At Rest
Father Marvin Reif finds solace in the arms of the Lord

Father Marvin Reif, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, was laid to rest April 1. Father Ted Stoecklein presided at the funeral Mass at St. Patrick Church in Great Bend. Interment was at Holy Family Cemetery in Odin.

Father Reif, son of the late Albert and Dorothy (Frenzl) Reif, was born August 19, 1963, in Hoisington. He took his seminary studies at Conception Seminary, Conception, Mo., Holy Trinity College, Dallas, Tex., and Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained to the priesthood June 3, 1989, by the Most Rev. Stanley G. Schlarman, bishop of Dodge City, at Holy Family Church, Odin, Kansas.

He served as an associate pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Dodge City, and St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend. His pastorates included: Immaculate Conception, Clifton, with Holy Family, Odin, and St. Catherine, Dubuque, and Family Church, Odin, Kansas.

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He was laid to rest at Holy Family Cemetery in Odin. Father Marvin Reif used to like to hide; sometimes he’d go and play with the kittens in order to avoid work, said Father Ted Stoecklein, Parochial Vicar at Prince of Peace Parish in Great Bend, to all those gathered April 1 at the Bishop John B. Brungardt. Following the April 1 Mass and reception, Father Reif was laid to rest at Holy Family Cemetery in Odin.

Seeking the Sacred Heart

As a little boy, Marvin Reif used to like to hide; sometimes he’d go and play with the kittens in order to avoid work, said Father Ted Stoecklein, Parochial Vicar at Prince of Peace Parish, to all those gathered for Father Reif’s Funeral Mass April 1.

I grew up on a small farm midway between Abilene and Chapman. We raised chickens, a few cows, sheep, a goat, lots of dogs and cats, my pet goose, and some 500 hogs. I took care of the pigs (the four-legged kind, as well as my two younger brothers!). The miracle of the Lord’s creation: a sow giving birth to a dozen piglets! Bearing great fruit.

I also remember baling a lot of hay. We had a few acres of alfalfa. My older brother and I stacked 60-pound bales by hand in those days. Seeds, earth, water, sun, all combined to produce God’s abundant fruit.

Jesus said: “Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me” (John 15:4). Our Lord used many examples from nature to illustrate His loving presence in our lives. We wish to remain with Jesus, to abide in Him, to be embraced by Him. When we accept this loving presence, we will bear fruit in our relationships with God and one another.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us trust in our Savior, that we may bear fruit. For example, to reconcile with a family member, to make a further commitment to tithing or alms, to increase time each day in prayer, or to reduce “screen time” in an act of fasting. Let us remain in Jesus, He loves us more than we can ask or imagine!

A lesson on prayer from the Garden of Gethsemane

By MICHELLE BAUMAN

P rayer. It’s a critical part of our spiritual lives. It is the subject of books, reflections and talks at retreats. Because it is so essential, it is a frequent topic of discussion, as devout members of the Church ponder how often they should pray and what form their prayer should take. While the answer to these questions may differ, depending on one’s vocation and personality, we should all strive to make prayer an important part of our daily lives. Christ teaches us about prayer through his own example.

He prays frequently in the Gospels, and in doing so, he shows us how we should pray. As we continue on our Lenten journey and move closer to Holy Week, we can gain insight about prayer by reflecting on Jesus’ own prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Regardless of our age, gender or occupation, we can learn how to pray from Christ’s example in the moments before his passion and death.

In the most difficult and frightening part of his life, Jesus throws himself with complete confidence and trust upon the love of his daddy.

Continued on Page 5

Bearing Fruit in the Lord

By MICHELLE BAUMAN

The heart and soul of the most difficult and frightening part of his life, Jesus throws himself with complete confidence and trust upon the love of his daddy.

Continued on Page 16
Looking inward

We know next to nothing of the Prophet Joel beyond what the Lord inspired him to say. Lines from his second Chapter always touch off our Lenten Season: Return to me with your whole hearts.

This is no short order. It is the tallest of orders. It is extremely hard to do, devilish hard, for Original Sin left us in pieces. We are half-hearted, most of the time, quarter-hearted sometimes, often even less. We are like the young Saint Augustine: too much concerned with the Outside around us; too little concerned with our Inside. It is easy for us to lose ourselves in the things around us, rather than to face and to fix the unresolved things inside us. We do not like to look in that direction. It is too painful for us, it demands too much of us. We run from it every chance we get. Because we are this way, we miss so much that is going on inside us. An unending stream courses through our consciousness. It is a wide river at times. Good things, bad things, weaknesses, temptations, sins, fears, anger, pride, lust, greed, desires for revenge, old wounds that still hurt, aimless daydreaming, thoughts-in-abundance, feelings floating in their wake: who can begin to sort out all the pieces in that flowing river? We have forgotten how to notice these things, if we ever knew, how to understand them, and how to act upon them. And the problem never goes away: for that is where the real you lives, in that hidden stream, and that is where the Real God works. Until we come to know this, and make it our own, we cannot hope to be whole of heart.

Father James Schrader, former Garden City priest, dies in Ohio

Father James H. Schrader, C.P.P.S., S. of the Kansas City Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, died on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at St. Charles Center in Carthage, Missouri. He was 88 years old. Father Schrader was born in Randolph, Oklahoma on June 24, 1930, to Henry J. and Therese L. (May) Schrader. He entered formation with the Society of the Precious Blood at Brunnerdale Seminary in Canton, Ohio on August 30, 1944. He was ordained to the Priesthood at St. Charles on June 2, 1956.

After ordination, Father Schrader served as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in Sedalia, Missouri (1956-59), St. Anthony Parish in Detroit, Michigan (1959-60), and St. Mary Parish in Garden City, Kansas (1960-63). In August 1963, Father Schrader joined the Precious Blood Mission Band, preaching retreats and parish missions across the country. He was assigned to the Mission House at St. Mark Parish in Cincinnati, Ohio. With the founding of the Kansas City Province in 1965, Father Schrader moved to Precious Blood Seminary in Liberty, Missouri, while continuing on the Mission Band.

In November 1969, Father Schrader was named pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Miami, Oklahoma, where he served until 1977. Father Jim was elected to the Provincial Council as Second Councilor on April 14, 1971. He became Vice-Provincial and First Councilor on August 12, 1971 when Father Daniel Schaefer, C.P.P.S., was elected Moderator General of the Society of the Precious Blood. Father Schrader served on the Provincial Council until 1975. In 1977, Father Jim became pastor at St. Mary Parish in Garden City, and served until 1981 when he was named pastor at St. Mary’s Parish in Centerville, Iowa.

Following a sabbatical in 1984-85, Father Schrader served several parishes in Florida as parochial vicar until he was named pastor at St. Mary Parish in Nevada, Missouri in 1989. Father Jim moved to Kansas City in 1998 to live in residence at the Don Green Mission House. While residing there, he helped out at various parishes in the area, including two years as associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Parish in Kansas City (1998-2000), and sacramental minister at St. Rose Parish in Savannah, Missouri (2001-2003). In 2005, Father Schrader moved into retirement at Precious Blood Center in Liberty, Missouri.

Throughout his life, Father Jim was known as an engaging homilist, and for his sense of humor and his love for the community. “He was a good community man who enjoyed being with members of the community,” said Father Mark Miller, former provincial of the Kansas City Province, who lived with Father Schrader in the mission house in Kansas City. “He loved to bake bread and the smell of bread was always refreshing. We had some good conversations as we would eat our evening meal together.”

