“What is Jesus calling us to do?”

BISHOP JOHN BRUNGARDT

R e c e n t l y I celebrated my 20th anniversary as a priest of Jesus Christ and his Catholic Church. On May 23, 1998, Bishop Eugene Gerber (our former bishop here from 1976-1982) ordained me at the Cathedral in the Wichita diocese. Sharing this Ordination Mass with my family, friends and the faithful was glorious, as the Lord blessed me so much. As your bishop, you all have blessed me as well these past seven years with your prayers, letters, cards, and acts of kindness. Thank you! My priesthood has been a grace-filled journey: celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism with parents and their firstborn, having a question-answer session with a youth group, comforting a dying person and her family in a hospital, and many other holy times of ministry.

In the midst of this joy, we are facing a grave shortage of priests in our diocese. We are going from 31 full-time priests to 27 by mid-summer, due to one retirement and three missionary priests leaving. Only 27 priests to serve our 48 parishes in 28 counties. What is Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calling us to do? I begin today, on Corpus Christi Sunday, our Prayer for Priestly Vocations project.

--- Bishop John

W HAT W E CAN D O AS A P A R I S H C O M M U N I T Y

How does/can a parish Pray for Priestly Vocations?

Thank you for all your parish-based prayers for our single men and boys, that they listen to God’s call to the seminary and priesthood. Jesus gave us our community of faith, the parish, to gather in worship and prayer. Ideas:

• Holy Mass is our greatest prayer. I ask that an intercession be included at every Mass in the diocese for Priestly Vocations, and for vocations to the religious life and matrimony.
• Holy Hours: some parishes have Perpetual Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Consider dedicating one day a month or a week for more seminarians and priests. If a parish has certain hours of the week or month for Adoration, be sure to include prayers for Priestly Vocations. A parish may begin a weekly or monthly Holy Hour for this intention.
• Some parishes, for many years, have had a “traveling shrine/crucifix” for vocations, often with a notebook of prayers, for a family to take home for the week. The family returns the materials at a weekend Mass, and a different family picks up the materials. Consider adopting this wonderful prayer effort.
• Strengths or begin a Vocation Prayer Group or Vocation Committee in the parish. Some parishes have had one for many years — what a blessing; thank you!
• Other councils, committees, youth groups, etc. be sure to include a prayer for vocations at each meeting or gathering.
• We have CDs of the “Vocation Rosary” that our Vocation team developed a few years ago (track 1 in English, track 2 in Spanish). Call the chancery if you would like copies for the parish.
• Prayer support from folks in nursing homes, hospitals, or homes who often tell me “I feel like I cannot do anything for our Church anymore due to my illness/age.” The Lord is calling you to a deeper prayer life, and participating in this Prayer for Priestly Vocations may be what He is asking of you now.
• I will begin visiting parishes, starting with the smallest, to have a Holy Hour on a Sunday evening to Pray for Priestly Vocations. Stay tuned …

How does/can a parish Pray for Priestly Vocations?

Your ideas to assist the parish to participate in our Prayer for Priestly Vocations project:
• Future articles will focus on ways that a family can pray, and an individual can pray, for priestly vocations.

**Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid”** (Matthew 14:27). Let us gather as parishes to Pray for Priestly Vocations. Thank you for your dedication and faithfulness. The Lord will bless us with many seminarians and future priests. Jesus loves us more than we can ask or imagine!

+ Bishop John
**OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Most Reverend John B. Brungardt, Bishop of Dodge City, announces the following:

**Effective July 2, 2018:**
- Father Firmin Kyaw, currently pastor of Holy Rosary, Medicine Lodge, St. John the Apostle in Kiowa and St. Boniface in Sharon, will be leaving the Diocese of Dodge City.
- Father Mark Brantley, currently parochial vicar at St. Dominic, Garden City is appointed pastor of Holy Rosary, Medicine Lodge; St. John the Apostle, Kiowa; and St. Boniface, Sharon.
- Father Rene Labrador, currently pastor of St. Anthony, Lakin; St. Raphael, Syracuse; Christ the King, Deerfield, will be leaving the Diocese of Dodge City.
- Father Peter Tran, currently pastor of St. Stanislaus, Ingalls is appointed pastor of St. Anthony, Lakin; St. Raphael, Syracuse; and Christ the King, Deerfield. Father Tran continues as chaplain of the Vietnamese Community in the Diocese of Dodge City.
- Father Warren Stecklein, while remaining pastor of St. Dominic, Garden City, is appointed pastor of St. Stanislaus, Ingalls.

**Effective July 16, 2018:**
- Having submitted his letter of resignation as pastor at the age prescribed in canon law, Bishop Brungardt has accepted the resignation of Father Maurice Cummings, O. Carm currently pastor of St. Lawrence, Jetmore and St. Anthony, Hanston.
- While remaining pastor of St. John the Baptist in Spearville, Father John Forkush has been appointed pastor of St. Lawrence, Jetmore; and St. Anthony, Hanston.

**Other Announcements:**

**Effective July 2, 2018:**
- Father Wesley Schawe, while remaining pastoral of Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City, is assigned as Director of Seminarian.
- Father Juan Salas, while remaining parochial vicar at St. Mary, Garden City, is assigned as Director of Priestly Vocations Promotion.
- Father Jacob Schneider, while remaining parochial vicar at St. Anthony of Padua, Liberal, is assigned as Assistant Director of Priestly Vocations Promotion.
- Father Ted Stockecklin, while remaining parochial vicar at Prince of Peace in Great Bend, continues as Assistant Director of Priestly Vocations Promotion.
- Janee Bernal has been hired as the Director of Matrimony, Family Life & Natural Planning Office. She will start on July 15.
- Doctor Ramirez has been selected to serve as a Young Adult Curia Intern. She will start on July 1.

**By Order of the Most Reverend John B. Brungardt, Bishop of Dodge City,**

- Sister Janice Grochowski, CSJ, JCL, Chancellor

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**Hey, guys!**

How does Jesus speak to your hearts?

**G**uys: How does God let you know who he wants you to be, a priest or a husband and dad? I wrote two issues ago that Jesus “doesn’t text you,” but speaks with you in your heart. Just what does that mean? How does He do that? How do I do that? Prayer sometimes seems like quite a mystery.

Prayer is a personal response to God’s presence. We focus on who God is and what God does. Our loving Lord does want to speak and communicate with you, with me, with all of us. And God takes the first step; God first makes His presence known to us. One definition of prayer is: our awareness and acknowledgment of God’s presence. Prayer is what God does to us, rather than anything we do. “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

Father Armand Nigro writes on three steps to prayer:

**First, be aware of God’s presence, acknowledge God’s presence:** We focus on God and what God does (not to focus on things about God). Thus it is very personal, like we are communicating with our best friend. Don’t you like to speak with and listen to your best friend often, personally? Here we sense that God is present to me, God loves breath into me, God loves me into being, God loves all into me. A vocal or silent prayer expressing this: “Yes, God my Father, You do love all this into me. Yes, Jesus my Brother, You do. Yes, God my Spirit, You do.”

