Alum shares heartfelt words with St. Joseph students

**By DAVE MYERS**  
Southwest Kansas Catholic

“Is Jesus really in that piece of bread that he puts in your mouth?” the first-grade boy asked.

“Yes, he is!” replied Rachel Doll enthusiastically. “It’s really Jesus! It’s his body and blood and his soul and his divinity and we get to pray with him. It’s the closest we can get to Jesus on earth. It’s awesome!”

The senior at Ft. Hays State College was paying a Catholic Schools Week visit to her alma mater, St. Joseph School in Ellinwood, when she was asked the question during a presentation to the kindergarten-through-third grade classes. She later met with older students.

The children made a few quick determinations. First, Ft. Hays is not a Catholic school, but that doesn’t mean Doll isn’t growing in her faith every day.

“I have a special group like you guys have here,” she explained. "It’s called the Catholic Disciples. We learn about Jesus just like you. We get to hear from priests and nuns. It’s really cool! They come and talk and teach us about Jesus."  

"You never stop learning about Jesus!"

Another determination the pupils made is that Doll thinks St. Joseph School is pretty cool. "It’s awesome, that’s for sure!" she said.

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As St. Dominic School celebrates its half-century anniversary, students asked:  

What will life be like in 50 years?

The answers were anywhere from the obvious— "Teachers will retire and there will be different ones"—to the somewhat unlikely: "The schools will be floating!"

And of course, there was the hopeful: "Math will be invisible" [to which a few adults in the room nodded in approval].

The first graders in Amanda Frick’s class at St. Dominic School in Garden City prove that creativity and imagination are gifts given to one and all, no exceptions.

These children were not only born in the 21st century, it’s unlikely that any were born prior to 2010. Yet, many of their predictions were the same as those predicted decades ago: flying cars, robots, etc....

One prediction that no one could deny a half century ago was that in 50 years St. Dominic School would be thriving.

But before taking a look at the past, the pupils took part in an entertaining look into the future, predicting what school life, and life in general, would be like:

Continued on Page 10

Continued on Page 11

Above, students at Sacred Heart School in Ness City celebrate Mass on Grandparents Day during Catholic Schools Week. At left, a student at St. Dominic School in Garden City raises his hand when asked what he thinks life will be like in 50 years. Photos by Dave Myers

‘FASTING FOR PRIESTLY Vocations’

A special letter from Bishop John; Page 7

+ Most Rev. John B. Brungardt  
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

The following is Part 2 of a 10-part series on the Good News and Kingdom Living.

“Extreme sports … the ultimate technology … the maximum party.”

What is the ultimate meaning of life? The three examples above may give us short-term, fleeting, pleasurable moments. Yet, we still return to being lonely, helpless and hopeless (see part 1). There must be more. Deep in our hearts we are longing for something. Actually, a Someone.

We desire God. Not just any old god, like a sun-god or a pleasure-god. Nor are we ultimately yearning for justice or peace. We long for a personal God, a loving God, a compassionate God. We have this God: “I have called you by name: you are mine … you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you” (Isaiah 43:1,4). This identity as a beloved child of God cannot come from a virtual world.

There is more. God sent His Son, Jesus, to us. Jesus was conceived in his mother Mary. Jesus was born as a little baby boy on a cold winter night. He grew up as the son of the carpenter Joseph. Jesus taught us love, forgiveness, and service. We can identify with Jesus since He is one of us. Jesus has a human nature, and a God nature. He is true God and true Man. He is our Savior. Jesus also loves us more than we can ask or imagine: “the Son of God who has loved me” (Galatians 2:20).

This is Good News! Thank you God! Thank you Jesus! You are the ultimate meaning of life! Next part in the series: the ultimate gift of life.

See Bishop’s Catechesis sidebar on Page 2
March 8-14

National Catholic Sisters Week

In light of National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW) taking place March 8-14, the Catholic Church is taking advantage of this issue’s focus on the Consecrated Life to invite everyone to celebrate women religious.

Please join us in showing Sisters your appreciation by dropping a note, letting them know in person, or by making a quick phone call. If you are trying to find a particular Sister, feel free to call Dave at the Catholic (620) 227-1519, or visit www.dcdiocese.org/directory/departments/religious-women-in-the-diocese.

“The nuns [and Sisters] are crazy nice. It’s almost scary how nice the nuns are. They are super sweet and walk around and ask ‘How can we pray for you?’ And they are the happiest people I know. I was always asking them, ‘Why are you always so happy?’ And they said, ‘Because we have Jesus!’”

-- Rachel Doll, 21, to first graders at St. Joseph School, Ellinwood. See Page 1

Principal and Foundation

At the beginning of his Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius of Loyola gave us some down-home truths, the Principal and Foundation, he called it. We need to know four things, he said: that we were created for this end, to know, love, and serve God, and to be happy with him in heaven; that all the things of the earth were created for us, to help us reach that end; that they are to be used, or not used, insofar as they help us to that end; and that we are to be indifferent to all things (open, available, free), and ready to choose whatever He asks of us.

On our good days, we do know these things. We did not make ourselves; he made us: another, a more mysterious Someone, made us. And, on these good days, we are grateful. We feel we must be so. We must give thanks. We must follow that relationship wherever it leads us. It’s a deep and a personal thing with us.

All this the Church believes. But most people growing up in our world never hear of this Principle and Foundation: they have no notion of these four truths. No wonder they wander, in a fog. They don’t know where they come from, they don’t know where they are going. Not knowing that, they cannot know how to use the good things of the world in a way that will help them get there. They have never been taught these fundamental things of successful human living.

It is the difference between the house built on sand, and the house built on rock. Unless the Lord builds the house, the builder builds in vain. (Psalm 127:1)

-- Ronald M. Gilmore, Bishop Emeritus of Dodge City

Helps farmers

Do you have an alcohol or drug addiction?

It may seem impossible — a prison in which you hold the key, yet as much as you try, you just can’t unlock the door. Alcohol and drugs are like that — they can place a seemingly insurmountable wall between you and hope and joy ... and recovery.

Here’s the thing: As deep as you think you are in the hell created by addiction, your life can be turned right-side-up again. Hope can rule the day instead of despair. Joy can again enter your life each morning when you wake up, instead of shame or remorse.

If you have, or think you may have, an alcohol or drug addiction, know that you can be healed, that the hell of today can be made ancient history.

For help and information, call the national drug abuse hotline at 1-877-959-2454.

Protecting God’s Children

The Diocese of Dodge City requires all employers 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.

The next PGC session is scheduled for:

**NESS CITY**
Sunday, Feb. 25, 3-6 p.m.
Sacred Heart School, 510 S. School St.
Ness City, KS 67560
Contact Person: Debbie Hagans (785) 798-3530; PGC Facilitator: Cherry Deges (620) 338-7501
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) 225-2412 home; dsnapp3@starrtech.net. 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.

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For help and information, call the national
After 43 years serving in Nigeria, Sister Rita Schwarzenberger says, ‘The greatest joy for me is to see lives changed’

Editor’s Note: The Southwest Kansas Catholic posed several questions to Sister Rita Schwarzenberger, a Dominican Sister of Peace, via email. The Kansas native serves in Nigeria.

Southwest Kansas Catholic: Where were you born?
Sister Rita Schwarzenberger: I was born in Collyer, Kansas (directly north of Dodge City, just north of I-70), the third of eight children.

SKC: How long have you been a Sister?

SKC: Can you tell me what it was that compelled you to become a Sister?
Sister Rita: I think your word ‘compelled’ is a good description. Not only did I go to Catholic grade school and was often helping the Sisters or Priests with one task or another, I was also very much exposed to the life of a Sister because our family often went to see our aunt, Sister Michael, in Great Bend, and on the way we stopped in Liebenthal to visit our great uncle, Father Francis Uhrich.

So when you use the word “compelled”, I sometimes tell people I did not choose to become a Sister; I was prayed into it. And as you might be aware, I have a sibling whom I followed into the convent, my older sister who worked for some time in the RENEW program in Dodge City Diocese, Sister Francine.

SKC: How long have you been serving in Nigeria?
Sister Rita: I came to Nigeria in 1975 to join the Dominican Sisters from Great Bend who were ministering here.

It was a big change for me to come from a small town in Kansas across the ocean, but it had been a dream of mine to be a missionary.

Initially I was involved in teaching, but later was asked to work for the northern Nigerian Dioceses in works of Justice and Peace. As that was handed over to Nigerians, I took up the work of directing the Hope for the Village Child Foundation. The Foundation was started by a friend of mine who left the country in the year 2000. I was free at that time to accept, and have been working there ever since.

SKC: Are there other Sisters from Kansas working with you? Any Nigerian Sisters?
Sister Rita: Initially I was part of a group of Sisters from Great Bend, but due to a number of circumstances, health issues, aging and sadly, of the death of some whom I met here, I am now the only Sister of the original ones from Great Bend still here.

However, the Sisters left a marvelous legacy in the foundation of a group of Nigerian Dominican Sisters who are doing wonderful work and who will soon take on the work that I am doing.

SKC: How is the faith of the people served? Are they mostly Christian? Muslim? Or a mix?
Sister Rita: Hope for the Village Child Foundation is an NGO, not a faith-based program, as that is defined. The meaning is that we do not proselytize. We work among and with both Christians and Muslims and we have representatives of both faiths on our staff.

