IN TROUBLED TIMES

The art and joy of being

Thankful

Pope Francis enjoys dinner with some of the poor of Rome in this file photo.

‘In everything, give thanks.’
— 1 Thess. 5:18

By SARAH CHRISTMYER

Editor’s Note: There is the troubling news of abuse in the Catholic Church, fires ravaging California, sad faces of hundreds of refugees pining for safety, political divisiveness, and continuing war. Yet, as this article reminds us, in this season of anticipating the birth of our Savior, we can always find ready reason for having the feeling of utmost gratitude.

Each year as Thanksgiving approaches and I start to review my blessings, I stumble on this from St. Paul, “In everything give thanks.” (1 Thess. 5:18).

Everything? You’ve got to be kidding me. When things go wrong, I’m supposed to give thanks? When my husband is laid off and no jobs are in sight? When the mortgage is underwater? When illness strikes and the pain won’t go away? Paul goes on: We are to give thanks in all situations because “this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” I used to wonder whether that means it’s God’s will for me to give thanks, or that the situation is God’s will for me and it will work for my eventual good. Either way, I’ve learned that it is precisely by giving thanks in the difficult times of our lives, that our hearts are lifted above the situation.

Having a thankful heart is not only appropriate in good times, it can help us survive the bad. There’s a powerful example of this at the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum in Jerusalem, which I wrote about in Psalms: the School of Prayer:

As you leave [the museum], there is painted on the wall in red and black letters a prayer. The refrain “And praised ... be ... the Lord” is interrupted by a litany of the names of prison camps:


... Is the author praising God for prison camps? Far from it. This prayer/poem isolates those evil camps and plunges them into the midst of the praises, surrounding them in the greater power of God and His good. It is cathartic to read. The longer you read it, the more it strengthens you and gives you hope. Try inserting your own trials in the spaces below, and praying it: “And praised. ... be. ... the Lord. ... Amen.”

God willing, no one reading this will ever have to confront the depth of suffering represented by that poem. But in the dark patches of your life, think of the Jews and praise the Lord, taking care to give thanks “in everything.” If they can do it—so can we.

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

I devoted my first eleven Southwest Kansas Register columns in 2011 to the call by our Loving Lord of our boys and our single men to become ordained priests for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City (I have edited and reprinted the series now). As our new Director of Seminarians, Father Wesley Schawe wrote: “I know God is calling men to be priests, or God wouldn’t be calling us to salvation! It’s not a question of whether, it’s a question of who.” But what can the rest of us do to encourage our guys to listen to God’s call, to promote the ministerial priesthood?

1) Ask/wonder. I was in my early 30’s when a priest asked, “John, what are you doing with the rest of your life? ... Have you ever thought about the priesthood?” Variations for you to try: “What do you think — priesthood? I think you would be a good priest! I wonder if God wants you to be a priest or a husband and dad?” A hint is fine — no need to over-do it!

2) Live your own vocation “abundantly” (John 10:10). Whether a deacon, priest, bishop, religious sister, religious brother, husband or wife, as we live our calling abundantly, to the full, with God’s grace, our boys and single men will see our striving to holiness. They will be attracted to this life in the Lord; each will want this joy in Christ for his own life, his own call, his own vocation that God has planned for him.

3) Pray. My last column focused on the “pray always” (Luke 18:1). Pray during a liturgy, especially Holy Mass, that a particular boy or single man in your parish will be called to the seminary. Pray during Word Working (lectio divina) that our seminarians will persevere and be called to the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Pray during your adoration time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament that your son, grandson, nephew or friend will listen to Jesus, and that he speak with his priest, Father Wesley or our other Vocation Directors, or me about what he hears in his heart. Humbly listen, courageously follow, always trusting in God’s grace to assist.

We can all participate in encouraging our boys and single men, and promoting the call to the ordained priesthood. Let us take great hope in Jesus the High Priest. Let us trust in God to bless us abundantly. Thank you for your faithfulness. Jesus loves us more than we can ask or imagine!

+ Bishop John B. Brungardt
Abandoning ourselves to God’s will

A manuscript survived the French Revolution, and was published by a fine editor in 1861, one hundred ten years after the death of its writer. That writer, a note in another hand on the manuscript said, was Jean Pierre de Caussade, SJ (1675-1751). Abandonment to Divine Providence, was the new name the editor gave it. It spoke to people almost immediately. It has not been out of print since. Its fame and its influence are legendary.

De Caussade was much taken with the idea of Abandonment, something he found in St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622). But abandoned to what? Abandoned to whom? To God’s will, de Sales thought.

There are two ways of finding God’s will. First, it is expressed in the commandments and counsels he gives to all Christians, and, with suitable adjustments, to individuals in their chosen state of life. Second, it is expressed in what St. Francis called his will of good pleasure. God acts in total freedom, simply according to his own good pleasure.

The first expression of his will is clear, straightforward, and predictable. The second is less so, and is somehow disconcerting. In each life, something will go wrong: we may be ill, or have an accident, or get into an embarrassing situation. Perhaps we will be caught in a dramatic conflict. This is his unknown will breaking in upon us: this is his will-in-disguise... as fate, some say, as chance, say others; as luck, good and bad. Think of it as his will of pure providence.

Abandonment is the key for interpreting both these ways. Each moment is a moving thing. We have only this moment, for a moment, and then it is gone. God is in each such moment, the Sacrament of the Moment, he said. No wonder it spoke to so many. As it did to me nearly one hundred years after it was sent into the world.

Movies With a Message: ‘The Man Who Invented Christmas’

On Friday Nov. 30, the movie, “The Man Who Invented Christmas,” will be showing at the Heartland Center for Spirituality for the fall series “Movies with a Message.” “The Man Who Invented Christmas” tells the magical journey that led to the creation of Ebenezer Scrooge (Christopher Plummer), Tiny Tim and other classic characters from A Christmas Carol. Directed by Bharat Nalluri (“Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children”), the film shows how Charles Dickens’ (Dan Stevens) mixed real life inspirations with his vivid concept for a seasonal tale.

The movie begins at 6:15 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, Forest (Tuesday, April 30). “Little Women” (Tuesday, Jan. 8), “Blackbeard’s Ghost” (Tuesday, Feb. 5), The Greatest Showman (Tuesday, March 5), “The Long Walk Home” (Tuesday, April 2) and “Summer in the Forest” (Tuesday, April 30). A free will offering will be accepted to offset the cost of refreshments.

Send a letter of support to our seminarians!

The people of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City are awesome! Back a few years ago when Father Mark Brantley was in seminary, he had several letters from well-wishers pinned to his bulletin board. Other seminarians from much larger diocese and archdioceses noted how lucky he was to have the prayers and support of the people back home.

Please take a moment to send a letter of support to our seminarians who, if it be God’s plan, will one day serve as a priest for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City! The seminarians have said on many occasions how much these letters mean to them!

Help write book on local priesthood

The Southwest Kansas Catholic editor Dave Myers is currently producing a book about the local priesthood. The text will include stories about local priests, in-depth how-to chapters regarding discerning God’s will and entering seminary, question and answer sections, all with a good deal of humor. (A book on local women Religious will be penned by Charlene Scott-Myers.) You can help write a chapter in the book. Do you have poignant, fun, or even historic memories of interaction with local priests? Do you remember spending time with future saint, Father Emil Kapaun? How did a local priest help you? Is there a priest you especially admire? Why?

Everyone who submits a story that is used in the book will receive a free copy. Submit to: SouthWest Kansas Catholic 910 Central, P.O. Box 137 Dodge City, KS 67801 or email skregister@dcclodiocese.org.

Help for farmers

• Kansas Rural Family Helpline, toll free, 866-327-6578: Provides confidential, short-term emotional 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.

Do you have a gambling problem? There’s help out there! KSgamblingHelp.com 800-522-4700

STEP 1. Know the Warning Signs

1. Be Aware (Behavioral and Physical Signs)
2. Monitor All Programs
3. Communicate Your Concerns
4. Be Prepared
5. Communicate Your Concerns

Season of Advent begins Sunday, Dec. 2

Advent comes from the Latin word meaning “coming.” Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season.