Father Schrader was survived by his brother, Hank Schrader and his wife, Jean; his sister, Jean Kocour and her husband, Stanley; sister-in-law, Ardella Schrader; and several nieces and nephews.

Father Brantley to co-lead pilgrimage to the Catholic Shrines of Italy

Father Mark Brantley, pastor of St. John the Apostle, Kiowa, Holy Rosary, Medicine Lodge, and St. Boniface, Sharon, and the Very Reverend Russ Mower, V.F. from Dallas, will lead a pilgrimage to the Catholic Shrines of Italy from Oct. 7-17, 2019.

Spend four nights in Rome and attend a papal audience, visit the Major Basilicas, the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, the Catacombs, and more. Render homage to St. Anthony in Padua, St. Francis and St. Clare in Assisi, St. Mark in Venice, and visit the city of Florence.

The price of $3,890 from Wichita includes transatlantic flights, accommodations in first-class hotels, all breakfasts and seven dinners with wine, guided sightseeing, and medical travel insurance. Price per person is based on double occupancy.

For more information, contact Father Brantley at (620)-886-3596 or fathermark1@outlook.com. For an in-depth look at all the sites they will visit, and for cost information, go to www.catholiccharitetours.com/FRMIT.

Called & Gifted Workshop

The Called and Gifted Workshop will guide you to recognize gifts given to you by the Holy Spirit through baptism and confirmation. These gifts enable you to accomplish things for God above and beyond your natural abilities. To register, contact Coleen Stein 620-227-1538 or cstein@dcdiocese.org.

The fee for this workshop is $25.

Texas priest who served in SW Kansas accused of sexual abuse

On Jan. 31, 2019, 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.
Music ministers ‘renewed, refreshed ... recognized’

Music ministers came from across the diocese—not for an in depth study into the sound and theology of liturgical music—but instead simply to celebrate a shared love for the Church and the music that fills it.

Organized by diocesan chancellor (and drummer) Sister Janice Grochowsky, “Sung Heroes, A Day for Music Ministers,” was March 30 at the St. Andrew Parish Center in Wright.

After an opening prayer and song, Father Robert Schremmer, St. Andrew pastor, told those gathered that there are three things that keep people in church: “Good preaching, hospitality, and most importantly, good music.” Music “stirs the spirit” he said in welcome, before each attendant shared a little about themselves and where their love of music has taken them.

Sister Janice (who has a mini-drum set on her desk at her office at the Catholic chancery), asked those gathered to remember what it was that led them to become a liturgical music minister.

Some volunteered happily to serve in music ministry, others were invited, yet all continued their musical journey thanks to the combination of two great loves, God and music. The day was designed to allow those who attended to be “renewed in your Spirit, refreshed in your ministry, and recognized for your gift.”

Acts of Kindness

Have you ever experienced an act of kindness, shown one to someone else, or been witness to an act of kindness? Bishop John B. Brungardt invites readers to submit stories to the Southwest Kansas Catholic, skregister@dcdiocese.org, or by calling Dave at (620) 227-1519. The bishop asks us all to commit acts of kindness as a prayer for Priestly Vocations.

Windshield help

I heard an inspiring story of kindness today to share. My sister, in her 80s, lives in Wichita, and driving to Mass realized how the wind and rains had plastered her car windows with dirt. She went to a gas station after Mass to clean her windows. A couple pulled to the pump behind her and the man told his wife, “You pump the gas, I’m helping this lady,” and he proceeded to clean all her car windows. God bless him!

— Donna Schawe

A double dose of kindness

Editor’s Note: The following essays come from Frank Sumaya.

An unexpected treat

I was eating alone at McDonald’s and they made a mistake on my order and brought out two large vanilla ice cream cones. I told them that I couldn’t eat two large cones, and I noticed what appeared to be two high school girls at the far end of the restaurant. I told them to deliver the ice cream cones to the girls. I could tell that the girls were telling them they hadn’t ordered the ice cream, but the waiter pointed in my direction, telling them that I sent them over. That seemed to calm them down. When they finished, little did I expect what they would do next. They both came over with tears in their eyes, wanting to take selfies, saying thank you and wanting to know who I was. So I told them I was their guardian angel and gave them my name. I never saw them again.

Kindness at the Post Office

Earlier this month, I was headed to the post office to mail some packages, and noticed an elderly lady hobbling with a cane. She appeared to have weakness on one side of her body. I asked if I could help her, and she wanted to know how to get into the post office with all those stairs. I told her we would walk up the ramp. As I took her arm, I could feel rushing blood in her upper arm. I asked her if she was on dialysis and she said yes, that she had a fistula in her arm, and that she was diabetic and blind in one eye. A nice lady let us in front of her in the line. I helped her back to her car ... She could have fallen trying to maneuver the stairs with limited vision and balance. I’m glad God put me there for her. I saw [her] later in the month in the parking lot of the library, and the lady recognized me and thanked me again.

Parish honors outstanding writer, editor

Well done, good and faithful servant

Shara Thill (left) and Jenny Kasselman were honored at the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish, Ellinwood, for 30-plus years of service in the writing and editing of the parish newsletter. Father Terrance Klein (center) presented both women with a plaque featuring St. Joseph Church and the verse: “Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant” (Matthew 25:23).

Editor’s Note: The following (and the photo) is reprinted with permission from the St. Joseph Parish newsletter. The SKC would like to join in recognizing Thill and Kasselman for their outstanding work.

After Shara Thill and Jenny Kasselman were honored at Mass for their work on the parish newsletter, Thill was asked to share her perspective on being a lifelong Catholic and follower of Christ:

BY SHARLA THILL

When Father asked if I would share something of my faith with you, my first thought was “no,” and “no.” I imagine most of us here today have a hard time getting up in front of others and sharing, but when I got home from Mass that morning, my daily reflection for the day was, “God wants to use us in amazing ways. Are you ready?”

Well, you don’t say no to God. So here I am.

I love being a Catholic. I grew up on a farm near Spearville, which in the 40s and 50s was 97 percent Catholic. When the church bells rang, we went to church. I never knew anything different.

I was the oldest of six children. Our lives centered around St. John’s Church and school. One of my earliest memories was seeing my mom, pregnant out to here, kneeling by a chair leading the rosary for the rest of us. When I was 12, we got electricity, and she became a mom who put little notes above the light switches. My favorite was always, “Lord, if you forget this day, do not thou forget me.”

I went to Mass every day during my grade school and high school years. Yes, high school students went to Mass every day in Spearville. I mentioned that the School Board was also Catholic, so classes started later. And after fasting from midnight, we would eat our breakfast on the way to school.

The Mass was and is an integral part of my life. I firmly believe it is the most powerful prayer we have. Who would ever want to leave the real body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist?

I guess I have never wavered from that. I grew up, went to the Dominican School of Nursing, joined Catholic adult groups and activities at St. Rose in Great Bend and looked for a nice Catholic boy to marry. We brought up our six children with the same good values we were brought up with. We believe you never get enough Religious Education, that no matter how old you are, you are still on the journey, and you have to keep learning every day. I know the more you learn about Christ, the closer you become to him.

Someone once said to me at a retreat in Wichita, “You should not become complacent. The best thing you have is only a detriment to the next best thing God has planned for you.” So my Catholic faith is my anchor in this often crazy world.

God didn’t say it was going to be easy, and it is not. But, I believe and trust that if you persevere until the end, God will take care of you. I also think that God will not ask how many times you did this or that. He might just say, “Did you Love anybody?”
Growing pains

Last weekend I stepped lazzily into my backyard just as the sun was beginning to set. The soft blue of the evening sky faded into oranges and reds along the western horizon. I gazed happily at the greenery making its spring entrance like the lead actor in a new stage production.

