THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

NOVEMBER 20, 2026

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

INSIDE:

CHANCE AT LOVE A SECOND TIME
• Rick and Annette Rajewski, along with couples across the diocese, mark marriage milestones. **Page 3**

CYO CONVENTION
• Youth event in Salina builds community and faith. **Page 4**

DEAR BISHOP
• Teen shares Confirmation letter, story of faith journey. **Page 7**

CHARISMS
• Get to know more about these gifts from God and how they work in the Christian life. **Page 10**

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
• Consider sending mail this season to seminarians and retired priests of the diocese. **Page 11**

GIVING TUESDAY
• The Catholic Foundation provides options to support the mission. **Page 12**

#iGIVECATHOLIC

salinadiocese.org

facebook.com/SalinaDiocese

x.com/salinadiocese

instagram.com/salina_diocese

Holy Fire conference sparks faith for junior high students

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

About 350 junior high students, along with sponsors and parents, filed into Fort Hays State University's Sheridan Hall on a gorgeous Saturday morning earlier this month.

They had come from the Salina Diocese in anticipation of spending a day growing in their faith away from the outside world. And they weren't disappointed.

Organizers were pleased with the turnout at Holy Fire in its second year, especially with a number of activities also scheduled around the area and state on the same weekend.

"You never know after the first year, if people try it out but don't return," said Deacon Bill Meagher, director of youth ministry and religious education for the diocese. "But we were up in numbers this year, and engagement was great."

Much like a year ago, the day began with loud music and obligatory audience participation with the energetic Jared Coad, known as DJ Code – a DJ/speaker from Grand Rapids, Mich.

After getting the students excited

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



AVERY SKOCNY, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Gerald Vincke blesses middle schoolers with Jesus' presence in the monstrance during the Eucharistic Adoration portion of Holy Fire. Participants were treated to a variety of speakers and events throughout the day, being sent home with the reminder that they are meant to be lights of faith for the world.

Catholic Charities opens office in Concordia

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Father Charlie Steier's passion for the mission of Catholic Charities ran deep. His legacy lives on, even after departing his earthly life two years ago.

Thanks to a generous estate gift from Fr. Charlie, Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas opened its fourth permanent office earlier this fall. The dedication and ribbon cutting at the new location in Concordia was held on October 27.

About 100 people crowded into the office space of the Sixth Street building that formerly housed the Neighbor to Neighbor service center run by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Bishop Jerry Vincke, Catholic Charities staff from around the state and other supporters joined the Concordia Chamber of Commerce in front of the building for an official ribbon cutting. The bishop then blessed the walls inside, traveling through the kitchen area and back through to the front office.

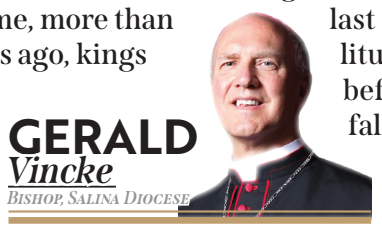
"To the Sisters and to the staff, volunteers, donors and friends who have supported Neighbor to Neighbor, thank you for everything you have built here and for trusting Catholic Charities to carry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



COURTESY PHOTO

The King with a Crown of Thorns



Today, we spot the groom at a wedding by his fancy tuxedo or nice suit. In Jesus' time, more than 2,000 years ago, kings were not the only ones who wore crowns. According to Jewish Scripture and tradition, the bridegroom also wore a crown on his wedding day, so the man with the crown on his head was the one to look for.

Jesus' wedding day was the crucifixion, when Christ the Bridegroom gave his Body on the cross for his bride, the Church. Yet his wedding crown was no shining crown of jewels. It was made of thorns.

Why was Jesus crowned with thorns? The soldiers did it to mock him, as if to say, "So you are a king! Then we will dress you like one." It was a painful crown.

The Feast of Christ the King, celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year before Advent, falls on November 22 this year. Christ's kingship is spiritual, eternal, and universal, unlike the world's ways of power, force, and selfishness.

Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro shows us the reign of Christ. Born in Guadalupe, Mexico, he was known for his cheerful character and practical jokes. At age 20, he entered the Jesuit Order. Because the Mexican government was fiercely anti-Catholic, Fr. Pro carried out his priestly ministry in secret. In October 1926 he was arrested for living out his priesthood. Released, he was arrested again a year later and sent to the firing squad without a trial.

Facing the soldiers, he held out a crucifix and rosary and told them he forgave them. Then he raised his arms in the form of a cross and shouted, "Viva Cristo Rey" (Long live Christ the King) shortly before being shot and killed.

The Church once celebrated Christ the King in October. Pope Paul VI moved the feast to the final Sunday of the liturgical year to highlight Christ's universal sovereignty and direct our attention to his Second Coming.

The Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, prominently calls Jesus a king: first the "ruler of the kings on earth," and later "king of kings." At the end of time, this king, the Bridegroom, will call his bride, the Church, to be with him forever. What is our response to a king with a crown of thorns?



EL REY CON UNA CORONA DE ESPINAS

Hoy en día, en una boda, reconocemos al novio por su esmoquin o su traje elegante. En tiempos de Jesús, hace más de dos mil años, las coronas no eran exclusivas de los reyes. Según las Escrituras y la tradición judías, el novio también se ponía una corona el día de su boda. Así que, para reconocerlo, bastaba con buscar al hombre que llevaba la corona.

El día de la crucifixión fue el día de bodas de Jesús. En la cruz, Cristo, el Esposo, entregó su Cuerpo por su esposa, la Iglesia. Su corona de bodas, en vez de estar adornada con joyas brillantes, estaba hecha de espinas.

¿Por qué coronaron a Jesús con espinas? Los soldados lo hicieron para burlarse de él, como si le dijeran: «¡Así que eres rey! Pues te vestiremos como a un rey». Era una corona que le causaba dolor.

La solemnidad de Cristo Rey se celebra el último domingo del año litúrgico, antes del Adviento. Este año cae el 22 de noviembre. El reinado de Cristo es espiritual, eterno y universal. Es distinto de la manera en que el mundo ejerce el poder, recurriendo a la fuerza y buscando su propio interés.

El beato Miguel Agustín Pro nos muestra cómo es el reinado de Cristo. Nació en Guadalupe, México, y era conocido por su carácter alegre y por las bromas que solía hacer. A los veinte años ingresó en la orden de los jesuitas. Como el gobierno mexicano era abiertamente hostil a la Iglesia católica, el padre Pro ejercía su ministerio sacerdotal en secreto. En octubre de 1926 lo arrestaron por ejercer su sacerdocio. Lo pusieron en libertad, pero un año después volvieron a arrestarlo y lo llevaron ante un pelotón de fusilamiento sin juicio previo. Frente a los soldados, les mostró un crucifijo y un rosario y les dijo que los perdonaba. Luego extendió los brazos en forma de cruz y gritó «¡Viva Cristo Rey!» poco antes de que lo fusilaran.

Antes, la Iglesia celebraba la fiesta de Cristo Rey en octubre. El papa Pablo VI la trasladó al último domingo del año litúrgico para destacar la soberanía universal de Cristo y dirigir nuestra atención hacia su segunda venida.

El Apocalipsis, último libro de la Biblia, destaca la realeza de Jesús. Primero lo llama «soberano de los reyes de la tierra» y, más adelante, «Rey de reyes». Al final de los tiempos, este Rey, el Esposo, llamará a su esposa, la Iglesia, para que esté con él para siempre. ¿Cómo respondemos a un Rey que lleva una corona de espinas?



Treasuring a chance at love a second time

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

The annual anniversary Masses for couples celebrating their first year of marriage or any with five-year increments are always a treat for those attending from around the Diocese of Salina.

They receive a blessing from Bishop Gerald Vincke following Mass at either the Salina or Hays location. Then they receive a certificate and get to take a photo with the bishop, who asks each couple how they met.

Every couple has a story behind their journey, whether it be one year or five, 50 … or 65 or anywhere in-between. A few examples this year were meeting as co-workers, at the dry cleaner's, on blind dates and while dragging Main Street – and just about anywhere imaginable.

A couple celebrating their one-year anniversary might have been one of the most intriguing this year.

Rick and Annette Rajewski were married on April 26, 2025. But the Hays couple has actually celebrated more than 90 wedding anniversaries between them.

They were both married for more than 45 years when their spouses passed away.

A visit between widower Rick and widow Annette (Yost) following Mass at St. Nicholas of Myra Church one morning in 2023 led to a longer conversation outdoors.

It didn't seem all that unusual at the time. After all, they had known each other for years before their retirement from their medical professions.

