Remembering El Salvador’s holy martyr:

**Blessed Archbishop Romero**

By CHARLENE SCOTT MYERS

A n excellent film about the life and death of Blessed Archbishop Oscar Romero was shown recently on EWTN the evening of April 21. Romero might have reached his 100th birthday last August 15, 2017 had he not been shot down at the altar while celebrating Mass at Divine Providence Church in San Salvador 38 years ago on March 24, 1980. Pope Francis declared him a martyr in May, 2015.

A faithful supporter of El Salvador’s people who were suffering under a brutal persecution by soldiers and government leaders, Romero was the gentle but brave and outspoken defender of the poor in San Salvador. The fourth archbishop of El Salvador, he paid for his bravery with his life.

Continued on Page 24

Special focus throughout this issue: Retirement and Senior Living
The simplicity of evangelization

Evangelization. When most people hear this word, they think of a charismatic speaker, and a crowd of thousands, and waves of energy and enthusiasm. And the word does sometimes mean that large thing.

But, at bottom, evangelization is a large word for what must be a small thing. It is a meeting of you and a me, arranged (without our knowing it) by the God of us both. We are just there, you and me, and, without warning, something hangs in the air between us. It may have been something you said. It may have been something I said. Somehow, we both know there is something more to be said. Somehow, you need to hear something, and somehow, I need to say something.

So, in halting, stumbling, inadequate words, in poor and tattered words, I hand on to you what I have seen and heard of God. Fearfully … shyly … gently … do I do this, hoping, always hoping. And there it hangs, in the expectant air.

A human heart has spoken to a human heart a God-word. Will it open that second heart? Will it be touched? Will it be moved? There hangs, the question. There it waits, the answer … an answer only freedom can give.

It is as simple as that, evangelization is. It is as small as that, evangelization is. It is a large drama, evangelization is, on a small stage, with untrained actors. That was the way Jesus did it, mostly. That is the way that we must do it too.

Ten Tips for Protecting Children and Offering Outreach to Victims/Survivors

1. Sexual abuse is about the victim. Many people are affected by abuse but the individual most impacted is the victim who has suffered a violation of trust that can affect his or her entire life.

2. No one has the right to have access to children. No one, no matter who they are, has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the Church without proper screening and without following the rules.

3. Common sense is not all that common. Dioceses, schools, parishioners, and especially families, must educate themselves and others on how to protect children.

4. Child sexual abuse can be prevented. It is critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from harm—such as protective guards, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.

5. The residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime. The sense of violation goes deep into a person’s psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place. Those who have been abused can heal, but if often takes times, therapy, and the support of loved ones.

6. Feeling heard leads toward healing. Relief from hurt and anger often comes when one feels heard, when one’s pain and concerns are taken seriously, and a victim/survivor’s appropriate sense of rage and indignation are acknowledged.

7. You cannot always predict who will be an abuser. Experience shows that most abuse is committed by someone who has gained the trust of a victim/survivor and his/her family.

8. There are behavioral warning signs of child abusers. Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling.

9. People can be taught to identify grooming behavior. Grooming behaviors are the actions which abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and gain their victim’s trust, his or her family, or community for years.

10. Background checks work. Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they screen out some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children.

Hey, guys!

Is Jesus texting you?

I wish Jesus would just text me! I have so many questions. I ask for so much help and for His forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession. I want to thank and praise Jesus and receive Him in the Eucharist. At times, I wonder if He is in my life. I want to hear Jesus, to sense His presence, to feel His touch. Mostly, I want to hear His call in my life—who He wants me to be. Is it a priest or a husband and dad?

Guys, do you experience some of these questions, thoughts or feelings? I know I do. A turning point in my life was when I asked Jesus that vocation question—Who do you want me to be? Before then, I just focused on “what I wanted to do.” It’s a question of “being” as compared to “doing.” As boys, young men, and older men, we are built to “do,” to achieve, to construct, to excel, to accomplish. Yet, God has a plan for each of us—who He wants us to be—that does not depend on any goals or accomplishments. Jesus just wants us.

Each year, I visit our seminaries, and encourage our seminarians to listen to Jesus’ call in their hearts. I am having dinners with guys in high school, college, and older men. These events will help you to get to know me, your bishop, and for me to get to know you and your hopes and dreams. We will listen to God’s vocational call together, and trust in His response.

“The Lord is beside you at your right hand” (Psalm 121:5). No, Jesus is not texting you guys. But He is speaking with you in your heart. Listen to Him. Jesus loves you more than you can ask or imagine.

Help Wanted

Would you like to work for Bishop Gilmore? The Grace that Reigns Society needs administrative help. For more information, see Page 19.
Universal call to holiness

Priest’s ouster angers both sides of the aisle

Paul Ryan, the U.S. House of Representatives Speaker, has expelled a Jesuit priest who has served as House chaplain since 2011.

Father Patrick Conroy, 67, opens each daily session of the House of Representatives with a prayer and advises members on faith matters.

His ouster from the House has come in the form of a resignation demanded by Ryan.

Ryan reportedly was miffed by a prayer of Father Conroy in which the priest asked lawmakers to be “fair to all Americans.”

Father Conroy said he still doesn’t know why Ryan ousted him from his position. The chaplain said he has not been given any reason for Ryan’s insistence that he leave his service in the House.

“Catholic members on both sides (Republicans and Democrats) are furious,” the priest said.

Father Conroy is the 60th chaplain of the United States House of Representatives.

One lawmaker speculated that Ryan objected to one of Father Conroy’s prayers on the House floor because Republicans viewed it as critical of the
A nd it came to pass that in the Year of Our Lord 1963, a child was born into the house of Myers in the city of Casper in the state of Wyoming. And a proclamation was sent out among friends and relatives announcing, “Lo, it is a boy. He shall be called David, ‘One Who Drools.’ He weighs eight pounds and looks like Uncle Phil before his operation.”

And Ruth, wife of Jim, did look upon her newborn son and say unto her husband, “Can you run to Dairy Queen for me?” whereupon Jim did as he was bidden and purchased for her a Peanut Butter Parfait.

In those days it was easier for a wife to stay home with the children, and it was at home wherein Ruth did sew polyester panties, watch “As the World Turns,” and make “Shake-A-Puddin’” for her family, now counting six among them.

In the Year of our Lord 1968, it came to pass that David entered kindergarten and began his life of learning, leaving Ruth to dance down the street singing, “Free at last, free at last!”

While the Lord blessed the family with financial stability and quality television, all was not well in the Myers household. David began to show signs of instability, eventually drawing the wrath of his teacher by uttering loudly and with feeling a limerick maliciously directed at the Myers family as “The Dark Ages.”

For the Myers children, it was a time marked with insecurity. Their moods became like the weather, partly cloudy with a chance of damaging rain. A plague of pimples came upon them, often cropping up just before a date. The teenagers became like mythical beasts of yore: you know they are there because someone once claimed to have seen one. But most the time they were out with friends.

“Is there a pos on the house of My- ers?” Ruth shouted unto the heavens.

“Lord, I beseech thee, adjust my children’s attitude!”

Watching their whining, their eating of snacks right before meals, and their wanting of things that they shall have not, they are a blight upon my sanity. In your name I do pray.

And the Lord smiled upon Ruth and blessed her family in the years to follow. Together, they would make many a joyous trip to Sterling to spend quality time on downtown Denver to see the tall building whereupon Jim did as he was bidden and purchased for her a Peanut Butter Parfait.

A few days later, Ruth found her young-est sopping on a Three Musketeers bar just moments prior to dinner.

“Is there a pos upon the house of My- ers?” Ruth shouted unto the heavens.

“Lord, I beseech thee, help this poor mother of teenagers. My children, they mean well, but I am in doubt as to the soundness of their minds. They listen not when I command them to pick up their dirty socks, even though dirty socks weigh nothing.”

By proclamation they have been ordered not to watch TV after 8 p.m., yet as surely as I am standing here, Hoss and Little Joe will alight the family room after “light’s out.” Help me, dear Father, for I am vexed and wish not to eat a gallon of ice cream, just out of anxiety. In your name I do pray.

Once again, God smiled upon Ruth. While the years to follow would not be easy, eventually the four children would all leave their teen years behind them. When the youngest finally left home in 1982, his last sight was of his mother dancing down the street singing, “Free at last, free at last!”

And on one particularly glorious day, two years after Ruth’s eldest daughter gave birth to their first grandchild, Ruth overheard her daughter shouting unto the heavens, “Is there a pos upon the house…”

And Ruth did grin, fold out the footrest on her chair, and turn on “Ophra.”

Kasha Seguio Slamer was 14 years old when she decided she had enough of a constant barrage of negative news. Terrorism, war, human trafficking and negative political ads filled television screens in her native Canada. Kasha experienced her own time of being surrounded by domestic violence. Her mother was physically abused by her father and divorced them. They were homeless for a period of time before experiencing a stable home life.

At 14 she became involved in a peace and justice committee and began raising money to travel around the world videotaping scenes of people who made a difference in the lives of others. She traveled to Tanzania and interviewed a man who established a school for girls, a desperate need for girls in Africa and the Middle East. She created the documentary, “The Sunrise Storyteller,” a good news film that provided inspiration for many attending the 61st annual Commission on the Status of Women. I was privileged to represent Dominicans of North America at this important gathering at the United Nations.

There were many horrific stories of violence against women told in countless sessions for the 6,000 attendees. Rape, honor killings, domestic violence are only a few of the many forms of violence suffered by millions of women around the world. These stories were balanced by stories of the heart. Agencies such as the Anglican Mission agency – United Society Partners in the Gospel, are providing shelter and social services for victims of human trafficking in India, and another group of women and men in Thailand are reaching out to women and girls who suffer from being trafficked.