Saying we are not faith-based does not mean we ignore religion. It is very important in the life of the people, but as an organization, we try to witness to others that as people of different denominations, different faiths and different ethnic groups, we can work together in harmony. It is a challenge, but I am proud to say that I feel we do that quite successfully. Key to it all, of course, is respect.

“These wells are donated by individuals, families or groups mainly in the United States; the Diocese of Dodge City has not been left out, as there are names of members of the Dodge City diocese on wells throughout our rural area. In all, I am proud to say that the people of the United States have sponsored well over 200 wells in various communities.”

-- Sister Rita Schwarzenberger, OP

Photos courtesy of Sister Rita Schwarzenberger, OP (At top) Sister Rita, far right, with parishioners at the 2017 Parish Assembly. (Above) Sister Rita, far right, distributes loans to widows.

SKC: Can you share a bit of what you do with the Foundation?
Sister Rita: Our work is mainly in rural interior communities, though we do have a central clinic.

Health care is a very big issue. In our clinic as well as in outreach programs, we deal with immunization against childhood diseases, child and maternal health, diseases such as malaria, typhoid, tuberculosis, sickle cell disease, HIV, meningitis and other common diseases such as diarrhea and vomiting.

Of course, each of these has many different components to treatment, but we are fortunate to have a well-supplied laboratory that assists with diagnosis.

An important part of our health program is our potable water program, i.e., the digging of wells in rural communities. These wells are donated by individuals, families or groups mainly in the United States; the Diocese of Dodge City has not been left out, as there are names of members of the Dodge City Diocese on wells throughout our rural area. In all, I am proud to say that the people of the United States have sponsored well over 200 wells in various communities.

As our name suggests, our main focus is on the child, but we have found out that one cannot focus on the child without bringing in the other members of the family.

With that in mind, we place stress on education, assisting the rural communities in strengthening their schools. We engage in agricultural programs with farmers, both men and women. We also have special programs for women as the primary care-givers for the children.

Continued on Page 23
COMMENTARY

To sink, or to dance

By ELIZABETH KELLY
Your Heart, His Home

M y friend, I’ll call her “Veronica,” goes for the spiritual jugular, so to speak. It’s almost as if she avails herself to God and says, “All right, Lord, give me the toughest assignment you’ve got. Spare me no challenge.”

As an example, when she and her husband decided to adopt a child, they opted for the most difficult arrangement currently available in our state: from foster care to adoption. It is a process fraught with uncertainty and agonizing tedium. The bureaucracy alone would put off most people of a lesser constitution. In all likelihood she and her husband will be caring for a child who has suffered a great deal of trauma and might have any number of spiritual, physical, and psychological needs beyond the ordinary, wounds that may take a long time, perhaps a lifetime, to mend. The process might take years, or worse, even after years of physical and emotional investment might not come to fruition at all.

All parenting involves a great deal of sacrifice and selflessness, a kind of patience and tenacity of spirit to suffer the pains of forming a unique, unrepeatable, little human, body and soul. But somehow the willingness to take on this method to becoming a parent ratchets up that sacrifice to new and inspiring levels in my mind.

But that’s just who Veronica is. She’s fearless when it comes to the hard realities. She worked in a poor part of the world where life was rather precarious for a woman on her own and she suffered the daily toils that come with such an existence — even the little things, like having to wash her hair in a sink of cold water — in order to help girls get an education. She spent years working on the front lines of the pro-life movement, tirelessly knocking on doors of legislators trying to educate them about any number of complex issues. In a particular apostolate of which she is a member, she deliberately chooses the assignments that others will not take — the harder ones, the ones that don’t even occur to others.

Veronica’s is a compelling and credible Catholicism because it is uninterested in tidy consolations or platitudes. If someone wanted to give her a “humanitarian award,” she’d laugh and think it an absurdity. Her life quietly, mostly anonymously, burns with the authentic desire to care for those who cannot care for themselves — but it is a supernatural fire, not one stoked by a desire for rewards or recognition, or even a sense of self-worth.

Her faith walks her into the tender, dark underbelly of the beastly human condition without fear and asks in all earnestness and without the slightest condescension or pretension, “How can I help?” She burns on out of an uncommon and holy valor that I have known is fed and formed in Christ’s Church.

Peter’s faith was big and beautiful and imperfect. When Jesus invited him out onto the sea, he lasted a while — dear fellow, our rock — at least a few steps before the dark world and fear took him over, and look what the Lord did through him.

My mind, I see Christ calling Veronica out onto that sea. But she doesn’t sink at the sight of the storm and the crashing waves. No, she dances.

Jesus, may we be bold, convicted, and without self-interest or false piety, and take your compassion to every dark and difficult corner of the human experience.

Elizabeth Kelly is an award-winning speaker and the author of six books. For more information, visit www.emkbooks.com.

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

‘Calling Dick Tracy!’

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

“Who’s Dick Tracy?”

“Who’s Dick Tracy?” Was she kidding?

How could anyone not know Dick Tracy? Several years ago I wrote about trying to buy a cell phone when the salesperson mentioned that with the right phone, you could make video phone calls.

“What?” I had exclaimed. “Just like Dick Tracy!” My smile quickly faded when it dawned on me that there was an entire generation that didn’t know Dick Tracy. This was nearly 40 years ago. Make that two generations, today.

“Why are you crying, sir?”

The first Dick Tracy comic strip made its debut nearly 90 years ago, so I guess it’s understandable why she didn’t know who he was. Still, it just seemed un-American, like not knowing that Betsy Ross invented apple pie, or that American hero Louis Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. I mean, what are they teaching kids today?

Two weeks ago I was covering Catholic Schools Week activities when I had a similar epiphany regarding the passing of time and my rocky relationship to it. It dawned on me that when I first started with the Southwest Kansas Register 18 years ago, I was the age of many of the parents of the grade school kids.

Last week, suddenly and without warning, I was the age of many of the grandparents. I realized I was looking at the children of the children I covered 18 years ago! At some point when my back was turned, the years had whizzed by in a blur.

This strange phenomenon had caused my beard to turn grey, my face to begin to acquire the look that a piece of paper has when you wad it up and then try to smooth it out again, and my eyebrows to grow unruly, like oversieved toothbrush bristles.

“What should I go see a doctor?” I wondered. Then I thought, “No. That’s stupid.” Then I thought, “I could use a burrito,” because wasn’t I hungry.

The day after this thought invaded my brain, I travelled to St. Dominic School in Garden City where the students were studying the 50-year history of the school (Happy Anniversary, St. Dominic School!), and of dreaming what life would be like in another 50 years.

The predictions were pretty typical for first graders: schools floating in the sky, robot teachers; and teleportation through a worm hole someday. He accidentally transports himself to another 50 years.

A great man once said not to worry about what the world will be like when you were a child. What did you hope for? Flying cars? Taking a vacation on the moon? Living on the moon? Of course the moon would be colonized by the time we grew up!

What about having a robot for a best friend? I thought about that one a lot, as I’m sure did other bully fodder like me: “You talkin’ to me, Butch? Huh? You talkin’ to me? No, I think you’re talkin’ to my friend Gort, here! Say hello, Gort!” Zzzzzzzzzzz!! (I’ll leave you to imagine what the Zzzzzzzzzzzzz (!) indicates.)

Maybe some of you who grew up on farms thought about having a farm on Mars some day. Or robot cows (which isudderly crazy when you think about it).

When my mom was a little girl growing up on a farm, her dream for the future was an indoor bathroom! And electricity! My dad probably didn’t think much about flying cars as a boy, especially at a time when an airplane flying over would draw everyone outside to see it!

As adults, what do you hope for the future? Chances are, most of you aren’t thinking about flying cars. Well, I am. But most mature people my age aren’t. As you get older, thoughts about the future become less about us and more about the world your children will encounter.

Will there ever be peace on earth? Sure! It begins on a Tuesday afternoon in May, for about 12 minutes. Then someone will step over a border and here we go again. Will there be an end to hunger? We’d have to end greed, first. What about crime? Disease? Will there still be elephants? Will they all be in zoos? Will people be in zoos and the elephants be in charge? That’s a distinct possibility.

A great man once said not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself. Jesus isn’t saying we can’t have fun thinking about flying cars, or that we shouldn’t “envision world peace,” as the bumper sticker says. What he’s saying is that no matter what is to come (and what is to go), the one constant is God’s unconditional love for us, a love that will some day plop us down in his flying car—Jesus at the wheel—and take us right through that of worm hole to a world more wondrous than we could ever begin to predict!
I am thinking a lot these days about groaning. Not whining, but groaning. And I am thinking about how deep within I must go to honestly groan. Groaning is hard work. Real groans emerge from the gut. They come forth on their own. You cannot fake a groan.

I found myself groaning lately. After 10 days of imagining that a ferocious chest cold was getting better, I finally admitted that it was actually getting worse.

“What if it’s pneumonia?” I groaned.

The Scriptures are full of groaning. In their slavery, Job groans under God’s heavy hand. The poor, who are plundered and needy, groan to the Lord for relief. The Psalmist moans in Psalm 38; “I groan feeble and utterly crushed,” the groaning,” I read in Psalm 31. “I am consumed by anguish, my years by good deal of groaning. “My life is hardly worth living.”