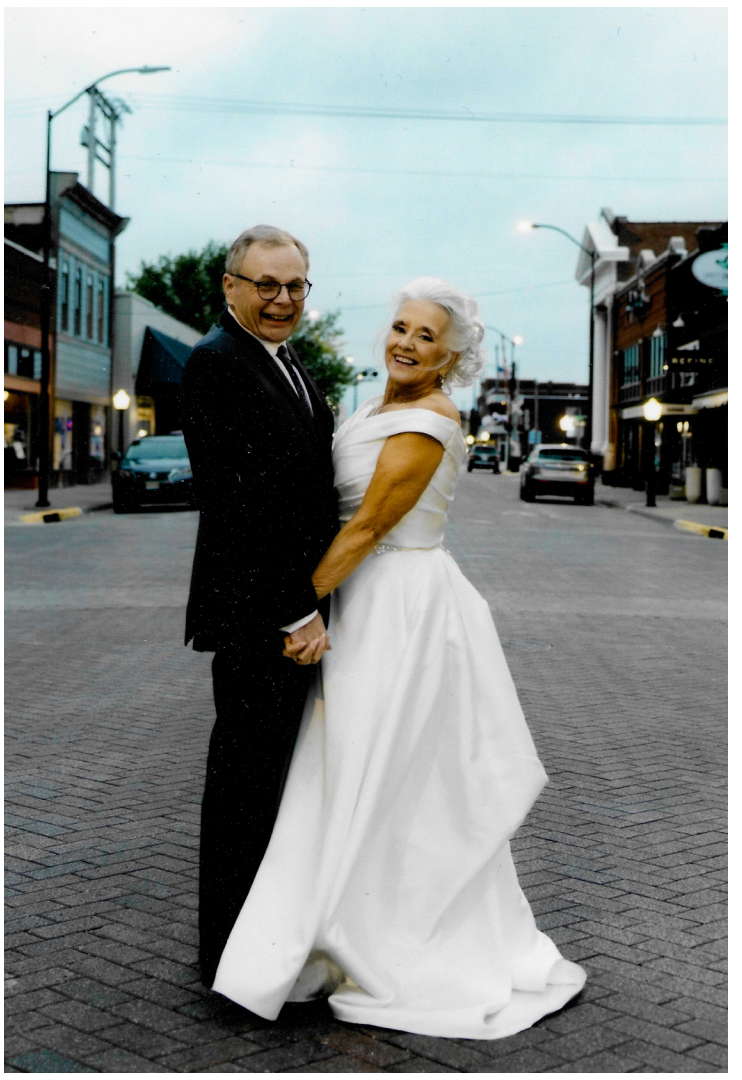
Rick was a family physician for 45 years and practiced in Hays for almost 42 years. Annette was a registered nurse who worked in several area practices, including HFP, for 45 years.

When they realized they were the only cars left in the parking lot on that one auspicious day, Rick asked Annette if she wanted to keep visiting over lunch.

Now, you're probably thinking, "How cool! They visited after Mass, went out to eat, and the rest is history."

Well, not exactly.

"I actually said, 'No,' " to Rick's first lunch-date request, Annette said with a sheepish grin.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rick and Annette Rajewski celebrate on Main Street of Hays on their wedding day in April of 2025.

"I wasn't sure what to do with that," said Rick, who had been married to his first wife, Vicki, for 45 years and raised three boys together in Hays.

Vicki developed complications from aggressive treatment for breast cancer 20 years earlier and died in May of 2022.

Rick retired in 2020, primarily to care for Vicki's declining health. In addition to that loss, Rick's mother had died two months before Vicki.

"I was dealing with two different estates in that whole first year afterward," he said. "I didn't really give any consideration to much of anything else."

Then, on Holy Saturday 2023, Rick received what he thought was a sign from God.

"Vicki had been deceased about a year, and I got assigned to read Genesis at the Holy Saturday vigil," he said. "I got to the part that says 'It is not good that man should live alone,' and I got goosebumps. It distracted me so much that I stumbled over it."

"Driving home, I was embarrassed at stumbling during the reading," he added. "But it was like the Holy Spirit gave me permission to love again."

Not long afterward is when he spotted Annette across the aisle in church, and Rick took notice. They had been attending different Mass times for years, and Rick didn't know she was a member of St. Nick's.

They soon began attending the same Mass on Sundays and visiting afterward. Then came the "No" from Annette that bothered Rick more than he realized.

"When I asked her to lunch and she said 'No,' I was distraught," Rick said. "It was just something there I can't explain, because all the time we worked together, I had no attraction other than her being a superb nurse. I loved her as a great person, but nothing else."

Annette and her husband, Brian Yost, had been married in 1968 and raised two girls in Plainville. In December 2015, Brian was diagnosed with a lung disease and died just three weeks later in January 2016 – three months shy of their 48th wedding anniversary.

"After Brian passed, I had prayed for a significant other who was Christian," Annette said. "I always thought if I was to have a companion, God would put him in my path. But Rick was my boss. You don't date your boss."



MATEA FREDENBERG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Gerald Vincke celebrated with couples at the Hays Anniversary Mass on October 25, including the Rajewskis, who marked their first wedding anniversary this spring.

Like Rick, Annette also had lost a parent shortly around the time of her husband's passing when her dad died just a few months after Brian.

"You are so focused on trying to get everything taken care of, learning to do everything yourself and be independent," she said. "… a lot to absorb other than being with someone again."

One day, Rick got up the courage to ask Annette to lunch again.

"I was getting ready to say 'No,' and I heard this voice," she said, "and I ended up saying 'Yes.' "

Attending Mass and eating lunch together started becoming a regular Sunday routine for the couple.

Then, their companionship became several times a week, and they became aware of people glancing their way when they started showing up at Hays Larks baseball games together.

"People started talking when we were at the Larks games, and I asked her 'Are you ready for this?' … and we agreed we were ready to be the subject of town gossip," Rick said with a smile.

Actually, those close to the Rajewskis – including their combined family which includes seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren – are pleased they got a second chance at love.

The couple also is grateful that Rick was persistent about asking Annette out to lunch.

"Our being together became natural after awhile," Rick said, "because we knew each other's heart a lot to begin with."

Now, as the Rajewskis sit in that same pew at church each Sunday, they agree that it was all in God's timing.

DECEMBER INTENTIONS

Diocesan intentions:

For all the faithful of the Diocese of Salina, that during this holy season of Advent, we may quiet our hearts, grow in prayer, and prepare ourselves to welcome Christ more fully into our lives.

Pope Leo's intentions:

Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or father, that they may find support and accompaniment in the Church, and help and strength in the Faith during difficult times.

BISHOP'S DEC. CALENDAR

3	St. Francis Xavier School Mass, Junction City.
12	Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, Hays.
13	Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, Salina.
27	Seminarian Family Gathering.

CYO Convention builds faith and friendships across the diocese

By Lori Garcia
The Register



Lori Garcia, The Register

Students pray for each other's intentions before the Eucharist during the Adoration portion of CYO Convention.

"One of you is the giver and one of you is the receiver. And the giver becomes the receiver."

As speaker Joe Melendrez's words filled the darkened gymnasium, students from across the diocese put them into action, praying over one another and becoming vessels of God's grace.

During Adoration at the Nov. 14-15 CYO Convention at Sacred Heart Jr./Sr. High School, teens gathered around the Eucharist in worship and prayer.

Melendrez, a Catholic speaker and musician, encouraged the high schoolers to deepen their prayer through one-on-one intercession for their peers.

Zelie Horinek, a junior from St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit, attended the convention for the second time. Adoration was her favorite part of the weekend, she said.

"It's always my favorite, and the prayer, the giving and receiving, was new, and I really enjoyed that," she said.

The weekend gave high school students and their adult sponsors an opportunity to deepen their faith and build connections with Catholics from across the Diocese of Salina.

Students and sponsors also experienced Confession, attended Mass celebrated by Fr. Luke Friess and participated in breakout sessions.

For event planners Jamie Kuhlman and Dcn. Bill Meagher, bringing young Catholics together is an important part of building a strong faith community.

"Part of what draws students to the convention is the opportunity to reconnect with friends they have made through other diocesan events," Kuhlman said.

Students who met at Prayer and Action or the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) come together again, often from schools and parishes they might not otherwise have the opportunity to visit.

"It's fun to watch them run up and give hugs to the people they haven't seen for a while," Kuhlman said. "It melts my heart."



Lori Garcia, The Register

Speaker Joe Melendrez and DJ Code brought high energy to the weekend, encouraging students to praise God through music, prayer and movement.



Lori Garcia, The Register

Zelie Horinek leads students in prayer over the speakers at the CYO Convention Nov. 14-15.



Lori Garcia, The Register

Sponsors attend the first adult breakout session of the conference, listening to Christopher Wesley, who reminded them to find their identity in Christ, above any job title.

The convention also gives students a break from school and a chance to turn their attention toward Jesus.

Organizers made an effort to offer that same opportunity for spiritual growth to the adults accompanying them.

"One of the most exciting parts of planning this year was that we got to bring in a speaker for adults, too," Kuhlman said.

The weekend included two adult sessions led by Christopher Wesley of Marathon Ministries. Nationwide flight disruptions the night before prevented Wesley from traveling, so he joined participants virtually.

