



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

JULY 25, 2025

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

INSIDE:

ADORATION FOR PEACE 2025

• Campaign reflection and impact. **Page 3**

MEET THE NEW DEACONS

• Delve into the backgrounds of the newly ordained permanent deacons. **Page 4**

FINDING HOPE IN THE EVERYDAY

• Katie Hamel reflects on inviting Christ into daily life. **Page 6**

TOTUS TUUS IMPACT SPREADS IN DIOCESE

• Summer mission program increases involvement, forms youth. **Page 9**

HE WAITS FOR YOU

• Superintendent of Catholic Schools Geoff Andrews shares student reflections from Italy trip. **Page 16**



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

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MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Facing the altar, six men prepare to become ordained permanent deacons on June 28 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.

Deacons begin service for Salina Diocese

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

It was fitting that one of the songs chosen for the ordination Mass on June 28 was the Servant Song by Donna Marie McGargill.

Six men from across the Diocese of Salina began a new chapter in their lives of service after being ordained as permanent deacons by Bishop Gerald Vincke in the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

It was the third ordination ceremony in as many months this year, following a transitional diaconate in April and three priestly

ordinations in May.

The permanent diaconate is just that – permanent. Once ordained, a man is always a deacon.

And the diocese welcomed the newly ordained deacons with open arms, filling the cathedral to help celebrate their ordination.

"It is with a great joy and a blessing from God that these six men have been ordained deacons for the diocese!" said Dcn. Steve Frueh, director of deacons for the diocese. "All the men worked very hard during their one year of aspirancy and their four years of academic study and in their other formation

requirements."

Two of those vested as permanent deacons were from the same city (Manhattan), and the representation spread all across the diocese – more than 200 miles to the west at New Almelo.

The new cohort is comprised of Dcns. Dave DiNizzo, St. John the Baptist, Beloit; Tim Donohoue, Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Manhattan; Harry Hardy, St. Thomas More, Manhattan; Mark LeValley, St. Mary Queen of the Universe, Salina; Bill Meagher, St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays; and Dan Wahlmeier, St. Joseph, New Almelo.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Prayer & Action: 'Being Christ for others'

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Since 2006, college and high school students have gathered in towns across our diocese in the summer to do volunteer work for those in need.

The Salina Diocese's Prayer & Action ministry, in its 19th year, placed work crews in Goodland and Junction City this year.

The impact these young men and women had during their six-week stay in each city will be talked about for a long time.

When Goodland residents Ben and Donna Swager heard about P&A coming to their town this year, they decided to request some work at their home because "we aren't as sure footed anymore."

The students removed a walkway and cleaned up an area around a bridge that leads to a water feature in the Swagers' back yard and also stained their deck.

"The kids were all very respectful wherever they were all around town, and they really made a splash. It was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Team member Ethan Weiner adds a coat of paint to a Goodland home.

You matter to God

Several weeks—and even months—after last year’s Eucharistic Conference, I continued to hear from people who attended. Many shared how deeply they were moved by the experience. One woman told me she loved every second of it. I’m so grateful to everyone who came and participated. I truly believe many encountered God’s love and presence in a powerful new way.

Because of the incredible support and enthusiasm we received, we’re excited to offer another Eucharistic Conference this year—on August 9 and 10 at Fort Hays State University in Hays. I genuinely believe this weekend will be a gift to all who attend.

Our keynote speaker is Father John Riccardo, founder of ACTS XXIX, who will be joined by several members of his team. Father Riccardo is a dynamic and passionate preacher—deeply rooted in Scripture, full of wisdom, and on fire with love for the Lord. His mission is to help us follow the path of Jesus to eternal life.

In his book, “Heaven Begins Now: Becoming a Saint Day by Day,” Fr. Riccardo writes, “Holiness is not the accumulation of virtues. Holiness is being possessed by God.”

God desires you. You matter to

God.

Fr. Riccardo also writes, “The martyrs remind us that if we would just have faith the size of a mustard seed, then no matter what it is that is taking place in our lives, we will be at peace. Why?

Because we belong to God. Because our lives are in His hands. And because He is never afraid, and He can handle any situation we could ever face.”

This year’s theme, “Hope Does Not Disappoint,” ties into the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. In a world often marked by uncertainty, this weekend will focus on the firm and unshakable hope we find in Christ and the Eucharist. Through inspiring talks, prayerful reflection, Eucharistic Adoration, and the celebration of the Mass, we will be invited to deepen our love for the Blessed Sacrament and grow to trust in God’s promises.

Jesus is calling you to draw near.

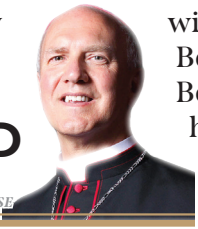
I know there are many things we could be doing during those August days—but is there anything more important than nurturing your relationship with the Lord?

Please come. Don’t be afraid.

I hope to see you at the Eucharistic Conference, August 9–10.

I don’t think you’ll regret opening your heart to the Lord’s love and mercy.

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



BISHOP’S AUGUST CALENDAR

- 3** Vocations BBQ, St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays, 3 p.m.
- 5-7** K of C Supreme Convention, Washington, D.C.
- 8** Runnin’ Revs, Gross Coliseum, FHSU, Hays, 6 p.m., followed by Social/Adoration at the Comeau Center.
- 9-10** Eucharistic Conference, FHSU, Hays.
- 14** Feast Day Mass, St. Mary of the Assumption, Clifton, 5:30 p.m.
- 14** Feast Day Mass, St. John the Baptist, Clyde, 7 p.m.
- 15** Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary (Chancery closed).
- 25-29** USCCB Episcopal Pastoral visit with Farmworkers.

TÚ LE IMPORTAS A DIOS

Varias semanas—e incluso meses—después del Congreso Eucarístico del año pasado, seguí recibiendo comentarios de personas que asistieron. Muchos compartieron lo profundamente conmovidos que se sintieron por la experiencia. Una mujer me dijo que disfrutó de cada segundo. Estoy muy agradecido con todos los que asistieron y participaron. Realmente creo que muchos encontraron el amor y la presencia de Dios de una manera nueva y poderosa.

Gracias al apoyo y entusiasmo increíble que recibimos, estamos emocionados de ofrecer otro Congreso Eucarístico este año—los días 9 y 10 de agosto en Fort Hays State University en Hays. Creo sinceramente que ese fin de semana será un regalo para todos los que asistan.

Nuestro orador principal será el Padre John Riccardo, fundador de ACTS XXIX, quien estará acompañado por varios miembros de su equipo. El Padre Riccardo es un predicador dinámico y apasionado—profundamente arraigado en las Escrituras, lleno de sabiduría y encendido con amor por el Señor. Su misión es ayudarnos a seguir el camino de Jesús hacia la vida eterna.

En su libro, “Heaven Begins Now: Becoming a Saint Day by Day” [El cielo comienza ahora: Cómo ser santo día a día], el Padre Riccardo escribe: “La santidad no es la acumulación de virtudes. La santidad es ser poseído por Dios.”

Dios te desea. Tú le importas a Dios.

También escribe: “Los mártires nos recuerdan que, si tuviéramos fe del tamaño de un grano de mostaza, entonces, sin importar lo que esté ocurriendo en nuestras vidas, estaríamos en paz. ¿Por qué? Porque pertenecemos a Dios. Y porque nuestras vidas están en Sus manos. Y porque Él nunca tiene miedo, y puede manejar cualquier situación que podamos enfrentar.”