Advent is not as strict as Lent, and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple color associated with Advent is also the color of penance. The faithful should fast during the first two weeks in particular and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The color of the Third Sunday of Advent is rose. This color symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again. The Third Sunday is a day of anticipatory celebration. It is formerly called “Gaudete” Sunday; gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. It is important to remember, however, there are no particular rules for how the laity should observe Advent.

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.

Abuse Hotline

If you suspect abuse or neglect of a child in Kansas and the child is in immediate danger, call 911 or local law enforcement. If you have suspicion that a child is being abused or neglected, make a confidential report to the Kansas Department for Children and Families Protection Report Center, 800-285-3219.

If you suspect abuse by Church personnel, in addition to making a report to those civil authorities, please contact Mr. Charles Befort, crbefort@cox.net, 620-285-3219. If you or someone you know may have been sexually abused by Church personnel, contact Mr. Befort. You may submit a report to the Diocese. Report forms are available at www.dcdioce.org/safe-environment.

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Send a letter of support to our seminarians! Thank to those who have written in!
Local counselor shares message to stem the tide of suicide

**Editor’s Note:** The following is reprinted from the November newsletter of Claffin and Ellinwood parishes.

**CALL FOR HELP:** Richard Falcon, a mental health counselor from Compass Behavioral Health in Dodge City, recently presented the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness Program at the Immaculate Conception Parish Center in Claffin.

Falcon is a parishioner at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Dodge City. Yellow Ribbon Prevention began in 1994 by a group of youth after a friend named Michael Emme died as a result of suicide.

It is the most successful suicide prevention program, teaching that it is okay to ask for help, and using small cards as a way for those who are in crisis to reach out for help (see right). Approximately 40,000 youth have used the cards to ask for help. The program is present in all 50 states and in 47 countries.

The statistics are shocking:

- 1 in 5 teens consider suicide
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth in the age group of 15-24 years.
- Kansas ranks #19 in suicide rates.
- For every person who dies by suicide, there are 100-200 attempted suicides
- 85 percent of people give warning signs before suicide
- More than 50 percent of those who die by suicide are under the influence of drugs or alcohol

Drugs and alcohol decrease the levels of serotonin in the brain, acting as depressants. (Antidepressants raise serotonin levels.)

- 90 percent of depression and suicidal tendencies are treatable.

The cards used by Yellow Ribbon are a way that someone in crisis can reach out for help. One side of the card can be used by a person in crisis who doesn’t know how to ask for help; they can hand the card to a counselor, teacher, clergy, doctor, parent or friend and say, “I NEED TO USE MY YELLOW RIBBON”

The other side of the card offers instructions on how to help a person who is suicidal. (Stay with the person, listen, call for help immediately ...). According to Falcon, causes of depression vary from person to person, but some causes may include bullying (at school or over social media), a relationship breakup, divorce, family conflict, money problems, death of a loved one, sexual abuse, drugs and alcohol, and excessive time spent on social media (Snapchat and Instagram have been shown to be the top two causes of suicide).

Signs of depression may include the following: irritability, inability to concentrate, low attention span, sleep disturbances, low appetite, chronic fatigue, social withdrawal, emotional numbness, and racing thoughts.

If you, or someone you know, is suffering from depression, please reach out for help!

What can be done to help depression? Medication and counseling can be helpful.

Other options include:

- Listing three positive things that are happening in your life (This has been shown to lower the risk of suicide by 70-80 percent)
- Talking face to face with other people. Be around other people.
- Sunlight: Vitamin D from sunlight raises serotonin. Low serotonin contributes to depression.
- Yoga
- Turn off the cell phone at night.
- Limit social media to one hour or less per day.
- Talk about suicide with your children or anyone that you think is suffering. The problem is that it is a taboo subject that no one wants to talk about. But it needs to be discussed.

Those in crisis need to know that they can talk to you.

**Youth lend sweat equity to cleaning St. Joseph rectory**

St. Joseph’s parish rectory in Ellinwood, a historic, three-story building just south of the church, has long needed a good cleaning. A suggestion was made to call the director of the parish school of religion at St. Michael’s church in LaCrosse, seeking help from the teen students. Without hesitation, the class volunteered to lend a helping hand. Sunday afternoon upon their arrival, they were given a tour of every room of the building with a brief explanation of work to be done. In each room was a note pad listing the chores for each room, with instructions to cross off and initial each task when it was completed. There were 14 rooms, entries, landings, carpeted stairway, porch and garage included in the thorough cleaning the seven students and adult supervisor provided. When all was done, everyone gathered together in a circle, joining hands in prayer and thanking God for providing such joyful, spirited helpers. What a wonderful early Christmas blessing!

**Chalk Talk**

**(Below)** The high school Parish School of Religion class in Ellinwood lent their artistic talents to the sidewalk in front of St. Joseph Church to provide lessons to children.

The youth were instructed to draw pictures representing words that describe the Holy Spirit. Then they described their drawings and quoted Bible verses in a short presentation to the other PSR classes who had gathered in front of the church.

**The drawings included:**

- Sarah Beran - oil of anointing
- Devin Ryan, Brett Liebl, and Myles Menges - gift
- Callie Zink and Lexi Oeser - tongues of fire
- Delaney Rugan and Rachel Lamatsch - dove
- Addie Crites and Emily Ryan - voice
- Tyler Holmes, Jacob Oberle, and Cole Lamatsch - cloud
- Lawson Oeser - shepherd
- Karter Beck and Michael Menges - water
In honor of my father

By DAVE MYERS

In the last issue, I wrote about my hope to get home before receiving bad news concerning my father, who at 94, was suffering from pneumonia. Sadly, I was too late. I planned to come home on a Wednesday, and I received the bad news at 2 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

For a week, Charlene and I stayed with Mom in their little Denver apartment, Dad’s chair occupying little relative space, but with a void that could fill a gothic cathedral.

The impossibility of Dad’s absence is still boring a hole through my heart, but never supposed to die. I guess I never really thought he could die.

I’ve mentioned (bragged) before about how my folks took in African refugees who lived in our home for months at a time. When word spread about Dad’s death, they came one after another — old friends bearing flowers and food — come to the little apartment to remember the man who one person told me on the phone, “saved my life.”

Oh — and while some people sent flowers, the Catholic church in Dodge City sent people! There I was, after a week of intense stress, at my dad’s funeral in Denver, and I walked staff members Tim Wenzl and Mark Roth. To say that I was moved is putting it too mildly.

On the way to the cemetery, riding in the limousine, I was reminded of a chapter in the book of life, a chapter I thought I had moved on from.

The Driver’s Test

“My Brown? I’m Ransom Bellows. I’ll be giving you your driving test.”

Ransom? He stuck out his hand, which I thought was nice, seein’ as some of these fellas in these types of jobs can act danged impersonal after having done this so many times with so many people. ... Well, turns out, he hadn’t done this so many times. In fact, this here was a first for the young Ransom. He’d been with the Motor Vehicle Department only three days, and they’d been waiting for someone he could test that wouldn’t try his nerves overly so. And they decided that an old man who been driving more than 65 years were just the ticket.

Them DMV folks, they probably should have put a bit more thought into that. That’s not I’m a bad driver.

As it turned out a few cars, there was a bit, black hearse drivin’, and beyond them, a couple of police officers on motorcycles.

“I think we’re in a funeral procession,” I said, matter of fact.

“It appears so,” Ransom responded, but he didn’t seem to mind, especially as it required us to slow down for a while, which he needed to sharpen the particular moment to calm his nerves after such a rocky trip thus far.

“Slow down a bit, Mr. Brown, then turn off when you can.”

I did ask Ransom said, and waited for them cars ahead to move on a block or so, and when they turned on up ahead, I turned in the other direction.

I was startin’ to feel a little more confident; I was doin’ okay, and I imagined Ransom, he could end up in smillin’. He may have over-reacted, he decided, clutchin’ that clipboard tight as he might in sides of himself.