Wesley encouraged youth ministers and volunteers to reconsider the expectations they place on themselves, recognize their worth beyond their ministry roles and find someone trustworthy to walk alongside them.

"You are loved. You are valued," he reminded the youth ministers.

Alyssa Moeder, director of religious education at Christ the King Parish in WaKeeney, is among those working to build up youth ministry in their own parishes. In her third year in the role, Moeder brought students to the convention for the first time this year.

She said she hoped the experience would encourage young people to remain rooted in faith and share it with others.

"I hope to spark a fire in our youth to continue in the faith and keep passing it down," she said.

Melendrez also encouraged students to put their faith into practice throughout the weekend. He invited volunteers to participate in activities and challenged students to make new connections.

"One of my goals is for you to walk out of here making new friends," he told them.

He encouraged students to be intentional about their thoughts and actions, turn to prayer and take steps toward building up the Kingdom of God.

During the closing question-and-answer session, Horinek raised her hand to ask if the students could pray over Melendrez and his assistant, DJ Code.

"It was really just the Holy Spirit in that moment," Horinek said. "He's been praying over all of us, and I thought he deserves some too."

The students joined together in prayer, a gesture that surprised and touched the speakers.

"That was the first time I've been speaking at an event and had a teenager from the audience pray over us," Melendrez said. "We will not forget that."

HOLY FIRE OF FAITH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



AVERY SKOCNY, COMMUNICATIONS

Participants at Holy Fire open themselves up to the Holy Spirit, asking for wisdom.



AVERY SKOCNY, COMMUNICATIONS

Candles line the stage, awaiting Holy Fire attendees to bring them with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

about the day's events, they were introduced to Joe Melendrez, a speaker/performer from Los Angeles, whom Dcn. Meagher called one of the top speakers in the nation.

Ted Long from Wilson brought seven students – more than twice as many as a year ago – and was just as intrigued as he was at the inaugural Holy Fire last year.

"One of my passions is kids and helping out kids, and this is a good way to do it," said Long, a school counselor in the Sylvan-Wilson Elementary School who doubles as a religious education instructor for that age of students at St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson.

Long said most of his students "didn't know what to expect coming in" to Holy Fire.

"They hadn't experienced anything like that before, but they had an interest to come," he added. "They were impressed."

Long, too, is impressed with the continued work by the Salina Diocese to sponsor such events for the youth.

Long has seen the influence that a similar national conference has on high school students, having twice attended the popular National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) for high school students in Indianapolis, Ind.

Dcn. Meagher has also attended many NCYCs. That's why he brought a group of A-team presenters to Hays.

Heading that group was Robert Feduccia, a national superstar in leadership development from Nashville, Tenn., who writes the script for NCYC.

They also heard from Tanner Kalina, a Catholic evangelist, author and speaker from Loveland, Colo., who has dedicated his life to sharing the Gospel, and from nationally recognized musician/speaker Marie Miller from Memphis, Tenn.

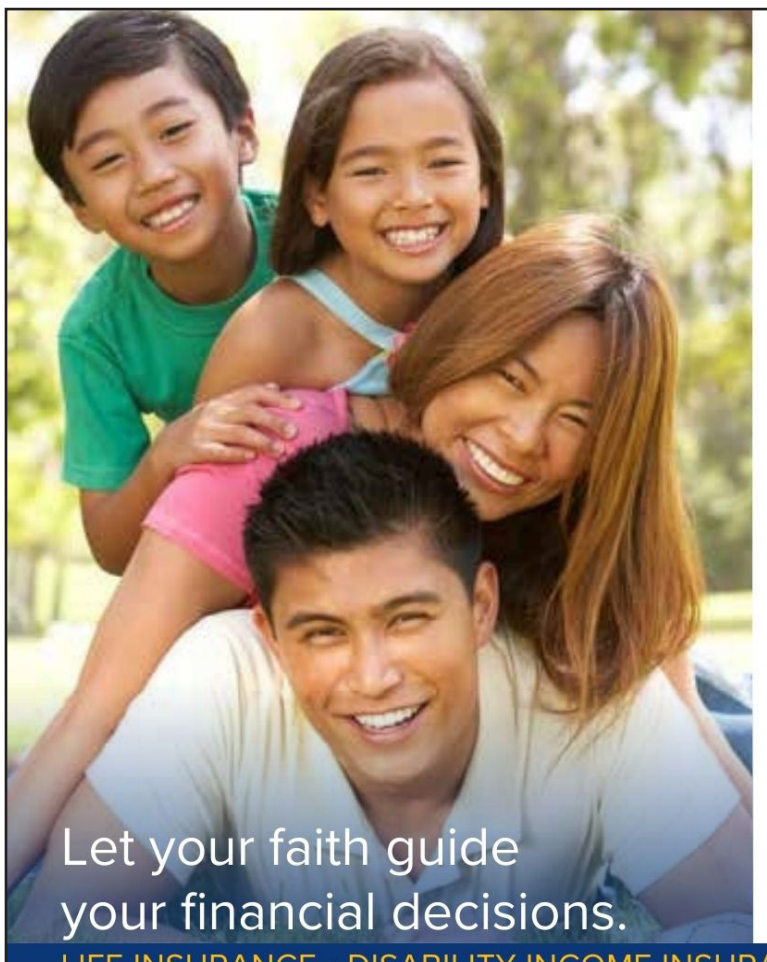
Another area religious education instructor echoed Long's appreciation of the diocese's efforts to host age-appropriate events for the spiritual growth of junior high students.

"Being on fire with Holy Fire is a great way to expand evangelization," said Mindy Eck, a CCD teacher for third- through sixth-grade students at St. Mary's Parish in Ellis. "The more (students) go to these types of events, the more they thirst for having a personal relationship with Jesus."

The students were able to participate in Eucharistic Adoration, and the day was highlighted with Mass celebrated by Bishop Gerald Vincke.

Raynna Beckman, an eighth-grader from St. Wenceslaus Parish, Wilson, attended Holy Fire for a second straight year. She said she wanted to attend again this year because

"I felt like I was closer to God afterwards."



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®

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.

Numerous all-state performances highlight fall semester

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

It has been a banner fall semester with numerous all-state performances thus far for Catholic schools in the Salina Diocese.

It all began with state medalists in golf in October for Thomas More Prep-Marian, Hays, and it didn't end until the TMP-M football team fell in the quarterfinals of the Class 1A state playoffs on November 13. See the December issue of The Register for a football season wrapup.



COURTESY PHOTO
St. John's boys' and girls' cross country teams from Beloit both won trophies at the 1A state meet.

Girls' golf

After winning five of their seven regular-season meets this season, TMP-M's golfers then won their regional meet and finished fourth at the Class 2A state meet in Wichita on Oct. 19-20.

Leading the way was junior Brynn Schoef, who placed third to grab her third state medal of her prep career. Schoef won a medal at every meet this season, including five golds, earning her first-team all-state honors in 2A.

Also placing in the top 20 at state for the Monarchs, who had no seniors on the squad, was junior Emma Wasinger (20th).



COURTESY PHOTO
TMP-Marian state golf medalists Brynn Schoef and Emma Wasinger with head coach Dave Ward.



COURTESY PHOTO
TMP-Marian's volleyball team placed third at the 2A state meet.

Eco-Meet

St. John's, Beloit, celebrated the 25th Kansas Eco-Meet in style by winning the state title – the school's fifth consecutive top-four finish at state.

Leading the way individually at the meet – held at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains near Hesston – was junior Maryann Walter, who placed second in the tallgrass test, and senior Canaan Letourneau, who was fourth in that same test as well as fifth in the invertebrate test.

Other members of the state championship squad were seniors Christiana Niewald and Myra Holdren.



COURTESY PHOTO
St. John's state championship Eco-Meet team: Myra Holdren, Canaan Letourneau, Christiana Niewald and Maryann Walter.

Cross country

It was double the fun for St. John's at the 1A state meet in Wamego, bringing home two trophies and a bucket of medals. The Blujay boys' team placed second, and the girls were third.

Leading the girls' team was freshman Karridy Dunstan, who finished second individually with a school-record time of 19 minutes, 4.28 seconds.

The boys' team also had two individual medalists in senior Jeremiah Roderick (seventh) and junior Grant Letourneau (14th).

Blujay seniors closing out their cross country careers were Christiana Niewald and Olivia Tighe for the girls' team and Henry Woods and Carson Thomas for the boys.

Other seniors for Salina Diocese Catholic Schools who participated at state were Mattias Marintzer (TMP-M) and Mia Hamilton (Salina-Sacred Heart), both in Class 2A.

Volleyball

TMP-M (2A) and St. John's/Tipton (1A, DI) both qualified for state competition in Salina, with TMP-M winning the third-place team trophy.

TMP-M went 2-1 in pool play to advance to Saturday's finals.

After falling to state power and undefeated Ellinwood in the semifinals, the Monarchs beat Moundridge in the third-place match and finished with a 33-12 record and their best finish since the state championship season of 2017.

