A welcome along the journey

By DAVE MYERS Southwest Kansas Catholic

The Southwest Kansas Catholic is beginning a series of articles on prayer. If you think this should be an easy read about the joy and simplicity of talking to God, you'd be right.

But you know how we tend to over-complicate things. Which is why when addressing prayer, we bring up all sorts of things, like Ignatian Contemplation, Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, Adoration, Petition, and Intercession.

Fortunately, these are just variations of the same theme: feeling God’s presence in the moment, listening to Him, speaking to Him.

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.” — 1 Chronicles 16:11

Bishop John Brungardt has asked that this series be more of a practical guide, “not too theological.”

Prayer, he said, means:

• being aware of the presence of God.
• having an intimate encounter with God.
• and communication (speaking-head and heart, and listening-head and heart) with God.

In the coming issues, this series will delve into how one can better achieve that closeness with God through various forms of prayer. For me, it’s always the one-on-one, conversation, simply speaking and simply listening. For others, it’s the Rosary that draws them closest to Christ, or while in Adoration.

What is your favorite form of prayer? What do you focus on when you pray?

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When Monday Comes

Jacqueline Loh pens book about the ‘Grace that Reigns’ experience

A trained architect, Jacqueline Loh founded the retreat ministry Grace that Reigns in Vancouver, Canada. She is in the United States now involved in a series of Lenten retreats in this country. These retreats feature a new book she has written, “When Monday Comes.” The SKC caught up with her recently in Dodge City.

Q: The title of your new book is intriguing. Where did it come from, and what does it mean?
A: It is a faint echo of the Helen Keller story. You may remember that young Helen could not see and she could not talk; she was locked up inside herself. A gifted teacher, Anne Sullivan, was able to set her free from that angry isolation. That story appeared in a movie in the 1960s called the Miracle Worker. But there was a whole life to live after that moment, and the story of the rest of her life was made into a movie called Monday after the Miracle.

Persons making a retreat experience something similar. Retreats today are often weekend things that are intense, emotional, uplifting and sometimes decisive in a person’s life. They often end in conversion, a return to God, and those who experience it are on an emotional high. But there is a whole life to be lived after that. Just how do you retain and deepen that intimacy with God when the miracle of conversion has passed, when Monday comes. The retreats that Bishop Gilmore and I do help people understand and live through all the Mondays of their lives.

Q: That’s very interesting. How did you come to write such a book at this particular time?
A: The Lord turned my life upside down over 20 years ago now: it was the Monday comes. The retreats that Bishop Gilmore and I do help people understand and live through all the Mondays of their lives.

How we try to do this listening to the Lord, how we try to prepare persons for the Mondays of their lives, how all of it is structured … all this is concentrated in this slender book. It is both a guide and a workbook for the retreatants. It is a Catholic Vade Mecum, a printed companion you can take with you. In that sense, it is a guide for all our retreatants, and even for all the retreatant-wannabe’s out there. It is a tool to help you understand the way God works in a life, and thus to help you in your own conversion, and prepare you for the obstacles you will face as you live out that new adventure. As the retreats are a concentrated form of every human life, so this book is a concentrated form of every retreat we give.

Q: Where can our readers find your book, and any other materials you have available?
A: The book is available at each of our retreats, and with the cost of printing and postage, it is now selling for $12. It also is available on our website, www.gracethatreigns.com. It is useful for the retreatants, of course. But it can also be used by any individual who is sincerely seeking God, and it can be used by like-minded friends who want to pursue that relationship in small groups.

Autographed copies are available at the retreats, and when purchased through our website.

Lent takes us deep

It makes us think seriously about things in our lives: about where we come from; about choices we make; about where we are going, toward God or away from God. He made us out of love, and he gently calls us to return that love, by giving ourselves away as a gift.

The Son he sent lived this gifting in his own person. He took our sins upon himself, and gave himself away to death. He was a gift, a gift of sacrificial love.

The New Testament inherited this way of thinking, of course, from the Old Testament. The Book of Leviticus describes five kinds of sacrifices, animal and vegetable. Three of these (the burnt offering; the grain offering; and the peace offering) express our communion with God, and two of these (the sin offering; and the guilt offering) express how to restore communion with God, once broken.

To the Hebrew mind, every sacrifice was a ritualized offering of self. The one who offered led the animal to its death and its burning, a powerful sign of a gift completely given to God. The one who offered thus acted out his own gift of self to the Lord, a fundamental act of worship. He, she, they give themselves totally as a gift to God.

This is the context for understanding what Jesus said at the Last Supper, and for understanding what Jesus did on Calvary. On the night before he died, he took the bread and he took the wine, and he spoke the ritual words over them. In this way, he made a direct connection between this ritual meal and the coming sacrifice on the Cross. He gave himself to death, so that he himself, and we, might come to life.

All the sacrifices of the Old Testament come to their full and final meaning in the Sacrifice of the Cross. The last was born ritually in the first. The first was completed ritually in the last.

Lent takes us deep: through the deeps of our own brokenness, to the deeps of God’s own way.

Grace that Reigns Lenten retreat

Bishop Emeritus Ronald M. Gilmore and Jacqueline Loh will be offering their Grace that Reigns retreat at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Wichita, April 2-4.

“Our whole effort is to promote those moments of Grace through which people realize that … there is more to life than the mundane things that we do,” Loh said.

For more information, visit www.gracethatreigns.com (see article at left).
Former Planned Parenthood director shares story of redemption

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

G ARDEN CITY -- In the banquet hall of the Clarion Hotel, Abby Johnson told a packed house that she had “helped facilitate more than 20,000 abortions.”

It wasn’t the first time that the guest speaker and author left the crowd in stunned silence.

Attending the ABC Pregnancy Care Center fund-raiser banquet March 5 was Bishop John B. Brungardt and other priests and members of the curia. Representatives from every church in Garden City also filled the large hall, both in appreciation for the efforts and many good works of the Pregnancy Care Center, and to hear Johnson tell her astounding story of redemption. A movie of Johnson’s experiences, titled “Unplanned,” will be released March 29.

While attending Texas A&M University, Johnson approached a Planned Parenthood representative who was looking for student volunteers.

“Wherever vulnerable women are, there is Planned Parenthood,” Johnson said. She explained to the woman that she was pro-life. The Planned Parenthood rep told her why, despite being good people, pro-lifers are wrong. “If there’s no legally abortion, the rep told her, women will be forced to have back alley abortions. Women have a right to their own body, after all. What’s next? Taking away the right to vote?

Young, impressionable, and most importantly, lacking the knowledge to see through the lies, Johnson became a volunteer.

She would work for Planned Parenthood for eight years, eventually becoming one of the youngest clinic directors in the organization. She told those gathered that she even earned an “Employee of the Year” award.

“Hold your applause,” she joked with the large audience. Johnson’s very intense and difficult-to-hear discussion was smattered with laugh-out-loud moments that helped ease tension.

First, the lies, including that of being forced to back alley abortions: “What happens in Planned Parenthood is the same as happens in back alley abortions,” explained the former Planned Parenthood director.

Implying that any abortion is safe is a misnomer. “In order for abortion to be successful, a human being has to be killed. That is the antithesis of safety. The doctor turned the cannula on and said, "Aborton day in and day out." That’s abortion day in and day out.”

Then came the day when everything changed. A visiting doctor told Johnson that, at his office, he used the ultrasound during the procedure. This was rare, but made perfect sense to Johnson.

“Abortion is the most common surgical procedure in our country. Without the ultrasound, the doctor can’t see what he’s doing.” This leads to mistakes, such as the penetration of the uterine wall with the cannula. She said that doctors in her office never used the ultrasound, because it included an extra two or three minutes of preparation. This would cut in on how many procedures they could provide in a day.

The visiting physician invited Johnson to assist an abortion using the ultrasound.

“My job was to hold the ultrasound on the patient’s abdomen. The baby was 13 weeks old. Everything was formed. [The baby] had every internal organ we have sitting here today. We can tell if it is a boy or girl. I had a hard time convincing myself to look at the screen. I could see the cannula getting closer and closer. When it was very close, the baby jumped and flailed, trying to get away. That baby looked frantic, just as we all would if something was threatening our life.”

“The doctor turned the cannula on and said, ‘Beam me up, Scotty.’”