Then I stepped directly onto a fresh pile of cat poop, a byproduct of God’s creation. A very sticky byproduct, but a byproduct just the same.

I tried to continue to marvel at the beautiful sky, the newly minted leaves and grass, but I kept being interrupted with thoughts of, “Whew, that really stinks!” and, “I wish I wasn’t wearing my shoes with the waffle tread.”

Finally, I sat down on the step leading from my back porch and grabbed a stick. As I wiped off the cat poop, I counted my blessings.

“Where else can my wife and I walk for 10 minutes in any direction and find ourselves on the edge of the open prairie, nay a man- or woman-made object in sight, unless you count the windmills, which encircle Spearville like a giant cheese grater?” I asked Mr. Grey, one of the few cats that lived on our back porch, as he watched me clean my shoe.

“I use the litter box,” he said. “Seriously. Don’t blame me.”

“I won’t,” I told him as I gave him a quick scratch of his neck.

“Do the windmills really protect us from alien attack?” Mr. Grey asked. Oops. Did I really tell him that? Yeah, that sounds like me.

“How many times has Spearville been attacked by Martians since the windmills went up?” I replied.

Mr. Grey nodded. “Yeah, I guess.”

“You know, the closeness of the open countryside is one those gems of small-town country living that makes my mom—living in an assisted living apartment on the edge of downtown Denver—green with envy,” I said. “Or it could be the lunch they just served. Anyway, she’s green with something.”

Mr. Grey chuckled politely.

“Mmmmm,” Mr. Grey said, rolling his eyes.

“Charlene doesn’t milk possums!”

I felt bad about the “alien” fib, so I said, “Just a little joke.”

“Seriously though, you wanna hear another gem of small-town country living? It was at our 4 p.m. Mass last Saturday (March 23). You should have been there. Mr. Grey! Several young couples who would be attending the Spearville High School prom later that evening came to Mass dressed in their prom finery. The girls looked beautiful, the guys like James Bond ready for Goldfinger’s gala.”

Lenten forgiveness and the response to plagiarism

I miss the old Bond,” Mr. Grey said. “That blond guy is so serious. No fun at all.”

“I totally agree,” I said.

“But the point is, it was so cool seeing these kids beginning their prom celebration with Mass!”

“I was also happy to see that the guys’ sense of style has improved by leaps and bounds over the decades. At my senior prom nearly 40 years ago, rental tuxes came in shades of pastel reds, blues and greens. We looked like we’d been dipped in Easter egg dye.

“Each had an oversize, velvet bow tie under which a cascade of lasagna-like rivulets streamed down the front. You could also rent a top hat and cane, which was the height of coolness. We measured coolness much differently back then.”

“I’ve seen the pictures. (Shudder.)”

“Yeah,” I acknowledged. “If you were wealthy enough to rent a limo, the large ‘Ed’s Limo Rental’ sign on the driver’s side door kind of ruined the effect. Yet, we who couldn’t afford such opulence looked on with envy as Joe Cool with his top hat and cane got out of Ed’s Limo with his lucky date.”

“Dave, where you goin’ with this?” asked Mr. Grey.

“With what?”

“Well, you started out talking about how beautiful Spearville was, then you stepped in poop, now you’re talking about a prom. What’s up?”

I looked down at my shoes. I thought about how fertilizer looks and smells so gross, but yet it helps things to grow. Life had handed us a big chunk of fertilizer lately. Two deaths, Father Marvin and a priest in Denver I knew, Msgr. Michael Glenn.

I wish I could tell Father Marvin how much he moved me that day, years ago, when I watched through tears as he unrolled the Christ-filled frenzy, engaging them, encountering them, encouraging them to allow the Loving Lord to fill their heart. You planted seeds, that day, Father Marvin. You moved so many to God. You saved lives. For what you did just on that one day alone (and I’m sure there were many others like it), I don’t think it’s too much to say, Mission Accomplished.

Then there was the news about our columnist. All forgiven, Sister. I sure can’t throw the first stone. Rest well. Perhaps all the news had left me needing time to focus. Perhaps I need a little time to understand, to grow.

As devotees of a Loving Lord, our lives sometimes take patience. We have to allow ourselves time to grasp God’s design. It isn’t always easy to do. It can take time, effort, and prayer.

“Growing pains,” I said. “Just growing pains.”

Dave, Thanks so much for your quick response. All looks good, as in, all are nowhere to be found.

I prayed for you on my drive home last night, for Sr. Irene’s community too. This is hard news to deliver, hard news to hear. Robert Ellsberg said that egregious as the plagiarism was, he knows Sr. Irene’s desires were well-placed, and that she is a good intercessor as we work through this. Mary

With this incredible example of forgiveness, I immediately felt my anger lift. Sister Irene is gone, died in 2017. We can never be right in our understanding of what happened, all we can do is take to heart Mr. Ellsberg’s and Ms. Stommes’ incredible lesson of forgiveness.

This Lent, let us pray for all those who are victims of their own mistakes, those who have experienced moments of bad judgement, who have given-in to the worst angels of their nature, who have succumbed to temptation. That includes all of us, I imagine. And some of those moments of failing to bend to God’s will are far worse than others.

Let’s take heart in knowing that, although sin presents the illusion of separation from our Loving Lord, there is nothing we can do to pull ourselves away from the loving embrace of our God.

Let’s pray that we can forgive those whose moments of bad judgement have affected us, and that those who have been affected by our moments of bad judgement, can forgive us. Let us pray that we, each and every one of us, can find healing in the Loving Lord.

Inherit the Mirth

By Cuyler Black (cuylerblack.com)

It’s the groom! He says it’s on again!
By COURTNEY GROGAN

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN) - Pope Francis said that people need to overcome their fear of migrants and refugees, and learn to bear the face of Christ in each immigrant arriving in their countries.

"The Lord speaks to us today and asks us to let Him free us from our fears," Pope Francis said in a homily at the Fratelli Di Sacrofano, a Catholic retreat center north of Rome.

In fear, we tend to become closed off, Pope Francis explained. "This withdrawal into ourselves, a sign of defeat, increases our fear of 'others,' the unknown, the marginalized, the strangers.

"It is not easy to enter the culture of others, put yourself in the shoes of people so different from us, understand their thoughts and experiences. And so often we give up the meeting with the other and raise barriers to defend ourselves," he continued.

Faced with the wickedness and ugliness of our time, we ... are tempted to abandon our dream of freedom. We feel legitimate fear in front of situations that seem to us with no way out. And the hundred hands of a leader or prophet are not enough to reassure us," he said.

However, when fear holds one back from encountering the stranger, it is a missed opportunity to practice charity, the pope explained.

"The meeting with the other, then, is also an encounter with Christ. He told us himself. It is He who knocks on our door hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick and imprisoned, asking to be met and assisted," he said.

"It is really Him, even if our eyes [struggle] to recognize Him: with broken clothes, with dirty feet, with a deformed face, with a wounded body, unable to speak our language."

A lesson on prayer from Gethsemane

From Page 1

After Jesus arrives in the garden with his disciples, he withdraws from them (Lk 22:41). He goes off by himself to pray, separating himself even from his closest companions. Christ’s whole life is a prayer, but this night before his passion is one of several instances in which he isolates himself to pray. Doing so provides an example for us. We should try to live our whole lives as a prayer, but there is still a need for intense moments of deep prayer, where we set aside everything else and focus exclusively on God. This is particularly true when we are preparing for something important in our lives. A big change or decision should always be accompanied with this kind of deep prayer, in which we can take time to seek out God’s will for us and align ourselves more closely with it.

