La Vida Consagrada: Un Gran Regalo de Dios

+ Reverendo
John B. Brungardt
Obispo de Dodge City

Acompáñenos el 4 de febrero para nuestra celebración de la Vida Consagrada. Hablen con una hermana religiosa o un hermano religioso en nuestra diócesis — ellos les hablaran sobre todas las bendiciones que Dios les ha dado en su llamado.

Mientras comenzamos un año nuevo en el calendario, reflexionamos en los numerosos regalos recibidos del Señor en el 2011 y antes. Uno de estos regalos es la vida religiosa, esos hombres y mujeres viviendo una vocación consagrada en una comunidad religiosa. Beato Juan Pablo II enseño: "Los/as Religiosos/as traen el Pueblo de Dios en contacto con la Redención por el testimonio evangélico y eclesial que llevan por palabra y ejemplo al mensaje de Jesús."

Mi primer conocimiento de hermanas religiosas fue como un estudiante de segundo grado de la Escuela Primaria Católica Los Siete Dolores en Manhattan. Las Hermanas de San José de Concordia me daban clases; ¡algunas probablemente estaban orando para que yo fuera un sacerdote algún día! Mi maestra de cuarto grado, la Hermana Leo Frances, falleció recientemente; que Dios lleve su alma a la gloria celestial. Le doy gracias a esas hermanas, y a tantas otras hermanas religiosas y hermanos religiosos que han traído la fe de Jesús y Su Iglesia a mí, y que continúan influyendo sobre mí en mi ministerio episcopal.

El sábado, 4 de febrero vamos a tener una Misa especial en acción de gracias por los/as religiosos/as consagrados/as sirviendo en nuestra Diócesis Católica de Dodge City. La Santa Misa será a las 10:30 a.m. en la *Dominican Motherhouse* en Great Bend, seguido por una comida. Los invito a que me acompañen a celebrar el regalo de nuestros religiosos/as consagrados/as que sirven en ministerio para y con nosotros.

Beato Juan Pablo II le escribió a los obispos de Estados Unidos: "La vida religiosa en los Estados Unidos ha sido realmente *un gran regalo de Dios para la Iglesia y para su país.* Desde los primeros años coloniales, por la gracia de Dios, el celo evangelizador de los/as extraordinarios/as hombres y mujeres religiosos/as, animado y sostenido por el esfuerzo perseverado de los Obispos, a ayudado a la Iglesia a llevar los frutos de la Redención a su tierra. Los/as religiosos/as estuvieron entre sus pioneros. Ellos/as abrieron el camino hacia la educación católica en todos los niveles, ayudando a crear un sistema educativo magnifico desde la escuela primaria asta la universidad. Le dieron vida a instalaciones de salud extraordinarias por sus números y por su calidad. Dieron una valiosa contribución a la subastación de servicios sociales. Trabajando hacia el establecimiento de justicia, amor y paz, ayudaron a construir un orden social basado en el Evangelio, esforzándose por llevar a generación tras generación a la madurez de Cristo. Su testimonio al amor primordial de Cristo ha sido expresado por sus vidas de oración y servicio dedicado a los demás. Religiosos/as contemplativos/as han contribuido inmensamente a la vitalidad de la comunidad eclesial. En cada etapa de su crecimiento, la Iglesia en su país, marcada con una destacada fidelidad hacia la Sede de Pedro, ha estado profundamente endeudada con sus religiosos/as: sacerdotes, hermanas, hermanos. Los/as religiosos/as de América han sido también un regalo para la Iglesia universal, porque han dado generosamente a la Iglesia en otros países; han ayudo a través de todo el mundo a evangelizar a los pobres y a propagar el Evangelio de Cristo de paz."

Estos numerosos ministerios y apostolados han dado frutos en nuestra diócesis, y les estamos agradecidos a las mujeres religiosas y a los hombres religiosos que han servido con fidelidad y con tanta dedicación en el Suroeste de Kansas por tantos años. Niños/as y solteros/as: ábranle su corazón al llamado de Jesús a la vida religiosa. Acompáñenos el 4 de febrero para nuestra celebración de la Vida Consagrada. Hablen con una hermana religiosa o un hermano religioso en nuestra diócesis—ellos les hablaran sobre todas las bendiciones que Dios les ha dado en su llamado. Jesús llama a muchos/as a la vida consagrada— ¡Él nos ama mas de lo que podamos pedir o imaginar!

