**Late Have I Loved You**

The Most Rev. John B. Brungardt, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

Late have I loved you, beauty so old and so new:
late have I loved you.

You called and cried out loud,
and shattered my deafness.
You were radiant and resplendent,
you put to flight my blindness.
You were fragrant,
and I drew in my breath and now pant after you.
I tasted you,
and I feel but hunger and thirst for you.
You touched me,
and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours.

Have we opened our hearts to God’s grace like this?
Are we aware of God’s presence in our lives? Do we feel such overwhelming love of God?
Lord, help me to love you, to put you first in my life.
Jesus, give me Your peace. “You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).
You love me more than I can ask or imagine!

--- Bishop John

**OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS**

The Most Reverend John B. Brungardt, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, announces the following appointments.

Effective July 1, 2019 the following priests have been appointed dean (also known as a vicar forane) in addition to their current parochial appointments:

- **Father Warren Stecklein** is appointed dean of the Garden City Deanery.
- **Father Jim Dieker** is appointed dean of the Dodge City Deanery.
- **Father Donald Bedore** is appointed dean of the Great Bend Deanery.
- Father Matthew Kumi, a priest of the Diocese of Goaso, Ghana, who previously ministered within the Diocese of Dodge City, is appointed parochial administrator of St. Joseph, Scott City and St. Theresa, Dighton from July 1, 2019 to September 9, 2019.

By Order of the Most Reverend John B. Brungardt
Sister Janice Grochowsky, CSJ, JCL, Chancellor

**Corpus Christi**

Worldwide processions celebrate the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ

Corpus Christi processions in Dodge City, above, and Marienthal (inset).

Photo by Carleigh Albers
Quieting the noise so we may listen

We know not his ways, Psalm 95 reminds us. And that is true for two reasons: our world is filled with noise; and our God is filled with silence. Our world no longer hears God because it is constantly speaking, at a devastating speed and volume, in order to say nothing. (Cardinal Sarah, Power of Silence). We are afloat in words; we are drowning in words. Think how often we turn a radio on, a television on, just for the sake of background noise. It is comforting to us, somehow.

What that does is to distract our attention from ourselves. It permits us not to have to look at ourselves. We don’t like to do that, because our failures and our neglects and our sins, they bother us if we look too closely at them. Better not to consider how we were made, and why we were made, and where we are supposed to be going. Those things are too hard, and we have messed it up anyway too bad. Noise is better. Anesthetizing background noise.

That frees us too from having to look at God. We forget what he was for us as a child. We go on with the flow of our world, elbowing God aside. Like Adam and Eve, we would really rather do it our way. It is too much trouble to learn about him, too much trouble to learn him, and those waters are all so muddily anyway. It is better to go with the crowd, just to drift along, and to turn up the background noise just a tad.

If it is loud enough, and distracting enough, chances are good that he won’t break through to us. Chances are good that we can fend him off. Chances are good that we won’t have to think of him at all. But, come a power failure, a spring storm, say, and a disturbing, deafening, stillness descends, and it threatens to swallow us up.

God’s first language is silence. That’s why we noisy ones know not his ways.

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:

Regularly scheduled Awareness Sessions are conducted in the Diocese of Dodge City. To find the next dates, visit www.dcdiocese.org/safe-environment.

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, cbefort@cox.net, 620-285-3219. You may submit a report to the diocese. Report forms are available at www.dcdiocese.org/safe-environment.

St. Anthony, Hanston, parishioners raise $3,500 for Birthright

HANSTON — Mike Burke, St. Anthony Parish council president, presents Carol Woydziak, a volunteer for Dodge City’s Birthright, with a check for $3,500. The money was raised during St. Anthony Parish’s annual fish fry. Birthright offers free and confidential support for women facing an unplanned pregnancy, or who think they might be pregnant. If you need help, call the 24-hour help line listed at right, or call the local office, (620) 227-1249, during business hours.

Photo courtesy of Jaimi Burke
Thirty-six countries represented in Dodge City naturalization ceremony

Nearly 200 people take oath of citizenship in poignant celebration of human determination

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

DODGE CITY—They came to this country with stern determination, their hopes and dreams bent on seeking a better life for them and their families.

On June 21, 198 individuals entered the United Wireless Arena as citizens of 36 different countries — Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, China, Columbia, Congo, Cuba, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

And when they departed an hour later, they did so as citizens of the United States, “equal in your citizenship rights with any other citizen of this country, naturalized or native born.”

It was an amazing experience, even as a bystander, to see this immensely multicultural crowd, surrounded by family and friends, take their oath of allegiance to the United States. One can only imagine the struggles they faced in their home country, and those they faced here as they endeavored to become citizens.

Although a civil ceremony, it was impossible not to feel God’s presence — like a proud Father smiling down upon His children.

“We’re so proud of everybody here,” Dodge City Mayor Brian Delzeit told those gathered. “In this room, we see the real purpose of the United States of America. We were founded as a nation of immigrants and we’re better off for it. … Immigrants can make our country stronger and keep America prosperous. …The American dream continues to be there as it lives on through all of you, and in the future through your children and grandchildren. This makes us stronger as a nation, and ensures that our best days are still ahead. … Congratulations and God bless you.”

Kimberly Bishop of the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service field office in Wichita addressed U.S. District Court Judge Eric Melgren:

“If it may please the court, I’d like to present for your consideration, the petition of 198 candidates for United States Citizenship. … Each candidate present today has been personally examined under oath by a designated immigration officer, and unless exempt, has demonstrated an understanding of the English language, and a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history and the principals in the form of government of the United States.

“Each person has been found to be a person of good moral character, attached to the principals of the constitution of the United States, and well-disposed to a good order and happiness of the country.” Bishop then called out each country, the candidates from each standing to applause. Mexico had the greatest number of delegates, followed by Somalia. With their right hand raised, they then read their oath of citizenship:

“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

Following the oath Judge Melgren said, “Let me be the first to congratulate you as new citizens of the United States of America. This country has grown in greatness in no small part due to the talents, and the industry, and the dedication of immigrants from around the world who have come to the United States and who have staked their future here. …

“Ladies and Gentlemen, you are now full citizens, equal in your citizenship rights, with any other citizen of this country, naturalized or native born. Through our combined effort, I believe we will continue to make this country an even better place in which to live. … We welcome you, we salute you, and we wish you well.”

Keynote speaker Dave Rebein, a Dodge City attorney, told those gathered, “Thank you for choosing America. … I know that many of you grew up in poverty. I hope that today is just one more step on the road to prosperity. … We need your help in working together to form a more perfect union, and together we can and will do good things. As a citizen of this country, you have inherited those famous inalienable rights: life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness.

“But these rights do come with responsibilities, responsibility to participate fully to vote and to run for office, to volunteer at school, to help out in your home town. All persons are created equal, that is true. But there is no guarantee of equal results. All you will get is opportunity.

“But believe me, that opportunity is without limits. … Answer that call that you find in your heart. Answer that song that sits in your soul. … Be proud to be an American!”
Liberal patience

Several weeks ago, I was asked to speak at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Liberal. Father Jim Dieker and Father Jacob Schneider were both leaving the parish, a result of new appointments, and I was asked to share a few words about them with the congregation at a reception following Mass. I’d only ever spoken to an audience once before, in Sharon, back in 2011. It was the first time that I realized there is a bigotry between writing and verbally expressing humor. I am no stand-up comedian. When writing, I like to think that I bring on a chuckle or two. But speaking is a whole different ball game. It’s an art-form, and one for which I possess no talent or skill.

Such is my lack of speaking skills that while speaking in Sharon way back then (it pains me to say this), I literally bored five people to death — well, not to death exactly, but one had himself placed in a medically induced coma just to escape the monotony of my talk. Another tried to stuff his ears with the only thing available, a woman in the third row could be heard begging for God’s mercy.

When I continued to speak despite the medical melee, a riot broke out. My wife and I started for the door. A platoon of Daughters of Isabella tried to pummel me in the parking lot. Man, those ladies can scrap!

Bishop Brungardt, who had only just been ordained bishop, defended my hapless editor and my wife by utilizing his crozier in the defensive style of Akido, allowing us to escape into our car and zip away.

In my rearview mirror, I could see the bishop calmly the good people of Sharon by leading a prayer of thanks, much like he might at the conclusion of an exorcism.

I swore I’d never speak before an audience again after the Great Sharon Boredom Riot of 2011. But when the Liberal parish called, they used one weapon against which I don’t stand a chance: They asked nicely. Of all the diabolical ... How did they know?

Speaking to an audience is as unnatural to me as peanut butter is speaking to plywood, so I knew the talk had to be right on the money. Equal parts poignant and funny.

I spent days putting together my presentation. I even made visual aids: large posters created by adhering smaller prints onto foam core boards. The spray glue left my fingers covered in a think adhering smaller prints onto foam core boards. The spray glue left my fingers covered in a think... I had no time to be nervous. And it added a bit from the reception to the Mass — was a Godsend.

Long story short (sorry, too late for that), my jokes mostly fell flat, even among those who could actually hear them. I learned later that the back half of the church couldn’t understand a word.