The worst part for Johnson was the taking of a human life and “that I had a chance to intervene for this baby, and I did nothing.”

When the procedure was finished, she fled the office. Moments later she was lying on a couch, crying.

“I started counting the days, and months and years I was with Planned Parenthood, and realized that I had facilitated more than 20,000 abortions. What do you say? Sorry? There was nothing I could say.

“When I came to that number, God reminded me that there was nothing I could do to change it, but that because of His amazing grace I didn’t have to. He reminded me, it was over and God had won.”

In the decade since then, she has written two books, spoken on news programs, and crisscrossed the country telling of her journey. She is the founder of “And Then There Were None,” which assists abortion workers with leaving the industry and finding a new path.

She converted to Catholicism and, as she spoke in Garden City, said she was pregnant with her eighth child. On March 29, the movie “Unplanned,” based on her book of the same name, will open for limited release. Check local listings, or visit dcdioce.se.org/swkscatholic for more information.

ABC Pregnancy Care Center

ABC Pregnancy Care Center in Garden City offers hope and help to women and men who are facing a difficult pregnancy decision.

Housef irmly in the Gospel of Christ, the center provides free pregnancy testing, pregnancy/parenting/life-skills classes, prenatal vitamins, limited sonograms (by appointment only), material assistance (baby clothing, blankets, food, and more), and one-on-one Bible studies. They also offer a confidential abortion recovery program tailored to the individual’s needs.

“ABC envisions a society where women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions are uplifted by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and informed, supported and empowered as they choose life for the unborn, for themselves, and their families.”

Contact them at 620-275-1777 or by visiting www.abcpregnancy.carecenter.org. They are located at 509 N 6th Street, Garden City.
I was in the ninth grade, my last year of junior high school. I had recently won an award for a self-portrait I drew; I was on the track team; I was in love and had recently kissed a girl for the first time. Most important of all, I hadn’t yet developed zits. My world was a great place to live.

All of this was housed comfortably in the back of my mind as I stood at the starting line of the 440-yard race at my first ever track meet.

A few weeks before I had been sure I would follow in my big brother’s footsteps and be a pole vaulter, but I had the bad habit of flinging myself backwards. While it looked pretty impressive and drew applause from teammates and coach alike, flinging yourself backwards on the pole vault is not a track and field event. It should be. It looks very cool, especially if you get the flailing just right.

The only track event that I definitely didn’t want to take part in was the 440-yard dash, which equated to 64 seconds of wondering if I’m about to have a coronary. Which is exactly what the coach assigned me to. Not only that race, but the mile relay, in which you had to run a 440-yard race while coordinating with three teammates. It’s hard to coordinate while gasping for breath.

So, I’m standing at the starting line. My first 440-yard race, ever. I was up against two guys from Oberon Junior High, our nemesis. We were the Drake Dragons. Together we sing “everybody now”, “We are the Dragons, the mighty, mighty Dragons. People ask us who we are, so we tell them: We are the Dragons the mighty, mighty Dragons.” Our school song was written by Burt Bacharach.

Drake Junior High School was smooched right up against the foothills of the Rockies and across the street from the Jolly Rancher candy factory. Oh, that wonderful scent. Ahh-hhhh.

“On your mark. Get set. Go!”

Man, I zipped away from that starting line like a gazelle. I ran like the wind. Like a combination of wind and a gazelle. A gazind. Aft er three cups of coffee. And binati on of wind and a gazelle. A candy factory. Oh, that wonderful scent. And across the street from the Jolly Rancher written by Burt Bacharach.

We were the Drake Dragons. Together we sing the first 440-yard race, ever. I was up against two competitors. “Ha! Man, that felt good!”

Cut to a week later, our next meet. I’m at the starting line. I don’t know why it was always one person against two, but there I was again, ready to take on two competitors. Suddenly we’re off! Only I didn’t start out at a full sprint. I managed each step, figuring the speed I was capable of keeping up for the entire quarter mile.

This time, it was my competitors’ turn to fizzle out half-way around, while I was able to distance them without ever going full tilt. Man, that felt good!

At our next practice, we gathered on the bleachers and the coach called me out for having improved so much in one week. I remember being embarrassed, but it faded quickly because he switched gears and talked about something that had happened at the meet.

I only have a faded memory of the actual thing that happened. What I remember is that some teammates and I took a few minutes and helped a worker at our competing school to clear out some hurdles and things from the track. It was really nothing, a few minutes of minor effort. But it was enough that the worker told the coaching coach, and he told our coach.

It would have never occurred to us that it meant something. But our coach called it out. By doing so, he made clear that the real winning isn’t necessarily being the first to cross the finish line, it’s the journey. It’s by being of service to others, providing a simple act of kindness. Winning. I learned, means being an example of Christ in a world that is filled with hurdles.
Questions and opportunity in state government
A plea to Kansas Catholics

BY CHUCK WEBER
Executive director,
Kansas Catholic Conference

Unanswered questions are dominating the 2019 Kansas legislative session. Conflicting approaches between the governor and the legislature for solutions to the state’s challenges are creating a sobering political reality. Can you say gridlock?

Many core beliefs of Kansas Catholics are trapped in the middle. What will happen in this political mystery drama now playing out until early summer? Let’s begin with what we do know.

Any pro-life legislation faces a certain veto. The Kansas Supreme Court is protecting minors traveling across state lines, and the sanctuary abortion state, Kansas, continues running with no legal definition of the term. The state’s challenge is creating a sobering political reality. Can you say gridlock?

Let’s begin with what we do know.

Any pro-life legislation faces a certain veto. The Kansas Supreme Court is protecting minors traveling across state lines, and the sanctuary abortion state, Kansas, continues running with no legal definition of the term. The state’s challenge is creating a sobering political reality. Can you say gridlock?

One in a million: reflections on NY’s Reproductive Health Act

BY KATIE TRUEAU

Has anyone ever told you, “you’re one in a million?” For me, that sentence has a whole new meaning after last week. Being in utero in New York in 1995, my life was somewhat protected under statutes if my birthmother was killed, as by a weapon or in a vehicular accident. Nearly two decades later, a unborn baby in the state is completely unprotected at any stage. In fact, women and unborn babies are in even more danger. From the moment of conception until one minute before being born, an unborn baby can be wiped from existence in the world due to the passage of the Reproductive Health Act.

I used to be proud to say I was adopted from New York. As of last week, I have nothing but sorrow for my home state.

At the age of 23, I may never know the circumstances that brought my birth mother to a delivery room, but I do know that she chose life under difficult circumstances. She seemed to have been the perfect candidate to procure an abortion: a young, middle-class, well-educated, white woman.

I survived her thought of a deadly procedure to stop my heart from beating, or to halt another brainwave, just after six weeks. I survived her enduring thoughts and pressures from society for a young woman to make her situation easier by erasing my existence, and never telling a soul.

One in a million odds seems rare, right? A miracle if anything. In 1995, I survived both U.S. and New York state law on abortion. These laws took 1.2 million unborn children that same year, according to the CDC. Abortions have only increased in New York since Roe v. Wade with 233 unborn babies stripped of the dignity of life each day. A procedure that was once intended to be safe, legal, and rare, has now become dangerous (with respect to late-term abortions) and more frequent. New York state law isn’t all that shocking to most involved in the pro-life movement.

New York has always been the sanctuary abortion state, whether the mothers were minors traveling across state lines or deliver third trimester seekers. In 2003, partial-birth abortion was condemned by federal law and surrounding progressive states, yet New York maintained a voice for so-called choice.

Between 1975 and 1995, the number of abortions dramatically dropped by roughly 60,000 abortions each year.

The root problem with legislation like New York’s new allowance of late-term abortions de-regulation comes from a larger division in today’s political climate. In 1971, Massachusetts’ Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy spoke against legislation such as this: “Wanted or unwanted, I believe that human life, even at its earliest stages, has certain rights which must be recognized – the right to be born, the right to love, the right to grow up.”

Today, some Democrats support the hashtag #ShoutYourAbortion and fist-bump each other on state and federal Senate floors, blocking the right to life of an unborn baby at the gestational age of 20 weeks — even when scientists have overwhelmingly told us “they feel pain.” Not only do support late-term abortion, they also believe that if an infant is breathing after a failed abortion, literally born through natural delivery, they should be left to die on a stainless tray in a back room or closet of a hospital. No longer is it a universal belief that a human being survives an abortion procedure, their life is worth saving.

