Southwest Kansas

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Sunday, January 7, 2018

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS
THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS
AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.”

— Matthew 5:16

Little Juan and the Blessed Mother

For some parishes, the day went by nearly unnoticed—there are many feast days, after all. But for others, especially those with an abundant Hispanic population, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was a festival, a celebration of the appearance of the Mother of God to an Indian peasant named Juan Diego more than 500 years ago on a hill near what is now Mexico City.

At the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Joan of Arc Parish in Elkhart, St. Mary Parish in Garden City, and other parishes across the diocese, the sound of booming drums could be heard as dancers performed in honor of Our Lady. Masses were celebrated, songs were sung, and a multitude of voices were raised to God in celebration of the Blessed Mother.

Today we celebrate Epiphany: the showing forth of the Christ Child Jesus to all the nations by the Magi (history gives us their names: Melchior, Balthasar, and Caspar). And what is to be revealed about Baby Jesus? — the Good News! In our second reading for today from Ephesians, St. Paul describes this Good News, this Gospel, as not only for the Jewish people, but also for “the Gentiles” (Ephesians 3:6). But just what is this Good News, and how does the Good News call us to live? This can be called the “kingdom of God way of life,” or Kingdom Living.

Archbishop Michael Jackels summarized the Good News in five points, and how we put that gospel into practice by another five points called Kingdom Living:

Good News:

1. I need a Savior — on my own, I am alone and hopeless.
2. Jesus is God became Man — Jesus is both divine and human, two natures in one divine person.
3. Jesus died and rose to save me — by His death Jesus frees me from sin; by His Resurrection Jesus opens for me the way to a new life.
4. Jesus invites me to believe, and I respond — to this saving faith. He gives me His Holy Spirit to help.
5. I follow Jesus and His Church, not the world — I follow His way of life. This will lead me to the fullness of happiness, peace, and life in heaven. The Holy Spirit assists me to follow Jesus.

Kingdom Living:

1. Daily Prayer: I need Jesus — personal prayer at least once a day.
2. Weekly Mass: Jesus becomes a part of me; I am strengthened by the Eucharist — worthy reception of the Eucharist on Sundays and other Holy Days (or more often).
3. Monthly Confession: Jesus forgives my sins — I make a review of my life, an examen, before the sacrament of reconciliation (recommended monthly, and whenever in a state of serious sin).
4. Study the Bible and the Catechism: I can’t love who/what I don’t know!
5. Witness the Good News: I lovingly share Jesus with others in forgiveness and service — being an active member of a parish community. I am impelled out of myself to others. I spread and defend the Catholic faith gently and compassionately.

In a series of articles, I will elaborate on each of the 10 points above. Let us take to head, heart, and hands/feet the Good News and Kingdom Living of Jesus. Let us not just “go through the motions” of our Catholic Faith in a mechanical way. Let us evangelize others by our witness of Jesus’ saving message. The “Newborn King” (Matthew 2:2) loves you, and all, more than you can ask or imagine!

— Bishop John Balthasar Brungardt

“‘But he said to them, ‘To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent!’” (Luke 4:43).
Blessing of the home
Nativity sets

Christ Child figurines for home Nativity scenes were blessed during all the Masses in Meade, Plains and Fowler on the Third Sunday of Advent.

This tradition, known as Bambinelli Sunday, was initiated by Pope Paul VI. Parishioners of St. Patrick’s, St. Anthony’s and St. John the Baptist churches brought their figurines to Mass to receive the special blessing. The photos show some of the figurines brought by parishioners of St. Patrick’s in Plains, and Father Ted Skalsky, pastor, offering the blessing.

“When you pray at home, before the crib, with members of your family, let yourselves be drawn by the tenderness of baby Jesus, born poor and frail in our midst, to give His love. This is the true Christmas.”
-- Pope Francis, Bambinelli Sunday, 2017

Help for farmers

• 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.

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

The Diocese of Dodge City requires all employees and volunteers who work with children to participate in a Protecting God’s Children awareness session. Through the Diocesan Awareness Sessions and other educational efforts of the diocese, all people of the diocese can learn how to discuss different aspects of abuse -- including sexual abuse -- with children and how to teach them to protect themselves.

For updated listings, visit www.dcdiocese.org/safe-environment.

Abuse Hotline

If you or someone you know may have been a victim of sexual abuse by clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Dodge City, you are asked to contact Dave Snapp, Fitness Review Administrator: (620) 225-5051 work; (620) 225-5051 home; dsnapp3@starrtech.com. You always have the right to directly contact the Department for Children and Families/Kansas Protection Report Center: Hotline number is 1-800-922-5330.

SISTER TERESA OROZCO, OP, DIES

She served God’s people for more than half a century

Sister Teresa Orozco, OP


Sister Teresa first worked at the Motherhouse in Great Bend in domestic work before serving as an aide in Saint Catherine Hospital in Garden City, where she also attended classes in nursing education at the local community college. Beginning in 1984, she worked in parish ministry and in the office of Mexican-American Affairs for the Diocese of Dodge City in Elkhart. Later, at the Motherhouse, she served as a translator for the local Spanish-speaking population and as a part time receptionist.

Sister Teresa is survived by her Dominican Sisters of Peace religious community, and one brother, Vincent, and two sisters Susanna (Candie) Stegman and Laura Denise Estep, all of Lamar, Colorado. Sister Teresa’s body was brought to the hospitality area of the Dominican Chapel of the Plains on Dec. 13 where it lay in state until the Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 15, with Father Ted Stoecklein presiding. A wake service was held Dec. 14. Burial was at the Sisters’ Resurrection Cemetery.

Memorials in honor of Sister Teresa Orozco may be sent to: Dominican Sisters of Peace, 2320 Airport Dr, Columbus OH 43219-2098 or given securely on line at www.oppeace.org.

Space is still available

Father John Forkuoh to lead pilgrimage to Holy Land

Father John Forkuoh, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Spearville, will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for 11 days, beginning May 28 and concluding June 7.

The adventure will include visits to the following locations:
Jerusalem • Nazareth • Bethlehem • Via Crucis • Cana • Dormition • Nativity Church • Capernaum • Last Supper • Getsemani • Tel Aviv.

The price for the pilgrimage, including Mass each day, airfare, 4-5 star hotels, breakfast and dinner, tips, taxes, etc., has been discounted to $3,800.

Call 855-842-8001 to pre-register and for more information about the trip. You can also contact Sandi with proximo travel at sandi@proximotravel.com.

Support gambling help hotlines and organizations

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

KSGamblingHelp.com
800-522-4700

Kansas Alliance for Responsible Gambling
For ‘Dreamers,’ the United States is THE ONLY HOME THEY KNOW

By RUBY THOMAS and JESSICA ABLE
Catholic News Service

SPRINGFIELD, Ky. (CNS) -- In response to Pope Francis’ call for Catholics to “Share the Journey” of their lives with one another under a two-year program introduced in September, the following stories relate the experiences and hopes of young Catholic immigrants who worship at St. Dominick Church in Springfield, Kentucky.

For now, they are protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, but that program is set to end in March unless Congress passes the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM Act.

YULIANA ORTEGA, 15, is a student at Washington County High School. Ortega came to the U.S. from Jalisco, Mexico, when she was just a year old. Ortega said she fears having to leave her friends and family in Springfield once the DACA program ends.

“I don’t know where I would go to,” she told The Record, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Ortega, who juggles school and work at the restaurant her family manages, said she wished she wasn’t judged because of her race. Following high school, she hopes to work one day as an interpreter.

“We have goals and things in our lives we want to reach,” she said.

WENDY HERNANDEZ, 21, is an English language tutor for Washington County Schools. Hernandez, who came to the U.S. when she was 6 years old with her mother and two siblings, said she considered her family’s experience.

She considered the U.S., and Springfield, in particular, her home. Since Hernandez learned of President Donald Trump’s decision to cancel DACA, she has found her future to be uncertain.

“It’s kind of scary because I don’t know what is going to happen,” she said. “My career, everything, is in their (lawmakers’) hands.”

Hernandez said there are several misconceptions concerning Dreamers, as DACA youth are sometimes called.

“We don’t get all the benefits everyone believes we do. We have to work harder than others to be able to go to school or to get a job sometimes,” she explained.

She said she worries about being forced to return to a country she does not know. If she could speak to legislators, she would tell them “to get to know us.”

“Get to know a little about us and see how we are trying to help our community. We have ambition and goals in our life for our future.”