**Second, thank God, be grateful:** In order to be grateful, we must first be aware of God’s presence. We return those words in a heartfelt way: “God, I am thankful, I am grateful, I appreciate all you are, all you have done for me, all you do for me.” We put on an attitude of gratitude. We pour out our grateful heart to our Gentle Jesus.

**Third, lovingly respond to God:** We are touched when we hear the sincere words “I love you” from a family member or close friend. When we open our hearts to God, we hear Him often say to us: “I love you, I love you more than you can ask or imagine.” How do we respond? We return those words in a heartfelt way: “God, I love you too.” We trust in God’s presence; He is with us always!

**Guys:** I will be writing more about prayer. Try it. Be aware, be grateful, lovingly respond to God. He will give you your vocational call to be a priest or a husband and dad. The Risen Jesus does speak to your heart. Open up to His presence.

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**By DAVE MYERS**

**Southwest Kansas Catholic**

Not that the seminary isn’t the real world, but being challenged by someone in need of guidance, help and hope is a bit different than being challenged by your theology professor.

The five seminarians for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City recently completed another year of seminary studies and are back home in Southwest Kansas serving in various capacities.

They are: John Stang, Ahsab, and Tyler Sausco — each of whom attend St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, and Eric Frieb and Esteban Hernandez, who attend Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo.

Stang will spend his summer serving on the Prayer & Action team.

Made up of young adults, the Prayer & Action team go out into the parish, each summer and work in two locations painting, landscaping, and otherwise lending aid to families in need.

Last year, while one group painted a home, another group a few blocks away found themselves helping a family to move.

Away from their desks and into the real world

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**‘Lord, renew your Church’**

We have celebrated the great mysteries of our Faith: the Death of Jesus of Nazareth; the Resurrection of Christ; the Ascension of Christ; the coming of the Spirit of Christ; and the first steps of a fledging Church, the new People of God for whom the Lord had come to draw them to himself.

Those were “heavy” days, literally (big with meaning), and they were meant to flow into “hearty” days practically (to tumble over into visible action). But look around you on this Monday after Pentecost, and what do you see?

Our leaders and teachers at odds with one another. They contradict one another, they fight with one another, they demean one another, they divide into warring camps. They ... we give scandal to one and all. By this, they shall know we are Christians: by how we love one another. But look around you. Do we? Are we? Or, are we allowing something ... to get in the way?

The new Roman Missal has Eucharistic Prayers for Various Needs, one of which is for the Church on the Path toward Unity. In it we pray: Lord, renew your Church (in all the dioceses of the world) by the light of the Gospel.

Strengthen the bond of unity between the Faithful and the pastors of your people.

Together with Francis our Pope, John our Bishop, and the whole Order of Bishops: That in a world torn by strife your people may shine forth as a prophetic sign of unity and concord.

Lord, come down from above, and let it be so.
I thought I could ‘save’ gang members.
I was wrong.

By GREG BOYLE, S.J.

I don’t believe in mistakes. Everything belongs, and, as the homies say, “It’s all good.” I do believe in lessons learned. I have learned that you work with gang members and not with gangs, otherwise you enforce the cohesion of gangs and supply them oxygen. I know now that gang warfare is not the Middle East or Northern Ireland. There is violence in gang violence but there is no conflict. It is not “about something.” It is the language of the despondent and traumatized.

In my 30 years of ministry to gang members in Los Angeles, the most significant reversal of course for me happened somewhere during my sixth year. I had mistakenly tried to “save” young men and women trapped in gang life. But then, in an instant, I learned that saving lives is for the Coast Guard. Me wanting a gang member to have a different life would never be the same as that gang member wanting to have one. I discovered that you do not go to the margins to rescue anyone. But if we go there, everyone finds rescue. Me wanting a gang member to have a different life would never be the same as that gang member wanting to have one. Louie was 19 years old, a gang member making money hand over fist by running up to cars and selling crack cocaine. He quickly became his own best customer. After my many attempts to get him into rehab, he finally agreed to check himself in. He was there one month when his younger brother Erick did something gang members never do. He put a gun to his temple and killed himself. Gang members are much more inclined to walk into enemy turf and hope to die than to pull the trigger themselves. I called Louie and told him what happened. He was crestfallen. “I will pick you up for the funeral,” I said, “but I’m driving you right back.”

“I want to come back,” he said through his tears. “I like how recovery feels.”

When I arrive at the rehab center, Louie greets me with un abrazo, and once in the car, he launches in. “I had a dream last night—and you were in it.” In the dream, he tells me, the two of us are in a darkened room. No lights whatsoever. No illuminated exit signs. No light creeping from under the door. Total darkness. We are not speaking, but he knows I am in the room with him. Then, silently, I pull a flashlight from my pocket and aim steadily on the light switch across the room. Louie tells me that he knows that only he can turn the light switch on. He expresses his gratitude that I happen to have a flashlight.

Then with great trepidation, Louie moves slowly toward the light switch, following closely the guiding beam of light. He takes a deep breath, flips the switch on, and the room is flooded with light. As he tells me this, he begins sobbing. “And the light,” he says, “is better than the darkness.”

As though he had not known this was the case.

We cannot turn the light switch on for anyone. But we all own flashlights. With any luck, on any given day, we know where to aim them for each other. We do not rescue anyone at the margins. But go figure, if we stand at the margins, we are all rescued. No mistake about it.

Father Anselm Eke, MSP
Presented by Pam Willis to her friends on May 31. At a celebration following two decades, retired from her position as Director of Religious Education for two decades, retired from her position as of May 31. At a celebration following the last night of their recent parish mission, Father Anselm Eke, MSP, pastor, presented her with a plaque noting her years of service.

Twenty years ago, when Pam first met with then-pastor Father Jack Maes about the job, she brought with her a list of all those people whom she thought might be qualified for the position. “I didn’t realize until later that he was interviewing me!” she said, laughing.

“I’ve just loved attending all the diocesan events,” she said, “taking kids to the NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference, of which she has attended all 10 since she was hired), rallies, summer camp, getting them together with other youth of the diocese, having them take part in activities together. Those are my favorite memories.”

Leaving a beloved position is always bittersweet. Each Wednesday night, Pam enjoyed what for her was a night out with friends.

“All the kids were there for CYO and CCD sessions. My friends are all there. “That’s the saddest thing. All my friends will be there and not me.”

In retirement, kids will still be a part of her life, but in this case, it’s her grandchildren and her four adult children, spread out over Kansas and in Durango, Colorado.

“I have no plans in retirement except we want to travel and spend time with the kids.”