El tema de este año, “La esperanza no defrauda,” se vincula con el Año Jubilar de la Esperanza 2025.

En un mundo frecuentemente marcado por la incertidumbre, ese fin de semana se centrará en la esperanza firme e inquebrantable que encontramos en Cristo y en la Eucaristía. A través de charlas inspiradoras, momentos de reflexión en oración, Adoración Eucarística y la celebración de la Santa Misa, se nos invitará a profundizar nuestro amor por el Santísimo Sacramento y a crecer en la confianza en las promesas de Dios.

Jesús te llama a acercarte. Sé que hay muchas cosas que podríamos estar haciendo en esos días de agosto, pero ¿hay algo más importante que nutrir tu relación con el Señor?

Por favor, ven. No tengas miedo. Espero verte en el Congreso Eucarístico, los días 9 y 10 de agosto. No creo que te arrepientas de abrir tu corazón al amor y la misericordia del Señor.

HOST FAMILY OPPORTUNITY

Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School in Salina is seeking a loving host family for a Korean student excited to experience American culture and Catholic education.

Becoming a host family is a meaningful way to share your home and heart while forming lifelong bonds and embracing a

cultural exchange. Host families receive a monthly stipend to assist with expenses. Student’s tuition and school-related fees are fully covered by the host student organization

Help provide a supportive and enriching experience. Contact Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School today at 785-827-4422!

SISTER MARILYN STAHL PASSES AWAY

Sister Marilyn Stahl, CSJ, 84, died June 26, 2025, at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia. A Sister of St. Joseph for 65 years, she was born February 10, 1941, in Plainville to Bernard and Grace Bisset Stahl, the second of nine children.

She entered the congregation in 1959, received the habit as Sister Joseph Raphael, and later returned to her baptismal name. She professed final vows in 1963.

Sister Marilyn earned a BA from Marymount College (1967) and an

MA in history from Indiana University (1969). She taught history at Marymount until 1982, then served in Washington, DC, and New York, focusing on social justice. In 2004, she returned to Wichita to work for the diocese and volunteer. She retired to the Motherhouse in 2017.

Preceded in death by her parents and four brothers, she is survived by four sisters. A vigil and funeral Mass were held July 7 at the Motherhouse Chapel, with burial in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery.



SISTER MARILYN STAHL

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Father Daryl Olmstead takes time out to pose for a photo at his 50th jubilee celebration in Tipton on June 8. It also served as a thank-you and going-away party for Fr. Daryl, who was leaving Tipton after 10 years for another parish.



COURTESY PHOTO



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Publisher: Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke, BISHOP OF SALINA | Editor and advertising: Lori Leiszler, THEREGISTER@SALINADIOCESE.ORG |

Business manager: Jennifer Hood, FINANCE@SALINADIOCESE.ORG | salinadiocese.org/publications | Phone: (785) 827-8746

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Adoration movement grows in Salina Diocese

By LORI LEISZLER
THE REGISTER

Around the seventh or eighth century, Saint John Damascene said, “The Eucharist is a fire which inflames us.”

Over a thousand years later, it still is.

In the past year, the Diocese of Salina has experienced a powerful rekindling of that fire of faith through Eucharistic Adoration. With the official launch of the Adoration for Peace 2025 campaign this past spring—and the upcoming Second Annual Eucharistic Conference in August—spending time with the Lord in Adoration continues to gain momentum and ignite hearts across the diocese.

In August 2024, the diocese hosted its first Eucharistic Conference, drawing participants from across Kansas for a weekend of worship and Adoration. That spirit of revival has only grown stronger.

In March 2025, the diocesan Office of Evangelization officially launched Adoration for Peace, a movement aimed at increasing Eucharistic Adoration in all 86 parishes across the diocese. Each parish developed its own plan, tailored to its community.

By the campaign’s culmination on June 22, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the diocese saw a total increase of around 500.5 weekly hours of Eucharistic Adoration.

Many of the efforts were coordinated by volunteer adoration coordinators—dedicated parishioners who organized schedules, communicated needs and encouraged participation.

“It was such a joy to collaborate with the Eucharistic Adoration coordinators in each parish throughout the Diocese of Salina,” said Andrew Niewald, president of the Adoratio Foundation, which partnered with the diocese to guide the campaign. “I am truly grateful to Bishop Vincke for his vision, support, and belief in the power of Eucharistic Adoration as a foundation for a vibrant Eucharistic revival.”

The Adoratio Foundation, based in Beloit, promotes a deeper love



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Father Job Varghese, OFM Cap., leads a Eucharistic procession in Victoria for students at Totus Tuus in June. See page 9 of this edition of The Register to learn more about the Salina Diocese Totus Tuus program.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Joe Espallat, Bishop Vincke and Fr. Adam Urban kneel during the first annual Eucharistic Conference. All are welcome to attend the second Eucharistic Conference in Hays, August 9-10. Register at salinadiocese.org.

of the Eucharist through Adoration. It collaborates with Comunità Regina della Pace (Community of the Queen of Peace) on initiatives such as the Stars of Peace campaign, which encourages the establishment of Perpetual Adoration chapels worldwide.

The foundation also helped place a billboard on I-70 during the campaign, inviting travelers to encounter Christ through Eucharistic Adoration.

Niewald shared with *The Register* that the foundation is currently developing plans for a future Adoration shrine and expanded campus surrounding St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. More information is available at StarsofPeace.org.

Despite differing goals for each parish, the momentum is undeniable: Over just four months, the campaign has seen a 49 percent increase in Adoration participation across the diocese.

Perhaps most encouraging is the increase in parish involvement. According to Niewald, 32 new parishes began offering Eucharistic Adoration in 2025 alone.

“My hope is that each parish continues to grow in this beautiful devotion,” Niewald said. “The opportunity is certainly there, as research shows that only about 5 to 7 percent of Catholics

regularly participate in weekly Eucharistic Adoration. With continued spiritual effort, prayer, and support, I believe we will see even more growth and more hearts drawn closer to Christ in the Eucharist.”

This diocesan-wide movement arrives at a meaningful moment. In August, the Diocese of Salina will host its Second Annual Eucharistic Conference—a day of inspiration, formation, and Eucharistic worship for Catholics of all ages. The event, part of the diocese’s broader commitment to Eucharistic revival, will build on the momentum sparked by initiatives like Adoration for Peace.

Sienna Wingerson, Eucharistic Conference Coordinator, shared how her own encounter with Adoration began during her college years at St. Isidore’s in Manhattan.

“I wasn’t really exposed to Adoration much until college,” Wingerson said. “It was there—at daily Adoration at St. Isidore’s—that I had my first true experience with prolonged silence and contemplative prayer. It was really beautiful to learn how to be silent and to listen to God in a world that is constantly pushing noise, distraction, and time-consuming things our way.”

She described Adoration as a place of refuge.

“In a world that tells us the best thing is to be constantly entertained, Adoration became a space of peace—a place to truly learn how to pray and listen. For me, getting to be a facilitator of the Lord’s grace and mercy now through the conference, getting to be the hands and feet of Christ in that and seeing that impact

spread, is really beautiful.”

Wingerson encouraged those who may feel hesitant about Adoration to be open to God.

“When we seek to know God, it overjoys Him. So even if going to Adoration and being in silence is hard or uncomfortable—and you don’t feel like you get anything out of it—the Lord still sees it. Give the conference a chance. Open your heart to the workings of the Holy Spirit.”

