon Tom Schrick, Ikia Chavez, Cambria Rhymer, Abigail Jamison, Carson Newell and Lakeen Fellhoelter.



Immaculate Conception, Solomon, May 18
Front (L-R): Senior Maya Newcomer, Fr. John Wolesky, 8th Grader Jordan Gray and Senior Andrew Gray.



St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, May 8
(L-R) Teagen Pfeifer, Lindsey Cole, Jaden Ney, Aubrey Birney, Annika Nichols, Madison Sohm, Taylor Birney and Abby Strobel. Not pictured: Zachary Axtell.



Sacred Heart, Colby, May 11
Front (L-R): Hailey Bolyard, Allison Zimmerman, Emma Johnson, Natalie Wederski, Jalyssa Sabatka, Alisabeth Barton and Ella Wolf. Middle: Fr. Brian Lager, Rylie Schippers, Claire Denny, Kenlie Miller, Karli Hills, Brenn Stanley and Brylie Fenner. Back: Dalton Bell, Kellen Burvee, Grant Stephens, Casen Carroll, Cai Lanning, Brayden Foss and Deacon Tom Schrick.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia, May 4
Front (L-R): Father Joseph Kieffer, Aubrey Stahlman, Keely Kindel, Clare Meyer, Daegen DeGraff, Acacia Kindel and Katelyn Reedy. Back: Francisco Ayala, Evan Bombardier, Andrew Henderson, Carter Eakins and Brigham Chavey.



Sacred Heart, Plainville, May 11
Front (L-R): Marlie Dobson, Father Michael and Abby Molina. Back: Jayden Morris, Bryan Garvert, Noah Brewster, Sam McCune and Syllas Littrell.



Sts. Peter and Paul, Clay Center, May 11
Front (L-R): Jorja Auld, Gabrielle Koppes and Joni Begnoche. Middle: Lauren Smith, Isabella Peterson, Alexa Leitzel and Jacob Schmelzle. Back: Father Mike Leiker.

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BAPTISMS

Bristol Mae Albers, daughter of Jordan and Audrey (Werth) Albers, was baptized May 17, 2025, by Rev. Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

Elena Elizabeth Almquist, daughter of Zachary Almquist and Meghann Peterson, was baptized May 10, 2025, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

James Maverick Bolton, son of Franklin and Mika Bolton, was baptized May 11, 2025, by Rev. Don Zimmerman at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Ellee Max Branfort, daughter of Ashley (Moore) Branfort and Jordan Branfort, was baptized May 18, 2025, by Fr. Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde. Godparents are Therese (Campbell) McKinney and Rees McKinney.

Karter James Bryant, son of Kevin and Kori Bryant, was baptized May 4, 2025 by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Cecilia Tobar Lo Re Chambray, daughter of Jacob and Fernanda Chambray, was baptized May 24, 2025, by Rev. Brian McCaffrey at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays.

Adeline Louise Collins, daughter of Adam and Teresa Collins, was baptized on May 18, 2025, by Rev. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Lincoln Cook, son of Michael Cook and Paige Mendicina, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Vincent Manuel at St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish, Russell.

Myles Cook, son of Michael Cook and Paige Mendicina, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Vincent Manuel, at St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish, Russell.

Peter Daniel Fund, son of Andrew and Kimberly Fund, was baptized on June 1, 2025, by Rev. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Elia Rose Drilon Jacobo, daughter of Aaron Casey Jacobo and Rhona Jane Cap-panea Drilon, was baptized May 4, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Xavier Paul Kelley, son of Darien and Paul Kelley, was baptized May 18, 2025, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary's Parish in Salina. Godmother is Angela Bublikcel.

Raina Belle Marcantonio, daughter of Paulo and Virginia Marcantonio, was baptized on April 27, 2025, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Theo Frank Miller, son of Rex and Jessica Miller, was baptized May 18, 2025, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

Clarke Katheryn Nelson, daughter of Jeffrey Phillip Nelson and Katelyn Carol Nelson, was baptized May 3, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Vincent Louis Oste, son of Joseph Oste and Chantel Prester, was baptized May 10, 2025, by Fr. Vincent Manuel, at St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish.

Landry Maye Pahl, daughter of Sam and Madison Pahl, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Jairo Cano Porras, son of Carlos Cano and Jacqueline Magdalena Porras, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Leonel Cano Porras, son of Carlos Cano and Jacqueline Magdalena Porras, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Quinlan Bette Ptacek, daughter of Trenton and Sawyer Ptacek, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Vincent Manuel at St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish, Russell.