Our civilized neighbors in some states stand against hospitalization and adoption or foster-care protocol. Instead, like ancient Romans, they lawfully choose to leave the infant, anywhere above 20 gestational weeks old, to suffer and die on a cold stainless tray like an animal of lesser worth than something wanted in this world.

If you want to offer real “choice”, why leave a human baby on a tray to starve or suffocate to death? After procuring, or attempting to procure, an abortion, nobody is feeling overwhelmed, scared, lonely, or ashamed. However, someone will be faulted leaving a living baby on a tray to die slowly, painfully, by itself in a dark room.

Do we really want to be the type of people who kill our own kind, at viability, strictly based on whether the baby is “wanted”? No law will change the emotions overwhelming an unwed woman (or married woman with a handful of kids already) who finds herself holding another positive pregnancy test crying on the bathroom floor, locked, with the shower running to drown out her tears. Some women will continue to have abortions. Some will choose adoption.

But how can we choose to impact our families and communities to choose life?

First and foremost, we must love our neighbor. The shame a woman feels in this position is traumatic. Love her (be she your daughter, sister, mother, aunt, best friend, or a stranger). Support her (offer encouragement, a hand to hold, financial or spiritually)

Mother Teresa used to say: “May God break my heart so completely that the whole world falls in.”

Maybe it’s time your heart truly broke for a woman in need, because love requires sacrifice.

After all, you may just save the next child who grows up to realize they were the lucky one in a million.

Katie Trueau is a recent graduate of Ave Maria University. She works as a political communications consultant for both state and federal representatives, and candidates nationwide.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Guess what?! This couple found a humorous way to let their loved ones know that there was soon to be an addition to the family. Even though the husband might look like the one having the baby, he is assuring his family that, no, it’s just a little fun-fat from a few too many frozen dairy products.
Local youth encounter Pope Francis

Kansas did, though, is the joy of knowing that their
trip. “It could not have been done any
other way. “I remember thinking that the amount
for this trip was nearly impossible, and
my prayer became, ‘God, if you want
us to go, you have to make it happen.’
Well, He did! That was something I will
always remember, God’s providence
playing out before our eyes through
the generosity of truly thousands of
people.”

Thanks to people across the diocese
and beyond, our youth were given a
“chance to experience the global aspect
of the Catholic Church.”

“I felt this sense of belonging by
people who had the same faith as
me,” said Adam Gutierrez from St.
Alphonsus Parish in an article in the SKC
by seminarian John Stang.

They received an up-close view of
Pope Francis, just before and
after his opening remarks. Pilgrims
from the Dodge City diocese stood
near the barricades on the road
to catch a glimpse of the Vicar of
Christ as he passed through throngs
of screaming, adoring fans—a very
moving experience.

“When I saw [Pope Francis] up close,
everything got brighter,” said Gabe
Salas of St. Alphonsus Parish, “I felt a
spiritual connection.”

It’s a connection that they all brought
back to their parish, thanks to the
generosity of people across the Catholic
Diocese of Dodge City.

Parish uses funds to support its youth

Who is served?

Vibrant Ministries — Uniting Our Church

Local youth encounter Pope Francis

Attending World Youth Day are the three amigos, Seminarian John Stang, Youth Director Adam Urban, and Father Jacob Schneider. At center is Angela Enriquett of Garden City.

How does the appeal benefit youth and young adults?

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 jberry@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.

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

Local youth encounter Pope Francis

The Southwest Kansas Catholic
Selfless acts of kindness
Local Sisters offer help to newly arrived migrants in El Paso

BY DAVE AND CHARLENE SCOTT MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

A little migrant boy and his family, recently arrived at the southern border of the United States, were preparing to go to the airport to fly to the home of their sponsor.

The tired child, who had been through so much, looked down at the small, stuffed lamb he held tightly, and said, “Don’t worry, it will be ok. I am here to take care of you.”

Sister Imelda Schmidt smiled as she relayed the story March 15 to a large group gathered at St. Patrick worship site at Prince of Peace Parish in Great Bend.

She and Sister Roserita Webber, who also spoke, were two of five Dominican Sisters of Peace who recently volunteered in El Paso, Texas to aid in the processing of recently arrived migrants. The other sisters were Mary Vuong, Doris Regan and Barbara Kane, all from Ohio.

“Of course, he was trying to reassure himself,” Sister Imelda said of the child.

The little boy was one of many migrants that the sisters served during their three-week stay, beginning in late December, in El Paso. Run by volunteers, Annunciation House and its assistant centers offer support, sanctuary, and perhaps most important of all for the tired migrants, a welcoming smile.

“They were so happy to see smiling people again,” Sister Roserita said.

Once checked in, the family or individual is processed and assigned a cot in a large, community sleeping area, one side for men, the other for women.

After several days on a bus, or in some cases, on foot, they are gratified to be offered a new set of clothing, a warm coat, and a shower.

“They will come in wearing flip-flops because it’s pretty warm where they are from,” said Sister Imelda. “It can get very cold in El Paso. We had long lines of donated shoes under the tables with clothing that they could choose from.”

Few of the immigrants were from Mexico, Sister Imelda explained. “They were from Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Brazil and one family each from Russia and Cuba.”

“The families from Brazil spoke Portuguese, and we seldom had an interpreter for them,” Sister Roserita added.

While in Texas, Sisters Roserita, Imelda and the other Sisters helped process papers, distribute clothing, and serve meals to the tired multitude. They aided the migrants in contacting their sponsors and arranging for transportation. They drove them to the bus or train station, or the airport.

And they did so with a welcoming smile, like a spiritual embrace.

Why would the families leave their home to suffer through days of travel, only to come to a foreign country where the struggle would continue as they try to make a new start?

For some, it’s the violent gangs that forced them to make the drastic and frightening decision, Sister Roserita said. A son, a brother, a young father is approached by a gang. They are asked to join, as if there is more than one answer. After all, a refusal can equate to a death sentence for the teenager or his family. They rushed to escape with their lives.

For others, especially those from Guatemala, it is a necessary move if they want to feed their family.

For another, finances had nothing to do with it. One young man had seen his father murdered before his eyes.

“Their sponsors were at least as happy as the migrant to hear that they were okay,” Sister Roserita said with a smile.

“One of the men had sent his money to a sponsor who was supposed to purchase his bus ticket,” Sister Roserita said. “We couldn’t track him down. We called the sponsor’s son. He said, ‘I’ll take care of it.’” So he drove across country with two friends to pick up the man and take him home.

After two weeks with their sponsor, the migrant has to attend immigration court and explain to the judge why he or she felt it necessary to leave their country of origin.

“I wish we could have talked more with [the migrants],” Sister Roserita said.

“Many were gone within a day or two.” It’s not such a happy ending for those who do not have their paperwork in order, or do not have a sponsor. For them, their tired journey across country ends in arrest and eventual deportation.

On Wednesdays, the Sisters had the day off. On one of these days, they travelled to the Mexico border.

“There are plenty of walls down there,” Sister Roserita said, shaking her head.

“Near the Tornillo, the detention camp for youth, they had signs up all over: ‘Free the Children.’ In the last two months, 200 more children have been separated from their parents at the border.”

As is the case with all tragedies, whether a tornado, tropical storm, or those tragedies housed more deeply in the hearts of immigrants and refugees fleeing their homeland, the El Paso community has joined to offer an unprecedented hand to their southern neighbors.

Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, Mark Seitz, paid a visit to the center one day and told them that there is nothing he wouldn’t do to help the migrants. Their website, www.elpasodiocese.org is blanketed with ways to help. The townsfolk have donated a multitude of volunteer time and material goods.

The tired child who had been through so much looked down at the small, stuffed lamb he had been given and said, “Don’t worry, it will be ok. I am here to take care of you.”

In fact, the little boy reflected in his assurance those same words uttered again and again by the Sisters serving as volunteers, helping God’s children in need: “Don’t worry. It will be ok. We are here to take care of you.”
Child sex abuse called ‘a serious and pervasive’ issue in U.S. society

By JULIE ASHER
Catholic News Service
Editor’s Note: The following is Part I of an ongoing series presented by Catholic News Service. Bishop John Brungardt has asked that the series be presented in his fervent hope that children be protected from all forms of abuse, and that the perpetrators of abuse receive justice.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Child sexual abuse in the United States is at epidemic levels. More than 60,000 children are reported to have been abused every year, outnumbering those killed by guns or cars. Those who survive are often left not only with physical wounds, but also with psychological wounds that may never heal. These wounds exact both a profound personal and social cost.