Pam’s husband, Greg, works for the Kansas Department of Agriculture. At press time, as she edged toward her last day, she was in the midst of Vacation Bible School. “I’m finishing off with a blast!” she said, smiling.

-- Dave Myers

Formation in Jesus and His Church

“I can’t love who I don’t know!” I guess we can love all people in a generic sense, because Jesus said to “Love one another” (John 15:12). Yet, the better we know someone, like a family member or a close friend, the more we are able to love them. This is true when we are struggling with something: we can count on those we know and love best to help us; and we can help them when they face a challenge. All the ups and downs of life are assisted by those we know and love well.

Isn’t this also true for Jesus? The better we know Him, the more we love Him. Not just what Jesus does, His traits, His characteristics. The better we know Jesus, our Lord and Savior, Brother and Friend, the more profoundly we are able to love Him. Just like our best friend, we want to know Jesus personally, not generally.

“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me” (John 10:14).

How to do this? How to get to know Jesus better? This is our fourth point in Kingdom Living: Study and pray with the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and other Catholic sources to get to know Jesus and His Catholic Church better. Many wonderful electronic resources are available: DVDs, CDs, apps, etc. Pastoral Ministry Formation classes, webinars, Bible study classes, etc., are good ways to interact with others in learning/knowing our Loving Lord. “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32). Jesus is the Truth, the Way, and the Life!

Let’s know Jesus and His Catholic Church better, so we may love Jesus more deeply. He loves us more than we can ask or imagine!

+ Bishop John

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HOISINGTON PARISH WISHES DRE PAM WILLIS A FOND FAREWELL

Parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Hoisington joined April 25 to wish one of their own a fond farewell, and to say thank-you for 20 years of heart-felt service. Pam Willis, who has served the parish as Director of Religious Education for two decades, retired April 25 to wish one of their own a fond farewell, and to say thank-you for 20 years of heart-felt service. Pam Willis, who has served the parish as Director of Religious Education for two decades, retired from her position as of May 31.

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-- Dave Myers

FOUR THINGS PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS

4. Study the Bible

1. Daily prayer
2. Weekly Holy Mass
3. Monthly Confession
4. Study the Bible
5. Witness the Good News

I respondarias John B. Brungardt Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City
Happy Father’s Day!

As Father’s Day approaches June 17, I find myself recalling how my dad taught me to respect those of all ages, all nationalities, all idiosyncrasies, even all species. 

Dad loves animals. Every morning prior to moving to an assisted living center, he would pour bird seed into the back-yard bird feeder. The birds never neglected Dad for the cost of the seed, and since Dad doesn’t speak bird (that particular dialect, anyway), he never knew if they even said “thanks.” But Dad never complained. I, on the other hand, did complain. I’m not as practiced at Christian charity as my dad.

“Can’t you say ‘thank you,’ maybe send a card? Something?” I’d ask them. They’d just give me the bird and go on eating.

The seeds would fly this way and that as the Assiniboin, there’s a sort of little terns. Meanwhile, a squirrel named Mrs. Jones and a few of her children would sit on the ground being showered with tasty tidbits. One squirrel wore a tiny catcher’s mitt.

Soon Dad would let their toy poodle Missy out the back door, and she’d dart toward the squirrels like a U.S. Marine. Mrs. Jones would yawn, toss a nut into her mouth, then dart away in a blur. Missy would bark a doggy curse, and the squirrels would give Missy the claw. Funny, I never recall Marlin Perkins ever discussing just how rude wildlife could be.

To be honest, I think it was mostly for show. Dad once spotted Missy and Mrs. Jones dancing together under the full moon.

Dad loves immigrants. I don’t say this lightly. In fact, I say it quite heavily. When it comes to refugees and immigrants, one can clearly see Dad putting the love of Christ into action.

In the 1970s, Mom and Dad began sponsoring African refugees after Dad had spent time working in the Sudan. For more than a decade, my folks welcomed them through a swamp. There was Ahmed, who, when he ate, sounded like a platoon of soldiers walking through his example that life is about doing what he says, not what he thinks. Though he was acting as a server to smile and ready for a laugh, he told us recall for certain was Muslim. Always quick pitched when he became angry, like when he’s quiet you could hear a mouse fart.”

Throughout his life, Dad has shown me through his example that life is about warming to all comers. They don’t have to be Christian, or Missy, or American, or white, or straight, or even human. Dad has shown me that there is no one that is not worthy of our goodness (although dogs are slightly more worthy than cats, but please don’t tell my cats I said that).

The only condition? As long as their words and actions provide proof that they have no harmful intent for anyone else, he celebrates people for who they are, warts and all.

Dad taught me the value of humor. Dad is 93. During our nightly phone conversation, when I ask Dad how his day went, he typically responds, “It was so quiet you could hear a mouse fart.” No further explanation needed.

Dad loves his beloved Jesus. Last but not least (which really goes without saying), through his incredibly patient, even-tempered and humor-filled vantage point, Dad taught me that our God is a good carpenter.

Dad taught me how to be happy on earth.

That’s why He sent His son to move to an assisted living center, he taught me that the happy Christ is the Son and the Sun around which we rotate. Through God’s Son-shine, we are shined brightly upon, and thus shine bright upon others, just as Dad does upon all he encounters.

Happy Father’s Day, Dad!

Angels explained by children

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold. - Gregory, 5

Everybody’s got it all wrong. Angels don’t wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it. - Olive, 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else. - Mitchell, 7

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he’s not much good for science. - Henry, 8

Angels talk all the way while they’re flying up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. - Daniel, 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there’s a tornado. - Reagan, 10

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. - Sara, 6

Angels live in clouds housed made by God and his son, who’s a very good carpenter. - Jared, 8

It’s not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there’s still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes. - Matthew, 9

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn’t go for it. - Antonio, 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. - Bill, 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don’t make the animals get better, they help the child get over it. - Vicki, 8

What I don’t get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. - Sarah, 7

Angels don’t eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!! - Jack, 6

Courtesy of jokeslaughs.blogspot.com.
Why I like being a priest

By Father James Martin, S.J.

On June 12, 1999, along with five other good Jesuit friends (they’re good Jesuits and good friends), I was ordained to the priesthood during a Mass at church (called—surprise!—St. Ignatius Loyola) in Chestnut Hill, Mass., right on the campus of Boston College. I am tempted to say it was the greatest day of my life, and why not? There are other days that certainly come close—the day I was accepted into the Jesuits; the day I entered the Jesuit novitiate; the day that a little refugee-made-handicraft shop where I worked in Nairobi opened its doors for the first time; the day I met my two newborn nephews. So let’s just say it was one of the greatest.