Porter Alan Spencer, son of Cale and Shannon (Ney) Spencer, was baptized May 18, 2025, by Fr. Luke Thielen at St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish. Godparents are Jaden Ney and Jack Joyce.

William Paul Sprunk, son of Joshua Paul Sprunk and Jillian Leigh Sprunk, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Ellis Evello Starnes, son of Dane and Valerie Starnes, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Martin Louis Toomajian, son of Christopher and Olivia Leon-Toomajian, was baptized April 21, 2025, by Dcn. Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

Caleb Kenneth Vogt, son of Cody and Lindsey Vogt, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Emmett Lawrence Vogt, son of Cody and Lindsey Vogt, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Olivia Grace Weiser, daughter of Kyle and Jenny Weiser, was baptized April 6, 2025, by Fr. Keith Weber at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Salina.

Clara Jo Young, daughter of Elliot and Kelsey Young, was baptized April 20, 2025, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.



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WEDDINGS

Jared Daniel Baker and Sarah Rose David were married May 24, 2025, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Daniel and Traci Baker. Parents of the bride are Troy and Deann David. Witnesses were Shane Sachse and Leah Euler.

Travis John Grauerholz and Justine Ann May were married May 10, 2025, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Dana and Jeannette Grauerholz. Parents of the bride are Curtis and Christine May. Witnesses were Brett Grauerholz and Lori May.

Matthew Haselhorst and Lexi Gross were married May 31, 2025, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. Rev. Robert Schremmer witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Eric and Christina Haselhorst. Parents of the bride are Jeffrey and Diana Gross. Witnesses were Omar Alvarez and Katie Stagemeyer.

Michael Patrick Kumke and Maeve Elizabeth McDonald were married May 31, 2025, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Chris and Michelle Kumke. Parents of the bride are Terrence and Colleen Kumke. Witnesses were Sean O'Brien and Michaela Fullerton.

Thomas Paul Lachowsky and Katelyn Anne Reisinger were married May 3, 2025, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Stephen and Margaret Lachowsky. Parents of the bride are Daniel and Michele Reisinger. Witnesses were William Lachowsky and Hannah Dea.

Spencer Macke and Caleigh Hewitt were married May 31, 2025, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Kevin and Dawn Macke. Parents of the bride are Mark and Marne Hewitt. Witnesses were Owen Macke and Isabella Hewitt.

Oscar Rodriguez and Alondra Ontiveros were married May 24, 2025, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. Rev. Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Miguel and Arelia Rodriguez. Parents of the bride are Jesus and Angela Ontiveros. Witnesses were Omar Luna and Elena Villezcas.

Carter Sefton and Amber Pettz were married May 17, 2025, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Andrew Rockers witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are James and Jessica Sefton. Parents of the bride are Chris and Cindy Pettz. Witnesses were Kevin Wiesner and Jennifer Sperry.

FUNERALS

Marilyn Bennett, 71, died January 14, 2025. A graveside service was held on May 22 at St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided.

Coleen (Schuster) Dinkel, 69, died May 25, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 30, 2025 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis.

Ronald F. Ellenz, 88, died May 21, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 24 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade officiated. Burial in St. John's Cemetery, Beloit.

Floris Jean Gruse, 97, died May 1, 2025. Funeral Service was celebrated on May 6 at Brock's Funeral Home in Hays. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial in Russell.

Darlene Jean Kroeger, 91, died May 2, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 19 at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in Kansas State Veterans' Cemetery, WaKeeney.

Ernest "Ernie" Adair Kroeger, 91, died May 29, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 4 at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in Kansas Veterans' Cemetery, WaKeeney.

Margie A. Legleiter, 71, of Hays, died May 8, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 13, 2025, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. Fr. Curtis Carlson, OFM Cap. presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Janet Pearson, 83, died March 23, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 8 at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt presided.

Karen Sue Smith, 75, died May 14, 2025. Funeral Mass

was celebrated May 19 at Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin. Fr. Henry Saw Lone presided. Burial in Oberlin Cemetery.

Colleen Marie Sahlfeld, 81, died May 17, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 21 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade officiated. Burial in St. John's Cemetery, Beloit.

Clayton J. Umscheid, 83, died May 14, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 23 at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan. Fr. Kerry Ninemire officiated. Burial in Valley View Memorial Park, Manhattan.

Mary Joan (Scheck) Weigel, 84, of Gorham, died April 28, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 8 at St. Mary Help of Christians Parish in Gorham. Fr. Curtis Carlson OFM Cap. presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Karen Winkel, 83, died April 3, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 11 at Sts Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City. Fr. Andrew Rockers presided. Burial in Sts Peter and Paul Cemetery, Cawker City.



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