As I spoke, I could feel the congregation’s pain, both in their silence and in the slow minutes that ticked by as they waited patiently for my talk to one day conclude.

But the congregation seem to like the visual aids. And God bless several small children who, for some reason unknown to me, laughed throughout most of my talk. I’m still not quite sure what they were laughing at. Did my talk appeal to the six-year-old crowd? Should I go on the elementary school circuit?

Yet, I pretended it was my brilliant comedic timing and my deep insights making them laugh, but the biggest contribution was the fact that I was even there at all.

I told the

1,000 points of Light

It’s easy to seek blame.

I thought of this when I spoke at St. Anthony Parish in Liberal about two priests who, like a handful of others, were recently reappointed to other parishes (see my column at left). As I took to the pulpit, I said something that had just occurred to me as I walked to the front of the church. I thought about how bittersweet the occasion, honoring two priests whom we’ve grown to love and respect, while also saying goodbye to them.

I thought about how Bishop John called me into his office a few weeks before because I had written in a front page article that even with all the priest reappointments, each parish would be served. The bishop pointed out to me that his column — on the same page (!) — made clear that because of the smaller number of priests, some parishes simply would not have a pastor.

My article contradicted his column, which contained the sad truth. Fortunately, this was just a proof of the issue, and not the printed issue! Whew!

I could hear the frustration in the bishop’s voice (with the topic, not with me — well, maybe a little with me). To say he takes this task personally is putting it mildly. I heard the exasperation in his voice. It is a very, very difficult job for a bishop.

Priests are retiring, missionary priests are returning to their home country or diocese, and there are simply not enough priests to take their places.

It’s like having a brightly lit room ... full of lights, I told the congregation at St. Anthony Parish. One light goes out, and then another, and as you have fewer and fewer replacements light bulbs, you have to begin moving lights from one location to the other so the greatest amount of light is evenly spread.

It’s easy to seek blame when a beloved priest gets moved to another parish, but we also need to look in the mirror.

How many times do we gather for family prayer? How many parish events other than Mass do we attend? (And hey, parishes! How many family events do you sponsor?)

How often do we let the sadness of the awful abuse crisis affect our devotion to the Church Christ built?

Are we impressing upon our children the joy and beauty of the Catholic faith? Or are we meandering around it as if it’s a construction zone you steer clear of except for Sunday mornings?

God gave us the Light through the gift of His Son. We need to spread that Light! That’s the only way that people, boys and girls, men and women, will experience that incredible attraction to that ultimate gift brought by God’s Son.

-- Dave Myers

Inherit the Mirth

By Cuyler Black (cuylerblack.com)
An unspeakable consequence of a long-failed immigration system

President of U.S. Catholic Bishops and Migration Chairman respond to deaths of father and daughter at border along with appalling conditions in child detention

WASHINGTON—The cry of a father and his baby daughter who drowned crossing the Rio Grande reaches heaven itself. This unspeakable consequence of a long-failed immigration system, together with growing reports of inhume conditions for children in the custody of the federal government at the border, shock the conscience and demand immediate action. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, joins Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, in calling on the federal government to hear the cry of the poor and vulnerable.

Their joint statement follows:

“We join with our Holy Father Pope Francis in immense sadness, having seen the horrific images of Oscar Martinez and his daughter Angie Valeria who drowned in the Rio Grande Valley while attempting to flee persecution and enter the United States.

“This image cries to heaven for justice. This image silences politicians. Who can look on this picture and not see the result of the failures of all of us to find a humane and just solution to the immigration crisis?

“Sadly, this picture shows the daily plight of our brothers and sisters. Not only does their cry reach heaven. It reaches us. And it must now reach our federal government.

“All people, regardless of their country of origin or legal status, are made in the image of God and should be treated with dignity and respect. Recent reports of overcrowded and unsanitary conditions are appalling and unacceptable for any person in U.S. custody, but particularly for children, who are uniquely vulnerable.

“Such conditions cannot be used as tools of deterrence. We can and must remain a country that provides refuge for children and families fleeing violence, persecution, and acute poverty.

“Congress has a duty to provide additional funding to address the needs of children in federal custody. Their supplemental appropriations bill should also increase protections for immigrant children, including heightened standards and oversight for border facilities.

“It is possible and necessary to care for the safety of migrant children and the security of our citizens. By putting aside partisan interests, a nation as great as ours is able to do both.”

Next issue to focus on youth activities, service and prayer

What did you do over the summer?

The next issue of the Southwest Kansas Catholic, which will be dated Aug. 4 due to our summer schedule, will focus on projects that our young people took part in over the summer (so far) to serve God and/or God’s children. Help us to highlight our awesome youth!

The SKC would like to invite you to submit photos and/or stories of your children taking part in summer activities that express their love of God and desire to become closer to Him. This could include anything from taking part in a parish picnic, to serving at a summer mission, to simply folding their Him. This could include anything from taking part in a parish picnic, to serving at a summer mission, to simply folding their

67801, deliver to 910 Central in Dodge City, or, if you need more information, call (620) 227-1519.

Participants of Prayer and Action refinish a deck in Larned. Photos from their summer experience will be included in the next issue.

Church posts a bit of advice

An unidentified church posted the sign at left in reference to what turned out to be the first of a series of movies. As if tornadoes aren’t bad enough, someone had the idea to fill them full of hungry sharks, which makes perfect sense, considering tornado alley lies across the mid-section of the country, where sharks typically go to feed. The first movie, at far left, spawned five sequels. They all aired on the SyFy Channel.
Sister Virginia Pearl--Sister Virginia Pearl passed since my entrance into the Congregation. I have only happy memories of the places I have served. Yes, there were hardships as I look at the past, but God saw us through them all.”

-- Sister Virginia Pearl

Sister Doris Marie Flax

Sister Doris Marie Flax is the daughter of Joseph and Helen Urban Flax. She was received in the Congregation March 19, 1949. Her mission assignments include: Sacred Heart School, Salina; St. Michael’s, Collyer; District 71, Damar; St. Andrew’s, Abilene; District 6, Leoville; St. John’s, Beloit; St. Joseph’s, Oakley; and Cure of Ars, Leawood.

Her jubilee reflection included these words: “When I meet students I have taught previously, they are glad to meet me again. I cannot believe that 70 years have passed since my entrance into the Congregation. I have only happy memories of the places I have served. Yes, there were hardships as I look at the past, but God saw us through them all.”

-- Sister Doris Marie Flax

Sister Virginia Pearl--Sister Virginia Pearl is the daughter of Thomas and Forence comer Virginia Pearl, who served as a chaplain at Larned State Hospital and in ministry at Heartland Farm, celebrated her 60th jubilee. Sister Doris Marie is the daughter of Joseph and Theresia (Weber) Flax. She was received in the congregation March 19, 1949. Her mission assignments include: Sacred Heart School, Salina; St. Michael’s, Collyer; District 71, Damar; St. Andrew’s, Abilene; District 6, Leoville; St. John’s, Beloit; St. Joseph’s, Oakley; and Cure of Ars, Leawood.

Her jubilee reflection included these words: “With a dance in my heart, the eternal dance of being in love; in love with my best friend, Jesus. All life is a gift. For me, it is pure gift that God chose me, a sinful servant, to be a Sister of St. Joseph. Daily, I am in awesome amazement.”

-- Sister Virginia Pearl

SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC

Two Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia associated with the Diocese of Dodge City were among the 20 Sisters celebrating noteworthy anniversaries with a special Mass at the Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia June 9. Sister Doris Marie Flax, a vocation from St. Aloysius Parish in Ransom, celebrated her 70th jubilee. Sister Virginia Pearl, who served as a chaplain at Larned State Hospital and in ministry at Heartland Farm, celebrated her 60th jubilee. Sister Doris Marie is the daughter of Joseph and Theresia (Weber) Flax. She was received in the congregation March 19, 1949. Her mission assignments include: Sacred Heart School, Salina; St. Michael’s, Collyer; District 71, Damar; St. Andrew’s, Abilene; District 6, Leoville; St. John’s, Beloit; St. Joseph’s, Oakley; and Cure of Ars, Leawood.

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-- Sister Doris Marie Flax

Sister Virginia Pearl--Sister Virginia Pearl is the daughter of Joseph and Helen Urban Flax. She was received in the Congregation March 19, 1949. Her mission assignments include: Concordia Catholic Grade School, Concordia; St. Mary’s School, Salina; Holy Cross School, Pfeifer; Religious Education, Clyde; CCD Coordinator, Thomas More Parish, Kansas City, Mo.; Religious Education Coordinator, Leawood; Religious Education Consultant, Salina; Religious Education team, Glenwood Springs; Pastoral Ministry, St. Leo’s Parish, Grand Island, Neb.; Marymount College, Theology Department; CCD, Overland Park; Pastoral Associate, St. Joseph Parish, Kansas City, MO; Center for Spirituality, Willard, Wis.; Heartland Farm, Great Bend; and Chaplaincy at Larned State Hospital.

