The Light of Christ

Who is “… a light for revelation to the Gentiles …” (Luke 2:32)? That’s right, it is newborn Jesus, as Mary and Joseph presented Him in the temple to His Heavenly Father. The feast of the Presentation was February 2nd. Simeon’s amazing message to God, to Mary and Joseph, and to us, is that Jesus will light up our dark world. The Light of Christ will shine forth on us all!

The feast of the Presentation is a very special day for me: I was ordained as your bishop on this feast day eight years ago. Thank you for the many prayers, words of encouragement, cards, emails, and phone calls you have given me these many years. You have been a blessing to me. I am sorry for my shortcomings, but with the Light of Christ, and your assistance, I will make progress in the Catholic faith, and in the responsibility Pope Benedict XVI entrusted to me.

February 2 this year was also the World Day of Consecrated Life. We celebrated a Holy Mass and lunch at Prince of Peace Catholic Parish in Great Bend with Religious Sisters and Priests. We thank the Lord for the many faith-filled Sisters, Priests, and Brothers of religious congregations who have generously served in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City in the past and present. We pray for many more to enter the religious life, that they may be “persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the evangelical counsels” (Pope St. John Paul II). The Light of Christ will show them the way.

Light of Christ, reveal God’s path for each of us:
• show me the way through Your Holy Scriptures, the Bible
• enlighten my heart with Your Holy Eucharist
• shine forth in my relationships with others: family, friends, co-workers, enemies
• ignite my heart for love of the poor, sick, and suffering peoples, all my brothers and sisters
• give me an ardent yearning for peace, respect for the dignity of the human person, and justice

Trust in Jesus, our Light, to help us: He loves us more than we can ask or imagine!

+ Bishop John

Clockwise from below, left: Catholic schools across the diocese took one day of Catholic Schools Week activities to celebrate “grandfriends,” including Deanna Rogers and her granddaughter, Jeslyn, 6, from St. Joseph School in Ellinwood; three children dress for their turn at the Sacred Heart Cathedral School Talent Show; pupils from Holy Family School in Great Bend smile for the camera during a luncheon gathering.

Religious women, men honored during World Day for Consecrated Life

Sister Martina Stegman, OP, left, and Sister Angela Erevia, MCDP, reunited for only the second time in some 45 years, at the reception following a Mass celebrating the World Day for Consecrated Life, Feb. 2 at St. Patrick Church at Holy Family Parish in Great Bend. They studied together for the their master’s degrees in Religious Education at St. Thomas University in Houston.

See Page 7
In gratitude for teachers

Consider the lowly teacher. The mother and the father in the home; the woman and the man in the classroom. They feel themselves lowly because our world often missesthe wonders that they do. Sometimes, even they miss it too. They struggle each day to see what is waiting to get out in each child. And waiting, and waiting. There is promise there ... a power, an energy ... and their work is to set it free.

Sometimes it can be as simple as helping a child stuck in the stubborn world of fractions. A word, an old teacher's trick, can open up that world for them, can let them see the secret power of numbers in our over-measured world.

Sometimes it is a deeper thing like the mysterious world of the printed word. They can open what are closed books for the slow learner, can pass on their own love of the look and the sound of words. It is no small thing, it is a minor miracle, to lead someone into the beauty of language.

Sometimes it is a more complex thing of helping a child cope with his own short past. Our formative years prepare us for life, but they also sometimes hinder us from taking our own proper place in it. Some habits learned, need to be unlearned, and unlearned by showing them there is another way of seeing things and of doing things. It takes skill to lead a child from selfishness to selflessness.

The lowly teacher is sometimes the lonely teacher. I hope this Catholic Schools Week was graced with words of gratitude … for the lowly and the lonely.

Another Way

Most Rev. Ronald M. Gilmore
Bishop Emeritus of Dodge City

“It takes skill to lead a child from selfishness to selflessness.”

Grace that Reigns Lenten retreats

Bishop Emeritus Ronald M. Gilmore and Jacqueline Loh will present six Grace that Reigns retreats throughout Lent, three of them here in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City: Feb. 22-23 in Ulysses; March 8-9 in Larned; and March 13 in Garden City.

See Page 20 for more details.

Texas priest who served in SW Kansas accused of sexual abuse

On Jan. 31, 2019, all the dioceses in Texas published names of priests who had been accused of sexual abuse. The list of the Amarillo diocese included the name of Mario Isla, who served in the Dodge City diocese for four years. If anyone is aware of someone who was abused by Mario Isla, contact Charles Befort, chbrfot@cox.net, (620) 285-3219 (Dodge City diocesan contact). You may also contact the statewide Victim Assistance Hotline 800-828-9745 (8am - 5pm, Monday – Friday) or the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, 800-KS-CRIME, ClergyAbuse@kbi.ks.gov.

Father Urban to co-lead pilgrimage to Greece in the ‘Pathways of Paul’

Father Reggie Urban and Paul Maneth, PhD, will lead a pilgrimage to Greece from Sept. 8-18, 2019. Registration for the pilgrimage, “The Pathways of Paul,” must be submitted on or before Feb. 18.

Participants will walk the pathways of one of the Bible’s most prolific personalities and one of history’s most interesting individuals. Together, the participants will:

- Travel through ancient cities and pastoral landscapes.
- Enjoy a 3-night cruise of the magical Greek Islands of Mykonos, Patmos and Santorini.
- Visit the ancient Roman city of Ephesus, Turkey.
- Discover archaeological treasures like the Acropolis in Athens and seek ancient wisdom at the ruins of Delphi.
- Investigate the dramatic Meteora Monasteries, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Explore the biblical town of Corinth on a guided tour featuring the Agora and the Bema, where Paul was brought before the tribunal.
- Stop in Philippi, where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe and baptized Lydia, the first Christian.
- See the dungeon where he was held prisoner.
- Find inspiration throughout as participants visit the places where the Apostle Paul labored.
- Learn about the resident monks.
- Experience the House of Mary, where she is said to have spent her last days.

More detailed information, including registration material, can be found by clicking on the Pathways of Paul icon, or you can call 800-362-9347.

Scam Alert

The Catholic Diocese of Dodge City has been notified that some parishioners are continuing to receive emails claiming to be from Bishop Brungardt or other chancery staff members, asking for financial assistance, or offering deals on items for sale. Nobody on staff, including Bishop Brungardt, is sending such emails. If you received a questionable email, and are unsure of its origin, contact the Catholic Chancery at (620) 227-1500. Otherwise, simply delete the email.

Protecting God’s Children

The Catholic 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.

Next Awareness Session:
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, contact Charles Befort, chbrfot@cox.net, (620) 285-3219. You may submit a report to the diocese.

Report forms are available at www.dcdiocese.org/safe-environment.

Now Available!

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 migrants’ 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.

Available Now at Amazon.com
Ask for it at Catholic and Christian bookstores
Mail order by contacting the author at twenzl@dcdiocese.org
A bus with 23 youth and sponsors from Liberal, Dodge City, Medicine Lodge and La Crosse, departed from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Monday evening, Jan. 21 to head to Topeka for an overnight stay and full-day of activities for the March for Life on Jan. 22.

But mother nature had another plan for the day. The group woke to drizzle which continued to get heavier as they neared the Topeka Performing Arts Center for the “Ignite” event and special video presentation, “I Lived on Parker Ave” and adoption talk by David Scotton.

Mass celebrated with all of the Kansas Bishops and Archbishop Naumann, followed with Bishop John B. Brungardt delivering an inspiring homily (see below left).

The March to the Capitol was cold and wet, and the rally was moved inside the Capitol building. After lunch, the group made its way back to the Capitol for 2 p.m. tours, which were cancelled due to impending predictions of ice hitting the area.