We was headin’ into downtown Junction City; things had calmed down and I even thought to thinkin’ that I may make up for my earlier mishaps, when I known something that made my stomach do a flip flop. I look in my rear view mirror and I see a line of cars followin’ behind me. Their lights on – a line of cars so long that it disappeared ‘round a corner about half mile back.

“Uh … Ransom, young fellow?”

“Yes, Mr. Brown,” he said all friendly like, seein’ as he had taken a liking to this ol’ man, now that everything was calm and serene.

“I’m afraid our adventure hasn’t done ended yet quite,” I said as gentle as I could while looking through the rear view mirror. He turned around to see what new horror he was about to encounter.

“Oh, my.”

Mouth fell open at the sight of the funeral procession following behind. His mouth done stayed that way for a full minute. “Oh, my!”

“You can see how to get to the cemetery?” I asked, calmly.

“The … the … cemetery? No! I’ve only lived here a week! I know it’s up on a hill somewhere. You know where a hill is?”

Well, there be hills just about everywhere you look, so that didn’t help much. I learned then and there that even the smallest dust speck of a town can grow to the size of New York City when you’re lookin’ for some place you can’t find.

First thing I did was turn back in the direction where I left that of’ hearse; I took a left and then another left, which took us into a residential neighborhood where there were kids playin’ street hockey.

Them kids moved to either sidewalk, staring with wide-eyed wonder as one car after another drove by — some of which were Archie Bunker / Laverne & Shirley — like some kind of parade; no floats, no people wavin’ from cars, and no little fellers in funny hats drivin’ them little cars, but a parade just the same.

Now, by this time I was as nervous as a hen layin’ an ostrich egg, so when I spotted a Taco Bell restaurant, I had the bright idea of escapin’ through the drive-through.

When I done turned into that Taco Bell drive-through, I was followed by 45 cars in the funeral procession.

At that point, and I’m only guessin’ here, but I imagine that them folks behind me must have decided that runnin’ through the Taco Bell drive-through was done at the request of the family as a symbolic gesture of farewell to their beloved who must have had a particular affinity for Mexican food. It was the first time in the history of the Taco Bell franchise that some 45 cars passed through the drive-through without so much as a wave hello.

The incident made the international Taco Bell restaurant quarterly newsletter, or so I hear tell.

I followed the road up another two blocks, and thank the good Lord I could see those tomatoes off on a hill in the distance.

I tell you, I weren’t ever so glad to see a cemetery. . . . We pulled up to the Department of Motor Vehicle. I stopped the engine and took off my seat belt. Ransom, he just sat there, shakin’ like a leaf, all the color done washed out of his face.

“It’s okay, son. We’re back home. You can get out now.”

He looked at me and said, “Home?”

“Yes, son, we’re home, now. If you need a few minutes, that’s okay.”

“Home,” he says in a high voice, a big grin on his face.

“There’s no place like home.”

So I hung on. As I said before, them DMV folks should have put a bit more thought into who they done partnered Ransom up with for his first drivin’ test.

Not that I’m a bad driver.

Mr. Brown and the Driving Test

The following is reprinted from the book “Mr. Brown, a Spirited Tale of Friendship” by my dad, Jim Myers. Dad passed away on Nov. 14, and I know that he would love the irony of sharing this chapter of his book. The book concerns the misadventures of an 82 year-old man. It’s been edited for space.

By JIM MYERS

Memory ain’t what it used to be, which I was reminded of for the umpteenth time just a few days ago when I remembered that there are some things I tend to forget. Back when I was signin’ the forms — of which there were so many — I didn’t even remember of the Fahrns, or the Driver’s Test.

But with a void that could fill a gothic cathedral.

In honor of my father

Dad wrote, which I included at

Inherit the Mirth

By Cuyler Black

Your strength will still come from your hair, but to keep you humble, I’ve moved it all to your nose and ears.

Samson enters middle age.

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COMMENTARY

Munus Regendi - The duty to shepherd

As we have been exploring various duties of priesthood, Father Juan Salas wrote in the SKC about the duty to sanctify (Munus Sanctificandi), and Father Jacob Schneider wrote about the duty to teach (Munus Docendi). I would like to touch upon the duty to shepherd (Munus Regendi).

Since before ordination I have been reluctant to think of myself as a shepherd. I am more attracted to the idea of being a sheep dog. Have you ever seen a border collie at work under the direction of an expert sheepdog? It’s one of the coolest things I’ve ever seen. The dog responds to the commands of the shepherd, whether they are given through voice command, whistles or sign language. The dog obeys immediately and faithfully to the shepherd’s command, moving the sheep where the master wants them. My desire has always been to be as faithful and obedient to our Shepherd, Jesus Christ as a border collie is to its master; however, I’m not there yet. It turns out that my disposition is more akin to a bulldog (friendly, patient, but stubborn). Nevertheless, priests are called to be shepherds rather than sheep dogs. The “good shepherd” as a spiritual paradigm arises from imagery throughout Sacred Scripture. In the Old Testament, David, a shepherd, is said to be a man after God’s own heart. In the Gospel of John Our Lord speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd. Furthermore, after his resurrection, Jesus directed Peter to feed, tend and care for his sheep. A bishop and each priest under his authority are to cultivate within themselves this identity as shepherd of the Church.

What does it mean to be a shepherd of God’s people? In the 10th chapter of Mark it is explained like this: Jesus summoned (his disciples) and said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” To serve and spend one’s life for others; this is what it means to shepherd God’s people. Strengthening the weak, instructing the ignorant, calling back the estranged, wrestling the unruly. Very often this shepherding takes place while attending commission meetings, pouring over financial reports, facilitating staff issues, planning liturgies, conducting marriage preparation sessions, presiding over funerals, offering pastoral counsel, ensuring proper care for buildings and material goods of the parish, turning off lights that were left on, closing doors that were left open, flushing toilets that…well, you get the picture.

Sometimes the “Big, Bad Wolf” shows up and a shepherd must be prepared to defend the flock. If he is not spiritually fit, the enemy may devour him and his sheep. Sometimes shepherding God’s people means speaking truth that sheep do not want to hear and doing what is not popular with the sheep.

A saint who I believe exemplifies the qualities of a good shepherd is Pope Saint Paul VI. Ordained a priest in 1920, named Secretary of State in 1954, chosen Archbishop of Milano in 1954, and named Cardinal in 1958, I’m sure he had his share of the pastoral experiences described above. But then he was elected Pope on June 21, 1963. Pope St. John XXIII called together the Second Vatican Council in October 11, 1962 and then died that next June. After beginning something of such great magnitude, God decided in his infinite wisdom to find someone else to finish it. That someone was Pope Paul VI.

Concluding after four sessions, the Second Vatican Council shook the world, and the Catholic Church with it. During this exciting, yet tumultuous time, Pope Paul VI did what a good shepherd does. He was faithful. He strengthened the weak, instructed the ignorant, and called back the estranged. He wrestled the unruly and fought off wolves. Regardless of whether his work was popular or not, this shepherd spent himself in service of the flock entrusted to him. And his shepherding continues to affect our daily living after all these years.

It is rare that a person gets to see the full impact that their actions and words have on the lives of others. Yet each one of us leaves a lasting mark on the world. What we do here on earth also has lasting consequences for all eternity. Those called to be shepherds have a grave responsibility. Therefore, please pray for your shepherds.

Sand sculpture at Vatican depicts the Nativity

By Father Ted Stoecklein
Assistant Director, Office of Priestly Vocations

Sand sculpture at Vatican depicts the Nativity

Four artists, from Holland, Russia, the Czech Republic, and the United States, created this amazing sand sculpture of the Nativity at Vatican Square from 700 tons of sand. The creators, who have been sculpting sand nativities in the Italian town of Jesolo for years, say on their website that the goal is “to build the largest sand nativity in Christendom in the center of Rome in order to provide moments of authentic and joyful contemplation to all those who love Christmas.”

