The Lost Son

While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him” (Luke 15:20).

What a homecoming! A blessed reconciliation! Extraordinary unconditional love!

Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal Son is my favorite scripture, and the source of my episcopal motto “Filled with Compassion.” The Gospel from last weekend was truly an expression of Evangelization with joy.

What does the word “evangelization” bring to mind? What does it mean to “evangelize”? I first think of the missionaries many centuries ago bringing the Word of God to peoples in far-off lands, like the Jesuit missionaries. Or I imagine the ministry of the Pope traveling the globe for World Youth Day, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with young people.

The story of the Lost Son also expresses evangelization. The younger son was on his own path of selfishness and pleasure-seeking. “Coming to his senses,” he realized he needed to return to his home and confess to his father. The father concretely shared the teaching of Jesus by showing him God’s path: the call to holiness is the way of reconciliation and unconditi onal love.

Note that this evangelization is never completed until the heavenly kingdom is reached. For example, Jesus does not say that the prodigal son apologized (he just confessed). We pray that we continue to listen to the Lord’s prompting to take the next step in our evangelical journey, in our own life and for others.

Let us truly evangelize, sharing Jesus’ example with others. Let us be evangelized, by receiving the joy of the Gospel from others. Jesus will help us: He loves us more than we can ask or imagine!

+ Bishop John
Come to the table
Parishes offer invites to annual dinners

Holy Name Parish, Bushton, Oct. 20

Holy Name Catholic Church of Bushton will host its annual Fall Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 20, at the Bushton Community Center on the north side of Bushton. The roast beef dinner will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year’s event also will include a traditional raffle with more than 50 items and featuring a queen-size quilt as the grand prize, plus a special children’s raffle featuring a boy’s and girl’s gift basket as the grand prize.

In addition, there will be a cake wheel and numerous children’s games.

Cost of the meal, including a salad bar and pie, is $10 for adults, $5 for children ages 6 – 12, and free for those age 5 and under.

St. Bernard Parish, Belpre, Oct. 23

St. Bernard Parish in Belpre will present its 57th Annual Turkey Supper in the parish hall, Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 5 p.m. until the food runs out. The cost for the meal tickets is adult, $10; children ages 5-12, $5; and children under five, free.

The parish will serve mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, green beans, homemade breads, jello, and a variety of desserts.

Included will be a country store, games and raffle. Prizes include a quilt handmade by Cheryl Skalsky; a hundred dollar bill; a $75 certificate to Burkhart Meats in Kinsley; Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Tour concert tickets for two at United Wireless in Dodge City; and a Rosewood Wine Cellar gift basket.

Daughters of Isabella, Garden City, Nov. 9

On Saturday, Nov. 9, The Daughters of Isabella will host its annual soup supper at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Garden City, 205 N. 8th St., from 4-8 p.m. The supper is the largest fund raiser of the year for the Daughters of Isabella. Homemade chili and chicken noodle soup will be served, and a relish plate, and cheese and jalapenos will be included. Available will be a silent auction and raffle.

The cost is $8 for adults, $5 for children 13 and under, and children under age 5 eat for free.

If you need more information, contact Betty Brungardt at (620) 275-4836.

HELP WANTED

Diocesan Director of Youth Ministries

The Diocesan Director of Youth Ministries supports and encourages diocesan and parochial ministry to youth and with youth in collaboration with parish ministers and pastors; specifically implementing US Bishops’ document, “Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry”. The director provides direct outreach and development to 47 parishes over 23,000 square miles in our rural, multi-ethnic, mission diocese, as well as, provides diocesan, regional, and national events and gatherings. A successful candidate has a degree in Pastoral Ministry or equivalent, a minimum of 3 years successful diocesan or parish ministry, must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. Proficiency in Spanish is a definite plus. Send résumé and cover letter describing applicant’s vision of effective, comprehensive youth ministry to Georgina Paz, Director of the Curia, gpaz@dcdiocese.org, P.O. Box 137, Dodge City, KS 67801. Position open until filled.

National Problem Gambling Helpline

The National Council on Problem Gambling operates the National Problem Gambling Helpline Network (1-800-522-4700). The network is a single national access point to local resources for those seeking help for a gambling problem. Help is available 24/7 and is 100% confidential.

The National Problem Gambling Helpline Network also includes text and chat services. These features enable those who are gambling online or on their mobile phone to access help the same way they play. One call, text or chat will get you to problem gambling help, anywhere in the U.S. 24/7/365.

Help is also available via an online peer support forum at www.gamtalk.com.

Opioid addiction/suicide hotline

For information about opioid addiction or to seek help, visit https://ckfaddictiontreatment.org/, or call (785) 825-6224. For information about suicide prevention, visit SpeakingOfSuicide.com, or, if you are having thoughts of suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.
The Cursillo Movement of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City celebrated its annual Fiesta de Colores on Sept. 8, 2019 at the Activity Center in Liberal. It was a day-long celebration beginning at 11 a.m. and ending with Mass at 5 p.m. celebrated by Bishop John B. Brungardt. The theme of this fiesta was “Today, Tomorrow and Always, Christ is Counting on You.” The guest speaker was Juan Ruiz, Hispanic Coordinator for the National Cursillo Office.

The Fiesta de Colores is an annual diocesan celebration where people come together for fellowship and, of course, to share great food. It’s an event created to celebrate our Catholic faith and the encounter with Christ that changed our lives. There are music, skits, and plenty of food. The money that is raised through various raffles and food sales is used to fund the Cursillo retreats, scholarships for students studying in area community colleges, and for other activities at individual parishes.

The Fiesta de Colores has been celebrated for many years and the location alternates from year to year between Liberal, Dodge City, Garden City and Ulysses (where it first began many years ago). It has also become tradition to crown a king and queen from the local parish. The king and queen are usually the children or grandchildren of a parishioner who is active in the Cursillo Movement. The parents consider it a great honor to have their children crowned king and queen, and it’s just one more way to make the fiesta a family event. It’s also a way to recognize the parents and the great work that they are doing as volunteers in their parishes.

By GEORGINA PAZ
(Este artículo está en español en la página 13).

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An unexpected journey

My mom was preparing to make a big move. She was going to leave Denver and her assisted living apartment and move to Houston, where she would be close to my brother, Tom, and his children and grandchildren.

Sadly, God had another journey in mind. On Sept. 5, 10 months and one day after my dad died, Mom had a massive stroke and died within the hour.

I’m glad she didn’t suffer. She’s with my dad, her parents, nine brothers and sisters, her nephew/little brother, Bill, several furry little pooches at her side, and, of course, the Lord—her Father in Heaven, who welcomed her like a dad at the birth of his first child.

The day before she died, after she began to say her good-byes as she prepared for Houston, she told me, “People are really sorry to see me go! I guess I did have an impact!”

That’s putting it mildly.

Mom’s generous spirit made her the go-to person at her assisted living center for anyone having difficulties. She was a shoulder to cry on. People were drawn to her.

Why? At 90, Mom had the mind of a kid. She lived to be goofy. To laugh. To make others laugh. People were drawn to her.

And it’s not something into which she had to put any effort. It just came naturally. Add to this a tremendous gift for listening.

It’s so hard, now, to keep having to force the reality of her loss down my throat like a pill the size of a dinner plate. But I have to remember that Mom wants us to laugh and have fun. To be goofy.

We moved to Colorado from Wyoming when I was four, which feels like a thousand years ago. One of my earliest memories is spilling a large glass of orange soda on a hotel bed. Mom pulled me aside, sat me on her lap, and said softly, “Your clumsiness comes from Dad’s side of the family.”

