The Most Reverend John B. Brungardt, Bishop of Dodge City, announces the following appointments effective July 1, 2019:

Father Charles Seiwert, currently pastor of St. Mary, Garden City, will return to the Diocese of Wichita.
Father George Fajardo, currently pastor of St. Joseph, Garden City, will return to the Diocese of Wichita.
Father Stephen Dabanka, a priest from the Diocese of Sorsogon, Philippines.

As your current priest departs, or your new priest arrives, please take this opportunity to pray for him. We are grateful for our many missionary priests, as well as our diocesan priests. Thank you for your prayers and support for us priests and bishops – we count on you to assist us! Be assured of our prayers and love for you. Let us work together to build up our community of Christ in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. May the Lord bless us with many faithful servants: laity, religious, and priests. The Lord loves us all more than we can ask or imagine!

— Bishop John

Who’s Who in new the appointments

P

riests retiring, missionary priests ending their service in our diocese, and fewer priests to take up the vacancies, are all reflected in the clergy changes. Bishop John gives an in-depth examination of appointments and the current state of vocations in his column at right.

Included below is more biographical information about the priests listed in the new appointments:

Father Charles Seiwert, currently pastor of St. Mary, Garden City, will return to the Diocese of Wichita.
Father George Fajardo, currently pastor of St. Joseph, Scott City, and St. Theresa, Dighton, will return to the Diocese of Sorsogon, Philippines.

As we continue our Easter Season with great joy, we also face many hardships. Each Spring, I have the challenge of how to best appoint priests to the parishes (see appointments list). Last summer we had a net loss of four priests, from 31 to 27 priests with full-time appointments. This summer, we have three priests returning to their home dioceses and two retirements. So far, only two priests have been replaced. Two more international missionary priests are in the immigration process, which could take many months. "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37). Yes, the realities and possibilities in the first paragraph show the current state of priestly availability in our Catholic Diocese of Dodge City and in our 48 parishes.

What to do? I ask all the faithful of the diocese, priests, religious, and laity, to:

• Pray, humbly asking “the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest” (Matthew 9:38).
• Promote priestly vocations to your sons, grandsons, nephews, boys and single men of your families and parishes. Seminarists and priests come from families and parishes. If not your son, then whose son? If not your parish, then which parish?
• Use these sample phrases to boys and single men: “I think you would make a good priest … Have you ever thought about the priesthood? … I noticed your reverence in prayer; what a blessing! … I noticed you are involved in service projects for the parish; what a blessing! … and many other gentle words of encouragement for vocational discernment.
• Pray for and support our seven fine seminarists (the most in a generation! Thanks be to God!), and our seminary candidates (those who are currently in the application/discernment process).
• Contact the priests of the vocation team, your priest, or your parish vocation committee to give ideas or to volunteer your time to promote priestly vocations.
• Pray to the heavenly Father for more men acting in persona Christi: Only an ordained priest can offer Holy Mass, absolve penitents from their sins, sacramentally anoint the sick, and give the Sacrament of Confirmation (in various circumstances, or with permission of the bishop). Only a bishop can ordain a man as deacon, priest or bishop.
• Continue to fast, to give alms, to do acts of kindness, and to pray for priestly vocations.

As your current priest departs, or your new priest arrives, please pray for him. We are grateful for our many missionary priests, as well as our diocesan priests. Thank you for your prayers and support for us priests and bishops – we count on you to assist us! Be assured of our prayers and love for you. Let us work together to build up our community of Christ in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. May the Lord bless us with many faithful servants: laity, religious, and priests. The Lord loves us all more than we can ask or imagine!

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Are we among the ‘honest’ when we fold our hands in prayer?

There is one quality in common which artists and men of prayer/Display when we think back on them. They were/eager to disappear — These words of Elizabeth Jennings, a British poet, were written around 1996 in her Seers and Makers. She was much loved in her place, though little known in ours. — (eager to disappear)/Within the words, paint, sound, and praying: each/Wished to be hidden. That was important to her, the ‘disappearing,’ the ‘hiding,’ the being consumed by word or by prayer. (each)/Wished to be hidden. Thus we can/Always mark off the honest from the sham. She was among the ‘honest,’ Elizabeth was. “Are you still writing?” people would ask her toward the end of her life. “Are you still breathing?” she would respond. “Poetry was her sun and moon ... it could not be turned off and on.” And what of us, who know not how to make a poem, but only how to bend our knees and fold our hands? Are we among the ‘honest’ when we pray?

Fathers Skalsky, Strasser, ‘retire’ from active ministry

“I was afraid I wouldn’t find [the priesthood] fulfilling, meaningful – that it would be boring, but none of that’s been true. It has been more fulfilling than I could have ever anticipated.”

— Father Ted Skalsky

“...Parish priests are still ‘general practitioners’. They do a little bit of everything, from celebrating Mass to fixing a hole in the roof.”

— Father John Strasser

Protecting God’s Children

The Catholic Diocese of Dodge City requires all employees and volunteers who work with children to participate in a Protecting God’s Children awareness session.

Through the Diocesan Awareness Sessions and other educational efforts of the diocese, all people of the diocese can learn how to discuss different aspects of abuse — including sexual abuse — with children and how to teach them to protect themselves.

Awareness Session:
Dodge City:
Monday, June 10, 3-6 p.m.
Chancery Office, 910 Central Ave, Dodge City
Contact: Gentry Heimerman (620) 227-1550; PGC Facilitator: Cherry Deges (620) 227-1611
Garden City
Sunday, August 11; 2-5 p.m.
St. Dominic Church
615 I.C. St., Garden City, 67846
Contact: Sister Myra Arney (620) 276-2024; PGC Facilitator: Sharon Stuart (620) 225-5164

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, ctbefort@cox.net, 620-285-3219.
You may submit a report to the diocese. Report forms are available at www.dcdioce-ces.org/safe-environment.
CMGConnect
Diocese gathering ammunition in the fight against abuse

BY STAFF

The Catholic Diocese of Dodge City is upping the ante when it comes to battling abuse—not just abuse against children, but elder abuse, abuse against those who have intellectual disabilities, abuse perpetrated by online predators, financial abuse, and physical and emotional abuse.

How?

By utilizing a new system called CMGConnect, the results of which should be far-reaching with profound implications. The system presents methods that people can utilize to protect themselves and their loved ones. The system will also create a database of Church employees and volunteers, making sure they’re up-to-date on training sessions and background checks.

Over the last year, the diocese’s Safe Environment office has been migrating volunteers and employees into the new, advanced database. CMGConnect, a subsidiary of Catholic Mutual Group, replaces the previous system utilized by the diocese, Virtus, a National Catholic Risk Retention organization. CMGConnect offers the benefit of quarterly background monitoring, as well as training sessions specific to the individual’s position, such as drivers, teachers (anti-bullying), etc...

At press time, employees had each taken more than 200 online lessons. The monthly online training bulletins include important information on a key focus area, followed by a brief quiz. The sessions are designed to protect children and adults from a wide range of abuses. For example, one lesson highlights the use of social media: “Dangers of internet use, mobile devices and easy internet access can be useful tools for helping your children mature into adults of strong character. But, as with any tool, these devices and this increased accessibility carry with them certain grave dangers. You wouldn’t hand your child a chainsaw, show him how to start it, and then leave him alone and unsupervised in the woods. Similarly, as parents or other caring adults, it’s our responsibility to be aware of the dangers of the internet so we can guide our children in the proper use of these tools.”

The lesson goes on to present ways to help protect children from dangerous websites. But it also provides ideas to increase positive communication with your child.

Another lesson discusses vulnerable adults—the elderly, people with disabilities—and the importance of protecting them from a wide range of abuses, including financial and physical abuse. What are the warning signs that an elderly loved one is being abused? What are the warning signs that a child is being abused? If you notice one of the warning signs, what should you do?

The online bulletins are a follow-up to the three-hour on-site facilitator-led Protecting God’s Children Awareness Session required by employees and volunteers who work with children or youth in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. In the last year alone—since July 1, 2018—approximately 375 people throughout the diocese had attended the three-hour live training session. Additionally, more than 400 employees so far, including priests, religious, and DREs, have been required to complete an online renewal training and background check.

Eventually, all active volunteers in the diocese will be required to take the online training bulletins as well, and to submit a background check.