Photo of the Week

Pope’s Monthly Intention In Service of Peace

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

To be pro-life means to respect all life.
Reflexiones desde la acera

Por TOM GRENCH

Hace poco, rezaba el rosario en la acera fuera de un centro de aborto muy concurrido en el área de Washington, D.C., donde vivía. El edificio, una estructura de apariencia sórdida que solía ser un minimercado, está ubicado en una vía pública dividida y abajo de las carriles de tráfico van en un sentido, y tres carriles operan en sentido inverso. Con una intersección importante a media cuadra de distancia, el tráfico pesado a menudo se acumula ante la luz roja. Algunos conductores solían no observar a la gente pacífica que reza, ofreciendo ayuda provida a las madres, los padres y las familias que se dirigían al centro de abortos. Algunos conductores alentan y otros, de vez en cuando, gritan alguna grosería o muestran el “pulgar hacia abajo” de desaprobación.

La acera es un lugar tan ocupado que uno tiene que dejar de prestar atención a gran parte del ruido para rezar con concentración por las mujeres que se dirigen al centro de abortos. Durante uno de los cambios a luz verde, cuando los carros comenzaron a moverse, un conductor gritó “Las vidas negras importan!” al marcharse a toda velocidad. Cuando asimilé su comentario, me di cuenta de que sus palabras eran proféticas y complejas. La mayoría de las madres que se dirigían al centro de aborto eran negras. La mayoría de los niños que morirían ese día también eran negros. La vida de ellos tiene una importancia increíble para todos los que estabamos afuera del centro de abortos rezando y ofreciendo alternativas en defensa de la vida. Para quienes hacían negocios dentro del centro de abortos, lo único que importaba era el dinero.

La industria del aborto admite que, en Estados Unidos, la tasa de abandono para las mujeres negras es casi cinco veces la de las mujeres blancas. Si bien todos los abortos son una tragedia, deberíamos preguntarnos por qué los niños negros mueren en semejante desproporción. ¿Por qué tantas mujeres negras quedan desamparadas y victimizadas ante el aborto? ¿Por qué los medios de comunicación, los responsables de formulación de políticas y los defensores del aborto han hecho tanto caso omiso de la tasa desproporcionada de abortos entre las mujeres negras?

Todas las vidas importan: desde el niño en el vientre hasta su madre fuerte y valiente. ¿Yo aún actúo en consecuencia, como propuso el conductor? ¿Brindo apoyo o trabajo voluntariamente en mi centro provisto local de cuidado durante el embarazo, el centro de maternidad o el programa de atención prenatal? ¿Trabajo para mitigar la pobreza, puesto que muchas mujeres mencionan la falta de apoyo económico como motivo para buscar un aborto? ¿Rezo con frecuencia por quienes padecen grandes necesidades? ¿Trabajo para luchar contra la disparidad racial en sus numerosas formas? Ahora, cada vez que regreso a rezar fuera de aquel centro de abortos, vuelvo a recordar que todas las vidas negras importan y vuelvo a asumir el compromiso de garantizar su derecho a la vida.

El abandono a la Divina Providencia

Un manuscrito sobrevivió a la Revolución Francesa, y fue publicado por un buen editor en 1861, ciento diez años después de la muerte de su escritor. Ese escritor —decía una nota en otra mano del manuscrito decía— era Jean Pierre de Caussade, S.J. (1675-1751). El abandono a la Divina Providencia, fue el nuevo nombre que le dio el editor. Llegó a la gente casi inmediatamente. Desde entonces no se ha dejado de ensalzar su fama y su influencia son legendarias. Caussade estaba muy entusiasmado con la idea del abandono, algo que encontró en San Francisco de Sales (1567-1622). “¿Abandonado a qué? ¿Abandonado a quién? A la voluntad de Dios, pensaba Francisco de Sales. Hay dos maneras de encontrar la voluntad de Dios. En primer lugar, se expresa en los mandamientos y consejos que da a todos los cristianos y, con los ajustes adecuados, a los individuos en el estado de vida que eligen. En segundo lugar, existe una relación en lo que San Francisco llamó su voluntad de buena plática. Dios actúa en total libertad, simplemente de acuerdo con su propio plática. La primera expresión de su voluntad es ajena, y predetermina la segunda. Es menos importante, y de alguna manera desconcertante. En cada vida, algo saldrá mal: podemos estar enfermos, o tener un accidente, o meternos en una situación embarazosa. Quizás nos vemos atrapados en un conflicto dramático. Esta es su voluntad desconocida que irrumpe sobre nosotros: esta es su voluntad disfrutada...” Después de varias disertaciones, el Procurador{x} ponía en foco el tema: “Eso es, en efecto, la voluntad de Dios, a la cual habíamos echado oídos en la Divina Providencia.”

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios

La División requiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajen con menores a asistir a las sesiones de conscienciación y protección de los Niños de Dios. Estas sesiones de conscienciación están disponibles en ambos idiomas. 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 División. www.dciocese.org/protectionchildren

Próximas sesiones:

- Dodge City
  Domingo, Diciembre 9, 2018 3-6 p.m.
  Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe 3231 N 14th Ave
  Dodge City, 67801
  Persona de contacto: Norma Álvarez 620-225-4802
  Facilitador: Norma Álvarez 620-225-4802

PASOS PARA CREAR UN AMBIENTE SEGURO

1. Conozca las señales de advertencia
2. Controle el acceso
3. Vigile todos los ministerios y programas

Reportando Abuso

Si usted sospecha abuso o descuido de un menor en Kansas y el menor está en un establecimiento dejan con la policía en 911 o al departamento de policía local. Si usted tiene alguna sospecha de que un menor está siendo abusado o descuidado haga un reporte confidencial al Departamento de Kansas Centro de Reportes Para Protección de Niños y Familias, 800-922-5330. Si usted sospecha abuso por parte de personal de la Iglesia, aparte de hacer un reporte a esas autoridades civiles, por favor comuníquese con el Señor Charles Befort, cbridge@cox.net, 620-285-3219. Si usted o alguien que conoce pudo haber sido abusado/a por parte de personal de la Iglesia, comuníquese con el Señor Befort. Puede hacer un reporte a la División en nuestro sitio web.

El formulario para hacer su reporte lo puede encontrar en la siguiente dirección:

www.dciocese.org/safe-environment

Oren durante una liturgia, especialmente la Santa Misa, para que un niño en particular o un hombre soltero en su parroquia sea llamado al sacerdocio. Oren durante la lectura divina para que nuestros seminaristas perseveren y sean llamados al Sacramento del Orden. Oren durante su tiempo de adoración antes en el Santísimo Sacramento para que su hijo, nieto, sobrino o amigo escuche a Jesús, y que hable con su sacerdote, el Padre Wesley o nuestros otros Directores de Vocaciones, o conmigo, sobre lo que oye en su corazón. Escuchen humildemente, sigan con valentía, siempre confiando en que la gracia de Dios ayudará.

Todas podemos participar en animar a nuestros niños y hombres solteros, y pro meter el llamado al sacerdocio omar do. Tengan gran esperanza en Jesús el Sumo Sacerdote. Confíen en que Dios nos bendiga abundantemente. Gracias por su fe. ¡Nuestro amor más de lo que podemos pedir o imaginar!

+Mgr. John, Obispo
The true treasures in life: God and our neighbor

Pope Francis: Homily on World Day of the Poor

In the face of contempt for human dignity, we often remain with arms folded or stretched out as a sign of our frustration before the grim power of evil. Yet we Christians cannot stand with arms folded in indifference, or with arms outstretched in helplessness. No. As believers, we must stretch out our hands, as Jesus does with us. The cry of the poor finds a hearing with God. Yet I ask, does it with us? Do we have eyes to see, ears to hear, hands outstretched to offer help? Or do we keep repeating: “Come back tomorrow”? “Christ himself appeals to the charity of his disciples in the person of the poor” (Gaudium et Spes, loc. cit.). He asks us to recognize him in all those who are hungry and thirsty, in the stranger and those stripped of dignity, in the sick and those in prison (cf. Mt 25:35-36).

