Defending Adoption

Bills before House and Senate would protect adoption choice

By JOE BOLLIG
The Leaven

Editor’s Note: The following is reprinted with permission from the Leaven, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas.

Topeka — Could faith-based adoption and foster care agencies in Kansas be forced to choose between either shutting down or violating their faith and conscience?

The following is reprinted with permission from the Leaven, the newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, www.dcdiocese.org

Vol. LII, No. 23
Sunday, April 1, 2018

‘He is not here; he has risen, just like he said.’
— Matthew 28:6

ut on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?” And they remembered His words, and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

— Luke 24:1-10

Bishops ask Catholics to Contact State Legislators Regarding Pending Bill

Statement by the Catholic Bishops of Kansas in Support of the Adoption Protection Act, HB 2687

Topeka — Could faith-based adoption and foster care agencies in Kansas be forced to choose between either shutting down or violating their faith and conscience?

Led by the Spirit

St. Paul teaches: “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through which we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’” (Romans 8:14-15). Through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection and by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we participate with Jesus in His divine Sonship. We have become the Father’s adopted sons and daughters through Christ; Jesus has taught us to call God “Abba, Father,” to convey our intimacy with Him.

Most of us have known that same kind of intimacy with our birth or adoptive parents. Those of you who are parents through your vocation to marriage and family life find your fulfillment in sharing that love with your children.

Many of you reading this may have firsthand experience with the adoption process. Perhaps a brother or sister was adopted, or maybe you yourselves have adopted a child, or provided foster care to a child in need. Perhaps you were blessed to work with a Catholic or other faith-based agency in the process.

Unfortunately, right now in our state, there are activists seeking to prohibit faith-based adoption and foster-care agencies from providing their services simply because they choose to place children only in homes with a married mother and father. There are no protections under the law for the conscience rights of these agencies. Activists have successfully shut down child placement agencies like Catholic Charities in Massachusetts, Texas, Illinois and California and Washington, D.C. It is only a matter of time before they attempt to do the same here in Kansas.

As people of faith who believe in the sanctity of one-man, one-woman marriage and seek to defend the family as the “original cell of social life” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2007), I am calling upon you to support the “Protect Adoption Choice” campaign currently under way. Materials were provided to every parish for inclusion in weekly bulletins outlining how you can participate simply by making a phone call to your state representative and senator and asking them to support House Bill HB 2687 and Senate Bill SB 401, The Adoption Protection Act. Additional information about the Protect Adoption Choice campaign is featured in this issue of the Southwest Kansas Catholic and can also be found on the diocesan Web site, http://www.dcdiocease.org.

Time is of the essence. The state legislature adjourns April 6. Please review these materials, or those provided to you by your pastor, and call your legislators today. It is urgent that we seize the momentum on this important issue.

As we begin the joy of the Easter Season, we ask Jesus our Risen Lord and Savior to help us assist children in need of a home. Catholic Charities and other faith-based agencies must be able to do just that, as they have for decades. Thank you for your generous help. Jesus loves the little children, and you, more than you can ask or imagine! Happy Easter!

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

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Where the Resurrection begins

Where should you go to celebrate Easter? You should go where the Lord is to be found. You should go where you are to be found.
The Lord is to be found in his holy words, and in his sacred signs. This is the ordinary way he comes to you. You are to be found. You should go where the Lord is to be found.

They change constantly. They are filled with the mystery of God. And you, where are you to be found? Inside, of course. Inside your own heads and your own hearts. There is movement there, constant motion. There is an unending flow of persons, places, issues, and events that are to be found there each day. Some call this the stream of consciousness. It is your stream, to be sure. You allow this or that, or the other thing, into it. But it is also beyond you. It works without you. So, gather up all the thoughts, the feelings, the desires, the urges, the dreams, the wounds, the fears, the resentments, the angels, and the joys too ... gather them all up, these things, and many more besides. They change constantly. They move rapidly. The stream of your consciousness is a buzzing, booming, confusion, as William James once described it. But that is exactly where you are. That is the starting point for each of your days.
And that is exactly where the Resurrection begins. It floats in your stream. It swims in your river. It rushes in your waters. It floods and changes your very course. The Resurrection is a deep current flowing through you, the deepest part of where and who you are. So take where you are to be found to where the Lord is to be found in these Holy Days. Let them enlighten you to the healing that is happening deep inside you. Wake up to a blessed, and life-changing, Easter Sunday.

The following is Part 5 of a 10-part series on “Good News and Kingdom Living.”

“... You do not belong to the world…” (John 15:19)
We are in a temporary home on this earth. We do not belong to this world. I joke with people: “Do you like to relax in a Holiday Inn room after a long day of travelling? Yes. Do you want to live at Holiday Inn for the rest of your life? No!” We are made for heaven, we are created to live with God for all eternity, we are designed to praise God forever!

Then, what is this earth? It is only a temporary home. We are in the world, but not of the world. The way of the world will lead us to sadness, emptiness, and misery. We are called to follow Jesus’ way of life, His path, our Savior’s direction, not the way of the world. This way of Jesus will lead us to happiness, peace, and life in heaven.

... We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as savior of the world” (John 4:14). The Good News is that I need a Savior, He is Jesus, He died and rose on Easter Sunday to save me, He invites me to believe and respond, and I follow Jesus and His Church (not the world). The next article in this series is Kingdom Living, how we put this belief into practice. Let us follow Jesus, who loves us so much. Happy Easter!

Bishop’s Catechesis

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For information, contact: Rebecca Ford 620-252-3320 reford@CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org www.CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org

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+ Most Rev. Ronald M. Gilmore Bishop Emeritus of Dodge City
+ Most Rev. John B. Brungardt Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

‘Love Gives Life Conference’, April 7

Teen and adults are invited to the “Love Gives Life” Conference on Saturday, April 7, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City. The conference will be hosted by Kansans for Life and the Knights of Columbus Council #2955 and will feature Terry Beatley, who will share the personal testimony of Dr. Bernard Nathanson about the deception used to convince Americans to accept legalized abortion. Several educational workshops also will be offered, in both English and Spanish. Come for just an hour, or come for the entire program. The cost is $5 for adults, and teen tickets are free. Lunch is included, but you must RSVP by April 4 if you will be eating lunch. Register by April 4 at kansansforlife.salsalabs.org/04718dodgecity or call 1-800-928-5433. See www.kfl.org for a complete schedule.

A dolescentes y adultos están invitados a una conferencia pro-vida, “El Amor Da La Vida” el sábado, abril 7, de 11 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Dodge City. El costo es solo $5 por cada adulto, y los boletos para adolescentes son gratis. Se incluye almuerzo, pero se requiere que se registre antes del 4 de abril. Regístrese antes del 4 de abril en la pagina web kansansforlife.salsalabs.org/04718dodgecity o llame al 1-800-928-5433.

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Knights purchase new scanner for ABC Pregnancy Center

Fathers Mark Brantley and Warren Stecklein presided at the dedication and blessing of a new $47,000 ultrasound scanner at the ABC Pregnancy Care Center in Garden City, which was purchased thanks to a donation by the Knights of Columbus.

“We are extremely excited to have this machine,” said Erica Boone, Executive Director of the ABC Pregnancy Care Center. “Right after the dedication, we were able to do five sonograms for abortion-minded and abortion vulnerable women. All of the women chose life for their unborn baby.

“We are so grateful to have the technology of this machine. The machine we had before worked well for its age, but we’re so happy to have the technology that this machine offers, including a wide screen and 3-D imagery of the unborn baby.

“Mothers have a better, clear picture of their baby,” Boone said. “It’s just extremely exciting to have that.”

The Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative actively raises money toward the purchase of ultrasound machines for pregnancy centers across the country. This was the first time that a machine was purchased for a center in southwest Kansas.

The Supreme Council (the national Knights office) has provided half the cost, while Kansas Knights have provided the other half.

“Our center is doing a lot over here,” said Tom Loker, a former grand knight and a member of the St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus Council 2795 in Garden City, who is on the board of directors for the ABC Pregnancy Care Center in Garden City.

“We even provide post-abortion counseling. We recently hired a new executive director, and she has done a fantastic job.”

The Knights’ nationwide ultrasound project began in 2009. The ultrasound machines will help the centers better provide for the health of both mother and child. Ultrasound exams, which are medically indicated throughout pregnancy for a variety of diagnostic reasons, use sound waves to scan a woman’s abdomen, creating a picture or “sonogram” of the baby in her uterus.

Without K of C support, these centers would be unable to purchase the ultrasound devices, each costing tens of thousands of dollars.

Cardinal Rigali on the Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church

By J. BASIL DANNEBOHM Special to the Catholic

On March 3, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis made the decision that the Church should celebrate the Blessed Mother in her role as “Mother of the Church” every year on the Monday after Pentecost, as a way to foster Marian piety and the maternal sense of the Church.