Her jubilee reflection included these words: “With a dance in my heart, the eternal dance of being in love; in love with my best friend, Jesus. All life is a gift. For me, it is pure gift that God chose me, a sinful servant, to be a Sister of St. Joseph. Daily, I am in awesome amazement.”

-- Sister Virginia Pearl

Steeple of St. Joseph Church, Liebenthal, repaired

St. Joseph Church in Liebenthal is getting major steeple repair underway. The church steeple, which towers 150 feet high, is 50 years old and in great need of repair.

The Kansas winds, weather, and deterioration make it urgently necessary. The steeple has a copper coating and five copper crosses mounted in the four directions and on the peak.

The wood underneath has also deteriorated due to the cracks in the copper and portions of copper torn loose by the winds.

A particularly powerful wind storm in March a year ago caused extensive damage and began the process for repairs.

As pictured above, two cranes and a work crew from Roofmasters in Hays are removing strips of copper and sealing exposed areas from the weather.

Some wood will need to be replaced as well as lime stones re-set to complete the project. It is estimated to take approximately a month, weather permitting. The old copper will be recycled.

Fundraisers, individual donations, insurance adjustment, and memorials are helping fund the project, but the parish goal has not been reached. Donations can be made at the church’s website: http://rushcountycatholicchurches.com.

Saints shine bright in Ellinwood

The following comes courtesy of St. Joseph Parish in Ellinwood.

Saint Joseph Church is now a brighter place. The first week of June, Harrison Electric of Claflin finished installing three new spotlights.

Two of them shine upon the saints, Our Blessed Mother Mary, and the parish patron, Saint Joseph. A third, on the front north pillar, is made to swivel so that it can illuminate the baptismal font, a Christmas crèche, or anything else which might be specially installed for a Mass, like the Saint Joseph School Banner. The light fixtures are mounted on the sanctuary side of the pillars and are not visible to the public. Harrison electric was able to run the wiring through the pillars as well.

Father Terrance Klein said that the idea to illuminate the statues came after the last Candlelight Rosary, when it seemed a shame that no light fell upon the statue of our Blessed Mother as the rosary was prayed.

Last year, Harrison Electric put spotlights on the tabernacle, so that it is visible and prominent, even when the rest of the church is dark. This was very well received, and he believes that these new lights, along with the new prayer books in the pews, will foster greater devotion and a more intense personal prayer life among parishioners.

Because of advances in technology, the lights appear to be beams of natural sunlight shining on the statues. They’re still quite noticeable, even when the other lights in the church are illuminated.

The lights were paid for through the memorial gifts from the funeral of Helen Urban.

The parish asks that if you attend St. Joseph Church and appreciate how they illuminate your prayer experience, please offer a prayer for Helen and the consolation of her family.

The saints at St. Joseph Parish, Ellinwood, shine bright thanks to the addition of a few technically advanced spotlights.
Spearville youth group to host 5K and 1 mile run for NCYC trip

The youth group at St. John the Baptist Parish in Spearville will host a 5K and 1 mile run/walk July 13 to raise money for its trip to the National Catholic Youth Conference.

The event will be part of the city’s annual CDW (City of Windmills) Festival. The 5K run will begin at 7:15 a.m., and the one mile at 8:15 a.m., at Greenstreet Park at the old baseball field.

Registration begins at 6:15 a.m. The cost is $20 per entry, which includes one or both races.

Registration forms can be found at the Spearville City office, the Spearville Township Library, and online at www.stjohnsppearville.com. If you have questions, contact Mary at (620) 385-0219.

Sponsors of the event include Best Water and Dillons.

St. Joseph Parish, Offerle

Father John Strasser with graduate Avery Heinz, son of Jamie and Abby Heinz, on May 19, 2019.

Ben Benish pictured with his brother Bradley Benish, Son of Deanna Benish and the late Leonard Benish, he celebrated his graduation Mass on May 5, 2019.

Father John Strasser with Cade Chamberlain, son of Jay and Ashley Chamberlain, on the occasion of his First Communion, April 28, at St. Joseph Church, Offerle.

Sacred Heart Parish, Pratt

Father Mike Klag (and Bishop John Brungardt, above) celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion with children from Sacred Heart Parish in Pratt.

St. Joseph School graduates honored at Mass

The following comes courtesy of St. Joseph Parish.

ELLINWOOD — This year, St. Joseph Catholic School graduated six eighth graders: Cale Batchman, Britton Dutton, Daniel Hammeke, Grant Klepper, Madisyn Schloctermier, and Tyler Stuhlsatz.

During the final Mass of the school year, Wednesday, May 15, Father Klein honored the graduates during his homily, “The Pew.”

During their conversation, Father asked the students what they were going to miss most about St. Joseph. Answers varied from lunch and Mr. Lashley, to Mass.

Father Klein followed this conversation by reminding the graduates that St. Joseph “exists so that you can learn that Jesus is the light of the world.”

Graduation was officially celebrated the following Sunday, May 19, at the 10:30 Mass. Father addressed the graduates at the end of his homily: “We pray St. Joseph has given you the ability to wait and hope for the Lord... Our Jesus is to be trusted.”

Principal Marlene Clayton noted that the class was full of leaders: quiet, but deadly; bulls in the China closet; and classical spiritual leaders. She charged them to use their leadership skills to further their education and improve the community and the world.

Next, teacher Cami Thomas addressed the students, noting all of the things she would miss... even their ornerness! She told the graduates that St. Joseph has “planted the seed to bloom,” and now it was their responsibility to nurture it.

Her final instruction to the students was succinct: “It’s up to you.” Congratulations St. Joseph Class of 2019!

St. Joseph graduates address Mass May 15.

Garden City vocation celebrates 25 years of priesthood

Congratulations to Father Shane Stoppel-Wasinger, 56, celebrating 25 years since his priestly ordination at St. Dominic Parish in Garden City.

Father Shane has been pastor of St. Gregory the Great Parish in North Branch, Minn. since 2004, and Sacred Heart in Rush City since 2012. Along with three other Minnesota parishes he has served, Father Shane ministered in the Archdiocese of Denver at Notre Dame Parish and at St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church in Lakewood, Colorado.
USCCB passes three measures in response to abuse crisis

By ED CONDON
Catholic News Agency
Baltimore, Md.— The U.S. bishops’ conference voted Thursday to approve proposals intended to respond to recent scandals involving sexual abuse, coercion, and cover-up on the part of bishops, most notably former cardinal Theodore McCarrick and the disgraced Bishop Michael Bransfield.

The bishops, gathered in Baltimore for their spring General Assembly, voted overwhelmingly in favor of three measures aimed at building processes to address episcopal misconduct or neglect, and the ongoing crisis of credibility widely perceived to overshadow work to eliminate sexual abuse from the Church.

The assembly approved protocol explaining the powers of a diocesan bishop to curtail the public ministry of a retired bishop in his former diocese by a margin of 212-4.

They also approved a set of directives applying in the United States the new universal norms for investigating allegations against bishops promulgated by Pope Francis in Vos estis lux mundi.

After initial discussion, they were presented to bishops June 13 with an explicit exhortation for metropolitan bishops to appoint “on a stable basis, even by means of an ecclesiastical office, a qualified lay person” to receive allegations against bishops and work with the metropolitan investigation.

The directives were approved by 218-1.

The bishops also approved a joint statement, “Affirming Our Episcopal Commitments,” establishing a non-binding moral commitment by bishops to hold themselves to the same standards and measures as are currently applied to their priests and deacons.

That document passed by a similarly wide margin of 217-1.

The consensus in favor of the measures was unsurprising. After the bishops were prevented by Rome from adopting similar proposals in November, the majority of bishops returned to Baltimore ready to vote.

The widespread agreement in favor of the three documents was reflected in the much-abbreviated discussion which preceded each vote. With relatively little debate, the bishops finished their morning session more than an hour ahead of schedule, even after adding business they had intended to address in the afternoon.

As in the previous discussions on Tuesday, several bishops raised the need for clearly established lay involvement in the process of handling complaints against bishops. Changes to the text of the implementation directives for Vos estis were highlighted as a response to those concerns, something Cardinal Joseph Tobin noted was a “clear expectation” of Vos estis itself.

Bishop Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City said that mandatory lay involvement is essential “to make darn sure we bishops do not harm the Church” in the ways seen in recent cases.

Bishop Joseph Strickland of Tyler was the only bishop to raise directly the issue of Theodore McCarrick during the session, insisting that “a full reckoning” still needed to be made for the former cardinal’s career, but that he had “been assured that the Holy See is working on that.”

On the specific point of whether lay people should be assigned formal, canonically governed “ecclesiastical offices” in order to assist metropolitanans, Archbishop Bernard Hebda noted that the drafting committee thought it better to leave that as an option. In some places, he noted, metropolitanans might find it best to include a non-Catholic (ineligible for formal ecclesiastical office) in the process if their expertise offered the greatest possibilities for accountability.

Several bishops, most insistently Bishop Jaime Soto, raised the prospect of an independent auditing process to track and assess the U.S. implementation of Vos estis over the three-year trial period.