As he starts to pray, Christ addresses God as “Abba” ( Mk 14:36). While this term is often translated as “Father,” it is more accurately described as meaning “Daddy.” Abba is an intimate and affectionate term that a child would use for his daddy. It is startling to see Christ, who is God incarnate, using this term in prayer. As he kneels in the garden, preparing to embrace his passion and death, he utters this personal cry of a trusting child to his beloved parent. In the most difficult and frightening part of his life, Jesus throws himself down on all fours, not hold back, but offers up his requests directly and without shame. We can learn from Christ. Sometimes we hold back, withholding our intentions because we are afraid to ask for what we really want. But God already knows the deepest desires of our hearts. We should not be afraid to ask our loving Father for what we want. We should bring our petitions before the Lord openly and honestly, trusting him to provide.

Of course, along with boldness in presenting our requests, we must keep in mind the next part of Christ’s prayer, “Yet, not as I will, but as you will” (Mt 26:39). After openly making his petitions known, Jesus immediately expresses his acceptance of the Father’s will over his own. He is completely dedicated to carrying out God’s will in his life, even if it is not the path he would have wanted for himself. And the commitment he voices in the garden is confirmed in his actions, as he lives out this acceptance of God’s will. The cup of suffering is not taken away from him, so he drinks it in full, obedient to the point of death. In doing so, he teaches us willingness to follow the Father’s plan even if it does not align with our own. In our prayers, we should ask God for what we want, but we should also fully embrace his will for our lives, trusting him without reservation.

As Christ finishes his prayer, an angel from heaven appears to strengthen him (Lk 22:43). The Father hears the prayers of his beloved Son, and he answers them. He does not take away Christ’s suffering and death because they are part of his divine plan for the salvation of the world. But although he does not give Jesus what he had so boldly requested, he does hear him and answer him. He sends an angel to strengthen Jesus so that he can carry out his difficult calling.

In the same way, God always hears us when we pray. He may not answer us in the way that we want him to, but we can be confident that he listens to us. If God in his loving wisdom and providence calls us to suffer, we can trust that he will give us the strength to carry out his will, just as he did for Christ in the garden.

We should try to live our whole lives as a prayer, but there is still a need for intense moments of deep prayer, where we set aside everything else and focus exclusively on God. This is particularly true when we are preparing for something important in our lives. A big change or decision should always be accompanied with this kind of deep prayer, in which we can take time to seek out God’s will for us and align ourselves more closely with it.

Continued on Page 16
**ENRICH YOUR LENT TODAY!**

“The Rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times.”

— Saint Padre Pio

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

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

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

— Matthew 18:19

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Twins baptized in Ransom ... by a twin

Twins Mark Thomas and Michael Watson Kraus, sons of Weston and Holly Kraus of Utica, were baptized by Father Pascal Klein, himself a twin, at St. Aloysius Church in Ransom, March 16. Mark and Michael are great-nephews of Father David Kraus. Their grandparents are Pat and Kay Kraus of Ransom, and Tom and Deb Maupin of Paradise, Calif. Their great-grandparents are Frank and Wilda Offutt of Utica, Elzina Scott of Russell, Sam and Rita Maupin of Paradise, Calif., and the late Hugo and Alice Kraus. Their Godparents are Monica Kraus, Sean Kraus and Mark Kraus. The baptism was celebrated with many family members in attendance.

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**Young people celebrate their Catholic journey**

Youth from St. Mary Parish, Marienthal, and St. Anthony of Padua, Leoti, were confirmed March 16, and youth from St. Joseph the Worker, Tribune, were confirmed March 19. Above, left: St. Mary and St. Anthony Parishes—Front row (from left) Elise Whalen, Gretchen Ridder, Sydney Biermann, Megan Ricke, Anna Simons, Jocie Schmidt. Back row (from left) Bishop Brungardt, Edvin Mancillas, Trevor Biermann, Erik Hermosillo, Alex Gutierrez, Joel Barrera, Father Tim S. Hickey. Above, right: St. Joseph the Worker, Tribune—Front row (from left) Sarahi Godinez, Iliany Yanez, Brandon Price*, Jariath Yanez, Valentin Villalobos. Back row (from left) Bishop Brungardt, Jesus Martinez, Kevin Alejandro Alvarez, Father Tim S. Hickey.

* Brandon and family are parishioners at St. Mary’s, but he was in state wrestling finals on March 16.

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On March 31 four young people from St. Michael’s Parish, LaCrosse, received their First Holy Communion. From left to right, back row, are catechist Michelle Morgan, Fr. Eric Gyamfi and catechist Janice Showalter. Front row from left to right are Jadyn Petersile, Zachary Holopirek, Josie Larson and Rylie Larson.

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St. Stanislaus Church, Ingalls, held Confirmation services on Wednesday, March 27. Members of the class are: Row 1—Maria Aguero, Sydney Minet, Trinity Lutters, Tessa Irsik, Emily Goetz, Juan Arjona, Layton Simon, Ryan Hamilton, Edwin Ruiz, and instructor Theresa Irsik; Row 2—Kevin Ruiz, Samantha Wendel, Nayeli Andozola, Aleah Cervantes, Gracie Millershaski, Kennedy Jarnagin, David Mendez, Gael Cardiel, Hayden Cure, and Esteban Porras, Instructor Butch Irsik; Row 3—Ethan Mai, Instructor Leasa Wendel, Lane Beery, Linsi Ballesteros, Instructor Dan Wendel, Bishop John Brungardt, Layne Johnson, Angel Myers, Anna Cofer, Will Ast, and Juan Varela.
The 5th annual Ladies’ Day hosted by St. Ann’s Altar Society of St. Joseph’s Church, Liebenthal was Sunday, March 31 in the parish hall. Focusing on the ocean, sea animals and mysteries of the vast waters, 25 women were invited to introduce themselves and share their impressions of the ocean (if they were fortunate enough to stand on an ocean beach!). Interestingly, almost all of the women had been to an ocean. The Lenten retreat day included a feast of “finger foods” and “ocean punch”, followed by presentations on life lessons learned from the sea:

Monica Legleiter told how a pearl is formed in an oyster. A tiny sandstone finds its way under an oyster shell. It is so irritating that the oyster continues to cover it with a secretion over the next several years and eventually it becomes a smooth, beautiful pearl.

Everyone received a pearl with a prayer card: “You are my pearl of great price” (Matthew 13:44-46). Jerilyn Stull addressed the subject of how our doubts become baggage weighing us down as she filled a beach bag with items one probably would need on a trip to the beach. The beach bag becomes so full and weighted down; do we really need all this worry and doubt that weighs us down?

Judy Hoffman shared information on the sea turtle and humpback whale. One in 1,000 sea turtles reach adulthood. They have to leave their “comfort zone” to try to reach the ocean after being hatched on shore. Their very battle for survival is unknown to many, yet it is a lesson on life’s journey. The humpback whale could be called the “guardian angels” of the ocean. They show up mysteriously when sea animals are being attacked and ward off the attackers. They also have been known to protect humans. LouAnn Legleiter presented seven inspiring lessons taken from the different kinds of waves, teaching us to be like water ourselves—strong yet calm, steady yet beautiful. Above all, the ocean teaches us that we are all connected.

