



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

INSIDE:

RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE HELD

• Speakers encourage high school students to follow the faith and respect life at all stages. **Page 4**

SGO MAKES WINS FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

• During this giving season, consider making an impact through Catholic Schools. **Page 6**

DECEASED PRIEST MASS IN SALINA

• Memorial Mass honors and remembers diocesan priests. **Page 8**

PATHWAY TO HEAVEN

• Parents share stories, faith and grief at Mass for Parents of Deceased Children. **Page 9**

BUILDING HOLY HOMES

• Columnist Deacon Bill Meagher reflects on the domestic church. **Page 16**



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

salinadiocese.org

[facebook.com/
SalinaDiocese](https://facebook.com/SalinaDiocese)

[x.com/
salinadiocese](https://x.com/salinadiocese)

[instagram.com/
salina_diocese](https://instagram.com/salina_diocese)

Holy Fire event ignites faith for middle school students



COURTESY PHOTO, CARLEIGH ORLOWSKI

During adoration at Holy Fire in Hays, students placed a candle, along with their prayer intentions, on the altar.

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

When Aydan Church first heard about a conference in Hays earlier this month, he wasn't certain he wanted to attend because he wasn't sure any of his friends were going.

By the end of the Holy Fire event at Fort Hays State University, Aydan

— a sixth-grader at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior High in Hays — had made some new friends.

Then on the ride home, he thanked his mom for taking him and was already asking her if he could go back next year.

About 300 other middle school students experienced similar igniting of their Catholic faith at the inaugural event for the Salina

Diocese.

Master of Ceremonies Robert Feduccia from Nashville, Tenn., kicked off the program with a loud and lively presentation that got students involved immediately.

Fedducia and other organizers of the event used music and videos pertaining to this particular age group to get them actively involved

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Honoring the 'saints' in ordinary family life

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

On the 10th anniversary of a milestone event honoring marriage, the Diocese of Salina recognized couples celebrating their first anniversary of marriage, those ending in zero or five years and any anniversaries over 70 years.

The diocese annually honors those couples at two different Masses in October.

The Mass at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina happened to fall on Oct. 16, the day after the 10th anniversary of Sts. Louis and Zelie Martin becoming the first couple to be canonized as saints together.

The Martins, a French Catholic

couple, were the parents of five nuns, including St. Therese of Lisieux. One of the most recognizable saints of modern times, she is known as St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus.

In a message about the Martins on their 10th anniversary of canonization, Pope Leo XIV urged couples to follow their example, one of holiness in ordinary family life and filled with the presence of God.

"This serves as a model for how marriage is a path to Christian holiness," Pope Leo said.

At the other Mass, held in Hays at St. Nicholas of Myra on Oct. 26, Bishop Vincke commended the couples, how they "know all about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Couples from the diocese gathered to celebrate major marriage milestones. Robert and Mary Binder, shown above with Bishop Jerry Vincke, celebrated 70 years of marriage this year.

BISHOPS RELEASE IMMIGRATION MESSAGE

At their Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops issued a rare "Special Message" expressing concern for the situation facing immigrants.

The full text of the bishops' Special Pastoral Message follows:

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel

compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (Zechariah 7:10). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (Luke 10:30-37), and we see the One who is found in the

least of these (Matthew 25). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

As disciples of the Lord, we remain men and women of hope, and hope does not disappoint! (cf. Romans 5:5)

May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ.

VEA LA PÁGINA 3 PARA LA TRADUCCIÓN AL ESPAÑOL DE ESTE ARTÍCULO.

Thoughts on death

Death is painful for many, especially after losing a loved one. The greater the love we have for someone the greater the tears. Pope Leo XIV offered some beautiful thoughts on death earlier this

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



same love, he desires that we live forever with him and with our loved ones."

The pope invited those mourning loved ones to turn to the risen

Christ as their sure source of comfort and

promise. "Even as our sorrow for those no longer among us remains etched in our hearts, let us entrust ourselves to the hope that does not disappoint. Let us fix our gaze upon the risen Christ and think of our departed loved ones as enfolded in his light."

"The Lord awaits us," he added. "And when we finally meet him at the end of our earthly journey, we shall rejoice with him and with our loved ones who have gone before us. May this promise sustain us, dry our tears, and raise our gaze upwards toward the hope for the future that never fades."

Reflexiones sobre la muerte

La muerte es dolorosa para muchos, especialmente después de perder a un ser querido. Cuanto mayor es el amor que tenemos por alguien, mayores son las lágrimas. Este mes, el Papa León XIV ofreció unas hermosas reflexiones sobre la muerte que quiero compartir contigo. Reflejan lo que muchos santos creyeron y lo que nosotros estamos llamados a creer: ¡que la muerte es ir hacia Alguien que nos ama más que nadie!

Nuestro Santo Padre dijo, "El amor vence a la muerte. En el amor, Dios nos reunirá con nuestros seres queridos. Y, si caminamos juntos en la caridad, nuestras propias vidas se convierten en una oración que se eleva hacia Dios, uniéndonos con los difuntos y acercándonos más a ellos mientras esperamos volver a encontrarnos en la alegría de la vida eterna. Fue por amor que Dios nos creó, por el amor de su Hijo que nos salva de la muerte, y en la

alegría de ese mismo amor, desea que vivamos para siempre con Él y con nuestros seres queridos."

El Papa invitó a quienes lloran la pérdida de sus seres queridos a volver su mirada a Cristo resucitado como fuente segura de consuelo y esperanza:

"Aunque nuestro dolor por quienes ya no están entre nosotros permanezca grabado en nuestros corazones, confiémonos de la esperanza que no defrauda. Fijemos la mirada en Cristo resucitado y pensemos en nuestros seres queridos difuntos como envueltos en Su luz."

Añadió que "El Señor nos espera. Y cuando finalmente lo encontremos al final de nuestro camino terrenal, nos alegraremos con Él y con nuestros seres queridos que nos han precedido. Que esta promesa nos sostenga, seque nuestras lágrimas y eleve nuestra mirada hacia la esperanza de un futuro que nunca se desvanece."

BISHOP VINCKE'S DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 4** Fall Care-A-Thon, Divine Mercy Radio, Hays, 2 p.m.
- 6** Mass at St. Joseph Parish, Oakley, 5 p.m.
- 7** Mass at St. Paul, Angelus, 8 a.m.
- 7** Mass at St. Joseph, Oakley, 10:30 a.m.
- 7** Mass, Immac. Conc., Grinnell, 4 p.m. (Adoration, Communal Penance, Benediction, followed by Mass)
- 8** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Chancery closed
- 12** Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, I.H.M., Hays
- 14** Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, S.H. Cathedral, Salina
- 24** Christmas Eve, Chancery closes at noon
- 25-26** Christmas, Chancery closed
- 28** Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year of Hope, S.H. Cathedral, 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass at 12:30 p.m.
- 29** Seminarian Family Mass/Lunch, St. Fidelis, Victoria, 11 a.m.
- 31** New Year's Eve, Chancery closes at noon

HONORING 'SAINTS,' FROM PG 1

each other, make mistakes and hurt each other, but still love each other."

This year's list of couples certainly was a model of commitment. More than 40 couples recognized between the two Masses are celebrating marriages of 50 years or longer this year.

Two couples from Hays were honored for 70 years of marriage at the Hays Mass: Robert and Mary Binder, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Vernon and Jeanie Gross, St. Joseph.

Some couples even recognized their milestone celebratory year along with a family member.

Joanne Crispin from St. Joseph, Hays, this year celebrated her 50th anniversary with her husband, Harold. They were recognized along with Joanne's older sister, Mary Lou VanEaton, and her husband, Jerry. The VanEatons, from St. Joseph Parish, Oakley, were recognized for 60 years of marriage.

And there was even a parent-daughter combination. Marvin and Jennifer Rack, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays, were recognized for 30 years of marriage, while their daughter, Leanne Buessing and her husband, Mitchell, celebrated their first anniversary in July.

The Buessings are members of St. Michael's Parish in Axtell, which is part of the Archdiocese of Kansas City. But they had met at the the Comeau Catholic Campus Center at Fort Hays State University and were married in St. Fidelis Basilica in Victoria. So they decided to join Leanne's parents at the anniversary Mass

in Hays.

One of the highlights of the celebrations is when each couple is asked to come forward for a photo and a word with

Bishop Vincke, who asks them how they met.

Several say they met on college campuses, others at wedding dances or church events, blind dates and sporting events. You name it, they might have met there.

One couple even said they met in a feedlot.

Some had long relationships before getting married, while some men were bold and popped the question after only a couple of dates.

While Pope Leo has urged



Vernon and Jeanie Gross, 70 years married.

DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS

Pope Leo's intentions:

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Diocesan intentions:

For those grieving the loss of loved ones, especially those facing their first holiday season without them, may they feel God's tender love, comforting peace, and the hope of eternal life in Christ.

couples to look to Sts. Louis and Zelie Martin as examples of the vocation of marriage, Bishop Vincke stressed how there are good examples of those vocations right here in our diocese.

