Priest shares daily struggle amid crisis

FATHER JONATHAN SLAVINSKAS
Diocese of Worcester, MA

I'm going to preface this by saying that I am not a manager of a company (even though many people look at the Catholic Church as a massive corporation). I am not eloquent in my writing, nor am I in my speech, and I probably never will be. I'm the last person to send in for damage control and probably the first if you needed something instigated.

Every morning when I put my collar on, I pray for a deeper awareness of the great responsibility and magnitude of what it represents. I am aware of my sinfulness and unworthiness to even touch it. Some days more than others it should probably burn me. Any of my friends or family can let you know my failures, they've seen it first hand. I would never lie and pretend that I am without fault or sin. I know what it's like to continually say the words, “Father forgive me for I have sinned,” or to pray a perfect act of contrition before I celebrate Mass.

Having been a high school and college student when the scandal first broke in the Northeast, I probably should have questioned my sanity on why I would move forward with a response of “yes.” Nonetheless, I knew the constant scrutiny and the shadow that would be cast. I knew firsthand the eyes of suspicion that would follow from the moment the title “Father” would be used. I knew it wouldn't be easy.

As each year passed from the first initial reports, I felt as though healing had begun, and the Church could move forward, learning from the past and focusing on transmitting the light of Christ in a new way. Each parish to which I have been assigned has had its challenges, but has also been very rewarding. My ministry on Lincoln Street is the furthest from what I ever thought I'd

Continued on Page 13

Golf Classic celebrates, honors and benefits our retired priests

FOR(E) FATHERS

The Most Rev. John B. Brungardt prays over golfers prior to the start of the Dechant Foundation Golf Classic, Sept. 7 at Mariah Hills Golf Course in Dodge City, to raise money for retired priests. Above right, Director of Young Adult Ministry Gentry Heimerman takes a swing, while Director of Youth Ministry, Adam Urban, looks on. At top, among those participating are retired priest Father Reggie Urban, far left, and Wichita priest and Newman University chaplain, Father John Fogliasso, far right. See the story and photos on Pages 7-9

My Dear Faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

We grieve for the children abused by priests and others. The horrendous sin and crime of sexual abuse brings us feelings of anger, shame, outrage, disgust, and sadness. To the victims and their families, I am sorry. Please forgive us bishops, priests and other ministers of the Gospel for what we have done, or what we have failed to do. To the adults who have been sexually abused by those in positions of power and control in the Church, I am sorry, please forgive us. We pray for your healing in the Lord. He will heal all. “And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God” (Luke 17:15).

We bishops pledge to seek justice for the perpetrators and enablers of sexual abuse by members of the Church. We pray for the repentance and forgiveness of the abusers and those in power that allowed this terrible sin to continue. “It is [the Lord] who judges the world with justice” (Psalm 9:9).

We need more assistance by the laity and civil authorities. I pledge to seek wisdom from our independent Diocesan Review Board (comprised of six lay persons and one priest), regarding how we can improve our response to this terrible tragedy, and keep our children, youth, and adults safe.

PHOTOS BY DAVE MYERS

If you or someone you know may have been a victim of sexual abuse by clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, please contact:
• Dave Snapp, Diocesan Review Board administrator or
• Children and Families, Kansas Protection Report Center Hotline (Details are listed on Page 2.)

We all bring this to prayer to our Loving God. We draw strength from our sacramental life: Confession and Eucharist (Holy Communion). We fast. We take comfort from St. Peter: “Cast all your worries upon [God] because He cares for you!” (1 Peter 5:7). Jesus our Savior loves us so much.

Bishop John
Public Square Rosary
Oct. 13, Larned

Everyone is invited to join the 2018 Public Square Rosary Crusade in Larned. “Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance and conversion,” say organizers. “We ask God to save America through the Rosary of His Most Holy Mother.”

Join in praying for our nation on Oct. 13 at Noon at Sacred Heart Church in Larned.

Contact Sharon McGinness at 620-285-6382 for more information.

Kansas native Sister Vivian Schmidtberger, CSA, dies

Sister Vivian Schmidtberger, CSA, sister of Pratt resident Marvin Schmidtberger, died July 5, 2018, at St. Agnes Hospital, Fond du Lac, WI.

The former Sister Catherine Siena was born in Victoria on May 10, 1929, to Alphonse Schmidtberger and Clara (Graf) Schmidtberger. Her family included eight girls and four boys.

Having graduated in 1947 from St. Fidelis High School, Victoria, she entered St. Agnes Convent in January 1949. Sister Vivian made her profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1951.

Sister Vivian received a BS in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac and earned a Master’s in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha. Sister Vivian taught in elementary schools in Indiana and Wisconsin before serving from 1960-1970 as a missionary in Managua, Puerto Cabezas, Rosita and Waspam, Nicaragua, as well as in Quito, Ecuador.

Upon returning to the U.S., she took time apart from CSA and taught bilingual education for nine years in the Milwaukee public school system. After re-entering the congregation, she assisted for a year in the Hispanic ministry sponsored through St. Louis Parish in Fond du Lac.

Sister Vivian returned to Nicaragua in 1984 serving first in pastoral ministry in Belén, Rivas, followed by seven years devoted to the formation of young Nicaraguan women preparing to enter the congregation.

La Ceiba, Honduras, was Sister Vivian’s home during her final 17 years as a missionary. The Women’s Center established in La Ceiba in 1995 is an enduring legacy to Sister’s commitment to the empowerment of women. Sister Vivian returned to the United States, becoming a resident of Nazareth Court and Center in 2010.

Sister Vivian was preceded in death by her parents Alphonse Schmidtberger and Clara (Graf) Schmidtberger; her brothers Linus Schmidtberger and Michael Schmidtberger; her sisters Hermina Roth, Angelita Schmidtberger, Hubertine Schultz and Mary Schmidtberger.

Memorials can be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI 54937.

You are invited to a celebration to be held in your honor...

Diocesan Matrimony Anniversary Mass
Misa Diocesana de Aniverario de Matrimonios
3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018
Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe
3231 North 14th Street, Dodge City

Couples must register by Monday, Oct. 8
by going to www.dcdiocese.org and clicking on the Anniversary Mass box, by calling 620-227-1525, or by filling out the form below.

Para inscribirse, por favor complete el formulario y envíe antes del lunes 8 de octubre.

The event is open to all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and more years in 2018.

Diocesan Matrimony Anniversary Mass Registration Form

Fill out and send by Monday, Oct. 8 to:

Matrimony Anniversary Mass,
910 Central, P.O. Box 137,
Dodge City, KS 67801

Para inscribirse, por favor complete el formulario y envíe antes del lunes 8 de octubre:

BE SURE AND PRINT LEGIBLY! POR FAVOR IMPRIMIR LEGIBLEMENTE

Last Name ___________________________ Husband ___________________________ Wife ___________________________

Last Name ___________________________

Mailing Address ___________________________

Domicilio ___________________________

City ___________________________

Ciudad ___________________________

State ___________________________

Estado ___________________________

Zip Code ___________________________

Código Postal ___________________________

Phone Telefono ___________________________

Parroquia ___________________________

Email—Please type “None” if you do not have an email address:
Correo Electrónico—Por favor indique “ninguno” si no tiene uno:

_________________________

Number of Years of Matrimony

Número de Años Casados

Preferred Language of Certificate:
Idioma Preferido para Certificado:

English ___________________________

spanish ___________________________

Number of Guests

Número de Invitados (Por favor de incluir dos para usted)

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

The Diocese of Dodge City requires all employees and volunteers who work with children to participate in a Protecting God’s Children awareness session. Through the Diocesan Awareness Sessions and other educational efforts of the diocese, all people of the diocese can learn how to discuss different aspects of abuse—including sexual abuse—with children and how to teach them to protect themselves.

Protecting Our Children Awareness Sessions

Lakin – English

Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018; 2-5 p.m.
St. Anthony Church

600 Soderberg St., Lakin 67860

Contact Person: Molly Shelden 620/451-1578

PGC Facilitator: Cherry Deges 620/338-7501

Abuse Hotline

If you or someone you know may have been a victim of sexual abuse by clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Dodge City, you are asked to contact Dave Snapp, Fitness Review Administrator: (620) 225-5051 work; (620) 225-2412 home; dsnap3@starstech.net. You always have the right to directly contact the Department for Children and Families/Kansas Protection Report Center: Hotline number is 1-800-922-5330.
Diocese to air ‘Humanae Vitae’ documentary Oct. 13-15

You are invited to a rare screening of the new documentary entitled, “Sexual Revolution - 50 Years Since Humanae Vitae,” to be shown around the diocese from Oct. 13-15. Seven years in the making, “Sexual Revolution - 50 Years Since Humanae Vitae” seeks to examine the effects of the free-love experiment of the hippie generation and the prophetic encyclical, Humanae Vitae.

Janeé Bernal, Director of the Family Life Office for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, previewed the film while attending the Conference for Family Life Ministers in Louisiana. The documentary was released into theaters on Sept. 1, but unlike commercial motion pictures, is only being presented at the request of parishes.

Some of the larger dioceses and archdioceses have purchased rights to show the film, but chances are slim that the movie ever would be shown in smaller venues, such as southwest Kansas.

Once Bernal saw the documentary, she knew she wanted to share its vision.

“I want to invite people to come and see the movie to become more informed about our faith, especially if you don’t know much about Humanae Vitae,” she said. “This is a great format to learn more about it.”

This documentary closely examines the history of the parallel developments of the Pill and modern Natural Family Planning (NFP) by telling the little known story of the founding doctors—Dr. Gregory Goodwin Pincus and Drs. John and Evelyn Billings—all of whom were once colleagues.

The centerpiece of the film is the dramatic life story of Alana Newman, a talented secular musician who gives up her entire musical career for life, family, and love.