Oración tiene que incluir alabanza, agradecimiento, no solo peticiones, dice el papa

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) -- La oración no debe centrarse en satisfacer las esperanzas ni los deseos de uno, sino que debe incluir alabanza, agradecimiento y confianza en el plan de Dios, el cual podría no ser igual que el propio de uno, dijo el papa Benedicto XVI.

De la manera que Jesús oraba a su Padre "nos enseña que en nuestras oraciones tenemos siempre que confiar en la voluntad del Padre y esforzarnos para ver todas las cosas a la luz de su plan misterioso", él dijo durante su audiencia general semanal el 14 de diciembre.

En su catequesis para casi 6,000 personas en la sala de audiencias del Vaticano, el papa Benedicto continuó una serie de charlas acerca de la oración cristiana.

Todos deben procurar comprender que cuando se le pide algo a Dios en oración "no debemos esperar el cumplimiento inmediato de lo que pedimos, de nuestra voluntad, sino en vez confiar en la voluntad del Padre", dijo el papa.

Solicitudes, alabanza y agradecimientos tienen que ser incluidos en la oración "aunque nos parezca que Dios no está satisfaciendo nuestras verdaderas expectativas", él dijo.

La oración es un diálogo con Dios que implica "abandonarse uno al amor de Dios", él dijo.

Lo más importante a descubrir, dijo el papa, es que el que contesta las oraciones de la humanidad es más importante que las propias oraciones contestadas.

Jesús demostró que antes que la gracia sea recibida uno tiene que "adherirse al dador" de esa gracia, eso es, alinearse y cumplir con Dios, dijo el papa.

Una simple oración infantil

Gracias Dios por todo lo que crece
Gracias por el arco iris en el cielo
Gracias por las estrellas que brillan
Gracias por mis amigos
Gracias por la luna y el sol
Gracias por todo lo que has hecho.

Niños traen regalos de ofertorio durante misa del papa durante la Fiesta De María de Dios

Foto CNS/Paul Haring

Niños vestidos como los Tres Reyes traen los regalos de ofertorio al papa Benedicto XVI durante la celebración de él de la Misa durante la fiesta de María, Madre de Dios, en la Basílica de San Pedro en el Vaticano el 1 de enero.

World Day for Consecrated Life to be celebrated Feb. 4 in Great Bend

The public is invited to attend a special gathering celebrating the World Day for Consecrated Life.

The Most Rev. John B. Brungardt asks the faithful to **"join with me in demonstrating our appreciation for the women and men religious in our midst by attending a special celebration, Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Dominican Motherhouse in Great Bend, with mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by a special meal."**

Those wishing to dine must RSVP for the meal by Jan. 20. Call (620) 227-1530 or email bhessman@dcdiocese.org. You can also register online by going to www.dcdiocese.org/vocations, and click on the meal registration form heading. Everyone in the diocese is invited to attend.

The actual 15th World Day of Consecrated Life falls on Thursday, Feb. 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The celebration is being held on the following Saturday so that more people can take part.

The commemoration was begun by Pope John Paul II in 1997, who explained that the day answers the intimate need to praise the Lord more solemnly and to thank him for the great gift of consecrated life, "which enriches and gladdens the Christian community by the multiplicity of its charisms and by the edifying fruits of so many lives totally given to the cause of the Kingdom....

"Immersed in a world which is often agitated and distracted, taken up sometimes by the press of responsibilities, consecrated persons also will be helped by the celebration of this annual World Day to return to the sources of their vocation, to take stock of their own lives, to confirm the commitment of their own consecration."

The World Day of Consecrated Life is held on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the Pope explained, because "the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is an eloquent icon of the total offering of one's life for all those who are called to show forth in the Church and in the world, by means of the evangelical counsels the characteristic features of Jesus -- the chaste, poor and obedient one."

What is 'Consecrated Life'?

The celebration on Feb. 4 in Great Bend will recognize and celebrate the gift of consecrated life by thanking God for the lives and ministry of the religious sisters and priests serving in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City.

Religious women (sisters and nuns) and religious men (brothers and priests) seek to follow Christ more closely by committing themselves to the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience, to prayer and to communal life.