Deacon Bill Meagher, diocesan director of communications and a leader in ministry, has also been a key figure in planning the conference and supporting the broader revival effort.

Meagher emphasized that the true impact of Adoration cannot be measured in numbers alone.

“The true impact is what happens in those quiet moments before the Eucharist, when people encounter the living Christ—personally, powerfully, and intimately,” Meagher said. “Through those encounters with Jesus, lives are changed, vocations are born, wounds begin to heal, and faith is awakened in ways that only He can accomplish.”

Ultimately, the goal of the diocese’s efforts is not just to increase hours of prayer—but to foster authentic, transformative encounters with Christ.

“We may be able to calculate total hours increased,” said Niewald, “but we’ll never fully understand the depth of the impact here on earth of an individual’s encounter with God. Take time to love those around you—and the Lord—by carving out even a few moments to stop by the church or Adoration chapel and simply thank Him for the many blessings He has given us.”

AUGUST PRAYER INTENTIONS

Diocesan intentions:

We pray for peace in our world—may Christ heal all divisions, end violence and guide all our hearts toward justice and mercy.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Gerald Vincke prepares to ordain six men as permanent deacons in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina on June 28.

SUPER SIX, FROM PAGE 1

The ordination completed an arduous, five-year journey for the deacons, who immediately began serving at their parishes the same weekend they were ordained.

Following a year of aspirancy, where the men met one night a month in Victoria, they gathered for one full weekend a month over the next four years.

Each weekend, which ran from Friday evening through Sunday noon, featured 12 hours of instruction, prayer and fellowship at the Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life, located in the St. Fidelis Friary.

"I know it was a sacrifice for their families to have their husbands and dads away from home while they were away in Victoria during the formation weekends, for which I am very grateful," Dcn. Steve said.

As ordained ministers, these permanent deacons now will perform various parish ministries, such as assisting priests and the bishop and proclaiming the Gospel at Mass, preaching homilies, performing baptisms and presiding at marriages and funerals.

Other responsibilities include whatever is asked of them as part of their

ministry of service.

The ordination was held on the vigil of the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul, two of the church's most important apostles.

St. Peter represents the church's stability and leadership and St. Paul, the church's mission and outreach.

"What a great day for the diocese," Bishop Vincke said in his homily during the ordination rite, calling the new cohort the Super Six.

He addressed the candidates, saying: "I've talked to some people (lately) who are unsettled with the world. God's response is happening today, sending you out to share his mission. Thanks for persevering."

The bishop then questioned the elect, which was followed by the Litany of the Saints and the laying on of Hands and Prayer of Ordination.

Each deacon then received their stole from someone special they had chosen for the investiture.

"I have full and complete confidence that these men will faithfully serve their parishes in all their ministries," Dcn. Steve said, "and I welcome them into the deacon brotherhood of the Diocese of Salina."

Meet the new Deacons

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The Diocese of Salina was blessed with the ordination of six new permanent deacons on June 28.

After five years of formation, these men returned to their parishes through the ministries of the word, the liturgy and charity.

All six deacons assisted at their first Mass the same weekend they were ordained, with most giving a homily as well.

Each man expressed gratitude to so many who have supported them along their diaconate journey, especially their wives and families.

Following is a short bio on each of the new deacons.

Dcn. Dave DiNuzzo

Parish: St. John the Baptist, Beloit

Family: wife Catherine; children Lilly, 17; Emma, 16; David Jr., 14; Maria, 13.

"My wife and children have sacrificed a ton for me to be in the formation program, but they support the calling from Our Blessed Lord for me to be a deacon even knowing ahead of time that there will be plenty more sacrifices that

are asked of them."

Dcn. Dave said he can trace his diaconate calling all the way back to his childhood from the time he loved serving as an altar boy.

Although he was called to married life instead of the priesthood, he has always been drawn to a life of service and also said he has always loved to preach and teach and take care of those in need.

Dcn. Dave says he is looking forward to his new role as a member of the clergy after receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders. "I will have the responsibility to live out Holy Orders well, and that increased responsibility is exciting to me."

Dcn. Dave, St. John's first permanent deacon, was surrounded by family from seven different states to help him celebrate his

ordination and/or his first Mass.

After vesting Dcn. Dave at the ordination Mass the day before, Fr. Ben Holdren from the Diocese of Lincoln (the deacon's former spiritual director) concelebrated at his first Mass – where Dcn. Dave's father-in-law played the organ, and his 18-year-old

niece cantored.

Dcn. Tim Donohue

Parish: Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Manhattan

Family: wife Cindy; adult children Jordan Noel Donohue-Lives and Nicholas Donohue.

Dcn. Tim described the support from his family as "fantastic." His wife attended nearly every weekend of formation, and he said she enjoyed the educational and formation aspects.

Dcn. Tim said he came back on fire from a retreat about five years ago, and the next day his parish priest asked him to pray about entering the diaconate program. "And here we are today," he said.

He said he is looking forward to assisting at Mass and interacting with his parishioners, celebrating the sacrament of Baptism, continuing to work with taking communion to the homebound and working with the local hospice program.

He assisted at his first Mass the Sunday morning following ordination and gave his first homily.

Ten of Dcn. Tim's 12 siblings came from five



Dcn. Donohue



Dcn. DiNuzzo

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

MEET THE DEACONS, FROM PAGE 4

different states to attend his ordination Mass and/or first Mass, including his twin brother, Terry, who was one of the gift bearers at his first Mass.

Numerous other family members ministered in various roles at Dcn. Tim's first Mass, and he was honored that his daughter and son served as lectors at Saturday's ordination Mass.

Also in attendance was his college football coach, 86-year-old Bob Cortese, who came all the way from California.

Dcn. Harry Hardy

Parish: St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

Family: wife Kathy; six grown children in several states (Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee and Kansas) and 12 grandchildren.

Dcn. Harry is quite familiar with permanent deacons as he is the fourth one currently in his parish.

Entering the diaconate is something he said he has been praying about for some time. When he decided to begin the formation process, he was going to exceed the maximum age set by the diocese for ordination of permanent deacons. But he was granted an exception from Bishop Vincke to enter formation.

His wife attended the majority of his formation classes with him and found them to be "extremely spiritually enriching." He added that his parish family has been very supportive as well, with parishioners regularly asking about his formation and offering up prayers.

Deacon is derived from the Greek work diakonia which means service.

Dcn. Harry said, "I hope to do my small part to give a visible presence of diakonia to the people of the St. Thomas More, the greater Manhattan community and the Salina Diocese."

Dcn. Harry gave a homily at both Sunday Masses at St. Thomas More the day after ordination. Family from several states attended, including several children and grandchildren and an 86-year-old uncle from Cheyenne, Wyo.

Also in attendance was a former co-worker of Dcn. Harry's, who traveled from

Maryland.

"She claims," he said, "that I planted the seed that led to her coming into the Catholic Church."

Dcn. Mark LeValley

Parish: St Mary's Queen of the Universe, Salina.

Family: wife Clementina; children Ben and wife Camille, Andrew and wife Lauren, and Nathan.

Dcn. Mark said he received a call to the diaconate at two different times – first in front of the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration nearly 20 years ago and again during a retreat "when I asked the Lord for his direction in my life, and this continued during times of prayer in Adoration."

He lived in Texas at the time and said he "started to pray about it earnestly and was receiving affirmation from friends."

After moving to Kansas from Texas, he made more inquiries about the diaconate program in the Salina Diocese and started the aspirancy year in 2020.