The group boarded the bus and headed south to try to miss the worst of the weather. The bus driver appreciated the many prayers the group recited for the treacherous drive home.

Despite the weather, everyone had a meaningful March for Life 2019 and came away with a renewed vigor to pass on the pro-life message in their parishes. Plans will be coming together soon for the March for Life Washington and Topeka for 2020.

— Gayla Kirmer

Among those who attended the March for Life in Topeka with the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City are: Brenda Jensen, Father Mark Brantley, Carina Sandoval, Sherlyn Cruz, Joseph Smith, Christian Flores, William Limon, Luis Ortiz, Hamadiel Ortiz, Carissa Carrillo, Debi Flores, Ana Smith, Gayla Kirmer, Dave Geist, Mason Peters, John Howood, Robert Campos, Angel Bunuelos, Ximena Lara, and Daniela Gutierrez.

Below, left: Bishop John B. Brungardt shares his homily at a Respect Life Mass Jan. 22 at the Topeka Performing Arts Center.

Bishop Brungardt concelebrated the March for Life Mass Jan. 22, during which he spoke on the theme: Jesus touches hearts: our heart, your heart, our hearts.

He first related the example of his struggle with a brain tumor these last three years.

Surgery, radiation treatment, and medicine were all lacking and inadequate in healing him. But only the touch of Jesus healed him, he said. “Thanks for your many prayers,” the bishop told those gathered.

Next, Bishop Brungardt spoke of the wound in our world of abortion, the “killing of our siblings in the womb and the hurting of their moms. The court, the legislature, and the executive branches of government have been inadequate and lacking in doing away with abortion. We need more prayer, more asking Jesus to touch hearts, more touching of each other’s hearts. With God’s grace, abortion will be no more.”

Bishop Brungardt closed with three examples of what we can do:

• respect the dignity of the human person in all life: the unborn and their moms, the immigrant, the poor, the lonely, those who do not agree with us.

• grow in chastity. To use God’s gift of human sexuality within His plan for each of us.

• receive grace from our sacramental life: confession and Eucharist. With these blessings, we will have the wisdom, fortitude, and charity to continue in the pro-life movement.

“Thank you, Jesus, for touching hearts!”

‘Thank you, Jesus, for touching hearts!’

The theme for the 2019 march was, “Unique from day one: Pro-life is pro-science.” Does the argument against abortion jive with the findings of the medical profession? The answer is “absolutely.”

The zygote, the first cell formed at the moment of conception, is the earliest developmental stage of the human embryo. It is undeniably human in that it is composed of human DNA and totally different from any other human that has ever existed. The fingerprint that each of us has — distinguishing us from any other human on the planet — is determined by that DNA on day one.

Fetal development in its simplicity and depth is astonishing. Only three weeks after fertilization, a little one’s heart starts beating. At eight weeks of pregnancy the baby has started moving around (even though Mom can’t feel this quite yet). By the 10th week of pregnancy, a baby’s fingers and toes are forming. By 13 weeks, right at the end of the first trimester, the baby has fingerprints.

During the second trimester, organs including kidneys begin to work, and expectant parents might even see their little one sucking his thumb on an ultrasound. At 19 weeks of development, a baby’s senses are developing, and she or he can likely recognize Mom’s voice at this stage.

One hundred years ago our understanding of embryonic development was very different from what it is now. Medical advancements continue to reaffirm the science behind the pro-life cause – that life begins when egg and sperm meet and a new, unique, human embryo is created. Moreover, breakthroughs in science and ultrasound technology have provided a window into the womb allowing us to witness firsthand the development of life.

— From RealClearPolitics.com

‘Unique from day one: Pro-life is pro-science’

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‘Thank you, Jesus, for touching hearts!’

‘Unique from day one: Pro-life is pro-science’

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— Gayla Kirmer

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‘Thank you, Jesus, for touching hearts!’

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‘Thank you, Jesus, for touching hearts!’

‘Unique from day one: Pro-life is pro-science’
Never despise the ordinary

By KEN BARNES
Faithwriters

Then he (Jesus) said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. (John 21:6 NLT)

We often complain about the mundane circumstances of our lives. Jesus did his best teaching in the commonplace venues of peoples’ lives. Never despise the ordinary.

Someone once said that the thing that is difficult about Christianity is that it is every day. Some of us are always looking for that spiritual pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and we miss those spiritual lessons right in front of our noses. We look for God in the unusual or spectacular events of our lives. At times they do occur, yet most often God is in the ordinary or mundane experiences of our existence.

Jesus spoke to people where they lived. The scene in our scriptural reference had been replayed by his disciples’ numerous times, yet Jesus invaded the natural with the supernatural. This appears to be how God works. In the feeding of the five thousand (Matthew 14:13-21), he asked his disciples for what they had, five loaves and two fish, and then he gave them what they did not have, enough food to feed the multitude.

Miracles are a combination of the ordinary and the extraordinary. At a common event like the wedding at Cana, they gave Jesus water, and he gave them wine. God asks us to do the possible, and then he does the impossible.

We may miss God in the ordinary because we are not looking for him to show up in the details of life. God does not just live on the mountaintop, but in the valley also.

Ken Barnes worked for 17 years as a missionary with Youth With A Mission. His missionary work has taken him to Mexico, Canada, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Spain, and the Ukraine. He holds a Masters of Education in curriculum and Instruction from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions

FEBRUARY: Victims

For a generous welcome to the victims of human trafficking, enforced prostitution, and violence.

Inherit the Mirth

By Cuyler Black

‘Put something silly in the world’

By Dave Myers
Editor

Cheney purchased and trained back in 1997.)

Which leads me to this point: We’re all wonderfully strange in our own way.

I think that part of enjoying this gift of life that God gave us and, in effect, thanking him for our lives, is to celebrate the “strange.” Spread light in the darkness! Turn those frowns upside down! Don’t worry, be happy!

And do it now, people! (Sorry, I got a little excited there.)

Allow me to expound a tad: As I’ve said before, I’ve got a fair share of insecurities. In social situations, my anxieties usually speak for me, resulting in people thinking I’m strange—or on medication. It happens all the time. I’ve gotten used to it.

If I didn’t find some humor in life—healthy, happy humor, a gift given me by Jesus through my folks, a couple of wonderfully loony people in their own right—I would have a breakdown. I’ve got to do that “loony-goosey dance” now and then; got to write that nutty poem (or columns as the case may be).

The other day I was in the waiting room at my cardiologist’s office. The room was crowded, nearly every seat filled. It was a room of people fearing bad news, nervously praying for good, anxious about future, about family.

As I waited to be called, I read my book—or at least pretended to read. Several names were called; and several more people filtered in. Then a nurse with a clipboard stepped out into the crowded waiting room:

“David?”

I pretended to be lost in my book.

“David...?” she said a little louder.

I looked up as if startled. “What?” I said with a look of surprised innocence, as if I’d just been startled awake from a nap.

I know it was a strange thing to do, but at that point more than a dozen people, all with heart ailments—or there with loved ones with heart ailments—chuckled, smiled, or looked at me like I was nuts. And for a brief moment they weren’t thinking about why they were there.

“Put something silly in the world that ain’t been there before.”

I’m strange—or on medication. It happens for this issue is, well, lacking in humor, and pretty much anything else that lends toward earning my monthly paycheck. So, I went back 11 years and found the column below. I’m not sure it has any intelligence but it the column I wrote a while back 11 years ago this issue is, well, lacking in humor, and pretty much anything else that lends toward earning my monthly paycheck. So, I went back 11 years and found the column below. I’m not sure it has any intelligence but it...
Commentary
Breaking into the ordinary

By ELIZABETH KELLY

When I was a child, I loved most the wise men of our nation for their grandeur, color and elegance, and for the numerous gifts they brought to the Infant King. They were mysterious royalty from a far-off land who possessed secret knowledge of the Savior’s birth, and I was sure their lives were full of intrigue and adventure.