Alana shares how through desperation to know her father, she finally discovers the treasures of Theology of the Body, Humanae Vitae, and the riches of true freedom through a dramatic conversion.

“The documentary is extremely well done,” Bernal said. “For me, it changed the way I thought of what the sexual revolution was, and whether or not it achieved its goal.”

Bernal purchased licensing rights for three days, and she hopes for a big turnout.

To watch the trailer or learn more, visit: www.sexualrevolutionmovie.com.

This free event is provided by the offices of Matrimony, Family Life, and Natural Family Planning and Respect Life for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City.

Mark your calendars for 2019 March for Life in Topeka, Washington, D.C.

The Diocese of Dodge City invites you to prepare for the Jan. 16-20 March for Life in Washington, D.C., and/or the 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.

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 Riddler, (620) 375-2100 or email lridder68@gmail.com.

Tom and Lisa Riddler of St. Mary’s Parish, Marienthal, are coordinating a bus pilgrimage for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. next January.

Tentative plans call for the pilgrimage to commence at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City on Wednesday, Jan. 16, then travel to Larned and Great Bend to pick up additional participants.

Pilgrims will travel overnight on the bus and arrive in D.C. mid-morning on Jan. 17. Pilgrims will take part in a public rosary in D.C., tour the St. John Paul II Shrine, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, attend a "Life is Very Good Rally" the eve of the March and then the main rally and March for Life (Jan. 18).

A night-time walking tour of the nation’s monuments and a bus tour of Arlington National Cemetery are also planned. Buses will depart Washington on Saturday, Jan. 19 and arrive in Great Bend, Larned and Dodge between 6 and 8 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20.

The projected cost per person is $400, and includes bus travel and overnight accommodations in D.C. A priest of the Diocese of Dodge City will accompany the pilgrimage.

To learn more or to reserve your spot, please contact the Ridders at 620-375-2100 or lridder68@gmail.com.

Tuesday, January 21-22, 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.
Exorcizing exercise

I should have seen it coming. Perhaps I did and chose to ignore it. Perhaps my occasional Taco Bell lunches were so tasty that reality had been hiding behind a couple of bean burritos and a side of nachos.

As I looked into the mirror the other day, I realized that somehow, somewhere along the line, I had begun to acquire the shape of a hefty bag filled with mashed potatoes. I thought back to high school when I was into weight training. During the summer after my ninth grade, I bench pressed every morning; I felt even better. By Monday morning, Labor Day, my hand had swollen to the size of a small automobile—one of those zippy foreign imports. All the doctors offices were closed, so my only recourse was the emergency room.

As I waited the brief eternity for my wife to get ready, I thought I’d pick up one of the young cats in the back yard. A little olvin’ comfort, that’s the ticket. Anything to get my mind off the pain. When I was finished the cat down, he dug his hypodermic needle claws into my skin on my bad arm, leaving little dots of blood. I’ll miss that cat.

We arrived at the emergency room where the staff briefly made me forget about the pain by handing me my co-pay bill of $100. “Squeeze my finger,” the doctor ordered, moments later. “Are you gonna fa—” I’m testing your strength,” he said with a roll of his eyes.

I pressed with my thumb and index finger with all my might until I felt a twinge of pain. Not enough pressure to catch a butterfly by the wing at that point. “Press against my finger with your pinky,” he said. No problem! Didn’t hurt a bit! I’m tougher than I thought. “Now press with your ring finger.” Easy! Ha! I’m Mr. Tough Guy after all! “Now press with your index finger.” 

Oh, oh, oh, oh! What was this world coming to? It seemed to me that life begins at conception, or even that life begins at the moment of considering the scientific evidence. Abortion advocates do not have a right to live. Such a policy can be kept in place only by extraordinary measures—by insisting that Roe is untouchable, regardless of the evidence. Abortion advocates know that any return of this issue to the democratic process would produce a very different policy from what the Court created. But false judicial doctrines do not have a right to live. Human beings do.

For more information on Roe v. Wade including the full listing of questions and answers, visit: www.usccb.org/roe

LIFE ISSUES

Who have never been proven to be anything but human beings, the Court decided to treat unborn children merely as “potential life”—and to prevent the people or their elected representatives from determining otherwise.

Do all legal experts agree on the future of Roe?

No. Roe has been criticized by several Supreme Court justices and even by legal experts who favor legalized abortion. Justice Byron White called it “an exercise of raw judicial power.” Yale law professor John Hart Ely has said that Roe is “a very bad decision.” It is bad because it is bad constitutional law, or rather because it is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be.

Edward Lazarus, former clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun who wrote the Roe opinion, says that “Roe, as constitutional interpretation, is virtually impossible to defend.”

Why are abortion advocates so strongly committed to retaining Roe?

Roe v. Wade is increasingly recognized as bad law, bad medicine, and bad social policy. Most Americans object to an unlimited right to abortion. Therefore, such a policy can be kept in place only by extraordinary measures—by insisting that Roe is untouchable, regardless of the evidence. Abortion advocates know that any return of this issue to the democratic process would produce a very different policy from what the Court created. But false judicial doctrines do not have a right to live. Human beings do.

For more information on Roe v. Wade including the full listing of questions and answers, visit: www.usccb.org/roe

Inherit the Mirth

By Cuyler Black

Roe v. Wade: Questions and Answers

The following comes from the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. It is part of the series, Life Issues.

Roe v. Wade is well known as the 1973 Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in the United States. With the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy—and as the confirmation hearings for his replacement have moved forward—Roe v. Wade has once again found itself at the center of public debate.

Pro-abortion groups continue to spread misinformation about Roe, fearing its eventual reversal. Accurate answers to some common questions can help us to better understand Roe and to educate others.

What did Roe v. Wade do?

It said the right of privacy (not mentioned in the text of the Constitution) “is broad enough to encompass a woman’s decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy.” The Justices ruled that a state may not restrict abortion at all in the first three months of pregnancy (first trimester). It may establish guidelines only to protect the mother’s health during the next three months (second trimester). After “viability,” when the unborn child could survive if delivered (which the Court placed at 24 to 28 weeks of gestation), the state may prohibit abortion unless it is deemed necessary to preserve the mother’s “life or health.”

Did the court find that life doesn’t begin until birth?

No. It argued that uses of the word “person” in the Constitution do not seem to include the unborn. Then, citing wide disagreement as to when human life begins, the Court said it “need not resolve” this difficult question. Instead of considering the scientific evidence that life begins at conception, or even allowing legislatures to protect those

By Dave Myers

Editor

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Celebrating Sisters: the sweet and the salty

By CHARLENTE SCOTTY MYERS

I was educated for 16 years by the Benedictine sisters of Tulsa, Oklahoma: for five years of grade school at Marquette and three years at Madalene, four years at Monte Cassino High School (for girls), and four years at the coed Benedictine Heights College on the Monte Cassino campus. My mother had attended a business school conducted by the Benedictines when she was in her late teens, learning the shorthand and typing skills that later garnered her good jobs to support my five younger brothers and me.

The Sweet

I was six years old and in first grade when I met Sister Antoinette, a petite and holy woman who reminded me of the fairy godmother in my Cinderella book. She acted as if these actions were the most normal thing in the world for sisters to do, while we kids gasped, more because of the smoke than because of her! We pupils were flabbergasted, and thought we had seen it all until one day she again reached under her flowing black robes and retrieved a small container.

“It’s a flask!” said one nearby boy in a low whisper. Then after she left the room, the smart little boy added more information. “Flasks have whiskey in ‘em!” he proudly shared his strange knowledge. What a scandal when we found out what it was inside of it! Some student must have blabbed this strange behavior at home because the smoking, drinking sister soon disappeared from our school.

The next “scandal” in our classroom involved another sister who seemed quite normal... but not for long. I looked up from my “Dick and Jane” book one day after receiving a jab in the back from the boy seated behind me.

“SHE HAS HAIR!” he blurted out, and all eyes in our rows of desks swiftly shifted toward her forehead, where sure enough, a long strand of dark hair had escaped her veil! We students gasped! Weren’t nuns bald? When I thought I had seen and experienced everything terrible in the world, we, third graders had to take a test. Another sister told us that the class for that one of the 10 questions we missed, she would slap our hands with a ruler. I was terrified!

Well, I was a smart little cookie, but not smart enough. I got only nine questions right!! Here comes the torture, I thought. Sure enough, the sister growled at me: “HOLD OUT YOUR HAND!” as she waved the paper with my one mistake in my face.

I stuck out my little shaking hand and held my breath. WHACK!!! She hit my hand so hard that it felt scalded the sister’s ears, I knew her ruler was tough. I was terrified!

But my heart went out to the many boys in my class who missed nine out of 10 or all of the questions. Despite their loud wails, the sister was whacking away at their hands like a robot.

At recess, I hid in the bushes on the playground, and when the bell rang for pupils to return to class, I waited for my chance. When the school door shut, I ran like a bat out of you know where until I reached the bus stop. Lucky little me, a bus appeared in a couple of minutes! And soon I was home complaining of “a stomach ache,” which by that time I really had!

Later, I learned the frantic sisters had looked everywhere for me, searching high and low in all the classrooms and around the grounds. They thought I had been kidnapped.

The next day, my teacher made a snide remark to the class about me running away from school, but I didn’t care. I showed her! She could not torture me to our class about me running away from school, but I didn’t care. I showed her! She could not torture me to our class about me running away from school, but I didn’t care. I showed her! She could not torture me to our class about me running away from school, but I didn’t care. I showed her! She could not torture me to our class about me running away from school, but I didn’t care. I showed her! She could not torture me to our class about me running away from school, but I didn’t care. I showed her! She could not torture me to our class about me running away from school, but I didn’t care. I showed her! She could not torture me to our class about me running away from school, but I didn’t care. I showed her! She could not torture me to our class about me running away from school, but I didn’t care. I showed her! 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Stewardship Conference:
Injecting God’s love into lives of student athletes

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

Editor’s Note: The following is one of a series of articles that includes topics presented at the Aug. 25 Stewardship Conference in Dodge City. The Stewardship Conference, organized by Director of Stewardship, Eric Haselhorst, presents ways for participants to be better equipped to serve the Lord and each other. Complete lists of hand-outs from Stewardship Day can be found at dcdiocese.org/stewardship/stewardship-day.