"Thank you all," the bishop concluded at the Hays Mass, "for being witnesses of God's love."

OBISPOS EMITEN UN MENSAJE ESPECIAL SOBRE INMIGRACIÓN

Al reunirse la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos durante su Asamblea Plenaria de Otoño en Baltimore, los obispos emitieron un mensaje especial en el que expresaron su preocupación por la situación cambiante que afecta a los inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos. El texto del mensaje especial de los obispos a continuación:

Como pastores, los obispos de los Estados Unidos, estamos unidos a nuestro pueblo en nuestro Señor Jesucristo, por lazos de comunión y compasión. Nos inquieta ver en nuestras comunidades un clima de temor y ansiedad ante las prácticas de perfilamiento y la aplicación de las leyes migratorias. Nos entristece profundamente el tono que ha adoptado el debate contemporáneo y la creciente denigración de los inmigrantes. Nos preocupan las condiciones en los centros de detención y la falta de acceso a una atención pastoral adecuada. Lamentamos que algunos inmigrantes que viven en los Estados Unidos han perdido su estatus migratorio de manera arbitraria. Nos preocupan las amenazas

contra la santidad de los lugares de culto, y el carácter especial de los hospitales y las escuelas. Nos entristece profundamente cuando nos encontramos con padres que temen ser detenidos al llevar a sus hijos a la escuela o cuando intentamos consolar a familiares que ya han sido separados de sus seres queridos.

A pesar de los obstáculos y prejuicios, por generaciones, los inmigrantes han contribuido inmensamente al bienestar de nuestra nación. Como obispos católicos, profesamos nuestro amor por nuestro país y oramos por su paz y prosperidad. Por este preciso motivo nos sentimos obligados en este entorno a elevar nuestras voces en defensa de la dignidad humana otorgada por Dios.

La enseñanza católica exhorta a las naciones a reconocer la dignidad fundamental de todas las personas, incluidos los inmigrantes. Como obispos, abogamos por una reforma significativa de las leyes y los procedimientos migratorios de nuestra nación. La dignidad humana y la seguridad nacional no son valores en conflicto. Ambas

pueden alcanzarse con buena voluntad y uniendo esfuerzos.

Reconocemos que las naciones tienen la responsabilidad de controlar sus fronteras y establecer un sistema de inmigración justo y ordenado por el bien común. Sin dichos procedimientos, los inmigrantes corren el riesgo de caer en la trata de personas y en otras formas de explotación. Las vías legales y seguras sirven como antídoto frente a esos riesgos.

La enseñanza de la Iglesia se basa en la preocupación fundamental por la persona humana, creada a imagen y semejanza de Dios. (Génesis 1:27). Como pastores, recurrimos a las Sagradas Escrituras y al ejemplo de Dios mismo, donde encontramos la sabiduría de la compasión de Dios. La prioridad del Señor, como nos recuerdan los profetas, es para los más vulnerables: las viudas, los huérfanos, los pobres y los migrantes (Zacarías 7:10). En el Señor Jesús, vemos a Aquel que se hizo pobre por nosotros (2 Corintios 8:9), vemos al buen samaritano que nos levanta del polvo (Lucas 10:30-37) y vemos a Aquel que se encuentra en los más pequeños. La preocupación de la Iglesia por el prójimo y nuestra preocupación aquí por los inmigrantes son una respuesta al mandato del Señor de amar como Él nos ha amado (Juan 13:34).

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Henry Richard Baxa was born on February 17, 1941, in Wayne, Kansas. He attended Wayne Grade School, St. Francis Preparatory Seminary in Victoria, and later earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Benedictine College, a Master of Science in Education from Emporia State University, and additional graduate credits from Kansas State University and the University of Kansas.



He taught at Mount St. Scholastica Academy in Atchison and in Topeka Public Schools before moving to Concordia, where he taught English at Concordia High School from 1970 to 1986 and was involved in Student Council and the yearbook.

He graduated from St. Meinrad School of Theology on May 16, 1990, and was ordained May 26 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Concordia by Bishop George Fitzsimons.

After ordination, Fr. Henry served at parishes in Junction City, Abilene, Beloit, and Glasco, later returning to Abilene in 2004 as Pastor of St. Andrew and priest supervisor of St. Michael in Chapman.

In 2016 he retired to Belleville, assisting with ministry at St. Edward, St. George, and St. Isidore; in 2019 he became parish administrator for those parishes and served on the Diocesan Clergy Health and Retirement Board and the Diocesan Respect Life Commission. He became priest supervisor in 2022 and was granted retirement in 2024.

He was a 4th degree Knight of

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 5

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Student conference shines light on respecting life at all stages

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Geoff Andrews wanted to keep this year's Respect Life Conference close to home.

So Andrews, superintendent of schools for the diocese, decided to bring in several local and area speakers for the annual Respect Life Conference for juniors and seniors from the five diocesan Catholic high schools.

He asked four couples from the diocese to speak on four different aspects of life: raising a child with exceptionalities, dealing with the loss of a child, raising a sibling's child and adoption.

"There are so many people in our own diocese who live out the beauty of life in powerful ways," he said. "By having them share their stories, students could see what 'respecting life' really looks like – in every stage and situation."

Chad and Sarah Meitner from Hays talked about the special blessing their youngest son, Abe, is to their family.

Abe, the Meitners' fifth and youngest child, was born with Down syndrome.

"At first, I thought this was my cross to bear, but then realized it's not a cross at all," Sarah said.

The couple talked how Abe has taught them lessons such as slowing down and appreciating the little things in this life, to celebrate

"inch-stones" instead of mile-stones.

Several students in attendance could relate personally to some of the stories, whether living with a sibling with some sort of disability or adoption or having lost a sibling – all examples of respecting life of all kinds.

"It's not just something we talk about; it's how we live every day," Andrews said. "I hope our students walk away knowing that respecting life means every life."

Colby and Sarah Wetter from Salina talked about the loss of their infant son, Weston.

Chris and Kathy Clark, also from Salina, spoke on raising their sister's children.

And Kelton and Jill Stecklein, Hays, spoke on the challenges and joy of adoption.

After the birth of their son, Kolbe, in 2016, the Steckleins weren't able to have any more children but welcomed adopted daughter Gianna into their family in 2022.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Students at the annual Respect Life Conference in Salina started off the day in prayer before listening to their speakers.



"Her birth parents are our biggest heroes," Kelton said.

Andrews said he hoped the different format this year will help students recognize the value of all phases of life for different types of people.

"My prayer is that they take what they heard back to their schools and into their lives," he said, "and really try to be Christ to everyone they meet."

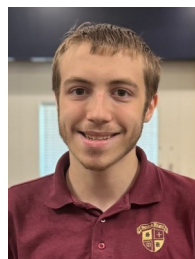
Diocesan schools mark fall achievements

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Senior Isaac Berndt from Salina-Sacred Heart has been recognized as a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. This is an honor earned by less than one percent of high school seniors nationwide.

This gives Isaac the opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships that will be awarded during the spring semester.

The next step in the process for semifinalists is submitting an application, essay and SAT and/or ACT scores to try to advance to the finalist level.



ISAAC BERNDT

State Eco-Meet success

Students from Beloit-St. John's performed well at the Kansas State Eco-Meet once again, finishing fourth in team scoring behind three much larger programs.

This marks the fourth consecutive year the Blujays have finished in the top four at state, which is held at at Camp Aldrich and the Kansas Wetlands Education Center in Barton County.

The scoring was close, with Shawnee Mission North (enrollment 1,463) claiming top honors with 318 points, just 14 points in front of St. John's (enroll. 58). Finishing inbetween in second and third place were Blue Valley CAPS, a premier professional studies program for high school students in the Blue Valley school district, and Goddard (enroll. 942).

The Blujays were paced by junior Canaan Letourneau, who finished fourth individually in the wetlands lab test and fifth in the invertebrate test.

He was joined on the squad that finished fourth in team scoring by classmates Dominic Eilert, Christiana Niewald and Myra Holdren.

The St. John's sophomore team of Grant

Letourneau, Belie Horinek, Maryann Walter and Brooks Dunstan stood out in the interpretive event, finishing in a tie for first.

In eco-meet contests, participants compete against each other in two lab-style tests on Kansas flora and fauna and must act out a skit about Kansas wildlife.

Girls' state golf

Brynn Schoef from Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays finished a successful sophomore season in golf by placing eighth at the Class 2-1A state tournament.

Schoef finished in the top 10 at every tournament this fall. She won three tourney titles, including the regional championship, in leading the entire Monarch team to state for a second consecutive year.

Although the Monarchs didn't qualify for the team finals at the two-day state event, Schoef and classmates Emma Wasinger and Paige Koenigsman all made it to the second day individually.

Schoef then went on to claim all-state honors for a second straight year after tying for 14th as a freshman last year.

