Sister Maria Elena

After nearly two decades of ministry, the missionary Sister says goodbye to SW Kansas

By DAVE MYERS

Southwest Kansas Catholic

What is a “Mass Kit?”

It’s basically what you see above: a cross, two candles and holders, a chalice, a paten (saucer), several hosts, and cards with prayers and instructions in English and Spanish.

One to two completed “Mass Kits” were sent to each parish (depending on the size of the parish) in late November, and are available to families to borrow and return, in order to allow use by another family.

All items are made of wood, and all recently filled the garage of Director of Young Adult Ministry Gentry Heimerman, who, with a team of volunteers, pieced together and painted dozens of kits.

Why a Mass Kit?

It was the idea of Heimerman and Father Juan Salas, who recognized the long history of young children — boys and girls — playing “Mass” in their homes, and how, by enacting the Mass, it encourages devotion and learning, and may even plant a seed that could grow into a religious vocation later in life.

The kits were ordered via Etsy, an online shop for people to sell crafts.

As a boy, like most Catholic boys, we’d play Mass and dress up as priests. We’d take white Wonder Bread and smash it flat and use a cookie cutter and make little hosts.”

“We are eager to see our loved ones during the holy days and holidays. We rush to purchase gifts. Don’t get in the way as we hurry to a sporting event! “Run forth to meet your Christ” is our greatest call this Advent Season (from the Collect of last Sunday’s Holy Mass). This theme continues this Second Sunday of Advent: Heavenly Father, we “set out in haste to meet your Son.”

Let us ask the intercession of St. Mary and St. Joseph as we prepare for Jesus’ birthday. Let us take time to pray, to evangelize, to build community, to learn about our Catholic faith, and to serve one another. Let us run, in haste, into the arms of our Lord. Thank you for your faithfulness and compassion, especially to those in need. May we prepare for Jesus’ coming in history with devotion. He loves you so much!

+ Bishop John

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

(Collectors of the 4th Sunday of Advent)

**Run To Meet Jesus**

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

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(Collectors of the 4th Sunday of Advent)
Sister Tonimarie DeBar, SMPC, teacher, Campus Minister, dies

Sister Tonimarie DeBar, 87, was born in Kansas City, MO, Sept. 27, 1932, and was adopted by Jacob C. and Sophia Volz Shumaker, who named her Dolores Rose Shumaker.

She entered eternal life Nov. 20, 2019 at Harry Hynes Hospice in Wichita. Father Joseph Gile and Father Wesley Schawe (for whom she was his second grade teacher) concelebrated the Mass of Christian Burial in Resurrection Chapel on Nov. 26. Interment followed in Mt. St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Sister Tonimarie’s parents owned and operated a bakery business in Caney, Kan., where she and her brother grew up. After completing three years of high school she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita as a postulant, received the habit April 3, 1951, and was given the name Sister Anthony Marie. First Profession of vows was July 26, 1953 followed by Final Profession July 26, 1956 at Mt. St. Mary’s Convent in Wichita.

Her education included a B.S. in Education at St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City with additional study at St. Louis University and Niagara University. She devoted 33 years to elementary education, teaching in Kansas (including Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Dodge

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Andrew Dinners with Bishop Brungardt

For high school age: Dec. 8, 15 and 22

The Andrew dinners for high school students will take place on three nights, 6-8 p.m. at Christ the King Parish in Deerfield, Dec. 8; Prince of Peace Parish, Great Bend, Dec. 15; and at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City, Dec. 22.

The evenings is for high school students, and their pastors to join Bishop John for dinner, conversation and prayer, with a focus not just on the priesthood, but on God’s call for every Catholic young man to live an extraordinary life. For more information and RSVP, contact Father Juan Salas at 620-227-1533 or vocations@dcdiocese.org.

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. There are no Protecting God’s Children awareness session scheduled at this time. Please check upcoming issues or visit dcdiocese.org/safe-environment for updates.

IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

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 a child is being abused or neglected, make a confidential report to Kansas Department for Children and Families Protection Report Center, 800-922-5330 or to the KBI Hotline, 800-KSCRIME (800-572-7463), or by emailing ClergyAbuse@kbi.ks.gov.

If you suspect sexual abuse by Church personnel, in addition to making a report to the proper civil authorities, contact Charles Befort, the diocesan Review Board representative who receives and follows up on reports. His contact information is crbefort@cox.net, 620-285-3219. In addition, Father Befort will offer the help of the Assistance Minister, whose goal is to be a listening ear and to promote healing.

The Review Board is a consultative body of lay Catholics and one priest representative who advises Bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse, reviews diocesan policies for dealing with sexual abuse of minors and offers advice on all aspects of sexual abuse cases retrospectively and prospectively. The Assistance Minister’s role is to aid in the pastoral care of persons who claim to have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel, whether the abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past.

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 art and soul of speaking to God directly, frankly, candidly, openly, honestly

On the second night of Spearville’s parish mission, Father Simeon Gallagher admitted that he sometimes finds hearing confessions … well, frustrating? Why?

“People come to confession and never get to the point!” he said. “Confession is not a counseling session! Speak directly! Candidly! Don’t beat around the bush!”

He offered the same suggestion when it comes to prayer, or even when communicating with a spouse, a son or daughter, or … anyone for that matter (except maybe your boss, he said to laughter).

St. Teresa’s Description of Prayer
St. Teresa of Avila lived in the 16th Century when women were expected to stay home and tend the house and children.

“But she read and read and read,” Father Simeon said. “If I were to look at the very best example of self-education, I’d point to St. Teresa.”

At one point, the young nun was asked by an older Sister who was struggling in her daily prayer routine, “What is prayer?”

The answer St. Teresa gave reverberated through the centuries: “It is nothing more than a conversation.”

“If you want your communication with God to be successful,” Father Simeon said, “then you have to follow the

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Happy CNAW!

Editor’s Note: The following column is being reprinted due to the fact that once again Catholic Newspaper Awareness Week is quickly approaching.

As you are all fully aware, next week we celebrate Catholic Newspaper Awareness Week, a time in which we honor all those who bring you, via newsprint, the Good News of Jesus Christ housed firmly in the heart of the Catholic Church.

When John Paul II established Catholic Newspaper Awareness Week in 1994, he noted in his general audience of April 27, that “those who bring you the news of the Catholic Church are not unlike the biblical authors themselves. For what is the Bible but a Catholic newspaper of the time? We find feature stories: ‘Jonah describes a whale of an experience’; hard news, ‘Cain, person of interest’ in Abel killing; sports: ‘David takes Goliath; gives ‘underdog’ all new meaning’; and weather: ‘Flood imminent; don’t forget umbrella and/or unusually large ark’.

The pope went on to say that in “honoring Catholic newspapers, we celebrate the beauty of the word, poured out in ink onto a sea of newsprint, inviting people to come aboard, to toss out a line, and to see if they catch a蕴藏于智慧之中的金鱼，他们可以跃起并游离于水层之上。Our first invention, aerosol cheese was a failure. My husband, Bruce, also handles press jobs and is a terrific executive editor. When not balancing the books, I love that we affix the body of Christ who reminds us that there is no pain we can feel that he doesn’t feel himself. He’s our perfect brother, our father, our best pal, always there, ready to toss out a line, and to see if they catch an even larger fish.

But as a side job, he is the Vatican-appointed Shepherd of the good people of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. And he plays a mean game of ping-pong.