For Dodge City High School teacher Taviana Lowery, one word brings with it a God-given answer to injecting the love of Christ back into the lives of young people: discipleship.

At the annual Stewardship Conference, Aug. 25 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lowery addressed, “How to be a disciple while coaching.” It was a discussion ultimately pertaining to all students, not only student athletes.

Lowery is starting her 14th year as a teacher at the high school, instructing students from many corners of the globe how to speak English.

“Discipleship in a public-school setting is tricky,” she said, “but it doesn’t have to be nonexistent. There are many ways we can be disciples to our young people without offending anyone. I can go to my son’s team and pray with them.”

When an audience member asked if she had ever been taken to task for praying with the youth, she replied, “I’ve never gotten grief for praying with kids. Only thanks.”

“I’m a teacher. I see so much hurt. Poverty. Abuse. Youth who feel very worthless.” [Dodge City High School lost two young people to suicide earlier in the year.]

Yet, she adds, “I am amazed how God has turned so much tragedy into something so beautiful. I’ve seen so many in the community reaching out asking how to help.

“As parents, we have a tremendous amount of power,” she said. “You have an influence on your children; they can see the love of Christ in you. That’s discipleship. That is your mission.”

And coaches? “Coaches have a tremendous amount of influence over their student athletes.

“You have the power to disciple in a way that’s free from many of the restraints of the school setting. Maybe we’re not taking advantage. Are we focusing on baseball and only baseball, or are we focusing on something bigger?”

As a member of the worldwide Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Lowery has seen how Christianity in an athletic setting can affect youth.

“If they could just see how much He loves them, they’d be okay. They don’t know God loves them, that He’s there for them.

“I hope you will think about how you can reach out to our youth, because they are hurting. Today’s world is very broken. Our youth are dealing with things they should never have to deal with. I have a passion for Church and a passion for kids.

“Discipleship is a very personal decision and mission,” she said. “I tell my children, ‘Whatever you decide to do is your mission from Christ.’ If we want to share the love of Jesus Christ and be a disciple, He will guide us.”

Honoring a hero
Offerle-born Father Leonard Stegman remembered for service in Korea, Vietnam

Father Leonard Fernando Peter Stegman, born May 31, 1917 in Offerle, died Aug. 12, 2014. He served as a chaplain in both the Korean and Vietnam wars, and was awarded numerous medals. At far right, he celebrates Mass on a Jeep hood in Korea in 1951. The priest received numerous medals for his actions during the wars.

Editor’s Note: Diocesan archivist Tim Wenzl unearthed a treasure trove when he discovered Offerle-born priest, Father Leonard Stegman, whose brief biography is included in his necrology, “Priests on the Prairie.” In the last issue, Wenzl highlighted him in his weekly Priest on the Prairie feature. The information Wenzl found extends far beyond those paragraphs. The story at right comes from various sources, including Jessie Degallada of ABCTV.

Leonard Fernando Peter Stegman was born more than a century ago in Offerle, Kansas. Having earned a Purple Heart, two Silver Stars and a Bronze Star, Father Stegman is remembered as an Army chaplain who saved souls as well as lives on the frontlines of Korea and Vietnam.

For those reasons, “Father Len,” as he was best known, was rare among military chaplains, said David Jackson, national adjutant with the Military Order of the Purple Heart. “(He was) a gentle man, but true to his beliefs in protecting others,” Jackson said.

The 97-year-old retired colonel died Aug. 12, 2014 and was buried with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

He was born on May 31, 1917 in Offerle, Kansas, attended high school for two years at Plains and for three years (to study Latin) at St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt. Calvary, Wis. He was ordained as a Capuchin-Franciscan Priest on June 23, 1943 at St. Mary’s Church, Marathon, Wis.

Father Stegman achieved two Master’s degrees (International Studies and Education) from George Washington University.

He entered the U.S. Army Reserve in 1948 and later served as chaplain of the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

In April 1950, Chaplain Stegman activated as an Army chaplain and fulfilled assignments at several stateside Army posts and stations. He served in Japan and Korea during 1950-1951 and in Europe for six years.

Chaplain Stegman served in both the...
EmPOWER: replacing helplessness with power; ignorance with empathy

Local pair organizing hope, help for the physically challenged, caregivers

BY DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

Trombley struggles daily due to a problem knee and shrapnel in his back, the latter of which he received while serving in Vietnam.

Sara Smith is a caregiver to her husband, Rawlin, who is suffering the latent effects of Agent Orange, a chemical weapon to which he was exposed—also while serving in Vietnam.

But this isn’t about Trombley and Smith. This is about all veterans—and anyone else—who are living with disabilities and could use a helping hand, a bit of instruction or advice, maybe someone to talk to.

It started with Bob Hamilton, the Visually Impaired Service Coordinator at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita. His idea is to provide greater support for the physically challenged veterans and public throughout Western Kansas.

Hamilton shared his idea with Bishop John Brungardt, who notified Father Bob Schreemr, who contacted Smith.

“And Sara contacted me,” Trombley said. The pair are uniquely qualified to bring Hamilton’s dream to Southwest Kansas, both because of their personal experiences, and because they each have a heart- and faith-filled desire to help others.

While they have a special place in their hearts for disabled veterans (for whom, thanks to their experience and the support of Hamilton, they will be able to offer special attention) their goal is to serve all those with disabilities, and all those who care for them.

“We want to bring information and solutions to the challenges that persons with disabilities face,” Smith explained. “People are dying in the recesses of their home because they don’t know there is help out there.”

As “purveyors of information”, the group will offer helpful advice about (among many other things): Medicare and how to apply for it; how to use health care appliances properly; where to get help for simple, everyday challenges; what benefits are out there that can help financially; where you can go for help that doesn’t include driving across the state.

“We have experts in southwest Kansas,” Trombley said, experts that the two hope will offer some of their time and expertise to extend Hamilton’s mission to southwest Kansas so that no person facing physical challenges has to travel far for answers, including disabled veterans who must travel to the Veterans Affairs facility in Wichita.

“If it’s a question of mobility in Sublette, we go to Sublette,” Trombley explained, “We don’t want them to come to us, but for us to go to them. We encourage sharing solutions between caregivers, the people with disabilities and the professionals.”

“We want more things from the Veterans Administration out here,” Smith added. “For us to get Rawlin to Wichita for treatment was a big deal. If we can save someone from that … A 24-hour caregiver doesn’t have the energy to go to Wichita.”

The pair also wants to strengthen the emotional support between caregivers and people with disabilities, by sharing experiences, challenges and solutions, including care options.

“If you find something that works, share it!” Smith said. This summer, Rawlin [Smith’s husband] wanted to exercise in the lazy river at a water park but couldn’t because of his oxygen tank. Rather than feel sorry for himself, he got the creative juices flowing. He invented a special raft made to support his oxygen tank in the water.

“He figured out that he should share that knowledge,” Smith said, proudly.

“Sometimes these people are pitied,” she said, referring to people facing physical challenges. “They are not helpless or incapacitated. They are smart, inventive and creative. They are to be respected.”

The organization is still in its early stages. Eventually it will begin offering workshops throughout the diocese. Those wishing to volunteer their time to help Smith and Trombley may call the Catholic office at 620-227-1519. In the meantime, Smith and Trombley would like to gage the interest for such an organization. They are asking interested individuals to fill out the needs assessment survey included on this page, and to submit it to the office of the Southwest Kansas Catholic to: Disability Issues, 910 Central, P.O. Box 137, Dodge City, KS 67801.

“We have gotten to know a number of veteran couples who have gone through treatment programs,” Smith said. “We have to stand beside each other. There are people who can do it alone, but relationships make it much easier.”

Father Leonard Stegman

Korean and Vietnam wars. His duties at every level of the Army included assignments at 3rd Infantry Division; U. S. Army Air Defense Command, U. S. Army Vietnam; 3rd Army; Headquarters, Forces Command; and U. S. Army Material Command. He is a graduate of the Army Command and Staff College and the Army War College.

Chaplain Stegman retired in the grade of Colonel on May 31, 1977. His awards and decorations include two Silver Stars, Purple Heart, three Legion’s of Merit, Bronze Star, Korean Distinguished Unit Citation, German and Japanese occupation medals, Korean Service Medal (with four battle stars), United Nations medal for service in Korea, and two American defense ribbons.

After retiring from the Army in 1977, Father Stegman remained in the Washington, DC area and ministered energetically in both civilian and military parishes. In 1988, he moved to San Antonio, Texas. During his service in San Antonio, Father Stegman celebrated the Mass for the Korean community and was instrumental in obtaining a native Korean pastor for the congregation as they began to establish and build their Korean parish. Father Stegman also supported Deacon Philip Kim in his response to the call and to his ordination to priesthood.

“What a life,” said Roger Hutson, a longtime friend.

Hutson said he was only 2 when he first met Father Len.

“He was there for my marriage, gave my mother and father their last rites. He was part of every major event in my life,” Hutson said.

Angelique Herran, a women’s auxiliary chaplain for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, said he almost until his heart attack seven years prior to his death that he met Father Len.

Herran said since the auxiliary “leaves no veteran alone or friendless when in need,” she became Father Len’s aide.

“He kindled a fire of love and a fire of faith like nothing I had ever seen,” Herran said.