CARLOS GUZMAN, 26, is owner and operator of Longview Roofing in Lebanon, Kentucky. Guzman, said ending the DACA program would have a devastating ripple effect in his life.

Not only would he be taken away from his home, family and faith community, but he would be stripped of his livelihood, a business he has worked hard to build, he said.

“I think a lot of people don’t realize we work hard to have a better future. We try our best to contribute to this country. We pay our taxes, we create jobs and we contribute to the economy,” he said.

Guzman, who was brought to the U.S. from Sonora, Mexico, at 14, said people should not judge each other solely based on what others are saying.

“I’m sure every parent wants a better future for their children. Some may think it was probably wrong (for our parents) bringing us here, but what would you do for your child?” he said. Guzman’s parents decided to bring him and his three brothers to the U.S. to avoid the constant violence they faced.

“It’s a big sacrifice because they left behind their parents and family. When family members die, it’s hard for them not being able to go back,” he said.

DORA LOZANO, 18, is a student at Elizabethtown Technical and Community College, where she is studying Spanish and special education.

Lozano said she has no memories of her native Mexico City, which she left with her family for the U.S. when she was three years old.

“I’m scared to lose everything. This is all I know,” she said.

If given the opportunity, Lozano said, she would ask legislators to try to understand the situation from her point of view.

“We didn’t come here to harm anyone; we came here to have a better life. This program (DACA) helps us to reach our goals. We don’t want it to be taken away.”

JUAN SAUCEDO, 16, is a junior at Washington County High School and wants to become a diesel mechanic. He came to the U.S. from Aguas Calientes, Mexico, when he was 4 years old.

Saucedo applied for DACA status earlier in 2017 and was in the application process when the Trump administration announced the end of the program. He is unsure of the status of his application.

“Our future is in their hands, but there’s nothing we can do,” the teen said. “We have goals like everyone else. Just because we’re Hispanic or a different race doesn’t mean we don’t have goals.”

MANUEL HERNANDEZ, 25, is a senior at Eastern Kentucky University where he is studying computer networking and security. He came to the U.S. with his two siblings, including sister Wendy, and their mother, when he was 13 years old.

Hernandez said he and other DACA youth contribute “to this country in many ways.”

“We’re students; we have jobs,” he said. “This is our home; I don’t think any of us want to go back.”

He said it’s difficult to fight against a narrative that depicts immigrants as ones who take jobs from others and demeanes them.

“We’re not just a stereotype. We don’t steal jobs. We’re not criminals. We’re trying to contribute as much as possible.”

Thomas and Able are on the staff of The Record, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Catholic Charities Infant Adoption Orientation for couples

The following is provided by Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas:

For couples struggling to start a family, there is hope. There are selfless birthparents looking for couples who can offer a better life for their child than they are able to provide. To help couples navigate the adoption process, Catholic Charities is offering an Infant Adoption Orientation on Jan. 12 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Newman Western Center, 236 San Jose, Dodge City.

“Catholic Charities is committed to providing education and support for birthparents as they create an adoption plan, and for couples who want to adopt,” said Lori Titsuworth, Adoption Social Worker. “So many times, people are interested in adoption but believe it is too expensive, there is a long waiting list, or they misunderstand open infant adoption. We encourage couples who want to learn more about adoption to join us for this educational opportunity. You won’t be sorry.”

Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas is part of a national Catholic Charity network that has been looking after the needs of children, parents and families for more than 100 years.

Catholic Charities is licensed by the State of Kansas Department of Health and Environment to place children in safe homes, and has been providing adoption services in southwest Kansas for more than 50 years. For more information about adoption services at Catholic Charities, or this adoption orientation series, contact Lori Titsuworth at ltitsuworth@CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org, or by phone at 620-792-1393.

Catholic Charities launches annual appeal

Catholic charities of Southwest Kansas recently launched the 2017 Year-End Campaign.

“We need your help to make sure that every person who walks through our door experiences hope and fulfillment,” a release read.

Catholic Charities is asking for a special year-end donation of $50, $100 or whatever you can afford to help those in need. To donate online, go to http://catholiccharitieswks.org.

Checks made out to Catholic Charities can also be mailed or brought in person to the following locations:

Dodge City Office
906 Central Ave
Dodge City, KS 67801

Garden City Office
603 N 8th St.
Garden City, KS 67846

Great Bend Office
2201 16th St.
Great Bend, KS 67530

“On behalf of those we serve, thank you for your continued support.”
A moral conundrum

By DAVE MYERS

I hope you all had a holy and jolly Christmas season! It’s Jesus’s birthday, and if anyone knows how to throw a party, it’s Jesus! Water into wine? Loaves and fishes? Bet he had some great appetizers, too!

I don’t mean to sound facetious. It’s just that it’s amazing to think about all the things—like little things, the nuances, those moments lost in the atmosphere of the moment—that aren’t included in the Bible.

Like the lute player who may have sat near the Savior as the throngs enjoyed their meal of fish and bread. Perhaps the Lord amplified the sound—as he did the loaves and fishes—reverberating the soft tones across the rolling hills, bouncing off of trees and stones, the lone musician sending his delicate music across the acres.

And maybe, just maybe, at another gathering, there was a person—maybe the Cana bride—who liked to tell jokes. And maybe it was this woman to whom Jesus said, “Tell the one who has the tax collector and the Pharisee! You’re going to love this one.”

Or the man who came to Jesus asking him to heal his finger: “Okay, Philip, let me take a look. Oh, for goodness sake, it’s just a splinter! You don’t need an act of God. Let me just give it a little yank. There. All better.”

I wonder how long it would take to recite all the words of Christ included in the Bible. I mean, just imagine all those precious words he spoke that the scripture writers either didn’t know about, or didn’t deem important enough to include? I’m certain that there were words and stories passed along by people who had a simple experience with Christ. Wondrous, of course, but simple nonetheless—not earth moving, just memorable to them. Like we all have throughout our lives.

I was thinking about Christ’s life on earth the other day when I returned to Spearville after spending Christmas with my folks in Colorado. I thought about all the people who needed healing in the days when Christ walked the earth.

There had to have been times when Christ said, “Man, this is just too much! Help me, Father!” I heard him say, “Man, I really like that Easter Island head Kleenex dispenser and the tee-shirt that says, ‘Never trust an atom. They make up everything.’” And the DVD collection of old B sci-fi movies, like “The Man from Planet X.” Hmmmm. Only $14 for the DVD….

Considering that Jesus’s entire life was predestined to exist for the sake of others, it’s probably a given that he would have forgone “The Man from Planet X” in order to help those less fortunate. Plus, they didn’t have DVD players back then. Or DVDs. Or the “Man from Planet X” for that matter (although they did have the stage play).

In that little Christ-child born on Christmas day we see the ultimate lesson in giving. I’ve gotten the message: It’s a battle we all face. As a Christian, I wish I could help everyone. But as a human being, I have a hard enough time helping one or two.

Fortunately, the burden of helping every one in need is one we don’t have to carry. An act of kindness here, sharing the good Word there, and yes, offering financial help, is within the scope of our everyday lives.

But saving all of human kind? That task has been placed on the shoulders of a tiny babe—an immigrant born in poverty on Christmas Day—a burden He accepted fully out of His unconditional love for each and every one of us.
God likes to call the elderly in service years. A couple related to Mary and well on in time on Zechariah and Elizabeth, a pious birth of Jesus. Luke sets the stage for the how important the elderly were for the of the entire Christmas narrative shows how important the elderly were for the birth of Jesus. Luke sets the stage for the birth of Jesus by centering our attention on Zechariah and Elizabeth, a pious couple related to Mary and well on in years.

God likes to call the elderly in service to his work of salvation. Moses was 80 and his brother Aaron was 83 when called to lead the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt. In fact, when God wanted to form the Chosen People, he began with an elderly couple. He called Abraham who was close to 100 and his wife Sarah who was 90.

Not only were Abraham and Sarah on in years, they were also childless. Yet, God promised Abraham that Sarah would conceive and bear a son and Abraham would become the father of many nations. God intervened; Isaac was born, and there began the generations of faith that led to the covenant with God on Sinai. Thus, from the loins of Abraham, the aged patriarch, and his barren wife, there sprung hope for salvation.

St. Luke deliberately begins the Christmas narrative not with Mary and Joseph, but with Zechariah and Elizabeth. They embodied the piety of Israel. They were righteous and kept the laws of the covenant, living in expectation of the coming of the Messiah. And, just like Abraham and Sarah when God offered them a son, New Jersey. Bishop Serratelli is the bishop of Paterson, New Jersey.

