



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

AUGUST 28, 2026

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

INSIDE:

SAINT IN THE MAKING

• Bishop Vincke reflects on Venerable Fulton Sheen's upcoming beatification ceremony.

Page 2

MORE THAN 500

• Diocese announces Youth Campaign to increase adoration involvement.

Page 3

A CULTURE FOR VOCATIONS

• Seminarian Dinners see outstanding generosity from donors of all ages.

Page 6

MARIAN DAYS

• Vietnamese Catholics from the Diocese of Salina join in a gathering of faith and culture in Carthage, MO.

Page 7

NEW ADMINS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

• Get to know new leaders in the Salina Diocese Catholic Schools. **Page 10**

DIVINE MERCY RADIO MAKES PREPARATIONS FOR BANQUET

• DVM's annual banquet will be held Sept. 12 in Hays.

Page 13

 salinadiocese.org

 facebook.com/SalinaDiocese

 x.com/salinadiocese

 instagram.com/salina_diocese



Seeking the 'key to happiness'

Third Annual Eucharistic Conference invites attendees to encounter Christ

MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Gerald Vincke leads the gathered participants at the third annual Eucharistic Conference through an hour of adoration. The conference, held July 31-August 1, provided an opportunity for Catholics from across the diocese to gather together as one in the Body of Christ.

BY LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

Hundreds of Catholics from across the Diocese of Salina gathered July 31 and Aug. 1 at Gross Memorial Coliseum on the Fort Hays State University campus for the diocese's third Eucharistic Conference.

Among the familiar faces from previous conferences were many experiencing the gathering for the first time.

For Sister Veronica Marie, IHM, the conference was also an opportunity to begin getting to know the Catholic community she would soon be serving.

Sister Veronica Marie recently moved to Hays to join the IHM community serving the Catholic schools in town. She will teach seventh-grade religion and a sixth-grade reading class at Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School.

"You just can't go wrong with the Eucharist," she said.

The conference was her first in Hays, and one of her first opportunities to meet many of the people she would soon encounter through her ministry. She and her fellow IHM sisters were among the religious sisters present throughout the weekend. Sisters from the IHM,

the Servants of Mary in Kansas City, Kansas, and the Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia also attended, with many participating in a pre-conference meet-and-greet that gave attendees the opportunity to visit with priests, seminarians and sisters. The sisters also hosted a booth where they could meet young people and talk about religious life.

For Sister Veronica Marie, who grew up in a small town in Alaska and has spent many years teaching in Wichita, the move to a smaller community is something she is looking forward to.

"Just being in a place where it's smaller, I'm looking forward to

getting to know people in the community and especially any of my future students," she said.

And as she prepares to begin teaching religion, Sister Veronica Marie already knows one of the first questions she wants to ask her students: What is happiness?

"And then I can fill in how we can be happy through our faith," she said. "True happiness is holiness, right?"

Sister Veronica Marie was not the only person at the conference to connect faith with happiness.

Michael Edwards, who works in youth ministry for the Diocese of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Diocese launches
'More than 500'
youth adoration
campaign



SEE STORY ON PAGE 3

The Holy Hour and Sheen's lasting legacy

When I was in the seminary, someone gave me a copy of a book written by Bishop Fulton Sheen titled, "The Priest is not its Own." The book was very inspiring to me as a seminarian. Sheen stressed that Jesus came to die to redeem us. Because Christ offered Himself for humanity, a priest must also offer himself in sacrifice for the salvation of all.

It is exciting that Venerable Fulton Sheen will be beatified on September 24 in St. Louis. It is a tremendous blessing for the Church in the United States and throughout the world. I think many people in our diocese probably remember Sheen's national television show decades ago. He was a very intelligent and articulate speaker.

Our diocese is honored because Sheen visited Kansas State University and the St. Isidore's Campus Center. He also led a retreat for our priests and the priests in Dodge City.

Sheen encouraged the priests to spend a holy hour with the Blessed Sacrament. He believed that the daily Holy Hour was the anchor and secret of a faithful priesthood. He talked about the importance of a personal companionship with Christ citing Jesus asking his apostles to keep an hour of prayer during his agony. He also thought that the holy hour would protect priests from burnout as well as make reparation for sin in the world.

I think spending time in Eucharistic Adoration is very important for our

lives. I especially think it is important for young people. I think a lot of our young people are stressed, anxious, feeling the pressure of social media comparison and despite being connected with so many people through digital means, are feeling lonely. Eucharistic Adoration can bring healing and peace to our hearts. That is what I desire for our young people.

We are starting a campaign for our high school students to spend an hour a week in Eucharistic Adoration. Spending time with Jesus, the One who loves us more than anyone, can greatly impact our hearts.

Please encourage our high schoolers to spend an hour a week in Eucharistic Adoration, and perhaps you can join them.

Venerable Fulton Sheen, please pray for our diocese!

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



COURTESY PHOTO, FRED PALUMBO

Venerable Fulton Sheen, Bishop of New York in the 1950s, was well-known for his television presence and evangelization. Above, he stands on one of his television sets. Sheen will be beatified in September 2026.

LA HORA SANTA Y EL LEGADO PERDURABLE DE FULTON SHEEN

Cuando estaba en el seminario, alguien me regaló una copia de un libro escrito por el obispo Fulton Sheen titulado: "El sacerdote no se pertenece a sí mismo". El libro fue muy inspirador para mí como seminarista. Sheen destacaba que Jesús vino a morir para redimirnos. Debido a que Cristo se ofreció a sí mismo por la humanidad, un sacerdote también debe ofrecerse en sacrificio por la salvación de todos.

Es emocionante que el venerable Fulton Sheen sea beatificado el 24 de septiembre en San Luis. Es una bendición inmensa para la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo. Creo que muchas personas en nuestra diócesis probablemente recuerdan el programa de televisión nacional de Sheen de hace décadas. Era un orador muy inteligente y elocuente.

Nuestra diócesis se siente honrada porque Fulton Sheen visitó la Universidad Estatal de Kansas y el Centro Campus de San Isidro. También dirigió un retiro para nuestros sacerdotes y



COURTESY PHOTO

Los fieles continúan visitando y rezando ante la tumba del Venerable Fulton Sheen en Peoria, Illinois. La ceremonia de beatificación de Sheen tendrá lugar el 24 de septiembre.

para los sacerdotes de Dodge City.

Sheen animaba a los sacerdotes a pasar una hora santa con el Santísimo Sacramento. Él creía que la Hora Santa diaria era el ancla y el secreto de un sacerdocio fiel. Hablaba de la importancia de una compañía personal con Cristo, citando cuando Jesús pidió a sus apóstoles que mantuvieran una hora de oración durante su agonía. También pensaba que la hora santa prote-

gería a los sacerdotes del agotamiento y, al mismo tiempo, repararía los pecados del mundo.

Creo que pasar tiempo en la Adoración Eucarística es muy importante para nuestras vidas. Especialmente creo que es importante para los jóvenes. Creo que muchos de nuestros jóvenes están estresados, ansiosos, sintiendo la presión de las comparaciones en las redes sociales y, a pesar de estar conectados con tanta

gente a través de medios digitales, se sienten solos.

La Adoración Eucarística puede traer sanación y paz a nuestros corazones. Eso es lo que deseo para nuestros jóvenes.

Estamos comenzando una campaña para que nuestros estudiantes de secundaria pasen una hora a la semana en Adoración Eucarística. Pasar tiempo con Jesús, aquel que nos ama más que nadie, puede impactar profundamente nuestros corazones.

Por favor, animen a nuestros estudiantes de secundaria a pasar una hora a la semana en Adoración Eucarística y, quizás, ustedes también puedan acompañarlos.

¡Venerable Fulton Sheen, ruega por nuestra diócesis!



Diocese launches ‘More than 500’ adoration campaign for youth

By LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

Cor ad cor loquitur

St. John Henry Newman’s beautiful motto translates roughly as “heart speaks to heart.” In a deeper sense, the motto reminds us that people are often drawn to faith not simply through knowledge, but through an encounter of the heart.

If we want our children to love God, they first need to know Him. The Diocese of Salina does a wonderful job of providing opportunities for young people to serve Him, and programs where they can learn about Him.

These are beautiful and important opportunities. But knowing about someone and truly knowing someone are two different things. There needs to be a personal encounter with Jesus.