Both the poor and the considerate, the mighty and the scrupulous groan. “My life is worth nothing,” a character from the play, “Who’sAfraid of Virginia Woolf” moans. “My life is a waste.”

Psalmist Paul writes in Romans 8: “For we do not know how to pray as we ought.” Or, “We do not know how to groan as we ought.” To feel the soul move in ways that move God. Or to feel God actually moving in the soul.

Jesus knew this kind of prayer. In Mark’s Gospel he looks up to heaven and groans as he heals the man who is deaf and unable to speak. And the man is healed. Jesus’ groaning is not an expression of despair but fruitful intercession.

Paul continues: “But the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the One who searches hearts knows the intention of the Spirit.”

What makes me groan today? What makes me put my head down on my kitchen table and weep? What causes the Spirit within me to groan? I will tell you what causes the Spirit within me to groan: the pernicious and pervasive indifference of the human heart to the suffering of others, to the suffering of creation itself. An indifference as much within me as out there in the world. Pernicious, I say, meaning deadly. And pervasive, because everything, it seems, urges me to be distracted from deeply and urgently paying attention, distracted from conversion to a way of life that blesses others, that blesses creation.

These groanings are dangerous expressions of the soul. They break open those carefully guarded defenses. They topple the silos of elusive security and self-sufficiency. Weeping and groaning rip away my perfectly reasonable excuses for not getting involved in the complex, messy,盯着 injustices in my world. Injustices that always have a logic. It’s just not the logic of the reign of God.

I don’t like thinking these thoughts. But here they are. The Spirit is up to something. I cannot dodge the urgency of my own ing to be the presence of the risen Christ in the world I touch.

(c) Mary Sharon Moore, 2018. All Rights Reserved. Mary Sharon Moore writes and speaks nationwide on the nature of God’s calling in our times.

Visit marysharonmoore.com
**Kansas prelate served most of his vocation in Brazil**

Scott City prelate served most of his vocation in Brazil

Bishop Hermes was active in many organizations promoting the human, social, political and economic rights of indigenous and poor persons, who were often exploited and victimized by powerful alliances of corrupt government and business. He exposed the practice of modern slavery and worked to rescue the enslaved. His opposition to acts such as these brought threats to his life.

The Most Reverend Herbert J. Hermes, O.S.B., bishop emeritus of Cristolandia, Goias, Brazil, and religious vocation from St. Joseph Parish, Scott City, Kansas, died Jan. 3, 2018 of complications from pneumonia at the General Hospital of Palmas, Tocantins, Brazil. The funeral Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Wellington Querioz of Cristalândia, and Abbot James Albers of St Benedict Abbey, Atchison, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Paraíso do Tocantins. Burial was in the crypt of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cristalândia, Tocantins.

Herbert Hermes was born at Shallow Water, Kans., on May 25, 1933, the son of John and Mary Hilger Hermes. He was baptized in St. Joseph Church, June 5, 1933. He received his elementary and secondary training in Scott City. He was an honor student at Scott Community High School and valedictorian of the Class of 1951.

After two years in the preparatory seminary of St. Benedict’s Abbey, Atchinson, Kans., he entered the Benedictine novitiate on July 10, 1953. He professed his solemn vows on July 11, 1957. He received the major orders of subdeacon and deacon in Dec. 14, 1958, and Dec. 19, 1959, respectively.

The Rev. Herbert Hermes, O.S.B., was among seven Benedictine monks ordained to the priesthood in St. Benedict’s Abbey on Sept. 2, 1960. He was assigned to the episcopal vicariate at St. Benedict’s Abbey on Sept. 2, 1960. He was assigned to the episcopal vicariate at St. Benedict’s Abbey on Sept. 2, 1960. He was assigned to the episcopal vicariate at St. Benedict’s Abbey on Sept. 2, 1960. He was assigned to the episcopal vicariate at St. Benedict’s Abbey on Sept. 2, 1960. He was assigned to the episcopal vicariate at St. Benedict’s Abbey on Sept. 2, 1960.

**Bishop John B. Brungardt and Bishop Hermes celebrate an anniversary Mass at St. Joseph Church in Scott City, Wis.**
Fasting for Priestly Vocations

Today is the First Sunday of Lent, my favorite liturgical season. I don’t know about you, but Lent is a time I ask Jesus to help me “jump-start” the living of my Catholic Faith. Our Lord gives us four ways to practice our walk with Him in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6:1-18): fasting, almsgiving, prayer, and righteous deeds (for example, acts of kindness). I would like to introduce an important project for the diocese regarding Fasting for Priestly Vocations this Lent.

WHEN YOU FAST
“When you fast ...” (Matthew 6:16). Jesus denied Himself often. Next week we will hear of His sacrifice in the desert for 40 days. Mortification. “Giving up.” Denying ourselves some good or pleasure to leave more room for the spiritual. More space in our lives for Christ. Fasting is a necessary part of living our Catholic Faith.

PRAYER, ALMSGIVING, ACTS OF KINDNESS
Prayer, almsgiving, and acts of kindness are also important this Lent. Yet, I wish to focus this project on Fasting for Priestly Vocations. Other vocations are essential: the consecrated life and the married life. Yet, we are soon facing a grave shortage in the priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City in our 48 parishes?

How will we provide HOLY MASS, ABSOLUTION OF SINS, and ANOINTING OF THE SICK in the future to our faithful in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City in our 48 parishes?

Yet, we are soon facing a grave shortage IN THE PRIESTHOOD IN OUR DIOCES.

How will we provide HOLY MASS, ABSOLUTION OF SINS, and ANOINTING OF THE SICK in the future to our faithful in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City in our 48 parishes?

Got a minute? Send a letter of support to our seminarians

Are you being called?

God’s truth is most exciting to understand. It is the path to all the wonderful, good things in life—things God wants you to have. It is also the path to the greatest freedom that there is! Jesus said to his first disciples, “do not be afraid,” so don’t be afraid! Be brave! If you have questions, ask the help of your pastor or other priests who may be your friend and a source of inspiration to you. They will be happy to help you along your journey.

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

Please take a moment to send a letter of support to our seminarians who, if it be God’s plan, will one day serve as a priest for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. The seminarians have said on many occasions how much these letters mean to them!

John STANG  
St. John Vianney  
Theological Seminary  
1300 S. Steele St.  
Denver, CO 80210

Austin HABASH  
St. John Vianney  
Theological Seminary  
1300 S. Steele St.  
Denver, CO 80210

Eric FRIEB  
Conception Seminary College  
P.O. Box 502  
Denver, CO 80210

P.O. Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433

Esteban HERNANDEZ  
Conception Seminary College  
P.O. Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433

Tyler SAUCEDO  
St. John Vianney  
Theological Seminary  
1300 S. Steele St.  
Denver, CO 80210

THANK YOU

Thank you for your fidelity. Let us pray for one another, that we may live out our Fasting for Priestly Vocations. May the Lord bless us with much fruit: with an increase in seminarians, and with holy, happy, and hard-working priests. God “gives us a future full of hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). The great High Priest, Jesus, loves you more than you can ask or imagine!

Father Juan Salas blesses Sister Angela Erevia soon after his ordination.

Heavenly Father, bless us with the grace of many vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, grant to those You have called a willing and generous spirit. May they devote their lives and their talents to serve You and Your Church. Increase the faith of all within our diocese, and particularly the faith of those You have called to religious vocations. We ask this through Christ, Your Son. Amen.
Sister Elaine Fischer, OSB: from carpenter to biochemist

Sister Elaine Fischer, who was reared in Ottawa, is a Benedictine Sister of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison. The following was written by Sister Irene Nowell. It is reprinted with permission from the website of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas - www.mountstsb.org.

Gardener, carpenter, fire-fighter, EMT, eco-scientist, avid reader, friend and faithful monastic. Whenever someone has a need, especially if it is urgent—the first phone number called is often that of Sister Elaine Fischer, OSB. Sister Elaine, daughter of Bernard and Rita Fischer, was born in 1965 and spent her childhood on their farm near Ottawa, Kan. She has a sister, Nancy, who died last year, and two brothers: David who is the oldest and John who is the youngest.

Two major events shaped Sister Elaine’s compassion and her "can-do" attitude. Her sister Nancy, just a year older than Elaine, was born with spina bifida, so Elaine became very creative in figuring out how to include Nancy in everything. Then when Elaine was eleven years old, her father had a serious heart attack, so Elaine and her older brother David did much of the farm work, with her father supervising from the pickup. Emergencies and difficult situations are simply part of life for Elaine.

Then when Elaine was eleven years old, her father had a serious heart attack, so Elaine and her older brother David did much of the farm work, with her father supervising from the pickup. Emergencies and difficult situations are simply part of life for Elaine.

Elaine’s ‘can-do’ attitude keeps Atchison monastery running

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.

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Diocese asks for continued prayers for Father Marvin Reif

The Catholic Diocese of Dodge City continues to pray for Father Marvin Reif, who walked away from his residence at Valley Manor Nursing Home in Protection, Kansas on April 3, 2017. His whereabouts are currently unknown. Father Reif was receiving treatment for mental health issues, from which he has suffered for several years.

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.

If you have information regarding Father Reif, contact local law enforcement.