The official decree was published in a letter from Cardinal Robert Sarah, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

The Marian title of “Mother of the Church,” was given to the Blessed Mother by Blessed Pope Paul VI, who earlier this month, the Vatican announced would be canonized a saint later this year.

In an interview with writer J. Basil Dannebohm, His Eminence, Cardinal Justin Rigali, explained the significance of the distinction between a votive Mass and a Memorial.

“A votive Mass is a Mass that is not inscribed in the liturgical calendar of the Church, but which the Church permits to be celebrated on certain days in honor of a particular mystery of God or the Blessed Virgin or the Angels or Saints,” said Cardinal Rigali. “In the Roman Missal there is a Votive Mass of Our Lady, Mother of the Church, which can be used on various occasions.”

The memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, has been added to the Roman Missal, the Roman Missal, and the Liturgy of the Hours.

“What Pope Francis has now given to the Church is a new celebration of Mary, Mother of the Church, to be observed throughout the Church on the Monday after Pentecost,” says His Eminence. “It has the liturgical rank of a Memorial. As such, it is inscribed in the calendar of the Church. It is not a Feast but it is given to the whole Church, and its celebration brings new honor to our Blessed Mother.”

His Eminence noted that observing the memorial on the Monday after Pentecost bears significance.

“This new Memorial is beautifully placed right after the Solemnity of Pentecost and in this way also provokes a reflection on the relationship of the Blessed Virgin to the Holy Spirit,” said Cardinal Rigali.

In his encyclical, “Divinium Illud Munus,” Pope John Paul II mentioned the spousal relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin: “You know well the intimate and wonderful relationship existing between her (The Virgin Mary) and the Holy Spirit, so that she is justly called His Spouse.”

The memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, will officially be celebrated for the first time on May 21, 2018.

GREAT BEND - The parishes in and around Great Bend will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with a solemn hour of prayer and benediction at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 8 at Saint Patrick Church, 4100 Broadway.

The service will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet in song, as well as prayers, music and meditation. Confessions will be heard during the service. It is open to people of all faiths.

Devotion for Divine Mercy began in the 1930s when Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, received special communications with Jesus in which he asked her to have this image painted to spread the message of his mercy.

Under the instructions of a spiritual director, Saint Faustina wrote down her revelations from Jesus, now contained in her 600-page diary. In these writings, Saint Faustina said people are to call upon Jesus with trust, receive his mercy, and let it flow through people to others.

This mercy fulfills the message in Matthew’s gospel that states, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy,” Saint Faustina said in her diary that people “radiate” God’s mercy to others by actions, words and prayers.

The Divine Mercy image is a painting of Jesus with two rays emerging from his heart representing the blood and water which flowed from the side of Jesus as his heart was lanced after he died upon the cross.

One ray is pale representing the water which makes souls righteous, the other is red for the blood, which is the life of souls.

“These two rays issued forth from the very depths of my tender mercy when my agonized heart, was opened by a lance on the cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of my father. Happy is the one who dwells in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him.” (Diary number 299)

Saint Faustina died in 1938 at the age of 33. She was canonized a saint April 30, 2000, in Rome by the Pope at that time, Saint John Paul II, who said that the Sunday after Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, would now be an official feast day of the Church.
Our pontiff, I had a Labrador named Sarah, and Bush was in office, Pope John Paul II was still a young whipper snapper named George W.

Step back with me, if you will, to a time when...
Looking back at the last five years with Pope Francis

By ANDREA PICCIOtti-BAYER
Catholic News Agency

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Future saint visits with servicemen

Saint Padre Pio, center, visits with servicemen at the time of the Second World War. The Italian priest was known for having the stigmata (the wounds an individual receives that correspond to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ), as can be seen by the cloth wrapped around his hand. Part of one cloth — on which one can still see blood — was on display at the cathedral in Dodge City recently. (See Pages 10-11.)

BY BISHOP ARTHUR SERRATTLE
Catholic News Agency

A requiem for God?

Young people fleeing in panic. Shots ringing out. Police swarming the building. Screams. Tears. Anxious parents huddled together. News media surrounding the carnage. This scene has become all too familiar in America. The recent mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., has once again devastated families. This Valentine Day’s massacre has broken the heart of the nation.

In 2012, the nation recoiled in horror when a gunman in Newtown, Conn., killed 20 first graders and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School. But the outrage at such a tragedy has done little to prevent further shootings. Since Sandy Hook, there have been 239 school shootings. And, since the first 45 days of this year alone, there have been with 18 incidents of school shootings in our country.

We are facing an epidemic of violence. Last year ended with a record of 345 mass shootings, the deadliest chapter in the history of mass shootings in modern times. With gun-lapse rapidity, the Texas church shooting of Nov. 5, 2017, the deadliest mass shooting in the state’s history, followed the Las Vegas massacre of Oct. 1, 2017.

These repeated tragedies of shootings in schools, sports events, parking lots, churches, post offices and cafeterias confront us with an unsettling question. Are we a violent people? Can we not put behind us the bloodshed of the Civil War when partisan views on slavery plunged the nation into its chaos? Are we still tethered to the attitudes of the 60s when civil unrest led to violence and assassinations? Is violence the tragic legacy we wish to give our children?

Are we getting more violent as a people? Are we regressing into something akin to what we saw in the ‘60s, an era marked by assassinations, civil unrest, and political chaos? The Feb. 14th Parkland School shooting immediately unleashed emotional responses of fear, anger and sorrow along with a flood of political views. Some Americans desperately want stricter laws regulating the sale of guns. Others, more security at our schools and other public places. The nation is polarized and needs the common resolve to put aside political agendas in an effort to solve a problem that is literally killing us.

We cannot let this most recent mass shooting simply become a footnote in our history books. Nor can we let these moments of human tragedy destroy one of the greatest resources from which this country can draw strength and wisdom to solve its problems. Pew Research reports that 70 percent of Americans pray regularly. As a nation set up by our Founding Fathers, we are heirs to great Judeo-Christian principles that encourage the practice of faith and toleration of diverse religious communities. Turning our hearts to God in prayer, whatever our religion, is the first and most fundamental step to move us from violence to safety, from fear to security in our homes and public places.

Unfortunately, in the wake of this latest man-made tragedy, some have been publicly ridiculing the faith of those who, in these moments of horrendous violence, spontaneously pray to God for help and comfort. They taunt people of faith, questioning how an all-good God can allow such pain, such tragedies, so much suffering. They fail to see that the very fact that we recognize evil as evil points to a standard of what is right and good and, ultimately, points to God whose laws are meant to guide and protect human happiness.

The secularistic vitriol against God in the public place cannot drive him from his universe. If we were to understand why God allows us the freedom to do evil, we would be God. Perhaps, there lies the real problem. Too many have detached themselves from God and placed themselves with their materialistic, agnostic or atheistic mentality as the center of their universe.

God’s existence is not predicated on our understanding. God does not depend on us to approve him. We need him. We need his grace. And he is ever ready to accompany us as we strive to put an end to violence in our country. Now is not the time for a requiem for God!

Bishop Serratelli is the bishop of Paterson, New Jersey.

The Southwest Kansas Catholic April 1, 2018 Page 5
Unlimited resources are not a requirement to be served. All are welcome.

The Reverend Smith shared the story of a local man who has lived on the streets for a long time, and that he’d be fine,” Smith said. “But it’s the unexpected expenses that are made possible because of the appeal. A home comes first, then we talk about income.”

The only requirement is that they have to be homeless to come here,” she explained. “That includes living on the street, in a shelter, or if they are fleeing domestic violence.”

Once they enter the doors of Catholic Charities, they are given a questionnaire that will assess their needs and prioritize them. As one can imagine, there’s a waiting list.

“It’s not first come, first served,” Smith said. “Housing is based on risk level.” The Garden City office currently has 36 people on its waiting list, while the Dodge City office has six.

Catholic Charities tries to get the clients independent within a year, but they can help support them for up to two years.

Who is served?

I was homeless, and you gave me shelter’

BY DAVE MAYS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

I was homeless, and you gave me shelter.” — Matthew 25:35

For 19 years, Marci Smith closed doors. It was part of her job. And it broke her heart.

“One of the worst things was locking people up,” she said of her nearly two-decade job in juvenile probation.

Today, she works for Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas where her job is to open doors — to find homes for the homeless, a sense of security for those escaping violence, a new start for those recently released from prison.

“How we work with a lot of the same people, and we don’t have to lock them up,” said Smith, Director of Family Services.

In 2017, her first full year with Catholic Charities, she helped find homes for 40 adults and 41 children.

So far in 2018, among those she has helped include a woman who had been living in a car for weeks with several of her eight children. Another had five children and were living in a home already overcrowded with numerous extended family members.

As the wind chill reached record lows, a young man was sleeping in a display shed in front of a hardware store. It took a while to find the young man a home, even after he was kicked out of his shed/shelter.