She said as an example, she and Father Len would travel to Fort Hood where he would pray and counsel war widows. Herran said Father Len’s devotion to military members and their families did not end with his retirement as a colonel in 1977. She said even at age 90, after 71 years a priest, he ministered at Lackland, Fort Sam Houston, St. Pius X Catholic Church — where his funeral Mass was held — and the Village at the University of the Incarnate Word, where he lived.

“He was surrounded by Irish nuns and had a chapel outside his room where he prayed,” Herran said.

She said Father Len had by then earned an award from the Military Chaplains Association for best personifying the concept of "chaplain for life."
In gratitude
Our retired priests

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Bishop Emeritus Ronald M. Gilmore
Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman

Thanking sponsors

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Annual Dechant Foundation Golf

By DAVID MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

Dodge City – The clouds were thick with moisture, like mammoth water balloons, dark grey and ready to burst. Underneath the ocean of clouds filling the sky Sept. 7, lining the green grass of Mariah Hills Golf Course in Dodge City were dozens of golfers who were hoping that by some miracle they would be able to complete the course before being rained out, or worse yet, zapped by some 30,000 amperes.

If it had been any other golf outing, they may have called it quits. But this was special. This was for our retired priests, a fund-raiser to make sure they are served well after so many years of serving others.

In the end there was no thunder, not a drop of rain. “I felt the day was a great success,” said event organizer Mark Roth, Development Director for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. “The weather was perfect and the rains held off. I would like to thank all the sponsors and players who made the day possible. It is truly heartwarming to see so many people come out and support our retired priests.”

The day began with Mass at the chapel in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrated by Bishop John B. Brungardt and Father Jacob Schneider. In his homily, the bishop reminded those gathered that in such troubled times as these, “We realize how weak we are and how much we need our Savior. … Trust in Him and He will act. … That’s the only way to make it in this world … to trust in the Lord and in His Sacred Heart.”

At Mariah Hills on the eastern edge of Dodge City, chancery staff signed in the teams. Individual golfers were offered the chance to buy mulligans for $20 each, which allows the golfer a second chance at a swing if the first one goes embarrassingly awry.

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Classic honors, celebrates retired priests, bishops

Bishop John Brungardt, far left, poses with participants of the annual Dechant Foundation Golf Classic, which raises money for retired priests.

Above, Father Jacob Schneider (second from left), parochial vicar of St. Anthony Parish, Liberal and St. Alphonsus Parish Satanta, prepares to head out to the course. Driving the other vehicle is Adam Urban, Director of Youth Ministries. At center is Sister Angela Erviva, MCDP, Director of Hispanic Ministry, and Father George Fajardo, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Scott City and St. Theresa Parish, Dighton. Celebrating Mass prior to the Classic is Bishop John Brungardt and Father Schneider.

Father Bernard Felix, pastor of Sacred Heart, Larned, and St. Bernard, Belpre.

Father Jacob Schneider puts as his teammates await their turn.

Norbert Flax from Ransom puts into the green, while Tom Walt from Utica looks on. They are both members of St. Aloysius Parish in Ransom.

These photos and more can be seen in color and downloaded for free at dcdiocese.org/swkcatholic.
E

reciente escándalo en el que está involucrado el Arzobispo Mons. McCarrick y la publicación del informe del gran jurado sobre seis diócesis en Pennsylvania, sacudió la fe de muchos creyentes. Espero que la información en esta página brinde cierta medida de confianza en nuestros esfuerzos por mantener a los niños y jóvenes seguros en la Diócesis de Dodge City.

+ Mons. John, obispo

¿Qué está haciendo la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City para proteger a nuestros hijos?

P. ¿Qué se ha hecho en nuestra diócesis para garantizar la seguridad de los niños más allá de “Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios” (PGC, por su sigla en inglés)?
• Las sesiones de concienciación de PGC capacitaron a los adultos para tomar conciencia de los comportamientos que usan los perpetradores para preparar a los niños y jóvenes y los signos en los niños y jóvenes que pueden indicar que han sido abusados. La sesión también proporciona los pasos que podemos tomar para crear un ambiente seguro para nuestros niños y jóvenes.
• Se completó la verificación de antecedentes penales de todos los empleados y adultos que trabajan como voluntarios con niños y jóvenes. (Consulte el cuadro “¿Sabía que?”).
• El 1 de julio de 2018, decidimos cambiar nuestro proveedor de verificación de antecedentes, que revisará trimestralmente las verificaciones de antecedentes recientemente completadas.
• Los nombres de todos los que han sido capacitados a lo largo de los años se cotejan anualmente con el Registro de Delincuentes Sexuales de Kansas.
• En 2007 comenzamos a ofrecer lecciones de capacitación de seguridad a nuestros estudiantes, apropiadas según la edad. En los años siguientes, se han puesto a disposición lecciones en una variedad de formatos.

P. ¿Cuál es nuestro proceso de solicitud para los candidatos al seminario a fin de determinar que el hombre tiene la madurez intelectual, espiritual, pastoral y humana para continuar discerniendo su posible llamado al sacerdocio?
• Un candidato para el seminario de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City completa una solicitud de 20 páginas; escribe tres ensayos; se entrevista con su párroco, el director vocacional, el obispo y un comité lasico; tiene un examen médico que incluye un análisis de sangre, detección de drogas y detección de VIH; obtiene tres cartas de recomendación (una de un párroco); toma una evaluación psicológica que incluye una entrevista clínica y varios inventarios que incluyen adicción a la pornografía, abuso de sustancias y componentes psicosociales; asiste a la sesión de concienciación de Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios; y, completa una verificación de antecedentes penales. Esta información es llevada a oración por el director vocacional, el obispo y el candidato. El director vocacional hace una recomendación al obispo y el obispo acepta al candidato, hace esperar al candidato o no acepta al candidato. (Consulte el cuadro “¿Sabía que?”).
• Al final de cada año académico, el seminario envía una evaluación detallada sobre el progreso en cada una de las cuatro áreas: espiritual, académica, pastoral y humana. El director de los seminaristas (actualmente el P. Wesley Schawe), el seminarista y el obispo evalúan el progreso y los objetivos. El obispo pone esto en oración a Jesús, nuestro Buen Pastor, y determina si el seminarista debe continuar la formación.
• Aproximadamente a la mitad de la teología (los últimos cuatro años de formación), se realizan más evaluaciones físicas, psicológicas y formativas para disminuir el progreso y las áreas de crecimiento que permanecen. Cualquier impedimento o preocupación grave que exista puede exigir un retraso en el llamado del obispo al seminarista a las Ordenes Sagradas.

P. ¿De qué manera asisten los seminaristas a nuestros seminaristas con la madurez humana y afectiva, en particular, siendo formados para aceptar y vivir un llamado perpetuo a la castidad y celibato?
• Los seminaristas que utilizan tienen excelentes programas de formación sobre la castidad y celibato, ya que los seminaristas son formados para imitar a Jesucristo, esposo de la Iglesia. (Consulte el cuadro “¿Sabía que?”) para obtener más información.

P. ¿Qué formación continua reciben los sacerdotes para abordar estos problemas?
• Nuestra convocatoria anual de octubre se centra regularmente en un desarrollo humano sano. En 2014, el enfoque estuvo en la interacción de la vida espiritual y moral; en 2015, se trató sobre atracciones a personas del mismo sexo; y, en 2017, los sacerdotes participaron en el programa de Actualización Virtus de Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios. Este octubre, la atención se centrará en las relaciones saludables con sus feligreses.

P. ¿Qué pasos se tomarán si se hace una acusación contra un sacerdote?
• Comunicación con la víctima y su familia, incluida la oferta de reunirse/hablar con el Ministro de la Asistencia y/o el Obispo o su representante.
• Apoyar y, de ser necesario, ayudar a denunciar el incidente a la policía local y/o al Departamento de Niños y Familias.
• Si el sacerdote acusado está activo en ministerio, será expulsado de la parroquia y sus facultades ministeriales serán restringidas hasta que se realice una investigación.
• El Consejo de Revisión será convocado para revisar la acusación y determinar los próximos pasos apropiados (como la forma de obtener más información).

P. ¿Se han usado los regalos monetarios de los fieles para pagar acuerdos de compensación en el pasado?
• No. Los pagos anteriores han sido pagados por el seguro y fondos de herencias que han dejado sacerdotes fallecidos.

P. ¿Qué estamos haciendo para unirnos en oración para luchar contra este mal?
• Una carta mía fue leída en todas las Misas el fin de semana del 8 al 9 de septiembre.
• Celebraré una Hora Santa para la Reparación en el reciente escándalo en el que está involucrado el Arzobispo Mons. McCarrick y la publicación del informe del gran jurado sobre seis diócesis en Pennsylvania, sacudió la fe de muchos creyentes. Espero que la información en esta página brinde cierta medida de confianza en nuestros esfuerzos por mantener a los niños y jóvenes seguros en la Diócesis de Dodge City.

¿Sabía usted?

416 SESIONES DE CONCIENTIZACIÓN “Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios” han sido ofrecidas en español e inglés desde julio de 2003, y 8,072 adultos han sido capacitados hasta el 12 de agosto de este año. LA DIÓCESIS DE DODGE CITY utiliza los siguientes recursos en su discernimiento de candidatos al seminario:
• Program for Priestly Vocations, [Programa para Vocaciones Sacerdotales], 5ª edición, Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB), que incluye “Normas para la Admisión de Candidatos”.
• Guidelines for the Use of Psychology in Seminary Admission, [Pautas para el uso de la psicología en la admisión al seminario], USCCB
• Instrucción sobre los criterios de discernimiento vocacional en relación con las personas de tendencias homosexuales antes de su admisión al seminario y a las órdenes sagradas, Congregación para la Educación Católica, Vaticano.
• Conception Seminary College, Conception, Missouri: https://www.conception.edu/seminary/seminarian-formation/ y haga clic en “View Seminary Handbook”, págs. 139-150 “Growth Plan”, especialmente pág. 141 “Growth in Affective Maturity”, y pág. 147 “Growth in Chaste Celibacy”.
• St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver, Colorado: Para una visión general, lea el artículo de Mons. Chaput: http://synderv. edu/seminarian/division/formation/paf/as-christ-loved-the-church/. SJV tiene un cuaderno extenso, “Chaste Celibacy Curriculum Toolbox” (Caja de herramientas del Programa sobre el Celibato Casto), para que los seminaristas se formen en el celibato casto mientras se preparan, si Dios quiere, para el orden sacerdotal.