Monarch senior Jenna Brull closed out a memorable prep golf career in which she qualified for state all four years. The other senior on the squad this year was Ava Schumacher.

Girls' state tennis

Tylar DeWeese, a student-athlete at Salina-Sacred Heart, qualified for the Class 3-1A state tennis tournament in Salina after finishing sixth at the Topeka regional meet. Although she wasn't able to win a match at state, she closed out her senior season in style with the opportunity to participate in the season finale.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sophomore Brynn Schoef from TMP-M in Hays earned her second state medal with her eighth-place finish at the Class 2-1A state tournament.

State cross country

Beloit-St. John's qualified both its boys' and girls' teams for the Class 1A state cross country meet in Wamego. And although the Blujays weren't able to place in the top three in either division, they did bring home some hardware.

Gabe Roderick finished his senior season in style by placing 19th in the boys' race to earn a medal in his final high school race.

Also running at state in his last cross country race as a Blujay was Nic Clark.

2025 COLLECTION SET FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS

By ROBIN CABRAL
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is announcing that the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held in parishes throughout the Diocese of Salina on the weekend of Dec. 13-14.

In 2024, Catholics across the diocese contributed \$53,726.63 to the collection, mostly through their home parishes.

“The generosity of U.S. Catholics continues to make a profound difference in the lives of aging religious,” said John Knutsen, NRRO director.

“This year,” he continued, “we invite all Catholics to help provide the care and dignity these women and men of faith so richly deserve.”

Rising healthcare costs and the absence of traditional retirement plans have placed significant financial strain on many religious communities. The Retirement Fund for Religious helps address this need, supporting more than 21,000 religious over the age of 70. In 2024, the average annual cost of care was about \$56,600 per person, with skilled nursing care averaging \$96,000.

Since its establishment in 1988, the collection has raised over \$1 billion, with nearly \$900 million distributed for direct care and over \$103.7 million allocated to retirement planning projects.

In 2024, the appeal raised over \$28.1 million, providing financial assistance for



the retirement needs of 266 U.S. religious communities. Beyond financial aid, the collection supports educational programs, empowering religious communities to plan for their needs.

About the NRRO

The NRRO coordinates the annual national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes financial assistance to eligible religious communities. It is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information, visit retiredreligious.org, or contact Robin Cabral, by phone at (508) 685-8899 or by email at campaign@retiredreligious.org.

PRIESTLY ASSIGNMENTS

Effective October 16, 2025:

Fr. Vincent Thu Laing released from all canonical appointments in the Diocese of Salina to retire and return to his native country of Myanmar.

Fr. Brian Lager appointed Parish Administrator of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Hoxie, and St. Martin of Tours Parish, Sequin, in addition to his current canonical appointments. At the same time the in solidum team of priests who previously pastored the parishes is dissolved.

Effective November 13, 2025:

Fr. Frederick Gruber appointed St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Hoxie, and St. Martin of Tours Parish, Sequin, in addition to his current canonical appointments.

Dcn. Edward Souza appointed Moderator of the Catholic Rural Life Commission in the Diocese of Salina.

Fr. Richard Daise appointed Assistant Moderator of the Catholic Rural Life Commission in the Diocese of Salina.

MENSAJE, DE LA PÁGINA 3

A nuestros hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes, estamos con ustedes en su sufrimiento, pues si un miembro sufre, todos sufren (1 Corintios 12:26). ¡No están solos!

Observamos con gratitud que tantos de nuestros sacerdotes, religiosos consagrados, y fieles laicos ya están acompañando y asistiendo a inmigrantes en sus necesidades humanas básicas. Exhortamos a todas las personas de buena voluntad a continuar y ampliar esos esfuerzos.

Nos oponemos a las deportaciones masivas e indiscriminadas. Oramos por el fin de la retórica inhumana y de la violencia, ya sea dirigida contra inmigrantes o contra los organismos

de seguridad. Oramos para que el Señor guíe a los líderes de nuestra nación y estamos agradecidos por las oportunidades pasadas y presentes de dialogar con funcionarios públicos y electos. En este diálogo, continuaremos abogando por una reforma migratoria significativa.

Como discípulos del Señor, seguimos siendo hombres y mujeres de esperanza, ¡y la esperanza no defrauda! (Romanos 5,5).

Que el manto de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe nos envuelva a todos en su maternal y amoroso cuidado y nos acerque cada vez más al corazón de Cristo.


Since 1927, We've Helped Kansas Children & Families

EmberHope
YOUTHVILLE

Our Kansas Foster Care Team Cares for Nearly

2,000 Children

Including Those Suffering from Assault, Substance Abuse, Human Trafficking, & More



You Can Help Support EmberHope with

Mitch Drees
Vice President of Development
mdrees@emberhope.org | 785-643-3890

Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home
Concordia, Kansas ~ 785-243-2121 ~ chaputbuoy.com

Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home
Belleville, Kansas ~ 785-527-2211 ~ tibbettsfischerfuneralhome.com

Melby Mortuary & Monuments
Mankato, Kansas ~ 785-378-3211 ~ melbymortuary.com

Directors ~ Joshua Meyer, Kenton LeBlanc, Joseph Blecha, Darica Hager & Samantha Stensaas

 **RYAN**
MORTUARY & CREMATORY



137 N. Eighth, Salina (785) 825-4242
www.ryanmortuary.com

A family serving families for over four generations

Next to Sacred Heart Cathedral

 **SELECTED Independent FUNERAL HOMES®**

 **GLASSMAN**
CORPORATION

DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTORS
BUILDING MECHANICAL SERVICES
HAYS • COLBY
KANSAS

FULL SERVICE MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR

Experience true comfort in your space with our superior services! Glassman Corporation specializes in expert HVAC installations in churches where systems have never been installed before and offers dependable emergency boiler services and installations. Trust Glassman Corporation for solutions that go above and beyond!



BOOK NOW!

Contact Us
+ (833) 215-1981

Visit Our Website
www.glassmancorp.com

HOLY FIRE CONFERENCE, CONTINUED FROM PG 1

while also using icebreakers to meet some new people.

"You could definitely feel the Holy Spirit moving in our young people as they had a chance to encounter Christ," said Dcn. Bill Meagher, director of youth ministry for the Salina Diocese.

"I give you permission to pursue God today," Feduccia told the audience. "I will let you dance. I will let you sing. I will let you pray. I will let you be you."

Students came from all over our diocese, stretching from the western portion in Goodland and to the east in Clay Center and Manhattan – and even some from the Dodge City Diocese.

Feduccia, a national superstar in leadership development, writes the script for NCYC, the popular biennial National Catholic Youth Conference for high school students in Indianapolis, Ind.

Dcn. Bill has attended NCYC several years and wanted to bring something similar to our diocese for middle school students.

"We know, especially in our current culture, that this is really an important age group to get connected to Christ, and the Church needs to engage this age of students," he said.

Throughout the day, students heard from Noelle Garcia, another national youth

ministry leader out of Oklahoma City, and nationally recognized musicians Joe Melendez and Marie Miller.

"I really enjoyed watching the kids' reactions, especially to the singers, watching them taking it all in," said Amy Church, Aydan's mom.

"For my son, this was his first concert," she added, "with a famous singer from Los Angeles, talking about God. What a great way to get them excited about their faith."

The students also got to hear from a couple of speakers near their age.

Thomas Meagher, a sophomore at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays, talked about how everyone needs God in their lives, even those who live in a strong and active Catholic environment.

Lucia McHugh from Oklahoma City gave a contrasting talk about having been lost at one time in her life but found her way back to God.

The students were able to participate in Eucharistic Adoration, and the day concluded with Bishop Jerry Vincke saying Mass for the attendees.

It will be a few years (2029) before Aydan and other sixth-graders will be able to attend NCYC as high school students.

But they have Holy Fire to look forward to the next two years as middle schoolers.

"Our plan is to hold this every year," said



COURTESY PHOTOS, CARLEIGH ORLOWSKI

A reverent portion of the Holy Fire event for students was Eucharistic Adoration – complete with a bonfire.

Dcn. Bill, who was overwhelmed by the huge turnout. "We want to continue to stress how important it is to engage this age of students and give them opportunities to encounter Christ."

A win for students, a win for donors: SGO makes Catholic education possible

By GEOFF ANDREWS

SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, DIOCESE OF SALINA

As I walk the hallways of our schools, I'm reminded that Catholic education is about far more than academics. It's about forming disciples who live their faith with courage, humility, and love. Across our 12 school communities, we see daily how faith and learning come together to shape young people for lives of purpose and service.

Still, the cost of offering this kind of education continues to grow. For some families, the financial strain makes enrollment seem out of reach. That's where the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) for the Catholic Diocese of Salina steps in – connecting generous donors with students who dream of attending our Catholic schools.

Through the SGO, individuals and businesses can make a minimum donation of \$1,000 annually and receive a 75% Kansas state income tax credit. For example, a \$1,000 gift reduces your Kansas tax bill by \$750. Your net cost is just \$250 – yet your gift helps make Catholic education possible for a student who needs support.