**THEIR VIRTUE AND THEIR HOPE.**

**TESTED AND PROVED.** He valued their virtue and their hope.

**WISDOM THAT CAME WITH AGE**

**AND THEIR FAITH THAT HAD BEEN ACCUMULATED OVER THE YEARS, CAN HELP A PEOPLE.** … [Their] maturity and wisdom, that had been tested and proved. He even gave Zechariah the name “John” for the child. This name means “God is gracious.” Certainly, in giving Zechariah and Elizabeth a child in their old age, God was truly gracious. But, more than that, John’s very name announces the new dispensation of grace to be inaugurated with the birth of Jesus.

In both Old and New Testament times, God chose the elderly to usher in something new and extraordinary. In Abraham and Sarah, in Zechariah and Elizabeth, age only served to highlight the miraculous. God overcame the barrenness of the women and the agelessness of their husbands. God did not discard their wisdom that came with age nor their faith that had been tested and proved. He valued their virtue and their hope.

Like the patriarch Abraham and his wife Sarah and like the priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, the elderly today are a link to the past and the bridge to the future. They are the repositories of great wisdom and faith. The elderly “represent the roots and the memory of a people. … [Their] maturity and wisdom, accumulated over the years, can help younger people in search of their own way, supporting them on the path of growth and openness to the future. The elderly, in fact, show that, even in the most difficult trials, we must never lose confidence in God and in a better future” (Pope Francis, Address to Grandparents, October 15, 2016).

The genuineness of our society will always be judged by the way in which we respect and honor our elderly. God does not cast them aside. In fact, he has given them most important roles in the life of faith and in his plan for salvation. He respects and values the elderly. How can we do less?

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**PHOTO OF THE WEEK**

**Back in my day...**

This little boy takes delight in putting on the guise of a grandpa, complete with an ingenious walker made out of PVC piping.
Vibrant Ministries nearing $9.7 million

When I first learned the cost of sending someone to seminary, I was shocked. Although I shouldn’t have been. At approximately $38,000 per seminarian per year, the cost is just about the norm for a private college.

Still, $38,000. Per year. Wow!

Which is to say that your financial donations to the Vibrant Ministries — Uniting Our Church Appeal — part of which goes toward supporting our seminarians, have been deeply appreciated.

As our five seminarians begin a new semester, the appeal has already helped in the two ways in which it was designed: tuition/room and board; and health insurance coverage.

“It’s really nice not to have to worry about that,” said John Stang, 27, in an earlier interview.

“It’s just really generous on the diocese’s part, especially in the last several years as the economy has struggled off and on. That’s really nice.”

“It’s honestly very humbling,” said Eric Frieb, 20.

“For those people to rally around the cause for the sake of supporting seminarians is very humbling and very supportive.

“When parishioners say that we’re praying for you, we have your back, it’s very encouraging.”

— Dave Myers

To donate to the Vibrant Ministries — Uniting Our Church Appeal, go to www.4diocese.org/vibrant-ministries, or contact Mark Roth, mroth@dcdiocese.org, 620-227-1533.

Kinsley’s Appeal collection begins in Spring 2018.

Compassionate God.

You are the light of the world. You give us your Son to illuminate our path, and the Holy Spirit to shine through us. Loving God, fill us with the Compassionate God, graces of many vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life form the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. Through the intercession of the beloved Mother, grant to those who have come to me a willing and generous spirit. May they declare their lives and their talents to serve you and your Church. Increase the number of all within our diocese, and particularly the faith of those who have called to religious vocations. We ask this through Christ, your Son. Amen.

Who is served?

CITY PARISH ID OF Gporto Diocese GOAL ACTUAL % OF GOAL FAMILIES DONORS PARTICIPATION

FRIBIS
Ashland St. Joseph $78,180.00 $44,330.00 57% 76 38 51%
Belpre St. Bernard $80,240.00 $87,590.00 109% 65 50 77%
Clifton Immaculate Conception $166,435.00 $67,957.00 41% 156 56 36%
Coldwater Holy Spirit $26,810.00 $9,200.00 34% 20 5 25%
Dover St. Mary's $47,250.00 $37,010.00 78% 50 16 32%
Dighton St. Theresa $100,420.00 $73,375.00 73% 101 41 41%
Dodge City COLG $1,970,591.00 $1,804,743.07 92% 4,346 1,056 24%
Elkhart St. Joan of Arc $105,550.00 $61,463.75 58% 87 65 75%
Elwood St. Joseph $462,115.00 $135,686.00 29% 146 82 80%
Fowler St. Anthony $98,600.00 $108,701.40 111% 91 51 56%
Garden City St. Dominic $1,003,355.00 $869,464.15 87% 857 267 31%
Garden City St. Mary $927,550.00 $649,314.55 70% 2,405 749 31%
Great Bend Prince of Peace $1,463,700.00 $1,047,205.28 72% 1,808 403 22%
Greensburg St. Joseph $63,188.00 $48,291.00 76% 40 29 73%
Hamilton St. Anthony $63,670.00 $38,190.63 60% 121 74 40%
Hosnigton Sacred Heart $285,850.00 $148,596.00 52% 323 145 45%
Hugoton St. Helen $179,050.00 $192,625.00 108% 130 88 68%
Ingersoll St. Stanislaus $234,180.00 $416,390.59 178% 150 70 47%
Jetmore St. Lawrence $47,000.00 $42,170.00 91% 75 25 34%
Johnson St. Bernadette $75,620.00 $62,150.00 82% 190 49 26%
Kinsley St. Nicholas $180,643.00 $101,080.00 6% 210 4 2%
Koosha St. Joseph $172,745.00 $82,860.00 48% 57 32 56%
LaCrosse St. Michael $104,560.00 $180,777.50 173% 163 40 25%
Lakin St. Quinty $128,610.00 $138,190.63 101% 60 74 40%
Larned Sacred Heart $290,640.00 $141,976.00 49% 345 84 24%
Leoti St. Anthony $100,220.00 $62,044.00 62% 109 40 37%
Liberal St. Anthony $681,170.00 $551,777.95 81% 1,959 350 18%
Libertall St. Joseph $42,415.00 $18,638.37 44% 59 30 51%
Linthorpe St. Anthony $141,865.00 $123,916.00 87% 103 49 47%
Meade St. John $69,420.00 $87,961.00 127% 62 36 58%
Medicine Lodge Rosary $103,500.00 $66,830.00 65% 90 55 61%
Ness City Sacred Heart $237,000.00 $172,815.00 74% 257 111 43%
Ode St. Anthony $105,300.00 $90,655.00 87% 111 35 31%
Offerle St. Joseph $72,590.00 $96,045.00 132% 55 34 62%
Olmitz St. Ann $149,600.00 $73,099.00 49% 146 42 42%
Plains St. Patrick $104,985.00 $178,836.22 170% 122 59 48%
Pratt Sacred Heart $558,190.00 $245,653.74 47% 453 103 23%
Ransom St. Aloysius $62,915.00 $44,490.00 71% 75 36 48%
Santita St. Alphonus $87,940.00 $91,757.91 104% 169 54 32%
Scott City St. Joseph $225,020.00 $226,542.00 101% 328 92 28%
Sharon St. Boniface $129,162.00 $61,200.00 47% 90 46 51%
Sparrow St. John $235,850.00 $263,076.47 101% 269 157 58%
St John St. John $98,630.00 $61,725.00 66% 75 21 31%
Syracuse St. Raphael $75,590.00 $91,884.00 122% 102 57 56%
Timken Holy Trinity $54,050.00 $34,897.00 65% 64 30 47%
Tribune St. Joseph $62,860.00 $22,190.00 35% 60 13 22%
Ulysses Mary Queen $350,490.00 $207,018.20 58% 670 128 19%
Wright St. Andrew $221,740.00 $258,415.00 117% 133 77 57%
TOTAL $12,462,159.00 $9,691,484.34 78% 17,884 4,983 28%

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SEMINARIAN

Getting a minute? Send a Letter! Drop a card!

We need to send a letter of support to our seminarians who, if it be God’s plan, will become a priest. It’s a real witness of Christ’s love in our diocese.

Please consider making a financial gift to the Vibrant Ministries Appeal. Our seminarians deeply appreciate all of your support. — Dave Myers

I am writing to say thank you! It means so much to me. May God bless you for your generosity.