NUESTRO CÓDIGO DE CONDUCTA PASTORAL - Interacción con Niños y Jóvenes fue revisado recientemente. El Código de Conducta aborda comportamientos específicos que un adulto tendrá y no tendrá con un menor. Para obtener una copia del Código de Conducta y otros documentos, vaya a https://www.dcdiocese.org/safe-environment/.

TODO LOS NÚMEROS del Southwest Kansas Catholic brindan información (en inglés y español) sobre cómo denunciar presuntos abusos sexuales cometidos por clérigos, empleados o voluntarios en la Diócesis de Dodge City.
E l sacerdote Christian Viña, pidió un redescubrimiento de la ortodoxia católica y un redescubrimiento de la ortodoxia, y el perdón de los abusadores y aquellos en el poder que permitieron que este terrible pecado continuara. “El [Señor] juzga el mundo con justicia” (Salmo 9, 9).

Necesitamos más asistencia por parte de los laicos y las autoridades civiles. Me compro- meto a buscar la sabiduría de nuestro independiente Consejo de荣修迪os Deceosanono (com- puesto por seis personas laicas y un sacerdote), con respecto a cómo podemos mejorar nuestro programa de Ambiente Seguro (Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios). Agradezco sus sugerencias. Desde el 2003, hemos llevado a cabo más de 400 sesiones de concienciación para más de 8,000 sacerdotes, diáconos, seminaristas, em- pleados, voluntarios y feligreses de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City. Animo a todos los adul- tos en la diócesis a tomar una sesión de con- cienciación. Juntos, podemos mejorar nuestra respuesta a esta terrible tragedia y mantener seguros a nuestros niños, jóvenes y adultos.

Si usted o alguien que conoce puede haber sido víctima de abuso sexual por parte del clero, un empleado o voluntario de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City, comuníquese con:

— Dave Snapp, administrador del Consejo de Revisión Diocesano o — Children and Families, Kansas Protection Report Center Hotline (Línea del Centro de De- nuncias para la Protección de Niños y Familias de Kansas)

[detalles en su boletín, en el periódico Diocesano Southwest Kansas Catholic, o en el sitio web diocesano en la página de Ambiente seguro (Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios)]

Vamos a poner todo esto en oración a nuestro Dios Amoroso. Nos fortalecemos por medio de nuestra vida sacramental: la Con- fesión y la Eucaristía (Sagrada Comunión). Ayunamos. Nos consuelan las palabras de San Pedro: “Encomiendan a Dios sus preocupacio- nes, que él se ocupará de ustedes” (1º Pedro 5, 7). Jesús, nuestro Salvador, nos ama tanto.

— Obispo John B. Brungardt

El torneo de golf de la diócesis recauda dinero para sacerdotes jubilados

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

Rechacen el “catolicismo light” y sean fieles a Cristo, pide sacerdote al clero

E stamos llenos de dolor por los niños que han sido abusados por sacerdotes y otras personas. El crimen y el pecado hor- rendo de abuso sexual nos trae sentimientos de ira, vergüenza, indignación, disgusto y tristeza. A las víctimas y sus familias, les digo: “perdóname”. Por favor perdóname a los obispos, sacer- dotes y otros ministros del Evangelio por lo que hemos hecho o lo que no hemos hecho. A los adultos que han sido abusados sexualmente por aquellos que estaban en posiciones de poder y control en la Iglesia, por favor, perdóname. Oramos por su sanación en el Señor. Él sanará a todos. “Y uno de ellos, dándose cuenta de que había sido sanado, regresó glorificando a Dios” (Lucas 17, 15).

Los obispos nos comprometemos a buscar justicia para los responsables y los que permiti- eron el abuso sexual por parte de los miembros de la Iglesia. Oramos por el arrepentimiento y el perdón de los abusadores y aquellos en el poder que permitieron que este terrible pecado

Mis queridos fieles de la Diócesis de Dodge City:

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

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Mis queridos fieles de la Diócesis de Dodge City:

La Diócesis requiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajan con menores a asistir a las sesiones de concienciación de Proteger a los Niños de Dios. Estas sesiones de consci- entización están disponibles en ambos inglés y español. Son conducidos por gente de nues- tra 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.dcdiocese.org/protectionchil- dren.

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A lesson in forgiveness ... or ... ‘Don’t bug me, I’m worshiping!’

By L. OSMON
Faithwriters.com

My mom was the kind of gal who expected everyone to meet her needs the moment they occurred to her. So it should not have surprised me when those same expectations accompanied us to church that Sunday morning. By the time she had rattled off her list of complaints during our twelve minute commute and conducted an involved expedition for the best seat in the sanctuary, I was exhausted. However, it was when she demanded her purse be hung on her walker “the right way” for the tenth time that I seriously considered taking up smoking, right there in the pew. Instead, I stepped out into the foyer to collect myself and to avoid singing songs like, “Lord, I Will Do Whatever You Ask” or “Thank You Jesus For The Trials You Bring”.

Keeping My Eyes on YOU”.

The song seemed appropriate, “Jesus, I’m worshiping!” I started to feel uncomfortable and peaceful all at the same time. It hadn’t long until I felt a light “tap-tap” on my left hip. I chose to ignore it and sang a bit louder.

“Don’t bug me, I’m worshiping!” almost came spilling out of my mouth. I needed to worship. I needed my sanity. I raised my arms and started swaying to the music. The song seemed appropriate, “Jesus, I’m Keeping My Eyes on YOU”.

“Lord, I’m going to lose it!”, could almost be heard as a hum between my vice-gripped lips. All good on the outside, like the music was carrying me. Lord, I am so hurt. She needs to apologize! Tears were starting to well up. It felt like the music was carrying me.

“I’ll be with you every step of the way,” said a familiar voice.

Then it occurred to me… Did I mention we were in the third row from the front? I can’t imagine who all were rooting for her as she tried over and over again to grab the paper out of my backside. The expression, “Can I have a witness?” has a whole new meaning now. I quickly sat down and removed my unlimited accessory. For the rest of the service mom kept her eyes forward, while I plotted how to open the emergency door without setting off the alarm.

The following week, there was another kind of interruption. It had been a difficult morning and once again I had arrived emotionally exhausted. Thankfully, finding the right seat had gone smoother this time. As the music started I stood with the congregation and closed my eyes. I was having a hard time concentrating.

“I almost forgot it was empty. Mom

I thought about the times she had blown up at me that morning and had decided not to come to church.

Tap. Tap. “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” said a familiar voice.

“Oh! Jesus - it’s you!” I sat down, putting my head in my hands. “Sorry about that. I know she’s my mom, but I can only take so much. As soon as this service is over I’m going to give her a piece of my...uh...prayer." I averted my eyes (which is a tricky thing to do with someone who is omni-present) and started singing again, maybe a bit too fast.

Tap. Tap. “You will be worshiping right next to her in heaven, so how about forgiving her now just as I have forgiven you? Oh, and by the way, you have something hanging out of your eye. Possibly a branch.”

I let out a sigh. Apparently, I wasn’t dealing with “subtle Jesus”. There was no doubt which Bible verse he was referring to; Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Wasn’t I entitled to put her on the “To Be Forgiven Later” list? This is more her issue than mine. Is Jesus just going to let her off the hook? Then it occurred to me…

“You can hear me, can’t you?”, I said under my breath.

Only a patient silence could be detected.

“I know. I hurt her too.”

“I’ll be with you every step of the way,” was the response.

I started to feel uncomfortable and peaceful all at the same time. Maybe I was the one who needed that spiritual breakthrough. As the music swelled again I gave thanks for interruptions, did a quick wardrobe check and made a mental note to call my mom. Then I stood up and joined in the last stanza singing, “...All to Jesus, precious Savior, I surrender all”.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

From Christianfunnyphotos.com: ATTITUDE: It’s never too late to show the world a happy face.

Bishop John B. Brungardt to lead Holy Hours in Reparation for the Sin of Sexual Abuse

Beginning at 7 p.m. today, Sept. 16, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City, Bishop John Brungardt will lead a Holy Hour in Reparation for the Sin of Sexual Abuse.

The bishop will also host Holy Hours at 7 p.m.: Sept. 23 at St. Rose Church in Great Bend Sept. 30 at St. Mary Church in Garden City and Oct. 14 (in Spanish) at St. Anthony Parish in Liberal.

The public is encouraged to attend.

In his column this week, which was read at all Masses on Sept. 8-9, Bishop John Brungardt called out the “horrendous sin and crime of sexual abuse” against children by priests and others, urging justice and repentance for the perpetrators and enablers, and prayers for the victims.

“We all bring this to prayer to our Loving God. We draw strength from our sacramental life: Confession and Eucharist (Holy Communion). We fast. We take comfort from St. Peter: ‘cast all your worries upon [God] because He cares for you’ (1 Peter 5:7). Jesus our Savior loves us so much.”

-- Bishop John
The gift of the Eucharist

Sending us on a mission

When I was growing up, which was before most people had dishwashers in the home, my mom would line us up five kids in front of the sink after evening dinner for our post-supper chore. My older brother would scrape the plates. My oldest sister was in charge of the actual washing. Next to her another sister would oversee the rinsing, and another sister and I would dry and put away. Sometimes (I’m not making this up), to help keep us on task, our mom would lead us in the Rosary while our dad stole away to his chair to read the paper. More often, though, we played a game called “If I Went on a Trip.”