Ellinwood, which claimed its second straight state title, has now won a nation-leading 94 straight matches.

The Monarchs' third-place match was highlighted by senior Brynn Rebel recording her 2,000th career dig.

Rebel and senior Bria Windholz were named to the 2A state all-tournament team.

Joining those two in closing out their prep careers with a bang were classmates Reagan Allen, Bridget Feldt, Emily Hipp and Hannah Rose.

The St. John's/Tipton Catholic cooperative team went 1-2 in pool play and didn't qualify for Saturday's finals. However, the Blujays finished the season with a .780 winning percentage (32-9). Seniors on the 2026 team were Kendra Gengler and Myla Holdren (St. John's) and Ava Brummer (Tipton Catholic).

Dear Bishop: Teen deepens faith through love of the Eucharist

BY BERKLEE HESSMAN
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Many teens across the diocese write letters to Bishop Gerald Vincke as they prepare for Confirmation. Below, Berklee Hessman, daughter of Matthew and Amber Hessman, shares her hopes for the sacrament. Please keep her, and all those preparing for Confirmation, in your prayers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Berklee Hessman is a junior and a member of Immaculate Conception Parish.

Dear Bishop Vincke,

My name is Berklee Hessman, and I am receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this April. The past two years, I've been asked the same question: "Why do you want to get Confirmed?" My answer has always been the same: because I want to strengthen my faith.

Recently, however, I have changed how I answer that question. It's not that I don't agree with my original answer; it's just that I want to add on to it. I have added, "I want to get Confirmed because I want to feel the connection to the Church overall more so than now." In saying this, I mean that the sense of brotherhood/sisterhood within the Church community all around the world will be felt more. That is one thing about the Catholic Church that I love: the fact that "we are all one body," as the hymn goes. We are all connected throughout the whole world. It is amazing!

A little snippet about me is that I am 16, I love reading and writing, and I try to hold God at the forefront of my life. Like every human, I slip from time to time, but that reason is another reason why I am so pumped to get Confirmed.

Learning more about my faith over the past two years has honestly been a challenge. It's been a challenge on my heart because of just how much I thought I knew, but really didn't. There was a time, I do admit, that I had thought that maybe Catholicism wasn't the right road for me. Looking back, my reasoning was because I didn't believe in the actuality of the Eucharist.

I had to take a step back mentally, and I realized that I needed to stop having reliance on my own judgment. I realized that I should actually start not only listening but learning from God's word. I dove into Scripture and watched videos about the Eucharist. That is finally when I started to seek out God and what He had in store for me through His works.

Now, writing this all down, I can definitely say that my mind is solid in its understanding of the Eucharist. This is how I know that the Holy Spirit is already working within me and will continue to grow stronger after being Confirmed. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will allow my mind and heart to be ready for whatever battle may come my way in the future. To know that is a totally awesome feeling!

I hope that, in turn, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I can also live out the fruits with a deeper understanding in everyday life. If I had to pick a favorite fruit of the Holy Spirit, I'd pick patience. As I'm writing this letter, a friend just last night texted me a Bible verse: "The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride." This comes from Ecclesiastes 7:8.

When my friend sent that message to me, I was about to start warming up for a high school basketball game. Now, I'm not a star athlete, but I still have taken a liking to this sport. Seeing that message reminded me that, not just in sports but in everyday life, it is better to wait and breathe. Not out of laziness, but out of love and compassion for whatever you are having patience for.

So now, I will exercise patience in this waiting room for heaven, acting on things pertaining to God and God alone. Starting with Confirmation.

The best always,
Berklee Hessman

Teachers, students rooted in faith

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Catholic school students and teachers gather each fall in Salina for a pair of events. Teachers network at the Teachers Institute, while juniors and seniors from the diocesan high schools meet for a Respect Life Retreat. Please enjoy short reflections below from each event.

Teachers Institute

BY GEOFF ANDREWS
SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

More than 250 Catholic school educators from across the diocese gathered on November 6 for a day dedicated to faith, fellowship, collaboration and celebrating the shared mission of Catholic education.

Guided by this year's theme, "GO!", educators were reminded of Christ's call to go forth and make disciples, bringing His love into their classrooms, schools and communities.

The day began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Gerald Vincke, featuring beautiful music provided by talented teachers from across the diocese. It was a fitting beginning to a day rooted in prayer and our Catholic identity.

Teachers also learned about the diocese's new partnership with Hallow, a Catholic prayer and meditation platform that will support educators in their personal faith journeys while providing meaningful resources for classroom prayer and faith formation.

The afternoon offered opportunities for teachers to collaborate with colleagues from other diocesan schools who teach similar grade levels and subject areas.

The diocese also recognized educators celebrating five-year service milestones, ranging from five to 30 years of dedicated service to Catholic schools.

Respect Life Retreat

BY AVA BRUMMER
SR., TIPTON CATHOLIC

As a senior in high school, having small breakout sessions was a great way to talk about our faith. When students of this age are in a big group, only a few students tend to stand up and speak. When we were split up into small groups, it was easier to get our thoughts incorporated into the conversation. Seeing what other students felt about some of the topics given was an eye-opening experience for me.

When we attend gatherings such as the Respect Life Retreat, we often talk about respecting others, but this year we turned the topic around. It was nice to talk about how to respect ourselves as well. Geoff Andrews showed how important it is not only to respect other students, but also to respect your own dignity.

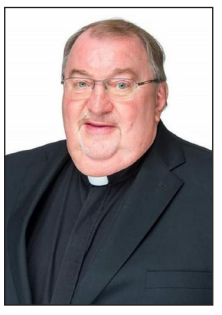
It was a great chance to sit and reflect on what that truly means in my own life. Sometimes it is hard to find the time to sit and think about this topic, but getting together as Catholic students sets a time aside just for us to think, which is very helpful.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OPENING, FROM PAGE 1

this work forward," said Megan Robl, executive director of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas.

Robl said the Sisters had approached Catholic Charities a few years ago about taking over the location.



FR. CHARLES STEIER

Fr. Charlie died in September of 2024, and a share of his bequest included Catholic Charities as well as the diocese's priest retirement fund. And remodeling of the Neighbor to Neighbor building began about a year later.

Fr. Charlie, who grew up as the oldest of seven siblings on a farm in northeast Kansas, was ordained a priest in 1973.

He was drawn to the mission of Catholic Charities early in his priestly vocation and served on the board for many years.

His dedication to the organization's purpose took on an even more personal meaning in the mid 1980s.

His younger brother, Guy Steier, enjoys telling a story about Fr. Charlie in 1986.

Guy and his wife, Julie, were traveling back to their home in Beloit after adopting their first son through Catholic Charities in Dodge City.

Safeguarding about any disappointments that sometimes accompany adoptions, the Steier couple had decided to wait to tell anyone even close to them about their new addition to the family until they were home.

While traveling by Ellsworth, they decided to stop and show off their newborn to Fr. Charlie, who was pastor at St. Bernard Parish at the time. But Fr. Charlie told them he would be in a meeting at the time of their arrival.

"We told him we had picked up a baby," Guy said, "and the meeting didn't seem so important anymore."

Andrew Steier did indeed get to meet his Uncle Charlie that day, and by the time the new family of three reached Beloit, Andrew was being welcomed by numerous family members.

"We weren't going to tell anyone until we got home," Guy said, "but Charlie had called our mother, and the word was out."

Fr. Charlie would go on to baptize Andrew and his younger brother Steven, who joined the family five years later from Catholic Charities.

Adoption is just one of many services offered through Catholic Charities.

Last year, Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas touched 10,000 lives in the Salina Diocese, which covers 27,000 miles across 31 counties. The outreach team drove more than 66,000 miles, serving 29 rural communities. A full list of services provided by the CCNKS can be found at www.ccnks.org.

"Fr. Charlie's generosity will impact generations to come through the lives touched by Catholic Charities across our diocese," Robl said. "His legacy of faith and service will not soon be forgotten, and we are so deeply grateful for his beautiful example of loving kindness toward our neighbors in need."

She said Catholic Charities aims to ensure everyone in the diocese lives within an hour of a permanent office.

The opening of the Concordia office brought Catholic Charities one step closer to that goal, thanks in part to Fr. Charlie's generosity. The other three permanent offices are in Salina, Hays and Manhattan, and preliminary plans for a fifth one in northwest Kansas are ongoing.

Fr. Charlie's loyalty to Concordia and Cloud County began early in life while growing up on a farm in neighboring Washington County.

The Steier family attended Mass in the St. Bernard parish in Clara, a small unincorporated town about 12 miles north of Clifton. After his ordination, Fr. Charlie said his first Mass in St. Bernard Church. The church building was moved years ago, but the cemetery still bears the name of St. Bernard, and Fr. Charlie chose it as his final resting place.

Fr. Charlie is remembered for directing numerous building projects at several of the parishes where he served over his five decades of priesthood.

His family can now add one more to that list.



