Healing the hurt

Priest-author of new book on clerical sexual abuse believes ‘progress’ on the issue will come through meditating on Christ’s wounds

By FATHER TIM S. HICKEY
Special to the Catholic

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Celebrating saints

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We cannot hope to live a good life ... without the love of our neighbor

There are many things wrong with our world. There are many things wrong with our Church. Who could begin to number, who could begin to fix, all these things ... these so many things ... that are just not right? That, I do not know. This, I do know: we cannot hope to live a good life, in a family or in a society, without love of the one who is next to us, without love of the neighbor. It is hard to remember that in these days, when we seem to do nothing but fight with one another.

We cannot think too often about the “glory” of our neighbor: about where he is going, and about how we are to help him get there. The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor’s glory should be laid on my back, C.S. Lewis once said. ‘All day long, to some degree or the other, we are meant to be helping others to that glory, the end for which they were made. There are no ordinary people, he said. ‘You never talk to a mere woman, or to a mere man. Seeds of immortality are deep inside each one of them. Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbor, “he” is holiness in almost the same way, for in him also Christ were latitatis ... the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden. Might starting here begin ... no more than that ... begin to fix all that is wrong with us?

Rosary Prayer Garden dedicated in Marienthal

On Sunday Oct. 7, parishioners at St. Mary’s Church in Marienthal dedicated a new Rosary Prayer Garden. The project was spearheaded by parishioners Sherry Graff and Gail Hunt. More than $10,000 was raised to lay a concrete path in the form of a rosary, paint the markers designating the beads and install a statue of the Blessed Mother. The Knights of Columbus provided an honor guard for the dedication ceremony presided over by Father Tim S. Hickey, pastor.

Another Way

Fund established to aid in the search for Father Reif

A fund has been established for Father Marvin Reif by his brother and sister, Duane A. Reif and Karen Winkelman (guardians/conservators). Father Reif, now 55, walked away from Protection Valley Manor in Protection, Kan. on April 3, 2017 and has never been found. He suffers from depression and anxiety.

The fund will be used to hire a professional private investigator to help in the search for Father Reif, possibly offer a reward for information leading to locating him, as well as any expenses incurred in the search. There will be no financial gain by his family.

Contributions may be made to the Father Marvin Reif Fund at any First Kansas Bank location in Hoisington, Great Bend, Claflin, or Hays.

‘Spirited Ladies’ welcomes new members

The “Spirited Ladies” prayer group for older Catholic women in the Diocese of Dodge City, welcomes new members to join in the weekly meetings.

The prayer group meets on Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City. (Meetings are not held during the summer months or on feast days of the Catholic Church.)

All older Catholic women in the Diocese of Dodge City are invited to join the prayer group. Meetings are held in the church office area. Members of the prayer group range in age from their forties to their eighties, and new members are welcome.

Pamphlets containing the Readings and the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday of each week are studied at home, and then are discussed by members of the prayer group during every meeting.

Participants of the study group pray together for special needs of their families and friends and for the needs of the Church, the nation, and the entire world. Laughter and joy – and sometimes sorrow – are shared at each meeting.

There is no charge to join the prayer group, and only a small fee is charged for the study pamphlets used each week. Participants of the prayer group enter the cathedral through the door near the church gift shop. Parking in front of that entrance is available. Charlene Scott Myers is facilitator of the group.

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, cbefort@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.ddcatholic.org/safe-environment.

High School retreat forged!

Registration deadline Nov. 14

Actually, that headline might not be quite accurate. The upcoming High School retreat wasn’t forged, it’s called “Forged”, Forged in God Matter”, and “Challenges Facing Catholic Living”.

Check-in begins at Saint Anthony Church on Saturday Nov. 17 from 10-10:30 am, and the retreat concludes Sunday at 3 p.m. Meals will be provided. Registration deadline is Wednesday November 14. Limited number of registrations available. Check www.dcyouth.org/forged for more information.

JESUS CALLED: HE SAYS TO SAY HI.
Jesus called. He says to say hi.

Going until it came to time for the test and Renfrow in college who was very easy who challenged you the most, like Dr. finished their minute math in under a in third grade who would let anyone who favorite was your first teacher, like Mrs. might pop into your head. Maybe your favorite teacher? Who is, or who was, the role of the priest as a teacher. Munus docendi

The joy of preaching—and teaching—the Good News

In the last issue of the Southwest Kansas Catholic, Father Juan Salas wrote about the Munus Santificandi, how the priest fulfills the role of Christ the Sanctifier for the people of God.

In this issue, I have the pleasure to write about the Munus docendi, which means the role of the priest as a teacher.

To begin, I have a question for all of you reading this article: Who is, or who was, your favorite teacher?

Now, if you are like me, several teachers might pop into your head. Maybe your favorite was your first teacher, like Mrs. Ruegan, my kindergarten teacher who was so sweet and kind on our first day of school. Or perhaps it was a teacher who gave you special privileges like Mrs. Brown in third grade who would let anyone who finished their minute math in under a minute play a game.

Perhaps your favorite was the teacher who challenged you the most, like Dr. Renfrow in college who was very easy going until it came time for the test and you had to be exact in your answers. Or perhaps it was the teacher that you could convince to change his or her mind, like Dr. Ruda, whom we talked into letting us out of class to go fishing!

Regardless of who your favorite teacher is or was, how many of you thought of a priest? Do we even think about priests as teachers? A saint who can help us understand what it means for a priest to be a teacher is St. Thomas Aquinas. Aquinas is known for many things. He is brilliant in his encyclopedic knowledge of the faith, his extensive works, and writings both academic and spiritual, and many other contributions to the Faith. However, two aspects of his teaching’s that have left a lasting impression on me are “Clarificare est Glorificare” (to clarify is to glorify) and how serious he took any objections from his critics.

The first principle of “clarifying to glorify” is a crucial aspect of every teacher. Aquinas often says that you cannot love what you do not know. If we are honest, often we find ourselves saying that we love God, but we do not really take the time to get to know Him, or perhaps we know Him in a distorted way.

Aquinas and others in the tradition say that we have an innate desire for God, however that desire needs to be purified understood and steered in the right direction. This clarification is what we all need as we grow in the knowledge of self and knowledge of God. We need this clarification so that we can love God wholeheartedly.