The game unfolded like this: The first person would say, “If I went on a trip, I would...” and then say a word that began with the letter “A.” The next person would say, “If I went on a trip, I would take...” and so on. When there came a word beginning with the letter “B,” and so on through the alphabet. If you forgot a word or said the wrong word, you were out of the game.

Jesus doesn’t test our memories when we receive Him in Communion. He asks, however, that we test ourselves. We should not receive Communion if we are aware of any unconfessed and unrepented mortal sin on our soul (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1385). “Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to Communion,” states the Catechism.

Just like we wouldn’t start out on a long road trip without having our car properly serviced, we shouldn’t go into the sacramental life, say the Catechism, “the fruits of the sacraments depend on the disposition of the one who receives them” (1128). Cars won’t run properly if you dilute gas with water or some other substance. Is our soul diluting the grace we receive if we receive Communion “diluted” by grave sins?

But what happens when we do receive Communion worthily? The Eucharist becomes the spiritual food that fuels us to live out our mission as baptized Catholics. When the priest offers the final blessing and dismissal, he commands us to make the fruits of our reception of Communion known to others. There are four dismsals: the priest (or deacon) can choose from: “Go forth, the Mass is ended;” “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord;” “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord in your life;” or, simply, “Go in peace.” Implicit in each of those commands is how we are to make the fruits of Communion visible in our lives.

The Catechism lists five effects or “fruits” of receiving the Eucharist in “Holy Communion.”

First, Communion strengthens our bond with Christ. “The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus” (Catechism, no. 1391). We grow in our life as Catholic Christians by receiving the Body of Christ.

Second, Communion unites us more strongly to the other members of the body of Christ, the Church.

Third, Communion unifies us more strongly to the other members of the body of Christ, the Church.

Fourth, Communion makes us more aware of and responsive to the needs of our less-fortunate brothers and sisters. When we receive Communion we pray for the grace not only to recognize Christ in the faces of our neighbors, but to respond to them as Christ Himself did.

Finally, Communion is food for our pilgrimage here on earth as we make our way to our heavenly home. As we “Go forth” at the conclusion of the Mass, we do so with the grace we need to be missionary evangelizers. We need no other proof of this reality than the story of Jesus meeting up with two disciples on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection. We all know the Easter episode from St. Luke’s Gospel (Lk 24:13-35). Two disciples are walking away from Jerusalem toward the nearby town of Emmaus when Jesus, whom they don’t recognize in his risen and glorified state, begins to walk alongside them. Jesus asks them what they’re talking about. After questioning him as to why he is the only visitor to Jerusalem who hadn’t heard about what had happened and telling him they’ve also heard reports that Jesus has risen from the dead, the two walk farther along in the Lord’s company. “And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself” (Lk 24:27).

But it isn’t until they sit down at table together and Jesus takes the bread in front of him, blesses it and gives it to them to eat that they recognize Him as the Risen Christ. He has given them His body, in the same exact way, for the Apostles at the Last Supper, and in the same way that he does for us at every Mass.

The disciples who have shared this first supper with the Lord now, with burning hearts, rush back to Jerusalem to tell the Eleven “The Lord has risen indeed” (Lk 24:34). Jesus wants to do similarly marvelous things with each one of us when we receive Him in Communion. For our part, when we leave Church after Mass, we are meant to wear out the road between our parish church and our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and wherever we are led to go, proclaiming to all we meet just how Jesus Christ has changed or renewed or awakened or enlivened us. And not just once, but time and again until we are privileged to receive Him, God willing, in viaticum on our death beds as we prepare to meet Him.

Father Jonathan Slavinskas

harder, but there are still souls that Christ is seeking to bring His presence and peace to. There are parishioners on Lincoln Street that this unworthy priest has been invited to be a presence of Christ’s hope to. As always, if there is anything I can assist you with, don’t hesitate to ask. Know that you are in my prayers continually and in your kindness please throw up a prayer for me.

Peace and prayers,
Father Jonathan

Priest shares personal struggle

From Page 1

be doing or getting involved with, and I absolutely love it. I continually try to minimize each complete transparency. This week I have been walking around with a heavy heart. I have been completely angry and frustrated as a result of the Pennsylvania abuse reports and the McCarrick situation. My continual prayer has been with the victims. These feelings of disappointment and sadness have brought a feeling of paralysis. My honest questioning of “why stick around” has run through my head. As each news story continues, my heart is torn more apart as I hear about the pain that was perpetrated. As a result of grave sin, the collar has become the symbol of grave sin, the collar has become the source of grave sin, the collar has become the source of sin, the collar has become the source of the pain that was perpetrated. As a result of grave sin, the collar has become the source of grave sin, the collar has become the source of sin, the collar has become the source of... I wondered how many times I’ve been completely angry and frustrated with who I was doing or getting involved with, and I absolutely love it. I continually try to minimize each complete transparency. This week I have been walking around with a heavy heart. I have been completely angry and frustrated as a result of the Pennsylvania abuse reports and the McCarrick situation. My continual prayer has been with the victims. These feelings of disappointment and sadness have brought a feeling of paralysis. My honest questioning of “why stick around” has run through my head. As each news story continues, my heart is torn more apart as I hear about the pain that was perpetrated. As a result of grave sin, the collar has become the symbol of grave sin, the collar has become the source of grave sin, the collar has become the source of sin, the collar has become the source of the pain that was perpetrated. As a result of grave sin, the collar has become the symbol of grave sin, the collar has become the source of grave sin, the collar has become the source of sin, the collar has become the source of...
TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE SET FOR OCTOBER 12-14

At this time the Kansas State Council, along with Governor Jeff Colyer, will set forth the Proclamation that October 12, 13, and 14 as “Helping People with Intellectual Disabilities Days” in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus National Cystic Fibrosis Fund Drive. On these days members of Knights of Columbus in Kansas will be working side by side in shopping malls, stores and Churches, distributing specially marked Tootsie Rolls and requesting donations in support of our fellow citizens with intellectual disabilities. Of the proceeds turned in to the State Council, 90% will be returned to Knights of Columbus councils for distribution to local institutions of their choice, that assist persons with intellectual disabilities. The remaining 10% will be applied by the Kansas State Council of the Knights of Columbus of America to sponsor the Special Olympics Basketball and Track events for athletes with intellectual disabilities. This year, Greg Marshall, Head Coach of the Wichita State University Men’s Basketball, has agreed to be the State Spokesman for the Tootsie Roll Drive. The Public Service Announcement will be available for radio stations to air throughout Kansas. Grand knights, program directors or Tootsie Roll Drive Chairmen are encouraged to contact their local radio stations and request the airing of this announcement.

Understanding that Intellectual Disabilities limit our ability to see the whole genius of the Knights of Columbus across the State, we encourage the use of our time and efforts to lend support to our special citizens. Gentlemen of our Order, I encourage you to be a part of this challenge and give of your time to your council or assembly in support of this dy- namic goal. Vivat Jesus!

LINO S. MUNOZ, COMMITTEE TO HUMANITIES CHAIRMAN

The Kansas Delegation, the 14th time in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Opening Mass on August 7 included 90 cards, 74 archbishops and bishops, 100 priests and some 2,500 Knights and their family members. Mass was a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, to invoke God’s blessing and guidance for the convention by Archbishop William E. Lori, Archbishop of Balti- more and Supreme Chaplain. In his homily he stated, “In today’s reading from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul speaks of the hard ships he endured as an apostle. His words also shed light on the afflictions, endurance, proven character, and, above all, the hope of Maryland’s first Catholics. Despite serious trials and blind spots, they persevered in their faith and they would contribute greatly to the formation of a Nation which would strive to bring about “liberty and justice for all.” Those same Catholics, men and women of rugged faith and enduring hope, formed the core of this Nation’s first diocese, the Archdiocese of Baltimore. For this reason, the Archdiocese of Baltimore was chosen to play a crucial role in the organization and growth of the Catholic Church in these United States. Indeed, in 1827, as the Church in America was coming of age, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the dome of the Baltimore Cathedral, Archbishop James Gibbons ordained Fr. Michael J. McGivney to the priesthood. Only five years later, in 1882, Fr. McGivney would find the Knights of Columbus, a labor of love as work of the Holy Spirit that has flourished and spread to many countries and cultures so that it is found today world-wide.

On the evening Mass was offered on the feast of St. Dominic by His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzio Sepe, Archbishop of Quebec & Primate of Canada. His Eni- mence Cardinal Crescenzio Sepe is the Pope’s Delegate to the USA.

The next day at Mass on St. Albert and St. Thomas Aquinas, his zeal, as St. Dominic was non-stop in his teaching, preaching, travel, and work, all for Jesus and His Church.” He further expanded on St. Dominic “Might I dwell rather on what generated the renowned preaching, scholar- ship, and evangelical energy of St. Dominic, his prayer. His earliest biographers noted that St. Dominic’s prayer was persistent, persistent in persevering. No surprise in that, be- cause that’s precisely how Jesus instructed us to pray: with patience, persistence, and persevering.

At the conclusion of the Wednesday Mass, the Knights of Columbus launched its 15th Marian Prayer Program, this year featuring an icon of “Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians,” created by Italian artist Fabrizio Diomedii. Often called a “window to heaven,” the religious icon is a piece of artwork used in prayer. In the early Church, when many could not read, icons were a visual way to share the truth about God. The images will travel from Knights through the country and the world, helping to raise global awareness of the sacri- fice and current persecution of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Wednesday afternoon at the Awards Ses- sions, the Knights will award Fr. Vincent P. Melvin III was presented with two awards. First was for his dedication during the last two years as State Deputy of the State Knights of Columbus. He was also the recipient of the Melvin award, an award established by the Knights of Columbus in 1929. The Melvin award is intended to honor Fr. Melvin’s contributions to the order, and was presented to him by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. The new award is intended to honor Fr. Melvin’s contributions to the jurisdiction of Kansas for his hard work and dedication to the Order. Vincent and his wife Barbara were honored to accept the award for Kansas.