The Lord stretches out his hand, freely and not out of duty. And so it must be with us. We are not called to do good only to those who like us. That is normal, but Jesus demands that we do something also to those who do not like us. That is normal, but Jesus demands that we do something more (cf. Mt 5:46): to give to those who have nothing to give back, to love gratuitously (cf. Lk 6:32-36). Let us look around in our own day. For all that we do, we ever do even anything completely for free, something for a person who cannot repay us? That will be our outstretched hand, our true treasure in heaven.

Stretch out your hand to us, Lord, and take hold of us. Help us to love as you love. Teach us to leave behind all that is passing, to be a source of reassurance to those around us, and to give freely to all those in need. Amen.
Speaker on suicide will be part of Mercy Radio’s fall Care-a-Thon

HAYS—Divine Mercy Radio will host its semi-annual Care-a-Thon Nov. 27–30. The Catholic radio station will be broadcasting live from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Each hour there will be a different guest talking about various topics – many around the theme of “Watch and Pray.” Suicide is a hot topic, and Richard Falcon, Dodge City, a trainer for Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention, will be speaking two hours on this topic from 4 to 6 p.m. Nov. 28. During the first hour, Falcon will address teenagers, and the second hour he will be addressing parents.

Father Don Bedore, Pastor of Prince of Peace in Great Bend will be breaking down the meaning of routine prayers at 1 p.m. Nov. 28, and Bishop John Brungardt will follow at 2 p.m. The entire four-day schedule is available at dvmercy.com.

During this Care-a-Thon prizes will be given away and there will be a different Catholic trivia question each 30 minutes. However, only children 12 and under are eligible to play Catholic trivia after 4 p.m. Right before 6 p.m. a name is drawn from all the trivia winners that day and that person will win a $50 gift certificate to Messenger Catholic Books, Gifts and Sacramentals.

Divine Mercy Radio has two stations, both on 88.1 FM, which reach a 30-mile radius in each of the Great Bend (KRTT) and Hays (KVDM) areas.

Divine Mercy Radio also streams live from its website at dvmercy.com, or people can listen by downloading the free phone app. Simply type in Divine Mercy Radio in your app or play store. Also, anyone who has an Amazon Echo can listen by enabling the Divine Mercy Radio skill.

Finally, live footage is recorded during the four-day Care-a-Thon on YouTube. Simply search Divine Mercy Radio.

Advent Retreat at Heartland Center, Dec. 1

If the Christmas season to you feels more like a harried time of gift buying and fighting crowds than welcoming the newborn King, you may want to consider taking part in an Advent Retreat from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Heartland Center in Great Bend.

Leading the retreat will be Marcia Berchek and Sister Renee Drelling:

“Our attitude will make the choice for what kind of Christmas we will celebrate this year. What kind do you want?”

The retreat is offered at a cost of $50, which includes lunch. Participants can also enjoy a 30-minute massage for $25.

Participants may stay overnight at the Heartland Center if they choose. (Sunday’s schedule includes a 9 a.m. brunch, 10 a.m. sung morning prayer, and 10:30 a.m. Mass.)

On the Friday before, the movie “The Man Who Invented Christmas” will be shown at 6:15 p.m. Register online at https://heartlandspirituality.org/programs/advent-retreat/ or call Ann Axman, 620-792-1232.

Local priest, DRE to lead 2020 trip to Holy Land


“Our hope in advertising the event so far in advance is that people who otherwise couldn’t afford to take the trip can begin saving their money,” noted Alvarez.

The journey will include visits to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Via Crucis, Gethsemane, Dormition, Nativity Church, Capernaum and Tel Aviv.

The group will visit the Garden of the Gethsemane, the scene of Jesus’ agony, betrayal and arrest, as well as the Upper Room, the site of the last supper. On Day 4, the group will visit Bethlehem starting with the Basilica of the Nativity and the Grotto, venerated as the birthplace of Jesus.

On the fifth day, the group will travel to Qumran – ruins of the ancient Essene settlement in whose nearby caves the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, and will then take a cable-car to the top of Masada – the scene of the epic stand by the Jewish Rebels at the end of the Great Revolt against Rome nearly 2,000 years ago.

The tour group will also visit the Sea of Galilee from Tiberias to Capernaum, including the Mount of Beatitudes which commemorates the Sermon on the Mount. On days 9 and 10, the group will visit Nazareth, with dinner and an overnight stay in Galilee. Day 11: Back to USA from the Holy Land.

All expenses are paid, except for lunch and trip insurance. The cost is $4,000.

For more information, go to Proximotravel.com, or call (855) 842-8001.

Youth reps share the good news of

When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

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Why is the virtue of chastity so important and the violations of chastity such a serious matter? It is because our sexuality is profoundly personal. It is designed to bring about a deep unity of two persons—a unity capable of giving new life. This unity is the biblical meaning of “the two shall become one flesh”.

When one considers the difference between the act of self-giving love in marriage and an act of violation through rape or sexual abuse it becomes clear that the sexual embrace is more than a purely physical act. When someone has been sexually violated, a much deeper wound is brought about than when one receives a slap in the face or is called a degrading name. To give of oneself in the sexual embrace is to give oneself deeply and permanently. When that act is violated or is used to fulfill selfish pleasures, one person feels used and the other does not find lasting fulfillment.

Chastity is meant to protect the sacredness of the sexual act and the dignity of the persons. The fact that this deep union comes about at the same moment that new life can be created shows that openness to life is integral to the sexual embrace. The widespread use of contraceptives or surgical sterilization has opened the door for sexual relations to become more self-seeking and less self-giving.

By TOM GRENCIHK
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

In recent years I have been praying the rosary regularly at a very busy abortion clinic in the Washington, D.C., area, where I live. The building, a seedy-looking structure that used to be a convenience store, is located on a busy, divided thoroughfare. Three lanes of traffic head in one direction, and three lanes run the opposite direction.

With a major intersection a half block away, heavy traffic often backs up at the red light. Some drivers pretend not to notice the peaceful folks praying or offering pro-life assistance to the mothers, fathers and family members heading into the abortion facility. Some drivers give encouragement, and some will occasionally shout a profanity or give a “thumbs-down.”

The sidewalk is in such a busy location, one really must tune out much of the noise to pray with any concentration for the mothers heading into the abortion facility.

During one of the green light cycles when the cars began to move again, a driver yelled out “Black lives matter!” as he sped off. As his comment sank in, I realized that his words were both prophetic and challenging. Most of the mothers heading into the abortion facility were black. Most of the children who would die there that day were also black. Their lives have incredible significance to all of us outside the abortion facility who were offering prayers and life-affirming alternatives. To those doing business inside the abortion center, little mattered other than the money.

The abortion industry itself admits that, in the United States, the abortion rate for black women is almost five times that for white women. While every abortion is a tragedy, we should ask ourselves why black children are dying so disproportionately. Why are so many black women abandoned to, and victimized by, abortion? Why has the disproportionate rate of abortion among black women been so ignored by the media, policy makers and abortion advocates?

From the child in the womb to her strong and courageous mother, every life matters. But do I really act accordingly, as the driver proposed? Am I supporting or volunteering at my local pro-life pregnancy care center, maternity home or prenatal care program? Do I work to alleviate poverty, as many women cite lack of financial support as a reason for seeking an abortion? Am I regularly praying for those in great need? Am I working to address racial disparity in its many forms? Now, every time that I return to pray outside that abortion center, I am reminded anew that all black lives matter, and I recommit myself to ensuring their right to life.

Tom Grenchik is the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/prolife.

The virtue and blessings of chastity

By FATHER TED SKALSKY

Why is the virtue of chastity so important and the violations of chastity such a serious matter? It is because our sexuality is profoundly personal. It is designed to bring about a deep unity of two persons—a unity capable of giving new life. This unity is the biblical meaning of “the two shall become one flesh”.

When one considers the difference between the act of self-giving love in marriage and an act of violation through rape or sexual abuse it becomes clear that the sexual embrace is more than a purely physical act.

