Let us grow in prayer

W e often hear people say “I would like a deeper prayer life.” But, how? My favorite definition of prayer is “being aware of the presence of God.” God is with us always; if He wasn’t, we would cease to exist – Poof! But how do we deepen our awareness of the presence of our Loving Lord?

This article continues our series on the Good News: we need a Savior, He is Christ Jesus, who died and rose for us, who invites us to believe and respond, and who asks us to follow Him and His Church, not the world; and on Kingdom Living: How do we put this Good News of Jesus into practice? The start: Daily Prayer.

Other definitions of prayer:
-- Communicating with God: both speaking and listening,
-- Using our voice, mind, heart, soul, hands/feet to show our love to God, and receive His love,
-- A characteristic of prayer: “ceaseless” -- to pray at all times! St Paul: “Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18), or -- “Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God” (CCC #2559).

The Catechism lists five forms of prayer (CCC # 2623-2649):
1. Prayer of Blessing (both descending and ascending), this form includes adoration of the Trinity. “With heartfelt love let us adore him” (Good Friday, Morning Prayer — MP — Intercessions).
2. Prayer of Petition, includes asking for forgiveness. “May we die with you, to rise with you in glory” (Good Friday, MP, Intercessions).
3. Prayer of Intercession, asking on behalf of another. “Help us to share your love to one another” (Good Friday, MP, Intercessions).
4. Prayer of Thanksgiving. “Thanks be to God” (last words at every Holy Mass). “We give you thanks for your great glory” (Gloria).
5. Prayer of Praise, simply because “GOD IS.” “May we offer you our joyful sacrifice of praise” (Easter Sunday, MP, Intercessions).

My favorite little prayers of exhortation:
-- “Jesus, help me.”
-- “Mary, be with me.”
-- “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, Your beloved.” (The Jesus Prayer)

But all the definitions and lists and examples do not tell us how to deepen our prayer life. We need to pray! We need to beg our Compassionate Heavenly Father to teach us to pray, to assist us to grow in our prayer life. And we need to do our part to reserve time each day to pray, and expect prayer times which occur unexpectedly! Hope in Jesus, the Risen One, our Savior. Trust in the Holy Spirit, who “helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very same Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). Our Gentle Trinity will assist, for we are beloved children of God, who wants us to deepen our relationship with Him.

Some 120 women, men and children enter fully the Catholic Church at Easter Vigils held across the diocese

*Father Wesley Schawe, pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City, baptizes Carolina Rodriguez at the Easter Vigil March 31. As Father Schawe completed a baptism, Father Aneesh Parappanattu, MSFS, Parochial Vicar, baptized an individual on the other side of the font. Rodriguez was one of approximately 120 men, women and children who received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, at Easter Vigils held across the diocese. 

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“LET THE RESURRECTION JOY LIFT US FROM LONELINESS AND WEAKNESS AND DESPAIR TO STRENGTH AND BEAUTY AND HAPPINESS.”
— Floyd W. Tomkins

Southwest Kansas

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

Catholic
Newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City
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The Resurrection is a deep current flowing through you, the deepest part of where you are and who you are. That’s easy enough for you to see when life smiles upon you. Easy, when you are rested, and refreshed, and riding on top of your world and your life. Then you can almost feel the power of the Resurrection within you.

That’s not so easy for you to see when life frowns upon you. Not so easy, when you are pressed, and pressured by the tasks, and the worries, and the anxieties of life. Then the last thing you can feel is the power of the Resurrection within you.

But that is the very time when that power is most present and most active in your lives. You just don’t like what it is then doing in you. You just don’t like what it is then showing you. You are just not ready for the steps it is then asking you to take.

What the Risen Lord is showing you is the dark list of the things that are holding you back from him. Your wounds, your fears, your hesitations, your compromises, your anxieties, your addictions, your sins: he is allowing all these to work their way to the surface of your minds and hearts, He is allowing you to feel the weight of their dead hands.

He wants you to notice, and to feel these things, because he wants you to do something about them. Without his Grace, you could not recognize them. Without recognizing them, you could not open yourself to his redeeming, healing power.

His Resurrection is meant to set you free from all those dark things, and to do so by healing them. Replace the dead hand with his healing hand.

To be set free from the dark places

He’s easy enough for you to see when you are pressed, and pressured by the tasks, and the worries, and the anxieties of life. Then the last thing you can feel is the power of the Resurrection within you.

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Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, May 28-June 7, 2018

Father John Forkuoh, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Spearville, will lead a trip to the Holy Land from May 28 - June 7, 2018. The trip will include the following locations: Jerusalem • Nazareth • Bethlehem • Via Crucis • Cana • Dormition • Nativity Church • Capernaum • Last Supper • Getseman • Tel Aviv.

The price is discounted at $3,800 and includes Mass each day, airfare, 4-5 star hotels, breakfast and dinner, tips, taxes, etc. Call 855-842-8001 in order to sign up and ask any questions you have. You can also e-mail Sandi at sandi@proximottravel.com.

THANKS FOR READING THIS ARTICLE. I’M YOUR BISHOP, BISHOP JOHN, AND I INVITE YOU TO REFLECT ON THIS SERIES OF ARTICLES ABOUT GOD’S VOCATIONAL CALL FOR YOU (ALL BOYS AND SINGLE MEN).

Yes, that boy is me, in my Cub Scout uniform – maybe you were/are in the Scouts. My family lived in Manhattan at the time, and I attended Seven Dolors Catholic Grade School and Parish. Then our family moved to a farm between Chapman and Abilene. I was blessed to be raised by my Dad and Mom in a Catholic family. As an adult, my job was as a science teacher in Wichita.

Then I began to ask...
It takes a community
Colorado woman creates a place of refuge

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

LAKEWOOD, COLO. “Last night I had a bad dream about the Taliban attacking,” said an Afghan youth as he sat at a kitchen table in a large, white farmhouse.

Behind the house, a tract of farm land juts up against a long apartment complex. It’s an area where the urban landscape literally meets the rural countryside.

A couple of horses romp nearby. Roosters crow in the distance.

Sitting beside “Asghar” at the table, is his friend, Pamir, as well as Renata Heberton, founder of what dozens of child refugees and formerly homeless Americans know as Angelica Village.

While still in her 20s, the 33-year-old purchased a duplex where she began fostering children. Today, she oversees five living spaces — including houses and apartments — where formerly homeless families live and thrive in community.

“A friend and I bought this house for the ‘Unaccompanied Refugee Minor,’” Heberton said of the large, white house. The term indicates a status which the youth fall under as refugees.

“We hosted a ‘GoFundMe’ site [a free internet fundraising platform] for the down payment on the house,” said Heberton, who has a master’s degree in social work.

“We raised $30,000 in 10 days. We had incredible support.”

“We’re a licensed foster home.”

Asghar lives in Michigan where he is a high school senior. When the Catholic visited, he was in Colorado on Spring Break visiting his friend, Pamir. On April 27, he will have been in the United States two years.

Along with his two brothers and mother, Asghar escaped the grasp of the Taliban and made it to Pakistan. But peace was illusive. The Taliban made its presence known there, too.

Under the status, “Unaccompanied Refugee Minor,” Asghar was able to escape to the United States with the help of Bethany Christian Services and the support of the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees — a UN refugee agency). It was in Pakistan where he met his friend sitting next to him in the Colorado kitchen.

“It’s a very different country than what I expected,” Asghar said of his new home in the United States. “The hardest part has been learning English,” and getting used to American cuisine, he added with a laugh.

With the bad dream from the previous night echoing in his head, he said, “Here it is safe. You can work. You can go anywhere you want. The people are nice. They are very kind.”

The soft-spoken Pamir, 17, who like many of the other youth in Angelica Village was sponsored by Lutheran Family Services, escaped Afghanistan with his family to Pakistan when he was “too young to remember.” The teen has only been in the United States four-and-a-half months, and is still getting used to a range of allergies he has suffered.