Perhaps the greatest challenge girls are facing is getting an education. Because of cultural barriers millions of girls are not able to attend school. A young girl in Pakistan almost lost her life after being shot by a Taliban extremist when she attempted to go to school. Later she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

This reality reflects the belief that an education is wasted on a girl because it is her role to marry early and have children. Even though church organizations and individuals are making progress in establishing schools and providing funding, the statistics show that making education available for girls around the world will be a long struggle, in fact it will be 2080 before girls around the world will have eight years of formal education, and the year 2100 before they will be able to complete 10 years of formal education.

The economic empowerment of women, the theme for this year’s commission, can only be achieved through the education of girls and women. Organizations addressing the education of girls and women, economic empowerment, and violence against women are working hard every day, but need the support of many to widen the circle of support for change. We can water the seeds that have been planted through engagement with our political representatives, donating to organizations actively involved in the issues, or inviting speakers to our parishes or schools to educate the public to life or death issues.

We can change the script.
Jesus, who are you?

By MOST REV. THOMAS J. TOBIN
Bishop of Providence, Rhode Island

S
ome times people are sort of surprised
that bishops, when not in the public
spotlight, lead relatively normal lives.
We eat and drink, rest and recreate, have
cats and dogs, struggle with friendships,
deal with family crises, watch TV, play
golf, and swear at slot machines in casinos.
And sometimes, we even go shopping.
I experienced that kind of surprise recently
in a chance meeting with one of our faithful
parishioners.

A few weeks ago I was in my local
CVS picking up a few things I needed,
toothpaste and shampoo, I think. I was
dressed casually, in secular attire, as is
typical when at home on weekends.
I was waiting after a weeks-long journey
cross Mexico. In his new exhortation, the Holy Father
writes (see page 3):

“Jesus, who are you?”

She closes the door and goes back to
bed. What would you have done? I can guess:
The child would be fed and cleaned up as
soon as possible, the police notified, the
authorities contacted, who you hope and pray would see
that the child finds a good home.

Today, at press time, hundreds of people
from violence-ravaged countries in Central
America lie at our doorstep, awaiting legal
entry into the United States. At press time,
men, women, and dozens of small children
were waiting after a weeks-long journey
across Mexico.

As we see Jesus in the garden, praying,
“Jesus, who are you?” they were
agonizing over his impending fate, sweating
drops of blood, comforted by the visit of the
angel, we can ask, “Jesus, who are you?”

As we see Jesus suffer the rejection
and ridicule of his passion, the unimaginable
pain and humiliation of the cross, and
finally the total emptying of self in death,
we can ask, “Jesus, who are you?”

And on Easter morrow, when the Risen Christ
surprises us, as he did Mary Magdalene,
appearing now in a glorified body that
confounded even his closest disciples, we
can ask, “Jesus, who are you?”

The presence of Christ in the Church
is perennial, but so is the mystery that
surrounds him. Every generation of
believers looks at Christ anew and asks,
“Jesus, who are you?”

I see that NBC presented a television
special, “Jesus Christ Superstar,” live and
in concert, on Easter Sunday evening. It
was an engaging production, and kudos
to NBC for offering some very appropriate
Christian, family-friendly programming
on Easter.

One of the most beautiful songs of
Superstar, sung by Mary Magdalene, is the
haunting and powerful, “I Don’t Know How
Love Him.” In the song, Mary is clearly
conflicted by her relationship with Jesus
— she loves him, perhaps even romantically
as a man, but is distanced by the power of
his divine mission. She sings, plaintively:
“I don’t know how to love him, what to
do, how to move him. I’ve been changed,
year really changed, in these past few days,
when I’ve seen myself, I seem like someone
else. . . . He’s a man. . . . What’s it all about?”

Can’t we relate to Mary’s dilemma? Do
we know how to love Jesus? We say all the
time that we believe in him, and I guess
we do our best. But so often the seismic
faults of modern life strike, and nature holds us back,
keep us from loving Jesus, following him,
embracing him as we ought.

Or think about this: Where would we
fit into the Passion Narrative if it were
unsung in our midst today? Would we
be one of his disciples struggling
to stay loyal to our Lord when we saw
him threatened by religious and public
officials? Would we be the Judas or Peter
who turned their backs on Jesus at his time of
greatest need, or his Blessed Mother Mary
and beloved disciple John who stayed
with him at the foot of the cross, until
the very end.

Think about it. Who is Jesus for you?
What does he mean for you? How has he
changed your life?

Let us pray: Dear Jesus, in the weeks
after Easter, “three things I pray: to see
your face, your love, to look on your heart, and
live only for the latest consumer goods,
where some revel, spend with abandon
and stinging rebukes, looked for ways to
rural and urban, that would ignore injustice in a world
victims of human trafficking, new forms of
slavery, and every form of rejection.

By contrast, we have the power of prayer. Let us
pray for our family in Christ who struggle at
the border. Let us pray for their countries
— that they may find peace and an end to
violence — and for our country, that our
immigration system may be changed so that
no one is left forlorn on our doorstep.

Jesus, who are you?

A child on the doorstep

A late-night knock on the door. The
proprietor, a rugged woman in her
60s, opens the door and sees a baby
lying in a tattered basket. The baby
is wrapped in blankets, torn and dirty.
Despite the chill in the air, the infant
sleeps soundly.

The woman shivers. Not this
time, she whispers. Not again.

She’s taken in two children already, both
left at different times on her doorstep.
Word got around. Not this time.

“Jesus, who are you?”

May we willingly embrace thy passion
and death so that we may also merit thy
resurrection. Amen.

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And sometimes, we even go shopping.
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A few weeks ago I was in my local
CVS picking up a few things I needed,
toothpaste and shampoo, I think. I was
dressed casually, in secular attire, as is
usual for me when at home on weekends.
While wandering aimlessly through
the aisles of the store a very nice lady
stopped me, put up her hand and asked,
“Who are you?”

“It depends,” I said, “are you friend or foe?”

“No, really,” she persisted, “Who are you?”

“I’m Bishop Tobin,” I admitted.

“Oh, thank goodness . . . I thought I was
losing my mind . . . You look like Bishop
Tobin, but I never thought I’d find him here
shopping for himself,” she said.

“I shop for things all the time,” I tried
explaining.

Nonetheless, my friendly encounter
with a fellow shopper, and the question
she asked, has helped me prepare for the
observance of Passiontide and Holy Week.

The Gospels during these late Lenten
days are filled with accounts of the
increasing conflict and hostility Jesus
experienced in the time leading up to his
passion and death. His disciples struggled
to stay faithful to him during these tense
times; Judas betrayed him and Peter
denied him.

His enemies, angered at his arrogance
and stinging rebukes, looked for ways to
entrap and indict him. And even casual
bystanders argued about where he came from,
who he was and whether he was the
Messiah or a fraud.

“Jesus, who are you?” they were
asking.

It’s a leading, loaded question, and one
we should be asking too as we follow Jesus
during Holy Week.

As we see Jesus in his triumphant entry
into Jerusalem, the large crowd of people
welcoming him as a conquering hero,
spreading cloaks and palm branches before
him, we can ask, “Jesus, who are you?”

As we see Jesus gathered with his
disciples at the Last Supper, mysteriously
handing over his body and blood, and
kneeling down to wash their dirty feet,
we can ask, “Jesus, who are you?”

As we see Jesus in the garden, praying,
agonizing over his impending fate, sweating

Despite the chill in the air, the infant
sleeps soundly.

The woman shivers. Not this
time, she whispers. Not again.

She’s taken in two children already, both
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Photo of the Week

Sisters map the heavens

Sisters of the Holy Child Mary use special microscopes to help
map and catalog half a million stars for the Vatican Observatory’s
section of an international survey of the heavens.

Father Sabino Maffeo, S.J., assistant to the director of the
Vatican Observatory, recently discovered the names of four
Sisters of the Holy Child who helped map a section of the night
sky that was assigned, as part of an international project, to
the Vatican Observatory in 1887. Italian Sisters Emilia Ponzoni,
Regina Colombo, Concetta Finardi, and Luigia Panceri helped
catalog nearly half a million stars. Using photographic plates, the
Vatican Observatory, along with 19 other countries, mapped the
entire sky.

In 1920 Pope Benedict XV received the sisters in a private
audience and gave them a gold chalice. Pope Pius XI also
received the “measuring nuns” eight years later, awarding them
a silver medal.

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The Southwest Kansas Catholic
Vibrant Ministries appeal nearing $10 million

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Who is served?

Donations support retired priests

BY DAVE MYERS

Southwest Kansas Catholic

Since a priest never stops being a priest, does he ever really retire?

FATHER JIM BAKER, JCL, a retired priest residing in Garden City, is a canon lawyer and serves as a judge for the tribunal of the Diocese of Dodge City.

He is the only tribunal judge serving in the diocese. This means he decides cases brought to the marriage tribunal by parties petitioning to have a previous marriage annulled.

But even these cases are few in number compared to those he faces as a judge for the Tribunal of the Archdiocese For The Military Services, USA, where he hears cases brought by parties serving in the military.

“I’ve done hundreds and hundreds of cases,” said Father Baker. “I get way more work from the military archdiocese.”

Prior to his ordination on May 26, 1990, FATHER MICHAEL HELMS enjoyed a career as a truck driver. A religious vocation from St. Theresa Parish in Dighton, Father Helms is also retired.

Back in 10, he told the then-Register what he liked most about being a priest:

“The feelings I have when I have a baptism, or giving children their First Communion. Those feelings are unexplainable. Please see the expressions on their faces when they get to receive the body and blood for the first time.”

The greatest challenge?

“Dealing with the challenges that society gives the Church in preparing couples for marriage, or the teaching of the Church, plus the lack of commitment in the people of today.”

These are joys and challenges that priests do not leave behind like a parked semi when they retire. As the needs continue, priests will be there, retirement or no.