Deacon Bill Meagher, director of youth ministry, has witnessed many of these encounters first-hand. Through years of accompanying young people at diocesan events, he has seen how a personal relationship with Christ can change lives.

“One of the great blessings of my ministry is seeing what happens when young people encounter Christ in a real way,” Meagher said. “I’ve



MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS

The More than 500 diocesan initiative encourages high school students to kickstart a lifelong relationship with Christ through Eucharistic Adoration.

seen it at Jr. CYO Camp, NCYC, Prayer and Action, Totus Tuus, retreats, and parish events. I’ve watched students realize that Jesus is not distant. He is not indifferent. He is not waiting for them to become perfect before He loves them. He already loves them.”

Deacon Meagher recognizes that real relationships take time, and that time in adoration is an opportunity to form a

real relationship with Christ.

This fall, the Salina Diocese is encouraging youth to embrace a place of encounter by getting to know Jesus through time in Eucharistic Adoration.

The hope is that the initiative, called More than 500, becomes more than a program, but rather a beginning of a lifelong devotion and an eternal relationship with Christ.

Inspired by St. Paul’s

account of the risen Lord appearing to more than 500 people after His resurrection, the initiative hopes to lead young people into a deeper relationship with Christ.

This fall, parishes will ask student leaders and adult mentors to share their testimonies and encourage youth to commit to one hour of adoration each week.

Along with witness talks, the initiative will include prayer cards, social media outreach, and individual

invitations to spend time with Christ. Building on the momentum of last year’s Adoration for Peace movement, More than 500 is made possible through a partnership with the Adoratio Foundation, whose presence and support have already helped many people discover a deeper love for Christ in the Eucharist. This world is full of noise. And sometimes all it takes is silence before the altar, and an opening of the heart, to hear God speak.

what to do while in adoration

READ

scour writings of the saints, dive into scripture

PRAY A ROSARY

SIT IN SILENCE

God speaks in quiet, don't be afraid to let your mind wander
take time to listen to where the Spirit might be leading you

JOURNAL

pick a prompt, free write, scribe a list of gratitude

MEDITATE

BISHOP VINCKE'S
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

3

Priest Council and College of Consulters.

5

St. Ignatius Festival, Kanopolis.

6

Fr. Vinner Raj Installation, New Almelo, Norton.

7-10

Clergy Spiritual Renewal Days, SLC, Wichita.

11

Grandparents Day Mass, Sacred Heart, Salina.

12

150 Volga German Celebration, Pfeifer, and
Divine Mercy Radio Banquet, Hays.

26-27

Men's Journey Retreat, Salina.

SEPTEMBER INTENTIONS

Diocesan intentions:

For all those who are sick, suffering, or
burdened in any way, that through the
intercession of Mary, Queen of Heaven, they may
know the healing, strength, and peace of Christ,
we pray to the Lord.

Pope Leo's intentions:

Let us pray for a just and sustainable manage-
ment of water, a vital resource, so that everyone
may have equal access to it.

EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS

Above, Catholics of all ages attended the third annual Salina Diocese Eucharistic Conference at Fort Hays State University and listened to renowned speakers. Not all attendees used their program booklets in the same way.



MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS

Above, Bishop Gerald Vincke processes throughout Gross Memorial Coliseum, individually blessing those in attendance during an hour of adoration on the first night of the Eucharistic Conference.

Salt Lake City, gave a pre-conference presentation on Friday. Edwards brought relics of young saints, including St. Carlo Acutis, St. Maria Goretti and St. José Sánchez del Río.

The relics remained available for veneration throughout the weekend and were placed in front of the altar during the closing Mass. Edwards focused particularly on St. Carlo, sharing one of the young saint's famous quotes with those gathered:

"Sadness is looking at ourselves, happiness is looking towards God."

That idea, of looking beyond oneself toward God, was echoed throughout the conference.

For Eucharistic Conference Coordinator Sienna Wingerson, the weekend was an opportunity for Catholics to step away from their ordinary routines and remember that their faith is not something they live alone.

"This conference is an opportunity for people in a very rural diocese, a very spread out diocese, a farming diocese, to gather as one body of Christ and be together for the weekend," she said.

Wingerson, who also works in youth ministry in Leawood, spent much of the summer preparing for the conference while balancing her other work as well as recently getting engaged.



MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS

Participants at the Eucharistic Conference were able to participate in a Religious Meet and Greet before Friday's keynotes. At right, first-time participant Sister Veronica Marie, IHM, shared her excitement for the conference and the opportunity to make new connections.

"I love doing the conference," she said. "It does make for a little bit of a crazy year, especially with getting engaged, but it's so worth it. This conference and working for the diocese is one thing where the Lord has so clearly been like, 'this is my path for you.'"

The conference offered plenty of opportunities for people to turn their attention toward God, from confession and adoration to Mass

and the talks offered throughout the weekend.

Wingerson said one of the most powerful things for her was watching people of all ages go to confession. She, along with a group of volunteers, helped direct people to the priests hearing confessions and, from a distance, witnessed the encounters taking place.

"Just watching so many people go to confession, from the ages of like 10 to 70," Wingerson said. "It was so cool to see so many people receive those graces, and see so many priests being good

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Dillon Caswell shared his conversion story with the diocese. Caswell, who works with professional athletes, invited listeners to strive toward elite performance spiritually, not just physically, in what he called Kingdom Standards.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

shepherds to their flock and sharing the face of God to them.”

Fr. Mathias Thelen, a priest from Michigan and a friend of Bishop Gerald Vincke, served as the keynote speaker on Friday. Thelen, co-founder of Encounter Ministries, focused his talks on what it means to approach Jesus in the Eucharist with faith, repentance and expectation.

“How present are we to the One who’s present to us?” he asked.

Fr. Thelen reminded those gathered that Jesus does not simply want to be something they know about. He wants a relationship with them.

“Jesus doesn’t want anything from you. He just wants you,” Fr. Thelen said.

Fr. Thelen encouraged attendees to approach Jesus in the Eucharist with faith, repentance and expectation, bringing their own struggles, needs and hopes to Him without trying to control what His response will be. “We want to come into God’s presence with repentance because it opens our hearts to our Beloved,” he said.

He encouraged those gathered to trust that Jesus is present and that he is loving them, even when they cannot see or feel what He is doing.

“Come to Jesus in the Eucharist believing that He’s loving you in

that moment,” he said.

Other speakers offered practical reminders of how to keep that focus after leaving the conference.

Women’s breakout speaker Katie Sciba encouraged women to examine the things that clutter their lives and distract them from God.

Sciba reminded listeners that the search for happiness can easily become tangled up in busyness, achievement and the desire to do more.

Dr. Dillon Caswell, an athletic performance expert, approached



MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS

The Eucharistic Conference, hosted by the Comeau Catholic Campus Center in Hays, provided many opportunities for making friends between events. Fr. Andy Hammeke (right) and the Comeau Center also hosted a young adult gathering on the first night of the conference, with dancing, snacks, and social time.

“Jesus doesn’t want anything from you. He just wants you.”

-Father Mathias Thelen

that same idea from a different perspective. He shared his conversion story and explained how his study of the science behind Eucharistic miracles helped lead him toward faith. He also challenged listeners to consider what it means to pursue excellence according to God’s standards, not just worldly standards.

“We can all reach elite performance by kingdom



standards,” he said.

Throughout the weekend, the message remained the same: True happiness is found by looking

toward God with faith.

Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt, master of ceremonies for the conference, put it simply.

“This which transforms all of us is Jesus in the Eucharist,” he said.

As the conference closed with Mass, Bishop Vincke reminded those gathered that the answer to the search for happiness is ultimately found in communion, in a relationship with Christ.

“Jesus wants to be in communion with all of us,” he said. “Keep saying yes to His love.”

Trusting in the power of a sprout

Years ago I read Fulton Sheen’s great book, *Life of Christ*. Though I’m a self-proclaimed “speed reader,” I have to admit that I took months to finish reading the book. Not because it was hard to read, but rather because on every page I’d find something small that made me reflect on who Christ is and what I actually know about Him.

One of the little things from the book that made me stop and reflect, and which I’d like to share with you, dear reader, is how Jesus is called “The Nazarene.”

I know Jesus is from Nazareth. Nazareth. Nazarene. It’s a town. That makes sense. But what does Nazareth mean?

It comes from the word “netzer.” Netzer means a small sprout from the root of a tree.