Abel, another youth — a teenager from Uganda by-way-of the Congo — yawned as he entered the kitchen and began fixing breakfast. The 10 youth living at the home are all on spring break, Heberton said, which is why they were lumbering sleepily into the kitchen at 10 a.m. instead of being off at school.

“When I came here, it was very exciting,” the tall, 19-year-old said. “I’m happy here. It’s better education, better work. In Africa it was hard to get an education. There was not enough money for education. I cannot go to school. That’s one of the reasons why I wanted to come here. You can get everything you want with help, or on your own.”

As he spoke, a diminutive dog appeared in the kitchen doorway. She is Jeta, Abel’s older sister. The two, along with their brother, have lived in the home for approximately two years.

When asked, she said she misses her homeland. One can almost feel her heartache for the home she was forced to leave behind.

“I love Africa. Africa is my favorite dream, which I will never forget.”

Other youth living in the home (or who have lived there in the past) include kids from Guatemala, Honduras, and Columbia. She also has fostered youth from Denver, and Native Americans from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and from the Navajo Reservation in the Four Corners region.

As a typical parent, Heberton helps the youth to discover their path in life, encourages them when it’s time to get a job, and urges them to think about college.

As the interview continued, a truck pulled up to the house with a delivery of fertilizer for a large garden the household maintains.

Heberton hopes to form a community garden one day for all of Angelica Village. In fact, it’s Heberton’s dream that Angelica Village will one day be as closely knit physically — a real village — as the members are spiritually and emotionally.

“We build relationships,” Heberton said. “One of the biggest injustices in the world is when people are not connected in their community. Community allows people to thrive and discover their potential.”

She has help in her amazing endeavor to serve the homeless and the young refugees. Though spread out across a large neighborhood, with members from several countries and cultures, residents of Angelica Village represent one community. This is at the heart and soul of Heberton’s mission. In fact, she hopes to one day form a “creative art and music space,” a “therapeutic center” for the arts and physical therapies, such as massage, as well as a community corner store providing staples for families and youth in transition.

And she hopes to one day be able to open her doors to those with physical and intellectual disabilities.

As their mission statement reads, “Through love, care, and sustained mutual support, Angelica Village nurtures conscious community living spaces where people with special abilities, families seeking refuge from war and violence, individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and fellow community partners receive what they need and share what they can.”
The art of anger

Who said the following?

“Don’t make me angry. You wouldn’t like me when I’m angry.”

If you guessed the “Incredible Hulk,” you’re right. If you envisioned actor Bill Bixby saying it, then you may well have grown up in the 70s.

For a kid growing up before computer special effects, seeing a green Lou Ferrigno with a really bad haircut smashing his way toward the terrible bad guy was just the coolest. He was a bully to the bullies. He was a crime-stopping monster. It was sort of like if you gave Frankenstein a bad haircut and made him a detective. Which, now that I think about it, is just about the most awesome idea ever! (Note to self: Call Hollywood.)

I was thinking about this on Easter night as I watched the live version of “Jesus Christ Superstar.” You see, earlier that day, at Easter Mass at the little chapel in my folks’ assisted living center in Denver, the priest noted that he didn’t see Jesus actually working in others, even in himself.

At first, I wanted to respond, “Open your eyes, man! Jesus’s examples are seen every day!” But I knew what he meant. At least I think I did. I think he meant that we need to more actively embody and act on Jesus’s teachings and example. Enough so that people can see us as followers of Christ and not just a faint shadow of his teachings.

And if you think he was preaching to the choir — a group of elderly people crammed for the final exam of life — consider this. Just prior to Mass, an elderly greeter who served as a greeter earlier that day, at Easter Mass at the little chapel in my folks’ assisted living center in Denver, the priest noted that he didn’t see Jesus actually working in others, even in himself.

“I like the Christ who my brain was still fully functioning.”

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Names of Guyanese Women

By ANDREA HALLER

Editor’s Note: The following is reprinted with permission from the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

Hello, let me introduce myself. My name is Andrea. I am more commonly known as “White Gyal” by the men on the streets of Guyana where I serve as a teacher to boys living at an orphanage. The boys know me as “Miss Andrea.”

Everyday I commute to work using my own two feet and the bus. The hardest part is walking, not because it is a long distance or uphill both ways, but because men address me with terribly degrading comments, each one more insulting, sexual, and aggressive than the last.

As I walk, I think about the women who experience this their whole lives. Young girls see their fathers call out to women as they are walking through the market. Maturing teenagers are expected to be flattened as they walk home from school and hear whistles as they walk past the bar. Women are carrying their small children with them as men ask if they could make more together. It is absolutely disturbing for women to be treated in such a way. It is as if they are a piece of meat or a prize to be won. How can this not wear on women? Surely, many of them learn to believe these false names and lies they are told.

As I sit with the boys along the fence at the orphanage, I consider how they perceive women. Do they view women as a commodity? They are the most consistent male role models they have are the older boys and the men whom they pass on the street. These sweet and loving boys are growing up in a culture where men are taught to catcall women, and women are taught to take it. Unfortunately, many of them accept these roles and do not realize the negative effects. I have sat with them while they call out and whistle to young women walking by.

My immediate reaction is to try to talk about their motivation for saying something, how it might make the woman feel, and better ways of getting the attention of people they find attractive.

I have learned that this doesn’t work so well. The boys feel very strongly about showing their dominance and are quick to defend their methods. It scares me for the boys, their future partners, and children. I know that in their beautiful, pure hearts they do not desire to have unhealthy relationships where the women are objects. Nor do they want their future daughters to be treated, or their sons to treat women, in the same way they do.

I found hope for them and the women of Guyana in an upsetting event. I sat with the boys along the fence in our usual spots talking about school and football. Suddenly, one of the big boys said, “Miss, you need to leave.”

I tried to ask why, and he and Frankly hish shook his head. Just then a man walked up to me and said, “Aye white gyal. Good Afternoon.” I simply responded with, “Good Afternoon,” and began to walk away. Normally, this method works well. Unfortunately, this man continued saying, “I need a nice sexy white gal an it look like you duh one.”

I went behind a building in hopes that he would walk away. He didn’t. The man decided to tell the boys about all of my physical features that he lustted for. I was devastated, but not for me, for the boys. This is how they are learning to treat women. What do I do? I can’t change a culture.

These amazing boys gave me hope in their response to the man. One of the younger boys, Nate, came out and met with me. The was.stoic and telling me it would be okay. He did this in between peeking out from behind the building to tell the man, “She gone away.” After the man finally left, an older boy, Levi, sat with me and we had a meaningful conversation about the way men treat women. He asked me about the sexual harassment I have experienced and how it has affected me. We talked about how hurtful it is to feel objectified. He said to me, “Miss, I will never let anyone treat you that way again, and I won’t ever treat anyone like that. I promise.”

Nate and Frankly showed compassion that day. Their compassion gave me hope. I have hope that they will recall this day when they consider calling out to women in the future. I have hope that they will spread their compassion for women to their peers. This is how change happens.

It is not about trying to tell, or even reason with, them what is right. They have to have experiences that change their heart and open their minds.

In the future, I hope that each woman of Guyana learns her true name. This is what will keep them strong as they are called these insults. Eventually, they will only be the true name given to them.

This name is Beautiful Daughter of God.

Andrea Haller is a 2016 graduate of Ohio Dominican University where she studied Early Childhood Education and Intervention Specialist. She recently completed a year of service with Mercy Volunteer Corps in Georgetown, Guyana, where she worked at St. John Bosco Boys’ Orphanage and Bosco Academy.

To accompany, as God accompanies

By Mary Sharon Moore

Poor, Like Jesus

It’s the 1960’s. Maybe 1963, on a Sunday morning. My family and I are coming home from Mass. We’ll have breakfast. Then Daddy will drive back to church to sing in the eleven o’clock choir.