As if to prove this point, the Catholic newspaper recently received several photos from a wedding in which Father Helms officiated.

Although even long-retired priests are forever on-call, since they are officially retired, managing a budget becomes an added challenge.

“It’s awkward,” Father Baker admitted. “I was able to buy and furnish a home going into retirement, but almost entirely because of an inheritance I received from my parents. The Vibrant Ministries — Uniting Our Church Appeal is so important in helping with expenses.”

The retired priests,” said Bishop John Brungardt, “have been celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, anointing the sick, confirmation, baptism for these decades and decades for you and your family.

... Thank you for your support for our retired priests.”

How does the diocese support its retired priests?

• Provides Medicare and supplemental health insurance premiums.

• Dental expense reimbursement.

• Prescription drug reimbursement.

• Long term care and assisted care living expenses.

• Retreats and continuing education expenses.

• the Diocesan Priests’ Retirement Fund (DPRF) provides a monthly pension for all of the retired, incardinated priests.

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, to invite others into your light and love, and walk with us on our journey to holiness. Merciful God, bless our efforts to unite our Church as you help us to respond to the needs of the least among us. Form our faith and strengthen priestly vocations. May we generously share our gifts with one another, in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

To donate to the Vibrant Ministries of the Southwest Kansas Catholic, go to www.dcdiocese.org/vibrant-ministries, or contact Father Mark Roth, mroth@dcdiocese.org, 620-227-1535.
My Dear 

Priests, Deacons, PLC, DREs/CREs, Catechists, Youth Leaders, and all who minister with our children, youth, and adults in Catholic Faith Formation:

Greetings this Easter Season in our Risen Lord! I hope your Triduum was a joy-filled and fruitful experience.

Our Loving God has blessed us abundantly with our Vibrant Ministries—Uniting our Church appeal. We are nearing our goal of $10 million in almsgiving, shared by more than 5,000 families in our diocese of 48 parishes. This has been a sacrificial and generous journey by the faithful! “And be thankful ... with gratitude in your hearts to God ... giving thanks to God” (Col 3:15-17).

We are continuing to put Alms into Action, specifically in the Catholic Faith Formation goal. It is a Parish Grant Application for Parish School of Religion, Youth, Young Adult and Adult Ministries. I pray that you will discuss with staff, volunteers, and parishioners opportunities to look to the future, to be proactive, to be strategic, to be architects with these alms. See the appendix for some ideas, but please do not restrict your imagination. How do we grow in our formation in the Catholic Faith of the Risen One, Jesus Christ?

Even with the tremendous generosity of the faithful, these fund are not unlimited, nor will they last forever. Thus I added the phrase “include all funding sources including parish and individual contributions.” Some parishes can afford these resources out of their own budgets. Some parishes cannot—this is what Vibrant Ministries is for.

Applications are due by May 31, 2018 for the Fall Semester, and/or October 31, 2018 for the Spring Semester.

Send the application to Dan Stremel, Finance Officer, Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, PO Box 137, Dodge City, KS 67801.

If you have questions, contact Dan Stremel, (620) 227-1517 (dstremel@dcdiocese.org) or Mark Roth, Development Director, (620) 227-1535 (mr Roth@dcdiocese.org). You may be directed to a specific Chancery Director, DRE, Catechist, etc., who may better assist you.

Thank you for your dedication to forming our children, youth, and adults in the Catholic Faith of Jesus Christ and His Church. He will help us; Jesus loves us more than we can ask or imagine! Be assured of my prayers for you, your family, and your parish. May you have a blessed Easter season and beyond in the Lord.

+ Most Rev. John B. Brungardt

“Thank you for your dedication to forming our children, youth, and adults in the Catholic Faith of Jesus Christ and His Church. He will help us; Jesus loves us more than we can ask or imagine!”

The Vibrant Ministries — Uniting Our Church appeal is announcing the creation of a grant available to those who work in youth, young adult, and adult faith formation. There is no specific dollar amount offered. Instead, the grant is based on the needs and budget expressed by the applicant.

Vibrant Ministries Appeal

Parish Grant Application

Name of Parish
City
Person Completing Grant Application & Position

Type of Grant Applied for (Complete separate application for each selected)

PSR Curriculum
PSR Technology
Youth & Young Adult Ministry
PSR Catechist Coaching
Pastoral Ministry Formation Scholarship: Name(s) of Persons and parish position (Rel Ed Director, Catechist, volunteer, parishioner, etc., for which scholarship is applied).

Other, specify:

1) Is this program a new or continuing program/project? ______ New ______ Continuing

2) If continuing, has the program/project been funded in past years?

Describe the need for the grant and how it will be used.

3) Describe the need for the grant and how it will be used.

Budget for Funded Program — describe in detail all expenses of the program. Please attach a complete budget to the application. Incorporate all funding sources, including parish and individual contributions.

How will the parish address the funding needs for this program/project if grant funding is not awarded?

Grant Applicant Signature __________________________ Date __________ Pastor __________________________ Date __________

“Give alms ... for where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Luke 12:33-34).

Ideas for putting the grant funding to work

Ideas for grant uses (use these ideas as a starting point for your concepts; this is not an exhaustive list):

- Curriculum resources (books, workbooks, DVDs, CDs, Internet sites that have a fee like “formed.org,” etc.).
- Technology (laptop computers, projection systems, screens, iDevices, speakers, etc.). A “Smart-Classroom,” or an ITV room. Will in the PSR/Youth group/Adult faith formation classrooms and areas (with proper passwords and security for a safe environment).
- Continuing formation for catechists, parents, youth leaders and other interested parishioners (Pastoral Ministry Formation, Catechist Coaching, college classes, webinars, etc.).
- Conferences and workshops for adults and youth (registration, travel, lodging, etc.).
- Fees for guest speakers to come to the parish, etc.
- Occasionally, I receive a grant opportunity from the Bishops’ Conference or other institution in the area of faith formation. We will keep you posted on these possibilities throughout the year.

Let your creativity run! How do we bring all the faithful in the parish to a greater knowledge, service, and love of Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church?

-- Bishop John

“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do.” (1 Thes 5:11)
I am 26 years old, a father of three young children, and I wish to offer my perspective, shared by many of my peers, on Rome’s upcoming synod (on “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment”).

Though the Church’s growing focus on evangelization of the “Nones” is encouraging, there have been recent discussions emanating from several prominent figures in Rome and throughout Church leadership regarding a so-called “paradigm shift” relative to doctrine, the supremacy of individual conscience, and pastoral accommodation. My wife and I find these developments disturbing and potentially disastrous for the evangelization of the young and the fallen-away.

We young people crave the truth and clarity of good teaching. On a secular level this is evidenced by the meteoric rise in popularity of (alt-right speaker and scholar) Jordan Peterson. We crave the truth, no matter how blunt or difficult it is for us to swallow or for the shepherds of our flock to teach.

Our culture is roiled in confusion concerning the basic tenets of human nature: From a very young age, we’re deluged with propaganda that distorts basic scientific truths about gender, paints virtue and chivalry as “toxic masculinity,” denigrates the family, and desecrates the nature of sex and its fruits, especially the unborn child.

We urgently need the Church’s clarity and authoritative guidance on issues like abortion, homosexuality, gender dysphoria, the indissolubility of marriage, the four last things, and the consequences of contraception (moral, anthropological, and abortifacient). My generation has never, or rarely, heard these truths winsomely taught in the parishes. Instead, we hear most forcefully and frequently from our bishops’ conference and our dioceses regarding the federal budget, border policy, net neutrality, gun control, and the environment.

Increasingly, we have noticed an appeasement of modern culture under the broad cloak of pastoral sensitivity, including cases of some high-profile clergy who deliberately blur the Church’s teaching regarding homosexuality and transgenders in the name of “building bridges.” Discussions of beauty in the liturgy and reverent reception of the Eucharist are mocked. Heads are scratched at decreasing Mass attendance, yet young people who look to tradition to recover our bearings are chided as “rigid.”

This shift away from clarity is demoralizing for young faithful Catholics, particularly those with a heart for the New Evangelization and my friends raising children against an ever-stronger cultural tide. Peers of mine who are converts or reverts have specifically cited teachings like Humanae Vitae, Familiaris Consortio, and Veritatis Splendor as beacons that set the Church and her wisdom apart from the world and other faiths. Now they’re hearing from some in the highest levels of the Church that these liberating teachings are unrealistic ideals, and that “conscience” should be the arbiter of truth.

Young Catholics crave the beauty that guided and inspired previous generations for nearly two millennia. Many of my generation received their upbringing surrounded by bland, ugly, and often downright counter-mystical modern church architecture, hidden tabernacles, and banal modern liturgical music more suitable to failed off-Broadway theater. The disastrous effect that Beige Catholicism (as Bishop Robert Barron aptly describes it) has had on my generation can’t be overstated. In a world of soulless modern vulgarity, we’re frustrated by the iconoclasm of the past 60 years.

In sum, many of us feel that we’re the rightful heirs of thousands of years of rich teaching, tradition, art, architecture, and music. Young Catholics increasingly recognize that these riches will be crucial for evangelizing our peers and passing on a thriving Church to our children. If the Church abandons her traditions of beauty and truth, she abandons us.

I offer these observations without bitterness or insult, but with love for my brothers and sisters who have not received the blessing, love, and formation God mysteriously granted to me and my friends. I am not alone. Though deeply troubled by the current state of affairs, we remain hopeful; and rooted in that confidence, we’re raising large families who will inherit the future of the Church. I sincerely hope this can be conveyed emphatically at the upcoming synod, and I think every pastor and bishop who stands as a role model for evangelizing, preaching the truth, and promoting the beauty and richness our faith has to offer.