Those who are in the CMGConnect database will receive notifications from ‘ADMIN_diocese’ email: webinar@cmgconnect.org letting them know that the monthly Safe Environment Newsletter/training session is available on CMG Connect. These will be published at the beginning of each month and emailed out to all active members in the database.

(Some recipients noted that they have turned the notifications away as SPAM, so be sure and add this to your approved incoming addresses.)

In 1993, the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City formed a Diocesan Review Board to carefully study, and then to act, in response to any sort of abuse issue that may arise, including sexual abuse. In 2003, after the breaking of the news in Boston of widespread clerical abuse, the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City voluntarily joined the nationwide Safe Environment Program, an umbrella organization that oversees Protecting God’s Children, which includes required Awareness Sessions for all those working or volunteering for the Church. There also are annual audits to ensure the diocese is compliant with all requirements of the Safe Environment Program.

How to pray the Rosary more deeply

BY MSGR. FLORIAN KOLFHAUS

CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

It is interesting that in her appearances at Lourdes, Fatima and other locations, the Mother of God repeatedly recommends praying the Rosary. She does not invite us to pray the Divine Office, or to do spiritual reading, or Eucharistic Adoration, or practice interior prayer or mental prayer. All the mentioned forms of prayer are good, recognized by the Church and practiced by many saints. Why does Mary “only” place the Rosary in our hearts?

We can find a possible answer by looking at the visionsaries of Lourdes and Fatima. Mary revealed herself to children of little instruction, who could not even read or write correctly. The Rosary was for them the appropriate school to learn how to pray well, since bead after bead, it leads us from vocal prayer, to meditation, and eventually to contemplation. With the Rosary, everyone who allows himself or herself to be led by Mary can arrive at interior prayer without any kind of special technique or complicated practices. This does not mean—and I want to emphasize this point—that praying the Rosary is for “dummies” or for simple-minded people. Even great intellectuals must come before God as children, who in their prayers are always simple and sincere, always full of confidence, praying from within.

All Christians are called to the kind of interior prayer that allows an experience of closeness with God and recognition of his action in our lives. We can compare the Rosary to playing the guitar. The vocal prayers—the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be—are the central prayers of Christianity, rooted in Scripture. These are like the rhythm in a song.

But simply strumming a guitar is not a song. And mindless repetition of words is not interior prayer. In addition to rhythm, keys are needed. The Mysteries of the Rosary are like the chords on the guitar. The vocal prayers form the framework for meditation on the Mysteries.

There are always these five chords to the rhythm of the repetition of the prayers, which make the lives of Jesus and Mary pass before our eyes. With meditation, we go on reflecting on what happens in each Mystery and what it means for our lives: At Nazareth, the Son of God is incarnated in Mary. In Holy Communion, He also comes to me. In Gethsemane, Jesus sweats blood. He suffers, is in anguish, and yet his friends remain asleep. Can I keep vigil with Him or do my eyes close with tiredness? On Easter morning, Jesus rises and breaks forth from the tomb. The first day of creation brought light. The first day of the week conquered death and gave us life. Christ can change the darkness in my life into light.

And so, our prayer begins to change into music. That is to say, it is no longer monotonous and boring, but now it is full of images and thoughts. And when the grace of God permits, it is also filled with supernatural illuminations and inspirations.

There is one more thing needed to have really great music, or to have a prayer that is even more profound and intimate: the melody that the heart sings. When playing the guitar, a voice is needed to interpret the song. When praying the Rosary, it is the song of our heart, as we place our own life before God, to the tempo of the prayers and meditations.

It is this song of the heart that allows us to enter into the mysteries of the Rosary: For my sake you were scourged, and it was I who struck you. Forgive me! You have ascended into Heaven, Lord. I long for You, I long for your kingdom, my true homeland.

In contemplation, the person praying sees the mysteries pass before his eyes, and at the same time he abides in particular affections or movements of the heart before God. The one who prays sings the song of his own life, in which naturally there can arise specific desires: You wanted to be the son of a human Mother; help my sick mother! You were crowned with thorns; help me in this financial difficulty which I can’t get out of my head. You sent the Holy Spirit without You I don’t have the courage or the strength to make a good decision.

Continued on Page 16
Be still my beating heart

The nurse carefully attached six connectors to my chest that I’d have to wear for the next 24 hours, attached by wire to a portable heart monitor.

I’d had a few heart issues, nothing serious I’d hoped, but enough that it got the attention of my cardiologist.

“I want to be careful about hair,” the nurse said kindly as she attached the sticky, inch-and-a-quarter round snaps for the monitor cords to plug into. Not a huge worry, since my chest has just a few wisps of hair here and there, like scrub brush in a barren desert.

“Don’t worry about it,” I said in as manly way as I could muster as she adhered the little round stickers to me.

“You say that now...,” she replied, ominously.

I had to chuckle to myself. It doesn’t matter that my abs are hidden under a layer of blubber, or that my pectoral muscles look like they’ve been deflated. I found myself unconsciously sticking out my chest and holding in my stomach as if I was posing for a Mr. Universe contest. The nurse studied me curiously and asked me if I needed a larger site.

Then she snapped the six cords from the small heart monitor into place, one on each little, round sticker. I put the corded monitor in my pocket, buttoned up my shirt, and headed home feeling like a human science fair exhibit.

The first mistake I made when I got home was to eat a taco dinner that I had prepared. Refried beans, taco sauce and cheese are all high in salt. Tasty, but high in salt.

An hour later, as we’re sitting on the couch, my wife says, “Boy, our neighbor is really playing his music loudly! Can you hear that base?”

“I downed a glass of water ... and several more glasses, hoping to counteract the salt and slow my heart down. At 9 p.m. I went to the next room to look out the window.

“Wait. It stopped,” she said. “There it goes again!”

Me and my pound-pound-pounding heart sat back down.

Then she snapped the six cords from the small heart monitor into place, one on each little, round sticker. I put the corded monitor in my pocket, buttoned up my shirt, and headed home feeling like a human science fair exhibit.

I envisioned my cardiologist going over the results. I saw him looking at me like my dentist did. I thought, “Goodness gracious!” but not in those words—I was able to remove the cords. I grabbed a bag of Red Hots. I can still see the dentist’s huge smile on his face. How would I shower? I had to chuckle to myself. It doesn’t matter that I need major surgery.

“Tear gas from my chin.

Not good timing at all, a handful of leftover nachos dripping in cheese. Not being a chemist, I knew that I need major surgery.

When I got out of the shower, I re-hooked the monitor to myself. Did I place the color-coded cords to the right plugs? Hmmmm. Whatever, it couldn’t make too big of a difference.

By 4:30 p.m.—24 hours after the appointment—I was able to remove the cords. I grabbed one of the round sticky tabs and pulled. Of course, you already know about this, because where ever you are in the diocese, at that precise moment you heard a soul-piercing scream coming from the vicinity of Spearville.

One and another, and another, and another, and another, followed by loud sobs and screams for “Mommommm!”

ONE WEEK LATER

In 45 minutes I go to the doctor to get the results of the heart monitoring. I have to admit I’m a little scared. There’s a fine line between him telling me everything’s okay, and him telling me that I need major surgery.

Actually it’s not a fine line at all. It’s a very thick line. It’s a mountain-sized line. That is, if I understand this whole “line” idiom. Or what an “idiot” is.

TWENTY HOURS LATER

“You’re fine, David!” the doctor said, looking at the results. He calls me David.

“What? I’m fine? Are you sure? Did you check the results on the ... things? You know, the one you attached to me?”

“Yes, you’re fine! A little leakage [in the valves]. Nothing major.”

He looked at me. “I think you are over stressed. You need less working hours with more pay.”

Okay, he didn’t say that last sentence. But I know that’s what he meant.

So, why did I go to the heart doctor in the first place? A few weeks ago I was in a library. I felt a pounding in my chest followed by diziness. I thought, “Goodness gracious!” but not in those words.

I’m reminded that, ultimately, my heart is in God’s hands. God knows the micro-second that we will join Him in heaven. And there’s nothing we can do to change that! What’s left is simply to live as good a life as we can. And I don’t know about you, but I find comfort in that.