Bishop Robert Deeley explained to the conference that the independent third-party reporting mechanism, approved by the bishops on June 12, was itself a form of a self-auditing system with every complaint being tracked, though there were limits to how much the bishops could assess the effectiveness of what was a papal law.

“I think the committee agrees with you that an [assessment] process will have to be done,” Deeley said, but it was not for the U.S. bishops to decide how to evaluate the essential role of the Holy See in the process and implementation of its own norms.

Related to Rome’s role in the process of handling an allegation, several bishops noted that Vos estis provided for a response from Rome “within 30 days,” something Bishop Mark O’Connell, an auxiliary bishop of Boston, called an “intolerable” amount of time for a reporting metropolitan to be unable to advance the case.

Deeley responded by noting that Rome had committed itself to responding “within not after” 30 days, and that the experience of many bishops was that when circumstances required it, the different Roman dicasteries would respond considerably faster. The longer time period was a reflection of the universal application of Vos estis, which would have to accommodate regions where communication could be more fractured and difficult.

Deeley noted that there had been four investigations into U.S. bishops conducted by metropolitanans in recent months, including McCarrick and Bransfield, and that the successful way in which they had been concluded was a sign of the effectiveness of the new model. “That gives me confidence,” Deeley told the bishops.

Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles told the bishops that “the Holy See is aware of the urgency of this matter,” and commended the passage of the directives to the conference.

After the passage of the abuse-related measures and the conclusion of some other conference matters, the bishops concluded the public portion of their meeting and convened an executive session.

The first vote, Protocol Regarding Available Non-Penal Restrictions on Bishops, affirmed the so-called Dallas Charter of 2002, which affirmed a zero tolerance policy against sexual abuse of children among the clergy, but excluded bishops. The vote accepted a measure granting diocesan bishops the power to hold their predecessors responsible—and to discipline them—if they were removed from office for a “grave” reason. The vote empowers the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) president to restrict bishops removed or resigned for reasons related to sexual abuse or abuse of power.

A second vote, Affirming Our Episcopal Commitments, establishes a non-binding moral commitment by bishops to hold themselves to the same standards and measures as are currently applied to their priests and deacons. It implements a bishop code of conduct, including the affirmation that the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is expanded to include bishops as well as priests and deacons.

The third vote, Directives for the Implementation of the Provisions of Vos estis lux mundi Concerning Bishops and their Equivalents, contains an explicit exhortation for metropolitan bishops (bishops in charge of other bishops) to appoint “on a stable basis, even by means of an ecclesiastical office, a qualified lay person” to receive allegations against bishops and work with the metropolitan in any subsequent investigation.

LEFT — A prayer rally is held outside the hotel where the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2019 General Assembly was taking place June 12.

BELOW — Bishops take part in the final public session of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ General Assembly on June 13, 2019.

Kate Veik/CNA Photos
Christ and You(th)

MARIENTHAL -- A Corpus Christi procession was held at St. Mary’s Parish in Marienthal. Benediction included prayers asking the Lord’s intercession for the success of the upcoming harvest and the safety of all involved. Father Tim S. Hickey, pastor, was assisted by parish servers, Knights of Columbus who carried the canopy, and Dodge City seminarian Carson Haupt who chanted the Sequence at Mass and served as thurifer, or incense bearer for the procession. A coffee-and social followed the procession in the school cafeteria.

By COURTNEY GROGAN
Catholic News Agency

ROME, Italy - Pope Francis said on the Feast of Corpus Christi that the Eucharist exemplifies how God’s love can accomplish great things with very little.

“Whatever we have can bear fruit if we give it away – that is what Jesus wants to tell us – and it does not matter whether it is great or small. The Lord does great things with our littleness,” Pope Francis said June 23.

“God’s omnipotence is lowly, made up of love alone. And love can accomplish great things with little. The Eucharist teaches us this: for there we find God himself contained in a piece of bread,” the pope said in his homily for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

Pope Francis said that the Eucharist is “the antidote” to the mindset that says, “Sorry, that is not my problem,” or “I have no time, I can’t help you, it’s none of my business.”

“Being simple and essential, bread broken and shared, the Eucharist we receive allows us to see things as God does. It inspires us to give ourselves to others,” he said.

Pope Francis celebrated an outdoor evening Mass in Rome’s Casal Bertone neighborhood for the feast of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ, according to Italy’s liturgical calendar.

A Eucharistic procession through the Roman neighborhood followed the Mass, ending at a homeless shelter run by the Missionaries of Charity.

“In our city that hungers for love and care, that suffers from decay and neglect, that contains so many elderly people living alone, families in difficulty, young people struggling to earn their bread and to realize their dreams, the Lord says to each one of you: ‘You yourself give them something to eat,’ Pope Francis said.

“You may answer: ‘But I have so little; I am not up to it.’ That is not true; your ‘little’ has great value in the eyes of Jesus, provided that you don’t keep it to yourself,” he added.

“You are not alone, for you have the Eucharist, bread for the journey, the bread of Jesus,” he said.

The pope called the Eucharist “a school of blessing” and said that through the Mass Catholics are blessed by the Lord and can in turn be a blessing to others as “channels of goodness in the world.”

“It is sad to think of how easily people today speak words not of blessing but of contempt and insult,” Pope Francis said.

“Sadly, those who shout most and loudest, those angriest, often appeal to others and persuade them. Let us avoid being infected by that arrogance; let us not let ourselves be overcome by bitterness, for we eat the Bread that contains all sweetness within it,” he continued.

“In the presence of the Eucharist, Jesus who becomes bread, this simple bread that contains the entire reality of the Church, let us learn to bless all that we have, to praise God, to bless and not curse all that has led us to this moment, and to speak words of encouragement to others,” Pope Francis said.
The unexpected graces of a simple Act of Kindness

By DAVID MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

Editor’s Note: Bishop John urges us to remember the example of the gentle Jesus, and to take part in acts of kindness. He’s asked us to humbly offer these acts up as a prayer for priestly vocations. I wrote this column a few years ago, back when Hastings stores were abundant, Peyton Manning was leading the Broncos to victory, and when a clower of cats had yet to evict the squirrels from my yard.

So, the other day I’m praying when Jesus suddenly interrupts me: “Hey, I need you to run down to the store, pick up some milk.”

“Huh? “Milk! You’re low on milk.”

“I heard you, it’s just that … um … you’ve never sent me out for groceries before. You’ve reminded me about Mass, parish gatherings … You let me know when I’m being nice, when I’m being a putz…. But you’ve never let me know when I was low on, you know, dairy products.”

Then Jesus said unto me, “Why would the Guy who changed water into wine, on, you know, gathering … You let me know when I’m never sent me out for groceries before.

I first headed to the sidewalk rack outside the building holding books for $2.99. (This kind of like an appetizer before the meal.)

“Hmmmm: “A History of the Toothpick.” I picked it up. Did you know that toothpicks predate modern humans? This means that in all likelihood, Adam and Eve used a tooth- pick to clean little chunks of the forbidden apple from between their teeth. (I bet a squirrel came by and ate one of the little chunks, and so they got kicked out of Eden, too. That would explain why so many live in my backyard.)

Suddenly I sensed a man approaching on the sidewalk. I’m typically somewhat paranoid … nervous … weary of strangers … anti-social -- you know, neurotic. I continued facing the books as if to say, So what? I don’t care that there’s a guy I don’t know wandering directly toward me. I couldn’t care less that he’s getting closer and closer and is probably about to PULL OUT A LARGE BUTTER KNIFE AND -- “Sir?”

“Huh?” I answered nonchalantly, even adding a hint of surprise, as if I just noticed him.

“What …um … . Can I help you?” He was an older man, perhaps from Vietnam, and didn’t speak English too well. After five minutes, I finally realized that he was asking for directions to the Social Security office.

“Uhhhhhhhh (etc…) I don’t know,” I finally answered, having only lived here 14 years. “Maybe go to the county building on, uh, First Street… no, Central, and see if they can help you.”

The man looked very puzzled.

“But it’s closed today,” I remembered.

“It’s where you go to do your driver’s license stuff.”

“Man looked at me like I was Coco, the communicating ape.

My wife hadn’t yet gone into the store and meandered over.

“What’s going on?” she asked with a puzzled look on her face. (It was a day for puzzled looks.)

“He wants to know where the Social Security office is. I told him to check at the county building on Central, but it’s closed today, so I told him to go on Monday.”

Now it was her turn to look at me like I was a talking ape.

“The Social Security building is on High way 50. You pass it every day when you go to work. It’s in that building with the big SOCIAL SECURITY sign.”

“Oh, Heh, heh. That’s right.” (This is why I married “up.” Waaaay up.)

The man’s wife then approached us, and we tried to explain exactly where the offic e was. But they were from out of town and reacted much as I would have if I were in their position, only without my gaping mouth and panicked stare.

It was my wife who made this suggestion to them: “Why don’t we drive over, and you can follow us?”

Waaahaa? But what about perusing the 55 movies? The action figures? The books that I won’t ever read, but make me feel smart just for purchasing them?

I envisioned myself missing a tackle as the Peyton Manning action figure raced down the field.