Remember “For humans, it is impossible; but for God, all is possible.” (Matthew 19:26). This invitation may scare you, making you resist, even deny it. Not everyone is called by God to become a sister, but why not at least explore the possibility? So, if you are experiencing a call or a nudge from God, contact vocation@oppeace.org. Sisters will walk with you to help you discover what God is calling you to... and promise, no strings attached.

If you’re ready to take the next step to explore your call and the community, join us for a Come and See retreat at the Columbus Motherhouse, March 9-11, 2018. For more details, contact Sr. Pat Dual at pdual@oppeace.org or call/text her at 614-216-7688.

Signs of God’s invitation to pursue Religious life

I once day, you are called to become a sister; what will you do? Deny, ignore, or pursue what you believe is a call. But first, how do you know God is calling you? God’s invitations can come in many different ways. A call is unique for each person in each circumstance. This invitation may start when:

• a voice within you keeps calling you to be a sister.
• you experience a hunger for intimacy with God.
• an inspiring quote, a sister’s story, or the works of a religious community touch you deeply and lead you to consider becoming a sister.
• you dream of working with the poor or working for justice and peace.
• you experience something missing in your life and you want to work for something bigger than yourself.

In some cases, the invitation can be unexpected:

• a thunderbolt hitting your ears when someone says: “Have you ever thought of becoming a sister?”
• a joke you may really hate; “You act or look like a nun, why don’t you be one of them?”
• a bet between you and someone encouraging you to contact a religious community.

God’s invitation can also seem confusing or unsettling. For example:

• Your fiancé hands you a retreat registration; “I registered you for a retreat. You should explore your call before we get married.” Don’t feel resentful towards him.
• You often don’t feel peaceful, but have a sense of emptiness while dating, or even one or two weeks before getting married. Pay attention to that sign.

By Sister MAI DUNG NGUYEN, OP

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC
Religious women and men honored at Consecrated Life Day Mass, reception

By DAVID MYERS
Southwest Kansas Register

W
RIGHT – Despite the 21-degree high predicted for the day, the warmth created inside St. Andrew Church was a direct reflection of the familial joy of so many gathered in one place to celebrate their “Consecrated” devotion to a loving Lord.

This Mass and reception celebrating the 22nd World Day for Consecrated Life, Feb. 10, celebrated more than a decision that each person made one day to devote their lives to Christ, but the journey that each has taken thus far. For some, the journey has brought them to the jungles of Africa, for others, the shores of China, and for still others, a strange and mysterious place called Southwest Kansas.

At the Mass prior to the luncheon reception, Father Robert Schremmer, pastor of St. Andrew Parish, welcomed all those gathered.

“We also welcome Religious priests Father Aneesh [Parappanattu, MSFS], Father Prakash Kola [MSFS], And Father Maurice Cummings [O. Carm],” he said, noting the priests seated behind the altar.

“And then there’s Father Ted [Stoecklein] and myself, who are not Religious,” Father Schremmer added to laughter.*

In his homily, Father Aneesh, a Missionary of St. Francis de Sales, used India’s national flower as a metaphor for a person “Consecrated to the Lord.”

“The Lotus flower inherits and exhibits a lot of meaning and symbolism and has a number of unique properties,” he said.

“It grows in muddy, dirty water and rises above the surface to bloom with remarkable beauty. At night, the flower closes and sinks underwater, while at dawn, it rises and opens again. It has a quality of self-cleaning and always remains free from dirty particles. Its leaves are such that they remain always dry.

“Untouched by impurity, the Lotus symbolizes purity of heart and mind.”

The flower, he said, “represents beautifully this consecration and offering to the Lord:

“We may grow in the muddy waters of evil, scandals, violence, corruption, yet, can we rise above all this and bloom in beauty, with God’s strength?

“In the night of our life, we may sink and feel dejected, broken, sad, depressed, worried, etc… Yet, can we open up again, and blossom in loveliness, with God’s graces?

“In our worldly interactions, we may get spoiled with dirty particles of sin, evil, bad habits, etc… Yet, can we free ourselves from all these, by the redeeming power of God’s love?

“Let us hold the hands of Mother Mary, and renew our consecration to the Lord. In the Lord we find strength for our Consecration; we find joy for our Consecration. Yes, we belong to the Lord.”

Following Mass, participants walked amid the Kansas deep freeze to the parish center, where Knights of Columbus waited with drinks and appetizers. Inside the social hall, the Knights and the women of the Altar Society provided a delicious meal served with the help of members of the Vocation Commission.

As participants ate dessert, Father Schremmer suggested to those gathered that they discuss how we might better bring the joy of the Gospel to everyone, including those “on the peripheries.”

Several participants who had attended the Convocation for Catholic Leaders in Orlando, where they addressed this same question, offered their comments. Mike Stein shared an impassioned plea that “we must reach out more effectively to immigrants in a world that is increasingly hostile to them.”

The Catholic Diocese of Dodge City is currently home to 10 different religious orders: four orders of men religious, and six orders of women religious.

* Fathers Schremmer and Stoecklein are “diocesan” priests, and do not belong to a “Religious” order. Therefore they are not considered a Religious. See the Jan. 21 issue for an in-depth article on the subject.

The people of the Diocese of Dodge City offer their sincere gratitude to all of those who, through their prayer and service, continue to bless the diocese with their presence.
Heartfelt words from St. Joseph alum

From Page 1

teaches and what grade, well, she’s leaving that up to a higher power.

"I would like to teach fifth grade, but I’ll do whatever God wants me to do," she told the children. "I always make plans, and think I’m going to do this, and then God’s like, ‘Actually, you’re going to do this, instead.’ So, I always try to listen to what God wants me to do. I think I would like to teach fifth grade, but I like all grades. I think you’re all awesome.”

That old notion of Sisters being a bit on the temperamental side has gone by the wayside, but those antique notions still sneak in now and then. When one child asked Doll if the Sisters she encountered were mean, she replied, “The nuns are super sweet and walk around and ask ‘How can we pray for you?’ And they are the happiest people I know. I was always asking them, ‘Why are you always so happy?’ And they say, ‘Because we have Jesus!’”

“Basically, they are married to Jesus! They spend all their time praying and spending time with Jesus. And they are so happy. They’re not mean at all.”

Doll spoke about the joy of adoration, drawing a similar question to one posed earlier regarding the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

“He’s really there!” Doll responded. “Isn’t that so cool? And it’s hard for us because we can’t really see him. He doesn’t have eyes, does he? There aren’t any eyes on the bread. It doesn’t have a mouth either, but he’s there. At the last supper, he said, ‘This is my body, which I will give up for you.’ We have to just believe and trust!”

Doll spoke about the joy of adoration, drawing a similar question to one posed earlier regarding the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

“Our whole philosophy is to teach this whole family.”

"A second-grader might go to third grade math class and a child with Down Syndrome in second grade might go over to first grade or might stay in 2nd grade,” Michael Michalak explained. “Nobody is going to keep their children apart without compromising educational quality or spiritual formation.

“A classical education is, I think, the best education for a child with special needs because it is an education in everything that is beautiful, true, and good. It is perfect for these children,” Penny told CNA.

The school’s course schedule is configured so that students can move up or down grade levels by subject at each class hour, according to individual needs.

“A second-grader might go to third grade math class and a child with Down Syndrome in second grade might go over to first grade or might stay in 2nd grade,” Michael Michalak explained. “Nobody is looking around and saying, ‘Oh, they are going to special classroom.’ They are just going where they need to be.”

“The midst of all of this we are not leaving students behind,” Penny added. “We keep our high academic standards while integrating students with special needs.”

Since its founding, the independent Catholic school has grown to a student body of 160. Other Catholic schools across the country have begun looking to Immaculata as a model, the Michalaks say.

“Whenever anyone visits our school, they always say, ‘Oh my goodness the joy of this place!’” Penny told CNA.

What is Catholic Schools Week?

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2018 is “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.”

Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to the Church, the communities and the nation.

How this classical Catholic school welcomes children with Down Syndrome

Louisville, Ky. (CNA) - Students with Down Syndrome study Latin and logic alongside their classmates at Immaculata Classical Academy, a Catholic school in Louisville, Ky. that integrates students with special needs into each of their pre-K through 12 classrooms.

The school emphasizes “education of the heart,” along with an educational philosophy tailored to the abilities of each student. About 15 percent of students at Immaculata have special needs.

“When you look at these students with Down Syndrome in a classical setting, it is truly what a classical education is all about -- what it truly means to be human,” the school’s founder, Michael Michalak, told CNA.

“You can’t learn compassion in a book,” Michalak explained. “He said the students at Immaculata are gaining “the ability to give of yourself to help others” through mutual mentoring constantly taking place in the classrooms.

Michalek founded the academy along with his wife, Penny, in 2010. The couple saw a need for a Catholic school in which students like their daughter, Elena, who has Down Syndrome, would not be segregated from their siblings. They wanted to keep their children together without compromising educational quality or spiritual formation.

“A classical education is, I think, the best education for a child with special needs because it is an education in everything that is beautiful, true, and good. It is perfect for these children,” Penny told CNA.

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Happy 50th anniversary, St. Dominic School!

Continued from Page 1.

“The school will look older.”

“We’ll look older!”

“It will be an electric [dry-erase] board. You’ll say it and it will show.”

“Robots will teach. Then the teachers can have a day off.”

“The swing sets will be different. You’ll be able to go higher.”

“The ceiling will be dark brown.”

“Worm holes will be used for teleportation.”