The mysteries of the sand dollar were presented by Monica Legleiter. She suggested we take a close look at a sand dollar. There are five markings that could signify Christ’s crucifixion: the four nail holes, and the fifth, the wound from the Roman spear. The Christmas poinsettia etched on the other side reminds us of His birthday. Break the center open and you will find five white doves awaiting, to spread good will and peace. Everyone received a sand dollar and a copy of the “Legend of the Sand Dollar.”

A powerful movie event

Teenagers from St. Anthony Parish in Leoti and St. Mary’s Parish in Marienthal, along with parents and chaperones, attended the pro-life movie “Unplanned” Sunday, March 31 in Garden City. They raised money for their tickets by hosting a pancake breakfast at St. Anthony’s. The movie depicts the life of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic director, who, after seven years of employment, left the organization after witnessing an abortion on an ultrasound. The movie is based on her book of the same name. Johnson went on to become a pro-life advocate, penning books and speaking across the country on her experiences and the importance of defending life from the earliest moments.

“Their stories are powerful. I have not seen anything like it,” said Father Marcin Mironiuk, pastor of St. Anthony. “They were older women so they’re not the kind of people who would whip out a cellphone and take a video or call 911. They did what they could and they had canes. They started striking the guy with their canes.”

-- Lorraine Turchansky, a spokesperson for the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, referring to the response of several women after a 25-year-old man attacked their pastor Father Marcin Mironiuk, after Mass March 15. (At press time, the suspect had not been apprehended. Father Mironiuk was traumatized, but otherwise unharmed, thanks to the women.)
Jacqueline Loh, left and Bishop Ronald Gilmore, right, host a “When Monday Comes” Lenten retreat at Sacred Heart Parish in Larned, March 8-9. At top and far right are the participants of the Larned retreat.

“When Monday Comes”, Loh’s book based on the retreat experience, is available for $12 (including shipping) at their retreats. It also is available at www.gracethatreigns.com. “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.”

“When Monday Comes” Lenten mission retreats across diocese

Bishop Emeritus Ronald M. Gilmore and Jacqueline Loh host Lenten mission retreats across diocese

“Did you say, ‘retirement’? Sister actively leading retreats across southwest Kansas

When Sister Rose Mary Stein, OP, retired from her ministry at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe last year, she didn’t slow her pace. In fact, she took on a new ministry that would mean upping her mileage considerably. Sister Rose Mary began presenting daytime retreats at parishes across the diocese.

“Adults today live in a time of transition, weaving together the gold in their memories and the ‘not yet’ surprises of God,” Sister Rose Mary said. “They have yet to fully integrate the past and present experiences into their spirituality. This is why a retreat can help you connect the dots and have a further relationship with God and the world.”

Top photo: Lola Wilson, DRE at St. Dominic, Garden City, Linda Klaus, and Sister Rose Mary Stein at a retreat at St. Dominic Parish. At left, Klaus is a presenter at the Garden City retreat. Below, John Trombley speaks at a retreat at United Methodist Church.

“When Monday Comes” Bishop Emeritus Ronald M. Gilmore and Jacqueline Loh host Lenten mission retreats across diocese

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Top photo: Lola Wilson, DRE at St. Dominic, Garden City, Linda Klaus, and Sister Rose Mary Stein at a retreat at St. Dominic Parish. At left, Klaus is a presenter at the Garden City retreat. Below, John Trombley speaks at a retreat at United Methodist Church.

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Advocacy centers help abuse victims tell their story, regain trust, heal

BY ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN

Catholic News Service

Editor’s Note: The following is part of “Children at Risk,” a special series presented by Catholic News Service. Bishop John Brungardt suggested the SKC present the series as continued coverage of the abuse crisis, in hopes that no one ever faces clergy abuse again, that the victim survives and heals, and that the perpetrators receive justice.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — On a long, low shelf at Safe Shores in downtown Washington, colorful figurines of wild animals, army soldiers, a winged dragon and an angel appear to be the toy collection of an overly neat child.

It’s the “sand tray room,” where young survivors of sexual assault arrange figures in a tray of sand to tell stories about their experiences, often, too difficult to put into words.

One 10-year-old girl, abused by her father, remained silent through five sessions of therapy. Only after arranging figures in the sand tray, creating a tableau depicting a child separated from adults by a bridge, did she open up and talk at length.

“We’ve used sand play in this field for about 25 years,” remarked Lisa Dominguez, director of clinical services at Safe Shores, one of 854 children’s advocacy centers located across the nation.

One out of every 10 Americans will suffer sexual abuse, involving physical contact, before turning 18 years old. An astonishing 90 percent of child victims personally know their abuser. Of those offenders, approximately 30 percent are family members — a tragic statistic that climbs to 50 percent when you look at who perpetrates abuse against children under age 6.

“The traumatization 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,” according to a report on the causes and context of abuse of minors prepared by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice some years ago as a mandate of the bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

Over the last 30 years, the network of children’s advocacy centers has emerged as one of the nation’s most comprehensive responses to sexual violence against children.

The centers serve three goals: providing treatment to victims and support to their caregivers and families; collecting evidence and coordinating investigations with law enforcement and child welfare authorities; and training those with responsibility for children, especially schools, on prevention strategies.

In 2017, 334,000 children were served through the CAC network, a 9 percent increase over 2016. The system’s annual cost is about $450 million; two-thirds of the budget came from public resources in 2016: federal (20 percent), state (34 percent) and local (14 percent).

Experts agree: the major reason child sexual assault has garnered intense attention — and more severe criminal sanctions — is the mountain of evidence that it results in deep, often lasting, harm.

“Not only mental health, but long-term negative health outcomes” may be the result of untreated abuse, observed Dominguez.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a direct correlation exists between child sexual abuse and the number of what it calls “adverse childhood experiences,” including sexual assault, and lifelong problems with health (obesity, suicide attempts, heart disease, cancer, stroke), behavior (smoking, alcoholism, drug use) and life fulfillment (graduation rates, lost time from work).

“We know that trauma impacts the brain even in utero and it impacts the wiring of the brain, but we know the brain can be rewired. It can heal,” Dominguez told Catholic News Service. The evidenced-based therapy model used by Safe Shores is trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. It begins with skill building and “psycho-education” to help survivors and caregivers “understand what they are living,” including what happens to the brain when it experiences trauma.

Some victims become hyper-sensitized — for example, they can’t sit still. Others are passive, as though they are frozen. The treatment focuses on “building a toolbox” of basic skills for relaxation and coping, Dominguez said: “Kids often feel very responsible for what happened to them. They feel the abuse was their fault.”

Dominguez continued, “The thing about sexual abuse for kids that is so confusing is that, first, more often than not, the child knows the offender so it was someone they trusted, and often because of that trust, the abuse was allowed to happen.”

She continued, “In addition, because of the body’s natural physiological response, some part of the abuse might have felt physically pleasurable to the child.” The combination of shame, self-blame and fear creates a particularly combustible set of emotions.

“People who want to sexually abuse children are strategic,” warned Ashley Harrell, director for family advocacy, prevention and outreach at Safe Shores.

“They groom the whole family. Often, family members will say, ‘This is the person I trusted the most!’”

As a result, a child who reports abuse within the family’s trust circle may not be believed — a further traumatizing experience.

As well, when the abuse is finally confirmed, innocent members of the family are horrified and heart-broken. Reconstructing trust within the family — absent abusers and those who deny it happened — is major task.

In addition to long-term mental health treatment, Safe Shores provides a variety of other supportive services for families, including a weekly caregiver support group, offered both in English and Spanish, where dinner and child care are provided. CACs provide services without charge.

Therapy is one part of the CAC mission, providing evidence for investigations is another. Safe Shores conducted close to 800 forensic interviews last year.