In his annual report, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson mentioned several important developments and continued commitment to bring about the order’s charity to all. His opening state- ments were “If we value charity - if we value service - then we are the order of peace.” He went on to say that the spring that gave us colleague Cardeal Donald Wuerl, his zeal, as St. Dominic was non-stop in his teaching, preaching, travel, and work, all for Jesus and His Church.” He further expanded on St. Dominic “Might I dwell rather on what generated the renowned preaching, scholar- ship, and evangelical energy of St. Dominic, his prayer. His earliest biographers noted that St. Dominic’s prayer was persistent, persistent in persevering. No surprise in that, be- cause that’s precisely how Jesus instructed us to pray: with patience, persistence, and persevering.

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LIFE... IS THERE ANY BETTER CAUSE?

In his writing, Evangelium Vitae, Saint John Paul II wrote, "Catholics must be conscious of the times and the circumstances and of the many social stages and in every condition. It wasn't until the 1970s that people understood the gravity of responsibilities. The words "in every condition" broaden our perspective to include not only the unborn, but all those in danger of losing their lives, from conception to their natural end. Knights of Columbus has expanded the Life Chain to other causes such as the sick, infirm, aging, those with intellectual disabilities, and those being killed because of their life condition, from conception to natural end. We as Catholics, and more importantly, as Knights of Columbus, have an important role in the Defense of Life.

For nearly 60 years, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Silver Rose has moved across the country, bringing with it the message of Life. Beginning September 26th in Belleville, the annual “Running of the Roses” will take place across Kansas. Along the way, the Rose will travel through 19 counties, ending its journey through Kansas near Baker Springs. I invite each of you to attend one of the many prayer services to be held promoting the Sanctity of Life.

Did you know that October is “Respect Life Month”? Coming up next week will soon be hosting Life activities in their parishes. Again, I invite each of you to please support the efforts of these men. While October is Respect Life Month, the mission of Life certainly knows no season. The Knights of Columbus Ultra...
NICHOLAS ORTIZ, SR., 97, of St. Mary Parish, Garden City, died August 26, 2018. He worked at Myers Dairy and was a co-owner of El Conquistador restaurant in Garden City. Nicholas served in the United States Army during WWII in the 473rd Regiment. He is a former member of the Knights of Columbus. On Feb. 2, 1946 he married Mary Louise; she preceded him in death on Jan. 5, 1999. Survivors include sons C. Ernie, Paul P., Clifford D. and David M.; daughters Martha Ortiz Santos, Diane Ortiz Lucero, Barbara Jean Ortiz Bowen, Betty Jo Ortiz Herme, Carole Sue Ortiz Ramos, and Annette Ortiz; brothers Raymond and Joe; sister Natalie Acosta; companion Lois Towns; 31 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Father Warren Stecklein presided.

PEGGY LOU ELLIOTT, 91, of Prince of Peace Parish at St. Patrick Church, Great Bend, died August 25, 2018. She married John Elliott on Dec. 21, 1947; he preceded her in death on Feb. 11, 2013. She belonged to the Daughters of Isabella, was an Auxiliary Member of.NotNull, and belonged to the Wichita Artist Association. She also studied at the Ghost Ranch in Taos, New Mexico. She painted vestments for Msgr. Norbert Tamaat and Bishop Marion Forst. Her proudest accomplishment was winning First Place in the 2018 Art is Ageless oil painting contest, for her painting of Snowbird, at the Aberdeen Village. Survivors include three sons, J.R., Chris, and Brian; three daughters, Pat Westfall, Pamela Pugliese and Deborah Wagner-Kirmer; 13 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one brother, Dean. Father Don Bedore presided.

GERTRUDE ELIZABETH HICKEL, 91, of Immaculate Conception Parish, Claffin, died August 30, 2018. On June 1, 1954, she married Daniel S. Hickel; he preceded her in death on Jan. 16, 1975. She worked as a babysitter, a waitress at Pat’s Cafe for 10 years, and also worked for the IGA Grocery Store in Claffin. She was a member of the Altar Society. Survivors include five children, Alan Hickel, Lois Krier, Doug Hickel, Joyce McAtee, and Kevin Hickel; brother, Leo Frenz; sister, Viola Meyers; and one sister-in-law, Edna Frenz; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandson. Father Teresa Klein presided.

LAURO BÁÑUELOS MERCADO, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Parish, Dodge City, died August 29, 2018. He worked for Cargill for 30 years in both Wichita and Dodge City and later for National Beef, retiring in May of 2011. On March 16, 1973 he married Socorro De La Torre. She survives. Other survivors include: his son, Eberardo Báñuelos; daughters, Claudia Saldivar, Diana Loer and Angelica Miranda; his father, Tomas Bñueulos; brothers, Enrique Bñueulos, Absalon Bñueulos, Eduardo Bñueulos, Primio Bñueulos and Octavio Bñueulos; sisters, Maria Martinez, Rosalva Bñueulos, Ignacia Castañe, and Doralba Retaña; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Father Aneshe Parapannapuattu presided.

MARIANN TOWERY, 69, died August 31, 2018. She was a mental health aide at the Larned State Hospital. On Nov. 22, 1969, she married Elvin Lee Towery in Melrose Park, IL. He survives. Other survivors include: children, Scott Towery, Jeff Towery, Wendy Towery, and David Towery; brother, William Towery; 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. CLARENZA MICHELLE FOSKUHL, MORALES, 6, died August 26, 2018. She was born on Sept. 13, 2011 at Dodge City, the daughter of Juan Pedro Morales and Shawna Foskuhl. Clareenza was a First Grader at Beeson Elementary School in Dodge City. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

GEORGIA “STIPP” RAPP
Editor’s Note: The Catholic received a special request to print the obituary of Georgia “Stipp” Rapps. Although she is not Catholic, she is a graduate of St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City, and worked at St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City, where she left behind many Catholic friends. Georgia “Stipp” Rapp, 64, died August 29, 2018. Stipp graduated from Holcomb High School in 1972. She graduated from St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City and Coffeyville Junior College with her degree in Medical Lab Technology. She worked at St. Catherine Hospital, Garden Medical Clinic and Siera Medical Clinic as a Medical Lab Technician. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Garden City and the American Association of Clinical Pathologists. She is survived by her brother, George Rapp; sister, Sue Reed; nephews William A. Rapp and Aaron Reed; and nieces, Katie Reed. Pastor Larry Alexander presided. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

RON D. PRIESS, 69, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Parish, Dodge City, died Sept. 4, 2018. He was a graduate of St. Mary of the Plains High School, Dodge City and received his Associates Degree from Dodge City Community College. He served in the Army National Guard from 1966 to 1975. He worked for Western Beverage, Southwest Distributing and Right Coop. Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Lindsey; his son, Ronnie; his daughter, Katie Ross; his father, Elmer; brothers, Joe, Larry and Richard; his sister, Linda Meyers; and five grandchildren. Father Robert Schremmer presided.

GLAIDER “TED” WEBSTER, 77, of Prince of Peace Parish at St. Rose of Lima Church, Great Bend, died on Sept. 4, 2018. She married Cornelius Edward “Buddy” Webster, July 4, 1959. He died July 7, 2008. She was a member of the Altar Society. She worked at the Family Crisis Center and was a Foster Care parent for more than 35 years. Survivors include one daughter, Pam Vainer; two sons, Charles and David; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Father Ted Stecklein presided.

CHARLOTTE “CHARLIE” G. THEIS, 77, of Sacred Heart Parish, Pratt, passed away Sept. 5, 2018. In November of 1956, she married Larry Truett. He preceded her in death on Nov. 16, 1981. On March 3, 1984 Charlotte married Kenneth Theis. Charlotte was a member of the Turon Community serving as an EMT, City Clerk and Librarian. She was the anchor and backbone of Western Auto Farm and Home Center and Town & Country Catering, Turon. She is survived by her husband, Ken; a brother, K.C. Welch; a sister, Brenda Banta; her children, Clay Truitt, Rodney Truitt, Mitch Truitt, Angela Bradshaw, Jim Theis, Molly Theis-Morgan, and Russ Theis; 16 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Father Michael Klag presided.

Obituary policy
Obituary listings are printed free of charge. They must be edited for space and SKC style. If you notice that a listing has not been included, contact Dave at skregister@dcdioocese.org, or call 620-227-1519. Please pray for all those listed above, and their friends and loved ones.

ScripTure Readings
Please note: The next issue of the SKC will be dated Oct. 14.

Sunday, Sept. 30
Isaiah 30:4-9/Luke 2:14-18/Mark 8:27-35

Monday, Sept. 24

Thursday, Oct. 11

Saturday, Oct. 6
Mark 10:13-16/Luke 1:1-4

Sunday, Oct. 7
Job 42:1-5, 6-10, 11-16/Luke 1:16-25

Monday, Oct. 8

Tuesday, Oct. 9
1 Corinthians 15:29-33/Luke 10:35-42

Wednesday, Oct. 10
Matthew 21:2-7/Luke 11:1-4

Thursday, Oct. 11

Friday, Oct. 12
Galatians 4:26-31/Luke 11:24-32

Saturday, Oct. 13

Sunday, Oct. 14
Wisdom 7:7-11/Hebrews 4:12-
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

Call to speak to an agent today!

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**DAN REED, FICF**
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**GEORGE SPINELLI**
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Marienthal, Tribune, Dighton, Scott City

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Garden City, Plains, Liberal, Ulysses, Ingalls, Elkhart, Johnson, Hugoton, Lakin, Syracuse, and Satanta councils

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**TYLER BRUGGEMAN**
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St. Francis, Goodland, Colby

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**HECTOR SOLER, FIC**
(785) 569-1466
Great Bend council

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**ST. MICHAEL’S MIND BENDERS**

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**GABRIEL’S CROSSWORD**

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**TEASER THE FIRST:**
In each sentence the name of a tree is hidden. The willow is hiding in the first sentence. Can you find the others?