As I age, I find myself much more drawn to the lowly shepherds—for their simplicity, their humility, their faithfulness to an ordinary life of labor among innocent beasts. And I wonder, how in their daily, non-glamorous existence, they carried within them as a people that deep longing for the Messiah. It went with them everywhere—it into their homes and pastures, into their barns and fields. They nurtured that longing, they suffered with it, they held it in reverence and hope, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” Awaiting the Messiah was a way of life they’d honored for generations.

How frightening and wildly surprising it must have been—while they were simply doing what they always did, keeping at their daily labors—to have the sky erupt in glory and music and heavenly hosts. And most love the shepherds because despite their ordinariness, despite their terror, they made the decision to go to Bethlehem. Into the night, they ran in haste. They ran empty-handed. They didn’t make a stop at Macy’s to pick up some: they ran, knowing they had virtually nothing to offer but themselves and their witness, to testify to what they had been told.

In this way, I wonder if they do not honor the Infant King in an even more powerful way. As an infant, completely dependent, possessing nothing. What he gives is himself in complete vulnerability and trust. Is there a way that I might do the same, that is, make the decision to go to Bethlehem, to go there with haste and energy and fervor and without reservation, and to give Jesus myself, more of myself—in vulnerability and trust. To give not out of abundance, but out of holy dependence; to give, not out of my excess, but out of my poverty, not out of grandeur but out of humility and littleness and boring ordinariness.

You might be tempted to imagine that your life is too ordinary for the Father of all creation to break through with angels and glory and good news. You might think, “I’m not holy enough or important enough, or there is simply too much darkness around me” – too much corruption, too much betrayal and failure, too much terror and illness and pain, or that it’s too late for you, your chances have all been spoiled.

But that is to forget our shepherd friends. That is to forget that in their lowly routine, their daily little faithfulness, God broke through, came crashing in with that long-awaited, spectacular rescue. That is to forget that the shepherds found when they raced to Bethlehem, an innocent baby who would touch them in the flesh, would look on them with human and divine eyes of innocence and perfect, redeeming power to reclaim all that had been lost and sin and death.

Jesus, break through to this ordinary heart—I know it is not nameless or boring to you—and I will run to meet you in the manger where I long to entrust more of myself to your sacred heart of rescue.

Elizabeth Kelly is an award-winning speaker and the author of six books, including religion Approaches: What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom and Joy from the Women of the New Testament. She is trained as a spiritual director in the Ignatian exercises and leads retreats with a particular focus on helping women to flourish in their faiths. She teaches in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas (MN). Her website is: www.LizK.org.

Book Review
The ‘Mind, Heart, & Soul’ of the Catholic convert

By ANDREA PICCIOTTI-BAYER

The Catholic Church in the United States has received staggering blows of late. The sinful and criminal behavior of a former leading prelate, the statewide investigations into clergy sex abuse across the country, the Vatican’s confused and vapid response—all have left many of the faithful in despair. Some American Catholics are even questioning their fidelity to Mother Church.

It may seem curious, therefore, that comes now a new book recounting the conversion stories of 16 leading intellectuals. Of course, there are no coincidences in the often-charging world of God. In Mind, Heart, & Soul: Intellectuals and the Path to Rome, Robert George and R.J. Snell offer a refreshing and inspirational reminder from some of today’s greatest minds of the many splendid reasons to be Catholic.

Professors George and Snell preface their work with this simple observation: Every Catholic is a convert.” As explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “we are freed from sin and reborn as [children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission” through baptism—whether as babies or adults. Nevertheless, as George and Snell aptly note, there is something fascinating about adult converts to Catholicism.

“For many, although certainly not all, converts entering the Catholic Church as adults, whether from another Christian community, another religion, or no faith at all,” they write, “the Catholic intellectual tradition was experienced as part of the struggle to come home.”

The 16 interviews in Mind, Heart, & Soul were completed before the Church’s “summer of shame.” Neither former-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick’s horrific behavior or the Pennsylvania grand jury’s report on clergy sexual abuse had become public. Yet, as George and Snell observe in their preface, these conversion stories are “signs that while we do not place our trust in princes (Ps. 146:3), we continue to trust in a God who does not abandon us and who, in the words of one Eucharistic prayer, will ‘never cease to gather a people to [Himself], so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to [His] name.’

The converts, as well as those who interviewed them, are an impressive lot. They include leading theologians, university professors, scholars, journalists, writers, and a current U.S. bishop. Some are acquaintances. One I consider a friend. Each “conversion story” is as unique as the soul that owns it.

Readers are invited to contemplate the spiritual truths that prompted these intellectuals to find their way to the Church. Dominican Father Thomas Joseph White grew up in southeast Georgia as the only child of a Jewish father and a Presbyterian mother. He found the task of reintroducing Thomistic thought to an ever-growing secular world.

He advises pilgrims, old and new, to engage with God “on God’s terms and according to the Church’s teachings.” For these interviewers searching for the truth, “[t]he real answer is to enter the Catholic Church and live the sacramental life, and not despair in the search for the truth, because God is always very close to us and will give us the means to arrive at the destination if we want him to do so.”

Similarly, Harvard Law Professor Adrian Vermeule matter-of-factly remarks that “the depths of the Church are not disturbed by the storms that pass to and fro on the surface.”

Rather, he says, “the Church seems to me an institution whose foundations are as strong as iron. The turmoil will pass away, episodes, scandals and debates will come and go; but the line and witness of Peter’s successors will never fail.”

And my dear friend Hadley Arkes, one of the country’s foremost experts on natural law, remarks that “the Church was and is the main refuge to which Arkes’s odds-on assertion: “[W]hen the Church stands contra mundum, against the currents of moral opinion on any issue, my betting is that the Church has it right.”

It’s important to point out that Mind, Heart, & Soul is no dry recitation of the intellectual integrity of Catholic teaching. Not at all. The volume’s conversion stories also highlight the importance of friendship in bringing people to the Church.

Kirstin Powers, nationally-known journalist and political analyst, credits the dynamism of Ann Cokery and the late-Kate O’Beirne for her decision to become Catholic. Nor did Arkes journey alone with his formidable friend on the road to Rome. Friends Robbie George, the late-Dan Robinson, as friend and colleague at Amherst, and now-deceased Opus Dei priest Father Arne Panula walked along with him.

For these interviewees, friends here on earth helped them cultivate a friendship with Christ. Mind, Heart, & Soul offers hope at this most challenging time for the Church.

“If I converts continue to enter our Church, bruised and shattered as she is,” George and Snell write, “it is because of the grace of God.”

No, we must never dismiss God’s grace and His willingness to accommodate each one of us in finding our way home.

Andrea Picciotti-Bayer is Legal Advisor for The Catholic Association Foundation. Her legal career has been dedicated to civil rights advocacy.
The Called and Gifted workshop, originally scheduled for Jan. 12 but cancelled due to weather, has been rescheduled.

The English workshop will be May 4 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Center in Larned.

A Spanish language workshop will be April 6 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City.

Both sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude with Mass at 5 p.m.

The event is free.

The day-long workshop is designed to help individuals recognize their supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, or “charisms” — those who derive pleasure in providing a welcoming atmosphere for others. Some rarely have the charism of healing.

“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.

By closely examining their lives, participants are either given a good idea of what their charism(s) might be, or the tools to help them discover their charisms in follow-up sessions they may wish to attend in the days and weeks to follow.

To register, contact Colenen Stein, 620-227-1538, cstein@dcdiocese.org.

What are your gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The Consecrated Life

What is a ‘religious’? How does a religious priest differ from a regular diocesan priest?