Whereas a diocesan priest typically ministers within a geographic region called a diocese, commits himself to celibacy and promises obedience to his bishop, a religious priest makes a profession of chastity, poverty and obedience within his religious congregation and ministers where there is a need; that is, his ministry is not bound by the geography of a diocese.

SKR: Why did you enter religious life (instead of becoming a diocesan priest)?

Father Maurice Cummings, OCarm (Carmelite): "Deep down, I don't know. It's like asking a man why he married a blonde instead of a redhead. The real question is why God chose me for this life. My only answer is that He wants me to be happy because He loves me."

SKR: What have been your greatest joys?

Sister Catherine Therese Paulie, CSJ (Congregation of St. Joseph): "Probably that would be my ministry. As I look at each of my places of ministry, I would have to describe them as a joy: I loved being an elementary teacher. Definitely my time at St. Mary of the Plains, bittersweet now, makes me joyful as I reflect on those memories. …Each of the parishes in which I have ministered became cherished spots with special people."

SKR: Why did you enter religious life?

Father Rene Guesnier, OSB (Order of St. Benedict): "In the study of St. Thomas Aquinas in Philosophy I came across his teaching about the religious life. He said somewhere that it was the most perfect way of life. That was my primary reason."

SKR: What have been your greatest joys?

Father Cosmas K.O. Nwosuh, MSP (Missionaries of St. Paul): "I think one of the greatest sources of my joy as a seminary teacher and formator is being present at the priestly ordination of my students. Each student is as unique as each set or class is. I have never ceased to marvel at the transformative power of God's grace: transforming young (and sometimes "clueless") seminarians into ministers of his Word and Sacrament. The experience is simultaneously joyful and humbling."

Clockwise from far left: Garden City native Sister Mary Pieta (born Kensie Geier) shortly after receiving her new habit. She took her first vow in September 2008. She is currently serving the poor in England.

At left (second from left) is Dominican Sister Francine Schwarzenberger, who is seen working on a Habitat for Humanity house in Great Bend. Sister Francine now serves her community in Denver.

Father Benjamin Dande, MSFS, a priest of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, is a native of India. He came to the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City in December, 2007.

Father Rene Guesnier, OSB, is a member of the Order of St. Benedict. He became a Religious after reading St. Thomas Aquinas, who wrote that it was the "most perfect way of life."

David Myers/SKR Photos

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Priests on the Prairie

Father Andrew McGovern; Jan. 15, 2002

Editor's Note: *With this first issue of the new year, the Register reintroduces the Priest on the Prairie feature. Each article will include information about a late priest that served the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. They are written by Tim Wenzl, diocesan archivist, and are included in his necrology, "Priests on the Prairie."*

Father McGovern was born Aug. 29, 1927, at Bundarra, Carrigallen, County Leitrim, Ireland. He was ordained at St. Peter's College, Wexford, Ireland, on June 7, 1953, by the Most Rev. James Staunton, bishop of Ferns.

Father McGovern was one of many Irish priests who were recruited in the seminary for service in Kansas.

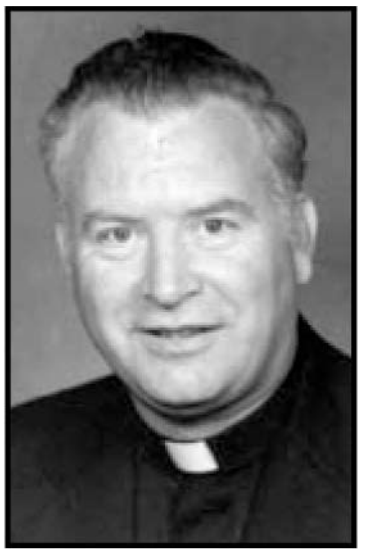
After the Diocese of Dodge City was established in 1951, the newly ordained priests were divided by picking a slip of paper with the name of either the Wichita or Dodge City diocese from a *biretta* [a square cap with three or four peaks] in Bishop Carroll's office.

Father McGovern served as associate pastor at St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend, for a short time in 1953 before his appointment as associate pastor at St. Joseph, Ellinwood, (1953-1957).