We approach the crest of the little hill on Iron Mountain Road, and something goes terribly wrong. We’re veering across the line into the oncoming lane.

Daddy? From the back seat I see my father go rigid. I hear an eerily uncontrollable groan.

Mother scooches across the seat and tries to move his foot off the pedals. I see the ashen face and blank stare of a man in seizure.

Mother overpowers his grip, and steers us to a stop in front of a house, a house we’ve passed hundreds of times, a house between here and there.

Three of us tumble and push over one another to get out of the back seat. I’m glad to be out, because what’s happening to my Daddy right now scares me, and breaks my heart. We also need to find help.

I race up the steps and pound on the front door. “Help us! Help us, please!” Pound pound. “It’s an emergency.”

No sound. I look back. The car doors are open. Mother has laid Daddy across the front seat. Pound pound. “Please help us! We need an ambulance! Please!”

Finally the door opens a crack. A woman sizes us up. Maybe our distress scares her. Maybe she thinks we’re just acting, ready to barge in and rob her. Reluctantly, I sense, she calls for an ambulance while we wait outside.

I notice as we turn to go down the steps that she does not come out to see if there is anything, anything she can do.

I notice how alone we are, my family and me, alongside the road, in the throes of trauma on this ordinary Sunday morning.

I think about these things today as I listen to the news. Different tragedy, same distant response.

About 80 Assyrian and Armenian religious minority Christians are stuck in Vienna, a reporter says, their applications for U.S. asylum denied. But they cannot remain in Austria.

These refugees hang in a limbo of sorts, hoping for home, somewhere. A year they’ve been pounding, waiting while they “undergo investigation.”

Human anguish is a language which bears its own moral eloquence, speaks its own urgent truth. Human anguish, eventually, visits us all.

And it demands better than to be put on hold because we might be inconvenienced by the needs of the dispossessed. They ask too much. What if their plight is not all that crucial? What if they just want to get their foot in the door of opportunity? We are not responsible for their situation, the nations say. We didn’t ask for their neediness.

And neither did they.

Who are these strangers, anyway? The anguished ones—who could be any of us by tomorrow morning—pound in desperation.

Yes, and in hope that the door will be opened, that help will arrive, that compassion will flow through the pipeline of human accommodation and genuine care for the stranger.

Sadly, care for strangers too often demands proof that I should get involved in your mess, that I should get mixed up in your need.

Who are you, anyway? Convince me that I should be inconvenienced by your pathetic neediness.

We call this attitude “othering.” It is the tragic opposite of communio, the sacred and intimate communion of Eucharist with God-who-accompanies.

Whether it’s children knocking wildly at your door on a Sunday morning, or families exhausted from religious persecution, forced exodus, tenacious hope, and eventual denial of a fresh start in life in a foreign land, the invitation to accompany, as God accompanies, is everywhere.

(c) Mary Sharon Moore, 2018.

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Visit marysharonmoore.com.
April 3 marked one year since Father Marvin Reif went missing

April 3 marked the one-year anniversary of the disappearance of Father Marvin Reif. On April 3, 2017, Father Reif walked away from his residence at Valley Manor Nursing Home in Protection, Kansas.

The 54-year-old priest was receiving treatment for mental health issues, from which he had suffered for several years. An initial search that was conducted when he went missing bore no fruit. A second major search, April 13, 2017, which included more than 70 volunteers and the Most Rev. John Brungardt, also failed to locate Father Reif.

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

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

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

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

In March of 2017, Father Reif shared this Lenten message on a Facebook post.

It reads, in part:

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

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

It is a very easy way to pray. St. Paul makes it sound difficult by saying that we are to pray always. It’s the simple prayer of Mary when the angel came to her in the Annunciation, and that is the prayer: “Thy will be done!” Many times it is hard at first, but it becomes easy when we understand and believe that God always has the perfect plan for our lives, and yes, even in the struggles and situations in which we find ourselves.

...He has a perfect plan for your life, and that plan is sometimes so, different than your plan. Surrender to Him and let His holy will guide you in all things.

Father Reif is 5’8”, weighs 265 pounds, has blond hair and blue eyes. If you see Father Reif, please contact the Comanche County Sheriff’s Office at (620) 582-2511, or call 911.

The diocese thanks all those who have prayed for the safe return of Father Marvin, and asks that we all continue to do so.

Father Ultan Murphy’s advice to Olmitz parishioners upon his retirement in 2014

“A sad anniversary

April 3 marked one year since Father Marvin Reif went missing

At the March 20, 2017 Chrism Mass, Father Ultan Murphy, far right, enjoys the dinner reception with fellow Irish priest Father (Andrew) McGovern, myself, and Father Kieran Murray.

(Msgr.) Pat Leahy, God love him, and (Msgr.) John Cody arrived and took us to Dodge City, and we met Bishop (John B.) Franz … and that’s the way it was. I still have the card I drew out of the hat.”

Father Kenny then opened a file, pulled out a card with well-worn corners. “It is very simple, just a postcard. It defined the destiny of a young man,” he said with a hearty laugh.

“Stay the course and believe in God and say your prayers. Take your children to Mass and make sure your children go to religion class.”

-- Father Ultan Murphy’s advice to Olmitz parishioners upon his retirement in 2014

Father Murphy honored for 65 years of ministry

At the March 22 Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

By TIM WENZL and DAVE MYERS

A t the March 22 Chrism Mass, Father Murphy was celebrated for 65 years of service as a priest.

At the reception to follow, he told those gathered that prior to he and the other Irish transplants first making their way out to the newly formed Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, he was told how beautiful it was on the prairies of Southwest Kansas: expansive fields of grain wafting like waves in the wind; fields of cattle paying tribute to the economy of the region; and good farm folk eager for the Good Word.

“When we arrived in Dodge City there was this massive cloud of dust. I turned to the others and said, ‘What the hell have we gotten ourselves into?’

The large crowd erupted into laughter.

In 2014, Father Murphy, then 87, retired after 33 years as pastor of St. Ann’s Parish in Olmitz. At the time of his retirement, he had the distinction of being the oldest active Catholic pastor in the state of Kansas.

Father Murphy was appointed pastor at Olmitz and Holy Trinity, Timken, in 1980. He served both parishes for 23 years until he announced his retirement earlier in 2003. He reconsidered, and his responsibilities were reduced to the Olmitz parish at that time. His official title also changed to “parochial administrator.”

“I’ll do what I do now,” Father Murphy said in 2014, “Say Mass every day, visit the sick, just fill in if I’m needed. They’re not going to miss me. No, I’ll be here; I’ll be around. I don’t go home to Ireland anymore. My nieces and nephews come over here every few years. No need for me to go. With communication now, it’s just like being there — almost.

“After having served these people, I can say without any reservations, they’re just good people. All solid people, many from Eastern Europe, who brought the faith with them and kept the faith and are doing their best to pass that on to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. I’ve seen it in all of my 33 years.”

When asked about his happiest memories, Father Murphy responded: “The happiest part of my ministry has been many converts – marriages – getting people back to the Church. I’ll probably miss visiting the kids in the classroom on Sunday morning. That was one of my better things to do.”

Father Murphy resigned the pastorate at Olmitz with this simple advice to the parishioners, “Stay the course and believe in God and say your prayers. Take your children to Mass and make sure your children go to religion class.”

Father Murphy was ordained June 7, 1953, by The Most Reverend John Staunton, bishop of Ferns, at St. Peter’s Seminary, Wexford, Ireland. He was recruited for the Diocese of Wichita, but was transferred to the Diocese of Dodge City by agreement of Bishop Mark K. Carroll and Bishop John B. Franz. He has served under all six of the bishops who have shepherded the Diocese of Dodge City.