“Religious women (sisters and nuns) and religious men (brothers and priests) seek to follow Christ more closely by committing themselves to the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience, prayer and to communal life,” said Sister Janice Grochowsky, CSJ, JCL, Chancellor.

“ Whereas a diocesan priest typically ministers within a geographic region called a diocese, commits himself to celibacy and promises obedience to his bishop, a religious priest makes a profession of chastity, poverty and obedience within his religious congregation and ministers where there is a need; that is, his ministry is not bound by the geography of a diocese.”

While we’re on the subject, what’s the difference between a sister and a nun?

The terms “nun” and “sister” are often used interchangeably. However, there is a difference between the two. Here’s a simple summary of the differences.

A Catholic nun is a woman who lives as a contemplative life in a monastery which is usually cloistered (or enclosed) or semi-cloistered. Her ministry and prayer life is centered within and around the monastery for the good of the world. She confesses the perpetual solemn vows living a life according to the evangelical counsels of poverty, celibacy, and obedience.

A Catholic sister is a woman who lives, ministers, and prays within the world. A sister’s life is often called “active” or “apostolic” because she is engaged in the works of mercy and other ministries that take the Gospel to others where they are. She professes perpetual simple vows living a life according to the evangelical counsels of poverty, celibacy, and obedience.

Because both nuns and sisters belong to the church life form of Religious Life, they can also be called “women religious.”

Who are the consecrated women and men in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City?

The Called and Gifted workshop

Who, what, and where

The event is free.

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The Catholic Diocese of Dodge City is currently home to nine different religious orders: two orders of men religious, and seven orders of women religious, each of which is identified by the letters attached to their name. They are also known as “consecrated.”

Women Religious serving in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

Dominican Sisters of Peace (DP):
- Mexican Passionist Sisters (MPS):
  - Sister Gregoria Bueno, Sister Yolanda Maria Figueroa, Sister Juljeta Mondragon Guadarrama
- Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ):
  - Sister Janice Grochowsky, Sister Jan Roberts, Sister Catherine Therese Paulie
- Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence (MCDP):
  - Sister Angela Erevia
- Missionaries of Charity of Mary immaculate (MCMI):
  - Sister Rosa Maria Martinez Solis, Sister Maria Elena Martinez-Sifuentes, Sister Basilia Torres-Urbie
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA):
  - Sister Paulynn Innes, Sister Jean Michael Treba

In residence at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse in Great Bend

Men Religious serving in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

Missionaries of St. Paul (MSP):
- Father Anselm Eke
- Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS):
  - Father Prakash Rao Kola, Father Anesh Parappanattu

In sincere gratitude to all of those who, through their prayer and service, continue to bless the diocese with their presence.
Religious women and men of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City gather for a photo after the Mass celebrating Consecrated Life, Feb. 2 at St. Patrick Church in Great Bend. At rear, far left is Bishop John B. Brungardt who celebrated Mass.

“Thank you for shining fourth Christ’s Light by your consecrated life.”

— Most Rev. John B. Brungardt

Honoring the diversity and beauty of consecrated vocations


This celebration is a special time for individual parishes and the greater Church to celebrate the beauty of the consecrated vocation, highlight its various forms, and reflect on the unique Christ-centered witness that consecrated men and women bring to the Church and the surrounding community.

By DAVID MYERS

Southwest Kansas Catholic

GREAT BEND — Their consecrated life has sent some from the plains of southwest Kansas to the jungles of Africa, others to South and Central America, and others still to the shores of China.

For those local Religious men and women such as the Mexican Passionist Sisters and the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, it was the mysterious land of cattle and cowboys (or so they heard) to which they were heading, to serve God and His people of southwest Kansas.

And on this warm, Feb. 2 winter day, they came together for the Annual World Day for Consecrated Life at St. Patrick Church at Prince of Peace Parish in Great Bend.

The celebration also happened to coincide with the Feast of the Presentation, when the baby Jesus was presented for the first time in the temple—40 days after his birth in accordance with Jewish law.

"The feast of the Presentation is a very special day for me," Bishop John Brungardt told those gathered. (Much of his homily is included in his column on Page 1.) "I was ordained as your bishop on this feast day eight years ago. Thank you for the many prayers, words of encouragement, cards, emails, and phone calls you have given me these many years. You have been a blessing to me."

He thanked all the Religious women and men gathered for their faith-filled service, and asked those gathered to pray that more will choose to serve God and His people in the Religious life.

"The Light of Christ will show them the way," he said.

He beseeched those gathered to let the light of Christ shine forth to others, in particular those on the peripheries such as the poor, immigrants, and others — people who may be sitting next to you in the pew.

The bishop stressed that we should remember to reach out to the lonely—from college students starting out in a new environment, away from home for the first time, to the elderly.

The bishop’s great aunt, Benedictine Sister Rosaria Schaefer, who died in 2012, "shown the light of Christ in the formation of college students, and later to her own elderly Sisters."

"Thank you," the bishop told everyone gathered, "for shining forth Christ’s light by your consecrated life."

Following Mass, the participants joined for a group photo, after which they walked under a deep blue sky to the parish center where youth of the Confirmation class took coats and served drinks.

The event was coordinated by the Holy Family Vocations Committee, which the bishop complimented for having produced no less than three seminarians.

Following the meal, representatives shared a few words about their order, including Dominican Sister Roserita Weber, who spoke about a recent trip to El Paso, Texas with four other Dominican Sisters, where they helped dozens of tired immigrants as they processed through immigration checkpoints to ultimately be picked up by family or friends.

"This story will be included in an upcoming issue."

Others spoke about aiding victims of human trafficking, helping immigrants and others to retain dignity amid seemingly insurmountable struggles.

In doing so, each shared the joy of having offered a joyous yes when felt the call to serve God and His people.
I n may be one of the best kept secrets in the diocese, but if three women from southwest Kansas have their say, it will not be a secret for long.

Janeé Bernal, Diana Ramirez and Allison Ricke recently completed the first of four intense training sessions to become Fertility Care Practitioners. 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.

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1529, or visit dcdiocese.org/marriage-family-life.

For more information, contact Bernal at (620) 227-6200.

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

Diana Ramirez, Janeé Bernal and Allison Ricke recently completed the first of four intense phases of instruction to become instructors in the Creighton Method of Natural Fertility Awareness.

Open to life

“These methods, such as Creighton, allow the couple to get to know each other and love each other in a more profound way. The two become as one, not just physically.” — Diana Ramirez

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

There are different methods of Natural Fertility Awareness, each offering a system for noting when the woman is most likely and least likely to become pregnant. Bernal, Ramirez and Ricke are studying the Creighton Model, developed by Dr. Thomas Hilgers, an obstetrician-gynecologist in Omaha.

While their training will be completed in February of 2020, the three are currently available to instruct individuals and couples about the use of the Church-approved method of achieving or avoiding pregnancy. As “student teachers,” they will be under the supervision of a senior educator.

“This system is about much more than becoming pregnant or avoiding pregnancy,” stressed Ramirez. “It helps the overall health of women.”

When Bernal was hired as the coordinator of the Matrimony, Family Life and Natural Family Planning office, Bishop John Brungardt explained that he wanted to expand the diocese’s work in natural fertility awareness. Bernal said that when she was hired, she already had an idea of a way to monitor their fertility.

“The fertility care system encompasses all the aspects of the person,” Bernal said, “the spiritual, physical, intellectual, creative, and emotional side of every human being. The model has the highest success rate of avoiding or achieving pregnancy, even more so than contraception.”

The Creighton Model allows women to chart their reproductive health cycle, even allowing them to monitor if there are any abnormalities. They can note biological markers that indicate when they are more receptive to fertilization. Because it allows the couple to be open to life even when avoiding pregnancy, it retains the dignity of the human person and is fully approved by the Catholic Church.