Much attention has been focused on the issue of child sexual abuse and the Catholic Church, and rightly so. Allegations of abuse by clergy and church workers as well as cover-ups and bureaucratic mishandling by bishops, dioceses and religious orders have caused terrible pain for survivors of such abuse and their families. It also has resulted in disillusionment on the part of ordinary Catholics. The cost of this abuse and its aftermath totals more than $4 billion so far, according to the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection.

While the Catholic Church continues to struggle with this legacy, it has instituted a wide variety of steps to improve oversight, identify abusers and protect children. One under-reported fact from the recent, highly publicized Pennsylvania grand jury report is that for all of the many horrors it identified, the good news was that it appeared to document the decline in current cases.

As Jesuit Father Tom Reese told America magazine in its Dec. 24 issue, every one of the accused priests in the report was either deceased or had been removed from ministry, “and only two had been accused of abusing a child in the last 20 years.”

During these same 20 years, however, an estimated 1.2 million children in this country were abused nationwide in schools, organizations, churches and families.

Understanding the plague of sexual abuse in this country means going beyond the immediate headlines and understanding what experts are saying about this scourge. It also means looking not only at the Catholic Church but at all institutions and societal structures where abuse can take place.

So far, no grand jury, congressional committee or law enforcement organization has undertaken a broad societal investigation of what is happening to children in public schools as well as private, in sports and other youth-oriented programs and organizations, in pediatric facilities and perhaps most common, in families. (In Australia, a Royal Commission investigation of child abuse in nongovernmental organizations took five years.)

“Sexual victimization of children is a serious and pervasive issue in society. It is present in families, and it is not uncommon in institutions where adults form mentoring and nurturing relationships with adolescents, including schools and religious, sports and social organizations,” said the John Jay report issued in May 2011 on The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010.

“If you want to talk about sexual abuse of minors, you’re talking about families, foster care programs, public schools,” New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said in a recent SiriusXM interview. “You’re talking about organizations, every religion, you’re talking about public schools, it is a societal, cultural problem. There is no occupation that is freed from it.”

Over the years, highly touted organizations such as the Boy Scouts, USA Gymnastics and Pennsylvania grand jury report, released a team of Chicago Tribune reporters turned out a special series on abuse in Chicago’s public-school system: “Betrayed: Chicago schools fail to protect students from sexual abuse and assault, leaving lasting damage.”

“When the sexual assaults were brutal rapes, frightening verbal come-ons or ‘creepy,’ groping touches, the students often felt betrayed by school officials and wounded for years,” the paper reported.

“When students summoned the courage to disclose abuse, teachers and principals failed to alert child welfare investigators or police despite the state’s mandated reporter law,” it said.

The Tribune is hardly the first media outlet to examine abuse in the nation’s public schools. In December 2016, USA Today published its own series. “Despite decades of repeated sex abuse scandals — from the Roman Catholic Church to the Boy Scouts to scores of news media reports identifying problem teachers — America’s public schools continue to conceal the actions of dangerous educators in ways that allow them to stay in the classroom,” it said.

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

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Edward Jones
Making Sense of Investing

Protecting God’s Children

T he Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, Kansas, is located in the heart of the Great Plains and serves approximately 15,000 Catholics. The diocese is made up of nine parishes and is headquartered in Dodge City. The diocese has a long history of serving the community and is dedicated to providing the best possible pastoral care to all its members.

To protect the rights of all children, the diocese has developed a safe environment program to prevent child abuse and protect children from harm. The program includes policies and procedures to identify and report abuse, as well as training for clergy, religious, and lay leaders on how to prevent and respond to abuse.

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, crbefort@cox.net, 620-285-3219.

You may submit a report to the diocese. Report forms are available at www.ddcatholic.org/safe-environment.

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 Islas, who served in the Dodge City diocese for four years. If anyone is aware of someone who was abused by Mario Islas, contact Charles Befort, crbefort@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.
Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel: Beloved artist, saintly nun

She often drew pictures of children living in her village. She also created designs for priests’ vestments and for the altar, and as the daughter of a deeply religious family, she would be drawn to convent life.

By CHARlene Scott Myers

It is unbelievable to me that Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel, creator of the beautiful Hummel figurines and paintings of children and the Madonna loved around the entire world, has never been declared a saint.

The infant Berta Hummel, who would become the famous Catholic nun and artist, was born in Bavaria in 1909 and grew up in Southern Germany, one of six children of the mayor of the town of Massing, Germany.

She often drew pictures of children living in her village. She also created designs for priests’ vestments and for the altar, and as the daughter of a deeply religious family, she would be drawn to convent life.

In 1915, she began schooling with Catholic nuns, and at the age of 18 in 1927, she enrolled in the famous Munich State School of Applied Arts, studying art history, watercolor and oil painting, and also textile design.

After graduating in 1931, she entered the Franciscan convent of Siessen. She took her vows in 1934, and when she became a novice, she was given her new name of “Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel.”

In the convent, she began to sketch drawings of children, and she later taught art in a school operated by the convent. She printed pictures of children at play. The nun who was the superior at her convent sent copies to a publishing company in Stuttgart that specialized in religious art.

So Sister Hummel’s first art was introduced to the public as paintings and postcards, which became very popular. A collection of her drawings entitled “Das Hummel-Buch” was published in 1934. The first Hummel figurines were introduced in 1935 at the Leipzig Fair and were an exciting success.

In 1937, Sister Hummel made her final vows and produced a painting called “The Volunteers,” which Hitler disliked and banned in Germany. She also did a drawing of angels with the Star of David on their robes and drew a series of Old and New Testament symbols for the convent chapel in 1938, symbolizing their connection with a cross behind a lit menorah.

Hitler hated the Jews even more than he hated Catholics, and he shut down all religious schools in Germany. He also seized the convent Sister Hummel had joined, and ousted all but 40 of the 250 sisters who lived there.

He ordered Sister Hummel locked in a basement with cold water up to her hips to punish her for her painting, “The Volunteers,” of German youth dressed in outfits nearly identical to Nazi uniforms. Hitler called up children as young as 12 to serve in the military, and thought she was making fun of him.

The ruler of Germany for 12 horrible years was an offensive man who was easily offended! Franz Goebel, owner of a porcelain shop, saw Sister Hummel’s art in Munich and asked to transfer her drawings of children and the Madonna onto plates and bells and into porcelain figurines. He secured an agreement from Sister Hummel’s convent to create the figurines from her drawings, and shared his profits with the convent.

Sister Hummel died of tuberculosis and pneumonia at age 37 in November, 1946, but her beloved figurines live on, several of them dancing with delight in our home.

God bless the soul of Sister Hummel, who brought so much joy to the lives of so many with her charming figurines!
CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION AND RITE OF ELECITON

DODGE CITY — More than 175 men, women and children on the road to entering fully the Catholic Church at Easter were officially welcomed along their faith journey March 10 by the Most Rev. John B. Brungardt at the Call to Continuing Conversion and Rite of Election celebration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

One of the most significant events of the liturgical year, this is the official moment that candidates (baptized members of another Christian faith tradition—or baptized Catholics—who are seeking confirmation and first Eucharist) and catechumens (individuals who have not been baptized and who are seeking baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist) declare their commitment to enter fully the Catholic Church at Easter.

The candidates and catechumens—along with their families, godparents, and sponsors—came from every corner of the diocese, each waiting for that special moment when they would be called by name to sign the Book of the Elect, or to dip their fingers in the baptismal font. Although southwest Kansas is vast—neighboring parishes often separated by miles and miles of prairie—the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City is one family. And it’s that family that the bishop urged to show acts of kindness in a troubled world.

"Today, in our second reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans (5:12, 17-19), we hear that Jesus, ‘through one righteous act,’ gave us eternal life, salvation! This Lent, let us ask Jesus how He is calling each of us to do ‘righteous deeds,’ or acts of kindness, acts of love, acts of compassion."

The event marked a milestone for the bishop. The following day, March 11, was the three-year anniversary of his surgery to remove a brain tumor. He thanked all those who supported him, for their acts of kindness during a difficult and challenging chapter in his life.