COURTESY PHOTO

Megan Robl, executive director at CCNKS, thanks attendees at the opening of the office in Concordia.

National retired religious collection announced

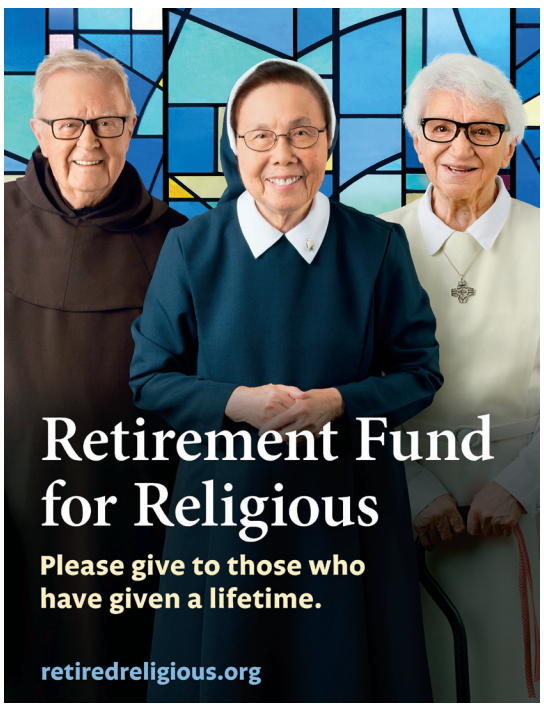
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) invites Catholics throughout the Diocese of Salina to support the 2026 Retirement Fund for Religious collection on Dec. 12-13.

In 2025, Catholics across the diocese contributed $55,515.29 to the collection, primarily through their parishes.

Nationally, the 2025 collection raised a record-breaking $37.1 million. The latest grant cycle provided $40 million in Direct Care Assistance to 261 religious communities. These funds help cover health care, housing and daily living expenses, strengthening communities' ability to provide care in the years ahead.

The need remains substantial. Nearly 19,000 aging religious depend on this support. In 2025, their average annual cost of care was approximately $62,000 per person, while skilled nursing care averaged over $102,000. The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious was $9,390, compared with $24,856 for the average lay beneficiary.



"When we give, we thank them for a lifetime of service and make sure they can grow old in peace, dignity, and prayer," wrote John Knutsen, NRRO director.

Since the collection began in 1988, Catholics have contributed more than $1 billion to the Retirement Fund for Religious. In addition to financial assistance, the NRRO offers educational programs, consultation and retirement-planning resources to help religious communities address long-term needs.

PASTORAL FORMATION COURSES OFFERED

BY COLEEN STEIN
CSTEIN@DCDIOCESE.ORG

Looking to deepen your faith? Two online pastoral ministry formation classes are being offered to members of the Salina and Dodge dioceses.

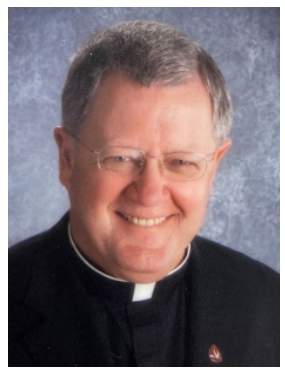
Introduction to New Testament (THEO 1013)

This three-credit-hour course explores the books of the New Testament, emphasizing spirituality, theology, and historical context, particularly in the Gospels and letters of St. Paul. This course is meant to help you better understand and enjoy reading scriptures and the New Testament, which are at the heart of our faith, hope, and love.

- Instructor: Fr. Reggie Urban
- When: Saturdays, 8:15 a.m. to noon, Jan. 23–March 20
- Cost: $150 for college credit or $75 for enrichment



Fr. Schremmer



Fr. Urban

Sacred Companions: The Gift of Spiritual Friendship and Direction (THEO 4881)

Participants will explore holy listening, spiritual friendship, and the art of accompaniment with opportunities to practice these skills in prayerful conversation. Sacred Companions calls participants to recover the "art of the gift of having a sacred companion and the grace of becoming one for others."

- Instructor: Fr. Robert Schremmer
- When: Tuesdays, 6–9:30 p.m., Jan. 26–Feb. 16
- Cost: $50 for college credit or $25 for enrichment

Both courses meet online through Zoom. Participants should have a computer with a microphone and camera. Add $5 per course for postage and handling.

To register, contact Coleen Stein at cstein@dcdiocese.org by Jan. 10, 2027.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

December 1
• iGiveCatholic Fundraiser.

December 4-6
• Jesus Heals: Hispanic Conference, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.

December 11-13
• Men's Silent Ignatian Retreat, Capuchin Spiritual Life Center, Victoria.

December 18-20
• Fiat Discernment Retreat for Women, Wichita.

December 25
• Christmas Day.

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







Walking alongside moms, welcoming new life

By Megan Robl
Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas

As the proud aunt of four nieces and nephews, with a fifth on the way, I have seen firsthand how a new life changes a family. There is much joy in welcoming a baby, along with new routines, responsibilities and a whole lot of adjusting.

It also reminds me how much support parents need during that transition. Someone to offer encouragement, help get essentials ready, and time to recover, bond and find their footing.

For a mother facing pregnancy with financial worries or little support, those needs can feel overwhelming. A car seat for the ride home. Diapers and clothes for those first days. Help keeping the lights on while she recovers. Someone who listens without judgment and reminds her she is not alone.

As Catholics, we believe every person is created in the image and likeness of God. Our call to cherish life invites us to care for both mother and child during pregnancy, after birth and through the challenges that follow.

At Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas, Pregnancy Support and Adoption Services provide that care through relationships. Mothers receive compassionate support, help understanding their options and assistance preparing for the months ahead. Support continues for up to 12 months after birth.

For families facing financial hardship, assistance with rent, utilities and medical expenses can provide much-needed breathing room, especially when unpaid maternity leave leaves a mother worrying about bills while she needs time to heal and bond with her baby.

One mother shared, "Your ministry has already been a huge blessing to me and helped me feel like I am a bit more prepared for this baby! Truly grateful and blessed."

Another described the practical help she received: "You made our transition home so much smoother with the necessary supplies and clothes and car seat and diaper bag. All of it is such a blessing."

Last year, 260 mothers received free pregnancy support across our diocese, and 40 also received financial assistance. Additionally, 632 families received diapers through Catholic Charities' diaper program, which provides eligible low-income families with 100 diapers and one package of wipes per child each month until age 3. More than 330,000 diapers were distributed last year.

Catholic Charities also facilitates adoption for mothers who choose that path, offering compassionate support before, during and after placement.

You may never meet the mother whose rent you help cover or the baby who rides home in a car seat you helped provide. But your generosity can help them begin life together with greater security and hope.

Through the Kansas Pregnancy Resource Act, eligible gifts to Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas' Pregnancy Support and Adoption Services may qualify for a Kansas income tax credit equal to 70% of the contribution. For example, a $1,000 gift could provide a $700 Kansas income tax credit, subject to state approval and credit availability.