Father Murphy’s assignments include: assistant pastor at St. John, Hoisington, (two terms); and St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend; and pastor at St. Mary’s Loretto; St. John’s, Kiowa; St. John, St. John, and St. Francis, Seward; Holy Rosary, Medicine Lodge; and St. John’s, Kiowa, all prior to his appointment at Olmitz and Timken.

Father Anselm Eke, MSP, resident pastor at St. John the Evangelist, Hoisington, was assigned to the additional pastorate at St. Ann’s, Olmitz.
Cimarron couple seeks child to share home, family, unconditional love

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

Editor’s Note: The following is part of a continuing series on local couples seeking to adopt through the Catholic Charities of SW Kansas Adoption Program. If you would like to see a video/slideshow about the Staats, go to http://catholiccharitiesswks.org/services/adopt/our-waiting-families.

Their eyes met from across the crowded room and suddenly time stood still. The boy and the girl approached each other slowly, perhaps a bit apprehensively, guided by divine providence toward what they couldn’t know then was a destiny designed by God. Well, that’s not … entirely accurate. I mean, this was preschool after all, and it would be a few years before the youngsters even entered the Kootie stage, much less recognized any sort of future destiny.

Kallie and Rodney Staats of Cimarron are among those rare married couples who can say they’ve known each other since they could barely form sentences. And today, in their home just blocks from where they were reared, the couple are working through Catholic Charities of SW Kansas Adoption Program to begin a family.

“Our private adoption company wanted $30,000,” said Kallie, who works for United Telecommunications. “Catholic Charities was better, more economical. I also like that it’s non-profit. Nobody should get rich off a child.”

The pair approached Catholic Charities two years ago, while adoption social worker Lori Titsworth guided them through the intensive process of preparation for becoming adoptive parents. It doesn’t cost $30,000, but it’s not cheap.

“It is cheap!” countered Rodney, a diesel mechanic. “That’s not the right word. I should say ‘economical’. It’s based on your income. If someone doesn’t make a lot of money, they can still adopt.”

By August of last year — after an extensive review and education process — the couple placed their video/slideshow onto the Catholic Charities website (http://catholiccharitiesswks.org/services/adopt/our-waiting-families), introducing themselves to birth parents who may be considering the adoption process. There you learn that Kallie and Rodney were friends all through school; they didn’t fall in love until after each had graduated from college. Before then, they’d spent those freedom-filled days of childhood and youth hanging out together from time to time, cruising Main Street with mutual friends, never knowing that their futures were tied inexorably together.

On June 4, the couple will celebrate 13 years of marriage – among which have been times of great joy and great heartbreak. A few years ago, the two became foster parents to two young children, a boy and a girl, belonging to a marriage – among which have been times of great joy and heartbreak.

“Standing still,” said Rodney, his grease-stained coveralls and the machine shop – the people of Rwanda, with whom he spent a two-week mission last year.

Kindergarten class photo: The future Mr. and Mrs. Staats are pictured on the far right of the second and third row.

“‘I can’t believe as poor as they are, how happy and content they are. They show love for everyone. And they’re forgiving. The people who killed their families are now getting out of jail – people who lived right next door – and they’re forgiving them.”

— Rodney Staats. describing the people of Rwanda, with whom he spent a two-week mission last year.

As the couple looks forward to the day when God leads a child to their door, Kallie looks back on those two years as a foster mom as a time of our lives, but it was also the best. It was a mental roller coaster.”

After two years, the birth parents petitioned to have their children returned, and the courts decided in their favor. It’s not difficult to imagine the sadness Kallie and Rodney endured.

“When they took them away, that was heartbreaking,” Rodney said softly. “It was God’s will. The good Lord was preparing us for something else.”

Last year, Rodney was offered the chance to spend a mission trip in Rwanda with a ministry started by his sister Kendra Willard and her husband, Ruben, called, “Lift Them Up.”

“We had prayer meetings; we talked with the children,” Rodney explained of his time in Rwanda.

“They like to touch. The men there don’t have hair on their arms, and some of them have never seen a white person. So, there was me and Ruben, two hairy white guys. “I can’t believe as poor as they are, how happy and content they are,” Rodney added. “They show love for everyone. And they’re forgiving. The people who killed their families are now getting out of jail – people who lived right next door – and they’re forgiving them.”

The wait for an adoptive child requires two things: 1) patience and 2) more patience. As the couple looks forward to the day when God leads a child to their door, Kallie looks back on those two years as a foster mom as a mirror for what is to come.

“It’s the unconditional love — those hugs and smiles and kisses for no reason at all, and the conversations with children — that I look forward to. You never know what they will say. You may have a bad day, and they can bring you right back up.”

“‘I’m going to enjoy teaching them things,” said Rodney, his grease-stained coveralls and the machine shop, wood shop and a large garden on their surrounding property paying testimony to a man who is expert at making things work.

“And spoiling them,” he added. “We look forward to loving whoever God brings to us.”

Photos courtesy of Kallie and Rodney Staats

From Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas

At Catholic Charities, we offer a complete line of programs and services for birth parents, couples who are interested in adoption, adoptive families, and professionals. We are part of a national Catholic Charity network that has been looking after the needs of children, parents and families for more than 100 years. In southwest Kansas, we have been providing adoption services for more than 45 years, and we are licensed by the State of Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide infant foster care and adoption services for birth parents and adoptive parents. For more information, visit http://catholiccharitiesswks.org/services/adopt.

If you would like more information about the Staats, see their personal profile at http://catholiccharitiesswks.org/services/adopt/our-waiting-families. You can also contact Amy Falcon at 620-227-1590, afalcon@CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org or Lori Titsworth at 620-729-1393, ltitsworth@CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org.
Little did SW Kansas Catholics know that their pastor was known as a ‘Spiritual advisor to hoodlums’

The following chapter contains information on Father Phillip Coughlan, who served in SW Kansas. The story took place in November, 1934. The chapter begins just after a special agent and an investigator are killed in a chase. “Helen” is Baby Face Nelson’s wife, and “Chase” is his good friend:

Nelson managed to get back to the agent’s car and drive it around to the rear of his disabled Ford. Chase, little more than a spectator in the final minutes of the battle, began gathering their weapons when he saw Nelson driving toward him and calling for Helen. As Chase approached the Hudson, Nelson looked at him and said, “Drop everything and get me to the priest.” Chase said he’d get their personal belongings from the disabled car, but Nelson said “Forget that stuff. You’ll have everything and get me to the priest.”

The priest helped Chase put Nelson into the rear seat, and Chase headed west toward Fox River Grove. As Helen cradled her husband’s head, he looked at her and said, “I’m done for.” As the early evening wind whistled through the Hudson’s bullet-pierced windshield, fear and confusion reigned inside the vehicle. Chase testified he was speeding along unfamiliar roads, at times hitting 85 mph, trying to figure out where he was. A weeping Helen continued to hold Nelson’s head as he took long, deep breaths and attempted to direct Chase down one road after another, through one small town after another.

They finally entered Wilmette and made their way to 1155 Mohawk Road, the home of Father Phillip Coughlan’s sister. Both Nelson and his wife were raised Catholic, and Father Coughlan was an old family friend. It would eventually come out that Father Coughlan had met with Nelson, bankrobber Tommy Carroll and others many times over the years, but he always denied any knowledge of their actions.

It was just before 5 p.m. when the family maid notified Father Coughlan, who was in the house, that a woman was at the back door and needed to see him immediately. The priest, who was to the door said saw Helen. “Jimmie’s been shot. You have to help us. He’s in the car,” she said.

Meanwhile, Chase had pulled the car. When Helen and the priest went into the garage, Chase was holding Nelson up, and they were at the back of the vehicle. When Nelson saw the priest, he muttered “Hello” and then slumped back against Chase.

