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 rightous 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… (“Why you fast” — Matthew 6:16) 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 to the consecrated life and the married life. Yet, we are now facing a grave shortage in the priesthood in our diocese.

We are blessed by three recently ordained priests the last two years, yet we have three priests leaving full-time ministry this summer to retirements or other factors. We are blessed by five, fine young men in the seminary, but the next ordination (one priest) will be 2022, God willing.

After this summer’s new assignments, we could have three retirements before 2022. Of our 17 incardinated priests who have an assignment, nine will be over the age of 60 this year.

We are blessed by 14 missionary priests serving generously, yet their own bishop or superior could call them home at any time.

How will we provide Holy Mass, Absolution of Sin, and Anointing of the Sick in the future to our faithful in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City in our chapels? On a priest can give us Christ in these Sacraments.

Fasting for Priestly Vocations
Thus, I call on the faithful of our diocese to this initiative: Fasting for Priestly Vocations. Beginning today, I personally take you to choose something to deny in your life in a small way: some food/drink, technology, sports, shopping, etc. Something that captures you. Something that you do not think you can get along without, even for a day. When you deny it, and feel the pang of desire, think of priestly vocations. Say a little prayer that some single man or boy will open his heart to Jesus’ call to the seminary. Maybe he is a son, grandson, nephew. Possibly he is a parishioner. Perhaps he is you.

PRIESTS AND DEACONS
I ask the priests and deacons to each personally take on this project. Priests and deacons: I call you to make each Thursday this Lent, and possibly beyond, a special day for Fasting for Priestly Vocations. Thursday is the day of the Last Supper: the Institution of the Eucharist, the Day of the Priesthood, and the Day of Service.

SEMINARIANS
I ask the seminarians to each personally take on this project. Work with your spiritual directors to live the discipline of fasting in imitation of Christ in Fasting for Priestly Vocations.

The Lay Faithful
I ask the other lay faithful of the diocese to consider this project: Fasting for Priestly Vocations. Pick something small, doable, and realistic. At times, we take on too much, and mid-way through Lent, we fall off. I suggest to get your family involved. I will deny deserts/caffeine (fasting), turn off the Internet in the evening and read/pray with the Bible or other spiritual reading (fasting and prayer), continue my pledge giving, and write a postal letter each evening (act of kindness) this Lent. I will consider some of these practices to go beyond Lent.

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, healthy, 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!

BY FATHER JUAN SALAS

The more I think about it, the more I realize that I find Lent as a twofold experience for my life: challenging and encouraging. I find it challenging because it exhorts me to accompany Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem; on his journey through the desert to get to His cross.

Bishop John, on his column about Fasting for Priestly Vocations, mentions that “Our Lord gives us four ways to practice our walk with Him: fasting, almsgiving, prayer, and rightous deeds.” These ways are in themselves not an easy thing to practice; this is why each one of them represents a challenge. Nevertheless, they are not to be seen as goals in themselves, but as means that help us to get to something higher: to be one with Jesus and say: “Father… not my will, but yours, be done” (Lk 22:42). And I find Lent encouraging because it shows me that by walking with Jesus through suffering and penance, I let myself be walked by God to eternal life: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life” (Jn 3:16).

The Third Sunday of Lent offers to us also a twofold dimension of Lent that is rooted in conversion: a “noetic” dimension, a conversion of the mind and heart; and a “accetic” dimension, a conversion of the practical life.

Continued on Page 7

Prayer: asking God to “perfect our fasting”

Intercession — “As we fast this Lent for priestly vocations, we pray for an increase in seminarians, especially for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. We pray to the Lord.”

Bishop’s Catechesis

Good News:
1. I need a Savior
2. Jesus is God
3. Jesus died and rose to save me
4. Jesus invites me to believe, and I respond
5. I follow Jesus and His Church, not the world

Kingdom Living:
1. Become Man
2. Weekly Holy Mass
3. Monthly Confession
4. Study the Bible and the Catechism
5. Witness the Good News
March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month

Don’t bet your life on a gambling problem; get help

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month.
While a large casino stands just west of Dodge City, casino gambling is only one of many ways for people to feed their gambling addiction. Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas is intent on spreading the word that if your world has been turned upside down by gambling addiction, there is help readily available.

For information, go to KSGamblingHelp.com, or call the problem gambling hotline at 800-522-4700.

What Is Gambling Disorder?
Gambling is betting something valuable on an event that is determined by chance. The gambler hopes that he or she will "win" and gain something of value.

Once placed, a bet cannot be taken back. When most people think of gambling, they think of slot machines and casinos. But, it’s important to understand that playing bingo, buying lottery tickets, even betting on office pools—all of these, and many other activities, are forms of gambling.

Mental health professionals have developed criteria that help to identify when someone has a problem. Here are a series of symptoms commonly found among people with gambling problems.

Symptoms of Gambling Disorder include:
1. Needs to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve the desired excitement.
2. Is restless or irritable when attempting to cut down or stop gambling.
3. Has made repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop gambling.
4. Is often preoccupied with gambling (e.g., having persistent thoughts of reliving past gambling experiences, handicapping or planning the next venture, thinking of ways to get money with which to gamble).
5. Often gambles when feeling distressed (e.g., helpless, guilty, anxious, depressed).
6. After losing money gambling, often returns another day to get even ("chasing" one’s losses).
7. Lies to conceal the extent of involvement with gambling.
8. Has jeopardized or lost a significant relationship, job, or educational or career opportunity because of gambling.
9. Relies on others to provide money to relieve desperate financial situations caused by gambling.

People meet the standard for gambling disorder when they satisfy four of these criteria. Gambling problems exist with every form of gambling activity. It’s not just associated with casinos or Internet gambling. Bingo players, lottery players, casino players, and friends playing poker all can develop gambling disorders.

People with Gambling Disorder continue gambling despite bad consequences. For example, they might not fulfill work or home duties, or have legal problems. They also might have repeated social problems, like getting into fights and conflicts with other people.

People with Gambling Disorder are preoccupied with gambling. They may try to quit unsuccessfully or hide their behavior. They might also commit crimes to pay for their gambling.

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.dcdioce.se.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) 225-3412 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.
‘With God, anything is possible’

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

Editor’s Note: The person highlighted in the article below has given permission to use her name in the story. The SKC asks for the reader’s understanding that due to the current climate regarding immigration, we have chosen not to use her name and risk any possible negative backlash to her or her family. She sent the following letter, included below, to the SKC prior to deadline. It is a further testament to her courage.

“I spoke to my parents, and we have decided to not be afraid. You can publish the article, and use my name if you wish. There’s nothing I’m ashamed of. On the contrary, we are very proud of everything we have accomplished, since it has been with a lot of work and sacrifices! At the end of the day, nothing would have been possible without God and his mercy, which is something that I would love for people to understand. His mercy doesn’t have limits, and the impossible can become possible with him.

First, there is a smile, wide and without pretense. “Looking back, I’ve always been a happy person. Like, life is good,” she said. “Life is good.”

The smile fades. She’s in her 20s, a professional, having earned her degree’s. Yet, as a recipient of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), her future is in question.

“Come from a very humble background,” she said. “I remember my mom not having shoes because they were using everything they had so we wouldn’t suffer, so we wouldn’t go hungry,” she recalled. “And you know, at that point in my life, I never realized that we were struggling. My parents were very cautious to make sure that we wouldn’t know, that we would be okay. As long as we had food, we were okay.”

“We had always been very strong in our faith. We were going through hard times, but God is with us, and we’re going to make it.”

At 10, her parents faced an impossible decision, the magnitude of which no one who has dug generations of roots into the soil of the United States could begin to imagine.