I can add little to that kind of witness. I’ll merely suggest the obvious: The future of the Catholic faith belongs to those who create it with their fidelity, their self-sacrifice, their commitment to bringing new life into the world and raising their children in truth, and their determination to walk Christ’s “narrow way” with joy. May God grant the 2018 synod fathers the grace and courage to lead young people on that path.
DODGE CITY — "...If we don’t preserve the gift of life, what do we have?" asked keynote speaker Terry Beatley to an audience gathered at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe April 7 for “Love Gives Life”, a Kansans for Life (KFL) Conference.

Presenting the Spanish keynote address was Tricia Powell. Other speakers included Hosanna Myers, Christine Lightner of ABC Pregnancy Center in Garden City, Julian Thomas and Toni Fry of St. Nick Adoption, Amy Torkelson, KFL Chief Operations Officer, and Alan Weldon, KFL Board of Directors Chairman.

After attending a March for Life in Washington, D.C., Beatley began to immerse herself in the study of pro-life issues in relation to abortion. Today she is the president and founder of Hosea Initiative, an educational non-profit organization that focusses on the mission of teaching “so that the practice of abortion is no longer acceptable.”

Back then, though, after Beatley felt those first compulsions to serve God’s call to protect all life, she admitted that she was unsure of how best to move forward. That is, until she turned to prayer.

“All I could hear was, ‘You need to go interview Dr. Bernard Nathanson,’” Beatley said.

Nathanson was an obstetrician-gynecologist who co-founded NARAL Pro-Choice America, formerly the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws. He personally aborted more than 60,000 babies, and his abortion facilities were responsible for around 5,000 babies, and his abortion facilities were responsible for around 60,000 abortions.

In the 1970s, he had a change of heart and became a prominent opponent of abortion. Formerly an atheist, Nathanson and became a prominent opponent of abortion. He personally aborted more than 60,000 babies, and his abortion facilities were responsible for around 5,000 babies, and his abortion facilities were responsible for around 60,000 abortions.

In his 80s, Nathanson had terminal cancer and would die a little more than a year later.

In an effort to learn more about Nathanson and to keep her promise to him, she met with a Chicago priest, Father C. John McCloskey, who had converted the former abortionist.

During her visit, Father McCloskey invited her to pray with him before the altar of a beautiful church.

Kneeling to pray, she heard, “Terry, you’re home. And from this place is where we are going forward...”

“I just began to weep,” said Beatley.

“There was mascara dripping down my face.”

Wiping away tears and makeup smudges, Beatley then followed Father McCloskey on a tour of the church. As she walked behind him, watching his long strides and cassock billowing outward, she said, “With all this research I’ve been doing over the years, it just seems like the Catholic Church is the one holding up the truth about life.”

Lanfranchi (breast cancer expert), Dr. Angela Lanfranchi (breast cancer expert), Dr. Angela Lanfranchi (breast cancer expert), Wesley J. Smith (author and attorney), Dr. Angela Lanfranchi (breast cancer expert), Dr. David Prentice (stem cell research expert), and more.

The convention includes an adult track, teen track, and childcare.

The NRL Convention moves around the country each year. See www.nrlconvention.com for registration information. Single-day and three-day registration is available, but registrations must be made in advance (no registration at the door).
Mark your calendars for 2019 March for Life events in Topeka, Washington, D.C.

March for Life invites you to prepare for the Jan. 16-20 March for Life in Washington, D.C., and/or the Kansans for Life march in Topeka, Jan. 22. See below for more information, including who to contact to reserve your space.

January 16-20, 2019 — Washington, D.C.

Trip includes:
- Bus transportation — Hotel for two nights — “Life is VERY Good Rally” — Holy Mass — March for Life — Sightseeing
- Seating is limited, so reserve your space now!

For more information and registration,
contact Tom or Lisa Ridder, (620) 375-2100 or email lridd68@gmail.com

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 — Topeka
On the 46th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
For High School and College Age to Stand-up for the Value of Human Life

Pro-Life Pilgrimage with Holy Mass, Other Prayer, Public Witness

For more information and to register, contact Gayla Kirmer, (620) 227-1525
Or email: gkirmer@dcdiocese.org

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The joy of travel

Editor’s Note: Since I have officially (or unofficially, depending on the establishment) entered the world of “senior discounts,” I find myself enjoying this special focus of the Southwest Kansas Catholic with renewed interest. I can begin to envision the day when I retire, and how I might wish to spend my time. Most of this involves old movies and a comfortable couch. But when not doing that, the idea of finally being able to see a bit of the world sounds wonderful, but not just to experience different sites; as Mark Twain wrote: “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”

The following article discusses the benefits of group travel, which is further emphasized by the photos at right:

(BPT) - Many people long to see another part of the world but are reluctant to travel on their own or take on the stress of planning a vacation. Researching destinations, transportation, accommodations and activities can be a lot of work. Expedia research has shown that leisure travelers visit an average of 38 websites to get information and compare prices before finalizing their plans. If this sounds especially daunting, you’re not alone!

We reached out to travel industry expert Jim Menge for his insights into overcoming the challenges of solo travel. Menge has visited more than 100 countries and firmly believes in the benefits of making lasting memories with the people you get to know on a trip. Menge is also the President of Rovia(TM), an industry-leading travel and lifestyle service provider headquartered in Plano, Texas. “Travel is the ultimate expression of freedom,” says Menge. “The freedom to leave home, to roam the earth, to see the world through the eyes of those you meet along the way and to share your world with them.”

To attain that freedom, Menge recommends joining a travel club that offers pre-planned group vacation packages. Group travel provides an opportunity to meet people who enjoy similar activities, and the curated offerings of a travel club relieve the stress of planning every aspect of a trip on your own. Not only do you have an easier way to book your next trip, you also get to create long-lasting memories with a new group of friends.

So, why don’t more people take advantage of group travel? Here are a few myths debunked:

Myth no. 1: I’ll be lonely.
While a few in your group may already know each other, plenty of others will arrive solo, looking to meet new people. Unfamiliar settings have a way of bringing strangers together. In fact, a story in The Atlantic magazine revealed that people who share experiences are happier than those who experience things alone. Between sightseeing and sampling foreign delicacies, friendships flourish naturally between group members.

Myth no. 2: I’ll have to do everything en masse.
While there’s typically an itinerary outlined for the entire group to follow, you’re free to explore with a smaller group or on your own. One of the best ways to form new friendships is to connect over shared interests. If you and a few others want to see the same play or museum, exhibit, go together!

Myth no. 3: It’s too expensive.
Traveling with a group can actually help you save money. As part of a group, you can share food and transportation, and purchase reduced admission to popular attractions and activities. Vacation clubs present a good option for group travel because they offer value-packed trips at discounted rates to their members. One example is DreamTrips, an award-winning travel and leisure club where members enjoy professionally curated travel opportunities and valuable deals at select restaurants, hotels, excursions and entertainment venues all over the world.

Still unsure? “It is an amazing privilege to be able to travel the world freely, to be able to see different countries and experience new cultures,” says Menge. “When we meet and speak to those around us, it will only serve to enhance our journey. Go ahead and talk to your fellow travelers... Talk to strangers. I promise it will make you feel more connected and more present while you travel.” What are you waiting for? Put yourself out there. Find the vacation club that best fits your lifestyle and book your next getaway today.

For information on Proximo Travel Catholic tour groups (which organized the trip at right), email Tony Frasco at tonyfrasco@proximotravel.com, or visit travelwithtony.blogspot.com. (Frasco is a former teacher at Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Dodge City.)
Southwest Kansas Catholics take a Roman Holiday

More than 50 Catholics from the Diocese of Dodge City (including additional folks from as far away as Nevada and Illinois) embarked on a week-long pilgrimage to Rome in early March.

The pilgrimage was led by Father Aneesh Parappanattu, MSFS, parochial vicar for the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Norma Alvarez, cathedral Director of Religious Education.

As well as the Vatican, the group visited historic sites in Assisi, Tuscany, Florence and Venice, including walking the steps of the famous Roman Colosseum, where thousands of Christians met their death.

One of the many memorable moments came when members of the group were able to wave their hellos to Pope Francis as his vehicle rolled closely by.

“The most meaningful part of the trip was the daily Mass in all of the beautiful basilicas and chapels,” said Gayla Kirmer.

Kansans are among hundreds of faithful at St. Peter’s Square waiting for the pope to arrive.
Fossil hunting reveals the creative artistry of God

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

I've always had a fascination with fossils, and my dad, being a retired geophysicist, has a keen interest in them as well — and far more knowledge. So, when my mom and dad came to visit my wife and me in Spearville several years ago, I decided to take Dad on a fossil hunt.

But where can we find them? I was still pretty new to Kansas.

We went to the Dodge City Visitor's Center, where an attendant put in a call to Marshall Allen Bailey, whom she mistakenly told we were looking for “arrowheads”.

“No!” I whispered to her, imagining what Marshall Bailey’s response would be to us digging up indigenous artifacts. I was too late. She gave us a mischievous look and said into the phone, “I’m not going to tell them that.”

When we finally got it straight, my dad and I were directed to some land where the owner graciously allowed us to scour around. Within an hour or so, we found a rock the size of a beach ball covered in shell fossils. I lugged it back to the car, praying that I wouldn’t get a hernia, and for the next several years it sat near my parents’ front porch in Colorado. Dad often telling people about our discovery on the Kansas prairie.

For me, fossils are like God’s stocking-stuffers. They are little gifts God gives us to decipher the past. We thought we knew the mind of God — that the earth was the center of the universe — until the day that we discovered that the earth revolves around the sun, not the other way around.

And that mass of bone-shaped sediment? It actually forms into a behemoth creature that lived not thousands, but millions of years ago.

As noted scientist Jorge Mario Bergoglio (aka Pope Francis) would attest, fossils don’t challenge the belief in a loving God, they enhance it! What a creative artist our God is!