“Tha’ a good idea,” I said, forcing the words from my gut like a bad tuna loaf.

We arrived at the Social Security office. The couple got out of their car, placed their hands together as if in prayer, and bowed to us in thanks.

With that gesture, this seemingly insignificant task suddenly took on new meaning. And to be honest, we felt pretty good about ourselves.

It was one of those moments of realization when I suddenly realized (that’s what you do in moments of realization) that Jesus’s call is to help one another, to serve others in our community, our parish – to lovingly share the gifts God gave us, even if it’s offering a moment to help two people get from point A to B.

When you serve others—even if it’s just a simple act of kindness—it’s just a gift you’re giving them. You also are receiving a great grace. It’s so cool to know that God is using us for His purposes in effect, when we serve others, it’s God saying, “You’ll thank me later.”

Because we were already on our way, we drove home, having forgotten all about the milk. I opened the fridge in the garage and saw three unopened gallons I bought just the other day. I could swear I heard Jesus chuckle.

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

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Prayer 101: How do I talk to God?

The HEART AND SOUL OF PRAYER

By BILLY GRAHAM

Prayer is simply talking to God—and the most important thing I can say about this is that God wants you to talk to Him! He loves us and He has promised to hear us when we pray. How can you learn to pray?

The Bible says, “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need,” (Hebrews 4:16). If you have never done so, ask Christ to come into your life today.

Then understand that God now welcomes you into His presence and promises to hear you—and He cannot lie. The Bible says, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us” (1 John 5:14). Trust His promises and learn to bring every concern to Him in prayer.

...God hears our prayers on all occasions, whether
**Prayer 101: How do I talk to God?**

San Agustín escribió su clásico libro espiritual Las confesiones en el siglo IV. Describe su profunda conversión a Jesús y a la fe católica. La obra de la gracia de Dios es ilustrada por San Agustín derramando su corazón a nuestro amado Señor:

¡Tarde te amé, hermosura tan antigua y tan nueva, tarde te amé!

Me llamaste y clamaste, y quebraste mi sordera; brillaste y resplandeciste, y curaste mi ceguera; exhalaste tu perfume, y lo aspiré, y ahora te anhelo; gusté de ti, y ahora siento hambre y sed de ti; me tocaste, y deseo con ansia la paz que procede de ti.

¿Hemos abierto nuestros corazones a la gracia de Dios de esta manera? ¿Somos conscientes de la presencia de Dios en nuestras vidas? ¿Sentimos semejante amor abrumador por Dios?

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**Unidos**.

trataban de pasar la frontera entre México y los Estados Unidos, padre e hija fueron arrastrados por las aguas del río a la altura de las ciudades de Matamoros, en México, y Brownsville, en Estados Unidos.

Los cuerpos fueron encontrados a la orilla del río Bravo, en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos. Crédito: EWTN Noticias.

El Papa Francisco vio “con inmensa tristeza” la imagen de los cuerpos de Oscar y su pequeña hija Valeria de solo 21 meses, ambos de El Salvador, que murieron ahogados de la madre de la niña, Tania, en abril de este año. El caso de Óscar y su pequeña hija Valeria partió de El Salvador junto a otros 283 migrantes murieron en 2018 tratando de cruzar desde México. En el último fin de semana fallecieron alrededor de 10 personas, entre ellos al menos tres menores.

En un comunicado difundido este 26 de junio, Alejandro Gissott, director interino de la Oficina de Prensa de la Santa Sede, señaló que “el Santo Padre ha visto, con inmensa tristeza, la imagen del papa y de su hija muertos ahogados en el Rio Grande mientras trataban de pasar la frontera entre México y los Estados Unidos”.

“El Papa está profundamente adolorido por sus muertes, reza por ellos y por todos los migrantes que han perdido la vida tratando de escapar de la guerra y la miseria”, señaló.

De acuerdo a la patrulla fronteriza estadounidense, al menos 283 migrantes murieron en 2018 tratando de cruzar desde México. En el último fin de semana fallecieron alrededor de 10 personas, entre ellos al menos tres menores.

En diálogo con ACI Prensa este 25 de junio, Mons. Alfonso Miranda, secretario general de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano (CEM), expresó el dolor de la Iglesia por la muerte de los migrantes salvadoreños, y cuestionó: “¿Cuál será el tamaño del sufrimiento de gente de Centroamérica que no importándoles nada se van a buscar sus sueños y a arriesgarlo literal y absolutamente todo”.

Además, hizo un llamado a la sensibilización con el hermano que sufre en estas condiciones, y señaló que “aquí en México nos está faltando lanzar un fuerte grito que se oiga y que resuene en todo México y más allá, Estados Unidos, Centroamérica y el mundo entero, y que diga: ¡yo también soy migrante!”. 

**Protectiendo a los Niños de Dios**

La Diócesis requiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajan con menores a 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 especialmente entrenadas como facilitadores. Las sesiones se publicarán en las parroquias, escuelas, el periódico South- west Kansas Catholic y la página electrónica de la Diócesis. www.dcdiocese.org/protectingchildren.

**Reportando Abuso**

Si usted sospecha abuso o descuido de un menor en Kansas y el menor esta en un peligro inmediato hable al 911 o al departamento de policía local. Si usted tiene alguna sospecha de que un menor esta 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, crbefort@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.


**Tarde te amé**

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¡Tarde te amé, hermosura tan antigua y tan nueva, tarde te amé!

Me llamaste y clamaiste, y quebraste mi sordera; brillaste y resplandeciste, y curaste mi ceguera; exhalaste tu perfume, y lo aspiré, y ahora te anhelo; gusté de ti, y ahora siento hambre y sed de ti; me tocaste, y deseo con ansia la paz que procede de ti.

¿Hemos abierto nuestros corazones a la gracia de Dios de esta manera? ¿Somos conscientes de la presencia de Dios en nuestras vidas? ¿Sentimos semejante amor abrumador por Dios?

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LANING was chosen from among these to be named our Kansas State Knight of the Year at our recent convention in Manhattan. Our members are kept informed of important happenings through our fraternal notice and through our state web site, www.kansas-knights.org. Be sure to check us out if you haven’t visited our web site recently. It offers a wide array of information regarding the Knights of Columbus in Kansas. Through our Penitents from Heaven Program we raised over $110,000 for victims of natural disasters. Through these programs we will continue to work to improve the lives of our fellow man and women for the betterment of society.

As we go forth with these programs across Kansas, we are constantly looking for more eligible Catholic men to join us in our work for the Lord. Our state has seen an increase in membership this year as we have seen over 856 men and their families join our ranks at the time of this writing and our membership in Kansas currently stands at 38,306. I personally invite all eligible Catholic men over the age of 18 to join your parish and fulfill your duties to the Knights of Columbus as we work for the Honor and Glory of God. I ask all interested parties to please go to our web site and contact me with any questions or concerns. I am at your command to serve in the Knights of Columbus of Kansas and as we work for the Honor and Glory of God we can and do make a difference in our Church, our communities, our families and our youth. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve in your State Deputy this past year and for that boon and privilege I extend heartfelt thanks. As Jeannine and I have traveled the state, it has been a tremendous experience to re-kindle old friendships and make new acquaintances. The hospitality and courtesies extended to us will always bring fond memories. I look forward to an even bigger and better year ahead with your continued prayers and hard work that we will continue to confront the challenges the Lord will set out before us in the years ahead. May God bless you all and good work on your part in making our Knights of Columbus/ Viva Jesus.

Dale A. Weber, State Deputy
State Knights Council of Columbus Summer 2019
Welcome to the start of the Knights of Columbus fraternal year. As the fraternal year starts, it is nice to take a moment and reflect on the many blessings from the past year, and an opportunity to begin planning for success in the new fraternal year. This past year was challenging for many people, not just Knights members. Tornadoes, floods, hail storms, and wind damage have left their marks all over the state, and many people have been faced with hardships. Our Catholic church is not immune to the hardships either. In a time when so many people are cowering out our Catholic beliefs, there has never been a better time to stand up and protect our faith. There has never been a better time to declare, we are Catholic Disciples of Christ. There has never been a better time for the Knights of Columbus to stand proudly, side by side with our bishops and priests in solidarity. Those of us that are Knights are being called by our Church to defend her and stand up for her in every town square. The Knights of Columbus needs more men, and their families to answer this call! This is the exact reason why membership in the Order is so important. Our Church and the Knights of Columbus must continue to reach out to every eligible Catholic man, and their families to be the next Simon’s of Cyrene to carry the cross of Jesus in today’s challenging world. We must start now, and add those men and their families to the fight. We cannot put this off until tomorrow. I am reminded of a quote from Saint John Paul II, he said “The future starts today” as the membership theme for this fraternal year. What a perfect reminder that if we want to build our Church, build our faith, and build our local Knights councils, we cannot wait another minute. In my position with the State Knights of Columbus I often get asked by local councils how they can build their local membership. I give them my thoughts, or bring up examples of ideas that I have seen in other councils across the state. Sometimes I bring up the incentives for them to grow their membership. But it was not until a recent visit from our Regional Training Director Kenneth White from Supreme Council that I realized how I can help local councils grow. I am so mad that I was sometimes forgot and need a reminder. We need to find out why? Kenneth spent four days in Kansas during the middle of June and I would like to share two “why’s” that we learned about.