I had been waiting for ordination for many years, having witnessed, since before entering the novitiate in 1988, many of my “older” Jesuit brothers ordained over the years, and realizing, with each group of Jesuits moving into Holy Orders, that my “class” was moving ever closer. Every year until then, I was amazed to find myself weeping during the Litany of the Saints, when the congregation calls on all the saints—from age to age—to pray for the ordinandi, the men being ordained. And I rushed to receive my friends’ “first blessing,” which they always disponed profusely. If you know what I mean, as if they had never done this before but had been born for it all along—and of course they were.

Actually, I almost didn’t make it to my own ordination. The week before I caught a horrible flu, and one of the older Jesuits at Holy Cross College, in Loyola, Spain? At the Grotto in Lourdes? At the parish in which I received First Holy Communion? In our community chapel? In convents, in hospital rooms, in living rooms? Who am I that I am permitted to celebrate the Mass in the Room of the Conversion of St. Ignatius in Nairobi? That a litt le refugee-made-handicraft shop where I worked could witness, since before entering the novitiate in 1988, many of my “older” Jesuit brothers ordained over the years, and realizing, with each group of Jesuits moving into Holy Orders, that my “class” was moving ever closer. Every year until then, I was amazed to find myself weeping during the Litany of the Saints, when the congregation calls on all the saints—from age to age—to pray for the ordinandi, the men being ordained. And I rushed to receive my friends’ “first blessing,” which they always disponed profusely. If you know what I mean, as if they had never done this before but had been born for it all along—and of course they were.

Actually, I almost didn’t make it to my own ordination. The week before I caught a horrible flu, and one of the older Jesuits with whom I lived, Vin, vigorously rushed me to the emergency room here in New York. I was angry! How could God be doing to me? Vin looked at me with mock seriousness and said, “I'm not sure. Maybe they'll open the gift right away. Now, like some gifts it might not be appreciated at the moment it is given. But some day it will. Maybe, I think, they'll open that gift when they're a child, maybe when they're a little older, maybe when they're college students, maybe not until they're married or until their own children are born, or maybe not until they are facing death. But the gift is there, waiting, expectant, patient. I wish that more people felt called to ordination. I wish that more people were invited to ordination. Many years ago, when I attended my first Jesuit ordination Mass at Holy Cross College, I remember thinking that I couldn’t imagine being a priest. Ten years later, I can’t imagine not being one. As Thomas Merton said, it seems the “one great secret” for which I was born.

(Printed with permission from America, the Jesuit Review Magazine.)
Ulysses resident gives speech at Newman U. Baccalaureate Mass

‘God is never truly finished with our story’

During Newman University’s annual Baccalaureate Mass — May 11 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita — graduating senior and Ulysses resident Patricia Lujan shared a reflection about her experience attending the Newman University Western Kansas Center.

The western center works in cooperation with the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City to present classes through the Interactive Television program at sites throughout the diocese.

For more information, including a listing of bachelor and master degree programs, visit https://newmanu.edu/admissions/locations/western-kansas.

Good evening. My name is Patricia Lujan. I am from Ulysses, Kansas and tomorrow I will be graduating with a bachelor of science and elementary education. I once read, “Man can live 40 days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air, but only one second without light.” I finally found my true calling of being an educator. It was about giving your all at all times. It was showing your students that despite their situation, they could get through any obstacle.

These instructors pushed me to my limits. They were finally able to accomplish what I never could. That is knowing who I truly was and discovering the gift that God had given me.

The way Newman describes learning is exactly what happened to me. It describes learning as being a transformational, that guided by Christ, it can be a positive one. I walked out of the darkness and into the light. I finally found my true calling of being an educator. I had not found this hope at Newman, I’m not sure where I would be.

I am so proud to say that I am a graduate of a Catholic university. But there is no way I could have done it without certain people. … As I finish, I would like to remind you guys that God is never truly finished with our story. It’s never too late to have a new start. As Matthew Kelly wrote, it’s never too late to become the best version of yourself.

God wants us to be people of possibility, and people of possibility never give up. So now I commend you to go out into the world and become those people who spread hope. Congratulations on this new journey.

Ulysses resident Patricia Lujan gives an address at Newman University’s annual Baccalaureate Mass May 11 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita.

**Pastoral Ministry Formation**

Here is a listing of the next classes for the Pastoral Ministry Formation Program. The Pastoral Ministry Formation program of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City provides grounding in scripture and theology for the laity as they become increasingly responsible for the life and ministry of the Church.

The Pastoral Ministry Formation equips participants to fulfill the roles to which they are called by their baptism and for which their gifts and the needs of the times challenge them.

Classes may be taken for college credit, or for personal enrichment.

To register, or for more information, call Coleen Stein, (620) 227-1538, cstein@dcdio.org or visit http://www.dcdio.org/pastoral-ministry-formation.

**THEO 4023 Theology and Methods of Ministry**

3 hour college course

**THEO 4023 Theology and Methods of Ministry**

This course offers a foundational theology of ministry rooted in Baptism. Particular focus will be given to the role of the laity in ministry and various types of ministry will be explored. This course provides experience and formation to enable the student to learn a variety of ministerial skills.

**This course is one of the three hour courses needed to obtain the Diocesan Certification in Youth Ministry.**

**Instructor:** Father Robert Schremmer

**Class Times:** Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3

**Saturday mornings - 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**Location:** Interactive Television Sites throughout Dodge City and Salina Dioceses

**Cost:**

1 hr. course for college credit - $50.00*

1 hr. course for personal enrichment - $25.00*

*price quotes do not include books

Father Frank Coady, STD, is coordinating instructor for the Pastoral Ministry Formation Program’s Formation for Liturgical Ministry focus area. Father Frank is pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Manhattan, KS, and Director of the Offices of Liturgy, Deacons, and Lay Ministry Formation of the Diocese of Salina. He received his bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. Thomas Seminary College, Denver, and an S.T.L. degree in fundamental theology and doctorate in dogmatic theology, from Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

**THEO 4881 Art and Environment**

One hour college course

A LITURGICAL environment that celebrates the awe of God’s presence and saving deeds cannot be satisfied with anything less than beautiful. The beauty is related to the holy. This course gives all involved with Liturgy knowledge of the sacraments, the Catholic rites, the Liturgical Year, and the faithful’s devotional life in order to equip them to create a sacred environment in which the divine-human encounter can most readily occur. The goal is to care for all the elements of worship, ensuring that the total environment is clean, appropriate, authentic, beautiful and accessible. The course will present the Liturgical Documents as they pertain to sacraments and other rites, environment, liturgical space, church appointments and the sacristy.

*This course is one of the one hour courses needed to obtain the Diocesan Certification in Liturgical Ministry.

**Instructor:** Father Frank Coady

**Class Times:** Sept. 5, 12, 19, Oct. 10

**Wednesday evenings - 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Interactive Television Sites throughout Dodge City and Salina Dioceses

**Cost:**

3 hr. course for personal enrichment - $75.00*
Finding Family
Meade couple celebrate life while awaiting (a bundle of) joy

By DAVE MYERS Southwest Kansas Catholic

When you meet Tyler and Rachel Bennett, there are two things you will discover right off: 1) they have a warm and welcoming spirit, and 2) they love cheese.