We can’t list the stuff without including all of you, the readers (or I should say, “both”) of the newspaper. The newspaper is, after all, a communication tool not only for the bishop to communicate with his flock, but for the flock to communicate with him. As I continue to layout each issue, I’d say a fourth of the content is submitted by readers. That’s really cool, because it saves me a lot of work, and it shows that you are invested in your Catholic community, far outside the walls of your churches. And it saves me a lot of work. Or did I mention that already?

Thanks so much for all the help you’ve given me over my (almost 20) years here. And no, you’re not getting paid, so quit asking.

Finally, there is the awesome! God who ever walked the earth, the man with the Plan. What a great God he is. On the wall behind my computer screen is a wooden crucifix. I love being Catholic. I love that we affix the body of Christ onto our crosses — the suffering Christ who reminds us that there is no pain we can feel that he doesn’t feel himself. He’s a comfort whether it’s something as simple as a troublesome deadline, or when life takes a very serious turn. And boy, oh, boy, can life take a turn. In the blink of an eye. He’s our brother, our father, our best pal, always there, always cheering you on, always ready to give us the help to carry our cross when it gets hard.

And of course, being God, I’m sure he’ll forgive me for making up that whole thing about Catholic Newspaper Awareness Week.

By SISTER BARBARA KANE, OP

On April 1, 2020, the official federal census will take place. It’s coming quickly and it’s very important to everyone who lives in the U.S. The census takes place every ten years and is vitally important that everyone be counted, including those who may not be citizens or even have legal papers to be in the country. Why is it important that everyone be counted?

The census data is factored at the Federal level: "To reapportion seats in the House of Representatives.

For state officials to redraw congressional and legislative districts based on population shifts.

To determine how to allocate more than $675 billion in Federal dollars supporting state and local community programs across the country."

This $675 billion is used for schools, hospitals, Head Start, WIC (Women, Infant, and Children), Solid Waste Management Grants, Section 8 Housing Vouchers, Native American Training and Employment and other programs for healthcare, education, housing, food and income security. The amount given to a city or state for those programs depends on the number of individuals living in those cities/states based on the census count.

Unfortunately, some of the very people who are most impacted by the programs may be missed in the counting. These include children under five, low income households, immigrants, and rural residents. Many people in these populations distrust the government and fear that they will be in danger from giving their information. The reality is that Census Data is required by law to be confidential. Individual responses cannot be shared with other government agencies but must be reported in statistical summary format only. Other government agencies will not be given this information.

This is the first year that the census will be conducted on-line. Invitations will be mailed to households with instructions on how to respond. One person from each household will respond for all the members of the household. In our motherhouses and care centers, the administrators will submit information for each of the residents. As a general rule, individuals will be counted where they live regardless of their relationship with the owner of the house or person submitting the information.

If you know or work with someone who is hesitant to respond to the census, please share this information with them and encourage them to be counted. Everyone deserves to be counted!

Inherit the Mirth

By Culver Black (culyberblack.com)
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY
Phoenix, Ariz. — The Church must face the fallout of the abuse scandal with humility and courage, Bishop Thomas Olmsted has said, while predicting “very difficult” years ahead for the Church.

“We need a spirit of humility, but also courage and praise for the mercy of God who is always present and working within us,” said Bishop Olmsted in an interview published by the Catholic Sun Nov. 22 to mark the 50th anniversary of the diocese.

He explained that this humility, especially with what we have had to face in the terrible scandal,” said Bishop Olmsted. “When those who are ordained to serve others are actually taking advantage of others, that’s a horrible scandal.”

In addition to humility, Bishop Olmsted said, the Church today must also be courageous, and look to the Bible for guidance on how to persevere through challenging periods.

“It is especially at times when we look weakest or when things seemed hopeless like the Good Friday, the biggest explosions of grace and wonder occur,” he said. “That’s true for us now.”

When people surrender their will to God, the bishop explained, “we find He does things we never expected.” These unexpected answers of God “give us courage to trust Him in whatever comes along next.”

Bishop Olmsted said that the Church in the face of failures was essential in seeking God’s forgiveness and mercy. “When God works well in a humble heart, it’s fertile soil for Him to work,” he said.

By SEAN M. WRIGHT
Special to the Catholic
Editor's Note: Sean is a Catholic columnist, author, and Emmy-nominated television writer.

Taking my car in for an oil change one afternoon not long ago, I drove off, passing the nearby junior high—pardon, middle school—and stopped for a group of children crossing the street on their way home. Seeing them laughing and chatting reminded me of an incident featuring my son, DeForeest, when he was that age.

The year was 2002 and I was driving my son home from the Boys and Girls Club, his after school retreat. DeForeest, then nearing completion of 7th grade, was explaining geometry to me. This is a Good Thing. As much as I enjoy the deductive logic of Sherlock Holmes, um, a mystery.

DeForeest defined rays — lines starting at one point that extend into infinity; line segments — which have both beginnings and endings; and arcs — which are curved line segments of a circle. He paused. “You know, Pop, God is like a line, isn’t he?”

If you mean that, God extends endlessly into infinity, yes, you could say that,” I replied, letting a car change lanes in front of me. “Always understanding that God extends without bounds into all dimensions and all wills.”

“Right, Pop. But like a line, God is without beginning or end. And God started human life to be rays originating from His line. Then we lost our connection to God through sin and became detached line segments.”

Here was a new idea which caught me flatfooted. I had never thought of expressing God’s relationship to humanity with such geometric simplicity. It was a concept worthy of the very deep, but very readable theologian, St. Augustine.

Let me mention that this was not the first time I had started by the depth of my son’s reflections on God. At the age of three, on our way home from Sunday Mass. DeForeest asked me, “Papa, did the Father die on the cross with the Son? Both are God, right?”

I was snafu’d. He continued, “Yes, St. Augustine, the brilliant theologian, should have walked the beach pondering the Tri-Unity of God with DeForeest. Explaining that while the Father and Son are, with the Holy Spirit, who gives life to our faith, we are united by a single divine nature so that, mystically, the three are one God, the Divine Son, and only because He was united to a human body, suffered death. DeForeest only replied, “Ahhh.” Had he added, “Of course, that only makes sense,” I would not have batted an eye.

“Easier than trying to understand the Holy Trinity,” the little kid shot back rather smugly before disappearing. Take that, Augustine!

Getting back to the problem at hand, I was drawn to DeForeest’s geometric theology theory despite my mathematical unfitness. “We were detached from God only temporarily,” I pointed out as we stopped for a traffic signal.

“Temporarily?” he echoed. “Certainly. Jesus reconnected humans to God through His Incarnation, which is why we bow at the worlds in the Creed each Sunday, ‘by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.”

This idea spurred DeForeest’s imagination. Grabbing a piece of paper and pencil, he made a quick diagram of a circle, inside of which were two intersecting lines, each having arrowheads on both ends. “In eternity,” he proposed, “Jesus is our point of intersection with God.”

I nodded, then ventured, “Could you say that our line segments are reconnected as rays by arcs of God’s grace?”

DeForeest considered the notion for only a moment. “I’m not sure of that comparison, Pop. In my example,” he pointed to his drawing, “the lines of the Father and the Son intersect like a cross. If we intersect with the Father at the point of the Son’s Incarnation, wouldn’t it be better stated that the point where we intersect the circle of eternal life is the Holy Spirit, who gives life to our faith and prayer?”