“He told me not to worry, that he’d been on the streets for a long time, and that he’d be fine,” Smith said.

It is these individuals and families — and the many others served by Smith and Catholic Charities — who have been helped by the Vibrant Ministries Appeal.

Much of Smith’s funding comes from grants such as the federal HUD grant and the Kansas Emergency Solutions Grant. But it’s the unexpected expenses — a family or individual who needs a night or two in a hotel or other emergency assistance, or, say, who needs appliances or even various kitchenware — that are made possible because of the appeal.

If a person is in dire straits and dependent on the kindness of strangers for the basic necessities, as the federal HUD grant and the Kansas Emergency Solutions Grant. But it’s the unexpected expenses — a family or individual who needs a night or two in a hotel or other emergency assistance, or, say, who needs appliances or even various kitchenware — that are made possible because of the appeal. A home comes first, then we talk about income.”

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M ost of those whom Catholic Charities serves have limited income and often need help with basic necessities once they secure housing. You can help clients be given a warm welcome into their new home with some basic household necessities to get them started.

Needed items include cleaning products (bucket, mop broom, duster, dust pan, laundry soap, laundry basket, window cleaner, sponges, or cleaning rags), kitchen items (dish soap, paper towels, cooking utensils, plates, mugs and cups, pots and pans), bedroom items (twin/full sheets, pillows, comforter/blankets, and curtains), bathroom items (towels, soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, toilet paper, rags, shower curtains, liner, rings, deodorant, comb, razor, lotion) other (diapers, wipes, baby/children hygiene items).

For more information on creating a “blessing kit,” go to http://catholiccharitiesswk.org/ways-to-help and click on “Can you spare a blessing kit?” on the lower, left or call (620) 272-0010.

Compassionate God,

You are the light of the world. You give us your Son to illuminate our path, and the Holy Spirit to shine through us. Loving God, fill us with the desire to be with you in all things, invite others into your light and love, and walk with us on our journey to holiness. Merciful God, bless our efforts to unite Our Church as you help us to respond to the needs of the least among us. Form our faith and strengthen priestly vocations. May our efforts generously share our gifts with one another, in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

To donate to the Vibrant Ministries — Uniting Our Church, go to www.cdicoie.org/vibrant-ministries, or contact Mark Roth, mroth@cdicoie.org, 620-227-1535.
Fasting for Priestly Vocations

God’s priestly call for Father Wesley ... Westley ... Weasley

As I was sorting through some of my belongings (trying to simplify my life!), I came across a stack of letters and cards I received from children while I was a seminarian. Getting my first name correct—not to mention my last—was a challenge. But what a beautiful gift! Their questions and comments made me smile then, and they still make me smile now. Some examples:

• I like to play tag. What do you like to do?
• My brother, sister, and I were a smore for Halloween.
• We were supposed to ask you about seminary school. I couldn’t think of anything to write, so I thought I’d talk to you like my best friend. Hi, Bye.
• How many years do you want to be a priest?
• My grandma was talking about someone practicing to become a priest and immediately I thought of you!
• P.S. I will keep you in my prayers.

On occasion I got a window into a child’s difficult life, like in 2002 from a dear kid in Great Bend. “I hope you be a good Priest at what Church you go to. And I hope you git good grades. I have one brother and one sister and my dad girl friend is pragnet so I do not know if I am having a girl or boy. How many brother and sister do you have. My dad and mom are deforst are your mom and dad deforst?”

In all of the goofiness or sadness, I saw children who reached out to a priest (or almost-a-priest). Even today, I thank the Lord for the gift of my priesthood. The Lord chose me to be a biological father to none and a spiritual father to thousands. The Lord chose me to follow the example of Jesus (see Ephesians 5:32), taking not one woman, but the entire Church as my bride.

After the resurrection, Jesus spent a short time with His disciples (which we celebrate in this Easter season) before returning to His Father at the Ascension. Yet even upon his return, He never really left His people:

“Behold, I am with you always until the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20

One of the remarkable ways that Jesus remains with us “always” is through His priests. When a priest acts “in persona Christi” (in the person of Christ), it is truly Christ who is speaking, acting, ministering! I hope that this Lent you joined Bishop Brungardt in fasting for priestly vocations for the Diocese of Dodge City. Perhaps you are called to continue into the Easter season. Our need is dire. Yet God’s promise is unconditional—He will always be with us! Our Lord already knows who He has chosen to serve as priests in southwest Kansas—maybe some of the very ones who wrote me a letter years ago. May your fasting bear fruit in the generous “yes” of those called.

God Our Father, You Made Each of Us to Use Our Gifts in the Body of Christ. We Ask That You Inspire Young People Whom You Call to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life to Courageously Follow Your Will. We Ask This through Christ, Our Savior. Amen.

Fasting for Priestly Vocations

A grace ovation

A s a gift to my brother on the occasion of his ordination years ago, I told him that I would offer up all of my speaking engagements in thanksgiving for his vocation to the priesthood. This seemed an especially fitting and easy gift because I love speaking for groups, and talking about our faith always brings me great joy.

At times, of course, my joy in this is strained.

One evening stands out as an example. I was scheduled to speak for an evening event, and I did not go on until 8:15 p.m. I was tired, it was winter, dark, cold, windy, and one of those dreadful mixes of snow and sleet. I sat at my desk grumbling that I should be so put out as I printed out the text of my speech— the topic was, no less, praying through suffering. So, after a full day’s work, I bundled my body and braced myself for winter’s assault on the way to my car, grumbling all the way.

But as I was driving to the gig, clutching the steering wheel, slumped over with brow furrowed, the Lord reminded me very clearly of my promise—to offer up in thanksgiving my speaking engagements on behalf of my brother, for the protection and flourishing of his priesthood. I immediately saw him the day of his ordination: he glowed like a perfect, brilliant sunrise. Another image flashed in my mind: little children running up to him after Mass, their earnest little arms extended to him with complete trust and affection. I thought of so many people who have been blessed to call my brother, Father, including me.

I immediately adjusted my attitude and went laughing into my talk, sensing God’s free rush of grace to give me stamina and sincere affection for the needs of my audience. The talk came off well and at the end, I was frequently the recipient of standing o’s, but I have to confess this was rather unusual. I laughed all the way home, even as I crept over the icy streets, making my way through the bitter winter’s darkness.

I take two things from this little episode.

One, the Heavenly Father must be so very pleased with my brother’s priesthood. (I realize that I am probably a smidge biased on this point, but I still think my assessment is judicious.)

Two, and more importantly, I am reminded that God’s grace can never be exhausted. He never tires of extending himself to me. Never. He only asks the tiniest effort on my part, the slightest leaning in his direction, the most miniscule effort to resist evil. He will rush in and joyfully do the rest. He will take my mealy offering and magnify it unto his glory. The generosity of this reality fills me with awe.

Your grumblings may be big or small, exaggerated or very real indeed. You may be in the throes of resisting great or petty evil, but the principle holds true: you need only offer what you can Jesus will do the rest, and the communion of angels and saints will offer a veiled but glorious ovation in thanksgiving and in joy.

Father, never let me forget that your inexhaustible grace sustains me in every moment and that it is your joy to ever offer it. Thank you for my brother and the gift of his priesthood. Bless you, my brother—and Father.

Elizabeth Kelly is an award-winning speaker and the author of six books, 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.
DEFENDING ADOPTION

In Brief

Thousands of children in the U.S. foster system are in desperate need of a safe place to call home, particularly minority children, older children, and those with disabilities. Faith-based adoption agencies in Kansas have been giving these children forever homes for more than 60 years. Sadly, other states have implemented policy changes that prevent faith-based providers from serving in accordance with their sincerely held religious beliefs. In Catholic Charities’ adoption ministry was forced to shut down after 100 years of serving in Boston. Agencies in San Francisco, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. also have been forced to close because of their policy of only placing children in homes where they will have the lifetime benefit of a married mother and a father.

The Catholic Church has a long history of working with secular government to aid children. “Since the founding of this nation, the Catholic Church has been an active partner with state authorities in placing children conceived in difficult situations into loving homes with a mother and a father,” said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann in a Feb. 23 letter to all pastors. “The church and other faith-based groups,” the letter continued, “because of their pastoral relationship with the people they serve, are able to place kids that often no one else can.

In Kansas, faith-based adoption agencies have been giving hard-to-place children forever homes for more than 60 years. Sadly, in other states we have seen the Church forced out of this adoption ministry because of our deeply held respect for the inherent rights of a child to have both a mother and a father.

In his letter, Archbishop Naumann asked pastors to play a DVD about Protect Adoption Choice for parishioners, and urged them to visit the campaign website. Increasingly, Catholic Charities and other non-Catholic faith-based agencies have come under attack by activists through the courts.

After Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley, OFM Cap., was unable to get an exemption from Massachusetts’ nondiscrimination law in 2006, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston was forced to end its 100-year-old adoption ministry.