Dcn. Mark assisted at his first Mass the same Saturday evening (June 28th) at St. Mary Queen of the Universe in Salina, the vigil Mass for the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul, and gave his first homily then.

He got a quick introduction to his new position, giving homilies at two of the four Masses at St. Mary Church the day after his ordination.

"I have been humbled by the process and the idea of serving Christ by serving in my parish and diocese," Dcn. Mark said. "I am looking forward to serving, to be close to Christ on the altar and to proclaim his word."

Dcn. Bill Meagher

Parish: St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays

Family: wife Mandy; children Thomas, 15; Andrew, 14; Emma, 12.

After discerning a possible call to the priesthood in college, Dcn. Bill eventually realized that wasn't his vocation, but he said that discernment still planted a seed. The call grew stron-

ger when he taught and coached at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School, where he served as campus minister.

He said he has always felt called to service, teaching and ministry and the desire to serve God and the church.

His involvement with the church began at an early age as his dad has played the organ for the church since Dcn. Bill and his siblings

were young. Both his parents also have worked at Catholic schools for several years, and his wife, Mandy, is principal at Holy Family Elementary School in Hays.

Dcn. Bill's journey continues to be one for the entire family. Such was the case at his first Mass at St. Nicholas just hours after his ordination, where all three of his children were altar servers and his dad played the organ.

"My family has learned with me, prayed with me and supported me throughout the entire formation process. It was very special to have my kids participate in my first Mass as servers. Now, I'm excited to serve in whatever way God asks me to serve and to help people to encounter Christ."

Dcn. Dan Wahlmeier

Parish: St. Joseph, New Alamo.

Family: wife Shelly; grown children Jazzmin and Joaquin, both married and each has one child.

Dcn. Dan had an aunt who was a religious sister and "a wonderful example of how to serve others."

But becoming a deacon was not something he had thought about until about seven years ago when he heard the Lord's call. "From that moment on, I surrendered. That surrender transformed my prayer life into something profoundly beautiful."

Dcn. Dan said he was genuinely surprised and deeply touched by the number of people (about 70) who came for his ordination. A cousin flew from Florida to Arizona to drive his 89-year-old uncle there, and other family came in from several other states as well.

One special memory for Dcn. Dan from ordination



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Gerald Vincke addresses the deacon candidates and their families gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

day was when 85-year-old Fr. Dan Scheetz, who grew up just a mile from Dcn. Dan's home, asked for his blessing.

Dcn. Dan gave the homily at his first Mass on the Sunday following ordination, where he served at the altar along with Dcn. Brian Kirk, who Dcn. Dan said "has been a wonderful mentor to both Shelly and me."

Now, he says, "My focus will be on serving with humility those entrusted to my care. I look forward to guiding and educating those who seek to deepen their understanding of the faith. My hope is to help foster a reverent and beautiful liturgy that honors the Lord, and through that, becomes a powerful means of evangelization."

PROMISE TO PROTECT

PLEDGE TO HEAL

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PROMESA DE PROTEGER

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Finding hope in the everyday moments

In this jubilee year, I've been reflecting on hope - what it looks like, what it feels like.

I don't really know how to define hope in a way that makes sense to myself. I can read the words in the catechism

about it, and sure, they make sense on an intellectual level. But when I think about hope, I don't think about the words of the catechism. I don't immediately call to mind quotes from Scripture.

When I think about hope, I see it in images - frozen memories that make my heart feel full and my soul light.

Hope for me is the smirk a little red-headed, gray-eyed boy gives me every morning. It's the laugh from a red-headed, blue-eyed little girl. It's the soft pressure of leaning into my husband's side sitting together on the couch. It's the steady rhythm of our baby's heartbeat at the ultrasound.

Hope is the gray in my mom's hair and the wrinkles around my dad's eyes. It's the loudness of my siblings all gathered

around the table for a meal.

It's the kindness of a stranger lending me a hand with my kids. It's the old couple who sits in front of me at Mass who has been sitting in that same pew for decades upon decades. It's light-hearted

banter and soul-searching conversation with friends.

It's my toddler son's hands clasped in prayer and his little voice saying, "Hi, Jesus!" when we drive to Mass. It's holding my daughter in the back of church. It's the strong, steady voice of my husband leading us in a nighttime prayer.

When I think of hope, I think of these snippets of memories. I call to mind all the times and places in my heart when I knew beyond a doubt that God was good and all would be well.

Of course today, there are plenty of things in the world that are broken, scary and confusing. There are a lot of things we could despair about.

But when I call to mind

all these memories, I can't despair. Because the God who takes care of me in the little moments will surely take care of me in the big ones. The God who fills up the mundane moments of ordinary life with such precious, joy-filled, hopeful memories, will surely take the big, "important" issues of our world and do the same thing there.

Maybe it's kind of silly or naive to think of hope this way. But for me, sometimes I feel insignificant. Not in a self-pitying kind of way, but in a, "You are dust and to dust you shall return," kind of way. I feel small and little among the greatness God has created.

Yet, even in my littleness, he fills my days with hope. In the hard days of marriage and family life, he consoles. And if he does that for me in my littleness, surely he will do it for the world in its bigness.

May we all look for hope in the daily moments of our ordinary lives.

Katie Hamel is a wife, mother and writer. Read more of her writing at katiehamel.com.

KATIE Hamel
FAITH MAGAZINE EDITOR



DIOCESE STAFF RECEIVE CATHOLIC MEDIA AWARDS

By LORI LEISZLER
THE REGISTER

The communications team for the Diocese of Salina is proud to announce its recent recognition at the 2025 Catholic Media Awards, presented by the Catholic Media Association. These national honors celebrate excellence in faith-based journalism and communications, recognizing media professionals who inform, inspire, and evangelize through storytelling grounded in Catholic values.

Several members of the diocesan communications team were honored for their outstanding contributions:

First Place:
Best Annual Report
Call to Share 2024 in *faith* Magazine by Corrina Hudsonpillar and Katie Hamel

Honorable Mention:
Best Podcast Series

Guided by Grace by Matea Gregg, Clare Stramel and Lindy Meyer

Second Place: Best Diocesan Appeal Video
Call to Share Kick-off by Matea Gregg and Corrina Hudsonpillar

Honorable Mention:
Best Personality Profile (Non-Weekly Newspaper)
Fr. Don: Making a Difference for 50+ Years by Diane Gasper-O'Brien

The Catholic Media Awards recognize work produced in the previous calendar year by CMA members and are presented at the annual Catholic Media Conference. Please join us in congratulating these women on their wins!



Our diocesan communication team makes it a goal to share impactful stories of faith and hope. If you or anyone you know has a story to share, contact theregister@salinadiocese.org with more details.

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- August 2**

 - Tipton Church Picnic, Mass, 4 p.m.
- August 3**

 - Vocations BBQ, St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays, 3 p.m.
- August 8**

 - Runnin' Revs, FHSU Hays, 6 p.m.
- August 9-10**

 - Eucharistic Conference, FHSU, Hays.
- August 15**

 - The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, body and soul, into Heaven.
- August 23**

 - St. John's Harvest Festival, Beloit, 5 p.m.
- August 30-September 1**

 - Jr. CYO Camp weekend, Rock Springs.

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



The Assumption is on August 15. On this day we celebrate the Virgin Mary being taken into Heaven, body and soul.

The Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning Mass attendance is required. Check your local parish for Mass times for this special day!

St. John's 86th Annual Harvest Festival

Saturday, August 23, 2025

Join us for a night of fun!