His pastorates included: Sts. Peter and Paul, North Kinsley, and Holy Rosary, Burdett, (1957-1962); St. John, Kiowa, (1962-1965); St. Joseph, Beaver, (1965-1970); Sacred Heart, Larned, (1970-1979); St. John, St. John, and St. Francis Xavier, Seward, (1979-1991), and Immaculate Conception, Claflin, Holy Family, Odin, St. Joseph, Beaver, and St. Catherine, Dubuque, (1991-1993), and St. John, St. John, (1993-1996).

While stationed in Larned, he also served as chaplain at St. Joseph Memorial Hospital. He was Diocesan Director for the Propagation of Faith from 1980 to 1996.

Father McGovern died Jan. 15, 2002, at the age of 74. Bishop Gilmore celebrated his funeral on Jan. 19 in St. Elizabeth Chapel at the Catholic Care Center, Wichita. He was buried at St. Joseph Cemetery, Aughavas, Carrigallen, County Leitrim, Ireland.



Father Andrew McGovern

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dcdiocese.org/archivist-diocesan/necrology

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Scripture Readings

Sunday, January 15, 2012
First Samuel 3:3-10, 19
Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
First Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20
John 1:35-42

Monday, January 16, 2012
First Samuel 15:16-23
Psalms 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23
Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 17, 2012; Saint Anthony, abbot
First Samuel 16:1-13
Psalms 89:20, 21-22, 27-28
Mark 2:23-28 or Matthew 19:16-26

Wednesday, January 18, 2012
First Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51
Psalms 144:1, 2, 9-10
Mark 3:1-6

Thursday, January 19, 2012
First Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7
Psalms 56:2-3, 9-10, 10-12, 13-14
Mark 3:7-12

Friday, January 20, 2012
First Samuel 24:3-21
Psalms 57:2, 3-4, 6, 11
Mark 3:13-19

Saturday, January 21, 2012; Saint Agnes, virgin and martyr
Second Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27
Psalms 80:2-3, 5-7
Mark 3:20-21

Sunday, January 22, 2012
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
First Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Monday, January 23, 2012
Second Samuel 5:1-7, 10
Psalms 89:20, 21-22, 25-26
Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 24, 2012; Saint Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor
Second Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19
Psalms 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 25, 2012; Conversion of Saint Paul, apostle
Acts 22:3-16, or Acts 9:1-22
Psalms 117:1, 2
Mark 16:15-18

Thursday, January 26, 2012; Saints Timothy and Titus, bishops
Second Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29
Psalms 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14
Mark 4:21-25

Friday, January 27, 2012
Second Samuel 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6, 6-7, 10-11
Mark 4:26-34

Saturday, January 28, 2012; Saint Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor
Second Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17
Psalms 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, January 29, 2012
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9
First Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

A great gift of God

Continued from Page 1

persevering efforts of the Bishops, has helped the Church to bring the fruits of the Redemption to your land. Religious were among your pioneers. They blazed a trail in Catholic education at all levels, helping to create a magnificent educational system from elementary school to university. They brought into being health care facilities remarkable both for their numbers and quality. They made a valuable contribution to the provision of social services. Working towards the establishment of justice, love and peace, they helped to build a social order rooted in the Gospel, striving to bring generation after generation to the maturity of Christ.

Their witness to the primacy of Christ's love has been expressed through lives of prayer and dedicated service to others. Contemplative religious have contributed immensely to the vitality of the ecclesial community. At every stage in its growth, the Church in your nation, marked by a conspicuous fidelity to the See of Peter, has been deeply indebted to its religious: priests, sisters, brothers. The religious of America have also been a gift to the universal Church, for they have given generously to the Church in other countries; they have helped throughout the world to evangelize the poor and to spread Christ's Gospel of peace."

These many ministries and apostolates have born fruit in our diocese, and we are grateful to the religious women and men who have served so faithfully and with such dedication in Southwest Kansas these many years. Children and singles: open your hearts to Jesus' call to the religious life. Join us on Feb. 4 for our celebration of the Consecrated Life. Speak with a religious sister or a religious priest serving in our diocese – they will tell you all about the blessings God has given them in their calling. Jesus calls many to the consecrated life – He loves us more than we can ask or imagine!

Kansas farmers' helplines

• Kansas Rural Family Helpline, toll free, 866-327-6578: Provides confidential, short-term emotional support, advice, and qualified referrals directly to rural families struggling with an unmet emotional, medical, financial, or legal need.