Bishop Gilmore pens last of three-volume book series: ‘Like the Dew Fall’

SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC

A new book by Bishop Gilmore appeared this last Lenten Season, and has sold well in this country and in Canada. Like the Dew Fall, it is called. The last in a three volume series, it is now available for purchase at the GRACE THAT REIGNS website, graceatthereigns.com. The cost is $25, plus shipping.

Q. We understand you have a new book out this year, and that it ‘completes a series.’ How did all that come about?

A. When I came to Dodge City in 1998, I began writing a column for the Catholic paper. Listen to Him, it was called. As time passed, people would tell me they liked this or that column, that they cut one out of the paper and posted it on the refrigerator door; that they ran another through the washing machine, and could they have a new copy... that they helped them, in other words, a little or a lot. Around that same time, Father Rene Guesnier, OSB suggested that it would be good thing to gather them together in the pages of a book, to allow people to keep them in one place.

Years later, when GRACE THAT REIGNS started in the Diocese, Jacqueline Loh took on the daunting task of collecting the columns, of editing them, and of designing an attractive way of presenting them in book form. She took a mass of words (a “mess” of words, it sometimes seemed), and tamed them, and coaxed them into a pleasing form. She did the same with the photographs. They love being able to dip into them in vibrant, quiet, moments. Was that part of the hidden plan in the series?

A. We wanted them to be attractive, of course, and especially to be useful for the average reader. People are busy with so many things nowadays. So, yes, they were short by design, and punctuated here and there by photographs. As a child I found unbroken blocks of print intimidating. Still do, in fact. Each piece is complete in itself, not intimidating or taxing in that sense, and the whole can be read at any pace the reader chooses. But for me there was more to it than that.

Q. How do you mean?

A. When I was a child, I was fascinated by “time.” The usual thing you know: how birthdays seemed never to come, how Christmas took forever to get here. I could not put it into words then, but I was always aware of how time unfolded, and mysteriously, time unfolded. It was never a question for me of what I could make of time, but a question of what time could make of me. I devoted many “diaries” while growing up. The letters and diaries of politicians, of painters, of writers, of musicians, of Saints, and of the people who settled in southeast Kansas, those who gave shape to the town, and the Church in which I grew up: it was pleasing to see, from the inside, what time had made of them. Their secret pages, often meant for no other eye, appealed to my imagination.

This set of books has something of all that in it. Read chronologically, it is a record of what one rural bishop was seeing, and feeling, and thinking, and doing at the end of the 20th Century in Southwest Kansas. All its problems are there, the worries, the fears, the dented hopes, the occasional tears, and the frequent smiles, they are there too. These were the things that struck me, as one day ran into another and exercised me, and kept me grounded in the Real, where God likes to work. The set helps me make sense of what He... and Time... did in my years as Bishop of Dodge City.

Q. What comes next for you? Will you continue adding to this record? What are you working on now?

A. There are no plans to extend this record at the moment. I leave that to “circumstance,” which is what our contemporaries call “ Providence.” The “grace of the moment” is important to me: its inspirations are always to be sought, and always to be obeyed. So, I’ll let the Lord decide on any extension.

I am working now on a book about Prayer: where it starts, what it is, how it grows, and where it ends in this life. It is a large and amorphous subject, and most of us, down deep, are functional illiterates about it. I have stumbled into, and increasingly, time unfolded. After all, it was more to it than that. I do not want to demystify prayer, mind you, I want to help others see it plain with all its mystery intact.

Editor’s Note:

Going the extra mile

A woman helps a fellow volunteer be more loving in serving others

Editor’s Note: The following is printed with permission from Living City magazine, livingcitymagazine.com.

I am a volunteer with Catholic Charities in a ministry called Project Hope, which distributes groceries to the elderly and disabled.

One worker, who comes every month, seemed to be impatient with the clients if they were not prepared. Josie would “scold” the clients for not standing in line, or for not bringing containers to carry groceries in — and she hardly ever smiled. Since I work close by her, I could hear everything she would say to the clients. It was depressing, to say the least. I thought I would try to get to know her. I started by asking her questions, such as what parish she belonged to, etc., in an effort to make her feel welcomed and accepted.

I was a timed out and smiled and stood beside her as she was getting after one of the clients. After a short while, before the clients came, I asked her about her week and about her husband, since I heard he was in the hospital. On another occasion, as she was lecturing a client, I went over to her and asked if I could help, even though I also had work to do. When things got backed up, I always tried to help her, very conscious of wanting to love her first, but always trying to be gentle rather than pushy. This went on for many months.

Then of a sudden, she began to help the clients in a gentler way, smiling and assisting them with love. It was a marked change. Her demeanor was so altered that even our other coworkers noticed it. Hopefully she felt our love, and this love seemed to be reflected in her attitude toward the clients. Now Josie greets us all with a smile and a hug, shares her stories and goes the extra mile with each client. Her presence has become an example for many.

— Susan S., Texas

Two Altar Boys

Poem celebrates family, boyhood service to God

An incident this week jolted my memory and I feel that I should share it.

I had forgotten about this poem until my son asked about it this week. Someone gave it to my mother long ago when my brothers were in high school and still serving Masses (they are now in their 80s). Mother gave it to me and it had special meaning when my boys were serving Masses. Our school-teacher son, Kelby, wanted a copy for their school secretary when he saw his secretary’s sons, once again, called in on their day off to serve a funeral (two in high school and one in 8th grade). It brought back memories to him and he wondered if I could find the poem to give to her. I hadn’t seen it in many years and I was amazed that after praying to St. Anthony I found it in 30 minutes! It made me cry.

Perhaps there are other mothers of Mass servers, now and in the past, who might appreciate the poem too.

God bless,
Donna Schawe

TWO ALTAR BOYS

By Ruth M. Ross

It seems I’ve knelt like this before
My heart so full of joy,
The day I watched my oldest son
Become an altar boy.

And now I wait again for God
To bless this humble Mother
For serving with my son today
Will be his younger brother.

I’ve heard that altar boys are made
With special skill.
And God steps down before the Mass
To brush their hearts with gold.

That’s why they look so heavenly
As the sun rises in the East,
For I know they hold the hand of God
When they kneel beside the priest.

Their Latin, soft and sweet,
For Deo Gratias, Deo Gratias
Forever I’ll repeat.

I looked upon them side by side
So innocent and clean,
And pray that no one else but God
Will ever come between.

For when our Lord is aching
From the sins that men enjoy
To have someone to comfort Him
He makes an altar boy.

I kneel unworthily at the rail,
And through a tear I see
Two altar boys, and both of them
Belong to God and me.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

A woman helps a fellow volunteer be more loving in serving others

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Leap of Faith

Janeé Bernal accepts assistant principal position in Wichita

Janeé Bernal has resigned her position with the Dodge City Diocese as Director of Matrimony, Family Life, and NFP, as of the end of May, to accept an assistant principal position at a Catholic school in Wichita.

A letter on the diocesan website read: “Though this has been a wonderful position and has fueled her passion for evangelization, the Lord has called her and her family down another path. She has been hired as the new Assistant Principal at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Wichita.

“Janeé wants to thank the people of the Dodge City Diocese for their generosity and kindness during the past year.”

Bernal said, “The Catholic Diocese of Dodge City has been a wonderful place to grow up and to serve. It has taught me the importance of serving others as a missionary disciple. I will truly miss the rural hospitality and especially the priests and religious sisters that I’ve been able to call friends.”

Bernal was the first person to fill the new position, created through the generous donations to the Vibrant Ministries—Uniting Our Church Appeal.

Back when she was hired a year ago, she told the Catholic, “Pope Francis said that family is key to reinvigorating our Church. We must put the emphasis on the family again. That’s the only way to put families in the pews – to make sure families are intact.

Prior to her hiring in Dodge City, she served for six years as Assistant Professor of Education at the Newman University Western Kansas Outreach Center in Dodge City. Before that, she taught for eight years in public education in Garden City.

Janeé and Jesse have three children, JohnPaul, 7, Gabriella, 4, both of whom attended St. Dominic School, and Jude, 1.

At a staff meeting prior to her departure, Bishop John Brungardt thanked her for her service to the diocese, and for creating a strong base on which the new director will be able to build.