Similarly, Catholic Charities and other non-Catholic faith-based agencies have come under attack by activists through the courts. After Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley, OFM Cap., was unable to get an exemption from Massachusetts’ nondiscrimination law in 2006, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston was forced to end its 100-year-old adoption ministry. Agencies in San Francisco, Illinois and Washington, D.C., also were forced to shut down their adoption ministries in subsequent years.

More recently, the American Civil Liberties Union initiated a lawsuit last September against Catholic Charities in Michigan. The ACLU seeks to make it illegal for the state of Michigan to work with faith-based agencies that operate according to their faith.

“We do not want this to ever happen in Kansas,” said Michael Schuttlofﬁel, executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference. “Interest groups hostile to faith-based adoption services want to close faith-based adoption providers whose religious beliefs they don’t like. They want to do this in all 50 states.”

“It is only a matter of time [before they do so] unless states act to protect faith-based adoption providers,” he concluded. “Seven states have already done this and at least three more are considering such laws this year.”

THE ADOPTION PROTECTION ACT

Two identical bills that would enact the Adoption Protection Act were introduced into the Kansas House and the Kansas Senate in early February: House Bill 2687 and Senate Bill 401.

Both bills are currently before the Federal and State Affairs committees of the two chambers. So far, no hearings have been held regarding the bills. According to the fiscal note for HB 2687, the bill would “exempt child placement agencies (CPAs) from being involved with the placement of a child if the placement would violate the CPAs’ sincerely held religious beliefs.”

Further, faith-based child placement agencies could not be denied a license, permit, authorization or renewal because of a refusal to place children. The CPAs could not be denied grants and contracts, or be subject to ﬁnes or administrative actions or claims because of a refusal to place a child based on the CPA’s faith.

Currently, faith-based adoption agencies are free to operate according to their religious beliefs, said Schuttlofﬁel. The Adoption Protection Act ensures the current situation will remain the same.

Similar laws have been passed in other states. These include Virginia (the model for the Kansas bills), Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota and Texas. Rhode Island and Mississippi also have protections for faith-based adoption providers, and another bill is working its way through the Georgia Legislature.

“The results have been positive,” said Schuttlofﬁel. “Last year in Virginia, the governor issued an executive order limiting state contracts with entities that did not share his personal views on marriage, family and sexuality. Because the Virginia Legislature had acted years ago to protect faith-based adoption providers, they were protected from the executive order and remain free to serve in Virginia.”

The Catholic bishops of Kansas strongly support HB 2687, but non-Catholic entities — including the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas and the Kansas Chapter of Concerned Women for America — support it as well. “The ACLU and Equality Kansas oppose the bill,” said Schuttlofﬁel.

But the bill seeks only to protect the rights of faith-based child protection agencies as well as all those wishing to adopt.

“The bill does not prevent anyone from adopting,” said Schuttlofﬁel. “It just protects groups like Catholic Charities that operate according to religious principles. Same-sex couples continue to adopt in all the states that have passed laws like this.”

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

Catholics need to get involved in the Protect Adoption Choice campaign now because the regular session of the Kansas Legislature ends on April 6.

“There is a veto session in May where some work can possibly be done, but time is of the essence,” said Schuttlofﬁel.

The danger is so clear, and the time so short, that Archbishop Naumann encourages Catholics to contact their state representatives and senators in support of the two bills as soon as possible.

“It is urgent that we act now because political and legal activist groups hostile to faith-based providers are becoming increasingly active on this issue,” said the archbishop.

The Protect Adoption Choice video can be viewed on the website.

Bishops ask Catholics to Contact State Legislators Regarding Pending Bill

Bishop John Brungardt, in concert with the other bishops of Kansas, is appealing to Catholics throughout the diocese to support an effort currently underway called the “Protect Adoption Choice” campaign. The goal is to mobilize Catholics to support bills now before the Kansas Legislature that will protect the conscience rights of faith-based adoption and foster-care agencies.

Currently, faith-based adoption and foster-care agencies in the state are free to operate according to their religious beliefs. The Adoption Protection Act (House Bill HB 2687 and Senate Bill SB 401) would ensure that the current situation remains the same. The Kansas Catholic Conference is helping to coordinate this statewide campaign.

There have been situations in other states where government agencies have forced Catholic Charities to shut down their adoption ministry because they will only place children in homes with a married mother and father. The “Adoption Protection Act” would proactively ensure that this will not happen in Kansas. This legislation simply allows faith-based child placement agencies to continue to operate according to their religious principles. The bill does not infringe upon anyone’s legal right to adopt children; it simply affirms that faith-based agencies cannot be punished for adhering to their religious beliefs in their adoption ministries.

Continued on Page 9
Bishops urge Catholics to take action
Continued from Page 8

HB 2687 and SB 401 do not impact the rights of same-sex couples to adopt children nor do they discriminate against any group or individual. The bills simply say that faith-based providers will not lose their licenses or be otherwise punished for continuing to operate as they have and serving the common good by placing children in homes through adoption and foster care. According to the Kansas Catholic Conference, this bill is needed because a future governor could implement changes administratively that would punish faith-based providers because of their policies.

All voting-age Catholics are asked to get involved in the Protect Adoption Choice campaign now before the regular session of the Kansas Legislature ends on April 6. Failure to take action on this important issue could one day result in the closure of faith-based adoption agencies like Catholic Charities.

Please contact by phone your state representative and senator as soon as possible. The following is a sample of what you might say:

“Hello, my name is _______ and I am a registered voter from _______. I respectfully ask you to support the ‘Adoption Protection Act’ (HB 2687 in the House and SB 401 in the Senate). This legislation ensures that faith-based adoption providers like Catholic Charities will continue to be free to serve children and families. Catholic Charities’ adoption ministry has been forced to close in other states because of government regulations hostile to our Catholic beliefs. Catholic Charities and other faith-based adoption providers should be free to serve the common good as they have for so long. This legislation does not affect anyone’s legal right to adopt, it just protects groups like Catholic Charities. Birthmothers and adoptive parents who want to use a faith-based provider should be free to do so. As your constituent, this legislation is very important to me. Thank you.”

To learn more about the Protect Adoption Choice campaign, visit the campaign web site at www.ProtectAdoptionChoice.org where you can directly email your state senator and representative. To find the phone number of your state legislator, please visit http://www.kslegislature.org/Il/2017_18/individuals/, or call Legislative Administrative Services at 785-296-2391 for your legislators’ phone numbers. Thank you for your generous support of the children. May the Lord assist us.

Catholic Charities of SW Kansas Adoption Program: a half century of finding forever homes

By TIM WENZL and DAVE MYERS

Southwest Kansas Catholic

Fifty years ago, Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas (then Catholic Social Service), empowered by the faith-filled spirit of a Ness County family, worked a little magic and helped begat a miracle.

The year was 1968. An article in the July 18 Southwest Kansas Register highlighted a family of five children who were in need of a home: “Anyone interested in adopting a family of five beautiful children who need a home are asked to contact Father Walter Weiss at Catholic Social Service in Great Bend.”

The article included a photo of five children — Betty, 9, Billy, 8, Larrv, 6, Barbara, 4, and Juanita, 3.

There was little hope that they would stay together. Not five children, after all. Or so you would think.

Enter Urban and Rose Landwehr, members of St. Aloysius Parish, who were raising three daughters on their farm 13 miles west of Ransom: Susan, 17, Elizabeth, 15, and Joann, 12.

“Daddy was home, we farmed, and he got the mail and saw that article in the Register,” recalled Joann Landwehr Bergkamp, who now resides in Halstead, Kansas.

Daddy was 47 and Mom 42 in 1968,” said Joann. “There were younger applicants for the children, but Daddy and Mom were the only ones who would take all five. They felt the five should be raised together in one family. I remember Father Weiss making a home visit. Our neighbor,” continued on Page 15

Statement by the Catholic Bishops of Kansas in support of the Adoption Protection Act, HB 2687

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for holding this hearing.

Over a century before Kansas achieved statehood, and decades before the American founding, the Catholic Church was serving the poor, the needy, and the orphan on these shores. For 300 years, our charitable endeavors have served the common good by ministering to the most vulnerable among us, including children in need of a “forever home.” The Adoption Protection Act will ensure that Catholic Charities and adoption providers from other faith traditions will remain free to serve, as they have so well for so long.

It is disappointing that this legislation is necessary, but experience in other states shows that it is. In recent years, government agencies have forced Catholic Charities to close their adoption ministries in Boston, Washington DC, Illinois, and San Francisco because of their policy of placing children only in homes with a married mother and father.

Catholic Charities’ adoption ministry in Boston was one of the oldest in the country and had a strong reputation for being able to place hard-to-place children, such as older children or special needs children. Faith-based providers often specialize in handling challenging situations, so to lose their expertise would be a blow to the children and families they serve. Nonetheless, these other jurisdictions enforced their closure. We do not wish such a scenario to ever occur in Kansas.