Before heading off to Kindergarten, Mom and I would really watch “Dark Shadows” together. I know that may sound weird, but this was the late 60s. Compared to what’s available today on current events, “Dark Shadows” was like Mr. Rogers … if Mr. Rogers had fangs and drank blood. (In case any young children are reading this, Mr. Rogers was not—I repeat, NOT—a vampire, and the puppets were not evil minions who did bad, bad, bad bidding.)

I still remember sitting on Mom’s lap watching our little black and white TV in the kitchen. I can see her watching episodes of “As the World Turns” as she ironed our clothes, her hair up in curlers.

I remember peering up at her as she led us around K-Mart to get our school supplies (“Shoppers, there’s a blue light special on Big Chief Tablets in the school supplies aisle!”). The “Toughskin” jeans and Converse Allstars came from Sears, where with each pair of shoes Sears gave you a little March of Comics comic book.

Mom made many of our clothes. This was the early 70s. On picture day, my brother and I looked like extras from Soul Train. We had to wear hard, round-toed shoes with inch-and-a-half thick heels to church. These were our “good shoes.” “You never wore tennis shoes to church.”

Thankfully, neither of us ever sustained injuries. Mom and Dad had four kids, two girls and two boys, whom Mom and Dad patiently helped through their trials and tribulations, and dealt with grace and wisdom those trials we brought into their lives.

Mom provided us a supreme example of a giving heart when she and Dad sponsored several refugees, men from Africa who lived in our home. Hers was a generous and brave heart, opening her life to the unknown.

And when she worked for Birthright as a counselor, she was an example of “pro-life” before I had a clue what pro-life was.

In her assisted living home, she balanced TV time between Home and Garden, EWTN, and CNN, being intently focused on current politics and policies. Even at 90, she’d often ask me to call her back because CNN had “a really interesting report on.” She was irritated that so few others felt the need to keep up with current events.

Come to think of it, there are things she won’t miss here on earth, like the current state of politics (I won’t mention the language she used to describe the sad state of our political stew), birds (she had a fear of birds ever since a rooster tried numerous times to attack her as a child, forcing her to run to the outhouse), social gatherings (which I inherited!), and mean people.

Mom was a dear friend to me. I phoned her and dad every night for the last 20 years or so, and then, when Mom became seriously ill about five years ago, I began checking in at lunchtime as well. Two calls a day for five years. I still find myself checking the clock. It is time to call Mom?

Sometimes she was sad and lonely, crying into the phone. But most of the time she was cheery, ready to crack me up with her incredible sense of humor, ready to listen and to share advice I needed to hear.

Having said all this, I don’t want this column to be just about me, my loss. So many of us have faced, or are facing, terrible loss. In Spearville, we’ve seem to have lost a handful of residents of late. Perhaps in your community as well.

Words can help, but they don’t begin to take away the pain. Prayer won’t automatically take away the pain, either, but God will provide healing, and moments of peace in the sadness. Even moments of laughter. (Like when I texted my sister that I would bring a blow-up mattress to Denver for the funeral, and my phone changed my misspelled “mattress” to “mate.” Yikes!) I learned when my dad died that those peace moments expand, until peace ever-so-slowly takes up more time than sadness.

There’s no magic trick to getting through mourning. Pray, talk it out with friends and loved ones, and know that it will get better. God’s great gift provides us this reality: No matter what is happening in your life, the best is always yet to come. We will all meet again.

Inherit the Mirth

By Cuyler Black (cuylerblack.com)

In the Dark and in the Dry

Many who pray find themselves wandering in the Dark and the Dry: they cannot see anything of God, and they cannot feel anything of God. It should be no surprise, really. The first thing Adam and Eve did after they had turned their back on God, was to hide from Him. The first thing God did after Adam and Eve had sinned was to hide from them.

Hence the dark in our prayer, hence the dry. It should be no surprise, really. When Moses asked God for His name, he was but following an instinct deep inside him. Two things meet and find expression in a word: the substance of the object that makes an impact; and that portion of our spirit which responds to that particular object. At least, these two should go together in the making of words, and did when the first man made them. That is why the name of God conceals when it reveals.

It should be no surprise, really. On their way out of slavery in Egypt, the Hebrews were led by the Pillar of Cloud by day, and by the Pillar of Fire by night. The journey was often dark for them, the journey was often dry.

It all stands to reason, really. The tools we have for knowing are limited. Our senses, our imagination, our memories; our reason, our concepts, our judgments, our will … all these are limited. No touch of ours, no sound can give us God. No word, no concepts of ours can wrap itself around God. Our will come closest in this world, our love of Him almost takes on eyes, almost sees Him.

So expect the dark, and expect the dry. Not because He disapproves of you. Not because He is trying to punish you. He hides because He is God, and you are not.

So expect the dark, and expect the dry. Expect Him to conceal as He reveals. It is there, it is then that He reveals His real self.
When I first moved into the cozy little house I rent, my yard, especially the backyard, was a bit of a disaster. A double-lot and long-neglected by previous tenants, what green there was was mostly weeds, and there were large, barren spots flooded with mud that bore a striking resemblance to the mud flats of Chugach Sound. (Just think “reeeelly muddy.”) Oh, but I had my plans. I didn’t see the yard for its weaknesses and bare spots, but for its potential. I told myself, I would rehabilitate it. I had an inkling that I should like to create a yard so lovely, the Lord himself would like to take a stroll in it in the evening, just like he did in the Garden of Eden. And we would walk and talk together. So in that first late summer, I attacked the soil and pulled up weeds and cultivated and tilled. In the flowerbeds, I planted crocus bulbs four inches deep with their tender heart-tips pointing skyward. I planted hyacinths, gladiolas, creeping flax. My parents donated some hostas from their yard and because hostas are hardy, I planted those in the worst soil around the edges of the back yard. My efforts were filled with the deep satisfaction that comes with dirt and sweat and the promise of growing things. And they were met with some success. It was the main feature, the grass itself, which resisted my gardening genius. On multiple occasions, and admittedly with no clue what I was doing, I attempted to seed the lawn with patch seed, the kind meant for little trouble spots, not half a yard. And which, after a big rain, resulted in what can only be described as grass hair-plugs—little, collected tufts of grass where the seed had pooled in the rainstorm, a miniature staccato forest dotting the baldness. I learned: building a garden and greening a yard takes some time, some seasons, some commitment, some help. The human heart is not so different. “We will come to you and make our home with you.” In John 14:23, Jesus promises to those who keep his word that “he will come to them and make his home with them.” How I long to keep his word and to be the kind of heart and soul where Jesus readily makes his home. A lovely, quiet, gentle place where virtue blossoms and the fruits of the spirit hang low for plucking, where Jesus himself finds rest, joy, comfort. When the Catholic Spirit asked me to become a regular columnist, I quickly landed on this title, “Your Home, His Home” because I believe it encapsulates the deepest yearning of the human soul: to become home for the very sacred heart of Jesus. How shall we prepare a place for him? What kind of home shall we be for the Lord? Into my fourth year now in my house, I take joy as I walk in the yard and watch my purple clematis climbing the trellis. It grows just behind my statues of the Holy Family, draping over their heads, a living canopy. I walk in my back yard, the grass strengthened now mostly by the efforts of a friend who donates his time to killing the plantain and seeding properly, and I praise the Master Gardner for the seasons he has devoted to cultivating me, that I might bloom and blossom and bear fruit that will last. Holy Trinity, I beg you, make your home with me.