So, when we see Christ in this light, He’s Jesus, a small sprout from the root of a tree. Which makes sense, especially when we

think about how the Christ was foretold in Isaiah: “A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.” (Isaiah 11:1)

In all this blazing Kansas heat this summer, I’ve had to deal with a lot of netzers in my yard. After getting married last winter, I moved into a beautiful

home in a lovely neighborhood, with one catch: while all my neighbors seemingly have perfected their nature whispering, so that their front lawns are lovely, mine is a little wonky, with overgrown weeds, bushes and, yes, netzers.

After starting a break from teaching last May, I’ve devoted extra time each day this summer to attempting to tame my miscreant yard.

I’d like to thank my mom for my many childhood summers spent pulling weeds in the garden on her orders. I hated it at the time,

but it was invaluable training in persistence for my current summer of never-ending yardwork. (Thanks, Mom! You can come pull weeds at my house anytime!)

Anyways, among all my yard disasters — meaning, the things that keep coming back no matter what I do — are the little sprouts at the roots of the trees. The netzers.

They are persistent little bug-gers. Small but mighty.

So, too, is our Lord. So, too, is the time we spend in prayer.

I think a lot about prayer and time with God in relation to something that my priest during college, Fr. Gale, used to say a lot. He said a lot of things, actually, as most of us know he likes to yap. I don’t remember everything he said over my four years at K-State, either from tuning him out or because the 9:09 p.m. Mass at St. Isidore’s was just a little too far past my bedtime.

Regardless, one thing did stick, so thank you, Fr. Gale, for that. He said, “We become the sum of the five people we spend the most

time with.”

I want you to think for a moment about who those people are for you.

And I pray that if Jesus isn’t in that top five in your life, that someday He will be. Because if one of the five greatest influences over my life is the netzer, then I imagine that I, too, might become more and more like the small, powerful sprout.

Although *The Register*, as a newspaper, doesn’t usually have a pervading theme, I found in putting this month’s *Register* together two prevailing themes.

One, that time spent with the Lord, in befriending Him, particularly in adoration, is never wasted. And two, that big things can come from small acts of trust.

This fall, as the school year picks up and many of us, young and old, solidify new schedules, I encourage each of you to make time in that very busy schedule for God.

He loves you. He waits for you. And He wants to be your friend.



LORI Garcia
EDITOR, THE REGISTER

Incredible group effort helps support culture of vocations

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Seminarians, priests and guests were all overwhelmed at an announcement at the annual seminarian fundraising dinner in Colby on July 30.

Preliminary numbers showed this particular evening's donations added up to a record amount.

When all was tallied a few days later, the total from this year's two seminarian fundraising dinners is \$232,000.

A generous \$60,000 matching gift from the Ted and Almita Augustine Estate highlighted the two-day fundraising – both in Colby and in Salina the night before.

It had been a long couple of days, and Heather Hartman got teary-eyed when she opened the last donation envelope in Colby.

It was a \$2 donation from a young boy in the crowd, who had carefully written his name and amount on the donation card.

"Standing there after a long day, surrounded by stacks of envelopes, that little card reminded me what these evenings are really all about," said Hartman, CEO of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Salina. "It wasn't the amount. It was a young heart wanting to help educate our future priests."

Whether it be \$2 or \$60,000 – or anywhere in between – the seminarian dinners are just one example of people from all over the diocese coming together in support of vocations.

"The dinners are so well represented, the seminarians, priests, families – old, young,"

"It's a group effort, and that shows that in order to have a culture of vocations, it takes all of us. That's very powerful."

– Fr. Adam Urban,
Assistant Director of Vocations

said Father Adam Urban, assistant director of vocations for the diocese. "It's a group effort, and that shows that in order to have a culture of vocations, it takes all of us. That's very powerful."

But as Hartman and Fr. Adam both stressed, the seminarian dinners are one of several important components of the overall support for our seminarians.

Hundreds of Catholics from across the diocese support our seminarians each year through the annual Seminarian Appeal, planned gifts, parish support and other individual gifts throughout the year.

"The dinners are really a celebration of that ongoing commitment," Hartman said, "not the finish line."

There are currently 15 seminarians in our diocese, and most of those were



MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS
Seminarian Trung Nguyen shares a laugh on stage during introductions at the Salina Seminarian Dinner on July 29.

present at the dinners.

The dinners are held at four different sites, with a rotation of two each year; this year was Salina and Colby, and next year will be Manhattan and Hays.

"The dinners are really great because they allow the seminarians to get out and meet the people of the diocese," Fr. Adam said. "It's a very visual representation of our vocations office."

Those evenings also give parishioners a chance to get to know the seminarians a little better.

This was just the third year for one of the dinners to be held in Colby after a tradition of being in Salina and eventually Hays. The first one was held in Colby in 2023, and Manhattan was added last year, resulting in the two-a-year rotation.

Gay Dill, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood, was thrilled to attend the Colby dinner this year and to see firsthand her donations at work.

"People here in northwest Kansas are always hungry for news," Gay said. "So when it was announced that a seminarian dinner was going to be extended to Colby, we were so grateful."

Gay, 86, happened to be seated at a table with seminarian Adam Bates and some of his family members.

"I was the only outsider at my table," she said with a laugh. "But they were all so easy to talk to, and I was so pleased to get to visit with Adam and to hear about all the seminarians."



MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS
A couple in Colby pray the prayer for priestly vocations during the dinner. Donors from the dinners in Colby and Salina raised over \$232,000 for the Seminarian Fund.

Salina Diocese Seminarians (2026-27)

KENRICK-GLENNON SEMINARY (St. Louis, Missouri)

- Dcn. Kyle Pfeifer, Seven Dolors, Manhattan
- *Andrew St. Germain, St. Isidore, Manhattan
- *Edgar Inda Gonzalez, St. Isidore, Manhattan
- Adam Bates, St. John the Baptist, Beloit
- Tien Nguyen, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia

(* Members of the Cor Jesu Apostolate)

PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE (Rome, Italy)

- Max Megaffin, St. Joseph, Hays
- Collin Thielen, Sacred Heart, Park

SACRED HEART SEMINARY (Franklin, Wisconsin)

- Joseph Schones, Sacred Heart, Salina
- Dung (Joseph) Dau, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia

ST. JOHN VIANNEY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY (Denver, Colorado)

- Gabe Friess, St. Frances Cabrini, Hoxie
- Thomas Braun, St. Isidore, Manhattan

ST. PHILIP NERI SEMINARY (Wichita, Kansas)

- Gus Hanson, St. John Nepomucene, Beardsley
- Phong (James) Tran, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia

MUNDELEIN SEMINARY (Mundelein, Illinois)

- Trung (Jos) Nguyen, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia

PASTORAL YEAR (St. Mary, Salina, and Sacred Heart, Colby)

- Holden Giefer, St. Isidore, Manhattan

Be on the lookout for the Seminarian Poster, copies of which will be inserted in next month's edition of The Register!

Marian Days gathering in Carthage, MO

BY LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

On August 6-9, Catholics from across the country traveled to Carthage, Missouri, for the 47th annual Marian Days celebration.

Marian Days is a spiritual and cultural opportunity to celebrate Vietnamese Catholic culture and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Though the event is organized around Vietnamese Catholic traditions, everyone is welcome to attend. Thousands of Vietnamese Catholics from across the United States and around the world make the pilgrimage each year, making Marian Days both a spiritual homecoming and an opportunity to share in Vietnamese culture.

The theme for this year's celebration was "Mother of Mercy," with opportunities throughout the weekend for pilgrims to participate in Mass, prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, processions, reconciliation and other Marian

devotions. The celebration also included cultural traditions, food, music and opportunities for families and friends to gather.

Several people from the Diocese of Salina attended Marian Days this year, including a group from the Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia.

Their participation reflects a growing Vietnamese Catholic presence in the Diocese of Salina. Vietnamese religious sisters and seminarians have in recent years joined the diocese, with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia playing a particularly important role in welcoming Vietnamese religious women and students.

Bishop Gerald Vincke was also present for the beginning of the Marian Days celebration, serving as a celebrant at Mass on the first day and participating in the Eucharistic Procession that followed.