The second aspect is the seriousness in which Aquinas took all objections. Aquinas was so attentive to objections that often after listening to his objectors he would articulate their arguments in a more precise and even better presentation than they did initially. A good teacher hears and understands what the difficulty is, and having seen the struggle from the side of the students, begins the process of leading and guiding the student to the truth.

A priest as a teacher has the honorable task of leading and guiding everyone he meets to the Truth, not just some idea or theory, but an encounter with Christ the Truth incarnate.

On our best days that is what we priests strive for in our homilies, in our counsel, in our visits to the sick, and at the celebration of the Mass. We try and clarify who Christ is to lead you, the faithful, to love the Truth with all your hearts. This is a noble task, one that often times we fail at, and at other times have success.

However, to teach is an essential aspect of what the priest was ordained for in his calling: to teach and preach the good news—the Truth—to the whole world.

So, pray for your priests, pray that they would be men of study, men of zeal, and pray that they might never let the truth of love fade in their lives as they share it with you their flocks.

Munus Docendi

Father Jacob Schneider

Dear Parishioners:

My Dear Parishioners:

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The U.S. bishops have joined together in a commitment of prayer and reparation leading up to the bishops’ general assembly, where we will be making critical decisions in response to the clergy sexual abuse crisis. With my brother bishops across the nation, I have dedicated myself to

My Dear Parishioners:

Hey, Bishop! Are you kidding me? Pray always?

(When liturgical reference is not clear)

- to the bishops' general assembly, where we pray, and he spent the night in prayer

BETTER – phone when we can hear

- to the tragedy of clergy sexual abuse in the Church.

Thank you for your prayers. Please be assured of my prayers for you, as well. “Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid’” (Matthew 14:27). Let us trust in our Lord, who loves us more than we can ask or imagine.

+ Bishop John

Help write book on local priesthood

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@dcdioocese.org.

If you email, be sure and follow up with a phone call to Dave to ensure receipt: 620-227-1519.

Answering the Call
By Bishop John

Hey, Bishop! Are you kidding me? Pray always?

Jesus taught his followers “about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary” (Luke 18:1). What does this mean?

How can I pray always? This I suppose this “praying always” – sometimes with his disciples or apostles, sometimes alone: “In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God” (Luke 6:12). Our Savior often spoke to the Heavenly Father, and always listened to His response.

In one of my confirmation homilies, I related the example of prayer to our human experience of communicating with our best friend. Do we just want to communicate once per month? Weekly? Daily? Best – more often. Do we want to write a letter, or text? Better – phone when we can hear emotion? Best – in person when we can also see expressions.

Do we just do all the talking, or do we listen, truly listen? If we want to communicate often this way with our best friend, so to do we want to pray often to our loving Heavenly Father. This praying often, always, takes an awareness of God’s presence.

MercyMe sings in Here with Me:

“You’re everywhere I go / I am not alone / You call me as Your own / To know You and be known.” Yes, God is with you, always, everywhere, loving you more than you can ask or imagine. And we want to receive His love. And we want to return this love. We want to always have our Gentle Jesus, who has an extraordinary plan for you, a plan for you guys to be priests, or to be husbands and dads.

Let us pray always – as we get up in the morning, as we go to work or school, as we do our daily tasks, as we go to bed at night. Holy Mass, receiving the Eucharist, celebrating the sacrament of confession, vocal prayers, mental prayers, a “thank you, Jesus,” an awareness of God’s awesome creation, a smile to a family member, a good word to a stranger, a kind act to someone in need, or just rest in God’s loving embrace. All these are ways We relate to our Compassionate Lord, ways we show our love to Him, to each other, to ourselves. Pray always. Trust that God is calling you. Listen with your heart to His response.

+ Bishop John
The opossums shall inherit the earth

As I write this, I’m in Dodge City but my heart is in Colorado. My dad is seriously ill with pneumonia. That’s tough for anyone, but at 94…

So, each day I’m on pins and needles, my stomach in knots, my mind in a constant state of feeling like it’s being put through a Playdough Fun Factory. Panic is like an angry, growling dog just on the other side of a rickety wooden fence.

My two cats are there, and together with their families are filling Mom and Dad’s little two-room assisted living apartment. The nurses expect him to improve. I will be there soon as I can — a week or so from now — so here I sit, hoping in an anxious gamble not to get any bad news before I go.

Hmmmm. I just read the above, and it’s pretty depressing. Dad won’t like that at all. I’d better liven things up a bit.

I’ll share with you what I shared with Dad on the phone last night.

So, two nights ago, I peeped out the back window onto our porch as I do every night before locking up. And as always, there was Justin, eating out of the cat-food dish. Justin is young, as is Irene, his sister. A third is older; her name is May. Usually it’s one of them, two at the most, eating the cat food. I assume May is their mother, although I can’t be sure. Is it rude to ask? Seems like it should be.

Did I mention they’re opossums? I probably should have mentioned that first.

The three cats that live on our back porch usually stay hidden away in their little back-porch houses when the opossum family comes to call. But the other night something strange occurred.

I looked out and there was Justin, eating the food. A few inches away, slurping from the large water bowl, was Francis the cat! And a few inches in the other direction, Mr. Green the cat (first name “Smoky!”) was lounging on the porch, taking in the night sky, not a concern in the world! One big happy family! (Spooky the cat stayed in his home. Spooky gets spooked easily, hence his name. And he’s kind of spooky-looking too, so it works on several levels.)

I had no idea that opossums and cats could coexist. It occurred to me for a moment that this might be a sign of the apocalypse, and that cats and opossums and other meek creatures were in a current state of inheriting the earth, where they would all get along, giving one another neck scratches, eating each other’s kibbles, and telling one another that “your fur looks really well groomed!”

I don’t want to sound harsh, but we humans are dingy-headed, bungle-brains who couldn’t get along if God came right down from Heaven and said to us, “Hey! Get along for a change!”

Oh, wait. He did. Yet, here were two cats happily allowing a friendly opossum to eat of their Meow Mix. It’s like the animal world version of the Good Samaritan, if you will. Even if you won’t, it’s like the animal world version of the Good Samaritan. Years ago, our friendly Lab Sarah loved to chase rabbits and cats. One day, a neighbor came by with her cat trotting behind.