“Scripture teaches us that the marital act should be procreative and unitive,” Bernal explained. “When a person uses a barrier method [of contraception], that allows the act to be neither pro-creative nor unitive.

“I see women using artificial means and masking what’s going on in their body,” Bernal said. “I’m very concerned about women’s health overall.”

Ramirez added, “These methods, such as Creighton, allow the couple to get to know each other and love each other in a more profound way. The two become as one, not just physically.”

After 10 intense days of training at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, the three have already begun speaking with couples about the program, and are eager to let people know about this valuable resource.

“We want to get the word out that the program is available,” Bernal said. “We will travel anywhere in the diocese to work with couples and individuals.”

For most couples, the first time they hear of Natural Fertility Awareness methods is in marriage prep. “I’d like to see younger women in high school and college learn about the methods, so that when they’re married, they already have an idea of a way to monitor their fertility,” Bernal said.

There are instructors of other methods in the diocese, including Heidy Ramirez, who teaches the Billings Ovulation Method, and Jacqueline Brown, who also teaches the Creighton Method.

“We really want to express our gratitude to everyone who supported the Vibrant Ministries Appeal, which allowed us to attend this program,” Bernal said. “We also want to thank the priests of the diocese. They are on the front lines in their work with couples, and we want to encourage them to reach out to us.”

Financial Review

Edward Jones offers a complimentary financial review. Decisions made in the past may no longer be what’s best for the future. To help keep everything up to date, call or visit today.
What is National Catholic Schools Week?

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2019 is January 27 - February 2. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2019 is “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.”

Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

Catholic Schools Week in pictures

Celebrating the hero in all of us

When dozens of local children were asked who was their hero, not one child mentioned a sports figure. No one spoke of a singer; no one mentioned the name of a fashion icon, or their favorite movie star. Instead, the replies were: “the police,” “firefighters,” “my dad,” “my brother” “my aunt....”

Kind of refreshing, don’t you think? And as if that weren’t enough, when asked how the students themselves could be a hero in their everyday lives, not one child mentioned saving orphans from a burning building, or stopping a bank robber. These are children, after all, and they’ve learned that heroics doesn’t necessarily mean one has to put their life at risk, although many of our heroes do just that.

They know that being a hero—as one child said—may mean simply being a friend to someone who is being bullied. Or being kind to someone who is mean to you. Or smiling at someone.

This Catholic Schools Week, students in Catholic schools across the diocese learned that heroes are a lot closer than they thought. They may even be that person looking at them in the mirror.

The next few pages highlight just one or two of the many events that each school enjoyed in order to celebrate their Catholic school.
St. Mary School, Garden City

Who are your heroes?

My brother: He helps me when I’m hurt, and he takes care of me. — Isabela

The Army: Because they fight for our country. — Skarlett

My grandpa: He sprays the crops for the farmers. — Thaylee

My sister: She’s here for me whenever I need her. — Marisela

The police: They protect us from criminals. — Abigail

My dad: He builds sprinklers on the fields to water the crops. — Chandler

EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians): Because they save our lives when we are hurt. — Haidy

My dad: He keeps me away from danger, and one time saved us from hitting a deer. — Dominic

My aunt: Once when we went hiking, I fell and twisted my leg. She helped me up. — Alex

The fire department: When there’s a fire in your house, they put water on it so it doesn’t spread. — Paulina

What makes you a hero?

• Helping people when they’re hurt;
• Playing with people when people don’t have anyone to play with and are sad;
• Coaching soccer and teaching paint-ball safety;
• Being kind to those who are mean to you;
• Recycling;
• Helping family with anything you can do for them;
• Helping people when they get bullied and being their friend;
• Giving money to the poor.

St. Dominic School, Garden City

Who is the man in the red bandana?


The “Man in the Red Bandanna” is Welles Crowther, a 24-year-old rookie equities trader who was credited with saving at least 10 people from the World Trade Center attack, but who died when the tower collapsed.

The young hero was the focus of study during Catholic Schools Week at St. Dominic School. “He always wore a red bandana,” explained fifth grader Whitney. “His father gave it to him,” fourth grader Spenser added, smiling. “He gave him a white one, too. He said the white one was for show, and the red one was to blow.”

Welles wore the red bandana through his youth, including college during athletic activities. During the terrorist attack, he used the bandana to shield his mouth from the dust and smoke. That’s how the young man was identified from those he saved. He was the “Man in the Red Bandana.”

“He knew he could possibly die, but did it anyway, which takes a lot of courage,” Whitney said. Spenser added, “He took into consideration the possible outcome, but he chose to do it anyway.”

Far left: Fifth grader, Whitney, fourth grader, Spenser, and first grader, Luke stand beside boxes of shoes collected by students for those less fortunate. The three were asked about a hero they had been studying, the “Man in the Red Bandana.” At left, Raiden, Daniell and Luke stand below a sign in the school hallway depicting the qualities of a hero. The signs read “loving, helpful, brave, strong, caring, selfless, and kind.”

Photos by Dave Myers
St. Joseph School, Ellinwood

Why do so many Catholic schools take one day of Catholic Schools Week to celebrate grandparents? The children learn that their grandparent(s) in many ways, is just a big kid in a grandparent’s body. Sure, they’ve garnered a lot of wisdom over the years, having learned from both mistakes and successes. Despite the wisdom of the ages (or perhaps because of it!) they still like to laugh and have fun. Perhaps they even see a bit of themselves in their grandchild. When their grandchildren begin to learn this, their grandparent becomes a “grandfriend.”

Cornered from top, left: “Grandfriends” attend Mass at St. Joseph Church; St. Joseph School lead teacher Marlene Clayton sings at Mass with two students; Father Terance Klein asks grandparents what their challenges were growing up; grandfriends enjoy a dinner reception in the parish hall.

Holy Family School, Great Bend

It’s difficult to imagine how a school could fit so many events into one week. Among the Catholic School Week celebrations at Holy Family School were (clockwise from above): a penny challenge between the grades; a celebration of grandfriends, who attended Mass, a reception, and bingo (far right) with their grandchildren; and a spelling bee, in which several students displayed their extraordinary skills.

Photos by Dave Myers

Photos courtesy of Karen Moeder
Sacred Heart School, Ness City

Students at Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Dodge City displayed their abundant musical, comedy, dance, acrobatic, and acting skills at their annual Catholic Schools Week talent show Jan. 29. Students, parents and teachers filled the gym with laughter and applause as the children took to the stage.

So much TALENT!

Sacred Heart Cathedral School, Dodge City
We ‘still haven’t reached a tipping point’

By SHARON DOTY, J.D., M.H.R.
Virtus: National Catholic Risk Retention Group

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 their 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.

I recently received a survey from the Oklahoma State Office of Family Support and Prevention Service as part of their project to create a new plan for child abuse prevention for Oklahoma.

As I am committed to having primary prevention programs like Protecting God’s Children—and included in any future plan, I started to fill out the survey. It only took a few minutes to realize that I could not answer any of the survey questions other than my name. I sent the survey back with a note explaining that the survey was impossible for me to complete. The state office contacted me about the survey and asked me why I could not complete the survey. After all, I was told, as long as I was providing services to families and children aimed at prevention, there should be a way for me to respond.

The answer to their question was right there in their comment. The basic assumption was that everyone who is in “prevention” work is providing services directly to at-risk families to prevent predictable abuse and neglect, or to serve children and families dealing with the aftermath.

Primary prevention like that instructed by VIRTUS is still so far off their radar that it is not even considered. Professionals still believe in what they decided in the late 1970s and early 1980s—that the only prevention efforts that work are those that teach children how to resist predators. This has been proven to be ineffective as a primary source of prevention effort.

In response to their questions and comments, I explained about the VIRTUS Program and how it does not fit their paradigm. They asked me to attend and participate in a Regional Town Hall Meeting about 100 miles away to make sure this piece of the prevention puzzle was included in the State Plan.

