

July 10, 2016

A few end of (fiscal) year duties

With the start of a new fiscal year comes time to take care of a few housekeeping duties:

- First, I've had some complaints that the puzzles on the back pages are too difficult. (This is news to me, since I no longer try to solve them. The last time I tried, I pulled a muscle in my brain. My doctor told me to avoid any heavy thinking.)

I'll endeavor to print easier puzzles. But just so they don't become *too* easy, they will now be printed in *Qua(click)ta*, the clicking language of the Pygmy tribe of Equatorial Guinea. Soduko will now have the numbers spelled out. For example, "one" is "*paxa(click)túghghrrrrr(click, click)pthth*." Solutions will now be printed on a small piece of parchment and dropped somewhere in the Brazilian rain forest.

- I know this will come as a surprise, but we've decided to again change the name of the paper. Because so many people, including myself, are having a difficult time switching from "*Register*" to "*Catholic*", we're going to conveniently change the name to what most people know it as, now: the "*Southwest Kansas Reg ... Um, Er ... Catholic*."

Despite its name change, the "*Southwest Kansas Reg ... Um, Er ... Catholic*" will continue to bring you the high quality content that you've come to expect from the "*Southwest Kansas Reg ... Um, Er ... Catholic*". As you know, the "*Southwest Kansas Reg ... Um, Er ... Catholic*" is nearly the highest rated Catholic newspaper in southwest Kansas, second only to the Claflin/Ellinwood parish newsletter, <http://stjosephellinwood.com>.

- I'd like to announce a few upcoming special issues: 1) The Allergies Issue: With hay fever season in full swing, we'll soon have a Summer Allergy Issue, which will be printed entirely on Kleenex. (I'm not bragging, but, yes, this was my idea.) Please be considerate and don't use the Kleenex function until everyone has finished reading.

2) Our August issue will be the "Wildlife Issue" to celebrate our respect and appreciation to God for His gift of wildlife. Every person pictured in that issue will have complimentary moose ears *Photoshopped* onto them as a sign of unity with all of our four-legged friends. Coincidentally, this issue will include a pictorial essay of famous bishops down through history.

- One idea for a special issue that we're particularly excited about came after a discussion of the presidential election and how it should be addressed. Because it can be tricky presenting election articles without stepping on toes, we finally decided to devote an entire issue to the similarly related theme of "serious mental health disorders".

- You probably have noticed by now that the diocese has begun an appeal to raise funds for its various ministries. We can all agree that financial appeals can be annoying. On one occasion, during National Public Radio's fund drive, an NPR host actually said that if you are listening to public radio without paying, you are "guilty of theft". After that, there was no way I was going to donate! Well, the next morning, Audie Cornish of "All Things Considered" kicks in my door and shouts, "Consider this!" Then she slaps the cuffs on me and tosses me like a rag doll into the official NPR Donation Enforcement Van!

Our Catholic appeal, though, is not annoying. In fact, it allows you a direct way to most effectively help your fellow southwest Kansanians. You don't have to worry about your funds going to those strange and mysterious northwest Kansas folk we all hear about, or the city-dwelling, gabardine-wearing, hoity-toity urban Catholics of eastern Kansas. It's all about helping our neighbors who are most in need right here at home. And it's a good way for you to feel less guilty about being financial stable.

- I almost forgot: Due to the extreme weather patterns we've been experiencing, the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City has purchased a summer diocese on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Our summer chancery will be located on ocean-front property in Yankeetown (mainly because it sounds so cool to say the Catholic Diocese of Yankeetown).

Wait.... I think I just dreamt this. Dang. I hope I can return the scuba gear and mini-sub.

• Finally, I want to say thanks to you all for making the last fiscal year the most memorable fiscal year since I started, because it occurred the most recently.

In a note that's not entirely un-serious, I also want to say that in all the gatherings and events I had the honor of attending throughout the year, I am continually moved by the very clear examples of Christ that you, your parishes, and your communities bring to the diocese. This diocese is filled with people who work hard, laugh hard, and who are remarkably adept at making southwest Kansas a great place to live. And for this I thank God every day!