Sarah saw the cat. The cat saw Sarah. Sarah tensed up, her muscles rigid with muscle juice, her eyes focused like phasers set on “stun.”

The cat yawned and licked her paw. Sarah sprung! In a few giant leaps she was on the cat – or at least nose-to-nose. The cat looked at Sarah. Sarah looked at the cat. The cat licked her other paw. Sarah looked puzzled.

“So, uh, you’re like, not running from me,” Sarah said awkwardly.

“Nope,” the cat said.

More awkward silence. Then Sarah said, “So, you want to, you know, hang out?”

The cat looked up. “Yeah, sure.”

The difference between us humans and the animal world is that we humans don’t act on instinct; we have a conscience that allows us to choose the correct action. That’s why it’s so hard to understand why we so often make choices in opposition to Christ’s teaching. As St. Paul states in his letter to the Romans, “If you were a cat, would you allow an opossum to eat from your plate?” (I paraphrase.)

We talk about the issues, we hear others talk about them, shout about them. But how many times is the issue of love brought up? It’s the greatest commandment — greater than not killing, not lying. Because with love, it’s all implied.

Love voids lies. It dismisses fear. It rejects bigotry. Love supports life. Which is why we can’t talk about love while supporting some of the words being shouted these days.

Fear and hate and bigotry, these are what Christ came to defeat. It’s time for us to talk about love.

By Dave Myers

Commentary

The hope for all things

S

omeone once said, “You don’t have to be Jewish to be Jewish, but it helps.” You can be of the Jewish faith and not of the Jewish race. Conversely, you can be of the Jewish race, and not Jewish by faith. At the time I learned this, I wasn’t even aware that there was a Jewish race. I thought it was a faith practice, and that’s all.

As a young child, my best friend once asked me if Jesus was Jewish. I was incredulous! “Of course not! He was Jesus!” If he were Jewish, what would that mean that Jesus didn’t believe in himself? Or something along those lines.

I know putting down the Jews, I just couldn’t formulate in my young mind the notion that the founder of the Christian faith was Jewish.

Of course, I was wrong. Jesus was Jewish. He was of the Jewish race. He was called “rabbi” by his followers.

I never understood why some people disliked Jews. As a youth, I learned that the anti-Semitic’s hatred stemmed, in part, from the role of the Jewish authorities in condemning Christ to death.

Even as a boy, this didn’t make sense to me.

And I thank my Catholic Church for that. During the Easter season, we read the Passion in Mass, more often than not, with the congregation taking on the role of the gathered crowd, shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” This was a tremendous lesson that has stayed with me.

Jesus died for our sins. He died because of our sins. Did he die because any one person or one group of people condemned him to hang on the cross. He died for us and because of us. All of us.

While on retreat as a youth, we wrote our sins down on a piece of paper, folded the paper, and nailed it to a large wooden cross. We are the ones who put the nails in his cross, I learned from that lesson.

And even so, Jesus died willingly, his love for us never diminishing, even as each nail was pounded into his flesh. I learned that we continue to nail him to the cross every day through the conscious act of sin.

The Jews killed Jesus? Nope. We all did. In fact, the Second Vatican Council exonerated the Jews as killers of Jesus. Not that they needed it. And not that it did any good. It didn’t lessen anti-Semitism.

As the newest reporter for the Denver Catholic Register, I really did receive a call from a reader who told me, “I didn’t think the Catholic paper would hire a Jew boy.” It had never occurred to me that my name is a Jewish name.

The irony is that anti-Semitism is anti-Christian. Hatred for Jews is hatred for Christ. And the same bigotry which stems from anti-Semitism is also anti-Christian. Being anti-Mexican (or Guatemalan, El Salvadoran, Honduran, Nicaraguan) is to be anti-Christian, because Christ is a Mexican, Guatemalan, Salvadoran ....

As of late, the seeds of bigotry have been nurtured, due in part to the muted reaction to hate by those at the highest levels of leadership. The lack of forceful condemnation gives permission to the weak of mind to act on their fears and prejudices exponentially.

The hundreds of immigrants who are traveling towards our southern border seeking asylum and protection from a violent homeland are at the receiving end of a growing level of hatred, thanks to unwarranted fear.

One man’s unchecked hate and fear left 11 innocent Jewish worshipers dead Oct. 27, and if that same hate and fear continues to go unchecked, we will soon find ourselves writing about another sad chapter in the history of the United States.

During World War II, that fear led to the turning away of a ship load of Jews during WWII; it led to centuries of lawful bigotry against African Americans; and much more recently, it led to the despicable separation of parents from hundreds of their crying children at the border.

Let’s pray that we, as a country can fully, and without hypocrisy, embrace Christ’s real pro-life admonition, one that demands we love every human being on this planet as much as we do the person we see when we look in the mirror.

If we can’t do this one simple thing, do we dare call ourselves followers of Christ?

— Dave Myers

By Dave Myers

Editor

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The Southwest Kansas Catholic
P.O. Box 137, Dodge City, KS 67801
Phone: (620) 227-1519
Facsimile: (620) 227-1545
email: skrgester@dcdiocese.org
website: dcdiocese.org/ swkscatholic

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Inherit the Mirth

By Cuyler Black

IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR MOSES TO DECIDE WHAT TO CALL THE FIRST BOOK OF THE BIBLE.

By Dave Myers

IT'S A SHOARTIME, READY OR NOT, HERE COMES THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA, WHERE KIDS BUY IT'S A SHORT"TIME, READY OR NOT, HERE COMES THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA, WHERE KIDS BUY IT'S A SHORT"TIME, READY OR NOT, HERE COMES THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA, WHERE KIDS BUY IT'S A SHORT"TIME, READY OR NOT, HERE COMES THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA, WHERE KIDS BUY
The joy of serving good causes bigger than ourselves

By Sister Amy McFrederick, OP
Dominican Sisters of Peace

On Aug. 30, I had a flashback. I saw myself walking into the Dominican Motherhouse in Great Bend, with eagerness and not just a little trepidation, to begin my journey into vowed religious life as an Aspirant—about to join 23 others entering the same day. That was 62 years ago to the day, and nine of these 24 women continue living into the journey today as Dominican Sisters of Peace.