Groups hostile to faith-based adoption providers are becoming increasingly litigious, creating a climate of fear and uncertainty. Make no mistake, closing down adoption providers does not increase access for anyone. However, were the state to pass these protections, it is altogether likely that faith-based providers would increase their services. By having a diversity of providers operating in Kansas, we can maximize the number of children and families served. A diverse society should welcome a diversity of perspectives among adoption providers.

The rights of birthmothers and adoptive parents should not be forgotten in this discussion. It often happens that a birthmother wants her child to be raised in a home that shares her faith. Political activists who do not agree with her religious beliefs should not be able to stand in the door and thwart her wishes. Sometimes a birthmother’s decision to place her child for adoption is based on her desire for the child to have the benefit of a mother and a father, something she may not be able to provide at that moment in her life. Such extraordinary selflessness should command society’s awe and support.

Much the same, there are adoptive parents who for a variety of reasons wish to work with faith-based providers. The government should not be allowed to stand in the way of their choice, as has unfortunately happened elsewhere. That fact that faith-based providers may operate according to religious criteria that not everyone agrees with should be expected in a diverse society. Under the criteria employed by Catholic Charities, we the Catholic bishops of Kansas are not eligible to adopt children. We can assure you that this is not because Catholic Charities bears any ill will against bishops.

Seven states have laws like the legislation before you. None of those laws have taken away anyone’s legal right to adopt. Rather, they have simply ensured that faith-based providers can continue to serve their communities in accordance with their religious principles.

If our opponents are successful in their efforts, America will become a place where even Mother Teresa would be forbidden from carrying out her adoption ministry. That is anything but tolerance.

We strongly support the Adoption Protection Act and thank you for your consideration.

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas
Most Reverend John B. Brungardt
Bishop of Dodge City
Most Reverend Carl A. Kenne
Bishop of Wichita
Very Reverend Francis E. Coady
Diocesan Administrator – Diocese of Salina

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas
Most Reverend John B. Brungardt
Bishop of Dodge City
Most Reverend Carl A. Kenne
Bishop of Wichita
Very Reverend Francis E. Coady
Diocesan Administrator – Diocese of Salina
Relics from the Holy Mother, the Crown of Thorns, dozens

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

They came with handfuls of items to be venerated by hundred- and thousand-year-old saints, including more than 150 tiny pieces of earthly or bodily remains kept in small reliquaries. There were relics of saints such as Francis of Assisi, Maria Goretti, Joachim and Anne, the parents of Christ, just to name a few; as well as a fragment of the clothing worn by the Blessed Virgin. There was a piece of Christ’s crib and a part of the iron that pierced Christ’s side as he hung on the cross.

Some held their items, including photos of loved ones who were ill, against the glass of the reliquary as a means of intercession, a prayer for a healing miracle.

It’s understandable if some of those entering the cathedral March 18 for an exposition of the holy relics had at least a few doubts as to their origins. These are tangible items, after all — bone fragments from the saints, wood from the true cross, separated only by a piece of glass.

That’s where Father Carlos Martins comes in. Father Martins is an Ontario-born priest belonging to the order “Companions of the Holy Cross.” He is the founder of “Treasures of the Church,” for which he travels around the world giving presentations and displaying some 150 or so relics of his collection of 4,000 relics.

Prior to the showing of the relics, Father Martins gave a one-hour presentation in the worship area in which he described, for example, how it is that the relic of the true cross in his display was not just one of a forest of supposed true cross relics that exist today, and is instead the real thing.

“In 315 AD, Constantine was the first Christian Emperor of Rome,” Father Martins said. “His desire was to convert all the people to the Christian faith.”

After some three centuries of Christians being fed to the lions, Constantine knew this would take some work. He decided that obtaining some actual Christian artifacts to display to his people would help. So, he sent his mother, (Saint) Helena in search of pieces of the True Cross.

“She was given a revelation that she would find the True Cross on the West side of Jerusalem,” Father Martins explained. Helena discovered the remains of three crosses. How would she know which was the True Cross of Jesus?

“Helena was very clever,” Father Martins said. Helena found a woman who was affected with a grievous disease. Helena led the woman to each cross, which she touched with no effect until she came to a cross that immediately healed her affliction.

The story, the history, the effect that this God-made-man had on each person and on the entire world — told even way back when Christ walked the earth, led those at the time that these items were deeply holy and needed to be kept and treasured.

Once in the gathering space after Father Martin’s presentation, people processed solemnly around the room filled with tables on which sat the reliquaries and a plaque describing each saint. Many people knelt before the holy relics, one woman making her way around the large room, kneeling before each of the 166 reliquaries.

Another woman knelt and prayed reverently before the relic of St. Faustina, the young nun who was told by Jesus to paint him as he appeared to her, leading to the Feast of Divine Mercy.

Continued on next page
Relics from the Holy Mother, the Crown of Thorns, dozens of saints, draw prayers for miracles of Divine Mercy, celebrated the first Sunday after Easter.

Among the many relics were those of Bernadette of Lourdes, the Apostle James the Greater (whom Jesus jokingly called “Son of Thunder” due to his voluminous preaching), John Paul II, Mother Teresa, John the Apostle, John the Baptist, the Apostle Paul, Rose of Lima, Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower), and many others.

For more information on Father Martins and his Treasures of the Church presentation, visit http://treasuresofthechurch.com/. Click on the “more” tab to go to a gallery of photos.

Continued from previous page

At top is a relic of the spear that punctured Christ’s side as he hung on the cross. Behind the relic is a document — an ancient certificate of authenticity with the name of the relic, the authority who issued the relic, as well as the date that it was sealed. All relics are sealed in wax so that it is easy to tell if it has been tampered with. At left, a man and his young son examine one of the relics.

At right is a relic of the veil of the Holy Mother Mary.

Photos by Dave Myers

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Down Country Roads CALENDAR CONTEST

Start shooting now for the 2013 calendar to capture rural life at its best. Whether it is a shot of a calf grazing in the scenic Flint Hills or a perfectly straight row of corn in Iowa, we want to see people and places all across the High Plains and Midwest and the things that make them beautiful.

Theme: Rural Route Roots
Grand Prize: $500 + Monthly Features: $100 prizes each
Deadline: July 31, 2013

For official rules of entry visit:
www.hpj.com/calendar_contest
En esta Semana Santa, dése a usted mismo el privilegio de unirse a esta celebración. No es un acto superficial, sino uno profundo que implica el reconocimiento de su propia necesidad y el reconocimiento de quién es su salvador. En el Domingo de Pascua, testimone que el Señor es fuente de vida y que su presencia es la fuente de nuestra salvación. Deje que la Buena Noticia se haga presente en su vida, y permita que ella cambie su forma de vida y su perspectiva sobre la vida.
Jóvenes se encuentran con Cristo en la reunión anual del Encuentro de Adolescentes Evangelizadores de Arcoíris

Aproximadamente 110 jóvenes de entre 13 y 18 años, junto con miembros adultos del equipo de Arcoíris, se reunieron recientemente para el encuentro anual en el salón parroquial de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Dodge City. Los jóvenes llegaron desde lugares tan lejanos como Hays para asistir al evento profundamente espiritual, que fue lleno de elogios, canciones, discusiones y diversión. Otros participantes vinieron de Liberal, y por supuesto que había muchos del área de Dodge City.

La reunión de jóvenes es parte de una iniciativa más grande de “Y Encuentro”, un proceso de cuatro años iniciado por los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos para aprender a servir mejor a la creciente población de hispanos.

Muchos de ustedes que leen esto pueden tener experiencia de primera mano con el proceso de adopción. Tal vez un hermano o hermana fue adoptado, o tal vez ustedes mismos han adoptado un niño, o proporcionado cuidado tutelar a un niño necesario. Tal vez fueron bendecidos al trabajar con una agencia católica u otra agencia confesional en el proceso.

Desafortunadamente, en este momento en nuestro estado, hay activistas que buscan prohibir a las agencias confesionales de adopción y cuidado tutelar de proveer sus servicios simplemente porque eligen ubicar a los niños solo en hogares con una madre y un padre casados. No existen prohibiciones bajo la ley para los derechos de conciencia de estas agencias confesionales, sin embargo, se han cerrado con éxito las agencias de colocación de niños como Caridades Católicas en Massachusetts, Texas, Illinois, California y Washington, DC. Es solo cuestión de tiempo antes de que intenten hacer lo mismo aquí en Kansas.

Como personas de fe que creen en la santidad del matrimonio de un hombre y una mujer y buscan defender a la familia como lo dice el “Cátedrático de la Iglesia Portuguesa, 2017”, le pido que apoyen la campaña “Proteger la Elección de Adopción” actualmente en curso. Se proporcione una varita mágica para su representante y senador estatales y piérdéndoles que apoyen la HB 2687 y la SB 401, The Adoption Protection Act (Ley de Protección de la Adopción). En este número de Southwest Kansas Catholic se puede encontrar información adicional sobre la campaña “Proteger la Elección de Adopción” y también se puede encontrar en el sitio web de la diócesis, http://www.dccdioce.se.org.

