We have learned that there is hope for us in Jesus, who gives us eternal life. But we cannot treat this topic as an academic subject like physics, which cannot save us. We cannot hope in an idea like justice, which is not the ultimate meaning or gift of life. We are called to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. He is our Savior, our Brother, our Friend. We need to believe and respond to this personal invitation by Jesus.

Jesus personally invites each of us to this saving belief – faith. We then wish to respond to this faith with our minds, hearts, wills, and hands/feet. This faith is not merely superficial, but should cause a transformation in every aspect of our lives.

But, at times, my faith is weak. I ask Jesus, as did the father of the possessed son: “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24). Another translation: “I have faith. Help my lack of faith!” (NJB). Turning to Jesus in our times of need, reaching out to this personal God, will give us peace, hope, and joy.

But there is more. Jesus ascended to heaven 40 days after the resurrection. His followers were distraught: how would they cope, since Jesus would not be physically present to them? Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit, who is the last Person of the Holy Trinity to be revealed.

“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit who the Father will send in my name—He will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I told you” (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Love, will help us each step of the way with our faith. The Holy Spirit will guide us to respond to this saving faith in Jesus.

That is Good News: Jesus personally inviting us to believe, and sending the Holy Spirit to assist us to respond! Jesus loves us so much!
Don't whine if you miss it! Mark your calendar!

Annual Wine Tasting fundraiser April 20

The Annual Wine Tasting Event is the major fundraiser for Catholic Charities, helping the agency meet community needs for pregnancy and teen mom support, infant adoption, addiction and mental health counseling, relationship education and family support services, emergency assistance, non-food pantry supplies, housing assistance, immigration and refugee support, and disaster relief for tornadoes, wildfires and other destructive events.

For more information and reservations for the event, contact Rebecca Ford at 620-792-1393, or by email at rford@CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org. Reservations can also be made online at www.CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org/wine-tasting-event, or in person at the Catholic Charities office located at 2201 16th St., Great Bend.

The 17th Annual Catholic Charities Wine Tasting Event
Friday, April 20th, 2018
Great Bend Event Center
Great Bend KS

KNOW YOUR LIMITS
KSGamblingHelp.com • 800-522-4700

Love Gives Life Conference
Dodge City, April 7
English & Español
SCAN QR CODE for registration, schedule, & more

Niece of Bishop Brungardt dies at 27

Shantel Rose Brungardt Winkler, 27, niece of the Most Rev. John B. Brungardt, died Sunday, March 4, 2018. She was born July 19, 1990 at Dodge City, the daughter of Anthony and Cynthia (Ernzen) Brungardt. She was a graduate of Jefferson County North High School in Winchester, Kansas and received her CNA at Brown Mackey College. She returned to Dodge City in January of 2018 from McLouth, Kansas and was a Sales Consultant for G&G Kia in Dodge City. She enjoyed horses, working on trucks, and barrel racing. She especially loved her children and spending time with them. She married Daniel Winkler.

Survivors include: her three children, Weston Brungardt, Kellie Brungardt and Texlyn Davey, all of the home; her father and step-mother, Anthony and Carrie Brungardt; her mother, Cynthia Ernzen; a brother, Andrew Brungardt; two sisters, Megan Brungardt and Megan Ann Follett; many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The funeral Mass was March 9 at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria, Kansas with Bishop Brungardt presiding. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the Brungardt Children’s Scholarship Fund in care of Ziegler Funeral Chapel, 1901 N. 14th Ave., Dodge City, Kansas 67801. Condolences may be sent to www.zieglerfuneralchapel.com.
Russia’s ‘Uncommon Prophet’

The martyr Father Aleksandr Men

By CHARLENE SCOTT MYERS
Special to the Catholic

“What is written with a pen cannot be hacked away even by an ax.”
-- Russian proverb

It is said in Russia that the counterrevolution began with the swing of an ax, which in Russia is a symbol of revolt. Unfortunately, it was a holy Russian Orthodox priest, Father Aleksandr Men, who was the victim of a deadly ax.

On Sept. 9, 1990, he was felled like a tree in the forest of the Semkhoz woods as he walked the narrow path toward a train that would whisk him to his small church, Cosmos and Damian, ironically named for twin Christian martyrs of the fourth century.

Father Men became a martyr of the 20th century, known and loved far across that vast icy land as “Russia’s Uncommon Prophet.”

Born of a Jewish mother, the stocky, black-bearded Father Men was beloved by millions of Russians, but not by the murderous KGB. His father was a nonbeliever, but his mother had converted to Russian Orthodoxy. (Russia was a country where the Jewish religion and culture had been assaulted even more severely than the Orthodox Church.)

The middle-aged priest, only 55 when he was slaughtered in the village of Semkhoz, never knew what hit him in the back of his skull. Bleeding and stricken, he struggled to return to his humble home and wife Natasha for help, but collapsed at the gate of his yard.

His wife saw his battered bleeding face from a window, and rushed to help him, but within minutes he was dead. There were those in the government who hated him because he was an orthodox priest, and those who hated him because he was of the Jewish race. His family and friends never knew which of the haters had ended his life.

My friends Dr. John Jackson and his Jewish wife Rebecca of the Turin Shroud Center in Colorado Springs and I visited Father Men’s small church in Novaya Derevnya, a tiny town only 30 miles away and a hour’s drive from Moscow, during our trip to Russia in 1995.

The ancient small church originally had been built with wood in 1462, but was re-constructed in 1564 with stone, defying Peter the Great’s strange edict against building stone structures in Russia.

We were greeted that evening with great warmth by members of the congregation, as a Russian translator who knew English changed the words of the Jacksons into the Russian language. (I photographed and recorded the Jacksons’ talks to the church members.)

Afterwards an elderly woman with hair as white as the snows outside the church approached me. Lifting my right hand to her lips, she kissed it, leaving a slight trace of her lipstick on my sleeve. (So touched was I by her gesture, I did not wash that blousse for many years, but kept it as a keepsake!) His brother Pavel said their mother, Yelena Men, “saw the church as a place apart, a refuge. In our family there was a personal religious search.”

Father Men had been a friend of the great Russian writer and intellectual Solzhenitsyn. Some of Father Men’s followers referred to the priest as “a spiritual Sakharov.” (Andrei Sakharov was a Russian politician and dissident who challenged the Russian bullying of Gorbachev.)

“Father Men refused to cooperate with the KGB,” wrote David Remnick, a staff writer for The New Yorker in his book “Lenin’s Tomb, Last Days of the Soviet Empire.”

“Father Men taught underground Bible classes and published his theological works abroad under a pseudonym,” Remnick said.

“He endured the harassment, sat through long searches of his home and interrogations, and came home to open his mail and read death threats, threats against his wife and two children.

“All because he was an honest priest and served his flock honestly. He told his brother Pavel he felt like ‘an arrow finally sprung from the bow.’”

Their mother had taken her two young sons to pray “guided by an honest priest named Seraphim who evaded the authorities by moving from apartment to apartment,” explained Remnick.

“The ‘catacomb church,’ they called it. Most of the parishioners were believers who had been in the (Russian) prison camps, people who had lost relatives and friends for their faith.”

Many Jewish families were drawn to Russian Orthodoxy because they “were able to feel their Russia identity more closely than their Jewishness,” Remnick wrote.

“The Bosheviks despised the Russia Orthodox Church as an embodiment of old Russia. Lenin planed a soulless utopia. But when the Revolution needed to mobilize millions of illiterate people, it couldn’t preach Marx to them.

“As the spiritual inheritor of Russian statehood, the Party needed to co-opt, not destroy, the church, bring it to its knees but not cut off its head. Stalin knew well how deeply the appeal of the church echoed in the Russian soul.

“To gain the allegiance of the population during the war, he appealed not so much to Communist ideology as to a mystical sense of Russianness, to Holy Russia...”

And in his radio talks to the country, Stalin did not mention the language of atheism, Remnick noted.

“He returned some priests from prison camps and gave them decent positions and salaries. He was their emperor and pope. How useful.

“And when the war on Germany ended, the war on religion resumed. The dynamiting of churches, the imprisonment of priests, rabbis, and muftis, the prosecution of believers as ‘enemies of the state’—it all resumed.”

The author Remnick called Russia “this twisted Oz.” It was a dangerous Oz in which thousands, maybe millions, of Russians like Father Men were put to death because of their deep religious faith beliefs, their supposed opposition to the government, and their desire for freedom of opinion and life.

The night before his murder, Father Men delivered a lecture in Moscow, speaking of the spiritual quest as “an endless ascent.”

“We climb breathlessly,” he said. “Truth is not given easily. We look back down and know there is a great climb ahead. I remember the words of Tenzing, who climbed Mount Everest with the British. He said that you can only approach a mountain with respect.

“The same is true of God,” Father Men noted. “Truth is closed to those who approach it without mountain with respect.

“Father Men refused to cooperate with the KGB,” wrote David Remnick, a staff writer for The New Yorker in his book “Lenin’s Tomb, Last Days of the Soviet Empire.”

“Father Men taught underground Bible classes and published his theological works abroad under a pseudonym,” Remnick said.

“He endured the harassment, sat through long searches of his home and interrogations, and came home to open his mail and read death threats, threats against his wife and two children.

“All because he was an honest priest and served his flock honestly. He told his brother Pavel he felt like ‘an arrow finally sprung from the bow.’”

Their mother had taken her two young sons to pray “guided by an honest priest named Seraphim who evaded the authorities by moving from apartment to apartment,” explained Remnick.

“The ‘catacomb church,’ they called it. Most of the parishioners were believers who had been in the (Russian) prison camps, people who had lost relatives and friends for their faith.”

Many Jewish families were drawn to Russian Orthodoxy because they “were able to feel their Russia identity more closely than their Jewishness,” Remnick wrote.

“The Bosheviks despised the Russia Orthodox Church as an embodiment of old Russia. Lenin planed a soulless utopia. But when the Revolution needed to mobilize millions of illiterate people, it couldn’t preach Marx to them.