Noreen M. Carrocci, Ph.D.
Newman U. president, retires

WICHITA — Teresa Hall Bartels, chair of the Newman University Board of Trustees, announced that President Noreen M. Carrocci, Ph.D., will retire at the completion of this calendar year, capping a successful tenure that featured first-time student growth, increased retention and graduation rates, expanded business partnerships and the construction of the region’s top science facility and nursing and allied health labs.

“Noreen has really put Newman University on the map in the region by being such a great ambassador for the university and working in partnerships with so many organizations to make Wichita a better place,” Bartels said. “She has put both her professional as well as her personal time into building up opportunities for people to advance and gain the education that they need for better jobs and better lives.”

Bartels added, “On behalf of everyone at Newman, I want to personally thank Noreen for her leadership and dedication to our students and her passion for our school’s mission of empowering graduates to transform society.”

Carrocci took over as president of Newman University in Wichita in 2007. She was the fourth female and first laywoman to hold the presidency. Since arriving on campus, the first-time student population grew 67 percent. The four-year graduation rate improved by 30 percent and student retention rates are at an all-time high.

“My time at Newman has been a blessing both professionally and personally. I am thankful to our students, staff and faculty members, and especially the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, for their constant support over the years,” Carrocci said.

“I am grateful as well for all of the Board of Trustees members who have served the University and provided guidance along the way. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as president of this great university for the past 12 years. I believe that January of 2020 is the right time for my husband and I to begin a new chapter of our lives together. I imagine that I will stay involved with causes that I care deeply about because that’s who I am! I look forward to a new stewarding opportunity for the president’s role and leading Newman into what I believe is a bright future.”
Becoming Church
Celebrating the Sacramental Journey

PRATT, Sacred Heart Parish -- These high school graduates were honored at Mass May 12. Back row: Kaden Evert, Andres Fernandez and Travis Theils. Front row: Anahi Garcia, Father Michael Klag, and Evan Pribil.

JETMORE, St. Lawrence Parish -- With Father John Forkuoh and Father Stephen Dabanka are Taelyn Weber, Aubrey Goebel and Logan Bamberger, who are celebrating their First Communion. Not pictured is teacher Jenny Goebel.

TRIBUNE, St. Joseph the Worker Parish -- Celebrating their First Holy Communion, May 5, with Father Tim Hickey, pastor, are (front row, l-r): Tylee Cavanaugh, Lorilai Zerr and Briana Martinez. Second row: Zoe Myers and Jamir Yanez.

WRIGHT, St. Andrew Parish -- Father Robert Schremmer and Regina Lix are pictured with Ethan Buehne and Jayden Torres, celebrating their First Communion. Not pictured is Gracie Buehne.

LACROSSE, St. Michael Parish -- Father Eric Gyamfi recognized two seniors and three 8th graders May 12. Pictured in the back is Fr. Eric Gyamfi and in the front from left to right is Carlos Schwindt, a senior attending TMP Catholic High School in Hays, and eighth grade students Ela Showalter, Johannah Baalmann and Chet Irvin. Not pictured is Caleb Cheely, senior at Otis-Bison High School. The St. Michael’s Religious Education Scholarship Award was given to Carlos Schwindt for attending eight years of Religious Education classes at St. Michael’s, and four years at TMP Catholic High School in Hays.

OLMIZT, St. Ann Parish -- High school graduates Sidney Schneider and Luke Higgason are pictured with Father Anselm Eke. The graduates are from Otis-Bison High School.

(Left) OLMITZ, St. Ann Parish -- Celebrating their First Holy Communion on May 12 are (l-r) Brooke Elsen and Jaylie Wagner, with Father Anselm Eke and Chelsea Pechanec (catechist). Photo by Stephanie Schneider

(Right) NESS CITY, Sacred Heart Parish -- Eighth grade graduates include (l-r) Betsabe Guzman, Carol Bejarano, Emiliano Araiza, and Danny Guzman, who are pictured with Father Pascal Klein.
Prince of Peace Parish, Great Bend celebrates the Sacramental Journey

Fitzgerald Alexis, second from right, with sponsor Mercedes Helms, Cody Helms, Anita Helms and Father Ted Stocklein. Fitzgerald was welcomed into the Church April 20 at the Easter Vigil at St. Patrick’s, where he received his First Communion and Confirmation.

Kaeden Linenberger with sponsor Stephen Linenberger at the Easter Vigil. Kaeden was welcomed into the Church April 20 at St. Patrick’s, where he received his First Communion and Confirmation.

Alvin Rodarmel, with his sponsor Sara Woolf, at the Easter Vigil. Alvin was welcomed into the Church April 20 at St. Patrick’s, where he received his First Communion and Confirmation.

Xitlali Huitron and sponsor Nelson Martinez. Xitlali was welcomed into the Church April 20 at the Easter Vigil at St. Patrick’s, where she received her First Communion and Confirmation.

Yahir Florez (second from right) with sponsors Enrique and Minerva Lira, and mother, Ramona. Yahir was welcomed into the Church April 20 at the Easter Vigil at St. Patrick’s, where he received his First Communion and Confirmation.

Callan Cavender, Noelle Hood and Blaze Little. Callan was welcomed into the Church April 20 at the Easter Vigil at St. Patrick’s, where he received his First Communion and Confirmation.

Lori Hammeke and sponsor Abby Hammeke. Lori was welcomed into the Church April 28 at St. Rose Church, where she received her First Communion and Confirmation.

Matt Patzner, Amy Patzner with sponsors Maggie Harris and Teresa Winter. Matt and Amy were welcomed into the Catholic Church April 28 at St. Rose, where they received their First Communion and Confirmation.

St. Patrick Church of Prince of Peace Parish honored its high school graduates (above, right) May 19, and celebrated those students taking part in the Sacrament of Confirmation (top left and left) at May 9 and 15.

May the joy and peace of Jesus, present in the Holy Eucharist, be with you today and always.
The Southwest Kansas Catholic

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the Sacramental Journey Continued


HOISINGTON, St. John the Evangelist Parish -- Young people celebrated a major step in the sacramental journey with their First Communion (left) and Confirmation (right) with the help of Father Anselm Eke and Bishop John Brungardt.

Kansas Liberty March coming to Dodge City

By VINCE MARSHALL

Dodge City Daily Globe

Editor’s Note: The following is reprinted with permission.

DODGE CITY — The first Kansas Liberty March will be arriving to Dodge City on July 6 at the Dodge City First Baptist Church, 1310 N. 2nd Avenue.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. with an information fair and a liberty rally that will take place in the church sanctuary at 10 a.m.

A parade will begin at 1 p.m. that will go from the church southbound on 1st Avenue to Wyatt Earp Boulevard towards Boot Hill Museum, before turning back northbound on 2nd Avenue back to the church.

Organizers for the march are inviting the public to participate in activities throughout the day that promote “Christian faith and American patriotism.”

“We are honored to have Kansas Senate Chaplain, Pastor Cecil Washington, U.S. Congressman Dr. Roger Marshall, State Treasurer Jake LaTurner, and Kansans for Life President Mary Wilkinson speak at the rally,” said organizer and activist, Laura Tawater. “They will be sharing information and energizing the Christians to be active in protecting the things we love the most which are under attack more than ever in America.

“The rally will include live worship music and prayer for civic leaders, the state and nation.”

The information fair at 9 a.m. will allow participants to learn about the Kansas anti-abortion and pro-life organizations, including ways that they can get involved in making a difference in their communities.

“This gives us the opportunity to proclaim our faith and love in Christ, America, and the lives of the unborn to our community,” said Tawater. “We are calling for Christians to be bold and stand against the assault on Christian faith, family and freedom, and believes this event will ignite motivation and courage in the hearts of all who attend.

“In order for real change to occur and to return to a nation where life is cherished and our liberties are valued and protected, we must call on the Lord Jesus Christ for help, because He will make a way and that is what we will be doing at this event.”

Tawater added that the public is also encouraged to participate in the flag parade.

Potential participants will include walkers, motorcycles, horses, floats and other vehicles that will be patriotic or Christian-themed.

“Everyone is invited to join the parade and attend the rally at the church,” Tawater said.

For more information, go to kansasrevival.com or contact Tawater at 620-430-7767 or lauratawater@gmail.com.

‘Bikers for Babies’ to stop in Dodge City amid cross-country trek

Commuters and travelers across the nation may soon see a line of cyclists in team jerseys cruising down the highway at a whooping 17 mph.