El tiempo es esencial. La legislatura estatal se suspende el 6 de abril. Por favor revise estos materiales, o los que lo proporcionó su párroco, y llame a sus legisladores hoy. Es urgente aprovechar el impulso en este importante tema.

Al comenzar la alegría de la temporada de Pascua, le pedimos a Jesús, nuestro Señor y Salvador resultado, que nos ayude a ayudar a los niños que necesitan un hogar. Caridades Católicas y otras agencias confesionales deben poder hacer justamente eso, como lo han hecho durante décadas. Gracias por su generosa ayuda. Jesús ama a los niños pequeños, ¡y usted, más de lo que puede preguntar o imaginar! ¡Felices Pascuas!

+ Mons. John, obispo

Los obispos piden a los católicos que se pongan en contacto con los legisladores estatales con respecto al proyecto de ley pendiente

El obispo, Mons. John Brungardt, en concertio con los otros obispos de Kansas, está llamando a los católicos de toda la diócesis para que apoyen un esfuerzo actualmente en curso llamado Campaña “Proteger la elección de adopción”. El objetivo es que los católicos se unan a apoyar los proyectos de ley ante la Legislatura de Kansas que protegerán los derechos de conciencia de las agencias confesionales dedicadas a los servicios de adopción y cuidado tutelar. En la actualidad, las agencias confesionales de adopción y cuidado tutelar en el estado son libres de operar de acuerdo con sus principios religiosos. La Ley de Protección de la Adopción (Proyecto de Ley HB 2687 de la Cámara de Representantes y Proyecto de Ley Senatorial SB 401) garantizaría que la situación actual siga siendo la misma. La Conferencia Católica de Kansas está ayudando a coordinar esta campaña estatal.

Ha habido situaciones en otros estados donde las legaciones confesionales han debido cerrar sus puertas a Caridades Católicas a cerrar sus servicios de adopción porque solo colocaban a los niños en hogares con una madre y un padre casados. La “Ley de Protección de Adopción” garantizaría proactivamente que esto no ocurra en Kansas. Esta legislación simplemente permite que las agencias confesionales de colocación de niños con fe continúen operando de acuerdo con sus principios religiosos. El proyecto de ley no infringe el derecho legal de cualquier persona a adoptar niños; simplemente afirma que las agencias religiosas no pueden ser castigadas por adherir a sus principios religiosos en sus ministerios de adopción. HB 2687 y SB 401 no afectan los derechos de las parejas del mismo sexo a adoptar niños ni discriminan a ningún grupo o individuo. Los proyectos de ley simplemente dicen que los proveedores confesionales no perderán sus licencias o serán castigados de otra manera por continuar operando como lo han hecho y por servir el bien común al colocar a los niños en hogares a través de la adopción y el cuidado tutelar. Según la Conferencia Católica de Kansas, este proyecto de ley es necesario porque un futuro gobernador podría implementar cambios administrativos que castigarían a los proveedores confesionales debido a sus principios de acción. Se les pide a todos los católicos para que apoyen la campaña “Proteger la Elección de Adopción” ahora antes de que la sesión ordinaria de la Legislatura de Kansas finalice el 6 de abril. Si no se toman medidas en este importante tema algún día podría resultar en el cierre de agencias de adopción confesionales, como Caridades Católicas.

Comuníquese por teléfono con su representante estatal y su senador lo antes posible. La siguiente es una muestra de lo que podría decirles:

“Hola, mi nombre es ___________ y soy un votante registrado de ___________. Le pido respetuosamente que apoye la ‘Ley de Protección de la Adopción’ (HB 2687 en la Cámara de Representantes y SB 401 en el Senado). Esta legislación garantiza que los proveedores de adopción confesionales como Caridades Católicas continuarán siendo libres de servir a niños y familias. El ministerio de adopción de Caridades Católicas se ha visto obligado a cerrar en otros estados debido a grupos y agencias gubernamentales hostiles a nuestros principios católicos. Caridades Católicas y otros proveedores confesionales de servicios adopción deben ser libres de servir al bien común como lo han hecho durante tanto tiempo. Esta legislación no afecta el derecho legal de nadie a adoptar, solo protege a grupos como Caridades Católicas. Las madres biológicas y los padres adoptivos que deseen utilizar un proveedor confesional deben ser libres de hacerlo. Como su constituyente, esta legislación es muy importante para mi. Gracias”.

Para obtener más información sobre la campaña “Proteger la Elección de Adopción”, visite el sitio web de la campaña en www.ProtectAdoptionChoice.org, donde usted puede enviar un correo electrónico directamente a su senador o representante estatal. Para encontrar el número de teléfono de su legislador estatal, visite http://www.kslegislature.org/89/b2017_18/members/, o llame a Servicios Administrativos Legislativos al 785-296-2391 para obtener los números de teléfono de sus legisladores. Gracias por su generoso apoyo a los niños. Que el Señor nos ayude.
Law’s failure exposes prevalence of Down syndrome abortions

By PERRY WEST

Columbus, Ohio (CNA) - A federal judge blocked a law from taking effect in late March which would have banned abortions after a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome.

After the law was blocked by Judge Timothy Black March 14, the Catholic Conference of Ohio expressed disappointment in the decision, but also hope that it may be overturned after an appeal by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

“We are disappointed; we do think that it was an appropriate first step to point out, specifically, that so many Down syndrome children are aborted,” said Jim Tobin, of the Department of Social Justice at the Catholic Conference of Ohio.

“We are still hopeful that there are other appeals that are available here, and that we may be able to yet overturn this decision,” he told CNA.

The law, which was due to go into effect March 23, bans abortions solely due to a prenatal Down syndrome diagnosis. It imposes criminal penalties on medical professionals, but women procuring abortions are not penalized.

The law was signed by Governor John Kasich in December 2017.

On behalf of Planned Parenthood, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in February against the Ohio Department of Health, county prosecutors, and members of the state medical board.

Black blocked the law’s implementation as a privacy violation: “It violates the right to privacy of every woman in Ohio and is unconstitutional on its face,” he wrote.

Supporters of the law have questioned Black’s impartiality. He had served as president of Cincinnati’s Planned Parenthood in 1988 and as its director from 1985-1989.

He recused himself from a case involving Planned Parenthood in 2014.

Tobin lamented the blocking of the law, calling it a tragic case disrespectful to human life.

“It’s just tragic that, particularly in the case of Down syndrome, folks would decide that [these babies] are better off aborted than lovingly cared for or placed for adoption,” he said, noting these cases show “a loss of respect for the dignity of all human life and their value.”

In a March 15 statement, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said he will appeal Black’s decision.

“I strongly disagree with the district court’s ruling that there is a categorical right to abortion that prevents even any consideration of Ohio’s profound interests in combating discrimination against a class of human beings based upon disability. We will be appealing.”

CONFIRMATION

ST. MICHAEL PARISH, LA CROSSE — Nine young people in St. Michael’s Parish PSR Program received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, March 11. The Most Reverend Bishop John B. Brungardt, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, conferred the sacrament on the students with Father Eric Gヤmm่ง celebrating the Mass with him. Pictured from left to right, back row, Catechist James Suppes, Colby Stull, Brooke Herrman, Bishop Brungardt, Father Eric, Allie Selman, and Catechist Mark Baalmann. In the front row, left to right, are Gabe Proffitt, Alisha Kreutzer, Chet Irvin, Johannah Baalmann, Ella Showalter and Daniellie Wagner.


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A half century of finding forever homes

Continued from Page 9

1.5 miles south, had an airstrip. Father flew there and Daddy picked him up. I do remember when Father Weiss left our house; he said, “Speak now, or forever hold your peace,” meaning, “if we were not completely sold on the adoption, we needed to say something now.”

“In early August of 1968 we flew from Wichita to Miami to meet our new family. We stayed several days in Miami, and then boarded the plane to come home.”

Juanita Landwehr Parson, who now resides in Kansas, shared these recollections:

“I was placed in foster care when I was nine months old. I’m not sure how long we lived apart from each other, but I had been living with a Thibeau for a while together for some time. I believe we were in multiple homes over the three years we were in foster care.

“As I understand things — my birth father placed us with his eldest daughter (by a previous marriage) and her family. She had a large family herself, and it became too much for her. My eldest half-sister, along with my birth father and mother, placed us with Catholic Charities (of Miami), and her oldest daughter, who was our baptismal sponsor, begged Catholic Charities to keep us together and to have us raised as a family.

“Fifty years later, Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas continues to endeavor for homes for children and infants, both by helping perspective parents, and by aiding those who wish to place their child in the adoptive process.