Each year, nearly 100 students across our diocese receive scholarships through the SGO, totaling about \$100,000 in tuition assistance. These scholarships allow families to choose a Catholic education grounded in faith, academic excellence, and community – values that help form students as disciples and leaders.

Even better, businesses are also eligible to donate through the SGO and receive the same 75% state tax credit. Corporate gifts have been a tremendous blessing, especially in smaller towns where Catholic schools serve

as both spiritual and economic anchors.

Every contribution directly supports students attending Catholic schools within the Diocese of Salina – helping families afford tuition and strengthening the long-term sustainability of our schools.


There's also encouraging news ahead. Federal lawmakers are working toward a 100% federal tax credit for individual donors – up to \$1,700 per year – for contributions to SGOs. When finalized, donors could benefit from both the 75% Kansas state credit and the full federal credit. That's an extraordinary opportunity to live your faith through stewardship, while receiving meaningful financial benefits in return.

The SGO, administered through the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Salina (CFDS), is an approved nonprofit under the Kansas Low-Income Student Scholarship Program. It serves qualifying K-12 students across our Catholic schools, focusing on families with limited financial means. Donors can contribute through cash, check, credit card, or even appreciated assets.

Catholic education has always depended on faithful generosity – parents, parishioners, and business leaders who believe in forming both hearts and minds. The SGO continues that legacy in a deeply impactful way.

To learn more or make a contribution, visit SGO Tax Credits | Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina or contact Heather Hartman at the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Salina at heather.hartman@salinadiocese.org or (785) 738-7336.

Together, let's continue forming saints and scholars – one student, one gift, one act of faith at a time.






Scholarship Granting Organization
for the
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

75%
State Tax Credit Available

The money donated to the Scholarship Granting Organization for the Catholic Diocese of Salina is distributed to qualifying students across the Salina Diocese to help with the cost of education at their Catholic School.

Last year \$116,699.70 was awarded to help the education costs for 94 students

Call or Email the Catholic Foundation Office to learn more
 heather.hartman@salinadiocese.org
 (785) 827-8746





JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE
closing Mass

DECEMBER 28, 2025
SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL, SALINA
10:30 am - English | 12:30 pm - Spanish



WHAT'S HAPPENING

- December 2-5**

 - Divine Mercy Radio Fall Care-a-Thon.
- December 6**

 - St. Joseph Auction, Oakley.
- December 8**

 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.
- December 12**

 - Our Lady of Guada-
- December 14**

 - Our Lady of Guada-lupe Celebration, Sacred Heart Cathe-dral, Salina.
- December 25**

 - Christmas Day
- December 26-28**

 - Quo Vadis Retreat
- December 28**

 - Jubilee Year Closing Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.
- December 29**

 - Seminarian Family Mass/Lunch, Victoria.
- December 31**

 - New Year's Eve.
- lupe Celebration, IHM, Hays, 6 p.m.

2025, Wichita.

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

November 27, 2025

May God bless you with faith,
family, and gratitude.

**2025 Fall
Care-a-thon**

**Light in the
Darkness**

Tuesday, December 2nd
Wednesday, December 3rd
Thursday, December 4th
Friday, December 5th

**Divine
Mercy
RADIO**

Religious Gifts

For All Occasions:
Baptism ~ Confirmation ~ First Communion ~ RCIA ~ Wedding

The I. DONNELLY Co., Inc.

6601 TROOST AVE. • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64131

Phone: **(816) 363-2828**
Nationwide Toll Free Order Desk: **(800) 821-5372**
Visit our online catalog at: **www.idonnelly.com**

**ADVENT
SERIES** Via Zoom

December 3, 10, 17
6:30-7:30 p.m.
785-243-4428

Manna House of Prayer
323 E. 5th St.,
Concordia, KS 66901

REGISTER HERE!



**FOOTE CATTLE
COMPANY**

**Partnering with farmers,
ranchers, and communities
across Kansas and Nebraska**

www.footecattle.com

**OUTDOOR
BANK**

Open an account in minutes,
from anywhere



**Divine
Mercy
RADIO**

Along I-70

KGOH 89.1, Colby
Colorado border to Quinter

KMDG 105.7, Hays
Quinter to Ellsworth

KJDM 101.7 Lindsborg/Salina
Ellsworth to Junction City

Other Stations

KRTT 88.1 Great Bend

KVDM 88.1 Hays
(EWTN Radio Extra)

K297AI 107.3 Hill City

**LeDuc
MEMORIAL
Design**

"A life Full of Memories"

Call Troy or Missy for all your Monument needs

Email: leducmemorial@att.net

Website: www.leducmemorialdesign.org

701 Lincoln St. Concordia, KS 66901

785-243-4660

Allen Kee Agency LLC
Allen Kee, Agent
Certified Agency in
Customer Excellence
ekee@amfam.com
Bus: (785) 738-2990

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I., American Family Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
006441 - Rev. 11/15 ©2015 - 11133642

**AMERICAN FAMILY
INSURANCE**

WERTH Hays and Leawood
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

**Enhancing
Lives &
Strengthening
Families**

**We've cultivated a rich tradition of
trust and long-term relationships.**

**For decades, we have developed
relationships with families
just like yours.**

1200 Main St. 6th Fl
Hays, KS 67601

11551 Ash St., Suite 205
Leawood, KS 66211

www.werthfinancial.com
Phone: 785.628.1712

Werth Wealth Management, LLC is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services.

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA / SIPC.
Investment advisory Services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.

Honoring our deceased diocesan priests

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Hearing the names of those gone before them can trigger a lot of memories for those attending the annual memorial Mass for Deceased Priests of the Salina Diocese.

Fr. Dan Scheetz and Rosie Rundell remembered a particular loved one on November 4 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

In the traditional ritual of reading every single name of the deceased priests in the 138-year history of the diocese, two priests each year take turns with the 200-plus names by alternating months.

Fr. Dan read the even months, and the name of Fr. Bill Surmeier fell in the fourth month of April. Fr. Bill died April 3 of this year at the age of 86.

Fr. Dan, now retired, will never forget his comrade, who was ordained with him on the same day in Oakley back in 1965, and both celebrated their 60th priestly jubilees this year.

Because of health reasons, Fr. Bill spent the last few years of his life in a nursing facility in Hays, where Fr. Dan visited him every Thursday.

Rosie also kept in touch with Fr. Bill over the years and considered it a privilege to lector at this year's Deceased Priests Mass.

"I wouldn't have missed it for the world," said Rosie, who now resides in Manhattan and has known Fr. Bill since she was a

teenager while growing up in Salina as a member of the Sacred Heart Parish.

Fr. Bill's first assignment after being ordained was at Rosie's parish, where he began a CYO program for youth and eventually took charge of youth ministry for the diocese, serving in the role of director for 15 years.

"He made all the kids feel welcome and important and that we had a purpose, that we were important to the parish," Rosie said. "Those are some of the things that he started instilling in youth."

Rosie never forgot it.

One of Fr. Bill's passions was empowering Lay Ministry in the diocese, and "he encouraged me as a lay person to get more involved," Rosie said.

So she earned a master's degree in pastoral studies from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Mo., and served as pastoral associate for Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan for 23 years before retiring.

Fr. Bill also was instrumental in starting other programs in the diocese, including Team Ministry with several priests in rural parishes in western Kansas.

After earning a master's degree in pastoral counseling, he served as a counselor at Catholic Charities for nearly 20 years before he retired – ultimately making a difference in the lives of many – and of all ages.

One of those was his



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

A cadre of priests accompanied Bishop Vincke to the altar to celebrate Mass in honor of the deceased priests of the Salina Diocese. Each November, members of the diocese are called to remember the dead and pray for them in a special way.

own niece, Barb Hemmert from Oakley.

"My life definitely took a very deep faith journey because of Fr. Bill," said Hemmert, who grew up as a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell.

Besides getting to interact with Fr. Bill at family gatherings, Hemmert said she was impacted by his involvement with CYO, and said that "his priestly vocation has been such a blessing to so many people."

Bishop Jerry Vincke celebrated the memorial Mass for Deceased Priests and was accompanied to the altar by nearly 40 other priests and deacons.

"This November we pray for those who have gone before us," Bishop Vincke said during his homily. "Let's pray for our priests and focus on the ones we will meet again one day."

FR. HENRY, FROM PAGE 3

Columbus and Chaplain for the Knights. He was also a member of the Rotary Clubs of Concordia and Abilene, and, in his spare time, he enjoyed watching EWTN.

Fr. Henry passed away on November 9, 2025, in Belleville at age 84 years, 8 months, and 23 days. He

was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Blanche; brothers-in-law Robert Goodwin and Bob Steimel; and is survived by sisters Mary Ann Goodwin, Lorene Steimel, and Dorothy Oborny and her husband Charles, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

A rosary and vigil were held November 14 with Fr. John Wolesky officiating, and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated November 15, 2025, at St. Edward Catholic Church in Belleville by Bishop Gerald Vincke, with burial in St. Isidore Catholic Cemetery in Cuba.