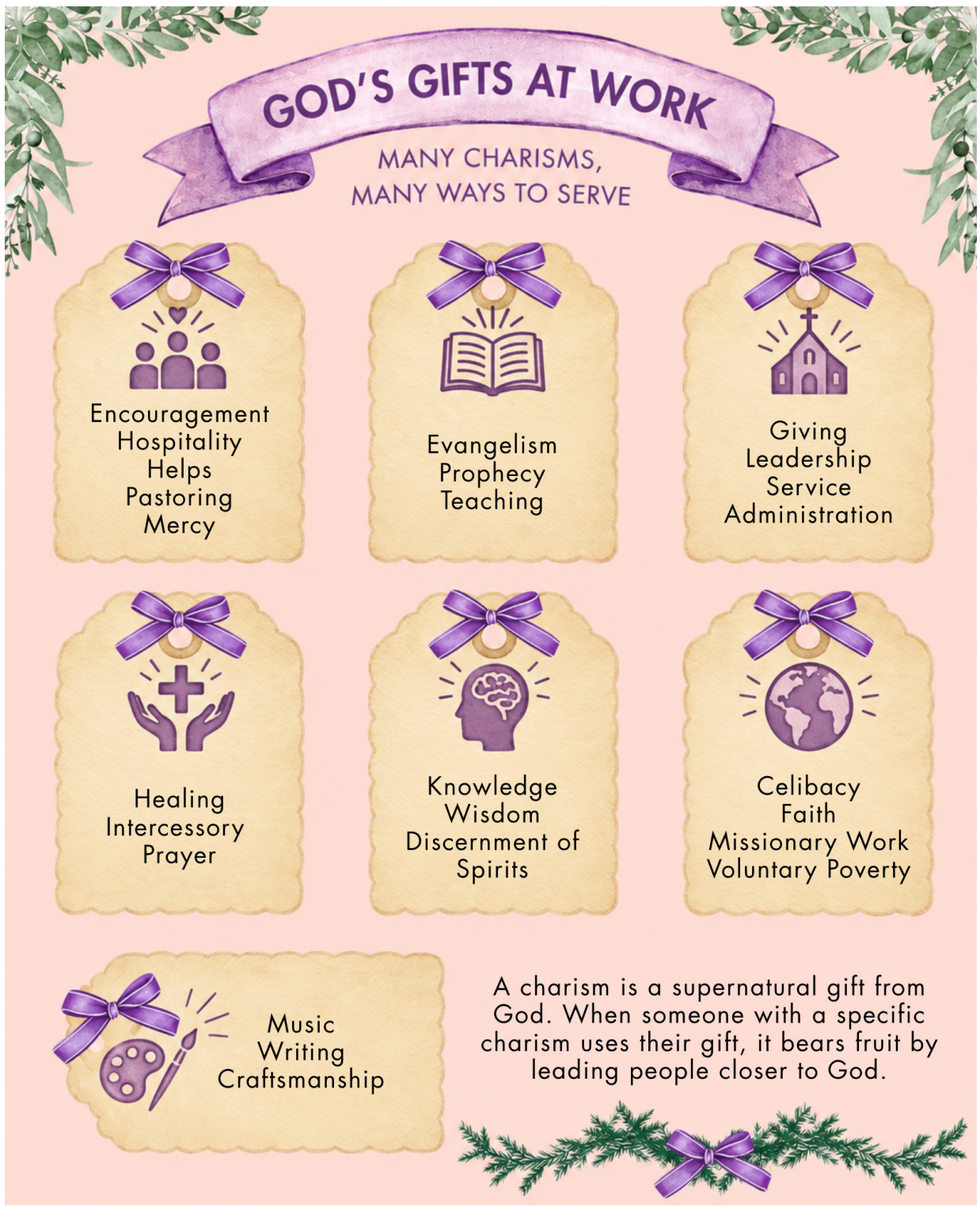
To participate, submit your contribution with a completed K-96 form. Gifts must be received by Dec. 31, 2026, to qualify for the 2026 credit. Unused credits may be carried forward for up to five succeeding tax years. Visit ccnks.org/taxcredits for the form and giving instructions, or contact me at 785-825-0208 or mrobl@ccnks.org. Your tax advisor can help determine how the credit applies to your situation.

If you or someone you know needs pregnancy or adoption support, please call that same number to connect with caring staff.

Discovering our charisms

God gives each of us unique gifts—and calls us to share them

BY CHRISTIANA NIEWALD
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER



Charisms.

Many of us have probably heard this word before, some might be able to put a definition to it, yet very few of us Catholics actually know how important they are and how they impact our lives every day. Such a gift with so much potential, yet a topic that is widely foreign to us. So, what exactly are charisms? And how can each of us use them to build up the Church today?

Like the gifts of the Holy Spirit, every Christian receives their charisms at Baptism. They are free gifts, completely unmerited, yet given for the purpose of participating in God's supernatural work here on Earth. These are gifts ranging from craftsmanship and music to leadership and teaching – there are twenty-four in total.

However, while a charism can work through a person's talents, it doesn't always mean they have that charism. A person might be a gifted musician, but that doesn't necessarily mean they have the charism of music. What distinguishes the two is the supernatural fruit that results when a person uses that gift. When a person embodies their charism, it leads other people closer to God and to the Church.

Have you ever heard someone play a song on the piano and been moved to prayer because of the beauty conveyed through the music and the person playing it? That's supernatural fruit! It is God's way of using mankind to express his love and truth.

Every baptized Christian usually has two or three dominant charisms. That is not to say they lack other charisms, but rather it is through these that they are best able to serve the Church. One might have the charism of evangelism, but that is not to say they are lacking in things like faith or craftsmanship. Instead, it is through evangelism that the Church needs them most and will benefit from what they can offer.

For this reason, charisms are not meant for personal use and enjoyment; they are not lights to be kept under a bushel basket. Rather, God gives them to us to assist other people on their journey towards Heaven.

Discernment of charisms is not a difficult process, yet it does require much reflection and prayer. In my own experience, my peers and I spent about two weeks of our Theology class going through the concept and discerning our gifts. We spent a lot of time in adoration and journaling, doing much meditation side-by-side with Jesus.

The process culminated when our teacher led us through a long, prayerful assessment to help determine our charisms. There were over one hundred questions, with no wrong answers, but rather an emphasis on honest self-reflection.

When we finally received the results, I wasn't necessarily surprised at my feedback, but surprised that God would use those specific gifts to help me better the Church. It revealed to me the gifts He had bestowed on me as well as those that were not among my own. But it can't stop with the results. Once our charisms are realized, it is our job to put them to use.

Charisms, as a matter of fact, can play a huge part in discovering our Christian vocations. In a world of so many opportunities and many decisions, sometimes our specific call can be confusing, hazy or daunting. Yet our charisms can help with this process. It's like a young high school athlete who obviously has a lot of potential in a specific sport, say track, for example. If this athlete has the speed and build, they should not only try out for the team but also work hard to develop this talent.

In the same way, we as Christians are given charisms that we should use and develop as best we can. Someone with the charism of healing, for example, might consider going into the medical field and increasing their knowledge in the gift God has given them. By doing so, they are building up the Church in some way, even if indirectly.

Charisms.

They are our way of being instruments of God's plan. They are His way of reaching the hearts of other Christians through our works. They are part of God's plan for each and every one of us. You. Me. We all have charisms, and it's our life's work to discover them and use them to draw others to Christ. These gifts are not meant to be hidden but put on display so that others may draw near.

—

Christiana Niewald is a senior at St. John's Catholic High School in Beloit.

What gifts has God given you? How are you sharing them with the world?

HOW CAN YOU DISCERN YOUR CHARISMS?

The first step in any discernment is **prayer**! Ask God to reveal the gifts He has given you.

Take time to **reflect** on your talents, experiences and the ways God works through you.

Ask a trusted mentor or friend about what gifts they see in you.

Take a charism assessment, like the one in the QR code below from Many Parts Ministries. Their website can have great resources to help you learn more.

Lastly, **put your gifts into practice** and notice how your charisms help other people grow closer to God and His Church.

AROUND THE DIOCESE





Courtesy Photos

Above, at St. Francis Xavier parish, Living Water Ministry and the Tuesday Night Rosary Group would like to thank everyone who helped make the 19th Annual Rosary Rally a blessed event.

At right, Hays fourth graders went through altar server training with Fr. Nick at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.



Courtesy Photo

Above, parishioners from Immaculate Conception, Minneapolis, celebrated Fr. Mark Wesely's birthday in October with a potluck and bingo hosted by the CCW.



Courtesy Photo

Above, the ladies of Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon brought back their famous annual chicken noodle dinner this fall, welcoming guests for the first sit-down meal since 2020. The event was a tremendous success, with 263 meals served. The ladies wish to thank everyone who attended to support the parish.

Christmas Greetings
TO SEMINARIANS

Adam Bates Andrew St. Germain Edgar Inda Gonzalez Deacon Kyle Pfeifer Tien Nguyen	**Kenrick School of Theology 5200 Glennon Drive St. Louis, MO 63119**
Max Megaffin Collin Thielen	**Pontifical North American College Gianicolo Street, 14 - 00165 Rome RM, Italy**
Dung Dau Joseph Schones	**Sacred Heart Seminary 7335 S. Hwy 100 P.O. Box 429 Hales Corners, WI 53130-0429**
Gus Hanson Phong (James) Tran	**St. Philip Neri Seminary 145 S. Millwood Ave, Wichita, KS 67213**
Thomas Braun Gabe Friess	**St. John Vianney School of Theology 1300 S. Steele St., Denver, CO 80210**
Holden Giefer	**St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish 230 E Cloud St, Salina, KS 67401**
Trung (Jos) Nguyen	**Mundelein Seminary 1000 E Maple Ave, Mundelein, IL 60060**

TO RETIRED CLERGY

Fr. Richard Daise	Fr. Norbert Dlabal
Fr. James Hake	Fr. Larry Letourneau
Fr. Jermome Morgan	Fr. Kerry Ninemire
Fr. Donald Pfannenstiel	Fr. Daniel Scheetz
Fr. Keith Weber	Fr. Alvin Werth
Fr. John Wolesky	Fr. Don Zimmerman

Priest's Name
C/O Office of the Bishop
103 N. 9th St., Salina, KS 67401

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

CASE IH



Other Manufacturers Offered:

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

PROPERTY
FOR LEASE OR SALE
A 2-BEDROOM BRICK HOME
WITH A 2 AND ½ CAR ATTACHED GARAGE/SHOP,
ONE-BATHROOM,
PARTIAL UNFINISHED BASEMENT,
LARGE LOT, RECENTLY UPGRADED
LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET
FROM ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN DAMAR, KS.
CALL 785-623-6727 FOR MORE INFORMATION

#iGIVECATHOLIC ON GIVING TUESDAY

It's as easy as ...