“Being in a small town, we always heard about the American dream,” she said. “You hear about how emigrating to the United States will help you, will better your kids’ lives. You want a better future for them. What wouldn’t you do for your children?”

“We took the risk. We left everything behind.”

Here is where the question undoubtedly arises. Why didn’t you just “get in line”? Do it legally? Legalize your status, come to the States and not have to live in hiding?

The answer is simple to all those who live the nightmare: There is no line. There are categories. A category for immigrants. A category for family migration (also called “chain migration”) or employment. A category for refugees. And each one has thousands upon thousands of people on the waiting list. Only a limited number for each category are allowed into the United States each year.

“I continued to be involved in education,” she said. “That was one of the main reasons we came here, being able to get that education and better ourselves and our communities. I remember having to walk to school on cold mornings because if we got pulled over, we would be asked to prove we hadn’t gone back. We would investigate our status, and that would mean we would be taken back to Mexico—back to the struggle.”

Most deportations happen to people who are either trying to get their proper documentation, or simply can’t afford it. Huddled masses aren’t known for their great wealth, which it what it costs just to get started. Once you have the money, you must follow a bureaucratic nightmare of red tape.

At that point I’m thinking, I have to make this work because my parents put their lives at risk for us to be able to make it. And that was always my motivation. They made a sacrifice. We can do it. With God, anything is possible.”

Without the ability to drive, and without the ability to apply for financial aid, her dream of going to college would remain just that: “I’m thinking, Maybe college is not a possibility. Maybe the risk that my parents took, maybe everything that we’ve been through, is not going to be worth it.”

She paused for a moment.

“I’ve always been very blessed. I always wonder, God, why are you doing this? Why are you throwing in another obstacle? But God has always put a lot of really good people in my life. Teachers are angels. They encourage me. In the times when I thought about giving up, they were like, ‘You’re going to fly, okay.’”

A teacher advised her to apply for community-based scholarships.

“My dad, he worked. He worked all week except for one day a week. He’s always gone by 4 a.m., and he doesn’t get home until 5:30 p.m. And he worked until he’s still working. Without his help, I wouldn’t have been able to afford college. We had to cut back on a lot of things for me to be able to go to college.”

“Even though I thought I wasn’t going to make it, everything is possible with God, and I was able to go to college.”

During her second semester—amid her struggles to pay tuition, to afford the unbelievably high costs of textbooks ($100 to $500, she said), and amid her inability to obtain employment, something that would only be possible in her situation could clearly call a miracle.

“God puts everything in place,” she said, her wide smile back. “[Congress] passed DACA. That allowed me to be able to work, which helped me so much. It changed my life. It was perfect timing. I came back that summer to southwest Kansas and was able to go to work.”

DACA did not present a path to citizenship, but rather created a two-year period in which qualifying immigrants who passed a stringent background check could both obtain a driver’s license and work while their paperwork was being processed (a process which can take more than a decade). After two years, they could reapply.

“I graduated from the university with my bachelor’s degree,” she said, proudly. “You sometimes think, it’s not possible. It’s not possible! But it is! With God, everything’s possible. That’s why I’m so strong with my faith. That’s why I’m so passionate about helping others. I wouldn’t be right here right now if not for the people who helped me and motivated me when I almost gave up.”

With the renewed focus on DACA and its possible dismantling, so too has come misconceptions and, sadly, blatant racism regarding those who belong to the program.

“When people hear about DACA recipients or people with my status, they sometimes call us criminals. I’m not a criminal! The only thing I want is to work, to help my community. My goal! I want to make the world a better place! I just want to help. I don’t want anything in return! I just want to be able to help my parents and my brothers; I want to be able to help my community.”

It’s scary sometimes for me to share this story. I don’t want to be afraid anymore of saying that I am a dreamer. I’m proud to be a dreamer. Being a dreamer doesn’t mean that you are a criminal. Being a dreamer doesn’t mean that you are taking advantage of the system. We are not! When I was at the university I thought, I have to go back to that community they, of course, we work with when no one else would give me anything. I have to go back and help my parish that helped me grow in my faith. That’s who I am right now. That’s why I don’t give up. With God, anything is possible.”
The story of Rhubarb, Kansas

By Dave Myers

Editor

Repeated article stresses need for, power of, prayer

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We’re managing just fine!

Perhaps. Until you look ahead. Read the bishop’s article, and you’ll see that in just a handful of years, our already slowly diminishing number of priests will be diminishing even further with retirements. With the possibility of our foreign priests being reassigned by their bishop. With a small number of dedicated seminarians.

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With the construction of the church, the community was, on June 8, 1915, able to celebrate Mass together for the first time.

Sadly, the rhubarb industry never regained its earlier success, and within 10 years the town had disappeared from the map. It was later put back on the map after Rand McNally finally got his act together.

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Dave Myers

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Editor

The story of Rhubarb, Kansas

T

he other day I was at home searching the Internet for a good mincemeat espresso recipe (more popular during the holidays), when I stumbled across an article detailing the historic town of Rhubarb, Kansas.

I should warn you: the story of the founding of this little town in southwest Kansas is not for the faint of heart. You should be robust and in good health before reading the following. No one will think the worse of you if you turn away now. Except that you’re a little wimp.

Our story begins with Walter Moundridge (pronounced Mound-ridge, but I guess that goes without saying), a 1901 immigrant to the United States from Antrim, a minor republic in what was then the Kingdom of Antarctica.

Soon after the fall of the royal family following a coup-d’etat by an army of four nomadic seal fishermen (history later tells us that they were just looking for a sandwich), Moundridge fled to the United States. There he met Dona Brice, a cook for a wealthy and incredibly lazy steel magnate. In addition to preparing her boss’s meals, she also pre-chewed his food. It should be noted that the chewing wasn’t done in any official capacity, and she received no financial compensation.

Brice and Moundridge fell in love and were married. Brice quit her job.

After several weeks of not saying goodbye to Walter each morning as he left for work, she eventually realized that this was due to his not leaving the house each morning to go to work, due to his not having a job to go to every morning. Brice got her old job back.

The Moundridges chose to stay, and in doing so, realized with renewed zeal the importance of having their own church, a place where the community could come to worship, their voices raised together in unity as one voice unified together as one.

On April 23, 1914, the Moundridges approached their bishop. According to church records, the conversation went as thus:

Bishop: “I understand you’d like a new church.”

Walter: “You hit the nail on the head.”

Dona: “Is that a real fics plant?”

Bishop: “The answer is yes.”

Walter: “Wonderful! Thank you, Bishop!”

Bishop: “No, I mean about the fics. But yes to the other, too.”

With the construction of the church, the community was, on June 8, 1915, able to celebrate Mass together for the first time.

Sadly, the rhubarb industry never regained its earlier success, and within 10 years the town had disappeared from the map. It was later put back on the map after Rand McNally finally got his act together.

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The story of Rhubarb, Kansas

Eventually, more people would move to Rhubarb, thanks in no small part to its reputation for having multiple coffee shops, each with short lines due to there being nobody in town who drank coffee.

“Over the next year, five more Catholic families joined Rhubarb, resulting in 137 children registering in the one-room schoolhouse. Donna became the school teacher, and each child spent long hours learning the skills and techniques of cooking, with the optional class, “Chewing Food for Fun and Profit.”

According to the author March, “The town was such named because it was built on an old Indian rhubarb burial ground, resulting in acres of rhubarb jutting from the land each spring like long, red facial hair — facial hair that tasted good in pie or dipped in sugar. Many mistakenly believe the town was named after town founder Jebidiah Rhubarb, but that was just a coincidence.”