On their kitchen table sat a platter filled with crackers, salami, and three kinds of cheese. There was also a platter of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies and two pitchers, one with water, the other, tea.

"Are you hungry? Help yourself," Tyler said.

The Catholic Charities Agency helped itself. The Catholic loves chocolate chip cookies and cheese and crackers!

The gracious young couple are another in a line of fine, Kansas couples who are awaiting good news from the Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas Adoption Program.

"We had a neighbor who had success adopting through Catholic Charities," Tyler said. "There's a need for guidance in the adoption process. People don't realize what goes into it — the study, the process. People don't realize what goes into it — the study, the process."

"It's been a learning process," Tyler said of their year-long adoption journey.

"Learning and growing," Rachel added.

"A lot of people give up after two weeks," Tyler explained, referring to the patience needed in the adoption process. "It will happen in God's time."

The Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas Adoption Program requires each couple to pass a stringent application process that includes classes, home visits, and meeting with counselors. And it's not cheap. (although far less expensive than adoption classes, home visits, and meeting with counselors. And it's not cheap."

"That's one of the reasons why we get along," Tyler added. "Family is huge to us.

The child who is lucky enough to enter into the Bennett home will be introduced to the couple's loves: the joy of cooking and baking, the peaceful rewards of gardening, love for hunting (complete with four retrievers barking excitedly from behind a closed door during the Catholic's visit), and a yen for home construction projects. Oh — and cheese.

And they will find a couple practicing a prayerful life devoted to the Loving Lord, a backdrop to everything they do.

For more information, call 620-227-1590 or visit http://catholiccharitiesswks.org/services/adoption. See their video/slideshow presentation at https://spark.adobe.com/page/pgazd3PnScb9o/.

By JOE BOLLIG The Leaven

TOPEKA — How close was it? The Adoption Protection Act squeaked through the Kansas House by only one vote as the 2018 legislative session came to an end.

On May 3, the House passed the bill 63-58, on May 4, the Senate passed it 24-15.

"A bill must receive 63 votes in the 125-member Kansas House of Representatives to pass. So, if it had only received 62 votes, it would have failed," said Kansas Catholic Conference executive director Michael Schuttloffel. "It was that close."

Two identical bills, both known as the Adoption Protection Act, were introduced in February as HB 2687 and SB 401 in the House and Senate respectively.

In the course of running the legislative gauntlet, the language was placed in another bill.

"As part of the procedural maneuvers, the contents were put into SB 284, which includes some provisions beyond the Adoption Protection Act," said Schuttloffel.

This led to a change of language in part of the Adoption Protection Act, but it was done to clarify intent, and the core substance of the bill remained the same, he said.

The Catholic bishops of Kansas strongly supported the legislation. They did so because faith-based adoption agencies in the United States have increasingly come under attack for adopting according to their faith.

"This legislation was aimed at protecting religious-based agencies like Catholic Charities from being prevented from providing adoption and foster care services," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann in a May 4 column in The Leaven. The bill "simply guarantees religious adoption agencies can continue to place children in a manner consistent with their beliefs."

"Passage of this legislation provides crucial protection to a vital ministry, according to Schuttloffel."

"[The just-passed] bill protects the government from punishing faith-based adoption and foster care providers for operating according to their religious principles," he said.

"In Illinois, Washington, D.C., Massachusetts and elsewhere, Catholic Charities was forced to close its adoption ministry because government agencies insisted that they place children in a way that was contrary to the church's teaching," he added.

"Thanks to this new law, the state government will not be able to shut down Catholic Charities adoption ministry because a future governor or bureaucrat disagrees with Catholic teaching."

"It also means that government agencies and contractors will not be able to discriminate against faith-based providers because they disagree with their religious beliefs," said Schuttloffel. "Finally, it protects these faith-based providers from being sued by the ACLU."

"As Catholics, we understand more than most that discrimination of any kind is unacceptable," noted Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer. "Service to others and commitment to non-discrimination is the foundation of the Adoption Protection Act. There are more than 1,300 children awaiting adoption in Kansas. We need more adoptive families, not fewer. We need to protect the religious freedom rights enshrined in the First Amendment to ensure that people of faith can continue to practice their faith in the public square."

"Becoming parents means the world to us, so we are truly grateful for the opportunity to adopt. We look forward to sharing these, and many more experiences with our child."

From the couples' video/slideshow presentation: https://spark.adobe.com/page/pgazd3PnScb9o/
**Vibrant Ministries — Uniting Our Church Appeal**

The Southwest Kansas Catholic

---

**$10 million goal reached!**

**My Dear People,**

We are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God.

(2 Corinthians 9:11)

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<th>CITY PARISH</th>
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**Mi Querido Pueblo,**

¡Paz y alegría para ustedes en esta fiesta del Corpus Christi!

Me gustaría anunciar formalmente que nuestra Petición Ministerios Vibrantes: Uniendo nuestra Iglesia ha alcanzado su meta de $10 millones en lombreras de más de 5,100 familias. ¡Gracias! ¡Alabado sea Dios! Con su generosidad y sacrificio, podremos fortalecer y mejorar las obras de misericordia y el ministerio familiar, la formación de la fe católica y las vocaciones sacerdotales en nuestras parroquias y comunidades diocesanas.

Gracias a su apoyo, se han distribuido donaciones a Caridades Católicas del Sudoeste de Kansas para ayudar a promover su misión. La diócesis ha contratado a un director de Ministro, Vida Familiar y Planificación Familiar Natural, un puesto que no ha existido durante muchos años, para ministrar a las parroquias desde su compromiso hasta las viudas y los viudos. Las subvenciones se han distribuido a las escuelas católicas en la diócesis, y se han compartido fondos con nuestras diócesis asociadas de todo el mundo que nos han bendecido con sacerdotes para servir a la misa de nuestras parroquias. Su generosa lombrera también se ha utilizado para apoyar la matrícula, alojamiento, comida y otros gastos para nuestros cinco seminaristas, y ha proporcionado educación y formación continua para nuestros sacerdotes diocesanos también. En total, hay más de 40 funciones relacionadas con el ministerio que continuarán beneficiándose del sacrificio de la gente de nuestra diócesis. Por favor, siga leyendo en el Southwest Kansas Catholic (y en nuestro sitio web) las historias sobre las muchas formas en que su lombrera desde su corazón está ayudando a otros.

Quiero agradecerle una vez más por apoyar nuestra petición. Su continua generosidad nos ayudará a avanzar en nuestra misión en Cristo. Jesus enseñó en el Evangelio de San Lucas: "Den limosna... donde está el tesoro de ustedes, allí también estará su corazón" (12:33-34). ¡Sus limosnas desde el corazón son verdaderamente una bendición! Gracias.