By ELIZABETH KELLY

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Acts of Kindness

I have the best and kindest neighbors in town. My neighbor, Vic, who lives across the street on the south corner, came over on his riding mower while I was finishing the front lawn, and asked if I needed help. I told him he could cut the back yard, which he did, and even bagged the grass. I have loaned my mower to him when he needs it, because he has a corner lot and lots of grass. My neighbor Shawn, who lives east of me, has cut my backyard and edged my front lawn without me even asking, and refused payment. He even installed my solar lights on my garage, which come on at night automatically. My neighbor Don, to the west, who also has a corner lot and has a riding mower, will cut my grass when we’re on vacation. He has even taken us and then picked us up from the train station very early in the morning and late in the night when we go to California. He also refuses pay. We repay all of them with enchiladas and tamales.

-- Frank Sumaya, Dodge City
Science and God’s plan

Celebrating Natural Family Planning

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

Editor’s Note: After Masses at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe back in July, diocese residents Diana Ramirez, Ana Gaytan, Heidy Ramirez, Noelle Garcia, and Kelsey Dalton spoke about their experiences with NFP, or Natural Family Planning. In the last issue, an article highlighted the “Creighton” Model of NFP. The following article highlights the Billings (also known as Ovulation) Model.

Heidy Ramirez (pronounced “Haidy”) had been trying for more than a year to become pregnant. At the time, she and her husband, Carlos, had two children, ages 7 and 5. The vocation of motherhood was calling her to have more children. She wanted a larger family. Problem is, her body wasn’t cooperating.

Ramirez moved to Dodge City with her parents, Bertha and Luis de Luna, and her two brothers, from Juarez, Mexico at age 14. She graduated Dodge City High School in 1997 and began attending Dodge City Community College.

At 19, she met and married Carlos and the couple had two children. Amid her struggles to have a third child, she learned about the Billings, or Ovulation, method of Natural Family Planning.

“After a year of trying to have a child, after I discovered the Billings Model, I became pregnant within one month,” Ramirez said with a wide grin from the Catholic chancery.

In fact, she was so impressed with the model that she became an instructor, and for the last 13 years (and four children later), has instructed numerous couples how to use the program.

“It’s the simplest of all the programs,” Ramirez explained. (The Billings Model is one of handful of models under the umbrella of Natural Family Planning.)

There’s a reason for its simplicity. While the Creighton Method (highlighted in the last issue) offers a more medically in-depth study of a woman’s reproductive cycle, the Billings Model is used for one thing and one thing only: to determine when a woman is most likely, and least likely, to conceive.

They are not competing programs. In fact, Ramirez noted that there are occasions when she will suggest a couple meet with a Creighton instructor, such as if the woman has an irregular cycle.

“Like the other methods,” Ramirez said, “you have to chart every day, marking your calendar. You note your sensations, what you see and what you feel.

“I like that I know where I’m at – what my body is doing and how it is working.”

One of the benefits of the model is, well, kind of amazing. Ramirez was able to determine when would be the best time to conceive in order that they might have a child of the gender of their choosing.

And they used the method to do just that. For two of their six children.

By studying reproductive bodily fluids, the couple “can determine when the best day is to plan for a boy or girl,” she said. “Of course, God has the final word! It is good for couples who have only girls or only boys.”

It’s one of those best kept secrets, which, when you learn of its existence and what it means, you discover one more time the power of God’s incredible design.

It is, after all, both highly scientific and Church-approved, because it doesn’t in any way hinder the body’s natural reproductive functions.

“It’s a call to chastity,” Ramirez said, having noted that there are specific times when the woman’s body is fertile, and that the couple should abstain during these times if they don’t wish another child.

“It’s not just for health reasons, it is doing what God planned for us. It’s not always easy, but it’s not impossible. You have to have faith. I like going to Communion knowing that I am following God’s will.”

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Daughters of Isabella help Ellinwood, Great Bend kids go Back to School

The Daughters of Isabella, Immaculate Conception Circle #744, recently hosted a back to school project for Joyce Beadles-Fry, Auditor; Judy Krebaum, Regent; and Jolene Rzika, Past Regent. Accepting the items on behalf of the Circle were Joyce Beadles-Fry, Auditor; Judy Krebaum, Regent; and Jolene Rzika, Past Regent. Accepting the items were Karen Moeder, School Principal and D of I member; Kathy Hayes, Secretary; and the following students, front row, left to right: Jordy Meyer, Dylan Sundahl, Jakoby Sundahl, and Isabel Gregg. Students standing, left to right: Gigi Pivonka, Cohen Pivonka, Caitlyn Kuhn, Logan Krebaum, Mya Krebaum, Delton Thier, Bryson Thier, and Sawyer Zimmerman.
Golf tourney links friendly competition with grateful giving

High hearts and low pars: Golf Classic scores an eagle

By DAVE MYERS
Southwest Kansas Catholic

"A perfect day." That was how Mark Roth described the Fifth Annual Dechant Foundation Golf Classic, held to raise funds to help defray the cost of long-term health insurance for our retired priests.

"They’ve spent most their lives taking care of us, helping provide our spiritual needs," Roth said. "The event allows us a way to care for them by contributing to their welfare later in life."

Eighty-three players comprising 21 teams competed on a sunny Sept. 6 at Mariah Hills Golf Course in Dodge City. Among the players were retired priests Father Reggie Urban and Father Benjamin Martin, several active priests and Sisters from the Diocese of Dodge City, and two priests from the Diocese of Wichita.

Prior to competition, Bishop John B. Brungardt celebrated Mass for the competitors at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Just before the shotgun start, he blessed the large group of men and women competitors.

In the end, more than $20,000 of alms was raised. "The funds will greatly help offset the cost of their insurance—long-term care insurance, health insurance, etc...."

Unlike the parish priest, women and men Religious are supported in retirement through their specific congregations, as well as the national Retirement Fund for Religious. Parish priests are supported through their diocese, as well their own out-of-pocket expenses.

"I thought the day was a perfect," Roth said. "Everybody seemed to have a good time. Several people said they were already looking forward to next year!"

"The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day for golf, and a beautiful day to share alms for the benefit of our retired priests," said Bishop Brungardt. "Imagine how many sacraments our 14 retired priests and two retired bishops have celebrated over the years! Many thanks to the golfers and sponsors who generously shared their financial gifts to this worthy cause."

-- Bishop John Brungardt

Editor’s Note: Many people and organizations generously sponsored the Golf Classic. As in years past, the Southwest Kansas Catholic will include a special “thank you” in the next issue, which will be dated Oct. 6.
The sad truth about human trafficking

By DAVE MYERS

Human trafficking is the second most lucrative crime in the United States. Why? You can only sell a bag of cocaine once. But a 15-year-old girl you can sell again and again and again. These shocking words came from keynote speaker Sharon Sullivan, a professor at Washington University, at the Stewardship Conference Aug. 24.

“They look for the most vulnerable,” she said of the traffickers, “those who feel unloved—undocumented immigrants seeking a better life; a child who wants attention.”

Human trafficking seek victims for two primary reasons: labor and sex.

In fact, if you’ve stayed in hotels, visited casinos, or eaten in restaurants, there is a good possibility that you encountered someone who was a victim of labor trafficking.

Sexual trafficking is more obvious. This would include prostitution via massage parlors, “residential brothels,” and online exploitation, including forced inclusion in pornographic videos as a form of “advertisement.”

If you haven’t brushed by one, then you may have driven by on Highway 35, a prime north-south highway on which victims are moved.

“People who are under control of a trafficker have no choice,” Sullivan said. “The trafficker breaks the victim’s spirit until they’ll do whatever they have to do to stay alive.”

And it doesn’t take much. The vast majority of victims who are forced into prostitution—85 to 90 percent—were abused as children; 60 percent cited incest. What’s even more shocking is that 40 percent of those trafficked are done so by family members. The average age of a trafficking victim is 14.

The primary reason for trafficking is money. The primary reason for its success is the abundance of customers.