HISTORY

In a presentation to St. Dominic parishioners and school families on Jan. 28, the first day of Catholic Schools Week, Principal Trina Delgado shared some of the history of the 50-year-old school.

St. Dominic School opened its doors for the first time on Sept. 7, 1967 with 106 pupils in six grades. Bishop Marion Forst dedicated the parish complex (which also included a multi-use auditorium and convent) on May 5, 1968.

At this point, there was still only one church in Garden City: St. Mary.

Why did the diocese build a new school before it constructed a church for the new parish?

St. Dominic had been decreed a parish two years earlier, and ground was purchased for the parish complex. But the money wasn’t there for a new church and school.

Father Lisle Pottorff, pastor, noted at the time, “As the Bishop has indicated, the foundation of a parish is the faith, and the foundation of the faith is a parish school. Due to the lack of funds, an entire parish plant cannot be built at this time.”

On Sept. 6, 1966, ground was broken, and after a year-and-a-half of construction, Bishop Forst dedicated the complex.

Mass, which had been held in the Coop Community Center and later the Knights of Columbus Hall, moved to the auditorium, where it would be celebrated for the next 15 years before the present St. Dominic Church would be constructed.

Lilly Ann Rein was hired as a para at St. Dominic School in 1975, less than a decade after the school opened its doors. At the time, the staff consisted of four teachers (all of whom were Sisters) and two paras—the entire teaching staff for grades one through six.

“My dream was that by the time I stopped working, we would have a teacher for every grade, and a P.E. teacher, librarian and a music teacher,” Rein said in an earlier interview. “Today we have a teacher for every grade. We have gym and music. We have a computer lab. We have a pre-school for three-year-olds, PreK for four- and five-year-olds, and a kindergarten. We have really come far.”

“I got so much more than I asked for,” she said with a wide smile.

St. Dominic’s, and other Catholic schools, continue to maintain a strong Catholic presence.

“We’re so lucky that we can go to Mass, speak about God, pray together, and do loving and wonderful things with the kids,” Rein said. “We’ve got a good set of kids. It’s due to the parents and faculty. Otherwise I wouldn’t be here.”

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Delgado, who also is Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said that “it has been a full week of celebration and inspiration for our school community, especially our young students and staff. My thoughts, when we began planning this celebration, were that we needed to educate our young people about the many people that it takes to make (and maintain) a successful Catholic school.

“Our students have learned the many changes that have taken place in 50 years, as well as the reasons behind those changes. We’ve learned about the legacy of people, and the influence that a Catholic education had, and continues to have, on lives; as Catholics, as family members, as professionals, and simply put, on people being a small part of the larger world. Finally, we have learned the meaning and responsibility of being alumni.

“The time spent at St. Dominic Catholic School may be short, in terms of years, but the memories that are made run deep,” Delgado said. “A special bond is created that lasts a lifetime!”

MEMORIES

“In memories shared with me by past lay and religious staff, I was told of a young student who lived very close to the school, got homesick midday and climbed out a school window to make a run for home,” Delgado said. “An unnamed religious sister, dressed in full habit, hiked up her skirt and followed him right out the same window, returning him not so patiently through the back school doors.”

Delgado said she “was also told of a certain priest, Msgr. [George] Husmann, who held a pilot’s license, and (the story gets better) owned his own airplane. Every year, for sixth grade graduation—according to Sister Renee Dreiling—he would take the 6th grade students on an airplane ride, not just any ride, but complete with flipping his plane into a spiral, student screams encouraged!”

Allison Doll, a senior at Kansas State University, said that the “aspect of St. Dominic that surprised me the most are the friendships that started there, and that still carry on to this day. After St. Dominic, there were many obstacles that came up, going to different schools, making new friends, not being involved in the same activities, all things that could have easily torn previous relationships apart.

“Though our relationships have changed, it is like we share a certain bond. As I think back on the past week (in my life), and take inventory of all the people I have interacted with, about a quarter of them are former St. Dominic students. That’s incredible considering my St. Dominic class was around 25 total students, and I am now attending a university with nearly 20,000 students.”

“Maybe the reason these relationships have endured for so long is that they got their start by being rooted in a strong faith. St. Dominic Catholic School has been a pillar of faith for 50 years.

“The school has helped shape the lives of hundreds of students and educators, and in turn they have shaped the school. Though the faces change, the mission and values stay the same.”
St. Joseph School in Ellinwood, led by Marlene Clayton, far right, celebrated the United States one day during Catholic Schools Week. Clayton’s outfit symbolized Kansas, while Grant Klepper, above, celebrated Louisiana. At right, St. Joseph alum Rachel Doll (see Page 1) talks to students about faith and college life. At bottom, students prepare letters of thanks to veterans as well as St. Joseph pastor, Father Bernard Felix. Bottom center, kindergarten students, celebrating Texas, take part in Show n’ Tell.

Newman University Western Kansas Center Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

HONORING EDUCATOR
JAMIE HARRINGTON
St. Joseph School, Ellinwood
Newman University
Class of 2007

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Nerves of steel. That’s the only way to describe those brave few who dared to take to the stage at Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Dodge City for the Catholic Schools Week Talent Show. There were songs, there were skits and there were jokes. Thankfully, this wasn’t a competition, because no one who competed could be deemed anything but a winner after displaying the preparation, the nerves, and ultimately the courage to make their voices and/ or instruments heard.

Sacred Heart Cathedral School, Dodge City

Photos by Carleigh Albers

St. Mary School, Garden City

Should “ice-skating” on paper plates across a gym floor (below) ever become an Olympic event, you can be sure that the St. Mary School team will take home the gold. At right, students display a cross they made with thumb prints to be sold in a silent auction. The reason they are wearing sunglasses is due to it being “Celebrate our Students” day, and the sunglasses symbolize how bright the students are. At far right, students enjoy cookies and bingo with their grandparents following Mass.

Photos courtesy of Michelle Mead and Lori Nieman
Just hours after Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow signaling six more weeks of winter, Father Pascal Klein was telling children and their grandparents at Sacred Heart Church in Ness City that when you walk away from the light, you walk in darkness.

“If we turn around and walk away from God, we see a shadow and light becomes a darkness. We live in the shadow. Paul said, ‘We are children of the light.’ ... We celebrate the power of the light. It comes to us in the wisdom of the Gospel and is shared with us through the wisdom of your grandparents. It’s your grandparents who can help you when you don’t see that you might not be walking toward God.

“This is why we need our grandparents. By their wisdom, they say to us, ‘Hey, that’s not right, you shouldn’t be doing that.’

“You carry the value of your grandparents and parents with you. Treasure your grandparents, because they truly treasure you. I’m sure both of your grandparents would tell you, you are the apple of their eye.”

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A friend who is grand is a grand-friend indeed! Students at Holy Family School in Great Bend were reminded of the tremendous value of their grandparents during “Grandfriend Day” Mass, followed by a reception, and later, lunch together in the parish center gym. At center and left, Dan Heath (“Dan Dan the Magic Man”) has been a mainstay at the Holy Family Catholic Schools Week activities for years, drawing both fits of laughter and amazement from his comedy and magic act.
Reverendísimo

JOHN B. BRUNGARDT
Obispo de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

¿Quién es nuestro Salvador?

(Parte 2 de la serie sobre las Buenas Nuevas y la Vida del Reino.)

"Deportes extremos... la última tecnología... la fiesta máxima"

¿Cuál es el significado último de la vida? Los tres ejemplos anteriores pueden darnos momentos placenteros a corto plazo y fugaces. Sin embargo, al final volvemos a estar solos, indefensos y sin esperanza (ver parte 1). Debe haber más. En lo profundo de nuestros corazones anhelamos algo. En realidad, a Alguien. Nosotros deseamos a Dios. No solo cualquier dios antiguo, como un dios del sol o un dios del placer. Tampoco estamos en última instancia anhelando la justicia o la paz. Anhelamos un Dios personal, un Dios amoroso, un Dios compasivo. Tenemos este Dios: "Te he llamado por tu nombre, tú eres mío... porque te aprecio y eres valioso y yo te quiero" (Isaías 43,14,1). Esta identidad como un hijo amado de Dios no puede provenir de un mundo virtual. Hay más. Dios nos envió a su Hijo, Jesús. Jesús fue concebido en su madre María. Jesús nació como un pequeño bebé en una fría noche de invierno. Creció como el hijo del carpintero José. Jesús nos enseñó sobre el amor, el perdón y el servicio. Podemos identificarnos con Jesús ya que Él es uno de nosotros. Jesús tiene una naturaleza humana, y una naturaleza divina. Él es el verdadero Dios y hombre. Él es nuestro Salvador. Jesús también nos ama más de lo que podemos pedir o imaginar: "el Hijo de Dios que me amó" (Gálatas 2,20).

¿Estas son buenas noticias? ¡Gracias, Dios! ¡Gracias, Jesús! ¡Ustedes son el sentido último de la vida! Siguiente parte de la serie: el regalo último de la vida.

Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales

Por Reverendísimo JOHN B. BRUNGARDT, Obispo de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

¿Cómo proporcionaremos la Santa Misa, la Absolución de los Pecados y la Unción de los Enfermos en el futuro a nuestros fieles en la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City en nuestras 48 parroquias? Solo un sacerdote puede darnos a Cristo en estos sacramentos.