- Mass at 4:30 pm**
- Meal 5:00-8:00 pm**
- Beer Garden 5:00-10:00 pm**
- Kid Games & Rides 6:00-9:00 pm**
- Bingo 6:30-10:00 pm**
- Raffle prizes to be drawn at 10:00 pm**


Follow our Facebook page (St. John's Harvest Festival) or scan the QR code for more information!



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KMDG 105.7, Hays
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KJDM 101.7 Lindsborg/Salina
Ellsworth to Junction City

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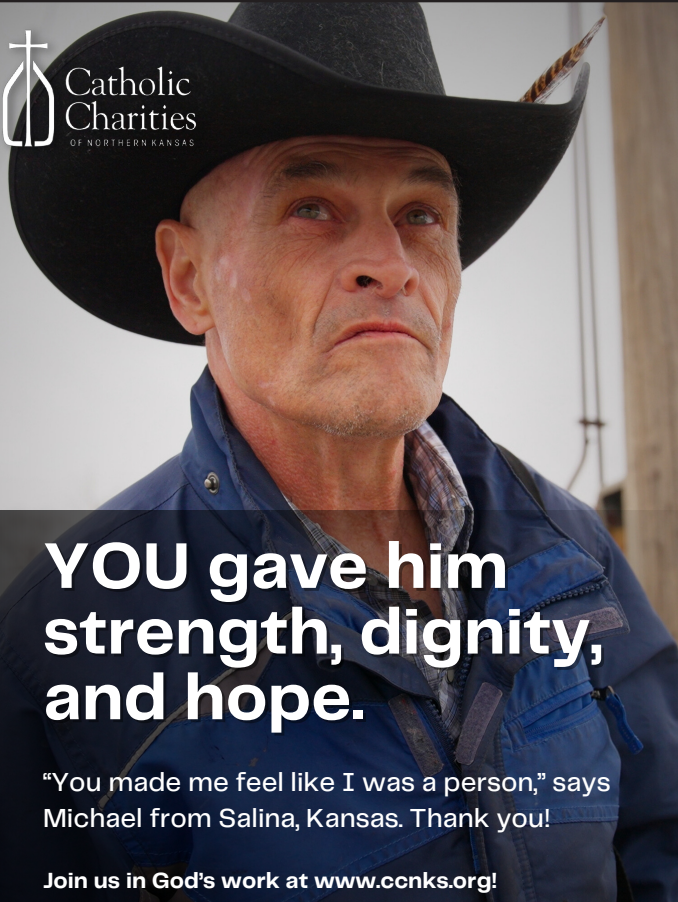
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Prayer & Action: 'Being Christ for others'

FROM PAGE 1

such a wonderful statement for Catholics," Donna Swager said. "It really made an impression on our community."

A few days it rained, and the P&A ministers helped out at Hope's Place, a free pregnancy resource and family support center which the Swagers manage.

"One day every week, they pulled the bags in from the garage and sorted clothes and organized them; they were lifesavers," Donna said. "Most of them talked about how impactful this was on their lives, but they were the ones making such a difference in Goodland."

College student leaders from the diocese train for two weeks at the start of summer, then each week they get a new group of students and volunteers to lead in work and prayer. Each summer they try and volunteer in two places, this summer's towns being Goodland and Junction City.

This year in Goodland, there was even a brother-sister combo from Italy participating along with a group from St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

Vojtech Bronk and his sister, Katerina, had met the senior class from St. John's High School when the Beloit group toured Rome during the fall 2024 semester.

Faith Woods from St. John's was one Kansan who kept in touch with the Italian siblings since their visit overseas. She told them how rewarding Prayer & Action was, encouraging them to come see for themselves.

So, they did – and the Italians were thoroughly impressed.

"Our parents thought it was a good opportunity to grow in our faith and to meet Catholic people from Kansas," said Vojtech, who like many other P&A participants is 17 years old.

"In the beginning, I was a bit nervous, because it was my first time coming to America," he added. "But I was excited to meet other Americans, and in Beloit, there is a nice collaboration if you need help."

Katerina, 15, agreed.

"We like to do volunteer work back home," she said, admitting P&A was part of



an unforgettable experience in her trip to America.

The visitors talked about the differences between their home and America, particularly mentioning the wide open spaces and large families in Kansas.

Vojtech and Katerina live in an apartment in Rome with their parents and two younger brothers.

"And that's considered a big family," Vojtech said.

One of the families which the visitors stayed with during their visit to Beloit – Alan and Stacy Holdren – also have four children, but Faith Woods is the third oldest sibling of nine children of Ben and Stacy Woods.

The St. John's parish was well represented at P&A over the summer.

Tony Horinek, a local farmer from Beloit, decided to participate in P&A as an adult when three of his grandchildren asked him to come along this year.

"We were still planting corn, but you're always on the farm, so I decided to do it," he said. "It was very rewarding. I got to know some of our kids better and met a lot of others. The bond among these kids helps them deepen and solidify their faith."

Some days can get long in the heat of summer, because a lot of jobs consist of painting houses.

"This kind of work was nothing new for me; for a lot of kids, it was," Horinek said. "But they aren't doing it for themselves. They're doing it for others. They're being Christ for others."

1. For siblings Vojtech and Katerina Bronk from Italy, Prayer & Action was a chance to take a closer look into volunteer work in the heartland. The Bronks met students from St. John's, Beloit, last fall, who encouraged them to visit Kansas and experience the diocese's deep faith opportunities for themselves.

2. Lexie Schroeder prepares to add a new coat of paint to a Goodland house during the first P&A week of the summer, College Week, before the high schoolers arrived on site.

3. Volunteer Meredith Baumann, from St. Thomas More, Manhattan, shows off a sign she found at Hope's Place. Students each week at Goodland volunteered at Hope's Place, a pregnancy and family support center.

4. Homeowners share that the spiritual impacts of seeing and talking to the volunteers can be just as impactful as the updates and renovations the students make around their homes.

5. Team member Craig Kuhlman (right) shares a smile with long-time volunteer Pam Pelzel, during the first week on site in Junction City.

Totus Tuus impact spreads far and wide



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS



COURTESY PHOTO

Emma Mick points out features during a children's church tour.

Students at Totus Tuus in Oakley share smiles after a week of fun together in June.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Children at St. Fidelis in Victoria gather at the altar during a prayer service for Totus Tuus.

SEMINARIAN KYLE PFEIFER HELPS FRANKI HASELHORST SECURE A WRIST STRAP DURING A TOTUS TUUS SESSION IN SALINA.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Team lead Jensen Brull and Ella Juenemann lead students in an activity during fun time at Totus Tuus.

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The website for the Catholic summer youth program Totus Tuus states that it reaches thousands of young people for Christ every summer.

However, it actually reaches thousands of people of all ages.

In the Salina Diocese alone, a record-number 27 programs were held through a seven-week period this summer.

Sixteen college students made up four teams that led week-long instruction to hundreds of youth in grades 1 through 12 from as far west as Sharon Springs, Atwood and Colby to the eastern part of the diocese in Hanover,

Belleville and Fort Riley – and many places in-between. Adult parishioners volunteered to provide lunches each day, and most locations had parishioners provide rooms for team leaders for the week.

In Salina, a young group of first-time Totus Tuus leaders admitted it was a learning experience for all of them this summer.

Jacob Schmelzle from Riley and Ella Juenemann from Norton began this summer venture before their college careers even began. And Jensen Brull from Hays and Jane Letourneau from Beloit had just completed their first year of college.