Soon, the town attracted rhubarb farmers from far and wide. Walter became manager of the rhubarb elevator at the edge of town, where rhubarb would be collected and stored in large rhubarb bins.

Life was good.

Then, as every Kansas child knows from history class, in 1912 came the great rhubarb famine. Crops dried up. Cattle starved without their rhubarb to eat. Farmers packed up and headed west, many moving to Kumquat, Colorado, just over the border.

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Have You Found Jesus?
Homelessness in our communities

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

ave you ever wondered about the people you see at the entrance to the Walmart parking lot, or other locations, seeking help? A few dollars, maybe a sandwich?

What are their circumstances? Where do they go at night? Are they homeless? Do they live in shelters? Are they in transition—on their way somewhere and just stopping to get a few bucks to keep going?

Now imagine instead of the faces you see standing on the corner, the faces of children.

Most don’t stand on street corners asking for help—in fact, you would never know that many of them are homeless.

Yet, in Garden City alone, more than 300 school students are considered homeless. Nationwide, 1 in 30 kids are homeless, according to the National Center on Family Homelessness.

Keri VanMeveren of Amazing Traditions, LLC, is conducting a Needs Assessment on behalf of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition. The study will recognize unmet/underserved community needs as they relate to services to support the homeless or at-risk homeless population. Additionally, data will be collected to be able to evaluate the demand of the transitional housing services in each region being offered.

VanMeveren explained to several people gathered for a focus group at the Ford County Library in Dodge City that many of those children who are considered homeless are living with extended family. They have a roof over their head, but not a home in the traditional sense. They may not have health insurance. They may experience food insecurity. Their providers may struggle to pay utilities. Their future is in question.

“They can’t call a doctor to keep a cold from turning into pneumonia,” VanMeveren said as an example.

Across Kansas, many other homeless children are living in shelters. They are awaiting foster care, living in cars, in parks or campgrounds, even abandoned buildings.

One hundred and fifty-six school districts throughout Kansas recently identified 9,265 students as being homeless. That’s just the children. Then there are the adults: More than 11 percent of the uninsured population in Southwestern Kansas; veterans also account for more than 14 percent of those with “food insecurity” issues.

As a representative of the Kansas Homeless Coalition, VanMeveren was in Dodge City primarily to learn. Thus, the gathering, which included in the audience representatives of several charitable organizations, including Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas, as well as law enforcement officers, became a sounding board for ideas.

What are some of the causes of homelessness?

The answers came quickly from members of the audience: Loss of financial benefits; mental health issues (those who are uninsured cannot receive treatment or needed medication); and addictions.

“We’ve seen more examples of opioid and heroin addictions,” one person noted.

More causes of homelessness? With the rise in deportations, it’s not uncommon for the breadwinner of the family to be taken away, leaving his or her American-born children without means of support. It was also noted that at times, transients come to Dodge City because of its popular footnote in history. Other homeless persons have a poor rental history, while still others face insecurity. They may be unaware of their rights.

Adding to the problem are unscrupulous landlords: “We’ve seen cases of landlords not following the landlord/tenant act and making people leave within three days” instead of 30 days, as required by law, explained Debbie Snapp, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas.

Where do people go for help?

The first answer: “Churches.” They can offer guidance, perhaps a bit of money for emergency help, but parish funds are limited.

Other help organizations suggested included: United Way; Catholic Charities; Salvation Army; Compass Mental Health facility; Manna House in Dodge City; Emmaus House in Garden City; Friendship Feast soup kitchen in Dodge City; and Stepping Stone Shelter and soup kitchen in Liberal; among others. (See the listing at right.)

But soup kitchens are not always easy to find, and sheltered housing is limited.

A Dodge City police officer noted that “it would be nice if we had some sort of a resource guide, a pamphlet we could keep in our visor” that would offer a listing of charitable organizations and contact information designed to help those in any one of a myriad of difficult situations.

What does your community need?

When asked what southwest Kansas needed to offer help to those who are struggling, the first reply was “transportation”. The lack of transportation can be one of the primary reasons why people cannot find nor keep employment. Those communities that do have buses typically see but routes conclude by nightfall. And most rural areas don’t enjoy the luxury of having bus service.

Also suggested as a community need is “an increased awareness of homelessness,” and more advocacy for landlord/tenant issues.

“We’re very fortunate that the library welcomes the homeless, offering a place to get in from the cold during the day,” Snapp said. “We need a place for homeless people to shower, to wash their clothes, to get their mail. It’s very difficult to get a job without a permanent address.”

Other solutions?

“Affordable health care,” noted one person, when asked for solutions.

Another participant suggested having a financial advocate available to those facing housing issues: “Slumlords know that people aren’t aware of their rights.”

The challenges can be great, especially in rural communities spread out across the southwest Kansas prairie. One of the greatest enemies to anyone in any difficult situation of life is a lack of knowledge regarding what is available to offer them help.

For example, Catholic Charities offers the classes listed above right, along with a plethora of other programs designed with one thing in mind: to help people help themselves.

Also listed at right is the contact information for some of the many help organizations in Southwest Kansas.

Catholic Charities offers free Life Skills classes

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

Art Circles Class

Wednesday, 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

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Dodge City: (620) 227-1562
Garden City: (620) 272-0010
Great Bend: (620) 792-1393

MANNA HOUSE
Dodge City — Soup kitchen, shelter: (620) 227-6077
EMMAUS HOUSE
Garden City — Shelter, soup kitchen, food pantry: (620) 275-2008

STEEPING STONE SHELTER
Garden City — Shelter, soup kitchen (620) 626-6024

UNIFIED WAY
Call (703) 836-7112 for help in finding local offices.

COMPASS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Office in Garden City, Dodge City, Ulysses, Scott City 1-800-259-9576

SALVATION ARMY
1-800-728-7825

FRIENDSHIP FEAST
Dodge City — Soup Kitchen (620) 253-1953

At right: A homeless boy clasps his Teddy Bear while sleeping on the dirt in an undisclosed location. Bottom photos: A statue of Jesus as a homeless man rests in front of the Vatican’s Office of Papal Charities in Rome.
Who is served?
Vibrant Ministries appeal nearing $9.9 million

Adult Formation: ‘We never stop taking that first step’

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

I n the Catholic faith, we never stop taking that first step.

There is just so much to learn: Why do we celebrate Mass the way we do? What is God asking us to do? What is the history of our faith ... of our Church? What is Catholic social justice, and how do we differentiate it from those who equate it with political bias? How can our faith inform us when it comes to relationships? To making life choices? To reacting to the headlines?

Coleen Stein is the Director of Adult Formation for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, which includes Pastoral Ministry Formation, Catechet Formation, and other programs that are presented through the Interactive Television Network.

But that’s not all there is to adult formation in the diocese.

“For me,” Stein said, “any time we gather adults together to pray or to learn about our faith, that is adult formation: the Rite of Election; Scripture Day; RCIA; Stewardship Day.

“Formation has to be in all aspects of your life. When I was in the news, it’s my formation that allows me to say, ‘I can make a difference.’ It’s all intertwined. I can’t pull it apart. I can’t hear the news without my formation entering into it.”

Methods of adult formation are varied. Most Catholics are taking part in some sort of adult formation, including the Mass.

“The Eucharist changes people,” Stein said. “Liturgy is the one piece of adult formation that reaches the most adults. Formation is education. Education is power. You can’t live your life faithfully if you’re not formed as an adult.”

VIBRANT MINISTRIES and ITV PROGRAMS

While funding from the Vibrant Ministries Appeal helps these varied adult formation activities in a multitude of ways, specific funding will be used to help Stein maintain what can be a complicated and sometimes pricey Interactive Television System — the system by which Pastoral Ministry Formation and Catechet Formation are taught.