— Austin Habash

Please take a moment to send a letter of support to our seminarians who, if it be God’s plan, will become a priest for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City.

The seminarians have said on many occasions how much these letters mean to them! Invite others into your light and love, and walk with us on our journey to holiness. Merciful God, bless our efforts to unite our Church as you help us to respond to the needs of the least among us. Form our faith and strengthen priestly vocations. May we generously share our gifts with one another, in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.
Diocese celebrates Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

In several parishes across the diocese, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12, was celebrated with songs of praise, dance celebrating the Holy Mother and the Mexican Indian to whom she appeared on Dec. 9, 1531. Celebrations began on the eve of the feast day, running into the night and into the next morning, and continuing throughout the Blessed Mother’s feast day. To see these photos in color, visit dcdiocese.org/swkscatholic.

ST. JOAN OF ARC, ELKHART -- Dancers pose next to an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the feast day celebration. At far right is an altar set up in her honor, including dozens of flowers. Juan Diego carried roses to his bishop as proof that Mary had appeared. When he opened his tilma, the image of Our Lady (center, left) appeared.

ST. MARY PARISH, GARDEN CITY -- Above: Every year, a procession is held on Dec. 12 from Stevens Park to St. Mary Church, with the participation of members of the community, Knights of Columbus and priests. Following the procession is the celebration of Mass which closes all our festivities to the Virgin of Guadalupe. At left, the Folklore Dances “Sol De Mexico” was formed in 2011; they initially had eight participants, and currently have the participation of 70 children. Estela Gutierrez is the coordinator. All members of this group are members of the St. Mary’s Church.

ST. MARY PARISH, GARDEN CITY -- At left, dancers honor the Holy Mother through ancestral dance. The dance also honors the heritage of Saint Juan Diego, the Mexican Indian to whom Our Lady appeared. At left, a child smiles as she stands in the Guadalupe Shrine at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Photos courtesy of Marisela Trejo

Photo by Dave Myers

Photo by Carleigh Albers

Photo by Dave Myers
Pastoral Ministry Formation

‘Get Equipped’

The Pastoral Ministry Program office of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City is asking you to mark your calendar for the one credit our spring offering, “Get Equipped,” Connecting, Equipping, Sending, which will be offered April 27 and 28.

“Get Equipped” (THEO 4881) will be presented Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28, beginning with registration on Friday at 4 p.m., and concluding Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

“Get Equipped” supports the spiritual life and the practical ministry of those who serve during Eucharistic Liturgy. Focusing on hospitality, proclamation, prayer and mission, it is for greeters, lectors, ministers of holy communion, music ministers, all who gather for Eucharist.

*This course is one of the elective courses needed to obtain the Diocesan Certification in Liturgical Ministry. Presenters include Father Frank Coady, Dolores Martinez, Father Robert Schremmer and others. The program will be presented at the Heartland Center for Spirituality, 3600 Broadway, Great Bend at a cost of $57 for room and meals, or $22 for those not spending the night at the Heartland Center.

An additional cost of $50 is for those seeking to acquire 1 hour of college credit.

For more information, contact Coleen at cstein@dcdiocese.org or 620-227-1538

Personal enrichment fee is included with your payment to Heartland Center for Spirituality. Make reservations at Heartland Center for Spirituality, https://heartlandspirituality.org/pastoralministryformation/.

‘Introduction to Old Testament’

“Introduction to Old Testament” (THEO 1003) will be presented Jan. 20, 27 Feb. 3, 10, 17 and March 3, 10, 17, and 24 by Sister Joan Wolf (right).

**Class description:** This course is designed to bring the Old Testament to life and to thrill its readers with the story of one’s people’s journey into faith. These ancient people’s experiences may reveal the truth of our own journeys in that we can see ourselves in their life experiences, in their growth as well as in their backsliding, in their discoveries of the nature of God and in their misreading what was the will of God, in their frustration when life’s troubles were overwhelming and when they had to trust God when important questions remained unanswered. It is a story which covers 2,000 years, a story of real flesh and blood people searching for God and of God’s loving self-revelation over the centuries.

**Class times** are Saturday mornings - 8:30 a.m. to Noon, and are held at Interactive Television sites throughout the Dodge City and Salina diocese.

Cost for the three-hour course for college credit is $150, plus the cost of books. The cost of the course for personal enrichment only is $75, plus books.

Sister Joan Wolf (above) is a Dominican Sister of Peace long acquainted with the Dodge City diocese. She has taught in its schools, ministered in its parishes, and assisted with deacon candidate classes and taught courses for the Interactive Television Network. She has Masters’ degrees in Pastoral Ministry and Pastoral Counseling. For more information, or to register, contact Coleen Stein, (620) 227-1538, cstein@dcdiocese.org, or visit dcdiocese.org/pastoral-ministry-formation.

Diocese continues to pray for safe return of Father Marvin Reif

The Catholic Diocese of Dodge City continues to pray for the safe return of Father Marvin Reif, who walked away from his residence at Valley Manor Nursing Home in Protection, Kansas, on April 3.

The 53-year-old priest was receiving treatment for mental illness, from which he has suffered for several years.

An initial search that was conducted when he went missing bore no fruit. A second major search, April 13, which included more than 70 volunteers, as well as the Most Rev. John Brungardt, also failed to locate Father Reif.

Father Reif was ordained by Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman on June 3, 1989 at Holy Family Parish in Odin.

He served at numerous parishes throughout the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City before being removed from active duty, and later given an extended leave of absence for health reasons.

While serving in the diocese, he was recognized and admired for his zeal for spreading the Gospel message. In his years of active service, Father Reif built a large contingent of friends and admirers, all of whom join in prayer for his safe return.

In a KWCH-12 report, Steve Hazen, who helped search for the priest through a wooded area near Protection, Kans., commented, “We think the world of him. He’s a nice guy, we really miss him. He needs us, and we need him. Maybe we’ll find him. I hope so.”

Last March, Father Reif shared this Lenten message on a Facebook post.

It reads, in part:

“As we know, God’s wisdom is so different than our wisdom. His ways are far above our ways. His thoughts above our thoughts.

... What does this teach us? It teaches us lots of patience. And it teaches us surrender, trust and hope. If we want to pray hard and pray well, we need to pray correctly.

And it is a very easy way to pray. St. Paul makes it sound difficult by saying that we are to pray always. It’s the simple prayer of Mary when the angel came to her in the annunciation, and that is the prayer: ‘Thy will be done!’ Many times it is hard at first, but it becomes easy when we understand and believe that God always has the perfect plan for our lives, and yes, even in the struggles and situations in which we find ourselves. ... He has a perfect plan for your life, and that plan is sometimes oh, so different than your plan. Surrender to Him and let His holy will guide you in all things.

When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

Decisions made in the past may no longer be what’s best for the future. To help keep everything up to date, Edward Jones offers a complimentary financial review.

A financial review is a great opportunity to sit face to face with an Edward Jones financial advisor and develop strategies to help keep your finances in line with your short- and long-term goals.

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, call or visit today.

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Making sense of investing

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Making sense of investing
God does not ‘lead us into temptation’ Pope Francis says

Vatican City (CNA) - In a video series for Italian television network TV2000, Pope Francis said that “lead us not into temptation” is a poorly translated line of the Our Father.

“This is not a good translation,” the Pope said in the video, published Dec. 6. “I am the one who falls, it’s not (God) who pushes me toward temptation to see how I fall. A father doesn’t do this, a father helps us to get up right away.”

He noted that this line was recently re-translated in the French version of the prayer to read “do not let me fall into temptation.”

The Latin version of the prayer, the authoritative version in the Catholic Church, reads “ne nos inducas in tentationem.”

The Pope said that the one who leads people into temptation is “Satan; that is the work of Satan.” He said that the essence of that whole prayer is like telling God: “when Satan leads me into temptation, please, give me your hand. Give me your hand.”

Just as Jesus gave Peter his hand to help him out of the water when he began to sink, the prayer also asks God to “give me your hand so that I don’t drown,” Pope Francis said.

Filmed in collaboration with the Vatican’s Secretariat for Communications, the series consists of nine question-and-answer sessions with Pope Francis and Father Marco Pozza, a theologian and a priest chaplain in the northern Italian city of Padua. In his question to Pope Francis on the line “lead us not into temptation,” Pozza noted that many people have asked him how God can lead someone into temptation, and questioned what the phrase actually intends to say.