The first was a visit to Starkey, Inc. in Wichita. We were introduced to Ryan Holkes, Director of Development for Starkey, Inc. a non-profit that serves people with disabilities. Ryan a fellow brother Knight, shared that their organization provides a wide range of business, employment, residential, life enrichment and case management for over five hundred people with intellectual disabilities. We were given a tour, of the facilities and were able to meet a few of Starkey’s clients. The conclusion of our tour Ryan sat us down in their conference room and asked our questions about what the Knights of Columbus has done to help their organization. Ryan had many wonderful stories, but he pointed to a picture. A special picture that shows volunteers about the Knights of Columbus and their relationship with Starkey, Inc. It was Ryan, and Knights of Columbus District Deputies at Joey King standing side by side, with Joey King presenting a check from a one of the Wichita area Toastie Roll drives. Ryan said, I don’t know what we would do without the support of the Knights. Helping people who are less for than us - that is charity! Charity that comes from the heart! Our first principle of the Order. I have never been prouder of my brother Knights to know that they are there to help Starkey, Inc. and the people they serve.

The second visit was to A Better Choice Pregnancy Center in Wichita where Ken- neth shared a personal story of his mother and sister Alex. She shared story after story of stories of mothers that came to the clinic. She received one of the sonogram machines through the Knights of Columbus Ultra Sound Initiative and since it’s placed has helped save hundreds of babies. Ms. Alexander noted that they are the brothers that see their method through this machine end up choosing life for their unborn baby. This is a gift, a gift, and shared the gift of life together, and hope that A Better Choice’s Mission comes to live; “To resurrect a culture of human life in our society”. You don’t have to be a member of the Knights of Columbus to know how important the choice of life is, but it is no easy task, and we need another reason “why”. Ryan, I suggest you visit your local pregnancy center and just maybe you might find your “why”.

Ryan, I found my reason “why” I want to help grow the Knights of Columbus in Kansas several years ago. However, recent events have come to Starkey, Inc. and A Better Choice have only intensified my “why”. There are many other examples of why the Order in Kansas needs to grow, but if you haven’t found your “why”, I suggest you take a moment and just look around your community. I’m sure you will find your “why” right in front of you! “The Future starts today” go find your “why”, and if your “why” leads you to the Knights of Columbus, I will welcome them with open arms, for there is a lot of work that needs to be done! Vivat Jesus!”

— PATRICK BURNETT, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
In responding to gender theory, ‘forming the formators’ is key, educators say

By JONAH MCKEOWN

Washington D.C. (CNA) - Amid a flurry of headlines denouncing the Vatican for releasing a document condemning “gender theory,” theology professors and Catholic educators told CNA that the document will be helpful in setting priorities for Catholic educators going forward, as Catholic schools respond to questions about LGBT issues.

“I love the emphasis on ‘forming the formators’...it’s important for teachers to realize that they’ve got to be able to answer their students’ questions, whether in religious education or teaching in a Catholic school,” Dr. Theresa Farnan, a professor of philosophy at St. Paul Seminary, the minor seminary of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, told CNA.

“You’ve got to be able to answer your students’ questions. Because you might get one shot to answer that question, and that may be it.”

Published at the beginning of “Pride Month,” during which many cities and corporations mark the campaign of LGBT advocacy, the document says that the Church teaches an essential difference between men and woman, ordered in the natural law and essential to the family and human flourishing.

“There is a need to reaffirm the metaphysical roots of sexual difference, as an anthropological refutation of attempts to negate the male-female duality of human nature, from which the family is generated,” the Congregation for Catholic Education wrote June 10, in a document entitled “Male and Female He Created Them.”

“The denial of this duality not only erases the vision of human beings as the fruit of an act of creation but creates the idea of the human person as a sort of abstraction who ‘chooses for himself what his nature is to be’,” the document states.

For Christians working in schools, both religious and secular, the radical individualism of gender theory should be avoided in favor of teaching children “to overcome their individualism and discover, in the light of faith, their specific vocation to live responsibly in a community.”

Dr. Susan Selner-Wright, who holds the Archbishop Chaput Chair in Philosophy at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, told CNA that “dialogue” does not, as some may believe, mean to “be able to carefully distinguish between ideology and genuine scientific contribution.”

She said the way to connect with members of the “iGen” generation, who want to “assert themselves as absolute and unquestionable, even dictating how children should be raised,” and then that cuts off dialogue... “That’s not real dialogue. That’s just people shouting at each other. It’s not a way to go forward and to help people to live well.”

True dialogue, she said, is not just “dropping knowledge” on people, but rather inviting them into a conversation in order to be able to propose reasons to support your point of view.

“I would caution people not to dismiss dialogue as something that always leads to compromise. It shouldn’t. It should lead us to journey together towards the one who is Truth,” she said.

Much of the document is a reiteration of existing Church teaching on gender, but Farnan said she appreciated the document’s points of emphasis on formation of teachers.

“I will say the gamechanger...is the absolute insistence that they have to form all of their teachers, so that every teacher who is in a classroom with a kid can articulate the Church’s teaching on gender,” Farnan said.

The document says that “school managers, teaching staff and personnel all share the responsibility of both guaranteeing delivery of a high-quality service coherent with the Christian principles.”

“The other brilliant thing about the document, I think, is that it shows the utter continuity from John Paul II through Benedict XVI to Francis on this specific issue,” Selner-Wright said. “I really liked the model that [the document] used: listen, reason, and propose.”

Farnan said she just finished a three-day workshop with members of the “iGen” generation, who have never known a time before the internet. She said the way to connect with members of the iGen is to be able to back claims up with science and to “be able to carefully distinguish between ideology and genuine scientific contribution.”

“The final part of it, which I think is the most important, is to propose Christian anthropology as a way of life,” Farnan explained.

“And honestly, if there’s anything that over the last four decades, five decades, we’ve been failing at as a Church is that we’re not going out and presenting a confident vision of how Christianity differs from culture. And this is an opportunity to...”

Continued on Page 15

“It’s important for our schools to have clear and consistent teaching, certainly around something that’s this important. It’s also important for our teachers to understand that the Church’s teaching contains the fullness of truth, therefore it’s always going to be the most charitable and the most loving answer. Pairing that with a compassionate person-to-person response I think is the best way forward.”

— Mary Pat Donoghue, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

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"The Southwest Kansas Catholic"

Published at the beginning of "Pride Month," the Congregation for Catholic Education wrote June 10, in a document entitled "Male and Female He Created Them."
How do I talk to God?

Continued from Page 10

we’re praying out loud or praying silently in our hearts and minds. After all, He knows all about us and knows what is going on inside us—both good and bad. The Bible says that God “judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible also says, “The Lord tests the thoughts of the wicked, but those of the pure are pleasing to him” (Proverbs 15:26).

God hears our prayers when we can’t even put them into words—times, for example, when our hearts are too burdened or confused even to speak. The Bible says, “the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express” (Romans 8:26).

One of God’s greatest gifts to us is the privilege of prayer—a privilege that is possible because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Thank God for the privilege of prayer and learn daily to “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (I Peter 5:7).

Prayer is one of our greatest privileges as God’s children, and even if God doesn’t seem to answer your prayers at first, don’t stop praying. God loves you, and no prayer goes unanswered.

Prayer is one of our greatest privileges as God’s children, and even if God doesn’t seem to answer your prayers at first, don’t stop praying. God loves you, and no prayer goes unanswered.

...Realize that sometimes God is actually answering our prayers when we don’t realize it—and the reason is because His answer may be “No” or “Wait.” Yes, we think we know what’s best for us—but God sees the whole picture, and sometimes He lovingly refuses to give us what we request, because He knows it isn’t according to His perfect plan.

Have you given your life to Jesus? If not, let your first prayer be one of confession and faith, asking Him to come into your life as your Lord and Savior.

Gender theory

Continued from Page 14

present a pretty stark difference. I think it’s really important.

“What this document reminds us is that, as educators, we have to make sure that they’re getting a complete understanding of what Christianity has to offer in a very positive way ... the authentic way to live a life of fulfillment of the human being.”

Farnan said she will watch with interest as individual dioceses work to implement the contents of the document. She highlighted Fort Wayne-South Bend as an example of a diocese that has been proactive in holding workshops for their teachers, educators, and priests to form them in Christian anthropology so they can answer their students’ questions about gender theory.

Mary Pat Donoghue, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told CNA in an interview that she also thinks the document will be useful for ongoing formation of Catholic educators.

“It’s a call for all of us to enter more deeply into an understanding of the Church’s teaching. I think that the document serves that purpose very, very beautifully,” Donoghue said.

“It also, though, has an element encouraging compassionate pastoral response, and I think that is important as well. So on a local level, diocesan level, finding ways to respond and to help schools to respond should these types of situations arise.”