“If there was no money in it, the traffickers would have no business,” Sullivan said. “As long as there is a demand, men will show up.”

There is big money in trafficking. One trafficker with three women victims cited earning $580,000 per year. This is why Sullivan warned that if you ever feel you have encountered a trafficking victim, don’t intercede. Instead, call 911. The trafficker will not stand by and let his victim be taken from him.

“We have the power as a community to change this,” Sullivan said. “This is the latest incarnation of slavery, and we can change that.”

One of the primary needs is education—both children and adults. The internet, for example, is a prime location for the trafficker to begin manipulating a child. Immigrants from across the globe need to be aware of the lure of false promises of jobs.

Census participation = federal funding

By DAVE MYERS

The U.S. Census, which will be taken next year, is not a method for Big Brother to check up on who’s who in our neighborhoods and communities.

Although it does have to do with checks. Blanca Soto of Kansas Appleseed (a non-profit, non-partisan community advocacy organization), explained that one of the primary reasons for the census is so that the federal government can determine which communities receive federal funding.

“For every person who does not take part, their community loses $20,000 over the next decade,” Blanca said.

For example, if even a few dozen families with children at a particular school fail to take part in the census, that school may not receive needed federal funding that they deserve—based on the low student count.

The census doesn’t care where the children are from, or whether they’re here legally.

“Sometimes we don’t understand how many places benefit from federal funding. There is $635 billion to be rewarded after the census—money used for schools, to repair and maintain roads. It has to go somewhere. It will go to another community.”

“A lot of federal programs in southwest Kansas have closed due to a lack of funding,” she said.

“A lot of these programs we don’t associate with federal funding.”

Another reason for the census is to get an accurate count of people. It makes sense.

“We need more businesses,” Blanca said. “A lot of chain restaurants don’t come here unless we have 50,000 people.”

If you check online, you’ll see that as of 2016, Garden City had more than 26,000 residents. Is this an accurate count? At one point, the City of Garden City said no, and sued the federal government.

“They felt under-counted.”

It’s not difficult to imagine that many communities are indeed under-counted. Why does this happen? Undocumented immigrants may fear that it will lead to deportation; others may shun the idea of placing themselves further on the grid; or they simply don’t want to take the time to fill out the form.

In fact, the primary and most important questions on the census questionnaire have nothing to do with citizenship; they ask how many people are living in the home, and what are their ages, Blanca said.

The census is simply a way for communities to be accurately represented.

The census needs census-takers, which are temporary, paid positions. Visit www.census.gov or www.census.gov/room.

More information on the census, and how it is sent to people (for example, P.O. Boxes will not receive the census by mail), will be included in an article titled “The March 9, 2020 date in which recipients begin to receive notice that the census is upcoming.”

On this page are stories based on just a few of the many sessions that were held, which highlighted everything from human trafficking, to the art of the door-to-door mission, to several presentations on preparing for and contending with disaster. Other stories will be published in issues to follow.

Finding peace by having less

By TIM WENZL

Heidy Ramirez, development assistant and data base manager on the charitay staff, gave an informative presentation entitled “Declutter and Find Peace.” She was invited to be a presenter after sharing this comment with Bishop John Brungardt and Director of Stewardship Eric Haselhorst: “Getting rid of things has helped me to have more time and not lose my peace.”

Ramirez began her presentation with a quote from St. Augustine, “Order brings peace.” She told those present that some time ago she had lost her peace and St. Augustine offered her these words: “Moderation is the mother of order, and order brings peace.” After hearing this, Ramirez looked up the word “moderation” in a dictionary where she read: “avoidance of excess; self-discipline; to maintain balance and live with wellness.” It changed her life.

Ramirez suggested different websites for helping to get organized: happilyorganizedlife.com and livible.com. Happy Organized Life defines clutter this way: “Clutter is chaos, it’s a suffocating presence that drains us of peace and joy and instead fills us with fear, hopelessness, shame and anxiety.”

She suggested looking into Marie Kondo’s method, a system of simplifying and organizing your home by getting rid of physical items that do not bring joy into your life.”

“Keep what your love, use, and have space for. Don’t keep the ‘no value stuff,’” said Ramirez. “Picture your ideal life. If you are not living it, you need to start decluttering. You’ll need boxes to help you make your decisions: keep, donate and sell. Don’t get too emotional while you are doing it. Always remember, decluttering will bring you peace. Be grateful for what you have.”

“Picture your ideal life. If you are not living it, you need to start decluttering. You’ll need boxes to help you make your decisions: keep, donate and sell. Don’t get too emotional while you are doing it. Always remember, decluttering will bring you peace. Be grateful for what you have.”

-- Heidy Ramirez
Celebrating Sisters
Dominican Sisters of Peace: a decade of memories and mission

Sister Mary Th omasine Steockeylin, a lifetime educator and professed Adorer of the Blood of Christ for 78 years, died Sept. 4, 2019 at the community’s Wichita Center. She was 96.

Sister Mary Thomasine was the second of eight children and spent her childhood on the family farm. She was baptized Edna Mae at St. John the Baptist, a country church south of Bazine in Ness County. One of her siblings also joined the ASC community as Sister Joyce Steockeylin.

Mary Thomasine entered the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in August 1939, professing first vows on Aug. 10, 1941 and final vows five years later. She celebrated her 75th anniversary on May 8, 2016.

Sister Mary Thomasine earned a bachelor’s degree in education administration from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison and in 1960, a master’s in education from Saint Louis University. She also attended summer classes at the Universities of Illinois, Minnesota and Connecticut.

She taught college education classes for 25 years at Newman University in Wichita, where she was an associate professor of education and Education Department chair. Prior to Newman, she spent 15 years as an elementary teacher and/or principal and three years as a high school math teacher. She had two teaching assignments at parish schools in the Diocese of Dodge City: St. Joseph’s, Ellinwood (1943-1946), and St. Mary’s, Kansas native Sr. Gemma Doll, a member of the leadership team of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, addresses the Congregation during their recent Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

Great Bend Open House, Sept. 22

The Dominican Sisters of Peace are celebrating their Tenth Anniversary with an Open House today, Sunday, Sept. 22. They are inviting the public to join them with a special Prayer Service beginning at 1:30 p.m., with a tour and refreshments following. The love, support and gifts of many have been an important part of the past decade. RSVP to Sister Eloise at ehertel@oppeace.org or call 620-792-1232 if you would like to join them.

In honor of the Dominican Sisters of Peace’s commitment to peace, the Congregation closed the assembly by presenting a Promoter of Peace award to the Northern Cheyenne Ministerial Association. The Promoter of Peace award was created to honor organizations that demonstrate a commitment to peacemaking and reflect the values of the Dominican Sisters of Peace and Associates, especially their commitment to women and children.

Also honored were:
• The Lord’s Diner: A ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, the Lord’s Diner has served a hot, nutritious evening meal every day for the past 17 years, feeding more than 5 million people.
• Freedom a la Carte: A non-profit organization in Central Ohio whose business, a catering firm, employs and supports survivors of sex trafficking.
• Hotel Hope: A New Orleans ministry that moves people from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Dominican Sisters of Peace, members of the Order of Preachers, are vowed Catholic women who strive to spread the Gospel of Christ and advance the Kingdom of God through lives of service and peace-making. The Dominican Sisters of Peace are present in 22 states and serve in two countries. The Sisters serve God’s people in many ways, including education, health care, spirituality, pastoral care, prison ministry, the arts, and care of creation. There are 438 sisters and more than 30 lay associates affiliated with the congregation.