According to the French episcopal conference, the decision to make the change was accepted by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in June 2013. The new translation, released Dec. 3

To mark the first day of Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year, now reads “ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,” “meaning, ‘do not let us fall into temptation,’ versus the former ‘ne nous soumet pas à la tentation,’ or ‘lead us not into temptation.’”

The Pope’s remarks do not change the translations of liturgical texts. Such a change would begin with a resolution by an episcopal conference in English-speaking countries.

In a previous episode of the “Our Father” series, Pope Francis said “It takes courage” to recite the prayer, because it means calling on someone else and truly believing that “God is the Father who accompanies me, forgives me, gives me bread, is attentive to everything I ask, and dresses me better than wildflowers.”

“To believe is a great risk,” and means daring to make the leap of faith, he said. Because of this, “praying together is so beautiful because we help each other to dare.”

Knights raise $47,000 toward ultrasound machine

The ABC Pregnancy Care Center in Garden City is much closer to getting a new $47,000 ultrasound machine, thanks to the efforts of the Knights of Columbus. The annual Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative actively raises money toward the purchase of ultrasound machines for pregnancy centers across the country. Ultrasound machines have been purchased for pregnancy centers in other parts of Kansas, including Wichita and Parsons. This will be the first time that a machine was purchased for a center in southwest Kansas.

The Knights are closing in on their goal. Tom Loker, a former grand knight and a member of the St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus, Council 2795 in Garden City, explained that the Supreme Council (the national Knights office) has provided half the cost, and the state Knights have provided the other half. But more funds are needed.

“There will be expenses incurred within the pregnancy center not only for the machine, but also for shipping, installation, software probes, etc.,” Loker said.

“One is installed, the state will have a representative come—and if his schedule allows, the bishop will bless the machine.”

“Our center is doing a lot over here,” added Loker, who is on the board of directors for the ABC Pregnancy Care Center in Garden City. “We even provide post-abortion counseling. We recently hired a new executive director, and she has done a fantastic job.”

Alvin Bergkamp, a member of the Lakin Knights, wants to make sure that all the funds are raised that are needed to cover every cost. He has issued a challenge to other Knights in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City to each donate $1 per member toward the installation of the sonogram.

“They’re trying to get a new machine (which creates a sonogram image of the child) so they can show the women who come in that we are considering abortion that this is a live human being that they are aborting,” Bergkamp said.

“Many people don’t think a child is alive until after it’s born, and most of us know that.”

“This is just something that falls under what the Knights believe, and what we all should believe.”

Loker suggested that funds can be sent to the Kansas State Council Knights of Columbus or directly to the ABC Pregnancy Care Center in the name of the Knights of Columbus: ABC Pregnancy Care Center 509 N. 6th St. Garden City, KS 67846

Obituaries

RANDOLPH L. HARDIN, 55, of Dodge City, died Dec. 6, 2017. He served in the United States Army and the Army National Guard. He was a truck driver most of his life, working for Isaac Truck Line, Salle Trucking, Dodge City Express as well as owning and operating his own truck. He is survived by his wife, Delores Campbell; his step-daughter, Breanne Campbell; two step-sons, Bryan Campbell and Bradley Campbell; a brother, Richard Hardin; a sister, Gina Hardin; seven grandchildren; and a nephew, Ross Eubank. Father Wesley Schwarm officiated.

MADEleine MZe Hernandez, 68, of Clyde, Texas, died Dec. 12, 2017. Hernandez attended Ulysses High School and graduated in 1969. She went on to become a unit secretary at Abilene Regional Medical Center in Abilene, Texas. She is survived by her sons, Juan, Jr., David, and Samuel; daughter, Ramona Wyatt; brothers, Manuel Meza, Modesto Meza and Joe Meza; sisters, Lupe Hernandez, Betty Carpenter, Victoria Lewis, Linda Zuniga, and Mary Lou Garcia; six grandchildren; one great-grandson; numerous nieces and nephews; and beloved friends. A funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Name Catholic Church in Ulysses. Father Peter Fernandez presided.

Lee Roy Padilla, 67, of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died Dec. 15, 2017. Padilla grew up in Ulysses and served in the United States Army. Lee Roy was a truck driver, and retired from Anderson Motors where he detailed vehicles. He is survived by his sons, Kenny, Roy, Lewis, and Wayne; brothers, Abel and Merejildo Jr. (Danny); sisters, Becky Padilla, Gloria Guzman, Sylvia Moreno, Debbie Porras, and Brenda Padilla; 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Father Peter Fernandez presided.

Nikki E. Hemel, 70, of St. Theresa Parish, Dighton, died Dec. 15, 2017. He served as a Military Policeman in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970. He worked as a Body Shop Manager in Garden City, Hutchinson and Hays. After returning to Dighton he worked for Lane County as the Weed Director and Road Supervisor. He later was a truck driver, and Parts Man at Brest Inc. He was a member of the Knights Of Columbus. He served on many American Legion Funeral Honor Guards and was looking forward to going on the Honor Flight this coming April. He is survived by his wife, Beverly Hemel, two sons, Adair and Kegan; two step-daughters, Rhonda Bainter and Laurel Burbrrink; brother, Ricki Hemel; two sisters, Alana Chapman and Alicia Pike; 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Father Warren Stecklein presided.

La Virgen María intercede por sus hijos ante Jesús, recuerda el Papa Francisco

VATICANO, 01 Ene. 18 / 06:32 am (ACI) - El Papa Francisco subrayó la función de María como Madre: “se sitúa entre su Hijo Jesús y los hombres en la realidad de sus privaciones, sus indigencias y sus sufrimientos. Intercede, consciente de que como madre puede y debe hacer presente al Hijo las necesidades de los hombres, especialmente de los más débiles y necesitados”.

Antes de rezar el primer Ángelus del año 2018, este lunes 1 de enero en la Plaza de San Pedro del Vaticano, el Santo Padre recordó que “se ha realizado la primera página del calendario del nuevo año que el Señor nos regala, la Iglesia pone, como una estupenda miniatura, la solemnia litúrgica de Santa María Madre de Dios”.

“En este primer día del año solar, fijamos la mirada sobre ella para retomar, bajo su maternal protección, el largo camino por los senderos del tiempo”. “El Evangelio de hoy nos lleva de nuevo hacia el portal de Belén”, señaló el Santo Padre. “Los pastores llegaron y se encontraron a María, José y al Niño y cuentan el anuncio que les hizo el ángel, que aquel recién nacido era el Salvador”.

En este contexto, “la Virgen nos hace comprender cómo debe acogerse el evento de la Navidad: no superficialmente, sino en el corazón. Nos indica el verdadero modo de recibir el regalo de su presencia en el corazón y meditarlo”.

“Es una invitación dirigida a cada uno de nosotros para rezar contemplando y disfrutando de este regalo que el mismo Jesús nos da”. “Es por medio de María que el Hijo de Dios asume la corporeidad. Pero la maternidad de María no se reduce a esto, gracias a su fe, Ella es también la primera discípula de Jesús y esto amplía su maternidad”.

“Ejemplo de esto es el milagro de las bodas de Caná. “Será la fe de María la que provoque en Caná el primer signo milagroso que contribuye a suscitar la fe de los discípulos”.

“Mediante la misa fe, María está presente a los pies de Cristo y recibe como hijo al apóstol Juan. Finalmente, tras la Resurrección, se convierte en madre orante de la Iglesia, sobre la cual desciende con fuerza el Espíritu Santo el día de Pente costés”, finalizó el Papa.

La Buena Nueva y la Vida del Reino


El arzobispo Mons. Michael Jackels resumió la Buena Nueva en este sentido, y cómo ponemos en práctica ese evangelio en otros cinco puntos llamados Vivir el Reino: La Buena Nueva:

1. Necesito un Salvador; por mí mismo, estoy solo y sin esperanza.
2. Jesús es Dios que se hizo Hombre; Jesús es a la vez divino y humano, dos naturalezas en una persona divina.
3. Jesús murió y resucitó para salvarme; por su muerte, Jesús me libera del pecado; por su resurrección, Jesús me abre el camino a una nueva vida.
4. Jesús me invita a creer, yo respon do a esta fe salvadora. Él me da el Espíritu Santo como ayuda.
5. A Jesús y su Iglesia, no al mundo, sigo su forma de vida. Esto me llevará a la plenitud de la felicidad, la paz y la vida en el cielo. El Espíritu Santo me ayuda a seguir a Jesús.