I made the trip and participated in the forum, and during the meeting it became clear to me that we have not collectively reached the tipping point in our commitment to shift the paradigm for child sexual abuse prevention. Professionals and parents in those Town Hall meetings had a hard time even hearing what I had to say about the need for programs that educate adults about the behavioral characteristics of potential predators so they can intervene in the grooming process.

For example, on one occasion, I shared the importance of educating all adults about these behavioral characteristics so everyone can watch for risky behavior on behalf of adults. The facilitator of the session, an executive with the Partnership for Education, followed up my statement by saying “You are so right. We must teach all adults how to report.”

We know that recognizing warning signs of potential problematic behavior is very different from actually reporting abuse; the former is addressing concerns immediately about what could be problematic behavior. The latter involves having an actual suspicion of abuse, and reporting to the proper authorities in the state.

Both are necessary elements to preventing abuse before it starts and also addressing it quickly if it does happen. She did not hear what I said because she could not hear it from inside the world she was listening from. In that moment, I got a glimpse of how we have a long way to go before we have what we have learned in this program is part of the mainstream prevention efforts.

The experience of the Town Hall meeting was a reminder that the journey of more than 20 years of promoting adult education as the primary key to a world free of child sexual abuse is just beginning.

What is provided in these types of programs is still “new” information for many, and a different way of thinking for new participants in our programs. Sometimes it is easy to think that we are making great progress—and in the Church, it is true that we are making progress to better protect children.

However, the general thought in the United States is still stuck in the idea that the only way to prevent abuse is to teach kids to say “No!”, get away and tell someone what happened. That is definitely part of the picture—it is just, as you know, not the whole thing.

We all know the example of a young child who was watching us. She asked that the SKC continue to bring articles and commentary about the ongoing priestly abuse crisis to the fore in their 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.

Remember the warning signs of potential inappropriate behavior and communicate about them to a supervisor if observed. Some warning signs include an adult who behaves as if they’re above the rules, who attempts to isolate children from others, who discourages other adults from participating in activities, who shows favoritism or gives gifts to children without parental permission, who disregards procedures and policies, and who allows children to do activities their parents wouldn’t approve.

If, at any point, you become concerned about an actual suspicion of abuse, this would need to be addressed by calling the child protective services in your state.

Don’t give up! Don’t back down! Don’t assume anything is handled.

Sharon Doty has a Masters Degree in Human Relations and a diploma from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Department of Pediatrics in Interdisciplinary Training in Child Abuse and Neglect, and she graduated with distinction with a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

She has more than 25 years of experience in organizational development and management of not-for-profit organizations.

She has 10 years experience as a litigator and approximately 20 years as a staff person and volunteer in agencies advocating for victims of abuse and neglect.

She has more than 25 years of experience in organizational development and management of not-for-profit organizations.

She has conducted and conducted training in the areas of advocacy services to victims of abuse, investigation training, creative problem solving, sexual harassment, dealing with domestic violence in the workplace, communication skills, fund raising, staff training, program development, assessment, and legislative advocacy.

She has also conducted training for the National Youth Resource Center in creative problem solving for high-risk cases and how to prepare to testify in court.

Protecting God’s Children

The Catholic 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.

Or, you may submit a report to the diocese. Report forms are available at www.dcdiocese.org/safe-environment.

GROOMING BEHAVIORS

Before children are sexually abused, they are often groomed by abusers. Do you know the signs?

Special attention or gifts

Isolating the child from others

Filling needs and roles within the family

Treating the child as if he or she is older

Gradually crossing physical boundaries, even in public

Learn the signs, stop the abuse.

D2L.org/5Steps
En agradecimiento a profesores

Por Rev. RONALD M. GILMORE, Obispo Emérito de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

P iensen en el maestro humilde. La madre y el padre en el hogar; la mujer y el hombre en el aula. Se sienten humildes porque nuestro mundo a menudo pasa por alto las maravillas que hacen. A veces, incluso ellos también las pasan por alto.

Luchan cada día para ver lo que está esperando salir en cada niño. Y esperando, y esperando. Allí hay una promesa... un poder, una energía... y su trabajo es liberarla.

A veces puede ser tan simple como ayudar a un niño atrapado en el terco mundo de las fracciones. Una palabra, un truco de viejo/a maestro/a, puede abrirles ese mundo, puede hacerles ver el poder secreto de los números en nuestro mundo sobremediado.

A veces es algo más profundo que el misterioso mundo de la palabra impresa. Los niños pueden abrir lo que son libros cerrados para el estudiante lento, pueden transmitir su propio amor por la apariencia y el sonido de las palabras. No es poca cosa, es un pequeño milagro, guiar a alguien hacia la belleza del lenguaje.

A veces es algo más complejo, como ayudar a un niño a sobrellevar su propio breve pasado. Nuestros años de formación nos preparan para la vida, pero a veces también nos impiden ocupar el lugar que nos corresponde. Algunos hábitos aprendidos, necesitan ser desaprendidos, y desaprendidos mostrándoles que hay otra manera de ver las cosas y de hacerlas. Se necesita habilidad para guiar a un niño desde el egoísmo hasta el desinterés. El maestro humilde es a veces el maestro solitario. Espero que esta Semana de las Escuelas Católicas haya sido agraciada con palabras de gratitud... por los humildes y los solitarios.

Semana de las Escuelas Católicas: Celebrando al héroe en todos nosotros

Cuando a docenas de niños locales se les preguntó quién era su héroe, ningún niño mencionó una figura deportiva. Nadie hablaba de un cantante; nadie mencionó el nombre de un ícono de la moda, o su estrella de cine favorita.

En cambio, las respuestas fueron: “la policía”, “bomberos”, “mi papá”, “mi hermano”, “mi tía…” Algo refrescante, ¿no crees? Y como si eso no fuera suficiente, cuando se les preguntó cómo salvar a los huérfanos de un edificio en llamas o detener a un ladrón de bancos. Solo son niños, después de todo, y han aprendido que lo heroico significa más que poner tu vida en riesgo, aunque eso ciertamente significa más que poner tu vida en riesgo, aunque eso ciertamente

Saben que ser un héroe, como dijo un niño, puede significar ser un amigo para alguien que está siendo intimidado. O ser amable con alguien que está siendo malo contigo. O sorprender a alguien.

En la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas, los estudiantes de las escuelas Católicas de la diócesis aprendieron que los héroes están mucho más cerca de lo que pensaban. Incluso pueden ser esa persona que los mira en el espejo.

Las páginas 9 a 12 resaltan solo uno o dos de los muchos eventos que cada escuela disfrutó para celebrar su escuela católica.

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios

La Diócesis requiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajen con menores a asistir a las sesiones de consciencitización de Proteger a los Niños de Dios. Estas sesiones de consciencitización están disponibles en ambos inglés y español. Son conducidos por gente nuestro diócesis y cada escuela diócesis está capacitada para tener la experiencia para hacer el reporte. Las sesiones se publicarán en las parroquias, escuelas, el periódico Southwest Kansas Catholic y la página electrónica de la Diócesis. www.dcdiocese.org/protectingchildren.

PASOS PARA CREAR UN AMBIENTE SEGURO

1. Conozca la señales de advertencia
2. Controle el acceso
3. Vigile todos los ministerios y programas
4. Esté al tanto del comportamiento de los niños y jóvenes
5. Comunique sus preocupaciones

El Papa Francisco pide a los cristianos tener fe en Dios y no en los milagros

ATLANO (ACI Prensa) - El Papa Francisco hizo un llamado a los cristianos, durante el rezo del Ángelus este domingo 3 de febrero en la Plaza de San Pedro del Vaticano, a vivir su fe en Dios y no en los milagros.