Perhaps the Holy Spirit is symbolized by that circle around the cross,” I countered, attempting to keep ahead of the boy. “God can be encompassed only by God, not by eternity, otherwise eternity would be greater than God.”

“Well, Pop,” DeForeest patiently replied, “if you notice, I made arrowheads on both ends of the lines as they meet the circle, showing that the life of the Father and Son go beyond the circle into eternity.” Take that, Papa.

We were home. I realized that the mathematics of this theory was getting too deep for me. “Son, the Holy Trinity is One God is beyond mortal understanding. I’m just happy that through Jesus’ incarnation, death and resurrection all our line segments again intersect with the life of God and become the rays we were meant to be.”

“Okay, Pop,” he nodded. “I can accept that.”

“Thank you, God,” I prayed in grateful silence, only too happy to find a graceful way out of the discussion. But I began to wonder if DeForeest’s guardian angel might just be that same little squat on the beach who socked it to St. Augustine.

Post Script. In 2002, after writing up a paper on “Geometric Theology,” DeForeest sent it to Rome, hoping Pope John Paul II would see it and perhaps comment on it. Weeks went by before a beautiful, cream-laid envelope arrived, addressed to DeForeest. It was a pleasure simply to hold it. The return address was Città del Vaticano, Roma, Italia.

Within, along with a small medal bearing the pope’s visage, was a letter typed on the same soft, thick paper. A “Secretary to His Holiness” assured DeForeest that the pope had seen his message, was intrigued by the connection between geometry and theology, and commended my son for his “gifts of mind and heart.” The pope extended his Apostolic Blessing to DeForeest and his family.

Feeling something of a personal connection, DeForeest still end his prayers with the invocation, “St. John Paul, pray for us.”

* Despite geometric confusion, Sean M. Wright, a Master Catechist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, presents the Faith to catechumens in RCIA classes at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Santa Clarita. He replies to comments sent him at Locksley69@aol.com.

Catholics “are called to go out to all the world,” he said. “In many ways, a lot of the world is coming to us. The one thing that unites us is Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith, and the Catholic faith moves us beyond where we are.”

Noting that Jesus had ordered people to teach all nations, Bishop Olmsted said that in Phoenix’s case, “a lot of that is to welcome those who are coming here. We go out to those who have come to us, and we welcome them.”

While Phoenix is growing as a diocese, the bishop’s view of the Church is that he comes years is frank. “I think the years immediately ahead are going to be very difficult,” he said.

“We continue to struggle with a large part of society that doesn’t believe it,” he added. “I think that challenge is there.”

To combat this mentality, Bishop Olmsted said that the Church has to be one with “an even deeper rootedness in Christ.”

“But you know, the light is most brilliant and most wonderful when there’s darkness. We need to expect that the Lord will ask us to have a real, living faith,” he said.
Local teenager spends his last months in presence to others

By CHRISTINA GRAY

When 19-year-old Nicholas Peters of San Carlos understood that his life would not be a long one, he decided to spend the days that might be left to him ministering to the forgotten and the hopeful on the streets of San Francisco. “Nicholas’ biggest mission was spreading God’s word and giving dignity to the homeless,” his mother, Becky Peters, said in a message she delivered at the St. Vincent de Paul Society of San Mateo County’s annual awards luncheon in September.

The organization recognized Nicholas’ legacy of Christian love by renaming its youth service award the Nicholas J. Peters Ozanam Spirit Award. The award, which recognizes service to the poor and needy by youth, pays tribute to Frederic Ozanam, a French university student who in 1833 founded of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to confront the dire poverty he saw on the streets of Paris.

The Peters family belongs to St. Charles Parish in San Carlos. Nicholas and his sister Lauren attended St. Charles School from kindergarten through eighth grade.

From January to July of this year, when Nicholas succumbed to the liver cancer he was diagnosed with at age 16, Peters said her son spent up to 40 hours a week or more with the homeless or homebound, volunteering at soup kitchens and homeless encampments. When he felt he had still more to offer, she said, he would head to the urban parks nearby afterward with soup kitchen leftovers.

Nicholas Peters, a 19-year-old former student at St. Charles School in San Carlos, spent the last six months of his life ministering to the homeless or homebound.

Nicholas’ reading of the Bible cover-to-cover 15 times over the course of his treatment, combined with the constant presence of an adult companion, Mel, hired by the family, gave the young man the spiritual and organizational support to make his mission possible. Nicholas and Mel headed out each day to “bring food and God” to those in need of both.

“He had no time left, but all the time in the world” to be a presence to the vulnerable and the poor, Peters said. “I will never forget the morning I came into Nick’s room and he looked at me with the biggest smile on his face,” she said. “He told me he had the best sleep he ever had because he knew that a homeless man named Joseph was warm, safe and dry.”

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Acts of Kindness

A ‘good news’ story begins with an act of kindness

Did you hear about the Gulf War Army Veteran who got picked up by the police, as he was walking along an Alabama highway? No. It’s not a joke. It’s a “good news” story. And I love good news stories because they are inspiring and encouraging and build trust and hope in humankind.

So, here’s what reportedly happened: Gerald David Baldwin set out to walk to an appointment at a VA hospital – 100 miles away. Someone spotted him walking along a highway, with his portable oxygen tank, and called police. A sheriff’s deputy responded and discovered that the veteran (with 22 years of service) needed to get to his appointment or risk losing some of his benefits.

The deputy – Walker County Sgt. Kevin Embreg – agreed to drive Baldwin to the county line, with the assistance of Deputy Chris Doerr, who arranged for deputies in three neighboring counties to transport Baldwin to his appointment. The four departments then made the reverse trip to get Baldwin home. Now, a social media post by one of the departments is garnering interest in helping Baldwin with reliable transportation and to connect with services for veterans. Doesn’t that make you feel good and strengthen your faith in humanity? – that is a benefit of good news: positive vibes and positive thinking.

Just like the deputies who went above and beyond their call of duty to make the world a better place, we each have the power to make the world a better place – and write our own “good news” story — one small act of kindness at a time. What will you do TODAY to make a difference?

Editor’s Note: Please send your stories of kindness to the Catholic. Send to skregister@dcdioce.org or mail to Southwest Kansas Catholic, P.O. Box 137, Dodge City, KS 67801. Or, you can call Dave at (620) 227-1519. Bishop John Brungardt has asked that we offer up acts of kindness as a prayer for priestly vocations.

By COLETTE PARKER

Associate, Dominican Sisters of Peace

Baldwin was a Gulf War Army Veteran who got picked up by the police, as he was walking along an Alabama highway. No, it’s not a joke. It’s a “good news” story. And I love good news stories because they are inspiring and encouraging and build trust and hope in humankind.

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A ‘vocational call’ story

‘God knows who I am more than I know myself’

NEW HAVEN, CT - In February, it will have been a year since Sister Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP, moved to Wichita, to “ensure that the Congregation had a vocation ministry in this important area of the country.”

Together, Sisters June Fitzgerald of New Haven, CT, Sister Bea Tiboldi of Columbus, OH, and Sister Mai-Dung, have created a multi-faceted program to reach out to women through interactions and presentations at conferences, parishes, schools, and universities, email, social media, retreats and video conferencing.

The Sisters use a variety of methods to maintain contact with discerners, allowing them the opportunity to meet with other women considering religious life as well as with vowed Sisters with decades of experience.

Following is an essay by Sister Mai-Dung describing her vocational call, and what led to her exploring the Religious life.