Several months after my dad and I walked the Kansas countryside looking for fossils, I decided to do some yard work. (Normally, I don’t decide such things. It’s decided for me.) My job was to prepare a flower garden, and to line it with stones I found in the yard.

I turned over a narrow piece of stone and noticed a shell fossil! And then another! And later, we would go for walks and I would see fossils on stones on other yards! Having grown up in Colorado where fossil hunting meant a trip deep into the mountains, who could have guessed I’d find fossils right in my front yard!

As many of you already know, shell fossils are abundant due to the prevalence of sandstone in the area. This makes sense. Where do you find shells? On the beach! What are beaches made of? Sand!

Most of these fossils are around 330 million years old, which would be the late Paleozoic era. This was before the advent of the dinosaurs. It was the time that much of the carbon was created that became the coal deposits of today. (Shell Oil, anyone?)

It also indicates that if we were to suddenly go back 330 million years, we’d all better be wearing flippers and a snorkel. This area would have been a tropical marine environment, comparable to the Bahamas or the Great Barrier Reef.

All sorts of cool fossils are waiting to be discovered in Kansas, and not just shells, bugs, plants and things. Plesiosaurs have been discovered, as have mosasaurs, 50-foot long marine reptiles. Mastodon and Woolly Mammoth teeth have been found in Kansas.

Personally, I think God smiles when we find clues to His creative past! Whether they are found by a scientist out in the field, a son and his father walking the plains of Kansas, or a grandparent leading his or her grandchild through a front yard nature walk.

God’s pallet is filled with wonders waiting to be discovered.

Have you found interesting fossils in Kansas? Let us know! Send a photo and description to skregister@dcdiocese.org.
Good Evening Dave Myers,

I do apologize, I received word from Father Mike that you had not received the Wedding Pictures. I was sure that I e-mailed them to you a while back. I was unable to retrieve the old e-mailed. Here I am sending you the pictures. Again, I apologize for the delay and mess of the e-mail.

Here I am sending a few. I hope they are what you are looking for. If not please let me know.

Thank You,
Mrs. Lydia A. Callahan

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CLAFIN — They call her a “treasure” at Immaculate Heart of Parish; a woman who gave years of her time and talent in service to the Lord and His people in this small southwest Kansas Catholic community.

Before the burden of rheumatoid arthritis stole her ability to serve her church, Rose Ann Wondra had happily taught PSR, made posters, helped with arranging the floral arrangements, and prepared the sanctuary for church holidays. She was active in ICC Altar Society serving as treasurer and co-chair of the Funeral Committee for many years. She volunteered as a greeter, collection money-counter, and gift bearer. She also helped Father Andrew McGovern do the books for the Propagation of Faith when he was pastor from 1991-1993.

Rose Ann is well known for her cakes, including her “Lamb Cakes” that she often made for children participating in their First Communion.

“I enjoyed very much doing what I could to do my part,” she said from her home in Clafin.

Rose Ann “Bahr” married Leo Wondra on Aug. 29, 1956. He died July 23, 2003. Their four children are Lois, Cheryl, Gary and Bernetta. Her family is blessed with 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In these days, when health struggles have taken their toll on her desire to serve, she still enjoys cooking and baking, especially for her extended family when the come to visit.

Her daughter, Lois, is married to Trey Hanchett, and has two children: Lukas Demel and his wife, Jessi (who have one son, Jack); and Marisa Fairchild and her husband, Ryan (who have two daughters, Annalynn and Emma).

Cheryl, who is married to Tony Klepper, has two daughters: Michelle, who is married to Garrett Bland; and Andrea Klepper.

Gary is married to Lisa Wondra, and has one daughter, Kristin, who is married to Jesse Colson. They have one son, Kenton Wondra.

Bernetta is married to Tom Burkhardt, and has four sons: Ben, Kyler, Layne, and Wyatt.

Rose Ann commented that when she was asked to help out, she always had wonderful people with whom to work.

“When I look back at my accomplishments, I am glad God gave me the strength and ability to do what I have done,” she said.

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The joy of volunteering

Sadly, getting older can often lead to a lonely lifestyle. The children have long left the nest, your spouse may be gone, friends or family are scattered or have passed on.

At 104, a Garden City man would not give in to the loneliness. Years ago, when the SW Kansas Catholic interviewed him, he was serving two days a week delivering magazines to patients at St. Catherine Hospital.

A busy volunteer at the Cathedral is well into her 90s.

Check with your local pastor. Few churches will turn you down if you want to offer your time. Call a local hospital, health center, or charitable giving organization. There are volunteer opportunities in abundance for those wanting to serve God’s people.

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The ‘treasure’ of Immaculate Heart

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The article at right is reprinted with permission from the Ellinwood/Clafin parish newsletter.

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It’s not just health care. It’s enjoying your health, every step of the way.

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Un padre joven Oscar Romero.

Por CHARLENE SCOTT MYERS

Especial para el Catholic

U na excelente película sobre la vida y la muerte del beato Óscar Romero, arzobispo, fue difundida recientemente en EWTN la noche del 21 de abril.

Romero podría haber cumplido 100 años el pasado 15 de agosto de 2017 si no hubiera sido baleado en el altar mientras celebraba la Misa en la Iglesia de la Divina Providencia en San Salvador hace 38 años, el 24 de marzo de 1980. El Papa Francisco lo declaró mártir en mayo de 2015.

Fue un partidario de la gente de El Salvador que sufría bajo la brutal persecución de los soldados y los dirigentes gubernamentales. Romero fue el defensor amable pero valiente y francamente pobre de los pobres en San Salvador. Cuarto arzobispo del Salvador, pagó su valentía con su propia vida.

Visitó El Salvador con 13 laicos y clérigos después de los asesinatos de Romero en 2014 y las tres religiosas y una mujer laica que trabajaba con los indígenas pobres en El Salvador. Condujimos por el camino solitario y áspero hacia el área donde las cuatro mujeres habían sido violadas y asesinadas, regresando con las mejillas brillantes de lágrimas.

Después de su asesinato, Monseñor Romero no fue enterrado; su cuerpo descansaba afuera en un bello cofre cerrado en la ciudad de San Salvador. Condujimos por el camino solitario y áspero hacia el área donde las cuatro mujeres habían sido violadas y asesinadas, regresando con las mejillas brillantes de lágrimas.

El fornido agente vaciló mientras nos miraba con odio evidente. Finalmente retrocedió, y frunciendo el ceño volvió a poner el póster en mis manos. Todos los miembros de nuestro grupo de turistas tenían el boleto ganador!

Pero había muchos dirigentes entre los ricos y en el gobierno y el ejército de El Salvador que odiaban a Romero y temían el poder de la Iglesia Católica y las miles de personas de él representaba. Él hubiera podido volver a su país y vivir una vida tranquila después de su asesinato. Pero un fornido agente vaciló mientras nos miraba con odio evidente. Finalmente retrocedió, y frunciendo el ceño volvió a poner el póster en mis manos. Todos los miembros de nuestro grupo de turistas tenían el boleto ganador!

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ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM ...

Ciudad del Vaticano – 11 de abril de 2018: El Papa Francisco se reunió con los conductores del Campeonato de Fórmula E de la FIA, los ejecutivos y sus familias, bendiciendo uno de los nuevos autos de carrera eléctricos de Porsche. Roma organizó su primera carrera de campeonato mundial de Fórmula E el 14 de abril.

Vatican City - April 11, 2018: Pope Francis meets with FIA Formula E Championship drivers, executives and their families, blessing one of the new electric powered race cars from Porsche. Rome hosted its first Formula E world championship race on April 14.

Vatican Media/CNA
La evangelización.

Cuando la mayoría de las personas escuchan esta palabra, piensan en un orador carismático, una multitud de miles y oleadas de energía y entusiasmo. Y la palabra a veces significa eso grande.

Pero, en el fondo, la evangelización es una gran palabra para lo que debe ser algo pequeño. Es una reunión de un tú y un yo, arreglada (sin que lo sepamos) por el Dios de nosotros dos. Estamos allí, tú y yo, y, sin previo aviso, algo flota en el aire entre nosotros.

Puede haber sido algo que dijiste. Puede haber sido algo que dije. De alguna manera, ambos sabemos que hay algo más que decir. De alguna manera, tú tienes que escuchar algo, y de alguna manera, yo tengo que decir algo.

Entonces, en palabras vacíantes, tamañables, inadecuadas, con palabras pobres y hechas jirones, te entregamos lo que hemos visto, oído, tocado y gustado. Entonces, en palabras vacíantes, tamañables, inadecuadas, con palabras pobres y hechas jirones, te entregamos lo que hemos visto, oído, tocado y gustado, te entregamos lo que hemos visto, oído, tocado y gustado.

Si estás siendo llamado, ¿Estás siendo llamado? ¡Así que no tengas miedo! Envié una carta de apoyo a nuestros seminaristas ¡Así que no tengas miedo! Envié una carta de apoyo a nuestros seminaristas.
Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas Awards Scholarships

The Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas (CFSK) has awarded 167 scholarships totaling $205,530 for the 2018-2019 academic year. More than 258 scholarship applications were received and reviewed before the recipients were selected. The CFSK administers a portfolio of St. Mary of the Plains scholarship endowment as well as new scholarship funds from which these scholarships were awarded.

The CFSK, the fourth community foundation founded in Kansas, was formed in 1991 for the purpose of building a charitable endowment for the area. The Foundation receives and manages capital of all amounts from individuals, families, businesses and other foundations.

The income from these funds is applied to 1) use as designated by the donor, or 2) uses that serve the best interests of the community, depending upon how the gift is structured.

A total of $2,669,717 has been awarded in scholarships to 4,101 total recipients over the last 26 years.