Attend the 12th Annual Knights of Columbus Oktoberfest

Public Welcome
Fun starts Sept. 28th @ 11 a.m. ‘till Midnight

Great German Style Food
Bierocks, Brats
Cabbage Rolls,
Turkey Legs & More

Come in any Oktoberfest style costume and get $2 off your admission price of $8. After 9 p.m., FREE Admission

THREE Bands
@ Noon Wes Winholz Band
@ 4:00 The Hot Shots
@ 8:00 Country Rock from Buckner Creek Band

Kids Under 12 Admitted FREE
RAFFLE: $500.00 cash, PLUS MORE Cornhole Tournament Horseshoe Tournament Volleyball Tournament Beer Garden and Big Screen

More Information or to Pre-Order Carry-Out Food, Call Linda at 620-255-4000 or 620-225-1421. Carry-Out Food Orders must be in by 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26 to be picked up on Saturday.
State officers preparing for the Tootsie Roll Drive set for Oct. 11-13: (left to right) front row, Michael Grothoff, Janney Minaretti, Larry Hammel, Lino Munoz, Patrick Burnett, Darin Reed, Bruce Luehring, Todd Bachem and Gary Wondr.

TOOTSI Roll DRIVE SET FOR OCTOBER 11-13

At this time the Kansas State Council along with the Governor of Kansas will set forth plans for its 57th Annual Knights of Columbus Knights of Columbus Fund Drive. On these days Knights of Columbus members across the state of Kansas will be working side by side in shopping malls, street and churches, distributing specially marked Tootsie Rolls and asking for donations in support of our fellow citizens with intellectual disabilities. The proceeds turned in to the State Council, 40% will be distributed to Knights of Columbus councils for distribution to local institutions of their choice that assist persons with intellectual disabilities. The remaining 90% will be applied by the Kansas state council for the ongoing mission of the Knights of Columbus to sponsor the Special Olympics basketball and volleyball programs.

FOR THE KANSAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FALL 2019

Official State Publication — Kansas State Council, Knights of Columbus — Fall 2019

YOU SHALL NOT KILL

The Fifth Commandment doesn’t lend itself much interpretation in our modern times. Four simple words have somehow been twisted under a lot of circumstances. Does the Catholic Church teach? The Catechism says, “Human life is sacred because from the beginning it reflects the image and likeness of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with him; therefore, it is holy, solemn and inviolable.” In the Church’s direct contact. There is nothing to the contrary. The Church has never uplifted than to an instru- ments of death. No one can object to His people in their need of an open heart that is prominent, a paralyzing statement. The professional priest in the confessional, the people who come through the confessional door are not failures that are acceptable. If we attempt from our short-sightedness, the ignorance of those who are being that has failed; that’s the hu- man being. Now, that seems a bit more cut and dry. We’ve all heard the saying “From the Cripple to the Grave.” Unfortunately, this statement doesn’t do much in defense of the unborn. Rather, we as Catholics are called to defend life from the “Womb to the Tomb,” or from Conception to natural death.

According to the Knights of Columbus website, there is time-to-band together as fellow Catholics and make a plan for a fruitful year. The Knights of Columbus are the largest Catholic men’s organization in the world and open to any man 18 years old and older who believes in the Catholic faith, has demonstrated loyalty to the Church, and promises to uphold the teachings of Christ and His Church.

The State Council encourages local Knights of Columbus to promote these projects and involve people in their local knights to help advance this great cause.

The Silver Rose is coming back to Kansas on Oct. 14, 2019. The Silver Rose is a 33-day devotion that originated in Kansas Districts from Waycross to Liberal. It is an eye out for the whole community. If you can see if the Rose is passing through your area please have a place to point your car and help your program to continue.

The Knights of Columbus Program continues to send a powerful voice of faith across the country. Above all else, the Knights of Columbus is a way to pray in defense of life. Once again, take the opportunity to shower the Rose with your activities with faith. God Bless!

—LINO S. MUNOZ, COMMITTEE TO HUMANITIES CHAIRMAN

Supreme Convention

The Kansas delegation had a great time in Atlanta, Georgia. The Knights were represented by: The Most Reverend Gerald L. Killeen, O.S.B., The Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl, Archbishop of Basilica of St. Paul and Minnesota was the Principal Celebrant and Homilist. In his homily, 300 plus priests and some 2,500 Knights and their families members. The Mass celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. His Eminence Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minnesota was the Principal Celebrant and Homilist. In his homily, he stated, “To be blessed Fulton Sheen noted that three of the most important scenes of Our Lord’s life took place on mountains. On one, he preached the Beatitudes, the practice of which would bring a cross from the world; on the second, he showed the glory that lay beyond the cross: and on the third, he offered himself in death as a prelude to his glory and that of all who will believe in his name. If we are seri- ous about the call to follow Jesus, we have to be willing to travel with him. As the Church celebrates the day of the Transfigura- tion, we recall the Lord’s ascent of Mount Ta- beth with Peter, James and John. It’s a climb, however, that should bring us greater consolida- tion in love. We all know that it promises a reassuring vision of Jesus’ glory and most importantly, a renewed look at the needs of his disciples.” He also stated, “To those who study the Lord’s words, it’s evident that his patient is to love one another to command. He’s the gentle Shepherd who doesn’t force anyone to make the decision of his will. The experience of the Transfiguration began remarkably with their “yes.” It was their willingness to climb the mountain with Jesus, to spend time with Jesus, that made all the differ- ence. Are we hearing his invitation to climb? Are we offering that same “yes” to the Lord? Are we willing to expand our energy on the ascent, following Jesus wherever he leads?”

On Wednesday morning Mass was offered by His Eminence James Cardinal M. Harvey, Archbishop of the Papal Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, who celebrated theotive Mass for the Knights of Columbus at the Vat- ican Cardinals, archbishop of Quebec and pri- vate of Canada, who gave the homily. In his homily, he said, “As we celebrate the Feast of the Lord’s Passion, we are reminded of the love Our Lord had for each of us and for our fellow believers.” The Knights of Columbus is an active and important part of the Catholic Church in America and so many other young people have been able to find direction and purpose in life. The Congress of the Knights of Columbus, held in Washington, D.C., announced World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002, continue to resonate in our hearts as we discover more and more how richness is what our world needs today. Cardinal Gerald Lacroix, the Archbishop of Quebec, said, "We can certainly learn from St. Peter the Kolbe, the first native Ameri- can to be canonized. His humility and desire to obey God is a sure path to holiness." He further said, "Brother Knights of Columbus need to come closer to those in need in the world. The way to do this is to establish a network of Knights of Columbus parish councils, and to work together with other religious organizations to provide support and assistance to those in need. By doing this, we can help provide much-needed aid to those in need of our help."

The Opening Mass on Tuesday, August 6 in- cluded cardinals, archbishops and bishops, 100 plus priests and some 2,500 Knights and their families members. The Mass celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. His Eminence Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minnesota was the Principal Celebrant and Homilist. In his homily, he stated, “To be blessed Fulton Sheen noted that three of the most important scenes of Our Lord’s life took place on mountains. On one, he preached the Beatitudes, the practice of which would bring a cross from the world; on the second, he showed the glory that lay beyond the cross: and on the third, he offered himself in death as a prelude to his glory and that of all who will believe in his name. If we are seri- ous about the call to follow Jesus, we have to be willing to travel with him. As the Church celebrates the day of the Transfiguration, we recall the Lord’s ascent of Mount Ta- beth with Peter, James and John. It’s a climb, however, that should bring us greater consolida- tion in love. We all know that it promises a reassuring vision of Jesus’ glory and most importantly, a renewed look at the needs of his disciples.” He also stated, “To those who study the Lord’s words, it’s evident that his patient is to love one another to command. He’s the gentle Shepherd who doesn’t force anyone to make the decision of his will. The experience of the Transfiguration began remarkably with their “yes.” It was their willingness to climb the mountain with Jesus, to spend time with Jesus, that made all the differ- ence. Are we hearing his invitation to climb? Are we offering that same “yes” to the Lord? Are we willing to expand our energy on the ascent, following Jesus wherever he leads?”