When someone has been sexually violated, a much deeper wound is brought about than when one receives a slap in the face or is called a degrading name.

To give of oneself in the sexual embrace is to give oneself deeply and permanently. When that act is violated or is used to fulfill selfish pleasures, one person feels used and the other does not find lasting fulfillment.

Chastity is meant to protect the sacredness of the sexual act and the dignity of the persons. The fact that this deep union comes about at the same moment that new life can be created shows that openness to life is integral to the sexual embrace. The widespread use of contraceptives or surgical sterilization has opened the door for sexual relations to become more self-seeking and less self-giving.

In this intriguing volume, Tim Wenzl, archivist emeritus for the Diocese of Dodge City, documents his discovery of more than 300 Kansas communities and geographical sites with Catholic names. Included in this 146-page gazetteer are communities named for saints, popes, cardinals, bishops, priests and friars, nuns and religious sisters, Spanish explorers, frontiersmen, and ordinary Catholics.

• Communities originally established as Catholic colonies and named for the emigrés’ homeland
• The stories of how and why the communities were named, together with biographical features
• Color photographs of nearly 40 Catholic churches and institutions listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Readers will be amazed at the discoveries.

Release Date to be Announced Soon!
VICTOR RIEBEL, 91, of Sacred Heart Parish, Ness City, died Oct. 27, 2018. He was born Jan. 30, 1927, the son of Clem and Anna (Dinges) Riebel. He was a US Army Veteran. He served a mechanic for Slagle Implement fixing cars and farm implements. He also hauled fuel and worked for Pickrell Drilling as a pumper. He married Wilma Lea Hinson. He is survived by his wife, two sons: Richard, Hays; and Larry, Hoisington; two daughters: Joan (John) Lutz, Hoisington; and Linda (John) Williams, Hoisington; five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, and his siblings.

MARY JANE SANDOVALL, 77, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Oct. 27, 2018. She was born Nov. 5, 1940, in Dodge City, Kansas, the daughter of Manuel Sandoval and Nieves Moreno. She was a lifetime Dodge City resident working as a social worker. She loved animals and spent about 20 years and the Center of Independent Living until she retired. Survivors include: her daughter, Rachel Morrow and husband, Torrey, Wichita; her brother, Henry Sandoval, Dodge City; five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and her son-in-law, Thomas A. Carmona, Wichita. Father Anesah Parpanattu presided.

PHILIP W. PHILLIPS, 76, of Alamogordo, N.M., Tom Ayers and Bea of Las Cruces. She was the daughter of Joseph and Anna (Villanueva) Ayers and wife Connie of Blanchard, Okla., and Paul Phillips and wife Alice of Frisco, Texas, one sister Mari Beth Dobbins and husband Kent; two brothers: Richard Dobbins and Wandie and Karen Stoecklein (Lester) Ness City, Randyne Rufenacht (Benji) Ness City, Karen Stoecklein (Ron) Ness City; four brothers, Johnny, Willie, Melvin and Leon Riebel; three sisters, Sister Florentia, Sister Leona and Sister Barbara Riebel; 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church, Ness City. Father Jacob Schneider officiated. The couple made their home in Spearville where they farmed ground northwest of town. Mary Norma stayed home to care for her children. Later, after the kids were grown, she worked at Bealls department store and Ceja drug store. Many Norma and Henry also owned and operated the Schulte Drive In during the early 60's. In 1970 she was survived by nine children, Dallas Schulte of Wright, Norma Jean Stein and husband Val of Baldwin City, Ethel Scherleather and husband Phil of Spearville, Mary Norma and husband Jerry of Dodge City, Darlene Rucker of Spearville, George Schulte and wife Charlie of Spearville, and Charlene Halling and husband Alan of Spearville; 26 grandchildren; 51 great grandchildren; and nine great-great grandchildren. Father John Forkosh presided.

IMERLDA D. "MILLIE" FLAX, 82, of St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church, Kansas City, Ariz.; Connie Ruiz, Garden City; Janet Gonsalves and husband, Sandy, Hays; a sister; Firma Pfannenstiel, WaKeeney; and a brother, Juan Antonio Andrade, Rancho Cucamunga, Calf.; Connie Ruiz, Garden City; Janet Gonsalves and husband, Sandy, Hays; a sister; Firma Pfannenstiel, WaKeeney; and a brother, Juan Antonio Andrade, Rancho Cucamunga, Calf.

IMelda D. "MILLie" Flax, 82, of St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church, died Nov. 3, 2018. She was born Sept. 12, 1936, in Lakin to Edward and Dora (Vehslage) Flax. She was married to Isidoro and Lidwina (Younker) Kreutzer. She married Frank W. Flax on April 26, 1955, in Hyacinth. They celebrated over 50 years of marriage before he preceded her in death July 9, 2005. She was a homemaker, a member the Daughters of Isabella No. 254 and a member of the Sunflower Ptolemy Club. Survivors include three sons, Ron Flax and wife, Rhonda, Hays, Wayne Flax and wife, Janet, Fort Collins, Colo., and Allen Flax, Mesa, Ariz.; six daughters, Melinda Drelling and husband, Joel, Hays, Joycelyn Youmans and husband, Bill, Centennial, Colo., Lucy Hutchinson and husband, Craig, Hays, Rebecca Ginthner and husband Clayton, Spearville, husband, Barney, Wichita, and Laura Hertel and husband, John, Hays; a brother, Leroy Kreutzer and wife, Sandy, Hays; a sister, Firma Pfannenstiel, Wakeeney; a sister-in-law, Judy Kreutzer, Russell; 21 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church, Hays.

MILDRED MARIE (STEINER) SIEBERT, 88, of St. John the Apostle Parish, St. John, died Nov. 4, 2018. She was born on Dec. 16, 1929, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Anthony, Kan., daughter of John and Laura Steiner. She graduated from La Crosse High School and Lenore (Umlen) Steiner. She was a Graduate of Ode High School and Brown-Mackie College, she was a resident of St. John since 1970, she worked at Bealls department store owner and/ or the Kansans for Life march in Topeka, Jan. 22. See below for more information,

DEAN D. "DON" SCHINeSTOCK, 75, of Hutchinson, died Nov. 2, 2018. He was born Nov. 28, 1942, in Kinsley, to Joseph John and Edna Ferne (Countryman) Schinstock. He was a farmer and stockman and district sales manager for many years. Survivors include: four brothers, Monty (Mary), Hays; Terry (Karen), Hutchinson; Trampus (Sarah), Olath and two sisters, Laurie, Dodge City, and Lisa, Dodge City; 16 nieces and nephews, and 16 great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Ziegler Funeral Chapel with Father Wesley Shaw presiding.

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**The Rosary + technology = A multitude of prayers**

“The Rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times.” - Saint Padre Pio

Connect with people of all ages around the Dodge City Diocese from the comfort of your home. It’s easy:

- Email to jbernal@dcdiocese.org to sign-up.
- Look for a reply email with instructions to download “Zoom” and how to connect (it’s free!).
- You will receive an email link on your device at 8 p.m. on Sunday evenings. Click on the link.
- You will be connected with others from around the diocese as we pray the rosary to promote a culture of life.
- This prayer will conclude no later than 8:30 p.m.
- All individuals, groups, and ages are invited to be a part of this group.

“In truth I tell you once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven.” -- Matthew 18:19

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**Called & Gifted Workshop Jan. 12**

**What are your gifts of the Holy Spirit?**

It’s true that the Lord works in mysterious ways, but other ways aren’t quite so mysterious -- although they may require a bit of detective work.

Take the charism for example. “Charisms” are spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit. On Jan. 12, 2019, you are invited to examine what your charism may be. The Called & Gifted Workshop will take place beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding with 5 p.m. Mass at the Heartland Center for Spirituality, 3600 Broadway in Great Bend. Lunch is provided.

The day-long program presented by the Catherine of Siena Institute of Colorado Springs is designed to offer participants a little help in determining just what are their charisms.