"As you prepare for our Catholic Sacraments: Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Eucharist, Jesus always loves us," Bishop Brungardt told those gathered. "Let us focus on doing His will this Lent and beyond. Let us do acts of kindness, compassion and love. Jesus will help us. He loves us more than we can ask or imagine!"

As the choir sang the beautiful song, “Wade in the Water,” candidates were called by name to dip their fingers in the baptismal font. Catechumens were then called by name, and together with their Godparents, came forward for their acts of kindness and signed the Book of the Elect.

Following the celebration, everyone was invited to meet in the Holy Family Social Hall for a dinner reception, during which individuals and families posed for photographs with Bishop Brungardt. Dozens of photos are available and free to download at www.dcdioce.se.org/swkscatholic.

The Candidates 2019

Ashland:
Lucinda Blas, Jackie Presiner

Clifton:
John Schlessiger, Clayton Ingham

Dodge City:
Fernmina Hernandez Batz, Ramona Madrides Ortiz, Alfredo Palma, Chuy Peralta, Irma Rodriguez, Tomas Ramos Lopez, Jose Eduardo Reyes Lopez, Kelsey Dalton, Jessica Cordero

Fowler:
Mattie Ross

St. Mary, Garden City:
Jose Adam Correas-Hernandez, Sharris Joy Koch, Gabriel Ariazo, Darey Eliseo Garcia, Juliana Marbut, Cesu Irvin Rodriguez

Great Bend:
Yamile Neemeke, Amy Patzner, Matthew Patzner, Melissa Roach, Elizabeth Dominguez, Yahir Flores

LaCrosse:
Jill Georg

Lakin:
Karina Villa

Larned:
Kay Neighbors, TaWanna Calahan, Jon Palmer

Liberal:
Irasema Cabello Arreola, Jesse Alfredo Correa, Manuel Esteban Rios, Jasiel Martinez, Juan Manuel Medina, Martina Everilda Mendoza, Edgar Ortiz, Rosa Ortiz Alvarez, Martin Reynoso, Alfredo Rodriguez, Sebastiana Tomas Mejia, Isabel Alonzo Gomez, Juan Carlos, Ambrosio Alvarez, Marisol Arenivas, Pablo Batz Perez, Martha De La Cruz, Saul Delgado Anaya, Claudia Veronica Garcia Toj, Angel Emmanuel Hernandez Cuellar, Tomas Juarez Pu, Agustin Larios, Mario Lopez Miguel, Veronica Luis Mejia, Celedonia Luis Ruiz, Juan Alberto Marino Alarcon, Heriberto Melendez, Juan Mejia Mejia, Manuela Mejia Mejia, Maria Elisa Morales, Ana Ramos Ordonez, Wilmer Alexander Reyes Licona, Tomas Rodriguez Lopez, Alejandro Solis Ramos, Maria Elena Trejo, Jesus Arturo Delgado Anaya

Offerle:
Jeremy Luthi

Plains:
Jentry Smith

Scott City:
Rachel Richardson, Brady Jeffery, Jose Luiz Munoz Nieto

St. Dominic, Garden City:
Zachary Lee, Mitch Chalkley, Bruce Algrin, Ryan Harg, Gary Parks, Brock Kendrick, Tessie Bott, Jerry Hahn

Ulysses:
Jeremy Alcala

Fowler:
Rebecca Merkle

Dodge City:

Ellinwood:
Marie Maestas

St. Dominic, Garden City:
Vanessa Hahn, Drew Thon

St. Mary, Garden City:

Great Bend:
Alvin Rodarmel, Kaeden Lindenberger, Callan Cavender, Noelle Hood, Blaze Little, Xitlali Hulttron

Ingalls:
Kylee DaNell Burch

Kinsley:
Deanna Kocher

Larned:
Tanner Lang

Liberal:
Sunny Baaza, Serena Collins, Gauge Ryan Schoolcraft, Victor Alcozer, Jose Luis Capetillo Flores, Angel Hernandez, Gaspar Mendoza, Samuel Vallejo, Lindsey Berrios, Luvia Briana Argoth, Miguel Angel Argoth, Carolina Fabiola Castillo, Selena Yerald Castillo, Carlos Humberto Flores, Cindy Carolina Flores, Aaliyah Rose Lucero, Adrián Magdaleno Perez Ruiz, Efrain Perez Ruiz

Medicine Lodge:
Jamie Landwehr

Odin:
Char Hekele

Pratt:
Mitchell Baird

Ulysses:
Cynthia Paula, Jenny Powers, Els Guerrero, Aiden Valerio, Kobe Talabert, Aniya Rodriguez, Yazlyn Ontiveros, Seryna Vásquez, Precious Vásquez, Zoey Guerrero

Wright:
Brian Chilton

The Elect 2019


Great Bend:
Alvin Rodarmel, Kaeden Lindenberger, Callan Cavender, Noelle Hood, Blaze Little, Xitlali Hulttron

Ingalls:
Kylee DaNell Burch

Kinsley:
Deanna Kocher

Larned:
Tanner Lang

Liberal:
Sunny Baaza, Serena Collins, Gauge Ryan Schoolcraft, Victor Alcozer, Jose Luis Capetillo Flores, Angel Hernandez, Gaspar Mendoza, Samuel Vallejo, Lindsey Berrios, Luvia Briana Argoth, Miguel Angel Argoth, Carolina Fabiola Castillo, Selena Yerald Castillo, Carlos Humberto Flores, Cindy Carolina Flores, Aaliyah Rose Lucero, Adrián Magdaleno Perez Ruiz, Efrain Perez Ruiz

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Wright:
Brian Chilton

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Welcomed along the journey

Dozens of people from across the diocese were welcomed March 10 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Gaudalupe in their journey to fully enter the Catholic faith at Easter. At left, a catechumen signs the Book of the Elect. Behind him is his godparent. Sister Angela Erevia, MCdP, stands at the book, welcoming all who sign. Below, candidates dip their fingers in the baptismal font.

At right, Ryan Harp, a candidate from St. Dominic Parish, Garden City, and his wife, Kimberly, pose with Bishop Brungardt at the reception. In June, the couple will celebrate their two-year wedding anniversary.

Dozens of photos can be found at www.dcdiocese.org/swkscatholic, and are free to download.
Too many times we define financial success according to an outside standard instead of defining it for ourselves. We look at the person with the six-figure income as financially successful. Or we think the person with the biggest, fanciest car is financially successful. Or we think the people who live in the high-class area of town with the big houses are financially successful.

We fail to take into account our own lifestyle, the goals specific to our own life, our own starting point and our own resources as a way to define financial success.

It’s like looking at someone who is a physical fitness trainer as a benchmark for defining our own physical fitness. We will never go from being a couch potato to being a long distance runner in a short period of time. If we are trying to improve our health we need to take it one step at a time. We have to acknowledge the weight we lost over the last year. The amount of daily exercise we are doing now. And the way we have changed our eating habits to be healthier.

It takes hard work and paying attention to what you are earning and spending. But almost everyone can make some progress in being financially successful. We frustrate ourselves when we define financial success by looking outward at other people instead of looking inward at our own progress.

If you define financial success as having a million dollars in the bank and you are hardly making ends meet, then you’ll never feel financially successful, even if you manage to dig totally out of debt and never feel financially successful, even in being financially successful. We frustrate ourselves when we define financial success by looking outward at other people instead of looking inward at our own progress.

If you define financial success as having a million dollars in the bank and you are hardly making ends meet, then you’ll never feel financially successful, even if you manage to dig totally out of debt and your retirement is fully funded.

No matter what anyone else is doing, if you are putting yourself in a better position, little by little then you are making progress and being financially successful. If you think that financial success is impossible, look for a realistic definition that relates to your own life. If you have $25,000 in credit card debt and you reduce it to $20,000 by the end of the year, you are being financially successful. If you have not saved anything for retirement and you can save $1,000 this year, you are being financially successful. Figure out what financial success means in your own life and aim for that.

You can’t compare yourself to someone who was given a huge inheritance or someone who made a killing in the stock market when a company they founded went public, or someone whose salary is 10 times what you make.

Are you doing better today than you did yesterday? That simple question eliminates all the excuses you may conjure up for yourself. You can’t excuse your own failure based on the success of those around you.