In those days, we began as Aspirants for about three-four months, then graduated to Postulants for about six months before becoming Novices for two years, Temporary Professed for six years, then Perpetual Profession until death. At the close of our initial two-year formation process (focused more on prayer, study, and community), vowed life ushered us into living on mission, using our gifts in ministries to which each was called/sent. Anniversaries, as well as transitions, tend to stir up significant memories, feelings, life reviews. Looking back over the 62 ensuing years, I felt gratitude fill my heart. Recalling how God has led our community (and me) to ways and places to serve the greater good—far beyond what I could ask or imagine—and to leave behind the narrow confines of our limited self-concepts, all I could say was thank you to God and to my Dominican Community! My life has been so blessed! So that same day when I came across Senator John McCain’s final statement in which he expressed his thanks to his “fellow Americans, and especially his fellow Arizonans” whom he gratefully served for 60 years, I resonated with his feeling that he was the luckiest man on Earth.Attributing his satisfaction to his loving family and his beloved America, he added: “To be connected to America’s causes — liberty, equal justice, respect for the dignity of all people — brings happiness more sublime than life’s fleeting pleasures. Our identities and sense of worth are not circumscribed but enlarged by serving good causes bigger than ourselves.”

— Sen. John McCain 1936-2018

New people for this new moment

By Archbishop José H. Gómez
Archbishop of Los Angeles

For these past eight years, God has been blessing the family of God here in Los Angeles with growing numbers of men who are answering the call of Jesus to follow and serve him as his priests. Thanks be to God! In this society, where so much of life is “programmed” and where there are so many mindsets and messages that promise happiness but cannot deliver it, it is beautiful to see people, especially our young people, looking for a life that is true and real.

All around I see signs of a new openness to God and to the values that make for human transcendence. There is a new resistance to the “false ceiling” imposed by a society that seeks to close itself off from God. People seem no longer willing to settle for the substitutes offered by a consumer way of life.

The priests of this new millennium are a part of this new movement toward God and an authentic humanity.

As we see with the priests we have been ordaining here in Los Angeles, and an authentic humanity.

and grow in us.

and the simple and beautiful truth of our existence begins to take root through and the voice of God who calls each one of us again – like water dripping on the stones in succession – first God’s voice calling, “Let there be!” God speaks into being in succession – first light, and then heaven and earth; then the sun, the moon and the stars; and then all the living creatures in the waters and in the sky and on land. Finally, God says, “Let us make human beings in our own image, after our likeness.”

This is the story of your creation. You are here, you exist and have being, because God wants you here. When you were conceived in your mother’s womb, it was because God said, “Let there be you.” He knew your name, even before your parents were born.

This is the amazing reality that we need to appreciate. It is even more urgent now in this time where God is being made to disappear and the human being is on the verge of being forgotten, too — where more and more people are treated as objects that can be replaced or tools to be used to further the ambitions of others.

Our new priests know they are being ordained to evangelize in these troubled times.

Our new priests are men who know that God is alive, our maker and our redeemer, and that he has sent his Son Jesus Christ to make us right with God, to reconcile us and show us the truth of our lives and to gather us into one family to serve and live as a new humanity.

And they have a deep desire and passion to get started and to proclaim this good news to the people of our time.

Pray for me this week, and I will be praying for you. And let us pray for our new priests. May they always seek to grow in their relationship with Jesus and their desire to call others to that encounter with Him.

And let us ask our Blessed Mother Mary to intercede for us and help us to be a family of God that continues to bring more men and women to hear the calling of God to the priesthood and the consecrated life.
Para orar con frecuencia, Dios está contigo, siempre, en todo lugar, amándote más de lo que puedes pedir o imaginarte. Y nosotros queremos saber cuándo celebraste la Navidad, la Pascua, Pentecostés y otras joyas de la presencia de Dios. La Navidad y la Pascua hablan del nacimiento y la resurrección de nuestro Redentor, Jesús, para poder bendecirnos de nuevo. La Pentecostés es la celebración del Espíritu Santo, que nos llena de la gracia de Dios, y la celebración de la Iglesia, que es el cuerpo de Cristo en la tierra. Las celebraciones de la Iglesia son momentos de reunión, de fraternidad, de conocimiento de la imponente creación de Dios, una sonrisa de su presencia. La Iglesia es un lugar donde podemos encontrar a Cristo y a sus discípulos, y donde podemos escuchar su palabra, que es su mensaje de amor y salvación.

La Iglesia es un lugar donde podemos buscar la orientación y el apoyo que necesitamos en nuestra vida diaria. En ella, podemos encontrar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas de la fe, que nos pueden ayudar a crecer como personas y como cristianos. En la Iglesia, podemos escuchar la palabra de Dios y participar en la Eucaristía, que es la celebración del amor de Dios por nosotros. En la Eucaristía, podemos recibir la transformación de nuestros corazones y de nuestras vidas, y ser bendecidos por la presencia de Cristo en nosotros. La Iglesia es un lugar donde podemos celebrar la fe de los demás, y donde podemos ser celebrados por nuestra fe. En la Iglesia, podemos encontrar a Cristo y a sus discípulos, que nos invitan a ser testigos de él en el mundo.

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WHY?

My journey to enter seminary is a long and complex one. I first felt called when I was a senior in high school. I didn’t feel ready to enter at that point, so I went to college first. I graduated from Roanoke College in 2013 with a degree in history. Then I worked as a newspaper reporter for a weekly newspaper near where I attended college. During a lot of that time, I was unsure why God was calling me to be a priest. Eventually, I stopped resisting God and decided to join seminary. Through my journey in seminary, God has taught me so much about myself and revealed gifts that I never knew I had. I also saw my gifts in new ways. I encourage all single men, no matter their age or status in life, to pray about how God wants to use their gifts. Jesus will do amazing things with your life if you trust Him. One other thing I will say is that discernment, for some men, takes time. I thought about seminary off and on while I was in high school, college, and while working. God was with us where we are. You can always say “Yes” to God, and he will be ready to help you.

By John Stang

WHY?