BY SISTER MAI-DUNG NGUYEN, OP

The discernment process about a vocation call is unique for every individual because each person is called differently. Individual preferences influence how a person hears this call. Discerners often evaluate a religious community by their prayer life, mission, wearing a habit or ordinary contemporary clothes, vowed living, community living, and more. I know this was the case for me.

I grew up in a traditional Catholic environment that included personal or communal adoration, Mass, rosary, Gospel reading, and rituals. When I was first discerning God’s call, I was only interested in the beautiful environment that included personal or communal adoration, Mass, rosary, Gospel reading, and rituals.

Discerners often evaluate a religious community by their prayer life, mission, wearing a habit or ordinary contemporary clothes, vowed living, community living, and more. I know this was the case for me.

I decided to move to Boston to be closer to these Sisters for my discernment.

The first weekend in Boston, I was invited to attend a reflection day at one of their ecocological centers. The sisters showed me how to connect with God and God’s creation through the process of making, baking, and breaking bread. I have never thought of finding God deeply in these simple daily experiences, I was so inspired with this finding. Then, the confusion came to me when I listened to the Sisters’ presentation about the universe.

Even though science and engineering are part of my background, I had considered science and engineering as worldly things, not as “God’s thing.” I thought I would have had to give up science and engineering when I joined religious life. Thus, listening to this talk, many questions showed up in me: “Are they really Sisters? Why do they talk about such earthly things? How do they get such ideas? Are they not spending time helping the poor or working in the church, instead of learning such “non” Godly things? Are they following or opposing the Gospel teachings?” It reminded me of the Pharisees and the people around ASKING Jesus when he was showing them something different from what they had been practicing their faith daily.

I felt torn between embracing what I just heard and this new way of practicing our Catholic faith that I was not familiar with at that time.

Instead of making a hasty conclusion that this kind of religious life did not fit me, I reflected and prayed. I appreciated God for “God knows who I am more than I know myself.” I gradually felt a sense of the affirmation between me and what the Sisters said. Then, I wanted to explore more. Whenever I had a chance to be with a sister, I asked her about her stories and how she lived. I took it to heart, reflected and prayed with the insights. I started to recognize God in a deeper sense as I looked around: in the mission and in daily life with a wider view.

I decided to join; and my life has flourished since then. I love every moment of living out my vocation in the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

We just had a “Come and See” weekend retreat in Kentucky. Looking at the discerners, I can see in the discerners the images of myself in the past and in the present. Believe me, discernment to seek God and to respond to the needs is never ended. No matter how you practice your faith, I encourage you to keep your mind and heart open, to be reflective and courageous, and to trust that God is working within you and through those who are journeying with you.

Sister Tonimarie DeBar visits with her former second grade student at Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Dodge City, Father Wesley Schawe, in September of 2014.

Sister Tonimarie DeBar visits with her former second grade student at Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Dodge City, Father Wesley Schawe, in September of 2014.

Sister Tonimarie DeBar

Continued from Page 2

City, Texas, and California. Sister Tonimarie served nine years at Saint Mary of the Plains College in college campus ministry, and as a residence hall supervisor; and five years as Director of Mission at Westminster Village in Ponca City, Okla.

In 1997 she moved to Mt. St. Mary’s Convent in Wichita and served as Customer Relations Specialist at Via Christi St. Francis before retiring in 2006. During all those years she searched for information about her birth parents and was finally able to locate her birth certificate. In 1987 she legally changed her family name to that which her birth mother had indicated on the document. A chance encounter with a genealogist in 1998 allowed the final successful step to be taken and she found three sisters who became a welcoming family for her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Francis, and her sister Karla (Jim) McLaughlin. In addition to members of her religious community, she is survived by her sisters Karen (Joe) Vampa and Narda (Mike) Spencer, numerous nieces and nephews as well as many friends.

Memorials in her name may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph Retirement Fund or Dear Neighbor Ministry, 3700 E. Lincoln, Wichita, KS 67218.

Sister Maria Elena says goodbye to SW Kansas

From Page 1

Later, she began serving St. Alphonsus Parish in Satanta. Sisters Matilde Reyna Donis Monterorro and Sister Brigida Camarena Chavez were also among those first three Sisters. The sisters’ original plan was to stay in the diocese for approximately three years, during which time they would “…help people to know God properly; to be members of the Catholic Church – full members, not half-way,” said Sister Matilde.

But as often happens, they came, they ministered, and they decided to stay on a while longer than planned.

Sister Maria Elena bid her final farewell and left the diocese for Mexico on SKC press day, Dec. 3. (A snow storm kept her in Denver during her Thanksgiving holiday longer than planned, and she was unable to respond to a request for an interview by the Southwest Kansas Catholic.)

A quote by Sister Matilde, said back in 2009, perhaps answers well what all three Sisters, and those who have continued their mission, feel about their service here: “I like to share my life, especially with the poor ones and those who are very, very ignorant, who want to know how to live life properly. I like to help people in a very happy way. I don’t like people to be sad.”

The Missionaries of Charity of Mary immaculate serving in the diocese are Sister Brigida Camarena Chavez at St. Alphonsus Parish in Satanta and Sister Rosa Maria Martinez at St. Anthony of Padua in Liberal. Sister Basilia Torres is in residence in Satanta. Sister Maria Elena has her mission in Merida, Yucatan, in Mexico.

Pray for vocations to the Religious life!
Archdiocese breaks ground for Blessed Stanley Rother shrine

CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

Editor's Note: Father Stanley Rother was a friend of Charlene Myers, wife of SKC editor Dave Myers, and third cousin to Coleen Stein, Diocesan Associate Director of Adult Formation.

The unassuming Blessed Father Stanley Rother, a missionary priest and martyr from a farming family, would likely be surprised to learn that the largest Catholic church in Oklahoma will bear his name.

On Nov. 3, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City broke ground for the Blessed Stanley Rother shrine. The $40-million shrine will seat 2,000 and be the largest Catholic church in the state once it is complete.

The project is the “signature element” of the archdiocese’s first-ever capital campaign, the archdiocese told Oklahoma News 4.

Besides the main church, the shrine site will include a prayer chapel devoted to Blessed Stanley Rother, where he will be buried, religious education and ministry classrooms, and a museum and pilgrim center with artifacts and stories about Father Rother’s life.

“Padre Francisco”, as Father Rother was affectionately called at the mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala where he served, was shot and killed by masked gunmen early in the morning on July 28, 1981, in the midst of the country’s civil war. Father Rother had refused to call for help, not wanting to endanger anyone else at the mission.

The five-foot-ten, red-bearded missionary priest was from the unassuming town of Okarche, Okla., where the parish, school and farm were the pillars of community life. He went to the same school his whole life and lived with his family until he left for seminary.

In June 2015, the Theological Commission of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Causes of Saints voted to recognize Father Stanley Rother as a martyr. Pope Francis recognized his martyrdom in early December 2016, and on Sept. 23, 2017, Father Rother was beatified at a Mass in Oklahoma City.

“The groundbreaking for the shrine will be a significant moment in the life of the Church in Oklahoma and for the broader community,” Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City told News 4.

“The shrine is being built to honor Blessed Stanley Rother, an Oklahoma original and the first U.S.-born priest and martyr ever beatified. It will be a place of pilgrimage where the faithful will come from near and far to honor Blessed Stanley at his final resting place and to seek his intercession for their many needs. It will be a place of welcome, serving all people.”