Through this system, people can attend classes even earning a bachelor’s degree — at sites throughout the diocese. One speaker at one primary location can interact with all those at the other locations.

“There are nine sites strategically located throughout the Dodge City diocese, and there are eight sites strategically located throughout the Salina diocese,” Stein said. “Two sites are located at Newman University in Wichita.

“The ITV format has proved to be the most effective way of building community with a large group in different locations. This format also works well for us; one instructor, one presentation, reaching many students over two large dioceses.”

Everyone, she added, “should know why we as Catholics practice our faith in the way that we do. This allows them to really listen at Mass. Someone said that we should leave Mass as if being shot out of a cannon, ready to make change. Non-Catholics should be asking, ‘Why are they like that? Why are they so intent on causing positive change?’ We’re Catholic! Every time we’re formed in some way, we are that person making a difference.

“T’m a better parent because of my formation,” she said. “We know forgiveness. We understand how Jesus forgave. My kids can do anything, and I forgive them.

“I can’t say that about everyone,” she added, laughing, “but that is my goal!”

The Dodge City and Salina dioceses collaborate with Newman University to form Church in Partnership. Through this partnership, people who already have a bachelor’s degree can obtain a bachelor’s degree in Pastoral Ministry Formation from Newman University without ever stepping foot on the Wichita campus.

If they do not have a bachelor’s degree, they can earn a diocesan diploma.

“The Pastoral Ministry Formation Program equips participants with the skills to fulfill roles to which their gifts and the needs of the time challenge them,” said Marylene Peck, Director of Liturgy and Music at St. Mary Parish in Garden City, said, “To anyone contemplating participation of a study course through the Pastoral Ministry Formation Program, I can only say do it and don’t just think about it. I have been involved in Catechesis, Music Liturgy, Pastoral Ministry, etc... for many years, and all I can say is that I wish I would have taken the classes from the beginning of my Stewardship Ministry life. Whether it is your choice to take these courses for personal enrichment or a certificate, you can’t go wrong.

“T was always busy with my kids’ activities and didn’t realize how the participation in Pastoral Ministry Formation classes would empower my ministry in the Stewardship Categories that was involved with the Pastoral Ministry Formation Programs give you knowledge, encouragement, and a constant awareness of Spiritual Renewal. What a gift!”

Compassionate God,
You are the light of the world. You give us your Son to illuminate our path, and the Holy Spirit to shine us up. Loving God, fill us with the desire to be with you in all things, 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.

To donate to the Vibrant Ministries – Uniting Our Church Appeal, go to www.dcdiocese.org/vibrant-ministries, or contact Mark Roth, mrath@dcdiocese.org, 620-227-1535.
The current fasting obligations were set in the 1983 Code of Canon Law, but in previous centuries, the common fasts among Catholics were stricter and more regularly observed.

Catholics abstained from meat on all Fridays in Lent. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, adults age 18 to 59 must fast — eating no more than one full meal and two smaller meals that together do not add up in quantity to the full meal.

The current fasting obligation for Catholics in the United States is this: all over the age of 14 must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays in Lent. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, adults age 18 to 59 must fast — eating no more than one full meal and two smaller meals that together do not add up in quantity to the full meal.

Catholics “if possible,” can continue the Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference adds.

Catholics once abstained from meat on all Fridays, but today, U.S. bishops received permission from the Holy See for Catholics to substitute another sacrifice or perform an act of charity instead.

In their 1966 “Pastoral Statement on Penance and Abstinence,” the National Conference of Catholic Bishops exhorted the faithful, on other days of Lent where fasting is not required, to “participation in daily Mass and a self-imposed observance of fasting.”

Aside from the stipulations, though, what’s the point of fasting?

“The whole purpose of fasting is to put the created order and our spiritual life in a proper balance,” Deacon Carnazzo explained. Like Adam and Eve, Christ was tempted by the devil but instead remained obedient to God the Father, reversing the disobedience of Adam and Eve and restoring our humanity.

Following the example of Jesus, Catholics are called to fast, said Father Lew. And the Church teaches that fasting is an important act of sacrifice.

WHAT FASTING IS SO POWERFUL

“The fast is the weapon of protection against demons,” taught St. Basil the Great.

Why fasting is so powerful? “By setting aside this (created) realm where the devil works, we put ourselves in communion with another realm where the devil does not work, he cannot touch us,” Deacon Carnazzo explained.

It better disposes us for prayer, noted Monsignor Pope. “Because we feel greater hunger or thirst when we fast from food and water and reminds us of our frailty and helps us be more humble,” he said.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FASTING

Washingion D.C. (CNA) — God commanded it, Jesus practiced it, Church Fathers have preached the importance of it — fasting is a powerful and fundamental part of the Christian life.

But for many Catholics today, it’s more of an afterthought: something we grudgingly do on Good Friday, perhaps on Ash Wednesday if we remember it. Would we fast more, especially during Lent, if we understood how helpful it is for our lives?

The answer to this, say both saints of the past and experts today, is a resounding “yes.”

So what, in essence, is fasting?

It’s “the deprivation of the good, in order to make a decision for a greater good,” explained Deacon Sabatino Carnazzo, founding executive director of the Institute for Priestly Vocations, Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Mclean, Va., of the saints.

Fasting is most commonly associated with abstinence from food, although it can also take the form of giving up other goods like comforts and entertainment.

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Fasting is also good because it is submission to God, he said. By fasting from the fruit of the tree, Adam and Eve would have become partakers in the Divine Nature through their obedience to God. Instead, they tried to take this knowledge of good and evil for themselves and ate the fruit, disobeying God and bringing Original Sin, death, and illness upon mankind.

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus abstained from food and water for 40 days and nights in the desert and thus “reversed what happened in the Garden of Eden,” Deacon Carnazzo explained. Like Adam and Eve, Christ was tempted by the devil but instead remained obedient to God the Father, reversing the disobedience of Adam and Eve and restoring our humanity.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF FASTING

The current fasting obligations were set in the 1983 Code of Canon Law, but in previous centuries, the common fasts among Catholics were stricter and more regularly observed.

Catholics abstained from meat on all Fridays of the year, Easter Friday excluded. During Lent, they had to fast – one meatless meal and two smaller meatless meals – on all days excluding Sunday, the day of the Resurrection.

In centuries past, the Lenten abstention was more austere. Catholics gave up not only meat but also animal products like milk and butter, as well as oil and even fish at times.

WHAT TODAY’s obligations in the Latin Rite so minimal?

Should Catholics perform more than the minimum penance that is demanded? Yes, said Father Lawrence Lew, O.P., who is currently studying for a Pontifical License in Sacred Theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C.

The minimum may be “what is due to God out of justice,” he explained, but we are “called not only to be just to God, but also ‘to love God and to love our neighbor.’” Charity, he added, “would call us to do more than just the minimum that is applied to us by the Code of Canon Law today, I think.”

In Jeremiah 31: 33-34, God promises to write His law upon our hearts, Deacon Carnazzo noted. We must go beyond following a set of rules and love God with our hearts, and this involves doing more than what we are obliged to do, he added.

BE WARY OF YOUR MOTIVATION

However, Father Lew noted, fasting “must be stirred up by charity.” A Catholic should not fast out of dieting or pride, but out of love of God.

“It’s always dangerous in the spiritual life to compare yourself to other people,” he said, citing the Gospel of John where Jesus instructed St. Peter not to be concerned about the mission of St. John the Apostle but rather to “follow Me.” (John 21: 20-23).

In like manner, we should be focused on God during Lent and not on the sacrifices of others, he said.