Nonetheless, they all agreed that a 10-day training period in Wichita at the beginning of the summer prepared them well, and some were able to call on their own experiences from participating in Totus Tuus themselves as youngsters.

Kyle Pfeifer, one of our

diocesan seminarians who is just finishing up his pastoral year at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina, was able to help out at the Salina Totus Tuus location this year.

"I am very impressed with these young people," Pfeifer said in reference to the leaders as they all sat around one day, catching their breath after a long day of classes with first-through sixth-graders.

They were able to take a little break before preparing for the night group that included seventh- through 12th-graders.

"You can actually bond with the older group," Jacob said. "In the last parish, two people were actually older than me."

Totus Tuus is Latin for "totally yours."

One day during a class in Salina, a group of first-graders were totally engaged in the lesson as Jensen from Hays instructed them to sit quietly on the floor after a beginning prayer.

It didn't take long for several youngsters to nearly leap to their feet with excitement, hands waving as they anxiously awaited to answer a question. Some even shouted out an answer before being called upon.

Jensen was patient, but firm, with the excited youngsters as he told them he would call first on those who followed the rules correctly.

On this particular day, the lesson was on the third joyful mystery of the rosary as they reviewed lessons from the day before.

"They are great at remembering what they learned the last couple of days," said Jensen, adding that he was grateful not only for the opportunity to be a leader but also for those parishioners around the diocese who take the leaders into their home for a week.

In Salina, that was the Gage and Mandy Cranmer family.

The Cranmers, who have three children involved in Totus Tuus, are in their fourth year serving as a host family for some of the leaders.

"The future of the church are our youth, and we want our kids to be involved," Mandy Cranmer said, adding that youngsters witnessing young adults practice their faith is invaluable.

She said her children were especially pleased to attend the ordination of Father Jesse Ochs to the priesthood in late May. He had stayed with their family while working Totus Tuus several years ago.

"When Father Jesse got ordained, it was really special for our kids," Mandy said. "They thought it was so cool that a priest had stayed in our home. This is a way for our young kids to see their vocation."

Only two leaders were back from a year ago, but at least one new leader this year knew what to expect.

"I think I only missed one year all the time growing up," said Melissa Zimmerman from Colby, who was on a team that taught in locations that stretched from WaKeeney to Belleville.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS



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Healing and hope: Mick's story

By JEREE HUGHBANKS

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER,
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS

Last summer, Mick wasn't feeling good. After a few days off work with no improvements, he drove himself to the hospital, where doctors found pneumonia and over 20 pounds of fluid in his abdomen. Then came the devastating diagnosis: stage four terminal liver failure. His sister was told to "begin making arrangements."

"It was a give and take on whether I would make it to the next day," Mick recalled.

After 12 days in the hospital, he was discharged—with only 30 days to live. In shock, Mick made a choice.

"I decided I wanted to live. No regrets. Whatever happens, happens," he said.

Mick committed to a strict regimen, pushed through nausea and exhaustion, and worked with his doctor to fine-tune his care. Slowly, his health began to stabilize. But his liver was still failing, and a transplant was his best chance for long-term survival. To qualify for the transplant list, the hospital required six months of counseling with a licensed mental health professional. A friend suggested Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas.

Because of donors like you, counseling was available, affordable, and life-changing.

Mick was connected with Carlisle Bergquist, one of Catholic Charities' licensed counselors. From the beginning, the experience defied his expectations. Rather than handing out advice, Carlisle offered personal experiences, book suggestions, and a safe space for conversation.

What started as a requirement became a lifeline for Mick. Counseling helped him focus on what he could



COURTESY PHOTO

Mick, a client of Catholic Charities, visits with licensed therapist Carlisle Bergquist, who helped him gain emotional strength and stability through counseling. Mick believes that therapy improved his mental health—and with it, his overall well-being, hope, and quality of life.

control: his diet, his mindset, his next step. One piece of advice stuck: "Don't look in the rearview mirror too much, look through the windshield."

The support Mick received went beyond counseling. At his first visit, front desk staff members Alma Jaquez and Melissa Herrera welcomed him with such warmth and compassion that his anxiety melted away. In the early days, when high ammonia levels affected his memory, they called with appointment reminders—simple kindness that made a lasting impact.

And thanks to you, there were no financial surprises—just clarity, relief, and support.

Over time, Mick's hard work began to pay off. He stayed committed to his health, stuck with counseling, and built a new routine that

supported his healing.

"I do think there's a connection between the physical part of my health and the mental aspect of how I feel," Mick reflected. "Catholic Charities helped me learn how to look at things in a more positive way—not to get caught up in the negativity."

Therapy helped him feel grounded, manage anxiety, and communicate better with loved ones. "I've actually improved my quality of life," he shared.

Today, Mick continues counseling—not

because he has to, but because it works. Recently, he received news that once felt impossible: his doctor told him he might not need a transplant after all.

"Whatever you're doing," the doctor said, "just keep doing it."

"I'd encourage anyone who's considering [counseling] to go for a few sessions," Mick said. "You have to be willing to open up. It's not easy at first, but it can really help. I feel like I'm still learning, and I get something out of every session."

Looking back, Mick is amazed at how far he's come.

"Between my doctors, Catholic Charities, and the people who love me—I've come a long way. And I'm still going."

He hasn't forgotten who made it all possible, people like you.

"Without donors, I wouldn't have had this opportunity. When people feel good about themselves and about the support available in their community, it spreads. Word of mouth, positive energy—it creates a really good atmosphere. It really does help."

Your generosity gave Mick more than counseling. You gave him hope.

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Course Description - Our Christian faith is a response to the God who revealed himself in Jesus Christ. The Church maintains her fidelity to Christ through the witness of her scriptures. How did it happen that the scriptures alone could not guarantee this faithfulness to Christ? Why did the Church, very early in her life, create a creed, which summarizes the faith? And why did she make it binding upon all Christians? How does its recitation, each Sunday, become a way in which we both profess what we believe and entrust ourselves more fully to God?

Class Dates: Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8

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

Saturday mornings: 8:15 a.m. to noon.

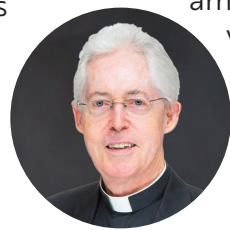
THEO 4881 Wisdom of the Early Church: Scripture, Doctrine, and Life (1 hour college course) with Fr. Frank Coady:

Course Description - In the first several centuries after Christ, theologians, many of whom were bishops, worked to define the basic doctrines that we, in modern times, take for granted. These included the humanity and divinity of Christ and the mystery of the Trinity, among others. This course will introduce students to the development of these doctrines and show how the Church Fathers found the answers to life's questions in the Scriptures and in the Church's lived situations.

Class Dates: Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23

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

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



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October 7: The Second Vatican Council - Ecumenism and Religious Dialogue Presenter - Fr. Frank Coady

The Church has always had to contend with the question of salvation outside of Christianity. This question took on a new context when the New World was discovered: millions of people who, through no fault of their own, did not know Christ. Now, in an age of global communication and commerce, can we remain faithful to the Gospel's insistence that Christ is essential for salvation without dismissing the authentic faith of those who do not accept Jesus Christ? What does this say about religious freedom: in the U.S., in predominantly Muslim countries, in the Far East, where Christianity is

often a small minority?