Vivir el Reino: 1. Oración diaria: Necesito a Jesús; oración personal al menos una vez al día. 2. Misa Seminar: Jesús se convierte en parte de mí; Me siento fortalecido por la Eucaristía, la digna recepción de la Eucaristía los dominios y las fiestas de precepto (o más a menudo). 3. Confesión mensual: Jesús perdona mis pecados; hago un repaso de mi vida, un examen, antes del sacramento de la reconciliación (recomendado mensualmente, y siempre que esté en un estado de pecado grave). 4. Estudie la Biblia y el Catecismo: ¡No puedoamar a alguien o algo que no conozco! 5. Sea testigo de la Buena Nueva: Comparto amorosamente a Jesús con otros en el perdón y el servicio; no estoy ocupado de ser un miembro activo de una comunidad parroquial. Me siento impulsado a salir de mí mismo e ir hacia los demás. Extiende y defiendo la fe católica con delicadeza y compasión.

En una serie de artículos, detallará cada uno de los 10 puntos anteriores. Dejamos a la beza, el corazón y las manos/ pies la Buena Nueva y Vivir el Reino. No nos limitemos a “seguir los pasos” de nuestra fe católica de una manera mecánica. Evangelicemos a otros con nuestro testimonio del mensaje salvador de Jesús. El “Rey recién nacido” (Mateo 2,2) te ama a ti y a todos, ¡mas de lo que podemos pedir o imaginar! Mons. John Balthasar Brungardt, obispo.

“Por eso él dice: También a las demás ciudades tengo que llevarles la Buena Nueva del Reino de Dios, porque para eso se ha enviado” (Lucas 4,43).

Estos son los personajes católicos que marcaron el 2017

EDACCIÓN CENTRAL (ACI) - El año 2017 llega a su fin y por tal motivo ACI Prensa ha preparado un especial que se centra en especial con los personajes católicos que marcaron el año gracias a su importante testimonio de vida cristiana.

P. TOM UZHUNNALIL

El 12 de septiembre fue liberado el sacerdote salesiano P. Tom Uzhunnalil, actualmente uno de los centros médicos de Alepo (Siria), luego de permanecer en prisión en Siria, donde le dieron la posibilidad de irse luego en Egipto y desde enero de 2011 en comienzo a ser trasladado al país. Se cree que el sacerdote fue sujeto a presión para quedarse con las víctimas.

Jürgen Daum

Este año falleció a los 57 años el P. Jürgen Daum, sacerdote fundador de “La Opción V”, un reconocido proyecto con el que se dedicó a promover la castidad entre los jóvenes.

Jim Caviezel

Dijo en una entrevista realizada en España que se sintió que no lo intentamos de nuevo? Siento que la motivación de la pasión que inspiró a tanta gente a hacer el bien, ¿por qué no lo intentamos de nuevo? Siento que hay un propósito en mi vida otra vez”, dijo el actor en una entrevista realizada en Polonia por el periodista y crítico de cine Lukasz Adamski.
El Papa Francisco celebra a la Virgen de Guadalupe con Misa en el Vaticano

Por MIGUEL PÉREZ PICHIEL

VATICANO, 12 Dic. 17 / 12:30 pm (ACI).- En una Basílica de San Pedro del Vaticano rebozante de fieles procedentes del continente americano, el Papa Francisco preside la Misa por la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la que hizo un llamado a "defender a nuestros pueblos de una colonización ideológica que cancela lo más rico de ellos".

En su homilía, el Papa pidió mirar a "la riqueza y la diversidad cultural de nuestros países de América Latina y el Caribe, ella es signo de la gran riqueza que somos invitados no sólo a cultivar sino, especialmente en nuestro tiempo, a defender valientemente de todo intento homogeneizador".

El Papa advirtió que ese intento de homogeneización "termina imponiendo, bajo slogares atractivos, una única manera de pensar, de ser, de sentir, de vivir, que termina haciendo invalido o estéril todo lo heredado de nuestros mayores; que termina haciendo sentir, especialmente a nuestros jóvenes, poca cosa por pertenecer a tal o cual cultura".

El Pontifice reflexionó en su homilía sobre el "Benedicticus de Zacarías, esposo de Santa Isabel, que se recordó en el Evangelio del día. “A mi me gusta llamarla el cánizmo de Isabel o de la fecundidad”, señaló.

"Isabel, la mujer bajo el signo de la esterilidad y bajo el signo de la fecundidad”, destacó. Isabel la mujer estéril.

En la época de Jesús, “la esterilidad estaba considerada como un castigo divino fruto del propio pecado o del esposo”, explicó el Papa, para resaltar la trascendencia que supuso el embarazo de la prima de María.

"Un signo de vergüenza llevado en la propia carne o por considerarse culpable de un pecado que no cometió o por sentirse poca cosa al no estar a la altura de lo que se esperaba de ella. Imagínémonos, por un instante, las miradas de sus familiares, de sus vecinos, de sí misma… Esterilidad que cala hondo y termina paralizando toda la vida”, dijo el Santo Padre.

No obstante, esta “esterilidad puede tomar muchos nombres y formas cada vez que una persona siente en su carne la vergüenza al verse estigmatizada o sentirse poca cosa”. Como ejemplo de ello, ese sentimiento ‘podemos vislumbrarlo en el indígena Juan Diego cuando le dice a María ‘yo en verdad no valgo nada, soy mecapal, soy cacaxtle, soy cola, soy ala, sometido a hombres y a cargo ajenno, no es mi paradero ni mi paso allá donde te dignas enviarme’.

Esa “esterilidad” también puede estar hoy “en nuestras comunidades indígenas y afroamericanas, que, en muchas ocasiones, no son tratadas con dignidad e igualdad de condiciones”.

También está "en muchas mujeres, que son excluidas en razón de su sexo, raza o situación socioeconómica”; o en jóvenes, que reciben una educación de baja calidad y no tienen oportunidades de progresar en sus estudios ni de entrar en el mercado del trabajo para desarrollarse y constituir una familia.”

Asimismo, se puede ver ese sentimiento en “muchos pobres, desempleados, migrantes, desplazados, campesinos sin tierra, quienes buscan sobrevivir en la economía informal; niños y niñas sometidos a la prostitución infantil, ligadas muchas veces al turismo sexual”.

Isabel la mujer fecunda-asombrada Isabel es “la primera en reconocer y bendecir a María. Es ella la que en la vejez experimentó en su propia vida, en su carne, el cumplimiento de la promesa hecha por Dios. La que no podía tener hijos llevó en su seno al precursor de la salvación”.

"En ella, entendemos que el sueño de Dios no es ni será la esterilidad, ni estigmatizar o llenar de vergüenza a sus hijos, sino hacer brotar en ellos y de ellos un canto de bendición”.

"De igual manera lo vemos en Juan Diego –indicó regresando a la historia de las apariciones de la Virgen de Guadalupe–. Fue precisamente él, y no otro, quien lleva en su timla la imagen de la Virgen: la Virgen de pie mornena y rostro mestizo, sostenida por un ángel con alas de quetzal, pelícano y guacamayo; la madre capaz de tomar los rasgos de sus hijos para hacerlos sentir parte de su bendición”.

De esta manera, "parecería que una y otra vez Dios se empeñaba en mostrarnos que la piedra que desecharon los constructores se vuelve la piedra angular”.

“La Madre de Dios es figura de la Iglesia y de ella queremos aprender a ser Iglesia con rostro mestizo, con rostro indígena, afroamericano, rostro campesino, rostro cola, ala, cacaxtle. Rostro pobre, de desempleado, de niño y niña, anciano y joven para que nadie se sienta estéril ni infecundo, para que nadie se sienta avergonzado o poca cosa”.

Por el contrario, "para que cada uno al igual que Isabel y Juan Diego pueda sentirse portador de una promesa, de una esperanza y pueda decir desde sus entrañas: ‘¡Abba!, es decir, ‘Padre!’ desde el misterio de esa filiación que, sin cancelar los rasgos de cada uno, nos universaliza constituyéndonos pueblo”, concluyó.

Este martes, a través de su cuenta de Twitter, el Papa Francisco también se refirió a la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

“Mirar la Guadalupana es recordar que la visita del Señor pasa siempre por medio de aquellos que buscan ‘hacer carne’ su Palabra”, aseguró el Santo Padre a través de @pontifex

Envié una carta de apoyo a nuestros seminaristas

La verdad de Dios es más emocionante y más significativo que es para ellos de sus cartas, también a nuestros más nuevos seminaristas, para que sepan que están orando por ellos.