“As the spiritual inheritor of Russian statehood, the Party needed to co-opt, not destroy, the church, bring it to its knees but not cut off its head. Stalin knew well how deeply the appeal of the church echoed in the Russian soul.

“To gain the allegiance of the population during the war, he appealed not so much to Communist ideology as to a mystical sense of Russianness, to Holy Russia...”

And in his radio talks to the country, Stalin did not mention the language of atheism, Remnick noted.

“He returned some priests from prison camps and gave them decent positions and salaries. He was their emperor and pope. How useful.

“And when the war on Germany ended, the war on religion resumed. The dynamiting of churches, the imprisonment of priests, rabbis, and muftis, the prosecution of believers as ‘enemies of the state’—it all resumed.”

The author Remnick called Russia “this twisted Oz.” It was a dangerous Oz in which thousands, maybe millions, of Russians like Father Men were put to death because of their deep religious faith beliefs, their supposed opposition to the government, and their desire for freedom of opinion and life.

The night before his murder, Father Men delivered a lecture in Moscow, speaking of the spiritual quest as “an endless ascent.”

“We climb breathlessly,” he said. “Truth is not given easily. We look back down and know there is a great climb ahead. I remember the words of Tenzing, who climbed Mount Everest with the British. He said that you can only approach a mountain with respect.

“The same is true of God,” Father Men noted. “Truth is closed to those who approach it without mountain with respect.”

May they rest in peace, the beloved freedom-loving Father Men and all the thousands or millions who also have perished in Russia because of their strong faith in a living God!
Shshhs — Five ways to enjoy silence in the noise of daily life

By Morgan Smith

Catholic Rural Life

It was difficult at first—and I was surprised by how attached I was to it. Eventually, I discovered that I actually preferred silence in the car. This grew into a beautiful spiritual practice for me, and now I take an hour or more a day to spend in intentional silence. I still enjoy music, but the way in which I listen to it is much different. This practice of abstaining from noise has helped me to be more aware of my intentions and more aware of Christ’s presence, even in the most mundane, everyday things.

More often than not, silence is a bit scary. It strips us of our distractions and comforts. It is the space where Christ reveals to us who we really are—like a mirror. I always have to ask Him for help when I approach silence—and this is why a traditional way to begin prayer is to cry out: “God come to my assistance, Lord make haste to help me!”

5 WAYS TO START
1. Ask Christ to be with you.
2. Be intentional with music and media.
3. Contemplate the goodness of God.
4. Choose to read instead.
5. Keep tabs on daydreams.

Cleaning up the spilled mashed potatoes of life

By Dave Myers

Editor

I am. Had he been bored? Was I a distraction? I wondered why God would allow me to make such a mess. The key question is why do I want to listen to or watch this? Is it a distraction, background noise, or not necessary, then choose to turn it off.

1. Ask Christ to be with you.
2. Be intentional with music and media.
3. Contemplate the goodness of God.
4. Choose to read instead.
5. Keep tabs on daydreams.

Cleaning up the spilled mashed potatoes of life

By Dave Myers

Editor

It was early. I went to the fridge to get some milk. I opened the door. Half a glass of orange juice, put there by persons unknown, came tumbling out the door, creating an orange lake on the kitchen floor. “Dang it!” I said (except I spilled it differently).

I contemplated what to do: 1) Clean it up. 2) Use the Force to make it clean up. 3) Call in the cats to lick it up. 4) Move to a new house where no orange juice is spilled on the floor. 5) Watch TV. I finally decided on 6), Clean out fridge to avoid future orange juice spills.

I pulled out all the food, including several Tupperwarees (yes that’s the way it’s spelled) filled with leftovers what could be turned into small, green universes. When I opened the lid of what once was creamy cheese, the once-cream-cheese substance leapt out and shouted, “I’m freeeeeeeeal!” and ran out the back door. Twenty minutes later, thanks to the high winds, it was orbiting, and somebody’s pet cat was about to have a nice snack. I opened another container and heard, “We’re here! We’re here! WE’re HERE!!” The last sound they heard was that of the garbage disposal. (Man, I gotta stop reading those Stephen King books.)

I found an old dish of mashed potatoes. When I peeled off the souran wrap, the odor was so bad that my beard fell off. I tossed the contents into the trash, which was less than an arm’s length away, only to have it bounce off the side of the car. Mashed potatoes went sailing like a vast asteroid belt across the kitchen floor. I collected a bunch of the blobs into a paper towel and tossed it into the trash. The trash was less than six inches away, so naturally I missed this. My paper towel of smelly mashed potato-like foodstuffs bounced across the floor for a second time. I didn’t know that left-over mashed potatoes could laugh, but they can. Mashed potatoes are rude. All my efforts were making me thirsty, so I decided to pour myself a nice cup of milk. (Gosh Dave, I wonder where this is going?) I spooned in my malted milk flavored Ovaltine and stirred. I took a drink or two —mmmnnn — and set it down on the stove next to the fridge where I was working. A nice little reward for work well done.

Two minutes later I was looking at a pool of chocolate milk that was spreading across the kitchen floor. Yes, this is true too.

I decided to curse a few times, look at the mess, curse a few more times, and wonder if I’m about to break some sort of record for spilling things. (Note to self: Call Guinness.) After another 30 minutes or so, I had managed to get the new universes that had been created in the science fiction world by my mashed potato experiment that is my fridge cleaned up and cleared out, when I heard my wife, Charlene, stirring.

I pulled out a ham steak still in its wrapper and cut it open to fry up for breakfast. Did you know that ham steak packages are filled with some sort of weird ham steak juice? I asked all these questions as the entire contents of ham juice spilled down the counter, creating Lake Ham Juice on the floor. I looked across Lake Ham Juice and contemplated my options: 1) Clean it up. 2) Use the Force to make it clean itself up. 3) Call in the cats to lick it up. 4) Watch TV. Or 5), Move to a new house where no ham juice is spilled on the floor.

I called our real estate agent. She said she didn’t know of any houses available that didn’t have ham juice spilled on the floor, but that she would let us know of any ham-juice free houses came on the market. Later I wondered why God would create a person who is as clumsy as I am. Had he been bored?

God just chuckled and replied, “Once you get down there and really scrub up all the stuff you spilled, you’re going to have a floor that’s cleaner than it was before you started. Nice idea, isn’t it? It really works on so many different levels.”

I thought about it. I thought about it some more.

“Um...” God finally said, “I’m referring to the renewal of the spirit.”

“Yeah! Sort of like, ‘Cleaning up the spilled mashed potatoes of life’!” I said, proud of myself.

“I was thinking more along the lines of ‘Confession will cleanse the soul,’ but that works too.”

Cartoon © Tim Whyatt. Reprinted with permission.
By Mary Sharon Moore
Poor, Like Jesus

Getting to forgiven

S ome years ago, a woman told a lie about me that caused some serious harm and was tremendously painful to bear. After many months had passed, out of the blue, she sent me an email, something along the lines of “If I hurt you, I’m sorry.” We’ve all gotten these: the non-apology, apology. It was, I thought, cowardly, and did very little to repair the damage that had been done.

On the other hand, I’ve received some very sincere and blessed apologies, too. One from a dear friend who years earlier had done something that needed forgiving. By the time he got around to asking for forgiveness, I had long since forgiven him, but I will never forget the sense of freedom that was unleashed in him in naming the offense, claiming it before me, and asking for forgiveness. So joy it brought to us to see God’s grace at work flowing freely between us and further cementing our friendship with one another and with the Lord we both love so dearly.

This Lent has me thinking about the tricky and nuanced work of forgiveness; that is, where I need to ask for forgiveness. Where do I need to make real amends? Where is it not enough to name the offense in plain language without excuses to the one I have harmed, and ask for their forgiveness? Have I done all that I am able and obligated to do in order to help facilitate forgiveness in the one I have wounded? Have I placed the altar, I love – and occasionally dread – the passage in Matthew where Jesus tells us most plainly, “If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift” (5:23–24). I find these verses to be an excellent and effective exam of Mass. And I confess that on more than one occasion, this passage has turned me around before receiving Communion in a most unworthy condition.

Of course, getting to forgiveness is not always a perfectly tidy, linear operation, and I am not advocating for scrupulosity. Sometimes our hurts flare up long after we’ve sincerely forgiven someone, revealing another little corner of resentment that still needs to be swept out. It does not mean that our apology was somehow flawed if someone we’ve harmed has not yet forgiven us, or not forgiven us fully, or needs to forgive us again. We forgive in layers, working out our “seventy times seven” along an often bumpy and unpredictable road.

Sometimes our apologies are not received in the moment we offer them. That’s all right. True and worthy apologies don’t have an expiration date. A heart can “catch up” so to speak at a later time, and I want to hope for that in another. If you tend toward an exaggerated scrupulosity, maybe you don’t need to pray about this. For my part, I am more tempted to diminish my sins and their damage. For those like me, let’s not waste any opportunity to be reconciled with those we have hurt. Let’s resolve to trust in the power of God’s grace and beg his clarifying love to flow freely mending all our soul-fissures where it will.

Merciful Jesus, your grace can never be exhausted. Help me to look at my sin honestly, and with courage, to ask simply and without excuses for forgiveness where it is most needed.

Elizabeth Kelly is an award-winning speaker and the author of six books, including including Jesus Approaches: What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom and Joy from the Women of the New Testament. She is trained as a spiritual director, in the Ignatian exercises and leads retreats with a particular focus on helping women to flourish in their faith. She teaches in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas (MN). Her website is: www.emkbooks.com.