For the tenth year in a row, Biking for Babies is sending out young adults from all sides of the country to spread awareness and fund-raise for pregnancy resource centers across America.

Several biking teams will depart from different locations July 7, and will eventually converge in St. Louis July 13 for a “Celebration of Life”.

A team of six bikers and two support crew will bike into Dodge City around 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 7.

A presentation and reception will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Our Lady of Guadalupe Holy Family Social Hall, and is open to the public.

Biking for Babies was founded in 2009 when two young men, Mike Schaefer and Jimmy Becker, followed their passion to make supporting the pro-life movement more accessible to young people.

Biking for Babies has grown each year, raising more than $550,000, and today involves more than 30 missionaries (riders and their support crews) and supports approximately 40 PRCs across 15 states. Missionaries are partnered with a PRC, forming a personal relationship with them throughout the year.

In 2019, more than 30 college students and young adults made plans to cycle a combined 2,500 miles across 15 states for the babies, women and families served by pregnancy centers across the country, with the additional benefit of spreading the word of the life-saving stories from each particular center.

According to co-founder Jimmy Becker, “[Our riders] are creating bridges as an advocate for the PRCs and families in need. Each of us is an instrument introducing people, connecting dots, and sharing stories from real-life experiences.”

“All of our life-affirming organizations strive to serve the underserved women in their own communities,” said Sarah Wiese, previous missionary and current Director of Missionary Formation. “As noted by a Director of a pregnancy resource center, fear is often what drives women. The mission of Biking for Babies is to renew the culture of life, one pedal stroke and one pregnancy resource center at a time.

“There is a lot of hurt [in our society],” Becker said. “There is a lot of brokenness, and nothing changes if nothing changes. Amidst that hurt, brokenness, and molasses of un-change, there is tremendous opportunity for good.”

Articles, videos, and information on how to support the movement are all available online at www.bikingforbabies.com. Biking for Babies can also be found on Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube. You can also text “give” to (636) 303-1003.
The science of when life begins

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

More than 150 years ago, the American Medical Association published a statement that strongly opposed abortion.

The AMA based their statement on the research of botanist Matthias Schleiden and physiologist Theodor Schwann, who determined in 1839 that the human embryo develops from the single-celled zygote, a cell formed by the joining of the sperm and the egg, one from each parent.

Prior to the discovery, theories of human development weren’t quite as well-refined.

Ancient Greeks thought that the soul entered the baby when it first laughed. In 1677, researchers Håmm and Leeuwenhoek observed a sperm cell under the microscope and became convinced that the sperm was actually a miniature human, relying on the mother for incubation only. This was not only incorrect, but a little creepy.

It took another century for scientists to realize that both the sperm and the egg, which have 23 each. At conception, they become a unique organism.

From this definition, the single-celled embryo is not just a cell, but an organism, a living being, a human being.

In 1859, the AMA officially recognized that the cell from the father and the egg from the mother together formed a “single-celled zygote” that “was alive and an independent being.” From those findings, the AMA published its 1859 statement denouncing abortion, part of which reads: “Resolved, That while physicians have long been united in condemning the act of producing abortion at every period of gestation, except as necessary for preserving the life of either mother or child, it has become the duty of this Association, in view of the prevalence and increasing frequency of the crime, publicly to enter an earnest and solemn protest against such unwarrantable destruction of human life.”

In 1971, 158 years after the statement was published, the American College of Pediatricians issued its own statement agreeing with the findings.

The College noted that “It is clear that from the time of cell fusion, the embryo consists of elements (from both maternal and paternal origin) which function interdependently in a coordinated manner to carry on the function of the development of the human organism. From this definition, the single-celled embryo is not just a cell, but an organism, a living being, a human being.”

By the end of the 19th century, it was clear that the human life begins at conception, the moment the sperm and the egg join to form a unique human person.

So, what happened? Why is the right to have an abortion so vociferously defended today?

In an article by Frederick N. Dyer entitled, “The Physicians’ Crusade Against Abortion,” he wrote, “It is routinely and erroneously cited as proof positive that the 19th-Century physicians’ crusade against abortion had nothing to do with unborn babies and [instead has] much to do with two other considerations: physicians concern about the safety of abortion for women, and their attempts to eliminate quacks and squeeze out competition from midwives.”

In other words, it was argued that since “physician-induced abortion was no longer dangerous, and since medical regulation had eliminated the quacks, there was no reason to retain the laws against abortion.”

Dyer wrote that “A majority of justices accepted these false claims,” ultimately leading to the Roe V. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

In truth, however, in the book “Abortion in America,” author James C. Mohr actually showed that almost all of these physicians opposed abortion because they saw it as the killing of a living human being. In his book, Mohr acknowledged that the “sincere belief” of physicians “that abortion was morally wrong’ helps to explain the intensity of their commitment to the cause.”

Mohr wrote, “The nation’s regular doctors, probably more than any other identifiable group in American society during the nineteenth century, including the clergy, defended the value of human life per se as an absolute. Scholars interested in the medical mentality of the nineteenth century will have to explain the reasons for this ideological position. . . . But whatever the reasons, regular physicians felt very strongly indeed on the issue of protecting human life. And once they had decided that human life was present to some extent in a newly fertilized ovum, however limited that extent might be, they became the fierce opponents of any attack upon it.”

One of the commonly held arguments supporting abortion claims that personhood begins after a fetus is able to survive outside the womb. Therefore, while in the womb, the fetus is not an independent being. Abortion is not the killing of a child, but is instead the termination of a pregnancy.

Why else would a person’s age be calculated from birth and not conception? Why does the U.S. Census not count unborn children? And why does the word “person,” as written in the Fourteenth Amendment, not include unborn babies?

Some issues cannot be argued. They are simply a matter of the heart based on what we hold to be true, and not on any sort of scientific inquiry.

As an editorial aside addressing this subject, many years ago, I congratulated a friend who was about to have his first grandchild.

“Congratulations,” I told Dr. John Jackson, a colonel at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs where he had worked as a physics professor. “I hear you’re going to be a grandpa!”

He looked at me and smiled. “I already am a grandpa,” the physicist said, referring to the child growing within his daughter-in-law’s womb.

The Southwest Kansas Catholic
La cosecha es abundante

Un cambio en el horario de las Misas (posiblemente menos Misas)... viajar más lejos para una Misa (sacerdotes y/o laicos)... más Misa de fin de semana para un sacerdote... un parroquial grande con menos sacerdotes... algunos sacerdotes temporales para el verano... posiblemente parroquiales con sólo un sacerdote... un sacerdote sustituto por un tiempo... posiblemente algunas parroquias sin sacerdote por un tiempo... menos sacerdotes hispanohablantes. Rogamos a nuestro Jesús Resucitado para que nos ayude.

Mientras continuamos nuestro tiempo de Pascua con gran alegría, también nos enfrentamos a muchas dificultades. Cada primavera, tengo el desafío de cómo hacer frente a estas realidades. Inmigración, lo que podría llevar muchos meses. “La cosecha es abundante y los obreros pocos” (Mateo 9,37). Sí, las realidades en nuestra Diócesis Católica de Dodge City y en nuestras 48 parroquias.

¿Qué hacer? Pido a todos los fieles de la diócesis, sacerdotes, religiosos y laicos, que:
- Oren, pidiendo humildemente “el dueño de la cosecha que envíe obreros a su cosecha” (Mateo 9,38).
- Promuevan las vocaciones sacerdotales a sus hijos, nietos, sobrinos, muchachos y hombres solteros de sus familias y parroquias. Los seminaristas y sacerdotes vienen de familias y parroquias. Si no es tu hijo, ¿entonces será el hijo de quién? Si no es de tu parroquia, ¿de quién parroquia?
- Usen estas frases de muestra para niños y hombres solteros: “Creo que sería un buen sacerdote... ¿Has pensado alguna vez en el sacerdocio?...” Noté tu reverencia en la oración; ¡qué bendición!... Noté que estás involucrado en proyectos de servicio para la parroquia; ¡qué bendición!... y muchas otras palabras de aliento para el discernimiento vocacional.
- Oren por y ayuden a nuestros siete seminaristas (el número más grande en una generación!), y nuestros candidatos al sacerdocio (aquellos que están actualmente en el proceso de solicitud/discernimiento).
- Pónganse en contacto con los sacerdotes del equipo de vocaciones, con su sacerdote o con el comité de vocaciones de su parroquia para dar ideas o para ofrecer su tiempo como voluntarios para promover las vocaciones sacerdotales.
- Oren al Padre celestial por más hombres que actúen en persona Cristián. Sólo un sacerdote ordenado puede ofrecer la Santa Misa, abolver a los penitentes de sus pecados, ungir sacramentalmente a los enfermos y dar el Sacramento de la Confirmación (en varias circunstancias, o con permiso del obispo). Sólo un obispo puede ordenar a un hombre como diácono, sacerdote u obispo.
- Continúen ayudando, dando limosna, haciendo actos de bondad y orando por las vocaciones sacerdotales.