Por favor, continúen enviando sus cartas, también a nuestros seminaristas, para que sepan que están orando por ellos.

J. Stang
A. Habash
E. Frieb
E. Hernandez
T. Saucedo

¿Estas siendo llamado?

La Diócesis requiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajan con menores a asistir a las sesiones de consciencia de Proteger a los Niños de Dios. Estas sesiones de consciencia están disponibles en ambos inglés y español. Son conducidos por gente de nuestra Diócesis especialmente entrenadas como facilitadores. Las sesiones se publicarán en las parroquias, escuelas, el periódico Southwest Kansas Register y la página electrónica de la Diócesis. www.dcdiocese.org/protectionchildren

Línea especial para víctimas de abuso sexual

Si usted, o alguien a quien usted conoce ha sido víctima de abuso sexual por algún clérigo, o cualquier empleado de la Diócesis de Dodge City, por favor comuníquese con el Sister Dave Snapp, Fitness Review Administrator: (620)225-5051, o (620)225-2412, o al correo electrónico dsnapp3@starrtech.net. Conserva siempre su derecho de comunicarse directamente a Social Relief Services, 1-800-922-4453.

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*Source: Cost of Care Survey, John Hancock Life Insurance, Nov. 2008

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OBITUARIES

ACROSS
2 Common biblical harvest
5 Religious offshoots
8 The ____ Room
9 “He has shown might with his ____...” (Magnificat)
11 “...from now on will all call me blessed.” (Lk 1:48)
13 Catholic ending
14 Hail Marys
15 Veronica’s ____
16 Biblical animal
17 The ____ Heart of Mary
20 Agatha is their ____
22 First name of John XXIII
27 Catholic author of “The Father Brown Mysteries”
29 OT prophetic book “Vaya con ____”
30 Bishop-saint whose feast day is October 20
32 Second Greek letter in a title for Jesus
33 The golden ____
35 There have been 13 popes with this name
36 Priestly tribe
37 Easter ____
38 Archdiocese in northern Italy

DOWN
1 St. Rose of Lima or St. Martin de Porres
2 Sunday talks
3 First man
5 “...you are to name him Jesus because he will ____...” (Mt 1:21)
6 Agency headed by uncle of Cardinal Dulles
7 Son of Zilpah
10 Possible Easter month
12 Catholic author of “The Power and the Glory”
18 He saw the burning bush...
19 “...whatever you did for one of these ____ broth-
ers of mine, you did for me.” (Mt 25:40)
21 Sister of Leah
22 First name of John
23 Castel ___ (pope’s summer residence)
24 Certain sin
25 Miraculous, for one
26 Mary appeared here in Ireland
30 Monk’s room
32 The Mystical ___
34 Tree Jesus cursed (Mt 11:14)

TEASER THE FIRST:
A man escapes from jail with help from his girlfriend. Four girls are accused of being the man’s girlfriend. His girlfriend is lying. Two girls are innocent and telling the truth. The other girl is the man’s sister who is helping the girlfriend lie. Who is the man’s sister?

TeaseR The SeConD:
The answer to the riddle is a pair of words that rhyme with each other. For example: Large Feline would be Fat Cat.

TeaseR The ThiRd:
What do the three words/phrases have in common?

1. A tennis racket - A marionette
   - An orchestra
2. Babe Ruth - Hank Aaron - Marge Simpson
3. Line - Pie - Bar
4. Carson - Bench - Cash
5. Bird - Jordan - Magic
6. Pantyhose - Candidates - Track Stars
7. Pay - Princess - Cell
8. Cane - Brown - Powdered
9. Monkey - Box - Crescent
10. Blood - Piggy - Sperm

St. Michael’s Mind Benders

St. MICHaeL’S MInd BenderS

Leaf your brain to rust? Look no further! What do each of these columns have in common? Find the answer within the puzzle and you will have uncovered a secret of the universe! To solve a sudoku, fill in the table so that the numbers from 1 to 9 will be in each column, each row and each 3x3 box only once. Every sudoku puzzle can have only one correct solution.

Cada fila debe contener los números a partir la 1 a 9. Cada columna debe contener los números a partir la 1 a 9. Cada cuadrado 3x3 debe contener los números a partir la 1 a 9.

Puzzle courtesy of sodukooftheday.com
OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 9

in Great Bend. Survivors include, his wife, Laura; children, Tom Pinonka, Rick Wammken, Lachele Grathough, and Brenda Barrett; one brother, Cyril M. “Bud” Pinonka; 14 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. E. Eric Gymafia presided.

EDUARDO LOPEZ PEREZ, 86, of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Liberal, died Dec. 8, 2017. He was born Oct. 18, 1934 to Jose Luis Lopez and Heminia Perez (Juarez) Lopez in Chihuahua, Mexico. He earned an associate degree at Seward County Community College and worked at a Technical School and for the Henry C. Hitch Feed Lot as a cattle feeder. Survivors include his wife, Olga Lopez; his parents; sons, Giovanni Lopez; daughter, Mayrani Lopez; brother, Jose Antonio Lopez; and sister, Ruth Lopez. Father James Dieker presided.

MERTON H. VEEDER, 87, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Dec. 12, 2017. Upon graduating from Fowler High School, Merton joined the Navy in 1951, serving four years on the USS Boxer during the Korean War. He was Honorary Discharged in 1955. Merton married Rozanne Luetters in 1957. They were both employed by the local Power Company. In 1995, Merton retired after 40 years. Among his other activities was serving as a Scout Master of Troop 1621, for which he received the Saint George Award. Survivors include his wife Rozanne; three sons, Miles, Merlon, and Mace; two daughters, Nadine and Deanna; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother, Joseph; and one sister, Drilla Ann.

CYRILLA L. BRACE, 76, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Dec. 15, 2017. She married Billy Craig Henderson; he preceded her in death in 1990. She later married Clyde Brace; he preceded her in death in 2001. Mrs. Brace worked as a drafting clerk for Southwestern Bell for 30 years before retiring. She later went to work for USD #443 as a para. She is survived by her daughter Tammy Lamp; two sons, Todd Henderson and Wesley Henderson. She is also survived by her grandchildren Trevor, McKenna, Makenzie, Doris Gleckler, Mary Harper, Lee McGee, Barbara Zuzelski, and Kevin McGee. The Most Rev. Ronald M. Gilmore and Father Wesley Schawe presided.

MAXINE P. PENDERGAST, 80, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, and St. Mary Parish in Salina, died Dec. 16, 2017. She attended grade school and high school in Ashland and was a longtime Dodge City resident, moving to Salina in 1950. On September 20, 1956, she married Elwood G. Zurbuchen in Ashland. He preceded her in death on March 16, 2003. Survivors include four sons, Mike, Keith, Steve and Jim; two daughters, Donna Stein and Debbie Staab; her brother, Frank Fox; two sisters, Marian and Jim; and grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Father Aneesh Parappanattu presided.

EZEKIEL (ZEKE) P. RODRIGUEZ, 86, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Dec. 24, 2017. Ezekiel attended school in the Mexican Village and lived an adventurous life. He was a veteran who loved his country; serving 10 years in three different branches of the military. He served the U.S. Army in which he received medals for his service of Occupy Germany and Bastogne, Belgium. He served in the U.S. Air Force as an Air Police. He also served in the U.S. Coastguard in which his duties included steership and gun crew. Ezekiel also served from Santa Fe Railroad where he worked on the maintenance of the diesel engines. He also retired from Union Pacific Railroad and Rock Island Railroad where he worked maintenance on the tracks. Ezekiel is survived by his sister, Rita Rodriguez; and his brothers, David, Gonzalo, and Maurice. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

VIRGINIA ‘SUE’ STROUD, 74, of Prince of Peace Parish at St. Rose Church, Great Bend, died Dec. 24, 2017. She married Lloyd Stroud June 11, 1962, at Ellinwood. He died Nov. 18, 2016. A long time Great Bend resident, she worked for USA Gymnastics & Supplies for more than 40 years. She was a member of the Altar Society. Survivors include a son, Eugene “Huie”; a daughter, Debby Stroud; sisters, Shirley Harris and Betty Bender; a brother, Nick Schmidt; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Father Don Bedore presided.

ALICE ZURBUCHE, 101, of St. Andrew Parish, Wright, died Dec. 25, 2017. She married Paul Zurbuchen on February 19, 1938 at Wright. He preceded her in death on Dec. 11, 1968. They raised their family on the farm southwest of Speerville. She was a member of St. Andrew’s Altar Society. Alice is survived by a son, John; a daughter, Ann Claussen; her twin sister, Helen Lix; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. Father Robert A. Schremmer presided.

