Pope Francis on sexual abuse: Church and society have a ‘new conscience’

Francis spoke during a press conference Sept. 25 on the return flight from a four-day papal visit to the Baltic region.

Vatican City (CNA) - Pope Francis said that renewed procedures and priorities in handling sex abuse cases have yielded results in the Church, and have developed alongside a greater moral awareness of the dangers of child abuse. Francis spoke during a press conference Sept. 25 on the return flight from a four-day papal visit to the Baltic region.

Citing the Pennsylvania grand jury report released July 14, Francis said the difference between the number of historical and recent abuse cases is clear, and indicates true progress in the way the Church addresses the problem of clerical sexual abuse.

“We see that in the first 70 years there were so many priests that fell into this corruption, then in more recent times it has diminished, because the Church noticed that it needed to fight it in another way,” the pope said. “Watch the [number of cases] and watch when the Church became conscious of this.”

Francis stressed that while meaningful progress should be recognized, there is no such thing as a tolerable level of abuse: “Even if it was just one priest who abused a boy or a girl, this is atrocious, because that man was chosen by God.”

While the pope noted that sexual abuse was not confined to the Church alone, it was in the Church that it was “the most scandalous, because [the Church] should bring children to God and not destroy them.”

Francis also said that in the past, a mentality had existed in the Church and the wider culture which contributed to a pattern of abuse and cover-ups. The pope said that previous approaches to handling sexual abuse allegations were often informed by consciences more concerned with scandal and taboo than with protecting victims.

“In the old times these things were covered up, they even covered them up at home, when the uncle was molesting the niece, when the dad was molesting his daughter, when the dad was molesting his niece, when the dad was molesting the girl, when the dad was molesting the boy.”

Continued on Page 6

At Youth Rally, students learn that Every life is precious

When Luke Maxwell, keynote speaker at the Oct. 7 Middle School Youth Rally in Dodge City, was 16, he crashed his family’s full-size van into an oncoming vehicle in an attempt to kill himself.

Instead of cutting short his young life, he was led on a miraculous journey, the story of which he shared with 300 middle school students, catechists, Directors of Religious Education, and parents gathered at Youth Rally, students learn that Every life is precious.

Continued on Page 16

Diocese mourns death of Bishop Eugene Gerber

Third Bishop of Diocese

See Page 8

Bishop Eugene J. Gerber
1931-2018

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


Bishop Gerber was our third bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. He was appointed by Pope Paul VI, ordained a bishop by Bishop David Maloney, and installed as our bishop, all in late 1976. In 1982, Bishop Gerber was named by Pope Saint John Paul II to lead the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. I was ordained a priest by Bishop Gerber 20 years ago in Wichita.

During my episcopal Ordination Mass in 2011, I commented that Bishop Gerber “is a wonderful example of a good shepherd.” Bishop Gerber’s gentle and compassionate care for his flock was/is a great example for me. His teaching, care for the hungry, and compassion for the sick were modeled after the Good Shepherd, Jesus. A few examples:

• Teaching. Bishop Gerber gave a profound lesson on “The Wheel of Balance,” to us seminarians in the mid-1990s, which I have used ever since. In order to “have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). [Go to dcdiocese.org, scroll to the bottom and click on “wheel of balance.”]

• Care for the hungry. Bishop Gerber lived in the Cathedral rectory in downtown Wichita for years. He would speak with homeless folks. Bishop Gerber would make a sandwich for a homeless man who stopped by the rectory. This was his initial impetus for the Lord’s Diner, which was opened in 2002, and has served over five million meals since.

• Compassion for the sick. Bishop Gerber, many years ago, was speaking with a priest about retirement. The priest commented: “I have no place to go.” This planted the seed in Bishop Gerber’s heart for the Priest Retirement Center in Wichita.

Thank you, Bishop Gerber, for your faithful service in the Lord to your flocks in the dioceses of Dodge City and Wichita. Eternal rest grant unto you. Thank you, dear Jesus, for the gift of Bishop Eugene J. Gerber. You love him, and all of us, so much!

Continued on Page 6
‘Clay in the hands of the Lord’
Remembering Bishop Gerber

Bishop Eugene J. Gerber was six years a Bishop in Dodge City, twenty-five years a Bishop in Wichita, and seventeen years a Bishop-Emeritus also in Wichita: after almost forty-two years he was Bishop, he returned on Saturday to the Diocese of Dodge City. He wasn’t the same man, you see, when you were through with him in 1982. He came back to Wichita a changed man.

Those who knew him longest, those who knew him best ... they saw it right away, even if they could not quite put their finger on it. He was just ... well ... different.

Monsignor John Gilsenan came close to getting it all when he said Bishop Gerber was more reflective somehow, after all he had seen and heard and done in Dodge City. He did not rightly know what you did for him. I do not know now what you did for him, or how you did it. But you, priests and people of Dodge City, you broadened him, that I do know. You deepened him. You mold him into the man who was so widely loved in Wichita and all of southeast Kansas.

He took delight in his people, the psalmist said. You helped him treasure that line. The delight never left him all the days of his life. Nor is it any wonder. From you he learned how to bishop. The way you responded to him helped deepen him even as he learned. He hoped that you delighted in him half as much as he delighted in you.

Because you belonged to the Lord, he came to belong to the Lord, and in ways that surprised him right up to his last days. He was clay in the hands of the Lord to the very end, because the Lord made him clay in your hands at the very beginning.

Bishop! Are You Kidding Me?
Simplicity of Life?

Simplicity of life in the priesthood? But money and my things are important to me! Well, I guess they aren’t important, just useful. True, my family and friends are more important than money and possessions. Yes, and God is the most important. But how can I focus on God, people and my faith in this materialistic world?

When I was a young adult, I bought a new car. I paid off my school loans, and just received a raise at work. I drove to my brother’s house 100 miles away to show off my car, but he wasn’t home, but I didn’t care, since I was so pleased that I had a new car!

The next morning I woke up, thought about my new car, and said to myself, “Self, big deal, I have a new car.” I was quite shocked that this car did not give me lasting happiness, that this material possession didn’t fulfill me. Less than 24 hours after I bought the new car, it was no big deal to me!

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Matthew 6:21). As I listened to God’s call to the priesthood, I found what my treasure is -- being a priest, giving myself to Jesus as priest, prophet, and shepherd, caring for His flock. Since my heart is in this treasure, the priesthood, I find happiness.

Now even more happiness as a bishop. Not a short-term pleasure, not a fleeting high, but a lasting joy. Guys, let go of an emphasis on possessions. Listen in prayer to what treasure God has planned for you - to be a priest or to be a husband and dad. Jesus will tug your heart toward this treasure, and you will find lasting happiness, joyous fulfillment. Jesus wants this for you. He loves you more than you can ask or imagine!

+ Bishop John

Dominican Sisters present: ‘Movies With a Message’

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.

Protection Our Children Awareness Sessions
Liberal – English
Sunday, Oct. 14, 3–6 p.m.
St. Anthony of Padua Church
1510 N Calhoun St
Liberal 67850
Contact Person: Fr. Jacob Schneider 620/624-2832

Larned – English
Sunday, Oct. 21, 2–5 p.m.
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
1111 State St., Larned 67550
Contact Person: Stacy Sanger (620) 285-2035

PGC Facilitator: Donna Staab (620) 786-4135

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; dnsnap@starrtech.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.
Sister Philomena Hrencher, OP

Former teacher, president and CEO of Central Kansas Medical Center dies

By DAVE NYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

INSLEY — Patricia O’Brien has begun brushing up on her French, an exercise that bears evidence to her having recently received a great honor, not to mention bragging rights for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City.

At the August convention of the International Circle of the Daughters of Isabella in Montreal, Canada, O’Brien was elected one of only two American International Directors of the 121-year-old charitable group.

“I’m very excited about this new office,” O’Brien said. “It’s a great organization.”

As an International Director, O’Brien will oversee two international committees. The positions requires occasional travel not only across the country, but outside its borders to such places as French speaking Quebec. In fact, O’Brien’s application to run for the office had to be translated into French.