El Santo Padre recordó que “hoy el mundo necesita ver en los discípulos del Señor a profetas, es decir, a personas valientes y perseverantes a la hora de responder a la vocación cristiana”.

“Personas que siguen el impulso del Espíritu Santo que los empuja a anunciar esperanza y salvación a los pobres y a los excluidos; personas que siguen la lógica de la fe y no de los milagros; personas dedicadas al servicio de todos, sin privilegios no exclusiones. En pocas palabras: personas que se abren a acoger en sí mismas la voluntad del Padre y se esfuerzan en testimoniárla fielmente a los demás”.

Para ilustrar estas afirmaciones, el Pontífice recordó la lectura del Evangelio de Lucas. En el fragmento evangélico en el que Jesús se presenta como el Cristo, el enviado del Padre, ante sus conciudadanos de Nazaret en la sinagoga local.

Ellos, que únicamente veían en Él al hijo de José, reclamaban un milagro, “pero Jesús no quiere y no puede aceptar esa lógica, porque no corresponde al plan de Dios: Dios quiere la fe, ellos quieren milagros; Dios quieren la salvación de todos, ellos quieren un Mesías para su provecho propio”.

“Y para explicar la lógica de Dios, Jesús pone de ejemplo a los dos grandes profetas antiguos: Elías y Eliseo, que Dios había mandado a curar y a salvar a personas no hebreas, de otros pueblos, pero que eran fiéis a su palabra”.

“Este Evangelio”, señaló el Papa, “nos muestra que el ministerio público de Jesús, comienza con un rechazo y con una amenaza de muerte, paradójicamente, por parte de sus propios conciudadanos”.

“Jesús, al vivir la misión que le fue confiada por el Padre, sabe bien que debe afrontar la fatiga, el rechazo, la persecución y la desconfianza”. Se trata de “un precio que, ayer como hoy, la profecía auténtica está llamada a pagar”.

Sin embargo, “este duro rechazo no desanima a Jesús, sino que le impulsa al camino y a la fecundidad de su acción profética. Él va adelante por su camino, confiando en el amor del Padre”. El Papa finalizó su enseñanza previa al rezo del Ángelus pidiendo a la Virgen “que podamos creer y caminar con el mismo espíritu apostólico por el Reino de Dios que animó la misión de Jesús”.

Reportando Abuso

Si usted sospecha abuso o descuido de un menor en Kansas y el menor está en un centro de detención, hágale el reporte a la Diócesis en el 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, cbefort@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 Diócesis en nuestro sitio web.

Agradecemos al Señor por las muchas hermanas, sacerdotes y hermanos de congregaciones religiosas que han servido generosamente en la Diócesis de Dodge City en el pasado y en el presente. Oramos para que muchos más entren en la vida religiosa, para que sean “personas que han elegido seguir a Cristo por medio de la práctica de los consejos evangélicos” (Papa San Juan Pablo II).

Personas del Suroeste de Kansas marchan en Topeka en apoyo a la vida

Un autobús con 23 jóvenes y patrocinadores de Liberal, Dodge City, Medicine Lodge y La Crosse, partió de la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Liberal, para llegar a Topeka por el lunes de Topeka para el evento “Ignite” y la presentación especial en video, “I Lived on Parker Ave” y la charla de adopción de David Scotton.

Por favor tomen un momento para escribir una carta de apoyo a nuestros seminaristas. Ellos han expresado lo grande que es para ellos saber que hay alguien pensando en ellos y orando por ellos.

Por Rev. JOHN B. BRUNGRARDT,
Obispo de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

Agradecemos al Señor por las muchas hermanas, sacerdotes y hermanos de congregaciones religiosas que han servido generosamente en la Diócesis de Dodge City en el pasado y en el presente. Oramos para que muchos más entren en la vida religiosa, para que sean “personas que han elegido seguir a Cristo por medio de la práctica de los consejos evangélicos” (Papa San Juan Pablo II).
ALOIS L. “AL” WONDRA, 79, of Holy Family Parish, Odin, died Jan. 22, 2019. He was born on a farm in rural Hösington, the son of Joseph K. and Agnes (Debes) Wondra. He then served in the Army from 1958 to 1959. He was a farmer while also working fulltime at Marlette Homes and then Fuller Brush. He was a member of Knights of Columbus Council #2630. Survivors include: brothers, Art and Jerry; sisters, Margaret White, Rita Legleiter, and Jeanie Hapes; and many nieces and nephews. Father Terrence Klein presided.

RICHARD J. MEYSSING, 82, of St. Dominic Parish, Garden City, died Jan. 22, 2019. He was born at Hillsboro, the son of Joseph Herman and Mary Margaret (Reznick) Meysing. He married Mary Ann Trumble on July 20, 1966. She died on Sept. 28, 2012. Richard worked as a salesman before moving to Garden City and working for USD 457 as a custodian and maintenance person, mainly at Lincoln school. After retirement, he spent eight years at Wal-Mart as a greeter. He was a member of the 4th Degree of Knights Of Columbus and was very involved in the October Fest, Bingo and other community projects. He is survived by his daughter, Mary Beckerdite; and sister, Patricia Waner. Father Warren Stecklein presided. HELEN MARIE (BECK) URBAN, 84, of St. Joseph Parish, Ellinwood, died Jan. 27, 2019. She was born on the family farm in north of Hoisington to Frank and Marie (Klug) Beck. She married Melvin Urban on Aug. 31, 1935. She was an employee of Peoples State Bank in Ellinwood for many years. Helen was a member of the Altar Society and was a “grand-friend” to many children at St. Joseph School. She is survived by her husband, Melvin, of 65 years; children Mike, JaNan Rader, Chris, and Brad; brothers, Gene Beck and Al Beck; sisters, Kathy Thompson, Betty Steiner, and Elma Stricker; nine grand-children; six great-grand-children; and three more who are on the way.

MANUEL LOMBRANA MEZA, 83, of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died Jan. 26, 2019. He was born in Menard, Texas, the son of Bonifacio Diaz and Deloroi (Lombrana) Meza. He served in the U.S. Army. He married Irma Guerra on Sept. 15, 1962. Manuel had worked at Ansel Manufacturing in Ulysses and for Collingwood Grain at Big Bow, retiring after 35 years. He was a handyman who enjoyed carpenter work and building and remodeling houses. Manuel is survived by his wife, Irma; one son, William Meza; three daughters, Cynthia Meza, Rebecca Bryner and Norma Meza; two brothers, Modesto Meza and Joe Meza; five sisters, Lupe Beholver, Vicki Lewis, Sally Carson, Linda Juniga, and Mary Lou Meza; nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews. Father Peter Fernandez presided.

AGNES MARIE HERTEL BECKERDITE died on Jan. 25, 2019. Agnes was born in Ness City to Alex and Margaret (Pfannenstiel) Hertel. After attending high school at Sacred Heart Academy in Wichita, she received her Registered Nursing degree from St. Francis School of Nursing. During her career in health care, she worked at hospitals in Carlbad, New Mexico, Phoenix, Arizona, Pueblo, Colorado Dodge City and Ashland, Kansas. She married Cameron Beckerdite on June 22, 1968. She took on Cameron’s four small daughters as her own. Cameron died Nov. 7, 1996. She is survived by her four step-daughters and their families: Ann and Howard Calloway, Claudia and Mike Terry, Camme Beckerdite and Ruthie and Neal Cox. She has nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and multiple nieces and nephews. LAWRENCE NICHOLAS LIEBL, 97, of Immaculate Conception Parish, Clifton, died Jan. 28, 2019. He was born in Great Bend, the son of Joseph and Frances (Schulte) Liebl. He served in the U.S. Army from September 1942 until his honorable discharge in March 1946. On April 26, 1949, he married Mary Ann Kimpler. She died Aug. 2, 1998. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #2630 of Odin. Survivors include children, Ken, Carol Steiner, Larry, Liebl, and Todd; 18 grandchildren; and 23 great grandchildren. Father Terrance Klein presided.