While Marian Days is deeply rooted in Vietnamese Catholic culture, its



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Vincke met with Sisters of St. Joseph from Concordia on the first night of the Marian Days celebration in Carthage, Missouri. Marian Days is an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship and to celebrate Vietnamese Catholic culture. Above, from left to right, are Sr. Hoa Pham, Sr. Dian Hall, Bishop Jerry Vincke, Sr. Chung Nguyen, Sr. Fortunata Gomes de Oliveira, Sr. Nhung Pham, and Sr. Alessandra da Silva.

message of faith and devotion to Mary extends beyond one particular community. For those who pilgrimage to Carthage each year, the celebration offers an opportunity to grow in faith and experience Catholic community from around the world.

Sr. Denise Muetting

Sr. Denise Muetting, 87, died July 28, 2026, at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Sansbury Care Center in St. Catharine, Kentucky. She was born Sept. 28, 1938, in Axtell, Kansas, to Leo and Marie (Buessing) Muetting.

She entered the Dominican Sisters community Aug. 30, 1956, and professed vows June 13, 1959, marking 67 years of religious profession this year. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Sacred Heart College in Wichita in 1961 and a master's degree from Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee in 1973.

Sr. Denise taught elementary school in Kansas and Colorado for more than 20

years, including in Clonmel, Willowdale, Great Bend, Hutchinson, Garden City and Haysville. She later

worked with the Active Spirituality Program in Cincinnati. She retired to the Great Bend Motherhouse in 2020 and moved to Sansbury Care Center in 2026.

She enjoyed line dancing, hiking, reading, cultural events and spending time at her cabin near Cripple Creek, Colorado.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother Dick. She is survived by her siblings and the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

Her funeral was held Aug. 5 at the Sisters' Convent in Great Bend, with burial in Resurrection Cemetery.



Priests join Chancery team

BY LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

For many Catholics in the Diocese of Salina, Fr. Michael Leiker and Fr. Damian Richards are familiar faces.

Both priests have spent years serving in parishes throughout the diocese. Now, they are bringing that parish experience to a new setting as they take on roles at the diocesan Chancery.

Fr. Leiker has been appointed executive assistant to Bishop Jerry Vincke, while Fr. Richards has been appointed vicar of operations in addition to his parish responsibilities at St. Francis of Assisi in Munjor and St. Nicholas of Myra in Hays.

For Fr. Richards, the new role is largely about taking care of the practical details that keep the diocese running smoothly, like making sure projects move forward, paperwork is completed and responsibilities are clear.

After more than 30 years as a priest and pastor, Fr. Richards said his parish

experience gives him a useful perspective as he works on the administrative side of the diocese.

"You do the parish work in order to remind yourself why you're doing all the groundwork stuff," he said.

He continues to serve two parishes in Hays while working at the Chancery, typically coming to the office on Tuesdays and as needed.

And while his work at the Chancery may involve plenty of administration, life outside work is a little less administrative. Fr. Richards enjoys reading, has a collection of comic books, and loves spending time with his 83-year-old mother and his two dogs.

While Fr. Richards focuses on the practical side of diocesan operations, Fr. Leiker's work keeps him close to Bishop Vincke, helping with correspondence, scheduling confirmations, arrang-

ing travel and other day-to-day responsibilities. He also often travels with the bishop, allowing Bishop Vincke to work, make calls and take care of other responsibilities while on the road.

Fr. Leiker said he has enjoyed the travel, particularly the opportunity to visit parishes and reconnect with people he has known over the years.

"It has been a lot of fun," Fr. Leiker said.

Since moving into the bishop's residence, Fr. Leiker said he and Bishop Vincke also share meals

and regular prayer, including evening prayer, night prayer and a holy hour.

"It's always better to pray with somebody," he said.

Outside of his work at the Chancery, Fr. Leiker enjoys golf, gardening and cooking.

Together, the priests bring decades of parish experience to their new diocesan responsibilities, as well as a continued desire to serve the people of the diocese.



Fr. Richards



Fr. Leiker

Catholic Charities
OF NORTHERN KANSAS

YOU helped build a future for her family.

"I see Catholic Charities as a part of my family because they've helped me form my family. I do not know where I would be right now if not for their help," says Kandis from Hays, Kansas. Thank you!

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

Green Tie Celebration brings together fun, faith and stories of hope

By JEREE HUGHBANKS

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS

A sea of green filled the Salina Country Club on July 18 as 210 guests gathered for Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas' sold-out Green Tie Celebration.

Guests arrived dressed in green to celebrate hope and soon filled the room with conversation and laughter. The evening included a social hour, photo booth, dinner, live auction, impact video and speakers whose stories showed what generosity can make possible for people across the Diocese of Salina.

The mix of fun and mission has become a hallmark of the Green Tie Celebration. Guests posed for photos, bid on auction items and enjoyed time with friends, but the heart of the evening came into focus as individuals and families shared how Catholic Charities had walked beside them during life-changing



COURTESY PHOTO

Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt delivers his table's dessert during the lively Dessert Dash at the 2026 Catholic Charities Green Tie Celebration on July 18 at the Salina Country Club. The fun-filled evening brought supporters together to celebrate the mission of Catholic Charities and raise vital funds to bring help and hope to neighbors in need across northern Kansas.

moments.

Executive Director Megan Robl connected the evening's theme to the Gospel account of the five loaves and two fish. She reminded guests that Catholic Charities is called to faithfully offer what has been entrusted to the

organization through the generosity of donors, volunteers and supporters, then trust God to multiply those gifts to meet the growing needs of families across the diocese.

"Our job at Catholic Charities is not to perform the miracle," Robl told

guests. "Our job is to recognize what God has placed in our hands, offer it faithfully, and trust that Jesus already knows what He will do."

That message could be seen in the work made possible throughout the past year. An anonymous donor provided a larger outreach van, allowing Catholic Charities to better serve rural communities. Donor support helped food distributions reach record levels. A legacy gift from the late Fr. Charlie Steier also made it possible for Catholic Charities to partner with the Sisters of St. Joseph to purchase the former Neighbor to Neighbor building in Concordia, preserving a legacy of compassionate service while expanding access to help in north central Kansas.

Each of these milestones began with someone choosing to give. Throughout the evening, guests saw how the gifts entrusted to Catholic Charities are transformed into food, shelter, counseling, compassion and hope for people in need.

Among the evening's featured speakers was Sharon Williams, who shared how Catholic Charities helped her family begin again after a severe storm destroyed their home in Junction City.

On June 8, Williams' youngest son had just removed his shoes and started toward the kitchen

to make noodles. About 30 seconds later, a large tree crashed through the ceiling where he had been standing.

A second tree struck the other side of the house, totaled her husband's car and started a fire. The family of five was told the home was unsafe and spent the next three weeks in a hotel.

During the program, guests saw a photograph of her son's shoes still lying beneath the rubble.

Catholic Charities later helped the family move into a new home by covering the security deposit and first month's rent.

"They didn't see a disaster case," Williams told guests. "They saw a family. They saw our need, responded with compassion, and gave me hope when I needed it most."

The stories shared throughout the evening offered just a glimpse of the work made possible by supporters across the diocese. The Green Tie Celebration helps sustain Catholic Charities programs throughout its 31-county service area, including financial and housing assistance, food and personal care items, pregnancy support, adoption, affordable counseling, disaster relief and rural outreach.

The 2026 campaign included a record-high \$173,000 dollar-for-dollar match pool and ended just shy of its \$500,000 overall goal. These funds are vital to maintaining the mission of Catholic Charities throughout the year and ensuring help remains available when individuals and families across the diocese need it most.

Catholic Charities is grateful to the Green Tie Celebration Committee, sponsors, volunteers, parish and community partners, auction donors and every guest who helped make the evening possible. The celebration offered plenty of laughter and fun, but it also showed something deeper: when people across the diocese come together in generosity, hope comes to life.

The next Green Tie Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, July 17, 2027.

OUR PEOPLE 150 YEARS OUR HOME

VOLGA GERMANS

UNSERE LEUTE **150 YEARS** UNSERE HEIMAT

1876 OF WESTERN KANSAS 2026

PFEIFER, KS

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HOLY CROSS CHARITIES

PFEIFER, KS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

3:00 P.M. - Cemetery Blessing - Military Memorial Service

4:00 P.M. - Mass with Bishop Jerry Vincke presiding

50/50 Raffle ★ Fun Time ★ Polka Music by the Hotshots

Beer Garden ★ Friends ★ Memorabilia Booth - Souvenirs

Live Fundraising Auction - Preservation of Stained Windows

Antique Farm Tractor and Vehicle display

Limestone quarry demonstration

5:30 to ? - Free Will Meal - Hog Roast and Trimmings
Hamburger and Brat Stand

8:00 P.M. - Music provided by
Crazy Horse 2.0 (Country/ Classic Rock Band)

Fireworks Display

*Mark your calendar now
and we hope to see you
and your family at the
celebration in Pfeifer
on September 12, 2026!*

If you can't make it
to the celebration,
you can learn more
and support HCC
by scanning the
QR Code.