Otras vocaciones son esenciales: la vida consagrada y la vida matrimonial. Sin embargo, pronto enfrentamos una grave escasez en el número de sacerdotes en nuestra diócesis. Somos bendecidos por tres sacerdotes recientemente ordenados en los últimos dos años, sin embargo, tenemos tres sacerdotes que dejan el ministerio a tiempo completo este verano para jubilarse o por otros factores. Somos bendecidos con cinco excelentes jóvenes en el seminario, pero la próxima ordenación (un sacerdote) será 2022, si Dios quiere.

Después de las nuevas asignaciones de misión de este verano, podríamos tener tres jubilaciones antes de 2022. De nuestros 17 sacerdotes incardinados que tienen una misión, nueve tendrán más de 60 años este año. Somos bendecidos por 14 sacerdotes misioneros que sirven generosamente, pero su propio obispado o superior puede llamarnos a casa en cualquier momento.

¿Cómo proporcionaremos la Santa Misa, la Absolución de los Pecados y la Unción de los Enfermos en el futuro a nuestros fieles en la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City en nuestras 48 parroquias? Solo un sacerdote puede darnos a Cristo en estos sacramentos.

Por lo tanto, invoco a los fieles de nuestra diócesis a esta iniciativa: el Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales. A partir de hoy, le animo a elegir algo a los cuales negarse en su vida de una pequeña manera: algo de comida / bebida, tecnología, deportes, compras, etc. Algo que le atrape. Algo con lo que piensa que no puede sobrevivir, incluso por un día. Cuando lo niegue y sienta la punzada del deseo, piense en las vocaciones sacerdotales. Haga una pequeña oración para que un solo hombre o un niño abra su corazón al llamado de Jesús al seminario. Tal vez él es hijo, un niño, un sobrino. Posiblemente él es un feligrés. Quizás él es usted.

Les pido a los sacerdotes y diáconos que se hagan personalmente cargo de este proyecto. Sacerdotes y diáconos. Los invito a hacer cada jueves de esta Cuaresma, y posiblemente más allá, un día especial de Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales. El jueves es el día de la Última Cena: la Institución de la Eucaristía, el Día del Sacerdocio y el Día del Servicio. Le pido a los seminaristas que se hagan personalmente cargo de este proyecto. Trabajen con sus directores espirituales para vivir la disciplina del ayuno en imitación de Cristo en el Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales.

Le pido a los otros fieles laicos de la diócesis que consideren este proyecto: el Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales. Elija algo pequeño, factible y realista. A veces, empezamos con demasiado, y a mitad de la Cuaresma, caemos. Haré sacrificio sobre los postres / café (ayuno), apagaré Internet por la noche y leeré / rezaré con la Biblia u otra lectura espiritual (ayuno y oración), continuaré mi promesa a la Petición Ministerios Vibrantes (limosna) y escribiré una postal cada tarde (acto de bondad) esta Cuaresma. Consideraré algunas de estas prácticas para ir más allá de la Cuaresma.

Gracias por su fidelidad. Recemos unos por otros, para que vivamos nuestro Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales. Que el Señor nos bendiga con mucho fruto: con un aumento en los seminaristas y con sacerdotes santos, sanos, felices y trabajadores. Dios nos da un futuro lleno de esperanza" (Jeremías 29,11). "El gran Sumo Sacerdote, Jesús, te ama más de lo que puedes pedir o imaginar!"
**Principio y Fundamento**

No nos hicimos nosotros mismos; Él nos hizo: un otro, un Alguien más misterioso, nos hizo. Y, en estos días buenos, estamos agradecidos.

A l comienzo de sus Ejercicios Espirituales, San Ignacio de Loyola nos dio algunas verdades de fondo, el Principio y Fundamento, lo llamó:

Necesitamos saber cuatro cosas: dió; que fuimos creados para este fin: conocer, amar y servir a Dios, y ser felices con él en el cielo; que todas las cosas de la tierra fueron creadas para nosotros, para ayudarnos a alcanzar ese fin; que deben ser utilizadas, o no utilizadas, en la medida en que nos ayudan a ese fin; y que debemos ser indiferentes a todas las cosas (abiertos, disponibles, libres) y listos para elegir lo que Él nos pida.

En nuestros días buenos, sabemos estas cosas. No nos hicimos nosotros mismos; Él nos hizo: un otro, un Alguien más misterioso, nos hizo y, en estos días buenos, estamos agradecidos. Sentimos que debemos serlo. Debemos dar gracias. Debemos seguir esa relación donde sea que nos lleve. Es algo profundo y personal en nosotros.

Todo esto, la Iglesia lo cree. Pero la mayoría de las personas que crecen en nuestro mundo nunca escuchan este Principio y Fundamento: no tienen ninguna noción de estas cuatro verdades. No es de extrañar que, en medio de una niebla. No saben de dónde vienen, no saben a dónde van. Sin saber eso, no pueden saber cómo usar las cosas buenas del mundo de la manera que los Dios quiere que llegan. Nunca les han enseñado estas cosas fundamentales de una vida humana exitosa. Es la diferencia entre la casa construida sobre arena y la casa construida sobre roca.

*Si el Señor no construye la casa, en vano trabajan los albañiles. (Salmo 127,1)*

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**Five cosas que debes saber sobre la Cuaresma**

Por POR DIEGO LÓPEZ MARINA

La Cuaresma es un importante tiempo litúrgico en el que la Iglesia llama a los fieles a la penitencia y conversión para prepararse bien a vivir los misterios de la Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo en la Semana Santa.

La Cuaresma tiene una duración de 40 días y es un tiempo especial en el que los católicos son invitados a convertirse. Aquí te presentamos 5 puntos importantes a tener en cuenta:

1. **Oraición, mortificación y caridad:** Las tres grandes prácticas cuaresmales

La oración es la condición indispensable para el encuentro con Dios. En la oración, el cristiano ingresa en el diálogo intimo con el Señor, deja que la gracia entre en su corazón y, como la Virgen María, se abre a la acción del Espíritu Santo dando una respuesta libre y generosa (ver Lc 1,38).

La mortificación se realiza cotidianamente sin necesidad de hacer grandes sacrificios.

Con ella se ofrece a Cristo aquellos momentos que generan molestias y se acepta con humildad y alegría las adversidades. De la misma manera, saber renunciar a ciertas cosas legítimas ayuda a vivir el desapego y el desprendimiento. Dentro de esta práctica cuaresmal están el ayuno y la abstinencia que será explicadas más adelante.

2. **La oración, mortificación y caridad es necesaria:** como refiere San León Magno: “si deseamos llegar a la Pascua santificados en nuestro ser, debemos poner un interés especial en esta práctica cuaresmal.”

3. **Sobre esta práctica San Juan Pablo II explica que está enraizada “en lo más hondo del corazón humano: toda persona siente el deseo de ponerse en contacto con los otros, y se realiza plenamente cuando se da libremente a los demás”.

4. **El ayuno y la abstinencia:** El ayuno consiste en no ingerir una sola comida “fuerte” al día, mientras que la abstinencia consiste en no comer carne. Con ambos sacrificios se reconoce la necesidad de hacer obras por el bien de la Iglesia y en reparación de nuestros pecados.

Además, en esta práctica se incluye dejar de lado las necesidades terrenales para redescubrir la necesidad de la vida del cielo. “No solo de pan vive el hombre, sino de toda palabra que sale de la boca de Dios” (Mt 4,4).

El ayuno no prohíbe tomar un poco de alimento por la mañana y por la noche. Es obligatorio desde los 18 hasta los 59 años. En el caso de la abstinencia, si bien se refiere a no comer carne, no impide el consumo de huevos, lácteos y cualquier condimento con grasa animal. La abstinencia se observa todos los viernes del año y es obligatoria desde los 14 años.

5. **La Cena de Ceniza:**

La Cena de Ceniza y el Miércoles de Ceniza comienzan los 40 días de preparación para la Pascua. Ese día el sacerdote bendice e imprime las manos hechas de las palmas bendecidas en el Domingo de Ramos del año anterior. Estas son impuestas haciendo la señal de la cruz en la frente y pronunciando las palabras bíblicas: «acuídate que eres polvo y en polvo te convertirás», o «Conviértete y cree en el Evangelio». La ceniza representa un signo de humildad y le recuerda al cristiano su origen y su fin. La Cuaresma termina en el Jueves Santo. Ese día la Iglesia conmemora la Última Cena en la que el Señor comió con sus apóstoles antes de ser crucificado el Viernes Santo.

**La duración de la Cuaresma está basada en el símbolo del número 40 en la Biblia.**

Los 40 días de la Cuaresma representan los días que Jesús pasó en el desierto antes de comenzar su vida pública, los 40 días del diluvio, los 40 de la marcha del pueblo judío por el desierto, los 40 días de Moisés y Elías en la montaña, y los 400 años que duró la estancia de los judíos en Egipto. En la Biblia el número cuatro simboliza el universo material, seguido de ceros significa el tiempo de la vida en la tierra, con sus pruebas y dificultades.

**El color litúrgico de la Cuaresma es el morado.**

El color litúrgico de este tiempo es el morado que significa penitencia. La Cuaresma es efectivamente tiempo de reflexión, penitencia y conversión espiritual.