By Mary Sharon Moore
Poor, Like Jesus

My friend Jorge

By Mary Sharon Moore
Poor, Like Jesus

Even Victorian couples got the giggles

March 18, 2018    Page 5
A step along their Catholic journey

The Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred upon 10 young Catholics of Holy Rosary Parish in Medicine Lodge on Feb. 28, with Father Firmin Kyaw officiating. (Left to Right) Rylee Jacobson, Lainey Coley, Grady Clouse, Kassidy Rambat, Easton Hrencher, Father Firmin Kyaw, Carson Cargill, Jaelynn Bridges, Tori Fischer, Matthew Piper, Emma Randels, and Cheri Dohrmann, Confirmation Instructor.

Great Bend — Patty Wolf, a sixth grade teacher at Holy Family School, was recently presented the KAIRS Distinguished Teacher Award. Each year, the KAIRS (Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools) committee nominates and selects outstanding educators in Kansas to receive the award. The Distinguished Teacher Award recognizes and honors those educators who have offered exemplary service in the classroom and/or as administrators.

Wolf was nominated by Holy Family principal, Karen Moeder. "[Patty Wolf] received this for many reasons, but the first and foremost is because of her overwhelming desire to make a difference in the lives of every student," Moeder said.

"Teaching to her is truly a passion. She is determined to see to it that every student who passes through her classroom is a respectful, responsible, and prepared young person who will contribute to our world in a positive way.

"Each student is an individual to her. She has a plan for every student who is in her class. She quickly learns how to reach the needs of each student, and then inspires each to exceed their potential. She expects the best from each student, and gets it with grit and determination; she is not one to give up or to give in when it comes to a student."

"Patty works long hours and gives 150 percent in preparation and assessment of students," Moeder continued. "She is meticulous about her classroom and expects the same from her students. She shows all of her students how to stay organized and how to be responsible for their work and their actions; she holds them accountable and keeps them on their toes."

"Patty is a miracle worker," commented a first year student whom she is tutoring. One of her current students noted, "She is the most strict and hard teacher I have ever had, but I know she loves me and wants me to succeed."

And from a former student: "She helped me to be a great student; she expected our best and she always got it."

A colleague of Wolf’s commented that "She works hard and is a role model for all of us."

"Holy Family School is very blessed to have Patty Wolf as part of our family," Moeder said. "Patty not only is one of my teachers, she is also a mentor to me. She helped me when I first started out as a classroom teacher; she guided me, protected me, and shaped me."

"Patty not only is one of my teachers, she is also a mentor to me. She helped me when I first started out as a classroom teacher; she guided me, protected me, and shaped me. ..."
The self-giving love of the cross

Editor’s Note: The following continues the ongoing series on Fasting for Priestly Vocations. This week’s column encourages and offers ideas, which families can fast together.

Year to year, we in the diocesan vocation office look for and encounter young men who are sincerely seeking direction in their lives. It often happens that I meet a young man, invite him to an Andrew dinner with Bishop John, encourage him to go to a discernment retreat or two, help him to grow in his prayer life, and vigilantly watch his progress … and after all that, he goes and gets married.

Now, some folks might consider this response too ready to deny a vocation. But if that young man has honestly sought God’s will and has found peace in his vocation to marriage, then I consider it a great miracle that the family is indirectly bringing along another vocation. When our families are healthy, we will have healthy vocations. If we want to support priestly vocations, we must build up the family. However, all too often young men tell me that they fear discerning a call to the priesthood because their parents or family members discourage such an undertaking. On the other hand, when we foster in our homes the honesty to trust whatever God wants for each member of the family, then children and young adults will truly feel free to respond generously to God’s call on their lives.

Fasting and prayer are integral tools to help free us in order that we might find courage to trust God. Specific to our theme of fasting for priestly vocations, then, I would encourage several ways in which families may take up this call from our bishop.

One can take a direct approach: A family united in some form of fast for priests, seminarians and young, single men is very powerful and does wonders for unity within the family. With this type of fasting, a family should choose one thing that every member of the family is able to do and agree upon it. I think Bishop John offered some wonderful ideas in the last issue of the Southwest Kansas Catholic. I especially encourage periodic fasting from electronics or social media as a family, while feasting on family time, including, but not limited to, family meals.

Fasting for priestly vocations can also be done indirectly by fasting for the members of one’s own family. In the last few years I have witnessed the phenomena of men uniting with other men in fasting for their wives and family. This has been wonderful to behold and I believe it is bearing much fruit.

One such group calls itself “e5men.” e5men.org – check it out! Here, men agree to fast on bread and water once a month for their wives. Their wives in turn offer the graces they encounter at Mass in gratitude for their husbands. Also, I have been hearing from young men (especially on college campuses) about something called “Exodus 90” (exodus90.com). This is a bit more “hard core” and is really geared toward gaining spiritual purity and freedom from men, but it sure could be used to heal and strengthen families, as well. I have not discovered any women’s group specifically geared toward fasting, but that does not mean that they do not exist.

The point I want to make is that when a husband and wife support each other with fasting and prayer, coupled by that of their children or other family members, goodness follows. In particular, the virtue of generosity flows from such actions. And generosity is at the heart of God’s call to matrimony and priesthood.

God our Father, You MADE each of us to USE your GIFTS in the BODY of Christ. We ask that YOU inspire young men who YOU CALL to the PRIESTHOOD and CONSECRATED LIFE to COURAGEOUSLY FOLLOW your WILL. We ask this THROUGH Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Are you intimidated by confession? Don’t be, Pope Francis says

Fasting for Priestly Vocations

The art and the heart of family fasting

By Father Ted Stockelein
Assistant Director, Office of Priestly Vocations

... When a husband and wife support each other with fasting and prayer, coupled by that of their children or other family members, goodness follows.

The self-giving love of the cross

Editor’s Note: The following is reprinted with permission.

By Father JONATHAN WALLIS
North Texas Catholic

Every vocation in the Church has at its root the call of Jesus Christ. This is particularly true in the call to the priesthood. The call to the priesthood is not a call to self-fulfillment. Neither is it a path to perfect happiness in this life. The call to the priesthood is a call to follow Jesus Christ particularly in conformity to his cross.

Jesus Christ says, “Take up your cross daily and follow me.” At the ordination of every priest, the bishop hands a paten holding the bread and a chalice containing wine mixed with water for the celebration of Mass and states, “Receive the oblation of the holy people, to be offered to God. Understand what you do, imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord’s cross.”

Why is the cross so central to the call to the priesthood? Wouldn’t you think that focusing on the cross would scare away men from following the call of Jesus Christ?

The cross of Jesus Christ speaks of a self-giving love. Jesus Christ took up the cross to give his life in ransom for ours. Through his cross, He died for our sins and to offer us forgiveness of our sins and the chance to obtain eternal life.

In following the call of Jesus Christ to the priesthood, a young man states he is willing to conform his life to the cross. In following a call to the priesthood, he begins to lay down his life, to offer his life as a sacrifice, to spend his life in loving service to his brothers and sisters, serving as an instrument to lead them to Christ.

While this may sound difficult, the cross teaches us that self-giving love is possible. We do not have to spend this life seeking our own ends, or living as if this life is all there is. The cross opens our eyes to the beauty of sacrifice, learning that in losing our life we find it, and in giving our lives to Jesus Christ, we receive the source of all life.

In giving men to hear and answer the call of Jesus Christ is the responsibility of all the members of the Church. We must not only pray for vocations in general, but pray for specific men, by name, that we believe may have a vocation to the priesthood. We all have a part to play in fostering vocations.

To aid the fostering and nurturing of vocations within our diocese, Bishop Olson has recently named five priests to focus on this ministry. Father Manuel Holguín, Father Matthew Tatyrek, Father Keith Hathaway, and Father Nghia Nguyen will all serve as Vocations Liaisons for our diocese. I will be the fifth member of the team, overseeing the seminarians and helping to guide their formation. Over the coming months, you will have the opportunity to hear from each of the liaisons in how they are fostering and developing vocations within our diocese.

The opportunity to follow Jesus Christ is a tremendous gift. May we make a return to God for all the good He has done for us. Please pray for the vocation teams at dioceses across the United States and in your community as they begin the endeavor of helping men hear and answer the call of Jesus Christ.

Ordained to the priesthood in 2007, Father Jonathan Wallis, STL, serves as Dean of Men and Director of Seminarian Formation at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, Louisiana.

The Southwest Kansas Catholic

March 18, 2018 Page 7
By MARY REZAC
Catholic News Agency

Denver, Colo (CNA) - Rannah Evetts had always wanted to go to Africa. She had no explanation for it, other than that God had planted a deep love of everything African in her heart for as long as she can remember.

“Ever since I was a little kid, I would say I was going to Africa, and I didn’t really understand why, and my mom would just call me her little African child because that’s all I’d want to talk about,” Rannah recalled.

Today, Rannah is living out her childhood dream, having founded a Catholic school for deaf children in Uganda at the age of 21.

But it came to fruition in a way she could never have imagined.

“I’m doing what I was meant to do and this is why.”

Looking for answers, Evetts started attending different churches with friends and family on the weekends.

“Having never been baptized, she bounced around non-denominational Christian churches for a while, but did not feel like she had found the truth until she began looking into the Catholic faith.”

Youth minister and junior RICIA...and through all of that, I gave up drinking, no more parties, I was reading the Bible all the time, and realizing that I just want Jesus. He has to be the cure, because I knew that the world wasn’t,” she said.

When she was baptized at the end of her senior year, Evetts said she felt the presence of Christ in an indescribable way, in her heart. She felt God calling her to an unfolding mission that would piece together seemingly unconnected parts of her life, including her love for Africa, and her knowledge of American Sign Language.

“It’s hard to explain the real presence that I experienced of Christ inside of me when I did get baptized...and receiving the Eucharist, receiving him in the flesh, I gave up everything. That’s when he opened up the door and said ‘This is what I want you to do and this is why.’”

At her high school in Texas, the only classes offered to fulfill language requirements were Spanish or ASL. Evetts said she joined the sign language class because it was required, she thought it was “cool”, and her sister had taken the same class.