Lent (is referred to) as a joyful season... It’s the joy of Loving Him more.

“We will often fail, I think. And that’s not a bad thing. Because if we do fail, this is the opportunity to realize our utter dependence on God and His grace, to seek His mercy and forgiveness, and to seek His strength so that we can grow in virtue and do better,” he added.

And by realizing our weakness and dependence on God, we can “discover anew the depths of God’s mercy for us” and can be more merciful to others, he added.

Giving up good things may seem onerous at times, but can – and should – a Catholic fast with joy?

“It is referred to in the preface of Lent as a joyful season,” Father Lew said. “And it’s the joy of deepening our relationship with Christ, and therefore coming closer to Him. It’s the joy of Loving Him more, and the more we love God the closer we draw to Him.”

Lent “is all about the Cross, and eventually the Resurrection,” said Deacon Carnazzo. If we “make an authentic, real sacrifice for Christ” during Lent, “we can come to that day of the crucifixion and say ‘Yes Lord, I willingly with you accept the cross. And when we do that, then we will behold the third day of resurrection.”

From Page 1

In this case, through Exodus 20:1-17 (1st reading) and John 2:13-25 (Gospel reading), we are asked to accept that God provides laws out of love for our own well being (decrees), and that Jesus indeed destroyed the hard-stone temple, building a temple of merciful-love for all of us. In this sense, the challenging aspect of Lent helps us to convert our whole being to love God “with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbors as yourself.” (Lk 10:27).

Thus, I suggest that we contemplate the project of Bishop John’s— “Fasting for Priestly Vocations”—in a twofold way as well: Challenging and Encouraging.

Bishop Project being Challenging exorts us to Fast for Priestly Vocations. But Fasting, which is an external sacrifice, is a manifestation of an internal conversion. Fasting is then the sign of the “ascetic” conversion of the “noetic” conversion. It allows us to turn to God interiorly. And it here where a new element comes to play: Prayer.

In Prayer we communicate with God and ask Him to bless and perfect our Fasting: “Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God” (CCC 2590).

Saint John Chrysostom wrote: “Our spirit should be quick to reach out toward God not only when it is engaged in meditation; at other times also, when it is carrying out its duties, caring for the family, performing works of charity,” Fasting for Priestly Vocations!!! It is to call God to mind so our Fasting for Priestly Vocations “may be seasoned with the salt of God’s love” (St. John Chrysostom).

Bishop John’s project being Encouraging shows us that if we walk with Jesus through Prayer, we will let ourselves be walked by God to a hopeful future for our Diocese where Vocations to the Priesthood will not be a challenge but a blessing.

Therefore, when you Fast for Priestly Vocations, speak and listen to God, Pray!!! And “say a little prayer that some single man or boy will open his heart to Jesus’ call to the seminary. Maybe he is a son, grandson, nephew. Possibly he is a parishioner. Perhaps he is you” (Bishop John Brungardt).
Women, men and children on the journey to enter fully the Catholic Church are told ‘You have been called because you are special’

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Register

A pproximately 120 women, men and children on the road to entering fully the Catholic Church at Easter were officially welcomed along their faith journey Feb. 18 by the faithful of the diocese at the Call to Continuing Conversion and the Rite of Election celebration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

One of the most significant events of the liturgical year, this is the official moment when candidates (baptized members of another Christian denomination — or baptized Catholics — who are seeking confirmation and first Eucharist) and catechumens (individuals who have not been baptized and who are seeking baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist) declare their commitment to entering fully the Catholic Church at Easter.

The candidates and catechumens, along with their families, godparents, and sponsors, came from every corner of the diocese, each waiting for that special moment when they would be called by name to sign the Book of the Elect, or to dip their fingers in the baptismal font.

Presiding at celebration was Father Robert Schremmer, Vicar General, who was unable to attend the celebration due to health concerns. See his letter at left.

The Most Rev. John B. Brungardt was elected, called, chosen. “...Our lives, they may be empty or they may be full. They may be ever so faithful, or struggling with temptation. Here we are—here to be reminded that we are God’s special blessings—daughters and sons.

“So, come now, touch the water that reminds you of your baptism,” he said, referring to the candidates.

And to the catechumens (the “Elec”), he said, “I invite you to come and to write your name in the book of life.

“Today is special. Remember you are elected, called, chosen.”

As the choir sang the haunting song, “Wade in the Water,” candidates were called by name, and together with their sponsors, came forward to dip their fingers in the baptismal font, led by an usher and a banner-bearer carrying a tall pole with long streamers.

Then, after their parish was announced, the catechumens were called by name, and together with their Godparents, came forward to sign the Book of the Elect.

This is the final step before these individuals will fully enter the Catholic Faith at Easter through Baptism and Confirmation.

Following the celebration, everyone was invited to meet in the Holy Family Social Hall for a dinner reception.

CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, DODGE CITY
Amanda Guthrie, Carle Rouse, Cristina Flores, Maria Ponce, Brandy Aguilar, Jesús Adame, Fernando Lauren, Irwin Macías, Carolina Rodríguez, Luis Alejandro Rodríguez, Ángel Santivalé, Cristian Torres, Luis Torres, Alondra Adame, Johnny Chitlic Simaj, Ángel García, Daniel García, Ansony Herrera, Mariiza García, Fabian Isaac Ortiz, Víctor Rivas, David Rivero

PRINCE OF PEACE, GREAT BEND
Daniel Delgadillo, Aram Rincon, Bryan Solis

ST. STANISLAUS, INGALLS
Frankey Schmidt, Miguel Gutierrez-Varela

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, LIBERAL
Joshua Diazdeleon, Alyx Reynolds, Ralph Salas, Julian García, Victoria Corral, Julio García

SACRED HEART, PRATT
Michael Fisher, Debra Polok, Taylor Fuhr, Haydn Slief

ST. MARY, GARDEN CITY
Jesus Alfonso Bencomo, Vanessa Nichole Castillo, Fabian Isaac Ortiz, Víctor Rivas, David Rivero

ST. JOSEPH, ASHLAND
Kim Garman

CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, DODGE CITY
Matthew Brackey, Elizabeth Mejía, Araceli Calderon, Marcos Fernández, Yolanda Cruz, Mateo Velasquez, Jose Agustín Enriquez

ST. JOSEPH, ELINWOOD
Andrew Cherry, Tenelle Nuest, Kelly Penner, Nancy Heter, Ryan Heter

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, MEADE
Brent Post, Teresa Post

ST. JOHN, SPEARVILLE
Jonathan Able

ST. JOSEPH, SCOTT, CITY
Sirena Olivas

ST. BONIFACE, SHARON
Kaleigh Schafer

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, LIBERAL
Josephine McFarland, Aliyah Markoe, Vanessa Mejia, Michelle Rivera, Matthew Rodriguez, Mary Rivera, and Jonny Rivera

ST. JAMES, MEAD
Sergio Martinez, Yecenia Alvarado, Julia Gallegos, and John Arreola

ST. ANTHONY, LIBERAL
Luis Antonio Garcia, Wellington จาก, Alejandra Moncada, and Edgar Pérez

ST. JOHN, GARDEN CITY
Traci Dechant, Irene Rome, Dusty Wirth, Celia Moncada, Michael Velazco, Yonatala Gracia

ST. MARY, GARDEN CITY
Brenda Kay Freeman, Juan Zeze Enríquez-Castro, Pedro Romero, Estrella Belin Andrade Nava, Manuel Andrade

ST. JOSEPH, GARDEN CITY
Brenda Kay Freeman, Juan Zeze Enríquez-Castro, Pedro Romero, Estrella Belin, Andrade Nava, Manuel

ST. JOHN, SPEARVILLE
Jonathan Able

Bunda Jr., Apolo Daniel Nava, Gabriel Ponce, David Sahid Rodríguez, Elva Elizabeth Segovia Fernández

ST. RAPHAEL, SYRACUSE
Ramiro Falcon

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE, ULYSSES
Ava Partida, Cayley Metcalf, Iliyah Ochoa

ST. ANDREW, WRIGHT
Margo Morton

Vargas, Zorrianna Vargas

ST. RAPHAEL, SYRACUSE
Ramiro Falcon

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ST. ANDREW, WRIGHT
Margo Morton

Did we miss anyone? If so, please contact Dave at (620) 227-1519, or email skregister@dcdiocese.org.
At the Feb. 18 Call to Continuing Conversion and the Rite of Election, candidates and catechumens declare their commitment to entering fully the Catholic Church at Easter by dipping their fingers in the Baptismal Font, or signing the Book of the Elect.