Down the hall from the Clinical Services Suite, past brilliant tropical fish languidly circling in a tank, is a room dedicated to interviewing child victims, outfitted with ceiling cameras and microphones. Children are told exactly where all the equipment is.

To avoid the once common practice of repetitive interviews of child victims by police, prosecutors, social workers, doctors and judges — a procedure that was unduly traumatizing in itself — CAC forensic teams conduct a fact-finding interview in a “developmentally sensitive and legally sound manner” as part of a larger investigative process, explained Leyla Sandler, Safe Shores’ forensic services director.

The process results in one conclusive interview shared with all parties, a document that often becomes part of criminal proceedings against a perpetrator. Typically, law enforcement observes a forensic interview from another room.

In fact, members of the multidisciplinary team are located in the same building with Safe Shores, based in a renovated elementary school.

Together under one roof are: officers with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department; staff from the DC Child and Family Services Child Protective Services unit; attorneys with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and Office of the Attorney General for D.C.; and medical staff from the Child and Adolescent Protection Center, which is part of a unit of Children’s National Medical Center.

Again, the purpose is to minimize trauma on the child, and maximize efficiency for the justice system to make perpetrators accountable.

Most important, Safe Shores staff sees tangible proof that victimized children heal.

“What we see as healing is a reduction in trauma symptoms, so kids can tolerate normal stressors and frustrations that we all encounter day to day. We see a decrease in nightmares. We see better academic performance. We see enhanced communication with caregivers. We see re-engagement in activities that used to bring them pleasure — a team activity or Cub Scouts. We see children better able to tolerate their emotions,” said Dominguez.

She added, “Having a renewed sense of trust and safety, that is key. Because that’s the biggest thing lost when a trusted adult abuses you: You’re left asking, ‘Whom can I trust?’”

El padre Marvin Reif descansa en Odín

El padre Marvin Reif, sacerdote de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City, falleció el 1 de abril. El padre Ted Stoecklein presidió la misa funeraria en la iglesia St. Patrick en Great Bend. El cementerio fue en el cementerio de la Sagrada Familia en Odín, Kansas.

El padre Reif, hijo de Albert y Dorothy (Frentz) Reif, nació el 19 de agosto de 1963 en Hoisington. Fue ordenado al sacerdocio el 3 de junio de 1989 por el Reverendo Stanley G. Schlarmann, obispo de Dodge City, en la iglesia de la Sagrada Familia en Odín, Kansas.

"El padre Marvin es recordado por tanto gente de nuestra diócesis: agradecido por su amor a la liturgia sagrada; todavía puede escuchar su voz mientras cantaba y predicaba; se continuó sintiendo su compasivo y gentil cuidado pastoral", dijo el reverendísimo John B. Brungardt, Obispo de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City.

"El padre Marvin continuará siendo recordado como alguien que buscó servir a otros dentro y fuera de los diversos cambios de su vida. El experimentó tal alegría y sufrimiento en su vida terrenal, y confió en nuestro Salvador Jesús para su vida eterna."

En marzo del 2017, el Padre Reif compartió este mensaje de Cuaresma en una publicación de Facebook. Se lee, en parte: "Como sabemos, la sabiduría de Dios es muy diferente de nuestra sabiduría. Sus caminos está muy por encima de nuestros caminos. Sus pensamientos están sobre nuestros pensamientos. ... ¿Qué nos enseña esto? Nos enseña mucha paciencia. Y nos enseña a rendirnos, confiar y esperar. Si queremos orar con fuerza y orar bien, debemos orar correctamente ... Es la oración simple de María, cuando el ángel se acercó a ella en la anunciación: "¡Hágase tu voluntad!"

"Al principio es difícil, pero se vuelve fácil cuando entendemos y creemos que Dios siempre tiene el plan perfecto para nuestras vidas, y sí, incluso en las luchas y situaciones en las que nos encontramos. ... El tiene un plan perfecto para tu vida, y ese plan a veces es tan diferente a tu plan. Rinda a El y deje que Su santa voluntad te guíe en todas las cosas."
El Papa Francisco defiende la actualidad del sacramento de la Confesión

(AEI) El Papa Francisco defendió la plena actualidad del sacramento de la Confesión, aunque reconoció “una cierta dificultad del hombre contemporáneo” a la hora de acudir a ella.

El Santo Padre destacó que “la importancia del ministerio de misericordia” justifica, requiere y casi siempre implica “una formación adecuada, que para el encuentro con los fieles que piden el perdón de Dios sea siempre un verdadero encuentro humano, en el cual el abrazo del Señor se perciba en toda su fuerza, capaz de cambiar, convertir, sanar y perdonar”.

“Jesús vino a salvarnos, revelándonos el rostro misericordioso de Dios y acercándonos a Él con su sacrificio de amor. De ahí que siempre debamos recordar que el Sacramento de la Reconciliación es un verdadero y propio camino de santificación; es la señal efectiva que Jesús dejó a la Iglesia para que la puerta de la casa del Padre estuviera siempre abierta y para que así fuera siempre posible el regreso de los hombres a Él”, explicó. En este sentido, subrayó que “la confesión sacramental es el camino de la santificación tanto para el penitente como para el confesor. Y vosotros, queridos jóvenes confesores, lo experimentaréis pronto”.

Para el penitente, “es claramente un camino de santificación, porque, como se subrayó repetidamente durante el reciente Jubileo de la Misericordia, la absolutión sacramental, celebrada válidamente, restablece la inocencia bautismal, la comunión plena con Dios. Esta comunión que Dios nunca interrumpe con el hombre, pero de la que el hombre a veces escapa al usar mal el estupendo don de la libertad”.

Insistió también en que “como confesores, tenemos el privilegio de contemplar constantemente los ‘milagros’ de las conversiones. Siempre debemos reconocer la poderosa acción de la gracia, que es capaz de transformar el corazón de piedra en corazón de carne, de transformar a un pecador que huyó lejos en un hijo arrepentido que regresa a la casa de su padre”.

Avanza proyecto para prohibir aborto después de detectar latidos de corazón

LA – El Senado de Georgia (Estados Unidos) aprobó el proyecto de ley que prohíbe el aborto luego de detectarse el latido del corazón del niño por nacer, que ocurre aproximadamente a las seis semanas de embarazo.

El proyecto establece que los médicos que realicen abortos después de detectarse el latido del corazón del niño no nacido podrían perder sus licencias para ejercer su profesión.

Sobre el proyecto, el senador Ed Setzler, promotor del proyecto de ley, afirmó: “La ciencia nos dice que un niño con un corazón que late ha cruzado el umbral médico definitivo en el que tiene un 95% de posibilidades de ser llevado al término y al umbral médico definitivo que durante siglos ha establecido la presencia de la vida humana: El latido del corazón”, señaló. El representante de Georgia también argumentó que el proyecto de ley de latidos del corazón puede sobrevivir a un desafío legal. Dijo que es único entre otras leyes estatales similares porque establece “la personalidad jurídica del niño por nacer”, basándose en “el fundamento establecido desde hace tiempo de la autoridad de un estado para reconocer los derechos de las personas de forma más amplia que el mínimo requerido por la ley federal”.

Sin embargo, los obispos de Tennessee han optado por oponerse a la ley de latidos del corazón en su estado, debido a que les preocupa que no supere el escrutinio judicial. Indicaron que se trata de un enfoque imprudente para combatir el aborto legal, citando a otros estados en los que las impugnaciones legales a tales proyectos terminan por establecer como un “derecho legal al aborto”, y forzaban al estado a pagar significativas sumas de dinero a los abogados pro aborto.