Helen pleaded with the priest to give her husband refuge, but the priest refused, noting it was his sister’s house; her 8-year-old son was inside, and she was expecting several guests that evening. Chase later testified Helen began to cry. “But he’s dying. He’s got to get someplace where he can lay down.” The priest said he knew of a safe location he could bring them to, but later told police he didn’t know of any place. He just wanted to get them away from his sister’s house.

Helen suggested they all go in the priest’s car, but Father Coughlan said it would be better if they followed him since they couldn’t leave the agent’s bullet-ridden and blood-stained car there. “Follow me in your car,” he said. “We won’t go far.” When Chase became suspicious and questioned the priest, he was assured by Father Coughlan that he meant to help them.

The priest helped Chase put Nelson back into the front passenger seat and Helen into the back. They then followed Father Coughlan for several blocks until the priest saw Chase make a sudden U-turn and speed away. The priest said he attempted to follow them but soon lost them in traffic. He would later admit he was relieved, but also saddened because they might have feared “I was leading them into a trap.”

And that’s exactly what both Chase and Helen would later tell police that Nelson feared. He told Chase, “I don’t like the way he’s acting. He seems wrong. Lose him.”

Nelson, it seemed, knew of a safe place, and began directing Chase down one road after another, eventually leading them out of Wilmette and into Winnetka and finally down a back alley and into a red two-stall garage in the rear of a gray stucco cottage facing Walnut Street. Chase would later testify he had never been to the house and didn’t know where he was, but that Nelson assured him “friends” were inside.

Chase knocked on the front door and “a tall dark-complexioned man in his late 30s answered.” Chase said “There’s someone out here who needs you,” and led the man to the garage. Chase said once he looked into the car “he instantly recognized Jimmie.”

The two men and Helen then carried Nelson into the house. Chase said they entered by a side door and walked through a kitchen and down a hallway and turned left into a small bedroom where Nelson was placed on a large white iron bed. Chase said there was a young woman and an old man in his 60s in the house but neither said anything or tried to help. Once on the bed, the younger man left.

“All three of us knew Les [Baby Face Nelson’s real name was Lester Joseph Gillis] was dying, but there was nothing we could do,” Helen told officials several days later. Given scissors and other supplies, Helen cut off all of Nelson’s clothing, later telling authorizes that his white shirt was mostly crimson. She stuffed cotton into the bullet hole in his stomach and into the large exit wound in his back. She then covered both wounds by wrapping his waist with a long strip of cloth torn from the bed sheet. Finally, she cleaned the buckshot wounds on his legs and then wrapped him in a blanket when he complained of being cold.

“That’s better,” she said to her and then told him the pain was gone but there was a spreading numbness. Helen simply held his hand and waited for the end.
U.S. State Department honors Italian nun as a ‘Woman of Courage’

Washington D.C. (CNA) - An Italian nun working in war-torn parts of Africa was honored at the U.S. State Department’s International Women of Courage award ceremony recently, commended for her dedicated service to the poor and to internally displaced persons.

"Sister Maria Elena is being honored for her service to counter hatred, injustice, and war-related horrors," said Heather Nauert, department spokesperson, at the award ceremony held at the Dean Acheson Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

"She has provided refuge to those people internally displaced by conflict; and her tireless work to bring peace in the Central African Republic. Thank you, Sister," Nauert continued.

Sister Maria Elena Berini, a Catholic nun from Italy who serves with the Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Anthide Thouret, was born in 1944. She developed a deep sense of compassion and service from a young age, when she left school at 15 to work in a textile factory to help support her family.

Berini entered the novitiate at 19 and began delving into religious and educational training. After voicing her desire to serve in Africa, she was sent to Chad in 1972 to teach in rural areas often under the threat of violence and war.

Despite the horrors and injustices she witnessed first-hand, Sister Berini came to love the African people and their culture.

In 2007, she was transferred to a Catholic mission in Bocaranga, Central African Republic, where she has been working with internally displaced persons who are seeking refuge from conflict.

Now 74, she still works in CAR with those displaced by the war and remains hopeful for peace within the region.

"As the United States Ambassador to the Holy See, I am especially honored to be here today with Sister Maria Elena Berini," said Callista Gingrich during the awards reception.

"Sister, your steadfast devotion to peace and justice, on behalf of the most vulnerable, is truly inspirational. Thank you for all that you do," Gingrich continued.

Gingrich went on to commend all the women at the awards ceremony, and thanked them for their bravery, compassion, and "efforts to make our world a better place."

Sister Berini was one among 10 honorees at the International Women of Courage ceremony, including Dr. Julissa Villanueva, a forensic pathologist from Honduras; Godelieve Mukasarasi, who has been working for peace in Rwanda; Aliyah Khalaf Saleh, who saved a number of Iraqi military troops by hiding them from the Islamic State; and Aiman Umarova, who fights against sexual abuse of women and children in Kazakhstan.

The International Women of Courage award ceremony is now in its 12th year. It focuses on recognizing "women around the globe who have demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equality, and women’s empowerment, often at great personal risk and sacrifice," according to the U.S. Department of State.

State and Garden City D of I Circle members, left, attend a blessing of the new 3D ultrasound machine donated to ABC Pregnancy Care Center in Garden City by the Knights of Columbus.

The Daughters of Isabella is a Catholic women’s organization with the aim to practice their motto: “Unity, Friendship and Charity.” The Daughters do this in many ways: Meetings are held once a month for all members. They pray together for themselves, others, and those who have died. They support each other through hard and special occasions. They work together for the good of the parishes, dioceses, state, nation and world.

One of the six circles in the Dodge City Diocese is located in Garden City — Circle #781, Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This circle has many agencies and organizations they support. In the last year they have made donations of time, talent and treasure to the Emmaus House, ABC Pregnancy Center, Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, Finney County Public Library Summer Literacy Program, Breast Cancer Awareness, Domestic Violence, Families Together, Inc., Catholic Charities, St. Mary’s Church Senior (Graduates) breakfast, St. Mary’s and St. Dominic’s Catholic schools, REACH and Spirit Camps, Knights of Columbus Sonogram Program, and International D of I Endowment Fund.

Their spiritual works of mercy are continual through a prayer chain they use for special requests and Masses for D of I members. They also host an America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally every October.

They pray for youth on World Youth Day. Celebration of their Circle anniversary in June is highlighted by attending Mass and brunch together; this year marks their milestone 70th anniversary.

They also will celebrate together in April, Queen Isabella Day, the namesake of this international organization. Participation is ongoing with State and International activities.

"So many wonderful things come from being Catholic, come from being a member of the Daughters of Isabella," noted one DofI member. “If you are a Catholic woman, and you are asked to join the Daughters of Isabella, give sincere thought to the call. It can be very rewarding and an opportunity for great spiritual growth.”

For more information, visit daughtersofisabella.org.

Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

On the evening of April 4, during St. Michael Parish, La Crosse, parish school of religion class time, Judy Hoffman from St. Joseph-Uebenthal gave an explanation to students in grades 3-12, along with other parishioners, of how the Divine Mercy picture and the “Chaplet of the Divine Mercy” prayer came into being. They all prayed the Chaplet at the end of her presentation. On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8, the PSR students led the “Chaplet of Divine Mercy” before the 10 a.m. Mass, which was also their Youth sponsored Mass for the month of April.

Sister Maria Elena holds an award presented to her by the U.S. State Department.
En Jerusalén, la ciudad en la que Jesucristo ingresó hace más de dos mil años aclamado como el Mesías, los católicos celebraron este 25 de marzo el Domingo de Ramos con Misas y procesiones en los lugares santos.

El administrador apostólico del Patriarcado Latino de Jerusalén, Mons. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, presidió a las 8:00 a.m. (hora local) la Misa en la iglesia del Santo Sepulcro. La Custodia de Tierra Santa informó que los fieles realizaron una procesión con las palmas que rodeó tres veces el Edículo, donde se conserva la tumba donde fue depositado el cuerpo de Cristo. La Eucaristía fue concelebrada por decenas de sacerdotes.