FRANCIS F. PROSSER, 88, of Sacred Heart Parish, Larned, died Dec. 25, 2017. A lifetime area resident; he was a farmer and a postal worker. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Town 162, Legion Post #106. On June 2, 1936, he married Viola Moeder. Other survivors include two sons, Edward and Michael; three daughters, Kim Breitenbach, Patty Minear, and Nancy Baker; sister, Jane Bordewick; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Father Bernard Felix presided.

RICHARD ‘DUANE’ MCGEE, 76, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Dec. 25, 2017. McGee taught at Ensign High School for 16 years and Cimarron High School for 14 years. He retired after 30 years of teaching and was currently employed at Dodge City Concrete. Survivors include his wife, Patty; three daughters and one son, Michelle Blubaugh, Cammy Uehling, Christa Roy, and Michael McGee; eight grandchildren; four sisters and one brother, Doris Gleckler, Mary Harper, Lee McGee, Barbara Zuzelski, and Kevin McGee. The Most Rev. Ronald M. Gilmore and Father Wesley Schawe presided.

ROBERT NELSON (BOB) ROBINS, 89, of St. Joseph Parish, Ellinwood, died Dec. 25, 2017. Robins enlisted in the Air Force in 1946 not long after the end of WWII, where he served as a radio operator. Soon after his discharge, he enrolled at Kansas State University. He graduated in 1952. Beginning in 1954, he spent the next 36 years teaching and coaching the Ellinwood Eagles. He is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Gloria Robins; three sons, Dan, David and Todd; three daughters, Kathy Nolier, Patty Passman, and Becky Willinger; 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; and his brother Allen, Father Terrance Klein presided.

ROSE MARIE ELPERS of St. Nicholas Parish, Kinsley, died Dec. 31, 2017. She was born on Feb. 15, 1933 north of Kinsley. She served on the St. Nicholas Parish Altar Society. Surviving are her four daughters; Diane Demoret, Mary Jane Marshall, Sharon Bertrand, and Joyce Smith; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Vincent Elpers and two sisters Lucille Tassett and Frances Marie Halsig. Father John Strasser presided.

Obituary Policy - Obituary listings are printed free of charge. Listings must be edited for space and SKC style. If you see that a listing has not been included, contact (620) 227-1519, or email skregist@ddciocese.org. Please continue to keep in your prayers those listed above, their families and friends.
Priests on the Prairie
Died January 18, 1951
Father Oscar Vogel

Father Vogel was born at Wright, June 30, 1908; he attended St. Andrew School. He was ordained for the Diocese of Wichita in St. Mary’s Cathedral by Bishop August J. Schwertner on May 22, 1937. He celebrated his first solemn Mass at St. Andrew Church on the Feast of Corpus Christi, May 27. The assistant priest was Father William Vogel, his uncle, then pastor at St. Mary, Pierce City, Mo.

In his first assignment, Father Vogel was named pastor of St. Catherine, Dubuque, (1937-1943). He then served at St. Michael, La Crosse, with Sacred Heart, Cordia, as a mission, (1943-1944). After the Cordia parish was closed, he moved the church to La Crosse to serve the growing congregation there. He then started a parish school in the former church.

Heart problems forced him to spend part of 1944 and most of 1945 as a hospital patient. Father Vogel resumed active duty when he was appointed to the chaplaincies at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital and the Hutchinson Reformatory on Aug. 31, 1945.

On Oct. 3, 1947 he was appointed pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul, North Ellinwood. He suffered a stroke and died in the rectory on Jan. 18, 1951, at the age of 42. Father Bill Vogel, his brother, offered a solemn Mass of Requiem at Sts. Peter and Paul Church on Jan. 20. The Pontifical Mass of Requiem was celebrated by Bishop Mark K. Carroll at St. Andrew Church in Wright on Jan. 22. Father Vogel was buried in St. Andrew Cemetery.

Father Vogel was one of 12 children. He had three siblings who also entered religious life: Father Bill Vogel, Sister Dominica Vogel, CSJ, and Sister Janette Vogel, CSJ.
SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, Jan. 7: Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mark 1:7-11

Monday, Jan. 8
First Samuel 1:1-8/Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday, Jan. 9
First Samuel 1:9-20/Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, Jan. 10
First Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20/Mark 1:29-39

Thursday, Jan. 11
First Samuel 4:1-11/Mark 1:40-45

Friday, Jan. 12
First Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22/Mark 2:1-12

Saturday, Jan. 13
First Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1/Mark 2:13-17

Sunday, Jan. 14
First Samuel 3:3-10, 19/First Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20/John 1:35-42

Monday, Jan. 15
First Samuel 15:16-23/Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday, Jan. 16
First Samuel 16:1-13/Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday, Jan. 17; Saint Anthony, abbot
First Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Mark 3:1-6
or Matthew 19:16-26

Thursday, Jan. 18
First Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Mark 3:7-12

Friday, Jan. 19
First Samuel 24:3-21/Mark 3:13-19

Saturday, Jan. 20
Second Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Mark 3:20-21

Sunday, Jan. 21
Jonah 3:1-5, 10/First Corinthians 7:29-31/Mark 1:14-20

Diocese accepting Adult Religious Scouting award nominations

The Diocese of Dodge City Catholic Committee on Scouting is accepting letters of nomination for adults who have provided exceptional service as an adult leader in Catholic Scouting ministry or other groups serving youth that have contributed to the spiritual development of Catholic young people. Although these awards are given by the Catholic Church, the recipients do not have to be a member of that faith to be considered.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Jan. 20. All nominations, except for the St. George Emblem, may be in the form of a letter submitted to the Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting, Diocese of Dodge City, P. O. Box 137, Dodge City, KS 67801.

The recognition and presentation of the awards will occur at the conclusion of the Diocese of Dodge City’s Scout QUEST 2018 retreat Feb. 18, at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Church.

The following is a summary of the adult awards that can be awarded by the Diocese of Dodge City.

1. THE SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON AWARD - This award recognizes the meritorious contributions of adults who serve youth through girl’s organizations on a parish or unit level. The applicant must have provided exceptional service to youth as an adult leader in Catholic Scouting or other groups serving youth.

2. THE SAINT ANNE MEDAL - This medal honors the outstanding service of adults contributing to the spiritual development of Catholic members in the Girl Scout movement and to further, promote adult leadership in youth ministry. The applicant must have a minimum of seven years active service to youth as an adult member to be considered for this award.

3. THE BRONZE PELICAN - This award recognizes the contributions of adults who serve Boy Scouting organizations on the parish or unit level. The recipient must have demonstrated good example as a Christian and influenced boys to live a good Christian life.

4. THE SAINT GEORGE EMBLEM - This emblem is the highest national recognition for adults who have made a significant contribution to the spiritual development of Catholic youth involved in Cub/Boy Scouting organizations at the diocese level. The Diocese of Dodge City is permitted to present one emblem per year. An application for this emblem is also required.

For further information about the awards or to obtain an applications for the St. George Emblem, contact Dave Geist, Chairperson of the Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting at (620) 430-2123, or email at davegeist@swksaging.org.

BISHOP JOHN BRUNGARDT’S SCHEDULE: JAN. 7-21

Jan. 4-11: Region IX Bishop’s Retreat in California
Jan. 12: Priest Personnel Council Meeting at Chancery
Jan. 13: Mass at Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City at 5 p.m.
Jan. 14: VIBRANT MINISTRIES THANK-YOU MASS IN ENGLISH AT ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GREAT BEND AT 5 P.M.

Estate Planning for Catholics

Tips for Managing Some of Your Most Important Life Decisions

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- **Wednesday, January 10, 2018 7:00-8:00pm**
  Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City
- **Monday, January 15, 2018 7:00-8:00pm**
  St. Anthony Parish Center, Liberal
- **Thursday, January 18, 2018 7:00-8:00pm**
  Prince of Peace Parish Center, Great Bend
- **Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:00-8:00pm**
  St. Dominic Parish Center, Garden City
- **Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:00-8:00pm**
  Sacred Heart School Cafeteria, Pratt

For more information, contact:
Mark W. Roth, Director of Development
910 Central Ave, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 227-1535 or mroth@cdciocese.org

RSVP’s Encouraged and Recommended to Mark Roth

May you have a happy and blessed New Year!