SPRING CLASSES OFFERED

Two formation classes are available this spring through the Diocese of Dodge City's Adult Formation program.

THEO 4053:

Introduction to the Old Testament (3 hrs) invites students to explore how God revealed Himself through the lived

experience of the Hebrew people. Classes meet on Saturdays from 8:15 a.m. to noon via Zoom on the following dates: Jan. 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; Mar. 14, 21.

THEO 4881:

Improving Our Liturgies (1 hr) examines how music, environment, ministers,

and assembly work together to shape meaningful worship. It meets Tuesdays, 6:00–9:30 p.m., on Jan. 20 and Feb. 3, 10, 17.

For more information on these courses, contact Coleen Stein, director of Adult formation, at cstein@dcdiocese.org.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO RETIRED CLERGY

FR. NORBERT DLABAL
MSGR. JAMES HAKE
FR. LARRY LETOURNEAU
FR. LEROY METRO
FR. JEROME MORGAN
FR. KERRY NINEMIRE
FR. DONALD PFANNENSTIEL
FR. DANIEL SCHEETZ
FR. KEITH WEBER
FR. ALVIN WERTH
FR. DON ZIMMERMAN

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

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO SEMINARIANS

DEACON LUKE FRIESS
GABE FRIESS

St. John Vianney School of Theology
1300 S. Steele St.,
Denver, CO 80210

ADAM BATES
HOLDEN GIEFER
KALE KUHLMANN
KYLE PFEIFER

Kenrick School of Theology
5200 Glennon Drive
Saint Louis, MO 63119

MAX MEGAFFIN
COLLIN THIELEN

The Pontifical North American College
Gianicolo Street, 14 - 00165
Rome RM, Italy

JOSEPH SCHONES
ED SCHMEIDLER
DUNG DAU
TRUNG NGUYEN
TIEN NGUYEN
PHONG TRAN

Sacred Heart Seminary
7335 S. Hwy 100
P.O. Box 429
Hales Corners, WI
53130-0429

GUS HANSON
ETHAN WEINER

St. Joseph House of Formation
145 S Millwood Ave
Wichita, KS 67213

A Pathway to Heaven: Families share faith and grief at Memorial Mass

By LORI LEISZLER

THE REGISTER

The diocese celebrated a Mass of Remembrance at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina on October 19, for parents who have lost a child.

Families from across the diocese traveled to pray together, with around 70 people joining together at the cathedral. Attendees ranged from young couples—newly married yet already facing tragedy—to couples in their golden years who had lost adult children, or experienced miscarriage, all honoring their children's memories.

"It's a hard thing to talk about loss," said Fr. Leo Blasi, who celebrated the Mass. He knows deeply about grief, having lost several loved ones, including his wife, Elana "Lynn," in 2011. Fr. Blasi joined the priesthood at age 49 after her passing.

"No one has suffered more than a parent who has lost a child," Fr. Blasi said. "It's important that we have a relationship with God first, so that when our faith is shaken in times like these, we can lean on Him."

He emphasized: "God does not desire that anyone should be lost."

Drawing parallels between parents' experiences and that of Blessed Mary, who also lost her child, Fr. Blasi also said that God transforms sorrow into hope, and that children are held in God's



COURTESY PHOTO, AVERY WERTH

Couples from across the diocese joined in solidarity at the Memorial Mass for Parents of Deceased Children on October 19. Bryn and Grant Kuhlman, above, lost their infant son, Jude Michael (right), this past June.



COURTESY PHOTO, BRYN KUHLMAN

many families, and that Catholics have a duty to support those grieving a loss, stating, "As members of a community of faith ourselves, let us comfort those who mourn as we look forward together to a time when all tears are dried and our families are whole once again."

One especially poignant story from the Memorial Mass came from a couple — Bryn Kuhlman and Grant Kuhlman, who initially were uncertain about attending the Mass

ly anticipating to a day wrapped in heartache. We are navigating how to be parents of a baby in heaven. We are trying to find the goodness hidden within the grief. Reality is, Jude is our pathway to Heaven.

Three months ago, we held him in our arms and every day since then he has held us. Jude has grasped onto our hands and pulled us through the trenches of grief. When we sat in the hospital and prayed for a miracle, one you only read in scripture.

Our prayers seemed unheard, although Jesus was performing tiny miracles daily. We lost sight of these, because He seemed to "miss" the big one.

The truth is, Jesus gives us the miracles we need, not the ones we want. And as hard as that is, He knows what shapes our hearts and what we need to heal. Through this, we have witnessed Jesus pick up our crosses and carry us through the hardest thing we have ever encountered. This cross unites us to Him.

He gives us peace with the what-ifs and gives us strength for the what-is.

No matter how much I desire that you could be here with your big sister trying to navigate this crazy world, it gives me peace to know you are in the arms of Jesus, waiting to welcome us home.

Jude Michael, pray for us.

eternal embrace, free from suffering.

Clare Stramel, Respect Life coordinator for the diocese, invited those gathered to bring a rose forward and place it before Blessed Mary, symbolizing trust that Mary, too, would hold their children close to her heart.

"Mary did not turn away from her pain. She stood steadfast in her love for her son and for her faith," Stramel said. "Because she remained faithful, even in the darkest hour, God transformed her sorrow into hope."

The gathering was an opportunity for solidarity and recognition of deep, often silent grief. It speaks to a profound reality: while each family's story is unique, many share the same cycle of hope, loss, faith and remembrance.

According to a 2023 article by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Solace and Strength in the Sorrow of Miscarriage, an estimated one in four pregnancies ends in miscarriage.

It goes on to share that loss of a child touches

but decided at the last minute to make the trip.

They lost their son, Jude Michael, on June 14, 2025. Born at 22 weeks, Jude lived only briefly outside the womb, yet he left a profound mark on their lives.

Bryn shares her story below, for it is in hearing others' witnesses and leaning on their faith that they can find strength to carry on through difficulty.

A Mother's Reflection

10/17/2025. Jude's due date, a day that shifted from one we were patient-

FCLSA Life
of the United States of America
a Fraternal Benefit of Society domiciled in Beachwood, OH
Fraternal Life Insurance and Annuities

PLATINUM ELITE ANNUITY

- 5% APY current credited interest rate effective July 1*
- 3.0% APY minimum guaranteed rate
- \$250 minimum initial premium; \$100 minimum subsequent
- \$500,000 maximum lifetime premium
- 10 year withdrawal penalty (9% 1st two years, decreased by 1% each subsequent year)**

* Our credited rate is reviewed quarterly and will not go below minimum guaranteed rate

** A 10% federal tax penalty may apply to certain distributions if taken before the owner is age 59 ½.

**Watkins Realty and
Ins. Agency, LLC**

"Your Crop Insurance Headquarters"

Steven A. Watkins, MBA
Crop Insurance Specialist
901 Trail Ave.
P.O. Box 840
Hoxie, KS 67740
E-mail: watreins@ruraltel.net or watkinscroptax@yahoo.com

Toll Free: 1-800-232-3239
Office: 785-675-3239
Fax: 785-675-3230
Cell: 785-675-1017
Nights & Weekends: 785-675-9966
www.watkinscropinsurance.com

STEVEN A. WATKINS, Agent, MBA • 1-800-232-3239

Students gain school spirit with Walk for Jays

By KENDRA GENGLER

JUNIOR AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC SCHOOL, BELOIT

Walk for Jays, a tradition started in 2012, is a yearly ritual within St. John's Schools in Beloit. Family and friends of students are contacted to solicit support for their class funds. In exchange, older students perform and explain Biblical skits while sharing facts about the history of the church and school for younger students, who then walk with middle and high school students from station to station to watch them.

From the outside, students walking around enjoying skits performed by their peers to help raise money for class funds might seem silly.

However, St. John's students with an insider's perspective will tell you that Walk for Jays is an event packed with history and pride for our church and school.

As a junior, I personally have experienced Walk for Jays 13 times while attending St. John's Catholic Schools. My experience has been unique each year. In grade school, I remember riding on my older brother's shoulders; enjoying our fun morning racking up countless laps around the church parking lot. As a middle schooler I was filling my brother's



shoes of being the older kid who the grade schoolers looked forward to running with. This year as a junior, I experienced Walk for Jays through a different lens, by putting on skits for the younger grades. I loved being able to give back even in a small way by being a part of the event! Hearing how St. John's community has evolved over the years makes me proud of my school and its values. I want to be involved.

Walk for Jays is much more than just a class fundraiser. Through this yearly tradition, St. John's students have the opportunity to reflect on the hard work of past generations and be active partici-



ALAN HOLDREN, COURTESY PHOTOS

At top left, junior Kendra Gengler takes on a crowned role at Walk for Jays, an event at Beloit's St. John's Schools that infuses legacy into its yearly fundraiser. As part of the event, student leaders (top right) enact Bible skits and perform for their peers and younger students. When the weather turns cold, the "Walk" part of Walk for Jays can turn into skipping--or running--as seen above.

pants in forming the next generation of Blujays who will support

St. John's Schools for years to come.