Mons. Pizzaballa explicó al Christian Media Center que en esta solemnidad “acogemos a Jesús como rey, como Mesías, como sacerdote en nuestra vida. Debemos acogerlo por lo que es: un rey, un mesías que después nos llevará a la cruz, irá a la cruz para la salvación del mundo y por amor a todos”.

Comentó que la celebración de la Semana Santa en Jerusalén “es siempre la misma, pero es siempre nueva y siempre especial, con peregrinos que vienen de todo el mundo”.

“El significado es revivir en los mismos lugares los acontecimientos que son el origen de nuestra salvación, la muerte y la resurrección de Cristo para parecerse, incluso físicamente, una especie de octavo sacramento, en la que ha sido la experiencia de Jesús y también la nuestra”, destacó.

En la tarde del domingo, portando ramos y entonando cantos y alabanzas, miles de personas caminaron por el mismo recorrido que hizo Jesús para ingresar a Jerusalén.

La procesión partió desde la iglesia de Betfagé, en el Monte de los Olivos, y terminó en la iglesia de Santa Ana, en la Ciudad Santa, donde según la tradición vivieron los padres de la Virgen María. Al terminar el recorrido, según indicó la Custodia de Tierra Santa, Mons. Pizzaballa afirmó que “no se puede leer la entrada de Jesús en la Ciudad Santa sin completarlo e iluminarlo con el relato de la Pascua. Entonces también nosotros entramos en la Pascua con Jesús”.

El Prelado manifestó que al celebrar la Semana Santa en Jerusalén “queremos decir y proclamar con determinación que somos parte de esta ciudad, que está en el origen de nuestra fe y conserva nuestra historia cristiana”.

La Custodia de Tierra Santa informó que los cristianos de Belén y Ramala, ciudades de Palestina, obtuvieron un permiso especial para participar de las celebraciones en Jerusalén. Las celebraciones de Semana Santa en Jerusalén El Patriarcado Latino de Jerusalén informó que en el Jueves Santo a las 8:00 a.m. se celebrará la Misa Crismal en la iglesia del Santo Sepulcro. A las 3:30 p.m. (hora local) se realizará una peregrinación hacia el Cenáculo, donde Jesús celebró la Última Cena, desde las iglesias de San Santiago y San Marcos. A las 9:00 p.m. se realizará una Hora Santa en la Basílica de la Agonía, en Getsemani.

El Viernes Santo, 31 de marzo, a las 8:00 a.m. se celebrará la Pasión del Señor en la iglesia del Santo Sepulcro, y a las 11:30 a.m. los franciscanos presidirán el Vía Crucis. A las 8:10 p.m. tendrá lugar una procesión fúnebre en la iglesia del Santo Sepulcro.

El Sábado Santo, la Vigilia Pascual tendrá lugar a las 7:30 a.m. en la tumba de Jesús dentro de la iglesia del Santo Sepulcro. A la medianoche, el Custodio de Tierra Santa, P. Francesco Patton, presidirá una Misa en ese templo.

Al día siguiente, Domingo de Resurrección, se celebrará una Eucaristía en la iglesia del Santo Sepulcro a las 8:00 a.m.

Cabe destacar que la iglesia del Santo Sepulcro no solo es administrada por los católicos de rito latino, sino también por los greco-ortodoxos y los cristianos armenios. Por ello, los católicos disponen de horarios fijos para sus celebraciones litúrgicas.
Crezcamos en la oración

A menudo escuchamos a la gente decir: “Me gustaría una vida de oración más profunda”. ¿Por qué? Mi definición favorita de oración es “estar consciente de la presencia de Dios”. Dios está con nosotros siempre; si no lo fuera, dejaríamos de existir: ¡puffffff! Pero, ¿cómo profundizamos nuestra conciencia de la presencia de nuestro Amoroso Señor? Este artículo continúa nuestra serie sobre las Buenas Nuevas: necesitamos un Salvador, Él es Cristo Jesús, que murió y resucitó por nosotros, que nos invita a creer y responder, y que nos pide que lo sigamos a Él y a Su Iglesia, no al mundo; y en La Vida del Reino: “¿Cómo ponemos en práctica estas Buenas Nuevas de Jesús”? El comienzo: Oración diaria.

Otras definiciones de oración:
-- Comunicarse con Dios: tanto hablando como escuchando,
-- Usando nuestra voz, mente, corazón, alma, manos / pies para mostrar nuestro amor a Dios, y recibir su amor.

El Catéctismo enumera cinco formas de oración (CIC n.º 2623-2649):
1. Oración de bendición (tanto descendente como ascendente), esta forma incluye la adoración de la Trinidad. “Con amor sincero, adorémonos” (Intercesiones del Viernes Santo).
2. Oración de petición, incluye pedir perdón. “Que marmos contigo, para resucitar contigo en la gloria” (Intercesiones del Viernes Santo).
3. Oración de intercesión, pidiendo en nombre de otro. “Ayudamos a tu compartir tu amor el uno con el otro” (Intercesiones del Viernes Santo).
4. Oración de acción de gracias. “Demos gracias a Dios” (últimas palabras en cada Santa Misa). “Portum inmensusagloria...te damos gracias” (Gloria de la Misa).
5. Oración de alabanza, simplemente porque “Dios ES”. “Que podamos ofrecer nuestro alegre sacrificio de alabanza” (Domingo de Pascua, Intercesiones).

Mis pequeñas oraciones de exhortación favoritas: -- “Jesús, ayúdame”.
-- “María, quedate conmigo”.
-- “Señor Jesucristo, Hijo de Dios, ten piedad de mi, tu amada”. (La oración de Jesús)

Pero, todas las definiciones y listas y ejemplos no nos dicen cómo profundizar nuestra vida de oración. ¿Necesitamos orar? Necesitamos suplir lo que nuestro Compasivo Padre Celestial que nos enseña a orar, a ayudarnos a crecer en nuestra vida de oración. Y tenemos que hacer nuestra parte para reservar tiempo cada día para orar, y esperar los tiempos de oración que ocurren inesperadamente! Espere en Jesús, el Resucitado, invito a reflexionar sobre esta pregunta: “Hoy se llama al Espíritu Santo, que ‘nos viene a socorrer en nuestra debilidad. Aunque no sabemos pedir como es debido, el Espíritu mismo intercede por nosotros con gemidos que no se pueden expresar” (Romanos 8,26).

Nuestra Trinidad de amor nos ayudará, porque somos hijos amados de Dios, que quiere que profundicemos nuestra relación con Él.

*+ Bishop John*

Estas son las dos partes, que incluye:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>La Buena Nueva:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Necesito un Salvador</td>
<td>4. Jesús murió y resucitó para salvarme</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Jesús es Dios que se hizo</td>
<td>5. Sigo a Jesús y su Iglesia, no al mundo</td>
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<td>Hombre</td>
<td>Vivir el Reino: 1. Oración diaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Jesús murió y resucitó para salvarme</td>
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<td>4. Jesús me invita a creer y yo respondo</td>
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¡HOLA MUCHACHOS!

G racias por leer este artículo. Soy su obispo, Mons. John, y los invito a reflexionar sobre esta serie de artículos sobre la llamada vocacional de Dios para ustedes (todos los niños y hombres solteros).

Sí, ese niño soy yo, en mi uniforme de Cub Scout; tal vez tú fuiste o eres Scout. Mi familia vivía en Manhattan en ese momento, y yo asistía a la Escuela y Parroquia “Seven Dolors”; luego nuestra familia se mudó a una parroquia en Dodge City. A medida que la parroquia evolucionaba, el obispo, Monseñor John, estaba preguntando qué quería hacer con mi vida. Es una cuestión de sabiduría y discernimiento.