About the shrine

This new Shrine is designed as the final resting place of Blessed Stanley Rother, a priest from rural Oklahoma who was martyred in Guatemala in 1981, and is currently on the path to sainthood. The inspiring story of his life and service to the poor will be told here to the pilgrims who will come to honor his legacy.

Located on a large parcel to the south of the downtown area, this new complex is centered around a Shrine church that will seat 2,000 and a chapel to seat 150. The church will feature a large dome at the crossing of the nave and transepts, clearly visible from the nearby highway. The front of the church will feature a pair of towers flanking the main entrance. Extending out in front of the church will be a large zocalo (or plaza), with a central fountain, that serves as the focal point for large gatherings as well as to connect the church to the surrounding buildings and the landscape beyond. The zocalo is bordered by a covered arcade that provides protection from rain and sun. Flanking the church and the zocalo are a pair of buildings. One building will house a museum with exhibits telling the story of Blessed Stanley’s life, as well as a Pilgrim Center with a gift shop and café, along with offices for the Shrine staff. On the opposite side of the zocalo is a large multi-purpose event hall and classrooms for religious education.

Architecturally, the entire complex is designed in the Spanish Mission style which features stucco, arches, tile roofs, exuberant detailing at important doorways, covered walkways, and paved terraces. This architecture recalls the character of the Guatemalan village where Father Stanley served the poor and was martyred. The landscape around the Shrine is designed to accommodate gatherings and festival processions, as well as contemplative gardens for private prayer.

-- Franck and Lohsen, Architects

Pictured at left

In Guatemala, Father Rother’s parishioners included the native tribe of the Tzutuhil, descendents of the Mayans, whom Father Stan made every effort to connect with — learning both Spanish and the native Tzutuhil language, eating with them, visiting the sick, and aiding them with medical problems. As a mission priest, Father Stan, or as the locals called him “Padre Francisco”, had to help fix broken trucks and work the fields. He built a farmers’ co-op, a school, a hospital, and the first Catholic radio station for the community. “He basically rolled up his sleeves and got to work. There was an old bulldozer down there that he worked on and got running. He used it to clear boulders out of the fields. They crushed the rocks up so they could remove them,” recalls Tom Rother, Father Stanley’s brother.

“When he returned to Oklahoma, he would take parts that he needed. He also disassembled a chisel and fertilizer spreader and hauled it down there in a truck.” That hard work paid off for the priest’s parishioners. By clearing the land, using some fertilizer, and trying to grow different crops, Father Stanley was able to teach the poor Santiago Atitlan community how to grow food for their families. “He has touched a lot of lives in his short life,” Patrick said. “There are many ways to help others. Let us all follow Father Stan’s example.”

-- Ann Hess/Ag Daily

An artist’s conception of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City.
Tragic end was the beginning of fight for victim’s mother

**Editor’s Note:** The following is part of the “Children at Risk” series, presented by Catholic News Service. Bishop John Brungardt has asked the Catholic to continue to keep stories such as these in the public eye, in hopes that abuse victim survivors will find healing, and that the abusers will face justice.

By ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Yvonne Ambrose had one of the worst experiences any mother can suffer: Her daughter Desiree, age 16, was found in a garage on Christmas Eve 2016 murdered by a man who beat her, slashed her throat and left her to die, painfully alone, in the Chicago cold.

The internet was the key element that turned Desiree from a happy “A” student to a tragic victim of sexual violence.

First, she met a man in his early 20s on Facebook. He “groomed” her, a technique used by exploiters to earn trust to manipulate or control a potential victim of sex abuse. Desiree ran away from home in late November that year.

Soon after, her new “boyfriend” sold her for $250 to a pimp who took photos of her, advertised her on Backpage.com — an internet platform that earned the vast majority of its multimillion-dollar revenue from ads selling human flesh until it was shut down by federal investigators eight months ago — and drove her to “dates,” where she was raped for money.

It was a sex buyer, Antonio Rosales, 32, who murdered Desiree.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, child sexual abuse includes commercial sexual exploitation as well as children pornography and exposing them to pornographic material — whether or not there is physical contact.

In her new book “Invading the Darkness: Inside the Historic Fight Against Sex Trafficking in the United States,” former Congresswoman Linda Smith, R-Washington, describes how she first encountered girls and women kept as captives in brothels in Mumbai, India. Touching the face of a child no older than 11, condemned to endless assault by men using her body, Smith committed herself to combating the phenomena of international sex trafficking. She started Shared Hope International in 2000 as a faith-based nongovernmental organization providing shelter and services for survivors abroad.

But “I was missing something essential,” she told Catholic News Service. “Something that made my blood run cold. The fact that child trafficking was happening in our own neighborhoods. I had a global view, not realizing this was a domestic issue too.”

Under U.S. federal law, any minor exploited in the commercial sex industry is a victim of human trafficking, but until about 10 years ago, especially at the state and local level, children who got caught up in prostitution were blamed for what happened to them.

“As a matter of routine, kids were being arrested, charged, and convicted for prostitution,” recounted Smith. “They were called ‘bad kids,’ runaways, or worse. Yet, they were all victims.”

Shared Hope International did one of the first studies of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking for the U.S. Department of Justice in 2006. She continued, “Meanwhile, a man would go to an ATM, drive to a designated location to receive the product he bought and commit a premeditated crime — the rape of a child — but instead of being seen as a violent predator, he’s an anonymous ‘John.’ It’s the child who’s usually considered a criminal, while the ‘John’ goes home.”

To prevent child sex trafficking, Smith advocates for stronger state laws including harsher penalties against sex buyers to shrink the demand for vulnerable bodies.

In 2007, the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant took a similar view about stronger laws directed at sex buyers, or “clients,” who the council said “need help in solving their most intimate problems and in finding suitable ways of directing their sexual tendencies.”

“Buying sex” does not resolve the problems that arise primarily from frustration and lack of authentic relationships, and from the loneliness that characterizes so many situations in life today,” it said. “An effective measure toward cultural change with respect to prostitution could derive from associating criminal law with social condemnation.”

The Catholic Church has designated Feb. 8 as an annual International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking and invites people to host or attend a prayer service that fosters awareness of and support for victims of trafficking.

The annual day, created with Pope Francis’ encouragement in 2015, is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy.

Covenant House, which shelters homeless youth in 14 states most ages 16-20, estimates that 20 percent of the young people it serves have been victims of human trafficking. On the streets, too often, they have sold, or bartered, access to their bodies in exchange for food, drugs, alcohol or a bed.

Ninety-five percent of all sex trafficking victims reported childhood experiences of abuse. According to a study commissioned by Covenant House from the University of Pennsylvania’s Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research.

“Trafickers can sense (past sexual abuse),” said Angela Aufdenberg, president of Vista Maria, a social services organization in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, told an anti-trafficking conference in Washington in May 2018.

“The biggest need is to address maltreatment in homes and regulating who our kids are communicating with on the internet.”

In May 2018, President Donald Trump signed a new law making it illegal for online platforms to knowingly facilitate sex trafficking. It was a law Yvonne Ambrose had helped lobby for in Congress.

Standing next to him as he signed the measure in the Oval Office was a bittersweet experience for her. Ambrose told the president: “Our fight against online sex trafficking has made a change — a change that will save the life of someone else’s daughter.”

The art and soul of speaking to God

“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me....”

Continued from Page 3

same fundamental principles that you follow in any conversation. Speak directly, frankly, candidly, openly and honestly, so that the other person, including God, has no doubt as to what you have just said, has no doubt where you are coming from, has no doubt what the thoughts in your head are and what the feelings of your heart are.