Measuring financial success is no different than measuring your progress in getting healthy. You may weigh 300 lbs., but if you weighed 350 lbs. last year you’re making progress.

All we can really do is evaluate the progress we are making on our own journey. Financial success isn’t hitting some arbitrary net worth number or buying a certain item.

It’s about a long term journey one step at a time to be in better financial shape each week, each month and each year. It’s hard work. But it is well worth the effort.

Start your journey to financial success by being intentionally grateful for what you have. Instead of wanting more and more, appreciate all those things that you already have.

Once you begin to appreciate what you do have, the constant quest for more goes away. You’ll see that a bigger house doesn’t really matter. A bigger TV screen doesn’t really matter. A newer car doesn’t really matter.

Look at what you do have, not what you are lacking. Philippians 4:11-13 tells us “Not that I say this because of need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I find myself, to be self-sufficient. I know indeed how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things, I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.”

What actually matters in terms of success and failure is how well you’re managing what God has given to you. If you work hard, spend carefully and give cheerfully, no matter what happens, you’ll be better off than if you had done nothing at all. You’ll be able to weather both the good and bad that comes your way. Nothing else matters, because there’s nothing else you can really control.

Judging your circumstances against other people makes you frustrated, complacent or arrogant. God is calling you to be a faithful steward of all the blessings he has given to you. He is not calling you to compare yourself against anyone else or to define your success based on anyone else’s journey through life.

What is your definition of financial success?

Editor’s Note: The following is reprinted with the permission Compass Catholic Ministries. For more information, visit CompassCatholic.org.
Can Americans today afford to have kids?

By MICHELLE LA ROSA
Catholic News Agency

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hington D.C. (CNA) - When Alicia Hernon realized she was pregnant with her eighth child, her first reaction was to start crying.

“I thought, ‘Our car is too small, our house is too small, we’re going to have to move,’” she said.

But while the process was a difficult one, she and her husband Mike were able to make ends meet and went on to welcome two more children into their family.

And it was worth it, the Hernons told CNA.

While raising children has required financial sacrifices, Alicia said, “I know we have become better people because of that.”

The Hernons are far from alone in wondering how they will be able to afford children. In fact, the vast majority of Americans raising children are facing financial difficulties, according to the 2018 American Family Survey.

Of those who have children at home, 73 percent say they worry about being able to pay at least one monthly bill, and 44 percent have faced an economic crisis in the last year – being unable to pay an important bill or going without food, medical care or housing due to financial difficulty, the survey found.

For both men and women who do not currently have children, the cost of raising a child was the top consideration in deciding whether to become parents, ranking ahead of current relationship status, desire to raise a child of one’s own, and difficulty of balancing family and career.

Anthony Granado, director of the Office of Domestic Social Development for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that while the data may seem surprising, it is consistent with other recent studies on the economy and American families.

He pointed to a 2017 study by the Federal Reserve showing that 40 percent of Americans would not be able to come up with $400 for an emergency expense, without borrowing from someone or selling a possession.

While the economy has turned around since the Great Recession, Granado told CNA, this doesn’t show the whole picture.

“If you’re only looking at GDP as your sense of economic progress in the country, you’re missing how the unemployed, underemployed and poor people are faring in the country,” he said.

Although unemployment rates are at historic lows, Granado said, many of the jobs that have been created have been low-wage or part-time jobs, with few to no benefits.

And while there has been an uptick in overall U.S. wages, the largest wage growth has come for the top 10 percent of Americans, he said, while those with lower incomes have seen their wages increase at a slower rate than the cost of living.

Recent data from the Department of Labor indicates that the cost of living in the United States is increasing at its fastest pace in a decade. Soaring costs of college tuition have left many graduates with tens of thousands of dollars in student debt, and increasing housing, health care and child care costs in many parts of the country compound financial struggles.

“Therefore, you have in effect a loss of wages, a loss of buying power. This is clearly affecting families...average and lower income people are not doing as well,” Granado said.

“If you don’t have the economic means or the benefits through your employer to help provide those things, people are definitely going to be dis-incentivized to have children, which is a bad thing, because we want to promote flourishing families,” he explained. This includes individuals, families, organizations, companies, and government.

“There are definitely positive, proactive roles for the government, the public authority,” Granado said. “This has been a hallmark of Church social teaching for centuries.”

This does not mean that the Church advocates for a state-centered society, he clarified – there is a need for charitable acts and individual responsibility.

“But at the end of the day, even if you look at the numbers Catholic Charities has across the country, there are so many people [in need], they are not able to help everybody, they just don’t have those resources,” he said.

“So long as people are not making the wages necessary to care for themselves and their families, there has to be something there to assist them.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has been calling on the federal government to address wages and other factors causing families to struggle, Granado said.

“We’ve been looking at things like affordable housing, access to nutrition programs, labor questions, criminal justice reform.”

The Hernons – who today have 10 kids and run The Messy Family project and podcast – offered suggestions for those who want to have children but are concerned about their financial situation.

They cautioned against allowing materialism and the nature of marriage is also relevant, he told CNA.

But while the process was a difficult one, she and her husband were able to make ends meet and went on to welcome two more children into their family.

And it was worth it, the Hernons said. “I know we have become better people because of that.”

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The heart and soul of prayer

Continued from Page 1


“You can experience powerful emotions, surprising insights and consoling memories. You can also experience feelings, both physical and otherwise.

“Sometimes when you’re praying, you might feel physically more relaxed,” he continues. “That’s quite common. It may be a physiological response to simply slowing down from what may be a busy life, but, more often than not, it’s much more than that.

“Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.”

— Psalm 4:1

“We are not just purely spiritual beings, and so God communicates to us through our bodies as well. That’s part of our own incarnation. So pay attention to those physical feelings in prayer.

“At the same time, you may also experience feelings in prayer that are hard to name. Sometimes it can feel like a confusing mix of feelings.

Sometimes people say to me, ‘Well, I felt happy and sad at once.’ Or ‘I felt a sense of confusion about what my life was going to be like, but at the same time I knew it would be fine.’

“It’s okay if you can’t precisely say what you’re feeling. Just because you can’t describe it doesn’t mean that it’s not real. And it doesn’t mean that it’s not coming from God.

“So just ask yourself: What might God be telling me through these feelings? And trust that God will help you, in time, to understand them.”

The scope of abuse

From Page 8

USA Today’s network of media outlets conducted a yearlong investigation and “found that education officials put children in harm’s way by covering up evidence of abuse, keeping allegations secret and making it easy for abusive teachers to find jobs elsewhere.

“As a result, schoolchildren across the nation continue to be beaten, raped and harassed by their teachers while government officials at every level stand by and do nothing,” the paper reported.

How bad may be in our schools? According to an Associated Press 2017 investigative report, abuse cases are underreported, but what is tallied is staggering.

The yearlong investigation “uncovered roughly 17,000 official reports of sex assaults by students over a four-year period, from fall 2011 to spring 2015.”

“Though that figure represents the most complete tally yet of sexual assaults among the nation’s 50 million K-12 students,” AP said, “it does not fully capture the problem because such attacks are greatly underreported, some states don’t track them and those that do vary widely in how they classify and catalog sexual violence. A number of academic estimates range sharply higher.”

What happens when abuse is reported varies widely from school district to school district, but what The Associated Press found was not encouraging.

“Elementary and secondary schools have no national requirement to track or disclose sexual violence, and they feel tremendous pressure to hide it,” AP reported. “Even under varying state laws, acknowledging an incident can trigger liabilities and requirements to act. And when schools don’t act — or when their efforts to root out abuse are ineffectual — justice is not served.”

While doctors, teachers, clergy and other authority figures can be abusers, they also “can be neighbors, friends and family members,” according to Darkness to Light (www.d2l.org), a South Carolina-based nonprofit organization dedicated to child abuse prevention. “Significantly, abusers can be and often are other children.”

About 90 percent of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser, and only 10 percent are abused by a stranger, Darkness to Light says: About 60 percent of those victims are sexually abused by people the family trusts; approximately 30 percent of them are sexually abused by family members.

The younger the victim, the more likely it is that the abuser is a family member. Of those molesting a child under 6, 50 percent were family members. Family members also accounted for 23 percent of those abusing children ages 12 to 17.