Photos by Dave Myers
Says Archbishop Charles Chaput:

‘Blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples not permitted’


“If we consider all that under no circumstances may a priest or deacon of the archdiocese take part in, witness or officiate at any civil union of same-sex persons, or any religious ceremony that seeks to bless such an event,” Archdiocesan Chaput wrote in a Feb. 7 letter, which was obtained by CNA.

“This in no way is a rejection of the persons seeking such a union, but rather a refusal to ignore what we know to be true about the nature of marriage, the family, and the dignity of human sexuality,” he continued.

Chaput’s words come amidst controversy surrounding recent remarks from senior German church leaders who have implied support over same-sex union blessings.

In January, Father Johannes Zu Eltz, the city-dean of the Catholic Church in Frankfurt, stated that the Church should consider “theologically founded blessing ceremonies” for couples who do not meet standard requirements for marriage in the Church, which would include same-sex unions.

Cardinal Reinhard Marx, president of the German Bishops’ Conference, spoke on Feb. 3, saying that while “there are no general solutions,” the question of blessing homosexual couples should be left to “pastor on the ground.”

“We are talking about pastoral care for individual cases, and that applies to other areas as well, which we cannot regulate, where we have no sets of rules,” Cardinal Marx stated.

“Blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples not permitted”

Catholic Charities seeks donations, sponsors for Charity Wine Auction

From the Office of Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas:

The Catholic Charities Wine Tasting Event that is 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 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-sponsorship-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

OREMOS PARA QUE NUESTRO AYUNO SEA UNA ORACIÓN DE SÚPLICA A NUESTRO PADRE CELESTIAL PARA QUE NO FALTE VOCACIONES SACERDOTALES TANTO EN LA IGLESIA UNIVERSAL COMO EN NUESTRA DIÓCESIS DE DODGE CITY.

Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales: Oración

Por PADRE JUAN SALIS

“Mas lo pienso, más me doy cuenta de que la Cuaresma es una experiencia con un doble sentido para mi vida: desafiante y alentadora. La encuentro desafiante porque me exhorta a acompañar a Jesús en su viaje a Jerusalén; en su viaje por el desierto para llegar a su cruz. El Obispo John, en su última columna sobre el Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales, mencionó que “Nuestro Señor nos da cuatro maneras de practicar nuestro caminar con Él: ayuno, limosna, oración y acciones justas”. Estas cuatro prácticas no son en sí mismas algo fácil de practicar. Por esta razón cada una de ellas representan un desafío. Sin embargo, ellas no deben verse como un fin en sí mismas sino como medios que nos ayudan a llegar a algo más sublime: ser uno con Jesús y decir: “Padre... no se haga mi voluntad, sino la tuya” (Lc 22, 42). Y encuentro la Cuaresma alentadora porque me muestra que, al caminar con Jesús a través del sufrimiento y la penitencia, me dejo llevar por Dios a la vida eterna: “Tanto amó Dios al mundo que dio a su Hijo único, para que todos los que creen en él puedan tener vida eterna” (“In 3:16”.

El Tercer Domingo de Cuaresma nos ofrece también una doble dimensión de la Cuaresma enratizada en la conversión: una dimensión “espiritual”, una conversión del corazón y el corazón; y una dimensión “ascética”, una conversión de la vida práctica. Así pues, a través de Exodo 20: 1-17 (primera lectura) y Juan 2: 13-25 (lectura del evangelio), se nos pide que aceptemos que Dios amorosamente provee leyes para nuestro propio bienestar (decálogo), y que Jesús en verdad destruyó el templo de roca dura para construir un templo de amor misericordioso para todos nosotros. En este sentido, el aspecto desafiante de la Cuaresma nos ayuda a convertir todo nuestro ser para amar a Dios “con todo tu corazón, y con toda tu alma, y con todas tus fuerzas, y con toda tu mente; y tu próximo como a ti mismo” (“Lc 10, 27”.

Por lo tanto, sugiero que de igual manera contemplemos el proyecto del Obispo John: “Ayunar por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales”, con un doble aspecto: Desafiante y alentador.

El proyecto del Obispo John como algo desafiante nos exhorta a Ayunar por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales. Pero el ayuno, que es un sacrificio externo, es una manifestación de una conversión interna. El ayuno es entonces el signo de la conversión “ascética” de la conversión “espiritual”. Nos permite dirigirnos a Dios interiormente. Y es aquí donde un nuevo elemento entra en juego: La Oración. A través de la oración nos comunicamos con Dios y le pedimos que bendiga y perfeccione nuestro ayuno. “La oración es la elevación del alma hacia Dios o la petición a Dios de bienes convenientes” (Gómez). El Obispo John nos da cuatro maneras de practicar nuestro caminar con Él: ayuno, limosna, oración y acciones justas”. Estas cuatro prácticas deben acudir rápidamente a Dios no solo cuando se entrega a la meditación; pero también en otras ocasiones, cuando estás cumpliendo con sus deberes, cuidando a los necesitados, realizando obras de caridad,” (Ayunar por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales). Es traer a Dios a la mente para que nuestro Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales “pueda ser sanoizado con la sal del amor de Dios” (San Juan Crisóstomo).

El proyecto del Obispo John como algo alentador nos muestra que si caminamos con Jesús a través de la oración, nos dejaremos llevar por Dios hacia un futuro esperanzador para nuestra Diócesis, donde las Vocaciones al Sacerdocio no serán un desafío, sino una bendición.

Por lo tanto, cuando Ayunen por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales, habla y escucha a Dios: “Otra oración y dirigir una pequeña oración para que un solo hombre o un niño abra su corazón al llamado de Jesús al seminario. Tal vez el es un hijo, un nieto, un sobrino. Posiblemente él es un feligrés. Quizás él es usted” (“Obispo John Brungradt”.

Page 10  March 4, 2018 The Southwest Kansas Catholic
Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales

Envié una carta de apoyo a nuestros seminaristas

¿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, continúe enviando sus cartas, también a nuestros más nuevos seminaristas, para que sepan que están orando por ellos.

El don supremo

Parte 3 de la serie: las Buenas Nuevas y la Vida del Reino

¿Cuál es la regla más importante en tu vida? De niño, tal vez el regalo memorizable fue ese juguete con el que jugaste durante semanas, o esa primera bicicleta. A medida que madurabas, te daban cuenta de que los grandes regalos venían en la forma de la familia y las amistades. Cuando conociste a Dios, te diste cuenta de que muchos de nuestros dones son dados por nuestro Señor Amoroso.

En la parte 1 de esta serie, exploramos que estamos solos, indefensos e inesperado sin un Salvador, y en la parte 2 analizamos el significado último de la vida: Nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesús. Ahora estamos listos para considerar el don supremo en nuestras vidas.