“The farther you move up, the more you need to learn a little French,” she said with a chuckle. The position will be challenging; it will be rewarding. But the joy of her new elected position will be nothing new to O’Brien; it’s a joy she has experienced since joining the Daughters 25 years ago.

“It’s the friendship and the unique spirit of the people that you meet,” she said. “I love the charity work and get-togethers with people—doing a project for the good of others.”

The motto of the Daughters of Isabella is “Unity, Friendship, Charity.” Their multi-focus includes giving to those in need while offering support to their members.

“I have people ask me how I have the time, but it’s like anything else: you make time for the things that are important. We support the parish, the community, and we do civic work.”

The Daughters are organized by circles, each of which represent a community of members. It may include one parish or several. Each circle picks its own name. Kinsey’s circle is St. John Circle 404, which was founded some 86 years ago. The smaller the number, the older the circle. One of the oldest is the St. Rita Circle in Dodge City, numbered 210. If a circle were to form today, it would be numbered around 1,500.

“Each circle finds its own niche,” its own ways to serve,” O’Brien explained. “The international circle doesn’t say you do this and this. You choose what fits your circle, parish and community.”

Projects of the Kinsey Circle include the “Blessing Box,” a monthly contribution to Catholic Charities to support those in need in our diocese. State-wide, the Daughters maintain a seminary bursure in each diocese and support the Knights of Columbus sonogram program.

And there are simple, close-to-home learning projects designed “to last a lifetime.” For example, the Kinsey Daughters recently hosted a program for the public at the St. Nicholas Parish Center on how to bake an apple pie. A simple premise, but one that could be housed firmly in the hearts of the participants for years and years.

Future “Learning for a Lifetime” projects include a session in which an extension agency representative will teach how to balance a checkbook. Later, an instructor will teach car maintenance. The workshops are open to all members of the community.

Service is at the heart of the Daughters of Isabella community.

“At our International convention it was announced that organizational wide the Daughters had donated $2,266,477.97 and 2,338,078 hours of service work within the last year,” O’Brien said proudly.

The Daughters of Isabella was formed in 1897 by Father Michael McGivney as an auxiliary to the Knights of Columbus, which he also founded. The organization is no longer an auxiliary, and is an independent entity, O’Brien stressed. If you think that the Daughters include only middle age or older women, O’Brien is happy to say that a 16-year-old recently joined their ranks in Kinsey. And, of course, there’s O’Brien’s own daughter, Shena, who also joined at 16, a decade ago. “She loves it,” O’Brien with a smile.

“At first when she joined at 16, she said it was like having 30 instant grandmothers,” she added, laughing. “As she’s gotten older, her opinion has matured with her age. There are many women to meet and to do projects with; they are truly a lot of support for a young person. You have people checking in on you, helping to guide your faith and your future.”

And here, O’Brien mentions one other significant bragging right, this time for the people of the state of Kansas.

“Of the hundreds of circles and thousands of members across the United States and Canada, the area with the largest numbers of Circles and members—larger than any other state or Canadian province—is right here in Kansas.”

Spearville highlighted on International D of I website

CIRCLE OF THE QUARTER — St. Vincent de Paul Circle #211, Spearville, KS

The members of St. Vincent de Paul Circle #211 of Spearville, Kansas have been busy. In July they participated in the City of Windmill Festival by making and selling snow-cones as a fundraiser for their circle and an appearance in the community. In August they prepared and served a delicious meal with desserts to assist the Knights of Columbus with a fundraiser. Then in September, the members provided cookies to promote and encourage participation in the St. John’s parish religion program. Congratulations to the St. Vincent de Paul Circle #211 for providing positive experiences and exposure of the community for the Order.
**Inherit the Mirth**

**By Cuyler Black**

"Kil joy. I heard that."

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**Commentary**

**Chastity dignifies God’s gift of sexuality**

By Father Ted Skalsky

I recently wrote about the Courage Conference and its goal of supporting members to form chaste friendships. [Courage is a Catholic organization whose members are men and women who experience same-sex attractions and who have made a commitment to strive for chastity.] As I listened to the excellent presentations, the thought occurred to me that this focus needs to go beyond those who have same sex attraction. As a Church and as a society, we need to encourage and support everyone to live the virtue of chastity.

Chastity involves the living of our sexual lives in keeping with the vocation to which we are living. The living of chastity is different for a single person than for a married person. For every person, chastity requires self-control or self-mastery. We will not find the peace for which we long if we do not learn to govern our passions. If we do not control our passions and desires, they enslave us and lead us to unhappiness. Failure to lead chaste lives leads us to use other people for our own pleasure and degrades the dignity of the person or persons being used.

It is important that we find ways to promote the virtue of chastity in our young people. Sexual immorality in the formative teenage years can lead to broken marital relationships and to children being raised without their biological parents. Broken marriages and children raised without both biological parents leads to an unstable society and to much personal pain.

Violations of the virtue of chastity include sexual relations outside of marriage, cohabitation with someone as a sexual partner, infidelity within marriage, contraception, pornography, masturbation and indulging in erotic fantasies. These violations of the virtue of chastity are normally considered to be mortally sinful.

Those participating in these actions should not receive the Eucharist until they have repented and been reconciled through the Sacrament of Penance.

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**The power of wurds**

By Dave Myers

Editor

S o, my wife and I are in a fast-food drive-through. I take the bag of food from the cashier, and as I begin to drive off I say to the cashier, “Thank you!”

What the…? Where did the “you” go? I wanted to back up and say, “You! Thank YOU!” After which I would have insisted that yes, I’m normal, heh, heh, despite evidence to the contrary! Perhaps I should begin carrying a doctor’s note with me as proof.

Meanwhile, Charlene couldn’t stop laughing. Which is why I feel it necessary to share one of her verbal foibles. I need to preface this by saying that Charlene is very close to her brothers. They never end a phone conversation without telling each other “I love you.”

So, we’re in a department store checking out Charlene takes her change, mindlessly tells the cashier “I love you,” turns a shade of red previously unknown to exist in nature, and we scurry out the door.

Charlene either makes that lady’s day, or really upsets her. The next week, there was a sign in the store reading, “Please don’t tell our cashiers you love them. They find it disconcerting.”

These foibles are usually too off-putting to explain. We’re in a mild state of shock. We’re too busy wondering, “Odd! I just say that?!” to consider how to explain the weird thing we just said. So we retreat. At least I did. Do.

It was some 35 years ago. I was on a first date at the movies in the theater. First dates for me were like being on trial for being a doofus. When the night was done, would I be convicted? I can’t tell you how many first dates I came home from after my having pronounced sentence: “You. Will. Never. Date. Again.”

Actually, it wasn’t all that many. I may have had five first dates. Total.

On this particular date, she was telling me something about her brother. An impressive fellow.

I replied with, “Sounds like he’s got guts!” But at the last micro-second, my brain told me to change “guts” to another word. My mouth combined the two words, thus creating a third word that actually fits the occasion (I) yet was wholly inappropriate and just plain weird (and which my wife just told me I can’t reveal)!

In the confines of the car, there was no escape! The double-feature hadn’t even started! For four hours I silently sentenced the lady to a life of shame. “You. Will. Never. Date. Again.”

"You. Will. Never. Date. Again.”

Which my wife just told me I can’t reveal!

“Absolutely hilarious. My only question I which for some bizarre reason, I thought was absolutely hilarious is: ‘What was the matter?’ “

People don’t give enough power to words. We’re in an age when “texting” or “tweeting” costs jobs and reputations.

Failure to lead chaste lives leads us to use other people for our own pleasure and degrades the dignity of the person or persons being used.

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**Chastity dignifies God’s gift of sexuality**

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NEXT ISSUE: Why is the virtue of chastity so important and the violations of chastity such a serious matter?
The Catholic vision of just immigration reform

Editor’s Note: At press time, more than 1,600 immigrant children had been reportedly relocated from shelters and foster care homes throughout the country to a tent camp near El Paso, Tex.

By JD FYLNN
Catholic News Agency

Denver, Colo. - A Honduran woman told an attorney back in June that her daughter was taken from her at the border without asking what should happen to their migrant parents at our national border. She was waiting to be prosecuted for illegal entry into the United States.