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**Sesiones de consciencización**

La Diócesis re quiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajen con menores a asistir a las sesiones de consciencización de Proteger a los Niños de Dios. Estas sesiones de consciencización están disponibles en ambas 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/protectingchildren.

**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@staritech.net. Conserva siempre su derecho de comunicarse directamente a Social Relief Services, 1-800-922-4453.

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**Envíe una carta de apoyo a nuestros seminaristas**

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Austin HABASH

Tyler SAUCEDO

St. John Vianney Theological Seminary

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Denver, CO 80210

Eric FRIEB

Esteban HERNANDEZ

Conception Seminary College

P.O. Box 502

Conception, MO 64433

¿Estas siendo llamado?**

A hora que están en su último año de estudio, los diáconos Schneider y Brantley han expresado lo significativo que es para ellos haber recibido sus cartas de apoyo a través de los años. Por favor, continúen enviando sus cartas, también a nuestros más nuevos seminaristas, para que sepan que están orando por ellos.

---

**Otro Camino**

Ronaldo M. Guilmore

Obispo Emeritus de Dodge City
The Daughters of Isabella Installation of Officers was held at the St. Patrick Parish Center in Great Bend for seven circles. Lynn Kasper, State Regent, was the installing officer, assisted by Father Ted Stoecklein, who is the Chaplain for Immaculate Conception Circle #744, the hosting Circle.

T he Daughters of Isabella Installation of Officers was held at the St. Patrick Parish Center in Great Bend for seven circles.

The nearly 120-year-old Daughters of Isabella organization includes groups—called circles—throughout the United States and Canada, boasting some 60,000 members.

With a motto of “Unity—Friendship—Sharing,” the Daughters of Isabella seek to help the community in any way they can—from serving funeral dinners for members who have lost a loved one, to holding fund-raisers and helping with youth activities. And they pray for each other, too. They are, in effect, a mutual support group, bonding as women of Christ, offering spiritual and emotional support through prayer—prayer for members of their “circle” and their families, and prayers for members who are otherwise strangers to them—and their families.

At the April 2017 State Convention in Garden City, International Vice-Regent Susanne Suchy of Michigan noted, “I have said on many occasions that we are probably the best kept secret there is. It is really important for us to go out and in every way shape and form do our good works, but let people know who we are. “I challenge all of you, as we go about doing what we do [as D of I members] ... that you let individuals know that you are a Daughter of Isabella.”

OBIITUARIES

SANDRA AYALA, 38, of St. Anthony Parish, Liberal, died Jan. 27, 2018. She was married to Oscar Ayala Rios on Sept. 4, 2006. He survives. She was employed by National Beef, 1999-2017. Other survivors include son, Oscar Ayala Jr.; parents Hermito Lozoya and Maria (Sandoval) Lozoya; brother, Manuel Celedon; and two sisters, Mary Vela and Virginia Hernandez. Father James Dieker presided.

Terry L. VYEVEL, of Holy Cross Catholic Church, Hutchinson and St. Andrew Catholic Church, Wright, died Jan. 29, 2018. She trained as an x-ray technician. She and Stanley Vogel married on Oct. 27, 1952; he preceded her in death in 1998. Phyllis is survived by children Shelley Buch, Scott, David; 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Father Robert Schremmer presided.

BRENT A. KONRADE, 48, died Jan. 31, 2018. He was a graduate of Dodge City High School and moved to Texas in the late 1980s. Survivors include his parents, David and Joleen (Gillogly) Konrade; his fiancée, Cindy Lutter; and her daughter, Victoria; brothers, Brian, Dwayne and Paul; and his grandmother, Melba Konrade. Father Aneesh Parparanattu presided.

EVAN ESSEX JACOBS, 57, of Dodge City, died Feb. 1, 2018. He was a truck driver. Survivors include three brothers, Rob, Nathen and Philibert; two sisters, Vanessa Bamberger and Amy Rudzik; two step-sons, Joshua Jordan and Mathew Jordan; six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. BOBBIE LEE LEON, 70, of Prince of Peace Parish at St. Rose of Lima Church, Great Bend, died Feb. 2, 2018. She was employed by Holiday Inn and Convention Center as a cook/dishwasher for more than 20 years. Survivors include sisters Juanita Clawson, Carolyn Rucker, and Eloise Leon; brother Lawrence Leon; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and cousins. Father Ted Stoecklein presided.

LOUIS(BUD)W. SCHAAPVELD, JR., 94, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Feb. 3, 2018. He was the manager of Big A Auto Parts in Dodge City for 40 years, retiring in 1984. He served in the United States Navy during WWII attaining the rank of Yeoman Second Class. On April 18, 1949 he married Angela (Ann) Stegman at Offerle. She preceded him in death on March 23, 2017. Survivors include two sons, Steven and Doug; a daughter, Jean Fugleberg; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. Bud and Ann were active in the St. Mary Altar Society. Surviving are his parents, David and Ann; 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Father Ted Stoecklein presided.

IRENE CHAVEZ, 82, of Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died Feb. 5, 2018. Irene grew up in Mexico, the daughter of Roberto and Adela (Chavez) Sanchez. She married Juvencio Chavez in 1950 in Mexico. He preceded her in death. She moved to Ulysses in December 1979. She is survived by her sons, Alonzo and Chavez; daughters, Adela Marquez, Gloria Corona, Graciela Chavez, and Yolanda Castillo; brothers, Guadalupe Sanchez, Rosario Sanchez, Rafael Sanchez, Roberto Sanchez, Victor Sanchez, Valent Sanchez and Efrain Sanchez; sisters, Maria Gonzalez, Romelia Heras, Sylvia Tena, and Marissa Marinella; 17 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

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SUNDAY, FEB. 18
Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
Ezekiel 18:21-28
Matthew 5:20-26

SATURDAY, FEB. 24
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Matthew 5:43-48

FEB. 25
Genesis 22:1-9, 10-13, 15-18
Romans 8:31-34

MARCH 1
Isaiah 1:10, 16-20
Matthew 23:1-12

MARCH 3
Micah 7:14-15, 18-20

MARCH 4
Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
First Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

Scripture Readings
As we progress into the New Year of 2018 we look to the past to help guide us as we look into the future. With the New Year comes new hopes and new responsibilities. As we enter the month of January 2018 let us always see ourselves as disciples of the Catholic faith in mind.

Our membership and our family theme this year is "Building The Domestic Church". While Strengthening Our Parish – "Become The Cornerstone." We all have a great deal to be thankful for and we have all been given a tremendous amount of talents and treasures by our Lord. Now is the time to volunteer those talents in making both our parishes and our faith community grow and prosper.

Let us challenge ourselves to find these needs and then do our best to see these needs are being met. When we care for our fellow man we are truly putting forth that great spirit of volun- teerism.

As we look for ways to "Become The Cornerstone" through our many efforts we can look to our supreme council and state sponsored programs. You may not agree or fully agree with the Adopt-A-Seminarian Program or whatever program is provided in your own parish. If you have friends with intellectual disabilities through Our Commitment to Humanities and Tootsie Roll Program.

Still others might find their efforts pointing towards our youth programs. We work through our various pro-life programs. Still others might now enjoy working with the youth in many of our many youth activity programs. Most likely when each of us joined the Knights of Columbus we were looking for ways in which to help our Church or community.

The Knights of Columbus grants us more opportunities and help to create a better world for those around us. When we help in each of these situations we are helping to "Become The Cornerstone" through our volunteer efforts.

Recently while attending Mass I heard an inspiring homily from Father Wayne and learned about what the Knights of Columbus, known as the Holy Family, are all about. I learned that the Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic lay organization in the world, a place, where, protected and guided by their parents, children grow in maturity and grace through their word and example, pass on their faith and provide for their spiritual and physical growth and prosperity in their faith. Catechism teaching and education is a most important aspect of their community.

For instance, the Knights of Columbus have an active program for young men to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This program provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about their faith and how they serve as an ideal model for the families of our Church. The Knights of Columbus "Building the Domestic Church" programs are an amazing resource to show us how we can emulate the behavior of the Holy Family. For instance the "Family Fully Alive" programs provided through many programs the behavior of the Holy Family to others. The Knights of Columbus have many other programs to show us how to help our fellow man.

Some of these programs are: Our lunch program, our legislative program, our education program, and our charitable program. These programs are just a few examples of how we can help our fellow man.

We have also provided the information for all of the programs we were at http://www.kofc.org/en/domestic-church/index.html.

— Tom Schmieder, State Program Director
CHRISTIAN REFUGEE RELIEF FUND

Many people do not realize the extent of the humanitarian religious persecution that is happening to Christians in some middle eastern countries. According to the Christian humanitarian organization Open Doors, if the current trend continues, the number of Christians has declined by as much as 60% in the last decade. Many of these Christians have been forced to flee their homelands. They have been declared hostile non-believers limited to a safe home, medical care, food, shelter and an education. The Christian Refugee Relief fund is being utilized to assist with many of these needs. It has helped to provide care and supplies for medical clinics, food programs, rebuilding of towns, building new housing, and other necessities. Not only is the fund providing physical and material aid, they are also assisting with religious and educational programs. These programs are very important to the displaced families trying to provide a sense of normalcy as many were traumatized by the war and the war with nothing. The Knights supports through the Trust fund is the Order’s tradition of standing for religious liberty and diversity since its founding making us as a century old order need more help.