Cuando su sacerdote actual se vaya, o cuando llegue su nuevo sacerdote, por favor oren por él. Gracias por sus oraciones y su apoyo por nosotros, sacerdotes y obispos; ¡contamos con su ayuda! Tengan la seguridad de nuestras oraciones y nuestro amor por ustedes. Trabajemos juntos para construir nuestra comunidad de Cristo en la Diócesis de Dodge City. Que el Señor nos bendiga con muchos siervos fieles: laicos, religiosos y sacerdotes. (El Señor nos ama a todos más de lo que podemos pedir o imaginar!)  

+ Monsénor John

Father Ted Skalsky se retira del ministerio activo

Southwest Kansas Catholic

Los sacerdotes no se retiran, se reenfocan. Después de pasar años ayudando a otros, quizás se enfoquen un poco más en sí mismos, como el Padre Ted Skalsky, por ejemplo, que se está retirando como pastor en el grupo parroquial de San Juan Bautista, Meade, San Antonio, Fowler, y San Patricio, Plains.

“Planear que ausentarme después de tantos años de servicio...” (Mateo 9,38). Cuando mira hacia atrás, ¿es el sacerdocio todo lo que pensó que sería cuando caminara por las puertas del seminario en Dallas?

“Temía que no lo encontraría satisfactorio, significativo, que sería aburrido, pero nada de eso ha sido cierto. Ha sido más satisfactorio de lo que hubiera podido anticipar.”

“Había una atmósfera de vocaciones alentadoras en esos días,” dijo el padre Skalsky en una entrevista anterior. “Las hermanas hablaron sobre las vocaciones en la escuela y oramos mucho por las vocaciones. Todo el ambiente de la iglesia hizo que uno se diera cuenta de que una vocación al sacerdocio era algo muy bueno.”

“Me gusta poder ayudar a las personas en su camino hacia la salvación. Muchas otras profesiones ayudan a las personas de maneras importantes, pero un sacerdote puede ayudar a las personas de maneras que duren una eternidad. Incluso los mejores médicos solo pueden mantener a las personas vivas durante un tiempo. Una persona que ayuda a las personas en su relación con Dios puede ayudarlas de una manera que tendrá un valor eterno.”

“Me gustaría que más jóvenes consideren el sacerdocio”, agregó. “Pueden estar perdiendo de una vida muy feliz y satisfactoria”.

¿Estamos nosotros entre los “honestos” cuando oramos?

REV. RONALD M. GILMORE, Obispo Emerito de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

Hay una cualidad en común que los artistas y los hombres de oración/(Disfrutan cuando pensamos en ellos. Tenían ansias/de desaparecer...)

Estas palabras de Elizabeth Jennings, una poetisa británica, fueron escritas alrededor de 1890. Su Sees and Makers. Ella era muy querida en su lugar, aunque poco conocida en el nuestro.

... (Deseoso de desaparecer)/Den- tro de los tamborares, pintura, sonido y oración: cada uno/Deseoso de estar escondido. Eso era importante para ella, la «desaparición», él «esconderse»: el ser consumida por la palabra o por la oración. ... (cada uno)Deseos de estar escondido. Así siempre podemos distin- guir los honestos de los falsos.

Ella estaba entre los «honestos», Elizabeth. «Siguí escribiendo!», la gente le preguntaba al final de su vida. «Si es respirando?», respondía. «La poesía era su sol y su luna... no podía apagarse y encenderse.» ¡Y qué hay de nosotros, que no sabemos cómo hacer un poema, sino sólo arrollaríamos y juntar nuestras manos? ¿Estamos nosotros entre los «honestos» cuando oramos?

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios

La Diócesis requiere de todos los emplea- dos y voluntarios que trabajan con menores de asistir a las sesiones de conscientización de Proteger a los Niños de Dios. Estas sesiones de conscientización están disponibles en ambos inglés y español. Son conducidos por gente de nuestra Diócesis espec- cialmente entrenadas como facilitadores. Las sesiones se publicarán en las parroquias, escuelas, el periódico Southwest Kansas Catholic y la página electrónica de la Diócesis. www.dccdio- cese.org/protectionchild- ren

Reportando Abuso

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

JODY STROTH, of St. John the Baptist Parish, Spearville, died May 10, 2019. He was born in Dodge City, the son of David Foskuh; and Kaylee Strother; their mother, Sharon LaBlue; his father, David Foskuh; uncle, Gary Strother; and grandma, Donna Strother. Father John Forkuoh presided.

JESSE N. GUTIERREZ, 72, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died May 13, 2019. He was born in Spearville, the son of Carmen and Maclavia (Ontiberos) Gutierrez. He was a mechanic for the Kansas Department of Transportation for 38 years until retiring on July 1, 2012. He served in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany during the Vietnam War. On Dec. 8, 1969 he married Carolyn Blea. Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Carolyn; their two daughters, Tracy Gutierrez and Celeste Buehne; a brother, Mark Gutierrez; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

JAMES “JIM” HALLING, 44, of St. John the Baptist Parish, Spearville, died May 11, 2019. Jim was born in Kinsley, the son of Eric “Ike” and Cynthia Ann (Gulick) Halling. He received his Bachelors of Science Degree in agriculture from Ft. Hays State University. He was employed at Crop Quest in Ulysses for 10 years until moving closer to home and family in 2008, where he worked as an Agronomist for Pride Ag in Dodge City. He was an active member of the Catholic communities at St. Anthony (Hastings), Ulysses Mary Queen of Peace (Ulysses), and St. John the Baptist (Spearville). He was a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus and also a past Grand Knight in Ulysses. By being an organ donor, Jim continues to help others in his passing. On April 12, 1997, he married Rakel Strother. Survivors include his wife, Rakel; their children, Ethan, Karsen and Danica; his parents, Ike and Cindy Halling; his sisters, Ike and Cindy Halling; brothers, Tim Halling and Curt Halling; two sisters-in-law, Renee Smith and Christina Schlereth; and Dian nieces and nephews. Father John Forkuoh presided.

IRMA (PAUDA) PANDO, 57, of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died May 10, 2019. She was born in Lubbock, Texas, the daughter of Marcelino B. Sr. and Genabeba (Felan) Pauda. She was a para-professional for USD 214 for 28 years. She also worked at Russ’ Food Center and Western Prairie Care Home. Irma is survived by her daughters, Melissa Pando-Grimc, Amanda Tarbet and Magen; brothers, Jesse Joe Pauda, Louise Pauda, Joe Luis Pauda, Angel Pauda, Albert Pauda, Bill Pauda, and Sammy Pauda; sisters, Geneva Ramos and Irene Sosa; and eight grandchildren. Father James E. Baker presided.

MADISON PAIGE HUBER, three months old, of St. Dominic Parish, Garden City, died on May 12, 2019 at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was born on Jan. 30, 2019 in Wichita, the daughter of Mitchell and Meghan (McFee) Huber. Madison was spunky, feisty and fierce. Her favorite things were listening to Disney Pandora, looking in a mirror toy and talking to her favorite nurses. She is survived by her parents; twin sister, Savanna Huber; grandparents Robin and Joe Luis Pauda, and Celeste Buehne; a brother, Linus Pando-Grice, Amanda Schreiner, and Daniel Schreiner; two sisters, Geneva Ramos and Irene Sosa; and eight grandchildren. Father Mark Brantley presided.