Que Dios derrame su gracia sobre usted y sus seres queridos,

Sinceramente, en Cristo,

---

Mons. John B. Brungardt, obispo
Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

“Así enriquecidos, la generosidad de ustedes se transformará por nuestro medio en acción de gracias a Dios.”

(2 Corintios 9,11)
Gifts already going to work

SUPPORTS WORKS OF MERCY
DEEPEN AND GROW IN OUR FAITH
MEET NEEDS OF LEAST AMONG US
GIVE HOPE AND HELP TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
BRING OTHERS INTO THE FAITH
EDUCATE LEADERS SO THAT THEY MAY EDUCATE US, OUR YOUTH, OUR CHILDREN
HELPING ONE ANOTHER DISCOVER OUR GIFTS
SUPPORTS FAITH FORMATION
STRENGTHEN PRIESTLY VOCATIONS
KEEP CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS CONNECTED
HELPING ONE ANOTHER DISCOVER OUR GIFTS
SUPPORTS PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

Surfing the spiritual sea of southwest Kansas

By DAVE MYERS

“This is Julian,” the beaming mother told me as she cuddled an 8-week-old child in her arms. Next to her sat her husband Roberto “Beto”, a gentle giant of a man who admits that he was scared of carrying the child when he first arrived.

Brianna Morales handed their impossibly tiny son to Beto and he held him like a seasoned pro.

“I’m a big guy, and he’s so tiny. But when he arrived, it just came naturally.”

The Garden City couple and their adopted son, whom I interviewed last September, are beneficiaries of the Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas Adoption Program, just one of many ministries within the diocese that your very generous gifts and/or continued prayers are supporting.

And this is something for you to celebrate. For being a small diocese (population-wise) in a spread-out, largely rural area, its ministries reach out like the spokes of a wheel: supporting, educating, celebrating, helping lives, changing lives, inviting people to the journey and then accompanying them along the way, embracing diversity, embracing the struggling — whether they be financially or spiritually in need, immigrants, people struggling with addiction, teens facing unexpected pregnancies, or couples wanting to adopt.

Not to overdo the metaphors, but our Catholic Church can only send ripples across the sea of southwest Kansas. These ripples turn into waves thanks to the support of people like you. Add to that people like Kayla Gleason of Offerle, who trusted in God to give time she didn’t have to attending the Pastoral Ministry Formation Program (which is — you guessed it — supported by the appeal) and becoming a leader in her parish, and so many other good folks out there. They don’t only help create waves of spiritual enrichment, but they ride them on their spiritual surfboard, leading, supporting, guiding.

Perhaps that was a bit much, but you get the point. Those of you who gave of your alms and prayers, did so to a helping diocese. The Holy Spirit is hard at work in the Catholic Diocese of Southwest Kansas.

“The people of the diocese are a gift. I know a lot of people make this money with very hard work. I am very grateful and thankful to the people for sharing with us seminarians. I can’t find the words to thank all these people who are sharing their gifts from God.”

— Esteban Hernandez, Seminarian for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

For months, the staff of the Catholic chancery watched the dollar amount slowly rise to the ultimate goal of $10 million.
SKC Summer Schedule to begin

With this June 3 issue of the newspaper, the Southwest Kansas Catholic begins its summer monthly publishing cycle. The next issue of the Southwest Kansas Catholic will be dated July 15. Beginning Sept. 2, the regular bi-monthly schedule will resume. Please note that the SKC is willing to utilize its website at any time, should you want to publish photos, an upcoming event, or highlight an event within your parish.

If you have a story idea, or an event you’d like covered, contact the Catholic at (620) 227-1519, or skregister@dcdiocese.org.

The SKC wishes all of you a safe and blessed summer. Don’t forget to pray for rain!

Celebrating the Sacraments

CONFIRMATION: Fifty-three students from Prince of Peace Parish at St. Patrick Church, Great Bend, were confirmed on May 9.

FIRST COMMUNION: Here is the first Holy Communion class of 2017/2018 from Sacred Heart Cathedral Catholic School, May 5.


It’s not just health care. It’s caring about health, every baby step of the way.

Congratulations! You’re going to be a parent! At St. Catherine Hospital, we work every day to assure that you and your new precious gift have the safest and most joyous experience possible.

More deliveries than any other hospital in western Kansas, specially trained obstetric and pediatric teams and the region’s only Newborn Intensive Care Unit make St. Catherine Hospital the #1 choice of moms and dads.

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Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-3171
10, 10868 W Wyatt Earp Blvd
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La formación en Jesús y su Iglesia

Por Reverendísimo JOHN B. BRUNGARDT, Obispo de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

La formación en Jesús y su Iglesia

“¡No puedo amar a quien no conozco!” Creo que podemos amar a todas las personas en un sentido genérico, porque Jesús dijo: “Amen los unos a los otros” (Juan 15,12). Sin embargo, cuanto mejor conozcamos a alguien, como un miembro de la familia o un amigo cercano, más podremos amarlo. Esto es cierto cuando estamos luchando con algo: podemos contar con quienes conocemos y amamos más para que nos ayuden; y podemos ayudarlos cuando ellos están en dificultades. En todos los altibajos de la vida somos ayudados por aquellos que conocemos y amamos bien.

¿No es esto también cierto para Jesús? Cuanto mejor lo conozcamos, más lo amaremos. No solo lo que hace Jesús, sus rasgos, sus características. Cuanto mejor conozcamos a Jesús, nuestro Señor y Salvador, Hermano y Amigo, más profundamente podremos amarlo. Al igual que es cierto cuando nos conocen y amamos más para que nos ayuden; y podemos ayudarles cuando ellos están en dificultades.

“Yo soy el buen pastor: conozco a mis ovejas y ellas me conocen a mí” (Juan 10,14).

¿Cómo hacer esto? ¿Cómo conocer a Jesús mejor? Éste es nuestro cuarto punto en “La Vida del Reino”: Estudie y ore con la Biblia, el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica y otras fuentes católicas para conocer mejor a Jesús y su Iglesia Católica. Muchas referencias electrónicas maravillosas también: DVD, CD, blogs, aplicaciones, etc. Las clases de formación del ministerio pastoral, seminarios web, clases de estudio bíblico, etc., son buenas maneras de interactuar con otros para aprender / conocer a nuestro Señor de amor.

“Si se mantienen fieles a mi palabra, serán realmente discípulos mios, conocerán la verdad y la verdad los hará libres” (Juan 8,31-32). Jesús es la Verdad, el Camino y la Vida. Conozcamos mejor a Jesús y su Iglesia Católica, para que podamos amar a Jesús más profundamente. ¿El nos acercará más de lo que podemos pedir o imaginar?


¡Hola chicos!

Jesús a nuestros corazones?