Some of the recipients include:

- Fred & Mary Ann Spraw
- Marcelino & Josephine Montoya Perlo
- Margaret Robb Fund
- Margaret Rogge Fund
- Memorial Scholarship
- PhD Scholarship (VR)
- Robert and Malida Waldman Scholarship Fund
- Rollan Stakenholte Memorial Crop Quist Scholarship Fund
- Scheckel - Snyder
- Sir McElriss Blyeck
- St. Mary - Alumni Academic
- St. Mary - Alumni Athletic
- St. Mary - High School Alumni
- Sunshine Select Fund
- The Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund
- The Minneapolis Community Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Todd Fitzsimmons Memorial Scholarship
- Tom and Donna Shirley
- Thomas H. and Roberta B. Harkness Endowed Account
- The Southwest Kansas Catholic
- Wm. & Clara Tenbrink Family Foundation Scholarship Fund

Other recipients include:

- Betty J. and Rolland E. Werner Scholarship Fund
- Brian Pfannenstiel
- Dr. Carl Viertishaer Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Eddie Dal Tono
- Donald L. & Shirley J. Skinner
- Donald Schinstock Family
- Donald P. Young, Sr.
- Donor Advised Fund
- Dylan Rhoten #14
- Dylan Rhoten #14
- Dylan Rhoten #14
- Brandon Roy
- Westin Slagle
- Wm. & Clara Tenbrink Family Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Wm. & Donna Shirley
- Wm. & Donna Shirley
- Wm. & Donna Shirley
- Wm. & Donna Shirley
You don’t have to be smarter than your smartphone

The Four Guidelines of Christian Communication

1) SPEAK ONLY TRUTH (Eph. 4:25)
   • use no 100% words (you always..., you are a..., your style is..., you never...)
   • no one is always something, making any such
   100% accusatory statement into a lie
   • no name calling (name calling is the same as using 100% words — Matthew 5:22)
   • no intentional lies
   • no exaggerations (fishing stories may be exempted)
2) KEEP CURRENT (Eph. 4:26,27)
   • do not let the sun set, or the church service start,
   before you handle a relationship problem
   • do not keep a list of offenses (1 Corinthians 13:5),
   handle each offense as it comes up
3) DEFY THE OTHER PARTY—DO NOT ATTACK THEM (Eph. 4:29,30)
   • the goal of instruction is love (1 Timothy 1:5)
   • the goal of discipline is to win repentance (2 Corinthians 2:6-8)
   • do not intervene in the argument between two other people (Prov. 26:17)
   • remember that we are all sinners (1 Corinthians 6:11)
4) think before saying anything (Proverbs 25:8)
   • be slow to anger and slow to speak (James 1:19)
   • hear the other person before you rebuke them (Prov. 18:13)
   • be forgiving (Eph. 4:32)
EULALIA MARAVILLA, 84, of St. Helen Parish, Hugoton, died April 8, 2018. She was a housewife. Survivors include seven sons: Jose Luis Sr., Victor, Alvaro, Ruben, Roberto, Juan, and Ernesto; daughter, Adela Reza; brothers, Anatolio Zuniaga and Ignacio Zuniaga; sister, Francisca Zuniaga; 28 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; and other family and friends.

TRISTAN IZAEIL SIFUENTES, 20, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died April 8, 2018. He was born August 25, 1997 at Plainview, Texas the son of Francisco Sifuentes and Shari Fernandez. He was a graduate of Dodge City High School and was currently working at Cargill in Dodge City. Survivors include his father and mother, Francisco and Maria Sifuentes, and his mother and father, Shari Fernandez and Chris Alieries (through remarriage); brothers, Francisco Jose Sifuentes, Sebastian Sifuentes, Skiller Rattanakoun, and Xavier Alieries; grandparents, Francisco and Lydia Sifuentes, Jose and Rosario Mendoza, Nelley and Ralph Morrow, and Jerry and Lena Rodriguez. Father Aneneh Parappatanut presided.

EDNA A. ROMERO, 72, of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died April 11, 2018. Edna was a Certified Nurse Aide, Certified Medical Aide, and caretaker to many. She worked in several towns in five states, including Ulysses, the last 23 years. Edna is survived by her daughters, Tina Ortiz and Jovian Romo; sons, Andy, Arthur, and Chuck; sisters, Teresa Gomez, Cecelia Gamboa, and Julie Retana; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Father Peter Fernandez presided.

RORRINE H. ROMER, 94, of Prince of Peace Parish at Patric Church, Great Bend, died April 12, 2018. She married Fred C. Maneth Oct. 25, 1948. He preceded her in death on Dec. 11, 1998. She was a member of the Altar Society and Daughters of Isabella. Survivors include her children, Cheryl Yunk, Carla Wynn-Griffith, Kent Maneth, and Ron Maneth; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Father Ted Stoecklein presided.

BRILLIS MANETH, 92, of Prince of Peace Parish at St. Patrick Church, Great Bend, died April 12, 2018. She married Fred C. Maneth Aug. 17, 1934. He preceded her in death on July 8, 1960. She was a member of Altar Society. Survivors include her children, Karon, Evelyn, and Carl; two sisters, Leola Gottschalk and Ann Danler; five grandchildren; a step-grandson; a step-granddaughter; seven great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren. Father Ted Stoecklein presided.

LORRAINE C. HOMER, 94, of St. John the Baptist Parish, Meade, died April 10, 2018. A lifetime area resident, she had worked for Meade Manufacturing, the Fowler State Bank and as secretary for the Meade City office for many years. On Feb. 2, 1945, she married Johnny T. Homer, Jr. He preceded her in death on Nov. 13, 2010. She is survived by three sons, Johnny T. Homer III, Bob Homer, and Jim Homer; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

BALDOMERA (MARY) DEL HIERRO, 85, of Sacred Heart Parish, Larned, died April 2, 2018. Her husband, Leo Roberto Del Hierro, was a member of the Air Force. The couple lived in several states in the U.S., Okinawa and Japan. Roberto died July 11, 1993. Survivors include two sons, Leo Roberto Jr. and Mark Cecil Del Hierro; three daughters, Diana Kais, Mary Del Hierro, and Annette Herrera; three brothers, Tony Lemuz, Isaac Lemuz, and Bobby Lemuz; three sisters, Angela Rayla, Louise Pierce, and Helen Asher; two sisters-in-law, Marie Lemuz and Don Lemuz; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Father Bernard Felix presided.

MARGOARIE MAE MCCURRY, 85, of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Hoisington, died April 15, 2018. Marjorie married Edward McCurry August 17, 1964. She was a member of the Altar Society. Survivors include her husband, Edward; one son, Michael McCurry; two grandchildren; one brother, Bill Hickey; and one sister, Betsy Selfert. Father Anselm Eke presided.

ERNEST E. "ERNE" DREHER, 77, of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Hoisington, died April 16, 2018. He married Elsie M. Klaus on July 8, 1960. He retired in 2004 from Clark's Motor Hospital after 25 years of service to the maintenance department. He continued to work part-time for Key Management in Great Bend until 2012. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #1521. He is survived by his wife, Ernestine; four children, Lee Alan Dreher, Michelle Morales, Darren Dreher, and Kimberly Williams; 10 grandchildren; three brothers, Ivan, Eddie, and Walter; and two sisters, Rosina Brungardt and Lillian VanHooser. Father Ted Stoecklein presided.

LEXUS ANNA ROSE LEMUZ, 18, of Sacred Heart Parish, Larned, died April 15, 2018. She graduated from Maize South High School class of 2017 and was just finishing dental hygiene school. Survivors include her father, Randall Lemuz; her mother, Sandra Lemuz; two brothers, Layton and Landon; maternal grandmother, Mary Jean Snyder; and paternal grandmother, Carol Sheppard. Father Bernard Felix presided.

LORENA C. ANGELL, 88, of Holy Rosary Parish, Medicine Lodge, died April 17, 2018. In November of 1954, she married Elmer N. Angell, Jr. in Medicine Lodge, KS. He preceded her in death on Nov. 17, 2017. She was a 4-H Leader, loved gardening and baking, and made wedding and anniversary cakes for many people. In 2005, she received the Homemaker Award at the Barber County Fair. Surviving are three sons, Randall, Harold, and Roger; one daughter, Jan England; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Father Firmin Kyaw and Father Tom Welk presided.

DEAN FRANK SNOGRASS, 79, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, died April 19, 2018. Dean grew up on a farm near Rozel, Kansas and attended Rozel schools, graduating from high school in 1957. Shortly after graduation he joined the U.S. Army and served his country for five years. He operated his own forklift mechanic business serving most of Southwest Kansas for more than 25 years, retiring in 2009. Survivors include his wife, Carol; two daughters, Deanna Munsen and Amy Wrigley; five grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

WILMA LORENZEN, 79, of Scottsdale AZ., died March 15, 2018. Wilma was born on Nov. 24, 1938 in Kinsley. Her husband Jack preceded her in death. She is survived by two daughters: Kim Post and Jacqueline Lorenzen; sisters Dorothy Putter of Kinsley, and Delores Jones of Offering; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her dog, Sassy. Father John Strasser presided.


BARBARA E. STEINER, 89, of Immaculate Conception Parish, Claflin, died April 21, 2018. She was an assistant cashier at the former Farmers State Bank in Beaver. She belonged to the Altar Society, and was a former member of the Daughters of Isabella. On May 12, 1953, she married Edward J. Steiner, in Ellinwood. He preceded her in death on Oct. 8, 1995. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. Father Terrence Klein presided.

MATILDA O. "TILLY" DANLER, 92, of Sacred Heart Parish, Kinsley, died April 21, 2018. On Oct. 29, 1956, Tilly married Sylvester K. Danler. He preceded her in death. She is survived by two sons, Tom Danler and Charles; a daughter, Beth Dechant; eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Daughters of Isabella.