L.A. Archdiocese reps visit Salina Diocese

Two top representatives from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles visited the Salina Diocese from Oct. 21-23. Vice Chancellor for Communications, David Scott, and Chief Digital Officer, Sarah Yaklic, spent three full days in our midst, consulting with officials at the Diocesan Chancery on a variety of projects, visiting St. John's Church and Schools and the Adoratio Foundation and attending a "Stars of Peace" meeting in Beloit, and meeting with professionals from across the region at the first-ever Salina Diocese Digital Media Summit held at the Cathedral's Hall of Bishops.

Bishop Gerald Vincke extended an invitation to the two after conversing with David Scott at a national function last year. Scott is also the former editor-in-chief of Catholic News Agency, where he was a friend and mentor to St. John's teacher, Alan Holdren.

Scott and Yaklic both graciously shared their experience and expertise with a variety of individuals and ministries across the diocese and with representatives from the neighboring dioceses of Wichita, Dodge City, and Lincoln, Nebraska, who were among the more than two dozen people present for the digital media summit.

When Yaklic presented her story to St. John's High School sophomores, juniors, and seniors, she

shared how she has met all four of the most recent Popes.

"God desires you to dream big," she told them. "Each of you has a gift and a mission."

And, if you don't feel totally comfortable with where you are, she said, you should pray a simple prayer that has worked for her:

"God, you've placed me here, you give me the skills I need to do this."



COURTESY PHOTO

David Scott and Sarah Yaklic from Los Angeles visit with St. John's teacher Alan Holdren (center) during their trip to the Salina Diocese.

FREE WRITTEN CLEANING MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR CHURCHES

Call for Appointment



Carpet Cleaning • VCT Tile Strip & Seal
• Wood Floor Planks •

Why Choose Rohr's Professional Detailed Cleaning?

- For 35 years, we have been dedicated to cleaning various surfaces including carpets, tiles, planks and air ducts
- We've got your floors covered - Sales, installation & cleaning for churches.
- State Licensed, certified and insured

GET **10% OFF**

Carpet cleaning and air duct services when you
purchase both for your home or business!

ROHR'S CARPET CLEANING & SALES



For all your flooring needs stop by and see
our flooring store located at or call
722 E. 7th, Hays, KS
(785) 625-5977
www.rohrscarpetcleaningandsales.com
Rohrs Carpet Cleaning and Sales



Finding hope far from home

By MEGAN ROBL

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Poros journey to Kansas was not one she had planned. Originally from Papua New Guinea, she came to the U.S. for college, where she ran track and field in Texas before returning home after graduation. But when she found herself in an unhealthy relationship, she knew she needed to leave her country and return to the U.S.

The president of track and field for Papua New Guinea helped arrange for Poro's return to the United States. Athletics PNG, her country's track and field organization, rents a house in Concordia, Kansas, for student athletes attending Cloud County Community College. This allowed Poro to continue training with fellow athletes from her home country while preparing for the upcoming South Pacific Games.

Not long after arriving in Concordia in 2021, Poro found out she was pregnant. With no family nearby, no job, and no steady income, she didn't



COURTESY PHOTO

Poros, pictured with her daughter Kuriso, found hope and support through Catholic Charities during her pregnancy. The care she received provided not only practical help, but also encouragement and the strength to step confidently into motherhood.

know where to turn. At the hospital, staff connected her with the health department, and that's where she first learned about Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas.

That introduction changed everything.

Catholic Charities was there to help.

"The first time I met Miss Peggy, she asked me about myself, and I told her about my life and my situation," Poro remembers. "She was calm and kind. She listened, and

then gave me resources for the diaper program and explained how they could help me."

Because of the generosity of donors, Catholic Charities was able to walk alongside Poro during this challenging time. Even before her baby was born, she was given monthly diapers and wipes, easing the worry of how she would provide for her newborn.

After her daughter was born, Catholic Charities continued to be there, offering not just material support, but also encouragement and care. "Looking back, Catholic Charities really helped me a lot," Poro says. "It wasn't just the things they gave me. It was the emotional support, too."

Today, everything is going really well for Poro and her daughter. Kuriso is now three years old, very active and full of energy. She loves gymnastics

and running, just like her mom.

Poros says the generosity of donors has made all the difference. The support she received from Catholic Charities—made possible by those who give—provided her with the essentials she desperately needed as a new mother.

Reflecting on her journey, Poro shares through tears that the kindness she experienced from Peggy and Catholic Charities showed her the true meaning of empathy. "They taught me to respect people and to understand people from different backgrounds of life," she says. "You don't always know what someone is going through. Coming from a place like that, it's really touching."

Because of people like you, mothers like Poro are not alone. They find hope, dignity, and the strength to build brighter futures for their children.

HONORING ADOPTION



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Jerry Vincke distributes Holy Communion to the faithful during the Adoption Mass on November 7 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. This annual celebration, hosted by Catholic Charities, recognizes families, birth mothers, and adoptive parents, celebrating the gift of adoption in the Diocese of Salina.

By JEREE HUGHBANKS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. It's a time to celebrate the gift of family and raise awareness about the many ways adoption can change lives.

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas is a state-licensed child-placing agency dedicated to walking with both birth parents and adoptive families through every

step of the adoption journey.

We provide infant adoption services, conduct home studies, and assist with search and reunion services.

In working with birth parents, Catholic Charities offers a safe, compassionate space to explore thoughts and feelings about parenting and adoption. Our team helps create personalized adoption plans that honor each parent's wishes—be-

cause the final decision always belongs to the birth parents.

We believe open adoptions best serve children by helping them maintain connections to their family of origin and their story.

If you would like to learn more about our adoption program, please visit <https://ccnks.org/adoption>. Together, we can help create loving, lasting families built on faith, hope, and love.

YOU made their dream come true.

"Oscar's going to have a great opportunity to grow up. If Catholic Charities wasn't here, that wouldn't have happened," says Trina & Michael, adoptive parents to Oscar.

Join us in God's work at www.ccnks.org!

Thinking about selling your farm or ranch land?

We'll put your land in front of hundreds of thousands of potential buyers.

Give us a call today!



LEE JUENEMANN
785.871.0960



EMILY SWATZELL
785.202.0217

BigIron
REALTY

www.bigiron.com/realty

800.887.8625 | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [i](#) [i](#)

SOLD

www.bigironrealty.com

**UNRESERVED
ONLINE AUCTION**

End of Year Giving

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

CASH

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

PO Box 1696, Salina KS 67402 or online at givecfds.org.



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

If you're 70 ½ or older, you can give from your Individual Retirement

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



LONG-TERM APPRECIATED SECURITIES



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

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

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



GIFT OF GRAIN



Maximize tax benefits while supporting your faith. Turn bushels of grain into a gift and potentially

save on taxes and deduct the cost of production. Simply provide the elevator with instructions for the transfer to the foundation. The foundation will work directly with the elevator to sell the grain and receive the proceeds.



**CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**
FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA

WWW.GIVECFDS.ORG 785-827-8746 DEVELOPMENT@SALINADIOCESE.ORG PO BOX 1696, SALINA, KS 67402

Year-End Giving Opportunities

Seminarian Education Fund

Provide essential funding to cover recruitment, education, and living expenses for seminarians as they embark on their long path to the priesthood. We are currently blessed with 16 seminarians on their discernment journey.

Communications and Publications

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

Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share

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

Catholic Schools Scholarship Tax Credits

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



#iGIVECATHOLIC
ON GIVING TUESDAY

It's as easy as ...



VISIT

Salina.iGiveCatholic.org



SEARCH

for your
favorite ministry



DONATE

\$10 or More

Want to give early?
Advanced giving runs
November 17 - December 1

SCAN
HERE!



2025 Participants

Abilene

St. Andrew Grade School
St. Andrew Parish

Beloit

St. John's Catholic Schools
St. John the Baptist Parish

Diocesan Ministries

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
Clergy Care
Communications and Publications Drive
Divine Mercy Radio
Seminar Education Fund

Ellis

St. Mary Church and School

Hays

Comeau Catholic Campus Center
Holy Family Elementary
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
St. Joseph Parish
Thomas More Prep - Marian Jr/Sr High School

Hoxie

St. Frances Cabrini Parish

Junction City

St. Francis Xavier Parish
St. Francis Xavier School

Manhattan

Manhattan Catholic Schools
St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center
St. Thomas More Parish

Oakley

St. Joseph School

Plainville

Sacred Heart Grade School

Salina

Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High School
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
St. Mary Grade School
St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish

Tipton

Tipton Catholic High School

December 2, 2025

BAPTISMS

Autumn Rain Blake, daughter of Peter J. Waldschmidt, Jr. and Billie Jean Blake, was baptized October 5, 2025, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Sadie Mae Bruggeman, daughter of Tyler and Bailey Bruggeman, was baptized October 5, 2025, by Fr. Mathew Chacko at Sacred Heart Church in Oberlin.