Chicos: ¿Cómo Dios les hace saber a ustedes quién el quiere que ustedes sean, un sacerdote o un esposo y papá? Hace un rato, escribí varias ediciones sobre “Jesús no le envía textos,” pero había conudas en sus corazones. ¿Qué es lo que eso significa? ¿Cómo él hace eso? ¿Cómo yo hago eso? Las oraciones a veces son como un verdadero misterio.

La oración es una respuesta personal a la presencia de Dios. Nos enfocamos en quién es Dios y lo que Dios hace. Nuestro Dios amado quiere hablar y comunicarse con nosotros, conmigo, y con todos nosotros. Y Dios toma el primer paso; Dios primero toma el primer paso, Dios primero hace Su presencia conocida entre nosotros. Una defnición de oración: nuestra conciencia y conocimiento de la presencia de Dios. Oración es lo que Dios nos hace...en vez de todo lo que nosotros hacemos. “Amamos porque Él nos amó primero” (1 Juan 4:19).

El Padre Armand Nigro escribe sobre los tres pasos hacia la oración:

Primero, están conscientes de la presencia de Dios; reconozcan la presencia de Dios: Nos enfocamos en Dios y lo que Dios hace (no nos enfocamos en la cosas sobre Dios) Por lo tanto, es muy personal, como si estamos comunicándonos con nuestro mejor amigo. ¿No les gustaría personalmente hablar y escuchar a menudo a su mejor amigo? Aquí sentimos que Dios está presente en mí, Dios respiré en mí, Dios me ama en mí ser. Dios ama todo dentro de mí.

Una oración hablada o en silencio expresando esto: “Sí, Jesús mi Hermano, Tú sí” “Sí, Dios mi Espíritu, Tú sí.”

Segundo. Agradezca a Dios, sea agradecido: Por ser agradecidos, debemos estar conscientes de recibir de alguien. Por lo tanto, estamos conscientes de la presencia de Dios, conscientes que Él se ha dado el mismo a nosotros, le damos gracias. “Dios, Estoy agradecido, agradezco todo lo que eres, todo lo que has hecho por mí, todo lo que haces por mí.” Pone una actitud de gratitud... derramamos nuestro corazón agradecido a nuestro Gentil Jesús.

Tercero, respondamos cariñosamente a Dios: Nos conmovemos cuando escuchamos las sinceras palabras “Te quiero” de una persona, lo mismo, a nosotros, de Dios. “Te quiero” de una manera de conciencia y conocimiento de la presencia de Dios. “Cuando abrimos nuestros corazones a Dios, lo escuchamos a menudo decirnos” “Te quiero, y te quiero más de lo que puedo pedir o imaginar.” ¿Cómo respondemos? Regresamos esas palabras de una manera con conciencia llenos: “Dios yo te quiero también.” Confiamos en la presencia de Dios. ¡Dios está siempre con nosotros! Chicos: Escribe escribiendo más sobre oraciones. Useñas. Están atentos, estén agradecidos, cariñosamente respondan al amor de Dios. Él les dará su llamado a las vocaciones para ser un sacerdote, esposo o papá. El Jesús Resucitado le habla a sus corazones.

Una invitación por Obispo John B. Brungardt

‘Señor, renueva tu Iglesia’

Por reverendísimo Ronald M. Gilmore Obispo Emeritus de Dodge City

Hemos celebrado los grandes misterios de nuestra fe: la muerte de Jesús de Nazaret; la Resurrección de Cristo; la Ascensión de Cristo; la venida del Espíritu de Cristo; y los primeros pasos de una Iglesia incipiente, el nuevo Pueblo de Dios por quien el Señor había venido para atraerlo a sí.

Aquí está la lista de los “embaragadores” litúrgicamente hablando (grandes de sentido), y estaban destinados a fluir prácticamente hacia días “abundantes” (transformándose en acción visible). Pero mira a tu alrededor este lunes después de Pentecostés, ¿qué ves?

Nuestros líderes y maestros en desacuerdo unos con otros. Se contradicen entre sí, pelean entre sí, se degradan entre sí, se dividen en campos de batalla. Ellos... nosotros... damos escándalo a todos. Pero esto, ellos sabrán que somos cristianos: por la forma en que nos amamos unos a otros. Pero mira a tu alrededor. ¿Lo hacemos? ¿Lo estamos? ¿Llevamos permitiendo... que algo... se interponga en el camino?

El nuevo Misal Romano tiene plegarias eucarísticas para diversas necesidades, una de las cuales es para la Iglesia en el camino hacia la unidad. En ella oramos: “Que nuestra iglesia de (nombre de la diócesis) se renueve constantemente a la luz del Evangelio y encuentre siempre nuevos impulsos de vida; consolidada los vínculos de unidad entre los laicos y los pastores de tu Iglesia, entre nuestro Obispo Juan, y sus presbíteros y diáconos, entre todos los Obispos y el Papa Francisco; que la iglesia sea, en medio de nuestro mundo, dividido por los guerreros y discordias, instrumento de unidad, de concordia y de paz.

Señor, desciende de lo alto y que así sea.

Sesiones de conscientización

La Diócesis requiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajan con menores a asistir a las sesiones de conscientización de Proteger a los Niños de Dios.

Estas sesiones de conscientización están disponibles en ambos inglés y español. Son conducidos por gente de nuestra Diócesis especialmente entrenadas como facilitadores. Las sesiones se publicarán en las parroquias, escuelas, el periódico Southwest Kansas Catholic y la página electrónica de la Diócesis. www.dcdioce.se.org/protec tingchildren.

Obispo de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

Ronald M. Gilmore
MARY ANN BRUSH, 63, of Holy Family Parish, Odin and All Saints Parish, Wichita, died May 13, 2018. Mary Ann was a 1972 graduate, the last class to graduate, from Odin High School. On Sept. 29, 1978 she married Dennis Carl Brush in Odin. He preceded her in death on June 5, 2008. She was a resident of Wichita since 1972 coming from Odin. Mary Ann worked at KAX Assistance in Wichita. She was a member of the Altar Society, was a Eucharistic minister, and a PSR teacher. She is survived by her daughter, Dawn Brush, and grandson Dawson Lippert; two brothers, Donald L. Steiner and Leon J. Steiner; and many nieces and nephews. Father Ted Stoecklein presided.

YOLANDA GONZALES, 68, of Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died May 16, 2018. Yolanda married Leopoldo “Lee” Gonzales on Jan. 15, 1966. She attended the Cosmetology program at Garden City Community College and was a beautician from 1977 – 1983. She was a director of Caritas and led a prayer group at the church. She is survived by her husband, sons, Ernie, Rodney, and James; daughter, Jessica Heath; brothers, Richard Perez, Robert Perez, Rudy Perez, Raul Perez, Ramie Perez, and Ruben Perez; sisters, Dora Garza and Viola Branson; 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Father Fernando Fernandez presided.