“It was just a requirement, I did not think any one time that I would do anything with it,” she said, and she even considered dropping the class.

But by her senior year, and as she experienced a conversion, she said God began to pull on her heart through her sign language class, especially when she completed a project on deafness in Uganda.

“I relate to the deaf people here because they are outcasted, they’re seen as cursed, they’ve seen as sinners, and so they’re shut away from the world kind of, they’re living in this darkness and this silence,” she said.

“And God pulled me to give what he gave me after all of my years of darkness and hating myself and feeling like I had no friends and nobody to talk to, of wanting to die, feeling like I had no purpose in life — all of those things I was struggling with after being sexually abused, God took them and he transforms everything and he said, ‘These I’m turning into graces.’ And with the deaf people here that’s what he did.'”

Former Texas resident Rannah Evetts, top right, took her anger and depression from a childhood of sexual abuse and rechanneled it into efforts to help others in any way she could. Above is Evetts with the students of St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf, which she started in Uganda.

How a 22-year-old Texan began a Catholic school for Uganda’s deaf children

“God did this”

The initial meeting sparked a conversation and to see if her dream could become reality. By September 2016, the local bishop gave her permission to use an old catechesis building, “and basically he just said ‘begin.’”

By February 2017, the St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf opened its doors for the first time. St. Francis was chosen as the patron because he personally developed a sign language to preach the Gospel and teach the Catholic faith to Martin, a deaf man.

“We are here to promote the education and welfare of the Deaf in the West Nile region,” the school’s mission statement says on their website.

“Most importantly we are here to fulfill a deeper meaning behind Christ’s ‘Eph’phatha’ in Mark’s Gospel: ‘... and looking up to heaven, he [Jesus] sighed, and said to him, ‘Eph’phatha,’ that is, ‘be opened.’ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released and he spoke plainly.’”

After high school graduation, Evetts flew to Uganda for the first time to work for seven months at an established school for the deaf in the capital city of Kampala. Through that experience, she met a priest in a village in northern Uganda, in an area with hundreds of deaf children and no resources for them.

“I basically just walked back to the sacristy, and I was like, ‘Hi Father, I’m Rannah, can I talk to you?’” she recalled.

The deaf are often outcasts in Ugandan society; isolated, deprived of their rights, and looked down upon by hearing people. They are more often dropped, raped, abused, and neglected by society. They are often thought of as stupid, cursed, and many parents still think it is a waste of money to send them to school,” the statement continues.

“We are here to break this cultural stigma, provide quality education, and give our deaf students the most precious thing in this world: Jesus Christ.”

Evetts said she was most moved by her love for God, giving language to those who otherwise could not speak.

“I didn’t think I could do anything with sign language, but it’s like everyday [God] reveals more and more why I’m doing what I’m doing,” she said.

“I knew I wanted to evangelize, I knew I wanted to share the word of God with people and what he did in my life. It’s so huge what he did for me, that you can’t not share to people! I’m a convert and I’m on fire, you know? It’s like, ‘No, I’ve been to the other side, trust me!’”

But it hasn’t been easy. The school is open to children ages 3-14, and the age range brings a variety of needs. When they first arrive, most of the children have no way of communicating their needs, their thoughts, their experiences, pain or ideas.

“All of a sudden they’re being thrown into this, and they have no idea what’s going on, so we have kids who are trying to run away, a lot of our kids just cried seeing me because they’ve never seen whatever I am, and the everyday challenge of bringing them a language...it was incredibly difficult,” Evetts said.

It also came with times of personal darkness and challenge for Evetts, who was the only foreigner in her village, the only woman who works as a priest and the only person from her culture in the area. She would also often feel overwhelmed by the weight of responsibility on her shoulders.

“Have a lot of thanks to give to my mom, because I would tell her ‘I want to come home Mom, because I don’t know what I’m doing,’ and she would stick with me and pray with me,” she said.

She was also still struggling with anxiety attacks and the painful healing of the abuse in her past.

“I want to tell you this because...it shows God’s goodness, because there were days when I couldn’t do this. I’m 22 years old, and I don’t know what I’m doing and I’m the leader of all of this thing and I don’t know what I’m doing,” she said.

There were several weeks at a time where she felt like she was literally unable to get out of bed in the morning.

“But I want to share that with you because it shows that God did this. You say ‘yes’ to God and he does it, he fulfills it, because this is his school and this is his mission,” she said. “I don’t know how to

Continued on Page 15
By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

"Be bold! Be beautiful!"
These words might have otherwise sounded like a commercial for a beauty product, but when housed in the love for Christ and his teachings, they become an entreaty to change the world.

Dozens of young adults ages 18-39 from across the diocese — some married and with children in tow — attended the third annual SKYAC (Southwest Kansas Young Adult Conference), March 4 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City.

Begun in 2016, SKYAC was created by Gentry Heimerman, Director of Young Adult Ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, in order to bring young adults aged 18-39 “closer into a deeper relationship with Christ, and to connect them with one another.”

Working alongside Heimerman for the past eight months in preparation for the recent SKYAC were Noelle McHugh and Taylor Schinostock.

“The 100-plus young adults who were involved with the event started their day by participating in the regular 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral, transitioned into a schedule of great speakers and plenty of time to mingle, and then ended the day by literally ‘following Jesus’ in a Eucharist procession and Adoration,” Heimerman said.

Keynote speaker Father Gale Hammerschmidt is the pastor of St. Isidore Parish in Manhattan, including the St. Isidore student center, which serves the students of Kansas State University.

“Are you truly bold enough to transform the environment that you live in?” asked Father Hammerschmidt.

“If you are not transforming your environment, then you can be sure that your environment is transforming you.”

Other guest speakers included Catholic podcaster Ethan Stueve, Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Veronica Hill, program coordinator for the Diocese of Wichita, and Daniel and Ana Glaze, AK, “That Catholic Couple” on Youtube.

“We have to be bold,” Father Hammerschmidt told the young adults gathered in the day chapel at the cathedral. “We also have to be beautiful. … I’m talking about a life that’s beautiful, inside and out. A life like Mother Teresa’s. A life that says, I decided to make the world a better place. …”

He urged those gathered not to wait until they feel “perfect in the eyes of God” before they try to transform the world.

“Don’t be afraid to be broken! If we wait to be healed of our brokenness [before we try to transform the world] — if we wait to be perfect in the eyes of God — nothing will ever get started. It’s precisely in that moment that we feel we’re standing close to Christ.

“If you want to find God, serve others. Pray for them.”

The most important message of all, Father Hammerschmidt said, is to begin.

“I encourage you today to start asking questions about how God wants you to change the world!”

Father Hammerschmidt’s talk can be heard in its entirety by going to Facebook, and typing in “Father Gale Hammerschmidt”.

Why it’s important to reach out to youth and young adults

Washington D.C. (CNA) - A national two-year study released in January offers a look at why young people are leaving the Church as early as age 13.

The study was released by St. Mary’s Press and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University (CARA).

Of those who left the Catholic Church, the median age for doing so was only 13 years old, the study found. Seventy-four percent of the 214 former Catholics interviewed said that they decided to leave the Church between the ages of 10 and 20.

“We heard young people describe the beginnings of their questioning and doubts as early as fifth grade, some even younger,” said John Vitek, one of the principal authors of the study.

This finding may surprise many adults “because many of the young people also told us that they never talked about their doubts and questions with their parents or their Church leaders.”

CARA researchers identified patterns among the young people’s personal stories and described three archetypes for their Catholic disaffiliation: the injured, the drifter, and the dissenter.

The “injured” are young people who experienced a hardship or tragedy in which God seemed to be absent.

The “drifter” is one who typically had trouble connecting their identity as a baptized Catholic to their concrete life experiences in the real world. They struggled to articulate why being Catholic matters.

Reachers encountered a more active rejection of the faith in those in the “dissenter” category. Some of these young people cited disagreement with Church teaching on birth control, same-sex marriage, and sexuality as the precipitating force for their departure.

Twenty-eight percent of those who left the Church told CARA that they rarely or never attended Mass at the time when they considered themselves Catholic.

For what the Church can do to prevent young people from rejecting their faith, Vitek recommends, “We need to create a place where young people can freely wrestle with their questions of faith, including their doubt….”

“We found that young people want to talk about their faith but they aren’t sure if they can without judgment,” he said.
Secret to a happy marriage? ‘Be patient, forgive, pray!’

By DARLENE DEMEL
Editor’s Note: The following article originally appeared in the Spirit of St. Joseph newsletter. It is reprinted with permission.

CLAFLIN — What does it take to have a long, successful marriage?

“Be patient. Forgive. Pray!”

These are the perfect words spoken from Mary Rose Oberle when she was asked what advice she could give young couples today.

This sentiment comes from 64 years with the same man by her side. We wanted to know how and could give young couples today.

Mary Rose told me I not dare put that in the article ... but I knew I had to include it, because it proved to me that maybe one occurrence in the 1950s. On one fateful Tuesday morning when Father Cornelius Leunissen united the pair, with Paul Oberle and Leo Wondra standing for Victor, while Ann and Rita Wondra, in long dresses (one in light green and one in lavender), stood beside Mary Rose, holding her red rose bouquet.

The couple honeymooned in Denver before returning to their little house in Ellinwood where Victor worked in the oilfield. They only lived in Ellinwood for about two years before moving to Claflin to raise their family in the same house that they still live in today at the corner of Albro and 3rd Street.

Victor worked for 20 years at Tinkel Sand before starting Oberle Sand & Gravel in 1977, while Mary Rose worked at the local grocery store and then at the Claflin Post Office.

Sadly, their oldest child, Richard, passed away July 21, 1974 outside!

For so many years, you would see Victor riding his bike around town getting exercise and enjoying the weather. I seem to remember times when I thought he was crazy because it wasn’t that warm outside!

The couple has been blessed with four children: Richard, Patty, Ray, and Christine.