Her story is heart-wrenching. It cries out for justice.

Catholics see in every nursing mother an icon of our own mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, who nursed the infant Jesus at her breast.

We see in the bond between mothers and their children a reminder of the life-giving and nurturing love of God, and the first means through which God’s love brings us into being, guides us, and protects us.

“You drew me forth from the womb,” the Psalmist wrote to the Lord, “made me safe at my mother’s breasts.”

We don’t know what happened after that. We don’t know why the Honduran girl was taken from her mother’s arms.

We don’t know if she was taken to a warehouse, to be housed with hundreds of other children who had been separated from their immigrant parents. We don’t know if she sat strapped in a car seat, squalling for her mother, near the big kids who let themselves cry only as they fell asleep on gym mats spread across the floor, behind a chain link fence.

We do know that policies that indiscriminately separate children from their migrant parents at our national border violate the sacred sovereignty of families.

But it’s not enough to condemn the treatment of a mother separated from her child without asking what should happen instead. There have been, unfortunately, too few solutions proposed to address a real problem: how should the identity of family members be verified at the border, to ensure that children are not being trafficked? That issue needs more than moralizing or grandstanding. It needs a real solution.

It’s also not enough to call for an end to family separation at the border without asking what led to this humanitarian crisis, and what kind of reforms will really make a difference.

For too long, Catholics have been encouraged by the Church to work for comprehensive immigration reforms rooted in the principles of justice. Only serious and challenging expenditures, which create a system that protects human rights and preserves the dignity and human rights of immigrants, will really make a difference.

The United States has the right to security: Porous, unsafe, and uncontrolled borders do an injustice to those who cross them, and to our country’s citizens.

The United States also has the right to call on Central and South American countries to reform their economies and to quell the violence and disorder that spurs emigration. The United States has the means, and the obligation, to help those countries work for stability, and to hold them accountable when they do not.

But the United States also has the capacity to receive legally many more immigrants than we do now. We’re facing a labor shortage that won’t be resolved by the restrictive caps and quotas we now place on immigration, or by the byzantine processes that make waiting times for legal migration longer than people’s lifetimes.

And importing labor also expands our tax base and our domestic consumer base.

Those benefits outweigh the costs—measured in the provision of social services—associated with increased immigration.

Beyond the economic reasons for making it easier to come to this country are the moral reasons. We are a wealthy and safe nation. Poor people, from poor countries, have the right to migrate for work and security. Our wealth and safety will not be fatally compromised by their arrival. This is not a matter of charity. It is a matter of justice. “The money you have hoarded,” St. Basil the Great wrote in the fourth century, “belongs to the poor.”

In 1948, Pope Pius XII wrote to the bishops of the United States. He said that he was “preoccupied” and following with “anxiety...those who have been compelled by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave his native land, his beloved relatives and friends, and to seek a foreign soil.”

Catholics are called to work for justice for the Honduran woman and her daughter, who want to spend their days in Egypt in order to escape Herod’s order that all boys under age two be killed.

FLIGHT TO EGYPT — This engraving by Fritz Eichenberg depicts the Holy Family as refugees fleeing to Egypt in order to escape Herod’s order that all boys under age two be killed.

Mother Nature loves a steward

By DR. CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON

Editors Note: The following excerpt has been reprinted from an edition of the “Catholic Rural Life” magazine.

Not everyone has the ability to start their own farm or make drastic changes to their lifestyle right away. Still, there are ways everyone can begin to practice good stewardship and improve their own culture right where they’re at.

The simplest way is to try to grow something yourself. You’ll see how marvelous it is, and you’ll see how difficult it is. You’ll also appreciate how much you participate in God’s Providence, how much the miracle of creation occurs in your own backyard.

Families can also be more thoughtful about where their food comes from, how it’s produced and the quality of it, he added. Make homemade food together, including bread, and be more conscious about how resources are being spent. Some foods may be more expensive, but families can be encouraged to think about tithing a portion of their grocery bill to purchase something that’s more thoughtfully prepared.

Parishes, too, could be more thoughtful about where their food comes from, how it’s produced and the quality of it, he added. Make homemade food together, including bread, and be more conscious about how resources are being spent. Some foods may be more expensive, but families can be encouraged to think about tithing a portion of their grocery bill to purchase something that’s more thoughtfully prepared.

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Sister Rose Mary Stein, OP, to offer ‘spiritual refreshment’ across western part of diocese

Retreats empower lay-people to empower each other

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

Sister Rose Mary Stein, OP, wants people the western part of the diocese to know that she is free; free to spread the Gospel through Saturday retreat experiences, to empower laypeople through the simple offering of a “few short hours where they can feel refreshed.”

If you know Sister Rose Mary, you know it’s an offer that’s difficult to refuse. Some people put you on edge, after all, on your guard. You share what’s in your heart. And you value her response.

As a former teacher, coach, missionary, director of several offices such as the Office of Aging and Parents (1994-1998), her most beloved role has been that of leader of small faith communities. Many small faith communities. For the elderly. For women. For men. For teachers....

For the last two decades, she has served at Sacred Heart Cathedral (and later Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe) providing just such leadership.

As she recently left her role at the cathedral after 20 years, Sister Rose Mary decided to devote her time to empowering people through Christ’s loving message through a mini retreat on a Saturday morning until early afternoon from parishes that invite her from western rural Kansas.

I feel God is just asking me to share my experience and wisdom as I’ve come to know Jesus in a personal, genuine and wholesome way, through reflection, prayer, scripture, and the experiences of other people” she said. “My focus is with adults—men and women, a retreat where people have more than an hour or two, but not overnight—just a small few hours, where they can be refreshed.

Leading the retreat with Sister Rose Mary will either be a person local to that parish, or, if no one is available, someone brought with Sister Rose Mary to the parish. The invitation will always be there.

“My real passion is to empower lay people, to believe in their gifts and use their gifts,” she said. “It’s not just me doing the retreat. We’ll share faith stories and give presentations.”

In a farewell letter read to the cathedral parish from the pulpit at Masses May 31, she wrote, “...in our culture we can sometimes forget where our true worth lies .... Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we have to linger with Jesus. ... We are all disciples of Christ and your gifts are needed for that someone who is waiting for a caring, loving person to reach out to him or her.”

Although she will reside in Dodge City, her new role will be in conjunction with the Heartland Center for Spirituality in Great Bend, for which she is one of the staff.

To schedule a retreat in your parish, contact Sister Rose Mary at: home-office 620-225-7112, cell 620-789-2101 or rstein@oppeace.org.

Redemptorists honored for abuse prevention

CHICAGO, IL, Sept. 24, 2018 – The Redemptorists of the Denver Province recently, several of whom served in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, received the highest honor in abuse prevention practices: accreditation from Praesidium, Inc., the largest and most comprehensive abuse risk management firm in the country.

“The sexual abuse scandal is a cause of great shame and remorse for the Church, most especially for those of us dealing with the pain and anger of the victims of sexual abuse as well as the faithful Catholics we serve,” explained Very Rev. Stephen Rehrauer, C.Ss.R., Provincial Superior of the Denver Province. “Although innocence lost can never be restored, the Redemptorists can and do acknowledge any wrongs committed in the past, deal fairly with victims of abuse, and work diligently to prevent future misconduct of any kind.

“Sadly, abuse of all forms – physical, emotional, mental, psychological – is rampant; abusers and victims can be found in every strata of society. Since 2005, the Redemptorists have invested substantial resources into effective training programs, policies and procedures designed to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable adults....

“We are committed to ... demonstrating our resolve to be a healthy, faith-filled presence in the lives of the families and communities we serve,” Father Rehrauer said.

Help for farmers

• Kansas Rural Family Helpline, toll free, 866-327-6578: Provides confidential, short-term mental health support, advice, and qualified referrals directly to rural families struggling with an unmet emotional, medical, financial, or legal need.
• Kansas Agriculture Mediation Services, toll-free, 800-321-3276: Helps farmers, agricultural lenders and USDA agencies resolve disputes in a confidential and non-adversarial setting outside the traditional legal process.
• WORKS – Work Opportunities for Rural Kansans, toll free, 866-271-0853: Helps farmers, ranchers, and their families to make a transition from farming and ranching to non-farm employment.