COLETA ELIZABETH HABERMAN, 91, of Prince of Peace Parish at St. Patrick Church, Great Bend, died April 25, 2018. She was a teacher for 34 years. She was a Certified Nurse Aide at the Ellinwood Grade School in 1957. Shortly after graduation she joined the U.S. Army and served her country for five years. He operated his own forklift mechanic business serving most of Southwest Kansas for more than 25 years, retiring in 2009. Survivors include his wife, Fritzie; four sons, David, Mark, Craig, and Larry; one daughter, Liz Schartz; 17 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Father Ted Stoecklein presided.
Ryan ousts Catholic priest

From Page 3

Gaudete et exsultate

From Page 3

Archbishop Gomez, in his April 10 column at The Angelus, called Gaudete et exsultate “a beautiful and practical reflection on the meaning of our Christian lives.”

“All of us, every baptized Catholic, need to understand how important we are, what our lives mean in the eyes of God, in the light of his beautiful plan for creation. The meaning of our lives is to be saints, to be holy,” the Los Angeles archbishop wrote.

“Pope Francis also wants us to know that holiness is personal, but it does not isolate us from others,” he added.

In the Arlington Catholic Herald, Bishop Burbidge wrote that the pursuit of holiness is a constant battle against the false promises of sin, which must be counteracted with a renewed commitment to prayer and the sacraments. He also said Catholics must foster works of mercy, joy, and community.

Pope Francis, he said, “invites all of us to examine and discern the concrete ‘risks, challenges and opportunities’ which we experience as we attempt to answer the call to holiness. He confidently and joyfully reflects on the places in our everyday lives where this call to holiness is tested, including our families, communities, Church, and use of digital media.”

Bishop Bambera agreed, adding that Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics to share compassion with the most vulnerable.

“The Holy Father calls all of us to bear witness to God in our everyday lives and in all that we do, particularly by treating everyone we encounter with dignity and respect, especially the most vulnerable and those in need of our compassion and assistance — the unborn, the poor and destitute, migrants and refugees,” he said in an April 10 statement.

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-- Psalm 23

BISHOP GILMORE SEEKS ON-CALL ADMINISTRATIVE HELP

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• Proficiency in using Google Docs and sharing files over Google Drive
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• Ordering and keeping records of books to be ordered and books sold using Excel (No programming required. Data base is already created.)
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• Accompanying Bishop Gilmore to distribute his books. (Local parishes around Dodge City only)
• Organizing files
• Entering names of participants into a data base template (Mailchimp)
• Emailing using Zoho mail (We will provide you with training. It’s like gmail, but on a different platform)

Hours will begin on contract, and training will begin this summer. Our busy season runs from October through April. Please see https://www.gracethatreigns.com for more information.

Please send resumes to: rmg@dcdiocese.org or to information@gracethatreigns.com.

“SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.”

--- Psalm 23

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

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The Director will have responsibility for the Administrator of the Office and Facilities. Working collaboratively to provide accurate and timely information to the parish, school, and other agencies, in regard to effective reporting and processing of financial reporting, compliance, and internal control systems.

Additionally, this position serves the Church and its related entities with expertise in financial affairs that include payroll processing, accounting, data systems, risk management, operational efficiency, real estate matters and various legal matters and financial analysis of the financial condition of the parish and the operational controls related to each parish entity.

Prefer Bachelor’s Degree in related area, proficient verbal and written communication skills. Demonstrated leadership abilities and 5 or more years of experience in business management and financial management are required.

Candidate must have demonstrated fidelity and understanding of the Catholic Church. To request additional information on position specifications and requirements and/or to apply: Email cover letter, resume and salary history to tlampe@dcdiocese.org or mail to Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, Attn: Human Resources, 910 Central, Dodge City, KS 67801. (620) 227-1534.

Elementary Teacher,

St. Joseph School, Ellinwood

Elementary teacher positions open at St. Joseph Catholic School in Ellinwood, KS. SICs is a caring, positive, structured learning environment where students are excited to learn. To apply, contact Marlene Clayton, 620-564-2721 or send application to 111 W 3rd, Ellinwood, KS 67526.

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People are living longer than any other time in history. You may need care in your old age—whether in a nursing facility or at home. That can cost up to $66,796 a year or $183 daily benefit*, and these costs are likely to increase. You may not have the funds you need, or your life savings could be wiped out in a few short years. Knights of Columbus Long-Term Care Insurance will help protect your assets and those of your family.

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

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Ad Vantage

Gabriel’s Crossword

ACROSS
1 Sacred vessels
5 Patron saint of workers
8 A Catholic United States Supreme Court justice
10 Jesus had a last one with the Apostles
11 Hebrew month
12 “Where were you when I founded the __?” (Job 38:4)
13 Catholic actress and First Lady of the American Theatre
15 Ology that is the study of the lives of the saints
16 Judas’ blood money purchase
18 David, to Goliath
20 A Creed
24 Father of Abram
25 Theyoke of Jesus, as described by Jesus
26 Scripture
28 “O, Mary! We ___ thee with blossoms today”
30 Housing for the patriarchs
32 Ezekiel’s vision
33 Catholic Academy Award-winning actress
34 Most solemn Christian feast
35 Vessel for perfuming the altar

DOWN
2 Large crucifix
3 Divine time
4 “For our ___, he was crucified...”
5 The entry into the Promised Land is described in this OT book
6 “…and the rich he has sent ___ away” (Lk 1:53)
7 Theyblew these outside the walls of Jericho

9 Kingdom of David
11 The Garden
14 The Garden
16 “So the last will be ___” (Mt 20:16)
17 Daughter of Jacob
19 Pope who met Attila
21 First event in the Bible
22 Monasticism began here
23 Jonathan shot these to warn David
26 Catholic frontiersman who died at the Alamo
27 “…us, O Lord…”
28 Redemptorist community (abbr.)
29 “…Dimittis”
31 Number of choirs of angels

Teaser The Second:

Take the given words, and by moving a single letter from one word to the other, make a pair of synonyms, or near synonyms. For example, given: Boast - Hip, move the ‘s’ from ‘Boast’ to ‘Hip’ creating two synonyms. For example, given: Thighbone/Thermometer/Apoplexy you’ll make a familiar phrase. Putting “&” between them, a pair of smaller words. By following words, there are synonyms: Boat - Ship.

St. Michael’s Mind Benders

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.

Each Sudoku 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.

TEASER THE FIRST:
Inside each set of the following words, there are a pair of smaller words. By putting “&” between them, you’ll make a familiar phrase. For example, “Thighbone/Swallowtail” conceals “High & Low.”

1. Skyrocketing/Trolleyman
2. Thermometer/Apoplexy
3. Delaware/Bordering
4. Surprised/Trashiness
5. Throughout/Stumblebum

TEASER THE SECOND:

Take the given words, and by moving a single letter from one word to the other, make a pair of synonyms, or near synonyms. For example, given: Boast - Hip, move the ‘s’ from ‘Boast’ to ‘Hip’ creating two synonyms: Boast - Ship.

1. Our - Start
2. Strip - Tumble
3. Clause - Idea
4. Cash - Broom
5. Plight - Lam

TEASER THE THIRD:

JET

SAFE 2007

Fort

Hardx1Head
Father Engelbert Maria Coolen was born on March 15, 1865 in Nerriter, Holland. He was ordained for the Diocese of Leavenworth by Bishop Louis Mary Fink, OSB, on Jan. 23, 1888.

As one of the pioneer pastors in Kansas, he served at Lansing, Pittsburg, Frontenac, Weir City, Neodesha, Fredonia, Augusta, Topeka, Florence, Waterloo, Belpre and Schulte.

His only assignment in the Dodge City diocese was at St. Bernard, Belpre (1908-1913). He was the first resident pastor of the parish and built the rectory. During this pastorate, he also served the missions of St. Joseph, Offerle, and St. Nicholas, Kinsley, and celebrated Mass for the Catholics at Stafford in homes.

From 1913 to 1916, he served as pastor of St. Peter, Schulte, with St. John’s, Clonmel as a mission. He built the parish school in Clonmel, dedicated May 20, 1926.

Father Coolen suffered a heart attack when returning to the altar after distributing Holy Communion at the 7 a.m. Mass in Schulte on May 11, 1936. He died in the rectory soon after. Father William Schaefers celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Peter’s Church, Schulte; Father Prosper Stemmann, O.F.M., preached the funeral oration; Bishop August J. Schwertner gave the final absolution. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

"Father Coolen was a scholarly man, a student of languages, and a writer of considerable ability. Bishop, clergy, and laity esteemed him very highly for his gentle unassuming ways."