The family tree has since grown to include 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Patty and Dave Schmidt’s family includes Tami (Christopher) Tully, Eric (Denise) Schmidt, and Travis (Sheili) Schmidt. Great-grandchildren include Madison, Gavin, Justin and Ethan Tully; Maryn and Rhett Schmidt; and Madison Henning, McKenna and Marissa Schmidt.

Ray and Sandi Oberle’s branch of the family tree includes Emily (Hunter) Peterson, Nicole (Tyler) Ball, Rebecca Oberle, Kaylyn Oberle, and Jake Oberle. Great-grandchildren include Kaycee, Elliott, and Tate Peterson; and Samuel Ball. Christine and Quintin Robl reside in Salina and have three children: Megan Robl, Jared (Ashley) Robl, and Tanner Robl.

Unfortunately, their oldest child, Richard, passed away July 21, 1974 at the age of 20 when he was in the service.

Mary Rose offered words of guidance, suggesting that one should make the best of every day.

When I pressed Victor for his words of advice for young couples, he replied with an ornery grin, “Fight. Ask me how many fights we’ve had! One – and it’s still going on!”

After the laughter quieted down, Mary Rose told me I not dare put that in the article ... but I knew I had to include it, because it proved to me that maybe one of the best pieces of advice they have shown (by example!) was to keep humor in your life.
‘Everything is in God’s hands’

Wright couple celebrates life while awaiting life-changing call

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

“WEIGHT — Some day, Rachel and Doug Trombley will sit down with their adopted child and tell him or her the Cinderella story of how they met and fell in love.

But before that time can come — before they can sit their child on their lap and share the tale of makeup and music and acting and one big fib that led to that first date — they wait.

God willing, the call will come, and a child will enter their life. If and when it happens, it will happen with the help of the Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas Adoption Program.

“We feel very comfortable with Catholic Charities; they have our best interest in mind,” said Rachel, who first approached Catholic Charities with Doug in July 2016. “All the support they show the birth and adoptive family. … We feel very comfortable, safe and confident with them.”

Catholic Charities, like most adoption agencies nowadays, uses the open adoption system, in which the birth parent continues a relationship with the child after the adoption. It sounds strange at first, but when you think about it, it’s not difficult to understand how such a relationship can eliminate difficult issues later on. There are no mysteries to solve.

Doug admitted that he, like many adopting parents, had concerns about the system.

“At first, I wasn’t so sure about it,” he said. “I grew up at a time when people didn’t talk about adoption. It was kind of a strange kind of adoption at first. But because of their support and knowledge, Catholic Charities helped me to change my mind.”

“You think about opening your heart and home to a child, but also to the birth family,” Rachel added with a smile. “At first it was overwhelming, but then you see the pros and benefits.”

Rachel was born in Las Vegas, New Mexico and reared in Yukon, Oklahoma. When she was younger, she used to listen to a close family friend that she called “Grandma” tell stories of how she came to Oklahoma on the Orphan Train.

“I would help with their reunion conventions in Oklahoma City,” Rachel said.

Doug moved to Dodge City as a boy from Michigan when his father was hired as an X-ray technician. Doug and his two younger twin brothers began attending Sacred Heart Catholic School. Today Rachel teaches at Comanche Middle School, while Doug works for Servi-Tech, a crop consulting firm and agricultural laboratory.

The Cinderella Story

Rachel, an opera-style singer and actor, has long been involved in theater. While directng “Cinderella” at the Depot Dinner Theater in Dodge City, two of the actors had to bow out of the production over some months later before they learned that Doug’s future wife had never asked for his phone number; it was a fib designed to get the two together. It worked.

On May 23, 2010, Doug became the first and only Boot Hill Museum performer to propose to his wife in the midst of a performance. Today, as they wait for that call, they celebrate their life and faith in a community they love.

“We love this town,” Rachel said, a town not so unlike the Oklahoma town of Yukon in which she was reared. They moved to Wright from Dodge City two years ago.

“We love the church community. We love Father Bob [Schremmer] so much.”

“We love his homilies,” Doug added.

Rachel belongs to the Altar Society, Liturgy Commission, and (pause for a breath) the Parish Council. And she has a great love of gardening, which was well known to her neighbors in her former Dodge City neighborhood.

Doug is a Knight of Columbus, and is a member of both the Parish Council and Property Commission. As if that weren’t enough, they both serve on an inquiry team, in which they meet with those who are in the very first stages of discerning whether they’d like to join the Catholic Church.

“It’s not easy, waiting for a phone call that will change your life, so they decided some time ago to let go of their nervousness, and let someone handle it who’s quite adept at things like this.

“Everything is in God’s hands,” Doug said. “If we have a child, that would be great, but if we don’t, then God has another plan for us.”

While waiting, we are living our lives to the fullest,” Rachel added.

For more information about the Trombleys, visit https://spark.adobe.com/page/9VgfkHT5O5I/.

For adoption information, visit http://catholiccharitiesswks.org/ or contact Lori Titsworth at ltitsworth@catholiccharitiesswks.org, 620-792-1393.

This series is designed both to highlight couples in the diocese who are seeking to adopt a child, and to bring notice to those who may be considering abortion, that there are many good people who are yearning to offer a loving home to a child.

Dear Birth Parents,

We have always been told growing up that, “when God closes a door, he opens a window.” We thought the door was closed to us being parents after our struggle with infertility. Through a lot of prayer and some time to heal, God has led us to our window through adoption. We cannot completely understand what you are going through, but know that God is in charge and leading us all through this journey. We are excited to open our hearts and our home to your child. We pray everyday for you and your baby. We cannot wait to grow our family, not just with a baby, but also with you. We look forward to teaching a child about our family and our traditions, but also to include you and your family. We look forward to the day that we hear from you and are happy that you have taken the time to read our story and learn about us.

— Rachel and Doug

Happy Anniversary to Rachel and Doug Trombley, who celebrated seven years wed March 5.

At left, Doug Trombley became the first and only Boot Hill Museum performer to propose marriage during a live performance. The couple have gone through the adoption process with Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas, and are hoping to receive a call that a child will be coming into their home.
Creo y respondo
(Parte 4 de la serie: las Buenas Nuevas y la Vida del Reino.)

Hemos aprendido que hay esperanza para nosotros en Jesús, que nos da la vida eterna. Pero no podemos tratar este tema como una materia académica, como la física, que no puede salvarnos. No podemos esperar en una idea como la justicia, que no es el significado último ni el don último de la vida. Estamos llamados a desarrollar una relación personal con Jesús. Él es nuestro Salvador, nuestro Hermano, nuestro Amigo. Necesitamos creer y responder a esta invitación personal de Jesús. Jesús personalmente nos invita a cada uno de nosotros a esta creencia salvadora: la fe. Luego deseamos responder a esta fe con nuestras mentes, corazones, voluntades y manos / pies. Esta fe no es meramente superficial, sino que debe causar una transformación en todos los aspectos de nuestras vidas.

Viernes de la Misericordia:
Visita sorpresa del Papa a madres detenidas junto a sus hijos

POR ÁLVARO DE JUANA
ACI Prensa

El Papa Francisco volvió a dejar el interior de los muros del Vaticano para visitar “Casa de Leda”, una residencia que fue confiscada al crimen organizado y que ahora alberga a mujeres detenidas y a sus hijos.

Continuando con los “Viernes de la Misericordia”, que el Papa inició durante el Jubileo de la Misericordia de 2016, Francisco abandonó el Vaticano a las 4:00 p.m. (hora de Roma) acompañado de Mons. Rino Fisichella, Presidente del Pontificio Consejo para la Nueva Evangelización.

Este tipo de casa es la primera que existe en Italia y su responsable Lillo Di Mauro, contó al Papa los esfuerzos para configurar la estructura, así como la importancia de restituir a la sociedad un espacio donde se pueda desarrollar un proyecto de gran humanidad.

“Santidad, Padre querido, somos los invisibles”, expresó emocionado al dar la bienvenida a Francisco.

“Somos algunos de los miles de niños y niñas hijas de padres reclusos en las cárceles italianas que vivimos con ellos en prisión o que vamos a visitarlos. Para defender la dignidad de nuestros padres detenidos nos cuentan mentiras, haciéndonos creer que entramos en un colegio o en un puesto de trabajo”, expresó, de acuerdo a una nota difundida por la Santa Sede.

“Somos perseguidos, violentados en nuestra intimidad de la mano de adultos desconocidos que no quitan los peluches, los pobres juegos que son nuestros amigos, para abrirlos, controlarlos, a veces nos quitan la ropa interior para asegurarse de que nuestras madres no nos hayan escondido drogas”, añadió.

Además de denunciar que “para muchos somos estadísticas”, también reconoció que “para defendernos nos convertimos en agresivos e intratables, pero no somos malos, somos los otros aquellos que no ven y nos quieren así: somos hijos de detenidos”. En la actualidad viven en esta casa cinco jóvenes madres que tienen entre 25 y 30 años, algunas del pueblo gitano, pero también de Egipto y una italiana. El Papa conversó con algunas madres y sus hijos, así como con los otros aquellos que no ven y nos quieren así: somos hijos de detenidos”.

En la actualidad viven en esta casa cinco jóvenes madres que tienen entre 25 y 30 años, algunas del pueblo gitano, pero también de Egipto y una italiana. El Papa conversó con algunas madres y sus hijos, así como con el personal que en ese momento se encontraba en la residencia. También jugó con los niños y les regaló huevos de Pascua de chocolate, lo que fue acogido con gran alegría.

Las madres, por su parte, regalaron al Papa algunas manualidades que realizan en la casa.

¿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 nuevos seminaristas, para que sepan que están orando por ellos.