Why would a man choose to continue to call himself Catholic? Why would a man choose to raise his family in the Church? Why would a man choose to go to the seminary? Men of the diocese, my brothers, this is what I would say to you if I knew you: Our Lord is calling you to help save His Church, just like he has called people throughout history to do the same. Look at the news. Look at the indifference that abounds in our parishes. Look at the evil done by members of the clergy, look at the slow removal of Christ from our daily lives. Look at all of these things, and know that you are being called by Christ to help save His Church. This is not an easy job. This is not a job for men who aren’t willing to sacrifice. This is not a job for men with divided loyalties. This is not a job for men who are afraid of looking like fools in the eyes of the world. This job will require you to give up your cross, and to eventually die on it, because that’s the only way any real salvation has ever happened.

This is asking too much for many people. It always has been and always will be. To give one’s life for something is the greatest sacrifice one can make, and that is the only thing Our Lord asks us to give him. Don’t be afraid of what Christ is calling you to do. Don’t be afraid to give it all away. Don’t be afraid to give up your own life, and to receive Christ’s life in return.

The Church needs holy fathers, the Church needs holy priests, the Church needs holy men. As the men of the Church, you are the ones to fill those roles. Don’t settle for less. Don’t settle for the comforts the world tries to offer you. You are called to be countercultural and to live a life that baffles the unbelieving world. You are called to live for Christ.

By Eric Frieb

WHY?

Why did you choose to become a priest, in the person of Christ.

By becoming a priest, I become a father—not how your father and their ancestors were fathers—but I am your father in persona Christi, in the person of Christ.

By Austin Habash

“Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life....”

WHY... BECAUSE MARY SAID YES.

By Tyler Saucedo

WHY?

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

-Matthew 9:37

Whenever I am asked why I am a seminarian, studying to be a priest, it is usually tied to those things a Catholic priest must abstain from. “Don’t you want to have a wife and kids? Won’t you miss the conjugal act with your wife?” These are by far the most asked questions I receive, especially among teenage Catholics and those outside the Church. I would reply, in the spirit of the formation I have received in seminary, that the priesthood is not so much defined by what is abstained from, but what is gained. By abstaining from choosing a wife and begettering children, I instead devote myself body and soul to the Church in my entirety. In place of becoming a father, I instead devote myself body and soul to the Church in my entirety. In place of becoming a father, I become a spiritual father to my parish and indeed to the Church as a whole, me through the people of God. Instead of begettering and generating life as a father does so with his wife, I will instead, through the sacraments and the teachings of the Church, bring about that eternal life to those who believe.

Through the sacraments, I am in persona Christi, in the person of Christ. By becoming a priest, as God the Father loves and raises you. It is this intimacy with the Church and with Christ Himself that I pursue, for what more can one ask than to hold Christ in his own hands every single day at the altar, and in turn share that spiritual gift and sacrifice with the world?

-By Eric Frieb

“And Jesus came to them and spoke unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

-Matthew 28:18-20

By Tyler Saucedo

The seminarians for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City were posed a one-word question: Why? Why did you choose to answer “yes” to God’s call to discern the priesthood? Why give your entire life to serving God and God’s people? Some answers reflected their journey, others their vocation amid troubled times in the Church.
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.

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.

Donating to the ministries of the Church through Charitable IRA rollovers

By MARK ROTH
Director of Development

If you are age 70.5 or older, you can make direct contributions—up to $100,000 annually—from your IRA to qualified charitable organizations without owing any income tax on the distributions. This break may be especially beneficial now because of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) changes that affect who can benefit from the itemized deduction for charitable donations.

COUNTS TOWARD YOUR RMD

A charitable IRA rollover can be used to satisfy required minimum distributions (RMDs). You must begin to take annual RMDs from your traditional IRAs in the year you reach age 70.5. If you don’t comply, you can owe a penalty equal to 50 percent of the amount you should have withdrawn but didn’t. (Deferral is allowed for the initial year, but you’ll have to take two RMDs the next year.)

So, if you don’t need the RMD for your living expenses, a charitable IRA rollover can be a great way to comply with the RMD requirement without triggering the tax liability that would occur if the RMD were paid to you.

DOESN’T REQUIRE ITEMIZING

You might be able to achieve a similar tax result from taking the RMD and then contributing that amount to charity. But it’s more complex because you must report the RMD as income and then take an itemized deduction for the donation.

And, with the TCJA’s near doubling of the standard deduction, fewer taxpayers will benefit from itemizing. Itemizing saves tax only when itemized deductions exceed the standard deduction. For 2018, the standard deduction is $12,000 for singles, $18,000 for heads of households, and $24,000 for married couples filing jointly.

DOESN’T HAVE OTHER DEDUCTION DOWNSIDES

Even if you have enough other itemized deductions to exceed your standard deduction, taking your RMD and contributing that amount to charity has two more possible downsides.

First, the reported RMD income might increase your income to the point that you’re pushed into a higher tax bracket, certain additional taxes are triggered and/or the benefits of certain tax breaks are reduced or eliminated. It could even cause Social Security payments to become taxable or increase income-based Medicare premiums and prescription drug charges.

Second, if your donation would equal a large portion of your income for the year, your deduction might be reduced due to the percentage-of-income limit. You generally can’t deduct cash donations that exceed 60 percent of your adjusted gross income for the year. (The TCJA raised this limit from 50 percent, but if the cash donation is to a private non-operating foundation, the limit is only 30 percent.) You can carry forward the excess up to five years, but if you make large donations every year, that won’t help you.

A charitable IRA rollover avoids these potential negative tax consequences.

For more information contact: Mark Roth, Development Director, at 620-227-1535 or email at mroth@dcdiocese.org.

A public plea for the right to life

Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish in Larned, as well as pastor, Father Bernard Felix, held a Public Square Rosary Oct. 13 in a prayer for the unborn, and for all human life.

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

Decisions made in the past may no longer be what’s best for the future. To help keep everything up to date, Edward Jones offers a complimentary financial review.

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

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, call or visit today.

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Financial Advisor
210 E Frontview Suite B
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-225-0651

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC
Parents provide perspective of a vocation in the family

‘...I am so happy he had the strength to answer God’s call’

Kathy and Bob Schneider with their son, Father Jacob Schneider.

Photo by Rheta Schmeidler

Editor’s Note: The Southwest Kansas Catholic wanted to hear from the parents of a “newly-ordained” priest. The following questions were posed to the parents of Father Jacob Schneider. Bob and Mary (Gerstenkorn) Schneider are members of St. Ann’s Parish in Olmitz. Bob is a mechanic and Mary, a nurse. They raised six children, including a priest.