We are unlimited ways to raise donations to support the relief fund. A list of people who can support the fund includes the Knights of Columbus. Many Knights of Columbus have raised funds. A list of specific donations is in their name to the Knights of Columbus.

The K of C Christian Refugee Relief fund aids those in Iraq, Syria, and the surrounding region who are suffering from religious persecution. Since 2014 the United States has thrown over $15.5 million to support Christians in need. In 2015, our church has been forced to flee their homelands. They have been declared hostile non-believers limited to a safe home, medical care, food, shelter and an education. The Christian Refugee Relief fund is being utilized to assist with many of these needs. It has helped to provide care and supplies for medical clinics, food programs, rebuilding of towns, building new housing, and other necessities. Not only is the fund providing physical and material aid, they are also assisting with religious and educational programs. These programs are very important to the displaced families trying to provide a sense of normalcy as many were traumatized by the war and the war with nothing. The Knights supports through the Trust fund is the Order’s tradition of standing for religious liberty and diversity since its founding making us as a century old order need more help.

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- Syracuse: 620-384-7800

www.kellerleopold.com
Father Victor Heithaus was born Nov. 1, 1900 in St. Louis, Mo. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of St. Louis on June 8, 1927. After serving in the archdiocese from 1927 to 1941, he transferred to the Wichita diocese. He served as assistant pastor at St. Joseph, Ellinwood, for a short time before receiving his first pastorate.

He was pastor at St. Joseph, Beaver, (1942-47) when the parish plant was heavily damaged after the community was struck by a tornado on June 23, 1944.

His other assignments were: St. John, Clommel (1947-48); St. Bridget’s, Scammon, and St. Mary’s, Mineral (1948-50); St. John’s Hospital, Iola (1950-51), and Sts. Peter and Paul, North Ellinwood (1951-52). His assignment at North Ellinwood was the result of two circumstances: St. John’s Hospital at Iola was closed in January of 1951, and Father Oscar Vogel, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, died on Jan. 18, 1951 at the age of 42.

Later in 1951 when the Diocese of Dodge City was established, Father Heithaus became a member of the clergy of the new diocese.

Father Heithaus served as administrator at Sts. Peter and Paul until the summer of 1952 when he took a leave because of ill health. He resided at Via Coeli Monastery in Jemez Springs, N.Mex., until he died as the result of a heart attack on Feb. 18, 1954. He was 53.

Funeral services were held at St. Francis de Sales Church in St. Louis on Feb. 23, 1954. Father Claude Heithaus, S.J., a brother, was celebrant at the funeral Mass. Burial was in Sts. Peter and Paul’s Cemetery, St. Louis.

Later in 1951 when the Diocese of Dodge City was established, Father Heithaus became a member of the clergy of the new diocese.
Pope’s Monthly Intentions
FEBRUARY 2018
Say ‘no’ to corruption
That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

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Resources, as in many countries, are not evenly distributed to the people, and thus there is wide-spread poverty and un- or under-employment. This contributes to insecurity and a need that constantly comes knocking for assistance. But thanks be to God, each day brings its own blessings because in general, I find the people of Nigeria to be highly intelligent, gracious and accepting and open to the workings of God in their lives. It is a blessing for me.”

-- Sister Rita Schwarzenberger, OP

Some years back I learned about the incidence of rickets, often a crippling disease among children in the rural areas.

Thanks to the generosity of the Catholic Church in Germany, we were able to get assistance for these children, distributing calcium and for those whose deformity was too severe, surgery.

To date we have had more than 400 surgeries carried out. This is linked to another program for children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, post-polio paralysis, etc.

SKC: What are some of the great joys you have encountered?

Sister Rita: The greatest joy for me is to see lives changed. Immediately what comes to mind is the story of a young woman named Lami Tanko. When we met her, she was severely affected with rickets, with what we called bow-legs.

The pain was so severe she could not walk the several miles she needed to go to attend school. She was among the first set of children to have surgery, and that was her first exposure to the English language.

But Lami had a spark inside her, and she pleaded with her parents to go to live in the town where she could attend a better school. Her dream was to become a health worker so she could help others as she had been helped.

Within 10 years she completed, in English, the 12 years of primary and secondary school, graduating with high marks. She is now enrolled in a school of health technology. There are many stories that touch the heart, and I am privileged to be here in the heart of it all.

But I am also privileged to be involved in the Archdiocese of Kaduna where I am a member of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Executive Council. Over the last few years we have been able to produce the revised five-year Pastoral Plan, syllabi in English and Hausa (common local language) for the teaching of religion, special syllabus in Hausa and English for the RCIA program, and other policy documents.

We are involved in other events such as hosting the Archdiocesan General Assembly. And for me, in the small village where I live, there is no resident priest, so daily I am blessed to be able to have a Communion Service with the people here.

SKC: What are some of the challenges?

Sister Rita: Yes, there are challenges. In Nigeria, just one-third again as large as Texas, we are now reported to have 180 million people. Resources, as in many countries, are not evenly distributed to the people, and thus there is wide-spread poverty and un- or under-employment. This contributes to insecurity and a need that constantly comes knocking for assistance.

But thanks be to God, each day brings its own blessings because in general, I find the people of Nigeria to be highly intelligent, gracious and accepting and open to the workings of God in their lives. It is a blessing for me.

SKC: What could we in southwest Kansas learn from your experiences in Nigeria?

Sister Rita: I believe the same is true of southwest Kansas because I also served in the diocese, albeit for only one year. I know the people there to be generous, gracious, and aware of God’s gifts in their lives. I know that we are united in faith, and I pray that we continue to grow in grace and peace. In spite of difficulties, pain and need, one of the common expressions here is “We Thank God” and for me, it is one of the profound learnings that has affected my life and I hope yours also.
From the Office of Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas:

The Catholic Charities Wine Tasting Event that is being held on April 20 at the Great Bend Event Center is our major annual fundraiser. Going on 17 years, this popular social event draws people from miles around for a fun and classy evening while providing critical funds for pregnancy counseling, Teen Mom support, educational classes, housing support, economic assistance, disaster relief, and more. It helps to bridge the gap between the many needs that walk through our doors and the funding that we are able to secure through other grants and appeals.

The success of the Wine Tasting relies on the help of our friends and supporters. You can play an important role in furthering the mission Catholic Charities by sponsoring the wine tasting event, or by donating an item to be included in our live or silent auction.

**BECOME A SPONSOR**

When you make a tax-deductible sponsorship gift, you are joining a community of dedicated individuals and organizations whose faithful support helps to make this annual fundraising event possible. In return, we are committed to making the generosity of our individual and business donors known, with the exception of those who wish to remain anonymous. There are several sponsorship levels:

- Champagne $2,000 and up
- Cabernet $1,000 - $1,999
- Bordeaux $500 - $999
- Chardonnay $250 - $499
- Zinfandel $100 - $249
- Gypsy’s Shiraz $50-$99

To obtain a sponsorship form, go to http://catholiccharitiesswks.org/documents/ways-to-help/165-2018-sponsored-form/file, or contact Rebecca Ford at the information at bottom.

**DONATE AN AUCTION ITEM**

From concert tickets, sports packages and memorabilia, luxury travel, exquisite handcrafted pieces, decadent dining and, of course, lots of fine wine and beer, the Catholic Charities auction features a number of unique items and exciting experiences. If you have something you would like to contribute, please let us know!


**CONTACT**

For more information about sponsoring the wine tasting event, donating wine or auction items, or volunteering opportunities contact: Rebecca Ford, Catholic Charities Wine Tasting Event Chair Communication & Development rford@CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org 620-792-1393

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**Catholic Charities free Life Skills classes**

Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas is presenting free life skills classes in February and March.

**Essential Food, Nutrition, and Physical Activity Skills**

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 3–5 p.m.
603 N 8th St, Garden City, KS 67846

Develop skills related to food, nutrition, and physical activity with instruction and hands-on learning experiences related to food preparation, food safety, grocery budgeting and making healthful choices for nutrition and physical activity.

**Home Maintenance & Safety**

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 6–7 p.m.
305 W. Mary St., Garden City, KS 67846

Learn safe, affordable cleaning methods; develop strategies for controlling clutter; and understand important factors of home safety.

**Health & Wellness/Time Management**

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 3–5 p.m.
603 N 8th St., Garden City, KS 67846

Learn the importance of healthful living and essential grooming practices for optimal health and well-being. Will also assist those who are feeling overwhelmed, facing changes, or who lack management experience, to use time wisely.

**Art Circles Class**

Wed, March 7, 3–5 p.m.
Garden City, 603 N 8th St., Garden City, KS 67846

The Art Circles program uses the process of creating art to facilitate healing while encouraging and supporting each participant’s autonomy as they begin to define and acknowledge what is important to them and their own unique needs and strengths. Workshop projects center on themes designed to support the healing process.

**Essential Foods & Nutrition**

Tuesday, March 13, 6–7 p.m.
305 W Mary St., Garden City, KS 67846

Develop skills related to food, nutrition, and physical activity with instruction and hands-on learning experiences related to food preparation, food safety, grocery budgeting and making healthful choices for nutrition and physical activity.

**Job Ready Skills Class**

Wednesday, March 14, 3–5 p.m.
603 N 8th St., Garden City, KS 67846

Learn job-skill development through goal-setting exercises, job-skill assessments, resume writing and application protocols and develop tools for handling a variety of job situations.