Thank You!

FAITH • HERITAGE • COMMUNITY • PRESERVATION

WHAT'S HAPPENING

September 4

• Virtual Conference for Consecrated Virginity.

September 5

• St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Fiesta, 4 p.m. Mass, Kanopolis.

September 5-7

• Jr. CYO Camp, Rock Springs 4-H Camp.

September 12

• Sesquicentennial celebration, Holy Cross Charities, Pfeifer.

September 19-20

• Journey, New Life in Christ Women's Retreat, St. Mary's, Salina.

September 26

• Called and Gifted Workshop, Leawood.

September 26-27

• Journey, New Life in Christ Men's Retreat, St. Mary's, Salina.

(If you have questions about a listed event, please contact the event's parish, office or school directly.)

St. Ignatius of Loyola's FIESTA

Church Fundraiser
Saturday, September 5, 2026

Noon-3 PM serving Mexican food
Dine-in at church basement or to-go outside
After Mass, food served outside until it's gone!
Raffle, Crafts, and sweet treats!
Bingo at 5:15 PM, prizes for winners!
Games open at 5:15

St. Ignatius Catholic Church
127 N. Missouri | Kanopolis, KS 67454



4 PM Mass



JOB OPPORTUNITY SALINA CHANCERY OFFICE

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Due to a retirement, the Catholic Diocese of Salina is seeking a mission-driven Human Resources Director. This role supports pastors, principals, diocesan leaders, employees, and parish staff through leadership in human resources, employee relations, benefits, recruiting, compliance, and support. The position also focuses on attracting candidates and inviting them to join the Chancery team.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Desire to support the mission of the Catholic Church.
- Degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, or related field preferred.
- HR experience and SHRM or PHR/SPHR certification preferred.
- Knowledge of employment law and HR best practices.
- Ability to handle confidential information with integrity and professionalism.



APPLY NOW!

Email Kim Hoelting for the full job description:
kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org

WHAT WE OFFER

- Collaborative and faith-centered workplace.
- Competitive benefits and compensation.
- Opportunity to make an impact across parishes, schools, and ministries.

FALL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES OFFERED

By COLEEN STEIN

CSTEIN@DCDIOCESE.ORG

Looking to deepen your faith? Two online pastoral ministry formation courses are being offered this fall. "Women in Scripture" (taught by Fr. Robert Schremmer) explores the lives and significance of biblical women and is a three-hour course, while "Theology and Methods of Ministry" (taught by Trish Keller) is a one-hour course that

examines the call to ministry rooted in baptism and the role of the laity in the Church.

Courses are available for college credit or personal enrichment and are taught via Zoom by experienced Catholic educators. Classes begin in September. For more information or to register, contact Coleen Stein, Director of Adult Formation, Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, cstein@dcdiocese.org.

A REFLECTION ON THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

Joyful WOMEN'S RETREAT

ENCOUNTER HIM. BE RENEWED. WALK IN JOY.



HOLY MASS



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



ROSARY



DIVINE MERCY



FELLOWSHIP



WHEN

October 2-3, 2026

The retreat begins Friday at 6:30 p.m. and concludes Saturday at 3:30 p.m.



WHERE

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
1805 Vine Street, Hays, KS



SPEAKERS

Noelle Garcia &



Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita

HOSTED BY:



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church



Hays Catholic Moms Ministry



WOMEN AT THE WELL

REGISTER TODAY

ALL WOMEN 16+ WELCOME



www.ihm-church.com
COST IS \$40

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



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



Ready, Set, Go! It's school time again

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The theme for the coming school year for Catholic schools in the Salina Diocese is Go!

There will also be a lot of "new" in the diocese with six administrators filling vacant positions.

Three principals and three assistant principals were welcomed to the fold at the annual principals' meeting in Salina on July 30.

If there was any angst among the newcomers, the veterans soon put them at ease.

"It is a blessing to have that kind of mentorship," said Jarrod Taylor, new principal for Manhattan Catholic Schools. "All of the veterans said, 'If you need anything, reach out.' Wow – welcoming doesn't even do justice to how we were received. It took a lot of anxiety away to have that kind of support."

That kind of support is something that is second nature, said John Krajicek, veteran principal of Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High in Salina.

And Krajicek should know. He is the longest-tenured principal in the diocese, now in his 31st year at Sacred Heart.

"This is the best job; as a principal you are in contact with faculty, and we all get to help students become saints," he said.

"August is a special month," Krajicek added. "You get to see familiar faces again: returning families, new families, first-time parents. The



COURTESY PHOTO

Jarrod Taylor, right, new principal for Manhattan Catholic Schools, checks his answers on a Teacher Monopoly game with Tym Bonilla, veteran principal of St. Mary's, Salina.

bells are shut off in the summer, and the classrooms are empty. Then, almost overnight the parking lot is full, and kids are at their lockers. It's a great time."

Taylor comes to the diocese after spending time as a high school English teacher in surrounding towns the past seven years.

Will Allen, who started his education career as a teacher at Sacred Heart Grade School in Colby, returns to northwest Kansas to lead St. Joseph Grade School in Oakley. In between, he served as assistant principal at Magdalen Catholic School in Wichita.

Jodi Testa takes over the principal reins at St. Francis Xavier in Junction City. She is familiar with

the school after teaching second grade there last year following her retirement as principal in school districts in eastern Kansas.

The two Salina schools both have new assistant principals in the husband-wife team of Kegan and Alicia Knight.

Alicia Knight comes to St. Mary Grade School after a year in the same position at Holy Family Elementary in Hays following 11 years in public education. Kegan is assistant principal at Sacred Heart, where he also will serve as athletic director after nine years as assistant AD at Fort Hays State University.

St. Andrew Grade School in Abilene has an assistant principal for the first time in Sheri Dahl, who moved to north central Kansas

after retiring as superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Tucson, Ariz.

Gene Flax returns as assistant principal at Holy Family Elementary in Hays. He retired last year after four years in that position but returned this year when Alicia Knight took the Salina-St. Mary job.

Like always, Geoff Andrews, superintendent of Catholic schools for the diocese, said the annual principals' meeting is always a good kickstart to the school year.

"Nothing gets me more excited to see the team again," he said. "We are pretty spread apart across

the diocese, and our team is never together that often. This meeting always feels like a reunion."

Also new to the education team in the diocese is Jamie Kuhlman, who took over for retiring Susan Goodman in the position of education coordinator for diocesan Catholic schools. Kuhlman also serves as assistant director of youth ministry, religious education and family life for the diocese.

"Jamie brings creativity, hospitality and a servant's heart to everything she does," Andrews said, "and she will be a wonderful resource for our schools, educators and families."

Salina Diocese Catholic Schools Administrators 2026-27

NEW PRINCIPALS

- Will Allen, St. Joseph, PreK-5, Oakley
- Jarrod Taylor, Manhattan Catholic Schools, PreK-8
- Jodi Testa, St. Francis Xavier, PreK-12, Junction City

NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

- Sheri Dahl, St. Andrew, PreK-5, Abilene
- Alicia Knight, St. Mary, PreK-6, Salina
- Kegan Knight, Sacred Heart, grades 7-12, Salina

RETURNING PRINCIPALS

- Tym Bonilla, St. Mary, PreK-6, Salina
- Amanda Cook, St. John, grades 1-8, Hanover
- Gery Hake, Tipton Catholic, grades 9-12
- Marcy Kee, St. John, PreK-12, Beloit
- John Krajicek, Sacred Heart, grades 7-12, Salina
- Troy Langdon, Sacred Heart, PreK-5, Colby
- Mandy Meagher, Holy Family, PreK-5, Hays
- Chad Meitner, TMP-M, grades 6-12, Hays
- Patti Park, St. Mary, PreK-6, Ellis
- Sara VonFeldt, Sacred Heart, PreK-6, Plainville
- Chris Whitewater, St. Andrew, PreK-5, Abilene

RETURNING ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

- Gene Flax, Holy Family, PreK-5, Hays
- Joe Holdren, St. John, PreK-12, Beloit
- Tom Meagher, TMP-Marian, grades 6-12, Hays

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: watkins@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.watkinscroptax.com

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



St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays, Confirmation, May 6, 2026



St. Joseph, Hays, Confirmation, April 29



St. Joseph, Hays, First Holy Communion, May 3



St. Joseph, New Almelo, Confirmation, June 28

MORTUARY & CREMATORY

A family serving families for over four generations

Next to Sacred Heart Cathedral

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

SELECTED Independent FUNERAL HOMES®

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

FUNERAL HOME

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

A Family Serving Families

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

SOLD
www.bigironrealty.com
UNRESERVED ONLINE AUCTION

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

www.footecattle.com

OUTDOOR BANK

Open an account in minutes, from anywhere

Teens brighten lives through mission work

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The goal is to go help people less fortunate than themselves.