Jesús vino a la tierra, nacido de María, verdadero Dios y verdadero Hombre, para ser uno de nosotros. Él nos enseñó sobre el amor, la compasión, la reconciliación y el servicio. Sin embargo, hizo algo más, mucho más. Jesús sufrió una cruel persecución y fue asesinado: la crucifixión. "Nadie tiene amor más grande que el que da la vida por los demás" (Juan 15,13). Nuestro Salvador hizo esto para quitar nuestros pecados. La muerte de Cristo es el sacrificio único y definitivo" (cf. CIC n.º 613). Jesús hizo esto porque nos ama. En Pascua, Jesús resucitó de entre los muertos: la resurrección. "No está aquí, ha resucitado" (Lucas 24,6). Esta crucifixión y resurrección nos abre el don supremo de la vida: la salvación. La vida eterna. El Cielo. La paz eterna, la alegría y el amor perfecto sin fin.

Por Él, los hijos de la luz nacen a la vida eterna, y se abren para los creyentes las puertas del reino de los cielos, porque en la muerte de Cristo nuestra vida ha sido vencida, y en su Resurrección todos hemos resucitado a la vida.

Por lo tanto, no estamos solos, indefensos e inesperado.

Vivir el Reino:

1. Oración diaria
2. Santa Misa semanal
3. Conferencias
4. Estudiar la Biblia y el Catecismo
5. Ser testigo de la Buena Nueva

Estamos orando por ellos.

Creación en la misión de este verano, podríamos ser 2022, si Dios quiere.

Por lo tanto, invoco a los fieles de nuestra Diócesis que consideren este proyecto: el Ayuno por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales. El Ayuno es 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 carta cada tarde (acto de bondad).

A veces, empezamos con demasiado, y a mitad de la Cuaresma, caemos.

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

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Gabriel’s Crossword

ACROSS
1  2  3  4  5  6
2 Plate for the Eucharist
3 Book containing calendar of Masses
4 Adjective for the Father
5 Church assn. for kids
6 Biblical river

DOWN
10 11 12 13 14 15
10 Solomon holy day
11 A dove brought back this branch to Noah
12 Israel ending
13 31 Letter by which a priest is accepted into another
14 Roman emperor who persecuted Christians
15 His hair was his strength

31 32 33 34
31 “Regina” this (Eccl 7:4)
32 “..._Regina”
33 ___ for the poor
34 ___ of the Lord

St. Michael’s Mind Benders

TEASER THE FIRST:
Which way is the bus going? Right or left?

TEASER THE SECOND:
Move one matchstick to get another equation.

(BELOW) To solve a Soduko, 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.

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TEASER THE THIRD:

Richard works at Gadgetworks, Inc. and he noticed last Friday that he had several computers in need of updating. He arranged with each user to upgrade their computer this week. Since upgrading operating systems was rarely as simple as the programmers thought it was, Richard planned a full day for each computer and even provided loaners for the users. Determine the full name of each user, and even provided loaners for the users.

1. The Windows users were, in no particular order, the user who worked in finance, Mr. Almond, and Harvey.
2. The computer that Richard took on Wednesday belonged to an Apple user.
3. John’s last name wasn’t Crawford but he worked in customer service. Mr. Grace didn’t work in manufacturing.
4. Mr. Maxwell’s Apple computer was taken the day before Elliot’s Windows computer but two days after the computer in marketing, which wasn’t Harvey’s computer.
5. Mr. Crawford, whose first name wasn’t Elliot, didn’t work in engineering.
6. Michael’s computer was taken on Tuesday but he didn’t work in marketing. The engineering computer was taken on Friday but George Bixby wasn’t the user.

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AdVantage
The Southwest Kansas Catholic
**OBITUARIES**

**MARYAH “M.J.” REYES,** 18, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Feb. 16, 2018. Reyes, the daughter of Marc Reyes and Sara Gutierrez, was a senior at Dodge City High School where she played soccer, wrestled and was in band. She also loved animals. Survivors include her parents; her sister, Aaliyah; brothers, Roman, Brady, and Marc Anthony (who is stationed in Guam); her grandparents, Carolyn and Jessie Gutierrez and Juan J. Reyes and several aunts and uncles including Celeste Buehne and husband Terry, Juan and Elisha Reyes, and Jacqueline Reyes. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

**FREDRIE ROSAS,** 66, of St. Mary Parish, Garden City, died Feb. 10, 2018. On June 13, 1970 he married Gloria Ortega in Garden City, Kansas. She survives. He worked as a custodian for USD 457. He coached little league baseball and played on an adult league for many years. Other survivors include his four children: Silvia Rosas, Alfredo (Marisa) Rosas, Marcella Rosas, and Esperanza Rosas; six grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Father Bernard Felix presided.

**CLAUDIA B. LEIS,** 94, of St. Anthony Parish, Fowler, died Feb. 14, 2018. She was a self-carpenter, farmer, and stockman. After his high school graduation he joined the United States Army and was with the 41st Armored Infantry in the 2nd Armored Division “Hell On Wheels” and received four Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart while serving during World War II. On October 19, 1948, he married LaVerne Hoffman at Fowler, Kansas. She survives. Other survivors include a son, Randy; four daughters, Deborah Mahan, Barbara Whitehead, Peggy Higgins, and Jan McGregor; a brother Clarence Leis; 14 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Father Bernard Felix presided.

**RICHARD BOLLIG,** 98, of Prince of Peace Parish, Great Bend, died Feb. 16, 2018. Mr. Bollig retired as a supervisor for Marlette Homes, after 27 years of service. He was a veteran of WW II, serving in the U.S. Army, 422nd Infantry, and produced props for two movies “The Jayhawkers” and “Planet Negro”. He helped design and build the gazebo in Larned for Father Firmin Kyaw presided.

**WANDA “RAMONA” KEENAN** died Feb. 10, 2018. She married Gerald P. Keenan July 12, 1949. He preceded her in death on Nov. 14, 1994. During her lifetime Ramona opened her home up to numerous children and adults who needed a place to live. She volunteered at the Red Cross and Salvation Army, helping the victims of the Hoisington tornado. She also volunteered preparing and delivering Harvest Boxes to those who weren’t able to get out to pick them up. She worked at St. Rose Hospital, Great Bend Manor, Eagles Lodge, American Legion and the VFW. Ramona is survived by her four children; Linda Ramey, Ramon Keenan, Denise Carroll and Diane Newkirk; brother, John Gutierrez; sister, Rita Ritter; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and the many who lived with her over the years. Father Ted Steocklein presided.

**JERRY ARENSDORF,** of Holy Rosary Parish, Medicine Lodge, died Feb. 13, 2018. He was born on February 4, 1946. He served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam Era. Jerry and his wife, Marilyn, began a trucking business with “one old cattle truck”, that evolved through the years to become a successful house carrier for the National Gypsum Company. They sold their trucking business and retired to become wheat farmers and cattle raisers in 2006. Jerry is survived by Marilyn; his siblings, Jocile Fisher, Sally Depenbusch, and Norman Arrendorff; his children, Ammie Mass, Keri Dyke, and Adam; and five grandchildren. Father Firmin Kyaw presided.

**CLAYTON “ALLEN” PECK,** 60, of Sacred Heart Parish, Larned, died Feb. 11, 2018. He owned several businesses throughout his life, putting his artistic skills to work. He was the sole-proprietor of Al’s Custom Signs & Graphics in Lawrence. He designed and produced props for two movies “The Jayhawkers” and “Planet Negro”. He helped design and build the gazebo in Larned for the Larned Lions Club. Survivors include his mother, Sharon Larsen; fiance, Joann Garrett; four great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren. Father Bernard Felix presided.