Wilhelmina May Brummer, daughter of Logan and Gemma Brummer, was baptized October 12, 2025, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Millie Jo Marie Clark, daughter of Josh and Theresa Clark, was baptized November 1, 2025, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Atley Claire Crum, daughter of Shea Thomas Crum and Karyn Cecilia (Leihy) Crum, was baptized September 28, 2025, by Dcn. Tim Donohoue at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Andrew Clement Dlabal, son of Aaron and Hannah Dlabal, born September 6, 2025, was baptized September 27 by Fr. Tony Kulandaijesu at St. Wenceslaus Church in Wilson. Godparents are Joshua Dlabal and Hayley Vajnar.

Rowdy Dean Fischer, son of Lyle and Desirae (Melgoza) Fischer, was baptized October 26, 2025, by Fr.

Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Lubbock Charles Gruber, son of Jordan and Ambria Gruber, was baptized November 1, 2025, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Georgia Haffner, daughter of Peyton and KatLyn (Martinez) Haffner, was baptized November 9, 2025, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Amos Lee Hamel, son of Nathaniel and Katherine (Greenwood) Hamel, was baptized October 26, 2025, at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo.

Chancler Duane Hawkins, son of Avery and Lexie Hawkins, was baptized September 14, 2025, by Fr. Charles Oppong at St. Mary's Church in Smith Center. Godparents are Ashton Hawkins and Alyssa Rome.

Colter James Hersch, son of Justin Timothy Hersch and Katelyn Maurine (Flax) Hersch, was baptized September 14, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Kya Marie Jensen, daughter of Brady and Allison Jensen, was baptized October 12, 2025, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Sophie Lyn Martin, daughter of Wesley and Shelby (Herrman) Martin, was baptized October 12, 2025, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Shelby April Montoya, daughter of Juan Roque Montoya and Joanna Dominguez, was baptized September 28, 2025, by Fr. Rafael Campos at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Brooks Michael Nordell and Rory Alan Nordell, twin sons of Ian and Kadey (Dreiling) Nordell, born August 12, 2025, were baptized October 5 by Fr. Larry Letourneau. Godparents are Brett and Leah Dreiling.

Ira Josephine Ochampaugh, daughter of Andrew Ochampaugh and Ally Suchy, was baptized October 19, 2025, by Fr. Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Viviana Cecilia Pallay, daughter of Zachary Tyler Pallay and Ana Karen (Salazar) Pallay, was baptized September 14, 2025, by Fr. Rafael Campos at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Marek Anthony Porsch, son of Tristan and Taylore Porsch, was baptized September 28, 2025, by Fr. Vincent Thu Laing at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie.

Emilia Karol Schroeder, daughter of Joshua and Megan (Dinkel) Schroeder, was baptized November 2, 2025, by Fr. Brian McCaffrey at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Natalie Renee Shirley, daughter of Jace and Brooke Shirley, was baptized October 12, 2025, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood.

Maverie Kay Stewart, daughter of Charles and Brandi (Zimmerman) Stewart, was baptized August 23, 2025, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Christopher Paul Stiles, son of Asa and Diane (Becker) Stiles, was baptized October 19, 2025, by Fr. Brian McCaffrey at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Fatima Alexa Urquiza-Dosal, daughter of Francisco Javier Urquiza Gandarilla and Mayra Fabiola Dosal-Puebla, was baptized October 19, 2025, by Fr. Rafael Campos at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Lily Anne Wasinger, daughter of Andrew and Melissa (Meagher) Wasinger, was baptized November 2, 2025, by Dcn. Bill Meagher at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Abigail Marie Weber, daughter of Christopher M. Weber and Jenna Marie (Maas) Weber, was baptized September 14, 2025, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

SEND US YOUR INFORMATION
To submit a baptismal, wedding or funeral announcement, email theregister@salinadiocese.org

BAALMANN MORTUARY & CREMATORY

B

Oakley 304 E. 8th St. P.O. Box 204 Oakley, 67748 785-671-1132	Atwood 109 N. 2nd St. Atwood, 67730 785-626-3895	Colby 190 S. Franklin P.O. Box 391 Colby, 67701 785-462-2331
--	--	---

www.baalmanmortuary.com

HAYS MEMORIAL CHAPEL
FUNERAL HOME

1906 PINE STREET ~ HAYS, KANSAS 67601
PHONE ~ 785-628-1009
haysmemorial.com

A Family Serving Families

Protecting Catholic Families Since 1882.
Trust a Catholic company to protect your Catholic family.



Knights of Columbus®
Reed Agency

							
Darin Reed, FICF General Agent 785-726-4899 darin.reed@kofc.org	Adam Bruna FICF, CLTC Assistant General Agent 785-553-9070 adam.bruna@kofc.org	Cody Honas, FIC Assistant General Agent 785-650-9387 cody.honas@kofc.org	Dan Reed, FICF Field Agent 785-531-0135 dan.reed@kofc.org	Shaun Linenberger, FSCP, FICF Field Agent 785-301-2676 shaun.linenberger@kofc.org	Brady Jacques, FIC Field Agent 785-639-2339 brady.jacques@kofc.org	Rodney George FICF Field Agent 785-452-2431 rodney.george@kofc.org	Patrick Burnett FICF Field Agent 785-650-9005 patrick.burnett@kofc.org

Life insurance, annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance products are offered through Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510 1-800-380-9995. For costs, terms, conditions, and complete details regarding these products, please contact your agent or the Knights of Columbus. Products may vary by state.

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

WEDDINGS

Mason Christopher Albers and Josephine Amanda Schmidt were married October 4, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Christopher and the late Melainie Albers. Parents of the bride are Todd and Judy Schmidt. Witnesses were Masyon Schneider and Payton Walk.

Jordan Betts and Ali Weber were married September 20, 2025, at St. Mary’s Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Michael and Kimberly Betts. Parents of the bride are Curtis and Mary Kay Weber. Witnesses were Keith Dryden and Natalie Schoenberger.

Johnathan Chavira and Katie Geerdes were married September 13, 2025, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Reyes and Laura Chavira. Parents of the bride are Douglas and Dana Geerdes. Witnesses were Kevin Chavira and Kelsey Geerdes.

Matthew Diercks and Alyssa Pierce were married

September 25, 2025, at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Fr. Vincent Thu Laing witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Brian and Sarah Diercks. Parents of the bride are Aaron and Errin Bollig. Witnesses were Isaac Sanders and Hayley Burgess.

Rodney Regan Erickson and Kimberly Kay Shirley were married October 11, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood. Fr. Henry Saw Lone witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are the late Alex Erickson and Kathlyn Brooksher. Parents of the bride are Pauline and the late Kenny Micek. Witnesses were Aaron and Karla Heble.

Juan Escobedo and Guadalupe Quezada were married September 30, 2025, at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Fr. Vincent Thu Laing witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Manuel Escobedo and Blanca Sanchez. Parents of the bride are Salvador Garcia and Socorro Quezada. Witnesses were Eliezer Garcia and Susana Dominguez.

Michael Goff and Leslie Gibson were married October 18, 2025, at St.

Mary’s Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Chane and Heidi Goff. Parents of the bride are James and Cheryl Gibson. Witnesses were Dennis Zoglmann and Ara Meier.

Samuel Honas and Abigail North were married October 10, 2025, at St. Mary’s Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Randy and Wendy Honas. Parents of the bride are Travis and Ava North. Witnesses were Toby Honas and Breonna Showalter.

Larry Plymell and Norma Offutt were married October 25, 2025, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Harold Auman and Jessie Royston. Parents of the bride are Frank and Mary Bongartz. Witnesses were Dr. Bob Cox and Phyllis Manhart.

Nathan Romme and Madyson Koerner were married September 20, 2025, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Darrell and Melissa Romme. Parents of the bride are Kenneth and Jessica Koerner. Witnesses were Kyler Leiker and Carmen Brull.

Kyle Keenen Shafer and FaithAnn Scanlan were married October 30, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Kerry and Kristin Shafer. Parents of the bride are Sean and Jennifer Scanlan. Witnesses were Michael Benenati and Hannah Portell.

Travis James Wiebler and Kylee Marie Stec were married October 18, 2025, at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Steven and Teri Wiebler. Parents of the bride are Michael and Roxanne Stec. Witnesses were Ryan Brockschmidt and Kaitlyn Henke

FUNERALS

Mary Lou Basham, 99, died September 24, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 18 at Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home in Manhattan. Fr. Frank Coady presided. Interment in Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan.

Anita L. (Bessette) Budreau, 88, died October 28, 2025. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated November 3 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Fr. Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery, Concordia.

Margene Clark, 100, died October 7, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 11 at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Fr. Kevin Weber, Fr. Kerry Ninemire and Dcn. Wayne Talbot presided. Burial in St Patrick’s Cemetery, Manhattan, Kansas.