About one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday, according to Darkness to Light. “About one in seven girls and one in 25 boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18.”

Because of underreporting and a lack of systematic, nationwide data collection, estimates of sexual abuse can vary.

“Child sexual abuse is far more prevalent than most people realize,” according to Darkness to Light. “Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face with the most serious array of consequences.”

Understanding the scope and scale of child sexual abuse in this country is only the start. In future articles, Catholic News Service will look at treatment for victims, the pursuit of predators, the threat of human trafficking and the impact of the internet on child abuse.
El Papa reafirma su cercanía a la comunidad islámica tras el atentado de Nueva Zelanda

Redacción ACI Prensa

El Papa Francisco quiso reafirmar su cercanía a la comunidad islámica durante golpeada en Nueva Zelanda tras un atentado terrorista contra dos mezquitas de la localidad de Christchurch, el pasado viernes 15 de marzo, en el que murieron al menos 49 personas.

"En estos días, al dolor por las guerras y los conflictos que no cesan de afligir a la humanidad, se ha sumado el dolor por las víctimas del horrible atentado contra dos mezquitas en Christchurch, en Nueva Zelanda", dijo el Papa durante el rezo del Ángelus este domingo 17 de marzo en la Plaza de San Pedro.

"Rezo por los muertos y heridos y por sus familias. Permanezco cercano a aquella comunidad religiosa y civil, y reuevo la invitación a unirse con la oración y los gestos de paz para contrastar el odio y la violencia".

Esta no es la primera ocasión en que el Pontífice se refiere a este crimen. El mismo día del atentado, el Vaticano difundió un telegrama enviado por el Secretario de Estado del Vaticano, Cardenal Pietro Parolin, en nombre del Papa Francisco, en el que se señalaba que el Señor Pedro "se comprometió profundamente" al enterarse del atentado que provocó heridos y muertos, hecho que calificó como "actos de violencia sin sentido" por lo que aseguró a todos los neozelandeses, y en particular a la comunidad musulmana, "su sincera solidaridad tras estos ataques".

¿Cuáles son tus dones del Espíritu Santo?

Los Talleres Llamados y Dotados están programados de la siguiente manera: Para registrarse, comuníquese con Coleen Stein 620-227-1538 o cstein@dcdioce.org. La cuota para este taller es de $25. (La edición anterior de SKC dice incorrectamente que el evento es gratuito).

Fecha: sábado 6 de abril.
Ubicación: Salón de la Sagrada Familia Catedral de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, 3231 N 14th Avenue, Dodge City.
Horario: 8 – 8:45 a.m. - Registro
9 a.m. - El taller comienza puntualmente
12 del mediodía - Almuerzo
5 p.m. - Terminar

La Cuaresma nos lleva a lo más profundo

La Cuaresma nos lleva a lo más profundo. Nos hace pensar seriamente sobre las cosas en nuestras vidas: sobre de dónde venimos; sobre las decisiones que tomamos; sobre a dónde vamos, hacia Dios o lejos de Dios. Él nos hizo por amor, y suavemente nos llama a devolver ese amor, regalándonos a nosotros mismos como un don.

El Hijo que Él envió vivió este sacrificio. La noche antes de morir, tomó el pan y el vino, y pronunció las palabras rituales sobre ellos. De esta manera, hizo una conexión directa entre esta comida ritual y el sacrificio venidero en la Cruz. Él se entregó a la muerte, para que él mismo, y nosotros, pudiéramos volver a la vida.

Todos los sacrificios del Antiguo Testamento llegan a su significado pleno y final en el Sacrificio de la Cruz. El último nació ritualmente en el primero. El primero se completó ritualmente en el último. La Cuaresma nos lleva a lo más profundo: a través de las profundidades de nuestro propio quebrantamiento, a las profundidades del propio camino de Dios.

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios

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

Reportando Abuso

Si usted sospecha abuso o descuido de un menor en Kansas y el menor está en un colegio en el que tiene alguna suspicacia, puede reportarlo en el Departamento de Educación del Estado de Kansas. Si considera que el menor está en peligro de sufrir una herida o una muerte, comuníquese con el Servicio de Emergencia de su localidad.

Por favor tomen un momento para escribir una carta de apoyo a nuestros seminaristas. Si tiene alguna sospecha de que un menor está siendo abusado/a por parte de personal de la iglesia, comuníquese con el Señor Charles Befort, crbefort@cox.net, 620-285-3219. Si usted tiene alguna sospecha de que un menor está siendo abusado/a puede reportarlo a la línea de conteo “Abuso infantil” de 1-800-487-3174.

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

Marcos 10,21

"Jesús, mirándolo, lo amó..."
Mary “Pat” Torline, 84, of St. John the Baptist Parish, Spearville, died Feb. 28, 2019. Pat was born to Joseph Anthony and Rita Cecelia (Kinsella) Coppersmith in Clyde, MO. She attended Mount St. Scholastica (now Benedictine College) in Atchison, where she received her Bachelor of Music Degree. While there, she met Glenn; her husband of 60 years. After graduation, she taught in Kansas City, KS, for two years until she and Glenn were married in Marysville. The newlyweds moved to Spearville where she continued to teach until starting their family. She was a member of the Daughters of Isabella in Spearville. She was also a former Spearville School Board Member and Den Mother. Pat is survived by Glenn and their five children: Dr. Michael Torline; Terry Torline, Anne Torline, Paul Torline, and Stephen Torline; and 10 grandchildren. Father John Forkuoh and Father Aneesh Parappanattu presided.

Florence Hines, 83, of St. John the Baptist Parish, Spearville, died March 1, 2019. She was born in Jetmore, the daughter of Dr. Michael Torline; Terry Torline, Anne Torline, Paul Torline, and Stephen Torline; and 10 grandchildren. Father John Forkuoh and Father Aneesh Parappanattu presided.

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La Crosse

La Crosse (Rush County) – Two stories surfaced regarding the origin of this community’s name. One is the original name of Rock Castle was changed to La Crosse when W.S. Taylor, formerly of La Crosse, Wis., moved his newspaper the Rush County Progress to the town from Rush Center. The other is the erroneous notion that La Crosse means “the cross.”

When Zebulon Pike advanced an expedition up the Mississippi River for the United States in 1805, he recorded the Wisconsin place name as “Prairie La Crosse.” This name originated from a game played by the Native Americans there using sticks that resembled a Catholic bishop’s crozier or la crosse in French.

The religious significance of the community’s name was not lost on the owners of the La Crosse Milling Company.

Ad from the La Crosse Chieftain, April 24, 1919. A trial sack of La Crosse flour will convince you that our guarantee IS NONE TOO STRONG.

Available now at Amazon.com and Catholic/Christian bookstores. Mail order available through the Cathedral gift store by contacting the author at twenzl@dcdiocese.org.

La Crosse Milling Company

Take it from us that we are NOT satisfied

Unless you are.

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For sale at all grocers with a heraldic cross topped by “La.”

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Next retreat May 17-19, 2019

Angels to Xavier

Catholic Place Names in Kansas

Obvious & Obscure

A book by Diocesan Archivist Tim Wenzl

La Crosse Milling Company

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ACROSS
1. Biblical wood
2. Catholic actor of gangster movie fame
3. St. ___ Merici
4. Brother of 2D
5. Feet in the image beheld by Nebuchadnezzar
6. Dinah, to Esau
7. Biblical expanding agent
8. Holy one, in Paris
9. Ordinary Time color
10. Time to repent
11. Sacred image
12. Diocese in Montana
13. Parable of the ___ of great price
14. Council of 325 AD
15. Most solemn Christian feast
16. ___ Dame
17. Octave
18. ___ of the Cross
19. Archdiocese
20. Sacred heart
21. Sacred heart
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DOWN
1. Biblical wood
2. Sacred heart
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8. Sacred heart
9. Sacred heart
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TEASER THE FIRST:
What is 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat and 1/2 goat?

TEASER THE SECOND:
In this teaser, you have to find the odd ones out in the groups of words. Each group of words has two words which do not belong.

EXAMPLE:
Lily - Jane - Tulip - Rose
Jane does not belong as it’s the only one which is not a flower. Tulip also does not belong because it’s the only one which is not a girl’s name.