But unlike 50 years ago, today Catholic Charities doesn’t only create a relationship between the child and his or her new adoptive parents, but between the adoptive parents and the birth parents, as well. It’s called “open adoption,” and it leaves no mysteries for the child to unrella late in life. Birth parents can continue to have a relationship with the child.

“It’s important that we have birth mothers and birth fathers who can select a family that shares their values,” noted Debbie Snapp, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas. She has been personally involved in the practice of adoption for more than 25 years.

“We’re presenting to them a family that is consistent with our Catholic families’ beliefs, as well as the results of a healthy marriage, practicing their faith, how long they’ve been married, those kinds of things. We’re not saying that people don’t share our values, but what we want to do is to help them share our values.”

Lillian Fern Besser, 81, of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Hoisington, passed away March 16, 2018. She was a member of the Altar Society. Besides being a home-maker and farm wife, she had served as a bookkeeper for the Hoisington Oil Co., and a cook for St. John Catholic School. Survivors include her husband, Donald E. Reif, Sr.; one son, Don E. Reif, Jr.; two daughters, Diane Reif and Sheila Metzger; one brother, Melvin Lang; and one grandson, Hunter Metzger. Father Anselm Eke presided.

Mary Marcella Weide, 99, of Topeka (formerly of Great Bend), passed away on March 15, 2018. She was a graduate of Spearville High School. She was married Milton Weide on Nov. 26, 1937. They enjoyed 70 years together before he preceded her in death on July 24, 2008. Mary was a ward clerk and nurse’s aide at the hospital in Great Bend. She was a founding member of the Daughters of Isabella in Great Bend, and recently received her 70 year pin. Mary was a member of the St. Patrick’s Altar Society in Great Bend. She is survived by her children, Jan Funnell, John Weide, Joe Weide and Jay Weide; seven grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; sister, Ermaele Newby; and sister-in-law, Kathy Snyder.

Mary Antonia (Toni) Wilson, 80, of Sacred Heart Parish, Larned, died March 11, 2018. She moved to Larned from Saint John three years ago, where she was a Licensed Nurse. She married John C. Wilson in Simi, CA. He died in 2014. Survivors include son, Timothy Guy King; two daughters, Laura Smith and Linda King Shields; sister, Susan Percy; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

John S. Koett, 66, of Sacred Heart Parish, Larned, died March 3, 2018. A lifetime area resident, he was a farmer/rancher near Belpre. On May 12, 1979 he married Rolinda Sherwood in Belpre. She preceded him in death on Nov. 2, 2005. Survivors include four sons, Jerome, Corey, Chad, and Austin; and seven grandchildren. Father Bernard Felix presided.

Leila D. Leon, 95, of St. Joseph Parish, Great Bend, died March 19, 2018. A Buckskin resident since 1966, moving from Minneola, she was a homemaker. On April 26, 1941 she married Cipriano Leon at Garden City. He preceded her in death on June 14, 1979. Leila is survived by her eight children; Robert Leon, Arlene Fernandez, Lillian Landwehr Parson, Josephine Archuletta; 48 grandchildren; 71 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. Father Robert Schremmer presided.

Shirley A. Weis, 79, of Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died March 20, 2018. Shirley was a homemaker, and a cook for USD 214 at the high school. She was an active member of Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church. She is survived by her sons, Larry and Steve; daughter, Michelle Martin; six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Father Peter Fernandez presided.
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*Source: Cost of Care Survey, John Hancock Life Insurance, Nov. 2008

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GABRIEL’S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 “Although you were ___ slaves of sin” (Rom 6:17)
4 Martyred bishop
7 His Holiness
9 An end to repent? 10 NT book
12 First patriarch, to his friends?
13 Direction from Bethlehem to the Jordan
14 Enemies of ancient Israel
17 To do this is human, but to forgive is divine
18 “Do not put the Lord your God to the ___” (Lk 4:12)
21 Fish part for Jonah
23 Biblical animal of transport
24 Image for the Church vis-a-vis Christ
26 Our ___ of Lourdes
29 Mediator ___
30 Lenten requirement
33 It burned without being consumed
35 The ___ Dolorosa
37 “…world without ___,” Amen
38 “God is the Supreme Being who ___ all things and keeps them in existence”
40 OT historical book
41 Time of Nicodemus’ visit
42 Novena number

DOWN
2 She takes vows
3 One of the prophets
5 Some say this biblical land is now part of Ethiopia
6 First NT epistle
7 Aaron, for example
8 They fill the church
9 The jawbone of this animal was a weapon for Samson
10 In 1 Corinthians, Paul says this is the glory of a woman
11 “…at the name of Jesus every knee should ___” (Phil 2:10)
15 What the sea bottom became when Moses parted it
16 “…and there was no man to ___ the ground” (Gen 2:5)
19 “… ___ lema sabachthani?” (Mk 15:34)
20 “…the Lord is with ___”
21 Angelus call
22 “…and ___ us not into temptation…”
23 Amos compared the women of Bashan to these animals
24 “Son off” in Hebrew
25 He left sad when Jesus told him to sell all he owned
27 Name of God
28 Number of loaves Christ had to feed the 5000
29 Lifeless biblical sea
31 A non-coveting commandment
32 Holy day cusp
34 “…to a child is ___”
35 Evil deed
36 Son of Jacob and Bilhah

NAMES

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32
33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42

DIVE

TEASER THE FIRST:
Can you morph one word into another letter at a time?

TEASER THE SECOND:
The answer to the riddle is a pair of words that rhyme with each other. Example: Large Feline would be Fat Cat.
1. Smart award
2. Sodium safe
3. Solar enjoyment
4. Serpent dessert
5. Sea lion cry
6. Large boat suggestion
7. Silent fighting
8. Skinny adolescent
9. Sniff, great
10. Salmon plate

TEASER THE THIRD:
You are a cyclist in a cross-country race. Just before the crossing finish line, you overtake the person in second place. In what place did you finish?

TEASER THE FOURTH:
A man is headed to a mountain along with a lion, a goat, and a basket of vegetables. On the way, he needs to cross a river and the boat can only carry two things at a time. If he takes the vegetables, the lion will eat the goat. If he takes the lion, the goat will eat the vegetables. How does he cross the river?

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
Father Arthur Kinsella was born June 21, 1919, in Merna, Ill. He made his religious profession as a Dominican friar on Aug. 16, 1940, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 18, 1946. He served as a teacher, preacher and pastor in Louisiana, Minnesota, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, Missouri and Wisconsin.

In 1951, Father Kinsella was one of the first three friars to establish a Dominican foreign mission in Nigeria, West Africa. Upon his return in 1955, he joined the faculty of St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City. At the same time he conducted Thomist lectures in Dodge City, Great Bend and Garden City.

He left Dodge City in 1959 and was chaplain and professor of philosophy at the College of Santa Fe and Superior of the Dominican Community. He was chaplain to the Dominican Sisters of Great Bend (1965-66); professor at St. Edward University, Austin, Tex., and Prior (1966-75).

He returned to Great Bend in 1975 and was assigned to the Pilgrim House of Praise where he gave retreats and was part of a preaching team. In 1979 he was appointed pastor of St. Dominic Parish, Denver, Colo.

In 1984, Father Kinsella was appointed pastor of St. Joseph, Scott City and St. Theresa, Dighton; and was given approval to form a team ministry in these parishes with three Dominican Sisters. He left the diocese in 1986.

Father Kinsella died April 6, 2008, at the Resurrection Life Center in Chicago, from complications due to advanced age. Father Brendan Curran, O.P., was the main celebrant at the memorial Mass at Saint Pius V Church, Chicago. At his request, his body was given to the study of science.

In 1951, Father Kinsella was one of the first three friars to establish a Dominican foreign mission in Nigeria.
SKC dates, deadlines

Issue date/deadline

April 15/April 4
May 6/April 25
May 20/May 9
June 3/May 23

Dates are subject to change.

Questions? Contact Dave at skregister@dcdiocese.org, or call (620) 227-1519.

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Word Search

First:
dive
dime
dame
name

Second:
1. Wize Prize
2. Salt Vault
3. Sun Fun
4. Snake Cake
5. Seal Squeal
6. Ship Tip
7. Quiet Riot
8. Lean Teen
9. Smell Swell
10. Fish Dish

Third:
Second Place. If you pass the person in second, you take second place, and they become third.

Fourth:
Trip 1: He takes the goat with him, leaving the lion and the vegetables behind. On reaching the other riverbank, he drops off the goat.

Trip 2: He then comes back for the lion, leaving the vegetables behind. On reaching the bank this time, he drops the lion, and again takes the goat along.

Trip 3: He drops off the goat again and takes the vegetables with him to the other shore.

Trip 4: Lastly, he comes back alone for the goat. That night he eats supper at Taco Bell and watches "It Came from Outer Space," neither of which have anything to do with this riddle.

Dates are subject to change.