SUSANNA M. SMITH, 78, of St. Boniface Parish, Sharon, died May 19, 2019. She was born in Sharon, the daughter of George Schreiner and Elizabeth (Ketzer) Schreiner. She married Ronald G. Smith. She was a Registered Nurse, and was a member of the Altar Society. Surviving in addition to her husband Ronald are one daughter, Jill Gumble; several grandchildren; three brothers, Dave Schreiner, James Schreiner, and Daniel Schreiner; three sisters, Phyllis Lightfoot, Darlene Rucker, and Charlene Halling. Father Warren Stecklein presided.

ETHEL SCHLERETH, 71, of St. John the Baptist Parish, Spearville, died May 20, 2019. She was born in Spearville, the daughter of Henry and Mary Norma (Hess) Schulte. She married Henry Schlereth in Dodge City. Ethel worked for CruskBuster for 17 years and later worked for Spearville USD #381 as a bus driver for 15 years before retiring. Mrs. Schlereth also worked for Ford County EMS, Spearville Unit for 30 years. She also worked for the Spearville Mercantile for a few years. She is survived by her husband, Henry; daughters Heidi Schlereth and Holly Schlereth; step-son John Michael Cheatham; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; brothers, Dallas Schulte, Merle Schulte, Albert Schulte, and George Schulte; and sisters Norma Jean Stein, Arline Stude, Darlene Rucker, and Charlene Halling. Father John Forkuoh presided.

Gloria A. Robison, 73, of St. Patrick Parish, Plains, died May 25, 2019. She was born in Meade, the daughter of Enos J. and Lillian B. (Lauer) Amerin. A lifetime area resident, she had worked for the Meade District Hospital for more than 15 years in housekeeping before retiring several years ago. On June 16, 2017, she married James A. Robison; he preceded her in death. She is survived by a brother, Albert Amerin; two grandchildren; and a great-grandson.
**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Sunday, June 9 PENTECOST Mass during the Day:** Acts 2:1-11/ 1 Cor 12:38-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:17-20/ Lk 20:1-12 or Jn 14:15-16, 23-28

**Wednesday, June 12**

2 Cor 9:6-11/ Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday, June 13; Memorial of Saint Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

2 Cor 3:15-41, 3-6/ Mt 5:20-22

**Friday, June 14**

2 Cor 4:7-15/ Mt 5:27-32

**Saturday, June 15**

2 Cor 5:22-21/ Mt 5:33-37

**Sunday, June 16; The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**

Pr 8:22-31/ Rom 5:1-5/ Jn 16:13-17

**Monday, June 17**

2 Cor 6:1-10/ Mt 5:38-42

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**CLASSIFIED**

**4th-5th Grade Teacher, Sacred Heart School, Ness City**

Sacred Heart School in Ness City is seeking to hire a fourth/fifth grade teacher. For information, contact principal Debbie Hagans, (785) 798-3530, or email dhagans@sacredheartnc.eduk12.net.

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**Andres Ramirez**, 49, of Mercedes, Texas, died May 22, 2019. He was born May 5, 1970, in Doctor Arroyo, NL Mexico, the son of Santos and Teresa Ramirez. Andres moved to the United States at the age of eight. He attended school in Ulysses, where he belonged to Mary, Queen of Peace Parish. Andres worked in construction for W.T. Contractors and lived in Ulysses until moving to Texas 10 years ago. He is survived by his wife, Josefina; sons, Erwin and Andres; daughters, Judith Ramirez and Joani Ramirez; brothers, Jose Angel, Seferino, Jaime, Juan and Ray; and sisters, Consolidacion Garcia, Ermila Sanchez, Virginia Garcia and Hortencia Ramirez. Father James E. Dieker presided.

**Sulema Leal Barron**, 87, of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died May 26, 2019. She was born in Karnes City, Texas, the daughter of Pedro and Lupe Garcia and Hortencia Ramirez. Andres married the daughter of Pedro and Lupe Garcia on March 14, 1959. Survivors include, his wife, Janice; two sons, Brett and Brad; two daughters, Stacie Eckels and Deena Pymell; two brothers, Terry and Brian; four sisters, Janice Rieyll, Cheryl Philippie, Michelle Shaheen, and Lynnette Bernasconi; and two grandchildren. Father Ted Stecklein presided.

**Paul Hoover**, 91, of St. Dominic Parish, Garden City, died on June 1, 2019. He was born in Liberal to Paul and Laraine (Deisler) Hoover. He married Helen Kaberlein on August 1, 1959 at Plains. She died on May 8, 2015. Paul served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War in communications and was based in Spain. After his discharge he enrolled in Kansas State University and graduated in 1958. In 1966 he and his wife opened Hoover’s Fashions in downtown Garden City, which they operated until 1992. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his son, Tom; daughter, Rhonda Roth; sisters Darlene Mathias and Marlene Stillwell; and four grandchildren. Father Warren Stecklein presided.

**Romeo “JR” Guerra**, 54, of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Leoti, died May 29, 2019. He was born in Tribune, the son of Romeo and Mary (Terrones) Guerra. He had worked as a Service Technician for Whitham Farms Feedyard for 35 years. He loved Harley Davidson motorcycles and was an avid rider. Survivors include his siblings, Sylvia Guerra, Nancy Guerra-Villa, Joe Guerra, Jackie Guerra, Teri Guerra, and Rene Guerra; and nieces and nephews Jack Thomas Guerra, Shawn Villa, Eliza Villa and Hannah Villa in addition to numerous other extended family members.

**Joseph (Joe) Mertens**, 92, of St John the Baptist Parish, Meade, died June 2, 2019. He was born in rural Fowler, the son of Theodore W. and Christina (Hageman) Mertens. He joined the United States Army, serving from 1955-1957. Upon his discharge, he returned to Meade County and began his career as a farmer and rancher. He served on the USD 226 Board of Education, the Graceland Cemetery Board, the Meade County Fair Board, the Meade County Historical Museum Board, and was a volunteer for the Team Senior Center. On August 7, 1954, he married Virginia Mae Driet. She precedes him in death on April 18, 1991. He is survived by a son, Thomas; two daughters, Nancy Barragree and Michelle McClaren; a sister, Evelyn Eakes; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The following obituary listings will be placed in the next issue: Romeo “JR” Guerra, Joseph (Joe) Mertens, and Patricia Elaine “Patty” Nuz.
Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 Sudoku grid containing areas surrounded by gray or dotted lines. The object is to fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 box, and the sum of the numbers in each area is equal to the clue in the area’s top-left corner.

Reglas De Sudoku:
Cada fila debe contener los números a partir la 1 a 9
Cada columna debe contener los números a partir la 1 a 9
Cada cuadrado 3x3 debe contener los números a partir la 1 a 9

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If you are having thoughts of suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

Despair always lifts! If you are having thoughts of suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

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movie reviews

The Beatitudes

C O L J V H E X R T W E R
H H U Q I N H E R I T P E P
V X I O F H T G Q R S L R P E
S H U J I L H I Z D U E K R
P N U I D C P I L P A L D S
J Z Z N Y R S R M R C T D E E
M S C U G N E X E E S W A T C
M E E K I E C N M M T T A R U
W E G R F A R O W C A O T
P G O V H N K B C F R I L F E
U O Q V I E G J X C G R U M D
P D J R N A D Q Y E O F O W
M I W S U R I V O P M H D C
B M O U R N E F E M R L O A Q
Y C J S E C S J W N V Z Z L A

Children of God

Kingdom Meek

Persecuted Poor in Spirit

Healthy Merciful

See God

Redeemed Hunger

Thirst

INHERIT

PEACE MAKERS

First:

THIRD:

IF Jordan's sister is Alex, since Sam is Jordan and Charlie is the opposite gender, then Charlie must be Sam's brother and a male. Therefore, Charlie is Alex's brother, Alex must be Charlie's son. Now we know that Alex and Jordan are male, while Charlie is female.

Second:

1. Read -> Rad
2. Tree -> Treet
3. Smart -> Artil
4. Shorter -> Airtel
5. ZAP -> Zap
6. Sweep -> Weep
7. Week -> Wek
8. Speak -> Peak

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Movie Review


ANSWERS

1. Sunken
2. Struck -> Truck
3. Smart -> Mart
4. Small -> Mall
5. Steal -> Teal
6. Sweep -> Weep
7. Speak -> Peak

“I saw that”

— God
Who’s who in the new appointments

From Page 1

Joseph, Scott City, and St. Theresa, Dighton, will return to the Diocese of Sorsogon, Philippines. He served in the diocese for six years. He was parochial vicar at St. Anthony, Padua, Liberal (2014-2017), and pastor at Scott City and Dighton for two years.