Southwest Kansas Catholic: Just over a year ago, you witnessed your son’s ordination to the priesthood. Can you share how you feel on this day?

Bob Schneider: Humbled. Humbled for the fact that me, a lowly servant, was allowed to share in the raising of a priest.

Kathy Schneider: It is so hard to put into words. When our other children got married, I never cried, because each wedding was so right! I smiled a lot and knew each one had chosen the one God wanted them to spend the rest of their life with. When Jacob was ordained, I smiled a lot, too, but I also cried, ... for joy and I was so humbled.

SKC: Family life can help in nurturing vocations. Was there anything in particular that either of you did to encourage Jacob’s vocation?

Bob: I encouraged them to participate in parish and diocesan events, to help foster their vocations, whatever their vocation was to be. I just wanted our children’s vocation to be what God wanted them to be.

Kathy: Our families had a very large part in this. Our parents, our grandparents, by their example of how they attended church, participated in activities, fundraising events, helping build churches. The history of our families, and the Religious from several families, set an example of how our children should follow God’s call. I told all of our children to find something they love to do and figure out how to make money at it legally. I also told them, they need to follow where God leads them. I wanted to be a teacher so I could have my summers off, and God told me to be a nurse. I told them life goes better when you follow where God leads you. It’s not always easy, it’s just better.

SKC: Can you recall an instance when Jacob was growing up when you came to understand that he had a vocation to the priesthood?

Kathy: Four of our six children told us they were going to be priests when they were young. Mandy, Adam, Isaac, and Jacob. Mandy said she was going to be the first female priest. When we told Ben, Jacob asked if he could name him since he was never going to have children because he was going to be a priest. Jacob also told me he was going to be the first pope from the United States. I never stifled any of them, although I told Mandy it would be hard for her to do (she does have a degree in theology and has been a youth minister at several colleges). I figured Jacob would find girls like his older brothers. My maternal grandmother (Anna Wirtz) prayed that one of her six sons would be a priest, and none were. God answers prayers in his time. Father Ted Stoecklein is her first priest, and Jacob is her second priest.

Bob: Jacob had relatives who were religious vocations and good examples. Father Joseph Bahr and Father Paul Schreiber were second or third cousins, and there are all of the Bahr sisters who entered religious life too.

SKC: Were you ever apprehensive about your son entering the seminary and studying for the priesthood?

Bob: No, never. When we dropped Jacob off at the seminary and met these ... people who were to guide him on his way, they were just wonderful! How could you not ask for your child to choose a more noble vocation? Not taking away from what my other children have done, it’s just different.

Kathy: Yes, I was apprehensive. Jacob was the only one of our children who said, “When I have children I’m gonna’...” None of our other children talked about having children when they were young. I reminded Jacob of that when he was in the seminary and he said, “Mom, I get to baptize all the babies in my parish! I’ll be fine.” It was also difficult to give up the thought of losing his girlfriend as a future daughter-in-law. I loved her. I still do. She will always be a part of our family ... just not like I thought she would be. The more I watched Jacob as he went to the seminary, the more I realized this is where he needs to be. I am so happy he had the strength to answer God’s call. I wish more people did.

SKC: What would you say to other parents who may have concerns for their children answering the call to religious life?

Bob: Don’t have concerns. They are very well taken care of.

Kathy: Life is better when children follow the vocation God has chosen for them, no matter what it may be. Going to the seminary is a time for discernment. If they discern not to be a priest, this is what God wanted them to do. A friend of my brother’s visited with me this summer and he’s been happily married for years. He told me when he was younger he thought he was supposed to be a priest. He thinks about it a lot. I believe he should have gone to the seminary just to make sure. My nephew went to the seminary for a year and realized he wasn’t called to be a priest. He’s happy in the vocation he was chosen to do, has a family, and is doing well. He always said he would never have been like my brother’s friend, wondering if he was supposed to be a priest. If men and women feel they are called to religious life, they should pursue it. If they discern it’s not their call, they at least figured out how to hear God’s voice. They will be able to listen throughout their life and know when it’s God speaking. It doesn’t mean God doesn’t want them. He just wants them to do another vocation.

SKC: How does it feel to have a priest in the family?

Bob: I have to behave myself. Kathy tells me all the time, “Your son’s a priest!”

Kathy: I had a paternal great uncle (Msgr. Joseph Gerstenkorn) who was a priest, so a priest in the family isn’t something new. What is new is that as a parent of a priest, it is a humbling experience, knowing that God has chosen our son to stand in the place of Christ to assist His people in going to heaven. When you have a son-in-law or daughter-in-law, you can suggest ideas. Who am I to give God ideas or suggest ideas to the bishop?

Coming Soon in Time for Christmas!

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 140-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 National Register of Historic Places

Readers will be amazed at the discoveries.

Release Date to be Announced Soon!
the Church teaches us to hope for salvation for unbaptized children, whether they died through miscarriage, abortion, or another reason. She offers comfort for grieving parents and the support they need to entrust their children to God’s loving care and to deepen their relationship with the Father of Mercies.

The Catechism says “As regards children who have died without Baptism, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them. Indeed the great mercy of God desires that all [people] should be saved, and Jesus tenderness toward children caused him to say: ‘let the little children come to me, do not hinder them,’ allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without Baptism” (CCC 1261). For those who may have been involved in an abortion, November can be particularly heartbreaking. Mothers and fathers may be reminded of their children’s deaths and find it difficult to forgive themselves. Some parents grieve their losses and wonder if their unbaptized children are in heaven.

The following is from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Death is a difficult topic. Yet seeing it through the eyes of faith opens our hearts to the hope that it marks the entrance into the fullness of eternal life. Life. The Church celebrates All Souls’ Day each Nov. 2 to remind us of the reality of heaven and to remember the dead. We pray for our departed loved ones throughout the month, that we might assist in their purification and help facilitate their passage into the fullness of eternal life.