Como precedente, una ley similar en la actualidad, en Georgia está prohibido el aborto después de 20 semanas de embarazo.

Avanza proyecto para prohibir aborto después de detectar latidos de corazón

Reci en una pequeña granja a medio camino entre Abilene y Chapman. Criábamos pollos, algunas vacas, ovejas, una cabra, muchos perros y gatos, mi ganso mascota y unos 500 cerdos. Me ocupaba de los cerdos (los de cuatro patas, ¡así como de mis dos hermanos menores!). El milagro de la creación del Señor: una cerda que da a luz a una docena de lechones! Dar muchos frutos.

El Papa Francisco defiende la actualidad del sacramento de la Confesión

durante el reciente Jubileo de la Misericordia, la absolutión sacramental, celebrada válidamente, restablece la inocencia bautismal, la comunión plena con Dios. Esa comunión que Dios nunca interrumpe con el hombre, pero de la que el hombre a veces escapa al usar mal el estupendo don de la libertad”.

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Dar fruto en el Señor

kyucky fue bloqueada por un juez federal a tan solo horas después de entrar en vigencia.

Setzler dijo que el proyecto de ley es un esfuerzo por equilibrar “la libertad individual de las madres embarazadas con el derecho a la vida de las distintas personas que viven dentro de ellas. El padre del bebé y una deducción total de impuestos dependientes”.

La Conferencia Católica de Georgia también ha manifestado su apoyo a la legislación. “El objetivo del proyecto de ley es una prohibición contra el aborto después de un latido fetal detectable, generalmente entre seis y ocho semanas después de la concepción”, señalaron.

“Si bien entendemos que la vida comienza en el momento de la concepción, no de los latidos del corazón, este lenguaje es tan cercano como los autores creen que podemos enfrentar y aún enfrentar el desafío en la corte”, declaró. “Sin embargo, recomendamos apoyarla porque prohibiría muchos abortos que hoy son legales”, añadió.

En la actualidad, en Georgia está prohibido el aborto después de 20 semanas de embarazo.

Traducido y adaptado por Carla Marquina. Publicado originalmente en CNA.
HELP WANTED

Vocal Music Teacher, Dodge City

Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Dodge City is now taking applications for a K-8 Vocal music teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. Please send your resume and/or your questions to Lynne Habiger, principal: lynne.habiger@dcschc.com; 620 227-6532.

Principal/Colby

Sacred Heart Elementary School in Colby, Kansas is seeking to fill the position of Principal to begin July 1, 2019. Qualifications: Demonstrated commitment to the development of Christian spirit and a Catholic community of faith within the school environment. Master’s degree in Education Administration and supervision with experience in administration and teaching. Active member of the Catholic Church. Preference given to candidates who have ability to communicate and work collaboratively with an excellent staff. Competitive salary and benefits commensurate with credentials and experience. Submit a letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference and university credentials to Fr. Richard Daise, 585 N. French Avenue, Colby, KS, by May 15, 2019. If you have questions or need some clarification, call (785) 462-2179.

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Adoratio Foundation, Beloit, KS

Adoratio Foundation in Beloit, KS is looking for a highly qualified Project/Maintenance Manager. This position is responsible for all maintenance, repair and upkeep of Adoratio Foundation’s property including overseeing volunteers, landscaping, plumbing, carpentry, and electrical work; a true handyman. Applicants should be strong, practicing Catholics who seek to raise their families within a smaller community that supports an authentic, K – 12th grade Catholic school.

Send cover letter, resume and three references to: admin@adoratofoundation.com.

Obituaries

GARY ALLEN LEIKER, 53, of St. Rose of Lima Parish, Great Bend, died March 20, 2019. He was born in Ellinwood to Don James and Bennie Lou (Gray) Leiker. Gary married Carla Jo (Graeber) July 30, 1988, and they were later divorced. A short time resident of Newton coming from Great Bend, Gary dedicated his life to law enforcement, serving Stanton, Stafford and Barton Counties. Survivors include his father and step-mother, Don James and Toni Leiker of Great Bend; one daughter, Casey Carruth; three brothers, Troy, Darron, and Chad; one granddaughter, and his grandparents, Otilia and David Leiker of Kansas City; and many relatives and friends.

DONALD “DEAN” MCPHAIR, 83, of St. Joseph Parish, Ashland, died March 13, 2019. He was born in Clark County, Kansas to Harry and Emma (Hoffman) McPhail. With the exception of his time in the Air Force, he lived in Clark County all his life. Dean did his Basic Training in San Antonio, Texas at Lackland Air Force Base and was stationed at Lincoln Air Force Base in Lincoln, Nebraska where he was a crew chief. He served from April 30, 1957 to April 29, 1963. When he was discharged, he moved his family back to Ashland. Dean married Verna Mae Merry on April 12, 1958. The couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in May 2018. Survivors include his wife, Verna; children Bobby Jude McPhail, Donald Wayne (Butch) McPhail, Debbi Lynn Messer, Susan Elizabeth Lacy, and Michael Lee McPhail; 12 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren. Another child is due in June.

GARY ALLEN LEIKER

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Dcdiocese.org/pastoral-ministry-formation

COLEEN STEIN

(620) 227-1538
Remembering Isaac Sanchez

Isaac T. Sanchez, who died on March 15, 2019 in Garden City, was born on June 20, 1927 to Florentina and Soledad Sanchez, in what was known as the “Mexican Village” in Dodge City.

The village was a community of Mexican and Mexican Americans who supported themselves through work with the Santa Fe Railroad. The Santa Fe Railroad was a vital transportation route across the country and attracted immigrants like Soledad, who wanted to seek a better life. He immigrated in 1902.

In Isaac’s teenage years, he took on the role as a provider for the family by working for the Santa Fe railroad when his father fell ill and his older brothers were off fighting in World War II.

He was called to serve, and entered the Army Infantry in Fort Leavenworth in 1945. At the end of his service in 1949, Isaac left the military with the rank of sergeant.

After arriving back home to Dodge City, Isaac was in a devastating car wreck which left him paralyzed from the neck down. With the determination and assistance of family, Isaac eventually regained independence, although handicapped from the condition known as Brown-Sequard syndrome, which left the right side of his body weak and with very limited movement.

However, he did not let that prevent him from pursuing his education. He received an associate degree and went on to the University of Denver.

After a brief time, Isaac left his studies to return to Dodge City and begin a property management opportunity and opened a tavern with a nightclub upstairs.

Isaac was a single parent with two daughters, Crystal and Marilyn. With the help of his mother, Florentina, and sisters, Mary Padilla and Trinie Gietzen, he raised Crystal and Marilyn, always trying to set a good example of giving back to the community, standing for what you believe, never giving up, and family first.

It was around this same time that Isaac also became involved in politics; it would become a lifelong passion for him. He felt it was important to become an active advocate in community issues.

Isaac attended city commission meetings, school board meetings, legislative coffees and local, state and national political campaigns.

He tried to encourage citizens to exercise their voice by voting, even participating in voter registration drives. Isaac was also involved in many other organizations.

He was active in the GI Forum, serving as commander for several years. He founded the LULAC chapter in Dodge City and was actively involved in promoting leadership and higher education for Hispanics. He was later involved in the VFW and served as Post Commander for a time in the early 90s.

He became involved with the senior citizen lunch called Friendship Meals in 1987. He eventually served as manager for approximately 28 years. He enjoyed every person who joined them for lunch.