Father Ted Skalsky, currently pastor of St. John the Baptist, Meade, St. Patrick, Plainville, and St. Anthony, Fowler; and Father John Strasser, currently pastor of St. Nicholas, Kinsley, and St. Joseph, Offerle, were granted retirement by Bishop John B. Brungardt. (See tributes page 2)

Father Ted Skalsky, currently parochial vicar at St. Anthony, Liberal, and St. Alphonsus, Satanta, is appointed pastor of St. Mary, Garden City. Father Jacob was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Brungardt on June 3, 2017 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He served as parochial vicar at Liberal for two years. He continues to serve as an assistant vocations director.

Father Eric Gyamfi, currently parochial administrator of St. Michael, La Crosse, and St. Joseph, Liebenthal, and Holy Trinity, Timken, is appointed parochial vicar at St. Mary, Garden City. Father Eric, a priest from the Diocese of Goaso, has served the Rush County parishes since 2016.

Father Juan Salas, currently parochial vicar at St. Mary, Garden City, is appointed parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City. Father Salas was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Brungardt on June 4, 2016 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He served as parochial vicar in Garden City for three years. He continues to serve as the Director for the Office of Priestly Vocations.

Father Jim Dieker, currently pastor of St. Anthony, Liberal and St. Alphonsus, Satanta, is appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist, Meade, St. Patrick, Plainville, and St. Anthony, Fowler.

Father Jim was ordained to the priesthood June 12, 1993 by Bishop Stanley G. Schlarmann in St. Anthony Church, Fowler. He served two assignments as parochial vicar at St. Dominic, Garden City, and St. Stanislaus, Ingalls (1993-95), and St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend (1995-96). He also served as administrator of St. Michael, La Crosse, and St. Joseph, Liebenthal (1996-97). His pastorate includes: Sacred Heart, Pratt, and St. Joseph, Greensburg (1997-2003), Mary, Queen of Peace, Ulysses, and St. Bernadette, Johnson (2003-08). During this pastorate, he was given the added responsibility of St. Alphonsus, Satanta. This responsibility continued with his assignment as pastor of the Liberal parish in 2008.

Father Ted Stoecklein, currently parochial vicar at Prince of Peace, Great Bend is appointed pastor of St. Anthony, Liberal, and St. Alphonsus, Satanta. Father Ted was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Ronald M. Gilmore on May 19, 2001, at St. Basilian Church in Garden City. His parish assignments include: Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe (2001-2003), St. Rose and St. Patrick, Great Bend (2003-2006), St. John the Baptist, Spearville, St. Anthony, Hanston, and Holy Trinity, Timken.

Father James Mainzer, a priest from the Diocese of Wichita, is appointed pastor of St. Nicholas, Kinsley, and St. Joseph, Offerle. Father Mainzer was ordained May 23, 1987, at St. Mary Cathedral, Wichita, by Bishop Eugene J. Gerber. His pastorates include: St. James, Augusta, St. Michael, Mulvane, St. Mary, Newton, and St. Jude, Wichita.

From Page 2

Father Ted Skalsky

admits with a chuckle that he has more interest in wood working than he has developed skills for the hobby.

As he looks back, is the priesthood all he thought it would be when he first walked through the seminary doors in Dallas?

“I was afraid I wouldn’t find it fulfilling, meaningful — that it would be a business, but none of that’s been true. It has been more fulfilling than I could have ever anticipated.”

There was an atmosphere of encouraging vocations in those days,” Father Skalsky said in an earlier interview.

“The Sisters talked about vocations in school and we prayed a lot for vocations.

The whole atmosphere of the Church made one aware that a vocation to the priesthood was a very good thing.

“I like being able to help people on their way to salvation. Many other professions help people in important ways, but a priest can help people in ways that will last for an eternity. Even the best of doctors can only keep people alive for so long.

“A person who helps people in their relationship with God can help them in a way that will have eternal value.

“I wish more young men would consider the priesthood,” he added. “They may be cheating themselves of a very happy and fulfilling life.”

From Page 3

With this understanding, the following tips can help those who pray the Rosary move from vocal prayer to meditation to inner contemplation:

1) Schedule the time

Our schedule is full of appointments. More or less consciously, we also plan out the time we’re going to need for each task or appointment. Sometimes it is good to set aside 20 or 30 minutes to pray the Rosary, and write it down in the schedule. This “appointment” with Jesus and Mary is then just as important as all the other ones planned. For all of us, it is possible to set aside a time to pray the Rosary, at first, once a week, through the week. Over time — and this is the goal — it will be easier to find a time to pray the Rosary daily.

2) Don’t rush

We can learn a lesson about prayer by observing people in love. During a romantic candlelit dinner, no one would be constantly looking at the clock, or chowing down their food, or leaving the dessert to one side to finish as quickly as possible. Rather, a romantic meal is stretched out, maybe lingering for an hour to sip a cocktail, and enjoying every moment spent together. So it is with praying the Rosary. It shouldn’t be treated as sets of Hail Mary’s to be performed as if one were lifting weights. I can spend time lingering on a thought. I can also break away from it. I can, principally at the beginning, simply be peaceful. If I keep this peaceful attitude and an awareness of how important this 20-minute “appointment” is, then I will have prayed well. It will have been a good prayer, because my will is focused on pleasing the Beloved and not myself.

3) Savor the experience

Saint Ignatius recommends what’s called the “third form of prayer,” which consists in adjusting the words to the rhythm of one’s own breathing. Often it is sufficient in praying the Rosary to briefly pause between the mysteries, and to remember that Jesus and Mary are looking at me full of joy and love, recognizing with gratitude that I am a little child before God, forgiving every so often to in some way affirm that I love God. To do this, it can be useful to pause and take a few breaths before resuming vocal prayer.

4) A gaze of love

The vocal prayers of the Rosary only provide the rhythm of the prayer. With my thoughts, I can and should go out from the rhythm to encounter the Mystery which is being contemplated. This is more clear in German, where the mystery is announced not only at the beginning of each decade, but before each Hail Mary. It’s a time to look your Beloved in the eyes and let him look back, with eyes full of love.

5) Allow yourself to be amazed

One of the first and most important steps for inner prayer is to go from the simple speculation to looking upon and being amazed. Think of lovers who meet, not to fix a hole in the roof.”

Father John Strasser

On June 12, two days after this issue of the SKC lands in churches, Father Strasser will celebrate 43 years of priesthood.

“I call parish priests in this part of the world ‘general practitioners,’” he said with a chuckle. “Most professionals are specialized, doctors, lawyers, for example.”

“But parish priests are still general practitioners. They do a little bit of everything, from celebrating Mass to fixing a hole in the roof.”

When asked if he’d like to talk about someone in particular, he replied, “Your paper isn’t big enough.”

How to pray the Rosary more deeply

6) Allow your “inner cameraman” to notice details

People close their eyes while praying in order to concentrate. Others find it useful to focus their eyes on a certain point (such as a crucifix). Either way, what is important is for the eyes of the heart to be open. Praying the Rosary is like going to the movies. It’s about seeing images. It’s useful to ask yourself: Who, What, Where am I looking at when I contemplate the birth of Jesus, or his crucifixion, or his ascension into Heaven? And on some occasions, like a good cameraman does, come in for a close-up image of some detail: contemplate the warm breath of the ox that’s warming the Child, the pierced hand of Jesus that spread so much love, the tears in John’s eyes as he gazes at Jesus rising up to Heaven.

7) Pray in words, mind, and heart

The words accompany, the mind opens, but it is the heart that has the leading role in prayer. All the great spiritual authors agree that inner prayer is about dwelling in the affections, that is, the inner sentiments and movements. Teresa of Avila says very simply: “Don’t think a lot, love a lot!” An elderly lady was ruefully complaining to me that she could not reflect while praying her daily Rosary, and that in that situation she could barely say “Jesus, Mary, I love you!” I congratulated the lady. That is exactly what praying the Rosary ought to lead us to.

The Southwest Kansas Catholic