Donoghue echoed Farnan’s point about the importance of “forming the formators.” Individual situations will always vary, she said, but schools faced with challenging situations related to gender theory should always be able to look to the diocesan level for guidance.

“It’s important for our schools to have clear and consistent teaching, certainly around something that’s this important,” she explained.

“It’s also important for our teachers to understand that the Church’s teaching contains the fullness of truth, therefore it’s always going to be the most charitable and the most loving answer. Pairing that with a compassionate person-to-person response I think is the best way forward.”

Bishop Michael Barber of Oakland is the chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education for the U.S. bishops’ conference, and Donoghue said she believes Barber would describe the document as a means to better understand Church teaching about the nature of the human person.

“All human people struggle and bear crosses in many, many different forms, and a person suffering from gender dysphoria bears a very painful cross, and so we certainly don’t stand to condemn or to judge, but to offer care and to bring about the fullness of the teaching to help to liberate that person,” Donoghue said.

Bea Cuasay and Michelle McDaniel contributed to this report.

“I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress.”

— Ronald Reagan
Melvin Lickteig
Christopher Lickteig

OBITUARIES

ROMEO “IR” 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, Terri Guerra, and Rene Guerra; and nieces and nephews Jack Thomas Guerra, Shawn Villa, Elia 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 Beam Senior Center. On August 7, 1954, he married Virginia Mae Drietz. She precedes him in death on April 18, 1991. He is survived by his son, Thomas; two daughters, Nancy Barragree and Michelle McClaran; a sister, Evelyn Eakes; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

PATRICIA ELAINE ’PATTY’ NUTZ ENSLINGER, 61, of St. Michael Parish, La Crosse, died June 1, 2019. Patty was born in Washington, Kansas, the youngest child of Walter and Bertha (Sedam) Nutz. She graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1978. On Oct. 28, 1978, Patty married Lynn Enslinger. Patty was a teacher for 28 years with USD 395 in La Crosse. Before her retirement in 2016, she had the opportunity to touch the lives of hundreds of students who remember her and her teaching styles fondly. Patty is survived by her husband, Lynn Enslinger; one son, Max, Dustin Enslinger; one daughter, Melissa Mine; nine grandchildren; three brothers; Jerry Nutz, Wayne Nutz, and Lawrence Nutz; and five sisters, Bonnie Elliott, Wanda Renner, Linda Falk, Mabel Comstock, and Leila Zenger. Father Eric G Yamf presided.

VALEN W. STEIN, 74, of Baldwin City, Kansas (and a resident of Speareville until he moved in 2012), died April 22, 2019. He was born in Dodge City, the son of Marcellus Stein and Anna (Ingersoll) Stein. Valen graduated from Windthorst High School with the class of 1962. In April of 1967, Valen entered the United States Army and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War. During his military service, Valen received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Rifle Sharpshooter commendation, and the Purple Heart Medal. On June 3, 1967 Valen married Norma Jean Schulte. Valen was a truck driver, working for Wright Co-op in Wright for 20 years before going to work for Farmland Feed Mills. He is survived by his wife, Norma Stein; four children, Marlene Stein, Alan Stein, Brenda Parsons, and Sheila Treblilcock; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two brothers, Dale and Glenn; and two sisters, Donna Besser and Joyce Schulte.

JIM KONRADE, 74, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City,

Scripture Readings

SUNDAY, JULY 7 THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

SUNDAY, JULY 7

MONT AG, JULY 8, St.
Gregory Grassi, Bishop and Companions, Martyrs
Genesis 28:10-22/ Matthew 9:16

TUESDAY, JULY 9
Genesis 32:23-33/ Matthew 9:32-38

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, St.
Vincenzo Giuliani, Virgin (Feast)
2 Corinthians 4:6-11, 16, 17/ Matthew 16:24-27

THURSDAY, JULY 11, St.
Benedict, Abbot
Genesis 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5/ Matthew 10:7-15

FRIDAY, JULY 12
Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30/ Matthew 10:16-23

SATURDAY, JULY 13; Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Genesis 49:29-32; 50:15-26/ Matthew 10:24-33

SUNDAY, JULY 14
Deuteronomy 30:10-14/ Colossians 1:15-20/ Luke 10:25-37

MONT AG, JULY 15, St.
Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Wisdom 8:2-7, 16-18 or 1 Corinthians 2:6-13/ Matthew 5:13-1

TUESDAY, JULY 16, Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Exodus 2:1-15/ Matthew 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
Exodus 3:1-9, 9-12/ Matthew 11:25-27

THURSDAY, JULY 18
Exodus 3:13-20/ Matthew 11:28-30

FRIDAY, JULY 19
Exodus 13:10-12/ Matthew 12:1-8

SATURDAY, JULY 20; Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Exodus 13:27-42/ Matthew 12:14-21

SUNDAY, JULY 21

MONT AG, JULY 22, St.
Mary Magdalene
Exodus 14:5-18/ John 20:1-2, 11-18

TUESDAY, JULY 23
Exodus 14:21-15/ Matthew 12:46-50

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24; St.
Sharbel Makhluf, Priest
Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15/ Matthew 13:1-9

THURSDAY, JULY 25; St.
James, Apostle
2 Corinthians 4:7-15/ Matthew 20:20-28

FRIDAY, JULY 26, Saints
Joseph and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sirach 44:1-4, 10-15/ Matthew 13:16-17

SATURDAY, JULY 27; Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Exodus 24:3-8/ Matthew 13:24-30

SUNDAY, JULY 28

MONT AG, JULY 29, St.
Martha

TUESDAY, JULY 30;
Blessed Solanus Casey, Priest
1 Corinthians 3:1-17/ Exodus 33:7-11, 34:5-9, 28/ Matthew 13:36-43

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, St.
Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Exodus 34:29-35/ Matthew 13:44-46

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1; St.
Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38/ Matthew 13:47-53

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2; Our Lady of the Angels of Portiuncula

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3; Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Exodus 25:1-2, 8-17/ Matthew 14:1-12

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
died June 10, 2019. He was born in Dodge City, the son of Raymond and Josephine (Weber) Konrade. A graduate of St. Mary High School and a lifetime Dodge City resident, he was a crane operator and yard foreman for Wessel Iron and Supply in Dodge City for 53 years, retiring in 2015. He later was a truck driver for JAG and Dodge City Sand. On August 10, 1985 he married Donna Hooper. She survives. Other survivors include: his brother, Mert; two granddaughters; and four great-grandchildren. Father John Forkosh presided.

JON D. ‘DAVE’ WAGNER, 77, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, and St. Andrew Parish, Wright, died June 14, 2019. He was born in Ellsworth, the son of Francis D., Sr. and Mary Virginia (Van Buren) Wagner. Dave graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Political Science. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1963 and was stationed in Germany and later transferred to the Army Reserves where he was honorably discharged in 1969. He served as Vice President of Kitchens, Inc. in Dodge City until his retirement in 1990. Dave also served as a Board of Director of the 1st National Bank of Dodge City. Dave is survived by his wife, Lynn; two daughters, Courtney Ancel and Jennifer Sowers; two stepdaughters, Cynthia Davis and Nikki Little; two brothers, Michael and Kenneth; five stepbrothers; eleven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Father Robert Schremmer and Father John Strasser presided.

HERMILIO AVITIA-MISCELEZ, 71, of Johnson, Kansas, who attended Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died June 17, 2019. He was born in Gomez Faris, Chihuahua, Mexico, the son of Jesus and Candelaria (Missela) Avitia. Hermilio married Corona Miniarez in 1972 in Rocky Ford, Colorado. Moving from Rocky Ford, they have lived in Johnson since 1976. He enjoyed woodworking, carpentry, playing cards and was known for his jokes and storytelling. He is survived by his wife, Corona; his son, Gildardo Avitia; daughters, Tina Olivas and Alicia Avitia; sisters, Ramona Torres, Chavela Ruiz and Carmelina Ruiz; six grandchildren; and one great-grandfather. Father Aneesh Parappanattu, MF5 presided.

HUGH GRESTY, JR., 91, of St. Joseph Parish, Scott City, passed away June 21, 2019. He was born in Coldwater, the son of Hugh and Anna Lenz Greesty. A lifetime resident of Scott City, Kansas, he was a farmer and cattlemen. He was a U.S. Army Veteran. On April 28, 1956 he married Doris A. Bilson; she passed away on Dec. 8, 1996. Survivors include daughters Charlotte Greesty, Linda Heili, Jeanie Vetter and Kari Youvon; brother Johnny Greesty; four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandfather. Father Warren Stecklein presided.

HAROLD W. WHITE, 90, of St. Joseph Parish, Scott City, passed away June 5, 2019. He was born in Tyrone, Nebraska, the son of Roy and Rena Robertson White. He was the owner and operator of White Concrete for more than 25 years until retiring in 1990. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran and was a member of the Knights Of Columbus. On April 20, 1949 he married Mary Ruth Gaschler in Marienthal, Kansas. She survives, along with one daughter, Susan Boulware; and two granddaughters, Brooke Boulware and Kadra Boulware.