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Hope and help for those who have had an abortion

MARY LOUISE HULLANDON, 96, a native of Hoisington, died Oct. 14, 2018. She married Max B. Huddleston, who preceded her in death. She is survived by her children, Sharon Scott, Mike Huddleston, Jay Huddleston, Donna Huddleston, Judi Huddleston and Shelli Huddleston; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other family and a host of friends. Father Mike Helms presided.

VELDA REA OSBORNE, 80, of St. John the Apostle Parish in St. John, died Oct. 24, 2018. She had served as a child care provider for countless children. She was a member of the Altar Society and Respite Foster Care Provider. On Sept. 10, 1955 she married Gillmore John Osborne; he preceded her in death in 1999. Survivors include a son, Michael; three daughters, Johnna Stanford, Vicky Brownrigg, and Vicky Keesling; three brothers, Darwyn Debono; 18 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; daughters-in-law, Donna Huddleston, Judi Huddleston and Shelli Huddleston; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other family and a host of friends. Father Mike Helms presided.

MARY JO TASSET, 68, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Oct. 24, 2018. Mary Jo was born in Dodge City and raised on the family farm in Ford County. On May 1, 1971 she married Duane Tasset. Mary Jo is survived by her husband of 47 years; three daughters, Jodi Lix, Jill Howe, and Julie Konecny; nine grandchildren; four sisters, Toni Ann Trebilcock, Vicki Brownrigg, Denise Riegel and Peggy Taylor; three brothers, John Schinstock, Jack Schinstock, and Kennie Schinstock; and many nieces and nephews. Father Michael Klag presided.

JODI LIX, JILL HOWE, AND JULIE KONECNY; NINE GRANDCHILDREN; FOUR SISTERS, TONI ANN TREBILCOCK, VICKI BROWNRIGG, DENISE RIEGEL AND PEGGY TAYLOR; THREE BROTHERS, JOHN SCHINSTOCK, JACK SCHINSTOCK, AND KENNIE SCHINSTOCK; AND MANY NIECES AND NEPHEWS. FATHER MICHAEL KLAG PRESIDED.

LIFE ISSUES FORUM


Rally” — Holy Mass — March for Life — Sightseeing

Trip includes:

March for Life invite you to prepare for the Jan. 16-20 March for Life in Washington, D.C., on the 46th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Seating is limited, so reserve your space now!

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

Susan Ann Weber, 66, of Immaculate Conception Parish, Dodge City, was killed instantly on Aug. 6, 1977, while she was teaching at her high school sweetheart Roy Weber. Susan was a school teacher in Atwood, Kansas. Other surviving family members include children Kep Heinitz, Alys Stanfield, Kimmy K scafford, and Alaine Madison; nine grandchildren; and siblings Brian, Barb, and Dan. Father Peter Fernandez presided.

VICTOR J. RIEBEL, 91, of Sacred Heart Parish, Ness City, died Oct. 27, 2018. He was born on the family farm near Ness City. He attended Ness City High School and was a part of the State track team. He had to end his high school career early to work on the farm when his father was no longer able to work. Victor was a devoted father to his sons and daughters. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Wilma; son, Perry; five daughters, Vicki Leiker, Jane Steeleck, Jane Huddleston, Sarah Rahn, and Karen Steeleck; four brothers, Johnny, Willie, Melvin, and Leon; three sisters, Sister Fiorentia, Sister Leona and Sister Barbara Robich, 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.


Another resource is Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats, rachelsvineyard.org.
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.

“Then, if two of you agree here on earth, whatever you ask for will be granted you on heaven.” — Matthew 18:19

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

Seating is limited, so reserve your space now!
For more information and registration, contact Gayla Kirmer, (620) 277-1528, gkirmer@dcdiocese.org.

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

Scripture Readings

Sunday, Nov. 11
First Kings 17:10-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

Monday, Nov. 12; Saint Josephat, bishop and martyr

Tuesday, Nov. 13
Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Luke 17:7-10

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Thursday, Nov. 15
Philémon 1:7-20/Luke 17:20-25

Friday, Nov. 16
Second John 1:4-9/Luke 17:26-37

Saturday, Nov. 17; Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

Sunday, Nov. 18
Daniel 12:1-3/Hebrews 10:11-14, 18/Mark 13:24-32

Monday, Nov. 19

Tuesday, Nov. 20
Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22/Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday, Nov. 21
Presentation of the Virgin Mary

Thursday, Nov. 22; Memorial of St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
Revelation 5:1-10/Luke 19:41-44

Friday, Nov. 23
Revelation 10:8-11/Luke 19:45-48

Saturday, Nov. 24

Sunday, Nov. 25; Christ the King
Daniel 7:13-14/Revelation 1:5-8/John 18:33-37
Father Matthew (John “Henry” Hall) was born June 25, 1904 at Seward. He attended St. Joseph School in Ellinwood for seven years of his elementary education. He attended high school and college at St. Benedict’s, Atchison. In 1927, he entered the Benedictine novitiate at St. Vincent’s Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa. He was ordained May 24, 1933 by Bishop Francis Johannes of Leavenworth in St. Benedict’s Church, Atchison.

He was appointed assistant at St. Benedict’s Parish, Atchison, and devoted special work with African-Americans (1934-41). Bishop Johannes commended this work on the occasion of his quinquennial report to the Holy See.

Father Matthew served in three pastorates: Sts. Peter and Paul, Seneca (1941-47); St. Ann, Effingham (1947-49); and St. Joseph, Atchison (1949-59). He remodeled and painted the church and school at Seneca, and built the rectory and remodeled the church at Effingham. He was the founding pastor of St. Joseph, Atchison, and built the church and rectory.

He retired to St. Benedict’s Abbey after suffering a heart attack in 1959. In addition to his pastoral duties, Father Matthew served as the state chaplain of both the Knights of Columbus (1944-45) and the Daughters of Isabella (1955-59).

Father Matthew died Nov. 12, 1960, while visiting his brother, Father Egbert Hall, pastor at St. Charles, Troy. The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Benedict’s Abbey Church. Burial was in the abbey cemetery.

In addition to his brother, Father Matthew had a sister who entered the religious life: Sister Casmir Hall, OSB.

Father Matthew Hall, OSB
June 25, 1904 - November 12, 1960
Word Search

Name: J. Hall
Date: November 11, 2018

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Editor’s Note:
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that victims of actual sexual abuse experience. He decided to leave the Legion and became a diocesan priest in the Archdiocese of New York. He is currently vice rector, dean of admissions and a professor of moral theology at St. Joseph’s Seminary (Dunwoodie) in Yonkers, New York.