1

VISIT
salina.igivecatholic.org

2

SEARCH
for your favorite ministry

3

DONATE
$10 or More

Want to give early?
Advanced giving runs November 16 - 30

SCAN HERE!

2026 Participants

Abilene
St. Andrew Grade School
St. Andrew Parish
Atwood
Sacred Heart Parish
Belleville
St. Edward 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
Seminarian 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
Junction City
St. Francis Xavier Parish
St. Francis Xavier School
Manhattan
Manhattan Catholic Academy
Manhattan Catholic Schools
St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center
St. Thomas More Parish
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 1, 2026

YEAR-END GIVING

Your generosity. Faith in action.

End the year with a gift that helps faith grow across our diocese.







Many ways to give.

Cash gifts
Make a gift by cash or check.

Online gifts
Scan or visit givecfds.org to make your year-end gift today.

IRA charitable gifts
Ask us about giving directly from your IRA.

Donor-Advised Funds
Recommend a grant to support our diocese.

Gifts of grain
Share the harvest to help faith grow.

Gifts of stock
Give appreciated securities toward a meaningful gift.

Support what matters to you.



Bishop's Annual Appeal
Support ministries serving our diocese.



Seminarian Education
Help form future priests.



Communications and Publications
Help share stories of faith.



Foundation Funds
Provide ongoing support for parishes, schools, and ministries.

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA

www.givecfds.org
785-827-8746
development@salinadiocese.org
PO Box 1696, Salina, KS 67402

BAPTISMS

Bella Catherine Beran, daughter of Ryan and Megan Beran, was baptized October 25, 2026, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Eli Roy Campbell, son of Cody and Ashley (Martinez) Campbell, was baptized October 31, 2026, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Lewis William Chism, son of Luke and Logan Chism, was baptized September 19, 2026, by Fr. Kyle Berens at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Mateo Leonardo Lucatero Cisneros, son of J and Xochitl Cisneros Portillo, was baptized September 26, 2026, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Easton Robert Compagnone, son of Curt and Janelle Compagnone, was baptized October 11, 2026, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Ava Mae Dreith, daughter of Alan and Haley Dreith, was baptized October 24, 2026, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Vadalynn Marie Eilert, daughter of Landon and Kinzey Eilert, was baptized October 18, 2026, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Bento Stoffel Faccin, son of Jamil Faccin and Paula Giacomini, was baptized October 11, 2026, by Fr. John Paul Nti at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Vivian Harper Girard, daughter of Elias and Katherine Girard, was baptized October 24, 2026, by Fr. Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

Lachlan Carl Isern, son of Cody and Anna Isern, was baptized October 11, 2026, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Breckyn Ashley Luck, daughter of Austin and Kayla (Haring) Luck, was baptized October 4, 2026, by Fr. Mark Wesely at St. Patrick's Church in Lincoln. Godparents are Lance Wolting and Whitney Luck.

Elden An Nguyen, son of Hoai and Mary Nguyen, was baptized October 4, 2026, by Fr. Luke Friess at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Kaitlyn and Levi Peters, daughter and son of Garrit and Amie Peters, were baptized October 18, 2026, by Fr. Mathew Chacko at Sacred Heart Church in Oberlin.

Emery Ann Sanders, daughter of Calvin and Catrina Sanders, was baptized October 11, 2026, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Joseph Michael Saner, son of Quentin and Callie Charbonneau, was baptized September 27, 2026, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Timothy Daniel Schwartz, son of Josh and Ashley (Augustine) Schwartz, was baptized October 18, 2026, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Rhett Matthew Shoemaker, son of Connor and Stacy Shoemaker, was baptized September 27, 2026, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Scottlyn Jo Stein, daughter of Kolby and Paige Stein, was baptized October 25, 2026, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Mollie Jean Timmons, daughter of Gregory and Zoie (Barriger) Timmons, was baptized October 24, 2026, by Fr. Luke Friess at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Mary Margaret Vajnar, daughter of Colton and Hayley Vajnar, was baptized September 27, 2026, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Louise Renee Wallpe, daughter of Evan Wallpe and Kelsey (Farmer) Wallpe, was baptized October 4, 2026, by Fr. Vincent John, CMI, at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

WEDDINGS

Carson Jacob Ackerman and Olivia Ann Terryberry were married October 2, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Matthew Davied witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Jeffrey and Kelly Ackerman. Parents of the bride are Shawn and Rita Terryberry. Witnesses were Zach Wurtenberger and Sophia Terryberry.

Charles Barragan, of Protection**, and Santana Reeves,** of Scandia, were married October 17, 2026, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Fr. Joseph Kieffer witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Dean Chase and Yannette Barragan. Parents of the bride are Todd Reeves and Cherrish Beckmann. Witnesses were Koy Alexander and McKenna Carlgren.

Gage Robert Christiansen and Regan Lynn Robinson were married October 3, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Curtis and Tami Christiansen. Parents of the bride are Justin and Christen Robinson. Witnesses were Ethan Straub and Raelyn Robinson.

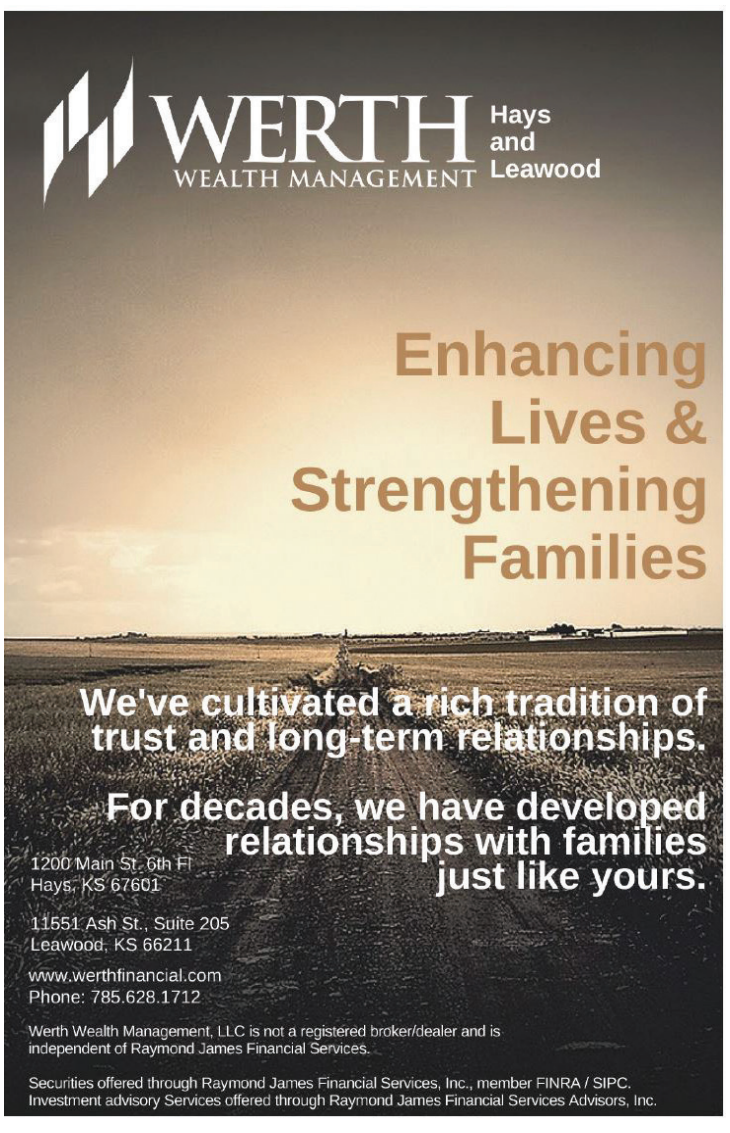
Dustin Corliss and Megan Schoendaler were married October 24, 2026, at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Russell and Susan Corliss. Parents of the bride are Steven and Cheryl Schoendaler. Witnesses were Cortney Brunswig and Cole Wise.