NORMA JEAN LEIS, formerly of Minneola, passed away in Columbia, Missouri, on June 13, 2019, her 89th birthday. Norma was born in Dodge City, Kansas, on June 13, 1930, to George D. Harshberger and Beulah E. Schoonover. She married Donald W. Leis on Nov. 22, 1948. Don preceded Norma in death on June 11, 1993. She is survived by one sister, Ida Heinson; nine children, 22 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Her children are David, Mike, Brenda Jensen, Mark, Tom, Gail Laster, Dianne Peier, John, and Jana Brey. Norma is also survived by her brother-in-law, Clarence Leis, sisters-in-law Betty Leis, Dorothy Leis, LaVern Leis, Floydene Leis and Judy Harshberger, and numerous nieces and nephews.

JOANN KATHERINE BIERBERLE, 82, of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Hoisington, died June 20, 2019. She was born in Ellinwood, the daughter of Henry and Josephine (Straub) Luebbers. On June 9, 1958, she married Clarence Bierberle. A lifetime Barton County resident, JoAnn was a homemaker. She was a longtime member of the Altar Society, and a former member of St. Catherine’s Catholic Church and Altar Society in Dubuque, Kansas. She was a former member of the Daughters of Isabella, and the Clara Barton Hospital Auxiliary. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Clarence Bierberle; daughters Sandra Demel, Donna Nett, Betty Evers, and Janel Rugan; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild, Harlow Demel. Father Anselm Eke, MSP, presided.

JOSEPH (JOE) MERTENS, 92, of St. John the Baptist Parish, Meade, died June 2, 2019. He was born in rural Fowler, Kansas, 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. On August 7, 1954, he married Virginia Mae Drietz; she preceded him in death on April 18, 1991. He is survived by a son, Continued on Page 20

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


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FIRST:
1. Ago -> Go
2. Avenue -> Venue
3. Amen -> Men
4. Agreed -> Greed
5. Abuses -> Buses
6. Aspire -> Spire
7. Amount -> Mount
8. Avoid -> Void

SECOND:
8’ wound < 140 or 9/11
7’ amount < 74er or 7:46
6’ allow < 66 or 6:6
5. summer < 50 or 5:0
4. quarter < 40 or 4:0
3. summer < 30 or 3:0
2. amount < 20 or 2:0
1. ago < 10 or 1:0

THIRD:
Order: Curling Town, Canada
City, Hockeyville, Eh Land, New France, Snowburg.

Locati on: Hockeyville
(Sorry though, no money)
By FATHER BLAINE BURKEY, O.F.M.CAP.

D ENVER — The Capuchin-Franciscan friars of the Mid-America Province made history at their triennial election chapter held at Victoria during Easter week.

The Order elected a lay friar, Brother Mark Schenk, O.F.M.Cap, as their provincial minister, and thanks to the personal intervention of Pope Francis, his election was confirmed May 30 by the Vatican office handling religious orders.

Brother Mark, a religious vocation from St. Ann Parish in Olmitz, Kans., is only the third lay brother elected as a head of a province in the international order of 10,500 friars in more than a century and a half.

The confirmation of the first lay brother thus elected as a provincial minister in 1983 was confirmed by a vacation-time clerical error in Rome; but when another lay friar was thus elected in 2008, the Vatican office refused to confirm his election because of Canon 129 Sect. 1, which normally forbids a lay person from having jurisdiction over ordained persons.

Although the Congregation for Religious 17 great-grandchildren. Other surviving friars in Rome went directly to Pope Francis who said something along the line of, “Holy Father, this should happen.”

In the end, Brother Mark received the dispensation necessary to take office for a three-year term.

The Franciscan Order was founded in 1209 by Francis of Assisi as an order of brothers, and the latest Capuchin constitutions approved by the Holy See in 2013, say, “By reason of the same vocation, brothers are equal. Therefore, according to the Rule, the Testament and the earliest customs of the Capuchins, all of us are called brothers without distinction.”

“Within the Order, the province and the local fraternity, all offices and responsibilities must be open to all brothers, bearing in mind, however, that certain acts require sacred orders.”

Because of acts requiring ordination, the Vatican has regularly not confirmed the election of lay brothers as major superiors.

In Brother Mark’s case, however, it has agreed to let his vicar, who is ordained, perform reserved acts such as issuing letters asking a bishop to ordain one of the friars.

Since the Second Vatican Council, the Capuchins and other Franciscans have frequently asked the Holy See to honor the Franciscan charism as an order of brothers.

Confirmation of Brother Mark’s election shows that it is possible that the Holy See might one day allow this on a more regular basis.

Brother Mark, 62, has been a professed Capuchin since 1980, and has spent 22 of his 39 years as a Capuchin at the Order’s international headquarters in Rome, where he was the first lay friar to be vicar of the General Curia fraternity (1993), the first lay secretary general of the Order (1994), and the first lay friar elected a general councilor of the Order (2006).

Birth and life — Brother Mark attended St. Ann’s Grade School at Olmitz and Thomas More Prep in Hays. He took his collegiate studies at St. Fidelis College, Herman, Pa.; Rockhurst College, Kansas City Mo.; St. Thomas Seminary, Denver; Aquinas Institute, St. Louis; Ft. Hays State University, Hays; and Regis University, Denver. He earned Master’s degrees in theology and divinity and Aquinas Institute in 1984, and a Master’s in business administration from Regis in 2004.

(Shelby Gonzales, archivist emeritus of the Diocese of Dodge City, contributed to this article. For additional coverage see https://cruxnow.com.)

Obituaries

Thomas; two daughters, Nancy Barragre and Michelle McClaren; a sister, Evelyn Eakes; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

TERRY LEE PEREZ, 64, of Sacred Heart Parish, Larned, passed away June 22, 2019. He was born in Kinsley, the son of Clemente Rincon and Lucia M. Mariche Perez. On Nov. 30, 1974, he married Marilyn Sue Reed in Larned. She survives.

He served as a foster parent for more than 40 years. Other survivors include sons, T.J., Charlie, Brandon, and Treg Fletcher; four daughters, Crystal Naugle, April Perez, Miesha Perez, and Sydnie Morrow; four brothers, Felix, Raymond, Anthony, and Manuel; two sisters, Eleanor Sanders and Linda Garcia; and nine grandchildren. Father Bernard Felix presided.

LAVENRE ANN (HOFFMAN) LEIS, 91, of St. Anthony Parish, Fowler, died June 24, 2019. She was born in Minneola, the daughter of Leo and Kate (Berblinger) Hoffman. She graduated from Minneola High School in 1946. She and her twin sister followed their mother’s footsteps and were talented piano and organ players; they frequently played for the residents at the Fowler and Minneola Residential Care Centers. On Oct. 19, 1948, she married Claude Leis. He preceded her in death on Feb. 14, 2018. She belonged to St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, St. Anthony’s Parish Guild, St. Anthony’s Choir, and the Fowler American Legion Auxiliary.

Being the wife of a World War II veteran, she was exceptionally active with one of their fund-raisers, generating donations with the annual sale of “Poppies” on Memorial Day. Survivors include a son, Randy; daughters, Deborah Mahan, Barbara Whitehead, Peggy Higgins, and Jan McGregor; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Other survivors include a brother Clarence and Betty Leis, and sister-in-laws, Floydene Leis and Dorothy Leis.

MARY EILEEN (VOGEL) GRIFFITH, 73, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died June 23, 2019. She was born in Dodge City, the daughter of Henry and Julia (Menges) Vogel. She was a 1964 graduate of St. Mary High School. She was as a nurse’s aide at the Kansas Soldiers Home at Ft. Dodge, worked in the cafeteria at Excel, now Cargill, and owned and operated a day care in Dodge City. On Sept. 13, 1969 she married Keith Robert Griffith. He preceded her in death on April 7, 2006. Survivors include: her daughter, Tina Van Wyhe; a brother, Don Vogel; a sister, Carol Ann Mitchell; and a grandson, Brennan Van Wyhe. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

VELEETA ALLENE DOLL, 88, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died June 24, 2019. She was born in Dodge City, the daughter of Lemuell (L.L.) and Elsie Anders. Veleta was married on April 26, 1951, on a baseball diamond in Greenwood, Mississippi, to Loren Doll. She survives along with six children: Janice McNiece, Kathy Miller, Steve Doll, Mike Doll, John Doll, and Lori Oldham; 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; her sister, Wanda Culver; and her sister-in-law, Pat Anders.

ANITA PATTERSON, 80, of St. John the Apostle Church, Kiowa, died June 24, 2019. Anita was born to Leo and Dorothy Jenkinson. She married James Patterson in 1956 and they lived several places before settling in Kiowa in 1978. She helped with the South Barber Ministerial Alliance for many years. She is survived by her five children, 11 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

J. MELVIN GLEASON, 83, of St. Nicholas Parish, Kinsley, died June 27, 2019. He was born May 26, 1936, to John and Anne Marie (Antone) Gleason. He married Ann Lee (Bolding) Jones on Dec. 10, 1965; she survives. He was a U.S. Army Veteran, he cowboyed, worked at and managed feed lots and sold cattle, traded horses and team roped all through Arizona, Kansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Louisiana.