But teenagers – and their adult sponsors as well – regularly come home with some lasting gifts themselves.

That was the case for a group of 14 people from Hays who spent a week on a mission trip in St. Louis, Mo., in late July.

Working through the YouthWorks mission program, the nine teenagers and their sponsors helped at a shelter for homeless families and a food bank and even got to spend time with preschool children.

No matter the task, Parker Linenberger said he “finds comfort in a lot of different things.”

“My thought process is that I know what the mission is, and I can have fun with any job they give us,” he said.

Linenberger, a 2026 graduate of Hays High School, got interested in



COURTESY PHOTO, PARKER LINENBERGER

Much like the illuminating Gateway Arch lights up the night sky in St. Louis, Hays teenagers like Brayden Gilmore and Hayden Pfannenstiel brightened the lives of many this summer through their mission work.

mission work when his older brother, William, went on mission trips.

“I just really like helping people,” Linenberger said.

“These trips out of town, away from home, help you look at life through a mission standpoint, helps you see everything in a

new perspective.”

Rick Binder, a teacher at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior-Senior High School in Hays, has been

taking students to out-of-town mission trips since 2005.

He thinks that being out of town, often out of Kansas, is a growing experience for all involved.

“It really gets you out of your comfort zone,” Linenberger agreed. “The week away helps you focus on mission and helping others.”

The trip was not all work and no play as the group took in a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game and visited Gateway Arch National Park and The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

Linenberger was looking forward to beginning his first year at Fort Hays State University upon the group's return.

But he also said he wants to focus on keeping the mission mentality all year long.

“These trips make you appreciate much more what you have,” he said, “and how you can use the gifts you have been given to help others – every day.”

Coming Home Week a highlight of Ellis County Sesquicentennial Celebration

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Hays and the surrounding area have been celebrating all year long the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Volga Germans in Ellis County.

Although not a Volga German, Father Valentine Sommeresien played an important role among the settlers. A German-speaking priest from France, he is known for establishing eight Catholic parishes in the area in 19 months, beginning in 1876.

Seven of those parishes – and others in the county as well – are celebrating anniversary Masses and celebrations this year.

Diocese of Salina Bishop Gerald Vincke was present at several of those Masses, including one at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria on August 9.

The Mass at St. Fidelis actually featured two bishops. Most Rev. John Brungardt, bishop of the Diocese of Dodge City



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, THE REGISTER

The ancestral Mass at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria featured two bishops – Most Rev. Gerald Vincke from the Diocese of Salina and Most Rev. John Brungardt of the Diocese of Dodge City, second and third from left.

who has many family connections to Victoria, was honored to be part of the special occasion.

One of his ancestors, Balthasar Brungardt, helped build the church, and he has several generations of relatives buried in St. Fidelis Cemetery, where he will be buried someday.

The week-long celebration the first week of the month – “Coming Home Week” – was one of

several highlights of the sesquicentennial when the 56th annual international convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia was held in Hays.

A play written and directed by Cheryl Glassman, music director of St. Nicholas of Myra parish, Hays, told the story of a Volga German family celebrating the history and traditions of the area for the past 150 years

PROMISE TO PROTECT	PROMESA DE PROTEGER
PLEDGE TO HEAL	COMPROISO PARA SANAR
If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church ... Please believe in the possibility for hope, help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. Our victim assistance coordinator is available to obtain support for your needs, to help you make a formal complaint of abuse to the proper authorities and to arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative, if you desire. To contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator 866.752.8855 ext. 1067 reportabuse@salinadiocese.org www.reportandprotect.com.	Si has sido abusado o fuiste víctima de alguien que representa a la Iglesia Católica... Por favor confía en la posibilidad de esperanza, ayuda y sanación. Te alentamos a que te presentes y hables. Nuestra coordinadora de asistencia a las víctimas está disponible para ofrecer apoyo en tus necesidades, para ayudarte a presentar una queja formal de abuso ante las autoridades correspondientes y para hacer una cita personal con el obispo o su representante, si lo deseas. Para contactar a la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas 866.752.8855 ext. 1067 reportabuse@salinadiocese.org www.reportandprotect.com.
Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: 800.276.1562 reportbishopabuse.org	Servicio de Denuncia de Abusos de Obispos Católicos: 800.276.1562 reportbishopabuse.org

Divine Mercy Radio prepares to celebrate 16th Annual Appreciation Banquet

By NATHAN LANG
DIVINE MERCY RADIO
709 MAIN ST., HAYS, KS

Divine Mercy Radio is gearing up for its 16th Annual Appreciation Banquet to be held in Hays Sept. 12. The entertaining Teresa Tomeo will be the guest speaker.

The banquet will begin with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by a meal and program. It will be held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Parish Hall, 1805 Vine St. in Hays. There will not be a second banquet this year as Teresa's schedule only allows her to give one talk.

Teresa is an author, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and motivational speaker with more than 40 years of experience in TV, radio, and newspaper. Her weekday morning radio program, Catholic Connection, can be heard from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. CDT, Monday through Friday on Divine Mercy Radio along with over 600 Catholic radio stations worldwide. Teresa appears frequently on the EWTN Global Catholic Radio Network, and she has had appearances on Fox News, Newsmax TV, CBC and ABC affiliates. As a deacon's wife, she is a

16th Annual Appreciation Banquet

Saturday, September 12, 2026



TERESA TOMEO

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Basement
1805 Vine Street - Hays, KS

5:30 pm Social
6:30 pm Supper
7:30 pm Program

\$60 Before
Friday, August 21, 2026
\$65 After

columnist for The Deacon magazine. In 2019, she opened her own Italy travel consultation company, T's Italy. Teresa has written more than a dozen books and is an international speaker, where she addresses media awareness and activism, as well as sharing her reversion to the Catholic Church.

The title of her talk will be "Beyond Assisi: The Unknown Francis."

Tickets cost \$65. No tickets can be sold after Sept. 4. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to: Appreciation Banquet, Divine Mercy Radio, 709 Main St., Hays, KS 67601 or by calling

(785) 621-4110. Tickets can also be purchased online at dvmercy.com. For more information go to dvmercy.com and click on the banquet tab.

Divine Mercy Radio began in 2010 with 88.1, KVDM, Hays. Five years later they expanded to 88.1, KRTT, Great Bend. Then, in 2020, 101.7

KJDM, Lindsborg/Salina went on the air as well as 105.7, KMDG, Hays. The original station, KVDM in Hays, began airing Catholic classic radio. In 2023, the fifth Divine Mercy Radio station went on the air – 89.1, KGOH in Colby. In February of 2025, the 105.7 KMDG, Hays station began broadcasting via a translator station on a frequency of 107.3 in the Hill City area. Divine Mercy Radio is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization relying on the generosity of its listeners as well as business underwriters.



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



"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



Let your faith guide your financial decisions.

Contact your agent to learn more:

 Darin Reed, FICF General Agent 785-726-4899 darin.reed@kofc.org	 Cody Honas, FIC Assistant General Agent 785-650-9387 cody.honas@kofc.org
 Adam Bruna, FICF, IAR Assistant General Agent 785-553-9070 adam.bruna@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
 Brady Kreutzer Field Agent 785-639-2255 brady.kreutzer@kofc.org	 Dan Reed, FICF Field Agent 785-531-0135 dan.reed@kofc.org

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



Knights of Columbus ("KofC") offers life insurance, annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance products. For costs, terms, conditions and complete details regarding these products, please contact your agent directly or call KofC at 1-800-380-9995. Products may vary by state. Insurance solutions are available to eligible KofC members in the U.S. and Canada. Knights of Columbus is located at: 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510.