(Catholic Advance, May 16, 1936)
scripture readings

sunday, may 6; sixth sunday of easter
acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/
first john 4:7-10/john 15:9-17
monday, may 7
acts 16:11-15/john 15:26-16:4

may 8

acts 16:22-34/john 16:5-11
wednesday, may 9
acts 17:15, 22-18:1/john 16:12-15
thursday, may 10; ascension of the lord - holy day of obligation
acts 1:1-11/ephesians 1:17-23/
gospel: john 16:15-20
friday, may 11
acts 18:9-18/john 16:20-23
saturday, may 12
sunday, may 13
acts 1:15-17, 20-26/first john 4:11-16/first john 17:11-19
monday, may 14; saint matthias
acts 1:5-17, 20-26/john 15:9-17
tuesday, may 15
acts 20:17-27/john 17:1-11
wednesday, may 16
acts 20:28-38/john 17:11-19
thursday, may 17
acts 22:30; 23:6-11/first john 17:20-26
friday, may 18
acts 25:13-21/john 21:15-19
saturday, may 19
acts 26:16-20, 30-31/first john 21:20-25
sunday, may 20

answers

1. 9 6 5 3 2 1 7
2. 3 9 1 6 4 8 7
3. 3 6 7 5 2 4 1
4. 4 5 8 6 3 1 7
5. 6 1 9 4 7 5 9
6. 7 5 2 8 6 4 9
7. 8 2 3 1 5 9 7
8. 9 7 5 2 4 6 8
9. 1 6 4 9 7 5 3
10. 2 1 7 5 3 8 6

word search

fiery furnace

j j w e c n a r e v i l e d h
i p s u k a m r k w p x y d c
w g s a b n a x w p h e i a
r f u i b e f z l w u e g p r
f x k s a d d z a z r g n i d
r i o q b n s e e c n c i h a
h n r e y e m n e a e i k s h
u c x g l g r d x n d a l r s
m o a t o o p a z g l p a o y
r e a h n o f h y e o c w w j
b j x r s q f c m l g j p t b
o l s k l e t u g n i r n u b
u n b f i i m b k v w r i h o
n n c v n e v e s a d l p l f
d b r i d o l n b z x m q z b

abednego
angel
babylon
bound
burning
decree
deriverance
golden
idol
meshach
nebuchadnezzar
seven
shadrach
walking
worship

residential roofing specialists
mark and shannon davis, owners

sunday, may 20

sunday, may 20
acts 10:25-26/john 15:26-16:4
wednesday, may 20
acts 17:15, 22-18:1/john 16:12-15
thursday, may 20
acts 18:9-18/john 16:20-23
friday, may 21
saturday, may 21
acts 22:30; 23:6-11/first john 17:20-26
sunday, may 21
acts 25:13-21/john 21:15-19

sunday, may 22
acts 26:16-20, 30-31/first john 21:20-25

sunday, may 23
acts 1:5-17, 20-26/john 15:9-17

sunday, may 24
acts 20:17-27/john 17:1-11

sunday, may 25
acts 20:28-38/john 17:11-19

sunday, may 26
acts 22:30; 23:6-11/first john 17:20-26

sunday, may 27
acts 25:13-21/john 21:15-19

sunday, may 28
acts 26:16-20, 30-31/first john 21:20-25

sunday, may 29
acts 1:5-17, 20-26/john 15:9-17

sunday, may 30
acts 20:17-27/john 17:1-11

sunday, may 31
acts 20:28-38/john 17:11-19

sunday, june 1
acts 22:30; 23:6-11/first john 17:20-26

sunday, june 2
acts 25:13-21/john 21:15-19

sunday, june 3
acts 26:16-20, 30-31/first john 21:20-25

sunday, june 4
acts 1:5-17, 20-26/john 15:9-17

sunday, june 5
acts 20:17-27/john 17:1-11

sunday, june 6
acts 20:28-38/john 17:11-19

sunday, june 7
acts 22:30; 23:6-11/first john 17:20-26
Editor’s Note: The following stories do not only celebrate seniors, but the human will. These are the stories of those who have forgone the leisurely life of retirement to continue to chase their dream. The stories come courtesy of seniorcitizenstories.com.

At a century-old, math teacher was still working at the school she attended as a child

Madeline Scotto, of Brooklyn, New York, remained dedicated to her students at St. Ephrem’s elementary school — where she was part of the first graduating class in 1928. Until she died in December, 2015, at age 101, Scotto had worked three days a week as a math coach at St. Ephrem’s elementary school in Brooklyn, New York.

For Scotto “retire” is a bad word.

“I don’t ever want to hear that word,” she said.

“Some people like what they’re doing, but I have a passion for what I’m doing, and when you have a passion for something, you never give up.”

She began teaching in 1954, after a pastor at her church asked for volunteers to fill in for some Sisters who had been in a bus accident.

She has five children, most of whom have retired, nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Her husband, Francis, died in 1999.

Upon her 100th birthday, Scotto was honored with a special Mass and student assembly.

At 91, Johanna Quaas was the oldest competitive gymnast in the world.

No, this photo has not been retouched in any way. It is an actual photo of 91-year-old Johanna Quaas, who was certified as the Guinness World Record holder for being oldest competitive gymnast in the world.

“My face is old, but my heart is young,” Quaas said in 2017, according to the Straits Times. “Maybe the day I stop doing gymnastics is the day I die.”

Quaas first competed in gymnastics in 1934, then became a coach and a physical education teacher. She took a number of years off before returning to training in 1982 after having three daughters and has since become a great-grandmother, according to reports.

Quaas gained viral fame in 2012, when YouTube videos of her routines were posted that have since gained some 10 million views.

“My proudest moment so far was when I was 84 years old and there was no one in my age group competing in the championships,” Quaas said, according to the Straits Times. “So they put me with the others in the 70-75 age group and I still won by one point.”

World’s oldest Yoga instructor worked with Liz Taylor, Noel Coward

At 96, Tao Porchon-Lynch holds the Guinness World Records title for oldest yoga instructor. And that isn’t the first impressive title she’s held. Before entering the yoga industry, Porchon-Lynch had a storied career in show business, which included working as a fashion model in her native India, performing as a cabaret dancer under the guidance of famed playwright/director Noel Coward, winning a “Best Legs in Europe” contest, and acting in Hollywood films like “The Last Time I Saw Paris,” alongside Elizabeth Taylor. All these years later, Porchon-Lynch is still keeping those legs in shape, teaching an estimated 400 students at the Westchester Institute of Yoga in New York, which she and her husband founded in 1982.

At a mere 91, she is the oldest gymnast in the world

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“My proudest moment so far was when I was 84 years old and there was no one in my age group competing in the championships,” Quaas said, according to the Straits Times. “So they put me with the others in the 70-75 age group and I still won by one point.”

World’s oldest Yoga instructor worked with Liz Taylor, Noel Coward

At 96, Tao Porchon-Lynch holds the Guinness World Records title for oldest yoga instructor. And that isn’t the first impressive title she’s held. Before entering the yoga industry, Porchon-Lynch had a storied career in show business, which included working as a fashion model in her native India, performing as a cabaret dancer under the guidance of famed playwright/director Noel Coward, winning a “Best Legs in Europe” contest, and acting in Hollywood films like “The Last Time I Saw Paris,” alongside Elizabeth Taylor. All these years later, Porchon-Lynch is still keeping those legs in shape, teaching an estimated 400 students at the Westchester Institute of Yoga in New York, which she and her husband founded in 1982.

At 91, Johanna Quaas was the oldest competitive gymnast in the world.

No, this photo has not been retouched in any way. It is an actual photo of 91-year-old Johanna Quaas, who was certified as the Guinness World Record holder for being oldest competitive gymnast in the world.

“My face is old, but my heart is young,” Quaas said in 2017, according to the Straits Times. “Maybe the day I stop doing gymnastics is the day I die.”

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Remembering El Salvador’s holy martyr:  
**Blessed Archbishop Romero**

Continued from Page 1  
I visited El Salvador with 13 lay persons and clergymen after the murders of Romero and the three nuns and a lay woman who all worked with the indigenous poor in El Salvador. We drove down the lonely, rough road to the area where the four women had been raped and murdered, returning with tear-stained cheeks.

Following his murder, Archbishop Romero was not buried, but his body rested outside in a beautiful closed casket in the city of San Salvador for all to visit. I stood in tears twice at the casket to pray for the people and clergy of El Salvador who had suffered so much in recent years.

El Salvador’s poor had lived not only in terrible poverty, but also with constant fear of torture and death for themselves and their children. It is possible they suffered more from terror and sickness than any other country in Central or Latin America, including Guatemala.

Hundreds—perhaps thousands—of native inhabitants who dared to oppose the corrupt government in El Salvador were “disappeared” and never heard from again. The diabolic murderers of these missing persons had no fear of being brought to justice or held accountable for their dastardly deeds. They were protected by the corrupt government and military, as well as by some wealthy leaders of the country.

Archbishop Romero spoke out against those hideous killers of men, women, and children during his weekly radio broadcasts and from the pulpit of his church. His strong words brought hope to his stricken parishioners.

But there were many leaders among the wealthy and in the government and military of El Salvador who hated Romero and feared the power of the Catholic Church and the thousands of people he represented.

I have interviewed many persons of different races and backgrounds during my years as a journalist, but the saddest interview of my life was with the distraught “Mothers of the Disappeared” while I was in El Salvador.

The “disappeared” were mostly teenagers and college students, falsely accused by the government of being “dangerous and radical.” Some mothers wept as they told the heartbreaking stories of their kidnapped missing children, whom they would never see alive again. Other mothers had photos of their children—both boys and girls—who had been brutally beaten or shot to death.

I wrote an article about the pitiful children and their sorrowful mothers for the Oklahoma Observer newspaper when I returned to my job as director of the Canterbury Center’s Peace and Justice Office at the University of Tulsa. My office had sponsored the trip to El Salvador, and several of the 13 people with me on the trip to the torn country of brutal deaths were board members of the Peace and Justice office.

Our trip to El Salvador was long ago and far away. But I never will forget it, nor will I forget Archbishop Oscar Romero and his beautiful parishioners of San Salvador. Those of us on the trip were given a large poster of Romero before we left his country, and we drew lots for it. I had the winning (golden for me) ticket!

But a burly soldier stopped us at the airport check in and yanked the poster away from me. “You can’t take this out of the country!” he growled.

One of the ministers with me on the trip, an Episcopal priest, shouted at the soldier: “I will report your rudeness to us, and there will be an international incident if you keep that poster!”

The burly officer hesitated as he stared at us with obvious hatred. Finally he backed down, and with a scowl thrust the poster back into my hands. Every member of our tour group breathed a sigh of relief.

What a blessing it was to travel to a dangerous foreign land with a brave and outspoken priest and friends of many different faiths!

I also believe that the Catholic Archbishop Romero in Heaven brought this prickly predicament to the notice of Our Good Lord. What a friend we have in Jesus, and what a friend I always will remember, although I never was blessed to meet him: the dearly beloved and brave Oscar Romero!