Issue date/deadline

April 15/April 4
May 6/April 25
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June 3/May 23

Questions? Contact Dave at skregister@dcdiocese.org, or call (620) 227-1519.
‘I was homeless, and you gave me shelter’

From Page 6

“Our goal for them is to be self-sustainable.”

They are mostly single men who come to the Catholic Charities office, Smith said, but there are couples and children as well. Sadly, there are far more in need than there are resources to meet those needs.

Catholic Charities does not have the staff or financial resources for an unlimited number of clients, so it must try to limit its clients to a total of 16 homes.

“There are currently seven homes being served in Dodge City, and 11 in Garden City, which adds up to 18,” Smith said.

“Brooke [Hamlin-Lopez, Family Support Specialist], is the case worker for Garden City,” Smith said. “This is a difficult population to case manage, so we all work together to help the case management process run more smoothly.

“We pay the first three months rent and the safety deposit,” Smith explained. Every three months, Smith’s staff will visit with the clients to reassess their situation.

“We help find them housing and work with landlords,” Smith said. “Our clients are never charged more than 30 percent of their income.” And if they don’t have some sort of income, Catholic Charities helps them to apply for various programs that will assist them as they get back on their feet. She is “SOAR” certified, which means Smith can help individuals apply for disability if they are homeless or at the risk of homelessness.

“My greatest reward is seeing people make changes in their lives, become self-sufficient,” Smith said.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

– Matthew 25:40

“Engage at every age”

Senior/Boomer Expo to kick off Older Americans Month

The SouthWest Kansas Area Agency On Aging’s (SWKAAA) 32nd Annual Senior Expo will be Thursday, April 26, at the Dodge City Civic Center.

“Engage at every age” is the national theme for this day long celebration, which will also recognize May as Older Americans Act Month.

Activities begin at 9:30 a.m. with the Madrigal Singers from the Dodge City High School Choral Department performing the National Anthem and other musical numbers.

Darlene Marshal, SWKAAA Board Chair, will provide opening remarks and read a proclamation signed by the board of directors declaring May as Older Americans Month. She will encourage all seniors to celebrate positive aging.

More than 35 social, service and business exhibits will display products and services of interest to seniors, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers, from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Door prizes from area merchants will be given away throughout the day. At 10:30 a.m., seniors will try their luck at various competitive games around the arena.

At noon, a box lunch will be provided by the Dodge City Senior Center for a nominal charge.

At 12:15 p.m. participants will hear a presentation from Dr. Lou Scott, DVM - “Pets For the Heart”. His workshop will focus on the benefits of seniors having pets and how to take care of them in an apartment setting.

Afternoon activities start at 1 p.m. on the big stage with musical entertainment by the Buckner Creek Band from Spearville.

Activities will conclude at 2:30 p.m. with the Mega Bingo Blackout (a $300 cash jackpot) for age 60 and over, and an ice cream social for all ages.

SWKAAA’s Senior Expo is free to attend thanks to the generous support of the sponsors listed in the ad below.
The annual Chrism Mass, during which the bishop blesses the three holy oils, is also an occasion for the diocese to recognize those who are celebrating milestones in their service to the diocese, and to thank those who have served the diocese in special ways. At the reception following Mass, the following honorees were presented a gift from the diocese:

FATHER ULTAN MURPHY, 65 years of priestly ministry, continued in active ministry until age 87, having become the oldest active Catholic priest in Kansas. Father Murphy has a multitude of joyful memories: "The happiest part of my ministry has been many converts – marriages – getting people back to the Church. I miss visiting the kids in the classroom on Sunday morning. That was one of my better things to do."

FATHER JIM DIEKER, 25 years of priestly ministry, earned his Doctor of Veterinary Science degree before deciding to serve the two-legged ilk. He was a member of St. Anthony Parish in Fowler. Father John Lavrich was pastor. "Father Lavrich was a very seasoned and dedicated pastor. As a refugee, his life story was compelling, but his charismatic faith was intoxicating. He prayed for vocations constantly. I went to him on a whim to learn German. We never got around to studying German, but discovered my real search was for faith and direction in my personal life."

BISHOP STANLEY SCHLARMAN, 60 years of priestly ministry: In 1983, Bishop Schlarman was named bishop of the Diocese of Dodge City, where he remained until 1998 when he returned to the Diocese of Belleville, where he was reared. In 2003 he became Vicar for Priests in Joliet, Ill. In 2006 he returned to Belleville where he served as Vicar for Priests. "I love the priesthood and the priests of this diocese," he said "I would never have done anything different from what God has asked me to do."

LUKE BLAIR, graduate of Pastoral Ministry Formation Program, is a pastoral assistant at Prince of Peace Parish in Great Bend, and is a member of the Pastoral Council and Liturgy Commission. "I appreciate how the Pastoral Ministry Formation program not only provides classes that build a theological background, but also has classes and seminars that allow you to collaborate with others around the diocese on how to apply the material in a hands-on way to become more effective ministers to God’s people."

ALEX CHAVEZ, graduate of Pastoral Ministry Formation Program: "Enrolling in the PMF program has been a true blessing in my life. I feel like it’s a birth of my intellectual faith. I would recommend this to anyone who yearns to have a deeper knowledge of our Catholic Faith or who has a calling to serve God."

BILL TRENKLE, retiring from the Diocese of Dodge City Diocesan Counsel: During his more then three decades in the Diocese of Dodge City, Trenkle was active in the cathedral parish, including serving as DDP chair one year and as one of the chairs of the cathedral building campaign. A member of the Knights of Columbus, Trenkle served as fundraising chairman for the diocese and as Chairman of the Board for St. Mary of the Plains College. He is the former primary attorney for the Diocese of Dodge City.

VIBRANT MINISTRIES DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, for their support and commitment to the Diocesan Appeal: Farrel and Mary Ellen Bleumer; Thelma C. ‘Toke’ Heiman; Gerald and Joan Vogel; Ron Eakes; Jose Manuel; Maria Isabel Sanchez; Norma Alvarez; Bill and Ruth Baalman; Maurice Bleumer; Joe Gleason; Luis and Catalina Guzman; Trish Keller; Greg and Regina Lex; Adam and Maria Monarez; Ignacio Ortiz; Oscar and Marta Rodriguez; Duane Tasset.

By DAVE MYERS

The Chrism Mass, March 22 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, can’t help but be a celebration of our diocesan family. It’s when priests of the diocese come together to renew their priestly promises, witnessed by representatives from every parish in the diocese.

It is when the Most Rev. John B. Brungardt blesses each of the three vessels of oil: Oil of the Sick, Oil of the Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism. Representatives arrive with empty vessels, and leave with consecrated oil to be used in the most sacred ceremonies.

“In a Chrism Mass, the bishop of the diocese consecrates the Chrism and blesses the holy oil of the catechumens and the oil for the anointing of the sick. These oils will be taken by representatives from each parish to be used in sacramental life.

“These oils remind us of Jesus, whose name is Christ, meaning the ‘Anointed One.’”

Speaking first in Spanish and then in English, the bishop described the different oils:

CATECHUMEN: "Before the Baptism, a blessing occurs with the words ‘We anoint you with the Holy Oil of Salvation in the name of Christ our Savior. May he strengthen you with his power.’"

This anointing strengthens a person as he or she prepares to be baptized, become a Catholic, and to receive the faith of Jesus Christ.

OIL OF SICK: "Jesus visited and healed the sick many times, according to the gospels. The Church teaches that the anointing of the sick gives the grace of the Holy Spirit to those who are sick. By this grace the whole person is helped, sustained by a trust in God. He or she is strengthened against temptation, against anxiety or death.

“It’s a great blessing for me and my brother priests to visit the sick, to pray for them and their families, to offer them this beautiful sacrament of healing,” the bishop said.

Turning toward the priests, the bishop exhorted them: "Priests: do not hesitate to visit the sick.”

CHRISM: “Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized receive strength through the Holy Spirit in order to imitate Christ and live as witnesses in the world.

"Confirmation is an often misunderstood sacrament,” the bishop said. “It strengthens the faith of the person. Confirmation is not a rite of passage, not a graduation from religious education, not becoming an adult Catholic. Confirmation is a strengthening of your Catholic faith by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“The Sacred Chrism is also used in the ordination rite of priests and deacons. After my homily, the priests assembled here will renew their commitment to priestly service. Each year we rededicate ourselves as priests to Jesus’s New Covenant. This commitment takes sacrifice, humility, compassion, unconditional love, and a grateful heart.”

The bishop named those celebrating jubilees (see the sidebar at left), and thanked them for their service.

“Let us thank the Lord for this gift of our sacramental life. Let us trust and be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as we are anointed by the oils. Let us imitate Christ, the Anointed One. He loves us more than we can ask or imagine.”

The Most Rev. John B. Brungardt consecrates the Chrism Oil.

Volunteers prepare the blessed oils to be taken back to the parishes by the parish representatives.

Primitivo and Maria Corona collect the blessed oils to be taken to Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Ulysses.