Envíe una carta de apoyo a nuestros seminaristas

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

CATEQUEISIS DEL OBISPO

La Buena Nueva:
1. Necesito un Salvador
2. Jesús es Dios que se hizo Hombre
3. Jesús murió y resucitó para salvarme
4. Jesús me invita a creer y yo respondo
5 Sigo a Jesús y su Iglesia, no al mundo

Vivir el Reino:
1. Oración diaria
2. Santa Misa semanal
3. Confesión mensual
4. Estudiar la Biblia y el Catecismo
5. Ser testigo de la Buena Nueva

“Santidad, Padre querido, somos los invisibles.”

El Papa Francisco en su visita a la Casa de Leda.

FOTO: Vatican News / ACI Prensa
Continuando con la serie de artículos sobre el ayuno por las vocaciones sacerdotales, espero acercar a las familias en este Año tras año, nosotros en la oficina vocacional diocesana, buscamos y encontramos hombres jóvenes que buscan sinceramente dirección en sus vidas. A menudo sucede que me encuentro con un joven, lo invito a una cena en Andrew con el obispo Mons. John, lo animo a ir a un retiro de discernimiento o dos, lo ayudo a crecer en su vida de oración y vigilo su progreso... y después de todo eso, él va y se casa.

Ahora, algunas personas podrían considerar esto un fracaso con respecto a la vocación sacerdotal. Pero si ese joven ha buscado honestamente la voluntad de Dios y ha encontrado la paz en su vocación al matrimonio, entonces lo considero una gran victoria. La familia es el semillero de las vocaciones. Cuando nuestras familias estén sanas, tenemos vocaciones sanas. Si queremos apoyar las vocaciones sacerdotales, debemos construir la familia.

Sin embargo, con demasiada frecuencia los hombres jóvenes me dicen que temen discernir un llamado al sacerdocio porque sus padres o familiares desalientan tal empresa. Por otro lado, cuando fomentamos en nuestros hogares la honestidad de confiar en lo que Dios quiere para cada miembro de la familia, los niños y jóvenes son verdaderamente libres para responder generosamente al llamado de Dios en sus vidas. El ayuno y la oración son herramientas integrales para ayudarnos a liberarnos para que podamos encontrar valor para confiar en Dios.

Especificamente para nuestro tema del ayuno por las vocaciones sacerdotales, entonces, alentaría varias formas para que las familias acepten este llamado de nuestro Obispo. Uno puede tener un enfoque directo. Una familia unida en alguna forma de ayuno por los sacerdotes, seminaristas y jóvenes solteros es muy poderosa y hace maravillas por la unidad dentro de la familia. Con este tipo de ayuno, una familia debe elegir una cosa que cada miembro de la familia pueda hacer y aceptar. Creo que el obispo Mons. John ofreció algunas ideas maravillosas en el último número de Southwest Kansas Catholic. Animo especialmente al ayuno periódico de la electrónica o las redes sociales en familia, mientras se disfruta del tiempo familiar, que incluye, entre otros, las comidas familiares. El ayuno por las vocaciones sacerdotales también se puede hacer indirectamente ayudando por los miembros de la propia familia. En los últimos años he sido testigo del fenómeno de los hombres que se unen con otros hombres en ayuno por sus esposas y familia. Esto ha sido maravilloso de contemplar y creo que está dando mucho fruto. Uno de esos grupos se llama a sí mismo “e5men” (e5men.org - visite el sitio). Aquí, los hombres acuerdan ayunar a pan y agua una vez al mes por sus esposas. Sus esposas a cambio ofrecen las gracias que encuentran en la misa en agradecimiento por sus maridos.

Además, he recibido noticias de hombres jóvenes (especialmente en campus universitarios) sobre algo llamado “Exodus 90” (exodus90.com). Este es un poco más un “milagro duro” y está realmente orientado a ganar pureza espiritual y libertad para los hombres, pero seguramente también podría usarse para sanar y fortalecer a las familias. No he descubierto ningún grupo de mujeres específicamente orientado al ayuno, pero eso no significa que no existan.

A pesar de todo, lo que quiero decir es que cuando un esposo y una esposa se apoyan mutuamente con ayuno y oración, junto con el de sus hijos u otros miembros de la familia, el bien viene solo. En particular, la virtud de la generosidad fluye de tales acciones. Y la generosidad está en el corazón del llamado de Dios al matrimonio y al sacerdocio.

Este milagro permitirá canonización de Mons. Oscar Romero

“Los médicos testiguieron también, se hizo un trabajo inmenso con toda la información y concluyeron que esto no tiene explicación científica, lo tanto aquí actuó Dios por intercesión de Mons. Romero”, añadió el Cardenal.

Foto/Alex Bowie

Su vida
Nacido en Ciudad Barrios, al este de El Salvador, el 15 de agosto de 1917, Mons. Oscar Arnulfo Romero, fue nombrado Arzobispo de San Salvador por el Papa Pablo VI en 1977. Su gobierno pastoral destacó por la defensa de los derechos humanos, en medio de una naciente guerra civil entre la guerrilla de izquierda y el gobierno de extrema derecha.
El 24 de marzo de 1980, Mons. Romero fue asesinado por odio a la fe. El 3 de febrero de 2015, el Papa Francisco reconoció su martirio y fue beatificado el 25 de mayo de ese mismo año por el Cardenal Angelo Amato, Prefecto de la Congregación para las Causas de los Santos, en San Salvador.

Oremos para que nuestro ayuno sea una oración de súplica en favor del aumento en vocaciones sacerdotales provenientes de nuestras comunidades parroquiales, pues la “mies es mucha, los operarios pocos.”
ELIZABETH MELISSA TERRAZAS (above), 18, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Feb. 24, 2018 at her home in Dodge City. She was a 2017 graduate of Dodge City High School and a member of the high school cross country team. Elizabeth was attending Dodge City Community College and was on the track and cross country teams. She enjoyed music, being with her friends and family, and spending time with her dog. Elizabeth is survived by her family, and was on the track and cross country teams. She enjoyed music, being with her friends and family, and spending time with her dog. Elizabeth is survived by her family, and was on the track and cross country teams. She enjoyed music, being with her friends and family, and spending time with her dog.
Catholic school for deaf children

Continued from Page 8

explain it, but he’s here and he’s got this all under control.”

The transformation she and the staff began seeing in the students throughout the year was incredible, she said.

Children came to them having been raped, abused or neglected because of their disability, and were transformed in personality and behavior as they started acquiring a language.

At the beginning of the year, many parents reluctantly sent their children to the boarding school, believing it impossible to educate a deaf child. But on the night after the first term ended, and the children went home for the first time, parents started calling the school in amazement.

“They were like, ‘there’s stuff written in [their notebooks]! There’s grades!’ And then their hands!” Evetts said. “And so they’re really seeing the evidence of this works, so it’s a real encouragement for the parents,” Evetts said.

The school has just begun its second year, with 50 students enrolled. It was recently licensed, and the plan is to eventually find a building and open it to the public. It was recently named the St. Joseph School for Deaf Children.

Evetts said the way the local community has embraced the school with love has been encouraging. As the only white person in the area, Evetts said it automatically brings her a lot of attention, which in turn lets her bring that attention to her work with deaf children.

“God uses that, then I get to explain about sign language and about deafness and how awesome it is. We’re walking around town, playing games with the students, using sign language, and people just gawk and stare—like what? White people know this language too?” Evetts said. “This year I’ve had volunteers come, and it’s more people knowing sign language and giving it attention, and Caritas is now helping sponsor our school, so it’s just been growing and I see that the community has really taken us on, and it really has been great.”

Evetts said the most rewarding part of the experience has been how God has used her “yes” and the “yes” of her staff members to transform lives and to do something that they would be unable to accomplish without him.

“The closer you get to God in his silence, that’s where he reveals himself, that’s his language,” she said. “And not only that, he reveals to you that he’s the one that’s out of you, and I really learned that the closer I came to him, he just showed me—this is why I put this desire in you, and this is how I’m going to use your sufferings or your vices and this is how I’m going to transform it.’

“It was all him.”

March Monthly Prayer Intentions

Formation of Spiritual Discernment

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

This is a very Ignatian or Jesuit intention, recognizing the importance of discerning (seeing) the will of God. It is a skill that can be taught and improved with practice. As a Jesuit, the Holy Father clearly recognizes the importance of formation in discernment of vocations and apostolates both for individuals and in communities.

Pope Francis, as a son of St. Ignatius, is well familiar with the Spiritual Exercises developed by the founder of the Society of Jesus in the early 16th century. These guided reflections presume that spirits good and evil are influencing God’s creation in ways sometimes blunt and obvious, and at others more subtle and nuanced.

Members of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, the Apostleship of Prayer, commit daily to making an examination of conscience. During this break from the ordinary busyness of the day, we reflect on how we have received grace from God, how we have moved towards him or away, and which spirits may have been moving us towards good or evil. St. Ignatius considered this daily examination to be extremely important. He himself is said to have practiced self-examination to a heroic degree.

Friends, discernment is not merely the territory of priests or religious. All vocations are best discerned carefully, in prayer, and in dialogue with a trusted spiritual advisor. While vocations to marriage, to a profession, to religious life, or the clerical state certainly require such reflection, groups can also practice communal discernment. Religious congregations certainly do so, but also boards of trustees, civic groups, even a book club might discern God’s will in spiritual conversation when considering mission, identity, or major policy decisions.

May the good Lord grant his Church and all individuals and groups within it the gift of discernment.

— Father M. Louis, O.C.S.O

Prayer of the Month

A Prayer for Discernment by Fr. M. Louis, O.C.S.O.