Pope Francis talks about Sexual abuse; the Church and society

Continued from Page 1

sons, they covered it up because it was a very big disgrace... it was the way of thinking in previous times.”

The pope explained that there was now a greater moral awareness of the seriousness of child sexual abuse, but that to understand the mistakes of the past it was necessary to consider the historical and cultural context.

“It is a principle that helps me to interpret history a lot,” he said. “A historic event is interpreted with the hermeneutic [interpretation of the Bible] of the time period in which it took place, not with a hermeneutic of today.”

Offering the example of the history of different “indigenous people,” the pope noted that to modern eyes there were “so many injustices, so much brutality, but it cannot be interpreted through the hermeneutic of today [now] that we have another conscience.”

Francis also compared the Church’s shifting attitude towards covering up sexual abuse with changed perceptions of the death penalty, noting that the Church went from having its own civil executioner to eventually progress beyond recognizing a need for capital punishment at all.

The pope also stressed that the renewed seriousness with which the Church was prosecuting cases of abuse had yielded results, and he underscored his personal commitment to zero-tolerance, saying that he had never - and would never - extend pardons to convicted abusers.

“I have received so, so many completed convictions from [the Congregation for] the Doctrine of the Faith and I have said [go] forward, forward, never have I signed a request for grace after a conviction. On this I do not negotiate, there is no negotiation.”

Francis has been criticized for his 2014 “pardon” of Fr. Mauro Inzoli, an Italian who had been accused of sexually abusing multiple children in the course of a decade. Inzoli was removed from ministry by Benedict XVI in 2012, and restored by Francis in 2014. Following a 2016 civil conviction for eight counts of sexual abuse of minors, tool was then dismissed from the clerical state by Francis in 2017.

Francis blamed his initial reversal on being new to his office, and not understanding the case fully. Some clerics close to the pope say that Francis was persuaded to restore Inzoli to ministry after pontifical advisers made a personal plea to the pope.

The pope has recently indicated that he has taken an active role in the handling of some high-profile cases. During a previous in-flight press conference he said that he will personally judge some cases, having first received legal advice from officials at the CDF.

Speaking about a meeting with young people he had held earlier that day in Tallinn, Estonia, Francis spoke of the damage which had been done to the faith of young people.

“Young people are scandalized by incoherence, they are scandalized by corruption, and into this [scandal] of corruption enters that which you were underlining: sexual abuse.”

Instead, the pope said young people were “asking to be heard,” saying they did not want “fixed formulas” of engagement or versions of “accompaniment where they are ordered what to do.”

In October, the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will convene in Rome to address the topic of young people, the faith, and vocational discernment.

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All You Need is Love
The secret to discipleship and raising children

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

“As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.” — St. John Paul the Great

Being a parent of young children would be a lot easier if the job came with a survival manual. Fortunately, one exists. Well, not a manual so much as a plan. A method. It’s called “discipleship,” a method first introduced by the Son of God, and then shared with participants at the annual Stewardship Conference in August.

When Janée Bernal, Director of the Matrimony, Family Life and Natural Family Planning office, began her presentation, “How to be a Disciple While Parenting Young Children,” one of the first things the audience learned is that the married mother of three loves the Beatles. Each “chapter” of her presentation was headed with a theme taken from a Beatles song.

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

“Ahh, isn’t this a nice thought?” she said. “It made a great song back in 1968 by the Beatles. Is this reality in the world we live in today? Is discipleship really that easy?”

According to Pew research, parents spend a mere 20 minutes a day interacting with their children. This includes “Get your coat,” “Where are your shoes?” “Go brush your teeth,” and a host of other parental gestures that do little more than make each day different. They are the quiet things done by mothers and grandmothers, by fathers and grandfathers, by children. They are the little signs of tenderness, affection and compassion,” she said.

“I was beginning to understand that our family needed to... COME TOGETHER

“One way that we can witness to our children, no matter their age, is to work, play, talk, and pray together every day,” Bernal said. “We must use those gifts God has given us to better our home and family. When it comes to working, our family usually empties the dishwasher together or we pick up the living room together. The children see that when we all work together it goes very quickly and sometimes it’s me standing there telling them exactly where to put something, but after doing these kind of jobs together everyday, our children are beginning to see that this is a way to serve God.

“After we do our ‘work’ then we take some time to play together. It might just be putting on a silly Youtube video and having a 30 second dance party. Or it could be playing a game all together. The most important one, I believe, is talking together. This is difficult because you want to have meaningful conversation with everyone. Not just a ‘How was your day?’ ‘Fine’ type of conversation. This has led me to figure out new ways to ask my children what is going on in their lives.

WE CAN WORK IT OUT

“Sometimes the plates will fly,” Bernal said, quoting Pope Francis. But “after the storm has passed,” things have to be worked out as soon as possible, “with a word, a gesture,” so no one ends up “isolated in this bitter broth of our resentment.”

Bernal said. “We must use those gifts God has given us to better our home and family. When it comes to working, our family usually empties the dishwasher together or we pick up the living room together. The children see that when we all work together it goes very quickly and sometimes it’s me standing there telling them exactly where to put something, but after doing these kind of jobs together everyday, our children are beginning to see that this is a way to serve God.

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Our 4th annual Dechant Foundation golf tournament was a HUGE SUCCESS! Thank you to all the sponsors, players and volunteers who helped to make the day a hole in one. We raised over $21,000 that will be used to help offset the cost of long-term care insurance for our retired Priests.

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“He who supplies seed to the sower

The secret to discipleship and raising children

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic
Diocese mourns death of Bishop Gerber, third bishop of Dodge City

The Most Reverend Eugene J. Gerber, bishop emeritus of Wichita, died Sept. 29. He was 87. Bishop Gerber was the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Wichita (1983 to 2001), and third bishop of the Diocese of Dodge City (1976 – 1983).

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Wichita Oct. 9. Bishop Carl Kemme presided. Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, Bishop John B. Brungardt and Bishop Emeritus Ronald M. Gilmore of Dodge City, and Bishop Gerald Vincke of Salina were among the concelebrating bishops. Bishop Gilmore was the homilist at the vigil; Bishop Kemme was the homilist for the funeral. Interment was at Ascension Cemetery in Wichita.

Eugene Gerber was born April 30, 1931 at a hospital in Kingman, the son of Cornelius J. and Lena (Tiesmeyer) Gerber, members of St. Louis Parish, Waterloo. He took his college studies at Wichita State University and Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo. He completed philosophy and theology studies at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver. There he received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Religious Education and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Mark K. Carroll at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Wichita, and as assistant to Bishop David M. Maloney, Father Gerber was again named vice chancellor in 1965. He served as business manager for the Catholic Advance beginning in 1967 and was named an assistant at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception the next year.

In 1973 Father Gerber was named pastor of Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Wichita. He was named chancellor in 1975, while continuing as pastor of Blessed Sacrament.

Several months after his appointment as chancellor in 1975, Bishop Maloney sent him to Rome for post-graduate studies in theology and scripture at the St. Thomas Pontifical University where he earned a Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

In June of 1976, while continuing as chancellor, he was appointed vicar for religious education. From 1969 to 1976, he served on the governing board of Holy Family Center for the mentally challenged and from 1970 to 1976; he was moderator of the diocesan Cursillo Movement.

He was 45 years of age when he was appointed to serve as the third bishop of the Diocese of Dodge City. Bishop Gerber was ordained to the episcopacy Dec. 14, 1976, by Bishop David Maloney at St. Mary Cathedral, Wichita. Assisting in the ordination were Bishop Marion F. Forst, second bishop of Dodge City, and Bishop Richard Hanifen, auxiliary bishop of Denver. Archbishop Jean Jadot, apostolic delegate, and Cardinal John Carberry, archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas, presided at the ordination.

The following day, installation ceremonies were held in the Civic Center in Dodge City. The installing prelates were Archbishop Jadot and the Most Reverend Ignatius J. Strecker, archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas. Clergy, religious, and laity made up the more than 1,600 persons in attendance.