Dodge - Ford - Lincoln - Hoover

1. Dodge
2. Ford
3. Lincoln
4. Hoover

1. Large Feline
2. Fat Cat

For information on the Pastoral Ministry Formation program, contact Coleen Stein, (620) 227-1538.
Despair always lifts! If you are having thoughts of suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, March 24
Monday, March 25
Annunciation of the Lord
Isaiah 7:10-14/Hebrews 10:4-10/Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday, March 26
Daniel 3:25, 34-43/James 1:23-17
Wednesday, March 27
Deuteronomy 4:1-4, 9-16/John 5:1-3, 5-16
Thursday, March 28
Friday, March 29
Hosea 14:1-20/Mark 12:28-34
Saturday, March 30
Sunday, March 31
Joshua 5:9, 10-12/Second Corinthians 5:17-21/Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Monday, April 1
Isaiah 65:17-21/John 4:33-54
Tuesday, April 2
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12/John 5:1-3, 5-16
Wednesday, April 3
Isaiah 49:8-15/John 5:17-30
Thursday, April 4
Exodus 32:7-14/John 5:31-47
Friday, April 5
Wisdom 1:1, 12-22/John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday, April 6
Jeremiah 11:18-20/John 7:40-53
Sunday, April 7
Isaiah 43:16-21/Philippians 3:8-14/John 8:1-11

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Newman University names Joanna Pryor Athletic Director

WICHITA – After a national search Joanna Pryor has been named Director of Athletics for Newman University, effective July 1, 2019. She will take over department leadership duties after current director Vic Trilli retires at the end of the school year.

Pryor will take over the program after spending the previous eight years as an associate director of athletics and NCAA compliance coordinator at Newman.

“I’m excited for this opportunity and excited to help our student athletes and coaches with this transition,” Pryor said. “I also look forward to helping in planning for each of the upcoming sports seasons so that our coaches can go into our new conference with confidence.”

The Jets will leave the Heartland Conference at the end of the academic year and begin competing in the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) as an associate member in 2019-20.

Newman is the only private NCAA Division II program in Kansas and will be the only private university in the league.

“It presents a challenge, but a good challenge that I think we’re all ready to accept. The MIAA is one of the best conferences in Division II but we have a lot of teamwork. We have great coaches here at Newman and if we can work together we can be successful,” Pryor said.

In addition to holding claim as the smallest school, based on enrollment, in the MIAA, Newman will be unique as the conference’s only athletic program headed by a woman. In fact, Pryor will join an elite group. As of July 2018, only 41 NCAA Division II schools, which is 14 percent, had female athletic directors, according Higher Education Publications, Inc.

“It actually dawned on me this morning and I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, I think that I might be the only female athletic director in the MIAA,’” Pryor said. “I’ve worked in sports since I was 22 years old, so I’ve never shocked when I see a woman in a leadership position… I think you get what you work for and it is exciting. It is kind of crazy to think about but I’m looking forward to it and I have a lot of support, from all sides.”

One of Pryor’s supporters is the man she will replace this summer.

“T’m really excited and happy for Jo. She has earned this chance. Over the past eight years, she has been an essential part of our administration team and has helped me tremendously and I look forward to the great places she will lead Jets athletics,” Trilli added. “I’m confident that people will recognize quickly the many skills and great leadership abilities she will bring to the role.”

Newman University President Noreen M. Carrocci, Ph.D., chaired the search committee and said Pryor was the unanimous choice of its members.

“We interviewed three candidates from among the 85 applicants. In the search process, Joanna met with the committee, coaches, student athletes, booster club members and the Cabinet plus took part in an open forum with faculty and staff. Every constituency with whom Joanna interviewed gave her nothing but positive comments and high ratings in all categories – communication skills, leadership, understanding of our mission, knowledge of our athletic department and the university, ability to form relationships, and more,” Carrocci said.

“Having Joanna Pryor take the helm of the athletic department as we move to the MIAA next year gives me great confidence. She is the right person, with the right skill set, to lead us into a promising future,” Carrocci added.

Before moving to athletic administration duties, Pryor served as the head volleyball coach at Newman for two years. From 2001 to 2009, Pryor was head volleyball coach at Cowley College in Arkansas City, Kansas where she finished with a 218-93 record. She led the Tigers to four National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national tournament berths, finishing as high as second in the nation.

Pryor earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Administration at Wichita State, and a Master of Science in Education at Newman. She is a member of the National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC).

Pryor is married to Nathan Pryor and has three children - Calvin, Logan and Jordan.
Can’t afford children? Think again

From Page 13

Hernons said. But ultimately, these sacrifices are the backyard rather than an expensive party, the celebrations, such as a water balloon fight in vacations and opt for simple birthday and wise money management. also teaches the children hard work, responsibility, only eases the financial burden on the family, but mid-teens, they pay for their own cell phones, Hernons said. By the time their kids reach their she added.

creative ways that families can save money, making gifts instead of buying them are other allure of Pinterest-perfect purchases to blur the lines between wants and needs. As the kids get older, they also contribute, the Hernons said. By the time their mid-teens, they pay for their own cell phones, non-essential clothes and video games. This not only eases the financial burden on the family, but also teaches the children hard work, responsibility, and wise money management.

Families may need to forego expensive vacations and opt for simple birthday celebrations, such as a water balloon fight in the backyard rather than an expensive party, the Hernons said. But ultimately, these sacrifices are what make parents into better people. They advised couples to discuss finances before marriage to make sure they are on the same page about their goals. They also recommended living on a single income when a couple is first married, so one parent can more easily stop working or cut back on hours once children are born.

Trusting God is critical. “One of the things I’ve found is that saying yes to God’s gift of life has always come with blessings,” Mike reflected.

Ultimately, he said, the Church must remind society of the true value of children and family life.

“I think that we [as a culture] have lost a real sense of the joys of family life, in that we are seeing the financial burden first, rather than the joy in it,” he said. “As Catholics, we need to do a more effective job of sharing and celebrating the joy of family life.”

‘Made for More’ pilgrimage

Y ou are invited to make a “Made for More” pilgrimage to the Archdiocese of Kansas City on April 4-5.

A caravan of vehicles will depart from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City April 4. The journey will include a tour of the Holy Cross Shrine in Pfeifer, as well as the Basilica of St. Fidelis (Cathedral of the Plains) in Victoria. At 7 p.m., the group will attend a speaking event in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, featuring Christopher West and Mike Mangione.

Here is a partial description of the presentation from the “Made for More” website, http://corproject.com/madeformore/.

“Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they weave together [multi-media] presentations reflecting on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. You will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instill in you the sheer wonder and joy of being alive.”

On April 5, after a tour and rosary at St. Peter’s Cathedral, the group will journey home. A flyer, as well as more information is available at www. dcdiocese.org/marriage-family-life.

If you would like to attend, RSVP to the Office of Matrimony, Family Life and Natural Family Planning by email: jbernal@dcdiocese.org, or call/text: 620-786-5708 with your name and number of people who will be taking part in this pilgrimage.

Obituaries

From Page 16


ALICE LEE (VANWINKLE) LATAS, 87, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died March 11, 2019. She was born on a farm near Radium, Kansas, the daughter of Albert and Myrtle Ruth McGinty VanWinkle. she graduated from Radium High in 1949 and Venus Beauty Academy in Wichita in 1950. She was student Registrar at Dodge City Community College for 20 years, retiring in 2000. She was a member of the Altar Society. On Oct. 20, 1951 she married Raymond Latas at Seward. He preceded her in death in 1971. Survivors include three daughters, Shana Hawkins, Shelia McMullen and Lana Crane; three sons, Brent, Brian and Blaine; 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and a brother, Jim VanWinkle. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

MARCELLA MARIE “GG” STOS, 85, of St. Ann Parish, Olmitz, died March 12, 2019. She was born in rural BISON, the daughter of Edward John and Mary Ann (Kopriva) Oborny. She married Bernard Vincent Stos Dec. 29, 1953. He died Aug. 26, 2005. Marcelia was a member of the Altar Society. She was a school cook and reading grandma for Otis Bison High School, private care giver, and twinner for Essex. Survivors include four sons, Mike, Patrick, David and Kelly; five daughters, Bernadean Herl, Rita Engle, Maureen Faber, Kristina Von Elling, and Colleen Sharkey; one brother, Edward J. Oborny, Jr.; 25 grandchildren; and 42 great-grandchildren. Father Anselm Eke presided.