1. I will owe you a favor if you drive me to the airport.
2. I am afraid of going up in elevators.
3. Drinking cocoa keeps me warm on long winter nights.
4. I hope the map leads us to buried treasure.
5. “Another bonbon,” said our charming hostess.
6. Nepal may be the most interesting place I have ever visited.
7. I feel many lumps in this mattress.
8. Word processing is not as useful as pens and paper for creative brainstorming.
10. Tunic-like vestment.
11. Marian month.
12. Tunic-like vestment.
14. Type of monastery.
15. Return of our Lord.
17. Day of the Resurrection.
18. ”…to the ___ of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)
19. Return of our Lord.
22. OT prophetic book.
23. Judah, to Esau.
24. St. Therese of Lisieux is a patron of this country.
25. St. Rose of Lima or St. Martin de Porres
27. Marian month.
28. OT prophetic book.
29. Marian month.
30. Marian month.
31. Marian month.
32. Marian month.
33. Marian month.
34. Marian month.

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**TEASER THE SECOND:**
There are three brothers: Adam, Gentry, and Leo. Two of the three brothers are boxers. Here are some facts:

1. The shorter of Adam and Gentry is the older boxer.
2. The taller of Adam and Leo is the younger boxer.
3. The taller of Adam and Leo is the younger boxer.
4. Which brother is not a boxer?

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**TEASER THE THIRD:**
How many triangles do you see at right?

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**Bonus question:**
How many photos of Tom Selleck do you see at right? Look closely!

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**ADVANTAGE Sudoku**
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.

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**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.
Oct. 19, 1936 - Sept. 16, 1985

Father Ronald Renner

Father Renner was born Oct. 19, 1936 in Cunningham. He attended grade schools in Willowdale and Kingman and received his high school, college, philosophy and theology studies at Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo. He was ordained May 30, 1962, by Bishop Marion F. Forst in St. Mary’s Church, Marienthal.

He served as a temporary associate pastor at Sacred Heart, Larned (1962); vicar substitute at St. Andrew, Wright (1962) and assistant pastor at Larned (1962-68).

In 1968, after the Wichita diocese sought a priest from the Dodge City diocese for work at its Barquisimeto Mission in Venezuela, Father Renner was selected from those who volunteered. He joined Fathers Colin Boor, Joseph Bergkamp, and Harold McCormick, Wichita priests, in the administration of three parishes. Father Renner was pastor of La Santissima Trinidad parish from 1969 to 1971.

Upon his return from South America, Father Renner was appointed pastor of Mary, Queen of Peace at Ulysses (1972-76). He served as pastor of St. Dominic, Garden City from 1976 to 1984. During this pastorate, the parish constructed a new church (1982).

Father Renner was appointed to what would be his last pastorate at St. John the Evangelist, Hoisington, on June 27, 1984. He set as priorities upgrading the pay scale for the teachers at the parish school and repairing the church. He died in his sleep on Sept. 16, 1985 at the age of 48.

Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at St. John the Evangelist Church. Burial was in St. Leo Cemetery in Kingman County.
I may not be perfect, but Jesus thinks I am to die for.
What is the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City doing to PROTECT OUR CHILDREN?

With the recent scandal involving Archbishop McCarrick and the publication of the grand jury report of six dioceses in Pennsylvania, the faith of many believers has been shaken. It is my hope that the information on this page will provide some measure of confidence in our efforts to keep children and young people safe in the Diocese of Dodge City.

Q. What has been done in our diocese in order to ensure the safety of children beyond Protecting God’s Children (PGC)?

• PGC awareness sessions train adults to become aware of grooming behaviors of perpetrators and of signs in children and youth that may indicate they have been abused. The session also provides steps we can take to create a safe environment for our youth.

• Completed criminal background check of all employees and adults who volunteer with children and youth. (See “Did you Know?” sidebar)

• July 1, 2018 we decided to use a background check vendor who will review newly completed background checks quarterly.

• Names of everyone who has been trained over the years is checked against the Kansas Sex Offender Registry annually.

• In 2007 we began offering age-appropriate safety training lessons to our students. Over the subsequent years, a variety of lesson formats have been made available.

Q. What is our application process for candidates to the seminary in order to determine that each man has the intellectual, spiritual, pastoral and human maturity to continue to discern his possible call to the priesthood?

• A candidate for seminary for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City completes a 20-page application; writes three essays; interviews with his pastor, the vocation director, the bishop and a lay committee; has a medical exam which includes a blood test, drug screening and HIV screening; obtains three letters of recommendation (one from his pastor); takes a psychological assessment which includes a clinical interview and various inventories including pornography addiction, substance abuse, and psychosexual components; attends a Protecting God’s Children Awareness session; and, completes a criminal background check. This information is brought to prayer by the vocation director, the bishop and the candidate. The vocation director makes a recommendation to the bishop and the bishop accepts the candidate, delays the candidate or does not accept the candidate. (See "Did you Know?" sidebar)

• At the end of each academic year, the seminary sends a detailed evaluation on the progress in each of the four areas: spiritual, academic, pastoral and human. The director of the seminarians (currently Father Wesley Schwae), the seminarian and the bishop assess progress and goals. The bishop brings this to prayer to our Good Shepherd Jesus and determines if the seminarian is to continue formation.

• Roughly midway through theology (the final four years of formation), more physical, psychological and formational assessments are made to discern the progress and areas of growth that remain. Any impediment or serious concern that exists may necessitate a delay in the bishop’s call to Holy Orders of the seminarian.

Q. How do our seminaries assist our seminarians with human and affective maturity, particularly being formed to accept and live a perpetual call to celibate chastity?

• The seminaries we use have excellent formation programs in celibate chastity, as the seminarians are formed to model Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom of the Church. (See “Did you Know?” box for more information)

Q. What ongoing formation do priests receive to address these issues?

• Our annual October Convocation regularly focuses on healthy human development. In 2014, the focus was on the interaction of the spiritual and moral life; in 2015, it was dealing with same-sex attractions; and, in 2017, priests participated in the Virtus Protection God’s Children Refresher program. This October, the focus will be on healthy relationships with their parishioners.

Q. What steps will be taken if an allegation is made against a priest?

• Outreach to the victim and family, including the offer to meet/talk with the Assistance Minister and/or the Bishop or his representative.

• Encourage and, if necessary, assist with reporting the incident to local law enforcement and/or Department of Children and Families.

• If the accused priest is active, he will be removed from the parish and his faculties will be restricted pending an investigation.

• The Review Board will be convened to review the allegation and determine the appropriate next steps (such as the manner of obtaining further information).

• If the allegation is determined to be credible, an announcement that an allegation has been received involving “Father X” will be made at the parishes the priest has served.

Q. Have the faithful’s monetary gifts been used to pay for past settlements?

A. No. Past settlements have been paid by insurance and funds from deceased priest’s estates.

Q. What are we doing to unite in prayer to fight this evil?

• A letter from me was read at all the Masses the weekend of September 8-9.

• I will celebrate a Holy Hour for Reparation in each deanery.

• Liturgical resources were sent to every priest to assist them in incorporating prayer and intercessions into the Mass or for creating their own prayer service.

Bishop John

Prayer for Victims of Sexual Abuse

Compassionate God, we pray for victims of sexual abuse. We pray for deep comfort. We pray that you will restore what has been stolen and broken. While you do not alter history, you reveal your love in the present and in the future.

What seems hopelessly shattered, in you can be redeemed. For the many millions who have been defiled in sexual abuse, show yourself to be loving and able—as you are willing—to give back life, and life abundant.

Yes, there is great pain in our world. There is injustice. There is evil. We turn to you and cry out for help and healing. We cannot help but wonder why such horrible abuse happens. But we turn from “why?” and ask instead, “how?” How now will your perfect goodness and love find expression in the shadow of wickedness?

God, you are good and loving and also all-powerful. Yet you have risked giving humans the right to choose how we live. Some choose evil. For those who are victims of other’s vile deeds, we ask you for grace and healing. For those who have suffered, come to them tenderly and with overwhelming and powerful love. We join with Jesus and borrow his words, “Be freed from your suffering.”

Compassionate God, heal the victims of sexual abuse. (M. Herringshaw)

Did you Know?

FOUR-HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN Protecting God’s Children Awareness sessions have been offered in Spanish and English since July 2003, and 8,072 adults have been trained as of August 12 of this year.

THE DIOCESE OF DODGE CITY uses the following resources in its discernment of seminary candidates:

• Program for Priestly Vocations, 5th edition, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), which includes “Norms for Admission of Candidates.”

• Guidelines for the Use of Psychology in Seminary Admission, USCCB

• Instruction Concerning Criteria for the Discernment of Vocations with regard to Persons with Homosexual Tendencies in view of their Admission to the Seminary and Holy Orders, Congregation for Catholic Education, Vatican.


• St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver: For an overview, read Archbishop Chaput’s article: http://sjvdenver.edu/seminarian/education/formation/pp/ps-christ-loved-the-church/.

• IV has an extensive notebook, “Chaste Celibacy Curriculum Toolbox,” for seminarians to be formed in chaste celibacy as they prepare, God willing, for Holy Orders.

OUR CODE OF PASTORAL CONDUCT-INTERACTION with Children and Young People was recently revised. The Code of Conduct addresses specific behaviors an adult will and will not have with a minor. For a copy of the Code of Conduct and other documents, go to www.dcdioocese.org/safe-environment/.

EVENY ISSUE OF THE SOUTHWEST KANSAS CATHOLIC provides information (in English and Spanish) on how to report suspected sexual abuse by clergy, an employee or volunteer in the Diocese of Dodge City.