Bishop Gerber was the first native of Kansas to lead the Dodge City diocese. Under Bishop Gerber’s leadership the ministries continued to grow with the establishment of the Apostolate with Disabled Persons, the Vicariate for Spanish-Speaking, Permanent Diaconate, Aging Ministry, Rural Life Program, RENEW, Vocations Program, Evangelization and the Peace and Justice Office.

On Nov. 23, 1982, after only six years in Dodge City, Bishop Gerber was appointed to lead the Diocese of Wichita. He was installed Feb. 9, 1983, at Century II in Wichita.

Bishop Gerber would serve in his home diocese for nearly 20 years. He resigned at the age of 70 in 2001. The Lord’s Diner, a Wichita food ministry that has served 5 million meals to the poor; the Spiritual Life Center, a retreat and conference facility in Bel Aire; and the Bishop Gerber Science Center at Newman University now stand as living memorials to his life and ministry.

(Additional information on Bishop Gerber’s funeral and remembrances will appear in the next issue of the Catholic.)
Diocese marks 25 years working to protect God’s children

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic:

As per the request of Bishop Brungardt, the Catholic is presenting a series of articles on the current crisis within the Catholic Church, as well as what we can do to make sure our children are protected from anyone who seeks them harm.

In 1993, the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City formed a Diocesan Review Board to carefully study, and then to act, in response to any sort of issue that may arise, including sexual abuse.

In 2003, after the breaking of the news in Boston of widespread clerical abuse, the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City voluntarily joined the nation-wide Safe Environment Program, an umbrella organization that oversees Protecting God’s Children, which includes required Awareness Sessions for all those working or volunteering for the Church.

The diocese has presented some 400 Protecting God’s Children Awareness sessions at parishes throughout the diocese.

There also are annual audits to ensure the diocese is compliant with all requirements of the Safe Environment Program.

Additionally, church personnel continue to receive lessons online regarding the protection of children, which are monitored by Virtus, a National Catholic Risk Retention organization. At press time, staff had each taken 196 online lessons. (See the story at right.)

Although the latest focus on the hundreds of victims of clerical sexual abuse in Pennsylvania is mind-bogglingly tragic, we cannot be allowed to assume this does not happen in other institutions. To do so is to ignore an abundance of dangers that our children may encounter in other places, in other ways.

This is why the majority of the Protecting God’s Children online lessons focus on the protection of children in general, including within the Catholic Church, social media, school, family, sports, etc. . .

Unlike the great tragedy of days gone by, should the report stem from clerical abuse today, the report is not swept under the rug. Any report of suspected abuse, whether by a cleric or anyone else working or volunteering for the Church, is reported to law enforcement.

If you or someone you know may have been a victim of sexual abuse by a clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Dodge City, you are asked to contact Dave Snap, Fitness Review Administrator: (620) 225-5051 work; (620) 225-2412 home; dsnap3@startech.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.

Editor’s Note: Since the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City joined the national Safe Environment Program in 2003, it has offered nearly 200 online lessons, which are required for all staff. They are offered through Virtus, the site for which offers a wealth of information and help. Each lesson is followed by a one question quiz. The lessons are monitored by Virtus.

Following is an example of a lesson provided by Virtus, which includes five ways to protect God’s children.

By MICHAEL J. BLAND, PSY.D., D. MIN., L.C.P.C.

“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.” —Matthew 18:4-6

The VIRTUS® Protecting God’s Children® program outlines five basic steps parishes and schools can take to prevent child abuse. Protecting God’s Children for adults is a program adopted by many dioceses to ensure safe environments in all parishes, schools, and diocesan programs.

The program calls for clergy, principals, directors of religious education, youth ministers, teachers, catechists, employees, parents, and volunteers to participate in these training sessions. The focus of the training is to increase awareness about the nature of child sexual abuse. The VIRTUS, programs use awareness sessions, videos, and online training bulletins to educate adults regarding the recognition of warning signs and what to do when they suspect a child or young person may be the victim of abuse.

The five steps parishes and schools can take to assist in the prevention of child sexual abuse include the following:

STEP 1: Know the Warning Signs

Adults who are aware of the indicators of inappropriate behavior between a minor and an adult can help stop potential abuse before it begins. Some warning signs are when an adult:

• wants to be alone with a child.
• touches, tickles, and/or wrestling with children.
• gives gifts to the child without the parent’s permission.
• wants to take the child on trips alone.

STEP 2: Control Access

Adults need to be extraordinarily careful about determining who can work with children and young people. This caution sends the message that all children and youth programs are going to be closely watched. For the adults or volunteers working with or around children on a regular basis, their references must be checked, interviews conducted, and criminal background checks completed. It is the responsibility of the supervising adult to inform the adults involved in children and youth programs of the standards of appropriate boundaries, both physical and emotional.

STEP 3: Monitor All Programs

Careful supervision of all activities is mandatory. A child should never be left unattended with only one adult present. Furthermore, adults need to be aware of where the children are at all times. This involves having an adequate number of adults in all programs. All adults should be coached on the importance of not being alone with a child in a secluded area, such as a closed room or in an area that cannot be readily viewed by others. An adult alone with a child can present a risk both to the child as well as the adult. It does not make good sense to create such as risk.

STEP 4: Be Aware

Adults should be constant observers of children—talk to them, listen to them, watch them. A change in a child’s behavior or personality may indicate something is causing the child to feel uncomfortable. It is important to create a sense of safety for the child which would enable them to know they can talk with a trusted adult about feeling uncomfortable.

STEP 5: Communicate Your Concerns

Be alert to situations in which you observe inappropriate behavior between an adult and a child. In a parish or school situation, the supervisor should be notified or the child abuse hotline and/or the police called. Communicating your concerns includes paying attention to your feelings and intuitions about what you observe. Perhaps communicating your concerns is the most difficult step because it places the responsibility on each adult to tell someone when you are uncomfortable with a situation or if you suspect abuse. It means paying attention to your own feelings and not waiting until it is too late. All too often a person is accused of abuse people come forward and say, “I had a funny feeling about . . .”

Only by communicating concerns can we use our knowledge to protect young people. If abuse is not occurring, it is still important to take action when you are uncomfortable with a situation. Let others know when you have concerns. Talk to the person involved, speak to their supervisor, and/or call the child abuse hotline.

Often people who abuse children abuse power as well. They can bully adults to take no action and not to trust their instincts. A bully uses their position to belittle and intimidate others into submission. In this way bullies, often with kindness and manipulation, have their sights set on their goals of getting what they want, need, or think they deserve. Part of being adult bullies then is convincing those around them that they are right.

Awareness of these five steps creates a positive plan to protect children and youth from being the victims of sexual abuse. All adults, whether or not they are involved in a church program, should be educated and made aware of these basic steps. It is estimated that there are 40 million adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse in the United States. It is time to put an end to this crime in our homes, our schools, our parishes, and our communities. Protecting God’s Children provides a positive plan to address the problem of sexual abuse of children and youth in society, however it only works if each individual is willing to take responsibility to do their part to prevent child sexual abuse and implement these five basic steps.

Did you know?

It is highly likely that you know a child who has been or is being abused.

Experts estimate that 1 in 10 children are sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

• 30% of children are abused by family members.
• As many as 60% are abused by people the family trusts.
• About 35% of victims are 11 years old or younger.
• Nearly 40% are abused by older or larger children.

STRANGER DANGER IS A MYTH.

Research shows that the greatest risk to children doesn’t come from strangers, but from friends and family. People who abuse children look and act just like everyone else. In fact, they often go out of their way to appear trustworthy, seeking out settings where they can gain easy access to children, such as sports leagues, faith centers, clubs, and schools.

From: www.d2l.org/education/5-steps/step-1
By MARY REZAC

Detroit, Mich. (CNA/EWTN News).—Many homeless people of Detroit already recognize Father Marko Djonovic’s white Ford Excursion.

When Djonovic rolls up with his friend Marcus Cobb, it’s probably because they’ve got a job to offer, in exchange for lunch and some pay.

“When is getting out on the street about us,” Djonovic said of his new ministry, which he dubbed Better Way Detroit.