Father Berg corresponded with Father Tim S. Hickey about his book, the ongoing clerical sexual abuse crisis, and the spiritual and emotional health of the seminarians he helps train to be future bishops. John Brungardt gave each priest in the Diocese of Dodge City a copy of Father Berg’s book at their October convocation. Father Hickey also produced a “Reader’s Guide” to accompany Hurting in the Church, which was also provided to the priests. The “Reader’s Guide” can be used to facilitate a parish or a small group reading of the book or used by individuals. To obtain a free pdf of the guide, email Father Hickey at tshickey@icloud.com.

Father Hickey is pastor of St. Mary’s (Marienthal), St. Anthony’s (Leoti) and St. Joseph the Worker (Tribune).

FATHER HICKEY: What is the mood among the seminarians this fall? How are you and the seminary formators dealing with these revelations, and now with the NY Attorney General’s actions seeking records from every diocese there? The reason I ask is twofold: This issue is not going away, and the men you are forming to be priests now are learning what a “wounded Church” really looks like. It’s being uncovered in news and blogs, etc. The fallout will impact their parishioners, and those who leave the Church and must be reconciled somehow. Are they being prepared to deal with that as future priests?

FATHER BERG: As far as our seminary community at St. Joseph’s is concerned, we have already been able to engage each seminarian in very candid dialogue about this on a number of occasions and will continue to do so. Cardinal Timothy Dolan [an apostolic visitor to New York] has been present to celebrate Mass for the community and have a lengthy and candid Q & A with the men — just him and them. Bishop [Frank] Caggiano of Bridgeport, CT gave the opening house retreat, and the men shared that they were greatly consoled by his candor and transparency. Like all of us, the men are angry; they want answers.

One of the strange upshots of all this is that in formation these days, the name of the game is transparency. Men hear that from all angles. They are no longer in a situation where they feel comforted by the team — they are out. But a number have noted the unfortunate inconsistency unfolding before us: bishops who are evasive, a Holy Father, who for the moment, is failing at transparency and accountability.

In one of our first open discussions one of our guys in exasperation asked, Is that the kind of Church that we can just stand up and be accountable? We demand accountability of our men up, down, backwards and forwards. They are incredulous as to why the bishops get a pass on accountability. And a number have honestly shared that they are really struggling to trust the bishops — including their own. That’s why we feel the need to have open and honest dialogue with the priests under the guidance of our bishops. We need to be patient with them and give them time to work through this crisis.

Hurt in the Church is part memoir, part analysis, part therapy session. Did this pattern emerge as you were writing it, or do you see in this pattern something of the pastoral model of “accompanying, discerning and integrating.” That’s a good question. Overall, I would say the book is meant to accompany those who are hurting, I tried to use my own story and vulnerability as a vehicle to allow our Lord to help others heal. In a way that did all come together as I was writing. It took a long time to write, and when I started at the very beginning, I had no thought of what shape it might take. I was writing first and foremost to help myself heal.

You’re very critical in your assessment of the bishops’ handling — or mishandling — of the situation since 2002, and I can only imagine what your disappointment and frustration must be like now. Has this pattern emerge as you were writing it, or do you see in this pattern something...
Nikki Haley praises ‘everyday miracles’ of the Church, despite abuse crisis

“I’ve been to the border between Colombia and Venezuela, where people walk three hours each way in the blazing sun to get the only meal they will have that day. Who is giving that meal? The Catholic Church,” she said.

“I’ve been to refugee camps in Central Africa where young boys are kidnapped and forced to become child soldiers, and young girls are raped as a matter of routine. Who was in the forefront of changing this culture of corruption and violence? The Catholic Church.”

New York City, N.Y. (CNA) - Ambassador Nikki Haley used her speech at the annual Al Smith dinner in New York City to acknowledge the Church’s efforts to address the sexual abuse scandal while continuing its “incredible work” helping “millions of desperate people” around the world.

The outgoing U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations was the guest of honor at the fundraising dinner for the Archdiocese of New York, held Oct. 18. While the dinner raises millions of dollars for the Church’s charitable outreach in the city, Haley said that the efforts she had seen went “way beyond that.”

In the course of her time as ambassador, Haley said that she had been to some “truly dark places” where the suffering endured by many people would be “hard for most Americans to imagine.”

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Haley also acknowledged the sexual abuse crises which have rocked the Church, both in the United States and globally, saying that she would “be remiss” if she did not mention the recent scandals. Noting that sexual abuse and assault were not a problem limited to the Church, but which “deeply touch the American family,” she said that the Church had an obligation to victims.

“The church’s place must be with the victims that carry the pain with them. I know church leaders recognize their deep responsibility to address this moral failing, and are taking action,” she said. At the same time, the ambassador said that it would be “tragic” if the abuse scandal made the world blind to “the amazing good works the Catholic Church does every single day.”

Haley called the Church’s global works of charity, education, and healthcare “everyday miracles” and said that “those miracles are the way of the Church.”

The annual event raises money for the Alfred E. Smith Foundation, which serves the “neediest children of the Archdiocese of New York, regardless of race, creed, or color.” Each year, the dinner features a prominent politician; during presidential election years, the two main candidates are invited together.

Smith was the first Catholic to be nominated as a presidential candidate by one of the two leading U.S. political parties.

Speakers at the dinner traditionally deliver irreverent and light hearted political humor, and Haley offered goodnatured jokes at the expense of prominent Democrats and Republicans, including the president.

But she was also quick to place American political strife in context, criticizing the growing tendency to term political opponents as “evil.”

“In the last two years, I’ve seen true evil. We have some serious political differences here at home. But our opponents are not evil. They’re just our opponents,” she said.

“We are blessed with a political system that allows us to resolve our differences peacefully. In the end, we must recognize that we are all Americans, and we are stronger and healthier when we are united.”

Haley’s appearance at the dinner came a little over a week after she announced that she will be stepping down from her role at the UN at the end of 2018. Haley had served as the UN Ambassador since the beginning of President Trump’s term, having previously been the governor of South Carolina.

The dinner raised nearly $4 million.