“The charism of faith,” Deacon Mark Cesnik explained, “is not the virtue of faith that we all hope to practice. It’s a gift of extraordinary faith, the unusual trust in the love, power and provision of God, and a remarkable freedom to act on this trust.” Deacon Cesnik is from Corpus Christi Parish in Tucson.

A charism is not to be confused with a talent or skill. Charisms may include “giving” — people who find great joy in sharing their time or treasure. There is the charism of hospitality — those who derive pleasure in providing a welcoming atmosphere for others. Some rare few have the charism of healing.

Maggie Doyne was just a teenager when she decided to visit India. “She noticed that many children were pouring into a part of India from Nepal,” Cesnik said.

This is where Maggie’s charism of faith came in: “At only 18, she travelled to Nepal to see why so many children were impoverished.”

As a result of a long civil war, some one million children had been abandoned on the streets. One day she met a girl who was supporting her family by breaking rocks in a river and selling bags for a dollar.

“Maggie realized it would cost less than $7 to send her to school.”

One child became five, then seven and more. Before long, Maggie wrote home for her baby-sitting money - $5,000 that she used to buy a plot of land. She came home and raised $20,000 and built a home in which she and a couple house 40 children. The community joined her to build a school, and a high school is now in the works. All of this amid the terrible violence of an ongoing civil war.

“Now that’s extraordinary faith,” said the deacon.

While most participants of the program won’t be going off to Nepal to serve the poor, by closely examining their lives, they are either given a good idea of what their charism(s) might be, or the tools to do so in the days and weeks to follow. It was a mystery that participants of past workshops have found worth searching for a solution. Registration deadline is Jan. 3. To register, contact Coleen Stein 620-227-1538, uestin@dcdiocese.org.

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

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

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

**Trip includes:**

- Hotel transportation — Hospital for two nights — “Life is VERY Good Rally” — Holy Mass — March for Life — Sightseeing

**Seating is limited, so reserve your space now!**

For more information and registration, contact Tom or Lisa Ridder, (620) 375-2100 or email lridder68@gmail.com

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**Tuesday, January 22, 2019 — Topeka**

**On the 46th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade**

For High School and College Age to Stand-up for the Value of Human Life

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

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

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**Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, Nov. 25; Christ the King**

- Romans 10:9-18/Matthew 4:18-22
- Monday, Nov. 26
- Tuesday, Nov. 27
- Wednesday, Nov. 28
- Thursday, Nov. 29
- Friday, Nov. 30; Saint Andrew, apostle
- Saturday, Dec. 1
- Sunday, Dec. 2: The First Sunday of Advent
- Monday, Dec. 3; Saint Francis Xavier
- First Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23/Mark 16:15-20
- Tuesday, Dec. 4
- Wednesday, Dec. 5
- Isaiah 25:6-10/Matthew 15:29-37
- Thursday, Dec. 6
- Isaiah 26:1-6/Matthew 7:21, 24-27
- Friday, Dec. 7; Saint Ambrose, bishop and doctor
- Isaiah 29:17-24/Matthew 9:27-31
- Saturday, Dec. 8
- Isaiah 3:1-10/Matthew 18:19

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**Heartland Center for Spirituality**

**3600 Broadway**

**Great Bend, KS**

**Costo - $25.00**

El Taller LLAMADOS y DOTADOS se dirige a personas que desean conocer, vivir y preservar los dones y talentos que tienen para el bien de la Iglesia. El taller tiene como objetivo ayudar a los participantes a identificar sus dones y talentos, y a descubrir cómo pueden ser útiles para el bien común de la Iglesia.

Para registrarse contactar en Coleen Stein 620-227-1538 /uestin@dcdiocese.org

www.dcdiocese.org/called-and-gifted

Regístrate para el 3 de enero

Ofrecido en inglés y en español

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**Taller LLAMADOS y DOTADOS**

**Diocesis de Dodge City & Salina**

Sábado, 12 de enero, 2019

8:30 - 9:00 Asamblea Diocesana/Convenciones Angélicas

9:30 - Taller comienza

Comida

5:00 - Liturgia dominical

**Heartland Center for Spirituality**

**3600 Broadway**

**Great Bend, KS**

**Costo - $25.00**

El Taller LLAMADOS y DOTADOS busca fortalecer la vocación de todos aquellos que tienen los dones y talentos que pueden ser de ayuda para el bien común de la Iglesia. El taller tiene como objetivo ayudar a los participantes a identificar sus dones y talentos, y a descubrir cómo pueden ser útiles para el bien común de la Iglesia.

Para registrarse contactar en Coleen Stein 620-227-1538 /uestin@dcdiocese.org

www.dcdiocese.org/called-and-gifted

Regístrate para el 3 de enero

Ofrecido en inglés y en español

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**DISCÚSALO: DISCÚSALO: DISCÚSALO**

Sé blanco y no es te irás de debate del Taller LLAMADOS y DOTADOS.

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St. Michael’s Mind Teaser

St. Sebastian’s Sudoku

Gabriel’s Crossword

Across
1. “... eat; this is my body.” (Mt 26:26)
2. The ___ Body of Christ
3. 3 PM prayer
4. “Bring Flowers of the Field”
5. Joseph and Benjamin, to Jacob
6. “... and there was no man to ___ the ground” (Gen 2:5)
7. Rite in the Church in the West
8. 15 Brothers of Joseph
9. Diocese of Honolulu necklaces
10. Patriarch respite, perhaps

Down
1. Number of days Joseph spent in the belly of a large fish (Jon 1:17)
2. Greek prayer
3. Prayer time after midnight
4. The ___ of Confession
5. Christian insignia
6. Father-in-law of Caiaphas
7. The ___ Sheep
8. Catholic novelist Koontz
9. “... a poor man is better than ___” (Prov 19:22)
10. Catholic actor Guinness
11. Prize won by Mother Teresa

TEASER THE FIRST: Try to fill in the missing numbers. The missing numbers are integers between 0 and 9. The numbers in each row add up to totals to the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom. The diagonal lines also add up the totals to the right.

TEASER THE SECOND: Paul’s height is six feet, he’s an assistant at a butcher’s shop, and wears size 9 shoes. What does he weigh?

TEASER THE THIRD: What gets broken without being held? TEASER THE FOURTH: There are a few trees in a garden. On one of them, a pear tree, there are pears (quite logical). But after a strong wind blew, there were neither pears on the tree nor on the ground. How come?

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Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.

— Augustine
No Christ?  KNOW CHRIST!

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ANSWERS

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SAINTS OF THE MODERN ERA

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I S E N E I U T Y I E B T J B
D C O D F M I B E S C O L K G
W H U M A Q D B T J O I E L V
C O Q N S A K T X H Z V N I C
C C N A G M E V I K R A A X T
T R K N A D J B U J I S H K I
A Z A F A I S H F T K M C V G
Q W P N O I T T O L L A P A S
L S R I Q O S K D P A M I D Q
Q E T I N I R B A C F R H B H
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Bishops meet in Baltimore to discuss sexual abuse

What just happened, and what might happen next?

Catholic News Agency

Baltimore, Md. — During a holy hour Monday morning, Nov. 12, two survivors of clerical sexual abuse spoke to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops about their experiences, and their hopes for the future of the Church.

One survivor, Luis Torres, asked the bishops to make changes to ecclesial policies and culture that might ensure that sexual abuse or coercion by anyone in the Church, including bishops, is put to an end.

“My hope is first of all grounded in Christ, who desires that the church be purified and that our efforts bear fruit,” Cardinal Daniel DiNardo told his fellow bishops with remarks during the public sessions of the Nov. 12-14 meeting.

“We leave this place committed to taking the strongest possible actions at the earliest possible moment,” Cardinal DiNardo said. “We will do so in communion with the universal Church. Moving forward in concert with the Church universal. Moving forward in concert with the Church.

Summer in the Park

By SHARON DOTY, J.D., M.H.R.

VIRTUS

Editor’s Note: VIRTUS is a program and service of the National Catholic Risk Retention Group.