**Alice Marie (Youngers) Bureneide,** 94, of St. Boniface Parish, Sharon, died Feb. 25, 2018. On May 5, 1947, she married Edgar C. Bureneide. He preceded her in death on June 20, 1985. Surviving are her children, Joe Bureneide, Rose Baier, and Doris McGinnis; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one sister, Mary Rose Eck; three sisters-in-law, Alfreda Leis; three brothers- in-law, Leonard Kaberlein, Don Kaberlein, and Jan McGregor; a brother Clarence Leis; one sister, Rose Murphy; six grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. Father Don Bedore presided.

**M.J.” Reyes**

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Please pray for all those listed above, their families and loved ones.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Sunday, March 4; Third Sunday of Lent**

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

**Monday, March 5**


Tuesday, March 6

Daniel 3:25, 34-43/Mathew 18:21-35

Wednesday, March 7; Saints Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9/Mathew 5:17-19

Thursday, March 8


Friday, March 9

Hosea 14:2-10/Mark 12:28-34

Saturday, March 10


Sunday, March 11; Fourth Sunday of Lent

Second Chronicles 36:14-17, 19-23/Ephesians 2:4-10/John 3:14-21

Monday, March 12

Isaiah 65:17-21/John 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 13

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12/John 5:1-3, 5-16

Wednesday, March 14

Isaiah 49:8-15/John 5:17-30

Thursday, March 15

Exodus 32:7-14/John 5:31-47

Friday, March 16

Wisdom 2:1, 12-22/John 7:1-10, 25-30

Saturday, March 17

Jeremiah 11:18-20/John 7:40-53

Sunday, March 18; Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34/Hebrews 5:7-9/John 12:20-33

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Father Fred Tuzicka

Father Tuzicka was born Feb. 23, 1923, in rural Otis. He was ordained by Bishop Mark K. Carroll in Holy Trinity Church, Timken, on May 20, 1951. This ordination took place the day after the date on the papal document establishing the Dodge City diocese. Word of the division of the Wichita diocese was not made public, however, until June 6, 1951. Father Tuzicka was originally ordained for the Wichita diocese but served his entire priesthood in the Dodge City diocese.

He served as an assistant at Sacred Heart Cathedral (1951-53), before being named full time chaplain at St. Anthony Hospital in Dodge City (1953-55).


Father Tuzicka died March 9, 2002, at the age of 79. Bishop Ronald M. Gilmore celebrated the Mass of Resurrection at Holy Trinity Church, Timken. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery at Timken. Father Tuzicka served as state co-chaplain for the Knights of Columbus in 1980 and 1981 with Father Gerald Hammeke. Father Hammeke remembered his friend as someone who “loved his priesthood and ...loved the Church.” (SKR March 21, 2002.)

Died Feb. 9, 2002

His ordination took place the day after the date on the papal document establishing the Dodge City diocese. Father Tuzicka was originally ordained for the Wichita diocese but served his entire priesthood in the Dodge City diocese.
Pope’s Monthly Intentions

MARCH 2018

Formation in Spiritual Discernment

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment both on the personal and communitarian levels.

ANSWERS

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

First:

This question was asked to kindergarten pupils across the country. Their answer? “The bus is going left, because you can’t see the door.” Correct!

Second:

Uh ... sorry, I couldn’t find the solution. If you figure it out, let me know! I worked on it until my brain started to hurt. It didn’t take long.

Third:

ADAM, AHAZ, ABIJAH, ABIUD, ABRAHAM, ACHIM, ADAM, AHIAZ, AMMINADAB, AMOS, ASAPH, AZOR, BATHSHEBA, BOAZ, ELEAZAR, ELIAKIM, ELIUD, GOD, HEEZEKIAH, HEZRON, ISAAC, JACOB, JECHONIAH, JEHOSHAPHAT, JESSE, JORAM, JOSIAH, JOTHAM, JUDAH, LAMECH, MANASEEH, MARY, MATTHAN, NAHSHON, NOAH, ODEB, PEREZ, RAHAB, REHOBOAM, RUTH, SALMON, SETH, SHEALTIEL, SHEM, SOLOMON, TERAH, UZZIAH, ZADOK, ZERUBBABEL

Puzzle courtesy of ChristianBibleReference.org

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Scouts, adult leader, honored at annual Quest weekend

The 39th annual Quest Weekend was held Feb. 16-18 at Sacred Heart Cathedral School. The theme was “You are Beloved.” There were 17 Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and 11 adult leaders who participated in the activities. Father Anesh Parappanattu, parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, celebrated the Sunday liturgy for the scouts, adult leaders and family members at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The scouts attending Quest 2018 used the retreat weekend to work toward requirements for religious emblems and medals. Some youths begin work on the requirements at one Quest weekend, work on service projects and other requirements throughout the year, and complete the program the following year at Quest. The award programs cannot be completed in a weekend.

Guest speakers included Father Juan Salas, parochial vicar at St. Mary, Garden City, and Blaise Dewell, a Quest alumnus who now teaches at St. Mary School in Derby, Kansas. Father Salas’ presentation centered on the question “Do We Have a Common Vocation?” Dewell address was entitled, “Beloved and Blessed.”

Kara Haselhorst, from the Cathedral parish, received the “I Live My Faith” medal. This emblem program enables young girls to appreciate more deeply the place that God and religion hold in their daily lives. They become more aware of their potential as a growing person, a friend, a family member, a citizen, and a participant in the faith community.

Arika Garcia, from St. Anthony Parish, Liberal, received the Spirit Alive medal. This program is designed to enable young women to understand that the Holy Spirit plays a big role in living out their faith daily, and that it is through the Holy Spirit that their faith comes alive in witnessing to others.

Brandon Hirchfeld, from the Cathedral parish, and Connor Jones, from St. Anthony, Lakin, received the “Ad Altare Dei” emblem. This program is designed to equip Boy Scouts in the seventh grade through high school to take their place in the world as maturing Catholics.

The scout lives and applies the things he believes to his daily life and gains a deeper understanding of what it means to be a follower and disciple of Christ. The scout discovers that through the sacraments, he becomes a maturing disciple of Christ.

Cody Farra, from the Cathedral parish, and Ethan Fischer, from St. Dominic, Garden City, received the Pope Pius XII religious emblem. The Pope Pius program reflects the ideal of a youth’s growing concern with the world of God as well as the human world. It recognizes the need for Catholic lay leadership in the church and community affairs and of scouting’s potential in developing such leadership. The program helps form young adults in Christ with a desire for serious commitments to action and geared to their role as Christians.

St. George Award

Mark Goudy (below, left), a parishioner of Christ the King, Deerfield, received the St. George Emblem, for his contributions to Catholic scouting. Goudy has been a member of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for more than 10 years. He is president of the Santa Fe Council of Boy Scouts of America, and is the Crew Coach for Venture Crew No. 22 in Lakin. He is congratulated by Dave Geist, chair of the Catholic Committee on Scouting.

St. John the Evangelist Parish, Hoisington, celebrates Confirmation

Hoisington youth who were confirmed by Father Anselm Eke on Saturday, Feb. 16 include Back row: Cameron Schneweis, Zane Prosser, (Father Anselm Eke), Chandler Blackwell, and Zachary Rubio. Front row: Bailey Sanders, Alex Schremmer, Taylor Boxberger, Avery Brewer, and Paul Rziha.

Lord Jesus, we are one in your name. May your light burn brightly within us. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to take your light and your love out to the whole world. Show us how to use our gifts and talents to become who you have called us to be.

Amen