“Once you have done that, respect the other person enough to sit still and to listen so that they can respond directly, frankly, candidly, openly and honestly back to you.”

When communicating with God, does it matter how you envision the God with whom you are speaking? According to Father Simeon, it matters a great deal.

“This business of the image of God is tremendously important. Some people have the wrong image of God.”

A month after Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, Father Simeon was travelling by plane and found himself sitting next to a minister of another religious tradition.

The minister suggested to Father Simeon that God had sent Katrina to destroy New Orleans because of the sinfulness of its residents.

“Every time there’s a catastrophe, there occurred was already taking place. Survivors talked about how they saw priests, ministers, rabbis on the deck as ship went down, reciting Psalm 23. ‘The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures....’

“The one line that must have made sense to the people onboard the Titanic was, ‘Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me....’”

The God we pray to, he said, the God with whom we communicate and share conversations, is ‘a God of gentleness and tender mercy.”

Part II will be in the Dec. 22 issue, and will focus on how the perception of sin has changed, and what it is that destroys, and builds, relationships.
Father Juan Salas enjoys visit by his parents from Mexico

Father Juan Salas, parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, enjoyed a month-long visit from his parents, Alfredo Salas and Bertha Alanis, who are from Villa García, Zacatecas, Mexico.

Bishop Brungardt blesses teens’ thrift shop

The Most Rev. John B. Brungardt (above) blessed “Hidden Butterfly,” a newly opened thrift shop owned and operated by Dodge City teens Joselyn and Sara Ramirez (standing at right), Nov. 22. The idea for the shop, located at 705 Military in Dodge City, came from the teens’ mother, Heidy Ramirez, with the help of Laura Chavez, the mother of Heidy’s godson. The pair wanted to create both a learning experience for the girls, and a way for the teens to make some extra money for college. Hours for the shop are Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays from 1-7:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Ness City students tour relics of Padre Pio

Students from Sacred Heart School in Ness City traveled to Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina to view the relics on display of Padre Pio, which were on tour in the United States. While there, the group also had the opportunity to participate in Reconciliation. On the return trip home, the group toured the Cathedral of the Plains Church in Victoria and the Gothic church in Pfeifer. Padre Pio was a friar, priest, and stigmatist (meaning that he received the gift of the “stigmata,” the wounds of Christ). He was born Francesco Forgione, and was given the name of Pius when he joined the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin.

Padre Pio, pray for us!
La Hermana María Elena se despide de la diócesis

(Monseñor John)

Ella vino a la Diócesis de Dodge City como parte de un equipo de tres religiosas con la intención de servir en una misión de tres años sirviendo a los hispanos de la comunidad creciente y ser una presencia fuerte a la comunidad entera.

Ahora, después de casi dos décadas sirviendo a la gente del Suroeste de Kansas, la última de las tres originales Misioneras de Caridad de María Inmaculada (MCMI) está de regreso a México.

La Hermana María Elena Martinez, CMCI, primero fue un acceso en la Parroquia de Santa María en Garden City, donde por 11, ella sirvió en varias capacidades, dando ayuda, esperanza, dirección y liderazgo.

Más tarde, ella comenzó a servir en la Parroquia de San Alfonso en Satanta, donde, como una religiosa, ella continuó buscando seguir a Cristo más cerca viviendo sus votos de castidad, pobreza y obediencia y dedicándose a la oración y la vida religiosa común.

La Hermana Matilde Reyna Donis Monterroso y la Hermana Brígida Camarena Chávez también fueron las primeras de las tres Religiosas. El plan original de las Religiosas era quedarse en la diócesis por aproximadamente tres años, durante el cual, ellas ayudarían a la gente a conocer a Dios apropiadamente; ser miembros de la Iglesia Católica - miembros plenos, no solo a medias,” dijo la Hermana Matilde. (La Hermana Brígida ha regresado y está sirviendo a la comunidad de Satanta.)

Pero como sucede frecuentemente, ellas vinieron, sirvieron y decidieron quedarse un poco más tiempo de lo que habían planeado.

La Hermana Matilde salió de la diócesis el día en que su nueva comunidad de la ciudad de Denver durante las fiestas de Acción de Gracia más tiempo de lo que había planeado y no tuvo tiempo de responder a un pedido para una entrevista del Southwest Kansas Catholic, el 3 de diciembre. Una tormenta de nieve la mantuvo en Denver y no tuvo tiempo de responder a un pedido para una entrevista del Southwest Kansas Catholic.

Un Ministro de Asistencia ayuda con el cuidado de sus pequeños pacientemente, pero también anima a la gente a compartir su vida, especialmente con los mayores de la comunidad.

La Hermana Matilde, dicho en el pasado de 2009, tal vez responda si lo que las tres Religiosas, y aquellas que han continuado su misión, sienten de su servicio aquí: “Me gusta compartir mi vida, especialmente con los mayores de la comunidad. Me gusta ayudar a la gente de una manera alegre y con gusto. No me gusta que la gente esté triste.”

La Hermana María Elena tiene su misión en Mérida, Yucatán en México.

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

Por Rev. JOHN B. BRUNGARDT, Obispo de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

El Consejo de Revisión está compuesto por católicos laicos y un sacerdote que aconsejan al Obispo en su evaluación de cada acusación de abuso sexual, revisan las políticas diocesanas para tratar con el abuso sexual de menores y ofrecen asesoria sobre todas aspectos que involucran casos de abuso sexual tanto retrospectivo como prospectivamente.

Un Ministro de Asistencia ayuda con el cuidado pastoral de las personas que confiesan haber sido abusadas sexualmente cuando eran menores de edad por un miembro del clero u otro miembro del personal de la iglesia, sin importar que el abuso haya ocurrido recientemente o muchos años atrás.

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Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios

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Una acusación es verosímil cuando puede dar origen a la creencia razonable de que algo está sucediendo. Se debe considerar si la acusación es verosímil no es considerada hecha de buena fe. Una acusación es verosímil es definida como una acusación que, basada en los hechos de la acusación, cumple uno o más de los siguientes puntos: No es específicamente negada o es aceptada alienta la acusación; o el acusado; o es corroborada con otra evidencia o por otra fuente y/o; involucra múltiples acusaciones. Las acusaciones de que hayan sido acusadas y cómo ambos se relacionan con el Señor que llamamos Visión beatífica, a decir gracias. Hemos perdido la intuición de que todo en nosotros es un don, un regalo.

Derrama, Señor, tu gracia en nuestros corazones, para que, quienes hemos conocido, por el anuncio del ángel, la encarnación de Cristo, tu Hijo, lleguemos, por su pasión y su cruz, a la gloria de la resurrección.

(Acolecta del 4º domingo de Adviento)

Un arte perdido

Antes de que existieran los Credos, los primeros cristianos hicieron lo que Jesús dijo que debían hacer. Lo recordaban de una manera muy particular. De esa manera lo hacían presente de nuevo. Su recuerdo, su ritual, extendió la presencia y poder de Jesús a través del tiempo y el espacio. Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, llegaron a decir con el tiempo: la forma en que oraban ayudó a dar origen a la forma en que creyeron.

No hacemos ninguna de esas cosas muy bien hoy. No sabemos a dónde se supone que nos debe llevar nuestra «oración»: a una misteriosa unión con el Señor incluso ahora. No sabemos a dónde se supone que nos lleva nuestro «creer», nuestra fe: a esa misteriosa unión con el Señor que llamamos Visión beatífica, a ese lugar y condición que llamamos Cielo. No sabemos cómo se relaciona el orar con el creer, o cómo ambos se relacionan con el vivir como cristianos.