My Lord, I have no idea where I am going, I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following You will not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Scripture Readings

Sunday, March 18; Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34/Hebrews 5:7-9/John 12:20-33

Monday, March 19; Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary

Tuesday, March 20
Numbers 21:4-9/John 8:21-30

Wednesday, March 21
Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/John 8:31-42

Thursday, March 22
Genesis 17:3-9/John 8:51-59

Friday, March 23
Jeremiah 20:10-13/John 10:31-42

Saturday, March 24
Ezekiel 37:21-28/John 11:45-57

Sunday, March 25; Passion (Palm) Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-7/Philippians 2:6-11/Mark 14:1-15/47 or 15:1-39

Monday, March 26
Isaiah 42:1-7/John 12:11

Tuesday, March 27

Wednesday, March 28
Isaiah 50:4-9/Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday, March 29

Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Friday, March 30; Good Friday
No Daily Mass Celebrated
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

Saturday, March 31; Holy Saturday
No Daily Mass Celebrated
Readings for Vigil Mass for Easter Sunday
First Reading: Genesis 1:1–2 or 1:1, 26-31
Second Reading: Genesis 22:18-19 or 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18
Third Reading: Exodus 14:15–15:1
Fourth Reading: Isaiah 54:5-14
Fifth Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11
Sixth Reading: Baruch 3:9-15, 32–4:4
Seventh Reading: Ezekiel 36:16-28
Epistle: Romans 6:3-11
Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, April 1; Easter Sunday

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

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

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

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

Jim Armatys
Todd J Armatys
Financial Advisor

1904 Broadway
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-5481

Lloyd Davis, CFP
Financial Advisor

210 E Frontview Suite B
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-225-0651

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC
Call us today at the following locations:

Bucklin: 620-826-3848
Cimarron: 620-855-3185
Dodge City: 620-227-3196
Garden City: 620-276-7671
Ness City: 785-798-2237
Syracuse: 360-384-7800

www.kellerleopold.com

For more information on a career with the Knights of Columbus, contact George Spinelli at (785) 726-4899.

Check out our website! • • • kofcinsuranceks.com

St. Sebastian’s Sudoku

Instructions
Each puzzle consists of a 9x9 Sudoku grid containing areas surrounded by gray or dotted lines. The object is to fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 box, and the sum of the numbers in each area is equal to the clue in the area’s top-left corner.

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

ACROSS
3 Wages of sin (Rom 6:23) 9 Lady Bird’s daughter who converted to Catholicism
10 He saw a wheel 11 From Advent through Ordinary Time
12 Lenten foliage 13 Monks’ cowl
15 A queen from this country came to hear Solomon speak
16 A river in Eden
17 Biblical animals
20 ___ in terris
22 The ___ at the Well
23 One of Israel’s 12
25 Local church
26 Non-ordained members of the Church
29 First word in the Lord’s Prayer, in Paris
31 OT prophetic book
32 Rib-giver
35 ___ Unction
36 Saint Item
37 A deacon wears this over his left shoulder

DOWN
1 Biblical “kill”
2 Eight days of a holy season
3 Opus ___
4 First patriarch
5 Types of monks
6 Fourth man
7 Chalice
8 “___ us, O Lord…”
14 “There is a ___ in Gilead”
15 Birth month of Mary (abbr.)
18 Hebrew for “son of”
19 One of the 7 deadly sins
21 Certain vow
22 Catholic bandleader of 50s and 60s television
23 Jesus was crucified between

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

TEASER THE FIRST:
Three friends all live in houses with painted doors. Can you use these clues to find out what color door they have and what road they live on?

- Friends - Coleen, Mark, Eric
- Colors - Red, Blue, Pink
- Streets - Oak St., South Ave, Drury Ave

1) Coleen just loves the color pink and she was ecstatic when her mother-in-law painted the door for her.
2) Eric’s always around at Mark’s house. It’s easy to get there because Oak St. is only just around the corner from Eric’s house.
3) South Ave. has mostly white doors, so the red one, belonging to one of the friends, stands out easily to the passing cars.
4) Eric thinks that his friend’s blue door clashes badly with their house but he doesn’t want to tell one of the friends, so the color is keeping him up nights.

TEASER THE SECOND:
What do the three words have in common? For example: the words; A car - A tree - An elephant; they all have trunks.

1. Green - Moola - Dough
2. Playing - Time - Greeting
3. Punch - Hair - A Volleyball
4. Wages of sin (Rom 6:23)
5. Human - Rat - Relay
6. Cat - Dog - Gold
7. Toad - Foot - Bar
8. French - Eskimo - Hershey
9. Area - Fire - Zip
10. Gray - Red - Timber

TEASER THE THIRD: What am I?
Mix me up, and we’re found in a cookery book, a dictionary, and 3x3 box, and the sum of the numbers in each area is equal to the clue in the area’s top-left corner.

10. Gray - Red - Timber
9. Area - Fire - Zip
8. French - Eskimo - Hershey
7. Toad - Foot - Bar
6. Cat - Dog - Gold
5. Human - Rat - Relay
4. Wages of sin (Rom 6:23)
3. Punch - Hair - A Volleyball
2. Playing - Time - Greeting
1. Green - Moola - Dough
Msgr. Leo Kelty

Msgr. Leo Kelty was born April 2, 1911, in Childress, Tex. He attended elementary and high schools in Hannibal, Mo., Moberly, Mo., and Quincy, Ill. He made his philosophy studies at Mundelein, Ill., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Webster Groves, Mo., and his theology studies at Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He was ordained May 22, 1937 by Bishop August J. Schwertner at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

He was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart, Eureka, with the mission St. John, Hamilton. He served there until 1943 when he joined the United States Navy as a chaplain. He was one of 10 Wichita priests serving as military chaplains in 1944.

In 1945 he was honorably discharged and was named pastor of Holy Redeemer, Tampa, KS, and Corpus Christi, Skiddy, KS. A year later he transferred to St. Patrick, Florence.

He served the following parishes in the Dodge City diocese: St. Andrew, Wright, (1949-60); St. Mary, Marienthal, (1960-65); Immaculate Conception, Cafflin, (1965-60), and St. Joseph, Ashland, (1969-1977). He was state chaplain for the Knights of Columbus (1958-59).

He was elevated to domestic prelate and given the title monsignor by Pope John XXIII on Feb. 3, 1962.

Msgr. Kelty died March 20, 1977, at St. Joseph Memorial Hospital in Larned. He was 65 years old. He was the fourth diocesan priest to die within a 10-week period. The others were Msgrs. Joseph Grellner, Anthony Meyers and Aloysius Felling.

Bishop Eugene J. Gerber celebrated the funeral at St. Joseph Church in Ashland on March 22. A second funeral Mass was celebrated March 24 at St. Pius X Church in Moberly. Mo. Burial was in the parish cemetery.
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.

Word Search

BENEDICT XVI

G S R E H Y C U R I A K R Y A
S H E W X P O H S I B H C R A
C O N C L A V E D L R M T W N
C C T R V V M B E P E P O P
B A Z S T Y M S G W R H W S L
E P R Z P Q W N E S O I B K V
N N G D C A I Y S L F Q F D I
I Y A M I Z K M Y U E E Z V I
R Z N E T N R F T D S O J Z N
T Z Y A D I A O I F S P Z K A
C R R C M T X L M L O A J B C
O C F O H R X J N E R Q F D I
D B A E I V E Q M R L X T
K D R X A E V G V I C A R H A
Y I T H E O L O G Y E X V S V

ARCHBISHOP CARDINAL DOCTRINE RATZINGER
C C C R C M T X L M L O A J B C
C O C F O H R X J N E R Q F D I
C D B A E I V E Q M R L X T
K K D R X A E V G V I C A R H
A Y I T H E O L O G Y E X V S V

Residential Roofing & Construction

Mark and Shannon Davis, Owners

Dodge City, Kansas 620-225-7725

Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency

1101 Williams Great Bend, Kansas

FOR SERVICE CALL
620-792-2128
800-281-2128 (Ks only)

website — www.kelleragency.com

SCHNEWEIS TAX AND ACCOUNTING

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

• Accounting
• Tax Preparation
• Tax Planning
• Computer Service
• Financial Planning
• Estate Planning

Robert E. Schneweis Ronald E. Schneweis
227-7754 800-300-7754
212 E. Frontview, Suite B, Dodge City, Kansas

IDEAL WEIGHT LOSS CENTER

Joyce Hamill - Certified Consultant
801 N. Main Street - Garden City, KS 67846

Distributors of

Budweiser, Bud Light, Michelob Ultra, Michelob Amber Bock, Natural Light, Busch, O’Doul's

New from Catholic author & columnist
Mary Sharon Moore

CONFORMED TO CHRIST
Discoveries in the maturing Christ-centered life
Conformed to Christ offers revealing insight into Saint Paul’s words: “I live, no longer I, but Christ in me.”

$18 | Read sample pages and order at marysharonmoore.com marysharonmoore@gmail.com

Lopp Motors Inc.

Sales & Service
Rent by the Day - Week - Month
Fleet & Individual Lease Program

New
Chrysler
Plymouth
365 Second Ave.

Used
Dodge
Dodge Trucks
225-0271

The 1. DONELLY CO., INC.

6601 TROOST AVE. • KANSAS CITY, MO 64131 M-F 8:30am-5pm, Sat 9am-5pm (816) 363-2828
Visit our online catalog at: www.idonnelly.com

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.

BENEDICT XVI

ARCHBISHOP CARDINAL DOCTRINE RATZINGER

Distributors of

Budweiser, Bud Light, Michelob Ultra, Michelob Amber Bock, Natural Light, Busch, O’Doul’s

New from Catholic author & columnist
Mary Sharon Moore

CONFORMED TO CHRIST
Discoveries in the maturing Christ-centered life

$18 | Read sample pages and order at marysharonmoore.com marysharonmoore@gmail.com

Lopp Motors Inc.

Sales & Service
Rent by the Day - Week - Month
Fleet & Individual Lease Program

New
Chrysler
Plymouth
365 Second Ave.

Used
Dodge
Dodge Trucks
225-0271

The 1. DONELLY CO., INC.

6601 TROOST AVE. • KANSAS CITY, MO 64131 M-F 8:30am-5pm, Sat 9am-5pm (816) 363-2828
Visit our online catalog at: www.idonnelly.com
It’s official: Paul VI and Oscar Romero will be canonized

By ELISE HARRIS
Catholic News Agency

Vatican City (CNA) - The Vatican announced March 7 that Pope Francis has recognized a second miracle allowing five people on the path to sainthood to be canonized, the most prominent being Blessed Pope Paul VI and Blessed Oscar Romero.