In May of 2018, Isaac and Marilyn headed to Wichita to be a part of the Kansas Honor Flight; it would turn into a momentous trip. Not only was it Isaac’s very first plane ride at age 90, but more surprises were to come as Crystal and Tiffany, Isaac’s granddaughter, shocked him when they joined him on the trip.

The last big surprise that left him speechless was arriving outside the National Archives in Washington D.C. and seeing his great nephew David Joyal waiting to join the group.

He is survived by his daughters, Crystal Flax and husband Lewis of Dodge City, and Marilyn Porter and husband Ross of Garden City; two granddaughters, Tiffany Harrison and husband Patrick of Kansas City, and Brekk Flax of Omaha.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, Alvin, Rudy, Frank, and Gavino, and six sisters, Lena, Ramona, Asuncion, Luz, Trinie and Mary.

Isaac always felt blessed to have a family willing to help him during the next 70 years when he was ailing from lingering complications from his disability, but it was his family that was truly blessed to have him in their lives.

Even with his disability and chronic pain, he never complained. He always smiled and embraced every day as a celebration. He was an inspiration to all of who knew his struggle, because it made their challenges seem so small. Isaac’s family meant the world to him, and he meant the world to his family.

Father Wesley Schwabe presided at the funeral Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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**movie reviews**

**Father Marvin Reif finds solace in the arms of the Lord**

Continued from Page 1


Father Reif served the diocese in the positions of Director of the Office of Liturgy and Worship, Director of Vocations, and was a member of the Presbyteral Council and College of Consultants.

While serving in the diocese, he was recognized and admired for his zeal for spreading the Gospel message. In his years of active service, Father Reif built a large contingent of friends and admirers.

He was a 3rd degree member of the Knights of Columbus, enjoyed music, singing, nature and was very proud of his extensive collection of religious books.

Survivors include three brothers, Gary Reif and wife Karen of Great Bend, Duane Reif and wife Debbie of Hoisington, Eldon Reif and wife Karla of Holyrood; two sisters Karen Winkelman and husband Tim of Great Bend and Nancy Jensen and husband Mark of Ellisville; and numerous nieces and nephews. Father Marvin was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Leonard Reif.

"Father Marvin is remembered by so many people of our diocese: grateful for his love of the sacred liturgy; still able to hear his voice as he sang and preached; continuing to feel his compassionate and gentle pastoral care," said the Most Rev. John B. Brungardt, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City.

"Father Marvin will continue to be remembered as one who sought to serve others and out of the various changes of his life. He experienced such joy and suffering in his earthly life, and trusted in our Savior Jesus for his eternal life.

"May the Lord, who Father Marvin sought to praise and serve, continue to give him eternal rest and peace. May that same Lord grant comfort and consolation to his family and all of us who grieve for him."

On April 3, 2017, Father Reif walked away from his residence at Valley Manor Nursing home in Protection, where he had been receiving treatment for mental illness from which he had suffered for several years.

An extensive search, which included 70 volunteers and Bishop Brungardt, failed to locate Father Reif. His body were discovered in a pasture near Protection on March 27, 2017.

In March of 2017, Father Reif shared this Lenten message on a Facebook post. It reads, in part:

"As we know, God's wisdom is so different than our wisdom. His ways are far above our ways. His thoughts above our thoughts.

... What does this teach us? It teaches us lots of patience. And it teaches us to surrender, trust and hope. If we want to pray hard and pray well, we need to pray correctly.... It's the simple prayer of Mary, when the angel came to her in the announcement: 'Thy will be done!'"

"It is hard at first, but it becomes easy when we understand and believe that God always has a perfect plan for our lives, and that our understanding and belief of saintliness in the range and breadth of those portrayed, Stommes said.

One article reviewed by the SKC contained some phrasing identical to that used in a column by Mr. Ellsberg, whose column was written more than a decade prior to Sister Irene's.

The SKC trusts fully that the research completed by Liturgical Press, the publishing house of Give Us This Day, is accurate. Therefore, the Catholic has removed all of Sister Irene's articles from its website.

"As a 20-year columnist, I would like to offer my personal apologies to Mr. Ellsberg," said Dave Myers SKC editor. "I can't begin to imagine how I would feel had I encountered someone using my columns in such a way."

Sister Irene died at age 95 on Aug. 17, 2017. The SKC invites readers to take a moment to view the books written by Mr. Ellsberg, the links for which are included at dioceseo.org/swkcatholic.

*Facebook Group for those wanting to close Homestead

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**Seeking the Sacred Heart**

Continued from Page 1

"Father Marvin would tell you often to "be still;"...and listen to God. "This was, in a sense, a hiding in the heart of the Father; hiding in the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

Father Stoecklein, a humble priest with a wry wit, said that he was teaching adult formation "and just wrapping up a session, when I asked if there were any questions. I prayed that there weren't any," he said to laughter.

"A woman in the front row raised her hand and asked, 'Why does God allow bad things to happen?'

'I knew this woman had been through tremendous suffering... I hemmed and hawed, back-peddled, and started talking about how because of sin, death came, about the mystery of sin ... and I must have taken a breath, because a woman in the back said, 'In order that a greater good might come.' "

"I stood marveling at this woman for her courage and faith," Father Stoecklein said. "I realized everyone was looking at me. I said, 'What she said.'"

"It's a beautiful truth, a hard concept to grasp while we are suffering...but it's really a truth. Nothing happens without God allowing it. Absolutely nothing."

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**Plagiarism by former SKC columnist**

BY DAVE MYERS

**Southwest Kansas Catholic**

Former SKC columnist, Sister Irene Hartman, OP, has been found to have plagiarized at least 25 of the columns she provided to the SKC. For more than a decade, Sister Irene provided dozens of weekly columns under the title "Holy Ones of Our Times," and the earlier title, "Charisms".

It has been discovered that at least 25 of her columns were taken in part from the work of Robert Ellsberg, author of All Saints, Blessed Among All Women, and Blessed Among Us (a collected volume of his work that appeared in the publication Give Us This Day).

According to Give Us This Day editor Mary Stommes, a reader recently called their attention to one instance of potential plagiarism, which led to a more careful review and the discovery that "Sister Irene not only copied many of Mr. Ellsberg’s words, but she also copied his method of expanding our understanding of saintliness in the range and breadth of those portrayed," Stommes said.

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**Witness Tornillo**

Continued from Page 5

the amount of time a child may be detained to 20 days. Another downside of keeping the children so long is that if they are in detention when they turn 18, they are immediately taken into ICE custody and deported.

Examples of reduced regulation occur in healthcare and education. In regular children's shelters, Health and Human Services (HHS) requires a 12 children to 1 clinician to provide mental health care. At Homestead, it's 20-1. Other detention centers require an educational component with certified teachers. There are also no certified teachers providing any educational programs and the superintendent of schools for the Homestead area has not been contacted.

Currently, HHS spends about $775 per child per day at Homestead. This is compared to other facilities that cost around $276/day. Comprehensive Health Services has been issued state licenses for three permanent shelters in South Texas to hold 500 migrant children for the government. In an IPO filing last fall, Calibrum International stated that the administration’s “border enforcement and immigration policy... is driving significant growth” for the company.

This problem is only going to grow. In January, the Customs and Border Protection collected more than 5,000 unaccompanied children. As of the middle of February, there were 11,500 children in HHS custody, down from nearly 15,000 last December but nearly 80 percent higher than the year before.

A bill was recently introduced in Congress called the “Shutdown Child Prison Camps Act” (H.R. 1069). This bill prohibits HHS from maintaining and opening any more emergency shelters. This bill truly is an unacceptable situation. Children need to be with family, not in shelters.