Las Misioneras de la Caridad de María Inmaculada sirviendo en la diócesis son la Hermana Brígida Camarena Chávez en la Parroquia de San Alfonso en Satanta y la Hermana Rosa María Martínez en la Parroquia de San Antonio de Padua en Liberal. La Hermana Basilia Torres está en residencia en Satanta. La Hermana María Elena tiene su misión en Mérida, Yucatán en México.

Lex Credendi
ERMA E. VIERTHALER, 91, of St. John the Baptist Parish, Spearville, died Nov. 12, 2019. She was a graduate of Spearville High School and a 1949 graduate of Halstead School of Nursing. She was a lifetime Spearville resident, a Registered Nurse, and worked at the Spearville News. On Nov. 9, 1949, she married Lawrence A. Viethaler. Survivors include her husband of 70 years, Lawrence; their children, Dr. Stephen Viethaler, Dr. Lyle Viethaler, Bruce Viethaler, Greg Viethaler and Dr. Lois Viethaler Kessen; a daughter-in-law, Nancy Vierthaler and Dr. Lois Vierthaler Lawrence; their children, Dr. Lawrence A. Vierthaler. Survivors are six step-grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and numerous great-great-grandchildren. Services will be held and announced at a later date.

SUE JEANNE MURPHY, 82, of St. Lawrence Parish, Jetmore, died Nov. 6, 2019. She was a registered nurse and art teacher. On August 18, 1960, she married Dr. Bob Murphy; she preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Sandra; sons Terry and Randy; two sisters, Ruby & Pam Gerstner of Sun Valley, Arizona, Wendy Gerstner of Trego, Kansas; sister Caroline Klaus; 10 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. Father Tim Hickey presided.

HELEN M. STOS, 95, of St. Ann Parish, Olmitz, died Nov. 14, 2019. She was a graduate of Spearville of St. John the Baptist Parish, Jetmore, died Nov. 13, 2019. He was a Soil Conservationist and was the owner and operator of Joe Gerstner Terracing since 1966, retiring in 1999. He was a member of Knights Of Columbus Council #5212 in Scott City; he was a U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of the Altar Society. Survivors include his three sons, Leonard "Butch", Randy and Tim; two daughters, Karolyn Schaffer and Debra Stos; a brother, Bernard "Barney" Budig; three sisters, Katherine McGrath, Lenora Hutton, and Beatrice Axman; seven grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; six step-great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

BEATRICE (BETTY) RODRIGUEZ, 56, of St. John the Baptist Parish, Meade, died Nov. 16, 2019. On August 18, 1978, she married Erasmo Vergara. The couple made their home in Lubbock for many years before moving to Meade in 2004. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband Erasmo; two sons, Erasmo Vergara; two daughters, Irma Alaniz and Juanita Rodriguez; her parents, Fabian and Irma Rodriguez; three brothers, Pancho Reyna, Fabian and Irma Rodriguez and Joe Manuel Rodriguez; three sisters, Yolanda, Gloria DeLeon and Letty Rodriguez; and nine grandchildren.

JAMES MARTIN “JIM” RICKE, 90, of St. Boniface Parish, Medicine Lodge, died Nov. 17, 2019. On Oct. 21, 1950, he married Juanita (Mills) Rike. Jim was a welder and farmer/rancher. He was a U.S. Army veteran. Surviving are his wife, Juanita; three sons, Dennis, Donald and Jesse; three daughters, Carolyn Young, Linda Ricke, and Angela Allen; 15 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Frank and Paul “Whitey”; two sisters, Wanda Harder and Betty Lawrence; and two sisters-in-law, Jana Ricke and Marilyn Ricke. Father Mark Brantley presided.

OFELIA GARCIA VIUDA DE MURILLO, 87, of St. Mary Parish, Garden City, died Nov. 14, 2019. On April 22, 1952 she married Raul Murillo. He passed away on August 6, 2002. She is survived by 10 children: Raul Murillo, Jr., Rosa Maria Baltazar, Imelda Garcia, Alfredo Murillo, Maria Beatriz Carillo, Maria Del Carmen Murillo, Daniel Murillo, Rafael Murillo, Alejandro Murillo, and Ofelia Murillo; 23 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

JARRETT FRAZER KOCH, 35, of St. Anthony Parish, Fowler, died Nov. 27, 2019. Born March 14, 1984, at Coldwater, he was the son of Richard Stanley Koch and Denise (Bergkamp) Amaro. He attended Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, and Northwestern Oklahoma State University. He is survived by his mother, Denise Amaro; his grandmother, Shelley Huslig; his sister, Andrea Koch; his dog, Lucy; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

PAUL DEAN WASKO, 57, of St. Anthony Parish, Hanston, died Nov. 26, 2019. He was a farmer/rancher. He was a member of the Hodgeman County Farm Bureau where he served as a board member for thirty plus years and also served on the state level. On Jan. 21, 1989, he married Judy Ravenstein in Jetmore. She survives. Other survivors include his parents, Richard and Sonja Wasko; three daughters, Rachel, Renae and Sara Wasko; siblings Kurt Wasko, Ronna Schmidt, and Donna Krick; two grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

JERRETT RICHEMEIER, 77, of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Liberal, died Nov. 23, 2019. She graduated from Newton High School in 1960. On Sept. 16 1967, she married Gerald J. Richmeier. He preceded her in death on Aug. 14, 1984. In 1964 Connie graduated Emporia State College. She worked for Central Kansas Medical Center of Great Bend, Wichita Clinic of Wichita, and Southwest Medical Center, Liberal, being certified in Medical Technologist. She was Vice Regent of the Daughter of the American Revolution from 2015 to 2017 and Chapter Regent from 2017 to 2019. Connie is survived by her son, Craig Allen Richmeier; daughter, Gerald Joan Moats; a brother, Virgil Page; one grandson; three great-grandchildren; and her miniature picture “Miller”.

CONSUELO “CONNIE” BADILLO, 82, of St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Johnson, died Nov. 24, 2019. She was born in Charcas, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, the daughter of Eulogio and Maria Jesus (Medina) Ruiz. Connie grew up in Mexico and taught catechism as a young lady. She moved to the United States after marriage to Natividad Badillo. They were married on Feb. 12, 1958. They moved to Big Bow, Kansas, in 1969, Manter in 1976, and settled in Johnson in 2012. Connie cleaned houses, and then began a long career as a custodian at Stanton County Long Term Care Unit, Stanton County Hospital, Johnson Grade School, Stanton County High School and retired from Stanton County Senior Center. She helped with the parish’s annual Mexican Dinner for many years. She is survived by her daughter, Martha Nicholas; brothers Francisco Ruiz and Antonio Ruiz; and sisters, Carmen Hernandez and Felicidad Garcia. Father Aneesh Par appanattu, MSFS, presided.

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@cdiscocese.org. Please pray for the repose of the soul of all those listed, and for their friends and loved ones.

What’s Your Plan?
People are living longer than any other time in history. You may need care in your old age, whether in a nursing facility or at home. That can cost up to $60,000 a year or $183 daily benefit, and these costs are likely to increase. You may not have the funds you need, or your life savings could be wiped out in a few short years.