October 21: Why "Leo"? What's in a Name? Presenter - Fr. Robert Schremmer and a panel of guests

Popes get to choose a new name. The first American Pope chose "Leo." In choosing "Leo," a bridge is forged—between past and present, between courage and compassion, between promise and mission. What story does this name tell? What future does it whisper? Join Fr. Bob Schremmer and a panel of guests to explore the mystery behind the legacy and what it means for today's world: Zoom in. Learn more. Be part of the story.

November 4: The Mass: A Guided Tour Presenters - Fr. Ben Green and Gentry Heimerman

Fr. Ben Green and Gentry Heimerman walk through the Mass step-by-step, explaining things along the way and sharing practical insights for daily life.

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August is Make-A-Will Month – What Are You Waiting For?

BY CORRINA HUDSONPILLAR

August is Make-A-Will Month—a time to reflect not only on what we've been given, but what we hope to pass on. In addition to leaving your assets to children or family, have you considered leaving a gift to your parish, Catholic school, your favorite ministry or the Diocese of Salina? It's a meaningful way to share your faith and values with future generations by creating a Catholic legacy.

Whether you're creating your first will or reviewing an existing one, this is a great time to take a thoughtful look and ensure everything reflects your current wishes and circumstances.

Still putting it off? You're not alone. Fewer than half of Americans have a will in place, and it's easy to come up with reasons to delay. Let's look at some common myths—and why it might be time to take the next step:



Myth #1: "I don't have enough assets to need a will."

You probably have more than you realize. Even without significant assets, a will allows you to name guardians for your children and outline your end-of-life wishes. Creating a will when you first start a family—and updating it as life changes—is a smart and responsible choice.



Myth #2: "It takes too much time."

Life gets busy, and it's not always comfortable to think about the future. But taking time now gives you peace of mind and ensures your wishes will be honored. A will is one of the most important legal documents you'll create—and once it's in place, you can rest easier knowing your loved ones are protected.



Myth #3: "It's too expensive."

Think of it as an investment. Creating a will can cost a few hundred dollars—but the cost of not having one could be far greater for your family. With thoughtful planning, you might also uncover tax benefits and find opportunities to give more meaningfully.



Myth #4: "I'm too young to need a will."

If you're an adult with assets or children, you need a will. That could include your house, a savings account, or even the 401K you just started at your first job. It's not about age—it's about being prepared.

These are just a few of the reasons people delay estate planning. But creating a will is truly one of the greatest gifts you can give—to your loved ones, to your faith, and to yourself.

This August, take the first step. Review. Update. Plan. And pass something on.



MyCatholicWill

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Creating a will doesn't have to be complicated or costly. Through our partnership with My Catholic Will, you can write your will online in about 15 minutes—free of charge and fully aligned with your Catholic values.

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MAKE YOUR HARVEST COUNT!

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CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE DIOCESE



1st Holy Communion, St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, Apr. 27
(L-R) Fr. Manuel, Bristol Weigel, Elliott Sipe, Valeen Rogge, Cayson Stueve and Mary Hertel.



1st Holy Communion, St. Thomas More, Manhattan, April 27
Front (L-R): Ms. Josefina Gantt, Jack Hall, Sebastian Estrada-Esparza, Ryan KingPaxton Vernon, Phillip Lyman, Bowan Howells, Nora Tremblay, Elise Waner, Meejoo Kim, Frances Wilson, Lillian Fullagar, Hattie Myers, Harley Traxson, Caleb Dreith, Samuel De La Garza, Ford Shepard, Beckham Sherley, Dominic Kohake Ms. Alicia Enoch. Middle: Martin Toomajian, Joseph Ackerman, Griffin Armstrong, Olivia Marcellais, Addison VonFelt, Mikaela Crankshaw, Emerie Metcalf, Katelynn Mattocks, Veronica Kohler, Adaline Duethman, Brynn Mitchell, Marley Coyne, Julia Runyan, Reah Enoch, Hazeley Rapp, Annabelle Kokotan and Ms. Hannah Duethman. Back: Ms. Fredrica Flores, Ms. Lindsey Umscheid, Ms. Alyssa Walsh, Fr. Frank Coady, Anna Perryman, Samuel Reeds, Oliver Becker, Easton McDiffett, Anthony Upchurch, Carson Fox, Izek Karote, Emerson Young, Isaac Kazar, Lincoln Rohleder, Fr. Don Zimmerman and Ms. Kelsey Young.



Confirmation, St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, March 22
(L-R): Fr. Manuel, Annika Nichols, Norah Dreiling, Madison Wieger, Ian Strobel, Walker Middleton and Bishop Vincke.



Confirmation, Sacred Heart, Plainville and St. Thomas, Stockton, June 8
Front (L-R): Fr. Michael, Garrison Mongeau, Braxton Klein, Grayson Mongeau, Hudson Kriley, Tessa Look, Lily Yohon, Chloe Kuhlmann, Remy Muir, Harper Lowry, Aubrey Garcia, Eli Molina, Colton Mullender, Brantley Lawver and Neavah Garrett. Back: Ayden McCune, Corbin Meyer, Addison Dix, Hadley Sterling, Bishop Vincke, Sydney Littrell, Kinsley Casey, Hudson Bethel, Hayden Staab, Kendal Ganoung, Macie Stahl, Addison Bacon and Natalie Garcia.



Confirmation, St. Mary's, Smith Center, May 3
(L-R): Gavin Hughes, Jasmine Ferguson and Bishop Gerald Vincke.



Confirmation, St. Augustine, Washington, and Sacred Heart, Greenleaf, June 11.
Front (L-R): Joselin Rodriguez, Marcela Huerta, Renata Huerta, Madison Thompson, Vanessa Martinez, Whitney Jueneman, Clara Wurtz and Ashtyn Votipka. Back: Fr. David Metz, Colton Doll, Carter Cole, Charles Bruna, Victor Cisneros, Karsen Laflen and Deacon Wayne Talbot.



Graduation, St. John the Baptist, Hanover, May 11
(L-R) Rieken Stallbaumer, Noah Jueneman, Camron Jueneman, Hannah Zarybnicky, Kelby Rupperecht, Anna Jueneman, Garrett Martin, Brandt Beikmann and Braden Schwartz.



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BAPTISMS

Beni Ann Behymer, daughter of Bowe and Savanna Behymer, was baptized July 6, 2025, by Fr. Kyle Berens at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Josie Ann Bennett, daughter of Cody Bennett and Danielle Homeier, was baptized June 14, 2025, by Fr. Vincent Manuel at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Lena Ann Bergman, daughter of Brent Leo Bergman and Kara Louise Bergman, was baptized June 8, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Ivy Emberly Brecken, daughter of Jeremy Joseph Brecken and Lesley May Brecken, was baptized June 22, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Levi Silas Brecken, son of Jeremy Joseph Brecken and Lesley May Brecken, was baptized June 22, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Charlotte Elaine Graham, daughter of Grayson and Anna Graham, was baptized June 22, 2025, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Henry Kenneth Harms, son of Jacob and Sarah Harms, was baptized June 15, 2025, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Calvin Lee Honas, son of Daniel and Olivia (Wiesner) Honas, was baptized May 25, 2025, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Remi Lynn Karnes, daughter of Connor Karnes and Brianna LaBarge, was baptized June 15, 2025, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Rhys Raymond Keller, son of Trevor and Hallie Keller, was baptized June 22, 2025, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Grace May Klaus, daughter of Tyler and Kayla (Brake) Klaus, was baptized June 8, 2025, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Charlie Devlin Kohlmeier, daughter of Drew and Allison Kohlmeier, was baptized June 8, 2025, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

John Joseph Krueger, son of Joe and Carleigh Krueger, was baptized June 8, 2025, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Godmother is Barb Gack.