With a second miracle approved, the path has been cleared for a date to be set for the canonization of each of the five candidates, allowing them to officially be declared a saint.

Though no date has yet been announced, both Paul VI and Oscar Romero are expected to be canonized together during the Synod of Bishops in October.

Born as Giovanni Montini in 1897 in the town of Concesio in the Lombardy region of Italy, the future Pope Paul VI was ordained a priest at the age of 22. He served as Archbishop of Milan prior to his election as Bishop of Rome in 1963.

As pope, he oversaw much of the Second Vatican Council, which had been opened by Pope St. John XXIII, and in 1969 promulgated a new Roman Missal. He died in 1978, and was beatified by Pope Francis Oct. 19, 2014.

Pope Francis himself unofficially confirmed the news of Paul VI’s canonization during his annual meeting with the priests of Rome Feb. 17. However, the Vatican’s announcement makes it official.

Apart from his role in the council, Paul VI is most widely know for his landmark encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which was published in 1968 and reaffirmed the Church’s teaching against contraception in wake of the sexual revolution. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the historic encyclical, making the canonization of the author all the more relevant.

The Vatican made the announcement about the acceptance of the miracles March 7.

During the meeting, Francis advanced a total of 13 saints’ causes, recognizing at least one person as a martyr and allowing one religious sister to be beatified.

In addition to Paul VI and Oscar Romero, the Pope approved a second miracle for three other saints’ causes, allowing for their canonization. The new saints-to-be are: Blessed Francesco Spinelli, a diocesan priest and founder of the Institute of the Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament; Blessed Vincenzo Romano, a diocesan priest from Torre de Greco in Italy; and Blessed Maria Caterina Kasper, a German nun and founder of the Institute of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis also recognized a first miracle attributed to Maria Felicia di Gesu Sacramento, a Discalced Carmelite nun from Paraguay who died in 1959, allowing for her to be beatified and receive the title “blessed.”

Additionally, he recognized the martyrdom of Slavic laywoman Anna Kolesárová. Born in Vysoká nad Uhom, Slovakia in 1928, she was killed at 16 by a drunken Soviet soldier near the end of the Second World War in 1944 for refusing his sexual advances.

At the time, Soviet troops were passing through Kolesárová’s district, which was then a part of Hungary, and occupied her village on the way. When one soldier entered her home and found the family in hiding, he attempted to sleep with Kolesárová, threatening her with death if she did not comply.

However, raised in a pious Catholic family, Kolesárová refused, and as a result was shot in front of her family at the age of 16.

Newman University
Western Kansas Center

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

START YOUR JOURNEY TODAY AT: WWW.NEWMANU.EDU/WESTERN-KANSAS
OR CALL 620-227-9616

- Average financial aid awarded this year is $11,500
  (Western KS, SE KS & Colorado Springs)
- Fast Track your teaching career!
  (16 months for students with Associate’s Degree)
- NU WKC Education Grants have nearly 100% Job Placement
- “Life-Friendly” Class Schedule – Perfect for working adults
- 8 Week Course Schedule – Evening Classes Available
DACA recipients in limbo as Congress fails to act
What will happen to ‘Dreamers’ now that the first deadline has passed?

By CHARLENE SCOTT MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

T he young adults of the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program have been left hanging in suspension like a line full of washed clothes on a windy Kansas day. The March 5 deadline for a Congressional decision regarding the future of the DACA youth and young adults has come and gone, and Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice-president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is quite upset about it.

In the past, the archbishop has been critical of efforts to tie immigration reform with border security, saying last month that it is “cruel” to use DACA recipients as “bargaining chips.”

“It is no way for a great nation to make policy on such a crucial area as immigration,” he said.

U.S. bishops encouraged a National Call-in Day for Dreamers (DACA youth) last month, encouraging the young adults to contact lawmakers and ask them to protect DACA recipients.

Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin, chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Migration Committee, said that the faithful who participated in the call-in day “recognize that protecting these young people from deportation is an issue of human life and dignity, and that a legislative solution is necessary to make that protection durable.”

It is anyone’s guess what will happen come fall. In the mean-time, “My brother bishops and I continue to call upon Congress to work towards a bipartisan and humane solution as soon as possible,” Bishop Vásquez said.

Michael Feltman, an immigration attorney in Cimarron, spoke at a gathering March 5 at the Dodge City Library about DACA and some of the newer issues facing immigrants.

“The biggest news about DACA is that it is still in place,” he said.

The March 5 deadline was blocked by two federal judges, which effectively stalled the solution on the DACA issue until the fall. According to the USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services), individuals can continue to renew their grant of deferred action under DACA (as long as these continue to meet certain criteria, including undergoing a stringent background check), but no new DACA applications are being accepted, which means that more people are having to live in the shadows.

He urged immigrants to be as “knowledgeable as you can about your circumstances ... as far as what is able to be done. Talk to someone who is experienced. At least get some kind of game plan in place.”

Feltman said that in recent weeks, he has seen that the courts have been stricter in certain circumstances.

“Most importantly, I would say, is that folks who have DUIs who may not have legal status are getting picked up pretty consistently,” Feltman said. “If there’s a domestic issue, they are usually getting picked up. If folks have an old deportation issue, they’re getting picked up as well.”

He said it is a deportable offense — even for those who have obtained their green card (permanent residency card) — if someone does not officially change their address within 10 days of moving to another location.

An audience member noted that he had heard of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents coming to a home to search for someone, only to find that the person had moved. The agents then questioned the status of the family living at the “mistaken” address.

Feltman replied, “What some of the immigration advocates say is, ‘If you don’t knock on who’s at the door, don’t answer it.’ It’s a double-edged sword, I know. It’s tough.”

One of the ways that a person may fight deportation is called “cancellation of removal.” The individual in question must have been here 10 years, have a lawful spouse, parent or child in the United States, show they have good moral character, and that their leaving would present a hardship on those lawful family members.

Feltman also stressed that “The United States cannot deport U.S. citizen children or lawfully residing lawful permanent residents.”

As an immigration attorney, there’s only so much Feltman can do. Almost weekly he hears from employers who want to help an individual or individuals obtain legal status.

“(I don’t go) a week where an employer isn’t wondering, ‘Is there anything I can do for this worker — and 10 right here that I want to hire — and help them get papers? What do we do?’

‘If they are here without permission, there is essentially nothing we can do, except say, ‘Go back to the consulate ... and we’ll try to help you to get your green card,’” Feltman said.

If the individual has been in the United States for more than one year before the age of 18 without the proper documentation, they face the possibility of a 10-year penalty; they cannot return to the United States for a decade.

As the nation awaits further action on DACA, Bishop John Brungardt is urging young adults to contact their local representatives (see below).

There are 800,000 DACA youth and young adults now in the United States, and potentially that number could rise to a million, Feltman said. DACA includes not just youth, but “blue collar workers, teachers, nurses, and paras.”

Other proposals being considered include the HOPE Act, the SUCCEED Act, and the Recognizing America’s Children Act, all of which help to protect young immigrants.

Feltman serves as the Kansas liaison for the USCIS office: “We have officers who do a great job. If they know somebody is in a difficult situation, they will listen.”

“We care about Western Kansas and the people who live here,” he concluded.

‘The dignity of every human being must be protected’
A letter from Bishop John B. Brungardt

Editor’s Note: Bishop Brungardt penned this letter in September 2017, six months prior to the original March 5 deadline for Congress to act on the DACA issue. Now that the deadline has been temporarily extended, there is renewed effort to affect positive change, and to protect the thousands of DACA recipients residing legally in the United States.

BISHOP JOHN B. BRUNGARDT
Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

As Bishop and Curia of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, we are spiritually and morally motivated to raise our voice confirming our values and commitments as Americans and Christians.

Grounded in our Catholic mission, we are guided by our commitment to uphold the dignity of every person, to work for the common good of our nation, and to promote a living faith that works for justice.

As enunciated by Pope Francis: “Every human being is a child of God! He or she bears the image of Christ! We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved.”

(Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2014)

It is reported that there are approximately 7,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients in Kansas. The vast majority of these DACA youth are in the Diocese of Dodge City.

DACA youth are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our schools, and involved members and leaders in our parishes. These young people entered the U.S. as children and know the United States of America as their only home. The dignity of every human being, particularly that of our children and youth, must be protected.

We urge our political leaders to continue administering the DACA program and to publicly ensure that DACA youth are not priorities for deportation.

DACA is not a permanent solution; for this reason, we also call on all our political leaders to work in an expeditious and bipartisan manner to find a legislative solution for DACA youth as soon as possible.

We note the moral urgency for comprehensive immigration reform that is just and compassionate.

Contact your representatives
Sen. Pat Roberts
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1605
Phone: 202-224-4774
Fax: 202-224-3514

Sen. Jerry Moran
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 521
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-6521
Fax: 202-228-6966

Rep. Roger Marshall
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2715

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20500

What is DACA?
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an American immigration policy that allows certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country before their 16th birthday and before June 2007 to receive a renewable two-year work permit and exemption from deportation. DACA does confer non-immigrant legal status, but does not provide a path to citizenship.

What is the difference between DACA and the Dream Act?

The Dream Act is potential legislation that must be passed by Congress and signed by the President into law, whereas DACA is an Executive Order signed by President Obama in June 2012.

The Dream Act (acronym for Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) has been stalemated in Congress for quite some time. Both are designed to let people illegally residing in the United States get their work authorizations, Social Security number, and driver’s license. Only the Dream Act as previously written would enable a green card to be obtained.

There is some confusion, since those under DACA often refer to themselves as Dreamers.

(Dream Act information taken from the website of Ryan M. Gibson, Immigration Attorney, Tucson.)