MAGDALENE “MAGGIE” JUAREZ, 94, of St. Stanislaus Parish, Ingalls, died May 13, 2018. On Oct. 11, 1941, she married Pete Juarez. He preceded her in death in 2008. Magdalene worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse at St. Mary’s Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, for 30 years. She is survived by three children, Pat Howard, Michael Juarez, and Dolores Juarez; two sisters, Alice Easter and Mary Botta; one brother, Paul Valadez; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

MELVA M. DEWELL, 97, of St. Anthony Parish, Fowler, died May 17, 2018. Vigil services were held May 21 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Fowler. A Mass was celebrated May 22, at the church.

ELIZABETH (BETTY) LOUISE REVITTE, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died May 1, 2018. She lived most of her young life in San Antonio, TX where she graduated from Texas Women’s University in Denton, TX she went on to pursue her Masters in Theater at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio. It was there she met her future husband, Francis Revitte, and they were married in Houston, TX on Dec. 29, 1951. They moved to Dodge City, where they would spend the majority of their lives, Fran teaching at the Community College and Betty first as a homemaker and mother and then as a paraprofessional with the Dodge City Public Schools. Fran preceded her in death. She is survived by her sister, Ruth Berg; three children, Hanna Cusick, Marivy Revitte, and Frank Revitte; her son-in-law, Gordon Brown; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Father Anesthes Parappanathan presided.

GLORIA A. HICKEL, 79, of St. Joseph Parish, Ellinwood, died May 19, 2018. Gloria married Charles Hickel on Feb. 20, 1960. He preceded her in death in 1979. She was a member of the altar society, Claiin, and former member of St. Peter and Paul Church of North Ellinwood. Survivors include sons, Thomas, Donald, and James; daughter, Deborah Mills; brother, Leroy Thill; sister, Dorothy Wilson; sister in law, Gertrude Hickel; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Father Pascal Klein presided.

DENNIS E. ELIAS, 67, of St. Mary Parish, McCracken, died Feb. 26, 2018. He was a supervisor for the Rush County Highway Department for many years before his retirement. He was a former McCracken City Council member; and was currently a Rush County Commissioner. He was a United States Army veteran serving in the Vietnam War. Survivors include his wife, Jeannie; two sons, Travis and Tyrel; two daughters, Kathy Bracken and Nikki Sandefur; six grandchildren; his mother Marjorie Elias; and two brothers, Dale and Douglas. Father Mike Helms presided.

MARIANNE M. SULLIVAN, 68, of Ulysses, died May 21, 2018. Marianne graduatedPhi Beta Kappa from Kansas State University where she obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. For 27 years, she taught Title I Reading at USD 214. She retired in 2012. Survivors include her husband, Monty Sullivan; her children, Dr. Seth Sullivan, Alyson Monson Esq., and Dr. Grant Sullivan; brother, Maurice Moll; and six grandchildren. Father Peter Fernandez presided.

ELEANOR M. “GAE” AYLWARD, 97, of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Hoisington, died May 23, 2018. She was a homemaker and had worked as a waitress at the Colonial House Restaurant. Gae was also a volunteer for various organizations. She was a member of the Altar Society. On Oct. 24, 1940, she married Francis E. Aylward, in Hoisington. He preceded her in death on May 8, 1997. Survivors include three children, James Aylward, Michael F. Aylward, and Mary Ann Bone; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Father Anselm Eke presided.
Priests on the Prairie

July 16, 1912 - June 3, 2003

Father Wenzel Birzer

Father Wenzel Birzer was born July 6, 1912, at Odin. He was ordained June 3, 1939 by Archbishop (later Cardinal) John Glennon at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis in St. Louis.

His pastoral assignments included: St. Mary’s, Sitka, with the mission at St. Joseph, Ashland, (1939-40); St. Teresa’s, Hutchinson, with the mission at Assumption, Turon, (1940-41); St. Joseph, Yates Center, with the mission at St. Mary’s, Owl Creek (1941-43); St. Bernard, Belpre, (1943-48); St. Boniface, Sharon, (1948-60); St. Andrew’s, Wright, (1960-62); a chaplaincy at Bob Wilson Memorial Hospital, Ulysses, (1963); St. John, Meade, (1963-64); St. Theresa, Dighton, (1964-69); St. Joan of Arc, Elkhart, (1960-70); St. Joseph, Liebenthal, and Mary, Help of Christians, Loretto, (1970-83).

During his pastorate at Sharon, the parish built a new church and school. The church was dedicated by Bishop Mark K. Carroll on May 9, 1950; the school was dedicated by Bishop John B. Franz on Sept. 17, 1958.

Father Birzer had a special devotion to the Rosary. St. Boniface Church is enhanced by stained glass windows depicting the Glorious and Joyful Mysteries. He was also influential in establishing the neighboring parish at Medicine Lodge and naming it Holy Rosary. Bishop Franz dedicated the church there on May 23, 1954.

Father Birzer retired to Ellinwood in 1983, and moved to Sterling House in Great Bend in 1998. He died June 3, 2003, the 64th anniversary of his ordination. Bishop Ronald M. Gilmore presided at the funeral Mass at Holy Family Church in Odin. Burial was in the parish cemetery.
We must overcome... all forms of racism. The problem of intolerance should be dealt with as a whole: every time a minority is persecuted and marginalized... the good of the whole society is in danger.

— Pope Francis
Récientemente celebro mi vigésimo aniversario como sacerdote de Jesucristo y su iglesia católica. El 23 de mayo de 1998, el obispo Eugene Gerber (nuestro anterior obispo aquí entre 1976 y 1982) me ordenó en la Catedral en la Diócesis de Wichita. Compartir esta Misa de Ordenación con mi familia, amigos y fieles fue algo glorioso, ya que el Señor me bendijo tanto. Como su obispo, ustedes me han bendecido también estos últimos siete años con sus oraciones, cartas y actos de bondad. ¡Gracias! Mi sacerdocio ha sido un itinerario lleno de la gracia: celebrar el sacramento del bautismo con los padres y sus primogénitos, tener una sesión de preguntas y respuestas con un grupo de jóvenes, consolar a una persona moribunda y a su familia en un hospital, y muchos otros momentos santos del ministerio.

En medio de esta alegría, enfrentamos una grave escasez de sacerdotes en nuestra diócesis. Pasamos de 31 sacerdotes a tiempo completo a 27 a mediados del verano, debido a un retiro y a la partida de tres sacerdotes misioneros. Once de nuestros sacerdotes restantes son sacerdotes misioneros. La mitad de nuestros sacerdotes incardinados tendrá más de 60 años este año. Solo 27 sacerdotes para servir a nuestras 48 parroquias en 28 condados. ¿Qué nos llama a hacer Jesús, el Buen Pastor?

Obispo John Brungardt