BAPTISMS

Beckham Reed Ash, son of Braydan and Lauren (Duncan) Ash, was baptized July 19, 2026, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparents are Larry and Mandy McManaman.

Luis Armando Ayala, son of Francis and Liliana Ayala, was baptized August 8, 2026, by Fr. Joseph Kieffer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Concordia. Godparents are Luis Fernando Ayala and Sandy Lopez.

Scarlet Grace Barnett, daughter of Casey and Jessica Barnett, was baptized May 24, 2026, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Silas Wade-Patrick Barnett, son of Casey and Jessica Barnett, was baptized May 24, 2026, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Roderick Red Beims, son of Britton and Jessica (Kuhn) Beims, was baptized July 26, 2026, by Fr. Joseph Kieffer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Sponsors were Jordan Kuhn and Anna Thiede.

Madison Merino Cantu, daughter of Saul Merino de los Santos and Angelina Cantu Policarpo, was baptized July 25, 2026, by Fr. Rafael Indave Campos at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Brynlee Fossey Farra, daughter of Colton and Caitlin Farra was baptized July 19, 2026, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Zion Patrick Uy Gaspar, son of Paul Gaspar and Kimberly Cate Uy Gaspar, was baptized July 5, 2026, by Fr. Adam Urban at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparents are Michele Uy and Francisco Jesus Gaspar.

Myla June Gengler, daughter of Ryan Joseph Gengler and Andrea Marie Gengler, was baptized on July 12, 2026, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Beckham Chase Gore, son of Chase and Mackenzie Gore, was baptized July 5, 2026, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Ellie May Grauerholz, daughter of Travis and Justine Grauerholz, was baptized July 19, 2026, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St.

Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Sylvie James Gregory, daughter of Kyle and Shelby (Fraser) Gregory, was baptized July 25, 2026, by Fr. Joseph Kieffer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Sponsors were Dalton Fraser and Taylor Maravilla.

Stella Fay Hammeke, daughter of Lucas and Sarah (Koch) Hammeke, was baptized July 5, 2026, by Fr. Andy Hammeke at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Elaina Ann Hecht, daughter of Anthony and Kamryn Hecht, was baptized July 5, 2026, by Dcn. Harry Hardy at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Colton Heskett and Kelli Ann (Bryan) Heskett were received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Fr. Joshua Werth on June 7, 2026, at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo. Both received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Sponsors were David and Casey Wolf.

Luke Wayne Hullman, son of Cody Weston Hullman and Hayley Alexandria Hullman, was baptized July 11, 2026, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolores Church in Manhattan.

Hadley Marie Johannes, daughter of Dawson Johannes and Jill Schulte, was baptized July 12, 2026, by Fr. Vincent John, CMI at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Reina Sue Kraemer, daughter of Andrew and Tina (Swingler) Kraemer, was baptized July 19, 2026, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparents are Angela and Phillip Bierman.

Doc Marcus Loewen, son of Tyson and Chelsie Loewen, was baptized June 14, 2026, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Natalia Isabella Lopez-Hernandez, daughter of Luis Lopez and Michelle Hernandez, was baptized July 26, 2026, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparent is Ricardo Lopez-Orozco.

Elizabeth Marie Mark, daughter of Nathan and Stephanie (Demuth) Mark, was baptized August 9, 2026, by Rev. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of

Myra Church, Hays.

Lillian Irene McDonald, daughter of Shawn and Brielle McDonald was baptized July 26, 2026, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Maxxyn McNary, son of Dereck McNary and Dayna Kuhlman, was baptized August 2, 2026, by Fr. Vincent John, CMI at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Ella Marie Messersmith, daughter of Noah and Elizabeth, and sister of Levi Messersmith, was baptized July 26, 2026, by Fr. Mathew Chacko at Sacred Heart Church in Oberlin.

Charles Alfred Mikinski, son of Bradley and Gabrielle (Briggs) Mikinski, was baptized July 19, 2026, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparents are Matthew and Olivia Kelly (proxies, Philip and Maureen Francois).

Caj Cade Miller, son of Dawson Cade Miller and Samantha Rose Carson, was baptized August 15, 2026, by Dcn. Mike Robinson at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

Gracelyn Marie, daughter of William and Bethany Miller, was baptized July 19, 2026, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Godparents are Matthew Miller and Diana Miller.

Vincent James Miller, son of Jaden and Zoe (Woolsoncroft) Miller, was baptized June 28, 2026, by Fr. Adam Urban at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparents are Scott and Clare Stramel.

Mateo Alexander Newkirk, son of Maro and Christian Alarcon-Avila, was baptized June 7, 2026, by Dcn. Tim Donohoue at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Emilia Lynn Norin, daughter of James Norin and Janna Schulte, was baptized July 12, 2026, by Fr. Vincent John, CMI, at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Myles James Sander, son of Dustin and Kylee (Roth) Sander, was baptized July 18, 2026, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Sofia Elisabeth, daughter of Brett and Olivia Schroeder, was baptized July 12, 2026, by Fr. Jesse Ochs at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

Eden Marie Sherley, daughter of Dalton and Kaitlyn Sherley, was baptized July 26, 2026, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Joanna Evangeline Skerjanec, daughter of Brennan and Bridgette Skerjanec, was baptized July 5, 2026, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Carlo Michael Tolentino, son of Sean and Paige Tolentino was baptized July 26, 2026, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Gabriel Anthony Torres, son of Marc and Lilli Torres, was baptized July 10, 2026, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Colson Joseph Treaster, son of Grant and Marcina (McNabb) Treaster, was baptized June 14, 2026, by Fr. Adam Urban at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparents are Boone Roberson and Kelsey McMillan.

Ambriella Grace Weber, daughter of Sheldon and Madeline (Lohmeyer) Weber, was baptized July 25, 2026, by Dcn. Kyle Pfeifer at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Bonnie Maria Webster, daughter of Ansel and Catherine Webster, was baptized July 5, 2026, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Ezekiel Michael Wells, son of Gideon and Maggie Wells, was baptized July 12, 2026, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

James Michael Brooks and Abigail Marie Laflen were married July 18, 2026 at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Christopher and Jennifer Brooks. Parents of the bride are Brent and Karen Laflen. Witnesses were Landen Fisher and Sage Schwerman.

Mason Fredenberg and Matea Gregg were married July 11, 2026, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Bishop Gerald L. Vincke witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Glen and Denise Fredenberg. Parents of the bride are Daryl Gregg and Deenna Dreiling. Witnesses were Ryan Helbling and Torrie Gregg.

Chase Dalton Joseph Knutsen Hagemann and Hallie Elizabeth Everett were married July 31, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Matthew Davied witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Michael and Tamera Hagemann. Parents of the bride are David and Jennifer MaGee and Gregory and Shannon Everett. Witnesses were John Ostermann and Anna Hudson.

Eddie Hanson and Erin Martin were married June 13, 2026, at St. John Nepomucene Church in Beardsley. Fr. Brian Lager witnessed their vows. Parents of the bride are Debbie and James Martin. Parents of the groom are Jacqueline and Brian Hanson. Witnesses were Gus Hanson and Ella Martin.

Cuttar Brock Huss and Jaclyn Rose Schulte were married July 25, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Donald and Jill Huss. Parents of the bride are Frank and Linda Schulte. Witnesses were Wyatt Huss and Janae Schulte.

Samson Daniel Jimenez and Melissa Kay Zimmerman were married July 25, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Mitchel Zimmerman witnessed

WEDDINGS


Thank you for reading The Register! To share any address changes, sacramental updates, or parish events, please email details to theregister@salinadiocese.org

BAALMANN MORTUARY & CREMATORY



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

www.baalmannmortuary.com

WEDDINGS

their vows. Parents of the groom are Benjamin and Jennifer Jimenez. Parents of the bride are Chad and Angela Zimmerman. Witnesses were Ezekial Jimenez and Cassandra Zimmerman.

Zachary Schnacker and Laura Casey were married July 25, 2026, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are David and Brandy Schnacker. Parents of the bride are Spencer and Michelle Casey. Witnesses were Azarion Perkins and Alli Drees.

Theron Ray Sjogren and Avery Elizabeth Gates were married July 11, 2026, at St. John the Baptist, Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Eric and Ronda Sjogren. Parents of the bride are Brian and Julie Gates. Witnesses were Jared Maneth and Lauryn Dubbert.