Recently, my daughter, her husband and children were visiting and the 10-year old wanted to go to a local park to play. As we all know, letting young children run and play and wear themselves out is a very good thing, for the grown-ups at least. So, off we all went to the park, mom, dad, grandma, big sister and the 10-year-old. The park was full of families enjoying the great weather and one small child among their own proposals, and instead wait until after a February meeting at the Vatican of the heads of bishops’ conferences from around the world.

The announcement seemed to shock almost everyone in the room, with the notable exception of Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago, who rose immediately to say that “it is clear the Holy See is taking the abuse crisis seriously.”

In addition to their apparent desire for dialogue among global Catholic leaders before norms have passed, some observers have noted that the Vatican expressed reservations about some canonical aspects of the bishops’ proposals.

Of principal concern to many bishops is that they take action in order to convey to Catholics that they find sexual abuse and coercion intolerable, and that they will not abide the presence of wolves in their midst.

“My hope is first of all grounded in Christ, who desires that the church be purified and that our efforts bear fruit,” Cardinal DiNardo said to his fellow bishops with remarks during the public sessions of the Nov. 12-14 meeting.

“We leave this place committed to taking the strongest possible actions at the earliest possible moment,” Cardinal DiNardo said. “We will do so in communion with the universal Church. Moving forward in concert with the Church universal. Moving forward in concert with the Church.

Editor’s Note: Bishop John Brungardt has asked that the SKC continue to bring articles and commentary about the ongoing priestly abuse crisis to the fore in the ultimate hope that never again is a child or adult a victim of abuse, and that those who have been abused can seek healing in the Loving Lord.

Please keep in mind that if you do have a concern about an individual or situation in the park, do not hesitate to contact 911 or the local non-emergency line in your area.

Obituaries

Continued from Page 10

20 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren; two sisters, and three brothers. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

MARY LOUI (WBER) SVOBODA, 77, of Herington and formerly of Dighton, died Nov. 9, 2018. She was born Aug. 5, 1941, near Maize to Anthony “Tony” and Pauline (Strunk) Weber. She and John Svoobeda were married June 7, 1962, in Colwich. He died Jan. 14, 2015. She taught kindergarten at every school for 35 years, including three in Tribune and 31 in Healy. She is survived by five children, Annette Wilson of Oshkosh, Neb., and Dorothy Williams of Dawsonville, Ga.; two brothers, Charles Weber of Shawnee, and Don Weber of Wichita; 18 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John Neumann Church in Pilien.

AURORA TURCIO GARCIA, 78, of Great Bend and formerly of Honduras, died November 9, 2018. She was born on August 14, 1940 at Caridad Valle, Honduras and was an elementary and middle school teacher in Honduras for 40 years prior to her retirement. She had been a resident of Great Bend for the past three months. She was of the Catholic faith and loved gardening and also loved helping people whenever she could. Survivors include her son, Ely Manrique Molina (Mariela) of Danli, Honduras and her daughter, Yadira (Juan) Sorcini of Great Bend; three grandchildren; one brother, Francisco (Maria) Turcios of Caridad Valle, Honduras.

ANGELA MARIE STECKLEIN FRIESS, 99, of St. Michael’s Parish, La Crosse, died Nov. 11, 2018. She was born Jan. 17, 1919, the daughter of Paul and Ceilla (Klaus) Gabel. She entered the Adorers of the Precious Blood Convent at age 13 and served 32 years before leaving the congregation in 1964. She taught in many schools in Colorado, Oklahoma, and Kansas. She ended her teaching career at Sacred Heart School, Ncss City. She married Isadore Stecklein in La Crosse on Aug. 1, 1964. He preceded her in death on Jan. 4, 1984. She then married Louis Friess on August 31, 1985. He preceded her in death on Aug. 8, 2011. She is survived by five nieces and nephews and grandchildren and great-grandnephews.

Terece “Terry” Lee Stecklein, 84, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, died Nov. 14, 2018. He was born on Dec. 27, 1933 in Ness County, the son of Edmore and Pauline (Svoboda) Stecklein. He was raised on the family farm and attended school in Ness city until his freshman year. The family moved to Lane County and Terry graduated from Dighton High School in 1951. He then began farming with his dad. On April 7, 1958, he married Arlene Beck in Ness City. They lived in Lane County for five years before moving to Great Bend and then to Dodge City. Terry worked as a salesman for Guys Foods in Dodge City and later worked as a custodian for USD 443. He served on church committees and taught CCD classes for Our Lady of Guadalupe. Terry also served on the school board of Sacred Heart School. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his wife, Arlene; two sons, Steve Stecklein (Kelly) and Dan Stecklein (Denise) all of Dodge City; five daughters, Vickie Reed (Scott) of Cimarron, Sherry Martinez (Jeff), Susie Reardon (Tim), Terie Jo Trent (Todd) all of Dodge City, and Kristy Rohden of Ellis; 22 grandchildren; and 13 great grandchildren. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Please pray for all those listed above, their friends and loved ones.
Who was Giovanni Montini?

Pope Paul VI (born as Giovanni Battista Enrico Antonio Maria Montini) occupied the papal office after the passing of John XXIII. He served as Holy Father from June 21, 1963, to his death, on August 6, 1978.

Giovanni Montini was raised in an affluent family and began his education at a Jesuit school. In 1916, at the age of 18 or 19, he joined the seminary to become a Catholic priest. Four years later, he was appointed a priest in Brescia. He received his doctorate in Canon Law later that year.

After completing his education, Montini joined the Secretariat of State and later co-founded the publishing house Morelliana in Brescia. He began his Vatican career in the diplomatic service of the Holy See. His administrative skills garnered him a thriving career in the Roman Curia.

Following the death of Benedictine Cardinal Alfredo Ildefonso Schuster in 1954, Montini was appointed as the Archbishop of Milan. He was made Cardinal-Priest of Ss. Silvestro e Martino ai Monti by John XXIII in December 1958.

His work during his time in the Catholic Church made him the likely successor of John XXIII. After he was elected, he continued the Second Vatican Council. He actively got involved in interpreting and implementing its directives.

Paul VI ushered in unprecedented reforms that had positive effects on people from all walks of life.

As pope, Paul VI oversaw much of the Second Vatican Council, which had been opened by Pope St. John XXIII, and in 1969 promulgated a new Roman Missal. He died in 1978, and was beatified by Pope Francis Oct. 19, 2014.

Apart from his role in the council, Paul VI is most widely known for his landmark encyclical Humanae Vitae, which was published in 1968 and reaffirmed the Church’s teaching against contraception in wake of the sexual revolution. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the encyclical.

“Pope Saint Paul VI wrote: ‘It is indeed in the midst of their distress that our fellow men need to know joy, to hear its song,’” Pope Francis said.

“Today Jesus invites us to return to the source of joy, which is the encounter with him, the courageous choice to risk everything to follow him, the satisfaction of leaving something behind in order to embrace his way. The saints have travelled this path,” he continued.

The pope encouraged Catholics to imitate the saints’ detachment, “Is Jesus enough for us or do we look for many worldly securities?”

“Let us ask for the grace always to leave things behind for love of the Lord: to leave behind wealth, the yearning for status and power, structures that are no longer adequate for proclaiming the Gospel, those weights that slow down our mission, the strings that tie us to the world,” he said.

“Without a leap forward in love, our life and our Church become sick from complacency and self-indulgence,” he continued.

“The problem is on our part: our having too much, our wanting too much suffocates our hearts and makes us incapable of loving,” the pope said.

At the Sunday Angelus following the Mass, Pope Francis greeted Queen Sofia of Spain and the presidents of Chile, El Salvador, Panama, and Italy, who attended the canonization Mass.

The canonizations took place midway through the 2018 Synod of Bishops on the topic of young people, the faith and vocational discernment from Oct. 3-28.

Francis also officially recognized Oscar Romero (see the Nov. 11 issue of the SKC) Vincent Romano, Francesco Spinelli, Nunzio Sulprizio, Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa, and Maria Katharina Kasper as saints at the Mass.