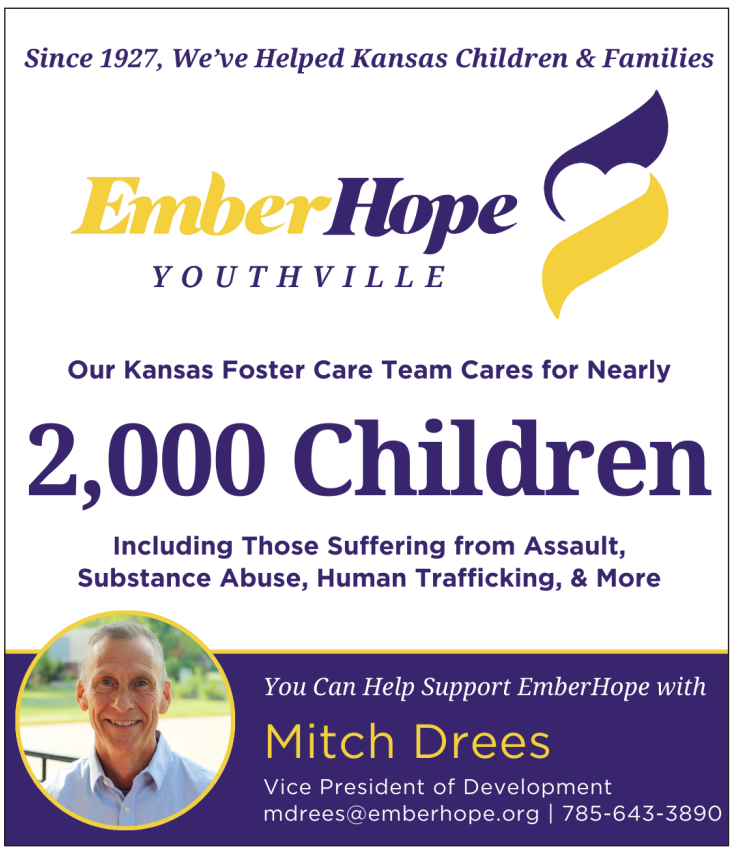
Wyatt Robert Huss and Aubrey Lynn Koenigsman were married October 24, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Darren and Bridget Huss. Parents of the bride are Joseph and Tami Koenigsman. Witnesses were Cuttar Huss and Megan Koenigsman.

Clayton Schwarz and Hailey Dinkel were married September 19, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Robert and Nancy Schwarz. Parents of the bride are Lana Dinkel and the late Mike Dinkel. Witnesses were Will Bixenman and Brittany Chapin.









FUNERALS

Lillian A. "Lil" Basgall, 85, died November 2, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 5 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker presided. Inurnment in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Dennis Cyre, 58, died October 7, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 12 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center. Fr. Kerry Ninemire presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, St. Joseph.

Ruth Ann Fry, 70, died November 6, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 11 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Burial in St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery, Hays.

Joe Johnston, 101, died April 3, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 27 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Cawker City. Fr. Luke Thielen presided. Burial in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Cawker City.

Reinhold "Ronnie" Joseph Leiker, 86, died October 21, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 27 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Francis Cemetery, Munjor.

Donna Mae (Garrett) Schmidt, 93, died October 18, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 6 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Burial in St. Catherine Cemetery, Catharine.

Verna Marie Schumacher, 92, died October 28, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 31 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Charlene A. Staab, 88, died October 1, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 23 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker and Fr. Ron Comeau presided. Inurnment in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

Edgar Wagner, 90, died August 4, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 10 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Cawker City. Fr. Luke Thielen presided. Burial in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Cawker City.

Thomas "Tom" Zimmerman, 90, died September 28, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated October 1 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

SEND US YOUR INFORMATION!

To submit a baptism, wedding, or funeral announcement to The Register, please email details to Lori Garcia at theregister@salinadiocese.org

Thank you for reading The Register!

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

BAALMANN MORTUARY & CREMATORY
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.baalmannmortuary.com

HAYS MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUNERAL HOME
1906 Pine Street ~ Hays, Kansas 67601
Phone ~ 785-628-1009
haysmemorial.com
A Family Serving Families

Religious Gifts
For All Occasions:
Baptism ~ Confirmation ~ First Communion ~ RCIA ~ Wedding
The I. DONNELLY Co., Inc. SINCE 1906
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

RYAN MORTUARY & CREMATORY

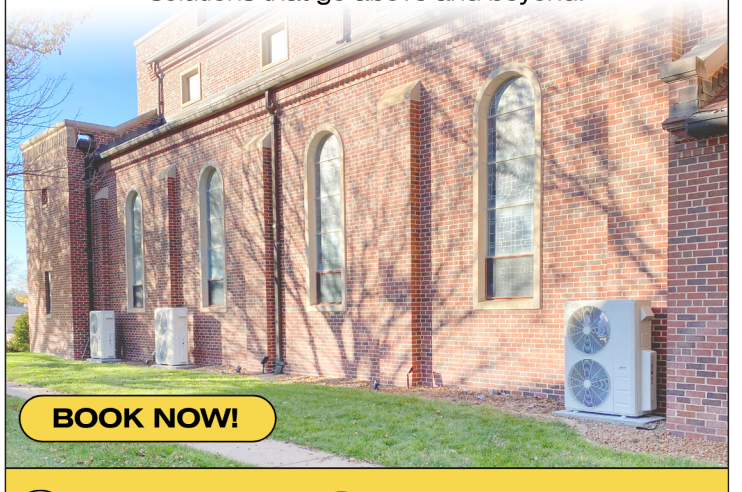
A family serving families for over four generations
Next to Sacred Heart Cathedral
137 N. Eighth, Salina (785) 825-4242
www.ryanmortuary.com
SELECTED Independent FUNERAL HOMES®

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

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

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

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

Who, me?



BILL Meagher
Deacon, Salina Diocese

As Thanksgiving approaches, I've been thinking about what I'm grateful for. Family, friends, and the countless blessings I probably take for granted far too often.

But number one on the list—and something I know I don't fully appreciate—is God's constant invitation and desire for a relationship with us.

Think back to when you were young. You're at a school dance, and the prettiest girl in school walks up and asks you to dance. You look around, convinced she must be talking to someone behind you. You stutter, "Who, me?" And she makes you feel like a million dollars when she smiles and says yes.

Or imagine being a kid who goes to high school basketball games. You've spent the season watching the varsity star. You know his name, you've cheered for him all year, and you look up to him. Then one night, he walks up, calls you by name, and thanks you for coming to his games. You look excitedly at your parents, blown away that he knows who you are.

Even as adults, we experience this. Imagine walking into a big, successful business expecting to talk with one of the employees. Instead, the owner hears you're there and comes out to visit. You figure he has a hundred more important things to do, yet he's taking time to talk with you.

Something about those moments catches us off guard. Of course, we know who these people are, but we never expected them to know us, much less want to spend time with us.

Now we are going to take this a giant step further.

The God who created you, me, this world, and all of space and time wants to spend time with you. He knows everything about you. Your strengths, weaknesses, struggles, and even your sins. And He still wants a relationship with you. In fact, He can't get enough of you!

And here's what makes that even more incredible. We're not just pursuing Him. He's seeking us out.

Every time we turn to God in prayer, we're responding to an invitation He's already extended. He's the one who invited us in the first place. He's the one who desires that time with us.

Think about that for a minute. The God of the universe is inviting you to spend time with Him. If that doesn't make you feel special, I don't know what will.

As Advent approaches, I want to challenge you to say yes to that invitation as often as you can. Say yes when He's inviting you to prayer. Say yes when He's inviting you to spend time with Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Say yes when He's inviting you to open Scripture and read His words. And say yes when He's inviting you to serve the people He loves.

And the next time you wonder whether God really wants to hear from you, remember this—He's the one asking!

Advent Prayer for the Family

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

Cut this out and pray with your family!



✝

Notice Changes. Stay Alert.

A change in behavior does not prove abuse, but it may invite a caring adult to pay closer attention.

OBSERVE WITHOUT ASSUMING
Listen, note objective facts and avoid confronting or investigating on your own.

FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE
Report suspected abuse or neglect by calling 866-752-8855
Or contact by email at reportabuse@salinadiocese.org
Website: reportandprotect.com

REMEMBER:
Awareness can open a door to help.

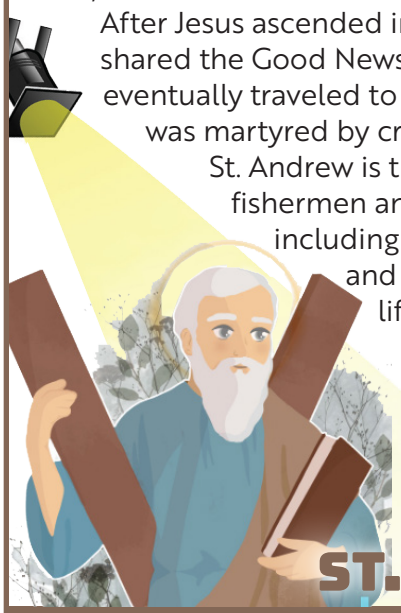
Sponsored by the Office of Safe Environment
Catholic Diocese of Salina

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS

St. Andrew was a fisherman in Galilee when Jesus called him to become one of his disciples. Andrew left his nets behind to follow Him. Before following Jesus, Andrew was a disciple of St. John the Baptist. When John pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God, Andrew followed him. Convinced he had found the Messiah, Andrew brought his brother, St. Peter, to meet Jesus, too.

After Jesus ascended into heaven, Andrew shared the Good News with others. He eventually traveled to Greece, where he was martyred by crucifixion.

St. Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen and several countries, including Scotland, Greece and Russia. St. Andrew's life reminds us that holiness often begins with a simple yes to Jesus' call.



ST. ANDREW
FEAST DAY: NOVEMBER 30

THE REGISTER VOLUME 89, NO. 11 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 December 18.* • *Deadline for news is November 27.* • *Deadline for advertising is November 27.*
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/