DEWAYNE J. MICK, 70, of Prince of Peace Parish, Great Bend, died Jan. 31, 2019. He was born at Winfield to Joseph and Irene (Denning) Mick. He married Jolene Stimatecz Dec. 22, 1969 at Lyons. She survives. He was owner and operator of DeWayne’s Tank Service, Inc. Other survivors include, one son, DeWayne “Jay” Mick; three brothers, Gary L. Mick, William H. Baker, Jr., and Gregory R. Baker; one grandson, Jay Allen Mick; and several nieces and nephews. Father Ted Stecklein presided.

“Death is no more than passing from one room into another. But there’s a difference for me, you know. Because in that other room I shall be able to see.” — Helen Keller

Obituary policy

Obituaries are listed free of charge, but must be edited for space. If you see that a listing has not been included, call Dave at (620) 227-1519, or email skregister@dcdiocese.org. Please pray for the repose of all those listed, and for their friends and loved ones.

Angels to Xavier

Catholic Place Names in Kansas

Obvious & Obscure

A book by Diocesan Archivist Tim Wenzl

Frontenac

Frontenac [Crawford County] - Founded in 1866 by the Cherokee-Pittsburg Coal Company, this community first bore the name Santa Fe Mine No. 1. In 1887, the name was changed to Frontenac. This name possibly came from Fort Frontenac in Ontario, Canada, a source of early recruitment for the coal mines. The namesake for the fort and this Kansas community is Louis de Buade De Frontenac et Palluau, the Catholic Frenchman who served as Governor of New France from 1672 to 1682, and 1689 to 1698. Frontenac sent Cavelier de La Salle to explore the course of the Mississippi River. In 1682, La Salle named the Mississippi River basin Louisiana, in honor of the French King Louis XIV.

Frontenac’s character has been described as a mixture of good and bad qualities, yet “he possessed a rich fund of faith and piety…” “He found Canada weakened and attacked on all sides; he left it in peace, enlarged and respected. He has been justly called ‘saver of the country.’” Frontenac died November 28, 1698; he is buried in the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Quebec, Quebec, Canada.
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Each Suduko puzzle consists of a 9x9 Suduko grid containing areas surrounded by gray or dotted lines. The object is to fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 box, and the sum of the numbers in each area is equal to the clue in the area’s top-left corner.

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For information about opioid addiction or to seek help, visit https://ckfaddictiontreatment.org/, or call (785) 825-6224.

For information about suicide prevention, visit SpeakingOfSuicide.com, or, if you are having thoughts of suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.
New movie tells story of abortion clinic worker turned pro-life advocate

(CNA) - A movie chronicling the conversion of a former Planned Parenthood clinic director who became a pro-life advocate will be released in theaters nationwide on March 29.

A trailer for the film “Unplanned,” which tells the story of Abby Johnson, was released Jan. 31.

Based off Johnson’s book of the same name, Unplanned recounts her experiences in the abortion industry. After being first approached at an on-campus activities fair, Johnson began volunteering at Planned Parenthood as a clinic escort. After graduation, she took a job with the company and eventually became the director of the Bryan, Texas clinic. In 2008, she was named as the clinic’s employee of the year.

During her time working at the nation’s largest abortion provider, Johnson herself had two abortions.

Due to a personnel shortage, she was called in to assist in an ultrasound-guided abortion for the first time in September 2009. She was initially disconcerted to note how much the unborn child, after 13 weeks, looked like the image she had seen of her own living daughter while pregnant.

The next few minutes changed Johnson’s life irrevocably, as she watched the baby—whom she had believed to be incapable of feeling anything—squirming and twisting to avoid the tube into which it would be vacuumed.

Johnson went on to found the organization “And Then There Were None,” which seeks to assist abortion workers with leaving the industry and finding a new career. Although not shown in the film, Johnson and her husband subsequently converted to Catholicism and are currently expecting their eighth child.

And Then There Were None has helped nearly 500 former clinic workers leave the abortion industry.

Sunday, Feb. 10

Monday, Feb. 11
Genesis 1:1-19/Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday, Feb. 12

Wednesday, Feb. 13
Genesis 2:5-9, 15-17/Mark 7:14-23

Thursday, Feb. 14; Saint Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop
Genesis 2:18-25/Mark 7:24-30
Friday, Feb. 15
Genesis 3:1-8/Mark 7:31-37
Saturday, Feb. 16
Genesis 3:9-24/Mark 8:1-10

Sunday, Feb. 17
Jeremiah 17:1-5, 8-9/First Corinthians 15:12, 16-20/Luke 6:17, 20-26

Monday, Feb. 18
Genesis 4:1-15, 25/Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday, Feb. 19
Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday, Feb. 20
Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22/Mark 8:22-26

Thursday, Feb. 21
Genesis 9:1-13/Mark 8:27-33

Friday, Feb. 22; Chair of Saint Peter, apostle
First Peter 5:1-4/Matthew 16:13-19
Saturday, Feb. 23; Saint Polycarp, bishop and martyr
Hebrews 11:1-7/Mark 9:2-13

Sunday, Feb. 24
First Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/First Corinthians 15:45-49/Luke 6:27-38
Editor’s Note: With the talk of heroes in this special Catholic Schools Week issue, I find that this article quickly calls to mind some of my personal heroes, the staff at Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas. They help the poorest of the poor, those on the fringes of society. They are truly doing the Lord’s work every day. The following was submitted by Rebecca Ford of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities’ biggest fundraiser of the year, a Charity Wine Tasting Event and Auction, takes place on Friday, May 3 at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street in Great Bend. Catholic Charities is accepting event sponsorships and donations for both the live and silent auction components of the Annual Wine Tasting Event throughout February.

Sponsorships help us to underwrite the costs of the event (facility rental, catering, tasting beverages, printing and advertising costs, etc.) so that more of the event profit goes to help those in need. If you can’t think of a fitting auction item, a sponsorship may be the perfect way to go! We strive to acknowledge our appreciation for the generosity of you or your business, no matter how small, and topping out with the Champagne sponsorship of $2,000.

As you know, the needs of those who struggle don’t go away. Just when we get one family back on their feet, another family gets hit with a medical emergency, a pregnancy, or perhaps a job furlough they weren’t prepared to handle. Regardless of the circumstance, we believe that every human being has value, and that they are worthy of compassionate help to get back on their feet.

The Annual Charity Wine Tasting Event features a wonderful live and silent auction with many items for men, women, and children that are original, creative, beautiful, useful, delicious, collectible or unusual! Like the disciples to whom Jesus said “Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you will find a catch,” we are casting our nets for a catch of auction items over the next month, so that we can raise additional funds for those in need. These can be physical items, sports-related items, original pieces, eccentric pieces, dinners, excursions, vacation packages, gift certificates, and especially wine and beer-related items to go along with the theme of a wine tasting.

To sponsor the wine tasting, or to donate something for the live or silent auction, download this form (go to https://catholiccharitiesswks.org/wine-tasting-event), fill out the appropriate side and send it in, along with any logo and ad materials for your sponsorship level, by the end of February. One side of the form is for sponsorships and the other side is for auction donations.

What if you don’t have a lot of money to donate, bid, or sponsor? Volunteer your time! It takes a team to make this event happen. We are always in need of volunteers (and ever so grateful for the help!), even if you only have a little time to spare. Commitment forms and donations can be mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to Catholic Charities, 2201 16th St, Great Bend KS 67530, rford@CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org.

For more information, or to volunteer your time, please contact the event coordinator, Rebecca Ford, at 620-792-1303.