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“Smart Cost of Care Survey, JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE, NOV. 2016

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, Dec. 8; Second Sunday of Advent IS 1:10-11 / ROM 1:5-9 / MT 3:1-12
Monday, Dec. 9; Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary GN 3:9-15, 20 / EPH 1:3-6, 11-12 / LK 1:26-38
Tuesday, Dec. 10 IS 4:1-11 / MT 18:12-14
Wednesday, Dec. 11 IS 40:25-31 / MT 11:28-30
Thursday, Dec. 12; Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe ZEC 2:14-17 or RV 11:19A; 12:1-6A / LK 1:26-38
Friday, Dec. 13; Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr IS 48:17-19 / MT 11:16-19
Sunday, Dec. 15; Third Sunday of Advent IS 3:1-6A, 10 / JAS 5:7-10 / MT 11:2-11
Tuesday, Dec. 17 GN 49:2, 8-10 / MT 1:1-17
Wednesday, Dec. 18 JER 23:5-8 / MT 1:18-25
Friday, Dec. 20 IS 7:10-14 / LK 1:26-38
Saturday, Dec. 21 SG 2:8-14 / LK 9:45-49
Sunday, Dec. 22; Fourth Sunday of Advent IS 7:10-14 / MT 1:17-28
Catholic Charities of SW Kansas
Annual Appeal

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Dodge City KS 67801

DONATE ONLINE
Go to https://catholiccharitiesswks.org/ways-to-help and click on “Donate Money”

Celebrating the Feast of All Souls

Father Jacob Schneider, left, and Father Eric Gyamfi celebrate Mass at a cemetery in Garden City on the Feast of All Souls, Nov. 2. Approximately 30 people attended the celebration, following along as Fathers Schneider and Gyamfi walked through the cemetery blessing the graves of relatives of those who attended the service.

Saint Paul

Saint Paul, formerly Osage Mission, Catholic Mission Town Company (Neosho County)

– According to post office records the name of this community was changed from Osage Mission to Saint Paul on July 1, 1895. Some speculate that the name change honored Jesuit Father Paul Ponziglione who served at Osage Mission from 1851 to 1889, however, neither he nor any other Jesuits still resided in the community at the time. In 1892, the Jesuits left Osage Mission for Saint Marys, Kansas, and other mission fields. Bishop Louis Mary Fink transferred the church property at Osage Mission over to the Passionist Fathers in 1894. The property was developed as a Passionist Retreat. The name Osage Mission was changed to Saint Paul in 1895 in honor of Saint Paul of the Cross, the Founder of the Passionists.

Statue of Saint Paul of the Cross
in a garden area at Saint Francis de Hieronymo Church

“PREACH THE GOSPEL AT ALL TIMES. USE WORDS IF NECESSARY.”

— Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

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10 YEAR
100,000 MILE
WARRANTY.
ACROSS
7 Biblical interjection
8 Catholic university in Pennsylvania
10 Village to which Jesus traveled
12 Color of death’s horse in Revelation
13 Peter (with “The”)
16 Isaiah spoke of a new one (Isa 66:22)
18 Opening of the largest diocese in a province
20 “…born of the Virgin Mary and became…”
21 “…the handmaid of the Lord…”
22 Early landing place
25 Mon. of St. Pat
26 “…through the valley of the shadow of death” (Ps 23:4)
27 Catholic creator of Sherlock Holmes
28 Father of Jesse
29 What Samson did while his hair was shaved
31 Moses, for one
34 Certain part of the Mass
35 Canonized pope known as “the Great”

DOWN
1 “…but do not perceive the wooden ___ in your own?” (Mt 7:3)
2 Biblical site of the temple of Dagon
3 Falls found in the Diocese of Saint Catharines
4 The ___ of faith
5 Grandson of Leah
6 Father of Noah
9 What Jesus did on a certain Thursday
11 Prophet who prophesied that the savior would come from Bethlehem
14 Alpha and ___
15 Mary appeared here in Ireland
16 ___ the handmaid of the Lord…”
21 “___ the handmaid of the Lord…”
22 Early landing place
26 “…through the valley of the shadow of death” (Ps 23:4)
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ST. MARTIN’S MIND TEASERS

TEASER THE FIRST:
Spell 4-letter words that use one letter from each row. They do not have to connect. Score 1 point for each 4-letter word you form. Spell one 10-letter word that begins with the top letter in the triangle and uses every letter in the triangle. Score 5 points for this word.

TEASER THE SECOND:
Suppose there is this little town with a finite number of people: (1) No two inhabitants have exactly the same number of hairs. (2) No inhabitant has exactly 409 hairs. (3) There are more inhabitants than there are hairs on the head of any inhabitant. So, what is the largest possible number of inhabitants in that little town?

TEASER THE THIRD (LEFT):
First complete the 7-letter word at the top of the diagram. Then use the last two letters of the first word as the first two letters of the second word. If you get stuck, try starting at the bottom of the diagram and working your way up, in reverse. The last five letters of the final word are given.

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AdVantage
The Southwest Kansas Catholic

Gabriel’s Sudoku

ACROSS
1 Biblical interjection
7 Catholic university in Pennsylvania
10 Village to which Jesus traveled
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Gabriel’s Crossword

Each Soduko 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.

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The Diocese of Peoria announced that Venerable Fulton Sheen will be beatified Dec. 21 at the city’s Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

Sheen had been ordained a priest of the diocese in that cathedral Sept. 20, 1919. “It seems entirely fitting that the Beatification will take place at the end of this 100-year anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood,” the Peoria diocese stated Nov. 18.

Sheen was born in Illinois in 1895, and was 24 when he was ordained a priest. He was appointed auxiliary bishop of New York in 1951, and he remained there until his appointment as Bishop of Rochester in 1966. He retired in 1969 and moved back to New York City until his death in 1979.

Sheen was a beloved television catechist during the 1950s and ’60s in the United States. His television show “Life is Worth Living” reached an audience of millions. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints promulgated a decree July 6 recognizing a miracle attributed to Sheen’s intercession, which allowed for his beatification.

The miracle involves the unexplained recovery of James Fulton Engstrom, a boy born apparently stillborn in September 2010 to Bonnie and Travis Engstrom of the Peoria-area town of Goodfield. He showed no signs of life as medical professionals tried to revive him. The child’s mother and father prayed to Archbishop Sheen to heal their son.

The beatification follows legal battles in civil courts over the location of Sheen’s body. His corpse was transferred to the Peoria cathedral June 27 after a protracted series of suits. Archbishop Sheen’s will had declared his wish to be buried in the Archdiocese of New York Calvary Cemetery. Soon after Sheen died, Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York asked Joan Sheen Cunningham, Sheen’s niece and closest living relative, if his remains could be placed in the crypt of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City, and she consented.

In September 2014, Bishop Daniel Jenky of Peoria suspended Sheen’s cause on the grounds that the Holy See expected Sheen’s remains to be in the Peoria diocese. Cunningham has since said that Sheen would have wanted to have been interred in Peoria if he knew that he would be considered for sainthood. In 2016, she filed a legal complaint seeking to have her uncle’s remains moved to the Peoria cathedral.

CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

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The Peoria diocese opened the cause for Sheen’s canonization in 2002, after Archdiocese of New York said it would not explore the case. In 2012, Benedict XVI recognized the heroic virtues of the archbishop. The beatification follows legal battles in civil courts over the location of Sheen’s body.

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A team of volunteers prepare the Mass kits, which were delivered to parishes in November. The finished kit is above, right.