As we continue our journey in life, as we keep following the Lord, He is the One who is the light of the world, let us not forget that told his disciples, “You are the light of the world.” The Thursday morning Memorial Mass of all deceased Knights of Columbus was offered on the feast of St. Dominick Pious by His Emin- ence William E. Lori, Archbishop of Balti- more, Supreme Chaplain who was the Principal Celebrant and Homilist. In his homily, he spoke of salvation. He also said, “And according just proclaimed, Jesus says to us: Do not let your hearts be troubled; have faith in God and have faith in me! Yet, so often our hearts are trou- bled; often they are filled with anxiety and sorrow. As we mull over our problems, we can often lose our faith. When things get tough, we tend to lose faith. Our theme is Knights of Unity, which address- ed head-on those natural feelings of anxiety and isolation that we may experience. Our unity as Knights is indeed an antidote to those feelings. We are not alone.” For the “to we share strength and encourages us on many lev- els. We are truly blessed as members of the family of the Knights of Columbus to be united in Christ with one another and with those who have gone before us last. Let us resolve here and now to share the blessing of our unity by inviting others to become a part of the Knights of Columbus. Let us all be celestial soldiers for God, and now, to take our Savior’s word at his word when he says, “Let not your heart be troubled.” In his annual report, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson highlighted the fact that the Knights of Columbus has fallen short of the glory of its past and announced the new initiative, the Order of the Arrow, to be named “Knights of Unity.” He said, “Through our unity, we will continue to rise in charity and fraternity. And we will build our brotherhood, we will continue to transform the Knights of Columbus around the world, and we will continue, more, not less, of the truth and witness that define us as a great institution of the Knights of Columbus.” The Supreme Knight honored the contributions of the Knights of Columbus understood his commitment to Christ in order to lead his life. All Knights present honored Hendry by posthumously declaring him a Knight of Columbus. The Supreme Knight highlighted the charitable giving in the past year through the Global Wheelchair mission, Coats for Kids, Habitat for Humanity, Food Pantries, and disaster relief to name just a few. He also dis- cussed the unique role of Catholic Life as a unique family. He said, “The Knights of Columbus defends the dignity of every person, from conception to natural death.” He discussed the contributions made in the March for Life in Washington. He said, “We will continue to stand up for the unborn and all human life. At the end of the day, that is our mission, and we have done something, but I didn’t.” Knights of Columbus has had a pivotal role in the passage of the Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief Act. Knights of Columbus is facing new challenges that has come under attack in our nation in this past year. We have witnessed a resurgence of attacks on religious and faith-based freedom of the Church. Brother Knights have come un-expectedly and have taken a major role in our membership and Catholic belief. Our theme is Knights of Unity, we stand for the rights of every American and those around the world to worship as they see fit. We always have and we always will.”

The State Council will receive a 2019 Supreme Convention Cursillo materials shipments of the New Year to use an Unplanned Childbirth Memorial. The Cursillo materials are available on line at www.knights.org and www.dln.org. The Kansas State Council has been se- lected to receive a New Year to use an Unplanned Childbirth Memorial. The Cursillo materials are available on line at www.knights.org and www.dln.org. The Kansas State Council has been se- lected to receive a New Year to use an Unplanned Childbirth Memorial. The Cursillo materials are available on line at www.knights.org and www.dln.org. The Kansas State Council has been se-
PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR UPCOMING YEAR

What an outstanding year we have ahead. We will continue to promote our state programs, parishes and communities throughout Kansas. A new “Faith In Action” program model introduced this year, is designed to increase the number of Knights of Columbus members and their involvement in their parishes and with their faith and the call to service of their neighbor. This model focuses on quality faith formation, social justice engagement and community service. It offers a greater need than today for quality Knights of Columbus programs in our parishes.

At the annual State Officer and District Deputy Installation Meeting in July, the state directors and committees presented the programs to the district deputies for the upcoming year in the area of Faith, Family, Community and Life. The goals have been set, and everyone is excited to participate in the “Faith In Action” model. At the end of this fraternal year, I know we will be able to look back and be proud of many new records that will have been set in all programs areas.

The area of Faith will be “Building the Domestic Church” Initiative encourages every council to sponsor the Spiritual Reflection Program, Holy Hour Program, Religious Education Program, Church Kiosk Program and Sacramental Gifts Program. The Adopt-A-Seminar Program continues with an expanded focus across Kansas to assist seminarians and provide them a new focus and appreciation for the religious vocation. The Religious Education Fund Drive is being conducted with a goal of raising more than $100,000 to provide assistance across Catholic schools throughout the state. A Vocational Poster Contest will be held prior to the installation meeting, to promote Religious Education and Special Education. These students in our communities and across the religious Education programs are asked to create posters promoting religious vocations. The theme for this year’s contest is “Faithful Followers of Our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In the area of Family, councils are asked to double their current membership and a Family of the Year. These families are highly involved in the community who volunteer their time to help in their council, parish, and community. In the area of Community, four diocesan winners and a state-wide winner will be announced at our annual convention next May, 2020. Everyone is encouraged to sponsor the Food Pantry Program, Fraternity Night Program, Family Prayer Night Program, and Friday Family Prayer and Bible Study for all Knights of Christ in Christmas Program. Councils are also reminded to participate in the Health Services Programs and state sponsored Athletic Events throughout the year.

In the area of Community, councils are asked to implement the Helping Hands Program. Councils may aid those in need through the community by sponsoring or serving at a soup kitchen or repairing the facilities of a local service organization. Other community programs include the Global Wheelchair Mission and Habitat for Humanity. Every council is asked to choose a Knight of the Month and Knight of the Year. This program recognizes men who show outstanding stewardship and involvement in their local and community. It is important to participate in this program to show recognition for the efforts and contributions of our members. The first four diocesan winners and a state-wide winner will be announced at our Annual State Convention. The annual Archdiocesan programs have been increased to $100,000.00. Proceeds from this program help fund our Emergency Disaster Aid Program (EDAP), which provides financial assistance to those who are victims of natural or man-made disasters. EDAP is helping our young keynote to the next generation of Knights of Columbus students to develop the skills needed to be successful. Free Throw Contests for boys and girls ages 10-14. The local winners advance to District Contests and, if successful, go on to the Regional and potentially our State Championship. Inter-diocesan winners are chosen as our State Champion, and other jurisdictional winners. Councils should consider participating in the Ever-Changer Challenge of Knights of Columbus Essay Contest and the Coast to Coast Essay Contest.

In the area of Life, a goal of $40,000.00 has been set to raise funds for Culture of Life organizations and the Ultrasound Initiative. The Knights of Columbus in the state of Kansas has assisted in establishing and funds and the placement of ultrasound machines in Pregnancy Centers across the state. There are currently several requests for new ultrasound machines and funding efforts are underway. Other life programs include the Cove for Life, Child Protective Referral, Silver Rose, Mass for People with Special Needs, Marches for Life and the Everyday Video Award.

Knights of Columbus councils will soon be conducting their Tootie Roll Fundraising Drive to support people with intellectual and physical disabilities. Our goal for this fraternal year is to raise $40,000,000.00. Local councils donate funds to their collected funds to local institutions helping people with intellectual disabilities. The 20% portion is used by the Kansas State Council to help fund the Special Olympics Basketball & Cheerleading Tournament in May and Topeka next March. Remaining funds from the Tootie Roll program will be donated to the care of people with intellectual disabilities. The Knights of Columbus is celebrating 45 years as the Prime Distributor of this event.