Joshua Skocny and Avery Werth were married July 4, 2026, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Joshua Evan and Molly Skocny. Parents of the bride are Gregory and Shannon Werth. Witnesses were Jack Skocny and Calie Wolters.

Trey Jake Spinden and Nelsa Marie Beckman were married June 27, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Michael and Bernice Spinden. Parents of the bride are James and Sharon Beckman. Witnesses were Ryan Spinden and Josephine Gianni.

Drake Russell Steinbrock and Shaylea Rose Lawson were married June 27, 2026, at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Fr. Joseph Kieffer witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Russ and Keyna Steinbrock. Parents of the bride are Waylon Lawson and Mindy Kvasnicka. Witnesses were Elias Girard and Piper Lawson.

Sawyer Corbin Stevens and Piper Scot Wasinger were married July 4, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Bernard Felix witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Corbin and Heidi Stevens. Parents of the bride are Gregory and Shairlyn Wasinger. Witnesses were Justice Walters and Kennedy Wasinger.

Dorothy Alice Bussen, 101, died July 20, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 25 at Holy Ghost Church in Sharon Springs. Fr. Carlos Ruiz presided. Burial in Wallace Cemetery, Wallace.

Darlene Lea Dryden, 78, died July 10, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 17 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial at Elmwood Cemetery in Beloit.

John Willard Ferron, 82, died July 20, 2026, in Clyde. Graveside service was July 24 at St. Concordia Cemetery with Fr. Joseph Kieffer officiating.

John W. Green, 73, died April 29, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 14 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Fr. Donald D. Zimmerman presided. Inurnment at St. Thomas More Memorial Walls, Manhattan.

Rosella Ann Krier, 94, died July 20, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 27 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade officiated. Burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Velma Ann Osborn, 98, died July 23, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 31 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Fr. Frank Coady presided. Burial at Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan.

Arlene Mae Schlyer, 86, died July 31, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 6, 2026 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker, Fr. Luke Friess, and Fr. Terrence Klein presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Melvin Daniel "Mel" Schmidt, 84, died August 1, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 5, 2026 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet

presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Dora L. Schroeder, 66, died June 28, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 11 at St. Patrick Church in Lincoln. Fr. Mark Wesely presided. Inurnment at Colorado Township Cemetery, Beverly.

Lavonne Shillington, 101, died May 27, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 2 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Fr. Donald D. Zimmerman presided. Inurnment at Pilgrim Home Cemetery, Holland, MI.

Rita M. Smith, 87, died July 3, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 8 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Munjor. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial at St.

Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Munjor.

Michael Charles Weaver, 79, died April 27, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Dcn. Harry Hardy presided. Interment at Kansas Veterans Cemetery, Manhattan.

Jack A. Yost, 78, died July 21, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 29 at St. Mary Help of Christians Church in Gorham. Fr. Vincent John presided.

Carla Marie Younger, 82, died June 26, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 8 at The Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. Fr. Vince Mary Carrasco, OFM Cap., presided. Inurnment in St. Fidelis Cemetery, Victoria.



WERTH
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Hays
and
Leawood

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.

Since 1927, We've Helped Kansas Children & Families



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



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
(800) 662-4318

Visit Our Website
www.glassmancorp.com

Your Northwest Kansas Dealers

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	Great Plains	Land Pride	Shelbourne
Drago	Haybuster	MacDon	Westfield
Demco	Kinze	Orthman	Woods
Elmer's Mfg.	Kubota	Reinke	Yamaha

Sister May makes first vows

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Sister Mary Solanus May, a former Kansas State University student, made her first profession of vows with the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois, on August 1.

The following is an excerpt of her vocation story, which she shared with The Register in 2024.

"One of the moments I first felt called to religious life was during Eucharistic Adoration at a Steubenville conference the summer going into my senior year of high school.

The question was asked, "What have you not surrendered to God?" It became obvious to me that anytime the idea of religious life was put on the table I would not actually let go and instead would recite a litany of excuses: "I'm too loud; I'm too

energetic; I couldn't sit still that much; I enjoy prayer but not enough to pray all day; I could never wake up that early." This litany of excuses (lies) always ended with "So, if you asked me to be a sister I would, but we both know I could never be a sister."

This conversation had been one-sided and that night in adoration a few facts became obvious:

1) God made me, so He knows me better than I do and ever will.

2) God loves me more than I do. So, God knows better than I do what is best for me, and He wants it more than I do.

3) If He asks me to be a sister, He will make it possible, and it will be a joyful life.

This caused a complete 180 of my heart from "I could never do this" to "I hope he asks me to be a

sister!"

The way we talk about vocations sometimes can make it sound scary, and I was afraid that he would call "Now!" and I'd be tangled in the nets He'd demand I drop and wind up breaking my fingers. That is not how He called Peter, and he didn't rush me either."

For more updates on consecrated life in the Diocese of Salina, please consider subscribing to the *Cecilian*, a regular newsletter from Michaela Sasse, Director of Consecrated Vocations. Scan the QR code below to sign up!



SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS

Do you know what a doctor is? St. Hildegard of Bingen is a doctor, but not the kind of doctor you visit in a hospital. She is a Doctor of the Church!

Hildegard was born in 1098 and spent much of her life praying, studying and writing about God. She loved nature and learning about the world God created. Hildegard wrote books, composed music and even gave advice to popes and kings.

When Catholics call someone a Doctor, they mean it like "great teacher," instead of a healer in a hospital. There are more than 30 people who are Doctors of the Church.

St. Hildegard was declared a Doctor because of her wise teachings and holy life. She reminds us that loving God and learning go hand in hand. She is also the patron saint of singers, musicians and people who study nature.



ST. HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 17

Never more connected, never more alone

One of the names given to Satan in Scripture is the divider. From the very beginning, his work has been to separate what God has joined together. He separated Adam and Eve from God through sin. He has spent every generation since trying to divide husbands and wives, parents and children, neighbors, friends, parishes, and even the Church herself.

When I look at our world today, I can't help but notice how easy it has become to live without encountering another person.

We can have groceries delivered to our doorstep. Meals arrive without speaking to anyone. We text instead of calling. We email instead of visiting. We search Google—or even ask AI—instead of asking another person. None of these things are bad in themselves. In fact, many of them are wonderful tools.

But they can quietly become substitutes for something God created us to need—real relationships.

Satan delights in isolation because isolated people are easier to discourage, easier to tempt, and easier to convince that they are alone. He loves families that stop talking, friends who drift apart, parishioners who slip in and out

of Mass without ever knowing the people sitting beside them, and Christians who convince themselves they don't really need anyone else.

God desires just the opposite.

For all eternity, God Himself has existed as a communion of Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Relationship is

woven into the very nature of God. It should not surprise us, then, that He created us for relationship as well.

We are members of the Mystical Body of Christ. We rejoice with those who rejoice. We weep with those who weep. We carry one another's burdens. We encourage each other when faith grows weak. We celebrate life's blessings together and stand beside one another when suffering comes.

Most importantly, God desires an intimate relationship with each one of us. Prayer is not merely checking a religious box. It is spending time with someone who loves us more than we can imagine.

Perhaps one of the best spiritual questions we can ask ourselves is this—Is what I'm doing drawing me into deeper communion, or is it pulling me into greater isolation?



BILL Meagher
DEACON, SALINA DIOCESE

This month, join me in making one intentional choice to move toward relationship. Call someone instead of sending a text. Visit a friend instead of simply liking a post. Eat dinner together as a family without phones. Introduce yourself to someone after Mass.

Spend a few quiet minutes before the Blessed Sacrament simply being with Jesus.

Satan divides.

Christ unites.

Every day, we have the opportunity to decide whose voice we will follow.

Prayer in Honor of the Queenship of Mary



Mother and Queen of Heaven, this day I run to you as a child with confidence and trust. You are the glorious Queen Mother, reigning over all of your children with love and mercy. Please pray for me, and bestow upon me all that I need.

I open my heart to the grace of your Son, which you are entrusted to dispense. Make me holy and free from sin, so you can present me spotless and pure to your beloved Son, the King of the Universe.

Queen of Heaven, pray for me.

Jesus, I trust in You.



Cut this out and pray with your family!



THE REGISTER

VOLUME 89, NO. 8 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

Publisher: Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke, BISHOP OF SALINA | Editor and advertising: Lori Garcia, 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 September 25. • Deadline for news is September 4. • Deadline for advertising is September 4.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Register, P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980

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/