• Kansas Agriculture Mediation Services, toll-free, 800-321-3276: Helps farmers, agricultural lenders and USDA agencies resolve disputes in a confidential and non-adversarial setting outside the traditional legal process.

• WORKs -- Work Opportunities for Rural Kansans, toll free, 866-271-0853: Helps farmers, ranchers, and their families to make a transition from farming and ranching to non-farm employment.

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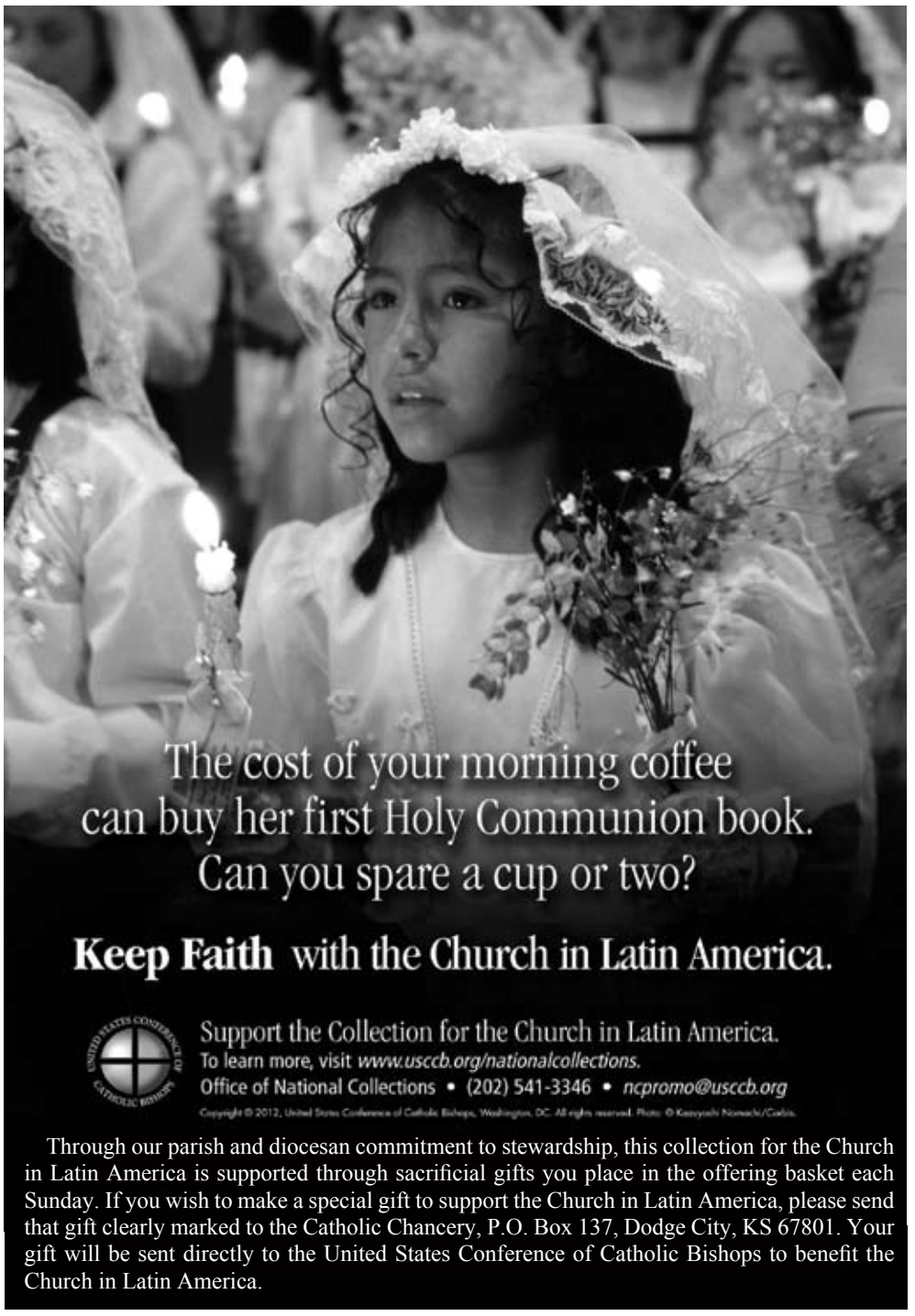

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