“So when they see the white Ford Excursion they come up to us, asking, are you going to pick us up for work?” he told CNA.

Djonovic and Cobb are the two-man crew behind Better Way Detroit, and since May they have been teaming up with the city of Detroit and inviting homeless workers to clean up the city’s parks, overgrown alleys, and vacant lots.

They drive around three days a week, stopping at shelters and other homeless hangouts, offering several hours of work for pay. The van can hold up to six people besides Djonovic and Cobb, and they typically take workers on a first come, first serve basis.

While he never worked with the homeless in any official capacity prior to starting this ministry, Djonovic said he was inspired by the individual interactions he had had with people on the streets.

After helping a mentally ill man get off the streets and into housing, he said he realized that while the homeless agencies are a “well-polished machine, there are gaps in that sometimes they can’t go out on the streets and find people and meet these people.”

He said he also discovered that many of the homeless had a strong work ethic and a desire to work for pay.

“When I see the homeless I don’t see hopeless objects of pity, but I see persons...with a sincere desire to work. They want to work. And there’s a great need in the city of Detroit, so putting those two things together moved me to do this project,” he said.

Djonovic is also part of the newly-formed Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri at Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Detroit.

The spirit of service found in St. Philip Neri was an inspiration behind Better Way Detroit, Djonovic said.

“I serve following his spirit,” Djonovic said of the members of the Oratory. That service manifests itself in three ways: evangelization to youth, the cultivation of the spiritual life among the people through the sacraments, and service to the poor.

“I believe it’s what St. Philip would have done, he wasn’t afraid to out on the streets and preach the Gospel, to engage people, which included the homeless. St. Philip Neri was known as the apostle of Rome just because of that,” he said.

In the beginning, Better Way Detroit partnered with the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department to clean up parks through their Adopt A Park program. They now also help the city clear out overgrown alleys and vacant lots that can pose safety problems to neighborhoods.

Cobb said it helps instill a sense of respect and responsibility to the homeless that they work with if they are given ownership of the projects in which they partake. Every job starts with an evaluation of the site and the work to be done, and the homeless workers decide how best to get the job done, he said.

“You give them ownership, ask them how it should be done. It gives them responsibility,” Cobb said. “We get their input, and before you know it everyone’s teaming up. It makes them feel important, it gets better results, and they put the word out because they know it’s well worth their time."

The partnership with the city, which is significantly understaffed, has also worked well, Cobb and Djonovic said, because their team is often able to get to jobs that the city doesn’t have the staff to do.

For example, the city gets a lot of calls from senior citizens who have lived in their neighborhoods for decades and have safety concerns about overgrown lots that may serve as hideouts or hubs for drug deals, Djonovic said.

“One woman was just singing our praises after they cleared up a vandalized, overgrown lot in her neighborhood, he said. “Once (lots) are exposed, they feel safer, especially for the sake of children.”

Djonovic said he feels privileged to get to work alongside the homeless, and as they work, “sometimes I get to know their story, and they get to know my story,” he said.

“It’s happened a few times where guys ask me, why do you become a priest?” he said.

Every project concludes with lunch and a reflection on a bible reading. They have also handed out prayer cards to the homeless and approach them and talk to them halfway through the money goes strictly to needed materials such as gloves or shovels and to pay the homeless for their work.

Cobb said he would encourage Catholics to encounter and get to know the poor in their cities.

“Go out and start from the bottom and communicate with the people...go into the areas where the people don’t have the income, and approach them and talk to them halfway nice, and they’ll respond.”

**LIFE ISSUES**

October is Respect Life Month

My dear friends in Christ:

The month of October is annually observed by the Catholic Church in the United States as Respect Life Month. We are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between.

In such time as these, we become even more aware of the need for messengers of God’s love and instruments of His healing. We realize again, with renewed urgency, our personal call to help others encounter God’s transforming, life-giving love and to defend the sanctity of every person’s life, at every stage and in every circumstance.

This year’s Respect Life theme is “Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent,” highlighting our call to build a culture of life as missionary disciples. Drawing upon the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego, this theme is briefly unpacked in a short reflection. I humbly invite you to read and reflect on it this Respect Life Month (www.usccb.org/respect-life-reflection). There are also many other resources at www.usccb.org/respectlife that are available for use this month and throughout the year.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul tells us, “As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. ...If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it” (1 Cor 12:22-26).

We are called and sent to be messengers of God’s love, treating one another as cherished and chosen by Him. In doing so, we help build a culture that respects all human life. The Body of Christ needs you. The world needs you.

-- Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Chairman USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

**Spiritual Retreat Center**

Catholic Retreat & Conference Center

**A Retreat in Nature with Thomas Merton**
October 19-21, 2018

Fr. Ken VanHoveberle leads this popular retreat weekend based on the teachings of the great Thomas Merton. Participants will learn about three topics: detachment, desire, and having a blessed, unique, and personal relationship with our Lord. The retreat will incorporate the beauty of the nature trails surrounding the Spiritual Life Center. All weekend retreats include Mass, conferences, five meals, snacks, and accommodations.

Single - $165; Double - $128
Register soon to secure your spot!

**The Gospel According to St. Thérèse**
November 9-11, 2018

The Spiritual Life Center welcomes author and speaker Brother Joseph Schmidt, FSC for this retreat weekend. Pope St. John Paul II wrote that Thérèse’s little way is nothing other than the gospel way of holiness for all. During this retreat, Br. Joseph Schmidt helps retreatants understand Thérèse’s message through the Scripture passages that illuminated her insights about God and His merciful love. Participants will be guided to discover how our own relationship with the Lord might be transformed by the Little Way of St. Thérèse.

Early Bird Rates: Single - $145; Double - $120
Register by October 20 to receive Early Bird Rates.

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**USCCB Committ ee on Pro-life acti  viti es**

-- Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Chairman

UCSCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities
Por Reverendísimo

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

**Mons. Eugene J. Gerber, obispo - 1931-2018**


Durante mi misa de ordenación episcopal en 2011, comenté que Mons. Gerber "es un maravilloso ejemplo de un buen pastor". El cuidado amable y compasivo de Mons. Gerber por su rebaño fue y es un gran ejemplo para mí. Su enseñanza, el cuidado de los hambrientos y la compasión por los enfermos se inspiraron en el Buen Pastor, Jesús. Algunos ejemplos:

- Enseñanza. Mons. Gerber dio una profunda lección sobre "La rueda del equilibrio" a los seminaristas a mediados de la década de 1990, que he usado desde entonces para "que tengan vida, y la tengan en abundancia" (Juan 10, 10). (Buscar la "Rueda del equilibrio" en nuestro sitio web)
- Cuidado de los hambrientos. Mons. Gerber vivía en la casa parroquial de la catedral en el centro de Wichita durante años. Había con la gente sin hogar. Mons. Gerber preparó una torta para un hombre sin hogar que se detuvo en la casa parroquial. Este fue su impetu inicial para la Cena del Señor, que se inauguró en 2002 y ha servido más de cinco millones de comidas desde entonces.
- Compasión por los enfermos. Mons. Gerber, hace muchos años, hablaba con un sacerdote sobre la jubilación. El sacerdote comentó: "No tengo donde ir". Esto planto una semilla en el corazón de Mons. Gerber, que creó el Centro para Sacerdotes Jubilados en Wichita.
- Gracias, Mons. Gerber, por su servicio en el Señor y sus rebaños en las diócesis de Dodge City y Wichita. Reciba el descanso eterno. Gracias, querido Jesús, por el don de Mons. Eugene J. Gerber. ¡Tú lo amas tanto, y nos amas tanto a nosotros!

**Gracias, Mons. Gerber, por su fiel servicio en el Señor a sus rebaños en las diócesis de Dodge City y Wichita.**

Mons. Eugene J. Gerber fue obispo de Dodge City durante seis años, veinticinco años obispo en Wichita y dieciséis años obispo emérito también en Wichita: Después de casi cuarenta y dos años de servicio en el Señor a sus diócesis de sureste de Kansas. No era el mismo que ver con ustedes, los sacerdotes y el pueblo hay un interior de la historia. Parte de eso tiene que ver con ustedes, los sacerdotes y el pueblo de la Diócesis de Dodge City. No era el mismo hombre, cuando terminó su vida con ustedes en 1982. Regresó a Wichita cambiado. Los que lo conocieron por más tiempo, los que lo conocieron mejor... lo vieron enseguida, incluso aunque no pudieran identificarlo. Solo estaba... digamos... diferente.