Ronald “Ron” Dinkel, 77, died October 24, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 30 at St. Mary Help of Christians Church in Gorham. Fr. Daryl Olmstead presided. Private family inurnment.

Margaret Ann “Marge” Feldt, 95, died October 13, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 18 at Immaculate Conception Church in Grinnell. Fr. James Thomas and Fr. Harvey Dinkel, OFM Cap., presided. Burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Grinnell.

Ina Lee Garrison, 89, died October 13, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 17 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Fr. Barry Brinkman presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery, Concordia.

JoAnn S. Goldstein, 84, died September 30, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 7 at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hamerschmidt presided.

Roxie Ann Hake, 70, died October 3, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 8 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in

Elmwood Cemetery, Beloit.

Leo Kenneth “Ken” Herman, 94, died October 8, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 15 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Vernon Joseph “Vern” Koerner, 91, died October 12, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 16 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Brian McCaffrey presided. Inurnment in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Renda Ann McInteer, 51, died February 19, 2024. Graveside service was celebrated October 17, 2025, at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Dcn. Harry Hardy presided. Inurnment in Kansas Veterans Cemetery, Fort Riley.

Richard L. “Mac” McInteer, 79, died October 2, 2025. Graveside service was celebrated October 17 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Dcn. Harry Hardy presided. Inurnment in Kansas Veterans Cemetery, Fort Riley.

AnnaBell (Beckman) Ostmeyer, 98, died October 15, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 18 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Fr. Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery, Hoxie.

Joyce (Riedel) Richardson, 75, died September 6, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 4 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Ellis.

Zita (Munk) Schamberger, 89, died October 8, 2025. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 15 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Fr. Vincent Thu Laing presided. Burial in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery, Hoxie.

Donald W. Zumbrunn, 91, of Wakefield, died October 21, 2025. Funeral service was held October 24 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Fr. Peter O’Donnell presided. Burial in Greenridge Cemetery, Dickinson County.

Bachelor-Faulkner-Dart-Surber Funeral Homes
Belleville and Scandia, Kansas (785) 527-2222
~ Directors Steven Surber, John Surber and Don Waddington ~

Your CASE II Dealers in Northwest Kansas

COLBY
AG CENTER, LC
785-462-6132
www.colbyag.com

OAKLEY
AG CENTER, LLC
785-671-3264
www.oakleyag.com

Great Selection of Parts on Hand

HOXIE
IMPLEMENT CO., INC.
785-675-3201
www.hoxieimplement.com

Other Manufacturers Offered:

Bobcat	Elmer’s	Kubota	Shelbourne
Crustbuster	Great Plains	MacDon	Westfield
Drago	Haybuster	Orthman	Woods
Demco	Kinze	Reinke	Yamaha

Catholic Investments for Catholic Families

Contact me today to learn more about our faith-based investments.

Guard. Grow. Give.SM



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



Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors®

© Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510
www.kofcassetadvisors.org

KoCAA is an SEC registered investment adviser that maintains a principal place of business in the State of Connecticut. For information about KoCAA's business operations, please consult the Firm's Form ADV disclosure documents, the most recent versions of which are available on the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, LLC, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic Lay Organization. Knights of Columbus does not offer investment products outside of the affiliated products offered through KoCAA.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and perpetual light shine upon them. May they and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

USCCB APPROVES 2029 EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

By **GRETCHEN R. CROWE**
OSV News

BALTIMORE (OSV News) — The U.S. bishops have given the green light to hold the 11th National Eucharistic Congress in the summer of 2029, in a Nov. 12 vote on the final public day of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Fall Plenary Assembly.

The location of the event has not yet been made public. However, the possible cities have been narrowed down to three, according to Bishop Cozzens, and OSV News has learned that site visits have been completed and that the city announcement likely will come next spring.

The 2029 congress follows the successful 10th National Eucharistic Congress that took place July 2024 in Indianapolis, as part of the larger three-year National Eucharistic Revival.



COURTESY PHOTO

In a presentation to the body of bishops, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, chairman of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc., which will organize the event, said the USCCB's Committee on Evangelization Catechesis in conjunction with Vinea Research conducted a "Revival Impact Study" looking at the fruit of the earlier effort.

He said those findings will be released later this year.

"The results of this national survey are still being finalized," but they found "lasting fruit from the revival," Bishop Cozzens said. Areas of impact include increased reverence for the Eucharist, an increase in youth and family engagement, and a "noticeable increase" in Eucharistic adoration, he said.

© OSV Publishing.
The full story from November 12 and more details can be found at www.osvnews.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS

St. Ambrose was born around the year 340 in what is now Germany, but he grew up in Rome. He was very smart and loved learning about reading, writing, and speaking well. When he grew up, he became a governor in Italy and was known for being a wise and fair man.

One day, when the city of Milan needed a new bishop, the people began to argue about who should be chosen. Ambrose went to calm the crowd, but as soon as he started speaking, someone shouted, "Ambrose for bishop!" The whole crowd agreed. Ambrose was surprised—he wasn't even a priest yet! But Ambrose trusted that this was God's plan for him.

He quickly prepared for the job, was baptized, and became Bishop of Milan. As bishop, St. Ambrose cared deeply for his people. He helped the poor, taught about Jesus' love, and stood up for what was right, even when it was hard. He also wrote beautiful hymns and prayers that we still use in the Church today.

St. Ambrose was a great teacher and helped bring St. Augustine—another famous saint—closer to God through his wisdom and kindness.

St. Ambrose died in the year 397 and is the patron saint of beekeepers, candle makers and learning.



SAINT AMBROSE

FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 7

Holy homes: Building the domestic church

There's a lot to think about when it comes to raising our kids. We want them to be kind, to be strong, to make good choices, and yes—most importantly—we want them to know God. Not just know about Him, but to really know Him. To trust Him, to walk with Him, and to recognize His voice in their hearts.

BILL Meagher
DEACON, SALINA DIOCESE



love and mercy through how we discipline. They see what God is like through how we love.

When our kids experience strength, protection, and consistency from their dad, they begin to glimpse what it means to call God "Father." The way we as fathers show

up and lead has a profound impact on how our children come to know God the Father.

When they receive tenderness, comfort, and compassion from their mom, they experience something of the heart of Jesus—His mercy and gentleness. A mother's nurturing presence reveals Christ's love in an everyday, tangible way.

And when they watch how we love each other—how we forgive, serve, and sacrifice—they begin to sense the presence of the Holy Spirit. The love they see between a mother and

a father offers a glimpse of the love between the Father and the Son.

We might not think of our homes as holy places, but they are. Even in the noise, the chaos, the laundry piles and dirty dishes—our homes are the first churches our kids will know.

Of course, none of us gets this perfectly. We mess up, lose patience, and have days when prayer gets pushed aside. But it's not about perfection. It's about being real. Our children need to see that faith isn't just for Sundays—it's for life. And it's lived best in the small, ordinary moments we share as a family.

They'll learn to trust God because we forgave them even when it was hard. They'll believe in unconditional love because they've seen us offer it—again and again—to our spouse. They'll learn to pray because we made prayer part of our lives, even when it felt awkward or easy to skip.

We can't control every influence in our kids' lives. But we can choose to build a home where Christ is at the center. A place where prayer is spoken, forgiveness is real, and love is constant.

So as we head into Thanksgiving, Advent,

and Christmas, let's enjoy our families and make our homes places where faith is lived.

Let's raise our kids in the kind of domestic church that echoes the life of heaven as we build it strong—and build it on Christ.



Family Prayer to Prepare for Advent

As Advent draws near, we turn our hearts toward You in hope and expectation.

Help our family to slow down, to listen for Your voice, and to make room in our hearts for Your Son, Jesus.

Teach us to wait with patience, to pray with trust, and to love one another with generosity and kindness.

May our home become a place of faith and peace—a small reflection of the Holy Family in Nazareth. Bless us as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

Strengthen our desire to grow closer to You each day, and guide us to share Your love with all we meet.

Come, Lord Jesus—dwell in our hearts and our home.

Amen.

Cut this out and pray with your family!



THE REGISTER

VOLUME 88, NO. 11 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

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

Supported by an endowment established by Msgr. Raymond Menard (1912-2006), editor of The Register, 1944-1971 & 1975-2006.

The Register (USPS 397-740) is published the fourth Friday of the month by the Catholic Diocese of Salina, 103 N. Ninth, Salina, KS 67401-2503 and is mailed to all registered parishioners in the diocese. A \$40 annual subscription is required for all others. Periodical postage paid at Salina, Kansas, and at additional mailing offices.

• Next issue is dated Dec. 19. • Deadline for news is Nov. 27. • Deadline for advertising is Nov. 27.

Change of address?

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

**The Register, P.O. Box 980,
Salina, KS 67402-0980**

or online: salinadiocese.org/publications/publications-address-change/