El obispo, Monseñor John, es el profesor de ciencias en Wichita. Luego nuestra familia se mudó a un nuevo barrio en Dodge City en nuestras 48 parroquias?”.

Este es el “discernimiento vocacional” (la llamada vocacional de Dios), que incluye:  1. Oración diaria
2. Estudiar la Biblia y el Catecismo
3. Confesión mensual
4. Estudiar la Biblia y el Catecismo
5. Ser testigo de la Buena Nueva

Para ser liberado de lugares oscuros

La Resurrección es una profunda corriente que fluye por todo tu ser, la parte más profunda de donde estas y de quien eres. Es un poder oculto, pero es un poder de la resurrección. Ese poder puede ser liberado de lugares oscuros, desde donde estás y desde donde te sientes atado/a.

Por Reverendísimo Ronald M. Gilmore
Obispo Emeritus de Dodge City

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Con este tema, el obispo, Mons. John, está actualizando su serie anterior invitando a niños y jóvenes a considerar el sacerdocio.

- “Otras vocaciones son esenciales: la vida consagrada y la vida matrimonial”, dijo Mons. John. “Sin embargo, pronto enfrentamos una grave escasez de sacerdotes en nuestra diócesis. ¿Cómo proporcionaremos la Santa Misa, la Absolución de los pecados y la Unión de los Enfermos en el futuro a nuestros fieles en la Diócesis de Dodge City en nuestras 48 parroquias?”.

- Mons. John lo invita a leer en oración y considerar esto y otros pensamientos en esta serie, ya que están impresos en el Catholic. Por favor, oren para que más niños y jóvenes puedan discernir si están siendo llamados a servir a Dios y a su pueblo de esta manera.

*+ Bishop John*
The unplayable game

A teacher was having trouble getting her students to learn their facts, but she noticed that her students often played the game “Rock, Paper, Scissors.” She made a game with similar rules in order to encourage the students to learn their facts. The class would be divided into three teams: Rock, Paper and Scissors. The teacher would ask the students a question and the class would raise their hands if they knew the answer. If the first person to answer the question correctly is in the Rock team, he or she would choose one player from the Scissors team to be eliminated. Similarly, if a player from the Scissors team was first to answer the question, then he or she would eliminate a member from the Paper team. Lastly, if a player from the Paper team was first to answer correctly, he or she would eliminate a member from the Rock team. The teacher would then continue asking questions until only one team still has members. That team would be declared the winner and all its members would win a small chocolate.

However, as soon as she explained the rules to the class, one particularly smart student immediately found a large flaw that made the game unplayable. Can you do the same?

St. Michael’s Mind Benders

The southwest Kansas Catholic

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.
DORIS K. SMITH, 87, of Immaculate Conception Parish, Claflin, died March 25, 2018. She was a graduate of Claflin High School. On Feb. 22, 1949, she married Francis Harold Smith; he preceded her in death on Feb. 22, 1991. She was a homemaker, a member of the Altar Society, and former member of St. Peter and Paul Church, North Ellinwood. Survivors include one son, Mark H. and Gerald L.; sisters, Teresa Doleckie, Marie Hoss, Dolly Halter, and Roberta Prosser; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Father Terrence Klein and Meinrad Miller presided.

DOROTHY F. EDMONDS, 89, of Sacred Heart Parish, Lamade, passed away March 22, 2018. Moving from Ellis in 1972, she was a school cook and painter owner. She was a member of the Sacred Heart Altar Society, and enjoyed cooking, sewing and taking care of her family. On Nov. 27, 1946 she married Joy R. Edmonds; he preceded her in death on Feb. 7, 2001. Survivors include a son, Timothy R.; three daughters, Joyce L. Henderson, Sandi L. Edmonds, and Mary VonFeldt; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Father Bernard Felix presided.

CARMEN PAULINA PEREZ, 80, of St. Mary Parish, Garden City, died March 27, 2018. Carmen grew up and went to school in Ingalls; she worked as an office manager at Farm Management in Garden City. She was married to Benjamin Perez in 1951. Her husband, Tony, preceded her in death in 2004. Survivors include three children: Diane Solze, Curtis Perez, and Donna Wilkerson; her brother, Joe Kudde; a sister, Helen Wetzel; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Father Charles Siwek presided.

ROBERT E. “BOB” PRYOR, 73, of Prince of Peace Parish at St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend, died April 3, 2018. Pryor served in the Air Force as an Airman First Class from 1965 to 1971. He worked his adult lifetime in sprinkler fitting and was President of Pryor Automatic Fire Sprinkler. On June 7, 1985, he married Mary Zink-Haberman. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Sandy; three children, Michael L. Pryor, Wendy L. Lockwood, and Shelly A. Ambergren; a sister, Donna Messick; and five grandchildren. Father Ted Stoecklein presided.

ESTHER LEONA STIMME, 90, a resident of Holy Family Manor, Restaurant, Olmitz, passed away March 30, 2018. She married Herbert Paul Stimmel on July 25, 1953; he preceded her in death on June 10, 2004. She had served as a CNA with Shoenberger Nursing Agency, Ellis, and Eldercare. Survivors include one son, Bradley Leiker; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Father Louis Trung Dinh Hoang presided.

B(ALDOMERA) MARY (MARI) DEL HIERR0, 85, of Sacred Heart Parish, Lamade, died April 2, 2018. She was the daughter of Leo Roberto Del Hierro, a member of the U.S. Air Force, Del Hierro lived and grew up in El Ejido age of 20, when she moved to El Ejido 2018. Angelina was the fifth of seven children, and six grandchildren. She was born on November 21, 1946, in Ingalls; she worked as an office manager as a security dispatcher, computer specialist, medical transcriptionist, and tax specialist. She also helped at a young age with the family farm. On July 17, 1962 she married Melvin “Joe” Mills Jr. Survivors include: husband Joe; her son, Joseph Mills; her daughter, Bonnie Cook; her brother, Robert Benjamin Hessman; three sisters; Dava Crussell, Jude Hessman, and Frances Walden; and her grandson, Patrick Alexander Cook. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

JEANNE SCHLOTERMEIER, 71, of Ellinwood, died April 1, 2018. She married her high school sweetheart Don Schlotermeier at St. Peter and Paul Church, North Ellinwood. Jeanne worked at Farmers Mutual Insurance in Ellinwood in addition to the tasks of being a farm wife where she did everything from cooking, cleaning, and raising children to driving the farm trucks. She was a member of the Altar Society, and former member of St. Peter and Paul Church, North Ellinwood. Survivors include two sons, Mark H. and Gerard L.; sisters, Teresa Doleckie, Marie Hoss, Dolly Halter, and Roberta Prosser; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Father Terrence Klein and Meinrad Miller presided.

MAURICIA G. HEMRICOLO (Gallardo), 71, wife of Deacon Martin Hermelicio, died March 26, 2018. She was born on November 21, 1946, in Villa Hidalgo, Durango, Mexico, to Alejandro A. Sr. and Dominga Juarez Gallardo. She worked as a nurse aide at Pioneer Nursing Home in Lakin and at Briar Hill Manor in Garden City. Mauricia turned her care for the aging to caring for children in her home day care for several years. At Garden Valley Retirement Village, she later worked as a CNA and an assistant physical therapist. In 1996, Mauricia began work as a Spanish/English interpreter/ translator at St. Catherine Hospital. Mauricia also translated documents for the Finney County Community Health Coalition.

In 2014, she retired from the hospital, but she continued to serve her community through volunteer work. She was a translator for Kansas Appleseed of Southwest Kansas. Mauricia volunteered at St. Catherine Hospital and until her death was a volunteer at St. Catherine Hospital Hospice. As a devout Catholic, Mauricia co-founded, along with her husband, St. Mary’s Catholic Church Arcoiris Youth Group. She was a great role model for the youth community. Mauricia, along with her husband, led Marriage Preparation Classes as well in their home. Mauricia was united in holy matrimony to Martin Hermelicio on April 8, 1967. In her final days, Mauricia was strong in her faith, asking God to remove the cancer from her body, and then finally trusting in God to go home with Him.