Monseñor John Gilsenan estuvo cerca de entenderlo cuando dijo que Mons. Gerber estaba más reflexivo de alguna manera, después de todo lo que había visto, oído y hecho en Dodge City. El no sabía exactamente lo que ustedes le habían hecho. No sé ahora lo que hicieron por él, o cómo lo hicieron. Pero ustedes, sacerdotes y pueblo de Dodge City, hicieron de él un hombre más grande, eso sí lo sé. Lo profundizaron. Lo transformaron en el hombre que era tan amado en Wichita y en todo el sureste de Kansas.

De se deleitó con su pueblo, dijo el salmista. Ustedes lo ayudaron a apreciar ese versículo. El deleite nunca le abandonó todos los días de su vida.

**‘Arcilla en las manos del Señor’**

**Obispo Eugene J. Gerber**

El deleite nunca le abandonó todos los días de su vida.

**Gracias, Mons. Gerber, por tu servicio en el Señor a sus rebaños en las diócesis de Dodge City y Wichita.**

**‘Gracias, Mons. Gerber, por su fiel servicio en el Señor a sus rebaños en las diócesis de Dodge City y Wichita.’**

**Línea especial para víctimas de abuso sexual**

Si usted, o alguien a quien usted conoce ha sido víctima de abuso sexual por algún clérigo, o cualquier empleado de la Diócesis de Dodge City, por favor comuníquese con el Director de Servicios de Protección a Niños: (620)225-5051, o al correo electrónico dsnapp3@starrtech.net. Conserva siempre su derecho de comunicarse directamente a Social Relief Services, 1-800-922-4453.

**Mons. Gerber dirigirá la hora Santa (en idioma español) para la reparación del pecado de abuso sexual a las 7 p.m., 14 de octubre en la Iglesia de San Antonio en Liberal.**

**Muchachos**

**Monseñor:** ¿Estás bromeando? ¿La Simplicidad de vida?

**¿Simplicidad de vida en el sacerdocio? ¿Pero el dinero y mis cosas son importantes para mí? Bueno, supongo que no son importantes, solo útiles. Es cierto que mi familia y mis amigos son más importantes que el dinero y las posesiones. Sí, y Dios es lo más importante. ¿Pero cómo puedo enfocarme en Dios, las personas y mi fe en este mundo materialista?**

**Por reverendísimo BRUNGARDT, Obispo de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City**

Cuando era un adulto joven, compré un automóvil nuevo. Había terminado de pagar mis préstamos universitarios y acababa de recibir un aumento en el trabajo. Conduje a la casa de mi hermano a 100 millas de distancia para mostrarme, pero él no estaba en casa, pero no me importó, ¡ya que estaba tan contento de tener un auto nuevo! A la mañana siguiente, me desperté, pensé en mi auto nuevo y me dije a mí mismo: "Si, bueno... tengo un auto nuevo". Me sorprendió bastante que este automóvil no me diera la felicidad duradera, que esta posesión material no me satisfacía. (Menos de 24 horas después de que compré el auto nuevo, ya no significaba gran cosa para mí!) Jesús dijo: "Porque donde esté vuestro tesoro, allí estará también tu corazón" (Mateo 6, 21). Cuando escuché el llamado de Dios al sacerdocio, encontré –cuál es mi tesoro: ser sacerdote, entregarle a Jesús como sacerdote, profeta y pastor, cuidando de su rebaño. Como mi corazón está en este tesoro, el sacerdocio, encuentro la felicidad. Ahora incluso más felicidad como obispo. No es un placer a corto plazo, no es un "high" fugaz, sino una "alegria perdurable".

Muchachos, dejen el enfoque en las posesiones. Escuche en la oración qué tesoro Dios ha planeado para usted. Mencione el tesoro que no es importante. ¿Pero cómo puedo enfocarme en Dios, las personas y mi fe en este mundo materialista? Déjelo a él... ¡él te ama más de lo que puedes imaginar! 

**‘El deleite nunca le abandonó todos los días de su vida.’**

**Dejaron**

**Obispo John**

**+ Obispo John Ronald M. Gilmore**

**‘El deleite nunca le abandonó todos los días de su vida.’**

**Protegiendo a los hijos**

**Sesiones de concientización**

La Diócesis requiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajen con menores a asistir a las sesiones de concientización de Proteger a los Niños de Dios. Estas sesiones de concientización están disponibles en ambos inglés y español. Son conducidos por gente de nuestra Diócesis especialmente entrenadas como facilitadores. Las sesiones se publicarán en las parroquias, escuelas, el periódico Southwest Kansas Catholic y la página electrónica de la Diócesis. www.dcdioocese.org/protectingchildren.

**Próximas sesiones:**

Liberal
 Domingo, octubre 21, 3 – 6 p.m.
 San Antonio de Padua Iglesia
 1510 N Calhoun St.
 Liberal 67901
 Persona de contacto: Padre Jacob Schneider
 620/624-4135
 PGC Facilitador: Norma Alvarez 620/225-4802

Obispo John dirigió la Hora Santa (en idioma español) para la reparación del pecado de Abuso Sexual a las 7 p.m., 14 de octubre en la Iglesia de San Antonio en Liberal.
ACROSS
1 Lot, to Abraham
5 Catholic United States Supreme Court justice
8 Top monk
10 He shared an occupation with Paul (Acts 18:3)
11 Nevada diocese
12 Commandment
13 Catholic creator of Sherlock Holmes
15 God, in Paris
16 “I will ___ up for David a righteous Branch” (Jer 23:5)
18 Religious service
20 Shesholkeather’s household images
24 Man of the ___
25 Jacob was afraid to meet him
26 Donate a portion of money to church
28 ___ Dolorosa”
30 Marriage vows
31 Paul went here when he left Damascus (Gal 1:17)
33 Shroud city
34 Image for the “hope of salvation” (1 Thess 5:8)
35 Death place of Saul (1 Sam 31:1–6)

DOWN
2 Island converted in the 5th century
3 Diocese in Hawaii
4 What Jesus told the blind man to do at the pool of Siloam (Jn 9:7)
5 ___ of David
6 Non-ordained members of the Church
7 Christian love
9 Catholic star of “The Life of Riley”
11 “Its ___ was named was Death” (Rev 6:8)
12 ___ the greatest
13 Catholic creator of Sherlock Holmes
15 God, in Paris
16 Arti cle of clothing or ___
17 “…thy will be done ___ on ___” (Mt 6:10)
18 Religious service
19 “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews” (Jn 19:19)
20 Pater ___
21 Pertaining to those who have received ___
22 St. ___ Bertrand
23 Pater ___
24 Man of the ___
25 Jacob was afraid to meet him
26 Donate a portion of money to church
28 ___ Dolorosa”
30 Marriage vows
31 Paul went here when he left Damascus (Gal 1:17)
33 Shroud city
34 Image for the “hope of salvation” (1 Thess 5:8)
35 Death place of Saul (1 Sam 31:1–6)

TEASER THE FIRST:
Where at 40?
Tom has traveled a bit. He has spent (in this order) a third of his life to date in the United States, a sixth of it in India, twelve years in Egypt, half the remainder of his time in Australia, and as long in Canada as he spent in India. Where did he spend his fortieth birthday?

For example:  Large Feline would be Fat Cat.

TEASER THE THIRD: The answer to the riddle is a pair of words that rhyme with each other. For example: Large Feline would be Fat Cat.

For more information on a career with the Knights of Columbus, contact George Spinelli at (785) 726-4899.

The answer to the riddle is a pair of words that rhyme with each other.

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 Sudoku grid containing areas surrounded by gray or dotted lines. The object is to fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 box, and the sum of the numbers in each area is equal to the clue in the area’s top-left corner.