This is a brief summary of some of the very important programs that our council commitment to. For any additional information is desired on any of these programs, please contact Rick Winter, the grand knight of your local council or State Program Director Gary Wands at 660-593-2166. Educate yourselves. Educating our young is key to the next generation of councils. You may also visit the state website at www.kansas-kofc.org.

—GARY WONDERA, STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

The family is at the core of the Knights of Columbus’ beliefs and philosophy, including the State council who participated in selecting the nominee when submitting their name to the State Council. The following month, by doing so, they are helping to reinforce one of the 10 Holy Family Plaques awarded each year by the Supreme Council. Utilizing this program to honor families for their service to Church, community and council promotes the excellence of the faithfulness they exhibit “Building the Domestic Church.”

How do we define the Domestic Church? Through our Catholic faith as a whole, it has composed a prayer through which we are called to consecrate ourselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the people of God, the holy mother, and Joseph who are all called for mediators. Councils will guide their parish and community through this process and offer this important and impactful program to those that are in the Consecration to the Holy Family is moving forward in making a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant will come to understand and recognize what it means to be a son of God’s love and family.

FINALLY, please take time and direct your attention to the “Faith In Action” program. The Family Fil- ams program is a great way to learn about monthly themes, reflections, molesting and get connected to helpful resources to help each family place God and Family at the core of their lives, in the center of their life. Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not have the opportuni- ty to socialize and/or pray with other Catholic families. It can be a quite challenging to come together as a family and raise our children in the faith when there is such limited exposure. Councils can adopt these families as we are for all families throughout the liturgical year. In closing please review the programs, plan how you will implement them, lead and并对 Catholic gentlemen. Google this: kofc.org/familylife

—PAUL HOREKAMP

FAMILY LIFE DIRECTOR

ULTRASOUND DONATION

During the Deputy District Inst- allation meeting, we were honored to have the 12 members of Denny Council 4445 discuss the importance of life and last year, during the installation meeting, with a presentation from the Ultrasound Initiative. The $5,000 donation was presented by Grand Knight John Kennedy and Post Grand Knight Bill Weller. Council 4445, from St. Mary’s, earned these funds through their hard work and dedication on the 2019 State Council. The Ultrasound Initiative is a very important program. Council 4445 and Family are the largest of the Kansas Knights of Columbus. The Ultrasound Initiative helps the Knights of Columbus advance our mission by giving them the opportunity to reach all women in the area. The Knights of Columbus works to get the word about ultrasound machines and these ultrasound machines to pro-life organizations. During the 2019 the Knights of Columbus donated their 1,000th machine. Through the help of the 10,000 estimated number of lives have been saved in this initiative.

Join the Kansas Knights of Columbus

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
PHONE
SEND TO: Patrick W. Burnett 13109 Jackson, Great Bend, KS 67530 or email: president@kansas-kofc.org

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE...

How can we get young people active in our councils? And how can we build our future if we don’t get young people involved? The opportunities are endless, but we have to offer them what they need and want. We need to figure out how to get them interested in being a part of our organization. Many times we just “expect” them to accept things the way we have been doing them for years. The truth is that if it is important to young people, then they are going to know it. When you are new in high school or college, you are going to understand that the end of the semester is a time you can tell you that this is simply not true. Yes, the priorities may have changed, but we are all still deeply about getting involved in worthwhile causes and creating something positive changes in our communities. Finding young people who will volunteer for your council is a great concern to many of our local councils. Those events are incredibly important to the life of our parish and for the council. As we see the new councilors, we see what is important to those young people. I often hear that we need to figure them out, but they just do not “care” about anything but they they are not motivated to help others. Councilors, we need to be deeply about getting involved in worthwhile causes and creating something positive changes in our communities. Finding young people who will volunteer for your council is a great concern to many of our local councils. Those events are incredibly important to the life of our parish and for the council. As we see the new councilors, we see what is important to those young people. I often hear that we need to figure them out, but they just do not “care” about anything but they they are not motivated to help others. Councilors, we need to be
Diocesan young adult director goes ‘back to college’

Gentry Heimerman, Diocesan Director of Young Adult Ministries, went back to college recently, several colleges, in fact. Heimerman, along with Curia Intern Emma Showalter, recently traveled across Kansas to meet with students from our diocese and speak with them about their college experiences and faith life.

They shared information about all of the opportunities that the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City offers college students, including Summer Missions positions, upcoming retreats, and vocational discernment events.

Colleges visited include Hutchinson Community College, Bethel College, Wichita State University, Newman University, Emporia State University, the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Fort Hays State University.

If you know a college student that you would like Emma or Gentry to reach out to, contact them via the diocesan young adult website: www.dcyoungadult.com.

Tensions were high as Father Gail “The Hammer” Hammerschmidt took on his nemesis, Gentry “Iron Arm” Heimerman in the first ever inter-diocese arm-wrestling championship, of which these two were the only competitors.
El Hijo Perdido

«Estaba aún lejos, cuando su padre lo vio y sintió compasión; corrió a echarle a su cuello y lo besó». (Lucas 15,20).

Y regreso a casa! ¡Una bendita reconciliación! ¡Un amor incondicional extraordinario! La parábola de Jesús del Hijo Pródigo es mi escritura favorita, y la fuente de mi lema episcopal: «Y lleno de compasión». El Evangelio del fin de semana pasado fue verdaderamente una expresión de Evangelización con Alegría. ¿Qué nos trae a la mente la palabra «adulto vulnerable»? ¿Qué significa «evangelizar»? ¿Qué signifi ca «evangelización»? ¿Qué signifi ca «proteger»? ¿Por qué protegernos? ¿Qué significa «protección»? ¿Qué significa «protección de Niños y Familias»? ¿Qué significa «proteger a los niños de Dios»? 

Por GEORGINA PAZ

Hay música, parodias y mucha comida. El dinero que se recauda a través de varios sorteos y ventas de alimentos se utiliza para financiar los retiros de Cursillos, becas para estudiantes que estudian en colegios comunitarios del área y para otras actividades en parroquias individuales. 

La Fiesta de Colores se ha celebrado durante muchos años y la ubicación se alterna de año en año entre Liberal, Dodge City, Garden City y Ulysses (donde comenzó hace muchos años). También se ha convertido en tradición coronar a un rey y una reina de la parroquia local. El rey y la reina suelen ser hijos o nietos de un feligrés que participa activamente en el Movimiento de Cursillos. Los padres consideran que es un gran honor que sus hijos sean coronados rey y reina, y es solo una forma más de hacer de la fiesta un evento familiar. También es una forma de reconocer a los padres supervivientes de los abusos, formación y educación y el establecimiento de líneas guía y normas de protección. “Nuestro trabajo con los supervivientes continúa”, se subraya en el comunicado, “por medio de diferentes estrategias, mediante el establecimiento de plataformas de escucha en la Iglesia de las voces de personas que han sufrido abusos, y trabajando para integrar las voces de las víctimas-supervivientes en la vida y en la misión de la Iglesia”. 

Además, “se continua ofreciendo formación y educación de diferentes maneras a lo largo del mundo como respuesta a las peticiones de las conferencias episcopales, diócesis, institutos de vida consagrada, sociedades de vida apostólica, movimientos eclesiales y asociaciones”. 

Por último, en el comunicado se indica que “a la vista de este momento particular de la historia de la Iglesia y de la próxima celebración del 30 aniversario de la Convención para los Derechos del Niño de Naciones Unidas, la Pontificia Comisión para la Protección de los Niños trabajó en su inquebrantable compromiso para contribuir a hacer del mundo un lugar seguro para los niños y las personas vulnerables”. 