Survivors include four daughters and one son: Barbara Hermelicio, Diana Jones, Catherine McMillen, Margaret Hermelicio and Martin Jesse Hermelicio; six brothers, Miguel Gallardo, Alejandro Jr., Nicolas Gallardo, Pedro Gallardo, Arturo Gallardo, and Jose Gallardo; one sister, Antonia G. Laurelez; and six grandchildren. The family requests donations made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 412 N. Seventh St., Garden City, Kansas 67846.
Father Phillip Coughlan

Father Phillip Coughlan was born May 14, 1898, in Dubuque, Iowa. He grew up on Chicago’s West Side and knew some of the city’s future bootleggers and gunmen. “Instead of following in their footsteps, however he would train for the priesthood...”* He was ordained June 8, 1924, by the Most Rev. Francis Gillilan, bishop of the Diocese of St. Joseph, Mo.

After serving in the Diocese of St. Joseph, Father Coughlan returned to Chicago where he was chaplain at Oak Park Hospital. He was known to the FBI and “Considered (at best) a spiritual advisor to hoodlums.”**

Father Coughlan served with the Black Franciscans in New Mexico at St. Helen’s, Hobbs; and St. Edward’s, Carlsbad.

In the Dodge City diocese, Father Coughlan’s assignments included: assistant pastor at St. Joseph’s, Liebenthal (1952-53); assistant pastor at St. Joseph’s, Ellinwood (1953); and chaplain at St. Rose Hospital, Great Bend (1953-55).

In 1954 Father Coughlan was injured in a fall at St. Rose Rectory and hospitalized for a week with three fractured ribs. He left the diocese in 1955 and lived for a time at Providence Home in Jasper, Ind.

Father Coughlan was a resident at the Maria-Joseph Home for the Aged and Nursing Home in Dayton, Ohio, from 1959 until his death. He died April 15, 1970 and is buried in Salem Heights Convent Cemetery (Sisters of the Precious Blood) in Dayton, Ohio.

*pgs. 326, 327 in Dillinger: The Untold Story by George Russell Girardin, William J. Helmer and Rick Mattix
SEE and additional story about Father Coughlan on Page 8.

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Stupidity is also a gift of God, but one mustn’t misuse it.
— Saint John Paul II
Obituary policy

The Southwest Kansas Catholic prints obituary listings free of charge. They must be edited for space and SKC style. If you see that a listing for a friend or loved one was not included, contact Dave at (620) 227-1519, or skregister@dcdioocese.org. Please pray for all those listed above, their friends and loved ones.

SKC dates, deadlines

Issue date/deadline
May 6/April 25
May 20/May 9
June 3/May 23

Dates are subject to change.

Questions? Contact Dave at skregister@dcdioocese.org, or call (620) 227-1519.
Following is the first place speech presented by Holy Family School, Great Bend, student Darcy Feist at the April 9 Civic Oration Contest at St. Dominic School in Garden City. Placing second was Allie Strandmark from St. Dominic School, and in third place was Benjamin Mahoney of St. Mary School, Garden City. The theme for the Oration Contest was “Inventions that have improved the Quality of Life.”

By DARCY FEIST

This Christmas, I got a loom to make potholders, but when I got to the end, neither my mom or I knew how to finish it. There was a diagram, but we needed something more, like someone to SHOW us. The only way to finish that potholder with one short video. While not everything on YouTube is useful, YouTube brings lessons from across the globe into the living room.

YouTube was invented in 2005 by Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim. They wanted to find a way to share videos that eBay bought that, they used their buyout bonuses to start YouTube. Chen and Hurley, with the help of a small town like ours.

Another important way YouTube has benefited people’s lives is education. For example, teachers around the world are using YouTube to deliver instruction in a new way. Many teachers are using YouTube to “flip” their classrooms. This is when students watch lessons at home, saving precious class time for practice or asking questions. Additionally, students aren’t just watching videos, they are making them, too, to show what they know. One day I hope to have a bigger audience than just their teacher.

YouTube is home to Khan Academy, one of the world’s most popular education websites. Khan Academy gets about 70,000 views a day. You can find 1,800 free math and science videos with the math ranging from early math to multivariable calculus (whatever that is). There are also videos on computer science, art, and humanities. Khan Academy and channels like it are important because they allow the richest and poorest students across the world to have access to the same information. Students who cannot go to school for whatever reason — perhaps location or gender (because there are still parts of the world where girls cannot go to school) — can still get an education if they have access to the Internet.

Knowledge is power and YouTube can bring that knowledge to any part of the world where you can get WiFi. The free and open access that YouTube provides on its education channels could be the ticket out for someone. The Internet is full of stories of people who got into college because of what they learned on YouTube. And while learning a new hobby may not change your entire life, hobbies do make us happier. Because of these reasons I believe YouTube is the invention that is improving lives today. I hope you agree and will use YouTube today to learn something new. Me? I got some potholders I need to finish.

Holy Family student Darcy Feist earns first place in Diocesan Civic Oration Contest

YouTube brings lessons from across the globe into the living room.

About the contest

School students across the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City have been participating in oration contests at their schools in recent weeks with the thought of making it to the finals, held April 9 at St. Dominic School in Garden City. The efforts paid off for six youngsters who competed with speeches highlighting what they feel is an invention that has improved the quality of life.

The oration contest was sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America, which supported the event with a check for $250. Representative Kasey Sabatka travelled from Bird City, Kansas (NW corner of Kansas) to present the check, as well as gifts for the competitors and judges, and a $50 check to first place winner Darcy Feist.

Modern Woodmen of America is a member-owned fraternal financial services organization which began in 1883 and includes some 750,000 members.

Representatives provide financial products to help members protect their families and their futures. These sales help fund member benefits and social, educational and volunteer programs that identify and meet local needs. These activities build relationships, allowing for membership growth and greater community impact.

Competitors and their speeches included: (LtoR) Darcy Feist, Holy Family, Great Bend (YouTube); Lauren Harding, Sacred Heart Cathedral School, Dodge City (X-Rays); Monica Jordan, Sacred Heart, Ness City (Doppler Radar); Ava Thill, St. Joseph, Ellinwood (Antibiotics); Benjamin Mahoney, St. Mary, Garden City (LEGOs); and Allie Strandmark, St. Dominic (Antibiotics).

Scripture Readings

Monday, April 16 Acts 6:8-15/John 6:22-29
Tuesday, April 17 Acts 7:10-18/John 6:30-35
Thursday, April 19 Acts 8:26-40/John 6:44-51
Friday, April 20 Acts 9:1-20/John 6:52-59
Saturday, April 21 Acts 9:31-42/John 6:60-69
Tuesday, April 24 Acts 11:19-26/John 10:22-30
Friday, April 27 Acts 13:26-33/John 14:1-6
Saturday, April 28 Acts 13:44-52/John 14:7-14
Monday, April 30 Acts 14:5-18/John 14:21-26
Tuesday, May 1 Acts 14:19-28/John 14:27-31
Wednesday, May 2; Saint Athanasius, bishop and doctor Acts 15:1-6 or First John 5:1-5/ John 15:1-8 or Matthew 10:22-25
Thursday, May 3; Saints Philip and James, apostles Acts 15:1-6/John 15:1-8
Friday, May 4 Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17
Saturday, May 5 Acts 16:1-10/John 15:18-21

Kasey Sabatka, FIC, Modern Woodmen of America Representative, traveled to Garden City with (LtoR) third place winner Benjamin Mahoney of St. Mary School, first place winner Darcy Feist of Holy Family School, and second place winner Allie Strandmark of St. Dominic School.