Robert Ray Krueger, son of Joe and Carleigh Krueger, was baptized June 8, 2025, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Godmother is Becky Lynn.

Margaret Anne Lepak, daughter of Brian and Colleen Lepak, was baptized June 22, 2025, by Rev. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Keylee E. Lopez-Chavez, daughter of Adan and Maria Lopez, was baptized June 7, 2025, by Dcn. Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Diego Luna, son of Faustino Luna Martinez and Altamirano Mosso Anadelia, was baptized June 7, 2025, by Fr. Rafael Campos at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Elann Matthew Martinez, son of Elvin Martin Martínez Torres and Jocel Anne Delos Reyes Martínez, was baptized June 8, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Noah Maxxwell Martínez,

son of Elvin Martin Martínez Torres and Jocel Anne Delos Reyes Martínez, was baptized June 8, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Calin Eugene Mueller, son of Kale and Maci Mueller, was baptized June 22, 2025, by Rev. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Charles Luke Orsay, son of Luke and Rebecca Orsay, was baptized June 8, 2025, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Coy Michael Pfeifer, son of Derek and Brooklyn (Walker) Pfeifer, was baptized May 4, 2025, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Anna Rose Schley, daughter of Todd Paul Schley and Margaret Jeanean Schley, was baptized June 8, 2025,

by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Rhodes James Seiler, son of Simeon and Amanda Seiler, was baptized June 22, 2025, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Manu'Koa Robert Davis Taitano, son of Jaron Anthony Taitano and Ashley Nicole Taitano, was baptized June 15, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Isla Rose Tegtmeier, daughter of David and Danielle Tegtmeier, was baptized June 8, 2025, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Chibugo Helena Chimee Umeh, daughter of Henry and Chidimma Umeh, was baptized June 14, 2025, by Rev. Nick Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Zarahia Mia Valtierra, daughter of Adolfo Valtierra and Martha Saenz, was baptized June 15, 2025, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godmother is Evelin Ruiz Moreno.

Emmalynn Grace, daughter of Jennifer Walker, was baptized June 29, 2025, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Godmother is Erica Mohler.

Haley Rae Walker, daughter of Jennifer Walker, was baptized June 29, 2025, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Godmother is Chandra Ocheske.

Carter John Wolf, son of Joseph Allen Wolf and Ashley Nicolle Wolf, was baptized June 14, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

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Adam B. Bruna
Investment Advisor
Representative
O: 785-553-9070
M: 785-553-9070
E: adam.bruna@kofc.org



WEDDINGS

Brandon Joel Bates and Eleanor Elizabeth Bellerive were married June 14, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Jeffery and Jeri Bates. Parents of the bride are Peter and Joanie Bellerive. Witnesses were Adam Bates and Emily Bellerive.

Creighton Michael Brinker and Madelaine Jayne Winkler were married June 28, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Steven and Bonnie Brinker. Parents of the bride are John and Lena Winkler. Witnesses were Curt Brinker and Meghann Hanson.

Jimmy Alexander Escolero, Jr. and Samantha Jean Hardin were married June 14, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Jimmy and Martha Escolero, Sr. Parents of the bride are Ronald and Kimberly Hardin. Witnesses were Hayden Kunnary and Alexander Hardin.

Chase Austin Gore and Mackenzie Lin Birney were married June 7, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Steven and Christine Gore. Parents of the bride are Kevin and Beverly Birney. Witnesses were Mitchell Gore and Kellie Nelson.

Colton Gerald Haug and Trinity Grace Moody were married June 7, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Gerald and Diane Haug. Parents of the bride are Annette Moody and the late Craig Moody. Witnesses were Zach Wankum and McKinsey Moody Fliger.

Hunter Hodge and Jill Moeder were married June 21, 2025, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Rev. Leo Blasi witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are William and Colleen Hodge. Parents of the bride are John and Amy Moeder. Witnesses were Winter Hodge and Christy Jones.

Joshua Hollerich and Alison Bachura were married June 7, 2025, at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Andrew Rockers witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Jeff and Pam Hollerich. Parents of the bride are Edward and Marita Bachura. Witnesses were Jared Russell and Reece Langvardt.

Jared Mayers and Halle Lohmeyer were married June 7, 2025, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Rev. Simon Herrmann witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Pamela Mayers and the late Stanley Mayers. Parents of the bride are Joseph and Misty Lohmeyer. Witnesses were Jason Mayes and Madeline Weber.

Erick Ryan Sanford and Kathryn Nicole Schmit were married June 21, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Leif and Elizabeth Sanford. Parents of the bride are Bryan and Donna Schmit. Witnesses were Zachary Sanford and Jenna Schmit.

Frank Joseph Schleimer and Jordan Elizabeth Brandel were married June 21, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Harold and Gena Schleimer. Parents of the bride are Joseph and Jonna Brandel. Witnesses were Tanner Krstulic and Jessica Brandel.

Theresa Marie Baxa, 95, died June 7, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 13 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Andrew Rockers officiated. Burial in St. Isidore’s Cemetery, Cuba.

Madeleine M. (Kegle) Blackwood, 95, Clyde, died June 11, 2025, at the Park Villa Nursing Home in Clyde. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 20 at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Fr. Steven Heina and Fr. Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial in Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clyde.

Larry D. Butterfield, 85, died June 4, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 21 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade officiated. Burial at a future date.

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

Melva Jo Dortland, 94, Gorham, died June 16, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 21 at St. Mary Help of Christians Church in Gorham. Fr. Dan Scheetz presided. Burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Gorham.

Ashly Nicole Frenzl, 37, died June 14, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 3 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided.

Jerry L. Grant, 76, died July 7, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 11 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Fr. Joseph Keiffer presided.

Burial at St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Terence (Terry) Joseph Henke, 72, died June 15, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 26 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Osborne. Fr. Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Aloysius Cemetery, Osborne.

Joseph A. “Joe” Hess, 92, Hays, died June 8, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 18 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet and Fr. Andy Hammeke presided. Inurnment in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Cylene Bernadette Hewitt, 88, died June 28, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 7 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade officiated. Burial in Elmwood Cemetery, Beloit.

Donna (Luea) Honas, 82, died June 3, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 9 at St. Mary’s Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Ellis.

Charles H. Huelsmann, 86, Grinnell, died May 28, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 4 at Immaculate Conception Church in Grinnell. Fr. James M. Thomas presided. Burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Grinnell.

Hilda Jacobs, 90, Gorham, died June 2, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 9 at St. Mary Help of Christians Church in Gorham. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Gorham.

Sheila June Mandic, 71, Chapman, died June 20, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 26 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Fr. Peter O’Donnell presided. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery, Chapman.

Steven Robert Peloquin, M.D., 69, died June 1, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 13 at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt presided.

Cheryl Ann Sulkosky, 78, died June 6, 2025, at Belleville Healthcare & Rehab, Belleville. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 16 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Fr. Joseph Kieffer and Fr. Ryan McCandless presided. Graveside services were June 23 in Woodbine Cemetery, Puyallup, WA.

Michael “Mike” Suppes, 72, Hays, died May 30, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 3 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Francis Cemetery, Munjor.

Carmella L. Thyfault, 92, Hays, died June 8, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 17 at St. Joseph Church in Damar. Fr. Brian Lager and Fr. Ron Comeau presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Damar.

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