Reglas De Sudoku:
Cada fila debe contener los números a partir la 1 a 9 Cada columna debe contener los números a partir la 1 a 9 Cada cuadrado 3x3 debe contener los números a partir la 1 a 9

Reprinted with permission from www.sudokutheday.com/
April 15, 1947 she married Paul Glenn at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Ellinwood. After their marriage they moved to a farm near Dodge City. He preceded her in death on Dec. 26, 1982. Elonora was the main cook at the Sacred Heart School for parents Jacob and Sarah Kess. In 1946 she was a member of the Daughters of Isabella and Altar Society. In her later years she made stock cans that were sent to children in need. Survivors include: her son, Larry Glenn; daughter-in-law, Sharon Glenn; son-in-law, Daryl Cook; sister, Marie Dowell; sister-in-law, Dorothy Glenn; five grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Father Aneesh Parappanattu presided.

IRENE B. (BOGER) KIMLER, 96, of St. Joseph Parish, Ellinwood, died Sept. 10, 2018. She was born north of Hoisington on the family farm to parents Jacob and Sarah Jacob (Radke) Boger. She married George Norman Kimpler April 7, 1947 in Ellinwood. He passed away July 7, 1996. Survivors include daughter, Lila Kimpler; sister, Grace Boger; granddaughter, Bridgett Keenan Schneweis; and great-grandchildren, Cameron and Klhoe Schneweis. Father Terrance Klein presided.


LESTER RAMIRO GRANADOS, 94, of St. Anthony Parish, Lakin, died Sept. 5, 2018. She grew up in a rural home in the county of Lakin and Deerfield. She married Mauro M. Perez on August 8, 1943. He died Feb. 21, 1983. A resident of Lakin for more than 65 years, she had a love for the hospital as a cook and later as a dietician. Survivors include her children, Raymond Perez, Anthony Perez, Virginia Garcia, Jane Perez, Rosalie Healy, and Ramiro Perez Jr., Lakin; granddaughters, Kristen Perez, Katelyn, Andrea Perez, and Isabella Rodriguez; step-sisters, Kristin Shell and Jessica Corcoran, Garden City; and several nieces and nephews.

RamiRO GRANADOS, 22, of the Cathedral of Our Lady Parish, Dodge City, died Aug. 16, 2018. He is survived by his mother, Eula Solorzano-Ahumada; father, Sergio M. Granados; sisters, Melissa and Mariela Granados, and Victoria Gonzales; and brother, Daniel Granados; and many other family members and friends. Father Aneesh Parappanattu presided.

ELEONORA M. GLENN, of Quinter, Kansas, died Aug. 24, 2018. On}
Msgr. John Butler was born April 5, 1898, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. He attended St. Patrick’s School and St. Dunstan University, both in Charlottetown. After a year at Holy Heart Seminary in Halifax, Nova Scotia, he completed his studies at St. Bernard Seminary, Rochester, N.Y. He was ordained June 4, 1922 in Charlottetown and joined his brother, Father Francis Butler, in the Diocese of Wichita.

He served as an assistant at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Wichita (1922-25).

He spent a decade in his first pastorate at St. Francis Xavier, Seward (1925-35). He had the additional responsibility for the mission of Holy Name of Jesus, Stafford, until 1932. During this pastorate, he built a new school at Seward (1926).

In 1935 he was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart, Pratt. He served as auxiliary chaplain at the air base there during World War II.

He served as pastor at St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend, for a short period in 1947 before being named rector of the Cathedral in Wichita (1947-55).

He was made a domestic prelate, with the rank of right reverend monsignor, on April 30, 1949.


His funeral was celebrated at St. Patrick’s Church in Fort Augustus, where his nephew, Father T.P. Butler, was pastor. Burial was in the Cathedral church cemetery at St. Dunstan’s Basilica, Charlottetown.
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S H K W F H Q I M A R T Y R A
C A I S S U R K S P A T R O N
O T S I T P A B E H T N O J
T U R V M P T E M V E Y N S X
L C P E T E R S E D E R U S E
A Z R X B O W A R L X C M Y T
N H R O U M W F T I I I O A O
D N M X S S E S G H F L R G N
T X C H U S O V Q B J N A X X
L E G Y E P U F O H W P J G P
O D K J A I H Y C N I X L F T

**APOSTLE**

**CROSS**

**DISCIPLE**

**FIRST**

**BROTHER**

**FISHERMAN**

**GALILEE**

**JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**MARTYR**

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A S V Z T Z J E H S A I N T U
V T X I T K F J M V C J Z Y R
S H K W F H Q I M A R T Y R A
C A I S S U R K S P A T R O N
O T S I T P A B E H T N O J
T U R V M P T E M V E Y N S X
L C P E T E R S E D E R U S E
A Z R X B O W A R L X C M Y T
N H R O U M W F T I I I O A O
D N M X S S E S G H F L R G N
T X C H U S O V Q B J N A X X
L E G Y E P U F O H W P J G P
O D K J A I H Y C N I X L F T

**APOSTLE**

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October 14, 2018 Page 15

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**Catholic Extension offers gift annuities that benefit church parishes**

S**tewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes that we receive God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor. We as Christian disciples realize that all our gifts including time, talent, and treasure are gifts given to us through the grace of God and we are called by our Lord to share these gifts through the four pillars of faith; that being through Hospitality, Service, Prayer and Formation. A hospitable steward is compelled to share his or her treasure and one way to generously express your support for God’s work on this earth is through a charitable gift annuity to benefit your parish, school, or the Diocese of Dodge City.**

Catholic Gift Annuites are available through a program offered by the Catholic Church Extension Society, one of the largest, oldest and strongest managers of annuities in the U.S. By taking out a Catholic Gift Annuity you may be eligible for a charitable tax deduction, receive fixed payments for life and leave a legacy to your parish, school, Catholic ministry, or diocese.

**WHAT IS A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY?**
A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract. You make a gift to Catholic Gift Annuity, and in return, you receive fixed payments for life. At your death, the remaining balance of the gift annuity is distributed to the Catholic organization(s) you designated.

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?**
- Receive fixed payments for life, a portion of these payments being tax free;
- Receive an income tax deduction for a portion of your gift, as allowable by IRS rules;
- Join a pool of thousands of Catholics in a financially strong program that helps the Catholic Church;
- Feel satisfied to make a significant gift that benefits you now and the Catholic organization(s) of your choice for future generations.

**WHAT ARE THE FEATURES?**
- Secure, convenient deposit of payments into your preferred bank account;
- Three types of annuities to select from (rates vary) – immediate one life, immediate two lives, and deferred – start payments later;
- The Catholic Gift Annuity program combines your gift with others from across the U.S. to increase the impact of your generosity;
- The minimum amount to establish a gift annuity is $5,000, the minimum age to receive income is 55 years old.

Catholic Church Extension Society has been a partner in ministry with mission dioceses' including the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City for several decades and continues to provide grant funding for many diocesan and parish ministries each year.

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**Every life is precious**

Continued from Page 1

sadly, it’s a timely topic. Multiple communities in the diocese have been stricken with teen suicides and rising rates of teen depression and anxiety.

Maxwell is the founder of “U Can’t Be Erased” ministry out of San Diego, which is designed to “break the stigma of teen depression and stop the epidemic of suicide in our country today, especially among Catholic youth.”

Maxwell gave a powerful testimony and witness of healing and hope. He speaks to thousands of adults and young people all over the country about mental health and how to unlock their potential.

After miraculously living through his suicide attempt, Maxwell, a craddle Catholic born and reared near San Diego, was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon after seriously injuring another driver. He was diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder.

Maxwell sought healing and made the decision to change his life. He has since made it his mission to speak about how to heal the mind, body, and soul — replacing despair with hope. His practical testimony talks about sharing one’s struggles, taking care of the body, and prayer for the soul. He has even become close friends with the man whom he injured in the crash.

The day-long rally also included time to focus on community, prayer, and amidst it all, fun. “Wichita Adores Ministry” provided music, dancing, sound and lights, and the environment was truly electric. The day concluded with Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Do you know someone who missed out on the day? Don’t miss next year’s rally on Sunday, October 13, 2019 in Dodge City!

At right is keynote speaker, Luke Maxwell.