Por MIGUEL PÉREZ PICHELA 

La Iglesia busca caminos para proteger de los abusos a los adultos vulnerables 

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios 

Reportando Abuso 

Si usted sospecha abuso o descuido de un menor en Kansas y el 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 Suspecha abuso por parte de personal o 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. 

El formulario para hacer su reporte se puede encontrar en la siguiente dirección: www.dcdiocese.org/safe-environment.
Editor's Note: Bishop Brungardt has asked the SKC to include articles on this important topic in hopes that victim survivors find help and hope, and that perpetrators find justice. This is part of Catholic News Service’s Children at Risk series.

By ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN
Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The internet facilitates sexual exploitation, a category of child abuse, according to experts in this field interviewed by Catholic News Service.

The internet also, they say, enables near universal access to violent pornography, with a range of negative implications, including normalizing sexual aggression and the dramatic increase in children abusing other children.

In a recent report on the role of technology in sex trafficking, Vanessa Bouche, a political science professor at Texas Christian University, found the internet facilitates prostitution, through online ads, in 75 percent of the cases.

Missouri, found that in almost half of cases, children with "harmful sexual behavior"...
Sometimes it’s just the myriad of day-to-day tasks that seem overwhelming, so it helps to remember that God is our strength. When I’m in this situation, one of my favorite verses is Psalm 3:3: “For You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory and the lifter of my head.”

Caregivers often sacrifice their own needs so that they serve their family members. With this in mind, The Atlanta Area Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association prepared Understanding and caring for the person with Alzheimer’s Disease: A Practical Guide. The following information appears in the document.

“Being a caregiver is a stressful and demanding job. There is usually very little, if any opportunity to prepare for a new caregiving situation. The well-being of the caregiver requires priority consideration. Thought must be given to the fate of the care recipient if the caregiver becomes unable to continue with caregiving responsibilities. Caregivers are susceptible to depression, illness, physical exhaustion and emotional exhaustion. Any of these conditions will easily interfere with a person’s ability to be a good caregiver.”

Part II will be included in the Oct. 20 issue.
Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers!

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Marjorie Dawn Moeder, 80, of Holy Family Parish, Odin, died Aug. 30, 1992. She was a member of the Knights of Columbus #2100, where he was a Fourth Degree Knight, and served as financial secretary for more than 30 years. He is survived by; his wife of 62 years, Mary Marie Bahr; his son, David; three daughters, Carol Scheuerman, Cathi Farha, Anita Hobbs; two brothers, Daniel Frieb, and Jan Frieb; nieces, nieces; nephews, and numerous cousins and nieces.

Ruben Olen De Leon, 78, of Garden City, died Sept. 7, 1993. Ruben married Estella Montemayor; she preceded him in death on Jan. 27, 2016. He was a farmer and stockman. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus #2630 of Odin. He was preceded in death by 11 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren. Father Warren Stecklein presided.

Jay L. Mcdermott, 45, of Garden City, died Sept. 4, 1993. He was preceded in death by his mother, Minnie (Rayas) Valenzuela; and his daughter, Kaye Carter; his brother, Frank DeLeon; his brother, Joe DeLeon; his brother, Ruben DeLeon; his brother, Victor DeLeon; his brother, Jason DeLeon; his brother, Gary DeLeon; his brother, Frank Orellano; and his brother, Frank Orellano.

工业园的教堂包括一个八角形的铜制尖顶，以及丰富的室内装饰。圣玛丽教堂，始建于1893年至1894年，主要因其19世纪的精美质量和丰富性而受到重视。教堂被列入国家历史名胜名录，受到国家资源的保护。

该社区的第一个名称是Wild Cat。根据其地理位置，它位于Wild Cat Creek。德国移民在1870年代在Wild Cat地区定居，他们称这个地方为Wild Cat，因为其地理位置靠近Wild Cat Creek。
its 2017 child abuse cases, boys ages 13 to 15 years were the perpetrators, physically and sexually attacking girls ages 4 to 8 years old. Nurses traced the phenomena to exposure to pornography.

One potentially positive note in the disturbing trend regarding peer assault is that, unlike adult perpetrators, young offenders who receive treatment do not appear to re-offend into adulthood.

“The good news on treatment means we need mandatory reporting of these cases, so kids get help,” observed NCOSE’s Hawkins.

Obituaries

Continued from preceding page

Vasallo and Ruben Lorenzana; two sisters, Flor Donjuan and Monserrat Diaz; two brothers, Esteban Diaz and Luiz Mario Diaz; six nieces, Leslie Martinez, Valerie Donjuan, Natalie Gomez, Karina Diaz, Jennifer Diaz and Yolo Diaz; and three nephews, Joshua Donjuan, Anthony Duron, and Luiz Mario Diaz. Father Juan Salas presided.

LYNN DALE DIRKS, 71, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Sept. 10, 2019. At the cathedral, Lynn served as a Eucharistic Minister and sang with the choir. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, where he enjoyed helping with Bingo, cooking meals and tending bar. He also donated blood for more than 30 years. Lynn retired from Hi Plains Feed Mill in 2012, where he worked 36 years. Survivors include his wife, Mary; his son, Troy Dirks; four grandchildren, Jackson, Emma, and Graham Dirks and Tyler Schmitz; and two sisters, Darlene Elledge and Lynnette Fry. Father Robert Schremmer presided.


And Starbucks announced it will block customers from perusing pornography while on the store’s free Wi-Fi, as a result of pressure from the South Carolina-based advocacy group Enough is Enough. Some of these changes are a result of consumer pressure, according to Hawkins.

“The general public is becoming more aware of the public health harm,” she told CNS. “Parents are concerned about the harm to their young kids.”

She added, “There is a connection between pornography and violence against women. … The general public is becoming aware of this and demanding an end to the violence and sexual abuse of children.”

Hawkins also cited 40 peer-reviewed studies since 2001 that stated the detrimental impacts of pornography. “There is much more widespread awareness of the harms, which have been swept under the rug and not talked about,” she said.

Obituary policy

Obituaries are listed free of charge, but must be edited for space. If you see that a listing has not been included, call Dave at (620) 227-1519, or email skregister@dcdiocese.org.

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Enabling sexual exploitation of children

Continued from Page 14
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 fi la 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

Printed with permission from www.sudokuoftheyday.com/
Amazonians crave preservation, ‘but big money speaks louder’

By BARBARA J. FRASER
Catholic News Service

SANTAREM, Brazil (CNS) — For more than three decades, Juscelina Silva Batista’s life has followed the rise and fall of the Amazon River.

During the rainy season, she canoes practically to the door of her simple wooden house, skirting a raft that holds potted plants and a few chickens, and ducking under the long pods hanging from tamarind trees.

With floodwaters lapping practically at the threshold of her house, Batista, 54, snaps ripe tamarind and other fruit to sell at the market in Santarem, a city of more than 300,000 people about 20 minutes away, across a channel of the river.

Her husband, Cantidio Benicio Rego, 69, catches fish for them to eat. For the past 30 years, he has taken tourists on boat rides along the river and around the lake near their house, watching for birds and wildlife.

The water recedes during the dry season, leaving a layer of rich sediment around the house, where Batista plants cabbage, peppers, beans, corn and other vegetables. She harvests some for her family and sells the rest in Santarem.

“It’s peaceful here,” she said of the home where she raised four children, who have given her six grandchildren. “I can leave the house open. It can be difficult at times, but I’m used to it.”

But change is rolling the water around Santarem. The city already has a large port where riverboats call with passengers, and freighters load soy and other vegetables. She harvests some for her family and sells the rest in Santarem.

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